

2022 COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS



Aerial view of the Ball Bay planting site with flood

What a wonderfully wet start we've had to 2022! Not only are the ducks happy and our tanks overflowing, but all the native plants that we planted last year are thriving as well.

As a result of unwavering community support, we were able to plant out a total of **1,157** native plants into five different reserves in 2021. All of the sites are looking great, Ball Bay in particular!

As these planting sites mature, their value and functionality will grow. Habitat creation, increased diversity and resilience of ecosystems, as well as soil stabilisation and water table replenishment are just some of the benefits that we will begin to enjoy as a result of this revegetation work.

The recent rain has really highlighted the importance of local revegetation work. I'm sure everyone had a chance to see the vast amounts

of silt that washed off all sides of Norfolk, creating a big muddy ring around the island that lasted for days.

To a point, this is a natural process. However, continued revegetation will greatly assist in the stabilisation of the degraded hillsides and valley floors, as well as decreasing the rapid runoff that occurs during heavy rain. This will result in much less silt and nutrient runoff, (which in turn helps to maintain reef and marine health), as well as allowing time for the water to soak in properly and replenish the water table.

With continued co-operation between the Norfolk Island Regional Council and the Norfolk Island National Park,



Aerial view of silt runoff into Ball Bay

as well as the enthusiastic support of the community, Norfolk's continued environmental health and resilience is very attainable.

To continue this great work, for the 2022 planting season I'd like to invite the community to come along and assist in the planting of about **1,800** native plants into 6 different reserves.

Two-Chimneys, Bumboras, Cockpit and Ball Bay will see us again this year, as well as Anson Bay and Selwyn Reserve too. Weather depending, plantings should commence in mid-autumn and continue through to mid-winter.



The planting team at Cockpit last year!

With the recent release of the vegetation mapping for Norfolk Island, we can accurately recreate the specific vegetation types that existed in these different reserves pre-1750. The thorough research carried out by Naomi Christian and Kevin Mills has provided us with an invaluable tool for preserving and re-creating each specific ecosystem and assisting the species that live within these unique environments.

Stay tuned for the announcement of dates as we move into the cooler months. It was so amazing to see everyone that came together last year for the planting days, and I look forward to seeing you all again this year!

Lilli-unna King
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER
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