

# Our Community. Our People. Our Stories.

Issue #3, June 2017



## Introducing Palm Island

Campbell Page have been assisting in the development of the community on Palm Island for 3 years. In that time we have seen some fantastic stories come from the programs that we run, and now we want to share our success stories with you.

As of June, we currently have 41 staff members running 10 programs for job seekers and 286 out of a possible 328 participants are attending our programs.

In Issue #3 of our newsletter read about:

- How two Palm Island women follow their dreams and achieve their goals
- Ian Palmers journey
- How we acknowledged our roots and our tribe during Bwngcolman celebrations
- The International Women's Day lunch held on the Island
- Our two new staff members, Katreena and Lucy

## Palm Island CDP produces new Paramedics

Selina Hughes and Keita Obah-Lenoy were participants of Campbell Page's Community Development Program activities on Palm Island – now they are both excelling in their field as Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs).

Selina and Keita trained in Brisbane for several months under the Queensland Ambulance Service and have returned to Palm Island to assist in the development of their community.

**“We want to build a closer relationship between Queensland's Indigenous Communities and the Ambulance Service that can help us to get a better understanding of the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.” – Selina**

Both ladies believe that they can help the health care system better understand the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by incorporating local and cultural knowledge to enhance the level of service they provide.

The whole Palm Island community is extremely proud and cannot wait to see them around the Island again in their new uniforms.

Congratulations Selina and Keita!



## My name is Ian Palmer – and this is my story

I am a proud man, and a father of 6 beautiful kids - four boys and two girls. Before I learnt how to paint, my life was headed in a very different direction.

I was sent to prison on a domestic violence charge, after I had failed to appear at court. It wasn't that I didn't want to go to court, my head just wasn't in a place where I could see things clearly, which was partly because I was mourning the death of my mother and brother.

Two months later I handed myself in to the police and was sentenced to five months in prison. When the judge sent me to prison I felt happy and a big relief came over me. This meant that I could have a break from life and reset my life.

During the five months in prison I learnt how to paint. My paintings gave me a way of expressing my feelings and controlling my anger issues. I completed a certificate II in arts and started to feel strong again.

I want to show my kids and my family that domestic violence is wrong and you can do great things for your people and community.

**“I want to be a positive role model and show people that you can change.”**

I started the Campbell Page Arts Activity as a job seeker 4 months ago. I am now a supervisor for Campbell Page in the Arts and Culture Activity.

I am proud that they have taken me on board and have supported me with employment and my art work.

I am now hoping to use my art work as the Campbell Page branding on Palm Island and feel that this is a great connection between Palm Island and Campbell Page.



### International Women's Day Lunch

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, Palm Island celebrated the strong, intelligent and wonderful women in our community with an International Women's Day lunch.

The event was hosted by The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet where men, women and children were invited to take part in acknowledging the part that women play in our community.

International Women's Day is held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March every year to commemorate the movement of women's rights. It is also a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate the acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

The Palm Island team are hoping to also celebrate International Men's Day on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2017.



## Bwgcolman Celebrations

Bwgcolman Day is a public holiday to celebrate the community and the many tribes and clan groups that were sent here when it was identify as a penal settlement.

The word Bwgcolman (pronounced B-WOOK-A-MUN) comes from the Manbarra People who are the traditional owners of this land. In the Manbarra language it means 'Many Tribes' which is why the name was given to the people of Palm Island, who wear it name with great pride and passion.

This celebration showcases our history, culture, and the stories of our indigenous heritage from the many tribes who live here on the Island today.

Palm Island was established in 1918 as a penal settlement for trouble-some Aboriginal people from various tribes throughout Australia, but today Palm Island plays a positive role as a proactive community. We are focused on further developing the community for the future generations and becoming a role model for other communities here in this beautiful country we call home Australia.

These are some of the tribe that were sent here: Aypathu, Bakanambia, Bigambul, Dalla, Darumbai, Djabugay, Djaragara, Djiru, Djindubari, Ganggalida, Goreng Goreng, Gubbi Gubbi, Gumakudin, Guugu Yimithirr, Injino, Injiilarija, Jagera, Jupangati, Kanntju, Kaiadilt, Kalkadoon, Kangulu, Kokangol, Kuku Nyungkai, Mamu, Murri,, Mingginda, Lama lama, Lardil, Ngaro, Ngajanji, Nunuki, Nawagi

These are just some of the tribes and clan groups names that live here on Palm Island today. Some never to return to their traditional home-land.

A saying the locals of Palm Island have when inviting families or friends to the island that is "Come Over "on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June this year to celebrate the history and life of the Bwgcolman people.

On Monday the 12th of June Campbell Page hosted an Afternoon Tea for the Palm Island Community to Celebrate Bwgcolman Day and find out what this day means to the Community of Palm Island.

We had a good turnout of Palm Island elders and other guest who had travelled to Palm island to Celebrate Bwgcolman Day and Strike 57 events.

We also had a guest speaker who was a union delegate and spoke on the history of Strike 57, the Palm Island Elders appeared to be very pleased with the event and thanked Campbell page for their hospitality.



## Meet Katreena and Lucy

Earlier this month we welcomed two new team members to our Campbell Page CDP family.

**Lucy Dickson** is our Service Improvement Manager. Lucy has worked for CDP previously and worked alongside Ronelle, Phyllis, Lindsay and Jen B. Lucy knows the contract very well and has strong knowledge of issues that influence indigenous people lives. Please contact Lucy for any support you need. Below in her own words is what Lucy will be doing. I am excited to have her as a team member;

**“I am joining the Campbell Page CDP team to support the office staff with compliance reports, back-of-house performance work and any training that CDP staff may want. I have worked in CDP (and CDEP and RJCP, as it used to be called) for seven years; originally with Campbell Page on Palm Island. I’ve also lived and worked in the Kimberley WA, APY Lands SA and Tennant Creek NT. Having lived on Palm Island in 2013 and 2014 and am very excited to get back.” - Lucy**

Katreena Thompson is our People and Culture Business Partner. Katreena will be supporting me and the rest of the team to ensure that we are well supported with any people and culture issues. Katreena is an approachable and honest woman who is knowledgeable and sensitive. Katreena will help coach managers and team leaders to successfully achieve individual and team success. Katreena will oversee recruitment practices and lead all industrial related matters.

A key role for Katreena will be to adapt Campbell Page policy and practice to be culturally sensitive and appropriate.

Katreena started her career within the Australian Job Network in Brisbane supporting indigenous, youth and long term unemployed job seekers in finding meaningful yet sustainable employment options before following her passion in human resource management. Katreena is excited to return to this industry in a human resource (People and Culture) function and support Campbell Page CDP in achieving its goals.

If some of the content in this newsletter refers to domestic violence and may be distressing to some readers. If you/someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or finds this content unsettling, please contact **1800RESPECT** [Australia’s National Domestic Violence Helpline](#) or [Lifeline](#) on **13 11 14**.