



NEWSLETTER No 1

16 December 2021

TO MEMBERS OF FURNEAUX ISLANDS PROTECTION NETWORK.

Welcome to the first newsletter to members of the Furneaux Islands Protection Network.

It is quite a while since the April public meeting at the Lady Barron Hall which was held to work out if there were enough people interested in forming an organisation whose objectives would be to protect the environment of the Furneaux Group and especially to try to limit developments in areas which residents and visitors have traditionally regarded as special.

Following that meeting, an incorporated association was formed, Furneaux Islands Protection Network Inc. A management board was appointed from people who attended. Its members are:- Gerry Willis (President), Max Parker (Vice-President), Jude Cazaly, Frances Henwood (Secretary), Linda Nicol, Esther Nunn, Eve Schulz, Craig Smith, Ken Stockton (Public Officer) and Claus Wilkens. Please feel free to talk to any of these people about any issues you have.

The association will hold its first Annual Meeting around September next year. At that meeting all positions on the board will be declared vacant and a new board will be elected by members.

The principal objectives of the Association as they are written in its inaugural constitution are:

The Furneaux Islands Protection Network Inc is committed to fostering Furneaux Islands' communities that demonstrate strong social inclusion, positive health and well-being, environmental stewardship and protection, and sustainable economic development that respects the irreplaceable social, cultural, environmental and economic characteristics of the Furneaux Group.

To achieve these Objectives Furneaux Islands Protection Network Inc will:

- i. advocate for sustainable planning and development initiatives that protect the values and characteristics of the Furneaux Islands;*
- ii. engage with other groups and organisations working to protect the positive social, cultural, environmental and economic characteristics of Furneaux Islands' communities;*
- iii. oppose inappropriate development proposals that threaten these characteristics;*
- iv. oppose development applications that do not conform to planning requirements and regional strategies;*
- v. make and empower all community members to make, representations to Local, State and Commonwealth authorities, bodies, boards, councils and other entities and any non-Government entities for the promotion of the above Objectives of the Association; and*
- vi. carry out such other activities consistent with the Objectives, endorsed in accordance with the procedures set out in this Constitution.*

Since the Association was formed, the board has been actively pursuing the objectives set out above. Members of the Tasmanian Parliament, including ministers, have been made aware of the association and its view of some developments in the municipality. In talking to politicians we have let them know that this organisation is not against tourism. But, we have stated that we are against developments under the guise of tourism in places which we consider development is inappropriate. Flinders Council, through its councillors and staff, is very aware of the association.

We held a stand at the local Show in October and had a lot of interest. We put a survey out to the community asking if they supported tourist accommodation ventures on mutton bird islands. We have received over 140 responses stating that they do not support this sort of development. There were no responses in support. The number of responses to the questionnaire when combined with the number of members adds to around a quarter of the adult population of this community not wanting these sorts of developments. The questionnaire has produced quite an emphatic rejection of potential proposals. It is heartening to have this level of response.

The President has been asked to and has agreed to be a member of the Project Group of the Islander Way Project. All individuals involved in the Furneaux Group (be they residents or visitors) have been invited to make submissions on the Islander Way Project. Submissions are made by individuals and not by organisations. I urge every member to make a submission. The good thing for FIPNI is that the Islander Way Project gives all members the opportunity to let the council know how you would like to see the Furneaux Group in the next 10 years. Contact the consultant, Designing Tourism, via the website at www.islanderway.co or email contact@islanderway.co. The Flinders Council is putting a lot of effort into this project and it is a chance for all people to have a say. It says a lot about the regard in which FIPNI is held that we have been asked to provide a representative on the Project Group.

The Association is monitoring advertising of Development Applications by Flinders Council on an almost daily basis. It is through public advertising that we first become aware of impending developments. Since the Association was formed, it has reviewed several Development Applications and concluded that they do not breach the objectives of the Association; hence no action by way of representations to Flinders Council has been undertaken. I would ask members to contact members of the Board if you become aware of proposed developments in the community which might not be appropriate.

In the meantime, we are on the lookout for more members. So, if you could refer potential members to Frances Henwood, 045 952 2308 that would be great.

In closing, the Board wishes all members a safe and enjoyable holiday period with the hope that next year will provide some respite from the shackles we have been under during the Covid pandemic.

Gerry Willis, President

045 838 7112