

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 406

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

Feeling at home on Palm Island...

State Opposition leader David Crisafulli has been to Palm Island three times in the past six months, making him feel so much at home he now wears a Barracudas shirt on weekends and is sharing his family's famous date slice recipe with us.

Palm Island Aboriginal Council CEO Michael Bissell said Mr Crisafulli had made several commitments while visiting the island.

“He has promised to work with us on economic development, invest in tourism infrastructure to support our tourism industry and build our enabling

environment through critical infrastructure like water, sewer, roads and telecommunications,” Mr Bissell said. He said the date slice was pretty good too.

Crisafulli Family Date Slice

- 125 grams butter
- 110 grams white caster sugar
- 150 grams dates
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon table salt
- 150 gram Marie biscuits
- 1 cup desiccated coconut



1. Grease and line a loaf tin with baking paper and add a sprinkle of coconut on the bottom of the tin.
2. Chop the pitted dates and set them aside. Break the biscuits into chunks, and set them aside.
3. In a medium to a small saucepan, melt 125g butter and 110g sugar over low heat, stirring until all the sugar has dissolved. Then add the chopped dates, stir and slowly bring to a boil and cook for about 2 minutes.
4. Remove the date mixture from the heat, add a teaspoon of vanilla and ½ teaspoon salt, mix through. Add in the biscuit chunks and stir until the biscuits are covered with the date mixture.
5. Press the warm mixture into the loaf pan, flatten out using the back of a spoon
6. Sprinkle the rest of the coconut over the top, and press into the top of the mixture and place in the fridge to set for 3-4 hours.
7. Remove from fridge and slice into bite sized pieces.

Three Generations, Three Songs

A collaboration between artists Gail Mabo, Normey Jay and Nashaye with the Australian Festival of Chamber Music (AFCM) program has been a huge success.

The three did a special performance of 'Three Generations, Three Songs' on Palm Island last Tuesday before offering a free concert for the Regional Arts Services Network's Australian Festival of Chamber Music event in Townsville on Saturday night.

The home town performance was guided by Deline Briscoe and included a performance by the Bwgcolman dancers.

Pics with thanks to Jess Naunton and Baz Ruddick.



Dedicated Blue Card assistance ready to be on-hand

Palm Island is getting a dedicated First Nations blue card liaison officer to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples wanting to work with children in the remote community.

The government initiative follows a successful pilot program supporting First Nations peoples wanting a blue card in Yarrabah, which was launched in August 2023.

Bwngcolman man Gary Prior has been appointed as the Palm Island Blue Card Liaison Officer.

“I have a much more thorough understanding of who needs a blue card and when they need one, which will really help Mob in community get more jobs,” he said.

The initiative will be managed locally by the Palm Island Community Company.

The dedicated support service

helped Yarrabah community members engage with the blue card system, meaning more local First Nations peoples were able to start working or volunteering with children.

Since the pilot launched, the local officer, Gurrumbilbarra, Wulgurukab, Tjapukai, Yidinji, Kuku Yalanji woman Nita Ambrym, has fielded more than 600 inquiries and engaged directly with more than 200 community members.

Yarrabah and Palm Island were chosen for the First Nations blue card liaison officer initiative due to their size and levels of engagement with the blue card system.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette D’Ath said they were excited to be expanding the initiative to Palm Island.

““We know that First Nations Queenslanders have experienced barriers while engaging with the blue card system,” she said.

Local MP Scott Stewart said the initiative went beyond paperwork and processes.

“It is about delivering culturally appropriate resources and support as well as building relationships with the community,” he said.

Palm on *The Point*



Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey, Deputy Mayor Mersane Oui and Dr Robert Blackley formed a panel interviewed by John Paul Janke on a recent episode of *The Point*, which went to air on Tuesday 23 July. *The Point Road Trip 2024*, Episode 3 on NITV and SBS On Demand.

The Queensland Government have released a video on the work that was done with Try for 5! at Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael's through the North Queensland Cowboys.

Assistant Principal Judy Anderson said it was about improving attendance – and it had.

“Our children get very excited, because each week someone wins a prize if they're here for five days,” she said on the video which also featured Grade 6'ers Queshon, Frankie and Milicen.

“Being at school every day is incredibly important for not just attendance, not just academics, but they get so much out of school.

“They become confident in the routine.

“They know what's going to happen at school, and they feel comfortable, they feel confident, and you can see that they start to shine.”

The video was posted on the Queensland Sport and Recreation's Facebook page on 19 July this year at <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/KQrkZZCwwN1txXpC/?mibextid=oFDknk>



THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*

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