



# Norfolk Island People for Democracy

## **WELL ATTENDED PUBLIC MEETING HOSTED BY NIPD**

The NIPD Management Committee was pleased to see so many community members at the Public meeting held in Rawson Hall on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. This was a good opportunity to bring our supporters up to date with the matters we have been pursuing, and to allow everyone to hear from some of the presenters who had been participating in the Small Islands Forum.

Lisa Richards, as MC, first introduced Geoff Gardner OAM, former Chief Minister, who spoke about the progress of our application for the U.N. Listing. Geoff took a number of questions before Lisa introduced our other presenters, who spoke of the challenges facing Norfolk Island on a number of levels, making reference to how these challenges are dealt with by other small communities, particularly Christmas Island.

Of particular interest was the presentation from Dean McLachlan who, in the next few weeks, will be carrying out, on our behalf, a large scale media and crowdfunding campaign. Dean urged us to support one another, and where possible to get behind the campaign through social media. His words "If you don't change history, you are going to be history" reinforced the fact that we all need to be part of the struggle to regain our rights and democracy. The other speakers included Bob Neville, who spoke about community regeneration, Ian Stevenson who addressed the difficulties we may face in areas of bureaucracy, taxation and the economy, and Simon Millcock who spoke of his experiences with the system on Christmas Island, under a regional council and applied W.A. Law. Finally Gary Russell, representing the United Nations Association of New Zealand, encouraged us to put passion and heart into our fight, and maintain our morale, believing we have right on our side.

To conclude the meeting, Troy Hamilton-Irvine, one of our Management Committee members, reminded those at the meeting that the Committee is focussed on the U.N. listing issue. However, Troy pointed out that there are many ways in which others can become actively involved in standing up for Norfolk Island, and not all action or protest needs to be funnelled through N.I.P.D.

There were a number of excellent questions and contributions from the floor, and all agreed it was a very worthwhile and productive meeting.

## **PUBLICITY AND CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN.**

Months of preparation have gone into this, under Dean McLachlan who is a leader in this field. The campaign will be launched at an appropriate stage in the news cycle, and we will keep our members informed. We are also hopeful that this campaign will bring us the funds we need to complete our journey to the United Nations.

## **CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY**

There has been a great deal of time and effort given to preparing our headquarters in Taylors Road. We are really grateful to all those who have generously donated time and goods to help us in the setting up.

Although more work needs to be done, we have decided to have an Open Day this Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February between 10a.m. and 2p.m. We encourage our friends and supporters to drop in, have a chat with Committee members, and enjoy a cuppa.

We are hoping that in the near future we can have a regular evening where anyone can call in and share concerns and ideas with us, so we can keep encouraging one another.

## **MINISTER FLETCHER**

A letter has been sent to Minister Fletcher accepting his verbal invitation, issued on radio and at the Public Meeting, to meet with him in Canberra. We stress that we are only seeking discussion on the issue of U.N. Listing. No reply has been received at this stage.

LOCAL FUND RAISING

Donations of course will continue to be gratefully received and the bank details are as follows:

ACCOUNT NAME:	NORFOLK ISLAND PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRACY
ACCOUNT TYPE:	Community Solution Cheque Account
HOME BRANCH:	Westpac Norfolk Island
BSB/ACCOUNT NO:	032855 / 187591

THANK YOU 'NORFOLKERS – BOTH ON AND OFF ISLAND - FOR YOUR CONTINUING GENEROSITY!

From the NIPD Management Committee  
24 February 2016