

Next Council Meetings:  
17 March and April 14 2025 at 10am in the Council Chambers

## From the General Manager - John Brown

The recent announcement that the Federal Government was providing funding for a Study Hub to be established in St Helens is a fantastic outcome resulting from a project that has been occurring over the last eight months with the support of a group of passionate locals. The project focussed on understanding the education, training and employment pathways which occur within the communities on the East Coast with a particular focus on secondary education. There are substantial barriers and challenges experienced by those wishing to pursue education beyond year 10 with a major one being access to the courses which they wish to pursue. Studying remotely isn't easy, particularly for our youth who have only ever experienced the classroom environment. Being able to pursue their tertiary and vocational education pathways locally at a study hub will really assist those looking to pursue further education whilst staying in their community. Initially starting in St Helens, the study hub approach will expand into the Fingal Valley and then down the East Coast. The St Helens hub located in Cecilia Street in Avery House should be open by the middle of this year, recruitment is currently underway for a Centre Manager. There is a lot of work to get this up and running over the next few months, it has the potential to be a 'game changer' for our community and will operate alongside the Jobs Hub, Break O'Day Employment Connect which is funded by the State Government.

## Sisters Name New Pumptrack "Wave Rider"



Photo: Ilah-Rose and Norah-Grace Brown at the new pumptrack at Flagstaff - named Wave Rider

The St Helens MTB Network's pumptrack now has an official name - Wave Rider!

The pumptrack was officially opened on Saturday, December 14, with a fun-filled community event that included a "Name the Pumptrack" competition. The response was fantastic, with lots of creative entries to choose from. After much thought, Wave Rider—submitted by sisters Ilah-Rose and Norah - Grace Brown—was crowned the winner!



Photo: The new pumptrack at Flagstaff

The name perfectly captures the energy of the pumptrack and the coastal vibe of the MTB network. "We had some brilliant suggestions, but Wave Rider stood out as the best representation of our network and its connection to the coast," said Mayor Mick Tucker.

Norah and Ilah's winning entry comes with prizes worth \$230, generously provided by Gravity Isle and Giant St Helens, our Trail Ambassadors.

The Wave Rider pumptrack is now open for riders of all ages and skill levels to enjoy this summer. Located at Flagstaff within the St Helens MTB Network, the site features ample parking, a welcoming café, and access to more than 70 km of trails.

With options ranging from beginner-friendly loops to advanced descents, there's something for everyone!

# A Blooming Success—St Helens Flower Show

The recent A Burst of Summer flower show was a wonderful community event, made possible by the hard work and dedication of President Sandra Flannery, the St Helens Garden Club, Show Secretary Peggy Bogar, and a team of hardworking volunteers. From organising entries to decorating the venue, their efforts created a beautiful and welcoming event. Council was pleased to support the show, with staff assisting in preparations and Deputy Mayor Kristi Chapple officially opening the event.



Photo: Mannequin made out of ferns and flowers



Photo Tribute: Long-time member Gaye Ellis

Special thanks to Charlie Smith for mentoring and judging, and to the many community members who contributed. A special tribute goes to Gaye Ellis, a long-time member of the Scamander Garden Club, who sadly passed away before she could judge the event. Events like these showcase the community spirit that makes Break O'Day special. Congratulations to all participants, winners, and everyone involved in a successful and vibrant celebration of local gardening talent!

## Illegal Dumping in BOD - Fines over \$1000

Recently, there have been incidents of illegal dumping in our local bushland areas. St Helens Police received a report of rubbish being dumped in the bushland of Scamander. Following an investigation, a 67-year-old man was identified as the alleged offender and has been issued an infringement notice for \$1,010. The man has also been directed to clean up the illegally dumped waste under the provisions of the Litter Act 2007. Should he fail to comply, he faces a maximum penalty of up to \$10,100. In another case, a 19-year-old man was caught dumping building rubbish in a

forest plantation near Beaumaris. He too has been fined \$1,010 for this violation. Council strongly encourages all residents to dispose of waste responsibly and to report any instances of illegal dumping. Not only does it harm the environment, but it also puts our community at risk of hefty fines. Be mindful of your surroundings and let's continue to care for the environment we all enjoy. For information on proper waste disposal or locations of Waste Transfer Stations in Break O'Day visit [www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste](http://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/waste)

## St Marys Multi-Purpose and Evacuation Centre Opening

We're celebrating the official opening of the new St Marys Multi-purpose and Evacuation Building. This space will be a huge asset for our community, providing a gym, cricket change rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and the ability to operate as an emergency evacuation centre when needed. We also contracted local artist, Mel Fidler to design a new sign for the building - and it is amazing, we look forward to showing it off.

To mark the occasion, we're holding an open day, and love for you to come along. It's a chance to see the new facility, meet others in the community, and enjoy some light refreshments. Join us Friday 14 March 12:30 – 2pm at St Marys Recreation Ground off Harefield Road St Marys (opposite the School). If you have any questions, give us a call on 6376 7900 or email [admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au)

# IN BRIEF

## BUILDING STRONGER TEAMS THROUGH EQUITABLE HIRING

*From your Break O'Day Access and Inclusion Committee*

To meet the different needs of businesses, we need diverse teams. A great way to achieve this is by making sure hiring is equitable and inclusive for everyone.

Equitable hiring means that all candidates get a fair go, no matter their background, gender, or other personal traits. The focus should be on skills and experience, not on things that don't affect a person's ability to do the job. When organisations hire equitably, they create a positive workplace, one that values respect, fresh ideas, and equal opportunities for everyone. This helps not only employees but also the growth and success of the whole business.

By reducing bias in recruitment, we can build stronger, more inclusive workplaces where everyone has the chance to succeed

### TASMANIA READS 2025

Discover or rediscover the joy of reading as Tasmania Reads returns from 23 to 29 March 2025! Libraries Tasmania, along with book-loving organisations across the state, will be celebrating the power of stories with a week of exciting events and activities. Tasmania Reads is an annual week-long celebration of books, stories, and reading in all forms. Across the state, libraries and community groups will be hosting exciting events and activities for all ages.

You're encouraged to take part this year, whether by attending a local event, borrowing a book, listening to a podcast, or exploring a new library program.

Events will be running across Tasmania so check out Events on Eventbrite or contact our local libraries to see what's happening. Some events may require registration, so be sure to book ahead! Join in and celebrate the magic of stories during Tasmania Reads 2025!



# HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you have a minute to share your thoughts with us?

## Reminder - Falmouth Toilet - Survey Still Open

Community consultation on the location of the Falmouth Toilet Block is still open and we would like to know where you think the new toilet block should go.

To have your say you can take our

survey by visiting [www.surveymonkey.com/r/SD8RHF9](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SD8RHF9)

You can find more information on this project including an FAQ on our website under My Community/ Community Engagement.

## Break O'Day residents save over 500 items from landfill

Break O'Day residents turned their unwanted items into cash on the annual Garage Sale Trail last November, generating more than \$3,000 and extending the life of over 500 pre-loved items, 42% of which would otherwise have gone to landfill.

Results of a recently released report by Garage Sale Trail and Taverner Research Group highlighted the outcomes of the waste reduction initiative made possible by Council. It showed a win-win for locals, with the average garage sale organiser taking home \$519 and shoppers saving money too with access to cheaper, secondhand products.

Mayor Mick Tucker said the research highlighted the local community's commitment to reduce waste

"Programs like Garage Sale Trail are important in shifting perceptions of secondhand and getting more people reusing items rather than sending them to landfill."

Across Break O'Day, an estimated 332 people participated in the two big weekends of garage sales as a shopper or a seller, which aims to provide a fun way for residents to reduce waste, make some money and get to know their neighbours.

Looking across the country, 297,792 Australians participated in the council-powered circular economy event, with over 755,261 pre-loved items sold and \$3.8 million generated for the economy.

With an 18% increase in the number of people shopping secondhand over the two big weekends, organisers say it's likely the rising cost of living is driving an increasing appetite for secondhand.

"More and more people are looking for ways to generate some extra cash or save money on everyday items. Buying and selling secondhand is one easy way we can all do this, whether it's hosting a garage sale or selling items online", said Barbara Gill, General Manager of Garage Sale Trail.

Locals keen to clear out and cash in can now register their interest in the 2025 event, which takes place on 8-9 & 15-16 November, at [www.garagesaletrail.com.au](http://www.garagesaletrail.com.au)



**2024 RESULTS**

Over 500 pre-loved items were re-homed, generating more than \$3000 for the local community.

## WHAT'S ON

### The Lighthouse - Every Wednesday

Serving the Break O'Day community, The Lighthouse is a safe place where you can enjoy a free cuppa, hot soup and roll, warm beanies and scarves or a friendly chat. Open every Wednesday, 11am-1pm at the Anglican Hall - 56 Cecilia Street, St Helens. Also, if you would like to help us help those in our community who are on a low income, homeless, or just struggling with providing nourishing meals for themselves or their families we welcome your support! Items can be dropped off every Wednesday between 11am-1pm and your welcome to stay for a cuppa.

### TAS READS WEEK

#### Todd Dudley – Nature Conservation Talk - Monday 24 March 10am – 11am

Todd will discuss nature conservation, focusing on landscape connectivity and the restorative continuum. He will explore how biodiversity can be supported, from urban landscaping to managing feral species in wilderness areas.

#### BYO book Club / Friday 28 March 10am – 11am

Love reading and sharing great book recommendations? Join our library staff for a fun, relaxed session where we'll chat about the books we've been enjoying. This is the perfect opportunity to discover new reads and expand your to-be-read list. Morning tea supplied.

#### Hazardous Waste FREE Collection Saturday 15 March

Dispose of old and unwanted household and garden chemicals from your home safely and for FREE. Bring your household hazardous waste to St Helens Waster Transfer Station between 1.30-4pm. Visit [www.circularnorth.org.au](http://www.circularnorth.org.au) to find out more.

#### Autumn Harvest Festival Friday 21 March

Make your way down to the festival to enjoy live music, children's activities, produce and more. FREE entry at St Helens Community Garden - Eagle Street 4-7pm..

#### Pride Garden Party Saturday 22 March

FREE entry 12-3pm at St Helens Community Garden, Eagle Street

Interactive games, snacks, music, facepainting and more.

Competitions to win prizes.

Contact St Helens Neighbourhood House for more information.

### 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

- **Town maintenance**  
Crews undertaking tree maintenance.
- **Cecilia Street bridge replacement**  
Work is underway.
- **Mangana Road reconstruction**  
Works now completed.
- **Argyle Street bridge Mangana replacement**  
Completed including approaches.
- **Fingal and Stieglitz playgrounds**  
Undergoing maintenance until mid-March.
- **Stormwater work**  
Undertaken at Talbot St Fingal.
- **Fingal pump track**  
Finishing touches. Completed by end of March.
- **Footpath extension - Grays Road**  
Underway.
- **Resheeting Ansons Bay Road**  
Started - 3-4 weeks to complete.



Photo: Fingal Pumptrack under construction



Photo: Mangana reconstruction works

**Keep up to date on Council activities and projects by joining our email database.**

Email  
[admin@bodc.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@bodc.tas.gov.au)

### DOG STATISTICS

January 2025

Urban Patrols = 7

Beach Patrols = 10

Infringements = 0

Unregistered Dog = 2

Impounded dogs = 3

## Weed of the month - Spanish heath

Spanish heath is one of Break O'Day's most serious invasive weeds. It is an early season flowering shrub carrying millions of tiny seeds by late winter. People often unwittingly spread the seeds in spring. Landowners are obliged to contain and control their Spanish heath and everyone can do their bit to reduce its spread. It requires well timed treatment to control and the next few months are the best. Start by planning your control strategy and take action this autumn. Spanish heath can be hand dug (roots and cut stems can re-sprout) or treated with herbicides (spraying or using the cut-stump method). Find and

treat isolated plants first and follow-up next season. Slashing dense patches can reduce seeding this season, but must be before flowering and is not sufficient for control. Do not mow or slash after flowering and be very 'hygienic' around Spanish heath. Handle any material with flowers very carefully. Get more detailed information via: [www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weed](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weed)



## Letter From Young Footballer Secures Goal Posts for Scamander

Junior footballer Skye Laycock has already left a lasting legacy in her hometown of Scamander. After writing to AFL Tasmania, her wish for goal posts be installed at the Scamander Sports Complex.

Skye first dreamt of goalposts in her town in 2023, when the Sports Complex held a meeting to ask kids what sporting equipment they'd like to see at the venue. "I love my footy and this is my second year playing AFLW with the East Coast Swans under 14 girls team. We are a fairly new team but there are lots of kids from Scamander who travel to St Helens and other areas for training and weekly games.

"I know of lots of kids who would use the goalposts. It would allow us to practice more often and help improve our kicking skills."

Skye's idea was supported by the Scamander Sports Complex, Break O Day Council and East Coast Swans FC.

Break O'Day Mayor Mick Tucker said it's a great result for the community.

"It is always great to see young people in our region standing up for their community! A lot of adults could learn from Skye's example, she has shown initiative, motivation and maturity beyond her years!

A set of goal posts have now been installed at the Scamander Sports Complex as a part of the Kicking Goals program, bringing Skye's vision to life.

AFL Tasmania's Anthony Osborn said it's an excellent outcome for Skye and the town.

"Skye is a fantastic representative for her community, harnessing her love for footy to create a legacy for Scamander.

"Like so many young Tasmanians, Skye is passionate about her footy, and it is a delight to know that these posts are going to support the football aspirations of her community for many years to come.

Bring your  
**Household  
Hazardous Waste**

**FREE & SAFE  
DISPOSAL**

**Break O'Day Council**

**St Helens Waste Transfer Station**  
Eagle Street, St Helens

**Sat 15 March 2025**

**1:30pm - 4:00pm**