



Palm Island youth to take lead role in inaugural Bwgcolman Youth Festival

Young people on Palm Island will take centre-stage at the inaugural Bwgcolman Youth Festival in September.

The event will include two jam-packed days of music, dance, art, sport and cultural activities to celebrate what it means to be a young person living on Palm Island.

Live performances, yarning circles, a youth market, short-film making, music video production and a youth parliament panel to discuss issues that are important to young people are all part of the plan along with local and visiting musicians, entrepreneurs, leaders, sporting professionals and entertainers – all over just two days.

Young people will have the opportunity to learn new skills in small group workshops that will run before, during and after the Festival.

The Palm Island Youth Council will be inviting politicians, Government representatives, service providers and industry leaders to attend the event and listen to the opinions, thoughts and solutions that young people have for a better future.

This event will also mark the beginning of a longer-term Palm Island Youth Strategy, to ensure young people on Palm Island have a voice in planning and



making decisions about things that affect them.

The Bwgcolman Youth Festival is being run by the young people.

The event will have something for everyone, no matter what your interest, talent or skill!

You can be out on stage, on the sporting field, manning the stall or behind the scenes!

So for those young people interested in getting involved, come along to the **Launch Day at 4pm Wednesday 24th June** and sign up to be a Crew Member for the Youth Festival!

We will be setting up on the Top Field and there will be people there to have a yarn about the Festival.

There are nine different Festival Crews for you to choose from, and you might be interested in more than one!

- Music and Dance
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Sport and Rec
- Jobs and Futures
- Leadership
- Art and Culture
- Digital Production
- Props and Staging
- Media and Promotions

At the Launch Day, we will be adding some colour to our new van with the help of a graffiti artist.

There will also be a BBQ, music and entertainment, so come on down to the Launch Day and sign up to get involved with the Bwgcolman Youth Festival. For more information, contact Jayranni Ryan on 0497 884 051 or jryan@taihs.net.au

*Bwgcolman Youth Festival: Many Tribes. One People
3rd – 4th September 2015*

Changes to dental service

The Palm Island dental service at Joyce Palmer has new opening hours from this week for health care card holders.

The service for health care card holders will now be open Monday – Friday from 9:00am to 3:30pm.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service director of oral health Dr Rick Coward said other changes are also taking effect with the dental service.

“We now offer a fee-paying service for patients without a health care card,” he said.

“Patients can visit the dental service on a Monday or Friday morning and pay for the dental care provided.

“EFTPOS is the only payment the dental service can accept and no cash or credit cards can be used.”

The Palm Island dental service also offers emergency treatment and regular, ongoing care at both clinics on the island.

“Children will continue to be treated with the school dental service based at the Bwgcolman State School.” Dr Coward said.

Dentists at the Palm Island dental service are Dr Gareth Evershed and Dr Annie Do.

To make an appointment call
(07) 4752 5100.



*These pics
are thanks
to the
LGAQ*



Out & About @ the Indigenous Leader's Forum



Indigenous Leader's Forum brings powerful result

A new \$18 million power plant will be built on Palm after being given the go-ahead by the Palaszczuk Government.

Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt said the construction of a new power station would bring a welcome boost to Palm Island's businesses and community.

"We're expecting significant economic benefits to come through worker travel, accommodation and local spending," Mr Pitt said.

"I met with Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey at the Indigenous Leaders Forum last fortnight and agreed that doing nothing was not an option, so the Palaszczuk Government is stepping up to secure the island's power supply for the future.

"The new diesel station will be designed and built as 'renewable energy ready' to accommodate possible future innovations or investments, such as potentially constructing a solar farm nearby."

Minister for Energy and Water Supply Mark Bailey said the current power station was more than 30 years old and wouldn't meet the community's electricity needs into the future.

"Palm Island is a growing community and this new power station with a future option to add solar will secure a reliable power supply and underpin the local economy," Mr Bailey said.

"Ergon Energy considered a number of options for long-term electricity supply for the island including an option to run an undersea cable from the mainland.

"However this was ruled out due to the high capital cost, environmental concerns and changing technology."

Townsville MP Scott Stewart said the power station would take about 18 months to complete.

"Construction of the power station is expected to commence towards the end of this year," he said.

A tender for the new generators will be released in coming weeks.



2015 Strike Commemoration Day

2015's Strike Commemoration Day was all about remembering those seven stones down the front, who they represent and what they fought for, Milton Thaiday writes...



The strike of 1957 on Palm Island happened because the people did not want to be treated like animals and wanted to be paid a wage so they were treated like human beings.

The seven men took it upon themselves to fight for freedom

and for basic human rights, and because of this were branded as troublemakers.

Following the strike the seven men, their wives and children were rounded up like sheep.

With guns in their faces they were herded onto a boat and shipped off to Townsville to be

Torres Strait visit a first for Aaron

Former Radio Broadcaster Aaron Thaiday-Jantzen travelled to the Torres Straits last week, as part of his new role as Community Engagement and Enrolment Officer for St Teresa's College, Abergowrie.

He said the trip was part of strengthening the school's ties with families of students who attend the college.

Aaron also regularly travels back and forward to Palm Island and other communities, bringing teaching and boarding staff over to meet families as part of the College's cultural awareness pilot program.

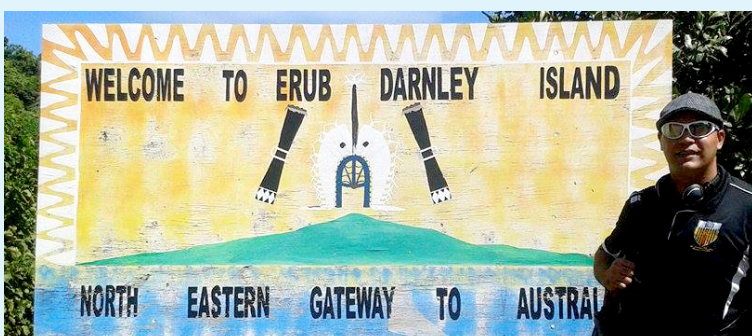
"The trip was also a very emotional homecoming when I went to Darnley Island," he said. "My grandfather Willie Thaiday was sent to Palm Island in 1933 under the Act, and never returned to his place of birth."

It was his first trip to the home of his Grandfather.

"I was blessed to be standing alongside family in front of traditional hut being made for the Coming of the light celebrations on the 1st of July," he said.

"I also went to Murray Island and Yorke Island. Visiting the Islands gave me a sense of pride I had never felt before."

Aaron will be travelling regularly and said he hopes to share his journey with the *Palm Island Voice* at every opportunity.





sent to other missions across the state.

During the 8-hour boat trip my grandfather Willie Thaiday was chained to the mast of the ship and made to stand for the whole journey.



Being the man he was, he decided to sing songs all the way into Townsville.

This was the sign of a true leader.



The celebration and remembrance of that day is very special for Palm Island.

The day was not only a family event, it was a community event which all members should celebrate, because if it wasn't for those seven people we would not have the free way of life we live now.

Strong messages came out of today.

Our elders asked our young people to come and listen to the stories we have to tell them to keep our culture, our traditions and our stories alive for the future.

We sat around the campfire and told our stories, from old to new.

This is something we would like to do next year and in years to come.

On behalf of the Council Cr Frank Conway spoke about the importance of the Strike Day celebrations.



The seven families affected did what they did for the whole community and for our people.

The day does not only belong to the striker's families, it belongs to the whole community of Palm Island.

The reconnection of our youth to our elders is very important because at the moment in this day in age we have lost a lot of respect for our elders for our community and for each other.

I think it is up to us to steer this idea of reconnecting our elders to the youth.

And the only way to do this is by sitting down and sharing our stories, listening to our elders, learning from them and passing it on – keeping it strong by sitting around the fire and listening to the voice of our elders, this is what needs to happen.

Story & Pics by Milton Thaiday



Out & About @ Palm Island Open Day



Above: Ann Walsh, aged 68, enjoyed the Open Day;

Left: With balloons were Rachel Prior, 10, Nancy Prior, 9, Zirona Prior, 7, Vivian Prior, 6, and Lottie Prior, 5;

Below: Sealink worker Kevin Barry has been 7 months on the job now;

Bottom left: Mayor Alf Lacey

with Shadow Tourism

Minister Jann Stuckey;

Bottom right: Sealink's Katie Roberts,

Mayor Alf Lacey and OIC of Palm

Police Dave Rutherford



Still waiting for stolen wages

Stolen Wages claimants may have to wait until early next year for payment of outstanding money, a meeting of 200 people in Townsville was told earlier this month.

The meeting was organised by the Queensland Council of Unions and held at St Theresa's Church in Garbutt.

Many in the audience were still owed Stolen Wages but were told of the pending establishment of a representative Indigenous Reparations Taskforce who would advise the State Government on how to distribute a \$21 million fund.

Meetings organised for several locations by the QCU were attended by QCU Field Officer Lara Watson, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) Executive Director Corporate and Client Services Matthew Skoien and claimant Thomas Sebasio.

Locations included Rockhampton, Mackay, Brisbane and Cairns, with meetings still to come in Mt Isa and Thursday Island.

QCU General Secretary Ron Monaghan said the meetings were a vital part of the long journey to wage justice for those who had their wages stolen.

"The theft of these workers' wages is an embarrassing blemish on Queensland's past," he said.

It was expected the Taskforce would be about 10-strong and be



formed more or less from the seven DATSIP regions across Queensland as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Shires.

Nominations have been called for people wanting to be on the Taskforce and will close on 20 June.

The Government will appoint the Taskforce by August and members will be expected to liaise with claimants for four months.

Questions were asked of the Mr Skoien with some not happy about having to wait so long for payment.

"I may be dead by then," Alice Barney-Niki said.



Palm Island Voice



**Public &
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
744 'likes' on
Facebook!!!

2015 Rates & Dates

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

182 Thursday 25 June / 2 July

183 Thursday 9 July / 16 July

184 Thursday 23 July / 30 July

185 Thursday 6 August / 13 August

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

193 Thursday 26 November / 3 December

194 Thursday 10 December / 17 December

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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.

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Subscription rates vary according to when the initial
subscription is taken out – eg if taken in January 2015 the
rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2015.

To book an ad or inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor,

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

PDF archives of the Palm Island Voice are available at <http://chowes.com.au>

Don't forget...

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER PUBLIC/COMMUNITY
MESSAGES ARE FREE** *(subject to space!)*

PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
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Ph: 07 47701177 – Fax: 07 47701 241
E: ceo@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Tuesday 9th June 2015

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL Wednesday 8th July 2015

In accordance with Section 450 of the Local Government Act 2009, Notice is hereby given today **Wednesday 24th June 2015** that the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Ordinary Meeting will be held:

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2015

**COMMENCING AT 10.00AM, PIASC BOARD ROOM
1 Main Street
PALM ISLAND QLD 4816**

This meeting is opened to the general public; if you are interested in attending and/or bringing concerns in writing to the table, please contact the office and put your name down, this must be done before close of business **Friday 18th June 2015**.

NB: Please be advised that if you are wishing to attend the Public Gallery, you must adhere to the following conditions:

- You may be asked to leave when an excludable matter is being dealt with.
- (Confidentiality Purposes) and
- You are not permitted to participate verbally.
- ❖ To discuss matters or concerns with the Council please register your name for an appointment for **Delegation Day**.

Kind Regards,

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

LETTER TO COUNCIL

**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
Main St, Palm Island 4816 Qld
Friday 15 May 2015**

1. Violence & Bullying
2. Late night parties/music
3. Swearing/spitting in community CBD
4. Public drunkenness & nuisances
5. Animal Control

Dear Mayor Lacey & Councillors - Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council,

I am writing a complaint about a number of very serious issues affecting our community and its members on Palm with a particular focus on our young people and our health and well being.

1. The issue of violence and bullying between our young people on Palm. Our young people learn from watching their adult community members - I have witnessed a number of fights on the island, mostly between young girls, it's an ugly scene, it's traumatic and it paints a very bad picture of Palm Island, not to say that victims are scared for life and left thinking that violence is the only way to solve problems.
2. Late night parties and loud music on all areas around Palm, if we are to become a town and move away from the mission days let us do it then in a healthy way. Parties are out of hand, fights erupt, children are involved, and parties go for days. People show no respect for themselves and have none for their fellow Palm Islanders.
3. Swearing, spitting and fighting in the CBD area of Palm - it's unhealthy, unhygienic and downright disgusting. What it

is doing for our community is nothing positive, but only labels us as backward and barbaric with no respect for ourselves or others. And some people are fixed on that this is all part and parcel of being on Palm Island.

4. People are intoxicated whether by alcohol or drugs should not be allowed to be loud and annoying to other people who are in the CDB doing their daily business.
5. Can we please help our horses and dogs in our community - we love our animals and we need help to care for them.

What I propose and I envisage in addressing these issues is:

1. Our council and community leaders take the lead in promoting a healthy lifestyle, with encouraging the community to SAY NO to violence in all forms; encourage people to get in and break up fights and not just stand back. Go to schools and talk about violence and bullying, and work out ways to have a healthy argument, and encourage parents/grandparents (all family members) to lead by example. Enforce laws with stricter penalties for law breakers, eg, leave the island for a certain period of time, earn the right to return and live on Palm.
2. Incorporate more police liaisons, and night patrol workers to enforce laws put forward by council/community to implement laws to stop parties getting out of control. Have a time limit for music to be controlled during the week as well as on the weekends.
3. More meetings with community members regarding this issue, place signs in the community to prohibit these actions, fines implemented - education around these issues.
4. As above.
5. Water and food troughs around the community - maybe some funding to provide food - donations from community people.

**Thank you for your time,
A concerned resident.
(Name & Address supplied)**



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following positions are currently open for application

2 x Family Support Hub – Support Workers

1 x Safe Haven Coordinator

1 x Safe Haven Support Worker

Applications close Friday 3rd July 2015

To be considered for this position, please submit to mmccann@picc.com.au:

1. A completed employment application form
2. Written response to the key selection criteria
(refer to selection criteria contained in the position description)
3. A copy of your resume

Please contact Mark McCann on **07 4421 4300**, or email mmccann@picc.com.au, for a copy of the Employment Application Form and Position Description/Selection Criteria.

Advice on the application process is available on request.

Boxers inspire with another medal tally

Boxers Joseph Nallajar, Leelan Sibley and Calvin Sam won gold medals at a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament held at Townsville's Centenary Hotel last Saturday night.



Nallajar beat Bryson Savage (Knuckles Club) in the 60kg division, Sibley defeated Tyrech Buchanan (Moranbah) in 51kg and Sam was too good for Harry Gregory (Bad Boys Townsville) in 65kg.

Five other Palm fighters – Brayden Nallajar (41kg), Tuqiri Prior (58kg), Thomas Baira (72kg), Frederick Ross (70kg) and Kathleen Haines (female 58kg) lost their bouts winning silver medals.

Three other Palm boxers could not be matched.

A big crowd watched the 23 bouts on the card run by

Townsville's Art of Strength Club under the guidance of Scooter Hooper.

"So many people came up to me and congratulated our boxers who are proving very good ambassadors for Palm Island," their trainer Ray Dennis told Voice.

Mayor Alf Lacey was at the tournament and said he enjoyed supporting the team.

The boxers came to Townsville on last Friday's ferry and returned to Palm on Sunday.

They stayed in two rooms at the Hotel Allen in North Ward.

Mr Dennis wanted to thanks

Sealink for providing half price tickets and Raymond Sibley who paid for the accommodation.

"Our next tournament is the Golden Gloves in Cairns on 26th and 27th June and we should have a big team there," Mr Dennis said.

After that Palm boxers will travel to Magnetic Island for another tournament.

Magnetic Island proved a happy hunting ground for our boxers on 16th May when they won five won gold medals on a card.

Barracudas can only improve with time - coach

PALM Island Barracudas will travel to Cairns North Queensland Rugby League Challenge on June 27 and 28.

Other sides will be Torres Strait Stingers, Bowen, Northern Cape and Southern Cape.

Cr Roy Prior, who gained his high level certificate at a QRL camp late last year, will coach the Barracudas, which finished second last year.

“All local coaches will submit a list of five players from each team,” he said.

“I’ve gotten to watch a few games so far.

“We are a little behind the eight ball in terms of player fitness and skill levels but we have some raw talent here that I believe can contribute to our representative team, not only now but long term as well.

“Without putting too much pressure on our coaching staff,

I’m not predicting too much at the Challenge cup but I will say that we will be competitive in our games.

“There will be some major changes with a lot of regular players standing aside and the new generation stepping up.

“We probably need to remind supporters that it’s going to take some time but stay loyal – if everything goes to plan then big things will come for our Palm Island Representative side.”

Cr Prior said over many years of coaching Palm Island teams he had brought through many juniors and given them more opportunities than any other coaches.

“One of the questions I was asked at the league by players

was whether they would get a run if picked,” he said.

“I told them if they were on the coach list then yes.”

After the carnival a Northern United representative side will be picked to take on Queensland Outback at Thursday Island on 25 July.

Last year Palm Island’s Lincoln Poynter Jnr made that team and shone when United defeated Outback 30–24 at TI’s Ken Brown Memorial Oval.

A large number of Palm Island residents will be in Cairns to watch the rugby league and the Golden Gloves Boxing tournament on the same weekend.

The pride of Palm Island sport will be on show at both.



Island Life

These boys and their horses were making the most of all the sun and the sand had to offer during the Palm Island Open Day last month.





AFL trip a success

Late last month 15 students from Bwgcolman Community School played hard and improved fast in the annual Magnetic Island AFL carnival.



Students were very excited and up early on game day, ready to go.

The team played in the Under 12 age category against club teams from Magnetic Island and Townsville.

Our team was made up of 11 girls and 4 boys from grade 4–6. It was tough going against teams who train and play in competitions every weekend but we held our own and demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship throughout the entire carnival.

The team also got to go bush walking, swimming, watched a movie and played a few other games and had a great time.

We returned home to Palm on Sunday exhausted!

Big thanks must go to Mr Chris for organising this trip and Miss Stacey and Miss Amy who gave up their weekend to coach and travel away with the team.