



# PALM ISLAND VOICE

Issue 232  
Thursday 13 July 2017

\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*



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

# HAPPY NAIDOC PALM ISLAND!!!

*See inside for more info!*

## Top international accolade for PIASC CEO

Palm Island CEO Ross Norman has been selected as 'Top CEO of the Year' for 2017 for outstanding leadership and commitment by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP), based in New York.

IAOTP is an international networking organisation who handpicks the world's finest, most prestigious top professionals from different industries who then have the opportunity to collaborate, share ideas, keynote and influence others in their respective fields.

Members is only by invitation of the IAOTP President or nomination by an existing member and a brief interview.

IAOTP President Stephanie Cirmi said Mr Norman has demonstrated success not only as an lawyer but as a leader in Local Government and Administration for more than three decades.

"Choosing Ross for the award was an easy decision for their panel to make," she said.

"He is brilliant, active in his community and has been successful throughout his career.

"He is an international leader in his field and he was exactly what we were looking for.



"We know we will be seeing more outstanding things from this man."

Mr Norman said he attributed his success to his longevity, diverse skill set and a motivation to always want to learn more and be better.

He also said he had been blessed, he loved doing what he was doing and felt this was just the beginning.

In the future Mr Norman said he would continue to serve his community and hoped to continue to make a difference in anyway he could.

# Strike posters tell media story

Over the past few years a team of Griffith University and community-based researchers have been gathering stories of First Nations people who have been involved, either directly or through family, in the Queensland land rights movement and broader political struggle.

The project, 'Our people, our pictures, our voices', partnered the Australian Research Council, Griffith University, Foundation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Action (FAIRA) and Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation.

The project has recorded some of the many stories of Queensland's First Nation's people struggle for justice including those of people from and connected to Palm Island.

Throughout the project a number of opportunities to deliver materials and resources back to individual families and communities have arisen.

These posters, on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the 1957 Palm Island Strike, have allowed us to make a contribution to the Palm Island community.

The posters offer a snapshot of 1957 report of First Nation's news.

Our best for the commemoration events, to the people of Palm Island and the many families and communities involved. Words and posters thanks to Kerrie Foxwell-Norton, Keara Forde, Susan Ford & Elizabeth Burrows, Griffith University Centre for Social & Cultural Research.

**NOTE:** The posters have been presented to President of the Queensland Council of Unions Townsville Branch, Les Moffit in recognition of the support from the Union movement during the Palm Island 57 Strike 60th commemoration.

## 1957 First Nations in the News

### The Palm Island Strike

Palm Island (or Punishment Island) was gazetted as a government settlement in 1914 with a clear purpose in mind. For the government, the isolated location made the island a perfect setting to confine 'problematic' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. More than 40 different tribes speaking more than 40 different languages were displaced to the island after the destruction of the Hull River Mission in Tully, and those deemed to be 'troublemakers' were also sent to the island.

For many decades, Palm Island was a place of exile and punishment for those who disobeyed strict government 'protection' Acts (each Act was State-controlled and in Queensland, the Act was called Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897 (Qld)). Once on the island, people were subjected to further violence and humiliation with floggings and imprisonments, and exile to a neighbouring island with only food and water to survive.

The 1950s was a particularly repressive time for the people of Palm Island as 1953 saw the appointment of ex-policeman Roy Bartlam as the island's Superintendent or 'Protector'. Many feared Bartlam for his despotic use of militant intimidation, punitive punishment, and brutality.

Bartlam made the people of Palm Island work 8 hour days, only to be paid \$1-\$2 per week (many were not paid at all), queue for small rations of basics such as flour, water, and offcuts of meat while the white workers received much more. Bartlam forced local residents to salute all whites that passed by, and if a Murri woman was caught intermingling with a Murri man, Bartlam would shave off the woman's hair and make her sweep the streets with a stick-broom. The people of Palm Island required a permit to go fishing or hunting. They were made to carry white tourists on their backs and shoulders across the water when the tide was high.

Historian Joanne Watson explains that if an order was not obeyed, locals could be sent to prison. Previous superintendents conducted morning parades with Indigenous workers having to answer a roll call; Bartlam enforced this to the utmost degree, sending those who were late for roll call to prison as punishment. Watson, and the families of the strikers reported that Bartlam would ring a bell to signify when to wake up, have lunch, eat dinner, and go to bed enforcing a 10pm curfew on the Palm Islanders. If people were caught laughing or outside after the 10pm curfew bell, they would be sent to jail for 7 days with no court hearing.

The people of Palm Island were treated as slaves and experienced their own apartheid and by June 1957, they could not tolerate this treatment anymore. They fought back against years of oppressive and militant conditions, racism and injustice, terrible wages and working conditions by organising and carrying out a community strike which culminated in seven men, and their families being deported off the island. These families and the strikers were displaced to government settlements such as Woorabinda and Cherbourg.

#### Gair Govt. accused over Palm Is. strike

BRISBANE: Startling allegations against the Government are emerging from what the dailies last month called a 'rebellion' of 1000 Palm Island Aborigines.

#### Seven Palm Island Natives in Custody

Seven handcuffed aborigines were brought ashore by police at Townsville on Thursday after having been transported by a R.A.A.F. crash launch from Palm Island.

30. a week

Handcuffs

Later this and the story of the aborigines, transported to Townsville watch-house. The fact of the case was that the aborigines which were sent to the island were not returned to the island.

The case sent two white men to the island. The white men, without charges, had spent their time in the island. The white men, without charges, had spent their time in the island.

The other policemen, with Superintendent V. L. A. Crank, were removed to the island. Crank, who was in the island, Crank, who was in the island, Crank, who was in the island.

The crash launch on Thursday brought back four other aborigines to be charged in connection with offences alleged to have been committed prior to this week's incident. They will appear at the Townsville court of Petty Sessions this morning.

Gair Govt. accused over Palm Is. Strike, Tribune July 24 1957

Seven Palm Island natives in custody Townsville Daily Bulletin, June 14 1957

#### NATIVES QUIET AT PALM ISLAND

All was quiet today at Palm Island off the North Queensland coast—a scene of Monday's native revolt. "Everything is back to normal," the Director of Native Affairs (Mr. C. O'Leary) said in Brisbane.

The residents are working just as if there had been no trouble at all.

The result began on Monday when a half-caste broke away from native police and sought the protection of other natives who threatened to strike and to prevent others from working if he was taken away.

Police from Townsville, 40 miles away, were rushed to the island by RAAF crash boat.

Standing by as precaution

The police were still standing by today as a precaution.

Mr. O'Leary said the arrested man was still in custody, charged with having threatened a native overseer.

Action against him would be decided in a few days, he said.

Palm Island has a native population of about 1,000. The people work mainly at farming and timber-getting.

Natives quiet at Palm Island, The Telegraph June 12 1957

#### Department Head To Visit Palm Is.

BRISBANE, June 11.—The Native Affairs director (Mr. C. O'Leary) is to visit Palm Island following Monday's disturbance on the island.

Mr. O'Leary said tonight that a departmental inquiry into the disturbance would be held as soon as possible.

He would visit the island, but did not know when.

Department head to visit Palm Is., Townsville Daily Bulletin, June 11 1957

#### NO VIOLENCE IN REPORTED PALMS RIOT

There had been no damage caused and no violence took place during the reported riot at Palm Island, said by Brisbane from the Aboriginal settlement on Thursday evening.

Sub-inspector Cooke was in charge of a party of police which went to Palm Island by high-speed R.A.A.F. crash launch early on Monday evening.

The superintendent of the settlement (Mr. H. E. Hart) said on Thursday morning that at about 8 p.m. there was a disturbance on the island, when one native was taken to the police station.

Mr. O'Leary said the arrested man was still in custody, charged with having threatened a native overseer.

Action against him would be decided in a few days, he said.

Palm Island has a native population of about 1,000. The people work mainly at farming and timber-getting.

No violence in reported palms riot, Townsville Daily Bulletin June 12 1957

25 Aborigines Removed From Palm Island

Twenty-five Palm Island aborigines left Townsville under police escort on the Brisbane mail train last night.

They were removed from the island, the police in a "dawn raid" last Thursday. One of the aborigines is under arrest.

Three of the families will go to the Cherbourg settlement and the remainder to Woorabinda, near Rockhampton.

A police spokesman said that the 25 aborigines had been kept in the Townsville watchhouse until their departure.

25 aborigines removed from Palm Island, Townsville Daily Bulletin, June 19 1957



LEFT: Fred Robertson, 8, with spear on the jetty



# Health checks a regular thing for Palm locals

Every Wednesday health workers from the Joyce Palmer Health Service visit the Palm Island Mall to conduct health checks.

Joyce Palmer Health Service Director of Nursing John Rallings said 'Wellness Wednesday' events were a chance to engage the community about their health, provide some simple tests and offer health promotion advice.

"Each week we try and mix up the theme so one week may be about heart disease, the next could be about diabetes risks or managing diabetes and we've done events on the importance of healthy lifestyle, nutrition and Dental Health," he said.

"We also offer blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks.

"Wellness Wednesday has been a great way for us to reach out to the community by coming to them, rather than relying on them coming to us."

He said it was also an



opportunity to be on the lookout for anything that may require further follow up at Joyce Palmer Health Service.

"We've been running these events most weeks for the past 12 months and the feedback has been really positive from our health workers and the

community," Mr Rallings said.

Recently the dental team and Mr Toothy were there handing out toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The Dental Clinic at Joyce Palmer is open Monday to Friday. **For advice and to make a booking, call in to JPHS and see the team.**

*RIGHT: Irene Watson, 69, AND Boxer Leelan Sibley, middle, and mates at the jetty entrance.*





# NAIDOC WEEK

FRI 14 - SAT 15 JULY 2017

10AM – 6PM (CLOCK TOWER AREA)

## RIDESnSLIDES



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



THIS EVENT IS DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE



THIS EVENT IS DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE

# BWGCOLMAN

MANY TRIBES. ONE MOB



OUR LANGUAGES MATTER



## 2017 NAIDOC WEEK Unity Gala Dinner

Friday, 14 July 2017

Freedom Park Beach Front Area,  
At 6pm – 12am (18+) limited 200pp!

\$30

TICKET INCLUDES  
2X FREE DRINKS ON ENTRY,  
FOLLOWED BY CASH BAR

NIGHT MENU  
TASTY & DELICIOUS LOCALLY  
COOKED  
KUP MURRI, SEAFOOD,  
CHICKEN DISHES, DAMPERS  
& DESSERTS

DRESS UP SMART CASUAL

MUST WEAR  
LONG PANTS, JEANS, DRESS, CLOSED IN SHOES,  
CASUAL DRESS SHIRT OR SKIRT  
**NO THONGS, NO SINGLETs,  
NO SHORT PANTS**

# Out & About @ Townsville NAIDOC





# Out & About @ Townsville Show!





# Palm Island Voice



Public &  
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!  
The DEADLINE for the  
NEXT  
PALM ISLAND VOICE  
(231) is

**Thursday  
20 July**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday  
27 July**

Check out our  
Facebook page!

## ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner  
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.

To book an ad, make a contribution or  
inquire about subscriptions please contact

the Editor, Christine Howes,

on 0419 656 277 or

[palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au](mailto: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 1,553  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!

At the time of printing NAIDOC plans  
were being drafted and organised by  
Council and their team. *Palm Island  
Voice* will have pics and the full story,  
but in the mean time keep an eye on  
the notice boards for details.

## NAIDOC WEEK

SAT 15 JULY 2017

6pm – 10pm

## MOVIE NIGHT

Screening Outdoors

At Fred Clay Park



POPCORN, DRINKS, SWEETS ON SALE

THIS EVENT IS DRUG &  
ALCOHOL FREE



THIS EVENT IS DRUG &  
ALCOHOL FREE

# Close call for boxing champ

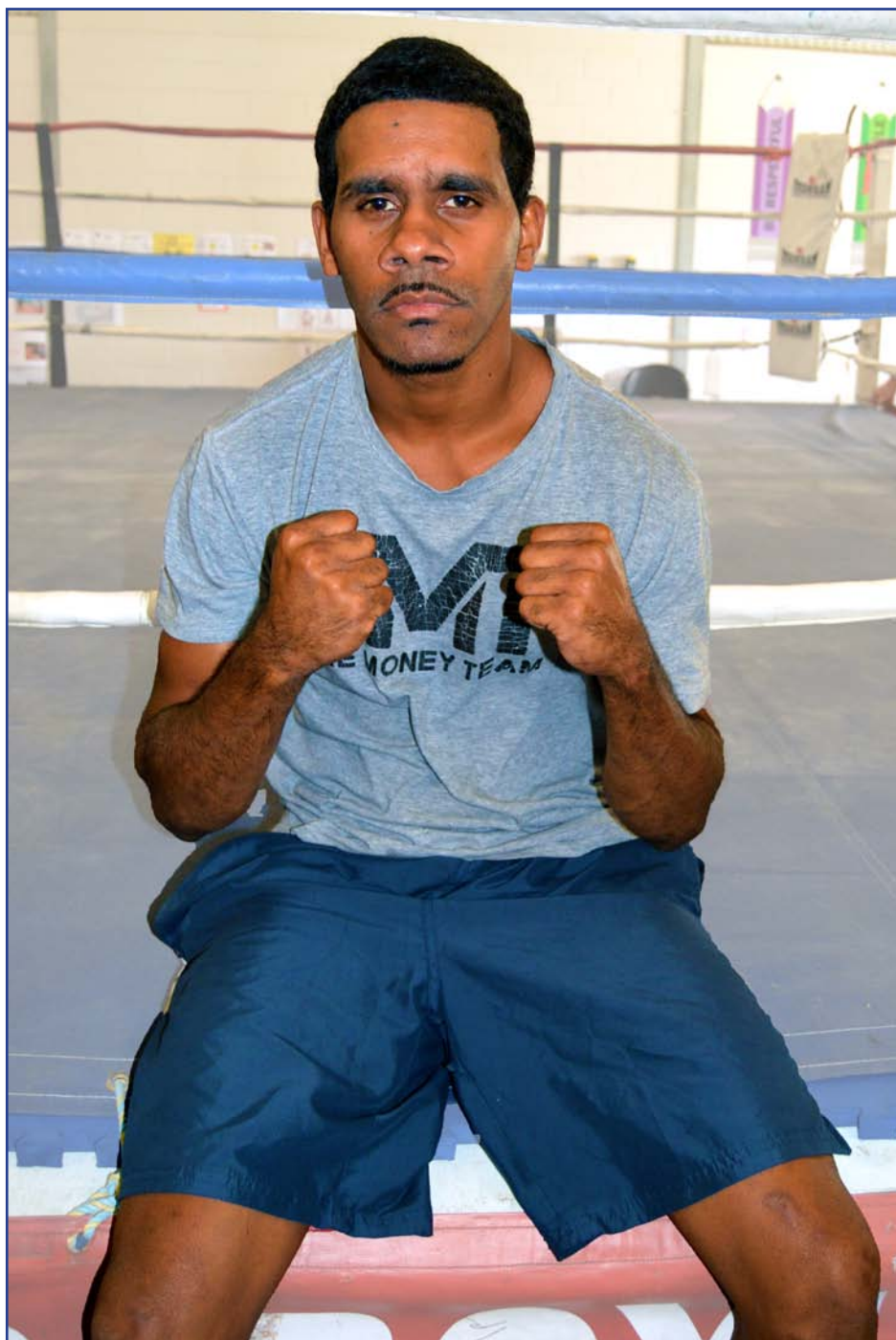
WHEN Palm Island's Patrick Clarke fought new world professional Welterweight boxing champion Jeff Horn some years ago Clarke's trainer Ray Dennis knew Horn was headed for stardom.






It was at the Boxing Amateur Association's Queensland Titles at Beenleigh six years ago and Clarke was a genuine rising star in the amateur ranks.

"Horn hammered Patrick in round one and in round two he looked at me from the ring, so I threw the towel in," Dennis said.

"I realised then Horn had the ability to go on and win a world professional title.

"I am in Caboolture at the moment and will ring Patrick back on Palm and tell him he fought a world champion."



PALM ISLAND Community Services Coordination Calendar				13	14
 <b>Our Languages Matter</b> 2-9 JULY 2017				 <b>PI NAIDOC WEEK</b>	<b>PI NAIDOC</b> <b>PI Public Holiday</b>
17  Youth Justice  OneSight	18 Magistrates Court ATSIWLSNQ Alliance Rehabilitation ICAN Youth Justice OneSight	19 Magistrate Hearings Youth Justice NQDVR JPHS—Pediatric Clinic Centacare OneSight	20  NQDVR  OneSight	21 CYMHS  OneSight Giving the gift of sight	
24  Youth Justice 	25 PIASC Land Trust Meetings ICAN Youth Justice JPHS—Cardiac & Echo Cardiography Clinic Alliance Rehabilitation QIFVLS IDLU DATSIP	26 PIASC Ordinary Meeting  Youth Justice Centacare JPHS—Physiotherapy Clinic  IDLU DATSIP	27 JPHS—Australian Hearing (Child Clinic)  Community Grant Writing Workshops  DATSIP	28 CYMHS 	
31  Youth Justice	NQDVR—North Qld Domestic Violence Resource Centre, JPHS—Joyce Palmer Health Service, TAIHS—Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service, ICAN—Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network, DATSIP—Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, ATSIWLSNQ—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Women's Legal Service North Queensland, CYMHS—Child Youth & Mental Health Service, PIASC—Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, IDLU—Indigenous Drivers Licensing Unit, QIFVLS—Qld Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service				



# Joiji plays magnificent game in Cairns

**BLOCKBUSTING** Barracudas forward Joiji Dabea was compared with Cronulla Sharks and NSW star Andrew Fifita when he scored a try at the Skytrans Remote Area Rugby League Far North Queensland Challenge in Cairns last month.

It was in game one against Torres Stingers which the Barracudas won 14-10.

With a full head of steam Joiji charged towards the line and barnstormed over four defenders.

The job still hadn't been done and Joiji spun his body around before placing the ball on the ground for a try.

Voice was right there to capture the action and the try had several people nearby describing it as a similar try to one scored by Fifita when Cronulla Sharks beat the Melbourne Storm 14-12 in the 2016 NRL grand final.

Fifita since went on to star for NSW in their 28-4 win over Queensland in State of Origin number one.

Joiji has been a magnificent servant for Palm Island rugby league and shone in Cairns.

