



Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 12 September 2013

\$1.25

Issue 137



Full Story + Pics on page 7!!

Also in this Issue...



Full PIRL semi-final football results, scores and pics - see pages 14-15-16!

Palm Island votes - pics page 2!

Booth Results: Palm Island

FIRST PREFERENCES

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Swing (%)
HAMILTON, Gail	The Greens	52	8.83	+0.79
MOIR, Steve	One Nation	14	2.38	+2.38
MAROLLA, Nino	Rise Up Australia Party	10	1.70	+1.70
WALKER, Bronwyn	Katter's Australian Party	92	15.62	+15.62
JONES, Ewen <small>PREVIOUS MEMBER</small>	Liberal National Party of Queensland	71	12.05	-18.43
O'TOOLE, Cathy	Australian Labor Party	315	53.48	-4.67
PUNSHON, Michael	Family First	7	1.19	-2.14
GEORGE, Costa	Sex Party	5	0.85	+0.85
BELL, Margaret	Australian Voice	5	0.85	+0.85
BREWSTER, Martin David	Palmer United Party	18	3.06	+3.06
FORMAL		589	89.79	+4.03
INFORMAL		67	10.21	-4.03
TOTAL		656	0.68	+0.05

TWO CANDIDATE PREFERRED

Candidate	Party	Votes	Margin	Percentage (%)	Swing (%)
JONES, Ewen <small>PREVIOUS MEMBER</small>	Liberal National Party of Queensland	174	-241	29.54	-5.36
O'TOOLE, Cathy	Australian Labor Party	415	241	70.46	+5.36

Source: <http://mirror-vtr.aec.gov.au/HousePollingPlaceFirstPrefs-17496-5685.htm>

The Townsville Bulletin recently reported three Palm Island boys who rescued a young friend and have been recognised with a national bravery award.

Ralph Hughes, Harry Friday and Carey Nugent, were just 11, 12 and 15 at the time.

The boys were awarded a Group Bravery Citation as part of this year's Australian Bravery Decorations list, approved by Governor-General Quentin Bryce.

Palm Island CIB officer-in-charge Detective Sergeant Paul Enders told the Bulletin he had never seen such a courageous act by a group of young people and that their bravery award was well-deserved.

"For children so young at the time, it was remarkable," he told the newspaper. "They saved her from a quite terrible ordeal."

http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2013/09/02/388330_news.html

PERMANENT accommodation will be built for medical officers on Palm Island to improve health care in the community the Townsville Bulletin has also reported.

The Island's health service was reviewed by the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (THHS) in the wake of a tragedy earlier this year, which is being investigated by the coroner.

The paper reported the review found while the health service had been providing very good acute care, there was a need for more primary health care to manage chronic conditions and to prevent, where possible, hospital admissions.

THHS CEO Julia Squire told the Bulletin a new indigenous health service group would be set up in coming weeks to take a lead role in community and stakeholder engagement with a focus on Palm Island.

Mayor Alf Lacey said previous councils had battled state and federal governments for better primary health services for about 30 years.

http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2013/09/06/388615_news.html

Also in the Townsville Bulletin, Joyce Palmer Health Services' Young Parents Support Program Midwife Dr Lynore Geia (pictured on the right) addressed an awards ceremony to mark Child Protection Week last week.

They said Dr Geia said it was easy to dwell on negative news about Palm Island but change should be appreciated, even if it does come slowly.

"Small steps forward are something to be celebrated," she said. "You want outcomes that the community feels they are a part of the process at ground level."

Twenty-year-old health worker Jeanon Kidner, who also works on Palm Island, told the audience of her pride in working for her community, the Bulletin said.

"I got into this job because I want to make a change," she said.

http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2013/09/03/388399_news.html

The ABC reports Mayor Alf Lacey has asked the government to fund a study - which will include consultation with local people - into developing tourism ventures on the Island.

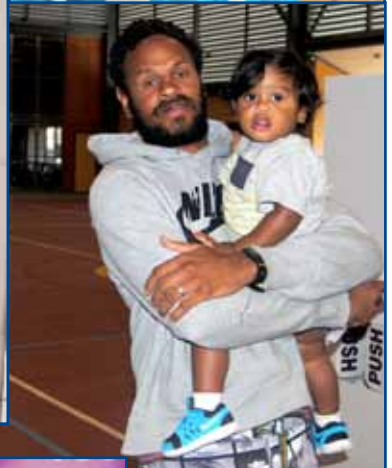
The report said the State Government outlined its vision to turn the area into a popular tourist destination earlier this year.

Councillor Lacey told reporter Allyson Horn Queensland Tourism Minister Jann Stuckey needed to kickstart the process with some money to find out what the community wants.

"There is fear from some elements throughout Palm in terms of turning Palm into a Hamilton Island or a Gold Coast," he said. "The council is not advocating that - what we're saying is anything that needs to happen on Palm needs to happen with community engagement."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-26/community-urged-to-have-say-in-palm-island-tourism-plans/4911604>

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Housing crisis to ease with new subdivisions



Pictured: Palm Island Councillors Mislam Sam, Eddie Walsh, Frank Conway & Alf Lacey with Ministers Jann Stuckey and Glen Elmes and local MP John Hathaway at the Lama Lama subdivision

State Government Ministers Glen Elmes (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs) and Jan Stuckey (Tourism), along with local MP John Hathaway, were on Palm Island late last month to finalise the completion of the two new subdivisions which will do much to ease the community's well-reported housing crisis.

Mr Hathaway told the *Palm Island Voice* the two sub-divisions would allow for an extra 60 residential houses.

“We have known for many years there's been a severe shortage of accommodation and overcrowding in houses on Palm Island,” he said. “It was also good to take Ministers Elmes and Stuckey over to Palm for a visit so that they could see the potential and beauty of Palm Island.”

Mr Elmes said the sub-divisions were

completed as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.

He said the joint State/Commonwealth program was a significant mechanism to help make home ownership a reality for Aboriginal residents and provide economic and employment opportunities on Palm Island.

“Our approach to addressing Indigenous disadvantage is to see jobs created and local economies developed which support home ownership and the creation of small businesses,” he said.

“The construction of new homes on Palm Island will improve living conditions, and provide employment and training opportunities for local residents, while improving the economic and social wellbeing in the community.”

Mr Elmes said employment, sustainable enterprise and land tenure reform to provide improved options for home ownership were high on his continuing agenda as a means for Indigenous people to achieve better outcomes.

Palm booth votes cast against the swing

DESPITE inclement weather locals turned out early to cast their votes in the Federal election. Officer-in-charge of voting Andrea Kyle-Sailor and Issuing Officer Sonny Sibley (pictured left below) worked hard over the day to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Pictured at the poll on page 2 from the top are: Letitia Murgha, Rodney Kerr, Josie Nallajar, Lex Wotton, Raoul Miller and son Anukie Miller, aged 1, Neville Haines and Yolanda Kerr.

■ LGAQ'S INDIGENOUS LEADERS' FORUM



Cr Alf Lacey, Mayor Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (left) with community store worker Jan Bligh and LGAQ Ambassador Shane Webcke

INDIGENOUS LEADERS' FORUM ADVOCATES *Change*

The recent bi-annual Indigenous Leaders Forum in Cairns hosted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local government leaders from across the state, who joined forces to advocate for change.

These councils, relatively recently vested with full local government status, have increasingly challenged the continuing reliance of their communities on welfare, demanding the involvement of other spheres of government as they work to deliver greater dignity, pride and prosperity for their communities through the creation of jobs, improved education and economic development.

It's a task that can often be frustrating for those involved, as politics, external pressures and layers of bureaucracy cloud the reality faced by communities at a grassroots level.

The forum sought to address the councils' challenges head-on. Despite its short three-year history, it is attracting increasing interest and requests for attendance by external agencies. Financial sustainability, the impact of

constitutional recognition, policing and justice were key items on an agenda, which also included addresses from LGAQ president Cr Margaret de Wit, Local Government Minister David Crisafulli, Federal Opposition Senator Ian MacDonald and Northern Territory Local Government representative Tony Tapsell.

The forum was the launching pad for a new approach to state funding for Indigenous councils, under which the councils will be given access to an earmarked proportion of annual state funding as an incentive for introducing new methods of raising revenue. The reaction to the approach from attending council representatives was mixed. Palm Island mayor and LGAQ Policy Executive member Cr Alf Lacey said he welcomed the positive acknowledgement of the efforts of indigenous councils by the state government.

THE FORUM WAS THE LAUNCHING PAD FOR A NEW APPROACH TO STATE FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS COUNCILS

"The six-month payment model is a marked improvement on the current process, which drip-feeds funding through to Indigenous councils," Cr Lacey said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander council leaders welcomed a federal opposition commitment to collaborate with them on reducing disadvantage in their communities in the form of an invitation to meet with



Cr Terry Munns, Mayor Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council



At the delegation were, from left, Cr Roy Prior (Deputy Mayor Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council), Cr Allan Ketchell, Cr John Abennego and Cr Yen Loban (Torres Shire Council); LGAQ President Cr Margaret de Wit, Cr Alf Lacey (Mayor Palm Island), Cr Philemon Mene (Mayor Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council), Cr Pedro Stephen (Mayor Torres Shire Council), Senator Nigel Scullion, Cr Wayne Butcher, (Mayor Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council), Cr Errol Neal (Mayor Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council) and Cr Peter Guivarra,

representatives of Tony Abbott including the shadow minister for Indigenous Affairs Senator Nigel Scullion, during the ALGA National Congress. The meeting subsequently took place in Canberra with a delegation from the Indigenous Leaders Forum.

Key actions and strategies arising from the Indigenous Leaders Forum:

- A call for a dedicated workshop on Financial Sustainability strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island councils.
- Process to be identified for councils to be recognised as principal contractor for construction, road activities and civil works in their communities.
- Discussion to commence with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General around the allocation of all SPER fines generated to date from AMP breaches within communities to be directed towards preventative strategies in the communities.
- Discussion to commence with the Department of Justice regarding greater use of community service as penalties to minimise incarceration due to lack of finances and to assist reparation of community property.
- Aboriginal Legal Services be requested to pursue stolen wages through the United Nations.
- That an examination of legislation be conducted to allow councils to set rates on DOGGIT land.
- The need to examine how to establish a suitable ratings system that is sustainable and meaningful for councils.
- The establishment of a process for conducting meaningful dialogue between the police and councils on policing on communities.
- Engagement with the federal government to improve process on awarding of Service Provider contracts in these communities. ■



Local Government Minister David Crisafulli addressing the forum



Torres Strait Shire Councillors Allan Ketchell (left) and Yen Loban during a forum break

JCU NAIDOC celebrates culture

PALM Island was well-represented at a special Smoking and Paying Respect ceremony as part of NAIDOC celebrations at James Cook University in Townsville early last week.

Aboriginal group Gullumbah's Didjida Yallorin led by Garth Ross presented a smoking ceremony with Renarta Prior (pictured right), during which elders were thanked for their huge contribution over decades. Master of Ceremonies was JCU lecturer Max Lenoy, with a welcome to country by Dorothy Savage.

"We bow our heads in respect of those who have passed on and thank the spiritual ancestors of this country for sharing their land with us and for watching over us on our educational journeys," Ms Prior said.

"The elders have done wonderful things and we thank them for their love, protection and guidance."

Aunty Mary Twaddle, pictured below with Renarta Prior, and Judy Geary were also there, as was Professor Gracelyn Smallwood and Phillip Obah.





Drifters star in Palm Island Spring Fair

PALM Islanders were delighted to welcome internationally renowned group The Drifters to their own tropical paradise to perform for Spring Fair celebrations last week.

They sang their greatest hits and some favourite Elvis Presley tunes for a huge crowd, many of whom had grown up with their music, prompting band member Billy Washington to tell the *Palm Island Voice* the next morning they were happy to have been there and couldn't wait for an invitation to come back.

...Continued page 9...





2013 Palm Island Spring Fair Festival

“This is a beautiful island with beautiful people and we thank Mayor Alf Lacey, Spring Fair organiser Lyn Freckleton, elders, and residents for having us here,” Drifters member Billy Washington said.

“The hospitality has been wonderful and we will be telling everybody we know about Palm Island.”

The feeling was mutual as residents shared their excitement at having the famous group – identified by Wikipedia as “a long-lived American doo-wop and R&B/soul vocal group...originally formed to serve as a backing group for Clyde McPhatter (of Billy Ward & the Dominoes) in 1953”.

“This would be the most famous group we have had here and it would cost at least \$50 a ticket if they were at the Townsville Entertainment Centre,” said one audience member. “We would have had to pay either a plane or ferry ticket to Townsville and this has been free,” another said.

The event was rated much higher than a trip some years back by Hollywood Superstar Russell Crowe who performed on Palm with his band. Rain throughout the day did not dampen the spirits of Palm islanders who turned out in big numbers on the night for the concert and fireworks which followed.

Another highlight of Spring Fair 2013 was a visit by comedian Sean Choolburra, who said he has family connections on the Island.

“This is a Deadly Island with Deadly people,” he said.

The day opened with respected elder and Traditional Owner Allan Palm



Island (Manbarra Tribe) welcoming our guests to country, followed with speeches from Mayor Alf Lacey and Elders Group chair Iris White and a community BBQ.

Other entertainment included the Shalom Christian College Chookie Dancers, Melita Murphy, Noel Cannon, Archie Fraser, Walter Foster and Band, plus Selina Shepherd.

There also were many community stalls and Government and NGO Community Awareness Promotional Stalls, an Aboriginal Arts Corporation (BAAC) Art Exhibition, Face



...From previous page...

Painting and Amusement rides for children.

The evening barbecue when The Drifters performed was sponsored by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

A Spring Festival Message delivered by Cr Lacey was ratified by Luella Bligh, Iris White, Elizabeth Larry, Sylvia Palmer, Dudley Bostock, Robert Friday, Ethel Robertson, Nancy Murphy, Gertrude Massey and Ralph Watson.

“It has come to that time again to celebrate the Festivities of Spring Fair,” Cr Lacey said.

“Council takes great pride in ensuring we don’t miss the opportunity to celebrate this significant event which is becoming a popular part of the Community Calendar.

“We would like to say that with the enormous support of our many sponsors, this year we were able to make Spring Fair happen.

“As most community members would know there has been a lot of funding shortfalls and Government cutbacks that disallow us the ability to put on significant community events. Notwithstanding those issues, this Council is proud to be a part of hosting this significant event. We would like to sincerely thank our many sponsors, Council staff and community members who have helped to make this happen.

“This year’s theme is about our diversity and who we are as Bwgcolman, our families and our respect for one another.

“We encourage the community to participate with our visitors to make it a deadly event.

“Council’s message to the community is progress is happening and will continue to happen as we see a mood for change.

“Economic development, housing infrastructure, a new health agreement, the foreshore program, the pontoon project and subdivision number three are all in the pipeline.

“Your Council will continue to advocate for a better lifestyle for the whole community, our future is important and the next generation deserves better.

“It is about our diversity as Bwgcolman, it is who we are!”



Palm Island Voice

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*Public &
Community
Notices*

ABOUT THIS FONT:

The font used in this newsletter is called 'Dyslexie' and has been designed for people who have difficulty reading, especially those with dyslexia, so they can read more easily.

For more information see <http://www.studiostudio.nl>

2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates

ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt banner ad across nominated page): \$120
Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST
Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST
Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see back page) and material submitted no later than COB the next day.

SUBSCRIBE!

Individuals & Families: \$50
Community & NGOs: \$100
Government & Corporate: \$150
(Inclusive from now to end 06/14)

Subscription rates will vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in January 2014 the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2014).

To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au
Please support us so we can continue to support you!



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Public Holidays 2014

- *Strike 57 - Commemoration Day*
Friday 6 June
 - *Bwngcolman Day*
Friday 13 June
- *Townsville Annual Show*
Monday 7 July
 - *NAIDOC Day*
Friday 18 July
- *Spring Fair Festival Day*
Friday 5 September

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 176 'likes' on Facebook!!!



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every 2nd Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDO is **Friday 20 September**
For emergencies on Friday please call 0458 789 011.
For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.



**BINDAL SHARKS
UNITED**

Date: 12th, & 13th
October, 2013

Venue: Brothers
Leagues Club,
Harvey's Range rd

Prices:

Mens Nomination:
\$1500

**Under 19's men
nomination:** \$500

**Womens
Nominations:** \$500

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Jenny Pryor

Viaella Pryor

Bindal Sharks United - All Blacks Carnival 2013



Prize Money

**Men's Winners Cup -
\$15,000**

**Runners up Winners Cup -
\$5000**

**Men's winner Silver Cup-
\$4000**

Runners up Silver Cup- \$1000

Silver Plate winner- \$1500

Runners up Silver Plate- \$500

Under 19's winner- \$2000

**Runners up Under 19's -
\$1000**

**Women's Prizes dependant
on number of team nomina-
tions**



**Grand Final Winners—2012
Palm Island-Barracudas**

PIRL final round: 31/8

JETS scored the biggest win of the final round of fixtures, defeating Mundy Bay Warriors 78–16.

Assan Sam scored three tries whilst Genami Geia chipped in with two four pointers and eight goals for a wonderful personal tally of 24 points. Genami had played with Hornets club which folded mid to late season. Inosi Geia, John Fullarton and David Sam each scored two tries for the – pardon the pun – HIGH FLYING Jets. Vernon Noble was the star for Warriors with a try and 2 goals for half of the side's final points.

RAIDERS SKIP OVER JACKS

MOUNT Bentley Raiders defeated reigning premiers Skipjacks 38–26 in an exciting match. Gresham Ross jnr scored three tries and booted five goals for Raiders for a total of 22 points, more than half of the Raiders' final score. The undoubted star for Skippies was ever reliable Anthony Thompson with two tries and three goals for 14 points.

These arch rivals were drawn to meet in the elimination semi final on 6 September.

BULLS CHARGE BROTHERS

BUTLER Bay Bulls rolled Bwngcolman Brothers 54–36 in the other match. Clinton Palmer scored two tries and booted seven goals for the Bulls which charged to the minor premiership. That was 22 points by Clinton. John Oliffe scored three tries and stalwart Pita Morgan two for Bulls. For Brothers Malcolm Larry scored a try and booted three goals, Owen Robertson a try and a goal, and Selwyn Bowman a try and two goals.

Bulls LOCKED HORNS with Jets in the qualifying semi final.

PIRL semi-finals: Friday 6/9

At halftime in the Jets v Butler Bay Bulls semi, it was 16–all which was an indication of how closely matched the two sides are.

It was a torrid physical affair and with 15 minutes remaining Townsville referee Dean Saunders called players from both sides to the middle of the field warning them “to play football” otherwise he would walk off. In the end it was the Jets who advanced into the grand final on Saturday week and will enjoy the extra time for any niggling injuries to heal.

Hosea Murphy scored two tries for Jets with singles to Assan Sam, Tabua Oui and blockbusting forward William Blackman.

Oui added the extras with four goals. For Bulls, rampaging second rower Billo Wotton scored two tries along with flying back Frank Pompey.

Wotton was particularly damaging when he drifted out into the back line making numerous line breaks.

Walter Geia scored the other try and clever hooker Pita Morgan booted four goals.

RAIDERS OUST PREMIERS

Mount Bentley Raiders ended the season for 2012 premiers Skipjacks when they won the elimination semi final 38–28.

Raiders will now meet Butler Bay Bulls next Saturday with the winner to take on Jets in the season climax.

For Raiders Ben Baira and Gresham Ross jnr each scored two tries, with singles to Vincent Palmer, John Baira and Devon Palm Island.

Gresham Ross kicked three goals and Gary Pearson guided one between the big posts. For Skippies crafty Robin Nallajar scored two tries with one apiece to Terence Sibley, Clinton Pearson and Mickeal Sibley.

Anthony Thompson kicked four goals.



- Palm Island Rugby League (PIRL) 2013 Final Points**
- 1 Butler Bay Bulls 33
 - 2 Jets 27
 - 3 Mount Bentley Raiders 26
 - 4 Skipjacks 23
 - 5 Bwgcoldman Brothers 18
 - 6 Mundy Bay Warriors 9

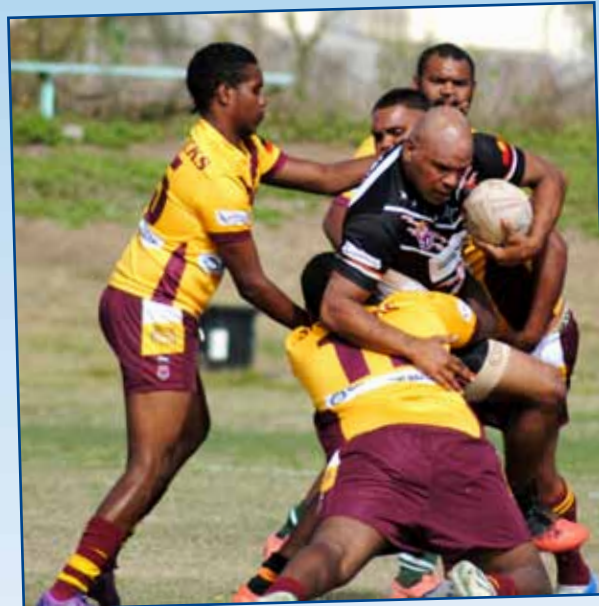


Jets land first grand final berth

Butler Bay Bulls to take on Mount Bentley Raiders in this weekend's preliminary

A cliffhanger had spectators on the edge of their seats until the final siren resulted in Jets beating arch rivals Butler Bay Bulls 28-26 in last Friday's qualifying semi final at PIRL headquarters.

The two PIRL semi finals were held a day earlier than the normal Saturday to coincide with the Spring Fair holiday so *Palm Island Voice* was there to capture all the action.



MORE PICS INSIDE!!!

Townsville All Blacks good to go

Teams from as far afield as Mt Isa, Woorabinda and the Torres Strait, including top contenders and last year's winners Palm Island's own Barracudas, will compete in the 2013 Bindal Sharks United All Blacks in Townsville on the weekend of the 12th and 13th of next month.

Organiser Jenny Pryor said as of last weekend there were already 23 teams signed up for the Men's open, seven for the Under-19s and five for the Masters (over-35s) competition, all of which will be fiercely contested.

With the draw expected to be held once numbers and teams are confirmed, it should be a huge weekend for everyone lucky enough to get there.

Teams to date were: Cannonballs, Bindal Sharks, Ajas Boys, Yunga Boongi, Murri Bama, Bowen Stingers, Walkabouts, Girringun Pirates, Mt Isa Razorbacks, Innisfail Waru, GH United, Noongini Warriors, Ngarrabullgan Warriors, Defence, Garnet Eagles, Barracudas, Korracha Warriors, Wongai Warrior, Black Bream, Mosby Eagles, Woorabinda Warriors and Northern Eagles.

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Thursday 17 October	140	THURSDAY 24 October
Thursday 31 October	141	THURSDAY 7 November