

PINE-HARDWOOD RIDGE FOREST

The Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project has described and mapped 14 distinct native plant communities on Norfolk Island. This series of fact sheets presents information about each of the communities.

Pine-Hardwood Ridge Forest

Tall pine forest on ridges, mostly in Norfolk Island National Park.

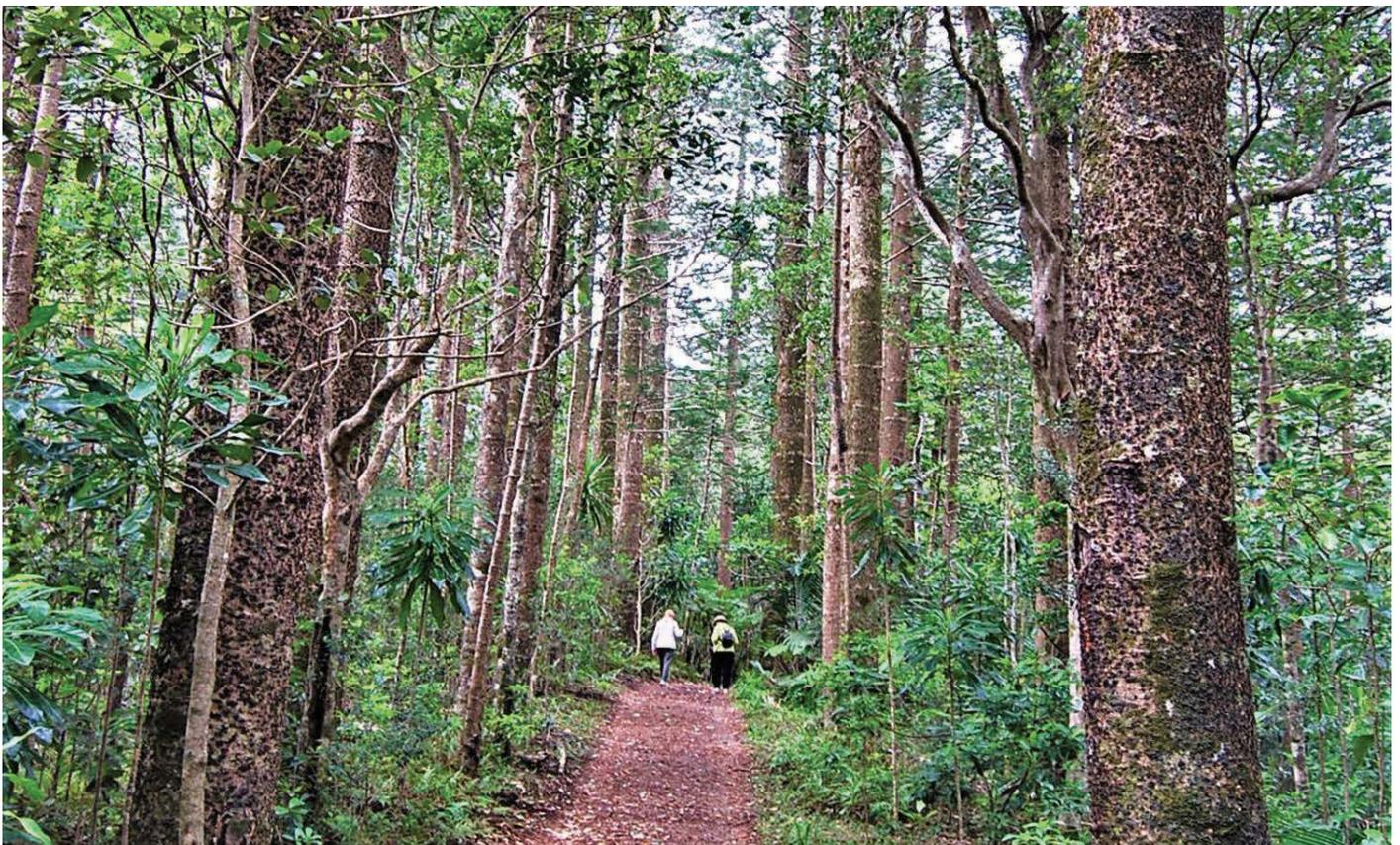
The ridges on the mountain flanks usually support many Norfolk pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), a species largely excluded from the Moist Upland Hardwood Forest. The forest contains a number of other hardwood species.

The Norfolk pine is an easily recognised large pine that can grow to 60 metres. Cultivated around the world as an ornamental tree, its wood

is used for construction, wood turning and crafts. The seeds are a popular food for the endemic and threatened green parrot.

Indicative species composition

The table on the next page identifies the key species present (those species that are most characteristic of the plant community), other species (additional species that are likely to be present and assist in defining the community), and some of the threatened species present.



Pine-Hardwood Ridge Forest, Mount Bates ridge. Photo: Kevin Mills

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Plant community	Key species	Other species	Threatened species
Pine Hardwood Ridge Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norfolk pine (<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>) Sharkwood (<i>Dysoxylon bijugum</i>) Beech (<i>Myrsine ralstoniae</i>) Ironwood (<i>Nestegis apetala</i>) Native oleander (<i>Pittosporum bracteolatum</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norfolk pine (<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>) Narrow leaved meryta (<i>Meryta angustifolia</i>) Ti (<i>Cordyline obtecta</i>) Bastard oak (<i>Ungeria floribunda</i>) Pennantia (<i>Pennantia endlicheri</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain coprosma (<i>Coprosma pilosa</i>) Ti (<i>Cordyline obtecta</i>) Sharkwood (<i>Dysoxylon bijugum</i>) Narrow leaved meryta (<i>Meryta angustifolia</i>) Beech (<i>Myrsine ralstoniae</i>) Pennantia (<i>Pennantia endlicheri</i>) Native oleander (<i>Pittosporum bracteolatum</i>) Bastard oak (<i>Ungeria floribunda</i>) Kurrajong (<i>Wikstroemia australis</i>)

Further information

These fact sheets are based on the Norfolk Island Vegetation Mapping Project conducted by the Invasive Species Council between 2018 and 2020. Naomi Christian and Dr Kevin Mills conducted the vegetation surveys, and described and mapped the native plant communities. Two maps were produced – one showing the estimated distribution of native plant communities in 1750, and one showing their distribution in 2020.

The plant community maps are available at:

- www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-mapping-project
- www.invasives.org.au/niveg

There are 180 native plant species on the Norfolk Island Group, of which around 25% are endemic. Forty-six species have been identified as threatened with extinction.

Describing and mapping the 14 native plant communities was done to help land managers protect and restore habitat for these threatened species and other wildlife of Norfolk Island.

Acknowledgements

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Banner artwork utilises an illustration by Ferdinand Bauer, 1804. Natural History Museum, London.

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