

From General Manager - John Brown

Isn't it great to see the first few days of Summer appear right at the start of December. Lovely sunny days and reasonable temperatures overnight are what we enjoy and certainly improve how we feel. After a period of regular rain we can only hope that things are on the improve and we are heading for a good summer. Though not wanting to dampen your happiness the Bureau of Meteorology provide a dark cloud on the horizon reporting that we are heading for a wetter than normal summer through into late January.

The weather we are having is causing challenges with grass growth. As quick as we cut them they need doing again, just like you with your lawns. This means we have had to divert some of our team members away from construction activities to help our hardworking and overwhelmed maintenance crews. Walking up the street I can't help but be proud of the way the garden bed on the corner of Cecilia and Quail Streets now look. This splash of colour in the centre of town replaces an area which for a long time looked a bit unloved.

Vacant blocks are quite often the bane of people's lives, whether you are a neighbour or just someone who passes by. This year we can't help but notice the really long grass and just wish the owner would do something about it. Just like you, Council officers see these blocks and are frustrated that we can't do something about it. Unfortunately our powers are quite limited in this space until it meets the definition of a fire hazard and then we can take action. Until we get to that stage, all we can do is send the person a letter, which we have done in the last week, and appeal to their responsible property owner nature. Unfortunately some just don't seem to care and often ignore the letter. Fingers crossed for better weather than predicted and that people to do the right thing and remove potential fire hazards from their properties.

Fairy Terns return to raise their families



Pictured above: Fairy Tern in flight, nesting and a vulnerable chick on the sand. Image credit Eric Woehler

Just like many humans, the Fairy Terns have decided to raise their families on beaches in our area.

The Fairy Tern is a vulnerable shore bird species found in Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia where it is listed as endangered.

It is estimated that approximately 30 -50% of the entire Fairy Tern population is currently nesting on our shores. Some of the breeding pairs have even been spotted with eggs and young. So that we can give these birds and their chicks the best chance of survival it is important that we stay away from them.

The Parks and Wildlife team have fenced off some of these nesting sites to keep them protected so if you come

across any of these sites please stay away.

Aside from keeping your distance from nesting birds, you can also stay on the wet sand when walking on the beach, and if walking your dog, stick to the dog zones.

In Break O'Day we have established Dog zones which tell you where you can take your dog on and off leash in our area. You can find a link to the Dog Management zones on our website under My Property / Dogs or by using this QR Code.



Fire Hazards and maintaining your property

As we head towards the fire season it is more important than ever, and your responsibility, to make sure your property is maintained. This means making sure the grass is mown and overgrown vegetation removed.

Because the grass is still green we are unable to issue abatements for overgrown properties but it is in your best interest to maintain now and not wait to the very last minute.

Every year after we issue abatements, property owners rush to get their blocks under control. Due to the lack of slashers and like service providers in our area this means people have long wait times and often cannot get them slashed within the allotted timeframe. You don't let your lawn get too overgrown, the same should apply to your block!

Snakes are out and about - Look out

It is that time of year when we start seeing more snakes around the area and we start receiving calls from concerned community members. However, there is very little Council can do other than direct you to Reptile Rescue – www.reptilerescue.org.au.

The simple truth is that when you live in an area like ours, snakes are a part of life. If you see one while out and about on one of the many walking or cycling tracks, the best thing to do is keep your distance.

If you spot one on your property that

is hanging around and causing you distress, get in touch with Reptile Rescue.

Other things you can do to keep yourself and your pet safe:

- Keep your dog on-lead while on bush/beach tracks
- If you spot a snake – stand still and keep calm until it leaves
- Get rid of any potential snake hiding places around your home
- Get rid of any potential food sources around your home – mice, frogs, rats etc



November Council Meeting decisions

The below is a snapshot of important Council decisions from the November Council Meeting.

If you would like to see the full Agenda or Minutes or listen to a recording of the meetings you can find all these items on our website under My Council/Council Agendas and Minutes.

At the November Council meeting held on 15 November, Council approved the following motions:

- To waive waste fees for the St Helens District High School and St Marys Op-Shops
- To put forward the following projects as part of the Federal Government's Round 3 Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LCRIP)
 - Nth Ansons Bay Road sealing - from sealed section to 1km west.
 - Cecilia Street –Streetscape East side from Circassian to Georges Bay Esplanade including the realignment of the Georges Bay Esplanade and Cecilia Street intersection.
 - St Marys Footpath between IGA and Newman Street including renewal Of footpath, kerb and channel and parking
 - Medeas Cove Esplanade Footpath – connecting Heather

Place to Community Garden (Eagle Street)

- Mount Paris Dam Road – sealing from Tasman Highway to Chainage 295m.

- Provide \$2500 funding to Mannalargenna Day
- To put forward the following suggestions for the State Government's 2022 -2023 Budget consideration;
 - Additional funding for the Bay of Fires master Plan
 - Further upgrades to the Tasman Highway from Dianas Basin to the bottom of St Marys Pass
 - Housing Needs Assessment – advocate the Tasmanian Government to complete a housing assessment of the BOD area
 - State Highway Maintenance – advocate for the Tasmanian Government to focus more strongly on maintaining and repairing existing State Road Infrastructure.
 - Climate Change and a Climate resilience program support
 - Relocation of the St Helens District High School

Illegal Tree Removal

On Sunday 21 November, a gum tree was illegally removed from Council leased land/ road reserve on St Helens Point Road.

Not only was this irresponsible act illegal, the individual/s responsible put their own lives and those of the community at risk by felling the tree in a public place right next to a public road without any professional advice or assistance.

Council, the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service as well as Tasmania Police are now involved and the matter is currently under investigation and may lead to prosecution.

Let us communicate directly with you

Would you like us to communicate directly with you via email? Have you thought about joining one of our mailing lists? When we asked our community how they would like us to communicate with them they said direct email was the most convenient for them.

We have several email databases that we use to communicate with you. If you would like to be added to any of these, please email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au and let us know which ones you would like to be added to.

Township Databases including:

- Scamander
- Falmouth
- Binalong Bay / Gardens
- St Helens / Stieglitz
- St Marys
- Fingal
- Ansons Bay
- Mathinna

As well as a Business Database and Newsletter Database.

Binalong Bay Road

The State Government has officially announced that they have taken over the management of Binalong Bay Road. This means that any concerns or queries you have about this road now need to be addressed to the Department of State Growth.

The Annual Report is now available

Our 2020-2021 Annual Report is now available online under My Council/Council Strategies/Plans and Documents/Financial Management and Annual Reports, or you can drop in to the office and pick up a hard copy.

The Annual Report is a comprehensive look at what Council has been doing over the last 12 months and how we have gone in achieving our Annual Plan which is developed at the start of every financial year. The Annual Plan is based on the Strategic Plan which we developed with significant input from our community.

Basically the Annual Report is our

most important document in terms of accountability and transparency.

This year we have achieved 91% completion of our Annual Plan against 18 Strategies, 25 Key Focus Areas and 98 Activities.

The Annual Report includes:

- Key Focus Area Reports
- Feature Article
- Financial Snapshots – for a quick look at Council funds
- Complete Financial Audit, and more.

Shown below is an example of the financial snapshots showing Council's income sources.



WHATS ON

Population Change in Break O'Day - Challenges and Opportunities

7 December - online event

Interested in learning about the population challenges and opportunities our area faces in the future?

Make sure you attend this online event with Dr Lisa Denny. Dr Lisa Denny is a Workforce Demographer and Adjunct Associate Professor with the Institute for Social Change, University of Tasmania.

Her areas of interest and expertise focus on the inter-related nature of education, the economy and the population with a view to achieving economic and social renewal in the context of population change and other socio-economic scenarios.

To join this online event please register for this event via our Facebook page or Eventbrite.

Taswater - Look Behind the scenes

11 December

If you have ever wondered what goes on inside a water treatment plant TasWater will be in St Helens on 11 December and will be showing people through their St Helens Plant.

Members of the Taswater team will also be at the St Helens' markets from 9am on Saturday to have a chat and answer any questions.

Things to note:

The water treatment plant tour is not suitable for children under 10 years.

Wear flat and fully enclosed shoes

There is stair access and uneven surfaces.

COVID SAFETY - Its your responsibility

With the borders opening on December 15, it is important that we all remain COVID vigilant.

Here in Tasmania, and even more so in our little, regional coastal community, we have been relatively protected from contracting the virus, but that is about to change.

With friends and families from across the country flying in to visit we risk the chance of being exposed to the virus. However there are some simple things you can do to protect yourself, and your loved ones:

- Be fully Vaccinated – this is your best protection from the virus
- Social Distancing - Keep 1.5m away from people in public places

- Use the Check-in App – this way you can be easily traced and contacted if we get a case in the community
- Wash and Sanitize your hands – stop the spread by staying on top of hygiene
- Wear a Mask – If attending an event that has more than 1000 people or if it is difficult to social distance
- Get Tested – If you feel you may have any COVID symptoms, get tested as soon as possible

You can find all the current and up to date information you need on COVID 19 and State regulations here: www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au

UNFORTUNATELY THERE WILL BE NO CHRISTMAS PARADES

Break O'Day Council AGM 13 December 5pm at the Council Chambers

LOCAL MARKETS

St Helens - Every Saturday

The Markets alternate between setting up their stalls at the Portland Hall or in the Visitor Information Centre Car-park.

St Marys - First Saturday of the month

Held at the St Marys Hall.

Council Works Reports

The Council works crew have been working hard to keep on top of grass mowing around the municipality as well as wrapping up projects in time for the Christmas Holidays. This includes:

- **Falmouth Road Sealing:** Resheeting of Morrison and Franks Streets are underway with sealing scheduled for completion before Christmas subject to weather
- **Binalong Bay Foreshore footpath:** Major works scheduled to be completed prior to Christmas, with minor finishing works to occur during January.
- **Slashing:** Our slashing contractor has started in Weldborough and will be working their way south through Pyengana and St Helens.
- **Beauty Bay Jetty:** Works to replace the jetty are well underway and on schedule for completion by Christmas.
- **General Road maintenance:** We have been addressing potholes and road pavement failures at St Helens Point and Gardens Roads. Reconstruction in progress at Medea Cove Esplanade.
- **Scamander Playground - Fence installation:** A contractor will be installing fencing around the Scamander Playground starting December 6.
- **Wrinklers Toilet Block and Carpark:** Construction of the Carpark at Wrinklers is scheduled to start early December. The toilet block works have been postponed while we wait for materials to arrive.
- **Lions Park BBQ area:** Works refurbishing the Lions Park BBQ are now complete. These works were made possible by the Lions Club who donated \$12,000 to the project. (Pictured)



Weed of the month - Gorse



Gorse is one of the worst weeds in Australia and Tasmania. While Break O'Day has some badly infested areas, much of the municipality is gorse free or nearly so. Many landholders have embarked on control programs.

Gorse seeds remain viable in the soil

for up to 30 years so plan carefully and don't waste time and resources. Prevent seed production, start on isolated plants and patches; dig out smaller plants. Herbicides used safely and following the label are effective tools (cut-&-paint or spray). Gorse has some helpful biological control pests, and slashing, grazing, heaping and maybe fire can be useful methods to consider, but not without follow-up.

Make a long-term control plan with a range of control methods. Diligent annual follow-up is critical. And practice good hygiene to prevent gorse from spreading, EG. refuse dirty earthmoving machinery that might be carrying a 30 year headache.

Community Grants NOW OPEN

This funding program provides grants to communities to improve facilities/programs in their township or to improve the overall amenity of their town. All community groups that represent the ratepayers of their community are eligible to apply for funding.

Projects that will be considered for funding but not necessarily restricted to:

- Beautification projects
- Projects to improve or construct recreation facilities
- Projects that will improve the amenity of the township/community

Projects that will not be considered:

- Any projects on privately owned land or which cannot be freely

accessed by all community members

- Capital Works projects (ie. Footpaths, kerb and guttering etc.)

To apply or for more information download our application form from our website under My Community or drop in to the Council Office at 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade to pick up a hard copy.

Weed Management

Mathinna: Spanish heath, broom, gorse

Stieglitz: Spanish heath, mignonette

Priory Road: Watsonia

Mangana: Spanish heath, blackberry, broom.

Can you help your community?

- Are you an experienced driver?
- Are you willing to volunteer one or more hours a week of your time to help others in our community get their licence?

If so, the Get in2 Gear program needs you.

The Learner Driver Mentor Program is a Tasmanian Government and Council funded program that supports our community members who are having difficulty getting their licence. This could be for a range of reasons from not having access to a vehicle to not having someone to help them with their hours.

If you would like to join our Learner Driver Mentors, please contact Jenna on 63767900

GET IN2GEAR