



**Your Community  
 Your Newsletter  
 Your Voice**

**Issue 37  
 Tuesday 30 June 2009**

## State budget comes through

**The Queensland Budget has delivered some important funding for the Palm Island Community, says Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone.**

Palm Island's share of the state coffers includes funding for jobs, police and emergency services, community services, housing, sport and education.

"The inclusion of \$5 million to construct new housing units and \$6.81 million for maintenance and upgrades will be a welcome boost to the local community," Ms Johnstone said.

"When I visited Palm Island recently I was really impressed with the amount of progress on the Island and I am sure I can work with Mayor Alf Lacey to form a partnership that delivers for Palm Islanders."

Mr Lacey called on Ms Johnstone to support Palm Island's proposed retail precinct. "PIAC welcomes the State Budget, while some of the line items are funds that have

been announced previously, we welcome this money coming through," he said.

"I'll be lobbying for more money, especially for our State Member to support our proposed retail precinct, so we have that chance to participate in a real economy and get some real economic outcomes for our people."

Ms Johnstone said in addition to State Budget allocations, Palm Island would also receive funds from the Government's Sport and Recreation Disaster Assistance Program to fix the sports reserve, as well as Blueprint for the Bush money for enterprise development.

Mr Lacey said upgrades to the sports reserve were important for healthy lifestyles.

"We believe more needs to be done for this type of infrastructure as well," he said.

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:

- \$1.09m to develop land use plans, policies and procedures
- \$1.91m to complete construction of a replacement Palm Island Joint Facility
- \$518,000 to assist in delivering the Palm Island Diversion Service, incorporating a community patrol, diversion centre (Sobering up Support Service), personal support service and diversionary activities
- \$36,000 to deliver the Coronary Health Improvement Project
- \$567,000 for Capital Grants for the Community Renewal program in the Palm Island Renewal Zone

Ms Johnstone acknowledged sport was an integral part in the lives of many Palm Islanders and fixing the Rugby League field would assist participation in sport and recreation activities.

"Palm Island's youth need decent sporting facilities to support them to lead active, healthy lifestyles," she said.

She said the Council would also receive \$20,000 from Blueprint for the Bush to develop an enterprise strategy to assist future projects on Palm Island.

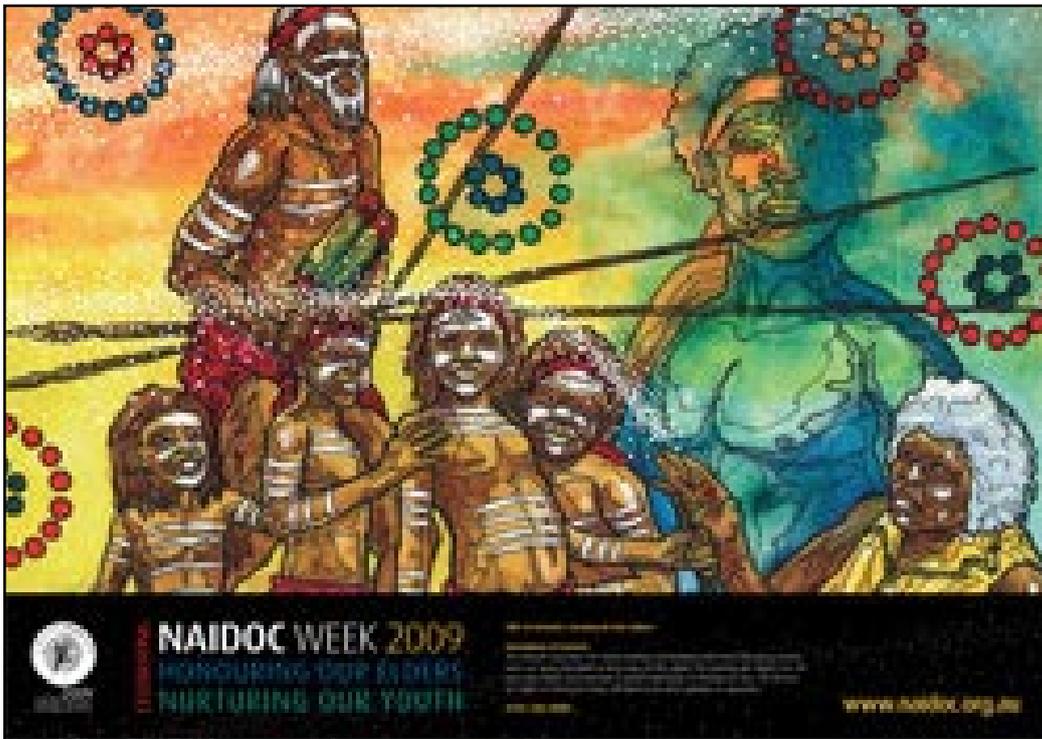
## IN THIS ISSUE:



Palm Island striker Sonny Sibley's memorial stone is on the front page again, but this time in it's been freshly re-painted – and the workers who did it want it to stay that way.

**Full story p 7**





<http://www.naidoc.org.au>

See Community Notice Boards for details of what's happening next week on Palm for NAIDOC!!!

## THRU THE LENS: Palm Island Youth Photography Project

Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane

4 July – 9 August 2009

The Queensland Art Gallery is proud to open the exhibition 'Thru the Lens' during National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week, from 5–12 July, 2009.

'Thru the Lens' will allow Brisbane audiences an intimate insight into the daily life of this community, a chance to hear the voices and see Palm Island through the eyes of those who call it home.

The exhibition will be opened by world renowned athlete Catherine Freeman and we invite you to join us for the opening day events.

Presented by the Queensland Art Gallery in association with the Catherine Freeman Foundation, Bwgoolman Future Inc. and the Department of Communities.

### Wednesday 8 July 2009

'Thru the Lens' opening: 11.30am for 12 noon  
Australian Cinémathèque foyer,  
Gallery of Modern Art, South Bank

The Big City Draw Project: 1.00–3.00pm  
River Lounge, Gallery of Modern Art, South Bank



The Big City Draw Project is sponsored by:



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY | GALLERY OF MODERN ART



Jay Jay Oul / Franny and Sophie the Possum 2000 / Digital print / Image courtesy: Bwgoolman Future Inc., Palm Island

Zara Pitman-Blackley / Cathy Tarpaun 2000 / Digital print / Image courtesy: Bwgoolman Future Inc., Palm Island

## SWINE FLU UPDATE

Queensland is in the "Protect" phase of the response and a dedicated response team continues to operate on level 7, Queensland Health building, Charlotte St, Brisbane.

Number of confirmed cases in Queensland: 557 (up from 552 yesterday).

Number of confirmed cases nationally: 3858 with five deaths (3 Victoria, 1 SA, 1 WA).

### Palm Island flu clinic is closed.

Protect phase information:

A main focus of the Protect phase is to protect the vulnerable and high-risk groups within the community.

Those most at risk of serious illness include pregnant women, Indigenous Australians, and people with respiratory disease (asthma, COPD), heart disease, diabetes, renal disease, morbid obesity and immunosuppression. These people should seek medical advice if they develop flu-like symptoms.

# Indigenous communities set to benefit from new rent policy

**On 1 July 2009, a new rent policy for Indigenous Council-owned housing will commence in Queensland's 34 discrete Indigenous communities.**

This new policy is part of Queensland's one social housing system, which ensures that social housing rents are calculated and applied equitably across the board, no matter where people live.

The rents collected for social housing owned by Aboriginal Shire Councils, the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, will now reflect the Councils' costs of providing housing.

It will help Councils to carry out repairs and maintenance, as well as upgrades to their housing stock.

So this is a better and fairer system, which will benefit everyone involved, particularly tenants. Councils' tenancy managers will work out how much rent is to be paid based on a household's assessable income and including any Centrelink Rent Assistance the tenants may receive.

Tenants will pay up to 25% of the combined

assessable income for their household, and this amount will not exceed the maximum rent that has been set for each dwelling.

Tenants will receive a letter from the department or tenancy manager giving them two months notice before a new amount of rent will be charged.

The Department of Communities will continue to work closely with Indigenous Councils to ensure tenants and communities are aware of the new rent policy.

The department has also developed a series of fact sheets to assist Councils and tenants to understand the new policy and explain in greater detail how rent will be calculated.

**These fact sheets will be available on the department's website at: [www.housing.qld.gov.au](http://www.housing.qld.gov.au) by 1 July.**

*This article was provided to the Palm Island Voice by the Department of Communities (Housing and Homelessness Services)*

## Local touch goes onto Main St buildings

**Artwork by local artist Toby Castors on Palm's two new government buildings on Main Street is nearly complete.**

The end result will see the new buildings with a look that is both modern and traditional, Mr Castors said.

"It's been an ongoing process," he said.

"For the fabrication of the major artwork I went down to Brisbane and spent a few weeks down there.



"The works weigh about two tonne each and for each of them I submitted a design for them to pre-fabricate and cut to specifications.

"That took two weeks and then I sat down and painted them, which took about four to five days painting over the Easter break."



# Yacht club visitors enjoy community markets



**The Palm Island Community Market Day recently showed the Able Point Yacht Club Regatta that our people know how to welcome visitors.**

The Markets, supported by the Council, were attended by a large turnout of local residents. Stalls were set up from a variety

of their NAIDOC celebrations. There was also a couple of our local artists with their work on show.

"It all helps to ensure we have a better economy for Palm Island and Council will be looking to invite others to events such as these.

"I think it's important that community members have some input into these events and Council is keen to hear their feedback on how we can do this better.

"Congratulations to everyone who participated, I want to encourage more people to come involved."

Palm Island Council also wanted to acknowledge the work of Enterprise Development Officer Jodie Ryan for her work in ensuring the Palm Island Community Markets were a success.



of organisations and families from across the Island. Ezekiel and Jeanie Walsh were there with supporters' clothing for the forthcoming State of Origin along with Pauline Shortjoe, whose sausage sizzle was working to support the forthcoming Rodeo. Bwgcolman School had Veronica Coutts and Mr Glenn selling cakes, pasties, biscuits and fruit and vege to help fund

Dancing gave visitors a look into the culture of the island followed by some 'Murri-oke' from Cr Mick Thaiday. In his opening address Mayor Alf Lacey said the markets gave everyone the opportunity to make some money for themselves. "It's good to see the Yacht Club has taken up our invitation to visit here and their response so far is encouraging," he said.



## New community retail store *Opening soon*



### External features

- New roof and wall cladding
- New front awning
- New feature and security lighting
- Indigenous artwork

### Internal features

- 2 new ATM machines
- Additional air-conditioning
- New refrigeration
- New floor covering
- New suspended ceiling
- New deli/takeaway with extensive stainless steel facilities
- New shelving and display bins
- New checkout counters
- Indigenous artwork display

# Wow! Look at the jetty now!

**Students from Bwgcolman School will soon be involved in putting the finishing spray paint touches on the new jetty artwork.**

Teacher Miss Michelle from Bwgcolman School said the idea came from the children themselves and was supported by Palm Island Council and Queensland Transport.

"Early on in the year I took a group of kids to town for a tourism conference and one of the things that we did on that excursion was to go to and see visiting artist Shane Keenan and John Bradshaw working on another exhibition they did," she said.

"While we were there the young people said 'Oh Miss, this is deadly we should do this on Palm'.

"Then we were just walking down to the jetty one day and they said 'Miss we could paint the jetty' and 'look at the jetty it looks real shameful'.

Ms Michelle said she thought that was a great idea, so she took it to Deputy CEO Deniece Geia.



Ms Geia said the jetty belonged to the Government through Queensland Transport.

"She was very supportive of the project and I talked to Todd Chatterton and Leonie Betts at the school and they were both really supportive too," Ms Michelle said.

"Then I negotiated with Queensland Transport and so in the end they funded this project for the artists to come over and to buy all the paint and for Harold Wilson (Ringo), because we needed an indigenous elder to lead the project.

"We have negotiated for the students and the artist to do the spray art.

"Harold is going to come back and he will work over the next few weeks doing all the fine hand work.

"The kids have designed and cut all the stencils by themselves.

"The idea was also for them to learn a new art form skill and I think that has been very successful as a lot of kids have been really engaged.

"The community has been really supportive in getting this started, it was not just me, lots and lots of people helped me and that has been fantastic.

"I would really like to thank everyone in the community.

**"I would also really like to say to the kids who write their names everywhere: could you just have a bit of respect for the other kids who worked really really hard for this?"**

**"Just respect it, and don't write you name on it."**



# School Art Club produces some smart work

During term two, six creative students from JUNC and MIDA at Bwgcolman School have been doing Art Club every Thursday after school with Miss Kirsten, Miss Jess and Nana Karen.

Vasenai, Hananias, Rikisha, Tallis, Dianne and Tarrisha have made a collection of different forms of art work and have filled a book with all of their wonderful creations.

The art forms include: painting, drawing, foot painting, collages with wooden sticks, thumb painting, and abstract art, to just name a few.

The Art Club kids have really enjoyed participating each week and are really proud of their creations!

We will be running Art Club again next term.

And we look forward to some more creativity!



***Pictured: around the page from above: Tarrisha, Hananias, Dianne, Tallis, Vasenai & Rikisha***



## **Emu**

Spread the word about the bird  
That couldn't even fly  
But he hits the ton on the run  
And that's one of the reasons why  
He's got his face and place  
On the coat of arms  
With the kangaroo, the emu  
Is one of my luck charms.

**Arron Richardson**

# It's one of those jobs, but because of 'those kids' someone has to do it ...

Over the past few weeks a dedicated group of Palm Islanders has been cleaning up graffiti and working on memorials and picnic tables along the waterfront.

**Palm Island Voice** interviewed group supervisor Clinton Bourne about the work they have undertaken so far.

**So who are you and what are you doing here?**

We come under JobFind, we are just going over the rocks and the other little writings over the Island the kids have done, that's our job.

Our boss is PIAC worker Walter Morgan, he orders the paint for us and we just go around the Island painting over names and other places that need to be done up.



**How does it make you all feel when you come back and see the rocks have been written on or the tables have been written on after you have finished your work?**

It's annoying, all the hard work that we put into it, and you get kids coming along at night and write their names all over the place.

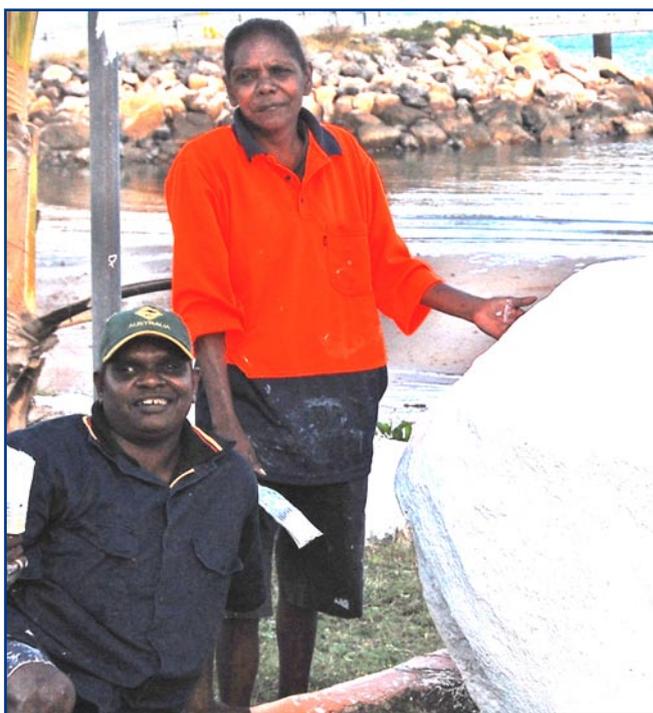
I reckon something should be done. I reckon the cops should come down here and have a look, not just once, all the time.

We do a lot of hard work and we are in the sun all the time.

Kids just come along and write their names all over the place, no good, plus other people want to come and have a look at this.

There is people out on the jetty painting the jetty now I just walked there a while ago and one of the kids just sang out 'my name going to be on that soon'.

I said 'you had better not put your name on there because you will be going straight to the coppers and I know who you are' – that just happened now.



Pictured: Top: Rosie Snyder & Tracy Twaddle  
Above: Maria Ketchup & Oriel Johnson

**Palm Island Service Schedule**  
**"MV OLYMPIC"**

**Monday**

Depart Lucinda: 7.30 am  
Arrive Palm Is: 10.15 am  
Depart Palm Is: 11.30 am  
Arrive Lucinda: 2.00 pm

**Tuesday**

Depart Lucinda: 9.00 am  
Arrive Palm Is: 11.45 am  
Depart Palm Is: 2:00 pm  
Arrive Lucinda: 4:30 pm

**Wednesday**

Depart Lucinda: 8:00 am  
Arrive Palm Is: 10:45 am  
Depart Palm Is: 12.30 pm  
Arrive Lucinda: 3:00 pm

**Thursday\***

Depart Lucinda: 8:00 am  
Arrive Palm Is: 10:45 am  
Depart Palm Is: 12.30 pm  
Arrive Lucinda: 3:00 pm  
*\*Thursday departure from Palm Island is subject to change. Please call on the day to confirm time.\**

**Friday**

Depart Lucinda: 8:00 am  
Arrive Palm Is: 10:45 am  
Depart Palm Is: 12.00 pm  
Arrive Lucinda: 2:30 pm

Please note that loading of the barge commences 60 mins prior to departure time. Scheduled departure and arrival times should be checked at time of booking.

**For all bookings please contact our office on (07) 4776 5055**

# Palm Island Voice

## Public & Community Notices



### FOR TENDER:

1. Holden Jackaroo
2. Safe



Council is pleased to announce that the Red Holden Jackaroo is up for tender to the local community. All tenders must be in writing to the CEO, Barry Moyle by close of business Friday 31 July 2009.

Council is pleased to announce that the Safe held on the veranda in front of JobFind is up for tender to the local community. All tenders must be in writing to the CEO, Barry Moyle by the close of business Friday 31 July 2009.

**For more information contact the Council on 4770 1177**

## Palm Island Voice

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** for non-Palm Island residents have been set for the 2009-2010 financial year. Please do help us out if you can. Rates have been set to:

PDF file format (up to 5mb) - \$26 per year, or part thereof - posted by the Thursday after publication.

Hard copy format (postage included) - \$52 per year, or part thereof - posted by the Thursday after publication.

Please make your cheques/postal orders payable to:

Palm Island Aboriginal Council  
c/ Palm Island Post Office  
Palm Island Q 4816

OR via direct deposit to PIAC:  
BSB 064817 A/C No. 00092534  
Ref PIV0910 (important!)

Cheap, eh? We are doing our best to support you, please do the same for us if you can. Palm Island residents and community organisations, contributors, paid advertisers and some media outlets are free in PDF format. To be included on the email list for PDF copy please write and/or send proof of payment to:

**The Editor, Christine Howes, at: [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)**



### Regular Scheduled Services to Palm Island

- Freezer & Chiller
- Bulk Materials (fuel, Water, Aggregates)
  - Building Materials
  - General Freight
- Loader & Skip Bin Hire available on Palm Island
- Secured lockable storage at Palm Island & Townsville
  - Waste Removal on Palm Island
- Guaranteed 2 services to Palm Island weekly
  - 30 metre / 100 Tonne Vessel

WE WILL MATCH ANY WRITTEN QUOTE OR INVOICE

Ph:07 4721 3166 F:07 4724 2077  
 310 Boundary St, Sth Townsville  
 E: pibs@riversidemarine.com.au

### Bwgc Colman Community School Positions Vacant x 2

1. Temporary Teacher Aide  
(Library – 15 hours per wk)
2. Temporary Administration Officer  
(20 hours per wk)

Selection criteria available from school office 9am-3pm Mon-Fri

**Applications to the  
Business Services Manager  
close 15 July 2009**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

**Happy Birthday to Mick Castors 7th of July.  
From Kevin, Sam, Koipe and Jess.**

**Alison McKean L turns 13 on Tuesday 23rd June  
Lot's of Love from Mum Vera & Dad Bully and  
sister Nikita and extended families**

**Sharna Cannon also turns 13 on Tuesday 23rd June  
Love from the Boyd Family, Sister Vera & Bully**

## Palm Island Voice

### Display Advertisements

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

- Full Page \$440
- Half Page \$231
- Quarter Page \$121
- Eighth Page \$66
- Sixteenth Page \$44

### Classifieds

(payable in advance)

- Items for sale - under \$1000 – FREE
- 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 for details)**

For more information or bookings contact  
Tim at the Council on 4770 1177 or  
email editor@piac.com.au  
or the Editor, Christine Howes at  
chowes@westnet.com.au

**Please support the Palm Island Voice so  
we can continue to support you.**

### ADVERTISEMENT

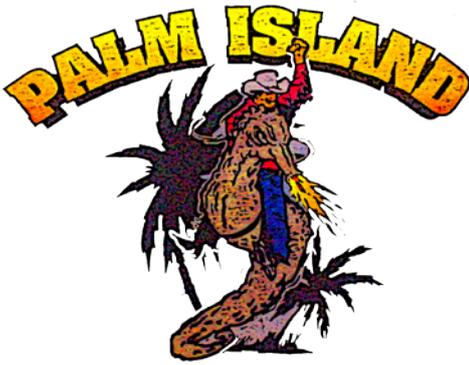
## In Mandy's Words...

Hello to all Palm Island Voice readers. This is the first of a monthly column that I will write to share with you issues and work I am doing that affects Palm Island. Firstly, I acknowledge the great work done by the former Member Mr Mike Reynolds. He has many friends on the island and was a strong voice for Indigenous people in the Parliament. This month in Parliament we passed the budget and I was happy to see resources allocated to Palm Island. Most importantly there is over \$10 million for new houses and upgrades to existing houses on Palm Island. Housing is an important issue on Palm Island so I know this funding will be welcome.



I look forward to representing Palm Island in the State Parliament. Please contact my office on 4772 4711 with any enquiries you may have.

**Warm Regards  
Mandy Johnstone  
Member for Townsville**



**RODEO:  
15-16 AUGUST  
2009**

**Saturday Night: Open**

OPEN BULL RIDE \$1000. Nomination \$114 plus \$40 Add Back. First 20.  
NOVICE BULL RIDE \$600. Nomination \$84 plus \$30 Add Back. First 20.  
JUVENILE BULL RIDE \$300. Nomination \$60 plus \$20 Add Back. First 15.  
PODDY RIDE \$100. 12 years & under. FREE. First 15 Riders only.

**Sunday Night: Indigenous only**

OPEN BULL RIDE \$1000. Nomination \$114 plus \$40 Add Back. First 20.  
NOVICE BULL RIDE \$600. Nomination \$84 plus \$30 Add Back. First 20.  
JUVENILE BULL RIDE \$300. Nomination \$60 plus \$20 Add Back. First 15.  
PODDY RIDE \$100. 12 years and under. FREE. First 15 Riders.

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE 5PM**

**Friday 7 August 2009**

Central Entries (Open Ride Nominations) to 4627 4197 on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday nights until 9pm.  
Poddy Calf Nominations to Pauline Shortjoe as below.

**Inquiries to:**

**Pauline Shortjoe on  
0439 813 613 or email  
rodeo@piac.com.au,  
or Buck O Billy Rodeo  
Promotions on 4728 6100**

TRANSPORT to PALM ISLAND  
Bluewater Aviation 4725 5884  
Lucinda Barge: 4776 5055  
Townsville Ferry: 4726 0800  
Dreamtime 4770 1266

**PALM ISLAND RODEO  
is proudly supported by the  
Palm Island Voice**

# SHADIES OF GREY

By Phoebe Ward, age 15

Born to the dreamtime  
from ancestral seeds in the red soil.  
Your dark skin caressing the grassy flesh,  
to mother earth you were always loyal.

Then we came with our guns  
and we came with whisky breath.  
You tried to share your vision.  
We gave you sudden death.

We stole you from your parents  
and intoxicated your sons.  
We raped and killed your daughters  
Christ, what haven't we done?

But today we've come to say sorry,  
and although it won't remove the pain.  
Please take it as a promise  
that we'll never let it happen again.

For tomorrow's a new beginning,  
Perhaps a brighter day.  
Where instead of being black or white,  
We could all just be shades of grey.

## The Chromed Coffin

My Name is  
And I ain't no saint  
I am a youth troubled by truth  
Sniffing toxic paint  
Cause I will arrive dead or alive  
Or at least until I faint  
Or I'll be in strife, the meaning of life  
Even if it ain't.

*Arron Richardson*

# Last Thursday Palm Island Sports Day was held at the Farm oval...

It was a fantastic day with some great sporting achievements!

Congratulations to Trevally for winning the Primary School competition and Fantome for winning the High School competition.

It was so good to see so many families and friends there supporting us. All of the kids were really well behaved and showed amazing athletic potential.

The highlight of the day was the annual Fastest Woman and Man on Palm Island race congratulations to Allan James for winning the race the second year in a row and to Bronwyn Kerr (*pictured with her shield below!*) for winning the women's race.

None of this could have happened without Council, CDEP, PCYC, Ambulance crew, QBuild, Store, Fish Shop, and most importantly the staff from the schools.

Thanks again everyone, we look forward to next years Sports Day.



## Winners are grinners



Age group	Male	Female
9 years	Elliot Aplin	Jada Kyle
10 years	Allan Walsh	Elsie Barry - Watson
11 years	Emmanuel Blackman	Tarayer Oui
12 years	Kenny Baira	Khalani Pearson
13 years	Stanley Panuel	Sharna Cannon
14 years	Anthony Bourne	Nazine Bulsey
15 years	Thomas Massey	Shauna Pearson

# Hey, did you get to the Show last weekend??!!

Walter Morgan, from Palm Island, with Avril Liscombe and their children Susan Morgan, 20 months, and Annette Morgan, 3, were amongst hundreds of residents who travelled by Sunferry to Townsville for the annual Show from June 26 to 29.

Walter said the ferry was full on the Friday. He was pictured near the merry-go-round on the Saturday night by Alf Wilson.



PALM ISLAND MAYOR Alf Lacey met with new Minister for for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health & Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, in Canberra last week. Warren is based in the NT but those of us who have been around for a while will remember Warren's work with the National Indigenous Working Group and Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation (ANTaR) in the late 1990s.

## Running into a 'legend'

**FORMER Palm Island Barracudas coach Vern Daisy, known as the "legend", was recently named amongst Queensland's top 150 icons for services to the sport.**

Roving Palm Island Voicer Alf Wilson unexpectedly caught up with Vern at the remote Bluewater Springs Roadhouse between Charters Towers and Greenvale last week.

Now based in Camooweal, near the NT border, Vern works as a mentor for young Indigenous people who are training to enter the workforce and to those who are already there.

Vern was on his way back from meeting with the Burdekin Action Group and Queensland Main Roads Minister Craig Wallace about an upgrade of the Gregory Development Highway.

Looking super fit, Vern was seeking to gain training and jobs for Indigenous youth when the



upgrade starts.

He also met up with former Mount Isa Foley Shield team-mate Doug O'Neill who he said he hasn't seen for 25 years along with another ex-footballer, Charters Towers-based MP Shane Knuth.

"You are the best role model I have ever seen for youngsters," Knuth told the legend.

**WORDS AND PIC BY ALF WILSON**

## PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE **Palm Island Voice**

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Chief Reporter: Tim Miller (editor@piac.com.au)  
Ph 4770 1177 Fax 4770 1305

Many thanks to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the Palm Island Voice.

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### Editorial & Advertising Deadlines + Publication Dates:

#### DEADLINE

Thursday 9 July 2009

Thursday 23 July 2009

Thursday 6 August 2009

#### PUBLICATION DATE

Tuesday 14 July 2009

Tuesday 28 July 2009

Tuesday 11 August 2009

**Repeat advertising rates available upon request.**