

Wunja Tribal Voice

Newsletter Issue 2: July 2019



It was a happy NAIDOC Week!

This year's NAIDOC Week on Palm Island was packed with activities and events, starting with a Friday public holiday and some well-attended celebrations.

The theme of NAIDOC Week for 2019 was "Voice, Treaty, Truth":

Voice to celebrate the languages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages;

Treaty to show our support for the Uluru Declaration and a treaty with non-Indigenous Australians; and,

Truth to speak about the devastation that colonization brought to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A highlight of the Week was our Elders' Dinner, held at the Coolgaree Bistro on 11 July and hosted by PICC to show our appreciation for their importance to our community – see page 4-5 for more pics! PICC would like to thank all our staff who contributed to this year's activities.



WELCOME to our new look **Wunja Tribal Voice** - the Palm Island Community Company's monthly newsletter. You can also follow PICC on Facebook and we have our own You Tube channel.



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A Message from the CEO...

Many of you may have noticed the pink posters, pink banners, pink pens, pink lanyards and several other small – pink! – items around Palm Island recently PICC CEO Rachel Atkinson writes...



They are all part of PICC's participation in a Queensland Government campaign to stop sexual violence.

PICC and I, like so many of you, are strongly against the use of sexual violence for any reason.

But there are still far too many people who still think it's okay.

There are too many victims and too much pain in our families and our community

because not everyone has got this message: there are no excuses for sexual violence.

Anyone who still uses sexual violence has to know they need to stop now – it's always wrong, it makes everyone suffer and no one will pretend it didn't happen.

As a community every single one of us has to come together and show we stand together against sexual

violence and its users.

We can't look the other way when it happens and we can't put up with anyone who uses it.

You don't have to be a victim, or know one to say, 'no more!'

I hope everyone can take in the message of this campaign.

Together we can end sexual violence on Palm.

Rachel Atkinson

Ten year anniversary cause for celebration

PICC Chair Mislam Sam and several staff attended the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSI CPP) annual conference - also their ten-year anniversary celebrations – in June.

The very distinguished Dr Cindy Blackstock, a tireless campaigner for the rights of

the First Nations of Canada, was a keynote speaker at the event.

QATSI CPP Chair, our own CEO Rachel Atkinson (*pictured below*), gave a presentation on barriers to implementing best-practice child protection on Palm Island.

During the conference an ABBA 'Dancing Queen' collaboration between PICC and TAIHS staff won the popular vote for the best ensemble performance at the QATSI CPP Karaoke competition.

It was the first time PICC (or TAIHS) has won the hotly contested competition.





Strong support for RU OK Day

RU OK Day is about suicide prevention and this year several men from the Diversionary Centre participated in a march carrying a banner they had made themselves.

James Roberts and other community members spoke at the event and said it was good to hear other people's stories about how suicide has affected them and how they have

overcome their struggles.

We are never alone.

If you need to talk there are several services available on Palm Island that may be able to help.

Services include ATODS, MENTAL HEALTH, JOYCE PALMER HOSPITAL and THE DIVERSIONARY CENTRE or you can call MENS LINE on 1800 600 636.



RIGHT: Several PICC workers attended a Domestic & Family Violence Workforce Solutions forum in Cairns last month, as a result of the Queensland Government offering a new professional development service for people in the field.



Elders' dinner a NAIDOC Week highlight for many



PICC's NAIDOC Week Elders' Dinner and storytelling event was about celebrating and thanking the Elders of Palm Island for their contribution to our community.

Our MC for the night was Milton Thaiday, who sang and played music for us throughout the evening.

The children of the Bwgcolman Dancers opened our celebrations, with some of our guests joining in.

Mayor Alf Lacey spoke, followed by PICC Chair Mislam Sam, both of whom were passionate about the status

of Elders in the Palm Island community.

After dinner several of the Elders, some of our guests and one of the Bwgcolman Dancers gave speeches and told stories and histories about the importance of contributing to community.

After poor weather initially postponed the event, we were fortunate to have guests PICC

Board Member Rhonda Phillips and filmmaker Penny Moore.

Ms Moore documented the stories and histories of the Elders who spoke at the Dinner which are now preserved for the future.

A video of the speakers and their stories will be available soon on the PICC YouTube channel.

MORE PICS NEXT PAGE...



PICC NAIDOC Week Elders Dinner, July 2019



PICC Services Directory

PICC Services offers a wide range of everyday and special programs and services to the Palm Island community. Residents are welcome to visit all programs and services they need.

Children and Family Centre (CFC): Reid Lane: 4791 4031

- Medical Centre
- Early Childhood
- Parenting and Health & Wellbeing Project
- After Hours GP Clinic: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday nights until 9pm. We welcome walk-ins or call Reception on the number above.
- Night Café: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 5-9pm: Wednesday night at the PCYC: Safe Haven: 4791 4006. Light meals provided.
- Playgroup: (0497 656 460) Monday to Friday 10am-1pm, outdoors on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mobile playgroup will be in various safe locations on the Island. Transport and meals are provided for children and parents.
- Wednesday Night's Women's Yarning Circle: . 6-9pm including dinner.
- Youth Patrol: Monday to Friday 6pm to 11pm. Drop offs start from 8pm. Note Wednesday's pick up is from the PCYC, not CFC.



PICC's Youth Patrol

Community Justice Group: Reid Lane: 4791 4001

Community OP Shop: Beach Road: 4770 1677. Open Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 8am-4pm. New and second-hand clothing and home wares, footwear, bags, reading and sunglasses, prepaid phones and technology items, bric-a-brac and gift lines.



PICC's Community Op Shop

Diversion Services: Reid Lane: 4791 4071 or 4791 4072

- Diversionary Adult Patrol: 0491 295 342. Patrol Hours: Wednesday 6-8pm; Thursday -Friday 4-10pm; Saturday 9am-12pm & 5-10pm; Sunday 9am-12pm & 2-5pm. Diversionary office hours are 8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday.
- Men's Gathering: Monday 6-8pm: for transport contact Milton or Frank by 4pm on 4791 4070. We invite all men to come along for a light meal and great company to discuss all topics of concern in our community. A regular night of story telling, sharing and learning from one another.

Continues...



PICC's Breakfast Program (Bwgcolman Community School) runs from 7am on every school day.

Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Service: Reid Lane: Janet King (0448 707 789)

Family Participation Program: Main Street: Elsa Morton: 4791 4006

Family Wellbeing Centre: Palm Island Mall: 4791 4050

Mental Health (Stepped Care Program): 4791 4031

NDIS Community Connectors: Sharon Defeo: 0499 167 543

PICC Bakery and Fuel: Farm Road: 4770 1653

- Bakery: Monday-Friday 8am-3pm. Specials: Doner Kebabs + Ham & Cheese Croissants.
- Fuel open seven days a week, 6am-7pm. Fuel cards accepted.

Palm Automotive:

PALM ISLAND: Farm Road: 4770 1257.

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 8am to 5pm; Friday 8am to 3pm

TOWNSVILLE: Unit 3/27 Hamill St, Garbutt: Shane Stewart: 0459 817 408 Opening hours: Monday- Friday 8am-5pm; PICC off-pay week Fridays 8am-5pm and Saturday 8am-12pm.

Safe Haven (Creating Safe Communities): Palm Island Mall: 4791 4006

Safe House (Residential Services): Bentley Street: 4791 4020 or 4791 4024

Townsville PICC Office: Suncorp Plaza, 61-73 Sturt Street, Townsville: 4421 4300

Women's Services (Women Shelter): Mango Avenue: 4791 4010 or 4791 4011

- Women's Yarning Circle: every Monday from 10am – 12pm

POSITIONS VACANT



1. Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Healing Service

Purpose of position

The Position of Social Work Manager is to coordinate and manage the provision of a culturally appropriate, trauma-informed and healing focused service in response to women incarcerated and exiting Townsville Women's Correctional Centre (TWCC). It is critical that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have access to culturally appropriate services that improve connection to family and culture to reduce the risk of re-offending.

Primary duties

- Supervision (formal and informal) of two or more full-time mental health workers; this also includes the professional development of the Mental Health workers
- Task Allocation, service development, appropriate reporting, and establishing culturally appropriate links
- Manage a case load of clients to provide counselling and psychological services, this includes working within TWCC as well as providing aftercare post release.
- Conduct stakeholder and communicate awareness and activities relating to the program
- Support and coordinate key stakeholder and community awareness relating to reforms, programs, services, networks and development of community driven responses, to address the many issues faced by women currently incarcerated and exiting TWCC.
- Lead a cross-agency integrated response that prioritise safety, healthy relationships and re-connection to family and community.

Remuneration

Remuneration package includes a base salary of \$110,000 - \$130,000 depending on experience plus super plus salary packaging.

2. Women's Healing Service Support Worker

Purpose of position

The Support Worker is to provide a culturally appropriate trauma informed and healing focused service in response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women incarcerated and exiting Townsville Women's Correctional Centre (TWCC).

This includes working within TWCC as well as providing after-care post release. It is critical that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have access to culturally appropriate services that improve connection to family and culture to reduce the risk of re-offending.

Primary duties

- Provide psychosocial education and health information to service users.
- Provide culturally appropriate, trauma informed counselling support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women incarcerated and exiting TWCC.
- Refer service users to other services as necessary
- Support Women's Healing Service staff as required

Remuneration

Remuneration package of base salary \$85,000 - \$95,000, depending on experience plus super plus salary packaging.

Applications close Monday 19 July, 2019

**To apply for these positions (or for a copy of the position descriptions)
please email Charmaine at cchong@picc.com.au**

PICC PROFILE



THE DAISY TWINS



Palm Island's oldest living female twins*, Luella and Leonie, were born to Melba and Jim Daisy on the 20th of June 1954 at the old wooden Palm Island Hospital.

"We lived on Palm until 1960, that year our family moved to Home Hill in the Burdekin district, but we always spent our holidays here on Palm with our sister and brother in-law Beryl and Ben Castors and their family," they said.

"We always said we would bring our children back to Palm to live.

"Luella married Ralph Bligh from Halifax, his parents being Reginald and Evelyn Bligh (nee Obah) and they had four children.

"Leonie married Graeme Chandler of Launceston, Tasmania, and had two children before they divorced.

"She brought her son back to Palm to live and went on to have two daughters.

"Leonie married 'Bob the Butcher' Hopkins who had Palm Island Quality Meats for 16 years.

"They have since retired.

"Luella and her partner Bill Weeks have built their own home on the Island at

Long Beach."

Luella was the first person in Queensland to obtain a 99-years lease on DOGIT land.

"I must sincerely thank our Island Council in assisting me to achieve this dream," she said at the time.

They said they had seen many, many changes to the landscape of Palm, and all for the better.

"Our legacy is that we remain, to date at 65 years of age, the oldest living set of twins born on Palm and we are proud of it," they said.

"We thank our parents Jim and Melba for the hard work they put into raising a large family, like so many other hard working families on the Island at that time, and we will always love and respect our beautiful PALM ISLAND HOME.

"As tribute to those mothers of Palm, always remember in your hearts 'BECAUSE OF HER, WE CAN'."

**Willie and Owen Wyles (dec) were the oldest twin boys ever born on Palm Island.*