



Freehold ownership one step closer

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Andrew Powell has tabled the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land (Providing Freehold) and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* in Queensland parliament, which may take Palm Island residents a step closer towards owning their own home on the Island.

The new legislation, tabled last month provides ordinary freehold land ownership opportunities.

Member for Townsville, John Hathaway said the Bill would give Palm Island residents the same property rights to the land enjoyed by other freehold property holders.

“Palm Island residents should have the same rights as those on the main land and that is to own their own home,” Mr Hathaway said. “This initiative is about removing the barriers for home ownership in indigenous communities and allowing residents to determine their own destiny.

“This freehold model takes into account the unique features of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It will be the choice of the Palm Island community whether they accept the freehold model within their town area.”

Assistant Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs David Kempton

said the Bill was “ground breaking.”

“For the first time in the history of Queensland there will be an opportunity for Indigenous Queenslanders to own their own homes in their communities in unconditional freehold,” he said. “When passed through Parliament later this year the bill will give the trustee the ability to provide freehold to local indigenous people.”

Mr Kempton said the legislation was a significant opportunity for all indigenous Queenslanders that came with a lot of responsibility.

“The initial grant of freehold will be to an Indigenous

person with interest in the land however there will be no impediment to a subsequent transfer to a non-indigenous person,” he said. “There may be some risk of subsequent sale to non-community members however this is far outweighed by the huge boost normalisation will bring to economic development and community growth. It is time we treated all Australians equally and today marks a major step in that direction.”

Mr Kempton said the legislation would not create freehold but rather provide a mechanism for the community to do adopt it when the timing was right. [SEE P7 FOR MORE...](#)

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WARNING! Some images in this Issue may contain deceased persons which may cause distress to some people.



The sixth annual Former Origin Greats (FOGs) Career Expo was attended by more than 1000 students from around north Queensland, including Bwgcolman High School, late last month.



FOGs included Gene Miles, Greg Dowling, Colin Scott, Sam Backo, Steve Renouf, Allan Langer, Michael Hancock, Wendell Sailor and Scott Prince.

Teacher Lynette Kim Sing took her enthusiastic charges to check out a variety of potential careers.

The event featured a diverse range of prominent Queensland employment, education and training providers with exhibits on mining and construction, business, hospitality as well as government and health.

Palm Island's Bwgcolman State High student Kathleen Haines said she would love to get a job as a physical education teacher.

Mamu descendants recognised



Pic by Christine Howes with thanks to the North Queensland Land Council

Mamu descendants Philip Obah Snr and Kelly James are now on the board of the Mamu Aboriginal Corporation's Registered Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate.

They are descendants of Apical Ancestor Annie Innisfail, who along with many other Mamu and other rainforest tribal groups, had been shifted away from country to Palm Island.

Their Mamu clan country is around the Innisfail area south of the North Johnstone River through to the Liverpool Creek catchment. The pic above was taken at their Native Title Determination celebrations held in November last year.

Regina and Maisie James and Cr Frank Conway have worked hard with Philip and Auntie Mary Twaddle and their Townsville families towards this significant recognition.

Stolen wages should be properly repaid – QCU

A District Court ruling accepted a state government application for a permanent stay of proceedings in a Stolen Wages case supported by the Queensland Council of Unions last week.

Uncle Conrad Yeatman, a 74-year-old from Yarrabah in north Queensland, was unsuccessful in resisting an application to the Court from the Queensland government to permanently stay the Stolen Wages case.

Claimants and supporters have vowed to continue their decade-long court battle for fair reparation of \$21.2 million of Stolen Wages.

QCU General Secretary Ron Monaghan said the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, particularly older workers and pensioners, would be dismayed by the District Court decision to shut down the test case.

It ruled that there was insufficient evidence and no living witnesses to allow it to proceed.

Mr Monaghan said further activities were planned to highlight the Newman LNP's attitude towards fairness for Indigenous workers. He said workers of today – Indigenous or non-Indigenous – were incredulous this government would accept that wages could be withheld.

“This happened in the middle of last century but by fighting this case, this government has shown that it thinks this behaviour is acceptable,” Mr Monaghan said.

“The QCU will work with the Indigenous community to highlight how this government has endorsed

the racist and inhuman practices of the last century. It doesn't matter what schemes they have created to give the impression of fairness, the issue is that these workers were denied fair wages and should be repaid properly.

“For this government to deny them is to endorse racist and inhuman practices that no modern Queenslanders would stand for.”

Uncle Conrad was a former carpenter and labourer in Queensland who had his wages held from him since he began work at 14.

“These workers, some as young as 10 when they started, were denied the basic elements all workers take for granted,” Mr Monaghan said.

Bwgcorman radio set for July re-launch

Bwgcorman Radio is due to be relaunched on 1 July with a series of introductory workshops and informal BBQs.

Radio 4PI 97.3FM, affectionately known as Bwgcorman Radio, will be managed by Aaron Thaiday (pictured).

“Through a series of introductory workshops and BBQ get-togethers we hope to bring the community closer together as well as create employment opportunities and an avenue for our local artists,” Mr Thaiday said.

“Since February we have worked tirelessly upgrading the radio station and now have the capacity for regular programming and training.

“Over the next few weeks we are looking into the creation of radio training programs for our locals that will open the doorway for Indigenous media employment and development on Palm.

“Radio 4PI – For Palm Island – will always be known as Bwgcorman Radio and it is our endeavour to have



Bwgcorman people at the forefront of our radio operations.

“If anyone is interested in a career in Indigenous Media, has the gift of the gab or just loves to work around music and entertainment please contact me at the PCYC for more information.”

PH: 07 47 701 793 (Branch)

PH: 07 47 701 863 (Radio Station)



Stealers take out local PCYC netball competition

Over the past 8 weeks PCYC has run a social mixed netball competition on a Tuesday night.

Last week was the Grand Final between Farmers and Stealers and it was a close game. The score kept changing throughout the evening and in the final quarter it was looking like there might have to be extra time as it was so close. On the final whistle Stealers had triumphed by 3 goals. Many thanks to the all competitors



Pictured above: Stealers & Farmers along with Stealers' Kristen Morgan, umpires Keona Smith & Andrea Castors both umpires and Farmers' Darren Murphy

throughout the competition, and a special thank you to the Grand Final umpires, Andrea Castors and Keona Smith who did a wonderful job. They selected John Sibley goal defence from Stealers as

beat and fairest and Alice Morgan goal keeper from Farmers as Most Valuable Player.

Acting Sergeant Janet LINDSAY
Relief Branch Manager, Palm Island
Police -Citizens Youth Clubs QLD



Palm teams' historic wins scoop Townsville trophies

After two days of fierce and fun competition, Palm Island girls, pictured left, made netball history in Townsville last month.

Students from Bwgcolman and St Michael's schools competed in the Junior McDonald's Cup Under 12 Division C in Townsville, which was run by the Townsville City Netball Association.

This was the most recent trip offered by the Cathy Freeman Foundation (CFF) Activities Program. CFF has supported students on Palm Island with regular structured sporting and recreational activities including netball, rugby, boxing and Australian Rules football since 2009.

The 16 girls from Palm Island competed against five other teams from local Netball Associations in Runaway Bay, Whitsundays and Townsville. It was a point accumulating competition and there were no finals as the scores were tallied throughout the weekend.

Both Palm teams played seven games over two days and St Michael's won every game while Bwgcolman only lost in its game against St Michael's, which was reported to be a very nail biting game to watch!

Palm Island Reds (St Michael's) and Palm Island Greens (Bwgcolman) were both winners of their Division. The Reds were awarded first place as undefeated winners, and the Greens were

awarded runners up.

Cathy Freeman Foundation's Program Coordinator, Daphne Lawrence, said it was another great example of how sporting activities are helping create opportunities for students while also making attending school more fun.

"Our girls were undefeated and we were so amazed to see how well they played," Ms Lawrence said. "It was a pleasure to watch them play and was terrific to see the smiles on their faces when they received their trophies."

Emma Jane Clark from Sportswomen Australia (SWA) said she was really moved by the spirit and camaraderie of the Palm Island competitors.

"The girls represented Palm Island and the Cathy Freeman Foundation so well at the competition that it was really heart-warming to see," Ms Clark said.

Both teams would agree that the scoreboard results were secondary and the general spirit and fun of the trip was what mattered most.

Bwgcolman student and competitor Tanya Thimble said, "it was a really great weekend and at least we came second."

St Michael's student and competitor Chentalli Sibley said, "we had a really great weekend, winning all our games and coming

first for our Division."

Congratulations to the following players who gave their all:

Palm Island Reds (St Michael's):

Jashieka Baira
Tonya Burns
Roselee Bramwell
Terese Wilson
Priscilla Sibley
Mary Williams
Chentalli Sibley
Jaunita Fraser

Palm Island Greens (Bwgcolman):

Tanya Thimble
Stephanie David
Tkai Haines
Vasenai Dabea
Stella Charles
Martha Marks
Lotisha Daphney
Jurisha Wales

Well done to both teams and to the adults/coaches/helpers who were Jon Sibley-Murphy + Thomasina Morgan from St Michael's, Chloe from Bwgcolman and Daphne Lawrence + Emma from the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

Meanwhile, training has now resumed for both teams for the Cathy Freeman Foundation Netball Challenge on 18 June. Both teams will compete against one another, and six other teams (five from Townsville and one from Magnetic Island) at the PCYC from 9.30am-3pm.

Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



THE NEXT *PALM ISLAND VOICE*
DEADLINE (for Issue 156) will
be **THURSDAY 12 June** for
publication on Thursday 19 June

The next RDO is Thursday **5 June**
followed by the public holiday on Friday
6 June. RDOs are every Friday 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 328
'likes' on Facebook!!!

ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner
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 above) and all material submitted no later than COB
the next day. Print approval required by Monday COB.

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PDF (password protected): \$55

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Subscription rates vary according to when the initial
subscription is taken out – eg if taken in January 2015
the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2015.

To book an ad or 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!!!**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire
would like to announce the
Works on the Pontoon Project
has now commenced on the
Palm Island Jetty.

A temporary walk-way has been
put in place for the boarding/
unloading for the Ferry Services.
PIASC are predicting the works
to be ending around late June.



**ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ARE ADVISED THAT THE JETTY
WILL BE CLOSED OFF DURING
THE WORKS.**

Thank you for your co-operation.
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Government calls for submissions to Bill

The Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee of the Queensland Parliament has commenced an inquiry into the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land (Providing Freehold) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014*, which was introduced in Parliament on 8 May 2014 by Hon Andrew Cripps MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

The objectives of the Bill are to:

1. Introduce the option of ordinary freehold title into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
2. Simplify the leasing framework that applies to Indigenous land to reduce the regulatory burden on trustees and lessees;
3. Amend the Land Valuation Act 2010 to enable Indigenous Local Government Areas to be subject to statutory valuations;
4. Provide for the repeal of the Aurukun and Mornington Shire Leases Act 1978 upon transfer under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 of the remaining shire lease land; and
5. Amend the Land Act 1994 to provide the Minister with power to declare, on a case by case basis, a conditional right of public access over private

land where, due to erosion, the access along the area of beach has been compromised by the private ownership of the beach area.

Information about the committee's inquiry including links to the Bill and Explanatory Notes are available on the committee's website at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/AREC/inquiries/current-inquiries/23-ATSILOLA>

Call for submissions

The committee is calling for public submissions to its inquiry into the Bill.

Written submissions are best sent by email to AREC@parliament.qld.gov.au (mailto:AREC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Alternatively, submissions may be sent to:

The Research Director
Agriculture, Resources and Environment
Committee Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

The closing date for submissions is Monday, 16 June 2014.

Public briefing

Officers of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will brief the committee on the Bill.

Details of the briefing are provided below:

Date: Wednesday, 21 May 2014

Time: 10:45 am – 12:15pm

Venue: Committee Room 2, Level 6, Parliamentary Annexe The briefing will be open to the public.

Live broadcast

A live broadcast of the briefing will be available at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/Committee-Hearing-Broadcast?committee=AREC>

A transcript will be available in the week after the briefing under the 'related documents' tab on the inquiry page on the website.

An archived video of the briefing will also be available at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/Committee-Hearing-Archive?committee=AREC>



COMMUNITY NOTICE

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting Held 26th & 27th February 2014

As of 1st July 2014
Funeral Donations will no longer will be available with the PIASC

There will be visits by
Aboriginal Community Funeral Plan and Fitzgerald's Funerals Services

To assist community members with the
Funeral Plan Applications

We will notify residents of their visits to the Island regarding
Dates, Time and Location

If you require further information regarding this notice
Please don't hesitate to contact the Palm Island Council.

Thanks & Kind Regards Council Staff

A rising star!

RISING young Palm Island boxing star Levi Baira made it seven straight wins when he defeated a heavier opponent at a Sunstate Amateur Boxing tournament in Mackay last Saturday night.

The 13-year-old Levi stopped his Rockhampton opponent in the first round of their 44.5kg bout.

Trainer Ray Dennis was highly impressed.

“The boxer he beat was 6kg heavier and Levi has a bright future if he trains hard,” he said.

“There were 22 bouts on the card and Levi’s was second last on the night.”

Marcus Ketchup, aged 15, was the other boxer to travel to Mackay and lost a split points decision.

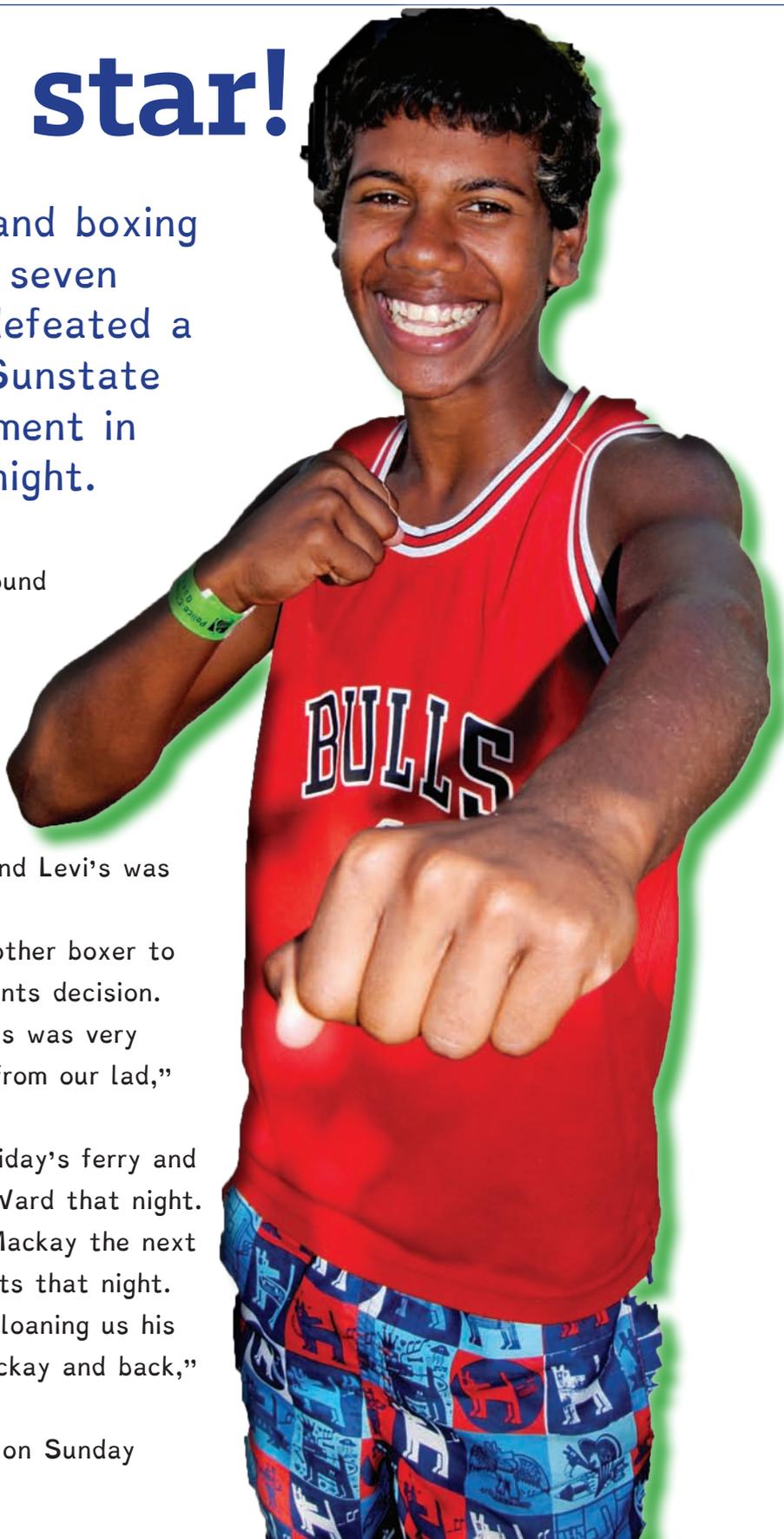
“The Mackay boxer who beat Marcus was very experienced so it was a good effort from our lad,” Mr Dennis said.

The team travelled from Palm on Friday’s ferry and stayed at the Hotel Allen in North Ward that night.

They made the 400km road trip to Mackay the next day and returned home after the fights that night.

“I want to thank Kevin Castors for loaning us his car and his daughter drove us to Mackay and back,” he said.

The Palm contingent returned home on Sunday afternoon’s ferry.



Out & About: the Charles family recently celebrated baby Irene’s baptism...
More ‘Out & About’ pics coming next issue!

