



- Technical Officer (Torres Strait)
- Healthy Lifestyle Officer - (Full Time) - Badu, Dauan, Kubin, Saibai, St Pauls
- Healthy Lifestyle Officer - (Part Time) - Boigu, Erub, Hammond, Masig, Poruma, Warraber
- Divisional Manager - Ugar
- Divisional Engineering Officer - Saibai, Ugar
- Multi-Skilled Administration Officer - Ugar, Mabuiaig
- Community Police Officer - lama, St Pauls, Mabuiaig, Ugar, Poruma
- Community Police Officer In Charge - Poruma
- Animal Management Worker - St Pauls, Kubin, Dauan, Mabuiaig, Erub
- Environmental Health Worker - Erub, Ugar, Boigu
- HACC Home Helper - Dauan, St Pauls, Boigu, Badu, lama x2, Mabuiaig x3

FOR POSITION DESCRIPTIONS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR COMMUNITY DIVISIONAL MANAGERS OR RECRUITMENT OFFICER RHIANNON CASH:
 T: (07) 40345 730
 F: (07) 40345 726
 E: RECRUITMENT@TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR POSITIONS OR APPLICATIONS: ADDRESS THE SELECTION CRITERIA, INCLUDING A RESUME AND COVERING LETTER BY FAX, EMAIL OR POST:
 PO Box 501 THURSDAY ISLAND, QLD 4875

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY



Want to be a qualified tradesperson and still live and work in the Torres Strait?

Identified positions include Electricians, Plumbers, Carpenters, Painters and Bricklayers!

Apply for an apprenticeship with the TSIRC.

The TSIRC have a number of vacant apprenticeship positions based in your Community. Successful applicants will be placed with an experienced tradesperson who will provide you with support and guidance to ensure you complete your 3-4 years training in obtaining a Cert III or trade qualification.

As an Apprentice you will:

- Learn your new trade under the supervision of an experienced tradesperson.
- Travel to other islands to gain experience
- Regularly attend TAFE

For further information contact your Divisional Manager; phone TSIRC recruitment on (07) 4034 5730; or email Recruitment@TSIRC.qld.gov.au

These positions are restricted to Torres Strait Islanders only and accommodation is not provided



We would like to invite community members to submit any stories, photos, questions to Council or public notices they wish to publish within Strait Talk.

Send your ideas to: info@tsirc.qld.gov.au



TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
 TSIRC Lot 12 Francis Road Hammond Island Qld 4875
 Ph: (07) 4048 6200 Fax: (07) 40691868
 PO Box 501, Thursday Island Qld 4875



Strait Talk

Kawau

Kuikumabaigau

Yangukudul

The official newsletter of the
 TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

October 2012

What's inside...



Seawall restoration to commence

No...this is not a false alarm!

After years of funding submissions and discussions with both state and federal governments regarding the importance of maintaining and rebuilding our seawalls to ensure the safety and future of low-lying islands, the federal government has committed funds to enable Council to start work on restoration in prioritised islands.



Consultants will be selected in the next two to three weeks to establish detailed plans and the tender for materials will go out after Christmas this year. Work is expected to commence early 2013 toward the end of the monsoonal season. The TSIRC's employees and laborers will undertake a significant portion of the work.

TSIRC Mayor Fred Gela said that each year during the wet season – high tides are stripping and eroding islands as water invades homes, infrastructure and agriculture.

“Only concept plans have been developed in the past to construct and or restoration of existing seawalls, in order to actually perform and implement these works, more detailed plans which include the full scope of works, material type and quantity need to be completed,” Cr Gela said.

“Unfortunately this critical preparation work in terms of designing needs to be done in the first instance.

“Similarly to the feelings of our constituents that are living and breathing these issues, I too, want these works to take place as soon as possible,” Cr Gela said.



TSIRC's David Griffin & Pat McGuire with IPWEAQ President Michael Kahler (centre).

TSIRC Engineering cleans up at the 2012 IPWEAQ Excellence Awards

Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) took out three awards at the 2012 Institute of Public Works Engineers Australia Queensland Division (IPWEAQ) Excellence Awards in Water Projects at the State Conference Gala Dinner on Friday 12 October.

The Water Projects Awards were sponsored by the Queensland Water Directorate (qldwater) and were judged on the size of the projects.

TSIRC won the award for project 'Less than \$1M' for the Ugar Island Water Storage and Pumping Compound which was designed by Flannigan Consulting Group & LDI Constructions.

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Clean-Up

TSIRC Environmental Health Workers were encouraged to host a Clean Up day within communities this month. Hammond Islands's EHW Nathan Maynard said that the Clean Up day on Hammond was a great success with nearly the whole community participating. "We had a sausage sizzle at the end of the day to reward everyone for the hard work they put in to keep the community clean and tidy," Nathan said.

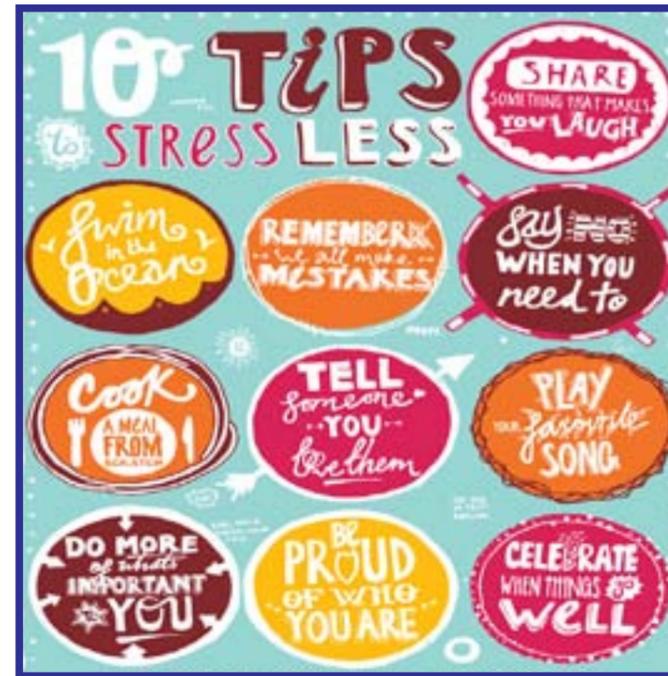
Hammond



Poruma



It's Mental Health Month!



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has commenced the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health survey which will improve our knowledge of the health issues affecting this group of Australians.



The survey will be conducted over 2012-13 across the country in cities and remote communities to create evidence to measure progress in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and contributing to Closing the Gap in life expectancy.

The first survey results will be released in September 2013 and will be used by a wide range of Aboriginal organisations, health researchers, public health advocates, government, clinicians and community health organisations.

TSIRC encourage its constituents to participate!



Don't forget to 'like' Torres Strait Island Regional Council on Facebook to see the latest Council information, pictures and updates!

Councillor's Corner



Cr Rocky Stephen
Newly elected Councillor for Ugar

Questionnaire:

Where were you born?

Thursday Island

Where did you grow up?

Mainly on Ugar Island

What education have you completed?

Among many studies and courses in my time, I have gained a Certificate III in Local Government and a Certificate III in Financial Accountability.

What are your leadership skills?

Participated in the Indigenous Leadership Course in Canberra to improve leadership skills and gain inspiration

What are your thoughts on Culture?

I am the president of the Purple Spider Dance team which has travelled nationally and internationally to perform.

To ensure our culture is preserved, I believe funding needs to be developed to ensure that cultural dance teams and artists are able to travel and show the world the culture of the Torres Strait.

A funding pool for culture travel and events including visiting and performing at different islands for tombstone openings should be established because its very expensive for us to travel and by performing and putting our cultural talent on show we keep our culture alive.

What are your community and regional aspirations as Councillor?

I would like to see the issue of dredging at Ugar finally resolved so that we can get a regular barge and deliveries into the island. Regionally, I'd like to see priorities based on housing, health, educations, infrastructure and also support and promotion of our gifted sportspeople.



Torres Strait Island
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Local Law Compliance Inspections

Torres Strait Island Regional Council
At its Regulatory and Governance Standing Committee Meeting held at Thursday Island on 29 August 2012, Council approved a program of Local Law Compliance Inspections of all allotments within the Local Government Area.

SCOPE: Local Law Compliance Inspections
COMMENCEMENT: 1 October 2012
ENDING: 31 December 2012

A copy of the Minutes of the 29 August 2012 Regulatory and Governance Standing Committee are available for inspection at any divisional TSIRC office free of charge, or upon email request to sandra.garnett@tsirc.qld.gov.au, until the end of the program.

To ensure your allotment is compliant and to avoid fines, please speak with your divisional Authorised Person(s) and read carefully the upcoming flyer on current Council Local Laws soon to arrive in your mailbox.

Rodney John Scarce
Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 501
Thursday Island, Qld 4875

"See Local Law lift-out for more info (centre)"

FERAL / WILD DOG CLEAN-UP ON MER



Over the years many Mer people have been concerned about the problem of uncontrolled dogs on the island and the negative impact they are having on turtles.

In response to their concerns, a clean up program has been developed to address this problem.

For this program to have successful and safe outcomes, the partner agencies listed below will work very closely with the Mer community and

PBC to ensure that we remove unwanted dogs to reduce the impacts on the green turtles.

Contact Mer Divisional Manager, Dalina Barsa for more information.



Last week Djarindjin and Lombadina Communities played host to Indigenous media workers from right across the country. The 14th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival drew hundreds of people to the Dampier Peninsula for a week of workshops focused on digital media, music production, radio broadcasting and industry development.

The program, run this year by Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media (PAKAM), included the 2012 Remote Media Awards ceremony, which recognised excellence in a vast area of media production skills, including animation, cinematography, radio documentary and acting.

TSIRC's radio broadcast operator, Walter Lui from Erub attended Festival. Walter has been a radio presenter for many years and is always eager to learn new methods of broadcasting and to keep up with the rest of the nation in terms of communication. Walter nominated fellow TSIRC broadcaster, Harry Lui from Waraber for the Young Emerging Broadcaster from the Torres Strait Award. Harry won the award and Walter accepted it on Harry's behalf because he unable to attend the festival. "I am very proud of Harry for winning this award as he is an enthusiastic presenter with dedication and ambition to go far," Walter said. "I was so proud to be one of the representatives of the Torres Strait and to broadcast live at the festival which was aired nationally." TSIRC understand the importance of sharing news, culture and events of the Torres Strait via radio broadcast and are looking at further developing its broadcast service to its full potential.



Walter Lui above and below with other festival broadcasters.



Back: Cr T Kris - St Pauls, Mayor F Gela, Cr D Bosun - Kubin, TSIRC Chief Legal Officer Chris McLaughlin.
Front: Senior Sergeant Eunice Hosea and Constable Percy Maitie

Moa Community Police lead rescue of 9 caught at sea

Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) is very proud of its employees, Community Police Senior Sergeant Eunice Hosea and Constable Percy Maitie who led the brave rescue of nine people caught at sea after their boat capsized on the night of September 2, 2012.

Constable Maities quick thinking and ability to coordinate another vessel including his own, to immediately respond without delay to the emergency by searching for and rescuing the 9 people (including 4 small children) who had spent approximately two hours clinging onto an overturned vessel in adverse sea conditions in the darkness prevented a tragedy with potentially fatal results for multiple people.

Senior Sergeant Hosea's logical thinking and foresight saw the launch of an additional vessel with lighting and communications be sent to assist the search party. Senior Sergeant Hosea was also able manage and comfort the large numbers of gathering families who were distraught and fearful for the safety of families members involved.

TSIRC awarded the two Community Police Officers with acknowledgment and bravery certificates for their initiative and response efforts at a presentation on Thursday Island in September.

TSIRC Councillor Bosun of Kubin said that the whole community pulled together to join in the rescue.



The Community Police Officers were presented with awards at the September Council meeting on T.I (pictured with TSIRC Councillors).

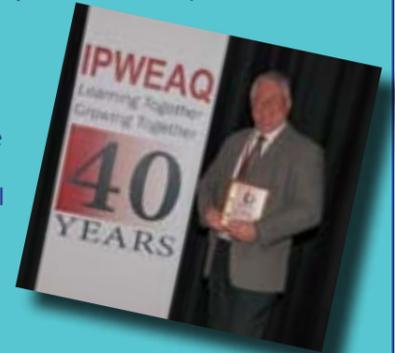
IPWEAQ Excellence Awards Cont...



IPWEAQ President Michael Kahler & TSIRC's David Griffin.

TSIRC's Executive Manager Engineering, Pat McGuire won the Dawson Wilkie Best Water Paper award for his paper entitled "Desalination in the Torres Strait." Pat will have the opportunity to present the paper at a national conference of his choosing.

The third award for the TSIRC was given to Council's Manager Civil Engineering, David Griffin, who took out IPWEAQ's Young Engineer.



Pat McGuire nominated David for his team leadership skills and his "can do" attitude which has seen him become one of the "go to" people within the Engineering Services Department. Initially managing Council's \$6 million NDRRA works programme with a team of eight people, David's first year with TRIRC has seen him rise to the logistical challenges of working in remote locations, expanding the program to approximately \$12 million across Council's 15 Divisions (none of which are interconnected by road and all of which rely entirely on weekly sea transport).



Top: TSIRC's Pat McGuire. Above: TSIRC's David Griffin.

Most recently David assumed responsibility for training and mentoring seven of Council's fifteen supervisors together with establishing a construction crew, a role formerly undertaken by the Department of Main Roads. One would think that the above responsibilities would keep David busy enough, but he always finds time to continually engage with community members and organisations to ensure all stakeholders have a voice.

There were 42 finalists in 17 categories in the 2012 IPWEAQ Excellence Awards. The Excellence Awards dinner was attended by 240 people from across Queensland and other States of Australia and New Zealand representing local government, state government and the private sector, including consulting engineers and contractors.

Vet visits

Island Communities will soon be visited by qualified vets to treat animals.

Environmental Health and Animal Management Workers will be assisting the vets to gather animals in the community for tick and lice treatment, desexing, ear tattooing for monitoring.

It is important to keep the animals in our communities hygienic and healthy so that we can enjoy their company without our health being threatened.



Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival

The bi-annual cultural festival was held on Thursday Island this year bringing the region together through song and dance. The festival is an anticipated event and many TSIRC communities spend months preparing and practicing so that they can showcase their island culture through their acts. TSIRC support the event and hope it continues for many years.



Ilua signing Kubin

On 13 August 2012, Traditional Owners at the community of Kubin, Moa Island, signed off on the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing Indigenous Land use Agreement, being the first community in the Torres Strait to gain access to their share of the \$300M of Federal Government funding for the construction, upgrade and maintenance of social housing in remote indigenous communities. Other communities such as Mabuag Island and Saibai Island are also interested in signing up to the National Partnership and are presently in negotiations with Council and the State Government to see the injection of much needed social housing funds into community. Many houses have already been constructed on mainland Australia under the National Partnership and it is importance the Torres Strait does not miss out. The National Partnership brings much needed funds to reduce overcrowding in our communities and has been widely endorsed by Council.



Prepare your home for Dengue

Communities are starting to prepare for the wet season and dengue prevention leading into the wet season. Environmental Health Workers will be focussing on removing any potential breeding sites they see in the community and encouraging residents to do the same.

There are two types of mosquito living in the Torres Strait that can spread dengue. Council encourage constituents to remove breeding sites from in and around your homes and to protect yourselves from mosquito bites.

- Check your yard weekly for empty containers that can hold water
- Store containers in a dry place
- Throw out containers that are not needed
- IBIS stock a variety of mosquito sprays and lotions.
- Note: penalties can be given for breeding mosquitoes on your property

For more information speak to your Environmental Health Worker or visit: www.health.qld.gov.au/ehworm



Sand Replenishing on Masig

TSIRC's Civil Engineering crew have been busy undertaking sand replenishing works on Masig Island after TSRA supplied funding to assist with damage caused by coastal erosion.



Paving complete

One of Masig's most used roads was recently paved and Masig's Councillor Ted Nai is more than happy about the outcome. "It looks great and it's safe," Cr Nai said. "I think it's important that we keep our communities well-presented," he said. "The workers did a great job!"



Dauan Island recently held a 'plant a tree' day. The community got involved in the event and a productive day was had by all. TSIRC encourage community

events like these to benefit the community and also bring people together.

Dauan plant a tree day



COUNCILLOR TRAINING

TSIRC Councillors attended training in Cairns this month covering a range of courses and information presentations on topics and areas chosen by both the Councillors and the executives of the TSIRC to ensure the Councillors were aware of all things necessary to prepare them for the year ahead and to allow them to do the best job possible with the range of information, training and knowledge provided.

Pictured: TSIRC Councillors and staff.



MASIG AUGUST 23 CELEBRATIONS

History states that all the island councilors gathered together formally for the first time in an historic meeting at Masig (Yorke Island) on 23 August 1937.

They made a series of demands on the Queensland Government, including improved services, an end to unpopular regulations and the transfer of power from superintendent-teachers to local councils.

Many of the Islanders' demands were met and two years later, on 12 October 1939, the Queensland Government repealed its previous Protection legislation and passed the Torres Strait Islanders Act, for the first time legally recognising Islanders as a separate people.

This day, August 23, is still celebrated each year on Masig as a significant achievement for the people of the Torres Strait.



Dauan NAIDOC celebrations

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each year to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.



TSIRC AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2013

You sabe anyone in the TSIRC region that deserves to be recognized for thempla achievements?

Australia Day Awards are a great opportunity for recognize and reward youme local heroe's for thempla outstanding contribution towards region blor youme. NOMINATE themkine time for any of the following 2013 Australia Day Award categories:

- *Citizen of the Year
- *Young Citizen of the Year
- *Community Event of the Year
- *Senior Citizen of the Year
- *Australia Day Achievement Award

- *Australia Day Sports Award
- *Employee of the Year Award
- *Woman of the Year Award
- *Quiet Achiever Award

Award recipients will be presented with a certificate or bronze medallion.

To nominate someone within the TSIRC district that you believe is worthy of a prestigious Australia Day award, please call Mario Soki on 4034 5729 or by emailing mario.soki@tsirc.qld.gov.au. Nominations close on Friday, December 7, 2012