



Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

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Issue 110

AMP discussions underway – time for community to have their say, Council says



Council is looking for discussion and ideas from everyone across the whole of Palm Island about the direction a re-vamped Alcohol Management Plan should take for the community.

By all reports preliminary discussions with the Premier and Minister have been very positive in terms of accepting input from the Council on how AMPs should be structured – “now it is up to us”, Mayor Alf Lacey said. “We’ve had a one-on-one audience with the Premier where we talked about the AMP,” he said.

“And Bob Abbott (*above right*), who is a former-Sunshine Coast mayor and a very respected leader in Queensland, has been working with us already to start building community facilitation around the AMP. That’s going to be really important, so watch this space.

“The Premier of Queensland has made quite clear he thinks every Queenslander should have the right to own their own home and sit on their back porch having a nice family barbecue

with a can of beer.

“So, I don’t know what that means, but I think the most important thing, regardless of what they think, is we have to tell them what we want and we have to find that balance.

“For the first time, we’re going to be able to have our say. The last time, when the AMP was introduced to the community, there were only a few community members who had input, and we had to put up with it.

“This time we want everyone to have their say.

“Young people, older people, people from the church community, people from the young community of Palm, the public service community; I want the school teachers to have their say, the nurses and doctors to have their say; it’s going to be an open process

for everybody to have an opportunity and have their say.

“Whether you drink or you don’t drink or whatever views you have on the AMP, this is your opportunity to have an open say.

“We want to know what you think is going to be good for Palm in the future.

“Council has a view in terms of the AMP, but it’s important we come up with a balanced view and that’s what we want to be putting forward – a balanced perspective from the whole community.

“The community’s ideas will be taken on board by Council before we put a final submission to Government.

“And we need to get this process out of the road as soon as possible so that we can see the Government acting on the wishes of the people of Palm.”

Steady Tigers!



PALM Islanders Lance Poynter, Rod Moonlight and Earl Robertson waited patiently to see some stars from NRL club West Tigers when they played the North Queensland Cowboys in Townsville last month.

Their patience was rewarded when Tigers hooker and NSW State of Origin rep Robbie Farah walked out just after 10.15am, with centre Chris Lawrence. Both were delighted to have their pic taken with the Palm lads, as were Blake Ayshford and Chris Heighington a few minutes later. "I am a Tigers supporters and love the way they play," Mr Poynter said.

Coolgaree Farm production is in full swing after a long wet dry season, featuring flooded paddocks, unseasonal winter rain and weeds - finally they have some vegies ready to go. "The farmers have worked their bums off to bring you some of the freshest vegetables," a spokesperson said. "We don't use any sprays and we use mostly natural methods. So come on down and grab some of the bestest, freshest vegetables and fruit around. We have bananas, silver beet, beautiful tomatoes, corn and lots more." See you at the Ball Tree!!!

Townsville FOGS draw CDEP participants



Plenty of Palm Islanders were at the Former Origin Greats (FOGS) Indigenous Employment and Career Expo at the Townsville Entertainment Centre last month.

More than 1000 students from as far away as Palm, Ayr, Charters Towers and the Herbert River district and checked out hundreds of potential careers thanks to info stalls put up by potential employers from all levels of government to mining and other private enterprise. Adults looking for jobs and careers were also there.

Pictured are Coolgaree CDEP participants there checking out their potential futures, including Navrone Curley, Carlo Watson, Mervyn Bengaroo, Anthony Friday, Allan Brown and Earl Robertson. FOGS who were special guests there included Allan Langer, Colin Scott, Gene Miles and Greg Dowling.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



- COUNCIL HOUSING NEWS + CR PROFILE
- *HUGE* SPREAD OF NAIDOC PICS
- BOXING NEWS
- FOOTY ROUND-UPS & MORE!!!

Blockbuster finish predicted for PIRL finals season

GAME results over the next two rounds of PIRL fixtures (11th & 18th August) will play a major role in shaping how the top four teams are placed when the all important finals series commences.

In what looms as a crackerjack clash next Saturday, Mount Bentley Raiders will meet Skipjacks with the prize for the winner being outright second position.

The top two sides in the finals series will earn the all-important double chance.

Jets (*last year's winners, pictured above*) will meet Mundy Bay Warriors and should have a convincing victory as should Butler Bay Bulls over Bwgcolman Brothers. Hornets have the bye.

EVERYBODY'S TALKING

CONNOISSEURS of rugby league on Palm Island can't wait for the fixtures on 18th August.

Mount Bentley Raiders will play reigning premiers Jets in what looms as a blockbuster.



This will be for the prestigious Hector Poynter Shield.

Hector was one of the fastest and best ever Palm footballers who used to delight crowds with his speed and skill.

Sleeping giants Jets have steadily gained some top players back and can never be underestimated.

Jets always find excellent form as the finals series looms, and have an army of supporters.

The other much anticipated match will be between leaders Butler Bay Bulls and arch rivals Skipjacks.

NRL curtain-raiser cancelled

A match set to be played as an NRL curtain-raiser between the Barracudas rep side and Bowen was cancelled due to costs, a Cowboys spokesperson has told the *Palm Island Voice*.

It was to be held at Townsville's Dairy Farmer's Stadium on 4 August before the North Queensland Cowboys/Manly Sea Eagles blockbuster as part of the NRL's Closing the Gap round.

A Cowboys spokesperson said the prohibitive cost of opening the stadium early and the prospect of Bowen having trouble fielding a side resulted in the cancellation.

A Barracudas Possibles versus Probables game was held on Palm Island on 14 July to pick a side and ended in a 56-all draw.

A Palm Island Rugby League spokesperson said it was disappointing the game was cancelled considering all of the effort put in to organise a team.

FINALS ACTION

THIS YEAR'S preliminary final will be on Saturday 8 September, with the grand final scheduled for 15 September.

Semi-finals will be Saturday 1 September where first and second placed sides will battle out the qualifying semi with the winner

advancing straight to the decider a fortnight later.

The club who wins the elimination semi between third and fourth place will advance to the preliminary final to play the loser of the qualifier, and the loser will bow out for season 2012.

If sides are equal on points it comes down to for and against points scored in fixtures.

– More footy news on page 10
– Full round-ups and latest points table on page 11



PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY UPDATE

Two new housing subdivisions should be completed, with all lots fully serviceable and ready to go, by October Mayor Alf Lacey says.

"Tenders for the two new subdivisions have now been appointed and they have been on the Island pegging out the two subdivision sites," he said.

"The time frame is that by October they'll have two subdivisions completed, with all the lots fully serviceable and ready to go.

"We've made it quite clear from Council's point of view that we don't want lots staying empty so once they become available and ready to build on, we want homes to go straight on to them.

"All the new housing designs will be advertised so community will have an opportunity to have a look at what type of homes could go on these properties.

"Local people will have a choice in terms of colours and lino or tiles or things like that.

"The whole two subdivisions are going to be modern; it's not going to be the old same ol' same ol'.

"What we've seen so far is the new homes have some character about them and a modern look, rather than the old-fashioned look we normally see being built here, so we're quite pleased and happy this is all going ahead now.

"There will be a billboard at the Council where people can see those designs.

"I think an important aspect of getting the community involved is allowing people to see what's happening with those homes.

"There is also an ongoing discussion about Freehold Title, and open Freehold Title.

'The Premier is talking about it and some cabinet ministers are talking about it.

"Our view is quite clear at this point in time, and that is we prefer more community consultation around moving towards freehold title because we know what freehold title can do to an Aboriginal community, particularly with protected Aboriginal land.

"At this stage, I'd say to the community that freehold title isn't something that's on Council's agenda at the moment.

"Our view is that there needs to be more community consultation and more community involvement.

"We are happy about the 99-year lease arrangement under the current Deeds of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) arrangement.

"But this is not high on Council agenda at the moment, and I want to make that point because until our community sits down and has an open conversation around what kind of land parcel we want for our Island, and for our Shire, then that is something that this community has to work with Council with.

"There are some ideas in terms of the CBD area to attract investment and more employment which is certainly something Council would want to pursue.

"But in terms of open slather, free-for-all for the Shire that's not where we're at at the moment, we'd prefer to see more discussions.

"And then that is something I will be working on with the LGAQ policy executive to get a position from all our Indigenous Shires, because anything we do will affect all our Shires."

Introducing...

Deputy Mayor Mislam Sam

Deputy Mayor for 2012, Mislam Sam has a large family here on Palm Island and he has lived here for most of his life.

"My family is originally from here; they moved away and came back when I was in grade 4, and then stayed here permanently," he said.

"I went through the schooling system at St. Michael's, went on to high school on the mainland, as most Palm Islanders do when they reach that age.

"I was in Townsville from 2001 until I actually moved back here four years ago.

"I moved there to provide a better education for my kids, but also because of overcrowding on the Island and better job opportunities in Townsville.

"Back then I was with the newly incorporated Townsville Thuringowa Indigenous Peoples Community Employment Enterprise Development (TTIPCEED) Aboriginal Corporation as the Senior Job Placement Field Officer.

"I was elected to the first official committee as Treasurer, then I went on to be Chairperson for a period of a year.

"After that, I got the opportunity to work for the old Aitkenvale Hostel, so I was manager out there for a period of three or four years.

"When I moved back to Palm permanently in 2008, I was with TAFE in Townsville and took the opportunity to come back here to work as a Student Support Officer, then went in to part-time teaching last year.

"So for the past four years I've been with TAFE on Palm – a bit of teaching, a bit of student support and a bit of community development.

"I have four kids on the mainland, the eldest boy is going on 15 this year, the second boy is 13 and two little girls who are seven and four this year, and I have two older stepdaughters as well.

"Most weekends I get back there, but since I've been taken up with Council I'm too busy to do anything so I'll have to make it up the next school holidays.

"My portfolio is 'Planning and Liveability'.

"I really want to make this place a bit better, visually, and also there's a couple of things that I'd really love in my four years to start the ball rolling on a swimming pool for the island.



SNAPSHOT: a few of Mislam's favourite things...

Favourite Food: Seafood - any seafood, all types of seafood.

Favourite drink: I like drinking those vitamin waters.

Favourite football team: Cowboys, gotta be Cowboys.

Favourite pastime: Spending time with the kids.

Favourite Movie: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

Reading: I like reading a bit; all kinds of books at the moment; I like crime thrillers, newspapers and the Palm Island Voice(!).

Television: Friday night football, every Friday night I've got to have my footy on and watch the two games.

"But to make the place a bit better in living conditions as well as visually better, especially the CBD area, I'd like to make it like in the olden days where you see in old photographs hedges and gardens and things, just something that hasn't been done since then.

"Bringing pride back into the community is most important and if I can achieve that, it will be great."

PALM ISLAND



NAIDOC 2012



Pics with thanks to Cr Frank Conway

Community Director – Nominations wanted

The Board of the Palm Island Community Company (PICC) Limited is seeking nominations from suitably qualified individuals, living in the Palm Island community, for appointment to the position of Director of the Company.

PICC has been set up for, and with, the people of Palm Island, to help realise their aspirations. In the interests of the people, communities and organisations of Palm Island, the company will pursue its own strategic action plan (as outlined in the Strategic Plan document), and will work with existing organisations to secure benefits for the community.

PICC has been operational for over three years.

In keeping with its original strategic plan, during the first three years of operation the Company has focussed on building relationships with key Palm Island individuals and organisations, enhancing the social order by impartially supporting individuals and organisations and providing social services that improved safety and security on the Island.

This is an opportunity to contribute to your community as part of a skills based Board that includes nominees from the Palm Island community.

The role requires a commitment to attend monthly meetings and other related activities. The role is remunerated.



For an information pack please contact Sharon Lovett on 07 4721 2277, or for an initial discussion contact Mike Gilmour, Company Secretary on 0416 185 153.

***NEW* 2012-2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates**

In order to cut costs and to try to become more self-sufficient, the *Palm Island Voice* is currently undergoing a process of restructuring.

As a result our ad prices have been reviewed and are now:

Page Sponsorship (1cm or 18pt banner ad across nominated page): \$120
Quarter A4 Page Col: \$250 + GST
Half A4 Page Col: \$350 + GST
Full A4 Page Col: \$550 + GST

SUBSCRIBE!

Individuals & Families: \$60 (up to 06/13)
Community & NGOs: \$120 (up to 06/13)
Government: \$180 (up to 06/13)

Rates will vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in January 2013 the rate will be half of that listed above to take it to July 2013).

Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see back page) and material submitted no later than COB the next day.

To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au

Please support us so we can continue to support you!

Golden Gloves comp well-supported by sponsors

A large contingent of Palm Island boxers will travel to Acacia Ridge in Brisbane at the end of the month for their biggest tournament of the year, the prestigious Boxing Association Golden Gloves.

The gala tournament will be held at the Acacia Ridge Hotel in the state capital and will feature more than 200 bouts with competitors from around Australian, New Zealand, PNG and Samoa.

Trainer Chris Evers said the tournament will be held



from August 31st to 2nd September.

"We will be flying down to give the lads the best chance, and we have to thank sponsors the Palm Island Community Company and the Cathy Freeman Foundation for making it possible," Mr Evers said.

Experienced boxers who look set to make the trip include Patrick Clarke, Reggie Palm Island, David Sam, William Palm Island, Thomas Blanket and Joey Geia.

Younger boxers who have indicated they will go include Marcus Ketchup, aged 13, Thomas Solomon, 14, Levi Baira, 11, Chris Evers jnr, 10, and Stanley Fraser.

IN OTHER NEWS, Palm boxers may travel to far away Rockhampton by bus for a

fight card on 18th August said veteran mentor Ray Dennis.

"Boxers from Rockhampton came to Palm Island for our big tournament last year and it would be only right if we returned the favour," Mr Dennis said.



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

is closed every second Friday (Council pay week) for RDO.

The next RDO is Friday 17 August

REMEMBER: the Bank & Post Office now closes each Council RDO (every second week).

For emergencies on Friday please call 0458 789 011

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177

Proud to be...



PROUD Palm Island man Crusher Wotton reckons he has a 'Deadly Family'.

Crusher is the younger brother of Lex Wotton and the son of well known Palm lady Agnes Wotton.

"She is the best mum in the world and I am the youngest of three brothers," he said.

"It is so good to be a Palm Islander and I tell everybody that."

*Rosina Clay and
Jason Bulsey's
wedding at St
Anthony's Church
Palm Island, 28th
July 2012*

Pic courtesy Tim Miller



Skipjacks chance to meet & greet Aussie test side

SKIPJACKS players and officials are pleased their annual match against the Army Thunder for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield will be held in Townsville on the same day as the 3rd rugby league Test there between Australia and New Zealand.

The game was to be held in mid-August but has been moved to 13th October at Brother's League Club's Jack Manski Oval.

Skipjacks captain Fred Bulsey said he had been told the Australian team would have a training session at Jack Manski Oval after the clash with Army.

"That will be great and we will be able to meet the Aussie players and get autographs," Fred

said.

It will be the fifth such clash between Skipjacks and Army Thunder for the prestigious shield in honour of the late and great Palm elder Bill Coolburra.

In July 2011 at the Palm footy Oval, Skipjacks rolled the Army 46-30 in a quality game.

It was sweet revenge for Skipjacks which lost the 2010 game 22-16 to Army Thunder.

Bill "Kookaburra" Coolburra was a high respected Palm Island elder who was an Australian Army Vietnam War hero who served with the famous tunnel rats.

Born in June 1945, Bill died on October 29th in 2009 so the game was for his memorial shield for the second time.

The 2008 and 2009 clashes were held at Brother's League's Club in Townsville and were won by Skipjacks in amazing similar circumstances.

Scores were deadlocked at 28-all in both when the final siren sounded but Skipjacks were awarded the victory because they scored first under game rules.

Palm Island Voice has gained kind permission from the family to run this picture (left), taken at the first Coolburra Shield comp.



PIRL FOOTY

28 July

4 August

MOUNT BENTLEY RAID WARRIORS

CALEB Geia, Sterling Aden and John Baira scored three tries each when genuine contenders Mount Bentley Raiders beat Mundy Bay Warriors 88-28.

Kevin Morgan scored two tries with singles to Tabua Oui, boxer Reggie Palm Island, Ben Nomoa jnr, John Watson, Frank Baira, and Frank Pompey.

Kevin Morgan kicked four goals with a pair to John Baira and one apiece to Wayne Barry, John Watson and Tabua Oui.

For Warriors crafty halfback Maverick Fox and Mervyn Noble each scored two tries with one to Ralph Doomadgee and Ezra Langlo. Cr Frank Conway kicked two goals with one each to Michael Noble and Morris Watson.

BROTHERS SKIP TO LOSS

FLYING centre Mickeal Sibley scored five tries as Skipjacks rolled last year's beaten grand finalists Bwgcolman Brothers 66-32.

Both sides were short on numbers with Skippies were missing big forward Jason Bulsey due to his wedding that day.

With a wing on every foot Mickeal was dominant and well-supported by captain courageous Fred Bulsey, Anthony Thompson and Jeremy Pulleh, each of whom scored two tries each.

Gary Pearson and Kenny Wilson both chipped in with singles.

Anthony Thompson kicked four goals with two to Garry Pearson and one to Kenny Wilson.

For Brothers William Charles and Robert Johnson each scored two four pointers with one each to Robert Fraser and Gavin Charles. Robert Johnson kicked four goals and Gavin Charles two.

BULLS CONTINUE ON WINNING WAY

LEADERS Butler Bay Bulls defeated Hornets 82-6 in the other game which was called off with 25 minutes remaining due to the latter having a shortage of players.

BULLS CHARGE WARRIORS

TABLE leaders Butler Bay Bulls proved why they set the benchmark in the Palm Island domestic rugby league competition when they thrashed Mundy Bay Warriors 120-16 at headquarters.

Ten players scored tries for the Bulls which are now on a winning run.

Centre Adrian Poynter scored four tries with three each to lock Gresham Ross, Pita Morgan and rampaging forward Billo Wotton.

Centre Allan Brown and flier John Olliffe both scored two tries with singles to Stanley Fraser, Michael McLean, Alan Bonner, and Lenny Yoren.

John Olliffe and Gresham Ross each kicked four goals, Billo Wotton and Stanley Fraser three, Thomas Morgan and Adrian Poynter one apiece.

For Warriors front rower Ezra Langlo scored two tries with one each to Raymond Noble and Morris Watson.

That was the only game played on Saturday.

FORFEIT WINS/LOSSES

Skipjacks defeated Hornets and Jets beat Bwgcolman Brothers both by forfeit.

Mount Bentley Raiders had the bye.

PALM ISLAND RUGBY LEAGUE

Current Points Table

- 1 Butler Bay Bulls**
- =2 Skipjacks**
- =2 Mount Bentley Raiders**
- 4 Jets**
- 5 Mundy Bay Warriors**
- 6 Bwgcolman Brothers**
- 7 Hornets**

Dear Editor

I recently spent a few days on beautiful Palm Island. On the Friday night of my visit I went with friends to have a delicious lamb roast down at the Pub.

To my absolute delight, we walked in to find a dance group performing a series of traditional dances for the assembled patrons. Their performance was very special. Fortunately I had the camera on my phone and I was able to get a few pics which you may like to reproduce in the *Palm Island Voice*.

My short stay on Palm was most memorable as I got to spend some quality time with some dear friends who kindly showed me a lot of the Island. Unfortunately the weather was mostly overcast and there had been a lot of rain prior to my visit which made some roads difficult to traverse. We made a brief attempt to land a fish off the jetty and all I can say is I'm glad the delicious fish and chip shop gave me the opportunity to taste some local fish!

Before leaving, I wandered around and took photos of things that caught my eye, I spoke to lots of kids and I came away from Palm with many questions. For the answers, I know I will have to return one day.

My photos (*some of them right*) are on the Facebook page of my local reconciliation group in my hometown of Williamstown, Victoria.

Just to give you a bit of background, my interest in Palm dates back to the mid-1980's when I met Joe & Jacquie Geia who were living in Melbourne's West. I went on to work with Jacquie for a few years on various arts projects including the Williamstown Summer Festival which featured Joe, Archie & Ruby, Shane Howard and others.

Over the years working with Jacquie, Palm often came up in conversation so it had been on my long list of places to visit ever since.

cheers...Ian Carpenter



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Palm Island Voice

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