

# SO much FUN!



JUNIOR FOOTY LEAGUE KICKS OFF IN TOWNSVILLE : MORE PICS PAGES 6-7!

## Special envoy brings business plan to Palm

Six months ago the Prime Minister's special envoy on Indigenous affairs Tony Abbott promised to return to Palm Island to talk to locals about starting their own small businesses and contributing to our nation's economic development.

"Today, I delivered on that promise, with the help of Indigenous Business Australia and Many Rivers Microfinance LTD, to connect our Indigenous communities with the knowledge and resources they need to start their own

private companies," he said on Facebook.

Mr Abbott said Palm Islanders were "good people".

"They're good people who would like to do more with their lives, but there has been a real lack of economic

opportunity," he said.

"I was here last November to talk about schools.

"I was buttonholed by council who says they needed more chance for economic development."

*Continued next page...*

...from page 1...

Mr Abbott (pictured right with IBA CEO Rajiv Viswanathan) said he had kept his promise.

“I promised I’d come back with people from IBA, Indigenous Business Australia, and others who are in a position to talk to locals about how we can try to turn this marvellous island into not just a place to live, but a place to start a business and make a living,” he said.

He said it was a good conversation.

“A lot of people were there to learn,” he said.

“It’s only a start, but I think it is a start, a good start.

“And I hope that in real serious time, there will be more than just a tiny handful for private businesses on this island because if Indigenous people really are going to enter into their full inheritance as the first Australians, they have got to play a significant part in the economic life of this country, too.”

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said it was a good community forum.

“We need to sort through the blockages that are put in front of us in terms of navigating through setting up small businesses,” Cr Lacey said.

“There was quite a good number who came and I think the main message was to just stop the talking and let us get on with it.

“I think people are just eager to see where they can source business loans and support in terms of getting up and running.



“A lot of them have got a good idea and they want to have a shot at it, but it’s the first step of just accessing that jigsaw puzzle, I suppose, and having a go at business planning.”

He said both IBA and Many Rivers had committed to ongoing support.

IBA CEO Rajiv Viswanathan said it was about bringing the Island’s business ideas to life.

“It was great to get out to Palm Island and hear first hand from the community about the exciting initiatives being explored through the new retail precinct, tourism, and fisheries,” he said.

“These activities will create opportunities for new small businesses to flourish.

“At IBA, we are looking forward to working with residents to bring their business ideas to life.

“Our vision is for a nation in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are economically independent and an integral part of the economy.”

Many Rivers Microfinance Head of Business Development James Clampett said they were excited to join the community on their journey to creating small businesses.

He said Many Rivers Microenterprise Development

Manager Charles Fisher would be visiting Palm Island once a fortnight to support clients to start enterprises and journey with them as they develop their business and their business skills, assisting them to “start in business, stay in business and thrive in business”.

Mr Fisher, pictured below, said he had spent most of his working life in north Queensland.

“After a career in the banking industry I am now using my skills to help Many Rivers’ clients achieve their dreams,” he said.

“My two passions are rugby league and social justice for all Australians.

“I am still actively involved in my football club in Townsville the Centrals ASA Rugby League Club.

“I am excited to be able to support members of the the Palm Island community to start, stay and thrive in their own small business.”

He said he could be contacted on 0439 876 197 or email [charles.fisher@manyivers.org.au](mailto:charles.fisher@manyivers.org.au)



# Money business main focus of yarning day

Following up from last year's very successful Big Super Day Out – where \$7 million in lost and unclaimed superannuation was recovered – the Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN) is set to hold their 'Yarnin' Money Day' next Wednesday (see page 10 for full details).



ICAN Financial Counsellor Conrad Dwyer (the one who looks like Ned Kelly) said the day was funded as part of the Palm Island Class Action.

"We felt it was important to provide important consumer information and financial counselling help to class action recipients and residents," he said. "Nearly ten different organisations – from banks to businesses – are coming to give info and advice on everything from smart ways to buy a car to establishing small businesses.

"So if you're thinking about

buying a home or making a will, setting up banking products or you're worried about what will happen to your Centrelink payments, or just any kind of general financial counselling advice, this is the day for you."

Organisations expected to participate included Indigenous Business Australia, Commonwealth Bank, Good Money NILS, Queensland Office of Fair Trading, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Legal Aid QLD, Department of Human Services, Department of

Prime Minister & Cabinet, Palm Island Community Company, the Palm Island Justice Group, Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy and ICAN counsellors.

He said there would be follow up days and training workshops held over the coming months, as well as regular ICAN days for any financial counselling needs on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Selectability office, behind the servo, from 9am–3pm every week.

"Everyone is welcome, we'll have a free BBQ and we're here to help," he said.

## Morning tea to welcome new St Michael's principal



Palm Island Council and members of the Justice Group have welcomed new St Michael's Catholic School principal Tess Fong to her new role with a morning tea.

Cr Deniece Geia said Ms Fong was working on the Tiwi Islands, north of Darwin, before coming to Palm.

"Myself along with Crs Bob Castors and Eddie Walsh were keen to introduce her to the community elders," she said. "Even though it was raining people did turn up and Tess was really good. She talked about truancy and a new strategy for disengaged kids and parents, and her responses were really positive. She also talked about culture being very important."

*TOP LEFT is Tess Fong & David Ryan and LEFT is Justice Group members Margaret Parker & Rosina Norman at the morning tea*

# Dr Margaret heads for the hills (of New Zealand!)

After three years as Medical Superintendent at the Joyce Palmer Health Service Dr Margaret Fielding has left Palm Island to move to New Zealand.



Dr Fielding said while she was ready to embark on a new phase of her career and life, she was leaving Palm Island with a heavy heart.

“I really love these people,” she said.

“I was thrown a surprise tea party to say goodbye and I cried buckets.

“I will really miss the people I have cared for as well as my colleagues and friends and

the laughter and banter we shared.

“I have always felt welcomed here.”

Before coming to Australia to practice medicine Dr Fielding was a doctor in Zimbabwe as well as New Zealand.

Dr Fielding said she made it her priority to learn the culture of her patients.

“When I first a met a

patient,

I would always tell them ‘I’m

new, I don’t know your culture, please teach me’ and they welcomed that approach,” she said.

“I’m a much better doctor after having been here, just from what I have learned by simply listening to my patients and the community.”



Alma Assan (nee Brackenridge) celebrated her 90th birthday in Cairns last week, with no less than five generations of her family.

Alma’s surviving daughter, Lyn Miller, said it was a great party.

“Alma lives here in Cairns at the Hollingsworth Elders’ Village, but lived in Ingham for most of her life,” she said.

“She was born Alma Brackenridge on Palm Island in 1929 and her brother, a boxer known as George Bracken, was an Australian lightweight champion in the 1950s.

“Many of our guests came from Ingham and Townsville for the weekend.

“She is the longest surviving of her Brackenridge family siblings and we’re so proud of her.”

# International award for local literacy group

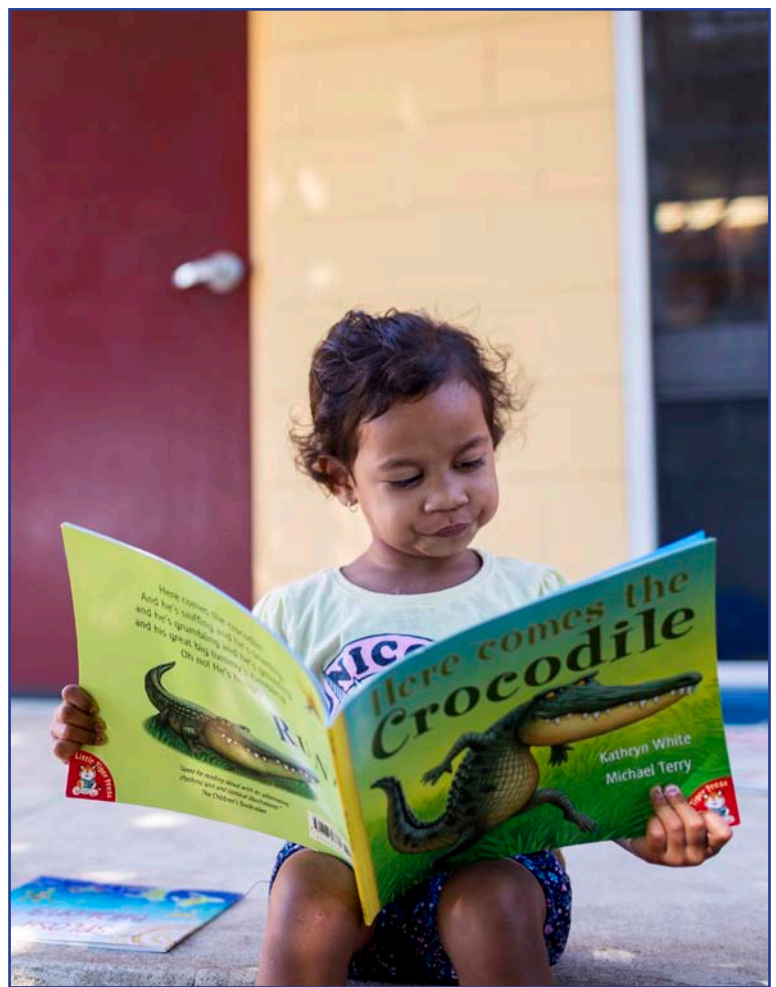
The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) has won international recognition for innovation in revitalising, preserving and teaching Indigenous languages with the development of a digital literacy app.

The Foundation said they were thrilled their Living First Language Platform won in its category of ‘Innovation in Connecting People’ at the 2019 South by Southwest (SXSW) Innovation Awards in Austin, Texas.

ALNF Director of Programs Eric Brace said winning the award was a win for First Nation languages in Australia.

“ALNF is incredibly honoured to be a recipient of this prestigious and competitive award, and continues to be deeply passionate about contributing to the vital maintenance, revitalisation and revival of First Languages,” he said.

The ALNF has been working with the Palm Island community since 2010 implementing its Early Language and Literacy (EL&L) program, aimed at building the capacity of educators, parents and families to improve



ABOVE: Reading opens doors, Jobi Desatge, 2. Pic thanks to The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation

the educational outcomes of children.

ALNF Co-Founder Kim Kelly said their programs offered a wide range of learning needs.

“ALNF is proud to be working with the Palm Island community, and to witness the systemic change that is happening on the ground as a result of the EL&L program,” she said.

# Accountant hopes to expand to Palm Wongutha man (from Kalgoorlie in WA) Rob Passmore is an Indigenous accountant planning on expanding his one-man business to help serve Palm Islanders.



Last October Mr Passmore, 33, started his own accountancy business in Townsville after nearly ten years of experience as a Chartered Accountant.

His business, called ARC Strategic Chartered Accountants, provides accounting, tax and book keeping services for several Indigenous-owned businesses and individuals, who make up 95% of his business.

“The firm will be 100% Indigenous staffed and provides a finance based training and employment pathway with the aim of increasing the number of Indigenous accountants in the Indigenous business sector,” he said.

“The firm is aligned with the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a Registered Tax Agent, Registered ASIC Agent and Supply Nation registered.”

The future of rugby league on Palm is in excellent - and very determined - hands if the first round of the Townsville and District fixtures last Saturday was anything to go by.

Two sides made up of boys and girls – under-7 and under-11 – will play this year at the competition’s headquarters on Kern Brothers Drive in Townsville.

Future stars were very much in evidence in front of hundreds of spectators crowding the still-damp fields.

Palm Islanders were everywhere, including many who live in Townsville, cheering on their teams.

Every team went home a winner in skills development and experience as scores are not kept until they are 12-years-old.





# Palm Island Voice



Public &  
Community Notices



The next DEADLINE for  
the PALM ISLAND VOICE  
(273) will be

**Thursday  
4 April**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday  
11 April**

*Check out our Facebook page,  
we have 2,433 likes!*

## **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 inquire about subscriptions please  
contact the Editor, Christine Howes,  
on 0419 656 277 or  
chowes@westnet.com.au



## **BOIL WATER ALERT**



TAP WATER



BOIL WATER



DRINK WATER

**RESIDENTS MUST**

**BOIL ALL DRINKING WATER**

For houses with Filters on your tap  
You are to **BOIL** your Water too.

**YOU WILL BE ADVISED WHEN THE  
WATER ALERT HAS BEEN LIFTED.**

**KEEP BOILING YOUR WATER**

THANKS FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

**Operating Hours for Council are  
Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm**



Palm Island  
Aboriginal  
Shire Council  
has 3,088 'likes' on  
Facebook!!!

If you have any questions please contact  
Reception on 4770 1177 or  
4770 0200



# POSITIONS VACANT



## Safe House Support-Workers

The Palm Island Safe-House is an Out-of-Home Care residential service that provides short term and respite accommodation and support to children currently in the care of the QLD Department of Child Safety.

The Safe-House Support Worker role is a challenging yet rewarding role that will see you providing residential care and nurture to children of the Safe-House. Ensuring children are happy, healthy and remain connected to their family and community is the number one priority of the Safe House. The Safe House Support Worker role is required to work as part of a team to ensure the day-to-day care needs of children including their leaning and development needs are met. Professional development, Supervision and mentoring will be provided on the job.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 5 APRIL**

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker – Female

The PICC Children and Family Centre (CFC) aims to improve outcomes for children and families through integrated services that focus on early childhood education and care, parenting, family support services and medical and allied health services.

This position will provide clinical health care interventions with an emphasis on Child and Maternal health and deliver health care programs that focus on education, prevention and health promotion.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 12 APRIL**

To apply for one of these positions (or for a copy of the position description), please email a completed application form, copy of your resume, ID and any qualifications to Michael at [mgrasso@picc.com.au](mailto:mgrasso@picc.com.au). If you know someone from Palm Island who might be interested or suitable for these positions, please encourage them to apply.

PICC are a not-for-profit company dedicated to creating a safer, stronger and more prosperous community. Our workforce is over 100 strong and nearly all local residents of Palm Island, making PICC the second largest employer on Palm Island. We have a diverse range of roles available in allied health, medical, retail, hospitality, horticulture, social and community services, automotive repairs, business and administration.

PICC employees have access to many opportunities for training, career development and gaining experience across the broad spectrum of roles on offer. We also offer a competitive salary and other employment benefits. By working for PICC, you will be making a genuine difference to the Palm Island Community and if this interests you, we are interested in hearing from you.

**ART  
EXHIBITION**  
The Lost Artists of Palm Island

March 16 - 11 April 2019  
10am - 4pm daily

The Townsville Arts Society-  
'Art at Jezzine' Gallery

Hut 25, Jezzine Barracks  
Mitchell Street, North Ward,  
Townsville

Artwork by Robert Nugent

The second 'Lost Artists of Palm Island' exhibition was launched at the Townsville Arts Society (TAS) Jezzine Barracks Gallery earlier this month. The exhibition put several paintings from the CDP Arts & Culture Activity Team members and Activity Supervisors, including Ian Palmer, up for showing and will run until 11 April.



# Yarnin' Money Day!

Wednesday 3rd April  
10am - 2pm at the PCYC

FREE BBQ & info from  
the organisations below...



CommonwealthBank



Australian Government  
Department of Human Services



Queensland  
Government  
Office of Fair Trading



Palm Island  
COMMUNITY COMPANY



Australian Government  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



# Powerhouse Clarke ready to go pro

Patrick Clarke, 25, has fought more than 50 amateur boxing bouts since taking up the sport as a 14-year-old.

He has won the majority of them, which have included going up against world professional champion, Jeff Horn, who has wins over Manny Pacquiao and Anthony Mundine to his credit. He lost that fight in round 2 but veteran Palm Island boxing trainer Ray Dennis said Clarke would probably have his last amateur bout in Townsville next month before turning professional. Mr Dennis, who arrived on Palm Island in 1999 and has trained hundreds of boxers, described Clarke as one of the best.

“Patrick is highly respected on Palm and in north Queensland boxing circles and has won three National Titles, several at State level, and numerous Golden Gloves medals,” he said. “He is definitely an unsung hero and looks certain to fight on the amateur card in April at Townsville’s Centenary Hotel. All he has to do is get a medical certificate and he can turn pro after that.”

He said Clarke fought the now 31-year-old Jeff ‘The Hornet’ Horn in Brisbane seven years ago.

“I threw the towel into the ring in round two,” he said.

“I could see how good Horn was and he has proven that.”

The 81-year-old said Clarke was a genuine role model for young boxers on Palm Island.

“When he fought here last June as part of our tournament for the Island’s 100 year celebrations, a big crowd cheered him one and he lost narrowly on points to Yarrabah’s Alan Patterson,” Mr Dennis said.

He said Clarke has been a big influence on rising young star Musa Prior who has been undefeated in his three 35kg division bouts. Clarke fights in the 67kg welterweight division and several promoters have shown interest in offering him bouts if he turns pro.

**IN OTHER NEWS** Mr Dennis said former Palm Island professional boxer Doug Sam has been unwell and everybody wished him a speedy recovery.



# Palm representing in Townsville comp

PALM Island footballers have consistently shone as they played for various teams in the first round of the Townsville and District A grade competition for 2019.

Gordon Daisy, son of the legendary player Vern, scored three tries for Brothers when they defeated arch rival Herbert River 48-6.

In reserve grade Daniel Martin scored two four pointers for Norths in their 30-12 victory over Charters Towers.

Gresham Ross jnr had a blinder in Brothers 42-16 win over Herbert River, scoring two tries

and booting a goal for a personal tally of 10 points.

In the women's division, which started this season after a seven year absence, Manatu Neliman scored a try in Centrals 24-14 win over Western Lions.

Rothana Baira of Palm descent coached Brothers ladies to a 22-14 win over Burdekin.

Her sister Sonya and daughter Lyrech also played well for Brothers.



ABOVE: This stunning pic of Ilikea Dabea jnr was taken by Silina Dabea in front of Sapper Park on Beach Rd. Well done!



*Out & About*  
supporting our junior  
booty players in  
Townsville

More Junior comp pics on pages 6-7