



Ewen's promise: Palm Island won't close

MEMBER for Herbert Ewen Jones has given a commitment that no Queensland Indigenous community, including Palm Island, would be forcibly closed by the Federal Government.

He made the commitment during a peaceful but fiery vocal protest in Townsville last Friday.

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National titles bring boxing medals home

Last weekend saw a top effort from Chris Evers Jnr and Reggie Palm Island to claim a gold and a silver medal each at the Australian titles on the Gold Coast.

Trainer Chris Evers Snr said both boys fought the best boxers from all around Australia in their divisions and both ended up with medals.

"It's a testament to their hard work and dedication that two boxers from a small remote community could compete with and beat the best boxers in the country," he said.

"Chris is the new Australian U15 38kg champion.



"He beat an opponent from NSW in the final winning by TKO in the 3rd round.

"Reggie won the silver medal in the men's 52kg final at the Australian Titles, losing a close points decision to his opponent from Victoria.

"Reggie now has to focus on his next fight in Papua New Guinea on the 20th of June."

MEANWHILE several young boxers have been training at the Palm island PCYC gym in preparation for coming tournaments at Rockhampton on May 9th and on Magnetic Island a week later.

Trainer Ray Dennis said he could only take 10 from the list to Rockhampton unless he could hire a bigger bus.

"Some of the new boys will go on to become top Palm Island boxers," he said.

Mr Dennis said top Rockhampton boxer Nathan Baira has also been training strongly with the club.

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More than 200 men, women and children issued a big political statement to the Federal Government at the rally and that was: they don't want forced closures of Western Australian Aboriginal communities.

They gathered at Anne Street just after 8am and walked 1km to Townsville's busiest intersection at the corner of Road River Road and Nathan Street. Their permit allowed the intersection to be closed to all traffic for 15 minutes by police.

Townsville Co-ordinator Meyalah Blackman said "We will be forcing the closure of the major intersection at Nathan street and Ross River Road for up to 15 minutes so that community and government will feel what it's like to experience forced closure that will significantly impact your life."

The participants sat in the middle of the two roads as about 12 police and liaison officers watched on.

Speeches were delivered by MC Max Lenoy, Professor Gracelyn Smallwood, Reverend Shayne Blackman, Les Moffitt from the union movement and a representative of Amnesty International.

After that they gathered on the nearby area at the front of the office of Liberal Federal Member for Herbert Ewen Jones.

Mr Jones later came out to address the crowd and was asked about the issue as protestors chanted 'Aboriginal land always will be'.

"The Government's three main issues are kids in schools, jobs and keeping the community safe," Mr Jones said.

Mr Lenoy questioned Mr Jones for a "definitive yes or no" about whether he



Above: Gracelyn Smallwood asked questions to MP Ewen Jones; Right: Rachell Obah with Eddie-Robin Drummond-Obah, aged 6; Below: Supporters at the SOSBlakAustralia rally for WA communities.



supported or objected to the WA closures.

"It is not a yes or no question. It is a WA issue," he said. But Mr Jones did give a commitment that Palm Island would never be closed down after a question from Professor Smallwood. Mr Lenoy thanked Mr Jones for, "having the guts to address the protest."

"Other politicians were asked to come and didn't turn up," Mr Lenoy said.

Stolen wages on Labor Government's agenda

Queensland Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt has said his Government will honour it's commitment to pay Stolen Wages claimants \$21 million outstanding from Peter Beattie's original Wages and Savings Reparations offer made in 2002.

"We will honour our election commitment to compensate Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders who had their wages stolen," he said.

"We're creating a \$21 million compensation fund for



Mr Pitt announcing the new stolen wages offer at Bumma Bippa Media studios in Cairns earlier this year

those affected by these discriminatory policies of the past.

"The government is working to establish a taskforce to oversee the allocation of these funds, and we're making this a priority."

Mr Pitt said the taskforce would include key stakeholders and his Government would consult widely to ensure it has the right mix of people to get the job done.

"I know that we can never erase the hurt and sorrow caused by past actions but we can seek to rectify past injustice by properly compensating those affected," he said.

"Labor will always support social justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders."

At a Community Cabinet meeting in Townsville last month NAIDOC person of the year Professor Gracelyn Smallwood said she hoped the Government would honour that pre-election commitment to pay Stolen Wages.

"Days before the election, the Labor mob made a pledge to Elders, that if they won, they will open up Stolen Wages claims," she said.

Over the past year there have been numerous Stolen Wages meetings organised by the Queensland Council of Unions with a theme of 'It's Time To Settle'.

2015 Swimming Carnival!



Congratulations to Curacoa who comprehensively took out the swimming carnival down at the beach last month.

Age champions were as follows:

- 9yrs – Ahzali Sibley & Geena James
- 10yrs – Jase Thimble & Taishima Fraser
- 11yrs – Mickleal Sibley/Merlin Massey & Juanita Fraser
- 12Yrs – Brodie Kerr & Zarnae Richardson
- 13yrs – Maurice Bourne & Pamela Aplin
- 14yrs – Patria Gabor
- 15yrs – Arona Miller
- 16yrs – Lindsey Parker- Geesu
- Senior – Joseph Nallajar

Fantome took out the Secondary School competition.

Iggy Park visit to St Michael's a success

A group of staff and students from Ignatius Park College visited Palm Island last month to present St Michael's school with a collection of sports gear and stationery donated as a result of their Close the Gap campaign in Townsville.

While this gesture was greatly appreciated by the St Michael's community, the most beneficial experience of the day was the extremely positive interactions made between the IPC lads and the St Michael's students.

The boys were divided up and allocated to various classrooms for parts of the day, which was a terrific experience for the students.

The visit will be a lasting experience which will stay with the boys for a long time to come and hopefully play a small part in raising awareness of Indigenous health issues and reconciliation within our community.

Thanks to all those members of the community who assisted on some way with this campaign.



2015 'HIPPY' program underway through CFF

The Cathy Freeman Foundation is delighted to announce 25 families will be starting the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters Program (HIPPY) this month, alongside 11 families continuing from the inaugural group in 2014.



CFF Community Liaison Officer Ruth Gorringer works through the HIPPY Program with Janelle Creed and her daughter Viviahn Creed-Haines. Photo: Wayne Quilliam

CFF Early Learning Coordinator, Nazareth Youngblutt, said she was excited by the growth in HIPPY into the second year on Palm Island.

"We've started the year really well and have signed up 25 families and four HIPPY tutors who'll deliver the weekly program" Mrs Youngblutt said. "I see great potential in these tutors; they are young parents who will be working with other families. Program delivery will begin with families once the Tutor Training has been finalised in the new few weeks. All four tutors are very excited to work and build relationship with their child first before delivering to other families in the program."

HIPPY is supported by research that shows that children's most powerful learning comes from their family, and that getting a strong start at school sets children up for life.

Palm Island Voice



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Community Notices**



**Operating Hours for
Council are**

**Monday – Friday
8:00am – 5:00pm**

If you have any questions please
contact Reception on 4770 1177



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

2015 Rates & Dates

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

179	Thursday 14 May / 21 May
180	Thursday 28 May / 4 June
181	Thursday 11 June / 18 June
182	Thursday 25 June / 2 July
183	Thursday 9 July / 16 July
184	Thursday 23 July / 30 July
185	Thursday 6 August / 13 August

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

186	Thursday 20 August / 27 August
187	Thursday 3 September / 10 September
188	Thursday 17 September / 24 September
189	Thursday 1 October / 8 October
190	Thursday 15 October / 22 October
191	Thursday 29 October / 5 November
192	Thursday 12 November / 19 November

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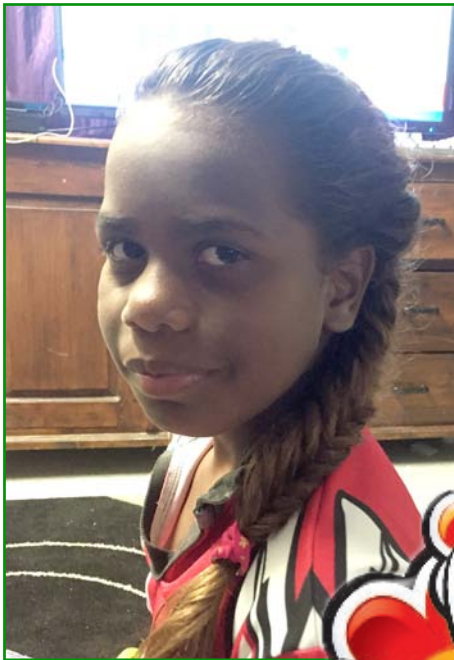
Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au

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PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!

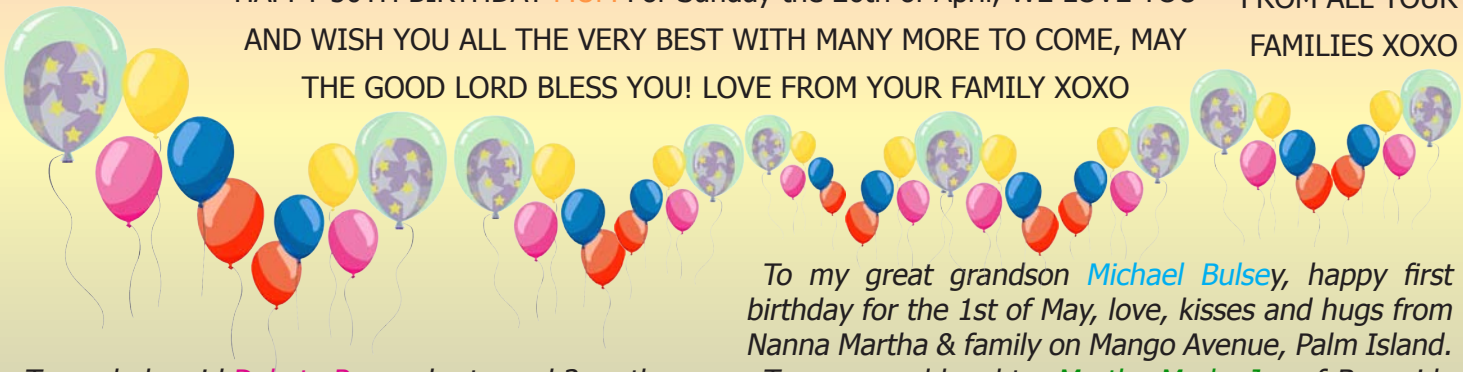


HAPPY 10TH
BIRTHDAY TO
MY DAUGHTER
IKANAU ARANCIA
FOR THE 5th
of May have a
blessed day Love
from mum dad and
your 3 brothers



**PAULA BAIRA
MILLER** HAPPY
5TH BIRTHDAY
BABY GIRL FOR
SUNDAY THE
26TH OF APRIL
2015. WE WISH
YOU ALL THE
BEST LOVE
FROM ALL YOUR
FAMILIES XOXO

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY **MUM** For Sunday the 26th of April, WE LOVE YOU
AND WISH YOU ALL THE VERY BEST WITH MANY MORE TO COME, MAY
THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU! LOVE FROM YOUR FAMILY XOXO



To my baby girl **Dakota Ryan** who turned 3 on the
29th of March,

To my Beautiful daughter **Raisjana Bulsey** who had
her 21st on the 7th of April,

To my son **Larbara Robertson** and my daughter in
law **Jennifer Prior-Bligh** who both turned 22 on the
26th of April,

To my little niece **Destiny Ray Kennedy** who turned 1
on the 29th of April,

And my two grandsons **Mickey Bulsey** who turned 2
on the 1st of May & **Tyranh Sam** who will be 1 on the
23rd of May...

Sorry some of these are late, but we love youse
all and may the good Lord be with you all each and
every one of you on your special day with many many
more to come.

Lots of Love Mum Zeyta & the crew from 282 Luma
Luma St, PI xoxoxox....

To my great grandson **Michael Bulsey**, happy first
birthday for the 1st of May, love, kisses and hugs from
Nanna Martha & family on Mango Avenue, Palm Island.

To my granddaughter **Martha Marks Jnr** of Boonside
in Sydney, happy 12th birthday for the 2nd of May love
Nanna Martha, Grandma Hazel, Uncles and Aunties and
cousins of Mango Avenue, Palm Island.

To my granddaughter **Tahani Vuni** of Mammino St,
Mareeba, happy third birthday for the 3rd of May, love
hugs & kisses from Nanna Martha, Grandma Hazel,
Uncles and Aunts and all your cousins on Mango
Avenue on Palm Island.

To my little princess **Te'Ondra Luff** of Mammino St,
Mareeba, happy seventh birthday for the 9th of May,
love kisses and hugs, Nanna Martha, Grandma Hazel,
Uncles and Aunts and all your cousins on Mango
Avenue, Palm Island.

Happy first birthday to my great grandson **TyRahn
Bulsey** for the 23 of May, lots of love, kisses, hugs from
Great Nanna Martha, Grandma Hazel, Uncles and Aunts
and cousins of Mango Avenue, Palm Island.

Skipjacks at the 2015 Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield



Woorie carnival 1st

Later this year the Woorabinda Warriors Senior Rugby League will host their first annual All Blacks Carnival in Rockhampton.

The Carnival, to be held on the 10th & 11th October at the Saleyards Park, is named Woorabinda Warriors Cup.

It will be the first time Woorabinda Warriors have hosted a carnival in a number of years.

The Club are looking for 16 men's teams and 8 women's teams to complete their carnival.

Nomination packages can be requested from the committee on email address, murritime@hotmail.com or by contacting President Joel Cameron or Secretary Lesley Bligh.

The team nomination to enter the carnival is \$1500.00. Prize money based on the 16 teams is:

Winners men competition \$18,000.00;

Runners up mens \$6,000.00.

Winner Womens competition \$9,000;

Runners up womens competition \$3,000.

Nominations close on Friday 18th September.

Woorabinda Warriors are also looking for sponsors for the carnival in Rockhampton and their 2016 Rugby League season.



PALM Island held an Anzac Day commemorative service which was well attended by locals, including school children, who laid wreaths.

This year members of the Walsh and Coolburra families held a special service at the Palm Island cemetery at 9am in honour of former servicemen, the late Bill Coolburra and Keith Walsh.

Bill Coolburra served in the Army for a long period and was a famed "Tunnel Rat" during the Vietnam War,

Keith Walsh served in Africa being one of the brave "Rats of Tobruk" fighting the Germans and Italians.

Cr Eddie Walsh said it was a solemn occasion.

"Keith Walsh was my grandfather and was shot in the leg by the Germans in North Africa," he said.

"He died in 1978 and it was great to visit the cemetery here and honour them."

Bill Coolburra's widow Edna Coolburra said it was emotional at the cemetery.

"We has close family there and Bill will never be forgotten," she said.

Mayor Alf Lacey was also at the cemetery.

At 10.30am people gathered at the Palm police station and made the short walk to the nearby Mall for the laying of the wreaths. Cr Walsh said the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait flags were raised.

Palm Army reservists there included Rio Walsh, Frank Sibley, Moe Lenoy and Bryan Conway.

Around 1pm many gathered at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill where they enjoyed a few drinks, lots of friendship and even some Two Up.



ANZAC Day 2015



Above Right: Army reservist Frank Sibley with Elizabeth Doomadgee; Above: Bwgcolman Seniors Moira Murray (School Vice-Captain), Heath Lacey (School Captain), Koipe Castors (School Vice-Captain) & Kathleen Haines (School Captain); Left: Two Up at the Coolgaree Sports Bar & Grill.