

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mayor Adams joined members of the Norfolk Island Police Force for morning tea at Government House on Tuesday morning by kind invitation of the Administrator and Mrs Hardgrave. The occasion was to commemorate National Police Remembrance and the Mayor was invited to say a few words.

'The invitation to be at Government House prompted me to google *The History of Policing on Norfolk Island*,' the Mayor said, 'I found two sites – one from away, the other a local site. The first was the Australian Police Journal which commenced with – "*The history of policing the island has been lost in the mists of time*" and so it is good that there are commemorative occasions on Norfolk Island like National Police Remembrance Day so that policing on Norfolk Island doesn't continue to remain lost in the mists of time. What we do know is that the Norfolk Island Police Force came into existence on 14 October 1931 with the passing of the Norfolk Island Police Act.'

The Mayor shared her firsthand knowledge of policing on Norfolk from having worked with many members of the Norfolk Island Police Force since 1967 when she first joined the Norfolk Island Public Service and worked in the court and legal systems. 'I have seen the Force grow from one police sergeant and a local police constable to today, where, I believe at last count we have three Commonwealth police officers and two local police officers; and I am sure there are many in the community who will remember the days of Sergeant Bill Riley and the late Pow Snell,' the Mayor said.

The Mayor went on to acknowledge that policing in a small community can have its upside and its downside and that it can't always be easy for our officers; but, the Mayor said, in the main her experience has been that our police rise to that challenge well and are respected for the role that they play in our community which is KEEPING US SAFE.

She referred to the local Living Library website (<http://www.livinglibrary.edu.nf>) which had its origins at the School with a grant from Rotary and concluded her remarks by quoting the simple words of those school children who helped create the site.

'The Norfolk Island Police have the job of making Norfolk Island a safe and peaceful place to work in, live in and visit. The Police carry out daily patrols of the island. They investigate crimes and they make sure that everyone drives safely. Police also help to look for people when they are lost on the island or at sea.'

'On behalf of the Norfolk Island community,' Mayor Adams said, 'I would like to say to our police officers – thank you for the professional way you carry out your roles in this small remote and isolated community – and as your jobs take you around the world that you too **CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE.'**

The Mayor also attended the National Police Remembrance Day Service at All Saints Church on Thursday morning and had the following words to say:

'The service which was well attended was very moving,' Mayor Adams said. 'I am aware that there will be an article on the Remembrance Day activities elsewhere in the local press. However, I would like to share with the community the moving Police Prayer which was read by Senior Constable Grant Moses.

God of all people, we know it is from you that we have learned what goodness and justice are. You have given us the task of maintaining law and order in our community.

We seek the strength to meet the many challenges encountered in this endeavour. Give us the courage and the resolution to do our duty at all times, and such a respect and love for justice that neither promise nor threat will ever make us depart from it.

Help us with your guidance to be the Guardian and the Friend of the whole community; a friend to children, an example to youth, a counsellor and adviser to all citizens.

Grant us the skill, and the wisdom, to make us always stronger in protecting and supporting the community. Guide us in knowing when to enforce and when to relax the letter of the law.

Help us to be a personal example of the honesty, the goodness, and the justice which it is our duty to maintain, and grant that our actions will inspire in our community confidence in its police officers.

*We make our prayer to you, confident of your love and your compassion.
AMEN*

HAWAIKI SUBMARINE CABLE PROPOSAL FOR NORFOLK ISLAND

Council at an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday, 28 September passed the following motion:

'Noting that –

- (1) Council on 21 September 2016 requested the General Manager to explore and present options at today's meeting for Council to secure funding for a branching unit to be attached to the Hawaiki cable to allow Norfolk Island to be connected in the near future; and
- (2) Council has received advice from the Group Manager Commercial Hub 'that it would not be prudent to access funds at such an early stage of our development as a regional council, based on significant unknowns and that much of our cash balances are based on one-off grant funding',

it is therefore the recommendation of Council that it does not proceed with any of the options presented for funding of the Hawaiki Cable in the report presented to Council today.'

'Council, acting on the advice of senior management and legal counsel, took what I believe was a responsible decision not to agree to endorse any of the options - using Council cash balance, borrow funds from the Commonwealth or from another lending institution,' the Mayor said.

However, notwithstanding this decision, the Mayor remains in phone contact with Mr Nick Hannan, Advisor to Senator Nash, on Council's request to the Commonwealth that it seek from Hawaiki a two-week extension of time beyond 30 September 2016 to allow further discussion between the Commonwealth and the Council on its request for a 'one off grant' from the Commonwealth to fund Norfolk's connection to the Hawaiki submarine cable.

'I hope to have a positive response from the Commonwealth today', Mayor Adams said.

Robin Adams
Mayor

30 September 2016