

# Palm Island Voice



FREE!

## Issue 350

2 May 2022



PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons within this publication.



## Mayors call for housing support

Mayors and councillors from Queensland's 17 First Nations councils met in Cairns last week at the Local Government Association of Queensland's (LGAQ's) Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF) to discuss issues of critical importance to their communities.

Chairs for the two-day meeting were Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher and Hope Vale Mayor Jason Woibo.

Sessions included open 'Yarn Up' opportunities for each of the local government areas to raise their own issues, as well as youth crime, COVID updates, Indigenous businesses and vendor panels, regional waste planning, alcohol management plans, marine infrastructure and freight, housing and land tenure. *Continued next page...*



*Pictured from the top are: the ILF; Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam & Yarrabah Mayor Ross Andrews (left); Woorabinda Mayor Joshua Weazel and Cherbourg Deputy Mayor Thomas Langton with retiring LGAQ Lead – Workforce Capacity and ILF supporter Gabrielle Dorward (right); Mayors, Councillors and CEOs from Torres and Mornington Island Shire Councils, and Napranum, Mapoon, Cherbourg and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Councils; Meeting co-chair Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher; and, Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) EO Melinda Eades, Doomadgee Cr Athol Walden & Mayor Sam. Pics by Christine Howes.*

From previous page...

The meeting voted to lead a delegation to Canberra to get action on housing after the major parties failed to send a minister or shadow minister to the ILF at the height of the Federal Election campaign.

ILF co-chair Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher said the lack of action spoke volumes about their priorities.

“If they won’t come to us, then we will go to them because unless this issue is addressed our communities will continue to fall behind,” he said.

He said they would continue to pressure all political parties because the overcrowding crisis simply could not be allowed to continue.

LGAQ CEO Alison Smith backed the ILF and said they were calling for \$100 million a year over the next five years for housing.



## Thinking of Uni?

**If you haven’t studied for a while and want to see if university might be for you, come along to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway program to give it a try.**

You will attend classes on campus and take part in learning activities designed to help prepare you for the demands of university study.

The program is one week long and will be taught by the Indigenous Education and Research Centre staff, and is designed to help build your capacities in Math, English and Chemistry. These subject areas will be important to you if you are interested in, for example, studies in nursing, social work, psychology, education, business, IT, medicine, science & engineering.

During the program you will also learn about the support services available to help you succeed in your studies, meet other students who will be an important network for you, and become aware of the range of scholarships that are available to support your studies.

### BEBEGU YUMBA CAMPUS, DOUGLAS, TOWNSVILLE

Monday 23rd May - Friday 27th May  
9am to 2.30pm

### NGUMA-BADA CAMPUS, SMITHFIELD, CAIRNS

Monday 6th June - Friday 10th June  
9am to 2.30pm

### For further information

Call the Indigenous Education and Research Centre on 4781 4676 or email [ierc@jcu.edu.au](mailto:ierc@jcu.edu.au)

[jcu.edu.au](http://jcu.edu.au)



*“University is not just for smart people, because I never finished school. It’s not just about being a smart person, it is about the ‘why’ you are doing this that is the main driver that will take you the rest of the way. I did this for myself, my family, and country.”*

### Phillip Obah

BACHELOR OF ARTS-BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, GRADUATE

The program is free of charge and Residential options are available for those living outside of Cairns and Townsville



Indigenous Education and Research Centre

# OUR next DEADLINE\* (Issue 350.1) will be this Thursday 5 May for publication on **MONDAY 9 May!**

The **Palm Island Voice** is published \*weekly if we have paid advertising, or otherwise fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au) Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor, Christine Howes. You can also follow us on Facebook! We have 2,815 ‘likes’!

The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

**Operating Hours for Palm Island Council are Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm**

If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200 Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 5,099 ‘followers’ on Facebook!!!

