



## New Primary Health Care Centre open for business

### Bottled water delivered to households as water crisis continues to deepen

Residents would be very aware that several urgent water alerts warning Palm Islanders not to drink or cook with tap water have been issued since January (or earlier) this year – just a year after a new water treatment plant was installed.

Last weekend yet another alert went out with Council forced to deliver bottled water to households and businesses.

Last Sunday Mayor Alf Lacey told the ABC he has called on the government to intervene.

“The advice I am getting is that the discolouring of the water is probably [due to] some aging pipe that’s been

installed in the island in the early 1970s,” Cr Lacey told ABC journalist Anna Hartley.

“The old reservoir, which is the main tank that feeds the whole town, was built in the 1950s.

“It’s something I will take up with the Minister [to request] a report into the aging assets.”

He said the people of Palm

Island deserved reliable, quality water.

“You wouldn’t think places like [Palm Island] in this day and age could be subject to this type of problem,” he said.

Cr Lacey also told the ABC he wanted the government to investigate whether the community needed a new reservoir.

*FOR the full ABC news report see <https://tinyurl.com/yysh5a5f>.*

# St Michael's students recycling for charity

St Michael's Catholic School students have been collecting bottles and cans for recycling, helping to keep our beautiful environment clean and tidy as well as raising money for charity.

The school's Year 2 students recently visited Mr TJ at the recycling centre to see how all the cans and bottles are sorted and counted.

They learned milk or cordial bottles cannot be recycled and lids have to be removed.

The school's first collection was 823 cans and 320 plastic bottles, Religious Education Assistant Principal Janet Wigan said.

"The money raised during Lent will be donated to Caritas Australia who work in solidarity with communities around the world to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity," Ms Janet said. "If you have any unwanted cans or plastic bottles you can give them to a St Michael's student or drop them off at the school."



## Applications open for JCU Winter School

This year's James Cook University Winter School program will run from 30 June to 5 July, Head of Indigenous Student Services at JCU's Indigenous Education & Research Centre Virginia McHugh says.

"The program is an initiative of Professor Martin Nakata and offers high school students the opportunity to hear lectures, attend tutorials and participate in sporting and team building activities."

"The program aims to give students an understanding of what University is like, provide

insight into the area of study that interests them, and to build capacity and aspiration," Mrs McHugh said. "The Indigenous Education and Research Centre covers all costs, including travel, so there is no financial burden on families."



She said Palm Island high school students, including boarders from other schools, were welcome to apply.

More information can be found at our website <https://www.jcu.edu.au/ierc/thinking-about-uni> or 4781 4676 or [ierc@jcu.edu.au](mailto:ierc@jcu.edu.au)

# New Primary Health Care Centre open for business

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Alf Lacey said the opening of the new Primary Health Care Centre last week was a pivotal moment in the history of health care on the Island.

“This is a brilliant new facility to support the health of the Palm Island community,” he said.

“Today is the start of a new way forward and community control is the best way forward.

“Community control represents the best way we can support of community to lead long, healthy and proud lives.”

Townsville Hospital and Health Service Board Chair Tony Mooney said the new Primary Health Care Centre would be run by Palm Islanders for Palm Islanders.

“It was more than three years ago that we started this journey with the community and the Council for Palm Islanders to take control of their own primary health outcomes,” Mr Mooney said.

“Today is not the end, it is just an important step as we transition the delivery of primary health services from the Townsville HHS to community control.

“Initially, the Action Plan charted a 10-year plan for primary health services to be run by the community but today’s letter of intent is about doing everything we can for that transition to happen as soon as possible.”

Deputy Premier Jackie Trad said a letter of intent would be signed between the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and the Palm Island Community Company to fast-track the facility being



operated by a community-controlled Board.

“It is important to the community that the service transitions to a community-controlled board as soon as possible,” said Ms Trad.

“We have worked closely with the local council and other members of the community to make sure the centre delivers the important health care they need.”

The Primary Health Care Centre is the jewel in the crown of the Palm Island Health Action Plan 2018 – 2028 that charts a clear, community-driven path to improve the health outcomes of Palm Islanders.



On a windy and overcast day last month Noel Gertz from Civil Safety came to deliver essential training to nine enthusiastic Campbell Page participants.

The training conducted covered the preparation and principles to work safely in the construction industry and ensuring to adhere to all Work Health and Safety guidelines for a construction site, which is also known throughout the building industry as the 'White Card'.

The 'White Card' is a vital qualification for anyone wishing to work on a construction site.

Campbell Page said was great to see the guys were very eager and



enthusiastic to learn and participate in all aspects of the training, which included a practical component and a visit to a working site.

With three new building projects commencing on the Island employment prospects

are looking good for those who participated. We would like to thank Noel Gertz and Civil Safety for running the course, North Qld TAFE for the use of their lecture room and the attendees for their enthusiasm



Bwgcolman State School teachers Letitia Murgha and Tamara Cassady were amongst more than 1000 marchers in Townsville's Labour Day street parade along the Strand last weekend.

Letitia teaches Grade 5 at the Palm primary school and Tamara Grade 2.

They marched as part of the Queensland Teachers Union contingent.

The march commenced from Strand Park at

10am and proceeded 300m to the roundabout near the Seaview Hotel.

They then came back along the same route to Strand Park where a huge family day was held.

# 80th birthday cause for celebration

MORE than 120 family members from around Australia travelled to Palm Island to celebrate Hans Pearson's 80th birthday last month.

"That was really important to me," he told Koori Mail's 'My Family' column.

"I actually turned 80 on April 17 and we had the party at the Palm Island PCYC three days later which enabled loved ones from far away to attend."

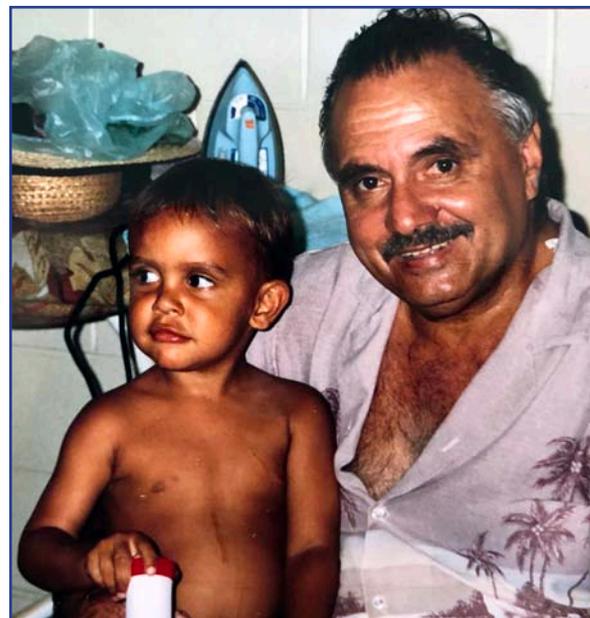
He said family travelled from Adelaide, Darwin, Sydney, Townsville, Cairns, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah and Charters Towers.

"Some of whom I haven't seen in a long time," he said.

"They included my daughters, a son, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great, grandchildren, cousins, nephews and nieces.

"I have 45 grand children, 46 great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren and some of them were there."

He said there were also relatives of his from the Baira,



Morgan, Thimble, Pearson and Norman families from Palm Island.

"Some of nephews are quality footballers on Palm Island and I get down to Allblacks carnivals and watch them each year," Mr Pearson said.

He said the Palm Island celebration included kup murri, cooked by his grandsons, and hula dancing by his great grandchildren.

"The wonderful cake had my photo on it and was in the colours of my favourite NRL team, the North Queensland Cowboys which I have

supported since they joined the competition," he said.

"My party was MC'd by my great, grand kids, and I was happy to make a speech, even though I was a bit emotional.

"Others who talked were my grandsons and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Alf Lacey.



"There was lots of photos taken by a grandson Rigby Barnes from Adelaide and these will be treasured lifelong memories.

"Seeing so many of my loved ones there made me reflect on just how important they all are to me.

"I was born at Cooktown and worked at many stations around the north and arrived on Palm Island way back in 1958. I married by wonderful wife Anna-May Prior in 1960. "When I left Palm in 1961 I went up north and came to Townsville in 1968.

"These days I live a quiet life in the Townsville suburb of Hermit Park and look forward to many more years with visits from family."

A STREET march, laying of wreaths and numerous games of two-up were amongst activities held during an emotional Anzac Day memorial on Palm Island this year.

Flags were at half mast in the main street around the Council Offices as participants gathered near the police station for a street march to the Cenotaph.

MC was Cr Eddie Walsh, who has several deceased descendants who served with distinction in the military.

His grandfather, Keith Aubrey, was a Rat of Tobruk for the Australian Army serving in North Africa during WWII.

“He got shot in the leg by the Germans and was missing in action for two years but turned up alive after that,” Cr Walsh said. “I also had an Uncle, Keith Walsh, who served in Malaysia and Vietnam.”

Thomas Prior and Norman Patterson – both of whom have served in the military – were there along with William Coolburra, a son of the much loved late Bill Coolburra who was Tunnel Rat during the Vietnam War.

At the ceremony guests were welcomed to country by traditional owner Allan Palm Island followed by a commemorative address by Mayor Alf Lacey.

After a hymn, Mounting of Catafalque Party, Guard Commander (3 CER) spoke before prayers and readings.



Wreaths were laid by the Mayor and Councillors, Armed Forces Representatives, the SES including ambulance officers, family members of those who served, students and members of the public.

The Ode was conducted by Lt Ollie Palmer (3 CER), before the Last Post, one minute's silence, the Rouse and National Anthem.

Flags were raised by 3 CER personnel and school captains then a Dismount Catafalque Party and closing remarks from Cr Walsh.

At 1pm the Coolburra Sports Bar and Grill opened and many games of two-up were held with football legend Vern Daisy umpiring.

“Lots of people were there and many enjoyed the two-up,” Cr Walsh said.

# ANZAC Day 2019



Meanwhile in Townsville Virginia Wyles and John Wotton (above) were at the mainland ANZAC day march and events. Several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youths including some boarding pupils from Palm Island were also there.

# Palm Island Voice



Public &  
Community Notices



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

**Thursday  
16 May**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday  
23 MAY**

*Check out our Facebook page,  
we have 2,441 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  
[chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)



## **Invitation to Tender (Tender Number SA2019) Goods and Services Supplier Arrangement**

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council invites  
suitable suppliers to tender for the following  
service types. The period of the tender will be  
1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021. Council reserves  
the right to extend the tender period up to a  
maximum of 2 years.

**Documentation:** Tender documents can be  
organised by emailing [nat@natkentconsulting.com.au](mailto:nat@natkentconsulting.com.au)

**Lodgement of Tenders:** Tenders must be lodged  
with the Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island  
Aboriginal Shire Council, 96 Dearness Street,  
Garbutt 4814. Tenders should be clearly marked  
as "Confidential: Tender SA2019".

**Closing Date: 5pm 17 May 2019**

Under Section 228(7) of the Local Government Regulation  
2012 relating to changes to tenders may be applied.

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



Palm Island  
Aboriginal  
Shire Council  
has 3,122 'likes' on  
Facebook!!!

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



**POSITION VACANT**  
**Diversionsary Program Coordinator**  
**Full-time Permanent**

Palm Island Community Company (PICC) is seeking a Diversionsary Program Coordinator.

The PICC Diversionsary Service provides support and intervention to people on Palm Island who are vulnerable, with complex needs, may be intoxicated, or at risk of misusing substances in public spaces or at risk of entering police custody.

The Diversionsary Program Coordinator role is a challenging key leadership role which will see you managing all aspects of the Diversionsary Program. The Coordinator will ensure that all program services are providing the highest level of support possible to the program clients.

**Benefits**

A competitive remuneration package including salary packaging is available to the successful applicant and the opportunity to make a real difference within the organisation.

**How to apply**

Applications close on 10th May 2019. To apply for this position, (or for a copy of the position description), please email a completed application form, copy of your resume and cover letter to Charmaine at [cchong@picc.com.au](mailto:cchong@picc.com.au).

*Make Life Matter*

**JCU Winter School**

for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Applications close 5pm Wednesday 15 May 2019



This program offers Year 10, 11 and 12 students the opportunity over five days to live on campus and take part in academic lectures and team-building activities.

To find out more visit:  
[jcu.edu.au/lerc/thinking-about-uni](http://jcu.edu.au/lerc/thinking-about-uni)





 **COMMUNITY NOTICE** 

**URGENT WATER ALERT**

**DON'T DRINK THE TAP WATER**

**DON'T COOK WITH THE TAP WATER**

HOUSES ARE BEING SUPPLIED WITH **BOTTLED WATER.**

THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT IS CURRENTLY UNDER REPAIR.

RESIDENTS WILL BE ADVISED WHEN THE WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK.

**DON'T DRINK OR COOK WITH THE TAP WATER.**

 PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL  
 1 MAIN STREET, PALM ISLAND QLD 4816H: 47700200  
 WEBSITE: [www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](http://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)



**FREE INFORMATION SESSION**

**SAFE DISPOSAL AND NEEDLE STICK INJURY**

*Presented by Julie from QuIHN*

**WHEN - WEDNESDAY 15TH OF MAY**  
**TIME - 9:30 AM**  
**WHERE - PCYC**

*Future presentations will include topics such as -*

- Blood Borne Viruses (Hepatitis B and HIV/Aids)
- Hepatitis C
- Drug awareness
- Sexually Transmitted Infections

 **CAMPBELL PAGE**

## Boxers hopeful for good results in Rocky

PALM boxers Patrick Clarke and Darryl Richardson hope to travel to Rockhampton on Saturday for a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament – as long as they can find a sponsor to help with the costs of a hire vehicle.

Trainer Ray Dennis said it was a long trip at 700km each way, and he wanted to support the host Rockhampton Club, which he said had been a great supporter for Palm Island boxing.

“There may be a few other younger fellows going as well if we can arrange transport,” he said.

Patrick is in great form after a first round knockout win at Townsville’s Centenary Hotel tournament two weeks ago.

# RARL comp

SIDES from Palm Island and the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) are set to return to the 2019 Skytrans Far North Queensland Remote Area Rugby League (RARL) competition after a year’s absence.

The competition will be played in Cairns on Saturday June 15 with reigning champions Torres Strait Stingers and Northern Cape, Southern Cape and Gulf of Carpentaria.

It’s been two years since 2017 winners NPA, coached by Robert Yorkston, and Palm Island (*pictured right*), coached by Roy Prior, competed in the competition because neither had a Queensland Rugby League (QRL) club competition to draw players from.

Cairns-based QRL Northern Division spokesman Robbie Moore said the NPA would have a club competition with five clubs – Alau Eagles, Bamaga Roos, Injinoo Crocs, Mapoon Brothers and another from Seisia.

Palm Island will also have a club comp this season, which will start soon and feature men’s and junior divisions.

Torres Stingers will be picked from the players competing in the Zenadth Kes competition on Thursday Island.

The Gulf side will have players from the Battle of the Gulf competition between remote communities Burketown, Normanton, Doomadgee, Kowanyama and Mornington Island.

Southern and Northern Cape will consist of players from the Cape York Cluster League with sides from Weipa, Napranum, Old Mapoon, Lockhart River and Kowanyama.

Moore said the carnival had significant logistical requirements



## OUT & ABOUT

@the Bwgcolman Men’s Group March last month

L-R: Stephen Wallace, Jamal Idris & Donovan Cannon

# revived for 2019



and was costly to host.

“It is our intention to gather as many participants as possible for this event and provide a pathway to ensure we are selecting the best talent,” he said.

The RARL provides a representative pathway

for talented footballers who will be picked to play on a Northern United side after the carnival to meet Queensland Outback, a match which is tradition-ally watched by talent scouts for the Queensland Intrust Super Cup and even some from NRL sides.

## TDRL bringing out ‘good form’

Palm Island footballers have continued their great form in round five of the Townsville and District Rugby League competition.

In the A-Grade comp, Philip Daisy scored a try in Brothers 36-18 win over Western Lions.

The A-Grade points table is: Brothers 20, Charters Towers 16, Western Lions 12, Herbert

River 12, Centrals 8, Burdekin 8, Norths 0.

In reserve grade Gresham Ross jnr scored two tries in Brothers 34-4 victory over Western Lions.

Daniel Martin scored two four pointers in Norths 18-16 defeat of the Burdekin.

In the women’s division Lyrech Mara scored a try in Brothers 12-14 loss to Western Lions.



# Local rugby league comp ready for re-boot

A re-boot of a local Palm Island Rugby League (PIRL) season will kick-off in July, newly elected Chair of the association and former-NRL star Milton Thaiday says.

Also at the AGM, Cr Deniece Geia was elected Secretary and Alf Clay Treasurer.

Mr Thaiday, 39, said the new competition would be a short season.

“We will have B Grade men, under-18s, under-20s and maybe under-14s,” he said.

“Next season we will also have an A Grade mens.”

Mr Thaiday said the focus of his commit-tee was to get as many “young fellas” as possible playing football.

Many senior grade Palm Island footballers already play for

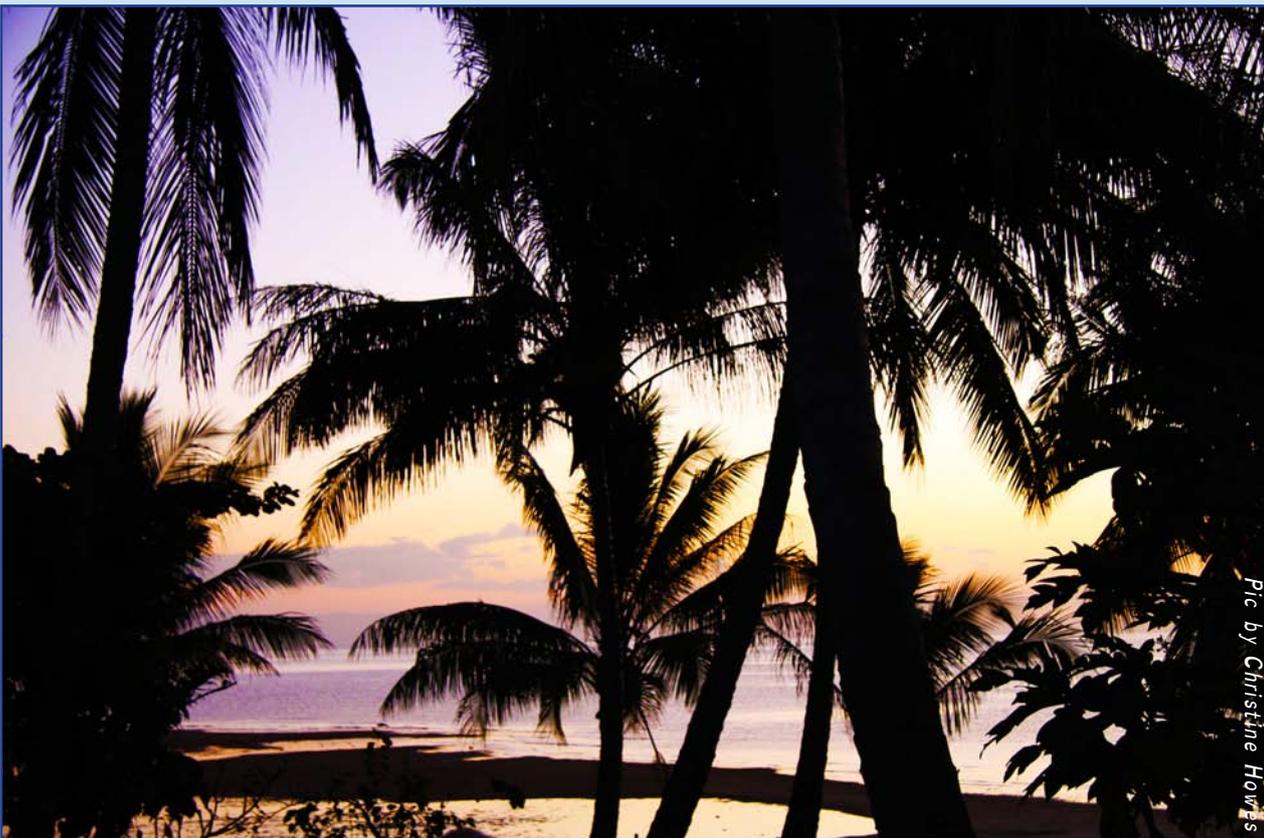
Townsville and District clubs.

But Mr Thaiday said with dual registration allowed local players would also be able to line up in the Palm comp.

Mr Thaiday himself has signed with Norths Club in Townsville but has not played many games.

Between 2005 and 2007 Mr Thaiday played 29 A Grade matches for NRL club the Newcastle Knights mostly at full-backs.

Mr Thaiday also played 13 games for the NSW Waratahs in the Super Rugby Union comp between 2002 and 04.



Pic by Christine Howes

...Palm Island life...