

# The Torres Strait

This body of water flows between Papua New Guinea to the north and the tip of Cape York, Australia in the south linking the Coral Sea with the Arafura Sea. With its collection of more than 200 islands it is home to one of Australia's two indigenous peoples, Torres Strait Islanders.

The region is broken up into island groups that are commonly referred to as Eastern, Western, and Central. There are 22 inhabited islands with Thursday Island being the administrative hub.

Travel to Erub is usually made from Cairns, via Horn Island where you board a light aircraft for one of the most scenic ocean view flights dotted with opalised reefs, tropical coral cays and islands.



## Erub - Darnley Island



Erub (Darnley Island) is a tropical volcanic island located approximately 160km North of Cape York in the North East of the Torres Strait on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef.

Erub is home to approximately 400 Erubam le whose seafaring heritage has traditions in elaborately decorated canoes, carved stone, and intricately made dance costumes and weaponry. Stories of creation and events are passed down through song and dance keeping cultural traditions vibrantly alive.

More recently Erub holds significance in the area for the 'Coming of the Light' the greatly celebrated first landing and acceptance of Christian teachings through the pacific islander missionaries of the London Missionary Society (1871).

Erub is also famous for its pearl diving tradition many Torres Strait Island men braved the 'Darnley Deeps' harvesting tons of pearl shell.

# Erub Erwer Meta

Erub Erwer Meta's artists seek to preserve culture – *we want our community to have a strong Erubam le identity. Our art centre works to revitalise our traditional culture and promote it to the world.*

The Art Centre presents a unique model, built within the school grounds as an intergenerational learning centre where adults and children can work together in artist mentor roles.

The centre has two studio spaces for printmaking, ceramics and jewellery, a gallery and keeping place plus an outdoor amphitheatre. A Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service (RIBS) also operates from the centre, bringing all artistic forms together under the one roof.

Erub Erwer Meta's artists are from four tribal groups. They draw artistic inspiration from their identity, connection to their totems through traditional and contemporary stories about their land, sea and family connections.



# Art styles

Works produced by Erub Artists include:

Limited edition prints, lino, etching, screenprints  
works on paper, charcoal, pen and ink

Ceramic works: Sculptural and domestic ware, wood and gas fired

Artefacts and dance ornaments such as daris (traditional headdresses)

Fibre art: Ghost net, coconut and pandanus fibre woven baskets

Jewellery using metals, shell, collected and recycled materials

Screenprinted and commercially printed textiles (scarves and lengths of material)

# Collections

Ceramic works portraying significant stories are now held in the Ian Potter Gallery at NGV, Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Thursday Island. State Library of Queensland and private collections.

Ghost Net works are held in State and National collections including Parliament House Canberra.

Works on paper and fabric are held in collections at GoMA, the National Museum Canberra and the British Museum.



Erub Erwer Meta, adjacent to the school is a short walk from the main village hub and is situated on a hill overlooking traditional stone fish traps.

Visitors are welcome. The Centre and Gallery is open Monday – Friday and by appointment on the weekend.

Erub Erwer Meta PO Box 96, Darnley Island  
Via Thursday Island Qld 4875

Ph 07 4090 0827  
Mob 0488 409 935  
Email: [manager@erubarts.com.au](mailto:manager@erubarts.com.au)  
Web: [www.erubarts.com.au](http://www.erubarts.com.au)

Art Centre Manager: Diann Lui



# ERUB ERWER META Darnley Island Art Centre

Contact us



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# Erub Erwer Meta Art

## Unique Australian Indigenous Art from Erub, Torres Strait

From left to right, this side

- Ellarose Savage with her charcoal and water colour drawing, Mother of the Sand
- Ghost Net Dari by Jimmy Thaiday
- Etching: Weres, by Emma Gela
- Lino print: Nam Karem by Jimmy Thaiday
- Detail of Ilum: Ghost net collaboration

Over

- Aerial view of Erub
- Jimmy Thaiday and Nancy Naawi screeprinting
- Ghost Net Octopus - Arti by Maryann Bourne
- Necklace by Racy Oui-Pitt
- Erub Dancers at GoMA 2011
- Mono print by Florence Gutchen
- Cover , wood fired ceramic Kebika Legiz - Dessa by Maryann Bourne

Cover photograph by Keiran James  
other images by Lynnette Griffiths

