

# Palm Island Voice

Issue 186 27 August 2015

\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*

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



The forthcoming Spring Fair and other events on Palm Island are about the community getting some benefit out of it – whether financial or cultural or in terms of well-being – it's about us taking pride in ourselves and what we've achieved, and what we can achieve, Mayor Alf Lacey writes...*Continued next page...*



# Council supporting local economic development

Economically I think the North Queensland Local Government Association Conference was a great example in terms of local spend on the island by visitors, which current estimates have at around \$200,000, Cr Lacey continues...*(from page 1)...*

That is a lot of money.

Cr Mislam Sam made the benefits we are reaping quite clear in his Palm Island economic presentation to the conference *(see page 4)*.

The audience at the conference was clearly appreciative of what we have achieved.

Then, just days later, we had 160 visitors for the LIME Network conference.

Donald Whaleboat asked me over 12 months ago if they could come to Palm for a few

hours and they engaged with the school and the health service on the island.

They also had the chance to look at some of the what the community has achieved through our local markets and cultural presentations, which we are now well-practiced in thanks to our very successful Open Days and other events.

Palm Island's disposable income has nearly always been spent on the mainland, hardly any of our disposable income stays here with us

whether we're on a pension or Centrelink or on a wages, our disposable income goes to the mainland.

We are developing strategies on how we can turn that around.

And some of the elders have come up



to me and said: 'Alf, this is a really, really good event and we should have some more for the community'.

I just say to them it's up to the community to get involved, all Council is doing is trying to create a platform.

Once we create that platform, Council steps back and gets on with what it's supposed to do in terms of local governance.

It's not about me, I've got a job to do, and that is to create opportunities for the people of Palm, and I am going to continue to do that.



Platinum sponsors for the NQLGA meeting were: Palm Island Barge Co., Sealink Qld, Queensland Government, Telstra – It's How We Connect, Preston Lawyers, Koppen Construction, Hutchinson Builders, Solas Mental Health and Well Being. Gold sponsors were: Campbell Page, Localbuy. Silver sponsors were: Klub Kuda, Jason Healey Electrical, Building and Assets Services, Bwgcorman Community School. Bronze sponsors were: Palm Island Community Company, Printers. Media Partner: Townsville Enterprise.



The sixth biennial **LIME CONNECTION** was held in Townsville from 11 – 13 August 2015 and included an optional visit to Palm Island on Monday 10 August.

The LIME Network is a program of Medical Deans in Australia and New Zealand which recognises and promotes

the primacy of Indigenous leadership and knowledge.

Palm Island participants undertook a program which included visits to local services, a market and other cultural activities.



## Spring Fair opportunities for Solas women

Hand crafted and excellent ornaments such as those below, made by a group of enterprising women who work for Solas, will be on display for the community to see during the Spring Fair.

Moarna Pryor and Natasha Baira are Solas Lifestyle Support Officers and Loylita O'Neill a receptionist.

The three also run a women's

group which meets weekly and works on the ornaments.

“We find old shells down on the beach and they are made into really good ornaments,” Moarna said.

She said the most popular were clam, cockle and spider shells.

“The ornaments are stuck with clay and glue and whilst they don't take long to make, only about 15 minutes, we leave them overnight to dry,” she said. “The women in the group are fast learners and really like creating these.

Solas is a specialist mental health community organisation committed to working with people to achieve a life of choice, purpose, meaning and citizenship.

The craft was also expected to be popular with mainland tourists who regularly visit Palm Island for Open Days.



Palm Island Council's Economic Development presentation to the North Queensland Local Government Association conference was delivered by Councillor Mislam Sam - here are just some of the achievements and goals he outlined to delegates...



IT'S A JOURNEY from mission to mainstream...

For us it's about:

- Moving away from welfare dependency
- Being taken seriously

**OUR VISION** is to promote and encourage a safe, healthy Shire that invests in our future growth whilst respecting and preserving the Aboriginal culture and traditions of Great Palm Islands.



**WE ARE:**

- A growing population (2015 – 2600; 2031 – 3300)
- A young population (median age 25.9 years)
- 95% Indigenous
- 58% unemployed

**COUNCIL HAS:**

- 167 employees
- Pays \$7.8m per annum in wages
- Has an in-house traineeship program to train local staff

**COUNCIL'S SUCCESSES**

In 4 years we have:

- Completion of seawall project (\$17m)
- Upgrade of essential community infrastructure assets under NDRRA (\$60m)
- Community infrastructure assets betterment program (\$2m)
- Completion of 2 sub-divisions (\$14.8m)
- New sub-division (\$15.2m)
- Completion of 120 community houses (\$60m)
- Upgrades and renovations of community houses (\$9.5m)
- Completion of floating pontoon (\$1.8m)
- Upgrade of bistro (\$800,000)
- Upgrade of butcher shop (\$25,000)
- Upgrade of fish shop (\$200,000)



- Construction of 3 nursing quarters for care facility (\$800,000)
- Flood mitigation project (\$1.2m)
- Airport upgrade (\$200,000)
- New council equipment (excavator, rubbish truck etc.) (\$400,000)
- 50 new rooms and new kitchen at the construction camp (\$1.5m)
- 15 new rooms at the motel (\$1.7m)
- 2 new houses using local labour (\$1m)
- 48 more houses to be constructed in next 2 years using local labour (\$18m)
- Possible water & sewage upgrade (\$2.8m)
- CCTV cameras in the community (\$460,000)
- New community Anzac monument (\$80,000)
- Power station upgrade (\$18m)
- Supported families with funeral expenses (\$150,000 per annum)
- Supported sporting clubs (\$300,000)

## TOURISM & EVENTS DEVELOPMENT

- Strategy developed
- Step by step process for the development of tourism and events
- An event calendar / Signature event(s)
- Walking tracks and low-impact infrastructure
- Arts, cultural, historical, GBR, nature and island-based experiences
- Skills & jobs

### Arts & Culture Precinct

- Establishment of a Cultural Museum & Arts Centre (est. \$1m)
- Refurbishment of current council offices following shift to retail precinct
- Collection of artefacts, history, artworks
- Priority social infrastructure

### Aquaculture development

- Best practice, research based aquaculture
- A partnership between research, industry and community
- An island export – generating new income potential oysters, sponges, pearls

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- PIASC embarked on establishing the PI Economic Development Corporation in 2014 as a registered ASIC Corporation
- Goal is to drive economic development at arm's length from PIASC
- It will own and operate assets on and off PI
- The Board comprises the Mayor, 1 Councillor and 5 independent members (On and off PI)

### MOVING FORWARD

## RETAIL & COMMERCIAL PRECINCT

- Est \$22m
- Anchor tenant – Coles, Woolworths or IGA
- Variety of retail stores and commercial office space
- Conference centre
- Owned and operated by PI Economic Development

## FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY RENEWAL

- Bricks and mortar est. \$1.5m
- From the pontoon to the Bistro
- A cultural and heritage tourism trail
- Ceremonial posts celebrating the unique history, culture, family, languages and totems

### 2018 CENTENARY: From Mission Main Town

- Celebrating 100 years of settlement of Bwgcolman
- A real opportunity to right the wrongs of the past through Qld and Federal government support
- Gazetting of Bwgcolman as the regional town centre

# HERE4LIFE group brings suicide services together

Townsville community members concerned about current rates of suicide by Indigenous youth and adults are organising a suicide prevention event at Shark Park in Townsville for November 21.

HERE4LIFE co-ordinator Sam Reuben said suicide rates in some areas of North Queensland were “beyond belief”.

“Those suicides were only people that we knew directly or indirectly and when doing research, we were counting a whole lot more with other families from around Townsville coping and stressing with suicide,” he said.

“We also hear of incidents in our regions from Cairns and Mackay who also have been hit hard by suicide with numbers that are beyond belief.”

High profile people behind the event include star Canberra Raiders NRL rugby league footballer Edrick Lee and former champion Petero Civoniceva.

Mr Reuben said HERE4LIFE hoped to create something new for the community.

“Sometimes we need to sit back as a service and really examine on how we are serving the community and how are we engaging,” he said. “We may need to break the standard operating system and work outside the normal nine to five, because not all Suicides happen within those time frames.

“HERE4LIFE will get the Community into one area, by creating a Musical Event with some amazing artists committing to perform.”

He said they included Justin Wellington, King Social, Rochelle Pitt, Shakaya (Simone Stacey and Naomi Wenitong back together for one night only).



“We will be releasing shortly an announcement of two major International artists that will be here performing,” he said.

Mr Reuben said a documentary would also be made of the event so the model of HERE4LIFE could be seen nationally.

He said awareness of suicide was everywhere and constant.

“But with every awareness process, there has to be action and this is what HERE4LIFE is going to achieve,” he said.

“With the HERE4LIFE

Event, we want more than just Awareness, we want to create an action to combat this horrible trend, because the current way of working and has not been effective with the suicide rates peaking.

“So we figured to try and create a way of enhancing services that deal with and get funded in that space of suicide for the community.”

Mr Reuben said as a committee HERE4LIFE promised to get the community into one space.

“So instead of the community getting cards, pamphlets and phones numbers which is currently not fully

working effectively; HERE4LIFE is actually trying to get community engaging with services and know that these actually exist,” he said.

“This process will now put a face to a service and not a card, pamphlet or phone number. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome.”

Mr Reuben also said the committee was looking for financial support to cover costs.

“We invite anybody and any organisation to contribute,” he said.



*"We had such a lovely time – the schools concert and performance was great and the kids loved it!" QMF said about their recent visit to Palm Island and concert. "We felt so welcomed on the Island – Rob and Lyn looked after us so well. Our Executive Director and Chair also attended and were thrilled by the reception we received." Pics thanks to Atmosphere Photography.*

Australian Red Cross have been kind enough to include Palm Island CIB in their Trauma Teddy program after Annemarie RIECK, one of the Red Cross volunteer knitters, contacted them.

The volunteers spent many hours knitting these cute colourful teddies, and the detectives love being able to bring a smile to the face of a young person who has come in to the police station.

"We always let the kids choose their own teddy, and give them a name," Detective Sargeant Paul Enders said.

"That adds to their delight as they leave the police station with their new friend."

He said children sometimes come in with mum or dad when they call in to make a statement, or detectives might need to speak to the kids themselves.



The detectives try and make any visit to the police station as pleasant as possible, and these adorable little teddies really help them build those positive relationships with young people.



*Solas First Aid & Mental Health Certificate Graduates from left: Dennis Haines Snr, Gloria Walton, Justin Scott (back), Daphne Lawrence, Gabriel Geesu (back), Loylitta O'Neill, trainer Jeanine Wyles, Stephen Chapman, trainer Aulden & Cr Frank Conway.*

# 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 or 4770 0200



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

## 2015 Rates & Dates

### Issue No. Deadline / Publication

187	Thursday 3 September / 10 September	191	Thursday 29 October / 5 November
188	Thursday 17 September / 24 September	192	Thursday 12 November / 19 November
189	Thursday 1 October / 8 October	193	Thursday 26 November / 3 December
190	Thursday 15 October / 22 October	194	Thursday 10 December / 17 December

### **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.

### **SUBSCRIBE!**

Individuals & Families (hard copy): \$30

Community & NGOs (hard copy): \$60

Government & Corporate (hard copy): \$120

\*All from now to 30 June 2015\*

*Palm Island Voice is online at [chowes.com.au](http://chowes.com.au)*

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](mailto: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!**

**‘BEAUTIFUL ONE DAY’** is a theatrical documentary about the irrepressible life and times of Palm Island which will be performed on Palm Island during Spring Fair.

*“Its going to be an amazing Festival and Performance – we are so excited to bringing the show home.”*



ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and Belvoir came together in 2011 over a shared sense of outrage at the injustices surrounding the death of Mulrunji Doomadgee. But, prompted by the Palm Island community, they have looked for a way to turn anger into real understanding and new possibilities. The show stars Aunty Magdalena Blackley, Harry Reuben, Kylie Doomadgee and Rachael Maza and the special live performance on Palm Island follows its critically acclaimed London season!

**\* FREE EVENT \***

**COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE**

**7:00PM, SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

**BWGCOLMAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL**



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

The Australian Government is considering whether to use the *Low Aromatic Fuel Act 2013* to reduce the impact of petrol sniffing on the local community on Palm Island.

This means that regular unleaded fuel would no longer be available on the Island. It also means that supplying regular unleaded fuel on the Island would be an offence.

The Government is inviting you to have your say about the impact you think this might have on you and your community. The submission process is **now open** and will close on **Sunday 6 September 2015**.

For further information on how to have your say visit:  
**[www.lowaromaticunleaded.gov.au](http://www.lowaromaticunleaded.gov.au)**

# results

Brodie Kerr	2 <sup>nd</sup> Long Jump, 3 <sup>rd</sup> High Jump and 3 <sup>rd</sup> 100m
Jase Thimble	1 <sup>st</sup> Long Jump, 1 <sup>st</sup> High Jump, 1 <sup>st</sup> 200m and 2 <sup>nd</sup> 100m
Jean Sibley	2 <sup>nd</sup> High Jump, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Long Jump and 2 <sup>nd</sup> 800m
Leiana Walsh	1 <sup>st</sup> 100m and 1 <sup>st</sup> 200m
Tavien Thimble	2 <sup>nd</sup> 80m
Lendell Sibley	1 <sup>st</sup> 200m, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 100m, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 880m and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Long Jump
Jason Bulsey	3 <sup>rd</sup> 800m
Kynan Bulsey	3 <sup>rd</sup> 800m
Zanar'E Pearson	2 <sup>nd</sup> 60m
Shayron Baira	3 <sup>rd</sup> 80m
Lavinia Geia	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shot Put
Jeriesha Castors	1 <sup>st</sup> Shot Put
Sarina James	3 <sup>rd</sup> 100m
Taishima Fraser	2 <sup>nd</sup> Shot Put
Girls 12yrs Relay	1 <sup>st</sup>
Girls 11yrs Relay	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Girls 10yrs Relay	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Boys 9Yrs Relay	1 <sup>st</sup>



Athletes on track with big efforts bringing big results



On Tuesday 11th August student's from Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael's School travelled to the Townsville Sports Reserve to compete in this year's Red Track Athletics Carnival, teacher Chris Sachlikidis writes...

It was an early start for our 50 athletes, staff, and parents, who ventured on a glorious ferry ride to Townsville.

Student's were filled with much anticipation and excitement and could not wait to get changed into their Palm Island Hunters uniform and hit the track.

It was made very clear to all students that in order to make it on the Red Track Team they would need to attend school and training at a minimum of 80% and be making positive choices during school. These group of students must be congratulated as they rose to the challenge and demonstrated how responsible they are by

# Skipjacks v Jets in Grand Final showdown

SKIPJACKS defeated Butler Bay Bulls 32–28 in the preliminary final of the Palm Island Community Rugby League domestic competition earlier this month.

The classy Skippies outfit will now meet Jets in the grand final at the footy oval on August 29. The decider was scheduled to be held on August 22 but was postponed due to sorry business.

Long time Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan said the win was a great team effort.

“Our player who really stood out was Jonathon Cazelet,” he said. “He’s a school teacher and got the man of the match award.”

“Ezra Langlo, William Marpoondin, Robert Snyder, Devon Palm Island, Steven Friday and Robert Fraser also went well.”

Players nominated by Bulls as their best were: Isaiah Blackman, Simmeon Oui, Nui Rabuka, Gelam Geia, Costa Sam, and Caleb Geia.

Skippies led 24–10 at half time and scores had been deadlocked at 28–all towards the end. Then Skippies scored to wrap up the match.

reaching these levels.

The effort put in at training from all students really showed on the carnival day, with impressive performances shown by all students.

Overall our Palm Island team came 3rd, overall girls came 2nd and average points per student we came 3rd.

This was a very impressive display and students demonstrated behaviour and effort to match.

A special mention to Jase Thimble (100m, 200m, High Jump, Long Jump), Tavien Thimble (100m) and Lendell Sibley (100m and 200m), who qualified for the next level and will be attending the North Queensland Trials being held in September.

Thank you to all staff who have given up their time to make this event happen for the children, as well as parents for their support in getting the children to the event.

*Yours in Sport,  
Chris Sachlikidis*



**MEANWHILE** Palm Island boxers Tuquiri Pryor and Darryl Richardson fought on a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League card on Saturday night, both losing narrowly on points.

The event was held at Townsville’s Centenary Hotel and 19 bouts were on the popular tournament run by Art of Strength club. Pryor fought in the 63.5kg and Richardson in the 71kg division.

Three other Palm boxers Brayden Nallajar and Edgar and Barry Rosser did not get fights.

Former champion Palm female boxer Noby Clay was in the crowd.

This year's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Future Leaders Eco Challenge trip was hosted by St Michael's School. Students from Grades 5 & 6 had a chance to identify and collect rubbish that had been washed up on or sitting along the beach front – over 100kg of rubbish picked up in our local front beach area of Challenger Bay. This was a concern for all and students would like to remind all residents to kindly put their rubbish in the bin. The second part of the challenge included measuring growth of our local seagrass beds, which turtles and dugongs need for a healthy habitat. We would like to thank students from St Michael's and Bwngolman Community School for their efforts as well as their teachers and the partners from GBRMPA. Our message to all is together we can make a positive difference.



*On Tuesday 11th August student's from Bwngolman Community School and St Michael's School travelled to the Townsville Sports Reserve to compete in this year's Red Track Athletics Carnival, teacher Chris Sachlikidis writes...See inside for full report!*