



Newman won't budge on stolen wages

The question of reparation for historical wages and savings issues was settled and closed by the previous State Government. Excess funds after almost 6,000 claims were paid were invested in a perpetual Trust. Interest from that Trust is used to provide educational scholarships for Indigenous students to complete high school. Since 2009, 400 scholarships have been provided.

The Government has no intention of re-opening the issue.

People who feel they have a legitimate, unaddressed compensation claim for losses they have suffered as a result of historical practices have the right to pursue remedies through the legal process.

This is the answer Palm Islanders and Elders all over the state who are owed stolen wages and savings finally have from Premier Campbell Newman in response to letters asking for outstanding wages and savings to be paid back.

Elders in Townsville and Brisbane have been meeting regularly for decades about this issue, and particularly since the Beattie Government made a \$55.6 million reparations offer in May 2002

They've always said it wasn't enough, but when more than \$20 million of those funds were not paid out by 2009 and were put instead into a scholarship fund, insult was added to injury once again.

The Queensland Council of Unions has run a strong campaign to see that money back in the hands of those it was intended for, but the Newman Government has finally made it clear it won't budge on the issue.

Queensland unions have also supported Yarrabah elder Conrad Yeatman's ongoing court challenge over his lost wages and savings.

Emotions ran high at a Townsville meeting late last month, as men and women spoke of the angst they felt about the ongoing non-payment of their wages in the lead up to the festive season.

Hundreds of Palm Island men and



Meeting in Townsville last month about stolen wages was Auntie Mary Twaddle, Branch President of the QCU in Townsville Les Moffit and Kathy Starlight

women, including descendants of those workers denied their inheritances, are still owed.

The QCU-organised meeting was held at St Theresa's Catholic Church in Townsville before the response above was released.

A number of elders at that meeting told the *Palm Island Voice* more of them would die, as too many already had, before the State Government settled the matter.

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"Indigenous people from the Torres Strait Islands, Cape York, around North Queensland and west to Mount Isa and south to Brisbane are still owed Stolen Wages," Branch President of the QCU in Townsville Les Moffitt said.

Peter Hindle was the other union official at the meeting.

Aunty Mary Twaddle said she was still owed wages from working on Palm Island when she was young. "The way it is



going I will be dead long before I get what is owed to me," she said. "Payment before Christmas would help us a lot."

Kathy Starlight said she also had outstanding

wages owed from her days working as a domestic on Palm Island.

"It is our money but we have not been paid," she said.

Fay Thimble, 63, (pictured left) said she lived on a pension and was still owed money from work she did on Palm Island, as was Ernest Burns, 79 (pictured right with Mary Wacondo).

Mr Moffitt said the QCU had written to the Queensland Premier Campbell Newman demanding payment of all outstanding wages.

"The new LNP Government claims the matter was settled by

the previous Labour Government and Mr Newman has not replied to the last letter we sent to him," Mr Moffitt said.

Mr Moffitt said the Katter Party had advised it was behind the union bid and wanted the Stolen Wages issue resolved.



Palm Dr wins national recognition

No two days are the same, says one of Palm Island's best doctors, Angus Mc Donnell, who has been named national rural registrar of the year by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

The prestigious award was presented to the GP registrar for demonstrated commitment to rural general practice and learning, services to rural patients, and education and services to the rural community.

Dr McDonnell has been on Palm



Island for two years and is the Medical superintendent of the Joyce Palmer Health Service. He was a paramedic on the Island before then.

He said he thoroughly enjoyed the diversity and challenge of rural and remote medicine.

"No two days are the same," he said. "I love working on Palm; the people are fantastic and I've enjoyed the variety of clinic work married with the unpredictability of acute and emergency medicine."

Dr McDonnell, 56, came to medicine late in life after incarnations as an intensive care paramedic and flight nurse with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. He was part of the first medical intake at James Cook

University in 2000, graduating in 2005. He has also worked in the Middle East as an RAAF aero-medical retrieval doctor, and received the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for his work in Rwanda.

"I always wanted to be a doctor, I love the practice of medicine," he said.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service executive director medical services Dr Andrew Johnson paid tribute to Dr McDonnell.

"Angus has done a great job as medical superintendent on Palm Island and, on behalf of the health service, I warmly congratulate him on being named RACGP national rural registrar of the year," he said.

Old is new again at Palm Island Rotary's new secondhand store

Volunteers will staff a new secondhand shop about to open 2-3 days a week on Palm Island, thanks to some help from the Ingham Rotary Club.



Club members Monica Vitale and Bernice Day travelled to Palm Island earlier this month to help organise internal shop fittings

The new shop is on Beach Road next to the Post Office.

"Thanks to the generous help of Trevor Murat, Merle Robertson and Roderick and Iris Geesu the shop is now operational," Bernice said.

"One of the ideals of Rotary is to 'Help Build Better Communities' and the Rotary Club of Ingham believes the Rotary Community Shop will be provide a vital service to the community.

"85% of the net profit will be spent on youth and community service projects on the Island, whilst the other 15% will be spent on youth and community service projects in Ingham.

"Secondhand stock for the shop has been generously donated by friends and families of the Rotary Clubs of Ingham and Townsville.

"Members have spent the past four weeks sorting and pricing the stock.

"Initially the Palm Island Barge Company is shipping the stock to Palm Island at no cost. "The Palm Island



Rotary Satellite Club are operating the shop on a voluntary basis two to three days per week."

The shop will sell secondhand clothing, manchester, crockery, furniture and more.



Dani says she will miss this!

Chef and Manager of Coolgaree Catering Services, former Sydney chef Danielle Sinn, is sad to say she will be finishing up in her position later this month.

Her photo of a Palm Island sunset (left) was one of the many things she said she would miss about living on the Island.

"Sunset on Palm Island, I'm going to miss this," she said. "I'm shattered to leave all the awesome people that have come into my life here, I've had the best time of my life.

"Please tell everyone how much I've learnt from and loved them here – Bwgcolman all the way!"

Ms Sinn said she hadn't made any plans other than a promise to come back and visit her God daughter,



Rosina, every fortnight.

"I'll have a bit of time off then I'm leaving it in the hands of the Lord," she said.

"I'm so going to miss my families here."

Palm's biggest rigs just keep getting bigger!

HEAVY machinery transported by trucks has become a common sight on Palm Island of late.

Residents don't often get to see heavier models with such big loads.

The trucks and machinery are brought across to Palm by barge from Lucinda.

During the Obe Geia Challenge a Kenworth from Townsville company Azkeen Industries came around a bend with a huge bit of machinery on a trailer.

It was a great spectacle for more than 150 students walking from the jetty to the football oval.

Later the football was in progress when another truck hauling machinery cruised past.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the machinery was for work on the two new housing subdivisions.

"It is needed for work on two new housing subdivisions here on the island which will result in 60 new homes being built," he said.

"It is great for Palm Island."

Azkeen boss Peter Keen said Palm Island was a beautiful place where people were very friendly.



Palm families celebrate northern Cape connections

A small group of Palm Islanders took an emotional trip to Cairns last month to witness the handing back of more than 240,000 hectares of land known as Batavia Downs, which lies about 90km east of Weipa and about 160km north of Coen, to their people.

The Atambaya, Northern Kaanju and Yinwum (formerly known as Yianh) people had their land returned to them in a special ceremony attended by Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Glen Elmes.

It took 15-years, but Steven Boyd (*below*) said he was happy to see those who had lived to see it.

"There was family members - my family, the Boyds, and there was the Robertson and Roberts families, Aldridges and Doolans from Townsville, and the Prior-Patterson family," he said.

"It was an emotional trip for me because many of the elders that were on the negotiating team along with me are long gone,

and they weren't around to reap the benefit.

"But I was happy to see some of our elders - real elders, who were 80 or more - still around and some of them still spoke the language."

The ceremony took place at Djarragun Wilderness Centre, about ten kilometres west of Gordonvale on the Mulgrave River.

Mr Boyd said they were looking forward to the fulfilment of a State Government promise to fund a trip back to their homelands in 2013.

"That's to fund transport for families living on Palm Island, Townsville and right through the Cape, and that will be for a real celebration," he said.

And in a different way...



Links of some families to Batavia Downs, in the middle of Cape York aren't the only Palm Island connections to that part of the world...

Pictured above by *Palm Island Voice* editor Christine Howes is Lockhart River Primary School Deputy Principal Yolanda Coutts and her daughter Talani (*seated*), with Admin Officer Grace Kabay and her daughter Riana Mabo-Mairu (*on Talani's lap*).

Yolanda and Talani say they are looking forward to coming home for Christmas while Grace and Riana are farewelling Lockhart River and on their way up to Horn Island in 2013.

At the primary school's end of year concert, Grace and her daughter were presented with a gift from the community and assured they would be missed.

"I'll miss the people of Lockhart and I will come back one day," Grace said. "I'm going to Horn Island now, my dad is up in the Straits."

Grace worked for the Palm Island Council for 22 years before making the move up north.

"I took leave this year but then I resigned from the Council in July this year. Palm Island is my home; I'm a Bwgcolman girl, same as my daughter. I want to say hello to everyone on Palm Island, all my friends Merry Christmas and hope to see you next year."

Grace particularly wanted to say 'hello' to John, Duncan, Leah, George and all her former workmates.

Meanwhile Yolanda, whose parents are Lawrence and Veronica Coutts, and Talani were looking forward to a Palm Island Christmas.

"Holidays are fast approaching and I'm looking forward to going back," Yolanda said. "My kids are already back there so I just can't wait to get back and see family and friends on the Island."

Words Christine Howes; Pics courtesy Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation





...WEATHERING THE STORM...

Weather will play an important role in the lives of Palm residents over the festive season and into the New Year. Soaring temperatures since summer started in December has increased the risk of fire danger. However come January heavy rain normally falls. The pic above was taken from near the jetty with clouds over the hill above the Palm service station.

Out & About

Right: Crusher Wotton and his nephew Lance were amongst a number of Palm Islanders who enjoyed a social night out and Tom's Tavern in Townsville on Saturday (24th). Palm Island Voice snapped their pic and later yarned with Cr Eddie Walsh over a cold Coke.



Above: Soraya Clay, Delphine Robertson, Harlan Clay, aged 9, and Duran Clay, 10 shopping in Townsville.

Left: Another Palm Islander who had been Christmas shopping in Townsville was Patricia Friday, who stayed at the Hotel Allen.



Smile & wave!!!

Hundreds of planes fly over Palm Island daily, but what those on the ground may not be aware of is sometimes they are being watched! The top pic was taken by editor Christine Howes en route to Cairns from Sydney in September, while the pic below is from SBS journo Stefan Armbruster, on his way back to Brisbane last month.

IT'S BEEN A BIG YEAR in football, here are some pics which haven't had a run previously in the *Palm Island Voice*. Pictured right is Ben Barba about to hit the dirt against the Ajas Boyz in Townsville (who could forget that weekend!) and below are some action shots featuring some well-known footballers alongside our own Darryl Pearson, Clinton Pearson & Raoul Miller playing for Hopevale at the Cairns AllBlacks in October.



Pics by Alf Wilson in Townsville & Christine Howes in Cairns.





Request to Tender: Internal Audit Services

Internal Audit:

Ferdy's Haven Aboriginal Rehabilitation Corporation "Ferdy's Haven" is a medium sized community based organisation providing alcohol rehabilitation services on Palm Island, Qld.

We are seeking expressions of interest from an audit provider from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013 to conduct internal audits on the following;

- Financial Management Controls
- Program Service Controls
- Workplace Health & Safety Controls

Specifications:

The audit provider is familiar with financial, client rehabilitation and WH&S service controls.

The auditor will conduct and provide quarterly reports on the 'above' listed internal audited controls.

Expressions of Interest:

Company profile, work history of equivalent projects.

Enquires:

Lillian Lampton (CEO), email: manager@ferdyshaven.org.au phone: 07 4770 1152

Tenders close at Ferdy's Haven on 14th December 2012.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

AMP COMMUNITY FORUM



Community members, you are invited to attend the AMP community forum sessions on

**TUESDAY 18th DECEMBER &
WEDNESDAY 19th DECEMBER 2012**

Sessions will be facilitated by Independent Facilitators, so please attend to put forward your ideas & your suggestions.

Sessions will be held at the Community Meeting Room & Session times are as follows:-

Tuesday 18th December 2012

Morning Session 10.00am to 12.00pm

Afternoon Session 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Evening Session 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Wednesday 19th December 2012

Morning Session 10.00am to 12.00pm

Afternoon Session 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Evening Session 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Please register your interest in which session you would like to attend at the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

"Come along, it's time to have your say on finding a solution"

2012-2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates

ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship:

(1cm or 18pt banner ad across nominated page): \$120

Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST

Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST

Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see back page) and material submitted no later than COB the next day.

To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au

Please support us so we can continue to support you!

SUBSCRIBE!

Individuals & Families:

\$45 (now to 06/13)

Community & NGOs:

\$70 (now to 06/13)

Government:

\$110 (now to 06/13)

Subscription rates will vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in January 2013 the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2013).



**Palm Island
Aboriginal Shire
Council** is closed every
2nd Friday (Council pay
week) for RDO.

The next RDO is

**Friday 21
December**

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

For more information
contact Council on
4770 1177.

**Please Note:
Council will close
for Christmas &
New Year from
Monday 24
December 2012
to Friday 4 January
2013, with all staff
to resume duties on
Monday 7 January.**

*The Palm Island
Aboriginal Shire
Council Mayor,
Councillors &
staff would like to
wish everyone in
our Palm Island
community a happy
& safe Christmas
and a positive &
prosperous
New Year.*

Palm Island Barge
Company will operate
as follows over the
Christmas/New Year
period: the barge will
not run on Monday
24, Tuesday 25
or Wednesday 26
December (Christmas
period) nor on Monday
31 December or Tuesday 1 January 2013 (New Year
period). All other days will run as normal.



**All of us at Palm Island Barge Company
wishes everyone at Palm Island and their
families a safe Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year. Many thanks to everyone
for their patronage for the past year, and
we look forward to continuing to provide
our services in 2013.**

*Merry
Christmas*

**and A SAFE & PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR FOR 2013**

*We thank you all for your Custom and
Services throughout
2012 and will see you in
2013...*

*From the Management,
Staff and Participants
at Coolgaree Aboriginal
Corporation CDEP.*



Please be advised that our Office and the Bakery will be closed
for business from 20th December 2012 and re-open on Monday
7th January 2013.

Kiosk hours: Closed for Christmas Day only and be operating
normal hours over the rest of the Holidays period.



PALM Island looks set to host three boxing tournaments during 2012, which is great news for sports fans.

Veteran trainer Ray Dennis said he was in the process of checking dates on other tournaments around north Queensland to avoid clashes.

"It looks like there is funding available and the PCYC has asked me for potential dates for three tournaments," Mr Dennis said.

It was expected boxers and officials from many clubs would support such tournaments.

The last Palm tournament held in August 2010 attracted boxers from as far away as Rockhampton and a full card of bouts at the PCYC was watched by more than 500 locals.

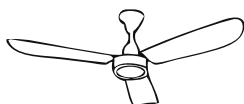
Happy 46th
Birthday to
Steven Boyd for
Sunday 30th
December 2012.

"Have a Blessed
and Safe day for
your Birthday and
for many more to
come"

Love from:
Sisters,
Brothers, Nieces
& Nephews
and Extended
Families

powersavvy

How much does it cost to keep cool?



Ceiling fan
80 W

12 hours per day x 7 days



costs about
\$1.70 per week



Refrigerative air conditioner
800 W

12 hours per day x 7 days



costs about
\$12.80 per week
(set on 5)



Inverter split system air conditioner
600 W

12 hours per day x 7 days



costs about
\$6.40 per week
(set on 25°C)

Want to make your power card last longer?

See your local **powersavvy** officer

Bernadine "Blackie" Castors @ Palm Council

@ the old post office, or contact her through the Council office on **4770 1177**.



www.facebook.com/powersavvy.au

www.powersavvy.com.au



Hopes for new comp structure after forum

EVERY player in the 2013 Palm Island Rugby League competition could have the opportunity to represent North Queensland next season after the first ever Indigenous Rugby League Forum held in Cairns last month.



We have almost come to the end of another year and as we head into this festive season it is timely to look back and reflect upon what we have done well.

2012 has been an important year for the Palm Island Community Company.

The arrival of the Palm Island Children and Family building heralds a focus on improving developmental outcomes for children in their early years and we very much look forward to commencing services out of the new facility in early 2013.

I take the opportunity to wish all our partners, stakeholders, our Elders, and the community of Palm a happy Christmas and to extend good wishes for the coming year.

I am sure we all have had our own challenges and pressures over the past year and I look forward to continuing to build on our existing successful relationships and professional approach to servicing the diverse requirements of our clients on Palm Island.

Finally a very merry Christmas to all our dedicated staff who make things happen every day.

I thank you all for your support during the year and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Rachel Atkinson
General Manager

Palm Island Community Company

QRL Northern Division Divisional Manager Scott Nosworthy said 38 people attended the forum, including Mayor Alf Lacey and Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher.

"They are both rugby league enthusiasts and we discussed all topics such as pathways, representative football, education, development, All Blacks carnivals, Regional Indigenous Advisory Councils and generally how rugby league can work with communities to create change and improvement in many areas," Mr Nosworthy said.

"It was a great day and I think it is a stepping stone to bigger and better things in the future."

He said the group had proposed to have representative sides picked from Palm Island, the Torres Strait Islands, NPA, Central Cape, Three Rivers and Bowen to compete at an FNQ Challenge carnival in Cairns early in the season.

"We want to give every player from these remote regions a chance to represent North Queensland," he said.

"From this carnival a representative side will be picked."

Mr Nosworthy said the Remote Area Rugby League (RARL) side would then compete against similar sides from Townsville, Cairns and Mackay at another carnival, possibly in Townsville.

"After that a North Queensland Marlins team would be selected," he said.

It was proposed the RARL side would also play against a Queensland Outback representative team in 2013.

Decisions from the forum should be ratified at the QRL Northern Division Annual General Meeting in Townsville in late November.

"The dates for the remote area games would be decided when we check what the entire division and the QRL has planned," he said.

Mr Nosworthy said participants were all given the opportunity to speak about their issues.

He said they were all enthusiastic about how rugby league could support health and well being programs for players across NQ.



Cairns wedding for happy couple



SEVERAL Palm Islanders were in Cairns on Saturday 8th December for the wedding of Tony Uiduldam and Mora Horope. The wedding was held at St Monica's Catholic Church and attended by Irene Thaiday with her daughter Melissa Anderson, granddaughter Michayela and the bride Mora. Well-known author Dulcie Isaro (nee Thaiday) was also there to help the happy couple celebrate.

Pics by Alf Wilson

Merry Christmas
PALM ISLAND and a
Happy New Year!

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