



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



Strong, young and local workers win on community upgrades

Fifteen youths aged between 17 and 22 have started as Junior Construction Workers for the Council and are set to work on projects including the forthcoming Coolgaree Bay foreshore project and more.

“This is a great opportunity for us and we are all looking forward to working on projects which will benefit the community,” Fred Bulsey jnr said.

The new employees have been encouraged by Council employees Raoul Miller, Fred Bulsey snr, Bobby Ryan and Clinton Pearson.

They will be working on the \$1.7 million Coolgaree

Bay Community Connectivity Project that will develop the foreshore and construct a footpath from Jetty Road to Manbarra Road.

The jobs were created and funded by the Queensland Government under the ‘Works for Queensland Program’.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning Jackie Trad said the work

was made possible with a contribution as part of the Advancing Our Cities and Regions strategy (AOCR).

“This work is a partnership between the council and the Queensland Government and is a prime example of the great outcomes that can be achieved in our regional communities with Works for Queensland,” Ms Trad said.



TOP: Joesph Walton, Frederick Bulsey jnr, Isaac Geia, Arona Miller jnr, Allan Walsh jnr, Derek Creed Haines, Koipe Castors, Mislam Sam jnr, Calvin Sam, Cassian Tanner, Mervyn Morgan, Stein Walsh, Alfred Lacey jnr, Shanden Burns, Ishmael Foster with Jackie Trad; and also with Council Workers Bobby Ryan and Clinton Pearson (left) and Council Animal Control Officers Fred Bulsey snr and Raoul Miller along with rugby league legend Vern Daisy (next page).



Indigenous Mayors from 17 Aboriginal communities across Queensland attended a forum with the Queensland State Government Cabinet in Cairns last week. On the agenda were topics important to all communities including: health, education, employment and economic development. Pictured at the Convention Centre after the Mayor's Meeting was Mayor Alf Lacey with Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and Cr Lacey with Local Government & Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Mark Furner, Douglas Shire Council CEO Linda Cardew, Traditional Owner Jeanette Singleton, Cape York's Tania Major, Vincent Jaaban Schreiber & Empowered Communities Executive Officer Renee Williams.



Strong, young and local workers win on community upgrades

“It’s great news that 15 young people will be starting their new jobs because of this program,” Deputy Premier Jackie Trad said.

“I look forward to working with the Council as we continue to implement the Palm Island Liveability strategy which is improving water security, energy efficiency and resilience to natural disasters.”

Mayor Alf Lacey welcomed the Government’s support for the liveability projects.

“This partnership between the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and the State Government has brought opportunities for residents to be involved,” Mr Lacey said.

“The project has created safe and comfortable spaces for the whole community to enjoy, as



well as providing local employment and training opportunities for local people.”

Palm Island received \$2.6 million through the Works for Queensland Program.

The government is also assisting the Council to refurbish its netball courts and clubhouse with a grant of \$440,000 under the State Government’s ‘Get Playing Plus’ infrastructure program.

Men's Healing Group keen to take on more starters

Men's Healing Group organiser Walter Morgan has invited all Palm Island men to attend a Healing Camp he hopes will be held soon.

The Healing Group is against domestic violence and educates men about diabetes and other issues affecting them.

Mr Morgan said the Group has been operating on Palm for 10 years.

"Some of the elders are leading the way in the push to pro-mote and install culture in our community," he said.

"We have already started with hunting gathering bush food and the bush walking for spear sticks, opening old pads



up and Kup-Murri.

"We still need more people who share a common interest in hunting to promote what we are trying to install, such as eating bush tucker, which is

what our people should be eating."

Mr Morgan said he wanted to encourage more men to come and join their Tuesday night meetings at the Palm Diversionary Centre.

Youth Parliament rep

Mount St Bernard's student Joyce Boyd-Tapp is one of only four Indigenous students across Queensland to be selected for the 2017 YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament.

Joyce will be travelling down in April to sit on the Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Committee and talk about making the community a better place for the younger generations.

"I only did this as a joke to see if i would get it," she said. "Then a couple of days later I got the emailing telling me I was in. I sure felt proud of myself, I'll be doing this for my community and making everyone proud."

Well done Joyce!



Gail Barry has graduated from JCU with her Masters in Business after 20 years of part-time studies and being the sole-parent to nine...she's also turning 60 this year! A fantastic effort, well done, and thanks for the pic Maryam Clay!



New-look mall open for business

Queensland Deputy Premier Jackie Trad was a special guest at the opening of the newly refurbished mall area earlier this month.

The ceremony started at noon when guests were welcomed to country by respected elder Allan Palm Island.

A smoking ceremony organised by Archie Fraser and a blessing from Peena Geia helped to ensure the new-look area was off to a great start.

Students from Bwgcolman State and St Michael's Catholic Schools were there as were hundreds of locals.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the new town square was a big asset for the community.

“People sit around here and talk to each other,” he said.

“We are happy that Deputy Premier Jackie Trad came here today.”

Ms Trad also met the 15 young men, aged between 18 and 21, who gained employment under the Government's \$200 million Working for Queensland program.

The scheme provided \$26 million to the Council for work that includes redevelopment of the Coolgaree Bay Foreshore.

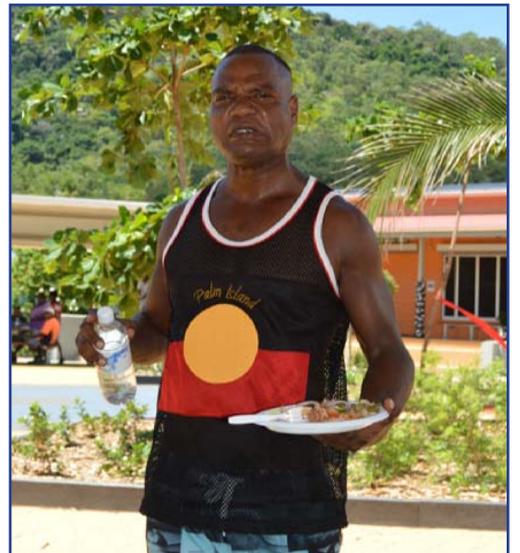
Some of those youths will gain licences in the near future to drive light trucks.

After the ribbon cutting the mall was officially open and then there was a big feast.





Pics by Alf Wilson



Being ‘bold for change’ on International Women’s Day

“Be Bold for Change” was this year’s International Women’s Day theme which held a good deal of resonance for the many who celebrated over three days of activities.

Events on the actual day opened with a morning tea at the PCYC, thanks to the Council, and a march to the town square where Cr Deniece Geia, Mrs Jennifer Ketchell and Mrs Mari-na Coutts spoke to a big crowd.

A lunch, courtesy of the Office of Prime Minister & Cabinet, was held at the Bistro and then it was back to the PCYC for an afternoon of cake and pampering.

“Ladies of all ages were entertained with love, fun and lots of laughter,” Community Justice Group coordinator Cr De-niece Geia said.

“The young people through the Campbell Page Program, did an amazing job with decorating the venue at the Bistro thanks to their

supervisor Janet Doolan for all the hard work.

“Joyce Palmer Health Service Nurse Polly and Health Worker Yana offered us tantalizing foot spas.

“There were several pampering activities such as manicures by Julie and Andrea, sponsored by the ATSI Women’s Legal Service, along with scrumptious treats provided by SOLAS, the Catholic Church Sisters Robyn and Judy, Ferdy’s Haven and the Townsville DV Network.”

Cr Geia said the three days of celebrations were very positive.

“It was a great atmosphere for women to just meet, yarn and have a good time,” she said.

“Palm Island worked

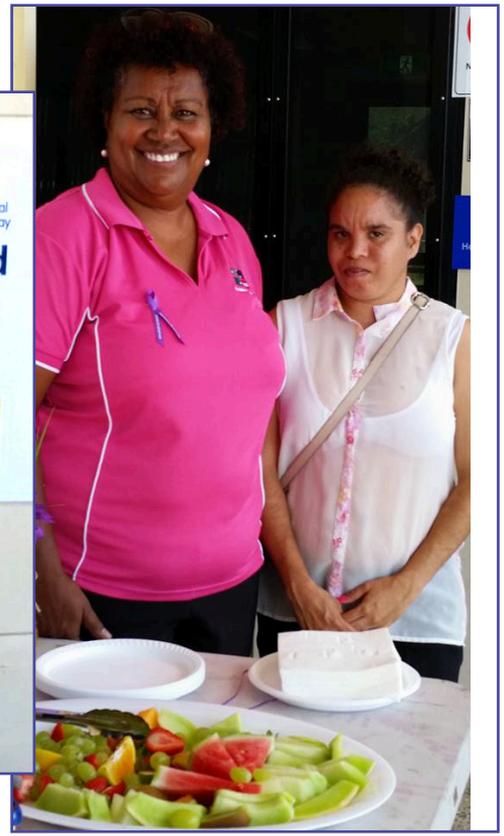
hard towards making this IWD an eventful moment.

“The DV Network Group are looking forward to 2018 for bigger and better things.”





Pic thanks to indigenous.gov.au



Pics on these pages thanks to Leah Dabea & Cr Deniece Geia

Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!
The DEADLINE for the
NEXT
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(224) is

Thursday
30 MARCH
FOR PUBLICATION

Thursday
6 April

Don't forget to check out our
Facebook page!

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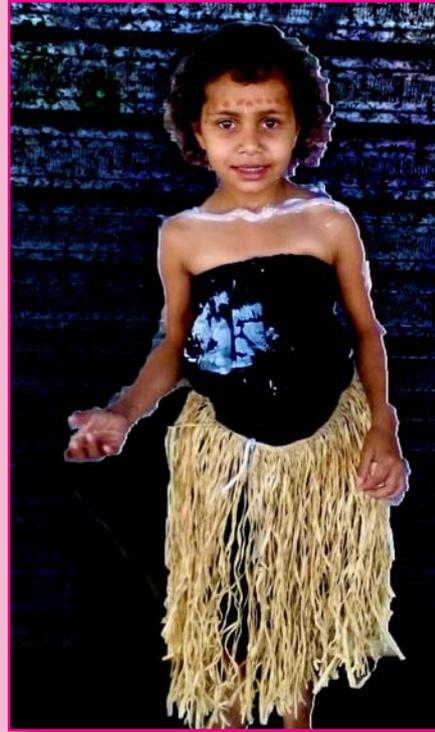
Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST

Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

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the Editor, Christine Howes, on
0419 656 277 or chowes@westnet.com.au

HAPPY 8TH BIRTHDAY!!!



To SAJIDA COOLWELL, hope you enjoyed your
special day, best wishes love Mum, Dad and family



**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 1,419
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

Youngster Jase Thimble was the star of a team of five Palm Island PCYC boxers who travelled to Magnetic Island on earlier this month for a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament.

Unfortunately the other four – Raymond Haines, Lamar Sibley, Chris Pearson and Lamar Sibley – lost narrowly, mostly against older and or heavier opponents.

Trainer Ray Dennis said Raymond Haines fought valiantly in the 54kg division.

“Raymond is only 15 and lost both bouts by split points decision,” he said.

“One of those bouts was against an 18-year-old and the other against as Australian champion, so he did very well.”

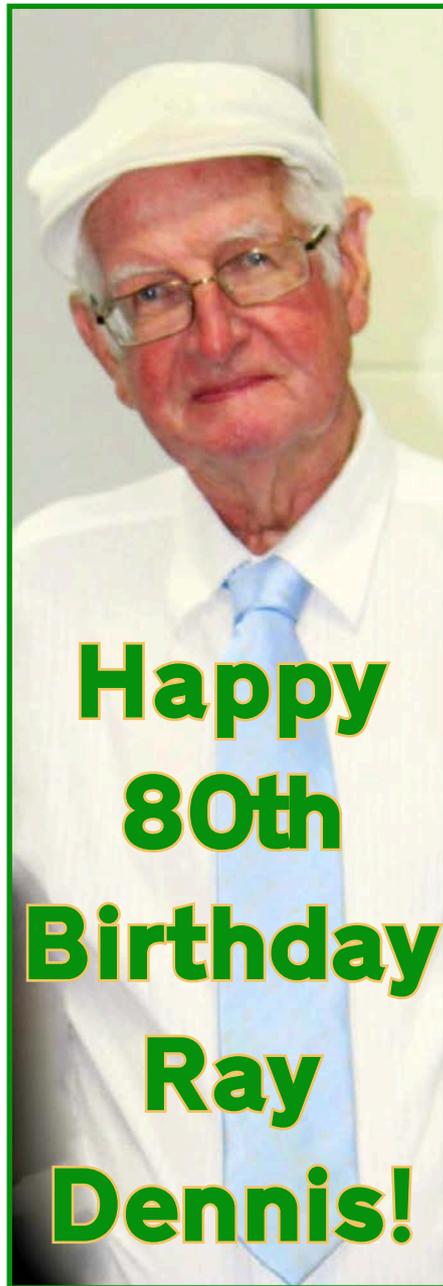
Lamar Sibley and Chris Pearson also lost on points in the 32kg class and Brayden Nallajar was beaten on points by an older boxer in the 45kg division.

“To get bouts they had to be matched

against bigger and older opponents,” Mr Dennis said.

Tuairi Ross-Pryor from Palm Island was not matched to fight.

Mr Dennis said there was a tournament in Rockhampton this weekend but he was not certain if or how many Palm boxers would make the long 715km trip to the Central Queensland capital.



**Happy
80th
Birthday
Ray
Dennis!**



INVITATION TO A SPECIAL EVENT
2017 DEBUTANTE BALL



PLACE: PCYC PALM ISLAND
DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2017
TIME: 7:00PM – 12:00AM

AGE: 16 – 21 YEARS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AT THE POST OFFICE OR CONTACT MELISSA ON 0409342511



Foley Shield back for 2017

For the first time in four years the iconic Foley Shield will once again be up for grabs in 2017 after a decision made by the QRL Northern Division.

Many talented Palm Island footballers lined up in the Foley Shield competition, which started nearly 70 years ago in 1948 and was named after Arch Foley.

Some of the quality Palm Island footballers have competed in the Foley Shield include Hector Poynter, Jim Baira, John Baira, Raymond Georgetown, Josh Geia, Raymond Blackman, Vern & Frank Daisy and Ron Geia (Snr), to name but a few.

In 2012 season the competition was reduced to just three teams - Townsville, Mackay and Cairns.

It was announced in Townsville on February 20 that clashes between Intrust Super Cup teams - the Cairns based Northern Pride, Townsville Blackhawks and Mackay Cutters and their under 18 and under 20 sides - will count towards the overall winner of the 2017 Foley Shield.

At the launch were legendary Foley Shield players including Palm Islander Vern Daisy and Marshall Colwell, both of whom were amongst the former champion players to line up in many Foley Shield matches.

In the 2018 season the QRL Northern Division hopes to again have teams consisting of representative sides from A grade competitions around North Queensland contesting the Foley Shield.



MEANWHILE *Palm Island Voice* correspondent Alf Wilson was thrilled to have a chance yarn with Vern “the legend” Daisy who now lives in the community.

Vern was amongst the best rugby league players ever to lace up a boot in North Queensland and his performances for the all-conquering Mount Isa team in the Foley Shield comp is often talked about.

The now 69-year-old champion footballer also coached the Barra-cudas when they competed

in the Townsville comp.

He is held in high esteem on the Island and spoke to us about efforts by the late and great Sydney coach Jack Gibson to lure him to the NSW capital to play for Parramatta.

Vern also was chased by the Balmain Tigers and remains a genuine role model on Palm and around North Queensland.

Some of our best to line up for Uni in Townsville



Raoul Miller, Joiji Dabea, Darryl Pearson, Fred Bulsey jnr, Fred Bulsey snr & Clinton Pearson

SOME of our best Palm Island footballers will line up for University Club in the Townsville and District Rugby League competition, due to start this coming weekend.

Several of the lads were enthusiastic about lining up in the competition, including blockbusting front rower Joiji Dabea, “Fabulous” Fred Bulsey snr, his son Fred Bulsey jnr, Clinton “Dancing Feet” Pearson and classy back Darryl Pearson.

They were also trying to convince Raoul “Tough as Nails” Miller to join them. “No I won’t be playing for

Uni but I look forward to lining up for Skipjacks against Australian Army Thunder for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield at 1300Smiles Stadium in April,” Raoul said.

Fred Bulsey snr had once again announced his retirement after last season but has made more comebacks than Dame Nellie Melba, proving you can’t keep a good man away from the football.

The Barracudas was to play

a trial match against Uni in preparation for the Townsville season but the game was cancelled due to the weather.

Palm Island Voice will be keeping a close eye on the TDRL, and if and when a Palm Island domestic comp commences.

TDRL spokeswoman Kerri Ritchie said she was delighted that Palm Island juniors would be playing in Townsville during the 2017 season.

Out and About



Left: Dulcie Isaro and Above: Marlene Parkinson and Bevan Ketchup

WOW!

LOSING 70kg of body weight is no easy task but that is exactly what long-time Palm Island Retail Store worker Ili Dabea has done.

The 54-year-old Mr Dabea weighed in at 185kg just 18 months ago but with some extreme willpower he has shed 70kg.

His efforts have been noticed by many Palm Island residents who want to also shed some weight.

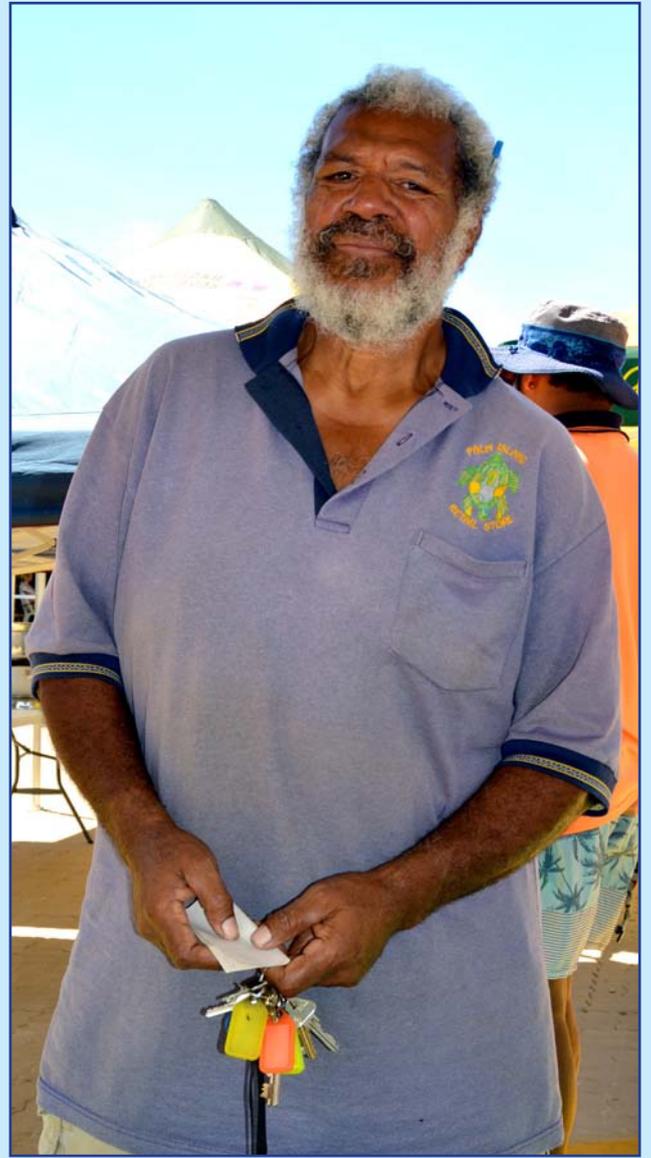
He said the secret of high achievement was simple.

“I gave up lots of fatty food and started walking a lot,” he said. “I eat many more vegetables, and not much meat and I don’t drink soft drink, just water.”

The weight loss has been beneficial for Mr Dabea who has worked at the Retail Store for 15 years.

“I now enjoy life a lot more,” he said.

“Anybody can do it but it requires a lot of willpower.”



Living the dream ...!

DARRYL Daisy has some of the best views in Australia when he drives for the Council as part of the fencing gang.

“It is good working on Palm with all the sea views,” he said.

“I love this job and have been doing it for three years.

“We pick up freight from the barge which comes from the mainland and deliver it.

“I also cart the equipment and material for fencing.

“The fishing is very good around here as well.”

Darryl is a vital part of a four man gang and is from a big

sporting family which includes his grandfather, Vern Daisy.

Another member of the same team, Lloyd Morgan, has been working for Council for the past nine years and he also says he loves his job.

“This is a beautiful place and I just enjoy being here,” Lloyd said.

When off work Lloyd enjoys fishing and watching and coaching rugby league.

