

From: Farzian Zainal

Subject: IOT Administrator Community Newslett...



Issue 59 – 11 June 2025

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter.

First and foremost, as I'm sure you're aware, the Federal Election was held on Saturday 3 May, with the incumbent government, led by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, winning a second consecutive term in office.

We also saw Minister Kristy McBain reappointed as Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, while also taking on additional responsibility as federal Minister for Emergency Management. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Minister McBain over the coming months, particularly around key issues such as climate change and emergency management, developing the economic future of our region, and supporting air services to the Indian Ocean Territories.

I was recently in Perth, where I had the opportunity to meet with key WA agencies delivering services to Cocos and Christmas Islands. I also visited Kent Street Hostel, where I was able to learn more about the facilities offered to IOT students who board there during secondary schooling. Another highlight of the trip was meeting with the Acting Commissioner of the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services to discuss emergency management support for the IOT.

The CHRMAP project team was recently on Cocos to hold question and answer sessions around the draft CHRMAP report, and I was pleased to be able to attend a number of these engagements and meet with people from across the community about this critical work.

I encourage anyone who is interested to read either the Draft CHRMAP or the CHRMAP summary which are available in both English and Cocos Malay, and make a submission by 30 June. Your knowledge and experience are vital as we begin the next



stage of the CHRMAP finalisation process.

You can read more about the CHRMAP consultations, and how to make your voice heard in this newsletter, along with some of the recent highlights for our region, including the International Women's Day workshop on Christmas Island, the latest updates on water infrastructure projects, the Batik Revival Project and more.

One thing I would personally like to highlight is National Volunteer Week, which was held from 19-25 May across Australia.

Here in the Indian Ocean Territories, volunteers underpin our daily lives, and play a vital role in keeping us safe, keeping us moving, keeping us healthy and keeping us connected to the remarkable cultures that make our region so extraordinary.

I would ask each of you to use this opportunity to take a moment to thank our volunteers for their dedication and commitment, while reflecting on this year's theme 'Connecting Communities', which acknowledges the huge impact volunteers have in building thriving and inclusive communities across Australia, and especially the Indian Ocean Territories.

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

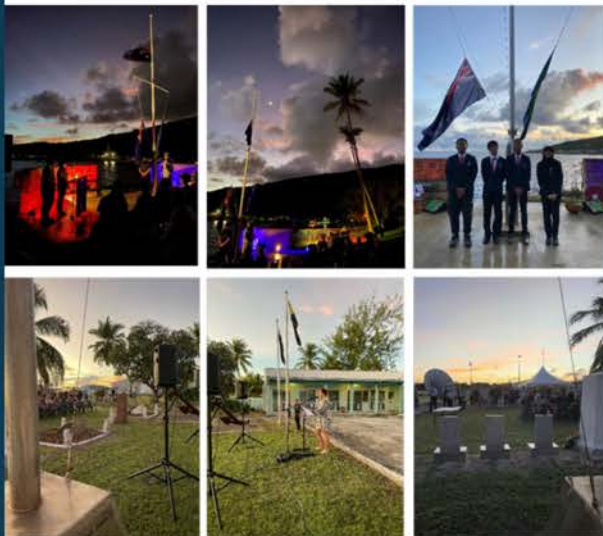
ANZAC Day 2025

On 25 April, we marked the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, and commemorated all members of the Australian and New Zealand Armed Forces who have served their countries, in peace and at war.

Here in the Indian Ocean Territories we honoured the occasion with traditional Dawn Services on Christmas and Cocos Islands.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the events, and to all of you who attended, to commemorate the brave individuals who have served, and are currently serving, our community and country.

On Christmas Island, for community members interested in being involved in the planning of the 2026 Dawn Service, an expression of interest will be released later this year.



Many thanks to Kathy Shortland-Jones for the photos from the Christmas Island service, and Niamh Swingle for the photos from Cocos.

The latest on the Cocos CHRMAP

In April, the Cocos Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) project team was back on island to answer your questions and hear feedback on the draft CHRMAP.

During their on-island visit, the project team ensured engineers were available to answer technical questions about the impacts of erosion and inundation on the local coastline.

I was also there, with Australian Government representatives, to hear feedback and

answer questions on next steps and options for future management responses, which will help inform how we plan to respond to the CHRMAP.

It was fantastic to see engagement from right across the community – from young people to elders – demonstrating how important it is that everyone has the opportunity to understand and be heard on this critical project.

If you missed the project team while they were on CKI, you still have an opportunity to have your say on the important document, with the Australian Government extending the engagement period on the draft CHRMAP until 30 June 2025.

You can make a submission on the draft CHRMAP on the project website [Social Pinpoint](#), or make an oral submission by contacting the project team.

You can also learn more about the CHRMAP process through a series of Webinars available at the links below, or via the project website:

Webinar #1 - Cocos (Keeling) Islands CHRMAP - Introduction to CHRMAPs
<https://youtu.be/ZkqFH8ukbS0>

Webinar #2 - Cocos (Keeling) Islands CHRMAP – Adaptation Options; Strengths and Weaknesses <https://youtu.be/Hn-t2FOXPA>

Webinar #3 - Cocos (Keeling) Islands CHRMAP – Adaptation Option Recommendations and Next Steps <https://youtu.be/dxysPDejWn0>

Further resources around flooding and inundation will soon become available, and we will keep the community updated on the IOT News Facebook site.

Accelerating Action on Christmas Island – International Women's Day wrap-up

For over a century, International Women's Day has been celebrated, using the day to honour the achievements of women across all aspects of our lives – social, economic, cultural and political.



It is also a time where we reflect on gender equality, using the day as a call for action on the issues which still impact women across our communities.

In the Indian Ocean Territories, International Women's Day and what it means, is an ongoing commitment. On Cocos, we marked International Women's Day in February, with women of Home and West Islands coming together for an evening of games, activities, and friendship.

On Christmas Island, we held a workshop on 10 May at the Recreation Centre where more than 50 women attended to hold robust discussions on the challenges facing local women. Discussion topics included participation in sports and the arts, economic empowerment, women in leadership, and involvement in health-related decision making.



The strong turn out, commitment to developing practical actions, pathways and communication channels and the productive discussions held on the day, all highlighted the importance of these issues to women across our community. These insights will play a key role in shaping the upcoming Women's Expo planned for September on Christmas Island.

A huge thank-you to everyone who helped organise the events across both islands, and to the women who turned up for such an important cause.

We will keep the community updated on any future events on the IOT News Facebook page.



Supporting Cocos Families

The Australian Government is working to strengthen child and family wellbeing on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

In partnership with Key Assets Australia, the Government is considering opportunities to support parents, engage young people and build community leadership skills for Cocos families.

Key Assets Australia visited CKI in May to meet with a broad range of families, leaders and community members and hear about local needs.

The focus of this work is to enhance community support services and build on community strengths.

It is a priority for the Australian Government that children on CKI are safe and supported, feel connected to family, community and culture and grow up in an environment where they can achieve their full potential. The Australian Government is working with all levels of government, stakeholders and the community to ensure strong child and family wellbeing structures and support for CKI.

If you missed the opportunity to speak with the Key Assets Australia team while on island, you can still contribute to the development of these strategies through this anonymous online survey, available at this link here until 27 June 2025:

forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=tRVE2DdwM0ZfcJqTYn648eMfLU9Ck1LIjVZXA28T5VUOTZTSzVTSUp1UjZLWDQ1QkdRVUVPRzFJUy4u&origin=QRCode

If you have any concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse or neglect please report to the Department of Communities through the Central Intake Team on 1800 273 889 or contact the police.

Your Voice Matters for CKI's Children, Young People, and Families!



This anonymous survey will help create a Child, Youth and Family Strategy for CKI.

[Start now](#)

No longer a pipe dream – tracking our water infrastructure projects

After months of hard work, the replacement of the wastewater pipeline in Christmas Island's Kampong is complete, with the new alignment now running along Jalan Pantai and away from the potentially hazardous rockfall area.

The upgraded pipeline is not only supporting improved infrastructure, but the safety of Water Corporation's employees and contractors who will no longer be undertaking maintenance and repairs near rockfall zones.

Many thanks to Water Corporation and Saltire Infrastructure for delivering this vital project on behalf of the Australian Government, and to residents and businesses in the Kampong area for your patience and understanding as we completed these important works.



Water Corporation is further commencing Stage 2 of the Summit tank to Drumsite tank water main replacement, which will see the remaining approximately 1.5km of water main replaced, improving water quality and flow and minimising the risk of failures once complete.

We will continue to keep you updated as this project progresses, and encourage you to follow IOT News on Facebook for the most up-to-date information – including any possible disruptions due to this significant project.



Shining a Light on Electrical Safety in the IOT

Electricity is a vital energy source that powers everything from basic appliances like lightbulbs, to electronic devices and complex machinery.

But electricity can also be dangerous, and it is crucial to prioritise safety around it.

Electrical Safety Tips:

Key steps to staying safe around electricity include inspecting cords and equipment for damage, keeping electrical equipment away from water and ensuring only licensed electricians perform repairs.

Here are some more tips to keep you and your family safe in the event of an electrical safety hazard:

- **Report electrical faults, including damaged infrastructure.** If you see any damage to electrical equipment, downed power lines, or other electricity supply faults – report it immediately.
 - On Christmas Island, you can call IOT Power Services on 9164 7111 during office hours, or 0439 215 915 or 0439 215 919 for outside working hours.
 - On Home and West Island, you can call 9162 6722 or 0476 334 816 outside of office hours.
- **Keep away from fallen power lines.** If you see a fallen powerline, always assume it is 'live' and dangerous. Make sure to stay well clear – stay at least 8 metres or two car lengths away – and make sure to avoid anything they may be touching like vehicles, metal fences or pools of water.

Remember to immediately call IOT Power Services on 9164 7111 (CI) or 9162 6722 (CKI) if you see:

- Fallen, broken or arcing wires
- Damaged or fallen poles
- Exposed underground cables
- Damaged kiosks or green domes
- If outside working hours, please call 0439 215 915 or 0439 215 919 (CI) or 0476 334 816 (CKI).





- **Watch out for electricity pillar boxes.** The green domes you may have seen while out and about are called electricity pillar boxes, connecting underground electricity cables.

If you come across one that has been damaged, it is important that you report it to the Power Service on Christmas Island, or Water Corp on Cocos immediately.

Exposed electricity cables are live, and pose a threat to public safety, which is why it's critical to report the damage and stay at least 10 metres away from the electrical hazard.

If you hit one with a car, stay in the vehicle, and if possible drive 10 metres away and call the Power Service on CI and Water Corp on CKI immediately.

If you are stuck on the pillar, wait in the vehicle and call **000** - do not get out of the vehicle! Any bystanders outside the vehicle need to stay well away until the site is made safe.

For more information about electrical safety at home, go to: [Electrical safety at home](#)

Stage 1 of the Batik Revival Project has concluded with resounding success!



The Cocos Islands community has taken up the opportunity to learn about the art of Batik, creating more than 140 silk scarves in 10 days through community and school workshops with renowned artist and facilitator, Jacky Cheng.

The Cocos Batik Revival Project aims to return Batik skills to the community in 2025 through a series of workshops. The passion for art on Cocos is truly special, and shows itself in the beautiful designs created through the workshops.

Stage 1 has been all about access - making the process of resist dyeing approachable and fun for a wide array of interested community members. This stage was focused on Silk Painting, a relatively modern technique which acts as a stepping stone towards the traditional Hot Wax Batik.

We look forward to Stage 2 which will take place in early July, where the community will further their textile skills by working through the meticulous process of Hot Wax Batik.



Batik is a traditional technique involving wax-resistant dyeing to create intricate imagery on various textiles, once flourished on CKI in the 1990s. A dedicated workshop and team produced unique pieces that were sold locally, but the practice declined following the closure of the workshop and the departure of key artists. As the matriarchs of the art form became unavailable and with CKI being Australia's most remote territory, opportunities for local upskilling diminished. Recently, the Suku Duku Seniors Group enthusiastically advocated for the revival of Batik on the

Suka Duka Seniors Group enthusiastically welcomed the return of Sam to the island. Their vision is to empower a new generation of local artists, fostering creative independence and maintaining this practice for generations to come.

Many thanks to Regional Arts WA, Regional Arts Australia and the Australian Government for making this project possible through the Regional Arts Project Grants.

Further thanks to the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands District High School, Suka Duka Seniors Group, Kraftkolour, Silk Wholesalers, Territory Courier Services and Freightshop.

The Esky Library Trial shows great promise in the IOT!

Tangaroa Blue Foundation has completed an innovative Esky Library Initiative trial on Christmas Island, aimed at reducing polystyrene (EPS) waste in the Indian Ocean Territories. The initiative kicked off in February and replaced single-use polystyrene eskies, used primarily for fresh food air freight, with a reusable alternative that reduces landfill waste and local pollution.

Over six rotations from February to April, the trial included 23 participants, 135 reusable eskies, and diverted 269 polystyrene boxes from waste. Tangaroa Blue now hopes to expand the project across both Christmas and Cocos Islands, securing long-term viability for the reusable eskies.

Tangaroa Blue IOT Project Coordinator Hayley Cook says the project represents a significant step forward in addressing EPS waste and will provide a replicable model for other remote and island communities facing similar challenges.

The Esky Library initiative was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Australian Government's Indian Ocean Territories Marine Parks Grant Program, as well as PRL, and other local partners including Hambley's IGA, Freightshop, and Altitude Island Logistics.



Photos Courtesy of Tangaroa Blue Foundation.



Junior Nurses in Training

Miss Caitlin's Class Visits the Clinic

There were bandages, plaster casts, stethoscopes, and plenty of giggles as Miss Caitlin's class made a special visit to the Cocos Health Clinic recently for their second session in the **Junior Nurse Program**.

These bright little learners have already mastered some impressive skills and this visit took things to a whole new level. Guided by our local health team, the junior nurses rolled up their sleeves to learn how to **make real casts for broken bones** – and yes, there may have been a few laughs as arms got wrapped and set. No real bones broken!



They joined Dr Gary, who brought science to life by showing the students a real beating heart on the clinic's ultrasound. They went wide-eyed with wonder and little hearts raced with excitement, while Dr Gary taught us about arteries, veins, the chambers of the heart and the blood we could see flowing through the heart.

Next stop was the medicine corner, where our future pharmacists learned how to mix medicines with care, using syringes and clever maths to get the perfect measurements. There was counting, pouring, and lots of proud little smiles as the students got their formulas just right, or almost right.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Junior Nurse day without a revision session. Everyone grabbed a stethoscope to **listen to heartbeats** and took turns peeking into ears – skills they remembered from their first clinic visit.

Our junior nurses – including Ryder, Sam, Lani, Albi, Sol, Mila, and Mia – are now one step closer to graduating from the University of Amy and becoming fully qualified!

Well done, Junior Nurses! We can safely say that Cocos Islands, and your future patients, are in safe hands.



Job Opportunities



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts



Power Services Manager

Territory Executive Level 3
Full Time Ongoing Vacancy on Christmas Island

Package including:

- Base salary of \$149,035 to \$171,979 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
- Relocation assistance may be provided if relocating to the Territories

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking a motivated, professional and suitably qualified person to join our team as the Power Services Manager.

The Department, acting through the IOTA, is responsible for the generation and distribution of electricity to residential, commercial and industrial consumers on both Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The Department generates electricity in power stations on Christmas Island, Home Island and West Island and manages a Renewable Energy Buy Back Scheme for small scale renewables.

The Power Services Manager is primarily responsible for managing the delivery of safe, reliable and efficient power generation, distribution, billing and electrical inspection services for the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT's), delivering continuous improvement in safety, risk management, asset reliability and resilience and undertaking project and contract management relating to the provision of power services.

This is a critical operational management position and pivotal to success is leading and developing a high performance team within a multi-cultural workplace and fostering a values aligned culture. The role also plays a key role within the Senior Executive Leadership Team of the IOTA.

Our ideal candidate will possess relevant professional engineering qualifications or mechanical or electrical trade qualifications and substantial relevant industry experience. A demonstrated understanding and commitment to risk management and Workplace Health and Safety as it applies to power utilities and an ability to develop and manage procurements and contracts are also essential. Further, our ideal candidate must have a proven ability to establish and maintain positive and productive working relationships.

To be considered, applicants must be eligible to obtain a security clearance at Baseline Vetting Level (must be an Australian citizen), hold a current 'C' class Drivers Licence transferable to the Indian Ocean Territories and will be subject to a health assessment.

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 109280.

Applications close 4.00pm (Christmas Island local time) (CXT) (UTC+7), Friday, 20 June 2025



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts



Cleaners – Expression of Interest

Indian Ocean Territories Administration, Christmas Island
Casual Non-Ongoing Vacancies
Territory Officer Level 2
\$37.17 - \$42.60 per hour inclusive of 25% casual loading

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking motivated, dedicated and suitably qualified persons to join our Christmas Island team as Cleaners.

Cleaners will primarily be responsible for delivering high quality cleaning services at workplaces and specified properties owned and/or managed by the IOTA on Christmas Island.

Our ideal candidates will have a cleaning qualification and / or relevant experience in a similar role as well as a basic knowledge of work health and safety responsibilities. They will have a demonstrated ability to organise time and work priorities efficiently with limited supervision.

Candidates should be experienced in maintaining confidentiality and working in sensitive environments and will have basic written and verbal English language ability. The ability to also communicate in a local community language of Chinese and / or Bahasa Melayu will be well regarded.

To be considered, please request for a Temporary Employment Register Form from IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au and submit the completed form together with your resume.



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts



Gardener – Expression of Interest

Indian Ocean Territories Administration, Christmas Island
Casual Non-Ongoing Vacancies
Territory Officer Level 2
\$37.17 - \$42.60 per hour inclusive of 25% casual loading

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking motivated, dedicated and suitably qualified persons to join our Christmas Island team as Gardeners.

The Gardener is primarily responsible for delivery of high quality gardening and maintenance services to properties owned and/or managed by the IOTA on Christmas Island.

Our ideal applicant will have knowledge of and commitment to Work Health and Safety responsibilities, previous experience in a similar role, demonstrated ability to organise time and work priorities efficiently with limited supervision, understand basic written communication skills in English and experience in and/or demonstrated ability to safely use various tools and equipment.

Applicants with knowledge and skills in horticulture, who hold First Aid Certificate or have a willingness to obtain and with the ability to communicate in a local community language of Chinese and/or Bahasa Melayu will be well regarded.

To be considered, please request for a Temporary Employment Register Form from IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au and submit the completed form together with your resume.

Community Announcements

Christmas Island Outdoor Cinema



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

Movie ticket \$5.00

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.)

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 *



Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (M)

SATURDAY - 14 June, 7.30pm

After jumping back into the dating pool, single mother Bridget Jones finds herself caught between a younger man and her son's science teacher.



Women & The Wind

SATURDAY - 21 June, 7.30pm

Three women ignite flames of curiosity and adventure by deepening our understanding of the synergy between nature and humanity through a voyage following plastic across the North Atlantic on Mara Noka, a 50-year-old wooden catamaran.



Thunderbolts (PG)

SATURDAY - 28 June, 7.30pm

After finding themselves ensnared in a death trap, an unconventional team of antiheroes must go on a dangerous mission that will force them to confront the darkest corners of their pasts.

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following plastic across the North Atlantic on Mara Noka, a 50-year-old wooden catamaran.