

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**



**Jonathan Thurston speaks out**



**Students translate kids' books**



**Art work shows promise**



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community Your Newsletter YourVoice

## JT says 'respect what you have'

**Vandals have struck again, this time defacing one of the '57 Strike rocks and surrounding footpaths.**

The rocks were recently freshly painted (as reported in Issue 31 of the *Palm Island Voice*) by Bwgc Colman School's Year 8 students and Lawrence Coutts.

The rock concerned (pictured right) was laid in memory of Sonny Sibley.



It now sits splashed with green paint; the concrete surround has been tagged with a number of children's names, as has the footpath. Council, in collaboration with the Palm Island Voice, is working on a respect campaign with high profile personalities to try and educate perpetrators about the lack of thought – and plain disrespect – behind their actions.

**See page 12 (back cover) for a message from Cowboys icon, Jonathan Thurston.**

## Roadworks ready to go on water-logged Mango Ave

**Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey has announced road repairs to Mango Avenue will finally go ahead, possibly as soon as later this week.**



Mr Lacey (pictured above with PIAC CEO Barry Moyle) said part of the road will have to be closed to complete the work, which has been funded out of the Transport Infrastructure Development Fund. CEO Barry Moyle said the Council applied for the \$1.5 million grant two years ago.

**(Continued page 2...)**

# Roadworks on Mango Ave to go ahead (...from page 1)

"Locals would have seen the gang getting around with the Thrifty truck patching and repairing some of the roads, this gang is the result of some of that funding," Mr Moyle said.



Mr Lacey said there were other jobs around the Island Council was keen to see progressed. "Many local people have been coming to me and complaining about the condition of Mango Avenue," he said. "It's about time that Council bit the bullet and fixed up Mango Avenue along with a couple of other roads in very poor condition including Mossman St, Cooktown St and Bottlertree Lane."

Mr Moyle said Council staff had been working with the Department of Main Roads to progress the roadworks, however the machinery required to carry out the repairs in Mango Avenue was expensive and not readily available.

"As a result of these difficulties Council has been looking for other methods to complete the repairs," he said. "We're

now proposing to remove the bitumen with the grader and then with the use of a rotary hoe digging up the base of the road prior to mixing in cement. Once this is done the road will be rolled, creating a solid foundation and Council will then be considering various options to complete the repairs."

He said options included resealing with bitumen or laying concrete pavers with concrete intersections.

"While the heavy machinery and bitumen might be good, the laying of pavers could provide a greater employment outcome for the community," he said.

## 4 Ministers to oversee new Dept of Communities

**No less than four Government Ministers have taken up the reins of the new Department of Communities in Queensland, a result of restructuring announced by Premier Anna Bligh after the election earlier this year.**

Pauline Peel been appointed as the Deputy Director-General of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships which now incorporates the former Indigenous Government Coordination Office and Office for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, within the Department of Communities.

Ms Peel has circulated the following message through email and community networks:

There are now four Ministers who are responsible for the new Department of Communities:

- The Hon. Desley Boyle MP: Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- The Hon. Karen Struthers MP: Minister for Community Services & Housing and Minister for Women
- The Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk MP: Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs
- The Hon. Philip Reeves MP: Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport

The following interim management

arrangements have also been announced for the service areas:

- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Pauline Peel (Deputy Director-General)
- Child Safety Services Judy Bertram (Deputy Director-General)
- Housing and Homelessness Services Bette Kill (Deputy Director-General)
- Disability Services Bruce Milligan (Deputy Director-General)
- Community and Youth Justice Services Kathy Dunning (A/Deputy Director-General)
- Sport and Recreation Services Craig Matheson (Deputy Director-General)

In the message Ms Peel also said Michael Hogan was the new Policy Transition Director, "ensuring delivery of the Premier and Ministers' expectations for better services, and drafting forward priorities for the new Department."

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships will continue to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their communities to provide improved service delivery and life quality, support Closing the Gap initiatives, advance reconciliation, and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures," she said.

# Bwgcorman students translate kids' book

**A group of senior students at Bwgcorman State School have translated a famous children's book into "Palm Island Talk" reports Bwgcorman teacher James Ward.**

The book, by Pamela Allen called "Who Sank the Boat" – now "Who Bin Sink da Boat" – has been translated into the normal language of Palm Island kids. This translation has been done by Tyler Kidner, Kaiya Blackley, Tessa Friday and Ella Morgan who made them into a PowerPoint presentation for use by teachers of the lower classes. As part of the school's 'Making The Jump' language program, the new presentation allows younger students to see the differences between the way they talk at home and the way they talk when they talk "school" or mainstream talk.

For example, part of the story reads:

**Was it the pig (Was it da pig eh?)**

**As fat as butter (E big!)**

**Who stepped in at the side**

**(E be go step on da side – Em he go wangi)**

**And caused a great flutter**

**(Make dem fella all stress out)**

School principals Leonie Betts and Andrew Shaw said this type of interesting activity had "got the kids on fire" and more translations of well-known stories and nursery rhymes were already in the pipeline.

Other language projects include the writing of story books, that tell exciting yarns based on Palm Island and are full of local events and culture. These are being written for use in the school but with a lot of help and input from the students and local people.



*Tessa Friday, Tyler Kidner & Ella Morgan*

# Banfield Dr closed again – for a good cause

**PIAC is doing everything it can to ensure the community is notified about road closures due to public works – such as the current sewage upgrade project on Banfield Drive – says Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley .**

Cr Sibley, who holds the infrastructure portfolio for PIAC, said the sewage works currently being undertaken opposite St Michael's school have closed the road again.

"As a parent from the school I'm pleased to see this issue finally addressed," he said.

"Locals might recall a couple of years ago sewerage overflows into the school grounds of the School.

"It was a concern and had to be stopped."

He said he was especially pleased the Council had won the \$725,000 contract to complete the works which would, in turn, create employment. PIAC CEO Barry Moyle said the overflows were mainly due to a design fault of the system directing the sewerage from Sundowner Ridge through the school grounds.



*CEO Barry Moyle with Cr Raymond Sibley*

"Whenever there was any blockages in the system the sewerage would find its way out and into the school yard," he said.

"This was a major health issue and resulted in the State Government finding additional funds to address this concern."

He said last time Banfield Drive was closed it was to reduce the risk of vehicle accidents on the range as trucks transported soil for the airport apron upgrade job.

Cr. Sibley asked the community to be patient during the construction period as heavy machinery was required to work on the road area.

# TO GET A DENTAL APPOINTMENT YOU MUST:

**COME IN BETWEEN 9:00am – 9:30am.**

**HAVE YOUR EXAMINATION AND LOOK AT THE PROBLEM IN YOUR MOUTH.**

**STAFF WILL THEN BOOK YOU AN APPOINTMENT AT THE NEXT AVAILABLE CLINIC, WHICH COULD BE A WEEK OR SO LATER.**

**YOU WILL ALSO NEED A CENTRELINK HEALTHCARE CARD TO ACCESS THE CLINIC.**

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE YOU WILL NEED TO SEEK DENTAL TREATMENT ELSEWHERE.**

**PLEASE SEE RACHAEL RYAN FOR MORE INFO**

## **Eligibility Criteria for Adults**

The provision of FREE DENTAL services to eligible people is a priority of Queensland Health.

In order to ensure public equity of access to the service, there are relatively strict guidelines regarding who is eligible for care.

One of the criteria is the person must hold a CURRENT HEALTH CARE or PENSION CARD FROM CENTRELINK. Please see Centrelink if you to find out if you qualify to receive one of these cards.

Do note that all school children up to Grade 10 are eligible.

If you DO NOT have or are ineligible for one of the cards then you will need to seek dental treatment elsewhere, you will need to go private or to TAIHS (Medical Centre) in Townsville.

We know that this raises issues for people who are ineligible and we would be happy to discuss how we could address these issues for you.

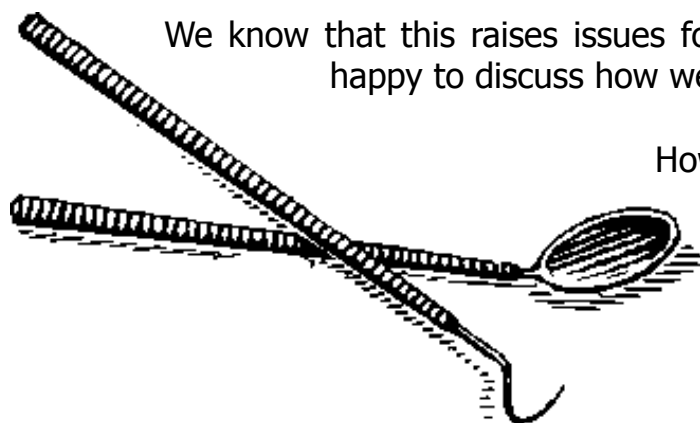
However, we are not in a position to alter the eligibility criteria for the service we provide.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Dental staff @ J.P.H.S**



**Queensland  
Government**  
Queensland Health



# GP clinic move to appointments will save on waiting time

**Palm Island GP clinic is moving to an appointment system.**

**This change aims to:**

- **give people a definite time to see the doctor**
- **allow people to plan ahead when coming to the clinic**
- **cut down on waiting time**
- **avoid overly busy times like Mon and Tues morning**
- **give each patient more face to face time with the doctor when required**
- **bring us into line with other practices across the country**

**If you have an emergency you will still be seen rapidly in the Emergency Department**

**If you do not have an appointment on arrival, one will be made for you**

**People with an appointment will be seen first**

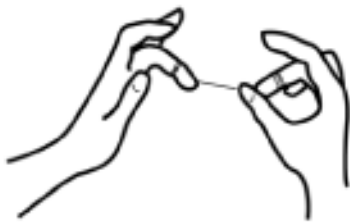
**Appointments can be made by phone or in person**

**We imagine the first weeks of this change will be complicated but after that we hope it will provide a better and more professional service for you.**

**Dr Clint**

*Flossing technique:*

1. Take about 40cm of floss and wrap the ends around the second finger of each hand, leaving only a small piece between the two hands.



2. With one of the fingers in the mouth, draw the floss down into the gap between two teeth using a gentle see-sawing action until it slips just slightly under the gum level.



3. Wrap the floss around one tooth and use a wiping action to remove plaque and food debris.

**Night moves for night markets starting to engage community interest**

**If you fancy anything from a curried prawn to a new t-shirt, the night markets could be the place to try each and every Thursday.**

Contact for the weekly event, Emmakita Pryor, said a jumping castle was also arriving next week, just to help keep up the interest.

"At the moment we have people wanting to sell kids items and clothing, freshly baked cakes, curried prawns and rice, kupmurri, vermicelli and rices, toys, chips and drinks," she said.

"Next week, a jumping castle will be here so we are looking at moving to the clock tower area (Harmony Park) to cater for it."

Ms Pryor also said she wanted to encourage the community to be a part of it all, either by turning up on the night or thinking about what they could sell as a stallholder.

"It is a great concept and would be excellent for more community involvement," she said.

# ***PISC News***

**May 2009**

**Holidays have been over for some weeks now, in fact we're already half way through the term, which means school is running from 9am to 2.30pm, Monday to Friday, as per usual.**

After having such a large number of students attending on a daily basis last term, it is somewhat disappointing to see fewer students return these past few weeks.

This means these students are missing out on work that they will need to know in order to successfully pass their QCE.

We have also had a number of parents asking us to provide a letter of attendance for ABSTUDY claims.

We would like to take this opportunity to say that we are more than willing to do these, however we can not provide these letters for students who have not attended school or who are attending school irregularly.

According to ABSTUDY Activity Agreements, students who have had more than five unauthorised absences from school in any one single term are not eligible for ABSTUDY (see <http://www.centrelink.gov.au>).

## **Presentations**

On Friday 29 May PISC will be holding a celebration from 9.30-11.30am at the PCYC, as we have a number of certificates, badges and trophies to be handed out.

The event will include the induction of our inaugural school captains and school council representatives, the handing out of first aid certificates and the cross country trophy presentations.

We are looking forward to this event and encourage all parents and carers to attend.

## **Cross Country**

Cross country was held earlier this month with our PISC students joining St Michael's and Bwcolman students for the event.

A fun day was had by all with CDEP providing a sausage sizzle for lunch and even the teachers

getting involved in the tug-o-war events. This year PISC winners were Kiefer Ling for the boys and Yolanda Kerr for the girls. We would like to extend our congratulations to these two fine students who hold the exclusive honour of being the first PISC cross country winners.

## **Art project**

Also this term Mr Dane and Mr Stephen have been in discussion with Centrecare about getting an art project started.

A number of good ideas have emerged from these discussions and as a result an art project for PISC students will kick off this week (20 May).

Over the week there will be discussion with the students about various ideas as well as a number of forms of art on display, including Mr Stephen's work.

If there are any members of the community who have Blue Cards and would like to get involved with this project you can contact Mr Dane or Mr Stephen at the PISC campus.

## **Thanks!**

We would like to thank Mr Iaga Viri for representing our school at the ANZAC parade.

And we would also like to thank Ms Lindsay Malone for her efforts in organising the Coolgaree food van to come to the PISC campus both at first and second break.

Last term we found allowing students to go off campus for lunch meant they were constantly late and therefore missing out on valuable learning time.

We would like to remind parents that students will now need to either bring their own lunch or money to buy lunch as students are not allowed off school ground during school hours unless they are walking to TAFE or other activities organised by PISC or TAFE staff.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

**Sylvia Wagner (Coordinator),  
Stephen Malpas (Mathematics),  
Dane Paulsen (English)  
+ Case Managers Iaga Viri  
& Lindsey Malone**

# School art shows promise of what's to come

**Term One of 2009 has had a great start to the new school year, and been an exciting time in the art department.**

Year eight students have been drawing traditional Indigenous artefacts and exploring pencil and charcoal techniques, with some amazing results.

The year nine class has been learning about portraits and chose one of their favourite music artists to draw.

The year ten class has been very busy this term with their first aid certificates and TAFE courses, but they have been exploring the theme of fire, in relation to the Victorian bushfire that happened earlier this year.

This term students will be exploring different painting styles from history and I am sure the students will have another successful term.

**Sonja Vassallo  
(High School  
Art Teacher)**

*On this page:*

*Top: Dehanna Morgan;*

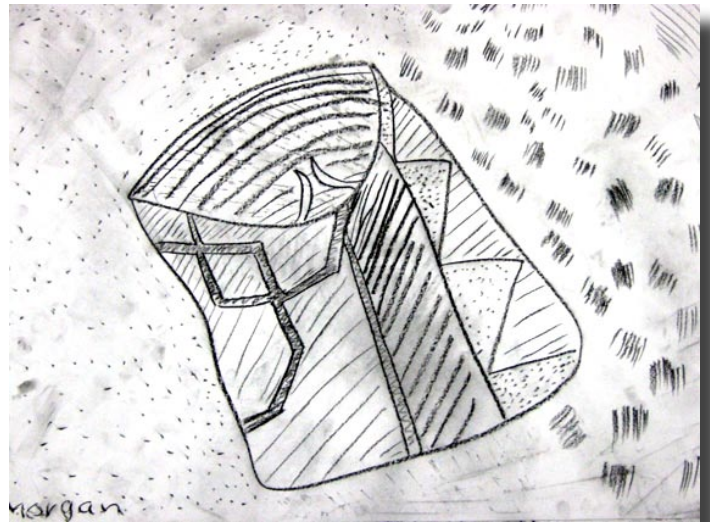
*Right: Anthony Bourne;*

*Bottom Left:*

*William Clumpoint;*

*Bottom Right:*

*Jimeka Richardson*



# Palm Island Voice

## Public & Community Notices

### PIAC Meeting Dates

Next Government Delegation day: 16th June

Next Community Delegation day: 18th June



### **Palm Island Voice**

#### Display Advertisements

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

Full Page \$440 Half Page \$231

Quarter Page \$121 Eighth Page \$66

Sixteenth Page \$44

#### Classifieds

(payable in advance)

Items for sale - under \$1000 - FREE

Public Notices - Births, Deaths, Marriages,  
Birthdays - FREE

Sale Price over \$1000 & Other Notices -  
4 lines - \$10

**Ads are to be submitted by no later  
than 5pm on deadline day  
(see back page).**

For more information or bookings contact

Tim at the Council on 4770 1177 or

email editor@piac.com.au

Please support the *Palm Island Voice* so we  
can continue to support you.



### Tenants' Union of Queensland Inc.

There will be free advice available for all tenants outside the Palm Island Community Store on Thursday 28 May from 11am onwards. This is where you can come and get free, face-to-face advice about any tenancy issues or problems you might have. Information designed to raise Indigenous tenants' awareness of their rights and responsibilities under the Residential Tenancies Act will be available.

**For more information contact Pat Cora at the  
North Queensland Tenants' Union  
on 4031 3194**



## Bwngcolman Community School Community Education Forums Suburb Meetings & BBQ Invitation



**Who:** Community members/ parents/ carers interested in education for their children at Bwngcolman Community School

**What:** A meeting to discuss what is happening at the school, get feedback from community members and a great opportunity to meet some of our school staff.

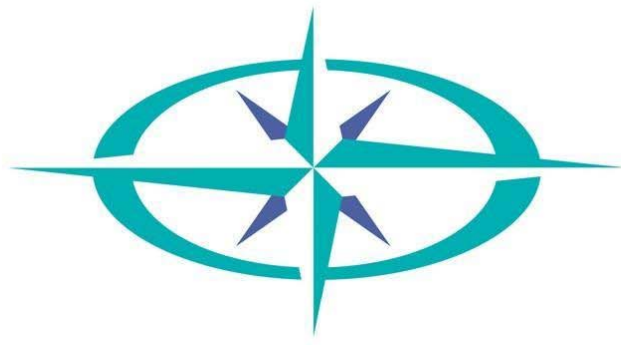
**When:** Every Tuesday night over four weeks at four different Palm Island suburbs!



- 1) Tuesday 12 May 5-6pm: Bottom End at the Strand, opposite Sandra and Josh's place\*
- 2) **TODAY!!!** Tuesday 19 May 5-6pm: Top End and Reservoir at the corner of Creek St
- 3) Tuesday 26 May 5-6pm: The Farm and Chook City at the plum tree next to rehab
- 4) Tuesday 2 June 5-6pm: Butler Bay at the basketball courts (\*already taken place\*)

**Principal Mrs Leonie Betts; Deputy Principal Mr Andrew Shaw: Ph 4770 0333 Fax 4770 0300**





# PALM ISLAND

## BARGE SERVICES

REGULAR SCHEDULED SERVICES TO PALM ISLAND, AND IF REQUIRED SERVICES FROM LUCINDA OR TO AND FROM ANY COASTAL LOCATION

- Freezer & Chiller
- Bulk Materials (Fuel, Water, Aggregates)
- Building Materials
- General Freight
- Loader & Skip Bin Hire available on Palm Island
- Secured Lockable Storage at Palm Island & Townsville
- Waste Removal on Palm Island
- Guaranteed 2 services to Palm Island weekly
- 30 metre / 100 Tonne Vessel

**WE WILL MATCH ANY WRITTEN QUOTE OR INVOICE**

Ph: 07 4721 3166 Fax: 07 4724 2077  
310 Boundary Street, South Townsville  
Email: [pibs@riversidemarine.com.au](mailto:pibs@riversidemarine.com.au)



# Eat Well, Be Active

Where: The Mall  
When: 10am–2pm  
Wed 3 June 2009

## Palm Island Health Expo

Win a 16-week "Eat Well, Be Active" program in your own home

- Free Food Tasting – Delicious!!
- Free Fitness Measurements
- Free Blood Pressure Measurements
- Free Blood Sugars Measurements



Queensland Government  
Queensland Health



Queensland Government  
Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation

Delivered in cooperation by Acacia Grove Health Education Centre, Palm Island Aboriginal Council, Joyce Palmer Health Service and the Queensland Government



## Position Vacant Animal Control Officer

If you have good communication skills, computer skills and a current Driver's license then this may be the job for you.

Successful Applicant must be willing to be trained in the area of Animal Management and other relevant areas.

- Work with Government organisations such as the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) GBRMPA (Marine Parks), Queensland Health & various other areas.
- Identify, address management of feral animals
- Clean up DOGS from around the STORE area
- Keep horses out of the Community
- Promote good Animal Management throughout the Community

**Applications available at the reception counter of the Council Office, Main Street, Palm Island**

**Applications close Thursday 30th May 2009**



### POSITIONS VACANT

ICAN is part of the Community Program on Palm to:

- Improve the condition of existing houses;
- Promoting the better management of household incomes; and,
- And introduction to home ownership in the Palm Island community.

ICAN is seeking to employ people, preferably from the community, who have the skills, commitment and dedication to assist residents in fulfilling this program.

#### ICAN has three positions available:

- A team leader; and,
- Two money management workers.

Successful applicants will be offered appropriate in-house training as well as the opportunity to gain a Certificate III in Financial Counselling.

ICAN is a not-for-profit company that can provide additional financial benefits during your employment.

Applications are requested in writing, addressed to the CEO (Aaron Davis) identifying your skills and experience in administration works.

**Further information about these positions is available by contacting Kym Dann on (07) 4031 1073.**

# Market stall owners!

**Interested in seeing the new Community Markets open for NAIDOC Week?**



We are calling on the Palm Island community to express their interest in being part of our new Community Markets.

If you make products or can offer services and want to make some extra money then come and see Jodie in the Council today. The committee is hopeful there will be enough interest registered to hold the first Markets during NAIDOC week. As soon as there are enough people a meeting will be called.



**Contact Jodie at the Palm Island Council as soon as possible to let her know!**

## Language language...WORDS everywhere!

**Miss Yolanda's grade 1 and 2 class has been doing great things with the story book they are reading.**

This book is called, Dolphin Rescue. And it tells the story of how one dolphin saves its friend who has been caught in a fishing net. This story, or "text," is the means of having the children exposed to a huge amount of new words and phrases in School English. It is essential part of their build up to starting to do their own writing. The book was especially chosen as it is about the sea, a subject our Palm Island children already know a lot about!

Miss Yolanda is using the well tried and tested Walking Talking Texts program. This language acquisition program has been used extensively in indigenous schools in the NT and Qld for the last twenty five years. It really works!

The class is coming ahead in leaps and bounds and Miss Yolanda, and team teacher Miss Latoya, are thrilled with the program's success. They are using this story as the jumping off point for learning about sea animals, then they are comparing these beautiful known sea creatures with animals that live in other environments, such as forests.

Walk into this excitingly decorated classroom and you could soon imagine you were swimming underwater with dolphins and sharks or prowling through dense fores watching out for lions and elephants! The kids love it.



Here are some of the things the kids already know:

"Seahorses have spikes on their heads." (Maya)

"Dolphins can swim very fast and they can leap more than two metres out of the ocean." (Maurice)

"Dolphins are mammals, not fish. They feed their babies breadt milk." (Shauntae)

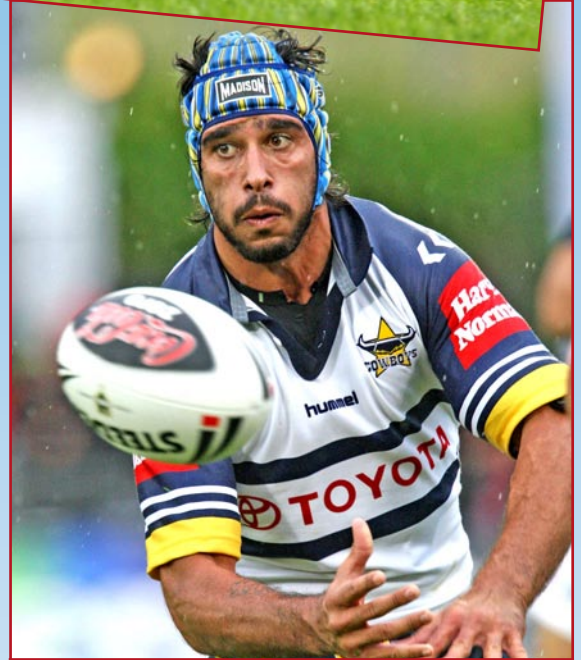
"Seahorses have their babies live, not from eggs." (Stella)

"Seahorses are fish and they swim straight. Seahorse daddies can carry baby seahorses in a special pouch." (Craig)

"Dolphins swim in family groups called pods." (Duran)



**Hey kids JT here**  
**I was gutted to hear that someone**  
**spilt paint over one of the**  
**'57 Strike Rocks!**  
**I saw those rocks when I was over**  
**on Palm last year,**  
**they were awesome!!**



**It's really bad**  
**that someone**  
**would make a**  
**stupid choice and**  
**wreck something**  
**like that. Respect**  
**what you have**  
**and stay proud of**  
**your community.**  
**Palm rocks and**  
**everyone has a**  
**role in keeping it**  
**that way.**



*Pics of last weekend's game in NZ & of JT here on Palm courtesy North Qld Toyota Cowboys*

**PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE Palm Island Voice**

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