



George Town Chamber of Commerce Inc

PO Box 50, George Town, TAS 7253

enquiries@georgetownchamber.com.au

www.georgetownchamber.com.au

Points of Interest

- Presidents Report
- Digital Hub
- Christmas Promotion
- Business Spotlight

GTCC Committee 2013

President

Alan Golley
Peppers York Cove
6382 9900
president@georgetownchamber.com.au

Vice President

Mark Ford
Heritage Isle
6382 2422
mford@heritageisle.com.au

Secretary/Liaison Officer

Terri Cameron
Top of Tamar Celebrations
6382 2052 / 0487 284 589
topoftamar@bigpond.com

Treasurer

Alan Golley
Details as above

Executive Members

Ricky Sherrff

Bell Bay Aluminium

Ricky Youd

Als Painting

Andrew Michieletto

Harcourts East Tamar

Allan Crockett

Semi-retired business man

David Vernon

Assistant Principal Port Dalrymple School

Jarrod Bannon

Student

Mike Moss

Amcal Pharmacy

Richard Lang

G.T. Antiques

2013 Issue 7

Newsletter Date: October—13

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CHAMBER?

Presidents Report

With the federal election out of the way, and businesses in Tasmania starting to feel more confident about the future of the Tasmanian economy, we have seen things slow down a little and we can all take a moment to catch our breath before we see things start to pick up in the lead up to Christmas. Retail and Tourism businesses are expecting a bumper peak season this year, with a stronger economy, lower interest rates and increased visitor numbers to Tasmania all factors that should see business thrive over the next 6 months.



Terri is madly working away on the WWW publication. Proofs of all advertisements should be out soon. These will be accompanied by a tax invoice for payment of the advertisement. Please ensure these invoices are paid at your soonest convenience to ensure that the printing of the publication goes ahead on schedule.

The George Town Chamber of Commerce is now formally affiliated with the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce so don't forget that all GTCCI members now have full Blue Member Access to the TCCI. One of the big benefits to this membership is access to an Industrial Relations Hotline that the TCCI operates. Blue Level Membership gives you 2 free calls a year to this hotline, so ensure that if you are going to use the service you are prepared with questions and can maximise the benefits of each call you make. The hotline number is 1300 474 357. If you have any general workplace relations queries you can always email them through to enquiries@georgetownchamber.com.au as we have a vast variety of knowledge in our executive team that may be able to assist.

1st November sees the introduction of new legislation which effectively bans the use of lightweight non-biodegradable plastic bags by all businesses in Tasmania. Retail businesses are not the only businesses affected by this legislation and fines for non-compliance will result in fines. Are you ready for the change?

Concerned about the collateral you have received in the post advising the copper phone network will be switched off in May 2014? Well you are not alone. A number of businesses around George Town have expressed concerns over this timeline and the George Town Chamber of Commerce will be perusing NBN Co and our new Federal Member for Bass, Andrew Nikolic to ensure that this timeline is extended and the copper network does not get switched off before the kinks are all ironed out. If you have any concerns regarding the install of NBN into your business, or if you had had a bad experience with regards to the install of your service then please email me on president@georgetownchamber.com.au with your concerns or stories so these can be used as leverage. The last thing we want to see is business owners losing money or having downtimes to their business due to the poor handling of the rollout by NBN Co.

The George Town Chamber of Commerce will be meeting with Octagon in the coming weeks to discuss the Targa Prologue 2014. We want the business community to be more involved in the event in the 2014 and we will hopefully have some good news soon about making the event a successful and prosperous one in 2014. Watch this space.

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Digital Hub: pictured: Peter Parkes—Manager and Lina Zhao—Assistant Manager

A training session, History Pin, was run in the Digital Hub, by Barbara from the Library, as part of Seniors week 2013. History Pin is basically a google map where you can pin photos of your town or holiday etc.

This really struck a chord with the seniors who attended, and then agreed, that George Town would benefit from a central repository for all historical photos and stories that everyone in the community could access and enjoy our long and amazing past.

A face-book page was created called "George Town Pictorial History" <https://www.facebook.com/GeorgeTownPictorial>.

Old George Town High School Magazines were sourced and brought into the Hub, digitized and uploaded onto the new page together with some historical photos that were sourced online. Peter then sent invites to all friends on face-book to get the ball rolling.... Within just a few hours there were over 200 likes: at the last count there were 1300 "likes" and rising by the hour.

The stats on the page show they have reached over 28,398 people, 3,882 people are actively engaged and they had a mind blowing 211,644 clicks on the photos! People are now posting their own historic photos, and taking more to the Peter and Lina at the Hub: the George Town Historical Society have given hundreds more which are being worked through; as Peter commented; "there are just not enough hours in the day!"

This initiative appears to have created a wonderful sense of pride in our communities history: people are talking about it and the page seems to enable more of a connection to the town by being able to see its pictorial history. WELL DONE to all involved in this historical community service.

Upcoming Event:

The G.T.C.C. will again run a Christmas Promotion—brief out-line as follows:

- Christmas Promotion launched at George Town on Show, Saturday Nov. 23rd
- Each purchase, over \$10, at participating stores, will receive a ticket and go into a weekly draw
- 4 x \$100 weekly prizes drawn 23/11, 30/11, 7/12, 14/12
- Major draw containing ALL tickets purchased during promotion—I x \$1000 prize drawn 18/12
- **\$100 entry for participating businesses**

Further details will be available during the next couple of weeks; if you are interested in participating please contact Terri Cameron.



Business Spotlight:

Lynay Boutique



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Heather came to George Town 30 years ago, to live with her Aunt and Uncle at Low Head. She worked at the Pier Hotel, during which time she met her husband Michael and they had two children together.

Heather says: "I adore living here in this fantastic community,

Michael and I have found it is a great place to raise a family. I have worked in retail for most of my time in George Town. Just over 4 years ago I started working for Estelle Phillips within her lovely business "Pookis" and I loved it! I had found the perfect career for myself.

A few months ago Estelle asked me if I would like to buy her business. After only a little thought I did buy it and it is now "Lynay Boutique". It was a huge decision for me because of the slow-down in retail but I think our town needs to keep trying to move forward and offer our customers the best shopping experience we can. If we have confidence in ourselves and our passions then our customers will have confidence in us and continue to shop here and our community will grow.

As a first time business owner I was a little worried how I would go but we have a very supportive community and a good customer base both here and further afield, which has helped me get settled in. So I would like to thank all that have supported Lynay Boutique and I look forward to seeing you all soon .

Patchworks Plus

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Sarah has lived in George Town all her life. She married a local lad, and has always dabbled in lots of different crafts: Cross Stitch, sewing, doll making... you name it, she's had a go.

Sarah says "I started selling online a little over 10 years ago, mainly handmade dolls as a partnership with a friend: then I discovered patchwork fabric and quilting—which I sold via eBay. At this time, I purchased a small domestic quilting machine for my own use and by word of mouth, people asked me to do quilts for them. My little set up became too small, so I purchased a bigger quilting frame and machine. All was well for 6 years until I lost my full time job! We took the plunge and set up my business web-site. 5 weeks later,

I was offered my 'old' job back—with new owners. For 4 years I worked full time, whilst building up my online business and quilting service. 2 years ago, when the quilting side of things became really busy, we decided to go to the Trade Fair in Melbourne to have a look at an even bigger machine. We bought our industrial, computerized Gammill Long Arm Quilting Machine, and I HAVE NOT LOOKED BACK!

We have well over 100 Edge to Edge patterns to choose from in our catalogue: The business grew so much over the last few years, that my stock overflowed into most rooms of our home. It was time to do what I love full time! We opened our doors at 14 Anne Street on the 24th September, and have had visitors come Launceston, Burnie, Penguin, Exeter, Beaconsfield especially to visit, all stopping in to the local cafe's and bakeries for lunch.

Quilters will travel far and wide just to visit patchwork stores, then stay for lunch and shop in the town. So we are sure it will boost our little town. We don't just cater for the Quilter/Patchworker, we have a huge pattern selection, for anyone who picks up a needle and thread. Our stock is always changing and we are happy to source what our customers want. Not only will I be offering quilting classes, but bag making, English Paper Piecing etc, depending on customer feedback. We are currently closed Sundays and Mondays.