

## Bicentennial building now open

The grand opening of the new Bicentennial building complex was opened by The Hon Kristy McBain MP on Tuesday 15 November 2022, and welcomed by Mike Colreavy, Administrator of Norfolk Island Regional Council.

The opening of the new complex means that all council administrative services will be housed together, making it easier for staff to coordinate and more convenient for residents to access a range of services in one site.

We look forward to seeing you at our new building soon, come and pop in for a visit and say hello.



## Customer Care have moved

Customer Care have relocated to the new Bicentennial Complex. Opening hours remain the same 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday.

You can still reach us on:  
Free call - 0100  
International call - +672 3 22244  
Email - [customer care@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:customer care@nirc.gov.nf)

### IN THIS EDITION

- Youth Advisory Committee
- Update on visit from The Hon. Kristy McBain MP
- Home Grown Success
- Public comment - Food Security Strategy and Norfolk Island Plan
- Camping spots open
- External Audit Findings
- Liquor Bond update - Sip for a cause
- Energy update - Incitec Energy
- Weed of the Month - Poison Bush
- Waste changes & asbestos dumping

## UPDATE | Youth Advisory Committee

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) presented to the November Council meeting. The committee presented three recommendations to the Council, all of which were adopted. You can watch the meeting at: [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/council-meetings-2022](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/council-meetings-2022)



Photo details: Council Administrator (Mike Colreavy), YAC Chair (Jasmine Watson), YAC Deputy Chair (Riley Quintal) NICS Principal (Russell Moore).

## Proposed Skate Park Update

The YAC recently conducted a survey to gauge community interest on the installation of new skatepark infrastructure; the survey received an overwhelming 292 responses. The results of the survey indicate that over 98% of respondents supported the proposed skatepark. The Council adopted the committee's recommendation to obtain 2 - 3 quotes for the design of the new skatepark. Once design quotes have been obtained, the next stage is to apply for funding to complete the design work.

The committee would like to thank those in the community who took the time to participate in the survey. They would also like to thank Ollie O'Conner and his Mum Sophie for initiating the project and for their ongoing support.

## Are you interested in joining the Youth Advisory Committee?

The committee currently has six vacancies. Nominations for new members will open when school returns in early February 2023. To apply you must be a school student at NICS and aged between 16 and 18 years. Expressions of interest can be given to the Principal or administrative team at NICS.

The Council would like to thank the members of the Youth Advisory Committee for their participation this year. The committee have provided consistent feedback and ideas to the Council over the last six months, many of which have been adopted.

## New Council logo

The YAC were tasked with reviewing four draft logos for Council.

They undertook a detailed marketing analysis and settled on option three as the most professional for a government organization as well as most representative of Norfolk Island.

The graphic which symbolizes the island, ocean and pine looks a lot like our famous landmark, Lone Pine.

What do you think of the committee's choice? **Have your say by emailing: [feedback@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:feedback@nirc.gov.nf)**

1



2



3



4





# Norfolk Island Trip

*By The Hon Kristy McBain MP*

Dear Norfolk Islanders

Thank you for welcoming me back to your home last week.

Although this trip was short, I was thrilled to spend more time with community members, and can't wait to meet with more of you when I return.

Thank you especially to everyone who attended Rawson Hall on Monday night, and made the shipping forum so worthwhile. Your passion, experience, and dependence on sea freight was clearly evident both in the forum, and the written submissions you've provided to my Department through the Have Your Say process.

Thank you also to your local Federal Member David Smith and Senator David Pocock for also attending the forum and contributing to the important discussion.

I was pleased I could share the stage with both Australia Post and NPDL, who were able to bring much needed good news to you on Monday.

I would like to recognise how much work Australia Post has put into improving the mail situation in the last few months. The sea freight shortage has impacted the community in so many ways, and I'm pleased that between the chartered flight and the barge deliveries, the backlog will be cleared before Christmas and the mail service back on track.

I would also like to acknowledge NPDL, and share my enthusiasm for the shipping service it has announced will begin in early 2023, following the purchase of a new landing craft. With a regular and stable service now announced by NPDL, my Department will consider the advice you've provided through the consultation process to inform future infrastructure options to complement the service. A key focus will be the shift to shipping containers. Over time, these investments will serve to lower the cost, and improve the security, of your freight.

As part of my trip, I was also pleased to join the Hon Grace Grace MP, Queensland Minister for Education, and David Smith MP, Member for Bean, to visit the Norfolk Island Central School. The partnership between the Australian Government and the Queensland Government continues to deliver essential services to the community, and I look forward to seeing this partnership grow.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to meet with me, and share your experience to help me understand how I can best support Norfolk Island.

Looking forward to catching up again soon!



## Home Grown Success

The recent series of food security workshops, known as *Home Grown - From Backyard to Business* was a success, with 237 registrations across 17 individual sessions.

Residents interested in farming got insights on a range of topics including pest management, biosecurity, soil management, and small farm management.

It was an invaluable experience for locals to get advice and benefit from the wealth of knowledge shared by both the visiting guests and local experts.

We're looking forward to all this knowledge being applied to new agricultural ventures, and helping to create a food secure island.

A big thanks to everyone who participated.



## Public Comment Docs

### Food Security Strategy

The draft Norfolk Island Food Security Strategy has now been released for public comment.

Public comment is open for four weeks, ending on **Friday 16 December**.

Consultant, Cristelle Maurin, has worked with community representatives for twelve months to develop the strategy.

The documents on exhibition include the detailed strategy and a separate document containing the priorities to support a food secure island.

All residents are welcome to make submissions on the strategy, in particular the priorities and initiatives that will support its implementation.

If there are any initiatives that are not already identified in the strategy, you can also make submissions on these.

### Norfolk Island Plan

The Draft Housekeeping Amendment 2022 was made available for viewing with an invitation for public comment on 28 October 2022.

We want to hear your thoughts by 28 November 2022.

There are now only a few days left to view the draft and provide comments on the proposed amendments.

Instructions on how to submit your comments are included as a 'click here' link on the Documents on Public Exhibition web page.

**Check out both public comment documents on our website, at: [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/your-council/council-documents/documents-public-exhibition](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/your-council/council-documents/documents-public-exhibition)**



## Camping spots now open in popular reserves

Camping spots have opened up in Point Hunter and Government House Reserves, for use overnight from 16 December to 3 February 2023.

Residents who would like to camp at Kingston should apply in writing to Norfolk Island Regional Council, care of Customer Care before **Wednesday 7th December 2022**.

The application should include:

1. The period during which it is desired to camp;
2. The number and names of campers proposed to use the site; and
3. The number of tents intended to be erected.

For more information, see the Gazette No.45 on our website at:

[www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/nirc-online-gazettes-2022](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/nirc-online-gazettes-2022)



## Unique planes flying in

We've had some unique planes land at the airport recently, including a GA20 Falcon from the French Navy and a BAE146 charter flight.



French Navy G20 Falcon



BAE146

## Are your licence details up to date?

To register and/or renew your driver's licence call in to the Customer Care offices in the Bicentennial Complex on Taylors Road.

Don't forget to check that we have the correct details for mailing.

Reminder letters are sent to licence holders, however, if you have moved you may not receive this as the address that we have in our system is not current.

You can notify us of your change of address by:

- emailing [customer care@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:customer care@nirc.gov.nf)
- calling free call 0100.

## Airport Statistics for October



33  
RPT Flights



14  
Freighters



10  
General Aviation Aircraft



6  
Medivacs

## External Audit Findings

The Council held a workshop over two days in October to review the implementation status of the 113 External Audit Findings (EAFs), from external consultants Grassroots Connections Australia and Nexia Australia.

The findings were adopted by Council on 24 February 2021 (Resolution No: 2021/3), and the seven broad findings of the Public Enquiry that were noted by Council at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 21 December 2021.

The workshop was held in the Norfolk Island Regional Council Chambers on the 3 & 4 October 2022 and was open to the public, with both days being livestreamed and recorded.

Each manager was provided the opportunity in turn to present the EAFs assigned to their area, with the Administrator asking questions as required.

The General Manager advised that 50.8% of the EAFs have been completed to date. Council has improved on its reporting of the Findings since February 2021, with the addition of reporting criteria including current Financial Resourcing, Proposed Completion Dates, and items transferred to Business as Usual (BAU).

The Administrator concluded at the end of the two-day workshop that the Council is making good progress towards the completion of the EAFs. He was confident given the assurances provided by each of the managers that completion would be achieved by the target date, and within the scope of the identified resourcing.

The Administrator requested that as part of the finalisation process for all completed EAFs, that links to associated evidence be provided as part of the reporting process and noted in the quarterly update reports to Council. These links to the evidence, where deemed appropriate, will be accessible to the public via the quarterly reporting process and available online. The evidence documentation will be updated as part of future quarterly updates.

The Council will continue to report quarterly on the progress of the EAFs going forward until their completion.

If you wish to view the report on the EAFs or the recording of the two-day workshop, please visit Council's website at: [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/agenda-eaf-workshop-3-4-october-2022](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/agenda-eaf-workshop-3-4-october-2022)

## SIP FOR A CAUSE

### - Fut nort?

The recent arrival of Voyage 40 of the Southern Tiare from New Zealand not only provided a much needed replenishment of some New Zealand sourced Liquor Bond favourites but also an opportunity to again introduce something different and new.

One such product, which carries an interesting storyline, is Part Time Rangers.

The brainchild of two NZ University graduates, Part Time Rangers liquor not only features reduced calories and less than 3 grams sugar but it also donates a portion of proceeds to various wildlife conservation initiatives:

- Black Elephant proceeds go to Big Life Foundation.
- Pink Rhino proceeds go to Rhinos Without Borders.
- Yellow Elephant proceeds go to Big Life Foundation.

The concept behind the brand is you 'Sip For A Cause'. Aside from the feel-good charity vibes the flavour's also refreshingly tasty.





# Thank you Norfolk Islanders *By Incite Energy*



## Cheaper power is coming

Incite Energy's Director of Decarbonisation, Kody Ponds and electrical engineer Matias Valdes spent last week working alongside Norfolk Island Regional Council to carry out design surveys on Norfolk Island to enable the Besy Energy solution - which will include the rollout of batteries and solar on NIRC buildings.

This solution will allow residents to connect more solar while keeping the power network stable, therefore benefiting the whole community with cheaper and greener energy.

Thank you for the warm welcome, both Kody and Matias had a wonderful time on beautiful Norfolk Island and look forward to returning!

## Follow up report for NIRC commercial design surveys

The purpose of last week's visit was to conduct on-site surveys to complete the design of the solar battery solutions that the administration plans to install on suitable council buildings to allow more solar energy to be fed into the grid, thus reducing the need for diesel generation and lowering the price of electricity.

This solution features high quality equipment such as Canadian Solar panels and Sungrow inverters and batteries.

## Progress on residential solar and battery solutions

We know that residents are looking forward to being able to install solar and battery solutions themselves, and thank you for your patience.

We will be coordinating residential solutions in the new year following the roll out of the electricity meters.



## Update on the new electricity meters *By Incite Energy*

To be able to pass lower electricity costs on to residents, new electricity meters are needed to record the time-of-day when electricity is consumed.

Secure Meters, one of the largest electricity meter providers in Australia was selected to supply the new meters to NIRC in July this year, and since then has been working with Incite Energy and NI Telecom to enable their installation.

The meters will use the 4G network to ensure accurate and timely metering data is available for the preparation of electricity bills.

Greg Denton, Incite Energy Managing Director said, "This integration has been harder than anticipated, and I really appreciate the help received from the NI Telecom team.

We now have 20 meters on their way to Norfolk Island with pre-installed NI Telecom Sflvt cards in them, and all going well will shortly be able to begin production on meters for everyone."



## Progress advancing the new Electricity Billing System *By Incite Energy*

The new billing system will match your electricity consumption with the new electricity tariffs, allowing us to lower tariffs when Norfolk Island is not consuming diesel to create electricity. We are pleased to say that the billing system is ready to be implemented with NIRC Customer Care personnel trained, before we formally switch over early December.

There are a number of great features on the dedicated and secure Besy Energy Norfolk Island website and new billing system that will make things easier for Norfolk Island residents to review and take control of their own consumption:

- A Data Dashboard showing LIVE BESY Energy Electricity Tariffs on Norfolk Island updated every 30 minutes.
- Register of interest form for installation of Solar Systems.
- Billing Portal (My account) to update or register their details, make payments and keep track of your electricity account.
- FAQs to address various questions.
- LIVE CHAT button to ask questions or guide residents through the process.
- Choice of paper or digital bills.

For a successful implementation of the BESY NIRC Electricity Billing Portal, NIRC Customer Care will be working with Norfolk Island residents to update the following for secure access after the 10th December. Please note the following is important for the smooth transition of your electricity utility accounts:

- A new Customer Number will be allocated to each.
- An updated email address is required for access to the account portal.
- BPAY will have a new code and it is important that you update this when paying your account.
- While they are various and secure ways to pay your account through the account portal. Direct Debit is an easy and secure way to pay your account. Direct Debit Forms will be available from NIRC Customer Care from early December.
- It is important that residents balance your account before the implementation.

For further updates on the electricity implementation please follow Facebook pages @besyenergy and @NIRC2899 or contact NIRC Customer Care.



## Weed of the Month >>>> Poison Bush (*Solanum linnaeanum*)

### Common Names

Apple of Sodom, Poison Bush

### Family

Solanaceae

### Origin

South Africa and the Mediterranean

### Description

A spiky, rounded shrub that grows up to 1.5m in height. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem and deeply cut to create 3-4 rounded, wavy edged lobes on each side of the midrib (similar in appearance to watermelon leaves).

Leaves are bright green on both sides and covered in hard prickles, about 15mm in length. Flowers are purple/blue with a bright yellow centre and green calyx covering the base.

The star shaped flowers appear in July through to December and the bottom flowers of each cluster develop into fruit afterwards.

Fruit is green and mottled when young and bright yellow when mature. They can reach 3.5cm in diameter and can remain on the plant until turning brown or black. Each fleshy fruit contains 100-200 small, mustard like seeds.

### How do they spread?

Dispersed by seed, however the fruit aren't overly popular with birds and livestock won't eat it. Seeds may be dispersed when slashing or transported on machinery.

### Where are they likely to occur?

Paddocks, roadsides, bushland and disturbed sites.



Photo credit: G. Leiper



Photo credit: J.R. Hosking



Photo credit: Kate Russel

### Why are they an issue?

Readily inhabit paddocks and open areas. Livestock will avoid it, allowing it to outcompete other pasture species. Can form dense thickets and become a nuisance for farmers. Is very spiky so becomes difficult to deal with once it's mature. Fruits can be **TOXIC TO ANIMALS AND HUMANS!**

### How can I control it?

1. Spot Spray with metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (10-20g/100L water).
2. Basal Bark application with 600 mL Garlon to 20 litres of diesel.

**NOTE:** Addition of the wetting agent/penetrant Pulse® @ 1:500 may increase the effectiveness. Ideal time is Spring/Summer when it is actively growing.

## Waste management changes

As the community are aware, a number of changes will be made in the coming months to how waste is managed on Norfolk Island. Revolve Your World (RYW), has been engaged by Council to manage operations for Domestic and Commercial Waste on Norfolk Island. This is essentially all waste operations that are conducted inside the Waste Management Centre (WMC) shed.

Changes to the receipt and processing of household and business waste will be communicated directly by RYW to the community, with engagement having already commenced with some businesses. These changes are scheduled to commence in late February 2023, pending delivery of necessary equipment to island.

Council will retain responsibility of construction and demolition waste operations, which are conducted outside the WMC shed.

Some additional changes will be made to how this operates in 2023, including infrastructure improvements, operational hours and continuous support from NIRC staff in unloading and segregation of waste. These changes will be announced to the community well in advance of their implementation.

We look forward to working with the community and RYW in developing a leading edge model for waste management in remote communities.



## Illegal disposal of asbestos

Exposure to asbestos waste poses a significant risk to human health and can lead to respiratory disease. This is why all asbestos waste is to be disposed of at the Waste Management Centre (WMC) in a safe manner and with the full supervision of Waste Management staff.

Lately, there have been instances of asbestos waste being disposed of amongst other building waste or green waste at the WMC. This is in contravention of the Waste Management Act and can attract fines. It also places our staff at great risk.

While we are thankful to those community members who dispose of asbestos waste responsibly, we request that all community members are mindful of this issue and take responsibility for all hazardous wastes, including asbestos.

**Note:** There is a fee for the disposal of asbestos waste which is included in the 2022-23 Fees and Charges on our website at: [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/finance-and-customer-care/fees-and-charges](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/finance-and-customer-care/fees-and-charges)





## October Council Meeting Minutes

Council meeting minutes from 16 November are now available on our [website](#).

## Council Ordinary Meeting Dates 7 December

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](mailto:executiveassistant@nirc.gov.nf)

## Upcoming Events

### November / December

- 25-3 Food lovers guide to Norfolk Island
- 28-6 Stargazing Spectacular
- 30 Thanksgiving Day Public Holiday
- 3-8 Pistol Shoot Championships
- 7 Government House Charity Open Day
- 8-9 Legends of League
- 23 Christmas Pageant & Street Parade



## Contact

Address: Customer Care, Council Bicentennial Complex, 39 Taylors Rd, NORFOLK ISLAND 2899  
 Phone: Free local call 0100 and for international callers + 6723 22244  
 Email: [customercare@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:customercare@nirc.gov.nf)  
 Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm (closed on public holidays)

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