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Berita Masyarakat

Christmas Island Community Newsletter

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THE DECEMBER 15 TRAGEDY

On behalf of the people of Christmas Island the Council of the Shire of Christmas Island expresses our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the asylum seekers who were lost in the wrecking of their boat on the cliffs of Christmas Island. The President and Deputy President of the Shire attended a private ceremony with the survivors and their families on Sunday 19 December. We expressed our condolences on behalf of the community. We were deeply moved by our meetings with the survivors who are enduring great suffering.

In the coming weeks a memorial ceremony for the community will be organised. In the meantime the survivors and the rescuers will need continuing support and the comforting of friends and families.

We have received many messages of condolence and support from beyond our shores.

This is just a message from the Sunshine coast, where I am a member of a refugee support group called Buddies. We are all deeply saddened by the shocking events of this last week and I wanted to say how wonderful it is to hear of the help that Christmas Islanders gave at the time and in the past... If there is a fund for assisting the survivors of the disaster can you let me know. Penny

Please pass on my thoughts to your residents for the terrible shock at the recent refugee disaster. I'm sure many are finding it very difficult to cope with what they witnessed, and I would just like to pass on my sympathy to them. Much love to you all. Kathy O'Leary and Family



We congratulate the local residents who have established a fund for survivors at the Westpac Bank. Our community has responded in the best human way from the moment the cries for help rang out. We join with the Administrator in acknowledging the community response.

Gordon Thomson
Shire President

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

On Wednesday, 15 December 2010 the Christmas Island community witnessed one of the worst tragedies in its recent history. While acknowledging the very sad loss of life and the plight of the survivors I wish to convey to those members of the community who were involved in the search and rescue and the recovery process my deep sense of pride in your selfless dedicated efforts. Without your efforts the outcome would have been even more tragic than we could imagine. I acknowledge also the courageous efforts of the navy personnel, customs, the emergency services, our police, the hospital staff, the ambulance volunteers, VMR personnel, the staff of Parks, DIAC and Serco and the IHMS staff. There are many individuals who deserve recognition and I am sure that will come in due course. Presently our whole community deserves commendation for its response the tragic events of last Wednesday.

Brian Lacy, Christmas Island Administrator

“People.”

On that day, I saw people helping other people. There were no distinctions between navy people, island people or boat people that day. People saw other people who needed help and regardless of whether or not it was their job to come to the rescue, dozens did.

People.

Everyone has feelings, emotion, compassion, loved ones. Especially loved ones. People go to extraordinary lengths for their loved ones. There's not much a father wouldn't do to help his family if someone were trying to hurt them. There isn't much mothers won't do to protect their children. What was so extraordinary that day is that strangers were prepared to go to such extraordinary lengths to help people whom they had never met. I heard of men being held back from diving off the cliff into the monstrous swell who felt the need to help the helpless. I saw human chains teetering on the edge of the cliff to get that extra foot of reach to throw out a lifejacket the furthest they could. I saw men in rescue boats risking their own lives putting themselves between the cliff and the wrecked ship to rescue those in need. For a short time, a stranger became a loved one.

People.

That day won't ever be forgotten by any person who was there. Island people will be reminded of that day every time they look at the ocean at the Golden Bosun. Front line responders will be taken back to that morning every time they smell diesel. Survivors will remember it every time they reach for a loved one who isn't there. In the coming weeks, we'll experience things that we'll need to talk about, on a national level, on a community level, on a personal level.

People.

We'll be a nation of people having conversations about other people. And in the middle of it all, again in familiar territory, will be the people of Christmas Island. If people in political, religious or military conflicts around the world could instead show the compassion that we showed on the cliffs that day, what a Christmas it would be.

“We all different. But still same-same one.”

- Chris Su

As a Liaison Officer at the Shire of Christmas Island, I'm available for the community as a contact point for people to provide feedback on DIAC operations on CI as well as to follow up on answers on their queries. Not all things fall under DIAC jurisdiction, but if you'd like to know more about something, let me know and I will see if I can follow it up.

0407994218, chris@shire.gov.cx

CLA NEWS

To all the volunteers, the rescuers and the people involved with the tragedy last Wednesday 15th December 2010, the CLA salute you for your compassion, care and bravery!! You all are certainly our Heroes!

We share the grief of those who lost their loved ones.

CLA Heritage Museum

From the assistance of the Shire Council, DORA and CI Removals, some of the 'at risk' items will be transferred to the National Archives of Australia Perth for preservation.

Renovation work on the CLA administrative building is nearing completion.

CLA would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, friends and community a 'Very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2011'.

“人們。”

那一天，我看到人們在幫助其他人。海軍的人、島上的人或船上的人之間沒有任何區別。當人們看到有人需要幫助，無論是否是他們份內的救援工作，他們都伸出援手。

人們。

每個人都有感覺、感情、同情心和所愛之人。特別是所愛之人。人們會對自己所愛的人格外盡力。如果家人正面臨傷害，沒有幾個父親會不挺身相救。沒有幾個母親會不去保護她的孩子。那天尤其不凡的是，陌生的人們準備好了要盡力去幫助那些他們素未謀面的人。我聽聞一位男士在懸崖跳水時被困在可怕的崖壁上，絕望地需要救助。我看到人們在懸崖邊搖搖欲墜地組成人鏈，以便能盡量將救身衣扔得最遠。我看到救難船中的人們冒著生命危險讓自己處在懸崖和遇險的船之間，去幫助那些需要幫助的人。在一瞬間，一位陌生人成了所愛之人。

人們。

那天的情景，在場的任何一個人都永遠不會忘記。每當島上的人們望見大海望見 Golden Bosun 島，他們就會想起那天。前方的救援者們每次聞到柴油的氣味就會被帶回那天上午。倖存者們每當聯絡到不在身邊的所愛之人，就會記起那天。在隨後的幾個星期中，我們將經歷到在民族層面、社區層面或是個人層面我們必須談論的事情。

人們。

我們將成為談論其他人的一族人。在所有這些人當中，在這熟悉的領地上的，就是聖誕島上的人們。如果世界上處於政治、宗教或軍事衝突中的人們能夠像在那天的懸崖上那樣顯示惻隱之心，將會是多麼美好的一個聖誕節。

「我們各不相同。但仍為一模一樣的人。」

- Chris Su

作為聖誕島郡的聯絡官，我隨時為社區擔當人們的聯絡點，提供對 DIAC 在聖誕島運作的反饋，並跟進對他們疑問的答覆。並非所有的事情都在 DIAC 的管轄範圍之內，但如果您希望更多地了解某些事情，請讓我知道，我會查看我是否可以跟進。

0407994218, chris@shire.gov.cx

“Orang.”

Pada hari tersebut, saya lihat orang membantu orang lain. Tidak ada perbezaan antara tentera laut, warga pantai atau warga pulau hari itu. Orang melihat orang lain yang memerlukan bantuan tanpa mengira sama ada atau tidak itu kerja mereka untuk datang menyelamatkan, berdozen-dozen.

Orang.

Semua orang mempunyai perasaan, emosi, belas kasihan, orang tersayang. Terutamanya orang yang tersayang. Orang akan bersusah payah untuk orang yang tersayang mereka. Tidak banyak seorang bapa tidak akan lakukan untuk membantu keluarganya jika seseorang cuba mencederakannya. Tidak banyak seorang ibu tidak akan lakukan untuk melindungi anak-anak mereka. Apa yang sangat luar biasa adalah orang asing bersedia bersusah payah untuk membantu orang yang mereka tidak pernah bertemu. Saya dengar lelaki ditahan daripada menyelam dari cenuram ke dalam sungai yang besar yang rasa perlunya untuk membantu yang tidak berdaya. Saya lihat manusia diikat pada tepi cenuram untuk memanjangkan kaki untuk membolehkan melontar jaket keselamatan sejauh yang mungkin rantai. Saya lihat lelaki dalam bot menyelamatkan membahayakan diri mereka berada di antara cenuram dan kapal ranap untuk menyelamatkan mereka yang memerlukan. Untuk masa yang singkat, orang asing menjadi orang yang tersayang.

Orang.

Hari itu tidak pernah dilupakan oleh mana-mana orang yang berada di situ. Orang pulau akan diingati hari tersebut setiap kali mereka melihat lautan di Golden Bosun. Penggerak Balas barisan hadapan akan dibawa teringat pada pagi tersebut setiap kali mereka berbau diesel. Orang yang terselamat akan mengingatnya setiap kali mereka teringat orang yang tersayang yang tiada lagi di situ. Pada minggu-minggu akan datang, kami akan mengalami perkara yang kami perlu untuk cakapkan di peringkat nasional, pada peringkat komuniti, pada peringkat peribadi.

Orang.

Kami akan menjadi negara orang yang mempunyai perbualan tentang orang lain. Dan di tengah-tengahnya, sekali lagi dalam wilayah yang biasa, akan menjadi warga Pulau Krismas. Jika orang dalam politik, agama bercanggah di seluruh dunia boleh menunjukkan belas kasihan yang kami tunjukkan di cenuram pada hari tersebut, meriah sekali hari Krismas.

“Kami semua berbeza. Tetapi masih yang sama.”

- Chris Su

Sebagai Pegawai Perhubungan di Wilayah Pulau Krismas, saya boleh dihubungi untuk komuniti sebagai orang hubungan untuk orang memberi maklum balas mengenai operasi DIAC mengenai CI begitu juga untuk menyusuli jawapan mengenai pertanyaan mereka. Bukan semua perkara termasuk di bawah bidang kuasa DIAC, tetapi jika anda ingin tahu lebih lanjut tentang sesuatu, beritahu saya dan saya akan lihat jika saya boleh menyusul.

0407994218, chris@shire.gov.cx

Community Liaison Officer

What is my job about?

As Community Liaison Officer, my role is to engage with the broader Christmas Island Community - to listen to your feedback about the changes and developments on the island over the past few years and follow up concerns that are raised with me including those that relate to the work of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. I'm available to all residents on the island, short- or long-term. You can contact me anytime Monday-Friday 8am-4pm at my office in the Shire. No Media please. Office 91648300 (244) Cell: 0407994218

什麼是我的工作有關?

由于中文主任，我的工作是在听取关心有关DIAC的活动改变了社会人士的意见。我采取一切意见DIAC得到一个答案，我把它送回去给你。我可以谈谈对岛上所有居民。短期和长期居民。您可以随时与我联系在 SHIRE 或随时公开。星期一 - 星期五 8am-4pm. 我将努力让您的问题回答了有关DIAC。

Apa pekerjaan saya tentang?

Sebagai CLO, pekerjaan saya adalah mendengar masyarakat CI tentang umpan balik atas aktiviti DIAC. Jika anda mempunyai beberapa maklum balas tentang perkembangan di pulau itu, anda boleh menghubungi saya. Aku akan bertanya DIAC tentang soalan yang anda miliki tentang kegiatan mereka. Aku sedia untuk semua penduduk di pulau itu, jangka panjang dan jangka pendek. Anda boleh menghubungi saya Isnin-Jumaat 8:00-4:00 di shire atau di masyarakat kapan saja.

Memorial Service

December 15th 2010 is a day in Island history that we will reflect on for a long time. People came to the aid of those in need putting aside differences to help those they could. Actually, perhaps 'putting aside differences' is not the right phrase to use; for a few hours that morning, people didn't even acknowledge there were differences. They just saw other people.

Christmas Island people, at our best, have always been like this. A person's cultural background just tends to fade away after we know them and instead of saying 'my Chinese friend Chris,' it just becomes 'Chris.' It just becomes 'Seong.' It just becomes 'Shafik.' It just becomes 'Cheng.' It just becomes 'Hama.'

This event will be put on for all the people we know the names of who helped the people whose names we will never get to know. Somehow, I would like to believe that if fates were different and those who were lost were born Islanders instead, we would then know their names and also fade their cultural background away as one of us.

I was asked to pen the words for the plaque that is being made for the SIEV 221. I sat for an hour at the SIEV X memorial waiting for inspiration, and then I thought I would go to the Bosun to look for inspiration there. After two hours of writers' block, I remembered something I read in high school.

'The loss of each person's life diminishes our own because we are involved in humankind.'

It was by a 17th century poet John Donne from his essay Mediations XVII. I decided his words written 350 odd years ago would be perfect for the plaque. I think John Donne would have made an excellent Islander and would have given his all as we did that morning and not hesitate to pick up a life jacket and run to the very edge of the cliff to throw it out as far as he could. Like us, he would have just seen other people.

The Memorial Service will be from 9.45am - 12pm Saturday 5th March at the Rec Centre.