

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 368

30 January 2023



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

What a catch!!!



A local dingy sunk at the pontoon effectively stopped all Sealink and barge service just two days before Christmas last year.

A quickly formed salvage team, lead by Marc Simmons and Dereck Haines Jnr and including Costa Sam and Javahn Oui, saved the day in just three hours – what a day!

What a catch!

Fallen pilot remembered



From left are Warrant Officer Indigenous Affairs Trish Mackintosh, Dianne & John Jeffreys, Chaplain David Kelly, Group Captain Peter Gibb, local dancer Graham Willis, Flight Lieutenant Katie Taylor 27 Squadron and Group Captain Peter Davies, Chief of Staff Air Combat. Pic: ADF Words: Alf Wilson.

Late last year an emotional ceremony was held on Palm Island for pilot FLGOFF Richard ‘Rick’ Michael Jeffreys, who died in a plane crash on Palm Island on 18 November 1987.

FLGOFF Jeffreys was conducting the final solo flight of his conversion

course during a low-level night radar and bombing sortie.

For many years following the crash there was concern about FLGOFF Jeffreys’ spirit remaining on the island.

The Palm Island Council requested Air Force support for a commemorative service to be held on 18 November 2022 to mark the 35th anniversary of the crash, and to provide spiritual healing for the Palm Island Elders and community, especially those who were present on the day of the crash.

The service was conducted by Chaplain David Kelly and held adjacent to the jetty at the Palm Island cenotaph.

Palm Island residents, school children, FLGOFF Jeffreys’ parents, Dianne and John, and

Air Force representatives from Air Command and AFHQ were in attendance.

Warrant Officer Trish Mackintosh said his parents were particularly grateful to the community.

“Dianne and John were very grateful to travel to Palm Island and the

community welcomed everyone with open arms and surrounded John and Dianne with kindness and respect,” she said.

“Knowing how much the Palm Island people cared for their son, and them, this was very moving and appreciated.

“The intent of the day was surpassed, thanks to the combined effort from Air Force, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, the Palm Island community and Miss Lee Smallwood Regional Indigenous Liaison Advisor.”

Group Captain Peter Davies, Chief of Staff Air Combat Group represented Air Force at the commemoration.

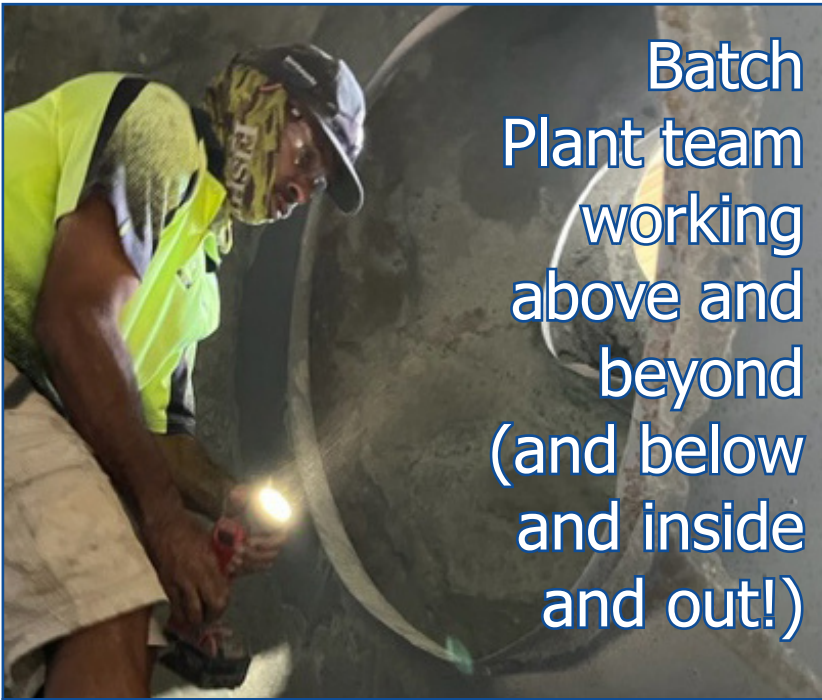
“I wish to thank the Mun-burra Elders for being the caretakers of Rick’s spirit for the past 35 years,” he said.

“Witnessing the crash first hand and unable to get to the crash site, I would like to acknowledge that today’s ceremony is not only to enable Rick’s spirit to continue along its journey, but also forms part of your healing journey.

“To Rick’s parents John and Dianne: there is nothing you have not heard about Rick’s Air Force achievements.

“Today marks a new chapter.

“Your son’s spirit has been in the care of the Mun-burra people, a people who care deeply for a man they have never met in life.”



**Batch
Plant team
working
above and
beyond
(and below
and inside
and out!)**

The batch plant and mechanics team have been working long hours and delivering outstanding work over recent months, **CEO Michael Bissell** says.

“They delivered a record 880m³ – over 2000 tonnes – of concrete in October alone,” he said.

“They also delivered 60m³ for the building of the new telecommunications tower at Butler Bay, about 340m³ for the driveways and footpaths at the new houses being built on Mango Ave and provided almost another 500m³ to the jobs completing our barge landing area and family and community centre car park.

“They are a team who start every day when the sun comes up, do a long, hard, dusty day of work and finish with smile on their face – they know the work they are doing makes a difference for community.”

He said they were also dedicated professionals.

“They know the job is not just batching and delivering concrete, but also maintenance of the batch plant, trucks and other tools that they use on the jobs,” he said.

“Concrete trucks are a big investment, Council has spent many hundreds of thousands on our three trucks, and it is vital they are constantly and professionally maintained.

“They are a very professional team working hard for Council and community and are a credit to themselves and their families.”



Batch Plant team members include Thaddeus Sam (Batch plant operator), Costa Sam (mechanics assistant), Greg Walsh (Civil labourer), Henry Mossman (Civil Labourer) and Allan Bonner (Civil labourer).

**SIGN
UP DAY
COMING
SOON –
WATCH
THIS
SPACE!**



Volunteers

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2023 SEASON
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Palm Island Motel
Manager Eva Haines
was born and raised in
Townsville, she says.

“I came to Palm
Island to my elder
brothers and sisters
in the 90’s, lived
and worked here
for 20 years for the
Department, then
spent 15 years with
the Council, back in the 1990’s,” she said.

“I love my job as I get to meet so many
different people every single day.

“I love the tropical feeling of the Motel and
try to make it very impressive to draw guests to
keep coming back.

“I was going to retire early and come back
home to relax but then this job came up so I
thought why not try it out, and I absolutely
enjoy it.

“I have a lovely team of girls who work here as
well, who keep the place looking spic and span.

“My team is the Cowboys.

“I love fishing, camping and gardening.”



**OUR NEXT
DEADLINE***



**(Issue 369) will be
Thursday 9 February
for publication on
Monday 13 February.**

The *Palm Island Voice* is published *weekly
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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>

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**If you have any questions please contact
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5,200 ‘followers’ on Facebook!!!**