

SeaSpeak

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY COUNCIL NEWS
WINTER 2025



Message from the Mayor

Welcome to this edition of Seaspeak.

The Pop-Up Community Connect sessions held right across the municipal area were an amazing success again this year and has proven to be the preferred way for residents, ratepayers and visitors alike to engage with councillors and staff in an informal manner. Numerous items of concern and some interesting concepts were put to officers and councillors present in the various towns. Council's community engagement team and senior officers will review the feedback over coming weeks for discussion on how to incorporate in our forward planning.

To provide a focus for the next two budgets of council, and to mark a turning point in council's financial stability, a plan has been developed and adopted to sharpen the focus of the organisation. Sitting under the Strategic Plan and above the Annual plan, a Half-term plan has been developed to better guide priority actions. This also assists council to adjust to an anticipated new requirement for the revised Local Government Act, where councils will be required to adopt a Term-plan. That is a plan for the actions that a new council (after elections) commits to implementing within its 4 year term of operation. The plan is available on council's website.

In early May, I announced that Mr Greg Ingham had resigned from his position as General Manager with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council. Greg was thanked for the work he did with Council during his tenure as General Manager and we wished him well for the future.

As a result, Council has commenced the recruitment process to find Greg's replacement. If you noticed the advertisement in the mainstream media, you may have seen a change of title to Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Whilst the title of General Manager is still recognised in the *Local Government Act 1993*, there has been a move across local government to re-badge the position to the more contemporary title of CEO. In the meantime, Peter Porch will continue to very capably undertake the role of Acting General Manager.

The 2025–2026 budget process has commenced with staff working through the various aspects of the budget and financing of same. Our goal is to continue to fund asset renewal at 100% and provide some funds for much needed new infrastructure whilst continuing to recognise the current cost of living pressures on our ratepayers. I am not confident that we have always delivered the correct message in relation to rates. It is important to note that if we look at a percentage increase in rates, it relates to the increase in *rate income* that we require to operate, not the actual rate increase on a particular property.

As I have mentioned before, Councillors cannot direct staff on any operational matter, but we can raise whatever might be concerning you. All Councillors can be contacted by email council@freycinet.tas.gov.au. Our individual contact details are shown in this publication.

Until next time, stay safe.

Cheryl Arnol
Mayor



Maria Island, Orford (Credit K Skeggs)



From the General Manager's desk

Eastern Partnership

Good things are happening at a strategic level with the "Eastern Strategic Regional Partnership". This is an initiative of the State Government involving GSBC, Break-O-Day Council, State Growth, East Coast Tourism Tasmania, Regional Development Australia and other agencies as necessary.

Actions progressing from this partnership include a number of funding commitments from the state towards infrastructure but also initiatives to support educational outcomes and employment prospects.

One project being funded under the partnership is the Positive Impact Plan for the coast as a whole, currently in development, and the Triabunna Tomorrow Marine Precinct Plan also presently under development. The Marine Precinct plan will coordinate and align the stakeholders for the imminent development of the Triabunna port area. Momentum is gathering to prepare for the expected increase in visitor numbers to Maria Island and this body of work will facilitate a unified approach, drawing on past concept design and current stakeholder requirements.

Pop-Ups and community consultation

Council is working through the information provided in the annual survey to adjust programs and priorities for alignment with community feedback. The survey enables council to chart its performance against past benchmarks and identify opportunities for improvement in service. It is pleasing to see progressive improvement in community perception of council performance.

Budget progress

Work continues in developing the budget for 2025–2026. In response to an invitation for information, Council received numerous submissions from community groups with an interest in improving facilities, to consider in the development of the capital works program proposed for 2025–2026. These have been included for consideration. Not all projects will fit within the limited funding however, many do and once the budget is adopted, officers will work with relevant community groups to progress

approved works.

Workshops

Workshops are an important part of council operations. They provide an opportunity for council and staff to engage on matters that require more background and detail than is possible to be conveyed in regular meetings of council. The lesser formality provides opportunity for dialogue between councilors and senior officers to more fully understand background and complexities. Matters considered at council workshops in the last quarter include:

- Council Governance
- Presentation by Spring Bay Suicide Prevention Network
- Presentation by Dementia Friendly Swansea and Beyond
- Planning matters coming before council
- Capital Program Workshop
- Spencer Street Triabunna Land
- Development Assessment Panel Bill background
- East Coast Tourism Presentation
- Long Term Financial Plan and Strategy Review
- GSBC Emergency Management Audit Report
- Private Works Policy
- Community Survey / Pop-up sessions
- Presentation and discussion from the Office of Local Government RE: Boundary Reform
- Risk Register Workshop – Presentation by WLF

Presentations from various organisations at workshops help to inform of community initiatives and needs. These needs may be met by council advocacy, facilitation of activities or small grants

Peter Porch
Acting General Manager

Rates Update

Just a reminder, all rates for the 2024–2025 year are now overdue.

To make payments easier, you can set up regular direct debit payments, forms can be downloaded from our website or contact council to have one sent out, pay online via BPAY, or in person at your local council office.

Ensure your payment is made on time to avoid late fees. If you're facing financial difficulty, contact the Rates Department to discuss support options.

Pension Remission

If you're eligible for pension remission for 2025–2026, please contact the Rates Department on 03 6256 4782.

If you received a remission last year, it should be applied automatically. New applicants or changes in ownership will need to apply. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our Rates Officer at rates@freycinet.tas.gov.au or phone 03 6256 4782.

Works Report

This last quarter has seen the welcome completion of the Coles Bay Hall Annex. A much improved facility which will serve the community well for many years.

Other works completed include the replacement of the Ferndale Road bridge near Bicheno. While the deck of the former bridge was in good condition, the piers supporting the deck were at the end of life. The new bridge was required to be longer meaning the old deck is awaiting re-use in an appropriate location.

The Triabunna Recreation Ground car park and entry has undergone a face lift with the donation of concrete panels to form the entry sides and a new crossover entry slab. Car park has also been upgraded to improve stormwater management.



Ferndale Bridge near Bicheno



Working on the Triabunna Recreation carpark



Before



After

New car park and entry to the Triabunna Recreation Ground

Recycling Vending Machine at Swansea Bark Mill Tavern and Bakery



Swansea now offers a Reverse Vending Machine to return specially marked bottles and containers at the Bark Mill Taven and Bakery, 96 Tasman Highway Swansea.

Scan the QR Code to find out more.







Have your say for Tasmania's Cats



The TassieCat Statewide Survey is Now Open!
Shape the future of responsible cat ownership across Tasmania.

TassieCat has been working for years to help keep Tasmania's cats safer, our communities stronger, and our unique wildlife thriving.

Now it's your turn to guide what comes next.

-  Survey open to all Tasmanians
-  Takes 10–15 minutes
-  Closes 15 June 2025
-  Open to cat owners and non-cat owners alike!



Your voice matters



Take the survey



**Your responses are completely anonymous. The survey is designed following the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. No personal information will be shared, and all data will be used only to inform future cat management initiatives in Tasmania.*

TassieCat is a state-wide initiative to promote and facilitate responsible cat ownership and management in Tasmania. The project is supported by Cradle Coast Authority NRM, NRM North and Ten Lives through funding from the Tasmanian Government.

The Antiques Roadshow comes to Tasmania

Marc Allum from the BBC's Antiques Roadshow visited Hobart earlier this year for an Arts National event. The East Coast Heritage Museum was invited to bring an object from our collection to discuss as part of this unique opportunity.

Marc Allum, a miscellaneous specialist on the UK version of the Antiques Roadshow since 1998, is a passionate 'collectaholic'. With his eclectic interests and his love of connecting audiences with the past through the stories behind quirky and unusual objects, he is a captivating and much-in-demand speaker.

The Museum volunteers and staff selected a whale ear bone from our collection, a truly intriguing object with a rich history. The ear bone is in the museum because it belonged to Louisa Ann Twamley (1812–1895), author and artist. Born in Birmingham, Louisa married her cousin Charles Meredith on 18 April 1839. The ear bone is believed to have been sent to her by Charles as an engagement present and was displayed throughout her life in her private collection.

Louisa Ann Meredith arrived in Oyster Bay in 1840, where Charles's father, George Meredith, owned 'Cambria', and the couple built a house they called Springvale on a neighbouring estate. In the following years, they moved several times until, in financial difficulties, Charles accepted an appointment as police magistrate at Port Sorell. After a few years, they moved back to 'Cambria' and in 1858 to Orford before settling at a new property near Buckland, which they called Twamley Farm. Charles was a member of the Legislative Assembly in 1860–1879, and from 1879, acting police magistrate in Launceston, where he died in 1880.

Louisa continued to write and sketch despite the many moves. In her books, she was a shrewd and cultivated observer of colonial life. Her descriptions, particularly those of domestic conditions and the natural



Whale ear bone c1830 (East Coast Heritage Museum Collection)

environment, have been praised by many as among the most dependable and practical and remain a valuable resource for social historians.

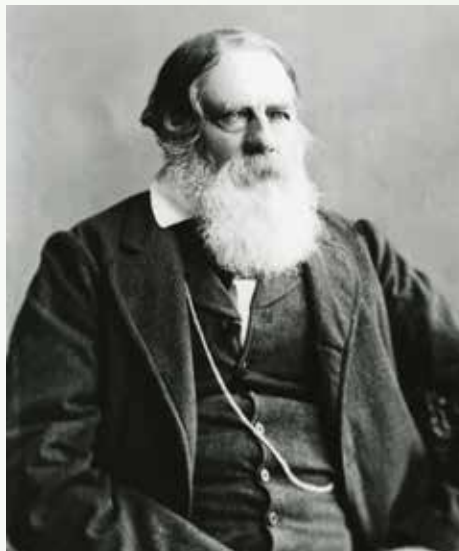
The East Coast Heritage Museum's collection, which includes a diverse range of historical objects, offers a fascinating journey through the rich heritage of the Glamorgan Spring Bay area. Previously loaned to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for their exhibition "The History of Tasmania in 10 Objects", the whale ear bone is on permanent display at the museum in Swansea.



Cambria homestead north of Swansea



Part of a painting by Louisa Anne Meredith



Charles Meredith (Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts)



Louisa Anne Meredith (Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society Inc.)



cohealth Community Update

It has been almost 20 months since cohealth, a not-for-profit provider of primary and community care services, commenced management of Bicheno and Triabunna medical practices on behalf of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council. In this time the cohealth team has been working hard to ensure the sustainability of the services. We have also been listening to community and considering the feedback you provide us on services in the region. In the coming weeks the cohealth clinics will be updating clinic noticeboards introducing "You Said, We Did" sections highlighting actions we have taken based on feedback from community. cohealth acknowledges that even within a small region there can be differences between community priorities and needs, our work in the region aims to reflect this.

Below are listed some of the actions we have taken based on feedback from across the region:

You Said	We Did
We want to be able to book online appointments	Introduced online appointment booking
We need better access to mental health care	Established a visiting face-to-face Psychiatry service
We want better information on locally available health services	Commenced publishing regular updates in local printed publications

Winter Vaccinations

With the colder months fast approaching, it is a good time to ensure you are up-to-date with all recommended vaccinations. In addition to the flu vaccine there are a number of other vaccines available that help to reduce the risk of respiratory infections. These vaccines include:

- **Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccines** (free for pregnant women and some infants)
- **Whooping cough vaccines** (free for pregnant women and children and teens as part of the immunisation schedule)
- **COVID-19 vaccines** (free for anyone over 18 or children >6 months of age with at risk conditions)

- **Pneumococcal vaccines** (free for children as part of the immunisation schedule, people with specific conditions, Aboriginal people over 50 and anyone over 70)

Vaccines funded through the national and state immunisations program are available at local medical practices and some pharmacies within the region.

<https://www.health.tas.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/government-funded-vaccines-and-eligibility>

Rainbow Tick Accreditation

All cohealth sites undertook Rainbow Tick Accreditation during the week of the 24th February 2025. This accreditation showcases cohealth's commitment to LGBTIQ+ inclusion and shows that cohealth is a safe, inclusive service. This was the first time the Bicheno and Triabunna practices undertook Rainbow Tick Accreditation. The assessors met with staff virtually for an interview and were given a virtual tour of the practices. The assessors gave great feedback to all practices, and we look forward to continuing to be an inclusive service.

PRACTICE OPENING HOURS

Bicheno General Practice – 03 6375 1455

Monday–Friday from 9:00am–5:00pm

Closed 1:00pm – 2:00pm weekdays for lunch.

The practice is closed on public holidays that coincide with the North of Tasmania.

Triabunna – East Coast Health – 03 6256 4747

Monday–Friday from 8:30am–4:00pm

Closed 12:00pm – 1:00pm weekdays for lunch.

The practice is closed on public holidays that coincide with the South of Tasmania.

Upcoming Public holiday closures

Both practices will be closed on 9 June 2025.

Another way to connect to Council!



Follow Glamorgan Spring Bay Council on Facebook. We post local information, jobs vacant, bin collection weeks and much more.

Scan the QR Code and follow us on Facebook >



Orford Sewerage Network Upgrade

Construction Update
April 2025



We are continuing to make significant progress on the Orford Sewerage Network Upgrade, which is on track for completion by early May 2025.

Once finished, this project will improve the performance and reliability of Orford's sewerage network, helping to reduce overflows, increasing infrastructure reliability and improving outcomes for the environment.

What we've achieved so far:

- **Pump stations complete** – Construction and commissioning of the new sewage pump stations at Prosser Bridge, The Hedge, Our Park, West Shelly, and Wade Bridge are now complete.
- **New pipeline installed** – A new sewer pipeline has been successfully built between the Orford Sewage Treatment Plant and Our Park Sewage Pump Station.
- **Restoring natural values** – We've planted grasses at Prosser Bridge and added shrubs and trees at The Hedge Sewage Pump Station site.

What's next:

- **Site remediation** – In April and early May, we'll continue remediating and tidying up all sites, including the access track along the Orford Foreshore near Wade Bridge and West Shelly Sewage Pump Stations.
- **Minor works** – Some minor works will continue into early May.

Our Park Sewage Pump Station Art Project – the votes are in!

The community has spoken – Concept 1 is the winning design for the new switch room at Our Park Sewage Pump Station. A big thank you to everyone who voted, shared ideas, and spread the word about this creative project!

Local artist Becski has completed painting the mural and we hope you like it as much we do! We have enjoyed working with Becski and the community to develop a design, which celebrates Orford life. Key features include water flowing in the river and bay, hillsides and island views, and the endemic animals and plants of the area.



Progress shots of the amazing artwork completed by Rebecca Adamczewski (Becski). Images courtesy of Rebecca Adamczewski

How did we do? Let us know in our survey

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the project.



Please take a moment to fill out our short survey by following this link: <https://taswater.co/OrfordProject> or by scanning the QR code.



Learn more:

Contact our Capital Engagement Team via email capitalprojects@taswater.com.au or phone 13 6992 or scan the QR code to visit our project website.



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Alternatively, if you are wishing to communicate with all Councillors please email: council@freycinet.tas.gov.au

eNotices >>> GO TO [GSBC.ENOTICES.COM.AU](https://gsbc.enotices.com.au)

SEE FRONT OF NOTICE FOR YOUR ENOTICE REFERENCE NUMBER

**Schedule a payment**

Schedule a date between today and the due date to pay your notice. Use a Visa, Mastercard, or EFT from your bank account and go to gsbc.enotices.com.au

Postal address change

You can request a change of address online at gsbc.tas.gov.au, by emailing admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au or by mailing Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, PO Box 6 Triabunna.

**Rates notice reprints**

Charges may apply for re-issuing of notices for previous financial years, please keep your notices for your records. To view and download your rates notice from 2019/20 onwards free of charge, sign up for eNotices at: gsbc.enotices.com.au

**Kerbside Bin Collection – Friendly Reminder**

We kindly remind all residents to place their kerbside bins out the night before collection day, or no later than 6:00am on the morning of collection.

Please avoid putting bins out several days early, as this increases the risk of them being blown over or damaged, which can result in litter being scattered. If you're away (such as shack owners), you might consider asking a friendly neighbour if they could assist with putting your bins out at the appropriate time.

In the event your bin is not collected due to unforeseen circumstances, such as a truck breakdown, please leave it out—our waste contractor will make every effort to collect it as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping keep our community clean and tidy!



For more information go to the council website or scan the QR code above.

Waste Transfer Stations – Winter Operating Hours/Days apply from April 2025 to October 2025

The following operating hours now apply from Monday 28 April 2025 – October 2025 at Orford, Swansea, Coles Bay, and Bicheno:

Open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Open: Sunday 10.00am – 2.00pm

Closed: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Eftpos is available at all Waste Transfer Stations.

The Orford Waste Transfer Station and others may close with limited notice due to adverse weather conditions (such as excessive wind gusts), for the safety of customers.

BUILDERS WASTE IS NOT ACCEPTED AT ANY OF GLAMORGAN SPRING BAYS WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS.

Contacting Council

📍 9 Melbourne Street (PO Box 6), Triabunna, TAS 7190

☎ (03) 6256 4777

📠 (03) 6256 4774

@ admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au

🌐 www.gsbc.tas.gov.au

📺 **Glamorgan Spring Bay Council**

Please note: As a Local Government Authority, Councils are required under the *Archives Act* and the *Local Government Act* to keep accurate records of Council business. Any records created, received or sent in an official capacity as a Councillor are part of Council's public record and hence a State record. Any email or other correspondence to Councillors may be viewed, copied and retained by Council.