



## Administrator's update

Monday, 31 October was Halloween and the cellar at Government House was transformed by clever people with an eye for artistic detail, at least in this respect, I just don't possess.

It was an amazing cacophony of the bizarre and macabre and my thanks go to Kerry, Elise and Matt for transforming this space that was enjoyed by the more than 220 young people and parents that shared the experience. We know this number was correct as measured in "treat" bags that were handed out by Robyn. It was a stunning evening, with perhaps the best sunset for many months -- and just for the record there was no chain on the chainsaw!

Expressions of interest from Norfolk Island charitable community groups are being sought for the Government House Open Day programme for 2023. Please contact Barbara on 22152 or email the [office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au)

Similarly, nominations for outstanding contributions made by residents of Norfolk Island can now be made for the Australia Day Awards 2023. Categories include: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year and Community Achievement Awards.

Please forward nominations to Barbara at the Office of The Administrator.

## 184 Not Out for Australia's oldest cricket pitch

Works are commencing in the coming weeks on upgrading the historic cricket pitch and surface on the Kingston Oval.

The Kingston sporting field has been a cricket ground for close to two centuries. In that time, both the teams playing on the field and the layout of the field have undergone numerous changes, but the use of the area has remained the same: a sporting area and cricket field.

It's claimed the Sydney Cricket Ground, having been founded in 1848, is the oldest cricket ground in Australia. It might be time for someone to let them know that our cricket ground is nearly a decade older!

To preserve the 184-year-old sportsground, the old concrete surface will be removed and a new concrete pitch and synthetic surface is to be installed, with players hoped to be back on the field by early December.

Cricket has long held an important place in Norfolk Island's cultural tapestry - since before the arrival of the Pitcairn Islanders in 1856 - and has continued as a mainstay on the island throughout the generations. The highlight of the cricketing year was, and remains, the traditional Bounty Day cricket match, where the Bounty Team (Pitcairners and their descendants) is pitted against the All-comers (everyone else, including visitors to the island).

During the rest of the year, local clubs would – depending on the era – play matches against other local clubs, the Melanesian Mission team, teams from Lord Howe Island, or even teams from passing naval warships.

Due to the historical significance of the pitch and the importance of cricket to the Norfolk Island community, conserving the cricket pitch has been a priority for the Administrator and the newly formed local cricket club, who have been working to identify appropriate funding, including reaching out to Cricket Australia to identify potential future sponsorship opportunities. The Norfolk Island Cricket Club is already planning for the Bounty Day match in 2023 and will share information with the community as this firms up over the next few months!



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899



# Newsletter

Norfolk Island

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## Thank you to Agriculture Victoria and the community

Thank you to the Agriculture Victoria team who visited from October 9 -23 to conduct the second of two surveys for the Norfolk Island Plant Pest and Disease Survey.

The survey would not have been possible without support from across the community. Thank you everyone who welcomed and assisted the team and helped make the survey a success. This includes the Flora & Fauna Society, which hosted the team for an evening presentation and regularly supports the many scientific teams who visit the island.

The survey will provide us with important information on the current status of plant pests and diseases on island. This information can inform management decisions. The team are also taking an interest in insects that may provide benefits to plant species, which will complement the work Dr Anthony Rice is doing with community members.



## Installation of Ninja Obstacle Course at NICS

The installation of a new Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course at Norfolk Island Central School is close to completion, after delays due to the wet weather over the past months.

The installation of the new equipment which includes a climbing wall, cargo net and full-length ladder is a joint project between the school and the department, with the equipment from Funky Monkey Bars Australia installed by GP Services.

The obstacle course is designed to help children in upper primary school develop their strength and coordination skills, and help train them to perhaps become Australia's next ninja warrior!



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## Current engagements

### Community Forum on freight and shipping

Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories Kristy McBain will be on Norfolk Island on 14 November to lead the community forum on long-term freight and shipping needs for Norfolk Island. All interested community members are encouraged to attend Rawson Hall at 5.30pm on Monday to engage in open dialogue on this critical issue.

### Slaughter Bay Sea Wall

The Department was on island last week to inform local tradespeople of the planned works to repair and stabilise the Slaughter Bay Sea Wall. As part of the industry briefing on 2 November, an overview of the Department's Request for Quote (RFQ) was provided, to assist with the preparation and submission of bids for the works.

This part of the project follows the recent emergency repairs undertaken following the wave damage mid-year.

## Kingston update

People may have noticed new lime rendering works under way on the internal wall of the Sirius Museum building in the Compound.

This is a part of the ongoing work to remove the cement render on the site for its replacement with traditional lime render. This work is anticipated to be completed in about two weeks.

Once it has cured, we will apply lime wash treatment that will be similar to the Settlement Guard House finish. Thanks for everyone's patience and support while these important restoration works are carried out.