

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

HI TO ALL ON THE ISLAND

We are all living in such challenging times. The corona virus is appearing to bring high levels of chaos to the whole world. The Premier of Tasmania has declared the closing of all manner of places that are a huge part of our daily lives: for example, the pub, the club, the gyms. This will be hard to bear for many.

THIS IS A TIME FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT

There is no greater time than now. Yes, we do need to stay at least 1.5 metres from everyone except family members. But please – stay in touch with friends and family. Stay in touch with people you know who might be in danger of cutting themselves off. Give them a ring once every few days. Skype your family so that you can see them as well as hear them. Get on social media and send positive messages. Do your best to ensure that everyone on this Island has someone in touch with them. Humans are social beings – there is no better time to reach out than now!

BEWARE OF THE GRAPEVINE!

The local grapevine can be good. We are such a small community – the grapevine keeps us in touch with what is going on and that is good. But the grapevine can also be a big problem! You have all heard of the game, Chinese Whispers. It is a game where a group sits in a circle. Someone decides on a message to pass on to the next person. The next person passes it on to the next and so it continues until the message gets back to where it started. And Guess what – when it does get back to where it started it is almost always a very different message. As a school teacher, I often played this game with children – and it never failed – the message was always different. This is what the grapevine can do. So here is what you can do to ensure the grapevine is beneficial rather than destructive:

- Use your common sense and question if what you are being told makes sense;
- Ask the person who tells you something that doesn't sound right where they learned it from;
- Do not pass information on if you think it might be harmful to someone;

- Check with someone you trust to find the correct information.

IN TIMES OF CRISIS PEOPLE GET ANXIOUS VERY QUICKLY

The other day a community member got in touch with me. She has heard that someone on the Island had contracted the corona virus. She has a serious health condition. She had a right to know if the story was true so that she could seriously protect herself. She asked if I could find out. I was able to do that and, guess what – the story was fake news. Let us all be careful that we do not add to the anxiety of others.

THIS VIRUS IS BAD BUT

Indeed, it is closing down whole towns and even countries. But remember this:

- The majority of people will only get a little unwell.
- Some people will have no symptoms at all.
- Most people will come out the other end - alive and well.

BE KIND TO EACH OTHER

There are several reasons why kindness is important.

1. It makes you feel good when people are kind to you.
2. It makes you feel good when you are kind to someone else.
3. It helps us to spread some happiness – one of the most important feelings in life.
4. It helps people to like you.
5. It helps people to think well of you.
6. When lots of people go out of their way to be kind to others then lots of people feel good.
7. Smiling at others is a simple way of showing kindness.

BE KIND TO YOURSELF

We sometimes forget to be kind to ourselves. If we forget self-kindness, we are sure to become stressed. So

- Yes, you can still have a coffee with a friend at home – just make sure you keep your distance.
- Make time for yourself to do some things you like. Even in isolation you can still garden, read a good book listen to music, go for a walk, enjoy a glass of wine, ring a friend.

- Try to identify five positive things every day – you will be surprised how this can lift your mood.
- Take five minutes to meditate – or pray – or give thanks.
- Order a take-away meal from one of our food retailers offering take-aways. Eat with a friend.

AND ONE PIECE OF GREAT NEWS TO END WITH!

Everyone on the Island knows Sue Blundstone. Well she brought the Island a bit of fame recently. Sue works for Integrated Living. As part of that she visits several clients regularly and supports them with things they are unable to do by themselves. Integrated Living operates over several States in Australia. They ran an award where they asked clients to nominate an Integrated Living worker who was absolutely excellent in the quality of support s/he provided. Over 800 people were nominated, and the award was won by our very own Sue Blundstone. Her clients said such wonderful things about the quality of her support that the judges had no problem in selecting her for the award. Unfortunately, the damned corona virus means she is unable to travel to Newcastle to receive the award. But she won! When you see her around – congratulate her – reach out and make her feel good. Make yourself feel good by such a simple kind act.

IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP

If there is anything I can help you with – for example, questions you need answered and can't get to the bottom of, feel free to email or ring me. If it is within my realm, I will do my best or put you in touch with someone else who can help.

MEANWHILE

Stay as safe and as well as you can!

AND REMEMBER:

- Wash your hands
- Keep a distance of 1.5 metres away from others – except your direct family.

ANNIE REVIE, MAYOR

annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au

Tel: 0477 557 338

At the 24 March 2020 Council meeting Council passed the following motion:

1. **That Council closes the following Council owned facilities to public use until further notice, due to the identified health risk of group social proximity;**
 - **Emita and Lady Barron Halls and Furneaux Arts and Entertainment Centre;**
 - **Killiecrankie, Lady Barron Port, Whitemark Foreshore, and Yellow Beach public toilets;**
 - **Whitemark Gym and Lady Barron Fitness Facility**
 - **Strait Works Art Gallery**
 - **Furneaux Museum**
 - **Holloway Park**
 - **Whitemark Showground Buildings**

TRAVEL TO AND FROM FURNEAUX ISLANDS

A NOTAM (Notice to Air Men) has been issued through Air Services Australia notifying all itinerant aircraft that all landing areas on Flinders Island are closed to all aircraft coming from mainland Australia, with the exception of Whitemark, where they will be directed to land at Flinders Airport.

On the 25th March, Peter Gutwein advised people should not travel to Flinders Island or King island at this time.

All 'non-essential' travellers from mainland Australia to Tasmania are now required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival to Flinders Island.

All passengers will be screened on arrival by Bio-Security and must demonstrate they meet the essential traveller criteria.

At Flinders Island Airport, passengers disembarking now exit through the side 'air gate' of the airport to pick up their luggage from the baggage area. There is generally no access to the terminal for arrivals, (dependent upon weather conditions) however, the side door will be open for restroom access. Check-in at the terminal counter will be unaffected.

Sharp Airlines have in place stringent hygiene and sanitation processes of their aircraft and terminals. Up to date information is available at www.sharpairlines.com

OUR ISLAND PROVISIONS

Both Walkers Supermarket and Lady Barron Store have ample food supplies arriving daily/weekly,

Please be mindful not to panic buy provisions or send them off island – this will ensure everybody has plenty.

If you need help to acquire food or medication, or arrived from interstate after midnight Friday 20th March and are self isolating:

Walker's Supermarket – order your groceries by phone on 6359 2010

Lady Barron Store – order your groceries by phoning Max on 6359 3503

Ochre Medical Centre on 6359 2011 if you need assistance with your medication.

Flinders Island Car Rentals - is also offering a delivery service for any provisions needed. Phone Justin on 0415 505 655

information will be emailed out to parents who have registered their children for the School Holiday Program.

Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee Submissions

The Furneaux Group Shipping Special Committee consists of business and community representatives and exists to consider and make recommendations to Council concerning issues related to Shipping. The public are invited to make submissions for consideration by the Committee. Submissions may be sent to Council by close of business Tuesday 31st March 2020.

Waste Management

Lady Barron Transfer Station

Council will now be able to accept green waste at Lady Barron Transfer Station as fire permits requirements have now been lifted for the Furneaux area.

Whitemark Landfill

Due to concerns for our staff's workplace safety and the current COVID-19 situation, our workers will no longer be handling household waste streams by baling. We ask all tip users to please continue to separate their waste but will be instructed (at a safe distance) to dump household rubbish over the edge of the landfill as happened in the past.

STAY INFORMED

Visit the [Tasmanian Department of Health coronavirus website](http://www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus) at <http://www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus> or the [Australian Government Department of Health website](https://www.health.gov.au) at <https://www.health.gov.au>

For general information about coronavirus call the [National Coronavirus Information Line on 1800 020 080 \(24 hours, 7 days\)](tel:1800020080)

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 28 April 2020 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 23 April 2020 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

Warren Groves | **GENERAL MANAGER**

2020 School Holiday Program

In current circumstances, we will be adapting the Autumn Kids Holiday Program to ensure we keep our kids connected. In partnership with FIAAI we are developing a series of 'Kids Challenges' over the break that can be completed online. Recipes, Pedometer Challenge, Photography, Poetry and also the sharing of information on COVID-19 that has been developed specifically for children to assist them during this time. Further

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications for funding are now being sought from Community Groups. Applications received will be considered by Council as part of the budget process for the next financial year.

GUNN BEQUEST

Applications for funding are now being sought from sporting organisations under the Gunn Bequest.

These funds are provided to suitable projects for the promotion or improvement of sporting facilities on the Island.

Written applications for both grants, using the forms available from the Council Office or the Council website <http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/community-grants-and-awards> will be received no later than C.O.B. Friday 1st May and should be addressed to:

General Manager
Flinders Council
PO Box 40
Whitemark TAS 7255

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