



## Reaching for the (Melbourne) skies!

“Cathy Freeman taught me to set goals, to trust in ourselves and to keep trying, even when things get tough,” year 6–7 student Brayden Nallajar says.



Pic by Ross Bird

Brayden was one of eight students who travelled to Melbourne with the Cathy Freeman Foundation earlier this month as part of the Horizons Program, which rewards students with interstate camps based on merit, their attitude and a demonstrated desire to achieve at school.

The Melbourne Horizons Camp is based around the annual Dreamtime at the ‘G AFL football game between Essendon and Richmond. Pre-game activity included joining the masses for The Long Walk inspired by Michael Long who walked from Melbourne to Canberra to meet with then Prime Minister John Howard in 2004.

Students spent the first three days visiting Scienceworks, doing a hip-hop workshop, visiting the National Sports Museum, the Melbourne Museum and the Queen Victoria market.

The remaining three days were spent at Cottage by the Sea in Queenscliff, a coastal town near Melbourne.

There the students enjoyed surfing, exploring rockpools, visiting local attractions and a goal setting session with Olympian, Addy Bucek.

“We saw a spaceship and it was so cool. Scienceworks was a really busy place. I’d like to go back there,” Pamela Aplin said.

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*WARNING! Some images in this Issue may contain deceased persons which may cause distress to some people.*

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“At Channel 9 we saw how the news is produced. We had to stay quiet and then we got to take a photo at the end,” Frances Wallace said.

“The waves were strong and we fell off many times before we were able to surf the waves. By the end we were all happy with ourselves for learning to surf,” Rakeem Lind said.

They also spent some time with Cathy Freeman.

This year CFF will support more than 30 students visiting Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra to continue the ongoing development of Palm Island students.



## Diabetes Week visit

Diabetes Qld will visit Palm on July 15 during National Diabetes Week to present prevention program Got Suga.

The program helps people learn how to better manage their condition through a one-day workshop which provides culturally appropriate education, through role plays and storytelling, about the impact of the world's fastest growing chronic disease – type 2 diabetes – on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The theatre-based program gives participants the confidence to tackle issues such as diabetes by experiencing them via role play.

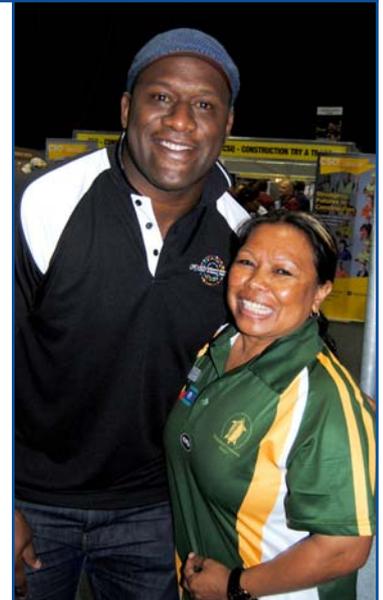
The interactive element helps people discover solutions to their personal and community problems.

For information phone Diabetes Queensland on 1300 136 588 or see their website at <http://www.diabetesqld.org.au/>



## Out & About

Above: Delena Oui holding baby Colyning Oui with Jaytina Johnson; Right: Wendall Sailor & teacher Lynette Kim Sing at the FOGS Expo last month.



# Major projects close to finish line

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey says the new pontoon and the foreshore projects are both expected to be completed – weather permitting – in the coming weeks.

“We’re hoping to officially open both of these new infrastructure works during NAIDOC Week,” he said.

“We’re also hoping the new motel complex will be finished by the end of the month.”

He said he wanted to remind the community about Council Delegation days.

“We have Delegation Day every month that’s open to the community for anyone who wants to come and have an audience with the Council to raise community issues with us,” he said.

“Council is always open to community feedback and encourages community members to address Council directly at Delegation Day.”

The next Delegation Day will be in July and advertised on notice boards and the Council Facebook page – you must register your interest to ensure you have your time marked on the agenda before attending.



PALM Island students (*above*) attended the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Careers Expo held at the Port of Townsville on 23 May. The expo was organised by Defence Force Recruiting with strong support from Navy, Army and Air Force units in North Queensland. For information on Australian Defence Force careers visit [www.defencejobs.gov.au](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au) <<http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/>> or call 13 19 01.



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

*Ferdy's Haven congratulates participants in our five-week anger management course with thanks to ATODS and our own staff for their support and involvement.*

# Diversionsary Service helping to keep things cool

Working with limited hours and several programs was difficult for the Palm Island Community Company Diversionsary Service Acting Coordinator Cr Frank Conway says.

The Service covers a lot of ground with everything from teaching musical instruments to fitness to more serious work in probation and parole.

Senior Program Officer Vaughn Charles, who has worked there for five years, said there were a lot of programs on the books at present.

“Diversionsary is just a place to cool off and there are lots of programs we run on top of that,” he said.

“One of the things we do is the night patrol, they go out 26 hours a fortnight on certain days and another is accommodating homeless and people coming out of the justice system because of drinking.

“I have a lot of programs to run.

“We have gym work in the Fitness Centre every afternoon from 5–7pm.

“We’re also teaching musical instruments including drums and guitars.

“The Centre is open five days a week on flexible hours; we work some hours in the morning, we work some hours at night, depending on the program.



“We have a men’s gathering on a Wednesday night; we get stakeholders involved.

“We have a rep from each service here – probation, parole; Queensland Police who come along to the gathering.

“We try and work and have those key people in place here to identify any needs that men might need support in.

“We also run Friday sessions on the bushwalking trail, so we go back to bushwalking; we’ve got workers and volunteers in place; guys to give back community, maybe make a bush track.

“Have an area, a designated area, so we can go there and have time out.

“We have time out in different areas and go back to listening to our elders’ life stories.”

Mr Charles said one of the most important things they did was to have counsellors available to anyone who needs one.

“We provide a counsellor for guys who do need to have that talk,” he said.

“We network with a lot of agencies in Mental Health and we have our own counsellor.

“So, we network and do referrals to Community Services.

“We also work with probation and parole, on Community Service Orders, especially guys given back to community under Alcohol Management.

“We promote our services as well, and we try to work around how they want things to work.

“We just do what we can.”

# Trading solo pays off for former apprentice

A DECISION to start his own plumbing business on Palm Island has paid handsome dividends for Gerald Wotton.

Late last year the 30-year-old Mr Wotton completed his apprenticeship on the Island and made a big decision to establish the business.

“I bought an old Toyota to carry my tools and have been getting lots of work and has paid off,” Mr Wotton said.

Much of that work has come as a sub contractor for the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council or QBuild.

“Also I get work from some other places and I just love being independent and having my own living. There is not many subbies

on the island,” he said.

One of the challenges Mr Wotton faced early on was doing the paperwork setting up the business.

“I am a sole trader and am set up now and would recommend others also starting a business,” he said.

Mr Wotton was a champion amateur boxer and still gets down to the local PCYC gym to train.

“I like to keep fit and need to be in my work and may make a comeback to the ring,” he said.

Palm island Mayor Alf Lacey



was glowing in his praise of Mr Wotton for starting his own business.

“I think it is great and we encourage this,” Cr Lacey said.

# Long-term commitments to Council



“I started as the receptionist in January 2000, when I was 19-years-old,” Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Senior Executive Services Officer Tanya Haines says.

“I do general admin to the Councillors, administration for the Council, and customer services, so I deal with any related inquiries about services. I also do general meeting prep for the Councillors’ general meetings and sometimes we help out with events when we’re needed.

“I have been receptionist, Post Office Manager, Purchasing Officer, Accounts Payable Officer and I’ve done a stint as a Bank Teller when we used to run the bank, Admin Assistant and Supervisor.

“I enjoy it, different areas, departments, working with different people – it’s challenging.

“You meet different people every day in your line of work.

“It’s a bit more responsibility now, I’ve started at the bottom and worked my way up.

“I’ve completed a Certificate in Administration, maybe looking at undertaking the Diploma in Governance, so I need to learn a bit more how Council operates from the Council reporting requirements.”



*Pictured above left: Tanya Haines has been with the Council since 2000. Left: Raynard Baira has worked for the Palm Island Council since 1974, making him the longest serving staff member.*

# Palm Island Voice

Public &  
Community Notices



Don't forget!!! Bwgcolman Radio is due to be relaunched on 1 July with a series of introductory workshops and informal BBQs.

Radio 4PI 97.3FM, affectionally known as Bwgcolman Radio, is managed by Aaron Thaiday.

For more information:

PH: 07 47 701 793 (Branch)

PH: 07 47 701 863 (Radio Station)

## GARAGE SALES

Weather permitting!

### Kyle's Place Butler Bay

**Saturday and Sundays: Baby girls clothes, bric a brac, teenage girl clothes, boys toys, caramel and pineapple tarts, chutney and more!**

### Deniece Geia's house on Bentley Street

**10am Saturday and Sunday: homewares, kitchenware, cutlery, plants, towels, linen, cakes and more!**

**ALL CHEAP!!!**

**THE NEXT PALM ISLAND VOICE DEADLINE (for Issue 157) will be THURSDAY 26 June for publication on Thursday 3 July**



The next RDO is Friday **20 June**. RDOs are every Friday fortnight.

For out-of-hours emergencies please call 0458 789 011.

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 330 'likes' on Facebook!!!

## ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner across nominated page): \$120

Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST

Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST

Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see above) and all material submitted no later than COB the next day. Print approval required by Monday COB.

## SUBSCRIBE!

Individuals & Families (hard copy): \$60

Community & NGOs (hard copy): \$120

Government & Corporate (hard copy): \$240

PDF (password protected): \$50

\*All from now to 30 June 2015\*

Subscription rates vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out – eg if taken in January 2015 the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2015.

To book an ad or 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!!!**



Ernestine Lacey  
Happy Birthday our beautiful Daughter and Sister!

Hope you have a lovely day.

We love you Dad, mum all your brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.



Heath Lacey Happy Birthday our son and brother!

Have a wonderful day!

Lotsa love Dad, mum all your brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to my little brother Luke James for the 14th of June from the Conway family.

Happy 31st Birthday for Daniel Nallajar the 2nd on the 15th of June from big sister Keri brother Frank Daniel Ikanau and Frankie boy...

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This is an edit of a letter submitted to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and the Palm Island Voice earlier this month:

**Re: Housing Application**

I have been told my daughter still needs to submit more support letters for her application for a house.

Why?

She has support letters from the Hospital Doctor, ATODS, Womens Centre and others and feels she is being continually misled about her application.

She was born on Palm Island and moved away for one year to Townsville to have her baby - she has lived here all her life.

What are the recommendations or selection criteria for getting a home?

The community needs to know.

Palm Island Resident

**RESPONSE:** Council is no longer responsible for housing allocations and no longer has a housing department. This function has been taken on by the State Government and is between the tenant concerned and the State Government. For more specific information about the criteria for getting a home you can see State Government's Housing Officer located in the State Government building.

Anyone in the community who has issues to raise is welcome to attend the Council's Delegation Day every month. Council is always open to community feedback and would encourage anyone to address us directly on these days. Please see Council reception for more information on how to participate.

## Boxers' hold high hopes for Mackay Golden Gloves competition

AT least six Palm island boxers will travel to Mackay at the end of this month to compete in the prestigious Golden Gloves tournament.

They will be: Brayden Nallajar (38kg), Levi Baira (48kg), Marcus Ketchup (51kg), Natalie David (63.5kg), Kathleen Haines (48kg) and Josie Nallajar (60kg).

Trainer Ray Dennis expects they will do well and bring home a good number of medals.

# RARL kicks off

PALM Island Barracudas will be one of the favourites to take out the Remote Area Regional League (RARL) FNQ Challenge in Cairns later this month.

A large number of Palm Islanders will travel to Cairns to support the lads.

Other teams will be Bowen, Kaiwalagal Rugby League (Torres Strait), Northern Cape and Southern Cape.

After the RARL FNQ Challenge a Northern United rep side will be picked to play Queensland Outback at the Ken Brown Memorial Oval on TI. Last year Outback beat United 60-22 in Cairns.



*Pictured above is the five young women who represented Townsville in Cairns when the North Queensland Marlins side was selected earlier this month. They are Alison McKean, Selina Hughes, Brownny Kerr, Ivana Walsh and Astrid Bligh. Other sides in the comp were Cairns, Townsville and Mackay.*



*Injured NRL player Patrick Kaufuis and under 20's Sam Pau spent an hour at each school on Palm Island in May for the Cowboys' Adopt a School Program. At Bwgcolman Community School they showed students some drills, speed and attacking strategy and technique before a quick game where students got to try out their new skills. At St Michael's the players sat in on a year 4 maths class. The team wanted to thank their overall sponsor Stockland for supporting the visit, as did Dreamtime Training.*

