

09 February 2022

Council Fundraiser for Tonga Disaster Relief

Roper Gulf Regional Council's Katherine Support Centre is serving bacon and egg rolls from 7:00am – 9:00am on Friday 11 February 2022 to raise funds for disaster relief in Tonga.

A violent eruption of an underwater volcano on 15 January 2022 has caused devastation to many of the Tongan Islands and has sent shockwaves across the world.

Eua Island is one of the Tongan Islands most affected by the volcanic eruption and is where Numbulwar's Council Service Coordinator John Terepo calls home.

"It was heartbreaking to see the Island where I grew up being destroyed by the eruption and the tsunami," said John.

"I was watching the live stream of the tsunami before communications were cut out and all I could think about was my family who live on Eua Island.

"All my family are okay, but it is really sad to see roads, bridges, buildings and rainforests where my ancestors, grandparents and family used to go fishing and explore, have been destroyed."

John moved to Australia from Tonga in 1983 and has lived in the Roper Gulf region since 2000.

Council's Mayor Tony Jack noted that John has been involved in a number of evacuations and other emergencies in the Numbulwar community and has gone above and beyond to support the people who live and work in Numbulwar.

"It is now Council's turn to show the same support for John and other staff members who have family in Tonga," said Mayor Jack.

"I encourage people in Katherine to look out for the marquee and barbeque on Crawford Street on Friday morning and support the staff's efforts to raise money for the people in Tonga," he added.

Staff at the Katherine Support Centre will be serving breakfast at 2 Crawford Street, Katherine East on Friday 11 February 2022 to raise funds for disaster relief in Tonga.

We will be selling bacon and egg rolls for \$5.00 per roll from 7:00am – 9:00am and encourage the Katherine community to come over and grab one.

Council has also committed to donating an additional \$5,000 to the disaster relief in Tonga, on top of what is raised on Friday morning.

Please note that Covid-19 safety measures will be in place, meaning that breakfast will be served to people from their cars and face masks must be worn at all times.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

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Image Description: Photo taken in Tonga after tsunami.



Image Description: A photo of John Terepo taken in Tonga.