

Next Council Meetings:
16 September and 21 October 2024 at 10am in the Council Chambers

From the General Manager - John Brown

What a challenging start to Spring we have just experienced. Many residents were likely woken by the ferocious wind storm that swept through late Sunday night and into the early hours of Monday morning. The strong winds shook their homes, leaving them to wonder if their buildings were sturdy enough to withstand the onslaught. Whilst communities across Tasmania are dealing with the destruction, distraction and inconvenience of these high winds and the Antarctic blast, communities further north, Sydney and above, have been experiencing weather hot enough to go and spend time at the beach soaking up balmy winter days. When these events happen we rely heavily on those front line services to deal with the damage that is experienced, none more so than TasNetworks who have the largest task of restoring power to the tens of thousands of homes which have been affected. Spare a thought for these teams who are out there at all hours of the night dealing with these problems and looking at the huge list of jobs still to be addressed. If you happen to see a team out there working, say thank you to them, don't have a go at them about how long it has been out, the work that they have ahead can be overwhelming. Naturally, we have received damage with lots of trees down affecting Council roads as well as the Mountain Bike Trail Network. Our teams will be working hard over the next few weeks to address the damage, so please be patient and show your appreciation for the work that our works teams are doing to sort things out. I actually really dislike the wind because nothing good ever comes of it, trees and other vegetation are destroyed and damaged. There is no upside as once the trees are gone they will take a long time to replace.

Scamander Shines Bright as No. 2 in Airbnb's Tiny Towns Guide!



Photo: Our beloved little coastal town of Scamander has been recognised as a tiny town to visit.

Scamander has just earned the impressive No. 2 spot on Airbnb's Tiny Towns Guide, a list showcasing Australia's top 50 small towns with populations under 3,000. Airbnb's mission with this guide is to put tiny towns on the map and help them shine, and Scamander is definitely in the spotlight.

As part of this initiative, Airbnb is also supporting regional communities with five \$30,000 grants to local organisations. Scamander's own Surf Life Saving Club Inc. is among the lucky recipients, with plans to use the funds to support their operations, including rescue boat registrations—to ensure safety at our popular surfside destination.

Break O'Day Council's Mayor, Mick Tucker, is thrilled about Scamander's recognition and the grant. He shared, "Scamander is well known for its surf breaks, river, and ocean fishing, making it the perfect spot for families, kayakers,

and paddle boarders, especially during the summer. It's fantastic to see our community highlighted in this project. Scamander is a special coastal hamlet, and I know this support for our Surf Life Saving Club will help more people discover what makes our community so loved by locals, by supporting our volunteers who help keep locals and visitors safe, allowing them to enjoy some of Tasmania's iconic and pristine coastline."

Scamander's recognition in the Tiny Towns Guide is well-deserved, plus, Scamander is joined by seven other tiny towns from Tasmania on the list, highlighting Tassie's appeal.

So, whether you're a local or a visitor looking to explore something new or just want to see why Scamander is making waves, come see for yourself why our tiny town is making such a big splash!

Community Honours Vietnam Veterans' Day

This month, the community gathered to honour the sacrifice and service of those who fought in the Vietnam War. The conflict deeply affected our State, with around 17 Tasmanians among the 2,300 who served losing their lives. The service in St Helens was privileged to have Minister for Veterans' Affairs,

Guy Barnett, in attendance. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (East Coast Tas Sub-branch) for organising the event and to everyone who attended, paying a special tribute to the men and women who served our country.

East Coast Swans Under 14s win Grand Final



Photo: East Coast Swans- The under 14 boys with their coaches at UTAS Stadium.

In the opening game of the finals series, the East Coast Swans U12 Division 2 mixed team faced off against the reigning premiers, the Deloraine Kangaroos, under unexpectedly fine conditions. The Swans started strong, holding a 4-point lead at halftime. However, despite their solid performance, the Swans were narrowly defeated by the Kangaroos, who secured a 5-point victory. Goal kickers for the Swans were Levi Woods, Hamish Bean, and Max Pensini, each scoring once. In a thrilling finish that will be remembered for weeks to come, the East Coast Swans U14 Boys Division 2 team clinched a dramatic 1-point

victory over the Scottsdale Magpies. The Magpies initially built a 19-point lead in the first half, but the Swans showcased remarkable resilience with a stunning comeback in the third quarter, taking a 2-point lead into the final quarter. With only seconds remaining, the Swans secured their win. Goal kickers for the Swans were George Austin (2), Flynn Bidgood, Magnus Helsson, and Cooper Griffiths, with Tiberius Foley named best on ground. Despite challenging weather conditions and strong competition, the Swans' sportsmanship and determination shone through, making this one of the most exciting games of the season.

Help Protect Our Feathered Friends



Photo courtesy of Dr Woehler: Shore birds nesting.

As shorebird breeding season kicks off in September, it's a great time to consider how we can help these vulnerable birds. Species like hooded plovers, red capped plovers, little and fairy terns, and pied oystercatchers rely on Tasmania's beaches to breed, but their numbers are declining. Research shows that human disturbance is a major cause of the decline in shorebird breeding success. You will see seasonal signs at our beaches highlighting the breeding season and dog zones, which are crucial for protecting these birds. By making small changes in how you enjoy the beach, you can make a big difference for our shorebirds:

- Respect Dog Zones: Keep your dog on a lead in designated areas and avoid



Photo: These signs will be displayed at our beaches.. dog-prohibited zones.

- Stick to the Wet Sand: This simple act helps protect nesting birds and their eggs.
- Check the Signs: Beach access signs will guide you on the rules for each beach, and you can also use the displayed QR code to stay informed.

Parks and Council staff will also be patrolling the beaches regularly to ensure everyone is following the rules. Non-compliance can result in fines, so it's important to pay attention to the signs and respect the guidelines. Let's work together to protect our shorebirds and ensure their survival for future generations. Every small effort makes a difference!

IN BRIEF

2024 BUSHFIRE READY CHALLENGE

The new 2024 Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire-Ready Challenge is coming this Spring 2024!

Register now and receive weekly challenges across a 4 week program, helping your household plan and prepare for bushfire season!

Register at www.bushfire.tas.gov.au/bush.../bushfire-ready-challenge

Questions? Email community@fire.tas.gov.au

PREPARE FOR THE 3G NETWORK SWITCH OFF

Telstra and Optus are set to turn off their 3G networks on 28 October 2024. TPG Telecom (including Vodafone) has already switched off its 3G network, but some customers still need to upgrade their devices to ensure they can access emergency services like Triple Zero.

What You Need to Do

It's important to check if your devices are compatible with 4G and 5G networks. This includes mobile phones, personal medical alarms, smartwatches, and security systems. If your device only supports 3G or certain 4G models, you'll need to upgrade before the switch-off date.

You can check if your device is affected by texting '3' to 3498.

For more information or help with information and upgrades, visit www.3gclosure.com.au.

Affordable upgrade options are available, and there's no expected loss of coverage with the transition to improved 4G and 5G services.

Moving away from 3G will lead to improved 4G and 5G services, which are better suited for the online activities we all rely on, like video streaming. Get ready for the switch and stay connected!

LIVE STREAM COUNCIL MEETINGS

Be kept informed in the decision-making processes that shape our local community.

Residents interested can access live streams of meetings via our website www.bodc.tas.gov.au or subscribe to our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@BreakODayCouncilTAS Council's Facebook page will also post the link on the day.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Community Engagement Updates

Help Shape the Future of Break O'Day

We're running a community survey to gather your thoughts on how we can enhance our region. This is your chance to highlight what's working well and what could use some improvement. Whether it's boosting local business, education, or infrastructure, or sharing your thoughts on amenities and services, your feedback is invaluable.

This survey will directly help shape the Council's Economic Development Strategy, guiding efforts to create more job opportunities and enhance the quality of life in Break O'Day. Visit www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/community-consultation/ to take the survey.

Survey closes 6 September.

Join the 2024 Garage Sale Trail - Clear Out and Cash In

We're thrilled to announce that Council will be participating in the 2024 Garage Sale Trail, Australia's largest secondhand treasure hunt! The event spans two weekends, 9-10 and 16-17 November 2024, offering our community a chance to reduce waste and keep usable items out of landfill. Whether you're planning to declutter or you're on the hunt for hidden treasures, the Garage Sale Trail is a great way to get involved. It's free to participate, and you can choose to take part in one or both weekends. Sellers will receive tips, support, and promotional materials to ensure their sales are successful, while shoppers can save money and make sustainable purchases. Registrations open on 11 September, so stay tuned to our

Facebook page and website for more details.

In the past, Council has seen fantastic community involvement in the Garage Sale Trail, with a combined participation of nearly 2,000 residents as sellers or shoppers in 2018 and 2019. The average household made \$689 in 2018 and \$293 in 2019.

The Garage Sale Trail is a wonderful opportunity to make a positive environmental impact while also benefiting our community.

Remember, pre-loved is planet and pocket-friendly, so sign up to clear out and cash in or discover secondhand treasures waiting for you in Break O'Day!

For more information, visit www.garagesaletrail.com.au.

State Growth: Have your say - St Marys Pass

The Department of State Growth is investigating options to improve the connection between St Marys and the Tasman Highway. Options include improving the existing St Marys Pass and exploring alternative routes.

You are invited to have your say.

Scan the code to view the routes and give your feedback on their interactive map or visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/stmaryspass

Public consultation is open from Thursday 5 September to Wednesday 19 September 2024.

For more information email stmaryspass@stategrowth.tas.gov.au or phone 1800 864 200.



**"In a world where you can be anything,
be kind."
- Clare Pooley**

WHAT'S ON

St Helens Dog Agility Sundays 10-11am & 11-12pm

Starting 8 September, gentle dog agility training at the Dog Park area on Eagle/Young Street

\$10 for 4 week class.

Contact sthelensagility@gmail.com

Bee Keeping Workshop Saturday 7 & 14 September

FREE workshops in Hobart and Devonport focusing on Varroa mite management. Lunch and morning tea provided.

Visit www.ticketing.humanitix.com/tours/varroa-management-training

Bird Sounds Talk with Liz Znidersic Wednesday 11 September

Join Liz to hear her talk about the importance of bird sounds.

St Helens Library 10:30 - 11:30am

Book at Eventbrite or call St Helens Library on 6387 5600.

Spring Feast and Festival - Wednesday 18 September 4-7pm

FREE event hosted by St Helens & Fingal Neighbourhood Houses, featuring food vendors, live music, and kids' activities. Open to the whole community.

Community garden site at Eagle Street, St Helens

With One Voice Choir Tuesdays 5pm

Sing with With One Voice Break O'Day Community Choir at Falmouth Community Centre 18 Morrison Street, Falmouth.

Doors open at 5pm.

Buses run from Fingal and St Helens to Falmouth.

Phone 0417292414 to book a seat.

www.facebook.com/withonevoicebreakoday

Big Spring Sing Saturday 21 September 10-3pm

Big Spring Sing with Jane Christie-Johnston at the Bicheno Memorial Hall A one-day singing workshop.

\$60 or \$50 concession, morning tea and lunch included.

Call Geraldine 0417292414 to find out more.

Festival of George Weekend 4,5 & 6 October

Celebrate with craft beers, spirits, delicious food, and live music at the St Helens Foreshore.

Find out more at their Facebook page.

Festival of Wellbeing Thursday 10 October 11-4pm

A FREE wellbeing day with workshops, displays, goodie bags, food, and more.

Bendigo Bank Community Stadium, St Helens.

Free return bus from Fingal - book by 27 September on 6234 2344.

Information at www.wellbeingaction.org

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

- Bridge works at Binns Road and Clelands Road were undertaken during the Month.
- Medea St/ Circassian St junction upgrade in progress, with new kerb and channel laid and road sealing activity completed. Final stage of roundabout scheduled for completion in September.
- Recent Storm Event – Works crews in conjunction with local contractors and emergency service organisations have been busy removing fallen tree & debris from the road network. Upper Esk and Mathinna Plains areas were the worst affected parts of the municipality. Road damage thankfully has been minimal. The current focus is to clear roads and then later return to remove cut trees that have been pushed onto the road verges. Drivers are reminded to drive to the conditions and slowdown in affected storm damage areas. Speed restrictions have been placed on some roads – *please obey signage.*

WEED MANAGEMENT

- **Binalong Bay**
Mirror bush, broom
- **St Marys**
Spanish heath
- **Scamander WTS**
Caper spurge, thistles, various
- **St Helens**
Spanish heath

DOG STATISTICS 27/06/2024 - 04/08/2024

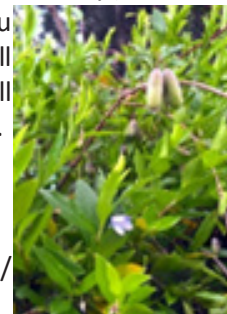
Urban Patrols =11
Beach Patrols = 11
Infringements = 0
Unregistered Dog =0
Impounded dogs = 0

Weed of the Month - bluebell creeper

"Environmental weeds" refers to invasive plants that compete with native species and harm local ecosystems. The bluebell creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*), originally from Western Australia, is a common garden plant that can easily escape into native bushlands. This climbing plant has tangled stems, narrow shiny leaves, and white or blue flowers, followed by berry-like fruits spread by birds. It's important to remove bluebell creeper now to prevent further spread. Small plants can be pulled out, while

larger ones should be dug up or treated with herbicide. Consider replacing it with a non-invasive alternative like the Tasmanian climbing blueberry (*Billardiera longiflora*), and if you keep the bluebell creeper, remove all fruit after flowering.

For more information please visit: www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species



Irapuna Community Weekend 2024: A Success in Conservation



Photo: Volunteers gather at the Irapuna coast line.

In August, 130 dedicated walkers came together for the annual Irapuna Community Weekend, covering 50 kilometres of the beautiful Irapuna coast from Wukalina / Mt. William National Park to The Gardens. Over four days, participants not only enjoyed the stunning scenery but also helped care for it.

A major highlight was the removal of over 13,000 sea spurge plants, an invasive weed threatening parts of the Bass Strait and northwest Tasmanian coasts. Thanks to years of hard work, there were fewer sea spurge plants this year, with some previously dense areas now completely clear.

The walkers also collected 476 pieces of marine debris, weighing 47.5 kilograms. Recent storms and beach erosion exposed more debris, which was swiftly gathered and removed.

This year's event shows great progress in controlling sea spurge, especially in remote areas that were once heavily affected. The combined efforts of the community have led to fewer invasive

plants and cleaner beaches.

The Irapuna Community Weekend was organised with support from Wildcare Friends of Irapuna Coast, Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Walking Co., Break O'Day Council, Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania, and Wildcare Tasmania. It was also part of National Science Week 2024, supported by Inspiring Australia with a Tasmanian National Science Week Engagement Grant for shuttle buses.



Photo: Volunteers clearing sea spurge.

This weekend demonstrated the power of community action and the positive impact we can make when we work together to protect and preserve our environment.