

Issue 21

Monday 27 October 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

**PIAC  
News  
from the  
Mayor's  
Desk**



**Horse  
policy  
to be  
enforced**



**Coolgaree Hotel - what's next?**



**Works & Facilities  
moving ahead**

**Who was  
at the  
Cairns  
All-Blacks?!**



## It's all systems go for the Palm Island Rodeo!

**Palm Island's first rodeo for many years has been dedicated by Pauline and Shaun Shortjoe to the stockmen who were here on Palm Island many years ago.**



The North Queensland Register, ABC Radio and other media outlets have already reported that the alcohol-free event will be held from Friday 14 to Sunday 16 November.

As President of the Palm Island Indigenous Rodeo Association, Pauline said it was really happening for the first time in 32 years.

"Once the cattle went away from Palm Island so did everything else, all their work and there was no more rodeos," she said.

"We haven't had one for a long time and a lot of people don't know what a rodeo is, so it's for them to know, to develop skills and to bring it back into the community.

"We also want tourists and visitors to come over and see what the real Palm Island is

like, because everyone knows our island for the bad side and not for what it really is.

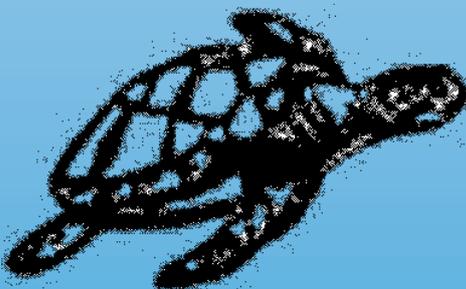
"We all know for ourselves that Palm Island is beautiful place." Rodeo sponsors have already agreed to provide an eatery and mechanical bull for the event, and "Deadly's" winner for most promising new talent in music, Adam James, is expected to come, along with the Gold Coast Titans.

"We were very happy about that because the more black people we have to show what talent there is and that we can all combine as a whole community," she said.

"We've also got people wanting to come from the Gulf to nominate for the rodeo itself, Murrandoo Yanner wants to come, as well as people from Cherbourg, Woorabinda & Townsville." *(continued p2)*

### **STOP PRESS: Wotton sentencing set for 7 November**

In Brisbane on Friday Lex Wotton was found guilty of inciting a riot. Defence lawyers say they will appeal internationally if they have to. Mayor Lacey told ABC Radio on Saturday morning: "I want to say to Lex's family that the community has him in mind and in spirit and in prayers, and certainly at this time everyone is thinking of them."



## Rodeo organisers call for community support

**Pauline and Shaun also say they need help with setting up, fencing and security at the event.** (continued from p1)

If you would like to volunteer please call them on 0439 813 613.

"It's actually going to be a big big carnival, it is very very real," Pauline, pictured right, said.

"We really do need the community's help, it's not for us, it's for the whole of Palm Island."

Tickets will be sold as of next week @ \$40 family (two adults & three children), \$20 Single, \$15 Pensioners & Children, \$10 3-5 years old, for the two-days inclusive.

As well as a range of competition and display events, a Stockman's Breakfast will be held each morning (\$20 per head), show rides will be brought across to the island plus there will be prizes galore for raffles as well as for the best-dressed. Outback Traders will also be here selling a range of clothes.



*Palm Island Voice reporter Tim Miller next to the new welcome sign at the jetty*

## Jetty work near completion

**Everything possible has been done to minimise disruptions caused by the jetty upgrades over the past six months, so everyone who needs to can get on and off every ferry.**

A new jetty and shade shelter, which is lit, also provides a much safer environment for people fishing or getting off the ferry at night.

There will be a terminal built, hopefully within the next month, and that should include a ticketing office.

Mayor Lacey said now the jetty upgrade was completed the next steps were almost ready to go.

"The new shed and secondary upgrade are now happening and we'll have the dredging of the channel shortly so the boats can come in at low-tide or high tide," he said.

"Queensland Transport has told us that November may be the start date for the dredging. "So we may see some disruption with those ferry services again over the next coming months.

"I'd just like to ask community to be patient with that and work with the Council on this because the end result will be boats coming in and out of Palm all the time instead of just at high tide."

## Sewage spill control in the pipeline

**In the farm area there has been an ongoing problem with sewerage pipes breaking and spilling raw sewerage.**

This has been happening because the pipes are old and need replacing.

Council is doing everything it can to ensure the problem is fixed and the faulty pipes are replaced as soon as possible.

Signs are up that people can't swim in the affected areas - please ensure children in particular don't swim in these areas because it will make them sick.

Works & Facilities Manager Bill Weeks said a

new sewerage station was in the pipeline.

"And a new sewer diversion from St Michael's School, which is a contract the Council has to do," he said.

"That means it will all be done by Council employees and they're tendering right now, so that's going to start as soon as possible.

"There's also two new pumping station and 300 metres of rising main from St Michael's.

"And we've also just put in a tender for a complete replacement of the existing rising main which will be another Council project."

## 'Family-friendly' the aim for hotel/bistro licensee hopefuls

**Coolgaree Bay Hotel, formerly the Palm Island Canteen, is set for a family-friendly make over within the next few months - provided the new proprietors are approved for their Liquor License.**

In February this year Premier Anna Bligh announced that all Aboriginal Shire Councils would lose the right to operate licensed venues.

The new rules were drawn up in July this year and will apply from December 1.

PIAC has appointed Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar & Bistro directors Zac Sam and Shane Stratton (pictured) as the new proprietors.

"We saw the tender go out and we decided to apply for it," Mr Stratton said.

"Zac's well-known on the island and for the past 12 years I've been running my own business, I've done a lot of work here on Palm Island and we just decided it would be a good venture.

"I'm the Operations Manager here at the moment, they offered me the position so we could get a bit of a feel for the idea for when we take over."

### Council happy

Mayor Alf Lacey said the Council was happy not to continue with holding the license.

"The thing we're not happy about is Palm becoming completely dry, so there still has to be an outlet or a venue in the town," he said.

"Coolgaree Sports Bar and Bistro have applied and won the right to take on and manage the hotel.

"They will apply for a license in their own right and Council will only enter into a lease or agreement with them over the property and the land where the hotel is situated.

"In terms of the



running of the hotel then all the day to day stuff won't be Council's responsibility any more."

Mr Stratton said the Bistro area would be unlicensed for food service.

"We'll hopefully open for coffee and things in the morning, we'll probably avoid lunches, so we're not stepping on anybody's toes, and then open it up again for meals in the evening," he said.

"And next door's plan is a sports bar, so that's our focus there, all sports which is to try and keep the emphasis away from drinking and on activities.

"Just things to keep people occupied while they're down here."

Mr Sam said their management emphasis would be on a family-friendly atmosphere.

"We'd like to keep it family-friendly plus over the other side we'll make sure that's all controlled by security and staff here because in the end it's about keeping everyone happy," he said.

"Back in the main bar we'll have all the old legends right back to the first Palm Island sides in football, we want to bring some pride when the families walk in and see their brothers there."

He said for the moment Saturday nights would continue as they have been.

"That brings the patrons in plus when you have music you don't have people standing around staring at each other, you know, they're occupied, less drinking and enjoying



# New road works on track for Xmas

**A new road surface along the main street should be completed before Christmas, PIAC Works & Facilities Manager Bill Weeks says.**

A roads project, funded by the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS), has allowed potholing work and general road repairs around the community which will continue until the funds run out.

Mr Weeks, who is responsible for the heavy machinery gang, plumbers and carpenters working for Council, said the project was also attached to a training program.

"The roads project is still going, the boys are doing the potholing, we hope to do the main street and after Christmas

just carry on until the funds run out," he said.

"We've got a couple of million dollars in TIDS money which Road Tek is doing but we've also set up a 20-week training program with the boys learning just general road repairs, weed control, culvert repairs and perhaps also train them a bit in landscape gardening."

He also said if there was room for landscaping, they were hoping to re-vegetate, aerate

and fertilise the football field under the same scheme.

"It's going to be one whole training scheme, so we get one team which, with a bit of luck, can go on into permanent positions as a fly-in type of gang for the Council to look after the culverts and the roads once they've been resurfaced," he said.

"We don't do our own construction work at the moment, we've got a carpenter to do maintenance work but we'll hopefully start a housing program shortly and build a couple of homes."



*Left: Workers & trainees Tony Austin, Frank Nugent, Lloyd Morgan, Gordon Johnson & Robert Burns*

## Flood mitigation almost in hand



**Readers might recall flooding earlier this year causing problems in and around Butler Bay in particular. An application has been put in for the repairs and the Palm Island Voice will keep you updated as we know more.**

## More airport upgrades on the way

PIAC may win the tender for upgrading the airport apron so there will be room for more planes as well as a safe footpath to and from the terminal. This is a big tick for PIAC workers so "keep up the good work!"

Mayor Alf Lacey said there were more upgrades to come.

"There has been the upgrade to the airport, there's been some more work done on fencing, and there's going to be upgrades to the apron and more security," he said.

"There are security cameras there at the airport so you need to be mindful to smile because you are on camera - the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) now requires that all smaller airports have that security there and Palm is no different.

"We ask that you be patient with that and take on board that the security of everyone is very important."

# PIAC to enforce animal control measures — is your pet registered?

**Complaints and a petition from locals has led to enforcement procedures being put into place for Council policy regarding horses and dogs on the Island.**

Within the next month or two Palm Island will see mustering of our local horses to enable Environmental Health Workers and Animal Control Officers to check which horses are branded, registered and stallions castrated.

Palm Island CEO Barry Moyle said Council policy regarding the horses would be acted upon when the holding pens were finished down along the farm road.

Animal Control Officer Shaun Shortjoe said owners need to start thinking about the policy now because when Council by-laws came in they would be enforced.

"They need to start looking at what we're trying to do by getting them branded, registered and castrated," he said.

"That way you save all these foal from getting hurt, like getting ripped up by a dog.

"Me being a horse and cattleman, I'd rather see these horses be saved than being the way they are now, we don't want that and we don't want Palm Island to fall back into being a bad name again."

He said stallions numbers in particular need to be brought down to a more manageable limit.

The new horse holding yards will be complete in the next month or two, owners of horses who wish to register, brand or de-sex their horses now can contact Shaun Shortjoe through the Council Office.



*Animal Control Officer Shaun Shortjoe with Environmental Health Workers Walter Morgan & Brian Conway*

**Dogs in the Mall continue to be a problem despite signs being put up over six months ago.**

Palm Island Aboriginal Council would like to encourage people to buy a chain and collar for their dogs and leave them chained up at home rather than letting them follow them down to the mall.

Owners should note that the Mall is checked four times a day for any stray dogs who are then captured and taken to the pound.

Council workers try their best to locate the owners of any dog found but it is up to the owners to contact Shaun Shortjoe.

If your dog is impounded it costs \$25 to get your dog returned to you, if not paid by the end of the week the council has no choice but to put them down.

All fines are to be paid at the council office where the bank is – take your receipt to Shaun Shortjoe or Raoul Miller who will then drop the dog back to your house.

### Baited Dogs

It has come to Council's notice that two dogs in the Farm area have possibly been baited. This raises very serious concerns that children may pick up the poisoned meat.

The Department of Primary Industries and Palm Island Aboriginal Council are investigating this matter - if you know anything about please contact Walter Morgan in the Council Office.



*Fred, Seldean & Dimitry: "These are the ones that help me with the horses when I haven't go any adults around." Shaun says.*

## From the Mayor's Desk

### Welcome again to the *Palm Island Voice*.

As I promised, I will continue to keep you all informed of the Council's activities as we have been in office for more than six months now and a lot has happened.

State Housing Minister Robert Swarten has visited us and I have some very good news about that because he has given us \$5 million dollars for new housing on the ground.

Council has made a commitment to spend the majority of that money on units and flats so we can start housing some of our young people, particularly those in jobs and living in an overcrowded situation, and hopefully that will happen early in the new year.

Council has also met with Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs Lindy Nelson-Carr, who spoke with the council about Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) reform for Palm Shire.

We made it clear to her that the council, as your elected representatives, do not support prohibition, which would mean a dry community.

However we do support some of the measures in the AMP such as a dry area through out the town. Since the last edition of the *Palm Island Voice* the Council has been re-negotiating our AMP based on a submission we've made to the Minister. To date the Queensland Government hasn't responded but we're hoping by October/early November to hear from the Minister.

In a nutshell PIAC is saying is there needs to be a balance struck and we're supporting a balanced approach in terms of alcohol management in the town.

We have also indicated to Queensland Health that we believe very strongly that a health action agreement needs to be drawn up.

The other important matter we have been working on is a town planning arrangement to comply with the Local Government Act.

This means new ways of doing business at the community level and to this end we have also attended a Local Government Forum in Richmond to meet with other mayors and councils. The other important thing that Council has done



is appoint a Debt Collector to assist in gathering outstanding monies to the council such as rents and funeral loans.

We can't afford to continue to carry a huge amount of rent debts for the Council, we ask community members to come on board with that and make an arrangement.

It's a tough one but we hope everyone will work with Council on this.

It's something that has to be done to make sure that we're working for you, as you've elected us to do the job and we want to do our best to make sure we fix up the financial affairs of the Council.

As you may recall, the previous council signed an MOU with Manbarra people in terms of land use management for Palm Island.

We're looking forward to continuing work on that and we wanted to include the Bwngcolman people as a part of that.

The other thing is that there's been some issue around education on Palm, I've made some public comments.

The Regional Director for the Department of Education for this area has met with us as a community down at Bwngcolman Community School about education matters here and I'll report on the results of that in the next issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

Some new government building initiatives are also going ahead in the community, the second stage of the Queensland Government building has started already and hopefully it will be completed early in the new year.

Council has also been talking with Indigenous Business Australia about a new shopping and retail precinct here in Palm.

We'll keep community members posted and there will be public displays about that as the project gets closer.

We've also passed a Council budget just recently

# Portfolios & Councillors

### Administration & Finance:

Mayor Alfred Lacey

### Alcohol Management:

Mayor Alfred Lacey

### Commerce & Economic Development:

Councillor Zina Prior

Councillor Ruth Gorringe

### Community Justice:

Councillor Mick Thaiday

### Cultural Heritage Events & Planning:

Councillor Mick Thaiday

### Education:

Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley

Councillor Ruth Gorringe

### Emergency Services:

Councillor Mick Thaiday

### Employment & Training:

Councillor Ruth Gorringe



### Government Coordination & Community Engagement:

Mayor Alfred Lacey

### Health:

Mayor Alfred Lacey

Councillor Ruth Gorringe

### Housing:

Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley

Councillor Zina Prior

### Land, Sea & Environment:

Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley

Councillor Zina Prior

### Planning & Infrastructure:

Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley

Councillor Mick Thaiday

### Sports & Recreation:

Councillor Zina Prior

### Youth Affairs:

Mayor Alfred Lacey

and forwarded that to the Treasurer, as required by the Local Government Act.

Lastly, the important thing is that we're also looking at pushing more for basic infrastructure on Palm. These are just some of the things I've been arguing for and I will certainly keep focussed on them while also keeping an open mind as to how we should move forward.

Your feedback to the Council is very important, I think we need to know whether you like or don't like what we're doing.

Come into the Council office or talk to us when you see us, whether it's a small issue or a big issue, just tell us.

Council meetings are on the last Thursday of every month.

The Thursday two weeks before Council Meetings every month is for community delegations, and that's for any member of the community to come in and have a face to face discussion with the Council.

The Tuesday in the same week is a delegation day for government and government agencies who need to talk to Council about different projects and proposals.

Councillors are continuing to find their feet, some members are brand new but with some of the experience around the table hopefully we'll see some good stuff happening while we are in office for this term.

**Yours in community spirit  
MAYOR ALF LACEY**

# Palm Island Voice

## Community Notices & Positions Vacant



### Housing Supervisor

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is calling for applications for the position of Housing Supervisor.

Generally the position entails:

- To provide the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council with up to date reporting processes
- To act as the first point of contact with the Housing Tenants of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
- Ensuring that all Palm Island Tenants have a safe dwelling

Drivers License is essential

Applications & Position description are available at the Council office.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Murielle Morgan Administration Officer on 07 47701177

Closing Date 30th October 2008

### Palm Island Play Group

Families with children aged 0-5 years are invited to come along to the Palm Island Play Group.

DAY: Wednesdays  
TIME: 10.30am-12.30pm  
WHERE: PCYC child care room

Contact the PCYC on 4770 1793 for more information.

Supported by the Palm Island Family Support Hub.

**AA Meetings @ Ferdy's** are held day and night to help support people with drug or alcohol problems. Meeting times are 9am and 7pm. Call day staff at the centre on 4770 1152 in the morning to be picked up for the 7pm meeting.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS to the **Palm Island Voice** are welcome.

Contributions may include news, yarns, pics, letters-to-the-editor, poetry, community notices or advertisements.

Contact Tim Miller or Barry Moyle at the Council offices:

Ph 4770 1177 or Fax 4770 1305.

If you have email you can write to us at editor@piac.com.au

Advertising rates available on request.

## Palm Island street signs

**In theory no-one should be able to get lost on Palm Island within the next month or so after new street signs – complete with names and the new Council logo – have been put in place.**

Mayor Alf Lacey said the names themselves were agreed upon by Council at the September meeting.

"All the new street signs will go up so no one will get lost here on Palm, there'll be a street sign on every street to let people know," he said.

"Thanks to the Council members for pushing that through and making it happen.

"We've also done new welcome signs at the jetty and at the airport and the response from community people and visitors has been very good."

## Coolgaree Bay Constructions update

Coolgaree Bay Constructions Pty Ltd director Valentine Nona returned to Palm Island last week and has been negotiating a lease with the Palm Island Council.

He is also organising a survey and scope of works for the refurbishment of existing workshops at the Farm.

The workshops will be used to set up a new Palm Island construction and maintenance business.

More information will be published in the *Palm Island Voice* as it becomes available. In the meantime, Valentine is interested in your opinion about the kind of construction

industry training and employment opportunities you, the community, would like to see here on the island.

He will talk to locally-based organisations and Council about ways his company can help.

Coolgaree Bay Constructions Pty Ltd also has funding to do a study from the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations.

The study, which will be carried out by Beyond Consulting, will report on the training and employment positions likely to be created by Coolgaree Bay Constructions projects from 2009.

Some part-time research assistant work will be available for three community members, if you are interested please send your resume to beyondconsulting@bigpond.com by Friday 7th November 2008 or call Suzanne on 0404 187 343.

They will be getting a 1300 number connected soon to make it easier for people to contact them.

If you would like to find out more about Coolgaree Bay Constructions or the study please call Valentine on 0413 123 748.

He will be on the island until Thursday this week.

## Out & About



PIAC CEO Barry Moyle with plumber Gerald Wotton and his assistant Ossie Barry



Councillors & Contractors: Eddie Martin, Cr Raymond Sibley, Laurie Lindner (Lindner Constructions), Cr Zina Prior & Cr Alf Lacey

**LEARNER'S PERMITS:** Courses to assist students who are sitting for their Learners permit are held monthly on Palm. This course has an extremely high success rate.

If you want to do the course you need to enrol at TAFE. You will need your birth certificate and other ID. Contact TAFE for details. **NEXT COURSES:** 3-5 November + 1-3 December

# Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey asks the question: Are we 'footballed' out yet?!

I'd like to congratulate the Sports Club for the good work that has been done with football over the year as well as the teams who are behind the good season we have had, along with the community for being there so strongly to support that.

Thanks to the committees of these clubs – the Raiders, Jets, Butler Bay Bulls and Brothers – and keep up the good work, you all have our support when it comes to community sporting events and as a Council we are proud to support these alcohol and drug-free community events.

This year we've had visits from Greg Inglis and Willy Chambers from the Melbourne Storm and Matt Bowen from the Cowboys.

Their visit to both the schools was uplifting for our kids as they spoke about attending school and getting a good education.

It's important for us as parents to make sure our kids are attending school daily and supporting your local schools because good education is important for us all for the future of Palm.

A number of teams have also played in various carnivals over the past month or so, the Butler Bay Bulls at Bindal, the Barracudas in Townsville and Cairns, and the ladies' and the men' sides who played in the Vern Daisy Cup.

Palm always plays a big role in those carnivals on the mainland, we take the crowds with us wherever we go, and I'd like to say keep up the good work to the organisers, coaches and everyone in the background.

Hopefully we can only get better and stronger for the 2009 season to come.

And hopefully over the next year or two we can start to talk about Palm Island organising our own mini-All-Blacks carnival to be held here and I think we can achieve that if we work together.

Yours in football,

*Alf Lacey*



**Peter Bonner – grandson of Neville Bonner – was going to have his first professional fight over last weekend in Townsville.**

We were all ready to fight and then someone rang up and said there was a bomb planted in there to detonate at 9pm, so it was called off.

They're going to try and re-schedule but he has another pro-fight lined up in Maroochydore in three weeks time, on or about the 7th or 8th of November.

We'll keep you all posted on that through the *Palm Island Voice*.

Ten Palm Island boxers took part in the recent Queensland Boxing League State Titles held in Cairns and won five gold medals, four silver and one bronze.

Selwyn Seaton also won the trophy and shield for the Best Junior Boxer at the State Titles.

Selwyn has trained with me since 2005, and has won the Australian Junior Title twice and been judged best junior boxer for the third time.

Luke Lenoy, now 16, won a gold medal in Cairns and has trained and boxed for Palm Island since he was ten years old. Luke has won the Australian Junior Title three times and has also been the best junior twice.

Reggie Palm Island won his gold for defeating last year's Australian champion at only his fifth fight – this was a mighty effort.

Reggie will be one of the very best in the future.

Dennis Haines only started boxing last year and he also won a gold medal by defeating a three-time Australian Champion.

Now that Dennis has confidence in himself it will take a very good boxer to beat him now.

Anthony Browne also won a gold medal after only three months of training.

Anthony has had five wins out of five bouts now.

Peter Bonner won a silver medal after winning his first round by knockout.

He would have most certainly won the



final if he could have used both hands – he had a badly injured finger on his left hand.

Big Nat Seaton received a silver medal when he was defeated in the under-19 Super Heavyweight - one more week of training and he would have won.

Patrick Clarke was defeated in his final and received a silver medal.

He will still be very hard to beat in the Australian Titles and I feel sure he will be one of our best boxers next year.

Allan Walsh won silver and Albert Gorringer bronze medal after being beaten in their respective bouts.

Gold and silver medal winners are eligible to box in the Australian titles to be held in Townsville at the Showgrounds on Thursday 27– Saturday 29 November.

There will be boxers travelling to Townsville for the titles from Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Palm Island boxers expected to represent Queensland are:

- Nat Seaton – Super Heavyweight Under-19**
- Luke Lenoy – Junior 67kg Under-17**
- Selwyn Seaton – Junior 63.5kg Under-17**
- Patrick Clarke – Junior 57kg Under-17**
- Reggie Palm Island – Junior 51kg Under-17**
- Dennis Haines – Schoolboy 48kg Under-15**
- Allan Walsh – Schoolboy 38kg Under-15**
- Anthony Bourne – Schoolboy 35kg Under-15**

There is also one female boxer to be selected from Palm Island to fight a 57kg contestant from Tasmania.

I'd also like to thank Jobfind who have bought us another set of singlets for the Palm Island boxing team, I'll be picking them up very soon.

**Ray Dennis**

# Who was at the Cairns All-Blacks?!

The Palm Island Barracudas put up a good show at the Cairns All-Blacks Carnival last weekend. Unfortunately Hopevale's Dhaarra Bulls beat them to go into the grand final (and lose) against Cairns United, but Palm Island supporters were there in force to cheer their teams on.



*Pics on this page were taken by Christine Howes & appear courtesy the Koori Mail*



## PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE **Palm Island Voice**

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