General Information about the Furneaux Region

The Furneaux Group is located between Wilson’s Promontory in Victoria and Cape Portland in Tasmania. Flinders Island is the largest of these islands and the region has around 800 permanent residents.

The Furneaux Group of islands is what remains of the original land bridge that once joined Tasmania to mainland Australia.

The time of the flooding of this land bridge is a contentious point for many scientists but it is believed to have happened between 12,000 and 18,000 years ago.

Over these thousands of years, water erosion has formed some of the most spectacular rock formations and scenery you will find anywhere in the world.

Climate

The Furneaux Group boasts a maritime climate, with the average rainfall ranging from about 600mm in the southwest to over 800mm in the central hills.

The climate of this region is generally mild as the sea has a moderating effect protecting the islands from extremes of temperature.

The Furneaux Group of islands is situated around Latitude 40o South, meaning it is subject to the infamous Roaring Forties winds. Coastal waters can be exposed to strong and variable winds and high seas at times throughout the year.
Welcome to your island home from the Mayor

Congratulations on finding Flinders and the Furneaux Islands Group. You are undertaking the brave move to make it your new home. I hope you find the Furneaux Group a welcoming and supportive community to be part of.

In recent years Council has concentrated on upgrading its infrastructure including; halls, public BBQs, public toilets, boat ramps, the roads and the runways that support an enjoyable and rewarding lifestyle within the Flinders municipality.

The main industries that underpin our local economy and way of life are agriculture and tourism. Innovation is part of island culture and Flinders has a growing selection of niche products being grown, created and value-added to by our entrepreneurs, and we encourage this to continue.

There are many community groups with a broad diversity of interests which welcome new participants with open arms. A wide variety of events also happen throughout the year, with many participatory activities in between. There are always fabulous landscapes to enjoy, and we encourage you to do this in ways that preserve these islands for the future use of our children and their children in their turn.

This Kit is offered to provide you with some answers to the multitude of questions that will arise. We cannot answer them all here, so please, if you have further questions, approach our friendly office staff at Council for assistance. I look forward to saying hello as we pass in the street and to your friendly wave as we pass on the road. May your stay in the Furneaux Group be a long and happy one.

Yours sincerely
Mayor Annie Revie
Flinders Municipality

The Flinders Municipality covers 4 groups of Bass Strait islands off the north-eastern tip of Tasmania: the Furneaux, Kent, Hogan and Curtis Groups.

Of the more than 60 islands, only three have permanent residents, Flinders, Cape Barren and Clarke, with Flinders Island having the largest population.

Flinders Island has four main population centres: Whitemark, Lady Barron, Emita and Killiecrankie.

Whitemark is the main residential and business centre, and the all-tides port at Lady Barron is the berthing point for the trading vessels. Flinders Island is serviced with a weekly sail between Bridport and Lady Barron, monthly to Cape Barren Island and on demand (approx monthly) from Welshpool, Victoria.

There are daily flights between Launceston and Whitemark and four flights a week between Essendon (Melbourne) and Whitemark (subject to seasonal change – please refer to Sharp Airlines current Schedule). The region is also serviced by a number of charter aircraft. These carry passengers or freight on demand.

Flinders Island has a thriving rural community that produces wool, beef cattle, lamb, crayfish, abalone, wine, olive oil and wallaby. Other main business activities include rural support industries and tourism.

The islands are home to very diverse wildlife with over 120 species of birds on Flinders Island including many visiting migratory, Northern Hemisphere species. There are no rabbits or foxes in this region other than rabbits on some of the outer islands, and it is illegal to bring them to this region.

Flinders is a long, narrow island, 75 km long and 40 km wide, with the Darling Ranges running down the middle of the island. The total land area of Flinders Island is 1,333 sq km.

Flinders has 73 km of sealed roads, 309 km of gravel roads and is serviced by a licensed Airport with sealed runways at Whitemark. Flinders Council offers the following services; Economic Development, Works & Services, Building & Planning, Community Development, Environmental Health and a Visitor Information service Centre.
Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorp

Mission Statement
Working with and for the community to achieve a self sufficient, healthy Aboriginal community, Promoting social, economic and culture pride.

The Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated was first established in 1971. The organisation is governed by a committee of community elected Aboriginal members.

F.I.A.A.I runs a variety of housing, heath, community and employment programs. Staff are available to speak with anyone wishing to visit. Please feel free to call into their organisation for information on Aboriginal issues and significant sites and places of importance on the island.

F.I.A.A.I is an agent for Centrelink.

For more information please phone:
Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc (FIAAI) on 03 6359 3532
Employment

Traditionally the primary employment sector has been agriculture and fishing with tourism growing in importance.

There are a number of different employment options on Flinders Island from time to time; Flinders Council, Flinders Island Multi-Purpose Centre (hospital & Dr’s surgery), Fl District High School K-12, Fl Aboriginal Association Inc, Roberts Rural Supplies, or any of the other businesses on the island. If you would like the contact details for these please phone the Visitor Information Centre (Ph: 03 6359 5010).

Many farmers on these islands run their flocks for wool production and require shearers, wool classifiers, rouseabouts and someone to press the wool at shearing and crutching time. Some farmers also require people on a part-time/casual basis to help with sheep or cattle work, fencing, and other general farm duties.

Business Opportunities

A number of business opportunities present themselves on these islands. They are in the broad regions of:

- Tourism
- Aquaculture / Agriculture
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Trades
- IT

Our contact details are provided, so if you have any business ideas for Flinders Island please contact the Flinders Council (Ph: 03 6359 5010) for help with information and support.)
Flinders Island has a wide range of groups, clubs and associations. Flinders Island has one of the highest percentages of volunteers per head of capita in Australia so many of these clubs have a highly supportive volunteer base.

- Golf & Bowls RSL Club
- Furneaux Field & Game
- Pony Club
- C.W.A.
- Furneaux Museum Historical Research Association Inc
- Furneaux Lapidary Club
- Meals On Wheels Committee
- Junior Football Association
- Martial Arts
- Community Shed
- Flinders Running Group
- Flinders Island Business Inc.
- Furneaux Community Arts
- Scottish Country Dancing
- Netball, Ladies & Mixed
- Lions Club
- Landcare
- Acapella Group
- Community Choir
- Show Society
- The Sew ‘n’ Sews

To mention just a few.
Shops and Services

Flinders Island is serviced by two supermarkets. The Whitemark Supermarket (IGA) is open 5 1/2 days a week, the Lady Barron Store is open 7 days a week. Fuel is available at both stores. There is also a small supermarket on Cape Barren Island. See below a list of services provided on Flinders Island.

WHITEMARK:

Flinders Council & Visitor Centre Davies St. The centre can provide you with information and support with planning a holiday to the island. Ph (03) 6359 5001

Flinders Island Bakery Café Lagoon Road, Whitemark, sells a variety of bread, cakes, pies and pasties. Ph (03) 6359 2105

The Wharf Restaurant Whitemark Wharf, offers great coffee, lunches and snacks, fresh Island produce and Tasmanian wines and spirits. Ph 0474 889 236

EM Bowman & Co Patrick St, Whitemark is Flinders Island’s longest established retailer. It is a general store selling clothing, shoes, fabrics, gifts, stationery and household needs, and it also serves as a newsagent selling newspapers and magazines. Bowman’s also has its own history room with artefacts collected by the Bowman family since their first arrival in 1913. EFTPOS facilities are available. Ph (03) 6359 2008

Walkers IGA Supermarket Patrick Street, Whitemark. The Supermarket sells a wide range of groceries, fresh foods, meat and delicatessen items. Petrol is also available. EFTPOS facilities are available. Ph (03) 6359 2010

Furneaux Gallery (opp the beach) Robert Street Whitemark. Open during the summer and autumn months 7 days a week, it has paintings and drawings by local artists, pottery and jewellery. Look for the sign opposite Bowmans Corner. Ph: (03) 6359 2125

Strait Arts Gallery Patrick Street, Whitemark. Open on Wednesday and Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday mornings 9.30-11.30am. The gallery is Volunteer run, so times may vary. Local arts and craft exhibitions and sales.

Killiecrankie Enterprises Lagoon Rd, Whitemark. Has a range of gifts, photos, cards, foot wear, fishing gear and also have swap and go gas bottles. Ph: (03) 6359 2130

Flinders Island Quality Meat Robert Street, Whitemark. Butcher with delicatessen & seafood. Ph: Brandon or Vladimir (03) 6359 2005

Roberts Ltd Lagoon Rd are our local real estate and stock agent who also stock rural supplies. They also have a wide range of fishing gear available. Ph. (03) 6359 2059

Greg’s Shed Lagoon Rd, Whitemark. Secondhand goods, new building materials, bric a brac and garden items. Mob 0414 417 903
**Interstate Hotel** Patrick Street, Whitemark. Offers accommodation and counter meals in a country pub atmosphere, with TAB facilities available. Ph. (03) 6359 2114

**Flinders Island Sports & RSL Club** The Esplanade Whitemark. Golf, bowls and Function centre. It has Tas Keno and EFTPOS facilities available. Sports Club Ph. (03) 6359 2070

**Purple Swamphen** Lagoon Road, Whitemark. Sells local and Tasmanian hand-made items; jewellery, photography, knitted and sewn goods, woodwork and ceramics and their own blended coffee beans - great for gifts and souvenirs with a unique difference.

**Post Office** Patrick St Whitemark. Sells cards, stationery and a small range of gifts. Ph: (03) 6359 2020

**Banking Facilities** - the Post Office provides a B-Pay service to most major institutions. There is a Bendigo agency on the island located in the Post Office building at Whitemark. EFTPOS facilities are available at most places of business on the island.

**Service Tasmania** - for any registrations, licences or Centrelink services. Ph: 1300 135 513

**LADY BARRON:**

**Lady Barron Store** James Street, Lady Barron. A general store, news agent and post office agency. There is petrol available also. Ph. (03) 6359 3503

**Furneaux Tavern** Franklin Parade, Lady Barron. Offers accommodation, bar and restaurant with magnificent views across the Franklin Sound. **Wifi available.** Ph. (03) 6359 3521

**EMITA:**

**Furneaux Museum** 8 Fowlers Road, Emita. An extensive history of the Island. Many artefacts, natural resources and pictures of days gone by. The Museum is managed and cared for entirely by volunteers. Ph: 03 6359 8434
**Furneaux Find It**

- Another essential part of Island living is to have a **Furneaux Find It**
  
  Our local phone book.
  
  Available for purchase at Bowmans.
  
  In conjunction with this to help with business searches on the Island
  
  Flinders Council has a business directory on their website –
  

**Telecommunications**

There are public phones at Whitemark, Lady Barron and Killiecrankie.

TELSTRA 4G mobile is the only phone coverage that works in this region.

Satellite NBN is also available on the Island.

The Online Access Centre located in Whitemark’s Library provides public access to computers and the Internet.

The Furneaux Tavern in Lady Barron and Bowman’s in Whitemark provide public Wifi.
Tourism

The region is suited to eco-tourism and other low impact activities. These include bird watching, bush walking, photography, and enjoying the natural surroundings.

It is also a great place to unwind for those who just want to escape the stresses of modern living and perhaps do a bit of fishing, play a round of golf (the 9-hole golf course has only been parred once in its 40 year history), walks, snorkelling/diving and lots more. Please visit our visitor centre at 4 Davies St, Whitemark for brochures of tour operators, walking guides, maps and helpful general information and things to do on the island.

For families, the Furneaux region is a very safe environment in which to live and visit. The community is friendly and welcoming. There are walks to suit everybody, and most of the beaches are safe for all ages.
Rental Properties

The real estate companies on the Island don’t manage rental properties but if you are looking for a house you can phone them and ask about availability.
If you have no luck there try putting an ad in the Island News, our local newspaper(islandnews@hotmail.com).

Real Estate Agents on Flinders Island:
Elders Real Estate: Michelle Hirchfield 0409 151 799
Roberts Ltd Colin Wilson 03 6359 2059

Schools

Flinders Island has one school, the Flinders Island District High School, which covers kindergarten to grade 12. In 2019 the School had an enrolment of 101 students.

Flinders Island District High School offers a diverse and engaging program based on the Australian Curriculum. While the emphasis is on literacy and numeracy, the School also offers geography, history, science, health and physical education, arts and technology to all year levels. Secondary students are provided with a transition program to prepare them for life outside school. Primary students are able to choose an optional class from the following activities: music, drama, visual arts, media arts, technology, materials and fibres, food, agriculture, enterprise and events. Younger students also have a weekly library lesson.

The School participates in the following programs as an extension of the curriculum:
- **Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden** program enables grades 2-6 to help maintain the flourishing garden and use the produce to create healthy, nutritious meals.
- **Move Well, Eat Well** program promotes enjoyment of healthy eating and physical activity each day.
- **Stop, Think, Do** program empowers students by teaching self-control, decision making and positive actions such as empathy, responsibility and respect for others.
• Artist in Residence program enables artists to visit the school each year and offer sessions to the students.

• Launching into Learning program prepares children from ages 0-4 years for school.
• Off-Island trips and outdoor education camps are organised biennially.

‘Inspiration through Isolation,’ is our school value statement. Isolation doesn’t prevent staff from undertaking professional development to improve their skills or from providing students with a rich curriculum that utilises their unique environment.

Teaching staff are multi-skilled, enthusiastic and dedicated to the learning of the students. In 2015 the School has nine teaching staff and fourteen ancillary staff.

Some pupils leave at the completion of grade 10, moving on to years 11 & 12 (in Launceston) and then university or employment. Others remain on the Island to continue with online education, undertake traineeships and other local employment.

Childcare

The Island is well catered for with The Furneaux Child Care Centre (The Duckpond) located in Davies Street, Whitemark, run by Northern Children’s Network and Family Based Care.

Health

Flinders Island is well serviced by a fully equipped Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC/Hospital) in James Street, Whitemark, with the Royal Flying Doctor Service for emergencies.

A resident doctor (with surgery hours) services the community, with the surgery being open 5 days a week 9am-5pm by appointment.

The Multi–Purpose Centre provides a 24/7 emergency department service and X-ray. There are also 5 acute care beds for people requiring hospitalisation but who do not require further treatment in Launceston, and there are 9 residential aged care beds. Respite care is also available.

A Community Health Nurse and Child Health Nurse both operate out of the Multi–Purpose Centre.

Specialists and other Allied Health professionals visit the island regularly to provide additional services including:
• Dentist (public and private)
• Podiatrist
• Orthopaedic Surgeon
• Skin Specialist
• Clinical Psychologist
• Physiotherapist
• Diabetes team
• Optometrist

To contact the Flinders Island MPC phone: (03) 6359 0200
Doctor: (03) 6359 2011
Island Fitness

We are very fortunate to have many levels of fitness catered for on Flinders Island. There is a gym in Whitemark and also at the Lady Barron Hall. There are numerous fitness classes held for the very fit to our Sizzling Seniors class. Many fitness clubs - including running, football, dancing, martial arts, and netball.

Transport Logistics

Furneaux Freight services the Bass Strait Islands on a weekly basis. They have a weekly run from Bridport, and a service from Welshpool when the need arises. These runs cater for sea bound cargo as well as moving livestock on and off the Island. A small number of passengers can be accommodated. For further details please contact:

Furneaux Freight – Ph:03 6356 1753
Email: furneauxfreight@bigpond.com
There are various other freight and private charter service providers on the Island which can be found under the Transport Section of the Furneaux Find it, or Council’s Business & Community Directory – http://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/Furneaux-business-directory

Other Island Services

Parks and Wildlife
The main responsibility of the Parks and Wildlife Service in this region is to ‘manage all the reserved lands including flora and fauna of the Furneaux Islands.’

Officers are also involved in wildlife rescue and are responsible for some of our local heritage sites.

The local ranger is available for anyone wanting information on the region’s flora and fauna as well as access to reserved land, the outer islands and remote regions of the Flinders Municipality.

The Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for policing of wild life regulations.

To contact the local Parks and Wildlife Ranger phone: 03 6359 2217

Police
Water- and land-based police service the Flinders Region. Police are based at Whitemark and Lady Barron.

To contact our local police officers phone: 03 6359 2000 or 03 6359 3506

Fire Brigade
There are 6 local volunteer fire brigades.

Ambulance
The Multi-Purpose Centre is serviced by two ambulances, which are run by trained volunteers on a roster basis.
Electricity
Our electricity is supplied by 4 diesel generators, which are supplemented by 2 wind-powered generators. For new connection/disconnections contact Momentum on 1800 794 824.

Waste
The Flinders Municipality waste disposal site is located on Memana Road, 5 minutes from the township of Whitemark.

Opening hours:
**Monday, Friday and Sunday** - 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm  
**Tuesday and Thursday** - 7.00am to 10.00am  
**Wednesday** - 8.30 am to 11.30 am  
(Closed Public Holidays)

Skip bins are located at transfer stations on Palana Road just north of the turn-off to the township of Killiecrankie, and on Lady Barron Road just outside the town boundary of Lady Barron. Council are actively trying to better the waste management arrangements for the Island and establish an efficient, effective waste transfer system that benefits the Island, its users and Council as the regulator and service provider.

Churches
Flinders Island has visits from a Catholic Priest and an Anglican Minister to tend to the needs of the community. Churches are located at Whitemark and Lady Barron with service times advertised in the local newspaper.

Library
The State Library of Tasmania (LINC) maintains a well-stocked library at Davies St, Whitemark with opening hours being 10.00am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 5.00pm on Wednesdays and 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 6pm on Fridays. Outside these hours returns can be left at the Council Office.

Online Access Centre
There is an online access centre located in the Library in Davies St Whitemark. Opening hours are Wednesday & Thursday 10am – 1pm/ 2pm – 5pm, Friday 10am – 1pm / 2pm – 6pm. Library books can be dropped off when the centre is open but not borrowed.

Veterinary Services
The State Government has a resident veterinary officer who also provides a private clinical service. This service is located at Lagoon Road, Whitemark in the Service Tasmanian building.

Annual Events
- The **Flinders Island Annual Golf Tournament** is held during the June long weekend which attracts golfers from all over Australia.
- Every Fathers Day weekend in September there is the **Flinders 5 Running Festival** featuring the 5km fun run/walk and for the more serious runner there is a half marathon.
• The middle of October sees the annual event of the **Flinders Island Show**, with both local and off-island exhibitors.

• The **Emita Sports** are held every year in early January. This is a fun-filled day for the whole family followed by a dance in the hall at the Emita Sports Ground that evening.

• Another early January event is the **Music in the Vines** which is a great day out for all. There’s music, dancing, food and wine...what more do you need?? The day is held at Unavale vineyard at Badger Corner.

• **Furneaux Festival** A Festival to celebrate the Furneaux Islands’ community, shared culture and musical heritage held over the Australia Day weekend in January.

• **Other annual events**: Anzac Day, Diggers’ Day Golf Tournament

For further information about upcoming events in the Community

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**Interesting Facts**

**Rare Birds**

The Furneaux region is home to over 120 species of birds including the Cape Barren goose, the world’s second rarest waterfowl.

**Highest Lighthouse**

The highest lighthouse in the Southern Hemisphere is the one on Deal Island in the middle of Bass Strait. Completed in 1848, it was built with convict labour and stands 996 metres above sea level (this includes cliff height). This means that when the weather gets rough, the cloud layer is lower
than the lighthouse, making it useless as a navigational aid. A smaller lighthouse was built on a nearby island when the Deal light was finally extinguished.

**Soldier Settlers**

2002 marked the 50th anniversary of the Soldier Settlement of Flinders Island. The soldier settlement occurred when the government opened Crown Land in 1951 on Flinders Island for farming and made that land available to soldiers of war. The government first called for interest in this programme in 1949, and work began in the December of 1951.

### Publications of Interest

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Flinders Island</td>
<td>Jean Edgecombe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flinders Island &amp; Eastern Bass Strait</td>
<td>Jean Edgecombe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasmania’s Offshore Islands, Seabirds &amp; Other Natural Features</td>
<td>Nigel Brothers</td>
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<td>The Gold Coast Settlers</td>
<td>Bob Mainwaring</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux</td>
<td>Stephen Harris, Alex Buchanan, Amy Connolly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flight of the Shearwater</td>
<td>Dr Vincent Serventy</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Walking Guide to Flinders Island &amp; Cape Barren Island</td>
<td>Doreen Lovegrove, Steve Summers</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Furneaux Ecological Note Book</td>
<td>Area Marketing &amp; Development Office (Flinders Council), Vicki Mills</td>
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All these publications are available from Flinders Island retail outlets as well as leading book stores.

**If you require any more information on Flinders Island or the surrounding region, or on anything mentioned in the above summary please contact us:**

**Flinders Island Visitor Centre**  
Whitemark  
Flinders Island  
TAS 7255  
Ph. (03) 6359 5001  
Fax. (03) 6359 2211  
Email office@flinders.tas.gov.au  
Flinders Council website www.flinders.tas.gov.au

You can also visit the Island’s Tourism website:  
www.visitflindersisland.com.au