



Administrator's update

The NIGC is now meeting weekly to meet everyone's desire to get democratic representation restored. There's a huge amount of work in providing recommendations for law that enables the bespoke local governance model for our island. Over the summer, working closely with NIRC, the Committee has assembled a good understanding of the costs of service delivery to the community and the current funding arrangements. We are adding functions required under the new model along with identified infrastructure needs. The outcome will be a recommended financial model which demonstrates a sustainable future for the Assembly. We have also improved the visibility of the Committee's work and have updated the public register that outlines the matters considered at each meeting. Chris, Chelsea and I are available for questions and feedback on how the model is progressing.

My office has established quarterly meetings with Australia Post to discuss issues raised by the community about the mail service. The initial meeting was very positive and we have been asked to provide examples and details (particularly tracking information) so they can work out where the issues lie in the process.

The successful bid to establish a Country University Centre on the island will provide a well-equipped facility for students undertaking tertiary and vocational training to have a place to work and study. Our thanks go out to Madeline Lawler and her small team from Regional Development Australia Mid-North Coast and a dedicated group of local volunteers who have established the entity to run the centre. Excellent work!

The BoM has advised we are now in the 20th consecutive month of below average rainfall. NIRC has been closely monitoring the situation, we are now at "High" in the Drought Response Plan. This level has the desalination plant operating at capacity and providing water to the carters to supplement their groundwater supplies. Hopefully by the time you read this, the local saying 'there is always rain after a long drought' will, once again, be true!

Australia Day

On Norfolk Island, Australia Day is about celebrating our unique and vibrant culture, our island's natural beauty, and community spirit.

On Sunday 26 January 2025, we recognised those in the community who are changing lives and society for the better. Their challenges and triumphs are demonstrated in their life experience and personal journeys.

The recipients are role models to the community and have demonstrated excellence in their field, and made significant contributions to the community.

The recipients of the 2025 Australia Day awards were Citizen of the Year – Zena Zeilstra, Community Achievement Award – Barbara Elliott Community Achievement Award – Liz Unkles.



Welcome new citizens

The Australian Day Awards included the welcoming of two conferees as full members of our community. Their family and friends gathered at Government House to witness their loved ones take the final step in their journey to become Australian citizens

It was a great honour as Administrator to observe this joyous event.

On behalf of all Australians, I would like to thank both conferees for their commitment to our country, which is now your country. They have added to the heart and strength of our diversity.



Newsletter

Norfolk Island

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Lunch, dinner, cocktails, ice-cream, all with a view!

The social scene has ramped up and community are loving it, with all of the new food and drink options available throughout the KAVHA area.

Trish Le Mura from 'Mine yus Plet' is into her second successful season feeding hungry beach goers with Dagwood dogs, hot chips, and monstrous burgers. The smell of oil and onions makes a day at Emily Bay that much brighter. Nothing is more enjoyable on a hot day than enjoying an ice cream cone or sipping a milkshake while sitting in the sand.



The Wanderer, launched by Fiona and David Haberfield, is a mobile cocktail caravan blending locally inspired flavours with the unforgettable sunsets at KAVHA. The Wanderer operates on weekends and has quickly become a favourite for locals and visitors alike. The locally inspired flavours of Fiona's skilfully crafted cocktails, along with beer or bubbly reflect the island's spirit.



If you have enjoyed a game of golf lately, you would have noticed the amazing food being served by The Olive Branch. Naomi Thompson and her team are whipping up wraps, salads, fish and chips, rice bowls, and something for your sweet tooth for the members and guests of the golf club. The breathtaking views of Cemetery and Emily Bay from the verandah of the Golf club are only enhanced by the great food of offer.



If you haven't already, be sure to check out the ninnies and nibbles available daun'town.

Tourism Australia reveals 10 best Aussie beaches

Well, we already knew this, but it is fantastic that our island's natural beauty has been recognised. The stunning turquoise blue waters and spotless sandy beach of Emily Bay has been ranked #3 on the 2025 Australian best beaches.

There is no doubt that we have one of the best beaches in the world!



New Facebook page keeping the community informed

I have launched a new Facebook page, to help keep you up-to-date with the latest news and information from my office.

I know that social media is an important space for the Norfolk Island community to stay connected and informed, which is why my office has established this channel to help you know what you need, when you need, straight from the source.

Some of the content that you can expect to find on our new Facebook page includes updates from the Australian Government, upcoming events at Government House, engagement opportunities and the latest on local services and programs.

It will complement my other information channels including the radio, this newsletter and media releases.

I encourage community members to like and follow our new page on Facebook, which will be a one-stop-shop with the latest, most up-to-date information for locals. You can find it by searching for "Office of the Norfolk Island Administrator" or using this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573203694464>

Enhanced employment support program

The Australian Government is progressing the roll-out of the new consolidated model for employment support services and VET financial assistance to Norfolk Island.

From July 1, the new Norfolk Island Employment Support Program will consolidate the existing support provided through the Employment Services (Norfolk Island) and Disability Employment Services (DES) programs, as well as the VET Financial Assistance Initiative.

The program will provide participants, including those with a disability, parents, mature-aged, and youth with employment support tailored to their individual need.

The department is currently leading a procurement process to engage a Norfolk Island-led and locally based organisation for the delivery of the program. The community will be updated once the provider is selected and as transition arrangements commence.