

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

From the General Manager - John Brown

Our local communities have been buzzing with a range of events being held over the last month which celebrate the communities we live in. None of this would happen without the dedication and tireless efforts of those community members who give so freely of their time to make them happen. Council staff are in the thick of it during this time and a special thank you goes to our Community Services and Works Teams who are in the thick of providing support to our amazing volunteers. The pre-Christmas festivities kicked off the holiday period and brought a lot of joy to the younger members of our community as the excitement built to the big day. Over the last few weeks the event calendar has been packed with the Shark competition, Athletics Carnival, Flower Show, Dragon Boat event, Chopping Carnival and Australia Day Awards bringing people out to enjoy the activities which have been happening. Add to this the regular markets and the opening of the new Pump Track at the Flagstaff MTB Trailhead there has literally been something for everyone. If you haven't ventured up to the new pump track to test it out for yourself or just taken the kids up there for a go it is well worth a visit. There is a real mix of users from very young kids on balance bikes through to people on mountain bikes and then you throw in the scooters and the skateboards and you think this will be mayhem and a recipe for disaster. Instead they all make it work in a respectful way. Head up there and grab a coffee from the Café and watch the activity and enjoy a bit of time outdoors.

Celebrating Community Champions at the Australia Day Awards



Photo: Young Citizen of the Year Winner: Byron Johnson.

Council recently held the Australia Day Awards Celebration on Sunday, 26 January, at Portland Hall, St Helens, bringing the community together to honor this year's nominees. This year's Australia Day Ambassador was Vicki Purnell, whose tireless advocacy and community work have touched countless lives. Founder of the Bride's Blossoms and Blessings project, she has supported families experiencing loss and expanded her work to assist those with dementia, women facing cancer treatment, and residents of women's shelters. A gynecological cancer survivor, Vicki also raises awareness through the Survivors Teaching Students program. Her efforts have earned her the 2019 Local Hero for Tasmania title and an OAM in 2022. "It was a privilege to have Vicki as our Ambassador this year. Her work reminds us of the importance of compassion and advocacy. Her story is a testament to the impact one person can have and inspires us all," said Mayor Tucker.

At the event, Mayor Tucker and Vicki



Photo: Citizen of the Year: Cheryl Richards.

Purnell presented the Australia Day Awards to the following community champions:

Australia Day Citizen Awards: Australian Young Citizen of the Year Award – Byron Johnson

Byron has been an outstanding young volunteer for the East Coast Swans Football Club, demonstrating remarkable dedication and commitment. He is a role model and inspiration to his teammates, peers, and the wider community, showcasing the value and positive impact of young volunteers. Byron has taken his leadership and volunteering roles on with dedication and responsibility, setting a strong example for others.

Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award – Cheryl Richards

As a founder and life member of the St Helens Netball Association in 1978, Cheryl has played a pivotal role in building a vibrant local netball community. Her dedication goes far beyond netball, as she has volunteered across various areas of community sport.

CONTINUED OVER



Photo: Mayor's Special Award was presented to Andrea Cubitt.

Cheryl's support for people of all ages and circumstances reflects her exceptional character and the significant impact she has had on the community. Her countless contributions and tireless commitment to improving the lives of others make her truly deserving of this recognition.

This year, alongside the Australia Day Awards, we also presented the Mayor's Special Award and the Break O'Day Municipal Excellence Award.

Mayor's Special Award - Andrea Cubitt

Andrea is a dedicated volunteer who contributes tirelessly to every aspect of our community, always ready to lend a helping hand. For 21 years, she has been actively involved in numerous organisations, supporting the elderly, young people, veterans, and sporting clubs.

Break O'Day Municipal Excellence Awards - Bronwyn Gunner

Bronwyn often works behind the scenes and consistently encourages others to get involved and make a difference. Her



Photo: Break O'Day Municipal Excellence Award was presented to Bronwyn Gunner.

peers describe her as someone who prefers to stay out of the spotlight but is always ready to lend a helping hand. She inspires many and embodies the true spirit of community.

Mayor Tucker shared his admiration for the award recipients, saying:

"Our community is full of incredible individuals who dedicate their time, energy, and skills to make Break O'Day a wonderful place to live. These awards are an opportunity to say thank you and recognise their extraordinary efforts. Their selflessness helps shape our values and strengthens our community."

He added, "We thrive because of the way we support each other. Whether it's through volunteering, advocating, or simply lending a hand, every act of kindness helps weave the fabric of our community."

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees for their outstanding contributions.

IN BRIEF

COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY GRANTS ARE CLOSING SOON!

Council's Community Funding Program is available to support local groups looking to enhance facilities, create programs, or improve the amenity of their town.

All community groups that represent the ratepayers of their community are eligible to apply for funding.

Apply for funding by downloading the application form at www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/break-oday-community-grants or visit the Council Office.

Closes: Monday, 24 February 2025.

STAY HYDRATED: NEW WATER FOUNTAIN AT MEMORIAL PARK

Have you noticed the new Water Fountain outside memorial park? The new fountain features artwork from our region and includes a bottle refill as well as doggy bowl - even our furry pooches need to stay hydrated in summer!

Council has commenced installing another of these fountains at the Lions Park on the corner of St Helens Point Road and Tasman Highway.

Next year we will be installing another of these fountains at Fingal Park - once we have given the entire park a make-over.

Thanks to TasWater for their assistance with the installation.



"If you think you're too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."
- The Dalai Lama

Council Meeting Dates for 2025

A Council meeting is where the big decisions for Break O'Day are made by our elected members. These meetings are open to the public and livestreamed. Meetings are held monthly at 10am in the Council Chambers, so feel free to come along, listen in, or watch the livestream on our YouTube channel.

For more information visit our website www.bodc.tas.gov.au

Mondays:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 20 January | 17 February |
| 17 March | 14 April |
| 19 May | 16 June |
| 21 July | 18 August |
| 15 September | 20 October |
| 17 November | 15 December |

We will be posting advice on Council Meetings and how you can join the conversation on our Facebook page!

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

St Marys Exhibition Building FAQ Submissions Now Extended

The submissions date is now extended to 10 February 2025.

Council has heard from some members of the St Marys Community that they would like Council to consider keeping the Exhibition building at the St Marys Recreation Ground.

To ensure the community fully understands the building's condition, limitations, and associated costs, we have developed an FAQ and proposal questions. These questions allow you to formally share your vision,

ideas, and thoughts on the building's future management with Council. If you have an idea for the building, we encourage you to contribute by mailing a submission. Council values informed decision-making, and your input will help guide the process.

For more information about the building options and how to make a submission to Council, please visit the FAQ on the Community Engagement page of our website.

Bay of Fires Master Plan

The Bay of Fires Master Plan Community Consultation is open until early February 2025.

This project will create a roadmap to balance tourism growth with preserving the area's natural, scenic, and cultural values while also guiding future infrastructure investment. The Master Plan will help ensure that decisions by Council, the state government, the community, and investors align with a shared vision for the area. Given the increasing popularity of the Bay of Fires, it is crucial

to plan for sustainable development that protects local amenity while maximising economic benefits. Community input is vital—whether you live in, visit, or have an interest in the area, your feedback will shape the plan. To participate complete the survey via QR code or collect a hard copy from Council.

For details and to provide feedback during the project, visit www.bayoffiresmasterplan.org.



Community Engagement Updates

St Marys Art Project - Local Artist Has Been Contracted

Council has contracted a local artist, Mel Hoult (nee Fidler), to work with the Fingal Valley Community to develop signage for the brand new St Marys Multi-Purpose and Evacuation Building. We engaged with the community by holding a consultation session and online survey to hear your ideas. The survey closed 15 January with 11 people completing the online survey. Unfortunately no one from the community attended the consultation session. The feedback is

now with Mel who will incorporate the community's ideas into her artwork, to ensure it represents the Fingal Valley community. The artwork is expected to be installed in March. Council will be holding a community 'open' day on 14 March 2025 with all welcome - more information to come!

Thank you to everyone who provided valuable feedback. We appreciate your input.

More details on our website www.bodc.tas.gov.au/council/current-works-2/

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.

Conquering Skin Cancer Screening Thursday 13 February

Join the Conquering Skin Cancer campaign, a national initiative promoting sun safety, early detection, and melanoma prevention. Come along to this FREE screening at Easy Tiger, St Helens. More information will be available at www.conqueringcancercampaign.com

Free Mini Health Expos 19 & 20 February

Drop in and meet local health services, there will be giveaways, prizes and more...

Wednesday 19 February at Portland Hall St Helens and Thursday 20 February at St Marys Town Hall St Marys, 10am-3pm.

Free bus from Fingal for St Marys Expo.

For more information contact Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House on 6374 2344 or margaret.kossler@fvnh.org.au 0438 181 439

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 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..

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 Argyle Street Mangana** – bridge replacement in progress. A road bypass is provided, works expected to take two weeks to complete.
- **Road sealing program all areas** - Contractor to commence work 4 February. Works will continue through until mid-May. There may be periods of minor disruption to motorists. Council thanks you for your patience where this may occur.
- **Roadside slashing** is in progress, motorists are requested to adhere to the traffic warning signs and approach workers with caution.
- **Upper Scamander Road** - Council has arranged pavement works and surface grading on segments along the road. Works will commence from 3 February.



Photo: Working on the bridge replacement at Mangana.

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

Email
admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

DOG STATISTICS

01/12/24 - 31/12/24
 Urban Patrols = 4
 Beach Patrols = 17
 Infringements = 0
 Unregistered Dog = 0
 Impounded dogs = 0

Weed of the month - African boxthorn

African boxthorn is a tough woody weed with sparse small leaves guarded by dangerous sharp spines, which can get through the soles of shoes. Its white flowers are followed by bright orange-red berries which are spread by birds. It is often found where birds perch and roost, along fence lines, under trees, and rock out crops. African boxthorn displaces native vegetation, invades pastures and provides protective habitat for animals, including rabbits.

African boxthorn is a Declared Pest in Tasmania and is found in numerous areas in the Break O'Day area.

Young plants can be pulled or dug; larger

ones require mechanical help.

Herbicides can be used, but its toughness and light leaf cover mean follow-up treatment is needed. Cut and paint methods are often used but taking great care with the spines. Be sure to return and control any new seedlings and reshooting from roots.

www.nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds



Break O'Day Welcomes Regional University Study Hub in St Helens

Council is excited that the East Coast has been chosen as one of 10 locations for a new Regional University Study Hub with the initial focus being to establish a Hub in St Helens. This initiative will provide local students of all ages with better access to tertiary and vocational education without having to leave the East Coast.

Study Hubs offer essential support, including campus-style facilities and guidance, helping students succeed and gain qualifications that benefit both them and the community. Mayor Tucker called the hub a "game-changer" for the East Coast and Fingal Valley, making tertiary and vocational education more accessible for regional students.

Supported by the Tasmanian Government through the Eastern Strategic Regional Partnership, extensive work was undertaken to understand the nature and extent of need for a Study Hub to service the east coast of Tasmania. It will initially launch in St Helens, with plans to expand into the Fingal Valley and further down the East Coast as it grows. The Hub is expected to be operational by mid-2025.

Regional University Study Hubs have been proven to increase participation in higher education, particularly in key fields like health and education. Break O'Day Council looks forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure this initiative delivers lasting benefits.

2025
WELLBEING
CERTIFICATE
STARTS MARCH
6 WEEK Program

JOIN NOW

Got a great idea to grow good things in the community you love? Seed it now.

FREE FOR EVERYONE!



REGISTER HERE

Break O'Day Council

6376 7900 wellbeing@bodc.tas.gov.au
www.wellbeingaction.org/wellbeing-certificate

