

Changes to Council funding ‘biggest in a generation’

The Newman Government has announced what was described as the biggest shakeup in a generation to the way Indigenous Councils are funded at a meeting in Cairns last week.

The two-day Local Government Association of Queensland Indigenous Leaders Forum was an opportunity for Councils to speak directly to the State Government on shared issues, LGAQ President Margaret de Wit said.

“Indigenous councillors and mayors have the best understanding of the needs of their communities,” she said.

“State and Federal governments should

be looking to Council feedback to ensure the delivery of the best possible infrastructure and services for indigenous communities.”

The Government’s new plan includes \$3 million incentive payments to Councils which have shown improved generation of their own income.

The funding model would also shift from quarterly payments to two up front

bi-annual payments.

Local Government Minister David Crisafulli said it was time the Councils which functioned well were recognised and incentives given to those that needed to improve.

Ms de Wit said while the new incentive model had merit, it was disappointing the State had chosen to release the new model in the way it did.

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Palm Island Barracudas performed strongly at the Remote Area Rugby League Challenge in Cairns last month, winning their three qualifying matches before going down narrowly to Bowen in the grand final.

Three Barracudas – Fred Bulsey, Clinton Pearson and Mickeal Sibley – were picked for the Northern United representative side after the carnival.

That team will play against Queensland Outback on 29th June in Cairns, as a curtain-raiser to a Northern Pride Intrust Super Cup home game.

FULL STORY / MORE PICS P 8!



Councils forced to impose charges

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Ms de Wit said Indigenous councils were disappointed the Newman Government had failed to consult them over the new “tough love” policy which would penalise councils who did not collect amenities charges from residents.

“We had mayors receiving calls from media this morning asking for their response to a new funding model they had not been consulted on,” she said.

LGAQ Policy Executive member Mayor Alf Lacey said he welcomed the positive acknowledgement of the efforts of Councils by the State government.

“The six month payment model is a marked improvement on the current process, which drip feeds funding through to indigenous councils,” he said.

But Cr Lacey also told the *Townsville Bulletin*

the changes would cause the community to “feel pain” because they may be forced to collect water and property rates from residents.

“Palm Council has been totally dependent on state funding for the past decade so the change is going to be hard to manage,” he told the *Townsville Bulletin*.

“We are not a rateable council so the effects will be doubly felt here.”

The new arrangements also provide incentives to encourage business and economic opportunities.

“For years, governments have rewarded the Councils

that aren’t prepared to collect revenue from their community, to the detriment of those which do,” Mr Crisafulli said.

“In effect, we’ve rushed in and topped up revenue for those which weren’t prepared to make the tough decisions.

“The problem is not the amount of money government is spending but how we are spending it.

“We will only lift Indigenous communities to their full potential if we end the handout approach and replace it with an ability to chart their own financial success.”

FOOTY RESULTS 1ST JUNE

Skipjacks 42 def Hornets 18

Butler Bay Bulls 44 def Jets 18

Bwgc Colman Brothers 34 def Mundy Bay 26

Mount Bentley Raiders (bye)

POINTS LADDER

1. Butler Bay Bulls 12p
2. Skipjacks 10p
3. Mount Bentley Raiders 10p
4. Jets 8p
5. Bwgc Colman Brothers 6p
6. Mundy Bay Warriors 4p
7. Hornets 4p

With thanks to Palm Island Rugby League Secretary Matthew Malone

News Bit

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has completed its draft submission for the State Government’s review of its alcohol management plan, but will wait for community feedback before it is finalised, the *Townsville Bulletin* has reported.

Mayor Alf Lacey told the Bulletin he expected the final submission to be completed within the next few months, pending the results of a High Court challenge. He said he was waiting on research to be completed by James Cook University concerning the rise in substance abuse, particularly methamphetamine and cannabis, since the implementation of the AMP in 2006 to be added to the report.

http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2013/05/30/382591_news.html

Floating pontoon wins funding

Palm Island has won its bid for a floating pontoon and jetty upgrade against some stiff regional competition.

Regional Development Australia Chair Paul Woodhouse said had a strong level of community support and positive long-term impacts.

“The quality of the projects received in our region was high and we were very pleased to put forward creative proposals,” he said.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the funding was good news for Palm Island and its residents.

“We believe this grant from the Regional Development Australia Fund will enable a



very important project to proceed that will create a huge difference to the Shire and for the local residents of Palm Island,” Cr Lacey said.

“It will open up a wide range of opportunities through greater connectivity with Townsville and the wider region. Palm Island can become a true partner in the region’s economy

to bolster economic and employment outcomes.

“Palm Island residents will have much improved, unrestricted access to Townsville.

“This project has been developed in partnership with the Queensland Government including local MP John Hathaway and Sealink and I wish to acknowledge their great support.”



Cr Roy Prior takes a turn as Deputy Mayor

Council has advised the Deputy Mayor as of Tuesday 14th May 2013 until Tuesday 13th May 2014 will be Councillor Roy Prior.

Council also wanted to thank former Deputy Mayor Cr Mislam Sam (*pictured below with his family in Cairns last week*) for being the first of the new Councillors to take

on the role over 2012–13.

The position of Deputy Mayor is rotated each year on the anniversary of the appointment – Cr Edward Walsh will be next, followed by Cr Frank Conway.

Cr Prior will assume all duties and responsibilities for the Deputy Mayor position. His portfolios are Infrastructure

Services which includes civil works, water and gardening services, Law & Order and Crime Prevention.

Cr Prior has completed of a Business Diploma and held an executive position with Coolgaree CDEP for many years.

“My goal is to work with the community on their aspirations and in moving Palm Island forward,” he said.



In celebration of achievement eight young Palm Island students – Shinequa Burns, Jashieka Baira, Venus Watson, Miriam Palmer, Edward Robertson, Chris Evers Jr., Rikisha Luff-Cummins and Michael-lei Sibley – travelled 2,500 kilometres for a six day educational and aspirational tour of Melbourne with Cathy Freeman Foundation's (CFF's) Horizons Program.

Teacher David O'Shea shared a diary of events on the Bwgcolman Community School's Facebook page, here are some excerpts.

FRIDAY 24 MAY

Today we visited the office building of the online jobfind company Seek.

The students loved this office due to their 'work should be fun' philosophy.

Slippery slides between floors, ping-pong and pool tables, punching bags, arcade games and lollies everywhere was enough to win over the children, and maybe the adults too.

Cathy Freeman and her beautiful daughter joined us for an afternoon at the Victorian Institute of Sport. Today was amazing day with the children continually commenting on the size of Melbourne and how many people are here.

A highlight was Eddie and Rikisha having the courage to introduce themselves in front a room full of around 100 strangers.

SATURDAY 25 MAY

Today saw us mixing with major sponsors of the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

We were treated to morning tea at Credit Suisse, an international financial company.

We then spent time down by the Yarra river and enjoyed some shopping time at the Harbour Town shopping complex before venturing



into the Kinfolk Cafe.

We finished our organised activities by being invited into the news studios of Channel Nine.

SUNDAY 26 MAY

Yesterday was an action packed day with shopping at the enormous Queen Victoria Markets, the Long Walk and the 'Dreamtime at the G' AFL game between Richmond and Essendon.

We participated in the Long Walk from Federation Square to the MCG where we walked onto the famous ground in front of approximately 85,000 people.

MONDAY 27 MAY

We are staying in a beautiful cottage overlooking Bass Strait, apparently over the horizon is Tasmania.

In a short while we are going for a swim, water

temperatures are expected to be just below 15 degrees.

TUESDAY 28 MAY

This morning we hit Ocean Grove for some surfing.

None of our students have been on a surfboard before, so we'll chalk up another first for these great kids.

As for an update from yesterday, we braved the chilled waters and had about an hour of swimming.

A classic quote was the kids saying they were getting brain freeze without eating any ice cream.

Rikisha Cummins was the best of the body surfers, not afraid to take on some of the bigger waves. After some hot lunch and defrosting our bodies we were meant to head to the marina but we learnt that the Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles were on at



Broadening their horizons - Cathy Freeman Foundation's Melbourne experience 2013

the world famous Bells Beach so we jumped in the bus and headed down for a look.

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY

So we are on the road headed back to Melbourne to catch our three flights home. Now is an appropriate time to reflect on the past week.

In a word, **AWESOME!**

We sat down last night as a group and shared our favourite experiences from the week.

After around 30 minutes we had filled the wall with exciting stories, new experiences and memories that will stay with us forever.

Of the notable highlights were visiting the **SEEK** offices, attending the **Dreamtime** at the **G** game and learning about the history of the Long Walk, shopping at the Queen

Victorian Markets, seeing Melbourne from the top of a 50+ floor building, swimming, surfing and trying heaps of different foods. The children all expressed their new appreciation for how big the world is and that there are great experiences to be had both on and off Palm Island.

Dare I say it, these students have become significantly more "2-Way Strong".

I would like to take this opportunity to dish out some thanks. A massive thank you to all the sponsors and friends of the Cathy Freeman Foundation who invited us into your workplaces – Credit Suisse, **SEEK**, Kinfolk Cafe, Channel Nine and the Victorian Institute of Sport.

Thank you to Crumpler for

fitting the staff and students out with your gear to make travel around the city easier.

A special thanks must go to the Cottage By The Sea staff for their supervision, energy and choice of activities. We had a fantastic time at your cottage and are very appreciative.

To the Cathy Freeman Foundation, once again students of Bwgcolman Community School are the benefactors of your hard work and generosity.

And last but not least, thank you to the students.

They handled some very foreign and hectic situations with grace and integrity, and were a credit to themselves, their family and Palm Island.

If any parents or carers would like more info on the **CFF Horizons Program** and how their child could participate they should visit **Daphne Lawrence** or **Nazareth Youngblutt** at the **CFF** office or visit www.cathyfreemanfoundation.org.au

Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



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

Friday 21 June

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

For more information contact
Council on 4770 1177.



PALM ISLAND BARGE COMPANY

Palm Island Barge Company
congratulates the brave seven men
that stood up for their rights in 1957
and is proud to be associated with the
Palm Island community.

**We will not be operating on the Monday of the long
weekend of Bwgcman Day, 10th of June.**

12 Bruce Pde, Lucinda Ph 4777 8282 Fax 4798 3038
www.palmbarge.com.au

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 2014 the
rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2014).

**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!

Roy Nallajar Snr

8th June

Happy birthday to a
wonderful father and
grandfather, we love you.



To **Les Baira** for the
23rd, **Demalza Baira** for
the 25th and **Mtonya
Nallajar** for the 27th of
May from Keri, Frank,
Daniel, Ikanau, Frank jnr
and Ronnie.

Also in memory of Navarr
Michael Thomas Morton
for the 19th May from
Mum Flo, Uncle Les, Keri,
Dana, Daniel, Chevez,
Darius. Loving you forever.
You will always be in our
hearts. Gone but
never forgotten.

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>

Happy 90th Birthday



The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council would like to wish one of our beloved elders, Aunty Mavis Foster, a Happy 90th Birthday.

Mayor Alf Lacey and Councillors presented Aunty Mavis with flowers and a gift basket to show their appreciation and gratitude for her involvement in the community. She was more than happy to receive the gifts, which brought her to tears.

Aunty Mavis celebrated her 90th Birthday with close family and friends on Friday 24th May 2013.

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council would like to extend a most deserved and joyous celebration to Aunty Mavis on her special day.



Ferdy's Haven Alcohol Rehabilitation Aboriginal Corporation

Alcoholism is a progressive illness. We go through the three stages of social drinking, trouble drinking, and merry-go-round drinking. We land in hospitals and jails. We eventually lose our homes, our families, and our self-respect. Yes, alcoholism is a progressive illness and there are only three ends to it – the insane asylum, the morgue, or total abstinence.

Will I choose not to take the first drink?

Extract from: Twenty-Four Hours a Day book, Hazelden Foundation 1975

We encourage people to keep an open mind when attending the meetings, you will find a recovered alcoholic describe their personal experiences in achieving sobriety, and to read the AA material explaining the AA program. Only problem drinkers themselves, individually, can determine whether or not they are in fact alcoholics.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Boxers wanted to field team

“The Palm Island Boxing Club is now not what it used to be,” Trainer Ray Dennis says.

“I had to cancel a boxing tournament because we never had enough boxers to take on visitors from the mainland. Apart from Reggie Palm Island and Patrick Clarke, we have mostly children and female boxers.”

He said he was still hoping to take some boxers to Cairns for the Golden Gloves titles on 28 and 29 June.

“I expect to take three female boxers if they can be matched,” he said. “I trained Seneva Baira to become the first Indigenous female to win an Australian Title and also Noby Clay who also won a National Title. I am hoping some of my female boxers can carry on where Noby Clay finished.”

Mr Dennis also was confident quality boxer Gerald Wotton would make his comeback at the Golden Gloves.



Palm Island Barracudas performed strongly at the Remote Area Rugby League Challenge in Cairns last month, winning their three qualifying matches before going down narrowly to Bowen in the grand final.

The Barracudas were coached by Eddie Pryor and managed by Norman Bounghi.

Palm Island Rugby League President Lex Wotton was amongst a large number of locals who travelled to Cairns to support the boys.

In their first game the Barracudas beat Northern Cape 26-16. Clinton Pearson scored two tries with one apiece to his brother Gary Pearson, Mickeal Sibley and Lenny Parkinson. John Baira kicked two goals and Gary Pearson one.

Barracudas rolled Southern Cape 24-18 in their second match. Esrom Geia, Steven

Lowatta, Isaiah Blackman, Fred Bulsey and the third Pearson brother in the team, Darryl, scored tries.

Darryl and John Baira each booted a goal.

On day two Palm island rolled Three Rivers 26-16 with Darryl and Clinton Pearson each crossing twice for tries. Anthony Thompson scored one four pointer. Darryl kicked two goals and John Baira one.

Palm Island lost the final 32-18 to Bowen. Mickeal Sibley, Steven Lowatta and Darryl Pearson scored tries. Darryl chipped in with two goals and John Baira kicked one.

Finals Points for the carnival

were: Bowen 16.5, Palm Island Barracudas 14.5, Northern Cape 10.5, Southern Cape 7.5, Three Rivers 18.

QRL Northern Division Regional Co-ordinator David Maiden said the carnival saw some exciting football.

"This carnival helps create many more opportunities for talented individuals in remote communities," he said.

He said the football was fast and furious.

"The communities taking part in the carnival love their footy, and it's all about bringing communities together and creating opportunities for individuals to get to the next level," he said.

MORE PICS NEXT ISSUE: ALSO IN THE NEXT ISSUE TOWNSVILLE ENTERPRISES BOOST TOURISM JOB CHANCES + ISLAND OF ORIGIN NEWS!

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