

# SeaSpeak



GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY COUNCIL NEWS  
SUMMER 2022/2023



## Lest We Forget

At 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1918 the WW1 Western front fell silent signalling the end of WW1. This date was adopted as a day of remembrance a time to recognise and remember all those who have lost their lives or suffered in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

At 11am, we pause for one minute to honour and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country.

Remembrance Day was hosted in townships across the Glamorgan Spring Bay area. The Minister of Veterans Affairs, Guy Barnett attended the service held in Triabunna. Master of Ceremonies for the event was Mayor Cheryl Arnol, who was donning her RSL hat. On the day, live music was performed by the wonderful Maria Voices. Councillor Robert Young laid a lovely native wreath on behalf of the Glamorgan Spring Bay community, and the students from the local schools were present and participating in the day.



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR

Welcome to the summer edition of Seaspeak. It is my privilege to be writing this article as Mayor.

The 2022 – 2026 Councillors all attended the Declaration of Office ceremony in early November. With the support of the community, Council welcomed back to the Chamber Michael Symons, Jenny Woods, Rob Churchill and Robert Young as well as three new faces in Neil (Teddy) Edwards, Greg Luck and Carole McQueeney. Michael Symons is the Deputy Mayor for this term of Council. The eight Councillors bring a diverse range of local government experience, professional and life experiences to the Chamber that can only be of assistance to Council and the community going forward. By the time you read this, the elected members will have participated in an extensive induction program that will deal with their roles and responsibilities as a Councillor, legislation, Code of Conduct, planning authority responsibilities and the myriad of other local government legislation. In my extended time on Council, such an extensive induction is a first for this Council and one that will be welcomed by all given that most of us are elected to Council and thrown in the quagmire that is local government with little or no introduction in the early days following an election. The General Manager is to be congratulated for this initiative.

It is the intention of Council to continue the Community Connect Sessions that were established during the last Council. In addition, all Councillors have indicated a willingness to participate in open and transparent communication across the municipal area. I encourage anyone who has a grievance or issue with Council to speak to your preferred Councillor on any matter. Please bear

in mind that Councillors are not elected for their particular area but rather for the whole of the municipal area. If you have a matter you would particularly like dealt with in a Community Connect please get in touch! You will find our contact details on the Council website.

Council recently adopted the 2021/22 Annual Report. There is a good summary of the key issues on page 4 and 5 of the report that were dealt with throughout that reporting year. I encourage everyone to review the Annual Report and again if you have any questions or concerns then don't hesitate to ask.

Throughout the past year or so, the Council has achieved major milestones in relation to the Performance Improvement Direction that was issued by the Minister for Local Government. We are delighted that the Minister has now signed off on that achievement. What it means is that we have an up to date Long Term Financial Management Plan, Asset Management Plans and various other legislated plans and policies that we must abide by but more importantly those plans will guide our decision making over the next four years. There will be tough decisions to be made and not everyone is going to agree but please be assured that the Councillors in the Chamber are committed to making transparent and responsible decisions across the broad spectrum of Council activities.

Finally, on behalf of the new Council, I extend our thanks for the community support in entrusting us with the role of Councillor for the next 4 years and to all residents and ratepayers, please have a happy and safe festive season.

Cheryl Arnol  
Mayor



## Congratulations to the newly elected Glamorgan Spring Bay Council!

Councillors have an important role with responsibilities to the functioning of council and to the wider community. Councillors are democratically elected by the residents and ratepayers of the municipality. Glamorgan Spring Bay Council is made up of 8 Councillors, including a Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors are responsible for reviewing, debating and making decisions about issues that are brought before council. Councillors swear an oath to carry out this role impartially, to the best of their ability, and in the best interests of the community.

Councils are busy and diverse entities. Whilst the provision of infrastructure and others services are critically important functions of Councils, gone are the days of Councils only being about roads, rates and rubbish.

Each council acts as a planning authority for their municipality. In this role, Councillors consider development applications and make administrative decisions that are based on the council's planning scheme and guided by the overarching Tasmanian Planning Scheme. While councillors are obliged to consider the community views, this does not mean they can vote in favour of those views while fulfilling the role of a planning authority.

Councillors must make planning decisions based on whether a planning application is consistent with the local planning scheme, even if members of the community object to the planning proposal.

The General Manager of council is the only staff member who is appointed by the elected council. General managers are responsible, under the Local Government Act for

managing council operations to implement the policies, plans, programs and decisions of council. They liaise with the Mayor, provide advice and reports to council, and help the council prepare and assess performance against strategic and annual plans.

Council employees carry out the day to day activities of the organisation. Staff have a wide variety of training and expertise to provide advice and ensure the delivery of council services and functions.

Governance refers to the framework or systems that enable an organisation to carry out its functions. It covers relationships, policies and procedure, as well as the mechanisms used to hold its people (councillors and staff) to account.

Good governance is critical for elected members and council staff to successfully fulfill their roles and responsibilities. Glamorgan Spring Bay Council recognises the importance of good governance and will continue the journey to ensure that we serve our community to the best of our ability.

On behalf of the team at Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, we look forward to working with the elected members over the next four years.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season!

Greg Ingham  
General Manager



Left to right: Cllr Robert Young, Cllr Carole McQueeney, Cllr Greg Luck, Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Cllr Neil Edwards, Cllr Jenny Woods, Deputy Mayor Michael Symons, Cllr Rob Churchill



## Our Volunteers

Over the past three months community volunteers from one of our local Landcare groups, Earth and Ocean Network (EON) have been weeding at Peggy's Point in Bicheno. EON volunteers have given more than 200 hours of their time to remove Sweet pittosporum, Mirror bush and other garden escapee weeds. Habitat creation and revegetation of a problematic grassed area near the break wall has also been undertaken.

As the Little Penguins have returned and are now occupying their nests, the weeding work has ceased to prevent disturbance to their nesting. The focus for council and EON volunteers in the coming months is to improve degraded



coastal areas by mulching and replanting native species to improve habitat for the Little Penguins.

Please be vigilant with restraining your pets in areas of penguin habitat.

The work and time given by all our very dedicated volunteers throughout the Municipality does not go unnoticed. We thank every volunteer for their commitment to the community and the work done to enhance the environment in which we reside.

## I'm a wet sand walker and I don't chase chicks

The shorebird breeding season began in September and will continue until March. You can help our East Coast shorebirds on all of our beaches this breeding season by walking or riding on the wet sand to avoid the upper parts of the beach where the shorebirds nest. Follow the Dog Management Policy directions. Dogs off lead can chase shorebirds, squash their eggs, and prevent parents and chicks from foraging for food at the water's edge. Cats also pose a threat to shorebirds, please desex your cat and prevent it from roaming. You may see temporary fences on some beaches. These indicate a nesting bird so please keep clear of the fence and ensure that no dogs enter the fenced off area. Recently while erecting temporary nest fences, it was disappointing to find a nest disturbed



and the eggs spilled out with dog paw prints surrounding. Please observe all signage when walking your dog, and if in doubt on the requirements of restraint, keep your dog on its lead. Please remember the Orford Bird Sanctuary at Raspins Beach is a dog prohibited area.



### Friend or Foe?

The Masked Lapwing isn't everyone's favorite bird. Its Latin name *Vanellus miles* gives a clue as to why – miles being Latin for soldier.

The conspicuous bird is native to Australia and common in our municipality. It spends most of its time on the ground searching for food such as insects and worms and has several distinctive calls.

But its most interesting feature is the spurs on its wings. Sometimes called the Spur winged Plover, the spurs are fearsome weapons in the plover's defence of its patch. Do not come between an adult bird and its chick(s) or eggs/nest.

This plover is not choosy as to its home location and has adapted well to human environments. It is prepared to make its nest on almost any stretch of open ground, including suburban parks and gardens, school ovals, and even supermarket carparks and traffic islands. The Masked Lapwing will vigorously defend its young or nest, using its spurs to good effect.

Like any good parent its trying to protect its family. The plover will first make a lot of noise if you are approaching chicks or eggs, and if you get too close, will attack with feet and spurs. Best to respect nature and give a wide berth.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ordinary meetings of Council are held at the Triabunna Council Offices typically on the fourth Tuesday of each month commencing at 2pm. Meetings are live streamed on [Council's YouTube channel](#) and members of the public are invited to register to attend the Council Meeting in person.

## UPCOMING COUNCIL DATES

- Tuesday 22 November 2022
- Tuesday 13 December 2022

The Council meetings for 2023 will be available on the Council website by 1 January 2023, scan the QR code to view the new dates.



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## Tongerlongeter

Australians love their war heroes, ANZAC's, Victoria Cross recipients and others are worthy of our highest virtues for their sacrifices. Even dissident heroes such as Ned Kelly are revered in some quarters.

Glamorgan Spring Bay was home to one of our greatest warriors. In Tasmania's Black War of 1823 – 31 an Aboriginal by the name of Tongerlongeter led a stunning resistance campaign against invading British soldiers and colonists. Leader of the Oyster Bay nation, he instilled dread throughout Tasmania's southeast region.

Tongerlongeter and many heroes of the Black War are



buried at the Wybalenna cemetery on Flinders Island. Admiration for warriors like Tongerlongeter has the potential to transcend race, culture and creed.

## Wye River fun

This sign amuses many drivers headed south across the Wye River on the Tasman highway north of Swansea. Someone has a sense of humour, and the sign has been let stand from the road controlling authority which is great to see.



## The way we were

In 1884 the *Buckland and Spring Bay Tiger and Eagle Extermination Society* was formed on the south-east coast. Members of the society paid a scale of rates (according to the number of sheep owned) and from this kitty £5 would be paid for each adult Thylacine and about half of that for each cub killed. The move to render the thylacine extinct was formalised in the Tasmanian Parliament.

The Thylacine did not survive but thankfully the Wedge-tailed Eagle did, and today, despite ongoing human impacts, its numbers are slowly recovering.



As a society we learn from the past. There are many farmers doing outstanding restoration and management of their farms. Positive conservation management is often billed as negative for farm economics. This is not necessarily the case. Conservation management leads to improved water quality for stock and assists in maintaining water availability during prolonged drought periods. The ongoing collaboration between farmers and scientists stands us in good stead as a community.

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## Works and Infrastructure

Summer brings visitors to our area and better weather (we hope) for maintenance and construction in civil works.

The unsealed road resheeting program has been completed and works continue on maintenance grading, weed control and roadside slashing programs across the council area.

Stormwater requests are increasing with continued wet weather. Drains are being checked and cleared of blockages like this one – a truck tyre lodged in the drain pipe.



Can you spot the drain? Almost fully blocked by a large tree growing alongside it for the last 50 years this drain will be replaced nearby to get water flowing again.

There are now four different roads with sections of collapsed road shoulder awaiting repairs. One on Wielangta Road, one on Sand River Road, Old Coach Road (below) and one on Rheban Road, all caused by soaked catchments and heavy rain events.



Wielangta Road repairs are scheduled for early in the new year and Sand River Road and Rheban Road will be subject to funding with grant funds being pursued in each case. The cost for the three projects is expected to be in the order of \$450,000 for these unbudgeted repairs.

### Swansea Main Street Project:

This project is underway with 150 metres of footpath



completed at the time of writing. Contractors started on the northern end near the school and with concrete in this section poured are measuring up handrail for along the highway. The project is on track for practical completion by the end of the year.

### Bicheno Gulch

Lodgment and assessment of the Development Application and project consultation review continues.

### Coles Bay Foreshore Walk

Redesign of the route to reflect the original concept is being developed to re-present for public consultation (November 2022).

### Bicheno Triangle

The project is now out for tender.

### Waste

After much networking in the market and phone call after phone call to try and get an available commercially viable contractor to shred our greenwaste, a contractor has been identified and engaged for a trial of greenwaste shredding at Orford.



While we would prefer to chip the material the options for doing so are in the order of half as much again in cost as the shredding option and present a range of logistical issues.

The material produced is generally quite coarse with 10-20% too big for mulch but perhaps good for BBQ's fire pots and wood heaters?

Council has been burning greenwaste to date at Orford, Swansea and Bicheno under short term Environmental protection notices and the Environmental Protection Agency won't allow this to continue indefinitely. Now that we have found a commercial option the licences will be reduced.

### Where do our greenwaste fees go to?

Greenwaste processing is not cheap. Burning is cheap but the environmental harm is well known and council must move on from that practice.

Green waste income 2021-22 and year to date:

Location	21/22 green waste income	22/23 first quarter income
Orford	\$11,258	\$3,260
Swansea	\$3,568	\$1,236
Bicheno	\$7,632	\$2,522
Coles Bay	\$4,552	\$700
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$27,010</b>	<b>\$7,718</b>
Projected income \$30,870		

Between Coles Bay, Orford, Bicheno and Swansea the mulching of green waste in one year will cost around \$110,000. This is a new cost to council's operating budget. The fees collected help but as you can see, there is still a deficit in the order of \$80,000 between the fees collected, and the costs for processing.

## Community Small Grants Program

The Council's Community Grants Program offers financial assistance up to the amount of \$1,000 and in-kind assistance support to not-for-profit community groups working to make the region a happier, more inclusive community. The groups that are wishing to obtain a grant must be able to demonstrate that the community-based program or event involves, engages, and provides benefit to the Glamorgan Spring Bay Community.

If you represent or know a community group that may benefit from accessing this assistance from the Council, please refer to the Small Community Grant policy to ensure that the eligibility for the assistance is met.

The policy and application can be accessed on the Council website on this link <https://gsbc.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/GSBC-Small-Grant-Policy.pdf> or you can scan the QR code.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Council on 03 6256 4777.



Coles Bay

## Subscribe to our newsletter!

Subscribe by visiting Council website [www.gsbc.tas.gov.au](http://www.gsbc.tas.gov.au) or emailing [community@freycinet.tas.gov.au](mailto:community@freycinet.tas.gov.au)

Save paper, get your Council newsletter emailed directly to you!



## Fire Abatements

Council's Fire Abatement Officers have commenced property inspections in the lead up to summer, in an attempt to reduce the potential risk of fire in our residential areas. This season will see our officers continuing to conduct these inspections well into the summer months and are likely to be ongoing into autumn.

Fire Abatement Notices are issued in accordance with Section 200 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, to those owners or occupiers whose properties they believe is, or is likely to be, a fire risk. Failure to comply with abatement notices will result in the land being compulsorily cleared at the owner's expense.

We ask that all owners or occupiers be proactive in identifying the potential fire risks on their own property and take steps to minimise these risks by removing potential fuel sources. Fuel sources can include long dry grass, dead trees, dry limbs, bark and dead leaf litter, etc. Long green grass has the potential to dry out quickly, becoming a risk. Vacant blocks of land within residential areas should be regularly monitored and maintained by landowners so as not to become a fire risk to themselves and other property owners.

Green waste can be deposited at Council's Waste Transfer Stations, fees and limits do apply. Please refer to our website or phone 03 6256 4777 for further information.

Please refer to the Tasmania Fire Service website [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au) or phone 1800 000 699 for further information on Fire Bans, Fire Permits and Registered Burns.

### Fire Permit Periods

The Tasmania Fire Service may declare a Fire Permit Period for all or parts of the State when the danger of bushfire is considered high. This is to coordinate and monitor controlled burning of vegetation and minimise the risk of fire spreading.

During the Fire Permit Period, fires are not banned but are allowed where there are good opportunities to safely use fire for land

management purposes. However, conditions are placed on the use of certain fires in the open.

Permit periods are usually in force during the dry summer period from November to March although this will vary from year to year depending on the dryness of the vegetation and the fire danger.

### When do I need a fire permit?

You need a fire permit for the burning of vegetation at all times during a declared Fire Permit Period regardless of the weather conditions. You do not need a permit for barbecues, campfires or incinerators provided you comply with the conditions associated with their use. To get a permit you simply have to contact your local Fire Permit Officer (permits are free).

### What's in a fire permit?

Your permit will contain conditions to increase the safety of the fire. You may only be allowed to burn during specified weather and with certain equipment available. You will need to notify the Tasmania Fire Service when you intend to light your fire and may also be required to notify your neighbours.

### How do I contact my local fire permit officer?

Call the Tasmania Fire Service on: freecall 1800 000 699

**Register the fire by calling freecall 1800 000 699**

By telling the Tasmania Fire Service about your fire you may help prevent false alarms.

### What happens if my fire gets out of control?

**Contact the Tasmania Fire Service by dialling triple zero 000 or if a TTY user call 106.**

This is the quickest way to get local assistance to bring your fire under control.

As long as you have met all the conditions on your permit and have taken all reasonable steps to keep the fire on your property, you will not be liable for any damage caused by the fire.

**Register fires  
by calling  
freecall  
1800 000 699**

**Contact  
Tasmania Fire  
Service by dialling  
000 or for a  
TTY user  
call 106**



## YOUR COUNCILLORS



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

## Operating Hours – Christmas and New Year

COUNCIL OFFICES

Council Offices will close at 12:00pm on Friday 23 December 2022 and will re-open on Tuesday 3 January 2023 at 9:00am.

WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

All Waste Transfer Stations will be CLOSED on Christmas Day. All other days remain unchanged.

Monday to Friday 2:30pm to 4:30pm • Saturday - Closed • Sunday 10:00am to 2:00pm • Open all public holidays – normal operating hours apply.

KERBSIDE COLLECTION

There will be no interruptions to kerbside collections over the Christmas/New Year period. Our contractors will be operating on all public holidays during this time.

TRIABUNNA & BICHENO MEDICAL CENTRES

The East Coast Medical Centres will close at 1:00pm Friday 23 December and will re-open on the 02 January with the following hours.

**Triabunna**

8:30am – 4:00pm

Closed between 12:00pm – 1:00pm for lunch

On Friday, 23 December 2022, both practices will close early at 1:00pm

**Bicheno**

9:00 am – 5:00pm

Closed between 1:00 – 2:00pm for lunch

SWANSEA HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Swansea Heritage Museum will be closed Monday 26 December, Tuesday 27 December and Monday 2 January 2023.



## STAY INFORMED ON ISSUES YOU CARE ABOUT

Did you know? that Council regularly uses email databases to directly communicate with our communities on a variety of issues.

We have databases for:

- Various Townships
- The Business Community
- Community Groups
- A Newsletter Database

We use these to share information about Council activities relevant to you and is one of the easiest ways for you to know what is happening in our area. If you would like to join one of our databases please email: [community@freycinet.tas.gov.au](mailto:community@freycinet.tas.gov.au) and advise which databases you would like to be on.

## CONTACTING COUNCIL

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🌐 [www.gsbc.tas.gov.au](http://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.