

Palm Island Voice

Issue 202
Thursday 21 April 2016

FREE

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



Casement Hill lookout to be upgraded

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey says Council will back a proposed upgrade to Casement Hill lookout which will include signage, seating and shade.

“\$302,000 has been awarded to upgrade two lookouts [in Townsville and on Palm Island] which will be great for locals,” Member for Townsville Scott Stewart says.

“Palm Island residents will

benefit from the Casement Hill improvements that include the installation of interpretive signage, seating facilities as well as shade covers, safety railing and access paths.”

Lookouts on local roads will be funded on a 50:50 basis in partnership with local councils, with upgrades on State roads receiving 100 per cent state funding.

INSIDE...

- Local footy comp ready to kick off
- Your new Council - a word from the Mayor & Deputy Mayor
- Netball champ to play for Australia



Do you remember this champion Palm Island boxer? Flashback to 2011 for more on page 7

Local footy comp ready to kick-off

Five clubs will compete in the 2016 domestic rugby league competition on Palm Island, expected to start on **Saturday 28 May**.

Officials of the clubs have been urged by Palm Island Community Rugby League President Algon Walsh to ensure players insurance premiums are paid as soon as possible.

“All of the insurance has to be paid well before the competition starts,” he said.

Premiers Jets, runners up Skipjacks, Butler Bay Bulls, Bwgcorman Brothers and Mount Bentley Raiders will battle it out for premiership Honours.

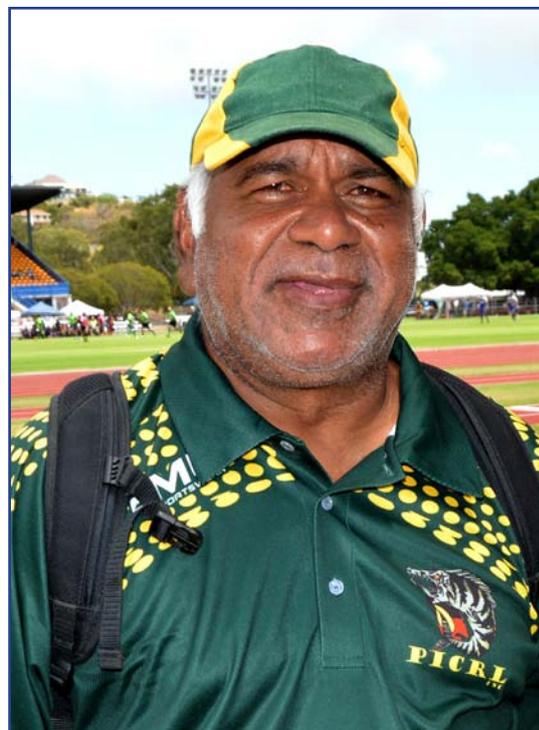
Players are allowed to be dual registered to also line up for teams in the eight club Townsville and District Rugby League.

Many already play for various TDRL teams.

Last September, brothers Clinton, Darryl and Todd Pearson shone for the Jets side which won the PICRL grand final beating Skipjacks.

Jets halfback Clinton “Dancing Feet” Pearson was named man of the match for a dominating performance.

Clinton Pearson mesmerized the opposition with his sidesteps and clever passing which often set up team mates for scoring opportunities.



His twin Darryl Pearson lined up beside him, at five eight with Todd at lock.

Jets was coached by Norman Bounghi.

To qualify for the final Skipjacks defeated Butler Bay Bulls 32–28 in the preliminary final.

A week before in the qualifying semi final Jets defeated Skipjacks 40–34.

In the eliminating finals, 2014 premiers Butler Bay Bulls thrashed Bwgcorman Brothers 76–22.

Pictured below and right are Palm Island Rugby League players playing for University in the local Townsville Rugby League comp on Friday 8 April. Pics thanks to Moses Nelliman.



PCYC Careers Expo success

The Palm Island PCYC held a Career Expo event as a part of National Youth Week celebrations last Wednesday.

The aim of the event was to encourage 12–25-year-olds on Palm Island to ‘Be the Future!’, PCYC Indigenous Programs Sport & Recreation Officer Hunter Lloyd– Pugh said.

“The event saw training organisations, government departments, health and employment services giving advice and information to local high school students and community members,” he said.

“Advice was in regards to training, employment, health and government departments services available to assist with education options for local young people.

“What we hoped to do was arm our youth on the island with information that they can use in planning their future beyond high school.”

He said the event was a success. “Everyone who attended had a great time,” he said. “Many thanks to all who participated in this event which included Bwgcorman Community School Admin and Teachers (Ross, Dave and in particular Murray) for organising and allowing students to attend. Also all the individuals that attended on behalf of their organisations. And it would not have been successful without the help of all these wonderful people from the organisations listed below.

“Many thanks from the Palm Island PCYC staff!”

- ADCQ (Anti-Discrimination Commission Qld),
- Bwgcorman Community School (High School),
- DATSIP (Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships),
- DET (Department of Education and Training),
- PICC (Palm Island Community Company),
- PCYC Palm Island,
- QLD Health (Joyce Palmer),
- QPS (Queensland Police Services),
- Tafe North,
- Tech NQ,
- TAIHS (Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Service),
- IYMP (Indigenous Youth Mobility Program).



‘Working together’ high priority for new Council

First of all, let me thank the community for having the confidence in me to elect me once again as the Mayor of the Shire, Cr Alf Lacey writes.. .

I want to personally thank everyone for their support, especially my family and the many others who have worked hard to see me hold on to the reins for my third term.

I am humbled by that support and the trust you have shown in me.

I will certainly do the Mayor’s job to the best of my ability, as always, to achieve good outcomes for the people of Palm.

I want to congratulate the new Councillors Deniece Geia and Robert Castors.

I’d also like congratulate our new Deputy Mayor Cr Roy Prior and Councillor Ed Walsh, both of whom were returned to the Council for the 2016 to 2020 electoral period.

I’d like to pay my kudos to former-Councillors Mislam Sam and Frank Conway for the good work they’ve done over the past four years, and wish them well in their future endeavours.

I know they will still be active in our community and continue to work with Council.

They have been good leaders and they have been part of a very robust discussions in terms of where Palm is today.

And lastly, and by no means least, I want to say ‘thank you’



MP Warren Entsch, Cr Alf Lacey and Federal Attorney-General George Brandis in Cairns.

to all the candidates, including the mayoral candidates, who were unsuccessful, for putting your hands up for your community.

That’s what community and the democratic process is about – it is about challenging yourself and putting your hand up to be counted.

I want to acknowledge the wealth of experience and knowledge that was displayed during the campaign period as something we still hope to harness for the betterment of our community.

There were certainly good intentions and good ideas in those people who did try, and we need to harness that in order to achieve positive outcomes for the whole

community.

If we all put our energy together Palm Island could move in leaps and bounds towards being a successful, prosperous and peaceful community.

It is really important we all work together.

Democracy is a very important process for us at Palm, in terms of having an open and honest conversation around the issues that are important to the people of Palm.

In the meantime, our new Council has a big task ahead of us.

2018 will see the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Palm Island by Bwngcolman People.

I’ll be very strong about getting our community involved

Deputy Mayor Roy Prior says he is pleased to be on Council once again and excited about the opportunities his portfolios – Governance & Housing and Infrastructure Services – will offer.

“The Infrastructure Services is pretty much one of my portfolios from last term, so I was into a lot of discussion about some of the funding grants that were approved for projects,” he said.

“They are for infrastructure, Power, Water, sewerage upgrade and a few other upgrades in the community, and I just wanted to see that through.

“At the moment I’ll be sharing that job with Cr Castors.

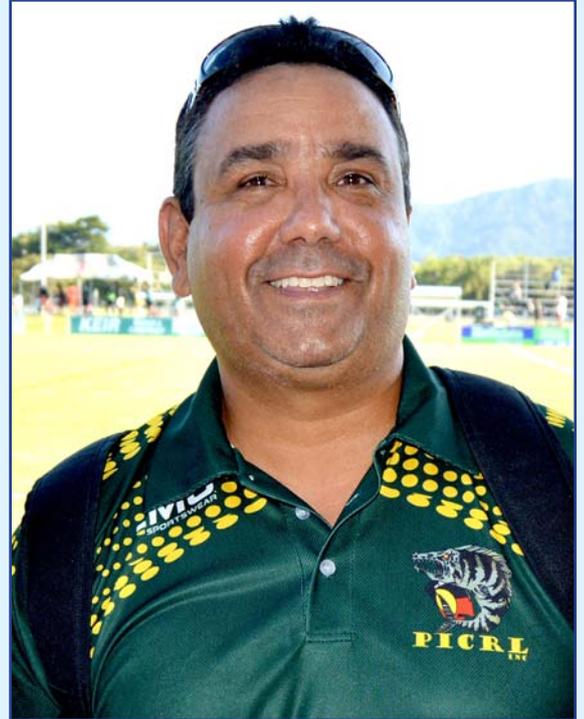
“Our new councillors are experienced people, so obviously they’ve got things that they have planned and how they want to run things so we’ll see how that goes, but at the end of the day, we’re pretty much one team now.

“If I can be of some assistance or give some advice I surely will do so.

“If we can progress forward in the next three to four years, not only with education, and employment but with infrastructure for the betterment for all Palm Island people, I think we’ll achieve what Council has set out to do – I’m not under any illusions it’s going to be an easy task.

“At the end of the day we’re not going to satisfy everyone in the community, but hopefully we’ll get a lot of traction moving forward in the next four years.

“I’m very much looking forward to working with the new Councillors.”



*Crs Deniece Geia,
Edward Walsh and
Robert Castors will be
featured in the next
Palm Island Voice*

in as many events as we can put together to mark that occasion.

There is also new infrastructure being put into the community, a lot of projects that need to be completed, and no doubt this Council will continue the good work of the previous Council in terms of getting what’s right for the community at here on Palm Island.

Council is not about Council, Council is about the

community, and that’s one of the important things we will continue to focus on.

Our first general meeting was held last Wednesday, after we were sworn in on Tuesday, and all our Councillors have been given their respective portfolios (see next page).

The job has now started.

It is up to us as elected leaders now to get on and do the job what the community expects us to do.

We need to put our heads

down and do our best to deliver some of the key issues and critical matters that were campaigned on within the constraints we all have to work with.

Palm Island certainly has some unique opportunities in terms of moving forward and I’ve always been confident we can achieve good outcomes for the benefit of all our families on Palm and our community as a whole.

I look forward to working with you all.

Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!

The **DEADLINE**
for the next **NEXT**
PALM ISLAND
VOICE (203) is
Thursday 28 April
FOR PUBLICATION
Thursday 5 May
See our Facebook page
for a full list of Rates &
Dates for 2016

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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Individuals & Families (hard copy): \$30
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All from now to 30 June 2016

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.

Queensland Ambulance Service
PALM ISLAND INDIGENOUS
CADETSHIPS OFFERED
PALM ISLAND AMBULANCE
STATION is looking 2 new
Indigenous Cadets.....

If you think this is the job for you, please submit a current
and up to date resume and a 1 - 2 page expression of
interest to Palm Island Ambulance Station by Friday 6 May
2016.



Queensland
Government

www.ambulance.qld.gov.au

PALM ISLAND
Do you have what it takes?

- Drivers Licence
- Fit and Healthy
- Calm when under pressure
- Can cope with sight of blood and other unpleasant things
- Clean Criminal History
- Follow procedures/rules
- Read and write English to Grade 10 level
- Indigenous local



Operating Hours for
Council are Monday –
Friday 8am – 5pm

If you have any
questions please
contact Reception
on 4770 1177 or
4770 0200



Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 1,133
'likes' on
Facebook!!!



BILL COOLBURRA MEMORIAL SHIELD



BOXING NEWS BOXING NEWS BOXING NEWS

Tiquiri Pryor was the only Palm Island PCYC Boxing Club fighter to win on the 9th April Sunstate Amateur Boxing League's card at Townsville's Centenary Hotel.

He won by unanimous points decision in the 67kg division before a large crowd in a tournament hosted by Art of Strength Club.

Patrick Clarke was knocked out in round two of a scheduled four rounder main bout in the 69kg.

Comeback boxer Selwyn Seaton lost by split points decision in the 80kg division.

Female boxers Natalie David and Shirley Curley fought gallantly but lost their bouts after giving away age and a lot of weight.

Darryl Richardson and Brayden Nallajar also were at the Centenary Hotel night but could not be matched.

Our boxers will travel to Mackay for a tournament in the coming weeks.

BOXING NEWS BOXING NEWS BOXING NEWS

BACK in October April 2011 Palm Island boxer Peter Bonner was ready to enter the ring at Townsville's Bombay Rock for a professional bout when a BOMB HOAX call forced the cancellation of all remaining fights.

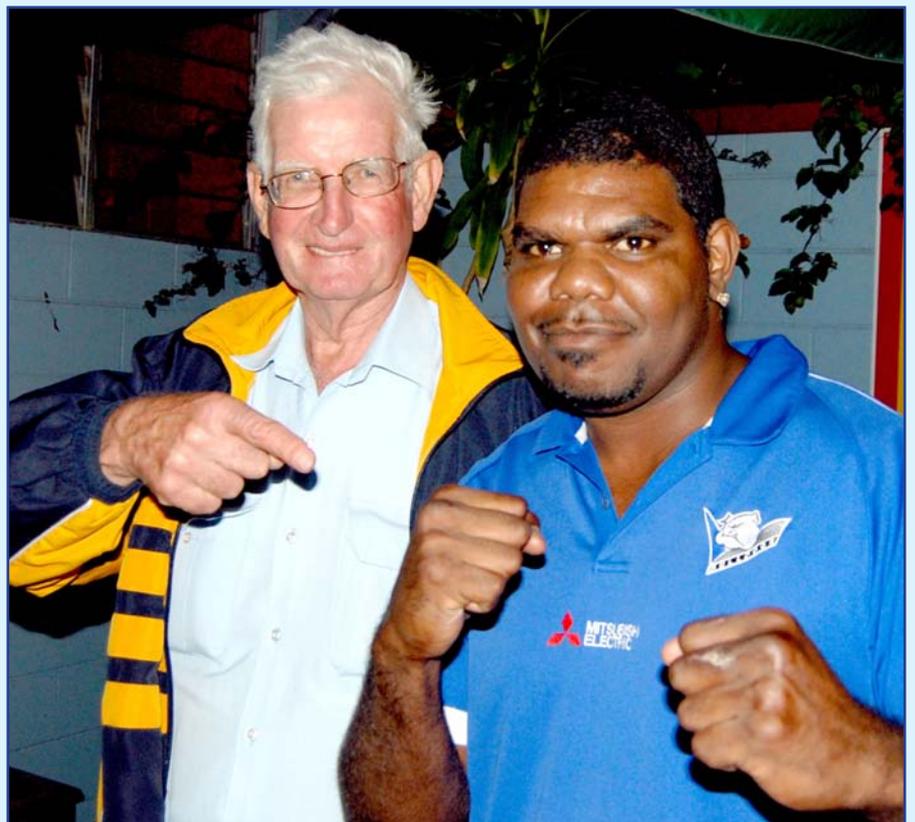
The gala night was dubbed the "Bombay Brawl".

In the picture from the night before Bonner was weighed in at the Shamrock Hotel in South Townsville with trainer Ray Dennis.

Also in attendance was champion pro boxer Ray Dennis.

"I have never before or after had a fight night stopped due to a bomb hoax call," Mr Dennis said.

BOXING FLASH BACK! BOXING FLASH BACK!



Rasharna to play for Aus in Singapore



Palm Island netball star Rasharna Prior/Boungi has put her passport in order so she can represent Australia in Singapore over the next ten days or so.

Rasharna, 17, is the eldest daughter of Doreen Prior (Jnr) and Norman Boungi.

Rasharna was initially selected for the under 17 team, but was promoted to the seniors due to omissions and injuries.

Both parents and their families, are very proud of Rasharna's achievement.

Doreen and Norman would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the following organisations for their assistance:

- The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council;
- The Palm Island Community Company Limited;
- The Joyce Palmer Health Service; and,
- The Bindal Sharks United Aboriginal Corporation.

Thanks to these organisations Rasharna will be able to showcase her skills and talent to the international audience.

[Thanks to Algon Walsh for this story]

Coolburra shield returns to Army



A courageous Skipjacks lost the ninth annual rugby league clash for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield 36-24 to Australian Army Thunder last week.

Rain did not deter a large crowd from turning up to watch the much anticipated match.

Army players and officials arrived on Palm by air after a ferry which was to leave Townsville at 8am broke down and was cancelled.

Cr Eddie Walsh said a memorial ceremony was held before the

game at the Palm Island cemetery around the grave of the late and great Bill Coolburra,

"Those included some of the Army brass and Bill's family," he said.

Cr Walsh said it was a very exciting game.

"Skippies were leading for while but most people agreed that the

Army fitness showed towards the end," he said.

"It was played in good spirit of the game and everyone enjoyed it.

"Special guests included Obe Geia jnr and former Cowboys champion Matt Bowen."

Army now leads the series five games to four.