



# Obe one of North Queensland's brightest sparks!

Former Cowboys player and now qualified electrician Obe Geia has won two regional awards in Queensland's Training Awards.

Obe is the North Queensland Harry Hauenschild Apprentice of the Year and the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year.

Minister for Training & Skills Development Shannon Fentiman congratulated "all the talented and hard working finalists".

"It has been a tough year for apprentices, trainees, students, employers and training and community organisations and many of our state winners have been impacted by COVID-19," Ms Fentiman said.

"Now more than ever we need to recognise and celebrate the incredible efforts and achievements of our top achievers in training."

Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam said he was pleased for Mr Geia, who continued to show leadership.

"Young people in this community already look up to Obe and it's exciting for them to see yet again what can be achieved through hard work and dedication," he said.



"As a Council we were very proud to offer a letter of support for his nomination by his employer, Switch NQ, and very happy to see this result."

Switch NQ owner Jason Healey said the award was recognition for Obe's persistence and determination to complete his apprenticeship despite many challenges.

"The award is also a recognition of his outstanding skill set within his trade," he said.

"It's an incredible achievement for Obe and it reflects the contribution he makes in his community as an electrician but also as an ambassador for training.

"I would like to thank the council for their continued support and mentoring of Obe over the years.

"Completing his apprenticeship was far from easy but he has been surrounded by so many people that have believed in him and wanted him to succeed.

"This award is reflection of that support and something that the entire community can be proud of."

## Palm Island Rubbish Collection Mondays to Thursdays



### Bins out by 8am

# Health care centre changes to entry



Beyond the Fever Clinic (pictured above), you may have noticed some changes when you come into the Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre.

On arrival at the clinic there is a health worker at the door who will check your temperature and ask you a few questions before entering, this person will be wearing a mask and gloves and sometimes a gown or face shield.

Please do not be alarmed.

We are doing this to ensure anyone with any symptoms similar to Covid-19 gets looked after in the fever clinic.

This is to prevent spread of any respiratory infections in the clinic and keep

**MEANWHILE** local Indigenous Health Worker Tuliana Dabea has been working closely with Midwives' Kerry and Jane to host stretch classes for Mums and Bubs of all ages every Monday at 10.30am.

Tuliana said all our parents and children were invited to come along and join in the fun, with activities for older kids and Dads welcome to attend.

“During the class we have morning tea followed by light

stretching and movement on mats on the Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre lawn,” she said.

“The classes are free to attend and are held in the Palm Island Primary Health

Care Centre courtyard on Main Street.

**“We encourage participants to wear something comfortable and we hope to see you there.”**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Palm Islanders**

I would like to remind everyone about looking after yourselves in these pandemic times.

Eating healthy and exercising is always a good start.

We are lucky not to have been directly affected by COVID-19 in our community.

In Victoria they are battling with significant illness and restrictions from COVID-19, we all hope this does not happen here.

We need to take good care now to ensure we can continue to enjoy the freedom and wellness we have.

It is still very important we practice good hand hygiene, keep our social distance and cough and sneeze into our elbows.

It is essential if you are unwell that you get tested immediately and stay at home until you feel better.

If you have a fever, a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, a change in your smell or taste or any symptoms you should go and get a test.

Testing means we can pick up the virus if it is on the island and from there we can stop the spread.

Thank you to all those who have already attended. Staying home means that we are not spreading any infections to others, especially the elderly.

Stay safe and healthy

**Dr Francis  
Palm Island PHCC**

the community safe and healthy.

Please do not be concerned as we need to be extra vigilant with health during these pandemic times.

If you or your child has a fever, sore throat, cough runny nose or difficulty breathing please attend the fever clinic outside the primary care centre.

**Please don't forget to be kind and co-operate with our hardworking staff.**

# CDP's mutual obligation ready to go again

The first of a series of re-engagement workshops was held in our training rooms earlier this month CDP Manager Janelle Whitehead says.

“In the first instance we wanted to provide an update on where we are at with our National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) contract management,” she said.

“On the same day we had the Indigenous Consumers Advocacy Network (ICAN) on board to help everyone with things in finance such as budgeting and fine repayments.

“We also had news about when mutual obligation will recommence and what that looks like for Palm Island job seekers.”

She said attendance was in-line with Covid-19 requirements and celebrated with a Kup Murri lunch provided by the CDP outdoor and indoor crews.



# Stolen wages deadline (not payment) extended again

Stolen wages claimants and registered representatives now have extra time to provide their information to the Stolen Wages Information Centre after the Federal Court extended the time for them to provide claim data.

His Honour Justice Murphy made the order that they now have until 5pm on Friday 9 October earlier this month.

Grant Thornton partner Anthony Beven told the *Palm Island Voice* they were still planning on making payments by the first week of December.

“We said to the judge if there was to be an extension the payment date shouldn't be changed or altered because that was the most important thing, so we've deleted some of the appeal period from approximately

67 days to 28 days,” he said.

He said the judge had also made some changes to allow for registered claimants who have passed away since 21 November 2019.

“The Federal Court has amended the Settlement Distribution Scheme to allow a living spouse (husband or wife), or if there is no living spouse, a living child to register to continue the claim of the deceased claimant,” he said.

“No other relatives are eligible to

register to continue such a claim.

“A living spouse or living child, if there is no living spouse, must complete a Continuing registration form – deceased Claimant, which can be downloaded from the website, [www.stolenwages.com.au](http://www.stolenwages.com.au) under the Documents tab or obtained by contacting the Stolen Wages Information Centre.

“The completed form and supporting documents must be received by the Stolen Wages Information Centre before 5.00pm on 9 October 2020.”



**Are you passionate about making a difference in healthcare?**

Expressions of interest are open for an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community member from Palm Island to join our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Advisory Council (ATSICAC).

Meeting every two months, the council will help shape healthcare in our region. The ATSICAC works in partnership with our health service and Board to improve our services.

**You will be paid for your time.**

Expressions of interest close Monday, 28 September 2020.

Please visit our website and apply online, or pick up a form from the Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre or Joyce Palmer Health Service or call Linda Merrill on (07) 4433 0122 for more information.

[www.townsville.health.qld.gov.au/support-us/consumer-and-community-engagement/atsicac/](http://www.townsville.health.qld.gov.au/support-us/consumer-and-community-engagement/atsicac/)



**POSITION VACANT**

**Personal Aged Care Worker**



**Sandy Boyd Hostel**

Council currently has a number of casual roles vacant for both males and female personal careers at Sandy Boyd Hostel and is seeking applicants.

If you are interested or know of anyone else who may be, please forward your CV to [Jamie.prior@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:Jamie.prior@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au) by COB Wednesday 23 September 2020.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received, so be quick to make sure you, or someone you know, doesn't miss out!

Aged Care Workers are responsible for the delivery of care to residents in all areas of activities of daily living in accordance with the residents identified needs and preferences which are documented in the client care plan. This includes support for resident's physical, spiritual, social and cultural needs to enable them to feel safe, included in community activities and improve well-being.

Full details for this position are available on Council's website at [www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](http://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au) under 'Employment Vacancies'.



Grants up to \$25,000 are available to support local, regional and statewide initiatives dedicated to preserving, maintaining and revitalising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and dialects.

**Applications close Tuesday 6 October 2020**  
[www.datsip.qld.gov.au/ilg](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/ilg)

**Indigenous Languages Grants APPLY NOW!**



**Queensland Government**

**We're going weekly (for a bit)! OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 308.1) will be this Thursday 24 September for publication on Monday 28 September!**

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 2,646 '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](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 4,031 'likes' on Facebook!!!