

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 396

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



Historic match re-played



Townsville's Central Tigers made the trip to Palm to play two games – an A-grade and a reserve – against the Barracudas earlier this month.

The Tigers were the first mainland club to play an organised fixture on Palm Island in 1983.

At the time a decorative turtle shell, with illustrations of a tiger and barracuda, was gifted to commemorate the occasion and helped cement their long-time connection.

Tigers coach and former NRL star Robert Lui said the revitalised game – it was hoped would be used as a pathway to try for regular games in the community – was an emotional and happy experience.

“The turtle shell has resulted in a wonderful bond of friendship and goodwill between our club and Palm Island community,” Mr

Lui said.

“Our trip was about helping young Palm players to have a pathway to regular competition such as their own domestic comp.

“Now they line up at Allblacks carnivals.

“I was so impressed with the ability of those Palm players.

“It reminded me of when Matty Bowen was shining for the Cowboys in the NRL.”

The 1983 turtle shell was lost and found during the demolition of the old Townsville Rugby League headquarters in Belgian Gardens.

Centrals lost that first match 41 years ago by a single point in an era when Palm Island was difficult to beat before their home crowd.

The teams last played on Palm in 1986.

In 2024 Centrals easily won the first-grade match, 32-4, and the Barracudas were narrow victors in the second game, 14-8.

Organiser Telstan Sibley said he wanted to thank everyone involved including the QRL's Kerri Ritchie, Centrals' Rob Lui, Kevin Marty and others, Palm Coaches, Rainbow Gateway, Palm Island Council, PCYC, Sealink and Hinterland Aviation, and Andy Kyle, Lloyd Morgan, canteen workers Mheelin, Frankie, Andy and Danielle, his own team of Chris, Ebby Jnr, Dwayne, Braith, Clinton and William, and, of course, the teams themselves.

Votes are in, final results on their way

More than 1.8 million Queenslanders have cast their votes in the local government elections with most results expected to be confirmed over the next week.

Electoral Commissioner Pat Vidgen thanked Queenslanders for their participation in the elections and for having their say about who they want to represent them in their local communities.

The ECQ recorded high numbers of early voting across the State with more than 1.4 million Queenslanders choosing to vote before election day.

“These results demonstrate that Queenslanders understand their obligations and rights when it comes to participating in our democracy but also the important role local government plays when it comes to local decisions that affect them in their everyday lives.

Results will be published on the ECQ website as they become available at <https://results.elections.qld.gov.au/2024QLGE>



UPDATE ON REPAIRS TO PALM ISLAND JETTY AND PONTOON

The Palm Island jetty and pontoon were significantly damaged by Cyclone Kirrily.

In response Council immediately engaged engineers and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) to assess the damage. Council also worked with SeaLink to ensure continuation of service.

Due to the extensive damage, Council operated the old ramp from the end of the jetty to the ferry top deck for two weeks while the immediate fixes could be done. Once these repairs were completed and signed off by the engineers, SeaLink returned to operating from the pontoon and upper ramp with some restrictions.

Full repairs were estimated at four months. Council has received a quote of \$250K to complete the repairs and is awaiting QRA sign off before engaging engineers to complete the works, including steel fabrication off island and a dive crew as part of the overall team to complete repairs with barge and crane – it is a significant operation that can't be rushed and needs to be done properly.

We apologise for any inconvenience these repairs may cause and thank the community for their patience while they're being delivered.

If you have any questions please contact Council on 07 4770 0200 or reception: -@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au.

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*

**(Issue 397*) will be Thursday 28 March
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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 howeschowes@gmail.com 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 2,900 'likes' and more than 3,000 followers! 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 Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200

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