

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

From the General Manager - John Brown

We can tell that the latest election period is upon us with signage springing up for the forthcoming Council elections. There are a few changes which have come into play this year with probably the most important being the change to compulsory voting, yes this means that you must vote in the forthcoming election. The good thing is that this is much easier than Federal and State elections, everyone gets a postal vote sent to them through the mail. Ballot packs will be mailed by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) from 3 October. Votes need to be back with the TEC by 2pm on Tuesday 25 October. If you are concerned that your vote may not be received in time, the TEC will have a Ballot Box located at the Council office in St Helens that you can place your vote into. The Ballot box remains sealed and is then collected by the TEC and taken to the Tally Room to be dealt with.

The other factor that has come into play is the introduction of a 'caretaker period' which applies to Council activities and decisions. Whilst this doesn't really have an impact on day-to-day type activities, it does have an impact where there are significant commitments being made which bind a future Council. The main areas affected are Tenders and Contract activities generally linked to the amount involved and major policy and project type decisions. This hasn't been an issue in the past and this approach of a 'caretaker period' is a good way to go and is in line with what happens at the Federal and State level.

So, please don't forget to vote as it is now compulsory just like in the Federal and State elections.

This is a Tasmanian Government process and we, as a Council have no control of the election process.

Good Boy Fonzie - Weed detecting in BOD



Pictured above: Fonzie the weed detecting dog with his handler, Morgan.

Break O'Day hosted some very special guests over three days in September, Fonzie the weed sniffing dog and his handlers, Ryan Tate from Tate Animals, NSW and Morgan McPherson from Enviro-Dynamics, Hobart.

The team were here as part of the BOD Serrated Tussock Eradication Project. Serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) is a declared weed in Tasmania. It is tricky to identify and easily overlooked as it looks very similar to native tussock grasses - But not for Fonzie's nose.

Fonzie is a 'working line' black German shepherd and one of a handful of dogs in Australia trained to detect particular weeds; his specialties are serrated tussock as well as Chilean needle grass (both in the *Nassella* genus of invasive grasses) and orange hawk weed, an alpine invader that features orange daisy like flowers.

Just prior to Fonzie's visit over 2000 serrated tussock were found, dug out and pulled by hand at two known infestations - Fonzie then went and found nearly a thousand more mostly single, very small and isolated serrated

tussock plants that human eyes had missed.

Over the three days Fonzie covered over 30kms and surveyed 40 hectares of bush, roadsides and paddocks.

There is no doubt that Fonzie loves his job and whenever he finds a plant he is rewarded with his favourite game – tug'o'war with his favourite toy and you can see how proud of himself he is.

A return visit by Fonzie is planned for 2024 but in the meantime we can all keep an eye out for serrated tussock, the quicker it is reported and removed the quicker it can be controlled.

If you suspect you have found serrated tussock, check the information on the Tasmanian Highly Invasive Grasses webpage at nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds and if a positive identification, contact Polly Buchhorn at Council or the Invasive Species Branch of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

The Break O'Day Serrated Tussock Eradication Project is supported by a grant from the Tasmanian Weeds Action Fund.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Community Engagement Updates

Thank you to everyone who has provided us with input and feedback on these projects.

Volunteering Strategy

The Volunteering Strategy was endorsed by Council at the Council Meeting 19 September. You can find the Strategy and more information for volunteers on our website or see the article in this edition of the newsletter.

Marine Facilities.

Phase 1 of the Georges Bay Activation Strategy is now complete and all community feedback has been collated – you can find a report on the Community Engagement process on our website.

Phase 2 will see this feedback used to develop a Draft Georges Bay Activation Strategy which will also contain a list of priority projects for Georges Bay.

The Strategy and priority projects will need to be endorsed by Council

at a Council meeting before being released to the public. Once Council has endorsed these draft documents will put them on our website and ask for community feedback through Facebook and our newsletter. We anticipate, with the Council currently in care-taker mode due to Local Government elections, that this will take place early in 2023.

Once phase 2 and the Draft has been finalised – we will advertise for a consultant to develop concept plans that we will then ask for community feedback on.

We anticipate the concept design phase to be undertaken in 2023.

Pumptrack projects – see article below or visit our website.

St Helens Pumptrack - we need your help!

In 2021 the Tasmanian Government made an election promise to Break O'Day Council of \$500,000 to construct two pump tracks.

One Pump track will be located at the Flagstaff Trailhead and be MTB focussed, for this project we will be working with the MTB industry.

The other will be located in St Helens and be more suited to a range of bikes, scooters, skateboards etc. The exact site will be determined through our consultation process and investigations.

We are now ready to start developing these projects and would like your input.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from interested community groups to join the St Helens Pump

Track Working Group.

The Working Group for the St Helens project will help us establish;

- Finding a suitable location
- Surveying the community so the needs of a variety of users of the pump track are understood
- Understanding what other infrastructure may need to be included in the design
- Developing a consultant brief for the design of the pump track
- Consulting the community on the concept

If you would like to join the St Helens Pump track working group please read and complete the form found on our website under My Community/Community Consultation.

TasALERT.

If you haven't already, visit TasALERT.com, and make sure you save it in your favourites so you always know what to do before, during and after an emergency.

Tas Alert Changes

TasALERT has a brand new look and feel, and is now the home of your emergency warnings. You will now find Tasmania Fire Service bushfire warnings and information, as well as the new Tasmania SES Flood warning system on

IN BRIEF

Reminder - Have your Bins out by 6am

This is a reminder to all residents with kerbside waste collection, please have your bins out by 6am to ensure they are collected. There have been some slight changes to the route of the truck so it may now make it to your house earlier than usual.

St Marys Upcycling and Repurposing - Needs your help

St Marys Repurposing and Upcycling need your help to process a high volume of stock. They will hold working bees on September 24 - 25, October 22 and 23, November 19 and 20 from 9am - 4pm in the St Marys Hall.

The St Marys Repurposing & Upcycling team is a community group that breathes new life into old clothing otherwise destined for landfill. All goods are sold at the St Marys Market with proceeds used to support the group activities.

Make sure you follow their Facebook page for more information.

Bendigo Community Bank - Community Grants NOW Available

The Bendigo Community Bank now has small community grants available.

To make an application you will need to drop in to the Bendigo Community Bank Branch, St Helens located at 41 Cecilia Street between 10 am and 4pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Applications close on 18 October.

Voting in LG elections

As of this year, it is compulsory for you to vote in Local Government Elections. Candidates for Break O'Day Council were formally announced on 20 September.

Elections will be conducted by postal vote with polling opening on 3 October. You can find a full list of candidates and more information on voting, go to www.tec.tas.gov.au.

Volunteering Strategy Launch

On Tuesday 28 September the Volunteering Strategy was officially launched at a BBQ held at the Hub 4 Health Building.

The event was not just about making the volunteering community aware of the strategy, but also about celebrating the wonderful volunteers we have here in Break O'Day.

Mayor Mick Tucker officially opened the event with Volunteering committee

member Rosina Gallace explaining what the strategy was all about and how it was developed.

The Strategy was developed through a Co-design process which included a group made up of community members, Council Officers and representatives from Volunteering Tasmania. More information on our website.



Pictured above; Volunteering working group members, Rosina Gallace and Christine Trelloggen with Volunteering Tasmania's Bridget Delaney and Mayor Mick Tucker.

FREE Bus trip for Break O'Day Seniors

To celebrate our older community members as part of Seniors Week, we will be providing a free bus trip, picnic lunch and guided tour of Woolmers Estate on Thursday 20 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.

Bookings are essential so if you would like to attend please RSVP via, 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.

Australia Day Nominations OPEN

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for our community? Why not nominate them for one of our Australia Day Awards?

In a small community like ours we rely on community members for a range of services and activities from emergency services to umpiring for local sporting teams.

The Australia Day Awards are the perfect chance to really shine a spotlight on these community members as well as thank and celebrate all they have done for our communities.

As a little reminder, last year's winners

were: Young Citizen of the Year Award – Catherine Bean and Citizen of the Year Award, Beverley and Peter Rubenach.

As well as the Australia Day Awards, we also have a number of Municipal Excellence Awards.

To find out more information and/or nominate someone for an award you can either go to our website and click on My Community / Australia Day Citizen of the year Awards and download a form

Nominations close Tuesday 3 January 2023.

WHAT'S ON

Break O'Day Festival of Wellbeing 6 October

Held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium from 11- 4. Come along and try something new, enjoy demonstrations and find out more about support and activities in our community.

St Helens Hoedown

14 October

In support of Rural Alive and Well the Hoedowns for country towns will be held at the Portland Hall, St Helens, tickets \$15. More information-

www.hoedownsforcountrytowns.com.

Festival called George

15 October

This locally organised and designed beer festival will be held in Mortys Carpark adjacent to Raida from 2pm-10:30pm. For more information see their website.

www.georgebeer.fest

St Helens T21 Economy Strategy 2030 Forum

28 October

Hosted by Panorama Hotel from 10:30am - 12:30pm. The Tasmanian tourism industry and the Tasmanian Government are finalising a new joint T21 Tourism Strategy to 2030 and this will be your opportunity to contribute your ideas to inform a shared vision for the future of Tasmanian tourism.

Ignite Business Bootcamp

11 and 12 October

Day 1 - 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Day 2 - 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

This free, two-day small-business bootcamp is specifically designed as a "business health check", an opportunity to work on your business with guidance and support of The van Diemen Project. For more information and to book your place go to www.vdp.com.au/events/

Seniors Week - Woolmers bus trip 20 October

Join BODC on a guided tour through the house and garden of Woolmers Estate with picnic lunch at Longford.

Call the Council office to book your place.

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.

Council Works Reports

GENERAL MAINTENANCE:

- General maintenance including: Mowing, ground maintenance, tree pruning and weeding – all areas.
- Footpath maintenance and repairs where required.
- Boat Ramp – monthly inspections and cleaning undertaken.
- Roads Sealing and patching – all areas.
- Stormwater system pit cleaning and pipe unblocking
- Maintenance grading and drain clearing; Pyengana and St Helens areas complete, Mathinna Plains Road underway.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- Parnella Erosion barrier maintenance work from the Scout Shed at O'Connors Beach to Parnella Beach complete. There is a locked gate owned by PWS on this track however this is to stop vehicle access, pedestrian access is available.

COMING UP

- Planting out the main street 'boat' flower beds St Helens.
- Young Street footpath - part funded by the Australian Government.
- Planning and consultation on the St Helens Streetscape works – Over the coming months we will start talking to our community about this project. We will use social media, the website, our email databases and our newsletter to keep you up to date on this.

WEED MANAGEMENT

Pyengana WTS - thistles, caper spurge, broom, mullein, periwinkle, hemlock

Ansons Bay Rd - Spanish heath, gorse

St Helens WTS - Spanish heath, gorse

Fingal area - including parks and nature strips – various weeds

Binalong Bay - Spanish heath, mirror bush, broom, thistles.

Environmental Weeds



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 know.

Prevention is the most cost effective weed control you can do, with quick action to eradicate new incursions.

Invasive grasses are a threat to agriculture and native flora – Some that are issues in our area include; serrated tussock, African love grass, gorse, Patersons curse, pampas, boneseed, capeweed and others. Do you have any of these on your property?

Crucial to staying on top of weeds is to be an active and responsible manager of your land. Be on the lookout for unusual plants, don't shy away from reporting them. Lock them down while checking if they are a problem plant and if they get out of control, plan to follow-up.

You can reduce the risk of weed incursions with good biosecurity and hygiene practices. For example, insist that machinery, people, and materials like soil, gravel, mulch and fodder coming on your land are clean, and leave clean.

Avoid getting new weeds and if you do, act quickly and surely to be rid of them again. Be quick and work with your neighbours and put the effort into controlling them.

Find out about invasive weeds at nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds.

Are you ready for the Festival of Wellbeing

The annual Festival of Wellbeing will return again to Break O'Day this year on Launceston Show Day, Thursday 6 October from 11am – 4pm.

The day is a celebration of wellbeing and community connection and will be held at the Bendigo Bank Community Stadium in Tully Street, St Helens. And

if you live in the Fingal Valley – there will also be a free bus.

Entry is Free. At the event you will find something for everyone with more than 50 interactive wellbeing spaces to inspire joy, and foster positive wellbeing mentally, spiritually and physically.

FESTIVAL of WELLBEING
THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER
11am - 4pm

10 am	Fingal IGA
10:20 am	St Marys Hotel
11 am	arrive Festival
4 pm	leave Festival
4:40 pm	St Marys Hotel
5 pm	Fingal IGA

Thanks to the Community Bus you can travel free to the Festival. **BOOKINGS REQUIRED**
Book your spot through Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House.

BOOK BUS HERE
6374 2344