



MAYOR'S REPORT

In this issue, I have a few pieces of unfortunate news to share, but I promise to end on a positive note.

Firstly, we have had word back from the powers that be at Bendigo Bank, that they have been unable to find a workable option to keep our local agency open. Janie Finlay MP has been working to obtain an extension to the closing date to allow individuals to seek alternate banking options. For community members requiring online banking training, Bendigo Bank has offered to provide assistance. Please note that Bank@Post transactions for Bendigo Bank customers will incur a \$4 fee, except for those holding a concession card, for whom the transaction is free.

On the 18th of April, the Minister of Local Government, Nic Street, released the Future of Local Government Stage 2 Interim Report.

The Board feels that to be “resolutely focused on future community needs”, “retain jobs and service presence locally”, and “Preserve and enhance local voice” we need to be amalgamated (forcefully) into, ideally, 9 super Councils. This has been largely based on a survey conducted by the University of Newcastle of 1000 people – less than 0.25% of the Tasmanian population over the age of 15!!

Apart from the Interim Report, Councils have been provided with no information to work with and given only 9 weeks to respond. A promised “Information Pack” will not be received until the 22nd of May, leaving us just 4 weeks to read, discuss, and engage with our community, and with other Councils

– this is not enough time for such a matter of critical importance to our entire community!!

There will also be community forums and public hearings held, but the Local Government Review Board is not willing to confirm that these will be held on Flinders Island, or in other remote Council areas such as King Island.

Council is working on a plan, and we will need you to get involved and be heard.

On a brighter note, Council has received a \$20,000 grant under the Healthy Tasmania Lift Local Grant Program, which will be used to investigate various models of home ownership and alternative methods of home construction.

The great news is that on Monday, 1st May 2023, the Tasmanian Salmon Plan 2023 was published for the public. The plan outlines the government's commitment to address issues in the salmon farming industry. The Tasmanian Salmon Plan 2023, a short 24-page document, includes the following priorities to provide certainty to the community:

- progression of statutory planning processes for relevant Marine Farming Development Plans across the state, to remove finfish farming from zones where the area is not subject to an existing marine farming lease, commencing with the Furneaux Islands Marine Farming Development Plan; and
- a continued policy position to not support any further salmon farming in eastern Tasmanian waters between Cape Portland and Tasman Island.

There is also commitment towards improved regulatory frameworks, continued improvement of legislation, improved environmental management outcomes, improved management of marine debris, investment certainty for industry, improved penalties, and compliance frameworks, greater transparency and improved communication, improved management of wildlife interactions, full cost recovery and appropriate return to the community from the salmon aquaculture industry.

I conveyed our community's appreciation to Minister Jo Palmer, who attributed her decision to take action to her visit to the Island, where she witnessed community efforts to preserve and protect, convinced her to take action.

This is a great example of how a community, united in its message can effect change.

I would like to express my gratitude to Judy Jacques for bringing this issue to the Council's attention and to everyone in the community who attended meetings, made submissions, and ensured that their voices were heard.

Rachel Summers – Mayor

Phone 0467 046 809



Got a great idea for a project? Need equipment for your community group?

Flinders Council is committed to provide funding for projects that support our Furneaux Islands communities through increased community connection, access and participation.

Total project pool funding for 23/24 financial year is \$10,000.

Applications open – please contact the Community Development Team at community@flinders.tas.gov.au to discuss your project, details on the Council website.

Applications for funding for the Gunn Bequest 2023/2024 are open and must be received no later than C.O.B. Monday 15th May 2023.

This year's Gunn Bequest Grant will award 1 successful project grant to the value of \$385

please contact the Community Development Team at community@flinders.tas.gov.au to discuss your project, details on the Council website.

FURNEAUX FUTURES

7-9 June 2023 - Theme – Regeneration

Bringing together new ideas and opportunities to foster creativity and innovation in the business, social, and environmental spheres for the Furneaux Islands Community.

Schedule for the Furneaux Futures Forum

Wed 7th June 10am – 4pm FAEC

- **Dianne Dredge - Tourism Co-Lab**
'Regeneration Rising'
- **Island Vision Talks**
Community Platform - Sharing innovative ideas and inspiring stories.
- **Todd Babiak - Brand Tasmania**
Using the Islander Way Story in your Brand Story.
- **Gin Wag Networking Event**

Thursday 8th June 10am – 4pm FAEC

- **Tasmanian Women in Agriculture**
'Regeneration Rising'
- **Island Vision Talks**
Community Platform - Sharing innovative ideas and inspiring stories.
- **The Panel**
Let's talk Regeneration

Friday 9th June (times tba)

- **Tasmanian Women in Agriculture**
Hands on Workshop.
- **Van Dieman Project**
"Let's Talk Sessions".
- **Illuminate Challenge Presentation**
Flinders Island District High School Students

To register for the Forum, visit the website at furneauxfutures.com.au or contact us for further information.

Sammi Gowthorp - M: 0421 667 157

sammi.gowthorp@flinders.tas.gov.au

Jana Monnone - M: 0400 091 786

fibi.business.assist@gmail.com

WHITEMARK TIP – OPENING HOURS

- **Monday** 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- **Tuesday** 7am -10am
- **Friday** 1.30pm - 4. 30pm
- **Wednesday** 8.30am - 11.30am
- **Thursday** 7am -10am
- **Saturday** CLOSED
- **Sunday** 1.30pm - 4.30pm



POSITION VACANT WORKS OFFICER-TOWN MAINTENANCE

Flinders Council is seeking to appoint a Works Officer to join our Infrastructure team.

We are looking for a motivated, reliable, hard-working person, preferably with qualifications and experience or the desire to learn a range of skills including day-to-day gardening and maintenance activities to maintain council's parks, gardens, open spaces, and recreation facilities to a high standard.

The position is offered as ongoing fulltime, and the salary will be dependent upon qualifications and experience.

A position description can be obtained by contacting Council on 6359 5001 or by visiting the Council website.

Applications must be received by close of business on Friday the **26th May 2023** and include a current resume along with a written application that addresses each of the 'Knowledge, Skills & Experience' criteria.

Applications are to be marked "Confidential" – Works Officer-Town Maintenance, and should be forwarded to the Corporate Services Coordinator, Flinders Council, PO Box 40, WHITEMARK, TAS 7255 or email directly to hr@flinders.tas.gov.au

Warren Groves
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 on:

Wednesday 24 May 2023 commencing at 1pm.

Public Question Time will be held between 1:00 – 1:30pm. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Friday 19 May 2023 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

Warren Groves
General Manager



POLICY TO BE ADOPTED

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 26 April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting to adopt the following, **Communication Policy.**

These policies will lie on the table for public comment until 9 June 2023. The policy is available to download 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 this policy, please do so by addressing relative correspondence to:

Warren Groves
General Manager
PO Box 40 Whitemark TAS 7255