

## From General Manager - John Brown

The face of agriculture has been changing across Tasmania over the last few years and a key sign of this is the increasing proliferation of centre pivot irrigators in areas of Tasmania well outside the traditional cropping areas where irrigation has traditionally occurred. We can all remember the midlands area from Jericho through to Campbell Town for many years looking like parched earth during summer. Now we see swathes of crops under irrigation which is a clear sign of how agriculture is changing across Tasmania which brings me to the Fingal Valley.

For a few years now Tasmanian Irrigation have been working with farmers in the Valley looking at whether an irrigation scheme in the Fingal Valley would be viable and on what basis as well as investigating potential sites for a large storage dam. A preferred design option position has been identified and they have commenced a broader public comment phase. The preferred option involves an off stream storage facility located north of Fingal on the way to Mathinna, the dam that we all see just before Conara is an example of what is proposed. The scheme will provide all important water security for farmers downstream of the site during periods of drought and enable diversification of farming enterprises into higher value activities potentially resulting in job opportunities opening up.

The proposal has a number of stages to pass through including the sale of water with a minimum target set for financial viability; construction costs being within the estimated range; and receiving the required approvals. As part of the approval process a range of environmental and technical investigations are undertaken. An unspoken plus side of a dam of this size in this location is its availability for firefighting activities, certainly has a lot more capacity than the average farm dam.



Above: Riders at the Dreaming Pools. Below the two new pictograms for the new trails.

### Dreaming Pools



### Garnup



## Introducing two new St Helens MTB trails. Opening September 26

### Dreaming Pools

Starting on Loila Tier the Dreaming Pools is approximately a 27 km adventure trail that will take riders on an exploratory journey of the St Helens back-country.

Overlooking the stunning East Coast at an elevation of 360m, the trail traverses ridge lines and stunning gullies of tall iron bark forest with a good mix of climbing and descending flow trail with awesome vistas to the south. The trail has a total gain of 490m with a 650m descent. You will know you have ridden this one, it's totally awesome. At around the 6km mark, you descend into the lower reaches of the trails to the Dreaming Pools on Constable Creek. An amazing 3km run of flow trail with awesome features to put a smile on every face.

Through the middle section the trail

follows Constable Creek and you will have the opportunity to stop along the way to admire the multiple waterfalls. The Dreaming Pools are natural rock pools that offer a great way to cool off and recharge before heading back up to the finish at the Flagstaff Trailhead.

### Introducing Garnup

Also opening on September 26 is our brand new climbing trail. Connecting to Wedged In at the main trailhead at Flagstaff St Helens, Garnup is a 6km climb to the top of the Loila Tier where you can access all the descents including the new Dreaming Pools. The climb will take you all the way to Loila Tier and at about half way up there is a short link to get you directly to Icarus for those who want to session that trail back to the trail head.

## Meet September's Volunteer of the month



Meet Jenny, Jenny is a born and bred Legerwood girl but soon moved to Weldborough after meeting her husband Kerry. Jenny has lived and worked in the Break O'Day area for more than 49 years where she first started volunteering with St John Ambulance North East Division. Jenny attended a First Aid course that St Johns Ambulance were offering back in the 1980's, Jenny loved this course so much she decided to join them. From there Jenny attended many shows and sporting events throughout the years and then eventually joined Ambulance Tasmanian in September 1996. Jenny is also the secretary/treasurer of the Weldborough Fire Brigade. She used to fight fires but says she's now 'too old to go tramping in full gear' so she will stick to the book work side of things. What drives Jenny to be a volunteer is

simply to help others who need it at their most vulnerable. When people are hurt, injured or ill they need the compassion and help of others and it's always a good feeling that you have made a difference to these people who matter.

Jenny has several most memorable moments of volunteering these include saving a life of a friend, holding patient's hands to make them feel better and comforted, and making and keeping many friendships over the years. Jenny says the comradery of the people who work with you at a scene whether it be an accident or a medical emergency in someone's home is something that you never forget.

If Jenny could give anyone thinking about volunteering some words of encouragement she says "Just go for it, it is the best feeling in the world when you have helped and done something good when it mattered. The training and friendships are amazing."

Jenny, on behalf of the Break O'Day Community we say a massive THANK YOU, we appreciated all the time and effort you put back into our community, and understand the type of volunteering work you do is very confronting and not easy, yet you continue to keep doing it, so thank you.

## Weed management support

Farmers with weed problems made worse since the 2019 drought can get help from Council's Drought Weeds Project.

While the first round for Break O'Day Drought Weeds grant applications closes in September, there'll be more opportunities soon when the Tasmanian Weed Action Fund invites applications for small and large projects.

Our Drought Weeds Officer, Peter Heading, can help people identify

strategies and projects that could use the Drought Weed grants, or look to funding offers from the Tasmanian Weed Action Fund to be announced soon. Details for the Break O'Day Drought Weeds Project can be found on the Council website at Our Environment / Weed Management, or contact Peter Heading on 0400 737 253. Keep up with the Weed Action Fund opportunities by registering with NRM North on their website: [nrmnorth.org.au](http://nrmnorth.org.au).

## IN BRIEF

### New pontoon at St Helens Wharf

Have you checked out the new pontoon at the St Helens boat ramp?

The pontoon was constructed with funds from Council and the Recreational Boating fund through a grant that was lodged by local fishing legend Howard Jones. (Thanks Howard)

The pontoon will enable boats to moor safely while they are waiting for other boaters or while parking or retrieving their boat trailers and as it is an L-shape, it also provides a sheltered mooring for tenders from moored vessels. The second pontoon also provides for wind variation and makes better use of the double ramp.

### Four Mile Creek Pedestrian Bridge

We have just completed the refurbishment of the Four Mile Creek Pedestrian Bridge including a fresh coat of paint. The refurbished bridge was installed on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September.

### St Marys Football Ground Closure:

The works crew have just completed irrigation works at the St Marys recreation Ground. The ground will remain closed until grass has re-established. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

### Out of date flares

We understand that MAST are no longer collecting out of date flares and Council are unable to collect them. We are looking into this so we can promote a safe way to dispose of them to our community.

In the meantime we ask that people DO NOT place them in waste bins or take them to the tip sites. If accidentally set off, the flares could start a fire inside the truck or at the tips.

As soon as we find a solution we will promote it through our Facebook page and the community notice board so please keep an eye out.

***Do you have someone you would like to say Thank you to?***

Drop into the office and grab one of our FREE thank you cards and magnets. You can fill out yourself or we can send it for you.

**Let someone know how appreciated they are today!**





# Introducing the Break O'Day Employment Connect Team

The Break O'Day area has a new employment team focussed on finding meaningful employment solutions for both employees and employers in the municipality.

Called Break O'Day Employment Connect or BODEC for short, this program is designed to complement service providers already operating in this space and will take a holistic approach to employment solutions.

The new team will be based out of Avery House, St Helens - opposite the Providore in Cecilia Street. The Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House will provide a satellite office for clients in the Valley area.

The project is hosted by Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House and is overseen by a steering committee comprising representatives from a number of sectors and the community. The board is currently chaired by Break O'Day Council General Manager John Brown.

**INTRODUCING THE NEW TEAM:**

The program will be implemented by three new employees, all from the Break O'Day region. Introducing: Project Manager, Mr Stephen Walley who will oversee the delivery and strategic development of the project. This role is 0.2FTE.

Stephen has 35 years' experience within the Tasmanian Education Department in various roles and is also well known in the community for his volunteer roles with the St Marys, St Helens Community Bank and the East Coast Swans Football Club.

He said: "Developing the capacity of others, especially within team environments, has been a high priority

and motivation for me. I look forward to working with the team to find new approaches to achieve improved outcomes for the whole community."

Cindy Kurtukoff, the new Employer Connector, this role is 0.6 FTE – Cindy will be BODEC's employer contact and will be working directly with BOD employers to help them find the right staff.

Cindy has a diverse background well suited to this role including experience in a variety of industries including hospitality, tourism, banking and retail. Cindy said: "Small communities do not work the same as cities and the development of this project will strengthen our community as we will focus on a personalised approach to employment. I look forward to seeing our municipality prosper through a thriving work force."

Claire Bastick will be the new Jobseeker Connector, this role is 1 FTE – and she will be working directly with job seekers.

Claire is an approachable and friendly person who has 15 years' experience in the Customer Service sector working for Government organisations like Centrelink and Housing Tasmania as well as with advocacy organisations working with homelessness, youth services and more.

Claire said; "I can't wait to jump right in and help the community kick some goals! I am a new face in town and hope to bring some new ideas, enthusiasm, and I'm not afraid to have a go."

Come along to the launch event and meet the New Break O'Day Employment Connect team.

## WHATS ON

### Break O'Day Employment Connect Official Launch

**Wednesday 30 September**

Come along and find out more about this new and exciting program. You can also meet the new team! RSVPs are essential, please email [erica.mckinnell@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:erica.mckinnell@bodc.tas.gov.au)

### Comedy Road Show

**Friday 9 October at 7:30pm**

Council is proud to support Comedy Road Show again this year. Located in the Portland Hall, this fantastic night of entertainment features the state's funniest acts speaking their minds about mental health.

Tickets are free however registrations are essential. If you would like help with booking your place please contact the team at the St Helens Neighbourhood House on 6376 1134 or you can find the event and all details on Facebook.

### Photo Comp. for Mental Health Week From 5 - 10 October

All are invited to enter the St Helens Neighbourhood House photo comp during Mental Health Week. Entries are open to all and participants are encouraged to take a photo while they are out taking a walk. Entries to be emailed to [admin@sthelensnhh.org.au](mailto:admin@sthelensnhh.org.au). Please make sure you include your contact details and a brief description of your entry. Entries will be uploaded to the Neighbourhood House's facebook page.

### Mental Health- It's Everyone's Business

**Friday 9 October from 6:30pm - 8pm**

Located at the St Helens Bowls Club, join professionals for an information and discussion session where your thoughts are welcome on Mental health, needs and gaps in services. There will also be an update on the Break O'Day and Bicheno Suicide Prevention sites. Light supper included. Phone St Helens Neighbourhood House on 6376 1134 or email [admin@sthelensnhh.org.au](mailto:admin@sthelensnhh.org.au) for more information.

### Old Codgers Cards Afternoon Every Friday

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

### St Helens Markets

**Every Saturday from 9am - 1pm**

Drop by the St Helens Markets in the Portland Hall and bag yourself a locally crafted gift or some fresh produce.

**Do you have a community event or activity you would like us to promote?**  
Please email  
[erica.mckinnell@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:erica.mckinnell@bodc.tas.gov.au)

Pictured below: Claire Bastick, Jobseeker Connector and Cindy Kurtukoff, Employer Connector



## Capital Works Projects - Sept/Oct

- Spring tidy up - Grass cutting
- St Marys irrigation works to be complete end of week (25 September)
- Ongoing track works on the Wombat Walk in St Marys, the walking track located behind the library – re gravelling track to it's original width
- Grading to finish this week on Mathinna Plains Road.
- Later this month we will start our resheeting program
- Ongoing Footpath works at Storey Street/ Gray Road, St Marys Footpath – timed for the School holidays
- Replacing access ramp at St Helens DHS - Circassian and Groom Street
- Installing 3x Bench seats at Scamander Reserve – near playground so parents and grandparents can enjoy watching their children playing



## Weed Officer activity

Council's weed officer has been very busy over the last few months tackling a variety of weeds around the municipality. This includes:

**Lions Park** - Hottentot Fig, Tamarisk

**Aerodrome** - Spanish Heath

**Mountain Bike Trail/Town Link** - Blackberry, Thistles, Bridal Creeper

**Stieglitz Park** - Mirror Bush, Blackberry  
**Binalong Bay (green waste rehabilitation area)** - Poison Hemlock, Thistles, Mignonette, Great Mullein  
**Medea Cove Road** - African Boxthorn, Broom

**Scamander Sports Complex** - Boneseed  
Four Mile Creek - Thistles, Blackberry, Spanish Heath, Bridal Creeper.

For more information on weeds targeted in our area, head to our website, Our Environment / Weed Management.

## Weed of the month-Bluebell Creeper



Environmental weeds' is a term used to describe introduced invasive plants that outcompete native plants and impact native habitats and biodiversity. One such weed is bluebell creeper (Billardiera heterophylla), a West Australian native often planted in gardens but that escapes easily.

Bluebell creeper is a climber with

twisting and tangled stems, narrow shiny leaves, white or blue flowers followed by hanging berry-like fruits that are spread by birds.

While they may look lovely in the garden they do spread into our native bushlands. Now is a good time to remove bluebell creeper before the problem spreads further. Small plants can be pulled out and larger plants can be dug or cut and painted with herbicide. Be on the lookout for escapees in your neighbourhood.

Our Tasmanian climbing blueberry (B. longiflora) with shiny blue fruits might be a good alternative, or something else that will stay in your garden. In the meantime, if you want to keep your bluebell creeper at home please remove all fruit as the flowers finish.

## Dog Blitz - do the right thing

Over the these School Holidays, Council along with Parks and Wildlife Service, will be conducting an enforcement blitz for dogs on beaches. You could cop a hefty fine if caught with your dog on a beach where you shouldn't be. The timing of the blitz coincides with the busy holiday period and the shorebird nesting period. Some on-lead dog zones will be closing to dogs altogether from 1 October until 31 March 2021 for these reasons. These areas include: Binalong Bay, Scamander River mouth and Taylors, Maurouard and Denison Beaches.

Residents, visitors and accommodation providers are encouraged to make themselves aware of where, how and when dogs can be taken onto Break O'Day beaches. We ask people in the habit of walking dogs on a beach that is not compliant to please consider

making the effort to change. There are great beaches in Break O'Day where dogs can be taken off-lead.

A trip to the beach can become very expensive for you if caught doing the wrong thing, and impact other people and our important shorebirds.

Find out where and what the dog beach zones for Break O'Day are on the Council's website under My Property / Dogs.

A big thank you to the many people who sent in comments and ideas on two options for a dog exercise area at Binalong Bay. We appreciate the contributions people have made to participate in dog management with Council. Council will now consider those submissions to weigh up what it should and can do next at Binalong Bay.

