

## From the General Manager - John Brown

Over the next six months, our local emergency services crews will face a demanding and potentially stressful period ahead. We'll lean heavily on the dedication of our volunteer and full-time Fire Brigades, SES Units, Tasmania Police and other Government agencies and contractors to keep us safe during this time. We must take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work they do in protecting and saving our communities.

The recent weeks have served as a stark reminder of the looming fire season. Several smaller yet alarming fires along our coastal region have left our local residents on edge. The rapid escalation of the fire near Coles Bay in mid-September, even before the peak of the fire season, has been a wake-up call. We find ourselves in the early stages of spring, and yet, bushfires are already upon us. Though this situation has been distressing, there are silver linings. The early-season challenges have provided valuable feedback for the Tasmanian Fire Service and State Emergency Service, helping them refine their systems and procedures.

We all have a role to play in safeguarding our communities. If you reside in areas susceptible to fires, it's crucial to take proactive measures to protect your properties. Compliance with fire permits and Fire Bans issued by the Tasmanian Fire Service is paramount. This year's early Fire Permit Period underscores the urgency of the situation. Additionally, community vigilance is essential. If you observe any suspicious activity related to fire, please report it immediately. Prompt reporting can prevent potential catastrophes and ensure that those engaging in irresponsible behaviour are held accountable.

In the coming months, as the opportunity arises show your appreciation to those that work on the front lines, protecting our homes, our families, and our way of life.

## STEM For Girls of St Helens



STEM for Girls of St Helens and volunteer at St Helens District High School

Break O'Day Council would like to congratulate Stem for Girls of St Helens for being nominated for a Tasmanian Community Achievement Award. This program provides girls access to workshops, role models, and a nurturing environment whilst breaking down gender barriers in STEM fields. Grant funding of \$6,250 was received from Council to purchase Robotic kits. St Helens Hospital Auxiliary also donated \$1,500. Donations in kind from local businesses have ensured that girls from underserved communities can access STEM resources and opportunities. The club started in 2021, and currently has 30 members aged 8-14. Volunteers who are teachers and retired teachers are dedicated to promoting and empowering

girls and young adults in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The primary goal of this initiative is to bridge the gender gap in STEM-related careers and educational pursuits. By fostering an inclusive and supportive environment, STEM For Girls aims to inspire and equip young girls with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to pursue successful careers in STEM fields. Last year, during the first Lego League challenge in Hobart, STEM for Girls received the prestigious "Rising All-Star Award" in recognition of their exceptional STEM skills to solve real-world problems. To support the group with their nomination visit our Facebook page to vote. You can vote once per day.

## Festival of Wellbeing

The annual Festival of Wellbeing will return again on Saturday 14 October at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium in St Helens. This **FREE** event celebrates wellbeing and community connection and everybody is welcome. Sometimes we need a little support to feel well. When things are good, we can always learn new ways to create more wellbeing for ourselves, and those around us. Discover new ways to care for your wellbeing with over 50 wellbeing champions ready to connect with you. Find them all with the festival map and go in the draw for a great

prize. Try something new with 'come and try' taster activities throughout the day including yoga, netball, art, qigong, choir and much more. Enjoy affordable yummy food for sale or bring a picnic. Our community is amazing! You will be sure to have fun, make new friends and learn something new that will help you think well, do well and be well.

This local event is funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Mental Health Council of Tasmania and Break O'Day Council.

## Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training



Photo courtesy of Live4Life : Members of the Live4Life Break O'Day Partnership Group

Live4Life Break O'Day Partnership Group is seeking Expressions of Interest for local community members interested in training as Teen or Youth Mental Health First Aid instructors. Mental Health First Aid instructor training, is being offered to suitably qualified or experienced community members who are passionate about Youth Mental Health and would like to support the award-winning Live4Life initiative in Break O'Day. Live4Life is the only youth mental health education and suicide prevention model designed specifically for rural and regional communities. "Live4Life Partnership Group is really pleased to be offering this opportunity to local Break O'Day community members. By training local people to become Mental Health First Aid instructors, we are building the capacity of our community," says Gary Barnes, Manager at Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House. "I would encourage everyone to think about what role they can play to improve Youth Mental Health. This might be one of those opportunities that suits your skills, knowledge and passion, and enables you to volunteer right here in your community through the delivery of this life-changing training in

Break O'Day." Once trained, instructors will deliver Teen and Youth Mental Health First Aid across schools and communities in Break O'Day. The Teen Mental Health First Aid Course teaches secondary school students how to provide mental health first aid to their friends, while the Youth Mental Health First Aid course teaches adults how to assist teenagers who may be developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Break O'Day community members with relevant skills and experience can submit an application and find out more by contacting Casey Musicka, Program Coordinator at Live4Life Break O'Day, at [casey.musicka@fvnh.org.au](mailto:casey.musicka@fvnh.org.au). Expressions of Interest will close on Monday 9 October 2023.

This opportunity is being delivered through a partnership with Youth Live4Life, Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House, Break O'Day Council, Royal Flying Doctor Service, St Helens Neighbourhood House (YCNECT), St Marys District School and St Helens District High School. Live4Life Break O'Day is generously supported by the Federal Government's National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Program (NSPLSP).

## IN BRIEF

### St Marys Alternative Route Project

Break O'Day Council had the opportunity to put forward St Marys Alternative Route Project at the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation Regional Collaboration Forum. This forum brings together seven councils to work together to advocate for projects they want to see occur around the state. The State Government have already committed some of their 2024-2025 budget for a feasibility study to be completed. NTDC will now lobby to the State and Federal Governments to secure funding for this potential project in our area.

### Fingal Housing Update

In accordance with s178 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Break O'Day Council has given notice to lease part of the land at 29 Talbot Street, Fingal to Centacare Evolve Housing for a period of 10 years. A plan of the area is available at the Council office and website. Any objection to the proposed lease of this public land may be made in writing to the General Manager, 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens 7216 by no later than close of business on 23rd October 2023. Our primary goal is to provide safe, affordable homes for individuals who are already part of our community or reside nearby. By doing so, we intend to foster an environment in which all community members can thrive and actively contribute to our vibrant community.

### Recycling reminder

Council office have been getting a few enquires lately over recycling bins being flagged or not collected due to incorrect waste disposal or contamination. We would like to remind residents we have an AtoZ guide to recycling and waste disposal on our website [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste). You can also download the app RecycleCoach which gives you details about your collection schedule and recycling guide.

**"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."**

**- Coretta Scott King**



# Fire Awareness in Break O'Day

Tasmania Fire Service has taken advantage of favourable weather conditions to undertake three fuel reduction burns in the Break O'Day area during September.

Fuel Reduction Program burns were carried out at St Helens, Scamander and Upper Scamander. An additional burn was also undertaken to the south at Bicheno. The burns are critical in reducing bushfire risk to our communities and local infrastructure. High risk locations are identified throughout the state by each of Tasmania's ten Fire Management Area Committees, working under the State Fire Management Council. These risk assessments are undertaken using a combination of local knowledge and computer modelling undertaken by the Bushfire Risk Unit. Fuel reduction burning is a recognised strategy for:

- Reducing bushfire risk within an area,
- Slowing the rate of spread and intensity of fires,
- Providing firefighters with safer opportunities to contain and extinguish bushfires.

The Program also uses other methods to reduce bushfire fuel, where appropriate, including creation of fuel breaks through mechanical removal of vegetation. The Parks and Wildlife Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Tasmania Fire Service worked together to complete the burns, which included great support from local volunteer brigades.

Tasmania Fire Service appreciate the continued support of the Break O'Day community when undertaking this important risk mitigation work.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Tasmania Fire Service website to find out how they can best prepare for the bushfire season and find out what other fuel reduction burns may be planned in the area: [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au).

You can also visit <https://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/RedHotTips>. The Red Hot Tips program educates, engages and supports farmers and landholders in rural Tasmania to actively manage their bushfire risk.

## Seniors Week Bus Trip

To celebrate our older community members as part of Seniors Week, we will be providing a free bus trip, bbq lunch and visiting the Wool museum and female factory in Ross on Tuesday 17 October. The bus will leave from outside the Marine Rescue building in St Helens at 9am and will pick up attendees at the Scamander River Mouth at 9:20am,

St Marys Coach House at 9:40am and Fingal at 10am. Returning to St Helens via all stops at 5pm.

Bookings are essential so if you would like to attend please RSVP via, [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au) or phone 6376 7900.

This event is funded by Break O'Day Council and supported by the Fingal and St Helens Neighbourhood Houses.

## Notice of exhibition in relation to Draft Amendment to the Break O'Day Local Provisions Schedule (LPS)

The Tasmanian Planning Commission directed us to make some changes to our Local Provisions Schedule. This means that we will be going through the process of amending the LPS that was gazetted on 23 August 2023. We will now publically exhibit these draft amendment to the LPS for community and stakeholder feedback. The Public Exhibition will open on Monday 9 October and close on Tuesday 7 November. So that the community can discuss changes and seek further information, we have placed all the relevant documents on

our website here: <https://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/tasmanian-planning-scheme/> or you can drop-in to the office to view the documents during the exhibition phase. We will also have one of our Planners available to discuss the LPS Tuesday to Thursday throughout the exhibition phase.

The reasons behind the changes being made can be viewed on the TPC website Break O'Day Draft LPS - Attachment A - Decision Under Section 35K(1)(a) to Modify Draft LPS, 13 July 2023 ([planning.tas.gov.au](http://planning.tas.gov.au))

# 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.

## A Festival Called George - 6, 7 and 8 October

The festival is back for another year of celebrating craft beer. Something for everyone - Fine craft beer, family picnic day in the park, live entertainment, great food and more. The festival will be held on St Helens Foreshore. Tickets on sale now at [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au) or for more information visit their Facebook page.

## North East Tasmania Land Trust Fundraiser - 7 October

Join special guests Richard Flanagan for a Q&A and hear about local volunteer conservation efforts! Raffle with great prizes and a auction of Richard's signed books.

ENTRY \$10 at Panorama Hotel, St Helens at 7.30pm. For more information visit their Facebook page.

## Bay of Fires Arts Market - 8 October

Come and enjoy some arts, food and music at Bendigo Stadium, St Helens. - FREE ENTRY.

## Launceston Community Legal Centre - 9 October

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

## Festival Of Wellbeing - 14 October

A wellbeing day in Break O'Day at Bendigo Bank Community Stadium. Bringing our community together to share the good stuff and create more of it together. The day will include workshops, goodie bags, market, food, demonstrations and more. Free bus from Fingal available. FREE ENTRY.

## Live Well, Live Long - 17 October - 21 November

FREE six week program for over 45s to help stay healthy and independent. St Helens District Health Service, 10 Annie Street, St Helens. Find out more or book your place on 6387 5574.

## Committee Training For Community Groups & Sporting Clubs - 27 October

FREE, fun and useful committee training in St Helens. Morning tea and lunch provided. Limited places. For further information contact [steve@alkas.com.au](mailto:steve@alkas.com.au) or call 0408 358 211.

## 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

- Stormwater drains upgrade, Treloggens Track.
- Landslip repairs, Mt Elephant Road.
- Crews busy cleaning up after recent wind event.
- Spring maintenance due to grass growth increase.
- St Marys Cemetery Columbarium and gardens progressing well.
- Grant St footpath at Falmouth almost completed.



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

Email  
[admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au)

### WEED MANAGEMENT

**Scamander WTS** - Caper spurge, thistles, pampas grass, mullein, butterfly bush, Spanish heath, various.

**Binalong Bay** - Thistles, capeweed, bridal creeper.

**St Helens** - Thistles, broadleaf, blackberry, various.

**Fingal** - Broadleaf.

**St Marys** - Spanish heath, gorse, broadleaf.

### DOG STATISTICS 10/08/2023 - 7/09/2023

Urban Patrols = 7  
Beach Patrols = 12  
Infringements = 2  
Unregistered Dog = 0  
Impounded dogs = 3

## Weed of the month - The Unknown Weed

The weed you don't know, the one you don't have yet, or has just arrived but remains unnoticed, is more important to control than those you do have and know.

Prevention is the most cost effective weed control you can do. It requires good 'weed hygiene' with anything coming on to your property and quick action to eradicate any new weed incursions.

If a weed gets away, the impacts and years of control to contain and then progressively eradicate an outbreak and the monitoring afterward cost much more. Gorse, Patersons curse, pampas, boneseed, capeweed and others you may not have on your property - or do you? There are also many mainland weed species not known or very uncommon in Tasmania and many of those arrived, altogether unknown in Australia, from another continent sometime ago (for example beach daisy, pictured).

We also have mainland native plants, like blue bell creeper, that have become invasive weeds.

Under the new Biosecurity Act we all share a General Biosecurity Duty in law that extends beyond 'Declared' weeds, to the biosecurity risks posed by 'unknown weeds'.



Picture of beach daisy

Be an active and responsible steward of your land and work with your neighbours (weeds thrive when neighbours don't). Know your land, lookout for unusual plants, identify them and get help if you need it. Lock them down while checking if they are a problem plant and if they are, get a control plan underway quickly and follow-up.

Before that even, reduce the risk with good biosecurity and hygiene practices – think about your risks and apply biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of weeds. For example, insist that machinery, people, and materials like soil, gravel, mulch and fodder coming onto your land are clean, and leave clean.

Find out about invasive weeds at [nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds](http://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds) and the General Biosecurity Duty at [nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/general-biosecurity-duty-\(gbd\)](http://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/general-biosecurity-duty-(gbd)).

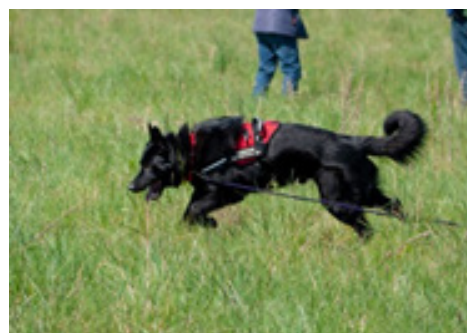
## Weed Control Workshop - See Fonzie the serrated tussock Detection Dog in Action

Serrated tussock and other weedy grasses reduce grazing production, threaten native habitats and can harm livestock.

Come to this **FREE** workshop to:

- Learn to identify hard-to-find weedy grasses and tell them apart from native grasses.
- Hear about what happens if they are missed and get away.
- Find out how these grasses operate and how to get on top of them.
- Take home knowledge and skills to avoid weedy grass infestations and control and eradicate them.

Workshop will be held Tuesday 24 October, 10-2pm at Falmouth Community Centre, 18 Morrison Street, Falmouth. Lunch provided.



Fonzie Serrated Tussock Detection Dog in action

To RSVP call Break O'Day Council on 6376 7900 or email [polly.buchhorn@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:polly.buchhorn@bodc.tas.gov.au).

For more on these grasses and other weeds visit [nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/tasmanian-highly-invasive-grasses-project](http://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/tasmanian-highly-invasive-grasses-project) & [nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds](http://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds)