

In this Issue

| | |
|---|---|
| Safety is our responsibility this festive season..... | 1 |
| Message from the Mayor | 2 |
| Peace Keeper Success! | 3 |
| Out & About | 3 |
| New garbage trucks..... | 4 |
| Ilun Tok with Cr. Torenzo Elisala | 5 |
| Gather & Grow | 6 |
| Kai Kai Corner..... | 7 |
| Get involved with Council | 8 |

Safety is our responsibility this festive season

Celebrating the Christmas season on the water is part of our way of life, and we give thanks to papa God for guiding and protecting us on the seas.

As we head into the festive season, let's come together, give thanks and celebrate safely, especially when it comes to boating and marine safety. With the monsoon season upon us, it's more important than ever to be cautious on the water. Safety isn't just a responsibility—it's the best gift we can give our families and community this Christmas.

Did you know that members of our community are 1.7 times more likely to drown than others across Australia? Let's change that by taking marine safety seriously.

Before you head out on the water, make sure you're prepared:

- **Look after your outboard motor:** Flush it, check the propeller for damage, and make sure the oil level is right.
- **Check the weather and tides:** Only head out when the forecast is in your favour. Check the BOM website and Council's social media for King Tides and strong wind warnings.
- **Check your safety gear:** Make sure everything's in working order—torch, life jacket,

anchor, flares (2 red and 2 orange), fire extinguisher, compass or GPS, and EPIRB.

- **Fuel up:** Carry extra fuel just in case.
- **Pack enough drinking water:** Make sure everyone on board has plenty of water to stay hydrated.

When you're on the water, remember:

- **Don't drink and boat:** Drinking on the water can lead to poor decisions. Stay sober, stay safe.
- **Watch out for other boats:** Keep a safe distance and be mindful of your surroundings.
- **Don't overload your boat:** Too many people onboard can be dangerous.
- **Keep our oceans clean:** Take all your rubbish with you to protect our precious marine life.
- **Lifejackets are a must:** Make sure everyone on your boat is wearing a properly fitted lifejacket at all times.

As we enjoy the holiday season, from all of us at TSIRC, we would like to wish you a safe, happy, and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Let's make this festive season one to remember for all the right reasons—staying safe and looking out for one another.





Christmas message from the Mayor



Welcome to the Season of Christmas—a season of giving, loving, joy, and rejoicing.

Christmas holds deep meaning for many people. While individuals may have their own unique traditions, beliefs, and practices, one common thread unites us all—Christmas is about family. No matter our cultural background, the celebration of family and togetherness is a universal aspect of this season.

In the Torres Strait, the Christmas season is celebrated in diverse and meaningful ways. As a spiritually

oriented people, this time of year invites us to reflect on the birth of Christ, the greatest gift to humankind. Born with a divine purpose and destiny, Christ's arrival in the world serves as a profound reminder of hope and love.

The scripture from Isaiah 9:6 tells us, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." These powerful words encourage us to think deeply about the significance of Christ's birth and what it means to us today.

We often hear the phrase, "Big things come in small packages," and Christ's birth is a perfect example of this. Though he came as a child, the only begotten Son, his life was destined to challenge the status quo, bringing peace, wisdom, and good counsel to all mankind.

As we celebrate this season of joy, it is also important to remember those we have lost over the past twelve months. Christmas offers a special time to reflect on the lives of our dearly departed family and friends,

recognising that they were a gift to us for a specific time and season. Their presence in our lives has left a lasting legacy, and we can be grateful for the seeds of love, wisdom, and hope they have planted within us.

Let us carry their memory forward, embracing the blessings and examples they set for us, whether individually or as part of our community and region. Their contributions give us hope for a brighter future.

This Christmas season, I encourage you to continue the traditions of giving, sharing, and caring. Take the time to tell those around you, whether at the dinner table, under the Christmas tree, or at carols by candlelight, how much you appreciate them.

On behalf of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year for 2025.

Awadhaw wanab,

Mayor Phillemon Mosby



OFFICE CLOSING DAYS

**From Tuesday 24th December, at 12pm
to Thursday 2nd January**

Empowered Women Workshop



Peace Keeper Success!

On September 16, we kicked off the 3-day “Peace Keeper” course led by Larissa Bani, Manager of Events and Engagement in our Community Services Department, along with the incredible Michael Quinn. We were thrilled to have participants from Masig, Erub, and Ugar join us on Mer. On September 25, the workshop continued on Mabuiag, welcoming both local and visiting ladies and men.

Following on from the success of the Empowered Women Empower Women gathering held in 2023 on Warraber, the Peace Keeper workshops further build upon the principle of exchanging our experiences in a healing space to develop new strategies to overcome communication issues together.

The Peace Keeper course is specifically designed to uplift and empower our community by teaching the art of constructive conversation, conflict de-escalation and the healing powers of sharing our stories in a safe environment.

Key goals of the Peace Keeper program include:

- Restoring community justice by resolving conflicts early.
- Equipping participants with tools to identify and address conflict before it escalates.
- Mastering difficult conversations to improve and strengthen relationships.
- Repairing connections, building bridges, and empowering families and communities to heal and grow.

We're very excited about the popularity of this program and believe it will empower participants and communities to strengthen bonds and move forward together!

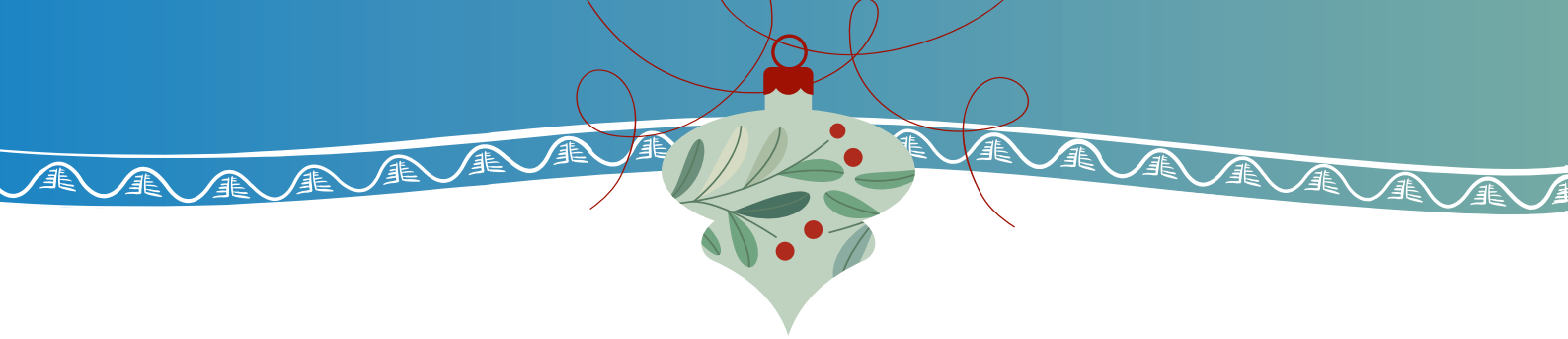


ARE YOU READY?



STORM SEASON IS COMING

**PLAN FOR 5 DAYS
WHEN PURCHASING
YOUR SUPPLIES
CONSIDER YOUR
FAMILIES NEEDS**



A bright start to 2025: New garbage trucks are on their way!



Great news! A fleet of new garbage trucks is being shipped to our communities, bringing exciting improvements to our waste management system.

With 12 trucks generously donated by the City of Gold Coast and an additional 3 purchased by the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, these vehicles will soon be hard at work collecting your household waste on a regular basis. These trucks are equipped with modern features that will enhance both efficiency and safety in waste collection, ensuring a cleaner environment for all.

While some communities have already welcomed their new trucks, the remainder are scheduled to arrive over the coming months, with the final truck expected to be delivered early in the new year. This staggered delivery allows for a smooth transition and ensures that each community receives the attention it deserves.

The rollout of 15 garbage trucks is a significant step forward, underscoring the Torres Strait Island Regional Council's unwavering commitment

to community health, safety, and efficient waste management. We're excited about this development and are confident it will bring a positive change to our communities.

Regular household items can be safely disposed of in the bins as usual; however, please remember not to place batteries in your domestic rubbish. Hazardous items like batteries should be disposed of properly at designated facilities to

prevent environmental harm.

We know these new garbage trucks will help lighten the load for everyone and improve our waste collection services. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact your Divisional Manager.



Ilun Tok

With Cr. Torenzo Elisala



Sew Ngapa Mura Zenadh Kes aw buay, ah matha kedha ngalpan pasi w buayl, Kaurareg, Naygay doegam dhawdhay ah zeya doegam dhawdhay.

Wagel kai luck palaypa, mamu inabi thonarr manin, lak baradharaw gam asin, apa pudhiz, kuikulnga, ngalpan keoy Awgadh, aymay kuyik, ah matha kedha ngalpan keoy mabaygal, kaypaypa kulay, kayb ah bungul. Kuyku nidhan baradharaw kuykumabaygal ngalpan, ah matha kedha ngitha kapu Mabaygal, ngitha ngalagiya sey inabi thusi purkan iman ah geth tidiz,

Greetings to the nation of Zenadh Kes, acknowledging the Kaurareg nation, the nations of Papua New Guinea to the north, and mainland Australia to the south. I recognise our great Creator and pay respect to our elders—past, present, and future. I also acknowledge our traditional owners and thank you, the reader.

My name is Torenzo Elisala, and I have been with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) since 2009, shortly after the council amalgamation. I was elected Councillor for Dauan at 19, joining others, like our current Mayor, Cr. Philemon Mosby, in what was a baptism of fire for

young leaders in local government. Although challenging, the role has been rewarding. I am grateful to the Dauan community for electing me, and I deeply value the mentorship of elder leaders who shaped my journey. Their guidance has laid the foundation for the leadership we stand on today.

Like many remote communities, Dauan Island faces challenges, particularly around access. With no ferry service, we are limited in our ability to travel to Saibai for flights and other essential services. Ugar also struggles with infrequent barge services. I extend my thanks to TSRA and TSIRC for funding a business case study to address these access issues and allocating marine infrastructure funds for Dauan and Saibai. I also thank TSIRC and the Queensland Government for upgrading our community hall and basketball court, and I hope we can align funding for our oval soon.

Looking forward, our community's future aspirations are tied to economic opportunities that align with regional goals. We have industries that can help us prosper, but we must build capacity and prioritise our needs to secure funding and support the economy of Zenadh Kes. I call on all community members to take pride in their communities and contribute positively.

"Our destinies are what we make of them. If we want to leave a legacy, we must write our own stories."

From Dauan Island, Division 2, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Augadhaw Wanab ngalpania Mura Kaymel.





gather+ grow

health+wellbeing Queensland

Gather and Grow program, an empowered way to address food security.

We're excited to implement workshops that benefit us in a hands-on way, and the Gather and Grow initiative is a case in point! In partnership with Strategic Momentum Group (SMG) and Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Services, the Gather and Grow workshops were held in late September and throughout October. Facilitated by Antonio Chevez of SMG, the program was well attended by both locals and visitors keen to develop collective strategies to tackle the issue of food security.



What is food security? Food security means having healthy food readily available, accessible and easily able to be prepared. Food security is fundamental to our health and wellbeing. It can also prevent poor nutrition and illness due to a poor diet. The Gather and Grow program educated participants on how to choose healthier food from the supermarket as well as providing an empowering platform to share our own unique cultural knowledge about growing and catching our own food.

This innovative program is designed to be “for the community and by the community”, enabling us to share our island-specific knowledge, stories and skills to create simple, yet unique plans. Each plan aims to insulate us against food scarcity and develop our own sustainable, nutritious food supply.

Gather and Grow emphasises that:

- Every community can spearhead its own unique approach to health and wellbeing
- The simple things in life are sometimes best: community-grown vegetables are highly nutritious, support our health and are free from harmful chemicals
- Health is at our doorstep: making the right food choice can have great outcomes for our health and ensure food security
- Reliable and functional fridges and cook tops are an essential part of a healthy community

In each Gather and Grow workshop, we discussed a wide range of topics from how to prepare specific local plant varieties to sharing stories about mental health and wellbeing. Sharing in a safe environment created trust and a shared sense of purpose and commitment to generate our own road maps to food security.

With an actionable island-based plan to take away for each participant, the Gather and Grow program has empowered us to tackle food scarcity by “getting our hands dirty” to make the best choices for us. Watch this space as we take charge to take our communities into a prosperous future. We're very excited to see the positive outcomes inspired by the Gather and Grown program.

Kai Kai CORNER



THE TOLAI AIGIR RECIPE

COOKING THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA WAY

by Lisa & Jessie

AIGIR IS A COOKING METHOD. It works by the hot stones heating the liquid, pure coconut and boiling the food. Aigir is a traditional method of cooking for the Tolai people of East New Britain Province. The Tolai people have been preparing the “Aigir” generation-after-generation. **Aigir is prepared on special occasions or during family gatherings.**

Below is the recipe on how to prepare “aigir”. The following recipe can cater for 10-15 people.

Ingredients / utensils:

- Coconuts X 6
- Greens (5kg aibika)
- Firewood with stones (found in the river)
- Protein (180g chicken)
- Vegetable (Banana/sweet potato)
- Banana leaves X 10
- Carrots (500g)
- Onion (100g)
- Tomato (50g)
- Ginger & Garlic



After preparing the ingredients, this is how they prepare the Tolai “Aigir”:

- Stack firewood, place stones on top and start the fire. Stones need to be “hot” ready when all the firewood is burnt to ashes. 40-45 minutes.
- Scrape 6 coconuts.
- Prepare the vegetable.
- Prepare the greens.
- Prepare the protein.
- Put vegetable, greens and protein into a big pot or dish.
- Gradually cream vegetable, greens and protein with coconut-cream.
- Put hot stones into the pot containing the vegetable, greens and protein.
- Close the pot and leave it to cook for 15-20 minutes.
- When cooked, remove the stones.
- Serve the food onto plates or on banana leaves.



Matha nice!!
Enjoy!!

wok clostoon wer council

Get involved with Council



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