



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 11 | 26 November 2021

A message from Eric Hutchinson



The Remembrance Day Service on Norfolk Island in 2021 was poignant for many reasons and the RSL Sub-Branch are to be commended on its organisation and the solemnity with which this service was conducted. The attendance of the officers and crew of the HMAS Sirius added to the occasion. However, forgive me for beating an all too familiar drum, yet I feel compelled to do so when I am contacted directly by community members astonished and disappointed that in the presence of a Royal Australian Navy ship's crew, the organisers chose not to play the anthem of the nation under which these men and women serve. They serve all of us, including those of us fortunate to call Norfolk Island home. If a US naval ship called here, I feel certain the Star Spangled Banner would be played with due reverence and in honour of those who serve under that country's flag. It left myself and I now know many others with a hollowness. Differences of opinion are one thing but this speaks to an agenda that is disrespectful of those who have served and given their lives, as well as those who currently serve, under the Australian Flag.

Final visit of HMAS Sirius to Norfolk Island

On Monday 8 November, HMAS *Sirius* arrived at its ceremonial home port of Norfolk Island for one last time, to undertake a decommissioning tour, and to commemorate the ship's 15 years' of service to the Royal Australian Navy fleet.

The ship's company was warmly welcomed to Norfolk and had many opportunities to engage with the community and experience the rich local heritage once more. Thank you to the crew of the HMAS *Sirius* for not only visiting our island for their final engagements before decommissioning, but for their years of hard work as a vital part of the Royal Australian Navy. See www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByXI3m_tnSI for more of the visit.



COVID business relief payment update

The Australian Government's financial assistance payments to support Norfolk Island businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak have continued to see strong uptake, with 76 local businesses benefiting from a one-off payment, and 38 businesses receiving fortnightly payments valued at a total of \$1.09 million, as at 1 November 2021.

These business support payments are a great example of government and local business working together to achieve positive outcomes for Norfolk Island.

Applications for the support payments are remaining open to align with EMNI emergency declaration dates. Any eligible Norfolk Island businesses should apply immediately as we continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation on the mainland and the roadmap forward. Full eligibility guidelines and the application form available at www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/council/grants-program

