

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD THE RECENT GOOD NEWS!

Late last week, Council announced the good news that the Federal Government has agreed on:

1. Funding Flinders Island Airport runway upgrade completely. \$3.6 million will be provided so that the vital work is done at no cost to Council.
2. The \$1.8 million, needed to supplement the previously-promised \$1.8 million, will be transferred to our Airport from the original Safe Harbour funding of \$4.8 million, promised last May.
3. The remaining \$3 million funding for the Safe Harbour project will be used to redesign a scaled-down model that Council can afford.

UPDATE ON THE FIRES

It is sounding like the Memana fires are well under control. Hot spots are still burning in the peat below the earth surface. Small crews from Parks & Wildlife and RFS volunteers are monitoring this situation and extinguishing hot spots. A helicopter has been used, with infra-red equipment, to scan the fire area. This is then transferred into GPS location data so that fire crews on the ground can find the hot spots easily. The fire is close to being classified as 'Patrol' – meaning that a small crew would monitor constantly until satisfied that the fire has been extinguished.

There has been fabulous work from all concerned – for which the community of Flinders is so appreciative.

What would we do if we didn't have people to do such work for us? It doesn't bear thinking about!

NEW COUNCIL GM BEGINS ON 3RD FEBRUARY

Council's new General Manager, Warren Groves, begins work on Monday 3rd February. I know that this wonderful community will welcome him to the Island and to his new role.

COUNCIL'S NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTER

Flinders Council understands that service to customers is its main focus. To this end, Council has worked on a new Customer

Service Charter. You will find a copy on Council's website or you may collect one from Council Reception, or have it emailed to you by ringing 6359 5001. The Charter makes a commitment that, when you have a request from Council, it will be done in as short a time as possible.

It is important to distinguish each of the following, one from the other:

- A Service Request is when you request a particular action. This could be that something is repaired, or removed, or inspected;
- An Enquiry is when you request specific information; and
- A Customer Complaint is when you express dissatisfaction with something.

RING COUNCIL ON 6359 5001

If you have a Service Request, an Enquiry or a Customer Complaint, please ring Council reception on the above number or email to reception office@flinders.tas.gov.au Every request from customers will be logged, followed up, acted upon, checked for action and reported back to the customer. We are intent on having you, our customers, satisfied with Council service. If you need help with any of the process, contact a Councillor, who will guide you through the process if need be. I thank our community in anticipation of this process being entirely successful.

2020 – THE YEAR OF COUNCIL'S TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The Tasmanian *Local Government Act 1993* legislates that each Local Government Council works with its community to produce a ten-year strategic plan. Councillors will be working in the beginning of the year to scope how we will work with the Community in this regard. When that is done, we will use several techniques to hear what the community sees as its priorities for the future. The engagement will possibly happen through a combination of the following:

- Community Forum/s;
- Surveys;
- Phone interviews;
- Facebook / council website ads and questions;
- Sausage sizzle questions;
- Etc.

I encourage you to participate when the time comes. How can you possibly achieve things important to you if you do not take part?

OF COURSE COMMUNITY MEMBERS CANNOT HAVE EVERYTHING THEY WANT

Even if Council had lots of money, there would always be things we wanted but couldn't afford. Nonetheless, even though Council is somewhat cash-strapped, we must first identify what we think is important for the Islands.

When we participate, we identify what we want, but we also learn why we sometimes can't have it. The more the Community participates and tries to understand, the better it is for us all.

SUSTAINABILITY HAS TO BE AN OVER-ARCHING GOAL

As we move into this 2020 decade, including into our strategic planning for the future, I seriously believe that there is one word that is critical: **SUSTAINABILITY**. We have all witnessed through our news media and through our Island experience, the terrible destruction of Fire. Whether you believe in Global Warming or not, the data is forewarning that we must take better care of both human and animal life. We must also ensure that we do as little damage to the precious land as possible. And so, when we consider Island projects, we must ask:

- Will this project provide jobs for our young people?
- Will it provide us with quality food?
- Will it protect our Island – its land and waters?
- Will the homes we build be affordable to those who need them?
- And so on.

Flinders Island can benefit from its isolation. Let's work together in an attempt to make it so.

END OF LIFE CHOICES FORUM/S

On Tuesday 3rd March, Member of the Tasmanian Legislative Council for Mersey, Michael Gaffney, will run two forum/s in Whitemark on End of Life Choices.

This may not be something that interests some of the Community in any way at all. On the other hand, there are probably people in

our community who want to expand their knowledge on this topic. The first forum will be at 1.00 pm and the second at 7.00 pm on 3rd March. They will both be held in the Whitemark FAEC. Put the dates and times in your diary if you are interested.

WHEN YOU CAN – BUY LOCAL!

ANNIE REVIE, MAYOR

Tel: 0477 557338

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

Position Vacant

Safety & Works Administration Officer

Flinders Council is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Safety and Works Administration Officer to join our team. The position will be permanent part-time (45 hours per fortnight). Duties will include assisting the Works and Services Manager in ensuring that the safety of the organisation is maintained, along with administration support for the Works and Services Department.

A full description of this position can be viewed on Council's website at www.flinders.tas.gov.au/employment-and-business-opportunities

For further information, contact megan.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au

Applications should be marked "Safety & Works Administration Officer position" and addressed to:

Attn: Megan Boyes
Flinders Council
PO Box 40
WHITEMARK TAS 7255

Applications will need to answer the 'knowledge, skills and experience' section and are to be submitted to Flinders Council via email: megan.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au or via post by COB 14th February 2020.

Position Vacant

Works Officer – Parks & Gardens and Maintenance Officer

Flinders Council is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Works Officer – Parks & Gardens and Maintenance Officer to join our team. The position will be permanent full-time (76 hours per fortnight) and duties will include maintenance, primarily on parks, reserves and Council infrastructure.

A full description of this position can be viewed on Council's website at www.flinders.tas.gov.au/employment-and-business-opportunities

For further information, contact megan.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au

Applications should be marked "Works Officer – Parks & Gardens and Maintenance position" and addressed to:

Attn: Megan Boyes
Flinders Council
PO Box 40
WHITEMARK TAS 7255

Applications will need to answer the 'knowledge, skills and experience' section and are to be submitted to Flinders Council via email: megan.boyes@flinders.tas.gov.au or via post by COB 14th February 2020.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Council has recently received allegations relating to the death and attacks upon the black swans in Petrification Bay at Lady Barron.

Petrification Bay is a conservation area and the black swans are a protected species. The law is equipped to deal with the destruction of protected species under the *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010*.

The *Dog Control Act 2000* contains legal control for the actions of dogs and owners.

Whilst in a public area, all dogs must remain under the effective control of their owner if not on a lead.

A dog under effective control is defined as being so if:

- (a) it is in close proximity to the person; and
- (b) it is in sight of the person; and
- (c) the person is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of an authorised person that the dog is immediately responsive to the person's commands.

Failure to meet the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* or the *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010* may result in the closure of beaches to dogs.

All dog owners are instructed to ensure their dogs are registered and behave in accordance with legislation.

Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in infringement.

Furneaux Islands Festival 2020

A huge Thank You to those who contributed and came along to the Furneaux Islands Festival.

If you have a few minutes to fill out this simple survey – we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Link to visit:

<https://flinderscouncil.typeform.com/to/Fq4lZK>

or scan the QR code



Options for Payment of Council Rates

Pay by Phone: with Mastercard or Visa
03 6359 5010

In Person: Mastercard, Visa or Cheque,
4 Davies Street Whitemark

By Post: Cheque or Money Order:
PO Box 40, Whitemark, 7255

By Internet: visit Flinders Council's website
at www.flinders.tas.gov.au/make-a-payment
and follow the links to pay.

Waste Update

Council would like to thank everyone for their efforts with regard to waste segregation. We are starting a new process and the Community support is paramount to ensuring that the service is provided and within Council's budget.

At this stage we require you to separate:

- Glass – no need to remove stickers or wraps but please remove lids;
- Aluminium cans – part of school's "cash for cans" project. Please ensure they are actually ALUMINIUM cans!
- Household waste and cardboard – at this stage these are being baled together.
- Compostable material – degradable material such as kitchen scraps (no meat please) to be placed in allocated area. This wet matter is causing problems in the household waste bins so please place kitchen scraps in this area.

Over the next few months things will continue to improve. Please keep an eye on the Flinders Council Facebook page for updates.

WHITEMARK TIP OPENING HOURS

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

Policy to be Adopted

Council resolved at the 17 December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting to adopt the **Public Open Space Policy**. The Policy will lie on the table for public comment until 13 February 2020. It is available to download from Council's Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au/policies

Hardcopies are available from the Council Office. Should you wish to make comment on the policy, please do so by addressing relative correspondence to:

Heidi Marshall | **ACTING 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 25 February 2020 at 9.30am.

Public Question Time will be held between 9.30 – 10.00am. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Agenda will be available for perusal from Thursday 20 February 2020 on the Council Website www.flinders.tas.gov.au and at the Council Office.

Heidi Marshall | **ACTING GENERAL
MANAGER**