



NEWSLETTER



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

16-18 Anne Street, George Town

T 03 6382 8800 | www.georgetown.tas.gov.au

Keep up to date  



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud

October 2023

Message from the Mayor

Cr Greg Kieser



Council hopes that you and your families have started to enjoy the lovely Spring weather; with warm weather on the horizon, we look forward to opening the Swimming Pool on Monday the 16th of October.

Over the past months, we have completed the repairs to the Weymouth breakwater wall, installed a new pedestrian crossing/hump at Low Head opposite Lagoon Beach, completed the George Town Rose Garden Cemetery Beautification works and undertaken resurfacing and drainage works at George Town Sports Complex Football and Cricket Grounds, to name a few.

Our George Town municipality youth have pleasantly surprised me, as I enjoyed attending the George Town Youth Impact Council's first mock Council meeting. It was an excellent opportunity for our local youth, who were enthusiastic and passionate. Their demonstration of professionalism and ability to debate important topics on behalf of the George Town municipality youth was thought-provoking and inspiring. I look forward to continuing to develop this strong partnership with the Youth Council and watching with enthusiasm as their ideas unfold.

You may have also seen two new residents along York Cove who have made George Town their new home – Seal and Pelican. Thank you to the former Placemaking Committee - the trio of metal sculptures are now complete. The Pelican is located on Elizabeth Street at the pier and fish cleaning station entrance, and the Seal's new home is at the end of Bathurst Street. The Penguins were installed in May and are along Low Head Road near the penguin rookery.

The metal sculptures were a project put forth by the former Placemaking Committee that aimed to enhance public spaces and the relationship between the environment, the community, and places by creatively recognising the local wildlife.

Back in August, Council officially adopted its 2023/2024 Annual Plan, which describes how we will invest in services and facilities that will benefit the municipality and illustrates our key actions that align with the 2020-2030 Strategic Plan.

Some budget highlights include the upgrade of the intersections on Dalrymple Road, the commencement of planning for the Aquatic Health & Wellbeing Centre, township character plans for coastal/rural areas, conducting a heritage study, a lawn Cemetery extension, repairs to Mt George Semaphore, Wild Tamar's commencement of rock climbing facilities, and more.

George Town Council and Councillor's would also like to congratulate the Hillwood Football Club Senior Men and George Town Football Club U18 Boys for making their respective Grand Finals. While both teams finished runners-up on the day, their matches were highly competitive with numerous momentum changes throughout the games. The players, coaches and support staff should be proud of their achievements this season. On behalf of Council - *congratulations and well done!*

Your Council is focused on building a better community for the entire municipality. I look forward to catching up with all of you this year to understand what initiatives you want to see for the municipality. I also look forward to sharing the Council's 2022/2023 Annual Report with everyone in November.



FIG makes a Community Impact!

The FIG (Future Impact Group) in George Town have been kicking goals with their various initiatives – Launchpad, Digital Warriors, Make George Town Yours and Our Futures projects! – proudly auspiced by the George Town Council. FIG is an all-inclusive, whole-of-community movement that is creating pathways towards a better life for the people of our municipality. The group came together several years ago as they identified a need in the community to speak as one voice. The community said they wanted change, and this required unique solutions and support so that everyone could thrive.

The following initiatives were implemented to achieve the wanted change – FIG is very proud of what has been achieved to date:

Launchpad has had an exciting past few months with the successful delivery of the Launch into Employment Program with local job seekers, resulting in employment, training, and volunteering outcomes. Last month, 14 community members commenced studying Certificate III in Individual Support (Aging and Disability) training at Launchpad. This is the first time this dual qualification has been offered locally with aged and disability employers embracing the opportunity to be involved, providing work placement opportunities and recruiting participants – with one person employed on the first training day.

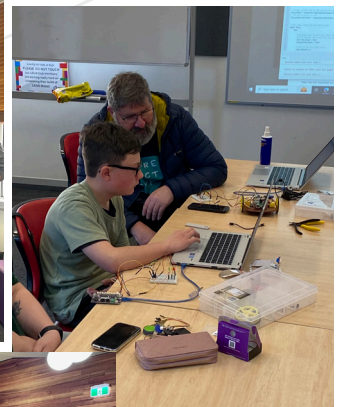
Digital Warriors Tutor – David has become a regular visitor at Ainslie House, providing individualised digital support for the residents – varying from teaching how to use Zoom to communicate with family to increasing the text size on their mobile phones. David has also been working with a group of community members to build their very own robot. They are learning about 3D printing, electronics, and programming!

Make George Town Yours are starting to reap the rewards of many months of volunteering time and effort with the installation of the Entry (Art) Statement, Planter Boxes and Parklets occurring soon. These projects are part of a strategy to improve the look and feel of the Macquarie Street Precinct and increase community pride! Watch this space as there are more exciting projects in the pipeline.

Our Futures - On the 6th of September, the George Town Youth Impact Council conducted their first mock Council meeting. During this mock Council meeting, seven youths were assigned roles and scripts were provided to understand better the various rules and requirements of managing and partaking in meetings of Council. Seven motions were put forth and successfully moved, and three questions were raised from the public gallery during Public Question Time.

This mock Council meeting effectively introduced the George Town municipality youth to the roles and functions of Local Government and provided them with hands-on meeting experiences.

The FIG Website has also gone live – check it out at www.futureimpactgroup.org.au



George Town
**Youth Impact
COUNCIL**

Capital Works Update

During the recently completed NTFA Finals Series, the George Town football ground hosted Preliminary Finals for both the NTFA Premier and Division 1 competitions. The matches included eleven different clubs across two weekends, with an estimated three thousand spectators visiting the region. The feedback from the NTFA and all of the clubs involved has been overwhelmingly positive. The surface and facilities are now recognised by AFL Tasmania as some of the best in Tasmania.

In October, Council allocated additional funds to renovate the playing surface at the Hillwood Football Club. These works will occur in the coming months to ensure the ground is ready for the upcoming season.

The George Town cricket ground is nearing completion in readiness for the season ahead. The George Town Cricket Club will be fielding three teams this summer. In addition to the surface reconstruction,

continued over...

Fire Hazard

George Town Council Officers will be undertaking assessments on vegetation and weeds that are overgrown or may contribute to a fire hazard.

The inspection of properties for fire hazards is undertaken throughout the municipality before the commencement of the fire danger season.

The property is assessed for fuel load, the type of vegetation, whether fire breaks are in place and being maintained, and the pending threat of neighbouring assets and properties. This is done to encourage landowners to proactively maintain the vegetation and reduce the fire risk on their properties.

Given the predicted dry summer, it is envisaged that the fire permit period will be declared earlier than it has been in previous years.

The inspections are focused primarily in and around residential areas. However, rural areas may also be inspected.

It is the responsibility of property owners to ensure their property remains fire hazard-free.

Please ensure your property remains mowed and cleared to avoid the issue of an abatement notice under Section 200 of the Local Government Act.

Where abatement notices are issued and not complied with (within the specified period), a Council contractor will remove the vegetation, and the costs will be passed onto the property owner.



Tasmanian Planning Scheme & Local Provision Schedule



George Town Council has recently transitioned to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and as such, some of the planning rules that apply to land use and development have changed. Any applications received will now be assessed against the provisions of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and George Town Local Provisions Schedule. A PDF copy of the planning scheme maps and Local Provision Schedule can be viewed on the Council's website along with a link to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. Electronic maps will be available via the Land Information System of Tasmania (LIST) after the 4th of October.

The transition to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme follows a long statutory process which commenced in 2015 when the State Planning Provisions came into effect. Information regarding State Planning Reforms can be viewed at:

<https://planningreform.tas.gov.au/planning-reforms-and-reviews>

The changes generally will not impact existing lawfully established use and development, but will be applied to any new development, change of use, or intensification of use. If you have any questions regarding how the changes impact your property or if you are looking to do any development in the near future, please feel free to contact one of our Town Planners or book an appointment by emailing: planning@georgetown.tas.gov.au

a new synthetic centre wicket and boundary fence are currently being installed. The cricket nets and practice area are being upgraded as well.

The Rotary Rose Garden at the George Town Cemetery was given a facelift. The Rotary Club of George Town generously donated new roses to replace the unhealthy roses and re-painted the gazebo. Works were also undertaken in the monumental/original section of the cemetery by planting new roses and general improvements and maintenance to the grounds.

The Weymouth Breakwater has now been completed. The Maritime and Safety Tasmania (MAST) funded project rectified damage that occurred during a severe weather event in 2016 that made it particularly difficult to navigate the boat ramp at low tide. More than 200 truckloads of rocks were used in the project.

Other completed projects include the pedestrian crossing at the Lagoon Beach Carpark entrance.





Ziggie

Ziggie the Facility and Ambassador Dog for Guide Dogs Tasmania, who spent over a year in the George Town municipality now has taken up a new role at the Peacock Centre in Hobart.

Ziggie is very missed at the George Town Council but congratulates Ziggie on her new role. She loves her new job, and will lie or sit near consumers so they can stroke her fur and give her a cuddle. Ziggie is also trained to get onto patients' beds, gently and with permission.

Ziggie brings warmth and joy to patients and staff alike.

Township Character Plans

Council has engaged REALM Studios to develop Township Character Plans for the coastal townships. The plans will consider plantings, public infrastructure, open spaces, public toilets/amenities, seating, signage, etc. Some features will be consistent across the townships; however, some aspects will be unique to the individual towns.

There will be a number of community consultation sessions, both in person and online, for people to engage in the process. The plans, once completed will help inform future budget allocations and state/federal grant applications. The plans are expected to be finalised by March 2024 and adopted by Council thereafter.

Heritage Study

Council will be carrying out a Heritage Study through a consultant to ascertain if there are existing properties of local heritage significance, which are currently unprotected. The study will inform Council regarding the need to adopt a Local Heritage Register under the planning scheme. This study will commence shortly.

Website Survey

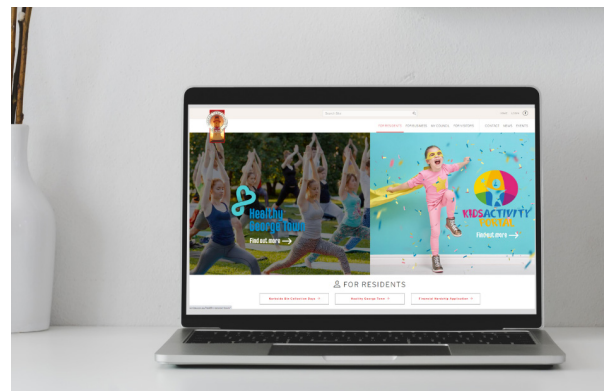
We want your feedback on the George Town Council website re-design.

As part of the George Town Council 2023/2024 adopted budget, an upgrade of the Council's website is a budget highlight and a much-needed resource. To better understand what our community would like to see in an upgraded website, we would appreciate it if you could please answer a couple of questions.

Scan the QR code to access the survey or head to Council's website for the link.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gtcwebsite23>



Healthy George Town Spring Program

Get fit in a fun and social environment for FREE!

Healthy George Town has released its Spring Program 2023.

The program runs from the start of October through to mid December with a range of activities, including:

- Armchair Exercises
- Cross Fitness
- Aqua Fitness & Therapy
- Yoga
- Jazzercise
- Pilates

All activities are free but bookings are essential for Aqua Fitness and Seniors Aqua Therapy.

For more information please contact Council on 6382 8800.

<https://healthy-george-town.eventbrite.com>



Key Dates/Information

FREE Hard and Green Waste Days

George Town - Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th of November
9:00am - 4:00pm
Mt George Road, George Town

Pipers River - Sunday 5th of November | 9:00am - 4:00pm
Parry's Road, Pipers River



George Town Seniors Concert

Thursday 19th of October | 1:30pm - 3:30pm
George Town Memorial Hall
Dance | Music | Afternoon Tea

<https://gtseniorsconcert2023.eventbrite.com.au>

New Years Eve Extravaganza

Sunday 31st of December 2023 | 5:30pm - Midnight

<https://www.gtnh.org.au/new-years-eve>

Tamar Valley Folk Festival

January 19, 20 & 21 2024

<https://www.tamarvalleyfolkfestival.com/>

George Town Swimming Pool

Opens Monday 16th of October.

Weekdays

Morning: 6:00 am - 9:00 am
Afternoon: 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Weekends/Public Holidays
Day Time: 11:30 am to 6:30 pm

School Holidays

Morning: 6:00 am - 9:00 am
Afternoon: 11:30 am - 6:30 pm



Norfolk Sloop Anniversary

Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum
Saturday 4th of November



<https://bassandflindersmuseum.com.au/events/norfolk-sloop-anniversary>



SAVE THE DATE

Cultural Awareness Workshops

Save the Date: Friday 1st December
Facilitated by Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Christmas Carnival

Save the date: Friday 8th of December

Our newsletter is also available to view on our website www.georgetown.tas.gov.au

