

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 398

15 April 2024



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

New Council sworn-in

MORE PICS INSIDE ...



Mayor 'hits the ground running'

FULL STORY INSIDE ...

New Councillors sworn-in



There were many smiles and big hugs all around when Palm Island CEO Michael Bissell swore our four brand new Councillors (+1 returning Mayor) into their new roles early last week. Enjoying their moments with family, friends and staff were new Councillors and Mayor Alf Lacey with Deputy Mayor Mersane Oui; Cr Telstan Sibley; Cr Germaine Bulseay and Cr Ebanese Oui.

Pics by Andrew Rankin.



Protective services team ready to be formed next month



Queensland Police Service's Protective Services Group (PSG) First Nations Recruit Course kicked off last week, with 11 participants from Palm Island, Yarrabah and Lockhart River.

Protective security officer recruits complete a comprehensive training program that covers operation skills and tactics training; security legislation; and organisational policies and procedures.

In opening the course PSG Commander Supt Keiryn Dermody spoke to participants about how QPS – as an organisation and as individuals – needed to be proactive and dedicated to breaking down cultural barriers.

She also said how pleased and excited she was to be able to lead and provide support and guidance to an initiative that has now proven its ability to promote and enable cultural change across the QPS and the wider public sector.

QPS First Nations Division Uncle Adrian Coolwell was also in Townsville to support participants as a course mentor.

Palm Island will have a full contingent of 14 Protective Service Officers at the completion of the course next month.



PM invited as Mayor lobbies for housing

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has an invitation in-hand to visit Palm Island community after re-elected Mayor Alf Lacey hit the ground running with his first week of meetings in Brisbane last week, thanks to the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

A small contingent of mayors was able to join – and put a question to – Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the Queensland Media Club.

Mayor Lacey said he took the opportunity to invite the PM to Palm Island – and was told he should “work with the PM’s office to make it happen”.

He said it was good to be back. “A couple of State Ministers were there and one of them said,



‘Alf, we’ve been waiting for you to return’.”

The LGAQ table of mayors included Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher, Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding, Gladstone Mayor Matt Burnett, Toowoomba Mayor Geoff McDonald and Mayor Lacey.

Mayor Butcher also said it was good to see Mayor Lacey back.

“He’s straight back into it and it’s great to see him back,” he said.

Mayor Lacey said the question they asked the PM was around housing.

“Wayne and I took the opportunity to pursue the Prime Minister further on investment for housing in our communities,” Mayor Lacey said.

“We want an investment similar to the Northern Territory, who have \$4 billion.”

The question, read to the Prime Minister by MC Lydia Lynch read in part: “When will your Government announce a similar deal for Queensland?”

Mayor Lacey said the answer was a work in progress.

“There are negotiations still happening between the states and Commonwealth,” he said.

“From our point of view, we want to be at the table for those negotiations.

“Hopefully we’ll see a better outcome for our communities then.”

Patrick 'throws in the towel'



Champion Palm Island boxer Patrick Clarke has announced his retirement from the sport, four years after making his professional debut in August 2020.

Patrick, 30, was known as the 'Pride

of Palm Island' after 17 years and more than 100 fights, which included two wins and nine pro bout losses.

"I've fought some of the best in this country amateurs and pros," he said.

"Much love to all my main supporters who have been rocking with me along the way, and made so

many memories and lifelong friends. "I might still have a crack at the Knucklesman tournament though."

He said he was grateful to Matthew Rooney for taking him into Knuckles Boxing Gym.

With thanks to Alf Wilson for additional info and pic.

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*
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