

# Underwater Museum to float

The Federal Government has confirmed the Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) has been successful in securing \$1.5M towards sharing stories of the Palm Island community through submerged artworks in the ocean off Palm Island accessible through dive and snorkel tours.

Townsville Enterprise (TE) said in a statement that MOUA would build upon the Island's developing tourism industry, generate jobs and income, address social disadvantage, showcase local culture and support conservation efforts on the Great Barrier Reef.

“The local community will be involved and consulted in the design process of the Palm Island pieces by the artist, internationally acclaimed sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor, who will work with residents to ensure their stories are told appropriately

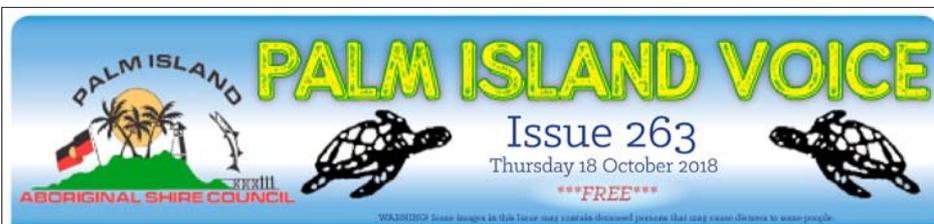
and respectfully,” they said.

“MOUA will deliver art and reef experiences to leverage global tourism trends, particularly the global demand for Indigenous tourism, overall anticipated to attract 50,000 new visitors each year.”

Townsville Enterprise also acknowledged Senator for Queensland Ian Macdonald and LNP Candidate for Herbert Phillip Thompson for their support.

“And, importantly, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for their partnership on this project, particularly Mayor Alf Lacey and his dedication to secure greater economic opportunities for his community,” they said.

They also congratulated the MOUA Board, led by Paul Victory, on its commitment to this game-changing project and acknowledged the countless hours volunteered to ensure MOUA was realised for our region.



## Underwater museum one step closer

The Southern Hemisphere's first Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) is one step closer with the artist set to design installation, Jason deCaires Taylor, in the region conducting research for the project.

Community consultations have been held on Palm and Magnetic Islands where he also met with local businesses, representatives from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville City Council, Palm Island Shire Council, and Perc Tucker Gallery, and toured proposed sites at The Strand, Magnetic Island, Palm Island and John Brewer Reef.

Meetings with Traditional Owners, Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and Umbrella Studio have also taken place.

Jason said he was very



excited to be heading up such a pioneering project.

“This project presents a rare opportunity to combine reef conservation, pioneering marine science with education, culture and a strong economic model to promote tourism of the region,” he said.

The Museo Subacuático de Arte off the coast of Cancun, Mexico, which Jason created in 2009, resulted in an increase of annual visitor numbers of almost 400,000.

Townsville Enterprise CEO,

Patricia O'Callaghan said the project had the potential to further extend Townsville North Queensland's existing educational, reef and tourism offerings.

“As a Southern Hemisphere first, the Museum of Underwater Art will also provide a significant economic boost to our region, anticipated to attract an additional 50,000 visitors annually upon completion, with an estimated economic impact of \$42M each year,” she said.



## Mental health first aid graduates

Several Campbell Page staff have gained accredited training in Mental Health First Aid, providing them with a basic understanding of the different kinds of mental illness and their associated symptoms.

Two courses were delivered by Stephanie Childs over four days, qualified 17 Palm Island staff who are now prepared – and have the knowledge base – to better support friends, family members or close colleagues who have mental illnesses.

## New morgue under construction

Construction of a New Morgue and Viewing Room area at the rear of Joyce Palmer Health Service is about to get underway and will take about 12 weeks to complete.

A shed will be put up in place of the old viewing room to house the Mobile Clinic and Breast Screening vans.

Should you have any questions please contact our Acting Director of Nursing Judith Townsend-Stahre on 4752 5101.

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*Last week Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council met with Prime Minister and Cabinet who have announced funding of \$500,000 over 2 years for the operation of a small business incubator on Palm Island. Watch this space for information as it becomes available in the coming months...*

# New funds to kick start retail centre development

A new retail and business centre will create more job prospects on Palm Island Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Cameron Dick says.

He said the funding, from Building Our Regions, would deliver infrastructure and stimulate economic growth.

“The \$1,019,241 Palm Island Retail and Business Precinct – Stage 2 project is receiving \$999,241 through BoR, with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council contributing \$20,000,” he said.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Alf Lacey said the new development would be welcomed by the island.

“We’re grateful of the support of the Queensland Government in investing in Palm Island to develop better facilities and infrastructure to drive opportunities for our community,” Mr Lacey said.

“This infrastructure builds on

the previous Palm Island Sport Precinct Essential Services Upgrade, which was also supported by the Building our Regions fund.”

Deputy Premier, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership and Palm Island Ministerial Champion Jackie Trad said the Palaszczuk Government was proud to support council in achieving their long-term vision for the community.

“We want to see Palm Island prosper and grow, and through Building our Regions our government is providing the support needed for a bright future,” Ms Trad said.

“This precinct will stimulate employment, encourage

entrepreneurship, and strengthen Palm Island’s economy.

“Six ground-level tenancies will provide space for recreational goods and clothing stores, with a tourism office, café, hairdressing salon, takeaway store and pharmacy also planned.

“Three new local jobs will be created during construction, with a range of long-term roles to be sustained once the precinct is up and running.”

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said better infrastructure meant better opportunities.

“Palm Island has a bright future and it’s an exciting time for the local community,” Mr Stewart said.

# Boys remembered..



*Pictured Above: Malcolm Geia with Donna and Sam; Right: Phillip Obah; and Below: Professor Gracelyn Smallwood comforts the boys' mother Leeann Eatts*



A special cultural memorial ceremony in honour of Aboriginal brothers Jhulio Sariago, 3, and Barak Austral, 5, who tragically drowned in Townsville's Ross River held earlier this month was attended by many from Palm Island earlier this month.

The special service was held in Cranbrook Park near the river banks just metres from where the tragedy occurred.

MC at the ceremony was Professor Gracelyn Smallwood.

"The family of the brothers have been overwhelmed by community support," Prof Smallwood said. "There has been a steady stream of family, friends and community members offering their condolences to the

family which wants to extend their sincere thanks to every member of the community."

Several family members travelled from Darwin to speak at the event, however words from the boys' mother, Leeann Eatts, were read on her behalf by Florence Onus.

Crosses on the river banks were unveiled along with a third for another Indigenous boy who lost his life many years ago.

Family members led by Ms Eatts and followed by several hundred people threw flowers into the river.

Professor Smallwood said she hoped the Townsville City Council would approve permanent monuments on the river bank.

A funeral for the boys is expected to be held in Darwin. A report is being prepared for the Coroner.

# Cowboys reveal vision for new community centre

The North Queensland Toyota Cowboys has a new vision for the club's community, training and admin centre, to be next to the new state-of-the-art North Queensland Stadium.

The site, adjacent to North Queensland Stadium would provide several new and modern facilities including:

- A high-performance athletic training environment, including altitude and heat training facilities;
- Co-located orthopaedic/sports medicine consulting, sports science and research facilities, as well as on-site sports medical consulting

and rehabilitation services;

- Centrally-located meeting and office spaces for North Queensland Toyota Cowboys and Cowboys Community Foundation administration teams; and,
- A platform to expand the Cowboys' commitment to supporting North Queensland's elite sporting female talent including development of local

female grassroots rugby league talent.

Cowboys legend and life member Johnathan Thurston said the vision and proposal was "very impressive".

"The long-term plan for the stadium precinct is really exciting and shows the commitment our club and city leaders have to our community's future," he said.

## SHINE for kids seeks to address the difficulties faced by children of prisoners, their imprisoned parents and their families.

We are the only national charity dedicated to helping children and families affected by the criminal justice system.

Indigenous people only represent 3% of the population, yet more than 28% of Australia's prison

population are Indigenous.

In addition to these statistics, children with a parent in jail are 6 times more likely to end up in jail themselves.

With these increasing incarceration rates, more and more children need our help.

Our aim is to provide early intervention for young people to reduce the negative effects of parental imprisonment, such as anxiety, stigma, instability, isolation and educational attendance.

Our services amongst Townsville and Palm Island include an education support program and, in the coming months, a parenting program in

the prison with the female inmates called 'Belonging to Family' program at Townsville Correctional Centre, and a mentoring program in Cleveland Youth Detention Centre.

We rely on volunteers, donations and funding from local and national organisations and charities to keep our programs running.

If you believe in bettering the lives of these children, or if you're retired and have plenty of spare time to give, or even if you know someone who needs our help, give Cilla Simpson a call during business hours on 0402 487 908 or write to [psimpson@shineforkids.org.au](mailto:psimpson@shineforkids.org.au)

For more information see <https://shineforkids.org.au/support-our-work/volunteer-with-shine-for-kids/>



# Palm Island Voice



Public &  
Community Notices



The next DEADLINE for  
the PALM ISLAND VOICE  
(272) will be

**Thursday  
21 March**  
FOR PUBLICATION  
**Thursday  
28 March**

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or inquire about subscriptions please  
contact the Editor, Christine Howes,  
on 0419 656 277 or  
[chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

### Proposed Development

Make a submission from  
**15 March 2019 to  
9 April 2019**

**Telecommunications Facility &  
Reconfiguring a Lot (1 into 2 lots)**

**Where:** Old School Road, Palm Island QLD  
4816

**On:** Lot 522 on SP273615

**Approval sought:** Development Permit for a  
Material Change of Use and Reconfiguring a  
Lot

**Application ref:** Palm Island Telstra Tower

**You may obtain a copy of the  
application and make a submission  
to:**

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council  
1 Main Street, Palm Island QLD 4816  
[reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)  
(07) 4770 0200  
<http://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au>

Public notification requirements are in accordance  
with the *Planning Act 2016*



**Operating Hours for Council are  
Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm**



Palm Island  
Aboriginal  
Shire Council  
has 3,075 'likes' on  
Facebook!!!

If you have any questions please contact  
Reception on 4770 1177 or  
4770 0200



# BOIL WATER ALERT



**TAP WATER**



**BOIL WATER**



**DRINK WATER**

## RESIDENTS MUST BOIL ALL DRINKING WATER

For houses with Filters on your tap  
You are to **BOIL** your Water too.

**YOU WILL BE ADVISED WHEN THE  
WATER ALERT HAS BEEN LIFTED.**

## KEEP BOILING YOUR WATER

**THANKS FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.**

# Footy yarns marked in AFL history

RESPECTED Palm Islanders George Friday, Wally Foster and Zac Sam along with several descendants of the late Manny Ross have played Australian Rules football in Townsville, earning them a mention in a sport history book launched earlier this month.

Manny and his wife Anastashia's family, including the late Emmanuel 'Porky' Ross, Noel Ross and Gordon "Cowboy" Ross, played for the club.

Former Palm Island Deputy Mayor Zac Sam also lined up with Magpies, whilst George and Wally were members of South Townsville Club.

The book is called "More of the Kangaroo" and features a history of the sport in Queensland over 150 years.

AFL kicked off in Townsville during the 1950s and is still going strong with five senior clubs this year.

Co-author Murray Bird was at the

launch, as was several of the former Garbutt Magpies players.



Flying Garbutt Magpies (Kev Geddes collection)



Garbutt - 1982

Back: E. Ross, J. Ross, C. Kina, R. Munster, M. Cloudy, J. Santo, L. Butler, R. Ross  
Middle: A. Illin, B. Wilson, D. Smallwood, D. Lampton, J. Tapim, J. Creed, S. Butler, W. Carter, T. Carter, N. Ross, A. Namok, E. Harrison, Jim MacDonald, B. McCoy  
Front: J. Billing, G. Ross, T. Damien, M. Wales, D. Nogar, A. Price, B. Parsons, L. Masso

# Young Zac impresses with win

Young Palm Island boxer Zac Morton won his bout impressively at the Ville in Townsville earlier this month.

The 12 bout Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament was hosted by Townsville Club Hawks as part of the Rite of Passage Programme.

Zac defeated Luke Dunne from Lindgren's Club in the first bout of the night in the 31kg division.

"That was only Zac's second fight and he has improved since his first bout which he lost," trainer Ray Dennis said.

The only other Palm island boxer to compete was Raymond Haines who lost his 63kg division bout to Cooper Maddern of Hawks Club.

That was the main bout at the tournament which attracted a large audience.

Mr Dennis said veteran Palm boxer Patrick Clarke could not be matched.

The next tournament will be at the Ross Island Hotel on March 23.

*Pic with thanks to Dennis Haines.*

