

## NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

### SOME KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE LGAT CONFERENCE

I have said before that professional development is very important for councillors. So much about local government is changing and it is critical that councillors continue to update their skills and knowledge. Given that our budget is limited, we have to choose our PD events carefully.

I recently attended the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) conference and thought it a good idea to share with you some of my key learnings.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- In the last two years there have been 5 Ministers for Local Government.
- Local Government across Australia owns 33% of the country's assets. This includes 75% of all roads. All of these assets have to be maintained as well as have large amounts for depreciation built in to Council budgets.
- Local Government receives 0.55% of Commonwealth taxes.
- It is the goal of the Australian Local Government Association, through their Fairer Share Campaign, to have this percentage raised to 1%!
- Commonwealth Government funds waste and recycling very badly – and yet local government has had to respond to raised regulations regarding this. It is right that we do so – but is it right that we do so without enough resources?

#### IS AMALGAMATION OF COUNCILS WORKING WELL?

It seems that State Governments are retreating from amalgamating councils – mainly because amalgamation does not always achieve what was intended. It was believed that amalgamation of councils would save significant funds. Well sometimes this happens of course – especially if the councils concerned are neighbouring and also want to amalgamate.

However amalgamation does not achieve positive results much of the time. The reasons are many: councils differ in size; in their population and demography; in their community culture; in their needs. There is no 'One size fits all.'

Currently the Tasmanian State Government's policy on amalgamation is that it will be explored only for councils who want it.

### SOME EXCELLENT ONE-LINERS

There was a panel session at the conference from which I gleaned these excellent one-liners – particularly for helping deal with difficult situations.

- Don't escalate; don't rage; don't engage. This is particularly true when dealing with social media. Social media has very few restrictions – people can post what they want to – whether it is true or even downright bad-mannered. In future any responses I make on social media will be simply stating the facts.
- There are several ways to open doors. Find them.
- Challenge the thinking, the behaviour and the attitudes.
- Be clear about what you hope to achieve.
- Find the hooks that link in to other levels of government.
- Before you lobby government for projects make sure your projects are absolutely ready to go. In other words, make sure you have done your homework.
- Politics can get in the way of policy. Be persistent – don't give up!
- Play the issue – never the person.

#### WHY DO WE HAVE A TIP SHED?

There are sometimes complaints on Facebook about how people use the tip shed. I must stress that the only goal for the tip shed is to enable recycling. Community members put things in the tip shed when they themselves do not want them anymore.

#### ONE PERSON'S TRASH IS ANOTHER PERSON'S TREASURE!

We recycle for several reasons:

- If things are still in decent shape, then someone else may see a good use for them.
- Regulations state now that we cannot simply dig a hole and throw our waste into landfill. We will soon be putting a lined cell in the ground so that waste cannot find its way into the earth or the ocean. The longer we, as a community, take to fill the cell – the longer it will last and the more money we will save.
- Please recycle as much as you can and encourage others to do the same.
- Try to feel pleased when others make good use of things you have thrown out – even if they make a few dollars by reselling at the market!

Annie Revie, **Mayor**

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## **AIRPORT RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Stage 1 preliminary works are underway to prepare for the upgrade of the Airport Long Runway. It is anticipated that the works will be performed during the month of February 2020, as this has the most optimal weather conditions (driest month with the longest daylight hours). The tender process for the works and materials will commence in the next few weeks.

### **Minimising the impact of the closure to the public.**

Due to the closure of the Airport Long Runway during work periods, we are currently working with Sharp Airlines to establish a works schedule that minimises the impact of flight services to the Island.

Council is aware of the strain that this could cause the community, however the works are vital to keep our Airport operational. To mitigate the potential loss of tourism during the month of February, Council will endeavour to deliver its new strategy to showcase the month of January in order to stimulate tourism prior to the Airport works. In past years, the focus has been on a three-day event (Furneaux Islands Festival), however, the current strategy is to broaden the program and showcase events across the Islands.

In the upcoming months we will be engaging with various community groups to facilitate pulling together an events program for the month of January 2020.

Heidi Marshall  
**Acting General Manager**

### **TENDER FOR SURPLUS WIRE**

Five lots of 6-strand ring-lock wire, at approximately 1 kilometre each, are offered for tender. The rolls may be viewed Tuesdays – Fridays via appointment with Council's Airport Operations Officer on 0419 617 756.

Tenders are to be addressed:  
Tender for Surplus Wire  
Flinders Council  
PO Box 40  
WHITEMARK TAS 7255

Or hand deliver to 4 Davies Street, Whitemark. Tenders are to be received no later than 4:30 pm on Thursday 29 August 2019.

### **UPDATE ON ROAD WORKS**

Work is still being carried out on Palana Road, to the North of the Killiecrankie turnoff. The road

has been washed out due to the failure of an old culvert.

The affected section of road is sign posted and will require traffic to slow and maintain a single lane whilst repair work is completed. Council will be imposing a 3 tonne limit on the detour road.

Works are expected to take approximately another 3 weeks. We apologise for any delays this may cause. If you have any inquiries please contact the Council Office (03 6359 5001) or the Works and Airport Manager (0427 592 069).

### **FLINDERS COUNCIL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Nomination forms are now available from the Council Office and on the Council website 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 18 October 2019. Please submit your nomination to the Council Office by C.O.B. **26 August 2019.**

#### **Selection Criteria for the Award**

1. Only individuals are eligible to be nominated, not organisations.
2. Nominees must be over sixteen (16) years of age as of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **BUILDING & PLUMBING INSPECTIONS**

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

There will be **no Building or Plumbing Inspections for August**. The next date will be Wednesday 5 September.

If you have any inspections that are required, please email [development.services@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:development.services@flinders.tas.gov.au) with the type of inspection required, site address and name and number of the contact for the site.

### **ATTENTION DOG OWNERS**

Social media has recently reported a number of dog related issues. These are mainly 'dogs at large' but some have included the destruction of other animals.

Dog owners are reminded that under the *Dog Control Act 2000* (s19):

- if a dog rushes at or chases any person, the dog owner is guilty of an offence amounting to 5 penalty units;
- if a dog attacks or bites an animal or human and the injury is NOT serious the dog owner is guilty of an offence amounting to 10 penalty units; and
- if the dog attacks or bites any person or an animal and causes serious injury, the dog owner is guilty of an offence amounting to 20 penalty units.

A penalty unit is currently \$168.

Furthermore, a dog may be declared as a 'Dangerous Dog' (s29) if the dog has caused serious injury to a person or another animal or there is reason to believe that the dog is likely to cause serious injury to a person or other animal. This does not only mean higher registration fees but breach of the 'dangerous dog' provisions may also lead to destruction of the dog.

Dog owners are also reminded that dog barking may be treated as a nuisance and addressed as such under the Act. Please ensure your dogs does not create a nuisance by barking.

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

**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.

### **Let's Get Physical Lady Barron!**

The Lady Barron Hall and Recreation Committee will be running a 12-week program to promote physical activity through twice-weekly gym sessions at the Lady Barron Fitness facility.

Drop in and see Michelle, a qualified personal trainer, on Thursdays 7:00am – 10:30am & Saturdays 1:30pm to 5:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your fitness, strength and wellbeing.

### **EMITA HALL NEWS**

The renovation is now complete, and we'd love to show you the improvements to the building!

The official opening by Mayor Annie Revie, will be on Sunday 18 August at 11.00am. Please bring a plate of morning tea to share. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Flinders Council would especially like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication by the Emita Hall Committee and thank the Tasmanian Community Fund for their generous contribution to the project.

### **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

### **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 20 August 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 15 August on the Council Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au) and at the Council Office.

Heidi Marshall | **A/General Manager**