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TSIMA 4 MW Looks to a bright future as the Voice of the Torres Strait

A new Torres Strait Islander Media Association (TSIMA) Management Committee has adopted as its top priority establishing 4MW as the Voice of the Torres Strait.

Highly respected educator, Margaret Cowley, is the President of the Management Committee elected at the TSIMA annual general meeting.

Other board members include Ivy Trevallion, Treasurer; Mavis Bani ,Secretary; Sylvia Tabua, Vice President with Directors, Gladys Nawia , Near Western; Frank Faud, Central Cluster; John Noah, Eastern Cluster and Patricia Mooka, Top Western.

The board is actively seeking to fill the vacant positions on Badu and in the NPA.

Ms Cowley said the new board had accepted the challenge of redeveloping 4MW as the broadcast voice the Torres Strait after several difficult years.

“As most Islanders will be aware, 4MW has experienced some difficulties over the past few years.

“Our challenge is to re-establish our much loved 4MW as the broadcast voice of the people of the Torres Strait.

“A major review of the station, its role and its future is well underway and people will soon start to hear our commitment transformed into more relevant local programs and greater community involvement.”

Ms Cowley welcomed the ongoing support of the Torres Strait Regional Authority, which has funded the association for more than 20 years, after a review of TSIMA identified concerns about support for island community broadcasting.

Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairperson, Toshie Kris, congratulated the new board and voiced his support for the newly elected Members.

“While there are significant challenges to be faced by the new board, I believe TSIMA is in capable hands under the Presidency of Margaret Cowley and her fellow Directors.

“The TSRA is committed to supporting 4MW and regional broadcasting.

“We are also working with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to explore options to get all of the 14 island based remote indigenous Broadcast service stations operating again.

“We have four stations currently operating and hope to double that number in the next 12 months.

“Eventually they will all be transmitting and Radio 4 MW will play an important role in both supplying and broadcasting local content.”

Mr Kris said some of the proposals under consideration by TSIMA were “visionary” and “exciting”.

“Of particular interest is the establishment of 4MW as a centre of learning for those in the Torres Strait community wishing to pursue a career in broadcast media.”

The TSRA is also assisting the TSIMA Board of Management with financial management and governance issues.

An accountancy firm has been appointed to assist with the management of the significant grant funding provided to TSIMA each year.

The TSRA has also commissioned a forensic audit of TSIMA’s accounting records.

“We want the new TSIMA Board of Management to be able to start off with a clean sheet of paper,” Mr Kris said.

Ms Cowley said the new Management Committee had unanimously agreed that honesty, integrity and transparency would be the guiding principles for the management of 4MW and that accountability would be a cornerstone of TSIMA future operations.

ENDS

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