



www.norfolkschoice.com

GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

It has been extremely encouraging in recent weeks to see our story getting out there, on Norfolk Island, in Australia, and out in the wider world. The visit of the British Delegation, Conservative MPs Daniel Kawczynski and Andrew Rosindell along with Labour MP Paula Sherriff, continues to bear fruit, and the three MPs have now issued a signed statement in which they state that they were “deeply disturbed by what we found” and “the current situation is untenable and cannot go on. It is damaging the lives of the people of Norfolk Island as well as the reputation of Australia.” We eagerly wait to see what Australia’s response will be.

Meanwhile, the visit of Senator Pauline Hanson for three days last week was a great encouragement to us. The Senator spent the whole of her time here meeting with a large number of groups and individuals, and really got alongside of the locals, listening to their concerns and seeing first hand our special way of life. On her return, Senator Hanson posted a film about her visit on her Facebook page, which has so far been viewed by over 80 000 people. We are delighted that we now have access to such a large audience to tell our story. This is especially important in the light of the fact that we, and other key stakeholder groups, were unable to secure meetings with Ms Gai Brodtman MP or Senator Nash during their brief visits.

Here on the home front, we have the opportunity to talk to many of our visitors who call in to the Tent Embassy or the Centre for Democracy to ask questions, and offer support and encouragement to us. Huge numbers of badges, Norfolk flags, and green hands regularly travel home with our tourists, many of whom say they are determined to talk to their friends and their local MPs about what has happened here.

We continue to work with the Council of Elders, sharing initiatives and activities, because we all want the same outcomes for the people of this island. We are well aware that the Council is sometimes able to open some doors that are not available to us, and are very grateful for their commitment. The Tent Embassy and the Hands Up group are also contributing to our fight in a significant way, and we all get together for occasions like a Potluck, or a Fundraiser, the good Norfolk spirit really comes to the forefront.

The words of encouragement and gestures of support we are continually receiving from the people of this island really keep us motivated. There is still a great deal for us to do. In the near future, we will be seeking your help in more tangible ways. We have a task of contacting many individuals, organisations and UN member countries to assist in progressing our petition. If you feel you can help with some “googling”, research, emailing and letter-writing, and generally helping our Management team in their enormous task we would love to hear from you.

We are well aware that many on this island are really hurting at the moment, and face the year ahead with trepidation as the imposts and bureaucratic demands of a new regime impact their lives and those of their families.

All correspondence to: The Secretary, PO Box 367, Norfolk Island, South Pacific 2899
email: pdsupport@ninet.nf Phone: + 6723 51856

We only

wish we could play a greater advocacy role, but the way

things are, that is not easy. However, we do still urge you to contact us and tell us how you are being affected by the changes on our island.

Whatever you can share with us will assist in helping us plan a better and brighter future for Norfolk Island when our democracy and rights are returned to us.

“Abolishing Norfolk Island as an autonomous territory may not seem to matter much in the grand scheme of things, but for an international order that cherishes self-government and proclaims the right of self-determination of people it is a regressive and unimaginative action, an example of the inability to tolerate democracy and difference.”

– Geoffrey Robertson QC