



## **NEWSLETTER No 8**

**16 FEBRUARY 2025**

### **MEMBERS OF FURNEAUX ISLANDS PROTECTION NETWORK INC. (FIPNI)**

Since the previous newsletter in September last year we have had Christmas, New Year, Australia Day and Valentine's Day, plus a few more. The time just seems to have rushed by.

#### **BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

The following members were elected to the Board at the Annual Meeting. Their term finishes on 30 June 2025 and they are able to stand again for the Board.

President and treasurer – Gerry Willis,  
Vice-President – Ken Stockton,  
Secretary – Jude Cazaly,  
Public Officer – Eve Schulz,  
Minute Secretary – Frances Henwood,  
Board members – Sarah Lowe, Max Parker  
and Colin Milne.

Eve Schulz and husband, Mark, have departed Flinders Island to travel around Australia. Eve is currently our designated Public Officer. It would be more practical for Eve to resign from that position and be replaced by another. So, if you would like to be considered for the position of Public Officer, please give me a call on 045 835 7112. We thank Eve for her involvement with FIPNI and wish her and her family all the best for their travels.

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025 ARE OVERDUE**

If you have not yet paid your subscription for the current year it is now well overdue. The amount to pay is \$20.00 which can be:-

- posted to FIPNI, Lady Barron Post Office, Lady Barron 7255 or
- hand delivered to FIPNI, Lady Barron Store, Lady Barron or
- deposited to Westpac; BSB:- 037-615; Account number:- 246217 (include your name in the deposit details).

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

The association has around 50 members, but we would like to have more. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in joining FIPNI please get them to contact Gerry Willis on 045 838 7112. Or you can use the attached form as a guide to joining FIPNI.

#### **CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

##### **Development Application Panel:**

The Tasmanian State Government is continuing with its proposal to create a Development Assessment Panel (DAP). This structure would remove local governments (councils) from their current involvement in the planning process and

replace it with a government appointed panel. It is acknowledged that planning is a complex area and does create a lot of angst for local councillors. However, to remove development applications from councils and place them into a state run body will likely remove local involvement and knowledge in relation to planning. The government has called for submissions (now closed) and will be heading towards legislation to bring DAPs into the planning process. While FIPNI did not make submissions on this matter, some members made their own private submissions. The general consensus is that the creation of DAPs is a backward step and deleterious to communities.

### **Tourism:**

FIPNI has generally stuck to developments and Development Applications and not involved itself in tourism. There is a whole group of people involved in tourism in the Furneaux Group and it has always been regarded as outside its brief for FIPNI to cross into the tourism field.

However, there are obvious links between tourism and developments – for example, most developments in the Furneaux Group relate to tourism.

Some tourist destinations in the world are becoming choked by the number of visitors. Not that it's a problem on Flinders Island, but is the result of successful promotion and having desirable attributes.

Have a look at these articles.

For Spain:

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/uk-world-news/spains-new-3-year-tourist-9894587>

For the Greek Islands:

<https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/mykonos-and-santorini-tackle-overtourism-in-2025-with-a-16-77-cruise-fee/>

### **Protecting native flora and fauna.**

The Federal Government has \$4.8 million pledged to return Flinders Island to the wild to save threatened species (tammar wallaby and southern brown bandicoot, among others) from feral cats, rats, mice etc. It's not our Flinders Island, but one in South Australia. But, the concept provides some interest.

Have a look at the article.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-04/flinders-island-haven-for-threatened-native-animals/104891244>

My immediate thought is about Little Green Island in inner Franklin Sound. The island, home to many mutton birds, once a commercial birding island, but no longer, is becoming overrun with bush. Some is native; other is exotic. The bush chokes the rookeries to the extent that the birds move out of that area it becomes worthless for mutton birds.

The island is a mixture of privately held land and state owned land. What I would like to see happen is that there be a cull of bush on Little Green before it is too late to regenerate the mutton bird rookeries. Any thoughts would be most welcome. But \$4.8m for our namesake in South Australia for protection of native fauna has to set a precedent for us.

Gerry Willis, President

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