



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 Roll-out
- 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 Sherriff

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 9

Newsletter Date: November 13

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CHAMBER?

Presidents Report

With 2013 starting wind up and businesses starting to pick up with the summer months and peak season ahead of us, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all members that your Chamber of Commerce is here if you need anything. If you have any issues relating to new legislation such as the plastic bag ban, or if you are having any troubles negotiating the mine field that is Industrial Relations, please feel free to drop me a line on

president@georgetownchamber.com.au.

November 2013 saw the introduction of legislation that has been in the works for over 12 months now that effectively bans the use of light weight, non-biodegradable shopping bags in all businesses, from supermarkets to retail, bottle shops, takeaway shops and any other business including market stall holders. If you have any instances of where this new legislation is having a negative impact on your business or if you know of someone who is not abiding by the new legislation, please feel free to let me know.

The Launceston Chamber of Commerce 2013 Business Excellence Awards was held on the 26th November 2013 with Bass & Flinders Centre and Heritage Isle Credit Union being short listed as finalists in a couple of award categories. Unfortunately neither business was able to take out the top honour with Bass & Flinders being beaten in their category by Josef Chromy Cellar Door. Congratulations must go out to both businesses for being nominated as finalists as this does a great deal for improving the profile as George Town as a business district. Hopefully next year we can get more businesses to nominate for these awards and get a few more finalists in various categories.

KordaMentha, receivers for the failed Gunns Limited, have commenced the expression of interest process for the purchase of the Bell Bay Pulp Mill project. KordaMentha is seeking to sell the project as a whole entity which will include all permits as they currently stand including all strict environmental guidelines, the site for the pulp mill as well as all assets including timber plantations, woodchip mills and port facilities in Burnie. We will be sure to keep all businesses updated with the progress of the purchases as information comes to hand.

The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce, Jobs Forum Update was held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor on the 7th November 2013 and I was lucky enough to once again be involved with this discussion. There have been some outcomes from this forum, such as the recently announced \$30,000 first home builders bonus and the introduction of a Tasmanian Government local procurement policy which will see the government putting more focus on procuring goods and services from Tasmanian business over interstate businesses, however I don't believe that forum really got to the grass roots of the problem and don't think that there were any outcomes that will really help to drive down the unemployment rate, especially here in the North.

The Targa TEMCO prologue 2014 is fast approaching and the Chamber is seeking a meeting with Octagon to discuss the upcoming event to ensure that all business have a lot more notice this time around and to see where the George Town business community can get more involved with the event next year. We will keep you posted on the outcomes of this and if anyone has any concerns about the prologue or issues from previous years or ideas on how the business community can get more involved we would love to hear from you.

**Points of Interest**

- Presidents Report
- NBN Rollout Update
- Christmas Promotion
- Up-coming events

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 Sherriff**

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

Jarrold Bannon

Student

Mike Moss

Amcal Pharmacy

Richard Lang

G.T. Antiques

As I'm sure everyone is now aware, May 2014 has been earmarked as the date when Telstra will turn off the copper network in George Town, meaning that all businesses will need to be rolled over the NBN by this time. More information is provided later in this newsletter and on the 4th December, Damian from Lountel will be holding an information evening at Peppers York Cove to have a discussion with businesses about the shutdown of the copper network and what is involved with changing over to the NBN (please refer to Damien's message below).

George Town Chamber of Commerce is lobbying hard to Andrew Nikolic MP to try and get this date extended but from advice we have received, this may not be possible. We are still working hard on lobbying the Federal Government to rethink this shutdown date and will seeking advice from TCCI and trying to partner with Deloraine to have the switch off cancelled or the shutdown of date extended to ensure that there is enough time for businesses to become compliant. I am seeking advice from any business with regards to the reasons why they have not yet switched to the NBN, any issues they have had regarding the install of a service and any stories of the negative impact that may occur due to the copper network being shut down.

BUSINESS TRANSITIONS to NBN:

Many of us have either experienced or heard horror stories of businesses transitioning their phone and internet services across to the NBN. One of the biggest issues is downtime - the period when your phones and internet stop working, which can last days or, in some cases, weeks - not good for business!

The frustrating part about this downtime is that it is completely unnecessary: the NBN is a completely new service and there is no technical reason why you cannot have both your old and new services active at the same time. Unfortunately it appears that the major carriers do not have processes in place to do this - they have to disconnect your old service first. Any delay in the NBN installation will extend this period you are without phones or internet.

Here are some tips that will help you transition:

- 1. Plan** every stage of the transition well in advance. Be very careful of just calling up your current carrier and asking them to do it for you. Find out exactly the stages involved, get timing commitments from suppliers and ensure you can revert to your old system if something goes wrong.
- 2. Convert** your alarm to using mobile GPRS - do not put this over the NBN "tele phone connection". The NBN cable is often laid in a place where it is vulnerable to being cut.
- 3. Convert** your EFTPOS terminals to using mobile GPRS or your broadband network (IP). Many modern terminals are already capable of this.
- 4. Convert** your inbound fax to a fax2email service and using scanning and email instead of outbound fax. Fax does not work reliably over the NBN.
- 5. Find** a carrier who will install an NBN connection without a contract. Once the NBN box is hooked up, disconnect it again and only then transition your main phone and internet. Because the box is already installed this will reduce your downtime. If you have a phone system, then you will need to consult your telephone system expert in how to transition this - it can get complicated.

My company, Launtel, specialises in handling this transition so that you have minimal downtime. We are holding an information session at Pepper's York Cove at 6pm on Wed 4th December - you can book in at

<http://georgetown-nbn-survival.eventbrite.com.au>.

Alternatively you can contact me.—Damian Ivereigh
Launtel 0418 217 582

**Points of Interest**

- Presidents Report
- NBN Update
- Christmas Promotion
- Up-coming events

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 Sherriff**

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

Up-coming Events:**1. Shop Local – Christmas promotion**

The George Town Chamber of Commerce will be running a Shop Local – Christmas Promotion throughout George Town businesses to try and encourage locals to support small local businesses in the lead up to Christmas.

Cost to enter is \$100 per business and for this you will get significant advertising through posters displayed in all participating shops plus regular plugs on the George Town Facebook Page and Tamar FM radio.

The promotion will be launched at George Town on Show 23rd November 2013.

The promotion will work like this:

When someone spends over \$10 in one transaction at your shop, they will receive a ticket (1 ticket per transaction) into the weekly draw for the chance to win \$100. There will be 4 weekly draws drawn on the 29th Nov, 6th Dec, 13th Dec and 20th Dec. All weekly tickets will then be put into the Major Prize Draw to be drawn on the 23rd December with the major prize being \$1000.00 cash.

Restrictions are allowed and we ask that you advise us of these as soon as possible so that we can add it into the terms and conditions for the flyers. Restrictions can be like “only applicable on gift items”, “not applicable on prescriptions”, “not applicable on lotto or Aurora PayG” etc.

Please advise us of your interest in participating no later than Tuesday 19th November. The chamber will then by Friday 22nd November provide your business with posters to display and a bunch of raffle tickets to start handing out!

2. Business transition to NBN:

- Information session hosted by Damian Ivereigh of Launtel
- Pepper's York Cove at 6pm on Wed 4th December
- Booking at:
<http://georgetown-nbn-survival.eventbrite.com.au>.
- Or, contact Damien direct on:

0418217582

