



NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO CONNOR WHEATLEY

Connor Wheatley is to be congratulated! During the last year or so, Connor decided to enter the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. You may remember that last year he worked with his mum, Aimee, to organize Seaside Scavenge, as part of his award. Recently Connor became the first Student from Flinders District High School in the 21st century to be awarded the International Bronze Award. Well done, Connor, and congratulations to our Island School for supporting him, along with his family. We are all proud of you Connor.

LAND USE AND PLANNING DEVELOPMENT ON THE ISLANDS

At the March Ordinary Meeting a community member asked a question regarding planning development. The reason she asked the question was that a planning development motion was put to a recent Local Government Association of Tasmanian meeting. The motion asked delegates to explore whether Councils wish to continue to act as a local planning authority or whether a State panel should be appointed for the purpose. The motion was lost 31:16. It looks like Councils are not keen to give up this important aspect of their role – I am guessing that most communities are happy with that news. The role can be challenging, but it puts planning decisions exactly where they should be: in local hands.

WHAT A HAPPY EASTER PARADE!

I was very pleased to join a happy crowd at the Lady Barron Hall on Easter Saturday. Not only did I enjoy a fabulous, cooked breakfast, but I had a lot of fun watching our beautiful Island youngsters showing off their Easter bonnets. Time and energy and creative thinking went into the hat-making. Then there were egg and spoon races as well as an Easter Egg Scramble. The event is organized annually by the Lady Barron Hall and Recreation Committee – and what a great job they do. The Easter Bunny was in attendance, ably assisted by A.K., whose patience, friendliness and organisation with the parade and races was greatly appreciated. Many thanks to all involved in this great event!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LADY BARRON

I recently stated in island News that I would be visiting Lady Barron, Emita and Killiecrankie on a semi regular basis, just to give people an opportunity to talk with me if they wish. On 14th April there will be a public meeting at Lady Barron Hall at 6.00 pm. It is a chance to hit two birds with one stone! I will attend that meeting so that I can listen to what people have to say on the topic of tourism. (see my tourism thoughts below)

EMITA AND KILLIECRANKIE ENGAGEMENT

I will visit Emita Hall to meet with anyone who wishes to talk with me on Wednesday 21st April from 10.30 to 12.00 approximately. Then I will be at Killiecrankie public space (near the BBQ) on Wednesday 12th May from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm. If you would like to talk over any issues with me, put these dates in your diary.

WHAT ABOUT CAPE BARREN ISLAND?

At a date to be arranged in May or June I will pay a visit to Cape Barren Island so that islanders can discuss any issues with me. Watch this space.

AS FOR TOURISM!

Tourism is a hot topic – and an important one for our community. In the latter months of 2020, I attended two public meetings – one in Whitemark and the other in Lady Barron – regarding aspects of tourism in the Municipality. With Council colleagues, I made a commitment to listen deeply to what people were saying on

the subject. Since then Councillors, Council staff, members of the FIBI Board, and quite a few community members have been working / considering how we improve things.

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE COMMUNITY CONCERNS ON FACEBOOK

I am well aware of people's concerns and I agree with some of the sentiments expressed, including:

- ∂ Who does tourism benefit and how?
- ∂ Who pays for the community expenses around tourism?
- ∂ Whose responsibility is it to improve things?
- ∂ How do we improve things?

WE ARE NOT ALONE WITH THESE CONCERNS

Tourism is traditionally referred to as an industry. Like all industries, its objectives have included:

- ∂ Ongoing growth of visitor numbers;
- ∂ Encouraging tourists to spend in order to boost the economy.

[But all over the world, people are beginning to think differently. People are beginning to express concerns that their lifestyles are suffering. Nowhere is this more important than on our Island.

LAST WEEK COUNCILLORS HAD A JOINT WORKSHOP ON THE TOPIC

Attending the workshop were Councillors, Council staff, members of the FIBI Board, Jayne Cooper from Parks & Wildlife, and Kirsten Bach from Visit Northern Tasmania, Todd Babiak, CEO of Brand Tasmania. The focus of the workshop was to consider how we manage tourism going forward. We took a fresh look at the Destination Action Plan that was formulated in 2016. All present agreed that the time is **NOW** to work with our community on the following questions, and more:

- ∂ What are the benefits of tourism for our community?
- ∂ Is it possible to cater for the well-being of the community as well as for tourists?
- ∂ Can we find out what our community in general thinks on these matters?
- ∂ Can we offer tourism experiences that are first and foremost authentic to the Island/s?

THE ANSWERS TO ALL FOUR QUESTIONS IS YES!

- ∂ I am sure that many Islanders believe that tourism is important to Islanders:
- ∂ It supports the Island Economy;
- ∂ It allows local businesses to make enough money so they can better cater for locals;
- ∂ It enables Islanders to meet different people (mostly good people);
- ∂ It enables us to see the potential gains from looking beyond our own shores;
- ∂ It also enables us to monitor the challenging bits and to improve the way we do things.

BUT TOURISM CAN BECOME A BURDEN UNLESS WE BASE IT ON THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF OUR COMMUNITY

It is time! We must create a project that enables Flinders tourism to reflect Islanders' values. Of course we need some business growth – we need the jobs this creates. But quality of life and well-being are also vital.

THERE ARE WAYS TO DO THIS

These ways will involve the community – that I promise. But the community must participate, at least in small ways, if we are to succeed. Council, FIBI, and others can design an effective project, but it will only work if community members participate:

- Fill in short online surveys;
- Ring in your responses;
- Attend a few forums.

AT THE NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion will go before Council to endorse the amended Destination Action Plan – part of that will be to create such a project – one that will explore what tourism would look and feel like if done in the **ISLAND WAY**.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

ANNIE REVIE

MAYOR

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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

CAMPING & FACILITIES INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

In collaboration with Tas Parks, Flinders Council recently published a flyer with camping and day facilities information for visitors.

The flyer covers camping locations, BBQ & facilities, Dump Ezy station (effluent dump point) opening times for the Whitemark Tip and Transfer Stations and is being distributed to all visitors arriving on Furneaux Freight, available on the Council website and at the Visitor Information Centre.

A community information app has also been developed to complement the camping information flyer with links to essential services, visitor information and community groups on the island.

VISITOR INFORMATION APP



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to download the Visit Information App.

WHITEMARK TIP HOURS

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

Autumn KIDS - Holiday PROGRAM

Tues 13th April - Rollerblading at Emita Hall

6-10 years: 10:30am to 12:00pm

Bus leaves Bakery Park 10am returns 12:30pm

11 & over: 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Bus leaves Bakery Park 12:45pm returns 3:30pm

Get your skates on and get down to the Emita Hall for rollerblading. Please advise of shoe size when booking or if kids have their own roller blades. Bus bookings essential. BYO snacks and drinks.

Contact sammi.gowthorp@flinders.tas.gov.au for all enquiries. Text 0437 987 863 for all bookings. \$5 per child. Ages 6 & under to be accompanied by an adult.

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 20 April 2021 at 2:00pm.

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

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday 15 April 2021 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au.

Warren Groves | **GENERAL MANAGER**