

Newsletter



ABN 68 300 116 092

GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

16-18 Anne Street, George Town

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

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JANUARY 2023

Message from the Mayor

Cr Greg Kieser



Welcome to Council's first newsletter for 2023!

Council hopes that you and your families had a great Christmas period. Christmas brings so much joy to the world, and it was no different in George Town when the town witnessed its first-ever Christmas Carnival. An extravagant celebration including a parade, food vans, markets, carols, dance, music, and kid's activities saw a record number of people enjoy the festivities. It was great to see that Regent Square was opened to host this great community event that brought so many of residents of the George Town Municipality together.

Late October saw the outcome of the Local Government Elections with a new look George Town Council officially sworn in, in early November. I again want to thank all outgoing Councillors for their commitment to the George Town municipality over the last term of Council and I very much welcome the new Council particularly those Councillors who were elected for the first time – Councillors Winston Archer, Heather Ashley, Simone Lowe and Jason Orr.

December saw the opening of the lower Tippogoree Hills MTB Trail Network, complementing the existing Mount George trails to offer over 70km of riding to locals and tourists alike.

The lower section of the Tippogoree Hills trail includes over 21 trails offering 35 kms of riding, catering for all skill levels, including family-friendly beginner trails (Green Circle) at the trail head in Lauriston Park, longer beginner descents accessible via the shuttle service, and even an "extreme" (Double-black Diamond) trail.

The opening day saw an overflowing carpark and big smiles on the faces of those that rode.

The Wild Tamar Project, a branding and marketing campaign to promote the lesser-known soft adventure assets of our region, was launched in November and unequivocally highlights George Town as a one-stop adventure destination.

The Wild Tamar website brings together the soft adventure offerings of the North Tamar Region in conjunction with a targeted digital marketing campaign designed to increase visitation and support business attached

to those activities. The project focuses on six adventure categories – water sports, mountain biking, wildlife, fishing, diving (both sky and scuba!), and rock climbing.

Artisans Guild

The municipal area of George Town is home to a vast array of talented creatives producing fine art, wood work, metal work, textiles, ceramics, cultural artefacts and various other crafts. A number of art groups exist, however there is no independent entity that represents all artists or artisans or physical space within George Town to co-create, collaborate, socialise, exhibit and sell their creations.

The Artisans Guild initiative will provide the environment for creatives to thrive, share their knowledge and skills, provide pathways for developing and future artists and also add to.

The Artisans Guilds purpose is to provide:

- retail and gallery space for creatives to showcase and sell their products.
- a governance framework to achieve optimal operating model, independence and self-sustainable: and
- affordable spaces in the form of workshops and studios for local creatives to share skills, interests and socially engage while crafting their wares in a central location.

Council will be running workshops for all local artists, artisans and craftspeople, where we will explain everything you need to know in relation to the George Town Artisans Guild and take your questions.

Workshops commence on the 24th of January and bookings are essential, please contact Council if you wish to participate in these exciting workshops.

Your Council is focused on building a better community for our entire community. I look forward to meeting with all of you this year to better understand what projects you would like to see delivered.



Future Impact Group Launchpad



Towards the end of October 2022, the Launchpad project held a soft launch of their new dynamic communal space at the Macquarie Room, in George Town Memorial Hall. By dynamic, we mean vibrant, welcoming with the flexibility to meet a wide range of needs. The room is available to people and organisations involved in initiatives and activities that support employment, education, training and community engagement. Already, local service providers and community groups have taken advantage of the room and have embraced the informal and relaxed setting. Room set-up options include: Informal meetings; Formal meetings; Digital Lounge; Training room; Workshops; video conferencing; and Wi-Fi.

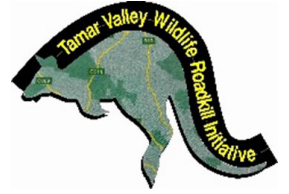
From mid-January 2023, the digital lounge will be open on Monday afternoons with digital devices available for people to use or learn to use. To make this experience as enjoyable as possible a digital tutor will be on hand to assist.

If you would like to take a look inside the Macquarie Room why not pop in to the room in the new year. Someone will be there to show you around. Alternatively, you can call the George Town Council Office (General Enquires) on T (03) 6382 8800 and ask to speak to someone from the Launchpad Team.

The Launchpad project is an initiative of the Future Impact Group who are currently auspiced by George Town Council. The project is funded by Jobs Tasmania.



Roadkill in Tasmania Night Driving



It's that time of the year again, warmer days and nights, animals coming out of their habitats and getting onto roads in larger numbers, more cars on the roads, tourists and night parties. All this leads to what we are now seeing an increase in the level of roadkill. Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary is so overwhelmed with incoming reports it can sometimes take several hours to get callouts to rescuers.

As we know injury and death to animals is much higher at this time of the year but animal/vehicle collisions also take their toll on people (sometimes loss of life) and property.

As we say repeatedly speed is the killer. Dawn to dusk is the most hazardous period. Recently driving back from a late night show I had an experience with a large Forester Kangaroo. Although driving at a normal speed limit I was distracted and forgot to drop my speed. The animal came racing out of the scrub and was at full speed by the time it hit the road. Fortunately I only hit the very end of his tail and the only damage was my pride and I guess its very sore tail.

Driving at night has given me an opportunity to make a number of observations. As well as the frequently published precautions of lowering your speed especially in known wildlife corridors, keeping your headlights on high beam lowering them at the approach of oncoming vehicles and dropping your speed at the same time, and keeping your eyes on what is happening at the side of the road are also important. One thing I would like to see become a common practice is motorists flicking their headlights to warn other drivers when they notice there is wildlife in the vicinity

I know there are a large number of people in our state that avoid going out at night because of the presence of wildlife on the roads but there is no need to be overly worried, don't be stay at homers. In wildlife corridors keep your speed down drop it by at least 10% and be alert and vigilant and please apart from being discourteous it is not helpful to honk drivers that are driving slowly at night to avoid an animal.

Contact us - Mobile : 0478947217

Email : tamarvalleyroadkillinitiative@gmail.com

Highly Successful Penguin Housing Project

The 2022/23 breeding season for Little Penguins at Low Head is well and truly underway, with the most recent monitoring of nest boxes in the colony in early October recording adults, adults with eggs, adults with small chicks and adults with large chicks all on the same visit. An additional 10 nest boxes have been installed in the colony in the last month - the COVID-19 response had delayed the installation of the nest boxes in the colony. A few nest boxes have been kept for a planned media event, in which the student contribution and involvement in the project will be highlighted.

There is no doubt as to the success of these efforts to install the nest boxes for the penguins at Low Head by the Friends of Low Head Penguin Colony, with the vast majority of nest boxes installed in the colony since April having been used almost immediately for moulting, resting

George Town Safety Committee

Welcome to the New Year!

The George Town Safety Committee has welcomed our new Chair, Cr Simone Lowe (who has been involved with the Committee since 2012) and Deputy Chair, Cr Heather Ashley.

Firstly, the Committee would like to thank outgoing Chair, Cr Heather Barwick, for her 10 years of dedication, including undertaking the role of Chair for the past 6 years and for her commitment to the Safety Committee. Her efforts have been greatly appreciated and we hope to continue with the good work across the George Town municipality communities.

It is that time of year again - children are on holiday and are out and about having fun on their bikes and scooters. Please be extra careful and watch out when driving around so that we all do our part to keep our children safe.

On that note, we are pleased to advise that crime statistics in George Town has decreased in the last few months but we must continue to make it difficult for criminal activity. Please do your bit and remember to lock your houses and cars – sadly, an unlocked shed or vehicle is an open invitation for things to go missing.

Since 1st August 2022, it is now a requirement that motorists slow down to 40km/h when passing not only emergency vehicles but also roadside assistance vehicles such as breakdown assistance or towing. On roads with a speed limit of 80km/h or less, this applies without exception. On roads over 80km/h you will need to slow down to 40km/h if it is safe to do so but you must slow down as much as you safely can. Remember – see red and blue, know what to do – now it's yellow too.

Finally, please remember to keep an eye out for your friends and neighbours as well as your family these holidays – not everyone has someone to look out for them and as a community we can all work together to make sure we are all safe.

We are all excited to be working together to keep George Town municipality safe in 2023 and beyond.

or breeding, or some combination of these activities. The Friends are to be congratulated for such a remarkably successful effort, and in particular, the rapid uptake of the nest boxes by the penguins. Clearly, the nest boxes are a big hit with the locals - the penguins are finding the nest boxes to their liking!

Picture: Nest boxes ready to be installed (Source - Kirstin Seaver – Tamar NRM)

Do your 5 minute Bushfire Plan now!

BUSHFIRE WHY RISK IT?

Spending as little as 5 minutes to prepare your Bushfire Plan can help you make important decisions before you could be threatened by a bushfire. 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. Don't wait until it's too late!



Bushfire Preparations Tips:

1. Do your 5 minute Bushfire Plan.
2. Talk about your Bushfire Plan with family, neighbours and friends
3. Clear your property and prepare an emergency kit.
4. Know when to leave and where to go.
5. Check ABC local radio, TASALERT (www.alert.tas.gov.au), TFS Website (fire.tas.gov.au) and TFS social media.
6. Monitor the weather (bom.gov.au) and know if a total fire ban is in place.



Healthy George Town

Most of us have new year's resolutions; being healthy and fit tops the list for most of us. The George Town Council takes the health and well-being of its residents seriously. So, we are delivering another Healthy George Town Program in the summer to help provide opportunities for all our residents.

The free-of-cost Healthy George Town programs this summer during the January-March period will include:

- Armchairs
- Cross Fitness
- Beach Yoga (Yes, It's BACK)
- Pilates
- Jazzercise
- Aqua Fitness



- Seniors Aqua Therapy
- Learn to Fish
- Mountain Biking

To register, you can visit the Council website or contact the Council office.

We cannot wait to have you back!



Meet Your New Council

On the 4th of November 2022 we officially swore in our new Council. We welcome back Mayor Greg Kieser, Cr Greg Dawson (as Deputy Mayor), Cr Winston Mason, Cr Heather Barwick and Cr Tim Harris and we welcome to Council for the first time Cr Simone Lowe, Cr Jason Orr, Cr Winston Archer and Cr Heather Ashley.

We wish the outgoing Councillors; Cr Dean Gibbons, Cr Andrew Michieletto, Cr Chris Barraclough and Cr Peter Parkes all the best and thank them for their contributions to Council during the last term.

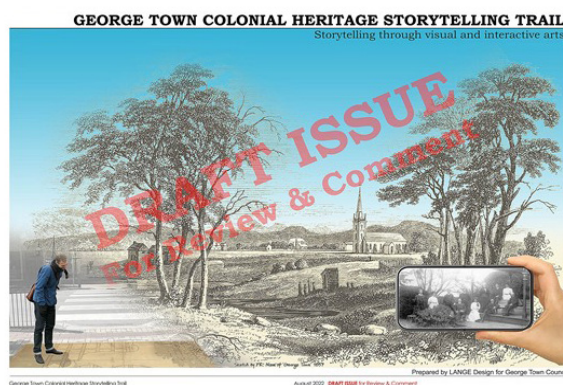


L to R : Cr Ashley, Deputy Mayor Cr Dawson, Director - Corporate and Community Cheryl Hyde, Cr Mason, Cr Orr, Mayor Kieser, Director - Organisation Performance, Strategy and Engagement Kristen Desmond, General Manager Shane Power, Cr Lowe and Cr Archer.

Absent: Cr Barwick, Cr Harris & Director Infrastructure & Development - Andrew McCarthy.

Community Consultation

George Town Colonial Heritage Storytelling Trail



Council invites community members to view and comment on a draft concept for a George Town Colonial Heritage Storytelling Trail. We are seeking feedback and comments on the Colonial Heritage Storytelling Trail concept.

The George Town Colonial Heritage Storytelling Trail aims to enlighten visitors about the town's colonial period, as George Town plays a significant role in the development of early Tasmania and Australia being the third settlement in the colony behind Hobart and Sydney.

A copy of the George Town Colonial Heritage Storytelling Trail can be found on Council's website and in hardcopy at the George Town Council Office in Anne Street.

Any feedback should be in writing and will be accepted until 5.00pm Monday the 6th of February 2023.

Key Dates/Information



Australia Day Thursday 26th January 2023

Civic Ceremony and Breakfast

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

FREE tickets available via Eventbrite or Council Reception.



Pool Party

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.

Time: 12:00pm - 4:00pm

No ticket, no entry.



FREE Hard and Green Waste Days

George Town Waste Transfer Station

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th of March 2023 | 9:00am - 4:00pm

Pipers River Waste Transfer Station

Sunday 12th of March 2023 | 9:00am - 4:00pm



The Future of Local Government Review

Local Government Review Reform Options Paper is open for consultation.

It can be found via the LGAT website www.lgat.tas.gov.au

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



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