



Palm Island Voice



Your community Your newspaper

Issue 1. 17 August 2007



Learning pathways students from TAFE with a mural they created about Strike '57, in response to teachings from community Elder, Ralph Norman .

Opportunities for building strength in Community

It has been an eventful and positive year for the Palm Island community so far.

The Dormitory Reunion, the 50th Anniversary of Strike '57 and a wonderful NAIDOC week have provided a number of opportunities for Palm Island people to celebrate the distinctive heritage and cultures of their community.

The Local Government reforms provided a few anxious months until the final report was released.

The decision not to amalgamate the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council with any other council means its unique position will be maintained.

The Council retains its capacity to work with the community to meet the needs and aspirations of resi-

dents on the Island.

This new newspaper *Palm Island Voice* is another opportunity for building strength within the community and working toward a positive future.

In the spirit of NAIDOC 2007, let's continue "Looking Forward. Looking Black" and working together to build a strong and proud community.



Readers are advised this publication contains the names and images of people who have passed away.

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NAIDOC WEEK



NAIDOC Week was great this year!

The Dancing was the best we have had here in years! It was so fantastic to see all the new dancers and kids and older mob all getting involved.

We hope to be able to continue to support the Dance revival that is currently happening on Palm.

We would like to say congratulations to **Nikki and John** from Descendance, **Delena**, Great Northern Dancers and everyone who's been dancing. Keep Dancing!

Story & picture from Bwgc Colman Future Inc

Strike '57

The 50th anniversary of Strike '57 was marked by a huge celebration on 13, 14, 15th June.

Strike '57 was when the Palm Island took a stand against their living and working conditions on the Island.

There was a bit of bad weather but everyone still came to share the celebrations, with a movie night, dinner dance, art competition, photo exhibition.

The big day on Friday was made extra special with bands and the Strike Play by **Dulcie Isaro**, performed by **Big Eye Theatre**. **George Watson** was played by his grandson **Leon** from Palm Island.

Thanks to everyone for being involved. It's been great for BF to have the chance to put on such a great community event!

Story & picture from Bwgc Colman Future Inc



Message of Congratulations

The Palm Island Community has received a message of congratulations on the launch of its community newspaper.

Mal Grierson Director-General Department of Public Works and Linda Apelt is the Director-General for the Department of Communities and Disability Services Queensland, Government Champions for Palm Island.

The Director's General wrote:

Congratulations to all those hard working people who contributed to this first edition of the Palm Island Voice. This newsletter is a great way to share information about what is happening on the island.

We were very pleased to hear that the Strike 57 Anniversary celebrations in July were enjoyed by so many people. From all reports, the wet weather certainly did not dampen your enthusiasm to mark such a significant day in Palm Island's history. Thankfully the weather was much better during NAIDOC week.

For all those people who have been inconvenienced by the work being done to replace the jetty, you will be pleased to know that the current stage of works is on track to be completed by the end of August 2007.

Hopefully, this will be just in time for the ferry load of people coming to the island to participate in Palm Island Careers Expo being held on Thursday, 6 September 2007. We hope this event provides a good opportunity for students attending the Palm Island Senior Campus and other community members to learn more about possible career and study options.

We intend to visit Palm Island again in late October 2007 and look forward to catching up with you then.

Regards

Linda Apelt and Mal Grierson

Government Champions



Outstanding success for our Boxers



Four of the Palm Island Boxers (left to right) Inossie Geia, Albert Gorringe (bronze medallist), Mervyn Bengaroo (silver medallist) and Selwyn Seaton (gold medallist) are ready to win.

Palm Island Boxers fought brilliantly against some of the best boxers in Queensland at the recent Queensland Golden Gloves tournament.

The Tournament saw 21 bouts contested over two nights. Palm Island Boxers fought in 10 of those bouts.

The seven Palm Island Boxers who competed won 5 Gold medals, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze between them.

The Queensland Golden Gloves tournament was held in Mackay at the High School Hall on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th July.

As well as the young men from Palm Island, boxers travelled from Mt Isa, Blackwater, Murgon, Moranbah, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville, Black River, Ingham, Baginda, Cairns, and Yungaburra.

Palm Island Boxer **Luke Lenoy** was judged best Junior Boxer of the tournament. Frank Flanagan from Townsville Hawks Club was judged best Senior Boxer.

Palm Island medal winners

Luke Lenoy won the 60 kg Junior Gold Medal and trophy for Best Junior Boxer of the tournament. Luke started boxing for Palm Island when he was ten years old. He is now 15 years old and one of the best young boxers in Australia.

Selwyn Seaton was meant to fight in the 54 kg Junior Division, but he was the only contestant. Selwyn

gave away a lot of weight to win a Gold Medal in the 63 ½ kg division. He also fought a boxer two years older in his own weight division of Intermediate 17 to 19 years and won his second Gold Medal.

Selwyn has been boxing for Palm Island for some time and was the most fit of all of our boxers.

At 15 years of age, Selwyn Seaton seems set to have a bright future in

boxing.

Dennis Haines, 13 years old, won his first Golden Gloves Gold Medal in the 41 kg School Boy division. Dennis is showing a lot of promise as he only started boxing last year.

John Fourmile, 13 years old, fought in the 38 kg School Boy division and won a Gold Medal also. This is a great achievement for young man who only started boxing this year.

Mervyn Bengaroo won a Silver Medal in the 35 kg Sub-Junior division. He won another Silver Medal in the 35 kg School Boy Division. He lost this fight to the Australian so he did very well indeed. Mervyn is another promising youngster who has only started boxing last year.

Inossie Geia fought in the 48 kg School Boy division and won a Bronze Medal in an elimination bout against the Gold Medal winner. He seemed very unlucky not to get the decision.

Albert Gorringe took the Bronze Medal in the Sub-Junior 32 kg division. Unfortunately for Albert he has now had three decisions gone against him in fights which he has appeared to have won. Even so, a Bronze Medal at this level of competition is still a fantastic achievement.

Story & picture from Ray Dennis

Dreamkeepers to play at Cultural Fest

Palm Island's very own band Dreamkeepers will be appearing at the 2007 Cultural Fest.

They will be performing live at The Strand, Townsville, on Saturday 18th August.

The band members would love to see some familiar faces in the crowd, so get along and catch their act if you can.

Get along and help them make some music for Palm.



Weaving Connections Between Islands

The Palm Island Weavers' Group recently visited Magnetic Island, to showcase their talents and sell their wares at the Horseshoe Bay Markets.

The weavers have been together for about twelve months. They have been learning their craft from Julie Venables, a clinical nurse who works at Palm Island.

The women wanted to show visitors to the markets how to weave, as well as sell their own work. But they wanted to demonstrate Palm Island's good qualities and invited people to sit down and yarn with them also.

It seems they had some effect, as their visit and good work was reported in the Magnetic Times.

Merle Robertson, who runs Home and Community Care (HACC) services on Palm, said the women had a wonderful time and the Magnetic Island community had made them feel very welcome.

The Weaver's Group meets every Monday evening at the HACC Building, from 6-9pm. If you want more information contact Merle Robertson at HACC (4770 1664), Teresa Creed at Joyce Palmer Health Service (4752 5100), or Julie Venables at ATODS (4725 5100).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement

The development of a Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement has been the focus of the most recent Future Directions Group meetings.

Everyone is invited to attend the August **Future Directions Group** meeting on Tuesday 21 August. Please note a new time for the meeting which will commence at 4.30pm followed by a light dinner. Please come along to the PCYC to have a meal and chat about issues that are important to the community.

New Playgroup Starting Soon!

The first session of the **Palm Island playgroup** will be held on Wednesday 22 August from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

All family members with children aged 0-5 years old are invited to come along to the PCYC child care room. Have some fun with your child and plan for future playgroups.

These are just some of the activities the Department of Communities is working on with the community.

For more information on the range of programs the department is coordinating look out for information in future issues of the *Palm Island Voice* and the Department of Communities Newsletter which will be available soon.

Story from Department of Communities

Send us your Stories



<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Contributions Due</u>
31/08/07	21/08/07
14/09/07	04/09/07
28/09/07	18/09/07
12/10/07	2/10/07

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay for further information.

Telephone 07 4770 0215 or 07 4770 1177

Fax 07 4770 1305

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Your community. Your newspaper.

KIDS STILL ENJOYING HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Bwgcorman Future Inc holiday program is proving popular with children on the Island.

BF has been running a Demand Reduction youth holiday program this year and we have been really excited to see how many kids are getting involved with this!

It's great to be able to help put on workshops that so many people are coming too.

Next holidays we are doing photo and film making. We will have canvas printer to give everyone who comes along a print that they take framed on canvas, just like the ones we did for the Strike Photo Show.

Big thanks to **Sonic Boom** for the Circus and Hip Hop workshops in July!! Everyone loved the stilt walking and parade, the Pippi Long Stocking Play, the Film Clips and Saturdays Show!

Story & picture from **Bwgcorman Future Inc**

MURRI COURT for Palm Island

There will now be Murri Court happening here on Palm Island.

So, if there is anyone who has been remanded to go to Murri Court, please contact the Justice Group.

The Justice Group will arrange for an interview with the Elders, so that a Cultural Report can be prepared for the Magistrate on your behalf.

Mediation a good idea

The Justice Group is also available for people wanting mediation. Selena Solomon from the Palm Island Justice Group says mediation can help if you are having any problems in the community, with family or friends.

"It's a good idea to seek mediation, to get the matters resolved or managed around the table, before it escalates into violence", she said. "And that's something our community can do without," she added.

Selena also said she was looking forward to the first

edition of the new ***Palm Island Voice***. It means she will be able to tell everyone what is happening at the Justice Group.

Justice of the Peace Training

This month, the Justice Group is conducting Justice of the Peace Qualified Training. This will be held on 21, 22, 23 August at the Palm Island Court House.

Those people who have completed the forms to attend this training, please come along.

Corrective Services Employment Opportunities

Townsville Corrective Services are heading this way during the week beginning 20 August. They are doing a recruitment drive for anyone wishing to become prison officers.

Yes, they're looking for indigenous workers out there! So, anyone looking for work might like to go along and hear what they have to say.

Justice Group Meeting

All Justice Group members are reminded the next meeting is on Thursday, 30 August at 5pm. A hot supper will be provided.

Story from **Selena Solomon, Justice Group Coordinator**



Land & Sea Management Project

Bwgcorman Future Inc are running an Envirofund project in Land and Sea management for the Palm Islands Group.

There are 3 parts to the project. The first part is research on the best type of Rangers program for Palm Island. The second is a turtle research camping trip to North East Bay in late November. And the third part is building a native plant Green House to grow local plants for sale, including spear trees and bush foods.

You can get involved with this if you are interested by contacting Bwgcorman Future Inc on 07 4770 1999 or 07 4770 1838

Story from **Bwgcorman Future Inc**



Four members of Council's Building Team: TC, Kitchener, Vincent and Leon (left to right). Roland was ill the day we visited the building site.

THEY'RE NOT FROM QBUILD It's the Council Building Team!

The Council Building team Vincent Bligh, Leon Coutts, TC (Thomas) Curley, Kitchener Bligh and Roland Coutts have been busy over the last few weeks refurbishing the old blue house down near the beach.

They have remodelled the bathroom by moving a wall, and installing a new bath and vanity unit.

The team have installed new stairs to the front of the house, fixed the verandah decking and hand railings.

They decided they would save time and money by building new railings for the stairs themselves, rather than waiting for them to be built and shipped over from the mainland. They also needed to replace wall and ceiling linings which had been damaged by termites. Other minor work was carried out to built-in wardrobes, windows and doors.

A new kitchen has been ordered and will be installed soon. Then, all will be ready for the old house to receive a new coat of paint.

Editorial

An old friend is reborn

Welcome, to the new *Palm Island Voice*. It has been wonderful to have had the announcement of this new community newspaper received with such enthusiasm and excitement.

I hope this newspaper will honour the heritage of the original 'Palm Island Voice' while looking forward to a future filled with new directions for Palm.

The newspaper will aim to ensure members of the community are kept informed of news and events.

It will also aim to provide a forum for open and positive debate about issues that need to be discussed.

This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the unique heritage of the Palm Island community and to promote the community to the wider Australian public.

I believe this new version of *Palm Island Voice* will be an important way of ensuring the voices and stories of the people of the Palm Islands are heard and recognised.

In the next few weeks we will be setting up an advisory group, made up of people from the community, to provide advice and direction for future issues of the newspaper. So, please contact us if you are interested in joining this group.

You will notice there are no advertisements in this first issue, but advertising space will be available in the future.

Businesses and organizations providing good and services to Palm Island are invited to support the community that supports them.

This new version of the *Palm Island Voice* has been made possible by a Queensland State Government initiative delivered through the Community Renewal program, in partnership with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

Finally, my thanks to all those people who have written articles for this first issue and made it such a bumper edition.

Special thanks to Alfred Clay, who designed the masthead and logo for us.

I look forward to receiving stories, letters, photographs, sports results, community announcements, personal achievements, recognition of community leaders, creative writing, poems, information about artwork and any other contributions you may wish to make for our future editions.

Catherine Lawler— Editor

PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF RETAIL STORE

The Queensland Government has announced plans to privatise the store. The process of privatisation will use a tender process.

Anyone wishing to take part in the tender process will need to comply with the tender requirements and have in place a developed business plan setting out how the store will be managed and run, how it will be financed and how it will benefit the community.

The Palm Island Community Store Aboriginal Corporation (PICSAC) was incorporated in February 2007, as a result of a public meeting held on Palm Island in December 2006.

Lex Wotton, Chris Congo and the PICSAC committee are working with Ian James from Kaizen Enterprises Pty Ltd, to prepare a business plan so PICSAC can bid to own and control the store on behalf of *all* Palm Islanders, when tenders are called.

The store will not be awarded to the community without the agreement of the government and Palm Island Council.

There is no definite date set at present for privatisation, but is expected in the near future.

To tender successfully, the bidder will have to show how it can run and finance the store, that it represents the majority of the Palm Island community and that it has in place the expertise to ensure sound governance.

The objective of the PICSAC is to provide a vehicle to represent all Palm Islanders in bidding for the store tender. To achieve this, the corporation needs to widely

hear the views of Palm Islanders, and to develop agreement about objectives for the store.

PICSAC believes that a democratically elected governing committee, comprising a majority of residents of Palm Island, should direct and determine the use of store profits.

To ensure this and if successful in a tender bid, PICSAC would engage the services of Outback Stores Pty Ltd to run the store.

Outback Stores Pty Ltd is a professional store management operator, set up by Indigenous Business Australia to assist communities to operate stores. It is a *not for profit* organisation.

Outback Stores has the knowledge, skill, money and the buying capacity to operate the store efficiently and according to the wishes and needs of the community.

Outback Stores is able to operate the store for a community group, provided it is operated for the benefit of the whole community.

Outback Stores has visited the community twice to explain how it can partner a community group and operate the store.

PICSAC have designed a questionnaire to find out what people would like to see happen with the store and a support letter to be signed and faxed supporting the Palm Island Community Store Aboriginal Corporation. The completed questionnaires and letters of support will be used as evidence PICSAC represents the whole community in bidding for the store tender.



If you are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, please join the corporation to provide support for the community owning and operating the store. There are no fees, and you will be able to vote and have your say about the future of the store.

For further information or to complete a questionnaire or to send in a letter of support or to join PICSAC contact Lex Wotton on 0428 788 811.

The PICSAC Project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Indigenous Small Business Fund, which is administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Story from Ian James, Kaizen Enterprises

Business as Usual at the Council

Even though Chief Executive Office Barry Moyle is on annual leave, it's been a case of business as usual at Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council over the last few weeks.

Acting CEO **Deniece Geia** has been busy making sure things run smoothly in his absence, as well as keeping on top of her regular responsibilities.

In addition to the rebirth of the *Palm Island Voice*, she has

overseen the commencement of a number of new staff.

The Council has welcomed new Financial Manager, **John Mugambi**, Financial Accountant, **Stanley Mugwiria**, and Enterprise Clerk, **Norman Bounghi**.



Bwgcorman Future News

Calendar

BF was successful in receiving funding to do the Kids of Palm Island calendar again in 2007. But the money was held up so we had to put it off till 2008 – its nearly finished and ready to print and the money is now here.

So if you have any pics of your kids you'd like put in, get them to Rob or Svea or Wana as soon as possible!

Thank You

Big thanks to everyone who has supported us. If you want to get involved with BF or become a member, talk to Rob or Svea.

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FAREWELL TO TAKI FROM LARRIKIN

BF has said a sad farewell to Taki Oldham, the film maker from Larrikin Films.

Taki has been living on Palm Island for the past three months, but left to go back to Melbourne on the 6th August.

Taki has been working with BF on two projects. One was a Docudrama show on **Dulcie Isaro**, the Play she wrote, and Strike '57.

The other is a Documentary we are doing with him on Palm Island.

There is new federal support for Indigenous television programs and BF wants to get more involved with this.

If you are interested in being involved with making films or TV or want to be in them, come and talk to us!

Taki will be missed around the BF office but he will be back for a short trip in October.

Story from Bwgcorman Future Inc

Put Your Business Here

Advertising space is available to all businesses, organisations and individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community.

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay
for further information

Telephone 07 4770 0215 or 4770 1177

Fax 07 4770 1305

email: editor@piac.com.au

Advertise in *Palm Island Voice*
and support the community
that supports you!

CHANGES HAPPENING AT FERDY'S



Chris Congoo (Manager Therapeutic) is keen to let the community know about what is happening at Ferdy's Haven Alcohol Rehabilitation Aboriginal Corporation.

Chris Congoo, Manager Therapeutic, at Ferdy's Haven

“We have been making big changes at Ferdy's to coincide with some of the

re-structure taking place to make Ferdy's one of the best rehabilitation centres in Australia, if not the world”, he said.

“To do this we need the support of the whole community to bring about changes to our organization”, he added.

To help with this, Ferdy's will put out surveys or questionnaires in future editions of *Palm Island Voice* to ask people about how they can best service the Palm Island Community.

There are a range of other activities currently underway at Ferdy's, such as arts and crafts. **Kevin Kingston** is currently doing wood burning with clients, who have taken to it like old hands. Their work was on show at the stall at NAIDOC.

Ferdy's also conducts community events such as their NAIDOC display, and Kup-murrie foodstall.

They hold culturally appropriate activities like healing days, where clients are taken out fishing and to Bamboo Creek.

Community Education is also a big part of Ferdy's work. For example, they run First-Aid courses which are open to the community and arranged by the First-Aid service provider.

The team at Ferdy's also

work with the Community Health Team to provide health monitoring services.

And of course, they host AA meetings to help support people with drug or alcohol problems. Meetings are held both day and night. Meeting times are 9am and 7pm. You can call the day staff at the centre in the morning to arrange to be picked up to attend the 7pm meeting.

The other members of the team at Ferdy's are: **Brad Tippet**, Manger; **Lianna Cannon**, Administrator; **Debbie Casey**, Health Educator/Outreach Worker; **Syd Hill**, Social Worker; **Cyril (Jimmy) Haines**, Senior Case Worker/Counsellor; **Noel Cannon**, Case Worker/Counsellor; **Kevin Kingston**, Activity Officer; **Robert Nullajar**, Duty Officer/Night Counsellor; **Robert Friday**, Night Watchman; **Gavin Haines**, Weekend Night Watchman; **Jack Barry**, Weekend Duty Officer; **Henry Dennis**, Weekend Night Watchman; **Nina Clay**, Head Cook; **Yvette Lenoy**, Weekend Cook; and **Keith Bligh**, Yardman/Maintenance Worker

“Our workers are looking forward to meeting and networking with you in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact our service if you need help with an alcohol or drug problem”, Chris Congoo said.

Remember:

That yesterday is history

Tomorrow is a mystery

Today is the present

And a present is a gift from God!

**Story from Chris Congoo
Ferdy's Haven Alcohol Rehabilitation Aboriginal Corporation**



"OVER SEAS" NEWS

Living on the beautiful island of Palm, it is easy to forget that events happening elsewhere in the country may have implications for the community here.

In this regular column, we will be bringing you headlines and summaries of indigenous current affairs from around Australia. We will be highlighting issues that may affect Palm and which may need discussion by the community.

Federal Intervention in NT Territory

The federal government has defended its decision to give parliamentarians just a few days to examine 500 pages of legislation concerning the intervention into northern territory indigenous communities.

The legislation which includes changes to welfare payments and the scrapping of the permit system, will be tabled in parliament today 7/8/07.

ABC News website 07/08/07

This piece of legislation is something we here on Palm Island have to take notice of. What's happening in the northern territory could happen or maybe already happening?

Do we as a community and people want to lose our identity as Bwgcolman? Would something like this happen in white communities?

Will changes to community ownership of land in the Northern Territory set a precedent to bring about changes here?

Other questions these issues raise for us are things like, what is the meaning of home ownership? Will the title of the land change to free hold? How will 99 year lease arrangements being made with other communities affect us?

Other Opinions to Note

Greens condemn 'draconian, racist' powers on abuse

Bob Brown says the legislation on child abuse in Aboriginal communities is racist.

The Greens say Indigenous Australians will be subjected to racist powers befitting a police state under the Federal Government's intervention plan for the Northern Territory.

ABC News website 12/8/07

Senate hearing into intervention bills 'inadequate'

The Greens and Democrats have condemned a one-day Senate committee hearing into the Northern Territory Aboriginal intervention bills as inadequate, and say it is unrealistic that the committee report has to be tabled today. The committee is preparing to release its report on Friday's hearing into the bills.

Spokeswoman for the Aboriginal groups, Olga Havnen, says the bills do not meet the objective of protecting children.

ABC News website 12/8/07

Federal Legislation questionable

Speaking at the Garma Festival in Arnhem land, retired federal judge Murray Wilcox QC said that although the laws were constitutionally valid, they were extremely discriminatory.

He said the laws to quarantine welfare and ban alcohol would punish entire communities rather than individuals who break the laws.

"I must say I'm amazed to see any federal government introduce into this parliament legislation of this nature", he said.

"I think we all ought to be concerned when governments behave like that."

"There are child abuse and sexual violence and domestic violence all through the white community down south, its naïve to say there's not," he added.

He said "alcohol is banned throughout the whole area unless you are recreational boating or fishing, now whose going to do the recreational boating or fishing? The white-fellas."

ABC News website 07/08/07

Justice Murray Wilcox QC is questioning this intervention policy by the federal government and we should be questioning this also. What ever the outcome of the intervention strategy in the Northern Territory, similar action may be implemented in Queensland.

We need to make sure the State Government cannot use alcohol or child abuse as a means to implement policies that undermine the integrity of Aboriginal communities.

Intervention bill 'tramples' Indigenous rights

The head of Reconciliation Australia says the Commonwealth's Emergency Response Bill for Northern Territory Aboriginal communities tramples on Indigenous property rights.

Fred Chaney told guests at last night's Vincent Lingiari Memorial Lecture that he was shocked by the legislation rushed through the House of Representatives in the last week. He says it could see successful communities and families returned to dependence.

"[It] is contemptuous of Aboriginal property rights, is contemptuous of the principle of non-discrimination," he said.

ABC News website 12/8/07

"Overseas" news was compiled by Alfred Clay

Community Leader Profile

RALPH NORMAN

Ralph Norman was respected by all in the Bwgcolman and other cultures as an Elder.

Ralph Norman was born in Cooktown 1942 and passed away in June this year. He was recognised by the Elders of the Bwgcolman people.

He did cultural teaching in - **Healing Indigenous Spirit (HIS)** and **Strong Help and Positive Environment (SHAPE)**. These deal with issues on Sea and Land Rights.

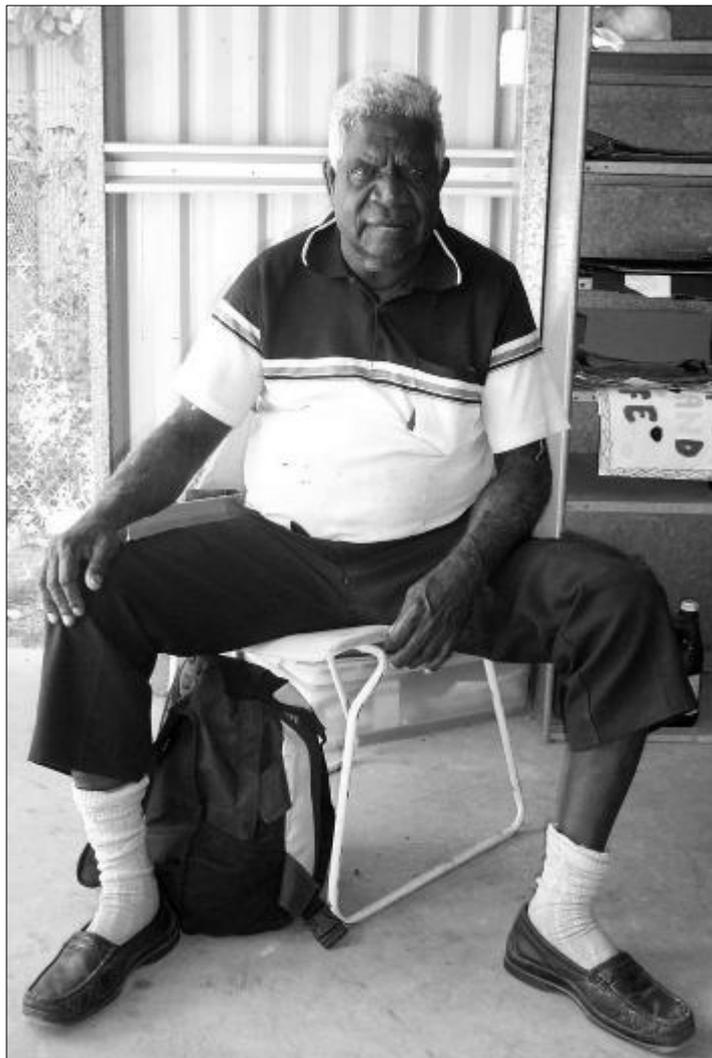
Ralph came to Palm island when he was 9 years old. He grew up on Palm and went to state school here. Some of his school mates are some still alive.

In the 1960s he played Rugby League in the rep side. He played in Ingham and the surrounding areas.

He has 2 daughters and many grandchildren. He has seen lots of changes since the days of rations and the curfew bells when Palm was a mission of Daia.

Ralph was an advocate for young people. He worked as a Justice Panel member, which meant that he sat with children in Townsville.

He was our CALP (community advocate and learning partner) of the "Art Places" project and the Learning Pathways program.



Learning pathways students preparing the first stages of the memorial garden for Ralph Norman.

He gave us the OK on what symbols to paint around our community. He urged all young people to strongly take up the Arts and Education.

We miss Ralph and are currently making a memorial garden out the front of the beach side campus.

We hope to have a ceremony for him and would like to invite people in the community to come along.

This will be late in August so if you are interested in coming and seeing what he has done for us you are very welcome.

Story & pictures from Learning Pathways Students TAFE

APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

Palm Island has a strong commitment to ensuring community members are encouraged to take on apprenticeships and training.

As a result, there are many trainees and apprentices on Palm Island. Their trades are wide ranging from painting, cabinet making and administration. They are employed by organisations such as Palm Island Community Council, CDEP and QBuild.

The trainees and apprentices work very hard at both their on the job components of their course as well as the TAFE components.

In each edition of *Palm Island Voice* we will bring you the stories of a group of trainees or apprentices.



Dive Instructor Brendan Fury with apprentices Gavin Bramwell, Craig De Satge and Maurice Lenoy (left to right)

Spotlight on Sponge Farmers

The sponge farmer trainees have been working hard for over the past year. The project is run via the CDEP on Palm Island and involves other agents such as AIMS (Australian Institute of Marine Science), State Development and TAFE.

Many other organisations, groups and individuals contribute to this project. The aim is to train the Palm Island men as divers so they can work in the sponge farm industry.

The trainees have their diving certificate already and a marine radio operator certificate. It's a very exciting project.

The participants are Gavin Bramwell, Craig De Satge and Maurice Lenoy. They come to TAFE each Tuesday to gain support for numeracy and literacy and work through their course.

Brendan Fury is a dive instructor and also supports the trainees. He comes over to Palm each week to help.

Story & picture from Charlie Goldsmith TAFE

Sign up to learn computing

TAFE is running a new computer class.

It will be held every Monday at the Bwgcorman State School. Beginners are welcome.

If you want to go along, contact Charlie or Rani at the seaside TAFE campus. Or you can telephone them on 4770 1200.

LEARNER'S PERMITS

Courses to assist students who are sitting for their Learners permit are held monthly on Palm. These courses are helpful for people who have difficulty with reading, writing or understanding the difficult English involved in the Road code booklet and written tests. It is called the plain English version and it is all delivered on screen.

The course runs for 2 1/2 days and takes place at the JPHS boardroom. Testing is conducted by QPS at JPHS and the testing is very visual and in plain English. This course has an extremely high success rate.

If you want to do the course you need to enrol at TAFE. You will need your birth certificate and other ID. Apart from that the only requirement is to bring a biro.

Course dates

August 20 -22nd

October 15 – 17th

November 12 – 14th

December 10 – 13th

BLUE CARDS

Construction Induction (Blue Card) is also conducted by TAFE on Palm Island. This card is a requirement when working on a building site but is also gives a good sound knowledge of the Workplace Health and Safety Act, Safe work practices and Risk Assessment.

It is a three to four hour course and on completion students are issued with a General Safety Induction card.

Enrolments are taken at TAFE.

Course dates

August 23rd

October 18th

November 15th

December 13th

HEALTH CALENDAR

Joyce Palmer Health Service

Doctors Appointments

Doctors run clinics Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm.
See the administration staff for appointments

Pharmacy

Mon, Wed Thurs, Fri
10am to 1 pm
2pm to 4.30 pm
Tuesday only close 6.30

Dressing Clinic

8am to 4pm Monday to Friday only – unless it is an emergency

Dental Clinic

9am to 3.30pm Tuesday Only
No Appointment necessary

Mental Health Team

The Mental Health Team Office is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm. Phone 4753 5163.

The Team can help with mental health assessment, crisis intervention, case management, consultation and liaison with persons presenting to JPHS emergency department, court liaison, Individual counselling and family therapy.

Child Health Clinic

Aggie is available from 8am to 4.30 Monday to Friday to provide help with child health problems issues such as immunisation and baby health checks. Also provide help for some women's health issues and family counselling.

Ring on 4752 5172 or call in anytime.

Sexual Health Clinic

Rachel, Frank and Mersane are in the office 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Open late on Tuesday nights till 6.30pm.

No appointment necessary.

We provide advice, treatment and management of any sexual health issues. We also provide help with issues such as contraception, Pap smears, counselling and Trans Gender.

Vet Clinic

Dr. Jim is available on 15 August at the vet shed in Mango Avenue for any pet needs.

Surgery is in the mornings and consultations in the afternoon. This is a free service.

You may need to pay for vaccinations' and some medications for your pet.

No appointment necessary.

Health News

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM CERVICAL CANCER

Free vaccination to protect against cervical cancer is now available.

The National HPV Vaccination Program is providing free screening and Immunisation against HPV for young women aged 17 to 26 years old.

HPV (Human Papillomavirus) is a group of viruses that cause skin warts, genital warts and some cancers.

Anyone who has ever had sexual contact could have HPV. These viruses are so common that four in five people will have had genital HPV infection at some time in their lives. Most infections do not cause any symptoms and so people do not know they have the infection.

Cervical cancer is a disease where abnormal cells grow in the cervix. The cancer may spread throughout the body.

Cervical cancer is not common in Australia because of the success of Pap smears. A vaccine, GARDASIL, can also prevent cervical cancer.

GARDASIL can prevent infection in young women. The vaccine is given as a course of 3 injections over a six month period.

If you have had sexual contact then you may have been infected with HPV. If you have been infected, your protection against cervical cancer or genital warts after vaccination may be reduced.

Even if you have been diagnosed as having genital warts or had an abnormal pap smear, you may still benefit from HPV vaccine.

A Pap smear is a quick and simple test in which a number of cells are collected from the cervix and sent to a laboratory where they are tested for changes. No medications or anaesthetics are required and a doctor or women's health nurse can easily do it.

You can get the vaccine from the Sexual Health Clinic, Doctor or Women's Health Clinic at the hospi-

Put Your Business Here

Advertising space is available to all businesses, organisations and individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community.

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay for further information
Telephone 07 4770 0215 or 4770 1177
Fax 07 4770 1305
email: editor@piac.com.au

**Advertise in *Palm Island Voice*
and support the community that supports you!**

Look after your kid's hearing

Your child's hearing is important for educational and communicational purposes.

Hearing loss is preventable but early detection and intervention of hearing problems is essential.

If your child has any of the following problems or symptoms, it could be due to ear infection or hearing loss.

- Ear aches, runny ears, or pus coming out from their ears.
- Not understanding or following simple instructions.
- Sitting up too close to the TV, or turning the TV or music up very loud.
- Disruptive or showing behavioural problems at home or school.

If your child shows any of the above symptoms, complaints of an ear ache, or has pus coming out of their ears seek medical advice immediately.

Tony Olander, Indigenous Health Worker
Thanks you for your support

Hearing Checks for Kids are Important

Health workers from Joyce Palmer Health Service will be conducting hearing screening tests soon.

Test will be held on:

- **Thursday 9th August 2007**
at Bwgcolman Community School.
- **Thursday 16th August 2007**
at St Michael's Catholic School.

The Aim of Hearing Screening is to decrease the incident of middle ear problems (Otitis media) and hearing loss within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

It wants to promote awareness and educate children and their parents and care givers about the importance of hearing healthy and how hearing health affects children's development.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children generally have 10 times more the rate of ear infections (Otitis media) compared to the general population.

Ear problems can happen in all children, of all ages including babies.

Hearing is important for a child's speech and language development.

Hearing tests can provide early detection of any problems.

HANDWASHING CAN STOP THE SPREAD OF 'FLU AND GASTRO

There have been outbreaks of flu and gastro in the community.

Infectious diseases like 'flu and gastro can spread in a variety of ways. One common way is when hands that have picked up germs carry those germs to the mouth or nose.

There is a simple and easy way to help to reduce the number of people getting these diseases.

Hand washing is the single most important way to stop the spread of many infections.

You can keep yourself, family and friends healthy by washing your hands.

Here is some practical advice on preventing illness in yourself and those around you.

When to wash your hands

Before:

- preparing and handling food
- eating food
- before caring for patients

After:

- going to the toilet
- providing patient care
- handling raw food and cracking raw eggs
- using a tissue, coughing or sneezing
- smoking
- handling rubbish
- touching ears, nose, hair, mouth
- changing babies' nappies
- touching objects that are soiled by blood or other body fluids
- gardening
- touching animals



Wash your hands



Palm Island Ambulance

First Aid Hints and Tips

Fits or Seizures

Fits or Seizures are caused by a cells in the brain that work at the wrong time. To help these cells work properly, doctors prescribe medication such as Epilim or Teril.

It is important that these tablets are taken properly. The doctor will tell the person when to take the tablets, usually twice a day, every day, but this depends on the person and type of tablets.

Taking these tablets every day builds up of level of the medication in the blood which works on the cells in the brain and helps to stop the person from having a fit.

When the person misses taking their tablets for only a couple of days the level in the blood drops. The person is at risk of having a fit or several fits until the level has been built up again by taking more of the medication.

How to help someone having a fit

While the person is fitting

- Move any furniture or items that may cause injury.
- **DO NOT** try to hold the person down or stop the fit.
- **DO NOT** put anything in their mouth.

When the fit has stopped

- Roll the person on their side
- Make sure they are breathing ok
- Stop any bleeding if they have injured themselves.
- Stay with the person until they wake. They will be sleepy and confused when they first wake up
- **Call the ambulance on 000**

IMPORTANT POINTS

First Aid Course

A course is being held at the conference room at PCYC on 28 and 29 August 2007 from 9am to 4 pm

You must attend both days.

The course is Free to Palm Island residents. Contact the Ambulance Office to register.

YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR NEWSPAPER

Future editions of Palm Island Voice will include Public Notices and For Sale Classifieds.

Tell us about what's happening and we'll put it in our **Public Notices**.

Keep us informed about new babies, birthdays, marriages and funeral notices. This information will be included for **FREE!**

If you have something for sale, you can place an advertisement in the **For Sale Classifieds**. If your sale price is less than \$1000, we will run the ad for **FREE!** If your sale price is more than \$1000, the cost of the ad will be \$2.50 per line.

Phone or call in and see us to place your For Sale ad or Public Notice. Contact Alf or Catherine at the Council Offices on 07 4770 0215.

**FOR SALE BIRTHDAYS
BIRTHS MARRIAGES
FUNERAL NOTICES**

Tell us what you think

Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome

To the Palm Island Community,

Letters to the Editor, commenting on community issues, voicing opinions and ideas encouraging positive public discussion will be accepted and published.

Please supply your contact details with any letters you send in. However, to protect people writing in about sensitive issues, your name will not be published unless you give permission.

Send your letters to the *Palm Island Voice* c/- Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Main Street, Palm Island QLD 4816. They can be also sent via email to editor@piac.com.au.

Remember, its your community and this is your newspaper.

Editor

Palm Island Voice

Palm Island Voice Community Notice Board

First Aid Course

Palm Island Ambulance is running a free First Aid Course. It will be held at the conference room at PCYC on 28 and 29 August 2007 from 9am to 4 pm. You must attend both days. This course is **FREE** to Palm Island residents. Contact the Ambulance Office to register.

AA Meetings at Ferdy's

AA meetings to help support people with drug or alcohol problems are held at Ferdy's. Meetings are held both day and night Meeting times are 9am and 7pm. Call day staff at the centre in the morning to be picked up for the 7pm meeting.

Public Holidays for 2007

Spring Fair Festival	Saturday	1 September
Christmas Day	Tuesday	25 December
Boxing Day	Wednesday	26 December

Palm Island Play Group

All family members with children aged 0 – 5 years old are invited to come along to the first session of the Palm Island Playgroup.

DATE: Wednesday, 22 August 2007
TIME: 10.30am – 12.30pm
WHERE: PCYC child care room

For more information contact Julie McTaggart on 0428 114 371. Supported by the Palm Island Family Support Hub.

Justice Group Meeting

The next Justice Group meeting is on Thursday, 30 August at 5pm. A hot supper will be provided.

Ferry Timetable

Day/Date	Departs from	
	Townsville	Palm Island
Fri 17 August	11:30am	1:30pm
Sun 19 August	12:30pm	2:30pm
Wed 22 August	1:30pm	3:30pm
Fri 24 August	1:30pm	3:30pm
Sun 26 August	2:30pm	4:30pm
Wed 29 August	9:00am	11:00am
Fri 31 August	11:00am	1:00pm

Times may alter due to circumstances beyond the control of Sun Ferries.

Rubbish Pick Up Times

Area	Day
Chook City & Farm	Thursday
Mango Avenue	Monday
Top End	Tuesday
Bottom End	Wednesday
Reservoir Ridge & Butler Bay	Friday

Careers Expo

Want to find out how to get a job? Want to know more about Traineeships and Apprenticeships? Want to know what employment opportunities are available?

Come along to the Careers Expo! Thursday 6 September, 10am to 3pm at the PCYC.

Coming of the Cross

The World Youth Day Cross and Icon are coming to Palm Island on 12 September.

The Cross and Icon are visiting selected parishes from northern Queensland, of which Palm Island is one.

Join in the celebrations and reflections that will be held when the Cross and Icon come to Palm on 12 September, from 11am to 3pm.

Future Directions Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Future Directions Group will be on 21 August, at 4:30pm, at the PCYC. The meeting will be followed by a light dinner.

Computing Class

Every Monday at the Bwgcolman State School. Beginners are welcome. Contact Charlie or Rani at the seaside TAFE campus. Telephone: 4770 1200.

Learner's Permits

See page 12 for full details

Course dates

August 20 -22nd
October 15 – 17th
November 12 – 14th
December 10 – 13th

Blue Cards

See page 12 for full details

Course dates

August 23rd
October 18th
November 15th
December 13th