



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 21 November 2013

\$1.25

Issue 142

## Stable on the Strand comes to Palm Is

LOCAL men, women and children will be the majority of actors in the first ever 'Stable on Palm Island' Christmas event at the end of next week.

The huge community event is modelled on the successful 'Stable on the Strand' Christmas celebration which has been held in Townsville for the past 11 years. More than 40,000 turned out for the event held at Strand Park beside the ocean in December last year – many of them were Palm Islanders, joining the ranks of several thousand others who would have travelled to Townsville over the past decade to be there.

The event is organised by the Council of Churches and committee member Richard Hosking told the Palm Island Voice coordinator would be Townsville Indigenous Minister Ada Boland.

"There will be about 50 helpers from the mainland," he said.

"The plan is that the locals will provide most of the actors and our people will train them up.

"I understand that the Palm Island mayor has got right behind it and cancelled Santa and fireworks and allocated the funds to Stable on Palm."

A mini-concert is scheduled for Friday 29 November, the main presentation the next day and a Combined Churches Meeting, including Palm religious leaders, on Sunday 1 December.

The main event will feature an interactive Town of Bethlehem, where visitors are able to meet the three wise men, shepherds with their sheep, King Herod, Roman soldiers, traditional trades persons (baker, carpenter, fishmonger, weavers) and,

**FREE ENTRY**

# COLOUR YOUR CHRISTMAS

## Stable on Palm

**We Are Looking  
for Local Talent**

Contact Evelyn  
0477 441 960

**FRI 29<sup>th</sup> NOV  
MINI CONCERT**

**SAT 30<sup>th</sup> NOV  
MAIN PRESENTATION**

**SUN 1<sup>st</sup> DEC  
COMBINED CHURCHES MEETING**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY PALM ISLAND SHIRE COUNCIL  
Your Council working for our community

of course, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.

Other activities will include clowns, buskers and bubble blowers, free tea, coffee and Christmas cake, animals to pat, and other activities including Roman soldier dress-ups.

A local Aboriginal family will play the characters of baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The Townsville Stable on the Strand will be held later in December.



*Palm Island  
Community Cup  
winners Bwgcolman  
Community School  
# 1 team:- Players  
were - Judy Watson,  
Taresha Baira,  
Davina Miller, Ruby  
Williamsz, Mareka  
Friday, Dianne Fulford  
+ Vasenai Dabea.  
Coached by  
Allissa Pearson +  
Janelle Creed.  
Job well done girls!*

## Islander meeting great success

WANTOK 2013 was an enormous national and international success, newly elected National President of the Australia South Sea Islanders (ASSI) Emelda Davis says.

The State Library in Brisbane from 1-3 November with more than 250 delegates from all over Australia and the Pacific registered.

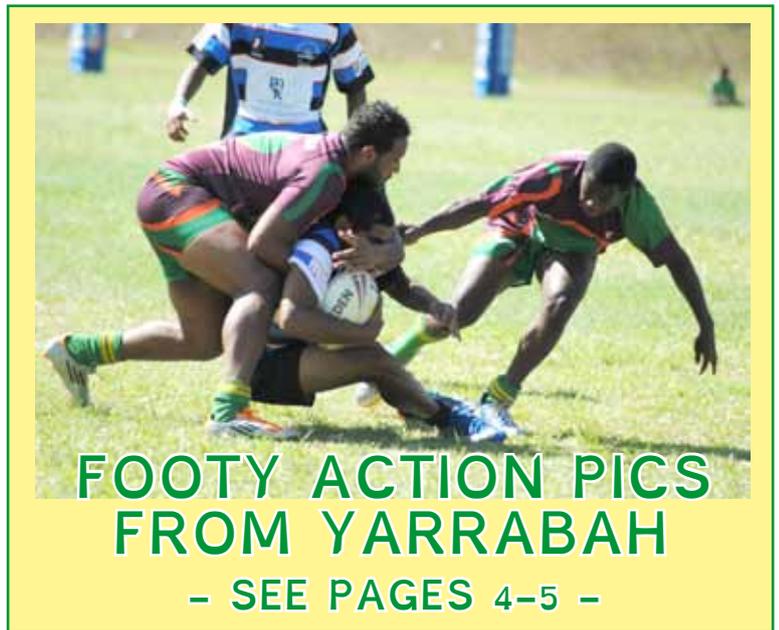
“It was the first time in around forty years that elections were successfully undertaken for ASSI people for the representation of a National Secretariat and Representative Board to represent their many interests,” she said.

“These bodies will now be able to give them a united voice to Government and other audiences in relation to their social, economic, educational, historic and cultural concerns.”

She said highlights of the forum included a speech by Les Malezer who spoke about Australia and matters in relation to its human rights representation on the United Nations.

“The Forum program provided delegates with a variety of interesting and inspirational speakers who related moving stories of reconnection to family and working in community,” she said.

“We also had distinguished international representation from Vanuatu with the



**FOOTY ACTION PICS  
FROM YARRABAH**

- SEE PAGES 4-5 -



attendance for the duration of the Forum of Paramount Chiefs representing the Vanuatu Indigenous Descendants Association (VIDA), as well as the Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Lands for Vanuatu.”

# New sound for discos thanks to Rotary shop

Palm Island's Rotary Community Op Shop will turn one in early December, and has already turned a profit to benefit Palm Island youth in particular.

Shop coordinator Bernice Day said the club had made a number of commitments to distributing their share of the year's turnover.

"We have committed to donating \$5,000 to the PCYC on Palm Island to purchase new sound equipment to enable them to provide discos for the youth on Palm Island as one way to combat petrol sniffing which is becoming a very serious problem on the island," she said.

"We have also committed to assisting Rotarian Merle Robertson in starting up Netball on Palm Island to provide the youth with more sporting activities.

"Our club has also offered to pay for the Registration of the Community Bus in Ingham which is providing a very important service in taking the sick and elderly to Townsville for

medical treatment and doctor's visits."

She said the objective behind opening an Op Shop on Palm was to provide a much needed service and to enable the club to carry out community projects in both Ingham and Palm Island.

"The people on Palm are always opposing other people coming in and making money off the island," she said.

"The big thing with this was



it's a community shop, and that's what we tell everybody that shops there; the community is going to benefit.

"This shop is providing a vital service on Palm Island as it is the only store that sells clothes, furniture and giftware."



Former PCYC Manager and current member of Ingham Rotary Don Auld said the club had an ongoing commitment to the island.

"What they're doing is they



want to put the profits back into the Palm Island community," he said.

"The equipment that was being used to provide those youth discos on Friday nights was the original equipment from when the centre opened (nearly 20 years ago)."

He said the kids on Palm were bored and wanted Friday nights to continue.

"It's a social gathering for them because a lot of the kids will then just go sit on the table and chairs and chat, and be in a social setting with everyone," he said.

"There's no quick fix for chroming, all you can do is just try and work the edges, if you like.

"You can't just go up to a kid and say, 'stop chroming', and then suddenly it's fixed.

"Everyone's experienced that, so it's not unique to Palm; it's just that's what it is; you've got to try to encourage them that, basically, there's more out there than their current lifestyle choice.

"Rotary has an ongoing commitment to Palm so a percentage of their profits will go into projects such as this on the Island."

A STAR studded Palm Island Barracudas side won the grand final of Yarrabah's Bishop Arthur Malcolm Allblacks carnival beating Torres Strait Islander side Descendants 26-24 in a nail biter.

Eleven sides battled it out at the carnival held at Yarrabah's Jilara Oval on 26 and 27 October.

Yarrabah Aboriginal community entered four sides (Maroons, White, Yulu and East Coast Heroes) and the others were Hope Vale Mala Yabbas, Wujal Wujal Yindili, Bwgcolman Brothers from Palm Island, Attila Knights from Cairns and CQ Warriors from Woorabinda.

Mayor Alf Lacey said it was good to see Palm had done well in Yarrabah.

"I think it's really good to see Yarrabah continues to host the local AllBlacks," Cr Lacey said.

"I think the important thing is seeing the other communities like Hopevale and a few others also join the carnival, which is really good.

"Hopefully Palm can also pull something like this together next year to support these communities, because that's what it's all about, it's about supporting each other and that means economic opportunities are brought into the community as well.

"It's good to see Bwgcolman Brothers bringing up a side and doing so well, and also Fred's side who have had the best result possible."

Palm Island Manager David Baira said it they had travelled along way.

"Organisers did a good job and we loved it - many of us have family connections at Yarrabah," he said.

"The field was in good shape and the carnival well run.

"We will be back."

The Palm Island side was co-coached by Telstan Sibley and Fred Bulsey who also captained the side and was named player of the final.

"I was shocked to win that award and my team mate Raoul Miller won the best forward award," Fred Bulsey said.



*Pics above & below by Christine Howes;  
Pics on page 5 and page 2 by Alf Wilson*



"Our defence was great and we all did the Barracudas war cry after our win.

"I think we were the only side which had all players from our own community."

Palm's best players in the final were Fred and Jason Busley, hooker Pita Bourne, Obe Geia jnr, Germaine Busley, Robin Nallajar and Gresham Ross jnr.

"Pita Bourne took on Descendant's big forward and in defence never gave them any room to move even though they were much bigger. He kept moving up on the big fellas," Fred said.

In the plate final East Coast beat Bwgcolman Brothers 26-22.

4 Veterans Cr Frank "Deacon" Conway jnr and Vaughn

# Palm Island wins Yarrabah's Bishop Malcolm Allblacks



*Previous page: Palm Island's Darryl Pearson in defence Below: Cr Alf Lacey & family*



*This page: Bwgcorman Brothers take on Hopevale Mala Bamas*



Charles played strongly for Bwgcorman Brothers inspiring their teammates with numerous charges up the centre of the ruck.

It often took three or four defenders to bring Vaughn to terra firma whilst Cr Conway even chip kicked to advantage on one occasion.

Cr Conway said they enjoyed the weekend.

"We have enjoyed coming to Yarrabah and 19 of us travelled in one bus," he said.

"Most of us stayed with relatives and we have family connections here.

"Brothers is a family team and I say well done to the organisers."

Highly respected Bishop Arthur Malcolm is

the patron of the Yarrabah Seahawks Carnival, named in his honour, and he was there to watch the action.

"I'm very proud of the visiting teams because I've met quite a few of their parents, some of the young ones that come have come up from Wujal and Hopevale and Palm Island," he said.

"I spent a couple of years working on Palm Island so I know quite a few of the boys when they were small; I baptized some of them too.

"It's good to have them with us because I really felt really proud of them, I was really proud to see all these young fellows coming along and playing footy."

# Palm Island Voice

## Public & Community Notices



### Ingersoll Rand Bobcat 753



- RUNS WELL
- SOLD AS IS
- ID # 5098181158
- INSPECTION RECOMENDED

## For Sale By Tender

### Nifty Lift NL120KFT Cherry Picker



- DOM: SEPT 2002
- SERIAL # 43285
- RUNS WELL
- SOLD AS IS
- SWL: 180KG
- APP # Q 16350
- TRAILER PLUG WORN
- INSPECTION RECOMENDED

Inspection available by contacting John Murison or Rob Beattie  
Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation on (07) 4770 1233

Offers by COB Monday 04<sup>th</sup> December – Payment Terms COD  
Removal off site within 7 days of purchase

Email offers to [ceo@coolgaree.com.au](mailto:ceo@coolgaree.com.au)

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**To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)**

**Please support us so we can continue to support you!**

# Palm team for Townsville decision close

A decision on whether the Palm Island Barracudas will be accepted into the Townsville and District Rugby League's 2014 competition is due to be made at the body's Annual General Meeting on Monday 1 December.

QRL Northern Division Townsville-based Operations Manager Kerri Ritchie and TDRL official Ross Anderson have met several times with PIRL President Lex Wotton and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Councillor Eddie Walsh and other officials.

As a result of those meetings Ms Ritchie said she would be writing up a proposal for the board to vote on in December.

"We had a meeting in Townsville on Tuesday with Lex Wotton, Jenny Pryor (Bindal

Sharks), Cr Eddie Walsh, Scott Nosworthy (QRL Northern Division boss) and Sealink," Ms Ritchie said.

"Palm Island is looking at putting A Grade and under-19 sides in and Bindal Sharks a reserve grade team, but each club will enter under its own identity."

There seems to be many advantages for the TDRL in having a Palm side.

Firstly it would eliminate a weekly bye and crowds would soar when the Barracudas play on the mainland.

When Palm last competed in the TDRL in 2002 the team had a strong supporter-base, including those who travelled from Palm and their relatives living in Townsville.

Finance was a major concern for Palm Island back then and it cost a lot for players and supporters to get to the mainland. It is understood that Sealink has offered team members and officials a reduced fare but a major sponsor would still be needed.

Cr Walsh said hard-working PIRL president Lex Wotton was contacting prospective sponsors including mining companies to come to the fore.

Not only would the ferry cost need to be covered, but also funds for bus travel and accommodation when the side drew Charters Towers, Burdekin or Herbert River.

There is no doubt that the Barracudas would be competitive in the TDRL.

#### ABOUT THIS FONT:

The font used in this newsletter is called 'Dyslexie' and has been designed for people who have difficulty reading, especially those with dyslexia, so they can read more easily.

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



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 201 'likes' on Facebook!!!

**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council** is closed every 2nd Friday

(Council pay week) for RDO.

The next RDO is

**Friday 22 November**  
**For emergencies on Friday please call 0458 789 011.**

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.



## Stingers play NPA

PALM Island Stingers was one of 10 sides to contest the Dan Ropeyarn Memorial Northern Peninsula Area Cup (NPA) rugby league carnival held at Bamaga earlier this month. Badu Island side Argun Warriors beat another star studded side 8HB Brothers 46-12 in the grand final.

In game one New Mapoon Warriors 38 beat Palm Island Stingers 0. In their second game Argun Warriors 54 Palm Island Stingers 10. Try scorers for Palm were Ralph Watson and Assan Wapau whilst Elijah Treloggen kicked the goal. In their other game quality Umagico side Alau Eagles 36 rolled Palm Island Stingers 10. John Watson and Rick David 1 scored the tries and John Baira kicked the goal.

The Stingers side, as per the official team sheet, included some who travelled from Palm and others who are family members from the NPA: Brian Yeolu jnr, Tanie Pablo, John Baira, Jason Mosby, John Watson, Nester Phineasa, Blaine Murgaha, Dick David, Francis Mareko, Mobeia Mooka, Bindy Sanimo, Thorny Yusia, Ralph Watson, Mitchell Baira, Gray Mooka, Chris Gibas, Sam Gimini, Assan Wapau and George Tamwoy.

TWELVE teams, nine of them visiting, contested the annual Obe Geia Challenge junior rugby league competition on Palm Island earlier this month.

The carnival is named after Obe Geia jnr, the only Palm Islander to have played NRL football for the North Queensland Cowboys and he was there.

Girls also took part in the carnival which attracted a large crowd to Barracudas Oval.

In an exciting final between Townsville schools Heatley and Kelso State School scores were deadlocked at 8—all when the siren sounded.

However Heatley won the carnival on a countback after scoring the opening try.

“It’s a massive day for the kids, especially the ones who come over from Townsville,” North Queensland Toyota Cowboys community manager Fiona Pelling said.

“It was another great carnival and I’m sure all the kids who participated will have lasting memories and positive stories to share of their experience of being part of the 2013 Obe Geia Challenge”.

# Another successful year for Obe Geia Challenge



Pic thanks to Leah Dabea



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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

DEADLINE	ISSUE #	PUBLICATION DATE
Thursday 28 November	143	THURSDAY 5 December
Thursday 12 December	144	THURSDAY 19 December

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!**