

# COUNCIL



- Childcare Group Leader (Toddler) Badu
- Healthy Lifestyle Officer - Mabuiag (Fixed Term - 30/06/13)
- Healthy Lifestyle Officer - Boigu (Fixed Term - 30/06/13)
- Healthy Lifestyle Officer - Hammond (Fixed Term - 30/06/13)
- Healthy Lifestyle Officer - Poruma (Fixed Term - 30/06/13)
- Healthy Lifestyle Officer - Saibai (Fixed Term - 30/06/13)
- Divisional Engineering Officer – Saibai & Ugar
- Community Police Officer – Hammond, Poruma, Boigu & Saibai
- HACC Home Helper – Dauan, St Pauls, Boigu, Badu, lama, Mabuiag

FOR POSITION DESCRIPTIONS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU](http://WWW.TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU)

DIVISIONAL ISLAND OFFICE IN PERSON OR  
**RHIANNON CASH**  
 PH: (07) 40345730  
 FAX: (07) 40345726  
 EMAIL: [RECRUITMENT@TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU](mailto:RECRUITMENT@TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU)

APPLICANTS ARE TO ADDRESS THE SELECTION CRITERIA AND INCLUDE A RESUME AND COVERING LETTER BY FAX, EMAIL OR POST.

PLEASE NOTE ACCOMMODATION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED

**TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**



## Congratulations!

Badu's Argun Warriors are now officially the best All Blacks rugby league side in Australia after defeating the Newcastle Yowies 28-24 in golden-point, extra-time in Brisbane last month. A try by Maipele Morseu, which started from inside their own half in the final minute of the first, five-minute period of extra time, carried the courageous Warriors to victory in the inter-state challenge.

But the Badu-based side lived up to their Warriors' name, and the courage and spirit that took them to the national championship.

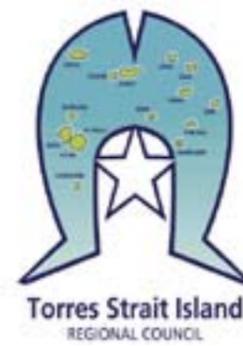
TSIRC would like to congratulate the local team in its victory and for the positive recognition it has given to Badu and the Torres Strait.

**Due** to your requests, TSIRC are happy to include articles of your choice in Strait Talk. Send in your story ideas or have your say about community issues, then keep an eye out for your article in the next edition of Strait Talk.

We would like to invite community members to submit any stories, photos or public notices they wish to publish. Send your ideas to [info@tsirc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@tsirc.qld.gov.au) or see your council office.



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# Strait Talk

Kawau

Kuikumabaigau

Yangukudul

The official newsletter of the  
 TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

March 2013

What's inside...



## Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

Councils are a step closer to securing federal funding after a parliamentary committee recommended holding a referendum on whether local government be recognised in the constitution.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) says the referendum to alter the constitution, which will help councils gain funding, could be held in September with the federal election.

Torres Strait Island Regional Council is in full support for Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

Mayor Fred Gela said that after a five-year campaign, the recommendation for the referendum is a step closer to enabling TSIRC and other local councils to be legally recognised as "legitimate recipients of direct federal funding". It is an issue of importance to the nation given the key role local government plays as the third tier of government and their increasing responsibility in delivering services to our communities.

The Australian Local Government Association wants Section 96 of the constitution to be amended to read: "Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of state or territory on such terms and conditions as the parliament sees fit."



## Vet visits coming soon

You could be fined \$150 if you do not comply with the animal laws

Pet blo you nor sick or need treatment? For keep you-me community safe from sick. We must look after all pets.

Tell the local EHW or AMW if you need you pet to be desexed, registered and micro chipped.

Owners can keep two registered dogs/cats without special council approval. For improved animal management and community health you are encouraged to desex all dogs/cats before the age of three months and horses before the age of 12 months.

You must also get council approval to keep pigs, cows, horses, goats, chickens etc; and it is unlawful to keep crocodiles as pets.

If you need to read a copy of this Local Law please see your local Environmental Health Worker (EHW), Animal Management Worker (AMW) or Council Office.



## Are you **READY** for digital TV?

The Commonwealth Government is offering FREE Digital TV access under the Satellite Subsidy Scheme (SSS) for each household in remote communities.

Keep an eye out for Digital TV updates on your local notice boards.

We will be visiting your community to let you know and discuss what will happen for you to get listed to receive Digital TV access.

For more information contact your Divisional Manager or Mario Soki – Digital TV Service Provider Project Officer on 07 4034 5729.



## New vessel for Erub Fishing

Erub Fishing Cooperation are taking yet another positive step towards maximising their engagement within the fishery sector, which will in turn increase and or stabilise the volume of product that flows through their freezer.

The Fishing Corp's new vessel 'Blue Mist' is expected to increase product flow.

TSIRC is also continuing a crucial supportive role in managing the freezer. A commitment they have made to the end of this financial year. Cr Jimmy Gela has expressed his "full support of community fishers taking over the freezer and to be managing local fisheries issues".

The Erub community freezer is now open for trading and is buying a range of product including Spanish Mackerel, Coral Trout, Red Emperor, Barramundi Cod and Tropical Rock Lobster.



## Local Law Enforcement

In October last year, Torres Strait Island Regional Council commenced its local law compliance inspections throughout communities.

Authorised employees audited communities to see if community members were abiding by the local laws that Council put in place. Those who were not complying with the local laws were issued notices and monitored by authorised persons in the community until the issue was rectified. For example those with wandering animals or overgrown properties were given notice of breach to make sure they did something about it and it was then followed up.

These local laws are in place to keep our communities safe and all communities will be continually monitored by authorised persons on-ground to make sure everyone is complying.

## Hammond Childcare

TSIRC is pleased to announce that Council have approved to upgrade Hammond Island Childcare to ensure it meets the specific guidelines required to operate.

This will address child care needs for Hammond Island taking into account population, labour force and future growth expectations of the community.

The Centre will be licensed for up to 20 places at a range of ages.

Funding for this project is from the Torres Strait Regional Authority and the TSIRC building team will be performing the refurbishments.



## Councillor's Corner

**Cr Dimas Toby**  
**Boigu Island**  
**Division 1**



**Place of Birth:**  
Thursday Island

**School/Education:**  
St Augustine/ Wangethie Education Centre

**Past Jobs/Positions:**  
Teachers Aide – Malu Kiai Campus, Sports and Recreation Officer, SES Coordinator Volunteer

**Hobbies:**  
Yarning with elders and friends, fishing and hunting, listening to music

**Interests:**  
Island dancing, cultural practice, history of different cultures

**Biggest Goal for the Community while in Council:**  
Meeting the needs and aspirations of my community

**Biggest Goal for Region while in Council:**  
Sharing knowledge and experience to contribute towards change for a better future for all Torres Strait Island people in the region.

**Strengths:**  
Understanding my culture, passionate, proud to be a Torres Strait Islander, understand issues about Torres Strait and indigenous people of Australia

**A message to everyone:**  
I acknowledge past, present leaders and elders of the Kaurarege nations and Torres Strait Traditional Owners. Be proud of who you are and what you can do to be part of making a difference in your community and the Torres Strait Region as a whole. Always remember to participate and practice Yumi culture because it's your true identity.



## Water Usage for TSIRC Residents

Water usage notices will be issued 2 times a year for excess water usage for a six month period

Excess water for residential is anything over 250kl with commercial having no free allocation.

The read information will be supplied by engineering and the difference between the two reads calculated. This excess charge will then be calculated resulting in the total cost.



The periods will be 1 July to 31 December and 1 January to 30 June.

The rate at which excess water will be charged is \$0.25 per Kl for residential and \$2.00 per kL for commercial.



## Torres Strait Island Regional Council

Some of you may not be aware that Torres Strait Island Regional Council has its own Facebook Page. If it's easier for you to connect with us through facebook, then why don't you like our page? You can send private messages about your thoughts or ideas that may relate to Council while also sharing photos and stories about your communities.

## SUPPORT RECOGNITION

### LET'S RECOGNISE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES IN OUR CONSTITUTION

Last month, Australia moved one step closer to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the country's founding document after one of the federal parliament's rare and uplifting moments of unity between Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott.

Both leaders committed themselves to address what the Prime Minister called "the unhealed wound that even now lies open at the heart of our national story" and the Opposition Leader dubbed "this stain on our soul". It's time to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution and we need to remove discrimination – like the section of our Constitution that says people can be banned from voting based on race.

Our Constitution was written more than a century ago. By then, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had lived in this land for more than 40,000 years, keeping alive the world's oldest continuous cultures. But Australia's founding document did not recognise the first chapter of our national story. Today Australia prides itself on being a place of fairness. But our Constitution still does not recognise the first Australians. And it still lets the States ban people from voting based on their race.

We need to fix this, and bring the country together after so many chapters apart. It is the next step in reconciling our past. And it's the right thing to do.



Clean Up Day at Kubin.

## Community Clean Up Days

A number of communities within the TSIRC region participate in annual Clean Up Days as a chance to not only clean up community common areas, but also to come together as a community and make a day of it.

TSIRC Manager Environment and Health Ewan Gunn said that TSIRC encourage these Clean Up days because while it is important for communities to look clean and tidy, the

clean-up also reduces the risk of mosquito breeding and potential disease.

Most communities come together to volunteer in the Clean Up day which is then often followed by a community gathering with games and a BBQ.

A special thanks goes out to Kubin Environmental Health Worker Jackson Ware for providing the photos from Kubin's Clean Up Day.



## Meriba Agem Challenge 10,000 steps walk program 2013

Images from Mer Island

TSIRC & Torres Strait-Northern Peninsula Hospital and Health Services-Health Promotion Unit have initiated a walking program on Mer.

Mer Healthy Lifestyle Officer John k Tabo has organised the Meriba Agem challenge walking program earlier this month with the assistance of the Health Promotions team on Thursday Island.

Six teams of seven participants were registered with the Heart Foundation in order to join the walk challenge. Teams competing include: Korsimer's (moths), Hillsiders, Knack-N-About, Warriors, Odd-Ones, Kus-Kus (reef shark)

The aim of the program is to increase physical activity within the community of Mer Island, walking the distance throughout the Torres Strait.

Total Distance is 674km which equates to a total of 842,500 steps which is about 10,000 steps per day and will last over 4 weeks.

This initiative is part of the Kombat Chronic Disease Program which addresses the increase of physical activity to better manage chronic illness and influence lifestyle changes.



# Engineering updates

Darnley Roads and Drainage has had some patch sealing completed meaning only a final site inspection remains to achieve practical completion. This construction job was taken over by TSIRC after Transport and Main Roads was unable to resource and complete.



In most divisions civil staff have been busy clearing drains and cutting grass to keep on top of things during the growing season.

Augmentation of Sewerage Scheme for Poruma – works began in January 2013 and commissioning is to begin in July 2013. Augmentation works include a new sewerage treatment plant, two sewer pump stations, pressure rising mains and gravity mains.



Mabuiag required emergency water supply in mid December 2012 through to February 2013. A mobile 70kL/day desalination plant was transported from Boigu.



Welcome to the Engineering team in water and wastewater, Ralph Pearson, who is the new Technical Officer and is also a qualified plumber.

# TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL MABO DAY AWARDS



**NOMINATE NOW!**

[info@tsirc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@tsirc.qld.gov.au)

Check out the award categories at your local council notice board or office.



Above: S/Sgt Fred Larry – Mentor of the Year with TSIRC CEO John Scarce and Manager Community Police Marc Whitehouse. Above Right: S/Sgt John Mye- CPO of the Year.



# Community Police news

Thirty-two Community Police Officers (CPOs) employed by the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) recently travelled to Cairns for their annual two-week training forum. The Queensland Police Service participated in the training program and provided several training modules in partnership with the TSIRC.

Some of the training related to first response procedures, prosecution of offenders and search and rescues. The group of Community Police brought plenty of experience to the table with the likes of Honorary Inspector Ned Mosby from Masig (Yorke) Island.

TSIRC's Community Police also hosted their annual awards to highlight the achievements of its dedicated officers.

The presentations included Senior Sergeant John Mye awarded the Community Police Officer of the Year and Senior Sergeant Fred Larry awarded Mentor of the Year.



Honorary Inspector Ned Mosby (third from left) shared his wealth of knowledge with the group.



Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) Community Police Training Forum & Far Northern Queensland Police Service senior officers.



# ST PAULS DANCE TEAM PERFORM FOR THE WORLD

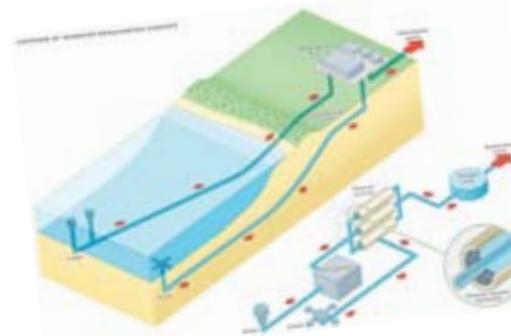
TWENTY singers and dancers from St Pauls performed at a music festival in Adelaide which attracts up to 20,000 people a day. The festival was held earlier this month and the Arpaka Dance Company flew to Adelaide to perform. The group was formed in 2003 in St Paul's village under artistic director Dennis Newie. Last year, the dance group which performs traditional songs and dances from the village, performed at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and at the Henley Festival in the UK. The company represented their island heritage at the Australian World of Music, Arts and Dance festival in Adelaide. From a population of just 240 people, dancers make and design their costumes and props. They also recorded a CD which was launched at St Paul's centenary last year. It is the first time a Torres Strait dance team has been included in the line-up for WOMADelaide.



## TSIRC Building Team Highlights

TSIRC is pleased with the progress that the new structure of the Building Service has made since establishment 12 months ago. The purpose of the new structure is not only to carry out works more efficiently but also to reinforce the capability to charge out the works on completion to ensure continued cash flow. This new model has a comprehensive financial capability which allows the Building Team to adhere to budget more efficiently.

The proposed schedule for the completion of the Desalination Plant upgrades on Mer, Masig and Poruma has commenced and investigative works are being carried out. The TSIRC Building Team Project Manager has assembled a team of sub-contractors,



electricians, plumbers and mechanical fitters to assess the state of the works already performed and what is required to

complete the works in accordance with the plans and specifications. Council will then invite tenders from contractors to perform the works.

The construction stage will commence early in May after materials are delivered in each community and it is expected to take approximately two to three months to construct, test and commission the works. It is a delight to see the TSIRC Building Team operating functionally and productively in order to complete these necessary upgrades.

Water is a precious commodity and it is important that our desalination plants are in functioning and reliable order to keep our communities provided with clean, fresh water.



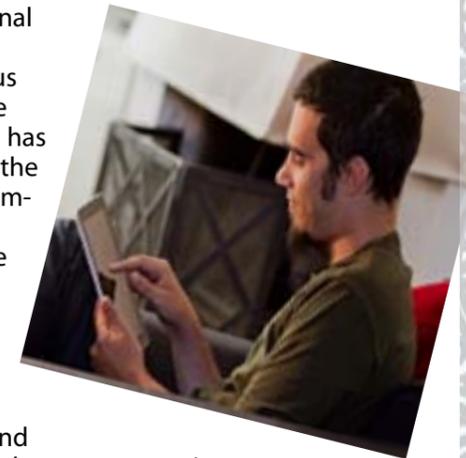
### KUBIN HOMES

Other exciting news for TSIRC, our building team and especially the community of Kubin is the coming potential for 19 new home constructions. ILUA's have been executed in Kubin and the ball is now rolling to get construction details confirmed. Although specific details have not yet been finalised, TSIRC's building team will play a key role in the delivery of the new houses.



## New social network connects indigenous youth

The National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (the NCIE) has launched the Online Community of Excellence - a new social media platform that will support and empower the next generation of young Indigenous Australians. Developed in partnership with the Telstra Foundation, the social platform allows young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who participate in the NCIE's life changing programs to connect online and receive support from role models, mentors and each other to reach their goals. The Online Community of Excellence provides an ongoing point of engagement with the NCIE, its partners and other young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians to ensure the world-class Centre in Redfern is not bound by geography and can continue to interact with people from all over Australia who have spent time at the NCIE. The Community of Excellence is a social network that has a similar user experience to other social networking sites, including friending, groups, events, photos, walls, comments, messaging, chat and members can encourage each other and show support by 'respecting' user generated content. While many aspects will be familiar to members, the platform has a unique and underlying focus on Indigenous culture and on personal and professional development for its members through the 'goals' and 'opportunities' modules.



## Scientific surveys in the region

Scientific coral reef health surveys in the region began last month. The baseline surveys will be conducted by Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) researchers. The project will identify critical gaps in the knowledge of 'what is out there', 'what's unique' and the reefs relationships to fisheries and other resources. The project led by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) is funded from the Australian Government's National Environmental Research Program.



This is the vessel you may see around the region doing scientific surveys.

# Warraber

# Australia Day



# Hammond



# TSIRC Australia Day Awards 2013

Torres Strait Island Regional Council hosts its own Australia Day Awards each year to celebrate the outstanding achievements of those individuals in each community who go above and beyond. Most communities hold an event to present their Australia Day award recipients with their award and to get together as a community to celebrate what is great about being Australian.

## And the recipients are...

Citizen of the Year	Const. Percy Maitie	Kubin
Employee of the Year	S/Sgt. Eunice Hosea	St Pauls
Young Citizen of the Year	Const. Percy Maitie	Kubin
Senior Citizen of the Year	Torenzo Elisala	Dauan
Australia Day Achievement Award	Aunty Gertie Bigie	Dauan
	Aka Telita Faid	Poruma
	Billy Dau	Boigu
	Marianna Babia	Saibai
	Frank Whap	Mabuiag
	Mersane Loban	Kubin
	Mary Wapau	St Pauls
	Nancy Pearson	Hammond
	Fred Tamu	Warraber
	Olandi Pearson	Poruma
	Hylde Mosby	Masig
	Daisy Ketchell	Erub
	Jerry Marou	Mer
	Mrs Mary Heinschker	Dauan
	Tyson Kebisu	Iama
	Esther Faye Nona	Badu
	Pamai Gimini	Badu
	Mr Daniel T Stephen	Ugar
Sports Award	Wakeyama Central United	Warraber
Woman of the Year	Deddeyal Gammaz	St Pauls
Quiet Achiever of the Year	Clara Tamu	Warraber
Community Event of the Year	Mr Jeleko Pearson	Hammond
	August 1 Annexation Celebration 2012	Saibai

# Mabuiag



# Ugar

