



WARNING! Some images in this Issue may contain deceased persons that may cause distress to some people.

Dialysis unit sparks PNG PM's interest



Palm Island Council and community was happy to host Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill for a day earlier this month.

A visit to the Joyce Palmer Health Service after lunch revealed Mr O'Neill was particularly interested the dialysis unit.

O'Neill told PNG daily newspaper *'The National'* the people of Palm Island faced similar challenges to PNG on health, education, security and safety of the community.

"Many of the people who are living on Palm Island came from Torres Strait Island and many of them originated from Daru," O'Neill said. "I am hoping to expand some of the things we



Pics by Alf Wilson. Many thanks to *The National* at <http://www.thenational.com.pg/islanders-welcome-pm/>

saw there including health.

"They've got a population of about 5000 people and with the support of many organisations they have been able to build dialysis units there, nursing care for their population and very high standard medical care without going to the cities.

"This is a model that we want to see happening in all the districts in PNG.

"I am talking to Queensland Health and try to ensure we

duplicate that in our country."

O'Neill told *The National* he was a big promoter of health and education.

The delegation to Palm Island comprised of Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Tobias Kulang, Air Niugini chairman Sir Frederick, Air Niugini chairman Simon Foo and National Capital District Commission staff.

MORE WORDS & PICS INSIDE!!!

TC Debbie's lucky swing ... and miss

Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie was a timely reminder for Palm Island residents about the need to be prepared for the danger cyclones pose to the community from devastating cyclonic winds to life threatening storm surges.

Had Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie impacted Palm Island with a predicted 4.5 metre storm tide, as many as 1000 residents may have needed to find alternative safe accommodation.

It is essential for residents know what Storm Tide Zone they live in, so that they can plan to evacuate if they need to.

Mayor Alf Lacey stressed the PCYC was NOT a public cyclone shelter and residents needed to look at sheltering

at friends and relatives until a better option was found for these types of events.

PIASC and Emergency Services were ready to support the Island if needed, but the importance of residents being prepared, by having an emergency kit, preparing their homes and knowing which evacuation zone their homes are in could not be stressed enough,

Cr Lacey said.

“The Council and Emergency Services can only do so much, it is up to residents to be prepared and make sure their families are safe during these very dangerous cyclones,” he said.



Cyclone-ready

Palm Island Barge ran a special emergency barge on the Saturday before Cyclone Debbie, taking extra diesel for the servo, supplies for the hospital and extra supplies for the Retail Store as well as the State Emergency Services and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.



Thousands claim stolen wages

The Palaszczuk Government's Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme has been extended to 29 September 2017, a DATSIP spokesperson has told the *Palm Island Voice*.

“Since the opening of the Scheme in December 2015, over \$9 million in reparations payments have been paid to 3885 eligible claimants,” they said.

“The Palaszczuk Government

is reviewing and processing a further 2,482 top-up claims – anyone with a query about the progress of their claim should call the 1800 619 505 or contact their nearest DATSIP regional office.

“Community members who have never previously applied for a reparations payment should make an application before the Scheme closes on 29 September 2017.”



PNG PM enjoys his visit



The opportunity for the PNG PM's visit came up after Mr O'Neill arrived in Townsville the day before on the inaugural Air Niugini flight direct from Port Moreseby.

He and his entourage arrived at Palm airport on two charter flights just after 10am where they were warmly greeted by Mayor Alf Lacey, Councillors and staff.

Also there were local Palm Islanders of PNG descent including Linda Viri (St Michael's School), her husband Yagata Viri (Bwngcolman State) and Rev Emmanuel Gyamfi.

The visitors were driven to

the park near the CBD for a welcoming ceremony attended by many members of the community.

Elder Allan Palm Island welcomed guests to country and Archer Fraser conducted a smoking ceremony followed by a performance from the Kaaanju junior dancers.

"This is a historic visit as the first sitting PM to visit Palm Island in almost 100 years," Cr

Lacey said.

"We have many things in common with PNG including culture and also potential business opportunities."

Mr O'Neill told the audience there were many families on the Island with family links to PNG.

"Our communities face many similar challenges," he said.

"We strive for improved health for our people.

"There is better infrastructure



here than on many of our own communities.”

Mr O’Neill was presented with a didgeridoo and in return gave a bird of paradise painting as a gift to Cr Lacey.

Mr O’Neill then met privately with Crs Lacey, Prior and Walsh in the Shire board room

before being taken on a tour of the island.

At 1pm the visitors were guests of honour at a huge community feast put on by the Coolgaree Bar and Grill.

Shane Stratton and his Coolgaree Bar and Grill staff were rightly proud of what they

presented to our distinguished guests.

Mr O’Neill has invited Cr Lacey to visit PNG in September.

Cr Lacey has also issued an open invitation to Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull to visit Palm Island.

Palm Island Voice



**Public &
Community Notices**



Don't forget!!!
The **DEADLINE** for
the **NEXT**
PALM ISLAND
VOICE (224) is

Thursday

20 April

FOR PUBLICATION

Thursday

4 May

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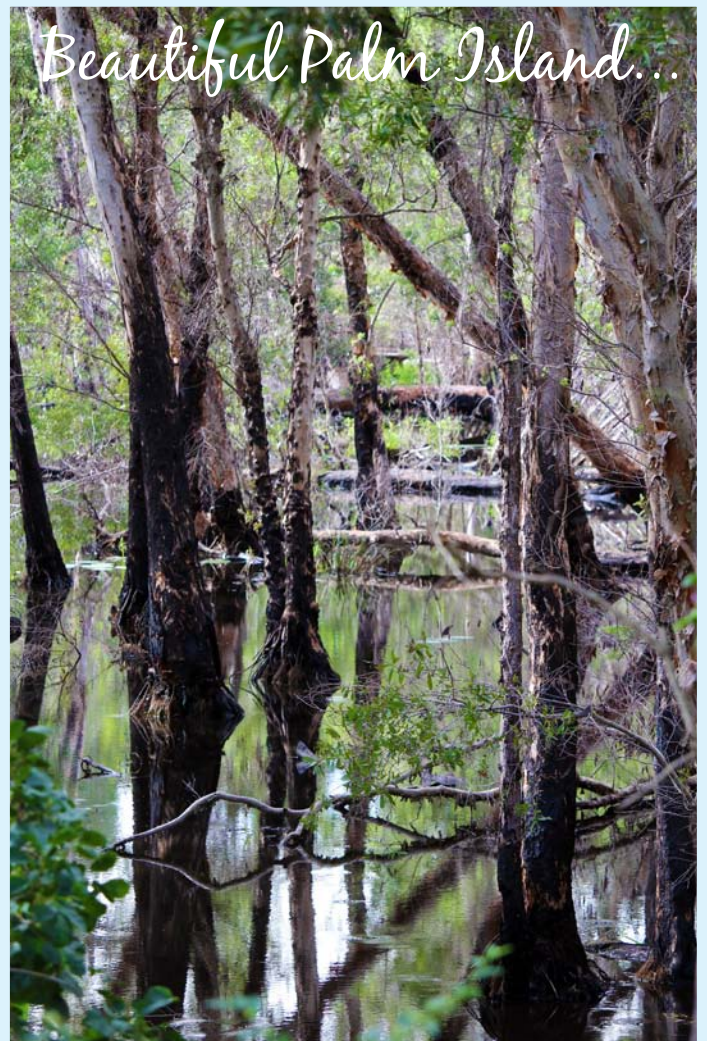
**Operating Hours for
Council are Monday –
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If you have any
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Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 1,464
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

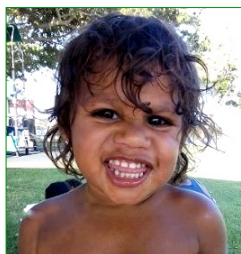
Beautiful Palm Island...





HAPPY 21ST TEIONA CANNON

From the Cannon, Richards, Noble, Murghas, Wilson, Priors, Fourmile, Shortjoe and Maloney families of Yarrie & PI, and other friends and families near and far.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JOHN 'SHORTY' HAINES BROWN WHO TURNED 3 ON TUESDAY 18TH APRIL AND



LAKIESHA JAYA-SYRIA BROWN WHO WILL TURN 12 ON TUESDAY 25TH APRIL

To Lakiesha and John,

Wishing you a very happy birthday and may there be many more, Love and kisses from Nanna Georgina, Mum, Brayth, Sean and Miranda, Mum Resi, Uncle James, Vyneika, Vivi & James, Aunty Lina, Uncle Kealy, Jayden, Kealy boy, Kel, Uncle Obe, Aunty Chenice, Kaylan, Izzy & Obe G.



Junior boxers should do well

A "MOSQUITO FLEET" of young small boxers who can punch hard and move swiftly will be part of a big Palm Island team to compete at the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League boxing tournament at Townsville's Centenary Hotel next weekend.

They include Chris Haines, 10, Lemar Sibley, 11, and Musa Prior, 10, all of whom will have bouts in the 32kg division.

Trainer Ray Dennis said they all had ability and would represent Palm Island with pride and distinction.

"Musa will be making his debut, Lemar won his only fight on Magnetic Island and Chris lost his bout there after facing a more experienced and heavier opponent," Mr Dennis said.

Other Palm boxers who look set to compete are Brayden Nallajar (45kg), Patrick Clarke (69kg), Raymond Haines (57kg), Jase Thimble (45kg) and Tristan Robertson (60kg).

"Patrick will probably fight in the main bout of the big night," Mr Dennis said.

The tournament is being organised by Scooter Hooper.

Bill Coolburra Shield Palm Island Skipjacks Vs Army Thunder

1.20pm

Saturday 22nd April

1300 SMILE Stadium



THE 10TH rugby league clash between Skipjacks and Australian Army Thunder for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield will be held this Saturday at 1300Smiles Stadium in Townsville.

Palm Island players are confident our side can win.

Starting at 1.20pm, it will be a curtain raiser to the Cowboys versus Newcastle Knights NRL clash.

Star Skipjacks forward Raoul Miller said the players were looking forward

to the big game.

“We will field a good side for that,” he said.

Many Skipjacks players, including Fred Bulsey, twins Darryl and Clinton Pearson and others, are match-fit after playing for University in the Townsville and District

Rugby League competition.

Skipjacks is an historical Palm Island club being more than 80 years old.

Army now leads the series five games to four so the match will give Skipjacks a chance to level the number of wins.



LEFT: Bettina Marpoondin and her family will be going to 1300Smiles Stadium on Saturday to watch Skipjacks do battle with Australian Army Thunder.

“My brother William is in the Skipjacks side and lots of our family will be barracking for the boys,” Bettina said. “We think we can win!”