

Council job spot

- *Community Police Officer - Ugar, Boigu, Masig, Poruma*
- *Electrician - (Multiple Positions)*
- *Casual Builder's Labourer - Kubin x 2, Saibai x 2, St Pauls x 1, Badu x 1*
- *Administration Trainee - x 4*
- *Solid Waste Trainee - Masig*
- *Multi-Skilled Administration Officer - Mer, Ugar, Mabuia*
- *Healthy Lifestyle Officer - Dauan, Erub, Boigu, Hammond, Masig, Mabuia*
- *Animal Management Worker - Erub, Kubin, St Pauls, Boigu, Mabuia*
- *Environmental Health Worker - Hammond, Dauan, Ugar, Masig, Saibai*
- *HACC Home Helper - Kubin x 1, Erub x 1, Mer x 1, Saibai x 1, Dauan x 1, Badu x 3, lama x 2, Boigu x 1, Mabuia x 3*
- *Apprenticeships - Carpenter, Painter, Electrician, Plumber & Bricklayer*

FOR POSITION DESCRIPTIONS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU

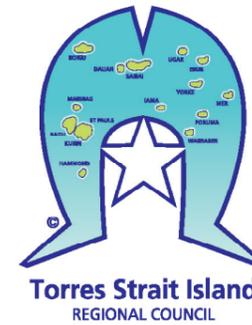
DIVISIONAL ISLAND OFFICE IN PERSON OR
RHIANNON CASH
PH: (07) 40345730
FAX: (07) 40345726
EMAIL: RECRUITMENT@TSIRC.QLD.GOV.AU

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

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



Strait Talk

Kawau

Kuikumbaigau

Yangukudul

The official newsletter of the
TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

February: Edition Fourteen

What's inside...



TSIRC Mayor Fred Gela would like to reassure constituents that the issue of obtaining funds to build seawalls has not fallen by the wayside. "We thank Mr Enstch for assisting us in educating Australian politicians about this very 'real' issue in the Torres Strait," Cr Gela said. "A monstrous amount of money is given to climate change internationally in comparison to the mere \$22 million we are asking to ensure a part of Queensland is kept afloat," he said. "We're talking about Australians and people who contribute to the Australian economy. "While we acknowledge our pacific brothers and sisters, we also have our own problems," Cr. Gela said. Mayor Gela said that Warren Enstch's achievement was great in gaining Federal support when the Private Members motion received bipartisan support in regards to funding the restoration and construction of seawalls in our affected communities, only to be advised by the Federal government that it was State's obligation to fund such issues. "We are all Australians and we are calling upon the Federal Government to put their money where their mouth is. "They supported the private members bill, so it is in fact their responsibility to determine how and where the funds will come from. "If it is in fact the states responsibility to fund the issue, then the Federal Government need to tell the State Government to step up to there responsibilities and do so," he said. Mayor Gela said that the Federal Government should not just walk away and remain at arms length from this issue. "Bipartisan support was provided in the federal arena, so therefore the Federal Government is accountable and at the very minimum need to convene this discussion with the State, dictating to them, that \$22 million is to be provided to seawall funding in the Torres Strait."

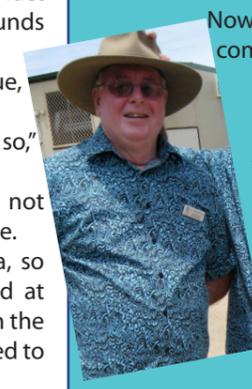


L-R: Badu Island TSIRC Staff: Ranetta Nawakie, Carmel Drummond, Sadie Matisia, Jennifer Nona, Lorna Bowie & Tamwoy Nona (front).
Below: Executive Manager Engineering Services Patrick McGuire.

New Uniforms

Forming a positive image within communities!

Now, when you're walking or driving through your community you will be able to identify TSIRC staff by their smart new uniforms! The pattern on the uniform was designed by TSIRC Councillor and Artist David Bosun. You'll notice there are two colours in the same patterned material - blue and grey. Most employees are now wearing their uniforms which distinguishes them as TSIRC staff. We hope to form a positive identity as staff members within our communities.



Are you a Job Seeker?
Do you want to do further tertiary studies and get paid for it? How about applying for a traineeship with the TSIRC. Successful applicants will be placed with an experienced person who will provide you with support and guidance to ensure you complete your training. Find out if you're eligible to undertake an apprenticeship with the TSIRC by visiting our website: www.tsirc.qld.gov.au, Divisional Island Office in person or by contacting Rhiannon Cash on Ph: (07) 40345730
Email: Recruitment@TSIRC.qld.gov.au

Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply

Have your say...

Due to community member 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



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

Stinger season prevention & first aid

Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area residents have been warned to be on the lookout when swimming, with the first box jellyfish of the season being sighted in waters off Bamaga and the Seisia Warf.

Avoid being stung by wearing stinger protective clothing or staying out of the water.

Jellyfish that cause the Irukandji syndrome might be found at a beach for just a few days or for weeks on end, so you must always remain alert during the stinger season, which generally extends from November to the end of May.

The Australian Resuscitation Council advises the following:

- Call for help (call for an ambulance immediately on 000 if the patient is extremely unwell).
- Check for level of consciousness and assess airway, breathing, circulation, and resuscitate if required – early resuscitation after major stings from Chironex box jellies has saved lives in the past few years.
- Douse the sting site liberally with vinegar to neutralise the stinging cells – unless the sting is from a blue bottle, in which case wash off with seawater. • Seek medical aid as soon as possible. Call for an ambulance if this has not already occurred, if there is persistent pain or any ongoing or worsening symptoms."

Visit www.marinestingers.com.au or www.health.qld.gov.au/goodhealthintnq/topics/jellyfish.asp



Encouraging leadership

TSIRC encourage leadership within communities and what better way to instill such a valuable characteristic than at school?

Five students of Tagai College - Badu Campus were acknowledged as the 2012 School Leaders. There are another 8 children who make up the School Leadership Group.

The leadership role is about being responsible role models to all the other School students in both the school and township environment.

At least 12 students put their hand up to be student leaders and all had to undergo a selection process to be chosen as a School Leader.

The School Leaders have a self-regulated reward strategy whereby they record good acts of leadership for all to see and be encouraged.

Many parents and community well-wishers were on hand at the announcement at School Parade.



L-R: Anthony Yorkston, Watholyan Ahmat, Gongai Nona, Manaima Au and Rahmalia Ahmat. Front: Mrs Kay Ahmat (Head of Campus).

A colourful community

The Hammond IKC in conjunction with CEA recently ran a project to 'beautify' the waiting shed by painting a mural on it. The project was encouraged by TSIRC because of Council's support to take pride in the appearance of its communities.

TSIRC will soon be running a competition with incentives to keep communities clean, tidy and well presented!



Strengthening Regional Development in the Strait

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Queensland is set to benefit from new appointments and re-appointment to each of its committees.

Four new members to RDA Far North QLD and Torres Strait were announced by Regional Australia Minister, Simon Crean and Member for Cook, Jason O'Brien.

Mr Crean said the new appointments will ensure RDA Far North QLD and Torres Strait continues as a vital connection between all three levels of Government. "The RDA committees input is central to our place-based approach because it will help us better respond to the challenges and opportunities different regions face and enable us to embed regionalism into the way we govern," Mr Crean said.

"Strong RDA committees are engaging with local communities to maximise economic growth, flexibility, diversity and resilience," he said.

Mr O'Brien said Queensland is committed to working in partnership with the Commonwealth Government and RDAs to achieve the outcomes for regional Queensland that are grounded in a regional understanding of priorities, challenges and opportunities.

"With the new appointment and re-appointment of committee members, RDA Far North QLD and Torres Strait will be able to provide vital input on local intel to State and Federal Governments to inform their policy processes," Mr O'Brien said.

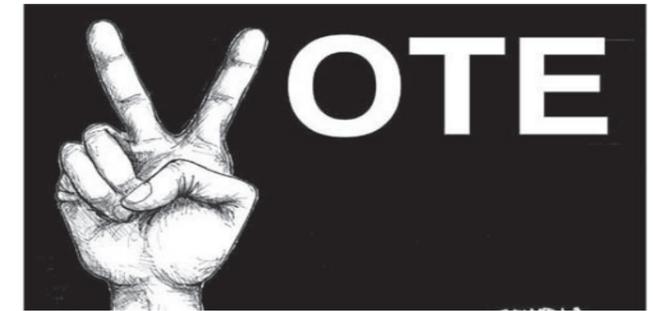
"RDA Far North QLD and Torres Strait will fill us in on local priorities, engage with the community and promote practical, achievable solutions.

"The committee will foster a common understanding about what really matters to the people of the region and those that wish to invest there.

"This creates a better informed direction and weighting on infrastructure decisions in the broader context of Queensland and Australia," he said.

RDA is a partnership between Australian, State, Territory and Local Governments to strengthen regional communities.

Visit www.rdafnqts.org.au



Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) is urging local community members to ensure they vote at the council elections on April 28.

In Queensland, voting for local government elections is compulsory.

Nominations for Councillors close on March 27 at noon.

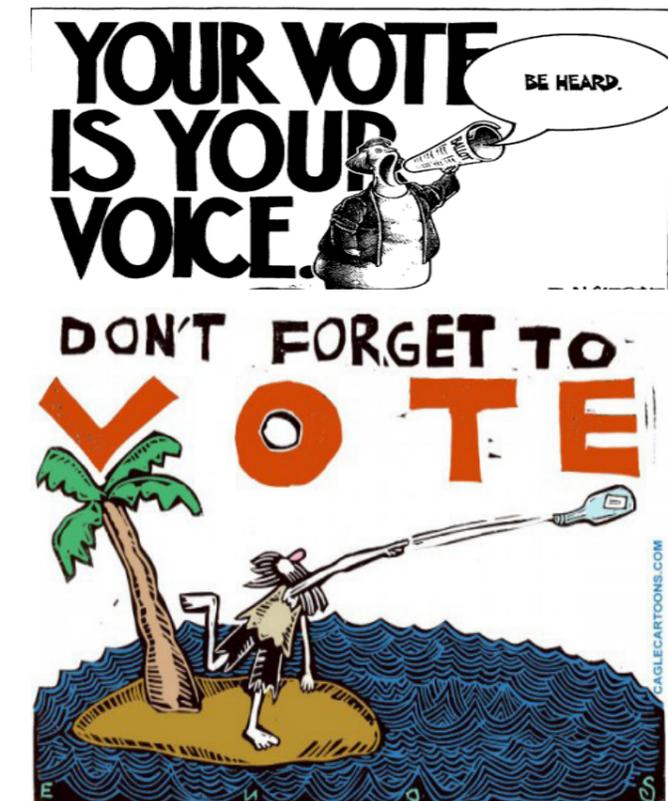
Mobile polling will begin during the week leading up to polling day (April 28)

Council plays a huge role in your community and TSIRC encourage constituents to listen to the candidates when it comes time to vote.

Councils no longer simply look after rates, roads and rubbish - they are passionately involved with social, economic and cultural activities that directly improve the livability, sustainability and prosperity of the region.

Community engagement is a vital cog in the wheel - so that local councils can make decisions that accurately reflect the needs and interests of their communities

For more information contact your Divisional Manager or go to the ECQ website www.ecq.qld.gov.au





Calling for ideas

The current model of Blue (Call Centre) phones in

communities will be replaced with a new model (pictured right).



Input from the community about where to put the new phones has been requested.

The phones do not necessarily have to go exactly where the existing Blue Phone is.

The things to consider in nominating a location are:

- accessible 24/7 (for emergency calls to the call centre)
- protected from the weather
- reasonably secure position to

prevent vandalism

- located so the user (tenant) has some privacy when using the phone to report an R&M matter
- Any other considerations that you and your community determine as relevant.

Telstra will be installing the new phones, so the description of your nominated location needs to be understood by them.

Contact TSIRC to put your ideas forward!

Earth Hour: March 31, 8.30pm



This year, Earth Hour is on Saturday the 31st of March at 8:30pm.

During Earth Hour, on the 31st of March, people throughout Australia and around the world will turn off their lights for one hour to represent their concern and commitment to address climate change.

By supporting Earth Hour, you are part of a powerful global message that we need action on climate change now.

You also demonstrate your commitment to preserving our environment!



TSIRC Australia Day Citizen of the Year



Beatrice Mosby from Masig Island was awarded the TSIRC Citizen of the Year award for her outstanding effort within the community and region for many years. Cr. Nai of Masig said that Beatrice was always the first to offer assistance at community events and help out wherever possible. "She is a true role model with a huge heart," Cr. Nai said.

TSIRC wish to congratulate Beatrice on her award and thank her for her contribution to the community and region.



L-R, Seddey Stephen, Racey Pitt, Diann Lui, Nancy Naawi, Florence Gutchen, Racheal Gela, Ella Rose Savage and Torres Webb

TSIRC Australia Day Awards on Erub!

Recognised for their respective achievements at Erub were Torres Webb and the Erub Erwer Meta Art Center 'gang'. As part of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council Australia Day Awards, Mr Webb was awarded the Regional Young Citizen of the Year and Erub Erwer Meta was collectively awarded the Erub Community Achievement Award.

"Apart from his youth advocacy and representative roles Nationally and abroad, Torres plays a number of key roles in our region and community" remarked Cr Kenny Bedford. "Not only is he our Snr Ranger but is the elected Deputy Chair of our local PBC", he added. In accepting his award, Mr Webb thanked the Council and community and said, "I am just going about my everyday business".

Erub Erwer Meta Management Committee President Mrs Racey Pitt and Manager Di Lui were pleased on behalf of the Art Centre and their colleagues for the added recognition the Community Achievement Award brings. "Erub Erwer Meta not only provides an important learning and economic base for our artists to express themselves but does a great deal to promote our Erub community and way of life", praised Cr Bedford.

Training = top priority

Council places high importance on training its staff to ensure they are educated and knowledgeable to perform their duties at hand, and to give them the opportunity to climb the ranks within Council using their qualifications - or even go on to bigger and better things if desired. Waianga Yona Waianga was the Divisional Engineering Officer at Badu (pictured left). He has recently left Council and landed a good job on the mainland because of the qualifications he gained through working at TSIRC.

Council would like to congratulate the numerous staff over have completed various courses and training programs and wish them the very best in future endeavours.



New water filtration plant, laboratory & operators facilities at Hammond!



Emergency shower and eye wash.

This is the first of the Group C Asset Sustainability Projects to be completed. This group involves Hammond water supply, Mabuiag water supply, Saibai water supply and Saibai sewage. Work at Hammond involved the replacement of the existing water filtration plant with a new water filtration plant, laboratory and operators facilities.

Traditional Owners were consulted and it was resolved that only gray water facilities be provided within the building at this stage to respect their wishes of the potential contamination of water supply. 'Black water facilities' will be provided when Hammond sewage facilities have been constructed.

Yet to come, but still on the horizon is the refurbishment of the underground galleries which provide water to the treatment plant. This will be done over the coming dry season and will further enhance the safety of the Hammond system.

Before:



After:



Member skills Training Program Sydney 26-29 June 2012

Congress wants to invest in its young Members, aged 18 to 25 years. Come develop your own personal skills and get involved with Congress action through a four day live-in program here in Sydney.

Congress aims to help successful participants feel confident they have the skills to campaign for change.

The Program Aims To:

- Better engage with the largest age group within our populations to help shape Congress policies - tell us what is important to you
- Create a nationwide network of young Congress Members who can share information with communities and gather local support for campaigns, including Constitutional change
- Help prepare the next wave of Congress youth representatives

What's in the Program?

- Group and one-on-one discussions including:
 - Values, visions and goal setting
 - Women/Men in leadership
 - Running campaigns & media tips
 - Public Speaking
 - Constitutional Recognition Campaigns
 - Getting involved with Congress Mobil

What will you get?

- All travel, accommodation, meals and childcare (if required) are included
- Share your views and hopes about how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth across Australia can affect decisions

- Take home a tool kit of skills, knowledge and confidence to participate effectively in your own communities and harness your potential
- Learn about the work Congress is doing on issues important for our peoples
- The latest information and tools to decide on the campaign for Constitutional change
- Feel confident to become future Delegates at our annual conference.

Who can apply:

- Congress Members 18-25 years old. Not a Member? Apply for our free membership by downloading a form [here](#)
- 110 funded participants (equal numbers of women & men)
- Preference will be given to regional, rural and remote Members

Where:

The National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE), Redfern NSW - offers shared accommodation (same gender) More info www.ncie.org.au

APPLY BY 31 MARCH 2012

- Go to the Congress website www.nationalcongress.com.au
- Fill out the form on line or download and post or fax it back to us
- Email: info@nationalcongress.com.au
- Fax: 02 8070 3125 or Free post: Reply Paid Congress Members Program PO BOX 1446, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
- For more information ring Mandy or Tristan on Ph: 02 8070 3100 or Free call: 1800 266 477

Enterprise divestment

Since Local Government amalgamation in March 2008, it has been a desire of Council to divest local government-owned and operated enterprises to community entities to assist in self-determination and economic development in the Region, and for Council to concentrate on its core local government functions into the future.

Since Round 1, Council has successfully divested 12/54 of its enterprises, with a further 11 enterprises presently in the final stages of negotiation with preferred tenderers. An additional 7 tenders have been received in Round 2.

Congratulations to the following successful tenderers in Round 2:

IAMA ISLAND

Entity

Iama Mura Mabaigal (TSI)

Corporation

Enterprise

- Augustine Wasada Kaikal
- Mudith Kiosk
- Coffee Shop at Cultural Centre
- Cultural Centre
- Kodakal Lodge
- Sundowner Guesthouse

WARRABER ISLAND

Entity

Warraber Fisherman's (TSI)



Iama residents at last year's Clean Up Australia Day

Corporation

Enterprise

- Guesthouse
- Resort
- Kiosk

Other tenders received in Round 2 are presently being assessed by the Tender Panel.

Look out for Round 3 coming soon in your division.

Traffic offences committed within communities

Message from your Community Police



1. There are no gazetted roads on the outer Islands, so do road rules apply?

It is true that there are no gazetted roads on the outer Islands; however Queensland State Law provides that road rules apply to any area that is open or used by the public for driving or riding of motor vehicles. The answer is YES.

2. As there are no gazetted roads – do I have to have my vehicle registered?

All the roads on the outer Islands are controlled by your local government. It is a requirement by local government that all vehicles using those roads are registered. The answer is YES. Queensland State Law also applies to registration when motor vehicles are driven or

ridden in any area that is open or used by the public for that purpose.

3. Can I be prosecuted for a traffic offences committed in my community, because there are no State Police on Island?

Obviously if State Police are on Island and they detect traffic offences they can take whatever enforcement action is appropriate, this may include the suspect being arrested, issued with a ticket, or summonsed to go to court. When State Police are off Island your Community Police have the authority to report traffic offences to QPS for actioning. This includes dangerous driving, drink driving and unlicensed driving. For minor traffic offences like not

wearing seatbelts suspects will be given one (1) warning before the matter is reported to the State Police. Once the State Police have a report from the Community Police they will, on their next visit to your Community take whatever enforcement action is appropriate; this may include the suspect being arrested, issued with a ticket, or summonsed to go to court. The answer is YES.

The big message from your Community Police is: Be careful and mindful when operating motor vehicles. Dangerous driving and drink driving will not be tolerated and will be reported to the State Police immediately. Heavy fines and jail sentences apply.

Badu celebrates Australia Day!

More than 200 community members participated in Australia Day celebrations on Badu where activities included the TSIRC award presentations, tug-of-war, volleyball knockouts, treasure hunts, soccer matches, rugby league games, egg throwing and water slides. "Of course, no Australia Day celebration would be complete without a good serving of BBQ sausages, steak, fresh buns and an abundance of fresh fruit," said Cr Wayne Guivarra.

Senior Citizen of the Year was Alma Enosa and Mrs Lily Ahmat was very deserving of her Community Achievement Award for her long term commitment to community administration, while teenager Zengrey Nona's sporting achievements over the past 12 months reflected his recognition as the Sportsman of the Year. "All Australians need to walk side-by-side and talk side-by-side," Cr Guivarra said.



All Images of Badu Island Community members during TSIRC Australia Day Award celebrations.

Defence Indigenous Development Program

If you are a young Indigenous adult aged between 18 to 30 years, have good character, are physically and medically fit, have a pass in Year 9 or above you may be eligible to enlist in the Australian Defence Force Reserves



The Program will give you:

- Basic Military Training
- Certificate II level competencies
- Workplace English Language & Literacy
- Personal and Professional Development
- Preparation for a wide range of jobs in Navy, Army, Air Force or the general civilian community.

Accommodation, Meals and Pay
During the 8 month program, you will be provided with all meals and accommodation, and after the first three weeks you will receive Defence Reserve tax free salary throughout the program.



Defence Indigenous Development Program – a whole of government initiative to assist young Indigenous adults in northern Australia, particularly those from remote communities, to gain the necessary skills for continuous employment opportunities and to develop young people as role models within their communities.

This program is supported by Navy, Army, Air Force and other Government departments. It is a program designed to provide young Indigenous adults with the education, training, life skills and confidence to get and keep full time employment and be role models within their communities.



Visit www.didp.com.au or Freecall 1800 447 827

Leadership runs in this proud family

GIBSON Pearson was born to be a leader - first as an older brother, then as school captain at Abergowrie College and now as one of the newest recruits to the Royal Australian Navy.

Strong leadership qualities run in the Pearson family - 19-year-old Mr Pearson is distantly related to renowned indigenous activist Noel Pearson.

These qualities will be tested when Mr Pearson, together with the ten other North Queensland recruits from the Defence Indigenous Development Program, arrive at HMAS Cerberus near Melbourne after being sworn in together with seven regular recruits bound for the Army and training at Kapooka.

Mr Pearson said he couldn't wait to travel the world and make lifelong mates in the Navy.

His Townsville family, who originally come from Hammond in the Torres Strait, proudly watched as he recited his oath.

"It feels good to first of all to serve my country and make my family proud," he said.

Senior Military Recruiting Officer Central and Northern Queensland, Lieutenant Steve Cottam, said in the past year 115,000 people had applied to be in the Australian Defence Force but only 6,300 had made the cut so becoming a recruit was a significant achievement.

"This is all part of the One and All campaign. We want all indigenous people to have the same chances for employment and same career opportunities as other Australians," he said.



Gibson Pearson, 19, is one of the new recruits for the Defence Force

IBIS AWARDS NIGHT

IBIS held its annual awards night recently and TSIRC Mayor Fred Gela presented the long service awards. Cr. Gela said he was proud of the relationship forged between IBIS and TSIRC and hopes it continues well into the future.



Right: Annie Bob accepts Manager of the Year from Mark Johnston. Far right: Mark Johnston and Elizabeth Warria (5 yrs service).



Wild winds whip Erub

Unexpectedly severe winds of "at least 50 knots" according to anchored mackerel fisherman, 'Snowy' Preece, struck Erub community on the afternoon of February 3rd.

The very strong gusts battered the island causing extensive damage to a number of structures including the community fuel shed and freezer facility.

Erub Councillor Kenny Bedford said that his main concern was the timing and ferocity of the winds that came with very little warning.

"People, especially children, were still outdoors and it didn't take long for debris and roof materials to turn into missiles in a short space of time. Coconut trees and their risk to powerlines was also a major threat," Cr Bedford said.

"A live-wire went down in Medigee Village and was reported and addressed on the day."

What a catch!



We all know fishing is a way of life in the Torres Strait. Pictured: Anton Nona, Community Sport & Recreation Officer at Badu. Send in your fishing pictures for our new 'What a catch!' section to: info@tsirc.qld.gov.au

These especially strong winds followed very heavy rains and storm conditions the week before, resulted in extensive coastal damage to areas of Erub and acute flooding in residential areas.

TSIRC is awaiting a decision by the State Government to offer relief funding for this recent damage.

Reception was down due to the winds and TSIRC has funded its repairs.



Welcoming the new start-up packages off the barge are (L-R) Arthur and Pensio Naawi, BJ Saylor, Frank Anson and Billy Bourne.

Fishing initiative hooks on

A local commercial fishing initiative rolling out at Erub is intended to make a big difference in local finfish catch rates. This is the idea behind delivering start-up packages, comprising a brand new 40hp Yamaha outboard motor and all required safety gear, up front, to 10 members of the Erub community.

The primary requirements by local applicants to be considered for this opportunity is that they have a sea-worthy vessel, a preparedness to fish commercially to the Erub community freezer and agree to undertake locally-based training in the area of commercial fishing and small business management.

This project is part of a plan at Erub to increase the participation and efficiency of local fishers in the finfish industry, mostly targeting Coral Trout and Spanish Mackerel but also other reef fish species.

According to Cr Kenny Bedford "By increasing access to the resources out there, we expect this will reflect an increase in the amount of product coming through our local freezer...not only do individuals and families benefit but the community (as well) through the added sustainability of our freezer".



Greg Woodbridge of Bill's Marine with the 'start up' Yamaha 40hp outboard motor.





Community Police Training

Techniques in self defence



Community Police training was recently held in Cairns covering a range of sessions vital to the roles of a community police officer on-ground in the Torres Strait.

The sessions during the five day training program included TSIRC processes and protocols, techniques in self defence, search and rescue, major investigations, workplace health and safety, disaster management, drug intelligence and more.

The training program all consisted of Local Law workshops where officers were taught about the local laws in place and how to enforce them.

