



They 'came over' to a success!!!



More than 200 people came to visit Palm Island for just four hours last week in the most ambitious tourism venture the community has ever undertaken.

In a joint venture with Townsville Enterprises, SeaLink, the State Government and the Palm Island Council, the Palm Island Open Day was by any measure a huge success and there will be more.

Townsville Enterprise's General Manager for Tourism and Events Patricia O'Callaghan said they were fully supportive of the initiative.

"With a fully booked ferry, more than 200 visitors descended on the island and were greeted with a traditional island welcome, enjoyed the

local cuisine and participated in dance, art and craft workshops and all the feedback received has been really positive," she said.

"We will be guided by the Palm Island Community and the Palm Island Shire Council on what they see as the future for tourism on the Island and we are fully supportive of future initiatives like this one."

After having their bags searched for alcohol by local police, tourists were greeted by traditional dancers before being formally welcomed to country by Traditional Owner

Allan Palm Island (above).

They were then offered the opportunity to buy locally handmade crafts, food and drinks and see a range of art, historic and documentary-style exhibitions as well as participate in locally-guided tours.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the Palm Island Shire Council was focused on generating jobs and growing the economy and establishing a tourism industry was an important step towards achieving that goal.

MORE INSIDE!

Cyclone prep well done - Mayor

The Palm Island community is to be congratulated for their level-headed preparation for the potential damage Severe Tropical Cyclone Ita may have caused, Mayor Alf Lacey says.

"I think all and all the Local Disaster Manager of the group said to me, in terms of our preparedness and preparation, we've done pretty well," he said.

"Certainly, the community and residents need to be congratulated for taking all the advice, whether it was on radio or TV in terms of staying abreast with current news.

"I'm pleased that there's no major damage to property; there hasn't been any fatalities,

human lives, in the town.

"I think that's a really good sign that Palm is certainly prepared when it comes to events like this in coordinating and managing ourselves so we could keep people safe and keep them in their houses.

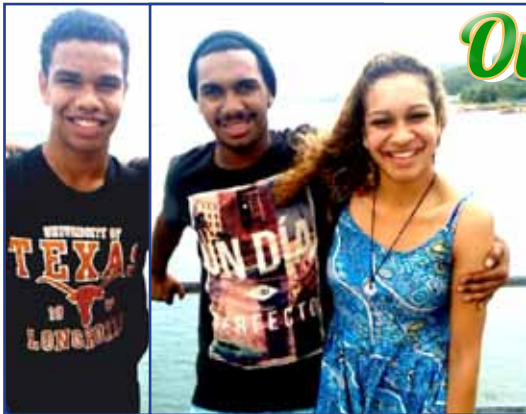
"I was up at 4 in the morning when the eye went straight over us and we did have quite a bit of debris around the place and that, but the Council crew and the local SES units went

around and certainly ensured that everything was okay.

"We were quite lucky we did see the massive damage we thought could have happened.

"I think some people along North Queensland coast had major damage to property.

"We want to let people in the Wujal Wujal and Hopevale communities, where many of us have family, know our thoughts are with them as they recover and rebuild."



Out & About



Above: holiday visitors Ngitti and Murrawah Johnson with local Albert Gorringe (middle); Right: Josiah James ready to spear fish for mackerel and trevally



TALKING ABOUT the big game this weekend in Townsville were Skipjacks' Raoul Miller, Fred Bulsey and Alex Morgan

Netballers' success

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Netball Association (ATSINA) executive committee has announced the QLD Mixed Teams for 2014 competing at the 30th Annual AMMNA Men's & Mixed Tournament.

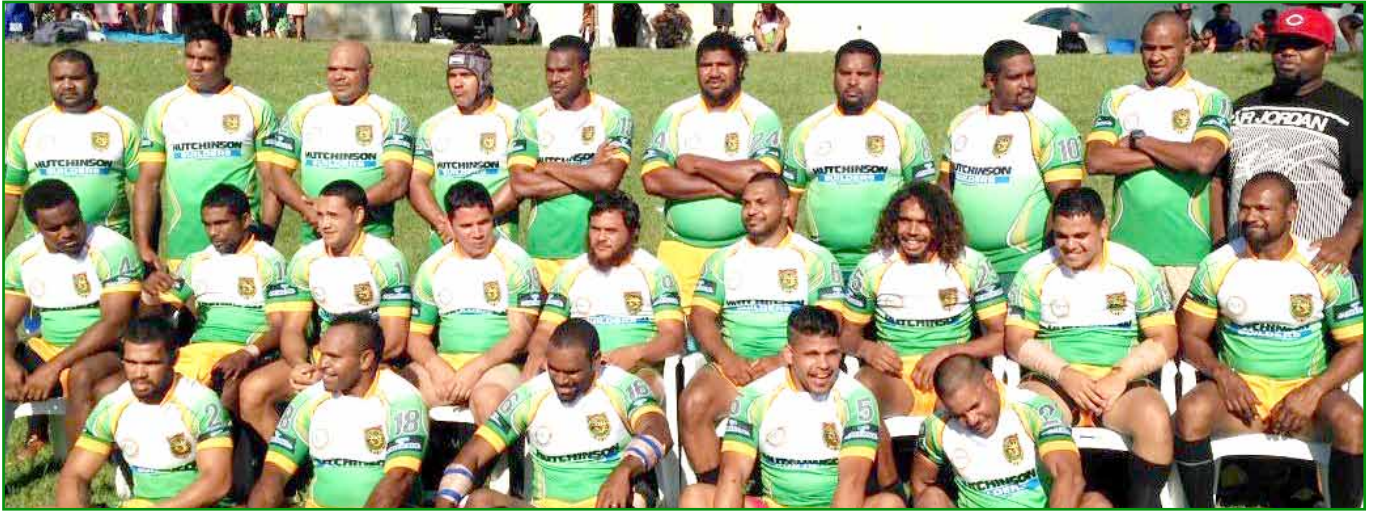
Included in ATSINA SOLID (mixed) were Palm Island's own Ciara Lee Bligh, John Sibley and Tomasina Morgan.

Coaches and managers were yet to be confirmed at deadline time.

The ATSINA committee sent a big congrats to and said teams were full of skill, athleticism and talent.

They will play at the State Netball Centre Klump Rd Mt Gravatt this week - we'll try to bring you some results and pics in the next Issue!

Gooooood footy Barracudas!!!



PALM Island Barracudas performed strongly at the Rockhampton Allblacks carnival held over the Easter long weekend, winning their two matches in the qualifying rounds and reaching the semi finals.

Vernon Bourne was named one of two Fastest Players of the Carnival while Malcolm Congoo and Daniel Pickering both made the 2014 CQID Merit Team.

Fifteen men's sides battled it out and in round one on Saturday the Barracudas beat Eidsvold 40-nil.

In round two the Barracudas defeated CQ Warriors 26-12

before a large crowd.

The Barracudas advanced to Sunday's semi final of the prestigious Shield section which was the top four teams after the two rounds.

In those semi finals Woori Gold 20 defeated Palm Island Barracudas 10, and the Wayne Guivarra Memorial 22 side beat Black Magic 18.

Woorabinda Warriors won

easily over the Wayne Guivarra Memorial Team, 40-14, in the grand final.

In other grand finals the Jason Lingwoodock Memorial defeated Macca United, 34-12, in the men's bowl decider.

In the men's plate CQ Warriors won over Gunboat Raiders, 22-19 and in the women's final Highlanders defeated Macca United, 32-22.



MEANWHILE former Brisbane Broncos, Penrith Panthers, Queensland State of Origin and Test forward Petero Civoniceva was on Palm Island as a special guest at the junior rugby league sign on.

The sign on took place in the park opposite the mall during the Tourists' Open Day. Also there were Palm Island Junior Rugby League and visiting QRL officials.

A total of 38 juniors signed up with more expected soon.

"I would encourage young people to play rugby league and maybe one day be in the Brisbane Broncos," he said.

“This is the first step towards creating sustainable tourism on Palm Island and if we can do that and maintain regular tourism trade, we will create more jobs for our local people,” Mayor Alf Lacey said.

He said the bag searches were mandatory.

“This is what we are subjected to on Palm Island with police searching bags for alcohol and you won’t see this where you all come from,” he told visitors.

SeaLink Queensland General Manager Paul Victory said the Palm Island Open Day provided a good platform to leverage tourism growth.

“SeaLink Queensland is working closely with both Townsville Enterprise and the Palm Island Shire Council to establish more regular Open Days and given the SeaLink Queensland ferry to the island is at full capacity, it’s likely these types of events will continue in the future,” he said.

State member for Townsville John Hathaway and former rugby league great Petero Cioniceva and Chris Dragisic and Dawn Casey from Indigenous Business Australia were also on the Island for the event.

The Open Day was part of a larger campaign, ‘Tourism is Everyone’s Business’, designed to educate residents on the value of tourism to the region and encourage residents to be tourism ambassadors for North Queensland.

Cr Lacey said they had jumped at the chance to be part of the campaign.

“We wanted to invite visitors into Palm and to come and see us in a better light rather than hearing all the bad news and the wrong media attention that Palm gets,” he said. “I think it’s really important that we gave it a go.

“There have been a few local families on the island who formed a local organising committee. and put a lot of energy into it, and I’d like to thank them for helping to make the day such a success.

“We look at Palm Island in terms of getting benefits for the whole community of Palm and that comes from supporters – which is really,



really, really important for the future of this place.”

He said several important purposes were achieved.

“In a nutshell, I think it gave our community the opportunity to do a number of things.

“One was to expose Palm to visitors and to let them know how nice our Shire is and what we’ve got on offer.

“The second thing is, from an economy point of view, was to kick start businesses here on the island, giving us an opportunity to benefit



from it in terms of things like selling their own cooking or crafts.

“I think most important was the guided tours and the chance to talk about the history of Palm, so visitors had a better insight into us and our history.

“And finally the day showed us that with the right partners we can do things for ourselves, and we can do things very well.

“I think it was a great start to developing our own tourism ventures here and we look forward to taking more opportunities like this on board.”



Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



The next RDO is this
Thursday **24 April**
RDOs are every fortnight,
usually on a Friday.
For out-of-hours
emergencies please call
0458 789 011.

For more information contact
Council on 4770 1177



Palm Island Aboriginal
Shire Council has 319
'likes' on Facebook!!!

PCYC PALM ISLAND

To the Palm Island Community,

Please be advised that Palm Island PCYC
After School Care program will be closed
from the commencement of Term 2 on
Tuesday 22 April for a minimum of three
weeks whilst a suitable, qualified child
care coordinator is employed.

Thank you for your understanding whilst
I get arrangements in place to re-open
as soon as possible.

Apologies for any inconvenience.

**HAPPY 21ST TO JENNIFER PRIOR LOVE FROM YOUR MUM
DAD, DAUGHTER & THE BLIGH FAMILY FOR THE 26TH APRIL!**

THE NEXT PALM ISLAND VOICE DEADLINE (for Issue 152)
will be **THURSDAY 1 May** for publication on Thursday 8 May

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Reggie on his way

Star Palm Island boxer Reggie Palm Island has turned professional and will have his first bout in five weeks time down in Melbourne.

It is expected his fight card will be telecast nationally on pay television which will provide great positive coverage for Palm Island.

Reggie, who turned 21 last Christmas Eve, was a former champion amateur boxer who represented his beloved Island with distinction.

He started boxing under the tuition of Mr Dennis when he was just 14 and drew blood

from the face of champion Aussie pro boxer Danny Green when he visited Palm Island.

Trainer Ray Dennis had been working with renowned boxing identity Blair Wilson who has been instrumental in organising the Victorian bout.

"Blair has contacts all around the world which is good," Mr Dennis said.

As a pro boxer Reggie will



be paid for each bouts and have his traveling expenses covered.

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BEDS R US

Dear Editor...

I was one of the visitors to the island on Wednesday 16th April – and I'm just writing to thank you all for such a truly wonderful day! Even before we got off the ferry – we could all see the decorated jetty, and the warm traditional welcome from both elders and the young dancers was much appreciated. The displays were interesting, (and appropriately shocking to many of us who do not know the real history of the Island), the workshops and walks leaders were all excellent. I would certainly come back, and would want to stay overnight and have more time to explore your beautiful Island. Thank you for making us so welcome and good luck with your plan to share your Island with more visitors.

Regards

7 Lorna Hempstead, Magnetic Island.

