



Issue 50 – 1 June 2024

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter.

The first part of the year has been busy here in the IOT, and the past month has proved no exception – with travel to both Cocos and Perth for a range of important engagements.

I attended the Act of Self Determination Day 40th anniversary celebrations on Cocos at the end of April, and I'd like to thank everyone that helped pull together the fantastic events in honour of the occasion.

Following my time on Cocos, I had a productive visit to the mainland – where I oversaw Virgin Australia Regional Airlines' passenger air services and freight handling, undertook emergency management training and was able to have in-person discussions around future priorities for our region.

You can read more about some of these activities further on in the newsletter.

In welcome news for families dealing with cost-of-living pressures, we saw the announcement of the School Assistance Payments for Christmas and Cocos Islands, which will see hundreds of dollars in financial support provided for students, thanks to the Australian and Western Australian Governments.

If you have school aged children, don't forget to make your claim – the easiest way to make a claim is through the ServiceWA app. If you are unable to claim through the app you can submit a claim online or by sending in a claim form by post. Claims can take up to 30 days.

To find out more, including assistance to download the app and set up your Digital Identity, visit www.wa.gov.au/servicewaapp or www.education.wa.edu.au/wasap

I would also like to acknowledge some personnel changes that have taken place on Christmas Island recently. AFP officer-in-charge (OIC) Detective Sergeant

Shane Mundie has departed the island and has been replaced by incoming OIC Detective Sergeant David Blockley. Detective Sergeant Mundie was only on island for a short time, but helped the community through some challenging times, including the recent damaging storm in March and two rock fall alerts. He also made a significant contribution to our emergency management. On behalf of the community, I would like to thank DS Mundie for his service, and welcome DS Blockley.

After 15 years as the CI Harbour Master, Dave Robertson has finished his time in the role. Dave has always been willing to share his knowledge and expertise with the community, and I would like to thank him for his contributions to Christmas Island. He has dealt with many challenges and has approached them with professionalism and a sense of humour. I'd like to thank Dave for all of his hard work, and I would also like to welcome the new Harbour Master Craig Bramley to the island.

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

Act of Self Determination Day 40th anniversary celebrations



Celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the Act of Self Determination for the Cocos Islands were held at the end of last month. I was able to spend time on Home Island experiencing the rich traditions and culture of Cocos to mark this momentous occasion.

It was fantastic to see a strong turn-out to the events, with young and old alike enjoying the football matches and clinics, as well the performances by visiting music and dance collective Salama Odyssey.

The jukung races were a highlight, with spectators cheering on those involved. Congratulations to the race winners, and to all those who took part.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone involved in putting on these events, in particular the Shire of Cocos Keeling Islands, PKPK, community groups, volunteers, our Western Australian service partners, as well as to the community who supported the celebrations.

Our air services – from the ground, up

During my recent visit to Perth, I had the opportunity to view Virgin Australia Regional Airlines' (VARA) air services operations for the Indian Ocean Territories.

Reliable passenger and freight services are essential for our region so I was pleased to discuss and observe the ways in which VARA and its staff and contractors

run check-in, baggage handling, and freight processes for our region.

This first-hand experience is informing ongoing discussions with VARA about ways to improve baggage and freight handling on the services to Christmas and Cocos Islands.

I was also able to discuss the larger freighter aircraft which is set to begin operation on 14 June this year, with the capacity to carry an additional four to five tonnes of freight per fortnight to the IOT. Another benefit of the larger freighter is a change to Dangerous Goods restrictions, which will make the transport of safety flares by air much easier. The Emergency Management Committees for Christmas and Cocos Islands had previously flagged the importance of community members being able to easily access flares, so this is a welcome development. If you would like more information about the new freighter, you can read the bulletin I released earlier this month: [A09/2024 Improving freight services for Indian Ocean Territories | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

While the new freighter is a fantastic step towards easing some of our most immediate supply chain pressures, it's important to continue to look for further opportunities to improve our freight and passenger air services.

The recent release of the supply chain review – a priority in the IOT RDO 2030 Strategic Regional Plan, puts freight and supply chains front and centre of the agenda for our region, with the report and its recommendations now with the Australian Government for consideration.

We aim to have further information in the coming weeks about how VARA and the Australian Government will seek to continue to monitor and improve air services to the IOT.

The full IOT Supply Chain Review Final Report is available on the RDO website: [Resources - Indian Ocean Territories](#)

A reminder as well that the Australian Government has supported an additional passenger flight on 29 June for

the IOT, so take advantage of this extra service and capacity for your upcoming travel.



Update on CI tower crane replacement project



During a recent visit to Christmas Island by senior staff from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, I hosted a roundtable discussion on the replacement of the Flying Fish Cove tower crane.

The Australian Government is engaging experts to provide technical advice and review documentation that has been previously developed for this project to ensure the replacement crane is fit-for-purpose.

Key stakeholders and port users were involved in the discussion on Christmas Island, with determining and sourcing a suitable replacement crane being the next step for the project.

Careful planning will be undertaken to ensure the efficient delivery of this project with minimal disruption to the crane service. In the meantime, the existing

tower crane underwent minor repairs following the recent severe storm and is operating as normal.

The Department is managing the project and understands the criticality of the crane to the Christmas Island community and stakeholders. Regular updates will be provided to the community as the project is progressed. Please submit any questions regarding this project to the Office of the Administrator on Christmas Island.

Investing in water sustainability on Christmas Island

The final stage of the Christmas Island Summit to Drumsite water main replacement project is expected to commence in 2025-26, with the Australian Government providing \$6.8 million in funding in the 2024 Federal Budget.

Stage one of the water main replacement was successfully completed in 2023 with 4km of water main commencing from the Summit tank being replaced. The replacement of the remaining 1.4km of water main to finalise the connection through to Drumsite tank will help to ensure water sustainability on the island.

Until the final stage is completed, Water Corporation maintains a leak inspection program on the remaining section of main to reduce losses from the community's water supply.

During a recent visit to Christmas Island, Adam Stankevicius, IOT Assistant Secretary took the opportunity to inspect the island's main water source at Jedda Cave located in the National Park. Danielle Scott, Water Corporation's Team Leader Operations Support IOT provided Adam and other departmental representatives with an overview of the water extraction process from Jedda Cave and its treatment to ensure the drinking water the community receives meets Australian water quality guidelines.

The community will be kept informed of the progress of this project through this newsletter, as well as the department's website at [Summit to Drumsite water main replacement | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)



DIGITAL SOLUTIONS
Australian Small Business
Advisory Services
AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Digital Solutions for the IOT

Local businesses across the IOT have the opportunity to take advantage of a suite of services offered by Digital Solutions – an Australian Government initiative that works with small businesses to make the most of digital technology.

For the IOT, the Digital Solutions program is being run by Business Foundations which has a long history of helping small businesses equip themselves with the skills and knowledge they need to start and sustainably grow their businesses.

Free and unlimited workshops

Eligible businesses on Christmas Island and Cocos can access unlimited free workshops offering a range of advice on how to use digital tools to help your business, use websites to sell products online, how to make best use of social media and digital marketing, using software specifically designed for small business, and the best ways to protect your business online – including data privacy.

You can see the upcoming workshops and register through the Digital Solutions website - <https://digitalsolutions.businessfoundations.com.au/workshops/>

Four hours of 1:1 support from a digital expert for only \$110

Businesses can register for a Digital Action Plan to access up to four hours 1:1 support from a digital expert to help them with anything digital in their business. You can find all the details and register here

-

<https://digitalsolutions.businessfoundations.com.au/digital-action-plan/>

Business Foundations will be working closely with the IOT RDO and other on-island stakeholders over the coming weeks to connect with local businesses and promote the program, supporting a more connected and sustainable business community in the region.

Water, Our Precious Resource



The students of Cocos (Keeling) Islands District High School are now 'full bottle' on the importance of water on the islands, after taking part in the 'Water, Our Precious Resource' education program. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), along with the Shire of CKI, and Water Corporation, recently visited both the Home and West Island campuses to share information and knowledge with the local students.

On Home Island, lessons focused on extracting seawater through the four bores at Sandy Point, and took students on the journey of the water through the desalination process to the tap. Students also studied the importance of protecting the water lens under the Kampong, which is the back-up water source.

The West Island focus was on how the community's drinking water comes from the airport runway lens and this water's treatment after being extracted from the two galleries, one on either side of the airport terminal. Students also played board games showing them the process of desalination, the way their water will be treated in the future.

DWER services in the Indian Ocean Territories are funded by the Australian Government.



Community Bulletins



Community Bulletin

Improving freight services for Indian Ocean Territories

I am pleased to inform the community that there will be additional freight capacity to meet the needs of the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) communities going forward, through the use of a larger aircraft for the regular air freighter service.

Commencing in June 2024, the Australian Government's commercial partners will be using a Boeing B737-800 freighter aircraft for the service to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The new freight payload capacity is some 19 tonnes, which is an approximate increase of four to five tonnes per fortnight, when compared to the existing freighter aircraft. Freight services will continue on a fortnightly basis.

I know the community will welcome the increased capacity for this essential service.

The final service using the existing plane is scheduled to take place on 24 May 2024, with the larger capacity new freighter coming into service for the scheduled 14 June 2024 circuit. Due to the change in the aircraft and operational requirements, adjustments were required

to the freighter schedules as per Virgin Australia's notice dated 8th May 2024.

IOT freight and passenger air services are underwritten by the Australian Government, which provides significant investment in air services to CI and CKI, supporting efficient and regular supply chains to our remote region.

I am committed to better outcomes for the IOT air services, and will continue to monitor and engage with the community, stakeholders and Virgin Australia.

My thanks to our commercial partners who continue to work with Government to provide these services across the IOT.

The freighter capacity is subject to variation depending on operational conditions.

Additional details regarding freighter services to the IOT are available at <https://www.freightshop.com.au/>

Farzian Zainal
Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands



Virgin Australia IOT Bulletin - 28 May 2024

A reminder that to support the mid-year school holidays, the Australian Government, in partnership with Virgin Australia, have scheduled an additional full circuit flight to support the Indian Ocean Territories.

The flight is operating on 29JUN24 as follows (all times local):

Flight Number	Departure Time (local)	Arrival Time (local)
VA1909	PER: 11:40	XCH: 14:30
VA1918	XCH: 15:15	CCK : 16:20
VA1916	CCK : 17:05	PER : 23:00

Kind Regards

Gavin Dodd

Strategic Account Manager Virgin Australia Regional
Airlines

[Group Privacy Policy](#) | [Virgin Australia](#)



Job Opportunities



Australian Government

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



Nurse Unit Manager

Cocos (Keeling) Islands - Full Time Ongoing Vacancy

Package includes:

- Base salary of \$113,100 per annum
- Additional commuted allowance at 30% of base salary
- 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
- Relocation assistance may be provided if relocating to the Territories
- Heavily subsidised housing and motor vehicle if relocating to the Indian Ocean Territories

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking a motivated, professional and suitably qualified person to join our team as the Nurse Unit Manager (NUM) within the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) based on the 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). The 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 NUM are to lead and manage the multi-disciplinary IOTHS workforce on CKI in the delivery of high quality evidenced based health services to achieve optimal patient outcomes within a remote and multicultural environment. The NUM plays a key role in the IOTHS leadership team and is responsible the effective use of human, and material resources within a remote and multicultural environment.

Our ideal applicant will possess advanced clinical skills, knowledge and previous experience in the application and practice of Remote Area Nurse competencies specific to remote clinics, with well-developed communication, analytical, problem solving and writing skills. Further the applicant will demonstrate a commitment to supporting professional development, improving health outcomes in a remote multi-cultural environment, and have a sound understanding of related service delivery issues.

Previous relevant experience in the development and delivery of health care using primary health principles and primary health care programs, demonstrated management and leadership skills in a multi-disciplinary organisation and a sound understanding of human resources and financial management are also essential.

To be considered, applicants must be currently registered as a Registered Nurse with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and hold a current valid Class C Driver’s Licence transferable to the Indian Ocean Territories. Applicants must also be eligible to obtain a valid Western Australia Working with Children Check and provide proof of vaccination or immunity as required by the IOTHS.

For an application pack outlining how you can apply, please contact the IOTA Human Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au and quote position number **109094**.

Applications close 4.00pm (Christmas Island local time) (CXT) (UTC+7), Monday 17 June 2024



Registered Nurse Level 2

Christmas Island - Ongoing Vacancy – Full time

Package valued in excess of \$148,000 including:

- Base salary of \$88,413 - \$93,935 per annum plus shift penalties
- Employer contribution to superannuation at 16% of base salary
- District Allowance payable in addition to base salary
- Generous leave entitlements
- Relocation assistance and heavily subsidised housing and motor vehicle (including fuel) may be provided if relocating to the Indian Ocean Territories
- Annual return airfares assistance to Perth (upon completion of 12 months' continuous service)

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity, adventure and a better quality of life whilst expanding your experience?

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking motivated, professional and suitably qualified persons to join our team as a Registered Nurse Level 2 within the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) based on Christmas Island.

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). The 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 Registered Nurse position are to deliver direct, high quality and comprehensive nursing care and individual case management and to act as a professional role model, resource and support for colleagues.

Our ideal applicant is highly motivated, adaptable and willing to be actively involved in health promotion activities. The successful candidate will independently manage one or more health portfolios and be required to participate in a 24/7 roster, including night shift, weekends and public holidays. Potential future opportunities on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands is also a possibility.

To be considered, applicants must be currently registered as a Registered Nurse with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), hold a current 'C' class manual driver's licence transferable to the Indian Ocean Territories and a valid Western Australian Working with Children Check.

Nurses with a demonstrated ability to work effectively with people in small/remote and/or regional contexts in a multicultural environment will be well regarded.

For an application pack outlining how you can apply, please contact the IOTA Human Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au and quote position number **109087**.

Applications close 4.00pm (Christmas Island local time) (CXT) (UTC+7), Wednesday 19 June 2024

Community Announcements

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



IF (imaginary friends) - (PG)

SATURDAY - 1st June, 7.30pm

A young girl who goes through a difficult experience begins to see everyone's imaginary friends who have been left behind as their real-life friends have grown up.

RYAN GOSLING

EMILY BLUNT

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BULLET TRAIN



The fall guy (M)

SATURDAY - 8th June, 7.30pm

A down-and-out stuntman must find the missing star of his ex-girlfriend's blockbuster film.

FROM DIRECTOR
DEV PATEL

AND PRODUCER
JORDAN PEELE



ONE SMALL EMBER
CAN BURN DOWN EVERYTHING

MONKEY MAN

Monkey Man (MA15+)

SATURDAY - 15th June, 7.30pm

An anonymous young man unleashes a campaign of vengeance against the corrupt leaders who murdered his mother and continue to systematically victimize the poor and powerless.



Kingdom of the planet of the apes (M)

SATURDAY - 22nd June, 7.30pm

Many years after the reign of Caesar, a young ape goes on a journey that will lead him to question everything he's been taught about the past and make choices that will define a future for apes and humans alike.



Spy x Family, code: white (PG)

SATURDAY - 29th June, 7.30pm

After receiving an order to be replaced in Operation Strix, Loid decides to help Anya win a cooking competition at Eden Academy, by making the director's favorite meal in order to prevent his replacement.

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 ***

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

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

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