



ACTING MAYOR'S REPORT

As our Mayor, Annie Revie, is still recovering from her illness it falls to me to bring you this Council update. However, I am pleased to say that Annie is feeling a lot better and hoping to be back at her desk sometime soon.

In the meantime, it was my honour and privilege to officiate at the Australian Citizenship Ceremony for Dr. Alex John, his wife Jenny and two of their daughters Olivia and Davia (their third daughter Heidi was born in Hobart). It was pleasing to see such a large number of their friends come along to witness the ceremony, enjoy a lovely morning tea and swap a few stories. Amongst the thoughtful gifts they received were a fly swatter and a jar of Vegemite!

At the last Council workshop, it was agreed that the five photographs by renowned Tasmania photographer, Peter Dombrovskis, donated to the Community by the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, should be displayed in the foyer of the Flinders Arts and Entertainment Centre. They are wonderful photographs of Tasmanian wilderness which will make our foyer look a lot more attractive.

Council has some big issues to consider in the near future besides Telstra and the airport runway upgrade. Amongst the several challenges identified in the FTI Consultant's report into our island's future, was to note how critical it is for this community that we understand the probability that within seven short years our working age population will fall below the number required to maintain our essential public and private services. Please be aware that Council is treating this problem with urgency and is already looking at ideas to attract young people to the Island. Unfortunately, such a major issue takes time to deal with and has other problems involved too, such as housing, but we are, as they say, "on to it".

The deadline for the General Manager's vacant position expired on 17th November and we are very pleased with the quality of applications received. Councillors will be considering those applications this week and making a short list for interviewing as soon as possible.

I have recently returned from a couple of days in New South Wales and was appalled by the toll the bush fires took on small remote communities. It certainly should motivate this council to talk to the Tasmanian Fire Service as well as Parks to ensure that we have done our best to protect our own communities from such horrific disasters.

David Williams
Acting Mayor

AIRPORT UPGRADE UPDATE

Council has appointed Highway Stabilisers as the preferred contractor for the Airport Upgrade. In the upcoming weeks Council will be working with Malcolm Sharp and the Contractor to establish a workable solution for the period of the upgrade, which is currently scheduled for the month of February. We will endeavour to keep you updated and aim to release information about the effect on flights during this period, when it has been determined.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PROFESSIONAL YEAR GRADUATE INTERNSHIP SCHEME

Got a great business but not enough staff? Plenty of tourists but no one speaks their language? Business is profitable but 'I never seem to get time to do the books?' If any of these situations sounds like you, then Council has found a possible solution for you at no cost. Since 2004, the Federal Government has supported graduates in accountancy and business to complete voluntary internships for up to three months with Australian businesses. If you think this might be GOOD business for you, contact David Williams on 0428 628 948 so we can make sure that on December 3 you can meet face-to-face one of the program operators to discuss how this might make your business much more profitable and life just that much easier!

RUBBISH

A friendly reminder to anyone driving to the Whitemark Tip or Lady Barron Transfer Station, please make sure you securely tie down or cover your trailer or tray of rubbish so it doesn't end up along the sides of the road. 😊

MISSING TEA TOWELS

We are trying to track down tea towels from the FAEC (Whitemark Hall). 🙏
Just wondering if anyone might have taken some home to wash after an event, we are missing quite a few (around 20-30). 🙏😊

WE'RE UPDATING THE LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY ON THE COUNCIL WEBSITE

If you'd like to be included or update your existing details - please send us through an email at office@flinders.tas.gov.au and we'll get right to it!

<http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/furneaux-business-directory>

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

A friendly reminder to businesses and tourism operators that we have an area in the Council Office foyer where we display visitor information. If you have any brochures etc., please feel free to drop some in.

FURNEAUX ISLANDS FESTIVAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

Council is inviting interested Community Groups and local businesses who would like to host an event during January to apply for a Furneaux Islands Festival Community Grant. There is a pool of \$3,000 in total funding available. As these are small grants (with a maximum request of up to \$500) – we encourage the money to be used for activities such as bus hire to assist with transportation to and from an event, Hall hire facilities, equipment hire, printing and marketing materials.

This year we will be producing a 'Furneaux Islands Festival Event Calendar' promoting a range of 'not to be missed' summer events throughout the entire month of January, and are inviting Community Groups and local businesses to hold an event or activity that offers our visitors the opportunity to be involved in community activities and 'live like a local' for the month. The calendar will highlight the best of what our islands have to offer from the North to the South.

The 26th January will be kept free on the Event Calendar as a 'Day of Reflection' and for those to spend as they wish.

So, if you are planning an event and would like to apply for a Festival Community Grant to support it or have an event you'd like to include on the Festival Calendar that highlights our history, music, culture and community spirit – please contact **Sammi Gowthorp** on sammi.gowthorp@flinders.tas.gov.au or **6359 5001** by 5pm, 2 December 2019.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next Ordinary Meeting of Flinders Council will be held at the Flinders Arts and Entertainment Centre, Whitemark, Flinders Island on:

Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 9.30am.

Public Question Time will be held between 9.30 – 10.00am. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday 12th December on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

Heidi Marshall | **ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**

WHITEMARK TIP OPENING HOURS

SUN, MON, FRI 1.30pm - 4.30pm
TUES +THURS 7.00am -10.00am
WEDNESDAYS 8.30am - 11.30am
CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS