

## Indigenous Councils take 'front and centre' in Canberra local government meetings



Whilst all the noise and movement in local government this week emanated out of Canberra for the four days of the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly, my trained eye couldn't help but see that Queensland and indeed Australia's Indigenous Councils really were front and centre on the big stage, Local Government Association of Queensland CEO Greg Hallam writes...



Firstly, our Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull impressed more than 800 delegates and observers present at the assembly's Gala Dinner by addressing them in the native tongue of the traditional owners of the Canberra area, the Ngunnawal people.

Then there was Palm Island Mayor and LGAQ Policy Executive member Alf Lacey's eloquent speech on the floor on the conference in support of the restoration of funding for the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

The motion he put to the assembly attracted overwhelming support, and he followed it up by leading a dash up to Parliament

House with a big contingent of Queensland Indigenous council representatives, assisted by the LGAQ, to lobby the Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion.

This is a fight not won, but one which we are determined to prevail.

I thought some more on just how far Queensland Indigenous Councils have progressed in the last decade.

They have achieved greatly strengthened state government financial assistance, driven the creation of the successful Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF), won acceptance and integration of Indigenous Councils into many regional organisations of Councils, and doubled their representation on

the LGAQ Policy Executive.

That befits the fact that nearly one quarter of our members are Indigenous Councils.

The LGAQ is holding a Policy Executive meeting on Palm Island in August this year and on Thursday Island in August 2019.

There are still many battles yet to be fought and won but it would be entirely remiss not to acknowledge these giant strides that have been made by Queensland's 17 Indigenous Councils.

The confidence and passion with which their leaders speak in the media and their increased attendance at key conferences and events around the country attest to that.

# National support for housing \$\$\$

While we were all there for the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Conference, all our Indigenous Councils took the opportunity to lobby long and hard for housing in our communities, Mayor Alf Lacey writes...

I was able to put a motion which was supported by all our Queensland Councils up to the General Assembly and it passed.

So we were quite pleased to be able to get the support of more than 150 Local Governments from across the country.

They now understand how much we need these housing arrangements and that all we've done to date is 'catch up', rather than progress.

As we all know, overcrowding continues to plague our communities and we want to see a clear commitment from the Commonwealth Government in the form of another round of investment.

I took an opportunity to have direct dialogue with the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull while I was there, as well as Senator Nigel Scullion.

The main point I wanted to make was we didn't want to get involved with any 'argy bargy' between the State and Federal Governments, that is a matter for them.

What we're concerned about is the delivery of some form of financial investment for housing in our communities.

I'm still a bit optimistic we might find resolution on it, although I also think it's really important we continue apply the pressure on all levels of government around this issue.



*"The crowning glory was the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council receiving the National Local Government Award for Excellence for their Emergency Management Network – how good is that?" LGAQ CEO Greg Hallam*

*"On behalf of our Council and our community we'd like to say congratulations to Mayor Desmond Tayley and his CEO Eileen Deemal-Hall for their success in Canberra. They really made people take notice and, as Desmond said, showed "the sky is the limit", even for the smallest of communities. Well done Wujal Wujal!" Mayor Alf Lacey*

# Pharmacy set to make a difference to ED pressure

A new and privately owned pharmacy for Palm Island will hopefully take some of the pressure from the hospital's Emergency Services, Pharmacist and proprietor Ronald Singh says.

Mr Singh now lives on the Island after an 18-month stint working in Bamaga's Pharmacy.

He has employed Jeriah Coutts (*pictured with Mr Singh*) as his full-time Pharmacy Assistant and has managed to cram a huge amount of stock into his new shop.

"The Community and the Council have been very supportive of the new pharmacy," he said. "Without their support the pharmacy would not be viable and we would like to thank them for this support."

He said they would be open every day – Monday to Sunday and including Public Holidays – in an effort to ease demand on the hospital.

"The Clinics are closed Palm Island Pharmacy, so people go to the Emergency Department," he said.

"We would like to be the initial place people come to for advice regarding relatively minor health ailments/problems.

"The pharmacy may be small but it stocks a large range of products."

He said the Pharmacy was also an NDSS agent for diabetic products.

"Come and see us and get assistance with all your health care needs," he said.

"We are open every day from 8am to 7pm and we are near the Post Office and the PICC Community Op Shop at 276 Beach Road."

Phone: 0490 851 841

Email: [info@palmislandpharmacy.com.au](mailto:info@palmislandpharmacy.com.au)



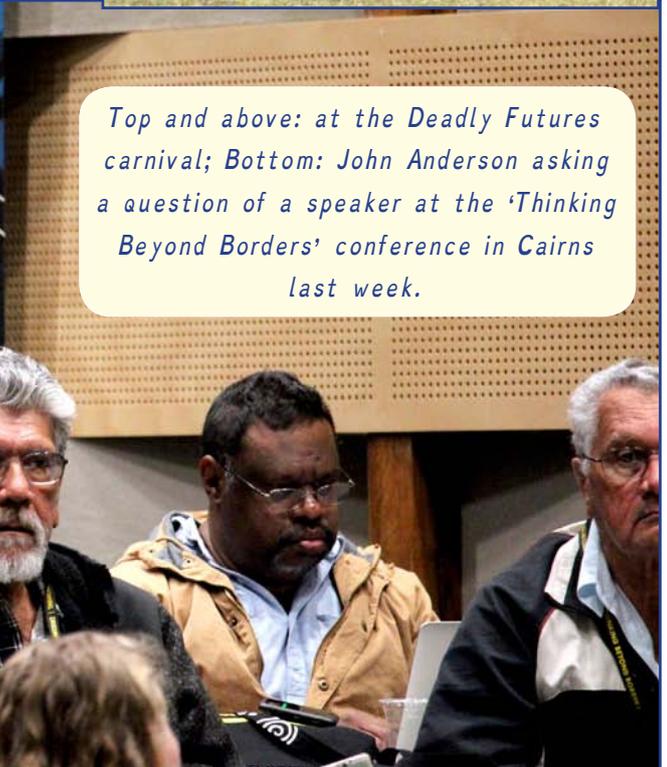
Items in stock include:

- A large range of prescription medication
- Pharmacy medicines (including Panadol/Nurofen liquids and tablets, worm treatments, fungal creams, antihistamines, cold and flu medication)
- Fragrance (including Joop, Calvin Klein, Beyonce, Katy Perry, White Diamonds, Red Door, Tabu, Jovan)
- Weight loss products (including Optifast)
- Blackmores vitamins
- Baby products (including baby milk, Babylove nappies)
- First aid products (including Futuro supports, sports strapping tape, mouth guards)
- Hair care products (including headlice treatments, brushes, bleach, coloured hairspray, Fudge Paintbox)
- Skin care
- Foot care (including Scholl)
- Sunglasses and magnifiers
- Masuers and thongs
- Remington hair cutting and grooming products
- Dental products (including tooth ache drops)
- Deodorants (including Jeer, Impulse, Lynx, Nivea)
- Products for upset stomachs (including Mylanta, Gaviscon, Hydralyte)
- Makeup (including Ulta3, Thin Lizzy)
- Earrings



# Palm Island Boxing June 2018





*Top and above: at the Deadly Futures carnival; Bottom: John Anderson asking a question of a speaker at the 'Thinking Beyond Borders' conference in Cairns last week.*

# Palm Island Voice



Public &  
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!

The next DEADLINE  
for the  
PALM ISLAND VOICE  
(253) is

**Thursday  
5 July**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday  
12 July**

Check out our Facebook page!  
We have 2,319 likes!

**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.

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](mailto:palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au)



**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 2,390  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!



**NAIDOC WEEK 2018**

*Palm Island Unity Gala Dinner*

Friday 13 July 2018, at Freedom Park commencing at 6:30pm

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is calling for  
Expressions of Interest for Caterers to cater for 200 people at the  
2018 NAIDOC Palm Island Unity Gala Dinner

**Responsibilities**

- Must have Food Handlers Certificate
- Must Purchase and collect own goods
- Must deliver food on time and on site (Council will not be able to assist)

Provision of Catering Service during this event includes  
Serving, cleaning, clearing tables, cleaning of plates, glasses, cutlery etc

**Menu we are requesting EOI for the following**

Kup Murri- (interested persons to submit for catering)

**Hot and Cold Dishes- The Successful Applicants (Includes)**

Provision of Catering Service during this event includes  
Serving, cleaning, clearing tables, cleaning of plates, glasses, cutlery etc

**Hot & Cold Dishes**

Garden salad, potato salad, coleslaw, pasta salad, tuna bake etc.  
Fried Rice, Plain Rice, Vermicelli Chicken, sabbi sabbi chicken, roast chicken, dampers  
(Interested persons to submit for catering)

Assorted Deserts-(interested persons to submit for catering)

Please submit your interest in writing attached with a quote and provide to Thomasina Morgan or email  
[thomasina.morgan@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:thomasina.morgan@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)

The successful applicant/s will be contacted and will have to sign a catering agreement form.

**Closing Date: Friday 30 June 2018**

# APOLOGY AND STATEMENT OF HEALING

The Queensland Government expresses its sincere and profound apology to all the present and former residents of Palm Island who suffered as a result of the actions of any of its employees, servants or agents during the events, which occurred between 19 and 29 November 2004, following the death of Mulrunji in police custody.

The Queensland Government acknowledges that men, women and children who were assaulted, or otherwise treated illegally during this time suffered distress, humiliation and violence, and were discriminated against on the basis of their race by persons who represented the Queensland Government. We offer our deep regret and sorrow for those actions.

There has been much suffering and pain wrought on the people of Palm Island, both during and since those events. It is the role and responsibility of the Queensland Government to act on behalf of all its citizens, equally, without fear or favour, and for there to have been conduct that fell short of this very basic of standards does, and should, sadden all Queenslanders on whose behalf those actions were taken. We are sorry for the pain you have endured.

As a Government, we acknowledge that this experience (between 19 and 29 November 2004) has impacted significantly on your lives. As a Government, we have learned from your significant pain and suffering, and have taken significant steps to ensure that none of our citizens will again suffer discrimination at the hands of their government.

All Queenslanders, irrespective of which community they live in, are entitled to expect equal treatment under the law. The people of Palm Island were entitled to expect that; they were entitled to equal respect and to be treated with the same dignity as any other Queenslanders.

We acknowledge that the government of the day failed to ensure this equality.

We acknowledge that rebuilding trust between Indigenous people right across Queensland, but particularly on Palm Island, and their Government, will take time and a concerted effort.

We are committed to that endeavour.

This apology provides an opportunity to reflect on the injustices of the past and to create a relationship of mutual trust and respect. It allows the Queensland Government and the Indigenous Queenslanders who have been adversely affected by the actions of the past to move forward in an atmosphere of healing.

The Queensland Government has worked hard to ensure a more harmonious and culturally responsive approach to policing has been adopted as a result of what occurred, right throughout Queensland, and more specifically on Palm Island.

We pledge to continue working with the Palm Island community in a way that demonstrates our commitment to the future of your community, and our desire to strengthen our relationship with your community, and to serve your community with justice and respect.

We acknowledge the emotional pain and suffering that the lead applicants in the class action, Lex, Agnes, and Cecilia Wotton, and their family members endured in taking the case to the State, and as a result of the State defending the claim.



# Three Palm teams eye Arthur Beetson prize

PALM Island Barracudas, defending champions Aja's Boys and Bwgcorman Warriors will be amongst 28 men's teams to contest the Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri Knockout rugby league carnival at Townsville in October.

Queensland's biggest Allblacks carnival will be held at the Townsville Sports Reserve and is being run by the Foundation in partnership with Bindal Sharks.

A juicy \$40,000 will be the prize for the men's winner with another \$10,000 going to a charity or organisation of their choice.

Past carnivals have been held in southern Queensland.

The team list, as provided to the Palm Island Voice by Bindal's Jenny Pryor on June 22, is: Aja's Boys, Black Bream, Brothers United, Burdekin River Brumbies, Bwgcorman Warriors, Cannonball,

Cherbourg Hornets, Coastal Balaz, DT Raiders, Eastern Warriors, Erub United, Gulf Bulls, Gulf Warriors, Hunters, Juru Gubullamunda, Mackay Stallions, Mackay Warriors, Magun Warriors, Merinya Raiders, North Coast Dolphins, Nyungkul United, Palm Island Barracudas, Purga Wagtails, Sheila's Broncos Memorial, Qld Connections, Weipa Raiders, Wenlock River Stallions and Yarrabah.

Meanwhile 12 women's sides have nominated which are: Champion Torres Strait side Brisbane Native Women, Cherbourg Hornets, CQ Tiddas, Deddeyal

Gammaz, Highlanderz, Emu Girls, Kalkatunga Kintja's, Northern Gem, Serenity Sistaz, Tiddas United, Wongai Tiddas and Yarrabah Seagals.

Some of those sides will include women from Palm Island.

There will also be under-15 and under-12 divisions which should also include several Palm Island players.

MEANWHILE Zenadth Kes Torres Stingers took out the RARL FNQ Challenge in Cairns on Saturday 16 June against teams from the Northern Cape, Southern Cape and Lower Gulf Brumbies.

## BOXING NEWS

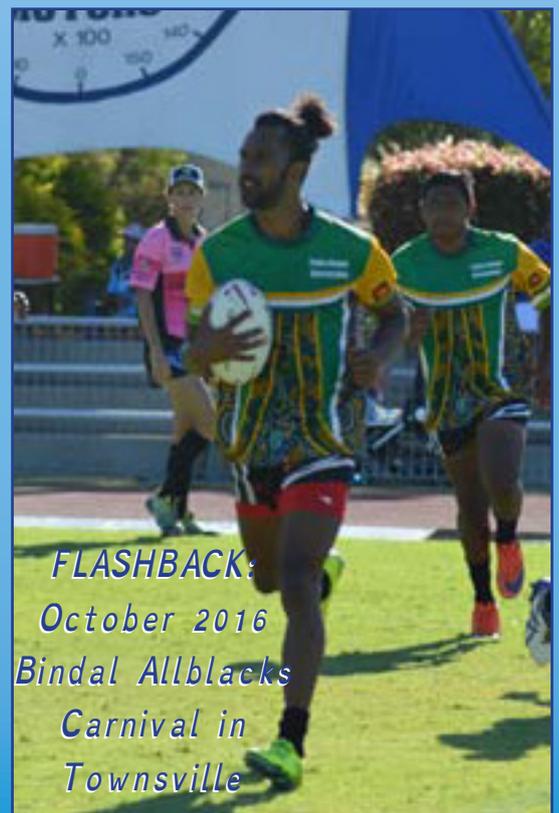
FOUR Palm Island boxers competed at the Golden Gloves tournament in Townsville last weekend (22nd, 23rd June) and lost their bouts.

Tiquiri Prior, Raymond Haines, Brayden Nallajar and Jase Thimble were courageous in defeat at the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League event held last Friday and Saturday nights at the Centenary Hotel in Pimlico.

Young Musa Prior could not get a bout and 22 bouts were held in total.

Trainer Ray Dennis who has been ill said Jase Thimble finished all over the top of his opponent but had been behind on points in the first two rounds.

The next tournaments our boxers may attend will be at Townsville's Herbert Hotel and in Rockhampton.



*FLASHBACK:  
October 2016  
Bindal Allblacks  
Carnival in  
Townsville*