



Desalination plant will assure long-term water security - full story p 3!



March 2012 - Pic by Alf Wilson

Palm Island's 924 voters ready to have their say

PALM Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Alf Lacey will face four opponents on Saturday 19 March at the Queensland Local Government elections.

Also standing for the Mayor's position will be former Deputy Mayor Cr Raymond Sibley, former Mayor Delena Oui-Foster, and former Councillors Thomas Geia and Elizabeth Clay.

Meanwhile 15 candidates have nominated for four Councillor positions. In the running is Deniece Geia, Edward Walsh,

Magdalena Blackley, Archie Fraser, Valentine Nona, Frank Conway, Victor Daisy, Robert Castors, Lillian Lampton, Lex Wotton, Roy Prior, Mislam Sam, Andrea Kyle-Sailor, Lindsay Malone and Donovan Cannon.

All four current Councillors are standing for reelection.

Palm Island has more than

100 fewer voters than in the 2012 election when there were 1056 voters (504 males and 552 females).

According to the Australian Electoral Commission's Close of Roll Figures there are now 494 females and 430 males currently enrolled, making a total of just 924.

Rising star footy player Isaac Bulsey took up the number 3 jersey for the JMK Central Queensland Capras under 16 team played at Browne Park in Rockhampton against the Mackay Cutters last weekend.



The games was in preparation for their Cyril Connell and Mal Meninga seasons which start in two weeks time.

Isaac said he was proud to be a Capra and was looking forward to the season ahead.

“I will be looking forward to having heaps of supports from my families from back home

Palm Island,” he said.

“Especially from my parents Frederick and Krishna Bulsey, my siblings and also my Bulsey & Hughes family who I know will support me big in many ways.

“My families play a big role in my life and I will do it for them and for the community I’m from called PI.”

Kiann Walsh and Auntijah Johnson travelled to Sydney last month for the Wingara Mura – Bunga Barrabugu Summer Program at the University of Sydney.

The girls were involved in specialist programs in their area of interest, including education, social work, and the natural sciences.

The program gave them a great opportunity to see what options were open to them, should they try and get a place at university.

They came back enthusiastic to be involved in some of the follow up programs the University of Sydney has to offer.

Shalom Christian College is extremely proud of these young women who are taking positive steps towards the future that they want.

For more information see <http://sydney.edu.au/indigenous-summer-program/>



Port Douglas Officer-in-Charge Ian Day was recently recognised for 25 years of service to QAS with a National Medal presented by Assistant Commissioner Michelle Baxter.

Ian has worked at Tully, Cairns, Palm Island and Port Douglas and is described by colleagues as community-minded, dedicating his precious time to assist others in need.

Story and pic thanks to the QAS Facebook page...

Delsalination plant will be ready by June

Palm Island residents will have a safe and reliable water supply after the Government approved more than \$7 million for a temporary desalination plant and other emergency measures to supply water until February next year, ahead of the next wet season.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Jackie Trad said the action would ensure the continued health and wellbeing of the community's residents.

"My Department has been working closely with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council to find a solution to their water issues after a failed wet season," Ms Trad said.

"This temporary desalination plant will give this community peace of mind that their water will not run out."

Palm Island has enough water in its dams until mid-2016, depending on usage and rainfall.

The temporary desalination plant will be ready by June to supply the community for nine months.

Other measures to increase supply include improving the water quality and operational efficiency of the existing water treatment plant, and transferring water from storages into the main Palm Island dam.

"I also commend the people of Palm Island for taking on the water saving initiatives and successfully reducing their water consumption," Ms Trad said.

Member for Townsville, Scott Stewart welcomed the announcement.

"I have been in constant

contact with Mayor Alf Lacey to maintain the latest information about the water resources and their current consumption rates and forecast usage," he said.

"I visited Palm Island Tuesday last week and spent considerable time with the Chief Engineer on the Island inspecting the water resources, so I was able to advise the Deputy Premier first hand what the situation was and possible solutions that were being investigated."

The fixed infrastructure for the temporary desalination plant can also be re-used should there be a future water shortage.

Water shortage delays local footy comp

MEANWHILE the water shortage on Palm Island has delayed the start of the 2016 domestic rugby league competition.

Watering the local football oval is important for footballers.

A green oval ensures less injuries and better general health of the players.

Four clubs are vying to sign up star players, some of whom will also line up in the Townsville and District competition under a dual

registration rule.

In 2015 Jets won the grand final, beating arch rivals Skipjacks 38-34.

Palm Island Community Rugby League President Algon Walsh said football would again be popular in 2016.



At the 2015 Grand Final, Man of the Match Darryl Pearson with PICRL President Algon Walsh.

Pic thanks to David Vaney.

Oxfam campaigns for Close the Gap day

Health advocate Lynore Geia has published some of her story on an Oxfam website as part of a campaign by global organisation Oxfam for Close the Gap Day on Thursday 17 March.

Also featured in the video is Dr Raymond Blackman, John Rallings and several young people jumping off the Reel Women jetty.

Ms Geia said the biggest role non-Indigenous people could play was to listen and hear Indigenous peoples' stories.

"Health is crucial, not just our physical health but our whole holistic health," Dr Geia said.

"There's inter generational trauma we're still dealing with here.

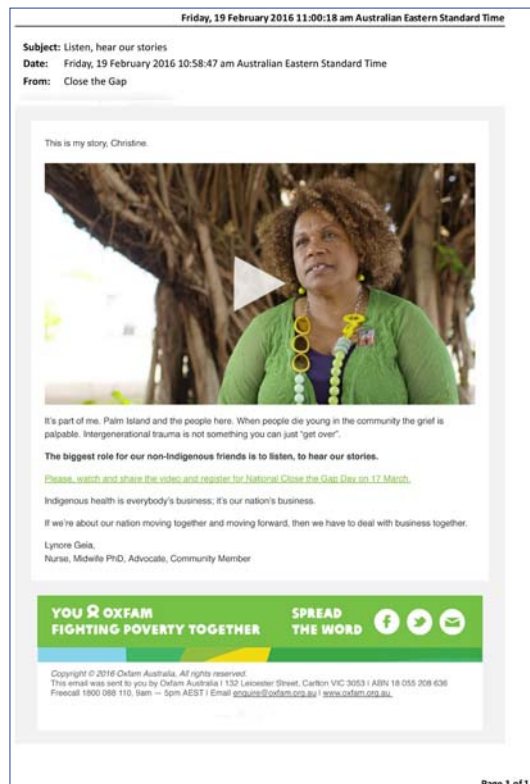
"The solution lies within the community."

Oxfam said in 2015 more than 150,000 people took part in 1596 separate National Close the Gap Day events across the country.

They said the aim was to bring people together, to share information – and most importantly – to take meaningful action in support of achieving Indigenous health equality by 2030.

They said events ranged from workplace morning teas, to sports days, school events and public events in hospitals and offices around the country.

The video can be seen at <https://www.oxfam.org.au/what-we-do/indigenous-australia/national-close-the-gap-day/>



A good display of boxing last Saturday night, Palm Island Boxing says...

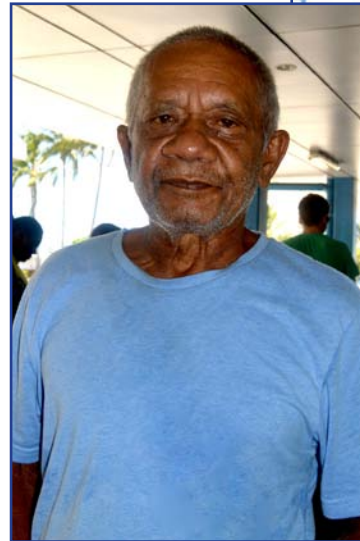
Craig won on points, beating an experienced opponent from Blackwater while Chris won on points by defeating one of the best junior boxers in the country from Bell's Boxing.

The bouts were held at the Aitkenvale PCYC.





Above: Caleb Geia with children Assiana, 3, and Sedonia, 2; Right: David Ryan, aged 72, whose dad George Ryan was one of the founders of Skipjacks Club in 1933



Above: David Bulsey



PALM Island PCYC Club boxers will compete at a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament in Townsville on 12th March.

It will be held at the Bohle Barn Hotel and organised by Scooter Hooper of the Art of Strength Club.

Hooper has been a big supporter of the Palm Club, having travelled to the island for the tournament last year.

"I think Patrick Clarke, his brother Sterling Aden and Brayden Nallajar will compete at Bohle, and maybe Natalie David (pictured)," trainer Ray Dennis said.

The club was also looking at having a few boxers on the cards at a Charters Towers tournament the week before.

A heat wave has made boxing training challenging but even so there have been good turn ups to the PCYC gym.

In other news quality female boxer Kathleen Haines has moved to the mainland.

"Kathleen may train over there with Scooter Hooper's club," Mr Dennis said.

BOXING NEWS



He said she would still fight under the Palm Island banner.

Palm Island Voice



**Public &
Community Notices**



Don't forget!!!

The **DEADLINE** for the
next **NEXT PALM ISLAND
VOICE (199!!!)** is
Thursday 3 March

**FOR PUBLICATION ON
Thursday 10 March**

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



**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 1,089
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

ADVERTISE!

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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.

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All from now to 30 June 2016

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.



*A Happy 1st Birthday to
Kyjuan from Mum and Dad
for the 26th February*

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Womens Centre Yarning Group

Monday Mornings: 10am – 2pm
& Wednesday Evenings: 5.30pm – 9.30pm
at the Womens Shelter.
Food is provided & Children are Welcome

Joyce Palmer Health Service Visiting Clinics (March 2016)

Most clinics require referrals from a doctor, appointment cards are sent to patients before clinics. However, some clinics will accept self-referrals. Walk in patients, including staff will be seen if possible.

If you need help or an appointment please see Patricia.

- Mobile women's Health nurse (Jan) Tuesday, 1st, 15th, 16th March – No referral needed
- Physiotherapy clinic Wednesday, 2nd, 16th March
- Men's and Women's business/Sexual Health NP (Penny) Wednesday, 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th March - No referral needed
- Rheumatology clinic, Tuesday 8th March
- Dietitian and podiatry clinic (no endocrinologist), Tues, 8th March
- Chronic renal disease, in dialysis unit, Tues, 8th March

Walk in clients will be seen in any clinic with spare appointments.

Community health clinics closed for Easter Break 25th-28th March 2016

Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme

For any enquiries on Reparations please contact the Reparations Unit – 1800 619 505

Coolburra Memorial Shield set for April kick off

This year Palm Island will host the much anticipated rugby league showdown between Skipjacks and Australian Army Thunder for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield in April.

A ferry will take visiting players, officials and Palm Islanders living on the mainland to the island for the match, which will commence at 11am on Thursday 14 April.

It is expected a huge crowd of locals will be at the local football oval to support the lads.

The stakes will be high as both sides have won four of the eight previous encounters.

The past few games have been held at the North Queensland Cowboys home ground 1300Smiles Stadium in Townsville.

Last year a much bigger and fitter Australian Army Thunder side beat Skipjacks 44–18.

It was a curtain raiser to the North Queensland Cowboys 28–24 NRL win over the Zealand Warriors.

Most of that Skipjacks side were aged under 25.

In 2014 former NRL players Milton Thaiday and Obe Geia jnr led Skipjacks to a 50–32 victory.

The previous year Army Thunder beat Skipjacks 32–28 in an exciting game on Palm Island.

In late 2012 the Army beat Skipjacks 32–14 played as a curtain raiser to the Test between Australia and New Zealand in Townsville.

Skipjacks won the 2011 clash held on Palm Island's football oval 46–30.

It was sweet revenge for Skipjacks which lost the 2010 game 22–16 to Army Thunder.

The 2008 and 2009 clashes were held at Brother's League's Club in Townsville and were won by Skipjacks in amazing similar circumstances.

Scores were deadlocked at 28–all in both when the final siren sounded but Skipjacks were awarded the victory because they scored first under game rules.

Before the game a memorial service will be held at the Palm island cemetery in honour of Mr Coolburra.

Out & About Out & About Out & About



*LEFT: (top to bottom): Deadly!;
Raymond Palmer; Lincoln Poynter snr;
Sylvia Robertson and Thomas Massey;
RIGHT (top to bottom): Keita Spencer
holding baby Shamiimah, aged four
months, with other family members;
Gina Starlight, Raoul Miller & Jacob
Baira; Soraya Clay and Delphine
Robertson; Virginia Kerr and baby
Robert James, aged 2*

Out & About Out & About Out & About