

Palm Island Voice

Issue 162: 11 September 2014

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

Progressing Our Community - Bwgcolman Moving Forward

Palm Island

Spring Festival 2014



ALSO INSIDE:

- HUGE SPREAD OF FESTIVAL PICS ON PAGES 6-8 & 12!!!!

What the...?



Pic with thanks to Merlene Roberson

ALSO!

- Government passes freehold legislation pp 4-5
- Footy finals p 11

Push for Recognition in Townsville

A group pushing to have Aboriginal and TSI people's recognised in the Australian Constitution held a large meeting in Townsville's Strand Park late last month..

Guest speakers at the Recognise Australia event were Uncle Francis Tapim (of Mer descent) on behalf of local Torres Strait Islander people, NAIDOC person of the year Professor Gracelyn Smallwood, Uncle Russell Butler, Florence Onus, Ben Gertz and Virginia Wyles, and MC for the event was Sam Reuben.

After the gathering hundreds walked holding banners from Strand Park to Kissing Point near the Rockpool.

Phillip Obah, his son Andrew and Diana Ross were there.

Senior Recognise Co-ordinator Libby Collins said similar events had been held in Weipa, Cooktown and Cairns.



Mayor moves up two spots in influential top 50

PALM Island Mayor Alf Lacey has been named for the second year in a row on the prestigious Townsville Bulletin's list of North Queensland's Most Influential 50 people.

The annual list was compiled by the Townsville Bulletin newspaper which said "It is comprised hugely of successful people, strident community advocates, passionate civic leaders and beguiling politicians."

Cr Lacey was listed at as number 47 when it was published on 30 August.

"The Mayor of Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is passionate about improving economic opportunities for

its people and has supported moves to introduce low scale tourism. He is rated highly by State Government for his leadership role," the Bulletin profile read.

Cr Lacey and Cowboys champion player Johnathan Thurston (number eight) were the only Indigenous persons named in the list.

Speaking to the *Palm Island Voice* during the Spring Fair, Cr Lacey said that whilst he was honoured to be named in the

list, it was more about lifting the profile of Palm Island.

"We are moving forward and it is good in that this is a mainstream category list. I don't think such a list is done anywhere else in Australia. I take the honour humbly and I'm proud Palm has been recognised," Cr lacey said.

Last year Cr Lacey was listed at number 49.



Physiotherapy centre game-changer for patients

The SOS Health Services Palm Island: Physiotherapy practice was officially launched on Monday 25 August 2014.

There was a fantastic turnout to the event with people from all areas of the Palm Island community represented.

The proceedings were opened by Allan Palm Island and speeches were given by the Mayor Alfred Lacey, SOS Health Foundation Executive Chairman, Jason Smith (*pictured speaking below*), and Manager, Lynda Cunningham. The team also welcomed local Patricia Morgan to the SOS Health team as the Administration Assistant and trainee Allied Health Assistant.

SOS Health Foundation has been bringing volunteer physiotherapy teams to Palm Island for the past three years with the plan to set up a permanent physiotherapy not-for-profit practice birthed over a year ago.

With a lot of planning, preparation, hard work and support from the Palm Island Shire Council, the dream is now a reality.

For the past couple of months physiotherapist, Jane Linton, with



the help of many other dedicated people, has gradually been renovating, preparing and setting up the practice.

In his address Cr Lacey acknowledged the need for more regular health services and more choice in health providers if the community was to see real health improvements.

The practice's aim is to work closely with existing health providers to ensure better health care and improved health outcomes through the provision of full time physiotherapy and related services which, until now, have been lacking on Palm.

SOS Health Services physiotherapy is available for the whole of the Palm Island community.

Physiotherapy can assist people with aches and pains from muscle and joint injury, improving muscle strength and fitness and improving people's ability to walk and move providing a better quality of life.

The practice is situated at the Sandy Boyd Hostel Building and open Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm.

Palm Island Pilates is currently being run by SOS Health Service physio, Jane, at the PCYC Wed 11am and Wed/Thurs 6pm with everyone welcome to attend.



Freehold now an option for Palm Island

The Queensland Government has passed *The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land (Providing Freehold) Act 2014* which will allow 34 communities now owning their land communally to convert to ordinary freehold land ownership if they choose to do so.

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Andrew Cripps said many Indigenous communities had had communal land tenures since the 19th century – depriving residents of the benefits of private home ownership.

“This Act is an important milestone for Indigenous people and is a proud moment for myself, as the responsible Minister, and for all Queenslanders,” Mr Cripps said.

“The Act provides the single most significant opportunity the State Government could grant to Indigenous Queenslanders – the opportunity to own their own home, in freehold, in their own community. It recognises both the important and enduring cultural connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with their land and their individual right to own a home on that land.”

Member for Cook David Kempton welcomed the landmark legislation.

“Freehold is the basis of economic opportunity and community growth and is a key to unlocking the door of paternalism,” Mr Kempton said.

The legislation grants individual communities the right to dissolve their existing tenure agreements and convert land and homes to freehold leases.

“The new legislation delivers not only economic independence and opportunity, but also an enormous boost in confidence in Indigenous communities,” he said.

Mr Cripps said the Act addressed

legacy issues and simplified the complex leasing arrangements that previously applied under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 for non-residential leases, allowing trustees to more effectively manage land to achieve the best outcomes for their local communities.

Mr Cripps said the Act did not force freehold on Indigenous communities, but provided a mechanism for those communities that wanted freehold to deliver it.

Under the Act, each community trustee, following appropriate community consultation, will make the decision as to whether or not to adopt the freehold model.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines undertook extensive consultation with councils, trustees and the general public between November 2012 and February 2014, before introducing the proposed legislation into Queensland Parliament in May this year.

Local MP John Hathaway spoke at length in Parliament about the Act and what it meant to Palm Island.

“I wanted to speak on this bill because I have a very personal interest in this bill as my electorate of Townsville takes in Palm Island, the largest Indigenous community and Aboriginal shire council in our state,” Mr Hathaway told the Parliament.

“Since the time of my becoming the local member for Townsville,

I have seen very significant and steady progress made by the Palm community.”

He said that progress had been ground-up achievement for the community.

“This has been a ground-up achievement and it speaks volumes for the Palm community itself but, more directly, its leadership,” Mr Hathaway said.

“I know that the Palm Council and community are particularly interested in the passage of this legislation.

“The Palm community leadership, in particular the Palm Island Mayor, Councillor Alf Lacey, and his councillors, is very vocal on taking its community forward to enable economic participation, economic development and economic sustainability.

“They have a plan, the Palm Island economic action plan.

“Whilst innovative and bold, it is also inherently achievable.

“The Palm Island economic action plan is a real, and the best, chance that the community has to access an alternative to the vicious and moral-sapping cycle of welfare dependency.

“I know that they as a Council are very supportive of our government’s plans to provide the Palm community and residents with the choice to have freehold title over their land and the choice to own their own home.”

He said the new legislation would offer security of tenure for residents.

“The home ownership rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait people living in the state’s Indigenous communities is five per cent, compared to nearly 65 per cent or more, as we heard earlier, for the rest of Queensland,” he said.

“Sadly, in my electorate on Palm Island, the percentage of people who own their own home is even less than the state average of all the Indigenous communities.

“On Palm Island it is only 4.4 per cent of residents who own their own home.”

Mr Hathaway also said there would be further consultation.

“Under this bill, trustees must talk to their communities before deciding about making freehold land available,” he said.

“This includes undertaking appropriate consultation with the community and the native title holders in the area if they have been determined.

“Whether or not the trustee elects to take up the option of introducing freehold title into their community, the current leasing provisions within the Aboriginal Land Act and Torres Strait Islander Land Act will remain available.

“This freehold model takes into account the unique features of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

“The bill provides a balance of flexibility and control which enables the trustee to provide freehold in a way that best suits each of our very distinct and different communities.

“This includes setting out where freehold can and cannot be granted and the details of how and to whom the land can be allocated.

“It could be that a trustee and

community might make the decision to make the whole township available for freehold or just certain parts.

“As I have alluded to earlier, this bill also represents an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to not only achieve home ownership on their traditional lands but also pursue economic development interests.”

Mr Hathaway acknowledged the commitment behind successes such as the Palm Island Tourism Open Day as ‘refreshing’.

“I remain on, and co-chair with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, the very active and well supported Palm Island Economic Development and Transport Committee,” he said.

“I am happy to report to the House that the support and the energy of this committee is refreshing.

“I can assure honourable members that, in the words of Mayor Alf Lacey, ‘Palm Island is open for business.’

“Palm Island is also known as Great Palm Island and is a community of about 5,000 people—despite the ABS thinking in 2011 that it was only about 2,600.

“On 1 July I was very fortunate to visit Palm Island with our Premier Campbell Newman, his lovely wife Lisa and the honourable transport minister Scott Emerson to officially unveil a number of newly delivered projects including the upgraded ferry pontoon, the motel expansion and the rebuilding of the seawall.

“We have seen an increase in the number of people commuting to and from and visiting Palm Island, and more than 40,000 passenger ferry trips are taken each year between

the island and the mainland.

“The state government continues to invest in vital infrastructure on the island, as we know that it is the key to unlocking the future economic development of the island.”

Mr Hathaway said the Government would continue to invest in Palm Island.

“These types of projects go to the heart of providing opportunities for economic development on the island as well as providing more jobs for the island’s residents,” he said.

“The state government and the Palm Island Council will continue to work together to invest in the future of the island.

“Without a doubt, providing the community with the ability and choice to freehold, providing a pathway to owning their own homes, is another major step in growing a stronger economy on Palm Island.

“This bill is about removing the barriers to homeownership in Indigenous communities like Palm Island and allowing residents the ability to determine their own destinies.

“As Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey has stated, this initiative will inject a sense of pride into the community.

“I fully support that the House enables this legislation because of the benefits it will provide to the community on Palm Island.”

Mr Hathaway’s quotes above have been taken, with thanks, from Hansard FILE: 28082014_000496_LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY_GREEN CHAMBER. DOCX and were recorded on 28 August 2014.

Hundreds join in the spirit of Spring Festival

Palm Islanders love their Spring Festival and this year was no different with more than 1000 people enjoying dancers, singers, speeches, stalls, rides and lots of good food last Friday.

The Festival was held over three days for many years, however Government funding cuts ensured in 2014 it was just one.

“It has been a very big day and everybody enjoyed it,” Mayor Alf Lacey said.

Cr Lacey gave the opening speech and guests were welcomed to country by local elder Allan Palm Island.

Archer Fraser conducted a smoking ceremony and VIP guest Yarrabah Mayor Errol Neal spoke on stage about the wonderful relationship his community has with Palm Island.

Cairns based singer Justin Wellington performed on stage and there was also a spring babies contest.

Over the day the crowd was entertained by a baby competition, St Michael’s Catholic School’s Deadly Dancers, Yarrabah’s Coconut Princesses, TSI Descendants dancers, Shalom Christian College’s East Arnhem



Land dancers, the local band Mother’s Dust, as well as local rappers Aaron Thaiday and Maurice Walsh.

Entertainment continued into the night with several sightings of famous pop stars.

An un-named source said they had seen and heard Buddy Holly and Tom Jones, although no one threw their panties at Tom Jones, it was definitely all about Elvis.

The source also said it was a good night enjoyed by everyone on Palm Island.



Palm Island Spring Festival 2014





Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



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



As of Tuesday 1st July 2014
**New Operating Hours for
Council are**

Monday – Friday

8:00am – 5:00pm WEEKLY

If you have any questions please contact 4770 1177

Happy birthday to Raina Simon and partner Nathaniel Prior's little girl Cedella (CC) who has just turned 2 on September 1 and Jahmarley Robertson who has just turned 6...thinking of you on your special day, from all your family on Palm Island xoxox

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAYS!**

A big happy birthday to Hazel Maisie White who turns 73 on September 16 and Woody Luff, who turns 54 on September 18...we love you and wish you many many more to come, from all your family here on Palm Island xoxox

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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.

**THE NEXT PALM ISLAND VOICE
DEADLINE (for Issue 162)**

will be **THURSDAY 18 September** for
publication on **Thursday 25 September**

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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!!!**

PCYC gearing up for school holidays!

Palm Island PCYC is getting ready for school holidays which will include a variety of sporting and recreational activities as well as discos and movie nights.

To carry out these popular events for a variety of ages, they need responsible people to volunteer to come and help.

Volunteers need to be eligible to hold a blue card.

PCYC is also looking to employ some casual staff as child care workers, so if there are teacher aides or people wanting some employment during the school holidays only, please come to the PCYC and speak to the

Branch Manager as soon as possible.

Everyone who is interested is encouraged to apply for the part time casual child care worker position, which is afternoon work from 2.30 – 5.30pm.

Soon the Good Quick Tukka program, 'Cook it, Plate it, Share it' will be offered to Palm Islanders.

The program will introduce some basic cooking classes suitable for all ages.

Class numbers are limited to 12 each session and commence on Wednesday 24 September, at 11am, 2pm and 5pm, and Thursday 25 September at 9am and 11am.

"Food for your mob, designed by your mob" comes from the Mackay Regional Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle Team.

Come along and have some fun at the PCYC these holidays!



PALM ISLAND
PH: 07 3909 9512

OSHC Educator PCYC Palm Island

Casual (Approx 15 hours per week)
\$21.40 – \$26.02 (depending on experience and qualifications)

The Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association (QPCYWA) is a community-based organisation concerned with the development of youth through the provision of sporting and recreational activities. The QPCYWA has established 54 Police-Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) throughout the State and now has an active membership in excess of 85,000 members state-wide. As a registered, not-for-profit, charitable organisation, the QPCYWA relies upon income from activity attendances, fund raising, community support, grants and subsidies in order to operate. Its affiliation with the Queensland Police Service provides a unique link between Queensland Police and our supporting communities.

We are currently looking for motivated OSHC Educators to join us in providing high quality OSHC programs at our **Palm Island** Outside School Hours Care Service.

The key responsibilities for this position include:

- Assist the Coordinator with the planning and preparation of interesting, educational and fun activities for children in care;
- Active involvement with children in activities as directed by the Coordinator;
- Maintain a clean and safe environment before, during and after the completion of the daily program;
- Actively supports and provides information to ensure the service meets licensing, accreditation and QPCYWA requirements.

PCYC is committed to continual improvement of equal opportunity outcomes for our employees. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are encouraged to apply as we constantly strive to increase the diversity of our workforce to better meet the varying needs of our customers.

To be employed, you must be eligible for a Children's Commission Notice/Blue Card

For more information or to apply please email your resume and cover letter to shane.cahill@pcyc.org.au

Applications close 5 September 2014



Police-Citizens Youth Clubs
Enhancing Queensland communities through youth development



PALM ISLAND
PH: 07 3909 9512

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Part-Time Position - approx 20 hours per week
Fixed Term – 9 months
\$20.00 (gross) per hour

The Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association (QPCYWA) is a community-based organisation concerned with the development of youth through the provision of sporting and recreational activities. The QPCYWA has established 54 Police-Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) throughout the State and now has an active membership in excess of 90,000 members state-wide. As a registered, not-for-profit, charitable organisation, the QPCYWA relies upon income from activity attendances, fund raising, community support, grants and subsidies in order to operate. Its affiliation with the Queensland Police Service provides a unique link between Queensland Police and our supporting communities.

PCYC Queensland IPDU requires a highly motivated and reliable person to develop and deliver initiatives supporting youth at risk within the local Indigenous Community at Palm Island.

The position will be responsible for working in close consultation with youth and community, supporting active community involvement in targeted youth programs and events. This will include the development, delivery and evaluation of a broad range of programs in-line with the established programs being delivered at PCYC Palm Island.

The successful applicant will have relevant qualifications and/or prior experience in planning and delivering youth at risk initiatives, strong communication skills, and the ability to prioritise and self-manage. You must have a strong commitment to working in and with the Indigenous community.

PCYC is committed to continual improvement of equal opportunity outcomes for our employees. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are encouraged to apply as we constantly strive to increase the diversity of our workforce to better meet the varying needs of our customers.

Please Note: There is no accommodation available at this location.

For a full list of the Selection Criteria please refer to the Position Description.

To be employed, you must be eligible for a Public Safety Business Agency Suitability Notice/Blue Card.

To apply for this job go to www.pcyqldcareers.com.au and enter ref code: 1718423 or send your application to shane.cahill@pcyc.org.au

Applications close 14 September 2014



Police-Citizens Youth Clubs
Enhancing Queensland communities through youth development

Bulls v Skipjacks in grand final decider

REIGNING premiers Butler Bay Bulls will meet Skipjacks in the Palm Island rugby league competition grand final this coming Saturday.

A large crowd is expected at the football oval for the season decider.

In last Saturday's preliminary final Skipjacks defeated Jets for the right to meet Bulls.

In qualifying semi final in previous weeks Jets defeated Bwgcolman Brothers and Bulls rolled Skipjacks.

During the Spring Fair, *Palm Island Voice* saw four



mates off the field who have been rivals during football games (pictured above).

Esrom Geia (Skipjacks), Walter Geia, Gelam Geia (Jets) and Moa Sam (Bulls) were yarning about the 2014 season.

Some of the Palm footballers will also line up for clubs in the Townsville and District competition final series.

After that all focus will be on the coming Allblacks carnivals.



This is the first graduating class of Dreamtime Training which occurred on the 29th of August at the Riverway Arts Centre. In the picture above (L-R): Sara Ferguson, Shalon Simmons, Naomi Reilly, Tim MacDiarmid, Martin MacDiarmid, Jade Abdul-Rahman, Marnie-Rose Kyle, Tanya Hartman, Corey Bray-Pryor, Tammy Choolburra, Shane Singho, Djacie Wales (Absent Janice Lyell and Jazmin Adams) and below: the Kyle family celebrates.



RISING young Palm boxing star Chris Evers jnr won the Boxing Association's Australian Golden Gloves title in the 34kg division at the recent titles at Acacia Ridge Tavern in Brisbane.

A massive 527 boxers competed and 12-year-old Evers won his three bouts and the final against older kids.

Evers jnr and other young Palm boxers have been training hard in preparation for the inaugural "Hilton Cairns Cup" Amateur Boxing Tournament in Cairns on October 18th.

Palm Island Spring Festival 2014

