



NORF'K CIRCA INC

*A community/government partnership for
the betterment of all in Norfolk Island*

**MEDIA RELEASE: A big year ahead for Norfolk Island's new
community information resource, *Norf'k CIRCA***

The *Norf'k Community Information & Resources Cooperative Association (CIRCA) Inc* is looking forward to a big year in 2009. The not-for-profit Association expects to relocate to a readily accessible site in Burnt Pine, with a view to eventually expanding to become a comprehensive full community information centre.

André Nobbs is the Founding Chairman of the Association, which has a board made up of representatives of the community and government nominees. CIRCA has already established a wide network of more than 80 local email contacts, who have received up to 15 regular free information updates on a wide range of areas of interest. These include government and private research reports, calls for submissions to committees and inquiries, details of government and community services and information on a wide range of funding programs, many of which are applicable to small remote communities, such as Norfolk Island.

In light of the current decline in the world economy and tourism in particular, with the resultant flow-on effects to the island, CIRCA members have reaffirmed the benefits of having a community information and resource centre to assist both individuals and community organisations in accessing information.

Mr Nobbs, as Chairman of the Association, has reaffirmed that the purpose of this joint community and government collaboration is to provide assistance for the community and for visitors to the island to obtain updated information on services available; where to access information; and now following the incorporation of the Association, the provision of assistance with applications for funding to both government and non-government organisations for programs within Norfolk Island.

The Association itself has been a recipient of such funding through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, which allocated \$4,000 for the purchase of software to provide a terminal so that persons can access information and resource web sites. This terminal will soon be located at a central public location and details of the location and provision of services will be published in the near future when the site is operational.

Members of the public are invited to take an active role in this vigorous new initiative by joining the Association (for which membership is free). Everyone is also invited to provide data update so that the information available both to our visitors and residents is current. It is not necessary to be a member of the Association to be able to use these facilities and it is intended that this will be a free community service. As this program is supported by the Norfolk Island Government it has provided the contact facilities and administrative support as part of its contribution to the goals of the association as outlined in its constitution.

For information on CIRCA, and for community information or resources assistance, please email circa@admin.gov.nf or phone Pat Anderson/Peter Maywald on 22003.

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