

Matthew Flinders College visit to Norfolk Island

At the beginning of September, Norfolk was visited by a school group from the Matthew Flinders Anglican College in Buderim. The group consisted of 37 year 10 students aged 14-16, and 3 teachers. Baunti Escapes facilitated the visit and their itinerary was packed full of activities. Tours, bushwalks and environmental volunteering were just some of the things they experienced.

The college offered up their time and energy to contribute in some way to a form of 'environmental custodianship', which both Norfolk Island Regional Council and Norfolk Island National Parks were more than happy to provide for them. During their stay the kids came out to help the 'Coral Berry Crusaders' in 100 Acre Reserve for a few hours. They not only helped with weeding but also had a tour of the reserve and were shown the environmental and

cultural significance of the reserve.

The following day they volunteered again to help plant out some native trees at Puppies Point. In the fenced area around the new toilet block they learnt about some of the species that are endemic to Norfolk and just how close some of them have come to extinction. Some of the kids had never dug a hole, planted a tree or "driven a wheelbarrow" before and they took to it with great excitement and vigour. The area was then completely mulched (sorry Uncle Barley) and is looking very healthy and ready to take on the hot Summer. National Parks also worked with the College to revegetate a



large area at Red Road with native trees from the nursery.

Thank you to the kids and teachers from Matthew Flinders for choosing Norfolk Island for their visit, and to Baunti Escapes, Rachel Nebauer and the other community members that made their stay complete.

Lilli-unna King

Environmental Project Officer
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Before, during and after of the freshly planted toilet block at Puppies Point