

Staying safe priority for Palm Island - Mayor

Palm Island restrictions will ease but staying safe continues to be a priority, Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam says.

Mayor Sam said the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and Council's priority was to work as quickly as possible to ease restrictions while there are no cases in the Townsville local government area.

"Announcements will be made very soon about the changes I'm working hard to deliver," he said.

He said they were keen to make sure Palm Island was treated no differently to the rest of Queensland – but safety was first.

"We must stay safe, peaceful and healthy.

"We can't afford to lose people in our community who are vulnerable to this disease," he said.

"But while we are well away from any hotspots, we should be able to move while we can – but we have to do the right thing individually.

"While easing restrictions is important everyone of us must take responsibility for keeping ourselves, our families and others safe.

"This means regular hand washing and staying physically apart from each other.

"Being an Island, Palm Island has logistical considerations to work on, on top of everything else.

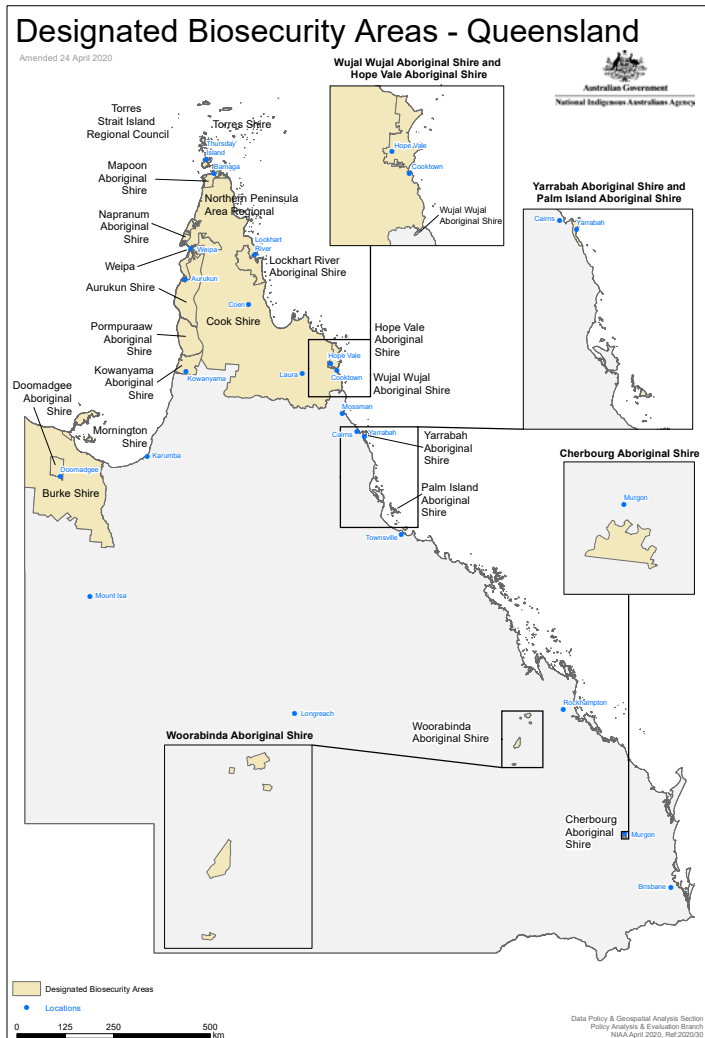
"Every day is a new round of meetings and things are changing very quickly, we ask that everyone be patient and keep an eye on notice boards and the Facebook pages.

"I intend to make sure residents can get some relief from the restrictions now – but everyone has to be responsible to keep vulnerable members safe."

He said if Covid-19 came to Palm Island, the community would be locked down immediately to protect residents and pandemic plans for isolation and quarantine, which are all ready in place and ready to go, would be enacted.



Mayor Mislam Sam



A word from... Cr Andrea (Andy) Kyle-Sailor

Firstly, I would like to thank all those community people who supported me and had faith in me to represent you, new Councillor Andrea Kyle-Sailor writes...

I will try my utmost to help.

When I stood for the Election, I wanted to make the community my priority, ensure transparency, increase local employment and restore the confidence of the community in the Council.

Every Council is always faced with an enormous task.

When my mum Erykah was Mayor she and her Council were tasked with the sad Death in Custody in 2004, followed by the uprising of the community as a consequence of the treatment of our lost one.

I want to walk in my mother's shoes, however, I cannot fit them.

We, the Council now are faced with an enormous task of the pandemic which is



ABOVE: Cr Andrea Kyle-Sailor (right) with her dearly Mum Erykah Kyle (RIP) who was the first Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor for Palm Island from 2004 to 2006.

causing frustrations, financial burden and the pain of missing loved ones.

This with the added burden of some financial and other matters we have inherited.

But we will soldier on.

I would like the community to know we are trying to be fair and honest to all, and thank you once again.

Ferry design inspired by local artwork



Sealink recently reached out to Palm Island artist Susan Pryor to create artwork that could be incorporated into the design of our new ferry that is due to arrive in July.

"And we are in love with her painting," they said on their Facebook page.

"It tells the story of the islands and food sources, with a guest appearance from the white whale, Migaloo, as he is a special visitor to their sea.

"Such a beautiful piece of art with such a strong connection for the Bwgcolman people of Palm Island.

"Stay tuned for a sneak peek of the new ferry design inspired by this beautiful artwork!"

Pregnancy/family app on track for Spring launch

We at the Palm Island Primary Health Care, Child and Maternal Health, are excited to give you an update on the progress of the Pregnancy on Palm (POP) mobile app, currently being designed for ladies and partners on Palm Island.

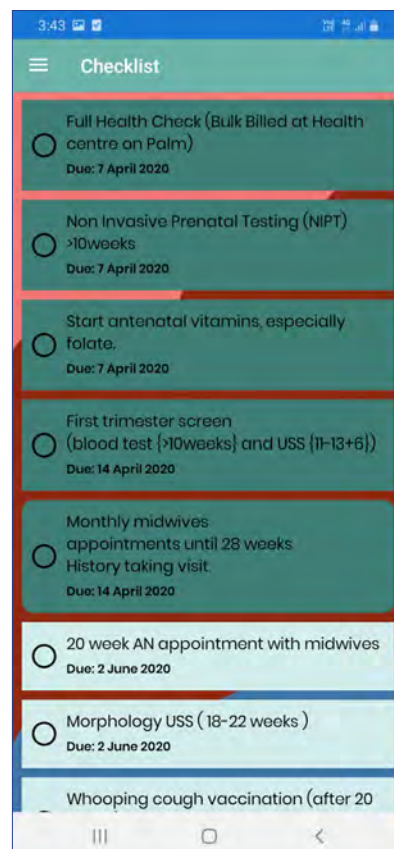
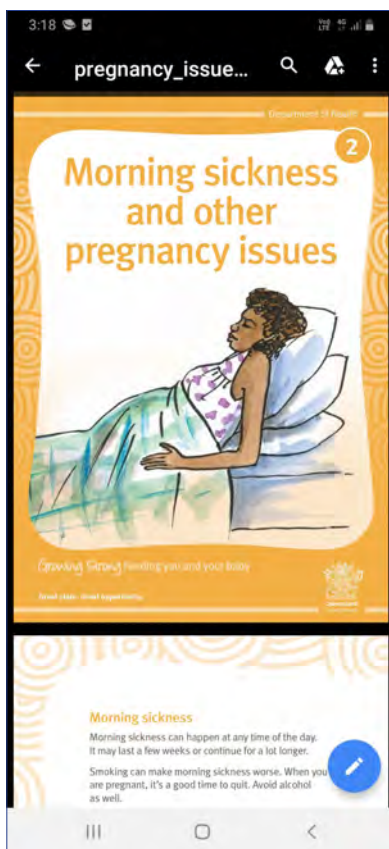
We are making a lot of progress on the design app which will be used by the ladies and their partners throughout their pregnancy.

We are now at the stage of looking and reviewing the prototype application, which has been downloaded for testing and feedback, so we have been consulting with ladies to get their opinions on the app progress and to see if they would have some changes made.

We have signed with Agnes Wotton to have her art work for beautification and to signify the cultural importance of the app to the families on Palm Island who will use it.

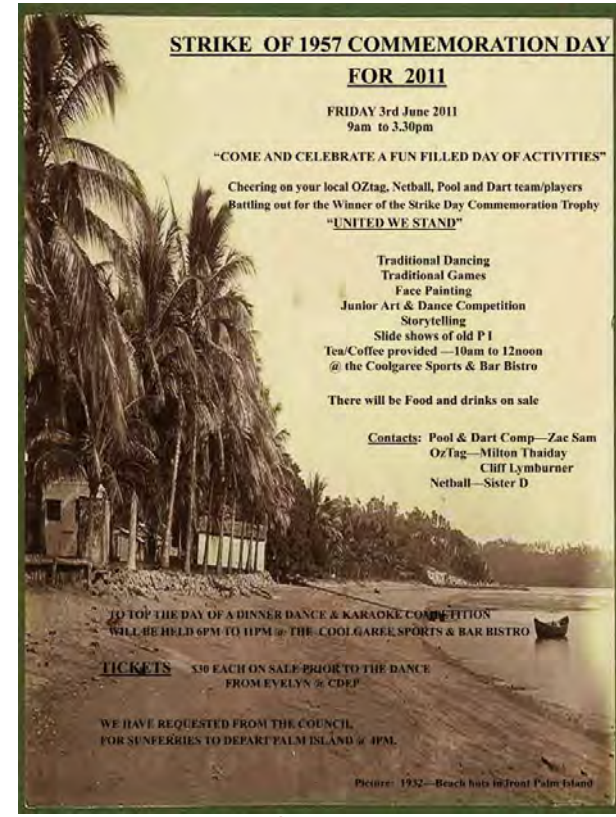
We have found some fantastic links to resources for our new parents to learn all they need to know about their pregnancy and having a newborn at home.

At this stage of the development we are hoping to have the app up and fully functional in couple of months.



While this year's 'Go for Broke' commemorations were put on hold due to Coronavirus, we thought we might take a look at some of the events which have marked the 1957 Strike in the *Palm Island Voice* from 2011 to the 60th anniversary in 2017.

Planning underway for huge day of Strike 57 celebrations



STRIKE OF 1957 COMMEMORATION DAY
FOR 2011
FRIDAY 3rd June 2011
9am to 3.30pm

"COME AND CELEBRATE A FUN FILLED DAY OF ACTIVITIES"

Cheering on your local OZtag, Netball, Pool and Dart team/players
Battling out for the Winner of the Strike Day Commemoration Trophy
"UNITED WE STAND"

Traditional Dancing
Traditional Games
Face Painting
Junior Art & Dance Competition
Storytelling
Slide shows of old P I
Tea/Coffee provided — 10am to 12noon
@ the Coolgaree Sports & Bar Bistro

There will be Food and drinks on sale

Contacts: Pool & Dart Comp—Zac Sam
OZtag—Milton Thaiday
CHIT Lymburner
Netball—Sister D

TICKETS \$30 EACH ON SALE PRIOR TO THE DANCE FROM EVELYN & CDEP

WE HAVE REQUESTED FROM THE COUNCIL FOR SUNFERRIES TO DEPART PALM ISLAND @ 4PM

Picture: 1952—Beach huts in front Palm Island

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Above & Below are from Issue 79 (19 May 2011)

A day of celebrations and activities to commemorate the 1957 Palm Island Strike is being organised by the grandchildren of Palm Island's strikers.

Friday 3 June has been declared a public holiday on the Island as a day to remember the Strike of 1957 when the people of Palm Island met in silence to fight for better wages and living conditions.

As a result of these meetings seven men were branded as leaders and troublemakers. While they may have all passed on now, the families of Willie Thaiday, Albert Geia, Eric Lymburner, Sonny Sibley, Bill Congoo, George Watson and Gordon Tapau, are working to ensure they will not be forgotten. These men and their families were rounded up by police in the early hours of the morning and forcibly removed from their homes and banished from the Island.

Most of them were never to return until decades later. Mrs Dulcie Isaro, daughter of the Late Willie Thaiday will be a special guest this year, and will be visiting the local schools to talk to students and teachers.

It is also hoped the last surviving widow, Mrs Alma Geia, will also be able to visit Palm Island for this special Day of Commemoration.

"We should all stop and remember that day back in 1957 when these seven men and Palm Island people stood up for their rights and said no more to the Government people who controlled their life," co-organiser Evelyn Lymburner said.

"This was the time when our parents and grandparents were living under "The Act"

living as slaves and living by the bell to wake up for work and down for sleep at night. "They had no say in what they can do or where they can go. "They could not meet in crowds, segregation and boundaries, children were separated from families and put into dormitories. "All were from different tribal backgrounds, and were taught and told to speak English and not their own traditional language. "We have this freedom now of choosing our own path in life. "To acknowledge this day every year is our way of healing and helping the reconciliation process between all races of people. "We are proud Bwgcolman people of Palm Island."

FULL PROGRAM

- 1. At the old oval opposite Council Chambers we have:**
9am to 10am (Formalities) - Traditional Owner Welcoming; Traditional Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander dancing; Mrs Dulcie Isaro speaking on behalf of the Strikers' families; Mayor Lacey and blessing of the day.
10am to 2pm - OZtag and Netball Matches and a Pool and Dart Competition playing for the Strike of 1957 Commemoration Trophy which will be used yearly for the competition and kept in the Council Chambers. Donated by Elizabeth Seibel CPA.
2pm - Finalist of the Junior Dance Competition performs
2.30pm - Presentations of Trophies for the winners of the OZtag, Netball, Pool and Dart Comp, Junior Art and Dance Competition.
3.30pm - Closing
FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE ON SALE - TRADITIONAL AND HAMBURGER STALL.
- 2. At the PCYC**
10am to 2pm - Netball matches battling it out for the Strike of 1957 Commemoration Day Trophy for 2011 donated by the Palm Island Council
- 3. At the Coolgaree Sports & Bar Bistro**
10am to 12noon - Showing of old slides of Palm Island.
10am to 12noon - Elders and community - Morning tea provided and Community Lunch provided @ 12.30pm.
12.30pm to 2pm - Pool and Dart Comp finals battling it out for the Strike of 1957 Commemoration Day Trophy for 2011, donated by Day & Day Shipping.
- 4. At the Mall:**
10am to 2pm - Children's activities (games and face painting etc) organised by Deniece Geia and the Red Cross
10am to 2pm - Junior Art display and Dance Competitions.

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PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons on these pages.



Palm Island Voice
Your Community Your Newsletter Your Voice
ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
Thursday 14 June 2012
Issue 106
\$1.25

57 strike inspires holiday celebrations

Strike of 57 celebrations on Palm Island are in memory of seven heroic men and is, at times, a very emotional event. As a mark of respect for the 'Magnificent Seven', the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council gazettes a day every year for the Island's own Strike 57 Commemoration holiday. For more pics and a full wrap up of the day see pages 4-7...

Above: Dulcie Isaro with Mayor Alf Lacey, Ernestine Lacey, aged 12 and Lisa-Shay Pryor, 12; Right: Erica Fulford Snr, Veronica Noble Snr, Irene Paula Watson Snr, Dulcie Isaro, Milton Thaiday



Palm Island Voice
Issue 206
Thursday 16 June 2016
FREE
ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

57 Strike Day 2012

"This strike story belongs to the whole Island, it is not just my family's story." Dulcie Isaro said. "The younger generation needs to know what happened."

As usual it was a pleasure to cook for our elders and community here on Palm, head chef Danielle Sinn said. "I found it very humbling being in company with some of the survivors of such a horrible time in their lives. Coming from a white upbringing, I had never even heard of the Strike or even dormitory days or Phantom Island. It saddens me, how those people were treated, and I hope we are on our way to bettering our relations with Indigenous Australia. But a wonderful day was had by all!"

Left: centrespread coverage from June 2012 - part of several pages of pics; Right: Planning underway for 2013 events.



Strike '57 planning underway

Every year the Palm Island community remembers their fallen heroes and leaders on the special anniversary of the 1957 strike, known as "Strike '57".

The day commemorates a time the whole community came together to fight for better wages and living conditions. Evelyn Lymburner, who is the daughter of striker Eric Lymburner, said. "This made the authorities angry and knew that they needed to do something to disband the gatherings before it got out of hand," she said. "Because of fear for their family and life, the community unwillingly gave in but seven men stood strong, holding their ground and not adhering to the authorities - they were 'going for broke'.

"The seven - Albie Geia, Willie Thaiday, Eric Lymburner, Sonny Sibley, Bill Congoo, George Watson and Gordon Tapau - were rounded up in an early hour dawn raid and forcibly removed from Palm Island on 14th June 1957, along with their wives and children. "They were taken in handcuffs onto a boat in rough seas to the mainland Townsville and sent to other missions such as Cherbourg.

Shire Council has arranged an officially declared public holiday for Palm Island. "No more in silence, the whole community comes together each year participating and remembering the achievements and success we have today because of the Strike of 1957."

STRIKE '57 COMMEMORATION DAY
Monday, 3rd June 2013
"A TIME TO REMEMBER AND BE PROUD"
Honouring our Past Leaders of this Community and the Seven Men who did not stand down 'Going for broke'.

Albie Geia
Willie Thaiday
Eric Lymburner
Sonny Sibley
Bill Congoo
George Watson
Gordon Tapau



Palm Island Voice
Issue 206
Thursday 16 June 2016
FREE
ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Irene Watson's grandson Scott Maloney, 6

We should all remember

Mixed emotions marked this year's Strike '57 Day for organiser Delphine Geia. "Mixed emotions - excitement, pride, sadness, grieving, victory, triumph, inspiration, beauty, scenic beauty in people as well, the beauty of meeting people of different backgrounds and coloured skin, coloured hair, shape, sizes, height, kids, old people and still knowing what the drill is because you believe in the same thing," she said.

"That's what this weekend was about." She said guests on the Friday included the wife of East Timorese Ambassador to Australia, Anna Guterres, in the true spirit of reaching out to people.

"What will keep us going is that spirit - and the spirit, from my point of view evolved, it's the way I can explain it as a Christian, is the spirit that drives you to look for the truth and to live by it," she said. "It was lovely to have Anna here, because we need to reach out to people. I could see that in Scott Stewart; the local Member for Townsville. I could see that in the union guys; they're not Christians I don't think, and people might wonder what do Christians have to do with, what do union guys have to do with old ladies. "But that's that beauty right there. "And when I see how this thing was evolved, it was really DIY. That's fine by me because you know you've got the genuine people there to help you and that's the only way you can build something solid that's going to last. "And I believe that's why the drive and the spirit has lasted from the Strike through Dulcie Isaro because she was an eye witness to now. Everybody else that was there might have been able to say: "Well, I wasn't involved in this Strike", but you don't apologise for yourself because you've come from somewhere else and you met up with this person to drive that even further wherever you're going to go, and I believe that's what's happening here, it's gathering momentum."

A strong theme of speakers for the day was that Strike Day was not just for the families of those involved, but for all Bwgcolman. FULL STORY INSIDE!!!

It is 60 years since the Strike of 57, during which Willie Thaiday, Albert Geia, Eric Lymburner, Sonny Sibley, Bill Congoo, George Watson and Gordon Tapau, all of whom have passed on, fought for justice, better conditions and rights for their people. The seven men were branded as troublemakers and were removed from Palm Island on June 14 of 1957.

As part of this year's commemorations, a special Indigenous Workers' Conference was held in Townsville last Friday. Speakers, facilitated by Jeff McMullen, included Federal Member for Herbert Cathy O'Toole, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and State Member for Townsville Scott Stewart. MC for the event was striker descendant Aaron Thaiday. Several respected elders, who are sons and daughters of the strikers, gave the audience first hand accounts of the hardship they faced living on Palm Island in 1957. They had to eat food with weevils and endure terrible living conditions, their money was withheld and subsequently stolen, and they had no rights to improve their conditions, borne out by first hand accounts of seeing weapons pointed at the strikers when they attempted to change things for the better. After the speeches, four panels

4 The Palm Island Voice is free & online at www.chowes.com.au/newsletters/palmisland

Indigenous Workers strikes a chord



Palm Island 1957 STRIKE
INDIGENOUS WORKERS CONFERENCE

of people discussed a wide range of issues. Members of the Congoo, Geia, Lymburner, Sibley, Tapau, Thaiday and Watson families, as a collective, organised a three-day 60th anniversary event on Palm Island this week, we'll have full coverage in our next edition of the *Palm Island Voice*.

ADS & COMMUNITY NOTICES

POSITION VACANT Human Resource Manager



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is looking for an experienced Human Resource Manager. The position, based on Palm Island, will be offered on an above Award contract

Candidates will have relevant work experience as a Human Resource Manager, preferably in remote areas and/or aboriginal communities. A degree in human resources management, industrial relations or other relevant field would be highly regarded.

The Human Resource Manager is responsible for the effective and efficient management and coordination of all human resource management activities and functions including;

- Providing advice, information and support to the Chief Executive Officer, senior management team, and staff regarding human resource management matters
- Working with management and staff to identify ways to improve and enhance job satisfaction, professional development and training, and workplace health and safety.
- Manage payroll, staff recruitment, on-boarding, retention and performance review programs in accordance with sound practices and in a consistent manner.

To be successful in this role you will have:

- Solid experience in a HR Management role, with experience in remote areas and/or aboriginal communities an advantage
- High level of knowledge and understanding of the Industrial Relations legislation and framework applicable to Queensland local government, including the ability to interpret and apply legislation, awards, and industrial agreements
- Knowledge of, and experience in, managing a broad range of HR issues including performance management, workforce planning, employee relations, recruitment, strategic HR planning and change management
- Highly developed interpersonal, organisational and written communication skills with the ability to deal with sensitive and confidential information;
- Strong ethical, analytical and problem-solving skills with the ability to think strategically;
- Knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Please contact Ron Fenner, Director Corporate Services, on 4770 0251 or Dennis McLeod on 47 700 248 if you would like to find out more about this role.

How to Apply:

If this role sounds of interest to you, please forward your resume, together with a cover letter explaining how you believe you meet the requirements of the position to Ronald.Fenner@Palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Application will close 5pm on Monday 15 June 2020



COMMUNITY NOTICE

FISHING ALLOWED

SAT 6 & SUN 7 JUNE 2020
AT 7AM – 5PM

APPLY NOW

MON 1 TO THUR 4 JUNE 2020
Applications close 4 June 2020 at 5pm

THE COUNCIL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, 5 JUNE 2020 DUE TO THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY BWGCOLMAN DAY.

MAKE SURE YOU COMPLETE AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION.

IMPORTANT

- LAUNCH: JETTY ONLY
- LANDING: JETTY ONLY

OFFICE CLOSURE

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

WILL BE CLOSED ON

FRIDAY, 5 JUNE 2020

DUE TO THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY FOR

BWGCOLMAN DAY

THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN AND RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS ON

MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2020

THANKS & REGARDS

ADVERTISING IN THE PALM ISLAND VOICE

Advertising in the *Palm Island Voice* is free for birthdays, anniversaries and other community celebrations, and notices from local organisations.

Paid advertising rates are as follows:

Quarter (A4) Page: \$300+GST
Half (A4) Page: \$400+GST
Full (A4) Page: \$500+GST
Happy to consider other sizes and requirements.

The *Palm Island Voice* is published every second Thursday, the deadline is every other Thursday - see the back page for details, including contact details for the Editor.

Your support is always appreciated, thank you.

Working for the community



Tahnee has the skills and confidence to connect Palm Island residents to the support they need.

For Tahnee Geia, working at selectability is more than a job - It is an opportunity to help the Palm Island community.

Tahnee has been employed by selectability as a support worker for more than three years. During this time, she has developed the skills and confidence to engage with other services on Palm and connect residents to the support they need.

"selectability has supported me with training to increase my knowledge of mental health and wellbeing services. I can now confidently work with my community and help people improve their wellbeing," said Tahnee.

selectability is the only service of its kind on Palm Island and works to reduce stigma and misunderstanding around disabilities and improve wellbeing across the community.

The service provides a welcoming and safe environment for people to connect, socialise and learn new skills.

If you are like Tahnee and passionate about improving the social and emotional wellbeing of your community and want to work for a service that offers a great hourly rate and on the job training ... apply today.

Now hiring support workers!

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED. GREAT HOURLY RATE.

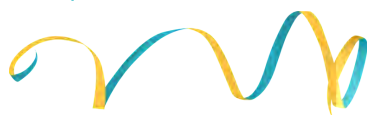
If you are passionate about your community and its residents and have:

- **the ability to qualify for a Blue Card**
- **your drivers' licence**
- **the ability to get your First Aid and CPR certificates (or already have them)**

we want you on our team!

Sound like you? Send your CV to regions@selectability.com.au or drop it into the office (49a Beach Road) - as soon as possible.

www.selectability.com.au
T: 4724 6800



selectability
mental wellbeing and suicide prevention

Remains put to rest

Close inspection by Manbarra Traditional Owners has revealed the human remains discovered under Beach Road roadworks showed physical evidence consistent with traditional ceremonial practices.

The Manbarra Elders Counsel has distributed a statement confirming the remains were estimated by police forensics to be more than 100 years old.

“Additional Police photographic advice of remains were viewed and in a later discussion were identified by Elder Walter Palm Island as a possible ‘bundle burial’,” the statement said. “A Manbarra Ceremony, (peacemaking/safe passage or smoking ceremony) to restore our elders remains to rightful place was held on Thursday May 28 last week.

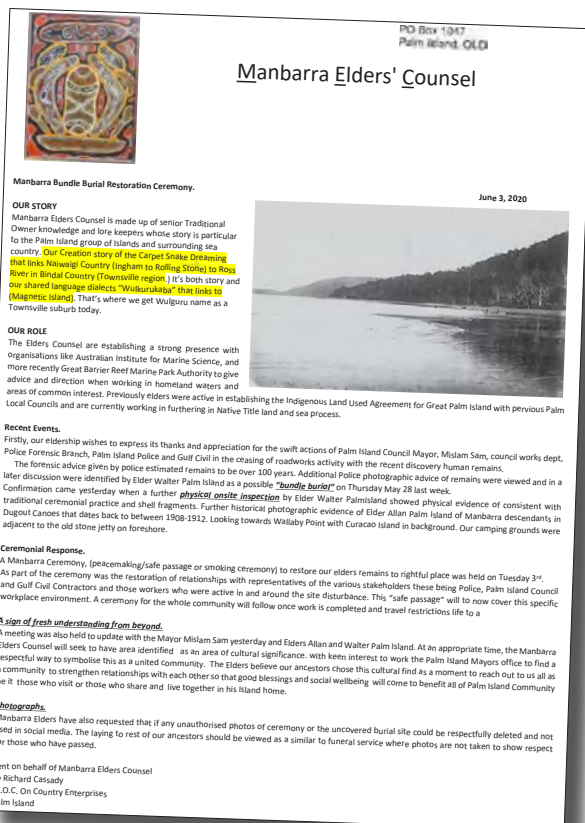
“Part of the ceremony was the restoration of relationships with representatives of the various stakeholders, these

being Police, Palm Island Council and Gulf Civil Contractors, and those workers who were active in and around the site disturbance.

“This ‘safe passage’ will to now cover this specific workplace environment.

“A ceremony for the whole community [**Covid-19 permitting*] will follow once work is completed.”

Elders have met with the new Council to request to have the area identified as an ‘area of cultural significance’ to respectfully symbolise a newly united community.



“The Elders believe our ancestors chose this cultural find as a moment to reach out to us all as a community to strengthen relationships with each other so that good blessings and social wellbeing will come to benefit all of Palm Island Community be it those who visit or those who share and live together in his Island home,” they said.

OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 302) will be
Thursday 11 June
for publication on Thursday 18 June!

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 2,608 'likes'!

The **Palm Island Voice** accepts paid advertising. For rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at 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 3,790 'likes' on Facebook!!!

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