



# Council News

## **ACTING MAYOR'S REPORT**

In the absence of Mayor Carol Cox on a well-earned holiday it falls to me to make this fortnight's report.

Firstly, I am very sad to report the passing of Lynn Matthewson on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Lynn was probably known to most of you at the Whitemark Library where she worked for many years with a smile, a kind word and a great sense of humour.

As well as being a loving wife and mother, Lynn was also a very keen member of the Patchwork Group as well as a regular attendee at the Lady Barron Hall exercise group. As with everything Lynn threw herself into these activities with great enthusiasm.

She will be sadly missed by us all. Our sympathies are extended to all her family.

## **THE C8 SUMMIT**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October I represented Flinders Council at the inaugural C8 Summit which was designed to give elected members of the eight Northern Councils (C8) the opportunity to have a greater leadership role in our region and provide a forum to develop a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing other Municipalities.

The timing of this forum was fitting as presently the whole region is confronted by many difficult challenges and it was interesting to hear that we all face many of the same

problems. These include an aging population and the loss of the young people to urban centres. Overarching all however, was the uncertainty of the current economic climate and all that goes with it.

All Councils present were very interested in the additional challenges of Flinders Council; especially the extremely poor water quality of our townships and the cost to the community of owning and maintaining our Airport.

Obviously the meaningfulness of any such forum in the long term is the ability to achieve its goals. At this first meeting it was agreed that we should set early and achievable goals not only to establish credibility but also to determine how well we can work together.

## **COMMUNITY HALLS**

It is disappointing to report that our recent submission for grants to upgrade our Lady Barron and Emita Halls was not successful as the Government purse-strings are being tightened all round. Council will give further consideration to the next step, once the review of our community assets has been finalised.

## **TOURISM ASSOCIATION**

I was pleased to attend a dinner held at the Furneaux Tavern on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October, welcoming 19 King Island visitors. They clearly had a great time seeing what FITA are achieving on the island. It was great to hear their



positive views of the Furneaux Group and their interest in developing closer ties with Flinders. Both from a tourism aspect as well as at a general community level.

### **REGIONAL ARTS**

On 29<sup>th</sup> October I was fortunate to attend a dinner at the Interstate to thank Kylie Easterly for coming here as an Arts Consultant as part of a Professional Development Project which is in 3 parts. Our artists obtained a grant, for part of the required funds from the Federal Regional Arts Fund Grant. Sharp Airlines and Flinders Council were also very pleased to contribute to what is seen as an exciting step forward for our local artists.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGER**

I am also disappointed to report that Kim Hossack, our Council Corporate Services Manager has resigned from her post and will be leaving us at Christmas. Kim has carried out her duties for the past 3 years with great efficiency. Unfortunately, being away from her family has made the job even more demanding than it is and for this reason that Kim has decided to return to Brighton.

Thank you Kim for your contribution to our current sound financial situation. All of us at Council wish you every success in the future and I hope that our paths cross again soon.

*Planning advertisements, Agendas, Minutes and much more information can be found on Councils website: [www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au)*

**David Williams**  
**Acting Mayor**

### **Thinking about Solar Panels?**

The following are the Council requirement for Solar Panels as of November 2013. This information may be helpful when dealing with the solar panel companies:-

#### **Planning**

Exempt – unless a new structure is to be constructed to house the panels.

#### **Building**

Under 18M2 – No Permit required.

Over 18M2 & work less than \$5,000 – A Minor Works permit is required.

Over 18M2 & work valued over \$5,000 – A Building Permit required.

#### **Plumbing**

If solar hot water to be newly installed a plumbing permit is required.

Should you have any further queries regarding this matter or need assistance with gaining a permit, please contact Council on 63 595 001.

### **WHITEMARK TIP**

Opening Hours

MON, FRI & SUN 1.30pm- 4.30pm

WED 8.30am– 11.30am



**CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**



## **Community Development**

### **Rural Health Week 11 – 17 November**

Kathleen and David Heap will be providing a series of free exercise classes during Rural Health Week. Classes are structured for all ages and fitness levels. Sessions will also include informative health talks and healthy snacks. The classes will be delivered at venues in both Lady Barron and Whitemark. Funding for this health promotion activity has been sourced from a Rural Health Week Grant with support from both the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc. and Flinders Council. Keep an eye out for posters and a householder detailing the schedule.

### **Mums and Dads with babies and children: Free St John Ambulance First Aid Training**

St John Ambulance is offering to parents with babies and children the opportunity to attend the first aid emergency training at no cost provided that no certification is provided. This is a great opportunity for parents to learn what do to if an emergency situation arises. If you would like to receive accreditation for the training the cost is \$95. For more information, please contact Council Community Development Staff. Places are limited.

### **Whitemark Christmas Decorations**

Christine Wheatley and Joanna Klug are leading the fundraising activities and coordination of decorating Whitemark for this Christmas. If you would like to donate some Christmas decorations or lend a hand, please pop into Freckles. Council is happy to support this community driven activity. If you have an idea for an activity that will benefit the community in some way, please feel free to contact us.

### **Community Bus Volunteer Drivers Needed**

Can you spare any time to help as a driver for our community bus? Costs for licensing will be provided. For more information, please contact us.

### **Online Community Calendar**

Do you have a community event that you would like to add to our online Community Calendar? It's easy! Please visit the Council website to download the forms or alternatively, please pop into Council for a hard copy: [www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au)

### **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 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. Aboriginal Benefits Foundation - [www.aboriginal.org.au/grants](http://www.aboriginal.org.au/grants)**

Grant Applications are considered by the board of the foundation at each directors meeting. The board currently meets approximately 6-8 times per year.

#### **2. First Home Owners Grant (FHOG) and First Home Builder Boost (FHBB) [www.sro.tas.gov.au](http://www.sro.tas.gov.au)**

Applicants can receive \$7,000 for the FHOG for a new or established dwelling including a house, flat, unit, townhouse or apartment anywhere in Tasmania that meets local planning standards. The First Home Builder Boost (FHBB) provides an extra \$8,000 in addition to the FHOG.



### **3. Sport and Rec 2013-14 Minor Grants Program**

[www.development.tas.gov.au](http://www.development.tas.gov.au)

Through the Minor Grants Program (MGP), Sport and Recreation Tasmania (SRT) provides financial assistance to organisations towards equipment purchases and the development/improvement of facilities or playing surfaces that directly benefit sport and active recreation clubs. Round Two - Applications close Wednesday 15 January 2014.

### **4. Earn your Stars Grants – [www.dpac.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au)**

The Tasmanian Government offers grants of up to \$15,000 under the Earn Your Stars grants program. Funding will be available for projects that assist local communities, households and individuals to work together to find climate change solutions.

### **5. Arts Tasmania Offers Funding Programs - [www.arts.tas.gov.au](http://www.arts.tas.gov.au)**

There are a range of grant opportunities available through Arts Tasmania at different times throughout the year.

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

1. [cdgrants@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:cdgrants@dpac.tas.gov.au) or
2. [healthpromotion.north@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto: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](http://www.australia.gov.au/directories/australia/regional/web-resources-list)
2. [www.business.gov.au/Grantfinder/Grantfinder.aspx](http://www.business.gov.au/Grantfinder/Grantfinder.aspx)

Thank you  
Dolly Wheatley & Jana Harper  
**Community Development**

## **FLINDERS COUNCIL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the next Ordinary Meeting of Flinders Council will be held at the Flinders Art and Entertainment Centre

Whitemark, Flinders Island on:  
**Thursday 21st November 2013,  
commencing at 1.00pm.**

The Agenda will be available for perusal on our Council Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au) or at the Council Office as from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Public Question Time will be held between 1.00pm – 1.30pm.  
Members of the public are invited to attend.

Raoul Harper  
**GENERAL MANAGER**