

# THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING!

*Words & Pic by Alf Wilson*

Palm Island will take a front row seat at a worldwide stage when local boxer Patrick Clarke makes his professional fighting debut against Jeff Horn's brother Ben in Townsville next month.

The gala night of boxing will feature Jeff fighting Tim Tszyu and be broadcast nationally and internationally on cable television from Townsville's giant Queensland Country Bank Stadium on Wednesday 26 August.

Patrick, at just 26-years-old, will fight in the welterweight division after an impressive amateur career spanning more than 70 bouts.

An estimated 16,000 people are expected to be at the Stadium, including many Palm Islanders in support of the Bwgcolman boxer who said his largest audience to date had been just 300.

Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam, nephew to one of Palm Island's former boxing greats Doug Sam, said the community would benefit greatly from the exposure.

"Palm Island has a long history of producing good boxers and this will also show youngsters that dedication and hard training has enabled Patrick to achieve this," he said.



*Patrick Clarke fighting at the 100-years-strong boxing tournament hosted by the Palm Island Boxing Club in July 2018.*

After signing his contract on the mainland, Patrick told the *Palm Island Voice* the opportunity was certain to be a positive for the community.

"There will be people watching from around the world and this will be good for me and the Palm Island people," he said. *Continues...*

"Since the announcement was made that I will be fighting, it has gone viral on social media," boxer Patrick Clarke said.

Quietly-spoken Patrick has two sons to his partner Caroline Williams – Ernest aged two, and Patrick jnr, aged four.

"I am hopeful this will show youth here that they can achieve what they put their minds to," he said.

"Also the beauty of Palm Island with our beaches, clear waters and other things will be showcased."

In the weeks immediately before the much-anticipated fight he will train on Palm Island under the guidance of veteran trainer Ray Dennis, with help from former champion amateur boxer Telstan Sibley.

Patrick has been travelling to and from Palm Island on

weekends to train at the Hawks Club Bamford Lane gym under respected trainer Dennis Clancy.

Dennis, from the Wakka Wakka people in the Wide Bay area, said he was impressed with Patrick's commitment to training.

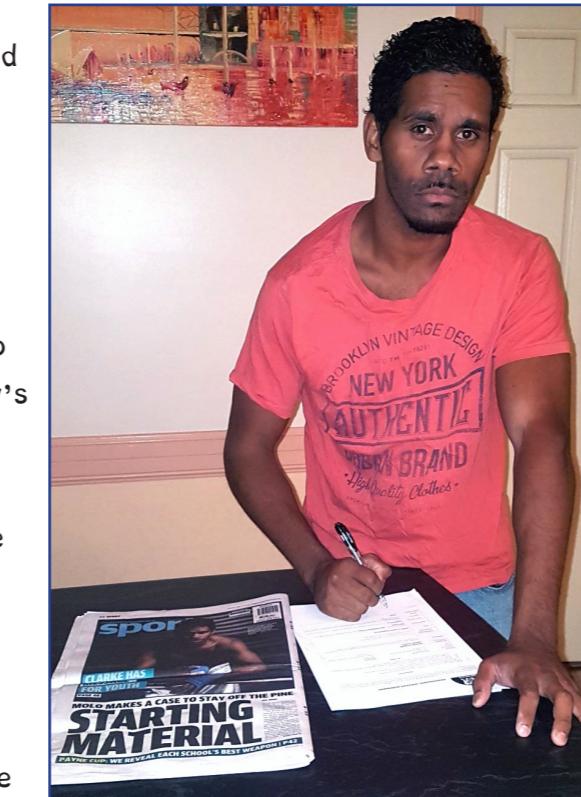
"Patrick has been sharp and possesses great reflexes, a good set of eyes and has the ability to become one of the country's best fighters," he said.

"This is a good thing for Palm Island and a message for youth that they can achieve positive things."

Patrick will be the first professional boxer to represent Palm Island since

Doug Sam in the 1980s and Peter Bonner in 2008.

*BELOW: Patrick signing his contract, pic thanks to Dennis Clancy*



## A word from Cr Andrew Castors

First of all, I just wanted to say thank you to all those people who have supported me since our Council Elections held back in March of this year new Councillor Andrew Castors writes...

I feel deeply humbled and honoured to be elected into my new role as Councillor within the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire.

I promise I will try and do my absolute best to represent you, the people of Palm Island, as part of a new and innovative voice on Council.

I would also like to acknowledge that I am the third generation of my family to have taken on a leadership role,

following in the footsteps of both my grandfathers.

Bernard (Juju) Castors was elected as one of our very first Chairmen back in the late 1970s alongside Buller Coutts, and Eric Bunn, who served as Deputy Chairman in the 1980s (*pictured bottom right*).

He was also an SES Controller, Fire Surveillance Officer, Ambulance Driver, Search and Rescue Member, and he also

played a pivotal role in setting up the Ranger Services here on the Island – a service which was crucial and beneficial to our community, that we sadly no longer have. My father Robert (Bob) Castors also served on the previous council (2016 – 2020).

I am very much aware I am following in some very big footsteps.

I want to make education my main priority, as well



as increasing local employment, and looking after the health and well-being of our mob.

I believe we can do this by ensuring our local sporting competitions are up and running, and, most importantly maintained

so they can educate our mob about the importance of living healthier lifestyles.

As Councillor Kyle-Sailor says, "every council is always faced with an enormous task".

It has definitely been a very difficult start to our term as a council and we still have some very tough decisions to make as we move ahead in these unprecedented times.

If we are to restore the trust

## Meetings moved for funeral and budget

Today's community funeral, combined with the need for extensive budget preparations has shifted this month's July Land Trust and Council meetings to tomorrow, Friday 31 July, CEO Adele Young says.

"Council will be presented the annual budget for consideration and passage at this meeting," Ms Young said. "I can confirm it was a very difficult budget with a large operational deficit.

"After eight weeks as CEO, following the financial controller report of last year, I knew the books would be bad and Palm Council would need some serious reform – but I never expected it to be this bad.

"For the first time in years we can clearly see exactly how much more Council is spending over what it is earning.

### Difficulties

"Difficulties with finance staff who are currently before the courts are well-known.

"We are working to ensure that situation can never happen again and Council has clear, reliable, and credible information before it to

and confidence of the community back into council, then we definitely need to be transparent and accountable for our actions.

I would like to reassure everyone we are doing our best to be fair and honest, and we are making decisions with the community's best interest at heart.

Changes are definitely coming, it's just going to take some time.

I appreciate the great faith you have shown in me in allowing me this opportunity to stand up and be your voice as one of your newly elected leaders.

Thank you.



make strategic budget decisions – something they have lacked in the past.

"Simply put Council spends millions more than it earns each year, running down cash reserves and taking money from project funding to prop up operations – this has to stop.

"There are no more cash reserves and we will rebuild Council systems from the ground up – transparently and honestly, and with good business practice.

"Addressing the anticipated deficit will require major changes, right across the entire Council.

### Moving forward

"The only possible path forward is to cut unnecessary expenditure, restructure and streamline Council administration and operations and grow new revenue streams.

"We can't run a council on millions of overspent dollars.

"The mistakes and poor management practices of the past have to be dealt with now.

"Council now has zero cash reserves – in fact less than zero dollars – there isn't enough cash left to finish the projects we already have.

"These legacy issues will require a disciplined plan over a number of years to turn Palm Island Council around and become the high performing organisation it should be – focused on the needs of its residents.

### Transparency

"As we move forward, there will also be a new era of transparency.

"We will make sure much more information and data is available to our community through a public dashboard and enhanced website, and all kept up-to-date in as close to real time as possible."

# New video relays important new health messages

"We can do the right thing on the ground here by following the health messaging...this is all about protecting our elders, our community and our way of life..." Mayor Mislam Sam.



**Covid-19 testing is available at the Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre**



SEE THE PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL PAGE FOR THE FULL VIDEO!

## POSITIONS VACANT



### Camp Crew – On Country Cultural Healing Camps

We are currently recruiting 5 casual Camp Crew members to work with youth for our new On Country Cultural Healing Camps based on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Country.

The Camp Crew will be responsible for supervising and mentoring young people, setting up camps, cooking meals and facilitating group counselling sessions and cultural activities [in conjunction with Jabalbina Rangers and the Traditional Owners Elders groups].

Camps are a minimum 5 days in duration.

You must have outdoor experience and the ability work with a team and lead a camp of 6 -10 youth.

*All applicants must hold [or be eligible to hold] a current QLD Working with Children Blue Card and currently hold or be willing to obtain Senior First Aid & CPR certification.*

To apply for this position, please contact Caitlin Donigi on [07] 4051 7307 or email caitlin@hrdynamics.com.au for an application pack.

## Telstra tower good to go

A much anticipated Telstra Tower upgrade has taken a significant step forward with Federal Government backing and the finalisation of the Cultural Heritage Agreement.

PIASC CEO Adele Young said Telstra contractors, Visionstream, had advised the Council they were ready to proceed over the next few months.

"The Tower is a priority project under the Federal Government blackspot program," she said.

"We are told it's due to be completed in November this year and we will keep the community up to date with any information as we receive it.

"I think we all agree this new tower can't come soon enough, so this is good news for everyone."

**OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 306) will be  
Thursday 6 August July  
for publication on Thursday 13 August!**

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 2,615 'likes'!

The **Palm Island Voice** accepts paid advertising. For rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au

The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

**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 3,965 'likes' on Facebook!!!

