



# Palm Island Voice



Issue 39  
Tuesday 28 July 2009

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice

## Mayor calls for workers to hold 'black cards' on communities after public health scares

**'It's worrying, but don't panic', is the message from Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey.**

A recent case of swine flu on the Island, along with the death of a four-year-old girl in Doomadgee over the weekend (not from swine flu), has prompted the Mayor to call for an overhaul of how health services are delivered to communities, particularly outside of Cape York and Yarrabah. Mr Lacey has also, with Council support, called for the introduction of a 'black card' system for all government and non-government workers, similar to those which have already been issued in Woorabinda.

Communities in the Cape and Yarrabah are already some years into a transition period from state-controlled primary health care delivery to community control.

Mr Lacey said the same thing needs to happen on all Aboriginal communities.

"We're calling on the government now to look at a new framework for the delivery

of health services in Aboriginal communities," he said.

"Queensland Health needs to engage communities more heavily in terms of appointments of doctors and things like that.

"The other thing is, if you have to have a blue card to work with children, I think we need to have a black card for anyone from outside of a community who wants to work in our community.

"It's working on Woorabinda, to get a black card people have to show they have some knowledge of cultural awareness and the particular history of the community they want to work in."

The 'black card' idea was the brainchild of Bill Thaiday and Willy Sullivan, both based in Woorabinda, and has the support of their Shire Council. Mr Thaiday said he was thrilled to hear Palm Island was interested in the idea.

In the meantime the Mayor encouraged the community to take heed of the health advice that's being given at the moment.

"If you're feeling sick and you've got a big sniffle and things like that, present yourself to the flu clinic on Palm," he said.

"They're handing out Tamiflu, so do the course.

"And make sure you clean up behind you, you know, be thinking about yourself in terms of washing your hands, and after you sneeze, and sneezing into a tissue rather than into your hand and things like that.

"We just do the right thing and follow the health messages and the health warning that have been given out."

Mr Lacey said after meeting with the Deputy Premier and Health Minister Paul Lucas and Queensland Health Officer Dr Jeanette Young on Friday on the Island, the Council was in the process of developing their own posters and health messages specifically for the Palm Island community.

"They've arranged for the Queensland Health publications unit to work with us on that, so they'll foot the bill," he said.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### They'll be back!!!

*Pictured right are NAIDOC performers Michelle Cunningham, William Barton, Angry Anderson, Adam James & Beccy Cole – Angry says they'll be back!*

**See page 5 for more...**



## We've got mail!

Dear Editor

**On Monday the 20th July 2009 the Townsville Bulletin and the local television news that afternoon reported Palm Island fears it may not be able to cope if Swine Flu were to arrive.**

The week prior to that a tropical health specialist warned Swine Flu could cause widespread death among North Queensland remote and rural Aboriginal communities.

Then the following day we are told through the media that a mother lost her baby from contracting Swine Flu on our community, leaving her in a critical condition in Townsville Hospital, and then we are told that Palm Island health service knew of Swine Flu cases being on the island for the last two weeks.

The Palm Island Aboriginal Council and the State Police should have been notified immediately after the first Swine Flu case was treated, so that steps to isolate this sickness could have been taken.

Who gave the Palm Island Health Service the right to play God?

**Zac Sam**

YOU GOTTA WASH YA HANDS



**STOP THE FLO!  
BLO!  
THROW!  
STOP DA FLU  
ITS UP TO U!!!**

## Tides still an issue

**Dredging has finished but unfortunately the community is yet to receive the benefits, says CEO Barry Moyle.**

"We were hoping once the dredging was finished we could have a regular service i.e. regular time etc," he said.

"However it would appear there is another problem.

"The difficulty is now that whilst the ferry can dock at any tide, they can't decant the passengers at certain tides i.e. really low tides.

"So the solution is to seek additional funds to attach a floating pontoon to the existing jetty that will allow the passengers to freely move on or off the vessel."

He also said Laurie Lindner Constructions had won the contract to build a shelter shed/ticket office for the pier, but was not expected to finish the job until early October.

"They are constructing this job in concert with the new SES building," he said.

Mr Moyle said he would keep the community informed of any further developments.



# Facelift for mall continues

**Palm Island's facelift is continuing as work progresses on the new mall chairs and concrete blocks featuring artwork from local school children.**

Q-Build's Indigenous Training Support Officer John Newbould said new skills, such as tiling, carpentry and painting were being developed by his team, headed up by Trevor Murat as his Trade Trainer.

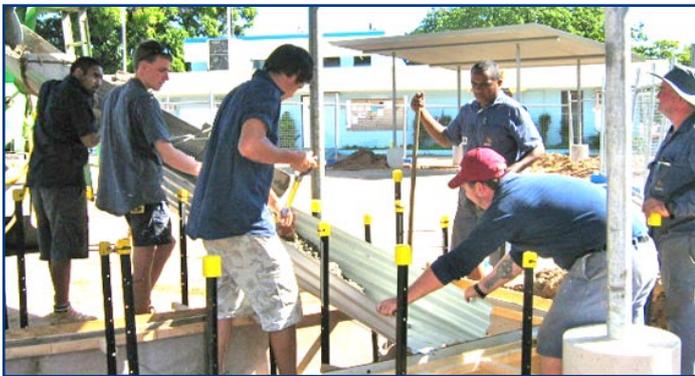
"We say to the kids you'll be able to tell your grandchildren you worked on that because it will still be there," Mr Newbould said.

"The school did an art competition and picked the ones they wanted to use.

"We've got the original paper drawings in the office there.



*Part of the transformation of the mall from holes in the ground on the left to one of the four 'flash' new shaded seats below.*



*Workers Billo Wotton, Brodie Nancarrow, Austin Walsh, Ingai Geia, Lindsey Wilson (red cap) & Darryl Gardiner.*

"What Trevor did was trace them and then cut them out into wood panels which produced a mold for the actual concrete."

Mr Murat said they wanted the kids' own work to be on the benches and blocks.

"They were talking about computers for a while, but we wanted it to be the kids doing the work and for it to be the way they've done it," he said.

He also said many of the Islanders hadn't realised that the wife of one of their tradesman, who was working on the tiling on the mall chairs, didn't speak English.

"The local people were yarning up to this lady, she was really terrific, but she doesn't speak English, not even enough to say she couldn't speak English," he said.

"I had a big conversation with her the other day myself, and thinking 'gee she's really quiet this lady', but she can't speak the lingo!"



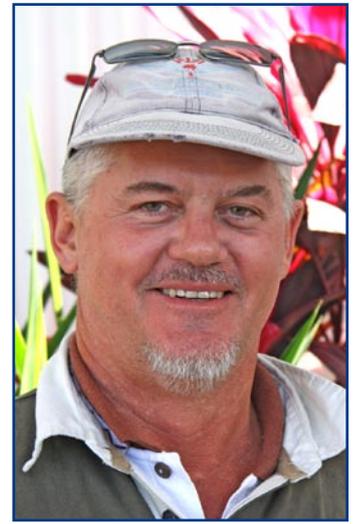
*Above: John Newbould & Trevor Murat  
Below: Also part of the team were Austin Walsh, Ingai Geia & Billo Wotton.*



# A quick word from...

## Laurie Lindner Managing Director Laurie Lindner Constructions

**"We've been working on Palm for 15 months now and finished the two government office buildings which are regarded as quite a superior form of product in terms of what was originally designed," Mr Lindner told the *Palm Island Voice*.**



"We had a very active participation with the local indigenous community in terms of employment, although regrettably not too many training outcomes because of the frailties of the delivery system of that.

"But we've achieved about 16,000 indigenous man hours, working on our two jobs, and that includes getting certified training for some asbestos removal licenses and also for one of our camp cooks, who completed their cook training course under Matty Muller.

"We've found the island to be a fairly enjoyable place to work.

"We had great participation from all the people there, we had virtually no issues.

"I guess I think it would be fair to say that my guys on the island have done a seriously good job rolling out the cultural position we planned to have.

"To them, I'm eternally grateful for that, they've done a super job.

"I think we're generally held in some high regard on the island for delivering not only what's a good-quality building, but also having done it in a way that everybody's reasonably happy with.

"It was good to see the Premier at the openings and good to see the level of support and the general all-around positive tone that was very evident on the day.

"It's nice to see Palm getting a bit of architectural uplift – I think history proves that architecture has the ability to do that to the human spirit and I'd like to think we've done our little bit to help that.

"To be quite honest, we were (concerned about graffiti) but it's been much better than expected and I've got to say, it's been improving in the months that we've been there.

"The tone of the island is becoming more mellow by the month – even for our short tenure on the island we've noticed that quite markedly and it's been nice to see.

"It's been nice to be part of."



*Left: Eddie Martin Below: Mick Noblett & Craig Armstrong*



*These two pics courtesy Alf Wilson and below at the opening of the two buildings by Christine Howes*



# 'No more fence-sitting' – Angry



**A popular visitor to Palm Island during NAIDOC celebrations was former 'bad boy' of rock, Angry Anderson.**

Mr Anderson told the *Palm Island Voice* he – and at least two of the other performers, including Beccy Cole and Adam James – would be back.

"We've already talked, Adam and I and Beccy and Michelle, and there's a few other people we'd like to bring back as well," he said. "We'd come back for two or three days, run some workshops for music and playing and singing. I can see us physically, emotionally and spiritually returning to Palm on more than one occasion – that's how I see the future. There are probably three or four idyllic places in my experience that I've found that I could easily see myself enjoying that wonderful initiation experience – you know, could see myself living there – I've found myself stepping off the plane and feeling immediately relaxed. There was not one person in the possibly 50 or 60 people – and that's a lot of people to meet in two days – there was not one person that I could not find common ground, a warmth of welcome from, and felt easy in their company....it's the ease with which the people take you into themselves as far as, 'welcome to my home, if there's anything that we can do for you'. And it's not a glib thing, it's totally genuine."

Mr Anderson said a turning point in his life came when he and the rest of the country was introduced to now well-known environmental philosopher David Suzuki through Ray Martin's Midday Show many years ago.

"What he was basically saying was we're all citizens of the planet and we can fix the planet if we fix our own backyard," he said.

"The other important thing that he said was you're either part of the problem or you're part of the solution, make up your mind at some stage in your life.

"And it really made me think about it so that I did make the decision there was no more fence sitting – I did step to one side of the fence.

"Make up your mind which is it going to be – are you going to continue to be part of the problem or are you going to become part of the solution?"

**This week both Bwngcolman and St Michael's schools have been celebrating NAIDOC week together.**

The week has been filled with such deadly activities as: school fete, NAIDOC march, sports and family fun day, and heaps of hands on fun NAIDOC activities at school.

On Monday NAIDOC week was opened with a march all the way from St Michael's around past the store and back to the PCYC. There was a flag raising ceremony, some fantastic hula and corroboree dancing. The male staff even joined in with the corroboree and the female staff joined in with the hula – and didn't the crowd enjoy it!

Tuesday and Wednesday there was loads of fun NAIDOC activities at school like food tasting, lino printing, weaving, sand art, bubble blowing, flag painting, beading, decorating dharis, corroboree and hula dancing, and heaps more! Everyone really enjoyed themselves!

Thursday we had the great fete!! There was heaps of stalls and games to play – including show bags, netball goal shooting, guess the buttons, balloon popping, throwing the footy, café, cakes and sweets stall, face painting and knock 'ems and heaps more. It was another really good day.

To conclude our awesome NAIDOC week there was a Family Fun Day on Friday with junior kids playing some fun games over at St Michael's, and grades 4 – 10 playing netball, basketball and touch football. Then we all had a lovely kup murri for lunch.

It was a really fantastic week, a big thank you to all of the people who made it happen! And we really look forward to another fun NAIDOC week next year!

**Jessica Molloy, Year 2-3 Teacher Bwngcolman Community School**





**To celebrate the last day of the school's NAIDOC week we had a Family Fun Day. The junior school students had lots of great activities like three-legged races, limbo, hockey and whacking sticks and all had lots of fun.**

The older students participated in a Basketball, Touch Football or Netball competition. Despite the really hot weather it didn't stop any of our kids from putting a big effort. **'Deborah's team'** won the basketball comp, **'Warriors'** won the footy comp & the **'Strikers'** won the netball comp. Well done to all of the students who participated & very importantly thanks to the ref's and everyone that helped.

We finished the day with a lovely kup murri lunch. Thanks to Len & Ben & everyone that woke up early to get it ready, that feed was so good and it was a great way to finish a great week.

**Jennifer Healey**

**Primary PE Teacher, Bwgcolman Community School**



# Palm Island Voice

## Public & Community Notices

### Community Market Day 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009



It's Market Day again on the Palm Island come together and enjoy our Community Market Day.

- Music,
- Cakes, Tarts
- Food



**We look forward to seeing you there !!!!**



If you are interested and want to find out more information please contact **Jodie Ryan** at the Palm Island Council on 47701177.



## 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 (2009-10), 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 OR via direct deposit to PIAC:  
c/ Palm Island Post Office BSB 064817 A/C No. 00092534  
Palm Island Q 4816 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)**

**DAY&DAY**  
SHIPPING

### 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**

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# Bwgc Colman Community School

## Community Education Forums

### Suburb Meetings & BBQ Invitation



**Who:** Community members/ parents/ carers interested in education for their children at Bwgc Colman Community School

**What:** A meeting to discuss what is happening at the school, get feedback from community members and a great opportunity to meet some of our school staff.

**When:** Every Tuesday night over four weeks at four different Palm Island suburbs!



- 1) **TODAY!!!** 28/07 4.30-5.30pm, Bottom End at the Strand, opp Sandra & Josh's place.
- 2) Tuesday, 04/08 4.30-5.30pm, Butler Bay at the basketball courts.
- 3) Tuesday, 11/08 4.30-5.30pm, Top End and Reservoir at the corner of Creek street.
- 4) Tuesday, 18/08 4.30-5.30pm, The Farm and Chook City in front of the clubhouse.

**Principal Mrs Leonie Betts; Deputy Principal Mr Andrew Shaw: Ph 4770 0333 Fax 4770 0300**

## 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](mailto:editor@piac.com.au)  
or the Editor, Christine Howes at  
[chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

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



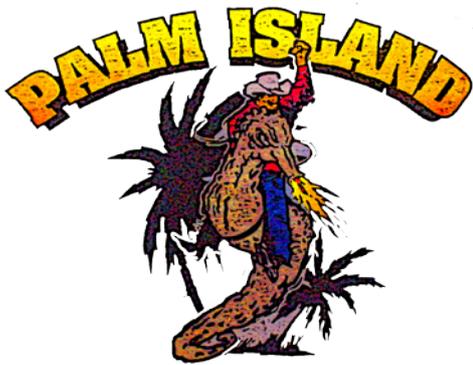
**Vehicles  
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  - Building Materials
  - General Freight
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- Secured lockable storage at Palm Island & Townsville
  - Waste Removal on Palm Island
- Guaranteed 2 services to Palm Island weekly
  - 30 metre / 100 Tonne Vessel

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310 Boundary St, Sth Townsville  
E: [pibs@riversidemarine.com.au](mailto:pibs@riversidemarine.com.au)



## **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**

## **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION OF IT/COMPUTER SERVICES**



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council wishes to outsource its IT SERVICES for one day a fortnight.

PIAC is proposing to enter into a contract for provision of these services for an initial period of one year, commencing as soon as possible, and may consider an extension of the contract period for two further terms of one year. The PIAC selection committee will select a contractor to provide these services on the basis of:

- Demonstrated capacity to provide the required service
- The technical feasibility and commercial acceptability of the proposal
- Price competitiveness
- Conformity with professional standards

Expressions of interest, including a company/organisational profile, a short recent work history and references must be provided by 3 August 2009 to:

Barry Moyle, CEO, PIAC

1 Main St, Palm Island Qld 4816

### **POSITION VACANT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT**

PIAC is also seeking the services of a Financial Accountant. He/She will be recording and reporting Council's financial data, balance Council's ledgers on a monthly basis, maintain Council's jobs and AP ledgers involving file maintenance, budget data and reporting links, assist with maintenance of Council's assets registers, assist with preparing Council's FBT and BAS returns, reconcile Council grants and prepare acquittals as required. In addition he/she will provide backup to other Finance Staff during periods of leave and other accounting and finance services as relevant to the position.

A degree in Finance/Accounting plus CPA/CA and knowledge of Finance One/Techone/SAP Accounting software will be an added asset.

Interested candidates should send an application and recent resume by Monday 3 August 2009 to:

Barry Moyle, CEO, PIAC

1 Main St, Palm Island Qld 4816

**For both the above, PIAC will utilise expressions of interest to shortlist suitable service providers. It reserves the right to request further information from shortlisted candidates. This may be by way of formal presentation to a selection panel or written presentation at the discretion of PIAC.**

*Enquiries for further information should be directed to: John Mugambi, Finance Manager, PIAC, on 07 4770 0212 or via email to john.mugambi@piac.com.au*

## Late last month 11 Palm Island boxers and supporters travelled by boat and then bus to Mount Isa for the Golden Gloves tournament.



# Palm Island Boxing News

Although some of the Queensland clubs could not make the long trip to Mount Isa the ones which did put up great performances and were well supported by the large crowd. Noby Clay from Palm received a gold medal for her own weight division and then stepped up 12kgs in weight to win two gold and one silver medal in total.

Reggie Palm island won a gold medal for the 51kg division and then stepped up to the 54kg class to defeat three times Australian champion Broughton Worth from Babinda in a hard fought contest.

Reggie was also the best junior of the tournament and took out two gold medals and a trophy and has only been boxing for 12 months.

Patrick Clarke defeated Zachary Kenny from Mount Isa in the 60kg and received one gold and one silver medal.

Joey Geia received a gold medal for his 32kg division and won a trophy for best boxer in his junior 13-year-old age group.

Steen Walsh won gold by defeating Australian champion Brendan Dempsey in the 35kg class.

David Sam won gold for his schoolboy heavyweight division 91kg and then stepped up to super heavy 100kgs and easily defeated Jake Webster.

Costa Sam won gold in the 81kg class and then stepped up to 86kg to defeat Rohan Schultz for his second gold medal.

Albert Gorringe received two silver medals.

Josh Fourmile also won silver when defeated by another Palm Island boxer Dennis Haines in the 48kg.

All in all Palm Island boxers won 12 gold medals, five silver and one bronze medal plus two major trophies.

Palm island boxers and myself are very grateful to the Townsville Bulletin, Palm island Council, Chloe Hooper, Carl Wyles and bus driver Kevin Castors for making the trip possible.



*Palm Island boxers who travelled to Mt Isa last month (Pic courtesy Alf Wilson)*

**MEANWHILE the boxing tournament held at the PCYC on Palm Island during NAIDOC Week (11 July) was well attended by the community.**

We managed to put on a good program of 15 bouts, thanks to Rockhampton and Mt Isa boxers. Six boxers attended from Rockhampton, two from Mt Isa and one from Charters Towers with eighteen boxers from Palm Island weighing in.

Reggie Palm Island and little Joey Geia were the stand out performers for Palm Island.

Reggie Palm Island defeated two-time Australian champion Harley Broom from Rockhampton. Reggie only started boxing last year and looks to have a very bright future in boxing.

Little Joey Geia is only ten years old and weighs 29kgs – he defeated last years Australian champion Brendan Dempsey from Mt Isa, who was 5kgs heavier. Nathan James from Palm Island performed really well to defeat the much more experienced Lincoln Martin from Rockhampton in the 38kg division.

Albert Gorringe defeated Elijah Lawrence from Mt Isa in the 44.5kg division. Craig Desatge made a come back to boxing to defeat Kuang Kutah from Rockhampton in the 63.5kg division. Patrick Clarke from Palm Island defeated Kiefer Walsh also from Palm Island in the 60kg division.

Many Thanks to Rockhampton, Mt Isa, Charters Towers and Townsville boxers.

**Ray Dennis**



Local Koori Mail correspondent Alf Wilson recently visited Palm Island with 22-year-old Swedish photographer Maria Ericksen (on the far right with Brothers' Rugby League team). Maria loved Palm and says she will be back for the Island's Rodeo in August.

## More NAIDOC week pics!



Above & Below Left: Dancers on the mall  
 Above: Plenty to look at - two of the kids sitting in the park with Cathy Freeman and her film crew on the Friday morning (photograph taken with guardian's permission).

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

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 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	PUBLICATION DATE
Thursday 6 August 2009	Tuesday 11 August 2009
Thursday 20 August 2009	Tuesday 25 August 2009
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**Repeat advertising rates available upon request.**