

Next Council Meetings:

21 October 10am and 18 November at 10am

From Acting General Manager - Bob Hoogland

With people increasingly turning to technology to provide them information on their next trip, it is pleasing to see that the St Helens Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is still sought after for local information.

Tourism researchers keep telling us that visitors are now looking for 'experiences', basically they want to live like a local while they stay with us; and where better to hear from the locals than at the local Visitor Information Centre.

Our staff at the St Helens VIC, provide an excellent service to customers, not only helping them to book accommodation, but taking the extra time to show them the local hot-spots and recommend activities based on their interests. In fact they are so great at this they have an average review of 4.5 stars on Tripadvisor and 63% Excellent rate. Interestingly, this means that while people are seeking their information in person, they are still heading online to tell others about their experiences.

This means whether they receive information in person or online, the chances are, they will head back online to share these experience, whether good or bad.

With mountain bike visitation to our area about to increase, it is important businesses and the community remember this. One thing that we know and understand about mountain bikers is that they love to boast about their experiences online and we want to make sure they only have great things to say.

Our economy is dependent on these visitors and we want to ensure they are singing and selling the praises of our area and as the old saying goes, bad news travels faster than good news and we want people to keep coming back to St Helens and surrounds, over and over again.



Samuel Johnson from Love Your Sister will be visiting St Helens on 19 September.

Love Your Sister - Silent Disco Fundraiser

Love Your Sister's Samuel Johnson is coming to town and to celebrate, the Break O'Day community, East Coast Regional Tourism and Council have organised an awesome event on Thursday 19 September.

Generously hosted and supported by the St Helens Big 4 Caravan Park, the event will be from 5:30pm till late. There will be a couple of fundraising events including a Silent Disco donated and provided by the Kombi Krew. All are welcome.

The event will start at 5.30pm with a presentation from Samuel and be followed by kids entertainment from 6pm. At 6:30pm there will be a live auction of items donated by the business community. Throughout the evening there will be a barbecue with the evening ending with a silent disco, and the opportunity to just hang around the fire pit.

There will be a small entry fee and any money raised at the event will be donated to Love Your Sister.

Samuel will also be visiting the St Helens District High School from 2pm where he will be talking about

his latest project, the F*%# Cancer Community Bank.

Samuel Johnson became a household name when he decided to ride a uni-cycle around Australia to raise funds for cancer, inspired by his sister, Connie's personal battle with the disease.

Sadly Connie lost her fight with the disease 12 months ago but her memory lives on through Samuel's dedication to the cause and the people whose lives were touched by the bond between the siblings.

Just after Connie passed away, Sam announced he had fulfilled his promise to his late sister, raising \$10 million towards cancer research, and now Samuel is aiming to raise \$10million more. All are welcome to attend and be a part of this amazing community event.

A big thank you to BIG 4 for hosting, the Kombi Krew for donating the silent disco, all the local businesses who donated items for the auction and the volunteers.

St Helens Mountain Bike Trails to open with two day celebration - 22-23 November

It's officially official; the St Helens Mountain Bike Trails will open on Friday 22 November with a huge event following on Saturday 23 November.

"With so much to celebrate we just had to stretch the opening over two days," Mayor Mick Tucker said.

"We are just so excited to be able to finally share this project with everyone and when I say we, I mean the whole community."

The Friday will focus on dignitaries and feature official ribbon cutting ceremonies at Swimcart Beach at 11:30am followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Trailhead off Flagstaff Rd, St Helens at 12:30pm.

Riders are welcome to come and ride the trails from 9am.

Following on from the official ceremonies, the Break O'Day Council is

working with the business community to put together some activities for Friday evening, so stay tuned.

On the Saturday, the whole township of St Helens will come alive with the Mountains to the Sea Trail-fest which will feature three hubs of activity around the town including; A Family Hub featuring MTB Skills and coaching, a MTB Demo Hub featuring an MTB stunt rider and MTB pop-up stalls as well as a Chillax Hub, featuring live music... and we are still working on more.

"Because our business community is so supportive of this project they have started putting together ideas to join in the festivities," Mayor Tucker said. For more information, please contact Erica McKinnell on 6376 7900.

Emergency Volunteers needed

Break O'Day Council is seeking community members who may be interested in volunteering their time in case of emergencies.

If we need to open up Evacuation Centres or similar over the upcoming fire season or in the future for other situations and you would like to help it would be greatly appreciated.

People who wish to be volunteers will be required to have a current Working With Vulnerable People card and some training will be provided (particularly for the upcoming fire season).

If you are interested, could you please email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au – attention: Chris Hughes/Angela Matthews and we will contact you and advise what the next steps will be.

Drought Community Fund Team getting Fingal Walking tracks in shape

The participants of the Drought Community Relief program have been working hard on their designated projects.

The two teams, who are working under the direction of Council staff, have really proven themselves to be hard and willing workers and are currently upgrading the Gray Mares Tail path.

Gray Mares Tail is a short 5 - 10 minute walk from the carpark area at the top

of St Marys Pass to an area overlooking a waterfall, known as Gray Mares Tail. If you haven't already made the stop, make sure you do next time you head down the pass to the coast.

The teams have also started work on the Mathinna Bus Shelter and the Fingal Recreation Ground toilet block. The team will also be working on the Fingal Valley Streetscape works.



The Drought Community Fund project teams have been doing some amazing work on our walking tracks. Pictured, team members working on Gray Mares Tail Trail

'Private Collections' at the St Helens History Room

This exhibition will explore the private collections of local people. Marvel at the intricate model boats on display, the wonderful wombat figurines, have a hoot over the owls, become more familiar with English satire from a range of 'Punch' magazines, learn about early commerce in Australia and Tasmania with a selection of promissory notes or just enjoy the whole exhibition and wonder about the art of collecting - if you have more than three in a set, you have a collection!

On display until December 2019 at the St Helens History Room.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE
ABOUT COUNCIL'S PROJECTS?
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE,
WWW.BODC.TAS.GOV.AU**

Businesses invited to be Trails Ambassadors

We have now officially launched our Trails Ambassador Program! This is a tiered sponsorship program aimed at local businesses with all funds from the program going back to the maintenance and development of the mountain bike trails.

This program has been in the works since May and was tested several times with local businesses to ensure that we had developed something that would be mutually beneficial to businesses and the trails.

To make it more cost effective for businesses we are also offering an introductory offer of buy one year, get the second for half price. We hope that this will allow businesses to really experience the benefits of being a partner of the St Helens Mountain Bike Network.

You can get involved in the Trail Ambassador Program at any time, however if you wish to take up the Introductory Offer you need to register your interest by providing a submission by Monday 30 September.

If this is something you are interested in, you can find a copy of the document on our website under News and Events, St Helens Mountain Bike Trails – Business Information, otherwise please contact Angela Matthews or Tim Gowans on 6376 7900.

MTB Business Information Sessions

The St Helens MTB Business information sessions are really proving to be successful, if you are a local business and haven't attended one yet, we would definitely recommend you do!

The first session was held on 20 August with Council updating around 50 attendees on trail construction, where to find imagery, an introduction to the Trail Ambassador program and more. Then Rob, from Kingthing got up and discussed the free Digital Ready sessions that were available in St Helens on 30 August and one-on-one mentoring sessions that were offered on 5 and 6 September. These sessions were very well attended by local

Love Your Sister Silent Disco and live Auction

19 September

Join Samuel Jonhson at the Big 4 Caravan Park for a live Auction and Silent Disco from 5:30pm. Gold coin donation entry with all funds going to Cancer research.

Georges Bay Music Lunch and Munch

27 September

Georges Bay Music invites you to their monthly concert. Held at Tidal Waters from 12 noon - 2pm with Special Guests SeaKaTz and Rod Hunt. Admission \$8 members and \$12 for non-members.

Mental Health Week Comedy Road Show

11 October

Held at the Portland Hall, doors open at 7pm with show start at 7:30pm. Entry is free but organisers ask that you pay what you like at the end of the show to help out all who have donated their words, thoughts, skills, and time.

Planning Scheme Drop-in Sessions

8 and 9 October

We will be at the St Marys Community Hall on 8 October and the Portland Hall, St Helens on 9 October from 4pm - 7pm discussing the changes to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. At the sessions we will explain the new zone changes, the planning scheme process as well as gathering your feedback and comments.

Garage Sale Trail

19 - 20 October

Hit the garage sale trail or check out the local tip shops to see if you can bag a bargain.

What's On

St Helens Scout Group and Free 2B Girls Trivia Night

26 October

Two simultaneous trivia events, only one winner! Held at the St Marys Hall and The Portland Hall, trivia starts at 7pm. \$20 per person, light supper included maximum of 8 players per team. PH: 0418 135 051

National Rogaining Championships

9-10 November

Rogaining is a sport similar to orienteering that involves cross country navigation over a large area. Teams of 2 – 5 people navigate their way to check points during a 24 hour period.

St Helens MTB Trail Fest

22- 23 November

Join the Break O'Day Community in celebrating the long anticipated opening of the St Helens MTB Trails. Held over two days there will be fun and activity for all.

Homelessness FREE Drop-In information sessions

Every Wednesday

Are you currently without a home? Do you need information about what support and services are available to you? OR Do you want to get involved in your local community to help combat homelessness? Come along and join us every Wednesday morning 10am til 11am - everyone welcome, contact Trish on 6376 1134 for more information.

St Marys Markets

First Saturday of every month

Held at the St Marys Hall from 9am - 1pm and featuring local arts and crafts and much more. Stall inquiries can be directed to Megan on 0418 881 315.

St Helens Markets

Every Saturday

Held every Saturday in the St Helens town centre from 8am - 1pm. New stall holders welcome, phone 0408 927 154.

Old Codgers Meeting

Every Friday

St Helens Books and Coffee are offering men over 50 the chance to call in, enjoy a hot cuppa. Held from 2-4pm. Cost: \$1 per cuppa.

Bendigo Bank Community Stadium Events

Every Monday from 4:15 - Basketball
Pain and Gain Weekly Sessions

Proudly sponsored by
St Helens – St Marys Community Bank®

 **Bendigo Bank**
Bigger than a bank.

Capital Works Projects - September/October

- Clean up after the storm event - trees down etc.
- Rock fill around Georges Bay multi-user track to reinforce track.
- Flagstaff Trailhead works, ready for the St Helens MTB Opening.
- Fingal Streetscape Works scheduled to start on 17 September.
- Drought Community Walking Track works.
- St Marys Cemetery works.
- General Spring maintenance including: mowing, pruning, replacing playground soft-fall.



Works crews reinforcing the rock wall around the Georges Bay multi-user track.



The toilet block at Flagstaff under construction

Want to receive your newsletter via email?
Please email
jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au

Weed of the month- Boneseed



Boneseed is a declared weed in Tasmania as well as being a Weed of National Significance. It is considered one of the worst and most invasive weeds in Australia due to its ability to establish itself anywhere and its

potential to spread. They can produce up to 50,000 seeds per year making treatment of an area with mature plants a several year project.

In the state Weed Management Act, landowners have a responsibility to remove and eradicate boneseed from their property. Due to their shallow root system, they are easily hand pulled or carefully spot sprayed with a registered herbicide. Plants can be piled ensuring the roots are not in contact with the ground. If seeds are present, they can be cut off, bagged and burnt.

Boneseed is now flowering and easy to identify, this is the perfect time to treat and remove, remembering follow up in the next year or two is essential. For more information please visit: <http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/boneseed>

Reuse and Up-cycle

Are you ready for the annual Garage Sale Trail this year. Held over the weekend of 19 and 20 October, this event aims to promote reusing and up-cycling items in order to reduce waste to landfill.

There are a few ways you can get involved in the Garage Sale Trail. You can host your own garage sale by going to www.garagesaletrail.com.au and registering your sale; You could hit the garage sale trail looking for a bargain by checking out the sales in our area online, to date there are six so far registered; Or, you could donate any unwanted items



to the St Helens or St Marys Tip Shops who will be taking part in the day. Both Tip Shops are run by the St Helens and the St Marys Hospital Auxiliary groups, which means that all proceeds from the shops goes back to the community. The St Helens Shop will be open both the Saturday and Sunday from 10 am – 4pm. The St Marys Tip Shop will be open on the Sunday from 2pm – 5pm.

“The Tasmanian Leaders Program has been one of the greatest experiences of my life.”

Tim Jordan,
Electrical Divisional Manager,
Degree C



Applications for the 2020 Tasmanian Leaders Program close OCTOBER 1