

MURA BADULGAL (TSI) RNTBC NEWSLETTER



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ISSUE 2

Welcome to the second issue of Mura Badulgal (TSI) RNTBC newsletter. We are already in February and so far it has been a crazy year. Before we know it the Easter bunny will be here.

Before Christmas we were given a date by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to host the DOGIT transfer celebrations on 1 February 2014. During this short time a Handover committee was established to plan and prepare this day. Despite the gloomy weather it did not dampen our spirits and we would like to thank the committee (Solomon Ahmat, Barry Nona, Dick Williams, Leah Reuben, Troy Stow, Joel Morseu, Lily Ahmat, Josie Ahmat, Cr Horace Baira, Michael Laza, Eccles Ahmat, Marie Nona and Eddie Nona) and all those involved in making this historic and significant day a success. Special mention to our contributors in particular the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Seaswift, Jamie Yorkston and My Pathways. The volunteers who offered their valuable time Matlida Nona, Young Enosa, My Pathway participants, Paul Tomsana, Bishop Tolowa Nona, Singers and Dancers of Badu Island Dance Team, Nancy Nona, Elsie Ahmat, Tupoa Ahmat, Harry Newie, Sarah Gaidan, Wai-kup Morseu, Aiona Morseu, Elizabeth Hosea, Bernie Joe, Willy Baira, Johnny Baira, Palen Kris, Brad Pabai, TSRA Mura Badulgal Rangers, Horace Nona and all those who assisted with the hunting, cooking and amai.

We would also like to thank the entertainers and dance team who travelled to Badu to share this day with us, Bobby Kaigey, Harry Lui, George Musu, Dauan Dance Team, TI/Meriams Dance Team and Thawia Dance Team. We would also like to thank the Queensland Police Service for visiting and providing a safe and secure environment, Sergeant Conrad Vanedmond, Senior Constable Patricia Pedro and Police Liaison Officer Connie Pedro.

There are so many people to thank and acknowledge and if we have missed your name it is with deep regret by you know who you are. It was so good to see everyone pulling together as one community to make this happen and it was also pleasing to see families from near and far, return home to witness this momentous occasion.

Photos of the event will be made available through the Mura Badulgal website which is still being developed and will be made public soon.

Where to from here for Mura Badulgal? Well firstly the board needs to establish an asset register which will include all buildings that we will have to property manage, that is, all aspects of maintenance like insurance, service charges and of course the collection of rents. Negotiations will need to take place with key stakeholders so that leases are in place between the Lessee and Mura Badulgal. No doubt it's going to be a hectic time for Mura Badulgal but it's also about Badu moving forward to self management of its land.

Koeyma Eso

The Directors

Random Facts

- The name Dugong originated from the Malaysian term 'duyung', meaning lady of the sea or mermaid. Dugongs, also popularly called the 'Sea Cow'.
- Found in the grasslands of South Australia is a parrot called the Mulga Parrot.
- Rice is a symbol of life and fertility, which is why rice was traditionally thrown at weddings.
- The word 'goodbye' came from 'God Bye' which from 'God be with you'.



Future of Badulgal accepting the Deed of Grant
in Trust

WHATS COMING UP?

Department of Natural Resources and Mines will be visiting Badu on 19—20 February 2014 to provide information to the RNTBC (in their role as trustee of Badu Island) about the process for issuing leases to people who hold valid lease entitlements under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013*. These are more commonly known as “Katter Leases”. The leases are ultimately issued by the Minister of Department of Natural Resources Mines, and the RNTBC has a role and responsibility in relation to his process.

In the near future Lease Entitlement Notices will be released to advise those individual people of their lease entitlement, and a Trustee Area Notice will also be sent to the RNTBC so that the community can be advised.

UPCOMING MEETINGS?

An information session will be held on Wednesday, 19 February at the public hall from 2pm—3pm. Purpose is to provide general information on the next steps for the Land Holding Act Lease Entitlements. We urge all interested community members to attend.



Photos from the Handover Ceremony—Courtesy of Christine Yorkston

GET TO KNOW YOUR DIRECTORS



Laurie Nona has lived on Badu Island all of his life. Laurie is currently employed at the Badu Art Centre as the Art Centre Manager. Laurie has been a member of this board for over 8 years, not including this term.

Laurie is passionate about the way of life and the future of Badu. Laurie feels it's important and vital that traditions and cultures are upheld for future generations as the youth today are the future of this community.

Laurie is the youngest member of the board and he brings youth and a different perspective to the board and he also advocates on behalf of the youths. Laurie listens and learns from the board and during his 8 years this has been a learning experience for him and has assisted him to develop as a person. His personal belief is that 'we must protect and preserve our identity as that makes us who we are through our culture, dance, language and traditions'. Laurie is a realist and he won't sugar coat things and if he doesn't know something then he doesn't know.

Laurie's own personal belief is to 'adapt to overcome anything' and he also believes that the people of Badu's issues and concerns come firstly and everyone else is second but done respectfully so that everyone can live harmoni-