

Introducing Kaisiana



Meet Kaisiana! We're going to read about a very special journey that Kaisiana takes. But first, let's find out about Kaisiana and her family.



Kaisiana Gibas.

Kaisiana lives in Cairns in north Queensland. She lives with her mother, father, nine brothers and sisters and her grandmother. Kaisiana calls her grandmother 'Mum', because in her culture, grandmothers are just like mothers.

At home, one of Kaisiana's jobs is to take care of her younger brothers and sisters.

Name: Kaisiana Gibas

Born: June 1994, Cairns, Queensland

Hobbies: collecting stickers and colouring-in sheets

Favourite sport: Rugby League football

Favourite music: rhythm and blues and hip-hop

Languages spoken: English and Torres Strait Creole

Favourite food: pizza, barbecued or fried turtle and a special turtle and sago dish that her grandmother cooks.

Back row from left: Kaisiana's brothers William, Walter Junior, Kingsley and James, and her grandmother Padini Gibas.

Middle row: Kaisiana's father and mother, Walter and Catherina Gibas, and her sister Nancella.

Front row: Kaisiana nursing her sister Little Catherina Gibas.



Kaisiana and her family.

Kaisiana's mother: Catherina Gibas (nee Sailor)

Born: Thursday Island

Group: Torres Strait Islander (Darnley Island/Eastern Islands)

Languages spoken: Torres Strait Creole and English

In 1989, Catherina left Thursday Island to live in Cairns.

Kaisiana's father: Walter Gibas

Born: Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Group: Torres Strait Islander and Papua New Guinean

Languages spoken: Torres Strait Creole, **Tok Pisin** and English

In 1989, Walter left Darnley Island to find work in Cairns.

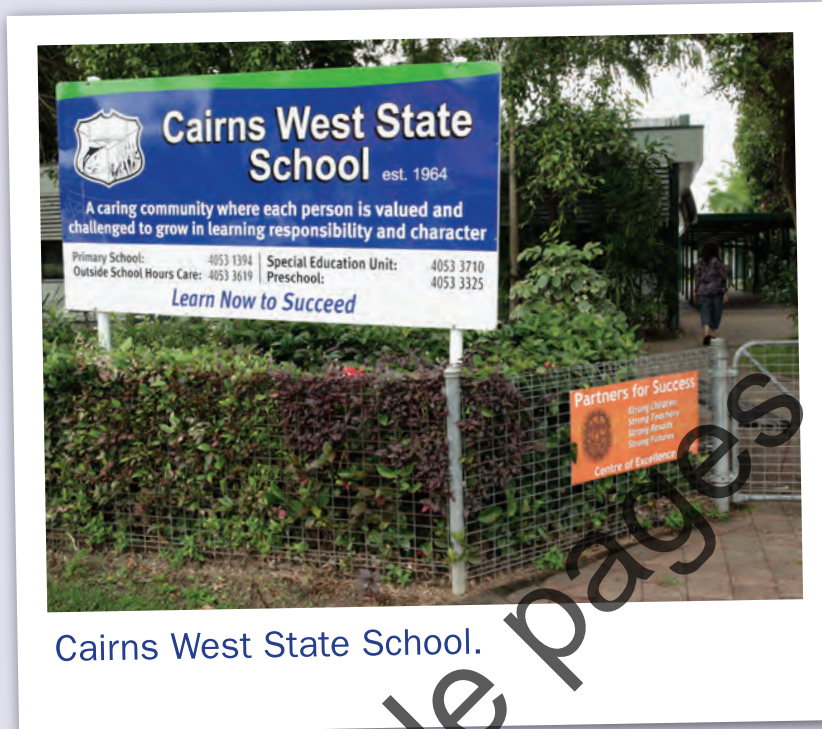
Kaisiana's grandmother (mother of Walter Gibas):

Padini Gibas

Born: 1943, Daru, Top Western Province, Papua New Guinea

Languages spoken: Tok Pisin, **Kiwai**, Torres Strait Creole and English.

Kaisiana's Homework



Cairns West State School.

Kaisiana is in Year Six at Cairns West State School. She likes a lot of things about school, including drawing pictures and playing games at lunchtime. Kaisiana likes playing handball, basketball and tiggy, but her *favourite* game is touch football.

Many Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal children go to her school. Kaisiana likes looking at the Indigenous artefacts on display in the school foyer.

The school has an **Indigenous** resource room where Kaisiana enjoys doing different activities. Families can also use the room for meetings and to help children with their school work. Kaisiana feels special and proud when her mother helps out at the school.

Today the class is buzzing with excitement. It is the last day of term two, and all the students are talking about the things they might do in their school holidays. Their teacher, Mrs Berry, has given Kaisiana's class a really interesting homework assignment. Mrs Berry wants everyone to bring an object to school that tells a story about their **heritage** and to give a short talk about it.

Kaisiana can't wait for the holidays. She's thinking about a special journey that she will be going on.



Mrs Berry writes homework for next term on the blackboard.

Kaisiana's Journey

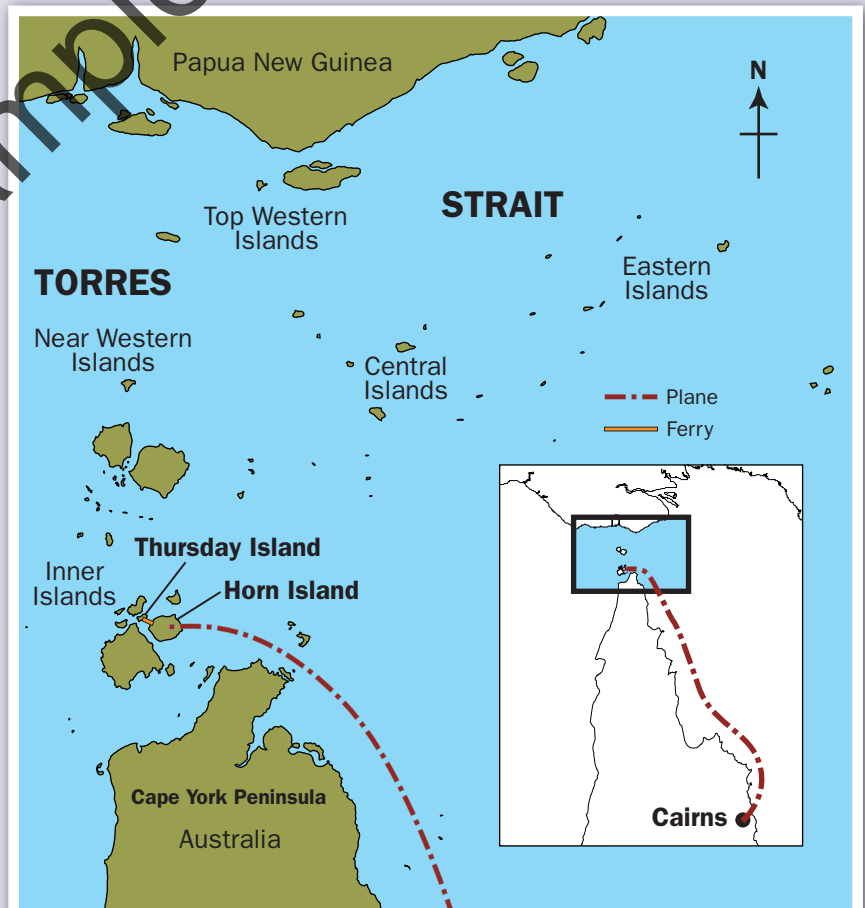


Paybrete part blo me e wen I zamp lo da ole perry lo Orn lan. I prapa laik sit down antap lo deck an pili da win lo my pes.

My favourite part is boarding the old ferry at Horn Island. I love sitting on the top deck and feeling the wind in my face.



Kaisiana is going on a long journey to visit her other grandmother on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. To get there from Cairns, Kaisiana will need to travel by air, road and sea. She's really looking forward to visiting her relatives and being somewhere she has never been before.



Facts about the Torres Strait Region

More than 9000 years ago:

Torres Strait Islander people began living on islands in the Torres Strait.

1606:

Luis Vaez de Torres, a Spanish explorer, sailed through Torres Strait.

1868:

A pearl-shell station was set up on Tudu (Warrior Island).

1871:

Missionaries from the London Missionary Society travelled by boat and landed on Darnley Island. **Christianity** became part of island life. Today the anniversary of the landing is known as the *Coming of the Light*.

1879:

The Torres Strait region became part of Queensland.

1982:

Eddie Koiki Mabo, Sam Passi, David Passi, Celuia Mapo Salee and James Rice began a legal claim for ownership of Mer (Murray Island).

1992:

The High Court of Australia ruled that Meriam people had traditional ownership of Mer (Murray Island).

1994:

The Commonwealth Government set up the Torres Strait Regional Authority to provide good services for Indigenous peoples who live on the 17 islands and the tip of Cape York Peninsula.