

Palm Island Voice

Issue 225
Thursday 6 April 2017
FREE



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

Palm extends hand of friendship to PNG PM



Palm Island Council was excited to welcome the Hon. Peter O'Neill CMG, MP Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea to Palm Island last weekend.

"It's the first time any sitting Prime Minister has visited our beautiful island," Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said.

"We are honoured and excited to host him, and very happy he has accepted our invitation to come over on his day off during a Townsville business trip.

"We trust he will enjoy the hospitality of our Shire during his time here in our lovely community."

His tour of the Island included a smoking ceremony and welcome dance, a tour of the Island's town centre and new housing subdivisions, and the Joyce Palmer Health Service.

**FULL STORY + MORE PICS
NEXT ISSUE**



PALM ISLAND

Welcomes To Our Beautiful Shire



The Honourable Peter O'Neill CMG, MP
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea



Hon. Davis Stephen, MP, Hon. Charles Abel, MP, Hon. Powes Parkop, LLB,LLM,MP,
Hon. Malakai Tabar, MP, Hon. Richard Maru, MP and Hon Tobias Kulang, MP

WE ARE WANTOK





Aunty Alma Assan's Mum and Dad were both from the Stolen Generations.

Her father, Arthur Braikenridge, was sent from Yarrabah to Palm Island when he was about 21.

Her mother, Florence Gordon, was sent from the Herberton area to Palm when she was about 16.

They met and married on Palm Island where eight of their ten children were born.

Aunty Alma's grandad, George Braikenridge Senior, came out to Australia from Mauritius Island in the late 1800's. He was a manservant for an Englishman.



He later settled in Mossman, where Aunty Alma's dad was born.

Arthur Braikenridge played in the 1928 Palm Island football team.

He's sitting beside one of the coaches in that 1928 football photo.

We believe he also played in the Palm Island Brass Band.

As a carpenter on Palm he helped to build the huts for leprosy patients on Fantome Island.

Grandad and Aunty Alma received their 'exemption' papers in the late 1940s.

When they left Palm they first lived in Halifax for a while before they shifted to Ingham.

In the late 1940's Aunty Alma and my Mum were the only black players in a women's basketball team in Ingham named 'Rovers'.

Grandma worked as a cook in the old Victoria Hotel in Ingham for many years and was the first black woman to own her house and land, which was situated behind the Church of England.

Aunty Alma's younger brother, Palm Island-born boxer George

Bracken, was featured on the front cover of the 'Black Diamonds' Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame which was published in 1996 and written by Colin and Paul Tatz.

Her younger sister Cecelia made her singing debut under the name of 'Cheryl Bracken' on Brian Henderson's TV music show 'Bandstand' in the early 1960's.

One of Aunty Alma's grandsons is a doctor at the Cairns Base Hospital and has been there for more than 10 years.

Her grand daughter has been in the police service in Cairns for more than 20 years.

One of her nephews David Sarago represented Australia in boxing during the Oceania Games in 1970s/80s.

The new housing area on Palm has named one of the streets 'Braikenridge' in honour of the Braikenridge family.

Words by Coralie Cassidy, pics by Christine Howes, taken at Aunty Alma's 88th birthday celebrations held in Cairns last month.

Father Mick farewelled by grateful congregation

St Michael's would like to thank all students, staff and community members who joined us in Mass late last month Wednesday as our official farewell for Father Mick Peters.



Father Mick has served the St Anne's Parish for over nine years as the parish priest, and in a variety of capacities.

We also wanted to recognise the role Mr Len Horner has played in his assistance of the St Anne Parish.

It was a very memorable occasion with a smoking ceremony led by Archie Fraser

and traditional welcome by the children of St Michael's.

The Mass included a blessing by the Choir and speakers from the Townsville Catholic Education Office, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, St Anne's Parish and St Michael's School, TCEO Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education.

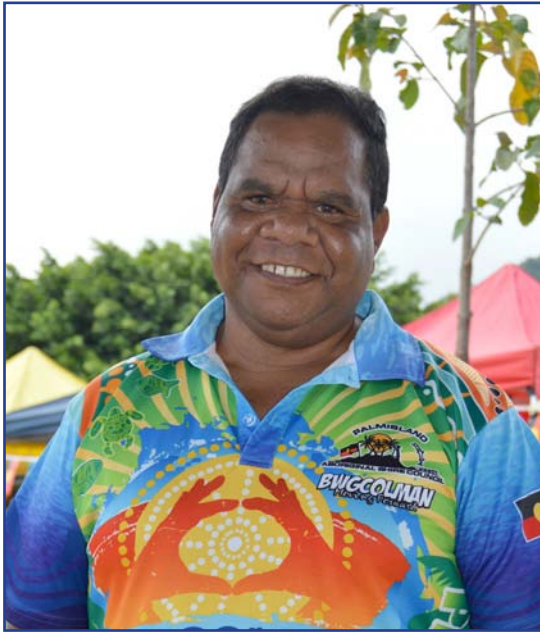


Everyone then joined in for a wonderful celebratory feast, lovingly prepared by the staff of St Michael's Catholic Primary School.

We would like to formally thank the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for their assistance along with St Anne's Parish and the Townsville Catholic Education Office.



CONGRATULATIONS to the 10 students selected to attend the World Science Fair in Brisbane last month!





IN TOWNSVILLE Above: Marlene Parkinson and Bevan Ketchup; Above Right: Myrita Baira

and Amos Hero, front, with children AJ (aged 2), Roe (1), Blake (3) and Kiera (2) and back row are Robert Palmer and John Watson in Townsville CBD

BELOW: The hardworking crew at the Coolgaree Bar & Bistro who presented the PNG Prime Minister and guests with a feast fit for royalty last Saturday. Pic thanks to Leah Dabea.

Out & About



ON PAGE 4: Absolome Walsh with Cr Eddie Walsh; Allan Palm Island and Ray Dennis; Victor Daisy ;Gary Recklies in smoking ceremony; Lex Wotton & Keith Bligh; Raynard Baira, left, and Thomas Ketchup; Russell Parker and son Cadel Parker, aged 9; and, Savane Castors & Yisahrae Walsh

Palm Island Voice



*Public &
Community Notices*



Don't forget!!!

The **DEADLINE** for the
NEXT
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(224) is

Thursday

13 April

FOR PUBLICATION

Thursday
20 April

*Don't forget to check out our
Facebook page!*

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.

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To book an ad, make a contribution or
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the Editor, Christine Howes, on
0419 656 277 or
palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au



**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 1,419
'likes' on
Facebook!!!



Palm Island residents are urged to take advantage of the Ergon Energy's free power cards to assist in their electricity costs. Eligible households can receive up to \$330 worth of free power cards.

Eligible householders could receive \$330 per year in free power cards through the Queensland Government Electricity Rebate.

To be eligible you must have your energy running through a power card meter and you must have 1 of the following cards:

- Pensioner Concession card
- Health Care Card*
- Queensland Seniors Card
- Veterans' Affairs Gold card

To apply, call Ergon Energy on 1800 850 451 (charges may apply if calling from a mobile phone) or find out more information about the Queensland Government Electricity Rebate.

Make sure you have your concession card number and your power meter number handy when applying.

Your power meter number is an 8-digit number on the bottom, or right-hand side, of your meter. Ergon Energy sends out power cards to approved applicants 4 times a year in January, April, July and October with a total amount of \$330. Only 1 person per household can receive the cards.

**Health Care Card holders are eligible from 1 January 2017. If you have a Health Care Card, you can contact Ergon Energy to apply to receive the concession after 1 April 2017, which will be back dated to 1 January 2017.*

PUBLIC NOTICE

BUTLER BAY 320m REVETMENT WALL

WORK COMMENCED 9TH MARCH - TO BE COMPLETED 30TH NOV 2017

Contruction of the wall is to protect the assets of the Airport, Butler Bay Road and the environment from tidal surge by cyclones.

THE WALL WILL BE APPROX 1M ABOVE BEACH LEVEL,
USING THE ROAD HEIGHT AT
TOP OF WALL EXTENTION APPROX 3M WIDE

CLEARING OF ALIGNMENT WALL,
SOME MANGROVE AND BALL TREE LIMBS
WILL BE TRIMMED NOT REMOVED AND THE BACK FILL
AREA WILL BE CLEARED OF RUBBISH.

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
1 MAIN STREET, PALM ISLAND Q 4816
PH: 47700200
ABN: 68 799 811 816



Boxing team partners with new TI club

Palm Island Boxing and the new Zenadth Kes Club has started a partnership which will benefit boxers here and on Thursday Island.

Founder of the new club is formerly Townsville-based Art of Strength Club boxer Ryan Shibasaki, who moved to TI in early January.

Shibasaki and TI youngster Hassan Binawel will be the first TI club boxers to enter the ring when they contest a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament in Cairns later this month.

Veteran Palm Island trainer Ray Dennis welcomed the new club.

"This is great news having a club on TI and I would love to take some of my boxers to the Torres Strait for a tournament they host," he said.

"Lots of my fighters have had TS descent including the Sam Brothers David, Costa and Assan."

For his part, Shibasaki said TI boxers would love to travel to Palm Island for any future tournaments here.

Shibasaki will be speaking to Mr Dennis at the coming Cairns tournament.

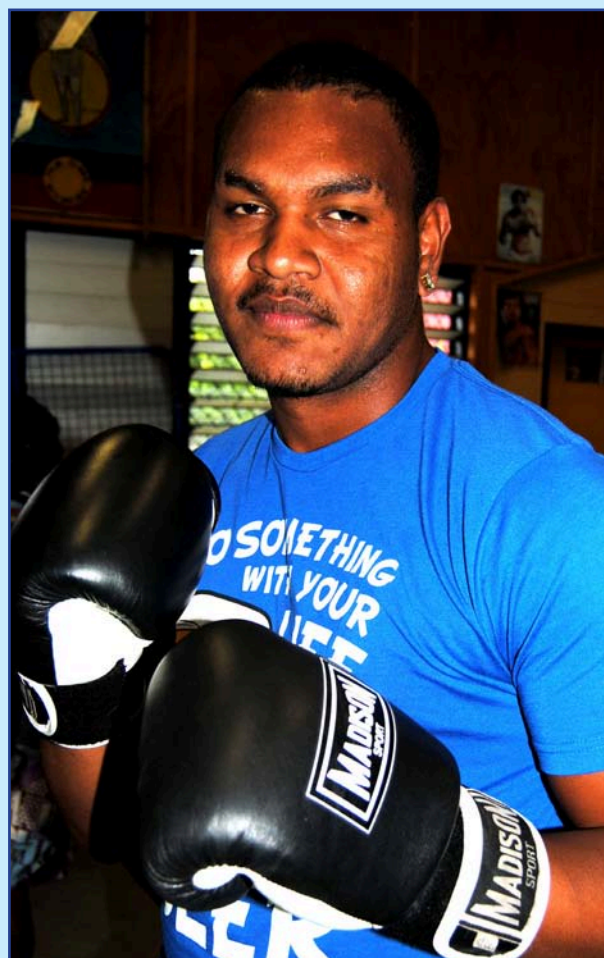
The link man in the partnership is Townsville Art of Strength Club founder Greg "Scooter" Hooper who is also the President of the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League.

"It is a pleasure to welcome Ryan and his new club on Thursday Island to our ranks," he said.

"Ryan will be an asset in assisting everyone of any age in doing some fitness training and also helping those who wish to fight.

"This is the great thing about amateur boxing is with the right trainer it doesn't exclude anyone from being able to participate and set their own goals, whether that is to actually get into the ring or just get fit and build ones self-esteem.

"Ryan will be great at this as he is skilled in several different sports."



Above: David Sam Below: Ryan Shibasaki and Scooter Hooper

