

Palm Island Voice



Issue 159: 31 July 2014

still only \$1.25



Photos courtesy Alf Wilson



It was Palm Island's day!

Palm Island is moving onwards and upwards after celebrations for the opening of five new community infrastructure projects earlier this month.

It was a busy day for Queensland Premier Campbell Newman – who sported a Palm Island NAIDOC shirt for the day – and Transport Minister Scott Emerson who came to celebrate with the community.

Mayor Alf Lacey said this was the first time a State Premier had revisited Palm Island after former leaders Anna Bligh and Peter Beattie had been there once.

“Our shire is open for business and we are moving from a mission to a proud and inviting town,” he said. “Our aim is to grow our economy and provide job opportunities for our young people.” **CONTINUED P 6...**

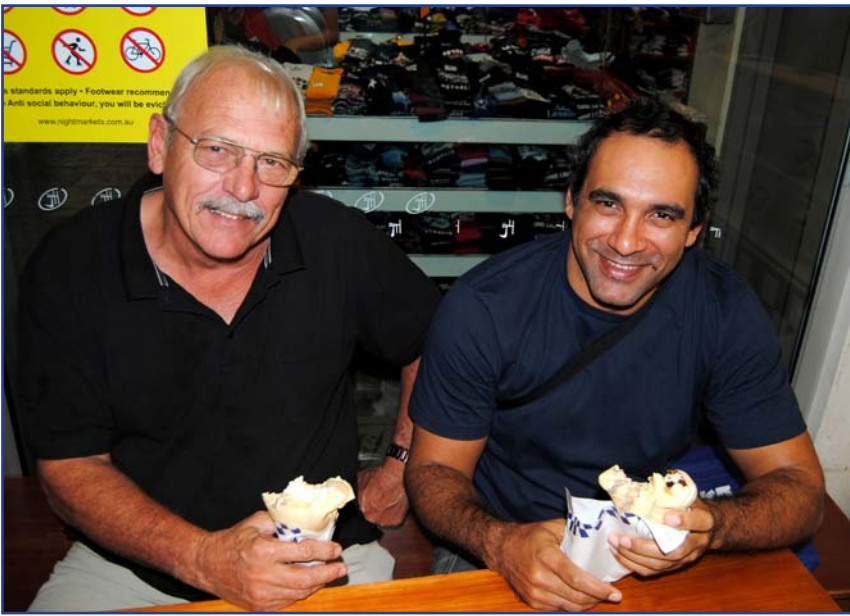


Photo courtesy Rob James



WARNING! Some images in this Issue may contain deceased persons which may cause distress to some people.

Out & About



Top Left: Bill Blackley and son Robert enjoying some crepes at Cairns Night Markets; Middle pics: On the Gold Coast: Rasharna Prior-Bounghi Australian Indigenous under 16s, Keita Lenoy-Obah Australian Indigenous under 18s, and Vasanai Dabea - Qld Indigenous under 12s (happy birthday Vasanai!), Jaysheka Fraser - Qld Indigenous under 12s, Rasharna again with Micheal-Lei Sibley - Queensland Indigenous under 12s, Diane Fulford - Queensland Indigenous under 12s; Bottom Left: Adrian Poynter was amongst scores of people who attended a "save the reef" rally in Townsville CBD on 23rd July. Adrian said he enjoyed fishing the waters off Palm, pig hunting and playing rugby league football.



Palm Island NAIDOC Gala 2014



Pics with thanks to PCYC



News from SeaLink



Congratulations on an event filled July on Palm Island with the Palm Island Pontoon and Foreshore launch and also a jam packed week of NAIDOC celebrations.

With these events now behind us, August looks to be a quieter month across our Palm Island service.

I'd like to take this opportunity to update community members and local business operators on our amended schedule for our Palm Island ferry service commencing in mid-August.

Please note that commencing Monday 11th August there will be minimum freight carriage on board our Palm Island Ferry service.

This is due to the scheduled upgrade to our regular Palm Island vessel – Reef Cat.

During the period 11th August – 31st October 2014 all belongings are to be hand-carried on-board as we will be utilising our vessels Fantome Cat and Sunbird.

Please be advised that during this period the Skipper of the vessel has full authority to refuse freight if deemed excessive in quantity or size.

SeaLink Queensland Management would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and recognises that this will be a difficult time for all concerned.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated across this period.

On another note, we saw the (brief) introduction of our new

fixed timetable in July.

We were extremely pleased with amount of passengers travelling on these services however we were also very concerned with the spike in disruptive behaviour on board our vessel.

We saw a massive increase in freight on our 2.30pm departures on Friday's and Sunday's and also an increase in the number of behavioural offences around our terminal and also on board our vessel.

Please note that in the interests of the comfort and safety for all our passengers and crew, disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated on any SeaLink Queensland vessels and penalties do apply.

We would seek your immediate cooperation on this matter.

Finally, I had a beautiful day on the Island yesterday with Sue Hackett – Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music (AFCM).

AFCM are hosting a

concert on Palm Island on Tuesday the 5th August on the stage behind the IKC building.

Check out her poster for the event below, it should also be a great afternoon for the community.

As always, please contact me at katie.roberts@sealink.com.au with any Palm Island requests, queries or concerns.

Meantime – Happy boating

Katie Roberts
SeaLink Palm Island
Operations Coordinator



The Australian Festival of Chamber Music on

PALM ISLAND
TUESDAY 5TH AUGUST, 3:00PM

FREE CONCERT ON THE STAGE BEHIND IKC

PALM ISLAND COMMUNITY ALL WELCOME!

Come and hear the legendary djireru player **William Barton**,
New York's **Yousif Sheronick** on drums and percussion
and the dazzling strings of **Camelata of St John's**.



The AFCM thanks Palm Island
Aboriginal Shire Council Shire Council
for their support for this event.



Lauwana heads for home!

Graduate nurse Lauwana Blackley, who was last year's winner of the Sally Gould Prize for the highest overall GPA in the JCU Bachelor of Nursing Science degree, is six months into her first nursing placement and loving it.

Lauwana is at The Townsville Hospital's renal unit and has described her first job as a fully-fledged nurse as 'wonderful.'

"As a graduate I've felt very supported and I've enjoyed renal so much," she said.

"I've been able to get to know the patients on a personal level and learning about the pathophysiology of renal disease has been really interesting."

Lauwana grew up on Palm Island and went to boarding school in Charters Towers and Townsville.

She was a health worker before she changed tack to study nursing.



"It was a toss-up between vet school and nursing and I came down on the side of nursing as a chance to help my people," she said.

Lauwana will get a chance to put her skills to good use when she does her next rotation at the Joyce Palmer Health Service.

"Going home will be very special and I'm looking forward to it."

Diabetes Qld asks 'have you 'Got Suga'?

Two-thirds of adults on Palm Island – more than 1000 people – could be living with type 2 diabetes or be at a high risk of developing the condition, Diabetes Queensland has warned.

The revelation came despite Queensland Health statistics showing only around 200 Palm Island residents are being treated for the condition by the public health system.

Diabetes Queensland CEO Michelle Trute said many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with type 2 diabetes weren't accessing the health services they needed to help them manage the condition.

"These services can sometimes be difficult to access, there is a sense of shame for some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which means they don't want

to talk about the condition and, worryingly, many people don't know they have the condition.

"Research shows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are around three times more likely to have type 2 diabetes than other Queenslanders of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

"That means two-thirds of Palm Island residents could be either living with type 2 diabetes, prediabetes or at a high risk of developing the condition.

"I would like to congratulate Palm Island Aboriginal Shire

Council and especially Mayor Alf Lacey for partnering with us to deliver our innovative Got Suga workshop on Palm Island. It shows a true commitment to addressing this critical issue."

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said the Council believed Got Suga was an important part of tackling the problem on Palm.

"Type 2 diabetes is a major problem on Palm Island and programs like Got Suga help our people take control of our health," Mr Lacey said.

"Hopefully this workshop will help people understand the risks of type 2 diabetes and manage their health better."

A big day for Palm Island

Premier Campbell Newman, his wife Lisa and entourage arrived at Palm airport in the government plane around 11am and were met by Mayor Lacey and youngsters from the Bwgcolman State School Pre-Prep class.



"You are fantastic," Mr Newman told them.

It was then on to open and inspect the Seawall Reconstruction Project, a new all tide pontoon at the Reel Women jetty, the Frederick William Clay Park, the Sunset Snacks Food small business moving to new premises, and the motel redevelopment.

After meeting with Council and staff, Mr Newman walked to the Clocktower Cultural Precinct for the official proceedings.

Guests were welcomed to country by Walter Palm Island.

Kirwan State High School Indigenous Leader Janaya Barry was MC.

"I am not talking from a written speech but from my heart," Mr Newman said.

"This is all about achieving ultimate economic independence on the island.

"Giving people the vital infrastructure building blocks so people can participate in a real economy, not a welfare economy.

"And particularly for young people on this island, they can get jobs in aquaculture or eco, adventure or cultural tourism.

"Mayor Alf and the Council have done a great job."



It was then off to the unveiling of the plaque at the Sea Wall Reconstruction Project by Mayor Lacey and Mr Newman.

Earlier there had been a presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to locals who worked on the Seawall.

A short walk to the pontoon, named after the late maritime worker Walter Palm Island snr and others, followed where Mr Emerson, Walter Palm Island jnr and Allan Palm Island unveiled the plaque as Mr Newman looked on.



Soon after the plaque at Frederick William Clay Park was unveiled by MP for Townsville John Hathaway and members of the Clay family,

Then it was to the successful business Sunset Snack Foods, run by David and Corrina Geia for many years employing locals.

Mr Newman, Mayor Lacey, and members of the Geia family unveiled the plaque.

The new Motel Block Expansion plaque was unveiled by Mr Newman, Mr Hathaway and Councillors.

There was lunch and entertainment by well-known Palm Island band Mother's Dust, St Michael's Deadly Dancers and TSI dancers.

Mr Newman left mid afternoon and that night there were community fireworks sponsored by Koppen Constructions, Pacific Marine Group and the Palm Island Council.

Starting Block Awards bigger than ever



In the last week of Term 2 more than 290 certificates and awards for school attendance, behaviour and literacy were presented to students from Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael's Catholic School as part of the Cathy Freeman Foundation Starting Block Awards.

This was the most awards that have ever been presented and continues on from the high award numbers in Term 1, a fact not lost on CFF Acting CEO Jamie Howden.

“It’s wonderful to see the continued growth of this vitally important program and to witness the steady increase in the number of students improving their attendance, literacy and school behaviour” Mr Howden said.

The Starting Block Program encourages students to achieve at school and strive for personal goals by giving recognition to those who demonstrate academic progress, a positive attitude, good behaviour and frequent attendance.

The program wouldn’t be possible without the wonderful support of CFF partners Booktopia, who donate all the literacy prizes for the Starting Block Awards.



CFF offers new Horizons



Fifteen students in Years 9–12 from Bwgcolman community school visited Sydney as part of the Cathy Freeman Foundation (CFF) Horizons program earlier this month.

The group spent a week experiencing all that Sydney has to offer, with the focus being on post-school pathways, while also ensuring enjoyable educational, cultural and mentoring experiences.

Trip highlights included: surfing at Bondi Beach; visiting the Penrith Panthers; watching the Penrith vs. Broncos game; a goal setting session with Kierran Moseley; visits to Credit Suisse, Booktopia and Seek; meeting the Bondi Lifeguards; indoor rock climbing, meeting Sydney Symphony musicians at the Sydney Opera House; yoga classes and various workshops.

CFF's Early Learning Program Coordinator, Nazi Youngblutt, and CFF Programs Manager Lachlan Preston joined Bwgcolman school leaders, Todd Chatterton and Lynette Kim Sing Bwgcolman on the trip with the 15 students.

“The Sydney Horizons Camp was a great chance for the students to push their boundaries and grow as young adults” Lachlan said. “Furthermore, it allowed them to explore different post-school opportunities and hear from a variety of young Indigenous role-models”

The CFF Horizons program was founded in 2008 and rewards students with interstate camps based on merit, attitude and a demonstrated desire to achieve. This year the Cathy Freeman Foundation will support more than 30 students visiting Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra.



Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



Message from the Palm Island Police

DON'T FORGET!!!

Wearing helmets is
compulsory from 1st August.

Helmets are cheap:
our children are priceless.

Helmets cost from \$10.00 in Townsville.

Fine for not wearing a helmet \$113.00.

As of Tuesday 1st July 2014
**New Operating Hours for
Council are
Monday – Friday
8:00am – 5:00pm
WEEKLY**

If you have any questions please contact 4770 1177

Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 347
'likes' on
Facebook!!!



ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner
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 above) and all material submitted no later than COB
the next day. Print approval required by Monday COB.

**THE NEXT PALM ISLAND VOICE
DEADLINE (for Issue 159)**

will be **THURSDAY 7 August** for
publication on Thursday 14 August

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Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277
or via chowes@westnet.com.au

**PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!!!**

Boxers hope to hit the road in August

A team of Palm Island boxers will make the long road journey to Rockhampton for a Global Tournament early in August.

Daniel Nomoa, Levi Baira, Brayden Nallajar, Natalie David, Josie Nallajar and Kathleen Haines are amongst those local boxers who may

compete. Trainer Ray Dennis said that he was registering a new boxer in 15-year-old Darryl Richardson.

“He shows promise and is 69kg,” Mr Dennis said.

A big group of boxers have been training hard at the Palm PCYC Gym in recent weeks.

Poynter plays for United side

PALM Island’s Lincoln Poynter jnr played a leading role for the Northern United side which defeated Queensland Outback 30-24 in the rugby league representative clash on Thursday Island.

Poynter jnr was the only Palm Islander to line up for United at TI’s Ken Brown Memorial Oval on 19th July.

The United side was picked after the Remote Area Rugby League FNQ Challenge at Cairns on July 28 and 29 contested by winner Torres Strait Kaiwalagal Stingers, Northern Cape, Southern Cape, Palm Island Barracudas and Bowen.

Barracudas finished second and the other player picked

was star utility William Marpoondin who later withdrew.

It was a major turnaround from the 2013 match between the sides at Cairns when Outback had thrashed United 60-22.

Numerous locals said Poynter jnr represented Palm Island with pride.

“He was sent a photo of him holding the trophy on TI and was very happy when in Townsville before returning

to Palm,” Patrick Charles said.

Palm looks set to host the 2015 carnival following discussions between Mayor Alf Lacey and QRL Northern Division Manager Scott Nosworthy.

They spoke during the game between Palm Skipjacks and Australian Army at 1300 Smiles Stadium in Townsville during April.

In case anybody forgot, Skipjacks won easily.



The United team with Lincoln Poynter jnr third from right in the back row



Out & About

16 July 2014

