

# 2022

## Annual Report



— SHIRE OF —  
**CHRISTMAS ISLAND**

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## ELECTED MEMBERS 2022



**Cr Gordon Thomson**  
Shire President  
Retiring 2025



**Cr Kee Heng Foo**  
Deputy President  
Retiring 2025



**Cr Hafiz Masli**  
Retiring 2025



**Cr Vincent Saw**  
Retiring 2025



**Cr Philip Woo**  
Retiring 2025



**Cr Kelvin Lee**  
Retiring 2023



**Cr Azmi Yon**  
Retiring 2023



**Cr Morgan Soh**  
Retiring 2023



**Cr Farzian Zainal**  
Retiring 2023

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Council of the Shire of Christmas Island, I present the Shire of Christmas Island Annual Report for 2022.

### **Shire operations**

This Annual Report has been prepared by the section managers of the Shire, with the oversight of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Councillors thank our Shire staff for preparing this report for our Council and our community. We thank our Shire managers and staff for the support that they have given the Councillors throughout the year. In particular we commend our CEO for his vitality and leadership of the Shire team and the excellent relationship he enjoys with the Councillors which together make for the maximum benefits to our community of the Shire's work.

The Office of the Auditor General has contracted RSM Bird to conduct the audit of the Shire's Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Our Shire workers have continued their good works for our community by their dedication to their work on: the unending tasks of roads, building, parks and gardens maintenance; rubbish collections and waste management at the tip; managing health and hygiene programmes; improving the safety of the community with construction of walking paths; creation of popular community amenities at the Foreshore Padang; efficient management of financial and administrative functions and the demanding tasks of compliance with local government regulations and maintaining the highest standards of governance of the Shire; providing community services for seniors, activities for children, library users, citizenship ceremonies and assistance on immigration matters, and organisation of community celebrations and events like Territory Week and the Christmas Island Marathon; planning for our future.

The Shire continues excellent collaborations with the Community Resource Centre, Chinese Literary Association, the Christmas Island Women's Association, the Health Service, the Islamic Council and Malay Association. Our roads programme is developed in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Territories Administration, Parks Australia and CIP. We have implemented the road sealing programme: the sealing of North- South Baseline Road to the East-West Baseline Road and we look forward to working with Parks Australia to seal the Parks roads on East-West Baseline Road to North-West Point Road and Murray Road.

### **Economy, housing, education, health, social**

Councillors have been heavily engaged in advocacy with the Commonwealth Ministers and the Department, about the economic future of the Island. Many of the issues arising from discussions in Council and Community Consultative Committee meetings become the subject of our submissions to government about services and facilities for our community.

- Christmas Island Applied Laws Amendment (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2022
- Christmas Island Strategic Assessment (CISA) under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Review of Local Planning Strategy and Town Planning Scheme
- Land and Economic Futures Charter
- Christmas Island – Singapore Strategy 2018
- Aged Care Services
- Air Services – community input to new air services contract in 2023
- Settlement Sports Hall Redevelopment
- Social Infrastructure including rent to buy arrangements for public housing
- Setting aside Crown land for new housing and new industries

### **Christmas Island- Singapore Strategy, MINTOPE, IOLC, Agriceuticals, National Phenome Centre**

The Shire provided practical support to the MINTOPE (Mining to Plant Enterprises) Project over 9 years. The MINTOPE project provided the basis for the evolution of the Indian Ocean Learning Communities (IOLC), a collaboration of Singapore's Temasek Polytechnic, the Harry Butler Institute and Murdoch University Campuses in Singapore and Perth. The IOLC project is to bring students from Singapore and Australia for field studies and research into food production on Christmas Island. The IOLC has opened the Island to the real possibilities of ongoing tertiary educational and research programmes through Murdoch University and other regional universities in the fields of: bio-security, bio-prospecting, ecological diversity monitoring, intensive agriculture/urban farming, brewing and distillation, mining land rehabilitation, sustainable mine closure, forestry management, environmental land management, small business development, food security and marine science. All of these courses could be activated on Christmas Island with appropriate stewardship and advocacy.

At this time the science of the IOLC and the entry of a potential research partner, Agriceuticals Pty Ltd, could be the beginning of commercial production of food and pharmaceutical plants for export to Singapore. Such a development is consistent with our Shire's *Christmas Island- Singapore Strategy 2018* which is being implemented by the Shire with the acknowledgement of our Minister, the Honourable Kristy McBain MP and the Department, and lead by our Planning Consultant, Herve Calmy, Shire CEO and Director of Planning, Compliance and Research. During 2021 a new partner to the IOLC/Agriceuticals project, the Australian National Phenome Centre, travelled to Cocos (Keeling) Islands to conduct a short scientific investigation of Cocos residents' gut health. We look forward to the ongoing work of the IOLC/Agriceuticals/National Phenome Centre project delivering on the promise of better food, medicines and health for the people of Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

### **Governance**

We continue our advocacy for a say in the government of the Island that is consistent with the democratic institutions and rights applying to mainland Australian citizens and the requirements of

international covenants on the administration of non-self-governing Territories. We are requesting proper consultation between the community and the Commonwealth Government about the application of WA law and the making of the SDAs (Service Delivery Arrangements) that provide state type services on the Island.

Our advocacy has achieved the making of the *Christmas Island Applied Laws Amendment (Fish Resources Management) Ordinance 2022* and Minister Kristy McBain's appointment of the members of the Shire's Fisheries Management Committee to the Minister's Fisheries Advisory Committee.

This year the Shire has been closely collaborating with the Territories Branch of the Department of Infrastructure Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) on the plans for our future – the Christmas Island Strategic Assessment (CISA) and the Shire's Local Planning Strategy (LPS), the outcomes of which will be put out to community consultation in 2023. The process of integrating work on the Department's CISA Plan and the Shire's LPS has involved the WA Department of Planning providing advice on land use and management, such as the release of Crown Land for development and the exercise of the Shire's statutory responsibilities for planning.

Over several years our representations to the Ministers for Territories have included reference to the provisions of the *United Nations Charter* relating to non-self-governing territories; the responsibility of the Australian Government to provide for economic, educational and social development and democratic government of the people of the Island. There is a democracy deficit here. We want that addressed by the Commonwealth in consultation with the community.

At the time sovereignty over the British Colony of Christmas Island was passed to the Commonwealth of Australia in 1958, both the United Kingdom and Australia were signatories to the *Charter of the United Nations*. The *UN Charter* has a specific provision about how colonies such as the Territory of Christmas Island should be administered. The relevant section is Chapter XI Article 73.

## **CHAPTER XI: DECLARATION REGARDING NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES**

### **Article 73**

Members of the United Nations which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government recognize the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these territories are paramount, and accept as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost, within the system of international peace and security established by the present Charter, the well-being of the inhabitants of these territories, and, to this end:

1. to ensure, with due respect for the culture of the peoples concerned, their political, economic, social, and educational advancement, their just treatment, and their protection against abuses;

2. to develop self-government, to take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples, and to assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions, according to the particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples and their varying stages of advancement;
  3. to further international peace and security;
  4. to promote constructive measures of development, to encourage research, and to co-operate with one another and, when and where appropriate, with specialized international bodies with a view to the practical achievement of the social, economic, and scientific purposes set forth in this Article; and
  5. to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social, and educational conditions in the territories for which they are respectively responsible other than those territories to which Chapters XII and XIII apply.
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The Shire acknowledges the support and assistance that the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) gives us to provide the multitude of services enjoyed by our community.

Congratulations to all of the Shire's staff on their achievements and continuing commitment to fulfilling our programmes. I commend this report to the community of Christmas Island.

Gordon Thomson  
President  
Shire of Christmas Island

17 April 2023



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Ratepayers and residents of the Shire of Christmas Island, it is with pleasure that in my capacity as the Chief Executive Officer, I present this report for 21/22.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to disrupt community and business activities in mainland Australia, the Indian Ocean Territories has remained largely COVID free. June 2022 saw the first real wave of infections in the community, but as a result of the work of the IOT Emergency Management Committees, the IOTHS in their outstanding delivery of vaccinations and the two-year long education programs on preventative steps and precautions from the Shire, IOTHS, mainland health agencies and the workplaces around Christmas Island, we have not seen the worst the pandemic could have delivered.

This has allowed many workplaces to continue with the minimal of disruptions as possible. The Shire took advantage of this, with some highlights as below -

- Continued works on the Foreshore Padang precinct, including the major Foreshore Servery, Splash Pad and artworks. Late 2022 has seen the commencement of the final element of the precinct being the dual use footpath.
- Completion of the Drumsite-Poon Saan footpath with late 2022 seeing the Phosphate Hill link being completed.

The Shire looks forward to working with the community in 22/23 to deliver on some long awaited programs for the Island.

Projects on the Shire's schedule for 22/23 are:

- The completion of the Town Planning Scheme No3.,
- Continuing to progress the Indian Ocean Territories Waste Management Strategy with the Commonwealth
- To develop a Redevelopment Master Plan for the Lily Beach Area for public consultation and Council endorsement for 23/24 budget allocation.

Of note the Shire has committed great management resources to working with the Commonwealth on their CI Strategic Assessment to ensure that our Planning Instruments align; the alignment of these two documents as closely as possible helps to safeguard the wellbeing of the Christmas Island community and supporting the future economic growth in the outside the dog's head township that the Island requires.



### **Finance and Administration**

Members of Council and Management staff were involved in the preparation of Council's annual budget for 22/23 which was adopted at the Ordinary Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Throughout the year, monthly reports were prepared to enable members and management staff to review Council finances and ensure that expenditure is spent within the budget.

Further information can be found under the Finance and Administration section of the Council operations of the Annual Report.

### **Planning Building and Health**

The Planning, Building & Health Section provides a number of services to the CI community:

Planning & Building Control - Council through its consultants provides an information and assessment role on development and planning matters to SOCI customers who include both the private sector and government agencies.

Environmental Health - Council environmental health personnel carry out periodic inspections of food premises / eating houses, food recall and disposal as per WA Health Department instructions.

Ranger Services/Animal Control - Ranger Services enforce relevant Shire of Christmas Island Local Laws and WA State legislation.

Waste Management Services – Core waste management services provided to the community through this section.

Property Maintenance & Management - Facilities owned by Council, others under its control and Commonwealth owned public amenities which are cleaned and maintained regularly under arrangement.

Further information can be found under the Planning Building and Health section of the Council operations of the Annual Report.

### **Governance and Policy**

Shire's commitment to good governance has consistently been demonstrated by positive auditor reports from our third party auditors commissioned by the Office of the Auditor General; their report showed no major concerns. Further information can be found under the Government and Policy section of the Council operations of the Annual Report.

### **Community and Recreation Services**

Community Services –The annual Seniors Week held in August 2021 organized by the Community Services Section was another great success. The Community Services section has responsibility in coordinating meetings with the Senior Citizens Centre Advisory Committee for the management of

the Senior Citizens Centre. The Community Services section continues with responsibility for the ongoing implementation of the Council Community Strategic Plan that was formally the CI 2021 Our Future Community Plan.

The Manager of Recreation Services provides the Community Bus Service to the:

- Christmas Island District High School
- Celebrations occasions
- Community Charity organisations and appeals
- For hire services in conjunction to the Shires Community Bus Fees and Charges.

Further information can be found under the Community/Recreation Services and Training section of the Council operations of the Annual Report.

### **Works & Services**

The Civil Works, Special Projects and Parks and Gardens crews have continued during the year to carry out planned and emergency work.

The Shire has also continued to upgrade and replace its plant and equipment.

Details of that work and plant replacement and further information can be found under the Works and Services section of the Council operations of the Annual Report.

### **Human Resources**

As reported in previous Annual Reports, the most significant advancement in the human resources management area was the development and subsequent adoption of Councils Workforce Development Strategic Plan, completed by the CEO and adopted by Council in June 2013. The Workforce Development Strategic Plan is a legislative requirement by Council as part of the overall 'Integrated Planning Framework' that all Councils in Western Australia were required to comply with for implementation in the 2013/14 year. Through our Workforce Development Strategic Plan, Council is focused on attracting and retaining quality people, including trainees, further investing in developing our leaders and recognising and rewarding our high performers and remains an active document for the development of Councils workforce. Council needs to take our people with us to create the 'fit for the future' that we need to deliver our communities' priorities. We need to continue to involve our staff and support them in learning new ways of working.

In 21/22 there were 5 employees with a salary over \$100k.

The Shire has continued to commit investment in employee's training and skills development to improve efficiency and performance of the Council. During the 2021/22 financial year, approximately 50% of the Shire's workforce attended various training courses ranging from skills development, vocational education, formal education, work experience to conferences to improve their skills, knowledge and abilities required to perform their work efficiently and effectively.

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The Shire is continually reviewing its Organisation Structure to ensure it reflects the long-term ongoing management structure and employee set the Shire requires in the future.

Moving forward, the Shire will build upon the policies, practices and procedures implemented in the current and previous financial periods that will further strengthen the Human Resources section of the Shire of Christmas Island.



David Price, Chief Executive Officer

## SECTION REPORT

### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION



#### Finance Section

The main functions of Finance include Financial Reporting, HR and Payroll, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Rates and Treasury and banking.

First and foremost, the Finance and Admin team would like to offer their sincerest thanks to both Gan So Hon and Kevin Wilson. Their tremendous contributions cannot be expressed in words.

#### Budget

Council adopted the 2022/23 Budget at its OCM on 26 July 2022. The monthly statement of financial activity is prepared for Council members to ensure that expenditure spent is within budget.

#### Annual Financial Statement

This is prepared annually in accordance with the LG Act and Regulations and the Australian Accounting Standards ready for the Audit.

#### Administration Function

The main functions include Record management, IT, website and customer services.

#### Computer Systems and Softwares

Council uses IT Vision's Synergy soft Financial & Accounting, Payroll, Rating & Records Management.

Microsoft applications are used for on the user end and HP hardware and VM ware applications are used in the Backend of all IT systems and network.



The Shire's 2021/22 Total Expenditure and Revenue are as follows: -



Total Expenditure by Program 2022	
Program	\$
<b>Transport</b> (including local road, foot & bike pats and pavement maintenance, reseal, foreshore works, drainage, line marking, waste and tip)	40.0
<b>Recreation and culture</b> (including parks & garden, sports hall, Community centre & library)	19.5
<b>Community amenities</b> (including sanitation, town planning, cemetery)	15.5
<b>Governance</b> (including Council & admin.)	8.4
<b>Other property and services</b>	7.2
<b>Education and welfare</b>	5.6
<b>Housing</b> (employee & other housing)	2.0
<b>Law, order, public safety</b> (ranger services)	1.9
<b>Economic services</b> (services to residents)	1.4
<b>General purpose funding</b> (admin costs)	1.3
<b>Health</b> (public health, food inspections)	1.2
	<b>\$100</b>

Total Revenue by Nature & Type 2022	
Nature & Type	%
Operating grants, subsidies & contributions	63.1%
Fees and charges (including private works)	13.8%
Rates	13.2%
Non-operating grants, subsidies & contributions	9.0%
Other revenue	0.7%
Interest earnings	0.2%
	<b>100.0%</b>

## WORKS & SERVICES

The following was provided by the outgoing Manager of Works and Services Graeme Hedditch. Graeme worked for three years at the Shire of Christmas Island and we wish him well with his return to the mainland with his family. He arrived mid-2019 and essentially managed the entire section during the State of Emergency to 2022 and assisted the necessary health assistance from the municipal level during the pandemic including completing many important works in the roads and infrastructure portfolio too. Thank you Graeme—Acting CEO Chris Su

### Achievements 2021 / 2022

#### Construction and Maintenance

- North South Base Line Road: Construction Work undertaken
- North West Point Road: Improvement works. 3.6km
- Maintain unsealed roads. Grading, Heavy Roller, Water Cart, Front end loader. See photo below of some of the plant and equipment that was used.
- Large Contracted works. I.e. Parks Australia. Completed with very good cooperation from Parks Australia.
- Line marking: Roads and Carpark.
- Speed humps: Painted several times with definitive yellow marking paint.

#### Shire Housing

- 5 Jalan Ketam Merah. Painting; Roof repairs; Floor repairs.
- 28 Seaview Drive. Minor works including bathroom repairs; maintenance to all sliding doors.

#### Sentinel Road sweeping

This work is carried out throughout the Shire of Christmas Island on sealed roads

#### Purchase of New Plant & Equipment

Several items were ordered during 2021 – 2022 however delivery was delayed until July 2022.

A hydraulic crimper was delivered for the Workshop.



#### Civil Works Team

The Civil Works Team comprises of the Supervisor - Seet Khun Wah; Kassim Ibrahim, Yusri Amat, Hoe Kit Ngan, Anwar Ramlan, Lim Liong, Tan Eng Chai. Shahrhan Salleh, Johari Hassan, Salih Abu, Robert Yeap, Darren Yeap, Norezefizi Melan, Yan Foong Choy, Ilyas Ramlan and Jesse Wong.



Photo shows some of the Civil Works Team together with a large selection of the plant and equipment that is vital for ensuring the unsealed roads are maintained. The unsealed roads are Parks Australia property, and a contract from the Australian Government allows SoCI to maintain these roads.

Civil Works are generally responsible for the maintenance and construction of the CRA Network and the Shires Township of bitumen roads. The Island has approximately 115 kilometres of roads, almost 35% of which are unsealed.

### **Parks & Gardens Team**

The Parks and Gardens Team comprises of the Supervisor - Chen Weng Aun; Tee Kok Seong, Su Ha Chai, Tony Ho, Nazreen Nasaruddin, Beng Hooi Tan and Ong Kim Siong.



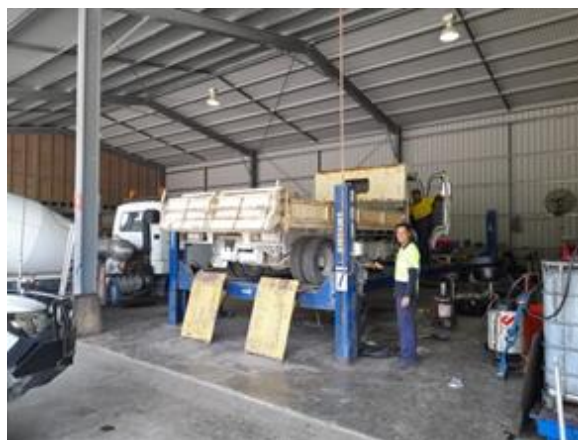
The P&G staff main role is to maintain and improve community parks, reserves and recreational facilities. Their work varies from mowing, watering and cleaning of the Foreshore Padang, Dolly Beach Road, tree trimming, mowing and slashing, Lily Beach & Greta Beach, tree trimming, Gazebo and Toilet cleaning.

Also general maintenance of the Cemetery, mowing and tree removal.

### **Workshop and Plant Operation Team**

The Workshop and Plant Operations Team comprises of the Supervisor - Richard Foo, Chris Wong, Eijas Razak, Ibrahim Hussain, Edmond Ang and apprentice Mohd. Firdaus.

This team is capably led by Richard Foo. The Workshop team carries out all major repair work and servicing of the Council's plant, equipment and vehicle fleet. Ibrahim, Chris and Eijas are all qualified motor and heavy plant mechanics. Edmond Ang is the Shires Auto Electrician. The apprentice Firdaus commenced work this year and is proving himself to be great learner.



### **WSW Dept. Operational Support, Iris Lim**

Iris is responsible for the general administration of the WSW Department. Private Works Documents, MEX asset maintenance system and Cemetery Documents.



### **Special Projects Team**

Supervisor - Peter Tan, Amran Wahid. Rashidi Abd Rahman. Khairul Razaqin. Craig Wood.



The Special Projects team carries out important work on structural projects, footpaths, fencing, boardwalk re-furbishing, curbing, speed hump replacement and many other facets of the community requirements.

The Special Projects Team is nearing completion of the Foreshore Padang area, gazebo's, bike paths, BBQ's, and servery areas.

Special Projects team has projects such as the Foreshore Padang. This team was responsible for the significant majority of the construction works at the new skate park facility, volley ball, bowls areas and gazebos. This was a major project this year largely funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grant from the Commonwealth.

### **Building, Health and Landfill Waste**

Supervisor - Ron De Cruz, Alex Goh, Alex Koh, Rashid Sabtu, Othman Dardak, Kyle William and Ranger Yit-Meng Sho, Eng Kim Hua.

The photo above shows the 24 tonne excavator operated by Jai excavating chalk that is used predominantly for the Shire road repairs.

This Building, Health and Landfill team conducts very important work at various locations, i.e. the landfill site, bin collection and green waste bin collection in and around the Shire of Christmas Island.



The Ranger, Yit-Meng Sho, is predominantly employed to control the chickens and cats throughout the Shire of Christmas Island. He also enforces the local laws around parking, littering and another municipal matters.

The Building Maintenance Officer is Othman Dardak. Othman's role is building maintenance of the Shire's housing, boardwalk maintenance and inspection and repairs of the Foreshore Padang area.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES, RECREATION & TRAINING

The Department consists of:

- Director Community /Recreation Services & Training – Olivier Lines
- Youth and Culture Officer – Suzane Chan
- Seniors Officer – Ron Foo
- Media Officer – Sofia Ramie
- Librarian – Susan De Cruz



### Overview

Community Services continues to support the Shires, Local Community & Commonwealth initiatives and programs

#### Recreation

- **July 25<sup>th</sup>**: *Casino to Cove Family Fun Day* is an event held in partnership with the Shire & Christmas Island Recourse Centre which this attracted 70 participants. The event is a family friendly 10km walk, run, bike from the Casino to the Cove ending with presentations and a BBQ
- **September 19<sup>th</sup>**: The Christmas Island Marathon continues to evolve as a signature Christmas Island calendar challenge event this year attracting participants from Western Australia. Along with the main 22.1km & 42.2km challenges the Marathon also includes activities that all sections of the community can participate in such as the 5km Dash and 2km fun family walk.
- **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**: Saw the Official Opening of the Foreshore Padang recreation precinct offering a variety of activities including Volleyball, Lawn Bowls and Skate area. The Opening was celebrated with a sausage sizzle with sports equipment set up for the community to use. The Foreshore Padang Recreation facility fulfils recommendations made in the Christmas Island Sports & Recreation Strategic Plan.

#### Coach in Residence Program

- Community, Sports & Recreation Services continues to coordinate and support the DSLGC program of providing coaches and instructors for sporting and recreational clinics on Christmas Island. The program is coordinated via consultation and feedback from sporting associations, clubs and Christmas Island District High School (CIDHS). The 2021/ 2022 report year has delivered instructors for Golf, Basketball and AFL clinics. The Shire Community / Recreation Services Dept. has made recommendation after consulting the Christmas Island Youth Association, for a Skate Board clinic to develop skills.

#### Shire Community Bus

- Continues to transport students from CIDHS to the Recreation Centre for sports programs as well as clinics in support of the Coach in Residence Program to locations such as the Cricket Ground. The bus has recently provided transport for Muslim students from CIDHS to attend Friday Prayers.

## Environment

Community Services has during 2021 & 2022 continued to be active in providing support for environmental awareness campaigns and clean-up activities in partnership with local environmental and community groups.

- **13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July** Underwater Explorers & CI Divers
- **11<sup>th</sup> September** Waterfall Bay Clean Up – Sea Sheppard
- **24<sup>th</sup> September** Blitz the Streets – SOCI Community Clean Up & CI Divers Underwater Cove Clean Up
- **12<sup>th</sup> November** Dolly Beach Rope Removal - Island Care
- **Fortnightly** Rubbish Pick Up & Empty Bag Drop Off - Greta – Dolly – Ethel Beach



## WA Plastic Ban

In conjunction with the Western Australian ban of single use plastics, Community Services with the Shire Ranger have been actively in disseminating information within the community and businesses, encouraging the changeover from single use plastics to Bio friendly and recyclable products.

This has included an audit of one use plastics listed within the WA Stage 1 Plastic Ban implementation which came into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, with the Shire Ranger visiting food outlets, the supermarket & convenient stores, with compliant businesses receiving a Shire Stage 1 Compliance Sticker and Certificate from the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer.





### Drink Local Water Campaign

Community Services in partnership with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), have been engaged in a community campaign to lessen the use of plastic water bottles by drinking local water. The Shire and DWER held a Drink Local Water information activity at the Foreshore Recreation Padang promoting local water with free giveaway reusable water bottles. Community Services have along with DWER compiled a map with locations of local water fountains where water bottles can be refilled. Businesses and food outlets that allow or have the capacity to refill bottles receive a sticker which designates the premises as able to refill water bottles.



### Christmas Island Environment Care Logo School Competition

The Shire in partnership with the Christmas Island Tourism Association and Christmas Island District High School launched a logo completion for students to come up with a logo and catch phrase which reflected the Islands community care for its environment which would be used on water bottles, bio friendly products and tourism marketing.

### Events Activities:

#### School Holiday program

School Holiday Activities were held in the June July School Holiday break by the Youth & Culture Department of Community Services which included:

- Painting – Training Room
- Sand Art Training Room
- Craft Time – Library

The Shire Community Bus provided transport via all suburbs to the Foreshore Recreation Area from October 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021 during the School Holiday period.

### Seniors:

- **Stay on Your Feet** – The Shire in partnership with Indian Ocean Territories Health Services (IOTHS) supports each Friday the Stay on Your Feet program held at the Poon Saan Community Hall. The Shire provides staff for activities including ZUMBA, as well as setting the Hall up including sound and video equipment as well as tea and coffee facilities.
- **Senior Respite Program** – Held each Tuesday morning in collaboration with IOTHS, the 3hr program from 0900am to 12pm offers carers free time as well as Seniors a wide range of activities from games to arts and crafts. Community Services staff participate in organising the Centre for activities as well as being of assistance with the day's program.
- **Simple English** – every Thursday from 1-3pm provides a basic English teaching workshop that helps in assisting in day to day experiences from understanding phone bills and where and how to pay to translation of day to day items. The workshop is taken by Shire Seniors Officer Ron Foo.
- **Seniors Week** - commenced Monday 26th of July until the 1st August offering Seniors activities and excursions during the Week with a Gala Senior Week finale Dinner held at Lucky Ho.
- **Excursions / Activities** – are held during the year with trips to Island locations such as Lily Beach utilising the Shires Community Bus. Refreshments and light snacks are provided by the Shire and fruit platters by IOTHS on most outings.

### Public Holiday Events & Activities:

- Territory Week 2021 – was held from 01st October until the 6th with Cove Day celebrated on Monday 4th. Again Territory Week focused on the Islands heritage with a historic exhibition held at Tai Jin House during the week until the 6th, the Islands cultures with a display of performances from Christmas Islands Malay and Chinese communities, and our region with a visit from a traditional performing group from Cocos, showcasing the Indian Ocean Territories as a whole. The week also included the Official Opening of the Foreshore Padang Recreation area, a car photo scavenger hunt as well as the traditional Territory Week and Cove Day activities such as Sports Day on Sunday, fishing competitions and raft regattas on Territory Day.

### Community Bus Service

Community & Recreation services continue to provide ongoing Bus services predominantly to the Recreation Centre from CIDHS.

The Community Bus commencing in October is utilised by CIDHS to transport Muslim students to the Mosque for Friday prayers.

Other services include events and activities such as, Senior Week & Seniors excursions, Sports programs and activities including Coach in Residence clinics.

The Christmas Island Community Bus is included within the Emergency Response and Recovery Plan as an emergency transport asset.

The Community Bus is funded \$30,000 annually by the Department of Infrastructure & Regional Affairs.

### **Shire Library**

The Shire Library continues to service the community Monday to Friday 12.00pm to 4pm Monday to Friday and 10.00am to 12.00pm Saturdays.

The Librarian organises an arts and crafts activity during the School Holidays held in the Library.

### **Media Section**

Still continues to collate, produce and print the fortnightly Shire Islander newsletter as well as conduct citizenship ceremonies.

### **Staff Training**

A role undertaken by the Director of Community Services, continues to oversee and assist Shire employee requirements such as in keeping with National, Western Australian Industry and Local Government regulations, standards and Shire policy including:

- Allocation of Staff USI numbers. (Unique Student Identification)
- White Card – Construction Site Permit Card application and online / course testing.
- Renewing of Work Safe Cards.
- Renewing Working with Children Cards.
- Yearly CPR refresher courses in maintaining currency for Shires CPR entitlement Policies.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Courses (3yr).
- Plan refresher courses.
- Identifying or sourcing upskilling requirements as well as training opportunities on offer.

The Community & Recreation Services team looks forward to continuing to be of service to the Christmas Island Community.

## GOVERNANCE, RESEARCH, POLICY & GRANTS



**Manager of Governance, Research, Policy and Grants, Chris Su**

### Grant Writing

2021-2022 saw the FAGs allocation for the Shire of Christmas Island continue on a non-factor back model. The desk made additional submissions to the WALGGC in May and July 2022 which assisted to inform the WA Local Government Grants Committee in their calculations for the coming year.

Several successful grant applications and incentives acquired by grants desk in the period:

Australian Museums and Art Gallery Association –	\$ 3,000
Regional and Local Newspaper Publishers Program -	\$ 5,412
National Australia Day Council -	\$22,000
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal -	\$ 8,979
Stronger Communities Program -	\$16,000
Community Development Program incentive payments	\$20,000
	<u>\$75,391</u>

Several other grants are still in the progress of execution or awaiting confirmation, including the Phase 3 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant of \$675,042 and several applications to the new Indian Ocean Territory Marine Parks Grant Program 2022 to mark the gazettal and establishment of the new Christmas Island Marine National Park.

It is noted Shire was expecting confirmation of their applications for the Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 grant program in October 2022. The BBBRF grant team advised all applicants that the BBBRF is being retired in October 2022, and a new 'Growing Regions' program will be rolled out to replace it in the near future. Grants desk will examine new guidelines for 'Growing Regions' and recommit projects when applications open.



## Governance

2021-2022 saw Council continue to work with the community, Commonwealth, NFP and state stakeholders on the development of the Christmas Island Marine National Park. This Marine Park was proclaimed in March 2022 after a year of consultation with the community. The Shire's Fisheries Management Committee and Community Consultative Committee played a large part in engagements with the National Parks senior team assigned to the IOTs to deliver on the process.

As of November 2022, the first Christmas Island Marine Park Management Committee will meet with representatives from the Shire's FMC on the committee.

The Director of Planning also continued working with Town Planning Consultant Herve Calmy and the Commonwealth's Christmas Island Strategic Assessment team to finalise the Town Planning Scheme instrument and Strategic Assessment processes. The Heritage Act 2018 (WA)(CI) was implemented on 1 July 2022 which has necessitated Council to create several heritage documents for Christmas Island to comply with the local government's obligations under this act.

## Research and Policy

The section assisted in continued action of opportunities in Council's 2018 *"Christmas Island-Singapore Strategy."* Council assisted two National University of Singapore students undertaking their Masters in Architecture that featured academic research on Christmas Island. Unfortunately both of these students could not visit Christmas Island due to travel restrictions at the time. Both published their works and recognised the Shire's contribution to their research.

As international travel to Australia was resumed in March 2022, this provided Council with the opportunity to have Singaporean contacts visit Christmas Island. Ms. Nabilah Said is a Singaporean playwright who was commissioned by the Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne to develop a play about the Malay experience of Christmas Island. Council supported return airfares from Singapore, use of a vehicle and accommodation at the Shire's contractor's unit for five weeks. The play will undergo pre-production and rehearsals in 2023 with a view to be performed in 2024 in both Australia and Singapore. This assists in actioning the education and cultural research aspects of the CISS 2018.

