

MEDIA RELEASE

Argentine Ant Eradication Program Update

Norfolk Island Regional Council staff and contractors are about to commence ground baiting in zone 12 which includes Bumboras and Point Ross (Crystal Pool) Reserves. Please keep an eye out for signage and radio announcements for when this is occurring in the reserves. The team will also continue to undertake ground baiting in areas that have already been treated but small infestations persist. See map below.

The program has never looked better but as a community we need to continue to be vigilant. Even if the area has been treated it is not necessarily completely free of Argentine Ants. It can take several treatments to completely eradicate them from an area. An eradicated area needs to be free from ants for at least two years with regular monitoring. If you live or work in these areas please remember that Argentine ants can still be there. Do not move items such as firewood, green waste, timber, soil, plants, cuttings, fruit and vegetables, car wrecks and machinery without checking for ants and contacting the team.

The detector dog Sunny has started working out in the field soon. If you see Sunny out, please do not interrupt her training or work. Finding Argentine ants needs to be the most fun/rewarding thing in her life.

Please remember to contact Customer Care on 22244 if you think you have found Argentine Ants or if you have any questions and they will put you in contact with the Argentine Ant Eradication Program staff. Community support of the program and its methods are critical for eradication to be achieved and we thank you for your ongoing cooperation.

Tara Patel
TEAM LEADER BIODIVERSITY
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