

Issue 29

Tuesday 10 March 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Ergon staff beat field of 4,500 for customer service award!



On a lesser note....

On Tuesday last week a patient attempted to steal some drugs from the back of the ambulance.

The drugs were recovered but the Ambulance Service says drugs from their supplies should never be used outside of treatment as they could cause death. The Ambulance Service also said they would not tolerate theft, warning everyone that ambulance equipment and the drugs they carried were for the benefit of the community, not for recreational use.

For some good news and more information from our Health Services see pages 6-7...



Palm 'left out' of ALP preselection process

State Election candidate, Delena Oui-Foster, says Palm Island members of the Labor Party were ignored in the preselection processes for the seat of Townsville after long-time sitting MP Mike Reynolds announced his retirement last month.

Ms Oui-Foster said members of the Labor Party on Palm Island were given no opportunity to have any input into the process. "I just felt that because of Mike Reynold's resignation that this was an opportunity because in the past we've felt obligated to Mike, but now that's not the case," she said.

"I've been involved in politics and community development activities for the past 30 years, I've been a member of the Labor Party on Palm and I've always tried to get people to come over and sit with us to help us get involved in what's happening in the Party.

"But we weren't even considered in the preselection, we weren't given any information on it, you know if they want us to be a Labor member, surely they should show us some consideration and ask us our opinion."

The revelations came after media reports last week of an Australian Electoral Commission map which had incorrectly identified Hinchinbrook Island as Palm Island, and failed to show Great Palm Island on the map at all.

Ms Oui-Foster said the message she wanted to get across to Palm Islanders in particular was "not to be fooled".

(Continued p 2...)



'Don't be fooled' – former-mayor

(...Continued from p 1)

"Don't be fooled, this is an opportunity not only to make history but to also change our voice in Parliament," Ms Oui-Foster said.

"I don't think Labor has really been there for the people, there's just been a rhetoric over the past decade or more, no real solutions on the ground."

Ms Oui-Foster, who has worked at Kootana Womens' Centre for 13 years, said she was prepared to lose her own job as manager but trusted there would be no 'payback' on the organisation itself for her outspokenness during the campaign.

"I don't care if the government comes and sacks me after this but at least I'm bringing these things out into the open," she said.

Promises

"There will be promises made again to us in this election that won't be kept.

"They build a \$1.5m 'Taj Mahal' (government accomodation) here on Palm while we've got a housing crisis which sees 15-20 people living in a three bedroom house.

"We've been talking about these things for the past 20 years but we're still struggling to get the needs of the community met.

"So I felt that our needs have been falling on deaf ears.

"Look at the AMP, Palm Island said 'no' and yet they still went ahead and did it without even sitting down with our leaders and working out any other way forward to curb alcohol abuse and violence.

"Those issues still haven't been addressed but they just continue to throw money at mainstream organisations to deliver services to our community but the money doesn't reach us.

Service Delivery

"When I was Mayor the Minister gave us a copy of all the organisations that were receiving dollars to deliver services on Palm Island and

I couldn't believe my eyes when I read that. "There was organisations in Brisbane who were claiming to deliver services to Palm.

"I think the other candidates aren't aware of what's been happening at the Government level."

Frustrated

Ms Oui-Foster said she was frustrated by the lack of progress made over the past 10 or more years.

"In 2007 then-Premier Peter Beattie called all the mayors up to the Atherton Tableland for a meeting and the words he used up there were that 'there's going to be a new way of doing things', Ms Foster said.

"He said they realised they hadn't been successful in Indigenous communities and they hadn't been doing things properly.

"When I look back on all of that, and I mean they were sending me and other mayors to Brisbane or Cairns once a month, so the amount of money that would have been outlaid, I think it was all for nothing.

"I can just see that we're not getting anywhere and the real reason I wanted to run was that I just feel that there's too many broken promises.

Good faith

"We work with good will and in good faith when we put our hands up to get into those positions of leadership to help our community.

"But when you see things like the 'Taj Mahal' built on the shores of Palm Island and you've got people like myself that have to put up with leaking roofs and two bedrooms filling up with water everytime it rains, and other households with so many people in them, you say 'hey what's going on here'.

"I just hope that I can get that message out there, that on the ground we're not getting the delivery of service we should be getting and I want to represent our people on these issues."

Taser use set to go on Palm

Police have told Palm Island residents that the introduction of the controversial Tasers could prevent people from being shot.

They also assured people that Tasers – electrical stun devices – were completely safe and a useful tool in policing.



Ex Palm Island policeman Trevor Adcock (pictured above with Cr Mick Thaiday) and Inspector Tony Graham were speaking at a community information session at the PCYC on Friday the 13th of February.

Palm was the last community to be visited by police to

explain the introduction of Tasers.

Councillor Mick Thaiday, who holds the Law and Order portfolio for the Palm Island Council, attended the session.

Tasers are being issued to Police across the State and are already being used in many areas.

Trevor and Tony discussed the importance of the role of Tasers and the effects they have on people.

They said Tasers temporarily incapacitate

people by using an electrical current to disrupt the body's electrical signals.

They said Tasers had no effect on the heart or other internal organs.

The meeting was told people who have been "Tasered" make a complete recovery without the aftercare

required from other disabling techniques such as capsicum spray.

The strict reporting conditions on the use of Tasers were also outlined at the meeting.

Senior Sergeant Paul James said: "A number of our long term staff will be trained and hopefully they can defuse situations without using the Taser but it is also an option for the safety of police and the public in situations that could prevent someone getting shot".

Trevor Adcock said he enjoyed the chance to return to Palm and catch up with some old friends.

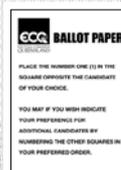


Palm Island Voice would like to thank visiting PLO George Cummings for his assistance with the article above. George is working at the police station for a couple of months on a swap with Doc Friday.

Advertisement

QUESTIONS?

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING IN THE QUEENSLAND STATE ELECTION ON SATURDAY 21ST MARCH, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. REMEMBER, YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE, SO MAKE SURE YOU USE IT. FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION VISIT QUEENSLANDVOTES.COM.AU OR CALL THE VOTERS' HELPLINE MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8AM TO 6PM ON 1300 881 665.



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SEE BALLOT PAPER FOR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND REMEMBER VOTING IS COMPULSORY

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A quick yarn with...

Erykah Kyle

Just important information regarding our history.

One that never leaves us is the rule of the superintendent at that time and his rule over the community.

He was authoritarian and what he said went.

One of the punishments was, of course, what we old people still call Punishment Island.

It got that name because when anyone did anything against the superintendent's rules (it was where people were sent).

One in particular, and I don't like to mention his name, his brother at the time was an amazing snake charmer.

On my way to school he would be out on the road and he would do his demonstration of getting that snake to sleep and then waking that snake up.

But his younger brother, both of them were sent to 'Punishment' as it was in those days.



His younger brother was quite rebellious, not many of our people accepted the wishes of the authoritarians (and one day) he got very frustrated and lifted the superintendent's desk just about over him.

So he was told he could stop over on Punishment Island.

Pics on this page (by Christine Howes): Unheard of in the days of the Superintendent, Erykah Kyle standing up for her peoples' rights as mayor of Palm Island in 2004.

Ergon pays tribute to Island's customer service crew



Last week Mollison and Merle Robertson received the Top Customer Service Award for 2008 from Ergon Energy, beating more than 4,500 Ergon employees for their service above and beyond the call of duty.



Ergon's General Manager for Transmission and Distribution Services Alvan Smith said for Mollison it had been 30-years of "keeping the lights on" for Palm Island residents.

"It's not only the power station it's the reticulation, the customer queries and the logistics of supply and demand when anyone comes over to the Island," he said.

The awards ceremony was also attended by Ergon General Manager for Operations Northern Region Paul Bryan, PIAC Crs Gorringe & Prior and CEO Barry Moyle.

Cert III for Peggy - well done!



Four and half years of training through TAFE and at the Coolgaree CDEP have paid off for Peggy Palm Island who recently collected her Certificate III in Hospitality.

It means she is qualified to take on basic cooking, apply cook-chill and cook-freeze production processes, and prepare menus or food according to dietary and cultural needs in her work (and home!) places.

The presentation was attended by councillors Gorringe and Prior and the TAFE headmaster, all of whom agreed Peggy should be proud of what she had achieved.

Paramedics' training boost to service

Local paramedics Ian and Mandy have started their Rural and Remote Isolated Practice Area Paramedic programs being held through the Work Force Directorate in Cairns and James Cook University in Mt Isa.

The officers have already been to Cairns twice for workshops as part of the 12-month course which includes a conference and workshop in Tasmania.

What does this mean for Palm Island?

In the future both Ian and Mandy will have more skills including being able to supply some medications for different conditions.

This might include, for example, administering

simple antibiotics, suturing of wounds or changing of catheters.

Ian and Mandy said once their work was done they would be "hanging around" to help out in accident and emergency or with continued care.

Case studies are also part of the program so they may want to interview some Palm Island patients about their conditions.

Both Ian and Mandy previously graduated as practising Paramedic Practitioners.

"It's an exciting time and we are both looking forward to providing a higher level of care to our patients here on Palm Island," Mandy said.



Trainer Rob Shillman with members of Palm's paramedic crew Jemma, William, Ian & Bill

FROM THE AMBO'S DESK

Last fortnight was busier than usual with an increase in assault and alcohol related cases, but out of a bad weekend came something good, that being the arrival of 'Exanda Sibley' (pictured right) who arrived at 3.05am Tuesday (24/2) morning at home!

I have delivered seven babies so far, this was my first breech delivery.

They can be incredibly difficult to deliver the wrong way around, but this outcome was successful.

Also, there were a couple of Palm Island residents who assisted Gemma and myself over the weekend! We do appreciate it and thank you for looking out for us.

Mandy Barr



News from the GP's Clinic

Firstly we are very fortunate to welcome Raymond Blackman (Tubby) to our local doctor's team this year. He grew up some time on Palm so this is an exciting homecoming for him. His presence means we will have more time to devote towards health in the community. Hopefully we'll be able to see you at home if you're unable to get in to see us.

**GP Clinic times: Monday 9 – 5 (lunch 1230 – 1330)
Tuesday – Thursday 10 – 5
Friday 9 – 5
Sat, Sunday emergencies only**

The hospital is always open for urgent matters

There is a Dengue outbreak in Townsville right now. With all the rain around this year mozzies that bites during the day have passed this infection between many people. Dengue is a virus that gives you a bad headache, fever, back ache and sometimes red skin.

If you're spending time in Townsville the best thing is not to be bitten by a mozzie. Wear bright clothes and insect repellent if you're outside for a while. If you're feeling sick like this see a doctor here or in town

Dr Clinton Leahy

Even though there has been no recorded cases of dengue fever on the Island that does not mean that we can be lax about our attitudes when it comes to mozzies.

Dump (at the rubbish dump) all tins, tyres, used ice cream containers and ornamental shells.

Empy all flower vases, pot plants and other containers which hold water at least once a week. Wipe off and burn any visible mozzie eggs.

Never allow water-holding holes in trees to remain empty – fill them up with soil.

Gauze (fly screen type) screens with mesh less than 1mm square should be placed over openings to tanks or wells or other large water containers.

Use care in checking gutters and pipes for area which could hold pools of water. Repair if necessary.

Ensure mozzies cannot bred in unscreened water tanks or more difficult to reach sites by pouring a small amount of kerosene onto the surface of the water.

What should I do if I think I have Dengue?

See your doctor immediately they will arrange for a blood test which will tell if your have dengue fever or not.



Palm Island Voice

Community Notices

POSITIONS VACANT



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1 Main Street PALM ISLAND QLD 4816

Phone: 4770 0202

Fax: 4770 1241

ceo@piac.com.au

ABN: 68 799 811 816

Health Liaison Officer

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is looking for a dedicated hard working local Indigenous person to work in the field of Indigenous Health supporting and working amongst Aged Care Hostel residents, Qld Health and the people of Palm Island, with a clear vision in improving relationships between Community and Joyce Palmer.

For more information contact PIAC.

Accounts Officer

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council wishes to recruit an Accounts Officer for an initial period of six months. He/She will assist with recording and reporting of Council's financial data and providing accounting/finance services as relevant to the position. In addition he/she will assist with file maintenance, budget data and reporting links.

Interested candidates should send an application and recent resume by Monday 16 March to: CEO Barry Moyle at the address above.

The PIASC will shortlist suitable candidates. It reserves the right to request further information from shortlisted candidates. This may be by way of a formal presentation to a selection panel or written presentation, at the discretion of the PIASC.

Inquiries or requests for further information may be directed to John Mugambi, Finance Manager, PIASC on 4770 0212 or via email to john.mugambi@piac.com.au

THINKING OF STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS? INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A MARKET STALL?

If so contact Jodie Ryan, PIAC's Enterprise Development Officer, to register your idea and for assistance from the newly-formed Economic Development Committee.

Contact Jodie via the Council contact details above.

AA Meetings @ Ferdy's are held day and night to help support people with drug or alcohol problems. Meeting times are 9am and 7pm. Call day staff at the centre on 4770 1152 in the morning to be picked up for the 7pm meeting.

**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

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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.

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Keep Queensland Strong



Mike Reynolds, Member for Townsville and Mandy Johnstone, Labor Candidate for Townsville will be visiting Palm Island on Wednesday, 11 March, 2009.



We are keen to meet with members of the Palm Island Community and invite you to join us from 9:00am to 11:00am in the Town Square.

If you have any queries we could assist with, please contact Mandy Johnstone's Campaign Office on (07) 4724 3871.



Authorised by D.Parker, 6/29 Lindsay Street, Rosslea, 4812

Palm Island Voice

Palm Island Voice is a fortnightly community newsletter, first launched in August 2007. Advertising space is available to any businesses, organisations or individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community.

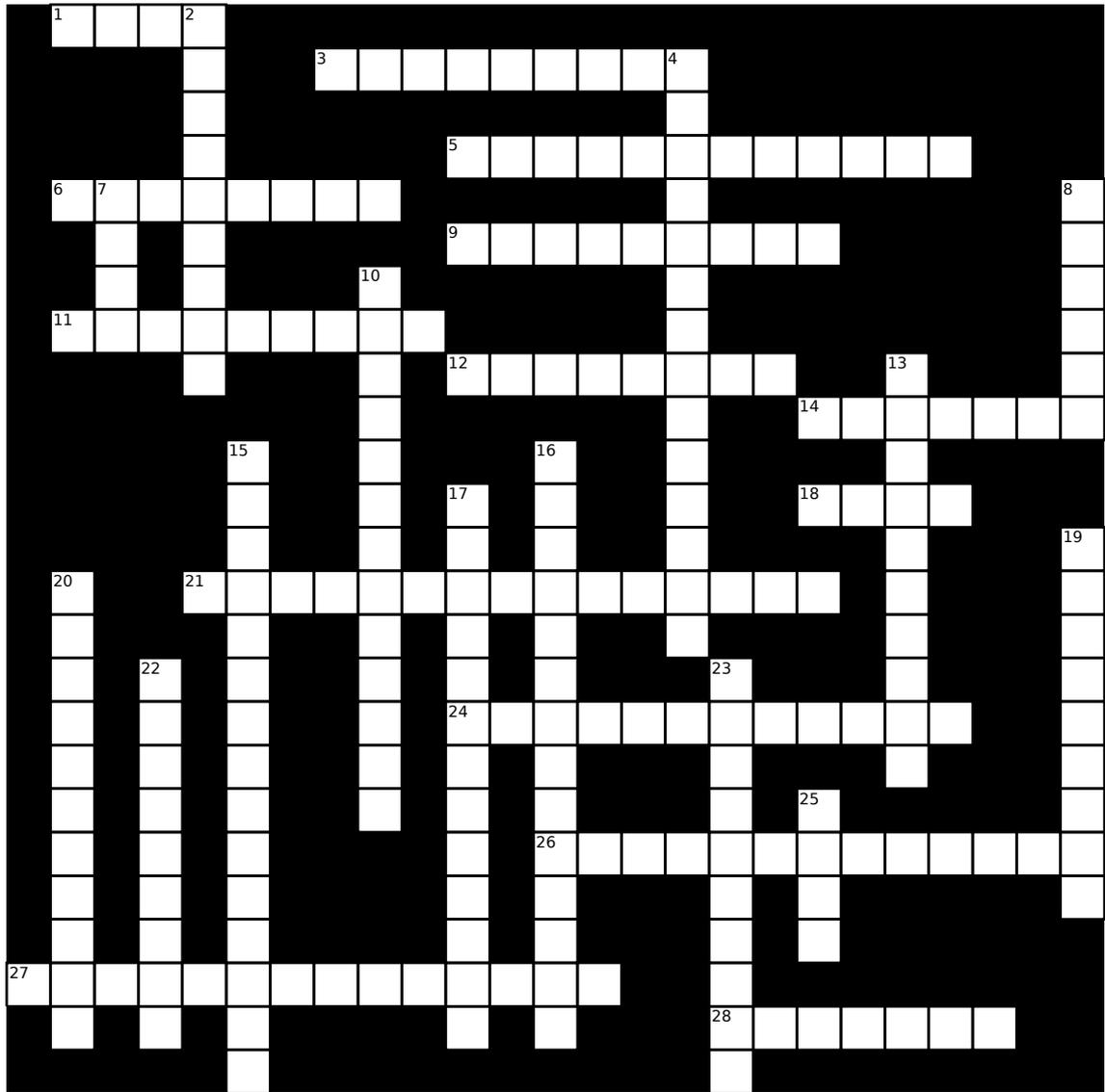
The hard copy format is black and white, hopefully soon to be colour, with an electronic versions available in full colour PDF for email distribution. A system of paid subscriptions for non-Palm Island residents will be implemented early in 2009.

Palm Island Voice is published by the Palm Island Aboriginal Council with support from a Queensland State Government initiative through the Community Renewal program.

Palm Island Voice

CROSSWORD NO 29 - YOU CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC!!!

Palm Island Voice would like to acknowledge the assistance of the crossword maker at: <http://www.armoredpenguin.com/> crossword/for Crossword No 29, "Can't Stop the Music". Answers next Issue (and note please, Tim doesn't have them!!!)...



Across

1. Much loved partner to Archie
3. These grow from little things
5. A Southern Son who sang about the Tenterfield Saddler
6. Mop sang with the ?
9. Jimmy Little's cover album
11. Yothu Yindi did the soundtrack for this movie
12. Who sang for the flag with Lil Yull?
14. Kev Carmody offered this
18. Our island home
21. A True Believer
24. Australian Idol winner
26. Who can't stop the music?!!!!
27. This pub with no beer could have been included in Slim's song
28. Archie Roach sang the story in this movie

Down

2. Gurrumul's famous last name in music
4. Palm Island's annual music fest
7. Where Johnny Cash shot a man (to watch him die)
8. Well-known brothers from Broome
10. That soaring female voice that used to back Yothu Yindi
13. The whitefella in the Warumpi Band
15. Sang 'Raining on the Rock' with John Williamson
16. No Fixed Address' truest
17. Australian Idol runner-up
19. The Deadly's 2008 most promising new music talent
20. Famous Cairns-based didge player
22. Teamed up with Kev Carmody to make a tribute album
23. Big name -- -----, Warumpi Band
25. These were burning for Midnight Oil

Be Waterwise!

The past 2-3 years we have experienced very good wet seasons and an abundance of rain. But we seem to forget that in 2004 Palm Island had only two months of drinkable water left in our dams and people started moving off the island.

During this period people were hosing roads, kids were playing under hoses, people filling swimming pools and basically abusing the little bit of water we had, with no guilt.

Just because we have a lot of water and both dams are full we still must conserve our water supply.

Here are a few steps that we all can follow:

- Do not hose down the roads (nothing's going to grow out there)
- Water yard and gardens in the evening when the sun is setting (if you water in the heat of the day half the water you use will just evaporate into the air)
- Do not be frightened to growl at your own kids if they are seen wasting water.

For more water saving ideas please contact the Environmental Health Department of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council on 4770 0215.



Queensland State Election 2009 - Election dates:

- Electoral rolls closed at 5pm on Saturday 28 February 2009
- The deadline for candidates wishing to nominate was 12 noon on Tuesday 3 March 2009. The draw for positions on each ballot paper was held at the office of each Returning Officer about mid-afternoon that day. A list of candidates is published on the Electoral Commission's website at www.queenslandvotes.com.au
- Pre-poll voting commenced on Monday 9 March and will cease at 6pm on Friday 20 March 2009
- Applications for a postal vote can be lodged immediately. Postal vote applications close at 6pm on Thursday 19 March 2009
- Election day is Saturday 21 March 2009 and polling booths are open from 8am to 6pm.**

Enrolment and voting

Enrolment and voting are compulsory for all eligible citizens. Provisional enrolment is available at age 17 and voting is for electors from age 18.

Ballot papers

Every voter will get one ballot paper. This ballot paper will have the names of all the candidates who have nominated for the elector's electoral district. The ballot paper will also have the name of a candidate's political party (if the party is a Registered Political Party).

Voting instructions will appear at the top of every ballot paper.

Palm Island's very own solicitor Emmakita Pryor (pictured right) has kept her promise to come back and use her newfound skills and knowledge to help. She recently spoke to Tim Miller for the *Palm Island Voice*.

My name is Emmakita Pryor, I am a solicitor and I got admitted last year.

I was working for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service before I was offered this position as Principal Project Officer at the Government Co-ordination Centre here on Palm Island.

So now I co-ordinate with businesses here to organise the future directions meetings in connection with the Department of Communities in Townsville.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships is basically closing the gaps around all the agreements made with all the communities and shire councils around Queensland Health, Education, Employment and Housing.

So we work with the Councils, Justice Group, PCYC, Police, Men's Group, the Health Service and just about any and all services here on Palm Island.

It's a big networking thing for me getting all the organisations working together for the betterment of this community, especially for the future of our kids.

It's something different for me, being in this position allows me to be back home to work with the people and they see a familiar face so it's all good work.

It's a challenge for me but in saying that I don't mind challenges.

Coming from James Cook University and the National University in Canberra it's all new but exciting.

I've found it very interesting so far, the past three weeks have been about catching up on reading and familiarising myself with the position.



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PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE *Palm Island Voice*

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Repeat advertising rates available upon request.