



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 08 | 17 July 2021

## Sleeves roll up on Norfolk for Pfizer COVID vaccinations



The COVID-19 vaccine program has commenced across Norfolk Island and I am pleased to advise it is progressing well, with NIHRACS currently vaccinating the highest priority people in the community, in line with the national roll-out plan.

As at Friday, 16 July, NIHRACS has vaccinated some 900 people in our local-roll out commencing with aged care residents, NIHRACS staff, border force, biosecurity, police, airport staff, ambulance, disability support workers and immunocompromised patients.

NIHRACS now encourages anyone aged 16 and over to book in for their first 'jab'. The second round of vaccines will occur in the same priority order.

It is anticipated both rounds of vaccines should be administered to all residents over the age of 16 by mid-October 2021.

Residents who have already received their first vaccine dose of AstraZeneca can contact the NIHRACS GP clinic to arrange their second dose, which will be Pfizer.

## What's been happening at Kingston

It's been a busy month at the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Kingston) with new on-island staff commencing and on-ground improvements completed.

There have been some welcome changes to the Kingston team, with several Canberra-based positions and responsibilities moving to Norfolk Island, as ACT team members have moved on.

I'm pleased to welcome Chelsea Evans and Susan Prior to the Kingston team, joining Commonwealth heritage manager Martin Purslow, archaeologist Tom Sapienza and interpretation project coordinator Maree Evans. The team continues to be supported remotely by Kylie Brettschneider.

The newly filled positions were drawn from the merit list of the Kingston Interpretation Coordinator / Researcher recruitment process undertaken late last year. Susan and Chelsea will be working to implement the COVID Relief and Recovery Fund project to improve Kingston's interpretation, along with supporting the site's ongoing conservation, interpretation and management. As part of the changes, the Kingston team now reports to Norfolk Island Team Director Claire Quintal and Norfolk Island Branch Assistant Secretary Oliver Holm. This is an important step forward in building a locally-based team for the long-term preservation and improvement of Kingston.

If you've visited Kingston in the last few weeks you would have noticed quite a lot of activity including ongoing maintenance activities like cleaning of Watermill Dam to remove some vegetation and clear the waterway. Built up silt and grass has been removed to clear the culvert entries in Kingston.

Community amenities are being upgraded at Point Hunter through the replacement of fencing, spreading of topsoil, and upgrades to existing BBQ facilities including new shelters in time for summer. Further work is under way to improve water quality, including the installation of additional leaky weirs in the creeks within Kingston.

## A message from Eric Hutchinson

I know many locals had an opportunity to meet again with Cristelle Maurin and Steve Lucas who, along with Stuart Williams, were on island in the past few weeks to present their work on the Norfolk Island Environmental Assessment. The presentation at Christian's Cave was well-attended and showed the interest in this forward-facing and considered work.



Originally this work was commissioned by the NIRC and funded by the Commonwealth, to begin the process of understanding what is a sustainable permanent and visitor population for Norfolk might look like - but the report has much more significance. The assessment looked at waste water treatment including retention and reuse on island, waste management and energy and finally development of a local food security strategy. Putting food at the core of a place-based sustainable development strategy, with benefits to the island economy, tourism sector, health and wellbeing of residents and the creation of a circular economy around food can, dare one suggest, continue Norfolk Island on the path to being The Best Small Island in the World!

Harnessing support and implementation is the next challenge and success will demand development of a community food system that reflects local needs and values. It will need to be community driven, inclusive and collaborative in its design, with a fit for purpose governance framework. The report is available at:

[www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/environmental-assessment](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/environmental-assessment)



Office of the Administrator

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# Newsletter

Norfolk Island

Issue no. 07 | X June 2021

## End of Financial Year COVID economic stimulus update

With the new financial year upon us, it is exciting to see the completion of a number of the community-led COVID-19 economic stimulus package projects on Norfolk Island.

Over the 2020-21 financial year, we have seen the completion of the Anson Bay Reserve public toilets with upgrades to the amenities, the Norfolk Island Pistol Club verandah and the Cascade viewing area in Cascade Bay, thanks to the hard work of the Norfolk Island Regional Council.

A number of additional projects are near completion including the Norfolk Island Bowling Club shade shelter and walk ways.

The projects from the COVID-19 economic stimulus package have delivered on the promise to continue to enhance the experience of visitors to Norfolk Island and assist in improving local infrastructure for the community into the long-term.

All stimulus package works are now contracted by the Department and Norfolk Island Regional Council, with a number of younger Norfolk Islanders employed to work on the community infrastructure projects.

Works are currently under way to renovate the old Youth Centre building, with further construction works to commence at the Malcolm Champion Oval for the sports pavilion that will be used by the Norfolk Island Central School sporting events.

We will continue to provide regular updates on these important projects over the coming months, and are grateful to everyone who has been involved in helping us deliver these vital community developments.



## Current consultations

KPMG is supporting my office and the Department with community consultations in July on potential alternative site considerations for the Norfolk Island Multipurpose Health Service (MPS) facility project, with feedback being sought on two alternative sites (adjacent to the airport and the school) in addition to the current Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS) site.

The Australian Government wants to hear from the community, to help inform final site selection, supported by technical site information and logistical considerations.

## Norfolk Island state services transition – next steps

It has been a significant time for Norfolk Island with the recent announcement of the new partnership between the Australian and Queensland governments for the provision of state services to Norfolk.

This will provide Norfolk Island with the extensive skills and experience of the Queensland Government in delivering high quality education and healthcare services in remote settings.

The announcement is only the beginning of the process, with the next phase critical to ensuring we are delivering the best possible outcomes for the community.

Over the next months, the Australian, Queensland and NSW Governments will be working together closely to carefully plan the smooth transition of health and education services with community input and consultation vital to informing targeted, fit-for-purpose service delivery moving forward.

As transition planning progresses, there will be opportunities for the community to have your say about how you would like to see your essential services delivered.

We will keep you updated through this newsletter of upcoming consultations and requests for input, as well as through community bulletins and updated information and FAQs on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications website at:

[www.regional.gov.au/territories.norfolk\\_island/state-services-transition/index.aspx](http://www.regional.gov.au/territories.norfolk_island/state-services-transition/index.aspx)



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