

NEWSLETTER





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GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

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Bellingham Boat Ramp



Progressive



Prosperous



Proud

JULY 2025

Message from the Mayor

Cr Greg Kieser



Welcome
to the
New
Financial Year!

As we step into
the new financial
year, it's a timely
opportunity to reflect on
the significant work delivered by
Council in recent months.

At our June Council Meeting, we adopted the 2025/2026 Budget, including the updated schedule of fees and charges. This budget reflects our ongoing commitment to responsible financial management, ensuring the continued delivery of essential services while keeping any rate increases to a minimum. You can view the full budget on Council's website.

In May, we celebrated our Annual Volunteer Week Awards at Memorial Hall, honouring exceptional volunteers in four distinct categories:

- Volunteer Service Award (up to 5 years)
- Major Volunteer Service Award (5-10 years)
- Outstanding Volunteer Service Award (over 10 years)
- Lifetime Volunteer Service Award (over 20 years).

This event is a heartfelt tribute to the dedication and hard work of all our community volunteers. Their invaluable contributions are deeply appreciated, and we are grateful for their unwavering commitment to enhancing our community.

A heartfelt thank you to the Progress Associations for hosting the Community Engagement Sessions in late May/early June. We were warmly welcomed and appreciated the thoughtful questions and meaningful discussions. These sessions were an important platform for two-way communication. Community members were encouraged to ask questions, share concerns, and contribute ideas for the future of our region.

Looking ahead, Round One of the Community Assistance Grants opens on the 4th August 2025, offering grants of up to \$2,000 to support local organisations. These grants aim to strengthen community connections, support innovative initiatives, and build social capital. We look forward to

seeing the inspiring projects our community will bring forward.

We're also excited to progress work on the new Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre, a significant project for the region. Keep an eye on Council's website for updates as this important facility takes shape.

Our young people are also making waves. The inaugural Kinimathatakinta Youth Art Prize was held on Thursday, 19th June at the Jim Mooney Gallery, featuring over 40 entries from talented local artists. This fantastic initiative provided a platform for young creatives to showcase their work and connect with the wider community.

Meanwhile, the Youth Impact Council, made up of young people who live or study in the George Town municipality, continues to be a dynamic force. They've taken part in Youth Week, the Tasmanian Youth Forum, Road Safety Week, Youth Mental Health First Aid, just to name a few, putting mental health and wellbeing front and centre in their advocacy.

It's a privilege to lead such a vibrant, engaged, and forward-thinking community. Your involvement and dedication help make George Town a place we're all proud to call home.

Here's to the months ahead filled with unity, growth, and shared success.



National Volunteer Week

On the 21st of May we had a truly heartwarming celebration at the Memorial Hall as we honoured the incredible volunteers who make our community shine!

The annual Volunteer of the Year Awards brought together inspiring stories from lifelong volunteers like Max Griffiths and Peter McGillivray, reminding us all of the profound impact that dedication and service can have.

We were also thrilled to hear from our amazing award recipients, whose commitment to helping others is nothing short of inspiring. A special thank you to Dave Bailey for providing entertainment, and to The Missing Pieces for the delicious supper that fuelled our celebration!

Congratulations to our outstanding award winners:

- **Volunteer Service Award** (up to 5 years) – Juanita Otto
- **Major Volunteer Service Award** (5-10 years) – Audrey Evans
- **Outstanding Volunteer Service Award** (over 10 years) – Melissa McGillivray
- **Lifetime Volunteer Service Award** (over 20 years) – Don Heather. Presented by Senator Tammy Tyrell

We thank all volunteers for the important work they do in our community. Together, we are building a brighter future!



National 19-25 MAY 2025
Volunteer
Connecting Communities **Week**

Community Engagement Sessions

During late May and early June, our General Manager, Mayor, and Councillors embarked on the annual Council Community Engagement Sessions, travelling across the municipality to connect directly with our communities.

This year featured a series of community engagement sessions held in Bellingham, Weymouth, Hillwood, Lulworth, Pipers River/Pipers Brook, Beechford, and George Town/Low Head. These sessions provided a valuable opportunity for residents to hear updates, ask questions, and provide feedback on key issues affecting their local areas.

Our Directors delivered informative presentations covering a range of topics, including:

- Current projects and initiatives specific to each township
- The development of the Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre
- Cat and dog management updates
- Recent and upcoming community events
- The Tourism and Marketing Strategy
- The Annual Blitz – our ongoing efforts to tidy up and beautify the municipality

We were also pleased to welcome guest speakers from Tamar NRM, who shared insights into their operations within our municipality, and Tasmania Fire Service (TFS)/State Emergency Service (SES), who spoke on emergency preparedness and the protection of vulnerable persons in emergency situations.

These sessions were an important platform for two-way communication. Community members were encouraged to ask questions, share concerns, and contribute ideas for the future of our region.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Progress Associations for hosting these events, and to all community members who attended and actively participated. Your engagement helps shape the decisions we make, and we look forward to continuing these important conversations into the future.

Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum Whaleboat

A Piece of History Arrives at the Museum!

On 5 June, the Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum proudly welcomed the Mirage, a 165-year-old whaleboat, into our collection!

Originally rescued and conserved by the Port Sorell Historical Group two decades ago, the Mirage has now found its new home in George Town. Before it's lifted onto its custom-built cradle for display, it will undergo careful re-oiling, painting, and staining.

This major move couldn't have happened without the incredible efforts of Kempe Engineering and Pfeiffer Cranes. Due to safety regulations, a specially engineered dolly was created just to transport the vessel inside.

With support from the Australian Maritime Museum, we received a \$6,000 grant to help build the cradle that will allow visitors to admire the Mirage for years to come.

We think it's great that it gives a glimpse into history, to an era gone by.

Responsible Dog Ownership — Your Role Matters

Dogs are cherished companions and play an important role in our families and wider community. To ensure everyone enjoys the benefits of dog ownership, it's essential that all dog owners understand and follow the rules set out under the Dog Control Act 2000 and related regulations.

Register and Microchip Your Dog

All dogs over six months of age must be registered and microchipped. Registration helps us reunite lost pets with their owners and ensures public safety standards are maintained. If your circumstances change, such as moving house, transferring ownership of your dog, or if your dog passes away, you must notify us within 14 days.

Kennel Licence Requirements

Thinking of keeping more than two dogs? Under the Dog Control Act 2000, you must apply for a Kennel Licence if you intend to keep:

- More than two dogs over six months of age, or
- More than four working dogs over six months of age.

What Are My Responsibilities as a Dog Owner?

As a dog owner, you are legally required to:

- Register and microchip your dog once it's over six months old
- Keep your dog on a leash when in public areas (please see our website for on and off leash areas)
- Ensure your dog does not roam and remains under effective control at all times
- Clean up after your dog – always carry a bag when walking your pet, doggie bags are available throughout the municipality

For more information, please visit our website.

MyGeorgeTown

MyGeorgeTown is now live!

We've released MyGeorgeTown, a platform to deliver a better experience for your online interactions with Council.

MyGeorgeTown enables you to make, manage and track service requests and transactions with us through a single online platform, when and where it suits you.

Select Services Available

MyGeorgeTown has been launched with a select number of linked services. We are working towards adding more services to MyGeorgeTown to make it even easier to interact with us online.

To link your property to the portal use the validation code printed on your rates notes.

We'll continue to bring you updates as new features become available and we welcome your feedback.

Key Features

In the MyGeorgeTown service platform, you can:

- Register your pets and pay the registration fees
- Report an issue or request services
- Track the progress of your service request or reported issue
- Make rate payments and verify your properties
- Have quick access to other Council portals.

Visit Council's website for links to the MyGeorgeTown Portal.



Road and Footpath Network Plan for Low Head & George Town

Adopted in the May 2025 Council Meeting, these plans are technical guides that identify the road and footpath hierarchy in George Town and Low Head. They identify what standards some of the main roads should be built to, based on the network hierarchy and traffic volume.

They guide the standards that may be applied when new infrastructure or upgrades are required to make sure the roads and footpaths will function appropriately as traffic

volumes increase with growth. When Council undertakes upgrades or receives requests for upgrades, the documents will assist in determining the applicable standards.

2025 Kinimathatakinta/George Town Youth Art Prize

The inaugural Kinimathatakinta/George Town Youth Art Prize was held on Thursday 19th June in the Jim Mooney Gallery. With over 40 entries displayed, the Art Prize gave a great opportunity for local young artists to showcase their creative talents.

The official opening attended by the entrants, their families and wider community, celebrated an emerging creative community that is growing in George Town. The gallery featured a range of mediums such as paint, photography, drawing and digital art.

The judging panel selected were Jennifer Dickens (Tasmanian photo media artist and current Visual Arts Teacher at Newstead College), Peter Barns CEO of The People Project and Rachael Andjelkovic (Service and Program Delivery Coordinator at the Kinimathatakinta/George Town Library).

The winners of the Kinimathatakina Youth Art Prize were:

- 0-6 – no entries
- Primary Age – Pippa Bennison
- High School Age – Austin Evans
- Young Adult – Brianna Shaw

We particularly want to thank sponsors Bell Bay Aluminium and Timberlink for their generous support and we look forward to continuing to provide creative opportunities for young creatives in George Town.

George Town Youth Impact Council

The George Town Youth Impact Council is made up of individuals who live or attend school in the George Town municipality and who 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.

Events Supported:

- Youth Week Activities in April
- Tasmanian Youth Forum (spoke to 150+ youth and politicians about youth participation and engagement)
- Road Safety Week (met with Inspector Twining, and assisted with installing signage raising awareness)
- Volunteer Week Awards Night
- Youth Mental Health First Aid Training (training 20 local community workers)
- Kinimathatakinta/George Town Youth Art Prize (celebrating young emerging artists in George Town)
- Solstice in the Square (set up and pack up crew)
- Shorts Day (fundraiser for Speak Up Stay ChatTy)

Discussions at Youth Council meetings:

- Improving street lighting in George Town
- Reducing vandalism and raising the profile of the water tower
- Continued strategies for road safety
- Coordinating the 1000 Hearts Kindness Project for George Town
- Increasing youth participation for mountain bike riding

Upcoming Projects:

- Mock Council meeting where the youth takeover a Council Workshop meeting
- 2025 Youth Voice Collection
- Seagulls to Chips 2025 program
- Youth Leadership Awards Program

This year, the Youth Impact Council is focussing efforts on improving awareness and opportunities to boost mental health and wellbeing. One project that the team are taking on is the 1000 Hearts Project. 1000 Hearts exists to make people happier and healthier by sharing kindness in a simple and tangible way. The project makes and shares pocket hearts that people can hold onto as a reminder that someone cares. Selected members, Kara and Zoe, along with volunteers Bec and Caroline, the youth will network with Seagulls to Chips, schools and community groups, providing resources for everyone to make 1000 pocket hearts.

Health & Wellbeing Committee Update

Over the past months, the core group has been engaging key community stakeholders who will play a vital role in shaping and supporting our local health and wellbeing priorities. These stakeholders represent a wide range of sectors and community interests, ensuring a collaborative and inclusive approach.

In addition to stakeholder engagement, we have also undertaken interviews with a number of independent community members to gain valuable insight into local needs and experiences. These interviews are in the final stages of completion and will soon inform our strategic direction.

The Health and Wellbeing Committee will officially commence its work at the beginning of the new financial year. This marks an important step forward in our commitment to addressing health and wellbeing gaps and building a stronger and healthier George Town.



Capital Works Projects

Council's Infrastructure Department has had a busy few months, undertaking several key projects to improve local roads and pedestrian access across the municipality.

- Old Aerodrome Road Stage 2 – Approximately 1km of road has been upgraded to meet current standards. (Pictured: the site during construction)
- Agnes St Reconstruction from Parish Cres to Dunning Ave, George Town
- Solar lighting at the Bellingham boat ramp
- Footpath Replacement Program – Enhancing walkability and safety:
 - Esplanade South
 - Adams Street
 - Currant Avenue
 - Arnold Street
 - South Street

These projects reflect Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving critical infrastructure for the community.



Help Shape the Future of Mountain Biking in George Town!

George Town Council is seeking feedback from users of the George Town Mountain Bike Trails, including both Tippogoree Hills and Mt George trail networks. Whether you're a local rider or a visitor, we want to hear about your experiences, what you value, and what could make your ride even better.

Your input will help guide improvements to the trails and help connect trail users with businesses and services in our town. Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey. Scan the QR code to complete the survey.

Thank you for supporting George Town's growing mountain biking community!



BPAY Reference number change for payments

Council wishes to advise that, due to a recent system change, we have updated the BPAY payment reference number format for rates payments. The BPAY reference number has increased from 7 digits to 8 digits to align with new processing requirements.

Please note that no other account or payment details have changed. This update will be reflected on your 2025/2026 rates notice, where you will see the new 8-digit BPAY reference number displayed.

All other payment options (Australia Post and Aust Post BillPay and Service Tasmania) are unaffected and the numbers are still 7 digits.

We kindly ask that you use this updated reference when making your payment to ensure it is processed correctly. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Please contact Council's finance department for further information.



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

