

Our Community. Our People. Our Stories.

Issue #4, October 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.

The 4th edition of our newsletter has been dedicated to **The Lost Artists of Palm Island Exhibition**. In this edition, we will hear the stories from some of the artists whose artwork is being displayed at the month-long event.

If you are interested in attending, the exhibition is being held at *'Art at the Jezzine'* Gallery - Jezzine Barracks 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm until 27th of October.

Steven Watson's Story

My name is Steven Watson. I was born in 1990.

My connection with Island is my mother. She was born here. I was inspired to paint by my Aunties and Uncles. **I love painting, my feelings are switched on when I'm out and about on Palm Island looking at its natural beauty.**



Patricia Kidner's Story

My name is Patricia Kidner and I was born on Palm Island. My mother was also born on Palm Island.

I'm inspired to paint through my suffering through emotional hard times. **Painting it's my way of healing.** I love to paint sea animals I have a spiritual connection.



Ian Palmer's 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.



Anthony Joshua Bourne's Story

My Name is Anthony Joshua Bourne and I am 22.

I was born in Townsville completed Primary School in Charters Towers before I came to live on Palm Island where I attended Bowgcolmen Secondary School.

I started sketching when I was very young this continued through my teenage years. My teachers got frustrated with me because I kept sketching even during Maths and English classes.

At 21 I started painting with a local art studio on the Island, my parents supported me completely in my pursuit of achieving recognition for my artwork.

I love painting nature and landscapes my ambition is to become financially independent and paint full time.

Janet Lymburner's Story

I was born In Townsville on Melbourne Cup Day in 1972 - the day Piping Lane won. I was the baby of a family of six and we lived in Townsville.

My Mother Lorna was born on Palm Island and was the first Indigenous nurse at the Townsville general hospital. She was quite a religious woman.

My childhood was a dream camping, fishing, hunting it was exciting connecting with nature.

In High School and even around the dinner table I felt that my people were mistreated and I wanted to fight for equality and freedom to express our thoughts.

I have always been a proud black woman. Even when I would play football with my brothers, I would always turn away when I needed to cry. Sport consumed me at this stage my passion was netball and rugby league - I just missed out on the Queensland & Australian Women's Rugby Team.

My 20s were dominated by the birth of my son Nelson - to this day he is the apple of my eye. In my late 30s I went to Hughden central QLD and out there my brother and I set up CDEP work for the dole program. We became the hub or an example of how to run a CDEP program, places like Charters Towers, Winton and Richmond followed suit.

The spiritual call of my Palm Island descendants bought me back to Palm Island. I started work with the SES and Rural Fire Brigade and stayed for 10 years. Campbell Page came on the scene and I have been happily employed for two years. My current role is a Site Supervisor looking after five supervisors who in turn manage a hundred plus participants. My future and what drives me.

I am the granddaughter of Eric Lymburner one of the seven men who went on strike in 1957 for better living conditions, wages, ongoing employment and support. For this they were banished from palm island it took thirty years for them to come back to their Island home.

This is just one of the reasons why I am vocal and strong supporter for my people. **To dream the impossible is to enter Parliament and become Australia's first black and female Prime Minister.**



Agnes Wotton's Story

I have lived in Palm Island all my life. Our house was in Palm Valley but it doesn't exist anymore.

Part of my childhood I was happy but I traumatised by events that occurred during my childhood. The impact was dramatic, it forced me into a lonely place, I was screaming inside. My memory during that four-year period is erased and it is to this day.

I used alcohol & drugs during my teenage years to ease the pain. Somehow I survived this time and things changed I met my partner and we had our four children (2x sets of twins!! A boy and girl then another boy and girl). My children gave me strength & believe again.

Then a tragedy occurred when my son took his life. It put me into a deep depression I spent time in hospital. A priest visited and helped me find a way with his blessings.

I could feel my son's presence, and his voice guided me to paint and express my feelings on canvas.

Art was there when I was at school too. There was a competition and my art was picked for the front cover of the school book. I thought this is for me and I loved the praise from my teachers.

Now I am working for Campbell Page and I feel like I fit in. I love coming to work, my client's needs come first. My future feels good with the help of Campbell Page and my spiritual beliefs.



Allanah Nugent Story

I was born in Townsville but I lived on Palm Island and was a part of a tribe of ten children.

My interest in art came from mother-in-law Gertrude Massey.

She paints goannas, dugongs, kangaroos, snakes, turtles and fish.

When I was 19 years old my paint brush hit the canvas and I painted a snake. Then followed a goanna and I was off and away with my passion in art.

Sadly, Gertrude passed on but I felt her spirit in my pursuit of art.

Finally, I sold my first piece of art a snake in the water, and a goanna with eggs.

To this day I still love painting animals and my dream is to have my art recognised with the help of Campbell Page and then further on to make a living from my art.

Some more photos of the artists and their work:



Some of the content in this newsletter refers to domestic violence and mental illness. This may be distressing to some readers.

If you/someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, mental illness or finds this content unsettling, please contact **1800RESPECT** [Australia's National Domestic Violence Helpline](#) or [Lifeline](#) on **13 11 14**.