



Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 28 March 2013

\$1.25

Issue 125

Jetty funds application makes shortlist but...

It's been a big month in federal politics with one of the highest profile casualties being Simon Crean, now former-Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

That may mean despite Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council being shortlisted to put in a full application to the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) for a floating pontoon to be added to the existing Reel Women's Jetty (*pictured*), there are fears there may be delays after a Federal Cabinet reshuffle last week.

The pontoon means the ferry could run to regular timetable, regardless of tides.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the development would make a big difference to the town.

"We've worked very hard to get these applications in and so far we've crossed every 't' and dotted all the 'i's,'" he said.

The RDA Townsville and North West Queensland Committee assessed 28 Expressions of Interest (EIOs) of which eight were recommended to go through to the next stage of a full application.

The Committee, chaired by former-McKinlay Shire Mayor & Councillor Paul Woodhouse and deputy chair former-Burkekin Shire Mayor & Cr Lyn McLaughlin included



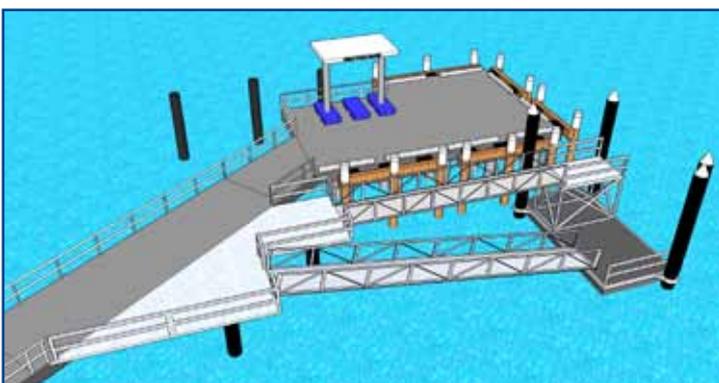
Access All Areas Event Management boss Jeff Jimmieson, Townsville Enterprise Ltd CEO David Kippin and NQ Dry Topics CEO Scott Crawford.

Federal NSW rural independent MP Rob Oakeshott called on Prime Minister Julia Gillard to move quickly to fill the Regional Australia position, ABC Rural News has reported.

The Minister – whoever it may be – was expected to announce the winning projects from Friday 7 June 2013. Funding agreements were then expected to be negotiated and executed within six months of the announcement.

Mr Oakeshott also called on the Prime Minister to confirm regional development grants would be delivered before the election in September this year.

"I urge the Prime Minister to confirm [that these projects will be delivered in the next six months as promised], and that Ministers will be appointed quickly so that they can actually get on and deliver these important regional programs," he told ABC Rural News.



FRIDAY 29 March is looming as D-Day for clubs wanting to compete in the 2013 domestic Palm Island Rugby League (PIRL) competition.

That's the "Deadline Day" for clubs to pay their compulsory player insurance premiums to enable them to compete under QRL rules. The much anticipated season has been scheduled to kick off on Saturday 6 April but

how many clubs and grades remains a puzzle. The PIRL board will be able to prepare a fixture list when it is known how many clubs have paid their insurance. There has been much speculation about what

format the coming season will have with some suggestions there may be six clubs. In other news Curacoa Crusaders have nominated for the Rockhampton Allblacks carnival to be held over the Easter weekend.



IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: Vaughn Charles from the Mens' Group is pictured above with a couple of young men who volunteered their time to do some cleaning up around the community. The group meets every Wednesday: full story in the next issue of the Palm Island Voice. Pic with thanks to Cr Eddie Walsh



Access to Work and Training tutor Tracy Stanley was recently taken fishing by Kathy Thompson & Lyness Huddy, above, and Lisa Thompson, Pauline Ketchup & Kathy Thompson, right. Tracy thought it was time for her hardworking charges – all good hunters too! – to relax and fishing is always best, so the girls took her to the Point, off Lime Shed. Pics with thanks to Cr Eddie Walsh.



Palm Island mental health services to expand

New community mental health services are about to be expanded to include Palm Island, the Federal Government announced earlier this month.

Mental health support service providers will be able to apply to deliver services as part of the Personal Helpers and Mentors service initiative, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin and Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler said.

"Our investment means that important new community mental health services will be expanded," Ms Macklin said.

"Successful providers will each provide one-on-one practical support to people with severe mental illness.

"Personal helpers and mentors can help people set and achieve goals, such

as finding stable housing, improving their relationships with family and friends, and, for those on income support, finding and keeping a job."

Mr Butler said the funding was part of mental health reforms being rolled out around the country.

To apply for funding, go to www.fahcsia.gov.au/funding

Bwgcorman artists lead Close the Gap day event in Townsville

Palm Island's collaborative work 'Lost Generations' was the focus of a National Close the Gap Day event in Townsville earlier this month.

National Close the Gap Day aims to increase awareness of the disparities between Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people and the rest of the Australian community.

Artists Ranietta Lind, Susan Pryor, Moarna Pryor, Cindell Palmer, Oriel Palmer, Loyla Morgan, Peter Thimble, Micaela Robertson, Harriet Murphy, Hosea Murphy, Anna Lind and Doreen Morton created the paintings at the new Bwgcorman Aboriginal Arts Corporation situated in the cultural precinct on Palm Island across from town square.

The 'Lost Generations', consisting of series of paintings on connective panels, has been on display at the Townsville Cultural Centre and in the foyer area of the Mercure Inn.

Moarna Sam, Ranietta Lind and Loyla Morgan were pictured at the event, above right, with Maggie Blackley from the Bwgcorman Aboriginal Arts Corporation.

"I am very proud of being amongst the artist and having my work here along with the others," Moarna said.

Economic Development General Manager for Townsville Enterprise Ross Contarino said the event was hosted by the Townsville Enterprise Indigenous Youth Ambassadors.



"Townsville Enterprise is committed in supporting young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander career seekers in finding their way in the workforce," Mr Contarino said. "We are pleased to be working with local communities and organisations in closing the gap for employment and economic participation. The Townsville Enterprise Indigenous Youth Ambassadors (is) a Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations initiative aimed at closing the gap within Indigenous employment and economic participation for the Townsville Region.

"The artwork was created by 12 Palm Island artists and is a vibrant mural display of 32 connected canvases."

Townsville Enterprise Indigenous Youth Ambassador Ben Gertz said National Close the Gap Day was a time to celebrate.

"We will be joining the thousands of Australians attending 900 similar events and engaging in the discussion to find solutions to equalise the gap in life expectancy, health, education, employment and many other areas between Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders and Australians," Mr Gertz said.



Left: artist Loyla Morgan holding George Bowie, aged eight days, with Ivy Sam and 3-year-old Kymani Sam

Stolen Wages on Katter Party agenda

THE Katter Australian Party (KAP) has joined the Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) in calling on the Queensland government to pay more than \$21 million in compensation to people for their unpaid stolen wages.

Scores of Palm Islanders are still owed wages from the days when government-appointed managers and 'protectors' controlled wages and savings withheld in bank accounts in individual's names as well as being 'taxed' into several larger 'welfare' or 'provident' funds.

For several generations Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people were not allowed to manage or access their own money, which was paid wages for what was often back

breaking work on properties and in the community as station hands, domestics and general labourers.

Around 7500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made claims against Peter Beattie's \$55.6 million offered in May 2002 as Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations (IWSR). Initially each former-worker was to receive \$2,000 or \$4,000 according to age.

The QCU has campaigned for full repayment of the

promised IWSR fund, of which just over half was paid out after secondary payments of a further \$1500-\$3000 to each successful claimant were made.

What was left after that – just over \$21 million – was placed into an education fund.

In January this year Queensland Premier Campbell Newman sent a letter to the Townsville branch of the union which said no more Stolen Wages would be paid. He said the issue had been finalised by the previous Labor Government.

President of the Queensland Council of Unions Townsville Branch Les Moffitt said last week KAP was now involved in pressuring the State Government to pay all outstanding IWSR money. Earlier this month KAP state leader Ray Hopper called on the government to pay the outstanding compensation.

"We've got a government that is going to pay rent on a parliamentary penthouse worth \$650 million that doesn't have to be built," he said, referring to the controversial 1 William



In May 2003 then-Palm Island Councillor Alf Lacey took an opportunity arranged by Australia-Asia Workers' Links to address a rally of several thousand people in Melbourne about stolen wages. Support from the Victorian Trades Hall Council and the Australian Council of Trade Unions at that time culminated in the postcard campaign, above right.



Above: The Stolen Wages sticker campaign, launched in 2005.

Right: the Stolen Wages postcard campaign was launched in August 2003. The postcards were sponsored by the organisations below. More than 80,000 were printed and distributed in Queensland and nationally.



Left: Elder Mary Twaddle at a recent stolen wages meeting in Townsville.



Below right: Placard at a stolen wages protest rally of about 200 people outside then-Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr's office in 2008.

St development.

“And they can’t pay these people \$21 million that’s owed to them.”

KAP health spokesperson Les Muckan said the government’s lack of support showed what it thought of Indigenous people.

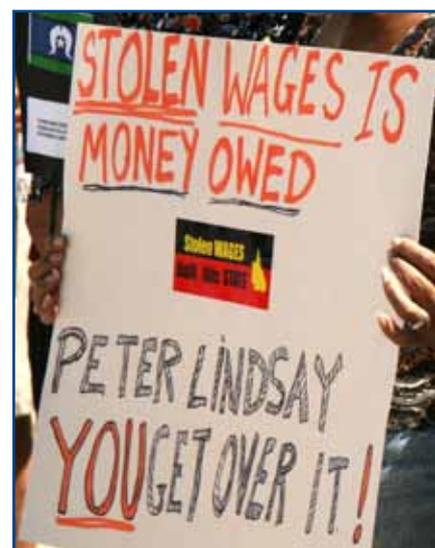
“The boat people that come here get it a lot better deals than what our people are getting here,” he told reporters. “The first nation people, we’re lost. We’re still struggling and it’s about time this government

wakes up to itself.”

Mr Hopper said the party planned to table letters in parliament and follow the issue until it was finalised.

The injustice of the IWSR is reflected in the case of TI-born identical twins Paul and Arthur Ahwang, who were divers in waters between Mackay and Cooktown when youngsters.

Paul Ahwang received his share of the IWSR money whilst Arthur has yet to be paid, even though they did the same work.



Elders and their supporters still hold regular campaign meetings in Brisbane (often with Cherbourg elders) and Townsville for updates and information about the stolen wages issue.

ABOUT THIS FONT:

The font used in this newsletter is called 'Dyslexie' and has been designed for people who have difficulty reading, especially those with dyslexia, so they can read more easily.

For more information see <http://www.studiostudio.nl>

Happy 21st Birthday Freddy Haines

All our Love Dad, Mum,
Munyaney & Vyneika

Be smart with power — simple ways to save

Be smart about using hot water...



- ☛ An electric hot water system accounts for about one third of your household's power usage
- ☛ Installing a solar hot water system instead can save you hundreds of dollars each year
- ☛ You can also save money by being smart about how you use hot water:
 - ☛ Install a low-flow shower head
 - ☛ Fix leaky taps
 - ☛ Have shorter showers to save water and energy

Be smart about washing your clothes...

- ☛ Dry your clothes in the sun or breeze if possible
- ☛ Use cold water to wash
- ☛ Always have a full load and choose the appropriate cycle length



Want to reduce your power costs?

See your local **powersavvy** officer **Bernadine "Blackie" Castors @ Palm Council** @ the old post office, or contact her through the Council office on **4770 1177**.

 www.facebook.com/powersavvy.au
www.powersavvy.com.au



Hey you mob, have you had your flu and pneumo needles?



Flu and pneumococcal infections can cause serious sickness, like pneumonia.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and adults who smoke, have diabetes, heart or lung problems, issues with drugs or alcohol, all need to have the needles.

But even healthy people can get the flu so protect yourself and your family.

Ask your local Health Service about getting the flu and pneumo needles this year.

QAIHC and Department of Health working in partnership against flu and pneumococcal disease.



Australian Government

Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

PERSONAL HELPERS AND MENTORS REMOTE SERVICES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) invites eligible organisations to apply for funding to establish Personal Helpers and Mentors Remote services under the Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) Program.

Non-government organisations can apply for funding to establish new PHaMs remote services in one or more of the following sites: Cunnamulla and Palm Island (Queensland), Halls Creek and Pilbara (Western Australia) and Ceduna in South Australia.

In addition to supporting individual participants, PHaMs remote service organisations will build local capacity to respond to mental health issues.

Key objectives of the PHaMs remote services include:

- Using a community development approach – support the individual as well as their support network
- Using innovative models that build on existing infrastructure and services
- Training local people to undertake PHaMs team roles and encourage the development of activities to strengthen family and community relationships for participants.

Further information on how to apply is available on the FaHCSIA website at www.fahcsia.gov.au/funding

Applications close at 5.00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time)
Thursday 18 April 2013.

AG73493

WWW.FAHCSIA.GOV.AU

2012-2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates **ADVERTISE!**

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

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.

SUBSCRIBE!

Individuals & Families: \$30 (to end 06/13)
Community & NGOs: \$50 (to end 06/13)
Government: \$90 (to end 06/13)

Subscription rates will vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in January 2013 the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2013).

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!



Housing Repairs / Maintenance Works Requests

Please be advised that **ALL** housing maintenance and property **REPAIRS AND REQUESTS** are to be forwarded to the **HOUSING TENANCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE** for processing. Council is responsible for repairs to essential infrastructure outside the property boundary only.

Contact the Housing & Tenancy Management Office on 4799 5382.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every 2nd Friday (Council pay week) for RDO.

The next RDO is

Thursday 28 March

For emergencies on Friday please call 0458 789 011.

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.

Boxers miss Bundy fights

A boxing trip to Bundaberg was cancelled last weekend because of heavy rain but at least five young pugilists will hopefully be on their way to Mareeba for an Easter tournament this weekend.

Trainer Chris Evers snr said the boxers would stay in Cairns on Good Friday night before driving to Mareeba on the Atherton Tablelands the next morning.

Expected to be there so far was Chris Evers jnr, Billy Isaacs, Levi Baira, Thomas Blanket, Harry Friday and possibly others.

“It will depend on what the other boxers have planned for Easter who else goes,” Mr Evers snr said.

MEANWHILE veteran trainer Ray Dennis is looking to take a team of Palm boxers to tournaments in Moranbah and Rockhampton in April.

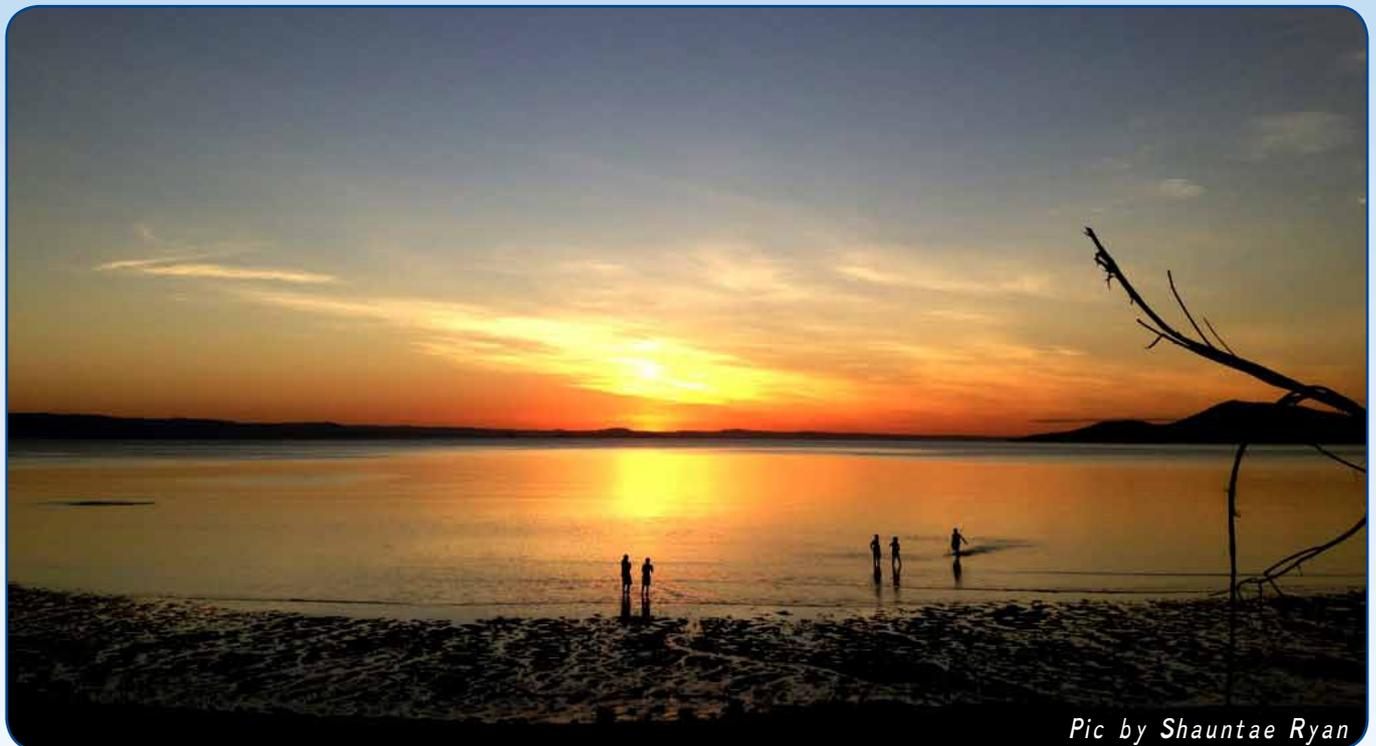
“Moranbah is set down for April 26 and Rockhampton the following night,” he said.

Brothers play CT

BWGCOLMAN Brothers club co-ordinator Vernon Walsh said a recent trip to Charters Towers for a privately organised pre-season trial match by the club was a great success.

Mr Walsh’s best rated players were Mickeal Sibley, Rod Shortjoe, Robert Fraser and Malcolm Larry.

“The game would not have been possible without the following sponsors who I would like to thank – West Wing Aviation, Sealink Ferries, Joyce Palmer Health Service, Trans North and Palm Island Community Company,” Mr Walsh said.



Pic by Shauntae Ryan

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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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DEADLINE	ISSUE #	PUBLICATION DATE
Thursday 4 April	126	THURSDAY 11 April
Thursday 18 April	127	THURSDAY 25 April
Thursday 2 May	128	THURSDAY 9 May
Thursday 16 May	129	THURSDAY 23 May