

Next Council Meetings:
18 October and 15 November at 10am at the Council Chambers, St Helens

From General Manager - John Brown

In the next six months Council will be doing a lot of community engagement on a number of projects, (you can read more about this in this newsletter).

Recently we have also been examining our community engagement processes with the intention of developing and adopting a formal Community Engagement Strategy. This will include community feedback. This is something we started a while ago but was put on hold as we waited to see what the Local Government Act would prescribe for the Strategy. As there have been ongoing delays with the Act we have given up waiting and started developing the Strategy.

But how do you have your voice heard or learn about Council projects if we aren't doing any formal engagement?

There are a lot of ways you can find out about our projects or 'talk' to us and we really encourage you to! This is because Council staff and Councillors find ourselves responding to mis-information and misunderstandings when a simple fact check or even just asking us, would have saved a lot of time and resources, not to mention community angst, to correct.

These days, there seems to be too much faith placed in the accuracy of information on social media and until now there has been no real accountability for this, but things are changing. A recent High Court decision relating to defamation through social media has had far-reaching ramifications for how social media engagement will operate in Australia. The broad definition of 'publication' that was adopted by the Court means all hosts of pages or individual posts, who 'facilitate, encourage and thereby assist' the posting of comments by the third-party Facebook users, are liable for those comments. Consequently, they are at risk of being sued for defamation. You may already have noticed media outlets turning off comments on certain posts to avoid this liability. With a bit of luck accountability might finally be on the way for those on social media who do not fact check and spread disinformation.

Look out for our Vulnerable shore birds



Image of the bird breeding signs that are now located at beach entrances that are popular bird breeding areas.

Did you know that around 50% of vulnerable and threatened shore birds breed and nest on East Coast Tasmanian beaches? These birds are at risk of extinction and need our help. The first of October sees the beginning of the shore bird breeding season which will bring many breeding pairs of threatened birds like the hooded plover, red capped plover, fairy tern, pied oystercatcher and little tern to our beaches. In order to do what we can to protect them this time of year also sees some Dog Zone changes in the Break O'Day Area. These changes are a result of the fact that many young hatchlings and eggs are disturbed and even killed by dogs every year.

When Council and Parks and Wildlife Tasmania developed the Dog Management Zones we wanted to ensure there was a balance for wildlife and responsible dog owners.

This means that we looked at each beach area, its use and its importance to threatened shore birds to determine the best way for dog owners to enjoy the beaches. This included putting in place rules for beaches that are on-

lead, off lead and prohibited areas.

During the bird breeding season a number of beaches now become prohibited for dogs. This means NO DOGS at all. Beaches include: are the ones with high shore bird nesting:

- A section of beach at Denison Beach near the Rivulet area
- A section of Maurouard Beach St Helens Point
- Binalong Bay
- The Bay of Fires from Sloop Reef Beach to the end of Taylors Beach

You can find a full map of these zones here: We hope that members of the community and visitors will do the right thing so that we can ensure these birds have a place to safely raise their young.



Hub 4 Health Property Handover to Council

Break O'Day Council (BODC) is pleased to announce that the Hub4Health (H4H) building at 5 Portland Court, St Helens will be retained by the community under its ownership.

Last week the St Helens Hub4Health Board officially announced that BODC had been successful in the EOI process developed to hand over the property located at 5 Portland Court, St Helens.

The community began raising concerns about the future of the building earlier this year when the H4H board announced it would be discontinuing its operations and disposing of the property.

Acting Hub4Health Chairperson Mary Targett said that the board felt reassured that BODC's EOI submission would provide the best outcome for the Break O'Day community.

"The EOI process found that greatest community benefit for the health and wellbeing of Break O'Day residents will come from the Council's management of this asset. Hub4Health would like to thank all the organisations who participated in the EOI process and hope the community can now get behind the changes.

"Hub4Health believe that the site can now be developed to its full potential

as place for community wellbeing, community and youth services and to address other needs as appropriate."

BODC's Mayor, Mick Tucker said that taking over operation of the building was an easy decision for the Council to make.

"We heard the concerns from the community about the disposal of the property and could see how much this community asset really meant them.

"We were all proud of the proposal we put forward which clearly states our intentions to keep community service delivery the core purpose of the building and that the property itself now, and into the future will always belong to the community."

Under the Local Government Act. Councils can pass a resolution at a Council meeting to classify the H4H site as Public Land. This means if Council ever wanted to dispose of the land there would be a public notification period which would allow the community to have their say on the future of the site. Council said that any future use of the site will be explored collaboratively with the community and will ensure that the health and wellbeing of the community remain the primary focus of the property.



The Old Scamander Bridge with the middle section removed. Image courtesy of George Keri

Sharing the Stories of the Scamander Bridges

Council is excited to announce that we have received \$10,000 in funding to design and install signage that will tell the story of the Scamander Bridges.

The signage will be installed on the southern bank area where the Old Scamander Bridge was recently removed from.

Council will work with the Scamander Committee to design the signage which

will tell the story of all the bridges that have spanned the Scamander River since settlement of the area.

If you would like to get involved in this project please contact chris.hughes@bodc.tas.gov.au

Funding for this project was received through the State Government's Tourism Hospitality Unit.

Really slow snail Mail

We have heard from our community that they are experiencing long delivery times from Australia Post. In some cases delivery times of more than 30 days even with priority mail have been experienced. This means some of our correspondence may not be getting to you in a reasonable time. If this is of concern, call our office and ask for your email address to be added to our property database. To add your email address to our property database please email admin@bodc.tas.gov.au with your address. You can also ask to be added to our township database (we have one for each township in Break O'Day) and our newsletter database.

Share your stories for IDPWD

This year as part of International Day of Persons With Disabilities (IDPWD) Council, through the Disability Action Committee would like to put together a collection of stories from our community and we need your help.

We are asking our community to share with us your story of resilience while living with a disability in Break O'Day during COVID.

As part of the IDPWD we will also host two events, one in St Marys and one in St Helens on 3 December where we will launch and share the stories.

If you would like to share your story with us it will need to be a maximum of 250 words and accompanied by an image at least 1Mb in size. Please send your stories and images to janet.drummond@bodc.tas.gov.au.

Digital Ready Program

The Digital Ready Program is coming back to St Helens. This is a FREE program and a great opportunity for businesses to learn about social media and websites.

The sessions will be in St Helens on:
13 October - 10am, 12pm or 2:30pm
14 October - 10am, 12pm or 2:30pm.
For more information and to make a booking please contact Alex Sumner, Industry Development Coordinator, East Coast Tasmania Tourism on 0406 199 045.

Community Engagement - Have your Say

This month Council will be conducting Community Engagement on two projects; The Break O'Day Recreational Trails Strategy and the Draft Local Provisions Schedule (LPS).

To do this we will be setting up Drop-in sessions at Fingal, St Marys, Scamander and St Helens (See poster below for more information).

HAVE YOUR SAY COMMUNITY DROP-INS

Council Staff and consultants from TRC Tourism are holding Drop-in Sessions to discuss the Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) and the Recreational Trails Strategy. Rather than hold two sessions we thought it would be easier for you to attend and have your thoughts heard if we rolled the two into one.

Local Provisions Schedule

The Draft Break O'Day LPS is now ready for public submission and will be on public exhibition from 11 October - 13 December. To make sure our community understands the changes, what they mean, and how they can make a submission we are holding some Drop-in Sessions.

Recreational Trails Strategy

TRC Tourism has been contracted by Council to develop a Recreational Trails Strategy for our area. As part of the development of the strategy they want to gather feedback from our community.

Township	Location	Date/Day	TimeFrame
Scamander	Sports Complex	Wednesday 20 October	12noon-3pm
St Helens	Portland Hall	Wednesday 20 October	4:30 - 7:30pm
Fingal	Old Tasmanian Hotel	Thursday 21 October	12noon - 3pm
St Marys	Community Hall	Thursday 21 October	4:30 - 7:30pm

If you are unable to make it to one of these sessions and still want to have your say...

Local Provision Schedule

Visit our website or drop-in to the main office to view our Pop-up info shop - staffed Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am - 12 noon

Recreational Trails Strategy

Take the survey by using this QR code.



How can you be heard and informed?

Checkout our website: Find current projects, updates, latest news, community engagement and Council documents.

Follow our Facebook page: For regular updates on Council projects and what is going on in our community.

Read our newsletter and join our email database: We communicate directly with our community including on specific townships through our databases. Email Jayne.richardson@bodc.tas.gov.au if you

want to be added.

Still have a question or want to make us aware of something important to you?

Call us on 63767900, email us admin@bodc.tas.gov.au or write to us, 32-34 Georges Bay Esplanade, St Helens. You can also attend a Council Meeting or send in a petition (Check our website for information on how to ask a question in a Council meeting and setting up a valid petition.)

WHATS ON

Festival of Wellbeing

Saturday 9 October

Held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium 10am - 4pm, this free community event is brought to you by the Wellbeing Collective and Council and features guest speakers, activities, prizes and more.

Comedy Road Show

Friday 8 October

Held at the Portland Hall show starts at 7:30pm. Find out more information and get tickets at www.clubhousecomedy.com.au

Digital Ready

13 and 14 October

Free program for businesses wanting to know more about social media and websites. Call Alex - 0406 199 045.

Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra

Friday 15 October

Held at the Portland Hall from 10am - 11:30am. Ensemble performance followed by a meet and mingle with the musicians. Morning Tea provided. Cost: Gold Coin donation.

Van Dieman's Band and Luke Plumb

Saturday 23 October

6pm at the Portland Hall. For more information and bookings go to www.trybooking.com

Community Consultation

20 Wednesday - 21 Thursday October

Council staff will be holding Community Drop-in sessions in St Helens, Scamander, Fingal and St Marys. See our website for more information.

Remembrance Day

11 November

See the local RSL branch for event details.

Virtuosi Chamber Concert

22 November

Held at the Portland Hall. Visit www.virtuositas.org.au for more information.

Blueberries Dance Party

27-28 December

The children's performance group the Blueberries will be performing at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium. Visit www.blueberrysdanceparty.com.au for more information.

LOCAL MARKETS

St Helens - Every Saturday

The Markets alternate between setting up their stalls outside the Portland Hall or in the Visitor Information Centre Carpark.

St Marys - First Saturday of the month

Held at the St Marys Hall.

Council Works Updates

Mortys Carpark: Council contractors asphalted the carpark in time for the school holidays. Further improvements for the carpark area include: benches, a bike rack, and additional solar-powered lighting - which will be installed in the coming weeks.

Scamander Winifred Curtis Reserve Footpath: Council have started construction of a footpath from Winifred Curtis Drive to Winifred Curtis Reserve. These works are anticipated to take 5 weeks.

Road Works: Council has started preparations for resheeting Ansons Bay Rd, Reids Rd, Medea Cove Rd, Canhams Rd and the top end of Cecilia St have all had a maintenance grade.

Road Resheeting: Crews will make their way around the rest of the municipality over coming months with resheeting - roads including: Honeymoon point, Jeanerret Beach Rd, Irishtown Rd, Dublintown Rd, St Patricks Head Rd, Germantown Rd.

Roads already resheeted: including; Anchor Rd, Church Hill Rd, Johnston's Rd.

Facilities: Lions Park BBQ refurbishment is underway

Towns and Parks: With the spring weather comes the almost continual maintenance of public spaces including: St Helens Foreshore playground has had its softfall replaced with others receiving some maintenance as required including: Mowing, pruning trees, weeding, as well as planting and continual maintenance of the flower beds in St Helens including the establishment of a new flower garden on the corner of Cecilia St/Quail St.

Roadside slashing: Throughout the municipality.



Winifred Curtis Reserve footpath works have started

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 (*Billardiera 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.

Recognition for "Pikes Point"

Good news from Placenames Tasmania. After a supported proposal by Mrs Peggy Bogar regarding the naming of Pikes Point, new maps of the Georges Bay area will include 'Pikes Point', the first boat slip on entering St Helens from the southern section of the Tasman Highway. Support was provided by Break O'Day Council, Friends of St Helens History Room, the local NRM Officer and St Helens History Room.

Pike Brothers, Morris 'Joe' and Arthur 'Dood' had a long lease of a portion of Crown Land on Georges Bay opposite Perseus Street entrance. Morris and Arthur Pike physically built and resided their family homes in Perseus St. St Helens, raising their children there.

Together they built wooden fishing boats on this site where there was a much smaller area of land and a small shed. Although it was a smaller land mass originally, Morris and Arthur bent over backwards to finally get permission from Crown Land, and other authorities, and commenced extending the area towards the bay buying many a truck-full of rocks from Andy Griffiths and having it stamped down so the Point was created and then known as 'Pikes Point'.

Arthur said they rented the boatyard since 1952 or 1953. They added bigger shed and slipway 1970. Tura was built 1985 and Bonnie Rose was also launched there 1985. Story courtesy of the St Helens History Room.

Weed Management around the municipality

St Marys WTS: gorse, caper spurge, broom, mullein, periwinkle, hemlock

Fingal WTS: Spanish heath, caper spurge, broom, mullein, periwinkle, hemlock

St Helens WTS: Spanish heath, caper spurge, broom, cacti, mullein, periwinkle, hemlock

Fingal area roadsides: Spanish heath

German Town Road: Spanish heath, gorse

Clelands Drive: Spanish heath

Priory Road: Spanish heath, broom, blackberry

Scamander road sides: Spanish heath

Argonaut Road: Spanish heath, blackberry.

You can find our newsletters online at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/news-events/