

Community Grant Funding to provide valuable funds for community groups



Over \$11,000 has been awarded to three community organisations after their successful grant applications were submitted in response to the 2021-2023 Community Strategic Grant Program.

The Norfolk Island Girl Guides will use their \$5,000 grant for the construction of a disability ramp at the Guide Hall. Girl Guides is a not-for-profit organisation that is run by volunteers. The charity works with young girls to teach them valuable life skills such as cooking, sewing and crafts. The Guide Hall is used by many groups who willingly give their time to members of the community. A disability ramp will ensure that the building complies with disability inclusion standards, and will provide the elderly and mobility impaired with a safe way to access the facility to participate in community events.

The Norfolk Island Sustainability Hub has been granted \$4,991 to enable the procurement of IT equipment. The hub will be inspiring, promoting and facilitating waste reduction in the community. The funding will enable the purchase of technology to facilitate vital communication with the community and to run the Re-Use Shop.

Congratulations to all three not-for-profit organisations who provide valuable services to the community and environment.

The Norfolk Island Conservation Volunteers (NICV) has secured \$1,109 in grant funds for the purchase of tools to be used in the eradication of the Madeira Vine in 100 Acres Reserve. The NICV is active in the protection of the environment and have recently completed their first project which focussed on the removal of Coral Berry as the dominant ground cover in 100 Acres Reserve, in its place is now a delicate native herb (*Parietaria debilis*). Removal of Madeira Vine from the reserve without the use of herbicide will stop it choking native vegetation, while protecting the native plants on which it grows. It will also benefit vulnerable populations of native fauna, such as endemic snails.



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Youth Advisory Committee secures student study sessions

Representatives from the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) met for the first time on 19 May 2022. The senior student committee discussed a range of topics spanning mobile phone packages, library services, outdoor fitness stations, public water fountains and the proposal by NICS primary school students for a junior skate park.

The outcome of the inaugural meeting was to make two recommendations to the July Council meeting, these were:

1. That Council supports the creation of a student mobile plan and,
2. That Council commit to trialling a study session at the Public Library for 9 weeks during term three.

Both recommendations were adopted.

Library Study Sessions will commence this Sunday 17 July at the Public Library

The sessions will run from 6pm – 9pm each Sunday for nine weeks during term 3, ending Sunday 11 September.

These study sessions are open to senior school students in years 10, 11 and 12 as well as members of the community studying tertiary education.

Council staff will be meeting to discuss the implementation of a student 4G mobile plan in the coming weeks; more information will be provided to the community as this is developed.

The committee will continue to work through the complexities of the health and wellbeing items discussed at the first meeting with the aim to present a well-researched proposal to Council later in the year.



Exemption from Queensland Waste Disposal Levy

NIRC is pleased to advise that Norfolk Island is now formally exempt from paying the Queensland Waste Disposal Levy which will result in big savings for the community. Many readers would be aware that Council currently bale and export general waste for disposal into Queensland landfills.

The levy commenced on 1 July 2019 and is payable on all waste including waste generated in other states or territories. In financial year 2021-22, the community paid almost \$70K, with the rate set to increase by \$10/tonne every year.

Given that Norfolk Island cannot access the funding and benefits of paying the levy the Queensland, the Department of Environment & Science has agreed to waive the fee. The intent of the levy is to:

- reduce the amount of waste going to landfill,
- encourage waste avoidance,
- provide a source of funding to enable better resource recovery practices,
- provide certainty and security of feedstocks for advanced technology,
- facilitate industry investment in resource recovery infrastructure.

Importantly, NIRC has already made a series of changes to its waste management system to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, which will be rolled out over the next six months.

The Queensland Government has committed 70% of the levy revenue to be reinvested into waste management and resource recovery projects, infrastructure and initiatives, including local government annual payments to ensure there is no direct cost to households from the levy, and other environmental priorities.

Queensland's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, underpinned by a waste disposal levy, provides the strategic framework for Queensland to become a zero-waste society, where waste is avoided, reused, and recycled to the greatest possible extent.

The strategy focusses on transitioning to the principles of a circular economy to help retain the value of material in the economy for as long as possible.

NIRC is also committed to moving to a circular economy, to not only reduce the community's export liability but, to improve environmental outcomes.



Thank you from BESY



Thank you to the residents who attended the electricity transition community meeting held at Rawson Hall on June 9th, as well as the business and community leaders who took the time to meet with us during our recent trip to Norfolk Island.

We listened to your concerns about the history of current solar inequality and diesel generation on Norfolk Island, and your questions regarding the transition toward the 2024 Renewable Energy Target with regard to the recent lifting of the solar moratorium.

We are overwhelmed by your support to transition to a sustainable electricity grid. We would like to thank everyone who has reached out for further discussion and are looking forward to supporting you and your community further through lower tariffs, solar battery packages, and the ability to control your electricity usage ongoing.

**MORE FAQs
ON OUR WEBSITE**

FAQs

Can we 'opt-out' - apparently in Australia you have the ability to 'opt-out'?

- As the new meters are being provided by NIRC, there is no opt out provision. Please note: the mainland opt out provision is very limited, and in place so that costs can not be imposed on consumers. You must have a time-of-use meter if you install solar throughout Australia.
- We are unaware of any health concerns associated with electricity meters, either the existing accumulation type or the new time-of-use ones.

What happens if the meter cannot access the internet?

- The meter will make multiple attempts to send metering data every night so it will be very rare for data not to be sent. In the event that a read does not succeed, usage on that day will be estimated based on the resident's historical consumption. This is far more accurate than the estimates being used for accumulation meters of 90+ days of energy use.

Is there any risk of failure and/or disconnection of medical equipment that requires electricity i.e. dialysis machines?

- The reliability of the electricity grid is largely driven by weather. NIRC will continue to invest in the grid to maintain and ultimately improve the reliability of the grid.
- Our billing software does provide for the registration of medical equipment dependent residents, and we will collect this information through residents own registration and update of information on BESY website.
- A battery is a good idea for residents dependent on medical equipment to provide power during an outage of the grid.

2024 Renewables Target

	Secure and reliable electricity supply
	Targeted introduction of renewable energy to displace diesel generation
	Integrated distributed renewable energy and storage solutions
	Reduce electricity costs

Dynamic Tariffs to be introduced

Renewable Overload	-20c/kWh
Too much Solar	
Battery Charging	5c/kWh
Absorbing Surplus Renewable Energy	
System-In-Balance	20c/kWh
Central Battery Neither Absorbing or Discharging Power	
Battery Discharging	35c/kWh
Load Supplied by Central Battery	
Diesel-In-Use	72c/kWh
Diesel-Fired Generation In Use	



Refreshing non-alcoholic beverages

Exciting news! The Liquor Bond now stocks Lyre's alcohol free products. This follows on from a previously reported "tasting" visit to The Liquor Bond by Jae Choi from Lyre's (non-alcoholic liquor) in March of this year.

The Liquor Bond's excited to be partnering with a new local Norfolk business, Nil Drinks Co, who is importing and distributing the Lyres products locally. The timing couldn't be more perfect as many of our customers look to participate in "Dry July" and there's also a strong customer preference emerging for refreshingly crafted non-alcoholic alternatives and Lyres fits this profile.

The Liquor Bond's introductory Lyre stock includes 3 ready-to-drink options: G&T, Classico and Amalfi Spritz and customer feedback to date has been particularly welcoming and appreciative.

You may not have seen them but you definitely would have heard them

We had two very interesting aircraft visit Norfolk Island Airport this past month.

Earlier in the month, a P51 Mustang, that was being ferried from New Zealand to Australia to join the collection of its new owner, stopped in to refuel. As the refueling process began, bad weather set in and delayed the departure overnight.

We also received a visit from a CN-235 French Air Force plane for a Tech Stop (refuel & go).

If you didn't catch a glimpse of these aircraft as they landed or departed, then we're sure you would have heard them.



Airport Statistics for June



25
RPT Flights



10
Freighters



8
General Aviation Aircraft



7
Medivacs



PFAS cleaning project begins

Work has been completed at Fire Services to empty the underground hydrant tanks, flush them with fresh rainwater from Airport Tanks, and then reseal the tanks. This has successfully removed the PFAS contaminated water.

This now gives the Fire Service sufficient capacity for its cleaning program without the necessity of carting in water for this project.

GHD's scheduled arrival was disrupted, due to flight cancellations, with the team arriving on Tuesday 12 July to inspect fire fighting equipment and undertake safety briefings with Fire Service staff.

The PFAS cleaning regime began with Panther, Tender 1 on Wednesday 13 July and should take a week and a half to fully clean and remove the PFAS Firefighting foam from the vehicle.

On Friday 15 July, cleaning of the first Community Fire Vehicle tender 3 will commence.

Once the cleaning of these two vehicles is complete we will move on to the cleaning of the second Panther, Tender 2 and the second Community Fire Vehicle, tender 4, and finally Fifi the bush fire fighting vehicle.

The process of cleaning all vehicles is expected to be completed in 3 to 4 weeks.

The contaminated waste water will be removed from all vehicles and filtered through a POETS filter removing the PFAS from the water.

At close of project the POETS filter will be relocated to the airport bore storage tanks to filter bore water to the standpipe thus ensuring no PFAS contaminated water is used across the island and providing a backup of potable water during dry periods.



Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2022

Five Norfolk Island locations (Captain Cook's Monument, Emily Bay, Norfolk Island Cemetery, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area, and St. Barnabas Chapel) have been recognized by Tripadvisor as 2022 Travellers' Choice award winner for best attractions. TripAdvisor's Traveller's Choice awards are given annually to businesses that consistently receive Excellent and Very Good ratings from their customers. Travellers' Choice winners are among the top 10% of businesses on Tripadvisor and celebrates businesses that have received great traveller reviews from travellers around the globe on Tripadvisor over the last 12 months. As challenging as the past year was, these locations stood out by consistently delivering positive experiences to travellers.



Weed of the Month Castor Oil (*Ricinus communis*)

Originating from Africa and Eurasia, Castor Oil, is a large shrub growing up to 3m tall. Large, 7-9 point star shaped leaves are borne on the end of long glossy stalks.

Foliage starts red/green/bronze in colour, maturing to dark green with a red tinge. Male and female flowers are produced in elongated clusters (8-15cm long) with reddish female flowers on top and yellow male flowers below. Green/bright red seed capsules form afterwards and are covered in soft spines. These contain smooth, mottled grey/brown seeds.



Highly toxic to humans and livestock

They spread solely by seed. Capsules pop open once mature, adding to their ability to spread. Seeds are also spread by rodents, birds and in earthworks and garden waste.

How can you help control it?

1. Hand pulling or digging out seedlings and young plants.
2. Slashing, mowing and cultivation
3. Collect seed before they mature and burn them.
4. Spray seedlings and coppice shoots with 1 part glyphosate to 50 parts water.
5. Cut and paint stump of mature plants with 1 part Glyphosate to 1.5 part water.





Community Tree Planting Days

Important Dates

July

15 - 23 Rock'n'Roll on Norfolk Island

August

1 - 4 Australasian Federation of Family History Organisation (AFFHO) Conference

3 Government House Charity Open Day

20 - 26 Hardy's Pro-Am Golf Classic

July Council Meeting Minutes

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

Council Ordinary Meeting Dates

3 August **9 November**
7 September **7 December**
5 October

Council meetings are scheduled at 2pm at the Council Chambers 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.

Requests for Public Access are open to members of the public until 10am on the Tuesday prior to Council Meeting day, with public access meetings to be held at 3pm on Tuesday. See below information to arrange a Public Access meeting with the Administrator.

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



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

Sunday 31 July - 9am Bumboras Creek (Easy to Moderate)

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

Upcoming tree planting days

We have more tree planting days planned, however dates are yet to be confirmed. Please follow our [Facebook page](#) for event updates.

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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