

Council News

Mayor's Column

Strategic Plan:

The Flinders Council draft Strategic Plan is now available for your feedback. The draft Strategic Plan outlines the areas that Councillors and staff believe are important for this Council to be active in to support our vision for the future, and to enable the legislative requirements imposed on Councils to be met. It outlines the direction that Council will take over the coming years, and in particular the next four years.

Annual work plans will be derived from the adopted Strategic Plan.

Councillors and staff need to know that the draft Strategic Plan also aligns with the aspirations of the Community and I encourage you to make your comment on this important document.

The draft Strategic Plan is available on Council's website and also at the Council Office. Upon request, the draft Strategic Plan may be emailed to you. Please forward comments to myself at the Council Office by C.O.B. 26th August. Email: ea@flinders.tas.gov.au

The Strategic Plan will be finalised post council receiving and considering your feedback and input.

Fees:

The general fees for 2015-16 year were set at the July Ordinary Meeting. As mooted previously there has been little change to charges overall with the major changes being in the planning and building sections. The list of fees and charges is available on the Website or upon request from the Council Office.

Rates:

Land values in the Municipality have increased and this is recognised by the Valuer-General in the property valuation

adjustment figures released in March this year. Council applies the adjustment figures for Assessed Annual Value, (AAV) to each property to calculate the rates payable. Since the adjustment factors were last applied to Flinders Council rates, the Valuer-General has deemed that the AAV of vacant residential land has increased by 10% and most other land classes including rural properties and non vacant residential has increased in value by 5%. Some commercial properties have seen no increase in the AAV due to adjustment factors.

The decision by Councillors at the July Ordinary Meeting was to let property values dictate the increase in rates receivable and thus make no change to the rate in the dollar of AAV charged.

In short, individual property rate increases will be due to an increase in the value of the AAV of the property as deemed by the Valuer-General.

The minimum rate is set at \$435 and applies to less than 35% of properties as per the legislative requirement.

The Waste Management Service Charge will rise by \$4 per property. The Fire Levy on the rates is collected on behalf of the State Government.

Rates will again be payable in two installments with a discount of 2% applicable to rates and charges paid in one payment on or before the 21st October 2015.

2015-16 Budget:

Council adopted the 2015-16 Budget Estimates at the July Ordinary Meeting. Income is budgeted at \$5.3 million and operating expenditure at \$5.7 million. The capital budget expenditure is set at \$1.125 million. The estimated operating deficit of \$410 thousand is one quarter of that estimated for the previous year and

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included in the operating expenditure is a depreciation cost of \$1.47 million. Council has maintained estimated expenditure at 2014-15 levels and has an increased estimated income of \$1.1 million.

The biggest change in estimated income is from planned increased private works on the State Road and extra Roads to Recovery Funds announced by the Federal Government.

Rates, User Charges and Interest and Other Income makes up 59% of Council's income. The remainder comes from operating grants such as Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs), Roads to Recovery Funding and Capital Grants, such as the funding approved by the Tas Community Fund for the Lady Barron Fitness Annex that will compliment the hall improvements.

Councillors and staff are working hard to meet the Auditor-General's requirement to be targeting an operating budget surplus, whilst maintaining services and undertaking programs that encourage population growth, and maintain or improve infrastructure.

Telecommunications:

Council acknowledges and is deeply concerned about the limitations and issues that exist with the current telecommunications services on the Islands. Council also recognises these are an impediment to service provisions, population growth and economic activity on the Islands.

Council has engaged a company with specialist experience in the delivery of WiFi internet services and infrastructure to undertake a study that will consider the most effective way to bring sustained internet access to Flinders Island's black & grey spots.

Councillors also authorised the commissioning of a detailed feasibility study as a matter of urgency to support

overall telecommunications improvements to the Islands.

Councillors hope that the outcomes of these studies will provide the information required to leverage improvements and upgrades to the telecommunication and data coverage available on the Islands. We thank the State Government for providing the funding that has enabled these studies to be undertaken.

Other Council Activities:

Each quarter a full update of staff achievements against the Annual Plan is reported as an attachment to the Agenda. It is interesting reading to see just how much has been achieved. For instance, it reports that the Lughrata gravel quarry which was purchased in the 2014-15 financial year, now has a right of way established and the mining lease has been submitted to Mineral Resources Tasmania for approval. This asset will secure gravel supplies on the Island for many years to come and from the testing done will supply a very high grade of gravel to use on the road network.

A new bitumen sprayer truck and two automated aggregate spreader boxes have been ordered and will be available for the 2015-16 resealing program. Council has purchased these items under a loan with low interest set for 10 years. Interest earned on cash investments will be used to balance the interest expense and it is expected that in the longer term the interest income will exceed the interest expense on the loan.

When combined, these purchases show the investment Council continues to make into the delivery of core services, such as our roads, to the Community. The year ahead will see some major road sealing projects undertaken to improve the safety and lifespan of these important assets, which will utilise the increased funding

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through the Roads to Recovery program and the funding provided by the State Government for upgrades to the Lady Barron Main Road.

Carol Cox
Mayor

Community Development

FREE Red Cross Emergency Services Workshops

We hope there is never an emergency event on Flinders Island but unfortunately we can't always avoid an event occurring. What we can do is prepare for an emergency to minimise the impact and also improve our ability to respond and recover if an event does occur. Red Cross is pleased to deliver professional development and training on the Island to assist in the preparation and response to emergency events. We are also pleased to invite people who have an interest in emergency services and humanitarian action to attend an information session and to provide you with the opportunity to become a Red Cross volunteer. (Please see full-page ad in this edition for more detail on workshop times and how to register.)

Notes from the Rose Garden

Flinders Council Works Officer Robyn Lamont and garden enthusiast Jan Lee's have done a brilliant job removing the diseased shrubs and bushes in preparation for the planting of new roses that we have been receiving since our call out for donations to fill a few gaps - well done! Volunteering, Jan & Megan Morphett (still on maternity leave although just can't stay away!) assisted Robyn to plant a variety of beautiful roses in memory of many loved ones & in the spirit of giving! Thank you! All of the new Roses are in and should be on their way to being well established, especially with the rain we have been having!

Thank you to all the Rose Garden volunteer pruners who turned up early on Saturday morning despite the inclement weather with sharpened secateurs and a quick step... all the roses were pruned by 10:30am! Thank you also to the CWA for providing the morning tea.

Winter School Holiday Program

Wow this year's winter school holiday program was certainly action packed especially when you consider all the events that FIAAI provided for the young people as well during the NAIDOC week celebration. We had a fantastic turn out to all events.

The young people loved the Movie Matinee especially now that we have complete blackout blinds in the Furneaux Arts & Entertainment Centre (FAEC) theatre area.

The Amazing Race saw the secondary school age young people finding their way around Whitemark to various coded locations to solve puzzles and riddles. The Amazing Race was won by team Sherriff, Kate and Zoe. Only just pipping the other teams at the post by getting the best time as well as answering most of the questions correctly, they will not forget what CWA stands for and no, it's not the "Chatting Woman's Association" so well done girls...

Art Classes with Maria La Grue saw the young people "Painting like Famous Artists" with some terrific pieces of artwork being produced. A big thank you Maria for organising these workshops...

Youth Drop in Day had a video games arcade set up in FAEC as well as art and jewellery stations with Rhianna Barnewall. It certainly was a very busy day.

The final event was the Island Chef Cook Off held at the Flinders Island District High School's Kitchen and what a hotly

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contested event this was. Never have I seen a bunch of young people queuing up out the front of the Council's office at 8:50am to get their mystery list of ingredients before heading down to the kitchen to plan a menu. I was so glad I was not a judge for this one... Jana Harper from Flinders Council and Sam Gowthorp from Flinders Island Fresh certainly had a tough decision to make as all of the dishes that were produced not only tasted amazing, but were presented beautifully. But alas, there has to be one winning team and the final score saw the top 3 teams only being separated by 1.5 points. Congratulations go to Marshall Clarkson and Bradley Willis as the trophy and 'bragging right' winners of the 2015 Island Chef Cook Off. Having said that, I would gladly have any of the chefs that took part in the cook-off cook me a lunch or dinner as they all did a fantastic job and produced some delicious dishes from the ingredients that they had on hand.

Huge thank you to all involved and I look forward to the next Holiday Program.

Whitemark Foreshore Landscaping

Slowly but surely the planting and revegetation on the Whitemark Foreshore has commenced. The plantings will provide for more of a windbreak and some selected pocket plantings of interest along the trail and also next to the amenities. Local landscape designer, Sandy Downy, created the landscape plan that utilises many endemic and native Tasmanian species chosen for their tolerance to windy coastal areas. If you would like to view the landscape plan, please visit the Council reception or download from the website: www.flinders.tas.gov.au/whitemark-foreshore-amenity-improvements

Nominations now open for 2016 Tasmanian Leaders Program

The Tasmanian Leaders Program provides an unmatched leadership experience that

achieves positive, transformative outcomes for participants and their employers.

The program uses a variety of educational processes to cultivate specific competencies crucial for effective and dynamic leadership. It exposes participants to a cross-section of today's business and community leaders allowing participants to learn and engage in issues relevant to Tasmania's future.

One of the secrets of the program's success lies in the diversity of its participants. Each cohort includes current and emerging leaders, with established careers from varied backgrounds and sectors that span all spheres of business, non-profit and government.

High-potential leaders wanting to accelerate their leadership capacity by being challenged and inspired through interactive and reflective learning are invited to apply for next year's program.

To find out more about the opportunity, download an application form or register to attend one of our information sessions, visit the Tasmanian Leaders website at www.tasmanianleaders.org.au.

So many Awards are open for nominations...

Flinders Council Citizen of the Year Award

Flinders Council acknowledges the outstanding contribution volunteer's make to the community, and annually honours one especially worthy volunteer with the award Citizen of the Year. Nomination forms for Citizen of the Year are now available for people wishing to nominate an individual for the Flinders Council Citizen of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Flinders Island Show on 16th October 2015. Please submit your nomination to the

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Council Office by C.O.B. 28th August 2015.

Selection Criteria for the Award

The following criteria will be used to select the award recipient:

1. Only individuals are eligible to be nominated, not organisations.
2. Nominees must be over sixteen (16) years of age as of the 1st day of July in the year of the nomination.
3. The award will be given to the person who has made the most significant voluntary contribution for the benefit of the Furneaux Community, organisations or individuals.
4. Recipients can receive only one Citizen of the Year Award during their lifetime.
5. Selection will be based on the quality of the contribution along with the quantity of the contribution.

Nominations can be forwarded to:

General Manager
Flinders Council
Citizen of the Year Award
PO Box 40
Whitemark 7255

Recognise Tasmanians worthy of your attention now! Australian of the Year Award

The search for the next Australian of the Year Award recipients has begun. You are encouraged to nominate a friend, family member, community leader, colleague or even someone famous - any Tasmanian who you admire and believe makes our state and country a better place to live. Being nominated for the Australian of the Year Awards is a great honour and offers your nominee a unique platform to further their important work. This is your opportunity to recognise and reward someone in your community who makes you proud to be an Australian.

The prestigious program culminates in the announcement of the national award recipients in Canberra by the Prime Minister on Australia Day Eve. But to get this point every year 128 Australians are recognised, across 4 categories, in 8 state and territories – that's 16 Tasmanians!

So do you know a Tasmanian that could be our next:

- Australian of the Year;
- Senior Australian of the Year (60 years and over);
- Young Australian of the Year (16-30 years); or
- Australia's Local Hero?

Nomination is an easy process either online at <http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate/>

Nominations close Monday 3 August 2015 and remember – one nomination is all it takes!

Nominations for the 2015 Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards are now open!

These awards are about recognising individuals, groups, businesses and organisations who are making a difference in our local communities and state.

Making a nomination is easy! You can nominate someone and answer the questions on their behalf or you can simply fill in their name and contact details and save the nomination, give them a call and tell them you have nominated them! They can then fill in the details as they are going to know best about their achievements.

Nominations can be made by visiting the following website: www.awardsaustralia.com/community-achievement-awards/tas

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Nominations close 21st August 2015

Grants

There are currently a variety of grants available that may be applicable to local community groups and organisations. Below are a list of the grants and their website links for you to have a look at. If you have an idea or project we suggest you contact the funding body to discuss your eligibility and application.

1. Holden Home Ground Advantage Grants Program - www.holden.com.au

The Holden Home Ground Advantage is supporting local sporting clubs for the next 10 years by committing \$5 million to develop and improve their facilities. Twice a year Holden will provide \$250,000 worth of grants to sporting clubs who need assistance - that's \$500,000 every year, for ten years. **Closes 31 August 2015**

2. Festivals Australia: Regional Festivals Project Fund

www.australiacouncil.gov.au

The Regional Festivals Project Fund supports the inclusion of an arts project at festivals in regional and remote Australia. Grants are available to support the costs to produce and present an arts activity and there is no limit on the amount that can be requested. Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak with an Australia Council Grants Officer before applying to this fund. **Closes - 1 September (projects commencing 1 January 2016)- 1 December (projects commencing 1 July 2016)**

3. Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Program - Business Growth Grants

Provider: Australian Department of Industry & Science
Amount: Up to \$20,000
Location: All States
Summary: Funding can be used to engage a consultant/s to make improvements to your business.
Closing Date: Always Open

4. AIS Local Sporting Champions: Round 2 -

2015-16 – closes 31 October 2015

The Local Sporting Champions program is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for young people aged 12-18 towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing, coaching or officiating at an official national sporting organisation (NSO) endorsed state, national or international sporting championships or a School Sport Australia state or national championships. Grants of \$500 are available for successful individual applicants.

For full details regarding the eligibility criteria and the application process visit the AIS Local Sporting Champions website:

www.ausport.gov.au/participating/schools_and_juniors/local_sporting_champions

You can also subscribe to a grant alert list to receive emailing notifications by emailing:

1. cdgrants@dpac.tas.gov.au or

2. healthpromotion.north@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Alternatively check out grants information online, here are some suggestions:

1. www.australia.gov.au/directories/australia/regional/web-resources-list

2. www.business.gov.au/Grantfinder/Grantfinder.aspx

Thank you,

Jana Harper & AK
Community Development

WHITEMARK TIP

Opening Hours

MON, FRI & SUN 1.30pm- 4.30pm

WED 8.30am- 11.30am



CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

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5. Selection will be based on the quality of the contribution along with the quantity of the contribution.

Raoul Harper
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, Flinders Island on

Thursday 20th August 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 14th August 2015. Public Question Time will be held between 1.00pm - 1.30pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend.

**Raoul Harper
GENERAL MANAGER**

Dog registration

All dog owners are reminded that the discount period to register dogs expires on 31 July. All dogs must be registered and microchipped to avoid infringement.

Dog owners are reminded that if your dog is not on your own property or under your effective control, it is "at large". Council have received multiple complaints regarding this matter from those who feel that "roaming" dogs are effecting their enjoyment of the area. It is a fineable offence so please ensure your dog's remain on your own property or on a lead when out.

Place of Assembly Licenses

The State Government (Public Health Services) have issued a revised public notice under s75A of the Public Health Act 1997, this specifies that the only class of places in respect of which a place of assembly licence is required is 'Mass Outdoor Public Events'. The word 'mass' is defined as 1000 people or more, present for two hours or more.

Therefore Place of Assembly licences for buildings are no longer required and publically advertised events (where less than 1000 people will attend) are also no longer required.

Event organisers should be aware that their obligations as far as safety, emergency procedures and insurance remain.

Jacci Viney
Development Services Coordinator