

Issue 26
Friday 30 January 2009



HAVE YOU PICKED UP YOUR VERY OWN PALM ISLAND RODEO POSTER YET? ON SALE NOW!!!

Featuring local & visiting riders, these A3 full colour posters are available now from the Council offices.

\$8, or \$12 laminated



Happy New Year!

The Palm Island Voice would like to respectfully wish all Palm Islanders and friends a happy and safe 2009, with our apologies for this first issue being a little later than we had planned ... it won't happen again (see backpage for next deadling details)!



PIAC secures funds to kickstart market days

Palm Islanders will soon be running their own shaded market stalls, initially in the mall, thanks to PIAC securing nearly \$50,000 in funds to kickstart the initiative.

Local Government Minister Warren Pitt announced the funding yesterday through the State Government's Blueprint for the Bush initiative.

PIAC CEO Barry Moyle said the money represented an exciting opportunity, not only for potential stall holders but for the island as a whole.

"This is an exciting opportunity for locals to get involved in our very own markets and maybe to commence their own retail business," he said.

"And it was also about trying to market our local artists and craftspeople as well.

"There's the possibility down the track of attracting daytrippers from Townsville to come and experience a positive Palm Island and to purchase our wares.

"We've had discussions with Sunferries about that and they are keen to get on board as well, so what might happen is that a ferry will come in on Sunday morning to and from Townsville especailly for the markets."

Mr Pitt said the new markets would be a valuable community asset and would help residents of Palm Island to develop commercial activities and build financial independence.

"The aim of this project is to provide Palm Islanders the opportunity to strengthen and enhance the community through the establishment of their very first regular market," he said.

"It is a chance to showcase locally made arts and crafts along with fresh vegetables grown on the island.

"The project will involve up to 50 Islanders and will include training for Coolgaree Community Development Employment Project workers in the construction of traditional shelters and the purchase of 10 shade shelters."

Mr Moyle said PIAC has also put in a request with Sunferries for an additional return service on Monday mornings.

Mr Pitt said the Blueprint for the Bush's Our Place Our Future initiative provided rural and remote communities with resources to strengthen their capacity to shape their future.

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, Barry or Deniece 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

Display Advertisements
(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)
Full Page \$440
Half Page \$231
Quarter Page \$121
Eighth Page \$66
Sixteenth Page \$44
Classifieds
(payable in advance)
Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE
Public Notices – Births, Deaths, Marriages, Birthdays – FREE
Sale Price over \$1000 & Other Notices – 4 lines – \$10
Ads are to be submitted by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see back page).

Article and photo submissions to the *Palm Island Voice* are welcome. Original submissions of articles or photographs must belong to the contributor, and/or delivered with an indication of the owner's permission to publish, no later than 5pm on deadline day. Articles should be no longer than 500 words and digital photographs should be as high quality as possible (no thumbnails please!). Final say on advertising, news items, other contributions and photo reproductions is at the discretion of the *Palm Island Voice* Editor.



Dredging was scheduled to commence on Tuesday 27 January and will continue until end of March 2009.
On site dredging for the first two weeks will be every alternative day after which it will be increased to six days a week. Temporary dredge boundary markers (80mm pipes) have been installed with a 2m offset along the channel boundaries. These markers are painted

yellow for easy observation. A crane barge with a clam shell bucket and a dumb barge (transport barge) will be used for the dredge program and a traffic plan for the program has been developed. In short, dredging equipment will move out of the way to allow all services to the barge ramp and jetty to continue as normal. See PIAC for more information.



Do you want to write professionally for the Palm Island Voice?

If you're a bit of a 'dorrie' and want to get some words and pics out there about what you see, a series of easy media workshops could be just the thing to get you started!

Palm Island Voice editor Christine Howes has been working as a freelance journalist and photographer, mostly for Indigenous media in the far north, for nearly 15 years and is keen to share her skills and knowledge with anyone who is interested.



If you, or someone you know, has an interest in writing and/or photography, a two-hour workshop could be all it takes to start having your work published in the *Palm Island Voice*. A small fee for those who commit to writing for us on a regular basis may be negotiated.

If this is you, please drop in to the Council reception and register your interest. Everyone, including our regular contributors from community organisations, is welcome. Dates and times to be confirmed soon!

A quick word from...

**Michelle Sawtell
(Acting) Officer-in-Charge
Palm Island Police**



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year Season.

The New Year brings us the opportunity for a fresh start and new a season for the Jets girls to dominate.

The holiday period has seen an increase in people enjoying their boats.

I would just like people to remember to take their safety equipment, plenty of water and food.

If you are not sure what you need there is a free boating guide available at the Police Station.

Most important of all please tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return.

An incident happened en early December where a group set out on a Monday afternoon and experienced difficulties on their return to Palm.

Family did not notify police that they were missing until the evening of the next day.

The group was rescued at about 2am the following morning quite a distance from where they ran out of fuel.

Fortunately everyone was in good health and all was well but it could have so easily not been the case.

Families also if your loved ones are missing on their boat please let the police know as soon as possible so we can start looking for them.

The Christmas season has also seen an increase in children riding motorcycles.

Parents please be aware that you are responsible for your children whilst they are riding the bikes.

If your child is seen riding the motorcycle on the road you can be issued fines in excess of \$500.

Police don't have to be the only witness for people to be charged. Police are willing to take action where witnesses come forward and provide statements to police.

I am sure you have all heard that police on the Island are soon to be issued with Tasers.

I can appreciate that this is an issue of concern for some members of the community.

Police from the Cultural Advisory Unit in Brisbane and TASER experts will be holding a Community Meeting at the PCYC on Friday 13th February at 11am.

This meeting is designed to answer any questions and concerns people have. Members of the Council, Community Justice Group and any concerned member of the community are encouraged to attend.

Take Care.

**Michelle Sawtell
A/S/Sergeant,
Palm Island**

COMMUNITY MEETING re the use of TASERS

Police from the Cultural Advisory Unit in Brisbane and Taser experts will be holding a Community Meeting designed to answer any questions and concerns people have about the issuing of Tasers to Palm Island Police.

WHEN: 11am Friday 13 Feb

WHERE: PCYC

Any concerned members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Strong Palm presence at Charters' rodeo



North Queensland Register 29/01/2009

(<http://nqr.farmonline.com.au/news/state/events/general/crowds-flock-to-bucko-billy-rodeo/1418185.aspx>)

Crowds flock to Bucko Billy Rodeo

REG BURTON

THE Bucko Billy Rodeo has become an essential part of the Australia Day weekend, and even constant light rain did not deter the 400-strong crowd on Saturday night.

Organiser of the rodeo event, John Moss, said it proved how strong rodeo was in the North when so many braved the weather to watch an exciting evening of bullrides for the big boys and calf and steer rides for the young, future stars of the sport.

This year's Bucko Billy Rodeo saw what is probably the youngest rodeo rider in Australia, if not the world when two-year-old Anthony Tyson of Palm Island mounted up in the calf ride. Anthony had the crowd on their feet in admiration.

Enthusied by the recent resumption of rodeo on Palm Island, the Bucko Billy event saw a large contingent of riders from the island. [PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY ALF WILSON]

SUNFERRIES AWARDED LONG TERM FERRY SERVICE CONTRACT FOR PALM



From left on the new Palm Island ferry is Sunferries CEO Terry Dodd, MP Mike Reynolds & Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey

Late last year Member for Townsville Mike Reynolds announced the long term ferry service provider contract for Palm Island has been awarded to Sunferries. The announcement also noted an increase in speed, quality of service and more Indigenous employment.

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

Palm Island Voice

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Many thanks to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the Palm Island Voice.

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Repeat advertising rates available upon request.