

Unions back ongoing campaign for stolen wages



Elders and unions say they are still looking for justice with their stolen wages and late last month met with Townsville MP John Hathaway.

Leaders and elders, including Mary Twaddle, Pastor John Anderson and Arthur Ah Wang, along with the Townsville Branch President of the Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) Les Moffitt, were also at the meeting which was the first in a series with local MPs intended to be held across the state.

"We've sought this meeting with the new Member for Townsville to bring these Indigenous elders before him to share their side of the story," Mr Moffitt said. "We believe Mr Hathaway is keen to build bridges with the local Indigenous community and hope to better familiarise him with some of the issues of most importance, like stolen wages."

From age 13, twins Paul and Arthur Ah Wang worked together on a pearling lugger off Mackay, free diving to collect pearl shell and doing deckhand duties.

Mr Moffitt said only one of the twins was able to claim under the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme offered by the Beattie Government in May 2002.

He said not only were there flaws in the eligibility requirements for claimants, there were questions about how the scheme was put into place and, "at the end of the day they still didn't deliver all the money that they promised to pay".

Some of the promised money left over was paid out in additional increments while the rest - about

\$20 million - was put into the Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Foundation for bursaries and scholarships.

...continued next page...



Magnetic Island land transfer

Wulgurukaba were granted inalienable freehold title to six hectares of land on Magnetic Island last weekend.

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Andrew Cripps said the land at West Point was transferred at a ceremony on the Island on Saturday.

Mr Cripps said under the agreement, they would receive a further 1.8 hectares in ordinary freehold as well as trusteeship of 55 hectares of newly created reserve under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Member for Thuringowa Sam Cox said it was a terrific outcome.

"The Wulgurukaba Yunbenun Aboriginal Corporation plans to establish a cultural camp on the land," he said.

Minister visits to discuss issues

Queensland Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Glen Elmes, made his first visit to Palm Island earlier this month to meet with the Council and inspect the site of the proposed cultural precinct.

Mr Elmes (*pictured below at Townsville NAIDOC celebrations*) said his visit to Palm Island included talks with Mayor Alf Lacey about issues including housing, alcohol management plans and economic development. "Discussions with Indigenous leaders like Councillor Lacey are helping to give me a better understanding of the issues which impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities," he said. "I discussed with Cr Lacey practical strategies to address these issues, in particular alcohol management plans and the provision of adequate housing, job and economic development opportunities."

After attending a community morning tea, Mr Elmes visited the



Island's retail store, the Joyce Palmer Health Service, the Police Citizens Youth Club, the proposed cultural precinct and the Upper Lama Lama and Kitchener Bligh subdivision sites for new housing.

Mr Elmes said the visit provided an opportunity to understand the issues which drive the community, and to see first hand some of the great work that's being done to make a positive change for current and future Palm Island residents.

QCU backs justice for stolen wages

...from previous page...

The Queensland Council of Unions has taken on a campaign to ensure the balance of the money offered in 2002 is paid out to those it was intended for.

"We chose the Member for Townsville because it covers Palm Island and John Hathaway picked up the highest number of votes from Palm Island for any LNP candidate that's run for the seat of Townsville," Mr Moffitt told Karen Dorante on 98.9FM (you can hear the entire interview at <http://www.989fm.com.au> under 'Podcasts').

"John was quite good, he gave us an hour of his time."

He said Mr Hathaway questioned the consultation process leading to the formation of the Foundation as well as how a legal case with Yarrabah Elder Conrad Yeatman was progressing.

Mr Moffitt said he knew the stolen wages issue was difficult for many people.

"It is very difficult but we've just got to keep fighting this until justice is done," he said.

"I think they've really got to open it right up again because there's too many stories and they worked hard in those days too, for that pittance they were getting.

"Anyone who sits down and listens to these elders can't help



but be moved, not only for the financial impact but the pain and suffering they went through.

"The least we can do now is get at least some of the money they are owed paid to them."

He said the Queensland Council of Unions was not going to go away on the issue.

"We will pursue this until justice is done," he said.

National doco features Palm's own Gemma

Last year the federal Department of Health and Aging selected five Indigenous Australians from all parts of the country to appear in an ad campaign around the benefits of making a career in health.

Palm Island paramedic Gemma Armit was one of the five and can be seen in her additional role as a 'health hero' on <http://www.healthheroes.health.gov.au/>

Now Gemma is one of six health workers taking part in a three-part documentary aimed at providing an insight into the world of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The documentary will follow the experiences of six front line health and emergency practitioners, including Gemma, to demonstrate the variety of different jobs and challenges health workers can face.

Gemma's story helps to gain an insight into the personal side of health, the motivations behind working in health, her community connections and what training pathways she has taken to get where she is.

She provides a great example of how



her role gives back to the community and how rewarding it can be, and says she loves her work.

"I love my job, I really enjoy helping people," she said.

"My family and friends are very supportive, they are very proud of what I do."

She also said she was still learning.

"As a paramedic trainee I attend a variety of cases; accidents, those with injuries and other patients that require medical assistance," she said.

"I get my most my training on the job and it's really good because I'm able to get paid while I learn."

Research and experience shows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more likely to access the health care system if that care is being delivered by a person of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.



Red Cross hosts Townsville Family Fun Day

PALM Island Red Cross Engagement Officer Matthew Malone travelled to Townsville for the organisation's Family Fun Day, held at Red Cross Headquarters near Townsville Hospital, earlier this month.

More than one hundred people including Red Cross clients, family, friends, support workers and other not-for-profit agencies.

Regional Red Cross Manager James Harmon said there was morning tea and BBQ lunch provided.

"We also had rock climbing, face painting, hand painting, boomerang making, musical sing-a-longs, didgeridoo playing, community garden activities, art displays and Red Cross give-aways," he said. "Red Cross works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across mainland Australia.

"We are committed to building long-term and respectful relationships, and working together as partners, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

And here's MORE 57 Strike pics 2012!



Prostate cancer subject of discussion

The very serious business of prostate cancer was the focus of a forum held at Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar & Bistro in late May.

More than 60 people attended the Healthy Lifestyle Program, which incorporated Prostate Cancer Awareness.

The program was opened with a traditional welcome by Councillor Eddie Walsh.

Dr. Rodney Gangell spoke about the clinical side of prostate cancer as well as generally about non-cancer related prostate

enlargement and male sexual health including impotence.

His talk was very well received by the men of the community and there were many questions. Two other male community members also spoke on their personal experience with prostate cancer.

Information and brochures relating to Prostate cancer and healthy living were available for people to take away.

Leonie and her team from the Council also produced a very good cook book with healthy choices the main theme available for people to take as well.

Attendees were treated to a healthy lunch and refreshments prepared and served by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, HACC and New Way Agencies.



New Way Agencies' assistant case manager Mark Wilde said he was particularly grateful for the assistance of his colleagues, Roy and Laurie, from NWA, Leonie and Aaron from the Council, and Merle from HACC. "Also many thanks to Shane for allowing us to use the Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar & Bistro as a venue," he said.



**THIS PAGE PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE PALM ISLAND
ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL & NEW WAY AGENCIES**



HUNDREDS of Palm Islanders enjoyed going to the Townsville Show, which was attended overall by more than 60,000 people over four days. See if you know any of these Palm Islanders pictured by *Palm Island Voice*.



Pics on these pages by Alf Wilson





Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Palm Island Voice Public & Community Notices are your best choice for birthdays, anniversaries, meeting notices, sales & all your classified needs - and most of them are free!

The *Palm Island Voice* will continue to be published fortnightly however due to financial constraints outside of Council control Issue 107 and beyond may be reduced in size and quantity, but not quality when it comes to bringing you your news.

We'd like to thank the community, especially the organisations and schools, who have supported us - we're still more than happy to accept your material when we can and will look forward to your ongoing contributions.

Please continue to support us, so we can continue to support you!!!



Ferdy's Haven

Position Vacant

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT FERDY'S HAVEN: Senior Case Worker

Position Objective: To maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of the counselling services provided by Ferdy's Haven. Duty Statement is available from the office (three months probation applies).

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO:

CEO, Ms Lillian Lampton
Ferdy's Haven
Palm Island Qld 4816
Ph: 47 701152 Fax: 47 701160

Applications Closes 30th July, 2012



**Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council**

is closed every second
Friday (Council pay
week) for RDO.

The next RDO is Friday 20 July

REMEMBER: the Bank & Post Office
now closes each Council RDO
(every second week).

**For emergencies on Friday
please call 0458 789 011**

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

NEW 2012-2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates

In order to cut costs and to try to become more self-sufficient, the *Palm Island Voice* is currently undergoing a process of restructuring.

As a result our ad prices have been reviewed and are now:

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**To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor,
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Please support us so we can continue to support you!

Boxers ready to head for Bundaberg

A bus load of Palm Island boxers and trainer Chris Evers will travel to Bundaberg on 20th July for a Boxing Association Queensland tournament.

Mr Evers said the bus hire and accommodation had been organised and the boxers were raring to go.



The team was unable hire a bus for a planned trip to Kingaroy last weekend.

Boxers who have shown an interest in the Bundaberg trip are Patrick Clarke, Thomas Blanker, Leroy Baira, Kevin Kidner, Chris Evers jnr, Marcus Ketchup, Stanley Fraser, Shanden Burns and four others.

There is also a trip to Darwin planned for August and sponsorship and finding for airfares and accommodation is being organised now.

In other news star boxer Reggie Palm Island (*pictured*) turned up at training one day recently which augers well for the club.

Cowboys help hook Genami into fish farm career

Genami Geia had a wealth of options when he graduated from Kirwan High last year – he was a sought-after sporting coach and inspiration to younger kids in primary schools around Townsville, he was also keen to continue working with kids as a teacher's aide as well as considering a career in mining.

But it was the lure of aquaculture which finally reeled him in.

The 18-year-old's interest in the industry was sparked when he took on work experience at local barramundi farm, Good Fortune Bay Fisheries (GFBF). That initial brief exposure to the world of fish farming led to a desire to learn more – and a full-time job.

Genami has been working at GFBF at Kelso for more than two months and is just one of the many success stories of young students assisted along their chosen career paths by the North Queensland Cowboys' Indigenous student program, "Learn Earn Legend!".

Program co-ordinator Pam Santo-Appleby said Genami had been finding it difficult deciding which of several career paths to take, but with support and advice had gained experience in several areas, helping him to make his choice.

The program has schools participating from as far north as Weipa and Cairns,



GFBF owner Rod Pelling, keen apprentice Genami Geia, and new Cowboys player Anthony Mitchell

Townsville, south down through the Burdekin, the Whitsundays, Bowen and Mackay, and west to Charters Towers.

Students can sign up to the program and are encouraged to stay in school to finish their senior education with help, advice, mentoring and work experience placements

program coordinators offer to help with the often difficult school-to-work transition.

The Learn Earn Legend! program is a federally funded program supporting Indigenous students in Years 11 and 12 to complete their secondary education and move into further study, training or employment.

PIRL FOOTY

Roundup 30 June

BUTLER Bay Bull and Skipjacks emerged as equal leaders on the table in a fixture round where most teams had players missing due to the Townsville Show.

Powerful Bulls scored a 56-24 win over Mount Bentley Raiders in an entertaining game.

Consistent Billo Wotton and Gresham Ross each scored two tries with singles to Allan Brown, Adrian Poynter, Walter Morgan, John Olliffe, Walter Geia and Len Yoren.

Gresham Ross, Adrian Poynter and Val Fulford each kicked two goals with one to Walter Morgan and John Olliffe.

For Raiders John Baira scored two tries and kicked a goal, Kevin Morgan crossed for one four pointer and snared three goals whilst John Watson scored a try.

Skipjacks hop over Jets

THE high rolling Skipjacks rolled reigning premiers Jets winning 52-36 in a good quality game.

Big forward Jason Bulsey, veteran back Esrom Geia and Owen Wilson each scored two tries apiece with one each to James Roberts, Mickeal Sibley, Georgie Dabea and Vernon Geia who was playing his first A grade match.

Terence Sibley kicked three goals with one each to crafty Ken "Wizard" Wilson, Esrom Geia and Mickeal Sibley.

Jets never gave up – Moa Sam and Christian Walsh each scored two tries, with one

to Garrison Sibley, George Noble and Darryl Daisy.

Hosea Murphy kicked three goals and Allan Walsh one.

Both sides are certain to be in the action come semi finals time.

Brothers sting Hornets

LAST year's beaten grand finalists Bwgcolman Brothers defeated a courageous Hornets 56-38 in the other match at headquarters.

Clever five eighth Robert Johnson scored four tries for Brothers whilst fullback William Charles crossed for a hat-trick.

Singles went to Robert Fraser, Rod Shortjoe and Ben Baira.

Robert Johnson shot seven goals and Rod Shortjoe one.

For Hornets ever reliable five eighth Owen Robertson scored three tries with one to Ronald Barry, Darryl Bramwell, Russell Sarabo, Peter Bonner and Gene Barry. Owen Robertson chipped in with three goals.

Hornets players and officials must be given special praise for not giving up after not winning a game all season and being short of players sometimes.

Well done to all.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: This week it was a tie between star Brothers back Robert Johnson whose four tries and seven goals gave him a personal tally of 30 points, more than half his side's final score.

Another top performer was Hornets Owen Robertson with three tries and three goals for 18 points.

Roundup

7 July

CLASH BETWEEN LEADERS CALLED OFF

THE top of the table clash between Skipjacks and Butler Bay Bulls was called off four minutes after halftime.

This week the Palm Island Rugby League will meet to discuss what action will be taken and if any points will be awarded. With 36 minutes remaining in the main game at headquarters Skipjacks was leading arch rivals Bulls 20-16. However the referee had been the subject of abuse and didn't continue so the game was called off, a PIRL official told the *Palm Island Voice*.

A QRL referee's spokesman told the *Palm Island Voice* any action must be the taken by the PIRL because it was an internal matter.

There are three possible courses of action regarding allocation of points.

The PIRL could declare it a no match and neither side would receive any points. Or it could split the points for a win between the two sides which is what occurs when a game is drawn. The third but highly unlikely scenario is that the team leading at the time, Skipjacks would be awarded the points.

Bulls, Skipjacks and Mount Bentley Raiders are involved in a titanic battle for the top three positions. It is important to finish first or second on the ladder at the end of the fixtures as those sides gain a double chance. By comparison, third and fourth placed teams clash in an elimination semi final.

Future stars play well at Laurie Spina Shield comp

Palm Island junior Barracudas – boys and girls – competed well at the Laurie Spina Shield in Townsville a few weeks back.

Especially considering they were playing against sides with players who were generally much bigger on average.

The Barracudas were the only fully Aboriginal side amongst the record 64 teams.

Players were:

- 1. Zareese Baira**
- 2. Kevin Kidner**
- 3. Maurice Bourne**
- 4. Rakeem Lind**
- 5. George James**
- 6. Brandyn Castors**
- 7. Eliar Charles**
- 8. Germaine Bulsey**
- 9. Shaylan Haines**
- 10. Hananias Murphy**
- 11. Kini Koro**
- 12. Talita Kennedy**
- 13. Tareesha Baira**
- 14. Dianne Fulford**
- 15. Vasenai Dabea.**

A highlight for all the team was getting their pic taken with Canberra Raiders star forward Tom

Leroy-Lahrs, who played against the North Queensland Cowboys.

In game one on 22nd June, the Barracudas lost 5-2 to the polished Fitzroy Sharks from Central Queensland. Try scorers were Kini Koro and Shaylan Haines. Herbert River defeated the Barracudas juniors 5-3 in game two and scorers were Eliar Charles, Maurice Bourne and Vasenai Dabea. In game three Barracudas lost to Mackay 5-2 with Maurice Bourne and Kevin Kidner scoring. The last game on day one saw Charters Towers beat Barracudas 2-1 and Eliar Charles was our scorer. On Saturday 23rd June the side lost 4 nil to a big Cairns Brothers outfit and then finally lost 5-1 to Yeppoon with Vasenai Dabea scoring.

Official Leah Dabea said the kids all played well and the players from the opposition sides all play regular junior club

football in their region.

"The kids all played well – the girls led the way in tackle count with Dianne Fulford getting through 19 tackles," she said. "The other girls Talita Kennedy, Tareesha Baira & Vasenai Dabea got in with a number of hit-ups showing the boys the way forward." Leah said the players and officials wanted to thank to Palm Island Community Company and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council who made the trip possible for the kids.

"Also a big thank you to Alissa Pearson, Robert Castors Jnr, Clint Burns, Jona Dabea, Jon Haines, Jarred Geia, all of whom assisted with training the kids, as well as Kathy Haines, coach Jason Poynter, bus driver Emele Dabea, bus driver and manager Ili Dabea and Eva Haines, who assisted in various ways to make this trip a success," she said.

Raiders fly high over Jets

IN an exciting match, Mount Bentley Raiders scored a 50-48 victory over reigning premiers Jets. Lanky utility Sterling Aden scored three tries for Raiders, two to halfback John Baira, and singles to Frank Pompey, Lleyton Sam, Wayne Barry and John Watson. John Baira chipped in with four goals and ever reliable Kevin Morgan snared three. For the gallant Jets, blockbusting Costa Sam scored three tries, Moa Sam and Robert Chookie two each, with singles to Raoul Miller and George Noble. Gavin Barry booted six goals.

Mundy Bay in Hornets' sting

IT was a battle royal in the other match when Mundy Bay Warriors defeated Hornets 48-38. Cr Frank Conway and clever back Morris Watson each scored two tries with one each to Ralph Doomadgee, Gary Marpoondin, Anthony Friday, Raymond Noble and Michael Noble. Morris Watson kicked three goals for Warriors and Phillip Kerr one. For the courageous Hornets elusive centre Morris Ling scored three tries, Owen Robertson two, and singles to Shae Palmer, Russell Sarabo, and Craig Inkerman. Consistent Josh Landers booted two goals and Morris Ling one. Bwgcolman Brothers had the bye and travelled to Charters Towers for a game.

PIRL Points Table

Butler Bay Bulls, Skipjacks and Mount Bentley Raiders are close on points and battling it out for the first three spots. Which position they are in will be decided when the PIRL rules on points for the called-off match.

4 Jets

5 Mundy Bay Warriors

6 Bwgcolman Brothers

7 Hornets



Above: Palm Island Councillors and staff meeting with Premier Campbell Newman and Local Government Minister David Crisafulli at the Community Cabinet meeting in Townsville two weeks ago.



Remember this?

The picture above was taken in 1980 and has been reprinted here with permission from the National Archives of Australia – if you do remember we want you to tell us about it! We will publish your stories - one sentence or up to 300 words, we don't mind, just send your yarn to the email address below or give it to Council Reception, they'll make sure we get it... You don't remember it? Ask someone who does, write down what they say and send their story into us, we'd love to read about it!

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