



## NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

### WHERE ARE WE WITH COVID-19?

Council's link with COVID information is through our Municipal Emergency Management Committee and FHOCM, which includes representatives from all our community's primary health providers. We link directly to the Northern Regional Emergency Committee. **Council does not receive information from Public Health except through the website:** [coronavirus@tas.gov.au](mailto:coronavirus@tas.gov.au) and via the Flinders Health Organisation Committee Meeting (FHOCM) The Northern Police Commander has been the one to keep us in touch and I appreciate that very much. He let us know the other day that we have 8 Covid cases on Island. We believe them to be in isolation.

### THE BEST WE CAN ALL DO

The very best each of us can do is to behave like COVID is everywhere! Don't take chances!

- Make sure you are vaccinated with all 3 shots – but it is never too late to get the first shot if you haven't had it yet. It is fabulous that over 450 community members received vaccinations at the vaccination clinic last week. If you feel unwell, get tested. If you don't know how to get tested – call Ochre Health.
- Maintain hygiene – hand washing and sanitizing – especially before entering a business or organisation.
- Wear a mask when in a shop or organisation. The MPC only lets people in who are wearing medical standard masks. But everywhere else a cloth mask or disposable mask will add some protection and it will let others know that you are considering the needs of others.
- Try to stay 1.5 meters away from others unless they are your own household members.
- If you are anxious, talk to someone you can trust.

### ISLAND RUMOURS

You have heard of the game, Chinese Whispers! You start a story and by the time it gets around

a dozen people it is a completely different story. That is how rumours work. People believe what they think they hear, and sometimes they believe what they want to hear. If you hear something that rings a little bell in your head, ask questions rather than believe it immediately – Questions like:

- Does this sound right to me?
- How do you know?
- What evidence is there to support the story?
- Who can I talk with to verify this?

### TALKING OF ISLAND RUMOURS

- Council sold the bitumen truck. It was registered for seven years without being used. **NOT TRUE!**
- Council is getting rid of all its graders and will contract the grading out. **NOT TRUE**
- Because council will not own graders people will lose their jobs. **NOT TRUE**
- People with COVID are all over the Island. **NOT TRUE**

### CHANGES TO SERVICE DELIVERY AT COUNCIL OFFICES

Following Councils COVID Safety Plan, the below guidelines have been put in place.

- If you need information or to make a payment to Council, please ring the front office on 6359 5001
- Contactless communication is preferred by phone, email or zoom.
- If you need to talk with someone face to face and there is no other option, please make an appointment first. You can meet in the Rose Garden Room or at FAEC.
- Visitor Information packs are available to take away at the Airport terminal and on the Council Office porch.
- Inside the offices, all Council Staff are expected to follow health guidelines by wearing masks and social distancing where possible. The same is expected of visitors to all Council facilities.
- Council meetings will be conducted in the main hall area to allow for social distancing. Members of the public are still invited to attend and are required to follow Public Health Guidelines for indoor areas.
- These changes have been put in place as a health protection measure for staff and the community.

### WHAT ABOUT THE GYMS?

The gyms are both open for small groups of 5 at a time at Lady Barron and 7 at a time at Whitemark. The programs run by Michelle and Justin are not running, at least for a month. Wearing a mask and doing vigorous exercise do not go well together.

## ROAD MARKING IN WHITEMARK

White lines were refreshed in Whitemark this week. The white lines will be refreshed in Lady Barron sometime in February, weather permitting.

## TAKE CARE – STAY SAFE

Try not to worry – this community is good at protecting each other.

## PLEASE BE KIND TO EACH OTHER!

**ANNIE REVIE MAYOR**

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

TEL: 0477 557 338



## CHANGES TO GYM CLASSES



To reduce the risk of community transmission, we will be suspending all organised group fitness classes with trainers Justin Graham at Whitemark Gym and Michelle Parker at Lady Barron Gym until the beginning of March.

**The community gyms will remain open, and numbers will be limited to:**

- **Lady Barron 5 people at a time**
- **Whitemark 7 people at a time**

At all Flinders Council facilities, properly fitted face masks and scanning via the Check in Tasmania QR code are required. We urge that you follow the check-in procedures for your own safety, as well as the protection of the community.

We appreciate your support in this issue and know our community will follow the guidelines Council has put in place. We will continue to monitor the situation and update the guidelines as required.

## WATER RESTRICTIONS

**Stage two water restrictions are now in place for Whitemark.**

This is to ensure the community has a continuous water supply over the warmer months due to the Henderson Dam upgrade.

**For information on water restrictions and what it means to you visit:**  
[www.taswater.com.au/news/restrictions](http://www.taswater.com.au/news/restrictions)

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## PAYMENT OF RATES

**2nd Instalment  
due Monday 28th February 2022**

**Rate payment options are listed on the back of your Rates Notice and can be paid:**

- by Credit Card Online at Councils Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au/make-a-payment](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/make-a-payment)
- or by phoning our Customer Service Centre on 6359 5001
- by Cheque or Money order mailed to GPO Box 40, Whitemark, TAS 7255

**Following Councils COVID Safety Plan, if you need information or to make a payment in person, please ring the front office on 6359 5001 to arrange a time to visit.**

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## ROAD WORKS

Council is pleased to advise that preliminary work has been completed on Palana Rd and the contractors will return to the Island in February to begin construction work of the road pavement (stabilising) during February.

Construction should take approximately four weeks and during this time, the bitumen sealing contractor will bring their equipment and materials to the island.

This will be followed by the bitumen sealing work, and then the line-marking, guideposts, site clean-up with a scheduled completion date in late March/early April.

Motorists are requested to observe all traffic management directions as work crews and large construction vehicles will be working on the road throughout the construction phase.

Chris Wilson  
**Manager Infrastructure and Airport**

## PARKING ARRANGEMENTS AT FLINDERS ISLAND AIRPORT

Due to the increased numbers of vehicles utilising the airport car park, the Flinders Council has implemented new vehicle parking arrangements.

**There is now a 2-hour maximum limit in the front row near the terminal.**

A Hire Car parking area has been established opposite the terminal.

The general parking area is now to the south of the terminal.

New signage has been installed indicating the locations.

A new pedestrian crossing has now been installed in front of the terminal, so pedestrians can cross from the terminal building to the main car parking area.

Residents and visitors to the airport are reminded to observe all road rules and signage within the airport carpark.

**Due to parking limitation within the Airport grounds, Flinders Council requests all owners of vehicles currently parked at the airport on a long-term basis to contact Airport Operations on 0429 813 929 to discuss ongoing storage arrangements.**

No unauthorised vehicle or persons are permitted past the RFDS hanger located opposite the Operations Office.

Chris Wilson  
**Manager Infrastructure and Airport**

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### Whitemark Tip – Opening Hours

- **Monday** 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- **Tuesday** 7am -10am
- **Friday** 1.30pm - 4.30pm
- **Wednesday** 8.30am - 11.30am
- **Thursday** 7am -10am
- **Saturday** CLOSED
- **Sunday** 1.30pm - 4.30pm

### CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS



### ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that the 2022 Ordinary Meetings of Flinders Council will be held at the Flinders Arts and Entertainment Centre, Whitemark on the following Tuesdays unless stated:

- 18 January
- 15 February
- 15 March
- 12 April at Lady Barron Hall
- 17 May
- 14 June
- 19 July
- 16 August
- 20 September at Emita Hall
- 18 October
- 15 November
- 13 December

Council Meetings will start at 2:00pm and Public Question Time will be from 2.00pm – 2.30pm.

Each meeting agenda will be available for perusal on the Council Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au) or at the Council Office on the Thursday before the meeting.

Warren Groves  
**General Manager**

### Policy to be Adopted

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 14 December 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting to approve the **Roadside and Reserve Vegetation Management Policy and Procedure**.

The policy and procedure will lie on the table for public comment until 10 February 2022. They are available to download from the Council Website [www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies](http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies) and hardcopies are available from the Council Office.

Should you wish to make comment on the policy, please do so by addressing relative correspondence to:

Warren Groves  
**General Manager**