



NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

This Council believes in community engagement. At the February Ordinary meeting Council approved a motion that two ordinary meetings per year should be held outside of Whitemark. On these days, there will be a sausage sizzle lunch, coffee and time to talk with councillors before the actual meeting. Community members are then invited to attend the Ordinary Meeting. Local Government is the layer of government closest to its community and this Council wants to create opportunities for engagement in an ongoing way.

FURTHER TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I have decided that I will spend an hour or so every couple of months in Emita, Whitemark, Lady Barron and Killiecrankie. Locations will be:

- Whitemark – outside one of the main shopping spots
- Emita – to be decided
- Lady Barron – outside Lady Barron Store
- Killiecrankie – at the reserve area near the BBQ.

I will place the dates and locations in the Island News and Community Facebook Page ahead of time. It will give community members an opportunity to meet with me.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

Community engagement events are an excellent way of letting Council know of needs and wants - but they are also times for community to listen - in order to understand that meeting needs can take some time – By the way, some wants may not be able to be met at all.

BOAT RAMPS

In the last two years Council has had several requests for new boat ramps. I have taken on the councillor portfolio of fishing / marine. I am flagging that soon I will be organizing a community forum on the topic of boat ramps. The purpose will be to gain understanding of community needs and wants in this area and to share with islanders how Council intends to look at boat ramp provision.

JUST FLAGGING AVIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

For a number of reasons there has not been an aviation meeting for quite some time. I am flagging that a meeting is planned for 31st March. Committee members will be receiving minutes and agenda within the next few weeks.

THERE HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A LOT OF VISITORS THIS SEASON

I understand there has been some unrest in the community at times over Flinders' visitor economy. I have no doubt that most of the Flinders' community understand why the visitor economy is important to the Island/s, including for the following reasons:

- Our businesses work very hard to provide for community needs, but they depend on a successful visitor season to keep their businesses sustainable.
- The visitor economy also helps our businesses to better provide for the needs and wants of locals.
- It would be a strange place if we never saw new faces on the island. Meeting new people keeps us in touch with the rest of Tasmania and beyond.
- Change can be difficult but meeting new people allows Islanders to hear new ideas, to improve some practices, to give us different topics of conversation.

There must be as much balance as possible between the economy of the Island and the wellbeing of its community. Sharon Blyth and I have the tourism portfolio in Council. We are currently exploring how we can work with the community and stakeholders to create and maintain an improved economy / wellbeing balance. Keep an eye out for further information.

GREEN WASTE AT LADY BARRON TRANSFER STATION

This is one issue that several community members have raised with me. I could see their point. The issue has taken quite some time to settle but I now have an answer.

This is planned to be the last fire season that Lady Barron people must bring their green waste to Whitemark. The current fire season ends around the end of March / beginning of April. When the current fire season ends, Lady Barron community will be advised that they can drop off their green waste at the LB Transfer Station again. By the end of June 2021, Council plans to install the new organisation of the Whitemark Tip and the two Transfer Stations. Green Waste will be included in both Transfer Stations and the plan is to operate this all year round.

EDUCATION FOR THE NEW WASTE SYSTEM

In the lead up to the new tip / transfer stations organisation. We will be planning various ways of educating community in how it works. This will take place in around three months. Education probably will include bus trips to all 3 locations with staff / councillors demonstrating how they will work; householders; clear signage; and so on.

It has been a long time coming but it will be worth the wait.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

The roles of Councillor and Council Staff these days is massive. No more are the roles simply about roads, rates and rubbish – although these topics are massive in themselves! So many issues now come under the local government banner. It is impossible to maintain quality contribution to the functions of councils if councillors and staff do not engage in professional development and training activities. When Councillors sign into the role, they must commit to engage in professional development activities and thinking. Our learning over the last two years has been amazing and must continue so that we can improve our practice and service to community.

TALKING OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our General Manager, Warren Groves, Councillor Vanessa Grace (portfolio for King Island / Flinders Island collaboration) and I have spent 3 days recently on King Island. We have been working with Kind Island Council to closely examine how we will share ideas and resources in order that both councils may provide improved service and meet our goals more effectively and efficiently. We worked long and hard and now have a productive list of projects together, such as:

- Sharing submissions to government.

- Exploring how we may share a development planning officer or consultant. One planner / consultant between us would be able to get to know the unique circumstances and culture of the Bass Strait Islands. This could only be useful to both Councils.
- Sharing processes and frameworks: e.g. King Island has developed a comprehensive risk management framework which presents opportunities for the Flinders model.
- Flinders has a Strategic Plan, based on a process developed and facilitated by our GM, Warren Groves. King is working on their Strategic Planning and will use the framework of ours as a platform.
- We are both small Councils and such collaboration will save resources.
- Possible sharing of future vet services, especially in the short term.
- Sharing information regarding our Shipping Committees – while Warren and Vanessa talked with the Vet, I met with the King Island Shipping Committee.

REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH COUNCILS MET WITH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (LC) MEMBERS

Members of the State Legislative Council were visiting King Island at the same time as we were. We sat down with them on two occasions to let them know that a “one size fits all” arrangement does not work well for the Islands.

We had an excellent opportunity to discuss with LC members our thoughts on the State Waste Levy Bill that is in the planning stages. The representatives of both King Island and Flinders Councils’ present, are unsure of the potential benefits of the proposed bill. The LC members listened well and understood our concerns. As a result of this discussion, both Councils plan to write a submission to the appropriate State Ministers. We hope they will listen also.

THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY

I want to thank our community for paying attention to the issues I write about. They are of monumental importance now and in the future. If you wish to discuss any issues further, please make a time to talk with me.

**ANNIE REVIE
MAYOR**

Email: annie.revie@flinders.tas.gov.au

Tel: 0477 557 338

FLINDERS ISLAND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2021 – 2024)

Community Development staff have been working alongside the local business association, FIBI, to develop a localised workforce plan. Workforce planning explores what is needed to ensure the right people are in the right place at the right time to carry out the business activities to meet business goals.

For Flinders, the plan's aim is to identify the current and future jobs and skills shortages across existing and emerging industry sectors in addition to gaining a better understanding of what issues are currently impacting our workforce.

If you run a business on the Island, please take the time to complete the Employer Survey which is available online at <https://bit.ly/3bujkQT>

Alternatively, contact Sammi at Council or Jana at FIBI if you would like the survey emailed or posted to you, or if you would prefer to discuss in person.

Sammi Gowthorp
Community Development Officer
P. (03) 6359 5006
E. sammi.gowthorp@flinders.tas.gov.au

Jana Monnone – FIBI Project Officer
P. 0400 0917 86
E. fibi.business.assist@gmail.com

MASKS ON THE PLANE AND INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT

If travelling 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. If you are attending the Whitemark airport, please ensure a mask is worn at all times unless in your car.

Henderson Dam Project

This week, work has commenced on the Henderson Dam project. Please be mindful of trucks entering and exiting the Whitemark Showgrounds area. The northern gate of the Showgrounds (close to the airport) will be the entry and exit point for heavy vehicles for the next six months.

Roads Update

We are waiting for bitumen to arrive on the boat to finalise the sealing of various patches of roadworks that need sealing. This work will be finished in the upcoming weeks.

Grading on the gravel roads will commence when we get significant rainfall. The team are patching and potholing as necessary.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications for funding are now being sought from Community Groups. Applications received by C.O.B. 24th May will be considered by Council as part of the budget process for the next financial year.

GUNN BEQUEST

Applications for funding are now being sought from sporting organisations under the Gunn Bequest.

These funds are provided to suitable projects for the promotion or improvement of sporting facilities on the Island. Applications must be received by C.O.B. Friday 7th May.

Written applications for both grants, using the forms available from the Council Office or the Council website <http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/community-grants-and-awards> should be addressed to:

General Manager
Flinders Council
PO Box 40
Whitemark TAS 7255

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 March 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 March 2021 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au.

Warren Groves | **GENERAL MANAGER**



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

CHANGE TO WHITEMARK TIP HOURS

Changes to opening hours at the Whitemark Tip will apply from March 1st. They have been implemented due to unplanned staffing shortages within the Works and Airport Departments.

We understand this may be an inconvenience to some users, but it is unfortunately unavoidable at this time.

Council will review the situation in the upcoming months, when staffing issues are resolved.

New hours as of Monday 1st of March 2021

Monday	CLOSED
Thursday	CLOSED
Saturday	CLOSED
Tuesday	9:30 – 1:00pm
Wednesday	9:30 – 1:00pm
Friday	9:30 – 1:00pm
Sunday	1:30 – 4:30pm

CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS