

Next Council Meetings:
18 November and 16 December 2024 at 10am in the Council Chambers

From the General Manager - John Brown

It was great to see the consultants undertaking the feasibility analysis into the potential for an aquatic facility on the ground in Break O'Day last week. Through a range of discussions with key stakeholders and community groups along with those that attended the community workshops, they have started developing a clear understanding of the thoughts held by the community on the potential project. What has been surprising has been the low number of people attending the workshops which were held, instead people are providing their thoughts through the survey which is running, with a couple of weeks still to go we have already received 396 responses. Looking back at community engagement activities over the last few years there seems to be a clear shift in how people are providing their thoughts and they are choosing to head to online opportunities which are more convenient, they can do them when they have the time to do it rather than try and fit in with the times set for a community workshop. This can work okay with initial information gathering but when it comes time to actually workshop and discuss topics relating to the information coming through the opportunity is missed, after all it is about wanting the people in a room discussing and debating the information. The nature of the way communities are having their say is changing and as a Council we need to look at how we can best use the time which the community has available for us.

Aquatic Facility Feasibility COMMUNITY SURVEY

To take the survey
Scan this QR Code



or visit our website
or contact our office for a hardcopy.

Wellbeing Day Brings Joy and Connection



Photo: Event Co-ordinator Leah Page and participants

The Break O'Day Festival of Wellbeing was held on 10 October in St Helens and was a vibrant celebration of community, health, and happiness. Open to all, the free event attracted over 350 people and featured more than 50 groups, services and volunteers. Held on World Mental Health Day, the event aimed to inspire positivity, connection, and wellbeing within Break O'Day.

Event Coordinator Leah Page said she was honoured to bring together so many wellbeing champions and showcase the various ways we can enhance our mental and physical health.

"So many groups, organisations and people generously donate their time and work hard to create fun ways to connect with people about wellbeing. It felt particularly meaningful to showcase services and activities that care for mental health and wellbeing on World Mental Health Day," Ms Page said.

Despite a windy day that required activities to move indoors, the fun and energy remained high. Food trucks

served delicious meals, emergency services showed off their vehicles and boats, and visitors engaged in a range of activities including pilates, yoga, choir singing, games, and even a sound bath. Laughter filled the air during relay races, where participants donned colourful capes and masks to cheer for their wellbeing teams.

Music workshops and art workshops were held and many local groups, businesses and services had things to try, see and do. Visitors could discover the social support groups and health and mental health services available and how to find support when they need it.

"Our community is amazing so a big

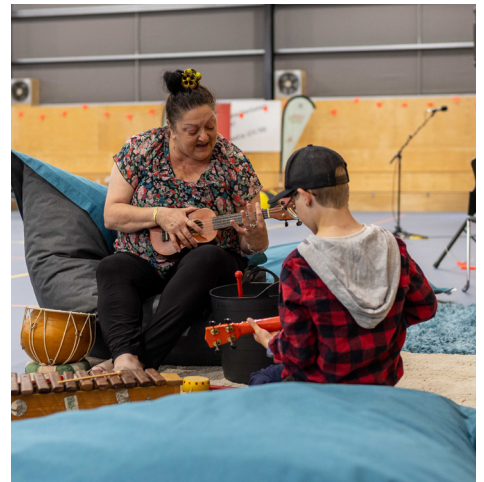


Photo: A participant learning to play guitar with Marita.

thanks to all who attended and to all the contributors and our amazing team of volunteers for making this event a big success again this year." Ms Page said.

Organised by Break O'Day Council with support from volunteers and participants in the Break O'Day Community Wellbeing Project, the festival received funding from the Mental Health Council of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Community Fund, and Break O'Day Council. Visit the Festival page at wellbeingaction.org or follow the Festival of Wellbeing on Facebook to view a gallery of highlights from the day. There truly was something for everyone at our Wellbeing Day in Break O'Day!



Photo: Participants enjoying yoga.

Congratulations to Kawajit Kaur



Photo: Kawajit Kaur with Daniel Edwards, the winner of the 2024 Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools

We are thrilled to congratulate Kawajit Kaur for her nomination at the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science held in Canberra. This event not only celebrated the achievements of Tassie's Daniel Edwards from Montello Primary School, who won the prize for 'Science Teaching in Primary Schools,' but also recognised Kawajit's remarkable contributions as a finalist.

As the founder of the St Helens STEM for Girls program, Kawajit has put Tasmania in the spotlight, showcasing her commitment to empowering young

girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Kawajit's program, launched in 2021, now inspires 30 girls aged 8-14 to pursue STEM careers. Her impactful work is contributing to gender equity in these fields. The event, hosted by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic, was a celebration of innovation and dedication of Australian educators and scientists. Let's continue to support and celebrate initiatives that empower our youth and pave the way for a brighter future!

Dogs - School Holiday Compliance Results

Over the school holidays, Break O'Day Council and Parks and Wildlife teamed up to patrol our beaches. A team of eight including Break O'Day Council's Animal Control Officer visited 20 popular beach areas, Jeanneret, Swimcart, Cosy Sth, Cosy Nth, Sloop, Taylors, The Gardens, Binalong Bay, Humbug, Dora Point, Maurauds, Stieglitz, Burns Bay, Dianna's Basin, Dark Hollow, Shelly's, Scamander, Falmouth, Four Mile Creek & Lagoons beach to check in on compliance with

local regulations.

Each day, teams of two rotated morning and late-afternoon shifts, covering early risers at 7 am to those winding down at 6 pm. Over the course of the holidays, 42 dogs were observed on reserved land, with 64% compliance detected among owners. Officers noted 15 minor dog-related issues, and 27 dog owners were found to be following the rules.

Thanks to everyone for demonstrating responsible dog ownership!

Expression of Interest - Artists Wanted For Council Projects

Council are looking for an Aboriginal artist to work with us in developing an artwork that represents our Reconciliation Action Plan Journey. We are also looking for artists to design and produce a large scale

artwork for the new St Marys Multi-purpose and Evacuation Centre. For more information and to apply, please see the Tenders page on our website at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/tenders/.

IN BRIEF

BIRD FLU: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As migratory birds return to Tasmania, there's a risk they could bring bird flu (H5N1) with them, potentially impacting local wildlife. While the public can't stop its spread, staying informed is key. If you encounter sick or dead birds, especially in large numbers, please report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease hotline at 1800 675 888. For more information on bird flu, symptoms, and what to expect, visit www.nre.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/be-aware-of-bird-flu.

AUSTRALIAN DAY NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

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 26 January 2025.

Young Citizen of the Year:

To be eligible, the person must be under 27 years of age on or before 26 January 2025. To nominate someone please download the form at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-events/ and either drop it in to Council or email to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au.

ROAD CLOSURES FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER

9-9.15am

Georges Bay Esplanade (known as Tasman Highway), St Helens at the intersection with Marina Parade – closed to southbound traffic between

9.45-10.15am

Esk Main Road between Tasman Highway at Falmouth and Grey Mares Trail at St Marys (known as St Marys Pass)

10.15-11.00am

Groom Street, Cameron Street (between Groom Street and Main Road), and Main Road (between Cameron Street and Story Street), St Marys

Council Wins 2024 Community Award for Volunteer Film Festival



Photo: Volunteers and supporters enjoying the film festival

Break O'Day Council is proud to announce its win of the 2024 Community Award at the Annual Local Government Professionals Conference in Hobart. The award recognised the success of the Volunteer Film Festival Project, an initiative that celebrated the incredible contributions of volunteers across the community. Led by the Council's Community Services Team, the festival invited local groups and individuals to create short films showcasing the essence of their volunteer efforts. Held during National Volunteer Week, the films highlighted the diverse opportunities in Break O'Day, capturing stories of dedication, connection, and community spirit under the theme "Something For Everyone." Mayor Mick Tucker praised the achievement, stating, "This award is not just for Council—it's for every volunteer who makes Break O'Day

stronger. Volunteers are the backbone of small communities, and this project was our way of honoring them." The festival demonstrated that volunteering is open to everyone, regardless of age or background, and the stories shared inspired pride and gratitude throughout the region. The award recognises not only the creativity of the Council's Community Services Team but to the many volunteers across the region who make Break O'Day a vibrant and supportive place to live. The Council extends its thanks to all volunteers and groups who participated and encourages more people to explore the rewards of volunteering. To learn more about opportunities, visit the Council's website at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/volunteering/ or contact the Community Services team at 6376 7900.

Tasmanian MBMMC Rides into Break O'Day

The Tasmanian Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club (MBMMC) is excited to host its 2024 National Meeting in St Helens and across Break O'Day from November 7-11. Over 160 members from across Australia will gather to enjoy the East Coast's beauty and participate in Remembrance Day commemorations.

Key Events:

Photographic Exhibition by Mark Direen: Highlighting Australian servicemen and women from post-WWII conflicts, this powerful exhibit will be open to the public at Bendigo Sports Stadium on November 7 (4-8 pm) and November 8 (12-8 pm)

Cricket Match: On Sunday, November 10, the Military Brotherhood 11 takes on the local St Helens 11 at 1 pm. at St Helens Cricket Oval for a fun and friendly game.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies:

Dawn Service: 5 am at Flagstaff Park, Marine Parade, St Helens, followed by a free breakfast provided by the Council at the Marine Rescue Shed.

Motorcycle Parade and Veterans March: Starting at 9 a.m. in St Helens and ending at St Marys War Memorial.

Remembrance Day Service: 10:50 am at St Marys War Memorial with local speakers and St Marys District School students, concluding with a community luncheon at the Town Hall.

This event celebrates connection, support, and remembrance, showcasing the MBMMC's commitment to veterans and their families. With support from Council, local emergency services, and the community, it promises to be one of Tasmania's largest Remembrance Day ceremonies.

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. Also, if you would like to help us help those in our community who are on a low income, homeless, or just struggling with providing nourishing meals for themselves or their families we welcome your support! Items can be dropped off every Wednesday between 11am-1pm and your welcome to stay for a cuppa.

Remembrance Day Services - 11 November

- 5 am at Flagstaff Park, Marine Parade, St Helens
- 10.45am march from Hilly's IGA to St Helen Memorial Park for 11am service.
- 10:50 am at St Marys War Memorial with local speakers.

Break O'Day Future Thinking Population Presentation - 14 November

Join Demographer Lisa Denny as she explains population projections for Break O'Day, what is driving the changes and her ideas for the region.

For more information and to book your place use this QR code.



Christmas Carols Saturday 7 December

Start the festive season early and come along to Portland Memorial Hall Park as Break O'Day Council presents the Christmas Carols.

Bring your chair, picnic and blanket to this FREE event and share in some fun filled carols starting at 7pm.

Email bodchristmasfestivitiesgroup@gmail.com 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

- **Medea St / Circassian St Junction Upgrade** – this project is fully funded under the Australian Governments Road Blackspot Program. Council engaged contractors to complete which included the installation of a roundabout and upgraded parking on Circassian St for visitors to the St Helens Neighbourhood House.
- **Roadside slashing** will soon commence, please keep an eye out for the contractor as he makes his way along narrow roads around the municipality. Approach with caution and drive to the reduced speed limit.

FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

Every Sunday from
November to February
Waste Transfer Stations
include:
**ST HELENS
SCAMANDER
ST MARYS**

WEED MANAGEMENT

- **St Helens Aerodrome**
Spanish heath
- **Anson's Bay**
Spanish heath,
capeweed, gorse
- **St Marys**
Flat weeds
- **Binalong Bay**
Mirror bush, broom, flat
weeds
- **Scamander**
Pampas, thistles
- **St Helens**
Pampas, Spanish heath
- **Pyengana**
Foxglove, thistles

DOG STATISTICS 1/09/2024 - 30/09/2024

Urban Patrols = 4
Beach Patrols = 14
Infringements = 0
Unregistered Dog = 3
Impounded dogs = 1

Weed of the Month - *Kunzea ericoides*

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

Common names for it include burgan, white tea-tree, and in its native New Zealand 'kanuka'. It can be hard to identify, looking a lot like local native species prickly or manuka tea-tree (*Leptospermum scoparium*) and a bit like tick-bush (*Kunzea ambigua*).

Kunzea ericoides has white tea-tree-like flowers and reddish shoots, tip leaves and fruit capsules. A tough natural coloniser of disturbed ground in New Zealand, here it spreads quickly over bare and disturbed ground, along roadsides and into bushland.

Once established it is hard to control with digging, herbicides, slashing and to out compete with alternative cover. Prevention and hygiene are important. If you have *Kunzea ericoides* in your garden or neighbourhood be vigilant and stop spread of seed and any seedlings. Find out about *Kunzea ericoides* and other invasive weeds at nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds



Subsidy Available - Get Your Cat Microchipped and Desexed

We're excited to share a great opportunity for Break O'Day cat owners! Thanks to the Tasmanian Government's Cat Management Program, we're offering a limited-time subsidy to help with the cost of desexing and microchipping your cat. This initiative not only meets new legal requirements but also supports the health and wellbeing of your pets.

Desexing your cat is a great idea—it helps them stay closer to home, reduces the risk of certain cancers, and helps prevent unwanted kittens which end up in shelters or on the streets. Plus, microchipping ensures your cat can be identified and returned if they wander off.

Who Can Apply?

All residents are welcome to apply. If you're caring for a stray or roaming cat that you'd like to officially adopt, this is a perfect chance. We're also considering financial hardship cases. Applications are open until December 13, 2024, or until funds run out.

Conditions

Cats must live in the Break O'Day

municipality.

Microchipping is required, with info shared with relevant authorities.

Limit of two cats per residence.

Subsidy is not available for breeders or cats intended for sale or giveaway.

How to Apply

1. Complete the subsidy form at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/cats/ or pick one up at our office. Submit it to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au or drop it off.
2. Once approved, you'll get a subsidy voucher, with a copy sent to East Coast Veterinary Clinic in St Helens.
3. Schedule an appointment, take your voucher and cat(s) to the clinic, and pay your part of the fee directly to the vet—Council will cover the rest!

If you need help transporting your pet, a crate is available to lend.

Let's work together to make Break O'Day a safer, healthier community for our pets!

For more details, call 6376 7900, or check out www.tassiecat.com and nre.tas.gov.au.

**"If the world seems cold to
you,
kindle fires to warm it."
- Lucy Larcom**