

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 366.1

19 December 2022



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



On behalf of Council I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year, Mayor Mislam Sam writes...

We started 2022 with COVID-19, and I know we're all grateful to have hopefully finished without it.

It's still out there, we know that, but as we learn to live with it and remember to keep our Elders and vulnerable safe from it, we have hope as we move into 2023.

It has been a year in

transition for Council, and we hope the community sees good work we've done with upgrades to our water and roads.

We are looking forward to more of the same in 2023 as we continue with that work and delivering for our community.

Best to all,

Mislam



Flashback!

WARNING: There may be pics of deceased family members on these pages. With thanks.

The Palm Islander

25 JAN 1977

Vol. 1, No. 6 Printed by A. B. Services, 258 Stuart St., Townsville Friday, 21st January, 1977



1977 A.I.C.C. Conference Two Palms Women Give a First-Hand Account

The Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Council this year held its 4th annual conference in Charters Towers using the facilities provided by Mt. Carmel College for accommodation, catering and for the meeting itself. Some 200 people from both Queensland and Tasmania attended the conference which started on Monday 10th and went till midday Friday 14th January. The main items on the agenda were Land Rights, Education and Culture and Heritage. The conference was opened by Bishop Faulkner of the Diocese of North Qld who welcomed everyone to Charters Towers. Bishop Faulkner said, "...I think it is tremendous to have so many fine young Aboriginals and Islanders in our midst and I know, as a Bishop, I feel really proud of that and also very, very hopeful. Hope that this kind of friendship and joy that we have experienced will be the keynote of our whole conference during this week, and I know that it will be."

OUR BPA MAN OF THE WEEK



Editor of the PALM ISLANDER presents Johnny Terpakal, our BPA Man of the Week, with the official BPA cap and Tee shirt.

BPA, serving Palm Island 23 times weekly - and don't forget our weekend flights, morning and afternoon from Townsville.



Published by Palm Island Education Centre. Editor: Sherry O'Neill. (Cont'd on page 2.)

The Palm Islander

PREPARE NOW FOR THE DAY BIG BROTHER GOES AWAY

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ANOTHER LOOK AT... PALM ISLAND HOUSING

There is only one way to describe the housing on Palm Island at present. It is shockingly inadequate.

To improve the situation needs an urgent effort by everyone concerned - the householders, the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, the Council, the Commonwealth and State governments.

The major problem is overcrowding. As unemployment increases on the mainland, more and more visitors come from the mainland to the Island. With conditions improving on Palm, the trickle of long-staying visitors has increased to a flood. At present we estimate there are about 500 visitors on the Island.

The total population is about 1500. So we have a usual of 2000 people crowding into the 160 houses available. This works out at twelve or more people, on average, but some have many more.

The old-style houses (a little more than half the 160) have only one or two bedrooms, and were designed for a small family of about five persons. Even the new houses were built with plumbing (septic tanks, grease traps and soakage pits) to cater for ten people. So there are overcrowded rooms and broken-down plumbing which leads to family tensions, fights, breakages and straight-out ill-health especially amongst children.

The present houses were not well-designed and can't take the battering. Even new houses are ready for repairs that would cost hundreds or thousands of dollars. The old houses were built with bush timber, and are hardly worth repair, as the timber is often rotting with age. New housing is needed.

There is some reason for hope here, with a new Council plan for new housing. This will be discussed in full in our next issue.

But even new houses will not solve the overcrowding problem. As new houses are built, more people will come to stay on Palm. At present is only the poor, a crowded housing which keeps people away.

So we also need a policy on population. How many people should Palm and Palm 1000? 1000? 15,000?

This is a problem to be faced. The Council in the past has tried to stop overcrowding by limiting entry into Palm, but this has only brought them abuse by their critics for denying people freedom to live where they please. At present there is no real restriction on entry, and the result is increased unemployment, crowded housing with resulting tensions and disease.

On page four we take up this problem with a John Cummins cartoon, and a story of a typical family under stress. We may laugh at the cartoon, but what the housing situation is doing to the community is NOT FUNNY.

"New Berger Vinylmatt. Dirty marks just wash off without leaving shiny spots."

The paint of the future

BERGER VINYL MATT

Published by the Education Centre, Palm Island 4816. Subscriptions: Write to: The Editor, Editor: Brother Denis Callaghan, Assistant Editor: Delphine Geis, Newspaper, Palm Island, 4816 \$12.00 for Twelve Months (Posted price).

Dreamtime

LOOKING BACK AT FANTOME

The pictures and story on this page were taken from the Harvest magazine of October 1964, and will bring back memories for many of the people of Palm Island, and for the Sisters at the Convent, especially Sister Paul, who spent many of her years on Fantome, and who passed on the magazine to The Palm Islander.

Written October 1964: "Many years ago, Fantome Island was a dreared place where society's outcasts wanted to death. The new wonder drug, sulphurene, introduced in 1949, and the care of five dedicated women have turned Fantome into an island paradise with a handful of Australia's most cared for patients. In its early days, Fantome had an average of 90 patients destined to die on the island; today there are only 20 patients. All should be discharged from the island in a few years. Some predict the disappearance of leprosy in the foreseeable future.

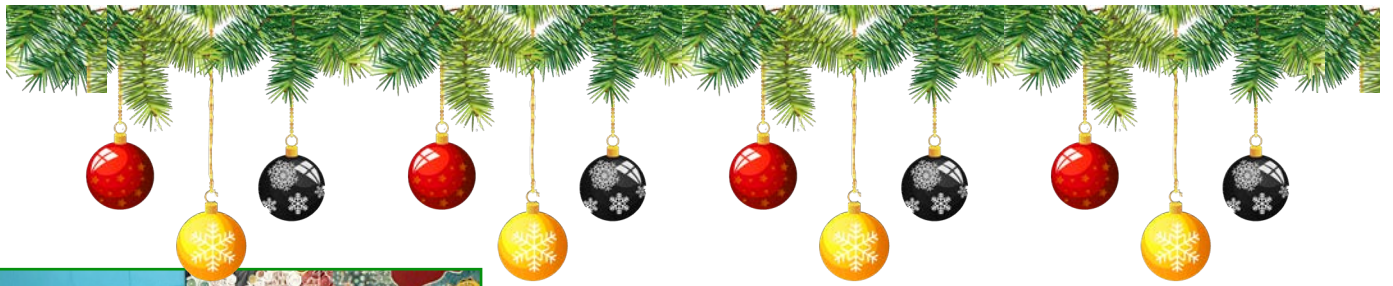
"Visitors are not allowed on Fantome Island without Government permit. Special permission was granted to the editor of Harvest and our photographer to record the hidden life on Fantome with these exclusive pictures."

1. Paddy Tanna, Mother St. Nerec (see p.6.), Sibyl _____, and Mother St. Elve.
2. George Bowen and Mother St. Elve.
3. Pat Tanna and Colin Saylor.
4. Fergus Waterston and Irene Gregory.
5. Mrs. Anderson.

... AND NOT ALL THE BIG ONES GET AWAY!



Allana, Jukey and Jimmy Baira with a king-size cod. The story was that Allana caught a small fish and was pulling it in. Along came the cod, decided he wanted a feed, and got himself hooked and caught



**Thank you, Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all
our hardworking staff
- you make us great!**





Careers with Queensland Health

Operational Services Officer Palm Island, Queensland

About your opportunity:

The Joyce Palmer Health Service on Palm Island is currently seeking to recruit Casual Operational Services Officers to their team.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Operational Services Officer works alongside clinical staff to maintain a clean, safe and accessible facility through which health services are delivered to the Palm Island Community. This is achieved through a range of housekeeping services within Joyce Palmer Health Service and staff accommodation areas. These services include cleaning, food preparation, laundry and transport duties as detailed below.

Casual rates of \$34.49 - \$36.80 p.h. (002).

Requirements:

- It is a mandatory requirement to be and to remain vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Mandatory: Applicant must have their own accommodation on Palm Island or Palm Island residential address.
- This is a Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) risk role: Hepatitis A/B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, and Pertussis.
- It is highly desirable that the incumbent has experience in effectively engaging with Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Island people.
- Pre-employment checks will be conducted.

Please refer to the Role Description for further details.

Interested..?

Contact: Glenn Carey on 0457 531 862.

Apply ONLINE by: Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Applications: <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV461805>

M7626

You can apply online at www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job. A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.



SAVE THE DATE

26TH
JANUARY
2023



Survival Day

Seeking expressions of interests
for Artists, Dancers, Cultural
Practitioners, Food Stalls, Stall
Holders, Musicians and Volunteers

PLEASE CONTACT INFO@BIGEVETHEATRE.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION

**OUR NEXT
DEADLINE***
**(Issue 367) will
be a Thursday in
late January for
publication on a
Monday soon after.**

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 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 2,868 '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
5,200 'followers' on Facebook!!!