



Palm Island Voice



Your community

Your newspaper

**Issue 8.
23 November 2007**



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Deadly Palm Rappers Win Youth Film Award

A team of young Palm Islanders won the Kamilya Youth Awards for the best 5 minute film in the Kamilya film awards in Melbourne.

This was announced at the internationally acclaimed Mlearning conference in Melbourne this month and their teacher Julie Woodlock proudly accepted the award on their behalf.

The Learning Pathway students, Ike Haines, Garrett Dempsey, Richard Noble, Vernon Noble, Greg Barry, Mathew Marpoondan, Farron Waterton, Anthony Friday, Richard Noble, were rewarded with a camcorder of their own to keep on the island.

They were given an hour to make a rap and they filmed it as they worked! They had never done this but it wasn't long before the rap emerged. The students worked hurriedly in teams to write the scripts for their rap.

Due to time constraints they never really got it polished enough to make a perfect performance so they decided instead to call it, "The Making of Rap". The film shows how well they were able to work together, support each other and encourage each others creative words. They are too deadly!

Story and picture from Julie Woodlock, TAFE

Readers are advised this publication may contain the names and images of people who have passed away.

Congratulations to Year 12 Graduates

A number of Palm Island students successfully completed their Secondary studies and graduated from Year 12 on Saturday 17 November.

So let's say Congratulations and Well Done to these students for their hard work and perseverance.

- Dawn Bligh Columba Catholic College
- Ron Geia Abergowrie College
- Gary Walsh Abergowrie College
- Isiah Blackman Abergowrie College
- Toshiba Prior St Patricks College
- Leilani Geia Kirwan High School
- Sophie Morgan Columba Catholic College

Council and the whole community are proud of these students, and their achievements, and wish them well in their future.

May they dream big and aim for the skies! And make their dreams a reality.

IKE HAINES RECEIVES TRAINING AWARD

Ike Haines has received a Student training, achievement and recognition award from Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE, and was recognised as Student of the Month in September 2007.

Ike Haines has been a student in the Certificate 1 in Learning Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples since September 2006.

Since he started he has really improved in the following ways: he has taken on working in a team (when once he was too shy to).

He has taken on the role of director in our film making with the elders; his attendance has really improved; and his participation in class has been excellent!

He also made a huge effort in writing and rapping in a film we entered in a competition in Melbourne.

Ike has come to a point where he is now open to learning new things with other students. This time last year, I wouldn't have been able to say this about him but I can now. The award was given to acknowledge Ike for his hard work and improvement so that he will be able to make HUGE leaps in his learning pathway in the future.

Story and Pictures from Julie Woodlock
Teacher, Learning Pathways TAFE

Put Your Business Here

Advertising space is available to all businesses, organisations and individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community.

Display Advertising Costs (including GST)

Full page	\$440
Half page	\$231
Quarter page	\$121
Eighth page	\$66
Sixteenth	\$44
Inserts	\$660

Discounts available for multiple bookings

Contact Catherine Lawler or Alfred Clay
for further information
Telephone 07 4770 0215 or 4770 1177
Fax 07 4770 1305
email: editor@piac.com.au

**Advertise in *Palm Island Voice*
and support the community
that supports you!**



PALM SENIOR SCHOOL Enrolments for 2008

Senior Phase Campus is taking enrolments for Years 11 and 12 on 4 and 5 December 2007.

If you want to enrol, yourself or your kids, come along on these days to see teachers, Sylvia Wagner, Donovan Smith, Iaga Beri, or case managers Lindsay Malone and Jessica Johnson.

Welcome to New Police Liaison Officer

Senior Sergeant Paul James provides some information for the Palm Island community on Police matter.

Firstly I would like to welcome PLO Damien 'Doc' Friday on board at the Police Station. You will also see Doc helping out around the PCYC and I have every confidence he is going to be an asset to the community.

PLO Luella Bligh has been continuing her good work in reducing truancy levels in the community and has been well supported by staff from the schools. I would also like to thank Councillor Rosina Norman for volunteering her time to go on patrol with Luella. I would get to school if I knew those two were after me. Seriously though I believe it is so important that kids get an education and that needs to become a community attitude.

Being a PLO can be a difficult job but it is important to remember that they are a Liaison Officer – they don't work for the police, they work with the police and with the community to improve relations. If you have any questions or issues you want to discuss but don't want to go to a police officer that is the sort of thing a PLO can help you with.

Airport Security

Many of you will have noticed some new signs at the airport. The Council and the carriers (e.g Skytrans, Dreamtime) have to run the airport in the same way that other airports are run. In this day and age that means there are more security measures and people can't walk around on the tarmac.

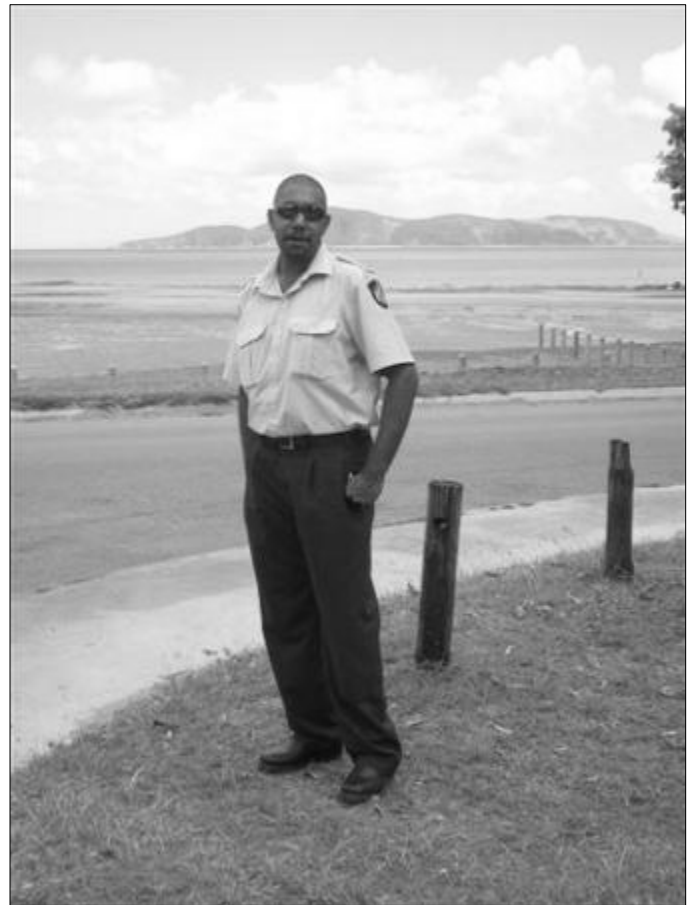
The public area is the car park and inside the terminal. On the tarmac you can only travel directly from the terminal gate to the aircraft. The same applies when you arrive you must exit through the terminal. If you have any queries I'm sure the staff at the Airport will be happy to help.

Play it Safe for Christmas

Christmas is approaching and it should be an enjoyable time of the year. As police we often view Christmas as a time of increased Domestic Violence and family disputes. It can be a difficult time with financial burdens, increased drinking and hot weather but Domestic Violence will not help the situation it will only make things worse. Don't ruin Christmas this year.

Speak up About Drugs

There has been a lot of talk around the community lately about drugs and alcohol. Those people prepared to stand up and do something to improve the place should be congratulated and supported. Drugs remain



New PLO Damien "Doc" Friday.

in a community because there is a market for them and people tolerate the sellers.

Drug sellers are a very small part of any community that do a lot of damage. If they were treated like outcasts by all the decent people they would either stop selling or move. We will do our bit if we get the information. As an Island community we have a better chance of dealing with drugs than most.

Story from Senior Sergeant Paul James, Palm Island
Picture from Barry Moyle, CEO PIASC

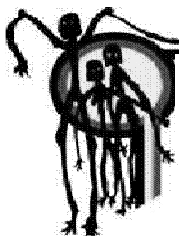
CALLING ALL PALM ARTISTS!

Support the young people of your community!

Local community members are wanted for performing and running workshops leading up to the concert.

This is a paid gig!

Any local artists, musicians and dancers interested, you can contact Karrina Nolan from Speak Out on: 1300 656 431, leaving a message and contact number.



COUNCIL CALENDAR

Reports

19 November—Smoko with Assistant Commissioner

Councillors had “smoko” with the Assistant Police Commissioner and inspected the new CCTV system which has been installed at the Palm Island Police Station.

19-20 November—Executive Budget Meeting

Council held an executive budget and audit committee meeting in preparation for the upcoming audit, which will be conducted on 11-12 December.

21 November—Palm Island Community Company Launch

Mayor Delena Foster attended celebrations to mark the launch of the new Palm Island Community Company on 14 November, and the occasion was marked by Council and the community with celebrations and kup-murrie on the foreshore.

21 November—Water Checks

Wayne Fallen from Department of Natural Resources and Water, was meeting with Council’s Water Officer and Plumbing Team to check on the running of the dams and filtration systems here on the Island.

This is a routine meeting to confirm water quality is meeting required standards.

Upcoming

22 November – Disaster Management Meeting

Councillor Zac Sam and Council staff member Walter Morgan will attend a disaster management meeting at Townsville to help them prepare the community with planning for the cyclone and fire season.

27 November—Council General Meeting

Council will hold its next General Meeting on 30 October. The public gallery will be open and members of the community are welcome to attend.

However, community members need to remember Council has the right to close the meeting to the public when they are discussing confidential matters such as staffing and finance.

If Council does need to close the meeting, members of the public will be asked to leave, and to respect Council’s decision.

28 November – Disaster Committee Meeting

The local Disaster Committee, made up of representatives from the Queensland Police, Joyce Palmer Health Service, Queensland Ambulance Service, State Emergency Services, Ergon energy and the Retail Store, will meet to discuss strategies and plans for responding to a major emergency such as a cyclone or fire.

28 November – Councillor’s Dinner with CEO

Chief Executive Officer, Barry Moyle, will host a dinner with the Palm Island Councillors and their partners.

29 November – Budget Review

Council will meet to discuss the budget, and look at Council’s financial position.

This will include reviewing what monies have been spent and what funds are available for future projects.

29 November – Hotel Committee meeting

The Hotel Committee will meet to discuss how the Coolgaree Bay Hotel is going. They will also look at plans for improving future services and facilities.

The Hotel Committee comprises two community representatives, two councillors (Zac Sam and Raymond Roberts), representatives from Queensland Police, the Palm Island Justice Group, Council CEO Barry Moyle, Licence Nominee Colleen Bonner, and Council Enterprise Clerk, Norman Bounghi.

11 December – Councillor Training Program Celebration

Councillors will attend a special dinner in Cairns, hosted by Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation to commemorate their achievements in the Councillor Training Program they have been participating in.

Rubbish & Bin Reminder

DON’T FORGET to make sure your bins are out nice and early on collection day.

Bins need to be put out by 8 o’clock to fit in the with collection run.

Also, remember, bins are for household rubbish only. This means Bottles, cans, cardboard, papers, and so on.

Garden waste, car parts, building materials and other hard rubbish should not be put in the wheely bins.

If you need to dispose of these things, call the Council.

Also, Council’s Cyclone Clean will start on 26 November. See p. 5 for more details.

Updates from Council

Council Office Closing Early 15 December

Council is hosting its staff Christmas party on the afternoon of Friday 15 December. All Council offices, including the Bank and Housing section will be closed from 12pm, midday, on the afternoon of Friday 14 December. This means if you need to do any banking or pay rent, you will have to do this in the morning.

Hotel Late Trading over Festive Season

The Coolgaree Bay Hotel will be open for late trading on a number of nights over the festive season.

On Saturday, 1 December, the Hotel will be open from 4-11pm for a night of cabaret with an 80s theme for music and dress. So get out your Bee Gees records, dust off the disco suit and come down and groove away under the mirror ball and disco lights.

On Saturday 15 December, trading hours will be from 4-11pm for the Palm Island Elders Christmas Party, and a Country and Western Night. Everyone is welcome to come along with their best checked shirts, and cowboy hats for some boot scootin' fun.

To celebrate New Year's Eve, the Hotel will open from 4pm on Monday 31 December, and stay open until 2am 1 December. Details of the entertainment for New Years Eve are still being finalised and we'll let you know what's happening in the next issue.

Hot meals will be available on each of these nights and extra security will be in place to make sure things run smoothly. So, get out your party gear and come along to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with other members of the community.

Keep your dog on a leash when in Town

Council is banning dogs that are not on leashes from the Town Square areas. Dogs that are not on leashes will be impounded. If your dog is impounded you will have to pay a fine of \$25 before you can get your dog back.



Money raised by these fines will be used to cover the costs of food and any medication required by the dogs while they are in the pound. Signs will be erected to indicate the area of the ban.

LEARNING ABOUT BEING A COUNCILLOR

Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation held a workshop on 15 December, at Palm Island PCYC about what is involved in being a local government councillor.

They explained the roles and responsibilities of being a councillor and provided information about the process involved in nominating to run at the next council elections. Workshop leader Mark Neylan said communities need people on their local Councils who are:

- Strong leaders
- Honest and ethical
- Community-minded with a focus on addressing regional challenges
- Strategic thinkers
- Able to understand government legislation and policy development

He also said people interested in running were also advised to consider the time commitment required, as many current councillors have told him the job required much more time than they thought it would.

If you are interested in running for council but were not able to get to the seminar, information packs are available from Council's Deputy CEO Deniece Geia. Also, if you access to the internet, you can get additional information from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation "Stronger Councils" website at www.strongercouncils.qld.gov.au.

Cyclone Clean Up

Council will commence its annual cyclone clean-up program on 26 November.

All residents are asked to clean up around their yards and gather up anything that is likely to blow away in strong winds.

Stack the rubbish out the front of your house and the Council Waste Management Team will remove it.

You need to put out anything that can be picked up and blown around in the wind. This includes things like timber, garden waste, and sheets of iron, which are a particular risk.

It also includes things like old car bodies or parts, washing machines, beds and so on.

Residents at The Mill and Long Beach also need to be cyclone aware, and the cyclone clean-up team will pick up rubbish from those areas too.

Palm Youth Plan for Big Concert

Last week Palm Island youth took part in the 'Palm's Up' arts and culture program. Youth from Bwgcolman Community School, Senior Phase of Learning and TAFE, partici-



Workshop facilitator "Busty Beats" working with young women on music production.



pated in writing lyrics, raps and beats as well as design and stencilling.

These young people are gearing up for performing at a concert on Palm Island early next year. The concert will be a showcase of local talent; performers, artists and dancers, plus some very special guests!

Story and pictures from **Melania Stevens, Speak Out**

Participants in the workshops working on their lyric material

Jetty Works Update

Just a quick update on the jetty works which are underway again.

The latest settlement readings indicate the fill has stabilised sufficiently to allow the concrete roadway to be installed.

So CivilPlus Constructions are planning to recommenced works this week to install the concrete slabs on the earth ramp leading to the new jetty span.

This will link the jetty to the pathway that was previously installed.

Included will be a guard rail to separate vehicles from pedestrians and the handrail will be installed along the outside.

CivilPlus expect to be completed around the end of November.

Pacific Marine are planning to return around March or April to replace the existing concrete deck beams and so on.

Story from **Colin Wood, Project Manager, Pacific Marine Group**

Coconut Trees to be Cleared at Ferdy's

A large number of coconut trees at Ferdy's Haven have been identified as unsafe, and posing a risk to visitors, clients and workers.

The Board of Directors of Ferdy's Haven Alcohol Rehabilitation Aboriginal Corporation has approved the clearing of selected trees at the centre.

A contractor will be engaged to fell the trees and clear the area.

Work will commence shortly and is required to meet the Corporation's obligations under Occupational Health and Safety laws.

If you have any questions about this work you can contact the Manager of Ferdy's on 07 4770 1152.

Palm Ladies Do a Cup Lunch



Mother and Daughter, Katie Armitt and Gemma Armitt

While the Women's Health Nurse was visiting Palm Island for the usual clinic on Tuesday 5 November, the ladies took the opportunity to celebrate with a Melbourne Cup Lunch.

A fine spread was laid out and many of the ladies got into the spirit of the cup and dressed up for the day in fine dresses and hats.

Dr Sarah also addressed the gathering



and spoke about health issues that particularly concern women.

The Nurse will be available at the clinic again on Tuesday 4th December. You can go to the clinic if you need help or advice about any aspects of women's health. See the Palm Island Community Health Calendar (p.18) for more information.

Jelly Fish 2007 Gets the Message Out



Pictures from Palm Island Ambulance (above) and Alfred Clay (below).



A colouring-in competition held at the school for stinger awareness has been won by 4 students from Bwgcolman School.

It was a hard choice to decide the winners with all the great entries we received. Winners are Kaiya Blackey, Isaac-OBerry Geia, Elaine Palmer and Lekeisha Ryan who received a Mask, Snorkel and Fins set and a new Palm Island Stinger Suit.

The Raffle raised over \$400 to go towards buying more suits for the schools, there were 10 prizes to be won.

The lucky winners are Cedric Harvey, Lindsay Malone, Germaine Bulsey, Raimo Isokangas, Anthea (bali breeze), Bethany Hughes, Alima Prior, Margery Burns, Dee Ann Pool, Alice McSkimming. If you haven't received your prize yet, please come into the ambulance office and see us.

Palm Island Paramedics would like to congratulate all the winners and thanks for participating and helping to promote stinger awareness.

Story from Palm Island Ambulance Service

(See p. 16 for more details on the success of Jelly Fish 2007)

Community Engaged in Land Tenure Project

Gavin Shanks and Ted Besley from the Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) attended the Future Directions meeting, held 13 November at the PCYC, to talk to the community about the Palm Island Land Tenure and Management Project.

This project is aimed at improving the management of land on Great Palm Island so future development of the land will allow the Palm Island community to grow in a way that best suits them.

As reported in Issue 5. of *Palm Island Voice* (12/10/07) the project involves consulting with the community through information sessions to develop plans for land management and addressing native title requirements.

Future Directions Meeting

The meeting was well-attended with lots of questions asked and issues raised. Some of the topics covered were: the need for community input separate



Ted Besley and Niki Willis enjoyed a lively and productive discussion

from Council; the creation of a Project Officer to coordinate community consultation and feedback; native title; current leasing issues and the effect of proposed changes to the laws that deal with leasing on DOGITs.

Have your say

NRW wants to attend the next Future Directions meeting and will bring someone to answer the many questions the community has about leasing and the proposed new laws.

If you have any questions before then, you can call Ted Besley, the Acting Project Manager, on (073) 406 2270 or email him on ted.besley@nrw.qld.gov.au.

In future, NRW want to hold public meetings at Palm Island separate from the Future Directions ones that focus on particular elements of the project. Dates and details will be provided in upcoming issues of the *Palm Island Voice*. NRW will set up a suggestions box at Palm Island, located at the Government Coordinator's Office where community members can provide written feedback and suggestions.

Story from Ted Besley, Acting Project Manager, Department of Natural Resources & Water.

Catherine Freedom Foundation Gives Strong Support to Palm Island Children

On December 4th 2007, Catherine Freeman and members of the Catherine Freeman Foundation team will visit Palm Island.

They will meet each of the 15 children who have been put forward by their respective head teachers to win one the 15 mountain bikes given by the CFF to the island's two schools - Bwngcolman and St Michael's Schools. The foundation will also present 5 laptops to the schools for use as on-loan resources for the children.

The chosen youngsters have all displayed a great improvement in attitudes to attendance, school work, their peers, their teachers over the past two semesters.

"I am very excited to be going to Palm Island in December to award the mountain bikes to the winning children. The head of both schools, Ray Armit and Lil Myrtle have informed me that these awards have made a big difference to the children and attendance levels are at an all time high. I am really looking forward to spending some time with the commu-

nity during my stay and visiting lots of friends."

One of Catherine's charities, Cottage By The Sea (www.cottagebythesea.com.au) will be announcing a joint initiative whereby kids from Palm will be given the opportunity to have educational and activity holidays in Melbourne.

Four girls from BCS recently joined Catherine in Sydney for the launch of the *Pacific Dawn* cruise liner.



Leases & Land Tenure Hot Topics at Future Directions Meeting

The regular Future Directions meeting was held on 13 November at the PCYC.

The meeting was chaired by Bruce Walker, Director, Government Coordination - Palm Island, and a number of important issues were on the agenda.

Illegal Drugs

Workshops are planned for early next year to address how anti-drug promotion campaigns can better address the issues faced by the Palm Island Community. These workshops will involve representatives from Joyce Palmer Health Service, Department of Health and Aging, ATODS, Qld Police, Ferdy's Haven, Kootana Women's Centre, Palm Island Men's Business Group, and the Council.

Members of the community are invited to join these workshops. Anyone who is interested in being part of the committee, or would like to put forward ideas for consideration, can contact Daniel Romaine, Principal Project Officer, Government Coordination – Palm Island, on 4770 1738, or call into his office, in the old pre-school, on Palm Island. A number of concerns were raised about the availability of foods high in sugar and caffeine at the Retail Store. An undertaking was made to put this concern to the store.

Alcohol Management Plan

A review of the Alcohol Management Plan is to be conducted early in 2008 and community input will be sought. The Department of Communities will hold a public meeting and talk to people about their experiences, what has worked and what has not. This will give everyone the opportunity to have their say. The information gathered will be used to prepare a report that will be fed into the review process. However, the ultimate decision about the future of the AMP will rest with the Minister and Cabinet.

Land Tenure Project

As part of their commitment to consult with the community about the Land Tenure Project and related issues, representative from Department of Natural Resources and Water, Ted Besley and Gavin Shanks addressed the meeting about a number of key matters.

The proposed change from 30-year to 99-year leases, with a right of renewal, is seen as the best way of allowing people option of purchasing a home and providing for inheritance by future generations.

DOGIT arrangements will still underpin any leases granted. Therefore it will not be possible for a lease to be sold to a non-Indigenous person.

Council be able to grant leases for residential and some commercial purposes. Leases will only be available over a reasonable area, for example, a house block.

Before leases can be granted, proper, documented surveys must be conducted to allow the boundaries of leases to be legally defined and registered as part of the land titles system.

The important point was made that the community should be aware letters saying an application for a lease had been approved in principle *was not* a lease.

Further the issue of consideration, that is, what the cost of a lease will be, is yet to be decided. A formal arrangement for deciding the value of a lease is yet to be decided. This will be very difficult on Palm as there is no "market" on which to base figures.

Before any leases can be issued the matter of Native Title remains to be addressed, which can be done by an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), rather than through a Native Title claim.

The need to recognise the historical owners, as well as the traditional owners is covered under Section 132 subsections (1) & (2) of the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, which requires any interest that is proposed to be granted over land that is transferable land (and DOGITs are transferable land) must be "for the benefit of the Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the land".

Identifying the "Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the land" is through a process of consultation and for Palm Island would involve both Manbarra and Bwgcolman.

This allows for the reality that people removed from their traditional lands have limited recourse to their own native title and seeks to redress the disadvantage that arises from that situation. The Bwgcolman people were strongly encouraged to think about how they might want to feed into this consultation process.

The meeting was told Manbarra want to talk and come to an agreeable arrangement with the community as a whole.

The question was raised as to whether DOGIT title extinguished Native Title, and the meeting was advised that the State's position is that DOGIT did not extinguish Native Title. Hence the need for an ILUA to ensure future use and development of land on Palm Island is lawful and valid.

More information on these issues will be provided by a specialist advisor from Department of Natural Resources at the next Future Directions Meeting.

HOUSING PROPOSALS BEFORE COUNCIL

Two proposals for housing projects here on Palm Island are currently before Council for consideration at the next General Meeting, on 27 November. Details of these projects have been provided to *Palm Island Voice* by the proposers of each project, so the community can be informed.

Proposed Sustainable Housing Partnership for Palm Island

A group led by Valentine Nona has been meeting with Council, and CDEP representatives, since August 2007 to talk about innovative ways of addressing the housing shortage on Palm Island.

In September, the group put together a draft proposal for a joint venture to build low cost sustainable housing for Palm Island community. They are hoping to have the plan accepted by Council at its November 27th meeting.

Acceptance of the plan by Council would clear the way for a committee to be formed with representatives of each of the partners. This committee's task would be to finalise a housing proposal to present to government. The committee would seek input into housing designs from community members and families to be housed. Their input will give each dwelling an individual character while ensuring that planning and other considerations are also addressed.

The joint venture would provide training and employment opportunities for community members. Elements of the venture would be handed back to further encourage long term economic sustainability for Palm

Island and its community after 5 – 7 years.

Members of the group will be visiting Palm Island to present their ideas to community members who are interested in getting actively involved in housing, whether as future trainees or workers.

You are invited to join us for a meeting and barbeque lunch:

Date: Monday 26th November 2007

Time: 12pm – 1pm

Where: PCYC

Call Valentine Nona on 0413123748 for more information, to arrange transport, or to talk about your ideas for housing on Palm.



Valentine Nona & partner Suzanne Kenney after their meeting with Council on Delegation Day, 13th November 2007

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PALM ISLAND COMMUNITY STORE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Will be held on Wednesday November 28th
at 6 PM at the PCYC, Meeting Room 1.

The Progress of the corporation will be discussed
and elections will be held.

Join now and help get control of the store
for the community.

Contact Lex Wotton 0428 788 811 or
Chris Congoo 0407 573 762
ccongoo@bigpond.net.au and join today.

PALM ISLAND COMMUNITY STORE
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ABN 95 384 533 636

Affordable Housing & Future Growth

John Lawler is a PhD researcher with Queensland University of Technology, with experience in housing for indigenous communities. He has been at Palm Island since July this year, and been working with the Council Building Team.

His project proposes to deliver housing for Palm Island that is:

- Low cost
- Easily transportable
- Adaptable to a range of cultural and environmental needs.

Most importantly the system is highly suitable for providing conventional housing within the Township areas of Palm Island.

The key aims of the project are to provide housing, employment and up-skilling to the community, and to deliver an ongoing community controlled business which will provide finance to support and expand the business.

The goal is to provide an environment where the community can see positive outcomes from their initiatives and to provide a financial income and business which would allow members of the community to take up positions as builders, designers, project managers, clerical staff, accountants etc. to support the business and to provide future housing to Palm Island

The intention of the Project is to provide a bottom-up approach where the community owns the processes and outcomes and is not reliant on Government funding.

It is hoped that this would provide a sense of achievement and pride in the community and provide a platform from which other businesses may spring

John Lawler's financial interest in the Project is to be able to provide on-going support in the form of design, supervision and quality control.

The project is based on a Modular Housing System which uses an innovative building concept. It provides the same level of amenity offered by a conventional house, at a lower cost. It can be altered, adjusted and added to if required.

Capacity building

The existing Council building team has the skills to be able to construct the building within a suitable timeframe under appropriate supervision. The project would incorporate a building training program, apprenticeship scheme, and ongoing repair and maintenance programs.

Enterprise development

In addition to providing housing within the community there is the potential to establish a community

based building construction company to produce the building for external markets. For example, some of the housing could be sold to mining companies in areas where there are severe housing shortages.

The money from the sale of the housing would allow the development of further housing for the community or for resale to the mining companies. This would provide Palm Island with an ongoing industry bringing employment, skills and money into the community to build other forms of housing, and buildings.

Pilot House & Costings

The initial intention of this project is to build a Pilot House to be used as a display home and to allow the design, building and delivery processes to be assessed for effectiveness, appropriateness, and responsiveness to the community's needs and aspirations.

Preliminary estimates of costings are that a 2 bedroom house would cost \$80,000 and a 4 bedroom house would cost \$100,000.

Future Growth

In the first instance, construction of the Modular Housing System units would be for delivery to the Community itself. However, the Community could develop the production facility and build the units for delivery to other Indigenous communities, and commercial market areas. It is envisaged Palm Island could also act as a role model and leader for implementing the project model in other communities in Australia.

Experience

John holds a Master of Architecture, has 40 years experience in architectural practice, is a licensed Builder and Building Supervisor. He has previously worked for the Anangu people of South Australia as the Housing/ Building Co-ordinator, and the Aboriginal Advisory Service of the Commonwealth Department of Housing and Construction in Darwin, and as a Research Fellow in Indigenous housing and health with the Aboriginal Research Institute, University of South Australia.

Community Input

Community members are invited to contact him if they would like to discuss this proposed project in more detail. He is currently based at the Council's offices, upstairs in the northern building.

Story from John Lawler, Queensland University of Technology, Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute.



FUNERAL NOTICE

There will be a funeral held on

Saturday 1 December 2007

for

the Late

Toby Darryl Hunter

The service will commence at

11am at the AIM Church,

Cooktown Street, Palm Island,

for internment at the Palm Island cemetery.

Tell us what you think

Letters to the Editor

Palm News reaches Sydney

Just great to be receiving my subscription copy of the Palm Island Voice here in far-away Sydney.

Also delighted to read Merle Robertson's article (and see pictures of her children), about stinger suits because I worked with her (and Beryl) in the Joyce Palmer Hospital one night a week for a year in 2004. It's good she's alerting everyone to keep their kids safe.

Thanks for the opportunity to catch up with friends from Palm.

Joanne Blake

Abbotsford NSW

Birthdays New Babies Anniversaries In Memoriam

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Catherine Watson

20 November

Happy 21st Birthday,
from Mum, Sonya, Zinikia and Serabiah.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kirk Galligan

23 November

Happy Birthday,
from Sonya Galligan, Zinikia and Serabiah.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ronella Cummins

24 November

Happy 13th Birthday,
from Mum, Sonya, Zinikia and Serabiah.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Vicky Fraser

2 December

Love from the Bay Crew!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Vicky Fraser

2 December

Love from the Bay Crew!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Misha WFF

2 December

From the Bay Crew, & Mum Sonya, Nikia & Rabi

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kearhla Walsh

30 November

Love from Mum, Dad, Kiefer, Shakhira & Nikki

✂ SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

Don't live on the Island? DON'T MISS OUT!

Subscribe to ***Palm Island Voice*** Now!

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Palm Island Voice
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Main St
Palm Island QLD 4816

☺ Keep a copy of this form for your tax records if necessary.

GST

This document will become a Tax Invoice for GST purposes when payment is made.

Palm Island Aboriginal Council
ABN 68 799 811 816

Palm Boxers Make Emerald Tournament a BIG Success

Palm Island Boxers travelled to Emerald to take part in a tournament held on Saturday 10 November.

Big Nat Seaton fought the main bout against Tom Lovell from Emerald.

Although Nat was beaten on points he put up a really good performance and the bout was a real crowd pleaser.

One more round and I think Nat would have got the better of his opponent.

Selwyn Seaton was once again very impressive. Selwyn had two bouts and won them both.

He defeated J Stevens from Rockhampton and then defeated T Christofel from Hervey Bay.

Albert Gorringer was once again the victim of a very bad decision by the judges. It seem like young Albert will have to knock them out to win.

Albert was defeated by Lincoln Martin from Rockhampton. Dennis Haines was defeated by Harley Broom from Rockhampton.

David Sam had his first bout and was defeated by L Hinchcliffe from Rockhampton. David's performance was exceptional against his older opponent.

Inossi Geia was defeated by B Callaghan from Rockhampton. Callaghan was two years older and yet Inossi seemed to be very unlucky that he did not get the decision.

Harry Reuben was defeated by J Elliott from Rockhampton. Harry was defeated because he was not fit and he need to train if he wants to carry on boxing.

It was very disappointing for the boxers and myself to receive three very bad decisions by the judges after we had to travel so far.

Blair Wilson, the promoter, his brother Colin Wilson and their father Paul Wilson, were very good to us. They gave us free accommodation and cooked up a big breakfast and lunch for us. They also paid for fuel for the bus.

They thanked us very much for making their tournament a success.

There were 13 bouts and Palm Island boxers fought in eight of those bouts.

Luke Lenoy, one of my best boxers could not be matched as he is one of the best boxers in Australian.

I am hoping to get Luke Lenoy, Selwyn Seaton and Hosea Murphy to the Australian Titles.

Story from Ray Dennis.

APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

Palm Island has a strong commitment to ensuring community members are encouraged to take on apprenticeships and training.

The trainees and apprentices work very hard at both their on the job components of their course as well as the TAFE components.

In each edition of *Palm Island Voice* we will bring you the stories of a group of trainees or apprentices.



Christian Walsh (Christo) is a first year Glass and Glazier apprentice. He is employed by CDEP and supervised by Albert Gorringer. The sort of work Christian does includes....securing screen doors and shower screens and installing new windows. This sort of work is done by few people on the Island so it is good that local Palm Island people are learning to develop skills in this area. In order to complete his apprenticeship Christian travels a long way to study. He has just completed his first block training at TTSL....Trade and Technician Skills Institute in Brisbane.

Commenting on his study travels Christian said, 'I had some good experiences and a good feeling of being independent, relying more on me and meeting different people and cultures. I learnt lots of new things, using different tools I had never used before and handling glass more professionally.' Christian is also aware of the study commitment and work ahead. He says, 'I want to succeed and be good at my job. Its long way to go but I am keen to see it through to the end. Five weeks away from home each time I go to Brisbane is lonely but hopefully worth it in the long run when I become employed as a Glazier in the community. I want to set a good example to the young people'.

Story and picture from Charlie Goldsmith, TAFE

"OVER SEAS" NEWS

Living on the beautiful island of Palm, it is easy to forget that events happening elsewhere in the country may have implications for the community here.

In this regular column, we bring you headlines and summaries of indigenous current affairs from around Australia. We highlight issues that may affect Palm Island and which may need discussion by the community.

NT intervention adviser calls for continued support

The co-author of a report that sparked the federal intervention in Northern Territory Indigenous communities says commitment must continue for many years whoever becomes the next Prime Minister.

Prominent QC Rex Wild contributed to the 'Little Children are Sacred' report that prompted the Federal Government into action.

He says despite criticism about the the Government's approach it could be said the response has been more than adequate.

Mr Wild says not all of his report's recommendations have been addressed and there should be a review after the election to ensure they are carried out.

"But I think this is a project which successive governments need to keep close to their hearts and before the Australian people for the rest of our collective lives," he said.

As a result, Mr Wild says he would like to talk to Kevin Rudd about the future of the intervention and the need for long-term funding for its success.

He says he wants whoever becomes Prime Minister to be more involved in consulting Aboriginal communities.

"It'd be nice to talk to Mr Rudd actually if he's the Prime Minister. I haven't spoken to Mr Howard, or Mr Brough," he said.

"I have spoken to Jenny Macklin for about two minutes one day. It would be nice to get them involved and discussing these issues."

Meanwhile, the federal Attorney-General has defended his Government's decision to make the intervention legislation exempt from the racial discrimination act.

Philip Ruddock says the issue of abuse is too pressing to have legislation designed to reduce it dragged through the courts.

He says elected members of Parliament are the best ones to decide how the new laws should work.

"Courts aren't elected to do that and our view was that these measures were special they were there to assist Indigenous women and children and therefore we ought not leave the measures hostage to unnecessary legal action," he said.

ABC news website 19/11/07

Welfare quarantines cannot be dodged, warns Brough

Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough says the system will soon catch up with anyone trying to evade the quarantining of their welfare money by moving to another location. (The 7.30 Report)

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough says people who have left the Northern Territory to live in South Australia will not be able to escape the quarantining of their welfare payments for long.

People in remote Territory Indigenous communities affected by the Commonwealth intervention are being quarantined 50 per cent of welfare payments.

The Mayor of Coober Pedy in SA has reported about 300 people moved to the town six weeks ago, saying they had come from the Alice Springs area.

Mr Brough says welfare reforms will soon be in place beyond the Territory.

"By the time we have had the welfare reform stuff right across the Territory, in other words the quarantining, it won't matter where people go to whether it be the Gold Coast or whether it go to Coober Pedy that welfare quarantining follows them," he said.

"If their children aren't at school it means 100 per cent of that money won't be able to be spent on alcohol."

Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough says the system will soon catch up with anyone trying to evade the quarantining of their welfare money by moving to another location. (The 7.30 Report)

ABC news website 15/11/07

Intervention bungle 'left community without money'

An Aboriginal community in Central Australia says residents have been left without any money or a shop to buy goods as a result of the Commonwealth intervention.

Ken Porter from the Wallace Rockhole community store 100 kilometres west of Alice Springs says residents were due to have their welfare payments quarantined from today as part of the intervention. He says that has been postponed but people are now saying they have not been paid at all. Mr Porter says he was forced to close the community store yesterday and the council was meeting this morning to try to resolve the crisis.

"We've got pensioners out here with no vehicles, we've got disabled people here with no vehicles and no chance to get to town," he said.

"I've got people coming and knocking on my door now saying that they've got money locked in Centrelink in Alice Springs that they need to go in to get so they can go and buy their groceries.

"It just means a big headache, big trouble for the people who are looking for food, so it may even mean that people start packing up and leaving the community."

ABC news website 13/11/07

Overseas News compiled by Alfred Clay

FREE Child Protection Risk Management workshops

A free workshop on how your organisation can manage the risk of harm to children will be held on Palm Island next Thursday, the 29th of November.

If your organisation has employees or volunteers who need blue cards, you are welcome to attend.

Those providing child-related services covered by the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000* are encouraged to come to better understand how to manage risks and protect children and young people from harm.

The workshop will be run by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, and will explain why you need a risk management strategy, and what it means in practice.

If you attend, you will learn how to assess any risk management strategies you already have in place, and understand how to address any gaps in policies, training, recruitment or risk management systems.

To register your interest in attending this free workshop, please call the Commission on **1800 688 275**. Please register as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact Lisa Connors on 3033 0220.

Birthdays New Babies Anniveraries Funeral Notices In Memoriam

**Tell us about them!
We'll put them in the paper.
It's FREE!**

**Leave a note with the details at
Reception in the Council's main
administration building.
Or give us a call. 4770 0215**



Palm Island Ambulance

First Aid Hints and Tips

Before the high season of the stingers has even arrived, there have been two children admitted to hospital with stinger injuries, and a further 2 after 1st November.

The stings happened at the usual locations of Butler Bay and the Jetty.

Due to the severe pain, the children required an injection to give some relief. Fortunately, after an overnight stay they were allowed to go home.

Stinger suits would have prevented three out of the 4 stings as they were to the body. The other sting was to the forehead.

Stinger suits have been ordered and will be on the island by early January. They are being made now and will have a black body with red and yellow sleeves.

The suits are being subsidised in price. Money from the sale of the initial suits will be put back into buying more suits at the lower price. You can order the suits from the ambulance station and both schools.

Suits will cost \$30.00 each. If you have several children, the initial suit will be \$30.00 and each extra suit will be \$20.00. To buy this suit in the shops in town will cost about \$70.00 for one.

A cheap investment in the safety of your kids.

This a co-operative project between Palm Island Ambulance, PCYC, Palm Island Hospital, Palm Island Council, St Michaels and Bwgcolman Schools and the Palm Island Police.

**ORDER A STINGER
SUIT TODAY**

**'HIV/AIDS:
Prevention is Every-
body's Business'**

Marine Stinger Awareness Day a Success

Most of the marine stinger injuries on Palm Island are suffered by children. And our Ambulance Officers decided to do something about it.

"Over 95% of the victims of jellyfish envenomation are the kids on the island," Officer in Charge of Palm Island Ambulance Station Ian Day said. "Because the island does not have a swimming pool and the waters are so warm and clear, the kids can only swim at the beach. We average about 12 to 15 stings a year. For some reason that number exploded to 22 stings by jellyfish last summer." Ian said "approximately 30% of these kids are flown off the island for treatment at The Townsville Hospital which usually involves an admission for several days."

Palm Island Paramedics decided to do something proactive rather than the usual reactive action that the ambulance takes. They developed 3 projects to try to significantly reduce the number of stings occurring each year. With the support and assistance of Palm Island Aboriginal Council, Queensland Health, Police Citizens Youth Club, both St Michaels and Bwgcolman Schools, these projects have come to fruition.

Education of the kids and parents was the highest priority to ensure that people were aware of the jellyfish problem we have encountered here for several years. A major education campaign and designated day called Jellyfish 2007 ensured the education of both kids and the parents in the use of stinger suits, vinegar stations and to raise awareness of jellyfish in the waters around Palm Island. Paramedics set up a display of jellyfish information posters, jellyfish samples and offered treatment advice in the shopping mall. Dr Lisa-ann Gershwin, Marine Stinger Advisor and a Marine Biologist specialising in jellyfish, attended on the day to give lectures to school students, hospital staff and parents at the display. Dr Gershwin said "Marine stingers are a serious problem in the tropical north especially so at Palm Island where the rate of potentially life threatening stings is about 1 in 500 residents per year, compared with the GBR regional average of about 1 in 160,000 beach and reef visitors per year. The introduction of these projects is a great way for the community to become more aware, be safe when at the beach and for residents to part of the solution with the vinegar stations".

Vinegar Stations at strate-

gic locations around the island near the popular swimming areas. "The vinegar station is a box with vinegar, dressings and cards detailing treatment and calling Triple Zero. These are at houses, which are indicated by a yellow sign out the front." Ian Day says. "Anyone who is stung can go to one of these houses and receive immediate treatment. Once vinegar is applied the house owner rings the ambulance to provide further treatment and transport." "The vinegar station is a simple concept to provide immediate treatment, the occupants are not required to do a first aid course, we provide simple training in jellyfish sting treatment."

The biggest project was to raise funding to purchase stinger suits (Protective Clothing) which will be provided to the schools for school water activities and carnivals. Suits will also be for sale at a subsidised price. This project has now come to fruition with fund raising and assistance of the Joyce Palmer Health Service Medicare Benefit Fund, Police Citizens Youth Club Palm Island and both St Michaels and Bwgcolman schools on the island. The stinger suits have been ordered from clothing manufacturer Sport Suits Australia, based in Brisbane, who has been a great sponsor of this project. SSA is making the suits to order in the colours of the indigenous flag and school colours. SSA has made a commitment to the project and has kept the price of each suit as low as possible.

Paramedics also conduct regular in-service information sessions for the nursing staff at the hospital and publish a local Stinger Awareness Newsletter for residents and businesses to keep everyone up to date on treatment and as a reminder to be safe but still have fun at the beach.

"Our logo for Jellyfish awareness is Target Zero 2008. We are aiming to reduce the number of stings significantly by these projects and with the overwhelming response to Jellyfish 2007 day, I am sure we can accomplish this" said Officer In Charge Ian Day.



Story and picture from Palm Island Ambulance Service

The Jelly Fish 2007 Team
Dr Lisa-ann Gershwin Marine Stinger Advisor, William Obah, Gemma Armitt, Advanced Care Paramedic David Kain, Frank Conway Community Health Worker, QAS Officer in Charge Ian Day

Small Calico bags found around the Island

Small mysterious calico bags have been found at key locations around Palm Island.

These bags have been discovered at Kootana Women's Shelter, Men's Group, Pharmacy window at Joyce Palmer Health Service Justice Group, Youth Justice & Department of Corrections Office & also in the toilets at CDEP & TAFE.

These bags have also been spotted at pharmacies around Townsville & Thuringowa. Further investigation reveals that they are also strategically distributed throughout Queensland. These bags only started appearing on the Island after 31 October.

The bags contain a complete kit including instructions for people to pack a sample and free post back for Chlamydia testing. Also with the bags is a colourful poster explaining about the kit.

It is important to get rid of Chlamydia in our community as this infection can make it difficult for people to have babies.

The bags are part of a research project that has been welcomed by the Palm Island Aboriginal Council.

The project has been developed to see whether tak-

ing a sample yourself and then mailing it to the lab is a way to make testing easier. This is something that people can do in private and is completely confidential so you don't need to worry about others knowing your business. This is something important for the people on Palm Island as it is a small community in an isolated area where privacy is important.

On Palm Island the completed kits can be dropped off at the Pharmacy window or once packed correctly in the free post bag through Australia Post. It is important to complete the paperwork so people can get the results and get free treatment if they need it. Treatment is easy, just 2 tablets and now also testing is easy.

There will be a stall at the World Aids Day Event at the PCYC on 28 November if anyone wants to know more information or wants to have a look at these great free kits.

By Rose Gordon, Central Public Health Nurse.



Should We Bring Birthing Back to Palm Island?

Having a baby is very important to families and very important to the Palm Island community.

For a long time now, most mothers have to go to Townsville for the birth of their baby and this can be hard for the family.

Now plans are underway to look at offering more pregnancy care, more care when the baby is born and the possibility of letting some Mums have their baby on Palm Island.

Before this can happen, Alex Gosden (pictured below with Barbie Baira) needs to be sure that this is what the community wants and how they want the service to run.

She also wants the community to understand that if we start letting some Mums have their babies here on Palm Island, that there may be some risks. She wants to talk to YOU!

Alex is trying to get around the community and talk to everyone about bringing birthing back to Palm Island.



If you see her and you want to talk to her, just go ahead, she loves a yarn. Or come and see Alex up at the antenatal clinic at the Joyce Palmer Health Service, she is often there and if not, Barbie can always let you know when she is next over.

Story and picture from Alex Gosden.



PALM ISLAND World AIDS Day

‘HIV/AIDS: Prevention is Everybody’s Business’

The Palm Island Community is invited to attend World AIDS day activities at the Palm Island PCYC on WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28TH from 10-3pm.

Proudly supported by the Palm Island Council, Qld Association for Healthy Communities, QLD Ambulance, Palm Island Store, and the Joyce Palmer Health Service.

There will be a march around the community starting at 9am, so make a banner and join in!

There will be special guest speaker, Gracelyn Smallwood.

Health Workers from JPHS will be providing education and information for all community members.

Those participating in the education sessions will receive a free sample bag, t-shirt and BBQ Lunch.

There will also be prizes and giveaways and a touch footy game after lunch.

So come along and support this important community event.

Contact Rachel Tipoti at JPHS for more details.



WORLD AIDS DAY AIMS FOR AWARENESS

World AIDS day is internationally recognised as a day to raise community awareness about HIV/AIDS. HIV is an infection that affects millions of people world wide every year.

HIV is short for Human Immunodeficiency virus. Pronounced (im-you-no-di-fish-ant-see).

What is HIV?

HIV is a virus that attacks your immune system, making it harder for your body to fight off other infections.

How do you get HIV?

HIV is an infection that is passed on during unprotected sex, sharing needles when injecting drugs and a mother can pass it on to her unborn baby.

HIV – What are the risks?

- Having sex and not using condoms.
- Having more than one partner.
- Sharing needles or equipment when injecting drugs.
- Having a sexually transmitted infection such as Chlamydia or Gonorrhoea increases your risk of getting HIV.
- Having a tattoo or piercing done with equipment that is not clean.

What are the signs and symptoms of HIV?

HIV affects people in many ways, some people may have no signs or symptoms of illness and can carry the virus for many years before finding out they have HIV.

What is AIDS?

When the immune system has been badly damaged and becomes weak by HIV, people then get sick from other infections or illnesses. At this stage of HIV infection, a person is said to have AIDS.

HIV MYTHS...

You CANNOT get HIV from kissing, sneezing, hugging or sharing cups.

You CANNOT get HIV from mosquitoes

You CANNOT tell if someone has HIV by looking at them.

If someone looks ‘boney’ it does not mean they have HIV or AIDS

Where can I go for advice?

You can see one of the Doctors in the clinic.

You can visit the Men’s and Women’s Business clinic and talk with Frank or Rachel about getting a free and confidential check up. Call the clinic on 47- 52 5165.

Protect Yourself Respect Yourself Prevent HIV/AIDS

Know the facts

- *Be safe*
- *Use Condoms*
- *Don’t share needles.*
- *And get yourself checked out.*

PALM ISLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH CALENDAR

Joyce Palmer Health Service

Doctors Appointments

Doctors run clinics Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

See the administration staff for appointments

Pharmacy

Mon, Wed Thurs, Fri

10am to 1 pm

2pm to 4.30 pm

Tuesday only close 6.30 pm

Dressing Clinic

8am to 4pm Monday to Friday only – unless it is an emergency

Dental Clinic

Tuesday every week in the Community Health Area. You need a current **Health Care Card** or **Pension card** to be eligible for this service. Come up between 9-10am to have your problem looked at. Then you will be booked in for an appointment at the next available clinic.

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapist visits every Wednesday. Contact the hospital to make and appointment.

Renal Clinic

The Renal Specialist (nephrologist) visits every two months, and clinics with the Renal Dietician and Social Worker are held every month. If you have been referred as a patient, the clinic will contact you with details of your appointment.

Paediatrics Clinic

The Paediatrics Clinic is held monthly at JPHS. Contact the hospital for more details.

Speech Therapy

The Speech Therapist visits Palm Island every month. Contact the hospital for more details.

Eye Clinic

The Optometrist visits once a month and the eye specialist (ophthamologist) comes twice a year. Contact the hospital for more details.

Diabetes Clinic

The Diabetes clinic is held monthly. Contact the hospital for more details.

Podiatry

The podiatry clinic is held every month. Contact the hospital for more details.

Mental Health Team

The Mental Health Team Office is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm. Phone 4753 5163. The Team can help with mental health assessment, crisis intervention, case management, consultation and liaison with persons presenting to JPHS emergency department, court liaison, Individual counselling and family therapy.

Child Health Clinic

Aggie is available from 8am to 4.30 Monday to Friday to provide help with child health problems issues such as immunisation and baby health checks. Also provide help for some women's health issues and family counselling. Ring on **4752 5172** or call in anytime.

Midwife Clinic

The midwife is available every Tuesday and Friday from 8.30am till 3.30pm. She can provide pregnancy testing, antenatal care and education, organise ultrasounds, offer postnatal care, contraceptive advice and help with women's health issues. Call 0437 550 171 or just come up and see her.

Sexual Health Clinic

Rachel, and Frank are in the office 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. The clinic is open late on Tuesday nights till 6.30pm. No appointment is needed.

We provide advice, treatment and management of any sexual health issues.

Women's Health Nurse

The Nurse will be available on the following dates:

- Tuesday 20th November
- Tuesday 4th December

You can go to the clinic if you need help or advice about any aspects of women's health. The team can help with information about issues such as contraception, menopause, or protecting yourself against diseases that may cause infertility.

REMEMBER: If you come for your regular pap smear, we can **prevent** cervical cancer. If you are under 26 years you can be eligible for a free Gardasil vaccination, which can help to protect you against cervical cancer.

Ring Rachel for an appointment on 4752 5165, or simply drop in between 8.00am-3.00pm on the day.

ATODS

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service has counsellors available to help with drug related issues, free of charge. Users or members of their families who are worried about the impact drugs are having on their lives you can come and yarn to Craig, Julie or Uncle Owen about what to do.

Vet Clinic

Dr. Jim has made his last visit for the year. He will be back again in January. In the meantime if you need assistance with your animal Luawana may be able to help and you can call her on 0428 325 183.

Otherwise Council Animal Control Officers may be able to provide advice or help.

Palm Island Voice Community Notice Board

AA Meetings at Ferdy's

AA meetings to help support people with drug or alcohol problems are held at Ferdy's.

Meetings are held both day and night Meeting times are 9am and 7pm. Call day staff at the centre in the morning to be picked up for the 7pm meeting.

Palm Island Play Group

All family members with children aged 0 – 5 years old are invited to come along the Palm Island Play-group.

DATE: Wednesdays

TIME: 10.30am – 12.30pm

WHERE: PCYC child care room

Contact **Tiana Friday** – PCYC 4770 1793 or 0438 717 607 **Svea Pitman** 4770 1828 or 0423 158 368.

Supported by the Palm Island Family Support Hub.

Rubbish Pick Up Times

Area	Day
Chook City & Farm	Thursday
Mango Avenue	Monday
Top End	Tuesday
Bottom End	Wednesday
Reservoir Ridge & Butler Bay	Friday

Public Holidays for 2007

Christmas Day	Tuesday	25 December
Boxing Day	Wednesday	26 December

Computing Class

Every Monday at the Bwngcolman State School. Beginners are welcome. Contact Charlie or Rani at the seaside TAFE campus. Telephone: 4770 1200.

Ferry Timetable

		Departs from	
Day/Date		Townsville	Palm Island
Fri 23 November	9:00am		11:00am
Mon 26 November	12:30pm		2:00pm **
Fri 30 November	2:00pm		4:00pm
Sun 2 December	12:30pm		2:30pm
Wed 5 December	9:00am		11:00am
Fri 7 December	10:00am		12:00pm
Sun 9 December	11:00am		1:00pm

Times may alter due to circumstances beyond the control of Sun Ferries.

Call 4771 3855 to confirm departure times.

Cyclone Clean Up

Council will start their Cyclone Clean Up program on 26 November. See p. 5 for more details

Palm Island World AIDs Day

The Palm Island Community is invited to attend World AIDS day activities at the Palm Island PCYC on WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28TH from 10-3pm.

There will be a march around the community starting at 9am, so make a banner and join in!

Palm Island Community Store Aboriginal Corporation

Annual General Meeting to be held Wednesday November 28th at 6 PM at the PCYC, Meeting Room 1. Contact Lex Wotton 0428 788 811 or Chris Congoo 0407 573 762 for further information.

Learner's Permits

Courses to assist students who are sitting for their Learners permit are held monthly on Palm. This course has an extremely high success rate.

If you want to do the course you need to enrol at TAFE. You will need your birth certificate & other ID.

Course dates

December 10 – 13th

Blue Cards

Construction Induction (Blue Card) is conducted by TAFE on Palm Island. This card is a requirement when working on a building site but is also gives a good sound knowledge of the Workplace Health and Safety Act, Safe work practices and Risk Assessment.

It is a three to four hour course and on completion students are issued with a General Safety Induction card

Enrolments are taken at TAFE.

Course dates

December 13th

Stinger High Season

November to April

- Wear a **Stinger Suit**.
 - Primary **First Aid** is **Vinegar** not water or ice.
 - **Stinger Box Houses** have First Aid facilities for treatment. They are at premises close to the beach.
- Look for this sign.



Coral Reef finfish Closed Season

3 December 2007 to 11 December 2007 (inclusive).

Fines may be applied for taking fish during a closed season. Contact the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol for further information. Telephone: 4772 7311.