



Mayors' call for 'across the board' alcohol reviews ignored by 'Partnerships' Minister



Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey says plans to only review Aboriginal communities where Alcohol Management Plans were working – according to the Government's criteria – missed the point of calls for a broader, comparative reviews across every community.

Earlier this month Mayors from Aboriginal Shires across the state (*some pictured above*) called on the Government to "stop putting a bandaid on the sore and get to the real cause". Early last week Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Desley Boyle told Parliament reviews would only be carried out on communities where a "sustained a reduction in two key indicators of violence" had been achieved.

Ms Boyle said consultation with each of the communities about the benchmarks had already started and would continue into the early months of next year.

"It is a sad fact that levels of violence towards women and children have been far too high for too long. There will be no changes to AMPs until there are sustained reductions in the levels of violence in these communities," Ms Boyle said.

"Under the proposed benchmarks communities will need to demonstrate a sustained reduction in harm over the period of two years and bring violence levels down to those of any other

regional community in Queensland.

"Then a community may exercise its option and trigger a review of its Alcohol Management Plan."

Mr Lacey said the term "partnerships" should be taken out of the Minister's title.

"There's no partnership here, the Minister is not hearing what we're saying and in the meantime our people are being fined, jailed, and worse, for things which are legal everywhere else in the country," he said.

"Only reviewing communities where they think the plans are working is clearly ignoring what our Aboriginal Shire Mayors have been saying for years – these restrictions are doing more harm than good.

"The Minister has picked one or two criteria to work from out of a raft of problems with AMPs across the board," Mr Lacey said.

The Mayors' meeting collectively agreed that after ten years of alcohol restrictions - ranging from completely dry to carriage limits to restricted purchase - AMPs were not working.

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Palm Island Voice

is about to change! Next fortnight the *Palm Island Voice* will be printed in full colour and available at various outlets across the Island and in Townsville. Issue 70 will still be free but next year hard copies will sell for just \$1 - remember though, if you live in the community you can still have an emailed PDF version for free!!!

Federal MP due for Palm Island visit

Member for Herbert Ewen Jones will be on Palm Island today.

Mr Jones is expected to meet with the Mayor and Councillors, visit the schools, and get an update on the latest housing developments on the Island, his office said.

Mr Jones visited Palm several times in the lead up to the August 21 election in which he defeated three other candidates including long term Townsville Mayor Tony Mooney.

During his campaigning Mr Jones made a commitment to visit Palm once every three months. *Palm Island Voice* contacted Mr Jones' office on November 24 asking when his first visit would be, given that the three months had expired.

"I can confirm that Mr Jones will be going to Palm Island on Tuesday," a spokeswoman for his office said. Mr Jones has been passionate in public about trying to help improve the living standards of Palm Islanders with a major aim to have more housing provided.



Alcohol problems ignored by 'Partnerships' Minister

...from previous page...

Problems cited by most of the Mayors present included:

- Sly-grogging, which they said was mostly carried out by non-drinkers
- People risking their lives to access alcohol
- A massive increase in the amount of other drugs, especially amphetamines, available on communities
- Families losing precious income because of fines
- Innocent people and young teenagers publicly embarrassed by police searches

They said they were frustrated and angry that the Government appeared reluctant to look at any changes, despite AMP laws varying considerably across communities, which was viewed as being frustrating and unfair.

Mr Lacey said the Mayors agreed that a comparative review should be carried out in every single community for the purposes of comparison.

"There shouldn't be this 'picking off' of communities, one at a time," he said.

"We need to see the whole picture."

At the time of the meeting Mr Lacey said: "We don't want to go back to the old days but we do want a good hard look at what's in place

now, what's working and what's not.

"It's sickening to see people facing court here over things which are not illegal on the mainland.

"Sitting around the table here today we have Mayors representing completely dry communities, who are under siege because of sly grogging, through our own community which has a tightly-controlled AMP.

"And I can tell you now, from our side of the table AMPs are not working and we need that review."

The meeting was also addressed by Associate Professor Gracelyn Smallwood who has more than 40 years of experience as a registered nurse on communities.

Ms Smallwood said she had seen the effects of the AMPs in Townsville, and on young people in particular, over the past ten years.

Ms Boyles said there were 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with restrictions in place and AMPs varied from community to community – some were completely dry, some had a zero carriage limit, some had a carriage limit of up to 60-cans of light or mid-strength beer and some had licensed premises.

Franciscan nuns to leave after 60 years of service

AFTER 60 years of service to the people of Palm Island, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary nuns will be leaving next year.

Palm Island Voice heard about the move when we were approached by staff of a State Government Minister for any pics which could be presented to Palm Island's long term Sister Christina McGlynn (pictured right) – and we were happy to do so! Sister Christina is much loved on Palm Island for her wonderful work as part of the Catholic Church, and has described the locals as "beautiful people".

Sister Christina, who has just returned from holidays, was

asked when she would be leaving what has been her home for many years.

"I have returned from two weeks holiday down on the NSW coast at Austinmere," she said.

"It was the most restful holiday I have ever had and I really enjoyed it.

"Yes, sadly our little Franciscan community will leave Palm Island sometime after the 30th May when my contract with the Diocese of Townsville comes to an end.

"The decision was made by our Leadership Team and although it was a hard decision to make, withdrawing after 60 years of service as Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.



"However the reality is that we have no younger Sisters in Australia to replace us and although we will go with heavy hearts we will do so very gratefully for the privilege of having worked and ministered to our beloved Palm Island community."

Sister Christina said when she left her prayers would continue daily for Palm Islanders.

Cardwell footy success despite wet weather

RAIN did not prevent hundreds of Palm Islanders from travelling to Cardwell to watch their football teams take on the Girringun Pirates on November 20.

The games were played in honour of the late Jack Henry and Desmond (Joe) Romelo who tragically drowned in February 2009.

At the Cardwell football grounds there was a large contingent of Palm Islanders, including Mayor Alf Lacey who supported the teams.

Mislam Sam organised the Palm Island teams and said he had many calls from supporters and players on his mobile phone wanting to know had the games been cancelled. "They went ahead and were very successful," Mislam said.

The Palm Island Barracudas 17 years and under side defeated the local Pirates 28-14 to retain the shield they won in the inaugural match last year.

Then in the A grade match the Palm Island Jets and Girringun Pirates played an exciting 34-all draw.



Assan Sam, Cain Banu holding baby Joe Banu, aged 2 months, with Palm Island team organiser Mislam Sam

Last year Pirates won the game by eight points.

Palm Islanders generally praised the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation which hosted the matches.

Reviews of both games are on page 6. See also Brothers/Charters Towers/Bentley Park games info on page 7.

And see Issue 70 for more pics!!

Congratulations to our Senior Campus students!!!



Earlier this month a proud moment was recorded in the history of Palm Island, writes Palm Island Senior Campus teacher Jarad Richardson.

The class of 2010 were presented with their graduation certificates in a stirring ceremony at the PCYC arena.

The ceremony was a culmination of many weeks of organisation by the Head of Campus, Leanne Young, and staff.

Graduating students have attended regularly and worked hard to complete assessments in a range of essential subject areas; all against the backdrop of numerous external pressures on the Island. Many are now looking further ahead and want to enter higher education on the mainland. It is hoped next year Palm Island Senior Campus will be able to offer authority registered subjects through the School of Distance Education which would enable students to enter University directly from Palm Island.

The graduation ceremony was attended by parents, relatives, and invited community members and elders, many of whom have provided crucial support to the school and its students throughout their senior education.

Mrs Josephine Geia (Aunty Peena) opened proceedings with a moving blessing and messages of hope. She was followed by

Mrs Meredith Wenta, Principal of Kirwan High which served as the mentoring and administrative centre for the campus.

The ceremony also provided a fantastic opportunity to recognise and award academic prize winners in all our grades 10-12 – for those who achieved most highly in their subject areas.

Winners of the Most Outstanding Student award for each year level went to Jennifer Burns (10), Naioki Castors (11) and John Sibley (12).

Later that evening saw the first year 12 formal ever held on Palm Island. The Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar and Bistro was beautifully decorated with local palm leaves and flowers and balloons while the guests of honour wouldn't have looked out of place on a red carpet. After a grand entrance, and hundreds of photos, the students and guests enjoyed a delicious meal and celebrated the achievements of the graduates in style.

Congratulations to (pictured above L-R) Zenovia Nallajar, Danice Nallajar, Larbara Marks, Jacinta Obah, John Sibley, Yolanda Kerr, Jim Robertson, Maggie Clumpoint and Jennifer Clarke.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

LDMG (Disaster Group)

MEETING NOTICE

LDMG (Disaster Group) will meet at the Council on Wednesday 8 December at 2pm.

The main focus will be on pre-cyclone season preparation. CDEP will be cleaning up around the place and providing locals with the opportunity to put rubbish in skips etc.

It would also be a good time for people to consider losing power etc and stock up with some tinned food batteries, make sure they have enough gas etc – it will be too late when a cyclone is approaching and everything is getting stripped out of the shop.

Paul JAMES - OIC

Palm Island Police Station
Main Street, Palm Island QLD 4816
Phone – 47701810 Fax – 47701146



Community

Christmas Party!!!

Wednesday 8th December
– in the Mall followed by
Carols by Candlelight –

PALM ISLAND COMMUNITY PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN 2011

The Minister has appointed the following holidays for the Community of Palm Island in 2011:

Friday 3 June: a holiday for the purpose of the Strike 57 Commemoration Day;

Friday 10 June: a holiday for the purpose of the Establishment Day/BWGCOLMAN Day;

Monday 4 July: a holiday for the purpose of the Townsville Annual Show;

Friday 8 July: a holiday for the purpose of NAIDOC;

Friday 2 September: a holiday for the purpose of the Spring Fair Festival Day

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every second

Friday (Council pay week)

for RDO. The next RDO is

Friday 10 December.

For emergencies on a Friday please call 0458 789 010

For more information contact the Council on 4770 1177

Ferdy's Haven
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
4pm – 7pm Wednesday
15 December

We invite the Palm Island community to join us in this happy event
Everyone Welcome

Palm Island Voice

OUR AD/SUB RATES ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE!!

Watch this space for details in the next Issue!!

Advertising Information & Rates: Display Ads

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

Full Page \$440 Half Page \$231 Quarter Page \$121

Eighth Page \$66 Sixteenth Page \$44

Classifieds

Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE

Public Notices – FREE

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 p 8 for details).

PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!!

Good show for Cardwell annual comp



IN one of the most exciting games of rugby league seen for some time, the Palm Island Jets and Girringun Pirates played a nail biting 34-all draw in Cardwell earlier this month. At the same carnival up and coming u17 players defeated the local side with an impressive 28-14 win.

The Pirates side won last year's encounter and went into the game as hot favorites considering many of their players had competed in the strong Cairns and District A Grade rugby league competition.

Indeed some lined up in the Tully Tigers side which won the premierships over Kangaroos.

But Jets produced a star studded line up which included former NRL back Milton Thaiday with Fred Bulsey, Tabua Oui, Raoul Miller, Georgie Dabea, Darryl Pearson and many more.

Jets looked like running away with the game early.

In the opening minutes they crossed in the corner and the try was converted by the radar-like boot of Tabua Oui. Esrom Geia scored, Oui converted and Jets had bolted to a 12-nil lead before Pirates

hit back to reduce that to 6-12. Then Gresham Ross - backing up from the 17 years game - scored and when Oui's kick was true the Jets led 18-6. Pirates fought back to score a try in the last minute but missed the conversion, levelling the scores.

It was a fitting result for two good sides after 80 minutes of intriguing football.

MEANWHILE future champions were on show when the Palm Island Barracudas 17 years and under team (pictured above) defeated Girringun Pirates side 28-14 in Cardwell.

It was the curtain raiser to the A-grade game between Palm Island Jets and Pirates. The young Palm side won the game last year and players were keen to continue on their winning way.

There was some top class

action and Palm had many winners in the side which played in the colours of local club side Hornets.

Palm coach Rio Walsh was asked after the game to nominate his best players which proved a difficult task. "They all played well and I can't really single any out," he said.

Barracudas captain Clinton Conway and vice captain Tibian Wyles proudly held the trophy after the game which was played in drizzling rain at times.

For Barracudas Kenneth Wilson, Gresham Ross, Fred Haines, Josh Milne, Mitch O'Brien scored tries and 'superboot' Fred Haines booted 4 goals in a great individual performance.

Several of the youngsters then lined up for the Jets side in the A-Grade game.

MORE PICS NEXT ISSUE!

Palm Island Community Company has relocated its Townsville office premises to the ground floor of the Suncorp Plaza at 61-73 Sturt Street, Townsville.

A smoking ceremony conducted on November 4 was attended by Elders & community members.



Bwgc Colman Brothers Football Carnival

RESULTS

Charters Towers Miners (B Side)
defeated Mundy Bay Warriors 30 -26
Skipjacks defeated Mt Bentley Sting Rays by 2 points
Charters Towers (A Side)
drew with Bwgc Colman Brothers (36 all)



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL TEAMS FOR COMPETING AND FOR TRAVELLING TO PALM ISLAND, ESPECIALLY CHARTERS TOWERS WARRIORS & MT BENTLEY STING RAYS



AND to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for supporting the Bwgc Colman Brothers by hosting the event. Pictures on this page courtesy Cr Hal Walsh.



Boxers bring home 4 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze



At Townsville airport last Sunday after returning from National Boxing Titles at Hobart were Luke Lenoy, Patrick Clarke, Reggie Palm Island, trainer Ray Dennis, Noby Clay.
In front: Steen Walsh, Joey Geia and Joey's mum Alima

SIX Palm Island boxers travelled to far off Hobart in Tasmania last weekend, and returned home with four gold medals, two silver and one bronze.

Luke Lenoy won a gold medal in the 75kg intermediate division defeating Richard Roberts from Kempsey in NSW. Joey Geia won his gold in the 38kg sub junior under 13 division, beating Ricky Campbell from Tasmania in his first bout, then Bailey Seabourne from the Apple Isle in the final.

Steen Walsh won a gold medal in the 41kg sub junior division when he beat Brody Bassford from Yungaburra. Patrick Clarke won bronze in the 63.5kg division intermediate division when he lost to gold medallist Ryan Hampton in an elimination bout.

Reggie Palm Island won a silver medal in the 54kg intermediate division when

beaten by quality Babinda boxer Broughton Worth.

"Patrick and Reggie were very unlucky to lose split decisions," trainer Ray Dennis reflected.

Female boxer Noby Clay didn't get a fight because there was no opponent in her weight division. Mr Dennis said Noby received a gold medal for her own 48kg division. next morning.

Mr Dennis and the Palm Island Boxing Club would like to sincerely thank the following sponsors without whose assistance the trip could not have gone ahead.

The Palm Island PCYC paid for the airfares to Hobart.

The Palm Island Community Company paid for the airfares

from Palm Island to Townsville before the championships and writer Chloe Hooper paid for the accommodation in Hobart.

Cheryl Greaves paid for the accommodation at the Hotel Allen the night before the trip and on Sunday when the team returned to Townsville. Bindal Sharks Sport and Recreation also helped with fares and accommodation.

Danni Sinn helped with raising money to pay other expenses.

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council also assisted, as did Laurie Lindner Construction Company.

"The boxers and myself are very grateful for the help we received," Mr Dennis said.

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

Palm Island Voice

Editor: Christine Howes (chowes@westnet.com.au)
Ph 4770 1177 or 0419 656 277

Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson
and to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed
to this issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

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DEADLINE **PUBLICATION DATE**

Thursday 9 December 2010

Tuesday 13 December 2010

Issue 70 (above) will be the last for 2010 so *Palm Island Voice* would
like to thank everyone we've worked with over the year and say

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!