



The Government of Norfolk Island

MEDIA RELEASE

Clean up and reduce the threat from mosquitoes: Minister

“Now summer is just around the corner, tidy the garden and don't help mosquitoes breed.” That's the advice from Norfolk Island Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, Vicky Jack MLA.

Mrs Jack said that apart from being annoying, mosquitoes potentially carried a range of diseases and that it was desirable to reduce their numbers as much as possible.

The Minister suggested that householders could take some simple measures to reduce the incidence of mosquitoes. These included the following tips:

- Mosquito breeding around the home can be reduced significantly by limiting the amount of standing water where mosquitoes can gather;
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated on your property. Do not overlook containers that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation;
- Do not allow water to accumulate at the base of flower pots or in pet dishes for more than 2 days;
- Pay special attention to discarded tyres that may have accumulated on your property. Used tyres collect water and have become significant as mosquito breeding grounds;
- Drill holes in the bottom of rubbish or recycling containers that are left out of doors. Drainage holes that are located on the sides allow enough water to collect for mosquitoes to breed;
- Clean clogged roof gutters on an annual basis, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains. Roof gutters are easily overlooked but can produce millions of mosquitoes each season;
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. A wading pool becomes a mosquito producer if it is not used on a regular basis;
- Turn over wheelbarrows and do not allow water to stagnate in bird baths. Both provide breeding habitat for domestic mosquitoes;
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens are fashionable but become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate;
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. Be aware that mosquitoes may even breed in the water that collects on swimming pool covers; and
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water on your property. Mosquitoes can develop in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days.

Stephanie V Jack
Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare

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