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Multi-sensory Experience*

**KING ISLAND
SHOW**
No Side Show Alley

Edition
40
Summer
2021/22

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Twelve months have now passed since Sharp Airlines "celebrated" its 30th year of operations.

Our success and longevity in the aviation industry is a direct result of the support and encouragement we constantly receive from our customers.

It is also due to all of our employees who constantly strive to make a difference.

I trust in this edition apart from highlighting the remarkable destinations we fly to, you enjoy reading our Corporate profile that highlights our guiding principles and operational ethos.

Now the summer has begun, it is always a great opportunity to explore new places,

attend new events. Of course we have the Festival King Island once again, this time it will be held on February 2022, the event is run by the locals, with a line-up that includes local and national acts plus those who have played on an international stage.

I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard when next you choose to travel with us, travel safe & enjoy your summer.

Malcolm Sharp
Director

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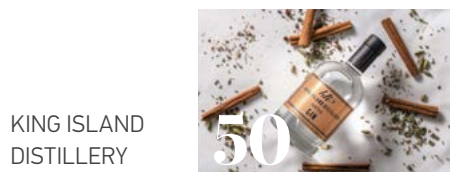
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The Rise of Flinders Island

Flinders Island is one of the most magnificent travel destinations in Australia, but how has the COVID pandemic impacted the local tourism industry?

We spoke to five locals to find out how the island has fared since the first outbreak in 2020, and what it means for the future of tourism in Bass Strait.

ANNIE REVIE

Mayor of Flinders Island Council

When the pandemic outbreak began, I remember feeling we were on the precipice of something big.

The island is particularly vulnerable because we have an ageing demographic, a large Indigenous community and lots of locals with chronic underlying health issues.

As an isolated community we don't have the health system to cope with an outbreak of COVID-19, it simply couldn't handle a pandemic. If anyone became infected, they would have to be airlifted to Launceston for medical care.

In April 2020, I rang the Premier's Office and said: 'we need to act now, we have people flying to the island, but we are in the high-risk category, so something needs to be done to protect the community before it's too late'.

That's when the Premier announced the borders would be closed and no one could travel to Flinders or King Island without an exemption.



Flinders Island Mayor Annie Revie
Credit : Sammi Gowthorp

After a brief shutdown period, the Tasmanian Government launches a successful tourism campaign and introduced travel vouchers to encourage people to holiday in their own state.



Flinders Island Mayor Annie Revie

Credit : Sammi Gowthorp

We used the slogan 'you don't need a passport to travel to Flinders but you're still going overseas' which really resonated with Tasmanians who needed to getaway.

New flights from Hobart to Flinders have also increased visitor numbers which has been great news for the local economy but, at the same time, it has created other challenges because we have limited services and infrastructure.

We aren't the Whitsundays, there will never be resorts or large commercial developments because that isn't what Flinders Island is about.

My message to visitors is always - Don't try to change this place. Let this place change you.

The Council is talking with the community and looking at how we can improve the way we manage tourism on Flinders, balancing it with the need to protect the island's pristine, natural environment.

We are exploring the Flinders version of regenerative tourism which is a meaningful way for tourists to make contributions.

For example, one of the locals is working on a project with National Parks to bring people to the island to help clear overgrown walking trails.

There is also proposal to set up a dedicated caravan area at Holloway Park and the Erita Beach Showgrounds to stop people destroying our beaches.

We are also looking to set up additional facilities for dedicated camping areas at Holloway Park and the Erita Sports & Recreation Grounds.

With borders reopening for the fully vaccinated the next step is looking at what that means for Flinders Island in 2022.



To learn more about Flinders Island go to:
visitflindersisland.com.au



Claire Castle Credit : Joe Chelko and Tasmanian Tuxedo

CLAIRE CASTLE

Co-owner Mountain Biking Flinders Island

I started the mountain biking business with a local friend, Amanda Blyth, four years ago and the second half of 2020 was the most hectic season we have had so far.

It went from nothing to crazy after the intrastate travel was approved.

I think a lot of Tasmanians put Flinders Island on their bucket list and thought 'I will get their one day' but put it off because it's cheaper to go to Melbourne or fly to New Zealand, but COVID-19 gave them a nudge to just do it.

It's great to see Hobart people coming to the island. Having flights out of the capital city provides a gateway from the south to the north.

At one point we were doing five tours a week, but because we are working mums with second jobs we just couldn't juggle the demand. Now we offer tours on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, or on demand.

It has been quiet over the winter months because of the latest outbreaks, but enquiries have picked up and we are bracing ourselves for a busy summer.

We've just purchased another four mountain bikes to enable us to host larger adventure groups who split their time walking and riding around the island.

I think there's been a lot of interest in mountain biking because we take visitors off the beaten track on remote trails through crown land to magnificent spots that aren't always accessible.

Our slogan is we like to keep it raw and keep it real, which sums up why Flinders Island has become a popular holiday destination.

I know that I am living the dream on Flinders Island, particularly in a COVID world. I mean who wouldn't want their office to be outdoors?



For more information:

mountainbikingflindersisland.com.au



Toni Woods Credit : Vinna Cole

TONI WOODS

**Manager and Head Chef at Mountain Seas Lodge
and Assistant Chef at her daughter's Tav Shack Café**

I have been working in hospitality on Flinders Island on-and-off for the past 25 years and I think COVID-19 has proven the island is more resilient than ever.

Instead of being impacted negatively, local cafés and restaurants have been thriving.

During the shutdown last year, we couldn't have anyone sitting in-house at the Tav Shack Café because of COVID restrictions, but the takeaway business took off.

I was worried about whether it was going to be sustainable, but locals came from all over the island to Lady Barron to show their support which helped us survive those first few months.

After borders opened between Flinders and Tassie, there was a huge influx of visitors.

In fact, The Tav Shack had one of its busiest winters on record in 2020 and there were so many visitors it felt like summer, it was pumping.

It was great to see Tasmanians travelling within their own state and being on Team Tassie because without the domestic tourism trade operators would have lost a lot of money.

In March this year, I took over the management of the restaurant and accommodation at Mountain Seas Lodge at Trousers Point.

For the first three months every bed was booked out, but since the latest round of lockdowns we've had loads of cancellations, so it has been a very quiet winter this year.

Instead, we are focusing on the restaurant and the local market. The locals are always our priority. They are here 24/7 which is why you need to invest in looking after the islanders and creating a memorable dining experience.

We open every day on the proviso there's a minimum of 10 people in the restaurant, and with community support, we have been operating at least four nights a week.

Despite the COVID challenges and the uncertainty, I am blessed to be living on Flinders Island when other people are doing it tough in COVID hotspots.

Our accommodation bookings might be down for the time being, but we're far from out and I am confident things will be back to normal in 2022.



Want to know more? Visit:
mountainseaslodge.com.au



Joanna Klug Credit : Vinna Cole

JOANNA KLUG

**Manager of family owned business,
Flinders Island Accommodation**

When COVID-19 caused widespread border closures last year, the impact on our accommodation was immediate. Overnight, we lost thousands of dollars in revenue.

We were lucky the island had reached the end of its peak tourism season, but I was concerned about how it was going to impact us financially during winter and spring.

But then the Tasmanian Government stepped in, encouraging people to travel locally to help the industry survive the pandemic.

Suddenly we were getting so many bookings and enquiries from Tasmania that we couldn't keep up. From August 2020 until the end of June 2021, for the first time ever, our three holiday homes were solidly booked out.

My family have been operating self-contained holiday homes since 1986, and we normally have a 60 per cent occupancy rate in a normal year but this shot up to 90 per cent in the last financial year.

The demand for tourism on the island was so unprecedented it became overwhelming at times.

Our guests are predominantly from Victoria and NSW, but since COVID we have been relying on the Tassie market which proves the state has the capacity to support itself.

People just want to get on a plane and feel like they are going somewhere new and exciting and they're amazed at how stunning the island is when they get here.

Unfortunately, we had just started to welcome mainlanders back on the island when Delta kicked off. It has meant a lot of cancellations which made it difficult to accept mainland bookings.

But Flinders Island is fortunate because we haven't been impacted by COVID-19 like other parts of the country. We continue to live freely, enjoying our pristine lifestyle without too many restrictions.

I think, at the end of the day, as a community we would rather have smaller visitor numbers if it means keeping our locals safe.



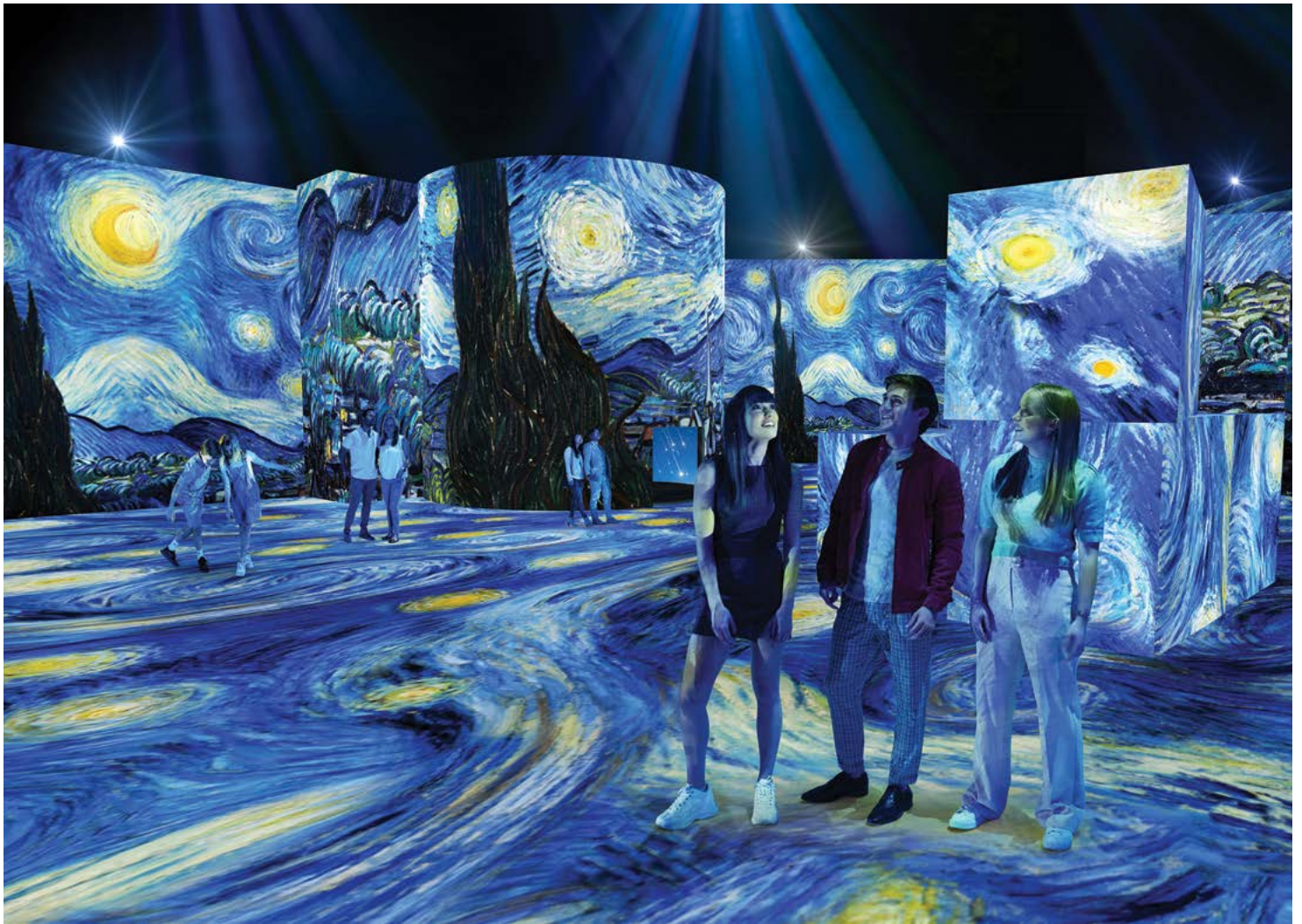
For more information go to:
flindersislandaccommodation.com.au



All Systems
GOGH!



THE LUME - Portrait Selfie



THE LUME - **Starry Night Hero**

The inaugural experience is an epic adventure into the life and works of Vincent van Gogh.

THE LUME Melbourne is in a league of its own for immersive experiences. With a 3,000+ sqm gallery space soaring four storeys tall, brought to life with state-of-the-art technology, THE LUME Melbourne offers a brand-new type of sensory encounter for anyone wanting a meaningful, shared and exciting way to explore art.

Projections of Van Gogh's artworks are merely a tease of what's to come. A reimagining of 3,000 paintings, sketches, letters, photos and floral works burst to life as part of this extraordinary multi-sensory experience.

"We can't wait to welcome visitors on September 1st to THE LUME Melbourne after what might be a long and challenging winter for us all", said Mr Bruce Patterson Founder of THE LUME.

"2020 and the impact of COVID-19 created enormous challenges globally, but due to the nature of our

experiences, over 1.5 million visitors across Australia, Asia, NZ, USA and the UK have been engaged in our multi-sensory, contact-free immersions into art" said Bruce. "2021 continues to throw curve balls, and this lockdown will be impacting so many people, particularly across the arts and entertainment industry, but this is the new world we live in and come September this will be the perfect way to celebrate togetherness with Van Gogh."

"We are thrilled to establish this iconic, new, cultural attraction to join Melbourne's beloved art scene."

THE LUME Melbourne, Australia's newest cultural attraction, showcases the world's finest art on an epic scale. Explore, play, dance and marvel as every surface becomes an animated canvas. Masterpieces spring to life from floor to ceiling, providing visitors the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the artistry and world of Vincent van Gogh, through the eyes of this renowned artist.

Be surrounded by his shimmering Starry Night while indulging in the flavours of 19th century France at our reimagined Terrace Café 1888. Paying homage to Van Gogh's Dutch heritage as well as the inspiration he found in Paris and regional France, the menu reflects



THE LUME - Almond Blossum



THE LUME - Sunflowers_Family



THE LUME - Bed

classic French café culture with a nod to Dutch cuisine. Curated tastes, evocative aromas, captivating imagery and a stirring soundscape weave together seamlessly to create a one-of-a kind visitor journey.

The gallery also includes a dedicated mirror infinity room packed with hundreds of sunflowers and a life-size recreation of Van Gogh's famous Bedroom in Arles for selfie enthusiasts.

Sessions at THE LUME Melbourne run from 10 am weekdays and 9 am weekends, 364 days a year.

Sessions will run into the evenings, perfectly suited to corporate as well as family and social events. Prices start from \$39* for adults, with free admission for children under four. Those looking to book are encouraged to do so quickly as sessions are expected to sell out.

Bookings at Ticketmaster or www.THELUME.com.

At the core of the exhibition is a dedication to evoking all senses in harmony, perfectly in tune with the multisensory experiences provided by Van Gogh at THE LUME Melbourne where, from start to finish, visitors are surrounded by a vibrant symphony of light, colour, sound and fragrance.



THE LUME - Portraits



FAST FACTS

- THE LUME Melbourne is Australia's digital art gallery at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) in South Wharf
- THE LUME Melbourne has been created by Grande Experiences
- Tickets are now on sale for the inaugural show, Van Gogh
- Experiences at THE LUME Melbourne will feature seamless digital projections across every surface, towering four storeys high with evocative music, aromas and flavours to create a truly immersive, multi-sensory experience
- THE LUME Melbourne offers more than just a digital art gallery. Inside the gallery space guests will discover Van Gogh's Café Terrace at Night brought to life where they can tempt their tastes as they watch the experience unfold around them. Paying homage to Van Gogh's Dutch heritage as well as the inspiration he found in Paris and regional France, the menu reflects classic French café culture with a nod to Dutch cuisine
- The inaugural experience will feature the masterpieces of Vincent Van Gogh, running for a limited time followed by new experiences that will be introduced on a regular basis



See more at
THELUME.com

THE LUME Melbourne would like to acknowledge the support and investment by City of Melbourne and Victorian Government designed to boost jobs and businesses in the events sector. City Reactivation Event Grants, as part of The Melbourne City Recovery Fund, were announced earlier this year and one such grant was awarded to THE LUME Melbourne to support jobs and visitation.



Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster or THELUME.com

ABOUT GRANDE EXPERIENCES

- Grande Experiences was founded in 2006 by Bruce Peterson, a Melbourne businessman
- Since its founding, Grande Experiences has held over 200 experiences in more than 150 cities, to over 17 million visitors in 32 languages
- Grande Experiences is currently running other smaller touring experiences nationwide and New Zealand (Van Gogh Alive), and Sydney (Monet & Friends)
- Other immersive experiences are ongoing all over the world



See more at grande-experiences.com

ABOUT VAN GOGH AT THE LUME MELBOURNE

- THE LUME Melbourne's inaugural multisensory experience will feature the masterpieces of Vincent van Gogh, celebrating his life and works.
- The experience is called Van Gogh.
- Grande Experiences is the creator of travelling and permanent experiences. Van Gogh Alive is a travelling experience that has been to Sydney and New Zealand recently, and will soon travel to Adelaide, Newcastle, Canberra, Perth and Brisbane.
- THE LUME Melbourne, and its inaugural show Van Gogh, are different. It is a brand new permanent digital art gallery presented on an unprecedented scale thanks to significantly enhanced and enlarged technology and the immense 3,000sqm 4-story high gallery at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The experience has taken years to develop and will take over seven months to install. The inaugural experience will feature the masterpieces of Vincent van Gogh, running for a limited time followed by new experiences that will be introduced on a regular basis.

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KING ISLAND SHOW

No Sideshow Alley

By Local : Narelle Blackie

There are not too many places in Australia that have been relatively untouched by COVID and continue to lead life in what can only be described as somewhat normal.

King Island, Tasmania is such a place and has been fortunate to have been able to continue with preparations for the King Island Show, scheduled for 1 March 2022. More than ever this show will be a testament to a close-knit community of people living freely, working hard and enjoying the fruits of their labour.



Credit : Chelsea Neely



Credit : Chelsea Neely

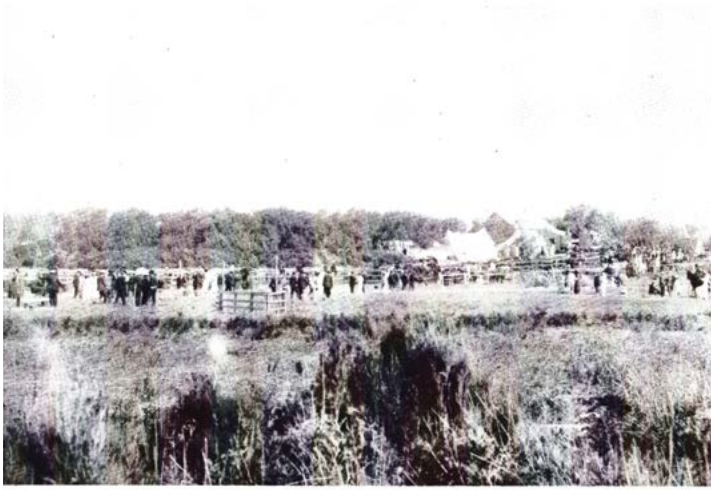
The King Island Show has a rich history. Speaking with older members of the community I have learnt some interesting facts about the King Island Show. Historically a rural shows motto is "Show what you know and share what you know". Show Committee meetings were very formal in days gone by, held in the bank and local churches. A far cry from present day meetings, held in the local pub with a pint in hand.

The first King Island Show was in 1910, and only during the war years did the show have some years off as there were not enough men in the community to run it. In the years when there was a King Island Show, there was a Grand Parade around the Showgrounds early in the afternoon on Show Day, with all animals that could be led such as cattle and horses.

The King Island Show has always showcased agricultural equipment and local vehicles and the Pavilion has always been brimming with local cooking, produce, flowers, art and handicrafts. In years gone by around 20 years ago, the Pavilion had big wooden doors. It is reported that a Kestrel took residence in the Pavilion at this time, which turned out to be a blessing as the Kestrel kept the sparrows and starlings at bay.



Credit : Chelsea Neely



Show Day. The old Town Hall can be seen in the background.

The 67th | Annual King Island Show

Tuesday 1st March 2022



Food and entertainment was the order of the day, and in days gone by a Show Luncheon was hosted by the local CWA. For a fee one could sample delights such as cold meat and salad, and desserts such as trifle and jelly. And if you were part of the Show Society, your lunch was provided free of charge. This tradition continued up until around the 1980's.

The King Island Show is somewhat unique in that the judging is conducted the day before the show; there is a Fun Run conducted on Show Day which started around 20 years ago; and there is no typical Sideshow Alley. King Islanders have always had to provide their own entertainment. Some of the early entertainment provided on the day was a Merry-Go-Round run by the local Lions Club, a Whip Cracking Competition which has since been reinstated in 2021; and a Pasture Competition held in the Soldier Settler years during the 1950s and 60s. Pastoralists brought in a block of their pasture, a sample to be judged. Entertainment was also provided with the Sheep Dog Trials and a Guess the Weight of the Steer Competition. Interestingly, during the early 1980s, the Yarra Creek School was tasked with setting up a Sideshow Alley. The school paid for the site fees and the profits could go to the school. It had been so dry with drought, but come Show Day it was a wet, wet day, but nobody was complaining, everybody was smiling. There was however one tragedy that day, it was so wet that the Dart Competition had to close on the day because the dart feathers got wet! Another tradition of the King Island Show was the Carcass Competition. Beasts were judged live on the Tuesday, slaughtered on the Wednesday, and on the Thursday a judging BBQ was held at the abattoir where the prizes were handed out in the evening and attendees could view the carcasses. This traditional Carcass Competition was reinstated in 2021 and is now held at the Multi Species Abattoir.

Entertainment was not always provided by the activities and judging on offer. I have been told that one year two steers jumped the show ground fence and took off for Main Road. One steer decided to go North and the other went South and returned home. It seemed he didn't want to partake in the Show festivities. It seems this escape theme continued another year when an elderly female King Islander was preparing her Rooster for judging. He was secure in a bag and she was squatting down next to the bag when the Rooster escaped. She is reported to have exclaimed, "My cocks got out!", which was received with raucous laughter to those in the vicinity.

Plans and work to prepare for the next King Island Show, 1 March 2022 are well underway. The Show Committee are busy looking at possible options for a Sideshow Alley and the Schedule of events is in full edit mode as we prepare for the coming festivities. Sponsorship is being actively sought as without the generous donations from individuals, industry, businesses, government and grants there would not be a Show. Last year the Live Lamb Auction on site at the Show was a winner and was reminiscent of a true agricultural show and this is planned again for 2022.

The Committee is also working hard to encourage the Island's youth to participate by the introduction of a junior cattle judging section and many new prizes will be awarded to junior entries in the Pavilion. There are a myriad of categories in which to enter, such as the best Kindergarten and Pre-School Necklace made

from Natural Resources; the best Lego construction; the best collection of shells; the best painting in any medium and the best King Island scene in any medium; the best cooking of four pikelets, four decorated biscuits or cooked pizza. There is a junior section dedicated to flowers and flower arranging and junior categories of home grown produce such as the best green cucumber, three tomatoes and six strawberries! These are just a few examples of what can be entered, there are many, many more. These entries encourage our juniors to get outside and enjoy the elements whilst getting excited about the possibility of winning a prize and receiving a ribbon in the Pavillion at the Show! The Show Schedule Cover Competition is another way the youth of the island are involved in the King Island Show. The best Art entry for the show schedule cover has their picture in print on the front cover of the schedule.

With rapid advances in technology and living oftentimes in what can feel like a very digital and impersonal age, it is more important than ever to keep the traditions of yesteryear alive and continue with events such as the King Island Show. For an altogether fabulous, bucolic weekend plan your visit to King Island to coincide with this fantastic event.

Sharp Airlines fly regularly from Tasmania and Melbourne into King Island. Why not book a flight and get prepared to enjoy our King Island Show, 1 March 2022.

A community-run museum displaying the cultural and natural history of the Furneaux Islands



OPENING HOURS

26 December - 30 April

1pm - 5pm daily

1 May - 24 December

11am - 3pm Sat & Sun

Visit us at 8 Fowlers Road, Emita, Flinders Island

Phone: 03 6359 8434 Email: furneauxmuseum@gmail.com



SHARP AIRLINES

A Sharp Business

Sharp Airlines is a locally-owned regional business with a national profile. Established in 1990, our diverse range of aviation activities include scheduled airline, charter and freight services.

Headquartered in Melbourne, Victoria, Sharp Airlines employs more than 100 staff across Australia. We are committed to our investment in ongoing staff training and development, encouraging initiative internally, and being open and receptive to new opportunities as they arise.

We are a Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) approved Airline Operator. Our fleet consists of 16 Turbine Propeller Metro-liner Aircraft. Our dedicated Safety & Quality Department ensures all operations adhere to the highest standard of safety at all times.

Whether your needs are commercial, leisure, or freight, Sharp Airlines offers a world-class product with a local touch.

AIRLINE NETWORK

At Sharp Airlines, our goal is to offer a total aviation solution at highly competitive rates. Our airline services offer economical fares without compromising our commitment to service quality, air safety, and customer satisfaction.

We combine international best practices with local, practical know-how to deliver personalised and memorable services to every one of our passengers.

Our travel consultants at Sharp Travel offer a range of holiday and leisure packages to the Bass Strait Islands.



Malcolm Sharp, Managing Director

Our packages include airfares, accommodation and car hire, and travellers can choose between ready-to-go packages or a tailored package to incorporate the needs of the individual or group.

Our Sharp Traveller Club offers monthly newsletters to our subscribers with Sharp news, competitions, and exclusive offers.

Offering a unique blend of experience, technology and service, Sharp Airlines consistently exceeds the expectations of our customers and passengers.

SERVICE FEATURES

- State-of-the-art online booking services
- The latest navigational equipment
- Streamlined arrival and departure procedures
- COVID-safe practices
- Timetable integrity
- Impeccably presented aircraft
- In-flight comfort

AIRLINE DESTINATIONS

Sharp Airlines operates regular airline services between Essendon, Victoria to King Island and Flinders Island, Tasmania, and Griffith, New South Wales.

Our Tasmanian scheduled airline services operate flights from Launceston and Hobart to Flinders Island and King Island via Burnie (Wynyard).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Sharp Airlines recognises that grassroots organisations are often the fabric that holds together regional communities and represents numerous worthy causes. Therefore, we have established our own community fund, offering funding and sponsorship opportunities to organisations and groups.

Sharp is committed to supporting our regional communities by encouraging initiative, investing in development, listening to the public, and seeking new opportunities for partnerships and connections.



CHARTER SERVICES

Sharp Airlines specialises in the following three areas within the charter business unit:

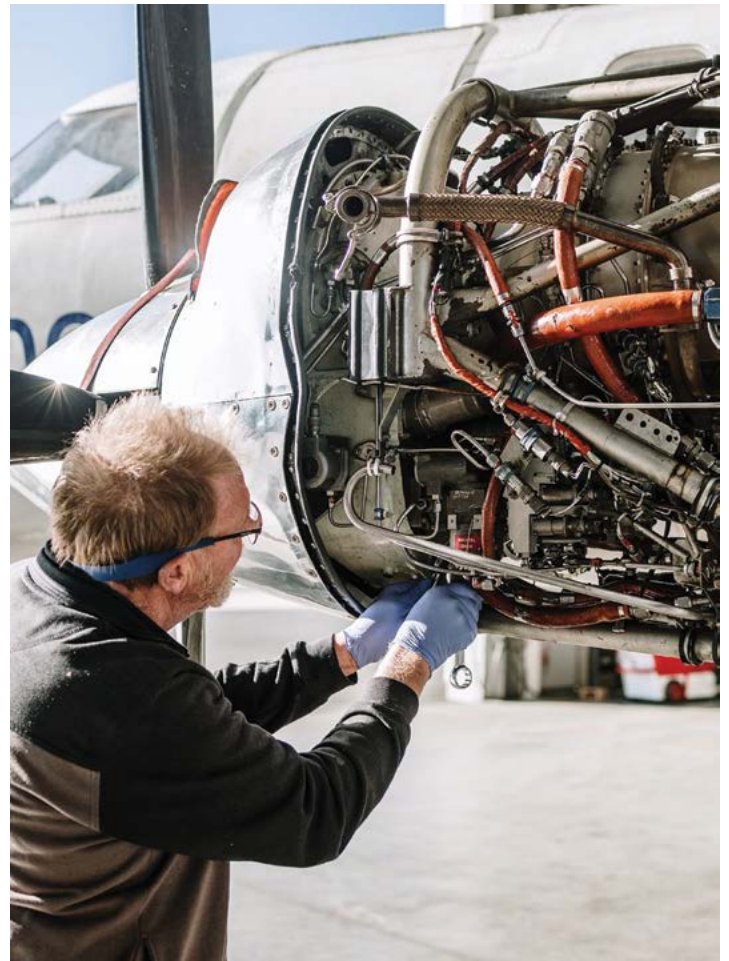
FIFO SERVICES

Sharp Airlines has extensive experience in providing FIFO (Fly-In, Fly-Out) services to remote locations. Crew and roster rotations, emergency support, and personnel transfer are characteristic of our FIFO service.

Sharp Airlines is the carrier of choice for the mining, shipping, energy, emergency services and remote construction industries.

Previous and current clients include:

- Beach Energy
- Bristow Group
- Cooper Energy
- Ensign International
- Iluka Resources
- Heathgate Resources
- OZ Minerals
- Santos (subcontract to Alliance Airlines)
- Saxon Energy



OFF-SHORE PASSENGER FACILITY AND CAPABILITY

- Sharp Airlines check-in includes:
- ID check
- BOSIET check
- DAMP testing
- Security screening

PASSENGER CHARTER SERVICES

Sharp Airlines caters for the corporate, business and government sectors. Our clientele includes Federal, State and local government representatives, Parliamentary Committee members, public servants, private sector representatives, and individuals.

FREIGHT SERVICES

Sharp Airlines is a trusted and reliable freight carrier with regular services across Australia. Our cargo ranges from small precision drills to 2,000kg mining equipment to commercial shellfish to legal documents.

Sharp Airlines provides a fixed service for time-critical freight for Toll Holdings and uplifts in excess of 4 million kilograms per annum on contracted and airline services.

ENGINEERING CAPABILITIES

Sharp Airlines engineering staff and contractors are located at our bases in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Essendon, and Launceston and are highly experienced in aviation maintenance.

Licenses are held on all aircraft types operated, including airframes, engines, electrical instruments, and radio.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- Highly qualified and experienced aviation management team
- High level of competency, based on a diverse range of aviation activities
- Fleet size of 16 aircraft provides in-house backup
- Significant manufacturer support
- Extensive spares support and engineering expertise on aircraft type

SAFETY & QUALITY ASSURANCE

PHILOSOPHY & POLICY

Our positive and professional workplace culture emphasises safety above all else. At Sharp Airlines, we pride ourselves on our commitment to safety, as it is the single most important feature of our operations and it is the measure by which we judge our success. Our focus on safety translates into the roles and responsibilities of every member of the Sharp Airlines team. Whether in the air or on the ground, our aim is to prevent injury or damage to people and property.

The underlying thrust of our Group Safety Policy is therefore directed at personal responsibility and accountability.

QUALITY CONTROL

Sharp Airlines embraces several internal, external and quality control audit procedures. We conduct our own due diligence based on risk modelling across our operations, and we are assessed annually by CASA. We are also audited by various external agencies to evidence our standards.

AVIATION SAFETY PROGRAM

Sharp Airlines encourages a safe and healthy working environment across all levels of the organisation, and applies the highest possible safety standards to customer safety.

To achieve our goals, Sharp Airlines has developed and maintains an Aviation Safety Program. This is a robust approach to risk management that is actively managed and monitored across all areas of operation.

AIR MAESTRO SAFETY REPORTING

This extensive reporting system is used at Sharp Airlines to log all flight and ground engineering occurrences along with all occupational health and safety-related incidents and risks. Our Air Maestro system can easily produce statistical reports, which assist the Safety & Quality Department in planning and implementing new safety strategies across our business.

LICENCES & APPROVALS

- Civil Aviation Safety Authority Air Operators Certificate No VT 439104
- CAR 30 Engineering Approval
- CASR Part 42 Continuing Airworthiness Approval
- CASR Part 145 Engineering Approval

CORPORATE POLICIES

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Sharp Airlines is committed to achieving the highest standards in environmental compliance and performance across the breadth of our aviation business activities, including environmental management practices and pollution prevention.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Sharp Airlines is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of employees, contractors, guests, customers and the community. We take a proactive approach to compliance with all legislative requirements of workplace health and safety, associated regulations, approved codes of practices, and applicable Australian standards.

WORKPLACE REHABILITATION

Sharp Airlines is committed to encouraging and supporting a workplace safe from injury and risk.

The focus of our management team is to facilitate the return of an employee to their pre-injury duties unless otherwise indicated by medical opinion. Management is committed to offering alternative duties which will assist in the earliest possible return to work and support the identified end goal of any rehabilitation program.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PLAN (DAMP)

The health, wellbeing and safety of personnel are of paramount importance to Sharp Airlines.

All individuals have a right to be safe at a Sharp Airlines workplace. Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD), when present in persons in the workplace, have the potential to increase the risk of harm in the workplace and adversely impact upon fitness for work.

Sharp Airlines takes a multi-strategy approach incorporating education, support, testing and performance management.

The policy is based on safety outcomes and not whether a positive test result is illicit or legal. This policy also recognises permissible therapeutic drug use under the guidance of a physician or pharmacist.





AWARD WINNING

Island Experience

Every season around early autumn the Roaring 40's kayak trailer has become a familiar sight on the quiet gravel roads of Flinders Island.

In that period of fantastic warm weather at the tail end of summer, long after the Christmas rush is over, Sawyers Bay Shacks is host to a series of small groups over a six week period who are here to explore the Island with the multi award winning Roaring 40's kayaking group.

Roaring 40's start with a sea journey to their beachfront accommodation on beautiful Sawyers Bay. For the following seven days the group will plan their itinerary according to the weather and explore the secluded places your average tourist can't get to.

"We'll paddle to offshore islands and into secluded coves, slipping quietly between beautiful orange granite boulders. The water is so clear that you'll see sand ripples, swaying kelp, fish in abundance, and dolphins often become frequent companions. At break times, we'll pull ashore in a quiet cove, so you can explore the rocky headlands, swim and snorkel in the clear warm water, or simply laze on the beach", said Jenny Grundy from Roaring 40's.

Late afternoon and evenings are spent at our accommodation Sawyers Bay Beach Shacks, guests enjoy a secluded beach, a large dining table, lounge chairs and comfy beds after an energetic day of paddling.

"We share stories of our day on the deck, the sun sets over Bass Strait; the distant Strzelecki Peak will change hue from orange-grey to pink-purple; pademelons and wallabies will arrive; and your glass will be refilled", said Jenny.

"Our tours attracts respectful and conscientious travellers who appreciate the island and the islander ways. They explore the harder to get to places but we leave no trace.



Credit : Loïc Le Guilly



Credit : Loïc Le Guilly



Credit : Loïc Le Guilly



Credit : Loïc Le Guilly

"We love hosting Roaring 40's as they get what Flinders Island is all about"



For more information:

roaring40skayaking.com.au
sawyersbayshacks.com

Over the last couple of years Flinders Island has been "discovered" by the rest of Australia, mainly Tasmanians looking for new travel experiences. This has not come without problems as the island has at times struggled to keep up with the large influx of visitors. Mayor Annie Revie has championed the need for regenerative tourism to make sure that the essence of Flinders Island is not lost by visitation and a formal study is in process to manage the direction for tourism on the Island.

"We welcome visitors who want to experience all we have to offer but who also want to help protect and enhance it. We have been trialing "voluntourism" with a weeding project at our other accommodation on Picnic Island and in the future we may offer landcare and environmental projects for our visitors to participate in on Flinders Island", said Clem Newton-Brown owner of Sawyer Bay Shacks.

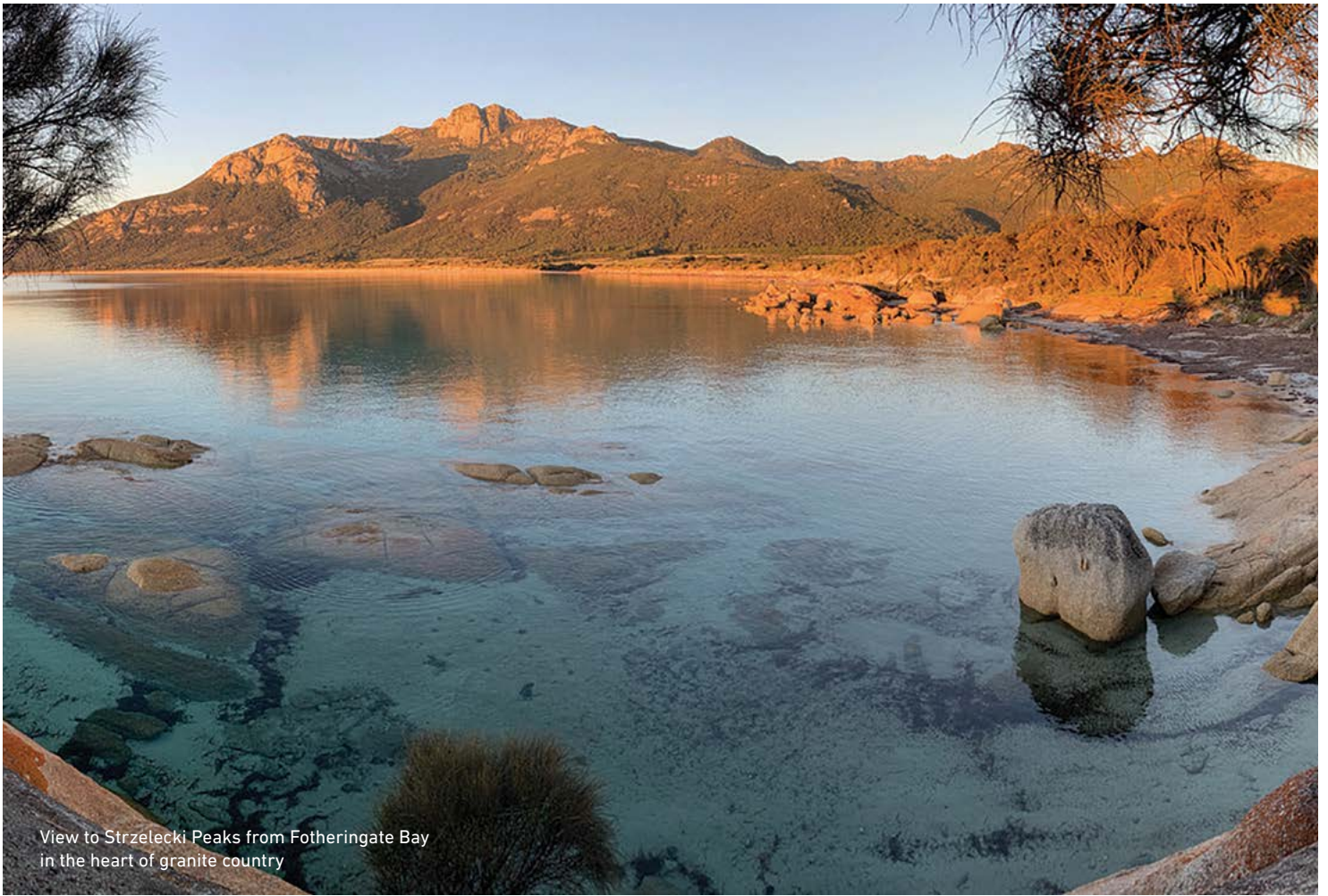
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View to Strzelecki Peaks from Fotheringate Bay
in the heart of granite country

Furneaux Geotrail

If you ever get the chance to talk to a geologist about the places around you – then take it. While we’re enjoying the scenery, they’re busy piecing together the stories written in the surrounding landscape.



A visit to the Furneaux Museum at Emita makes an ideal start to any exploration of the GeoTrail

Just as Aboriginal culture values creation stories in building connections to Country, so too does geology tell us hidden secrets about the ground around us.

Sharing these discoveries is the central idea behind GeoTrails. Hence when local Flinders resident and now retired geologist Dale Williams heard her physio David Heap talking about his experiences abroad on a British GeoTrail in 2016, the next step seemed obvious – why don't we do one of these for Flinders Island?

Encouraged by support for the concept from the local Tasmania Parks Senior Ranger Wayne Dick, the GeoTrail proposal gained momentum amongst the island community. This local initiative attracted both financial and in kind support from the Tasmanian Government including the involvement on the project team of Mineral Resources Tasmania Senior Geologist Michael Vicary. As a result of this collaborative enterprise, Stage 1 of the Furneaux GeoTrail was launched in June 2019.

The central premise of the GeoTrail is to focus on the amazing rocks and areas of geological significance. Some of these are located in popular visitor areas while others are simply byways you could otherwise easily miss. All of these stage 1 sites are easily accessed by vehicle. This means that when you drop into places like Killiecrankie, Emita or Trousers Point, the GeoTrail is there to greet you and offer an expanded perspective.

This experience is anchored by an onsite interpretive sign featuring QR code links to the GeoTrail webapp providing in-depth, supporting information. The integration of the webapp was made possible by the happy coincidence of the community having

just then been connected to the NBN network. This resulted in a major expansion of mobile coverage across Flinders Island.

The only problem the island's geological brains trust had with this stage 1 GeoTrail solution was that it did not tell the story of some of the island's equally impressive, yet less accessible places. Clearly a Stage 2 program was required – but how, what, where and when was this to occur?

Take the recognised great walks on Flinders Island – Strzelecki Peaks, Castle Rock and Trousers Point – for example. Could virtual geonotes delivered via an app be a good way of telling the GeoTrail stories to anyone exploring iconic places like Egg Beach, The Docks, Vinegar Hill and the walk along Killiecrankie Beach? Could these places be easily included in an expanded virtual component of the GeoTrail experience without the need for physical signage? With funding for Stage 2 works secured the next challenge was for the GeoTrail team to assemble the new geostories amidst the constraints of the Covid travel restrictions. Once the internal Tasmanian travel restrictions eased Stage 2

roll out was able to be completed at the start of spring 2021.

Today the Furneaux GeoTrail invites both locals and visitors alike to look beyond the spectacular scenery for which Flinders Island has long been renowned.

It offers the chance to explore the deeper stories written in the landscapes of this place once known as the “Great Island” of the Furneaux Group. Spectacular granites are there in abundance to be sure. But then what about that easily missed clump of crusty limestone beside the road that speaks to a time just 4 million years ago when shallow seas covered the flat lands of the island and giant megalodon sharks swam around the foothills of the Patriarchs?

If time is on your side, the GeoTrail has the broad scope to keep you company on your explorations of the island's nooks and crannies. If you're counting your stay in terms of days rather than weeks – then you'll simply have to start planning for your return visit! The island community of the greater Furneaux Group would gladly welcome you back to share in the very special place they are lucky enough to call home.



When you know what to look out for it's hard to hurry past any granite outcrop



Expect to get home late after a day on the GeoTrail




The interpretive sign at Fotheringate Bay bookends the famous Trousers Point Walk

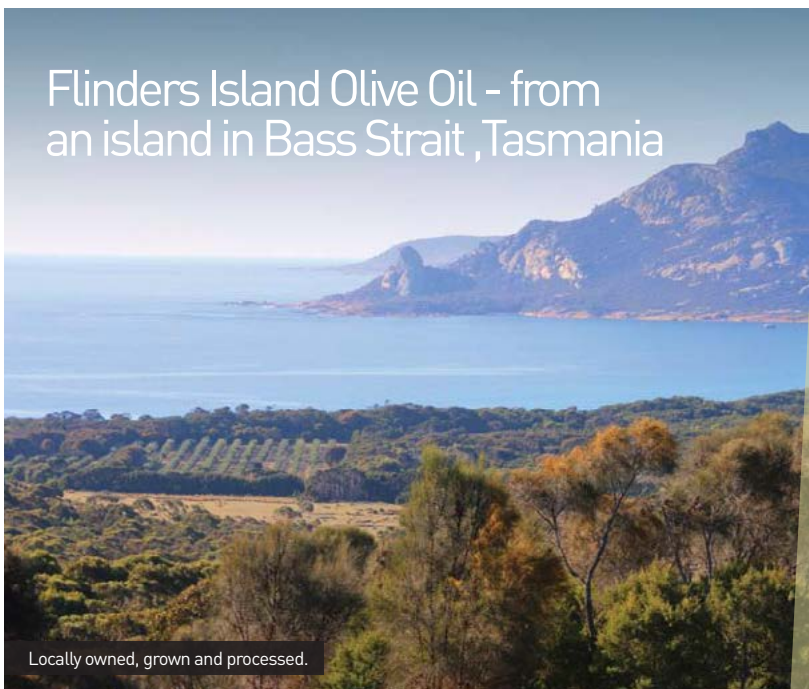


The basalt beach at Petrification Bay is best explored at low tide

The Furneaux GeoTrail would not have been possible without the active support of its stakeholders. Special mention in this regard must go to the Furneaux Museum, Flinders Council, Tasmanian Dept of Mineral

Resources and Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service [Department of State Growth], Tasmanian Community Fund and the Foundation for Regional Renewal and Travel.

 For more information:
furneauxgeotrail.flinders.tas.gov.au



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

Locally owned, grown and processed.



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

THE UNIQUE

Birds of King Island



Around 10,000 years ago King Island became isolated from Tasmania and mainland Australia as the sea level rose it closed what was wide, grassy plain and formed Bass Strait.

Many land-based animal and birds were trapped on the island and as time passed these birds evolved differently from their mainland cousins forming unique traits that were better adapted to island life. These evolutionary differences eventually lead to the creation of new species, but on the way they are known as sub-species.

King Island has nine recognised subspecies that are unique to the island (endemic).

Some are quite common while some are now at a high risk of imminent extinction (critically endangered). All are important and along with other endemic species, make King Island a biologically unique and very special place.

A common bird within living memory, **the King Island Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla archibaldi* is considered to be the next most likely Australian bird extinction with an estimated population of 50-100 individuals remaining. Its long slender bill used to search under bark for insects, song and calls tells it apart from other thornbill species. It primarily lives in the high canopied eucalyptus forests but also utilises scrub and other habitats. Its primary threat is loss of habitat.

The King Island Scrubtit *Acanthornis magna subsp. Greeniana*, (Critically Endangered) is an endearing small bird of melaleuca swamp and eucalypt forests now regarded as the third most likely next Australian bird extinction. It would once have been a common bird particularly in the northern low lying lagoon areas which have now been mainly drained and cleared. Its numbers were severely reduced in the fires of 2007 when much of the remaining old growth melaleuca forest in the Nook Swamp was burnt.

The King Island Black Currawong *Strepera fuliginosa colei*, known locally as a Black Jay, is a delightful, busy, noisy and curious bird that gathers in flocks in the autumn and winter. Once common it is now officially listed as Vulnerable and recently identified as Critically Endangered in The Action Plan for Australian Birds, 2020. This decadal publication is based on rigorous scientific input and analysis, and is widely used by governments and others as a definitive assessment of all Australian birds. Consequently, we now need to add this bird to the King Island list of critically endangered species. It utilises mature scrub to nest, breed and roost, so the most likely cause in its drop in numbers is on-going habitat clearance.

The King Island Green Rosella is the only Rosella that lives on the island. It can sometimes be seen along roadsides feasting on grass seeds or its bell-like calls heard ringing out in the early morning. Like all rosellas, it needs deep tree hollows to nest in, so is generally not found in areas where old growth trees are absent. It is classified as Vulnerable and the primary cause is likely to be the limited supply and competition for tree hollows.

The King Island Yellow Wattlebird *Anthochaera paradoxa kingi* is smaller than the Tasmanian Yellow Wattlebird. It can be a noisy, raucous bird when in groups with distinctive guttural calls, but is more often seen quietly moving through the scrub or tree canopy searching for food. While it has not been officially listed as threatened, it has been identified as Endangered in the Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020. This is a direct result of on-going clearing of scrub and shelter belts on King Island, reducing food abundance and breeding sites.

Other endemic birds of King Island (KI) that are seen more commonly and are thought to be secure are:

- **KI Superb Fairy-Wren**
- **KI Dusky Robin**
- **KI Tasmanian Scrubwren**
- **KI Tasmanian Thornbill**



- 1. Currawong**
Credit : Barry Baker
- 2. King Island Yellow Wattlebird**
Credit : Andrew Silcocks
- 3. King Island Brown Thornbill**
Credit : Barry Baker
- 4. King Island Scrubtit**
Credit : Barry Baker
- 5. King Island Dusky Robin**
Credit : Jon Irvine
- 6. King Island Superb Fairy-Wren**
Credit : Andrew Silcocks





5

BIRDS AS INDICATORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Because birds live or utilise almost all niches (places) in the natural environment, the presence, absence and abundance of species tell us about the complexity of the natural environment. The more complex (number of species) present, the healthier it is. So, the loss of species tells us that there are problems - that the natural environment is losing complexity (biodiversity), is becoming less resilient and losing overall health. This is concerning as we not only rely on a healthy environment for our own health but for our lives - clean air, water, food and shelter. A number of species that were on King Island once, are now locally extinct including the Gang Gang Cockatoo and the Forty-spotted Pardalote. We can't afford to lose any more.



Registration to join or learn more about the project is available on the Birds of King Island website

birdsofkingisland.com

'WINGS ON KING' - BIRD SURVEY PROJECT

This project, a KI Landcare and BirdLife Australia associatship, monitors the sustainability of King Island by monitoring its birds. Surveys are undertaken twice a year, in spring and autumn, on 62 different survey sites situated across the island on both private and public land. Over time these repeated surveys will show variations in what and how many birds are seen, providing a picture of changes occurring on the island. Visitors from off the island are encouraged to help with the surveys.



6

KING ISLAND BIRD CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN (KIBCAP)

The KIBCAP has been developed by BirdLife Australia over the last 2 years and is now in action. It is steered by a committee with representatives from all stakeholders including local King Island landholders and community members, representatives from Federal and State Government, professional ornithologists, ecologists and relevant non-government agencies. Survey projects are currently being undertaken and by mid 2022 we hope to have identified all the remaining spots were KI Brown Thornbill and KI Scrubtit still exist. Simultaneous on-ground vegetation surveys are providing updated information to TASVEG as well as informing the Steering Committee about what the next steps towards the recovery of King Island birds, should be.

WINGS ON KING SPRING 2021 - BIRD SURVEYS

Counting birds on King Island, Tasmania

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

and we need YOU to give us a hand.

COVID is preventing many people from travelling, including some resident King Islanders trapped in other states indefinitely. If you live in Tasmania or can visit, **King Island birds NEED YOU this spring.**

WHEN:

Surveys will be undertaken in Autumn and Spring 2022.

HOW:

Form a small team. Minimum of two with at least one able to identify King Island birds by sight and by call.

REGISTER:

Go to birdsofkingisland.com/register
It's EASY.

Once registered you will receive all the information you need: what, how, when and where. Field Plans and instructions will be sent by email.

For more information about the project go to the Birds of King Island website
birdsofkingisland.com/wings-on-king-project

If you are keen but aren't sure if you can help, call Kate for a chat:

 **0417487263**



Dine in or takeaway.
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Serving meals which include local fish & chips, steak, hamburgers.
Monday to Saturday 7am to 4pm

34 Edward Street Currie. CALL 03 6462 1459



RACE DATES

OFFICIAL TRIAL DAY

Saturday 18th December 2021

BOXING DAY

Sunday 26th December 2021
(1st Race Day)

KING ISLAND BEEF DAY

Sunday 2nd January 2022 (Not Cup Day)

MARITIME DAY

Saturday 8th January 2022

KING ISLAND CUP DAY/ LADIES DAY

Saturday 22nd January 2022

SOUTHERN AIRLINES FLY-IN DAY

Saturday 29th January 2022

KI RECREATIONAL/ DAIRY DAY

Saturday 5th February 2022

Races start approx.

12:30PM ON RACE DAYS

For more information visit:

kingislandracingclub.com

ROCKJAW TOURS

FLINDERS ISLAND HUNTING + FISHING TOURS

Chris (Rockjaw) Rhodes

M 0427 596 506

email chris_rhodes@bigpond.com web www.rockjawtours.com.au



King Island Horse Race

The first ever King Island horse race committee meeting 130 years ago, was first held on the 3rd October.





Locals have contributed so much to the races for well over a century and everyone is encouraged to gather with friends and family to commemorate this date, with people sharing stories highlighting horse racing moments on King Island.

KING ISLAND'S FIRST RACE (1892) AND THE FIRST CUP

FOLLOWING the founding of the King Island Racing Club, the island's first official race was set for 1 January 1892. Within two months, prior to the race, an 'excellent course was prepared' and the inaugural race got underway in fine weather.

Although no official program has survived, the following events are known and were accomplished with immediate success; King Island Cup, Melilot Plate, Tomalin Stakes, and Hurdles. King Island's first cup winner was William E. Bowling's Black Prince (a 3-year-old colt), followed by Stephenson's 5-year-old mare Gypsy, and coming in third was A. Johnston's Robin (a 2-year-old gelding).

Only four starters competed for the cup. The other starter was Henry Scott's Vixen. All four competitors were ridden by their owners. It is interesting to note that from 1895 the King Island race course was

completely ploughed and sown in 'English grass' - Melilot from which the name Melilot Stakes (or Melilot Plate on other occasions) served a number of race events throughout the 1890s.

The first King Island Cup, currently in Peter Bowling's possession, was won outright by Peter's forebear William Edward Bowling. To win the cup outright at the time, the Racing Club devised that the winner be required to win three cup races before being awarded the trophy outright. W. Bowling did this with Black Prince in 1892, Island King in 1900, and Island King in 1903.

William Bowling also took home – outright – the second cup in 1907. As for the cup itself, recent research has uncovered its history. Almost a year after the first race, in November-December 1893, a leading businessman Thomas F. Beale exhibited King Island's Racing Cup to the public for the first time in his emporium in Rooke Street, West Devonport. Beale who was a well-known Devonport pioneer (a town formerly known as Formby) ran a popular emporium selling household and kitchenware to include plated silverware and trophies. Beale described the cup as 'of handsome design, and neatly ornamented'.

The cup arrived in King Island in time to present the winner of the 1894 season.

It was won by Fred Robinson's Dodger. The Bowling Cup will also be exhibited for the commemoration.

King Island Racing Club Cup Day Trophy
Credit : Heidi Weitjens



BOWMAN'S GENERAL STORE

An Island Storekeeper's tale

Daniel Thomas Bowman undoubtedly had an adventurous streak. As a young man he served four years as a book keeper on a remote rubber plantation in British New Guinea.

Upon his return home to Melbourne in 1912, a visit to the Royal Melbourne Show saw him stumble across a stand promoting land acquisition on Flinders Island.

Arriving just prior to the winter of 1913, Daniel selected property on the eastern side of the island. Here, the spectacular granitic mountains that make up the very backbone of Flinders offered some shelter from the prevailing westerly winds. The site, close to coastal lagoons teeming with life, must have seemed a fitting place to set up camp. Enthusiasm prevailed over reality at this point and the lure of opportunity fueled his progress.

Daniel's diary is quick to recount tales of backbreaking hard work. He erected a simple hut and cleared thick tea tree for fence lines. Subsistence came in the form of a few cattle and some hardy vegetables. In those early days he diligently recorded the 'endless slog, damper and lack of comforts' – perhaps the impetus to enlist for World War 1.



Credit : Tasmanian Tuxedo

Daniel found work as the island's Council Clerk to supplement their income, while Maud turned her hand to making the best of life on a remote farm. Going into labour in August 1920, Maud was bundled off by horse and cart to the local midwife, a relentless journey some 20 kilometres overland to the other side of the island. She returned shortly after, triumphant in baby Stanley's arrival.

There was now a family to support. In 1921, Maud took Stanley back to Victoria to visit family whilst Daniel set about building a four room home with a shop and post office in Whitemark. At the time, this remote west coast settlement offered little aside from a wharf, the Council Chambers, the Church of England and the Interstate Hotel. Unbeknownst to Daniel and Maud, their move to the corner of Patrick and Roberts Streets was to become a definitive part of island history. Bowman's General Store was born. The store initially traded under EM Bowman as Daniel felt that his role as Council Clerk precluded him from using his own name.

By 1931, Stan had two sisters, Ruth and Una. During their high school years they were each sent off the island to pursue their education before returning to work in the store. Bowman's has always been a genuine family affair.

Supplies from Bowman's have long been crucial to this pioneering community. In the early days times were tough and the store stocked the basics – boots, nails, grocery staples and essential homewares. As the island developed, its fascinating history can be traced directly through the goods listed in the store's records. Leaf through the original ledger and the popular purchases of the day are revealed, along with their values.

In 1942 Stan married Elvie Dawson at St Mary's on the Tasmanian mainland. Elvie brought with her excellent shop pedigree as her family ran their own general business in the small east coast community. She adapted quickly to island life and fitted in easily with the Bowman family – somewhat fortunately as they all lived together at the rear of the store for the following six years. The young couple, and soon to be growing brood of children, added another two rooms to the dwelling. It was multilayered family living at its best.

Interestingly, Daniel often slept in a canvas tent at the rear of the property – a habit said to assist his breathing. He'd remark that the fresh Flinders air helped his ailing lungs and would help prolong his life. Wicked winds whip their way across the Strait, bringing cool salty goodness cleansed from their journey across thousands of kilometres of wild expanse. Daniel



Credit: Tasmanian Tuxedo



Credit: Tasmanian Tuxedo



Credit: Tasmanian Tuxedo

was also known to take a tablespoon of mutton bird oil each day – a tonic that slowly leached out of his body leaving stains upon his flannels.

Upon his retirement from the council in 1952, Daniel voyaged to England with an old friend. He visited the battlefields and cemeteries in France, no doubt wrestling with demons from decades past. In his absence, the family grasped the opportunity to undertake major upgrades back in Whitemark. Daniel was never one for change, hence it was the perfect time to build not only a new storeroom but demolish

the original shop. Bowman's General Store as it stands today rose from the ground.

Daniel's death in the mid-1950s coincided with the development of the Soldier Settlement Scheme. The program saw the island welcome a significant population rise and with that came increased income. Investment in the expanded store proved timely as the influx of young couples in the community brought demands for all manner of household goods and clothing.



Credit : Tasmanian Tuxedo

Today, Lois Ireland is the matriarch of the Bowman family. The only daughter of Stan and Elvie, most of Lois's early memories are defined by the business that's shaped her life. "I still recall being put to sleep in a cot out in the back room," she smiles. "It sat under a dark window and I remember finding that very scary. Mum also used to pop me in a tea chest out in the shop when I was very young too. Apparently I smiled at all the men and cried when the women approached."



Credit : Tasmanian Tuxedo

As she grew, Lois's perch changed to the tall timber ladder that still leans against the shelving behind the front counter. "I grew up in here with mum and Aunt Ruth," she smiles recalling the formidable force that was her aunt. "Ruth was the classic maiden aunt. Sharp-tongued but with a kind heart." Having never married, Ruth's life was her extended family and the store. "She was big on manners and doing things 'properly', recalls Lois. "She'd allow newcomers to call her 'Miss Bowman', but heaven forbid if they lapsed into 'Aunt Ruth' too soon. She wasn't shy in telling them where the line was."

Lois and her four brothers, John, Chris, Geoff and Peter, share a myriad of special Bowman memories. Reminiscing about their parents, a picture is painted of Elvie as a caring, busy and industrious woman.

"She'd work 'til she dropped," nods Lois. "She had five kids, worked whilst heavily pregnant and was stoic, capable and simply a tower of strength...very family and community orientated...and held fast to her Methodist upbringing. She even found time to write poetry. Mum might not have always agreed with all of dad's decisions but she stood by him through them all. In hindsight, he perhaps should of listened to her a little more. She was a very good judge of character."

"I think mum really made the business what it is today," adds Chris, chiming in. "Drapery was her thing. Curtains, clothing and the like. Those were the days when families made everything and nothing was wasted." Elvie was particularly renowned for her buying trips to Launceston. "Mum was a well-known customer at notable Launceston stores such as



DW Murray, Patterson Reid and Bruce, and GW Genders. Her buying trips became legendary,” recounts Lois. “Apparently she’d start in lingerie and work her way down to nuts and bolts. She had a reputation for knowing exactly what she wanted.”

John also tells of the gradual purchasing of small parcels of land and the hard work to subsequently clear and convert them to pasture. Eventually the Bowmans owned substantial property running sheep and cattle. “As things evolved, we all agreed on the division of the land between us,” John explains. “It’s always been about family, something that dad instilled in us. He was very hardworking, not one to rock the boat. He’d make the tough and sometimes risky business decisions and often put his money on the line for the greater good of the island. He was involved in the creation of an airline for the island and also the shipping side of things. But he never bought things unless he had the money.”

“Over the years, the various arms of the business have propped each other up I guess,” says Chris. “If the sales of wool from the farm were good, it would mean we’d stock the shop shelves a bit more. Mum and Dad never really had a clear plan, but they were good at working hard and embracing opportunities when they arose. I guess you’d say that things just evolved along the way.”

The Bowman family expanded in to transport early on. Chris explains, “In 1925 Dan purchased a T model ford with flat tray back and it was put to work doing deliveries. Today we have progressed to a 22 wheeler but are still moving general freight and livestock.” He continues, “Pallets and containers have made handling easier and quicker, and we’ve all learnt to drive and repair a wide variety of vehicles; hire cars, trucks, dozers, fork lifts. For the life of the butter factory, Bowmans carted the cream from the Trousers Point area to the factory and then the butter to planes and boats.” Countless supplies for building and concreting on the island continue to be arranged, mixed and delivered by Chris and his reliable crew to this very day.

In the fifties and sixties, migrants impacted on the weekly buying too. “Mum knew that many of the women hardly spoke any English,” explains Lois. “Sometimes they’d send family in from the farm with money and a very short list as they had limited ability to write in English. Mum knew they had young kids, so she’d just send them what she thought they would need. She was very practical like that, always quietly helping out.”

John, Lois and Chris could chat for hours over a cuppa, pouring over the family’s ageing collection of scrapbooks. “In fact, tea’s been a backdrop to many moments over the years,” says Lois. “Morning and afternoon tea was always a ritual in the Bowman kitchen. The teapot was always snug in a cosy, cups and saucers awaiting the men when they came in from the garage.”

The family recalls the stash of biscuits and rock cakes from the shop with fondness. Lois explains laughing, "Maud kept a stash of biscuits and rock cakes from the shop...we were only ever allowed to have the broken ones of course. I'm sure we could reminisce for hours about those days, especially if Peter was here – he lives and farms on Flinders too. Our other brother Geoff lives on Vancouver Island and it's great when we all get together."

Bowman's was, and still is, a veritable treasure trove. Its classic country store charm hails from its walls lined with everything you can imagine. Timber shelving is groaning with clothing, books, linen, boots, electrical items, underwear, hardware...you name it. There's a strange kind of comfort in the burgeoning stash that greets you, drawing you in and inviting you to relax and fossick around. You never know what you might find.

Groceries were a mainstay at Bowman's for decades. Crates, tea chests, sacks and boxes were constantly hauled into the store room. It wasn't until Walker's opened the supermarket across the road that Bowman's were pleased to see the back of the heavy lifting. "Mum was keen to replace the tins and packets with more linen, clothes and homewares," remembers Lois. "It's worked very well with Bowman's and Walker's; we've been able to complement each other for many years."

The glorious old counter could be straight from a movie set. Spread wide with a selection of newspapers, it extends an unwritten invitation to linger and chat. Undoubtedly it's been witness to countless conversations each and every day over the past 100

years. As Lois so rightly points out, "One of the most important traits for a storekeeper is the ability to listen."

"There's a lot I've learnt along the way," nods Lois with a *wry* grin. "Patience definitely, flexibility, to be friendly and to have a sense of humour. Whilst there's a lot of organising and planning, it's about people at the end of the day."

Whilst 50 years ago people would dress in their second best clothes to do their shopping on a Friday, now locals pop in straight off the farm. What hasn't changed though is that everyone loves a chat and to connect. Running a general store isn't always an economic choice, it's more a way of life."

Even today, you only have to be in the shop five minutes before someone will wander in and say, "I don't suppose you have a ..." It doesn't matter how that sentence ends, it's bound to be there somewhere. From toilet seats to pillow cases and from nail files to paintbrushes. One hundred years of knowledge rests on these shelves. One hundred years of understanding how the local community ticks.

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

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Whitemark - Flinders Island**

Facebook
Sandro Donati Gold & Silversmith



White Shack Studio Gallery



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

Lois is a whirlwind of energy. Just like her parents and grandparents before her, Lois's ties run thick through the community. Whether it be the P&F, the show society, the local council or the community choir, Lois has given her time. "It's just what you do here I guess," she shrugs. "The store serves as a convenient point for all sorts of things. If someone's collecting for a cause or running a raffle we help out with those kinds of things. We're a point of tourist information, a place to lodge your show entries, find the local news and place a notice in the window. Just about anything goes."

The unexpected death of Aunty Ruth in 1995 sent shockwaves through the community. Her life was woven tightly into the fabric of Whitemark and her presence sorely missed. "It was also a catalyst for a huge clean out of the house," explains Lois. "There were over 70 years of belongings stashed away in there. Everything from old sewing patterns to draws full of photos. It was then that I decided we need to do something with it all and make sure it was protected for the future."

Lois opened the Bowman History Room in 1996 – the result of a huge clean out of Ruth's belongings and, at the time, a rich celebration of 75 years of intriguing island history. Fittingly housed at the back of the store in Aunty Ruth's 'good room', the history collection is inextricably linked with the development of Flinders over the course of the last century. Wrapped protectively within the beautifully preserved 1930s architecture, including original timber dado walls, picture rails and solid doors adorned with classically elegant handles, sits a glimpse into a century past.

Old photographs, newspaper clippings and classic items that tell the story of society through the twentieth century through a shopkeeper's eye. The store's beautiful old scales that once calculated the community's cooking staples sit atop a display cabinet brimming with icons of the past. From old jars of medicinal tonics to school ink wells. From boxes of cotton reels to ladies gloves. From tobacco tins to hat boxes. And from doilies to card games. Daniel's war medals, diaries, maps, letters and personal items from World War I rest quietly in here too.

Lois's daughter Claire represents the next generation of strong Bowman women. "I loved growing up in here," she openly admits. "But I never thought I'd end up working back in the shop. I was adamant that life had other things in store for me." Indeed it did, until the pull of island life lured Claire and her young family back to Flinders a few years ago.

"So here I am, loving life back at Bowman's," she grins. "Maybe Mum can start to take a step back now. It's kind of special that every generation makes its mark in here...I often look around at little details and think to myself 'Aunty Ruth did that.' I know I'll never change those things – they're part of the unique history of the place."

"I love the fact that my kids are doing the very same things that I did growing up. Saying hello to everyone that comes in, playing hide and seek, and sprawling their colouring-in books across gran's desk. There's often a stool behind the counter here for the kids to stand on so they can help out."



Bowman's General Store is located in the 'capital' of Flinders Island, Whitemark.
Opening hours :
Monday to Friday 9am-4pm
Saturday 9am-12noon



Credit : Tasmanian Tuxedo

THE WHITE SHACK
STUDIO GALLERY

Summer Exhibition

The White Shack Studio Gallery Summer Exhibition will feature the original etchings from the artwork of Judy Jacques' award winning CD 'Making Wings', which celebrates its 20th anniversary.



These etching by Doug Hails were inspired by Judy's song cycle of original compositions, improvisation and re-visioned early recording by Fanny Cochrane Smith. Fanny, born at Wybalenna in 1834, was one of the first Aboriginal singers to record on wax cylinder for the Tasmanian Royal Historical Society back in 1899 and later in 1903.

This landmark album was awarded the Inaugural Bell Award for Best Australian Jazz Vocal Album 2003.

"This is intensely personal music... throughout the album Jacques impresses... the restraint with which she employs her dynamic range, and above all, the heartfelt emotion she puts into the music."
Adrian Jackson, Rhythms Magazine

Sandro's wife is acclaimed jazz singer Judy Jacques.

"We ended up here on Flinders when my wife began researching her family history," Sandro, Judy's husband said "Judy discovered that her forebears were lighthouse keepers out in the Strait and hence she embarked on a fascinating journey to trace that heritage.

In addition to uncovering the family's personal connection to the islands, what evolved was a realm of amazing artistic opportunities."

Sit with this intriguing pair for an afternoon and their shared love of art, history, music - and each other - rises quickly to the fore. Theirs is a tale of expression through understanding. "We started coming here more

than 20 years ago," nods Sandro. "We found ourselves visiting more and more often, and eventually made the move permanently in 2011. It's definitely a place that draws you in."

Grounded in a rich background of Black African American Gospel music, Judy's powerful voice has seen her weave a long and successful career – although one that ultimately saw her pursue a creative and experimentalist course rather than a commercial bent. A professional highlight has been translating her deep connection to the Bass Strait islands into music. Her CD, Making Wings was inspired by her personal ancestral research and its connection to the islands, a collection of haunting original compositions that describe generations past of whalers, lighthouse keepers and convicts – interspersed with traditional songs and stories from the islands. Sandro's inventive use of harmonized trumpet stretches across multiple tracks.

Alongside her own story, Judy read and gathered knowledge... everything she could find, about the lives and experiences of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, including Fanny Cochrane-Smith. "Sandro and I developed deep respect for the music and history of the islands," she explains. "There is so much complexity here...the cruelty and the beauty...you can feel it...especially at Wybalenna. It's important that we understand and accept what has happened. The brutal reality of Tasmanian history needs to be accepted and understood, then we could all be on the journey towards healing"



"It was a long process... as it should be...life changing, but I obtained permission and blessing to revision and record two of Fanny Cochrane-Smith's songs. I am greatly honoured' reflects Judy slowly. "It was a long, emotional, but extremely rewarding journey, but it has always been important to me, that music, especially in my later career, has true meaning. I found strong relationships within the Aboriginal community and warm friendships, in particular, with the late Aunty Ida West and the late Aunty Enid Dillon. They supported me right throughout the process and I think what I delivered was a work that showed proper respect and honesty, a work of integrity that we feel, still has relevance after twenty years." (Making Wings was awarded the inaugural Bell Award for Best Vocal Album 2003)

Listening to her reflect on the two decades that have unfolded since the release of Making Wings, Sandro is clearly proud of Judy's achievements and how the experiences have shaped his own development as an artist. "We both feel connected to the sea and land here," nods Sandro, pausing to reflect on their island home. "There is a real sense of depth of history here. It's like a microcosm of everything; history, people, environment. The friction, simplicity and complexity that lies out here in the middle of Bass Strait is quite extreme."

The etchings of Doug Hails Inspired by the 'heartfelt emotion' of Judy's songs and with a long history and understanding of Tasmania's past Doug felt moved to create this series of etchings.

They depict the rebirth/renaissance of a submerged spirit bird, perhaps a Shorttailed Shearwater, striving to breakthrough the horizon. Each image becomes more developed with the last triumphantly breaking the horizon and flying free from the past constraints. A powerful collection of images, beautifully drawn and printed, that resonate with the vibrations of the music that inspired them. The complete series will be on show in the White Shack Gallery for the whole of summer.



King Island Distillery



King Island Distillery is the story of a resourceful solopreneur on an island, determined to establish a product that proudly matches with the existing, high quality brand King Island is renowned for. Island life naturally needs an attitude of waste minimisation, and this underpins the King Island Distillery.

The King Island Distillery's vision is to make every person who tastes her products fall obsessively head over heels into a lifelong romance with King Island. Because what do people do when they're obsessively in love? They can't stop thinking about it, they will tell anyone who will listen about it, and they'll do whatever they can to get more time with the subject of their love.

An Islander all her life, owner Heidi Weitjens is passionate about supporting, showcasing and growing King Island. Heidi's business is built on a clear purpose and vision to bring artisan, hand crafted spirits made with the finest, local ingredients to locals, visitors and people across Australia.

Despite being a young business, King Island Distillery has enjoyed huge success and continual growth thanks to Heidi's unwavering commitment to the customer.

While growth has been good, Heidi is clear there is a cap on the level of growth she wants to experience. She believes true, artisan spirits made with a labour of love cannot be mass produced, and the value gets diluted when you exceed around 200 litres per week. "The brand is firmly focused on quality and exclusivity, as well as getting to know her customers, and creating products that they not only deeply desire, and you can't get anywhere else" said Heidi.



"I want to create a collective love and admiration for King Island that extends well beyond a quick visit" said Heidi.

Working in collaboration with local suppliers for her ingredients, King Island Distillery's success means success for other Islanders, as well as raising the profile of King Island across Australia. She feels that every Australian business has a responsibility to provide fuel for the patriotic fire in people's bellies. "The more we feel emotionally attached to local products, the more we will resist foreign competitors and collectively create a more resilient Australia" said Heidi.

STILLS ACROSS THE STRAIT

The handmade copper stills are created by Peter Bailey, who has applied decades of knowledge and experience devoted to the design for producing intimate flavours that tickles, teases and pleases the seekers of quality boutique spirits.

How to get the Stills from Hobart to King Island was the next Challenge.

They were placed on a working cray fishing boat at Hobart docks. "The precious cargo was lowered down with the pot winch to be nestled in amongst stacks and stacks of Cray pots" explained Heidi.

"Carefully positioned under under captain Mark Smith's watchful eye as he battles through the wind gusts and sea spray of the 'Roaring Forties' from far South Tasmania, the Stills remained onboard and upright steaming upwards to King Island" said Heidi.


The journey was non-stop steaming along at about 7 knots for 47 hours punching through the wild Seas of Tasmania's Coastline and across the mighty swells of Bass Strait, to finally arrive safely at the Currie Harbour, King Island.

GIN AGED AT SEA AROUND KING ISLAND

A Golden Spirit is matured out at sea around the shores of King Island.

"It is Barrel Aged Gin, a small batch of just 50 bottles of this Golden coloured Gin, distilled at King Island Distillery and aged on a working cray boat in Bass Strait" stated Heidi.

This was truly a great learning experience and an experiment for Heidi, discovering hands on that the process for ageing this smooth Gin truly capturing the Spirit of King Island.

 For more information visit Kingislanddistillery.com





FOKI Feature

THE SMOKIN' ELMORES

The Smokin' Elmores are an independent 4-piece Rock/Blues band from central northern Tasmania, Australia.

With hard-edged blues guitar tones, fronted by a powerful female vocalist, they generally fall into the rock/blues genre. With a nod to many other styles such as country, rock'n'roll, latin, pop, and solid classic Australian rock, the term Americana is also appropriate.

Having performed as a band in the covers scene for over 20 years, The Smokin' Elmores have recently hit a 'sweet spot' in their lineup and band chemistry. From early 2019 they have commenced writing and performing their own music, and their first album is set to release in late 2021.

Recently, The Smokin' Elmores co-wrote several songs with Allan Caswell, winner of 8 Golden Guitar awards and country music icon. The first of their collaborative tracks is their debut single, '2 Hearts', released in June 2021.

For more information visit
 foki.com.au



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