

Next Council Meetings:
21 December

From General Manager - John Brown

With all of the borders now pretty much open people seem to have been keen to get moving which is evidenced by the number of flights and bookings on the Spirits of Tasmania. The Launceston Airport Manager was on the radio late last week saying they were expecting 118 flights this week!!! Spirit of Tasmania are now resuming daily sailings. Already we are seeing interstate visitors in our area. This comes with the inevitable nervousness we all feel to a varying degree - What happens if someone visits Tasmania carrying COVID and it all starts all over again... ? Improved hygiene practices are key to protecting ourselves and hopefully we have changed our practices for the better and they have stuck, though I do see a lot of people just walking past the sanitisers at the entrance to premises so I do tend to think we have slipped back.

There is no doubt we are heading for a bumper summer. Talking to local businesses there are strong forward bookings for accommodation and we only have to look at the volume of caravans on the road at the moment. These same businesses also mention how strong trading has been during July to October as Tasmanians rediscovered St Helens which has certainly helped overcome the impact during the period we were locked down. When we look at the growth in visitation along the Coast there are some significant variations, whilst overnight stays in St Helens grew by 17.7% in the 12 months to March 2020, areas such as Swansea declined by 10.8%. Interestingly in the same period St Helens overtook both Coles Bay and Bicheno to have the highest number of overnight stays on the East Coast for the first time in the Tasmanian Visitor Survey. These figures will look markedly different for the 12 months to March 2021.



Senator Claire Chandler with Mayor Mick Tucker at the official opening of the Georges Bay Multi-User track.

Multi-User Track officially opened

On Thursday 19 November Senator Claire Chandler officially opened the Georges Bay Multi-User track extension on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack. The construction of the track was made possible with \$2.1million funding from the Australian Government.

After Mayor Mick Tucker and Sen. Chandler unveiled the plaque at the wharf end of the new pedestrian bridge, VIPs walked around the new sections of bridge to Beauty Bay where a light, individually packed lunch was served. Thanks to the East Coast

Providence for organising the packs for us.

Ideally it was the perfect day and all in attendance said they enjoyed the walk around the new track and were impressed with the whale bone design as well as the wave pattern along the panels.

Mayor Mick Tucker said that he had been noticing the track getting some use.

"It is so great to see the community out on the new track and we can't wait to see the use it will get over summer," he said.

Meet November's Community Group of the month St Helens Lions Club

The Lions Club of St Helens has been successfully running for over 47 years. Their main aim is for the club to support our local community in any way they can. The Lions Club International is a global organisation supporting many projects around the world, their motto is "We Serve". Their mission is to encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward.

The St Helens Lion club is a very proactive organisation within our community, you have more than likely seen them outside the Portland Hall,

rain, hail or shine putting on their weekly BBQ at the Saturday Markets. They support and organise many local events including the Annual Athletics Carnival, Regatta and we can't forget the traditional Christmas Eve Parade which is held in the Main Street of St Helens every Christmas Eve (Unfortunately due to COVID-19 there will not be a parade this year). Did you know that 75 percent of the Lions club fundraising is actually given back to our community? Lions recently donated some money towards new Christmas decorations **Continued Over...**



for the Main Street of St Helens, something the whole community can enjoy. The Lions Club of St Helens currently have 10 active members, but are always looking for more volunteers. If you wish to become a member, contact one of their existing members who will be only too happy to answer any questions you may have and invite you to come along to one of their monthly meetings or a social outing to meet their friendly group or; start following their Facebook page:

Lions Club of St Helens Tasmania. If you are wanting to know what the Lions Club of St Helens has been up to lately you can read about them in the Coastal Column, look for the article "On the Prowl"

On behalf of the Break O'Day Community we thank the members past and present of the St Helens Lions Club for all the hard work, dedication and effort you all put into making our community a thriving and better place to be. GREAT WORK GUYS !!!



Child Family Centre wins Waste Not Award

Congratulations to the Break O'Day Child Family Centre (CFC) who won a Waste Not Award. Facilitated by Rethink Waste, these awards recognise the efforts of various groups, organisations and individuals in the pursuit of waste reduction.

CFC won the Early Learners Category for setting up composting and worm farms with the contents recycled into the centre's gardens. The centre's bins have been labelled, encouraging recycling and the centre's arts and crafts projects consist of recycled

materials. Staff have swapped from paper towel to use reusable cloths and are delivering training to make bees-wax wraps, moisturisers, lip balms, bath bombs and face scrubs. They also support and encourage families to take garden cuttings and seeds from the garden to increase home-cooked food rather than packaged snacks and meals. These programs are now ongoing and are practiced day-to-day, so the children learn how to reduce waste from the moment they walk and talk.

IN BRIEF

Carpark access

Last week works started in the Mortys Carpark on the corner of Cecilia and Quail streets. This means that the carpark will have limited access between now and Christmas. However parking has been made available on the grassed block beside the existing carpark with access provided off Quail Street.

These works involve the sealing of the carpark and landscaped open area.

We plan to have as much of the works completed as possible by Christmas time ready for the busy summer period. Further works will occur after Christmas to complete the overall project including linking to the carpark near the Library and Visitor Information Centre

Waste reminders

Just a little reminder to all residents regarding kerbside waste collection:

- Bins must be placed at least 30cm apart
- Do not over fill bins - The bin lid must be able to be shut
- Bins should be out by 6am to avoid being missed

If you would like information on what can and can't be recycled you can find information on our website under My Property / Waste including an A-Z of what can and can't be recycled as well as a link to an app, Recycle Coach. The Recycle Coach App allows you to search for items to determine how they can be disposed of as well as reminders on when your waste and recycling collection days are.

Congratulations Serpentarium

If you haven't already visited St Helens' latest attraction, the Serpentarium, make sure you do!

This relatively new, family owned business is already kicking some serious goals and in November took out the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania's Local's Choice Award for the East Coast. On their Facebook page, the Serpentarium expressed their surprise at winning the award as well as their thanks.

Community Garden Boundary Adjustment - Council's position

Councillors and Council staff are aware of a petition from the St Helens Neighbourhood House (NHH) regarding a boundary adjustment at the Community Gardens off Annie Street, St Helens.

Unfortunately, some of the information around the boundary adjustment is misleading so Council would like to ensure that the community has the full story.

The Community Garden is located on a block of Council land. In June 2016 Council voted to lease a parcel of this land to the St Helens Neighbourhood House (NHH) for use as a community garden. A formal lease arrangement was then put in place in September 2016.

When NHH fenced the site, it was not in accordance with the lease agreement and a substantial encroachment outside the agreed leased area. This resulted in a large part of a frontage to Medea Street being included. Since that time some temporary infrastructure has been placed outside the agreed boundary. A Council officer advised the organisation that this was the case in March 2017 and a general, verbal agreement was entered allowing the NHH to keep their fencing where it was on a temporary basis. This was on the proviso that NHH would remove/move infrastructure if ever Council required this land for other purposes. On 6 October, NHH wrote to Council to ask if the boundary could be adjusted to the space that they are currently using.

Over the last 12 months Council officers have been in discussions with Government agencies regarding the establishment of a temporary

helicopter landing area in close proximity to the new St Helens Hospital. This is to assist with time sensitive, critical care cases that require urgent transport by helicopter. Plans are now progressing to establish this temporary site which is impacted by the area fenced by the NHH outside their agreed lease area. This has always been included in Council's Masterplan for the site.

The adjustment was discussed at a Closed Council meeting on 16 November due to another proposed use for the entire area owned by Council which at this stage is Commercial in Confidence, and therefore must be discussed in Closed Council.

NHH's request for the boundary adjustment was refused due to the impact of the encroachment on the use of the site as well as the substantial impact it has on the available frontage the parcel of land has to Medea Street. A letter was sent to the NHH on 20 November outlining Council's stance and formally asking them for a timeline to relocate infrastructure outside the agreed to boundary. Council said it was open to discussions on how it could assist with the relocation. We hope that the community understands that this is not a simple issue, or a matter of Council not supporting the community – in fact the future plans for the site have community and its needs at its heart, now and into the future. We hope that the NHH, the board and the community will continue to use the parcel of land that has been leased to them as we appreciate its importance to our community.

Changes to our website

We have made a few changes to our website under the My Community section aimed at making it easier for you to find information. This includes creating two new pages called 'Community Resources' and 'Community Facilities'. Under community resources you can find

information on the Community Notice Board, Learner Driver program, Community Group information including contacts, the Mental Health Directory, the Business Call Project as well as the Community Bushfire Protection Plans.

WHATS ON

St Helens and surrounds Bushfire ready meeting

4 December

Held at the Portland Hall 3:15 – 6pm Friday 4 December this session is being brought to you by the Tasmanian Fire Service and Council and will provide tips and information on being prepared for this Bushfire season are you prepared?

You can find Community Bushfire Protection Plans for Scamander, St Helens, St Marys and Falmouth on the Council website under My Community/community Resources

Mannalargenna Day 2020

5 December

A gathering to celebrate continuing cultural connections to country in the North East of Tasmania and to Mannalargenna, alongside and with the support of Musselroe Bay Windfarm. This is an inclusive event- all are welcome. Entry by gold coin donation on the day. Held at; Tebrakunna Visitor Centre 558 Little Musselroe Rd, Cape Portland.

Christmas Carols - St Marys

6 December

Held at the Holy Trinity Church in the main Street of St Marys, all are welcome to enjoy the Christmas spirit from 5pm. This is a socially distanced event.

St Helens Markets

Every Saturday from 9am - 1pm

Drop by the St Helens Markets in the Portland Hall and bag yourself a locally crafted gift or some fresh produce.



NEVER MISS ANOTHER COLLECTION DAY

Download Break O'Day's **FREE** Waste & Recycling App for custom collection reminders!

recycle coach

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Do you have a community event or activity you would like us to promote?
Please email
erica.mckinnell@bodc.tas.gov.au

Capital Works Projects - Oct/Nov

COMPLETED

- Sealing of Flagstaff Rd and the trailhead carpark completed
- New gated entry for the St Helens Dog Exercise Yard off Eagle Street
- Kerb and channel works at Jason St
- Replanting of the boat garden beds in the main street of St Helens
- Reseal works underway at Mortys Carpark
- Ongoing town maintenance – keeping on top of the grass mowing is proving a challenge for us!

PROGRAMMED WORKS

- Hanging of the Christmas Decorations
- Resheeting Ansons Bay Rd
- Drainage works - Alexander St, Cornwall
- Sealing prep -Thomas/Lennox and Campbell St Cornwall
- Road maintenance and prep works for resealing; Walker St, St Helens and Gardens Road.



Above: Flagstaff Rd and the trailhead have now been sealed.

COUNCIL OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OPEN HOURS:

**We will be closed from 5pm 23
December and reopening at 9am
on 4 January**

Weed of the month-Holly



"We do not want to be spoiling the Christmas cheer, but did you know that holly is a Declared Weed in Tasmania? It is time to think of this tree with shiny red berries and spiky leaves a little differently. Its red berries are

attractive to birds too, who spread the seeds long distances. 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 DPIPW 'Declared Weeds index' for information on controlling large holly plants and trees. Take care not to spread seeds. Holly can not be propagated, traded or distributed"

Community Consultation - Sports Complex Draft Concept plans

Last week Council started the first stage of consultation for the St Helens Sports Complex Master Plan. This involved sending letters to all the user groups of the area asking for their feedback on a draft concept design.

The letter included three plans; 1. Depicted the Current Use of the Sports Complex, 2. Showed Approved Council activities, and 3. a copy of the Draft Master Plan Concept. The Master Plan was developed in 2012 as a concept only to show ideas that had been discussed with Council by user groups and the community previously. As mentioned in the letter that was sent out, this is just a starting point for Council and the Community to work with.

The idea of the master plan, which was prepared in 2012, is to future proof the complex for the next ten years so it was logical that we start by talking to the main users of the complex. This is just the start of the review process of the plan.

Once users groups have sent in their feedback it will be collated and presented to Council, we may then make changes to the Draft Concept plan before we go back out to the wider community to gather their input on the space.

This will include making the plans Some of the potential ideas covered in the Concept plan are:

- Four side by side tennis courts
- A helicopter pad – for emergency services
- Pool and hydrotherapy
- Shared cricket and football ovals
- Shared Soccer, athletics and cycling areas
- A designated event space
- Establishment of roads, parking and new access points.

Of course this is just a concept for now and any final plans will require external funding to complete. We look forward to hearing the ideas, feedback and suggestions of the community.

World Super Model Competition

Next year, our area will host the World Supermodel Competition. We can't tell you much about what they will be doing or where they will be going as it is top secret, but we can say we are excited to have this opportunity to promote our region.

Having a production of this calibre showcasing our region is a rare and appreciated opportunity. The publicity that this show attracts will certainly further cement the East Coast of Tasmania as a desirable destination.