

**Next Council Meetings:**  
20 January and 17 February 2025 at 10am in the Council Chambers

## Student's Art Brings Christmas Spirit to Break O'Day



Photo: St Helens students with Council staff Renee and Mayor Tucker who were selected in our Christmas Sign Competition.



Photo: St Marys students with Councillor Lefevre & Ms Burbury who were selected in our Christmas Sign Competition.

For the third year running, Council has partnered with students from St Helens and St Marys District Schools to bring festive cheer to the community through their creativity. This much-loved annual competition invites students from Kinder to Grade 6 to design Christmas-themed artwork, with the winning entries turned into bright and cheerful signs displayed across the municipality.

16 winning designs were chosen by an independent panel of judges and are now on display under township signs and in prominent locations throughout Break O'Day.

Congratulations to this year's talented winners: **St Helens District School:** Kyla Campbell, Jacqueline Guy, Charlie McGrath, Ella Pensini, Molly Austin, James Gilbert, Maia Hori, Sam Barnes.

**St Marys District School:** Tarkyn Burn, Emily Moore, Layla Eyles, Lillee Tibben, Charlotte Burke, Leo Ritchie, Kaylah Freckelton, Rayne Keenan. Mayor Tucker praised the students' creativity and the joy their artwork brings to the community, "Each design captures the festive spirit and these signs have become a much-loved feature of our holiday season. They bring smiles to locals and visitors alike as they travel through our towns."

The signs will be returned to the winning students after Christmas as a keepsake. Council looks forward to continuing this project in 2025 and encouraging a new group of young artists to share their creativity. Thank you to everyone who participated this year, and we wish you all a safe and happy festive season!

## Remembrance Day: Honouring Our Heroes

On November 11, our community came together to honour the sacrifices of our veterans on Re-membrance Day. Thank you to everyone who attended services across Break O'Day, with special recognition to Minister Guy Barnett for joining the St Helens service and to the Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club (MBMMC) for their

outstanding dedication and events that brought the community together. It was inspiring to see so many members of our community taking the time to pause, reflect, and pay their respects. Together, we honoured the bravery and sacrifice of those who served and their families. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day special.





## A Christmas Message from the Mayor



As 2024 comes to a close, it's a time to reflect on our achievements. This year has showcased the resilience of the Break O'Day community. Council worked hard to secure funding for key projects aimed at improving the area, with a focus on enhancing the wellbeing of all residents. Thanks to everyone who contributed, including those who provided valuable feedback and engaged with our governing bodies.

We successfully lobbied for funding for the Pumptrack at Flagstaff, which will be completed December 2024, and will complement the existing Mountain Bike Network. The Georges Bay Multi-User Track, now funded with \$1 million from the State Government, is back on track, along with other projects like a Telstra upgrade for St Helens. These examples show how our positive relationship with government leads to progress.

This year, unexpected storms caused significant damage in St Helens, but with a call to the Premier and support from State Government, recovery efforts began. Additionally, ongoing Federal and State support continues for Bushfire Recovery projects, including the near-completion of the St Marys Multi-Purpose Evacuation Centre.

Our community's success is driven by the people who make a difference. Special thanks to our outdoor crew, emergency responders, and Council staff for their dedication to community safety and wellbeing during challenging times. As Mayor, I am proud of our community's resilience, and I'm grateful for everyone's support and understanding. In adversity, what matters most is how we come together—together, we are resilient!

Volunteers are vital to our community, and we are especially grateful to our Break O'Day volunteers. We celebrated their contributions through the 2024 Volunteers Film Festival, which won the 2024 Community Award at the LG Professionals Annual Conference. Thank you to all who step up and lend a hand. It's people like you who remind us of the true meaning of community spirit.

I thank our Councillors for their dedication to the community, their efforts to listen to others, bringing voices to the table, and engaging in respectful discussions, all of which help shape a positive future for Break O'Day.

A heartfelt thank you to our staff and volunteers, the backbone of Break O'Day Council. Every decision we make impacts your lives, your loved ones, and your neighbours. I truly value the dedication and care you bring to every project, service, and task. Your efforts keep Break O'Day thriving and make a real difference. As we look to 2025, here's to another year of growth and community spirit. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Better Water in the Pipeline for St Marys

St Marys residents can look forward to improved drinking water, with TasWater announcing that planning is underway to enhance the town's water supply. St Marys relies on bore water, which, while safe to drink and compliant with

Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, has been affected by taste issues due to its high mineral content. For more information about the project: [www.yoursay.taswater.com.au/regional-towns-water-supply-project-stage-4](http://www.yoursay.taswater.com.au/regional-towns-water-supply-project-stage-4)

## IN BRIEF

### Annual Report and Notice of AGM

Council is excited to share highlights from a year full of challenges, achievements, and growth. The 2023-2024 Annual Report is now available online, offering a detailed look at what Council has been working on throughout the financial year.

If you've ever wondered what Council gets up to, this is your chance to dive in! You can check it out at [www.bodc.tas.gov.au](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au)

Submissions on the report are welcome and must be received in writing by 5 pm on Monday, 2 December. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, St Helens on Tuesday 10 December commencing at 5:00 pm.

### Keep it Safe - Campfire Bans

Campfire restrictions are now in effect. Campfires, pot fires and other solid fuel stoves are now banned in all parks and reserves in the of the Break O'Day area. Gas stoves and gas barbecues are still permitted.

The seasonal campfire bans will be in place until further notice.

Know before you go and keep up to date with the campfire ban areas visit: [www.parks.tas.gov.au/campfires](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/campfires)

### Community Grants Now Open

Council's Community Funding Program is also open for applications. If your group has a project that will enhance your township or community amenities, we encourage you to apply before submissions close on 24 February 2025.

### Office Closure

The Council Office will be closed from 12 noon 24 December and reopen on Thursday 2 January 2025.

**"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."**

**- W.T Ellis**

## From the General Manager - John Brown

The festive time of the year is upon us again and this provides us with an opportunity to spend time with family and friends. We have much to be thankful for in our part of the world given what is happening in other locations where conflict and war impacts on peoples daily lives, they cant relax and spend time with family and friends due to the threat which they live with on a daily basis. We must be thankful for what we enjoy, not take it for granted and show kindness to our fellow community members. We can only hope that in 2025 we might see conflict reducing but with the outcome of the recent election in America the next few years are likely to be turbulent on many fronts. The Local Government sector has received an early Christmas

present from the State Government, after nearly eight months they have provided their response to the Future of Local Government Review and provided their implementation program for the next few years. Having just returned from a short period of leave I haven't had a chance to work through this response and hope to do so over the next few days. A big thank you to the BODC team, Councillors, volunteers and contractors for all of the hard work during yet another busy year, take any time that you can to relax and spend time with family and friends. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

## St Marys Exhibition Building FAQ

Council has heard from some members of the St Marys Community that they would like Council to consider keeping the Exhibition building at the St Marys Recreation Ground. To ensure that the community fully understands what the options for the building are, we have developed a FAQ which can be found on our website under My Community/ Community Engagement. The FAQ also includes proposal questions so that community can formally share with us your ideas

for the building as well as your thoughts on what the future management of the building may look like. We would encourage anyone who has expressed that they do not want this building demolished to share their ideas with us by answering the submission questions. Submissions for the building will be open until 27 January and can be sent to [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au). If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the office.

## WHAT'S ON

### Light Up Your Space - December 2024

Decorate your house, shed, fence, barn, letterbox etc for a chance to win prizes. Judging 16-22 December. Email [bodchristmasfestivitiesgroup@gmail.com](mailto:bodchristmasfestivitiesgroup@gmail.com) to enter the competition.

### International Day of People with Disability -

#### Wednesday 4 December 1.30-4pm

Break O'Day Council Access and Inclusion Committee are hosting a film event at St Marys Town Hall. 'Live the Life you Please' is a film-led social impact campaign. Afternoon tea and panel discussion included.

### Christmas Carols -

#### Saturday 7 December 7pm

Come along to Portland Memorial Hall Park as Break O'Day Council presents the Christmas Carols. Bring your chair, picnic and blanket to this FREE event.

### Fingal Family Fun Day -

#### Sunday 8 December 10.30-2pm

Fun-filled FREE event at Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House. Face painting, gingerbread decorating workshops, Christmas crafts and more. Call 6374 2344 for more information.

### Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree - 15 December 5-7pm

Come along to a night of live music, holiday classics and rockin' vibes at Wombat Walk (rear of St Marys Library) FREE event and BYO picnic. Contact [bodregionalarts@gmail.com](mailto:bodregionalarts@gmail.com)

### Fingal Valley Christmas Parade - 23 December 4.30-6.30pm

For a jolly good time head to the Fingal Recreation Ground for a festive day. There will be Santa's photo booth, face painting, bbq, raffle draw and more.

### St Marys Christmas Party - 24 December 3-6pm

FREE event at the St Marys Community Space (skate park) to celebrate Christmas. There will be prizes, a parade, bbq and a special visit from Santa.

### 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 on the main street of St Helens (Cecilia Street). Visit Break O'Day Christmas Festivities Facebook page for more details.

### 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 with Santa.

### 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.

## You are invited to The Flagstaff Pumptrack opening

Join us at the Flagstaff Trailhead for the opening of the World Trail designed pumptrack.

Saturday 14 December @ 10am

**NAME  
& WIN**

Name the pumptrack and win a voucher for e-bike hire and shuttle passes from Giant St Helens and Gravity Isle. More information on the day. TOTAL VALUE \$230.





## 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.

There is focus on St Marys and St Helens business precincts with lawns, gardening works and mowing being undertaken in the lead up to the Christmas and New Year period.

### General Works Activities

- *Mangana Road* - road pavement rehabilitation in progress.
- *Ansons Bay Road sealing* – next 1400m to be on Charlie's Marsh. Pavement preparation scheduled for December.
- High priority activities are road repairs due to storm event end of November.
- *Ansons Bay WTS* – capping of contaminated asbestos area will occur in December.

### 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.

## WEED MANAGEMENT

St Helens -	Spanish heath, blackberry, thistles, mirror bush, broom
Weldborough -	Caper spurge, foxglove
St Marys -	Flat weeds
Binalong Bay -	Mirror bush, broom, flat weeds
Pyengana -	Thistles, foxglove, caper spurge

## DOG STATISTICS 1/10/2024 - 31/10/2024

Urban Patrols = 5  
Beach Patrols = 11  
Infringements = 0  
Unregistered Dog = 0  
Impounded dogs = 1

## Weed of the Month: Holly

Did you know that holly is a Declared Weed in Tasmania? We do not want to be spoiling the Christmas cheer, but it is time to think of this tree with shiny red berries and spikey leaves a little differently. Its red berries are attractive to birds too, who spread the seeds long distances in their bellies. Holly can sucker from the roots and is shade tolerant and drought hardy. It has invaded many cool moist forests in Tasmania already, at Weldborough for example. If you have a holly tree give our native bush a Christmas present. Replace it, with a native 'Christmas mint bush' perhaps, and control any that have escaped

and spread nearby. Hand-pull small young plants or look up holly on the 'Declared Weeds index' for information on controlling large holly plants and trees. Take care not to spread seeds. Holly cannot be propagated, traded or distributed.

[www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/)



## From FREE Disposal to Mulch – Giving Green Waste a Second Life!

To promote sustainability, responsible waste management and get your property fire-season ready, we're offering free green waste disposal every Sunday until 23 February at St Helens, St Marys and Scamander Waste Transfer Stations. Not sure when the stations are open? Visit [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste/)

This is a great opportunity to clear away dry branches, leaves, and other garden waste that can pose a fire hazard during summer. By disposing of your green waste, you not only safeguard your home but also contribute to a more sustainable Break O'Day.

Did you know that much of the green waste you drop off is recycled and transformed into nutrient-rich mulch? This process not only reduces waste sent

to landfill but also creates an affordable, eco-friendly product for your garden.

### Mulch Now Available for Purchase

Get your hands on high-quality, single-shredded green waste mulch for just \$12.00m3

Available at the St Helens Waste Transfer Station Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Bring along your ute or trailer, and we'll do the heavy lifting for you!

### Why Choose Recycled Mulch?

By purchasing mulch, you're helping to cover the costs of recycling green waste and supporting a more sustainable future for our community.

Together we can come together to support a greener, sustainable Break O'Day!

## Employment Opportunities with BODC

### MTB Maintenance Worker

Join the team caring for the St Helens MTB Trail network!

#### What You'll Do:

Maintain safe, sustainable, rider-ready trails.

Conduct repairs, manage erosion, and clear vegetation.

*Applications close 9 December.*

### Join the Casual Pool for Outdoor Workers

Support Council's outdoor crews in maintaining parks, reserves, roads, trails, and waste transfer stations.

**Municipal Worker:** Maintenance and construction duties for parks, roads, and stormwater systems.

**Waste Transfer Station Attendant:** Provide safe, professional waste disposal services.

*Applications close 13 December.*

Join our supportive, community-focused team and make an impact to the community you're a part of!

For more details and to apply, visit:

[www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/employment-opportunities/](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/employment-opportunities/)