

Commonwealth funding to boost key infrastructure and essential services for Norfolk

Norfolk Island will receive significant funding investment from the Commonwealth as announced in a joint statement by Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, The Honourable Nola Marino MP and Senator for the ACT, the Honourable Zed Seselja late last month.

The committed funding of almost \$12 million from the Federal Budget, will see the prioritisation of critical fit-for-purpose infrastructure and essential service delivery support for Norfolk Island. Council will work closely with the Commonwealth to design and develop a new wastewater treatment plant to sustain the sewer network, upgrade infrastructure to support containerised freight, and improve the aging electricity network to provide faster internet . . . *Continued page 2*



IN THIS EDITION

- Funding boost
- Environmental Reports
- Glass Crusher
- New history at the Museum
- For the love of books
- Water resources control plan #2
- Reaching new heights at the Liquor Bond
- Fire safety
- Sydney Writers Festival
- Upcoming Events, Council Meetings and Minutes



Continued. . .
for the delivery of education and healthcare services.

Further funding has been provided for the Argentine Ant eradication program, biosecurity, and tourism marketing over the coming years.

"These measures will directly support local employment and the tourism industry, which is central to the Norfolk Island economy," Minister Marino said.

Council has committed to working collaboratively with the Department on these initiatives, ensuring strong governance arrangements are in place with the continual focus of moving towards a sustainable future for Norfolk Island.

Norfolk Island Administrator, Mike Colreavy is pleased to announce this significant investment for our community saying, "During my years in Local Government, I have rarely seen this level of funding and commitment from a regulator, which to me, highlights two significant changes here on Norfolk Island. Firstly, it highlights the strong relationship that now exists between Council and the Department. And secondly, it now shows the commitment by the Assistant Minister and her Department to address the significant concerns raised from both the External Audit Findings and the Public Inquiry."

Council now is on the Transition to Sustainability (TtoS) because of this relationship.

Council will receive the following funding amounts to deliver key projects over the next three to four years:



\$5.3M to improve the electricity network



\$2.8M over four years to continue the Argentine Ant program



\$1.8M for design & costing for a new wastewater treatment plant



\$800K for shipping container handling equipment



\$1.2M for tourism marketing over three years

We thank the Assistant Minister and her Department for this significant support, as this will now provide significant change for Council operations to work towards a sustainable future for the entire Island and the community.

Read article



Read the full media release from Minister Marino here

State of the Environment Report and Environmental Assessment Summary feedback

THE NORFOLK ISLAND
STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
REPORT 2016/17 - 2020/21

AND
NORFOLK ISLAND
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT
SUMMARY REPORT



Planning for a sustainable future for our community needs to be informed by accurate information. Environmental data helps to identify measures to protect Norfolk Island's endemic and agricultural environment. Council, with support from multiple island businesses and government agencies, has collected environmental data from the past six years. This has been presented in the **State of the Environment Report 2016/17-2020/21 (SoE)**.

Because of our Island's remote location and isolation, the community has traditionally relied, almost exclusively, on its natural resources to support the human population. For this reason, it is vitally important to understand the environmental health of the island, and the resources that are extracted or generated from the land and sea, so that the right decisions can be made for the future. A **summary document of the SoE Report**, along with the **Environmental Assessment** prepared by Monash University and University of Newcastle in late 2021, is now

available on the NIRC website. In particular, Council would like your comment on the recommendations outlined in the Environmental Assessment to help inform future operations. Please contact us at regionalcouncil@nirc.gov.nf to share your thoughts by 15th May.

Glass crusher a smashing resource

Our three glass crushing machines are now fully operational. This is another step in the right direction towards a sustainable future, and creating a circular economy for our Island.

We ask that customers drop their glass bottles and other glass containers in one of the large plastic containers located on the right-hand side of the drive-thru area at the Waste Management Centre, instead of the existing chute.

While we hope to have a more efficient process in the future, based on current funding, we are using Expleco GLSand single-bottle crushing machines. This means that bottles and containers must be fed into the machine one at a time.

The three machines produce a sand product that is ideal for pipe bedding and backfill material, and can also be used in concrete, rendering and tank pads, as well as many other applications.

This useable sand product is now available from the Waste Management Centre for community members to purchase and use on their own property. The cost to purchase this recycled sand product is \$40 per 200kg - it's great to see we have already had customers purchase and use this product.

We expect to be producing more product, with different grades of sand, in the near future, particularly with the elimination of solid waste disposal at Headstone.



For the love of books!

How magnificent it was to see so many children attend the Library's first ever school holiday program. And, how lucky we are as a community, to have our very own Island authors give up their time to share their books with us.

It was pure joy to hear the adventures of 'Lob and Bot' in Susan Prior's books about her two daughters growing up on Norfolk Island.

Sarah Robinson read 'Teraura the White Tern' and shared her talent to help us make our own nature-based illustrations, completely constructed using the environment around us. We think your nature-inspired artworks are beautiful!

Mitti the duck of Watermill Dam made a special appearance alongside author Annie Kenny who kindly read the story about how Mitti was rescued and is now cared for by Max. We learnt that Mitti's favourite food is green peas and she loves swimming at Emily Bay.

We sincerely thank Susan, Sarah, Annie and Mitti for joining us at the library this school holidays, sharing their books with us and for instilling the importance of literature in our daily lives.

Magical art from Banyan Park

We are delighted to share with you the artwork created by children at Banyan Park. The preschool students read one of our Library books 'Little Sap - The Magical Story of a Forest Family', and were inspired to create an artwork depicting the story. A very special thank you to the students for allowing us to display their artwork in the children's section of the Library. If you get a chance, come down and take a look!



Something Old. Something New

Everyone will have driven past the Royal Engineers Office (REO) which stands next to the Kingston pier, but have you ever taken a close look at the portico pillars? Did you know only one is an original from the convict era?

Following an accident in the early 1980s, the left pillar was removed and replaced with a Sydney sandstone replica. If you visit the Commissariat Store Museum, you can view two fragments (NIM19781) of the original stone. The two pieces are made from massive hand-carved calcarenite, stone local to Norfolk Island and quarried by convicts from around Nepean Island and Cemetery Bay. Both pieces from the REO building were carved only 170 years ago; young, compared to other buildings in the Kingston precinct given the REO was a rather late addition to the penal settlement in 1850. The Museum pieces consist of the very top piece and upper section of the pillar. There is still a missing segment from the bottom.

The new acquisitions we are highlighting come from the Robert Varman Collection (NIM24378) as they depict the same pillar! Dr Robert Varman worked as the archaeologist down at Kingston from 1981-1990 and in partnership with local Norfolk Islanders, was responsible for the excavation of the majority of the artefacts on show at the Commissariat Store. His valuable photography collection is part of the Norfolk Island Museum Trust and includes photos from his 1982 trip to the Island. He documented both the damage and restoration work being completed on the REO forty years ago. His images provide important context to the stone pillar in the museum but also relate to the present stabilisation project that has just concluded.

Image 1 shows the regular circular holes drilled into the lower part of the building, an intentional intervention at the time which involved silicone being poured into the holes to try and damp proof the building and prevent moisture from entering. **Image 2** shows the roof when it still had its original lathe and plaster, which was the type of ceiling typical during the convict era. These aspects of the building are not currently visible following the 1980s restoration. **Image 3** shows the front entrance in 1982 (Robert Varman, NIMT Collection). **Image 4** shows a close-up of the pillar now retired and on display in the Commissariat Store. **Image 5** (courtesy of James McAuley) shows the replacement capitol marked with '2021' to show clearly it's a replacement piece.

Thank you to the many people who contributed to this post including Russell Francis, Tom Sapienza and stone mason James McAuley.

If you'd like to see the pieces of the REO damaged pillar please stop by the Commissariat Store Museum during opening hours.

Not all Varman's photos are yet catalogued but if you're interested in viewing them please contact the museum on 23788 or info@museums.gov.nf



1



2



3



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5

Revised water resources development control plan

Minimum requirements for roof catchment and water storage have changed for future developments on Island. The reason for these changes is to ensure future water security and improve groundwater and surface water quality. Both focus points will enable a sustainable future for our community, and that's why it's important to start making changes now.

The updated Development Control Plan can be found in the links in this media release on our website, along with access to the CSIRO Rain Water Tank Simulator App. If you have any questions, please contact us at regionalcouncil@nirc.gov.nf



Safety at the Liquor Bond goes to the next level

Last week at The Liquor Bond, two team members applied their absolute best assembly skills and built a brand-new forklift safety cage (also known as a "Man Cage").

The cage provides next level protection for the person being lifted by a forklift to access high level storage space in the warehouse facility.

It is anticipated the cage will take some getting used to, but the Workplace Health and Safety benefits are certainly significant. The new cage goes a long way to ensuring the Liquor Bond's team members can operate in a safe working environment and can return home to their loved ones unharmed at the end of their shift.

Pictured: Mick Drinan, one of the Liquor Bond Team members / assemblers trying out the new forklift cage after assembly.





Community focus on fire safety

The last few months has seen the Norfolk Island Fire Service (NIFS) assisting the Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care (NIHRAC) facility with their focus on Fire Safety.

NIHRAC in conjunction with NIFS, completed an emergency evacuation drill as part of their legislative requirement. The emergency evacuation drill was designed to test the ability of staff to evacuate patients from the Aged Care facility. The evacuation drill was a success with NIHRAC staff carrying out their roles as described and using their initiative as the evacuation drill proceeded.

The next step in the process was to complete a fire safety inspection of the facility. This has been completed and recommendations forwarded to the emergency committee for action.

To ensure the continued preparedness of personnel, NIFS is providing ongoing theoretical and practical training to NIHRAC staff in the use of fire extinguishers and the roles and duties of fire wardens.

It is a pleasure to be working with the team from NIHRAC to ensure that we are prepared should any emergency situation arise.

Sydney Writers Festival live streaming to Norfolk Island!

After the wild success of Live & Local in 2021, one of Australia's most loved forums for literature, ideas and storytelling, Sydney Writers' Festival, will live-stream its headline events from Sydney to Norfolk Island, Supper Room at Rawson Hall on Friday 20, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May.

CHANGE MY MIND



Friday 20–Sunday 22 May Live & Local

Prepare to be invigorated and engaged by conversations, debates and discussions featuring some of the world's finest writers and thinkers.

Join us for Live & Local 2022 - there's no need to register, simply turn up to the sessions of your choice.

If you have any queries, please contact Customer Care on 0100 (free call) or email customer care@nirc.gov.nf

Friday 20 May

11am-12pm

Art Spiegelman

1pm-2pm

Michelle de Kretser & Christos Tsiolkas

3pm-4pm

Steve Tolz: *Here Goes Nothing*

Saturday 21 May

3pm-4pm

Maxine Beneba Clark & Omar Musa

5pm - 6pm

The Limits of Imagination
Damon Galgut, Larissa Behrendt & Paige Clark

Sunday 22 May

3pm-4pm

Liane Moriarty & Caroline Overington

5pm - 6pm

I Was Wrong
Various Festival Guests



Community Tree Planting Days

Important Dates

Monday 25 April	Anzac Day, Public Holiday <i>Dawn Service at Emily Bay, Morning Service at Cenotaph</i>
May 1 - 6	Bounty Four's Lawn Bowls Tournament
Wednesday May 11	Government House Open Day
May 23 - 26	Castaway Pairs Golf Tournament
May 28 - June 3	Red Hatters Extravaganza (NITC)

April Council Meeting Minutes

Council meeting minutes from 6 April are now available on our website. [Click here to read the minutes.](#)

Council Ordinary Meeting Dates	4 May	7 September
	1 June	5 October
	6 July	9 November
	3 August	7 December



Council meetings are scheduled at 2pm at the Council Chambers located inside the Bicentennial Complex, Taylors Road, Burnt Pine. Meetings can also be viewed online with the live link provided on Council's Facebook page prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Everyone welcome. Please bring your own gloves, spade, water, sun protection and a friend.

Sunday 15 May - 9am Bumboras Hill (Moderate)

A coastal planting to stabilise an area that has recently been cleared of Olive and Hawaiian Holly

Sunday 29 May - 9am Anson Bay (Easy to Moderate)

A combination of coastal plantings to minimise erosion, as well as the diversification of some already vegetated areas within the reserve.



Norfolk Island Veterinary Surgery will be mustering cattle stock for tagging and worming, throughout various locations on Island during the remainder of April. **Click here to see the dates and locations of planned mustering.**



The Council Administrator Mike Colreavy, can be contacted to arrange meetings to discuss concerns, issues or general information by emailing executiveassistant@nirc.gov.nf

Contact

Address: Customer Care, 9 New Cascade Road NORFOLK ISLAND 2899
Phone: Free local call 0100 and for international callers + 6723 22244
Email: customercare@nirc.gov.nf
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm (closed on public holidays)

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