This was our fourth very successful cultural exchange and educational experience where we hosted 12 Fellows from the Pacific Islands of Tonga, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Cook Islands and Komodo Island, Indonesia.

The purpose of this program is to train skilled professionals from small remote islands, in the area of sustainable environmental and economic development. Through these sessions future leaders can increase their capacity to deal with key regional issues such as energy supply and climate change, waste management, marine parks and bio diversity, poverty and population health.

The three week program focuses on fostering regional cooperation through providing networking opportunities, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and management training. It includes specifically tailored training units studied at University of Sydney and their Centre for Integrated Sustainable Analysis (ISA). These are aimed at enhancing the Award Fellows’ education and skills, and in turn economic opportunities. The final week on tiny Norfolk Island, in the magnificent surroundings of a fragile alluring sub-tropical Pacific paradise examines the practical application of these exercises in real world business situations.
Cultural exchange and sightseeing

Time was provided to the Fellows to meet with diverse cultural groups whilst they were visiting the island.

An example was the fellowship exchanged between the Founder of Foodcare Ms. Cynthia Quintal, the Seventh Day Adventist Pastor, Mr. Dion Fourie and his wife Colleen, who are from South Africa and, our Island guests Ms. Marie Nicklum from Vanuatu and Ms. Maketara Ioane, from Kiribati. Our Fijian community leader, Ms. Losana Ratulevu visited the fellows at the Castaway Hotel. The Uniting Church offered the fellows the summer clothes at the opportunity shop for free. Most of this was done with the sound of Mr. John Wichman playing the ukulele in the background.

Centenary of Gallipoli

Whilst the Fellows were on the Island, a ceremony commemorating the Centenary of Gallipoli was held on the shores of Emily Bay, Norfolk Island.

This is a day to remember and recognise our men and women who have fought in World War I and other times of war under the British, Australian, Norfolk Island & New Zealand flags.

ANZAC DAY Commemoration Dawn Service Above left to right: Mr. Jim Garland and Mr. David Slender from Norfolk Island, Mr. Ahoeha Levi from Niue, The Hon. Gary Hardgrave, Administrator of Norfolk Island and Mr. John Wichman from Rarotonga, Cook Islands.
Another Sustainable Islands Workshop was conducted by Brad Forrester, General Manager of Cascade Soft Drinks. Brad took the Fellows through the whole process of manufacturing and provided reasons for why bottling with recyclable glass is far more sustainable than purchasing PET plastic and why his family soft drink factory is more sustainable than imports from larger manufacturers.

The Forrester family have two businesses in Norfolk Island. Both have achieved high levels of sustainability through calculus using methodology approved by the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator; having calculated their triple bottom line they are working to achieve the highest level of sustainability for Norfolk Island. This year’s showcase was a visit to the Cascade Soft Drink factory and Forrester Court where the Fellows viewed the magnificent property and the road base made from glass from the glass crusher. These businesses are two of the highlights at our sustainable island business workshops in Norfolk Island. The Sustainable Islands program of the ISA team at the University of Sydney is aimed at identifying the sustainability situation on small and remote Pacific islands. To learn more contact: Brad Forrester E: niliqueurs@norfolk.nf

Norfolk Island Goat Farming

At Hilli Goat Farm, Emily Ryves provided information on goat farming with a cheese tasting to our visitors. This was of “exceptional interest” to the Pacific Island Fellows when they visited Norfolk Island with EcoNorfolk. This was made possible by funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) grant to the Sustainable Islands Program, ISA - Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis, School of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Sydney in partnership with ENF.

Above: Ms. Maketara Ioane, Ministry of Line and Phoenix Islands Development, Kiribati viewing the goat farm.
Another sustainable business enterprise showcased was the methane digester at Lou Evans, OBE, farm at Anson Bay.

The digester was particularly interesting as it has been scientifically proven to lower GHG emissions; Evaluations showed that a number of islands are interested in the same process being developed on their islands to assist lowering GHG emissions and to help address the issue of climate change.

Farmer Lou has been working on sustainable principles at his farm for over 3 decades. Farmer Lou’s farm shows a number of different ways it is possible to diversify your produce. By using the bi-products he then sells at the local market and a family store in the local village.

The Administration of Norfolk Island (ANI) power plant has been showcased by the Sustainable Islands Program for a number of years. The reason it is of interest is that other Pacific islands are looking at what Norfolk Island is doing and copying the same principles on their own island. Why? Its because all Pacific Islands are facing the impact of Climate Change and rising sea levels, and they are preparing now for the changes. Norfolk Island is a wonderful example of what other Islands should be considering.

Prof. Manfred Lenzen (above top lhs) took an active role in discussions, and the Fellows benefited from his extensive study in many aspects of power generation and cost benefit analysis in an evolving eco-sensitive society. After their very successful visit to the Norfolk Island power station, sharing time with Manfred provided the opportunity for them to hear firsthand about technology. The participants were able to investigate the suitability and economics of various protocols for their own remote islands in the Pacific. Mr. John (Moochie) Christian (above rhs) discussed solar issues with the Fellows during the workshop. It was obvious that we all share the same problems and are seeking cost-efficient, environment-friendly outcomes.
Norfolk Island Waste Management Centre & Sewage Treatment Plant

A visit to the Waste Management Centre was conducted by ANI Planning Officer, Ms. Jodie Quintal Brown, (below centre) explained how islands are all facing the same issues when dealing with waste streams, and also discussed how we are dealing with land use management and planning.

Denise Quintal (left) gave a presentation on what Norfolk has achieved so far and our issues. This presentation was also attended by the Minister for Environment, The Hon. Ron Ward Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly.

Above: The ANI Health and Quarantine Inspector, Mr. Neil Tavener (above lhs) provided a tour of the sewage treatment plant to Mr. Peauafi Toe’api (above rhs) from Tonga including all Fellows. They were accompanied by Mr. Michael Bland, (above centre lhs) Executive Officer, EMERITUS of EcoNorfolk Foundation and Mr. Keith Matson B.Bus (Acc & Fin), B.Juris, Grad Dip (Tax Law), Grad Dip (Corp Gov), MBA (above centre rhs), CEO, EcoNorfolk Foundation.

Ms. Vanessa Lolohea (left) contemplates the growing issue of WASTE!!
Forestry and Marine Aspects

National Park and Botanical Gardens

An educational component from Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Gardens Manager, Mr. Craig Doolan and Park Ranger, Mr. Joel Christian was provided to the Fellows. This included the Commonwealth Marine Reserve.

The Sustainability Trees at Palm Glen, Norfolk Island

A multi-cultural tree planting ceremony was conducted in the National Park. It was attended by the Fellows and other distinguished guests, including the Manager, Norfolk Island National Park, Mr. Craig Doolan. This was the second planting and is tree number 2/20 allocated for licensed planting.

Tree number 3/20 was planted as a memorial tree for our dearly departed Fellow Hermansyah Akbar from the Island of Komodo, Indonesia.

EcoNorfolk International Volunteer

Thank you to our international volunteer Joseph Makali Robert (lhs photo) from Vanuatu who provided the Fellows with outstanding island culinary meals assisted by Jamie Quintal (lhs photo) from Norfolk Island. Also Margaret Huckstep and Dr. Joy Murray (centre l & r) together with Prof. Manfred Lenzen, Ms. Pauline Butler, Margaret Huckstep, Mr Michael Bland from Tasmania and Denise Quintal from Norfolk Island.
Norfolk Women’s Forum Secretariat hosts luncheon for fellows during day of leisure.

Ms. Pauline Butler, Secretariat of Norfolk Women’s Forum and Sir John Walsh of Brannagh together with Mr. David Pegman, Liaison Officer, Norfolk Island Rotary Club all gathered at Watermill Valley for an informal luncheon prepared by Ms. Belinda Guildea.

Electric Cars

This is the third year that our participants have viewed the electric cars in Norfolk Island. What has become apparent is that the vehicles are not suitable for Pacific Islanders as they are far too small. Although the concept is of interest and the feedback positive the outcome would be for a larger car for Pacific Islanders. Mr. Tyrone Deiye (left) from Nauru went for a test drive.

Lunch in the Park

Over an Island picnic lunch at Captain Cook Lookout, the fellows held discussions with some of our local volunteers.

Their input into Norfolk Island issues such as waste, energy and sustainability provide an excellent platform for change in the Pacific.

EcoNorfolk is a signatory to the Australian Human Rights Commission campaign ‘RACISM IT STOPS WITH ME’ and also a signatory of the Australian Government National Compact.
Twilight BBQ at Rotary Club

The Norfolk Island Rotary Club hosted a wonderful dinner at the home of Mr. William (Bill) Blucher OAM. Norfolk Island Rotary Club raised funds for Vanuatu after the cyclone. Ms. Marie Nickllum was able to thank the club on behalf of the people of Vanuatu. Also to provide members with information on which Islands were most affected after the cyclone. After the dinner, dancing and laughter were enjoyed by both the Fellows and Rotarians.

A Tribute to Hermansyan Akbar from Komodo Island ... 27/12/1980—28/4/2015

Hermansyah was trained as a tour guide in 2009; and undertook training in India on Humans and the Environment in 2012. He was the Field Manager for the Teacher and Environment Program at Canting Exploring Indonesia. He also taught English to the community and worked as a volunteer at the Komodo National Park World Heritage Site. A tribute can be found on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qjwst86UUB4Published on May 6, 2015 by Sean Gaarad

"when everything started only as a dream, a dream of beauty, happiness, and warmth of this country the homeland where we were born. today that dream is slowly coming to reality, materialize in the form of a room, a space of creation for all of us. with all modesty. CANTING, exploring Indonesia.... "Training Leaders from Small Remote Island States in Advancing Sustainable Development” (PACIFIC-INDONESIA)

Herman is now safely resting on his Island of Komodo Indonesia.

Visit to Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly Chambers

Prior to their departure a number of the Leadership Award Fellows gave presentation of their observations to the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly at their Chambers in the World Heritage site of Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area (KAVHA); after only a short time with us their views were insightful and positive for our future, and often emotional.
Official Dinner for DFAT Awards

This year’s Sustainable Island Program official dinner saw 11 Fellows receive their awards. The presentation was attended by officials from the Commonwealth of Australia, Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, Administration of Norfolk Island and the University of Sydney. Sustainable Island business owners members and officials also attended from EcoNorfolk Foundation.

Certificates for the Sustainable Islands Program were presented to the Fellows by Manfred Lenzen, Professor of Sustainability Research, ISA, School of Physics, University of Sydney, Australia.


Above rhs photo: Ms. Mei Suciyati, Komodo Island, Ms. Marie Nickllum, Vanuatu, Ms. Mary McDonald, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, Ms. Vanessa Lolohea, Tonga, Ms Maketara Ioane, Kiribati, and Mrs. Margaret Huckstep, EcoNorfolk Financial Controller, Norfolk Island.

During the evening it was announced the appointment of the new CEO for EcoNorfolk Foundation. Right: Keith Matson B.Bus (Acc & Fin), B.Juris, Grad Dip (Tax Law), Grad Dip (Corp Gov), MBA (left) CEO EcoNorfolk with Mr. Bruce Taylor, (right) Acting Deputy. CEO, ANI.
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