

Council News

Mayor's Column

State Government Cabinet Visit

Council was privileged to welcome the full State Cabinet to the Island for a Cabinet Meeting. Councillors met with the Cabinet in the morning and also attended the lunch put on by the members for Bass: The Hon. Peter Gutwein MP, The Hon. Michael Ferguson MP and Sarah Courtney MP. The Deputy Mayor then accompanied the Minister for Health and the Minister for Human Services on a tour of the Multi-Purpose Centre. The General Manager accompanied the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Resources to view the Port and State Road, whilst I accompanied the Minister for Education and the Treasurer to visit the School. The Premier and other Cabinet members visited with the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc. and flew to Cape Barren Island. Those remaining on Flinders were hosted to afternoon tea at Markarna Park.

Both from my point of view and feedback received from the Cabinet members, this was a very successful visit. Council indicated that it is very appreciative of the funds that have been spent on the Island in recent years and the support given in maintaining good sea access; highlighting that this assists Council in being proactive in maintaining and upgrading its own infrastructure. The major issue put forward now that Council is working on, and that causes ongoing angst in the community, is the limited and unreliable access to telecommunications, both as phone and data transfer. An upgrade of these services is necessary for safety reasons and to continue to grow the Islands' population.

I thank the Cabinet Members and Sarah for making the trip to Flinders for this historic event.

Legislation

Two amended local government regulations came into effect on the 29th

June - Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015.

The major change that will be noticeable to ratepayers is that Council no longer has to separately advertise each Ordinary Meeting of Council in The Examiner but can advertise once with a notice giving the set dates of the meetings for the year. After that, only changes to meeting dates have to be advertised in The Examiner (as our daily paper). The list of dates will be on Council's website and on the notice board at the Council entrance.

Legislation for a strengthened Code of Conduct for Councillors did not pass the upper house. This legislation was initiated by the Local Government Sector and has been some time in the making. The issue will be discussed further at the upcoming LGAT meetings.

Federal Funding

The Federal Government, whilst freezing the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to Councils, is increasing the amount of dollars available to Councils in other areas, such as roads in the form of Roads to Recovery funding. How much Flinders Council will be able to take advantage of these funding opportunities will very much depend on the regulations around each type of funding. For instance, to claim Roads to Recovery funding Council has to spend a substantial amount of its own money on roads, excluding the funding for roads that it receives in the form of the FAGs. Application for available funding and reporting on money received is time consuming and requires skill. The small Council staff we have will be doing their best to take each and every opportunity as it arises, however there will be times when the staff capacity is stretched to the limit, particularly when you take into account the amount of regular reporting that is also required. Your Council staff are dedicated to working hard to achieve the best possible

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results for you, the rate payers and community members in all areas of its activities and securing as much grant funding as possible to support upgrading and maintaining our assets.

Flinders Council Citizen of the Year

Nominations are now open and I encourage you to nominate a community member that you would like to recognise for the voluntary commitment they give outside their work to enriching the lives of other community members.

Australian of the Year Awards

Australians are again being asked to tell the National Australia Day Council who they think is worthy of attention as nominations open for the 2016 Australian of the Year Awards. These awards provide all Australians with the opportunity to recognise someone who makes them proud. There are four categories: Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year (those aged 65 years or over), Young Australian of the Year (aged 16 to 30) and Australia's Local Hero.

Nominations are open until 3rd August 2015. Telephone 1300 655 193 for information.

The Journey to Healing Project

This project is an outcome of the Tasmanian Association of Hospice and Palliative Care grants initiated earlier this year. A small grant was awarded to Wendy Nash and is auspiced by FIAAI. Council staff gave support in the grant application preparation and the hall hire fees are being waived for this Community arts project. If you are interested - contact Wendy on 0409 703 779.

Shipping

Port & Coastal is a company interested in setting up a shipping service in Bass Strait. Port and Coastal informed Council of their interest in May and supplied an update mid-June. Directors have visited both Islands, with a visit to King Island again last week. I have been advised that

representatives from the company intend to be on Flinders within the next two weeks to meet with stakeholders and discuss their proposed service.

Pensioner Transport Rebate

The State Government provides the "Bass Strait Island's air travel concession" - a rebate of 50 per cent on the cost of one return trip to Northern Tasmania per financial year available to aged residents of the Bass Strait Islands who have a Centrelink or DVA Pensioner Concession card.

This rebate can be claimed through Service Tasmania.

This and other concessions are outlined in the Tasmanian Governments "Discounts & Concessions Guide 2015-16" available from the Service Tasmania Office.

Strategic Plan Update

The Draft Strategic Plan will be launched for public comment post the July Council meeting. Please take the time to have a look at it. I encourage you to make comment.

Carol Cox

Mayor

Community Development

Rose Garden Pruning Day

Sharpen your secateurs and join the group of Rose Garden volunteers for our annual rose pruning day on Saturday 25th July, 9:00am - midday. Please BYO secateurs and gardening gloves. Morning tea will be provided. Our Community Rose Garden in Whitemark was established in the year 2000 with donations in memory of Margaret Aitken and Elaine Iles.

Journey to Healing Project

Join Wendy Nash to help create a Community Felt as part of the project 'HEART AND SOUL'; stage one of the 'JOURNEY TO HEALING' project that has arisen in response to the loss of a number of Flinders Island Residents in recent times. No previous art experience or skills

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needed. Please see full-page advertisement in this edition of Island News. For more information, please contact Wendy Nash on mobile: 0409 703 779 or email: ydnew@bigpond.com

Recognise Tasmanians worthy of your attention now!

The search for the next Australian of the Year Award recipients has begun. You are encouraged to nominate a friend, family member, community leader, colleague or even someone famous - any Tasmanian who you admire and believe makes our state and country a better place to live. Being nominated for the Australian of the Year Awards is a great honour and offers your nominee a unique platform to further their important work. This is your opportunity to recognise and reward someone in your community who makes you proud to be an Australian.

The prestigious program culminates in the announcement of the national award recipients in Canberra by the Prime Minister on Australia Day Eve. But to get this point every year 128 Australians are recognised, across 4 categories, in 8 state and territories – that's 16 Tasmanians!

So do you know a Tasmanian that could be our next:

- Australian of the Year;
- Senior Australian of the Year (60 years and over);
- Young Australian of the Year (16-30 years); or
- Australia's Local Hero?

Nomination is an easy process either online at

<http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate/>

Nominations close Monday 3 August 2015 and remember – one nomination is all it takes!

Nominations for the 2015 Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards are now open!

These awards are about recognising individuals, groups, businesses and organisations that are making a difference in our local communities and state.

Making a nomination is easy! You can nominate someone and answer the questions on their behalf or you can simply fill in their name and contact details and save the nomination, give them a call and tell them you have nominated them! They can then fill in the details as they are going to know best about their achievements.

Nominations can be made by visiting the following website: www.awardsaustralia.com/community-achievement-awards/tas

Nominations close 21st August 2015

Grants

There are currently a variety of grants available that may be applicable to local community groups and organisations. Below are a list of the grants and their website links for you to have a look at. If you have an idea or project we suggest you contact the funding body to discuss your eligibility and application.

- 1. Holden Home Ground Advantage Grants Program - www.holden.com.au**
The Holden Home Ground Advantage is supporting local sporting clubs for the next 10 years by committing \$5 million to develop and improve their facilities. Twice a year Holden will provide \$250,000 worth of grants to sporting clubs who need assistance - that's \$500,000 every year, for ten years. **Closes 31 August 2015**
- 2. Festivals Australia: Regional Festivals Project Fund - www.australiacouncil.gov.au**
The Regional Festivals Project Fund supports the inclusion of an arts

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project at festivals in regional and remote Australia. Grants are available to support the costs to produce and present an arts activity and there is no limit on the amount that can be requested. Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak with an Australia Council Grants Officer before applying to this fund. **Closes - 1 September (projects commencing 1 January 2016) - 1 December (projects commencing 1 July 2016)**

3. **Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Program - Business Growth Grants**
Provider: Australian Department of Industry & Science Amount: Up to \$20,000 Location: All States Summary: Funding can be used to engage a consultant/s to make improvements to your business. **Closing Date: Always Open**

You can also subscribe to a grant alert list to receive emailing notifications by emailing:

1. cdgrants@dpac.tas.gov.au or
2. healthpromotion.north@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Alternatively check out grants information online, here are some suggestions:

1. www.australia.gov.au/directories/australia/regional/web-resources-list
2. www.business.gov.au/Grantfinder/Grantfinder.aspx

Thank you,
Jana Harper & AK
Community Development

WHITEMARK TIP

Opening Hours

MON, FRI & SUN 1.30pm- 4.30pm

WED 8.30am- 11.30am



CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Flinders Council Citizen of the Year Award

Nomination forms are available from the Council Office and on the Council website for people wishing to nominate an individual for the Flinders Council Citizen of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Flinders Island Show on 16th October 2015.

Please submit your nomination to the Council Office by C.O.B. **28th August 2015.**

Selection Criteria for the Award

The following criteria will be used to select the award recipient:

1. Only individuals are eligible to be nominated, not organisations.
2. Nominees must be over sixteen (16) years of age as of the 1st day of July in the year of the nomination.
3. The award will be given to the person who has made the most significant voluntary contribution for the benefit of the Furneaux Community, organisations or individuals.
4. Recipients can receive only one Citizen of the Year Award during their lifetime.
5. Selection will be based on the quality of the contribution along with the quantity of the contribution.

Raoul Harper
General Manager

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

Thursday 16th July 2015 commencing at 1pm.

The Agenda will be available for perusal on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au or at the Council Office from Friday 10th July 2015. Public Question Time will be held between 1.00pm - 1.30pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend.

Raoul Harper
GENERAL MANAGER