

Council News

Mayor's Column

February Council Meeting:

The '*Bushfire in Tasmania – A new approach to reducing our Statewide relative risk – July 2014*' report put out by the State Fire Management Council was tabled at the meeting.

The report indicates that, tenure blind, Flinders has 5% of the treatable vegetation in Tasmania, i.e. vegetation suitable for control burning.

It is an interesting read and can be found at: <http://www.sfmc.tas.gov.au/bushfire-in-tasmania>.

'*The Furneaux Fire Management Area - Fire Protection Plan 2014-2019*' (FPP) was also received at the meeting. The aim of the FPP is to document a coordinated and efficient approach towards identification and treatment of bush fire related risk to protect people, assets and other things valuable to the community. Projects are now being actively scoped to submit for funding. The executive summary of the report is on the council website as Annexure 16 in the February meeting agenda.

Ms Linda Nicol was approved as the Community Representative on the Aviation Special Committee.

A council sub-committee, the Ideas and Innovations Committee, was established as a group to which the Community can put forward their ideas and suggestions for projects and services in the Islands. The Committee consists of Cr Gerald Willis (Chair), Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Peter Rhodes and Cr Ken Stockton.

The half yearly Budget Review at the 31st December was accepted as the budget for 2014-2015, with an amendment asking staff to look for a cheaper way to cool the hall, than the initial proposal that was developed to the guidelines of a grant that has been withdrawn.

The "Uniform Policy"; "Travel & Accommodation Policy" and the 'Elected Members Allowances & Reimbursements Policy' were all accepted and are now open to Community comment for the next 28 days. Comments can be lodged at Council before the 19th March.

The Furneaux Group Waste Management Strategy 2014-2019 was adopted as part of a longer term strategy yet to be developed. The document outlines areas the Council is working on to improve the management of solid waste on the islands. The strategy is on the Council website.

Ten Days on the Island

The Bunk Puppets' shadow puppet performance called "Swamp Juice" is coming to Flinders Island on Friday 20th March as a part of the 2015 Tasmanian International Arts Festival.

This year, thanks to our local Regional Arts Branch, the Festival event will be coming to Flinders Island with no financial investment from Council.

SES

I was privileged to attend the presentation of service medals to the volunteer SES members last Saturday.

The Community is so much richer for having SES members committed to learning and training to cope with an emergency that is inevitable one day, but that we all hope will not happen. The Flinders Group is small but dedicated, practical and well equipped.

Enterprise Suitability Project

In October last year, as part of a joint Council/State project, data was collected from 10 temperature loggers at different locations around the west coast between Blue Rocks and Lughrata. Since then, the data has been modelled by DPIPW to come up with some maps specific to 9 cropping scenarios.

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DPIPWE looked at the growing conditions required for onions, carrot seed, blueberries, raspberries, sparkling wine grapes, table wine grapes, cherries, rye grass and barley and then considered the specific soil properties for the area and added the climate considerations derived from the logger data such as frost risk. Nine maps were then produced. These maps illustrate the extent to which each crop is suitable within the subject area; specifically, where the particular crop is well suited, suitable, marginally suitable or unsuitable.

There are a number of constraints that would need to be investigated at actual property level, for example wind and water supply, but these maps can provide a first-cut catchment level insight into what might grow and where. To access the maps, follow the instructions below:

- Enter 'the List' into your search engine and Click on 'List Map'.
- On the top right hand corner, click on 'Add Layer'.
- Type in a search for 'enterprise maps' and click on the drop down box titled 'Primary Industries'.
- Click on 'Farming (21 layers)'. The resulting drop box will provide for all the crops investigated in Tasmania. Remembering the 9 crops that have been investigated for Flinders Island, add your crop of choice by clicking on the green dot with the white cross.
- When you return to the map, zoom in to Flinders Island and see the suitability for that crop.

Carol Cox
Mayor

WHITEMARK TIP

Opening Hours

MON, FRI & SUN 1.30pm- 4.30pm
WED 8.30am- 11.30am



CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

FLINDERS COUNCIL 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 26th March 2015,
commencing at 1.00pm.

The Agenda will be available for perusal on the Council Website

www.flinders.tas.gov.au or at the Council Office as from Friday 20th March 2015.

Public Question Time will be held between 1.00pm - 1.30pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend.

Sophie Pitchford
Acting General Manager

Community Development

Whitemark Foreshore Works

The Whitemark Foreshore amenity improvements, including the installation of permanent exercise equipment, will continue over the next months. A walking trail that meanders through the coastal vegetation between the new BBQ Shelter south to where the exercise equipment will be located has been cut and vegetation for pocket plantings will commence in autumn. The permanent exercise equipment was donated to the community from Tasmania Medicare Local's Healthy Islands Project (HIP) 2010 - 2013. Some vegetation on the foreshore has been removed to create space for the equipment. Local landscape designer, Sandy Downy, has designed a landscape plan for the foreshore that includes re-vegetation to the area. If you would like to view the plan, please visit the Council's website and Online Community Noticeboard, or visit the Council Office.

Notes from the Rose Garden

I am curious as to whether there are members of the community who can help to fill in a few gaps at the Rose Garden? In particular, Jan Lees and I would love to plant

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and tend to roses either donated by you or purchased on your behalf for a special reason or just in the spirit of giving. We have room for approximately ten plants and it'd be great to make this happen for next year's spring flush. The garden requires shrub and bush roses in white, red and yellow and standard roses in white, pink or peach. These colours could vary from vibrant to soft and will assist in filling the gaps for a cohesive look (intended in the original design of the space; although it doesn't really matter...Beggars can't be choosy!)

We look forward to hearing from you. Any ideas and thoughts can be directed in person to either Jan or myself (Megan Morphett) or by emailing office@flinders.tas.gov.au

Civic Forecourt - Flinders Arts & Entertainment Centre (FAEC)

Many would have recognised the transformation from the old gravel carpark at the front of the FAEC to a paved pedestrian only area with a solid masonry wall to protect the Rose Garden and a local stone feature wall. These works to the forecourt are close to completion. Timber slats across the wall, a water feature falling down the rock face and behind a bronze ANZAC Plaque will be installed in the coming weeks. The establishment of a 'civic centre' has been to create provision of an attractive outdoor area for events and community gatherings so to complement the entry to FAEC and to also provide a better visual amenity for the area. In addition, the new ANZAC memorial located within this development of the civic centre will create a focus area for ex-service men and women to be proud of during times of formal congregation and something to march to on ANZAC Day. A funding contribution from the Department of State Growth and also an ANZAC Centenary Local Grant has contributed to these works. If you are interested in seeing the perspective sketch drawings of the renewal to the hall entrance, by local architect, Noel Warden, please visit the Community

Noticeboard located in Whitemark next to the Interstate Hotel, or visit the Council website's community online noticeboard.

Airport Road Safety Signage: Community Road Safety Partnership

Over the past year or so, Flinders Council staff and staff at the Department of State Growth (formally the Department of Infrastructure Energy & Resources) have worked alongside the Flinders Island Tourism Association and Tasmanian Police, particularly, Rowena Nicholls and Russell Judges, to deliver a road safety message that is unique to our Island that not only highlights the wildlife issue for drivers, but also the gravel roads that may cause problems to those who have never had to encounter either, or both at the same time.

The Community Road Safety Partnership (CRSP) project was funded and supported by the Tasmanian Government in accordance with priority road safety targets as identified through the Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2007- 2016 in conjunction with specific community needs.

The aim of the CRSP has been to increase awareness of road safety at a community level. The Project outcomes include, the use of the mirror hangs which will be placed in all hire cars on the Island, as well as a road safety sign, which has now been installed at the exit of the Whitemark Airport. The aim is that visitors to our Island will be made aware and conscious of the wildlife population that exists on Flinders Island and will drive accordingly on both sealed and unsealed roads. The sign and mirror hangs also makes note for all visitors to wave, as is the custom on Flinders Island.

Emita Hall

The upgrade works to the stage one of the refurbishment to the Emita Hall are very close to completion. These works commissioned to ensure that the hall will be weather and vermin proof and have included new cladding and internal linings.

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The Emita Hall Committee has contributed to the funds required in this stage of the upgrade through their fundraising activities, particularly the Emita Sports held each January. Thank you to all Committee Members and thank you in advance for the painting of the interior, which will soon be ready to commence!

Lady Barron Hall Upgrades

In the approved 2014-2015 Council budget an allocation to the upgrade of the Lady Barron Hall was made by Council to primarily improve access to the hall, upgrade the toilet and kitchen facilities and install a disabled toilet. The Lady Barron Hall Committee led further community consultation around what community would like from the upgrade to sustain their current and future activities. A number of 1. items were identified including a dedicated fitness space and a kitchen that could be used to not just heat food, but prepare it. This being the case, members from the Committee have drafted an application to the Tas Community Fund (TCF) that could fund this part of the upgrades. Thank you particularly to Fran Bryson and Judy Clark for drafting the TCF submission – and good luck with the application!

Online Community Calendar

Would you like to know what is happening on Flinders Island? Please visit the Council's online community calendar for event information:

www.flinders.tas.gov.au/community-calendar

This service is also available if you would like to add your own event. Information 2. provided on events also contributes to a number of other online calendar services including Tourism Tasmania and Tourism Northern Tasmania's online calendars.

Jobs Bonus for Small Business in 2015

Thinking of creating a new job in your small business in 2014/15? You may be eligible for a bonus of up to \$1000 under the

Tasmanian Government's Small Business Jobs Bonus. Applications will be accepted from 1 January 2015 and when the job has been filled for six months.

To find out more and to register your interest please visit www.business.tas.gov.au/jobsbonus or call Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026.

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.

Teddy Sheean Memorial Grants Program 2014-15 – www.dpac.tas.gov.au

The Teddy Sheean Memorial Grants Program honours the sacrifice made by Edward 'Teddy' Sheean, as a representative of the many Tasmanians who gave their lives selflessly for others in the defence of our country during World War Two.

Grants of up to \$8 000 are available to the following organisations for minor capital works including repairs and maintenance of existing premises:

- RSL clubs
- RSL sub-branches
- Ex-service clubs and organisations.

For further information, please contact Communities, Sport and Recreation Tasmania by email at cdgrants@dpac.tas.gov.au or phone on 1800 204 224 - closes 1 May 2015

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal Small Grants for Rural Communities – www.frrr.org.au/grants

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for projects and activities that offer benefit for communities in rural, regional or remote Australia. Priority is given to communities of 10,000 or fewer. Applicants must be not-for-profit community organisations with an ABN or incorporation certificate.

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Projects must be for a charitable purpose (benefit the whole community).

3. 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.

4. 2015 Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants – www.juniorlandcare.com.au

Coles is offering funding of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds and communities. It has seen a broad range of projects, including vegetable gardens, composting and worm farms, Indigenous bush tucker gardens and green walls.

All primary schools, secondary schools, kindergartens, day care centres, and youth groups are eligible to apply. **Grants close 27 March 2015**

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

Development Services

A few issues have arisen lately regarding development (planning) and building (and plumbing) applications for new buildings, additions and minor structures etc. To assist those wishing to develop, some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be published in this and future Island News articles.. However always remember that if you are unsure, just ask!

FAQ:1

Who are the best people to use when preparing my development application?

That is a very tricky question and Council does not have a bias toward one or another. What Council can tell you is who is visiting the Island frequently or may be visiting soon. Feel free to call and make enquiries, it may save you considerable time and money.

FAQ:2

What is the difference between private certification and using Council as the Building Surveyor?

Again, this is your own choice and Council does not prefer one way or the other. There are some differences though.

For example:

Council is obliged to provide a Building Permit to the applicant, 14 days after all documentation has been submitted. A checklist is available if you wish to know what is required.

Council can perform inspections for footings and frame within 24 hours of a request and Occupancy and Completion inspections are carried out once per month by the Building and Plumbing inspectors.

If you are privately certified (you used another building surveyor, other than Council) you must arrange for that building surveyor to carry out all inspections.

- If you are privately certified you still gain a Building Permit from Council and also have state and local fees to pay.
- All plumbing and Special Plumbing works are still the responsibility of Council.

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Don't forget:

Development Applications of a discretionary nature are advertised in The Examiner on a Wednesday, in the notice board at the front door of the Council building, at the front counter within the Council building, on the Council website and also on the property.

Feel free to contact Development Services by calling Council on 63 595 001.

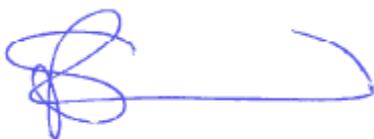
Jacci Viney
Development Services Coordinator

Policies under Review

Council's Policy Manual is an important document of Council as it provides direction to Staff, Management and Councillors. Many of the policies are required by, or relate to, legislation and in most instances help manage Council's exposure to risk.

Council resolved at the 19th February 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting to adopt the **Travel & Accommodation Policy** and the reviewed **Uniform Policy and Elected Members' Allowances & Reimbursements Policy**. These policies will lie on the table for public comment until the 19th March 2015. They are available to download from the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies or hardcopies are available from the Council Office.

Should you wish to make comment on any of these policies, please do so by addressing relative correspondence to myself.



Sophie Pitchford
Acting General Manager