

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 426

9 June 2025



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

Bwngcolman Day 2025

See inside for more...



www.selectability.com.au Obe Geia highlights and pics inside!



Bwgcoldman Day remembers our history

The Palm Island community celebrates Bwgcoldman Day to honour and respect those in the community who were brought to Palm from their homeland and remembers Strike 57 Day for the struggles the community endured with work and pay conditions.

This year's commemoration service was held at the old cemetery on Francis Creek, followed by a history exhibit at the IKC and yarning, karaoke, music and entertainment at Fred Clay Park.

Speakers on the day said it was good for the kids to know their history.

"It's a very painful history, but it's good that our kids know because it will teach them to respect our Elders, especially the ones who have passed on," they said.

Algon Walsh said his grandfather Eddie Barker had a camp set up on the beach near the cemetery so he could maintain his family's gravesites.

"They were sent to Yarrabah first, then to Hull River, and there to Fantome Island, then to here," he said.

The event was sponsored by PIASC, Rainbow Gateway/Palm Island CDP, PCYC, PICC, Bwgcoldman Community School and St Michael's School.

Bwgcoldman Day			
Tuesday 3 June 2025			
Bwgcoldman Many tribes united			
Program of Events			
TIME	EVENT	VENUE	HOST
9.45am	Community pickups to cemetery at Longreach	Francis Creek, Old Cemetery	PIASC, Manbarra TO-Allen Palm Island, and a Bwgcoldman Elder
	Welcome & Opening	Francis Creek, Old Cemetery	
10.30am-11am	Opening Prayer & Acknowledgement	Francis Creek, Old Cemetery	Churches, PIASC
	Commemoration Service	Francis Creek, Old Cemetery	TO & a Bwgcoldman Elder with Deputy Mayor & Councillors
	TRANSPORT BACK TO Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Fred Clay Park	PIASC, Invited Guests, Elders & Community Members	
11am-12pm	Palm Island History Exhibit	Indigenous Knowledge Centre	PIASC
11am-3pm	Elders Yarning Story	Fred Clay Park	PIASC, Elders
12pm	Community BBQ	Fred Clay Park	PIASC, Volunteers
1pm-3pm	Karaoke	Fred Clay Park	Valmai Agius
12pm-3pm	Music & Entertainment	Fred Clay Park	PIASC, Performers
EVENT CLOSE at 3pm			
Sponsored by:			



Time to shine @ Obe Geia



The 2025 Obe Geia Jr Challenge was held last Monday at the Palm Island JRL grounds.

The Challenge saw the return of all 11 schools who participated in 2024, showcasing the ongoing enthusiasm and commitment to this annual rugby league event.

As in previous years, the game participation coach delivered multiple Tackle Ready sessions to ensure players were confident and well-prepared, prioritising safe and effective tackling techniques.

A significant improvement from the 2024 carnival was the performance of several teams, including Magnetic Island, St Michael's, and both Bwgcolman teams, all of whom demonstrated impressive skill and played exciting rugby league.

Another highlight was the growing female participation, with 11 female players across all teams.

Many of these players were standout performers in their respective matches, proving that the sport continues to foster inclusivity and talent development.

Reigning back-to-back champions, St Clare's, advanced to their third consecutive final, emerging from Pool Blue after narrowly escaping tough challenges from Bwgcolman Pink and St Michael's in the round games.

Rasmussen State School joined them in the grand final, which at full time stood at a 3-all draw.

Rasmussen scored the first try in the match and were officially crowned the 2025 Obe Geia Jr Challenge champions.

Cowboys Programs Manager Ray Thompson said sportsmanship had remained at the heart of the competition.

"Players displayed respect for their opponents, applauded great plays, and demonstrated camaraderie both on and off the field," he said.

"The shared enthusiasm for the game strengthened bonds between schools, fostering a spirit of unity and respect.

"The event not only highlighted exceptional rugby talent but also reinforced the values of teamwork, resilience, and fair play that make the Obe Geia Jr Challenge such a meaningful experience for all involved."





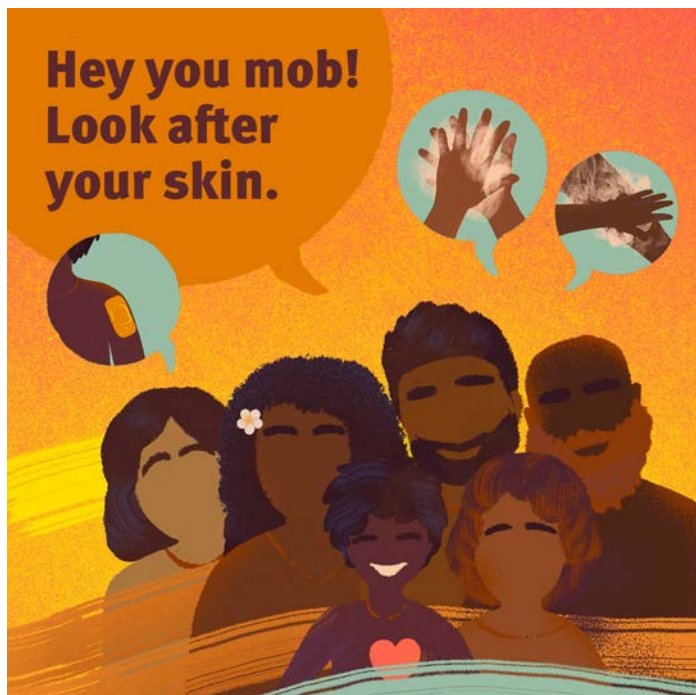


Local entrepreneur Josiah James has taken significant steps in supporting the community by hiring residents to work in his island-based business.

His efforts contribute not only to job creation but also to bolstering the local economy.

It means we are getting closer to having two grandstands at our footy oval, which will make watching games at that ground so much better.

Well done Josiah!





Support that fits YOU!

select. connect. flourish.

We'll support you to select your path, connect with purpose, and flourish in life.

Join us for a wide range of activities like arts and craft, fishing, back to country, bingo, movie days and much more...



Mahie Club!

Monday - Friday | 7am - 9am

Start your day with a meal, cuppa and a yarn!

Come and meet our friendly team today!

Not on the NDIS? Support is available,

CONNECT WITH US



SCAN CODE

selectability

mental wellbeing and suicide prevention

Palm Island Mental Health Hub

Joyce Palmer Home and Community Care Centre
(HACC) Beach Road

☎ 0448 133 445

🌐 selectability.com.au

TOMORROW ->

Date Saver: 6-7 August

Palm Island Early Years Reference Group's
coordinated

Autistic Spectrum Disorder Yarning and Sharing Workshop

Positive Partnerships is excited to connect with community and
share *Autistic Spectrum Disorder Yarning and Sharing Workshop*.

It's ok to be dead and different.

Did you know that in every 100 people, one to two are autistic?

Autistic people in our communities have a variety of needs to
support their way of learning and developing.

Some autistic people need more support than others.

Come join us for a day of yarning and sharing.



DATE: Wednesday and Thursday 6-7 August 2025

TIME: 9:30am

VENUE: CFC (Blue Building)

CONTACT: Ray Armit rarmit@picc.com.au or phone 0411 495 654



STRIKE 57

GO FOR BROKE

Program of Events
Tuesday 10 June 2025

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
May 2025 to 13 June 2025		Photo Exhibitions, School Libraries, Elders visit with Classroom	Bwgoolman Primary & High School St Michaels Primary School
10 JUNE 2025			
	10.45am	March from Main Street to Memorial Plaque at Beach Road, Foreshore	Beach Road
	10.50am	Commemoration Service	Strike Families, Memorial Plaque
	11.00	Morning Tea for Strike 57 Families & Community	Council Chambers
	12.00pm	Official Welcome	PIASC Mayor & Councillors
		Welcome to Country	Uncle Allan Palm Island
		Opening Prayer	Ps Rabai & Father Mahn
	12.00pm-2pm	Community BBQ	Fred Clay Park
	ALL DAY	Strike 57 Display	IKC Display at Fred Clay Park
		Stalls, & Music	ALL DAY
	1-2pm	Story telling session told by the Children of the Seven Leaders	Family of Strikers Aunty Dulcie Isaro & Aunty Dallas Thaiday Evelyn Lymburner Kevin Aldridge Congoo Family Aunty Irene Watson on behalf of Watson Family Apologies-Delphine Geia Tapau Family Chris Congoo
		OPEN MIC-Story Telling	
	2-4pm	Kareoke	Valmai Aplin
		EVENT CLOSE AT 4PM	

We remember and honour our Seven Leaders:

Bill Congoo

Sonny Sibley

Albie Geia

Gordon Tapau

Eric Lymburner

Willie Thaiday

George Watson



Sponsored by:





*Warning: This presentation may contain images and names of deceased people that may cause sadness and distress to Aboriginal & Islander Peoples.

Information about Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council services and activities, including ramp and jetty closures, water supply issues, vet visits and meetings, etc, is regularly updated on our Council's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PalmCouncil>

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*

(Issue 427*) will be Thursday 19 June for publication on Monday 23 June



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>

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 5,400 'followers' on Facebook!!!