



Palm Island Voice



Your community

Your newspaper

**Issue 3.
14 September 2007**



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Young Dancers Shine

The Descendance Dance Group were just one of many highlights at the Palm Island PCYC's Inaugural AGM.

They performed a number of traditional dances from Kalkadoon country. They also danced an original piece about Palm Island.

This piece told the story of Grandfather, who was taken from his country and brought to Palm Island.

It told the story of working in the Mission and living in the dormitory.

The young dancers dancing was too deadly. Their performance was full of life and energy.

The audience loved the dancing and each dance received a long and loud round of applause.

The dancers are certainly a credit to their teachers and wonderful ambassadors for Palm Island.

After they finished their performance, the dancers tucked into a fantastic lunch. It certainly looks like they are enjoying it!



Pictures from Svea Pitman

Readers are advised this publication contains the names and images of people who have passed away.

Holiday Stuff for Kids

It can be tricky keeping kids amused and occupied during school holidays. So why not make the most of PCYC's child care programs.

PCYC will be running their Vacation Care program during the upcoming September holidays.

All kids who attend will need to register. You can drop in at the Child Care Centre between 11am and 2pm to register your child for Vacation Care.

Children attending Vacation Care will need to pay \$2 each for breakfast and lunch supplied during the holiday.

Registration is needed for Outside School Hour Care (OSHC) also. There is no cost for Outside School Hour Care. Children will be supplied with a light snack at 3pm and a light meal at 5:30pm.

Outside School Hour Care

3-6:30pm

Afternoon Tea at 3pm

Children's meals at 5:30pm

Vacation Care

9am-5pm

Breakfast at 9am

Lunch at 1pm



Kids enjoying some of the last series of June school holiday activities which were coordinated by Bwgcolman Future Inc
Pictures from Svea Pitman

Kootana Women's Centre Plan CAIRNS SHOPPING TRIP

A group of Elder women, together with Kootana Women's Centre are busy planning a trip to Cairns in October.

The five day trip, from 7-12th October will take them to Yarrabah community, where they will visit the local aged care home, Council, hospital, school and women's shelter. Then they will visit Mossman Gorge, attend Tjapukai theatre, and spend up big at the Kurand markets.

The fourth day will be spent shopping and site seeing in Cairns. Then the ladies will return to Townsville on Friday 12th October, where it is more than likely a few will stay on for the All Blacks play.

Iris Cannon from Kootana, said all the ladies were looking forward to the trip.

The trip has been made possible with support from Palm Island PCYC, Family Support Hub and Joyce Palmer Health Centre.

Iris wanted to remind everyone meetings are held at Kootana every second Tuesday. All women in the community are welcome to attend.

She also said Kootana is looking for a logo and anyone who has an idea for a design can contact her at Kootana.

Plans for Grand Final Night at the Pub

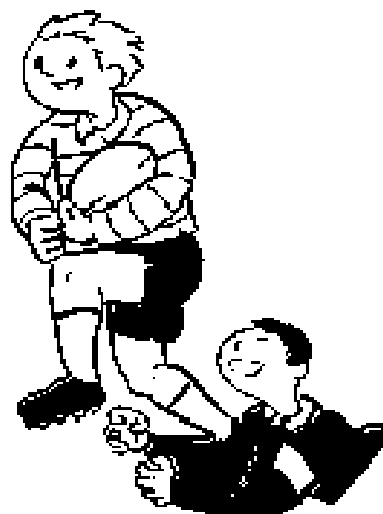
The Coolgaree Bay Hotel (the Pub) has applied to be open for the NRL Grand Final night on Sunday 30 September.

The plan is for the main bar to be open from 4-11pm and for the Bottle Shop to open from 4-7pm.

If the application is approved the **Palm Island Barracudas**

will come along to sell Hot Food on the night.

So join in the fun and barrack for your favourite team. Hopefully it's the Cowboys!





A YEAR OF POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AT PCYC

The Palm Island PCYC has reported a year of positive and enjoyable activities for youth and families in the community.

Speaking at their first Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 31 August, Branch Manager **Sergeant John Palleschi** expressed his pleasure at having been able to achieve a highly successful year of events.

He warmly thanked the community for strongly supporting the events which had been held over the past twelve months.

He said the Strike '57 and Dormitory Reunion celebrations had been particularly important occasions, because they had provided the Palm Island community with opportunities for healing.

Other events that stood out were the NAIDOC week Community Ball, and the inaugural PCYC Boxing Tournament.

He said the success of the PCYC was dependent on the strong partnerships which had been forged with other organisations on the Island, who had provided practical and financial support.

Some of the regular activities and programs held at the PCYC during the year have included:

- Elder's breakfasts and lunches
- Vacation Care Holiday
- After Hours School Care
- Graffiti Busters
- Beat the Streets
- Youth in Tune
- Hip Hop Rappers
- Youth Night Café
- Volleyball, soccer and netball competitions
- Cooking classes for Senior School and TAFE
- Hall hire and catering for meetings and other community events

And the list goes on.

There are many events and activities planned for the coming year. Some of these are:

- Tuesday Night Family BBQ
- Youth Leadership Conference
- TAFE Expo
- Mothers and Fathers Group meetings
- Community Market Days
- Bingo
- Family and Youth fishing and camping trips
- Movie and disco nights
- Basketball coaching seminars

And of course, the Palm Island Christmas party.

Sergeant Palleschi thanked the many people who had supported and helped with all these activities, and said he was looking forward to an even bigger and better year ahead.

Also speaking at the meeting were Mr **Allan Palm Island**, of the Manbarra people, **Bruce Walker**, Director, Government Coordination – Palm Island, **Barbara Webster**, Department of Housing Community Renewal, **Lynore Geia**, from Relationships Australia, and **George Colbran**, Federal ALP candidate for Herbert.

Approximately 100 people attended the meeting. A video presentation showcased two songs from the PI Boys hip hop group,. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a fine lunch and while watching a fabulous performance by the young dancers from **Descendance**.



Pictures from Svea Pitman

NEW SERVICES AT THE PUB

You may have noticed the new television screens at the pub.

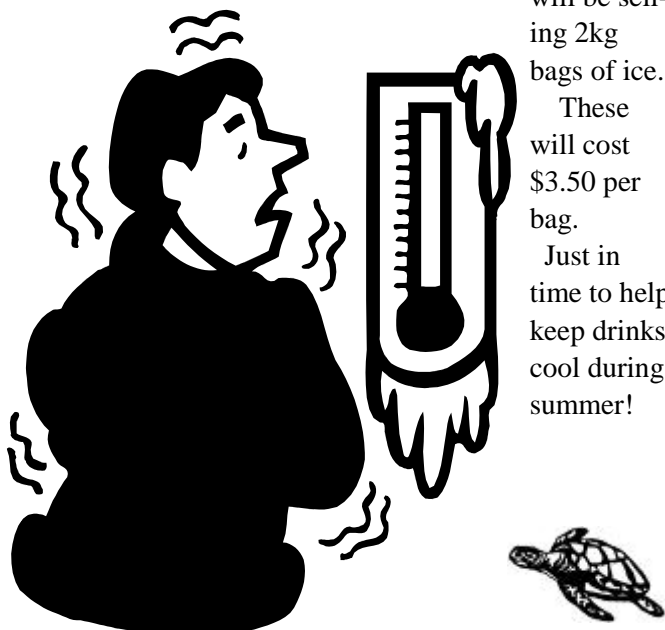
These are just some of the changes taking place at the Coolgaree Hotel.

Council's new Enterprise Clerk, **Norman Bounghi** is working with **Colleen Bonner** to improve the facilities available to the community.

Another service now available is that the canteen will be selling 2kg bags of ice.

These will cost \$3.50 per bag.

Just in time to help keep drinks cool during summer!



Lucinda Barge on Slip

The landing barge "*Olympic*" is currently on the slipway to undergo its yearly maintenance and inspection routine.

Day and Day have put on extra services to minimize disruption to services to Palm Island. Day & Day realise this may cause inconvenience to their customers. But it is vital to the safety of their passengers, crew and cargo.

Friday 14th September 2007

<u>Depart</u>	<u>Arrive</u>
Lucinda 6.00am	Palm Island 8.30am
Palm Island 10.00am	Lucinda 12.30pm
Lucinda 2.00pm	Palm Island 4.30pm
Palm Island 5.30pm	Lucinda 8.00pm

Saturday 15th September 2007

<u>Depart</u>	<u>Arrive</u>
Lucinda 8.00am	Palm Island 10.30am
Palm Island 11.30am	Lucinda 2.00pm

Normal services will resume on **Monday 24th September 2007** with daily services, Monday to Friday.

And there is **NO TRUTH** in the rumour the barge is being used in a movie for the next 2 to 3 weeks.



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Call for Awareness,



Graclyn Smallwood

Indigenous rights campaigners Graclyn Smallwood and Brad Foster addressed a public meeting in the town square on Friday 31 August.

They called upon the Palm Island community to be aware of policy changes sweeping through the Northern Territory may have implications here.

Graclyn Smallwood expressed concerns claims of acting to protect children were being used as an excuse to implement policy change in other unrelated areas.

Despite the different arrangements here in Queensland, she believes there is the possibility similar action could be taken here.

She called upon the community to be aware, to act responsibly and to make sure there was no reason for such intervention to occur on Palm.

Brad Foster questioned whether welfare reforms being trialled in Cape York communities would be beneficial on Palm.



Deputy Mayor Zac Sam

He questioned whether solutions developed work in one community could be used in other areas and said he believed welfare reform is really about welfare control.

He questioned whether leaders in other communities could be held up as speaking for all Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

Brad also called upon members of the Palm Island community to

mobilise into action, to stand up and speak for themselves.

He asked members of the community to think about, discuss and speak up about solutions to the problems they face, from a Palm Islander's point of view.



Brad Foster

Call for Action

ALP candidate for Herbert, Mr George Colbran also addressed the meeting, promising that, if elected, he would work with the community to resolve the issues raised by Palm Island's unique situation.

Deputy-Mayor Zac Sam facilitated the meeting, introducing and thanking each of the speakers in turn.

A crowd of about 50 or so people gathered in the town square to listen.

Two members of the community also took the microphone to speak.

Mr **Alfred Lacey** noted no leader of a major Federal political party had ever visited Palm Island. He challenged George Colbran to bring his leader Kevin Rudd to Palm. George accepted the challenge saying



Alfred Lacey

he would do his very best to do so.

Mr **Norris Daphney** also spoke to. He asked the poignant question 'Why am I a beggar in my own country?'

This seems to be a question that remains unanswered.



Norris Daphney & George Colbran



George Colbran

Tourism Mob Visits Palm

A group of eight tourism operators from around the state, recently visited Palm to look at and advise on the best ways to encourage community based and operated eco-tourism.

One member of group was Queensland Tourism representative **Glen Miller**. Glen is the Manager, Indigenous, Fishing, Gay & Lesbian, Accessibility, Market Development section of Queensland Tourism.

The group came to Palm to look at whether there is potential for the community to develop tourism enterprises which are in keeping with the aspirations and resources of the Palm Island community.

They were especially interested in looking at ways they could support tourism enterprises coming from within the community.

The intention is to provide ways local people can get into tourism enterprises to generate real jobs, and show case Palm Island's unique culture and heritage.

The group will be making some suggestions and recommendations to Council for further discussion with the community, based on their experiences while they were here.

This visit is the result of a presentation made by Council to an eco-tourism conference in Townsville, late last year and is building on outcomes and connections generated from this conference.

The idea is to look at ways of generating community controlled tourism enterprises and community based operators.

The Council is not interested in opening the way for tourists to disrupt the privacy of people in the community, and they certainly don't want people here treating locals as a sideshow.

Council hopes this visit and report will provide starting point for dialogue between community and council about the best way to go with regards to tourism, if at all.

The tourism mob arrived on the afternoon of Friday 31 August and spent some with councillors before being given brief tour of the community area, including Little Butler Bay and Pencil Bay.

On Saturday morning they went out in two boats to do some line fishing. Despite some problems with the boats, (both of them broke down), the group enjoyed their time out on the beautiful water surrounding the islands.

Later on Saturday they walked to Wallaby Point and were entertained by the **Coutts family**, who spoke about traditional food, and told stories of Wallaby Point,



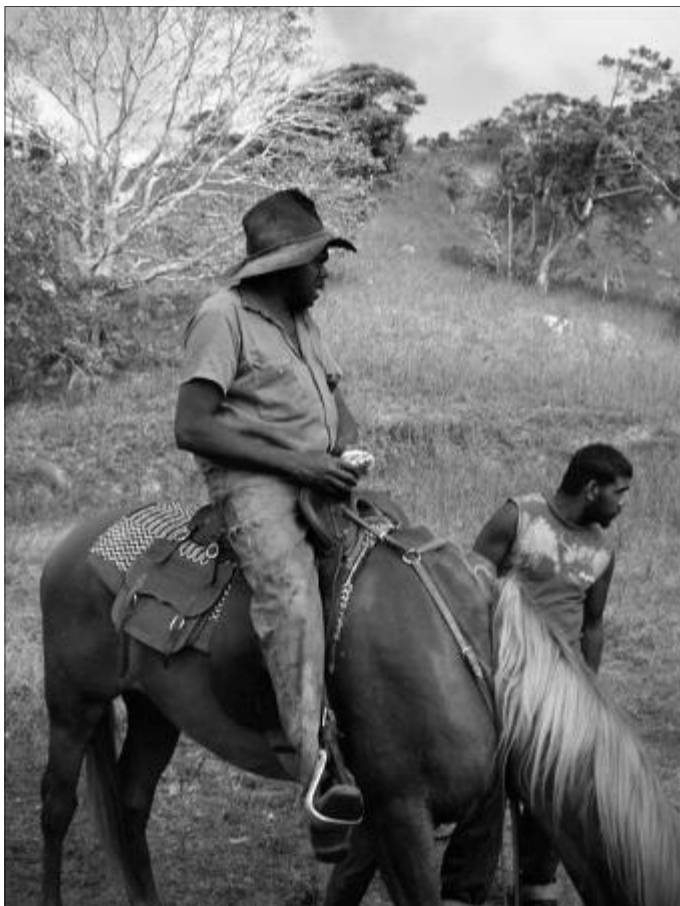
Walter Morgan on the bushwalk through Palm Valley



Overlooking North East Bay



Walking the beach at Wallaby Point
Pictures from Glenn Miller



Shaun Shortjoe on his horse, & Desmond Shortjoe standing

On Sunday they were driven up to Bamboo Creek to the viewing point overlooking wonderful North East Bay.

Afterwards, the **Shortjoe family** treated them to a traditional kup-murri and with pork and vegetables, and then followed by a coal fired damper.

Three members of the group were then fortunate enough to go for a horse ride with **Shaun Shortjoe**. Shaun took them to the helipad at the top of Mt Bentley. The rest of the group travelled up the mountain by four wheel drive.

After that trek they returned to a beautifully cooked BBQ at the motel where they again met up with councillors.

On Sunday afternoon they held a workshop meeting on their own to reflect on their experiences, and discuss possible ways forward. They also met some local artists and were impressed with the talent displayed by these members of the community.

On Monday morning they took a guided walking tour with **Walter Morgan** through Palm Valley.

All members of the group thoroughly enjoyed their visit, saying all the people they met were friendly and welcoming. They also said the bush walking, particularly the trek to Wallaby Point was fabulous.

They have made a commitment to bring back a report within 30 days, for Council to review. Council will

Put Your Business Here

Advertising space is available to all businesses, organisations and individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community.

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay
for further information
Telephone 07 4770 0215 or 4770 1177
Fax 07 4770 1305
email: editor@piac.com.au

Advertise in *Palm Island Voice*
and support the community
that supports you!



Above: The pine trees at Bamboo Creek.

Below: Pauline Shortjoe preparing lunch



Making Art *Work* for Palm Island

Local artist Gerard Nuggins wants to connect with other artists in the community.

He is hoping to start some art workshops where people can learn or practice artefact making.

He is thinking about having a one-off workshop to start with. But he hopes this will lead to some funding to regular monthly workshops.

Gerard is the winner of the Strike '57 Jubilee art competition held this year, and he also won first prize at the Community Renewal exhibition held at Umbrella Studios in Townsville last year.

He is interested in working with other artists and teaching people how to make cultural artefacts.

He hopes to build up a community artists group to recapture, record and promote the cultures of the Palm Island peoples.

Gerard said he would really love for more people to get involved producing art. He sees Aboriginal and Islander cultures from slowly fading away and believes art is a good way to stop that from happening.

He also sees opportunity for Palm Island artists to make some money through selling their artwork. He says it is a good business idea because you don't need much money to start up.

He started with \$50, which bought a bit of paint and a canvas. Gerard said, "All you really need is your imagination, and some stories to paint."

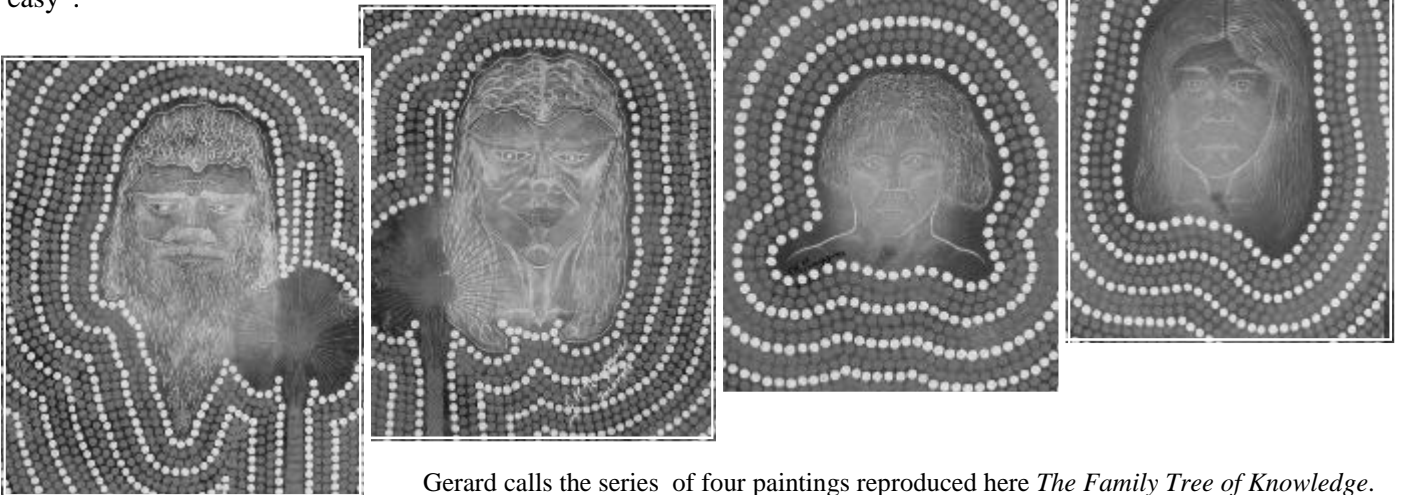
Gerard has story for all of his paintings. Some stories are traditional and others are from his own life and personal experiences.

Gerard is happy to help any artist who wants to find out more about how to go selling their art as a business. He said, "Basically you just need an ABN and some paintings to sell. And applying for an ABN is pretty easy".



Gerard has sold many of his art works. His latest sale has gone overseas to a private collector in Switzerland.

He will also be involved in the Palms Up project here on the Island, which is being run by SpeakOut and Red Cross.



Gerard calls the series of four paintings reproduced here *The Family Tree of Knowledge*. It comprises an old fella, an old lady, a young boy and a young girl. He painted it in response to his fears and concerns about Aboriginal cultural slowly fading away.

Students Honour their CULTURAL TEACHER



On Wednesday the 29 August the students, staff and approximately 30 invited guests paid their last respects to Ralph Norman.

Ralph Norman, as a community advocate leader and partner (CALP) of the Learning Pathways program, provided cultural knowledge and guidance to the students.

The student's had approached their teacher **Julie Woodlock**, with the suggestion of gaining approval to build a memorial garden for their (CALP) member who had provided cultural leadership and direction.

They wanted to recognise and honour the contributions Ralph had in their learning at TAFE.

With the help of both **Susan Prior** and Julie, the students set about designing the garden, and planning a memorial event.

Before the unveiling of the memorial, many friends and family shared their fond memories of Ralph.

What was evident in the speeches was the description of Ralph as a quiet achiever, a person who believed culture should be shared freely, and someone who continually worried about the youth and the future that laid ahead for them.

He was a life member of Ferdy's, and

was an advocate for the Murri court system. He had provided guidance to many people over the years.

Barrier Reef TAFE is thankful for the time he gave freely to our students, and acknowledges his contribution to the Palm Island campus.

The memorial became an example of how through working together we can achieve things for the community.

The students and staff of Barrier Reef TAFE Palm Island campus wish to thank Coolgaree CDEP for helping to move the rocks, and providing plants; the mens' group for providing meat for the barbeque; Ferdy's for preparing the salad; and

Ralphs' family members for allowing the students to screen some short videos of Ralph providing cultural instructions.

These videos will be edited and donated to the Palm Island culture centre for safe keeping.

May the knowledge he passed on continue to be passed on to others, and may the flame tree that is planted in the middle of the garden, grow as big and strong as Ralph.

Story & Pictures from Learning Pathways Students - TAFE



BWGCOLMAN WARRIORS



Man of the Match Neil Bara with Steve Southern.

From the 17th-19th of August some kids represented Palm Island in the Toyota Cowboys NASCA Rugby League Challenge in Townsville.

The players were Jayranni Ryan, Chad Friday, Thomas Morgan, Albert Gorringer, Tahlianne Fraser, William Charles, William Clumpoint, Stanley Fraser, Kenny Biara, Neil Biara, Maurice Biara, Alison McKean, Gudgan Johnson, Ethan Morgan, Jypsy Walsh and Vernon Geia. We all played together as the **Bwgcorman Warriors**.

As soon as we got off the plane in Townsville we got onto a big bus and went to Shalom College.

First up we had lunch and then we went over to Dairy Farmers Stadium to have a tour of their gym. A couple of the players talked to us and told us their back grounds like where they come from and what they did to achieve what they are doing now.

Carl Webb said "I make sure I eat a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner everyday, this helps me play my footy".

Matty Bowen said "I chose to live a healthy life by saying no to drugs, cigarettes and alcohol so I could follow my dream of playing in the NRL State of Origin".

Brenton Bowen said "throughout playing Rugby League I have made lots of great friends and learnt the skills that help me in life".

Obe Geia said "just work hard to achieve your goals and don't break the law".

On the Saturday we played our first game against Hopevale at 9am. Jayranni Ryan made the first try and she thanked William Clumpoint for setting her up. William Charles then got the first conversion 3 metres out.

We were then lucky to get the second try by **Kenny Baira**, he made the most lovely line break as he smashed through 3 boys and 2 girls putting us at 10. We played a great first game but lost 12-14.

Our next game was at 10.00 am, we played a team from Cape York. It was really close but again unfortunately lost 16-18. Our next game was at 11.00 it was a tremendous game against the big boys from Charters Towers.

Our first try was made by **William Charles** as he flew past the opposition running as fast as he could down the sideline. We missed our conversion but most of all we defended well throughout the game, which was great.

Jayranni Ryan made another great tackle with thanks to **Albert Gorringer** who ankle tapped him before he got smashed. We didn't walk away unknown we walked away from the game proud and hopeful for our next game against Shalom Primary School.

We sat down and trained until our next game. When our next game came up we ran on the field proud and strong. First up Jayranni Ryan and **Jypsy Walsh** smashed big **Jona Geia** and hurt him. All of the boys



Justin Thurston talks to the students at a BBQ with the Cow-



Western Cape vs. Palm

were very supportive for the girls in the last game so thankyou. We only made five tries in this game William Charles (2), Jypsy Walsh (1), Thomas Morgan (2) and thank you to Ethan Morgan and Thomas Morgan for getting all our conversions.

That led us to 28-28. Then Shalom made another try that led them 32-28 so sadly we lost, but it happened in a very good way so thank you guys and girls. Congratulations also to Neil Biara for being man of the match and for being great throughout the game.

We would like to say thank you to Obe Geia for being a great helper, Bully Mckean and Vaughny Charles for being great cheer boys.



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This corporation is a vehicle for all to join, to enable one Tender on behalf of the whole community.

We want to ensure the community can bid to own and operate the store on behalf of the whole community.

Join now and help get control of the store for the community.

Contact Lex Wotton 0428 788 811 or Chris Congoo 0407 573 762 or 4770 1152 ccongo@bigpond.net.au and join today.

This Project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Indigenous Small Business Fund, which is administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

PALM ISLAND COMMUNITY STORE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ABN 95 384 533 636

at NASCA Rugby League Challenge

All the people who trained us: Boy Morgan, Mr Dave, Mr Dave's Brother, Harry Rueben, Mr Brent, Miss Gemma, Miss Jen our PE teacher and thanks to the Cowboys for sponsoring us. Most of all thanks to the parents for letting it happen for their kids. Thank you.

Written by Jayranni Ryan, year 7



Western Cape and Palm



Brenton Bowen, Obe Geia, Matty Bowen, Karl Webb talk to the students.

Pictures from Bwgcolman Community School

Cowboys Team up with Palm School Kids

Bwgcolman and St Michael's have been spoilt by the Cowboys this term.

On the first day of term we had a visit by Brenton Bowen, Obe Geia, Jacob Lillyman and Junior Development Manager Kristian Woolf.

At St Michael's, the Cowboys visited some of the classrooms and talked to us about who they are and where they are from.

All of them had really interesting stories to tell about growing up: Jacob growing up in Richmond and going to school at Columbia and making friends with lots of people from Palm Island, Brenton talked about growing up in Hopevale and Obe about growing up here.

All of them talked about how important it is to go to school and to stay in school and they all said that they were very proud to have finished year 12.

After visiting St Michael's the Cowboys headed over to Bwgcolman where they participated in a Teachers vs Students touch game as part of our celebrations for NAIDOC week.

The whole school went out to the oval to cheer on the game. It was fun and very exciting to get the opportunity to play against Obe, Kristian, Brenton and Jacob.

After lunch, Kristian and Jacob ran drills and skills



with the High school students, and Brenton and Obe ran skills and games with students in yrs 4-7. Needless to say we kept the boys (especially Obe) very busy signing autographs all day long.

The Cowboys must have had such a lovely day with us that they came back to visit again two weeks later.

This time it was Nathan Baracough, Ash Graham, Brett Anderson, Steve Southern as well as Obe Geia and Kristian Woolf again.

As part of the lead up to the NASCA Rugby League Challenge they ran a training session with our Primary Rugby League Team.

Nathan, Brett and Ash helped us work on our tackling and Kristian, Obe and Steve helped us with our ball skills. For the rest of the day they ran skills and drills with students Bwgcolman, St Michael's and the Senior Phase as well as signing lots of autographs and giving away prizes.

It goes without saying how much we love the Cowboys. It is great to have such positive role models visit us at school and reinforce the message of how important it is to come to school and stay in school. Thanks Cowboys!



**Story from Miss Jen (Swordsworth)
Pictures from Bwgcolman Community School**



Cowboys visits to the Palm Island schools, Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael's are just too deadly. The players who visit provide inspiration and fantastic role models for the young people they connect with.

Boxers Training Hard

Palm Island Boxers are now training hard for the State Titles to be held in Townsville at the Upper Ross PCYC on 12 and 13 October.

Palm Island will be represented by a very strong team of boxers who are expected to put up a good performance.

The team may also travel to Mareeba for a tournament on 15 September if finance can be found to make the trip.

All the winners and runners up at the State Titles will be eligible to take part in the Australian Titles to be held at Parkes in NSW at the end of November.

No boxer under 14 years of age will be able to compete at the Australian Titles and female boxers are also barred from competing. This is NSW State law.

Once again the team will need financial support to make the trip to NSW.

Selwyn Seaton and Ray Dennis (Trainer and Manager) were invited to take part in a Pro Am tournament which was held at the Croation Club in Punchbowl Sydney, on Friday 31 August.

Selwyn Seaton won the bout by walk over as his opponent did not weigh in on time.

It was an interesting trip and we were well looked



Nat Seaton will compete the Junior super heavy weight

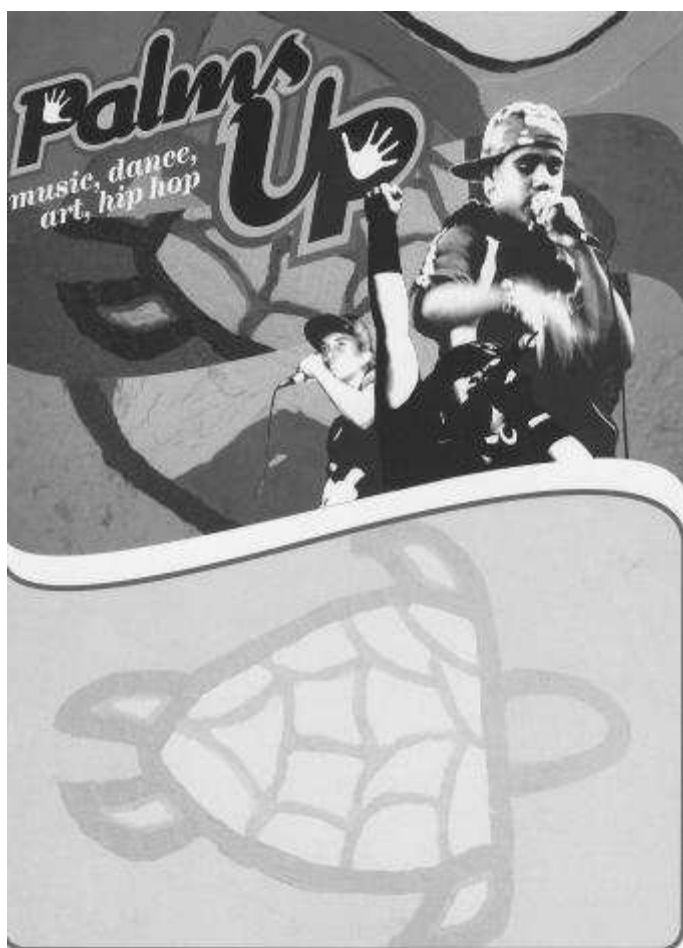
after by the promoter, who paid our air fares, accommodation and food.

Assan Sam, Luke Lenoy, Selwyn Seaton and Hosea Murphy have proved themselves to be top class boxers with a bright future in the sport if they stay out of trouble and stay off the drugs.

There are many more young boxers on the way up that Ray Dennis expects to go a long way in boxing.

Story from Ray Dennis

Looking for Artists Young and Old



This deadly artwork is by Adrian, Kylie, Eshmay, Martin, Thomas, Bronson, Remona, Moa, Thomas, Mickeal, Ike and Lance.

Palm Island artists have been invited to help deliver a series of art and culture workshops for young people on Palm Island.

The project aims to encourage well-being and build confidence in young people by involving them in art and culture. The workshops could be in traditional and contemporary art, music, dance, singing, song writing, or writing.

They will provide young people with the opportunity to be mentored by community artists or artists working with SpeakOut.

Workshop facilitators will be paid to deliver a workshop of about 1 ½ hours. There would also be about 1 ½ hours of paid preparation time.

These projects are part of the Palms Up Music, Dance, Art and Hip Hop project. Palms Up is a partnership project between Red Cross and Speak Out. Red Cross invited Speak Out to deliver the project on Palm Island.

Speak Out is a profit for purpose organisation which seeks to empower people and communities to change their world.

A number of local artists attended a meeting on Wednesday 5th September to get things moving. But the more people who join in the better.

To find out how to get involved call **Jade Lillie** or **Karrina Nolan** at SpeakOut on 1300 656 431 or 07 3493 7511. You can also email them on jade@speakout.com.au or karrina@speakout.com.au

Success for Kids at District Athletics

On Tuesday the 28th of August the Palm Island Primary School Representative Athletics team travelled to Townsville to compete in the district Athletics carnival at Red Track.

The team was: Kenny Biara, Allan Aden, Cordelia Noble, Ngaire Pearson, Shandan Burns, Tonianne Prior, Kahlani Pearson, Sharna Cannon, Gina Kennedy, Shaneka Fullford, Nazine Wotten, Tiffany Watson, Alice Acoom, Tahlianne Fraser, Jypsy Walsh, Albert Gorringer, David Sam and Jayranni Ryan.

We all had a great day and the results from the day were too deadly. Congratulations to everyone.

Best Wishes to Sharna, David, Kenny and Jayranni who will now go on to compete in the NQ trials on the 11th of September.

A big thank-you to Winnie Obah, Faye Kerr and Brent Stockall for all your help organising the day.

Results

Kenny Biara –	2 nd 100m, 2 nd 200m, 1 st Long Jump, 2 nd High Jump
David Sam-	1 st 100m, 2 nd 200m
Shaneka Fulford-	3 rd Shot Put
Kahlani Pearson-	2 nd 100m, 1 st High Jump, 3 rd Long Jump
Jayranni Ryan-	1 st 100m, 2 nd 200m, 2 nd Long Jump, 3 rd Shot Put
Sharna Cannon-	1 st 800m (new record)
Tiffany Watson-	3 rd Long Jump
Alice Acoom-	3 rd Shot Put
Tahlianne Fraser-	3 rd 200m
Jypsy Walsh-	3 rd 800m

Story from Miss Jen (Swordsworth)

"OVER SEAS" NEWS

Living on the beautiful island of Palm, it is easy to forget that events happening elsewhere in the country may have implications for the community here.

In this regular column, we will be bringing you headlines and summaries of indigenous current affairs from around Australia. We will be highlighting issues that may affect Palm and which may need discussion by the community.

New Report Says Stolen Wages Unresolved Issue

Governments across Australia withheld billions from Aboriginal workers during the last century, a new report says.

Dr Ros Kidd's report *Hard labour, stolen wages* was launched today in Brisbane.

"overall, we are looking at billions of dollars nationally, which has never been accounted for," she said.

Instead it was transferred into public revenue or disappeared through other means

"The federal government knew that missions, pastoral stations and indeed state governments were making a fortune out of endowments and pensions," she said.

In a response to the state government she said \$55 million fund established in 2002 to pay reparations to those affected covered 10 per cent of the money owed to workers. Only \$19.6 million of the fund was paid out.

ABC News website 5/9/07

From 1897 the government wanted to control every aspect of Aboriginal life through legislation.

This included all aspects of personal and social life. Who you married, how you raised your children, where you lived, employment, supply of food and water, medical attention, shelter, schooling, community amenities, policing and justice.

The objective of so much control was to assimilate Aboriginal people into white society by creating an image of themselves through social engineering.

We became wards of the State without us knowing it and this was government policy up to the 1970's.

Protectors were appointed to record the conduct of people in every family and carry out government policies.

These policies formed the basis for government to intervene and make official decisions to send you or your family to another community, detention, or to remove your children into the dormitory/care or any other intervention policy that the government saw fit.

An inquiry in 1932 found there were no checks on wage payments and deductions.

This created an environment for members of the police force who were protectors to help themselves to peoples accounts.

The records show that in every possible way money could be lost or stolen, it was. Employers also cheated people out of their money.

It seems monies that were in State governments' coffers were used to benefit other Australians through theft, loss or government policies.

We still want to know what the government is doing to pay compensation to these workers.

Will the government pay a reasonable amount for a lifetime of work in some cases?

How much more Aboriginal money is to be used to benefit other Australians?

How much the government will keep for its own benefit?

Send us your Stories



<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Contributions Due</u>
28/09/07	18/09/07
12/10/07	2/10/07
26/10/07	16/10/07
9/11/07	30/10/07

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay for further information.

Telephone 07 4770 0215 or 07 4770 1177

Fax 07 4770 1305

email: editor@piac.com.au

Your community. Your newspaper.

"Overseas" news was compiled by Alfred Clay
Reference: Dr Ros Kidd, *In the Name of 'protection'*.

Tell us what you think

Letters to the Editor

Got something to say about what you've read in the Overseas News.

Or another story in the *Palm Island Voice*.

Or something else that's happening on the Island

- Tell us about it.
- Say what you think.

Drop a letter into us. You can leave it at the front desk in the Council offices.

You'll need to tell us your name, but we will only print it if you say that it's okay.

FOR SALE BIRTHDAYS
BIRTHS MARRIAGES
OBITUARIES

**Happy 50th
Birthday!**

To Veronica Jane Coutts.

Love from all your
families on this special day.
16 September 2007.



Editorial

Finding the answers is about asking the *right* questions

In the last issue of *Palm Island Voice*, the issue of the Aboriginal industry was raised.

And the question was asked as to the cost to the Palm Island community of contractors or employees of government service providers who "fly in/fly out" each day.

The question was are these people simply taking advantage of the disadvantage of the Island's community? Is the new 36 aircraft plane simply a "gravy train".

These questions were not raised to denigrate or demean the many dedicated people who come to the Island to work hard and support the needs and aspirations of the community.

These people clearly have the best interests of the community, its children, its heritage, its future, at heart. These are the people who come back year after year, working long hours, spending time away from their own family and friends.

They come to provide services that would not otherwise be available to the community. They come to ensure health services are provided, kids can go to school, there is some lore and law in the community.

There are many other small rural and remote communities, black or white, where people have to travel to receive services, such as dental or health care, because government policies on funding and delivery restrict access to these services.

However, there comes a point when the people providing these services are obliged to start asking and to keep asking the question of why the situation remains as it does?

The most obvious responses are poor literacy and numeracy, low levels of job skills, lack of economic base within the community.

But the reality is that the situation is complex and finding the *right* answers is not easy.

I would suggest it is all of those who benefit from providing services to the Palm Island community have an obligation to undertake the hard work of find the right answers.

But finding the right answers is about asking the right questions.

These are questions that are often challenging and difficult to admit.

They are questions we need to ask, not only of others, but of ourselves.

Catherine Lawler—Editor

Need to talk? Need Support?

It's no shame to have a yarn if you need a bit of support during a tough time in your life.

Lynore Geia and **Jessica Johnson** are the Palm Island team for Relationships Australia.

They can help if things aren't going too well, and you need to have a yarn. You will be treated with respect and your story will be kept private.

The Relationships Australia office is located at the Palm Island PCYC and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Or, you can call them on **1300 364 277**.

Lynore is a Murri women from Palm Island and she is on the Island each week on Wednesday and Thursday if you want to call in or contact her.

Jessica Johnson is a mum and is well known on the Island. She is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Relationships Australia are about looking after family and community. They provide a whole range of services to support families to be healthy and strong.

Lynore and Jessica say strong Murri men and strong Murri women make for strong Murri families.

They can help you with friendly and professional help with personal issues and family problems.

Family support

They offer support for those who are thinking of getting into a relationship, with help in talking and making plans for your life together.

They can help when you can't talk together properly and you need someone else there to listen and help you make decisions.

They can also help couples who are going their separate ways from a relationship and support parents who live apart and still look after the children.

They can assist with child contact services, by providing a safe place where separated parents can arrange times for picking up and dropping off the children when it is their turn to have time with them.

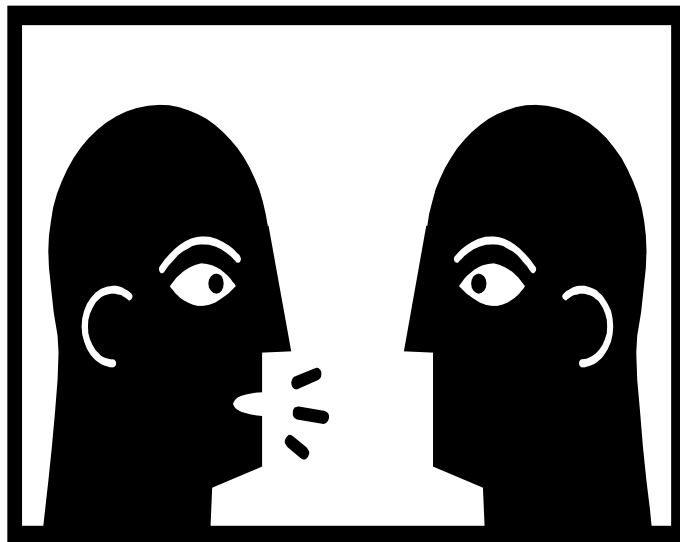
They can work with parents who are separated to help their child or children to cope with the separation.

Personal issues

They are able to assist those people who have grown up in dormitories or homes run by the government.

They also provide support for victims of crime even if it has not been reported to police. You can receive help if you have been a victim in the home or the community.

Have a yarn with someone



Remember, everything you yarn about will be kept private and confidential.



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email: editor@piac.com.au

Advertise in *Palm Island Voice* and support the community that supports you!



APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

Palm Island has a strong commitment to ensuring community members are encouraged to take on apprenticeships and training.

The trainees and apprentices work very hard at both their on the job components of their course as well as the TAFE components.

In each edition of *Palm Island Voice* we will bring you the stories of a group of trainees or apprentices.

Trainee Cabinet Makers Meeting the Challenge



Darryl Daisy

Darryl Daisy and Roy Murray are two cabinet makers working out of CDEP.

They are studying a Certificate III in cabinet making with TAFE. Both started their apprenticeship this year and go to town once a month.

Their teachers in town are

Ian Dockray and Lin Parkes. The feedback from them, and their support person in town, is that they are working very hard.

While on Palm Darryl and Roy work on many projects. The sort of work carried out can be installing vanity cabinets, all sorts of shelving, microwave stands, bathroom/kitchen cabinets and so on.

Both Roy and Darryl like the job they are doing and want to learn more. The support they get 'on the job' is very important.

That is where **Albert Gorringe and Jeff Smith** (from CDEP) play important roles to help them in the workplace as their teachers and keep them on track.

Both Roy and Darryl turn up to TAFE on Palm each Monday to gain some support in numeracy and literacy.

It is very difficult to fulfil apprenticeship obligations on Palm when some of the teaching is taking place in Townsville and travel is involved.

It's a great credit to all the trainees and apprentices that they are able to carry on and work through their challenges each day.

Story from Charlie Goldsmith—TAFE
Pictures from CDEP



Roy Murray

HEALTH CALENDAR

Joyce Palmer Health Service

Doctors Appointments

Doctors run clinics Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

See the administration staff for appointments

Pharmacy

Mon, Wed Thurs, Fri

10am to 1 pm

2pm to 4.30 pm

Tuesday only close 6.30 pm

Dressing Clinic

8am to 4pm Monday to Friday only – unless it is an emergency

Dental Clinic

Tuesday every week in the Community Health Area
Come up between 9-10am to have your problem looked at. Then you will be booked in for an appointment at the next available clinic.

Mental Health Team

The Mental Health Team Office is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm. Phone 4753 5163.

The Team can help with mental health assessment, crisis intervention, case management, consultation and liaison with persons presenting to JPHS emergency department, court liaison, Individual counselling and family therapy.

Child Health Clinic

Aggie is available from 8am to 4.30 Monday to Friday to provide help with child health problems issues such as immunisation and baby health checks. Also provide help for some women's health issues and family counselling. Ring on **4752 5172** or call in anytime.

Sexual Health Clinic

Rachel, Frank and Mersane are in the office 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. The clinic is open late on Tuesday nights till 6.30pm.

No appointment necessary.

We provide advice, treatment and management of any sexual health issues. We also provide help with issues such as contraception, Pap smears, counselling and Trans Gender.

Vet Clinic

Dr. Jim is available on 26 September at the vet shed in Mango Avenue for any pet needs. Surgery is in the mornings and consultations in the afternoon.

This is a free service. You may need to pay for vaccinations and some medications for your pet.

No appointment necessary. Book in at the hospital or call Lowana on 0428 325 183. Council officers will



Palm Island Ambulance

First Aid Hints and Tips

Diabetes (Sugar Problems)

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes is when the body cells don't absorb sugar properly and the sugar stays in the blood. The cells need help to get the sugar in so the doctor will prescribe either tablets or injections to do this. If there is too much sugar in your blood this can damage your body over a long time.

What you eat is important in controlling the sugar in your body. If you are a diabetic the doctor will tell you about what is the best food for you.

The most common emergency with a diabetic is when the body runs out of sugar. The person feels unwell and can act as if they are drunk. If the person is not looked after at this early time, they may fall asleep and you may not be able to wake them up.

What can you do to help?

- If still talking to you, give sugar such as coke, cordial or lollies.
- If sleeping and you can't wake them, do not give anything.
- **In all cases call the ambulance on 000**
- Look after the person, keep them warm and safe from harm until the ambulance arrives.

Diabetes is a disease that can sneak up on you. You may be a diabetic and not even know about it until you have your sugar tested.

Diabetes is a very common problem on Palm Island. If anyone in your family has it you should get your sugar tested once a year. It is easy to do and the hospital will be able to do it in a few minutes.



Health News

HIV AIDS IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

Joyce Palmer Health Service is inviting everyone to attend a meeting to get involved in preparations for World Aids Day.

Palm Island will hold an awareness day on 28 November in preparation for the World Aids Day event which will be held in Cairns on 1 December.

Community members and all organisations on the Island are invited to the meeting to plan the day. The idea is to raise awareness of issues to do with the prevention and treatment of Aids, sexual health and other health related issues.

Everyone's input is important and the Community Health team wants the whole community to get involved in planning for the Palm Island World Aids Day event.

It is important the Palm Island community is aware of what is happening, not only here but on the mainland also because what's happening over there can have effects here.

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Palm Island Voice Community Notice Board

AA Meetings at Ferdy's

AA meetings to help support people with drug or alcohol problems are held at Ferdy's.

Meetings are held both day and night Meeting times are 9am and 7pm. Call day staff at the centre in the morning to be picked up for the 7pm meeting.

Public Holidays for 2007

Christmas Day	Tuesday	25 December
Boxing Day	Wednesday	26 December

School Holidays

School's out for two weeks soon. Last day of school before the break is 21 September. First day back for students is Tuesday 9 October. Monday 8 October is a pupil free day.

Palm Island Play Group

All family members with children aged 0 – 5 years old are invited to come along the Palm Island Play-group.

DATE: Wednesdays
TIME: 10.30am – 12.30pm
WHERE: PCYC child care room

For more information contact **Tiana Friday** – PCYC 4770 1793 or 0438 717 607 **Svea Pitman** 4770 1828 or 0423 158 368.

Supported by the Palm Island Family Support Hub.

Computing Class

Every Monday at the Bwgcolman State School. Beginners are welcome. Contact Charlie or Rani at the seaside TAFE campus. Telephone: 4770 1200.

Ferry Timetable

		Departs from	
Day/Date		Townsville	Palm Island
Fri	14 September	11:30am	1:30pm
Sun	16 September	12:30pm	2:30pm
Wed	19 September	12:30pm	2:30pm
Fri	21 September	3:00pm	5:00pm
Sun	23 September	2:30pm	4:30pm
Wed	26 September	9:00am	11:00am
Fri	28 September	10:30am	12:30pm

Times may alter due to circumstances beyond the control of Sun Ferries.

Call 4771 3855 to confirm departure times.

Rubbish Pick Up Times

Area	Day
Chook City & Farm	Thursday
Mango Avenue	Monday
Top End	Tuesday
Bottom End	Wednesday
Reservoir Ridge & Butler Bay	Friday

Learner's Permits

Courses to assist students who are sitting for their Learners permit are held monthly on Palm. This course has an extremely high success rate.

If you want to do the course you need to enrol at TAFE. You will need your birth certificate and other ID.

Course dates

October 15 – 17th
November 12 – 14th
December 10 – 13th

Blue Cards

Construction Induction (Blue Card) is conducted by TAFE on Palm Island.

This card is a requirement when working on a building site but is also gives a good sound knowledge of the Workplace Health and Safety Act, Safe work practices and Risk Assessment.

It is a three to four hour course and on completion students are issued with a General Safety Induction card

Enrolments are taken at TAFE.

Course dates

October 18th
November 15th
December 13th

Lucinda Barge

Temporary Services

Friday 14th September 2007

Depart	Arrive
Lucinda 6.00am	Palm Island 8.30am
Palm Island 10.00am	Lucinda 12.30pm
Lucinda 2.00pm	Palm Island 4.30pm
Palm Island 5.30pm	Lucinda 8.00pm

Saturday 15th September 2007

Depart	Arrive
Lucinda 8.00am	Palm Island 10.30am
Palm Island 11.30am	Lucinda 2.00pm

Normal services will resume on **Monday 24th September 2007** with daily services, Monday to Friday.