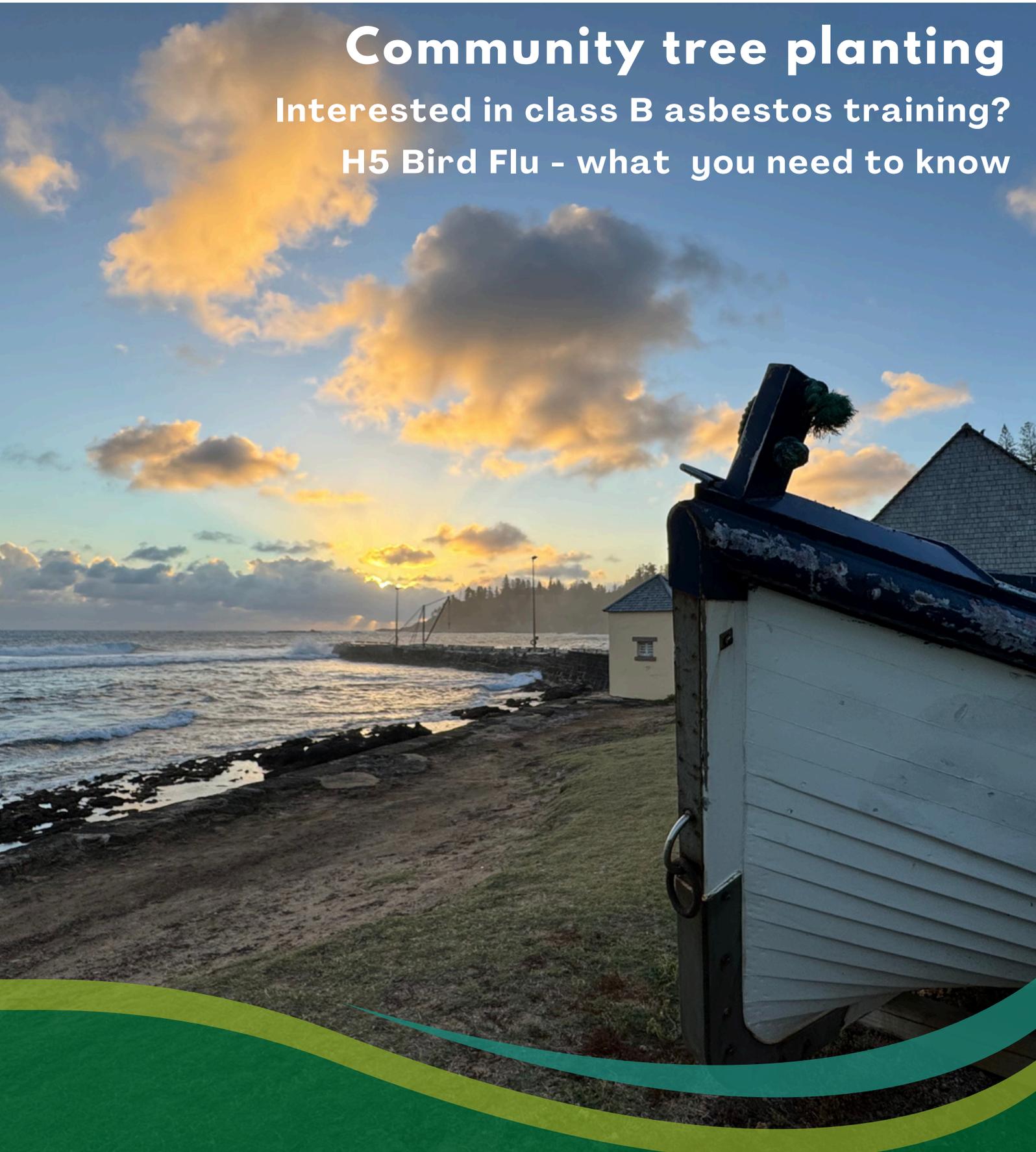


Community tree planting

Interested in class B asbestos training?

H5 Bird Flu - what you need to know





Broad-leaved Meryta, see page 8 for more.
Photo by Lilli-Unna King

KEY TOPICS

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For the past few months, we have featured staff photos on the cover, page 1 and last page of the Norf'k Fuss. The photos are taken by NIRC staff as part of an internal activity to share personal perspectives of Norfolk Island, or as part of their role. We hope you enjoy them.

FLORA FORCE NATIVE PLANT SALE

WHEN: 9-11am Friday 3 October
(and every Friday fortnight)

WHERE: Bishop Patterson Rd
EFTPOS Now Available!

Flora Force is a volunteer led program supported by NIRC and NINP that propagates Norfolk natives to be planted out in our reserves and also made available for the community to purchase. All proceeds go back into the program or towards other restoration efforts across the island.

Prices are based on goodwill that the pots will be returned so we can keep them in circulation and keep the program running. If you do have any of our pots or trays please make an effort to return them. Thank you!

ROADS UPDATE

Intermittent adverse weather conditions continue to impact the timelines for repairing potholes across the island, and the team is continuing to work through the backlog.

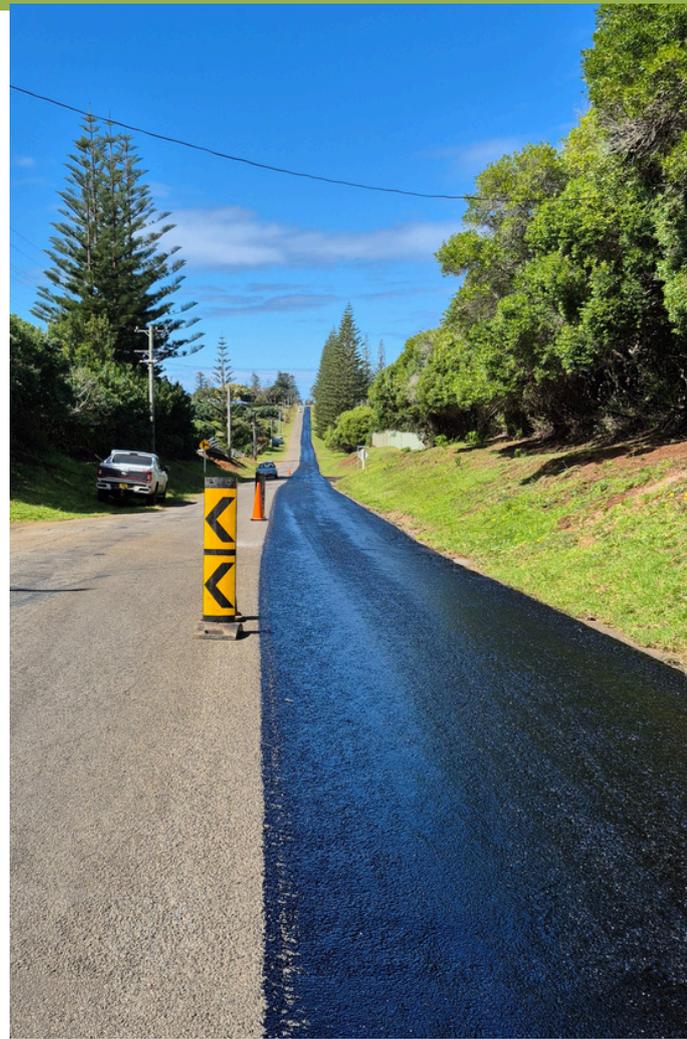
Residents may have seen the recent tar seal sprayed on most of New Farm Road and part of Colins Head Road. This has been done in an effort to slow the deterioration of the road and reduce the chances of pothole formation.

This treatment was previously trialled on Middlegate Road in June 2025 and has only seen a couple of small potholes form at the end of August; which is a positive outcome considering length of the area treated on Middlegate Road was 1.4km in length.

The intention is for this treatment to be deployed on several key roads based on lessons learnt from the Middlegate Road trial as weather permits. This rejuvenation of the road surface sees that most moisture will run off the road, rather than soaking into the road and opening up new potholes.

By taking this approach, we are effectively buying time, as fixing potholes has a significant time and material cost, and restricts time spent on proactive maintenance and road reconstructing works.

Additionally, residents will likely have noticed changes to the Roads Depot due to the great work by the team and observed also that the department is starting to build its stockpiles in advance of road reconstruction works.



H5 AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU) - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Around the world right now, there is a serious and highly contagious strain of bird flu, H5N1, with Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands the only places still free from this strain.

At this point, H5 bird flu has not been detected on Norfolk Island, however we should all be aware of what it is and what we can do if it does appear.

H5 bird flu is a type of virus that mainly affects birds, but can also affect other animals, and, on rare occasions, humans. The virus is spread between birds through droppings, respiratory droplets and close contact.

Wild birds can carry H5 bird flu over long distances, and this poses a risk to Norfolk, which is a regular destination for migratory birds such as wedge-tailed shearwaters (ghostbirds) and black-winged petrels, among others.

Wild and domestic birds, including poultry, can catch H5 bird flu. The risk of humans becoming infected is low, as current strains of H5 bird flu don't seem to transmit easily to or between humans. However, human infections of this strain have been reported overseas, with most infected people having had close contact with infected animals and contaminated environments.

In partnership with the Australian Government, Norfolk Island Regional Council, along with Norfolk Island National Park and other island stakeholders, have been working on plans and protocols that will help the community prepare for and respond to any potential bird flu outbreak.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

People with backyard poultry or pet birds should take steps to protect their birds including not letting wild birds and feral chickens mingle with your birds or access feed and water containers. Always wash your hands with soap and water before and after handling birds or eggs.

Keep pets away from wild birds – keep dogs on a leash, especially near wild birds and don't let pets eat or touch sick or dead birds. Keep cats contained on your property.

Commercial egg farmers need to use effective on-farm biosecurity and hygiene measures to protect their birds from disease.

Anyone caring for wild birds should use hygiene measures and personal protection equipment when handling sick or injured birds.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Avoid contact with sick or dead birds, **record** what you see and **report** any unusual sightings to NIRC Customer Care (0100) or Norfolk Island National Park (53218) or call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on +61 1800 675 888 and choose option 2 (International Call).

If the birds are in Norfolk Island National Park, call the park on 22695 or 53218.

Please provide as much information as you can, including photos or video, if it's safe to take one. [Go to our website](#) for more information.

Please note: A single dead bird is not an unusual natural occurrence and doesn't need to be reported. We are only concerned if there are sightings of unusual behaviours and/or if you see groups of dead birds.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BIRD FLU (h5 avian influenza)

Be prepared:
birdflu.gov.au



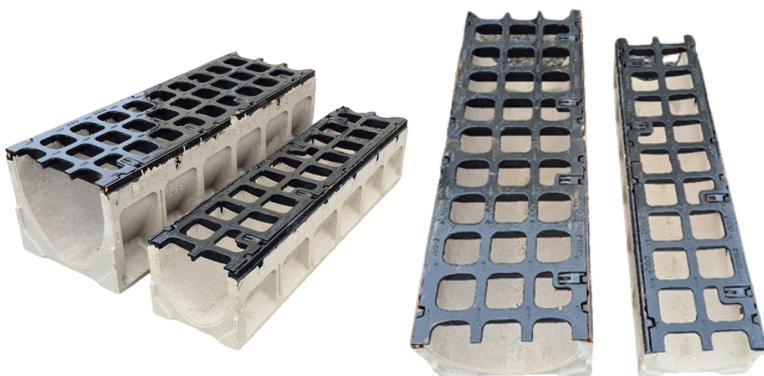
Expression of Interest - disposal of trench drain

NIRC is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the community for the purchase of surplus heavy duty modular trench drain, made from polymer concrete (polycrete TraffikDrain). Each channel unit has a cast-in ductile iron wearing edge rail which provides support for trafficable wheel loads up to 8 tonne.

Interested parties can inspect the tender items by contacting William Arundell via Customer Care. The images below are indicative of the type and condition of the trench drains being offered. The successful tenderer must arrange the removal of the asset they have bid on and paid for.

For details of available sizes, conditions of sale and how to submit an EOI, including the download of the tender application form, head to our [Tenders and EOIs page](#) of the website and look for EOI 17/2025.

For more information contact William Arundell on 0100 (Local freecall) or 22001. Closing at 4pm Friday 3 October 2025. Offers received after this date will not be considered.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Remove Non-Friable Asbestos (Class B)
+ Civil, Safety & Environmental training

Training opportunity - asbestos removal

Council has engaged Pinnacle Safety and Training to deliver a 2-day Class B Asbestos Removal course on Norfolk Island for NIRC staff. This training will likely occur around late October/early November, but details are yet to be confirmed.

There is an opportunity for relevant local businesses to take advantage of having access to the trainers while they are on the island and arrange training for their staff. The course takes a maximum of 12 people and training fees would be at the participants' costs. NIRC will be covering trainers' travel costs.

There may also be opportunities to undertake civil, safety and / or environmental training - see our [flyer for details](#).

For more information or to register your interest, contact David Kennedy, NIRC WHS Advisor by email at David.Kennedy@nirc.gov.nf or call 55789.



COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

Norfolk Island is home to 182 native species of plant, of which 46 are endemic.

While 'native' means that a species has more than one home (for example, our Flax, *Phormium tenax*, is native to Norfolk and also to New Zealand), the term 'endemic' is even more special. Endemic means that a species only has one true home where it occurs naturally. Everywhere else it may occur in the world it has been introduced by humans. For example, the Norfolk Pine, *Araucaria heterophylla* is endemic to Norfolk, and has been introduced to other countries across the world.

We were lucky enough to expand the wild populations of three different endemic species last week, with the help of Mark Scott and Amber Buffet from Norfolk Island National Park, and Coral Berry Crusader volunteers dropped their trowels and picked up their shovels for a morning of tree planting.

Together, everyone planted almost 200 Norfolk Abutilon, Norfolk Island Euphorbia and Norfolk Plumbago in 100 Acre Reserve. These additions greatly expanded the known wild populations!

The plants will be carefully tended over the summer and all going well, they'll self-seed throughout the reserve.

Two Chimneys Reserve

Join us for our one and only community planting of the year in Two Chimneys Reserve on Sunday 21 September from 9am to continue this great work!

WHEN: 9am on Sunday 21st September

BRING: water, spade or other planting tools and your enthusiasm!

This planting will take place on the slope of the boundary inside the reserve.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please **WASH YOUR TOOLS** before coming to the reserve. Phytophthora, a very harmful soil pathogen, has been identified in various parts of Norfolk. It can spread easily in soil left on boots or gardening tools.

We'll provide a sterilisation station before and after the planting but please ensure your tools are clean of soil and mud before arriving. This will protect both the reserve and your property on your return.

We'll have a cuppa and morning tea to finish up. All are welcome, sii yorlyi deya!

CORK DORK REPORT - PORT UNCORKED

Emma Christian is back with an update from the Liquor Bond, and this month she's talking all things Port! Keep an eye out at the Bond for tastings, as these are becoming more frequent.

Port Uncorked - In celebration of International Port Wine Day!

When I think of Port, I'm reminded of my Dad. He loved to host epic dinner parties, and they often finished with him sipping a good Aussie Tawny (no, we can't call it Port anymore!) from his little crystal glass, laughing and telling stories of his life and travels.

Wednesday the 10th of September was International Port Wine Day, the perfect time to don my cork dork hat and shed some light these intriguing wines.

So, what is Port, exactly?

The fortification of wine was originally practised out of necessity – a preservation method dating back to the 16th century that extends the life of the wine, making it extremely capable of long-term ageing or storing.

By adding a neutral grape spirit during production, fermentation is halted, the alcohol level is increased, and more residual sugar is retained – around 100 g/L compared to about 4 g/L in a typical table wine.

So, is fortified wine and Port the same thing?

Technically, yes. However, Port is from a 'Protected Designation of Origin'. This means that only fortified wines produced in the Douro Demarcated region of Portugal are permitted to use the term "Port" and are subject to strict production guidelines.

All other wines made outside of this designation are considered "fortified wines".



SPOTLIGHT ON PORT

Ruby, Tawny...what does it all mean??

Tawnies are exposed to oxygen during the barrel ageing process which produces the signature Tawny colour, encouraging tertiary characters of toffee, caramel, dried fruits (fig or raisin), toasted walnut and vanilla.

Perfect pairing: good vintage cheddar, pecan pie or crème brûlée.

Ruby Port / fortified is a younger, fresher style, often fermented and fortified in stainless steel tanks to allow the retention of fresh fruit characteristics and preserve the beautiful ruby colour of the wine. These wines are sweet, with vibrant notes of black cherry, raspberry, sweet spices and chocolate.

Perfect pairing: strong blue cheese and guava jelly, or dark chocolate torte.

Both Tawnies and Rubies are generally made with red grape varieties – however fortified white and rosé exist and are worth trying if you can get your hands on them!

Thanks fe me, and Santé.

Emma

THE NORFOLK WAVE RECYCLING CENTRE



The Re-Use area

The Re-use area at the recycling centre is a one-stop-shop for pre-loved clothes, games, school uniforms, crockery and more! Located just past the main drop-off point, the re-use area is a community friendly space that welcomes the give and take of quality, working items that might be loved by the next person.

HELP US MANAGE THIS AREA

If used as a general disposal zone, the re-use area VERY quickly turns to chaos and creates an environment that no-one can use efficiently. We need your understanding and co-operation to keep this space open and accessible to everyone.

A general rule to follow is 'if you wouldn't gift it, don't give it'. Meaning that if you wouldn't gift that item to a friend knowing they might find value in it, please don't give it to the re-use area. Take broken or unusable items to their designated areas at the residential, bulky E-waste or builders drop-off areas.

Not only is this space used by the community for some absolute bargain finds, we also sort tonnes of clothes for pop ups, and for export and recycling. Our wonderful 'Trash or Treasure' volunteers meet here most Wednesday



**PLEASE ONLY LEAVE QUALITY,
WORKING ITEMS FOR THE NEXT
PERSON TO LOVE**

NORFOLK NATIVES - BROAD-LEAFED MERYTA

Meryta latifolia

Family: Araliaceae

Status: Endemic/Critically endangered

Description

Very attractive tree growing to a maximum of 7m. Leaves are large (50-75cm long/25-30cm wide) with a rounded end and narrow base where they attach to the main trunk with a thick petiole. Leaves are dark green with distinct yellow/light green midrib and veins. Plants are male or female, distinguishable only by their flowers. Female flowers start as small, obscure, green clusters with sticky yellow stigma that look like sea anemone. After pollination they mature into clusters of smooth, ribbed green fruit. Mature fruits are a deep purple that contain multiple seeds. Male flowers are much more obvious from the beginning, emerging from the centre of the whorled leaf growth as a large inflorescence of small green buds that open into many fluffy yellow flowers. After flowering the inflorescence turns brown, shrivels and falls away.

Distribution

Growing naturally in coastal areas and on forest edges, this plant has become more common across many habitats where cows don't graze.

Growing conditions

Grows well in most areas. Requires some wind protection.

Propagation

Grows very easily from seed. Collect seeds when dark purple, most commonly between April-July. Removing flesh before sowing will speed up germination. Spread seeds in a tray with potting mix and cover lightly. Germination take 45-70 days if the seeds have been cleaned of flesh.

Look-alikes

Similar to the endemic Narrow-leafed Meryta (*Meryta angustifolia*), however BLM is much more stocky and compact with larger, broader leaves. Whereas NLM is a finer plant with more delicate, narrower foliage and seed clusters.

Other Information

This species was once on a steady road towards extinction, but the quick intervention of a few invested locals ensured it was brought back from the brink. Luckily for us it is now widespread across public and private property, thriving in gardens and forests alike. The smell of the Meryta flowers indicate that Springtime is upon us! A popular species for bees, be sure to plant multiple plants in the same area to ensure you have males and females present.

Pictured at right:

1-3 - stages of female flower

4-6 - stages of male flower

See page 1 for image of Broad-Leafed Meryta tree

All photos by Lilli-Unna King, except where indicated otherwise



WEED WATCH - INKWEED

Phytolacca octandra

Common Names: Inkweed, Dye-Berry, Red-ink plant

Family: *Phytolaccaceae*

Origin: Tropical South and Central America

Description

A bushy and spreading perennial subshrub commonly growing to 1m in height but reaching to 2m if supported. Stems are hollow and brittle, growing slightly woody at the base and supported by a large, brittle taproot. Stems are light green, sometimes reddish and have numerous white dots of crystalline calcium oxalate inside. Leaves are large, oval-shaped (5-25cm long x 1-8cm wide) and light green when young but can change to reddish/purple. Flower clusters are produced along the main stem. These are dense, erect clusters of pale flowers that develop into purple/black inky berries.

How do they spread?

Spread by seed. Seeds are juicy and loved by birds. Seeds can also be spread in soil or through watercourses.

Why are they an issue?

Inkweed are competitive, fast maturing plants that produce prolific amounts of viable and easily dispersed seed. They are pioneer plants that are often the first colonisers of disturbed ground and can quickly cover and outcompete an area of other native species.

Where are they likely to occur?

Island wide, particularly in disturbed ground.

How can I control it?

- Small plants can easily be pulled by hand but larger plants will snap off and leave the taproot in the ground.
- Cut and paste - Cut the stem/trunk as close to the ground as possible and cover the entire stump with herbicide as soon as possible after cutting. Apply either glyphosate gel (120g/L strength) or metsulfuron gel (10g/l strength) to the entire cut stem.
- Foliar spray - Apply herbicide using a hand held sprayer/knapsack to plants <1m tall, or gun and hose for larger infestations. Use the adjuvant recommended on the label.
- Apply glyphosate (360 g/L active ingredient) herbicide at a rate of 20ml/L plus organosilicone penetrant (2ml/L) to cover entire plant. Note: Glyphosate overspray will kill other (desirable) plants. OR apply metsulfuron herbicide (600g/kg active ingredient at 0.5g/L knapsack or 20g/100L gun and hose) + organosilicone penetrant (3ml/L). Note: Metsulfuron overspray will kill other (desirable) broadleaf plants and has residual activity in the soil which aids in killing below ground parts.
- In a pasture situation apply picloram/triclopyr herbicide (picloram 100g/l and triclopyr 300g/l active ingredient at 6ml/L) to thoroughly wet all parts of plant. Note: Triclopyr and picloram herbicides are 'grass friendly' but overspray will kill other (desirable) broadleaf plants. Picloram has residual activity in the soil which may leach and kill other plants. Do not use under and around other (desirable) broadleaf plants.





NORFOLK ISLAND

TOURISM NEWS

Treasures of the South Pacific 2025

Treasures Of the South Pacific (TOSP) is an annual roadshow that is sponsored by the Pacific Tourism Office, Pacific Trade Investment and Fiji Airways. There are eleven island nations represented and this year Tonga joined the roadshow for the first time.

These events give destinations the opportunity to present in front of travel and trade agents, question time, fun give-aways and time for networking.

As a long-time member Norfolk Island Tourism attended all events which were held during August and September visiting Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Newcastle.



Abbey Feutrill (Social Tap - NI Tourism Marketing) at the Sydney TOSP event. Abbey says "The agents were genuinely interested in Norfolk and keen to learn more"

Please let us know if your club or association has confirmed dates for 2026.

Email nitourism@nirc.gov.nf

Media famil - Editor of Graziher magazine

It was lovely for tourism staff meet with Victoria Carey, who was on the island last week with Gail Virgona from Social Tap marketing.

Victoria is the Editor of Australian magazine Graziher; a bi-monthly publication shares inspiring stories with their audience, primarily targetting women living and working in remote regional areas of Australia.

During her stay, Victoria created lots of incredible social media stories on the Graziher platforms, with a 6-page Norfolk feature due out in the November edition.



Gail Virgona (left) and Editor of Graziher magazine, Victoria Carey during the media famil last month.





 **NORFOLK ISLAND**
TOURISM NEWS

Travellers Choice agents enjoying the sights, tastes and beauty of Norfolk Island

Television Advertising

 **Imparja** An exciting advertising campaign commenced on Imparja/GO/GEM in August. Showcasing stunning new footage of the island and its people; with the commentary spoken in the local language.

The advertisements direct people to the new website for holiday information and bookings, and will be screening in prime time right through until November.

On ya ' bike...

The Visitor Information Centre has two Velectrix Urban e-bikes - both without batteries, however they can be used as manual push bikes). If you'd like to find out more head down to the Visitor Information Centre.

The bikes are in quite good condition and can be viewed at the VIC. Looking for offers over \$100 - first in best dressed.



Warm Norfolk Welcome for Travel Agents

Mr David Bantoft, co-owner of All About Travel / Norfolk Select, recently took a group of Travellers Choice agents from various locations across Australia with Qantas to explore the Beautiful Norfolk Island.

After flying in with Qantas, the visitors settled in the heart of town at Aloha Apartments and started their day at High Tide Kitchen for breakfast.

Lucky to be spoilt with great weather, Norfolk's scenery was showing its beautiful best as the group enjoyed all of the tours and activities on offer. Highlights included the opportunity to join in on island tours such as the island Fish Fry, Progressive Dinner and Convict Settlement Tour.

Dining options were many, with plenty of different locations and style of food tried, and a visit to the island brewery allowing a sample of the local beer.

Agents learnt about the history and culture of the Island and were treated to a performance by the island dancers - in fact, the only thing that was lacking was "more time".

Special thanks to ALL the Norfolk Island suppliers who made the trip possible.



UPCOMING EVENTS

24 September

Government House Charity Open Day

13 October

Royal A & H Show Day

15 October

Government House Charity Open Day

25 – 30 October

Archery 3D International Shoot

26 Oct – 2 Nov

Stargazing Spectacular

5 November

Government House Charity Open Day

9 November

Norfolk Island Around the Island Relay 2025

Click [HERE](#) for details of all upcoming events

For everything you need to know about visiting our beautiful island, head over to our tourism website at norfolkisland.com.au

LATEST NEWS IS ONLINE

Did you know you can find our most recent media releases, including Council meeting briefs, on our website? You can find them under News on our homepage or you can click [HERE](#) to view them.

JOBS AT NIRC

to view details about our current vacancies, including position descriptions and how to apply, head to [Working for Council](#) on our website.



Photo by Tania Anderson

COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held at 2pm on Wednesday 24 September 2025 at Bicentennial Complex 39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine, Norfolk Island.

Meetings can also be viewed online, with the live link provided on Council's Facebook page prior to the commencement of the meeting, and are aired live on Radio Norfolk. Link to Council Meetings [here](#).

PUBLIC ACCESS MEETING

Requests for Public Access are open to members of the public until 4:30pm on the Monday prior to Council Meeting day, with public access to be conducted on the day of the Council meeting commencing at 2pm, as part of the meeting's order of business.

Intending speakers should read item 4. Public Access in the [NIRC Code of Meeting Practice](#), adopted 25 June 2025 before making their request.

To arrange Public Access speaking at a Council meeting, please email executiveassistant@nirc.gov.nf with details of your request.

CONTACT NIRC

ADDRESS:

Bicentennial Complex
39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine
NORFOLK ISLAND 2899

PHONE:

Free local call 0100
International callers +6723 22001

EMAIL: customer-care@nirc.gov.nf

WEBSITE: www.nirc.gov.nf/

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm (closed on public holidays)