



The Islander



Christmas Island Community Newsletter

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Best Beaches in Australia



In case you didn't hear the recent news, Dolly Beach has been named as the 7th Best Beach in Australia and 'Cossies Beach' on Direction Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands as the Best Beach in Australia. The best beaches were announced by Senator Fiona Nash, the Minister for Territories. She said 'Both Cocos and Christmas Islands have stunning beaches and huge tourism potential. Many Australians don't realise Christmas Island has pristine beaches, amazing rainforest and great diving.' "Beaches and tourism are such great drivers in regional economies and there's huge potential in the Indian Ocean Territories, as well as Norfolk Island, which also made the list of 101."

This is truly an honour for Australia's Indian Ocean Islands and has resulted in much publicity by traditional and social media. This media attention was driven by a partnership between Brad Farmer - author of the 101 Best Beaches in Australia list, the team at Senator Nash's Office, CI Tourism Association (CITA), CKITA and Tourism Australia. The story was picked up by various media outlets: including Sunrise on National TV, the Australian Geographic and the Australian.

This coverage raises the profile of the region for tourists and reinforces CITA marketing efforts to bring visitors to Christmas Island. Visitors spend money and support jobs.

Tourism Australia's research reveals that beaches are ranked first as the most appealing Australian attraction amongst international tourists when deciding on a holiday destination. Other top 10 attractions include unspoilt natural wilderness, rainforests, Australian coastal lifestyle and an island experience.

No wonder Christmas Island is receiving an increase in overseas visitors with so many reasons to visit, a regular flight with Jakarta and marketing in overseas markets. A typical overseas visitor is from Europe, aged between 45-64 years old, stays 6 nights, is on their first visit and will recommend Christmas Island to friends and family.

Mr Barry Haase, the Administrator of the Territories of Christmas and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, is pleased with the recognition and is a strong supporter of tourism. He has been pivotal in securing the regular northern flight and for introducing Senator Nash to Brad Farmer of 101 Best Beaches. Mr Haase has also been working to ensure "the commitment by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to repair the access to Dolly Beach and to

provide for its ongoing maintenance".

How can you help? Share your Christmas Island story by posting on social media, particularly facebook and instagram with #christmasisland. Your images and footage may get picked up by a range of sites including the worlds best digital travel platform of Australia.com

If you want to know more or get involved come and talk to us or join CITA.

Article by Karenn Singer Manager
Christmas Island Tourism Association.

Article continues on the back page.





Biocontrol set to arrive on Christmas Island

After more than seven years of research, community consultation, and biosecurity checks, a micro-wasp from Malaysia is about to be imported to Christmas Island to control yellow crazy ants in the national park.

The wasps have been bred in captivity in Malaysia. This week staff from Christmas Island National Park and scientists from La Trobe University and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia will fly the wasps from Malaysia to Christmas Island.

The team will be chaperoned by an officer from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to make sure the wasps, packaged inside small vials in a very secure case, remain safe and sound. This follows a range of import, export and environmental approvals.

Once the wasps have arrived they will be bred up in custom-built enclosures on Christmas Island. A close watch will be kept on numbers, and it is anticipated that two or three generations may be required to build up enough wasps for release. They will be released in batches on parts of the island where there are crazy ant super-colonies and suitable scale insects.

Park rangers and scientists will monitor these test sites, to see how the wasps are adapting to their new environment, and how well they reduce the numbers of scale insects and crazy ants over coming months and years.

There is an animation that explains the process. You might like to check it out at <http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/christmas/news/biocontrol.html>.

The yellow crazy ant is listed as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. They are a threat to Christmas Island's wildlife including the iconic red crabs that migrate in their millions each year. Since the ants started to form destructive super-colonies 20 years ago, they have killed tens of millions of red crabs and taken over large parts of the island's forests. Their presence changes the structure of the forest.

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[From 101Best Beaches.com](#)

Dolly Beach #7

Many people seem astounded by the fact that Dolly Beach was chosen here is why:

Dolly Beach is one of 11 beaches (and the famous 'Grotto') on CI ranging in character from cove, to compact to keyhole – and most of them are named in honour of historical female identities. ... the journey there is part of the reward ... Starting from a rugged carpark and along a boardwalk through dense rainforest, the first high vistas above Dolly are breathtaking. The beauty of the experience is that you're very likely to have it all to yourself, along with some aptly named Robber Crabs, turtles digging, whispering coconuts palms and fresh water streams to wash off the salt after exploring its magic rock pools. This is nature at its best.

