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Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
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# Aboriginal Studies Press

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<b>Title</b>	Palm Island
<b>Subtitle</b>	Through a long lens
<b>Author(s)</b>	Joanne Watson
<b>Format</b>	230x152 b/w illus
<b>Extent</b>	224pp
<b>RRP</b>	\$34.95 RRP
<b>ISBN</b>	978 0 85575 703 8
<b>Market</b>	General trade: readers of history, Indigenous history, current affairs. Academics/students: Australian history, Indigenous history, Australian Studies.

**Bookshelf categories** Australian history, Indigenous history, Queensland history

**BIC categories** HBJM, HBTB, JFSL9

**Endorsements** *This is an outstanding contribution to Indigenous history — especially the history of Palm Island. Watson has made great use of historical records, media reports, discussions with Palm Island people alive today, and historical recollections from family members.*  
Stephen Hagan, University of Southern Queensland

## Précis

In November 2004, Mulrunji Doomadgee's tragic death triggered civil unrest within the Indigenous community of Palm Island. This led to the first prosecution of a Queensland police officer in relation to a death in custody.

Despite prolonged media attention, much of it negative and full of stereotypes, few Australians know the turbulent history of 'Australia's Alcatraz', a political prison set up to exile Queensland's 'troublesome blacks'.

In *Palm Island*, Joanne Watson gives the first substantial history of the island from pre-contact to the present, set against a background of some of the most explosive episodes in Queensland history.

The repressive regimes were under the guise of protectionism. But police control continues, and there is a continuing failure to address the causes of ongoing Indigenous disadvantage.

*Palm Island*, often heart-wrenching and at times uplifting, is a study in the dynamics of power and privilege, and how it is resisted.

## Author(s)

Dr Joanne Watson is a writer and teacher in Australian social history and health. She currently teaches Indigenous students vocational education in the Logan area. Joanne has worked with Indigenous communities for three decades and undertook extensive archival and oral history research on Palm Island. Watson's long-standing connections with the Palm Island community allow her to present community perspectives of a history from pre-contact to the present.

## SELLING POINTS

- Reveals the **real** history of Palm Island, via the voices of Palm Islanders themselves.
- Up-to-date and the subject will remain newsworthy because of the second inquest and the current official inquiry into the police operations.
- Based on years of archival and oral history research.
- Author's writing shows great substance, **and** great style.
- Author has strong ties to unions, Queensland universities and local historical groups.

