

## COUNCIL NEWS

### NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

#### **GIFTED FROM QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM & ART GALLERY**

The Furneaux Museum recently featured an exhibition of photographs significant to the people of Australia, and of particular significance to the people of Tasmania. The collection was of Tasmanian wilderness photographs, including by famed Tasmanian Photographer, Peter Dombrovskis. Peter Dombrovskis was German-born but lived in Tasmania. He died in 1996. He was the first Tasmanian photographer to be inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame, albeit posthumously. The collection belongs to the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery in Launceston - who decided that it may be passed on and held permanently by the Museum of Flinders Island. The Furneaux Historical Research Association (FHRA) Committee invited Council to accept a small collection of colour photographs by Peter Dombrovskis, to be hung in Council locations for our community to enjoy. Among them is a world-famous photograph of the Franklin River, which was central to the campaign to save the Franklin. The offer is generous and wonderful. The FHRA Committee is happy to store the photographs until we are ready to hang them.

#### **GREAT VISIT WITH FURNEAUX FREIGHT**

I was in Launceston last week for a couple of meetings and decided it was a good time to visit Furneaux Freight in Bridport. Our community values Furneaux Freight highly. They provide us with an excellent service: Cattle and sheep are freighted on and off the Island; our businesses use the service to transport all manner of food, materials, furniture and so on

to the Island; some visitors to the Island come by boat; and the Matthew Flinders 3 provides a similar service to Cape Barren Island once a month. Shannon Lovell, Director of Furneaux Freight, prepared some papers for me to give me background into their service. She also showed me around: I saw the partially built Matthew Flinders 4. The new boat will be ready to sail in approximately 18 months. It will have a passenger pod – a lounge area that can be loaded into place when they carry passengers and removed when they are simply carrying freight. The new boat will be able to carry 70 passengers instead of the 12 they carry currently – and with improved facilities! All in all, I had a great visit – and I learned such a lot.

#### **TALKING OF SHIPPING.....**

As Mayor, I chair the Shipping Committee. This means new learning for me indeed. Are you aware that getting freight from source to destination is complex? Take cattle and sheep:

- There is the farmer.
- Then the transport to take the animals from the farm to the holding pens.

- Then there is the agency – Roberts is our main one.
- Then TasPorts owns the Lady Barron port.
- Furneaux Freight load the animals onto the ship.
- Furneaux Freight do not currently have their own stevedore licence so they operate under the licence of Qube.
- At Bridport the animals are unloaded and then transport comes into play to take them to their destination.

Cattle and sheep are a key aspect of Island economy and so all the above must collaborate to get the job done well. The Shipping Committee's key role is to facilitate the process. Hence my Furneaux Freight visit! It was well worth the effort.

#### **THIS MONTH WE HAVE TWO BIG EVENTS**

The Telstra project is officially launched mid-month and the State Cabinet is meeting on the Island – more on this later!

#### **ANNIE REVIE | MAYOR**

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#### **LADY BARRON FITNESS CENTRE AND WHITEMARK GYM**

Awesome to see the high number of visits for the Whitemark Gym during these recent months. May had the highest total of gym users all year, which is very impressive to see for the colder months. Let's keep this momentum up through the winter months and reap the rewards for the summer.

All equipment for the Whitemark Gym is in good condition and the new Leg Press is up and running. Well done everyone for raising the funds for the new equipment, a brilliant effort. The parts needed to fix the equipment at the Lady Barron Gym have been ordered and should be here shortly. Remember to let Ryan Les know straight away when a piece of equipment becomes unusable.

**Inductions:** If you would like to be inducted for either the Lady Barron Fitness Centre or Whitemark Community Gym, please contact David Heap on 0418 714 123 or Ryan on 0429 796 040 to arrange a time.

#### **EXCITING NEWS:**

Thanks to Judy Clark and the Lady Barron Hall and Recreation Committee, we are about to put in place the Lady Barron Let's Get Physical program. The Lady Barron Hall and Recreation Committee has also been successful in obtaining some funding to trial a supervised accredited Personal Trainer. This trainer will provide gym sessions twice a week for 12 weeks.

Details will be formalised over the next week or so and if you are interested in applying for the Personal Trainer position and have your Certificate 3 and 4 in Fitness, please let Ryan Lees know and he will send you an Expression of Interest Form.

Ryan Lees  
Community Development Officer

## **BUSINESS ECONOMIC SOCIAL STRUCTURE REVIEW REPORT**

In 2017, Flinders Council was successful in an application for Building Better Regions Funding (Community Investment Stream) to undertake an independent review of Flinders Island's disadvantage, in relation to the structural and financial operation of Flinders Council and the Furneaux Islands. We are generally significantly disadvantaged due to our remoteness, as we are not connected to a greater land mass, are made up of 52 islands and have a very small population and rate base relative to our geographical size.

FTI Consulting was commissioned to undertake the review and has, over the past 18 months, worked extensively with the Community to supplement known data. The Business Economic Social Structure Review Report can be viewed on Council's website at <https://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/flinders-council-report-library>.

The Report will form part of future Strategic and Annual Planning for Flinders Council and is made available to the Community to use as a resource to refine policies to justify increased support to the Flinders Council region; and to enable local organisations to more effectively plan, target and deliver job opportunities, goods and services.

Notwithstanding Flinders Island's many strengths, the Report identifies five immediate challenges for consideration by Flinders Council and the Community.

1. There is a quantifiable disadvantage of between \$346 - \$612/per household per week (\$17,992 - \$31,824 per household per annum) associated with living on Flinders Island, depending on dwelling structure.
2. That Flinders Island will need to grow its resident population if it is to sustain the amenity, quality of life and opportunity it has enjoyed in the past.
3. That Flinders Island will likely reach a 'tipping point' in seven years, in which its own population will not be able to maintain essential public and private services, because its resident working population will reduce to fewer than 472 people.
4. The costs of providing services (infrastructure and social services, residents and visitors, public and private) will grow and Flinders Island will become increasingly dependent on outside resourcing. Government intervention could potentially be a 'last resort', if sustainable structural funding models are not realised and due weight not put on factors of 'remoteness'.
5. Developing future opportunities for a sustainable future will require investment in infrastructure, solutions to housing, and innovative approaches to fit-for-purpose regulation.

This is a major piece of work that has the potential to be a catalyst for positive change for the

development of the municipality, provided the recommended actions are implemented.

**\*PLEASE NOTE COUNCIL MEETING TIMES HAVE CHANGED**

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> June commencing 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 13<sup>th</sup> June on the Council Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://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**