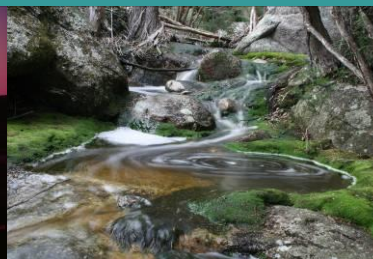


FLINDERS ISLAND NEW RESIDENT INFORMATION



General Information about the Furneaux Region

The Furneaux Group is located between Wilson's Promontory in Victoria and Cape Portland in Tasmania. Flinders Island is the largest of these Islands, the Furneaux Islands region has around 906 permanent residents as last recorded by census.

The Furneaux Group of Islands is what remains of the original land bridge that once joined Tasmania to mainland Australia.

The time of the flooding of this land bridge is a contentious point for many scientists but it is believed to have happened between 12,000 and 18,000 years ago.

Over these thousands of years, water erosion has formed some of the most spectacular rock formations and scenery you will find anywhere in the world.



Climate

The Furneaux Group boasts a maritime climate, with the average rainfall ranging from about 600mm in the southwest to over 800mm in the central hills.

The climate of this region is generally mild as the sea has a moderating effect protecting the Islands from extremes of temperature.

The Furneaux Group of Islands is situated around Latitude 40o South , meaning it is subject to the infamous Roaring Forties winds. Coastal waters can be exposed to strong and variable winds and high seas at times, throughout the year.

Flinders Municipality

The Flinders Municipality covers 4 groups of Bass Strait Islands off the north-eastern tip of Tasmania: the Furneaux, Kent, Hogan and Curtis Groups.

Of the more than 60 Islands, only three have permanent residents, Flinders, Cape Barren and Clarke, with Flinders Island having the largest population.

Flinders Island has four main population centres: Whitemark, Lady Barron, Emita and Killiecrankie.

Whitemark is the main residential and business centre, and the all-tides port at Lady Barron is the berthing point for the trading vessels. Flinders Island is serviced with a weekly sail between Bridport and Lady Barron, monthly to Cape Barren Island and on demand (approx monthly) from Welshpool, Victoria.

There are daily flights between Launceston and Whitemark and Hobart and Whitemark, and four flights a week between Essendon in Melbourne, and Whitemark (subject to seasonal change – please refer to Sharp Airlines current Schedule sharpairlines.com.au). The region is also serviced by a number of charter airlines, (see our business directory at the council's website; www.flinders.tas.gov.au.) who carry passengers and freight on demand.

Flinders Island has a thriving rural community that produces wool, beef, lamb, crayfish, abalone, wine, olive oil and wallaby products. Other main business activities include rural support industries and tourism.

The Islands are home to very diverse range of wildlife, with over 120 species of birds on Flinders Island alone, including many visiting migratory, northern hemisphere species. There are no rabbits or foxes in this region other than rabbits on some of the outer islands, and it is illegal to bring them to this region.

Flinders is a long, narrow Island, 75 km long and 40 km wide, with the Darling Ranges running down the middle of the Island. The total land area of Flinders Island is 1,333 sq km.

Flinders has 73 km of sealed roads, 309 km of gravel roads and is serviced by a licensed Airport with sealed runways at Whitemark.

Flinders Council offers the following services:

- Economic Development
- Works & Services
- Building & Planning
- Community Development
- Environmental Health
- Visitor Information Service Centre.



Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated

Mission Statement

Working with and for the community to achieve a self-sufficient healthy Aboriginal community, promoting social, economic and cultural pride.

The Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated was first established in 1971. The organisation is governed by a committee of community elected Aboriginal members.

F.I.A.A.I runs a variety of housing, health, community, and employment programs. Staff are available to speak with anyone wishing to visit. Please feel free to call into their organisation for information on Aboriginal issues and significant sites and places of importance on the island.

F.I.A.A.I is an agent for Centrelink.

For more information please phone:

Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc (FIAAI) 03 6359 3532



Employment

Traditionally the primary employment sector has been agriculture and fishing with tourism growing in importance.

There are a number of different employment options on Flinders Island from time to time; Flinders Council, Flinders Island Multi-Purpose Centre hospital, Ochre Dr's surgery, FI District High School K-12, FI Aboriginal Association Inc, Nutrien Ag Solutions, or any of the other businesses on the Island. If you would like the contact details for these businesses, please phone the Visitor Information Centre Ph: 03 6359 5010

Many farmers on these Islands run their flocks for wool production and require shearers, wool classers, rouseabouts and someone to press the wool at shearing and crutching time. Some farmers also require people on a part-time/casual basis to help with sheep or cattle work, fencing, and other general farm duties.

Business Opportunities

...business opportunities present themselves on these islands all the time.

They are in the broad regions of:

- Tourism
- Aquaculture
- Agriculture
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Trades
- IT

Our contact details are provided, so if you have any business ideas for Flinders Island please contact the Flinders Council Ph: 03 6359 5010 for help with information and support.



Clubs & Associations

Flinders Island has a wide range of groups, clubs and associations with one of the highest percentages of volunteers per head of capita in Australia so many of these clubs have a highly supportive volunteer base.

- Golf & Bowls RSL Club
- Furneaux Field & Game
- Pony Club
- C.W.A.
- Furneaux Museum Historical Research Association Inc
- Furneaux Lapidary Club
- Meals On Wheels Committee
- Junior Football Association
- Martial Arts
- Community Shed

- Flinders Running Group
- Flinders Island Business Inc.
- Furneaux Community Arts
- Scottish Country Dancing
- Netball, Kids, Ladies & Mixed
- Lions Club
- Landcare
- Acapella Group
- Community Choir
- Show Society
- The Sew 'n' Sews

To mention just a few.



Shops and Services

Flinders Island is serviced by two supermarkets. The Whitemark IGA Supermarket is open Monday - Friday and Saturday mornings, the Lady Barron Store is open 7 days a week. Fuel is available at the Lady Barron Store and at the 24/7 self-service pump in Whitemark. There is also a small supermarket on Cape Barren Island. See below a list of services provided on Flinders Island.

WHITEMARK:

Flinders Council & Visitor Centre 4 Davies St. The centre provides information, small maps, pamphlets on walks, things to do and see to help you enjoy your holiday in the Furneaux Group, as well as all your enquiries addressed to Council. Ph (03) 6359 500

Flinders Island Bakery Café

Lagoon Road, Whitemark, sells a variety of bread, cakes, pies and pasties and great coffee. Ph (03) 6359 2105

The Wharf Restaurant

At the Whitemark Wharf, offers coffee, lunches, snacks, evening dining, fresh Island produce alongside Tasmanian wines and spirits. Ph: 0474 889 236

EM Bowman & Co

Cnr Patrick & Robert Streets, Whitemark. Bowman's is Flinders Island's longest established retailer. It is a general store selling clothing, shoes, fabrics, gifts, stationery and household

goods. It also serves as a newsagent selling newspapers, magazines and stationery. Bowman's has its own family history room, with artefacts collected by the Bowman family since their first arrival in 1913, which you are welcome to step through the kitchen from the shop to, and enjoy. EFTPOS available. Ph (03) 6359 2008

Walkers IGA Supermarket

Patrick Street, Whitemark. The Supermarket sells an extraordinarily wide range of groceries, fresh foods, meat and delicatessen items. EFTPOS available. Ph (03) 6359 2010

Furneaux Gallery

The purple house opposite the beach in Robert Street Whitemark. Open during the summer and autumn months 7 days a week, Furneaux Gallery has paintings, drawings, ceramics and jewellery by local artists. Look for the sign at the driveway entrance behind the mechanic shop. Ph: (03) 6359 2125

Strait Arts Gallery

Patrick Street, Whitemark, next to Walkers Supermarket. Open Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-4pm and Saturday mornings 9.30-11.30am. The gallery is volunteer run, so times may vary. Local arts and craft exhibitions and sales.

Nutrien Ag Solutions

Our local real estate and stock agent, stock rural supplies Lagoon Rd. Ph. (03) 6359 2059

Interstate Hotel/Pub Cafe

Patrick Street, Whitemark. Offers accommodation and counter meals, plus cafe in a country pub atmosphere, with TAB facilities available. Ph. (03) 6359 2114

Flinders Island Sports & RSL Club

The Esplanade Whitemark. Golf, bowls, tennis & netball court and Function centre has Tas Keno and EFTPOS facilities. Ph: 0459 358 983

Cate Cooks Café

Lagoon Road, Whitemark. Tuckshop & Café offering seasonal food, sweet and savoury treats, great coffee and take-home meals. Ph: 0412 626 992

Purple Swamphen

Sells local and Tasmanian hand-made jewellery, photography, knitted and sewn goods, woodwork, ceramics, original artworks and their own blended coffee beans - great for gifts and souvenir's with a unique difference. Found in Lagoon Rd, Whitemark. Mob: 0428 692 862

Post Office Patrick St Whitemark. Sells cards, stationery and a small range of gifts. Ph: (03) 6359 2020

Banking Facilities - the Post Office provides a B-Pay service to most major institutions. There is a Bendigo agency on the island located in the Post Office building at Whitemark.

EFTPOS facilities are available at most places of business on the island.

Service Tasmania - for any registrations, licences or Centrelink services. Ph: 1300 135 513



LADY BARRON:

Lady Barron Store James Street, Lady Barron. A general store, news agent and post office agency. Petrol available here also. Ph. (03) 6359 3503

Furneaux Tavern Franklin Parade, Lady Barron. Offers accommodation, bar and restaurant with magnificent views across the Franklin Sound. **Wifi available.** Ph. (03) 6359 3521

EMITA:

Furneaux Museum 8 Fowlers Road, Emita. An extensive history of the Island. Many artefacts, natural resources and pictures of days gone by. The Museum is managed and cared for entirely by volunteers. Ph: 03 6359 8434

KILLIECRANKIE:

Killiecrankie Enterprises Has sieves for hire for diamond hunting & "Killiecrankie Diamond" jewellery to buy. Ph: 0428 592 130

Furneaux Find It

- Another essential part of Island living is to have a **Furneaux Find It**
Our local phone book.

Available for purchase at Bowmans.

In conjunction with this to help with business searches on the Island
Flinders Council has a business directory on their website -

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

Telecommunications

There is a public phone at Whitemark.

TELSTRA 4G mobile is the only phone coverage that works in this region.

Satellite NBN is also available on the Island.

The Online Access Centre located in Whitemark's Library provides public access to computers and the Internet.

The Furneaux Tavern in Lady Barron and Bowman's in Whitemark provide public Wifi.



Tourism

The region is suited to eco-tourism and other low impact activities. These include bird watching, bush walking, photography, and enjoying the natural surroundings.

It is also a great place to unwind for those who just want to escape the stresses of modern living and perhaps do a bit of fishing, play a round of golf; the 9-hole golf course has only been parred once in its 40 year history, walks, snorkelling/diving and lots more. Please visit our visitor centre at 4 Davies St, Whitemark, for brochures of tour operators, walking guides, maps and helpful general information about things to do on the island.

For families, the Furneaux region is a very safe environment in which to live and visit. The community is friendly and welcoming. There are walks to suit everybody, and most of the beaches are safe for all ages.



Rental Properties

The Real Estates don't manage rental properties but if you are looking for a house you can phone them and ask about availability. If you have no luck there try putting an ad in the Island News, our local newspaper islandnews@hotmail.com

Real Estate Agents on Flinders Island:

Elders Real Estate: Michelle Hirschfield 0409 151 799

Nutrien Harcourts: Colin Wilson 03 6359 2059 or 0427 549 816



Schools

Flinders Island District High School covers kindergarten to grade 12. In 2022 the school had an enrolment of 101 students, it is the only school on the island. The school offers a diverse and engaging program based on the Australian Curriculum. While the emphasis is on literacy and numeracy, the school also offers geography, history, science, health and physical education, arts and technology to all year levels. Secondary students are provided with a transition program to prepare them for life outside school. Primary students choose an optional class from the following activities: music, drama, visual arts, media arts, technology, materials and fibres, food, agriculture, enterprise and events. Younger students also have a weekly library lesson.

The school participates in the following programs as an extension of the curriculum:

- *Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden* program enables grades 2-6 to help maintain the flourishing garden and use the produce to create healthy, nutritious meals.
- *Move Well, Eat Well* program promotes enjoyment of healthy eating and physical activity each day.
- *Stop, Think, Do* program empowers students by teaching self-control, decision making and positive actions such as empathy, responsibility and respect for others.
- Artist in Residence program enables artists to visit the school each year and offer extraordinary variety in the sessions to the students.
- *Launching into Learning* program prepares children from ages 0-4 years for school.
- Off-Island trips and outdoor education camps are organised biennially.

'Inspiration through Isolation,' is our school value statement. Isolation doesn't prevent staff from undertaking professional development to improve their skills or from providing students with a rich curriculum that utilises their unique environment.

Teaching staff are multi-skilled, enthusiastic and dedicated to the learning of the students. In 2020 the School had ten teaching staff and fifteen ancillary staff.

Some pupils leave at the completion of grade 10, moving on to years 11 & 12 (in Launceston) and then university or employment. Others remain on the Island to continue with online education, undertake traineeships and other local employment.

Childcare

The Island is well catered for with The Furneaux Child Care Centre (The Duckpond) located in Davies Street, Whitemark, run by Northern Children's Network and Family Based Care.

Health

Flinders Island is well serviced by a fully equipped Multi-Purpose Centre Hospital in James Street, Whitemark, with the Royal Flying Doctor Service for emergencies.

Ochre Health Centre has one resident doctor and two p/t doctors servicing the community, the surgery is open 5 days a week 9am-5pm by appointment.

The Multi-Purpose Centre provides a 24/7 emergency department service and X-ray. There are also 5 acute care beds for people requiring hospitalisation but who do not require further treatment in Launceston, and there are 9 residential aged care beds. Respite care is also available.

A Community Health Nurse and Child Health Nurse both operate out of the Multi-Purpose Centre.

Specialists and other Allied Health professionals visit the Island regularly to provide additional services including:

- Dentist (public and private)
- Podiatrist
- Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Skin Specialist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Physiotherapist
- Diabetes team
- Optometrist

To contact the Flinders Island MPC: (03) 6359 0200
Ochre Health: (03) 6359 2011



Island Fitness

We are very fortunate to have many levels of fitness catered for on Flinders Island. There are gyms in Whitemark and also at the Lady Barron Hall.

There are numerous fitness classes and clubs for the very fit to our Sizzling Seniors, including running, football, pony club, martial arts, and netball.

Transport Logistics

Bass Strait Freight services the Bass Strait Islands on a weekly basis from Bridport, and a service from Welshpool when the need arises, generally once a month. These runs cater for sea bound cargo as well as moving livestock on and off the Island. A small number of passengers can be accommodated. For further details please contact:

Bass Strait Freight – Ph: 03 6356 1753



There are various other freight and private charter service providers on the Island which can be found under the **Transport Section** of the Furneaux Find it, or Council's Business & Community Directory – <http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/Furneaux-business-directory>



Other Island Services

Parks and Wildlife

The main responsibility of the Parks and Wildlife Service in this region is to '*manage all the reserved lands including flora and fauna of the Furneaux Islands.*'

Officers are also involved in wildlife rescue and are responsible for some of our local heritage sites.

The local ranger is available for anyone wanting information on the region's flora and fauna as well as access to reserved land, the outer islands and remote regions of the Flinders Municipality. The Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for policing of wildlife regulations.

To contact the local Parks and Wildlife Ranger phone: 03 6359 2217

Police

Water and land-based police service the Flinders Region. Police are based at Whitemark and Lady Barron.

To contact our local police officer's phone: **03 6359 2000**

Fire Brigade

There are 3 local volunteer fire brigades.

- **Fire Brigade Chief - 0427 596 526**
- Emita 0413 941 023
- Lady Barron 0418 665 337
- Whitemark 0458 333 217

Ambulance

The Multi-Purpose Centre is serviced by two ambulances, which are run by trained volunteers on a roster basis. Non-emergency 1800 008 008

Electricity

Our electricity is supplied by 4 diesel generators, which are supplemented by 2 wind-powered generators. For new connection/disconnections contact Momentum on 1800 794 824

Waste

The Flinders Municipality waste disposal site is located on Memana Road, 5 minutes from the township of Whitemark.

Opening hours:

Monday, Friday, Sunday 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Tuesday & Thursday 7am – 10am

Wednesday 8.30am – 11.30am

Closed Saturday and Public Holidays

Skip bins are located at transfer stations on Palana Road just north of the turn-off to the Killiecrankie township, and on Lady Barron Road just outside the town boundary of Lady Barron. Council are actively trying to better the waste management arrangements for the Island and establish an efficient, effective waste transfer system that benefits the Island, its users and Council as the regulator and service provider.

Churches

Flinders Island has visits from a Catholic Priest and an Anglican Minister to tend to the needs of the community. Churches are located at Whitemark and Lady Barron with service times advertised in the local newspaper.

Library

The State Library of Tasmania (LINC) maintains a well-stocked library at Davies St, Whitemark with opening hours being 10.00am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 4.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. Outside these hours returns can be left at the Council Office.

Online Access Centre

There is an online access centre located in the Library in Davies St Whitemark. Opening hours are Wednesday & Thursday - 10.00am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 4.30pm. Library books can be dropped off when the centre is open but not borrowed.

Veterinary Services

The State Government has a resident veterinary officer who also provides a private clinical service. This service is located at Lagoon Road, Whitemark in the Service Tasmanian building. Ph: 0419 437 370

Annual Events

- The **Flinders Island Annual Golf Tournament** is held during the June long weekend which attracts golfers from all over Australia.
- Every Father's Day weekend in September there is the **Flinders 5 Running Festival** featuring the 5km fun run/walk and for the more serious runner there is a half marathon.
- The middle of October sees the annual event of the **Flinders Island Show**, with both local and off-island exhibitors.
- **Furneaux Festival** A Festival to celebrate the Furneaux Islands' community, shared culture and musical heritage held over the Australia Day weekend in January.
- Other annual events: **Anzac Day, Diggers' Day Golf Tournament**



Interesting Facts

Rare Birds

The Furneaux region is home to over 120 species of birds including the Cape Barren goose, the world's second rarest waterfowl.

Highest Lighthouse

The highest lighthouse in the Southern Hemisphere is the one on Deal Island in the middle of Bass Strait. Completed in 1848, it was built with convict labour and stands 996 metres above sea level (this includes cliff height). This means that when the weather gets rough, the cloud layer is lower than the lighthouse, making it useless as a navigational aid. A smaller lighthouse was built on a nearby island when the Deal light was finally extinguished.

Soldier Settlers

2002 marked the 50th anniversary of the Soldier Settlement of Flinders Island. The soldier settlement occurred when the government opened Crown Land in 1951 on Flinders Island for farming and made that land available to soldiers of war. The government first called for interest in this programme in 1949, and work began in the December of 1951.

Publications of Interest

| Title | Author |
|--|---|
| Flinders Island | Jean Edgecombe |
| Flinders Island & Eastern Bass Strait | Jean Edgecombe |
| Tasmania's Offshore Islands, Seabirds & Other Natural Features | Nigel Brothers |
| The Gold Coast Settlers | Bob Mainwaring |
| One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux | Stephen Harris, Alex Buchanan, Amy Connolly |
| Flight of the Shearwater | Dr Vincent Serventy |

All these publications are available from Flinders Island retail outlets as well as leading book stores.

If you require any more information on Flinders Island or the surrounding region, or on anything mentioned in the above summary please contact us:

Flinders Island Visitor Centre

Whitemark
Flinders Island
TAS 7255

Ph. (03) 6359 5001

Fax. (03) 6359 2211

Email office@flinders.tas.gov.au

Flinders Council website www.flinders.tas.gov.au

You can also visit the Island's Tourism website:

www.visitflindersisland.com.au