



Centrelink issues high on local agenda

Centrelink and cashless cards were high on the agenda of local meetings between Federal MP Linda Burney – who is also the Shadow Minister of Human Services – and local MP Cathy O'Toole last last month.

The visit included a driving tour of Palm Island where it was hoped Ms Burney might gain a deeper understanding of some of the challenges locals face.

Both MPs hosted a rountable at the SOLAS offices, which was an opportunity for community members to express any issues or concerns.

“The visit to Palm Island

with the Shadow Minister for Human Services, Linda Burney was highly beneficial,” Ms O'Toole said.

“The visit allowed for both Linda and I to meet with the community and gain greater understanding of what the regions are facing.

“There are members of the Palm Island community who

have received Centrelink debt letters and the feedback is that these residents are too scared to appeal.

“There are serious concerns that the debt letters are incorrect, and I ask the Palm Island community to contact my office if you have received a letter.”

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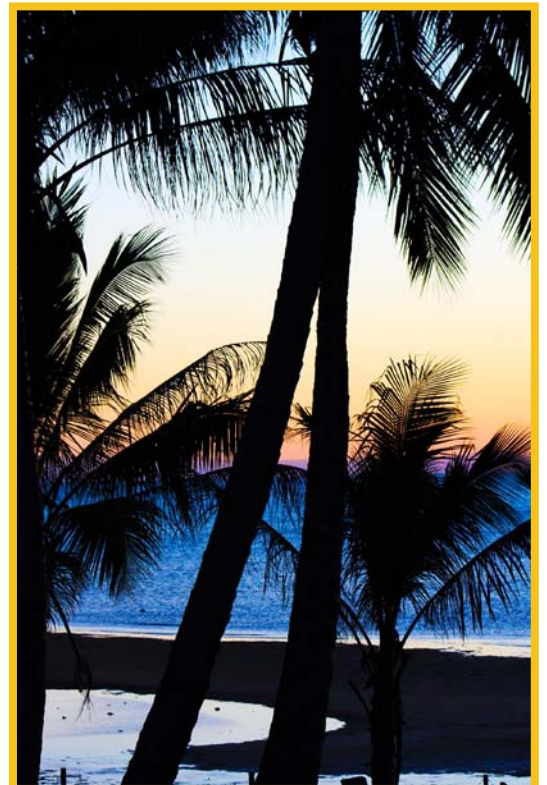
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She said speaking with members in front line services helped them to develop stronger policies.

Attendees on Palm Island included Rachel Atkinson, for the Palm Island Community Company; Jennifer Ketchell for the Joyce Palmer Health Service and Hal Walsh and Samara Hanley for Campbell Page.



*Meet Campbell Page
Workplace Health
& Safety Specialist
Nathan Vinson.
You can read more
about Nathan and
our Workplace
Health and Safety
practices in the
Toolbox Talk Section
of our Monthly CDP
Newsletter at [http:
www.indigenous.gov.au](http://www.indigenous.gov.au)*



Committed to their community

Several months of training in Brisbane have paid off in a dream come true for Selina Hughes and Keita Obah-Lenoy, now working on Palm Island as Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs).

“This is a good career for both of us as we still young and willing to work,” Selina said.

“We want to build a closer relationship between Queensland’s Indigenous Communities and the Ambulance Service that can help us to get a better understanding of the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“I believe we can do that by including and incorporating more local and cultural knowledge to enhance the service we will provide to our patients in the community.”

A group of five ACPs in the Indigenous Paramedic Program have graduated, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick said.

“One of five ACPs to complete the program is Palm Island local Angela Beatson,” he said.

“Angela qualified in 2016 and now works for the QAS in Rockhampton.

“Three current recruits will sit their final panel assessments in March, with one of these participants already enrolled in a paramedicine degree.

“I welcome Selina Hughes, Kieta Lenoy, Gerald Wotton, Clive Prior and Sonja Zalar who are the newest additions to the program,” he said.

“I would also like to take this



opportunity to congratulate those who have completed the program and thank them for their continued assistance in improving the health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders.”

Townsville Assistant Commissioner Robbie Medlin said Selina and Kieta, along with Clive

Prior and Sonja Zalar started training last month.

“Gerald Wotton will commence on February 13,” he said.

“Selina, Kieta and Gerald are all local Palm Island residents and will undertake their duties within their community,” he said.

Signs of progress in hearing issues

Cathy Clun is passionate about helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Australia with hearing loss and has authored a book entitled “Simple Signs”.

Mrs Clun lives in Townsville and the book was designed to spread sign language to rural communities which have their own traditional languages.

The book has been co-authored by Danielle Sinclair and has illustrations which demonstrate signs for about 70 words or actions.

“The shocking fact is that in some areas 70–93% of the children have hearing loss,” Mrs Clun said.

“They don’t have a voice because nobody can communicate with them.

“Just about every Indigenous community in Australia has many children who are deaf or have hearing problems.”

She said that some of the children were learning signing at school but were unable to speak at home.

“I want deaf kids to be able to be in their community, with family and able to communicate,” she said. “So I wrote this book and it is designed so that our kids can teach their families and communities. It depicts Aboriginal children signing and even has a space to put the words into language. I really hope it helps the children.”

Mrs Clun has a Diploma in Child Protective Services and an Advanced Diploma in Counselling.

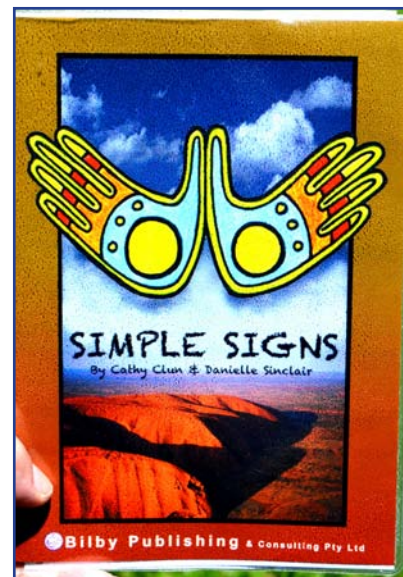
MEANWHILE Townsville-based junior Doctor Andrea Coleman is about to begin researching how to combat middle ear infections, in hopes of benefitting children on remote and in urban Indigenous communities.

Dr Coleman is the recipient of a \$250,000 fellowship announced by Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Cameron Dick in December last year.

Dr Coleman said she was thrilled to be awarded the fellowship which would allow her to focus her research into the impact of probiotic use to prevent middle ear infections in Indigenous children.

“My research aims to prevent the recurrence of middle ear infection with the use of specially tailored probiotics,” she said.

“The Townsville Hospital has been hugely supportive of my work and I am so proud to have been awarded this fellowship while working as a doctor at Townsville Hospital.”





Palm supporters for Townsville Survival Day

More than 300 men, women and children took part in Townsville’s Survival Day event, hosted by the Big Eye Theatre.

Professor Gracelyn Smallwood spoke to the audience at Perfume Gardens about Survival Day.

“As Traditional Owners of

this land, this day is always difficult,” she said.

“Invasion Day, Survival Day – call it what you will, today marks the beginning of our

cultural, physical and social destruction.

“Survival Day? The ones who haven’t survived are to be remembered here.

“And the trauma of those who have had their wounds invaded, again and again and again.

“Invasion Day? Invasion Day is every day of the year for our mob. And don’t we all know it.”



2018 Centenary celebrations aim to take past, present and future event ideas

Everyone on Palm is invited to be a part of planning for the Palm Island 2018 Centenary commemorations.

It will be the 100th anniversary of the placement of people on Palm Island.

Since 1918 much has occurred and as Bwngcolman people we have become strong and proud.

Marking the Centenary is a time for us to reflect on the past 100 years, to celebrate our achievements and to look forward to the future.

To do this Council is helping to lay the groundwork for a number of events across 2018.

COMMUNITY IDEAS FORUM

In January Council invited community members to two meetings which aimed to start the conversation about the types of events that are appropriate and identify those interested in helping to organise them.

At the community meeting a framework outlining three key themes – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE – was proposed and community members were asked to suggest events could be included within this framework.

PAST: A commemorative event on or around the anniversary of the time Cyclone Leonte hit the Hull River Mission and forced the first removal of people to Palm Island.

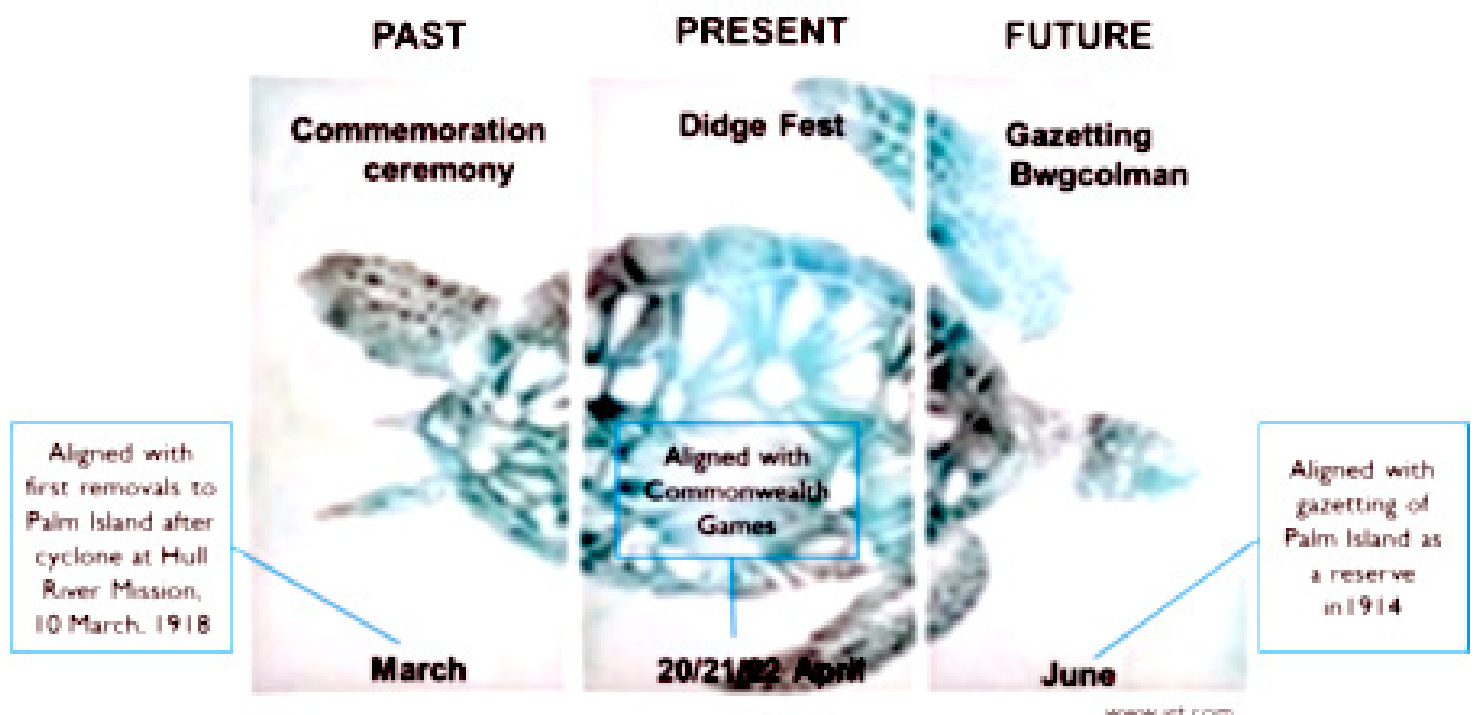
This event or events would reflect on the past 100 years and could include for example history exhibitions, a re-enactment, establishment of a hall of fame and so on.

PRESENT: A didgeridoo festival – a two or three day music festival – which aims to put Palm Island in the Guinness Book of Records by breaking the record for the largest ensemble of didgeridoo players in the world (which stands at 238 didgeridoo players, held in Devon in the UK).

The idea is to leave old records in the past and make new records.

FUTURE: A celebratory event on Bwngcolman Day in June to mark the gazetting of the township on Palm Island as 'Bwngcolman'.

Officially naming the township is symbolic of



Palm Island 2018 Centenary...

LOGO & SLOGAN DESIGN COMPETITION

LOGO PRIZE: \$500

We are looking for a logo for Palm Island's 2018 Centenary.

REQUIREMENT: Create- a logo that reflects the occasion and represents Palm Island and its people. Make it a simple and symbolic design.

SLOGAN PRIZE: \$500

Come up with a slogan for Palm Island's 2018 Centenary.

REQUIREMENT: Create- a slogan that suits the occasion – a time to reflect on the past and look to the future.

To enter the competition contact the Council Office and complete the application form. Submit your entries to murielle.morgan@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au or to Council reception.

ENTRY CRITERIA

1. Submissions must be original
2. Individuals can enter both competitions
3. Entrants must be a resident of Palm Island
4. Logo must be in colour NOT black and white
5. All entries will become the property of Council
6. Council reserves the right to modify the winning logo to better fit the needs of the initiative
7. All entries will be judged by a panel with representatives from the Palm Island community and Council.

CLOSING DATE: Thursday 9 March 2017

recognising that this is a town like any other town in Queensland or Australia, worthy of investment, worthy of respect.

The celebratory event is future-looking and may include events such as a civic reception or an innovation or sustainability forum or others.

Many ideas were discussed at the community ideas forum ranging from history exhibitions, rehabilitation of the Francis Creek cemetery, conduct of a community carnival for football and/or netball, installation of interpretive plaques, establishment of a hall of fame, conduct of a sustainability forum to discuss the future and more.

Now is the time to plan for such events.

PLANNING THE CENTENARY EVENTS

To plan the Centenary events Council will establish a Community (on-island) Organising Committee (COC) and an Agency (off-island) Support Committee (ASC).

The on-island COC committee will advise council and assist with the planning and conduct of all centenary events.

The committee may establish sub-groups (teams) for the planning and conduct of each event series (PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE).

The off-island ASC committee will advocate for support for the events.

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is inviting members of the Palm Island community to express their interest in positions on the Palm Island 2018 Centenary Events Organising Committee (CEOC).

Participation in the CEOC is voluntary and aims to provide Council with advice and assistance in the planning and conduct of events.

If you are interested and would like to be sent the Terms of Reference, including details about how to express your interest, experience sought, and participation requirements, please email murielle.morgan@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au or call 4770 0220. Expressions of interest are due by 5pm, Thursday 23 February 2017

Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!
The DEADLINE
for the next
PALM ISLAND
VOICE (221) IS

**Thursday 16
FEBRUARY**
FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday 23
February**

Don't forget to check out our
Facebook page!

ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner
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 above) and all material
submitted no later than COB the next day.
Print approval required by Monday COB.

To book an ad, make a contribution or
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**Operating Hours for
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 1,343
'likes' on
Facebook!!!



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following positions are currently open for application

Family Wellbeing Centre

– 2 x Family Wellbeing Support Worker – Full time

Applications close Friday, 24th February 2017

To be considered for this position, please submit to mmccann@picc.com.au:

1. A completed employment application form (employment application form available from the PICC Mall Office, Palm Island)
2. A copy of your resume

Palm Island Barge provides a direct service to Palm Island every week day. Have your freight delivered to our Townsville depot by midday and it will be on Palm the following day. (Excluding furniture which travels weekly in the safety of our dedicated shipping containers).



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**PIASC Community Engagement Day Roster
 2017**

MONTHS	DATES	Area	Councillor to Chair:
JANUARY	Tuesday 17 th 2017	Top Field (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Mayor Lacey
FEBRUARY	Tuesday 14 th 2017	Reservoir Ridge (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Councillor Prior
MARCH	Tuesday 14 th 2017	Butler Bay (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Councillor Castors
APRIL	Tuesday 4 th 2017	Beach Road (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Councillor Geia
MAY	Tuesday 9 th 2017	Farm Area (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Councillor Walsh
JUNE	Tuesday 13 th 2017	Kitchener Bligh (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Mayor Lacey
JULY	Tuesday 11 th 2017	Rodeo Grounds (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Councillor Prior
AUGUST	Tuesday 15 th 2017	Top Field (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Councillor Geia
SEPTEMBER	Tuesday 12 th 2017	Reservoir Ridge (Morning session 10am-12pm) Council Chambers (afternoon Session 1.30pm-4pm)	Councillor Castors

Boxer hopes to fight for Palm

Wayne Pickles has an unusual somersault routine he uses to prepare for boxing training, which he hopes one day will lead him to fighting for Palm Island.

The 20-year-old is a member of the Flatenem Boxing Club, which trains at Townsville's Castle Hill PCYC.

He does a series of rolling jumps, either forward or backwards, where his body turns over completely in the air before landing on his feet.

"It is just something I like doing and my trainer Gonzo Hooper thinks it is great," he said.

Hooper said he met Wayne a few months ago.

"He started boxing training for health reasons, and for fun, and has been coming more frequently mostly daily," Hooper said.

He said Wayne had been a very fast learner and picked up boxing skills quickly.

"I will probably be trying to get him in to his first amateur bout in the next few months, which is what he has told me he really wants to do," Hooper said.

"Wayne has his sights set on a successful future with boxing playing a big part like our club professional Kolby Johnston."

Pickles said he would fight under the banner of the Palm Island Boxing Club in the future if the opportunity arose.

"I have lots of family and friends on Palm," he said.

Palm Island PCYC Boxing Club trainer Ray Dennis said Wayne had the ideal pedigree to be a quality boxer.

"His relative Frank Pickles, who lives on Palm, was a quality boxer in his heyday and from memory I think he fought Townsville star Sharkey Hughes at the Regent Theatre tournament," Dennis said.



Magpie women score a win in men's cricket comp

Garbutt Magpies ladies contested in a MEN'S division at the Goldfield Ashes Cricket carnival in Charters Towers last month.

A record number of players lined up at the 69th Goldfield Ashes Cricket Carnival from January 20 to 22.

It was the 69th Ashes which started in 1948 with a modest six teams in one men's grade.

The 2017 Ashes had massive 230 teams in four men's divisions and a ladies grade.

The Garbutt Magpies ladies had players from several generations of

the Ross family of Palm Island and Darnley Island heritage.

Most of the players are descendants of the late Anastasia Maria Ross (nee Kanak) who was from Darnley Island and the late Manny Ross from Palm Island.

Garbutt Magpies lost their first game 209 runs to 156 but player Lorraine Ross said the girls were delighted to participate at their first Ashes campaign.

"We didn't even know there was a ladies division but this is a family team and we are very proud to be here," she said.

Garbutt Magpies also had a men's team at the Ashes in B-2 grade and both were memorial sides in honour of Emmanuel "Porkey" Ross who passed away in late 2015 and was one of the 11 offspring of Anastasia Maria and Manny Ross.

"Most of the ladies team are children or grandchildren of Porkey," Drue said.

Garbutt Magpies Ladies finished a creditable 36th winning one of their three matches and finishing on 11.13 points. They scored 453 runs during the carnival and took 18 wickets and one of the star players was former Palm truck driver Irwin Ambrym.

The Magpies men finished 107th after scoring 371 runs and taking 13 wickets for a total of 9.31 points. Magpies drew one match

and lost two whilst West Indigies, a side with mostly Aboriginal players and a few with TS descent finished a great second in B-2.

This year matches were played on 70 fields at Charters Towers and surrounds and about 20 are privately owned grounds on properties.

The reminder were at parks, school grounds, the aerodrome reserve, in the middle of the racecourse, the gun club, golf club or an old people's home.



Out & About

@ the national netball playoffs



Pictured on this page is:

- Ikanau Conway with mum Keri Nallajar*
- Leah Dabea with her girls Dianne and Vasenai*
- Ruth with daughter Tooya Goringe*
- Taelah + Thomasina Morgan*
- Tibby and Reuben Fulford*

Pics thanks to Leah Dabea