

# Palm Island Voice

Issue 209  
Thursday 28 July 2016

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

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



## It was our night to shine!



Pic by Alf Wilson

Full NAIDOC  
spread inside!

## It's your Census, make it count!

A large team of people have been working around Palm Island this week as part of the 2016 Australian Census.

The official Census date is August 9 and one of the Palm Island team leaders is Zina Prior.

"I have been in Brisbane for almost a week doing training and we will have 30 Census workers getting around Palm," she said. "Also in Brisbane also were

representatives from the various Aboriginal and TSI communities around Queensland."

The Census of Population and Housing is Australia's largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

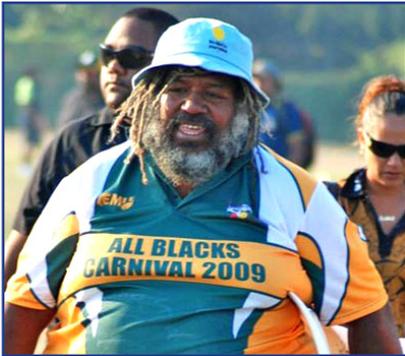
The information you provide in the Census helps estimate Australia's population, which is used to distribute government funds and plan services for your community housing, transport, education, industry, hospitals and the environment.

*No less than seven netball teams from Palm Island travelled to Cairns for the Sharon Finnan Netball Cup in Cairns last weekend... we'll have the full story and more pics in our next Issue!*



Pic by Christine Howes

# Weight loss attributed to diet and walking



Above: Ili Dabea from Palm Island Voice Issue 46 in 2009 and Right: during NAIDOC week in 2016



Popular local Ili Dabea is enjoying a new lease of life since losing a considerable amount of weight.

“Yes I have lost some weight and started early in the year but watching what I eat and I hope to take some more off,” he said. “Also I’ve been doing a lot of walking.”

Friends say Mr Dabea has lost about 20kg but he says it is more like 10kg. Mr Dabea was a former long serving President of the Palm Island Rugby League and works at the Retail Store.

## Out & About



First Row from Top: Alf & grandson Freddo Lacey; India Bulsey 4 and Shannon Morgan; and Mislam & Sharona Sam. Second Row from top: Carol Snyder; David & Cameron Bulsey

with Aggie Langlo; Genami Geia & Joe Rueben; Gwen, Romy, Mirian & Elizabeth Geia; Third Row from top: Heather & Raekahini Haines with Annie King; Jacob & Wasam Baira; Josephine Dosetto, Margaret Haines & Opal Nallajar Facing Page: Phoenix Walsh & Kalani Geia; Zac Sam & Joey Wales; Sholin & Brody Kerr, Isaac Blanket, Kevin Kidner and Fred Robertson; and, Ruth, Kyjuan & Sondra Gorrige with Whitney Haines.

Pics by Christine Howes

# Ministerial champions to back Indigenous communities

Queensland's Indigenous councils have welcomed an announcement by the Palaszczuk Government which will see individual Ministers appointed as champions for their communities.

Palm Island Mayor and LGAQ Policy Executive indigenous representative Alf Lacey said he was hopeful the new approach could improve direct communication between indigenous communities and the political leaders of the state.

“Ministers too often learn about our communities from public servants and aboriginal experts based in Brisbane,” he said.

“Even with their good intentions, these people do not always know what is needed or what programs will work in our communities.

This new approach will give the Ministers an opportunity to learn straight from the horse's mouth – from democratically leaders who live and work in the community.”

Acting LGAQ President Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill praised the newly announced Ministerial Government Champions' Program



*Queensland local government mayors, deputy mayors & CEOs gathered on the Gold Coast earlier this month for the LGAQ's Civic Leaders Summit. Pictured were Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey, Wujal Wujal Shire Mayor Desmond Tayley and Aurukun Shire Mayor Dereck Walpo.  
Pic thanks to LGAQ.*

as a good start toward removing barriers to tangible change.

“On behalf of our indigenous councils the LGAQ has long been calling for greater direct dialogue between the political leaders of councils and those of the state,” she said.

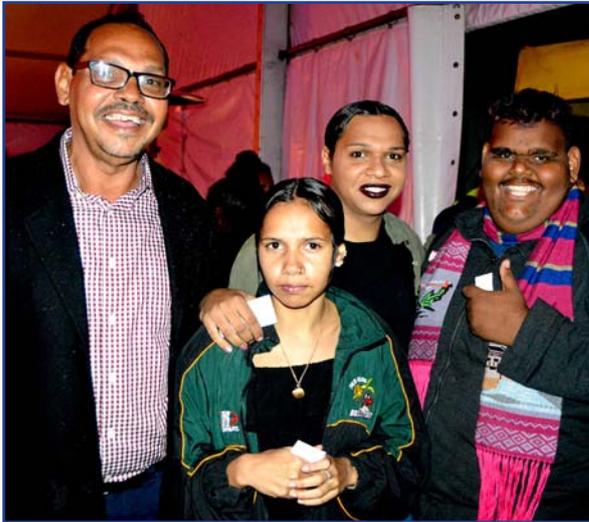
“The measure of success of this initiative will be in the results it effects – results like improvements in health outcomes or enhanced economic development opportunities within these communities.”





# SONGLINES: Living Narratives

A big part of Palm Island NAIDOC celebrations this year was a ‘Palm Island Unity’ dinner held in Freedom Park and attended by about 200 locals.



*Pics thanks to Alf Willson*

The day itself was one of the coldest in Palm Island history with the temperatures at 11 degrees celsius – that along with the rain would have made it uncomfortable for an outdoor dinner.

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council came to the rescue, however, and obtained the use of a large white tent and three large heaters which made the comfort zone perfect.

The theme of this NAIDOC event was ‘Songlines’ and there was plenty of entertainment throughout the night.

Local band Mother’s Dust kicked things off as guests were welcomed by Mayor Alf Lacey.

“This is a dinner where we can all meet in talk and we

don’t do enough of that on Palm – this was your night,” Cr Lacey said.

“It went really well, the response has been very good and Council has really appreciated that.”

During a presentation guests were shown some of the work and which has been done around the Island and what is to come.

MC for the night was Cr Deniece Geia who also blessed the event.

Elders were recognised and everybody had a great feed.

There was also a fireworks display.

Comedian Sean Choolburra’s recorded presentation was a hit with everybody and the laughter was great.

A special citizen’s

presentation was made to popular and disabled resident John Walsh.

The entertainment then included the Yidinji Descendants Dance Group, the Mathias Oui Torres Strait descendants of Darnley/ Badu and Moa Islands, Pacific Flowers, One Man Army (Kevin Wilson), Delena Oui jnr and the main act Justin Wellington.

Many in the audience were still there when the event ended at midnight.

Police also deserve a special mention and as guests left offered to give them a free breath test to determine whether they were under the legal limit to drive.

Overall it was a night people will be talking about for months.

*More pics p 8*



**Tribal Banner March winners: Giramay**  
**Runners Up: Kokoimidgi and Third: TSI**  
*Pics above with thanks to Cr Deniece Geia & below with thanks to Sondra Goringe.*





*Thanks to Tenielle Oui pictured above with her second eldest Zedekiah and that's her daughter Delena on the right.*



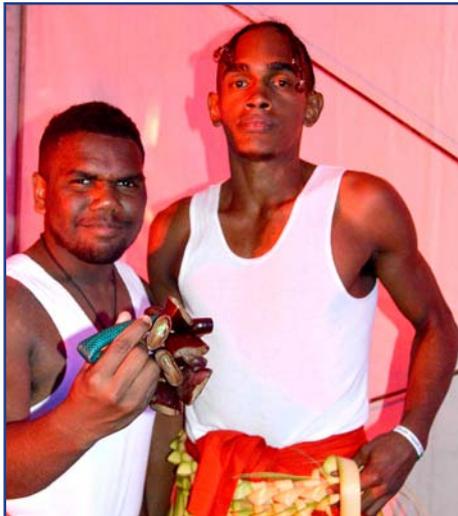
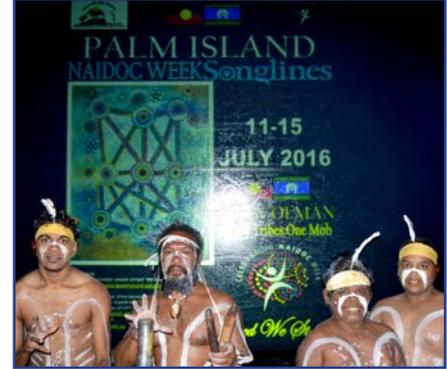
*Middle pic thanks to Whanjulla Imbala (Brother Jai) + Tribal Banner March pics thanks to Ashley Lenoy*



*Pics above & left thanks to Sondra Goringe*



*Pics thanks to Whanjulla Imbala (Brother Jai)*



*Gala Dinner pics thanks to Alf Wilson: more next Issue!*

**SONGLINES: Living Narratives**

# Palm Island Voice

Public &  
Community Notices



Congratulations  
to  
**Ili & Leah  
Dabea**  
for their  
31st Anniversary  
celebrated on  
19 July  
and to  
**Ron Eli &  
Deniece Geia**  
for their 28th  
Anniversary  
celebrated on  
23 July



Don't forget!!!

The **DEADLINE** for  
the next **NEXT  
PALM ISLAND  
VOICE (210)** is  
**Thursday 4 August**  
**FOR PUBLICATION**  
**Thursday 11 August**  
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  
Government & Corporate (hard copy): \$120  
\*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.



**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 1,230  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!



## 29<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016 NATION OF ORIGIN RUGBY LEAGUE

9-A-SIDE Tournament – Hosted by NQ Indigenous 9's  
Quarry Hill Rugby Union Grounds, North Mackay



### Re footy in Mackay:

Hi All

Please see the above invite to participate at our annual 9's rugby league tournament.

The aim of the carnival is to provide a level playing field outside the club arena in a friendly, enjoyable, safe and family environment.

The tournament is run independently by the Mackay Indigenous community and is not sanctioned by the QRL and is in its 4th year, accredited referees and first aid officers, insurance for players and the public are provided.

We welcome all diverse cultures and communities, this year some under-14 Boys will be selected to tour part of the gulf on a mentoring program in the school holidays in previous years we have taken teams to the Cabramatta International 9's which has been a great experience and some young men have now moved onto full-time employment or further education.

Nominate a team that reflects your community and/or your heritage.

If you want to know more call, text or email the contacts above or find our Facebook page - North Queensland Indigenous 9's Carnival.

Thank you for your time

Kind regards

**Doug Pitt**

**Senior Indigenous Advisor**

**Regional Service Delivery – Northern Region**

**Department of National Parks, Sport &**

**Racing**

### NOMINATION FEES

Open Men's: \$800  
Open Women's: \$500  
Under 17 Boys: \$400  
Under 17 Girls: \$300  
Under 14 Boys: \$150

Nomination includes  
team insurance and  
prize money

Entry Fee: \$10  
2 Day Pass: \$15  
Seniors/Students: \$5  
Under 12: Free

'NOMINATE A TEAM  
AND REPRESENT  
YOUR COUNTRY AT  
GRASSROOTS LEVEL'

### CONTACT:

Doug Pitt  
0404 326 792  
dugy5@hotmail.com

# Boxing News

PALM Island boxers will travel to Rockhampton for a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament on August 13.

Trainer Ray Dennis said as many as six could make the 700km road journey to the central Queensland capital.

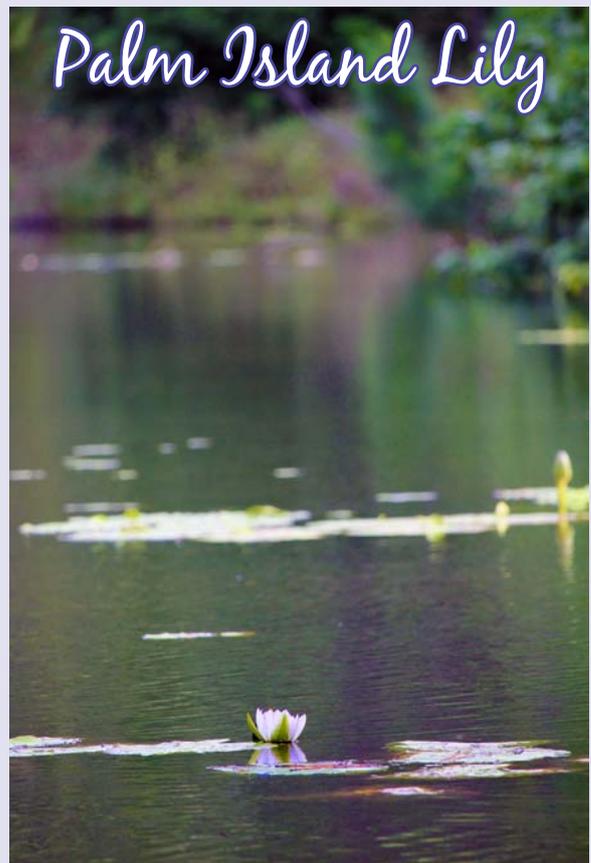
"There has been a lot training at the PCYC Gym on Palm including some youngsters," he said.

There had been discussion about the prospects of some Palm fighters going to Mareeba for a card on July 30 but that had all but been ruled out.

"Kathleen Haines who has been a popular member of the club will be celebrating her 18th birthday with a big party here on Palm and we want to go," Mr Dennis said.

However Mr Dennis said that Palm star Leelan Sibley, who attends boarding school at Ingham, could travel to Mareeba with Townsville Club Art of Strength trainer Scooter Hooper and his boxers.

## Palm Island Lily



Pic by Christine Howes

*Continued from back page...*

Ishmael Soki booted four goals, Windsor Bowie three and Gresham Ross jnr one.

Outback included players from Mitchell, Winton, Roma, Blackall, Barcaldine, Cloncurry, Longreach, Miles, Mt Isa, Condamine, Ilfracombe, Longreach, St George, Tenterfield, Warwick and Brisbane.

Brenton Stonier scored two tries for Outback with one to Cody Steedman.

James Baira booted three goals.

The Thomas Loban coached United was picked after the RARL FNQ Challenge at Cairns in late June.

QRL Northern Division Divisional Manager Scott Nosworthy said it was a great game of rugby league played in very good spirit.

“A result like this is testament to all the hard work by all our communities and the players and volunteers in them,” he said.

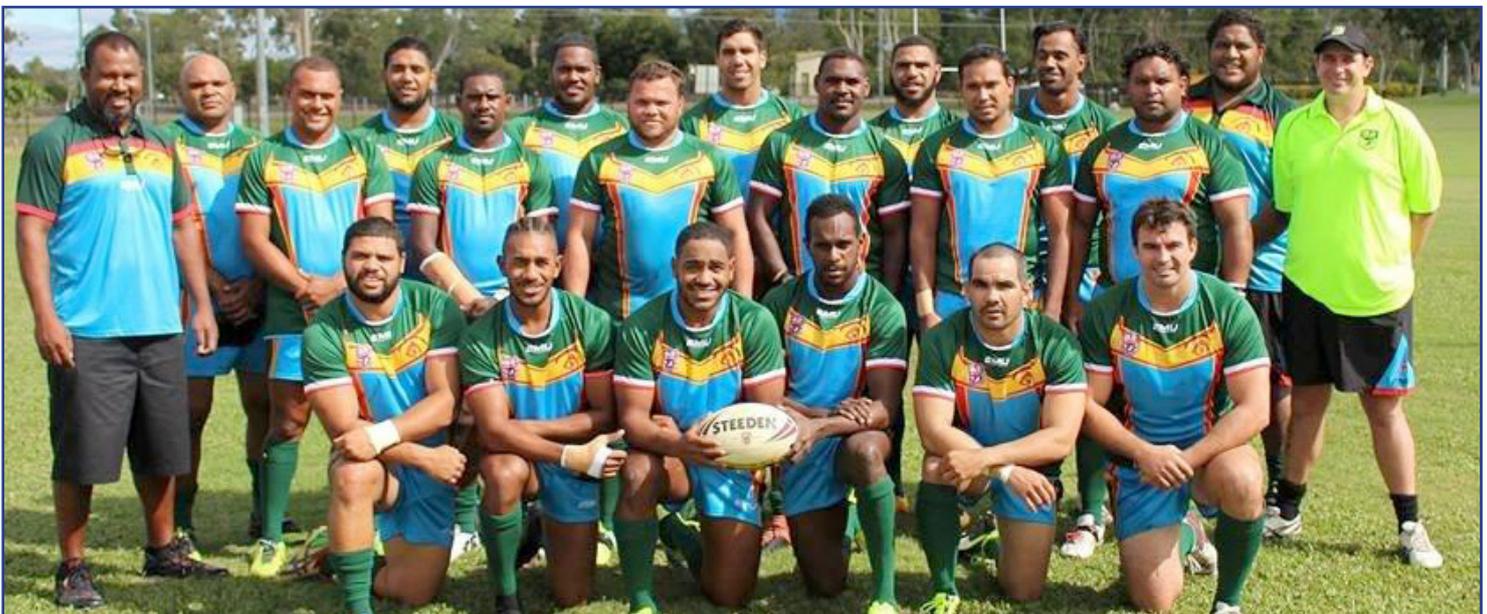
“On behalf of the QRL Northern Division I would like to thank all those people from the Torres Strait Islands through the Cape to Palm Island. Without some of the great volunteers like Terry Abednego, Maleta Nona, Tony Bani, Wayne Laza, Thomas Loban, Tallie Frank, Marsat Newman, Dion Creek, Rex Little, Wayne Butcher and Algon Walsh to name just a few the game would not be in the position



we are in now. I would also like to thank my QRL Staff and the NRL staff for the work they have done and continue do to help the game in these areas.

“Robbie Moore and Dave Maiden before him along with the current and past NRL staff have gone over and above their job description to make sure rugby league is the number one game of choice for the communities of the Cape and Torres, and Palm Island.

“We still have a lot of work to do but we are making some great progress in these areas.”



# Top game, top result for Palm players

Northern United scored a comprehensive 60-18 win over Queensland Outback in a Remote Area Rugby League representative clash in Townsville earlier this month, with considerable help from Palm Islanders Fred Bulsey, Gresham Ross jnr, Darryl Pearson, Jordan Prior, Caleb Geia, William Blackman and Obe Geia jnr.

Northern United scored 12 tries to three and dominated the game.

Palm Island Community Rugby League President Algon Walsh said having seven representative players on the side was outstanding for Palm Island.

“The Northern United team won the match convincingly over the Queensland Outback team,” he said.

“Reports came back to myself that all the Palm Boys performed very admirably, along with the rest of the team.

“On behalf of the PICRL Inc. and the Palm Island community, I would like to congratulate our reps on their efforts and performances. They have done their families and the Palm Community proud – well done.”

In the game, Daniel Mairu scored three tries, Windsor Bowie two, with singles to Gedi Dau, Isiah Wigness, Chastyn Bowen and William Blackman.

*Continued page 15...*

