

## Mayor on Air – April 2016



It should be noted that listeners/callers to Mayor on Air should still lodge their request/query by contacting Council. People can call 64 714 700, email [wcc@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:wcc@westcoast.tas.gov.au), lodge a request from Council's website ([www.westcoast.tas.gov.au](http://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au)) where's there a service request link on the homepage, or call into the Office in Queenstown.

**This is the preferred method.**

By only calling into Mayor on Air Council doesn't obtain contact details and therefore can't follow-up with updates or for more information.

### Response on Caller queries from Mayor on Air 21 April 2016

- 1. Is WCC looking at getting gravel for the top section of the Queenstown Cemetery? Grass is overgrown. This would make it easier access to the gravesites.**

The gravel placed at the cemetery thus far was an initiative of a past "work for the dole" program. Council at this stage do not have any plans to continue with the project, however we will continue to maintain the grassed area as per our current maintenance schedule

- 2. The Strahan Visitor Centre was designed to be run on a volunteer basis and is now funded by the WCC – is the ratepayers' money being used effectively or is this a white elephant?**

The West Coast Visitor Information Centre opened in November 1992 and was operated by a number of entities, including National Parks and Forestry, and later a private individual, before closing for a short time. Due to business demand for the Centre to re-open it was subsequently taken over by West Coast Council and staffed by Council employees.

The Centre has 75,000 people come through the doors annually and staff are able to provide valuable information on all the towns in the West Coast region and indeed on all areas of Tasmania. The Centre is a fully accredited Visitor Centre with annual Accreditation Audits and as such is allowed to take bookings for businesses in the area, and beyond. The Centre provides a vital service for tourists and local business owners alike and provides employment for local residents. A Visitor Centre is an integral facility in any regional area, and the West Coast Visitor Information Centre is run well by the staff involved and is a member of the Tasmanian Visitor Information Network and has won awards for the design, fulfilment of purpose and professionalism of the West Coast Council staff employed there.

For the abovementioned reasons Council considers the funding of the Centre to be an appropriate use of rate payer's money. The operation by Council of the Centre aligns with the *West Coast Community Plan 2025* in that it provides appropriate infrastructure and services to support tourism, with Council actively and continually reviewing the operations of the Centre to ensure best practice and high productivity levels are maintained.



- 3. Was wondering how the council could say that the crows football club have to lease the clubrooms when it is actually owned by the footy club as it was purchased by the Lyell Gormanston football club from the state government when the old clubrooms was destroyed by fire all work was done by the footy club not council maybe you should contact the department of crown land before you go any further as this building belongs to the footy club. There is a clause that if football was to fold in the town then the council would be the principle care taker of the building. or maybe the premier of the day Robin Gray .there is an agreement that the three party have( footy club ,council, crown land dep).this matter is very important to a lot of west coast and former west coast people as a lot of hard work was involved in the relocation and set up of the rooms maybe the council should call a public meeting regarding this matter**
- Crown Land Services transferred the Queenstown Recreation Ground to Council in 2011 which included all buildings. There is no evidence of a current agreement with the Council, Crown Lands Services and the football club.

The football committee approached Council with concerns regarding buildings located at the grounds. Following inspections it has been determined that some buildings are unsafe and Council has determined to budget for the removal costs, and to undertake works on other buildings to bring them to a standard suitable for using.

In order for Council to facilitate any works there needs to be formal leases between the two parties. Council is currently working with the Committee to overcome the current issues. The committee have been advised to update their members on the current situation with the ground.

- 4. Why has the green waste area been closed at the Strahan refuse site? Elderly cannot lift grass clippings into bins.**
- The old greens waste area was blocked off to prevent the spread of noxious weeds in the area and to improve health and safety for users of the facility. The current bin which has been provided in recent years to collect greens waste has been installed at the specified height for ease of use.
- 5. Is there any follow-up on the European Wasp Eradication?**
- Council lodged a request with Biosecurity Tasmania who advised that European Wasps fall outside their jurisdiction as an established pest in Tasmania. The Department does provide core information on wasps and their management on their website and Council has shared this information on their Facebook page and to concerned residents who have contacted Council directly. Landholders have responsibility, though no legal requirement, for managing wasps on their properties. We do recommend the use of qualified pest controllers especially in private or urban situations.
- 6. Is there any plans to fix the Frank Long Memorial Park in Zeehan – needs maintenance done?**
- This was a potential “work for the dole” initiative however Council at this stage do not have any plans to progress with the project.