

## Media Release **No.469**

**For release: 12 September 2012**

### **TSRA RANGERS ATTEND NATIONAL INDIGENOUS RANGER CONFERENCE**

Eight Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Rangers representing six Torres Strait communities attended a national Indigenous Rangers Conference in the North East Queensland coastal town of Cardwell this month.

The three day conference saw Indigenous Rangers from across the Torres Strait, Queensland and the Northern Territory come together for three days of discussion, presentations, hands on learning, dance, song and fishing.

The TSRA Chairperson, John ‘Toshie’ Kris, said the Conference was a great opportunity for Rangers to mix with their counterparts from other parts of the country.

“The Conference represented a valuable opportunity for Torres Strait Rangers to meet with other Indigenous Rangers and share their experiences of this challenging, critical work.”

“It allows Rangers to share culture, to hear the struggles and problems different groups face and best of all to hear about the solutions which have been put in place to deal with land and sea management challenges.”

Mr Kris said that the Conference reinforced the importance of the Ranger’s roles and enhanced their understanding of the size and scope of the Indigenous Ranger sector.

“The experience of sitting together with people with the same passion for their traditional country shows the TSRA Rangers that they are part of something much bigger, a national movement of people just like them, working hard to look after, preserve and protect their lands, tradition and culture.”

Organised by Girringun Aboriginal Corporation and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, the annual Conference was attended by more than 100 people.

Girringun Ranger Coordinator, Matt Gillis, said while some Ranger groups deal solely with land management issues, the majority of attendees had responsibility for both land and sea country.

Mr Gillis said that sea country management – including the management of turtle, dugong, fisheries, dolphins and seagrass - was an important part of coastal Ranger work.

The TSRA Rangers who attended the Conference included Ranger Supervisor Troy Stow, Badu; Senior Ranger Francis Nai, Masig; Ranger Loice Naawie, Masig; Ranger Edna Nai, Masig; Senior Ranger

Tenny Elisala, Dauan; Ranger David Baragud, Iama; Ranger Aaron Ketchell, Erub and Ranger Noel Baker, Ugar.



Caption: Iama Ranger, David Baragud (left) and Masig Senior Ranger, Francis Nai, take on details at one of the workshops run during the national conference.

**ENDS**

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