

Palm Island Voice



Issue 195: 14 January 2016

FREE

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



This year is going to be huge! Happy 2016 Palm Island!

Councillors Frank Conway, Eddie Walsh, Mislam Sam, Roy Prior and myself as Mayor would like to wish our mob on Palm Island a prosperous 2016, Cr Alf Lacey writes.



We hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy Christmas.

2016 should be a good year for the community, especially if we are able to stay on our current course of progress and economic development for our town, while we celebrate and maintain our Peoples' culture and history.

There should never be one without the other and this Council has worked hard

to make sure that historic imbalance has been addressed as best as possible.

There will be ample opportunity for anyone who wants to be involved, some of the major projects we expect to happen this year include the water and sewage upgrade, a possible extension to the sea wall and hopefully a town square development.

Our local construction crew

has been on board already with the completion of 20 homes by the end of next month at the new subdivision.

Watch the notice boards and the *Palm Island Voice* for more on these opportunities as they arise.

Our hope for this year is we will all continue to see progress for all of our people on our beautiful Palm Island.

Happy New Year everyone!





There was something for everyone at this Christmas event hosted by the Bwgaman Land Trust and with thanks to Dreamtime Training and Dreamtime Operations.



Hopes new 'gateway' project will go ahead in 2016

A GATEWAY TO PALM ISLAND

Tourism is largely untapped on the Island.
A high-quality retail precinct will increase appeal and marketability.
Location at the base of the Island jetty and in the heart of the community makes it a true gateway for visitors.
The Palm Island Community Renewal Program will link all parts of the foreshore into a welcoming and attractive entrance statement.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

Cornerstone facilities should include:

- Dedicated retail precinct
- Extensive public open space and landscaping
- 1000m² "Express-style" supermarket
- 370m² of specialty shops
- Upper level to contain new Palm Island Aboriginal Council offices
- Linked to other key elements of the Palm Island Community Renewal Program

Bringing to the Island mainland shopping and service opportunities – both for day-to-day necessities and a range of specialised goods and services.

Bringing employment, increased community capacity and pride, as well as stemming the leakage of vital money from the Island and allowing it instead to circulate around the community.

Providing a catalyst for further development.

Will help propel Palm Island further away from its marginalised past and closer to the flourishing future it deserves.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
1 Main Street, Palm Island, QLD 4816
Phone: 07 4770 1177
Fax: 07 4770 1241
Email: reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

High unemployment rate means Palm Island is crying out for catalytic projects to create employment opportunities and increase the local skills base to improve future employment opportunities.

Employment opportunities will include:

- 30 construction staff
- 3 people providing accommodation and meals
- 3 people providing administration and management

Long-term jobs:

- 40 people in retail
- 10 people in service and support roles
- 10 people in cultural and tourism-related roles

Skills development:

- Cabinet-making
- Carpentry
- Concrete precast
- Electrical
- Landscaping
- Plumbing




SUPPORT WORKERS' CLAIMS FOR THEIR STOLEN WAGES

"I am angry. We should be able to get everything that's owing to us and our families."

Fred Edwards was born in 1939 in north-west Queensland and forced to work as soon as he was able. For the first 25 years of his working life his wages were held "in trust" for him by the government. He was never paid those wages in full but has now been offered just \$4,000 as 'reparations' for his labour.






RETURN THE STOLEN WAGES TO WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Sophie Mumming was born in the early 1890s and forced to work most of her short life for meagre, sometimes no wages. She applied for permission to marry from the Chief Protector in 1913 and died childless within a few years of her marriage. Because she died before May 2002 her family can't claim her earnings.



SUPPORT WAGE JUSTICE RETURN THE STOLEN WAGES

From the 1890s until the 1970s the wages and savings of Aboriginal workers were controlled by successive governments under compulsory labour contracts. In Queensland wages and other monies belonging to these workers were kept in government-held "trust" accounts. Since the 1980s these workers have waited in good faith for their wage claims, which records show could amount to as much as \$500m, to be settled but in May 2002 the Government offered just \$555.6m as a 'take it or leave it' deal. Support these workers in their fight for what they are really owed in missing, unpaid and underpaid wages. Support their claim for all their stolen wages.



Stolen wages payments available now

The Government's \$21 million stolen wages reparations scheme is now open to receiving applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders whose wages or savings were stolen by previous governments.

Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt made the announcement in December, saying it was important to right this historical wrong.

"No amount of money can repair the injustices of the past," Mr Pitt said.

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Unique event draws thousands

HUNDREDS of Palm Islanders attended the popular **Stable on the Strand Christmas festival** in Townsville in December.

Held at idyllic Strand Park from 18th to 22nd December, more than 50,000 men, women and children attended the annual event.

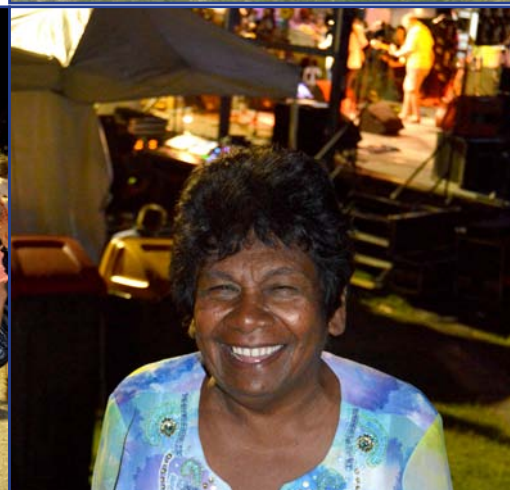
A similar **Stable on Palm Island**, to be held a few weeks earlier, had to be cancelled due to water shortages.

It took many long months of preparation and hundreds of volunteers to make the Townsville festival event a reality.

The **Stable on the Strand** is a unique Christmas celebration believed to be the only one of its type in Australia.

Palm Islander Evelyn Lymburner (Aunty Ev) welcomed guests to country on behalf of her Bindal and Wulgurukaba people.

There was plenty of live entertainment including TS dancers and Indigenous gospel singer Pat Morgan with many Palm family members.



Stolen wages reparations ready to roll

“Our Reparations Scheme is about acknowledging the historical injustices of the past for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders whose wages and savings were controlled under former government policies,” Mr Pitt said (*from previous page...*).



Mayor Alf Lacey in 2002–3 campaigning for a better stolen wages deal in Melbourne and Brisbane in the early 2000s

“In response to community feedback, elderly and seriously ill claimants will be prioritised to ensure their applications are processed swiftly.”

Mr Pitt thanked Chair of the Reparations Taskforce, Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda, and the Taskforce for their extensive consultation with all interested parties, community members and key stakeholders from every corner

of the state to bring a greater sense of closure to the issue of reparations.

Mr Pitt said new evidence meant people born between 1957–59 would now be eligible for full payment under the scheme.

“We have also taken on feedback to open the scheme up to claimants who were born between 1 January 1957 and 31 December 1959 as we now

have evidence that people of a younger age group were working under government controls,”

he said. “I urge anyone who thinks they may have a claim to submit their application for assessment.”

The Reparations Scheme will remain open for three years to ensure that all potential claimants have every opportunity to have their claims investigated thoroughly.

For more information about the Reparations Scheme – Stolen Wages and Savings and eligibility requirements, Free Call 1800 619 505 or visit www.qld.gov.au/reparations.

How it works:

Payments to previously successful claimants will occur in the coming weeks with ‘top up’ payments of:

- \$2,200 (if born before 1952); or
- \$1,100 (if born between 1 January 1952 and 31 December 1956)

Previously successful claimants will be posted an official letter in the mail to confirm their details.

If you are a newly eligible claimant, you will receive a total payment of:

- \$9,200 (if born before 1952); or
- \$4,600 (if born between 1 January 1952 and 31 December 1959).

It means, overall, each eligible claimant will receive the same total amount of reparation payments regardless of when they applied.

Congratulations Palm Island students - too deadly!!!

Palm Island students are 'Facebook famous' after being voted best video in Indigenous.gov.au's #ShareUrStoryComp

You can see the video at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYYAzKgSCaQ>



Palm players will shine in Super Cup match

TOWNSVILLE will host the 2016 Northern United versus Queensland Outback rugby league representative clash later this year, an event which will include Palm Island footballers.

Palm players will be eligible for Northern United selection for the 16th July match which will be a curtain raiser to the Blackhawks and Burleigh Bears Queensland Intrust Super Cup match.

For the past two years the game has been played at Thursday Island's Ken Brown Memorial Oval.

The Northern United side is picked after the Remote Area Rugby League FNQ Challenge at Cairns held in late June.

Last year Northern Cape won from Palm Island, Torres Stingers and Southern Cape.

Palm Island will again be part

of that competition along with Northern Cape, Southern Cape, Torres Stingers and an NPA side will also be invited to participate.

QRL Northern Division Manager Scott Nosworthy said the game may move venue again in 2017.

"In the end it was too expensive to go up to TI, but it will be back on the agenda the following year," he said.

It is understood that Palm Island is interested in hosting the match in the next few years with emphasis on the centenary of the island in 2018.

Mr Nosworthy said the FNQ

Challenge will be held on the 25th and 26th of June in Cairns.

The Northern United versus Outback game and FNQ Challenge were founded to give players in remote regions the opportunity to be talent scouted by southern clubs after the demise of the Foley Shield competition.

Outback team players, which included Indigenous and non-Indigenous, came from Charleville, Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Normanton, Stanthorpe, Blackall, Roma, Ilfracombe, Barcaldine, Doomadgee, Killarney and Longreach.

Palm Island Voice



**Public &
Community Notices**



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

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



Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 1,048
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

Don't forget!!!

The DEADLINE for the
next NEXT PALM ISLAND
VOICE (196) is

Thursday 21 January

FOR PUBLICATION ON

Thursday 28 January

See our Facebook page for a full
list of Rates & Dates for 2016

SOLAS
mental health & wellbeing

POSITION VACANT

**PART TIME LIFESTYLE
SUPPORT WORKER**

Are you interested in joining a dynamic, creative, exciting and innovative community mental health organisation?

SOLAS is committed to working with people to achieve a life of choice, purpose, meaning and citizenship. SOLAS understands, acknowledges and respects that the people who use services are best placed to determine their needs. We strive to promote opportunities for people to engage in activities that will enable them to choose meaningful and purposeful lives.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has demonstrated knowledge of Community Health programs and protocols.
- Displays a high level of communication skills
- Possesses or has the ability to obtain a Working with Children (Blue Card) and a Disability Services Positive Notice Card (Yellow Card) exemption.
- Experience and skills in operating a Windows platform.
- Relevant experience working in a mental health field
- Possess a current Queensland Drivers licence.
- Current First Aid and CPR Certificate or willingness to obtain same upon commencement.

**Applicants can contact Alison Davamoni in the first instance on (07) 4724 6800
Application close: Wednesday 20th January 2016**



**CATHY
FREEMAN
FOUNDATION**

JOIN THE CFF TEAM

HIPPY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

+

HIPPY TUTORS*

The Cathy Freeman Foundation helps Indigenous children experience their potential in school, and beyond.

Join the CFF Team and help us deliver programs support Age 4 & 5 Palm Island children and their parents in early-childhood development and school readiness.

**To request a position description or for more information contact
Boleen Gorringe on 07 4770 1555
or email boleen@cathyfreemanfoundation.org.au**

Applications close at 5pm on Mon 18 January

***HIPPY Tutor must have a child enrolled in the HIPPY Program**



KINDERGARTEN OPENING

WEDNESDAY 27TH JANUARY 2016 AT 9AM

ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

PHONE: 1300KINDERGARTEN

.....
*An education program available for all children who turn 4 years old before the 30th June 2016.
Starting at 9:00am and finishing at 2:00pm every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the school year.*
.....

Enrolment application forms are available from the school or

🌐 www.tsv.catholic.edu.au/kindergarten or

☎ **1300KINDERGARTEN or 4773 0959**



- To Truth By Love -