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TORRES STRAIT LEADERS GRADUATE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

Another two Torres Strait Island leaders have graduated to become Fellows of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF) and have received a Graduate Certificate of Australian Rural Leadership awarded by the James Cook University.

Mr John Mosby from Masig and Mr Torres Webb from Erub, join five previous graduates from the region who have completed the 79 days for tuition in six blocks over 18 months. The course included an overseas study tour to India

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, John Toshie Kris, who was the region's second graduate, congratulated Mr Mosby and Mr Webb.

"It is very rewarding to see both established and emerging community leaders benefit from the course which is heavily focused on the development of leadership skills.

"I found those skills extremely helpful during my terms as Chairperson of the TSRA and I strongly supported a TSRA sponsorship with the ARLF to deliver leadership training for Indigenous people from the Torres Strait region.

"The first three graduates were sponsored by external agencies but we quickly realised the benefits of the program and sponsorship though the TSRA has been in place since 2009.

"The ARLF is one of Australia's leading organisations in the development of remote and rural leaders and the program works towards improving the capacity of remote and rural leaders to engage, contribute and effectively address challenges in their communities, industry or political arena."

Mr Webb, who works as a TSRA Ranger on Erub Island, has been extensively involved in youth affairs. Before he attended the ARLF course, Torres represented the region as a member of the Oxfam Torres Strait Islander Reference Group and Queensland Youth Parliament. Torres has also been sponsored by the TSRA to present a paper on Climate Change and Environmental Issues at a youth forum in the Philippines.

"Throughout course the networking opportunities were amazing" Mr Webb said.

"The course provided a platform to meet, develop friendships, partnerships and work on issues facing rural Australia and I do not think I would have had the same opportunity any other way.

"The program was second to none, challenging my thinking, broadening my understanding of issues and developing my personal effectiveness as an aspiring young leader for my people in the Torres Strait."

Mr Mosby, a Torres Strait Island Regional Council Divisional Manager for the Masig community, said the resources and tools he developed on the course had helped him to gain a better appreciation of the Torres Strait as a frontier region and its place in the broader world.

“We were exposed to big social issues on visits to mainland cities and while we don’t have issues like homelessness and street kids in the Torres Strait, it impressed on me the need to look more closely at our own issues.

“The course also taught me that if you want to be a good and true leader, the power to engage with people is very important when you are making decisions that affect their lives.

“I believe I was very blessed to be in one of the top course groups and I am very grateful to the TSRA for sponsoring the course and the foundation for organising it,” Mr Mosby said.

The TSRA administers a number of leadership capacity building initiatives targeting youth, upcoming leaders and people already in leadership positions. If you would like to find out more about TSRA’s leadership development opportunities, please contact the TSRA on (07) 4069 0700.



Caption: ARLF graduates Torres Webb (left) and John Mosby at the ARLF graduation in Launceston.

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