



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

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Issue 123

## All Blacks a winner for Palm!



*Pic with thanks to INNISS HAINES*

## **Barracudas Green** wins over Yarrabah's **Bukki Buna!**

A STAR-studded Palm Island Barracudas Green won the grand final of the second Algon Walsh Memorial Community Challenge Allblacks rugby league carnival earlier this month.

The finals game was played in true community spirit, as the pic above shows, and won by the Green over Yarrabah's Bukki Buna with a final score line of 26-14.

Three home and three away sides contested the first Aboriginal Allblacks of the year, after Rockhampton's CQID was postponed to Easter.

They were Barracudas Green, White and Gold, Bindal Sharks from

Townsville and Yarrabah's Guyala and Bukki Buna. Hope Vale, Mossman and last year's winner Descendants had nominated but withdrew with apologies. Bindal Sharks coach Kevin Aldridge and official Jimmy Doolan were glowing in their praise of the carnival.

"Overall credit to the organisers, this is their second annual carnival on their community and it gives

them and the local community a chance of catching good and talented football and lifts the community," Mr Aldridge said.

"Bindal Sharks are proud of been part of this annual event. All our players – and half of them were first timers to Palm Island and playing in an All Blacks in community – cannot wait until we return next year."

*...MORE on pages 4-5...*

# PM warns against changing AMP

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has warned Queensland's Liberal National Party government against lifting alcohol bans in Indigenous communities, Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported earlier this month.

The report said Ms Gillard stopped short of saying she would block the moves.

In her annual Closing the Gap speech in parliament on Indigenous issues, AAP reported Ms Gillard said she was concerned about plans in Queensland to wind back alcohol restrictions, as well as policies adopted by the Country Liberal Party in the NT.

Queensland premier Campbell Newman maintained the alcohol management plans were discriminatory, and said he had support among Indigenous leaders.

Mr Newman said alcohol-related problems were not confined to Indigenous communities and he would press on with a review of alcohol management plans in Queensland.

"I simply say the policy of discrimination against Aboriginal people is not appropriate," he told reporters in Ipswich. "We need to tackle alcohol abuse issues across the board."

Mayor Alf Lacey was also quoted in the AAP article.

He said the alcohol bans were racist and the Prime Minister was kidding herself if she thought the scheme

was working.

"The prime minister needs to get a hold of herself," he told AAP.

"The current closing of the gap strategy at the moment is not closing anybody's gap, let alone the blackfellas in this country.

"All it does is create a big Aboriginal industry, a big gravy train that everyone else rides on, and wastes taxpayers' money on Aboriginal people with no results to it."

He invited Ms Gillard to visit Palm Island and listen to the thoughts of the people affected by the laws.

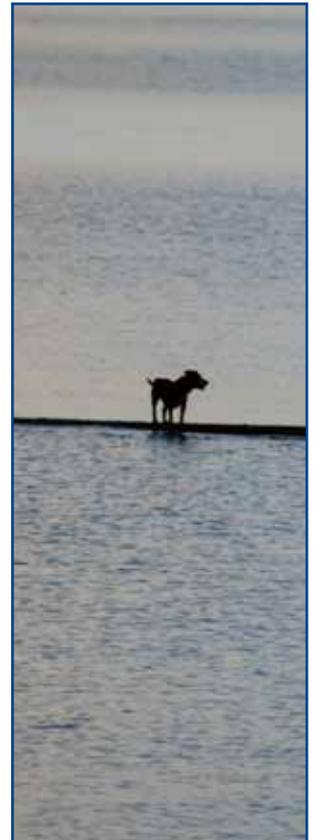
<http://au.news.yahoo.com/a/-/newshome/16076354/war-brewing-over-indigenous-alcohol-bans/>



## Out & About



Left: Local security officers Huri and Vuya fishing on the jetty; and Above: James



# Former chair says AMPs 'making criminals'

FORMER long-serving Palm Island Community chairman and Councillor Jacob Baira recently spoke to the *Palm Island Voice* about the controversial Alcohol Management Plan for the Island.

The 63-year-old is well-qualified to have his opinion given his status as a respected elder who has given so much service to the community.

"The Government says it is a good thing but really it is making criminals out of many of our Islanders according to these laws," he said.

"Sly grog coming here has increased and realistically residents risk bringing it here for parties and other ceremonies.

"People here are being forced into a situation where they will face Court and have criminal convictions."

Mr Baira has no doubt the AMP is racially discriminative.

"We need to fight this as a Bwngcolman community – forget about different tribes here and come together as one people," he said.



"Our Council now has local Government status and we must run our own affairs."

Having been on Council when Palm Island had a canteen with no alcohol restrictions, and also having worked as a Security Officer at the Coolgaree Bar and Grill, Mr Baira has experience which must count for something.

"You just have to travel to Townsville and go to the Causeway area near Ross Creek and the Railway Station and you will see our men

and women there in big numbers drinking heavy alcohol because they can't do it on Palm," he said.

He said young Palm Islanders attended colleges in Townsville and saw mainlanders weren't subject to the same laws.

"At the end of the year they saw heavy beer and spirits being consumed and asked why Palm can't do the same," he said.

"These educated youngsters feel the Government has taken over our lives which is what many of us think."

Left; National Congress chair Les Malezer second from right with the Conway brothers from left Michael, Thomas, Earl and Claude



# 2013 Algon Walsh Memorial Community Challenge

*Pics on these pages with thanks to Inniss Haines (below) and Leah Dabea (right)*



Players in the winning team of the Algon Walsh Memorial Community Challenge, Barracudas Green, included Clinton Pearson, Gary Pearson, Obe Geia jnr, Daryl Pearson, Fred Bulsey, Jason Bulsey, Vernon Baira, Frank Baira, John Baira, Stephen Lowatta, Adrian Poynter, Raoul Miller, Jeremy Pullen (teacher), Esrom Geia, Pita Bourne, Billo Wotton, Kevin Morgan, Frederick Haines jnr, Gresham Ross jnr, William Blackman jnr, Mickeal Sibley, Terrence Sibley, James Sibley, Jason Poynter and Christian Walsh.

Obe Geia jnr is a former North Queensland Cowboys NRL back and Frederick Haines jnr an ex North Queensland Marlins representative.

The John 'JB' Baira – Player of the Carnival award went to Daryl Pearson (Barracudas Green), best back was Theeran Pearson (Guyala), best forward to Michael Thomas (Bukki Buna), and the player of the final was Fred Bulsey (Barracudas Green).

In round one qualifying games on day one – Guyala 22 d Barracudas White 0, Bukki Buna 30 d Bindal 0, Barracudas Green d Barracudas White, Bindal 16 d Barracudas Gold 10, Barracudas Green 26 d Guyala 4 and Bukki Buna 32 defeated Barracudas Gold 4.

In day two knockout matches Bindal won on forfeit from Barracudas White and Guyala 24 defeated Barracudas Gold 20.

In the preliminary finals Bukki Buna won on forfeit from Guyala who couldn't field a side due



to lack of players from injuries in previous games. Barracudas Green won on forfeit due to Bindal players having to travel back to Townsville on the ferry.

Carnival co-ordinator Norman Bounghi said the Algon Walsh Snr Memorial Community Challenge Committee wanted to acknowledge the Carnival sponsors, who were: EMQ, Broad Civil Engineering, PIASC, Coolgaree CDEP, PI PCYC, QBuild, Sunwater, Xstrata Coal, Coca Cola, Struddy's Townsville, Jason Healey Electrics, Sunset Snack Foods, McDonalds, Sealink Travel Group, West Wing Aviation, Bwgcolman State School, Palm Island Barge Service, Bwgcolman Aboriginal Arts Corporation, QRL and Office of Sport & Recreation/NQ Athletics.

"We would also like to thank all local team players and coaching staff and all visiting teams and coaching staff for participating in our carnival," he said.

"And all community reps that set up food stalls over the weekend, and thanks to the Palm Island Community for coming down and supporting the Carnival.

"Thanks also to all staff who assisted over the weekend, Security, Cleaning and Cooking staff.

"And a big thanks to the Cairns referees – Rod McCrea, David Rose, David Gilbard and Roy Brown – who travelled at their own expense from Cairns to Townsville.



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For more information see  
<http://www.studiostudio.nl>

### Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation for CDEP Annual General Meeting



10:30am Wednesday 6th March 2013  
New Training Centre – Mission Complex

All members of the public are invited  
to attend. Refreshments will be served  
following the meeting.

Please contact Coolgaree on 47701233  
for further information.

## Be smart with power — simple ways to save



### Be smart about using hot water...

- An electric hot water system accounts for about one third of your household's power usage
- You can also save money by being smart about how you use hot water:
  - Install a low-flow shower head
  - Fix leaky taps
  - Have shorter showers to save water and energy
- Installing a solar hot water system instead can save you hundreds of dollars each year

### Be smart about washing your clothes...

- Dry your clothes in the sun or breeze if possible
- Use cold water to wash
- Always have a full load and choose the appropriate cycle length



## Want to reduce your power costs?

See your local **powersavvy** officer **Bernadine "Blackie" Castors @ Palm Council** @ the old post office, or contact her through the Council office on **4770 1177**.

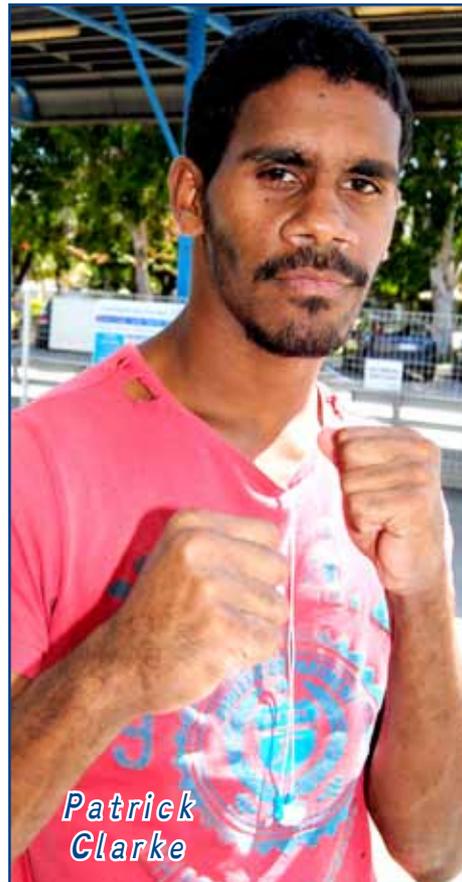
 [www.facebook.com/powersavvy.au](http://www.facebook.com/powersavvy.au)  
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# Boxers are the ones to watch in 2013!

There is no doubt that local boxers Patrick Clarke and Reggie Palm Island have proven themselves to be two of the best amateur boxers in Australia trainer Ray Dennis says.

“Patrick and Reggie are two of the very best in the Australian Boxing League and rival Boxing Association,” he said.



*Patrick Clarke*

“Patrick stopped five opponents, one tournament after another, whilst competing at Queensland Sunstate Amateur tournaments.”

The long time mentor said Reggie had defeated the best amateur boxers in his weight division in the country and was later selected to represent Australia at the world championships.

“Patrick started training with me when he was 14 years old and is now 19,” Mr Dennis said.

“Reggie is now 20 and has been training



here for five years.

“He didn’t make it to the world amateur championships as he tore a cartilage in his wrist just before he was about to leave.”

Mr Dennis remained confident Reggie would have his first professional bout early this year.

“When Patrick decides to turn pro he will also do very well,” he said.

## **Who to watch!**

- William Palm Island*
- Sterling Aden*
- Jy Prior*
- Allan Palm Island*
- Harry Friday*
- Steen Walsh*
- Nathan James*
- Gerome Walsh.*
- Josie Nallajar*
- Kathleen Haines*
- Shirley Curley*
- Natalie Grannigan*



*Josie Nallajar with daughter Etosha Pearson at the PCYC*



**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council** is closed every 2nd Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDO is **Friday 8 March**. For emergencies on Friday please call **0458 789 011**. For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.

# Portrait honours pioneering nursing graduate



*L-R: Assoc Prof Roianne West, Dr Lynore Geia, Ms Fay Acklin, Auntie Diana Ross, Dr Gracelyn Smallwood and Emeritus Prof Barbara Hayes (OAM)*

A portrait of respected Indigenous elder and nursing graduate Diana Ross called 'I Wear My Life on My Face' has been loaned to James Cook University's School of Nursing Midwifery and Nutrition and was unveiled at a small ceremony to celebrate last Friday.

In 1991, the School began a dedicated program to attract Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples into the Bachelor of Nursing Science degree with great success.

While there was a Bridging Program for prospective nursing students at the time, Ms Ross – who was at the unveiling – applied straight through QTAC in 1994.

She completed the three-year degree with excellent results and, already

an Elder at the time, was known to be very supportive of her fellow students.

Artist Donna Ives was unable to attend the ceremony on Friday but her sister Karen Maza – who works in JCU's Indigenous Health Unit in the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences – and mother, Geraldine Ives from the Yorta Yorta mob in Townsville was also there.

The unveiling was also

attended by the first two Indigenous PhD graduates in nursing in Australia – Dr Lynore Geia (Bwgcolman) and Associate Professor Roianne West (Kalkadoon) – who were both graduates of the School.

Associate Professor West is the Nursing Director for Indigenous Health at the Townsville Hospital.

The painting is part of the Xstrata Percival Portraits Collection and is on loan for at least five years.

## **PUBLICATION DETAILS:**

### **Contact Details + Publisher Details**

Editor: Christine Howes (chowes@westnet.com.au)

Ph 4770 1177 or 0419 656 277

Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson & to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

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## **Palm Island Voice**

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Thursday 21 March	125	THURSDAY 28 March
Thursday 4 April	126	THURSDAY 11 April
Thursday 18 April	127	THURSDAY 25 April