

# NORF'K FUSS



The Norfolk Island Regional Council Newsletter

October 2022

## Upskilling your Council team >>>

In September, NIRC sponsored a training course to upgrade the qualifications of some of our key workers. The Coxswain Certificate 1 - Grade 2 course was delivered by 'Cookie' from Sea School.

After a lot of theory in the classroom, the practical elements were completed on Bluey and another vessel. This included survival and rescue training in the water.

At the same time Marine Radio license training took place. The existing, considerable, experience of the trainees was formally recognised through their sea-time logbooks.

After a great effort by all involved we are happy to have **six brand new Coxswains on-island.**

Cookie



## to better serve our community

Training in September also included C6 Crane Licencing, so workers can operate a mobile slewing crane up to 60 tonnes.

The training was undertaken over five very demanding days. Crane operation involves a lot more than just pulling levers, it requires a good understanding of forces, mechanics, physics and math.

The assessor was very happy with the skills the trainees developed and we now have **four new fully qualified crane operators for Norfolk Island.**



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## Food Security Workshop

NIRC is pleased to announce that a series of Food Security Workshops will be held on-island.

The workshops will be hosted as a part of the Norfolk Island Food Security Strategy development and will involve a number of visiting and local presenters across agriculture, horticulture, soil science, permaculture and integrated pest management.

**The workshops will be run from Friday 11th to Sunday 20th November** and will include field demonstrations, presentations and Q&A sessions with the community.

Some of the visiting food security specialists include Graeme Sait of Nutritech Solutions, Jason Lynch of Pinion Advisory, Integrated Pest Management specialist Ant Rice, and Soil Scientist Declan McDonald. Dr Cristelle Maurin will also be on-island to present the draft Food Security Strategy.

There will also be sessions dedicated to local growers to discuss more about their businesses and how to improve the island's food security in the future.

A schedule for the workshops is in development and will be made available on the NIRC website shortly. You can also keep an eye on the NIRC Facebook page for details.

All sessions are free and anyone can attend.



## Waste gets an upgrade

As part of funding granted by the Commonwealth Government for new waste and recycling equipment, NIRC will be purchasing a new processing machine for both green and bulky waste.

The Teuton Z50 is manufactured in Germany by Eggersmann and is expected to be available on-island in March 2023. A resolution was made in the October Council meeting to move forward with the purchase of the machine.

The machine will be used for the processing of green waste and will replace the Telcor machine which has served Council and the former Administration over many years.

The Teuton is also suitable to process construction and demolition waste, as well as bulky waste such as disused furniture and old mattresses. Up to 30 tonnes of green waste per hour can be processed through the Teuton, with double the production rate for bulky wastes.

Over 100 mattresses can be processed per hour, with any steel separated through an in-line magnet.

The green waste produced from the machine will go to NIRC's Hot Rot composter, while bulky waste will be packaged and ultimately containerised for export to the mainland.



## Progressing shipping solutions for Norfolk Island

The Australian Government is seeking the Norfolk Island community's views on its long-term, sustainable shipping requirements, with a Have Your Say survey.

Submissions will inform the community forum on shipping which the Hon Kristy McBain MP will lead on 14 November 2022.

The continued availability of sea freight services to Norfolk Island is a key priority for the Australian Government.

The success of future long-term shipping initiatives and Government support for sustainable solutions depends on them being informed by the needs, knowledge and experience of the community.

This is an important opportunity to share the expertise in shipping and freight which Norfolk Islanders have and outline what is important to you in freight services.

A summary of the issues raised by the Norfolk Island community, including from the Have Your Say process and the community forum, will then be published later this year.

In the interim, the Australian Government-subsidised barge service will commence next month from Brisbane to Norfolk Island over the peak tourist period. This is a short-term measure to help address the immediate shortages you are experiencing, and support businesses and the community through summer and high visitor numbers.

Have Your Say submissions are open until **Tuesday, 8 November 2022**. More information is available on the Department's [website](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/norfolk-island-long-term-shipping-needs) at: [www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/norfolk-island-long-term-shipping-needs](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/norfolk-island-long-term-shipping-needs)



## Liquor Bond gets a little 'Crafty'

The Liquor Bond responded to customer feedback and has begun to source Craft Beers.

The new arrivals are already on the shelves and include GOAT beer and something different, a zero percent (alcohol free) beer called Heaps Normal.

It's exciting to be able to offer our customers additional choice within our beer selections.

Given the improvement with freight capacity, it's anticipated further new additions will join us shortly. Look out for a Young Henrys Newtowner expected on our shelves soon.

## Request for Quote (RFQ) - Surveyor General Position

NIRC seeks the services of a suitably qualified person to fill the statutory position of Surveyor General for an initial period of 12 months.

The primary function of this position is to approve, where applicable, partial and compiled Survey Office plan requests for Norfolk Island.

For more information, view the Gazette [online](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/nirc-online-gazettes-2022) at: [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/nirc-online-gazettes-2022](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/nirc-online-gazettes-2022).

## New quiet electric mowers with 'green' features

The NIRC Transition to Sustainability strategy aims to find inefficiencies in council operations and develop ways to overcome them, to ultimately reduce costs and free up resources. One of the areas identified so far is the maintenance of parks and gardens.

A review has been undertaken of similar councils with large outdoor areas, to see what equipment they use to maintain street curbs, parks and recreational reserves. It found that electric lawn mowing units provided by Ecoteq have been purchased by many councils including, Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Toowoomba, and Geelong.

The Ecoteq Mowers are made out of Aircraft Grade Aluminium. They are a popular 'green' option due to:

- Zero emissions
- Low maintenance
- No belts
- No filters
- No fuel
- Low Noise
- High performance with 7-8 hours runtime.



NIRC's current equipment is ageing and requires daily maintenance to keep the units operational. So we are purchasing two Ecoteq (60 inch and 74 inch) mowers to replace existing units.

On top of their many great features, the new electric mowers will greatly improve current downtime as they won't require daily maintenance other than general cleaning. The reduction in noise and emissions will also benefit the community.

Keep an eye out for the new mowers in coming months.

## Looking for a form?



Forms for the services that Council delivers can be found on our [website](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/council/council-documents/forms) at [www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/council/council-documents/forms](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/council/council-documents/forms).

If you are having trouble locating the form you are looking for, contact Customer Care by:

**Email** - [customer care@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:customer care@nirc.gov.nf)  
**Free call** - 0100.

## Skatepark survey

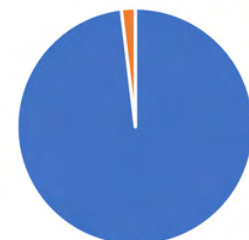
Thank you to all in the community who participated in the Council's most recent survey about a proposed new skatepark area and equipment.

In total there were 262 responses and the results indicate that 98% of respondents support the initiative.

The results of the survey will be presented to the Youth Advisory Committee at their October meeting.

They will also be presented to the Council in November 2022.

Do you support new skatepark infrastructure?



■ Yes ■ No ■

## Airport Statistics for August



28  
RPT Flights



9  
Freighters



8  
General Aviation Aircraft



5  
Medivacs

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## New road surface products to be trialled on selected roads

Earlier this year, NIRC sought extensive funding to study, engineer solutions and ultimately provide a road map to future proof the road network on Norfolk Island.

We are now embarking on three new product trials which will feed into the studies. Some of the products are used heavily by the Australian Defence force in crisis situations.

### PotHole Fix

PotHole Fix TM (PHF TM) is a proven, genuine '1-step' pothole, or patch, repair that may be quickly and easily applied in wet or dry conditions and makes a permanent repair which can be used immediately following installation.

### Pavement Rejuvenation Seal (PRS)

Pavement Rejuvenation Seal (PRS) has a three-step process to improve existing surfaces. It:

1. rejuvenates the existing bitumen on the road/pavement while drawing out unseen water from under the pavement,
2. then seals the newly rejuvenated pavement against moisture and chemicals ingress;
3. then acts as a sunscreen, blocking harmful UV rays over the longer term preventing chemical breakdown of the sealed pavement.

### Fibre Reinforced Concrete Roads

Fibre Reinforced Concrete Roads is common for major arterial roads in Australia. FRCR's are proven to have greater longevity and therefore reduce maintenance costs overtime.

The combined use of the pot hole and rejuvenation products will improve the sustainable use of already constructed roads by up to 10 years, and is only one-third of the normal cost to reseal a road.

NIRC will implement the trial of these two products in combination on older sections of Taylors Road. The reinforced concrete will be trialled on a small stretch of road between Country Road and Ferny Lane.



## UPDATE | Norfolk Island Plan

Following a call for community input on the Housekeeping Review of the Norfolk Island Plan in 2021, NIRC planning staff and consultants have been preparing the updates to the plan. This will be released to the community in the coming weeks for comment. The proposed changes are limited to definition changes, greater clarity on permitted and permissible land uses and changes to the business and mixed use zones to allow greater business types and some limited residential uses.

The housekeeping review is not the major review of the Norfolk Island Plan. The major review is scheduled to start mid-2023, following the development of a Sustainable Population Strategy for the island; lead by the Council of Elders. Extensive community consultation will follow as part of this process.



## UPDATE | Solar batteries

Improved battery and solar solutions will allow a bigger uptake of solar energy on Norfolk Island, and will directly reduce the amount of diesel consumed in electricity production.

So, NIRC is now seeking to replace the original centralised Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) funding from the Commonwealth with a series of smaller BESS solutions at council facilities. This change is due to the:

- recent and expected future increases in diesel prices.
- limited availability of large-scale BESS, as global demand has resulted in long lead times.
- identified benefits of distributed BESS on the Norfolk Island electricity network. Batteries located within the local electricity network will increase its capacity and improve the quality of electricity supply (reducing the fluctuations in voltage).
- challenges associated with landing heavy items on Norfolk Island.
- potential 24 month delay before a barge with approximately 30t weight lifting capacity will be available.

NIRC have identified the following council sites for BESS and solar installations:

1. Emergency Centre
2. Bi-Centennial Building
3. Rawson Hall
4. Liquor Bond

NIRC have asked Incite Energy to conduct a study into the viability, cost and implementation for installing BESS of 200kW, with energy storage of 706kWh, to be spread across the four sites.



## Plants, pests and diseases

A team from Agriculture Victoria will return to Norfolk Island to undertake a second (spring) survey aimed at identifying plant pests and diseases.

They will be on island from October 9 – 23. If you would like to be involved, or to speak with the plant team, please contact:

Norfolkislandteam@infrastructure.gov.au

While on island, the team will also take the opportunity to report back to the community on the results of the first survey and hear your thoughts on plant pests and diseases.

They will have a presentation night, with a moth sheet to attract insects (weather permitting). It will be hosted by the Flora & Fauna Society and held at **A&H Hall at 6pm on October 20.**

James Tweed, a PhD candidate who is researching invertebrates on the island, will also present. All are welcome to attend.

This survey is being funded by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts and is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Thank you to The Flora & Fauna Society as well as the wider community for your support.



## Weed of the Month >>> Cascade Onion (*Moraea flaccida*)

Originating from South Africa, the Cascade Onion has up to three tough, grey/green, strap-like drooping leaves. They are each 30-90cm in length and grow from the base of a round corm.

The corms sit dormant in the ground for much of the year, with leaves emerging around August. From September/October a zigzag flower stem emerges with six petalled, salmon-coloured flowers. These are followed by narrow cylindrical seedpods containing lots of light brown seeds.



Photo credit: Michael Moerkirk



Photo credit: Trevor James

### How do they spread?

Spread by corms that multiply and lay dormant in the ground for up to eight years. Also spread by seeds on the wind, by animals or on machinery.

### Why are they an issue?

Will heavily infest roadsides, pasture, paddocks and open areas. All parts of the plant are TOXIC TO ANIMALS and to people. Will compete with natives for resources.

### Where are they likely to occur?

On roadsides, paddocks and open spaces. So far the spread seems to be in the Steeles Point/Cascade/Middlegate areas of the island however it is capable of infesting the entire island.

### How can you help control it?

Spot spray with 0.2g Metsulfuron methyl dissolved in 15 L water + Pulse@(surfactant). Apply just on flowering at corm exhaustion.

NOTE: This herbicide will not kill the grass.



## UPDATE | Ball Bay Progress

NIRC is moving ahead with the design and construction of a permanent roll-on/roll-off facility at Ball Bay.

Early contractor engagement has been initiated with Wagners, who will work with a team of world-leading marine project experts to provide advice on the design. They include:

### ICUBED – Design & Engineering

- Engineering design and documentation.
- Provide initial advice on wave and ocean interactions

### FREYCINET – Structural Marine Design

- Scoping structural design and selection of suspension cables, fittings and ground anchors
- Provide objective advice to support Commonwealth Government submissions for approval.

### MMA – Vessel & Jetty Design

- Coordinating with Icubed & NIRC regarding vessel size and jetty reach.
- Initial advice on vessel mooring and stevedoring.

There is genuine momentum for a solution at Ball Bay to be developed and implemented, from all levels of government. The solution will be unique to Norfolk and combine the knowledge of many experts in their field.

Once a design is developed, the project team will create timelines, schedules and pricing for a detailed funding submission next year, with an aim to proceed in the 23-24 financial year.

NIRC is confident that we have found a world class team to provide a solution for the community.



## Fire safety inspections

Norfolk Island Fire Service conducted a Fire Safety inspection of the NIHRAC facility, this resulted in a number of recommendations. One of these recommendations was for Fire Extinguisher and Fire Warden training to be completed annually.

NIHRAC has been undertaking monthly Fire Extinguisher and Fire Warden training for all staff, to better prepare staff in the event of an emergency arising at the hospital.

Norfolk Island Fire Service intends to roll out this service at other business on the Island, to assist businesses in emergency planning. This also helps the Norfolk Island Fire Service in creating a data base for emergency response planning.

NI-Connect is the next business to request Fire Extinguisher and Fire Warden training and for assistance with their annual emergency evacuation exercise.





## October Council Meeting Minutes

Council meeting minutes from 5 October are now available on our [website](#).

## Council Ordinary Meeting Dates

**16 November**  
**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

- 5-7 **Golf tournament - Govenors Cup**
- 11-20 **Food Security Workshops**
- 20 **Plants, pests & diseases presentation**
- 9 & 23 **Government House Charity Open Day**
- 12-19 **Bird Week**
- 19-23 **Masters Squash Tournament**
- 25-3 **Food lovers guide to Norfolk Island**
- 28-6 **Stargazing Spectacular**

### 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](mailto:customercare@nirc.gov.nf)  
 Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm (closed on public holidays)

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