

## Media Release **No. 537**

### For immediate release

#### TAGAI COLLEGE CAMPUSES RECOGNISED FOR REEF STEWARDSHIP

Students and teachers at the Badu and Erub campuses of Tagai State College have done their communities proud after being recognised at the Annual Awards of the Reef Guardian Schools program.

Reef Guardians is a program of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. As the Great Barrier Reef extends into Torres Strait, so too does Reef Guardians.

The program recognises the good environmental work undertaken by communities and industries to protect the Great Barrier Reef, including work that has direct or indirect benefits for the Reef.

TSRA Chairman, Joseph Elu, says the awards are a great achievement given that 308 schools, 8,218 teachers and over 123,000 students take part in the program across Queensland.

“We are very proud of the students involved and of the partnership between the TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit and Tagai College”, he said.

“Badu campus was the winner of the \$1,000 Action and Adventures Award.

“Students designed and built a garden on bare sand that has now yielded more than eight kilograms of corn, seven kilograms of cucumber, and nine kilograms of watermelon.

“The students are learning that any food that can be produced at school or at home reduces their carbon footprint through needing less food transported to the Island.”

Mr Elu said that the gardens have taught the students many things such as teamwork, leadership and planning, but mostly it has demonstrated that by growing some of their own fruit and vegetables, less cargo has to come by sea to Badu to be purchased by their families.

“Erub campus was the winner of the \$500 Ripples of Change Award.

“Students aimed to improve the school’s edible gardens by adding more worms to the worm farm, buying more seeds and adding chickens to the new chook pen.”

Mr Elu praised the ongoing partnership arrangement between TSRA and Tagai College that supports the Sustainable Horticulture program and congratulated George Saveka and Tim Hillier for their leadership.



Caption: Student Zjahndalee Nona at Badu campus plays hide and seek in the corn grown within their garden.



Caption: Student Kanumi Nona at Badu campus shows off some of the food grown in the garden.



Caption: School leaders of Darnley campus, Akausher Savage and Steven Sailor, accepts the Ripples of Change grant to go towards helping them to expand their garden project.



Caption: Andrew Denzin, Project Manager GBRMPA, presents (from left) School Head of Campus Darnley, Janet Purje and student leaders Steven Sailor and Akausher Savage with a Ripples of Change project of help go towards implementing new sustainability projects in 2014.

**ENDS**

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