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Message from the Mayor

Kapu goeyga nithamunka mura, kulay kidh ngay lak koeyma eso a apapudhy ngalmun koey Awgadh inab kayne goeyga gasaman, ngay lak gudwoydhika mura Zenadth Kes baradharaw mabaygal, koey mabaygal and kuyku mabaygal sena kaypaypa kulay, kayb thonar a sena ngapa bungal.

Good day to you all. I acknowledge Papa God for this new day and pay my respects to all traditional owners' past, present, and emerging. I also acknowledge all community members of the five nations we serve throughout Zenadth Kes—from Mer in the east to Boigu in the west—and all First Nations people throughout Australia, recognising our shared connection to culture, kastom, and belief systems.

I welcome the return of Strait Talk Naygay Edition of the Torres Strait Island Regional newsletter. I am pleased to return to a second term as Mayor of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, alongside nine returning and six new Councillors. I am excited about the leadership elected across our region to drive Council and the region forward.

My re-election signifies continuity and stability in open and transparent governance, with leaders committed to developing and implementing policies to progress our region's strategic focus areas: wealth creation, service delivery, improved infrastructure, and governance and partnership.

Given unpredictable weather conditions, our Council was among many Queensland Local Governments to take a declaration of office and hold our first meeting in Cairns in April. I also attended the Premier & Queensland's Mayor Summit at Parliament House in Brisbane.

In the next six months, our focus is on reframing our relationship with regional stakeholders and state and commonwealth governments to implement the Masig Statement "Malungu Yangu Wakay – Voice from the Deep," endorsed by our fifteen divisions. We look forward to partnering with the Masig Statement Taskforce.

Our region, with its 15 island communities, faces unique challenges in delivering local government services, particularly with limited revenue from rates and the impact of inflation, interest rates, and the rising cost of goods and services. Our recently

adopted budget reflects these realities, balancing cost-of-living pressures with the investment needed for our region's autonomy, prosperity, and sustainability.

The council is reviewing its governance structure and practices to improve decision-making and ensure effective service delivery. In July, we began streaming our Council Ordinary Meeting from Erub, making it more convenient for people to attend and stay informed.

Councillors are receiving secretariat support from the mayor's office to conduct regular community and stakeholder meetings to disseminate important information and updates on key regional issues, projects, and developments. We aim to strengthen partnerships with regional partners to work cohesively and collaboratively to advance our region, making it a region of choice for government and private sector investment.

Health remains a key priority, and the Council firmly believes that our people's health can be improved with the right policy settings and increased investment from the government to make housing, education, employment, transportation, digital connectivity, and industries more accessible, affordable, and sustainable.

The council is committed to advocating for the ten key priorities of our region to ensure that our people and future generations continue to thrive across Zendath Kes, particularly through partnerships with regional stakeholders to advance the Regional Governance (Assembly) agenda.

Mina Koeyma Eso,

Mayor Mosby



Our Councillors

Elected members of the 5th Torres Strait Island Regional Council took their declaration of office in April 2024.



Mayor Phillemon Mosby
Poruma Office



Councillor Dimas Toby
Boigu, Division 1



Councillor Torenzo Elisala
Dauan, Division 2



Councillor Chelsea Aniba
Saibai, Division 3



Councillor Keith Fell
Mabuiag, Division 4



Councillor Ranetta Wosomo
Deputy Mayor
Badu, Division 5



Councillor Iona Manas
Arakai (Kubin Community)
on Mua, Division 6



Councillor John Levi
Wug (St Pauls Community)
on Mua, Division 7



Councillor Seriako Dorante
Kirirri, Division 8



Councillor Aggie Hankin
Iama, Division 9



Councillor Kabay Tamu
Warraber, Division 10



Councillor Francis Pearson
Poruma, Division 11



Councillor Ted Mosby
Masig, Division 12



Councillor Rocky Stephen
Ugar, Division 13



Councillor Nixon Mye
Erub, Division 14



Councillor Bob Kaigey
Mer, Division 15

Visit to the United Nations



Honoured to represent our region at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 23

This year's focus at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 23 was on youth, presenting an incredible opportunity to amplify the voices of our young leaders on the international stage. Here's some highlights from Councillors Elisala and Manas's journey in New York.

Thanks to the National Native Title Council (NNTC), Gur A Baradharaw Kod (GBK) had the privilege of nominating two outstanding youth representatives, RNTBC Chair, Cr. Torenzo Elisala and Mua RNTBC Chair, Cr. Iona Manas, to participate in this prestigious forum.

Throughout the nine-day trip, crucial discussions were held, advocating for the autonomy and self-determination of our people, echoing the aspirations set forth by our ancestors.

The journey in New York kicked off with a warm welcome to Lenape territory, an experience that filled everyone with gratitude and humility. Joined by Australian Minister Linda Burney MP and indigenous youth delegates from across the globe, the strength of our collective resolve was palpable.

As representatives from GBK, the focus was clear: to highlight the Masig Statement and Imaygi Thaiyak Statement, emphasising the unique challenges and aspirations of our communities. Speaking not only as advocates but also as stewards of our land, entrusted by our ancestors and accountable to future generations.

"Attending the UNPFII 23 as part of the youth delegation was both an honour and a responsibility. It's essential to continue raising voices on the international stage, holding governments accountable to the promises they've made under the UNDRIP."

Looking ahead, there's a commitment to empowering youth voices within organisations and communities. Together, with the support of leaders like GBK Chair Ned David and Cr. Philemon Mosby, Torres Strait Island Regional Council's Mayor, platforms for future leaders to thrive will be established.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this journey possible, from the members of Dauanalgalw PBC to the dedicated team at NNTC. Together, paving the way for a brighter future for indigenous peoples everywhere.

Out & About

Badu Clean Up Day



Marine Debris Task Force Tackles Marine Pollution in the Torres Strait



The Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) and Salty Monkeys have started the Marine Debris Task Force (MDTF) to fight marine pollution. This project, funded by Parks Australia's Ghost Nets Innovative Solutions grants program, focuses on tackling ghost nets and marine debris in the Torres Strait, a critical marine ecosystem.

The Torres Strait is home to many sea turtles and dugongs. These important sea animals suffer from pollution caused by plastics and ghost nets from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the East Coast of Australia, and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The MDTF will study the types, sources, and amounts of plastics in the area and look for recycling opportunities. Partnering with KJR, they will use drones and AI to survey hard-to-reach beaches and map plastic waste locations.

Community involvement is essential, with clean-up events and educational campaigns already taking place on five islands, both inhabited and uninhabited. The MDTF needs your help to find ghost nets across the region. Community assistance is vital for solving this issue.

Supported by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) rangers, community volunteers, and CEQ, the MDTF aims to restore and protect the region's environment.

The Marine Debris Task Force is crucial for protecting our unique marine environment with new technology and community help, we aim to find lasting solutions to marine debris.

For more information or to get involved, contact your local council office. Together, we can protect the Torres Strait's rich marine life.



Ilun Tok

with Cr. Dimas Toby



Sew Ngapa Mura Buai.

First, I would like to acknowledge Koey Augadh, Heavenly Father, for the life He has given us today. From where I'm speaking today, I also want to acknowledge Mura traditional owners, elder's past, present, and future, and pay my respects.

Congratulations to the newly elected and returning councillors including Mayor Mosby. I am looking forward to working alongside you all during the next four-year term and having the privilege of representing our community, Mura Zenath Kes' beautiful people and the pristine, unique region we call home.

This term will mark my 16th year in office. I am humbled to have served with my predecessors and current leaders to advocate and invest in what is most important, the critical issues and aspirations we need in the community and region. I particularly want to say a special Koey Eso to my community, "Boigulgal," for having the trust and faith in my leadership to serve you for another four years. Together, we stand united.

Additionally, I want to thank the two

candidates who have bravely run for the position; you are truly leaders in your own right. Your dedication and passion is commendable.

I am privileged to have dual roles as the PBC Chair, GBK Board Member, and TSRA Board Member. This gives me the opportunity to advocate, leverage, and strengthen good working relationships and partnerships, to achieve the aspirations and goals of our communities. These roles enable me to bridge the gap between different sectors, ensuring that our community's voice is heard and our needs are met.

My community projects currently in progress are the Katter lease homeowners' renovations, the new health centre project, the new IBIS project, the Community Fisheries Corporation commercial entity, and supporting the establishment of partnerships with other organizations to invest in the tourism industry. This opportunity, I believe, will create local businesses, local employment, and prosperity for my community and the region. By fostering these projects, we aim to build a sustainable future that benefits everyone.

To all the community members and most importantly my pamle, with your support and our leaders working in unity, we can all achieve our aspirations and goals to have a strong future for our next generation. Our collective efforts will pave the way for a brighter, more prosperous tomorrow for our children and grandchildren.

Koeyma Eso, Au Esoau, Aughadau Wunab

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things"

(Mother Teresa)





Mer Desalination Plant Upgrade

Mer Desalination Plant Undergoes Major Upgrade to Ensure Safe and Sustainable Water Supply

The upgrade of the Mer Desalination Plant is in full swing, with TSIRC staff collaborating closely with contractors Northern Water and George Yamashita Electrical to deliver optimal outcomes for the community. This initiative underscores the ongoing commitment to providing a safe and sustainable water solution.

Key components of the upgrade include the installation of turbo units to assist in power recovery and Variable Speed Drives (VSD) to ensure smooth and power-efficient operation, significantly reducing the cost of water production. The new switchboards and wiring will enhance the plant's reliability, promising years of trouble-free desalination.

Additionally, ageing desalination trains have been replaced, and new membranes have been installed to improve the overall quality of the water. These enhancements will help secure a consistent and high-quality water supply for the Mer community.



Exciting Animal News!

Our Environmental Health Workers (EHW) have recently completed the final block of their Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation! This comprehensive training is designed to upskill our EHWs to better manage animals like dogs and cats across all divisions.

Some of the key areas they've mastered:

- Conducting community awareness programs
- Assisting with the euthanasia of animals

- Providing basic animal first aid
- Investigating complaints
- Identifying and responding to animal behaviour in management and regulation environments
- Managing conflict situations and developing programs in animal regulation and management.

They are now well-versed in the Animal Management Act, including the latest legislation changes and stronger dog laws.

Excitingly, our EHWs will be offering microchipping services during the next vet visit in October/November.

Make sure to register your animals for microchipping to ensure their safety and compliance!

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you for supporting our dedicated team in keeping our communities safe and well-managed.

Kai Kai CORNER



SAUCY PORK RECIPE

by Aunty Cathy

Ingredients:

- 1.5kg pork rashers or dice uncooked roast pork shoulder
- Minced garlic, ginger and chilli (just enough for flavour so not too much or leave out)
- Large red onion and tomato
- Green beans and red capsicum

*Matha nice!!
Enjoy!!*

Instructions:

Drizzle ABC sweet kecap mani soya sauce to coat meat in bowl. Use a wok or electric pan with lid is preferred.

Brown pork meat in pan with oil in two batches and set aside.

Sizzle together splash of oil, garlic, ginger, chilli, diced onion, tomato and then add back in pork meat to dish and fold ingredients.

Add a small cup or more of ABC sweet kecap soya sauce with some stock or water to meat level or lower and cover with lid.

Cook to allow sauce to reduce or slightly thicken, tenderise meat and stir at times.

When dish is ready, turn off heat and place cut green beans and capsicum with a drizzle of water on top and cover with lid so they can steam before serving up with steamed rice or noodles.

Enjoy!



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