



NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

VERY SHORT ARTICLE THIS WEEK

Following the January Ordinary Council Meeting I reported very fully in the first Island News. Since then - **I HAVE BEEN OFF-ISLAND FOR TWO WEEKS**

2020, as previously referred to, was a year different to any other. I had not been off-island since the last quarter of 2019. Like others, I had medical issues to see to; Council business to attend to; family and friends to catch up with. I had not seen my two grandsons for several years as they both had been living overseas. I had not seen other family members for fifteen months at least. A few friends had not had a visit for a few years. As part of the above, two new great grandchildren had arrived on the scene during the last twelve months.

Regarding Council business, I had a meeting with the CEO of the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, of which Flinders Council is a member. I was able to clarify how Council might collaborate with their Board and with fellow councils to improve our practice. I also met with Andrew Pitt, of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, to clarify Flinders Council's level of participation in the Creative Cities Project. Lastly, I spent a few hours with Sarah Lebski, a Consultant for Regenerative Tourism, to discuss how we might engage with our community on:

- How the Flinders Community might clarify what a **balanced approach** to tourism might look like; and
- How Flinders Council and its Community might work together to achieve such a balance in future.

MASKS ON THE PLANE AND INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT

Coronavirus has brought us many issues and regulations. If you have not been off-Island recently you will need to remember that a mask must now be worn inside and outside airport buildings, including Whitemark and Sharp, Launceston, as well as all through flights. Most travellers I saw were feeling hot and stuffy behind the masks. But it has to be! Remember to stay safe and compliant – even although Flinders has experienced no coronavirus.

THE FURNEAUX ISLANDS FESTIVAL WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL

The Furneaux Islands Festival was held between 22nd and 24th January this year. Attendance at this year's festival was amazing. The twilight market on Friday, 22nd January, was planned as a street market which, in perfect weather, would have been awesome. But windy weather prevailed and the decision to hold the market inside was the right one. The food and the music were excellent - over 550 people enjoyed these offerings. People looked happy and relaxed.

On Saturday 23rd January, I attended the yarning circle (or rectangle as it turned out). Attendance began with two and then grew to 20. This included two of our visiting musicians who played the right kind of music to accompany the various yarns. The yarns varied from tales such as "Guess what happened to me the other day!" to personal tales and folk stories of homeland, and included poetry based on experience. People laughed, smiled, and even wept at times. The overall response was so positive, and participants vowed to hold yarning circles into the future.

On Saturday evening many people had fun at the party at the Tavern. The highlight of the Festival for me was the BBQ on the Sunday at FIAAI Park. Once again over 550 people attended and enjoyed the free BBQ, the speeches, the great music and, especially, the musical tribute to our late Aboriginal Elder and Songman, Ronnie Summers.

Thank you to all for the work done to make the event such a success and to all those who attended.

ANNIE REVIE MAYOR

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On behalf of the 2021 Furneaux Islands Festival organisers, Flinders Council and Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (FIAAI), we would like to thank everyone who supported this year's Furneaux Islands Festival.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity and good spirit of our island community, our visitors, local businesses and organisations that contribute to the success of the Festival.

The Furneaux Islands Festival is a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate our Island community and shared cultural heritage.

#ReflectShare#Celebrate

See you all next year!

Bowman's Creek Bridge Update

The Bowman's Creek Bridge on Lackrana Road was washed away in a flash flooding event on 4 January this year.

Council immediately registered the incident with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to seek funding to rebuild the bridge. To date, the funding has not been forthcoming though we have engaged an engineer to provide the best design to reinstate the bridge. The design of the reinstatement is not yet finalised pending a hydrological survey. We are pressing on with this as a matter of urgency.

While this is progressing in the background, we have installed a bypass to enable light vehicles to cross Bowman's Creek. As this is a temporary measure, a 9 tonne load limit must be imposed on the bypass. Vehicles over this size may cause damage to the bypass or find it impassable. Council is also intending to investigate a heavier vehicle bypass, or ways to upgrade the current weight threshold of the bypass, in the interim.

Should you have any further queries regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Council on 6359 5001.

CALL FOR COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE Whitemark Community Gym Special Committee

Nominations from the public are called for the position of Community Representative on the Whitemark Community Gym Special Committee of Council. The Committee consists of council and community representatives and exists to support, assist and advise in the management and operation of the Whitemark Community Gym.

Nominations close 26 February 2021 and are to be sent to:

Cr Rachel Summers

Flinders Council

PO Box 40

Whitemark TAS 7255

Or via email

rachel.summers@flinders.tas.gov.au

Cr Rachel Summers

Committee Chair



Expressions of Interest – Casual Employment Register

Flinders Council is currently seeking applicants who are interested in casual employment in the following areas:

Works & Services

Airport

Cleaning

For position descriptions and details on how to apply, visit www.flinders.tas.gov.au or call Council on (03) 6359 5001.

Applications should be marked "Confidential" and forwarded to:

Corporate Services HR Officer,

Flinders Council,

P.O. Box 40, Whitemark TAS 7255

or jade.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au

Flinders Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Warren Groves

GENERAL MANAGER

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 16 February 2021 at 2:00pm.

Public Question Time will be held between 2:00pm – 2:30pm

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday 11 February 2021 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au.

Warren Groves | **GENERAL MANAGER**

WHITEMARK TIP OPENING HOURS

SUN, MON, FRI	1.30pm - 4.30pm
TUES +THURS	7.00am -10.00am
WEDNESDAYS	8.30am - 11.30am