

Palm Island Voice

Issue 188 24 September 2015



FREE

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



More Youth Festival pics inside!



'J-Crew': at back is Jesslyn Johnson, 15, Maria Johnson, 12, Aaliyah Johnson Conway, 12; in front is Tisha Johnson Palmer, 9, and Victoria Johnson Fraser, 10.

Water restrictions put in place by Council

Water restrictions including a total ban on the use of unattended hoses and sprinklers, have been put in place on Palm Island as of last Sunday.

The Island's dams have reached just 90 days of supply.

Cr Lacey has asked that visitors to the Island should respect the restrictions and limit their travel

to what was essential.

"Our dwindling water supply is a concern but provided these restrictions are observed, the community will be able to deal effectively with

this situation," he said.

Cr Lacey thanked the community for their cooperation and said the restrictions would remain in place until further notice.

Also inside: stolen wages news, Obe Geia, more footy final pics and tons of boxing news!

Palm Island Youth Festival & Spring Fair, September 2015



More pics, thanks to Alf Wilson, on pages 4 & 5...and still more next Issue!



Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce on the job

The newly formed Stolen Wages Taskforce has called for submissions on how the remaining \$21 million should be distributed.

Members of the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce are:



Commissioner Mick Gooda (Chair)
Ms Pauline Ah Wang of Thursday Island
Mr John Anderson of Brisbane
Ms Gail Barry of Townsville (*pictured right*)
Ms Rosaline Bourne of Mackay
Mr Morris Cloudy of Townsville
Ms Pamela Hegarty of Rockhampton
Mr Raymond Sambo of Cairns
Mr Marshall Saunders of Brisbane
Ms Vivienne Schwartz of Rockhampton
Mr Thomas Sebasio of Brisbane
Ms Viola Sheridan of Brisbane

The Taskforce has asked for feedback from the community on:

- who should be eligible for payments
- how the payments should be allocated
- the best method for claims to be assessed

They said various community consultations would be held around the state, or the community was also invited to write a submission by the end of October to be lodged with the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce.

Local Taskforce member Gail Barry said it was a privilege and an honour to be asked to represent the region, along with Morris Cloudy.

“I will work collaboratively with Taskforce members and

applicants to expedite stolen wages payments,” she said.

Queensland Council of Unions Townsville Branch President Les Moffitt praised the Palaszczuk Government for fulfilling their election commitment.

“It’s important that representatives of those communities most affected have the opportunity to meet and together plan the best way forward,” he said. “There are more than 3,000 estimated claimants who were knocked back under the past scheme because previous governments could not find their records.

“Now these people will be treated fairly with the respect they deserve for their hard work.”

The State Government

committed to resourcing the Taskforce in addition to the \$21 million it will pay out in reparations.

An initial taskforce meeting would be followed by various community consultations to gather information and input towards final recommendations for government in November 2015, with payments in late 2015.

Mr Moffitt commended all those who nominated for the Taskforce.

He said the QCU would monitor the progress of Taskforce objectives and continue to consult with the indigenous community on the Stolen Wages.

Submission details and contact numbers are on page 8...



Palm Island Youth Festival & Spring Fair, September 2015





Boxer ready to 'go all the way'

Pocket-sized powerhouse Deanne Sibley, 19, won the hearts of the crowd but lost a split decision at the amateur boxing State finals in Brisbane earlier this month.

Deanne stunned her more experienced opponent, knocking her to the canvas in the first round.

But the referee signalled it as a slip, and despite some stunning boxing, the nineteen year old from Rasmussen lost two to one on a split decision, meaning she brought the silver state medal back to Townsville.

Sibley's explosive style turned the Brisbane crowd away from local competitor Schinead Johnston.

They began roaring for the north Queenslander, willing her on as she tired in rounds three and four.

Her performance was so impressive she has been invited to the national amateur finals on the Gold Coast in November.

Deanne was the people's champion, light fly weight boxer's coach Ramon Ey said.

"I thought she'd done enough to win," he said.

"Her opponent burst out of her corner, but once she felt Deanne's power she froze.

"Before the fight other trainers were doubting Dee, saying the other girl was experienced and boxed well.

"By the end of the first round everyone had jumped boat, shouting 'Go Deanne'.

"The split decision shows how close the fight was."

The former army boxer is backing his young protégée to have an Olympic future.

"The power and speed she's got, it's phenomenal," he said.

"She's one of the best female athletes I've seen.

"There's plenty of talent around.



"But it's not often you'll find such a committed and dedicated athlete."

Sibley, a former Shalom College student who now works as a sports assistant at the school, has dedicated her life to boxing, and is a role model to younger family members.

"I don't drink because of the violence," she said.

"I don't smoke because I've lost too many family members to cancer."

The fourth of seven siblings, Sibley has begun training her sister Anne-Marie (10) and nephew Brian (6).

"I am feeling very determined to train hard in the next 8-10 weeks at Shalom, where I train with a couple of boys," she said.

"I want to be able to gain a lot of experience while I am young and fit.

"I believe in myself and I know I can go all the way."



FOUR Palm island boxers won gold medals at the Sunstate Amateur League's State Titles in Mackay on Saturday (19th).

Leelan Sibley (51kg), Joseph Nallajar (63.5kg), Darryl Richardson (71kg) and Natalie David (female 67kg) took out gold. Young Brayden Nallajar won a

bronze in the 41kg division.

Thanks to sponsors Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill, Raymond Sibley and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, their

next tournament will be on Magnetic Island in three weeks. Pic above thanks to Angel Hooper.

FULL STORY NEXT ISSUE!

MEANWHILE it's been a busy couple of weeks for the Palm Island Boxing Club with boxers taking part in a number of prestigious tournaments Chris Evers Snr writes....

From the 26th of August until the 2nd of September Reggie Palm Island represented Australia at the Oceania Boxing Championships in Canberra.

Reggie fought well and won the bronze medal in the 52kg division, losing in the semi final to the eventual gold medallist from PNG.

The next week from the 4th until the 6th of September Reggie and Chris Evers competed in the QLD Championships, which also were the first Olympic selection event.

The boxers fought exceptionally well with both of them winning the gold medal, Reggie won the 52kg division and Chris won the U15 38kg division.



Reggie has now qualified on to the second round of Olympic selection which takes place in November.

Thanks to the Palm Island Council and the Palm Island Community Company for their support.

Palm Island Voice



Public & Community Notices



SUBMISSIONS TO THE STOLEN WAGES REPARATIONS TASKFORCE ARE OPEN NOW:

<http://www.qld.gov.au/atsi/having-your-say/stolen-wages-make-submission/index.html>

Written submissions can be lodged with the Taskforce anytime until Friday 30 October 2015.

Emailing the completed written submission to: reparations@atsip.qld.gov.au

Or posting your written submission to:
Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce
PO Box 15397

City East, Brisbane QLD 4002

Written submissions are open until Friday 30 October 2015.

STOLEN WAGES HELPLINE: 1800 619 505

(Free if calling from a landline, charges apply if calling from a mobile)

Alternative number: 07 3224 8464 (normal charges apply)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Queensland Government Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP)

<http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/programs-initiatives/reparations>

and/or

ANTAR 'Support the Stolen Wages Elders of Queensland' Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/qldstolenwages>

2015 Rates & Dates

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

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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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!

Footy Finals 2015

Pics by David Vaney



IT ALL
STARTS
HERE



Palm Island

(07) 4770 1793



PCYC
NETBALL

Sign your team UP

Sign Up \$50.00 per Team

\$1.00 per Player court fees.

Depending on the number of teams and Interest

The competition would run as below

Proposed Start Date: 30th September 2015

Game Day: Each Wednesday

Time: Depending on number of Teams. Either
5.30p & 6.30p

**SEE: Sgt BERNIE for Nomination
FORMS**



It All Starts Here

PCYC Palm Island
Main St, Palm Island
P: (07) 4770 1793 | W: pcyc.org.au | Club Manager: Bernard Mead



**Operating Hours for
Council are
Monday – Friday
8:00am – 5:00pm**

If you have any questions please contact
Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200



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

OBE GEIA CHALLENGE 2015



Pics by Alf Wilson

“Some people were cynical about a girls team but they proved they could match it with the boys,” teacher Lynette Kim Sing said (*from p 12...*).

Some of the visiting sides also included girls.

The Townsville school sides were St Joseph’s the Strand, Good Shepherd Catholic Community, Heatley, Kelso, Vincent State, Rasmussen, Cathedral, Marian and one from Magnetic island coached by former Palm teacher Jeremy Pullen.

Before the first game at

Barracudas Oval, elder Iris White welcomed guests to country.

In an exciting final between Townsville schools Marian defeated Kelso 20–4 in a high quality match.

There were a total of 31 games over five rounds of 10 minutes duration.

The carnival is a partnership between the Palm Island

Community and the Cowboys with support from Dreamtime Training, Evolution Mining, NRL, Sealink and Bun Lek Solutions.

Ignatius Park College students also travelled to the island to assist with refereeing and lending a hand running the day.

See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-11/girls-team-obe-geia-rugby-carnival-palm-island/6768990> for more.



OBE GEIA CHALLENGE 2015



Nine visiting primary school teams made the ferry trip across to the seventh annual Obe Geia Challenge junior rugby league competition earlier this month.



Two local boys teams and a girls' only team from Palm Island consisted of players from Bwgcolman State and St Michael's Catholic School.

Obe Geia Jnr told ABC radio the community loved their football.

"Footy holds the community together, even the girls love

playing it," he said.

"You see them walking around with footies everywhere. They just love it. They can't get enough of it."

Local teacher and girls coach Lynette Kim Sing said in past years girls had been included in the Bwgcolman and St Michael's boys teams, but

never on their own.

"But this time we had 15 girls wanting to play so they ended up having their own team," she said.

Lynette was delighted with the performance of the girls who won two of their five games.

Continued p 11...