



# Palm Island Voice

**FREE!**

## Issue 288

Thursday 7 November 2019

PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons within this publication.



*Pics thanks to LGAQ*

## Local Govt meeting big on recognition

The 123rd annual Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) was held in Cairns earlier this month, with 700 delegates from Brisbane to Boulia to TI plus observers and exhibitors, 85 motions carried and 97 Indigenous Councillors in attendance.

LGAQ chief executive Greg Hallam said the conference was the local government sector's showcase, allowing civic leaders to discuss and debate issues and policy affecting a sphere of government with more than 40,000 staff and managing \$155 billion of community assets.

*CONTINUES...*



*Above Left: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Shire Council Mayors, Councillors and CEOs at the LGAQ meeting in Cairns; Above Right: Mayor Alf Lacey was recognised for 19 years of service to local government.*



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“Local councils are key drivers of regional economies and efficient managers of community interests,” LGAQ Chief Executive Greg Hallam said.



PIASC Councillors Alf Lacey, Roy Prior, Deniece Geia, Eddie Walsh with acting-CEO Allison Rossetto and Yarrabah Councillor Nadine Cannon, Hopevale Councillor Selina Bowen and former Yarrabah CEO Janelle Menzies at the LGAQ Conference dinner.

“This conference is where the level of government closest to the community gets together in big numbers to talk about its future.

“In that respect it is one of the most important annual gatherings in the Queensland policy calendar.”

Torres Shire Mayor Cr Vonda Malone successfully moved, “that the LGAQ write to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) affirming the support of Queensland councils to the central tenets of the Uluru Statement From the Heart and conferring to ALGA the responsibility for ensuring effective representation of local government in the Federal Government’s response to the Statement.”

Ms Malone said it was an honour to put the motion forward.

“The motion was moved and presented by myself and seconded

by Cr Karen Williams Mayor of Redland City Council...[and was] further supported by Mayor Tony Wellington, Noosa Shire Council,” she said on Facebook.

“This was an historic occasion with Queensland Councils publicly declaring their support for constitutional recognition of First Nations People.”

The two-day meeting also recognised long service by two Indigenous Councillors – Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey (19 years) and Yarrabah Deputy Mayor Michael Sands (15 years).

“Alf has served nearly 20 years in local government, including three terms as mayor,” LGAQ President Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson said in his opening speech to the conference.

“[He] has been a great advocate for the Palm Island community and has ably represented his constituents and their needs to government and to our LGAQ.”

# Palm invited to help plan and develop Blue Card strategy

Palm Islanders have been invited to participate in developing an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Blue Card strategy and action plan.

Facilitated by Pricewaterhouse Coopers Indigenous Consulting (PIC), a focus group will be held on Palm Island on the Tuesday 19 November at the PCYC from 11.30am to 1.30pm.

Gresham Congoo – a Birri and Kalkadoon man and manager with PIC – said he was aware of community concerns about Blue Cards.

“The Department of Justice and Attorney-General has engaged PIC to lead the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Blue Card Strategy and Action Plan to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people engage with the Blue Card system,” Mr Congoo said. “PIC is seeking to conduct a focus group session with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to discuss improving the Blue Card system for

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people across Queensland.”

He said his own connections to Palm Island were strong.

“My family has strong connections with Palm Island as my grandfather Bill Congoo was one of Magnificent Seven who led the Strike 57 over working conditions and unpaid wages,” he said.

“Continuing my grandfather’s legacy, I am interested in the economic and social development of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples.”

“I completed my Graduate Diploma of Chartered Accounting (GradDipCA) to become the 30th qualified Indigenous accountant in

Australia.”

He said PIC was a national Indigenous consulting business specialising in providing advice and strategies to help realise commercial and community potential.

“We are an Indigenous business like no other.

“PIC is the result of a unique partnership between a group of Indigenous

Australians and PwC, one of the world’s largest professional services firms,” he said. “PIC is majority owned, led and staffed by Indigenous Australians and we have Supply Nation certification.

“PIC specialises in providing

advice and developing strategies to help realise the commercial and community potential of Indigenous policies, programs, projects, organisations and businesses.”



## COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT – BRAND NEW BUILDING ON MAIN ST, PALM ISLAND – FOR LEASE

There is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your business or service and set up in a new services and retail hub run by the Palm Island Council. Tenancies are available from 34 sqm - 300 sqm in size. The building is fully accessible, designed to be solar powered and includes common areas and private staff amenities.

DETAILS:

- Two storeys with lobby, amenities and lift
- Total floor area of 1,200 sqm
- Located on Main St across from the jetty, next to the Joyce Palmer Health Centre and Council Chambers
- Mixed development including retail, services and commercial offices

ITEM DESCRIPTION	LEASE RATE	SERVICES	SECURITY
Retail	\$230m <sup>2</sup>	\$25m <sup>2</sup>	3 Months' Rent
Retail Local Incentive	1-2 years \$161m <sup>2</sup> (30% discount) 3-5 years \$195m <sup>2</sup> (15% discount) 6+ years \$230m <sup>2</sup> (0% discount)	\$25m <sup>2</sup>	3 Months' Rent
Commercial/Office	\$280m <sup>2</sup>	\$25m <sup>2</sup>	3 Months' Rent
Commercial/Office Local Incentive	1-2 years \$196m <sup>2</sup> (30% discount) 3-5 years \$238m <sup>2</sup> (15% discount) 6+ years \$280m <sup>2</sup> (0% discount)	\$25m <sup>2</sup>	3 Months' rent

OPENING DATE: TBA early 2020

CONTACT DETAILS Applications or Expressions of Interest can be sent to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Acting CEO Allison Rossetto: [Allison.Rossetto@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:Allison.Rossetto@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)

BACKGROUND ARTWORK: Agnes Wotton & Jesse James



Preparation for road repairs to potholes around the community has begun after tenders for permanent works were called last month.



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

Make Life Matter

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## North Queensland Regional Plan

### Final days to have your say

A draft of the North Queensland Regional Plan is now available for your comment and feedback before **22 November 2019**.

Have your say on the draft North Queensland Regional Plan

Visit > [qld.gov.au/planNQ](http://qld.gov.au/planNQ)

Or write to:

Draft North Queensland Regional Plan  
Feedback Department of State Development,  
Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning  
PO Box 5666, Townsville QLD 4810



Authorised by the Queensland Government, William St, Brisbane.

### DO YOU WANT TO STAND FOR COUNCIL IN MARCH 2020

The next local government elections will be held on Saturday 28 March 2020.

To assist intending Councillors the Queensland Government has prepared a guide "So you want to be a councillor?" which can be found on-line.

<http://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/so-you-want-to-be-a-councillor.html>

Most importantly the guide provides some detail on recent changes to the local government act that will apply to the 2020 elections.

One of the most important of these is that if you make the decision to nominate for election as a councillor or mayor,

**IT IS MANDATORY** to undertake a free training course with the department **BEFORE** submitting your nomination.

## JCU Indigenous Summer Pre-program

for Australian Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander students

**SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER  
TO FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER 2019**

James Cook University, Townsville

The Summer Pre-program is open to any  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students  
who completed Year 12 QCE or HSC  
requirements in 2019 and are looking to gain  
entry into JCU.

APPLY NOW: [jcu.edu.au/ierc/summer-pre-program](http://jcu.edu.au/ierc/summer-pre-program)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 12th NOVEMBER 2019

For further information contact [ierc@jcu.edu.au](mailto:ierc@jcu.edu.au)



JAMES COOK  
UNIVERSITY  
AUSTRALIA

[jcu.edu.au](http://jcu.edu.au)

## Palm Island Junior League

Our new Committee Members after the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8 October are:

President: Germaine Bulsey

Treasurer: Marina Coutts

Secretary: Tanya Haines

## NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 289) THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER for PUBLICATION on THURSDAY 21 November

The **Palm Island Voice** is published fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor. You can follow us on Facebook! We have 2,532 'likes'! We accept paid advertising. For rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

**Operating Hours for Palm Island 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 3,407 'likes' on Facebook!!!

