

October 2025

Community Strategic Plan & Tertiary Education Grants awarded

Latest road works update

No FOGS down the sink

Have Your Say!



Photo by Tatiana Samuel

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Vale Robin Adams

Council paid tribute to former Mayor and community leader, Robin Adams, at its September meeting, acknowledging a life of impressive achievements and accomplishments.

Lead Administrator, Scott Mason noted that Ms Adams many achievements and tireless advocacy for Norfolk Island weren't all related to her professional life but spanned many community groups and activities.

Members of the public gallery, which included Robin's family and friends, were invited to join the Administrators and staff for a short break in which to reflect on a life well-lived, one dedicated to her community.

ROADWORKS

Whilst there are still a large number to go, the roads team has been making good progress through the backlog of potholes that had built up through the wetter months.

There have been some intermittent mechanical issues with the Jetmaster patching truck along the way, which has slowed progress briefly, but we are seeing a general reduction in potholes across the island.

The second half of Colins Head Road, see image at right, between the school and Stockyard Road has now received a tar seal. This treatment to the surface will see that most moisture will run off the road, rather than soaking into the road and opening up new potholes.

New flashing beacons have been installed on a number of the Roads trucks to improve the visibility and awareness of the Road team's presence around the island. Please drive safely past these vehicles as crews may be operating in proximity to traffic.

PROJECTS

New metal (gravel) bays are currently being constructed to provide storage for washed gravel ready for use in road reconstruction works. The new storage bays are temporary, as the site has an approved DA for building a reuse centre on it.

The Annual Road Renewal Program projects to replace several sections of roads is scheduled to recommence mid-late October, once backlog of pothole patching has been reduced to a manageable level to free up resources to allow both road projects and road maintenance to occur in parallel.



The schedule for road reconstruction is intended to be in the following order:

- Calebs Lane (recommence);
- Bumbora Road, for 100m from the Bumbora Reserve cattle grid;
- Anson Bay Road, between Headstone Road and Mission Road.

Radio and newspaper updates will occur in advance of planned works and provide information regarding any potential road closures.

See following page for progress image of the depot.



Above: work has commenced on the construction of temporary gravel storage bays at Council's road depot. These will provide a place for washed metal (gravel) to be placed ready for use in road reconstruction works. Full details on previous page.

Recruitment of NIRC General Manager underway

Norfolk Island Regional Council has appointed Local Government Management Services (LGMS) to undertake full recruitment activities for the role of General Manager.

LGMS was selected from three recruitment agencies who responded to the request to quote for the recruitment activity.

The agency will be responsible for all advertising, police checks and further background checks, and will provide Council with a shortlist of candidates to be considered by a selection advisory panel, which will be comprised of both NIRC Administrators and members of the community.

Advisory Committee Recommendations Endorsed by Council

The second meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC), held on 9 September 2025, resulted in recommendations to Council in three key areas.

Following discussions about the prioritisation process for the island's waterways and wetlands for environmental protection, the advisory group sought a draft priority list to be presented to a future committee meeting for review. This review would ensure that the development of the draft Norfolk Island Waterway and Wetland Management Strategy 2025-2035 reflected areas of high community value.

The committee also considered the Draft Drought Management Plan, an important document that includes strategies for water conservation, contingency measures and community engagement during periods of drought on the island, recommending that community education on groundwater/bores and the desalination plant would be included.

Following review, each of the draft documents will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days to allow community feedback to be collected and considered.

A further recommendation was put forward for Council to source data from Regional Development Australia (RDA) on socio-economic and environmental effects of cruise ship visits.

All of the advisory committee recommendations were endorsed by Council, with Lead Administrator, Scott Mason, commenting on the excellent work being done by the group.

HAVE YOUR SAY!



NI Electricity Service Review

Norfolk Island Regional Council is undertaking a review of the island's electricity service, and is seeking your feedback.

This review is to help ensure electricity supply is reliable and sustainable, and the costs to consumers are equitable and affordable. The review is ongoing, but we have some findings we'd like to share with you, and we'd also like to receive your feedback.

We are considering changes to consumer electricity charging, called tariffs, to make it easier to understand and fairer for all consumers. Also under review are potential changes to the 'feed-in' contribution into the electricity grid from renewable energy.

Check your letterbox for our newsletter or call into Council's customer care counter to collect a newsletter and find out more.

Alternatively the newsletter can be viewed on our website (link [HERE](#)) and we have an **online survey** that you can complete [HERE](#).

Please get involved and provide your feedback by 31 October 2025.

Draft Drought Management Plan

Norfolk Island Regional Council invites feedback from the community to inform the development of the Drought Management Plan.

A hard copy may be obtained from Customer Care or the Library and you can view the draft document on our website [HERE](#).

Submissions should be marked as shown below and can be made in the following ways:

In Person:

Customer Care, Bicentennial Centre, 39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine

By Mail:

Mark the envelope *Draft Drought Management Plan Feedback* and mail to:

Norfolk Island Regional Council
PO Box 95, Norfolk Island

By Email:

Subject line: *Draft Drought Management Plan Feedback* to customercare@nirc.gov.nf.

Closing date for submissions is 4:00pm on Wednesday 22 October 2025.

Draft Community Engagement Strategy

Norfolk Island Regional Council invites feedback from the community to inform the development of the **Community Plan**. A hard copy may be obtained from Customer Care or the Library and you can view the draft document on our website [HERE](#).

Submissions should be marked as shown below and can be made in the following ways:

In Person:

Customer Care, Bicentennial Centre, 39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine

By Mail:

Mark the envelope *Draft Community Engagement Strategy Feedback* and mail to

Norfolk Island Regional Council
PO Box 95, Norfolk Island

By Email: Subject line: *Draft Community Engagement Strategy Feedback* to customercare@nirc.gov.nf.

Closing date for submissions is 4:00pm on Wednesday 22 October 2025.



Planning News

Norfolk Island Plan 2002 - Draft Housekeeping Amendments 2025

The Norfolk Island Plan 2002 (*the NI Plan*), the statutory land use plan for Norfolk Island has been in effect since 2004.

A number of variations to the NI Plan have been made since that time, most recently in March 2023. Since then, a number of necessary corrections and amendments have been identified that would help interpretation and improve efficiencies in application of the Plan.

A draft plan has been prepared to make amendments and is available at [Documents for Public Exhibition | Norfolk Island Regional Council](#) and a hard copy is available at Customer Care.

Submissions should be marked as shown below and can be made in the following ways:

In Person:

Customer Care
Bicentennial Centre
39 Taylors Road
Burnt Pine
NORFOLK ISLAND

By Mail:

Mark the envelope *Submission: NI Plan 2002 Housekeeping Amendments 2025* and mail to:
Norfolk Island Regional Council
PO Box 95
NORFOLK ISLAND

By Email:

Subject line: *Submission: NI Plan 2002 Housekeeping Amendments 2025* to planning@nirc.gov.nf.

Closing date for submissions is 4:00pm on Friday 7 November 2025.

What do you know about Planning Certificates?

Are you looking at buying a property on Norfolk Island? Or interested in details about your own block of land?

Anyone can apply for information about a specific portion of land in Norfolk Island by applying for a Planning Certificate.

These Certificates are common in most jurisdictions and are used most often when purchasing land to find out information about the block of land and any buildings at the land, such as:

- compliance with requirements of the Planning and Building legislation;
- whether the land can be subdivided;
- what the land could be developed for under the current planning controls;
- whether the land is subject to heritage management;
- whether there might be a registered bore on the land;
- whether the land is in an Argentine Ant Management Zone.

The Application Form is available from Council's website at [application-for-planning-certificate.pdf](#).

The current fee is \$181.13.

Tertiary Education & Community Strategic Plan Grants Awarded

Norfolk Island Regional Council announced the successful applicants for two grant programs at its 24 September meeting.

Ten applications for support through the Norfolk Island Regional Council 2025 Tertiary Education Grant program have been successful, with a total of \$11,000 awarded to Norfolk Islanders pursuing further education.

NIRC has not offered this grant program since 2023, which was established to assist with the cost of travel to Australia and/or study-related studies for students enrolled in accredited tertiary and vocational courses.

Financial Administrator, Gary Mottau, said, "It's pleasing to note that the current budget has provision for a total of \$72,000 for all of Council's community grant programs, which includes the Tertiary Education Grants."

"On behalf of the Lead Administrator and myself, I offer my congratulations to successful applicants," Mr Mottau said.

Grants of \$1,100 each have been awarded to: Ella Borg; Ashleigh Christian; Cameron Christian; Maycee Deszeccsar; T'Sharn Evans; Flynn McCowan; Ashley Porter; Mitchell Randall; Natalie Williams; and Stephanie Williams.

The study areas that the grant recipients will use their grants for include tertiary courses in pharmacy, carpentry, business, visual communications and design, both primary and secondary education, occupational therapy, behavioural science and mechanical technology.

For the first time since 2023, Council has awarded funding through the Norfolk Island Regional Council Community Strategic Plan Grant Program.

The aims and objectives of this grant program are to support initiatives that directly benefit the community by meeting one of the six key strategic directions contained in the plan.

Projects must be based on Norfolk Island and must provide genuine benefit to the local community, environment or economy. A co-contribution is to be provided from non-Council sources (cash or in-kind) to the equivalent of 25% of the total project budget.

A total of \$35,163 funding under Council's Community Strategic Plan 2025 Grant funding program was allocated to the following successful applicants:

- Sarah Robinson - \$2,208 for Childbirth Education Program
- Orf Side Cow Hide Producers - \$3,500 for purchase of specialised equipment
- Cultural Development Association of Norfolk Island (CDANI) - \$5,000 for purchase of a projector to allow outdoor cinema during summer months
- Cheryl Tennis Club - \$4,455 for Pickleball equipment
- Khan Christian and Mandy Gardner - \$5,000 for creation of a bee sanctuary, native habitat corridor and coastal restoration
- Norfolk Island Sustainability Hub Inc. - \$5,000 for a feasibility study for a community-owned food processing facility
- Fenua & Moana Pty Ltd - \$5,000 for support for the Pier to Pine Ocean Swim Festival
- Porpieh Jam - \$5,000 for purchase of sound equipment

Think Before You Pour

NO FOGS DOWN THE SINK

FOGS = FATS, OILS AND GREASES

FOGS used in cooking may be liquid after use but can cool and harden as they travel along pipework.



DO

- ✓ Wipe and scrape plates before washing
- ✓ Collect used cooking oil into a suitable container, allow it to cool and dispose of it at the waste management centre
- ✓ Use strainers in kitchen sink plug holes

DON'T

- ✗ Put fats, oils or grease down the sink
- ✗ Put food scrapings down the sink
- ✗ Pour harmful chemicals down the sink or drain to try to dissolve fats, oils or grease

Collect, cool and throw away - **NOT** down the toilet

THINK BEFORE YOU POUR
Be kind to our environment

NORFOLK
ISLAND
Regional Council



NO FOGS DOWN THE SINK

What actually happens when fats, oil and grease (collectively known as FOGS) from dishes and pans are washed down the sink?

FATBERGS! While this sounds funny, it becomes a problem when blockages and overflows occur from the build-up of FOGS in our wastewater systems

NIRC staff recently removed a 30kg "fatberg" (see image in bottom left of this page) after it caused problems in the system. In that recent blockage, over 120kg of "fatbergs" were recovered from the wastewater system!

This can be avoided by making changes in how we clean up after mealtime.

Businesses and residents can help reduce the number of blockages occurring by adding **small** amounts of cooled cooking fat to their compost, which we can process in the HotRot.

Larger quantities can be collected in drums and placed in the designated area at the Waste Management Centre and can then be processed through the HotRot where suitable.

Businesses and restaurants could consider installing grease traps to help reduce blockages and overflows and households can make a big difference by scraping plates into the compost - **not** rinsing leftover sauces or oils down the drain.

No FOGS down the sink = NO fatbergs.

Flora Force Plant Sales Now Weekly!

Thanks to continued dedication by the Flora Force volunteer group, Flora Force Native Plant Sales now happen **EVERY FRIDAY** (weather permitting) from 9am to 12pm.

All plants are \$10 each, with a \$20 discount applied to purchases of 15 or more plants in one sale.

We now accept EFTPOS as well as cash. Don't forget to return the little pots to help Flora Force reduce their costs and help maximise the returns to the community.

If you would like to volunteer get in touch with Leah on 56611.

WHERE: National Park Nursery,
Bishop Patterson Road

WHEN: Friday 10, 17, 24 and 31 October (every Friday, unless it rains)

TIME: 9am to 11am

EFTPOS Now Available!

Flora Force is a volunteer-led program supported by Norfolk Island Regional Council and Norfolk Island National Park that propagates Norfolk Island 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.

TAKING CARE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER

FREE MULCH

FREE WOODCHIP/ MULCH AVAILABLE FROM WMC

Call Netani on +672350461 between 6:00am and 2:00pm to arrange collection of your load.

This woodchip has been treated for Argentine Ants



Aerial

NORFOLK NATIVES - BLOODWOOD

Baloghia inophylla

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Status: Native

Description

Growing to approximately 7m tall, the Bloodwood has a typical bushy 'tree' shape. Leaves are 5-11cm long but tend to be larger on young plants. Dark green, slightly glossy and oval shaped with a narrower end at the base, leaves grow in opposite pairs.

Flowers are 7-10mm wide with 5 white petals and pale yellow/green stigma. Seedpods are bumpy. Green when immature and gradually turning brown.

As pods mature and dry, the tri-fold segments rapidly pop open to release 3 oval-shaped brown seeds.

Distribution

More commonly found inland in existing forest, in valleys or along ridgelines. Will readily self-propagate where cows are not present.

Growing conditions

Grows better with partial shade.

Propagation

Very easily propagated at home. Collect seedpods once dry but before pods have cracked open.

More information can be found in "A guide to propagating Norfolk Island's native plants and seeds", available from the National Parks office.

Other information

The Bloodwood gets its name from the blood-red sap it produces when cut or wounded.

Traditionally, this sap was harvested for use as ink on Norfolk Island.

Photo credit: Lilli-unna King





NORFOLK ISLAND TOURISM NEWS

SAVE THE DATE - LONG TABLE DINNER

The fabulous Norfolk Island Long Table Dinner to be held Tuesday 25 November.

We are very excited to announce the Long Table dinner is happening again this year.

Celebrating Community and Culinary delights, the dinner will be held the evening before Thanksgiving Day, 25 November.

We have chosen another beautiful area in Kingston the World Heritage Site to hold the dinner; all details on the menu, ticket prices and event specifics will be advertised soon.

HAVE MENUS, WILL VISIT!

Café, restaurant and take-away business owners are welcome to provide copies of their menus for our **Eating Out folder**. Visitors find this very helpful when planning their stay. Please drop a copy into the Visitor Information Centre or email to nitourism@nirc.gov.nf

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

Email nitourism@nirc.gov.nf

NEW VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Two brand new visitor experiences are now on offer just in time for the summer season!

Stand Up paddle Boarding (SUP) operated by Rhythm Eco Experiences offers a guided 1-hour tour in Emily and Slaughter bays. No previous experience required. Contact the **Visitor Information Centre** for further information and bookings.

View the beautiful underwater world of Emily Bay from your Norfolk Island Crystal Clear Kayaks. **Available for hire are single and double kayaks.**

Follow NICCK on their [Facebook page](#) or contact the Visitor Information Centre for further information.



TOURISM NEWS

Media Visit by ACM Travel Writer

Kate Cox, a senior travel writer, and her husband Ben, visited the island last week.

Kate is a senior travel writer with ACM, a digital travel brand that mostly focuses on regional travel.

ACM publishes the *Saturday Explore* magazine, an insert into many regional newspapers, offering inspiration for exploring new destinations and unique adventures. You can find out more at the [ACM website](#).

Kate and Ben (pictured above) experienced some guided tours but preferred to discover the island's charms independently. They went bushwalking and kayaking, visited the Museums and enjoyed beach life with some swimming and snorkelling.

They were amazed at the number and diversity of activities available on such a small island. The Tourism team will share details when the Norfolk Island feature is published.

Norfolk Women Star in Graziher magazine

"The women of Norfolk Island are an entrepreneurial bunch".

That's the headline that the editor of Graziher magazine gave the seven amazing women of Norfolk Island, who are the stars of the magazine's 10th birthday edition.

The women told their stories to Graziher Editor, Victoria Carey, and they would be well-known to most island locals. They are:

- Jill Menghetti
- Emily Ryves
- Claire Quintal
- Fiona Anderson (pictured above left)
- Maree Evans
- Margarita Sampson (pictured above right)
- Jodie McCoy

Our Norfolk Island ladies have been beautifully captured by local photographer, Zach Sanders.

Check out the [online feature](#) on the Graziher magazine website. Print copies will be soon be available.



UPCOMING EVENTS

15 October

Government House Charity Open Day

25 – 30 October

Archery 3D International Shoot

26 Oct – 2 Nov

Stargazing Spectacular

5 and 19 November

Government House Charity Open Day

9 November

Norfolk Island Around the Island Relay 2025

15 – 22 November

2025 Masters Squash Tournament

25 November

Long Table Dinner

26 November

Thanksgiving Day (Public Holiday)

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

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 Kathy Cope

COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held at 2pm on Wednesday 29 October 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

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Free local call 0100
International callers +6723 22001

EMAIL: customercare@nirc.gov.nf

WEBSITE: www.nirc.gov.nf/

OPENING HOURS

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