

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR to the Furneaux Community. I hope the year 2020 brings you joy and fulfillment – and when there are challenges, I hope 2020 brings you the skills and knowledge to address them well.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW GENERAL MANAGER

We were fortunate to attract fifteen applicants for the GM position. It is always good to have more to choose from rather than less. We first decided on a short list of 7, then interviewed 5 candidates by skype. From that we invited four candidates to participate in face to face interviews in Whitemark. Councillors were unanimous in selecting Warren Groves, from the North Grampian Council, as the candidate most suited to the role. Warren came across to us as knowledgeable and genuine and I am looking forward to 2020 when, I am sure, our Council organisation is going to have a productive year.

Warren and his wife have three children, the oldest of whom is 13. The family plans to join Warren on the Island later in the year. Of course he will have a lot to learn about our Council. In a large council, the GM has a significant number of managers who lead the various departments. In a small council, particularly one as small as ours, the GM, and his 2 managers, have to be multi-skilled and multi-functional. In particular they have to collaborate as a team. I am confident that Warren will work with our dedicated Council team to lead and to learn. He begins in the role on Monday, 3rd February.

EATING OUT ON THE ISLAND is becoming such a great experience – we are almost spoilt for choice. I think it is very exciting. I still have a few of the venues to savour and write about and aim to do just that over the next month or so. But recently I paid a few visits to the Lady Barron Store. That is in fact where I purchased our Christmas ham – and it was delicious. And of course, we will soon use the bone as the base for tasty soup. I never leave the Lady Barron store without a coffee. Have it there or take away. Thanks to Max and Michelle and their friendly staff for the great services they offer.

WE CAN NEVER THANK ENOUGH ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO CONTAINING THE FIRE EVENT ON THE ISLAND!

I have already covered the Island fire event in a daily post on Community Notice Board. For those who do not use computers or social media, I just want to thank again: the local RFS volunteers; the paid fire fighters from both Tas Fire Service and Parks & Wildlife; the volunteers who cooked and delivered wonderful food to keep everyone going; Council workers and private business owners who contributed in a big way, especially in using their large machinery to clear the containment lines; some visitors to the Island who were trained and thus able to make a big contribution; Council staff who kept in touch with the Incident Management Centre in Launceston; and of course the team in Launceston who monitored the whole thing; the pilot of the helicopter that carried and spread a lot of water on the blaze. I especially want to pay tribute to those who provided leadership in controlling the blaze – they met early each morning at Makarna Park to make critical decisions on the day ahead. On behalf of this amazing community, I thank you one and all. What would we do without you!

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE MAKING END OF LIFE CHOICES

End of life – dying – is something that is being talked about by more and more people. It goes without saying that people differ in their opinions on this important topic. But there is a conversation there needing to happen, whether we like it or not. It can be an uncomfortable conversation – straightforward for some and exceedingly challenging for others! Michael Gaffney is Member of the Tasmanian Legislative Council, representing Mersey. Michael has announced that he will be introducing a Bill on the topic of End of Life Choices (EOLC) this year. He plans to run at least one forum in every Tasmanian Local Government Municipality and has simply asked me to support him in the advertising of this event. Michael will offer two forums in Whitemark at the FAEC on 3rd March: one at 1.30pm, the other at 7.00pm. Why not put the date in your diary and join the conversation?

WE HAVE A NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER

Council is a service-focused organisation. Regulations state that the Customer Service Charter should be reviewed every four years, following the election of a new Council. There is always a need to improve and Council is committed to continuous improvement, especially in this regard. Council staff have been working hard on this. In the next issue

of Island News I will provide you with details of our improved system for dealing with service requests, enquiries and complaints. In the meantime, if you have a request, complaint or enquiry, please ring it in to reception at Council Offices or email office@flinders.tas.gov.au , where it will be dealt with within a relatively short time. Watch this space.

I HOPE YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING SOME OF THE EVENTS AROUND THE FURNEAUX ISLANDS FESTIVAL

Flinders Council is committed to the ongoing success of the Furneaux Islands Festival. The Festival's main objective is to celebrate the culture/s that have developed on the Islands over many years – from that of the first people who walked across the land bridge that joined Tasmania to the Australian mainland thousands of years ago; to the aboriginal people who were brought here in the 19th century and to their descendants who live here now; to the soldier settlers following the first and second world wars; to people from elsewhere who choose to live in this beautiful place. Culture is not something that stands still. Generally, culture is defined as “The way things are done around here.”

So culture is dynamic – it moves and changes in many ways. The culture of the Furneaux Islands continues to develop and it is so worth celebrating. A whole calendar of events has been planned over the month of January this year and I hope you and your visitors have enjoyed some of these already.

These events surround the main Festival Weekend from Friday 17th January to Sunday 19th. Friday will see a Twilight Market at the showgrounds, with stalls, crafts, arts, food, drinks, and entertainment that includes:

- Neil Murray, who wrote the song ‘My Island Home’;
- The Band That Knew Too Much;
- Zoe Sherriff – homegrown and talented musician; and
- Social Circus – teaching you how to juggle and other circus skills.

On Saturday 18th there is Verandah Music at the Tavern in Lady Barron from 4.00pm till late.

On Sunday there is the Community BBQ, held this year in the Furneaux Museum grounds at Emita. If the weather changes and we're blessed with some rain, the event will

be relocated to Emita Hall. Check the facebook Community Noticeboard for an update and signs will be placed at the Port Davies Rd turnoff on the day.

Pick up the Festival pamphlet from Council or view it in Bowmans and other shops. You can also scan the QR code to access the Festival events app – join in as much as you can. Celebrate the wonderful culture of Flinders and enjoy!

Annie Revie | Mayor

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Options for Payment of Council Rates

Pay by Phone: 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.

Waste Update

Council would like to thank everyone for their efforts with regard to waste segregation. We are starting a new process and the Community support is paramount to ensuring that the service is provided and within Council's budget.

At this stage we require you to separate:

- Glass – no need to remove stickers or wraps but please remove lids;
- Aluminium cans – part of school's “cash for cans” project. Please ensure they are actually ALUMINIUM cans!
- Household waste and cardboard – at this stage these are being baled together.
- Compostable material – degradable material such as kitchen scraps (no meat please) to be placed in allocated area. This wet matter is causing problems in the household waste bins so please place kitchen scraps in this area.

Over the next few months things will continue to improve. Please keep an eye on the Flinders Council facebook page for updates.

Thumbs down!

It was disappointing to note that over the Christmas period the street bins were used for household rubbish. Please be mindful of our Island and use the facilities provided.

Policy to be Adopted

Council resolved at the 17 December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting to adopt the **Public Open Space Policy**. The policy will lie on the table for public comment until 13 February 2020. It is available to download from Council's Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies

Hardcopies are available from the Council Office. Should you wish to make comment on the policy and procedure, please do so by addressing relative correspondence to:

Heidi Marshall
Acting General Manager

***NOTE CHANGE OF DATE* 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 23 January 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 16 January 2020 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

Heidi Marshall | **ACTING GENERAL
MANAGER**