



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 4 October 2012

\$1.25

Issue 114

## Political visits promising results

**Palm Island has played host to a number of political visitors over the past few weeks, with more to come both on and off the Island.**

The AMP was the main focus of a meeting held in Cairns this week with Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier Glen Elmes. Mayor Alf Lacey said State Cabinet had signed off on a 'terms of reference' for AMP reviews across all the communities.

"Myself and the Deputy Mayor were called to an urgent meeting in Cairns this week with all the other Indigenous leaders

to sit down and work out an agreement with the Minister in terms of how the consultation and the review will happen for Palm Island," he said.

"I'm pretty pleased.

"And as soon as we know the details we'll go straight to the community and run community sessions on the AMP."

He said Minister for Housing and Public Works Bruce Flegg would also be in Cairns.

"The Housing Minister will also be there talking to us about

new housing arrangements and land matters in our shire for our community," Mr Lacey said.

Mr Lacey said he and the Council were also pleased to have welcomed the Hon Bob Katter MP to the Island last month (*full story page 4*).

"The other thing is the Coolgaree Sports Bar & Bistro restaurant will be officially opened this week by Minister for Local Government David Crisafulli, who will also be visiting Palm Island," he said.

## Taking a *plunge*...



...Palm Island style... :)

# ...Out & About...with the Mayor & Crs...



*Top left & right: Cr Frank Conway, Hope Vale Mayor Greg McLean and Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey took the opportunity to do a tour of Hope Vale's new banana farm and dam site while visiting to pay their respects to Mr Eric Deeral; Middle right: Sam Backo and Cr Lacey at the launch of the Townsville Enterprise Indigenous Engagement Project in August; Below: the new Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) executive representing all Shires in Queensland.*



## Foreshore reconstruction also on this week's agenda

**A foreshore reconstruction meeting will be held today, Thursday, which will see finalisation of that project's management agreement.**

"The meeting that will finalise the foreshore project management agreement and start all the preliminary designs," Mayor Alf Lacey said. "So, that's exciting from Council's point of view, because of the damage Yasi did to our foreshore more than 18 months ago now.

"Council will sit and have direct involvement in that and hopefully that will create some opportunities for Palm as well, not only in terms of reconstructing the foreshore but where Council can gain extra employment for the life of the project."



# Plenty of footy left in 2012

**A much-anticipated rugby league match between Palm Island Jets and Girringun Pirates scheduled for Saturday 29 September on Palm has been postponed until November.**

The annual clash is played for the Jack Henry and Joe Romelo Memorial Shield with the previous three games played in Cardwell.

Organiser Cr Mislam Sam said he received a call from Girringun's Phil Rist advising the game would be rescheduled for November. An under-game between Palm island and Girringun will also be played.

**MEANWHILE** four Palm Island senior sides and one under 18 team will compete at the huge 25th anniversary Bindal Sharks Allblacks carnival to be held in Townsville this weekend.

Organiser Jenny Pryor said 20 men's teams would contest the carnival at Jack Manski Oval in Townsville.

They will be: Sharks (Colin Scott), Cannonballs (Morris Bowman), Palm Island (Fred Bulsey), Bwgc Colman Hornets (Billy Landers), Girringun Pirates (Phil Rist), Bowen River Broncos (Ian Fischer), Bowen Stingers (Steve Motto), Yunga Boongi (Nelson Doolan), Walkabouts (Ashley Saltner), AJAS Geia Memorial team (Genami Geia), Noogini Pryor Memorial Team (Raymond Prior jnr), Charters Towers United (Toni McLean), GH United Mackay (Doug Pitt), Souths Bulls Mara Memorial team (Donnie Mara), Cherbourg (James Saltner), Defence (Ken Neliman), Gulf Bulls Normanton (Clayton Snow), Yapun Balas Cairns (Stephen Sailor), Three Rivers Hope Vale, Cooktown, Wujal Wujal (Tennille Nuggins) and Mount Isa Razorbacks.

There will also be eight under 18's teams: Sharks United, Walkabouts, Palm Island, Charters United, North Coast Dolphins, Bowen Stingers, Girringun Pirates and GH Invitational.

"We have a Master' game between Townsville and Mackay to be played on the Sunday before the finals," Ms Pryor said.

"At Saturday lunchtime an exhibition game of Ultimate Frisbee which Assistant coach for the Australian team Rueben Berg is going to be here and organising. I want to introduce Frisbee to our black communities because it is a non-contact game you learn three sports techniques – netball, AFL and Rugby League – to play.

"And no referees are needed because everyone learns the rules and it teaches honesty and integrity." There will also be a 25-year reunion dinner dance on Saturday night.

Several Palm sides are expected to travel to Cairns for the annual Allblacks carnival in two weeks time.



# Katter visit puts home ownership back on agenda



**Late last month a community forum to discuss self determination, economic development, the right to title deeds and the ability to build and own family homes was hosted by the Palm Island Council along with Hon Bob Katter MP and Father Frank Brennan SJ.**

At the forum Mr Katter paid tribute to the Palm Island community which he said had led the good fight in securing self-management and ownership of the land for the people of Palm Island and all of the First Australian people of Queensland.

He said his Australian Party continued to fight for private ownership for First Australian people.

"Without home ownership, indigenous economic development is at a standstill," he said.

"Only this will achieve self-management and indigenous economic development."

Mr Katter also said while victories would be challenged by many changes and setbacks, it was important to remember the heroes "who sat down, designed, fought for and implemented the legislation", and to "commemorate these people and the hundreds who stood in the historical battle in which this was a major milestone".

"Governments are still saying to indigenous people: 'We will manage your money for you; we will build your houses for you; we will control and own your water for you; we will decide what is best for you,'" he said.

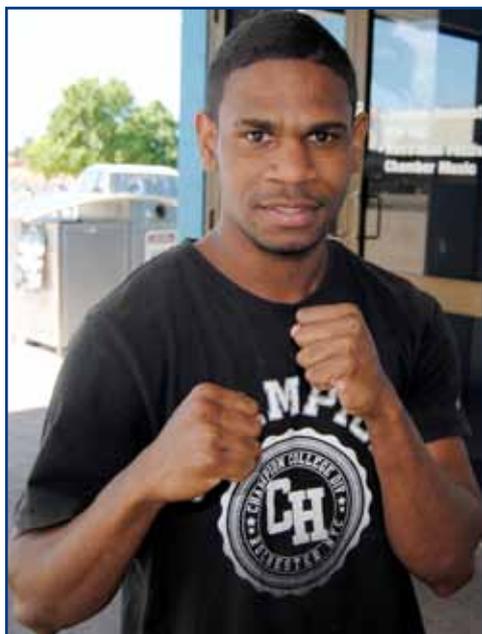
Mr Katter and Fr Brennan also joined Mayor Alf Lacey, CEO Ross Norman, Palm Island Crs Frank Conway and Mislam Sam and Yarrabah Cr Bevan Walsh on a tour of the new housing estates. Cr Lacey said he welcomed Mr Katter and Fr Brennan's visit.

**SOME HISTORY:** As the Bjelke-Petersen Government's Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Bob Katter enshrined in legislation the self-management rights of Aboriginal community lands through elected councils; and introduced laws granting inalienable freehold title of the former mission reserves (held in trust by the elected councils), including a regulatory mechanism to enable private ownership of lands (through perpetual leases for home ownership by families, as well as term leases for enterprise development). He said his policy was to enable individual families to obtain private land titles within communally held lands, moving to home ownership and economic development. Even before these laws were passed in the Qld Parliament in 1985, he had encouraged councils to invite families to apply for private leases for home ownership and enterprises. Unfortunately, with the change of government after 1989, hundreds of private ownership and home ownerships were left in limbo – where they shamefully remain a quarter-century later because the ascendant Goss Government legislated to stop the so-called "Katter leases" being approved under landholding laws.

***"First Australians should have the same rights enjoyed by the rest of the world and every other Australian – the right to secure a title deed on that 25% of Australia which is 'supposedly' owned by them. They will be given an inalienable title deed on DOGIT areas to their home, business, farm and land so that they can say like every other Australian, "this is my land". This will provide, facilitate and enable economic development – impossible without a title deed."***  
**Bob Katter MP**



# Boxers in the rings from Cairns to Canberra



**STAR local boxer Reggie Palm Island travelled to Cairns for the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League State Titles in mid-September and came home with a gold medal.**

Trainer Ray Dennis said Reggie didn't have to throw a punch to claim the win.

"Nobody wanted to fight Reggie in his Bantam Weight division and also in the next class, so he got the gold," Mr Dennis said.

Veteran Mr Dennis said he and Reggie were given a ride to Cairns with the Rockhampton boxers and officials on their way through.

"We thank them for that," he said.

**MEANWHILE experienced boxer Patrick Clarke spent nine days training at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra last month.**

Patrick fights in the 64kg division.

"It was good for Patrick to train down there and he celebrated his 19th birthday whilst training," trainer Chris Evers Snr said.

"This could well see him get some bouts overseas down the track."

A team of Palm boxers will travel to Caboolture for a Boxing Association tournament on 13th October where Patrick has been invited to fight the main bout.



# Indigenous Witnesses meet in Darwin

**Earlier last month more than 1,741 Jehovah's Witnesses from over 20 Indigenous communities met in Darwin to attend their annual three-day convention.**

Spokesperson Moses Abednego said people came from as far away as Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and the Torres Straits.

'Safeguard Your Heart' was the conference theme, supported by a program which encouraged everyone personally examine themselves in the light of Bible principles, which they said, improved quality of life, strengthened families, and developed productive and honest citizens.

Lively discourses, dramatic Bible readings and presentations, and a live

play portraying young people coming to grips with the answer to the question 'What is True Love?', were highlights of the weekend, as was a baptism where 15 individuals underwent complete water immersion in symbol of their dedication to Jehovah, including Palm Islander Jeanie Sam (*pictured above with Mr Abednego*).

Jehovah's Witnesses base all of their beliefs on the Bible which they accept as God's



infallible, inspired Word.

Witnesses believe the Bible gives unsurpassed practical advice on marriage, family life, human relations, how to find true happiness, and many other subjects.



## Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Are now calling for interested artists to design a new Palm Island Flag.....

The WINNER will receive

**\$1500.00**

**CLOSING DATE:  
MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

If you are interested please contact Council reception for an application form to enter into the competition.

All applications/designs must be submitted in writing by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012 before 5.00 pm

NB: All Copyright of the winning design will be handed over to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

All enquiries please contact 07 47701177



## Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

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

**The next RDO is  
Friday 12 October**

**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**



**BARGE Co.**

### Monday

Dep Lucinda 7.30am  
Arr Palm Is 10.15am  
Dep Palm Is 11.30am  
Arr Lucinda 2pm

### Tuesday

Dep Lucinda 9am  
Arr Palm Is 11.45am  
Dep Palm Is 2pm  
Arr Lucinda 4.30pm

### Wednesday

Dep Lucinda 9am  
Arr Palm Is 11.45am  
Dep Palm Is 2pm  
Arr Lucinda 4.30pm

**Ph 4777 8282**

**Fax 4798 3038**

**12 Bruce Parade**

**Lucinda**

## Service Schedule

### Thursday

Dep Lucinda 8am  
Arri Palm Is 10.45am  
Dep Palm Is 12.30pm  
Arr Lucinda 3pm

### Friday

Dep Lucinda 8am  
Arri Palm Is 10.45am  
Dep Palm Is 12.30pm  
Arr Lucinda 3pm

### Saturday

Dep Lucinda 8am  
Arri Palm Is 10.45am  
Dep Palm Is 12.30pm  
Arr Lucinda 3pm

**Please note loading barge commences 60 minutes before departure.**

**Scheduled departure and arrival times should be checked at time of booking.**

**Note also all freight is delivered to our depot at Palm Island. Customers can collect their freight after 3pm daily.**



To our wonderful son & little brother DANIEL GEIA who is celebrating his 21st birthday on Friday 5 October

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS ON  
YOUR SPECIAL DAY**

Love Dad & Mum,  
brothers Josh Jnr, Shadrack, Caleb & Jayme  
Love sister Megan, brother-in-law Nigel &  
nieces Nickola & Zeciah  
Love Nana & Poppy, aunts,  
uncles, nieces, nephews &  
cousins in Mackay  
And from your family & friends in  
Mareeba, Townsville & Palm Island



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Christine Howes,  
on 0419 656 277 or via  
chowes@westnet.com.au**

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we can continue to  
support you!**



## Sisters come through for Brothers' win

**THREE** sisters of Palm Island descent played  
a major role in the 26-18 win by Brothers  
over Norths Dolphins in the Townsville and  
District Rugby League ladies grand final.

Sonja Watson (nee Baira), Rothana Baira and Romeenah  
Baira (L-R above) all shone in the 16th September final  
before a large crowd at the Townsville Sports Reserve.

Big front rower Rothana continually broke the first line  
of defence and in one memorable run crashed through up the  
centre of the ruck.

Crafty five eighth Sonja scored two tries to continually be a  
danger in attack and Romeenah was solid in defence.



# CHAMPIONS!

**Bwgcorman Community School girls are the new NQ Netball Tier 2 premiers after winning a school carnival in Townsville last month.**

Held at the Murray Basketball Stadium netball courts, the side defeated another Indigenous team Shalom Christian College 16-6 in the grand final.

At the end of the rounds Bwgcorman & Shalom were the two top teams and played off in the final. Player of the carnival was Bwgcorman's Jackie Ketchup/Friday.

Bwgcorman's side was Penny Robertson, Jackie Ketchup-Friday, Vasenai Dabea, Tareesha Baira, Natalie Grannigan, Lena Friday, Moira Murray, Dianne Fulford and Julie Pearson.

St Michael's Saints players were Giaan Baira, Mychael-Lei Sibley, Priscilla Sibley, Jaisheree Oui, Sarkeitha Williams, Ernestine Lacey, Jashieka Baira, Yisahrae Sibley and Savanne Castors. St Michael's team also did well out of the 26 teams.

Results: Bwgcorman Community School 18 d Bluewater State School 2, St Michael's School 17 d Railway Estate Blue 0, Bwgcorman CS 17 d Shalom Christian College 8, St Michael's 21 d Bluewater SS 3, Bwgcorman CS 25 d Railway Estate Blue 0, St Michael's 13 drew with Railway Estate Gold 13, Bwgcorman CS 12 d St Michael's School 7, Bwgcorman CS 12 d Railway Estate Gold 7, Shalom CC 12 d St Michael's 8.

Teams said big 'thanks' should go to Karlean Pearson and Arthur Dalton, who organised the Bwgcorman kids, and Leah Dabea for umpiring and being the bus driver. Also to St Michael's teacher Kelly Dwyer, who organised and drove the St Michael's kids, and John Sibley for umpiring.



## PUBLICATION DETAILS:

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Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson & to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

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## Palm Island Voice

<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>ISSUE NO</u>	<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u>
<b>Thursday 11 October</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>THURSDAY 18 October</b>
<b>Thursday 25 October</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>THURSDAY 8 November</b>
<b>Thursday 15 November</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>THURSDAY 22 November</b>
<b>Thursday 29 November</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>THURSDAY 6 December</b>