



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 17 | 17 February 2023

Administrator's update

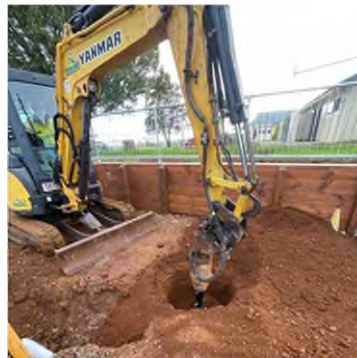
A sure-fire way of getting oneself into hot water is to try to make a definitive list of "thank yous" when community members have stepped up and responded with real commitment during an emergency. Such is the case with the preparation, response and recovery to Cyclone Gabrielle last week.

George Plant did many long hours and deserves to be recognised, along with all the appointed members and observers on EMNI – a big shout out to Sarlu LeCren who may not always seek accolades, but is a vault of knowledge and experience in respect of emergency planning on Norfolk Island. To the Police, the Fire Officers, Ambulance Service and Hospital management - all of you did what was asked and more. To the Council road, Telecom and electricity teams for getting out and keeping the roads open, the communication working and the power on wherever possible; you did a sterling job. To Hayley Evans who stepped up at short notice to manage the operation of the fortunately unneeded Emergency Shelter at Rawson's Hall and acted as George's right-hand person for many hours between Friday and Sunday. To Darlene and the crew at the Radio, who provided nothing less than an essential service keeping the community informed. Finally to the community in general for responding to the advice levels issued by EMNI during the event – we were all so very fortunate! Most people know that the island really dodged a system that could have done significant damage to infrastructure and put lives at risk. The planning by EMNI over many years broadly worked very well and the reassurance offered having access to national resources (NEMA/AFP/ADF) if required in recovery should also be acknowledged. I know EMNI has done their debriefing of what worked well and what might be considered in a similar situation next time; and there will certainly be a next time. Fortunately, we had a real-life situation to test the systems of preparedness and responses far better than any desk-top exercise could ever achieve. Compared to the terrible humanitarian disaster still unfolding in Turkey and Syria, truly we are all blessed!

New infrastructure and improvements at the school

It's been great to see the progress made over the recent school holiday period on a number of exciting projects at Norfolk Island Central School, including most importantly the Covered Outdoor Learning Area, or COLA.

As you can see, the framework for the COLA is now in place. Watertank trenching and support work retaining wall, stairwells, concrete and asphalt paths were also completed. Next, the cover will go on over the frame to create this great undercover facility for the school population to use.



Additional to the COLA structure, the kindy kids and staff have benefited from the completion of the kindergarten room ceiling electrical upgrade – including wiring, lights and ceiling fans. There is the new roof for the Bean Shed Art Room to support those creative endeavours and improved storage with the new cabinetry between the Year 3 and 4 classrooms.



Big thanks to all who contributed to these fantastic projects, including the local contractors and suppliers – and the school community for your passion and commitment to the future of Norfolk's students.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

Newsletter

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Kingston sewerage scheme update

Work on the new sewerage system in Kingston is scheduled to get under way in the coming weeks, with the project having received the necessary environmental and developmental approval from NIRC and the Australian Government.

Both the Development Application and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project were on public display at the end of last year, with the community invited to submit written submissions on the proposal to help inform the design and delivery of the scheme.

The first of the three project stages commences at the beginning of March, with the replacement of the existing holding tank infrastructure opposite All Saints Church in the Quality Row area.

The installation is not expected to affect traffic in the area, however there will be trenching undertaken near a number of properties on Quality Row, with an archaeologist on site to inspect the works for any sign of historic artefacts.

As work on the sewerage scheme progresses, including the trenching and installation of pipework in mid-March and the installation of pumping stations towards the end of that month, there will be some impacts to local traffic – however, this will be kept to a minimum and managed by contractors on-site.

The new sewerage scheme aims to reduce human waste pollution and improve the water quality in the historic Kingston area – including the surrounding marine park - for residents and tourists, supporting more effective and up-to-date waste and sewer management in the heritage site.

Focus on roads

Progress is being made on improving Norfolk Island's 80km road network, with the roll-out of a project auditing the condition of the island's roads and producing a plan, including designs, for upgrades.

The aim of the project, which is being funded by the Australian Government and delivered by Norfolk Island Regional Council, is to create a plan to bring Norfolk Island's roads to a universal standard. This will improve quality and access for residents, business and tourists alike. The plan will allow future roadworks to be undertaken more quickly and efficiently by having a pre-determined design and structure.

Council has engaged Milanovic Neale Consulting Engineers to undertake the four-stage study. It will be supported by a working group comprising of Council, Parks Australia and the department. The Milanovic Neale team will be on island next week.

This project will benefit the entire Norfolk Island community, through a well-planned and designed road network in the years to come.



Administrator's 2023 Norfolk Island Australia Day Awards wrap-up

Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2023 Australia Day Awards for Norfolk Island, all of whom truly demonstrated the community spirit for which the island is so renowned.

A special congratulations to Roslyn (Roz) Tierney who was awarded Citizen of the Year for her ongoing commitment to education and her significant contribution to the school and community throughout her career.

Hats off to Lorraine Bataille, Dee Duncanson, Judith Anderson, Dale Anderson and Sharon Nicol who the community nominated for Community Achievement Awards, in acknowledgement of all they have contributed to Norfolk Island over the past 12 months.

From Lorraine's instrumental work in the formation of Care Norfolk, Dee's commitment to improving and protecting Norfolk's extraordinary natural environment, Judith's dedication to conservation with the establishment of the Norfolk Island Conservation Volunteers, Dale's restoration work on the Bounty folk museum and Sharon's initiative in the formation of the Business Council of Norfolk Island, this year's recipients of the Australia Day Awards exemplify what makes this island such a world-class place to live, work and visit.



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