



# Palm Island Voice

**FREE!**

**Issue 302**

**Thursday 18 June, 2020**

PALM ISLAND



PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons within this publication.



## And we are away!

Some travel restrictions for Queensland's remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have lifted, making it easier for residents to travel in and around their districts as long as they stay within their Declared Travel Zones.

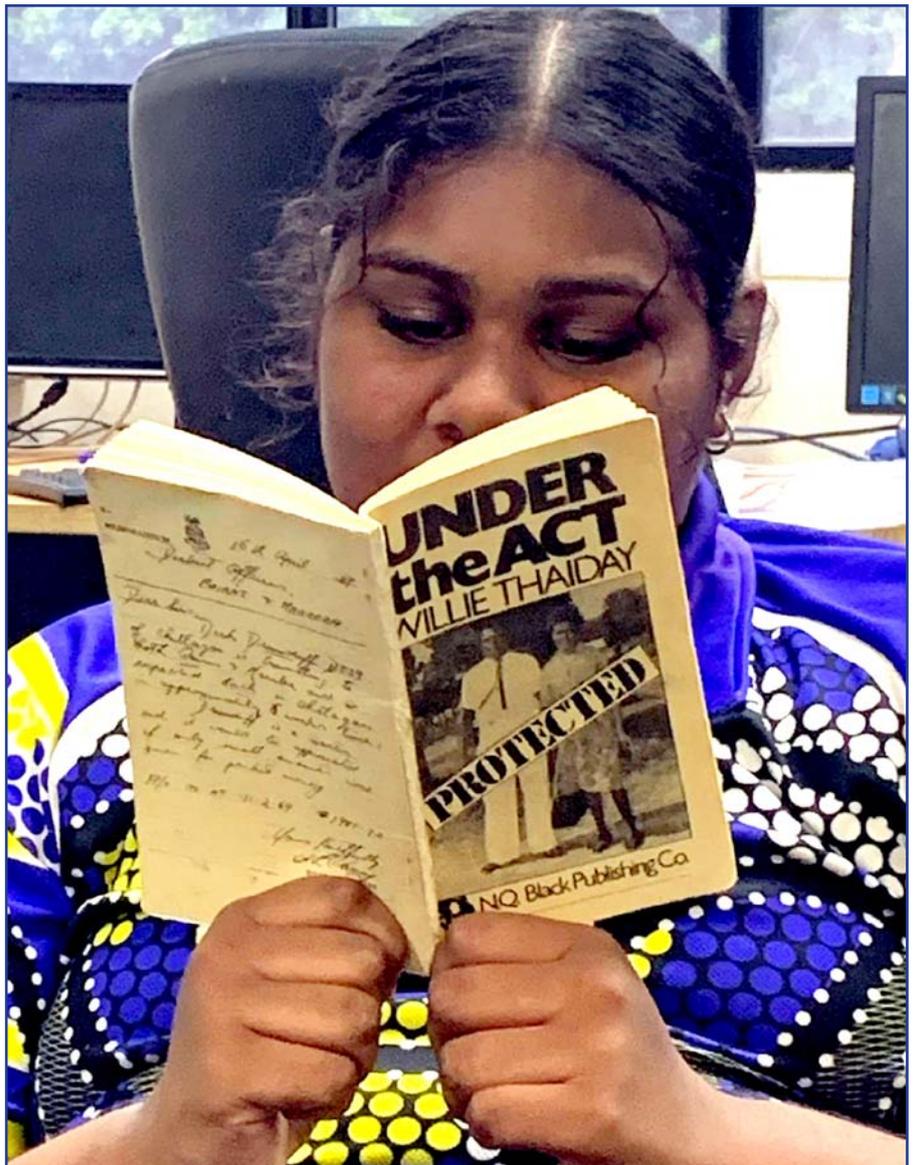
**FULL DETAILS INSIDE!**

## 'Under the Act' online for everyone to see

During the week of the 63rd anniversary of the 'Go for Broke' Strike 57 commemorations on Palm Island, an important part of history has been recognised by James Cook University's 50 Treasures Exhibition in Townsville.

"I'm pleased to announce 'Treasure 27' out of the 50 is the book 'Under the Act', which was written by one of our greatest men, Willie Thaiday," Palm Island Primary Health Care Community Liaison Officer Jennifer Ketchell said.

"His story is now preserved in the historical collection and available to everyone to access – and I can't recommend it highly enough, everyone should read this book."



*RIGHT: Taelah Morgan, 13. Pic with thanks to IKC coordinator Regina James.*

**MORE INSIDE...**

# 'Under the Act' online for everyone to see

Historian Henry Reynolds has said Strike 57 was “one of the early defining events in the struggle for recognition of Aboriginal rights in Australia”.

“The leadership of these Palm Islanders inspired a generation to demand justice and to work for reform of draconian laws,” he wrote in 2017.

‘*Under the Act*’, first published in 1981 as a 54–page booklet, was ‘dedicated to the people of Palm Island, to those that were thrown off and to those still there’, and included maps, photographs and letters.

It was described by Bwgcolman Dr Lynore Geia as a story, “about sacrifice and freedom”.

“Thaiday’s recount of breaking out in a big song in the boat, under the barrel of a machine gun attests to their strength,” she said.

Mrs Ketchell said last Wednesday marked the 63rd anniversary of Strike 57.

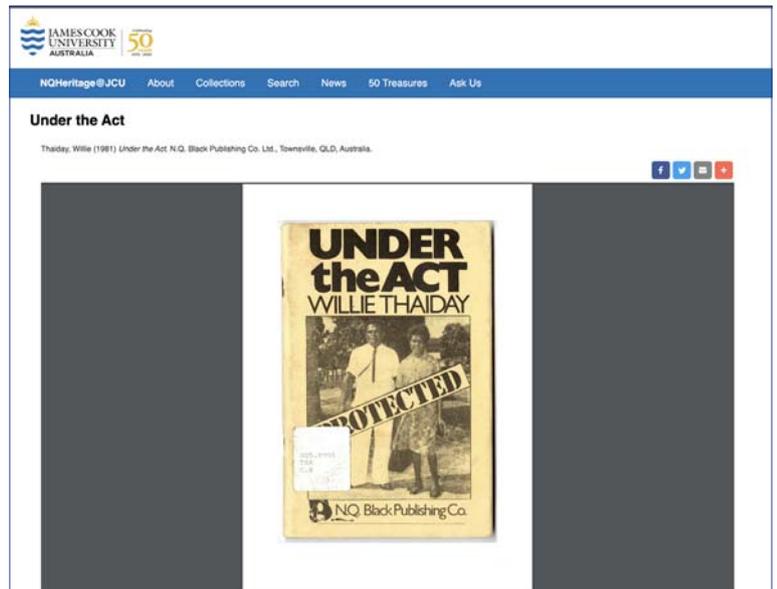
“Bwgcolman have continued to fight to this

The 50 Treasures Exhibition can be accessed here:

<https://nqheritage.jcu.edu.au/view/exhibitions/fifty=5ftreasures.html>

Or you can read or download the book from here: Treasure 27 – Under the Act

<https://nqheritage.jcu.edu.au/774/>



day, regardless of everything that has happened to us since establishment 1918, which was also marked by an anniversary over the past week,” she said.

“We owe our thanks to James Cook University and Dr Geia for making this happen so we can all read and read again this very powerful and important story of Willie and Madge Thaiday and their family.”

## Quick fix for burst underground pipe

Bottled water was delivered to affected households and for a while there it looked like it might be a long haul...but hardwork, some clever thinking and commitment paid off and a potential Saturday avo disaster has now been resolved. Good job, thank you PIASC workers!



# We are good to go!

Palm Island Mayor Mayor Mislam Sam says he was pleased his call to see restrictions lifted for residents has been listened to.

“All necessary planning has been done by council and stakeholders to ensure residents could travel from last weekend onwards on extra ferry and flight services while remaining safe and healthy,” he said.

“The changes announced by the State Government last week mean we can travel within our Zone without screening forms or temperature testing, for as long as we are Covid-19-free.”

He also said fishing applications were no longer needed, providing boats stayed within the Zone.

He said designated communities such as Palm Island were now under the direction of Queensland’s Chief Health Officer instead of the Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cwth).

“Council and LDMG are not involved in the State system now in place, but we can try to help if you have any questions or queries,” he said.

State Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Craig Crawford said the Queensland Government worked with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, including mayors, in remote communities to develop the plan to safely ease restrictions in communities.

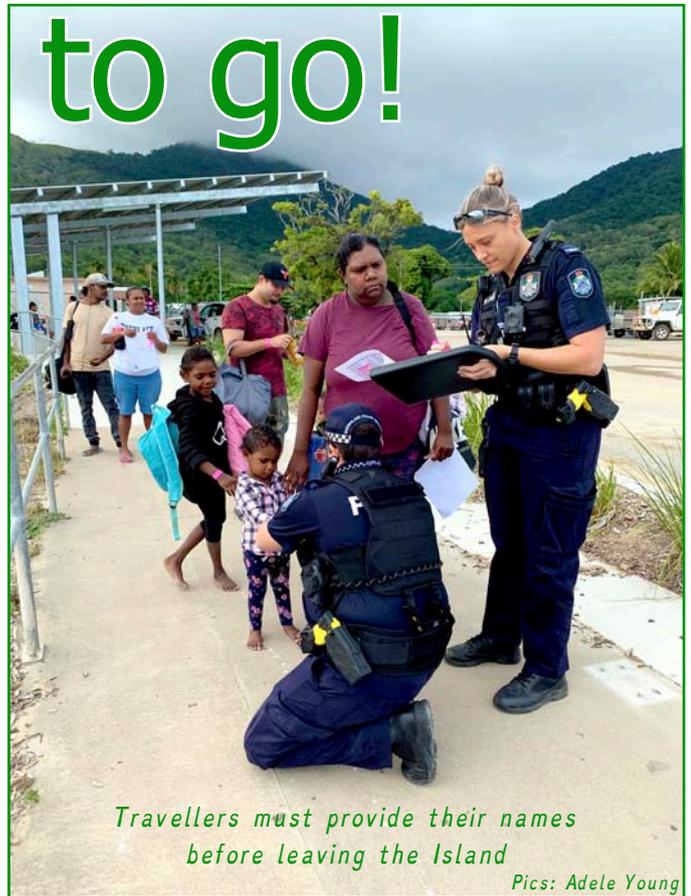
“The Queensland Government has listened to health experts, local leaders and community advocates and worked with the Federal Government to transition from federal emergency biosecurity restrictions to state-based arrangements under Queensland’s Chief Health Officer’s public health directions,” Mr Crawford said.

Far Northern Police said it meant residents of remote

communities could visit families in designated areas without quarantining.

**MEANWHILE CEO Adele Young said all travellers should be aware the situation could change at any time.**

“If COVID19 is found in our travel zone the Island will enter lockdown, and this could occur immediately if people are tested positive in Townsville, Hinchinbrook or Palm Island,” she said. “Please consider this possibility when making your travel plans.”



*Travellers must provide their names before leaving the Island*

*Pics: Adele Young*

More information about remote travel restrictions is available at:

<http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/travel>

For the most up-to-date information on Queensland’s roadmap to a COVID-safe recovery visit: <http://www.covid19.qld.gov.au>

The Declared Travel Zone for Palm Island is Townsville and Hinchinbrook.

# Major road upgrades get going

Gulf Civil has been contracted to get started on some major road upgrades which include the construction of a concrete roadway on Beach Road, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council CEO Adele Young says.

“These major road upgrades will affect vehicle traffic along Beach Road and Park Road, so Beach Road vehicle traffic will be diverted around the work zone via a two-lane side track,” she said. “Park Road will be closed at the Thomas Geia Bridge with vehicle traffic diverted to Dormitory Drive.”

She said the works were expected to take up to 12 weeks on a full time basis from Monday to Sunday, 6am to 6pm.

“The project was funded by the Queensland Government through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council,” she said. “These vital upgrades will be of great benefit in building a sustainable Palm Island community.

“Your patience and cooperation for the duration of the works is greatly appreciated.”



*Members of the Gulf Civil contracting team include Arona Miller, Clinton Pearson & Ray Dawson*

**OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 303) will be  
Thursday 25 June  
for publication on Thursday 2 July!**

The **Palm Island Voice** is published fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor. You can follow us on Facebook, we have 2,613 'likes'!

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

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

**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 3,904 'likes' on Facebook!!!**



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