

Palm Island Voice

Issue 223
Thursday 9 March 2017
FREE



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

New-look mall open for business!



*SEE THE FULL STORY & PICS IN
OUR NEXT ISSUE!*

Redistribution disconnect fails criteria

PALM Island Mayor Alf Lacey is not happy about an electoral redistribution which will move the community from the State seat of Townsville to Hinchinbrook.

Labor Party MP Scott Stewart – a regular visitor to the Island – holds the seat of Townsville, where he is based, but under the changes Palm Island residents would vote in the Hinchinbrook seat for which Andrew Cripps is the member.

Hinchinbrook is based around the town of Ingham and surrounding Cassowary Coast.

Cr Lacey said most Palm Island voters would prefer to stay in Townsville electorate.

“Palm Islanders put money into the Townsville economy and many regularly visit there to shop and see family and friends,” he said.

“I am surprised by the decision as our social ties are with Townsville.”

A return ferry service between Townsville and Palm



Island runs five days a week whilst Hinterland Aviation has numerous weekday flights.

Hinchinbrook MP Andrew Cripps, who is also the Shadow Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Northern Development, said his initial reaction to proposed changes by the Redistribution Commission was that some of them were impractical, including the “strange” proposal to move Palm Island from Townsville into Hinchinbrook.

“I fully intend to continue to represent the local communities in the Hinchinbrook

electorate,” he said.

“Curiously, the Commission seems to have totally ignored the well-established historical, transport and service links

between the Palm Island community and the City of Townsville, something that is well understood in North Queensland.

“Communities of interest are supposed to be a key criteria in this process, so I will be examining the proposed changes and along with my parliamentary colleagues and the LNP, giving consideration to a submission to the Redistribution Commission.”

Cr Lacey said Council would make a submission to the Electoral Commission requesting Palm Island stay in the seat of Townsville.



Pictured left is NaQarne Oui, sporting a Palm Island singlet (bought from the PICC op shop), at Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River at the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe in Africa. NaQarne travelled with his family's New Life Covenant Church group for holidays and to attend the 60th birthday of the founder of the church. Mersane Oui and Harriet Hulthen was also part of the group. While they were there they said they did some amazing things such as elephant riding, walking with the lions, and so much more.

'57 Strike to mark 60 years this June

This year will mark the 60th anniversary of Palm Island strike which led to seven of our families being forcibly removed to the mainland.

The Congoo, Geia, Lymburner, Sibley, Tapau, Thaiday and Watson families, as a collective, are organising a three day event on Palm Island on 13th, 14th and 15th June 2017.

Leading up to this, a Q&A Panel will be held on Townsville on Friday 9th June in the Perfume Gardens.

Palm Island was known as 'Punishment Island' for its harsh administration and strict jail like conditions.

The strike of 1957 was a significant event because the Islanders on Palm had had enough of discriminatory treatment after a petition to the superintendent demanding improved wages, health, housing and working conditions, was ignored.

Five days into the strike dawn raids occurred on the homes of the seven strike leaders.

As punishment, the men and their families were banished from the island.

This was the second time they had been



Above: Irene Watson's grandson Scott Maloney, 6, at last year's 57 Strike Celebrations and below were last year's speakers.

forcibly removed from their homes!

Many Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people were on Palm Island settlement because they were taken from their own community situated throughout Queensland to stay there as punishment for 'crimes' that they had committed in their own community.

To acknowledge the 60th anniversary, activities are currently being planned for the three day event on Palm Island later this year.

Apart from the Q&A Panel organised by the Geia Family; the Congoo family are organising the Tombstone Unveiling of the late Bill Congoo and Rose Congoo (nee Kyle); Thaiday and Isaro Families are organising a Book Launch and a theatre production to highlight the strike of '57.



Graduate starts at Joyce Palmer Health Service

Enthusiastic nurse graduate Kate Lennards will be welcomed by staff at the Joyce Palmer Health Service as she starts her career in rural nursing.

Working with a close community on Palm Island is something that attracted Ms Lennard.

“It is really important to provide holistic care in rural communities and Palm Island is no exception,” she said.

“I’ve done rural placements before which were exceptional and wondrous in that I was able explore healthcare in these communities; each place was so different.

“I got to think on my feet and had a lot of autonomy.”

Ms Lennards said she thought she would get a diverse experience at the Joyce Palmer Health Service.

“One of the areas at the



Pictured above: Joyce Palmer Health Service senior health worker Amanda Bruynesteyn, nurse graduate Kate Lennards and Townsville Hospital and Health Service Indigenous health service group director Liza Tomlinson

Joyce Palmer Health Service I’ll be working in is the emergency department which will teach me about triaging patients,” she said.

“Everyone I have spoken with has said I would enjoy Palm Island and learn a lot.”

Indigenous Health Service Group director Liza Tomlinson said embarking on a career in

nursing was an exciting time.

“Nursing is an excellence career choice and in rural communities like Palm Island you can make a real difference to your patients,” she said. “It is great that graduates such as Kate are so eager to begin their careers and work in places as beautiful and unique as Palm Island.”





Are you interested in running your own business?

Last month representatives from a range of Commonwealth and State government agencies conducted a workshop on Palm Island to provide information for businesses and councils on government grants and programs.

They were also there to assist councils and not-for-profits to prepare strong applications for the new Building Better Regions Fund. The workshop was facilitated by Regional Development Australia (RDA) and included representatives from Prime Minister and Cabinet, AusIndustry, Queensland Government's

Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, and Townsville Business Development Centre.

Participants were very interested in support available for individuals or families to start up a new business or grow an existing business.

Ongoing support services are currently being explored so if

you are interested in accessing these services to help you start own business register your interest by contacting Allison Rossetto in the council office by phoning 4770 0200 or by email Allison.rossetto@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au.

Allison will then keep you updated of the services as they become available.



Pics thanks to Leah Dabea

Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!

The DEADLINE for the
NEXT
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(223) is

Thursday 16
MARCH
FOR PUBLICATION
Thursday 23
March

Don't forget to check out our
Facebook page!

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Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm
on deadline day (see above) and all material
submitted no later than COB the next day.
Print approval required by Monday COB.

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inquire about subscriptions please contact
the Editor, Christine Howes, on
0419 656 277 or chowes@westnet.com.au

Invitation to Tender (Tender Number PSA2017) Preferred Supplier Arrangement

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council invites suitable suppliers to tender for the following service types.

The period of the tender will be 1 May 2017 to 30 June 2019. Council reserves the right to extend the tender period up to a maximum of two years.

Service Types:

- Professional services
- Building, electrical and plumbing works and maintenance
- Road, water and wastewater constructions and maintenance
- Vehicle and equipment hire
- Freight, air services, office equipment, office supplies, motel supplies, aged care supplies including food and drink, workshop supplies, fuels and oils
- Building, construction and operating supplies
- Other goods and services

Documentation:

Tender documents can be organised by emailing nat@natkentconsulting.com.au. Council's customer service reception staff can also organise the appropriate documents be made available for collection.

Lodgement of Tenders: Tenders must be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, 1 Main Street, Palm Island. QLD 4816.

Tenders should be clearly marked as "Confidential: Tender PSA2017".

Closing Date: 24 March 2017 at 5.00pm.

Under Section 228(7) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 relating to changes to tenders may be applied.



**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 1,364
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

Boxers to take on Maggie Island comp

A team of Palm Island boxers will fight at a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament on Magnetic Island this Saturday.

Heavy rain on Palm Island interrupted training sessions at the PCYC gym so veteran trainer Ray Dennis is not sure how many fighters will travel.

Mr Dennis said whilst the club members trained indoors, the downpours had prevented many of the boxers from getting to the venue.

However Mr Dennis said that in recent sessions which had been held Patrick Clarke, Raymond Haines and Darryl Richardson had looked sharp.

Mr Dennis said talented female boxer Shirley Curley

was also keen to have a bout.

“I still have to get the boxers’ medical books from officials before the lads can enter the ring on Magnetic Island,” he said.

A big crowd is expected to be at the Arcadia Hotel for the bouts being run by Townsville’s Art Of Strength Club whose mentor is Scooter Hooper, a big supporter of Palm boxers.

It is sure to attract boxers from around North Queensland including Mareeba, Babinda, the Burdekin, Charters Towers and Ingham.

MEANWHILE Mr Dennis is seeking somebody with boxing experience to take over training of the team on Palm when he is away.

Mr Dennis said he had a sick brother down south and also needed surgery at Townsville Hospital in the near future.

“There are many on Palm who have been boxers and any help we can get will be greatly appreciated,” he said. “I may not even be able to go to Magnetic Island depending on circumstances.”

The club is, as always, still seeking sponsors for the tournament.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Please see diagram below showing the area that will be closed off to the Public for the next 4 months

FOR THE STAGE 1 WORKS OF THE NEW HEALTH PRECINCT



**PALM ISLAND
ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL**
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ross.norman@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au
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Working hard to improve Palm Island

Council has successfully raised funds for two projects which will improve the safety and livability of our island, making it a great place live as well as to visit.



- Coolgaree Bay Foreshore Redevelopment -

This project involves beautification of the foreshore between the pontoon and the bistro to provide community amenity, support tourism growth and create and support jobs.

The project includes upgrades to the footpath, lighting, landscaping, irrigation and vegetation.

Cultural and heritage design elements are also incorporated into the area including a permanent Kup Murri pit that can be used by families and for events and a cultural monument using ceremonial posts to celebrate the island's unique history, culture, family, languages and totems.

- Community Connectivity -

This project includes construction of a footpath and lighting from the helipad to Manbarra Road. Benefits include improved safety, improved access and mobility and improved health.

Economic benefits include jobs during construction and flow on effects from improvements in the safety and liveability of the island.

Funding for both projects was made available under the Queensland Government's 'Works for Queensland' Program through the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

Both projects will start soon and are expected to be completed by November.



Charmaine is selling fishing, tackle, camping and outdoor sports gear now from the Melissa's shop!