

NEWSLETTER



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GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

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MARCH 2024

Message from the Mayor

Cr Greg Kieser



As
March
unfolds,
I extend
a warm
and heartfelt
welcome to
all our residents.
It is with great joy
that I reflect upon the
events that have shaped our
community in the past few months,
and I am pleased to share the highlights
with you.

Australia Day was marked by the welcoming of five new citizens to our community. We gathered to recognise outstanding individuals and events, by celebrating the achievements of June Smith, George Town and District Historical Society, Sophie Hills, and Aidan O'Connor, who received well-deserved awards. We were honoured to have John Kamara, the 2023 Tasmanian Australian of the Year, as our 2024 Australia Day Ambassador. His inspiring journey from war-torn Sierra Leone to contributing positively to the Tasmanian community is a testament to his resilience and diversity.

Special thanks go to the Rotary Club of George Town for the delicious breakfast, and to the Country Women's Association, Soroptimist International, and Low Head Community Garden for their thoughtful Citizenship gifts. A salute also to TS York, Australian Navy Cadets, for their role in raising the flags. Following the civic ceremony, the George Town Swimming Pool was filled with over 400 community members as they enjoyed an afternoon of laser tag, pool games, live music and ice creams. They were also welcomed by a special guests - Mermaid Kaz and Captain Johnny Morningstar. A big shout out to our amazing lifeguards, who did an incredible job!

Cultural awareness is an important step for us as part of our Reconciliation Action Plan, and I am pleased to share that I recently attended a Cultural Awareness Workshop, delivered by mina nina, aimed at improving Cultural Safety for palawa people. This workshop provides comprehensive knowledge of the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, their history, and continuing culture. I encourage everyone to attend and actively participate in initiatives that foster understanding and inclusivity.

In an adventurous development, Tippogoree Hills Mountain Bike Trails is now officially completed, with the opening of

the final three trails in January. The three trails add a further 10km of riding to the already popular trail network. The trails are all rated Blue Square, or intermediate, with a mixture of jump, gravity, and adventure trail styles. When combined with the existing trails in the lower section of the Tippogoree Hills, riders can enjoy prolonged descents of up to 9km from the top back to the trail head in Lauriston Park.



As we move forward, several capital works projects are underway throughout the municipality. I urge everyone to drive safely, adhere to all signs, and contribute to a safe environment for our community.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the 2024 George Town Youth Week event. This exciting gathering will feature a skatepark competition hosted by the YMCA Action Sports Skate Park League, live music by Rock Challenge Tasmania, and various free creative activities brought to you by the Youth Impact Council in collaboration with Outer Cove Creative Inc. Stay tuned for more details, and let's support our vibrant youth community.

I am proud to lead such a dynamic and engaged community. Your involvement and commitment make George Town a truly special place to call home. Here's to the next few months filled with unity, growth, and shared achievements.



Cultural Awareness Workshop



During the month of February, we had the privilege of hosting Dewayne Everett-Smith from mina nina for a series of cultural awareness workshops. These workshops were attended by elected representatives and members of the general public.

Dewayne's sessions were incredibly insightful and thought-provoking. Through the art of yarning, Dewayne

engaged participants in meaningful conversations about our commitment to cultural diversity and the necessary actions for driving meaningful change within our community.

During the workshops, we explored the next steps in our journey towards fostering a more inclusive environment. Dewayne shared valuable perspectives on how we can translate our commitment into tangible actions, ensuring that diversity and cultural awareness are integrated into every aspect of our organisation's operations.

The workshops provided a platform for open dialogue and reflection, allowing participants to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of cultural awareness and its impact on fostering unity and collaboration within our community.

As we move forward, we are inspired by Dewayne's insights and committed to implementing the strategies discussed during the workshops. We recognise that our journey towards meaningful change is ongoing, and we are dedicated to continually learning and evolving as an organisation.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dewayne Everett-Smith for his invaluable contributions and to all the participants who actively engaged in these important discussions. Together, we are taking meaningful steps towards building a more inclusive and culturally aware community.

Stay tuned for more updates on our ongoing initiatives and upcoming events.

Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum



On the Saturday 16th March 2024, Matthew Flinders will be 250 years old. The Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum are joining up with Donnington, UK

(his birth place) to celebrate and cut a cake!

As the Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum houses three replica wooden boat that he used, The Norfolk, The Tom Thumb and the Whale Boat Elizabeth, it is fitting that they invite wooden boat enthusiasts along with their wooden boat pride and joy, for a local display on the grounds of the historic Pier Hotel in George Town.

The Julie Burgess - Tall Ship Experiences will be in attendance for the weekend and available for sailings or viewing. Within the museum there will be discussions, children's activities and the local gin distillery Zenith Distillery is making a naval strength Gin! Plus a cake decorating competition judged by Tamar Cakes.

For more information and bookings visit the Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum website.



George Town Cricket Club Infrastructure

George Town Council in partnership with Cricket Tasmania's infrastructure fund program has upgraded the George Town Council Cricket infrastructure. The grant was utilised to upgrade the 3 synthetic turf practice pitches and the 1 centre wicket pitch. The upgrade of the George Town Cricket Club has had a significant positive impact. The club, which had gone into recess, is now back in operation with two male teams and one women's team registered in the Tasmanian Cricket League competition.

This upgrade has not only revived the club but also increased participation in the municipality. Residents no longer have to travel to Launceston or surrounding areas to find their nearest cricket club, making the sport more accessible and benefiting the community. This has demonstrated the positive impact of investing in local sports infrastructure on community wellbeing and participation.

Local Heritage Study

George Town Council, with the assistance of heritage consultants, Gayle Plunket Architect and Southern Archaeology, are undertaking a study to identify places in the George Town municipality that have historic and heritage significance to the community.



The study will inform Council of the places that are important to the community for their heritage values and will assist Council to make decisions regarding how well these values are protected and might be protected into the future.

This is your opportunity to identify those places that have heritage significance to you. These might include:

- a local heritage place;
- a heritage precinct;
- a historic landscape precinct;
- a place of archaeological potential;
- or a historically significant tree.

Submissions can be made until Saturday 30th of March 2024.

You can find additional information, including how to make a submission, on the Council's website.

DROP-IN SESSION

Please come along to learn more about the study and discuss the places that have heritage significance to you at our Community Drop-In Session.

George Town

DATE: Wednesday 13th of March

TIME: 4:00pm – 7:00pm

WHERE: Jim Mooney Gallery, Memorial Hall

Wood Heaters

Although the weather is still warm, Winter is invertedly coming, so now is the time to start looking at your wood heater.

The emissions of wood smoke pollute 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

Dog Park New Fence

The dog park at the George Town Sports Complex has undergone a transformative change with a new fence installed, dividing the space into two distinct areas. This alteration effectively creates two separate parks within the original space.

Dogs and their owners can now enjoy designated areas based on size, temperament, or specific activities. This division promotes a safer and more enjoyable experience for everyone, allowing for better management of

diverse canine behaviours. The new fence adds an element of organisation and order to the dog park, enhancing the overall atmosphere and facilitating positive interactions among park-goers and their furry companions.

Future Impact Group

2024 George Town Youth Week - Sunday April 14th from 11am

The 2024 George Town Youth Week event will feature a skatepark competition hosted by the YMCA Action Sports Skate Park League, live music hosted by Rock Challenge Tasmania, and a bunch of free activities and vibes provided by the Youth Impact Council.

Registrations to compete in the skatepark competition are required and will be made available via the YMCA page. Keep tabs on the Facebook event page for more information and updates.

This event is supported by the Tasmanian Government through the Youth Week Tasmania grant, George Town Council, Tasmanian Community Fund and Future Impact Group.

Visit <https://futureimpactgroup.org.au/our-futures/> to find out about the event hosts.

Art-Street-Art

Art Street Art is a youth project funded by the Premier's Fund for Children and Young People in collaboration with the Future Impact Group and George Town Council.



Art Street Art has the opportunity to turn Macquarie St (the shopping precinct of George Town) into Art Street, by creating Street Art.

A fun play on words!

The project will be co-designed by local youth (term 1), with workshops to equip them in skills (term 2&3) and installation of various forms of street art to launch an Art Street event (term 4).

Art Street Art works to encourage youth to develop a sense of pride in the precinct and to contribute creatively to the streetscape of the town, minimising vandalism, anti-social behaviours and damage to Council and public property.

Seagulls to Chips

Co-designed by young people, the Seagulls to Chips Program has been created to be an effective avenue of capacity building and change-making for up to 20 young leaders each year in the George Town area.

The program hosts a range of high-end facilitators that delivers relevant training to selected young people with an opportunity for the youth to create and participate in youth events in and around George Town. The 2024 program will feature a range of topics and opportunities around film production, self-care, team work, rights and ethics, building your own business and will kick off mid year.

Youth Impact Council

The George Town Youth Impact Council is made up of individuals that live or attend school in the George Town municipality and that have a 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 team meet on Wednesday afternoons with a mix of formal and informal meetings scheduled throughout the year.



Hillwood Updates

Hillwood Recreational Trail

Construction recently commenced on the Hillwood Recreational Trail – a gravel trail connecting the Hillwood Recreation Grounds to Egg Island Point Reserve. The trail offers an off-road alternative to Craighburn Road for local walkers, runners, and cyclists. The trail will be re-open in early March.

Hillwood Rock Climbing Area

Council has been working with the landowner to reopen the Hillwood rock-climbing area colloquially referred to as the "Hillwood Volcano". Before closing, the area housed some of Tasmania's most accessible sport climbing routes, and it's exciting to see it restored to its former glory. The Hillwood rock-climbing area is set to re-open in early March.

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
9:00am - 4:00pm
Parry's Road, Pipers River

Healthy George Town

The 2024 Healthy George Town Program started in February and will end in June 2024. It brings a series of engaging activities to keep everyone active and healthy. Activities include Cross Fitness, Armchairs, Aqua Fitness, Seniors Aqua Therapy, Jazzercise, Yoga, and Pilates held in George Town and Hillwood, with 4 service providers activating 4 recreation spaces.

For more information, contact Council on 6382 8800.



Live Well, Live Long Program

Council is working with the Tasmanian Health Service to develop and deliver an 8-week session for Allied Health professionals and other experienced speakers to discuss health-related topics to the community. The program will commence in March and conclude in April 2024. For more information, contact Council.

George Town Art and Artisan

The George Town Art and Artisans project, supported by the Tasmanian Government and the George Town Council, continues to grow. Its centrepiece, the retail space, showcases diverse creative disciplines, currently featuring an Easter theme.

Open seven days a week from 10 am to 4 pm, it provides a platform for local artists and artisans to exhibit and sell their work. Those interested in joining the project are welcome to get in touch via george.townartisan@gmail.com



COMING SOON

Coming Soon....

Stay tuned for more information on the inaugural George Town / kinimathatakinta art prize. More details to come soon.

National Volunteer Week - 20th to 26th of May 2024.

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

