



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 02 | 12 Dec 2020

## Norfolk economic recovery

Hard work continues on a range of initiatives and projects that are focused on restarting and building the Norfolk Island economy through COVID-19 recovery. At a Federal level, income support has been provided in JobKeeper, JobSeeker, JobMaker and JobTrainer. Employers on island are actively seeking staff for a number of roles in our hospitality and tourism sectors.

Please be mindful that some of these supports are scheduled to cease in March 2021, so now is the time to tap into these programs, if needed.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications has worked with my office and the Assistant Minister's office to schedule additional Air New Zealand flights and to progress work in relation to the possibility of Norfolk Island becoming a domestic route. Similarly, work continues to progress in relation to the freight issues and pressures presented due to limited sea freight options. We are working closely with the Norfolk Island Regional Council General Manager to identify and implement short term solutions.

## Economic stimulus package update

Works are progressing well across the 22 Norfolk Island COVID-19 economic stimulus package projects, funded by the Australian Government, with a number of projects now near completion. These include the Cockpit Reserve bridge repairs, and improvements to the reserve area. It also includes the beginning of the upgrades to the Norfolk Island Squash Club, with court side grandstands completed. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is collaboratively working with Norfolk Island Regional Council to deliver these important projects for the benefit of residents and visitors.



## A message from the Administrator Eric



I had the immense pleasure of hosting the Regional Development Australia (RDA) 'Nourishing Norfolk' Incubator Graduates at Government House on Friday, 4 December. This amazing group of 14 entrepreneurs remained committed to the program, and each and every one of them have either built their businesses from the ground up or taken their existing businesses to the next level. I hope we continue to see them at the Sunday markets!

The RDA program is a Government initiative that brings together all levels of government to enhance the development of Australia's regions. Fiona Nash when she was Minister for Regional Development and Territories, ensured that Norfolk Island was included in the RDA program. Successive Ministers, including our current Assistant Minister Nola Marino, are very supportive of this program. My office and I work closely with Kerry Grace from RDA to tailor opportunities for the Norfolk Island community. If you would like more information, you can contact my office at:

[office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au)



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899



# Newsletter

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## KAVHA update

While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected visitor numbers to the island and the Kingston World Heritage site in 2020, it has also given staff time to progress a number of key projects to enhance the site, including the ongoing restoration of several buildings. This will bring great benefits as visitors continue to return to Norfolk.

A key achievement has been the **adoption of Norf'k language on new signage and the visitor guide**, recognising the cultural traditions of the island and its identity. The new Kingston logo draws together the four strands of the island's heritage - Polynesian, British Colonial, British Penal and Pitcairn - and weaves them together with the Norfolk heritage into a single unified approach and presentation.

The **\$770,000 Australian Government commitment through the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery package** is supporting the continued implementation of the Kingston branding across the site, as well as local employment opportunities. A new temporary Interpretation Coordinator/Researcher is currently being recruited to join the team on island to deliver the projects. Work will include replacement of more signage to incorporate increased use and recognition of the Norf'k language, as well as different ways and locations to better share the currently untold stories of the site across all settlement periods.

These projects will link in with a **new mobile app in development**, planned for launch in January 2021. The app will take advantage of the new 4G network (via the Building Better Regions Fund). A new tour of Kingston will be made available for free download containing more than 40 stories. The new app will also enable us to host additional new trails with Norfolk Island Museum and the community next year.

The site is fortunate to have secured funding for an **archaeologist who will be employed on island under an 18-month contract**.

Archaeologist Tom Sapienza, who many on island will know from his PhD research on the Melanesian Mission, will travel to the island with his family in early 2021 to begin work at Kingston. Tom was recruited from a competitive field, and we are really excited by his appointment. Tom will work alongside the Heritage Manager and wider team to deliver a number of safety and improvement projects at Kingston and contribute his expertise to archaeological site investigation.

There is also considerable work being done to address water quality issues in Emily Bay, this includes a short-term solution with input from NIRC, the department, Marine Parks and Heritage staff as well as feasibility investigations into longer term options. Local contractors are assisting the department with **inspection of 22 identified septic and effluent systems in Kingston**.



## Current consultations

Recently, Advisian and Consult Marine presented the detailed design (80%) for the Kingston Pier Channel Construction project to the Norfolk Island community through a series of phone and online interviews seeking feedback on the updated design. The presentation included an overview of investigations undertaken to develop the initial design options and key issues from earlier consultation activities. It also covered reasons for selection of the option known as Option 3A to the 80% stage and a strategy for addressing the structural issues with the pier. The project team thanks all who attended the consultation sessions, providing further valuable feedback as the design looks to progress to the final design (100%) stage.

A number of community consultations have been scheduled for the first half of next year, including around emergency management, the Norfolk Island strategic plan and ports management. More information will be provided to the community about these consultations – including dates, engagement opportunities and locations – in early 2021.

## Stay up-to-date...

For all the latest news and information for Norfolk Island, don't forget to check in regularly at the department's website at: [https://www.regional.gov.au/territories/norfolk\\_island/media/](https://www.regional.gov.au/territories/norfolk_island/media/)



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