



PALM ISLAND VOICE



Issue 251

Thursday 3 May 2018

FREE



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

'Wow!'

Deadly
Didge
'n Dance
Festival
SPECIAL ISSUE!



Local artist picks up national people's choice

Campbell Page's national 'Thumbs Up' peoples choice Award has been presented to local artist Ian Palmer for his outstanding contribution and dedication to the organisation.

Mr Palmer was well-known for being awarded the commission to paint works of art for a new CDP logo and Acknowledgement of Country poster.

"Ian is a remarkable artist and has inspired and assisted our Indoors Activity participants to produce some fantastic paintings which have since been displayed in three exhibitions and galleries throughout Townsville and on Palm Island," he said.

"Ian has a remarkable ability to embrace new ideas and research products for new activities.

"His dedication to the team here in CDP and Campbell Page is a great example for our young job seekers and other members of the CDP Team."



Local Greens keen to follow up quick visit

Greens Senator Andrew Bartlett and Townsville Greens spokesperson Rebecca Ryan made a lightning trip to Palm last month to speak to the Council and community members about issues ranging from housing to transport.



Palm Island's favourite photojournalist, Alf Wilson (above right), brought his grandson Ethan to help him cover the two stages and the many other goings on at last month's Deadly Didge 'n Dance Festival. As you will see in this issue they did a great job, including Ethan's front page pic! We love your work Alf & Ethan Wilson, thank you!

Ms Ryan said a number of members of the Townsville Greens were keen to make similar visits.

"As the Townsville representative for The Greens I had the special privileged to accompany Senator Bartlett to Palm Island," she said.

"A number of members of the Townsville Greens are keen to come over for a few days to get a feel for what is possible."

She said she was keen to keep learning and they would be back for a longer visit soon.

Busy start for new Ambo OIC



Palm Island Ambulance's new Officer-in-Charge Victor Hewitt was in the job for less than a week before the Didge 'n Dance Festival offered him a rousing introduction to the Palm Island community and its visitors.

The 54-year-old Mr Hewitt has come to the Island from Charters Towers.

He said he was enthusiastic about the job and serving the people on Palm.

"I love it here and have seven workers at the station," he said.

Born in Wollongong in NSW, Mr Hewitt is a keen St George supporter.



Lest we Forget

On a sparkling day the 103rd anniversary of the Anzac landing was commemorated in a solemn affair which started with flags being lowered and a short march along Main Street.

Guests included some visiting soldiers from Townsville and the service was held near the cenotaph across from the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire offices.



Sydney (Chikko) Charles led prayers and hymns before wreaths were laid by Crs Deniece Geia, Bob Castors and Eddie Walsh, as well as members of the Armed Forces, emergency services, ambulance, family members of those from Palm Island who served and students.

Locals students raised the flags which was followed by closing remarks and a morning tea.

In the afternoon numerous locals and some visitors went to the Coolgaree



Bar and Grill for a game of two-up.

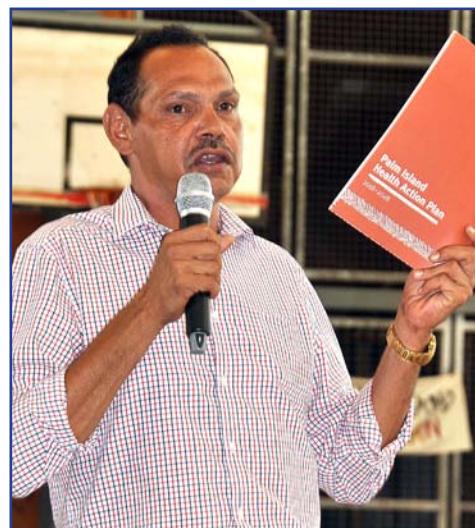
MEANWHILE in Townsville, more than 4,000 marched along the Strand, including Nathaniel Geia (below), who was part of a representation of the Thuringowa Clontarf Academy.



Pics with thanks to Alf Wilson, Dave Rutherford, Tegan Kennedy and the staff of St Michael's and Bwgcolman Community Schools.



Health Action Plan hopes for healthy change to generations



The Palm Island Health Action Plan 2018–2028 will provide a clear road map for future delivery of health care, Townsville MP Scott Stewart said.

“This is a document that was developed by Palm Islanders for Palm Islanders,” he said.

“The community has told us very clearly how they want to be cared for and what they need to live strong, long and healthy lives.

“Today we launch the plan in partnership with the community and commit to making their vision a reality.”

Mayor Alf Lacey said the Plan

marked the start of a long journey ahead.

“It means a lot to our community when decision makers respect us and involve us in the planning and delivery of things that affect us deeply,” he said.

“Our community is a unique community and therefore our desire to ‘Close the Gap’ needs a unique solution – this Plan strikes that balance.

“It is important to celebrate success; however, we need to remain focused on the long journey ahead in meeting the objectives of this Plan.”

Townsville Hospital and Health Board Chair Tony Mooney said the Health Service and the Council had embraced the opportunity to grow the influence Palm Islanders had over their own health.

“There is clear evidence that shows that when people have greater engagement with their health they have better health outcomes,” he said.

“Good primary health is essential to warding off chronic illness, being healthy and living longer.

“Our excellent staff at Joyce Palmer Health Service will always be there when people get sick but

Palm Island's festival weekend was given a healthy kickstart with the launch of a Health Action plan on the Friday before the big weekend.



Pics thanks to Alf Wilson & Townsville Hospital and Health



this new centre is all about helping Palm Islanders stay well.”

North Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) representative Sue Andrews – also the CEO of Yarrabah’s community controlled health services organisation Gurriny Yealamucka – was there to offer her congratulations.

“The NQPHN would like to congratulate Palm Island on their achievement to date with establishing the health action plan,” she said. “It can only happen with all stakeholders commitment, and it was good to see on the day this commitment at

all levels from Government, non-government and community.

“These are exciting times for the community of Palm Island and as the CEO of Gurriny, we too would like to continue supporting Palm Island with their vision to own and manage a community control health service.”

Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council Board Chair Kieran Chilcott said the plan also had their support. “A culturally appropriate, Community Controlled Health Service is an important step towards healing the community,”

Mr Chilcott said.

The Action Plan lays out the vision for health on Palm Island over the next 10 years.

It gives direction to funding agencies and service providers about the priorities for health and well-being, and also provides a road map about how services should be delivered to improve the health of Palm Island residents.

Commonwealth Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health Ken Wyatt has committed to endorsing the Statement of Intent which was signed by stakeholders at the launch.

It was 'WOW'!

The end result of years of planning, months of preparation and weeks of anticipation, and finally the Deadly Didge 'n Dance Festival was here – and what a huge success it was! The *Palm Island Voice* is pleased to present a massive 8-page spread of all the fun, emotion, talent and excitement, which includes several testimonials from first-time visitors to visiting MPs. We hope you enjoy revisiting the experience and make sure you watch this space: we've got even more photos and stories to share in our next issue!



Pics over the coming pages are thanks to Alf Wilson, Ethan Wilson, Cr Roy Prior, Cathy O'Toole, Rachael Floyd-Jones, Erica Martin, Perry Thompson, Palm Island CDP and others! Thank you!



The Deadly Didge 'n Dance Festival was part of a series of events held over 2018 – Palm Island's 100th anniversary – to commemorate the past, acknowledge the present and look to the future.

Mayor Alf Lacey (and several others!) have said the entire event, from start to finish, was a great success.

"This Festival represents the present," he said.

"A time when we accept who we are, leave the past in the past and look forward to a bright future.

"It represents a defining moment for Palm Island, not only as the first event of this scale, but as an exceptional arts and cultural experience that showcases local and invited music, dance and the arts in many forms."

More than 1,000 visitors who ferried or flew in from the mainland, including many from other Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities as well as most of the local population, enjoyed music, dancing, workshops, storytelling, poetry, markets and more.

The 100 or more performers (see p 8) were watched by a number of visiting dignitaries who included Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, Federal Member Cathy O'Toole and MP Bob Katter, Yarrabah and Torres Mayors and Councillors, and others.

The event included the burning of a large wooden sculpture of a bell, representing the oppression the Island's inhabitants were forced to live under (see p 11), and a world record attempt (see p 10).

Job network providers Campbell Page, via Palm Island's CDP, contributed a massive amount of support work to the Festival.

"I would like to thank all our drivers and activity staff and participants who assisted the Council in the lead up and delivery of this fantastic event," CDP Program Manager Nathan Vinson said.

Wow! Congratulations Palm Island, 100 Years Strong. What an amazing festival!! Wonderfully organised, beautiful atmosphere, everyone smiling and having a great time...and the food...
OMGeeeeee! Absolutely loved..loved the local bands and entertainment. Thank you for allowing me to be part of the celebrations and for sharing your beautiful community.
Tammie Harrison



Brielle Geia

He said their assistance included area beautification and mowing by David Baira's Greening Team, the making of costumes and lanterns (Indoors Arts & Culture Team); volunteers for back stage, and Palm Island and Camp Site Ambassadors (Media and Arts & Culture Teams).

"It was an outstanding effort from Peter Sherry, Robert Youngblutt and Raymond Johnson to organise the teams to assist the Council," Mr Vinson said.

"We were also thankful to have volunteers Agnes Wotton and the Arts and Culture team running the Lost Artists of Palm Island stall, selling some great paintings, postcards and bookmarks.

"And finally our Activity Supervisors, who generously gave their time and their weekend to provide transportation to the community over the whole

duration of the event, which was a huge contribution.

"A big thank you to Peter Turner, David Baira, Alfred Ryan, William Marpoondin and Janice Kerr."

Mr Vinson said the Mayor personally thanked him for the support CDP and Campbell Page provided to the event.

"So a big thank you to everyone who gave their time to support this remarkable event in Palm Island history," he said.

The Deadly Didge 'n Dance Festival organising committee co-chairs were Archie Fraser, Cr Deniece Geia, Cr Eddie Walsh, Jennifer Ketchell and Terence Castors.

Other sponsors and supporters included the State and Federal Governments, Sealink, Hutchinson Builders, Hinterland Aviation, Telstra, Ergon and It's Live! in Queensland (Tourism & Events Queensland).

Words thanks to Alf Wilson and Campbell Page.

MC's for the event were comedian Sean Choolburra, Ian Zaro, popular entertainer Maggie Walsh and Cr Eddie Walsh.

There was a big program of entertainment on two stages including X Factor winner Isaiah Firebrace, dance groups Djuki Mala, Bwgcolman, Yidinji Descendants, Torres Strait Island and Darnley and Badu Island descendants, Widi-Birri, Yarrabah, Djabugay /Walpara Wunba, Bamaga, Pacific Pearls, Pacific Flower Hula Girls and Jay Crew.

Local performers Milton Thaiday, Melita Murphy, Noel Cannon, Archie Fraser, Clarissa Wales, Mother's Dust, Maggie Walsh, Normey Johnson and Tyronne Yasserie were all popular.

Visiting performers included Simone Stacey Band, Zennith, Barry Cedric, Konnektd by Blud, Walker Brothers and Connections, Oka and Joey Geia Allstars.





To travel to Palm Island was like going back in time for me as I had worked there in the early 70s as a 15-year-old plumber – troubled times in Paradise it was then. But '**WOW!**', what an experience this time, from the moment we got off the ferry to when we left that arvo for the mainland I was beyond impressed, welcoming and friendly. The day was incredible, the dancing, the music and the people were outstanding... Palm has well and truly come of age and it can now, I am sure, only be a great and bright path forwards. I have organised major events around Australia, been team leader of national sporting teams and I now run special boutique tours to all parts of the world, but Palm Island has a special place in my heart, it is truly Paradise. I wish you all the very best of luck. Palm has something very unique to offer the tourism world, culture, stunning waters and lands, peace and tranquillity it should be proud of itself and its fantastic achievements.

Paddy McHugh



More than 250 children and adults unofficially broke the Guinness Book of Record's "largest Aboriginal dance" by corroboree'ing non-stop for five minutes.

Whilst the record adjudicator said it appeared the attempt was successful, residents will have to wait for an official decision from London – you can read all about that here in the *Palm Island Voice*!



The North Queensland Cowboys are happy to share a photo of some of the students from NRL Cowboys House who participated in the Festival over the weekend. The students were so proud to have shared the day with the Palm Island community – they had an amazing day of fun and created many memories. On behalf of everyone at NRL Cowboys House, we say thank you for inviting us to share the experience with you!





Deputy Premier Jackie Trad joined community leaders in setting on fire a large paper and wooden sculpture of a bell.

When the bell burst into flames, many elders in the crowd cried.

Until as recently as the mid-1970s a large bell tower sounded every day to alert residents to morning roll call, when to eat, the end of the working day, night curfew and finally "lights out" at 10pm.

As the bell was destroyed the fire travelled up the sculpture, which then opened up into the shape of a palm tree.



"Wow - powerful, energetic but peaceful too. People were so welcoming. Sensed a lot of healing." JahFé (Geoff Holland)





Wow, I spent three days on the Island at this deadly Centenary Festival, representing Central Queensland University and my father Archie

Smallwood's family. So much happiness, culture and healing of the past.

Ten out of ten for this PI Festival and nine out of ten for the Byron Bay Festival.

Mayor Lacey, we can't thank you enough for your leadership and great efforts in this

Palm Island sure has talents, yourself and team needs to be so congratulated.

This Festival has been one of the many highlights of my life, even ahead of my visit to

Mandela. I wish you all the very best in the positive future of Palm Island, as you have certainly put

The burning of the bell was the most significant us on the world arena.

when spiritual face images were caught on video, showing our elders finally being laid to rest, from all of the traumas of the past.

Sean Choolburra, Stacey Simone, Isaiah Firebrace, Ian Zaro, with others were all too deadly, however, we could not go past our deadly local talent Maggie Walsh, Milton Thaiday, Elvina Illin and Shaney Doolan, who made us all so proud. Wadamoolie, Sister Grace Gullidalla Smallwood.



Bwgcolman Community School's Womens' Business class stall was just one example of the many clever initiatives taken by local stallholders at the Deadly Didge 'n Dance Festival.

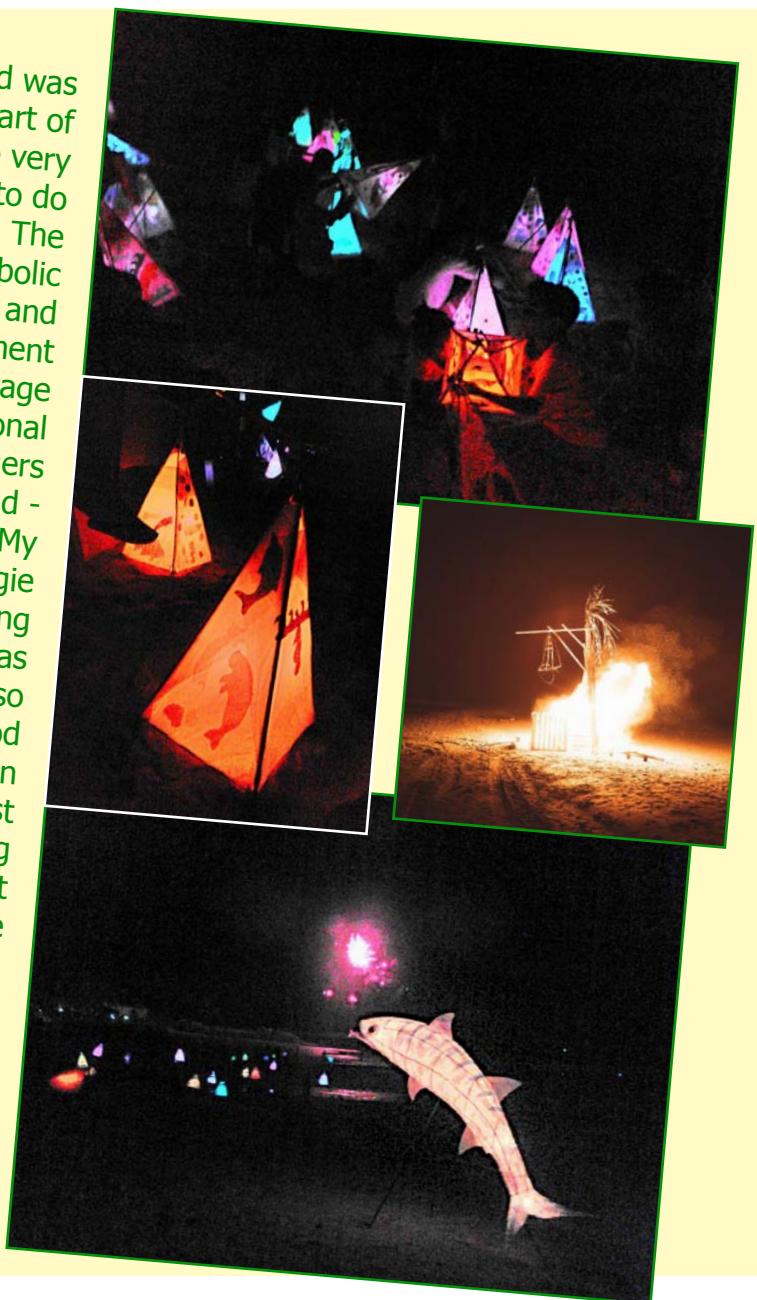
Indigenous culture is alive and well at the School, where through the classroom students were invited to explore Indigenous symbolism, and link that with what Indigenous culture meant to them.



Their unique designs, transferred to clothing and other artefacts, were on show and available to purchase over the weekend.

The school said they wanted to thank everyone for going along and checking out the wonderful artistic and creative talent of their students.

Wow. The weekend at Palm Island was absolutely fantastic. The celebrations as part of the 100th Anniversary of settlement were very well organised and there was so much to do and to see. Everyone was very welcoming. The special event on Friday night was the symbolic burning of the bell which was very moving and very dramatic. There were two entertainment arenas - the stage at the Top End and the stage at the Bottom End. They featured international singers and dancers as well as local singers and dancers. People came from all around - including Yarrabah and Torres Strait Islands. My favourite MCs were Sean Choolburra and Maggie Walsh who kept the shows together and rolling along with great good humour. Every artist was quality and it was just a feast. There was so much variety. There were also craft stalls (good stuff), food stalls (very yum) and information tents. Saturday afternoon we saw the biggest corroboree more than 250 people dancing non-stop for five minutes. A symbol of great togetherness - as well as a world record in the making. Add to that a lantern parade out onto the sands at night and then fireworks. And all of this set in a tropical paradise. Mayor Alf Lacey and the organising team are to be congratulated for creating such a wonderful event. This was my first visit to Palm Island and I am looking forward to a return trip.
Erica Martin



Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!
The next DEADLINE
for the
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(250!!!) is

**Thursday
10 May**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday
17 May**

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ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner across nominated page): \$120

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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.

To book an ad, make a contribution or inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au



POSITION VACANT Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) Assistant

This is a permanent position which has a probation period of 3 months. Please submit your resume addressed to the Human Resource Manager at the Council Office with any relevant Certificates and Licences attached. No qualifications required but administrative and computing skills would be an advantage.

For more information please contact Regina James on 4770 0260.

**Applications close COB
Monday 7 May 2018**



**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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Stimulating speakers to inspire our youth

CAREERS EXPO

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A big happy 40th birthday to Randall Parker who is a well-known worker at the Sunset Fish and Snack Bar. Randall celebrated his milestone on April 22 during the Deadly Dance 'n Didge Festival!!!



2018 Coolburra Shield in Army's hands



A gallant Palm Island Skipjacks lost their match for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield by 52–24 to Army Thunder at 1300Smiles Stadium in Townsville last Saturday.

The Skipjacks went in missing key players.

The game was a curtain raiser to the North Queensland Cowboys versus Canberra Raiders NRL game which was part of the Anzac Tribute round.

It was the 11th game between the sides and Army now holds a 6–5 winning record.

The late and great Palm Aboriginal elder Bill Coolburra served in the Australian Army for many years and was an avid Skipjacks supporter, a club which is more than 80 years old.

For a full match report see our next issue of the Palm Island Voice!

