



Palm's turn to host Indigenous Mayors

The Queensland Aboriginal Shire Councils' Leader's Conference will be hosted by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and community next week.

Mayors and delegates from 16 Queensland Aboriginal Shire Councils will be in attendance for the important 26th to 28th May meeting, held twice a year.

More than 60 LGAQ delegates, Mayors, Councillors and their staff will be at the three day conference.

Mayor Alf Lacey said Palm Island's 3500 residents would welcome the visitors.

"We are looking forward to returning the hospitality shown to us when we were on TI for the last meeting," Cr Lacey said.

Most of the visitors will have family and friends here and there

are plans to provide entertainment.

"This is a significant event," Cr Lacey said. "Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Minister Curtis Pitt will be there for one day."

Leeanne Enoch, the first Indigenous woman to be elected to the Queensland Parliament, will also be here.

Ms Enoch was sworn in as Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation in the Palaszczuk Ministry on 16 February. The visitors will stay at the motel and the big accommodation block away from the CBD.

"It will be great to catch up with the Mayors, there will be a lot to talk about," Cr Lacey said.

Funding for communities, jobs, education, housing, alcohol management plans and much more will be up for discussion over the three days.

The 16 Shires are: Aurukun, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw, Woorabinda, Hope Vale, Mapoon, Kowanyama, Cherbourg, Napranum, Wujal Wujal, Mornington Island, Northern Peninsula Area (NPA), Torres Shire Council, Yarrabah, Torres Strait Islanders Regional Council.



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Some of the far-northern Mayors, Councillors & CEOs expected to attend include (L-R) Kowanyama Mayor Robert Holness, Aurukun Mayor Derek Walpo, Mapoon CEO Leon Yeatman, Napranum Mayor Philemon Mene, Napranum & CIMA CEO Amos Njaramba, Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher and Northern Peninsula Aboriginal Regional Council's Cr Trevor Lifu, Mayor Bernard Charlie & Cr Anthony Mara.

What was that thing??!!!



A mystery object which appeared above the water randomly near the Reel Women Jetty created a lot of interest during the Open Day last month.

As the tide went out the object could be seen just above the water and then suddenly disappear,

Some locals thought it may have been an old shopping trolley as the waves lapped over it.

A couple of visitors felt it may have been a fish or crocodile but locals rules that out.

There was even some talk about a big tiger shark which many locals have seen coming in near the jetty on high tides chasing fish.

It took some local kids swimming in the vicinity to finally solve the puzzle about an hour later.

One grabbed the object which turned out to be an umbrella in good shape.

It must have fallen off a boat or been accidentally dropped by a visitor.



Bwgcolman Knowledge Centre

Local History Exhibition

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9.00am-12.00pm


Location: Meeting Room, on the Top Field

This exhibition is historical information on Establishment of Palm Island and other important historical facts that have made an impact throughout our community.

Old photos of People & Places of Palm Island

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Norman Tindale
1238 Norman Tindale an anthropologist and ethnologist visited Palm Island.
While on Palm Island he recorded and photographed the Aboriginal people, collecting significant and cultural material. His records were of languages and the tribes that were sent to Palm Island.
In his documents he has recorded over more than 40 tribes who were sent to Palm Island. Many were sent from that time after the cyclone destroyed the Half River Mission.
The information he has collected included genealogies of the Aboriginal families that were sent to Palm Island.



Establishment Fantome Island Churches Dormitory Days Wallaby Pt. US Naval Base Strike 57
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Dedicated students see new horizons

Year 5 & 6 students from four remote communities – Palm Island, Woorabinda, Wurrumiyanga (NT) and Galuwin'ku (NT) – met in Sydney on 26 April to 2 May to celebrate their achievements at school through the Cathy Freeman Foundation Horizons program.

This trip marked the first time children from four different communities came together on the one camp. The consensus was the trip was an outstanding success and the children and teacher's aides agreed it was a "deadly" experience.

The trip was one of five camps in Sydney, Melbourne or Canberra will be offered to 80 students in 2015. Trip highlights of the recent Sydney trip include:

- Bondi Icebergs Club hosted lunch for the group, encouraged the children to swim in the Bondi Beach iconic pool, and also surprised the students



with a special guest visit from NRL legend, Ricky Walford;

- Majestic views of the Opera House;
- Shared stories and a rehearsal by Bangarra Dance Theatre of an upcoming performance;
- Animals at the Taronga Zoo the children had never seen before;
- An interactive robot activity at the Powerhouse Museum, and
- Mentoring sessions with Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience and Australian Olympic Commission athletes.

Acting CEO of the Cathy Freeman Foundation, Jami Howden, said there were tears of joy at the closure of the

trip at the airport farewell which speaks volumes about the value of the experience.

"When the children arrived many did not want to talk in the yarning circle where we shared our impressions at the end of each day," he said.

"By the end of the trip confidence had boosted, new friendships had formed and all of the children willingly delivered a speech to the group on their impressions of the experience.

"The Horizons program is a big incentive for the students to attend and achieve at school.

"It will be equally powerful for these students to return home and share their stories with family, friends and school peers."



Out & About



Most of these pics were taken at the first Palm Island Open Day for 2015, we'll have more from last weekend in our next issue!!!



Palm Island Voice



**Public &
Community Notices**



**Operating Hours for
Council are**

**Monday – Friday
8:00am – 5:00pm**

If you have any questions please
contact Reception on 4770 1177



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

2015 Rates & Dates

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

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

187	Thursday 3 September / 10 September
188	Thursday 17 September / 24 September
189	Thursday 1 October / 8 October
190	Thursday 15 October / 22 October
191	Thursday 29 October / 5 November
192	Thursday 12 November / 19 November
193	Thursday 26 November / 3 December

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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

PDF archives of the Palm Island Voice are available at <http://chowes.com.au>

Don't forget...

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER PUBLIC/COMMUNITY
MESSAGES ARE FREE** *(subject to space!)*

PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!

JOHN Reuben has been one of the success stories of the 12-month North Queensland 'Cowboys Dream, Believe, Achieve Hospitality Program', a result his mum, Sylvia, who was the first female chairperson of the Council, would have been proud of.



The program began last October in response to lower than average rates of Indigenous Australians employed in the Hospitality Industry.

It has provided 30 Indigenous participants over a twelve month period with skills in a variety of areas in the industry.

'Dream, Believe, Achieve' also provides wrap around individualised support by a dedicated North Queensland Cowboys Indigenous mentor as they complete a Certificate III in Hospitality through TAFE Queensland North and then progress to a paid employment outcome.

John's mum Sylvia passed away about 13 years ago, his father was born on Erub (Darnley) Island in the Torres Straits and there are many members of the Reuben family

living on Palm.

John completed his education at Marist College at Ashgrove in Brisbane and commenced his working career with the Palm Island Council where he worked in administration.

He later became a Health Worker with the Northern Regional Health Service before branching out into Youth Work.

He has held down positions with the PCYC as a Sport and Recreation Officer and been heavily involved in Youth Work in the community.

Married with nine children, John moved to Townsville and continued his community work at the Stagpole Rehabilitation Centre.

In supporting his family, John has worked in Hospitality roles throughout his working career.

The opportunity to become part of the Cowboys "Dream, Believe, Achieve" Cert III Hospitality Course was a

dream come true for John.

As an avid cook, he saw this as a means to up skill, gain the necessary entry level skills and qualifications in Hospitality.

This then would create a pathway for him to seek an apprenticeship in Cooking.

John wishes to be a role model for not only Indigenous Australians but for the general population. He believes that if you work hard in life, you will reap the rewards.

He believes that there is more to life than getting into trouble, something which he has seen so much of through his work roles.

With opportunity knocking, John believes that you must harness motivation and be prepared to make sacrifices to achieve your goals.

He is prepared to wash dishes, perform whatever duties are necessary to achieve his goals.

PIRL to kick off this weekend

The 2015 domestic rugby league season will restart this Saturday with five clubs.

It looks likely they will be former premiers Butler Bay Bulls along with Skipjacks, Jets, Brothers and Mundy Bay Warriors.

Bulls will again field a strong team under astute coach Lloyd Morgan (*pictured*).

Their players will include Obe Geia jnr, Raoul Miller, Caleb Geia, Simmeon Oui, Georgie Dabea and Tabua Oui.

"I am pretty confident we will have a good side capable of again winning the premiership," Lloyd said.

Jets have pulled a signed

coup with veteran Vaughn Charles to line up in their colours.

New PIRL president is Algon Walsh jnr with Secretary Deniece Geia.

Local referee Jason Poynter is eagerly looking forward to the much anticipated season.

"Everybody has been waiting for the football to start," he said.

Palm Island is expected



to field a side at the FNQ Remote Area Challenge in Cairns later in June.

10/10 boxers bring home medals



Frederick Ross, Darryl Richardson, Steven Wallace & Joseph Nallajar with trainer Ray Dennis

Gold medals went to five out of ten Palm Island boxers who competed at a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament on Magnetic Island last Saturday.

Tuqiri Prior (60kg), Barry Rosser (62kg), Joseph Nallajar (61kg), Darryl Richardson (65kg) and Steven Wallace (60kg) were all winners in their class.

Brayden Nallajar (42kg), Edgar Rosser (54kg), Albert Gorringer (64kg), Frederick Ross (65kg) and Mitch Baira (94kg) took silver medals.

They returned to Palm on

Sunday with trainer Ray Dennis who was delighted.

"They all did Palm Island proud and it was a packed house at the Magnetic Island venue," Mr Dennis said.