

# Palm Island Voice



**FREE!**

## Issue 364

14 November 2022



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

## Vasenai is a CEQ winner!

Remote store operator Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) has awarded Vasenai Dabeo the Company's 'Most Improved' as part of its Annual Awards at a special ceremony in Cairns.

The awards were the culmination of CEQ's three-day Annual Managers Conference and celebrated achievements in CEQ's service across North Queensland, including its remote stores in Cape York and the Torres Strait, and on Palm Island.

The Annual Conference in Cairns centred on this year's theme of 'Together for Tomorrow' and was attended by CEQ board member Mislam Sam, and addressed by former-Mayor Alf Lacey.

Almost 90 per cent of CEQ remote store



managers, as well as the management team of CEQ's Cairns-based team, attended the conference, with training on operational excellence and managerial development.

## Out & About on a lazy Saturday avo!



*LEFT: Matthew (son) and John Johnson chasing trevally on the low tide.  
BELOW: That must be the Oui family having fun!!  
RIGHT: Noel Richardson from the Mission flicking for trevally on the incoming tide.*



# Locals step up to lead the way



Six new Senior Protective Security Officers (SPSO) have been inducted into the QPS to help protect their local community of Palm Island.

Christopher Barry, Philip Coutts, Nikita McKean, Arona Miller, Todd Pearson and Kelee Roberts-Malone have become trailblazers in their community as the first Palm Island Indigenous locals to be employed by the QPS.

The new Senior Protective Security Officers (SPSO) are under the supervision of Operations Supervisor Rob Youngblutt.

The vision to employ local people to protect local assets came about through the brainstorming of Palm Island OIC Senior Sergeant Dave Rutherford and Protective Services Group Director Maureen Kelly.

Until now, security services have been provided by external contractor Australian Indigenous Security Services (AISS) who recruit employees from a wide geographical area, including Fiji.

With Protective Services Group under the umbrella of the QPS since 2016, and Palm Islanders in need of employment opportunities, Senior Sergeant Rutherford said it made sense on many levels to recruit locals and bring them into the fold.

“AISS have done a fine job, but they’ve had the challenge of not knowing anyone,” he said. “Our locals know everybody by sight, and this

is a powerful disincentive to cause damage to a building if you know you will be recognised.

“The Palm Island community as a whole wants to reduce crime, and a fair proportion of it involves young people damaging property, so targeting this area in particular will have a marked impact.”

Since the recruitment process began, Protective Services Group has fielded a huge number of inquiries from other community members interested in gaining employment.

Eventually, it is hoped a further 10 SPSO positions will be made available.



# Funding boost for water & sewerage treatment

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has received more than \$6 million dollar in grants to deliver infrastructure upgrades and better services on the island.

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said the funding through Round 6 of the Building our Regions program was important for Palm Island.

“I know how welcome this funding is for Palm Island and how important it will be for the community,” Mr Stewart said.

“It will create good jobs and deliver better services on Palm Island.”

PIASC CEO Michael Bissell said the council appreciated the support from Government.

“We look forward to getting on with planning the works, which will create up to 10



MP Scott Stewart & CEO Michael Bissell

local jobs in support of contractors that would be engaged to deliver the works,” Mr Bissell said.

Funding will go to the council to deliver four projects on the island – Sewerage Treatment Plant

Inlet Works, Solomon Reservoirs, Blue Green Algae Suppression and Sewer Rehabilitation.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Mislam Sam said it was a great outcome for the community.

# Business road show marks grant openings

Several locally-owned businesses attended the Queensland Government’s Business Roadshow in Townsville earlier this month.

The roadshow is an the opportunity for government buyers and suppliers to attend an interactive drop-in style event.

Business owners were able to connect with from local and state governments and get practical tips and information about government tendering, ‘greening’ your business, and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

MEANWHILE the Queensland Government has launched Round 4 of the Business

Basics Grant program.

Eligible small businesses (including non-employing and micro businesses, and new and emerging businesses with less than 20 employees and a turnover of less than \$300,000 for the last financial year) will be able register their interest to apply for a \$5,000 grant from 9am Thursday 24 November.

The program guidelines, eligibility criteria and FAQs for the Business Basics Grants program are available online.



Applications will close at 11.59pm on 5 December 2022.

To learn more visit: [www.business.qld.gov.au/business-basics](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/business-basics)

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

## PALM ISLAND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEAN UP



### WHAT – COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

We are cleaning up '*hard rubbish*' to minimise community safety risks in the event of a disaster, such as a cyclone.

'*Hard rubbish*' includes the following types of rubbish that the household doesn't want anymore, mattresses; fridges; freezers; tables and chairs; dryers; washing machines; microwaves; TVs; video players and DVDs; computers; bikes; prams; tyres; pieces of scrap metal such as guttering, sheets of iron, fencing poles and mesh, empty steel drums; plastic items such as play sets; cans of paint or oil; car batteries; gardening equipment such as whipper snippers, chain saws, hoses, pots, old bags of fertiliser or herbicides, tools such as rakes and spades.

'*Hard rubbish*' **does not include** your **normal household rubbish** that you put in the bin each week for collection or **car bodies**.

**WHEN** – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November to the Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**HOW** – All households are asked to put out all '*hard rubbish*' on the footpath in front of their house from the afternoon of Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November ready for collection from the morning of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Community members such as the Elderly that may require help in bringing their '*hard rubbish*' out on to the footpath, can contact 07 4770 0200 for assistance.

**ENQUIRIES** - for any queries, please call 07 4770 0200 or email [reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)

**OUR next DEADLINE\* (Issue 365) will be  
Thursday 24 November  
for publication on MONDAY 28 November!**

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 2,843 '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 5,115 'followers' on Facebook!!!

