

NORF'K FUSS



The Norfolk Island Regional Council Newsletter

August 2021



(Left to right) Andrew Roach, Rael Donde, Eric Hutchinson. Rael Donde has been an active advocate for the business grants. His submission to both the Interim Administrator and Island Administrator has been the catalyst for the success of this program.

COVID-19 support for our businesses

Good news for local businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Australian Government is funding the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) to deliver a package of financial assistance for Norfolk Island businesses affected by the current COVID-19 outbreak and travel restrictions.

The current COVID-19 situation across the eastern states of mainland Australia is causing substantial disruptions to the domestic tourism sector, including on Norfolk Island. Since the

onset of COVID-19, the Australian Government has committed \$55.6 million new funding for Norfolk Island over four years from 2020-21. The new relief scheme will support our local businesses hit hard by the downturn in visitors caused by widespread lockdowns and travel restrictions.

The new support payments will be based on, and comparable to, similar programs being delivered to COVID-19 affected communities on mainland Australia. The relief package will be delivered by NIRC to businesses on Island, as we

work together to ensure tailored assistance is responsive to the current circumstances and reflects the unique circumstances of the Norfolk economy.

The Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Hon Nola Marino, has asked the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications to work with the NIRC to finalise details of the relief package for Norfolk businesses with a registered Australian Business Number (ABN). Payments will be tiered to

profitability and turnover, ensuring we are targeting businesses most in need of support.

Full eligibility criteria and further information on the application process through NIRC, including the required supporting evidence, will be released in coming days, with the scheme anticipated to commence from 20 August.

The funding will support the local economy emerge stronger and more resilient through COVID-19, and grow sustainably into the future.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf>

Safe to land

QUITE A TASK

Boral imported 42,000 tonnes aggregate (rock and sand) to the island, with strict biosecurity controls

1954 tonnes of bitumen was imported in 78 containers

1800 m³ of concrete was used in the reseal, of which, 1302 m³ was manufactured on-island

39,717 m² of topsoil was used at the sides of the runways

93 Boral staff and subcontractors worked for 123,059 hours, with no lost time for injuries

The imported desalination plant supplied 640,000 litres water for the project, which was not available on-island

Line-marking the runways required 3630 litres of paint

The project required the installation of 264 new lights and 40 km of new wiring

1746 km of grooving was required on the runway surface

Linemarking piano keys on runway 11 at Norfolk Island International Airport. (Inset) The barge bringing some of the equipment to the Island.

STORY NEXT PAGE



Fresh lime render

Trial works to address rising damp in the KAVHA heritage buildings continue with the Settlement Guard House works program.

Tony and Alan have done a great job of stripping the cement render back to the bare stone and applying a lime rich render, which contains no cement.

The traditional lime rich render allows the water that has risen from the ground to travel to the exterior of the building where the wind and sunshine will allow it to dry out. Previously the cement render and acrylic paint would trap the moisture within the building causing issues with mould, expansion of timber and decay of the timber window and doorframes within the building. While it has been a slow trial process, the results have been very successful to date.

A special mention to Tony Eales, who undertook training at the

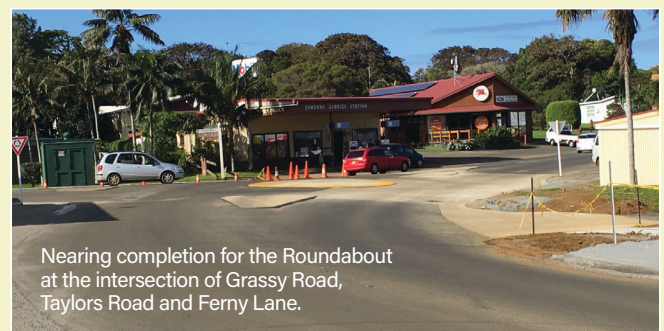
Longford Academy in Tasmania in this traditional technique. Tony has been batching his own Lime renders and mortars using local sand from Cemetery Bay and imported rock lime from New Zealand achieving very positive outcomes for the Kingston Site.



Stimulus Project work update



Final touches to the footpath at Ferry Lane in front of the Leagues Club.



Nearing completion for the Roundabout at the intersection of Grassy Road, Taylors Road and Ferry Lane.

Safe to land from P2

In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, repairs to Norfolk Island's essential airport infrastructure were successfully completed on time, and in budget.

Norfolk Island International Airport is an essential lifeline for the islanders and their economy, but by January 2018 it became clear the two runways needed resurfacing and the airport lighting needed replacing. There was a real danger that the cracked surfaces could deteriorate quickly and be declared

unsafe for landing.

After the Australian Government committed \$43 million to fund the project and the Norfolk Island Regional Council provided funds of about \$4.8 million, Cyclone Gretel and COVID-19 both hit just as the project started in March 2020. Many project activities were affected by the COVID-19 State of Emergency declared on Norfolk Island that month, specifically the travel restrictions and quarantine requirements for more than 300 contractors travelling to the island over the course of the project.

To compound the difficulties, there were no port facilities that could handle containers to bring in all the equipment and resources needed to resurface the two runways and replace the runway lighting. Council obtained permission from Australian Marine Parks to construct a temporary groyne in Ball Bay capable of taking roll-on, roll-off cargo from a barge. Because of the elements, the temporary groyne needed to be patched and repaired by an islander contractor to keep it in service. Boral were then able to import 42,000 tonnes aggregate (rock and sand), 1954 tonnes of bitumen in 78 containers and a fleet of trucks to the island.

Thanks to the coordination between the Australian Commonwealth government, Norfolk Island Regional Council and the project suppliers, Boral Resources and Aileron Edge, the repairs were completed by the end of August 2020.

For the full story and more information, please visit:
<http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf>



First RPT Air New Zealand plane on new Parking Bay 1 concrete pad.

New library in final stages

Construction of the new Library is moving toward the final stages. The majority of the exterior is now complete, and work on the interior of the building is in progress. The project remains on track for completion at the end of September. The Library has a great selection of non-fiction and fiction books as well as Norfolk Island reference material. You can visit the existing site on New Cascade Road (next to the Radio Station). The current opening hours are: Monday 10am - 1pm and 4pm - 6pm, Wednesday 10am - 1pm, Friday 1pm - 4pm, Saturday 10am - 12pm



For more information, please visit: <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf>

Supper's ready

Repairs and maintenance work to the exterior of Rawson Hall included a fresh coat of paint and a new roof. As part of the same project, maintenance inside of the Supper Room was completed. Works include the installation of floor carpet tiles and acoustic soundproofing tiles on the walls. A new room divider will allow for a more diverse range of use for the room. The stainless steel kitchen remains in place.

To book the Supper Room for your organisation or event, please contact Customer Care on free call 0100 or by emailing customercare@nirc.gov.nf



NORFOLK ISLAND EVENTS CALENDAR

7-14 August Rugby on the Rock

This bi-annual event, Rugby on the Rock welcomes teams from Australia and New Zealand to compete against Norfolk's very own "Creaky Old convicts". Open to any players over 35 years of age who still hanker to scrum, ruck and maul with their mates and to play amongst the convict ruins of beautiful Norfolk Island. A great week of games and socialising!

15-20 August NIO Classic Triples Bowls Tournament

Norfolk Island is a popular lawn bowls destination, unlike some clubs in Australia and New Zealand the Norfolk greens remain open all year round. Lawn bowlers will have triple the fun participating in the NIO Classic Triples tournament which is held annually.

21-27 August Hardy's Wine Pro Am Classic Golf Tournament

Amateur and professional golfers not only play for an attractive prize pool every August, they experience golf Norfolk Island style. The tournament is challenging yet highly friendly and social, when local players join visiting pros and amateurs to compete in the four day comp.

11-16 September Spring Ukulele Festival

The Spring Ukulele Festival is set for September. Uke players and musicians of all levels of ability are encouraged to join the Norfolk musicians in the "cultural" mix of Aussies, Kiwis & Maori singers and don't forget the added dimension of the "Bounty" Pitcairn descendants with their unique culture, Norfolk language songs and Island Dancers.

26-30 September Theatre Festival

'Theatre in Paradise' is a great week of short plays performed by amateur theatre groups from Australia, Norfolk Island and New Zealand. Every year the Norfolk Amateur Theatrical Society Inc. (NATS) host the theatre festival, allowing groups to vie for the Trans-Tasman trophy.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.norfolkisland.com.au>

Improving our reserves

Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) continues to implement the Environment Program across Norfolk Island's Public Reserves. Since late 2020, NIRC and a variety of local contractors have completed over 35 initiatives within ten of the island's reserves. These include woody weed removal, erection of signage, erection of cattle exclusion fencing along waterways, repair of ageing infrastructure and planting of endemic Norfolk Island species during community tree planting days. These activities were identified as priorities in the recently-updated public reserve Plans of Management.

Along with local contractors, work has been rolled out collaboratively with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC), who have generously funded the program. DITRDC have also delivered a number of projects within the reserves, such as upgrading of existing BBQ and toilet facilities at Selwyn and Anson Bay Reserves, and weed control in Selwyn and Cascade Reserves.

Further Environment Program funding has been committed by DITRDC for the coming 12 months. This is an exciting outcome for the community in protecting and enhancing Norfolk Island's unique biodiversity, and making our reserves an attraction for residents and visitors. Priority initiatives are currently being finalised and will commence soon.

NIRC will soon be scheduling upcoming community tree planting days in the reserves, which were previously postponed due to weather. Keep an eye on and an ear out for local media for updates.

Next newsletter, we will feature the fantastic weed control work being done by the Norfolk Island Conservation Volunteers in Hundred Acre Reserve.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf>



(Top) Middleridge Reserve, (centre) Bumboras Boardwalk,
(main) Community Tree Planting, Ball Bay.

Contact: **Customer Care**
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Opening hours: **Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm** (closed on Public Holidays).

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