



Your community

Your newspaper

Issue 9.
7 December 2007



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Publisher

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Printed by:
Palm Island Aboriginal
Shire Council
Main St, Palm Island
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Elders and Children March AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS

Palm Island Elders are increasingly concerned about the effects illegal drugs are having in the community.

Drugs affect families in small communities such as Palm in many ways. Palm Island Elders are especially concerned about the impact on kids from families where drug debts mean there is little or no money for proper food, no money to pay rent or other bills, buy clothes, and so on.

A group of Elders decided to voice their concerns in a public march and meeting held on Thursday, **22 November**.

They joined with Palm Island school children and marched along the foreshore calling on the community to say NO to drugs. They

then met in the Town Square and spoke to the community about their concerns. They encouraged parents and other adults to behave responsibly, for the sake of the community's kids.

They spoke of their personal experiences, and the family tragedies faced when someone close uses drugs. They also spoke of many triumphs, on a personal and community level, when someone who has been using makes the hard decision and chooses to stop.

Picture from Alfred Clay, Palm Island Voice

Readers are advised this publication may contain the names and images of people who have passed away.



Palm Kids Say NO to Drugs



Students from Bwgcorman Community School and St Michael's Catholic School joined with Community Elders to protest against the use and abuse of illegal drugs in the community.

The children and Elders wore red clothing to symbolize that their blood was pure and free from drugs.



ATODS Launches No Drugs Here Project

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Service (ATODS), Palm Island in conjunction with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council have come together to launch a support project for Palm families.

The aim of the **No Drugs Here** project is to reduce the harm related to alcohol and drug misuse on Palm Island.

The project main emphasis is to support those families in the community who have made a decision to have no alcohol or drugs in their home.

The approach is that families volunteer for the Project and undergo an assessment interview with ATODS. Following the successful interview a voluntary agreement will be made.

A sign will be provided to the household to attach to their front fence, gate or house to inform visitors that

the home is a family place and no alcohol or drugs is allowed.

Family names will be registered with both Police and Council to record the home is a drug and alcohol free zone.

Families will be able to seek Police and or Council support if they are unable to remove non compliant individuals.

Similar projects in other communities have resulted in positive outcomes and have provided much needed support to those families in communities who have made a stance around drugs and alcohol in their homes.

If you would like to participate in the project ATODS welcomes the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the project in more detail.

Story from Craig Thorssell, Social Worker, ATODS

Palm Island Community Company A FIRST FOR QUEENSLAND

The Palm Island community attended celebrations on 21 November, to mark the creation of the Palm Island Community Company,

The celebration, hosted by the Mayor of Palm Island Delena Oui-Foster and the Minister for Communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Lindy Nelson-Carr, marked the beginning of operations for the newly formed Palm Island Community Company.

This important occasion featured the formal signing of the Palm Island Community Company Shareholders' Agreement and Constitution, and was followed by a Kup Murri and a performance by the Descendance dance group.

The Company is a first in Queensland and is the result of a partnership between the Queensland Government, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, the Palm Island traditional owners, and the Palm Island community.

The Palm Island Community Company will work with existing non-government organisations in the



Minister for Communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Lindy Nelson-Carr addressed the gathering before she and Mayor Foster signed documents formalizing the company's formation.



delivery of a range of social services, including family support, services for people with a disability, court support and safe haven services for children and young people.

As well as assisting with the delivery of these services, the Company will also offer financial and administration services including tax and accounting advice to local organisations, as well as identifying trustworthy specialists to assist Palm Island organisations in law, finance and small business.

The Palm Island Community Company was registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission on 11 October 2007.

The board of directors is made up of seven members; Carol Peltola (Independent Chair), Mark Johnston (Queensland Government's Nominee), Rhonda Phillips (Queensland Government's Nominee), Paul Travis (Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council), Jim Petrich (Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council), Alan Palm Island (Palm Island Family Nominee), as well as a community shareholder nominee which is yet to be appointed.

Story from Department of Communities



Council Supports Sustainable Housing Partnership

We invited community members to a meeting at PCYC on Monday 26th November 2007 to hear more about our proposal for a housing partnership with Council.

We introduced our team and outlined our plan to address the current housing shortage on Palm Island, including training and employment elements that we hope will benefit the whole community.

We would like to sincerely thank those who attended meetings, and all those members of the Palm Island community who signed a letter of support for our proposal. By the time we met with Council on Thursday 29th November, we had received 257 letters, which we tabled at the meeting. We are grateful for these letters and for the continuing support being expressed by people.

We are very happy that Council has agreed to support our project. Council has confirmed they wish to enter into an agreement with us for the construction of housing on Palm Island.

We intend to keep the community informed through the *Palm Island Voice*, future meetings and information

Send us *your* Stories



Publication Date	Contributions Due
21/12/07	11/12/07
18/01/08	11/01/08
1/02/08	25/01/08



Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay for further information.

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sessions and regular visits in the lead up to the project. Once the project commences, we expect to be on the island full-time.

Call Val Goose on 0413123748 if you would like more information or to talk about the housing project.

Story from Suzanne Kenney, Beyond Consulting



JETTY WORK Not Over Yet

The jetty workers have finished their work for the moment, but they will be back.

The concrete deck beams and final stages of the upgrade are yet to be completed and Pacific Marine is planning to undertake this work around March or April next year.

Pictures from Ashley Lenoy



Important Community Projects Launched

Community Renewal, a section of Queensland Department of Housing is building on its history of forging strong relationships with Palm Island through the implementation of three important community projects.

This Community Newspaper *Palm Island Voice*, the Youth In Tune program and the Community Notice Board project, all of which are funded with significant support from Community Renewal were officially launched at a lunchtime celebration, held at Palm Island PCYC, on 27 November.

Member for Townsville, Mike Reynolds (right) launched these projects on behalf of the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology, Robert Swarten.



These projects are some of the latest initiatives from the Queensland Government Community Renewal program, and have been delivered in partnership with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

Almost \$100,000 has been allocated from the Queensland Government's Community Renewal program for the Palm Island Youth In-Tune and Community Communication projects.

The Youth In-Tune program will engage young people in an innovative program to develop their skills in modern and traditional musical instruments, used for traditional dancing and ceremonies.

The Community Communications project focuses on delivering regular local information through the *Palm Island Voice* and establishment of a series of notice boards on the island.

Youth in Tune

The Youth In-Tune program, managed by Palm Island PCYC, will work toward formation of a band, and aims to allow young people to explore music and lyrics, develop self confidence and share their attachment to their community and culture during youth music events.

It will include weekly mentoring sessions with a qualified music teacher to develop skills with modern and traditional musical instruments.

Community Newspaper

The *Palm Island Voice* has been re-established

to ensure community is better informed about events, and activities on the Island, as well as providing better understanding of projects undertaken and issues being addressed by Council, State and Federal Governments in their work toward building a better life for the community.

Community Notice Boards

The first of the Community Notice Boards funded by the project has been installed at the Palm Island PCYC (right). More will follow at key locations around the Island



Bwngcolman Radio

An important part of Island life is Bwngcolman

Radio 97.3 FM, established 3 years ago. SistaD, the driving force behind the station was pleased to publicly recognise Sandra Clay (below) as the winner of the logo competition for the radio and award a prize of a LCD television and DVD player.

Picture from Ashley Lenoy

Sandra Clay designed the logo which has been reproduced a deadly range of T-shirts to promote Bwngcolman Radio Station. Sandra's logo depicted the story of the 40 tribes that came to Palm and now live together.



As SistaD said, 40 tribes living happily together is a model for world peace!

Strong Commitment from Community Renewal

Renewal activities in Palm Island are delivered in partnership with local residents, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and other government and non-government agencies.

Since 2000, the State Government, through its Community Renewal program, has invested over \$6.3 million in the Palm Island area.



COUNCIL CALENDAR

11 December—Councillor Training Program Celebration

Councillors will attend a special dinner in Cairns, hosted by Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation to commemorate their achievements in the Councillor Training Program they have been participating in.

14 December—Staff Christmas Party

Council offices and services will be closed from midday for the Staff Christmas Party.

24 December to 1 January—Holiday Closure

Council offices and services will be closed for this period, with emergency staff on stand-by only.

22 January—Delegation Meeting

Members of the public who wish to put a proposal, petition, or other matters of concern or interest to the Council are able to speak at this meeting.

You will need to contact Council administration and notify them of your intentions prior to the meeting.

Presentations are limited to 1/2 hour and time is limited so you will need to book early.

You can make a booking by calling Thomasina Morgan on 4770 1177.

23 January—Housing Committee Meeting

The Housing Committee will hold its regular monthly meeting to discuss housing issues and policies. Recommendations from this meeting will be put to the General Council Meeting on 29 January.

29 January—Council General Meeting

Council will hold its next General Meeting on 30 October. The public gallery will be open and members of the community are welcome to attend.

However, community members need to remember Council has the right to close the meeting to the public when they are discussing confidential matters such as staffing and finance.

If Council does need to close the meeting, members of the public will be asked to leave, and to respect Council's decision.



Put Your Business Here

Advertising space is available to all businesses, organisations and individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community.

Display Advertising Costs (including GST)

Full page	\$440
Half page	\$231
Quarter page	\$121
Eighth page	\$66
Sixteenth	\$44
Inserts	\$660

Discounts available for multiple bookings

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and support the community
that supports you!**



Water Use Increasing

Current water use figures indicate consumption is steadily increasing as the season warms up.

Details of water use for the last four months are:

- August 32 million litres
- September 33 million litres
- October 38 million litres
- November 39 million litres

Current usage is a rate of approximately 1.3 million litres of water per day.

Saving water is important so PLEASE remember to turn taps off properly, not leave hoses running, and don't water your garden during the day.

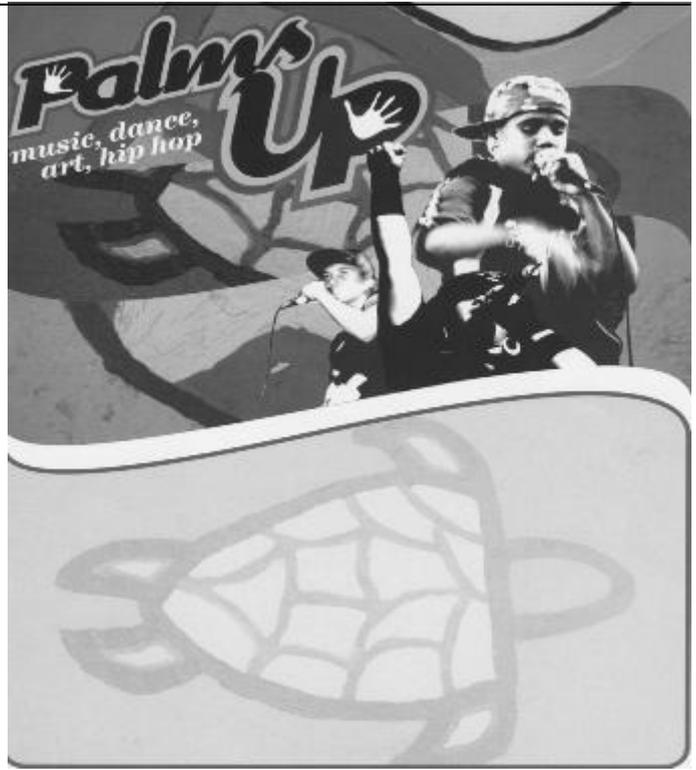
Paid Gig for Palm Artists

The Palm's Up Project is hosting a BBQ for all Palm Island Community artists interested in getting involved in a community concert in February 2008.

Any artists interested in performing or mentoring young artists are invited to come along on Tuesday 11th December 5pm, on the foreshore for a BBQ and Artist Registration.

This is a call out to all Palm Island Community members. Palm's Up is looking for all types and genres of Visual Artists, Dancers, Hula Dancers, Musicians, Singers, Bands. Come to the BBQ and register to perform at the concert. **It is a paid gig.**

For further information, come along on the day or contact, Melania Stevens, Program Officer Stylin UP Regional, SpeakOut by phone on (07) 3493 7511 or email at melania@speakout.com.au



Success with Animal Welfare Program

The Council, with the community, has recently had great success in improving the health of the dogs and horses in the community.

This has been through the hard work of the animal control officers, Blacky and Fania, who have removed all the diseased and injured animals and prevented them from roaming through the community. This has made the community safer and healthier for all everyone.

Now that the dogs are healthier they are more likely to want to wander away from home and run in packs with other dogs.

This can be dangerous to people (especially our children) and to other animals, especially young foals and horses, so it is important that you keep your dogs at home and not let them run through the community.

The Council recognises the right of people to keep horses but horses can be dangerous and are always a threat to our people. We are coming into the breeding season and the danger is especially more now that stallions will be looking for mares and fighting each other for territory.

All animal owners need to be **responsible** for their own

animals so that the community can enjoy a safer and healthier lifestyle.

Being **responsible** means:

- register your dog with the Council
- keep your dog at home
- if you have too many dogs and/or can't control them contact the animal control officers
- treat your dog for any disease and injury
- keep your dog as healthy and clean as possible
- keep your horse out of the community areas
- treat your horse for any disease or injury.

If you see any dogs and horses roaming or any animal that is diseased or injured, please contact the Council.



With your help we can keep our community safe.

Remember: Too many animals in the community can lead to:

- increased risk of disease, especially if dogs are unhealthy
- dogs scavenging and spreading rubbish
- dog fights and general noise (barking etc.)
- dog and horse attacks which can cause serious injury or worse
- more faeces and urine in our community.

Remember: Council has introduced bans on dogs not on a leash in certain public areas and owners may be fined

IMPROVED FUTURE LAND PRACTICES PROJECT

The Latest Update from NRW

As reported in Issue 6. of *Palm Island Voice* (23/11/07) the Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) is leading the Improved Future Land Practices Project.

The project aims to deliver a package of measures that make land tenure arrangements at Palm Island more workable - to allow better decision making about the use, allocation and management of land leading to improved well being and economic opportunity.

It will also enable the community to take advantage of proposed changes to the laws that deal with leasing on DOGITs.

NRW would like to clarify some issues which involve an important part of the project - an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Manbarra people to meet the requirements of the *Native Title Act*.

Why is an ILUA necessary?

Where native title may exist and could be affected by a proposed development, an ILUA is required.

An ILUA is a contract between the community (through the Council) and the Manbarra people which enables future development to occur more easily.

It sets up a process and rules to guarantee the legality of future development.

Where does native title exist in the township and other settled areas?

The creation of the DOGIT did not extinguish native title. We can be sure that native title does not exist in some places, but not in all places.

Therefore, it is better to do a single agreement over the whole area rather than dozens of separate agreements.

Researching whether native title has been extinguished and doing agreements every time something needs to be done takes a long time and is very expensive.

How will Bwgcolman be involved in the ILUA?

NRW recognise that the Bwgcolman people are essential to the process.

The interests of the Bwgcolman people in the DOGIT need to be taken into account under Queensland law.

NRW is committed to keeping the Bwgcolman people informed and consulted over key issues arising from the project.

To do this, NRW will consult with the Bwgcolman people directly - at face to face meetings such as Future

Directions meetings and other meetings organised specifically to talk about the project.

Leasing

NRW will attend the next Future Directions meeting and bring someone to answer the many questions the community has about leasing and the proposed new laws. If you have any questions before then, you can call Ted Besley, the Acting Project Manager, on (073) 406 2270 or email him on ted.besley@nrw.qld.gov.au.

Have your say

In future, NRW want to hold public meetings at Palm Island separate from the Future Directions ones that focus on particular elements of the project. Dates and details will be provided in upcoming issues of the *Palm Island Voice*.

NRW will set up a suggestions box at Palm Island, located at the Government Coordinator's Office where community members can provide written feedback and suggestions.

Story from Ted Besley, Acting Project Manager, Department of Natural Resources and Water

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Congratulations to Another Palm Island Year 12 Graduate

Palm Island student Austin Walsh successfully graduated from Year 12 at Palm Beach Currumbin High School (Gold Coast) on 7 November.

He is currently finishing his Cert II in Parks and Wildlife, as part of school based training and hopes to gain work as a Ranger, maybe here on Palm.

His mum and dad are very proud of his achievements, and his Nan Anne is also very proud of his success and everyone is looking forward to having him home for a while.



Austin Walsh receiving his award at Currumbin High School Graduation Ceremony

STORIES OF PALM COMPETITION WINNERS

There were many wonderful entries received for our Stories of Palm creative writing competition and it was a difficult task to choose the winners.

Winners received their prizes from The Hon Mike Reynolds, MP, and Mayor Delena Foster at the official launch of Palm Island Voice, which was held in conjunction with the launch of the Youth in Tune Project on 27 November.

Unfortunately there were no entries received in the Youth Section, so it was decided to award some additional prizes in the other categories.

Adult Section

Joint First prize in the Adult Section was awarded for two poems which tell very different but equally compelling stories of Palm.

The winners of this section were Winston Seaton, for his poem "Questions that were never answered" and Arron Richardson for his poem "Big Cannon Bay".

Second prize went to Katherine Nallajar for her story "The Sunset", and Leonte Prior took out Third prize for her story "My Place, Your Place".

Children Section

Once again the children of Palm demonstrated strong connections with their families, cultural heritage and a deep sense of place, in the stories of Palm they wrote.

First up a special mention for, young Shauna Clumpoint, who did not receive a prize but was awarded a Special Merit Certificate in recognition of the lovely dreamtime story she told.

First prize in the Children Section went to Joeelle Walsh for her story "Growing Up on Palm Island".



Rochelle Sibley receives her Special Achievement Prize

Second prize was awarded to Jerome Walsh for his tale "Mundy Bay is Deadly" and Kearhla Walsh won Third prize for her story of "Growing Up on Palm Island".

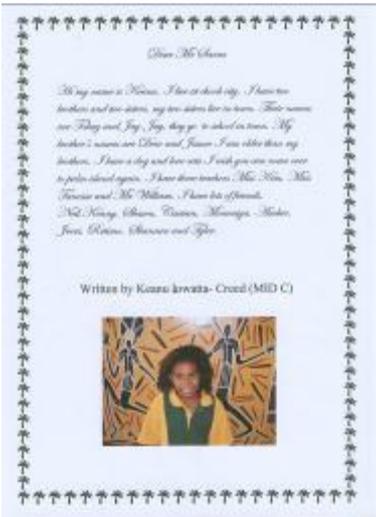
Rochelle Sibley's story "Fishing on Palm Island is Fun" and Shannon Murphy's story "Camp at Wallaby Point" were both given Special Achievement Prizes for their work.

We hope to publish these winning entries and other stories submitted in future issues of Palm Island Voice.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, and to the other entrants as well, who also wrote some fantastic Stories of Palm.

This competition was sponsored by Community Renewal, Queensland Department of Housing and our thanks to them for their ongoing support for Palm Island Voice.

More Great Postcards...



Dear Mr Sarra,
Hi my name is Keanu. I live at chook city. I have two brothers, my two sisters live in town. Their names are Tokay and Jay-Jay, they go to school in town. My brother's names are Dero and Jaune. I am older than my brothers. I have a dog and love cats. I wish you can come over to palm is-

land again. I have three teachers Miss Kin, Miss Tanessa and Mr William, I have lots of friends, Neil Kenny, Shawn, Cassian, Moewaiya, Amber, Jerri, Re-timo, Shannen and Tyler.

Written by Keano Lowatta-Creed (Mid C)

Dear Mr Sarra,
My Name is Moewaiya Youngblutt and I am 10 years old. I live on Palm Island, Gribble Street. I like to go fishing, camping, walking on the beach, looking for shells and swimming. I have lots of friends their names are Keanu, Jerri, Amber, Shaleah, Tyler and Shannon. I have two brothers and one sister their names are Kelsi, Genai and Stephen. I am having a good time at school.

From Moewaiya

Written by Moewaiya Youngblutt (Mid C)



Dear Mr Sarra,
Hello, how are you? I would like to thank you for visiting my community, Palm Island. My name is Ngair. I live on Palm Island with my mum five (5) brothers and seven (7) sisters. My dad lives in Townsville with my baby sister. I am in year five A(5) and I attend Bwgcolman Community School.

I live living on Palm Island because I enjoy going fishing, camping and horse riding. I like to go up the hills especially to Bamboo Creek, it is so beautiful and peaceful there.

There are a few things I would like to see on Palm Island which are, a cinema, ice cream shop, ten pin bowling and a shopping centre. This will save people in my community a lot of money, for example there is no need to pay for their plane/ferry tickets and accommodation.

I also like singing and hula dancing! Mr Sarra, do you like to sing?

Yours sincerely,
Ngair Pearson

To Mr Sarra,
Hi my name is Shannon Castors. I am 10 years old. I live at Butler Bay Road 4816. I go to school at Bwgcolman Community School and I am in grade 5. My teacher's names are Miss Kim, Mr William and Miss Tanessa. My favourite hobbies are hanging out with my friends, shopping for clothes, going for a walk and playing with the nice warm sand on the beach. My favourite place to go is tropical rainforests. My favourite sports are Soccer, Hockey and Rounders. I live on an island that's close to Townsville, there are only two ways to get to Palm Island by boat or plane. Palm Island is the main island of the Great Palm Island group. The island consists of small bays, sandy beachers and steep forested hill rising to a peak of 548 square metres. There are about 6 and a half thousand people living here today. I enjoy LIFE, because you get to learn lots of things about the world and everything else. I would love to visit Cherbourg State School.

PS I really love that song you taught us it was really cool and DEADLY!

From Shannon Castors

Written by Shannon Castors (MID C)





Norita Inkerman
Bwgcolman Community School,
Palm Island, QLD, 4815

Hi Mr Sarra,

Hi, my name is Norita. I live on Palm Island and I attend Bwgcolman Community School. I have three sisters and two brothers. I am the third eldest in my family. I live with my mother and grandmother.

Palm Island is a really nice place because I can go to the beach and play games and I love being with my family and friends. I like listening to music and my favourite singer is Beyonce. Mr Sarra, do you like music? What kind of music do you like?

Yours sincerely,
Norita Inkerman

Dear Mr Sarra,
Hello, my name is Norit. I live on Palm Island and I attend Bwgcolman Community School. I come from a family of three (3) sisters and two (2) brothers. I am the third eldest in my family. I live with my mother and grandmother. Palm Island is a deadly community because I

can go with my friends to play games and I love being with my family and friends. I like listening to music and my favourite singer is Beyonce. Mr Sarra, do you like music? What kind of music do you like?

Yours sincerely, Norita Inkerman

Dear Mr Sarra,
Hello, how are you?

I would like to thank you for teaching my class a new song, we really like it. If you every come back to Palm Island we could sing our school song to you. This photo is of a beautiful sunset of Palm Island, and its so beautiful.



Robert Inkerman
Bwgcolman Community School,
Palm Island, QLD, 4815

Hi Mr Sarra,

Hi, how are you? I would like to thank you for teaching my class a new song, we really like it. If you ever come back to Palm Island we could sing our school song to you. This photo is of a beautiful sunset of Palm Island, and its so beautiful.

My name is Robert Inkerman. I live on Palm Island which is about forty (40) kilometers north off the city of Townsville. I am eleven (11) years old and I attend Bwgcolman Community School and I enjoy going to school so I can learn how to read, write and do maths. I have one (1) brother and four (4) sisters they attend Bwgcolman Community School too. We live with my mum and grandmother.

Palm Island is a great place to live, because I enjoy going walking down to the beach, going fishing, swimming and meeting and playing with my friends at the Palm Island PCYC. I like the Newcastle Knights football team and Brisbane Broncos. I really enjoy watching NRL Football on television and I play touch with my cousins and friends. Mr Sarra, do you like playing any sports?

Thank you very much,
From
Robert Inkerman

My name is Robert Inkerman. I live on Palm Island which is about forty (40) kilometers north off the city of Townsville. I am eleven (11) years old and I attend Bwgcolman Community School and I enjoy going to school so I can learn how to read, write and do maths. I have one (1) brother and four (4) sisters they attend Bwgcolman Community School too. We live with my mum and grandmother.

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Thank you very much. From Robert Inkerman



Dear Mr Sarra,
My Name is Jerry Blackley, I live at Pencil Bay, Palm Island. I am in grade five and I have included a photo of all my friends. On Palm Island we swim, ride horses, jump off the jetty and eat chinky apples. My favourite subject at school is English, I like hanging out with friends and playing games. My friends like to sit around and talk or we chase the oys. My hobbies include singing with the choir, playing games, swimming fishing and having fun with my brothers and sisters. I like to go to the PCYC with my friends after school. Palm is very close to Townsville and you can get here by boat or plane. I live with my grandparents and my grandmother owns a shop next to the fish and chip shop. Hope you can visit us again soon!

Best wishes Jerri Blackley.

My friends like to sit around and talk or we chase the oys. My hobbies include singing with the choir, playing games, swimming fishing and having fun with my brothers and sisters. I like to go to the PCYC with my friends after school. Palm is very close to Townsville and you can get here by boat or plane. I live with my grandparents and my grandmother owns a shop next to the fish and chip shop. Hope you can visit us again soon!

Best wishes, Jerri Blackley.

Dear Mr Sarra,
Hello, how are you?

My name is Anita and this is a photo of me with my young sister Auntaijah and eldest brother Gudgan. I am from Palm Island and I have three (3) brothers, one (1) sister, a mum and a dad. I have a dog and two (2) cars.



Anita Johnson-Burke
Bwgcolman Community School,
Palm Island, QLD, 4815

Hi Mr Sarra,

Hi, how are you? My name is Anita and this is a photo of me with my young sister Auntaijah and eldest brother Gudgan. I am from Palm Island and I have three (3) brothers, one (1) sister, a mum and a dad. I have a dog and two (2) cars.

Palm Island is a beautiful place. I love living on Palm Island because I go fishing off the jetty on the weekend, it is great because we catch fish and spend time with my family. The sea is lovely and blue and sometimes I go swimming with my family.

I would like to see our community have a shopping centre like Stockland in Townsville and a skating rink. I would like to see more housing built here in my community and letter boxes at every house so we don't have to go to the Post Office to get our mail this will be great to have because many people live out of the main town area.

Thank you,
From
Anita Johnson-Burke

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Thank you.. From Anita Johnson Burke

...from Great Palm Kids

Books inspired by Palm helps kids learn about animal care

Books inspired by the co-author's work with the Palm Island community will be released across the State to help children understand how to look after animals

A series of book written by Indigenous Community Volunteer horse carer Rae-Jon Bunting and Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Biosecurity Queensland staff have been published to help educate young horse lovers about the importance of animal welfare and how to look after your horse.

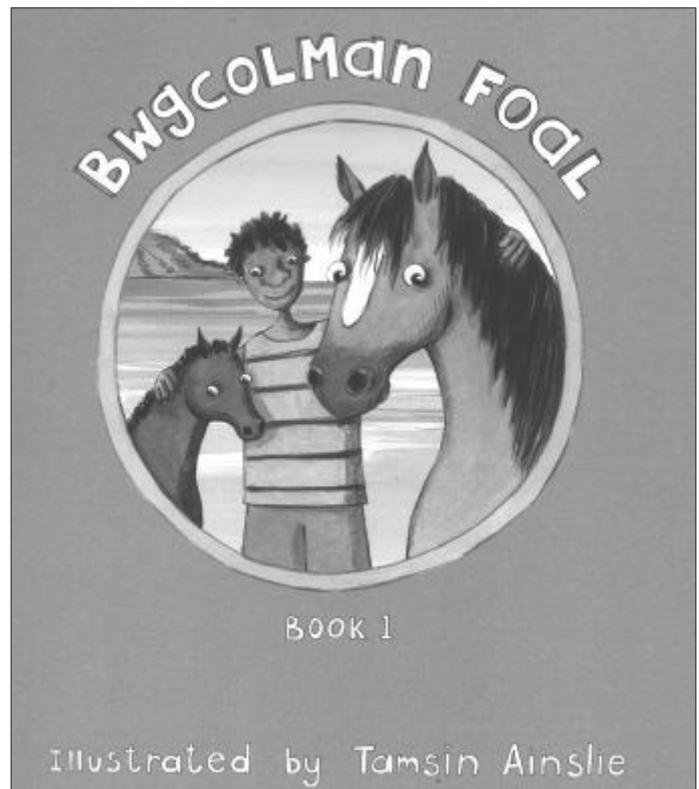
The first book, *Bwgcorman Foal*, is the Book 1 of four fully-illustrated books following the life of a foal born in an island community.

Rae-Jon has spent most of her life as a farmer, livestock dealer, horse breeder and trainer. Now retired, she works harder than ever as a voluntary educator and animal welfare crusader in indigenous communities.

She regularly visits the Palm Island aboriginal community where she teaches children how to look after their animals and assists the community generally in animal welfare and management. Rae-Jon's original story was the inspiration for this book.

The book is a story which also gives rules on how to look after your animals. As you read the book, you will meet an old fella, Elder Stan, and he will explain some of these rules. What they really mean is – if you ride a horse or if you have an animal, then you have to look after it properly.

Bwgcorman Foal will be distributed to Palm Island



State School and St Michael's Primary School students, as well as other Indigenous community schools across North Queensland.

The first book will be followed by *Bwgcorman Yearling*, *Bwgcorman Gelding* and *Midnight, Bwgcorman Pride*.

Story from Ian Rodger, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

**Birthdays
New Babies
Funeral Notices
In Memoriam
Tell us about them!
We'll put them in the paper.
It's FREE!
Leave a note with the details at
Reception in the Council's main ad-
ministration building.
Or give us a call. 4770 0215**

The Palm Island Weaving Group
would like to invite any
Palm Islanders
who are interested in learning how to
weave with Coconut leaf,
to contact Merle Robertson
or phone her on 47701664.
We will be starting off with easy to
learn novelties which could be used as
Christmas decorations.

DON'T GET BORED THESE HOLIDAYS

Get down to PCYC for heaps of deadly things to get into

The Program of kids holiday activities that will be available for kids at Palm Island PCYC is packed with heaps of DEADLY things to do.

Starting from 17 December, there are three weeks of activities planned as part of PCYC's Vacation Care Program for young people between the ages of 13 and 17 years.

In the first week there will be session of traditional games on the foreshore, a mural project, sessions with Bwgcolman Radio, beading, a netball tournament, drumming workshops, and an art program with community elders.

The second week will continue the mural project, and drumming sessions, and include a knock-out sports competition, basketball tournament, as well as more painting and art sessions.

The third week will see the mural project finished, and incorporate a touch football competition and movie



afternoon.

Full details of the weekly programs and details of how to register are available by contacting Lavinia Tuibua on 4770 1793.

START UR HOLIDAY WITH A BOOM! CHiKA! WaWa! BLASTIC! FanTastIk

I.....

Bring ur m8s n njoy a deadly time at your local PCYC
in this festive season

Programs: Beading Program
PASS program
Radio session wit Deadly Sista D
Tuesdays art activity with Elders
Art Mural Project
Wed & Thurs Night Sports
Drumming Workshops
Welfare Workshops
Childcare Vacation Program



Further enquiries contact Lavenia Tuibua on 477 01793

Birthdays New Babies Anniversaries In Memoriam

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

David Shepherd
29 December

Happy 30th Birthday,
from Candy Walsh and Family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nat Walsh
29 December

Happy Birthday,
from Candy Walsh & Family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Anne Walsh
29 December

Happy Birthday,
from Candy Walsh & Family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dwayne Doogie Shannon
29 December

from Candy Walsh & Family

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Display Advertising Costs (including GST)

Full page	\$440
Half page	\$231
Quarter page	\$121
Eighth page	\$66
Sixteenth	\$44
Inserts	\$660

Discounts available for multiple bookings

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay
for further information
Telephone 07 4770 0215 or 4770 1177
Fax 07 4770 1305
email: editor@piac.com.au

**Advertise in *Palm Island Voice*
and support the community
that supports you!**

✂ SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

Don't live on the Island? DON'T MISS OUT!

Subscribe to *Palm Island Voice* Now!
\$2.20 per issue (including GST)

YES! I want to Subscribe to *Palm Island Voice*:

- 13 issues at a cost of \$28.60 or
 26 issues at a cost of \$57.20 (tick one)

My Details are:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

SUBSCRIBE IN THREE EASY STEPS



- Complete this Form
- Make your Cheque, or Postal Order payable to Palm Island Aboriginal Council
- Send this Form and your payment to:
Palm Island Voice
C/- Palm Island Aboriginal Council
Main St
Palm Island QLD 4816

☺ Keep a copy of this form for your tax records if necessary.

GST

This document will become a Tax Invoice for GST purposes when payment is made.
Palm Island Aboriginal Council
ABN 68 799 811 816

Palm Island Boys Show Off Skills at First Contact Sport and Cultural Festival

On 21st – 26th November a group of Palm's young men travelled to Brisbane to participate in the First Contact Sports & Cultural Festival.

This was the 6th tournament they had competed in, playing against teams from Queensland, New South Wales and across Australia.

Overall there were a combined total of 116 teams playing in School mixed, under 18's, Mixed Senior and Men's Senior divisions.

The Palm Island Stingers under 18's participated in their first carnival game on Friday 23rd November. They were split into 2 pools of 4 teams.

Their first game in Pool 1, at 9.0pm was a Brisbane Team, Wavell Warriors, which they won due to forfeit. The second game came at 11.30am; they were up against the Sandgate Young Gunz, in which the boys went down in a close game 4-3. Their third game, which was played at 1.00pm, were against a Brisbane Maori team, named Ouch, in which the boys came from behind to earn a hard earned 4 all draw.

Their last pool game for the day and carnival came at 4.00pm that afternoon, with the boys playing against the Wanna Be Deadly team, that game saw the boys run out easy winners 10 – 0.

With all pools games being played on the one day the finals were being held on the Saturday, only the two top teams in each pool could advance to the semi-finals.

With our boys having a draw on the Saturday, it was a costly game, denying Palm Island the right to advance to the semi-final stages on points for and against.

Over all the boys played well and were good enough to take the Under 18's sprint challenge on Sunday where they came from behind in the race to run down the flying Yarrabah Seahawks team.

But we all had an anxious wait with the race being so close, the judges called for a replay of the race on the giant screen provided by NITV, which showed that the race was actually won by Palm Island and were crowned the under 18's sprint champions for 2007.

The team members were Kevin Morgan, Gerard Prior, Gary 'Doc' Prior, and Liam Law.

With the under 18's wrapping up their games on Friday, Saturday and Sunday saw the start of the Men's Senior divisions, which were hotly contested by a total number of 43 teams split into 8 pools.

The senior boys were drawn in pool 1, with their first starting at 9.30am Saturday against the GC United

team. The boys had a hard fought 4 all draw.

The next game played at 12.30pm, we were up against the Ritchie Smith Memorial team, with the boys running out winners 3 -0, at 2.30pm we came up against Wagga 2, our boys again running out winners 5 -2. The next game at 4.00pm against Hoops N Health was always going to be a tough challenge with both teams being undefeated at that stage of the tournament, but we were denied the right to go undefeated with Hoop N Health running out winners 4 – 1.

That game was the last game of the day for our senior side with their final pool game on Sunday 25th.

The last pool game for the senior boys was played at 8.30am Sunday, with Palm Island needing to win to qualify for the Championship division of the tournament; we came up against the Harlo Boyz, in which we were successful in winning 5-2, which put us in second place in our pool, which guaranteed us a qualifying spot for the Major Quarter final stages of the event for the first time.

That was to be played at 11.00am, against the top team in pool 2, which were called Azuma Starlight, it was a hard fought game in which Azuma Lighting ran out eventual winners 9 – 4, which ended our tournament for 2007.

We were fortunate to have our last pool game against the Harlo Boyz on field 1 recorded by NITV and we also had interviews with their presenter after the game and the under 18's relay team an interview with her as well, after they won the race.

The boys enjoyed themselves over the whole weekend; we even had the chance to have dinner at the Broncos Leagues Club on Friday night at Red Hill.

There were special guests playing in the tournament as well on the weekend such as, Nathan Blacklock, Preston Campbell, Sam Thaiday, David Peachey, Ian Lacey, the McGrady Bros, Patrick Johnson and Nova Paris.

The teams would like to thank their sponsors, without whose support they would not be able to make the trip possible. They are: Palm Island PCYC, Sunferries, McDonalds, Coca – Cola, Day and Day Shipping, Joyce Palmer Health Service, Rebel Sport, Palm Island Men's Group, Palm Island Retail Store, Riverside Marine, and A & D Civmin.

So keep an eye on NITV, Channel 180 on Austar, you just might see the Palm Island Boys showing off their skills at the Carnival.

Farewell and Thanks from MO

My time here in Palm Island is finished and I am going to Woorabinda.

I would like to thank the people here that I have met, worked with and who have assisted me in my work as a Police Officer.

I would have liked to have thanked each and every one personally, but my leaving here has caught me short and I have not had the opportunity to do so.

I hope this letter reaches these people and they know how much I appreciated my time here on the Island working with the people.

Firstly, the work undertaken by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Palm Island Men's Business Group, Kootana Women's Shelter, Palm Island Justice Group, Joyce Palmer Health Service, Bwgcolman Future Group, Palm Island PCYC and Safe Haven and their workers is a credit on your people and the future of Palm Island.

The professionalism in which they apply themselves to assisting their own community is a fine example to follow.

I would especially like to mention the fine families I have come into contact with and the fond memories I will be taking with me.

These are Mille Morton and her family, Luella Blight and her mob, Peena Geia and company, Angela Barry and family, Alma and Mona Palmer and their families, Cyndell and Noel Pryor and the Doomadgee people.

I have enjoyed the work I have done here and sincerely thank all those I have come into contact with.

Keep your Island beautiful and take care of your community.

With Thanks

MO

Staff from Palm TAFE Receive Premier's Award

A number of TAFE staff involved with the Palm Island Senior Phase Learning project have received some well earned recognition for their hard work.

On 14 November 2007 at the Premiers Awards for Excellence and Public Sector Management, staff from the Barrier Reef TAFE, along with representatives from other departments including Education, Training and the Arts, Public Works and Communities, receiving a highly commended award for their work on the *Palm Island Senior Phase of Learning Project*.

The category for which they were finalists was "Engaging and Serving Communities".

Congratulations to the following BRIT staff:

Lillian Lampton, Marie Fitzgerald, Lana Collier, Annie Neville, Anita Wilkie, Richard McRobie, Brian Daley, Sarina Johnson, Rani Sam and Wendy Lang.

The project was designed to advocate the need for education beyond Year 10 on Palm Island.

Government approval was granted in December 2006 to pilot a Senior Phase of Learning for two years, commencing first semester 2007. They also called for an investigation of longer term arrangements for senior schooling beyond the initial trial.

Through ongoing communication with agencies involved in the project and the Palm Island community,

students on the island now have a vocationally oriented, senior school program tailored to meet their particular needs.

This project gives the community a sense of pride and promises a future with greater stimulation and interest for those living on Palm Island.

Story from Trevor Schwenke, Acting Institute Director, Barrier Reef TAFE

Classifieds Available in *Palm Island Voice*

Items for sale

Sale Price

less than \$1000

FREE

more than \$1000

\$2.50 per line

Public Notices

Births, In Memorium,

Anniversaries, Birthdays **FREE**

Other notices

\$2.50 per line

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay
for further information
Telephone 07 4770 0215 or 4770 1177
Fax 07 4770 1305
email: editor@piac.com.au



Palm Island Ambulance

First Aid Hints and Tips

Healthy Respect for Stinger Risk Needed

Respected marine stinger scientist Dr Lisa Gershwin came to Palm Island, as part of JellyFish 2007 the marine stinger awareness campaign run by Palm Island Ambulance Service.

Speaking at the information session held for Jelly-Fish 2007 Dr Gershwin said this year was shaping up to be a particularly bad season for marine stings with four occurring in Palm Island waters so far, and a death from box jellyfish in the Northern Territory a few weeks ago. She said indicators of a bad stinger season were the early occurrences of stings, and the early onset of warm and rainy weather.

Most discussion of marine stingers centres on Irukandji and box jelly fish, but Dr Gershwin said there were many things in the water, some of which have not even been classified yet, which still pack a punch and hurt like crazy.

She said part of the reason people may think marine stings are a new phenomenon is that in the past, stings may have been attributed to things such as food poisoning or appendicitis attacks. Also media attention has heightened people's awareness of the cause and risk of stings.

Current records show the risk is real and Palm Island kids have a higher chance of being stung.

Elsewhere in tropical Queensland the risk is about 1/160,000 for recreational users of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, but here on Palm, experience from the past number of years, indicate a risk of about 1/500 for residents. This risk is further increased when you understand this figures are per head of population, and not everyone goes swimming.

The risk of death is low but the pain is very real. Dr Gershwin said it is not okay for kids to experience the pain, and constant vomiting from being stung, or the anxiety and fear that comes with being so sick. Her message to everyone on Palm is to go for a swim, but do it safely. In a beautiful place, with such enticing waters, it would be a shame to stay out. So go swimming, but do it safely. You can cover up with a stinger suit, but even a long shirt, and trousers will help protect you from stings.

Remember Stinger High Season is November to April



**2007 Stinger Count – Palm Island
Number – 4**

**We are aiming for zero stingers
this season**

Palm's Paramedics Increase Knowledge

Both Ian and David have started the Rural and Remote Isolated Practice Area Paramedic program – this course is being held through the Work Force Directorate in Cairns and James Cook University Mt Isa

Both Officers have now been to Cairns twice for workshops – the course is over a period of 12 months and includes a conference and workshop in Tasmania

What does this mean for Palm Island – in the future both Ian and David will have more skills – they will be able to supply some medications for different conditions – for example simple antibiotics – suturing of wounds – changing of catheters – and other things

During the training period you might find Ian and David hanging round the hospital helping out in A & E – or when they bring you in the ambulance they may continue with your care

They will also be doing some case studies as part of the program so they may want to interview you about your condition

It's an exciting time and they are both looking forward to providing a higher level of care to our patients here on Palm Island



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**Advertise in *Palm Island Voice*
and support the community
that supports you!**



Health News

Lots of Love & Care is Good for Baby

Can you spoil your baby? The question of whether it is possible to spoil a baby is often raised. But the simple answer is NO.

During the first six months of a baby's life they develop a sense of basic trust and attachment, or mistrust and isolation in their world, depending on how they are treated.

When babies' needs are met and they feel love, they come to sense their world is a safe place.

This sense of security develops during the first year of an infant's life and then continues to deepen and change as the child grows.

Babies who do not have this chance to develop an attachment to their parents or care giver by one year of age, often have severe problems in forming relationships.

Babies whose parents responded promptly to their crying tend to cry less, and these babies tend to be more independent and confident as preschoolers, compared to babies who were left to "cry it out".

So love your baby and do not be afraid of spoiling him or her.

Story from Aggie, Child Health Clinic, JPHS

Quick, Easy, Healthy Kai Kai for little ones

This is another Healthy Recipe for Baby 6-9 months. Mushrooms go well with pasta and make a change from tomatoes.

Mushroom Pasta Sauce

Ingredients

- 1 shallot – peeled and finely chopped
- 25g/1oz white of leek – shredded
- 150g/5oz button mushrooms –washed and sliced
- 50ml/2oz chicken stock
- A little margarine

Cooking

Fry quickly shallot and leek in margarine until brown. Add mushrooms and continue to fry for about 3 minutes. Pour in stock and simmer for about 5 minutes. Mash and pour over cooked pasta.

Recipe from Aggie, Child Health Clinic, JPHS

PALM ISLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH CALENDAR

Joyce Palmer Health Service

Doctors Appointments

Doctors run clinics Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

See the administration staff for appointments

Pharmacy

Mon, Wed Thurs, Fri

10am to 1 pm

2pm to 4.30 pm

Tuesday only close 6.30 pm

Dressing Clinic

8am to 4pm Monday to Friday only – unless it is an emergency

Dental Clinic

Tuesday every week in the Community Health Area.

You need a current **Health Care Card** or **Pension card** to be eligible for this service. Come up between 9-10am to have your problem looked at. Then you will be booked in for an appointment at the next available clinic.

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapist visits every Wednesday. Contact the hospital to make and appointment.

Renal Clinic

The Renal Specialist (nephrologist) visits every two months, and clinics with the Renal Dietician and Social Worker are held every month. If you have been referred as a patient, the clinic will contact you with details of your appointment.

Paediatrics Clinic

The Paediatrics Clinic is held monthly at JPHS. Contact the hospital for more details.

Speech Therapy

The Speech Therapist visits Palm Island every month. Contact the hospital for more details.

Eye Clinic

The Optometrist visits once a month and the eye specialist (ophthamologist) comes twice a year. Contact the hospital for more details.

Diabetes Clinic

The Diabetes clinic is held monthly. Contact the hospital for more details.

Podiatry

The podiatry clinic is held every month. Contact the hospital for more details.

Mental Health Team

The Mental Health Team Office is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm. Phone 4753 5163. The Team can help with mental health assessment, crisis intervention, case management, consultation and liaison with persons presenting to JPHS emergency department, court liaison, Individual counselling and family therapy.

Child Health Clinic

Aggie is available from 8am to 4.30 Monday to Friday to provide help with child health problems issues such as immunisation and baby health checks. Also provide help for some women's health issues and family counselling. Ring on **4752 5172** or call in anytime.

Midwife Clinic

The midwife is available every Tuesday and Friday from 8.30am till 3.30pm. She can provide pregnancy testing, antenatal care and education, organise ultrasounds, offer postnatal care, contraceptive advice and help with women's health issues. Call 0437 550 171 or just come up and see her.

Sexual Health Clinic

Rachel, and Frank are in the office 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. The clinic is open late on Tuesday nights till 6.30pm. No appointment is needed.

We provide advice, treatment and management of any sexual health issues.

Women's Health Nurse

The Nurse will be available on the following dates:

- Tuesday 20th November
- Tuesday 4th December

You can go to the clinic if you need help or advice about any aspects of women's health. The team can help with information about issues such as contraception, menopause, or protecting yourself against diseases that may cause infertility.

REMEMBER: If you come for your regular pap smear, we can **prevent** cervical cancer. If you are under 26 years you can be eligible for a free Gardasil vaccination, which can help to protect you against cervical cancer.

Ring Rachel for an appointment on 4752 5165, or simply drop in between 8.00am-3.00pm on the day.

ATODS

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service has counsellors available to help with drug related issues, free of charge. Users or members of their families who are worried about the impact drugs are having on their lives you can come and yarn to Craig, Julie or Uncle Owen about what to do.

Vet Clinic

Dr. Jim has made his last visit for the year. He will be back again in January. In the meantime if you need assistance with your animal Luawana may be able to help and you can call her on 0428 325 183.

Otherwise Council Animal Control Officers may be able to provide advice or help.

Palm Island Voice Community Notice Board

AA Meetings at Ferdy's

AA meetings to help support people with drug or alcohol problems are held at Ferdy's.

Meetings are held both day and night Meeting times are 9am and 7pm. Call day staff at the centre in the morning to be picked up for the 7pm meeting.

Palm Island Play Group

All family members with children aged 0 – 5 years old are invited to come along the Palm Island Play-group.

DATE: Wednesdays

TIME: 10.30am – 12.30pm

WHERE: PCYC child care room

Contact **Tiana Friday** – PCYC 4770 1793 or 0438

717 607 **Svea Pitman** 4770 1828 or 0423 158 368.

Supported by the Palm Island Family Support Hub.

Rubbish Pick Up Times

Area	Day
Chook City & Farm	Thursday
Mango Avenue	Monday
Top End	Tuesday
Bottom End	Wednesday
Reservoir Ridge & Butler Bay	Friday

Public Holidays for 2007

Christmas Day	Tuesday	25 December
Boxing Day	Wednesday	26 December

Computing Class

Every Monday at the Bwngcolman State School. Beginners are welcome. Contact Charlie or Rani at the seaside TAFE campus. Telephone: 4770 1200.

Ferry Timetable

Day/Date	Departs from	
	Townsville	Palm Island
Fri 7 December	10:00am	12:00pm
Sun 9 December	11:00am	1:00pm
Wed 12 December	11:00am	1:00pm
Fri 14 December	9:00am	5:30pm
Sun 16 December	12:30pm	2:30pm
Wed 19 December	2:30pm	4:30pm
Fri 21 December	2:30pm	4:30pm

Times may alter due to circumstances beyond the control of Sun Ferries.

Call 4771 3855 to confirm departure times.

Council Holiday Closure

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council offices will be closed over the holiday season.

Council offices will be closed from 21 December 2007 to 2 January 2008 inclusive.

Learner's Permits

Courses to assist students who are sitting for their Learners permit are held monthly on Palm. This course has an extremely high success rate.

If you want to do the course you need to enrol at TAFE. You will need your birth certificate & other ID.

Course dates

December 10 – 13th

Blue Cards

Construction Induction (Blue Card) is conducted by TAFE on Palm Island. This card is a requirement when working on a building site but is also gives a good sound knowledge of the Workplace Health and Safety Act, Safe work practices and Risk Assessment.

It is a three to four hour course and on completion students are issued with a General Safety Induction card Enrolments are taken at TAFE.

Course dates

December 13th

Stinger High Season

November to April

- Wear a **Stinger Suit**.
- Primary **First Aid** is **Vinegar** not water or ice.
- **Stinger Box Houses** have First Aid facilities for treatment. They are at premises close to the beach. Look for this sign.



Send us *your* Stories

Publication Date	Contributions Due
7/12/07	27/11/07
21/12/07	11 /12/07

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay for further information.

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