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In this edition we feature one of my favourite places Flinders Island and the many aspects it has to offer.

The Furneaux Group consists of 52 islands located at the eastern end of Bass Strait, situated between Wilsons Promontory in Victoria and the north-east coast of Tasmania. In the 2016 census the population of the two largest Islands Flinders and Cape Barren Islands was 906 residents.

New residents to the Furneaux Region are welcomed with open arms by the local community. There are many great opportunities for new families, couples, individuals and businesses wishing to settle in this wonderful and unique part of Tasmania. I encourage you to consider Flinders Island as more than a destination but perhaps your new home.

We are very excited to announce our new Sharp Traveller Club which replaces the Sharp Flyer Programme.

To join the travel club simply go to our website or call our reservations team to become a member. Members will be the first to know of new flights and holiday packages, promotions competitions and exclusive offers.

During April we introduced a new reservations system, it is more user friendly and will improve your reservation experience.

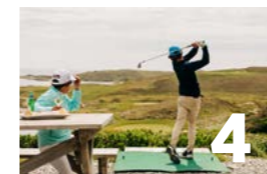
If you have any questions in relation to our new system please do not hesitate to call our friendly reservations team on 1300 55 66 94

Take care and stay safe.

Malcolm Sharp
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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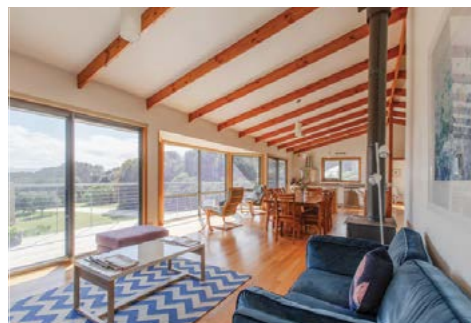


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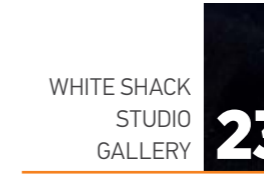


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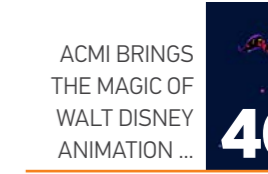
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GOLF

— *in* —

TASMANIA

UNORDINARY ADVENTURES

Tasmania has some of the most scenic and unusual golf courses in the country. There are courses perched on the edge of dramatic coastlines, holes scattered throughout sand dunes, and others surrounded by paddocks dotted with grazing sheep

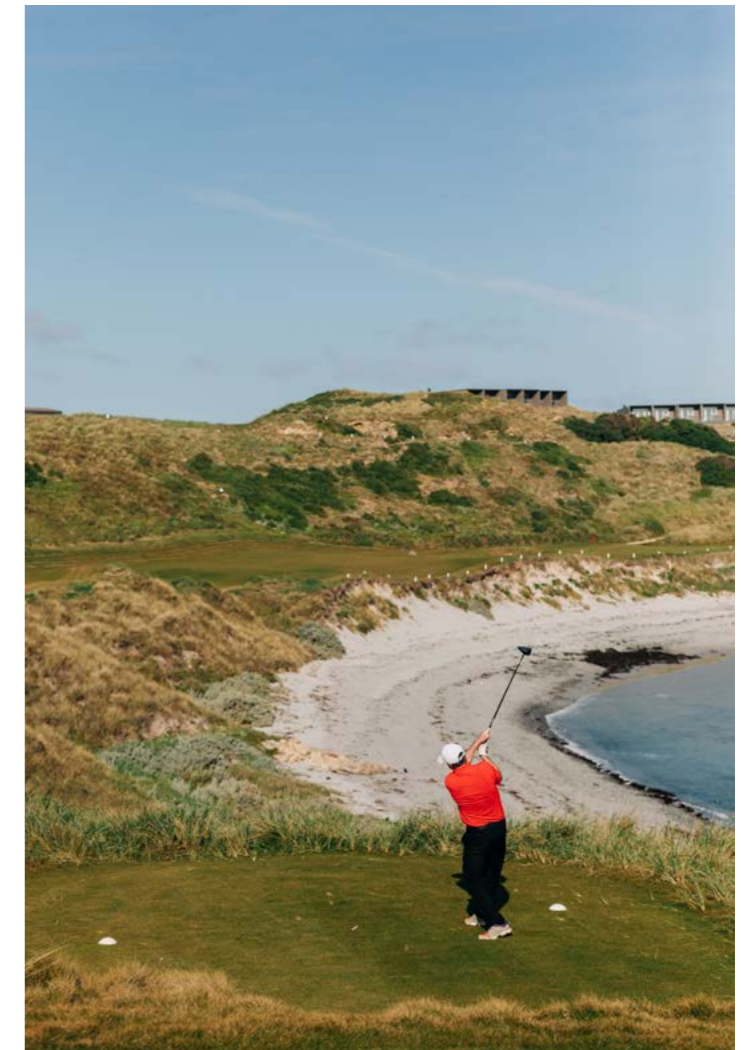
IMAGE CREDIT : Dietmar Kahles



WHAT'S OUT THERE

Tasmania has some of the most scenic and unusual golf courses in the country. There are courses perched on the edge of dramatic coastlines, holes scattered throughout sand dunes, and others surrounded by paddocks dotted with grazing sheep.

Tasmania has four of the top 13 golf courses in Australian Golf Digest's 2020 Australian Top 100, and features the top four public-access courses in Australia in the Golf Course Guide's 2020 list.



WHAT MAKES GOLF IN TASMANIA SPECIAL

ENVIRONMENT

Tasmania's spectacular and rugged coastline is a key feature of the island's golfing experience, with pure air, ocean spray and a coastal soundtrack fuelling the chance to switch off and recharge.

HIGH QUALITY LINKS COURSES

Hugging the Bass Strait shoreline, Tasmania's three premier golf links have international reputations as golfing bucket-list destinations.

UNCROWDED AND ACCESSIBLE GOLF

No crowds, no waiting lists. Tasmania's top links courses offer a spacious golfing experience with an air of exclusivity and without membership requirements.

ACCESSIBLE REMOTENESS

Within an hour's flight, a golfing enthusiast can get from city office to pristine coastline and a course that feels like it's on the edge of the world.



WHERE TO TEE OFF

BARNBOUGLE

Experience a true golfing adventure at the two neighbouring links courses of Barnbougle. Widely ranked among the finest in the world, The Dunes and Lost Farm are located on the rolling coastline of a potato farm near the sleepy seaside village of Bridport, an hour's drive north-east of Launceston.

The Dunes

Golfers travel from around the world to play among the towering sand dunes that define this 18-hole traditional links course. Designed by internationally acclaimed golf architect Tom Doak and Australia's Mike Clayton, the course is carved from naturally undulating coastal dunes, creating a routing that's complementary to the surrounding landscape. It's a fair but true test for golfers of all abilities.

Lost Farm

The newer of the two courses was developed on steep dunes across the Great Forester River from The Dunes. It comprises 20 holes positioned among the dunes and beside farm land. Designed by acclaimed US architects Coore and Crenshaw, Lost Farm's wide fairways, undulating greens and strategic bunkering offer a rewarding round to all who challenge it.

Barnbougle is a public-access course that caters for golfers of all abilities. On-site accommodation

includes the Lost Farm lodge and self-contained two bedroom cottages and four-bedroom villas. Dine on fine Tasmanian produce with panoramic views of Bass Strait at Lost Farm Restaurant, perched high among the dunes. Enjoy a more casual meal beachside at The Dunes Bistro or post-round refreshments at Lost Farm Sports Bar.

Other features include a driving range, chipping and putting facilities, conference rooms and Barnbougle Spa's ocean-view magnesium pool. Both courses are open year-round. Charter flights to Barnbougle's private airstrip are a popular way for small groups to reach the courses.

KING ISLAND

This windswept island getaway in Bass Strait, 80 kilometres off Tasmania's north-west coast, offers pure links golf in a pristine, rugged coastal landscape.

Subject to the strong Roaring Forties winds, the island's three courses are a sure test of any golfer's core ability.

Cape Wickham Links

Ranked #2 among Australian golf courses (Australian Golf Digest, 2020), Cape Wickham is one of the most distinctive golf courses in the world. Located on the rugged northern tip of the island, its holes are positioned around the magnificent Cape Wickham Lighthouse, built in 1861 and the tallest in the southern





hemisphere. The 18-hole course weaves along the coastline of Cape Farewell, with panoramic views high in the dunes and low along the rocky shoreline.

The coastal holes all lean gently towards Bass Strait and golfers enjoy ocean views from every hole - the 11th hole is almost in the sea and the 18th is located above Victoria Cove. It's hard not to be distracted by surfers, whales breaching and seals sunbaking on the rocks.

Rooms with ocean views cater for singles and couples seeking an overnight stay, and a temporary clubhouse has dining options and a bar. Cape Wickham is 35 minutes' drive from King Island Airport.

Ocean Dunes

Fronting the Southern Ocean on the west coast of King Island, Ocean Dunes offers a golf experience worth travelling for, with undulating terrain, crashing waves and the onslaught of the Roaring Forties.

According to Australian Golf Digest, "in places, Ocean Dunes resembles extreme golf, like a wild rollercoaster ride in an amusement park". The 18-hole course is fashioned after Scotland's great links courses and spans two kilometres of rocky coastline.

There are two signature par-three holes that cross the wild sea of Bass Strait, presenting a uniquely Tasmanian skill test.

Ocean Dunes has a clubhouse, bar and pro shop, all with ocean views. A range of handy "stay and play" packages include golf, car hire, and accommodation at the King Island Hotel, located five minutes' drive away in the main town of Currie.

King Island Golf Club

The nine-hole links course at the King Island Golf and Bowling Club, dating to 1938, is the perfect down-to-earth accompaniment to the island's two newer 18-hole courses. This challenging and compact course, located in Currie, is the ideal place to spend the morning before an onward flight.

Luxe off-course accommodation includes Porky Beach Retreat, a beach house featuring an outdoor sauna and a sunken timber hot tub, and Kittawa Lodge, a sophisticated retreat on a secluded stretch of coastline. King Island Car Rental provides car hire on the island.

King Island is a 45-minute flight from Melbourne, a 90-minute flight from Launceston, and an hour's flight from Barnbougle. Regional Express (Rex), Sharp Airlines and King Island Airlines fly daily to the island.

Small charter flights, run by operators such as Air Adventure and Vortex, are a popular way to island shop directly between King Island and Barnbougle.

ACROSS TASMANIA

There are more than 65 courses in Tasmania, so you're never far from a fairway. If you're heading to the Tasman Peninsula, the Tasman Club near Port Arthur is worth a visit. Don't miss the tee shot to a pocket-handkerchief green on the far side of a deep chasm where sea cliffs plummet into the ocean. Located an hour's drive north of Hobart in the central highlands is Australia's oldest golf course, Ratho Farm, which was built by homesick Scots in 1830. Tee off from square putting greens and skirt the resident sheep busy maintaining the course. The Australian Golf Museum is located at Ratho Farm, and has an impressive collection of memorabilia.

Other top courses include Royal Hobart, Tasmania Golf Club, Kingston Beach and Claremont in the south, Launceston Country Club in the north, and Devonport and Ulverstone in the north west.



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<https://www.discovertasmania.com.au/what-to-do/outdoors-and-adventure/golf>

EVENTS



• TAYLORMADE BASS STRAIT MASTERS

This tournament in April features four courses in four days across Barnbougle, Ocean Dunes and Cape Wickham.

• BARNBOUGLE BRITISH OPEN TOURNAMENT

Held in July, this three-day event is played on a composite course of the best holes at Barnbougle's The Dunes and Lost Farm.

• KING ISLAND PRO-AM

Recognised by the PGA of Australia, this tournament in late April or May is played at Cape Wickham and Ocean Dunes.

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

In the domestic market, Tasmania's golf links have the advantages of accessible remoteness, pristine natural assets and relatively mild summer climate. A key competitor is the Melbourne Sandbelt, a region featuring eight of Australia's best golf courses on the city's southern outskirts, located in a vein of sandy loam subsoil. Its advantages include proximity to a capital city, elite heritage and high concentration of courses. Other domestic competitors include the Mornington Peninsula, Murray River region, Adelaide and the Sunshine Coast. International competitors include New Zealand, the UK (particularly St Andrew Links in Scotland), the US and South East Asia. ■

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10 years of PARKRUN in AUSTRALIA

Do you remember your first parkrun? Most of us do. For some it might have been a last minute, slapdash idea to go along with a mate; for others it was the beginning of a life changing decision.

Everyone has their own parkrun story and it's unique to them. Something most parkrunners across Australia can identify with however, is the creation of friendships, personal growth and new beginnings in vast and diverse locations of our wonderful nation.

This weekend marks 10 years of parkrun in Australia, and we want to celebrate everything that is unique to our story. Whilst parkrun began in Bushy Park,

London, parkrun is an Australian success story. We have turned this remarkable community event from the UK, into something with a definite Aussie flavour.

Whilst Anzac biscuits, Vegemite on toast and a sausage sizzle might be more familiar Aussie flavours, the success of parkrun can be attributed to something far more extraordinary. The simplicity of engagement is a key element of parkrun's appeal; you don't need a qualification, special equipment or clothing to join in: you just rock up and participate.

This resonates with the laid-back nature of our country and good-natured remarks can be heard on any given Saturday morning. "Come to parkrun mate, it's the deadset best way to start the weekend, you should bring the rellies too!"



With more than 400 events to visit, the diversity of landscapes you'll enjoy as a parkrun tourist is a uniquely Australian experience. We are so lucky.

We have courses weaving through vineyards such as Ocean View in Queensland, on sandy beaches in Newcastle, through metropolitan cities like St Peters in Sydney, beside the Swan River in Perth, through the tropical settings of far north Queensland and over dusty red tracks in outback NSW.

Kangaroos, koalas or echidnas could accompany you on course while birds sing and laugh overhead. You then get to join your newfound friends for a cool drink in a breezy outdoor setting in the Northern Territory, or experience a trendy latte in a bustling Melbourne café.

Ten years of research into the barriers and motivations to taking part in parkrun has helped transform us from an organisation that grows purely from word of mouth, into a movement that proactively engages with people from all sections of society. The renaming of the Tail Runner volunteer position to Tail Walker, the introduction of the First Timers Welcome and the creation of the volunteer Outreach Ambassador program have all been based on extensive insight and have broadened parkrun's appeal. This has all helped more people experience the immense benefits from parkrun.

Communities take many forms and for parkrun to be truly inclusive, our events must be accessible to people who cannot access parkrun in all parts of society. This is why we have introduced parkrun to women's and men's correctional centres, co-gender youth detention facilities and on a restricted military base. For participants living and working in these facilities,

In April 2011, 115 people participated in the very first event on the Gold Coast and since then another 704,244 people have joined in. Despite the continued growth in overall numbers, the focus in Australia has been the same as anywhere across the globe; concentrating on the health and happiness of every individual who takes part. There has been so much to celebrate throughout the years, with stories such as Paul Webb, who has lost 80kgs, tackled social anxiety and made friends on a journey that's taken him from first timer and volunteer to sub 30-minute parkrunner and Run Director.

Understanding the significance of the 10-year growth can be made tangible when we compare it to one of our junior parkrunners, Carrington Gee. Carrington was born the same week parkrun launched in Australia and said she felt proud to have grown up alongside a true Australian success story.

Australians love the great outdoors. We have fond memories of playing outside as kids, we are respectful of the land, we appreciate the natural beauty of the different landscapes and we are avid travellers.





parkrun plays an important role in improving their health and happiness. Should they wish to continue with parkrun when they leave, parkrun can help them transition back into the community and feel a sense of cohesion and belonging.

In 2011, the average parkrun finish time in Australia was 27:42. In 2021, it is 33:54. For 10 consecutive years, parkrun has seen a slowing of average finish times. We celebrate this as it shows parkrun has increasingly broken down barriers to participation and welcomed more and more people for whom physical activity was not previously the norm.

parkrun welcomes everyone, regardless of experience, fitness level or capability. And for all Aussies, that's a bloody ripper of an outcome!

What started as a running event has become a community event, that is truly for everyone – whether you walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. And we are committed to our events being free, for everyone, forever. ■

#loveparkrun



ABOUT PARKRUN AUSTRALIA

In October 2010 I met with parkrun founder Paul Sinton-Hewitt in a cafe in Wimbledon, South West London, and asked him if I could bring the parkrun concept to Australia. Not long afterwards PSH gave me his blessing and now we are well and truly up and running (literally) with thriving events all over the country, hundreds of thousands of registered parkrunners and an amazing group of volunteers. I couldn't be happier.

So how has this all come about?

Once PSH gave me the go ahead the first person I contacted was Samantha Hughes, Senior Active Parks Officer at the City of Gold Coast Council. Little did I know that Sam is also an avid runner and in fact a former winner of both the Gold Coast and Melbourne Marathons, so she was immediately supportive of the concept.

I moved my family from London to the sunny Gold Coast in January 2011 and met with Sam and the then Mayor, the late great Ron Clarke MBE. We agreed on a suitable 5km course at Main Beach and on 2 April 2011 parkrun launched in Australia.

But parkrun doesn't just happen on its own. To continue to thrive and grow we rely on grass roots support from the Australian community, across all forms of participation: walking, jogging, running, spectating and of course volunteering. So if you live nearby any of our existing events, or anywhere else where you think a parkrun event will be supported by the local community, please get involved or get in touch and become part of parkrun family. Happy Running!

Tim Oberg

Contact parkrun Australia

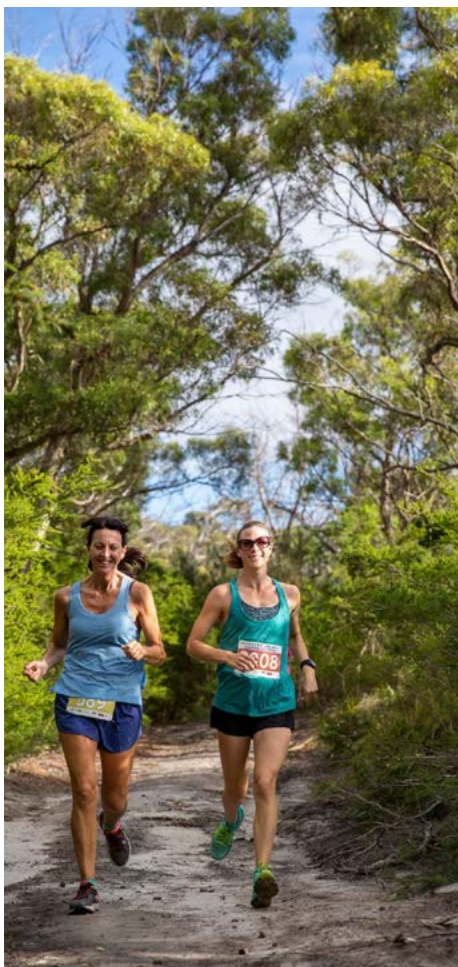
FLINDERS ISLAND RUNNING FESTIVAL 2021

Flinders Island is located at the eastern end of Bass Strait between Victoria and Tasmania. There are approximately 900 permanent residence, who enjoy the clean air, the unspoilt beaches, and a strong sense of community.

RUNNING ON FLINDERS ISLAND

Running on Flinders is nothing less than an experience that will be remembered for a long time. Whatever your preference there is an abundance of roads, tracks, and trails to satisfy any runners' distance or desires.





On any given day, you can find yourself lost in a world of gum trees and native vegetation, hopping over and around large granite boulders or getting your feet wet as you pass through creeks that cross your path. If the seaside is more your scene there are a multitude of beaches to run along whether it be braving the rugged coastline or soft, untouched sand as waves roll in beside you.

Trails are not the only place to find spectacular views. Whether it be bitumen or gravel roads you'll pass by rolling farmland, green pastures, and the surrounding mountain ranges. Mt Strzelecki, Flinders' highest peak, looms over the southern part of the Island, setting stunning backdrop.

Regardless of where you run as the kilometres click by there is a multitude of support crew around... a waving local, grazing cows or sheep, a friendly pooch or many of the wonderful fauna to be found on the Island. It is not uncommon to come across wallabies, wombats, hawks or for the lucky, an echidna.

Whatever the distance, whenever the time of year Flinders Island is a must run for anyone with a love of the outdoors and a touch of the wilds.

ABOUT THE RUNNING FESTIVAL WEEKEND

We have an incredibly active community on Flinders Island, why wouldn't you want to be outdoors when you live in a location like this?

The Running Festival started in 2007 as a community fun run and health promotion day and has grown every year since! Over our history we have had a number of events including the 26 km Pub2Pub and the 42 km Trail Marathon followed by the Flinders 5 event.

The Festival is still very much a community weekend and all participants of any age and fitness are encouraged to join in! There is a generous time cap for those who like to take their time, but there is plenty of competition for runners who like to test themselves. If running isn't your thing, come along and support the events by cheering on the runners, enjoying the beautiful view, and having a chat with a local.

This year we are encouraging participants to sign up for the Park Run 5 km event, which will be followed by a book signing and talk with our very own fanatical runner and author, David Williams.

Thank you to our sponsors—We have always been grateful for our sponsors, who in the past have supported this event over the years.

Visitors throughout the year—If you are on the Island at any time and would like to meet some locals, we have:

PARK RUN

Saturday mornings, 9 am, Flinders Island Wharf

Please visit <https://www.parkrun.com.au/whitemarkwharf/> for more information

FLINDERS ISLAND RUNNING GROUP:

Wednesday evenings, 6 pm

- March – October Beach/National Park runs
- April – September Whitemark Run

Please contact **Michael Withers** on **0418 524 147** for more information



Saturday 4th September

9 am - Park Run 5 km course for walkers and runners commencing at the Flinders Island Wharf (please sign up for Park Run and visit <https://www.parkrun.com.au/whitemarkwharf/> for further information)

From 10 am - Book signing with David Williams & food and refreshments in Whitemark

Sunday 5th September

7:30 am – Pub2Pub 26 km road course for walkers (individual or team) commencing at the Furneaux Tavern

9 am – Pub2Pub 26 km road course for runners (individual or team) commencing at the Furneaux Tavern

1 pm – Prizes, food and refreshments in Whitemark



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A FOODIES GUIDE *to* GRIFFITH

Experience Griffith, in the Riverina region of southwest New South Wales, via your wine glass, sweet tooth or picnic basket. This town and surrounds are home to award-winning vineyards, a bakery selling biscotti made from a century-old Italian recipe and memorable paddock-to-plate experiences.

Griffith has a strong food and wine culture, partly thanks to the European population that settled here after World War I. There are excellent wineries, local eateries and food producers to savour, plus culinary events to look out for (like the Griffith Italian Festival). These essential itinerary items provide great opportunities to sample as much of the local fare as possible.

TOUR THE WINERIES

In 1928, Vittorio De Bortoli saw promise in the glut of shiraz grapes that other farmers were discarding in the region. What he bottled led to local demand for his business, De Bortoli Wines, and nearly a century — and a few wine-making generations later — his family is still tending to vines at their Bilbul estate. Visit the cellar door to hear about the company's history and to enjoy a bottle under a pergola in the garden. Established in 1945, Calabria Wines is another family-run winery with long-standing connections to Griffith. Its Tuscan-style cellar door offers a number of tasting experiences, with options for cheese platters and group tastings, all executed with real warmth and Italian hospitality.

Yarran Wines is a boutique winery overlooking Cocoparra National Park, producing sauvignon blanc, pinot grigio, shiraz and cabernet sauvignon. Its intimate



size allows for tailored tastings and personalised group bookings — and its impact has been significant. Gourmet Traveller Wine magazine ranked Yarran Wines as the region's best small cellar door in 2018 and Halliday Wine Companion, one of Australia's leading authorities on wine, named it "Dark Horse Winery of the Year" for 2021.

DIG INTO SOME GREAT FOOD

Another way to enjoy the area's Italian roots is via the menu at Zecca Handmade Italian, a casual eatery housed in a 1930s Art Deco building. Its tagliatelle, rigatoni and pappardelle and other artisanal pasta shapes are made with Riverina wheat (and available to buy for your own pantry). The restaurant serves lesser-known Italian dishes (such as raschiattelli from Basilicata) and its name (Italian for "mint") is a reference to the building's history as Griffith's Rural Bank. Zecca also pays tribute to its surrounds by pouring Riverina wines made with Italian varietals.

Aquna Sustainable Murray Cod's native, pond-grown Murray cod has been backed by celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal and also appears on various restaurant menus across Australia. To experience this sustainably harvested fish yourself, head to the company's shopfront in Griffith to taste this local delicacy.

This ingredient has also been championed by local chef Luke Piccolo, who runs Limone Dining. At his fine-dining Griffith restaurant he serves battered Aquna cod with fermented chickpea dip. He also crumbs the cod and offers it with chips and salad and he pan-fries it, too, presenting it with pickles and fermented cavolo nero. Piccolo, who was named 2019 Young Restaurateur of the Year by the Appetite For Excellence awards, also highlights the Riverina's gems on his menu: a Berkshire cutlet with almond and miso purée is sourced from Wagga Free Range Pork, while semifreddo is flavoured with licorice from Junee.

Nearly two-thirds of Griffith's population have Italian roots — a connection that stems back to the 1880s, but strengthened dramatically in the 1930s, when migrants from Sicily, Calabria and other districts arrived in significant numbers and made the region home. This cultural exchange has especially benefited the food scene, so make a stop at fourth-generation bakery Bertoldo's Pasticceria for cannoli, coffee, bread and more. This family-run business sells 27 tonnes of gelato a year (with bubblegum, Baci and salted caramel among the bestselling flavours). And its French nougat, which has been in production for 39 years, comes in six varieties, which are sent across Australia. This bakery also sells over 15 types of biscotti, made from a century-old family recipe that originated in Italy.



GO STRAIGHT THE SOURCE

There's much more to this fertile region than just grapevines. Catania Fruit Salad Farm in Hanwood, 5km south of Griffith, is as fun (and delicious) as it sounds. It's home to an impressive range of growing fruit (prunes, oranges, apricots, plums, loquats), which you can experience during one of the daily tours. You can also sample the orchard's flavours by tasting the farm's home-made condiments during your visit. If you need some regional ingredients for a picnic (or dinner), visit Riverina Grove in Griffith to stock up on award-winning olives, condiments, salsa and pasta sauce.



For the ultimate paddock-to-plate experience, stop off at the Piccolo Family Farm in Lake Wyangan. This working farm supplies its restaurant, Limone Dining, with sustainably grown herbs, fruits and vegetables — all harvested by hand and free from pesticides. The property itself is beautiful, with a homestead built in 1921, ornate hedging, a lovely garden and birch forests. The site has previously hosted special long lunches on the lush grounds, and has staged musical festivals, like A Day In The Orchard, too. Look out for upcoming music and arts events at the farm. ■





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Art jeweller Sandro Donati.
(Photo courtesy Tasmanian Tuxedo)

WHITE SHACK

STUDIO GALLERY

SANDRO DONATI

A CONVERSATION WITH THE ELEMENTS

In this little shack, battered by the fierce winds of Bass Strait one day, then like the still waters of the Venetian Lagoon the next, the famous Killiecrankie Diamonds find their way into Sandro Donati's art jewellery.

The White Shack, once the Whitemark Wharf Office and in another time an abalone shucking shed, is now Sandro's jewellery workshop and studio gallery. A graduate from the RMIT Art Course, majoring in Gold and Silversmithing, he works with gold, silver and other metals using basic fundamental techniques,

hand forging with hammer and anvil, fusing and melting metals with fire to create his beautiful and powerful one-off pieces of art jewellery. His work is said to be 'a conversation with the elements'. Killiecrankie Diamonds are often a part of the work, either from his own collection of gems or those found by locals and lucky visitors during their stay on the island.

A recent island/diamond story had a young couple dropping into the White Shack for a look and chat. The talk went from fishing to diamonds and soon the fellow was keen to find his own stones for an engagement ring to accompany a pending secret proposal. The next day he returned clutching something in his hand but unfortunately the electronic diamond tester showed the find to be fragments of glass and quartz.



THELMA SHAIK & KILLIECRANKIE DIAMOND

KILLIECRANKIE DIAMONDS

...or Flinders Island Topaz is a fluorosilicate of aluminum, $Al_2(OH,F)_2SiO_4$, which occurs in association with highly acidic igneous rocks such as the granites and pegmatites of Killiecrankie Bay. Most stones are colorless, but pale blue and pink are occasionally found. The colour is the result of impurities of potassium and manganese, sometimes both in the same stone.

STRUCTURE

The crystal system is orthorhombic, i.e. all angles are right angles and the axis are of varying lengths. Flinders Island topaz is harder than most topaz at 8.5 on the Mohs' hardness scale (sapphires 9, diamonds 10, quartz 7 and glass about 5.5)

WHERE FOUND

'Killiecrankie Diamond' is found generally in the Killiecrankie Bay area and as waterworn pebbles in alluvial deposits in the old Mt Tanner tin mines. In order to get sufficient quantities Thelma would dive with compressor and sand pump in 3/4 meters of water in Killiecrankie Bay

FACETED TOPAZ

Flinders Island is lucky in that its topaz is of very high quality and it is rare in a faceted stone to see inclusions of gas or liquid-filled bubbles or 'needles'. Topaz is faceted in many different shapes and sizes. It is an attractive semi-precious stone. Birthstone for November.

At Sandro's suggestion he went to another fossicking site and after a few hours returned covered in sweat and dirt, eyes gleaming, clutching three small but beautiful natural stones. A quick discussion on style, texture, ring size and Sandro went to work making this beautiful engagement ring by the following day... just before the couple left for home. The young man was absolutely over the moon and hopefully the proposal went well! There have been lots of these great stories and sure to be many more.

The Killiecrankie Diamond is a harder and denser Topaz than normal and has the property of refracting light within the faceted stones that mimics the play of light in real diamonds. The natural stones on the other hand, have a vast variety of appearances depending on their passage through time and the oxides and inclusions that are trapped in the crystal as they were formed. Most of Sandro's stones come from what he calls Thelma's Legacy. The late Thelma Shaik (nee Jackson) was an island born woman and a professional gem merchant. She collected the gems

by diving and lightly dredging the gravel sand at the bottom of Diamond Gully in Killiecrankie Bay. After seeing Sandro's work she gave him 'trade' access to her collection of stones both natural and faceted. The collection is worth seeing even just to understand what to look for when moving about the island.

Sandro currently lives on a coastal bush property close to the Killiecrankie Village and works Wednesdays to Saturdays at the White Shack in Whitemark. He has exhibited at the Salamanca Arts Centre, Lovegroves Winery and Gallery, Montsalvat Arts Centre and the Strait Works Gallery on Flinders Island. His necklace and ring set 'Memento Mori' was awarded a High Commendation in the 2011 Nillumbik Art Prize. His work is in the McMillan Collection RMIT and in private collections around the country and overseas.

Other pieces from the White Shack Studio Gallery using a variety of gems, orange/red zircon, aquamarine, solid white opal and peridot. A full range of gems and birthstones are available on order. ■

Sandro Donati Art Jeweller

Gold, Silver & Gems
Specialising in
natural & faceted
Killiecrankie Diamonds

**During your stay on the island,
if you're lucky to find some gems,
a one-off piece can be made
specifically for you!**

Diamond testing available

**1 Bowman St
Whitemark - Flinders Island**

Facebook
Sandro Donati Gold & Silversmith



**Wednesday to Saturday 11.00am to 4.00pm
or by appointment phone Sandro on 0429 383 375**



FLINDERS ISLAND OLIVE OIL



Photo Credit: Siobhan Costigan

JUDE CAZALY

In 1977, Jude Cazaly had a sliding doors moment that altered the trajectory of her life. After a holiday to Perth fell through, she received a random invitation to go camping at Marshall Bay, a 3.9 kilometre stretch of untouched coastline along the north-west corner of Flinders Island.

“I was in my late 20s, living in inner-city Melbourne, but I didn’t have a clue where Flinders Island was. It wasn’t on my radar at all,” Jude says.

“I arrived at this incredibly beautiful camp site, set amongst the wilderness on the doorstep of a deserted beach, and it was just magnificent. I felt like I had discovered everything I wanted in life. I was just overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of the island.”

The Marshall Bay property was owned by a group of fellow Victorians, and Jude jumped at the opportunity to purchase a share of the land, providing her with an idyllic retreat from her crazy city life where she worked long hours as a teacher and education union official.

“It became my escape hatch. I would spend at least four weeks a year soaking up the serenity of Flinders, de-stressing and recharging my batteries before throwing myself back into the daily grind of my real life,” she says.

As the years went by, it became harder and harder to leave the island. So, on the verge of 50, Jude put her Melbourne house on the market and traded it in for a beautiful stone cottage and 140 acres at Killiecrankie Bay.

“The next challenge was trying to work out what I was going to do with the land and my time on Flinders Island. I eat meat, but I was too soft to have cattle or sheep because I would end up naming them and treating them as pets,” she said.

“I had no farming background whatsoever, but it was a time when there were a lot of niche agricultural industries emerging, so I thought ‘how about olives?’ They share the same leaf structure as the coastal wattle I would admire when I was camping at Marshall Bay and they grow in Mediterranean climates.

“I approached some friends to see if anyone was interested in investing in the olive venture and Mary-Anne Roberts was brave enough to accept my business proposal, along with her sister who was a silent partner.”

Jude and Mary-Anne, who passed away in 2016, did tons of research, hiring agricultural consultants to look at the soil and provide advice on how to establish an organic grove.

A local neighbour and island legend, the late Alf Stackhouse, then taught them how to install a feral fence to protect the olives from the ravenous wallabies that would devour any sign of green leaf.

The next step was planting 1100 trees. But, as they say, sometimes the best lessons in life are how not to do things.



Credit: Siobhan Costigan

“I think the first valuable lesson was what you read in a book is only half right”

“The next reality check was the island’s weather! The roaring forties can hamper the growth of the trees so we planted She-oak shelter belts to protect them from the wind, which meant we only lost 100 trees in total,” Jude says.

“On average it takes up to seven years before they bear fruit, but in our case it took ten years.

“The first harvest yielded 70 kilograms, which we were excited about, but didn’t have a processor. I took them on the plane to Ulverstone in Tassie and it ended up being the most expensive olive oil on the planet!”

Two years later they bought their own press, processing 200 kilos of their Flinders Island Organic Olive Oil Extra Virgin – a peppery oil with fruity flavours. These days, Jude is producing 4.5 tonnes of fruit every year which equates to approximately 600 litres in 250ml and 500ml bottles.



Credit: Siobhan Costigan



Jude and Mary-Anne were the first commercial olive growers on the Island, but several locals had planted olive trees including the school. They began to collect the fruit from these trees to turn into a non-organic Flinders Island Olive Oil Blend.

The olive oil products are stocked locally and in Tasmanian delis and specialty stores, as well as being available online.

Not only is it a hit with customers, selling out every year, but it has also won praise from industry judges winning a silver medal at the Royal Hobart Show, Royal Adelaide Show and Australian International Olive Awards in 2019.

This success was topped in 2020 when Flinders island organic olive oil was awarded Gold medals in the Royal Adelaide Show and the Australian International Olive Awards

"I love my olive oil, but it is reassuring to know my agricultural peers have given it the tick of approval which just makes this journey worthwhile," Jude said.

The olives are handpicked every year in late April or early May by community volunteers who turn up to give Jude a hand in return for a free gourmet lunch, and end of harvest party.

Jude is now offering international volunteers from Willing Workers on Organic Farms an opportunity to work alongside her at Killiecrankie learning about olive growing. So far, she's had people from South Korea and the Philippines.

"It has been such a lovely experience, a real spark of joy. I think they're very gutsy coming to the other side of the world to work on a tiny island where English is not their first language," she says.

Jude describes the island and her olive journey as the best thing she has done with her life.

"My heart is heavily invested in Flinders Island. It is such an authentic, healing place to live. I feel like I am living the life of Riley.

"One of the toughest moments has been losing Mary-Anne. We had a lot of fun and made a great team. I just hope she is looking down on the grove and feeling proud of how far we have come." ■



For more information on Flinders Island Olive Oil, go to: www.flindersislandoliveoil.com

Jude is well under way with her picking with the help of friends WOOFERS and a paid core of helpers.

She is a happy to share the picking with anyone who is visiting the island.

Interested in picking please contact **Jude** on **0428356238**

SOUTHERN PRODUCERS NAMED BEST IN SHOW AT 2020 AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL OLIVE AWARDS

For those that missed the AIOA Gala Presentation online last Friday evening, the following release was sent to all media outlets and influencers on the AOA's database.

Victoria's Cape Schank Olive Estate and Tasmania's Flinders Island Olives received the coveted Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) in Show titles at the 2020 Australian International Olive Awards (AIOA), which saw twin "top gongs" awarded to Boutique and Commercial quantity producers respectively.

Cape Schank Olive Estate's Picual EVOO topped the judges' scores at 95/100, beating a strong field of medal winning entries. The varietal then achieved a clean sweep across all eligible trophy categories, taking out the awards for Champion Spanish Varietal, Best Victorian EVOO, Best Australian EVOO, Best Southern Hemisphere EVOO and Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil of Show Commercial Volume. Cape Schank's Coratina and Leccino varietal EVOOs were also awarded Gold.

Flinders Island Olives' Organic EVOO was awarded a score of 91.5 by the judges, earning a Gold medal and the trophies for Reserve Champion Medium EVOO,

Champion Tasmanian EVOO and Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil of Show Boutique Volume. The Flinders Island Olives Season's Blend EVOO added another Gold medal for the 1100-tree producer, which is the only commercial grove on Flinders Island.

Also on the major award winner's list was New South Wales producer Wymah Organic Olives, which won the Champion Kalamata Olive, Best Australian Table Olive, Best Southern Hemisphere Table Olive and Best Table Olive in Show for its Wymah Certified Organic Kalamata Olives.

South Australia's Rio Vista Olives and New Zealand producer The Olive Press Limited tied for the title of Best Flavoured Olive Oil of Show, Rio Vista's Basil Pressed and The Olive Press' Pressed Gold Rosmarino Blu Toscano both scoring 94 points among a field of exceptional flavoured oil entries. Both producers also won awards across various categories – The Olive Press taking two EVOO Golds and Rio Vista racking up an impressive total of 12 Gold, three Silver and two Bronze medals.

Spanish producer Goya En España again championed in both oil and table olive categories, taking the Best

EVOO Northern Hemisphere award for its Goya® "Organics" Extra Virgin Olive Oil and the Best Table Olive Northern Hemisphere for its Manzanilla Stuffed with Tuna Paste.

Competition Chief Steward Trudie Michels said the competition saw an even greater emphasis on the global status of the competition, with judging panels across Australia joined in their contemplations by international panels in Spain, Italy, New Zealand, Tunisia and China.

"All up we had more than 40 judges who gave their time and expertise to be a part of this year's competition," she said.

"For entrants, it was a chance to have their products appraised by world-renowned oil judges, and also provides an unprecedented opportunity for international recognition and the marketing benefits that follow."

"It was also great to see a continuing increase in entries from international producers, with entries this year coming from Tunisia, Italy, Spain, China, New Zealand and Australia."

Michels said that, considering 2020's COVID-19, bushfire and drought challenges, the level of local entries is also testament to the both the value of the competition and the determination of Australian growers.

"We received 137 EVOO entries from 70 exhibitors, 23 flavoured oil entries from 11 exhibitors and 46 table olive entries from 15 exhibitors. This was a drop of only 7.7% on last year's figures and granted the year we've had, it is an amazing achievement," she said.

"As were the results: in this year's EVOO competition there were 130 medals awarded, including 56 Gold (30 in 2019), 47 Silver (76 in 2019) and 27 Bronze (37 in 2019). Thus 94.8% of entries were awarded a medal, up from last year's 91.2%.

"It is fulfilling to see the industry producing truly world class oils – and to see the growing international interest in the Australian industry and our quality olive products." ■

RESULTS

The winners were announced at the Australian International Olive Awards Gala Virtual Presentation in October last year, for more information visit :

<https://internationaloliveawardsaustralia.com.au>

Flinders Island Olive Oil - from an island in Bass Strait, Tasmania

Flinders Island, Tasmania is a Bass Strait island embraced by the Roaring 40's Trade Winds. The robust tang in the air challenges the plant life and adds its own flavour to any produce. Flinders Island Olives own a fully certified organic olive grove, tucked behind the sand dunes of Killiecrankie Bay in the north of the Island. It produces a spicy oil, rich and fruity with a hint of pepper. Our organic extra virgin olive oil is a blend of Leccino, Frantoio and Coratina mixed with Picual, Picholine and Barnea.

Olive oil is also processed from the olive trees in private gardens or micro groves, including one at Flinders District High School.

This oil is a tasty golden product ready for use on salads and pasta or for dipping with your favourite bread.

All olives are processed within hours of picking.



flindersislandoliveoil.com

Locally owned, grown and processed.



FLINDERS ISLAND OLIVES WINS GOLD MEDAL AT THE AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL OLIVE AWARDS

Last year a national accolade is the icing on the cake of a difficult growing and harvest seasons.

"I nearly didn't pick this year," Ms Cazaly said.

Her peers in the industry are certainly glad she found a way, because this year's batch of extra-virgin olive oil netted a gold medal at the Australian International Olive Awards.

Flinders Island Olives organic EVOO was awarded a score of 91.5 points by the judges, of a possible 100, earning a gold medal and the trophies for reserve champion medium EVOO, champion Tasmanian EVOO and best EVOO of show boutique volume.

Ms Cazaly said she nearly decided to not make oil this year, because she wasn't sure she'd have enough people to help her harvest the trees due to the COVID border restrictions.

FLINDERS ISLAND OLIVES AT KILLIECRANKIE

"Typically my friends and people on the island help me out, but I usually access a few volunteers - WOOFERS," she said.

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms is a volunteer organisation that supports travellers to volunteer on farms in exchange for board, but the pandemic soon put a stop to that.

"I usually have about eight WOOFERS to help take the pressure off my friends, but when I didn't think I'd have them this year I considered not harvesting at all," she said.

However, the Flinders Island community and her friends rallied to support her and harvested this year's crop - which has paid off.

"It was a tough season, so it's a bit special that this was the end result, and the olive oil was of such high quality," she said.

"Flinders Island is a challenging but positive place to grow olives," Ms Cazaly said.

The soil and conditions are good, but she faces challenges from the salty winds that lash the coast, and the climate is a little cold.

Competition chief steward Trudie Michels said this year's competition saw an even greater emphasis on the global status of the competition, with judging panels across Australia joined in their contemplations by international panels in Spain, Italy, New Zealand, Tunisia and China.

The winners were announced at the Australian International Olive Awards Gala virtual presentation on October 16.

Credit - www.examiner.com.au

KING ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022

Folk, Country, Blues & Rock... and a little bit of Yoga

Festival Of King Island is already preparing an amazing FOKI 2022 (Wed 26th – Sat 29th January), combining Australia's best folk, country, blues & rock talent with Australia's best cheeses, beef and seafood... all wrapped in the good vibes of Australia's friendliest community.

FOKI 2022 will also take the opportunity to showcase the island's 130 year history of country races (gallops & pacers) kicking-off the Saturday, with the music firing up afterwards at the amazing Currie Harbour.

Each day visitors will be discovering the amazing coastline, wildlife and people of the island before coming together in the late afternoon to share

Australia's best music, food and tales of lost trails, animal-induced traffic jams, A-frame waves, underwater galaxies, sunken ships, fishy tales, deserted beaches and encounters with the friendly locals (2-legged, 4-legged, winged, and gilled).

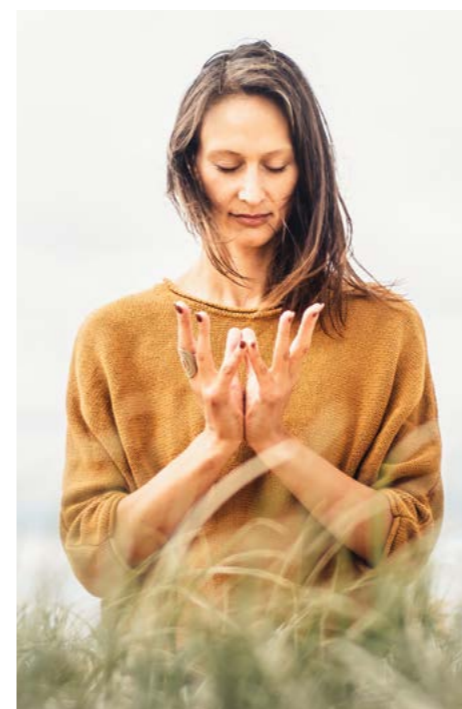
For those seeking 9 days of getaway bliss by just taking off 4 days, then the weekend of the 22nd also has another King Island Race meeting taking place. ■



foki.com.au

Accom/Cars: kingisland.org.au

Updates: [FB/FestivalOfKingIsland](https://www.facebook.com/FestivalOfKingIsland)





CLARE ANNE TAYLOR

“Taylor's voice is the stuff of musical legend”

- Canberra City News

Claire Anne Taylor grew up in Tasmania's ancient Tarkine rainforest, where she was born into her Father's hands in the family barn. Taylor and her five siblings were raised in a quaint bush home, rich with creativity and music. During her childhood, the Taylor barn was home to a family of Tasmanian Devils and some say that Taylor developed her unique, raspy singing style from nights spent listening to the devils growling beneath the floorboards.

Crafting soulful folk songs that capture both the beautiful and dark elements of the human experience, Taylor's music ranges from warm, mesmerising ballads to epic anthems. With vivid storytelling, colossal vocals and a powerfully captivating stage presence, her live shows leave the audience in no doubt that they have just witnessed something extraordinary.

After winning the Byron Bluesfest Busking Competition, Taylor relocated to Byron Bay to record her debut album, *Elemental*. Released in 2016, *Elemental* received widespread critical acclaim with *The Sydney Morning Herald* describing it as “strong and assured”, *FATEA Magazine* calling it “exceptional” and the ABC's Rick Eaves hailing her as “a national

treasure”. Taylor's poignant debut album has garnered her significant radio airplay on Triple J, Double J and ABC radio as well as international radio airplay on programs such as *The International Americana Music Show*, *The Troubadour Show* and *Radio Nova*.

Taylor has toured extensively around Australia, including two national album launch tours, a co-headline tour with William Crighton and two Festival Of Small Halls tours with Canadian artists *The Small Glories* and *Dave Gunning*. She has also played at numerous festivals, including: *Byron Bay Bluesfest*, *Nannup Music Festival*, *Bello Winter Music*, *Mullum Music Festival*, *Port Fairy Folk Festival*, *Cygnets Folk Festival*, *Dashville Skyline*, *Illawarra Folk Festival* and *Dark Mofo*.

Taylor released her critically acclaimed second studio album *All The Words* in January, 2019. Recorded in a cabin in Tasmania's Huon Valley by Chris Townend (*Portishead*, *Silverchair*, *Tim Finn*, *Ngaiire*), *All The Words* is a soulful masterpiece. Penning songs that are visually rich and emotionally revealing, and delivering them in a soulful, passionate style that reveals both strength and fragility, *All The Words*, reveals why Claire Anne Taylor is one of the most significant songwriters of her time. ■

‘Rarely has such a warm soul been captured on record’

-Rhythms Magazine



TOM RICHARDSON & KIMBERLY ERIN



Tom is an amazing human being and has been completely adopted by the King Island Community – now making his 5th return to the island. At FOKI 2020 Tom repeated the magic of the 150-strong “All Abilities Choir” he led to a standing ovation at “Australia's Got Talent”, by bringing together a 50-strong all-ages “King Island Choir”. It was an amazing effort with a result that gave so much to so many. Tom is a story-teller and talented guitarist - his words and music reach deep inside, lift you up, and set you free. Tom's love of a cheese, surf, seafood and the King Island festival and community means that festival organisers don't have

to struggle too hard to get Tom packing his bags and heading our way for a new adventure.

The bonus is that Tom will be once again accompanied by his equally-beautiful soul-mate and partner Kimberly Erin who runs the True Spirit Revival “Yoga Loves Music” sessions. These sessions see the islanders from all walks-of-life setting their minds and bodies free – carried by the soothing combination of Tom's calming rhythms and Kim's calm (and humorous) guidance. An invigorating voyage and experience loved by all. ■

Flinders Island FILM FESTIVAL

Since 2013, 88 films have been shown on the 'big screen' and 432 have been submitted to the Festival.



Flinders Flicks premiered in 2013 to a full house at the Furneaux Arts and Entertainment Centre. The Flicks (as affectionately called) is a much-loved biannual event on the Flinders Island social calendar, and a perfect platform to entertain the local community during the quieter winter months on Flinders Island.

What started as a small, grass roots project to engage island youth in storytelling, has evolved into an international film festival, receiving submissions from all around the world.

Since 2013, 88 films have been shown on the 'big screen' and 432 have been submitted to the Festival.

From the first-time filmmaker, to the seasoned professional, Flinders Flicks is open to everyone.

The rules are simple

- Films can be any genre
- Films must be under 3 minutes long & include titles and credits.
- Films must include the 'Flinders Flicks theme' in the film, this year the theme is CYCLE and interpretation is entirely up to the Filmmaker

A theme for the festival was chosen so filmmakers could kick start their storytelling ideas and there was a unifying concept for the festival. Every year, festival goers are amazed by the broad interpretations of the theme in the films.

HISTORY

Flinders Flicks was launched through a conversation between High School teacher Helen Carnell and local creative Sammi Gowthorp about a film assessment project that students were undertaking at the school.

The task was to create a short film about a famous Australian icon. The stories ranged from the humble beginnings of the insect repellent 'Aeroguard' to the invention of Speedos swimwear. It was suggested the films could be viewed by the broader community and Flinders Flicks was born.

The Flinders Island students rose to the challenge, and the community got creative and inspired. Thirteen films were entered in the first year of Flinders Flicks and numbers have grown steadily since. The film submission platform 'Film Freeway' was introduced in 2017 opening up contenders to a global audience.

FLINDERS FLICKS 2021

The gala event – the showing and judging of films is on Friday 13th August at the Furneaux Arts & Entertainment Centre. It's a free community event the whole island attends.

A panel of local judges will choose the "Best Festival Film", "Best Use of the Theme Award" and "Judges Encouragement Award". The audience plays the important role of critic to select the "People's Choice Award" with prizes being presented to those films.

Who knows what this years festival will bring us or what stories are out there waiting to be exposed. It's this anticipation and genuine celebration of community, that will see the island come together



Flinders Flicks is possible with generous support from local Flinders Island businesses, Flinders Council and Furneaux Community Arts. ■

For further information visit:
www.FlindersFlicks.com



Partridge Farm B&B and self contained 4 1/2 star holiday accommodation is situated on the southern end of Flinders Island, amongst the eucalyptus trees overlooking Franklin Sound and the outer Furneaux Islands.

A perma-cultural paradise, deer, Boer goats, Dorper sheep and Cape Barren geese roam the paddocks whilst partridges, guinea pigs, chooks and ducks roam free range in the fruit orchard and underneath the olive trees.

Partridge Farm has four unique accommodation options all with panoramic views and the property can host up to 12 people comfortably.

- * Hire Car available on request
- * Meals can be provided and delivered to your door
- * A great selection of wine and beer available

To find out more contact
Lorraine and Rob Holloway on 03 6359 3554 or visit
www.partridgefarm.com.au



ACMI

*brings the magic of
Walt Disney
Animation Studios*

TO MELBOURNE THIS WINTER

See rare artworks from the Walt Disney Animation Research Library's collection at Disney:
The Magic of Animation, opening 13 May 2021

Includes original art from Disney's latest critically-acclaimed film
Raya and the Last Dragon, Frozen, Fantasia and more

ACMI, Australia's national museum of screen culture, will be bringing the internationally acclaimed exhibition Disney: The Magic of Animation to Melbourne for its Australian debut as part of the city's Melbourne Winter Masterpiece series, supported by Visit Victoria.

Opening Thursday 13 May, the exhibition celebrates almost 100 magical years of Disney animation. This rare glimpse behind the scenes of Walt Disney Animation Studios will give visitors the opportunity to experience the incredible artistry behind the studio's much-loved characters and see how drawings are brought to life, from pencil and paper to today's computer-generated wonders.

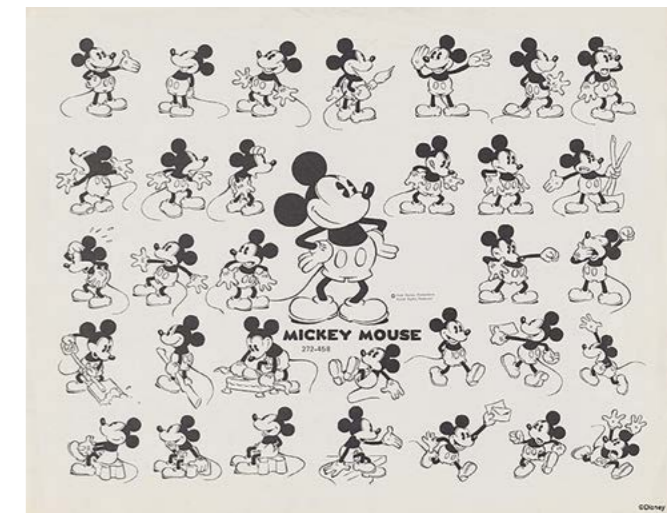
Walt Disney Animation Studios has been creating extraordinary films for nearly a century, with every film



beginning with drawings that capture the essence of character, story and emotion. Disney: The Magic of Animation features over 500 original art works from the 1920s through to the present day, including paintings, sketches and concept art that have been specially selected by the Walt Disney Animation Research Library.

These rarely seen works reveal the development of

beloved stories and animation techniques from dozens of classics ranging from Mickey Mouse's first talkie Steamboat Willie (1928) to Fantasia (1940) to Frozen (2013). Disney: The Magic of Animation will also debut never-before-exhibited artwork from the studio's newest critically-acclaimed release Raya and the Last Dragon (2021).



"We're thrilled to bring Disney: The Magic of Animation to Australia as ACMI's 2021 Melbourne Winter Masterpiece – the first since reopening after our \$40 million transformation. Disney's pioneering work has brought the art of animation to audiences across the globe for nearly a century. This exhibition invites us behind the scenes, celebrating the artists and their incredible craft as they create the magical worlds and iconic characters that we know and love," said ACMI Director & CEO Katrina Sedgwick OAM.

"At The Walt Disney Company, storytelling is at the heart of everything we do to entertain and inspire our local audiences. That's why we are incredibly excited to share this exhibition, Disney: The Magic of Animation, with the people of Melbourne. We hope that guests will both be inspired and delighted by the artistry showcased, bringing to life our Disney stories and its magic, here in Australia," said Kylie Watson-Wheeler, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, The Walt Disney Company Australia & New Zealand.

"The filmmakers and storytellers at Walt Disney Animation Studios have been creating, producing and pushing the boundaries of animation for almost 100 years. Animation is an art form that literally brings still, static images to life. Whether it is a series of appealing line drawings, shot in sequential order to create a believable character, or complex digital imagery rendered to create a magical effect, animation has the power to transport the viewer into a world of imagination and beauty," added Mary Walsh, Managing Director of the Walt Disney Animation Research Library.

"This Melbourne-exclusive exhibition will be a huge drawcard for ACMI and Victoria this winter – bringing more visitors into the heart of Melbourne and igniting the magic of Disney for kids and families across our state," said Minister for Creative Industries Danny Pearson.

Disney: The Magic of Animation opens at ACMI on Thursday 13 May. Tickets can be purchased online at acmi.net.au

Disney: The Magic of Animation
13 May – 17 Oct 2021 ACMI, Fed Square

Opening hours
Mon – Fri: 12–5pm
Weekends and school holidays: 10am–6pm

Tickets
Full \$26, Concession \$22.50, Member \$20, Child \$17,
Group (4 + people) \$18 ea, Family \$72 (up to 5 people)

ABOUT ACMI

ACMI is Australia's national museum of screen culture. Navigate the universe of film, TV, videogames and art with us. ACMI celebrates the wonder and power of the world's most democratic artform – fostering the next generation of makers, players and watchers. ACMI's vibrant calendar of exhibitions, screenings, commissions, festivals, and industry and education programs explore the stories, technologies and artists that create our shared screen culture. More at acmi.net.au



ABOUT WALT DISNEY ANIMATION RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Walt Disney Animation Research Library is entrusted to conserve and protect the artistic heritage of the Walt Disney Animation Studios. It is the repository for approximately 65 million pieces of physical art and an estimated 5PB of born-digital works. The collection, produced over the Studio's nearly 100 year history, represents Disney's animated shorts, featurettes and full-length feature films. This diverse collection includes conceptual art, storyboards, maquettes, hand drawn production art, animation cels, 3D models, textures, image files and final rendered images.



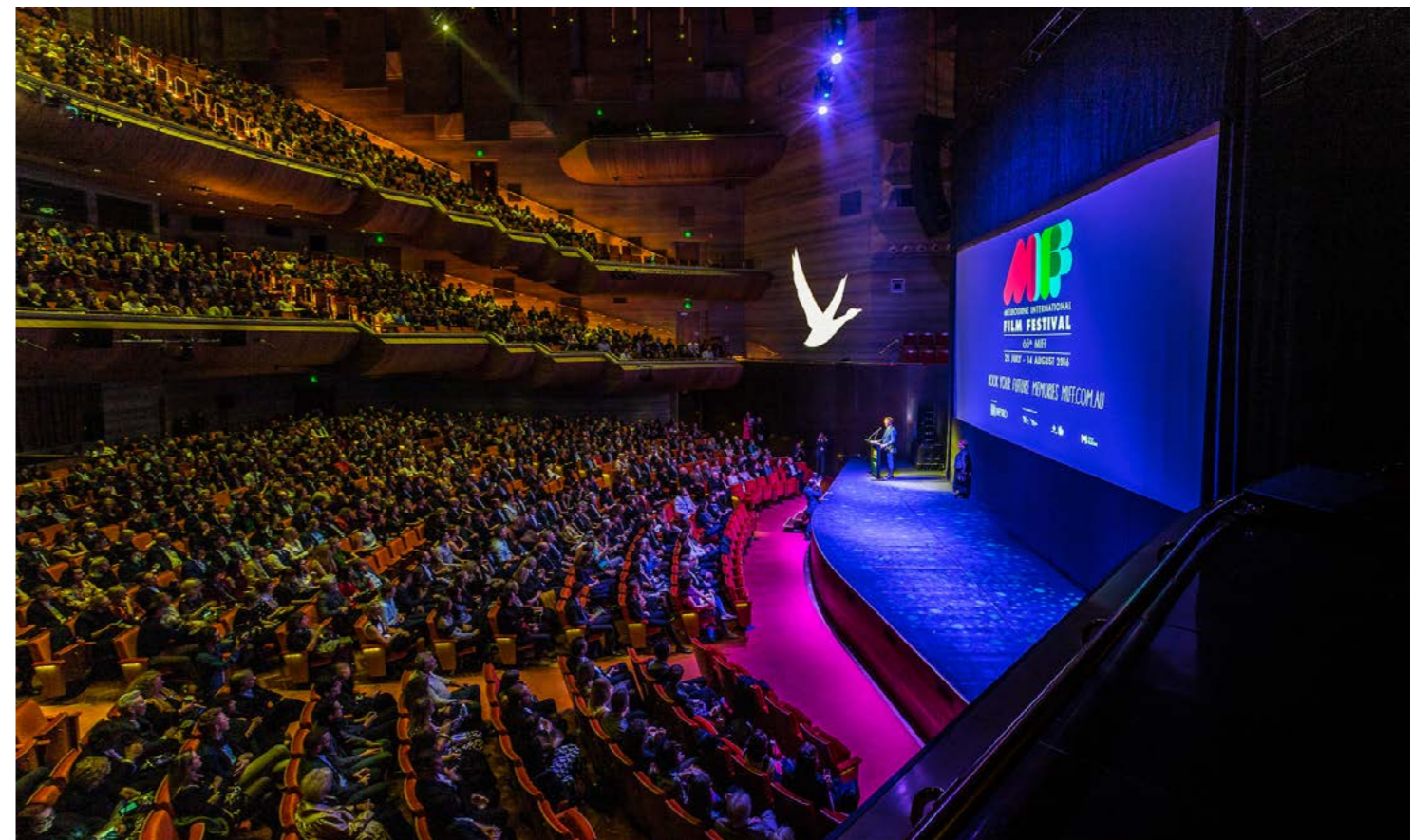
In addition to its responsibility to conserve and protect this unique collection, the ARL also makes the collection available to the larger Walt Disney Company for creative inspiration, reference, research capabilities and image access. The Animation Research Library has an active museum exhibition program that works with museums throughout the world to curate and mount exhibitions of this distinctive 20th century art form.

ABOUT WALT DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS

Combining masterful artistry and storytelling with ground-breaking technology, Walt Disney Animation Studios is a filmmaker-driven animation studio responsible for creating some of the most beloved films ever made. Located in Burbank, WDAS continues to build on its rich legacy of innovation and creativity, from the first fully-animated feature film, 1937's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, to 2019's Frozen 2, the biggest animated film of all time. Among the studio's timeless creations are Pinocchio, Sleeping Beauty, The Jungle Book, The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, Frozen, Big Hero 6 and Zootopia.

ABOUT MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES AT ACMI

ACMI has been part of the annual Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series since 2007, bringing major international exhibitions such as David Bowie Is... and Hollywood Costume exclusively to Melbourne, and creating multi-award-winning blockbusters that have subsequently toured the world. More than 1.4 million local, interstate and international visitors have experienced a Melbourne Winter Masterpiece at ACMI, with the museum's homegrown touring exhibitions such as Game Masters, DreamWorks Animation: The Exhibition and Wonderland attracting over 4 million visitors across five continents. ■



MIFF
 Celebrating its 69th iteration, the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) will run from August 5 – 22 this winter. With a program spanning feature films, shorts, virtual reality experiences, and special events, Australia's oldest and most prestigious film festival will showcase the best of local and international cinema over 18 electrifying days.

RISING
 RISING is Victoria's newest major cultural event which is set to envelop the city in a tide of art, music, performance and ceremony. RISING will comprise 133 events and projects—including 36 world premiere commissions—featuring over 750 Victorian artists, who will transform Melbourne over 12 nights from May 26—June 6.





KEEPING IT REAL

Good mates Amanda Blyth and Claire Castle share many things. Energetic and friendly personalities, a passion for family, and love of the great outdoors. These thirty-something go-getters are the dynamic duo behind Mountain Biking Flinders Island – a fledgling new enterprise encouraging both visitors and locals alike to get out and explore the island on two wheels.

These busy mums take a lot in their stride. Between them they're juggling young children, work commitments, family businesses and cattle farms. Whilst the prospect of a new joint venture would have weakened others at the knees, Mountain Biking Flinders Island launched itself onto the scene in 2018 with enviable enthusiasm.

"We do make a good team," starts Amanda. "Taking this step together has been great. Claire is the confidence behind this business, especially in the beginning. She made me realise that sometimes you just have to take a bit of a risk and not overthink things too much. I'm pretty proud of what we have managed to establish in a short space of time and so grateful that the community have been so supportive."

Nodding in agreement, Claire adds, "I don't think there would be too many other places where you could say 'Hey, we're going to start a business and we need your help' and the entire community would step in behind you. But that's exactly what happened here. All our

bikes are sponsored by local Flinders businesses. Without that, we simply couldn't have purchased them and gotten things off the ground in the first place. It's pretty special."

"I think the community could see our passion and understood that we're here for the long haul. They know that we'll look after the island and were very happy to help us get things up and running."

Infectious personalities make Claire and Amanda ideal guides for a day's riding on the island. Smiles, bright



Image Credit : Tas Tuxedo

laughter and a fun loving streak provide them with the knack for making guests instantly at ease, whilst a head for safety keeps everything squarely on track. "Our biggest markets have emerged as family groups or older couples travelling together," explains Amanda. "But what matters most to us is that people come and appreciate what we have to offer here on Flinders Island and that they're comfortable with the experience we deliver."

"You certainly don't need to be an athlete or a cyclist to enjoy this," agrees Claire, gazing out over the turquoise waters of Franklin Sound. "We encourage our riders to take everything at their own pace. We have people walk sections, spend an hour at the beach to have a swim on the way, or stop and enjoy the wildlife as things happen. We cater for small groups and, put simply, our time is theirs. Every tour is unique and we're just here to make sure everyone is happy and safe."

"We have a whole island as a back yard.... it's pretty incredible to be able to walk out your back door to explore this. No matter what the weather, Flinders always has our hearts."

"Our tagline, 'Keeping it real' really captures what we stand for," Claire continues. "We love it here – the lifestyle, the community and the environment – and we aren't here to change any of that. We're about letting others share in what we have and about creating time and opportunities for people to enjoy it."

"Sometimes we describe it as 'learning to be remote'," explains Amanda. "Basically our philosophy is about slowing down, getting outside and enjoying things. We see tourists drive up to a beach and not even get out of the car and go for a walk. To me, that's such a shame. In a place like this there are endless things to explore and there's so much to be gained from a day outdoors. Sometimes I think we're losing the ability to do that and need to relearn how to be away from technology and stimulation and lose ourselves in remoteness."

Amanda and Claire offer a chance to explore the soul of Flinders Island. It's a celebration of everything the island stands for. Rolling farmland, pristine beaches, rugged mountains and variable weather. "Yeah, you never know what's in store," grins Claire. "But that's how we like it."

Bikes sink easily into the course yellow sand of a Flinders beach. There's no real clock here and you can afford to sit and ponder the variegated blue waters while you slowly devour a fresh apple muffin. A dip, if you dare, will do wonders to reinvigorate you for the next leg of the ride.

Mountain Biking Flinders Island currently offers three different tours. The 'Ride Strz' takes guests on

remote tracks around the back of Mount Strzlecki and offers spectacular stop offs at remotes beaches and waterside lookouts. 'Cycle2 Rock n Sea' visits Marshall Bay and Mount Tanner, covering an extensive area in a short amount of time, whilst 'Down the white gravel road' is an easy pedal beneath the hills – flanked by farmland and with stunning ocean views to enjoy.

"Some gourmet treats are always included," explains Amanda, "Along with all the gear you need, a water bottle, national park fees and pick up and drop off from Whitemark. It's pretty easy...you just turn up and meet us and the rest is sorted."

When lunch is included it's a hearty spread of mouthwatering delights, often enjoyed in a vineyard by the coast. Think freshly cooked bread, salads and quiche, and all manner of local condiments and sweet treats – just the thing to appease those weary joints.

It's a recipe that has already put this this energetic pair on the map, with the Tasmanian Tourism Awards proclaiming the business one of last year's finalists.

"That was a real thrill," says Amanda. "It was fantastic to know we are on the right track and what we are doing on Flinders is resonating with others."

As fourth and fifth generation locals, these girls have seen some changes on the island in their time. "I spent my first few years here and then left at age three, only to return in my early twenties," explains Amanda. "It's the perfect place for families and our young son is loving life here just as much as we do." Claire agrees, "I grew up on the island, leaving for high school and university, and then returning later with my own family. I remember the night I called my husband and told him to bring a couple of bottles of wine home. He thought something was wrong, but when I explained I wanted to move back to Flinders he was in pretty much straight away. He loves the outdoors too and is always up for anything."

Claire comes from the Bowman line, of Bowman General Store fame – a local institution in Whitemark. "I tried to avoid Bowman's for a long time," she sighs.



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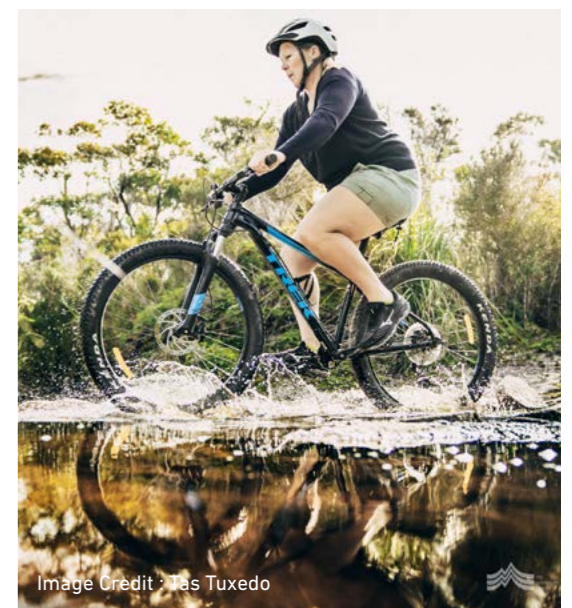


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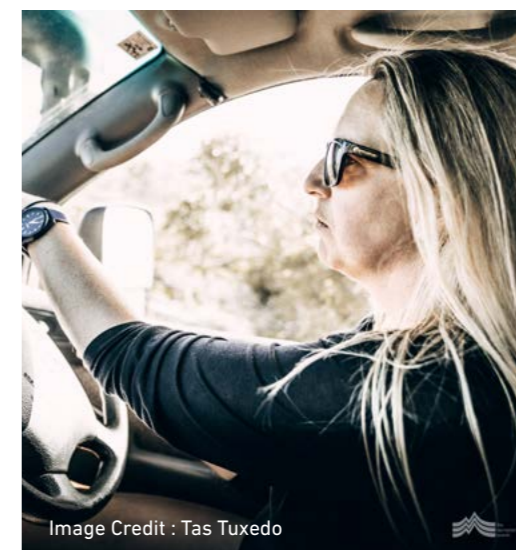


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"I wanted to find my own way. But I do work in there and I love it." Laughing she adds, "It must be in my blood, something about enjoying the community contact."

Claire and Amanda joke about how Mountain Biking Flinders Island came into being. "I was riding past Claire's place one day and she was out in the garden," starts Amanda. "A casual offer to come in for a coffee turned into a brainstorm and within 15 minutes we had the basis of a plan. Of course we spent much more time fleshing it out from there." Their eyes meet before Claire explodes with laughter, "I don't think my husband even thought I was serious for quite a while."

"We just put our heads down and got stuck into it. The next six months we were buried in planning and paperwork," explains Amanda. "Obtaining all the necessary paperwork was a huge undertaking but we were very committed to doing things properly."

Flinders is truly a mountain biking paradise. With vast open expanses of flat gravel roads, fire trails, and rarely used sandy bush tracks, there's no shortage of places to explore. "We like to take people to out of the way places that are remote and inspiring, but it's equally rewarding to spend the day with guests who are just happy to amble along our wide open roads and chatter. There really is something for everyone," says Amanda. "What is important for people to realise is that it's pretty raw here. When we go around the back of the mountain we'll often come across fallen limbs

and swollen creeks. That's all part of the fun, we just take it easy and everyone gets through safely."

"We believe that if tourism is done right here, things will be fantastic," says Claire. "As a community we really need to have a clear and sustainable vision. There is certainly opportunity to grow tourism on Flinders but it's important to do it in the right way so we can conserve what makes this place special. It's one of the reasons we settled on mountain biking as this is a business that has very minimal environmental impact and is one that allows us to provide a unique experience to very small groups of people. We love spending that time with our visitors and really want to do the right thing by the island."

"We're just happy for things to grow organically," grins Claire. "We're not looking to be huge, we're just happy for people to come to us, rather than being out there seeking publicity. There's nothing glossy about us!"

■
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