

Council job spot

- *Manager Financial Services*
- *Manager Finance – Building Services*
- *Manager Environment and Health*
- *Community Police Officer – Iama*
- *Senior Payroll Co-ordinator*
- *Electrician*
- *Divisional Engineering Officer - Saibai, Ugar*
- *Divisional Manager - Mabuiag*
- *Multi-Skilled Administration Officer - Ugar, Mabuiag*
- *Community Police Officer - Ugar, Poruma*
- *Community Police Officer In Charge - Poruma*
- *Animal Management Worker - St Pauls, Kubin, Dauan, Erub, Mabuiag*
- *Environmental Health Worker - Ugar*

FOR POSITION DESCRIPTIONS
PLEASE CONTACT
RHIANNON CASH ON:

PHONE: (07) 4034 5730

FAX: (07) 4034 5726

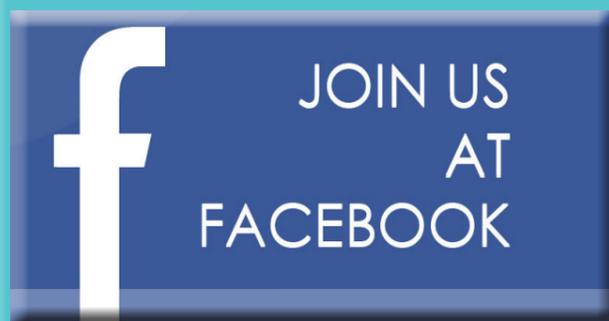
RECRUITMENT@TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU

**TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDERS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO
APPLY**

**'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK TO SEE
WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH COUNCIL
AND COMMENT ON WHAT WE DO.**

**TSIRC ALSO HAVE A WEBSITE WITH
INFORMATION ABOUT COUNCIL
DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING
COMMUNITY PROFILES AND
AVAILABLE JOBS:**

WWW.TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU



Be sure to phone the

Housing Call Centre

for responsive maintenance if you
require repairs to fix something
that is broken or not working
properly on:

1300 738 616

Have your say...

We would like to invite
community members to submit
any stories, photos or public
notices they wish
to publish.

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



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Strait Talk

Kawau

Kuikumbaigau

Yangukudul

The official newsletter of the
TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

June: EDITION Fifteen

What's inside...



Back row: Cr Mosby - Poruma, Cr Toby - Boigu, Cr Gaidan - Dauan, Cr Sabatino - Hammond, Cr Nai - Masig,
Cr Bosun - Kubin, Cr Noah - Mer, Cr J Gela - Erub, Cr Stephen - Ugar, Cr Baira - Badu.

Front row: Cr Kris - St Pauls, Cr Lui - Iama, Deputy Mayor Cr Fell - Mabuiag, Mayor Cr F Gela, Cr Billy - Warraber, Cr Enosa - Saibai.

Councillors ready to make things happen!

TSIRC Councillors were recently sworn into their new positions followed by a two week training program to get them up-to-date and familiar with the way that Council operates as an organisation. Training consisted of a Local Government Association of Queensland induction along with Corporate Planning, Risk Management, Asset Categorisation, Project Evaluation, Budgets, Services and Costs, finished with the new Council's first official Special Meeting.

There are nine new Councillors in the TSIRC after the election earlier this year. Councillors are eager to commence the new term and carry out the aspirations of their community members on a regional level.

New equipment steps safety up a notch

TSIRC have distributed six Community Police vehicles to communities who currently don't have a police vehicle or are in need of a new vehicle.

Reliable and efficient vehicles are necessary for officers who are patrolling, especially after-hours.

Other equipment that is on its way for community police are UHF Radio's, chargable mag lights and the latest phone and fax machine for each station.

All these items will benefit the safety and efficiency of each officer and the community they are working in.

There will be two radios per community so that coverage that is not reliable with mobile phones is guaranteed and officers can talk to each other and report back to the station via the radio.

The reliable phone and fax also makes it easier to report incidences back to the head office and to easily assist other agencies.



New police vehicles are being distributed to communities who currently don't have a vehicles or are in need of a new one.



Poruma Clean-up Day

TSIRC take pride in keeping communities clean and tidy.

Poruma had a clean-up day where the community got involved.

Poruma Tagai Campus allowed clean-up participants use of their water cooler and a BBQ was also held to reward everyone for their efforts in making the community clean.

A special thanks goes to Torres Blue who contributed ice, Ellen Billy and Lillah David for preparing refreshments and to Jim Larry, Kepa Sebasio, Jeff Pearson and Desmond David for organising the BBQ.



Poruma Volleyball team represent Torres Strait

Volleyball players from Poruma Island ventured down to Cairns for the 2012 Citi Beach Volleyball Tournament.

This was the first and only Torres Strait Island team to attend this Tournament in Cairns which made the team very proud to be representing the whole of the Torres Strait, especially Poruma Island.

81 teams from Mackay, Cairns, Townsville and Poruma competed in the competition with a range of different team combinations.

The team combinations were; Women's Pairs, Men's Pairs, Master's Pairs, Mixed Three's, Men's Fours, Women's Fours and Mixed Fours. Poruma nominated teams for each event.

The tournament was extremely challenging, presenting a high calibre of skilled volleyball players. All players played hard and thoroughly enjoyed the competition. Some highlights of the competition included; Alice Faid and Virginia Faid making it to the Semi-Finals for the Women's Masters Pairs and Thamey Pearson, Dalasa George, Nikki Mackie and Jeffrey Pearson playing in the Grand Final of the Mixed Fours.

TSIRC is proud to be one of the supporters of the team – helping make community dreams become reality.



Poruma Men's 4's



Poruma Ladies 4's



Poruma Ladies Pairs

Councillor's Corner



We can do it together!

Autocratic leaders who make decisions without consulting with our communities will create development failure within the region and will force our people to dislike the local government because they are unable to contribute ideas.

Ineffective leadership and community support will lead to a lack of creative solutions to problems, which can ultimately hurt the lifestyle, development processes and political performance of our region.

I believe the most constructive leadership for our region is a democratic leader who encourages community members to participate in policies and community development processes, but retains the final decision-making, based on regional public interests and the objectives of the local government corporate plan and policies.

If we can bring our community into the fold and if our people are not afraid and are willing to co-operate with the current policy changes then the government can serve us better.

Community members who feel engaged in the process will be more motivated to implement and abide by the policies, and will positively participate to achieve our regions development objectives with high esteem. I believe if our community leaders and our constituents work together with other local authorities, it can help attract new business ventures into our communities. Economically developing our communities can make a world of difference to our local residents, and not only will it make life easier, it will create many jobs for our local people.

In my experience as a leader, I have found that a leader can't develop and change the community on their own unless the people themselves want to change and are willing to adapt to our regional political and financial changes. Leaders can endlessly advocate and help to bring better services to our communities but it's the people that have to help themselves individually to make the services work in our communities.

The world is changing rapidly every day and we need to keep up with the trends rather than sit back, complain and suffer in our own little comfort zone. Local government principles establish that the primary accountability of a local government is to its community, and decisions must be made for the benefit of the entire local government area.

A leader who represents a division ensures that the decisions they make benefit the whole area and not just the interests of the division they represent. I would like to make it clear to our constituents that the decisions of council are made by the majority vote of all the elected leaders. The decision carried by a majority of votes at a council meeting is considered to be a decision of council for the best of the whole region even though sometimes it doesn't suit some communities.

The best way to build our community is empowering our people from bottom up not dictating them from top to bottom. Our own individual political agendas and financial needs can cause our community massive pain.

Therefore both the leaders and constituents of our region need to be proactive and wise in our decisions to make a change in our community so we can have a healthy and happy living environment.

If any window of opportunity provided by the local government appears before us, I would like to encourage everyone to not negatively pull down the curtains and diminish the relationship between the local government and the community at large.

It is best to connect to each other through effective communication and a transparent and positive working partnership.

I believe the best way to lead our people is by walking beside them while they do not notice your existence!

The people will honour, praise, fear and even maybe hate you... but when the best leaders' work benefits everyone, the community will say, 'we did it together by ourselves'.

Cr. David Bosun.

Kubin
(Division 6)

Torres Strait Flag 20th Anniversary



TSIRC held a special presentation to acknowledge the Torres Strait Flag and the importance of its design and meaning to the Torres Strait. Mayor Fred Gela presented a framed flag to the late designer Mr Bernard Namok's wife, Mrs Bakoi Namok and her family, along with a flag to place at his tombstone. The plaque on the frame read: "In honour of the Torres Strait Island flag's 20th anniversary. The Torres Strait Island Regional Council presents this framed flag to Mrs Bakoi Namok as a tribute to her late husband and Torres Strait Island Flag designer Mr Bernard Namok. The Torres Strait flag represents our land and sea and its symbolic design has captured the very people we are. This iconic flag is seen all over the world as a representation of our home and our people and we are grateful to Mr Namok for its conception. This flag has flown high in many public arenas and will continue to do so for years to come."



TSIRC Staff Survey

All TSIRC staff will soon receive a staff satisfaction survey which are required to be filled out and returned. It is important that Council knows how its staff feel about different aspects of the organisation so that necessary changes can be made to keep everyone happy within their positions.



NAIDOC MARCH

TSIRC staff based in Cairns were involved in the annual NAIDOC March on July 6, marching through the Cairns CBD to Foggarty Park. The day continued in the park with stalls and celebrations and TSIRC hosted their own display with information about the organization and merchandise to give away to inquisitive visitors and children.



Annual Report 10/11

The TSIRC Annual Report for 10/11 has been completed and is available to the public. The full report is available on our website: www.tsirc.qld.gov.au under: 'Publications - Plans & Reports'. The report includes general information about Council services and projects, plus information about Councillors, Council meetings, Human Resources, Statutory Disclosures and Financial Reports.

Torres Strait Dugong capital of the world

Internationally recognised expert, Professor Helene Marsh, said the area was a remarkable hotspot for dugongs. "This area is like nothing I've seen before. "It is very special and truly deserves the dugong capital of the world title," Professor Marsh said. "We have conducted aerial surveys of dugongs for 15 years and despite ongoing traditional hunting we have not detected any decline in dugong numbers."



MABO DAY



TSIRC believes that Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo has made one of the greatest contributions to the Torres Strait. Not only for his victory in the high court – but for highlighting the spirit and fight of the Torres Strait Islander. We believe it is important to acknowledge this day the best we can for its significance both nation-wide and particularly for our people and land in the Torres Strait. We thank Eddie Mabo for instilling values in our people and showing us that no fight is too great a challenge. Mabo Day is a day to remember and share the values displayed by Eddie Mabo with our youth and future generations. We encourage all of our people to become those of substance and value – just like the great Mr Mabo. Our land is who we are, embedded with the culture we live and breath and thanks to Mr Mabo, we now have legal rights to own and protect our land. The land we stand upon today. Eddie Mabo's accomplishments, values and determination are those upheld by the Torres Strait Island Regional Council and we, as an organization, operating for the people of the Torres Strait.

All images are of Mabo Celebrations on Badu Island



Dedicated staff achieve results

Like all departments within TSIRC, our Engineering crew are motivated and encouraged to partake in further studies and courses to improve and enhance their skills to ensure their duties are performed at the highest standards and to the best of their ability.

The Engineering Department have seen many staff go through training and receive an array of certificates and awards including the great achievement featured in the story below right, where Saibai received the award for the best tasting water in Qld.

Water officers Ron Kris (right) and Eddie Wapau (below) received their Certificate II in Water Operations at St Pauls by Manager Water and Sewerage, Mathew Brodbeck.

TSIRC would like to acknowledge all staff who have undergone training and courses and accomplished results that assist them in enhancing their roles within Council.



Funds finally committed to sea walls

The Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) announced a \$5 million grant to begin construction of seawalls with up to another \$7 million towards the project from the Commonwealth Government.

TSIRC Mayor, Fred Gela said there was still a need to seek further funding to ensure the works could be completed on Saibai.

"Beyond the \$5 million RDAF funds and up to another \$12 million from the commonwealth, an estimated additional \$12 million is needed to complete the Torres Strait Coastal Works program to help improve the protection of the six most vulnerable communities to coastal flooding and erosion," Mayor Gela said.

(Below) Mayor Gela and Minister Simon Crean with others on Boigu Island July 2012.



"We are grateful the Federal Government has listened to our calls for assistance. Now I would like the Queensland Government to recognise the serious nature of this issue for our communities and at least match the Commonwealth contribution to enable us to complete the works program for Saibai," he said.

"Half a seawall is a start but it will obviously not provide the protection needed. Saibai and Boigu are seen as the highest priority sites for important coastal works but there are at least four other vulnerable island communities on Iama, Masig, Poruma and Warraber which also need work.

TSIRC are in stages of designing plans for the construction of new sea walls and hope to begin using the assigned funds and commence construction as soon as possible.

Saibai wins 'best water' in FNQ!



Orica Australia's George Lech awards Pat McGuire with a custom-made water treatment plant in Lego.

Saibai Island residents can sit back and enjoy their cups of tea this morning knowing that their tap water was selected as the best tasting in the Far North Queensland regional final of the Queensland Water Directorate's Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test last week.

Torres Strait Island Regional Council's Executive Manager Engineering Services, Pat McGuire, acknowledged the management team and operators who do such a fantastic job in a remote and harsh environment.

"Saibai gets its water from a rainwater lagoon supplemented by naturally purified swamp water," Mr McGuire said.

"The water is then filtered and chlorinated before being pumped to the 300 residents across the island."

Council hopes to establish inter-community water tasting competitions so that the best community goes through to compete in the State competition next year.

Tagai Careers Market



TSIRC recently attended the Tagai State College annual Careers Market where students and community members were able to speak to Council staff about careers within local government. There are a range of different positions in local government and opportunities to work your way up to a managerial or executive position. We also offer traineeships and apprenticeships across a range of different departments. Check out our 'jobs' list and how to contact our recruitment department on the back page of this newsletter.



LNP ignorance hunts cultural identity

By Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor Fred Gela

Imagine being raised on a remote island where your soul identity was reared upon your culture, your land and your sea. You were taught as a child to live off the land and the way you did this was by learning the way your father, grandfather and great-great grandfather had been doing for thousands of years before you. You remember the stories that were told to you when the food you'd helped your father and uncles catch that day was being prepared on the shores of a beach you'd seen the tide rise and fall everyday of your life. Stories with so much strength you listened and learned how to follow and carry them on in the footsteps of your great forefathers. Culture isn't something we do for fun or because we're told to - It's who we are and it's what we do. Hunting and gathering is our way of life. Fishermen, hunters and agriculturalists – Torres Strait Islanders are fearless defenders of our territories. Identity and retention of culture are two of the most important things I stand for as the Mayor of a region I call home, and as a Torres Strait Islander. How we hunt is part of our culture and it is a practice that we have carried out for as long as we, Torres Strait Islanders, have been in existence. And that, in respect, is a significantly longer amount of time than this country has been colonised. Subsidised families with little or no income rely on turtle and dugong as a main source of food supply in a region



where cost of living is well above those living on the mainland. The LNP are posing a ban on the way we hunt these animals which will be detrimental to the very people we are and how we live each day. The biggest downfall the LNP have incurred by attempting to introduce this ban is the lack of proper consultation to indigenous people. Because of this, it is evident that this government is not willing to understand why these practices are in place and what our culture is all about. After so much emphasis on reconciliation this ignorance is taking many steps backwards from unity. The new Bill calls for amendments to be made to the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to make it illegal for indigenous Australians to wound, mutilate, torture or unnecessarily prolong the death of an animal. We will not back down from any scare tactics such as the proposed two year jail sentence or \$100,000 fine. There has been absolutely no consultation about this issue with the people it will directly and detrimentally affect. There are more than 8,000 members supporting an online group to ban the Qld LNP Policy #27 – to ban turtle and dugong hunting by amending the Qld Animal Protection Act 1991. This proves the government's ignorance to the people, and to a culture that has stood the test of time.

LIBRARY WORKSHOP

TSIRC's Multi-Skilled Administration Officers joined the Cairns team from the State Library of Queensland earlier this year for a week long professional development workshop, on Thursday Island, to assist them in understanding the role of the Indigenous Knowledge Centres in their communities. Participants met to exchange knowledge in the areas of library management, photography and video skills, information and computer technologies including Skype and Gmail, local history collections, and community mapping and programming. Divisional Managers Daisy Ketchell from Erub and Justina Warusam from Saibai, along with Mary Gela, Manager of Community Services for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council also attended the workshop.



Badu Dart Comp



Badu Island held its own dart-throwing competition for those who show some talent in the sport. The event made for a good social gathering and prizes were awarded to place-winners. TSIRC believe that social gatherings and events are important to bring communities together in a light-hearted setting.



Clean Communities



Divisional Engineering Officer Billy Dau and his team have been collecting the rubbish in the community of Boigu manually since the demise of their old, run-down garbage truck. Manually collecting and disposing each household's rubbish is unsafe for the workers and also more time consuming, meaning less time is spent on other tasks. As TSIRC pride itself on keeping its communities clean and tidy and prioritise the safety of its staff, Boigu recently received a new rubbish truck that will allow Mr Dau and his team to remove the rubbish more safely and efficiently.



2012 'Island Of Origin' cancelled

The decision to cancel the 2012 'Island of Origin' was made by the two remaining active committee members. A number of respective meetings had been called but unfortunately, only a handful of interested people turned up and were all of the opinion that the 2012 event should be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances including very limited community support. Badu United Sporting Association had offered the Island of Origin to the KRL for season 2012, but the KRL have indicated that they cannot possibly host the event due to the time constraints. It is hopeful that a new committee can be formed so as to best prepare for other events including the 2013 'Island of Origin'.



A day to remember

Council is proud to acknowledge the importance of ANZAC Day and takes great pride in setting aside this public holiday each year to remember the soldiers who fought in our nations honour.

Many of our communities spent the day laying wreaths, honouring past diggers and speaking of the war-stories and bravery.

*"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. Lest We Forget."*

Dauan



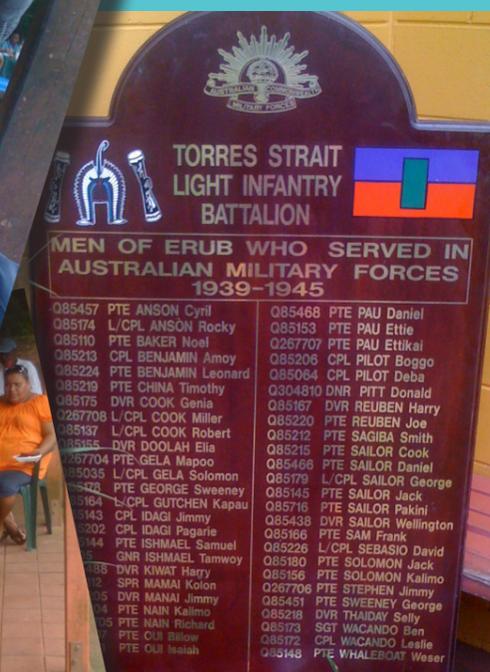
Warraber



Saibai



Erub



- | TORRES STRAIT LIGHT INFANTRY BATTALION | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| MEN OF ERUB WHO SERVED IN AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES 1939-1945 | | | |
| 085457 | PTE ANSON Cyril | 085468 | PTE PAU Daniel |
| 085174 | L/CPL ANSON Rocky | 085153 | PTE PAU Ettie |
| 085110 | PTE BAKER Noel | 0267707 | PTE PAU Ettikai |
| 085224 | CPL BENJAMIN Amoy | 085206 | CPL PILOT Boggo |
| 085224 | PTE BENJAMIN Leonard | 085064 | CPL PILOT Deba |
| 085219 | PTE CHINA Timothy | 0304810 | DNR PITT Donald |
| 085175 | DVR COOK Genia | 085167 | DVR REUBEN Harry |
| 0267708 | L/CPL COOK Miller | 085220 | PTE REUBEN Joe |
| 085187 | L/CPL COOK Robert | 085212 | PTE SAGIBA Smith |
| 085155 | DVR DOOLAH Eila | 085215 | PTE SAILOR Cook |
| 0267704 | PTE GELA Mapoo | 085468 | PTE SAILOR Daniel |
| 085035 | L/CPL GELA Solomon | 085179 | L/CPL SAILOR George |
| 085228 | PTE GEORGE Sweeney | 085145 | PTE SAILOR Jack |
| 085184 | L/CPL GUTCHEN Kapau | 085716 | PTE SAILOR Pakini |
| 085143 | CPL IDAGI Jimmy | 085438 | DVR SAILOR Wellington |
| 085202 | CPL IDAGI Pegarie | 085166 | PTE SAM Frank |
| 085144 | PTE ISHMAEL Samuel | 085226 | L/CPL SEBASIO David |
| 085105 | GNR ISHMAEL Tamwoy | 085180 | PTE SOLOMON Jack |
| 085108 | DNR KIWAT Harry | 085156 | PTE SOLOMON Kallmo |
| 085109 | SPR MAMAI Kolon | 0267706 | PTE STEPHEN Jimmy |
| 085104 | DVR MAMAI Jimmy | 085451 | PTE SWEENEY George |
| 085104 | PTE NAIN Kallmo | 085218 | DVR THADAY Selly |
| 085105 | PTE NAIN Richard | 085173 | SGT WACANDO Ben |
| 085105 | PTE OUI Bilow | 085172 | CPL WACANDO Leslie |
| 085105 | PTE OUI Isalah | 085148 | PTE WHALEBOAT Weser |