



# GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

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## Merry Christmas

**2020 Christmas Parade** - What a wonderful evening, the sun was shining and the wind had eased! The parade kicked off at around 5:30pm on Friday 11th December with George Town Police followed by the members of the Green Beret and Junior Drumline of St Patrick's College Launceston. Our Mayor Greg Kieser was more than happy to MC the event.

We had a great turn out given the social distance requirements and our participants were more than eager to attend to spread some Christmas joy!

**The Float and Parade winners were:**

- **Best Themed Float – Combined Churches**
- **Best Walking Entry – South George Town and Star of Sea Schools**
- **Most Entertaining – Green Berets Drumline from St Patrick's College Launceston**
- **Encouragement Award – Lions Club**

**A combined TFS and SES entry won a new emergency services category.**

A big thank you to the TFS and SES for once again marshalling the event to keep it running smooth and safe for everyone.

We look forward to the 2021 Christmas Parade and once again we will be extending it to Windmill Point, a great opportunity for families to utilise the BBQ facilities and make a night of it! We look forward to welcoming back Carols by Candlelight in 2021! Head to our Facebook page for our photos from the night.

*Council offices will be closing at 1pm on Thursday December 24th, 2020 and will reopen on Monday January 4th, 2021 at 9am for the Christmas break.*

*Councillor's, Management and Staff wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.*

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# From the Mayor

As we head into the Christmas period I reflect with great pride on what we have achieved as a community and as a Council throughout 2020.

We were the first council in Tasmania to implement a COVID specific financial hardship policy and have been well recognised across the sector for our community programs and partnerships, in delivering everything from the Kids Activity Portal, provision of board games, laptops, digital devices and internet connectivity helping our community keep connected during this time of isolation (both young and old).

We have commenced a journey of reconciliation with our local Aboriginal community, and are excited to recognise and celebrate our cultural diversity across the community.

Our strong financial position allowed us to purchase the Old RSL building, giving a million-dollar asset back to the community and were then successful in working with the Future Impact Group to raise an additional \$1M to renovate and operate the facility.

Council gifted land to Catholic Care, providing 10 dwellings as affordable housing options for members of the George Town community. Council was also the first in Tasmania to commit to the development of Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Strategy. This commitment has been met with much enthusiasm from across the state with many agencies and councils looking to partner with George Town Council on this initiative.

We have honoured our commitment for better community engagement running roadshows across our community and coastal settlements. We are committed to continuing this in 2021 and beyond.

We worked very hard with State and Federal Governments to achieve the best outcome possible for TEMCO South32, and what a great outcome it was. We now welcome the GFG Alliance (Gupta Financial Group) to our community and look to continue our relationship.

We beat the drum and championed our capability in Bell Bay with the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone and were staggeringly successful on many levels.....from being called out in the National Hydrogen Strategy, Tasmanian Hydrogen Prospectus and Tasmanian Renewable Energy Plan. We managed to secure half a dozen exciting new tenants as well as a long queue of hydrogen proponents. I am pleased to say we had a productive meeting with the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister for Energy Angus Taylor and the Member for Bass Bridget Archer .....and let me say that our future is looking very bright indeed.

We commenced construction of our mountain bike trail as well as approved additional funding to build cycling and walking linking trails from the mountain bike hub to the Mt George trail network.

We signed off on the construction of the new East Beach All Abilities Recreation Area and have completed stage two of the Regent Square Playground with the balance of the \$2.45M Regent Square redevelopment to commence early in the New Year.

We completed new the football lights in partnership with the Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone, and are well advanced with the construction of new change room facilities at George Town Football Oval. Both football and cricket ovals at the George Town Sports Complex now have irrigation and drainage to create a better playing experience and allow us as part of our Sports and Recreation Strategy and Master Plan for the Sports Complex start the process of bringing competitive sports (both male and female) back to our municipality.

*Continued on page 3.*

## Meet your Councillors



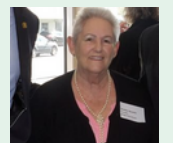
Mayor  
Cr. Greg Kieser



Deputy Mayor  
Cr. Tim Harris



Cr. Chris Barracough



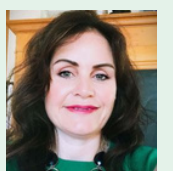
Cr. Heather Barwick



Cr. Greg Dawson



Cr. Winston Mason



Cr. Justine Brooks



Cr. Andrew Michieletto



Cr. Peter Parkes



The heating in our pool has been upgraded and we have built a \$70k kitchen in Weymouth Hall, and improved public health through the upgrade of waste management system in Bellingham and Lulworth. These achievements represent a great body of work throughout the year.

There is a common and resounding theme that permeates our discussions with representatives from all levels of government from both elected representatives and officers alike, from developers, private investors, industry representatives and our own community, the municipality of George Town is being noticed for all of the right reasons. There is air of optimism and a shared belief in a prosperous future for all of our community present and future.

As we say goodbye to 2020 and all its challenges, I wish everyone a safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Let's hope 2021 is back to business as usual and rewarding for us all.

**Cr Greg Kieser**  
**George Town Council Mayor**



## From the General Manager

Bring on Christmas and 2021!

I'm very much looking forward to spending Christmas at home here in George Town, enjoying the relaxed atmosphere, mild climate and the smiling faces of our community. Christmas is always a good time to reflect on the year past, and 2020 has certainly been one that is truly out of the box!

Through trials and tribulations we have much to celebrate having achieved so much. But most pleasing to me, is how our community has come together and shone in times adversity.

I am extremely proud of our staff who have done an incredible job in delivering all that has been put before them while responding to COVID-19 and producing sector first initiatives. I am also proud to be working with elected members who continue to demonstrate great leadership through COVID-19 and beyond.

But lets look forward... We have Regent Square redevelopment continuing throughout 2021 and will launch the first stage of the mountain bike trails in March. We will see the dormant East Beach site previously occupied by the Low Head Surf Life Saving club reactivated with an All Abilities Access Recreation Area. We will continue our work on reconciliation and preventive interventions to address domestic and sexual violence.

We will continue our work with the Future Impact Group and Beacon Foundation in developing placed based approaches for positive social change. We will continue our partnership with Northern Tasmania Development Corporation and Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone in achieving world class green hydrogen and synergy industries in our industrial precinct.

We will continue to add to our tourism offerings and look forward to increasing the profile and visitation of the Bass and Flinders Museum along with developing a greater arts, culture and events offerings.

2021 will be an amazing year. A year to enjoy reconnecting and socializing. We kick the year off with a number of Healthy George Town activities free to the community including kite flying, learn to swim and fishing programs.

Australia Day 2021 will be better than ever. We have great offering of food choices, entertainment and family friendly activities at the George Town Swimming Pool which will follow our Civic Ceremony welcoming our new citizens to our community. The theme this year is "This is our story" a time to Reflect, Respect and Celebrate. I hope to see as many of you at our Australia Day events as possible, representing all of our community, young, old and of all nationalities.

2021 will be time to celebrate and I hope to do so with you all.

**Shane Power**  
**General Manager**

# A Message from the George Town Community Safety Group Committee

A reminder to all motorists and pedestrians that children are on school holidays. Tricycles, bikes, skateboards, rollerblades, skates and scooters are all popular with kids. However, they are potentially dangerous. Most cycling injuries don't involve another vehicle, but occur when children fall off their bike after crashing into a pole, curb or fence. Bike helmets help reduce injury. Every child needs a helmet even if you are not riding on the road.

## Tips for Safe Cycling

- Ensure children under the age of ten are supervised with a responsible adult.
- Learn the road rules and teach your child/children for safe cycling practices near roads.
- Know the danger of the driveway.
- Crossing the road: scan by looking in all directions, listen and think if it is safe to cross the road.
- Children should avoid riding on busy streets and riding at night.
- Set a good example when riding with your children – it is required by law to wear an Australian standard helmet.



## George Town Placemaking Committee Bog Beautiful Project

The Placemaking Committee (PMC) BOG Beautiful Project will take place on Monday 4th January 2021 between 10am to 2pm at the Elizabeth Street toilet block (located near the pontoon), followed by other locations East Beach and Lagoon Beach later in the year. The aim of the Committee's projects is to enhance public spaces, in this case municipal toilet blocks, to strengthen the connection between people and places in the municipal area; coordinating and synergising with other placemakers, and consultation with key stakeholders in order to grow community pride, ownership and spirit.

The PMC are encouraging everyone in the community to join in on the project on 4th January and ask that participants observe COVID-19 social distancing requirements. Time slots will run for 30 – 60 minutes, depending on each participants availability. **To lodge your interest and availability please email [placemaking@georgetown.tas.gov.au](mailto:placemaking@georgetown.tas.gov.au)**



# George Town Council & Bell Bay Aluminium (Rio Tinto) COVID-19 Business Grants Recipients

George Town Council and Bell Bay Aluminium were pleased to announce in October the recipients of their Business Resilience, Recovery and Stimulus Grant Program designed to assist small to medium-sized businesses in the municipality recover from and adapt to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The A\$100,000 partnership between Bell Bay Aluminium and George Town Council is one of a number of major community investments the smelter supported in Northern Tasmania during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following an application and assessment process administered by the George Town Council, nine businesses secured grant funding which aims to stimulate economic growth, increase employment and offer professional support and assistance to help the municipality's business community return to normal operations as soon as possible.

- La Saliere
- Fanny's Bay Distillery
- Taste of Tam O'Shanter
- The Hair Parlor
- Latitude Wines T/A Delamere Vineyard
- Café 1069
- Low Head Tourist Park
- George Town Bowls Club
- Tasmanian Tamar Tourism Industry Group

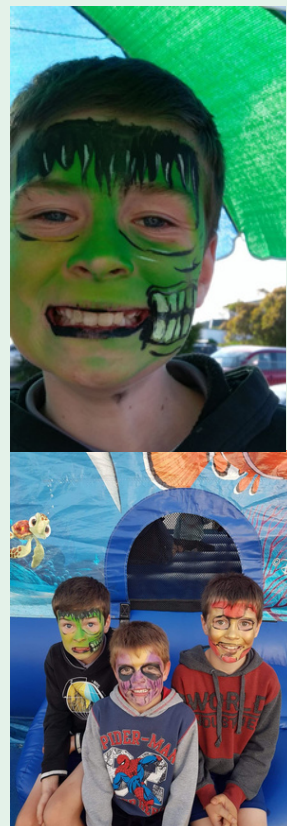
## COVID-19 Events Recovery Grant Program

### Weymouth Progress Association (WPA)

On the 31st of October 2020 the Weymouth Progress Association (WPA) held a community family fun day event after receiving funding through Council's COVID-19 Events Recovery Grants Program. The WPA wanted to make sure the residents of Weymouth and the surrounding community stayed connected and celebrated all that they had achieved during the pandemic.

The event included lots of activities, for the kids a bouncy castle and face painting. Coffee van, BBQ, buskers, and to make the event memorable artist Thomas Chandler painted the rear of the Tennis Court Shelter (with assistance from the locals), giving it a true sense of place.

They were entertained by Big Al, the musician, who really made the evening flow with his great song choice. There was a BBQ and mini cheese platters on offer, most people brought their own fold up chairs, which assisted with the COVID-19 rules.



# Mountain Bike Trail Development

## Construction Commences!

We were thrilled to see construction of the Mount George Trail Network commenced last week! The Trail Network comprises 20.8kms over 9 trails including a shared-use trail from the base of Mount George Road to the lookout carpark. The network is scheduled to be completed by the end of March, after which the trail builders, World Trail, will commence construction of the Tippogoree Hills Trail Network. We would like to remind everyone that the trails are formally a construction site, and entry is prohibited.

## Information Sessions

Council hosted public and business information sessions in early December which were well received. The business presentation included several special guests who discussed how local business can best capitalise on the mountain bike trail development. Due to popular request, we've made the presentations available on our website. Council will look at hosting additional session in the new year. If you would like more information, you can always call the Council Offices on 03 6382 8800.



# Regent Square Playground

Regent Square Playground Stage 2- Officially opened on Thursday 17th of December. The flying fox was given a workout by Bridget Archer MP Federal Member for Bass and George Town Council General Manager Shane Power. It's ready for school holidays and the festive season! Still a little bit of finishing off over the coming weeks but it looks amazing.



# Key Dates

- **18th December** - Macca Council's Canine Mascot 2nd Birthday
- **31st December** - New Years Eve Extravaganza - Crazy Duck & George Town Neighbourhood House
- **3rd January** - Artist Market - The Watch House Arts and Makers Market - Sorrell Street
- **4th January** - Beautiful Bog Project - Elizabeth Street
- **26th January** - Australia Day Civil Ceremony (8:30am) and Pool Party (12:00 - 3:00pm)
- **31st January** - RATES - 3rd Instalments
- **7th February** - Artist Market - The Watch House Arts and Makers Market - Sorrell Street
- **7th March** - Artist Market - The Watch House Arts and Makers Market - Sorrell Street

**Are you thinking of hosting an event?  
Here's what you need to know -**

**Event Application Form:**

<https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/event-planners-information/>

**COVID-19 Safety Requirements:**

[https://www.business.tas.gov.au/coronavirus\\_information/event\\_framework](https://www.business.tas.gov.au/coronavirus_information/event_framework)

**2021 dates for Kerbside Waste Collection now available via** <https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/>



## The dogz tailz- MACCA provides advice

### MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

Hi, MACCA here. Us dogs love food, especially the stuff that we should NOT eat, such as chocolate.

We know that our owners just love to give us treats, but even though we love them, they are not good for us – they do our digestive system no good whatsoever, and are not good for our long term health. The end results of a good over indulge are NOT PRETTY.

This reminds me to remind you to:

**SAVE THE SHOES & BAG THE POOS**



For further information, or clarification

Please contact Council on 03 63828800

or visit our website [www.georgetown.tas.gov.au](http://www.georgetown.tas.gov.au)

Please report any issues or advise us if doggy doo bag dispensers are empty.

# Cape Hope Foundation Invests \$40K in Healthy George Town



George Town Council is pleased to announce that the Cape Hope Foundation have partnered with George Town Council's Healthy George Town (HGT) initiative for the next two years.

George Town Council's Mayor Greg Kieser said "Council is thrilled that the Cape Hope Foundation have partnered with the Healthy George Town program, understandably so, given how successful it has been since its launch in October 2019. HGT has engaged a diverse group of residents participating in a broad range of health and wellbeing activities, I too, have been involved in the program with the Healthy Bikes sessions with Paul Butler."

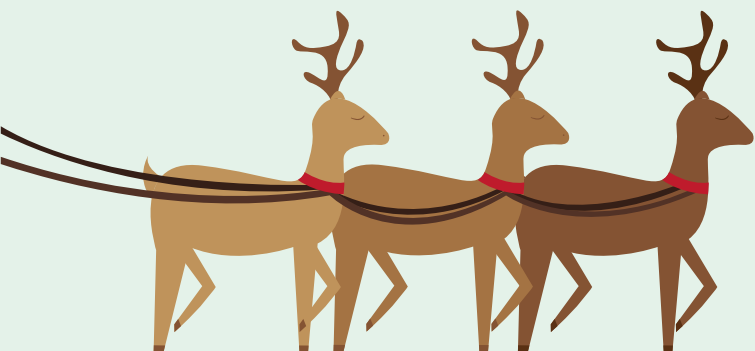
"Council is committed to the delivery of the Healthy George Town program and we aim for the ongoing positive outcomes that will benefit our community more so now with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Council has continued to evolve the program ensuring that minorities, isolated and the disempowered residents are encouraged to participate" the Mayor commented.

The Foundation will contribute a total of \$40,000 to the program. These funds will be in addition to the \$194,945 grant funds received from State Government's Healthy Tasmania Fund. The additional funds will assist in the delivery of the Healthy GT program over the next 2 years.

The Cape Hope Foundation were eager to partner with the Healthy George Town initiative given the success of the initial 2019/20 program, ensuring that program continued into the future.

## Delivery Successes of Year 1

- Delivery of 91 FREE sessions
- 1,234 hours of activities
- 1,162 people attended aged 6-89 (with an average age of 42 years)
- 7 endorsed Healthy George Town service providers
- Utilised 7 council and commercial venues



# January 2021 Kids Program

## Healthy George Town

**Healthy George Town are excited to announce that we are offering a Kids Summer Pilot Program for January 2021.**

Healthy George Town along with the support from Low Head Pilot Station, Fishcare Tasmania, Reclink, the YMCA Launceston and the George Town Swimming Pool are excited to bring FREE activities to the kids of the George Town municipal area. Activities on offer in the January 2021 program are:

### LEARN TO SWIM

Healthy George Town in partnership with George Town Swimming Pool are hosting FREE learn to swim sessions at the pool starting on Monday 11th of January. This will be a 2-week program running for 10 x 30 minute sessions over a 10-day period.

Numbers are strictly limited, sign up on 4th, 5th & 6th January between 11:00am - 12 noon at the George Town Swimming Pool, more details can be found on the Healthy George Town website: <https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/healthy-george-town/>

### FISHING

There will be three fishing days held at the George Town Pontoon in January. Fishcare Tasmania are hosting two fishing days at the pontoon on the Friday 15th of January 10:00am-1:00pm and the Tuesday 19th of January 10:30am-2:30pm. A BBQ lunch will be provided.

Reclink and Fishcare Tasmania are hosting a fishing day on the Thursday 21st of January from 10:30am at the pontoon. A FREE BBQ lunch will be provided.

So come along and learn to fish responsibly.



### KITE FLYING

The Low Head Pilot Station along with Fly as a Kite are hosting a Kite Flying Day at the Pilot Station on Saturday 2nd of January from 10am. There will be the opportunity to purchase and develop your kite flying skills.

### CIRCUS SKILLS

YMCA Launceston are hosting two FREE circus skills sessions in George Town on Thursday 14th of January at Regent Square and Wednesday 27th of January at the Graham Fairless Centre, from 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Come along to learn and develop your circus skills.

All activities are FREE to attend with further details found on the George Town Council website or the Healthy George Town Facebook page.

Stay tuned! 😊





George Town Council were thrilled to have celebrated NAIDOC Week 2020 with our inaugural Flag Raising Ceremony and Welcome to Country at the front of the Memorial Hall in Macquarie Street at 11am on Monday 9th November, 2020.

The NAIDOC Week theme for 2020 is Always Was, Always Will Be. The theme recognises and celebrates that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. The theme invites all Australians to embrace the ancient history of this country – a history which dates back thousands of generations.

George Town Council would like to thank everyone who attended at this significant event, as we embark on our Reconciliation journey with our Aboriginal community. We would like to especially thank Susan Long (South George Town Primary School and member of Future Impact Group) for co-ordinating the children who helped with the Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and the Flag Raising.

- Councillor Peter Parkes opened the Ceremony
- Welcome to Country was presented by Cody, Kai, Kobi, Lulu, Leshea and Leilani
- Address by Mayor Greg Kieser
- Raising of the Flag by Charlotte, Daisy and Harry



## Garbage Truck Art Winner

In July, Council launched the Garbage Truck Art Competition through its Kids Activity Portal to find a young person with a creative flair, perhaps a budding artist or graphic designer or someone who was passionate about a waste free community (who was 21 years of age or under) to come up with a unique design that addressed **“What does a waste free Tasmania look like?”**

**Council would like to congratulate** Alyssia Sky, age 9 of George Town for her outstanding and winning artwork. Her entry was unsurpassed and ticked all the criteria boxes.

Council would like to thank those who entered the Garbage Truck Competition. There was a variation in ideas and their adaptation. After some deliberation our winner Alyssia Sky was selected and notified. The artwork was adapted for installation and placed on both sides of the truck, the results are amazing.

The Deputy Major Tim Harris and Council's Waste Department representatives Glen Johnston and Brett Willis where at the presentation to congratulate Alyssia on her design. Council's General Manager Shane Power presented the first prize a \$500 Why Leave Town Card and inspire Alyssia to strike a pose!





# Capital Works Projects

## Weymouth Hall Kitchen Upgrade

Council has been renovating the kitchen bringing it in compliance with all safety regulations and standards. The Weymouth Progress Association is looking forward to using the new kitchen in conjunction with the new barbecue facilities and shelter that everyone can enjoy. Works are expected to be completed in December 2020.



## George Town Football Club

The Levelling the Playing Field Grants Program provided funds to build a new facility to support female participation, including change rooms, accessible toilets and storage. The new building will cater to all users, including the provision of unisex and accessible amenities. The new building is expected to be ready for use early 2021.



Photo: George Town Football Club building in progress

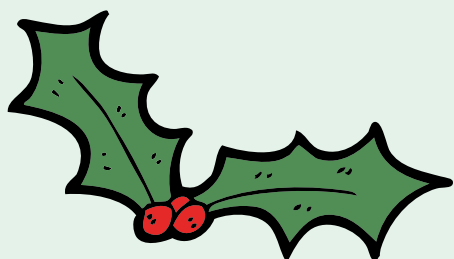
## George Town Swimming Pool Complex

A new heating system has been installed to cater for all ages and abilities for use by swimming clubs, day visitors, school groups, swimming carnivals and for private hire. The new heating system adequately heats the four outdoor swimming pools. New thermal blankets and rollers have also been provided ready for use when it becomes open to the public in late November 2020.



Photo: Old heating system that has been removed

Photo: New heating system



# A Message from the FIG - Community Pride Bumper Stickers

The Future Impact Group developed this series of bumper stickers with community to encourage a stronger sense of pride in the region and the community.

From 235 entries to the final 8! All the shortlisted artists came down to the Graham Fairless Centre with friends and family for the launch of this exciting campaign. In September the winners of Bumper Sticker Competition were announced.

And the winners are...

Georgia Lange - Beach Lover  
Maggie Fletcher - Blown Away & Mountain Biker  
Lola Burton - Love Fishing  
Paul Hickling - Love Living  
Remona Hayes - Mountain Biker  
Marley Dowde - Walk, ride, run  
Hollie Gavin - Wine Lover



Thank you again to our sponsors for this project -  
Bell Bay Aluminium George Town Council George  
Town Chamber of Commerce and South32 TEMCO!

Collect your **FREE** bumper sticker at one of these  
locations: George Town NewsXpress, Pipers River  
Shop, George Town Council, Tam O'Shanter Golf Club  
or the Community Hub.



## Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Civic Ceremony and Breakfast

**WHERE:** Graham Fairless Centre

**WHEN:** Tuesday 26th Jan

**TIME:** 8:30am

**George Town's 2021 Australia Day Ambassador is  
Heather Francis**

Heather is CEO of the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation and coordinates grant programs for clinical research. She is also the Director of the Board of Primary Health Tasmania and guides the delivery of health services to meet the specific needs of communities across the state. For more details on Heather Francis visit <https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/>

Please come along and be apart of the Australia Day Civil Ceremony which includes our Citizenship Ceremony and an address by our Australia Day Ambassador Heather Francis.

Please be advised this year the ceremony will be held in Graham Fairless Centre due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. This is a **FREE** ticketed event - tickets for the event will be available from the 11th January via Eventbrite.

### Australia Day Pool Party

**WHERE:** George Town Swimming Pool

**WHEN:** Tuesday 26th Jan

**TIME:** Midday to 3:00pm

**Something for everyone! Come and Reflect,  
Respect & Celebrate Australia Day 2021.**

There will be pool activities and laser tag for the kids and live entertainment plus a special for lunch for the adults. All children 16 years and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements this is will be a **FREE** ticketed event - tickets will be limited and available from the 11th January via Eventbrite.