

Palm Island Voice

Issue 162: 11 September 2014

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



Progressing Our Community - Bwgcolman Moving Forward



Palm Island

Spring Festival 2014



ALSO INSIDE:

- HUGE SPREAD OF FESTIVAL PICS ON PAGES 6-8 & 12!!!!

What the...?



Pic with thanks to Merlene Roberson

ALSO!

- Government passes freehold legislation pp 4-5
- Footy finals p 11



Push for Recognition in Townsville

A group pushing to have Aboriginal and TSI people's recognised in the Australian Constitution held a large meeting in Townsville's Strand Park late last month.

Guest speakers at the Recognise Australia event were Uncle Francis Tapim (of Mer descent) on behalf of local Torres Strait Islander people, NAIDOC person of the year Professor Gracelyn Smallwood, Uncle Russell Butler, Florence Onus, Ben Gertz and Virginia Wyles, and MC for the event was Sam Reuben.

After the gathering hundreds walked holding banners from Strand Park to Kissing Point near the Rockpool.

Phillip Obah, his son Andrew and Diana Ross were there.

Senior Recognise Co-ordinator Libby Collins said similar events had been held in Weipa, Cooktown and Cairns.



Mayor moves up two spots in influential top 50

PALM Island Mayor Alf Lacey has been named for the second year in a row on the prestigious Townville Bulletin's list of North Queensland's Most Influential 50 people.

The annual list was compiled by the Townsville Bulletin newspaper which said "It is comprised hugely of successful people, strident community advocates, passionate civic leaders and beguiling politicians."

Cr Lacey was listed at as number 47 when it was published on 30 August.

"The Mayor of Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is passionate about improving economic opportunities for

its people and has supported moves to introduce low scale tourism. He is rated highly by State Government for his leadership role," the Bulletin profile read.

Cr Lacey and Cowboys champion player Johnathan Thurston (number eight) were the only Indigenous persons named in the list.

Speaking to the *Palm Island Voice* during the Spring Fair, Cr Lacey said that whilst he was honoured to be named in the

list, it was more about lifting the profile of Palm Island.

"We are moving forward and it is good in that this is a mainstream category list. I don't think such a list is done anywhere else in Australia. I take the honour humbly and I'm proud Palm has been recognised," Cr Lacey said.

Last year Cr Lacey was listed at number 49.

