

NORF'K FUSS



The Norfolk Island Regional Council Newsletter

October 2021

COVID-19 BUSINESS GRANT



The Australian Government and the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) provided financial assistance payments to Norfolk Island businesses affected by the recent COVID-19 outbreak and travel restrictions. This relief scheme supported local businesses that experienced hardship caused by the downturn in visitors due to widespread COVID-19 lockdowns, and travel restrictions across Australia. The program is similar to other programs being delivered to COVID-19 affected communities in Australia.

The grant was open for applications from 20 August to 30 September 2021, and were distributed as follows:

Payments made as at 1 October 2021

\$733k
Total Value
(all grants)

\$661k
Total Value
(one-off grants)

\$72k
Total Value
(fortnightly grants)

55 Number of businesses who have received a one off payment

16 Number of businesses who have received a fortnightly payment

Tony Cook, owner of Pizazz (pictured) said about the grant, "The COVID Business Grant program has been a welcomed initiative from the Commonwealth government. The funding has provided support to many businesses on island affected by the downturn in visitors as a result of Australian border restrictions. Norfolk was fortunate to have a small number of visitors from Queensland, however, this was not enough to sustain the many businesses on island.

The grant funding has allowed me to retain my staff at the number of hours they were working before the down turn in visitors. Norfolk Island is a small community, the grant funding has ensured that

businesses can continue to employ staff and ultimately this money circulates quickly in the economy and provides benefits everyone."

Rael Donde, Proprietor of Cumberland Close and President of the ATA said, "One of the good things about the grant was the way in which it was structured to provide four tiers of funding. As it was based on turnover, the available funding differentiated between small, medium and large businesses.

Businesses really appreciated the change in the qualifying dates, this made the grant more accessible to local businesses, particularly those in the accommodation sector."

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One for the NI history books

A clear picture of what Norfolk Island looked like before European arrival has emerged, for the first time ever, through a collaborative project between NIRC and the Invasive Species Council. Native vegetation mapping has been developed as it exists now and before 1750, a project recently launched at the 2021 Royal Agriculture and Horticultural Show (A&H Show). "Over two years we worked with local and mainland experts to create digital maps of what Norfolk Island's forests, woodlands and grasslands looked like before Europeans arrived on the island, and what that landscape looks like now," Invasive Species Council CEO Andrew Cox said. "The project has unlocked a map that can now be used to help Norfolk Islanders replant and restore many of the threatened native plants and plant communities that are under pressure from weeds and

past habitat loss." There are about 180 native plant species on Norfolk Island, including the world famous Norfolk Island Pine and a substantial number of our native species that are found nowhere else on Earth. These maps describe and map 14 native plant communities across the island and provide a vital resource for planning effective conservation, restoration and management of the remaining native vegetation.

An illustration by Ferdinand Bauer, a botanical illustrator, in 1804 (pictured below) shows Norfolk Island with dense, thick forest cover across a large part of the island, a time prior to the introduction of invasive woody weeds. NIRC will use the mapping to guide revegetation of public land, particularly in the island's public reserves. The mapping is also expected to be popular with land holders wishing to restore native



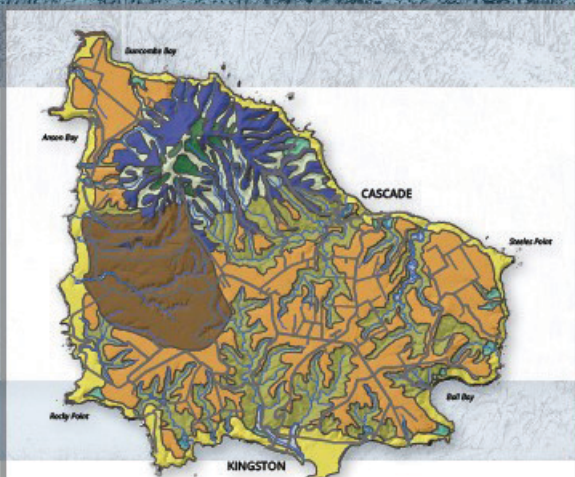
Norfolk Island Green Parrot (Cyanoramphus Cooki) perched on a Norfolk Island Pine (Araucaria Heterophylla) – both endemic species to Norfolk Island.

vegetation on private land.

The mapping (inset below) is based on extensive survey work conducted by Naomi Christian, a Norfolk Islander, and recognised plant ecologist Dr Kevin Mills, completed in 2020. Funding for the project was provided through the

Eldon and Anne Foot Trust, administered by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, and supported by the Norfolk Island Regional Council.

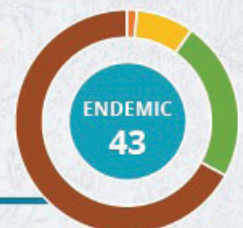
The native vegetation mapping and factsheets are now available on the Council website. Visit <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project>



PLANTS OF NORFOLK ISLAND

- * Extinct: 8
 - Threatened: 46
 - Other native: 128
 - Introduced: 370
- TOTAL NATIVE: 180

* 6 locally extinct & 2 globally extinct.



Tesla battery

Tesla service technicians were on the Island two weeks ago to service the Tesla battery and also, to conduct a minor programming adjustments that were required to fix the software glitch that affected the battery's inverter to perform as designed. The software glitch has since been rectified and the Tesla battery is now working as it should.



COVID-19 business grant > continued from P1

Kyla Blackwell from Madisons Jewellers said, "Retail sales on Norfolk Island can be sporadic at the best of times. Our shop relies primarily on visitors to the island so the impact of COVID has been severe on our business. In 2020 we were fortunate enough to receive funding from the Job keeper Scheme which

was enough to pay business expenses.

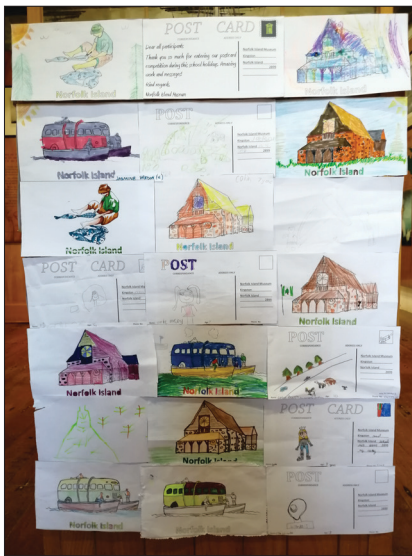
We are grateful to receive funding from the COVID Business Grant program in 2021. This has allowed us to keep our doors open full time to cater for the few tourist on island."

Applications received on or before the date are still being processed and payments will

continue to be made during the month of October for both one-off grant payments as well as fortnightly payments.

Any queries about the progress of payments should be addressed to Customer Care on free call 0100 or, for international callers +672 3 22244, or by emailing customercare@nirc.gov.nf

KAVHA museum winners



The museum would like to congratulate all the participants who entered our postcard competition during the school holidays - the high standard of work made our decision in choosing winners difficult. All postcards are on display at the Pier Store for the enjoyment of locals and visitors.

Our winners are:

4 years old
Sunny Robinson

5 years old
Gracie King

6 years old
Indi Quintal

7 years old
Darcy Sheridan

8 years old
Arlo Robinson

9 years old
Matilda Smith

10 years old
Cyster

11+ years old
Samantha Buttershaw

16+ years old
Jasmine Watson

Drawn postcard
Abby Argus

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

Norfolk Island entry pass

The Norfolk Island Entry Pass was developed by Emergency Management Norfolk Island to protect the Norfolk Island community from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Norfolk Island Regional Council has incurred all fees related to the implementation of the Entry Pass. Appointed Council staff have worked closely with the Norfolk Island Police to manage the Entry Pass approvals and the screening of arriving passengers.

- Entry Pass became available online 7 July 2020
- Entry Pass has been compulsory for all travellers arriving since 10 July 2020
- The software platform used for the Pass is 'Open Gov'
- 31,000 Permits have been issued (Jul 2020 to Sep 2021)

Changeover of displays at the R.E.O



The Museum has recently replaced the exhibition Pacific Pictures and Publications with two different displays in the front rooms of the R.E.O bookstore and information centre. If you haven't yet seen the 2014 Remote Sensing Project or Australian Convict Sites exhibitions, last on show in 2017, swing by for an ice-cream and a read!

Cummins Generators

A service technician from Cummins arrived on the Island last week to inspect and identify the faulty parts that affected the two new Cummins Generators at the Power house. It was confirmed during inspection that certain parts of the Generators have manufacturing defects that need to be rectified/replaced. New parts have since arrived on an airfreight and will be installed next week.



Kicking goals in NI



Representatives from the Beaudesert Kingfishers Junior and Senior Rugby League Club visited Norfolk Island from 28 September to 5 October, 2021 for a week of footy. Some players were billeted to Norfolk Island Junior Rugby League player's houses and others stayed

with their families in tourist accommodation.

With three teams (Under 10's, Under 14's, and Under 18's) and accompanying families, the visitor age demographic during the week experienced a dramatic fluctuation. In total, 94 people travelled for the

event, injecting considerable economic support into the Norfolk Island community. The value of this event is estimated to be \$320K inclusive of (\$213K direct spend with a flow-on supply-chain effects of \$107K).

Throughout the week, players and their families

enjoyed various activities such as barefoot bowls, a Breakfast Bushwalk, and a Fish Fry dinner. The footy games on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday were followed by a well-deserved presentation at the NI Leagues Club.

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

Moving into our new library at the Bicentennial Complex

Items from the old public library are currently in the process of being relocated to the new building in the Bicentennial Complex (pictured), as a result the Library will be closed to the public between Thursday 7 October and Thursday 14 October 2021. The Public Library will reopen at the new location at 1pm on Friday 15 October 2021.

In the last couple of weeks the finishing touches to the new building have been completed including repairs and maintenance

to the car park area in front of Rawson Hall and the addition of joinery to allow the Council to provide three PCs accessible to the public with free internet access.

During October a survey will be released to the community to gather feedback on the new facility including opening times as well as content and programs. Councils values community participation in this survey process.

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



Contact: **Customer Care**
Address: **9 New Cascade Road NORFOLK ISLAND 2899**
Phone: + **6723 22244**
Email: customercare@nirc.gov.nf
Opening hours: **Monday to Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm** (closed on Public Holidays).

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