



## Canberra visit

This week I visited Canberra for a series of conversations with Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Hon Nola Marino, as well as senior executives within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department). These meetings were also attended by the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) General Manager, Andrew Roach, and focused on ensuring engagement with the community of Norfolk Island in response to the interim administration of the NIRC and public inquiry.

It is imperative that engagement and communication with the community is transparent, independent and provides opportunities for all to engage and share their views.

Also in recognition of the importance of ensuring capacity for on-island stakeholder and community engagement during the critical period of transitioning to a new state service partner, I am pleased to advise that Assistant Secretary Oliver Holm will relocate to Norfolk Island for nine months from April to December 2021. Oliver's relocation to Norfolk Island is expected to be in the first half of April.

An interactive, digital version of the Norfolk Island Community Engagement Framework can be obtained by emailing [NorfolkIsland@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:NorfolkIsland@infrastructure.gov.au).

## Introducing archaeologist Tom Sapienza



Tom has now arrived on island with his family to work across a range of departmental projects over the next 18 months, helping to manage and protect the values of Kingston. Originally from the USA, his preferred field is small island archaeology in the Pacific, and he's participated in or led academic archaeological work on Norfolk Island, Samoa, Tonga and Tokelau. As part of his ongoing PhD (through University of Sydney) investigating the Melanesian Mission on Norfolk Island, which from 1867-1920 occupied a large piece of land surrounding present-day St Barnabas

chapel, he and his family have been regular travellers to Norfolk since 2016. Tom, his wife Amber Beavis and their son Sam (along with their border collie, Ruby, and indoors cat, Alfie) are all excited to be here and meet people. They look forward to contributing their respective expertise in heritage/archaeology (Tom) and insects/invertebrates (Amber) while Tom progresses a range of important Government projects.

## A message from the Administrator Eric Hutchinson



A number of community and business leaders were invited to Government House on Wednesday 24 February to informally meet and welcome Michael (Mike) Colreavy to the island. As you would be aware, Mr Colreavy has been appointed as the interim administrator of the Norfolk Island Regional Council. I would like to take this opportunity to again assure the community that the appointment of the interim administrator and announcement of a public inquiry into the Council by an independent commissioner, are normal processes designed to deliver better outcomes for Norfolk Island into the future.

The commissioner Carolyn McNally, is an independent commissioner and the inquiry is an important opportunity for the Norfolk Island community to contribute to the pathway for improving the operation of the local council in Norfolk Island.

You will hear more soon from the interim administrator Mr Colreavy and the public inquiry commissioner Ms McNally.

In the meantime, if you would like to contact them, they are available at [mike.colreavy@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:mike.colreavy@nirc.gov.nf) and [carolyn.mcnally@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:carolyn.mcnally@infrastructure.gov.au) or [NIRCpublicinquiry@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:NIRCpublicinquiry@infrastructure.gov.au)



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

# Newsletter

Norfolk Island

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## Economic stimulus community projects update

### *Lions Park progress:*

The children have been exploring the new addition to the Lion's Park. A learn-to ride-track has been completed – a smooth concrete pathway marked like a road to help learn road rules and remove the risk of trainer wheels being caught in pot holes. A second BBQ shelter has been constructed and is ready for use.



### *Squash Courts:*

The squash court project is complete with a fresh look to accompany the recently completed grandstand. The complex has been repainted, new signage installed, windows tinted, freshly sanded courts and new specialised court lighting and ventilation, creating comfort for the players.



## News from Kingston

Heritage Manager Martin Purslow and Interpretation Project officer Maree Evans are progressing several projects to improve site orientation and interpretation at Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Kingston). These projects will help site users to imagine what life was like at Kingston at particular points in time, without affecting heritage structures, values or views. This includes refreshed signage with Norfolk language and the new Kingston brand, and making more use of digital interpretation to bring to life historical characters through their own stories. A report on the condition of heritage values of the HMS Sirius wreck site is due to be delivered by March, following work by the Cosmos Archaeology dive team in November 2020 to survey and photograph the site. The report will inform the development of a draft Heritage Management Plan for the site, for which interested community members will have the opportunity to give input in the future.

## Current consultations

Two face-to-face community consultation sessions are being held on Tuesday, 2 March to discuss regulating the burning of green-waste.

The two sessions will be held at 10:30am and 5:15pm in the Office of the Administrator meeting room at New Military Barracks, Quality Row, Kingston. To register your intention to attend, please contact [norfolkislandteam@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:norfolkislandteam@infrastructure.gov.au) or 23315.

Eco Logical Australia will also be on island from 2 March to begin work on the Norfolk Island Fire Management Plan (NIFMP). A drop-in session will take place on Friday, 5 March, 11.30am-1.30pm at NI-Connect.

The next community information sessions on the PFAS investigations will also take place in mid-March, with details available shortly.

## Grant round closing

Round five of the Australian Government's Building Better Region Fund closes on 5 March 2021.

If you are looking to apply, make sure to submit an application, make sure you apply by the closing date so that you do not miss out of this fantastic opportunity.

For more information on the programmes, including guidelines on eligibility and the application process, go to <https://www.business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/building-better-regions-fund-community-investments-stream>



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