

Norfolk Island | Issue no. 19 | 31 August 2023

Administrator's update

Over the past couple of weeks, we have had 20 meetings with about 50 community groups to describe the role of the Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) and the election of community representatives.

Hopefully the importance of being able to elect people who can work together to shape a secure future for us all has come across and I thank you for coming to these meetings.

For anyone who is not a member of a group and has questions about the NIGC, contact the office as I am happy to meet with you.

I am also pleased to announce that Ann-Maree Pike has agreed to be the Executive Officer.

Annie has been away on annual leave and will return to take up the position on the 6th of September. She can be contacted on 50001.

Norfolk Island's key role in Exercise Talisman Sabre

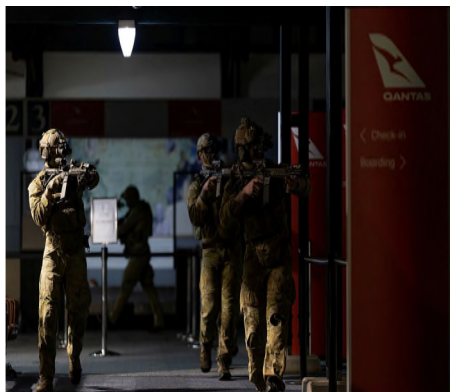
Building on Norfolk Island's proud military history, our island recently played an important role in this year's Exercise Talisman Sabre – a biennial military exercise largely featuring the Australian and United States defence forces.

Some 150 Australian and US military personnel travelled to Norfolk Island from mid-July, conducting field training exercises, including preparation activities, amphibious landings, ground force manoeuvres, and air combat and maritime operations.

This was the first time the Australian and US forces have had the opportunity to train on Norfolk Island, and for many of the participants, it was the first time they were able to experience the beauty, history and culture of our region.

The choice of Norfolk Island as a key location for this exercise is reflective not only of our strategic importance, as demonstrated during WWII, but also of our community's long tradition of service.

Thanks to all of you who supported the troops during the exercise, and for your flexibility and willingness to adapt to the noise and activity of such a large-scale military operation.



Newsletter

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Museum update

The travelling exhibition 'Dancing in Fetters' has finished up and is on its way to Fremantle Prison. Thanks to the museum staff for their excellent research into little known stories of song and dance during the era of Norfolk Island's History, and to all those who came to see the exhibition and participated in the 'Convict Culture Week'.

Upcoming exhibitions include 'Fibres' – highlighting the wonderful traditions surrounding plaiting, weaving, tapa making and everything in between – 'A Royal Visit: 50th anniversary' and 'Captain Cook's Arrival: 250th Anniversary'

The Historic Maps will be going on display at the Royal Engineers Office this week and can be viewed Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.

Recent finds from the sewer project can now be seen at the Settlement Guardhouse – this month's focus is items from No. 7 and 8 Quality Row. The Settlement Guardhouse, located next to the Pier Store is open 7 days.

Museum manager Maree Evans is representing the Museums and presenting a paper about Norfolk Island's incredible maritime heritage at the upcoming Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology conference in Canberra in September.

Cruisy disembarkment for visitors

It has been great to see the boost to our local tourism and visitor numbers from the recent cruise ship visits.

This included the July stop by the P&O Pacific Encounter, with 2,441 guests and crew coming ashore – the largest ship to date.

From Cascade, passengers are transferred to Burnt Pine, from where they explore the island to experience the unspoilt beauty of our natural environment, the fascinating history of Kingston and the rich culture that makes our community so extraordinary, before returning to their ship to continue their journey through the majestic waters of our marine park.

The successful disembarkment of the cruise ship passengers is a joint team effort between Transam's team (running the Passenger Transfer Vessel operations), NIRC security, Burnt Pine Travel/Baunti Tours and all the drivers and tour providers on island.

From all the preparations leading up to a ship's arrival, to the operations on the day and the work following its departure, everyone is working together to showcase the extraordinary natural and culture wonders that Norfolk offers to these day trippers who visit our island.

There has been a lot of positive feedback from guests and business operators alike, with the increased cruise ship activity. The coming months will see a number of large ships drop anchor, with the corresponding economic benefits.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

Norfolk Island Governance Committee – make your voice heard

The election of the three community representatives for the Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) will take place on Wednesday, 11 October 2023, with the election process being run by Australian Election Company.

The NIGC will provide a mechanism for greater collaboration, cooperation and communication between the Norfolk Island community, and the Australian and Queensland Governments – supporting more community input into the future of the island, and local knowledge and expertise informing key government services and decisions.

The role of the NIGC will be working to establish local priorities to help inform key governance and policy decisions, with all residents aged 18 and over able to nominate for election for the community representatives to the committee – with the exception of employees from the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, and the Queensland Government Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The best way to ensure the success of the committee is a broad spectrum of voices from across the community, with younger generations encouraged to nominate, alongside those already experienced in the governance of the island.

While the NIGC does not replace a democratically elected local governing body on Norfolk Island, it is a key step to seeing community and government working more closely together on a shared path forward for the island.

Australian Election Company can assist in enquiries relating to enrolment, nominations and voting.

For more information on NIGC and the upcoming elections visit:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/territories/norfolk-island/norfolk-island-governance-administration/norfolk-island-governance-committee