



Issue 49 – 22 April 2024

In this issue:

Welcome Message

Latest News

- Cocos receives stamp of approval from Australia Post
- Museum staff return to Cocos
- Honouring our brave police officers
- An Ace visit from Volleyball Western Australia
- IOT taking flight with Virgin Australia's new marketing and publicity campaign

Community Bulletins

- Air Services Tender

Community Activities

- Dawn Service Cocos Keeling Islands
- Dawn Service Christmas Island

Job Opportunities

- Cleaner CKI

Community Announcements

- Mother's Day Event
 - Tourism Survey
 - Outdoor Cinema programme
-



Welcome Message

Eid Mubarak to all who celebrated Hari Raya Aidilfitri. I hope you were able to share this time with those you love, and may the blessings, peace and happiness this time brings continues throughout the year.

This edition of the newsletter is a special one, as it coincides with a number of important events for our community.

I am excited to be on Cocos from 23-30 April as the community celebrates the 40th anniversary of the 1984 referendum where 88% of Cocos Islanders voted in favour of integrating with Australia.

The decision to integrate with Australia all those years ago changed the future for Cocos – and opened the door to a partnership between the Cocos community and the Australian Government which has delivered so many gains for both.

And through it all, the traditions of the Cocos Malay have remained the beating heart of your remarkable community – whose identity and culture continue with each passing generation.

I encourage everyone to attend and get involved in all the great events which are part of this four-day celebration of a defining moment in the history of the Cocos Islands. The Australian Government is supporting the celebrations not only through a range of activities delivered by WA state agency partners but also with an additional air freighter and ferry services.

25 April also marks ANZAC Day, with our communities honouring the day with traditional Dawn Services on Christmas and Cocos Islands.

The Dawn Service is a time for the community to come together to honour the courage, sacrifice and legacy of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and to reflect on the role our own communities have played in our country's military heritage.

For details on both services, please see the notices further on in this newsletter.

Following my time on Cocos, I will then travel to Perth for meetings with key stakeholders on a range of issues including emergency management, flights and freight.

I look forward to seeing many of you during the upcoming events, as we celebrate, honour and reflect on the past and present of our remarkable communities.

If you would like to find out more about anything in the newsletter or you would like a hardcopy, please contact my office. Let us know if you want us to include your upcoming community event or activity in the newsletter. Stories (including photos) about recent IOT community events are very welcome and can be emailed to IOTAdministrator@infrastructure.gov.au.

Farzian Zainal

Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Latest News

Cocos receives stamp of approval from Australia Post



In honour of the 40th Anniversary of the Act of Self Determination for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Australia Post is releasing new stamps to commemorate this significant occasion.

Two stamps will be available to the public from 7 May, with both stamps specifically designed to reflect Cocos

Malay history and the historic vote. The stamps will be available online from the Australia Post website: [Shop Collectables Stamp Issues Online \(auspost.com.au\)](https://auspost.com.au/Shop/Collectables/Stamp-Issues-Online)

The first stamp design represents both the Jukong, the traditional sea craft of the Cocos Islanders, and the number 40, representing the forty years since the referendum took place.

The second design is based on the original ballot paper for the 1984 referendum. Voters were encouraged to vote on one of three diagrammatic options.

The first, representing complete independence of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, showed a single figure in traditional Cocos Malay dress.

The second, representing integration with Australia, depicted two figures arm in arm, as shown on the stamp, one in Cocos Malay dress, the other in Australian European dress.

The third diagram, which indicated free association with Australia, showed the two figures standing side by side without touching.

Museum staff return to Cocos

WA Museum's Manager, Special Projects, Tim Eastwood will be on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands from 16 to 30 April continuing the delivery of projects identified as important to the community.

In time for the Act of Self Determination 40th anniversary celebrations, the Home Island Museum will be receiving an internal make-over with improvements to display material and hanging space to enhance the visitor experience.

In February 2024, as part of the Jukong Restoration Project, Cocos Elder Nek Callum commenced restoration works on the *Lantar Pujeh*, one of the smallest boats. Nek Su will be providing his metal working expertise in the fabrication of hardware and trims for the jukongs, commencing later this month.

An open day at the Chula Shed has been planned for 27 April to enable residents and visitors to see the

restoration works in progress. Five historic boats have been relocated to the shed for the purpose of protection and ongoing preservation. Time-lapse photography is also in place to enable a documentary record of this important conservation program to be captured.

Throughout the project, young people can benefit from the Elders sharing their knowledge, expertise and skills.

The jukung restoration project is a collaborative effort between the WA Museum through Australian Government funding and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

A brochure is also being prepared by WA Museum to capture a timeline history of Cocos through to the Act of Self Determination 40th anniversary. Collation of content and images for the brochure is under way. When finalised, printed copies of the brochure will be distributed to all CKI residents, including a Cocos-Malay translation. Visitors will also be able to collect the brochure from the Home Island Museum, as well as a digital version available online to download. Further details on the brochure will be included in my next newsletter.

Honouring our brave police officers



On 18 April, I was privileged to present three Australian Federal Police officers with citations for their roles in the rescue of a man who was swept out to sea from Lily Beach last year.

Five officers were included in the Foundation Day Honours List for their involvement in the rescue, with

Detective Leading Senior Constable Erin McEwan and Constable Charlee Hopkins, having since moved away from Christmas Island.

I was very pleased to be able to present the remaining three officers with their citations, in a ceremony at the Christmas Island Police Station. Special Member Dylan McNamara was awarded the Commissioner's Group Citation for Bravery. This award recognises an act of bravery, with an officer risking their own safety to save or protect another person.

Leading Constable Tay Yeow and Constable Braidee Bell were awarded the Commissioner's Group Citation for Conspicuous Conduct, which honours individuals who have shown outstanding dedication to their duties, demanding tenacity of the highest order.

I'd like to thank the AFP officers involved in the rescue for their selfless and dedicated actions. Thank you for your service and to all AFP officers who play an invaluable role in keeping our community safe.

An Ace visit from Volleyball Western Australia

Aspiring volleyball players, coaches, umpires, and those just looking for a fun activity – were some of the lucky Christmas and Cocos Island residents who took part in a recent series of volleyball workshops, community, and school sessions led by Perth Steel captain and Level 2-State Coach Shelby Maher.

Between 27 February and 8 March 2024, Coach Maher delivered numerous volleyball sessions to the local schools and communities on Christmas and Cocos Islands, with opportunities for children and adults to learn and participate.

"It's exciting to see the kids embrace the sport in their community and make it an inclusive environment for everyone," Coach Maher said.

While on island, Ms Maher interacted with more than 400 volleyballers including students ranging from Pre-Primary to Year 12, parents, schoolteachers, volleyball coaches, and local Shire representatives.

Two of the main sessions delivered at the Christmas Island District High School were to the school's

representative teams, who have a long-standing commitment to the sport.

Both boys and girls won the A-Division School Sport WA Country Championships in 2023, with the boys winning it for the fourth consecutive time.

“The students have great talent to offer, and I can’t wait to see them show off those skills at Country School’s Cup coming up in June” detailed Shelby, whose expertise on the island was helpful in their preparation for the 2024 competition, where both teams are favourites to take the championship once again!

“Volleyball WA would like to thank our government funding partners for the chance to support these initiatives. We are grateful for the opportunities to engage communities with volleyball at various levels, and we hope to inspire a love for the sport and encourage individuals of all backgrounds to come together and enjoy the benefits of physical activity and teamwork,” said Robyn Kuhl, CEO of Volleyball WA.

The services provided by the DLGSC in the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) are delivered in partnership with the Australian Government through federal funding support.

Additionally, Volleyball WA extends thanks to local partners who facilitate these annual visits, including Cocos Islands District High School, Christmas Island District High School, Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Shire of Christmas Island, and Christmas Island Recreation Centre.



IOT taking flight with Virgin Australia’s new marketing and publicity campaign

Anyone who has been fortunate enough to live or work on Cocos, or to have visited the islands is well aware that – with her warm, crystal clear waters and picturesque white sand beaches – this tropical paradise is one of Australia’s best kept secrets.

Now, thanks to Virgin Australia, working hand in hand with the Christmas Island and Cocos Island tourism bodies, new web content has been launched to showcase what our beautiful part of the world has to offer.

Part of Virgin’s commitment to promoting the Islands, the initiatives have commenced with a focus on Cocos and will also include Christmas Island.

From an article listing the top six things to do on the islands, to a dedicated destination page and a feature on Virgin Australia’s travel inspiration page – the secret is out that Cocos offers a unique experience for adventurers, nature lovers, history buffs and people just looking to escape the hustle and fast pace of city life.

We will keep the community informed as Virgin Australia continues to roll out its promotion of our extraordinary region.

The Australian Government is supporting travel to the IOT with VARA scheduling an additional full circuit flight on 29 June to support the mid-year school holiday period.

Click on the link and see the new Virgin Australia campaign to put Cocos on the map for prospective tourists: [Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands](#)





Air Services

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is approaching the market to secure an air services partner to deliver regular passenger and freight transport services to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

With Virgin Australia's current contract reaching the end of its term in late 2025, the Australian Government is required to re-approach the market for the provision of air services to the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT).

The request for tender (RFT), which is now open, was informed by consultation with the IOT community through a comprehensive survey of air services conducted in the second half of 2023.

Airfare and pricing, service reliability, seat availability, baggage limits and speed of recovery services were identified as key priorities by the community.

The RFT will seek proposals to deliver both passenger and air freight services to the IOT for a period of five years, with two possible two-year extension options.

The procurement of an air service partner is a priority for the Australian Government which provides significant investment in underwriting air services to the IOT.

The RFT closes at 12pm (EST), 14 June 2024. For more information about the RFT, visit [Austender.gov.au](https://austender.gov.au).

Adam Stankevicius, Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

2024



Location:
West Island War Memorial
at Administration Building

Date:
Thursday, 25th April

Time:
Arrive from 5:15am
For a 5:30am Start

*Gunfire Breakfast at
Cocos Club after service*

LEST WE FORGET



ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

Join the Christmas Island community as we come together to honour the courage, sacrifice and legacy of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Bus - 4:15am - 5:00am

Walkers - 5:00am - 5:25am

Please be at Tai Jin House at 5:30am or earlier.

Dawn Service begins at 5:35am

Breakfast to follow service

25 April at 5.30am

Tai Jin House



Job Opportunities



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



Cleaner - Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Part Time Ongoing Vacancies

Package includes:

- Base salary of between \$68,198 to \$64,098 per annum
- Employer contribution to superannuation at 16% of base salary
- District Allowance payable in addition to base salary
- Generous leave entitlements
- Annual return airfares assistance to Perth

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking motivated, professional and suitably qualified persons to join our team as Cleaners within the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) based on Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The IOTHS delivers a primary and acute health care service in two of Australia's most remote and most spectacular settings - Christmas Island (CI) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI). IOTHS includes a 24 hour eight bed hospital and primary care facility on CI and clinics on Home and West Islands in the CKI. The IOTHS is committed to "Working with our communities to keep us healthy for the whole of our lives".

The key responsibilities of the Cleaner CKI are to provide a high quality cleaning service to the health clinics on Home Island and West Island.

Our ideal candidate will have previous cleaning experience and familiarity with associated equipment the demonstrated ability to organise work and time priorities efficiently with limited supervision and knowledge of infection control standards and how they apply to a health care environment. Further, the successful candidate will have experience with maintaining confidentiality and working in sensitive environments and a demonstrated knowledge of Work Health and Safety requirements specific to the required work environment.

Applicants with a Certificate II in Cleaning, basic computer literacy, understanding of safe manual handling techniques, and the ability to communicate effectively in Cocos Malay and/or in cross cultural contexts will be well regarded.

Further, the successful applicant will also hold a current Western Australian Working With Children Check, be required to provide proof of vaccination or immunity as required by the IOTHS and be subject to a health assessment and pre-employment screening.

For an application pack outlining how you can apply for this opportunity, please contact the IOTA Human Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au and quote position number 109058.

Applications close 4pm Christmas Island local time (CXT)(UTC+7), Monday 29 April 2024.

Community Announcements



Christmas Island Women's Association

MOTHER'S DAY

Special Night Out

SAT **11** MAY

6-8 PM at LeCLA

Join us for a special evening and treat yourself to a delicious buffet dinner, entertainment, games and more!

Special gift for all moms
(registration required, details on ticket)

Ticket available at \$50 per person.

Special Price Ticket

\$25 for WA Seniors Card holder
and children under 12 years old.
Free for children under 4 years old



What is the future of tourism on Christmas Island?

This is the opportunity for locals to direct Christmas Island tourism development.

Have your say at: business.uq.edu.au/iottourism

Any queries to: noreen.breakey@uq.edu.au



Start your sustainability journey now in just 2 steps

Every tourism business (restaurants, accommodation, tours, retail, and transport) has a role to play to protect the environment and community that they rely on.

Step 1: Download the sustainability toolkit

For sustainable tourism ideas, local and national examples and a 'how to' sustainability checklist.

Step 2: Start the Strive 4 Sustainability scorecard

In less than a day, complete and receive recognition against global standards with a personalised feedback report to improve and a scorecard to display to guests.



Limited free scorecards available for IOT businesses thanks to a Parks Australia grant.



This postcard is made from compostable paper.

Christmas Island Outdoor Cinema



Late changes will be posted on the Roundabout Blackboard and [Facebook](#).

Adults \$ 5.00

School aged children 3 to 17 years old \$2.00



Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (PG)

SATURDAY - 27 April, 7.30pm

When the discovery of an ancient artifact unleashes an evil force, Ghostbusters new and old must join forces to protect their home and save the world from a second ice age.



Anyone But You (MA15+)

SATURDAY - 4th May, 7.30pm

After an amazing first date, Bea and Ben's fiery attraction turns ice-cold--until they find themselves unexpectedly reunited at a wedding in Australia. So they do what any two mature adults would do: pretend to be a couple.



Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (M)

SATURDAY - 11th May, 7.30pm

Two ancient titans, Godzilla and Kong, clash in an epic battle as humans unravel their intertwined origins and connection to Skull Island's mysteries.



Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)

SATURDAY - 18th May, 7.30pm

After Po is tapped to become the Spiritual Leader of the Valley of Peace, he needs to find and train a new Dragon Warrior, while a wicked sorceress plans to re-summon all the master villains whom Po has vanquished to the spirit realm.

Want to sponsor an upcoming movie?

You will receive 2 free passes, special seating, food platter with your favourite nibbles, drinks of your choice and a public announcement on the evening of the movie. We will advertise your company or individual message in the Islander, Facebook Page, on

the world's most remote roundabout and one of the last remaining outdoor Cinema screens. (Your choice of movie and date will be dependent upon availability.)

Volunteers needed for projection, bucket collection and to assist on the Executive Committee.

To become part of this exciting club or enquire about sponsorship, please Email:
cioutdoorcinema@gmail.com
or accounts@cinema.org.cx

Rating information provided by
<http://www.classification.gov.au>.

The Christmas Island Cinema Club is proudly supported by: CiFi, Freightshop, Shire of Christmas Island, Metro Solar and many local sponsors and volunteers.

*** THE CHRISTMAS ISLAND CINEMA IS A SMOKE FREE AREA ***

Haven't subscribed yet?
Subscribe to the next edition here!

SUBSCRIBE 

 **Share**

 **Tweet**

 **Share**

 **Forward**

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Office of the Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

[Unsubscribe](#)