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**Madeina David**



Senior Natural Resource Management Officer  
Torres Strait Island Regional Authority

The 2023 Gigari MG Excellence in Sea Country Award winner is Madeina David (BSc, 2021). Through her role as Senior Natural Resource Management Officer for the Torres Strait Island Regional Authority (TSRA), Madeina David is connecting modern science with traditional land and sea knowledge on her island home of Iama.

Leaving her family at the age of 11 to attend boarding school on Thursday Island, Madeina's journey is one of courage and resilience. Having excelled at Tagai State College, Madeina relocated to Townsville to study a Bachelor of Science at James Cook University. Despite distance and distractions, her love of all things marine kept her connected to her studies and helped her solidify her decision to apply her knowledge to help the Torres Strait.

Madeina's responsibilities with TSRA's Sea Team includes a variety of resource management activities from habitat monitoring of seagrasses and corals to inspiring the next generation through Tagai's marine science program. She works daily with

Indigenous Rangers to track the health of marine reserves significant to local communities and works on ways to incorporate drones, artificial intelligence and eDNA for monitoring across remote communities.

The 24-year-old frequently represents the TSRA in media interviews and field collaborations with other institutions including TropWATER, AIMS and CSIRO. In late 2021, Madeina participated in the Great Reef Census Reef Women Warriors of the Torres Strait expedition that was aimed at promoting the role of women in reef science.

Madeina's passion for the Torres Strait has led her to inform local decision-making and support those around her, especially young people, by encouraging them to chase their dreams. She understands the value of strong role models and credits where she is today because of an enthusiastic high school teacher who inspired her to chase her own goals.

Madeina is enthusiastic about everything marine, fisheries and conservation and is an outstanding young leader in her community.

In 2023, she is also celebrating a new milestone as she navigates the joys of motherhood and a thriving marine science career.