

## Premier welcomed in 'Palm Island' style

Palm Island has a lot of economic potential, Queensland Premier Campbell Newman has told Parliament after his visit to Palm late last month.

It was the Premier's first visit to a northern community and lasted for three hours on Tuesday 26 February, at the invitation of Mayor Alf Lacey

While he was here the Premier promised locals greater control over the community's economic future which would create future jobs for young people.

"We have provided the Council with the tools but there is more we can do to



help them on their journey to self sustainability," Mr Newman said.

"People are talking here about adventure tourism, eco-tourism, there will be land and environment issues and we can help them.

"We will back Council up – it is about you coming up with solutions and we will back you up."

Mayor Lacey said overall the visit had been very

positive for Palm Islanders.

"Campbell mingled with people and spoke to them about a lot of issues but the most important thing for us is making sure our young people have good futures and that means jobs," Cr Lacey said.

Cr Lacey spoke about the Alcohol Management Plan which was not popular with the majority of locals.

*...Continued next page...*



*Crs Roy Prior & Mislam Sam, local MP John Hathaway, Cr Eddie Walsh, Premier Campbell Newman, Crs Alf Lacey & Frank Conway*

# Retail store on Premier's agenda

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“For us it is about economic development which is a way ahead for our kids’ future,” Cr Lacey said.

“I also had a lot of discussion with the Premier about the AMP.

“We want the same as people living on the mainland.”

When he arrived at the airport, just after noon, Mr Newman was met by the Mayor and Councillors, as well as three protestors with placards.

The Premier then had a private meeting with all the Councillors before attending a community assembly where guests were welcomed to country by elder Allan Palm Island (pictured on front page).

Mr Newman presented awards to student leaders from Bwgcolman Community and St Michael's schools

and was given a tour of the Palm island Retail Store.

“I wanted to check out the prices,” Mr Newman said, as he purchased a number of soft drinks.

Cr Lacey said he spoke to Mr Newman about the local community taking over the operation of the Retail Store which is controlled by the State Government with most profits being spent away from the Island.

Mr Newman also visited the Child and Family Centre, checked out the erosion and damage to the beach caused by Cyclone Yasi, visited the Upper Lamalama subdivision,



spoke to the Men's Group under a tree along the Esplanade, and went to the Coolgaree Bar and Grill restaurant for a meeting with locals and elders before flying out at 3pm.



FOR a full transcript of what the Premier said in Parliament + MORE pics see pages 5-7.

**IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: Council wins funding bid to extend Reel Women Jetty**





# Council progresses foreshore plans and new 60-home subdivision

“Council is pleased plans for rebuilding foreshore are coming together and we can now show the community a preliminary image what the redevelopment of the foreshore might look like,” Mayor Alf Lacey has told the *Palm Island Voice*.

“The cost will be close to \$12 million dollars to protect the beautiful foreshore, particularly around the town area of Palm,” he said. “The successful designer has been contracted by the Council to further develop those preliminary designs, so what you see here is just a small part of what’s to come. So Council is still working on this worthwhile project which is progressing well. And as well as these crucial works, Council is also pushing for the beautification of the foreshore in the town area so we can turn our ‘main entrance’ into a well-developed family recreational area so families and visitors will be able to enjoy our waterfront. That’s why it’s important to inform the community



Example of a type of seawall

in terms of where things are at, because this infrastructure is going to be an integral part of Palm Island’s future for a long time to come and not just as an area we can all enjoy, but also to protect us through cyclones and other potentially disastrous events.”

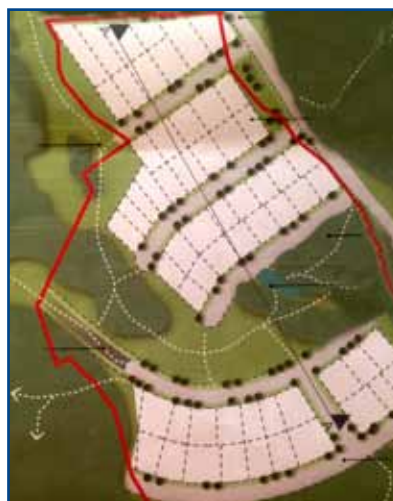


**MEANWHILE** Council is also progressing a third new housing estate as a part of the housing infrastructure improvement plan for Palm Island, Cr Lacey says.

“And we’re delighted to be able to show a preliminary design to the community for the new subdivision, which is an addition to the Kitchener Bligh subdivision and the Upper Lamalama subdivision, which are being progressed at the moment,” he said. “We’re pleased to inform the community that the feasibility stage is in progress and well on-track towards getting the subdivision up and running.

“Council has said to the Government, and in particular to the Premier

when we had the opportunity, that we want the subdivision to be a community package where any civil works or houses built or anything that goes onto that development is to be done by Palm Island,



through the Palm Island Shire Council.

“We’ve approved and will deliver 60 extra homes to the town within the new subdivision, and we’ll continue to work to achieve a good result in terms of them delivering these vital infrastructure projects for our community.

“Council has a strong view on building better housing and supporting better housing being delivered for everyone here on Palm, especially those without homes now.”

A new Board, a restructured management team, some new staff and new clients hail the beginning of a new era at Ferdy's Haven, CEO Terry Thommeny says.

"The way forward will be challenging for all, but with a good team in place, we hopefully will achieve and the service will be known as the 'Jewel in the Crown' of a community controlled Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Programs in North Queensland," he said.

"I wish to thank the community of Palm Island, firstly for allowing me to work not just on the Island, but within the community and unique culture that accompanies this. We will be opening the doors to Ferdy's in the near future to be seen as a transparent, well-managed service provider."

He said he also wanted to welcome new Assistant CEO, Carcia Nallajar, to the organisation. "We also saw Team Leaders introduced as part of the New Management structure (new to Ferdy's) so we now have Nina Noreen Clay (Environmental Team Services Team), Phillip Kylie (Administration Team) and Iris Cannon (Client Services Team) volunteering," he said.

He said the only 'fly in the ointment' was the loss of the organisation's outboard motor and fuel.

"This is a kick in the face for our



clients, at their most vulnerable time in their lives," he said. "If bought back anonymously no charges will be laid. The result of this cowardly act is our clients are deprived of fishing, diving, camping on outer Islands due to selfishness."

But he said he was grateful for the return of their bus after a "chequered" start to 2013.

"The Bus was returned for the use of Clients at Ferdy's with thanks to Clay Hunter for his around the world trip to register the vehicle," he said.

"We can now expect to see our clients out and about, remembering it is a bus for our clients and we do need to ensure that it is used only for Ferdy's."

Finally, he said there was a range of new and existing programs to look forward to in 2013 including:

- AA program held on a daily basis with two meetings a day;
- ATODS weekly meetings;
- Kicking the puff (in conjunction with QLD Health anti tobacco campaign)
- You are what you eat tucker programs by QAIHC;
- Loose that gut – exercise program by PCYC staff, to be confirmed;
- How to make that bed/swag – Life style skills for all, TAFE Barrier Reef;
- Get your licence (TAFE).

Coolgaree CDEP interim CEO Craig Mills sent us these pics, taken on the barge from Lucinda. He said: "Late last month I caught the barge over for the first time – did you



know the deckie and skipper troll a couple of lures off the back and stop the barge when they get a hook up? The skipper grabs the gaff while the deckie plays the fish on to the back of the barge. In the pics there is a mackerel and a tuna, they all went back in the drink though...funniest thing."



# Extract from Hansard's during question time of Tuesday 6 March 2013: Indigenous Communities, Economic Sustainability

**Mr HATHAWAY:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier please update the House on the government's support for Indigenous communities to achieve economic sustainability that will help provide great jobs, a great lifestyle and great services to Queensland's Indigenous peoples?

**Mr NEWMAN:** I thank the member for his question and for hosting my recent visit to Townsville and also arranging with Mayor Alf Lacey and his council for me to visit Palm Island on (26) February last. We had a really great visit. We did a whole lot of things. We met with the council and other local community leaders. We attended a joint school assembly for both Palm Island schools. We heard the school song sung and presented badges to the school leaders. It was a delight to meet with apprentices who worked on the new community centre and the local child care workers who are setting up there as we speak.

We bought a very welcome cold drink at the Palm Island retail store and were very interested to note the price tags on the shelves of the

various grocery items.

We had a good look at the council's proposed jetty extension and we also had a look at the damage to the foreshore caused by Cyclone Yasi. There is some important remedial work that has to be undertaken there and some beautification works they are keen to undertake.

We also met with members of the local men's group and yarning circle and also talked to a very bright young plumber on the island who is very keen to establish his own business which, of course, is music to the ears of my team on this side of the House.

We also had a look at the progress of the council's new housing subdivision on the hill above the main part of the community.

And, of course, we spoke to the local people.

We spoke to elders about their lives and their aspirations for Palm Island.

What it really highlighted to me is the huge economic potential for Palm Island.

That potential is there for other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities right across our state.

It is there, but there are some

things that need to happen.

We need to stop—indeed, sweep away—Labor's culture of paternalism and patronisation, if that is the right word, of Aboriginal people. We need to let them get on with things themselves. We need to let them own their own land so they can buy their own homes, so they can run their own businesses, so they can get a bank loan. I see the members opposite shaking their heads. They do not want them to.

**Mr PITT:** I rise to a point of order. I find the Premier's comments offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn.

**Madam SPEAKER:** You were not personally referred to. Please take your seat.

**Mr NEWMAN:** Very precious glass jaws are always evident from those on that side of the House.

What we are about is self-determination, about dignity and respect, about getting on and running their own things. Mayor Alf Lacey and his team have a vision for their community.

What they ask is for us to support them, to get behind them and give them a hand up, and help them get on and do the things they want to do.

Today I publicly pledge to support him and his team and, indeed, other mayors and councils across Queensland to set the leadership path forward.





*Premier's  
Visit 2013*









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

**Friday 15 March**

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

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.



Australian Government

Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

## PERSONAL HELPERS AND MENTORS REMOTE SERVICES

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) invites eligible organisations to apply for funding to establish Personal Helpers and Mentors Remote services under the Targeted Community Care (Mental Health) Program.

Non-government organisations can apply for funding to establish new PHaMs remote services in one or more of the following sites: Cunnamulla and Palm Island (Queensland), Halls Creek and Pilbara (Western Australia) and Ceduna in South Australia.

In addition to supporting individual participants, PHaMs remote service organisations will build local capacity to respond to mental health issues.

Key objectives of the PHaMs remote services include:

- Using a community development approach – support the individual as well as their support network
- Using innovative models that build on existing infrastructure and services
- Training local people to undertake PHaMs team roles and encourage the development of activities to strengthen family and community relationships for participants.

Further information on how to apply is available on the FaHCSIA website at [www.fahcsia.gov.au/funding](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/funding)

Applications close at 5.00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time)  
Thursday 18 April 2013.

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[www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)

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# Boxers a credit to their community - trainer

A team of six Palm Island boxers who competed at a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament at Home Hill earlier this month were a credit to themselves and Palm Island, trainer Chris Evers Snr says.

Mr Evers Snr said Billy Isaacs had his first fight against Tristan Wilson of Blackwater in the 35kg division and won by stopping him in the second round.

“Then Chris Evers jnr gave away 6kg in weight and fought Noah Flohr from Moranbah and won by stopping him in the third round,” he said.

“Levi Baira gave away two years in age, 2kg in weight and 15 bouts experience to fight Zac Mullholland from Mareeba and won by stopping him in the second round.

“Harry Friday had his first fight against Neil Lacey from Townsville and won easily by a unanimous points decision.

“Harry knocked him down twice in the last round.”

Mr Evers Snr said Thomas Blanket weighed in but was unable to be matched to get a fight nor was John Fourmile.

“All the boys fought extremely well and were a credit to themselves and Palm Island,” he said.



*Above: Billy Isaacs, Chris Evers, Levi Baira, Harry Friday, Craig Evers and Thomas Blanket;  
Below: 9-year-old Billy Isaacs has been training hard since last year and that's paid off with his first win in Home Hill.*



## Tassie/Palm Island cricketers reach the heights at Imparja Cup

PALM Island-born cricketers Colin (left below) and Bernie Lamont shone at the Imparja Cup cricket carnival held at Alice Springs in the Northern Territory in late February.

Bernie lined up for Tasmania in the A-grade men's team and was the second highest



run scorer for the entire carnival. That also made him the highest run scorer in Imparja Cup history with more than 1700 to his credit – he has also taken the third highest number of wickets in carnival history. He is one of a few to have

played in every Imparja Cup since it started in 2001.

Colin played for Darwin which took out the Major Centres Division and was named player of that final. The brothers sent a big “hello” to their family on Palm Island.

*Footy Talk* is the *Palm Island Voice's* brand new occasional column brought to you by our very own footy guru Alf Wilson...it's your first stop for all the footy goss!



THE much anticipated 2013 Palm Island domestic rugby league season has been scheduled to kick off on Saturday 6th April.

However the number of competing clubs will depend on how many have paid compulsory player insurance by the deadline of Friday 29th March.

Last season premiers Skipjacks, runners up Butler Bay Bulls, Jets, Mount Bentley Raiders, Brothers, Mundy Bay Warriors and Hornets battled it out.

There has been much speculation about format this coming season, with some suggestion there may be six clubs.

Other talk has been around the possibility of one strong comp with four powerful clubs.

Another conversation to be had around Palm is the possibility for two grades.

However it all pans out fanatical local footy fans can't wait until the first games.

#### PREMIER NEWMAN IMPRESSED

POPULARITY of Palm Island league has reached the top echelon of Queensland politics following the recent visit by Premier Campbell Newman.

The superfit Campbell was at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill restaurant yarning to elders when somebody told him that Palm hosted seven football sides in 2012 season.

Campbell was amazed that Palm could have so many teams and it was even suggested that if he was on the Island some weekend perhaps he could have a game.

But when one fellow pointed out a big forward standing nearby the Premier suddenly he wasn't so keen.

#### FRANK UNDECIDED

ON the subject of good players and pending retirement the spotlight also turns to Cr Frank Conway.

This local footy stalwart was yarning about it during the visit to Palm by Premier Campbell Newman.

Frank was not sure if the family club Mundy Bay Warriors will field a side. If not, Frank said, he would help out his mate Billy Landers at Hornets Club. But we don't know that means if he will be an official or player – or perhaps both.

#### STARS SIGN UP

OBE Geia jnr, Fred Haines jnr and Darryl Pearson have signed with Townsville and District Rugby League club Northern Suburbs for the 2013 season.

Without doubt these three are among the most talented backs in North Queensland.

Obe jnr has played A grade for the North Queensland Cowboys in the NRL, Fred has worn the NQ Marlins jersey and Darryl has freakish talents. They all shone for Barracudas Green which won the Algon Walsh snr carnival in February. Expect Norths to charge up the ladder in 2013.



## FABULOUS COMEBACK

**YOU** have to admire champion forward **Fred Bulsey** who was adamant after the 2012 season that he had “retired”.

It seemed an ideal way to go out with his beloved **Barracudas** taking out the **Bindal Allblacks** carnival in **Townsville** and his club **Skippies** winning the flag.

Some football followers told **Fred**, also known as ‘**Fabulous**’, as soon as the 2013 season was near he would “pull his boots out of the cobwebs”. That came to fruition when **Fabulous** lined up for **Barracudas Green**, which took out the recent **Algon Walsh Snr Memorial Community Challenge Allblacks Carnival** on **Palm**. Not only did he play, but **Fred** took out the **Player of the GF**. It all points to **Fred** having another run with **Skipjacks** come season start.



## NATIONAL TELEVISION APPEARANCE?

**Bwgc**olman **Brothers** may have lost their trial match to the home **Miners** in **Charters Towers** on 2nd **March** but players may end up on national television.

Federal MP **Bob Katter**, well known to **Palm Islanders**, was a guest at the game with gold logie award winning **Karl Stefanovic** from **Channel Nine's Today Program** and **Sixty Minutes**.

We are told some of the game was filmed for the **Katter** interview so keep an eye out.

A much bigger **Charters Towers** side convincingly defeated **Brothers**.

That **Towers** team will be one of the favourites in the coming **Townsville** and **District** comp so it was no disgrace.

The **Brothers** reserve grade side was gallant going down 22-16.

## NICE UMBRELLA

**DURING** the **Palm Island** carnival some memorial umbrellas were on sale.

**Algon Walsh jnr** was spotted with one of those near the **Retail Store** recently and they provide very good cover from rain. They are very good quality and are a collector's item.

## LADIES FOOTY

**PALM** ladies wanting a game of rugby league on a **Monday** night are welcome to join the **Townsville** comp for 2103.

The **Townsville** ladies will run as a 'stand alone' competition separate from men's fixtures with games to be played every second **Monday** night.

**TDRL** official **Kerri Ritchie** said games will be played at the **Townsville Junior League** grounds.

Anyone wishing to play women's rugby league in 2013 should contact **Kerri Ritchie** on 0401 012 153.



## Palm Island schools' 2013 swimming carnival

Trevally pipped Curacoa by 4 points to take out the Shield this year, followed by Fantome and Mackerel. In the high school competition Fantome beat Curacoa. St Michael's cleaned up in the tug of war. Age Champions from the carnival were:



9yrs: Mickeal Sibley  
Jaunita Fraser  
10yrs: Brodie Kerr  
Martha Marks  
11yrs: Jackson Williamsz  
Sarita Geia  
12yrs: Trinity Fulford  
Ruby Williamsz  
13yrs: Shaylen Haines  
Dianne Fulford  
14yrs: Raymond Charles  
Tarika Cummins-Luff  
Open: (No boys competed)  
Shirley Curley  
Best & Fairest  
Zshakeem Kerr  
Best Dressed  
Kellie Dwyer

**Congratulations to everyone involved!**

### PUBLICATION DETAILS:

#### Contact Details + Publisher Details

Editor: Christine Howes (chowes@westnet.com.au)  
Ph 4770 1177 or 0419 656 277  
Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson & to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.  
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