



Ngaratumetum

Leader
Tkelkang "Terry" Aderkeroi
Spokesperson
Tarita Holm

Main Activities

- Organizing and participating in community work days
- Cleaning waterways of the taro patch
- Helping out with community funerals
- Applying for and participating in grant projects
- Supporting community events



Background of Establishment

It is the traditional younger women's organization from Ngardmau State that has existed for over a hundred years. They work closely with Ngarækil, which is the traditional older women's organization from Ngardmau State.

Purpose

Ngaratumetum reports to and works under Ngarækil within the traditional governance system to achieve the best outcomes for everyone in the community and work towards the State's overall vision.



Member's Voice Ms. Tarita Holm

The traditional name of Ngardmau is "Ongedechuul" and it derives from the verb "mengedechuul," which means to find/devise a way to do things. As people of Ngardmau, we are known for our innovative and persistent nature. We believe that whatever is needed, we are just going to make it happen! "The citizens and descendants of Ngardmau hold fast to the 'Ongedechuul Dream' : the dream of a respectable and enjoyable livelihood, owning a safe and comfortable home, access to land for farming or gardening, clean water, and reliable utilities, and access to healthy and abundant fisheries." (As stated in our Ngardmau's Master Plan)

We currently have around 30 to 35 members in Ngardmau State and other areas all around Palau. Typically, women born in Ngardmau are automatically members of Ngaratumetum. We follow the vision statement from the Ngardmau's Master Plan: "The people of Ngardmau are the heirs to the land and lagoon known as Ongedechuul where 'the impossible is possible.' We envision a healthy, productive, and happy community, united and living in a clean, beautiful, and safe environment, where traditions are maintained, core values of Ongedechuul are exemplified, and all people of Ngardmau can pursue their dreams." Each of us contributes to the community in some way, whether through monetary contribution or donating food, drinks, and/or supplies needed for community events.

One of our focus for the future in our State is on education and culture. Palau's school system currently teaches a lot about the US history, language and social studies, using textbooks from the United States, but we have a strong desire to teach our children Palauan subjects and Ngardmau's specific History, Social Studies, and culture. The children are not taught their Palauan topics in schools, which inevitably tells them their own identity is not as important as those in the US. Each State in Palau has a similar, yet unique system, as well as culture and history. The children in Palau need to be taught about these so this information and knowledge can be restored. I believe that children first need to have a solid sense of their own identity before learning about others outside of Palau.

We sometimes struggle to continue the flow of leadership passing down to the next generation, but the vast majority of our members love to collaborate with a wide variety of partners, such as JICA, and wish to be more active in our community in the future.

Contact Information

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