



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 31 | 19 June 2025

Administrator's update

Reflecting upon my second year as Administrator, the most significant achievement is the Australian Government's commitment to restoring local democracy and the decision that a bespoke governance model for Norfolk Island is the best way to do this. Developing a bespoke governance model is a very difficult task that the members of the Norfolk Island Governance Committee have been working on diligently. Community representatives Chris Magri and Chelsea Evans have forthrightly presented and advocated the community's views and borne criticism when some of these are not accommodated. We have in these representatives exceptional and passionate individuals who are working for what is achievable for our community.

Following the recent federal election, we saw Minister Kristy McBain reappointed as Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, while also taking on additional responsibility as federal Minister for Emergency Management. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Minister McBain over the coming months, particularly around Norfolk Island's new governance model and our resilience in extreme weather.

The NIGC is now reinvigorating its meeting schedule to progress detailed planning for the next key elements of the model. This includes a videoconference discussion with the Minister on implementation of the model followed by an on-island workshop for NIGC members. We will update the community on the outcomes of this work in coming weeks.

Bounty Day 2025 Celebrations

Bounty Day is a very special day for Norfolk Island. This year, we commemorated it on Monday 9 June, with a re-enactment of the arrival of the ancestors from Pitcairn Island. Locals were dressed in their traditional outfits, participating in the march through Kingston, up Quality Row, past Government House to the cemetery where we paid respects to those laid to rest.

Many visitors watched from close by, enjoying the procession and photo opportunities. The community picnic in the compound was wonderful, as always. My family and I joined David Buffett and his family this year and 'dem wetls dar swiit'.

The tradition of morning tea with home cooked biscuits at Government House saw a couple of hundred people enjoying the sunshine and the traditional rolling down the hill was enjoyed by our young sullen with screams of excitement. Plenty of washing followed from the very welcome wet, (but muddy!) ground.



From ship to shore – Australian Cruise Association visit

The island hosted a group of delegates from the Australian Cruise Association in the last week of May.

To begin their visit, we held a small reception at Government House. The event was arranged by Bart Murray to highlight Norfolk Island as an ideal destination for the cruise industry.

Local tourism operators, shipping agents, port management, Council and cruise ship company representatives all gathered as we deliberated and discussed our commitment to exceeding the expectations of tourists who visit our beautiful island. I look forward to witnessing further growth in the cruise industry and Norfolk's economy.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

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UPDATE ON EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation of the Norfolk Island Employment Support Program has reached the next stage, progressing towards delivery of the new model and enhanced services from July 1.

Following the recent procurement process, there is a preferred Norfolk Island-based provider, with ongoing work to finalise contractual arrangements for them to deliver the streamlined employment and assistance program from the commencement of the new financial year. The Australian Government announced the new centralised program last year, as part of its commitment to providing community-led services that meet the distinct needs of Norfolk Island.

By streamlining the services and supports currently provided through the Employment Services (Norfolk Island), Disability Employment Services (DES), and VET Assistance Financial Assistant Initiative into a one-provider program, participants will have greater access to specialised support and resources tailored to our remote region.

We will keep the community updated on transition arrangements once the provider is brought on board and the contract signed, as we continue apace for a 1 July launch.

For more information on the Norfolk Island Support Program, visit: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/territories/norfolk-island/norfolk-island-governance-administration/norfolk-island-employment-support-program>

Noting our Nonagenarians

At the end of April, I had the pleasure of hosting a morning tea at Government House for the nonagenarians – those aged 90 and older – on Island. These extraordinary individuals were born in the 1920s, many served in the armed forces during the second World War and they experienced a number of significant technological breakthroughs. Their stories were remarkable.

Unfortunately, we said farewell to one of our nonagenarians shortly after this event, Bill Edwards. Bill was such an active member of the community, helping others and enjoying his garden and it was a delight to catch up with him at the morning tea.

The nonagenarians were assisted by the Norfolk Island Quota Club and friends. The Quota Club continue to support and empower members of our community requiring assistance. I thank them for their ongoing care of our elders.



Recognising our outstanding volunteers



We took the opportunity on 14 May, the week before National Volunteer Week, to honour and acknowledge the important roles our volunteers play in our community.

This year's theme for National Volunteer Week was 'Connecting Communities'. Volunteers in our small community play a particularly vital role in the provision of services, the environment and helping of individuals and organisations to flourish. Through the gift of your time you show kindness and make a positive impact on the wellbeing of our community.

Acts of giving, sharing and helping are embedded as part of the Norfolk Island culture.

I thank all volunteers for giving your time, talents and enthusiasm – you are truly appreciated!

ANZAC Day

It was an honour to participate in such a well-prepared and solemn ANZAC Day ceremony this year.

Thank you to the Norfolk Island RSL; to President Warren Finch and members of the various committees, who made the ANZAC Day celebrations very special this year. Our uniformed catafalque party were respectful in their posture, the sounds of the bugle were soulful from Kevin Knapp, and the sun was spectacular.

The dawn service was attended by veterans, serving military personnel, their families, and community.

Our beautiful island provided perfect weather for the traditional breakfast and rum at Government House, which was enjoyed by close to 200 visitors and community.