

## Media Release **No. 514**

**For release: 2 September 2013**

### **COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE AS THIRD TSRA RANGER BOAT GOES INTO SERVICE**

Two Torres Strait Central group communities have gathered together to welcome into service the latest Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Ranger patrol boat.

The six metre Malu Urui is the third Ranger patrol boat to be blessed for operations. The Malu Urui will support Ranger activities on Iama and Warraber Islands.

Almost two hundred people from the Iama and Warraber communities gathered at the Iama Island wharf for the coconut breaking by Mrs Seai Warria and the blessing by Pastor Nelson Billy.

Guest speakers during the ceremony included the TSRA Member for Iama and Torres Strait Islands Regional Councillor, Mr Getano Lui, the Wakeyama Prescribed Body Corporate Chair, Mr Ned David and Warraber Elder, Mr Harold Pearson. The welcome to country was delivered by Traditional Owner, Mr Christopher Baluz.

The TSRA Acting Chairperson, Mr Aven S. Noah, said the Ranger boat roll out across the Torres Strait was now approaching the half way mark. The next boats will be delivered to Saibai and Mabuig Islands.

“The first of the boats was blessed on Badu Island twelve months ago and the second on Boigu earlier this year so we are being very thorough with this process.

“We all know the sea can be a hostile environment and nothing is being left to chance in making sure that the boats going into service are seaworthy and ultimately safe for the crews.”

New boats will also be based at Erub and Mer making a total of seven patrol boats supporting both land and sea activities for the Rangers in the Torres Strait.



Caption: Iama and Warraber community members gather for a procession to the Iama Island wharf blessing site



Caption: Mrs Seai Warria, assisted by Rangers Ned David and Laura Pearson, prepares to reveal the name of the new boat.



Caption: Felemina Kebisu provided drum and vocal support for the dancers.



Caption: Thaiwa dance team members performed at the blessing.



Caption: Thaiwa dance team members perform the comet dance.



Caption: Pastor Nelson Billy blesses the Malu Urui.



Caption: Members of the official party and Rangers at the blessing.



Caption: A plaque with the badges of all TSRA Ranger groups presented by Operations Manager, Mark Anderson, to Getano Lui and David Baragud.

**ENDS**

**TSRA Media Coordinator, Ken Orr. (07) 40690718 or 0448 005207**