

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

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

INSIDE – COUNCIL'S BEST FOR 2023



It's a BIG job!

A new Balance Tank is part of the upgrade of the Sewer Treatment Plant designed to improve the management of sewerage on Palm Island.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Water and Waste Reform Coordinator Steve Martin said the new tank could hold up to two million litres of sewerage.

“It’s main function is to slow the rate that sewerage is fed into the Bioreactor, allowing us more time to treat the sewerage and thereby improve the quality of the effluent,” he said.

“The tank will also allow us to take the Bioreactor off-line for repairs or maintenance – something that cannot happen now.

“We have been delayed by the recent rain from Cyclone Jasper, but we hope to have the base poured in mid-January, 2024.

“The steel tank will then be erected in February, 2024.”



Our BEST for 2023

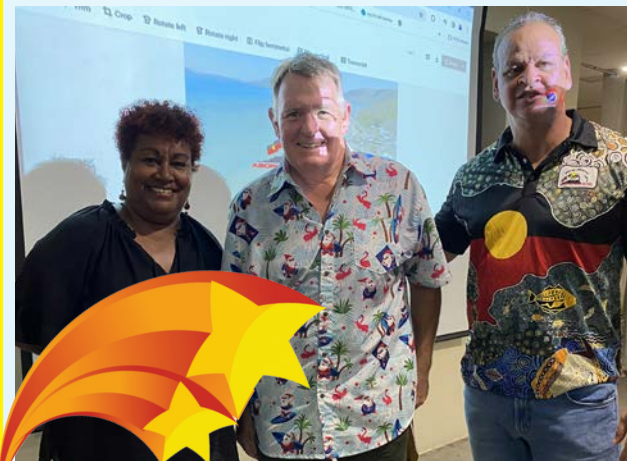
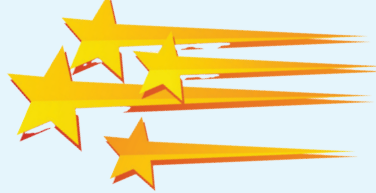


Mayor's award for "Performance Excellence" – the Council MVP award, it is for the person who has done the best overall work for Council and led from the front. Tim Asai is always early, works hard, efficiently and to 5pm; never complains; always ready with a smile and hello; enjoys a beer at the end of the day and is a role model for all of us.



The Mayor's 'Special Achievement' award – Keith Bligh graduated as trade qualified carpenter at 60ish years young in 2023! Outstanding commitment, shining example of what can be achieved with perseverance.

Deputy Mayor's award for "Community Excellence" – Leon Coutts was unable to be at the Award ceremony, but is recognised as a humble person with great leadership qualities who is focused on supporting his team to deliver important outcomes for the community.



Deputy Mayor's award for "Safety Champion" – Steve Martin makes sure we are well stocked with PPE and the necessary training is organised, and encourages everyone to comply with the safety laws and policies.

Long service awards – certificate to acknowledge five year and ten year intervals. Recipients for 2023 are:

- Bobby Ryan (10 years)
- Shannon Creed (15 years)



Councillor's 'Above and Beyond' award – Lloyd Morgan is the man you need when you need to get a car out of the dam. Happy to get in over his head, again, and go diving to find the connection to tow it out. No dramas, no fuss, just get the job done, and ensure community interests were looked after.



Councillor's 'Quiet Achiever' award – Astrid Bligh has an important job and she just gets on with it – she puts her earbuds in and makes it look like fun!



Councillor's "Fun Metre" award – Henry Mossman works hard under Marc's tutelage and can always be found up to his elbows in grease or under a car. Irrespective of where he is, you can always hear a distinctive laugh and always encouraging others to have a laugh too!

Councillor's 'Organisational Culture' award – Since Vaughan Charles started with Council nearly six months ago, he has made a massive difference to our workplace culture, showing great leadership. "Culture beats strategy any day."



Councillor's 'Continuous Improver' award – Costa Sam was a bit uncertain about his apprenticeship, but after some encouragement from Marc and Henry, he has really grown into it and taken great ownership of his personal growth and development – great to see people taking advantage of opportunity!



JCU's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science (ATSIMS) team was excited to host Bwgcolman Community School students over to Orpheus Island and Townsville earlier this year.

Paige Tanner-Hill, Vaughn Charles, Eldridge Murray, and Oswald Poynter were accompanied by BCS teacher Ed Balladeo as they joined in several modules including the Program Commencement and Graduation events held at JCU's Bebegu Yumba (Townsville) campus, an excursion to the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and a 3-night stay at JCU's Orpheus Island Research Station.

Senior student Paige Tanner-Hill earned herself a work experience placement at the institute alongside the Indigenous Partnerships Team at AIMS, with plans to commence in 2024, for her enthusiasm and passion for the marine world.

Bwgcolman Community School Senior Aquatics Teacher Ed Balladeo thanked the team for organising the trip.

"Bwgcolman Community School would like to thank Ally, Jess, ATSIMS staff and program partners for organising such an amazing program and inviting our students to come along in 2023," he said.

"Our students thoroughly enjoyed learning and sharing their knowledge of Land and Sea Country and Connecting to Country through the hands-on learning activities at James Cook University, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and the Orpheus Island Research Station.

"We can't wait to team up again next year!"

Year 10 Student Eldridge Murray thanked them

Students embrace marine science learning



for teaching him how to snorkel.

"I learned about what is venomous and what is not around the reef," he said.

"I had a lot of fun yarning with everyone.

"Everyone was really nice and friendly."

Bwgcolman's participation in the program was the result of engagement with members of the Manbarra Elders Council and the MinggaMingga Land and Sea Rangers group, including Uncle Richard Cassady.

PIASC will close Friday 22 December and re-open on Monday 2 January 2024. We wish all our families, staff and community a happy and safe Christmas and New Year break.

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE* (Issue 392*) will be Thursday 25 January for publication on Monday 29 January



The **Palm Island Voice** is published *weekly if we have paid advertising, or otherwise fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at howeschowes@gmail.com Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor, Christine Howes. You can also follow us on Facebook! We have 2,900 'likes' and more than 3,000 followers! The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

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