

NEWSLETTER



ABN 68 300 116 092

GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL

16-18 Anne Street, George Town

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Keep up to date  



2025 Christmas Carnival

 **Progressive**

 **Prosperous**

 **Proud**

January 2026

Message from the Mayor

Cr Greg Kieser



On behalf of the Council, I extend warm wishes to you and your families for a happy and prosperous New Year. I hope you enjoyed a joyous Christmas and holiday season.

As we step into 2026, I reflect on our achievements for our community in 2025. In November, we adopted the 2024/2025 Annual Report, which highlighted another year of progress under our updated Community Strategic Plan 2024-2030, striving towards a vision where our community is Proud, Progressive, and Prosperous.

2025 Highlights include:

- Commenced the re-development of the new George Town Aquatic Health and Well-being Centre
- Renovated the Jim Mooney Gallery
- Conducted a Community Satisfaction Survey
- Welcomes a new business by leasing the Anzac Drive Building
- Delivered another successful Solstice in the Square event
- Our Caring for Cats Program
- 2025 Christmas Carnival

I encourage you to explore our Annual Report for more details on these achievements and our Annual Plan for our future directions and actions.

Huge congratulations to our staff and teams! We're thrilled to have been recognised at the George Town Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards, October 2025, with the following achievements:

- **Best Marketing/Advertising Campaign** – Solstice in the Square
- **Trainee of the Year** – Charlotte, Trainee in Parks and Gardens
- **Community Contribution Award** – George Town Youth Impact Council

A massive thank you to our incredible staff and team for their dedication, creativity, and community spirit. We couldn't be prouder of these achievements!

I am also proud of Council's commitment to youth development through the Our Futures Youth Program. With initiatives including Launchpad Drop-in Sessions, offering weekly creative and mentoring activities, and the Seagulls to Chips Program supporting leadership and creative development, we look forward to seeing what our youth get up to this year.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises exciting developments. We will see the completion of the Aquatic Health and Wellbeing Centre, continue our advocacy efforts (see our Advocacy Plan on our website), and celebrate community events like Solstice in the Square. Stay tuned for more announcements on upcoming projects.

This October, local government elections will take place. If you have an interest in shaping the future of our community, I encourage you to consider running for Council. Information will be available in the coming months.

As the warmer weather continues, I urge all residents to review and update their bushfire plans. Planning ahead is critical, it reduces stress and can significantly lessen the impact of an emergency. Being prepared could save lives and protect what matters most to you.

Council remains committed to building a better community for everyone. Our 2026 Roadshows will provide an excellent platform for you to share your thoughts and ideas on future projects. I look forward to connecting with many of you throughout the year and working together to make George Town an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

Here's to a fantastic 2026!



BUSHFIRE, why risk it?

Don't wait until it's too late! Prepare now

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.

Bushfire Preparation Tips:

1. Create or update your 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.com or the TasALERT app, and the Tasmania Fire Service website (fire.tas.gov.au). Follow the Tasmania Fire Service and TasALERT on social media.
6. Monitor the weather (bom.gov.au) and know if a total fire ban is in place.

To create a bushfire plan please visit: <https://bushfire.tas.gov.au/>



Heritage Study



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

During this process, there were properties identified that potentially contain heritage values and interesting history. These values may include local heritage place, a heritage landscape or feature, and/or potential for important archaeology.

Council is currently in the process of writing to landowners who's properties have been identified as having some local heritage significance.

While there are further steps that can be taken to recognise local heritage, at this stage Council is simply notifying landowners of the potential values of their properties before considering options and progressing anything further.

We are also keen to hear from landowners to discuss if and how our local heritage may be further recognised. In many instances Council may have further details that can be shared about the history and values of these properties. Council is committed to working with landowners to discuss these findings.

Please feel free to contact Council if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Heritage Study.

Art Across Ages

Art Across Ages is about people of all ages coming together to create, connect and share. These free, hands-on workshops are open to everyone including kids, teens, parents, grandparents and neighbours.

Each workshop focuses on a different kind of art and is led by local and visiting artists. You might learn a new skill, try something you have never done before, or simply enjoy making art with others in a friendly space.

It is not only about art. It is about sharing stories, learning from each other and building connections between generations. Come along on your own or with family and friends and enjoy a relaxed, welcoming space where creativity and conversation flow.

All workshops are free, materials are provided, and no experience is needed – just bring yourself and a willingness to have a go.

Dog Park Etiquette

Keeping It Safe, Fun & Friendly for Everyone!

George Town Council would like to remind everyone that the dog park located at the George Town Sports complex is a shared community space designed for both dogs and their owners to enjoy safely and responsibly.

Our dog park is divided into two sections, allowing you to choose the most suitable environment for your dog's temperament and play style.

1. Choose the Right Side for Your Dog – You are fully responsible for your dog behavior in this park.

The park is split to cater for different types of dogs and completely up to owner discretion.

- One side is ideal for social, energetic, and confident dogs who enjoy active play.
- The other side is suited to smaller, older, shy, or calmer dogs who prefer a quieter space.

Take a moment to assess which area best suits your dog before entering.

2. Supervise at All Times

No dogs without people, no people without dogs.

Dog parks are off-lead areas, but that does not mean your dog can be out of control. Owners must always maintain effective control of their dog, meaning your dog should respond to your commands and be able to be called back immediately if needed.

3. Pick Up After Your Dog

Always clean up after your dog. Use the bags and bins provided to help keep the park clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

4. Remove Leads Inside the Gate

Once inside the fenced area, remove your dog's lead. Dogs on leads can feel restricted and may react defensively when approached by off-lead dogs.

5. Be Respectful of Others

Not every dog or person wants interaction. Always check before allowing your dog to approach another and call your dog away if asked.

6. Health and Safety Come First

Only bring your dog if they are healthy, registered, vaccinated, and not in heat. Sick or unvaccinated dogs should not attend the park. Un-neutered male dogs must be monitored closely. Children under 14 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

7. Practice Good Training and Recall

Before visiting the dog park, make sure your dog has reliable recall and basic manners. This helps prevent issues and ensures a safe environment for all park users.

8. Reporting Incidents

If your dog gets into a fight, exchange contact details with the relevant dog owner and leave the park.

If an incident occurs that you believe should be reported to Council, the best way to do so is by contacting Council directly by phone - 03 6382 8800

When reporting, please try to gather as much information as possible, such as the date, time, description of the dog(s) and owner(s) involved, and any other relevant details.

The more information you can provide, the better equipped Council will be to investigate and achieve a fair outcome.

A little respect, responsibility, and awareness go a long way in keeping our dog park safe, clean, and welcoming for all.

Thank you for helping make it a positive space for dogs and their humans alike!



FREE – registrations required.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

January Workshops:

- Sumi and Sound
- Family Collage and Memory Maps
- Rag Rugging
- Intergenerational Portraits



Creative George Town Gallery Program

Bringing contemporary art to Kinimathatakinta/George Town

From January to June 2026, the Creative George Town Gallery Program brings a fresh line-up of contemporary art to Kinimathatakinta. Each month you can explore a new exhibition at either the Jim Mooney Gallery or the Watch House Gallery, featuring artists from across Tasmania.

Each exhibition opens with an artist talk, giving you the chance to hear directly from the creators about their ideas, processes and inspirations.

Keep an eye out for the announcement of the exhibition details and join us as we celebrate art as a space for conversation, learning and community.

Artists include:

- Joanna Pinkiewicz
- Charles Millen
- Catherine Phillips and Robert Habel
- Travis Bell and Elizabeth Braid
- Suemi Chiba
- Alastair Mooney



Visit our website for more information.

Community Consultation

Community Engagement Policy

We are reviewing our Community Engagement Policy as part of our 2025/2026 Annual Plan. This update responds to feedback from the recent Community Satisfaction Survey, where many of you told us that engagement and communication needs improvement.

Therefore, we are inviting community members to review and share feedback on the DRAFT Updated Community Engagement Policy. We recognise the importance of engaging and consulting with our community when implementing and reviewing our policies, strategies and plans, therefore we are seeking feedback regarding this updated policy.

Now open until Friday, 13th of February 2026.

How to get involved

- Review the DRAFT policy via our website.
- Provide your feedback to council@georgetown.tas.gov.au or via the form located on our website.
- Preferred a printed copy? Hard copies can be collected at the Council Offices on Anne Street.

Visit our website to view the draft updated policy and provide comments.

George Town Aquatic Health & Wellbeing Centre Update



Since our last update, ground improvement works are continuing alongside stormwater upgrades and realignment. Behind the scenes things are also moving quickly! Suppliers have started fabricating key building elements, including pre-cast concrete panels, glazing, and the pool structure itself. Plenty happening both on site and off as the project really starts to take shape!

Become a Volunteer

We're looking for passionate, dedicated volunteers to join our team!

Are you searching for a fun and rewarding way to meet new people, learn new skills, and give back to our community? We offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities to suit all interests, from visitor experiences and maritime history to arts and culture, community events, youth programs, and more. Even if you simply enjoy lending a helping hand, there's a place for you here.

No matter your background, skills, or experience, we'd love to hear from you.

Why volunteer with us?

- Gain meaningful, hands-on experience
- Be part of a friendly and supportive team
- Make a positive impact in your community every day

Visit our website to fill in an Expression of Interest or contact us on 6382 8800.

Important Dates

Tamar Valley Folk Festival

16th, 17th & 18th of January 2026

Join in for a celebration of music, song, dance and poetry over 3 days!

Concerts, themed concerts, workshops, children's events, poet's breakfast, writers circle, and more! Featuring artists from all over Australia and beyond, gathering to celebrate this great event and you are invited!

Weekend tickets or individual tickets available via the Tamar Valley Folk Festival website.

Proudly sponsored by George Town Council.



Australia Day 2026

Monday 26th of January 2026

- **8:30am - 10:00am:** Civic Ceremony and Australia Day Awards, Graham Fairless Centre
- **11:00am - 3:00:** Join us for a free community event at the East Beach Recreation Area as we come together to reflect, respect and celebrate Australia Day.



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Miniature Mariners Exhibition

8th of November 2025 - 31st May 2026 | Bass & Flinders Maritime Museum

A captivating exhibition that reveals how model boats are more than tiny replicas, vessels of imagination, memory, and cultural identity.

Model boats are more than scaled down replicas - they are vessels of imagination, work, memory and identity. This exhibition brings together handcrafted boats from various contexts: from boats in bottles to meticulous maritime replicas, from First Nations watercraft to cultural souvenirs and toys.

Miniature Mariners explores how these models carry stories whether it be from the kanamaluka/Tamar, crossing Bass Strait or traversing the world's oceans. Through models, we are invited to navigate the deep waters of cultural heritage, craftsmanship and personal connections.

Don't miss this voyage through craftsmanship, culture, and connection.



George Town Community Sports Gala

23rd of January 2026 | George Town Sports Complex

The George Town Community Sports Gala is a 1 day event where the George Town community can compete in a variety of selected sports, competing for their selected charity/not for profit.

Gather your team and sign up to the sport of choice. If you don't yet have a squad, you can sign up individually and be later placed into a team.

Entry to compete on the day is only \$10pp, with the winnings all going towards the charity/group of the winner's choosing! Sports on offer include netball, cricket, soccer and AFL 9's. Free entry and children's activities on the day.



This is event is sponsored by the Bell Bay Aluminium Community Grants Program and supported by George Town Council, with partnerships with the George Town Netball Club, George Town Football Club, George Town Soccer Club and George Town Cricket Club.

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

