NORF'K FUSS The Norfolk Island Regional Council Newsletter

NORFOLK ISLAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

June 2022

Tertiary Education Bursary helps local Paramedicine student with study costs

Over the past year, 29 island residents have benefited from a Council funded Tertiary Education Bursary. This funding was developed in recognition that education and training plays a key role in building a strong and sustainable community, and empowers the future of younger generations. A total of \$30,700 has been granted in scholarships to students undertaking nationally accredited university and vocational studies (delivered by TAFE, Registered Training Organisations, or as apprenticeships) on and off island, to help cover study related travel costs and expenses.

Paramedicine student, Mirabelle Creek, is one of the recipients of the 2022 Tertiary Education Bursary Program, and will use her funding to cover study-related costs such as textbooks and uniforms.

The funds from this scholarship will assist me in attending my Non-Emergency Work Learning Placement later in the year, and contribute to the purchase of my uniform. textbooks, living and travel expenses

The program objective is to encourage young adults to develop skills and improve employment prospects, and it is also open to adults wishing to upskill or seek formal qualifications. Read more about Mirabelle's journey in Paramedicine at Charles Sturt University, on page 6.

IN THIS EDITION

- Tertiary Bursary Recipient -Mirabelle Creek
- **Reserves & Conservation** Committee update
- Virtual fencing pilot
- Aspiring young firefighters
- Sustainability Advisory Committee update
- Weed of the month
- Highlighting five special envelopes at the museum
- Dog Point Wines
- Library update
- Tourism news
- Bounty Day
- Important information & upcoming events

Safety management at the airport

Reserves and Conservation Advisory Committee Update

The Reserves and Conservation Advisory Committee (RCAC) have met three times this year and some of the important issues that have been discussed have been the temporary ramp at Ball Bay, Cascade and Quarantine Reserves Plan of Management, proposed tree management policies, weed management, cat management, and the Ivens Toon Buffett Trust. NIRC and RCAC members are currently reviewing the guidelines for the Toon Trust so that council can recommence the program. We are also working on a priority weed list for Norfolk Island that will help council to prioritise any future weed control works in the Public Reserves. The committee has also raised great concerns on the impact that free roaming cats have on our environment, especially on our threatened species and migrating sea birds. Council is now reviewing the existing legislation, at all levels of government, in relation to the importation of all animals, including cats to Norfolk Island as well as other cat management options such as microchipping, registration, desexing, smallanimal pound and curfews to encourage responsible cat ownership. NIRC looks forward to continuing to work with the RCAC and appreciates the time and effort that they all regularly contribute.

Virtual Fencing pilot gets green light thanks to funding from Parks Australia

NIRC has been successful in securing funding for advanced technology to manage roadside cattle as part of the Our Marine Parks grant, made available from Parks Australia. This is the second grant provided to Council from the program following funding for the development of an educational video on the prevention of marine plastic waste.

The technology for managing cattle is known as Virtual Fencing. This utilises a system of individual cattle collars, GPS, and radio communication, along with software to adapt grazing patterns. The technology is increasingly used to manage cattle in place of physical fencing and is considered a more cost-effective technique. It is hoped this system will assist in protecting sensitive waterways from cattle and, therefore, help improve water quality flowing into the Marine Park. This will bring benefits to marine waters, including our coral reefs.

NIRC will be working with stakeholders, including the Norfolk Island Cattle Association in piloting this technology and, if successful, subsequently rolling it out across all roadside cattle.

3. NORF'K FUSS

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Invisible Boundry Line

Restricting obstacles to ensure safe aircraft operations

NIRC is about to deliver on its Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) management plan for the year. The OLS is the invisible boundary around the airport runways that restrict obstacles to ensure safe aircraft operations in accordance with industry regulations. Any obstacles that cannot be reasonably moved must be highlighted with a red hazard signal, much like the one on top of Mount Pitt.

One of the challenges for Norfolk has always been the management of trees around the airport. You may have noticed some of the trees dotted across the island that have been topped and are now reshooting. This can be a complex operation at times, but it is an essential investment for continuity of operations at Norfolk Island International Airport.



Wildlife Hazard Management

One of the unique attractions to Norfolk is its flora and fauna, particularly migrating sea birds. They unfortunately create quite a unique challenge for aircraft movements on Norfolk at certain times of the year.

NIRC is rising to the challenge and looking into new ways of managing wildlife hazards at the airport. An emerging technology of particular interest is the use of drone technology. Although there are very tight regulations regarding the use of drones at airports, there is an option to explore their use as it has proved quite effective for species management in other parts of Australia.

Culling practices (for non-protected species) are presently ramping up, due to the explosion of bird populations from a particularly wet first quarter of 2022 leading into the army grub season.



Airport Statistics for May













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A visit from aspiring firefighters

Norfolk Island Fire Service was lucky enough to receive a visit from some young aspiring firefighters.

The young ones assisted the crew in testing the vehicles to ensure they were in top shape. They took great delight in using the truck's monitor to see how far it could squirt out the water, a whopping 84 meters! They then helped us to refill the truck with water but were still undecided if they had more fun playing in the water or refilling the tanks.

A great time was had by all, thanks for the visit!



Sustainability Advisory Committee Update

NIRC has been working with representatives of the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) since the start of 2022, including three meetings covering a range of sustainability issues facing the island. The SAC was critical in reviewing the Waste Management Strategic Review, conducted by Anne Prince Consulting, and advising on its implementation. This includes future measures embracing circular economy and reducing waste requiring export to the mainland.

The SAC has also advised on matters relating to a sustainable population and future electricity upgrades. A preliminary update has been provided to the SAC on a Food Security Strategy for Norfolk Island. It is expected that a final version of this strategy will be brought to the SAC for their review and input, following public exhibition and before taking to Council for endorsement. NIRC is thankful for the contribution of the Sustainability Advisory Committee members to date and looks forward to working with them over the coming months and years.



5. NORF'K FUSS





Channel 7 Weekend Sunrise broadcasting live

The crew from Channel Seven's Weekend Sunrise broadcasted live weather crosses from Norfolk Island on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June. James Tobin spent his 7th visit to the island with his crew, Jarod, Wayne, and Paul.

As part of the campaign, viewers had the chance to book a great holiday package deal promotion including 7 night's accommodation, flights and other great inclusions.

Many thanks to Qantas for their tremendous support in getting the crew's film gear to the island.

Thanks also to the various residents who were selected as local tourism ambassadors, promoting our island by sharing their stories, their personalities, and their products on camera. Great work!

May tourism figures Gross Sales and Net Income

Transactions are from the destination website and the Visitor Information Centre and include Tours, Accommodation, Car Hire, and Retail sales.

- Best Gross Retail Sales for May on record
- Best Gross Accommodation/Car Hire Sales for May on Record
- Best Gross Total Sales for May on Record

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON - TOURISM GROSS SALES



- Best Nett Retail Sales for May on Record
- Best Nett Accommodation/Car Hire Sales for May on Record
- Best Nett Total Sales for May on Record

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON - TOURISM NETT INCOME

A letter of thanks from Tertiary Education Bursary Program recipient

I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your donation to support students undertaking Tertiary Education. I am humbled to have been successful in my application.

I am a first year Paramedicine student at Charles Sturt University. I am living on the Bathurst campus and am having an amazing time at university. The course is everything that I was expecting and so much more. I am constantly learning about new aspects of the course and am excited to study every day.

The funds from this scholarship will assist me in attending my Non-Emergency Work Learning Placement later in the year, and contribute to the purchase of my uniform, textbooks, living and travel expenses.

I recognise that health is a growing industry (worldwide and in small, isolated communities like my island home) and I would like to play an active role in this industry development. I hope to work as Paramedic in both urban and rural locations across the world as a highly capable professional. I dream to work for emergency health agencies in developing countries and, I am extremely interested in further study and obtaining a Graduate Diploma in Health Care in Remote and Extreme Environments. I hope to one day be able to work in Antarctica.

Again, thank you for your donation of the Tertiary Education Bursary Program. I greatly appreciate the financial assistance while studying.

Kind Regards,

Mirabelle Creek



The Liquor Bond receives a particularly delicious visit from Dog Point Wines

The Liquor Bond recently welcomed Jak Nash from Dog Point Wines to Norfolk Island.

Dog Point Vineyard is New Zealand's largest certified organic vineyard by Biogro NZ. Dog Point is family owned and one of the oldest privately established vineyards, located on the hill slopes of the Southern Valleys of Marlborough, New Zealand. The wines are vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free with the primary focus being to produce wines of uncompromising quality that will cellar well. (For more info; Dog Point Vineyard, Marlborough Wines of New Zealand)

The highlight of Jak's visit was a Dog Point wine tasting followed by a Dog Point wine paired dinner, both held at Governors Lodge. At both events, Jak expertly presented Dog Point's delicious range of four wines including a sauvignon blanc, and three barrel wines fermented using natural (wild) yeasts a sauvignon blanc fermented in older French oak barrels (Section 94), chardonnay, and a pinot noir.

The Dog Point evening was very well received and The Liquor Bond gratefully thanks Jak for making the effort to visit Norfolk.



Sydney Writer's Festival Recap

From Friday 20 May to Sunday 22 May the Sydney Writers Festival live streamed to Norfolk Island.

The 2022 Festival theme 'Change my Mind' was an invitation, a challenge, and a promise of intent and it did not disappoint. In total seven events were streamed to Island across a range of genres including; American cartoonist Art Spiegelman, authors Michelle de Krester, Christos Tsiolkas, Steve Toltz, and Liane Moriarty, as well as poets Maxine Beneba Clark and Omar Musa.



Friday 20-Sunday 22 May

Live & Local

The Public Library has the latest publications by Liane Moriarty (The Apple Never Falls), and Steve Toltz's (Here Goes Nothing) available. Other books by authors from the Festival are on order and expected to arrive this month.

For more information, you can view the Library catalogue by clicking <u>here</u>



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Or pop into the Library during opening hours: Monday - 10am to 1pm and 4pm to 6pm Wednesday - 10am to 1pm Friday - 1pm to 4pm Saturday - 10am to 12pm

We hope these events helped to encourage a love of writing and reading and all the creative worlds to be explored.

Weed of the Month - Bitou Bush

Confirmed to be on Norfolk Island

Bitou Bush, Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. rotundata was recently confirmed to be present on Norfolk Island by the scientists from Agriculture Victoria Research, who were here carrying out the recent terrestrial plant component of the Pest and Disease Survey for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Bitou Bush is one of Australia's worst weeds because of its environmental impacts, invasive ability and potential to spread. The good news is that we only know of one small infestation on Norfolk Island and the property owners are already well advanced in controlling it! We are interested in finding out if anyone else may have seen this plant on their property or somewhere on Norfolk Island.





Bitou Bush is a perennial shrub that grows to 3m high and 6m wide with yellow daisy like flowers and semisucculent leaves that are a broad oval shape with smooth, or only slightly toothed, edges. The fruits are fleshy, egg shaped and turn from green to black when mature and contain a single seed.

If you think you have seen any Bitou Bush on Norfolk Island please contact Tara Patel on 22001 ext.140 for assistance in identification and control. Prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective forms of weed control. It is vital we keep Norfolk free of Bitou Bush.

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Celebrating Bounty Day

What a fabulous Bounty Day celebration, commemorating 166 years of the Pitcairn settlement on Norfolk Island. Special thanks to the Bounty Day Committee for organising a wonderful event for residents and tourists to enjoy.







Highlighting the journey of five Pitcairn Islanders on envelopes

To commemorate the 166th Anniversary Day (Bounty Day) we're highlighting the story of five Pitcairn Islanders who made the journey on the Morayshire to settle on Norfolk Island in 1856.

The series was titled The Pitcairners of Norfolk Island and was painted by artist David Hopkins and released by the Norfolk Island Philatelic Bureau in 1987. It was a unique release as they were a Pre Stamped Envelope (PSE) and came ready to post, in contrast to the postage stamps that needed to be adhered to a separate envelope. Each envelope includes a beautiful piece of artwork, known as a cache. The artwork was designed to be an eye-catching, educational supplement to the stamps themselves. The PSE also contained a short biography of the Pitcairn Islander on the back of the envelope.





Rosalind Amelia Young - Authoress and Historian

(Artwork by David Hopkins)

- Arrived on Norfolk Island as a three year old child from the Morayshire
- Returned to Pitcairn Island in 1864 with her parents
- On Pitcairn she documented the Mutiny of the Bounty and the story of their descendants in her book 'Story of Pitcairn Island 1790-1894'
- Her book had eight printings up until 1924. In 1907 she married Pastor David Nield



George H. P Christian - Deep sea Whaler and Master Mariner (Artwork by David Hopkins)

- Great grandson of Fletcher Christian
- Went to sea at the age of 14
- Travelled on Whaling vessels Robert Towns and Charles W Morgan
- Passed away in 1940 and buried in the Norfolk cemetery



John Buffett II

John Buffett II - Repatriating Chief Magistrate

(Artwork by David Hopkins)

- Second son of John Buffet, an Englishman who joined the Pitcairn Community as a teacher
- Born in 1826, he arrived with wife Elizabeth (nee Young) on Norfolk Island and worked as a carpenter and farmer
- Elected as Chief Magistrate on Norfolk Island in 1867 and then again 1881 serving a total of six years. He convened public meetings and hearings, administered justice and collected levies
- Passed in 1906 and was buried in Norfolk Island's cemetery







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Charles Allen Christian - Pioneer Sawmiller

(Artwork by David Hopkins)

- One of the first Pitcairn Islanders to fell and mill Norfolk Island pine trees.
- Pines were felled by teams of men, cut in pitsaws, transported by horse drawn jinkers (with wooden wheels)
- Wood cut by Christian was then used to construct many of the old Islander homes with hand-cut and shaped panels



George F.M. Evans - Tinker, Miller and Corn Grinder

(Artwork by David Hopkins)

- Known as 'Tinker'
- Used the convict era windmill to grind maize (corn)
- Grew Indian corn on home property
- Created a method to grind corn kernels from his family farm and make local corn flour

These are only five of the 194 people who disembarked the Morayshire on that wet and rainy day 166 years ago but it gives a great insight into the variety of lives these settlers established on Norfolk Island (or in Rosalind's case back on Pitcairn Island). This set of envelopes, which also included a series packet with a summarised history of Norfolk Island (image 1), is part of Dr. Robert Varman's collection of philatelic material which was donated to the Norfolk Island Museum Trust last year.

The museum would like to thank the former staff of the Norfolk Island Philatelic Bureau who put together these biographies in the 1980s and shared them with thousands of stamp collectors all over the world. A little taste of Anniversary Day can today be found in many stamp albums and collections.

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Community Tree Planting Days

Important Dates

June

8	Anniversary Bounty Day – Public holiday
13	Queen's Birthday – Public holiday
15	Government House Charity Open day
18-24	Ballroom Dancing Festival in Rawson Hall

July

4-8 6 20 15-23 NI Travel Centre 3D Archery Championship Government House Charity Open day Government House Charity Open day Rock'n'roll on Norfolk Island

June Council Meeting Minutes

Council meeting minutes from 1 June are now available on our website. Click <u>here</u> to read the minutes.

Council Ordinary6 July5 OctoberMeeting Dates3 August9 November7 September7 December

Council meetings are scheduled at 2pm at the Council Chambers inside the Bicentennial Complex, Taylors Roa

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.



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

Sunday 12 June - 9am Anson Bay (Easy to Moderate)

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

Sunday 26 June - 9am Cockpit Creek (Easy)

A continuation of last years planting, slowly working upstream to create habitat and rehabilitate the health of the creek.

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 Mike Colreavy, can be contacted to arrange meetings to discuss concerns, issues or general information by emailing executiveassistant@nirc.gov.nf

Contact Address:

Phone: Email: Opening hours: Customer Care, 9 New Cascade Road NORFOLK ISLAND 2899 Free local call 0100 and for international callers + 6723 22244 customercare@nirc.gov.nf Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm (closed on public holidays)

