

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

July 2023

Message from the Mayor

Cr Greg Kieser



There has been a lot of work undertaken by Council over the past three months since our last newsletter.

Key amongst those is the adoption of the 2023/2024 Operational Estimates, Rates, Fees and Charges and Capital Works program. Council approved a rate increase of 7.8% which equates to an average increase for residential properties per week of \$1.87 (George Town/Low Head), \$1.75 for Coastal Communities and \$1.79 for Country Communities.

As always, Council does its best to set a financially responsible budget that delivers the services our community needs whilst keeping any rate rise as low as possible.

George Town Art & Artisans

The 3rd of June saw the official opening of the George Town Art and Artisans Shop, an excellent addition to our main street offerings. The shop is a great place for local artists and artisans to showcase and sell their creations. The guild's membership has grown to over 50 members, and I look forward to seeing it continue to grow in the coming months.

Local Government Reform

The Future of Local Government Review Board has handed down its Stage Two interim report outlining a number of reform options within Community Catchments. George Town Council falls within two Community Catchments (Tamar Valley and Northeast). Council encourages all community members to have their say on what the future of Local Government looks like for them. Submissions to the Review Board close on the 2nd August 2023.

Youth Week

The George Town Memorial Hall and Graham Fairless Centre was filled with free activities, entertainment and competitions for young people to celebrate Youth Week Tasmania. On the 3rd of May, the George Town Youth Week event ran between 3.00pm-5.30pm with the entrance welcoming everyone to contribute to a sea of hands banner.

Features of the event included the Jack Jumpers mascot, a silent disco provided by the George Town Neighbourhood House, face painting, cartooning, PCYC activities and loads of free creative activities. The Lions Club of George Town supplied free toasties and pancakes.

The event also officially showcased George Town's new Youth Leaders Program, which was co-designed over two months with local young people. The Youth Leaders Program, titled "Seagulls to Chips", will serve as a platform for aspiring young leaders to engage with high-end guest speakers, delivering innovative mentoring and creating opportunities for change for 20 young people each year.

Volunteer Awards

Congratulations to Fernando Romero, Robyn Walton, Dianne Duggan, Dave Marshall, and Judith Spinks, who were recognised at the George Town Volunteer Awards this year. Once again, I thank all the volunteers in our community for the work you do and the difference you make every day to our municipality.

Community Assistance Grants

Round One of Community Assistance Grants up to \$2,000 per grant, opens on 1st August 2023. The grants aim to assist the municipality's community organisations to grow, build on social capital and encourage innovative approaches to the needs of the community. Council looks forward to supporting some great initiatives of our community groups through this grant round.

Harmony Week

On Sunday, 26th March, we welcomed four new citizens to our community with a special Citizenship Ceremony held during Harmony Week at the Low Head Community Gardens. It was a wonderful backdrop to host such an event; this was followed by an afternoon tea provided by our community members. Residents were also encouraged to submit a family favourite recipe to the George Town Hub to be included in a Recipe Book for Harmony Week.



Future Impact Group

Our Futures Youth Project

From the successful Youth Week event held in May, the Our Futures Youth Project in George Town has recently launched two capacity-building opportunities for local young people to engage in. The George Town Youth Advisory Group provides a platform for young people to have a voice to shape decision makers in George Town, and the Seagulls to Chips Youth Leadership Program provides training and opportunities for young people to develop their skills and insights into building social impact.



The Seagulls to Chips Youth Leadership Program, co-designed with local youth, has recently commenced with 20 participants. Held on Tuesday afternoons, the program entails 12 leadership sessions delivered by experts in the field, mentoring young people to create their own opportunities and events to be leaders in George Town.

During the month of June, the first formal meeting was held of the George Town Youth Advisory Group (official name coming soon!). Seven local young people provided insight and advice to Councillor Heather Ashley and Councillor Winston Mason. Loads of topics were discussed as they begin the conversation of supporting our future. Some discussions included street lighting, safety, creating youth drop-in spaces, and issues around smoking and vaping.

The George Town Youth Advisory Group is open to young people aged 12-25 who live or attend school in the George Town municipality and have the heart to help shape a positive future for all young people in the community. They are passionate about representing young people about issues, concerns and opportunities that can be generated at a local government level, whilst having a finger on the pulse of state and national influences.

The Our Futures Youth Project has a vision to increase the visibility of local young people, building their capacity and skills and increasing their opportunities to engage in meaningful decision-making across the George Town municipality.

The Our Futures Youth Project is delivered by the Future Impact Group, funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund and auspiced by George Town Council.

Am I a Responsible Pet Owner?

For many of us a pet is an important member of our family, a pet can bring a lot of joy and comfort but they are a big responsibility both to your pet and to the general public.

Macca has been quiet for a little while but he would now like to remind our residents of a few important facts about responsible dog ownership. Penalties can apply under the Dog Control Act 2000 and you may be fined a minimum of \$181.

- All dogs over the age of 6 months are required to be microchipped and registered with Council, this ensures all dogs can be identified if lost or stolen.
- Registrations are due every year on June 30th, there is also the option of a lifetime registration.
- All dogs must be kept on a lead at all times when in public places (exception for off lead areas, please see website)
- Your property is securely fenced .
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that your dog does not cause a nuisance or impact negatively on any other person.
- Ensure that your dog does not injure, endanger, or cause distress to stock, poultry, domestic animals, or wildlife.

Macca's friend the cat is also a much-loved family pet which also require appropriate management.

- Cats over 4 months of age must be desexed and microchipped.
- No more than 4 cats allowed on an individual property.
- Please don't abandon your cats, they should be taken to a cat management facility.

Visit Tassie Cat www.tassiecat.com.au for excellent resources about keeping your cat, community and wildlife safe.

For further information please visit our website. Council runs discounted microchipping days for both cats and dogs throughout the year. Keep an eye out!

Please remember that pets are a life-long commitment but given the chance, they will love you for life.

National Volunteer Week

NATIONAL 15-21 MAY 2023
VOLUNTEER
THE CHANGE MAKERS WEEK

On Thursday, 18th May 2023, the George Town Council Volunteer Awards 2023 ceremony was held at the Memorial Hall, where five local volunteers were recognised for their outstanding work in the George Town community as part of National Volunteer Week 2023.

This year's committee faced a very difficult decision because all nominees were worthy. This year's winners were:

- **Volunteer Service Award** (service up to 5 years) - Fernando Romero
- **Major Volunteer Service Award** (5 to 10 years of service) - Robyn Walton
- **Outstanding Volunteer Service Award** (service over ten years) - Dianne Duggan & Dave Marshall
- **Lifetime Volunteer Service Award** (service over 20 years) - Judith Spinks

Thank you to all the nominees, recipients and volunteers for making a difference in our community.

Food Business Registration Renewals

Food Business Registration renewals were sent out before the end of June. If your business has not received its renewal application, please contact Council on 6382 8800.

Food Safety Supervisor

From December 2023, certain food services, caterers and retail businesses must appoint at least one Food Safety Supervisor (FSS).

The role of the FSS is to minimise the risk of customers becoming ill from food because of incorrect food handling. The FSS provides expertise and guidance to food handlers in the business by identifying and implementing procedures to address food safety risks.

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 an FSS.

The Food Safety Supervisor (FSS) training will be an online course provided by a registered training authority.

Council will provide further information and updates as they become available, with the intention of holding an information session in early July.

Wood Heater Smoke

Winter is here and people light their wood heaters to keep warm. They need to consider the impact of their smoke on their neighbours.

The emission of wood smoke pollutes the air and can easily become a nuisance to neighbours. Here are a few tips on operating your wood heater to ensure you keep warm and do not impact your neighbours' health.

Maintenance

Check that the flue is clean and unobstructed, and check the firebox and the damper (if one is fitted to your wood heater) to make sure they are in good condition.

What types of fuel may be burnt?

In general, you should only use clean, dry timber. The burning of treated or painted wood, plastics, rubber and household rubbish is prohibited (for more information, see the definition of 'prohibited waste' in Part 1 of the Regulations - Interpretation).

Operating a heater or fireplace efficiently

The amount of smoke a fire makes depends on how much oxygen is available, how hot the fire is, how green (or seasoned) the wood is and whether you have just started the fire or whether it is established.

A good fire needs good wood

- Burn dry, seasoned, untreated wood
- Stack wood under cover in a dry, ventilated area

When starting the fire

- Use small, dry kindling to get the fire going quickly
- Use smaller logs instead of large logs
- Place a sheet of newspaper above your unlit fire to create a good updraft
- Burn on high airflow for 30 minutes after lighting

When the fire is burning well

- Place the wood end-on into the firebox rather than sideways
- Leave a minimum 2 cm gap between pieces of wood
- Reload regularly to ensure rapid ignition of the new fuel, but do not overfill the heater
- Burn on high airflow for 20-25 minutes after adding wood to the fire
- Keep the fire burning brightly so it doesn't smoulder





Metal Sculptures

Thanks to the former Placemaking Committee and Council Staff, the metal penguin sculptures now have a new home and are standing proud along Low Head Road near the penguin rookery. A QR code is yet to be installed, which will provide a link to information on the conservation of penguins and their habitat.

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 the places by creatively recognising the local wildlife.

CCTV Systems Register

In partnership with the George Town Police we have developed a register of privately owned CCTV Systems that police can access in the instance of a reported crime. This is an initiative of the former George Town Safety Group Committee.

If you wish to register your CCTV System and be placed on the register please forward your name, contact details and address to council@georgetown.tas.gov.au or contact Council on (03) 6382 8800.

All details will be held confidentially as per Council's Personal Information Protection Policy and the footage will only be accessed by Tasmania Police.

Temporary Boat Ramp Closure

Weymouth Boat Ramp Closure

Trevor Street, Weymouth - Monday 22nd May 2023 to 30th September 2023.

Users of the Trevor Street boat ramp at Weymouth are advised that access will be closed from Monday 22nd May until the end of September 2023. Recreational mariners are encouraged to research alternate boat launching facilities during the period of closure.

The purpose of this closure is to make repairs to the breakwater wall improving the protection of the boat ramp and improving boat access.

Council apologies for any inconvenience caused and appreciates the community's co-operation.



The Future of Local Government

The Local Government Board is developing a bold package of reforms to improve the way Tasmanian councils work for their communities into the future.

Now is the time to have your say. For more information and to make a submission please visit: www.engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au



Community Assistance Grants

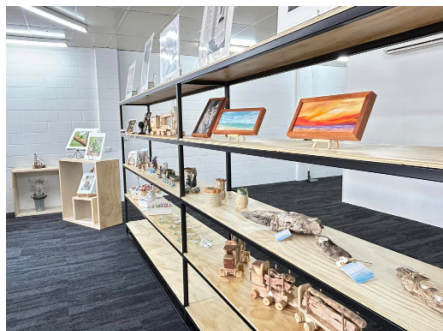
George Town Council's Community Assistance Grant Program – Round 1 Opens on Tuesday 1st August 2023.

George Town Council is committed to supporting community organisations whose activities contribute to building a vibrant and active community, by providing financial assistance.

Community Grants may be provided to community groups whose members are primarily residents of the George Town municipal area, or are located in the George Town municipal area, and the support is being sought to benefit the community of George Town.

For more information please visit:
www.georgetown.tas.gov.au/community-grants

Key Dates/Information



George Town Art and Artisans

Open 7 days a week | 10:00am - 4:00pm

Shop 3, 83 Macquarie Street

Launch into Employment Program - Workshops

The Launch into Employment Program is designed to support and prepare you to launch into your career.

The program assists you to better understand yourself, your qualities, attributes and help you to identify and develop your own Career Pathway Plan.

Combined with the skills and knowledge required to transform your plan into reality and effectively seek, gain, and maintain employment.

WHEN

Every Tuesday and Thursday commencing 27th July until 10th August 2023.

WHERE

Launchpad, Memorial Hall George Town.

TIME

10:00am - 2:30pm. Lunch provided.

No cost for participants. Places are limited – be sure to book your spot!

Phone: 0418 710 184 / email Susan: susanl@georgetown.tas.gov.au

The Launchpad Project is supported by the Tasmanian Government, Department of State Growth



NAIDOC Week 2023 | 2 - 9 July 2023



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

