Break O'Day COUNCIL

OCT / NOV 2026

Next Council Meetings:
16 November 2026 and 21 December 2026 at 10am in the Council Chambers

From the General Manager - John Brown

ELECTION WRAP-UP

The 2026 Council election has now been run and won, bringing both continuity and change around the Council table.

Mayor Mick Tucker and Deputy Mayor Kristi Chapple continue in their respective roles, with Hamish Thompson joining six returning Councillors. The new Council also reduces from nine to seven Councillors as part of the ongoing local government reform process.

Hamish will already be a familiar face to many in the Fingal Valley. Having made Fingal home, he has embraced life in the Valley, although I'm not sure it could be described as a quiet life! Together with his partner, Hamish operates The Flying Saucer coffee van in the middle of Fingal. We warmly welcome him to Council and look forward to working with him.

Elections also mean saying goodbye and recognising those who have served our community.

Councillor Kylie Wright leaves Council after 12 years of service, while Councillors Gary Barnes and Vaughan Oldham each conclude four years around the Council table.

Being a Councillor requires a significant commitment of time and energy, working through complex issues and sometimes making difficult decisions on behalf of the community. Kylie, Gary and Vaughan have each made an invaluable contribution during their time with Council, and I sincerely thank them for their service to Break O'Day.

I congratulate all those elected and look forward to working with our new seven-member Council as we begin the next chapter for Break O'Day.

Celebrating Wellbeing and Connection



Photo: One of the stall holders 'With One Voice Choir'.



Photo: People gather at the'Bendigo Bank' stall.

The Bendigo Bank Community Stadium in St Helens welcomed people of all ages on Wednesday 7 October for the 2026 Festival of Wellbeing.

Hosted by Break O'Day Council as part of Mental Health Week, the Festival brought together local services, organisations and businesses for a day of activities, learning and connection.

At the stalls, visitors discovered regional programs and support. St Lukes' Pilates and breathwork sessions helped visitors recharge, while art and music therapy encouraged creativity and participation.

The Serpentarium's reptile presentation drew interest, and Scamander Garden Club's flower workshop added colour.

Outside, Borys Zagrocki impressed spectators with extreme bike stunts, then helped young riders build skills in a mountain bike workshop.



Photo: Borys Zagrocki performing stunts with brave volunteers.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service flight simulator, emergency services displays and activities with St Helens Orienteering gave visitors more to try.

Beyond the activities, the Festival sparked conversations and friendships and connected people with local support services. Its welcoming atmosphere made it easier to discuss mental health and reminded us that wellbeing includes feeling connected, participating in community life and knowing where to seek support.

Council thanks stallholders, workshop facilitators, volunteers, businesses, service providers and community members.

Special thanks to sponsors Easy Tiger, Ripple, Cataract on Paterson, Rupert & Hound, Candice Burnett Consulting and Diamonds Basketball.

The Mental Health Council of Tasmania supported the Festival through its Mental Health Week Small Grants Program, with Tasmanian Government support.

These connections will continue, helping residents discover new interests and strengthening relationships between organisations.

Together, we can build a healthier, happier and more connected Break O'Day throughout the year. We look forward to next year's Festival.

A Wonderful Day Out for Our Seniors!



Photo: Our seniors enjoying another successful 'Seniors Bus Trip' for 2026.

What a fabulous day Council staff had with our seniors exploring the beautiful historic town of Ross.

Around 45 lovely locals joined staff for a day filled with good company, plenty of laughs and a little adventure.

The group enjoyed a wander around Ross, a visit to the Tasmanian Wool Centre, and a delicious lunch before making their way to Campbell Town for a spot of shopping on the way home.

A huge thank you to St Helens Neighbourhood House and Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House for helping make the day possible and of course, to Wayne, the wonderful bus driver, for getting everyone there and back safely.

Thanks to everyone who came along and made it such a lovely day!

Falmouth Design Shaped by Community Input Receives National Recognition

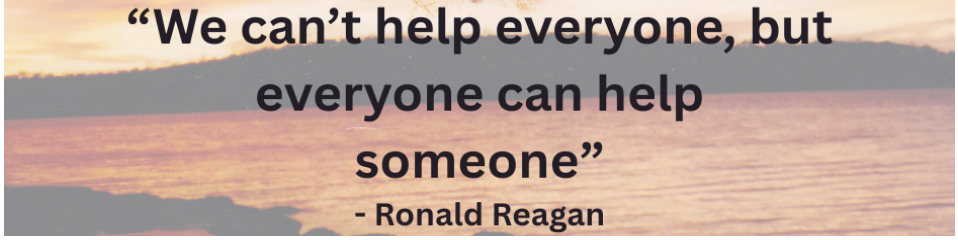


Photo: The new Falmouth toliet block which won a BDAA National Design Award.

We're delighted to share that the Falmouth Toilet Block has won a Building Designers Association of Australia (BDAA) National Design Award in the Public Buildings and Structures category.

Thank you to the Falmouth community for your feedback, involvement and patience throughout the project. We also congratulate Matthew Purves and the team at local design studio Spectura Studio on this well-deserved recognition.

It's wonderful to see a project shaped for the community and its special coastal setting receive this recognition.



IN BRIEF

REPORT ILLEGAL FISHING

Crime Stoppers is teaming up with NRE Tas and Tasmania Police to tackle illegal fishing.

For illegal fishing happening now, contact Tasmania Police on 131 444.

Information about suspicious or illegal fishing can be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers at crimestopperstas.com.au or 1800 333 000.

If information leads to a fine or arrest, the tipster may be eligible for a reward.

The previous Fishwatch Hotline (0427 655 557) has now been retired.

FALLOW DEER MANAGEMENT - CONSULTATION OPEN NOW

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania is undertaking community consultation to develop the Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan 2027-2032. You can provide feedback by the online survey: www.nre.tas.gov.au/deer-plan, email GameServicesTas@nre.tas.gov.au or mail "Attention Deer Plan Review 2026", NRE Tas, GPO Box 44, Hobart 7001. Consultation closes at 5pm on Thursday 26 November 2026.

REMEMBERING GERALD AULICH

The Mayor, Mick Tucker, acknowledges with sadness the passing of Gerald Aulich and recognises his outstanding contribution to the community over many years.

Gerald was a long-standing and highly respected volunteer with the Tasmania Fire Service, dedicating countless hours to protecting the community and supporting emergency response throughout the Fingal Valley. Gerald took on critical roles, including his appointment as Group Officer of the Golden Gate Group in 2005.

Beyond his service with the TFS, Gerald was involved in various community initiatives and organisations, making a lasting contribution to the wellbeing and resilience of the Valley. His commitment, generosity and community spirit will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. On behalf of the community, sincere condolences are extended to Gerald's family and loved ones.



"ONE COUNCILLOR CAN MAKE COUNCIL DO SOMETHING"

While Councillors are elected to represent their community, an individual Councillor can't make a Council decision on their own.

Councillors can raise community concerns, ask questions, put forward ideas and propose motions.

But Council decisions are made collectively around the Council table through discussion and a formal decision-making process.

That means a Councillor might strongly support an idea, but they still need enough of their fellow Councillors to support it too.

Every Councillor represents the community and has one vote, but no Councillor makes decisions on behalf of Council alone.

"COUNCILLORS CAN DECIDE DAs BASED ON WHAT THEY THINK"

When Councillors are making a decision on a Development Application (DA), they are acting as the Planning Authority. This is different to their usual role representing the community.

Councillors must make their decision based on the relevant planning laws and requirements, not their personal opinion or simply whether a proposal is popular or unpopular.

Community members can make representations on DAs that are publicly advertised and the relevant planning matters raised are considered as part of the assessment.

But when it comes time to make the decision, Councillors must consider the application on its planning merits and against the relevant planning requirements.



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

Why not celebrate their efforts by nominating them for one of our Australia Day Awards!

Award Categories & Eligibility

- **Citizen of the Year – nominees must be 27 years or older on or before 26 January 2027.**
- **Young Citizen of the Year – nominees must be under 27 years of age on or before 26 January 2027.**

Visit www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/australia-day for more information on how to nominate.

Nominations close Friday 8 January 2027.



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.

Garage Sale - St Helens Neighbourhood House - 14 November 2026

Come along to St Helens Neighbourhood House for a great morning of bargain hunting. Op Shop, Men's Shed & Community Garden will all be there! 9am – 1pm with a BBQ from 11.30am – 12.30pm! Bring your friends, grab a bargain and enjoy a sausage sizzle!

Tassie Forests Tour – St Marys – 6 November 2026

Join the Wilderness Society for a chat about forest protection this summer and learn how to get involved. Held at St Marys Town Hall, 23 Main Street, from 6pm. For updates, visit Wilderness Society Tasmania on Facebook.

Great Southern BioBlitz Tasmania - 27 – 30 November 2026

Get outdoors and discover Tasmania's biodiversity as part of the Great Southern BioBlitz. Simply photograph wild plants, animals, fungi and other organisms you find and upload your observations to iNaturalist. Everyone can take part, no expert knowledge required! www.greatsouthernbioblitz.org/

Mannalargenna Day Festival – 5 December 2026

Celebrate Saltwater Country with cultural demonstrations, walking tours, live music, children's activities, cultural food and plenty of yarns. Held at Little Musselroe Bay Road, Cape Portland, from 9am–5pm. A gold coin donation is appreciated. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy this family-friendly, alcohol and drug-free event. For more information email admin@mtwac.org.au

St Helens Christmas Carols - 5 December 2026

Bring a chair, a blanket and a picnic and sing along to your favourite Christmas carols. There'll also be free face painting and a special guest for the kids. Portland Park, St Helens at 6pm. FREE entry.

St Helens Christmas Parade – Entries Open 24 December 2026

Enter a float or dress up and join the walking procession this Christmas Eve! Presented by Bendigo Community Bank, with Santa and the St Helens Fire Brigade's traditional lolly run following the parade. To register your interest, email bodchristmasfestivitiesgroup@gmail.com

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

- Construction of a pedestrian refuge on Cecilia Street St Helens between 36 Cecilia Street and 40-42 Cecilia Street.
- Resheeting of Ansons Bay Road continues.
- Maintenance grading around St Marys and Upper Scamander Road where required.
- Town maintenance activities.
- Repairs to the Fingal recreation park fence.
- Memorial toliet block works are almost complete.

Follow Break O'Day Council on Facebook

for the latest news, updates and community info!

www.facebook.com/BreakODayCouncil

WEED MANAGEMENT

St Marys Waste Transfer Station - Bridal creeper, blackberry, foxglove, Spanish heath, broom

St Helens Waste Transfer Station - Spanish heath, Thistles, broadleaf, caper spurge, pampas.

St Helens - Thistles, broadleaf, caper spurge, pampas, Spanish heath.

Fingal - Capeweed, broadleaf, thistles, caper spurge, Spanish heath.

Falmouth - Spanish heath, gorse, broadleaf.

DOG STATISTICS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Urban Patrols = 19

Beach Patrols = 6

Infringements = 1

Unregistered Dog = 0

Impounded Dogs = 0

Weed of the Month - Kunzea ericoides

Kunzea ericoides is a hardy, easy-care shrub offered by nurseries that is becoming an increasingly common invasive weed in the municipality and worldwide.

Common names include burgan, white tea-tree and, in its native New Zealand, 'kanuka'. It can be difficult to identify, resembling local native species such as prickly or manuka tea-tree (Leptospermum scoparium) and tick-bush (Kunzea ambigua). It has white tea-tree-like flowers and reddish shoots, tip leaves and fruit capsules.

A tough natural coloniser, it spreads quickly across bare and disturbed ground, along roadsides and into bushland. Once established, it is difficult to control through digging, herbicides or slashing, or by planting alternative cover to outcompete it. Prevention and hygiene are important.

If you have Kunzea ericoides in your garden or neighbourhood, be vigilant: remove seedlings and prevent seed spread.



Visit www.NRE.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds

Dry summer outlook puts Tasmanian water supplies on watch

TasWater is monitoring drinking water supplies across Tasmania, with restrictions possible if dry conditions continue.

Below-average rainfall and warmer temperatures are forecast from November to January, following prolonged low rainfall that has left many catchments drier than average.

Of Tasmania's 54 water supply systems, 32 are on 'watch', including St Helens and Scamander, where restrictions may be needed if dry conditions persist.

Many communities draw water directly from rivers and streams, making supplies more vulnerable during extended dry periods.

Restrictions are not confirmed. TasWater will continue assessing rainfall, water levels and demand, giving customers notice where possible.

Residents can help by using water wisely at home and in the garden.

For updates, restrictions and water-saving advice, visit www.taswater.com.au/news/water-supply-status

A Burst of Summer flower Show 2027

The next Burst of Summer Flower Show will be held on 30 January 2027 at the Portland Hall in St Helens from 10am.

This annual event encourages people of all ages to develop a love of gardening and an interest in growing their own flowers, fruit and vegetables. Entries are open to everyone, both within the Break O'Day municipality and beyond.

The Scamander Garden Club welcomes visitors to celebrate all things gardening and enjoy the best the region has to offer. The Flower Show encourages participation and enjoyment of Tasmania's beautiful East Coast.

With support from Break O'Day Council and generous sponsors, the Club can hold this community event and make a significant donation to a local charity, supporting people in the area.

The Club is committed to providing enjoyment, education and assistance to people of all ages. The Flower Show's motto is "If you can grow it, you can show it".

The Club meets on the third Monday of each month from February to November at 1.30pm at the Scamander Sports Complex. To enquire about joining or the Burst of Summer Flower Show, contact Sandra Flannery on 0415 442 670.