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TSRA LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT RANGERS VISIT WARUL KAWA

A team of Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Land and Sea Management Rangers have completed an environmental management trip to one of the most remote Torres Strait islands.

The team was accompanied by Traditional Owners and scientists on the visit to the Warul Kawa Indigenous Protected Area to undertake management activities, scientific and cultural surveys.

Warul Kawa (Deliverance Island) is a remote and uninhabited sand cay in the north west of the Torres Strait and one of 51 declared Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) in Australia.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said the IPAs were designed to integrate Indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge with contemporary protected area management practices.

“The team undertook fauna and cultural heritage surveys, collecting information on the location of cultural sites and the condition of flora and fauna using both western and traditional techniques.

“The Rangers also carried out other environmental management activities including removal of marine debris and maintenance of a shelter and installation of a water tank.

“Tagging of nesting and foraging turtles also took place, throughout the week long trip.”

Mr Elu, said the visit to was an opportunity for the Rangers to experience a site of very high cultural significance.

“Warul Kawa and the surrounding seas are culturally significant areas for Traditional Owners across the Torres Strait, particularly people from the communities of Boigu, Dauan, Badu, Mabuig and Saibai.

“TSRA Rangers from each of these community’s ranger groups participated in the visit.” he said.



Caption: Mabuygiw Ranger David Amber, from Mabuiag Island, prepares a turtle for tagging off Warul Kawa. (High resolution image available)

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