

Next Council Meetings:
20 November and 18 December 2023 at 10am in the Council Chambers

From the General Manager - John Brown

The State Government has dropped three pieces of legislative change seeking feedback from Councils. This is great, but it is also unusual for there to be three pieces at the same time.

One key piece relates to Fire and Emergency Services and a proposal to change the Fire Levy which is collected by councils and passed onto the State through rates and oh boy, have they created a firestorm! I am not sure whether they thought they could just sneak this change through, but judging by the firestorm and media coverage, they have misjudged this well and truly. We fully support well resourced and funded Fire and Emergency Services, we rely on them so heavily throughout the year but in particular when we head into bushfire season. But there is no explanation where this massive amount of extra money will go.

The State Government has created a couple of different funding options for the fire levy, both options will see substantial increases in charges. A St Helens residence would increase by 182% under Model 1 and 69% under Model 2; a St Helens business would increase by 570% under Model 1 and 633% under Model 2; Industrial properties would increase by between 803% and 1205% under Model 1 and by between 858% and 1287% under Model 2. The charging is based on what your land is classified as, not the Zoning under the Planning Scheme. The State Government has explained that your Insurance Company will no longer need to charge a Fire Levy on your Household Insurance so your bill will go down. Needless to say, we would have to be highly sceptical of this happening as the Government can't force this to occur. It will be interesting to see how the State Government puts this fire out as they have certainly torched their reputation on this one! There is an opportunity to have your say on this at www.fire.tas.gov.au/reform/the-bill-have-your-say/

Break O'Day Council Wins Award



Photo of: Councillor Janet Drummond, Executive Officer Jayne Richardson, General Manager John Brown, Mayor Mick Tucker and Deputy Mayor Kristi Chapple accepting the award on behalf of Break O'Day Council

We are proud to announce that Break O'Day Council won the Award for Delivery Excellence - Small Council at the 2023 Local Government Awards. The award was for our Week in the Life of Council program that was delivered back in August this year. This program was created to help community's perception of Local Government and to attract young people to job opportunities in our remote area starting right here with Council.

The Week in the Life of Council program had seven senior students from St Marys District School participate in Council's five departments - Corporate Services, Development Services, Community Services, Governance and the Works Department whilst using the Pumptrack project as a case study. Students experienced the roles and responsibilities of each department and their involvement in the project from community engagement, design, development, works, finance and regulatory.

The judges said they were impressed that our initiative;

- Collaborated across community.
- Engaged with young people to expand their understanding about what councils do beyond "fill pot

holes", by creating champions in the community.

- Brought to light the work opportunities within council in an area where many young people leave for work.
- Was successful in engaging students. The students attended every day, completed all of their work and then enthusiastically shared what they had learnt.

The students were tasked with creating a poster at the end of the week outlining what they had learnt from their time with us. We were amazed at the dedication the students displayed and this was evident in their posters. To celebrate the success of the student's commitment to the program, they were presented with a Certificate of Completion that they can include in their resumes in the future. Congratulations must go to the students and our partners who made this project a success. We look forward to continue to work with the community and connect with the young people of Break O'Day.

Tips To Prepare For An Emergency Event

Australia's changing climate is causing more frequent extreme weather events including bushfires, cyclones, drought and flooding, the impacts of which we have seen across the nation. As summer approaches, NBN is urging communities to prepare for a potential loss of services during an emergency event and urging people to test their residential evacuation and business continuity plans.

nbn is urging the community to prepare by taking four simple steps:

- 1. Stay mobile:** Keep a charged mobile phone and portable mobile battery pack ready to use in a power outage, or if your nbn® connection is disrupted in an emergency event. Consider turning off cellular data on unnecessary apps to save battery.
- 2. Stay updated:** ABC radio is the best source of information during an emergency, so include a battery powered radio in your emergency

communications kit. Also follow the TasAlerts web and Facebook page for updates.

- 3. Back up:** Make sure you can access important information and essential documents from anywhere, including insurance policies and financial documents, consider creating a digital back up on a USB or in the cloud.
- 4. Be Prepared:** Test residential evacuation and business continuity plans, including considering investing in alternative communication and power options to keep your business or community group operating – these need to be tried and tested regularly as part of your Business Continuity Plans.

For more information in regards to emergency events where you may lose connectivity, visit: nbn.com.au/Emergency

Be Aware - Fairy Tern Nesting Season



Photo Courtesy of Eric Woehler

Council is supporting efforts led by the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) to help a nesting colony of fairy terns breed successfully at Scamander River mouth. Fairy terns are listed in Tasmania and nationally as a threatened species, vulnerable to extinction and their numbers have halved in recent years, this makes breeding to their success critical.

Half of Tasmania's estimated 100-150 breeding pairs have been observed by Birdlife Tasmania settling to nest at Scamander this season. Fairy terns choose just a few open beach settings each year in Tasmania to nest on the

sand in dense colonies for protection. Please give them a chance by keeping well away from the fenced areas. Disturbance of the colony can cause eggs or chicks to be killed by heat, taken by gulls, trampled, or even starve to death. Dogs are currently prohibited at all times from an area of tidal shoals and beach at the Scamander River mouth and Council and PWS enforcement officers will be patrolling the area.

Maps of the prohibited area are shown on signs at the river mouth and can be viewed online at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/dogs/

IN BRIEF

Single Use Plastic Policy

Just a reminder that this year, from 1 January 2023 - All events on Council owned land or in Council owned buildings need to comply with our Single Use Plastic Policy which means they will need to be plastic free. So if you are interested in holding an event and need to meet these requirements, there is a Plastic Free Events flyer available as well as a copy of our Plastic Free Policy on our website at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-events/.

Break O'Day History Room Continues To Break Records

Break O'Day Council would like to congratulate the History Room for continuing to exceed visitor numbers for this year. Over the last few months, visitor numbers have eclipsed that of previous years and this is a great outcome for the team who work so hard to provide the community and visitors with amazing exhibitions and displays of our local history.



Australia Day Award Nominations

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for our community?

Why not nominate them for one of our Australia Day Awards?

Citizen of the Year:

To be eligible, the person must be 27 years or older on or before the 26th January 2024.

Young Citizen of the Year:

To be eligible, the person must be under 27 years of age on or before the 26th January 2024.

To nominate someone please download the form at <https://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-events/>

and either drop it in to Council at 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens or email it to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au.



Community Grants Now Open

Break O'Day Council's Community Funding Program provides grants to communities to improve facilities and programs in their township or improve the overall amenity of their town. All community groups that represent our ratepayers are eligible to apply for

funding.

To apply or for more information download our form at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/break-oday-community-grants/ or drop in to the Council Office to pick up a hard copy. Submissions close 13 February 2024.

Read Aloud To Your Child Every Day

The Tasmanian Branch, Children's Book Council of Australia is partnering with the Toast for Kids Charity Inc and are proud to have launched the national campaign "Read Aloud to Your Child Every Day", a simple message encouraging parents, grandparents, siblings and carers to read to their children for their literary growth; investing in their future. Data has showed that one in three school students throughout Australia

are not meeting minimum numeracy and literacy expectations, and one in ten are so far behind they need additional support. Furthermore, over decades Tasmania still suffers from an illiteracy rate of 50%. "There's a simple, easy way to help your children learn – read aloud to them every day. Studies have shown that reading aloud can help your child develop language skills, learn more, and enjoy reading. By reading aloud every day, you will be investing in their future. So be proud, read aloud!"



WHAT'S ON

The Lighthouse - Every Wednesday

Serving the Break O'Day community, The Lighthouse is a safe place where you can enjoy a free cuppa, hot soup and roll, warm beanies and scarves or a friendly chat.

Open every Wednesday, 11am-1pm at the Anglican Hall - 56 Cecilia Street, St Helens.

Scooter Jam Competition - 12 November

Come along to a day of fun at St Marys Skate Park. All welcome to enjoy food, demos, prizes, music and more. Age categories for competition U12, 13-15, 16-25. Parents permission required if U18. For more information go to www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community or call 6376 7900.

Community Information Session: Scamander River Mouth - 15 November

Hear about coastal adaptation with Dr Anne Leitch from Griffith University and be part of the Scamander River Coastal Hazards Risk Mitigation & Pathways Planning project in coming years. 4.30-5.30pm at the Scamander Sports Complex. For more information contact Polly Buchhorn on 6376 7900 or email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

Launceston Community Legal Centre -

20 November & 4 December

FREE legal advice from a visiting lawyer will be available at Fingal Valley and St Helens Neighbourhood House. For more information or to book an appointment please call 6334 1577 or 1800 066 019.

Bendigo Community Bank Presents St Helens Christmas Parade -

December 24 Christmas Eve.

5.30pm start.

Bringing back a local tradition!

More details to come....

Follow their Facebook page for more information.

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.

Council Works Reports

- Spring maintenance is in full swing, giving our parks and reserves some loving attention in the lead up to the holiday season.
- Work will commence this month to prepare the 'Old Highway' at Seymour for sealing. With sealing to be completed in the new year.

GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

FREE EVERY SUNDAY FROM NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY

WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS INCLUDING:

ST HELENS
SCAMANDER
ST MARYS

WEED MANAGEMENT

Mathinna - Spanish heath, broom, gorse.

St Marys - Spanish heath, mignonette, gorse, caper spurge, broom, mullein, periwinkle, hemlock, watsonia.

Welborough - Spanish heath, thistles, caper spurge, broom.

Mangana - Spanish heath, broom, Gorse, kunzea.

Pyengana - Spanish heath.

Seymour - Gorse.

DOG STATISTICS 13/09/2023 - 3/10/2023

Urban Patrols = 6
Beach Patrols = 7
Infringements = 1
Unregistered Dog = 0
Impounded dogs = 2

Weed of the month - Blackberry



Blackberry is well known for its sweet fruit late in summer and its habit of developing into impenetrable thorny thickets. Blackberry is a widespread declared weed in Tasmania, with several species now recognised.

It does best in open and disturbed places with reasonable moisture, in bush, along streams and roads, fence lines and

neglected areas. Being a berry, its seed is spread by birds and other animals. It also spreads by sprouting from canes touching the ground and pieces of canes, roots or its crown or lignotuber, which is packed with buds, being moved about.

While small seedlings can be pulled and dug, mature plants become more difficult. If left to develop into large thickets, it is much harder to kill crowns and roots and its starts to have significant impacts. A number of chemical, manual and cultivation treatments can be used and should be integrated in a well thought out control plan.

Because the fruit is commonly eaten, do not apply any herbicides to blackberry plants that are carrying fruit.

Find out about blackberry and other invasive weeds at nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds

Beaches, Bush and Off Road Vehicles

If you enjoy riding a trailbike, quad, 4WDs or other Off Road Vehicle (ORV) in the bush, please help keep opportunities for ORV recreation available to all users by doing the right thing and riding responsibly.

Peron Dunes 4WD recreational area is provided for going off-road in the Break O'Day municipality. Apart from several local boat-launching beach sites (launch and retrieve only), ORVs can't be taken off formed roads and tracks in reserves at all and they must

be registered vehicles.

PWS and landholders are installing barriers to block illegal access and use of ORVs in the St Helens Point area.

ORVs can access rough terrain very easily and the challenge to get into new and exciting terrain is part of the enjoyment people take, however, that often means areas used are fragile and suffer from unconstrained and heavy traffic of ORV enthusiasts. Look after your favourite bush recreation, by looking after the bush too.

ST HELENS
MEN: A
PLACE
TO HAVE
A YARN.



Join us for the launch of The Men's Table
in St Helens, and get some food in your
belly and stuff off your chest.

Scan QR Code or visit: themenstable.org
OR Need help with tickets:
Call David on 0412 126 006



The Bayside Hotel,
Wednesday
15 November 2023
6.00 - 8.30pm

Bookings online