

Palm Island Voice

FREE!

Issue 314

MONDAY 30 November 2020

PLEASE note there **ARE** some images of deceased persons within this publication.



Stolen wages payment support offered by ICAN

A new information guide is available to help claimants of the Stolen Wages Settlement Scheme – and Community Service Providers who support them – navigate the financial, consumer, credit and debt issues that they may encounter and understand their rights and responsibilities regarding these.

The booklet is called ‘Stolen Wages: a guide for community workers supporting recipients of stolen wages’.

“We wanted to ensure that there was information for people receiving Stolen Wages about the options and support available to them when it comes to using their money the way they want to use it,” ICAN Operations

Manager Jillian Williams (pictured left with ICAN Financial Counsellor and claimant Carmen Hegarty) said.

You can get the guide from <https://ican.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Stolen-Wages-Info-Guide.pdf>

Palm Island Elders, Rainbow Gateway Palm Island CDP, Selectability, Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre, PCYC, Gulf Civil & Mayor Mislam Sam & the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council have worked together to bring you this year’s peak NAIDOC event, Palm Island’s...

TRIBAL DINNER

... celebrating our cultural connections, links, family groups, ties and connections, and coming together as one ‘Bwgcolman’, each of us representing one or more of our 40 tribes ...



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**



BWGCOLMAN - Palm Island all tribes stronger together as one MOB!

Wednesday 2 December @ PCYC

Free entertainment!

- Acknowledgement from Dr Lynore Geia
- Bwgcolman Dance Group
- Great Northern Dance Group
- Bwgcolman Talent Show winning kids
- Latoya Baira and Dance Group
- Clarissa Wales
- Sylvia Seaton
- Headline Act: Normey Boy and Buddha B J

**Free kupmurri & dessert!
Free ticketed event!**

Please note COVID-19 rules for social gatherings will apply which mean you MUST register with the CDP and be 16-years or older to attend! We are limited to just 100 people so be quick! Dress: Neat casual. The 2020 NAIDOC Tribal Dinner will be alcohol- & tobacco-free.

...with many thanks to our community volunteers!

The people and organisations above have worked together with contributions of admin support, promotion and financial assistance to bring you this year’s NAIDOC events, as have our many community volunteers including Dawn Haines, Marina Coutts, Ruth Gorrige, Joyce Boyd-Tapp, Winnie Obah & others...

Reef plan up for discussion

A draft plan for managing ongoing use of John Brewer Reef has been prepared with input from Traditional Owners and regular users of the site, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority assistant director of planning Sally Harman says.

Ms Harman said they had worked closely with representatives from Manbarra Peoples and other stakeholders.

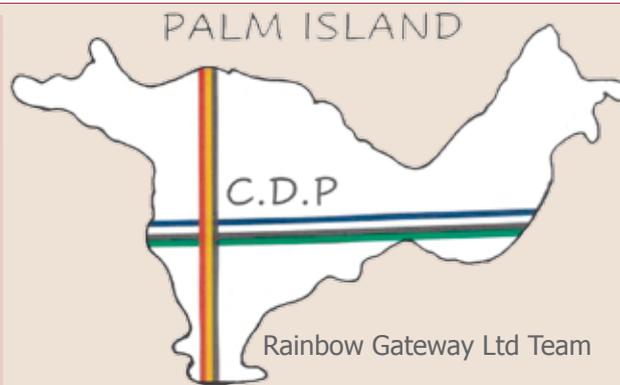
“I encourage anyone interested to review the draft plan and provide comment,” she said.

The draft site plan is open for public comment until 21 December 2020.

Documents and information on how to submit comments are available on the Marine Park Authority’s website at www.gbrmpa.gov.au

PALM ISLAND CDP CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

10AM-2PM TUESDAY
1 DECEMBER 2020
FRED CLAY PARK



- Presentation of CDP Awards and Training Certificates
- Community Update on CDP activities planned for 2021
- Community organisations are invited to hold stalls
- BBQ lunch

All CDP participants are urged to attend, appointments will be held on the day with your Case Managers.

'ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE!'

Return to full servicing

Group activities and other face-to-face services will be back into full swing again this week, all in line with current health advice. Participants who have worked hard over the past 12 months, through training, education and/or work experience, will be celebrated TOMORROW with a presentation and free BBQ lunch. Check out our CDP Facebook page for more news and highlights.

CDP helping Council remove security fencing around the business precinct



Local art enthusiast Craig Lenoy (left) has put his time during COVID-19 lock downs to good use by fishing and gathering shells for his artwork.

He will be selling his pieces as part of CDP's NAIDOC workshops and information sessions this week from tomorrow onwards.

Also this week we will have workshops with Deb Marsden and Bingara Arts at the Red Shed for our participants to create their own Christmas gifts and memorabilia of Palm Island.



Palm Island CDP training room has been abuzz with job seekers attending additional training sessions aimed at broadening their skill base and lifting their employment opportunities (above).

TAFE's Aunty Lillian Lampton worked with our mob during the week, part of which was a full day of theory work prior to moving out into the field to test their fork lifting skills.

This is the first of many plant and equipment courses CDP will run into the New Year and beyond.

It was great to see the enthusiasm of the group of learners as they made their way through assessments, CDP Manager Janelle 'Nugget' Whitehead said.



Three-days of Mental Health First Aid workshops held last week were funded by NIAA and rolled out by NESAs trainers Philip and Bianca in our CDP training rooms.

What's new with COVID-19?

As we prepare for Christmas it is nice to see Australia continues to do well with COVID-19.

The outbreak in Victoria has now been put to an end and the recent outbreak in South Australia seems to be under control with no new mystery cases.

The borders to NSW (Sydney) and Victoria will be opening on December 1.

There are now a few potential vaccines for COVID-19 which are likely to be rolled out in Australia in early 2021.

These vaccines have undergone rigorous testing and will go through a strict regulatory process before they are approved for use in Australia.

The vaccine will be free for all Medicare-eligible Australians and recommended for everyone unless there are specific contra indications.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have an increased risk of developing severe disease and complications for COVID-19 and will fortunately be prioritised to get the vaccine along-side health and aged care workers.

Whilst there has been a lot of good news with COVID-19, we need to remain vigilant and not be complacent.

With a lot of movement of people between states it is more important that we maintain our physical distance, wash our hands regularly, coughing into our elbows and not sharing smokes or drinks.

Keeping safe means we can continue to keep COVID-19 off Palm Island.



CURRENT VACANCY

Home Care Worker (Casual)

Home Care Services – Palm Island

Status: Casual
Salary: 002, \$32.83 to \$35.60 per hour

This position will:

- Provide basic domestic assistance and support services to the frail aged and younger people with disabilities and their carers in the Palm Island community.

Is this the opportunity for you?

- Must have documented accommodation on Palm Island.
- A Certificate III in Individual Support or the ability to complete within 18 months of commencement.
- Previous experience in a domestic or commercial cleaning role.
- Availability between 8.30am to 3.30pm, Tuesday to Friday including school holidays.
- 'C' class motor vehicle licence.

Applications close: **Wednesday 16 December 2020**

Enquiries to: **Merlene Robertson 07 4752 5182**

APPLY Online via

<https://smartiobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV358348>



STOP!



Have you checked for stingers?!

The symptoms of an Irrukandji jellyfish sting are not immediate and may appear 5 to 45 minutes after the initial sting.

Signs and symptoms can include:

- severe backache or headache
- shooting pains in their muscles, chest and abdomen
- nausea
- anxiety
- restlessness
- vomiting
- breathing difficulties

If you get stung avoid rubbing the area, which also can make things worse.

Use tweezers to pull off any tentacles still on your skin but DO NOT put ice or ice packs on a sting.

Stingers can occur at any time of the year – be careful!

1. Do not swim during stinger season unless you are wearing a stinger suit.
2. If you see a stinger in the water - get out of the water.
3. If stung apply Vinegar liberally to the sting.
4. Call QAS for stinger First Aid.
5. Go to JPMS for assessment.

Dear Editor,

As a Bwgcolman health professional working for the past 19 years for Palm Island's social, emotional wellbeing; I am concerned for the ongoing psychosocial health of Palm Island people in relation to the Museum of Underwater Arts (MOUA) proposed structures depicting heads buried in the sand planned for the Challenger Bay foreshore (Townsville Bulletin 16/11/20 + PI Voice Issue 313).

This area is a sacred historical, cultural/spiritual place for the community; a century old line of connection to our 'Old People' who were forcibly exiled on Palm Island.

These art structures are not a Bwgcolman concept; are culturally/spiritually unsafe, that threaten the community's wellbeing.

Recent community member's comments on Palm Island/Bwgcolman Facebook pages reveal genuine surprise and

distress about the MOUA proposal planned for Challenger Bay.

Furthermore, the 2019 consultations on the art structures is ethically questionable; being conducted when the community was in profound bereavement.

Moreover, from a research point of view, the number of 2019 consultations are not significantly representative of the current population.

Bwgcolman are anxious and fearful their voices are not being heard on this matter.

I strongly believe Challenger Bay needs to be kept pristine for the health and wellbeing of Bwgcolman family and community.

Dr Lynore Geia Bwgcolman woman, mother, grandmother. Academic Lead Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Health, James Cook University.

POSITIONS VACANT

If you are interested in a casual role please email your CV and covering letter to Acting Human Resources Manager, Sally-Kim Jenkinson: Sally-Kim.Jenkinson@Palmcouncil.qld.gov.au or call 4770 2040 for more details.



TRUCK DRIVER/CONCRETE BATCH PLANT OPERATORS

Due to extra workload and future projects, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is looking for additional casual staff to undertake truck driving and entry level batch plant operations.

DUTIES

- Take responsibility for safety of yourself and others
- Drive truck under loading hopper to receive sand, gravel, cement and water and start mixer
- Conduct daily pre-start check list, greasing and basic maintenance of truck and ancillary equipment
- Maintain and respect truck and other Council equipment
- Consistently provide high quality concrete batching and delivery
- Report any major maintenance or other plant-related issues to plant manager/supervisor

CASUAL POSITIONS VACANT AIRPORT REPORTING OFFICERS

Council is looking for several casual Airport Reporting Officers to cover regular shifts during normal airport operating hours and possible emergency landings outside normal airport operating hours.

DUTIES

- Maintaining a clear and safe runway for aircraft usage
- Radio communication with airport staff and other airport users eg Royal Flying Doctors
- Daily perimeter safety and security checks eg holes in boundary fence.
- Twice daily checks of runway lighting system
- Compiling reports for airport authorities
- Maintaining airport grounds to high standards eg grass cutting with ride on mower, sweeping runway
- Reporting of breaches of security and safety
- Emergency runway preparation

Closing date Thursday 10 December 2020.

We've gone weekly (for a bit!) OUR DEADLINE for Issue 314.1 will be this Thursday 3 December for publication on MONDAY 7 December!

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 2,671 'likes'!

The **Palm Island Voice** accepts paid advertising. For rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@hotkey.net.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 4,093 'likes' on Facebook!!!

