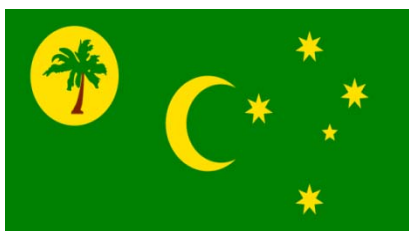
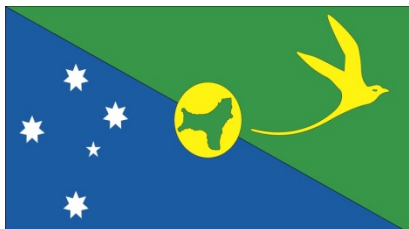


ADMINISTRATOR'S NEWSLETTER

INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

EDITION 3: February 2011



THIS ISSUE

Welcome

Tragedy 15 Dec 2010 CI

IOT Commerce and Workforce Development

IOT Community Capacity Assessment

UPCOMING EVENTS

Administrator on leave 11 to 25 February 2011

- Community Capacity Assessment Workshops
- CI Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 February
 - CKI Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 March

CONTACT DETAILS

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Administrator

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WELCOME

In Edition 2 of the Administrator's Newsletter I indicated that I would issue a Special Newsletter in early 2011 dealing with the tragic events on 15 December 2010 and in the week following. I am sure that the images of the people in the water on 15 December and the efforts to save them by those brave people on the cliff face and in the naval and customs vessels will live in our memories for years to come. It is distressing for all that at least 30 people perished in the waters below the cliff. That 42 people were saved however, is a cause for celebration. The members of the Emergency Management Committee in reviewing the events of 15 December and immediately following overwhelmingly agreed:

"... the response of the agencies on the islands was excellent and that the CI Emergency Plan was effective in operation."

The 30 deceased from the boat tragedy are being repatriated to mainland Australia on Saturday, 12 February 2011. A memorial service is to be held on 5 March 2011 to pay our respect to those who have perished in the tragedy of 15 December 2010 and to their families and friends. The service will also honour the survivors and those brave people who helped save them. A program for the event will be published soon.

I want to commend the community for its response and its resilience in the recovery not only from the events of 15 December but also in the face of the adversities associated with the disruption to our shipping air services.

MINISTERS' VISIT

The Hon. Simon Crean, Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government and Minister for the Arts, along with the Hon. Warren Snowdon, Minister for Veterans Affairs, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel and Minister for Indigenous Health visited the Indian Ocean Territories in the week beginning 31 January 2011. In light of the Ministers' pressing commitments occasioned by the devastation wrought by the floods in Queensland and Victoria and the cyclone in Queensland the Ministers' visit was necessarily short. It was nonetheless productive with the Ministers having a full program of meetings and functions. It was Minister Crean's first visit to the Indian Ocean Territories and he was impressed with their beauty and the people he met.



(Ministers Simon Crean and Warren Snowdon and Administrator Brian Lacy reception on Cocos (Keeling) Islands photo contributed by Karen Willshaw)



ADMINISTRATOR'S NEWSLETTER

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COMMERCE AND WORKFORCE WORKSHOPS

Over 50 people attended a series of workshops on Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The CI Economic Development Consultative Group (EDCG) had discussed possible support for a Chamber of Commerce or representative body for businesses in the Indian Ocean Territories. Regional Development Australia Mid West Gascoyne sponsored Bill Headley the CEO of the Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MWCCI) to visit and outline how the Chamber operates.

The CI and CKI EDCG have taken workforce issues as one of its main focuses and Robert Bailey an Industry Outreach Officer from DIAC was a key speaker in the workshops. Robert has become the officer assigned to the IOT which is a major initiative for our small communities.

There are also a number of local businesses who have been or are contemplating using Visa and Migration Services. Doris Dengel from Executive Staff Services and Rebecca Wallace from Playfair gave presentations at the workshop. They provided their time pro-bono with support from the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development, and Local Government. Christmas Island Phosphates were supporters of the workshops on CI.

The CI EDCG meeting on 9 February 2011 endorsed support for local businesses to consider becoming members of the MWCCI and that the MWCCI forms a sub-committee for the IOT. There will continue to be business networking sessions arranged through my office. Meanwhile support will continue for the workshop program in partnership with Small Business Development Corporation, EDCG and other organisations.

The CI EDCG also recommended that a procurement officer is contracted to work with local business and contractors to develop a detailed list of all the known and possible employment requirements for the next 12-18 months in the IOT. This would enable a detailed outline of the skills and numbers required along with the gaps in the current IOT workforce, and provide a plan of approach needed in training, recruitment and marketing for these positions.

The EDCG will continue to foster opportunities for further growth to our economy in the IOT.



(Ministers Simon Crean and Warren Snowdon and Administrator Brian Lacy being met at the CI Airport for Chinese New Year photo contributed by Allison Millcock)

COMMUNITY CAPACITY ASSESMENT

In late 2010 the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government after recommendations from the CI and CKI EDCG began discussions with Rural Solutions SA on mapping the capacity of the IOT communities. It was agreed that this would be invaluable in assisting future community planning. Rural Solutions SA use a unique community-based mapping tool called the 'Community Capacity Assessment Tool', which is ideally suited to undertaking this assessment.

The workshops involve a community group of between 15-25 people working together to answer a series of questions, assisted by a facilitator. The community's responses are recorded electronically, as are the group comments and discussions.

Workshops will be held on:

- CI Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 February
- CKI Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 March

If you would like to know more about these workshops and what is happening with economic development and the areas of support available including the IOT Economic Development Fund I encourage you to contact Simon Millcock the IOT Economic Development Officer on 08 9164 7959 email simon.millcock@ag.gov.au