

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD THE RECENT GOOD NEWS!

Late last week, Council announced the good news that the Federal Government has agreed on:

1. Funding Flinders Island Airport runway upgrade completely. \$3.6 million will be provided so that the vital work is done at no cost to Council.
2. The \$1.8 million, needed to supplement the previously-promised \$1.8 million, will be transferred to our Airport from the original Safe Harbour funding of \$4.8 million, promised last May.
3. The remaining \$3 million funding for the Safe Harbour project will be used to redesign a scaled-down model that Council can afford.

UPDATE ON THE FIRES

It is sounding like the Memana fires are well under control. Hot spots are still burning in the peat below the earth surface. Small crews from Parks & Wildlife and RFS volunteers are monitoring this situation and extinguishing hot spots. A helicopter has been used, with infra-red equipment, to scan the fire area. This is then transferred into GPS location data so that fire crews on the ground can find the hot spots easily. The fire is close to being classified as 'Patrol' – meaning that a small crew would monitor constantly until satisfied that the fire has been extinguished.

There has been fabulous work from all concerned – for which the community of Flinders is so appreciative.

What would we do if we didn't have people to do such work for us? It doesn't bear thinking about!

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL GM

Council's new General Manager, Warren Groves, began work on Monday 3rd February. I know that this wonderful community will welcome him to the Island and to his new role.

COUNCIL'S NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER

Flinders Council understands that service to customers is its main focus. To this end, Council has worked on a new Customer Service Charter. You will find a copy on

Council's website or you may collect one from Council Reception, or have it emailed to you by ringing 6359 5001. The Charter makes a commitment that, when you have a request from Council, it will be done in as short a time as possible.

It is important to distinguish each of the following, one from the other:

- A Service Request is when you request a particular action. This could be that something is repaired, or removed, or inspected;
- An Enquiry is when you request specific information; and
- A Customer Complaint is when you express dissatisfaction with something.

RING COUNCIL ON 6359 5001

If you have a Service Request, an Enquiry or a Customer Complaint, please ring Council reception on the above number or email to reception office@flinders.tas.gov.au. Every request from customers will be logged, followed up, acted upon, checked for action and reported back to the customer. We are intent on having you, our customers, satisfied with Council service. If you need help with any of the process, contact a Councillor, who will guide you through the process if need be. I thank our community in anticipation of this process being entirely successful.

2020 – THE YEAR OF COUNCIL'S TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The Tasmanian *Local Government Act 1993* legislates that each Local Government Council works with its community to produce a ten-year strategic plan. Councillors will be working in the beginning of the year to scope how we will work with the Community in this regard. When that is done, we will use several techniques to hear what the community sees as its priorities for the future. The engagement will possibly happen through a combination of the following:

- Community Forum/s;
- Surveys;
- Phone interviews;
- Facebook / council website ads and questions;
- Sausage sizzle questions;
- Etc.

I encourage you to participate when the time comes. How can you possibly achieve things important to you if you do not take part?

OF COURSE COMMUNITY MEMBERS CANNOT HAVE EVERYTHING THEY WANT

Even if Council had lots of money, there would always be things we wanted but couldn't afford. Nonetheless, even though Council is somewhat cash-strapped, we must first identify what we think is important for the Islands.

When we participate, we identify what we want, but we also learn why we sometimes can't have it. The more the Community participates and tries to understand, the better it is for us all.

SUSTAINABILITY HAS TO BE AN OVER-ARCHING GOAL

As we move into this 2020 decade, including into our strategic planning for the future, I seriously believe that there is one word that is critical: **SUSTAINABILITY**. We have all witnessed through our news media and through our Island experience, the terrible destruction of Fire. Whether you believe in Global Warming or not, the data is forewarning that we must take better care of both human and animal life. We must also ensure that we do as little damage to the precious land as possible. And so, when we consider Island projects, we must ask:

- Will this project provide jobs for our young people?
- Will it provide us with quality food?
- Will it protect our Island – its land and waters?
- Will the homes we build be affordable to those who need them?
- And so on.

Flinders Island can benefit from its isolation. Let's work together in an attempt to make it so.

END OF LIFE CHOICES FORUM/S

On Tuesday 3rd March, Member of the Tasmanian Legislative Council for Mersey, Michael Gaffney, will run two forum/s in Whitemark on End of Life Choices.

This may not be something that interests some of the Community in any way at all. On the other hand, there are probably people in

our community who want to expand their knowledge on this topic. The first forum will be at 1.00 pm and the second at 7.00 pm on 3rd March. They will both be held in the Whitemark FAEC. Put the dates and times in your diary if you are interested.

WHEN YOU CAN – BUY LOCAL!

ANNIE REVIE, MAYOR

Tel: 0477 557338

EMAIL: annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au

FROM THE NEW GENERAL MANAGER

I am very excited to be living the dream in this Island paradise that we are lucky enough to all be sharing. I am honoured to have been selected to a position where I can be so involved and contribute strongly to the Community.

I have been made to feel very welcome by staff, some of Council's many partners and all the community members I have met during my day-to-day activities since arriving in late January. The sense of community spirit, friendliness and freely offered help that I have experienced has been amazing and deeply appreciated.

I have been very busy during my first week, learning as much as I can of the major projects and day-to-day workings of Council life.

Outside of work I have particularly enjoyed my morning walks exploring the beach and look forward to being joined on these by a furry friend named Mikey in the next week or so.

I am very keen to meet and learn from as many people within the Community as possible. I look forward to our meeting soon.

Warren Groves
General Manager

STAFFING CHANGES

I am pleased to announce the following two staffing changes at the Airport:

- Richard Harley has been appointed to the position of Airport Operations Officer. Many of you may remember Richard - an ex-islander returning home.
- Sean Caris has been appointed to the full-time position of Airport Reporting Officer,

having undertaken the role on a casual basis for some time.
We welcome both to the Council Team.

Warren Groves
Airport Manager

CORONAVIRUS

There are no confirmed coronavirus cases in Tasmania. However, it is important that people remain vigilant in taking appropriate precautionary measures. Current advice is that there is no need to wear a face mask and it is important that everyone continue with normal hygiene practices (such as washing hands).

People who:

- have been in contact with any confirmed novel coronavirus case should not attend work and remain isolated in their home for 14 days following exposure.
- have recently visited Hubei Province in China should not attend work and remain isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province.
- have departed mainland China and arrived in Australia on or after 1 February 2020 should not attend work and remain isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving China.
- arrived in Australia from mainland China (other than Hubei Province) before 1 February 2020 can attend work, as long as they are well.

There are several resources available for obtaining accurate and up to date information about the coronavirus situation. The Tasmanian Department of Health website has a link to the Commonwealth Department of Health website, which is updated daily with all of the current information and resources:

https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/news/2020/coronavirus_update

If you require any general or clinical advice relating to the coronavirus, you can call the Public Health Hotline: **1800 671 738** if you are concerned you may have been exposed to the coronavirus.

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

Options for Payment of Council Rates

Pay by hone: with Mastercard or Visa
03 6359 5010

In Person: Mastercard, Visa or Cheque,
4 Davies Street Whitemark

By Post: Cheque or Money Order:
PO Box 40, Whitemark, 7255

By Internet: visit Flinders Council's website at www.flinders.tas.gov.au/make-a-payment and follow the links to pay.

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 25 February 2020 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 20 February 2020 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

Heidi Marshall | **ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**

Position Vacant

Safety & Works Administration Officer

Flinders Council is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Safety and Works Administration Officer to join our team. The position will be permanent part-time (45 hours per fortnight). Duties will include assisting the Works and Services Manager in ensuring that the safety of the organisation is maintained, along with administration support for the Works and Services Department.

A full description of this position can be viewed on Council's website at www.flinders.tas.gov.au/employment-and-business-opportunities

For further information, contact megan.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au

Applications should be marked "Safety & Works Administration Officer position" and addressed to:

Attn: Megan Boyes
Flinders Council
PO Box 40
WHITEMARK TAS 7255

Applications will need to answer the 'knowledge, skills and experience' section and are to be submitted to Flinders Council via email: megan.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au or via post by COB 14th February 2020.

Position Vacant

Works Officer – Parks & Gardens and Maintenance Officer

Flinders Council is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Works Officer – Parks & Gardens and Maintenance Officer to join our team. The position will be permanent full-time (76 hours per fortnight) and duties will include maintenance, primarily on parks, reserves and Council infrastructure.

A full description of this position can be viewed on Council's website at www.flinders.tas.gov.au/employment-and-business-opportunities

For further information, contact megan.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au

Applications should be marked "Works Officer – Parks & Gardens and Maintenance position" and addressed to:

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Ladies 'Lichen' Breakfast – March 11th 2020

International Women's Day is an important day for the women of Flinders Island to come together to celebrate our achievements and to acknowledge the strength that exists within our community.

The Ladies Lichen Breakfast celebrating International Women's Day 2020, gives us an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful breakfast catered for by Cate Hardman and hear from three local women who hail from different backgrounds and cultures. The women will share brief stories of their life journeys. In celebrating the diversity of our community, we can also recognise the common bond that island women share - that we all call Flinders Island home.

The theme for IWD 2020 is **#EachforEqual** - we are all parts of a whole. Our individual actions, conversations, behaviours and mindsets all have an impact on our community. Collectively, we can make change happen and can achieve great things.

Tickets are limited. Please contact sammi.gowthorp@flinders.tas.gov.au to book your place.

Date: Wednesday 11th March

Time: 7:30 am

Cost: \$15 per head

Where: Flinders Island Sports & RSL Club

New Year, New Goals!

Brush up on all Your fitness with Michelle and Get Physical at Lady Barron.

Drop in and see Michelle, a qualified personal trainer, at the Lady Barron Fitness Centre on Thursdays 5:00pm – 6:00pm for a HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) class or Saturdays 1:00pm- 3:00pm for Strength Training. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your fitness, strength and wellbeing. The classes will be running for 4 weeks.

Dates - Thursdays & Saturdays –

20th February – 14th March

Cost - \$5 per session for the Gym

