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NEW TSRA LAND AND SEA RANGERS TO WORK WITH SIX COMMUNITIES

Twelve new Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Land and Sea Rangers have started work in the Torres Strait.

The newly appointed Rangers will build on the successes of the Ranger Program and the Turtle and Dugong Officers to implement the community based Turtle and Dugong Management Plans, control pests, weeds and feral animals and manage fire risks.

They will work in the communities of Dauan, Saibai, Ugar, Masig, Poruma and Warraber.

The new recruits include three female Rangers from the communities of Warraber and Masig.

Only three women have taken up positions as Rangers since the program started in 2008.

TSRA Chairperson, Mr John 'Toshie' Kris, said the three new female recruits were a welcome addition to the 31 men who make up the remainder of the Ranger team.

"It's great to see women taking on Land and Sea Ranger roles and I encourage all Torres Strait residents, men and women to consider becoming Rangers," Mr Kris said.

The Land and Sea Ranger Program, managed by the TSRA's Land and Sea Management Unit employs 33 Rangers across the Torres Strait, all of who will complete Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management in the near future.

Recruitment is underway to fill seven more Ranger and three trainee Ranger positions.

Mr Kris said the expansion of the Ranger program indicated the value of the Rangers' contribution to the Torres Strait community.

"The Rangers are working with communities to implement the management plans the communities themselves have devised combining Western Science and Traditional Owner priorities.

"This kind of program ticks all the boxes, including building skills and training in communities to manage land and sea country and promoting cultural and conservation awareness.

"I'm proud to welcome the new Rangers on board."

The new Rangers began work on Monday 27 February.



Caption: New Rangers (from left to right): Aken Baragud, Noel Baker, Keri Akiba, Loice Naawi, Karl Tabuai, Laura Pearson, Kevin Levi, Herbert Warusum, Desmond David, Edna Nai, Francis Nai, Tenni Elisala.

(Higher resolution image available if required)

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