

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 375

8 May 2023



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

Night Patrols take the lead



Members of the night patrol for their first 6pm shift were L-R Mislam Sam, William Blackman, Raoul Miller, Valmay Doomadgee, Sylvia Doomadgee & Ebanese Oui. Second shift pictured next page.

A new Palm Island Night Patrol, formed within 24 hours of a community meeting held late last month, will operate for its tenth night in a row tonight after seeing a “one hundred per cent reduction in property offences” Mayor Mislam Sam says.

He said it was a great opportunity, and people had stepped up.

“If the law and order issues in the community aren’t being delivered by our own, we’re forever going to be under pressure in terms of this epidemic of youth crime,” he said.

Night Patrollers Raoul Miller and Fred Bulseys— both highly respected football players and leaders in the community — said

they were very excited about what they were doing.

“They were sitting down at this meeting, giving all these solutions, and I said, “Look, let’s stop talking about it, let’s make it happen, because the more we talk about this, the kids is going to keep breaking and wrecking the place”,” Raoul said.

“And then within that week since then, this place was that quiet, you wouldn’t believe it.

“It’s been like every time when we drive around in a car, you got kids throwing rock on the roof, you got kids running around on the store roof, you got kids beating up in the mall, but since we started, to me it’s making a lot different in the community with us out and about in the community, you can see changes at night.”

Fred said it was about them being in control. *Continues...* →

Night Patrols take the lead



Members of the night patrol on the first night shift from midnight to 5am were L-R James Sibley, Todd Pearson, Arona Miller, John Smith & Germaine Bulsey.

“One of our main goals was to, us as Palm Island people, to take control back of the island instead of running to people not from here to come here and do it for us,” Night Patroller Fred Bulsey said.

“It’s up to us because we are going to be elders of this island soon, and we want to start trying to show leadership now.”

Fred and Raoul said the recipe for Palm Island’s new Night Patrol’s success was simple – talk to the kids. It just had to be done by the right people.

“We can’t just put a normal person on,” Fred said.

“If they go up and talk, they’re just going to ignore them and not care what they say.

“For us, we’re sort of well known around the community and all the people know us.

“We’re footballers, we’re family men too, we got a lot of kids that we brought up and I think other parents look to us, and what we did with our kids.

“All my kids, I put them through boarding school and we try, when they finish school, to get them

to work and make them grow up with respect – respect towards elders and knowledge.”

Raoul said it was just a matter of talking to them.

“I walk up and I be on to them,” Raoul said. “I just said, ‘Look, it’s not about us being real, not being cheeky with you or aggressive. It’s about us working together. Why are you out? Why are you doing this? What’s the problem you at on doing things like this?’.

“I said, ‘It’s about us working together, not us being enemies with you running off and getting aggressive with other people and breaking in. We’re not going against you. All we want is a good community, a nice community. It’s time for us to start looking after our island, because if we’re not going to look after it by the end of the future

time this place is going to be wrecked, and do you want that?’.

“Some of them turn and said, ‘No, we don’t want that to happen, Uncle’.

“I said, ‘Well, it’s time for you to be stand up. We stand up tall, look after your community’.”

Fred and Raoul said having a vehicle to support the program would make a big difference.

Queensland Minister Craig Crawford said he applauded the Palm Island community for taking action on the issue.

“It’s great to hear that in the first week of the three-month trial, the community night patrol has led to a significant reduction in property crime on Palm Island,” he said.

Cr Sam said he was grateful to Chris Sarra, Marnie Wettenhall, Mike Kaiser, Jae Lancaster and others for their support.

Three decades of deceit – funeral fund took more than \$174 million

Liquidators of funeral insurer Youpla/ACBF, SV Partners, have released shocking new data revealing the full extent of exploitation perpetrated by the company over three decades.

The figures reveal that over \$174 million was paid to Youpla/ACBF since 1992, comprising over 100,000 individual members and over 150,000 individual policies, including policies for small children and babies.

The role of Centrepay was also highlighted, with over \$169 million paid to Youpla/ACBF in the period from 2001, when they were registered for Centrepay payments.

The Save Sorry Business Coalition (SSBC) has been in negotiations for almost a year now with the Federal Government, who were yet to provide a commitment that the promised enduring resolution will form part of the May Budget.

The Youpla Benefit Scheme was an interim scheme developed to bridge the gap while an enduring resolution was developed.

Due to expire in late 2023, it was not considered a suitable long-term option by SSBC, who said extending it in the May Budget would only extend uncertainty and deepen the exclusion of those not covered.

Financial Capability Coordinator at Financial Counselling Australia Lynda Edwards (*pictured above*) said they were not asking for much, “just a meaningful acknowledgement of the harm done and a proportionate response to their financial losses”.



Mob Strong Debt Help

“A fair and culturally appropriate scheme would have options to cover those who need repayment, those who need a replacement funeral plan, and those who need a savings product,” she said.

“Financial counselling support would support each policyholder to make the right decisions for their situation.”

Mob Strong Debt Help Solicitor Mark Holden said the Federal Government now had the chance to set a new direction.

For more information:

**Mob Strong Debt Helpline - 1800 808 488 or www.facebook.com/mobstrongdebthelp
Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network - 1800 369 878 or www.ican.org.au
Financial Counselling Australia - www.financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au**

Palm Island Police Station Officer in Charge, Acting Senior Sergeant Darren Tamblyn said the Night Patrol was a “really good initiative”.

“They’re covering a significant period of the night, and it seems to be working really well,” he said. “I was really surprised the first couple of nights we went from a fair bit of youth activity through the night, including crime, break-ins or whatever to zeros over a couple of nights – I’m not saying that’s continued, we’re

still having troubles.”

But, he said the level of engagement was a huge positive.

“We are getting to know who was out,” he said. “We can’t be everywhere, we’ve only got one car on at night time. So the next night we may then engage with them again and say, ‘oh look, this happened last night. Do you recall who you saw?’ And then we get to talk to children about some of the crime that’s occurred the previous night.”

He said another positive was seeing

the community come together.

“It’s just the community really coming together,” he said.

“Some of the buildings that were being broken into included the new retail centre that’s being built, the medical centre there, and these are really buildings the community relies on.

“So it was really, really good actually, I was very, very happy with the results and I’m sure there’ll be a lot more engagement with the council to keep the initiative going.”

SECURITY TRAINING

THERE WILL BE A SECURITY TRAINING COURSE ON PALM ISLAND FOR THE FOLLOWING:
CERTIFICATE II in Security Operations

- Training requirements for your Queensland Class 1 License
- Security (Unarmed)
- Crowd Control
- Security (Monitoring)

This will be held from Tuesday 6th – Monday 12th June 2023.
Starting at 8.30am – 5.00pm
At the Palm Island PCYC.
Lunch will be provided for these days.

Anyone interested in attending the Training, please contact Doreen Prior on 0407090068, the closing date is.
C.O.B, Monday 22nd May 2023

You will need to provide your:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Home address
- Contact Number



REMINDER

NOMINATIONS FOR THE INAUGURAL PALM ISLAND TRIBAL NINES CARNIVAL CLOSES THIS FRIDAY 12TH MAY 2023, 5.00PM

THERE IS NO NOMINATION FEE REQUIRED TO COMPETE

ACCOMMODATION WILL BE SUPPLIED, WITH ALL PLAYERS REQUIRED TO BRING THEIR OWN SWAGS.

EVERY TEAM THAT NOMINATES WILL RECEIVE \$1000 AT THE END OF THE TOURNAMENT. WITH PRIZEMONEY OF \$100,000.00 TO BE SHARED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Norman Bounghi

Email – norman.bounghi@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Mobile - 0400112666

Request for Tenders

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| Request for Tender (RFT) | Lease of the "Old" Palm Island Post Office |
| RFT Number | 202303 |
| Tender Closing Time | 4pm, Friday 16 June 2023. |

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|------------------------------|---|
| Request for Tender (RFT) | Lease of the Palm Island Service Station |
| RFT Number | 202302 |
| Tender Closing Time | 4pm, Friday 16 June 2023. |
| Contact for Tender Documents | Greg Constantine - Manager Finance, Governance and Administration, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Greg.Constantine@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au |



PIASC are calling for Expressions of Tender for the Lease of the "Old" Palm Island Post Office and the Palm Island Service station.

Please call into the office for a Tender Document.

Please forward to your relevant contacts who may be interested in applying.
Reception number: 4770 0200.

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*
(Issue 376*) will be Thursday 18 May
for publication on Monday 22 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@hotkey.net.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 2,921 'likes' and more than 3,000 followers! 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 5,300 'followers' on Facebook!!!