

**Next Council Meetings:**  
15 January and 19 February 2024 at 10am in the Council Chambers

## From the General Manager - John Brown

Christmas is a special time to be grateful for what we have, especially when many people around the world may not have as much. It's not just about presents and decorations; it's about saying thanks and being kind. We can be thankful for the people who work hard to make our lives better, like family, friends, and those who help us every day. Here in Break O'Day we are fortunate to live in such a beautiful environment, we can make our community all the better by showing kindness and tolerance during this period.

At Christmas, we can share our joy and be happy for what we have, remembering that not everyone is as fortunate. It's a time to be kind to others and help those who might be struggling. Whether it's a small gesture or a big one, showing gratitude and being aware of the needs of others is what makes Christmas spirit so special. Let's appreciate the simple things, like spending time with loved ones, and remember to be thankful for the good things in our lives while being mindful of those who might need a little extra love and support.

I would like to give a big thank you to the team here at BODC for the work that they do to make this place all it can be. They work so hard for our community and those messages of support and appreciation we receive are treasured like gems amongst the usual negativity which we receive.

## Kids Designs Turned Into Christmas Signs



St Helens students with Council staff and Deputy Mayor with the winning designs.

For the second year in a row, Council has been working with students from the St Helens and St Marys District Schools to spread Christmas cheer around our community. The competition which sees students create Christmas themed signs, was even more successful this year with more students participating and submitting their artwork from both schools. Students from Kinder to Grade 6 were invited to submit their Christmas inspired artwork. 16 winning designs were chosen by an independent panel to be turned into signs that will be displayed under township signs and other locations around the Break O'Day area. Thank you to all the students who submitted their artwork and teaching staff for supporting this project. Congratulations to the winning designs: St Helens District School; Yana Blades – Kinder, Hannah Roberts – Prep, Joe Bellchambers – Grade 2, Houn Harder – Grade 2, Evie Bidgood – Grade 4, Maia

Hori – Grade 4, Bri Marston – Grade 5, Archer Harrison – Grade 6. St Marys District School; Ella Cordwell – Kinder, Victoria Quinn – Prep, Lillee Tibben – Grade 1, Seth Scarr – Grade 2, Leira Rankin – Grade 3, Kyuss Barratt - Grade 4, Oliver Hibberd – Grade 5, Claire Ward – Grade 6.

"My fellow judges and I had a hard task to choose from many creative designs. We are proud of all the students who entered and amazed at the imaginations of our Break O'Day youth. The signs are sure to spread some holiday cheer to our community this festive season."

"Not only do the students get a chance to show off their artwork to the town, but after Christmas the student's signs will be presented back to them as a lovely keepsake." Mayor Tucker said.

Council plans to continue this project next year, giving a new set of students the opportunity to be a part of this project.

**Christmas doesn't come  
from a store.  
Maybe Christmas perhaps  
means a little bit more.**  
- Dr Seuss



St Marys students with Councillors whose designs were selected in our Christmas Sign Competition.



## Seasons Greetings from the Mayor



Mayor Mick Tucker

It has been proving to be quite the festive season in Break O'Day this year. Students from St Marys and St Helens participated in designing Christmas signs again this year. They have now been put up throughout the area and you may have come across a few, what a nice way for the kids of Break O'Day to spread some Christmas cheer. Our Christmas Carols at Portland Hall was a success (even with the rain) with 150 people attending to enjoy the talents of the One Voice Choir who did another fabulous job this year. Christmas events are popping up in townships all over the municipality, like the Christmas Parade on Christmas Eve, and the St Helens Volunteer Fire Brigade lolly run held after it. I have even heard that Santa has been seen in Break O'Day, showing up here and there so keep an eye on our Facebook page or the Break O'Day Christmas Festivities page for details to be sure you don't miss anything. It has been another wonderful year for Council, there have been opportunities

## Council Staff Spread Christmas Cheer

Over the last month, Council staff have personally donated gifts and money which was used to purchase more Christmas gifts, to donate to the Fingal and St Helens Neighbourhood Houses. For some in our community, Christmas can be a tough and challenging time and we wanted to do our bit to make sure every child in our municipality has an amazing Christmas.

We are proud to say that this year we will be passing on more than \$750 worth of gifts.

Thank you to everyone for getting into the festive spirit to make Christmas in Break O'Day a merry one.

to work with the community on a few projects. One stand out project that saw us working directly with community was our Week in the Life of Council program which saw us win the Award for Excellence in small Councils at the Local Government Awards. It was one of the highlights of the year to connect with the youth of Break O'Day and we valued their commitment to the program. Thank you to everyone who has taken their time and effort to contribute to share their ideas, comments, support and interactions to help shape Break O'Day together as a community.

Just because the Christmas season will be over soon doesn't mean the fun has to stop these holidays. It is that time of year we all gear up for summer and the influx of visitors that will soon start bustling around our usually quiet townships. There are summer events that will be happening over the school holidays like the St Helens Summer Carnival and lots of other things for people to do and explore, so get ready for a summer we can all enjoy. Keep an eye out on our Community events page on our website or check out our Facebook Page to be informed of all the fun things to see and do these holidays. Just a reminder, Council offices will be closed from Friday 22 December 12.30pm and reopen Tuesday 2 January 2024.

From all of us here at Council, we hope you have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We can't wait to see you in 2024.



Council staff with donated presents

## IN BRIEF

### Community Safety CCTV Project

Break O'Day Council is excited to be part of the Local Government Regional Towns CCTV safety initiative that is funded by the Tasmanian Government. This initiative will provide safer communities, especially for our most vulnerable youth and elderly. It will also provide information to councils to assist with managing resources and infrastructure, as well as being a vital tool for emergency management and providing real data on visitors and facilities.

The cameras will only cover public open spaces with no facial recognition. All data will be securely stored with access by Tasmanian Police through controlled protocols. Council staff will not manage or have access to any captured video and images.

This system will be a deterrent to antisocial behavior and will provide Tasmania Police with evidence to prevent, prove and prosecute illegal activities.

Installation has commenced with cameras being installed at key locations and completion is expected in early 2024. Signage for covered areas will be installed once the system is operational. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us and we will pass these on to the CCTV project representatives.

## History Room Award

Congratulations to the St Helens History Room for winning the Accessibility and Inclusivity Award at the East Coast Tasmania Tourism Awards 2023. The History Room received recognition of its efforts to keep spaces freely accessible to all members of the public. This is a nice way to top off all the success the History Room has had this year with the highest number of visitors recorded since 2015. The History Room would like to thank East Coast Tourism CEO Grace Keath and Chair Jen Fry for their support. And a big congratulations to the St Helens History Room staff and volunteers for all their hardwork and dedication.

## Christmas Events Return to Break O'Day

This year we asked members of the community to join us to create a Christmas Committee. The committee met throughout the year to come up with ideas and events to celebrate Christmas in Break O'Day.

We are grateful to the community committee members for coming together and volunteering their time to help Council staff spread holiday cheer. This includes bringing back the Christmas Parade.

The Christmas Committee, has been working hard in partnership with Bendigo Bank to organise and raise

funds for the beloved, family friendly Christmas Parade event.

The parade will be held on Christmas Eve 24 December at 5.30pm on the main street of St Helens.

This year Council presented the Christmas Carols which were held at Portland Hall. Not even the rain could stop people from coming to share in some Christmas Carol fun, with over 150 people attending to enjoy the talents of the With One Voice Choir, some face painting and a special visit from Santa and Mrs Claus.



Surprise visit: Santa Claus and Mrs Claus stopping in to the St Helens Christmas Carols

## Scooter Jam - a Huge Success

Scooter and skate skills were front and centre at St Marys Skate Park to celebrate Youth Week on Sunday 12 November. In Tasmania, Youth Week is in May but due to poor weather and illness this anticipated youth event was postponed. Turns out Scooter Jam was worth the wait!

60+ people enjoyed the sunny November weather and the fun vibe at the St Marys Community space. Those who attended enjoyed free music, food, Pro scooter demonstrations and more. 19 young people competed in three age groups showing off their best 90 second routines and tricks.

Our 1st prize winners were Leo Vonsee (16-25) SCOOTER, Wilfred Mckibben (u12) SCOOTER, Ollie Oberman (13-15) SKATEBOARD and Wally Freiboth (13-15) SCOOTER.

Every participant won a voucher to spend onsite at the Bike + Scooter Stop

merchandise tent. There were over \$1,000 worth of prizes and giveaways from Bike + Scooter Stop, Live4Life and local donations.

There was also the opportunity to be a part of a collective artwork under the guidance of local artist Dane Chisholm. The event was a collaboration between Break O'Day Council, Youth Connect North East Coast Tasmania (YCNECT), Bike + Scooter Stop, Live4Life, and supported by the Fingal Valley and St Helen's Neighbourhood Houses and some super helpful volunteers from our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this even a success. The day was a huge success and the event received a Youth Week Grant from the Tasmanian Government to help fund prizes and demonstrations by some of Tassie's Pro Scooters.

## WHAT'S ON

### Christmas Display and Lights - 22-23 December

Come walk around and enjoy some Christmas lights at Cornwall Hall. 5.30pm-10.00pm. Entry is a gold coin donation. For more information please call 6372 2261.

### St Helens Christmas Parade - 24 December

The local tradition is back. Come and enjoy the Christmas Parade and look out for Santa on Christmas Eve at 5.30pm on the main street of St Helens (Cecilia Street).

### St Helens Volunteer Fire Brigade Lolly Run - 24 December

Our Fire Brigade volunteers are getting into the Christmas spirit again this year. Join them after the St Helens Christmas Parade on Christmas Eve on the St Helens foreshore for a special meet and greet with Santa.

### St Marys Christmas Party - 24 December

FREE entry at the St Marys Community Space (skate park) to celebrate Christmas. There will be prizes, a parade, bbq and a special visit from Santa. Also go into the Christmas Stocking draw. 24 December 3pm-6pm.

### St Helens Summer Carnival - 24 December - 1 January

Let the fun begin at the St Helens Foreshore. Come and enjoy some family-friendly fun with rides, games, showbags and more this summer. The carnival opens 4.30pm-8.30pm each day except 30 Dec 12.30pm - 8.30pm and 1 Jan 10am - 2pm. FREE entry.

### Discovery Ranger - December - February

Look out for Discovery Ranger Lou from the Parks and Wildlife Service, roaming our favourite beaches with fun activities and information during the summer holidays.

### St Marys Racing Cup - 1 January

Get dressed up and head to a day at the races at the St Marys Sports Ground. Gates open 11am with tickets \$10 for adults, \$6 concessions and children under 16 FREE. There will be a major raffle, mini trots, FREE face painting and more. There are also prizes for fashions on the field. For more information visit [www.goracingtasmania.com.au](http://www.goracingtasmania.com.au)

### Summer Celebration - 19 January

Bring your chair or picnic blanket to the St Marys Recreation Ground and enjoy some live music from Smooth Operators, kids activities, market stalls and more. January 19 4pm-7pm - FREE entry. For more information email [bodregionalarts@gmail.com](mailto:bodregionalarts@gmail.com)

### LOCAL MARKETS

#### St Helens - Every Saturday

Location alternates between the Portland Hall and the Visitor Information Centre Carpark.

#### St Marys - First Saturday of the month

Held at the St Marys Hall.



## Summer Holiday Works Reports

### Holiday prep

December is a busy time for the Works team as they make sure all our community assets are ready for the summer holidays. For the last month they have been out and about mowing, trimming, weeding and brush-cutting all across the municipality. They have also given all the jetties a good clean so they are ready to launch your boat over summer.

### Watch out for Wildlife

Break O'Day is home to a range of native wildlife and this time of year you will see more around than usual and many will still be very young. This makes it really important that drivers watch out for wildlife, especially between dusk and dawn.

### Gravel and dirt Roads – Drive to the conditions

Break O'Day has about 350km of unsealed road and like all gravel roads, conditions can change quickly. It is also important to be aware that there will not only be more vehicles on the road, there will also be more, larger vehicles towing boats and caravans. One road that does see a big increase in users at this time is Ansons Bay Road – if you plan on using this road, please drive to the conditions and look out for other traffic.

Your family and friends want you to remind safe – they won't mind you taking a few extra minutes it make sure you do.

### George River Floodplain – how will you be affected?

You can help a project assessing the impact the George River might have for everyone by sharing how you might be affected. Share your thoughts with Council and the Lower George Riverworks Trust by taking an online survey via the QR code, or just to register your interest in the next stages of the project.



### DOG STATISTICS 10/08/2023 - 7/09/2023

Urban Patrols = 10  
Beach Patrols = 16  
Infringements = 0  
Unregistered Dog = 0  
Impounded dogs = 1

## FAQ - Reporting dog incidents

Dogs are a popular companion and much loved family member, and as their owner there are certain responsibilities that you agree to when you own a dog.

Owning a dog comes with certain responsibilities and Council has responsibility duty of care to protect community health, safety, amenities and wildlife under the Dog Control Act 2000 and Dog Control Regulations 2021.

Council often receives complaints about barking or wandering dogs and even sometimes dog attacks on people or other animals.

Dog incidents can include excessive barking, roaming dogs, dog attacks, illegal breeding, unregistered dogs etc.

If you would like to report an incident

involving a dog it will be treated confidentially and investigated to the best of our staff's ability.

To report an incident contact us by calling our office or emailing [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au).

We will direct your concerns to our Animal Control Officer who will investigate.

When it comes to lost dogs, if it is safe for you to do so, please contain the animal and bring it into the Council Offices at 32-34 Georges Esplanade, St Helens. We can start the process of reuniting the animal with its owner. For more information, visit [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/dogs/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/dogs/). All dog reporting incidents remain confidential.

## Waste Truck Safety

This time of year, our quiet coastal town turns in to a bustling summer holiday destination. This influx of people can have an impact on our services, particularly our kerbside waste collection so we thought now would be a good time to talk about our holiday collection period and safety around waste trucks.

### Watch out for your kids

A lot of kids love to see the waste trucks but it is important that they keep their distance while the truck is operating. Make sure that your children stay well away from the truck while it is operating and that they don't run out to flip the bin lid down until the truck has well and truly moved on.

### Parking

The waste trucks need space to be able to lift bins safely. Parked cars should have

a 1m clearance either side of your bin to ensure that the truck can reach and lift the bin safely.

### Frequent Stopping

Waste trucks frequently stop and may reverse with little warning so don't follow too close in your car. Give the truck and your vehicle plenty of room to stop suddenly.

### Holiday Collection

Over the holiday period we have a weekly collection for waste (not recycling) which starts on the 18 December and finishes in the last week of January.

Because of the influx of people there are more bins to lift which makes it even more important that bins are out and ready for collection before 6am. The time the truck is in your area may change from week to week too.

## The Works Crew are going green!

We are really proud to be one of the first council in the state to start using the fully electric ride-on mower.

The Greenworks Optimus is a fully electric ride-on mower that not only does the job just as well as its fuel powered friends but it is also far more economical in terms of ongoing costs and maintenance.

This green, clean machine once charged will run for 8hrs – a full day on the job. It also costs far less to run as the petrol and diesel mowers as it only costs about \$3.50 - \$4.00 per day in electricity to charge, as

opposed to around \$25 - \$40 a day for fuel depending on machine size. This means that the machine will pay for itself over time.

Savings will also be made on the maintenance of the machine as this model has no belts and less traditional parts to fuel mowers.

The Works team trailed the Greenworks Optimus before we purchased to make sure that it was up for the task.

We are really committed to doing all we can as an organisation to reduce our carbon footprint and this is just one little step in our journey.