



# Discover The Furneaux Region

Fishing

Beachcombing

Bush walking

Gem fossicking

Bird watching



Golf

Diving

Exploring

## **General Information On The Furneaux Region**

The Furneaux Group is located between Wilson's Promontory in Victoria and Cape Portland in Tasmania. Flinders Island is the largest of these islands and the region has around 900 permanent residents.

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

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

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

## **Climate**

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

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

Winds are predominantly westerlies and can blow unabated for several days during late winter and spring, with cooling sea breezes during the summer months.

The Furneaux group of islands is situated within the infamous Roaring Forties and coastal waters can be exposed to strong and variable winds and high seas all through the year.

## Geology

About a third of the islands are dominated by ridges of granite, including the striking features of the southern part of the Strzelecki Range, Darling Range, Mt Killiecrankie, the Patriarchs (Flinders Island) and the higher parts of Cape Barren Island.

About half of all the islands in the Furneaux region are coastal sand dunes with related soil deposits.

These form a broad plain on the eastern side of Flinders Island and a narrow strip on the west coast, with similar features on Cape Barren Island.

Estuarine beds of sands, clays and gravels can be found in many low lying areas with many lagoons existing on the eastern coast of Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island. These lagoons are seasonally filled by winter rains.

There are only a small number of streams flowing permanently on the islands with others only flowing immediately after rain.

The variation in rainfall, altitude, geology and landform has led to considerable variety in the soil and vegetation types found on the islands. Deep calcareous sandy soils occur along the coastal dunes, while the undulating plains, such as those found on the west side of Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island, have deep mostly uniform sand and duplex soils.

On the higher granite-based slopes the soil types are mostly mottled duplex soils.

Between 800 and 900 species of plants have been found in the Furneaux group reflecting the diversity of physical conditions throughout the group.

These islands have scientific significance as they represent a species boundary – being the southern-most location for some species and the northern-most for others.

## **Flinders Municipality**

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

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

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

Whitemark is the main residential and business centre, and the all-tides port at Lady Barron is the berthing point for the trading vessel Matthew Flinders.

The Matthew Flinders sails weekly between Bridport and Lady Barron and on demand (approximately monthly) from Welshpool, Victoria.

Airlines of Tasmania flies daily between Launceston and Whitemark and thrice weekly between Moorabbin and Whitemark. The region is also serviced by a number of charter aircraft. These carry passengers or freight on demand.

Flinders Island has a thriving rural community that produces sheep and wool, cattle, milk-fed lambs, crayfish, abalone, poppies, cauliflower seed and Cape Barren geese.

Aquaculture is seen as one of the possible future directions for the region and expansion of the industry is currently being investigated.

Other main business activities include rural support industries and tourism.

The islands lie scattered around latitude 40° south and are home to a very diverse wildlife with over 120 species of bird on Flinders Island including many visiting migratory, Northern Hemisphere species.

The region is also home to the rare Cape Barren Goose and the endangered 40-Spotted Pardalote.

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

Flinders has 73 km of sealed roads, 309 km of gravel roads and is serviced by a licensed aerodrome with sealed runway at Whitemark.



## **Aboriginals and the Furneaux Region**

When the Eastern Bass Strait islands were still a land bridge between mainland Australia and Tasmania the region was a highway for travelling aboriginal groups. With the flooding of the land bridge the Tasmanian aboriginal community was separated from their mainland cousins and they developed their own culture and practices.

The wrecking of the Sydney Cove in 1797 on Preservation Island saw the discovery of large quantities of seals and the start of wholesale sealing in the region.

The sealers often had 2 aboriginal women working for them, and the women were initially treated quite badly. This changed as sealers moved on to marry many of these women, and thus the history of the Straits People began.

European arrival in Tasmania decimated the local aboriginal population and the eastern Bass Strait islands played a major part in the associated tragic events.

George Augustus Robinson settled Wybalenna (Flinders Island) with 13 of the original 27 captured Tasmanian Aboriginals in 1833 after first trying Swan Island, then Gun Carriage island (now called Vansittart) and then the lagoons at the southern end of Flinders.

Approximately 200 the Tasmanian aboriginals died due to exposure to pneumonia and influenza, diseases they had no natural defence against.

Also in this year many aboriginals from the west coast surrendered and joined Robinson on Flinders Island. The Wybalenna settlement lasted for 14 years and is today one of our most historic sites.

For more information please phone:

Flinders Island Aboriginal Association (FIAA)	on	<b>03 6359 3532</b>
Cape Barren Island Community Association	on	<b>03 6359 3533</b>

## **Wildlife**

The Furneaux islands are renowned for the diversity of wildlife, and in particular bird habitats.

The islands provide suitable habitats for a range of native animals including echidnas, wombats, Bennetts Wallabies, Pademelons, Brushtailed Possums, Pigmy Possums, Potoroos, Native rats, along with various Skinks, Snakes and Bats.

There are no rabbits or foxes in this region other than rabbits on some of the outer islands, and it is illegal to bring them to this region.

## **Employment**

Traditionally the primary employment sector has been agriculture and fishing with tourism growing in importance, as it can often supply a supplementary income.

## **Business Opportunities**

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

- Tourism
- Aquaculture
- Agriculture
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Information technology

Our contact details are provided, so if you have any business ideas for Flinders Island please contact the Area Marketing & Development Office (ph: **03 6359 2380**), we can help you with information and support.

## **Seasonal Work**

The main forms of seasonal employment on the islands are shearing shed work, gumnut picking and deckhands.

### **Shed Work**

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

### **Gumnut Picking**

There is a healthy gumnut industry on Flinders and Cape Barren Islands that employs seasonal workers to harvest the seed.

### **Deckhands**

Fishers of the surrounding waters mainly catch abalone, crayfish and scallops and a variety of finfish. All these fishers employ deckhands during their respective seasons.

## **Clubs & Associations**

Flinders Island has a wide range of clubs and associations. Golf & Bowls Club

- Furneaux Field & Game
- Pistol Club
- Pony Club
- C.W.A.
- The Furneaux Historical Research Association
- Furneaux Lapidary Club
- Meals On Wheels Committee
- Junior Football Association
- Senior Football Association
- Whitemark Boating & Fishing Club
- Flinders Island Tourism Association
- Furneaux Enterprise Centre (FEC)
- Furneaux Regional Historical Association
- Branch of Tas Regional Arts
- Scottish Country Dancing
- Line Dancing
- Netball
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Lions Club

To mention just a few.

## **Retail**

Flinders Island is serviced by a fully equipped supermarket (in Whitemark), which carries many specialist lines. The supermarket is open 6 days a week, and opens on Sundays throughout the summer tourism season.

There is another, smaller supermarket at Lady Barron, and one on Cape Barren Island.

We also have gift shops, a newsagent, and general merchandise stores as well as speciality woollen shops.

Hardware is available through Roberts Ltd and Webster Ltd, and the island has a Hotel and a Golf Club

## **Primary Industry**

Agricultural pursuits are important to the region and include:

- Wool production
- Sheep meat production
- Beef production
- Poppies
- Seed (ie. Cauliflower)
- Fishing

Aquaculture is an emerging industry in the region.



## **Tourism**

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

It is also a great place to unwind for those who just want to escape the stresses of modern living and perhaps do a bit of fishing, play a round of golf, etc. (the 9-hole golf course has only been parred once in its 40 year history).

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

## **Accommodation**

The island has a range of accommodation from campgrounds and a backpacker hostel to comfortable hotel accommodation and a range of self-contained cottages. A list of accommodation is available from the Area Marketing & Development Office and included in this package are brochures from some of the operators in this region.

## **Hire Cars**

Hire cars are available and brochures from some of these operators are included in this package. Visitors are asked to please take care on the roads, especially at dawn and dusk, due to our abundance of wildlife.

## **Schools**

There is one school on Flinders Island and one on Cape Barren Island. They cover kindergarten to grade 10 and have a roll of 132 students. The Flinders Island District School curriculum teaches a foreign language plus five main subjects. Short courses are offered with a duration of five weeks. Some of these courses are woodwork, metal work, cooking, sewing, small engine service, driver education, porcelain doll making, art, and stained glass.

The school also offers some year 11 & 12 subjects. The school has a music programme where upper-primary and secondary students are taught both as a class and individually. Off-Island trips and outdoor education camps are organised biennially as an extension of the curriculum.

The school offers a high standard of teaching staff who are multi-skilled and dedicated. Some pupils leave at the completion of grade 10, moving on to years 11 & 12 (in Launceston) and then university. Others remain on the island to undertake traineeships and/or continue the family business.

## **Telecommunications**

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

In general, mobile phones will not work in the region except CDMA phones which do.

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

Most locals use UHF radios in their cars, on their boats, and on their properties.

## **Health**

Flinders Island is well serviced by a fully equipped Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC), with Royal Flying Doctor Service for emergencies.

A resident doctor (with surgery hours) services the community, with the surgery being open 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) and appointments made for other times.

There are 4 high-care beds, 4 low-care beds and 5 acute care beds for people who are sick but do not require further treatment in Launceston.

Specialists visit the island regularly to provide services not provided by the resident doctor, these include.

- Dentist
- Podiatrist
- Social Worker
- Osteopath
- Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Skin Specialist
- Gynaecologist

To contact the Flinders Island MPC phone: (03) 6359 2122

## **Other Island Services**

### **Parks and Wildlife**

The main responsibility of Parks and Wildlife in this region is to ‘*manage all the natural and cultural resources of the Furneaux Islands.*’

They are also involved in animal rescue and are responsible for some of our local heritage sites.

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

The Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for policing the wild life regions.

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

### **Police**

Water- and land-based police service the Flinders region.

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

### **Fire Brigade**

There are 6 local volunteer fire brigades.

### **Ambulance**

The Multi-Purpose Centre is serviced by two ambulances, which are run by volunteers on a roster basis.

### **Electricity**

Our electricity is supplied by 4 diesel generators, which are supplemented by 2 wind-powered generators.

### **Churches**

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

### **Library**

The State Library of Tasmania maintains a well-stocked library at Whitemark with opening hours being 1.00pm to 5.00pm on Monday and 2.00pm to 6.00pm Wednesdays and Fridays.

### **Veterinary Services**

The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) have a resident veterinary officer who also provides a private clinical service; this service is located at Lagoon Road, Whitemark in the DPIWE building.

## Things to do and places to see

### **Furneaux Museum**

The Furneaux Museum is located at Emita.

From the end of December to the middle of February the museum is open every afternoon. For the remainder of the year it opens on weekends but arrangements can be made for it to open at other times.

The museum comprises of a complex of 7 buildings containing over 6000 items, the earliest being the anchor of the Sydney Cove, a merchant ship, that was wrecked in these waters close to Preservation and Rum Islands. The survivors took shelter on Preservation and the rum from the ship was stored on Rum Island, hence their names.

The museum contains a wealth of information and artefacts from the history of the Furneaux group of islands including the old Whitemark cells, the old telephone exchange and a fully restored 1930's Chrysler radio.

The Furneaux Historical Research Association has many exhibits including the history of the soldier settlement and a replica of a traditional mutton birding shed.

Volunteers run the museum and admission is by donation.

You can contact the museum for more information on the following:

Phone: (03) 6359 2010  
Fax: (03) 6359 2026  
Email: [furneaux@tasmail.com](mailto:furneaux@tasmail.com)

## **Patriarchs Wildlife Sanctuary**

Approximately 30km from Whitemark, this sanctuary is a small privately owned conservation area located on the east coast of Flinders Island. It is in an isolated area but can be accessed via a gravel road and is open to the public all year round.

This conservation area is a bird banding station and is on the main flight path for the northern migratory waders, over ninety species of birds, some rare, have been recorded.

It is also a great place to see some of the local wildlife up close. There are kangaroos, ducks, peacocks, and even the rare Cape Barren Goose who will allow you to hand feed them. Special food is supplied and located just inside the door of the study centre.

The Patriarch Wildlife Trust offers accommodation at the sanctuary. Basic facilities are provided with in the A-frame study centre and it is set against a delightful granite mountain backdrop.

The centre offers bunk style sleeping for up to fifteen people, with basic kitchen, toilet and shower facilities provided. Guests are responsible for supplying their own bedding and food.

There is no set charge for the use of these facilities but donations are appreciated as the centre is run on a very small budget. Volunteers do the majority of work.

This area boasts magnificent scenery, with granite hills, beaches, flowering heath, fresh- and salt-water swamps and lagoons, and an estuary.

You can contact the Patriarch wild life trust by mail, send your enquiries to the following address:

Patriarch Wildlife Trust  
PO Box 4  
Whitemark  
Flinders Island  
TAS 7255

## **Wybalenna**

This is one of our most historic sites, especially in relation to aboriginals and the Furneaux group. The graveyard contains unmarked aboriginal graves along with graves of some of the first European settlers. This place is a must for history lovers.

## **Short Tailed Shearwater**

The Short Tailed Shearwater, more commonly known as the Mutton-Bird is a member of a group of 100 medium to large sea birds in the family Procellariidae.

Their beak is hooked on the end to allow them to hold prey, the chicks produce large amounts of oil in their stomach which is high in energy. The adult birds have a wing span of about 1 metre and weigh about 500 grams. They have webbed feet and their legs are placed well back on the body, while their wings are long and narrow for efficient high-speed gliding.

Eighteen million of these amazing birds arrive in Tasmania every year with their largest colony (over 3 million burrows) being on Babel Island.

The migratory path of these birds is hard to define as they do not come ashore during their migration, but it has been proven that they travel about 15,000 kilometres in each direction (north and south) annually.

The breeding period for these birds is September through to April; they breed in burrows that are about 1 metre long. In November, after spending the last couple of months meeting up with their mate and tidying up their burrow, the mutton birds leave the colony for a short time to feed before returning to lay a single egg.

The chicks hatch in late January with both parents participating in its feeding and care.

The parents leave the down covered chicks in early April and the chicks do not eat again until early May, so they rapidly lose weight as they acquire their flight feathers. 2-3 weeks after the parents have left the fledglings will begin their first migratory flight unassisted by experienced birds.

The average life span of these birds is 15-19 years with some living to 38.

Local operators run evening boat trips to watch the flight of the Mutton-Birds during certain months of the year.

There is also a viewing platform located at Port Davies where you can watch the birds fly at dusk.

## **Bush Walking**

The Furneaux group sports some of the most beautiful and exciting coastline to be found in Australia.

The mountains, in particular Mount Strzelecki, are spectacular with great granite cliffs, rocky ridges, distinctive summits, and forests running down to sandy beaches.

You will also find, particularly on the eastern side, heath lands, wetlands and lagoons.

There are walks to suit everybody from two-hour strolls to extended camping treks such as the Cape Barren circuit.

If planning a walking holiday to Flinders Island an important person to contact is our local Parks and Wildlife Ranger. You can contact him on the following:

Phone: (03) 6359 2217

Fax: (03) 6359 2210

Local operators can provide you with a guide or with transport to the outer islands if required.

As most bush walkers will be aware minimum environmental impact is as important in the Furneaux region as it is anywhere else. We advise that ours is often an extremely fragile environment and ask that you please stick to the walking tracks.

In addition there is a Cinnamon Fungus problem on parts of Flinders Island which is easily spread to other areas by the transfer of soil, this can be avoided by sticking to the middle of the track and, preferably, walking when it is dry.

It is important for walkers to remember that drinking water in this region can be scarce. There are few free-flowing creeks or other sources, so please carry enough water with you or arrange water drops as the water you may find is not safe to drink with out boiling it first.

The unquestioned highlight of walking in this region would be the walk to the top of Strzelecki and back. Allow 5 hours return for this trip of medium difficulty.

## **Bird Watching**

Flinders Island and the Furneaux region are a bird watcher's paradise with over 120 species listed.

These include some endangered and rare birds such as the Cape Barren Goose, the second rarest waterfowl in the world, and the endangered Forty-Spotted Pardalotte.

## **Tours**

There are many tour operators in this region; 4WD tours, bus tours and boat charters.

All can provide you with a guided tour to this region with the added bonus of local knowledge and interpretation of the landscape and its features.

Most operators are happy to provide meals if required.

## **Scenic Flights**

Scenic flights around the Furneaux Islands can be arranged through a number of charter operators

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## **Gem Fossicking**

Flinders Island is home to the beautiful Killiecrankie Diamond.

This 'diamond' is actually a type of topaz commonly found with tin, feldspar and quartz.

Waterworn pebbles of this topaz are found in the alluvial deposits of Tanners Bay and Killiecrankie Bay on Flinders Island. The best places to look for these beautiful diamonds are Mines Creek and Diamond Creek.

Killiecrankie diamonds can occur in a wide range of colours and the ones found on Flinders Island are clear, ice blue and pink gold.

In comparison with quartz they are heavier, harder, smoother and colder to touch.

Topaz is the birthstone for November and the gem for the 16<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Legends have it that topaz has the power to protect the wearer from illness and accidents.

You are welcome to come and fossick for your own 'diamond' but if you don't have any luck don't despair, the Killiecrankie Store has a wide selection of stones and jewellery for sale, they also have a store in Whitemark.

The Gem and Information shop also has examples of these gems for sale.



## Flinders Island Ecology Trail

The ecology trail is a network of five interesting locations in different regions of the island.

At each site you will learn something new about the birds, animals, plants, and landforms of this region.

All these sights can be visited in one day but we suggest that you do it over a couple of days taking in some sightseeing of other areas along the way.

All these sites are located at the end of gravel roads and you will find signs to indicate the turn-offs from the main sealed roads.

1. **Walker's Lookout** – From this high peak in the Darling Range, you'll enjoy a 360° panorama. Signs point out all the land marks, from the Sister Islands in the far north to Mt Munro on Cape Barren Island in the south.
2. **The Bluff** – Chestnut teal and other water birds inhabit this tidal salt marsh, which is a pleasant beach walk from Whitemark. There is a spectacular view to Mt Strzelecki.
3. **North East River** – This tidal estuary is an important fish nursery and seabird habitat. Take time to explore a rock pool on the granite bluffs at Holloway Point.
4. **Patriarch Inlet** – Like all Furneaux Islands wetlands, this is an important food source for migratory wading birds from the Northern Hemisphere.
5. **Cameron Inlet** – This is a breeding ground for black swan and duck populations. Take time to walk on the remote and expansive beach.

The figures below will give you a guide to the distance that this trail covers and the time you will need to allocate.

Whitemark to Walkers Lookout	12km	20 minutes
Walkers Lookout to The Bluff	12km	25 minutes
The Bluff to North East River	53km	50 minutes
North East River to Patriarch Inlet	69km	60 minutes
Patriarch Inlet to Cameron Inlet	31km	40 minutes
Cameron Inlet to Whitemark	37km	45 minutes

Please take care of this beautiful island and its delicate environment by; driving only on formed roads and tracks, walk only on tracks, light no fires and leave no rubbish.

### What to take:

- A full tank of petrol
- Map, camera, binoculars
- Lunch and a drink as there are no shops or drinking water at these sites.

## **Boat Diving and Fishing Trips**

There are several operators that run charter boats out of Flinders Island.

They can take you diving, fishing or sightseeing depending on your requirements.

There are number of shipwrecks in the waters surrounding the Furneaux Islands. These wrecks make for fantastic diving, but please remember there are strict laws prohibiting the removal of artefacts from shipwrecks in Australia

These waters also provide great fishing with flat head, salmon, snapper, and many other species available in Bass Strait and off the beach, or head out to the continental shelf to try your hand at catching some tuna and marlin.

I have included brochures on some of these operators so you can see what they have to offer.

## **Beachcombing**

This region provides a wonderful place for the beachcomber with beautiful shells and many hidden treasures.

One of the shells you may be lucky enough to find is the Paper Nautilus (*Argonauta Nodosa*). These much sought after shells are actually a thin-walled egg case secreted by the female Argonauta octopus.

Famed for over 2000 years as “graceful sailors in boats of shell”, the Paper Nautilus octopus is among the most spectacular inhabitants of the pelagic realm.

Once washed ashore, Paper Nautilus shells become a prize sought by man and seagull. Visitors, locals and birds all flock to the beaches of Flinders Island in search of this rare treasure.

People want the shells intact, while seagulls go straight through the sides to get at any eggs that may remain inside. So if you want your own shell, you have to get up before dawn and start combing the beaches of Flinders Island.

Legend has it that these shells wash up in large numbers every seven years on the West Coast beaches of Flinders Island between March and the end of June.

In truth a few shells will wash up every year with them occurring in large numbers every 5 – 10 years.

If you are unable to find one yourself then the Killiecrankie stores at Killiecrankie and Whitemark have them for sale, as does the CWA.

## Facilities

### Public Toilets

- Lady Barron
- Yellow Beach
- Trousers Point
- Whitemark
- Lillies Beach
- Allports Beach
- Killiecrankie
- North East River

### BBQ Facilities

- Lady Barron
- Yellow Beach
- Badger Corner
- Trousers Point (gas)
- Whitemark
- Sawyers Bay
- Lillies Beach
- Allports Beach
- Killiecrankie
- Palana
- North East River

### Beaches With Easy Access

- Whitemark Beach
- Sawyers Bay
- Emita
- Allports
- Lillies Beach
- West End
- Killiecrankie Bay
- Palana
- North East River
- Yellow Beach
- Gunters Bay – Lady Barron
- Badger Corner
- Trousers Point
- Fotheringate Bay

### Shower And Washing Facilities (plus laundry)

Furneaux Aquaculture factory at Lady Barron (near wharf)

### Camping Areas

- Trousers Point  
Barbecue (gas and wood),  
Toilets, Rain water tanks
- North East River  
Toilet  
Barbecue (wood)
- Allports – Barbecue  
(wood)  
Toilet
- Yellow Beach  
Barbecue (wood)  
Toilet
- Patriarchs – A Frame  
accommodation

## Annual Events

- Easter is when the **Three Peaks Race** reaches Flinders Island with the runners from each boat running from Lady Barron to the top of Mt Strzelecki and back. There are stalls of local produce on the approach to the wharf, and a lolly scramble for the kids.
- The annual **fishing competition** is held every year around February/March and is a great community event. There are several categories with prizes being awarded for each category.
- The middle of October sees the annual event of the **Flinders Island Show**, with both local and off-island exhibitors. For more information on this event please contact the show secretary Lois Ireland on (03) 6359 2008
- The **Flinders Island Annual Golf Tournament** held on the June long weekend attracts golfers from all over Australia.
- The **Emita Sports** are held every year in early January. This is a fun filled day for the whole family followed by a dance in the hall at the Emita Sports Ground that evening.

## Interesting Facts

### Australia's Oldest Dunny is in Bass Strait

The longdrop toilet at Wybalenna (Flinders Island) was originally dug in the 1830's and is reputed to be the oldest toilet in the country that is still in use today.

### Rare Birds

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

### Tallest Lighthouse

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

### Soldier Settlers

**2001 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the soldier settlement of Flinders Island. The soldier settlement occurred when the government opened Crown Land in 1951 on Flinders Island for farming and made that land available to soldiers of war. The government first called for interest in this programme in 1949, and work began in the December of 1951.**

## Publications of Interest

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
Flinders Island	Jean Edgecombe
Flinders Island & Eastern Bass Strait	Jean Edgecombe
Tasmania's Offshore Islands, Seabirds & Other Natural Features	Nigel Brothers
One Hundred Islands: The Flora of the Outer Furneaux	Stephen Harris, Alex Buchanan, Amy Connolly
Flight of the Shearwater	Dr Vincent Serventy
A Walking Guide to Flinders Island & Cape Barren Island	Mrs Doreen Lovegrove, Mr Steve Summers
The Furneaux Ecological Note Book	Area Marketing & Development Office (Flinders Council), Vicki Mills

All these publications are available from Flinders Island retail outlets as well as leading book shops.

## Shops and Services

**Area Marketing & Development Office** located at Airport House, Airport Whitemark can provide you with information and support whether you are planning a holiday or wishing to start a business.  
Ph (03) 6359 2380

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

**Walkers Supermarket & Garage** sells a wide range of groceries, fresh foods, meat and delicatessen items. Petrol and automotive products are also available.  
Located at Patrick Street, Whitemark they are open 9.00am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 12.00 noon on Saturdays, they also open on Sundays from 1.00pm to 5.00pm during the summer months. EFTPOS facilities are available.  
Ph. (03) 6359 2010

**Patterson's Supermarket** is located at James Street, Lady Barron and is also a news agent and post office agency; they can also supply you with petrol.  
Opening hours are 9.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12 noon Saturday and 1.00pm to 5.00pm on Sunday.  
Ph. (03) 6359 3503

**Flinders Island Bakery** located on Lagoon Road, Whitemark sells bread and cakes as well as pizzas on Friday nights. Opening hours are 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12.00 noon every Saturday during summer and every second Saturday during winter.  
Ph. (03) 6359 2105

**Post Office** located at Patrick Street, Whitemark has a full range of postal services. A full range of stationery, greeting cards and computer disks is also available. Opening hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.  
Ph. (03) 6359 2020

**Furneaux Gallery** is located at Robert Street Whitemark. Open during the summer and autumn months 7 days a week it has paintings and drawings by local and interstate artists, pottery and jewellery. Look for the sign opposite Bowmans Corner.

**Sweet Surprises** is located at Lagoon Road, Whitemark. Takeaway or eat-in lunches, snacks, snack foods and drinks. Opening hours are 8.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and every second Saturday during winter and every Saturday during summer.  
Ph. (03) 6359 2138

**Killiecrankie Enterprises** located at 527 Killiecrankie Road and Patrick Street Whitemark they have takeaways (at the Killiecrankie store only), groceries, Killiecrankie Diamonds, souvenirs and crayfish by advance order. Opening hours

9.00am to 5.00pm every day except Christmas Day at Killiecrankie and 10.00am to 5.00pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Whitemark.

**Flinders Island Butcher Shop** located at Robert Street, Whitemark stocks local produce from Flinders Island Quality Meats. Opening hours are 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and, during the summer months, Saturday mornings from 9.00am to 12.00 noon.

**Gaffa's Fruit & Vegetables** located at Robert Street, Whitemark they have videos for hire, petrol, gas bottles and serve as our local greengrocer. Opening hours are 9.00am to 5.30pm and 9.00am to 12.00 noon on Saturday.  
Ph. (03) 6359 2276

**Webster Ltd** located at Lagoon Road, Whitemark stock rural supplies, hardware and building supplies. Opening hours are 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 12.00 noon on Saturday.  
Ph. (03) 6359 2141

**Roberts Ltd and fishing gear** are our local real estate and stock agent who also stock rural supplies.  
Opening hours are 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.  
Ph. (03) 6359 2059

**The Gem Shop** located at Patrick Street, Whitemark can supply you with Killiecrankie Diamonds, gemstones and tourist information. Opening hours are 8.45am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.45am to 12.00 noon on Saturdays (winter months), 8.30am to 5.00pm daily (summer months).

**Interstate Hotel** located at Patrick Street, Whitemark supply accommodation and counter meals in a pub atmosphere, with TAB facilities available. Opening hours are 10.00am to 10.00pm Monday to Thursday, 10.00am to 12.00am Friday and Saturday, and 1.00pm to 6.00pm on Sundays. Lunches are available Monday to Friday, evening meals are available every day but Sunday, and there are no meals on Sundays.  
Ph. (03) 6359 2114

**Flinders Island Sports Club** located on The Esplanade at Whitemark is available for golf and bowls. It has Tas Keno and EFTPOS facilities available, with a restaurant for counter meals and special functions.  
Sports Club Ph. (03) 6359 2070  
Restaurant Ph. (03) 6359 2220

Flinders Island Fleece is manufactured from 23 and 24-micron Merino wools grown at "Killarney", Lackrana. The wools are well nourished and soft yarns are produced in 26 different shades. Home-based knitters take pride in producing high quality garments. For opening hours Ph. (03) 6359 6509

**Carnsdale Crafts** located at 1410 Fairhaven Road manufacture products from 100% Merino natural fleece. It is local grown wool, which is hand spun, knitted or felted. They also provide spinning and felting workshops. For opening hours  
Ph. (03) 6359 9718

**Banking Facilities** - the Post Office provides a full GiroPost and B-Pay service to most major institutions. There is a Westpac agency on the island located in the Post Office at Whitemark. There are a number of EFTPOS facilities available around the island.

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

**Dianne Baldwin**  
**Area Marketing & Development Office**  
PO Box 40  
Whitemark  
Flinders Island  
TAS 7255

**Ph.** (03) 6359 2380  
**Fax.** (03) 6359 2018  
**Email** [amdo@bigpond.com](mailto:amdo@bigpond.com)

**You can also visit the following web sites:**

[www.flindersislandonline.com.au](http://www.flindersislandonline.com.au)  
[www.flinders.tco.asn.au](http://www.flinders.tco.asn.au)  
[www.focusonflinders.com.au](http://www.focusonflinders.com.au)