

## NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

### HOW IS EVERYONE COPING?

What a strange time we are in! I have found it quite hard to consider that the whole world is experiencing this coronavirus outbreak. People all over the world are the same as we are: social distancing – some feeling lonely if they live on their own; staying indoors unless it is essential to go out – many possibly experiencing levels of cabin fever.

For me it seems that I have totally lost track of time. Most days I don't even remember what day it is! The meeting I was part of online last Thursday seems only like yesterday. I find meetings online much more challenging than face-to-face. You can't see body language and it can be quite difficult to hear at times. On top of that, I find I have to concentrate so hard. Last Thursday I had a Council Workshop online, followed by attending an online FIBI Board meeting as Council Rep. At the end of the day I was utterly exhausted.

### TASMANIA SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL

All the signs, at last, are that Australia, including Tasmania, is doing very well. There is a drop in the number of new cases of the virus in every State. I listened to our Premier's broadcast yesterday – there had been seven new cases in the previous 24 hours, all in the North West. As I write on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, it looks like the numbers are going down. It is wonderful to think that there is even a tiny light at the end of the tunnel.

### AS FOR LIGHT AT THE TUNNEL'S END

It is absolutely critical that we do not become complacent. I was recently talking with Chris Parr, our local Police Sergeant, who informed me that people on the Islands are mainly doing the right thing. That is wonderful news. I want to thank our community so sincerely for staying home except for essential things. Well done to everyone! **But stay resolved.** If we want these conditions to end soon, we must stick to the rules. We must not slacken off. Meeting with no more than 2 (except for direct family) and social distancing must be with us for a wee while yet. I trust you all will go on doing as well as you have been doing - and thank you in advance for that.

## POPULATION GROWTH

Population growth has been a Council goal for a good number of years. In today's terms, we need some growth so that the economy of the Island flourishes. I am aware that there are some on the Island who would prefer the Islands to stay the way they are. But consider this: all the folk are getting older; our tradies are getting older; some of our wonderful people will leave; our volunteers are aging; we need to provide jobs for our young folk. We need growth so that the community can flourish.

Well, our population has risen by approximately 90 since the last census – we now have 1010!

## COUNCIL STAFF ARE GETTING BACK TO NORMAL

Council currently has an Incident Management Team to collaborate on important decisions during the health crisis. At their recent meeting, they decided to return to almost normal duties. They have done some reconfiguring of office space so that social distancing can still happen but most people are back in the council building. If anyone has a customer request, an inquiry for information, or a complaint, please ring Council Reception on 6359 5001. Your issue will be dealt with.

For health and safety, **we are still asking the community to stay away from the office and to conduct all business with Council by phone or email:**

[office@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:office@flinders.tas.gov.au)

## FINALLY

- Stay safe.
- Keep well.
- Stay home unless it is essential to go out.
- Give thanks for all the Island people who are working to provide us with all things essential.
- Stay away from other people at least by 1.5 metres.
- Stay in touch with family, friends and those on their own.

**ANNIE REVIE, MAYOR, 0477 557 338**

[annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au)

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Over the past 2 weeks, Flinders Council has been taking various precautionary measures to ensure the safety and well-being of employees and our local community, delivering only essential services and emergency response during the COVID-19 restrictions.

As from Monday 20 April, Council returned to almost full working capacity whilst still observing the current Government regulations in place.

Details regarding day-to-day operations:

- Council Reception is now open Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm for telephone assistance and enquiries. However, Council Offices are not yet open to the public.
- Halls, public toilets and venues still remain closed.
- Councillor Meetings will be held remotely via telephone / zoom conferencing.

Thank you for your assistance and understanding at this time.

**Warren Groves | General Manager**

### STAY INFORMED

Visit the Tasmanian Department of Health coronavirus website at <http://www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus> or the Australian Government Department of Health website at <https://www.health.gov.au>

For general information about coronavirus call the National Coronavirus Information Line on **1800 020 080 (24 hours, 7 days)**

## WASTE INFORMATION

Transfer Stations at Lady Barron and Killiecrankie are still open. It is preferred that waste be taken directly to Whitemark Tip when possible to save double handling.

### Lady Barron Transfer Station

Council will now be able to accept green waste at Lady Barron Transfer Station as fire permits requirements have now been lifted for the Furneaux area.

## Whitemark Landfill

Due to concerns for our staff's workplace safety and the current COVID-19 situation, our workers will no longer be handling household waste streams by baling. We ask all tip users to please continue to separate their waste but will be instructed (at a safe distance) to dump household rubbish over the edge of the landfill as happened in the past.

## Whitemark Tip Hours

Sunday	1.30pm to 4.30pm
Monday	1.30pm to 4.30pm
Tuesday	7.00am to 10.00am
Wednesday	8.30am to 11.30am
Thursday	7.00am to 10.00am
Friday	1.30pm to 4.30pm

## Giving Shed – CLOSED

## Community Grants & Gunn Bequest

Applications for funding through Council's Community Grants and Gunn Bequest programs are now being sought. Written applications, using the forms available from the Council Office or the Council website

<http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/community-grants-and-awards>, may be lodged no later than C.O.B. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May via email to [vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au) or via mail to: General Manager Flinders Council  
PO Box 40 Whitemark TAS.

### \*\*CHANGES TO COUNCIL MEETING\*\* ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next Ordinary Meeting of Flinders Council will be held via videoconference on:  
**Tuesday 28 April 2020 at 9.30am.**

The meeting will be held via Zoom and members of the public will be able to attend by pre-registration only. To register, please email [vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au) or call 0418 763 307 before 4pm Monday 27 April 2020.

Public Question Time will be held between 9.30 – 10.00am. Members of the public, who do not wish to attend via Zoom, may submit their questions via email, before 4pm Monday 27 April 2020, to [vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au](mailto:vicki.warden@flinders.tas.gov.au)

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday 23 April 2020 on the Council Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au).

Warren Groves | **GENERAL MANAGER**