



# PALM ISLAND VOICE

Issue 262

Thursday 20 September 2018

\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*



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



# PALM ISLAND SPRING FESTIVAL 2018

MORE PICS INSIDE!

Pic: Jocelyn Flint



## Kudos for commitment from two of our best

Not one, but two homegrown Palm Island paramedics have recently been recognised for their hard work and commitment to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS).

William Obah is the proud new owner of a 10-year QAS service medal while Jason Ploeg has been recognised for his efforts towards building community spirit.

“This award highlights Jason’s efforts with the younger generation here on Palm,” QAS Palm Island Officer-in-Charge Victor Hewett said.

“He has played a major role

in gaining confidence and helping the school community get to know ambulance.”

*William is pictured above at the Northern Beaches station with Victor and Clinical Support Officer Liz Brooks.*



## Less is more for top cop

Over recent months, the community of Palm Island has seen a lot less of the Officer in Charge of the Police Station Senior Sergeant Dave Rutherford but not because he hasn’t been out and about in the community!

It’s because he has actually lost about 25 kilograms.

“I’ve had to order new uniforms but even those are starting to get a bit loose now” Dave said.

He said long walks exploring the island were a large part of his success.

“A change in diet to avoid

high fat and processed food has also helped,” he said.

“There is a history of heart problems and diabetes in my family and I am hoping to avoid those problems as I get older.

“I think my mental health has also benefited a lot from being able get out and enjoy the Island.”

# Brisbane exhibition to commemorate and celebrate all things Bwngcolman



‘It’s time to celebrate being Bwngcolman!’ is the theme of a new exhibition called ‘Palm Island & Our People’ opening in Brisbane this Saturday.

Mayor Alf Lacey, Palm Island and Brisbane Elders, State Librarian Vicki McDonald, Library Board members and the public will be joined by Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, who will officially launch the exhibition, at the State Library.

“The exhibition is both a commemoration and celebration, with the centenary providing a unique opportunity to reflect on the past through retelling and sharing stories of endurance, resilience and self-determination,” Exhibition Project Manager Naomi Takeifanga said. “The launch event will celebrate all things Palm Island and will feature the Bwngcolman Dancers.

“The exhibition and associated public programs allows Palm Island stories and truths to be shared with the broader Queensland community and visitors from far and wide.”

She said the State Library had an important role to play in supporting all communities within the public library and Indigenous Knowledge Centre network.

“The IKC on Palm Island has been pivotal in the development of this exhibition, under the strong lead of Regina James,” she said.

“Regina, with the support of the Palm Island Past Organising Committee chair Jennifer Ketchell, has worked closely on the development of Palm Island & Our People exhibition, building on the research completed for Joanne Watson’s thesis, ‘Becoming Bwngcolman: exile and survival on Palm Island Reserve, 1918 to the present’.”

“The exhibition journeys through the difficult history from the establishment of the Palm Island Reserve under the

‘Protection Act’, the opening of Fantome Island as a lazaret, the establishment of the dormitories, and the strike of 1957.

“The exhibition then looks at the importance of keeping culture alive, through dance, language and how football, boxing and netball have become extremely popular and a source of community connectedness.

“The final part of the exhibition looks at contemporary Palm Island culture, focusing on the community events held throughout 2018, including the Deadly Didge ‘n Dance Festival.

“Throughout the kuril dhagun space, tributes and acknowledgement are paid to important Palm Island figures who have contributed significantly to improving life and conditions on the island, including Alf Palmer, Iris Clay and Harry Johnson.”

Palm Island & Our People continues until 22 April 2019 in kuril dhagun, level 1, State Library of Queensland, open daily from 10am – 5pm. For more information contact Naomi at [naomi.takeifanga@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:naomi.takeifanga@slq.qld.gov.au) and/or watch this space for more in our next issue!



**Weaving junk new skill for CDP**  
 Recycled rubbish can become anything from handbags and fruit bowls to toys and bracelets, as two lucky CDP ladies, Agnes Wotton and Annie King, discovered last week at a Junk Weavers Workshop hosted by the Townsville Arts Society at Jezzine Barracks.

The workshop was conducted over the whole day and the ladies learnt how to make several items from recycled rubbish.

“Agnes and Annie created an amazing fruit bowl each to take home however from the other items on display, it was clear your imagination could take you anywhere,” Program Manager Nathan Vinson said.



“Included in the workshop fee was a one-year membership to the Junk Weavers Inc, a not for profit corporation based out of Cairns which empowers individuals to grow and develop themselves sustainably by developing micro-recycled craft businesses,” he said.

“We look forward to Agnes and Annie sharing their newly developed skills with the other members of our CDP.”



## Hard work recognised

Since moving into a Training Officer role for Palm Island CDP, local employee Moewaiya Youngblutt has worked hard with her team, CDP Program Manager Nathan Vinson says.

“She has done a great job with some remarkable results,” he said. “She has worked hard to increase the completion of the mandatory compliance training modules required by Campbell Page employees and I would like to thank her for that. She deserves acknowledgement her for her outstanding achievements supporting CDP staff in training and development over the last few weeks.

“There has been nothing but praise for her efforts by all the staff and for her achievements, Moewaiya was CDP’s Employee of the Month for August and has received a \$100 gift card

“Congratulations Moewaiya for supporting our team and keep up the great work.”



In a record-breaking turnout, Palm Island's annual Spring Fair was celebrated by more than 2000 people earlier this month.

Held at Fred Clay Memorial Park along the Esplanade on a public holiday to mark the occasion, it took two ferries to cater for such an influx of happy and excited visitors.

It was the biggest community-focused event of the Centenary year and included dancing and singing, entertainment, craft and food stalls and a history display – a veritable showcase of culture and pride in what our community has and can achieve.

Guests were welcomed to country by traditional owner

Allan Palm Island, followed by MC Lillian Lampton's introduction to a smoking ceremony led by Archie Fraser accompanied by a didgeridoo welcome from Tyrone Yasserie.

Jennifer Ketchell gave an overview of a massively successful year for Palm Islanders followed by dancers Yindinji, Tiare Tipani Cook Islanders, Great Northern Group, Komet Mer Island, Descendants of Torres Strait, Pacific Flowers and Bwngcolman Traditional Group.

Singers included Milton

Thaiday (who it was said sounded very much like his late father, Mick), Joey Geia and young Kalani Geia.

Comedian Kevin Kropinyeri provided some light hearted humour before headline performers The Bay Boyz, Normey Boy and Budda BJ.

Activities for kids, including face painting, ran for the day which was followed by yet another fireworks display, finishing the event with a spectacular bang.

Mayor Alf Lacey said it was one of the best Spring Fairs ever.



*Pics thanks to Alf Wilson & Jocelyn Flint – see 'Mengha's Back Paddock' on Facebook for more.*

## We are from Smithton Tasmania, which is on the far north west coast, Joy and Hugh Gillies write...

I am an Aboriginal Elder from home and I am always interested in what our people are up to.

We couldn't believe that we were lucky enough to be at Palm Island for their Spring Festival.

Once arriving on the ferry, the people were so friendly and welcoming, all dressed so beautifully and colourfully – to see their smiley faces was a delight.

We have a friend on the Island, Kim Van Adricken, who is a teacher, her mother, Caroline, and another friend, Jocelyn, also attended.

We had the most enjoyable day watching the many artists performing.

The local Bwgcorman Traditional Dance group

were the far superior performance of the day.

Their yellow and painted bodies, all in, young and old alike, they were so happy to perform.

We also met Kevin Kropinyeri, whom I once had the pleasure of working with in Rockhampton.

I am so proud of these people, for keeping up their traditions and passing them on to their children. Even children still in nappies were painted up and dressed the same for dancing.

They were delightful. The stalls were fantastic and I bought two shirts.

The food was of the highest standards, very good, and I did not see any chips!

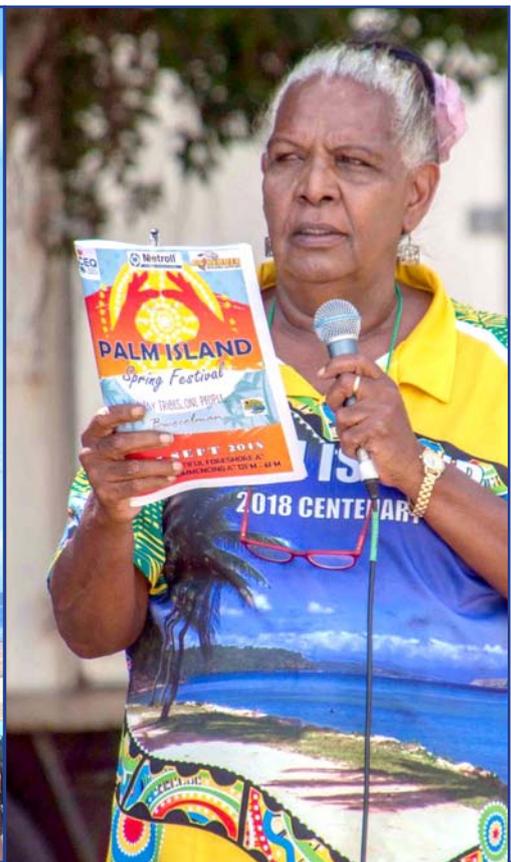


The different foods were all very tasty.

We were sorry to go back on the 5pm ferry, as we would have loved to have seen the fireworks display.

It was the most enjoyable day of our trip to date and we don't doubt that it will be the highlight of our year.







## I wasn't sure what to expect on boarding the Sealink vessel to Palm Island for the Spring Festival, Voicebox Audio Productions director John Hubbard writes...

There was hardly a spare seat on the ferry with a mix of locals and tourists of all ages, all smiling with anticipation.

The colourful sight of the markets along the foreshore and the sounds of music could be seen and heard as the boat docked – we instantly knew we were in for a special day.

A selection of traditional and contemporary food was available, the music and dancing was non-stop.

Comedian Kevin Kropinyeri made us laugh and throughout the day as we were

entertained and educated.

All the performers were well appreciated by all who watched from the shade of the marquees.

It was humbling to be invited to participate in the smoking ceremony to the sound of Tyrone Yasserie's didgeridoo.

The museum was another highlight, teaching us about the history of the Island and the peoples' who had to make this their home, the hardships they endured and the achievements made.

The newly completed



boardwalk along the coastline is another wonderful addition to the island.

It was more than expected.

Congratulations to the organisers, participants and sponsors of this great day, and see you next year.

# Palm Island Voice



Public &  
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!

The next DEADLINE  
for the  
PALM ISLAND VOICE  
(261) is

**Thursday  
13 September**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday  
20 September**

Check out our Facebook page,  
we have 2,356 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

[palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au](mailto:palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au)

**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 2,674  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!

**POSITION VACANT: CASUAL**

**Project Coordinator: Bwngcolman Community Visual  
Arts & Dance Program**

**APPLICATIONS ARE STILL OPEN!**

**TO APPLY send your resume and a covering letter to:  
reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au by TOMORROW  
21 September 2018.**



## PUBLIC NOTICE



Environmental Health staff from Palm Island Aboriginal Shire  
Council & Townsville Public Health Unit will be conducting  
mosquito surveillance throughout Palm Island community on

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2018**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2018**

We would like to go into your yard with your permission, to check  
containers for mosquito breeding. Your help is appreciated.



# Noby considers comeback

**FORMER** boxing star Noby Clay is considering a comeback to the ring.

The diminutive 34-year-old mother had a distinguished amateur boxing career proudly representing the Palm Island Boxing Club six or more years ago.

“I don’t think I’ve had my last bout and really would like to have a few more,” she said.

Noby last fought in 2012 and had many wins in her career.

But weighing in at just 45kg, Noby had difficulty finding suitable opponents, often having to trade punches with

women much heavier.

“I started boxing as an 18-year-old on Palm,” she said. “Along the way I couldn’t fight couldn’t box whilst I was pregnant with my children.”

Noby made headlines when she fought at the National Amateur Titles at the Townsville Showgrounds against a much heavier Tasmanian opponent with baby Lorna in a pram beside the ring.



**Orange Sky’s mobile laundry van is almost ready to arrive on Palm Island. The laundry vehicle needs a name and that is where you can help! Send your ideas to [judith@orangesky.org.au](mailto:judith@orangesky.org.au) and let us know why it is a good name. The winning name will receive an Orange Sky t-shirt and be a special guest at the launch. We’d also love to hear more about how this vehicle can best help the community of Palm Island.**



## LAUNDRY VAN LAUNCH

FREE LAUNDRY VAN AND YARNING SPACE

### Come along and meet the van!

- Welcome to Country
- Refreshments
- Smoking Ceremony
- Entertainment

**4PM – 6PM, WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER**  
**NEAR THE BARGE TERMINAL AND CLOCK TOWER**





## Palm players shine at TDRL presentation nights

Palm Islanders near scooped the pool at Townsville's Brothers presentation night last week with Frederick Haines Jnr winning Player's Player and Gresham Ross Jnr the Best Back for the Reserve Grade, and Isaac Bulsey the Player's Player for the Under-19s.

Haines jnr starred for the Brothers side which won the grand final of the Townsville and District Rugby League Reserve Grade competition when they beat Western Lions 18-16 earlier this month.

Skilful Haines jnr scored a try and booted three goals for a personal tally of 10 points which in a low scoring decider was vital.

He is a speedy chip off the

old block as his father Fred Haines snr was also a quality footballer.

Robert Congoo also scored a four pointer for Brothers.

In the Under-19 grand final Brothers 26 defeated Western Lions 18.

In the A Grade TDRL grand final Gordon Daisy, a son of Palm's Vern "The legend" Daisy scored a try for Brothers which lost 46-22 to

Centrals which was coached by former Cowboys champion Matty Bowen.

From Hope Vale, Bowen scored a try and kicked nine goals and had been on Palm for the recent Obe Geia Challenge.

And finally, again in the TDRL, Genami Geia jnr has won the best back award for Burdekin in the A Grade comp.

Well done Palm Island!!!



Top left is Gresham Ross Jnr (Best Back, Reserve Grade) & Snr at the Brothers Rugby League Presentation night last Friday night along with Frederick Haines Jnr (Players' Player, Reserve Grade), Isaac Bulsey (Players' Player, Under 19s), Gresham Ross Jnr (Best Back, Reserve Grade). Above: Matt Bowen & team.