



New pontoon on track for June finish

Ferry passengers should expect some inconvenience – although no cancellations – to normal ferry services while the new pontoon (pictured) is under construction Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey says.

In June last year Cr Lacey told the *Palm Island Voice* the pontoon would make a big difference to the community.

“The funding is a four-way partnership between Regional Development Australia Fund; PIASC, the Queensland Government and Sealink Townsville at a cost of \$1.7 million,” Cr Lacey said.

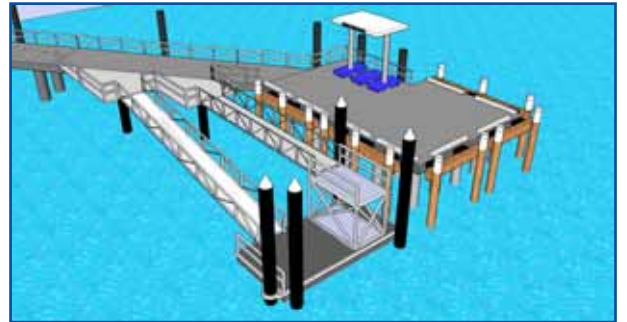
“This very important project will make a huge difference to the Shire and open up a wide range of opportunities through greater connectivity

with Townsville and the wider region. Palm Island can become a true partner in the region’s economy to bolster economic and employment outcomes.

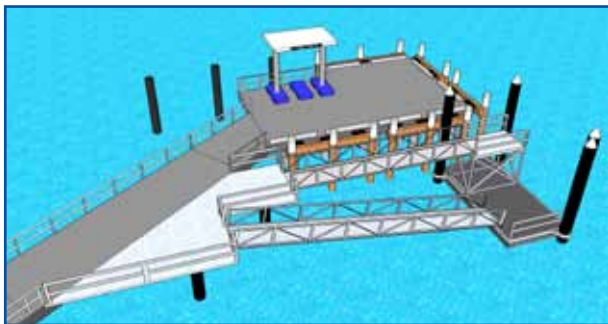
And residents will have much improved, unrestricted access to Townsville.”

Cr Lacey said all the design, engineering and environmental approvals for the project meant the new pontoon would indeed be a reality by 30 June.

“The development application has been approved and in the next month or two we’ll see the starting of the new pontoon facilities and reshaping of the wharf area to allow the new



pontoon to be attached to the wharf,” he said. “In the long run, it will be beneficial into the community because we will then see a regular time-table rather than the ad hoc arrangement around tides we have at the moment. I just want to say we want the community to work with Council and contractors, and be a bit patient while these works are going on because it will interrupt some services in terms of the logistics of getting people on and off the wharf once these works are happening.”



INSIDE:

- Stable on the Strand pics
- Invasion Day marked by Townsville Council



New home for Kalkadoon artefacts

PCYC looking for new volunteers



Artists' network opportunity

Townsville's Community Information Centre (CIC) has funding from the Regional Arts Development Fund to develop and produce an NQ Arts Directory.

The new online directory will capture arts and cultural businesses, individuals, spaces, groups and organisations from Townsville, Burdekin, Palm Island, Charters Towers and Hinchinbrook. It will be the first regional platform where arts practitioners and supporters can access, connect and collaborate. The Directory will incorporate New Media, Design, Music Bands, arts-related businesses and individual artists such as visual arts, musicians and performing artists.

Submission forms for entry in the directory are now available.

For more information email the CIC at cicprojectofficer@townsville.qld.gov.au or phone 47714230.

Happy
Birthday!!!



Shamika Geia (right) turned 18 on January 16 and is pictured here at her Graduation dinner last year with cousin Dehanna Morgan.

Out & About @ Townsville's Stable on the Strand



Top Left: Betty Hill with children Stacey Hill, 9, and Alice Hill, 6; Top Right: Esme Fewquandie; Bottom Left: Father Daniel with two Roman soldiers; Bottom Right: Evelyn Lymburner with grandchildren Moa Alfred, 3, Kyon Alfred, 8, and their mother Gata Alfred.



PCYC in need of new staff and volunteers

PCYC is struggling to maintain activities because they are short of staff and in need of more volunteers, Relief Branch Manger Acting Sergeant Janet Lindsay says.

“We are undergoing significant staff changes at present and find it difficult to run some of the activities that used to be run because we are short of staff,” she said. “We are advertising for a variety of positions in the community but until those are filled we are thin on the ground for numbers.”

She asked the community to ‘bear with them’ until the positions were filled.

“Please bear with us whilst we get some new programs up and running and try and cater for all of the community as best we can,” she said. “Any suggestions are welcome for activities and events we can establish, and also for recommendations for opening

hours. PCYC is a not-for-profit organisation for the whole community. It is a place where we hope you find something that interests you, but to offer more services we need you or your friends to volunteer to make things happen. Tell us what you would like to see implemented. And if you have a skill or qualification come along and share you expertise for a short time or a long time.”

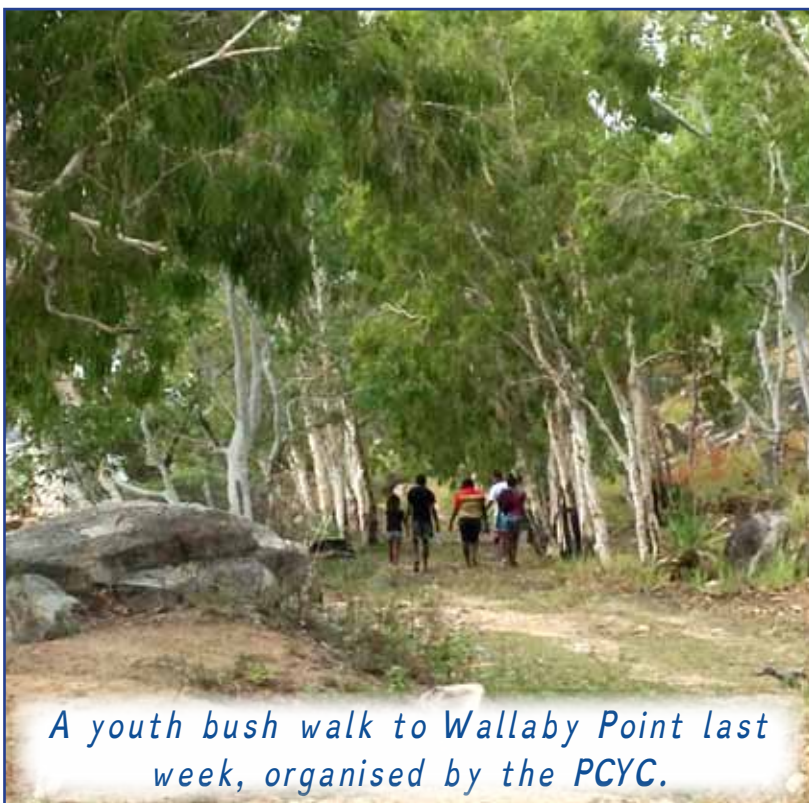
She said at the moment discos, family movies nights, various sporting and fitness activities, as well as venue hire for meetings and conferences were all good to go but would be better with the help of volunteers.

“Volunteers are needed to

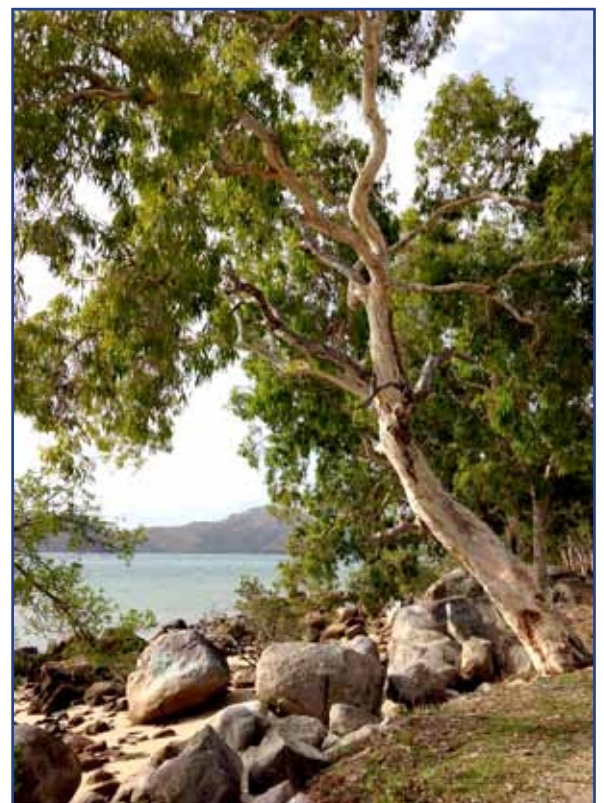
help with the general clean up and enhancement of the PCYC, as well as extras to assist on special events like movie nights and discos,” she said.

“The PCYC needs to have the respect of, and be protected by the community so it does not suffer any further damage or graffiti, or loss of property, as this is all a continual drain on money that we do not have.

“The PCYC also offers youth development and crime prevention programs to young people, and is closely associated with the Queensland Police Service. Our vision is to enhance Queensland communities through youth development and to deliver high quality youth, early intervention and crime prevention programs.”



A youth bush walk to Wallaby Point last week, organised by the PCYC.



Townsville makes Invasion/Survival Day 'official'

A special Invasion Day event in Townsville last week heard an emotional Maggie Walsh recite a poem about her days as a young girl living in a Palm Island dormitory after she was taken away from her mother.

Professor Gracelyn Smallwood praised Townsville City Council for hosting its first official Invasion/ Survival Day event on 24 January at the Thuringowa Library.

"Indigenous people don't celebrate 26 January as Australia Day but instead as Survival, Invasion or Settlement Day," Professor Smallwood said. "There would not be one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who has not been affected in some way by colonisation.

"It was a bad day for our people back in 1788."



She said the gap between Indigenous people and their white counterparts was widening right across the board.

And, she said despite invitations sent, not one politician came.

Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Development Officer Shane Alley said the event was part of the local government authority's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Blast from the Past - Land Rights Queensland

(newspaper published by FAIRA), October 2000

Palm Island Rocks On

The Palm Island festival was a screaming success with the community still buzzing from the event. Palm Island Council chair Robert Blackley said The Palm Island Spring Festival, held in September came out of community outrage over the alarming suicide rate and community solidarity after so much mourning.

"People decided it was time to celebrate," he said. "I mean you could break it down in anyway, in any academic sense, and I could deconstruct the whole situation and come up with some kind of theory of what we're doing and why. But basically it's a big three day party, that's what it is".

Performers included Warumpi Band, Coloured Stone, Jimmy Little, Native Ryme Syndicate, NoKTuRNL, David Hudson Band, Wild Water, Rochelle

Watson, Eleven 30 Seven, Barry Cedric, Joe & Cedric Geia, Blek Affiliation, Forte, Pad Boys, Devew, Gumbudda, Mr Yes, Hot Rubber Glove, Tropic Dusk Performance Collective and Palm Island band Dr Bones as well as the Palm Island Aboriginal Dance Troupe.

Mr Blackley said it was the first time the island had attempted a festival even though there had always been a somewhat smaller Spring Fair.

Photos by Christine Howes, courtesy of the Koori Mail

http://esvc000200.wico61u.server-web.com/lrq/archives/200010/stories/palm_island.html



Kalkadoon artefacts - sending them home, 'from one keeping place to another'

Emotions ran high when artefacts were handed back to the Kalkadoon people of the Mount Isa in western Queensland by representatives of the Townsville Cultural Centre.

The 'Sending Them Home Ceremony' was held at the Townsville Cultural Centre on the evening of 21 January.

Centre Cultural Arts and Events Manager Melinda Tweedie said the exchange was between the Townsville Cultural Centre and the Kalkadoon Keeping Place.

"The artefacts have been stored at The Cultural Centre for some years now, and the Traditional Owners of Townsville are wanting to send them home," Ms Tweedie said.

Kalkadoon representatives in attendance were Virginia Mayo, Pat Kyle, Margaret Coulton

and William Doyle.

There were 12 artefacts handed back including a leaf shield, five hooked boomerangs, a fighting stick, four throwing sticks and a didgeridoo.

"The ceremony marks a significant moment in time for cultural protocols in dealing with Indigenous artefacts," Ms Tweedie said.

"It is a proud moment for The Cultural Centre to hold this ceremony for the Traditional Owners.

"It is about Reconciliation and Celebration. From one Keeping Place to another – we are sending them home."

Special guests included Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill, State Member for Townsville John Hathaway and players and officials of the Townsville Crocodiles National Basketball League team.

Chair of the Cultural Centre Trust Angie Akee welcomed guests to country on behalf of the Bindal and Wulgurukaba people, and chairperson of the Townsville Cultural centre Tanya Akee also spoke.

Bindal Brolgas and the young Pacific Flowers girl dancers, aged five to 13, entertained the audience to generous applause.

Brolgas dancers then carried the artefacts and leader Manny Ross jnr presented one to Bindal elder Uncle Norman Ross who then passed it on to Mr Doyle, who had travelled from Boulia.

"This is a very significant event that these artefacts are being returned to the Kalkadoon Traditional Owners," Mr Doyle said.

"I hope this encourages museums around the country who have artefacts to also return them to their owners."



Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



Meetings for 2014 will start as follows:
Delegation 11 February
Land Trust 25 February
Council Ordinary 26 February

The next RDO is this Friday, 31 January
and RDOs are then each fortnight.
For out-of-hours emergencies please
call 0458 789 011.

For more information contact
Council on 4770 1177



Palm Island Aboriginal
Shire Council has 207
'likes' on Facebook!!!

Issue 147 DEADLINE
Thursday 6 February for
publication Thursday 13 February

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an ad or inquire about subscriptions please
contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on
0419656277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au

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(see above) and all material submitted no later than COB
the next day. Print approval required by Monday COB.

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Palm Island Barge
wishes everyone a
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Barracudas can expect full support!

Kenny “Wizard” Wilson reckons that Palm Islanders and relatives living on the mainland will offer their full support to the Barracudas as they enter the 2014 Townsville and District Rugby League competition.

Even though Kenny is one of the smallest footballers on Palm, he has been nicknamed the “wizard” for his ball skills and speed.

And he may not be in the Barracudas side but he has no doubt that hundreds will be on the sidelines to watch the team which was last in the Townsville comp back in 2002.

“I will at every game I can and so will many,” he said.

“I think the Barracudas will give the young people on Palm something to be really happy about.”

Not only will the Barracudas have an A grade side but it

will also field an under-19 team, with Townsville’s Bindal Sharks to have a reserve grade outfit.

Francis Nugent, Lendell Sibley, Susie Nugent and Sharna Cannon (*pictured above with Kenny*) all intend to get right behind the Barracudas.

“I reckon they will go really well in Townsville as we have a good side and lots of pride in Palm Island,” Francis said.

Back in 2008 Francis scored the first try for Palm side Skipjacks when they played Australian Army in the inaugural Bill Coolburra Shield game at Brother’s League’s

Club in Townsville.

Sharni said she felt many young Palm Island men and women will get to Barracudas games.

Especially with the increased return ferry services between Palm and Townsville.

“Everybody loves the Barracudas on Palm,” she said.

The Barracudas will play Norths at Norths’ grounds at the northern Beaches in a pre-season game on Saturday 1st February.

Their first competition match will be against University on the weekend of 15th and 16th March.