

Palm Island Voice

Issue 205

Thursday 2 June 2016

FREE

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



A MESSAGE FROM JOE GEIA TO PALM ISLANDERS COMMEMORATING THE 1957 STRIKE

I am sending my love and best wishes to the families of the seven leaders who stood up to the cruelty and injustice of daily life "Under the Act" and I'm sorry I am unable to make it this year.

I am very proud that my father, Albie Geia, was one of those courageous men who stood in solidarity and said, 'we will not work any longer for rations but real wages'.

My father told us he was the first baby born in the Palm Island hospital.

Dad was also a sportsman, a bowler, a footballer, a guitarist, brass band bass player, a conductor, pearl diver, and a leader of the 1957 Palm Island strike!

My brother Cedric was young then but remembers the night the police came over from Townsville to break the strike, bashed down the door, with guns in their hands and took the strike leaders down to the waterfront and tied the men's hands to the mast.

They and their families were banished from the Island and sent to other missions and punished as 'troublemakers'. It took great courage to stand up to the oppressive regime of the time but it is only in unity that things can change.

My father continued to stand up for human rights throughout his life.

I wrote my song 'Uncle Willie'

(Uncle Willie Thaiday) as a dedication to him and my father and the other leaders after reading Uncle Willie's book 'Protected: Under the Act'.

It was written from the many stories I and my brothers and sisters grew up with about the strike.

I am a proud Palm Islander and through music try to let the world know about its beauty, its amazing community and the continuing hardships.

The words of my song still ring true today,

*"We have got to fight,
fight for our rights
Every day and every night"*

INSIDE: Our own recyclers; netball pics from Townsville and MORE!



Palm Island Councillors meeting with other Councils in Cairns last month.



Reparations (Stolen Wages) Update

The Reparations Scheme has made payments to over 1650 claimants across Queensland and continues to work on payments to previously eligible claimants; new claimant application forms and the reassessment of previously ineligible claims.

The Reparations Scheme will continue to June 2018 with applications being received by DATSIP until 16 December 2016.

Over 100 Palm Island claimants have been paid their 'top-up' amount with more to be processed in the coming months. New claims received from Palm Island residents are currently being assessed.

The 'claiming on behalf of' application form 2 process and reassessment of previously ineligible claims will commence during the second half of 2016.

Further information is available on DATSIP's website at www.qld.gov.au/reparations or by calling the free call number, 1800 619 505, which is free from landlines (standard mobile rates apply).

Tammie Harrison | Senior Project Officer
Government Coordination, North Queensland Region
Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

PICRL to regroup for 2017

Lack of attendance to meetings and the cost of insurance and uniforms have led to the cancellation of the Palm Island Community Rugby League (PICRL) competition this year.

PICRL Chairperson Algon Walsh (*pictured*) said the decision was made late last month.

"This hard decision was made on Monday the 23rd of May 2016," he said.

"The Committee is aware that the clubs are suffering financially.

"The Committee understands that the costs of Insurance Premiums, along with the purchasing of playing uniforms is very daunting.

"Therefore the abandonment

of this season's competition will give clubs the opportunity to plan and budget for season 2017."

He said PICRL was still committed to Palm Island's representation in mainland competitions.

"The PICRL will still be sending a representative team to the NQ Trials, which are to be held in Cairns on the 25th June 2016," Mr Walsh said. "The team will be selected from a trial game which will be played on a



date to be announced soon.

"PICRL is also still committing to being represented at the Bindal Townsville All Blacks Tournament, later in the year."

Recycling team cleaning up!

Members of the Campbell Page recycling team have been busy down in the farm area.

They have cleaned up their whole area and it is a credit to them.

They spend their days constantly scouring the tip and building site waste areas, to look for goods for recycling and selling.

They also collect plastic bottle and cans, and copper wire from the various household white goods.

Copper wire is very difficult



Thaddaeus Sam, Gavin Inkerman, Robert Thompson, Jason Thimble, Nathaniel James, Philip Thimble & James Lacey

to remove from the appliances and it takes great patience and diligence for them to get it out.

They hope to be able to support the Palm Island

community in various ways as they get more established.

They are truly an inspiration!

Thanks to Louise Reid (Palm Island Barge) for story and pic.

More than four decades of service marked with respect for retiring health worker

A ceremony to celebrate Thomas Pryor's 44+ years of service at the Joyce Palmer Health Service was hosted by the Townsville Hospital and Health Service last month.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service Indigenous mental health co-ordinator Lynette Anderson said it was important that people like Thomas worked in health care.

"To find dedication like Thomas' is rare and proof of how committed Thomas was to providing health care to the Palm Island community," she said.

"Thomas is known by all as 'Uncle' and has been the face associated with community mental health services on Palm Island.

"He has been a great role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff across the Townsville Hospital and Health Service as well as in the community.

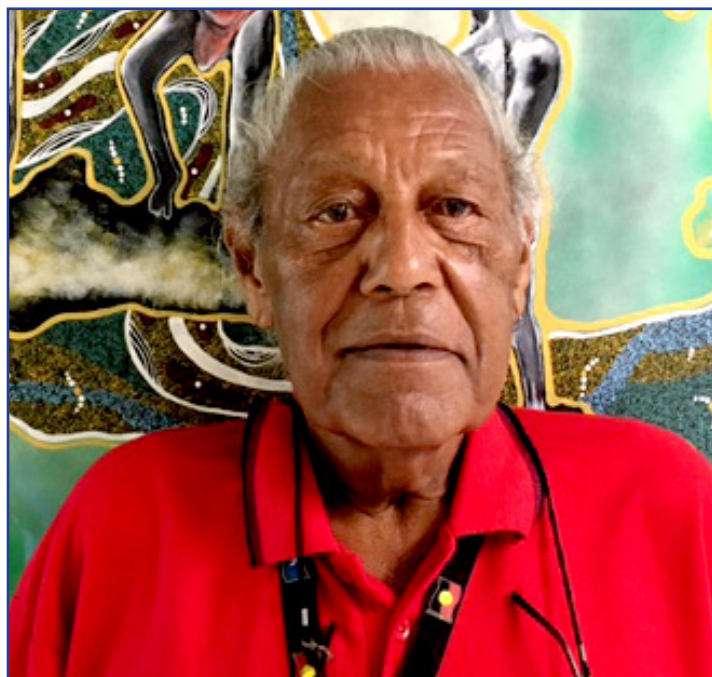
Ms Anderson said Mr Pryor's cultural and community knowledge was irreplaceable.

"Although his face will be missed, no doubt he will pop in from time to time to check up on how everyone is going at the Joyce Palmer Health Service," she said.

Mr Pryor started his career in health in 1972 as a health worker.

Later into his time with the Joyce Palmer Health Service, he focussed on mental health on Palm Island in his role as a mental health worker.

"I would talk to community members about problems they were facing to do with a



range of things including alcohol, drugs and relationship problems," he said.

"I would sit down and talk to people about how these things could affect their lives. It was very satisfying to do this kind of work."

Mr Pryor was born on Palm Island and completed his schooling there, making it fitting for him to spend 45 years working to improve the health of his community.

"To help people who are disadvantaged was really rewarding," he said.

"It was a highlight for me to receive the Australia Day award from the health service in 2013.

"Getting thanked for what you are doing and knowing you're doing a good job gives you an incentive to carry on."

In his retirement, Mr Pryor plans to do more fishing and gardening.

"I'll also be visiting my relatives on the mainland; it will be good to let them know I'm still alive," he said.

Netball: Townsville 2016



Pics thanks to Leah Dabea



Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices



Don't forget!!!

The **DEADLINE** for
the next **NEXT**
PALM ISLAND
VOICE (205) is
Thursday 9 June
FOR PUBLICATION
Thursday 16 June
*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.

SUBSCRIBE!

Individuals & Families (hard copy): \$30
Community & NGOs (hard copy): \$60
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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.

COME HAVE YOUR SAY

Department of Communities Child Safety and
Disability Services in partnership with
Department of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander
Partnerships are holding community
consultations regarding the Public Intoxication
Services on Palm Island.

We want your feedback on services provided
to the community for alcohol diversionary
activities and alcohol related support services to
review how community needs are being met.

Where: Palm Island Community Meeting Room

When: 7th June at 1pm

For more information please contact;

Damon Baxter – 4799 7468 or damon.baxter@communities.qld.gov.au

Tammie Harrison – 4799 7531 or tammie.harrison@datsip.qld.gov.au



**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 1,177
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

BOXING NEWS

PALM Island boxers are training hard in preparation for the prestigious Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament in Cairns later this month.

Trainer Ray Dennis will be taking a big team to the event, which will feature boxers from around North Queensland.

“Patrick Clarke, Selwyn Seaton, Kathleen Haines, Brayden Nallajar and Preston Robertson are ready,” he said.

Thirteen year old Preston will be having his first bout and Selwyn who lives in Charters Towers and has been training himself will fight under the Palm banner. In the lead up to the big card, Palm fighters will compete at a tournament at Bohle Barn Hotel on June 7.

To be run by Art of Strength Club, Mr Dennis said the boxers and officials were looking forward to it.



Palm Island boxers won two out of three last weekend in Townsville...

However the club boxers did not travel to Rockhampton in late May for a tournament due to difficulty in hiring a bus.

Mr Dennis was glowing in his praise of the PCYC where the boxers train.

“The new police officer, Warren, has got us a lot of new gear for which we are really appreciative,” he said.

STRIKE DAY STRIKE DAY STRIKE DAY COMMEMORATION • 3 JUNE 2016

8.00AM	Gathering in Mall (prepare for march to Seven Stones)	12.30PM	LUNCH Food Stalls
8.30AM	Opening Ceremony / Laying of Wreaths / Flag Raising – East Timor, Yidinji incl. Family Representatives of Strikers	1.00PM	Performances – Maroochy Barambah, Dancers, Musicians
9.30AM	Re-enactment	3.00PM	AFTERNOON TEA Food Stalls
10.30AM	MORNING TEA Food Stalls	4.30PM	Closing Ceremony (MOVE TO PCYC)
11.00AM	Official Speeches - Elder Venus Wyles - Allan Palm Island - Mayor Alf Lacey - Doctor Lynore Geia - Sovereign Yidinji Government Representative - East Timor Ambassador's wife: Ana Paula Guterres - RTBU President, Les Moffit - Heads of Palm Island families	5.30PM	SAUSAGE SIZZLE
		6.00pm	Gospel Concert - Gospel Music Groups - Clarissa Watson & Naomi Geia - Various Artists
		9.00PM	CLOSE



Rugby union clinics a hit for young people

Five young people from Palm Island – Clement Sibley, Javarán Canendo, Gail Coolburra, Tyreese Kidner and Arethea Canendo (pictured above) – were amongst 49 youths who took part in rugby union clinics run by the Lloyd McDermott Development Team in Townsville last month.

Development Officers from the Queensland Reds coached the Shalom Christian College students at Townsville's Rugby Union headquarters in Hugh Street on May 19.

Lloyd Clive McDermott, now 76 years-old, was Australia's first indigenous barrister as well as the first Aboriginal person to represent his country in Rugby Union, playing for the Wallabies against the New Zealand All Blacks in 1962.

McDermott was a winger for the Wallabies and made his pride in his Aboriginality clear to everyone by refusing to play as an 'honorary white' on a South African tour.

The Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team was established with the goal of introducing Rugby Union to young Indigenous men and women in hopes of combining the athletic with the academic.

Mr McDermott was known for his ability to combine sport and education which is now the essence of what the organisation stands for and the reason the organisation bears his name.

Mark Burgess, Head of Sports Academy Shalom Christian College said the school was now looking at entering sides in the Townsville Junior Rugby Union competitions.

"This was the first time we have done these rugby union clinics, we had 49 students attend and it went really well," he said.

Manatu to play for NQ Marlins

PALM Island's Manatu Neliman has been named in a star studded North Queensland Marlins rugby league women's team to compete at the Divisional Carnival at the Gold Coast this weekend.

The team was selected after trials in Cairns and Townsville in May.

Scott Nosworthy, QRL Townsville based Division Manager said the trials followed on from the re-establishment of competitions across North Queensland for females, particularly in Mackay which has a successful competition back up and running.