



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 31 January 2013

\$1.25

Issue 121

## AMP focus of National Congress leader's visit

Palm Island is the most significant community for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people National Congress of Australia's First Peoples co-chair Les Malezer (*pictured right with Claude Conway*) told a public meeting at the PCYC earlier this month.

"I first came here as a youngster and believe Palm Island is the most significant community for

our people," Mr Malezer said. "It is the real story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and was



one of four reserves created by the Government in the early 1900's with Cherbourg, Yarrabah and Woorabinda."

Held on 17 January at the Meeting Room in the Cultural Precinct 20 men and women, including Mayor Alf Lacey and Councillors Eddie Walsh and Frank Conway, were there to hear Mr Malezer speak for 90 minutes on the National Congress' position on AMPs in Queensland communities.

More than 800 Palm Islanders have faced Court under the AMP.

Mayor Alf Lacey said it was good Mr Malezer visited.

"It was a good session and he spoke about how the Government used special measures to introduce the AMP laws at Aboriginal communities," he said.

## Stars rising in the ring for 2013



*YOUNG brothers Chris Evers jnr and Craig Evers (above) look certain to be stars of the future for the Palm Island Boxing Club. Their father Chris Evers snr is a former champion amateur and now professional boxer, who is also their trainer. FULL STORY on PAGE 7*

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Cr Lacey said two community forums held on Palm Island in December had indicated the majority of Palm Islanders wanted the AMP abolished.

Mr Malezer said the Maloney versus Crown case was an important opportunity to test the validity of AMP laws which target Aboriginal people living on 19 Queensland Indigenous communities. The High Court is expected to decide in the next few months on the landmark case brought by Joan Monica Maloney over her conviction for alcohol possession on Palm Island in 2010.

He said the Congress had been allowed to make submissions during the appeal as a friend of the High Court.

"I had an obligation to come to Palm Island to let people know why we interjected in the Maloney appeal," he said.

"When the Government put the AMP in place they said it wasn't under the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA)," he said.

"So this was an opportunity through our lawyers to test what that Act was all about.

"The First People's of Australia have a right to have a say what affects them and all of the High Court judges asked

questions through our legal counsel."

Mr Malezer said the RDA was supposed to provide a fair and impartial process for all individuals to have equal human rights.

"We are hoping the judges will accept our submission that the AMP is discriminatory to our people and deals with racial issues," he said.

"How long will it be in



place is another concern and what does the Government think the AMP will achieve and we consider it isn't working – look at the sly grog."

Mr Malezer told the meeting that as Palm island had its own elected Aboriginal Shire Council the body should have the right like other non-indigenous local Government authorities, to have its own by-laws regarding alcohol.

"The Council was elected by Palm Islanders and is the

voice of the people and we support communities making their own decisions," Mr Malezer said.

Cr Walsh, a non drinker himself, told the meeting that Palm Islanders had been fighting for rights since 1938 and that residents should have the rights to their own laws re alcohol consumption.

"Our people just go to Townsville and some binge drink," he said.

"How can the Government make laws for us that are different to the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville and other places other places.

"They (Government) have a lot to answer for."

Elder Norris Daphney said Palm Islanders should have the same rights as others to make their own decisions.

"This is our own land and we want self-determination," she said.

"When we have a riot they call us terrorists but we can't make our own laws.

"The seven who went on Strike here in 1957 fought for our rights but nothing has changed."

Outside of the meeting Mr Malezer spoke to former Mayor





# PI's 'year of the boot' kicks off in style

FEBRUARY is going to be a big month within a big year for Palm Island rugby league.

On 10th February there will be a Board Meeting of the Palm Island Rugby League to decide on the format for the 2013 local domestic season. QRL Northern Division officials from Townsville will travel to Palm for the meeting with PIRL President Lex Wotton and the other executives.



The number of teams to compete in the new season, expected to kick off in March, will be decided as well as whether there will be A- and reserve-grades.

On 16th and 17th February the second Algon Walsh Snr Memorial Community Challenge Allblacks carnival will be held on Palm. Eight teams, including two representing the Palm Island Barracudas, will contest the carnival. Visiting teams expected to compete are Yarrabah, Bindal Sharks from Townsville, Mackay Magpies, Woorabinda and the 2012 winners Descendents. Carnival co-ordinator Norman Bounghi (*pictured left*) said everyone was looking forward to the carnival.

"This is going to be a big carnival and lots of visitors will be here," Mr Bounghi said.

Community members wanting to hold a stall over the weekend (cost = \$50) should see Algon (Dermie) Walsh.



*Facing page: Les Malezer, Erykah Kyle and Victor Daisy;*

*Above: Mayor Alf Lacey (left) and Cr Eddie Walsh (middle) with meeting participants*

Erykah Kyle, Kalie Obah and Rachel Obah. He then walked down to the Coolgaree Bar & Grill for dinner.

Under local AMP laws Palm Islanders and their visitors can purchase up to six mid or light strength cans of beer per person over the bar and to takeaway.

All spirits are banned.

Mr Malezer spoke to a number of patrons there, including Claude Conway.

Mr Conway said the AMP laws discriminated against Palm Islanders and most of the community were against them.

"We just want to be

treated like the rest of people on the mainland and have equal rights," Mr Conway said.

Whilst at the bar Mr Malezer discovered he had family connections on the Island. He stayed the night before leaving for Townsville on the ferry the next day.

# First court appearance due for future Palm Island solicitor



One of at least four law graduates from Palm Island says she is looking forward to her first court appearance early next month as a step in the process towards being admitted as a solicitor later this year.

Andrea Kyle-Sailor said she graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Laws from Deakin University in Victoria. She is photographed here on the big day with her mum, Erykah Kyle, and said nine family members travelled to Melbourne to be there. Mrs Kyle-Sailor has been doing her Practical Legal Training with the Legal Service (ATSILS Qld) on Palm Island and in Townsville.

“I hope to have my first appearance in court here on the 5th February, where I will be appearing before the Magistrate representing clients,” she said.

# Glenda has found her own paradise

Glenda Chookie has lived in Wujal Wujal, south of Cooktown, for many years now but grew up on Palm Island and sends her regards to family.

“I was born and reared on Palm Island and I went to school there, and when I left school I went to look for a job,” she said from the shade of Wujal’s favourite mango tree.

“I used to work in the old supermarket, the old bakery, the hospital, the clinic and the kindergarten; they were my jobs. “After that I was working down at the canteen on Palm. From there, I thought I would move out to go and find my mother



where she lived up in Kuranda, so I got a flight out. From there I never thought of returning to the island.

“I live in Wujal now, I came up here when I had my first two kids, Raynard and Elaine. I had another

son in Mossman named Patrick, and another little boy named Liam Chookie in Wujal Wujal – now my son is 18-years-old but he’s my baby and he always will be.

“I found Wujal Wujal was like home to me.”





## Defence offers recognition in first for Australia

A SIGN has been unveiled at the entrance to Townsville's giant Lavarack Barracks to recognise Traditional Owners, as well as the service and sacrifice made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have served in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

Aunty Lorna Doolan was there on behalf of the Bindal people and Arthur Johnson for Wulgurukaba people to do the unveiling.

Edna Coolburra, the widow of the late and great Palm Islanders Bill Coolburra, who served in the Australian Army as one of the famous tunnel rats in the Vietnam War, was there as a VIP.

Australian Defence Forces (ADF) have made a commitment under the Defence Reconciliation Action Plan 2010-2014 to implement a comprehensive signage strategy across Defence establishments and bases, acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which Defence bases have been built.

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have served with



distinction for the ADF.

Lavarack Barracks was the first military base in Australia to install a sign to acknowledge Traditional Owners.

The Townsville event last month included an indigenous dance performance.

The unveiling was attended by the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, Commander 3rd Brigade, Brigadier Shane Caughey and representatives from Townsville's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

*Words by Alf Wilson  
Pics courtesy ADF*



# Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

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or contact her through the Council  
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**Evolution**  
MINING

## Secondary and Tertiary Scholarships Available for 2013 for Birriah Traditional Owner Descendants

In accordance with Native Title and Mining Agreements between Evolution Mining and the Birriah Traditional Owner Group, Evolution Mining is seeking applications for secondary and tertiary scholarships .

### How to apply?

All interested Birriah Descendants should contact Desree Shepherd on 4750 0219 or [des-ree.shepherd@evolutionmining.com.au](mailto:des-ree.shepherd@evolutionmining.com.au) for an application form.

### Applications close?

Please submit your application by close of business Monday, 18th February 2013. The terms, conditions and benefits of the scholarship will be discussed with applicants at an interview.

## 2012-2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates

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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).



## Future boxing stars

YOUNG brothers Chris Evers jnr and Craig Evers look certain to be stars of the future for the Palm Island Boxing Club.

Chris, aged 10, and Craig, 9, may be very young but are already proving to be genuine chips off the old block. The brothers were at the Palm PCYC gym earlier this month, showing they both pack a power punch for little fellas.

Chris jnr has already had three bouts whilst Craig is yet to make his debut in the ring.



Look out for their names in boxing circles over the next few years!!!

### ABOUT THIS FONT:

The font used in this newsletter is called 'Dyslexie' and has been designed for people who have difficulty reading, especially those with dyslexia, so they can read more easily.

For more information see <http://www.studiostudio.nl>

## Batting out in style



SEVERAL players of Palm Island descent competed at the world's biggest cricket carnival – the Goldfield Ashes – held in Charters Towers last weekend.

More than 220 teams contested the 65th Ashes on 70 fields around Charters Towers and surrounds.

West Indigies team contested the B-2 men's division with players of Palm descent including Noel Ross, Jermaine Ross snr and his son Jermaine Ross jnr, aged 17.

The name 'West Indigies' was themed on the West Indies Test side.

*\* Bwgcorman Arts Inc is offering \$100 for the best logo design for their not-for-profit organisation supporting all Palm Island artists. Entries can be lodged with Council reception - no deadline but don't miss out!!!*



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

**Friday 1 February**

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

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.



# All smiles as Keita makes nat U16 Indig netball team

Smiling Leah Lenoy is a proud Mum to 15-year-old Keita, who has just been selected for the Australian Indigenous U16 netball side.

“I am a proud mum, I just heard my Palm Islander daughter Keita has been selected in the Australian Indigenous under 16 netball



side,” she beamed. The photo of Keita was sent by her Aunty – and Leah’s younger sister – Renee Grinfelds.

“This is a picture of Keita Lenoy-Obah who played in the Queensland Open Indigenous Netball Team on the Gold Coast,” Renee said. “There were other teams from across Australia Qld, NT, WA, NSW and Victoria. It was a four day carnival when they played against each other to earn a position on the Australian Indigenous side which Keita earned a position in the U16 division. It’s unclear where they are headed to play at the moment but the game will be in the June-July holidays.”



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## **Palm Island Voice**

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