

Council News

Mayor's Column

November Council Meeting Outcomes

Planning: Approved a three lot subdivision in the Rural Zone with all lots greater than 40 hectares, on Palana Road, Palana.

It was noted that three Discretionary Development applications had been received during the month of October.

Emita (Old Jetty Beach): Councillors did not support the renaming of the beach, suggesting other options could be considered to recognise the contribution made by Valentine Huitfeldt to the Furneaux Community.

Policies: Council adopted a suite of "Operational Behavioural Policies" drafted by the Local Government Association of Tasmania. These policies are now open for community comment and will be reconsidered at the January Ordinary Meeting of Council, taking into consideration any comments received.

This suite of policies has been specifically developed by LGAT for Councils and Flinders Council will use them to replace several current Council Policies relating to staff behaviour and OH&S.

Other Policies reviewed and now open for community comment are:

Code of Tender and Contracts Policy

The State Government has lifted the amount where Councils must go to tender to \$250,000. Flinders Council has decided to leave the value above which it will seek tenders at \$100,000. The policy also supports use of local businesses where applicable with a stepped approach to the quotes required depending on the value of the purchase. Legislation provides that Council can, in some instances, be exempted from going to tender.

Investment Policy

Council currently receives interest on its cash funds, through investment in Term Deposits spread across a number of banking institutions. The Council is seeking to get a better return for a portion of its cash reserves, its uncommitted funds, through broader investments. This policy outlines the boundaries within which the broader investment activity can take place, including maximum investment options within a managed fund.

Policy Manual Policy

Council is proposing to remove the requirement to put all new and reviewed Policies out to comment for 28 days. Very little comment has been received on draft policies of recent times.

Office Closure: Council approved the closure of the Office from the 24th of December to the 4th of January. Staff will ensure sufficient Visitor Information Material is available at selected business houses over this period.

Works Staff will continue to operate the Whitemark Tip and other routine jobs over this period. The Whitemark tip will not be open on Public Holidays.

Whitemark Foreshore BBQ: It is very pleasing to see the BBQ being used, bringing the foreshore area to life.

It must be remembered however that the BBQ is located in close proximity to houses and **that loud partying late in the night is not appropriate at this BBQ site.** I ask that you be considerate and refrain from loud music and yelling in this area after 10.00pm.

2016 Meeting Dates: All the meeting dates have been set for 2016. Council only has to advertise these once in the Examiner, however they will also be advertised in the Island News and listed on the Council Website.

Building Permits: Councillors approved the transfer of Building Permit Authority functions to West Tamar Council. In simple terms this means that Building Permits will be issued directly from West Tamar Council, as Plumbing Permits are now. Documents will still be able to be lodged locally, with a process in place for direct transfer to West Tamar Council. Payments will be required to be made to Flinders Council. Watch for further information on the development of this process.

Planning Approvals, i.e. the lodgement and processing of Development Applications, continue to be through Flinders Council, using West Tamar Council planning staff as consultants.

Special Plumbing Permits; i.e. for septic tanks and all other plumbing outside of the building, also remain with Flinders Council.

Council News

Planning and Building Information Packs are available from the Council office and on Council's website.

Banking

Council has invited the State Manager of Bendigo bank to visit the Island. The Flinders Island Tourism and Business Association have arranged a meeting for Friday the 4th December (see the Householder).

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday December the 9th in the Rose Garden room at 5.30 pm. The Annual Report is available on the Council website or on request at the Council office. All are welcome to attend.

Building Act – Open for Review

Council's across Tasmania have been lobbying the Minister and the Director of Building Control for many years seeking a reduction of "red tape" and changes to the way building works and the building certification process is managed at a Council and State level. Minister Gutwein made it clear upon his election he would reduce red tape and simplify the processes.

Last week the State released the draft Building Bill for community consultation. It supported this would replace the current *Building Act 2000*. The details are available at: http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/building/regulation/building_regulatory_framework_review/making_a_submission

Furneaux Islands Festival 2016

Darren Hanlon, Jess Riberio, Mark Monnone and Sean Choolburra are just some of the artists that have been locked in and will be joining many local acts over the 3 days of the Festival from the 29th to the 31st of January 2016.

Sunday is the FREE Community Concert, this year at FIAAI Park in Lady Barron.

The Furneaux Islands Festival now has its own website www.fifestival.com.au

Summer School Holiday Program

The very popular Surf School will once again be on as well as snorkelling. Hopefully the weather will be a little bit kinder this year so that we can have lots of these sessions running.

The Emita Sports Committee is planning a boat building day in the lead up to the Emita

Sports Carnival. All boats will be stored at Emita Hall so they will be ready to go on the Saturday 9th of January with a show boat parade prior to the great race. Now is a good time to start getting a team together.

Island Chef will be making a return, this time it will be against the visiting Meander Valley youth group. Teams of four will battle against each other in the mystery box challenge to create an amazing main and dessert. Who will be victorious???

A performance based workshop will be run in the lead up to the Furneaux Islands Festival. All details will be released shortly via flyers and posters so keep an eye out for them.

All the information on Councillors' reports, reports received and the attachments to the Agenda can be found on the Council Website <http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/agendas/>

Carol Cox
MAYOR

WHITEMARK TIP

Opening Hours

MON, FRI & SUN 1.30pm- 4.30pm

WED 8.30am- 11.30am



CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Annual General Meeting 2015

The Annual General Meeting of the Flinders Council will be held in the Rose Garden Room of the Furneaux Arts & Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 9th December 2015, commencing at 5.30pm.

The Annual Report of the Council will be available during office hours at the Council Offices, Davies Street, Whitemark, and also on the Council website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/agendas from Thursday 19th November 2015. Submissions on the Report from members of the public are welcome and must be made in writing and forwarded to the General Manager no later than 5.00pm, Friday 4th December 2015.

Raoul Harper
GENERAL MANAGER

Council News

Council's Policy Manual is an important document of Council as it provides direction to Staff, Management and Councillors. Many of the policies are required by, or relate to, legislation and in most instances help manage Council's exposure to risk. Council resolved at the 24th November 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting to rescind the following policies:

- Personal Protective Equipment Policy;
- Smoke Free Environment Policy;
- Staff – Sun Protection Policy;
- Workplace Health and Safety Policy;
- Equal Employment Opportunity Policy;
- Employee Personal Development Appraisal Policy;
- Staff Development Policy;
- Antidiscrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy;
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy;
- Disciplinary Policy;
- Rehabilitation Policy; and
- Computer and Telephone Usage Policy;

and to adopt the following policies:

- Code of Conduct;
- Performance Management Policy;
- Performance Management Procedure;
- Fitness for Work Policy;
- Fitness for Work Procedure;
- Discipline Policy;
- Discipline Procedure;
- Communication Policy;
- Work Health and Safety Policy;
- Issues Resolution Policy;
- Issues Resolution Procedure;
- Workplace Behaviour Policy;
- Code of Tender and Contracts Policy;
- Investment Policy; and
- Council Policy Manual Policy.

These policies will lie on the table for public comment until the 22nd December 2015.

They can be downloaded from the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies and hardcopies are available from the Council Office. Should you wish to make comment on any of these policies, please do so by addressing relative correspondence to myself.
Raoul Harper

GENERAL MANAGER

Time to think about drinking water

As Christmas draws nearer and family and friends visit for the festive season, spare a thought for the water you all may be drinking and whether it is safe to consume.

Most of the Island residents drink tank water that is not treated. Typically there are a number of bacteria within untreated water that can, at times, negatively affect our health and in extreme cases can lead to people becoming very unwell.

The very young, elderly, ill or those that are not accustomed to drinking tank water, should take extra precautions to ensure that water is boiled for at least one minute prior to consumption.

By its very nature, tank water is the product of runoff from a roof that is exposed to environmental elements, debris and also animal contamination ie: birds, possums and rodents can all impact on the cleanliness of a roof and/or gutters.

When water gets low, the debris in the bottom of the tank may be disturbed and higher bacterial loads may enter the system. These can lead to "shock loads" of bacteria and should be avoided at all times by those who consume tank water. Tanks should also be regularly cleaned out to avoid build-up and growth of debris and bacteria.

You are urged to consider your water usage and its quality at all times but particularly in summer as temperatures rise, water tanks get lower and bacteria can multiply. At minimum boil your drinking water for 1 minute prior to consumption.

If you are unsure of the safety of your water or would like to discuss this topic further, feel free to contact Council's Environmental Health Officer on **63 595 001**.

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

Thursday 17th December 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 11th December 2015.

Public Question Time will be held between 1.00pm – 1.30pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend.

Raoul Harper
GENERAL MANAGER