

NEWSLETTER



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

16-18 Anne Street, George Town

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Keep up to date



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud

JANUARY 2024

Message from the Mayor

Cr Greg Kieser



Welcome
to 2024.
On behalf
of the Council,
I hope you and
your families had a
wonderful Christmas/
New Year.

As we start the new year, I reflect on what we have achieved as a community throughout 2023. In November, Council adopted the 2022/2023 Annual Report. This report demonstrated another year of great achievement as Council advances its Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030, with a vision for all in our community to be Proud, Progressive and Prosperous.

One major highlight was the launch of the much-anticipated George Town Art and Artisan Guild in the refurbished retail shop on Macquarie Street in May. Also, through funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Our Futures Program led by the Future Impact Group attracts excellent participation from our local youth, with projects such as Seagulls to Chips and the Youth Impact Council.

On the infrastructure front, we have undertaken significant projects such as resurfacing the Football and Cricket grounds at the George Town Sports Complex and Hillwood Football ground, repairing the breakwater boat ramp at Weymouth, Dalrymple and Industry Road intersection upgrade and beautification works at the George Town Cemetery, to name a few.

On the 1st of December, Council were honoured to host Her Excellency the Hon. Barbara Baker, the Governor of Tasmania, to the municipality. Her visit included South George Town Primary School, George Town Fire Station, George Town Seniors Centre (where Her Excellency unveiled the Country Women's Association Plaque), George Town Neighbourhood House, Port Dalrymple School & Trade Training Centre, George Town Sports Complex and the Low Head Community Garden. Her Excellency and partner Professor Chalmers enjoyed their time and mentioned how wonderful the hospitality they received was.

2024 brings some exciting new projects, which I cannot wait to share with the community. Council will be commencing the Dalrymple and The Glen Road Junction upgrade, Anzac Drive Carpark upgrade to

compliment the continuing works on the interior and exterior of the building, stage 2 of the George Town Cemetery upgrade, Trevor Street extension completion, continuing to repair the Baxter Road and Security Road bridges, as well as many other capital works.

We also look forward to starting the design process for the George Town Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre and engaging with the community about what this project will deliver.

As the warmer weather continues, I would like to encourage all residents to develop and review their bushfire plans. This plan can help you make important decisions before a bushfire could threaten your property. Being prepared can make it less stressful and may reduce the impact. It could save your life and the lives of those you love and care for.

Your Council is focused on building a better community for everyone and Council's roadshows are an avenue for you to have your say in 2024. I look forward to meeting with all of you this year to better understand what projects you would like to see delivered.



HAVE YOU MADE A BUSHFIRE PLAN?

Preparing a Bushfire Plan could save your life and the lives of those you love. Create a Bushfire Plan and protect what you value this bushfire season. Visit to create your Bushfire Plan: <https://bushfire.tas.gov.au/>

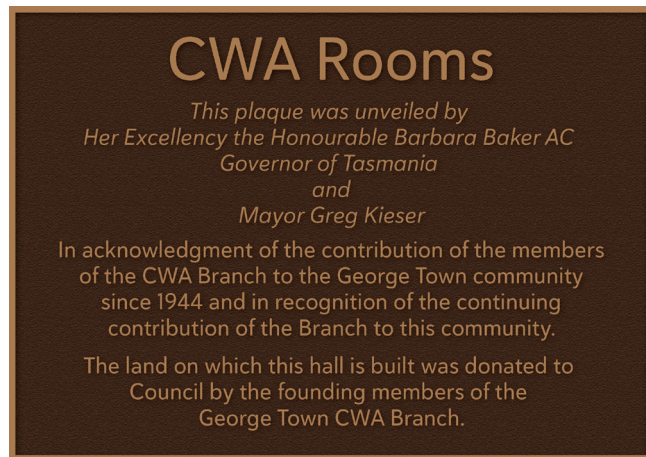


York Cove Centre

It was with pleasure that Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker, AC Governor of Tasmania, with Mayor Greg Kieser, unveiled a plaque in honour of the Country Women's Association (CWA) George Town Branch for their contribution to the George Town municipality on the 1st December 2023. Her Excellency, being the patron of the Country Women's Association, together with Professor Chalmers, was greeted by the CWA members and was provided with a sumptuous lunch after the unveiling.

The plaque acknowledged the founding members of the George Town CWA Branch's donation of land to Council to enable the building of the York Cove Centre. The York Cove Centre was built in the 1970's and the CWA have been holding their meetings there and continuing to provide support to the community.

The event was a meaningful and memorable occasion for all involved, and especially thank you to the CWA George Town Branch.



Christmas Carnival

On Friday, the 8th of December, we held our second Christmas Carnival; it was a wonderful celebration with family activities, music, food vans and market stalls. Thankfully, the rain held off for the Christmas Parade, but unfortunately, we all got a little wet during the Christmas Carols, but it didn't dampen our Christmas Spirit!

This year's Christmas Parade winners were:

- **Best Themed Float** – Southern Cross Care / Ainslie Low Head
- **Best Walking Entry** – Star of the Sea Catholic College
- **Most Entertaining** – George Town Hospital & Community Centre
- **Encouragement Award** – George Town Child & Family Learning Centre
- **Best Band** – City of Launceston RSL Pipes & Drums
- **Green Award** – The George Town Neighbourhood House

Thank you to Cr Mason, Cr Ashley and Deputy Mayor Cr Dawson for judging this year's parade and Ned Townsend for MCing the Christmas Carnival.

Fire Hazard

George Town Council Officers have been undertaking assessments and inspections of vegetation that is overgrown or may contribute to a fire hazard.

Properties are 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.

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.

Capital Works Update

GRANT/TENDER PROCESS STAGE

- **Glen Road and Dalrymple Road Junction** – The tender has been awarded for the upgrade of the junction, with work to begin in early 2024.
- **Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre** – Area schedules and cost plans are being developed, and the design tender is due to be released in May 2024.
- **kanamaluka Shared Pathway** – Council has received a grant to complete the remaining section of the kanamaluka Shared Pathway.

UNDERWAY

- **ANZAC Drive** – Works to the building are 40% complete; the tender for the carpark has been awarded, and the estimated completion is May 2024.
- **Anne Street, George Town Shared Pathway** – underway and is estimated to be completed in March 2024.
- **Trevor Street, Weymouth** – Construction of the new road base has been completed, and sealing is scheduled to occur in February 2024.

Food Safety Supervisor

The new food safety standard commenced nationwide on the 8th of December, 2023. Food Safety Supervisor requirements now apply to certain food businesses in Tasmania under a new, nationwide food safety law.

The Food Safety Supervisor (FSS) requirement applies to businesses who handle and sell food that is:

- unpackaged (at some stage while under the business' control)
- potentially hazardous (must be stored under temperature control for safety)
- ready-to-eat (does not need further processing, such as heating or cooling, before being consumed)
- sold directly to the customer (or another business) for immediate consumption.

Businesses that only handle food for (or at) a fundraising event are not required to have a Food Safety Supervisor.

All relevant businesses should by now have appointed or be in the process of appointing at least one Food Safety Supervisor for their business.

The Food Safety Supervisor is a person who:

- has recently been trained to recognise and manage food safety risks.
- can supervise other food handlers at the business.

Businesses that employ people who handle food but are not required to be the Food Safety Supervisor or businesses that are exempt from the requirements but handle food at fundraising events should ensure that their staff are trained in food safety. This can be achieved through one of several online food handling courses, such as Do Food Safely at <https://dofoodsafely.health.vic.gov.au/index.php/en/>

You can find out more regarding the Food Safety Supervisor requirements on the Department of Health website: www.health.tas.gov.au/food-safety-supervisor

FUTURE IMPACT GROUP - 2023 was a busy year for the Future Impact team! Projects included:

- 3 successful Launch into Employment Program's were delivered
- 15 youth graduated from the inaugural Seagulls to Chips Leadership Training Program
- Our Futures Youth Projects presented the 2023 Youth Voice Collection

Emergency Management Information

Tasmania, from time-to-time experiences bushfires, floods and other natural disasters that have major impacts on communities, the economy and the environment. Emergencies can happen at any time and can have a big effect on your life.

Communications during disaster periods are managed and monitored for relevance and are given top priority during any type of disaster event. Council disseminates information from authorised agents only. Regular, up to date, and accurate information is supplied during a disaster via social media, website and media alerts.

STAY INFORMED

- **TasAlert:** The Tasmanian Government's official emergency information source, including maps and current incidents in Tasmania.
- **ABC Radio:** Emergency Broadcasting 91.7FM

NEED ASSISTANCE DURING A FLOOD OR STORM

State Emergency Service (SES): Information about what SES do, resources, and how to get involved. Requests for assistance during flood or storm. Phone: 132 500

EMERGENCIES - CALL 000

Tasmania Police: Police Assistance Line for non emergencies 131 444

Ambulance Tasmania: Provide emergency ambulance care and transport services.

Tasmania Fire Service: Fire danger ratings, fire bans and permits, bushfire preparation, act & survive, bushfire ready neighbourhoods.

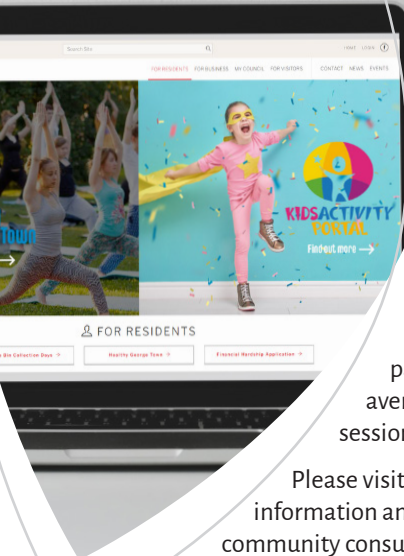
- Youth Impact Council was formed
- Digital Warriors facilitated robotic workshops
- Make George Town Yours saw the installation of the Macquarie Street Entry Statement and Planter Boxes plus the launch Business Grants.

For more information visit <https://futureimpactgroup.org.au/>

COMPLETED

- **Mountain Bike Trails** – Construction of all MTB trails are now completed. Final trails will open to the public when the last section of the shuttle road is completed in March 2024.
- **ya pulingina | Welcome sign** – sign has been installed. The backing plate and lighting are estimated to be completed by March 2024.
- **Hillwood Football Ground Renovation** – All drainage works and surface renovations have been completed.
- **Hillwood Football Club Changeroom Upgrade** - All works to new changerooms have been completed.
- **Pontoon Renewals** - works have been completed.
- **Bridge Safety Barrier Improvements** – renewal works have been completed.
- **York Cove to Mt George Shared Trail** – new trail has been completed.

Community Consultation



Council acknowledges that effective communication and engagement are essential when engaging in policy and strategy development, projects and infrastructure works.

We welcome the community's participation through various avenues such as surveys, drop in sessions.

Please visit our website for more information and to have your say on the current community consultation projects.

<https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/community-consultation/>



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

Hillwood Open Space Plan

As part of the Hillwood Structure Plan, George Town Council is developing a Hillwood Open Space Plan to provide a framework for open space and infrastructure provision to enhance the local community's liveability and inform future Council budget and advocacy efforts.

Township Character Plans

Council has engaged a consultant to provide a Township Character Plan, including an implementation guide for the coastal townships that includes plantings, bollards, seating, signage, landscaping, etc. Some features will be consistent across the townships, however there will also be some unique aspects relating to the individual town. The community consultation sessions were held in early December 2023.

Once implemented, the design will directly benefit the community as its Council intends to inject new vibrancy, security and amenities into the townships. This process has begun, and we predict completion around February/March 2024.

If you were unable to attend the sessions but would still like to participate, please visit our website to complete the survey.

Website Re-Design

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.

Heritage Study

Further details will be uploaded to the website early this year, however, please feel free to contact Council's Planning Department with any questions.

Coming soon....

- Urban Greening/Tree Strategy
- GIS Project
- Coastal Communities Drainage Assessment
- Strategic Asset Management

OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR CONSULTATION

SunCable Manufacturing

The SunCable team is looking forward to engaging with the community in the last week of January (Monday 29th of January – Friday 2nd February and again in March 2024). Please visit the SunCable Manufacturing website to find out more about the project and register your interest.

SunCable values your input, and all engagement dates and locations will be regularly updated on the website, ensuring you are well-informed every step of the way. In pursuit of valuable insights, SunCable will organise community information sessions and actively seeks dialogue with residents and businesses. Your feedback is important to us as we progress with the SunCable Manufacturing project.

George Town Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The George Town Health and Wellbeing Strategy project is currently underway, facilitated by Enable Health Consultants with input gathered through various engagement channels. The consultants have conducted an online survey, been present at a world cafe event, and held two workshops for community organisations to collect valuable insights on local health and wellbeing issues.

The collected data is now in the analysis phase, with the aim of a comprehensive strategy document by March-April 2024. The project is a collaborative approach, involving community members and organisations to ensure a holistic understanding of the diverse health needs within our community.

Key Dates/Information

FREE Hard and Green Waste Days

George Town - Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th of March
9:00am - 4:00pm
Mt George Road, George Town

Pipers River - Sunday 10th of March
Parry's Road, Pipers River

Tamar Valley Folk Festival

January 19, 20 & 21 2024

A weekend of concerts....
Concert in the Park,
Singing Sessions,
Workshops, Writers,
Poet, Breakfast, Music,
Market, Children's Circus, Choir and More!



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

George Town Swimming Pool

Weekdays

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

Weekends

Day Time: 11:30 am to 6:30 pm

Public Holidays and School Holidays

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

Australia Day - Friday 26th of January 2024

Civic Ceremony: 8:30am - 11:30am
Pool Party: 12:00pm - 4:00pm

Join us as our newest citizens make the Australian citizenship pledge of commitment. Ceremony starts at 8:30am followed by a breakfast at the Graham Fairless Centre.

Following our Australia Day Civic Ceremony we will be celebrating Australia Day with a Pool Party at the George Town Swimming Pool. There will be pool activities, laser tag for the kids, photo booth and live entertainment plus a special catered lunch and ice creams.

No ticket, no entry. Free tickets available from Monday 15th of January 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
BOOKINGS PLEASE SCAN THE QR
CODE OR VISIT COUNCIL'S WEBSITE.



SAVE THE DATE

Matthew Flinders 250th Birthday Weekend

16th & 17th of March 2024



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



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