

# Palm Island Voice



**FREE!**

**Issue 400(!)**

**13 May 2024**



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

## Opposition leader keen to solve housing issues



Queensland Opposition leader David Crisafulli was on Palm on Saturday, to yarn with locals and the new Council, and to take the opportunity to attend the Palm Island Junior Rugby League's first home games of the year.

“Sport has the power to bring communities together – and today that was evident on Palm Island,” he said on Facebook.

He said it was a special day.

“There is a real sense of hope and optimism in the community,” he said.

“I’ve had a chance to speak with a lot of the local leaders, and I’ve spent considerable time with the council.

“To see a young engaged council is

really, really exciting.

“To work with Alf, who I’ve worked with for many, many years is something that makes me optimistic about the future.

“It’s been a really, really good day.”

He said the footy was a highlight.

“The footy carnival, the people smiling, going through the community, to me it feels like the island is on the cusp of something

special and I’d love the opportunity to work further with your community in the years ahead.”

He said if he had the opportunity, his first priority for Palm Island would be to find a way for home ownership.

“My number one priority would be to find a way to allow people to own a home if that’s their choice,” he said.

*Continues pp 4-5...*

# Meet our Deputy Mayor Mersane Oui



Deputy Mayor Mersane Oui, 40, was the Palm Island Community Company's Early Childhood Clinic's coordinator for nine years before she ran for Council. Born in Townsville and growing up on Palm Island, she has been a teacher's aide, tutor, RATEP student, youth officer, store clerk and customer service worker.

She is a health worker with Cert III and ATODS qualifications.

"I hope to see our community clean and free of dogs, horses and drugs, especially Ice," she said.

"I would love to see our Community come together and be more involved in everything Palm Island, and promote healthier lifestyles for families to support and mentor our kids throughout the journey of early years and schooling and after schooling.

"We must push our kids to reach for the stars!



*Pics by Andrew Rankin*



"I think a water park for our kids would be amazing.

"I would love to see our two churches fixed and rebuilt – AIM and the Anglican churches!

"I would also like to see religion lessons brought back

to Bwgcorman Community School.

"I am a peoples' person – I'm positive and always look for solutions in everything, open-minded and very approachable.

"I have our community best interests at heart."

# PSOs celebrate graduation



Last week, in two separate ceremonies, 11 new Queensland Protective Services Group (PSG) Protective Security Officers graduated and celebrated with their communities, which included Palm Island, Yarrabah and Lockhart River.

After their graduation a separate induction ceremony was held in the community to acknowledge the sacrifices and support offered by family, friends and other community stakeholders.

The five Palm Islanders – Liam Gibson-Kerr, Latrell James,

Ricky Johnson, Todd Pearson and Robert Ryan – have already taken up their new roles in the community.

The five-week Protective Services Program at the Townsville Police Academy was the biggest-ever First Nations Recruit Program.



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“But your council has a vision to try and make [home ownership] occur, and I just have a sense of hope and optimism that allowing people to own a home is just the keys to a bright future, to be able to do that on a place that you have such strong connection with,” Mr Crisafulli said.

“In the years ahead, I want to work on projects that deliver real economic opportunities for people to have a job.

“I want kids to go to school.

“I want families to feel safe, and above all, I want them to go home to a place that they own at the end of the day.

“And if we can make that change, I just think the future for Palm is really, really bright.”

He said he couldn't count the number of times he'd been to the island.

“I reckon it's about my 20th visit to Palm,” he said.

“I'm an Ingham boy, so I've been coming to this place for 40 years.

“I was here with your CEO, Michael, and your former mayor about six months ago, just having a look at some of the exciting things the council has been doing in terms of the betterment.

“I just think it's one of the most naturally beautiful places on the globe, there's just so much potential and potential for tourism too.

“I just think opportunity for people to come and experience the culture that comes with the longest running, continuous culture on the planet and the natural beauty, that combination in my mind can create jobs for kids for the future, and it's something I'm really determined to work with council to deliver.

“It's been a great day.”

Mayor Alf Lacey said given there was a State election due in October this year, it was important for the community to have access to all sides of politics.



“There were almost 20 community members who joined us in at the Council office, and it was good to see that interest,” he said.

“He briefed us in terms of his view around home ownership, and we talked about infrastructure projects in our community.

“The other important thing I

raised with him was for us to move away from a deficit, in terms of a welfare model in our community, and to a more economic sustainable model for our next generation.

“Otherwise, we're just going to be doing the same-old-same-old, and we'll never get

# First home games for PIJRL a hit!



out of the rut we're in."

He said community input was the most important aspect to the visit.

"I'm really strong on the need to take our People with us on this journey," he said.

"It's important, and particularly with this new, very young Council we have now.

"David was quite surprised when he met them all, and he said it was quite different.

"And I agree, we have a lot of bright ideas and youthful energy on Council now, and if we use the term, 'the sky is the limit', then I think they're going to be a good crew, especially in terms of

thinking outside of the square.

"My message to the community, which I think came through loud and clear, was that it's not only Council sitting here and talking to our politicians, whenever it's possible, when we have visitors like that, I want community people to be a part of the discussion."

# Palm Island Business Yarnz Tendering & Employment Opportunities

Are you a sole trader, small business owner, or want to start a small business?

Are you interested in learning about tendering & employment opportunities on Palm Island?

If so, join us for Palm Island Business Yarnz on 22 May 2024.

Yarn up with:

- Bridgeman - Tendering & Employment
- Palm Island Community Company - Paid Bootcamp & Jobs
- On Common Country - Customised Work Preparation Program Motor Traders (Indigenous Workforce & Skills Development Grant)
- Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities & the Arts (DTATSIPCA)
- Blue Card Services

Learn about small business supports available through providers.

Cuppa tea, coffee and morning tea will be provided.

**For more information**

**E: [Jeanie.mcintosh@desbt.qld.gov.au](mailto:Jeanie.mcintosh@desbt.qld.gov.au)**

**P: 0428 864 257**

**22 May 2024**

**10.00am - 1.00pm**

**PCYC, Palm Island**

# Free home internet on offer from NBN



The Australian Government has established the School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) to provide free home internet for up to 30,000 unconnected families with school aged students until the end of December, 2025.

To be eligible for SSBI, families must:

- Have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school.
- Not have an active nbn® network internet service at home. Having a mobile internet service is fine.
- Live in a premises that can access the nbn network via a standard connection.
- Not have had an active nbn connection during the previous 14 days.



Call the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm), to register today or see <https://www.nbnco.com.au/campaigns/school-student-broadband-initiative>

# COMMUNITY NOTICE

## UPDATE ON REPAIRS TO PALM ISLAND JETTY AND PONTOON

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Council engaged Pacific Marine Group to complete the repairs of the damage to the Palm Island jetty, pontoon and loading ramps caused by Cyclone Kirrily.

The initial advice was that it would take 6 weeks to complete the pre-fabrication of repairs off Island, and they would then mobilise to Island, and it would take another 2 weeks to complete the work. This advice was conditional on availability of materials and contractors to complete the pre-fabrication work, and suitable weather to bring the barge and crane across and complete the on-site work.

Due to pre-fabrication delays and poor weather PMG have confirmed they will now be on Island from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 to complete the repair works, which will take 2 weeks (weather permitting).

Full ferry operations, including freight movements, will return to normal following repairs.

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 401\*) will be Thursday 23 May**  
**for publication on Monday 27 May**



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**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 5,400 'followers' on Facebook!!!