

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 376

22 May 2023



Palm mentioned in *Path to Treaty Act* passage

The *Path to Treaty Act 2023* became law in the Queensland Parliament's sitting in Cairns last month.

Local MP Scott Stewart told the Parliament he supported the Bill.

“This bill signals to everyone that we are ready and willing to confront the past and work together on a better way forward,” he said.

“Truth-telling and listening are key as we embark on this landmark journey together.

“There are not many places

in Queensland this applies to more than Palm Island, which has at times had a dark and troublesome history.

“Sadly, more than 100 years ago Palm Island became a place to which more than 40 different Indigenous groups were displaced and forcibly sent.

“For this reason, it is a unique community with a huge range of voices.” *Continues next page...*

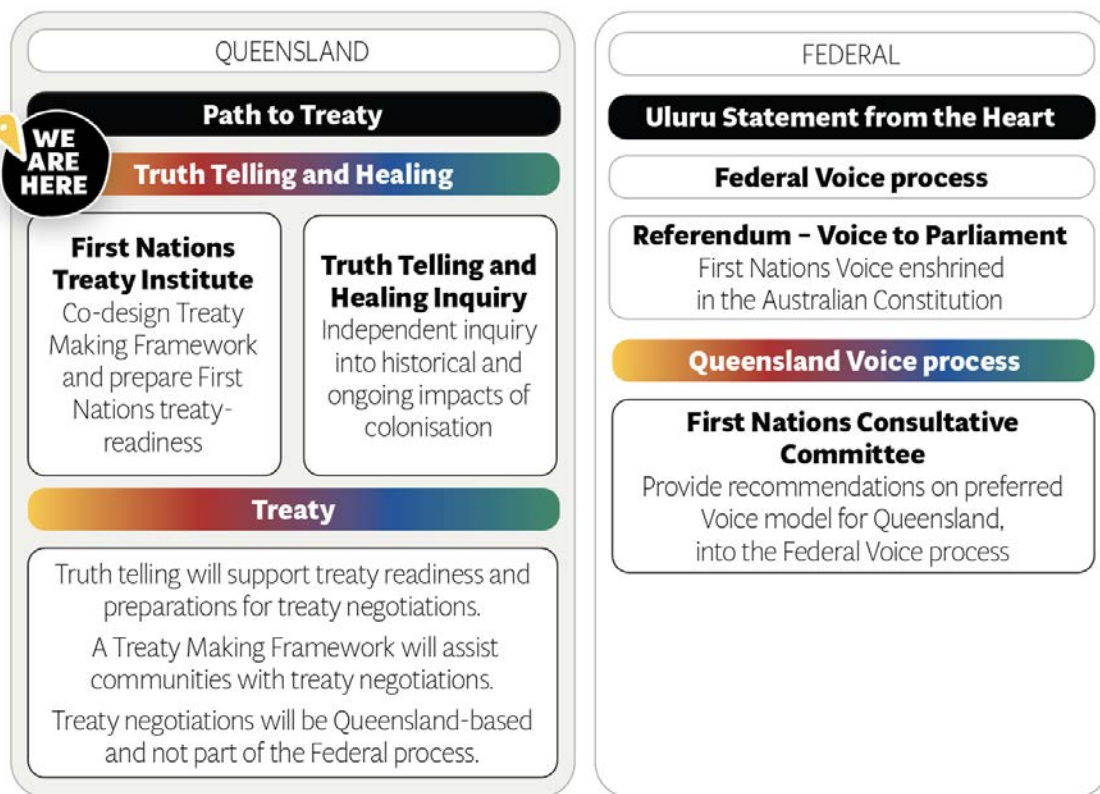


Minister for Treaty Leanne Enoch with Interim Truth and Treaty Body (ITTB) co-chair Cheryl Buchanan



THANKS for coming Joe!
As part of his 'From rations to wages to Treaty' tour Joe Geia stepped onto Palm last week. He performed at the PCYC on Friday night. He is pictured below right with Graham and Garina Brady on the Cairns leg of his tour.





“As the local member, I know some of the struggles Palm Island has faced and continues to face,” Mr Stewart said.

“What I continuously hear is that community leaders on Palm Island want to work more collaboratively with governments.

“That was made clear to me during the committee’s public hearing on Palm Island earlier this year.

“While we are doing that now, we can always do it better.

“Path to Treaty will help make partnerships and relationships with Indigenous people right throughout Queensland more meaningful.”

The Path to Treaty Act 2023 was underpinned by the UN Declaration to the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and specified

key bodies to be appointed to progress the Queensland truth telling and healing process and to prepare community for treaty-readiness.

Interim Truth and Treaty Body (ITTB) co-chair Cheryl Buchanan said they were excited with the changes unfolding that would support progressing the truth and treaty process in Queensland.

“It was so surreal to witness both sides of the House vote on something so important and historic,” Cheryl said.

“My hope is the Act will allow us to move to place of conciliation.

“That we start to look at how to mend our hearts, our minds, our values and to not replay the trauma of the past everyday, but to celebrate this time in our history and remember those who came before us, the proud

amazing warriors—men, women and young people.

“It’s time for change.”

A reshuffle of the Queensland cabinet saw the appointment of the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP as the Minister for Treaty, who said she was “absolutely determined” to help guide Queensland through the truth and treaty process.

A key focus for the ITTB was to lead the establishment of the First Nations Treaty Institute and to support the Queensland Government to establish the Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry.

The Institute and the Inquiry will guide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland Government in working together towards truth telling, and ultimately treaty negotiations.

For more information on the key structures that will progress Truth and Treaty in Queensland, visit the ITTB website at www.truthandtreaty.qld.org.au

Local workers drive Sewer Treatment Plant upgrade

PIASC received funding to upgrade our Sewer Treatment Plant through the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP – \$1.7mil) and Building Our Regions (BOR – \$2mil).

PIASC Reform Coordinator, Water and Waste Steve Martin said the first part of the project was to clear and level the land.

“The old STP structures were removed and the land cleared and levelled,” he said.

“All of this work was performed by Council employees, using some new plant and equipment that was recently purchased by Council.

“Employees did a series of training programs that gave them the qualifications to carry out this work, which was mostly carried out by Lenin Yasserie and Billo Wotton.

“The next phase of the project is to build a new two million litre balance tank.

“Construction of the footings for that tank will commence this month.

“Over the next 12 months, Council will construct new screens, pumps, pipework and other structures that will change the way our Sewer Treatment Plant operates and improve the quality of the effluent that flows to Francis Creek.”



'Deadly day' for Kathy Tarpaulin N



It was a “deadly day” at the Kathy Tarpaulin Netball Challenge, where the Cathedral Catholic School narrowly defeated Bwgcolman Community School 8 goals to 5 in a close final.

“Thanks to our sponsors to make this event happen,” PIASC Event & Sport Coordinator Norman Bounghi said.

They included the Palm Aboriginal Shire Council, Rainbow Gateway Limited, PB Party Hire, Palm Island Netball Association, Community Spirit Foundation, CEQ, Sealink and the NQ Cowboys.

“Thanks to all of the schools that participated in this years Carnival and we hope to make it bigger and better next year,” he said.

He said as part of the upgrading of the sports precinct, the new netball court floodlights, and QRL-standard floodlights for the footy field, finally arrived late last week.

“In the next three weeks, works will be carried out and we ask that all parents ask their kids to keep away from the work sites,” he said.

“This will not interfere with junior and senior players wanting to train at the netball courts and rugby league grounds during the week.”



Netball



Obe Geia challenge success



The North Queensland Toyota Cowboys hosted the Obe Geia Challenge on Palm Island late last month.

The one day rugby league carnival was established in 2009 by the Cowboys to bring communities together and promote the importance of inclusion in North Queensland.

The event has grown to include local and mainland teams of 15 players aged 10–12 years.

This year's winners were St Clare's Catholic School ahead of runners up, Marian Catholic School.

PICTURED: Bwgcolman & St Michael's players in action and Obe Geia jnr speaks at the carnival flanked to his left by former Cowboys player Ray Thompson. Pics thanks to NQ Cowboys.



Remembering 'Uncle Ray'



Uncle Ray Dennis loved Palm Islanders and Palm Island, and Palm Island loved him, long time friend and supporter Alf Wilson writes...

That was evident from the first time I saw him there not long after he arrived on Palm in 1999.

I got a call from the now-defunct Aussie Post magazine to go to Palm to do a story and pics on Ray training local boxers, in what the editor of the day described as a "tin shed".

We became warm friends and I stayed with Uncle Ray many times early on.

At first he lived in the dongas - Council accommodation which he was caretaker for - near the footy oval.

He then moved to the building in the park that used to be across from the mall, where I also stayed with him many times.

There were many trips to the PCYC gym where he loved training the boxers, both male and female.

Most were young, some were adults.

I also used to catch up with

him at boxing tournaments in Townsville, and I travelled with him and the boxers to many out of town destinations.

These trips, in small buses, were to places from Mount Isa to Emerald, Blackwater, Rockhampton, Charters Towers, Ingham and Cairns, to name just some.

On every trip Uncle Ray, who was a pensioner, would buy food for our young boxers.

One trip, I recall he could not arrange a sponsor to hire a bus, so he paid for it from his own pocket.

He was passionate for the boxers and their families, and indeed the entire population of his beloved Palm Island.

We would often walk down to the Coolgaree Bar and Grill, and just about everybody would greet him - "hello Uncle Ray" - as a mark of their genuine respect for this wonderful man.

He was always at NAIDOC celebrations, Spring Fairs and football games on Palm, supporting the community he loved.

It was an honour to be able to be at the boxing tournament held at the PCYC in 2018 as part of Palm's 100-year-old anniversary event.

There he was recognised and applauded by hundreds for his achievement of being inducted into the Queensland Boxing Hall of Fame.

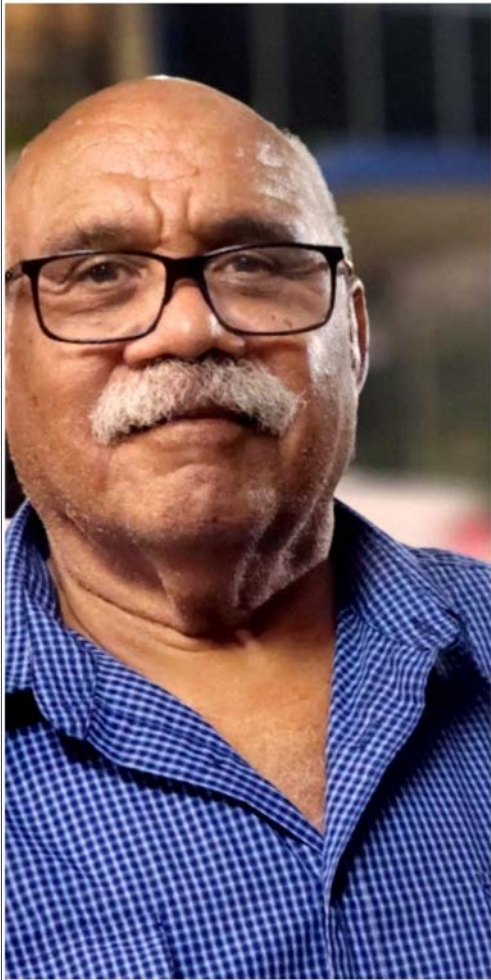
In recent years Uncle Ray struggled with illness and mobility, but his love of the Bwngcolman people and their island paradise never waned.

It was with the most extreme sadness that I heard that Uncle Ray had passed away.

I am sure he is looking down on the island from heaven.

Like everybody else I am missing Uncle Ray.

RIP you champion.



Tribute: Thomas Geia

The late Thomas Geia was a Bwngcolman community leader and past mayor who will be forever remembered as beloved husband, father, Bulloo, great grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, Godfather and dear friend.

A great Bwngcolman leader, Thomas was a man of vision, unrelenting in his work and love for his people, tirelessly working and caring for his mob in the court system.

He will also be remembered as a skilled football player, hunter and guitar player of Palm Island, and a faithful servant of God.

Thomas dwells in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23).

Our community, family and friends will celebrate his life on Saturday 10 June at the PCYC. All are welcome.



Come and have a bite to eat and a Yarn about **Youpla** and **money worries**

INFO:

DATE:
Wednesday
June 14th

TIME:
9:30–2:30PM

LOCATION:
Palm Island
PCYC



Palm Island Business Yarn - Business Planning

Are you a sole trader, small business owner, or wanting to start a small business? We can offer you support. Come have a yarn with us and find out how we can help.

What: Business Planning with Dr Wayne Graham, UniSC

When: 12.00pm to 3.30pm, Tuesday 20 June 2023

Where: TAFE Queensland, Palm Island

- Dr Wayne Graham, University of Sunshine Coast (UniSC) will be visiting to yarn with you about the Business Planning course for Palm Island. This course helps business owners and managers create a customised business plan for their business. Dr Wayne will seek your feedback on the proposed dates for course delivery on Palm Island and how the delivery can be tailored for the community.
- Meet with organisations that support Indigenous small business such as the National Indigenous Australians Agency, TAFE Queensland One Business, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Rainbow Gateway Limited, Arts Queensland, Many Rivers, Small Business Financial Counsellor and other providers.
- Rainbow Gateway Limited - Palm Island Business Incubator, Jacob will be doing bus runs in support of this event and Palm Island small business community. If you need a lift, please reach out to Jacob.
- No appointment necessary!

Program:

- Black Coffee 12.00pm - 12.30pm
- Palm Island Business Yarn 12.30pm - 3.30pm
- Service Provider Expo and light lunch

For more information:
Email: jeanie.mcintosh@desbt.qld.gov.au or phone: 0428 864 257
www.business.qld.gov.au





Assariah Lenoy ready to kick his footy goals

Columbia Catholic College (Charters Towers) boarder Assariah Lenoy is set to go a “long way” in footy, proud Mum Renee Grinfelds (*pictured*) says.

“I’m super proud,” she said.

“It’s his last year of schooling, he just played in the four-day State Championships in Townsville for the Under 18s.

“He’s definitely going a long way.”

The fullback plays for the Charters Towers Miners A Grade side and recently made News Corps’ Indigenous Sports Month’s list of ‘best young athletes from around Australia’.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council: Request for Tenders

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

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

Request for Tender (RFT)	Barge Landing Services and Lease of the Palm Island Barge Depot and Compound
RFT Number	PIASCO4
Tender Closing Time	4pm, Monday 12 June 2023
Contact for Tender Documents	Greg Constantine - Manager Finance, Governance and Administration, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Greg.Constantine@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Please call into the office for Tender Documents. Please forward to your relevant contacts who may be interested in applying. Reception number: 4770 0200.

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*
(Issue 378*) will be Thursday 15 June
for publication on Monday 19 June.



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@hotmail.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!!!