



The first sod of soil has been turned on a new building which will be the first stage of a three part retail precinct...See page 3 for more...



CDP to be in community hands

Palm Island's long-held aspirations to return our Community Development Program (CDP) to community-control will finally happen at the end of this financial year Mayor Alf Lacey says.

"CDP is coming back to the community, it is now up to the community to step up and take it on," Cr Lacey said.

"From 1 July 2019, the Palm Island Economic Development Corporation (PIEDC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Council, will provide a community-owned and controlled CDP service which focuses on local

economic development as a vehicle for job creation.

"PIEDC will deliver the CDP with an experienced Aboriginal CDP provider, Rainbow Gateway Ltd (RGL) as its partner, which will ensure job seekers participate in activities and gain experience that build work-readiness and contribute to the broader community.

"It will also be about fostering Indigenous businesses and assisting Bwngcolman and Traditional Owner communities to generate economic and social benefits for all of us.

"In short: this is an opportunity we, as a community, have been waiting for."

Continues next page...

CDP to be in community hands

From page 1...

PIASC CEO Ross Norman said Rainbow Gateway Ltd (RGL) was part of the Myuma Group of charitable social enterprises which are 100% owned and directed by the Indjalandji-Dhidhanu Traditional Owners of Camooweal in North West Queensland.

“RGL has successfully delivered CDP services in the West Isa/Alpururulam Region since July 2013 and in the Cloncurry Region since April 2017,” he said.

“RGL shares Council’s vision of a CDP service that is locally-owned and -driven, highly responsive to community needs and aspirations, and focused on increasing community self-sufficiency through economic independence.

“Although RGL is not a local organisation, its owners and directors have strong personal, familial and historical connections to the Palm Island Bwgcolman community and Manbarra Traditional Owners.

Strong connections

“The Myuma Group has also previously worked with Council, Coolgaree and the community in the context of Myuma’s Camooweal-based, Indigenous prevocational training programs, which have already assisted dozens of Palm Island jobseekers to

transition into resource and construction industry careers.

Excellent partnership

“These factors combine to make RGL an excellent supporting consortium partner to PIEDC.”

Mr Norman said Council established PIEDC in 2014 as a private subsidiary company whose objectives were to own and operate assets both on and off Palm Island, foster economic development, encourage business activity, and create long-term jobs for Palm Islanders.

Community accountability

“PIEDC’s profits will be transferred to a community-controlled charitable development trust,” he said.

“PIEDC’s Board comprises the Mayor, two Councillors, and three independent members.

“Council has resolved that PIEDC – being accountable to community but separate from Council itself – is the most suitable community-

owned vehicle for aligning CDP delivery with the community’s objectives.”

Long term vision

Cr Lacey said Council’s vision had always been that CDP should be locally-owned and community-driven.

“Community engagement in the program will be central to PIEDC/RGL’s approach,” he said.

He said over the next few months community consultation and engagement would occur and everyone was encouraged to be a part of those meetings.

Campbell Page

He also said he wanted to thank outgoing organisation Campbell Page and their staff.

“Campbell Page have delivered the CDP service here for a number of years now,” Cr Lacey said.

“Their services have been an important part of the community and the activities delivered have contributed to the community and the participants in many ways.”



First sods turned on first stage of retail precinct

The first sod of soil has been turned on a new building which will be the first stage of a three part retail precinct Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey says.

“This stage will include retail shops on the ground floor and office space above,” he said. “The first stage will be built between the current town mall and the primary health care district which will provide a link between the two.”

Cr Lacey said the building would be built by A Gabrielli Construction and was expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

“So fit out will occur in early 2020,” he said.

“If community members are interested in opening a shop or leasing office space they should respond to the expressions of interest currently available from Council reception.”

Deputy Mayor Roy Prior said stages two and three were still looking for investors.

“The second stage is proposed to include a supermarket on the ground floor and council offices above, while the third stage is proposed to include further retail and offices and a tourist information office/gallery space,” he said.

“The final two stages of the building require further investment of around \$30m.”

Cr Prior also said the colours depicted on the artist’s impression of the first stage building were not final.

“The proposal for the design theme for the building is ocean-themed during the day, and night sky themed at night,” he said.

“There are several areas on the building where artwork can be incorporated and local artists will be engaged to develop the arts works to be integrated.”

Cr Lacey said several children from each of the schools were chosen to be a part of the sod turning.

“This retail precinct is a part of their future,” he said. “This is a place where they might work or socialise as well as purchase goods and services not available on the Island right now.”

See page 6 for Industry Briefing details.



Talented plumber retires after 45 years of service

Talented singer George Friday, born and bred on Palm Island, was a plumber for the Council for 45 years before his retirement was celebrated late last month. Well done George, a fantastic achievement and a lifetime of dedication – enjoy your retirement!



CFF says Boleen will be missed!

2019 marks the fifth birthday of the Cathy Freeman Foundation's (CFF's) HIPPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters) Program on Palm Island.

CFF started running the early childhood program in 2014 with 11 families – since then more than 100 families have completed or are currently enrolled in the two-year program.

HIPPY is a home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program which works with the parents or carers of four- and five-year-old children.

It is an Australia-wide program run nationally by the Brotherhood of St Laurence, and funded by the Australian Government's Department of Social Services, which aims to improve school readiness.

A large part of the program's success on Palm Island has been due to the significant contribution



of the Program Coordinator Boleen Gorringer over the past four years.

Last year 16 families celebrated completing the two-year program, making an overall total of 62 Palm Island families who have graduated.

Boleen has played a critical role in the success of the program and CFF is sorry to see her leave this year.

The search is now on for a new HIPPY Program Coordinator to continue this success into the future.

For more information about the role contact Lekara Wallis on 4770 1555 or see page 6 for details on how to apply.

Ranger project offers new skills



Palm Islanders have shown strong interest in taking an active role in a Community Ranger project which could provide new opportunities for employment, self-direction and entrepreneurialism.

More than 50 people turned out to the opening of a workshop hosted by the Reef & Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) at the PCYC this week, where organisers showed some of the skills training Palm Island Community Rangers could learn including SCUBA use, welding and nautical rope skills.

Attendees were enthusiastic about the program's possible benefits and community-driven approach.

Local resident Moa Sam said he was particularly interested in Crown of Thorns starfish control.

"We love our reef, we rely on it, it would be our number-one priority to make sure that we could still keep our reef in good nick," Mr Sam said.

"We have seen them [Crown of Thorns Starfish] on the reef

here, we want to do something about them.

"From what we saw here today about this program, how it is set up, my only real question is 'where do we sign up?'"

RRRC managing director Sheriden Morris said under the pilot community elders would select between 20 and 30 candidates to undergo training as rangers and then direct the activities of ranger graduates, at least a third of which would be women.

"This is fundamentally a community-controlled program, it will be up to the people of Palm Island to decide how it proceeds," she said.

"We have demonstrated there's



multiple skills to learn in the program and those skills can be put to use in a lot of different activities that will generate economic opportunity, such as a Crown of Thorns Starfish control program and farming giant clams.

"What it's really about is the Palm Island community coming together to really drive the agenda themselves.

"We're very encouraged by how enthusiastic the response has been – clearly there is a strong desire on Palm Island for the opportunity to protect the environment and build up the community."



Palm Island Voice



*Public &
Community Notices*



The next DEADLINE for
the PALM ISLAND VOICE
(273) will be

**Thursday
18 April**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday
25 April**

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we have 2,438 likes!*

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or inquire about subscriptions please
contact the Editor, Christine Howes,
on 0419 656 277 or
chowes@westnet.com.au



Industry Briefings

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council will
hold briefings for:

**Expression of Interest
for retailers to operate in
the proposed Bwgcolman
Retail and Business
Precinct**

9.30am–10.30am

Monday 15 April

PIASC Council Chambers

OR

5.30pm–6.30pm

Monday 15 April

PIASC Council Chambers

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



Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 3,101 'likes' on
Facebook!!!

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



BOIL WATER ALERT



TAP WATER



BOIL WATER



DRINK WATER

RESIDENTS MUST BOIL ALL DRINKING WATER

For houses with Filters on your tap
You are to **BOIL** your Water too.

**YOU WILL BE ADVISED WHEN THE
WATER ALERT HAS BEEN LIFTED.**

KEEP BOILING YOUR WATER

THANKS FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.



**CATHY
FREEMAN
FOUNDATION**
EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES

JOIN THE TEAM

Programs Coordinator (HIPPY): full-time

The HIPPY Program supports Palm Island parents to be the first teachers for their children and helps children begin school ready.

Applicant requirements

- Qualification and/or experience in early childhood, education, childcare (or similar fields)
- Experience working with Indigenous families
- Demonstrated leadership of a team
- BlueCard (or eligible to obtain one)

This is an identified position and is only open for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander applicants.

Applications/questions

To receive a copy of the Job Description please contact
Lekara Wallis on 07 4770 1555

Applications close: Tuesday 30 April

All men welcome
FREE MEMBERSHIP

Bwgcolman MEN'S CLUB

OUR MAIN AIM IS TO BRING BACK
RESPECT, HEALTH, CULTURE & MATESHIP.



Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm
Where: Ferdy's Haven
Contact: Derek Baker.
Phone: (07) 4770-1965
E-mail: dbaker@taihs.net.au

This club is here for the benefit of all
men here on Palm Island young or old.
Our Motto is...
"EVERYONE HELPS"
"EVERYONE PROSPERS"



Ladies Yarning Circle
@ Ferdy's Haven
Every 2nd Monday night
6pm - 8pm

Come yarn
with service
providers and
women in our
community.



To find out
more
information
drop in or
call 4770 1745



Ferdy's Haven |
Lot 474 Coconut Grove, Palm Island
Find us on



TAIHS

Talent on show

Some exciting young boy and girl rugby league players are lining up for Palm Island under-7 and -11 teams at Townsville and District junior fixtures.

Former champion Josh Geia, who played for Mount Isa and Townsville in the Foley Shield and the North Queensland Marlins in his heyday, was at last week's fixtures checking out the future of the game.

"There is so much talent here and I am sure some of these players will go on and star in adult competitions," Josh said.

With so many local heroes to choose from and quality teams such as the Townsville Blackhawks and Cowboys to follow, our youngest players can set their sights high in rugby league.

Girls may also have a pathway with the formation this year of a TDRL ladies competition and talk of an NQ Cowgirls side in future years to



join the five-team NRL Women's League.

And you can bet your bottom dollar that they will be lining up for our own Barracudas or Barracudettes sides in any of the Allblacks' carnivals held every year.

The Palm Island Voice would particularly like to offer a shout out and big thanks to all the coaches and administrators of our future rugby league stars for their hard work in giving our youngsters the chance to see the sky is their only limit.

Boxers set for Townsville tournament

PALM Island boxers Darryl Richardson and Patrick Clarke have been "training the house down" at the local PCYC gym in preparation for a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament in Townsville on Saturday night.

Raymond Haines and possibly youngster Musa Prior will compete on the card hosted by Townsville Club Art of Strength at the Centenary Hotel.

Trainer Ray Dennis said Darryl and Patrick been sparring with each other at the Palm PCYC and were very impressive.

He said Darryl had improved in leaps and bounds in recent months and would win many bouts this year.

OLD FACES

Former star Palm Island boxer Selwyn Seaton, who now lives in Charters Towers, may also make a comeback on Saturday night, and he will fight under the Palm Island banner.

"Selwyn has been training himself at Charters Towers and is a tough man," Mr Dennis said.

"I have never seen him knocked off his feet in the ring and he has fought some quality opponents." If he can be matched Selwyn

will weigh in at 88kg.

Another ex Palm boxing sensation, Reggie Palm Island who lives in Rockhampton, may also be in the crowd according to Mr Dennis. "Rockhampton trainer Des Upton who has been a big supporter of Palm Island boxing in the past and he is bringing a team of boxers up," he said.

"Even though I don't think Reggie will fight, he might come with them."