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Celebrating the Women on the Torres Strait

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day (IWD) on 8th March 2025 is a chance to celebrate and appreciate the exemplary work of women everywhere, including our powerful and strong women in the Torres Strait Island communities. This year's theme, **Accelerate Action**, highlights the urgency of taking bold and swift steps toward achieving gender equality. It calls for greater momentum in overcoming systemic barriers and biases in both personal and professional spheres.

One of the best strategies for advancing gender equality is identifying what works and amplifying it, quickly and effectively.

Accelerate Action is a global call to recognise strategies, investments, and initiatives that drive women's progress and to support their expansion. While significant barriers to gender equality remain, through effective action and advocacy, meaningful change can be achieved.

A Legacy of Strength and Wisdom. Torres Strait Islander women have long been the custodians of knowledge, storytelling, and community well-being. Their leadership in arts, education, governance, and environmental stewardship continues to shape our region. On IWD, we celebrate their achievements and acknowledge the work still ahead.

As we mark International Women's Day 2025, let's honour the resilience, strength, and leadership of women in our communities. By working together, we can inspire lasting change and create a future where all women and girls thrive.

#IWD2025 #AccelerateAction.





TSIRC Adopts the ‘Zenadth Kes Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy’



Building Resilience: TSIRC Adopts the Groundbreaking ‘Zenadth Kes Coastal Adaptation Strategy’.

For thousands of years—since Bipotaim, Torres Strait Islanders have shown incredible resilience and adaptability, thriving in a constantly changing environment. Guided by Ailan Kastom, Lore, and Law, their deep connection to the land, sea, and sky - Zenadth Kes - has allowed them to sustainably manage and protect the region’s rich cultural and ecological heritage.

Today, the Torres Strait is facing new and significant challenges from coastal hazards like erosion, storm tide inundation, and rising sea levels. To tackle these issues, the Zenadth Kes Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS) was created to help Torres Strait Island communities continue to thrive in harmony with their environment. This strategy combines cultural knowledge with western science, drawing on the best available research, management expertise, and insights from local communities and their leaders. It’s

a thoughtful approach to addressing coastal hazards while preserving the unique cultural and ecological values of the region.

In December 2024, the TSIRC elected members unanimously adopted the CHAS, marking an important step forward in building coastal resilience. The strategy has been made possible through funding from the Queensland Government, in partnership with the Local Government Association of

Queensland. It builds on the efforts of local, state, commonwealth, and international initiatives, empowering local communities to take part in decision-making and collaborate with a wide range of partners, including local, regional and national stakeholders, to address coastal risks. By integrating Indigenous aspirations, knowledge, and perspectives with contemporary science, the strategy takes a holistic and inclusive approach to coastal adaptation and management.





TSIRC's New Website



We're thrilled to announce that our brand-new TSIRC website is now officially live!

After months of hard work and collaboration, we're excited to unveil a fresh, modern online presence that truly reflects who we are and the incredible work we do.

Since July 2024, the Administration and Communications teams have been working tirelessly to bring this vision to life. We partnered with the talented local marketing agency, Forte Marketing, who assisted us with the design and web development, ensuring the final product looks fantastic and functions seamlessly.

Over the last eight months, we've worked closely with each area of the business to gather your input, understand your needs, and ensure that the design and content are as accurate, current, and relevant as possible for our stakeholders. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this process — your time, feedback, and expertise have been invaluable.

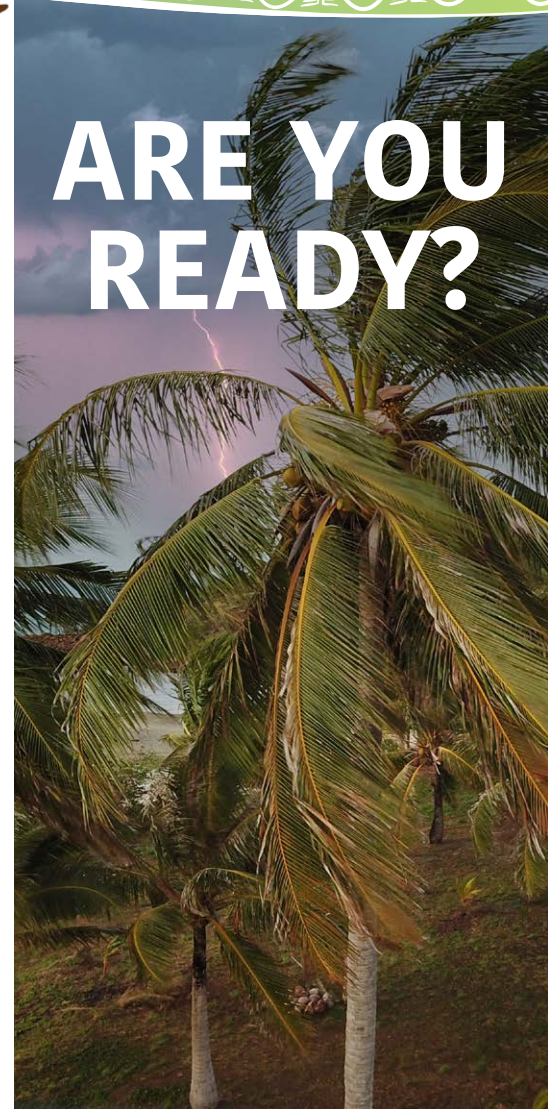
Moving forward, the Communications team will oversee and manage the website. Our team is fully trained and equipped to handle the backend and keep things running smoothly. While we've done extensive testing and content refinement ahead of the launch, we acknowledge that there may be a few minor hiccups with navigation, search functions, or content over the next few weeks. Rest assured, we're on top of it and will resolve any issues quickly.

We encourage you all to explore the new website and share your thoughts with us. Your feedback is essential as we continue to improve and enhance the site. If you come across any questions, concerns, or issues, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Communications team.

Let's celebrate this milestone together as we continue to strengthen our online presence!

Visit www.tsirc.qld.gov.au

ARE YOU READY?



STORM SEASON

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



On Saturday, February 15, 2025, the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) marked the 40th anniversary of the historic 'Torres Strait Treaty' with a special celebration at the Community Hall on Saibai Island.

This significant milestone commemorated four decades of strong partnership between the traditional inhabitants of the Torres Strait Islands and the Papua New Guinea Treaty Villages. Signed in 1985, the Torres

Strait Treaty established key maritime boundaries, affirming the sovereignty of both communities and shaping their shared cultural and geopolitical relationship.

The anniversary event was a vibrant celebration of this enduring bond, featuring a variety of cultural performances that showcased the richness and diversity of the Torres Strait region. The highlight of the day was a spectacular performance by

Saibai Island's 'Muyngu Koekaper Dance Team', renowned across the nation for their traditional dances. Additionally, neighbouring treaty villages, united to share in this historic occasion, presenting performances that reflected the deep cultural connections within the community.

As we reflect on the past 40 years, the Torres Strait Treaty remains a symbol of cooperation, respect, and a continued commitment to preserving the sovereignty of both communities. The anniversary served as a powerful reminder of the treaty's importance in fostering peaceful and respectful relations between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

This special celebration not only honoured the past but also looked toward the future, reaffirming the commitment to maintaining these strong relationships for generations to come. TSIRC extends its gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to making this momentous occasion a success.





Ilun Tok

with cr. chelsea Aniba



Empowering Saibai Island and Beyond

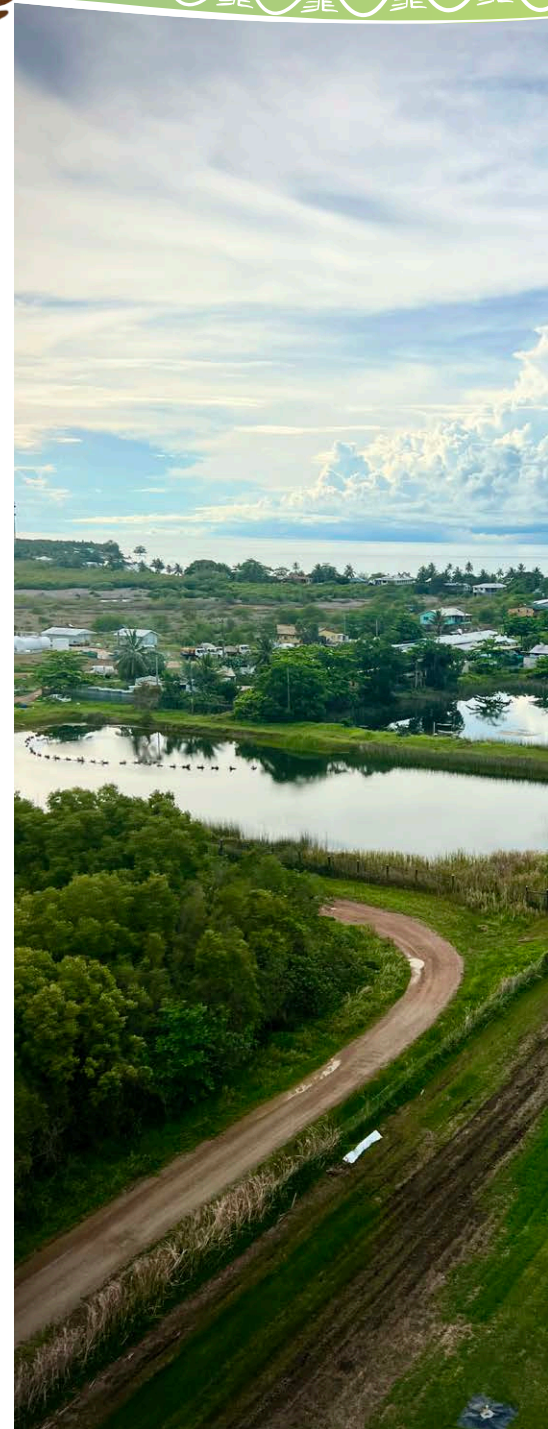
I'm a proud and driven young woman from the Dhoeybaw clan (Wild Yam) of Saibai Island, a leader with over 20 years of experience in governance and a passionate advocate for Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal communities. My ambition to close the gap on social issues, improve services, and create opportunities in business development, home ownership, and native title development has been a defining force in my career. Recently, I made headlines for my advocacy in Melbourne and Parliament, standing up

for my people who are on the frontlines of climate change.

With eight years in radio broadcasting and qualifications in Business, Governance, and Social Housing, I'm now pursuing a Bachelor of Laws to further strengthen my ability to serve my community. My commitment to learning and leadership is also reflected in my participation in the 2019 Australian Rural Leadership Program, sponsored by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA).

I served nearly twelve years on the TSRA board as member for Saibai, gaining invaluable experience in decision-making and empowering islanders. My desire to make a local impact led me to run for Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) in 2012 and 2020, and in 2024, I made history as the first female councillor to represent my home of Saibai island.

My work is deeply rooted in my community, and my leadership continues to inspire positive change across the region, pushing for greater recognition, resources, and resilience for Torres Strait Islanders.



COUNCIL UPDATE

The Operational Plan 2024-2025 outlines Council's objectives and targets for the financial year.

Our work in the 15 communities impacts the well-being and quality of life of those we serve, and we are committed to delivering meaningful outcomes for our communities. The Plan aligns with our strategic priorities in our Corporate Plan, for our communities and Council to be **autonomous, prosperous and sustainable**.

A report presented to Council at January's ordinary meeting highlighted the significant progress of the Operational Plan 2024-2025, with 47 of 59 objectives in progress and three already complete within the first six months. The Plan can be viewed at your local Divisional office or Council's website.



yumi ilun Business

YUMI ILUN YARN



LISA LUI, FASHION DESIGNER

Honouring heritage and keeping the fire burning

Lisa Lui is a proud Dauareb woman and fashion designer from the Eastern Torres Strait. She captivated audiences at the 2024 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) fashion performance with her abstract art collection 'Nener.'

My journey as an artist began at a very young age, deeply influenced by my parents and family. Art has always been an integral part of our lives, we use it to express ourselves, tell stories, and stay connected to our culture. From early on, I discovered a passion for creativity and began exploring drawing and painting as a hobby.

My work is a reflection of my identity, blending contemporary techniques with traditional design. Each piece I create tells a story, a deep connection between the land, the sea, and my people.

I am passionate about preserving and promoting Torres Strait Islander culture. Through exhibitions, workshops, and community engagement, I share my knowledge and passion, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their roots.

Art has always captivated me. Growing up, I was inspired by other Indigenous artists and the way they told their stories through their work. However, it wasn't until a few years ago that I decided to take my art seriously. I enrolled in vocational education through TAFE to pursue a Diploma of Visual Arts, and the moment I committed to my craft, new opportunities started to unfold.

One of the most incredible opportunities came in 2024 when I was selected to showcase my collection, 'Nener', as a designer in the CIAF Fashion Show. This experience sparked a newfound interest in exploring the fashion industry as another platform for my art.

Looking ahead, my long-term goal is to continue developing my art and expanding its reach across different formats and platforms, including fashion. I want my designs to tell stories, celebrate culture, and inspire others—whether through paintings, textiles, or clothing.

This journey is just beginning, and I'm excited for what's to come.



**Lisa's 'Nener' collection on the runway at the CIAF Fashion Show in 2024.*



Kai Kai CORNER



**TSIRC staff member Denise Stephen and her family.*

SHEPHERD PIE RECIPE

by Denise Stephen

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 brown onions
- 2 cups of mixed frozen veggies
- 1 kg of beef mince
- 2 tbsp cornflour, blended
- 1 400g can crushed tomato
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 500ml beef stock
- 6 potatoes, peeled, chopped
- 1 golden sweet potato, peeled, chopped
- 50g butter
- 1/2 cup milk

Instructions:

- Heat oil in large saucepan over medium-high heat.
- Add onions and frozen veggies and cook for 2 minutes or until soft.
- Add beef mince and cook, stirring to break up any lumps for 3 minutes or until beef changes colour.
- Add crushed tomatoes, soy sauce, blended corn flour and stock, bring to boil. Reduce heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 20 minutes or until sauce thickens.
- Meanwhile, cook potatoes and sweet potatoes in a saucepan of salted boiling water for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain Well. Return to the pan with butter and mash with masher. Stir in milk until combined.
- Preheat oven to 200c. Spoon beef mince mixture into a 4 litre (28x33cm) capacity baking dish. Top with mashed potatoes. Bake in oven for 20mins or until mashed potatoes is golden brown.



*Matha nice!!
Enjoy!!*

wok clostoon wer council

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