



Funding secured for multi-year road study

\$800,000 in multi-level funding from the Department of Infrastructure to study, engineer solutions and ultimately provide a road map to future proof the road network and associated infrastructure on Norfolk Island.

Earlier this year NIRC Infrastructure Department sought extensive funding for a road study, offering to lead and work in unison with all Commonwealth departments on island.

The aim is to develop a solution for a road infrastructure audit and the development of a range of strategies in design and engineering solutions, culminating in a multi-year plan on managing roads on Norfolk Island.

NIRC is pleased to announce that the Department of Infrastructure has agreed to our proposal and is providing approximately \$800,000 in multi-level funding.

Significant work has already commenced, and we are seeking approval to proceed with the first multi-layered funding mechanism available.

Ultimately, Council is seeking a multi-year / multi stage funding outcome to improve the roads on Norfolk Island to address the needs of the community and tourists alike.

Improving the road network on Norfolk Island is a priority for Council and the Commonwealth.

This ultimately presents an exciting opportunity for NIRC Staff and also additional jobs for the local community of Norfolk Island.

To achieve this, there are a number of processes which need to occur before a 10 year plan can be established.

- Roads Network Assessment and Classification
- Roads Specification and Standard Drawings
- Roads Map Series
- Norfolk Island Roads Infrastructure Management & Cost Planning
 - 10 Year Model
 - People, Equipment, Material
 - Policy for Council Delivery

It is pleasing to see all levels of government working in collaboration to develop a unified solution moving forward.

IN THIS EDITION

- Roundabout light upgrade
- Fire Services update
- Museum hosts Congress
- Tourism News
- Father's Day competition winner
- Special aircraft at the Airport
- Buy Local Campaign update
- Tourism research
- Weed of the Month - Ochna
- Have your say - skate park
- Upcoming events

Congratulations to Father's Day competition winner

WINNER

The lucky winner of the Liquor Bond's Father's Day 2022 "Dad's a S.N.A.G" was recently drawn and our very grateful winner was Marg Adams.

Marg won a 6 Pack of Great Northern Super Crisp beer, a bottle of 2019 Dog Point Pinot Noir, a bottle of McGuigans Black Label Red, 2 Dog Point Vineyard Glass Reusable Cups and a quality Jack Daniels Travel Bag.

Congratulations Marg!



Norfolk Island Museum hosts Family History Congress

During the first week of August, 160 family history enthusiasts travelled to Norfolk Island to attend the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) Congress hosted by the Norfolk Island Museum. A Trade Show at Rawson Hall opened the congress with information stalls, speaker presentations and retail stalls selling goods.

The congress sessions were held at the Paradise Hotel Resort, with Governors Lodge conference room being the additional venue for presentations. Two keynote speakers, Ray Martin and Professor Larissa Behrendt were the highlights of the week, with 20 other speakers keeping the crowd enthused over 29 sessions.

Despite Covid forcing the Norfolk Island Museum to postpone the event for a year, the organisers (Norfolk Island Travel Centre) felt the conference ran smoothly, with extremely positive feedback received from the event survey.



Youth Advisory Committee invite your input - online survey

Earlier this year primary school student Ollie O'Connor submitted to Council a proposal for a new skate park. The proposal included a draft conceptual design for the park and a petition with 103 signatures supporting the application.

Ollie's proposal highlighted the versatility of the area which could be used by those who ride a scooter or pushbike as well as those who skate. The design caters for all skill levels, from beginner to advanced.

Ollie loves living on Norfolk, "there are so many things I love about Norfolk Island but the main thing I love is the freedom and safety for us kids."

The Youth Advisory Committee support this initiative and are seeking input from the community, particularly students and their parents as well as skaters, about the proposal.

If this is something that you would like to see built, we ask that you complete a quick survey online to let us know how often you or your family would be likely to use the space, and the types of items that you would like to see included in the design.

The survey is anonymous and can be accessed at this link until 9 October -

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/norfolkskatepark>

If there is a large amount of community interest, the statistical data from the survey will be used to support a proposal to the Council to seek funding opportunities.



HAVE YOUR SAY
Take our online survey by
Sunday 9 October



Buy Local Competition winners

As part of Council's 'Buy Local Campaign', a spending spree competition was held in July to encourage residents to purchase products from local businesses, during what is a traditionally quiet part of the year with low economic activity. The campaign was successful in encouraging sales throughout the month and well supported by businesses and the community.

Participating Businesses - 59
 Total receipts received - 6,951
 Total spend - \$507,196.04

Congratulations to the competition winners

1st Prize - \$300 in vouchers – Nigel Greenup
 2nd Prize - \$190 in vouchers – Skye Irvine
 3rd Prize - \$100 in vouchers – Kerry Robertson

Roundabout light upgrade

In response to recent weather events, Council is upgrading damaged lights surrounding the roundabout (3) in the centre of town (Taylors Rd) and near the school (2) (Middlegate Road).

operation of the solar lights at Round About (1) Taylors Rd, Five New Identical Solar Lights will be procured and installed as soon as possible on roundabout 2 & 3, to provide a long term solution for the island.

Following the successful implementation and



NZ Airforce C130 test skills

This past month saw the arrival of NZ Airforce C130 to conduct low level approaches and fly-overs in rehearsal to familiarise themselves with local operating protocols.



Airport Statistics for August



24
RPT Flights



9
Freighters



19
General Aviation Aircraft



5
Medivacs



Tourism Australia – Responsible Tourism Survey Results

Tourism Australia recently conducted a research project on the impact of tourism on the local environment, community, and culture. The feedback from 64 respondents will help Norfolk Island Tourism to tailor communications for travellers to educate and encourage responsible and respectful travel.

Key Outcomes

- Respondents were concerned over the lack of resources on Norfolk Island.
- Respondents believe the island is undersupplied and not equipped to meet unrealistic standards of travellers.
- There is a belief that Norfolk Island could benefit from further communication made available for travellers to encourage their respect of the island.
- Word of Mouth, travel agents and social media are the best channels to execute communications, given their role as the dominant information channels for travellers to the region.
- Tourists from ocean cruise ships prove to be of highest concern, with 72% of respondents feeling that cruise visitors had a negative impact (compared to 30% national average).
- Respect towards Norfolk Island, particularly its rich culture and history, is a common theme seen throughout respondents' descriptions of the ideal visitor.
- Open minded travellers who want to embrace the ways of the island are most appreciated.

Respondents are most concerned about:

- The pressure on utilities (waste disposal, sewerage, public toilets)
- Depletion of resources and services required for residents e.g., water, food, fuel
- Availability and affordability of housing for locals
- Lack of adequate supplies
- Litter, rubbish management
- Human waste management

Norfolk Island Tourism participated in the recent TOSP roadshow with four trade events last month in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney, presenting to over 440 travel agents.

Overall, the industry was very positive about Norfolk Island with many clients still preferring to travel closer to home. Agent feedback included:

- There is demand for Norfolk Island but limited availability in 2022.
- Some clients wanting to book with only a couple of days' notice were disappointed that they were not able to find vacancies.
- There is a lot of interest in the history and cultural traditions of Norfolk.

Treasures of the South Pacific (TOSP)



PFAS cleaning well underway

Norfolk Island Fire Service spent July and August cleaning the Firefighting foam from five fire vehicles, this foam was contaminated with per poly fluoroalkyl substance (PFAS).

Unfortunately, the properties that make some PFAS useful in many industrial applications and particularly in fire-fighting foams, also make them problematic in the environment. The cleaning process was overseen by staff from GHD.

The process involved removing all the contaminated foam from the vehicles and then each vehicle's foam tank was pressure cleaned and soaked with water. This process was completed twice a day for seven days for each vehicle.

Water samples were taken throughout the process to ensure that the vehicles were no longer contaminated with PFAS. All associated fire hoses and firefighting equipment that had been used in the production of foam was also flushed.

All wastewater was captured and stored in a holding tank for treatment through a filter to remove the PFAS.



Weed of the Month *Ochna* (*Ochna serrulata*)

Photo credit: Carolyn Lewis

Originating from Southern Africa, *Ochna* is a small shrub, reaching up to 2m in height with pimply textured bark.

Leaves are spirally arranged along the stems and are narrow and oblong in shape with fine toothed edges.

Young leaves are bronze/pinkish in colour and mature to a glossy green. Five petalled, yellow flowers appear in Spring and drop off as the green fruit develops. The remaining sepals left behind turn a bright red colour as the fruit matures to dark green/black.

Why are they an issue?

Ochna establishes quickly and easily, creating dense stands that shade out native plants. Seeds are readily eaten and spread by birds or spread in garden waste. *Ochna* occurs Island wide.

How can you help control it?

1. Do not hand pull as roots break easily and will regrow.
2. Dig out small plants.
3. Spot spray. Apply to seedlings/ coppice shoots 200 mL glyphosate per 10 L of water.
4. Scrape stem, cut, and paint. 1 part glyphosate per 1.5 parts of water.
5. Cut stump saplings. Stem injection large trees and shrubs. 1 part glyphosate per 1.5 parts of water.

Photo credit: Trevor James

Argentine Ant Eradication Program News

The Argentine Ant Eradication Program (AAEP) has been working on both aerial and ground treatments in zone 9 (Steeles Point area) for the last 12 months and we are finally reaching completion of treatment in this area.

It has been a difficult season for our ground baiting team due to the wet weather since January and we would like to thank them for their consistent efforts and hard work.

The next twelve months will see us head back to some of the zones (3,5,11,13,14,15 and 16) that have already been treated as a few incursions of ants are persisting. There is also an area at Bucks Point that has not been treated previously which will be done this season.

Before we move into any new zones we need to make sure that all treated sites are free of ants.

We will be commencing aerial treatment with the Yamaha drone in late October in these zones and

we will also be trialing different methods to treat Argentine Ants on the cliffs.

Council is also excited to be having a new detector dog and handler join the team shortly.

The community is encouraged not to accidentally transport ants from one place to another.

If you live or work in an infested area (see map) please do not move green waste, timber, soil, plants, cuttings, fruit and vegetables, car wrecks and machinery, even if the area has been treated.

If you think you have found Argentine Ants please contact the AAEP team on 23353 or 52193.

Community support of the program and its methods are critical for eradication to be achieved and we thank you for your cooperation.

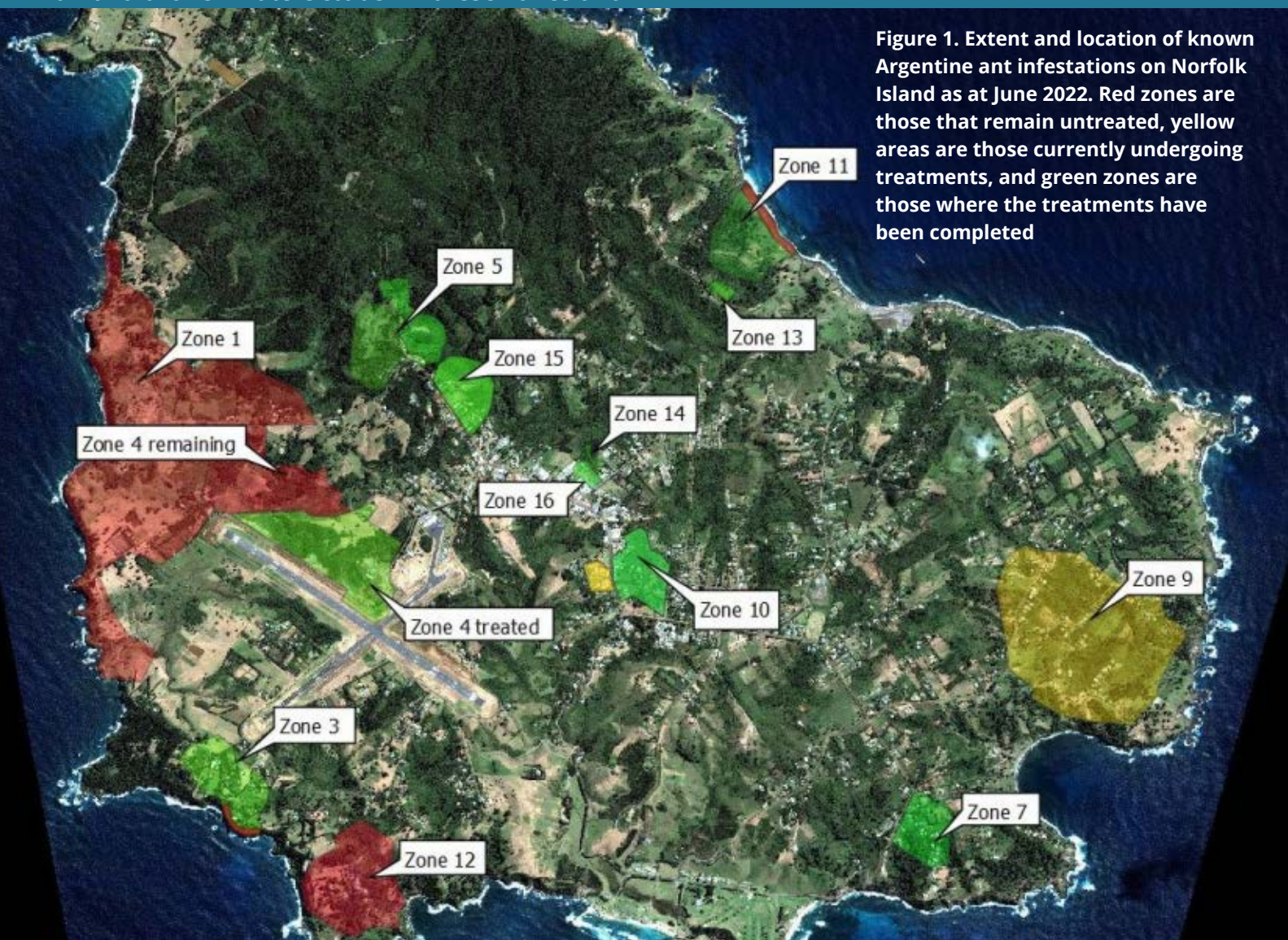


Figure 1. Extent and location of known Argentine ant infestations on Norfolk Island as at June 2022. Red zones are those that remain untreated, yellow areas are those currently undergoing treatments, and green zones are those where the treatments have been completed



September Council Meeting Minutes

Council meeting minutes from 7 September are now available on our website.

[Click here to read the minutes](#)

Council Ordinary Meeting Dates

5 October
9 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.

Upcoming Events

October

- 2 - 6 NATS Theatre festival
- 3 - 11 Spring Ukulele festival
- 10 Royal A&H Show Day
- 12 Government House Charity Open day
- 15-22 N.I. Fly In Model Aeroplanes

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

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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