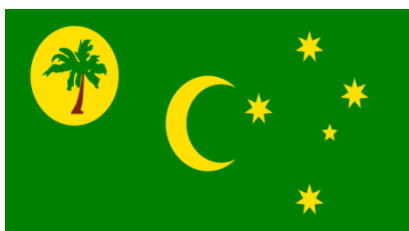


ADMINISTRATOR'S NEWSLETTER

INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

EDITION 1: JULY 2010



THIS ISSUE

Welcome

Economic Development

CIP Commerce Dinner

Volunteer Week

Workforce Development

UPCOMING EVENTS

Economic Development
Community meetings:

CKI 1 Aug 12.30pm HI Cyclone
Shelter

CI 6 Aug 4.30pm CI Cricket
Club

CKI visit 31 July – 3 Aug

CONTACT DETAILS

Hon. Brian Lacy

Administrator

Indian Ocean Territories

Phone: 08 9164 7960

Email: Brian.Lacy@ag.gov.au

WELCOME

It is my intention to provide a regular newsletter for the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) to assist in an open communication line from my desk to you.

I have enjoyed the privilege of being the Administrator now for just over six months and have found it an absolute honor to have been able to meet so many people who have such a wonderful passion for these islands. Joan and I share with you the joys and pains that come with life in small remote communities.

Whilst we are positioned in such a remote and isolated part of Australia, the Indian Ocean Territories have many attributes that other parts of the world envy. There are issues and complexities which challenge us, but the challenges are not unique and I am confident in the knowledge of the community spirit that is evident everywhere in the IOT that the challenges will be met.

There are a number of organisations which are working to promote and protect the wellbeing of communities of IOT, some of which I have the privilege of Chairing on behalf of the Minister for Home Affairs. I intend to use this newsletter to keep you up to date with their work also. I am also exploring other possible forms of communication.



CHRISTMAS ISLAND PHOSPHATE'S COMMERCE DINNER



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The recent announcements in the Commonwealth Budget demonstrate the Government's commitment to the IOT with significant investment in its infrastructure assisting long term sustainable economic growth.

Recently the Christmas Island (CI) Economic Development Consultative Group (EDCG) and the Cocos (Keeling) Island (CKI) EDCG held their first joint meeting.

Comments from members at the end of their full day of discussions included that it was fantastic to: meet with both islands, utilise the skills and knowledge of each other, find more common ground than originally expected, build important communications and bonding, be encouraged by the enthusiasm of members, share constructive criticism, and expand on possible solutions. It was generally agreed that the CI and CKI groups should have joined together sooner.

I would sincerely like to thank the CKI community for your open and generous hospitality to the CI EDCG. I know you have left a very lasting and positive impression on each of its members. I am sure there will be a number of very beneficial outcomes from the visit.

The EDCG provide constructive input to both me as their Chair and the IOT Economic Development Officer, Simon Millcock in:

- Implementing recommendations from the inquiry into the changing economic environment in the IOT
- Developing the IOT Economic Development Strategic Plan
- The formation of a possible IOT Development Association
- IOT Economic Development Budget Projects
- IOT Economic Development Fund applications
- Development of possible IOT Leadership Project

There have been a number of recent successful grants

announced, including:

- Zephyr Kite Tours \$15,000 to assist with transporting their clients on West Island,
- CI Property Pty Ltd \$10,000 Marketing for CI Tropical Homes
- The Big Barge Art Centre \$8,947 Marketing and Promotion
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands Tourism Association \$22,350 Public Bus Service Trial
- Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands \$18,720 Concept plan for Retail Development Home Island

If you would like to know more about what is happening with economic development and what areas of support are available I would encourage you to contact Simon Millcock the IOT Economic Development Officer on 08 9164 7901 ext. 7902 email simon.millcock@ag.gov.au or speak with a member of the CI or CKI EDCG.

Christmas Island members: Zainal Majid, Baard Maehle, Alfred Chong, Gee Foo, Kane Martin, John Richardson and Gordon Thomson.

Cocos (Keeling) Island members: Pam Jones, Haji Adam, Nek Neng and Madi Signa.



I also acknowledge, following his resignation, the work of Mick Simms, former CEO of the Shire of CKI with the EDCG. Congratulations also to Simon Millcock who is one of the first in Australia to become a Certified Economic Developer, under the newly introduced certification system.



COMMERCE DINNER

It was an honour and a pleasure to be invited to speak at the Commerce Dinner in the upgraded CI Chinese Literary Association facilities. Congratulations to Christmas Island Phosphates (CIP) for this initiative, which was supported by the Attorney-General's Department through the Economic Development budget.

This is the third economic development activity along with the IOT Horticulture Feasibility Study and IOT Entrepreneurial and Leadership project that has been supported by CIP. It is pleasing to see the regional approach that CIP is taking in support of economic development.

Speaking at the dinner, Clive Brown, Chairman of Phosphate Resources, took the opportunity to outline the connection between mining on the Island, and safe guarding the future of eco-tourism.

The key note speaker Don Holbrook, a Director from the International Economic Development Committee, and based in Las Vegas, gave a very interesting and motivational presentation titled *Saving Humanity One Community at a Time*

He challenged us to consider innovative thinking for economic development, including the approach of Public Private Partnerships as a key element, but noted that this requires vision, along with shared risks and rewards.

His insights included the need to think outside of the box, make investments that are over the horizon, and to view our entire community as an asset.

He stressed that solutions are based on self-starting and not being required to wait for assistance from outside the community. He also emphasised the importance of having a vision and remaining focused on that vision, as winning attitudes attract investment.



A key point is belief in your own local market and being prepared to "put your money where your mouth is – because if you don't, nobody else will." Controlling your own destiny, I know rang true with the thoughts of the Christmas Island Economic Development Consultative Group, and included:

1. Realize your true situation
2. Get valid outside perspectives
3. Don't hold onto yesterday
4. Define what success looks like
5. Identify the easily attainable opportunities that will pay off quickly
6. Find the best catalyst projects to get your community to success
7. Take local action to implement a business plan to exploit these opportunities, raise the necessary capital and develop public private partnerships.

I also had the opportunity to meet with Don during his visit and I know he was impressed with the opportunities that present themselves here.

As the Administrator, I will be supporting more of these types of events during my term, as they are an extremely useful tool in building the capacity of the community. They allow us to explore ways that others from around the world undertake development and confront their challenges.



VOLUNTEER WEEK 10-16 May

During my time on Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island I have come to realise that without the strong volunteering approach of so many people in our community, there would be very little achieved in our daily lives in the IOT.

From emergency services, through to sports, the arts, tourism and so many other cultural events, the life blood of both islands is very much in the hands of our volunteers.

National Volunteer Week is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer.

It was a privilege to be invited to present certificates to nearly 50 volunteer organisations on Christmas Island at a special function at Tai Jin House.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

With support of the EDCG we have been able to successfully progress employment opportunities for people from Cocos (Keeling) Islands regarding work on Christmas Island.

This is just one example of the support which is being provided to help with the workforce opportunities which are currently available in the IOT.

I am facilitating two community information sessions in partnership with Indian Ocean Group Training, Small Business Development Corporation, Serco and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

I have assisted with a visit to the IOT by a DIAC Industry Outreach Officer who can answer questions regarding overseas workers.

You are encouraged to attend the CI Cricket Club at 4.30pm on Friday 6 August or the Home Island Cyclone Shelter at 12.30pm on Sunday 1 August to hear updates on the efforts being undertaken to assist with increased employment in the IOT.

In conjunction with the EDCG I am working closely with IOGTA which is active in the area of a skills audit and also programs to provide people with the necessary skills to access the job market.

NEW INITIATIVES

I am currently chairing a reference group looking at the possibility of staging in 2014 a centenary celebration of the HMAS Sydney and SMS Emden naval battle. This could include both sea and land memorial services on CKI.

The event will require a truly collaborative approach between CKI Historical Society and Australian and German agencies and associations.

FEEDBACK

I would welcome your feed back on the newsletter at anytime.