

Palm Island Voice

Issue 206
Thursday 16 June 2016

FREE

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



Irene Watson's grandson Scott Maloney, 6 Pic by Christine Howes

We should all remember

Mixed emotions marked this year's Strike '57 Day for organiser Delphine Geia. "Mixed emotions – excitement, pride, sadness, grieving, victory, triumph, inspiration, beauty, scenic beauty in people as well, the beauty of meeting people of different backgrounds and coloured skin, coloured hair, shape, sizes, height, kids, old people and still knowing what the drill is because you believe in the same thing," she said.

"That's what this weekend was about."

She said guests on the Friday included the wife of East Timorese Ambassador to Australia, Anna Guterres, in the true spirit of reaching out to people.

"What will keep us going is that spirit – and the spirit, from my point of view because it's the way I can explain it as a Christian, is the spirit that drives you to look for the truth and to live by it," she said. "It was lovely to have Anna here, because we need to reach out to people. I could see that in Scott Stewart; the local Member for

Townsville. I could see that in the union guys; they're not Christians I don't think, and people might wonder what do Christians have to do with, what do union guys have to do with old ladies.

"But that's that beauty right there.

"And when I see how this thing was evolved, it was really DIY. That's fine by me because you know you've got the genuine people there to help you and that's the only way you can build something solid that's going to last.

"And I believe that's why the drive and the spirit has lasted from the Strike

through Dulcie Isaro because she was an eye witness to now. Everybody else that was there might have been able to say: 'Well, I wasn't involved in this Strike', but you don't apologise for yourself because you've come from somewhere else and you met up with this person to drive that even further wherever you're going to go, and I believe that's what's happening here, it's gathering momentum."

A strong theme of speakers for the day was that Strike Day was not just for the families of those involved, but for all Bwgcolman. **FULL STORY INSIDE!!!**

Mayors, Councillors and CEOs meet in Cairns



Health, law and order and the official recognition of the leadership role of democratically elected Indigenous leaders were just some items on the agenda at a gathering of close to 100 mayors, councillors and chief executives of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils in Cairns last week.

Palm Island Councillors all attended, as did CEO Ross Norman, as delegates from the state's 17 Indigenous councils, which account for twenty per cent of Queensland's local governments.

They were joined by key State Government Ministers for the two day Indigenous Leaders' Forum.

Indigenous representative on the LGAQ's Policy Executive, Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said the gathering provided an opportunity for Indigenous councils to share stories of success and development, as well as strategise for the future.

"Strong partnerships between local government representatives and Federal and State government continue to be critical for sustainable

reform," he said.

Mayor of Torres Strait Island Regional Council and Indigenous representative on the LGAQ's Policy Executive Fred Gela pointed to the numerous good news stories out of Indigenous Queensland councils and communities as worthy of attention.

"There's a lot of positives that deserve to be celebrated," he said.

LGAQ President Margaret de Wit said that the bi-annual forum highlighted the importance of local decision making and local solutions in the advancement of Queensland's indigenous communities.

"As democratically elected leaders of their communities, these delegates are the authority on the individual



Above: Hopevale Cr Selina Kerr with her Palm Island Cousin Cr Deneice Geia; Below: Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher with Mayor Alf Lacey.

needs of their communities," she said.

"We're calling on all political parties to recognise this leadership role, as well as support a new, community-led approach to funding indigenous communities as part of the 2016 Federal Election Local Government Policy Plan."

Young people urged to get on board with survey

Interviews for the Palm Island Youth Survey will continue until the end of this month, researchers Dr Lynore Geia and Rachel Cummins say.



“We’re working with some great youths on the island,” Dr Geia said. “The research assistants have red iPads so you’ll see them around the community.

“They can approach them anytime or talk to them anytime about it and they’ve all been trained in research assistance and the protocols on how to take data.

“I’m coming back again in a couple of weeks to do focus groups with women.

“And Rachael’s been working on the project for six months off and on.

“Our youths are doing an

exceptional job and when the kids bust out laughing we know that they’ve come across a question where we’ve used their language. We say: ‘Look, you’ve seen all the adults sitting around talking – when there’s meetings, there’s all the adults; this is your chance to have a say, and we’re asking you directly what affects you.

“And everything’s confidential and so we get them over and they’re happy to talk.

“It’s more than drugs and alcohol – it’s about have you got a bed, what do you eat, is your language and culture

important, what country are you from?”

Ms Cummins said they had had more than 100 responses to date.

“Our researchers are going to be part of the analysis of the data and then bring it back to community to give feedback,” she said. “I’d love to see the youth develop something for themselves from the results.”

Pictured above is Dr Geia and Ms Cummins (inset) and their four research assistants: Khane Coutts, Christine Cannon, Catherine Inkerman & Heath Lacey.

Deputy Premier's 'lightning visit' should reap solid water results

DEPUTY Premier Jackie Trad made a whirlwind two hour visit to Palm Island on last week, to meet with Mayor Alf Lacey and Cr Deniece Geia.

High on their agenda was the recent drought which left the two locals dams near empty.

As Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment Ms Trad has committed the Queensland State Government to ensuring Palm Island Aboriginal Shire has a safe and ongoing water supply.

"I met with Mayor Alfred Lacey about the ongoing issues related to water supply that are being experienced on the island," Ms Trad said.

"The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring that Palm Island has a long-term water supply, having recently appointed consultant engineers to investigate potential groundwater opportunities.

"We will be working with Mayor Lacey and the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council in the coming months to find the best solution."

Ms Trad and her entourage visited one Palm Island dam and she was accompanied by Scott Stewart, the Member for Townsville.

"The day that we visited coincided with Queensland Day, a celebration of everything great



about our State, and I thoroughly enjoyed visiting students at Bwgcolman Community School to commemorate this day," Ms Trad said.

They also stopped in at the Palm Island Retail Store, the Joyce Palmer Health Centre and one of the new housing estates.

"In our State Budget we have announced a significant upgrade to the health facilities on Palm Island," she said.

"The Palm Island Primary Health Care project will deliver a stand-alone adult clinic and a maternal and child health clinic with a social and emotional wellbeing clinic to address the unique and varied needs of the Palm Island community.

"The \$8.5 million contribution to this vital project will see that specialised health services will

most effectively meet the needs of residents, from maternity care to supporting young people."

Ms Trad said she enjoyed her visit and looked forward to returning.

Mayor Alf Lacey said that it was great to see Ms Trad keep her promise to visit Palm.

"I spoke to her a couple of times since the Government was elected early last year and she said she would and kept her word," he said.

"She was the Acting Premier the day she came and we spoke about a range of issues including water security and boosting economic opportunities here."





Palm Island residents are closer to having a long term water supply with consultant engineers appointed to drill for groundwater, which could potentially supply a third of the Island's current demand.

Consultants will also soon be appointed to investigate raising the two dam walls which could also meet a third of demand and explore linking Bamboo Creek Dam to Minggudjamba Banbarriarra Dam as a further option.



Consulting engineers CDM Smith Australia will manage the specialised drilling project, Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said.

“The decision to look beyond the next wet season is crucial for the Palm Island community,” he said.



“The people of Palm Island can be confident they will have a steady water supply, as we work with the experience and knowledge of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council to find the best solution.”

The engineers will drill to determine the extent of groundwater on the island with the added benefit that the investigation holes able to be quickly turned into water production bores.

Early assessments also indicate a similar yield could be achieved by raising one or both dam walls on the island by one metre. The results of this investigation could be ready in early August.



Heavy rainfall earlier this year brought Solomon Dam back to capacity and Minggudjamba Banbarriarra (Francis Creek) Dam to 65 per cent.

There is now sufficient water supply to meet demand past the next wet season and as such there is no longer an urgent need to supplement the water supply with a desalination plant and marine pipeline.



The Island's water supply sources continue to be assessed on a regular basis by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

'57 Strike Day 2016 '57 Strike Day 2016 '57 Strike Day 2016

Allan Palm Island: Seven rocks stands there in front, with the beautiful seaside today; we welcome everybody here – welcome all. Bwngcolman, I'm speaking of my heart and my family, Bwngcolman Traditional Owners, and respecting the Bwngcolman people. Today I'd just like to welcome everybody and open this up in praise, love and prayer and thanks, and it's going to be a great day today.

Dulcie Isaro: It's been such a long, long road we've taken now since our fathers stood up.

As you know, in those days you couldn't speak back to the white men regardless of what position they may have held in the community, and for these men it was a very big step that they'd taken.

My father was working at the farm, he planted 600 coconut trees while he was here and up there you see a patch of very dark green forest – he had a very big banana garden up there for the people of the island. He was a very hard-working man, my father.

When that strike did take place, it was the first time they stood up against the government.

I was sick in the stomach with fear when I saw those men walking, even though I followed them with Auntie Rose Congo, and they went to the government office in front over there.

The six men with that very powerful lady walked up, and I walked behind them, and Rose ran up to the superintendent and put her fist against his face and said: 'You red tomato-faced pig', she swore at him, and I was so, so afraid thinking what's going to happen to her now.

And, yet, there was also a mixture of pride that I felt for the first time.

We'd never seen anybody do that.

And living on this island, we're just living and stay here and this is the only life we knew, but to see those people strike that day it was really, really something that you'd never forget.

Then my father came.

These men had that power because of the Lord was with them; there's no doubt about it.

My father said: 'Let there be no



Dulcie Isaro speaking and laying a wreath; Below: helpers and grandchildren Jairus & Maika Galindo



violence. We'll talk as hard as we can but we'll not bring violence', and that's what they fought and that's where their power was about violence – that's where their strength came from.

They did it and they spoke for justice and their rights.

When he wrote the book *Under the Act* he said to them: 'When I write this book, don't change it to English.

English is not my language; write it the way I speak.

So they wrote it in broken English and if you should have the book *Under the Act*, that's just the way he wanted it to be printed, the way he spoke.

They shifted us off.

When we went out in the

dinghy to Mr Whiting's boat, they were all singing and laughing, telling each other jokes at what happened during the strike– that's the way we are people – there's always something funny in the most serious situation.

And they were talking about that and laughing and Dad was there stand up with his hands tied to the mast and the others were sitting down all leg chained – it was terrible.

I've written a book called *The Day Palm Island Fought Back* – very simply written, no great university thing but it's simply written that tells the story of a 15-year-old girl and what I saw happen at that time.

We were in the watch-house

'57 Strike Day 2016 '57 Strike Day 2016 '57 Strike Day 2016



*Above: Speakers and guests featured over the next few pages;
Below: MP Scott Stewart, ACTU Indigenous Committee Member
& Cahir of the MUA Indigenous Committee Patrick Neliman,
QCU Townsville President Les Moffitt & ACTU organiser Simon Mitchell*



for a week as prisoners.

We slept on a gazebo-like thing with the cement floor and it was freezing cold in June.

We stayed there for the week and then they shipped us down.

And as we arrived to the railway station that night I sat on a seat and watched the men and they got into a circle and they put their arms around each other like this and bowed their heads and they prayed.

They thanked God for what he's done for them.

And I just watched them as they gave each other and thanked each other for being each other's strength during that time they needed.

And the wives, the wives were absolutely marvellous.

They stood right beside their husbands right through.

We got in the train – freezing cold, no blankets, two blankets, we had no shoes, no coat, ended up at Rocky 6 o'clock at night, by 6 o'clock in the morning they put us in the jail, the watch house and shoved us in a cell.

In the cell beside the ones we had was a drunken man and he messed himself all over.

And we just stayed like that all day – no food, no nothing all day until they put us on the train at 9 o'clock to go to Woorabinda.

If you've been the Woorabinda, they have frost just everywhere and we arrived 2 o'clock at Duaringa, from Duaringa we went two hours to Woorabinda;

we arrived at 4 o'clock in the morning.

All the icicles on the dripping taps – we were fascinated by them because we never seen frost before in our lives.

When we got there, this beautiful lady had a lovely fire going with Milo and scones which we thoroughly enjoyed.

But that's just it in a nutshell.

One thing that I would like to say – please please Palm Island, if you can hear me this history is your history.

It's your history.

I come back all the time and hear about this, but I'm 74 now – you need to take that stand.

I need young people to fill in my footsteps.

Get up and fight; this is your history; your people fought for this.

It is your people who did it, not just the Lymburners, Geias, Thaidays, Watsons, Tapaus, Congoos, but the Palm Island people.

And because of what they did to our people, what the government did was attack us in our minds.

They let our people know that they can't live without them.

You start a business – 'oh is the government going to help us with money?'

You don't need the government to help you with money.

That's where they crippled us in the brains that a lot of our people 'oh you can't do that, the government's going to help us'.

Don't depend on the government.

Our fathers knew that; they wouldn't depend on the government if there was even a chance, so stand up.

You are a person, individually you are a person with the mind and heart of everything that makes you unique.

So, please Palm Island – this is your history and if anybody came along to you and said, 'What happened on Palm Island '57?' you stand up for yourself; don't look for Dulcie – you just stand up yourself and say, 'Yes that took place on Palm; that's our history'.

'57 Strike Day 2016 '57 Strike Day 2016 '57 Strike Day 2016

[Anna Guterres \(Wife of the East Timorese Ambassador to Australia\)](#): Thank you for sharing your beautiful story with us, and I'm here honoured and privileged to attend this special day.

There is so much to do, and it's a long journey.

We still have to keep fighting for the injustice for the people of Bwgcolman, the people who need our support, so I thank you for sharing this special story; it's such educational for us to learn and somebody come from outside.

I have to pay my respect for the 57 Strike and the family who are here; may their souls rest in peace.

This is my first time in Palm Island. My husband's message is very simple – please send the best wishes to the people of Palm Island and thank them for their beautiful culture and spirit.

When I saw the film last night called 'Protected' it showed the Palm Island people who helped with the strike in 1957; it was a powerful film.

We can all reflect and we like to be sorry.

It remind us how important it is to respect each other and value each other as equals even though a small group.

Those men and women in 1957 wanted a better future for their children, their children's children and today that spirit continues in this community.

This also give me inspiration because we all want to make our world a better place.

We, as Indigenous people, must stand together in friendship and peace.

May the strikers rest in peace and the families continue their good work.

Palm Island, you have a friend in East Timor.



Top Left: Anna Guterres; Top Right: George Sibley looks on as a wreath is laid for his family; Middle: Wreath-layers Helen Akee and Chris Congoo; Left: Irene Watson laying her family wreath.



[Irene Watson](#): I was only seven or six, I had four brothers.

My father kept us quiet, didn't want us to get involved because we didn't know anything.

They took us to the watch house, and had us march right out to the edge of the reef to take us away.

We had to walk, I carry my little brothers and sisters, helped my mother with a sick baby.

We slept on bags in the watch house, we kept each other warm until we got to Cherbourg and we lost our baby sister there, born in 1957.

So, when my mother wrote to the Native Affairs ask to come back here, she got refused.

She tried to get into a dormitory to protect her children, our little brothers and sisters, but they wouldn't let us; they were very cruel with us.

When we got released in 1963 they brought us back to Palm Island we camped with another baby and that's the baby sister there, Eva.

That's all I have to say – thank you for listening.

'57 Strike Day 2016 '57 Strike Day 2016 '57 Strike Day 2016

Peena Geia: We never forget things. I remember as clear as yesterday; I've never forgot it, and I never will. But, you know, I praise God and thank him for everything that has happened because this made some people strong and we are Bwgcolman people. Today, young people benefit from what those men have fought for.



Alf Lacey: Today is really important; it's part of our shared history.

It's not just the families, it's every family in this community that owns this history, which is really important.

And those seven families lived away, particularly those men, their wives, their children lived away in terms of fighting for what was right.

On behalf of Council here we just want to thank everyone.

We have left this event with the families because we believe very strongly that a community event belongs to the community; it's not a Council-controlled event, and community needs to take control of community events.

Strike '57 was always organised and directed by the family, and that's proper protocol for us as Bwgcolman that continues to happen.

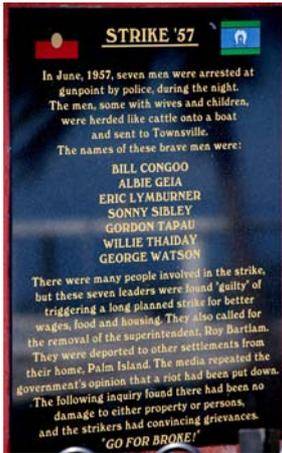
History is history; we can't change it, but the thing is that we can educate our kids and I think that's the message Auntie Delphine Geia sends today – we need to let those kids in our community, regardless of whose family they are part of, that this is one of our important history of this community that they need to know about it.

It's the history of all our families in this community.

Council is always happy to provide support to community events on behalf of the whole community, and we're happy to be a part of it.



Top Left: Wreath-layer Robert 'Booya' Friday Top Right: Alf Lacey, Peena, Delphine & Jenny Geia; Middle: Wreath-layer Lillian Geia and Anna Guterres and Delphine Geia raising the East Timorese flag; Left: Speaker Irene Watson. NEXT PAGE: Speaker Lynore Geia; PAGE 11: Speakers Rachel Cummins; Chris Congoo & Jeremy Geia; And at the PCYC celebration was guest speaker Pastor Tevita Loga, and Fijian group 'Anything Can Happen' with members of the Holy Spirit Church on Palm Island



Rachel Cummings: It's an honour for me to be here to represent my family.

Although my family weren't directly involved – they weren't the ringleaders involved in the Strike – but they certainly supported it.

And we benefited.

We eventually got a basic wage and better conditions, so we are thankful.

I want to pay particular mention to those seven men, who on that day and for that week, gave up their freedom – if you can say freedom in a place like Palm Island at that time – but they gave up their freedom so that we could all benefit.

The '57 Strike was a go-for-broke catalyst for many years of suffering and the largest of many daily acts of insolence and insubordination by the inmates to repel the administration cruel denomination.

Although eventually there were legislative changes in the memories and hearts of those who experienced that regime, there is suffering still.

Unfortunately, inter-generational pain manifests in behaviours sometimes

unfathomable and even abhorrent to those who have not had this experience.

I truly believe many of our people suffer complex post-traumatic stress disorders – over a 230-year period akin to other of race and culture-based exterminations around the world.

While we honour the men, we know it was the women and the families – it was those strong women that stood by their husbands.

They stood by their husbands while they were caring for their children, and we know that things were tough.

Eventually they came back, and I'm pleased to say I was on the Council in 1982 when Uncle Willie and Aunty Madge came back and they came to the Council and asked for a house.

I'm ashamed to say that all we had to offer them was a little broken-down two-bedroom place because that was all that was available at the time.

If we could have, we would have offered them a mansion.

To the families here and particularly the women and the children here today, on behalf of my family I say thank you.

Lynore Geia: I just want to honour those men and their families – the Congo family, the Geia family, the Sibleys, the Thaidays, the Watsons and the family of the Tapau men.

They're giants on which shoulders we stand on today.

They've left us an amazing legacy for Palm Island – that we are resilient people and they showed a way that we can stand up and speak against injustice and oppression.

They stood together in unity and challenged the system that didn't treat them right.

It was a sacrifice that they were willing to make.

They knew they were going to leave the community and their families were banished, but they were willing to make it because they knew that something good was going to come out of it.

And it did.

Here we are.

We don't live under the axe anymore, not in the notes and papers of the legislation.

Sometimes it feels that we still do, but we have the testimony of these men and their families that strengthens us to say: 'We can do it too'.

We have their bloods running through our veins, our physical but also our metaphorically, the blood of those men runs through this community and what they did.

We've still got much work to do and we still got a long way to go for Palm Island to enjoy the freedom that those old people dreamt of for us.

So I just want to encourage us, as Bwgcolman people, to keep walking forward and go for broke in every part of our lives for a better way of living and a better life for us all.

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Chris Congoo: My father and mother were sent to Cherbourg.

My older brother was very young at the time; Alvin is no longer with us.

Just remembering back on those times when I saw the movie last night, standing here today to think they struggled everywhere, treated less than a dog; my family taken off the island at that time I was reminded how cruel people can become and that humanity goes missing when people are struggling as our people did.

They dumbed us to find a way of the policies and their practices; they continue to do it today, and



Murrumu of Walubara: Thank you very much for the kind reception we received.

The actual invitation was to our Chief Minister, and he asked me to personally say sorry that he couldn't make it, but he really saw this as a valuable event to come to because his people, were actually forcibly removed from their territory



we must stand up.

We cannot allow ourselves to be treated less than a human.

I hope that this day that people still remember the struggle they had, but also the struggle that they have because they were there.

We weren't allowed back here but my mother came back.

My father couldn't come back because they told him he wasn't allowed on the island.

In 1970-72 my dad came back and when they had the first Council here he was elected.

The fight started back then and it's continuing today where we



to this place as well.

And I guess that raises the question what does Strike '57, what does it have to do with sovereignty of the government?

Well, I guess the question is – what does it mean for families, what does it mean for workers, what does it mean for our women and children?

I think it's really important that



allow people to beat us down.

As Dulcie was saying – you don't need government to help you. Self-determination comes from within; it doesn't come from others doing things for you.

We all need to stand up.

We can't allow this to continue.

The trauma that was suffered then is the trauma that's getting suffered today because of the policies and practices of people.

It's people that do that to us.

It's people that allow it to happen to us.

You got to stand up and fight against it.



we are trying to capture the spirit, obviously the errors and successes of those family members that took part of it that are here today, and I am one of them.

It's in our blood to go forward and to do it, even if there was no one here today, even if there was one child still passes it on, the spirit will never die.

Labor candidate only respondent to Palm Island question

PALM Island voters will have a big say in who wins the seat of Herbert at the Federal election on Saturday 2 July.

Liberal National Party member Ewen Jones won the seat at the 2013 election and holds a 6.17% margin over Labor candidate Cathy O'Toole. Media around Australia are already predicting the election will be a cliffhanger with both parties neck and neck in surveys. A Galaxy poll commissioned by the Townsville Bulletin and published on May 14 showed a 3.2% swing against Mr Jones who had 53% of votes of more than 500 surveyed compared to Ms O'Toole's 47% on a two party preferred.

The survey indicated candidates Wendy Tubman (Greens) and Palmer United's Martin Brewster had no chance of winning.

At the last election Palm Islanders cast their votes heavily in favour of Ms O'Toole, who has visited the Island several times since.

This time around there is more than 400 extra voters on the electoral roll which will give Palm voters a huge say in who is elected.

Palm Island Voice asked Mr Jones and Ms O'Toole to provide our readers what they would do for Palm Island if elected.

FROM CATHY O'TOOLE:

The community of Palm Island is a speculator place in the Herbert electorate. The people of Palm Island are resilient and they deserve a fair go like every other Australian citizen. I have a strong passion and connection with the community on Palm Island. I have worked with people on the Island since September 2013 creating jobs in the community sector.

Bill Shorten and I have a vision for Herbert and that includes Palm Island. Labor's \$100 million commitment to the Townsville Stadium will draw visitors to our community and this will also create tourism business opportunities for the people of Palm Island. The people on Palm Island are also dedicated Cowboys fans with many of them regularly attending home games so they too want to see their team play in a new Stadium. Labor's Your Child Our Future, needs based education funding is also crucial for the children of Palm Island, who deserve every opportunity for the best education possible. Labor is committed to providing Australian kids with the best teachers possible. As part of Labor's Gonski school funding package Labor is committed to providing 400 scholarships for Indigenous Australians to learn to become teachers. Indigenous



teaching role models in the classroom will encourage young Indigenous kids to pursue their dreams and aspirations. Many of the residents on Palm Island have complex health needs and they rely on Medicare for the healthcare that they require. Labor will legislate within the first one hundred days of being elected to protect Medicare. Every citizen deserves the right to affordable healthcare. The residents of Palm Island also live in a great location to make a contribution to the renewable energy industries of the future. The people of Palm Island can rest assured that I will fight to ensure that they get a fair go for jobs, health, education and renewable energy. This election will be important and it will be crucial for the residents of Palm Island. The people of Palm Island can rest assured that together Labor will fight to ensure that they get a fair go for jobs, health, education and renewable energy.

Cathy O'Toole
Labor Candidate Herbert

Introducing...

Cr Bob Castors

“I was born and bred on Palm Island and am the fourth eldest of ten to Bennett and Beryl Castors,” he says.

“Before I became a Councillor I worked at Century Mine for 8 years, until the mine closed.

“When I came back to Palm I tried to get back into the Council’s Works Department where I was a supervisor for 20 years with my old mates in the Heavy Machinery gang, but there was no work going.

“The elections were coming up and members of my family and the community said I would make a good Councillor, like my Dad used to be, so I decided to run.

“My main campaign in the running was for the environment, especially to tidy the dump, and I’ve ended up with that portfolio along with Infrastructure, Roads, HACC, Housing and Community Justice. I’m keen to see employment for our local people and also to better Palm Island for everyone especially our next generation.

“As a Councillor I will do the best I can for my community and try to show that I can be a good Councillor. At this stage I’m still learning the process as there is a lot to learn and absorb within Council. The Mayor and other



Councillors are good to get along with. My dream is one day being Mayor of Palm Island, like my father who was a Councillor and later became Chairman of Palm Island

“In my spare time I enjoy fishing, camping and family gatherings with families and friends, and many years ago I played footy for the Barracudas too.”



St Michael’s Grade 1 Students celebrated National Sorry Day in a very special way this year, by bringing Indigenous Dance to both the Joyce Palmer Hospital and the Palm Island town mall. A big thank you to all students and staff on the preparation and success of showcasing Indigenous talent in the early years.

US reggae singer Laza Morgan ready to rock

REGGAE entertainer Laza Morgan will perform at the Palm Island PCYC on Saturday.

The trip has been organised by Townsville Aboriginal man Frank Willis (*pictured with Laza*), who has Palm family connections.

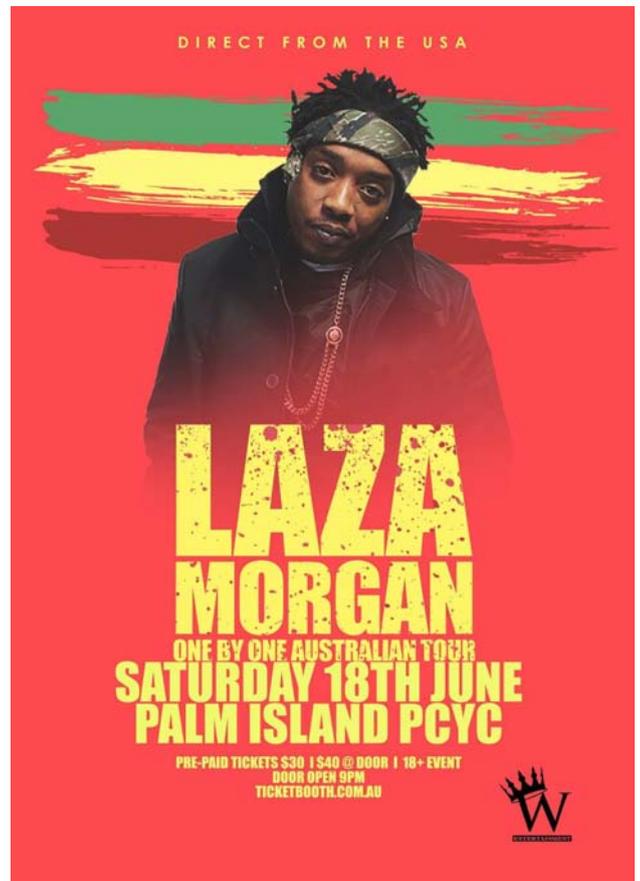
“We are really looking forward to the show and it will also be great for me to catch up with all my family on Palm,” Frank said.

Now aged 34, Frank worked for Centrelink for almost 10 years where he had lots of dealings with Indigenous people.

Frank is also into his final year of a Bachelor of Law at James Cook University in Townsville.

“Recently I decided to take on a new challenge and finished at Centrelink and started my own business called Willis Entertainment,” he said.

“I am bringing international entertainers to Australia and including many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”



Out & About

Did the Palm Island Voice catch you shopping after Strike Day? If so watch this space in our next issue for more pics!



Left: Aunty Kim Palmer and her Yeatman family from Yarrabah;



Right: Saturday fishing time;



Below Left: PLOs Eddie Townson & Allan Palm
Below Right: Ingai Geia, Palm Island Elder Uncle George Friday, Wrench & Patrice Mills and Ellen Tapau



Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



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

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



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**The DEADLINE for
the next NEXT
PALM ISLAND
VOICE (207) is
Thursday 23 June
FOR PUBLICATION
Thursday 30 June
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*Pictured above is Bernadine 'Blacky' Castors,
who loves a good read, and that's a good thing
because Blacky works at the Council and prints
the Palm Island Voice for us every fortnight.
Thanks Blacky, we love your work!!!*

PI shines in state competition

PALM Island's Manatu Neliman shone for the North Queensland Marlins women's team which competed at the Divisional Carnival at the Gold Coast earlier this month.

The team was selected after trials in Cairns and Townsville in May with Rothana Baira stepping in to help out at the last minute.

NQ ladies lost to Central Division and champion side SEQ in their games.

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



'Cudas pick up two new coaches

Two new faces will take on the job of coaching the Barracudas into their first rep game for the year, Palm Island Community Rugby League chairperson Algon Walsh says.

"They are the coaches that coached the 2015 PICRL grand final, Jets' Norman Bounghi and Skipjacks' Clay Hunter.

"The selection trial game has been cancelled to reduce the risk of injury.

"The representative team will be selected over the coming week from training attendance and availability of players.

"Palm Island residents playing in the TDRL in Townsville, are eligible to train for inclusion in the team."

BOXING NEWS

RISING young Palm Island boxers Preston Robertson and Brayden Nallajar (pictured left) won their bouts and gold medals at a gala tournament at Bohle Barn Hotel last Saturday night.

There were 13 bouts on the card which was run by Townsville's Art of Strength Club under the banner of the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League.

13-year-old Preston was having his first bout and won impressively on points in the 34kg division defeating Phierry De'Large from Bad Boys Club.

Experienced Braden was also sharp in his win in the 39kg class also on points.

"They were both very good and another boxer Darryl Richardson didn't pass a fitness test before the fights due to an injury. Tiquri Pryor had an exhibition bout," trainer Ray Dennis said.

A big team of boxers are now training hard in preparation for the prestigious Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament in Cairns on June 24 and 25.



However they will be without Mr Dennis for a week and under the guidance of his stand in Sterling Arden. Mr Dennis has a series of appointments at Townsville Hospital before treatment on a leg injury.