

Next Council Meetings:
21 November and 19 December at 10am in the Council Chambers, St Helens

From the General Manager - John Brown

Recently I had a phone call from one of our community members who does a huge amount of volunteer work looking after the sporting facility in his town. I was stunned about the story he related about another member of the local community who approached him to criticise the work he had been doing to maintain the facility. This was then followed up with a number of other comments along the lines of “no one uses it and it should just be closed”. I wonder what this local critic does from a voluntary perspective in their local community and, how they would feel being on the receiving end of this sought of commentary or behaviour?

In the past I have talked about the importance of volunteering in our local community. Volunteers play a massive role in the operation of our community organisations. Simply put, if we had no volunteers there would be no voluntary organisations and so many people in our community would not be able to participate in community life the way they should. I know that we can all have cranky days, but where is the harm in being pleasant and encouraging to our fellow community members particularly, when they are working for **OUR** community. The best course of action from critics is to remember the sage advice of “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” At least I had a chance to talk to the community member about what he had experienced and he knows that we as a Council, and a lot of people in his community really appreciate the work he does.

We should be celebrating these dedicated community members not knocking them down.

Wellbeing Festival - A celebration of positivity



Pictured above: The St Marys Upcycling Group teaching other stall holders about re-purposing clothing .

Perfectly timed to make the most of Mental Health Week, the annual Break O'Day Festival of Wellbeing was held in St Helens on 6 October, Launceston Show Day.

A celebration of all things Wellbeing, the Festival was held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium in Tully Street, St Helens.

This year’s event featured 60 contributors and saw more than 450 people attending throughout the day.

The Festival is a free event that brings together a variety of people and organisations that inspire positivity and community connection - From local groups celebrating why they love living in Break O'Day to state and national health and mental health services.

Event Coordinator, Leah Page said she was honoured to bring so many amazing wellbeing champions together to showcase all the different ways we can create and improve our wellbeing.

Some of the highlights from the day included a large group of attendees performing the Nutbush with Kate and Clare from Hoedowns for Country

Towns; group yoga and fitness classes, incredible art workshops, loads of kids’ games, as well as upcycled fashion and furniture and so much more.

There was also a large number of health and mental health service providers there to help our community and let people know where and how they can find support when needed.

“Our community is amazing so a big thanks to all who attended and to all the contributors for making this event a massive success again this year.” Ms Page said.

The event was organised by Break O'Day Council with support from community volunteers and participants in the Break O'Day Community Wellbeing Project.

Funding for the Festival comes from the Mental Health Council of Tasmania, the Australian Government’s Recovery and Resilience Agency and the Tasmanian Community Fund.

You can see a gallery from the day on the Festival of Wellbeing’s Website and Facebook page.

Locals recognised for contribution to Tourism

The East Coast Tasmania Tourism Awards acknowledge and reward outstanding performance by individuals and businesses in our tourism industry on the East Coast. They recognise in a meaningful way, the value these individuals and organisations add to the whole of the East Coast community. The Awards

were hosted this year by the Triabunna Spring Bay Mill.

A warm congratulations to Simon Holmes and the Pedal Heads MTB Club alongside Stuart and Judy Muir being recognised for their outstanding contributions towards tourism on our East Coast over the past year.



Pictured Below Award winners, Kathleen Poole, Stuart and Judy Muir, Alison Wallace and Simon Holmes.

Senior Excursion Fun - Woolmers and Longford

To celebrate Seniors Week, Break O'Day Council organized an excursion to Woolmers Estate on Thursday 20 October.

The free trip saw almost 60 attendees enjoy a guided tour of Woolmers

Estate and having a nice picnic lunch at Longford supplied by JJ's Bakery.

Hosted by Council's Community Services team, it was a fun day had by all with many of the attendees expressing their appreciation for the opportunity.



Some of the Seniors Week participants enjoying a picnic lunch.

IN BRIEF

Sustainable Trails Conference

Over 1-3 November, St Helens will host the annual, Sustainable Trails Conference.

Organised by TRC Tourism, this conference will bring around 100 attendees from across Australia to St Helens. Attendees have a full three day program where they hear from industry leaders and professionals about sustainable trails including, environmental, economic, social and cultural.

On Day 2, attendees will head off around the municipality to explore our MTB and walking trails including; wukalina and the Bay of Fires MTB trail.

Many attendees will hang around for a few days after the conference so if you see them around be sure to give them a big Break O'Day welcome.

Social Media Workshops

If you are in business and struggle with social media – don't worry there is FREE workshop coming to St Helens. This half-day workshop is designed to give you the skills to post confidently and in a way that's consistent and effective for you and your business. This is a 3hr enjoyable hands-on workshop, open to all types of businesses and events. Bring your phone/camera along and maybe something you wish to photograph. **When - 23 November 2022 from 11am - 2pm at Panorama Hotel, St Helens.**

Telstra Assistance Packages

Telstra has announced an assistance package for residential and small business customers who have been affected by the flooding in Tasmania. Assistance is for customers who have been displaced from their residence or business during a natural disaster event.

To find out more and to register for assistance call Telstra on 1800 888 888 or by visiting www.telstra.com/disasterassistance

A new Generation of Shore bird Guardians

Around 80 Grade 3-4 St Helens District High School students spent some time this month learning about the plight of vulnerable shorebirds and what we can do to protect them.

With funding from Council's Community Grants fund, the North East Bioregional Network and BirdLife Tasmania partnered with the NRM North and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Discovery Ranger program to bring an education program to the School.

Students first participated in an interactive class presentation highlighting the threats shorebirds face and how important our beaches are to their survival.

The next day, students went on a field trip to Scamander Beach and Dianas Basin where they observed threatened species of birds through telescopes. Birds spotted included, pied oystercatchers, red capped

plovers, fairy terns and migratory red necked stints.

Some of the activities the students undertook included:

1. Walking on the wet sand, practicing walking in the safe zone away from nesting shorebirds.

2. A drama activity where children acted out the life cycle of hooded plovers; foraging, egg laying, protecting their eggs and chicks from natural and introduced predators and threats.

3. A drawing activity that involved creating a map of the beach depicting nesting shorebirds, signage regarding appropriate dog and human behaviour i.e. dogs on and off-leash, no dogs.

The aim of this program is to educate children and their families about the vulnerability of the many threatened shorebirds that breed in our area so they can become Shorebird Guardians.



Students from St Helens District High School Learning about vulnerable shore birds



WHAT'S ON

Sionnach Rua's Great Irish Song Book Tour

5 November

Held at Panorama Hotel. Tickets available via, www.sionnachruagreatirishsongbook.com

Free two day Autism Workshop for parents and Carers

15 and 16 November

Held at the Break O'Day Child and Family Learning Centre, St Helens from 9:30am - 2:30pm.

Morning tea and a light lunch provided. More information and to register go to, www.positivepartnerships.com.au.

ParaQuad Tasmanian presents Wheelie Safe - Tips and Tricks

19 November

Held at Panorama Hotel from 10am - 12 noon. This is a FREE event with light lunch provided.

More information and bookings, contact ParaQuad on 6272 8816

Hooded plover population count November 19 and 20

BirdLife Australia's national biennial survey is coming up and you can join in and help on our coast by emailing NRM North's Biodiversity Coordinator for more information at: eferguson@nrmnorth.org.au.

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.

Congratulations to our new Council Team

On behalf of the Council staff and the community, Break O'Day Council's General Manager would like to congratulate our new Council team.

"We look forward to working with the newly elected Council for the next four years," Mr Brown said.

Mayor Tucker said he was grateful, and felt honoured that his community had re-elected him as Mayor.

"It really is humbling to be re-elected for another term," Mayor Tucker said.

"I would also like to thank the community for their support and trust in me to be their Mayor – words can't express how honoured I feel."

Mr Brown said he would like to thank and acknowledge all the candidates for being willing to put their hand up to lead and serve their community.

Mr Brown also made special mention of the outgoing Council.

"It is important to acknowledge all the hard work of the previous council, in particular outgoing Councillors, John McGiveron, Glenn McGuinness and Marg Osborne who retired this year.

"These Councillors have served our community for decades and their time, efforts and dedication to our community has been widely and deeply felt," Mr Brown said.

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

Council Works Reports

Due to the recent weather, the Works schedule has been sidelined while the Works teams deal with the damage caused. This could take several weeks. Due to the sheer amount of water lying around, certain works jobs such as footpath construction, road resheeting and resealing will have to wait until the ground dries out.

We appreciate your patience while we undertake these works which will take the teams all over the Break O'Day Municipality.



One of the trees the works team removed from the road after the storm

German Heritage inspires book

The Fingal Valley's German history has been explored in a book by author, Dr Michael Watt from Hobart.

The launch for the book, 'Fingal Valley's German Heritage' was held at the St Helens History Room on 22 October with 57 invited guests attending.

Dr Watt undertook comprehensive research on the settlement of German immigrants in the Fingal Valley for his book and it was well received by descendants of the some of Fingal's original German families. It was an evening of catch ups with some attendees coming as far as New Zealand to attend.

Mr David Llewellyn AM officially launched the book.

Dr Watt is to be congratulated on his extensive research. Books can be bought in Cranks & Tinkerers St Marys, Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House and the Museum at Avoca.

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.

Weather Events and how to keep up to date

This month we have experienced a couple of severe weather events that brought plenty of rain and wind to our municipality. When this happens the Council team jumps into action to ensure our community is safe and informed.

The works teams head out across the municipality to check infrastructure and storm damage – it can sometimes take them several weeks to get everything back in order. Some of the jobs they undertake during weather events includes; clearing roads, drains and trees, dealing with landslips and rock falls and much much more.

The indoor staff focus on triaging calls from the community which is passed on to the works teams and other

relevant State agencies.

During these events we use our Facebook page to keep the community as informed as possible regarding road closures and any other safety issues.

During an emergency or weather event you can keep up to date via the following ways;

- Follow the Tas.Alerts Facebook page
- Follow our Break O'Day Council Facebook page
- Check the Tasmanian Police's Community Alerts page.



TAS ALERT

Tasmania's official emergency information source

Small Business Emergency Grants

The Small Business Emergency Response Grant Program is open to Tasmanian small businesses that suffered direct damage as a result of the severe weather event on 13 and 14 October 2022 (damage must be related to these dates, businesses affected by St Mary's Pass are ineligible). This grant program is jointly funded by Tasmanian and Australian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Fund. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available under two tiers of funding:

- Tier 1 \$2,500 initial support
- Tier 2 up to \$22,500. This is to support expenditure already incurred and not

covered by insurance.

Further information, including eligibility criteria and applications are available on the Business Tasmania website, or contact them direct on 1800 440 026 or email ask@business.tas.gov.au.

FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Primary producers can apply for a separate grant program of up to \$25,000. You can find all the details on applying at www.nre.tas.gov.au/flood-recovery or contact Farm Point 1300 292 292 or email farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au

Note: Applicants are not eligible to apply for both these grants.