



Booth results reflect state trends

A total of 528 formal and 23 informal votes were cast at the Palm Island polling booths, as voters followed the Statewide trend at the 2015 State election last week.

Labor candidate Scott Stewart won the seat of Townsville, of which Palm Island is a part, polling 217 or 41.10% at the Palm Island booth.

Former LNP member John Hathaway polled 164 votes (31.06%) followed by Palmer United party's Alan Birrell with 93 (17.61%), Greens Gail Hamilton 26 (4.92%), One Nation's Leanne Rissman 18 (3.41%) and Family First Party: Michael Punshon 10 (1.89%).

Mr Stewart had visited Palm Island just before the election as had Mr Hathaway who phoned the victor on election night to congratulate him.

Mr Hathaway asked Mr Stewart to "look after Palm Island" which he said was close of his heart.

The LNP also lost the other two seats they held in Townsville region Mundingburra and Thuringowa.

Former Local Government Minister David Crisafulli

lost to Coralee O'Rourke in Mundingburra and Labor's Aaron Harper defeated main rival Sam Cox.

NAIDOC Person of the Year Gracelyn Smallwood said she was shocked to hear 18 people on Palm Island voted for One Nation.

"Being Aboriginal and Islander in this country is to be political," she said.

"People need to speak the truth, and I need to say that this has shocked me."

Schools are in!

These six Year 7 girls on the left are the first young people from Palm Island to be accepted as high school students into St Ursula's College in Toowoomba. They are: La-Tesha Mills, Tonya Burns, Zarnay Robertson, Alison Smith, Trenay Bramwell & Roseali Bramwell.

MEANWHILE below we have new staff for 2015 at Bwgc Colman Community School. They are: Jenny Worsley (Pedagogy Coach), Mel Zanke (Yr 2/3), Jonathon Cazalet (Yr 7/8B), Murray Griffin (Secondary HoD) & Belinda Kemp.



New MP pledges AMP review

New Labor MP for Townsville Scott Stewart told ABC Radio before polling day he would help Palm Island review its Alcohol Management Plan if he was elected to government.

Mr Stewart did a flying visit to Palm Island in the week before the election.

He also told the ABC he wanted to help residents develop their own economic opportunities.

“Providing job opportunities where people can turn up each day and contribute,” he said.

He agreed alcohol management plans need to be changed.

“I know it was put in by Labor but we need to have a review of how effective it is,” he said.

BACKGROUND

Scott Stewart has worked in education for the last 28 years and has been a teacher and principal in several high schools across Townsville.

Scott and his family have lived in Townsville for over 15 years and in that time has watched the city grow into a vibrant hub of North Queensland. Although growing up in Brisbane during his schooling years, Scott

started his teaching in Springsure, a small country town and has progressively moved north to finally settle in Townsville. Together with his wife Jackie, he enjoys being an active dad with his two daughters at university and his son at high school.

With a successful career in education, Scott understands and appreciates the value of education and sees it as the key to success.

As principal in his school, Scott is always thinking out of the box.

He established a ‘boxing’ program at his school which encouraged under-achieving indigenous students to re-engage with learning by learning how to control their frustrations through the discipline of boxing.



Above: newly elected Townsville MP Scott Stewart

Scott has become a strong and active leader within the community.

He is a Rotarian, has been a member of the Townsville 400 V8 committee and has worked tirelessly in his school communities to promote learning.

He is passionate about education and sees it as society’s gift to our future generations.

Sources:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-23/alp-promises-palm-island-alcohol-management-plan/6041372> and <http://www.queenslandlabor.org/candidate/scott-stewart/>

Don't forget...BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER PUBLIC/COMMUNITY MESSAGES ARE FREE IN YOUR PALM ISLAND VOICE (subject to space)! For more information see page 6!

All Stars big draw for NQ fans

Many Palm Islanders are expected to join hundreds, if not thousands of North Queenslanders at this year's Harvey Norman Rugby League All Stars at Cbus Super Stadium tomorrow night.

North Queensland Cowboys halfback Johnathan Thurston and South Sydney Rabbitohs fullback Greg Inglis will headline a star-studded Indigenous All Stars squad.

The two finished as the most popular selections from a public vote of more than 15,000 fans, and were separated by just 33 votes when the polls closed.

Thurston and Inglis will join the likes of Justin Hodges, Sam Thaiday, Greg Bird and Ben Barba in the Indigenous All Stars squad, which will be coached by Laurie Daley.

Thurston will join new Cronulla signing Barba in a dynamic halves pairing which will be hoping to help the squad retain the Arthur Beetson trophy following their 2013 win at Suncorp Stadium.

Source: <http://www.nrl.com/thurston,-inglis-top-polls-for-indigenous-all-stars/tabid/10874/newsid/83439/default.aspx>

2015 Indigenous All Stars

1. Greg Inglis (Rabbitohs)
2. Alex Johnston (Rabbitohs)
3. Will Chambers (Storm)
4. Justin Hodges (Broncos)
5. Josh Hoffman (Titans)
6. Ben Barba (Sharks)
7. Johnathan Thurston (Cowboys)
8. George Rose (Dragons)
9. Ray Thompson (Cowboys)
10. Ryan James (Titans)
11. Tyrone Peachey (Panthers)
12. Sam Thaiday (Broncos)
13. Greg Bird (Titans)
14. Chris Sandow (Eels)
15. Tom Learoyd-Lahrs (Storm)
16. Dane Gagai (Knights)
17. Kyle Turner (Rabbitohs)
18. Jack Wighton (Raiders)
19. Kierran Moseley (Titans)
20. Brad Tighe (Titans)



Happy 18th Danielle Kyle jnr!!!



Long campaign may see some resolution

St Teresa's Church in Garbutt has hosted yet another Stolen Wages meeting, organised and attended by statewide reps from the Queensland Council of Unions.

The Church has hosted dozens of such meetings over the years, particularly since then-Premier Peter Beattie made his first offer of \$55 million in May 2002.

By 2003 a Stolen Wages Working Group was formed and secured the backing – financially and politically – of unions from Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, as well as nationally.

Original group members included Gloria Beckett (dec), Mrs Yvonne Butler (dec), Ettie Gleeson (dec), Lilian Willis, Bob Weatherall, Victor Hart, Aunty Ruth Hegarty, Peter Guivarra, Lennie Lee Jackson, Alf Lacey, Tiga Bayles and many others.

Every member of the Working Group, which has continued to regularly meet in Townsville and Brisbane, was affected in some way by Stolen Wages.

They were supported by groups such as ANTaR Qld who assisted with meetings held across the state from Toowoomba to Charters Towers and out to Normanton.

Pressure from the group, who at one stage met with no less than four different state Ministers over a period of four years, resulted in the offer to individuals who had accepted that first offer being 'topped up'.

However, the Government at the time also decided that more than \$20 million 'left over' or unclaimed from the \$55m offer should go into a trust account for education scholarships.

Unions were determined the money left over should go into the pockets of those who had missed out, not only those who had again been underpaid, but also those who had been denied the first payout because of

lack of evidence or who wanted to claim for family members.

They supported a legal challenge by former Yarrabah worker Conrad Yeatman which failed due to lack of evidence.

They continued to campaign and Stolen Wages groups continued to meet.

Last fortnight the *Palm Island Voice* reported a State Labor Government would re-open the Stolen Wages with an offer to put \$21 million back on the table.

With a Labor Government now almost (*at the time of printing*) a reality, it would seem this money is also almost a reality.

NAIDOC Person of the Year Gracelyn Smallwood said the new offer was smart move which had likely helped Labor over the line.

"Labor made a very smart move by calling elders at 2pm the day before the election,





asking them to witness local MPs signing a pledge to honour their commitment to the new money,” she said. “A lot of people who might have otherwise been in two minds about who they were going to vote for were very happy with the news it was going to be opened again. No amount of resources can replace what happened to our old people.

“Now Labor needs some deadly advisors, both black and white, so they do not make the same mistake again.”

At the latest Garbutt

meeting, under the theme of ‘It’s Time To Settle’, ACTU President Ged Kearney was there along with other union officials including Queensland Council of Unions General Secretary Ron Monaghan and local rep Les Moffitt.

“The theft of these workers’ wages is an embarrassing blemish on Queensland’s past,” Mr Monaghan said.

He said for more than a decade workers had fought to be treated with respect and equity in the fair distribution of reparations, as promised

by previous Queensland Governments. This is a bitter sweet victory for many families and members of the community whose relatives have sadly passed while their campaign for wage justice has been fought,” he said. “I am proud that Queensland unions have been able to stand shoulder to shoulder with these Elders, workers, their families and communities and support them in their determined efforts over the years,” he said.

Mr Moffitt said the meeting went well.



Top: local Labor candidates sign off on the \$21m pledge; Left: Elder Alice Niki with her daughter Larissa Akee at St Teresa’s; Above: Union officials from left Peter Hindle, Ron Monaghan, ACTU President Ged Kearney and Les Moffitt with Paul Ahwang second from right.

Palm Island Voice



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Aboriginal Shire
Council has
512 'likes' on
Facebook!!!

2015 Rates & Dates

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

- 173 Thursday 19 February / 26 February
- 174 Thursday 5 March / 12 March
- 175 Thursday 19 March / 26 March
- 176 Thursday 2 April / 9 April
- 177 Thursday 16 April / 23 April
- 178 Thursday 30 April / 7 May
- 179 Thursday 14 May / 21 May

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

- 180 Thursday 28 May / 4 June
- 181 Thursday 11 June / 18 June
- 182 Thursday 25 June / 2 July
- 183 Thursday 9 July / 16 July
- 184 Thursday 23 July / 30 July
- 185 Thursday 6 August / 13 August
- 186 Thursday 20 August / 27 August

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INVITATION TO ATTEND “COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY”

“Meet with Council”

FARM AREA – Please book your appointment at the
Council Office

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY

VENUE: SPORTS COMPLEX FARM AREA

TIME: 9.30am to 12.00pm

Free Sausage Sizzle

Hello,

My name is DRUGS - I destroy homes, tear families apart, take your children, and that's just the start.

I'm more costly than diamonds, more costly than gold, the sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.

And if u need me, remember I'm easily found, I live all around you, in schools and in town. I live with the rich, I live with the poor, I live down the street, and maybe next door.

My power is awesome; try me you'll see, but if you do, you may NEVER break free.

Just try me once and I might let you go, but try me twice, and I'll own your soul.

When I possess you, you'll steal, cheat, and lie. You do what you have to just to get high.

The crimes you'll commit, for my narcotic charms will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in your arms.

You'll lie to your mother; you'll steal from your dad When you see their tears, you should feel bad.

But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised, I'll be your conscience, I'll teach you my ways.

I take kids from parents, and parents from kids, I turn people from god, and separate friends.

I'll take everything from you, your looks and your pride, I'll be with you always, right by your side.

You'll give up everything... your family, your home... your friends, your money, then you'll be alone.

I'll take and take, till you have nothing more to give. When I'm finished with you you'll be lucky to live.

If you try me be warned this is no game. If given the chance, I'll drive you insane.

I'll ravish your body; I'll control your mind. I'll own you completely; your soul will be mine.

The nightmares I'll give you while lying in bed, the voices you'll hear from inside your head,

The sweats, the shakes, the visions you'll see; I want you to know, these are all gifts from me,

But then it's too late, and you'll know in your heart, that you are mine, and we shall not part.

You'll regret that you tried me, they always do, but you came to me, not I to you.

You knew this would happen. Many times you were told, but you challenged my power, and chose to be bold.

You could have said no, and just walked away, If you could live that day over, now what would you say?

I'll be your master; you will be my slave, I'll even go with you, when you go to your grave.

Now that you have met me, what will you do? Will you try me or not? Its all up to you.

I can bring you more misery than words can tell.

Come take my hand, I'll take you to HELL!

Author Unknown

Strong support for Ashes side

Garbutt Magpies' Noel Ross Memorial side, with a strong contingent of Palm Island family, had arguably the biggest number of supporters at the Goldfield Ashes Cricket carnival in Charters Towers over the Australia Day long weekend.

Magpies competed in the B-2 grade and last played at the Ashes in the late eighties.

Family members in the side of Palm Island and Darnley Island heritage included Gordon Ross snr, Jamahl Ross, Noel Ross jnr, Celestino Ross jnr, Randal Ross, Drue Ross, Curtis Ross, Justin Ross, Jordan Ross, Jermaine Ross snr, Jermaine Ross jnr, Darryl Ross, Kai Ross and Jaylell Ross.

Former Palm Island truck driver Irwin Ambrym was one of the stars scoring 50 in one game.

Team spokesman Drue Ross said the carnival was about teaching the young team members and supporters all about participating in sport.

"We had a big group here including sons and nephews and they enjoyed it," he said.



Above: Bully McKean son of Keith with Mayor Alf Lacey; Below: Keith McKean the father of Palm local Bully McKean with daughter Christine Hero at the Ashes

Indigenous sides Black Bream ladies and West Indigies men both won their three games at the Goldfield Ashes.

Black Bream ladies finished second and their umpire Keith McKean – in his 17th year as a volunteer – is the father of well known Palm identity Bully McKean.

A total of 223 teams competed at the Ashes with seven in A grade, 28 in B-1, 130 in B-2, 48 in Social, 10 women's sides.

Games were played on a total of 78 fields around Charters Towers in a carnival which started in 1948 with just six teams.

It was estimated that more than 500 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders competed.

Rain in the lead up to the carnival resulted in lush green fields but temperatures in the mid thirties saw the players comfort level low.

Queensland Bulls Masters and a local Invitational side were scheduled to play on the middle day at the Goldfield Sporting Complex but the game was cancelled due to a downpour.

It was to feature Cowboys star Johnathan Thurston and coach Paul Green along with former Australian Test and one day international champion Andrew Symonds.