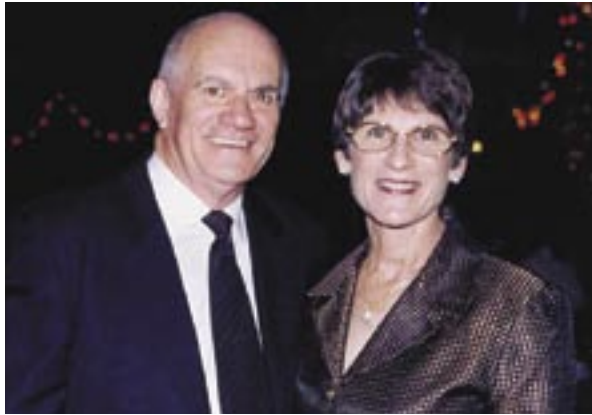


ADMINISTRATOR'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE



We are approaching that time of year when inevitably we pause as a community and personally - and we should take the time to look both backwards over the events of the past year and prospectively forward into the year ahead.

The 2005 year has certainly been fraught with problems on Norfolk Island, especially in economic terms. The collapse of Norfolk Jet Airlines in June caused a series of issues for the tourism and retail industries which will take time to redress and require creative management strategies. Political and public administration has also encountered a number of impediments, which will similarly require leadership to be exerted by both the Norfolk Island and Australian Governments.

Handling and managing change is never easy. We know that from watching our children grow to maturity and sharing their challenges and difficulties. Our first priority must always be to create the family example which has been given special emphasis through the generations by our Christian and civic values.

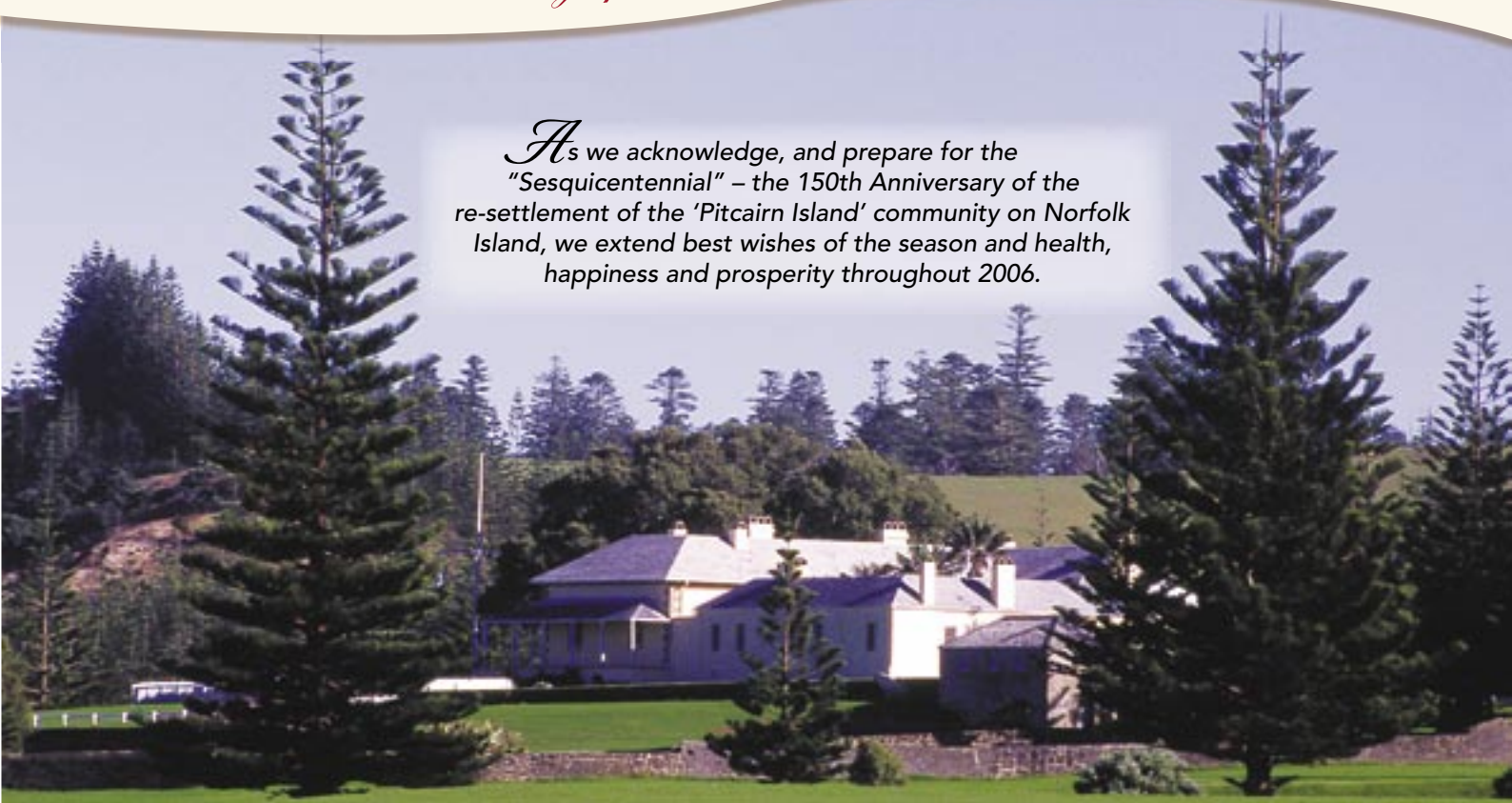
Sandy and I sincerely hope that you, and your families, enjoy the festive season and are able to move into 2006 with a spirit of confidence and sharing. As a community, I believe Norfolk Island can also move with its best foot forward.

Best Wishes

GRANT TAMBLING
ADMINISTRATOR
December 2005

With Season's Greetings from Government House Norfolk Island

As we acknowledge, and prepare for the "Sesquicentennial" – the 150th Anniversary of the re-settlement of the 'Pitcairn Island' community on Norfolk Island, we extend best wishes of the season and health, happiness and prosperity throughout 2006.



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2006 SESQUICENTENARY DIARY EVENTS ~ 1856 - 2006

The year 2006 marks a significant milestone – with the 150th anniversary of the settlement of the Pitcairn Island population on Norfolk Island in 1856. The year will feature a range of events being led by a local committee as part of the "Sesquicentenary" celebrations, culminating on 8 June 2006 with the annual Bounty Day picnic by local Pitcairn descendant families. The Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery and Mrs Jeffery, have accepted an invitation to attend Bounty Day. Each of the eight original families will also be invited to prepare large canvas murals depicting the 150 year history on Norfolk Island – it is planned to display the banners on the Government House veranda for the Bounty Day morning tea.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE FUNCTIONS

Government House hosted 32 functions (receptions, dinners and other events) from July to December this year. This is in addition to the monthly Open Days which raised about \$7500 for local charities. Most visitors to Government House comment on its significance to the island. The Government House staff - Jenny Ratcliffe (housekeeper), Dids Evans (property caretaker), Rachael Nebeur-Borg (Chef), Gaeton Boudan (gardener) and the hospitality team do an outstanding job maintaining the high heritage standards and services of this important house.

VISIT OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS

Thirty former Members of Parliament and their partners from Australia and New Zealand visited Norfolk Island earlier this month on a specially arranged Group Tour. They spent time in discussions at the Legislative Assembly with the Speaker Mr David Buffett AM, MLA and at a sunset reception with 20 current and former Norfolk Island MLAs and officials at Government House.



There will be a special Reception at Government House on Monday 16 January 2006 for the Commonwealth Games participants and the Baton.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN DAYS 2006

18 January - Norfolk Island
Sesquicentennial Committee

8 February - Norfolk Island Volunteer
Rescue Squad

8 March - Quota Club of Norfolk Island

12 April - St John Ambulance

10 May - Norfolk Island A&H Society

14 June - Norfolk Island Hospital Auxiliary

There are 20 wonderful Norfolk Island
"sitters" who supervise Open Days.

From July to December this year
Government House has hosted 32
community functions, receptions, dinners
and special luncheons hosting over 1000
guests.



ADMINISTRATOR'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

CROWN LAND TRANSFER

Acceptances of Crown lease transfers to freehold title continues at a steady rate with a total of 80 acceptances now received from the 129 offers made by Minister Lloyd. Out of the 80 acceptances some 38 transfer deeds have now been signed by Minister Lloyd and have already, or are about to be, granted new freehold titles. Informal discussions with many lessees yet to accept the offer has indicated that the majority will accept before the 30 June 2006 deadline. The additional time is required by some to save sufficient funds to take advantage of the 10% discount for up front payment. It would be appreciated if lessees could phone to make an appointment regarding their transfers, which will be handled on Thursdays and Fridays of each week.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

The Official Secretary, Mick Stephens, completes his term on 21 January 2005. Mick has been with us since May 2003 and has contributed across a range of policy and administrative matters. Mick plans to take up a position as Agricultural/Resource Economist with the CSIRO in Rockhampton.

Jim Kichenside, who has provided assistance with the land

transfer initiative since September 2004, also returned to Canberra in early December. We wish both Mick and Jim and their respective families all the best. The new Official Secretary, Mr Owen Walsh, arrives in late January to commence official duties. Many will remember Owen who previously held this position from 1999-2003.

From 27 June to 22 July 2005 we were pleased to have Jessica Shaw, an undergraduate student in international relations and law at Griffith University, undertake work experience in the Office.



Left to Right—Kelly, Meg, Erin and Mick Stephens

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT LIAISON

Since July, 20 senior Australian Government officials and advisers with special interests in financial management, parks, maritime, transport security, human relations and policing, have visited Norfolk Island. The Territories Minister, the Hon Jim Lloyd MP, led a special delegation in September for forum discussions with commercial, political and other community organisations. A KAVHA film crew has been on Norfolk Island this month filming an historical and promotional video on the natural and physical features of Kingston.

Work is also now advanced on the major capital works programs by the Norfolk Island Administration to reseal the Airport runway and reconstruct the Kingston Pier. The Airport contract is being funded through an interest-free loan from the Australian Government, and the Pier work is a result of a special grant to recognise the heritage values of this historic site.



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REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

The Australian Government "Regional Partnerships" program is administered by the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS), and provides funding to foster the development of self-reliant communities and regions across Australia.

Norfolk Island residents and community groups are eligible to apply under the program. The guidelines of the program emphasise community partnerships and support for projects, which may include community/not-for-profit organisations, private sector businesses, and local or state governments. Further information about the program is available from the DOTARS website: www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au

There is also an important link between the Regional Partnerships program and the national network of 56 Area Consultative Committees (ACCs). As volunteer community based organisations, ACCs provide a vital conduit to the Australian Government on local, social and economic conditions. The ACCs are also the key providers of independent advice to DOTARS on all applications under the Regional Partnerships program, and can provide on the ground support and assistance in developing applications.

With increasing interest from Norfolk Island residents in the Regional Partnerships program, arrangements have been put in place for Norfolk Island applications to be submitted through the Northern Rivers (NSW) ACC. Further information about the Northern Rivers ACC can be found at: www.northernriversacc.com.au

I believe this is an exciting opportunity for Norfolk Island to participate more fully in the program.

OUR CONTACTS

Enquiries

Phone: 22152 Facsimile: 22681

Website: www.dotars.gov.au/terr/norfolk/administrator.aspx

Postal Address

Office of the Administrator, PO Box 201, Norfolk Island 2899

Street Address

Office of the Administrator, New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island

Government House - Kingston

Phone: 22000 Staff: 22220

HELPFUL LINKS

Norfolk Island Government

Norfolk Island Administration:
www.norfolk.gov.nf

Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services: www.dotars.gov.au
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: www.dfat.gov.au

Department of the Environment and Heritage: www.deh.gov.au

Australian Fisheries Management Authority: www.afma.gov.au

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs: www.dimia.gov.au

Australian Government Grants (GrantsLINK): www.grantslink.gov.au

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR STAFF

Administrator

The Hon Grant Tambling
Official Secretary and Deputy Administrator
Michael 'Mick' Stephens

Finance/Immigration Officer
Anne Wright

Administrative Officer
Darlene Buffett

GOVERNMENT HOUSE STAFF

Property Caretaker ~ David "Diddles" Evans,
Gardener ~ Gaetan Boudan,
Housekeeper ~ Jenny Ratcliffe,
Chef ~ Rachel Nebauer Borg.

