



Ferry service to stay on timetable



The trial of an additional Palm Island to Townsville ferry service has been given a green light to be added permanently to the timetable Member for Townsville John Hathaway says.

He said the decision to make the trial of a fifth weekly passenger ferry service into a permanent service was a great result for the local community.

“The initial trial was operated on a ‘use it or lose it’ basis and since the additional service first started it has been well supported by the community,” Mr Hathaway said.

“When the service was introduced in June this year I said it would provide greater flexibility for residents booking medical and other appointments, as it provides customers with an extra service between the island and the mainland, and this has obviously been the case.

“In October I reported passenger numbers had risen more than five per cent and this was looking good for an extension of the service.

“As a result the Department of Transport and Main Roads and SeaLink Queensland have made the decision that this new service can be made permanent.”

The initial trial service was started in June 2013 following consultation and approval from local stakeholders, including the Palm Island Aboriginal Council. Early passenger numbers showed the trial to be a success, with a decision made in October 2013 to extend the trial to ensure it remained just as successful before any decision about making the service permanent.

“I am pleased to report the continued success of the service now means the local community now

has more options for travel between Palm Island and the mainland,” Mr Hathaway said.

More than 46,000 passenger trips were taken on the route in the last financial year.

Looking & feeling good!



In December PCYC hosted a ‘Feel Good’ program for women and some indoor touch for men – more pics next page!



Feels good to feel good on Palm

Positive self-image and improved inner confidence, respect, self-esteem and dignity were the reported outcomes of the PCYC's Feel Good Program, delivered to women on Palm Island in December last year, hand in hand with a daily indoor touch competition for young men.

The Feel Good Program was developed out of **CAMP-OPAL** (Community Action Mentoring Program – One People All Linked) meetings where various stakeholders and organisations deliberated on issues surrounding youth on the Island.

PCYC YARI Coordinator Deniece Geia, an active member of the **CAMP-OPAL** Community Reference Group, and Youth Leadership Project Coordinator Malachi Bligh facilitated the program which was initially developed to support female youth involved in substance abuse but was expanded to include Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy services to youth and all ages of females throughout the community of Palm Island.

The PCYC is keen to develop the program further.

Sponsors and supporters included the Joyce Palmer Health Service, **DATSIMA & FaHCSIA**, Police-Citizens Youth Club, Queensland Police Service, Joyce Palmer Sexual Health Service and independent business owners such as Anita Lenoy (Hairdressing) & Selina & Jade Bazzo (Beauty Therapy- Diamond Tan & Beauty).

Great support educationally, financially and emotionally to the program and its clients, the success and such high demand for its services was a tremendous outcome for the program, the PCYC said.



From the Mayor & Council...

I'd like to start off wishing everyone a Happy New Year and a prosperous 2014 from myself and the Council (*pictured below*), Mayor Alf Lacey writes.

The new year is going to be a very busy one for the community in terms of continuing development. Council has a few priorities set for 2014, one of the most important of which is to see the



completion of the new pontoon down at the wharf so ferry access is better for residents.

We're keen to see that come to fruition and the other thing is we're committed to is Subdivision No. 3 (*pictured next page*).



Out & About



Top Pics: on the waterfront just before Christmas; Below: Every year just before Christmas families on Palm Island come together to remember loved ones who have passed on. This year's MC was Sidney Charles and guest speakers were Grandad Ralph Watson, Deneice Geia, Lex Wotton and Vaughn Charles. Pics courtesy Cr Frank Conway.



Preliminary designs and concept plans have already been given to the Council to give the green light on, so there will be some movement on that over the next few months. Notices will be put around the community about that new development, which will be 56 new properties, and Council has insisted they be three and four-bedroom homes.

Expressions of Interest have been called for naming the new subdivision and its streets and an independent panel will determine the final outcome of that after community submissions have been made.

Overall we're very pleased with what we've been able to achieve and that we've been able to influence the government, particularly in terms of this expansion, to help meet the housing needs of our shire.

The other important thing for 2014 is Council's economic development priority and to that end the Palm Island Economic Development Corporation will become a stand-alone community corporation in its own right in 2014.

This is about economic opportunities for the people of Palm so this will be a major priority for Council for 2014.

So I think 2014 is going to be a good year for Palm as we continue to develop our community infrastructure and talk up more opportunities for Palm. We have to have a very forward-thinking plan for our futures and our children's futures, and we can only do that with the community support.



2013 has been a good year for getting things done, we need to look beyond 2013 and open a new chapter for 2014.

Council is committed to continuing to work and advocate strongly for the community and we have some very good leadership at the Council table.

We have forward-thinking Council and we will continue to push for what is right for the people of Palm.

To our kids heading off to boarding school, and especially if it's their first

time, we want to wish them well in their new education journey, and their families as well. We also congratulate the new preschool and prep students who will start their first year in 2014 and wish them well.

To the Watson and the Martin families, Council would like to extend their deepest sympathies.

And once again I just want to wish everyone the very best, and we look forward to working with you all into this new year.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices



IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...the PALM ISLAND VOICE is published by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. Christine Howes has been the editor since October 2008 and works with Townsville-based journalist Alf Wilson and the Palm Island community to put together material and photographs for each issue. The Voice relies on advertising and subscriptions to help keep its production and printing going every fortnight. It is printed on the Island by Sondra Gorringer and sold in the Retail Store for just \$1.25. For details about how to subscribe to the Palm Island Voice see page 8.



Please note there will be **NO MEETINGS** in January 2014. Meetings will start as follows:

Delegation 11 February
Land Trust 25 February
Council Ordinary 26 February

The next RDO is this Friday, 17 January 2014 and the RDOs are then each fortnight.

For out-of-hours emergencies please call 0458 789 011.

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 207 'likes' on Facebook!!!

Dear Editor

I've just been thinking today about becoming more passionate about the things of my life - working with the youth on Palm Island!!

God has been reminding me about the story of the three servants.

In Matthew chapter 25 there is a stern warning about using our talents that God has given us all.

We have beautiful people on Palm Island and I, for one, want to see a positive change.

Palm Island youth are very important and our next generation coming through will be our leaders in the future.

Is anyone interested in helping me help the youth on Palm Island?

I need help with mentors of all sorts, planning trips, positive youth peers, sporting events, cultural events, family events, etc.

There's a lot of opportunity for our youth!

If you're interested please come and find me!

Yours sincerely

Lindsay Malone

MATTHEW CH 25:29

To Those who use well with what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.

All things football...

The Palm Island & District Rugby League Club's Annual General Meeting will not be held until further notice due to the current Committee waiting to access Financial Audit Statements and previous Minutes.

Match Date	Team 1	Team 2
14/15/16 March	HERBERT RIVER	BROTHERS
14/15/16 March	CENTRALS ASA	NORTHS
14/15/16 March	CHARTERS TOWERS	BURDEKIN
14/15/16 March	PALM/BINDAL	UNIVERSITY
21/22/23 MARCH	BROTHERS	BURDEKIN
21/22/23 MARCH	CHARTERS TOWERS	CENTRALS ASA
21/22/23 MARCH	UNIVERSITY	HERBERT RIVER
21/22/23 MARCH	NORTHS	PALM/BINDAL
28/29/30 MARCH	CENTRALS ASA	UNIVERSITY
28/29/30 MARCH	BURDEKIN	NORTHS
28/29/30 MARCH	HERBERT RIVER	CH TOWERS
28/29/30 MARCH	BROTHERS	PALM/BINDAL
4/5/6 APRIL	UNIVERSITY	CH TOWERS
4/5/6 APRIL	HERBERT RIVER	CENTRALS ASA
4/5/6 APRIL	BROTHERS	NORTHS
4/5/6 APRIL	PALM/BINDAL	BURDEKIN
11/12/13 APRIL	NORTHS	HERBERT RIVER
11/12/13 APRIL	CHARTERS TOWERS	BROTHERS
11/12/13 APRIL	BURDEKIN	UNIVERSITY
11/12/13 APRIL	CENTRALS ASA	PALM/BINDAL

MEANWHILE the PIDRLC is on a membership drive – for any inquiries regarding the AGM or 2014 draw contact Lex Wotton or for membership information, Deniece Geia. The TDRL draw is left, fyi.

A-Grade & U19 'Cuda players need to attend Training Sessions Monday-Friday 5.30pm to 8pm at the Rugby League grounds, Farm Road.

A-Grade Coach, Telstan Sibley emphasised the importance of players training before they play!

The PIDRLC has called for community nominations for an A-Grade manager, U19 coach and U19 manager.

Expressions of Interest have also been called for League Safe officials.

AND the Palm Island Barracudas will play Norths at Norths' grounds on Saturday 1 February – come along and support the Barracudas!!!!

Two PI boxers ready to go pro – Dennis

PALM Island looks set to have two boxers in Australia's blue ribbon professional ranks during 2014 with rising star Reggie Palm Island and powerhouse punching machine Patrick Clarke trainer Ray Dennis says.

"They have both been star amateur boxers who have represented our Island and boxing club with pride and distinction," Mr Dennis said. "Now they are going to turn pro in February and will be forces to be reckoned with."

Reggie started boxing under the tuition of Mr Dennis when he was just 14. Talented Reggie will fight in the 54kg division and Patrick in the heavier 67kg class.

Mr Dennis said as amateurs he organised sponsors and sometimes paid

for their trips to tournaments out of his own pocket.

"As professionals they would be paid to fight, as would their travel and accommodation costs," he said.

He said the Palm Island Boxing Club would continue to train and develop young male and female boxers at the local PCYC gym.

"There is so much interest and Reggie and Patrick did their training with us," he said. "Now we have many youngsters ready to go."

Those include gifted 15-year-olds

Steen Walsh and Joey Geia.

"Steen and Joey are very good boxers and can continue to improve if they train hard," he said.

Kathleen Haines, aged 15, and Natalie David, 13, were teenage girl boxers with the chance to impress during 2014.

"Kathleen is such a brilliant boxer and Natalie is going in the right direction," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said that he was confident Palm Island amateur boxers would also shine in 2014.

