

**Next Council Meetings:**  
**19 December 2022 and 16 January 2023 at 10am in the Council Chambers**

## From the General Manager - John Brown

As the October Newsletter was coming out the results of the 2022 Council Election were just becoming known. Our congratulations go to Mayor Tucker and Deputy Mayor Chapple on their re-election as Councillors and their election to these leadership positions. Congratulations also to returning Councillors Janet Drummond, Barry LeFevre and Kylie Wright. Congratulations and welcome to our new Councillors, Gary Barnes, Ian Carter, Liz Johnstone, and Vaughan Oldham. At this time there is also a sense of sadness as we farewell Councillors John McGiveron, Glenn McGuinness, Marg Osborne OAM and Lesa Whittaker. They have all given tirelessly to the community through their involvement in Council, we will miss them all and wish them well for the future.

Now the hard work begins for the new Councillors. Over the first few months there is an intensive induction and professional development process which is aimed at providing a solid platform for them to work from as a Councillor. We also bring the new Councillors up to the same level of knowledge in relation to key ongoing projects which returning Councillors have to deal with. It is certainly a busy few months.

### Keep up to date on Council activities and projects by joining our email database.

We have databases for each township as well as a Newsletter database that we regularly use to send information directly to our community. If you would like to be added to any of our databases please email [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au)

## Students and Council work together to spread Christmas Cheer



Pictured above: St Helens District School students with their Christmas Township signs and Sophie Richards and Anthony Goss from the Council Works Team who will be putting the signs up around the municipality. We hope to include the St Marys Students' signs in the next newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Council's Community Services team has been working with students from the St Helens and St Marys District Schools to create signs to spread Christmas cheer. Students from Kinder to Grade 6 were invited to submit their Christmas inspired artwork to Council with 15 winning designs chosen by an independent panel to be turned into the signs.

The winning designs were:

**St Helens District School;** Jai Toms – Kinder, Jackson Case – Grade 6, Flora Gable – Grade 2, Archie Barr – Grade 2, Lucy Frost – Grade 1, Baxter Szyzman – Grade 2, Madelyn Payne – Grade 1, Owen Midson – Grade 2.

**St Marys District School;** Claire Ward – Grade 5, Charlize Speers – Year 5, Leira Rankin – Year 2, Kyuss Barratt – Year 3, Willow Davenport – Year 3, Vann Burke – Prep, Sophia Syka – Year 6.

These designs have now been printed and will be displayed underneath the township signs around the municipality.

"The artwork the students have created is amazing and is sure to brighten up our towns and inspire the Christmas spirit," Mayor Tucker said.

"I can't wait to see them around the towns and I am sure the rest of the community will find them as joyful as we do."

Community Services Project Officer Jenna Bailey said it had been a great project to work on.

"The students have been great to work with - we had no idea how many talented artists we had here!

"Being able to do these types of projects with the community is one of the best things about working for Council and it really has been a pleasure working with the schools and students," Ms Bailey said.

After Christmas, once the signs have been taken down, they will be presented back to the student artists as a keepsake. Council plans to continue this project next year, giving a new set of students the opportunity to be a part of this project.

## St Marys Pass Closure - Update

Due to the closure of St Marys Pass, Council have asked the State Government to consider; an alternate routes to the East Coast that do not bypass our townships and, access to emergency grants for our communities. Mayor Tucker said that neither the Elephant Pass or St Marys Pass are fit-for-purpose and with the recent events, it was more important than ever to consider an alternate route.

"St Marys Pass is 176 years old this year and the route has barely changed from the times of horse and cart," Mayor Tucker said.

On 20 November, Mayor Tucker met with State Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Michael Ferguson, and John Tucker MP on-site so they could see first-hand the condition and damage to the road.

Mr Ferguson said the Government was committed to getting the Pass reopened as soon as possible and that there are three teams working seven days a week, 12 hours a day to get the

works completed as soon as possible. Council has named this up as a priority in our Budget Submission to the State Government. We have also written to the Premier to ask him to consider introducing a similar funding program to the Business Hardship grants that were made available when works were being undertaken at Paradise Gorge, Orford.

Council staff including the General Manager and the Mayor attended the Community Meeting in St Marys on 25 November. They listened to the impact the closure has had on the community and took notes that will be passed on to the State and Federal Governments. We have also created a Business Impact Survey for St Marys businesses which can be found on our website.

Council has set up a webpage on our website under News where we will share any updates on St Marys Pass as well as any other relevant links and information as it becomes available.



## Planning and Building - What's Council's Role?

Under the Local Government Act, Council's are responsible for enforcing the State Government's Planning Scheme, National Construction Code and associated Australian Standards. We don't make these rules but we are legally obligated to enforce and regulate them.

While we understand that it can be frustrating for the community when we are unable to give you the answers you expect, please remember, we are only doing as we are required. We are governed by; the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, Tasmanian Building Act 2016

and the National Construction Code.

All of these rules and codes have been put in place to ensure your safety and protect you as a property owner. When works are done without the appropriate permits and approvals it can affect your insurance, your resale value and most importantly your safety.

Council staff are here to help and we will try our best to help you navigate these rules and legislated requirements and to find solutions to any challenges that pop up along the way.

## Fire Abatements

### - FAQ

We have recently sent out our pre-abatement notices. These are NOT Abatement Notices but a reminder to property owners of their obligations. Considering this, we thought it a good time to share some of our most frequently asked questions regarding abatements.

#### **When will Council be issuing Fire Abatements?**

Fire abatements are issued when it has been determined by a qualified Council Officer that there is, or is likely to be, a fire risk on a particular property. Due to the wet weather we have been experiencing, there is currently no fire risk. Council's powers to issue Fire abatement Notices is legislated under the Local Government Act 1993.

#### **There is overgrown vegetation on my neighbours block and I think it poses a fire risk.**

Council will make a note of the property and if appropriate, will investigate and issue a Fire Abatement.

**My neighbour's block is overgrown and attracting snakes and looks messy.** Fire Abatements can only issued for Fire Risk. We cannot issue abatements because there may be snakes on your neighbour's property or it looks unsightly.

#### **I received an Abatement Notice – what do I do now?**

On your Abatement Notice we will outline what you are required to do and when. We will also provide you with a list of contractors you can contact to do the work. If you are still unsure please call us on 6376 7900.

#### **What is the cost to me if Council clears my property?**

If you do not comply with the notice, we will have a contractor undertake the works and send you the invoice. We will also charge a non-compliance fee of \$150 plus a \$160 administration fee.

**From November to February you can take your green waste to the St Helens Waste Transfer Station for FREE on Sunday. That makes now the best time to get your property tidy and ready for the summer holidays.**



## With One Voice Choir - Spreading joy

The With One Voice Choir has been busily making their way around the community sharing their songs of joy and connection as part of their Reconnect and Sing community events. Their events saw them visit Fingal to Binalong and included gigs at Cornwall, Pyengana, Scamander, St Marys, and St Helens.

Their last event was held at an Open House and Garden Fundraiser for the Tasmania Lymphoedema and Laser Therapy Centre held on Saturday 26 November.

The choir has members from all across the community and rehearses regularly at the Scamander Sports Complex on Tuesday's at 5:15pm. New members

or interested community members are always welcome to attend.

A spokesperson for the group said; "We feel thankful and humbled to be supported by our community to do our part to support our community's health and wellbeing, and we have a lot of fun!"

"We look forward to seeing more of you next year."

The Reconnect and Sing Community event program was supported by a community grant from Break O'Day Council.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, call Liz Dean on 0439 001 533.



Members of the With One Voice Choir - what a joyful bunch!

## Fingal and St Marys Project Update

Last year Council was successful in securing funding for the Fingal Valley through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery funding program.

Below is a brief update on each project.

### St Marys Multi-Purpose Centre

This building will include a new gym, new change rooms and bathrooms for the football club as well as other features that allow it to be stood up as an Evacuation Centre if required. This project has been through two rounds of consultation and now has planning approval. It will now go through the Building Approvals process. It is expected this project will go to tender early February 2023 with completion before 30 November 2023.

### Fingal Community Shed

The Shed will be built in Fingal on site at the Old Tasmania Hotel, Fingal Valley

Neighbourhood House. This project has undergone community consultation and has Planning Approval. It will now go through the Building Approvals Process.

### Mangana Communications Tower

The design and installation of this project is being managed by Telstra Corporation Limited. They are undertaking their technological assessment and will apply for development approval when ready to proceed.

### Fingal Youth Park

Following the development of the initial concept, more detailed discussions were had with the Fingal community as part of the Township Plan process. This information will be used to make changes to the project. It will then come back to the community to finalise the design so we can start the approvals process.

## WHAT'S ON

### St Helens Fire Brigade – Christmas Lollie Run

**24 December**

Held on the St Helens Foreshore from 3pm – 5pm

### St Marys Christmas Parade

**24 December**

Held in the Main Street, St Marys from 5pm

### St Marys New Years Day Races St Marys

**1 January 2023**

Held at the St Marys Pacing Club at the St Marys Sports Complex.

### Australia Day Award Ceremony 26 January

Held at the Portland Hall, St Helens. Join us in awarding our Australian Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year.

### LOCAL MARKETS

#### St Helens - Every Saturday

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

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

Held at the St Marys Hall.

## Annual Report and AGM

Have you been wondering what Council gets up to through out the year? Or how we have gone towards achieving our Annual Plan?

Our Annual Report is now available online and is a record of all our activities for the 2021-2022 Financial Year.

It includes;

- A full report against our Annual Plan activities and how we have gone in achieving these activities
- Financial Snapshots - an 'at a glance' look at where our funding comes from and where we spend it.
- Feature articles on each area of our plan, and
- Independently audited financials

Submissions for the Annual Report close on 7 December at 5pm. Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and mailed or dropped into the main office at 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens, or emailed to [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au)

**The AGM will be held at 5pm on 14 December in the Council Chambers at 5pm.**

## Council Works Reports

- Mowing/ground maintenance – all areas
- Garden/tree maintenance and weeding – CBD
- Cemetery maintenance
- Road side slashing has commenced in Seymour and Fingal areas
- Boat Ramp – monthly inspections and cleaning undertaken
- Sealed road patching – all areas
- Daily maintenance and inspections of road condition at Upper Scamander Road due to St Marys Pass closure and increase traffic volume on this road.



Works team member pressure cleaning boat ramps

## Weed Management

- St Marys Waste Transfer Station - Spanish heath, blackberry, broom, hemlock, thistles, capeweed, pampas, mignonette, caper spurge, umbrella weed, various
- Irish Town Quarry - Gorse, broom
- Binalong Bay - Thistles, broom, butterfly bush
- Stieglitz - Spanish heath, mignonette
- St Marys roadsides - Spanish heath, gorse, thistles, broom.
- St Helens - Spanish heath and various.

## Weed of the Month - HOLLY



Did you know that holly is 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 DPI/PWE 'Declared Weeds index' for information on controlling large holly plants and trees. Take care not spread seeds. Holly cannot be propagated, traded or distributed.

## October Weather Event Update

The October weather event has caused some significant damage across the municipality and this high priority work is keeping the works teams busy. This means that some other less urgent jobs like general mowing and maintenance has been sidelined. Please be patient with the works team as they work their way around the municipality.

At the moment the works crew have a list of over 40 roads, footpaths, bridges etc that were damaged in the weather event that are now being checked and fixed. This includes everything from patching roads, clearing drains, removing fallen trees and fixing areas that have experienced landslip. A damage report is being prepared and will be presented to the Department of Premier

and Cabinet for the Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Arrangement. Due to the closure of St Marys Pass and the state of the Elephant Pass, many people are using the Upper Scamander Road and Semmens Road (S Road) Bypass. This has meant that these roads are now experiencing more than 6 times their usual traffic use, from 100 traffic movements per day to 670.

The speed limit on Upper Scamander Road has been dropped to 60km because of this increase. Please abide by this speed limit and drive to the conditions. Similar speed limits will also be applied to German Town and Semmens Roads.

We ask everyone to drive to the conditions and stick to the signed speed limits.

## NBN Updates to cause outages in St Helens/Stieglitz area

Work will soon commence on the upgrades to the NBN Fixed Wireless network in and around St Helens.

When complete, the upgrades will expand the reach of the existing Fixed Wireless footprint by at least 50%, as well as enabling two new high speed fixed wireless plans – up to 100mbps and 250mbps.

To enable the upgrades, NBN is introducing new technology and

replacing some hardware on their fixed wireless towers.

This will mean some planned outages that may impact homes and businesses.

After the tower works are completed, NBN expect that many customers should experience an improvement in speeds on their NBN Fixed Wireless service.

The upgrade work is scheduled to

begin in St Helens in late January. The tower works will not impact NBN fixed line or NBN Sky Muster satellite services.

Impacted homes and businesses will be notified of any outages via their retail service provider. Information will also be available via the network status page on the NBN website [www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au). You can also register for updates there.