

Palm Island Voice



Issue 182: 2 July 2015

FREE



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

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FNQ Challenge



pic by Al Wilson

Full story & more pics next Issue!

Inside this Issue: Youth Festival launch; Out & About; Cowboys; netball; boxing; athletics; and, development in northern Australia!

National Native Title Conference 2015

Leadership, legacy and opportunity



Pics by Christine Howes



New money for roads

Vital road upgrades through the Roads to Recovery Program over the next two years will be funded for Palm Island, Federal Member for Herbert Ewen Jones says.

“Extra money will flow to Townsville City Council and Palm Island Aboriginal Council, as a result of the passage through Federal Parliament of the fuel excise indexation legislation,” he said.

“This extra funding will deliver a tangible benefit and make our roads and streets safer and more reliable.

“This is a massive boost in funding for our region’s road network and I am looking forward to seeing the additional opportunities this decision will create for our councils.”



ALREADY hard at work on roads around Palm are these PIASC workers...pics thanks to Roy Prior



Youth festival launch platform for higher ed info

YOUNGSTERS on Palm Island were given an opportunity to learn about the pathways of gaining Tertiary studies during the official launch and sign-up day for September's Palm Island Youth Festival last week.



The 'Palm Island University Partnerships' (PI-UP) Program, initiated by Senior Lecturer in Nursing Midwifery and Nutrition at James Cook University Dr Lynore Geia, was a feature of the launch.

The end result on the day was a collaboration between JCU Indigenous Health Unit (IHU), Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Ferdy's Haven, Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS), Joyce Palmer Health Service, Bwgcolman Community School and several other community-based organisations.

The PI-UP project was funded as part of JCU's Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program (HEPPP) to widen participation and build the aspirations of young people

from low socio-economic (SES) backgrounds within the region.

"PI-UP is about bringing part of the local university to the community to share information with young people, parents and community about studying at university, because university education is a pathway that Bwgcolman people can walk down" Dr Geia said.

Three JCU student ambassadors – Daniel Geia Horsburgh, Samantha Brown and Assan Sam – were on hand to answer questions from youngsters.

"The PI-UP Program (Palm Island University Partnership) is also a play on the word UP meaning Palm Island is going UP or going forwards which is direction so many of us want for Palm Island and the

Bwgcolman people," Dr Geia said. "The event employed nursing as an example of potential university pathways of study for Palm Island people."

Dr Geia and a team of JCU staff and student ambassadors had a steady flow of young people and adults lively engaging with the information and activities on university study.

A big attraction at their stall was a blue tongue lizard named 'Elvis', handled by JCU's Mick Ellison, and a set of shark jaws.

"The focus of the event was to demonstrate the serious and fun side of university study," Dr Geia said.

"Two of the three Indigenous Student Ambassadors have family connections with Palm Island which made it a more meaningful event for them.



“Other members of team commented on the energy of the event and the connections with young people who were not shy to ask questions.”

Second year JCU Bachelor of Exercise Physiology Clinic student Assan Sam said it was an amazing day.

“The young people were very enthusiastic and asked lots of questions about my university experience, especially as I have strong family connections to the Island,” he said.

Dr Geia said she hoped the project would establish a network of stakeholders to support Palm Island youth and community members to view access to university education as a real option for them.

“The project dovetails with a number of initiatives that already exist and promotes further sustainable partnerships with the Indigenous community and James Cook University towards achieving an increase in university undergraduate students,” she said.

Samantha, an Indigenous Veterinary Science student from NSW studying at JCU, said it was her first time on Palm Island.

Kerry-Ann Bulsey, 18, said the benefits of going to University were many.

Zara Palmer, 26, said she was interested in a studying nursing at JCU.

Teacher aide at Bwgcorman State School Jerri Blackley, 18, said there was plenty of information there.

“I really am thinking about it now and this has been a positive event,” she said. **4**





Palm Island Councillors Alf Lacey, Frank Conway & Mislam Sam have met with the Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten so they can have their say on a new White Paper looking at development across northern Australia. Below is an edited version of a media releases about the new plans.

The Federal Government has released Australia's first White Paper on developing Northern Australia as 'an essential part of our plan for a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia'.

With a land mass covering over three million square kilometres, and a population of over one million people, the north has untapped potential, a joint statement from Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and Minister for Trade & Investment Andrew Robb said.

"It is home to some of our most treasured icons including the Great Barrier Reef, the wet tropics of Queensland, Uluru, Kakadu and Cable Beach.

"The White Paper is a roadmap for achieving our vision for the north by 2035 and we are starting work right away – alongside the people who live and do business in the north.

"We have set out an ambitious long term reform agenda for the north because a strong north means a strong nation.

"The White Paper includes measures to unlock the north's potential across six key areas: simpler land arrangements to support investment;

developing the north's water resources; growing the north as a business, trade and investment gateway; investing in infrastructure to lower business and household costs; reducing barriers to employing people; and improving governance.

"Land in the north has the potential to support greater and more diverse economic activity.

"But the complexity of land arrangements has slowed development to date.

The Government is supporting simpler and more secure land arrangements in the north, by investing:

- \$20.4 million to support native title bodies to realise their potential and negotiate more efficiently with business;
- \$17 million to support secure property rights for cadastral surveys, area mapping and township leases; and,
- \$10.6 million for pilot land tenure reforms to help fund 'next steps' for projects that demonstrate the benefits of tenure reform, particularly on pastoral leases.

The Government will also work with the Council of Australian

Governments (COAG) to:

- reduce native title costs and delays – the Government wants all existing native title claims settled in the next 10 years; and,
- allow Indigenous Australians to borrow against or lease out exclusive native title land.

The Government will help attract more investors to the north by providing \$12.4 million for Indigenous Ranger groups to expand biosecurity surveillance, with further details on biosecurity to be announced in the forthcoming Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

The Government will also remove excessive regulatory burden by streamlining and simplifying cultural heritage, fisheries, and wildlife trade regulations, and supporting northern industries including fisheries and crocodile trade.

"To complement our investment, we will continue to work with Indigenous Australians, the northern jurisdictions and industry so the north can reach its full potential," the statement said.

"The Northern Australia Strategic Partnership – the biannual gathering of First Ministers from the

“We have set out an ambitious long term reform agenda for the north because a strong north means a strong nation.”

Commonwealth and northern jurisdictions – will be made permanent.

“The Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia has been continued for the life of the Parliament to ensure ongoing bipartisan support for developing the north. Shifting the Office of Northern Australia to the north will also increase links between the north and the Commonwealth.

“Northern Australia can grasp its full potential and become an economic powerhouse within our great country.

“We will drive down the costs of operating in the north for business; making it a more attractive place to invest and work. By building a prosperous north, we will build a better future for all Australians.”



More information on the White Paper is available at: <https://northernaustralia.dpmc.gov.au/>





Out & About





Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



**Operating Hours for
Council are
Monday – Friday
8:00am – 5:00pm**

If you have any questions please contact
Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200



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

2015 Rates & Dates

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

182 Thursday 25 June / 2 July

183 Thursday 9 July / 16 July

184 Thursday 23 July / 30 July

185 Thursday 6 August / 13 August

186 Thursday 20 August / 27 August

187 Thursday 3 September / 10 September

188 Thursday 17 September / 24 September

189 Thursday 1 October / 8 October

190 Thursday 15 October / 22 October

191 Thursday 29 October / 5 November

192 Thursday 12 November / 19 November

193 Thursday 26 November / 3 December

194 Thursday 10 December / 17 December

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Government & Corporate (hard copy): \$120

All from now to 30 June 2015

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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

PDF archives of the Palm Island Voice are available at <http://chowes.com.au>

Don't forget...

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER PUBLIC/COMMUNITY
MESSAGES ARE FREE** (subject to space!)

PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!



**CATHY
FREEMAN
FOUNDATION**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE JOIN THE CFF TEAM

The following positions are currently open for application.

- Programs Coordinator (Full-time)**
- HIPPY Community Engagement Officer (3 days pw)**
- After-School Rugby League Coordinator (Casual)**

Applications Close Friday 10th July

To be considered for a position please submit to lachlan@cathyfreemanfoundation.org.au:

- 1. A completed employment application form**
- 2. Written response to key selection criteria**
- 3. A copy of your resume**

Please contact Ruth Gorrige on 07 4770 1555 or email ruth@cathyfreemanfoundation.org.au for a copy of the Employment Application Form and Position Description/ Selection Criteria.

To Nadine Cannon:
Happy 50th Birthday
from Tyron, children,
grandchildren, brothers
and sisters and the
rest of the families
from Yarrabah and
Palm Island for the
24th June.

Also Happy 10th
Anniversary to Tyron &
Nadine on the 25th June
2015 from children,
grandchildren, Aunties,
Uncles, brothers & sisters
and families from
both Palm Island and
Yarrabah.



Community Director – nominations wanted

The Board of the Palm Island Community Company Limited is seeking nominations from suitably qualified individuals, living in the Palm Island community, for appointment to the position of Director of the Company.

The Palm Island Community Company Limited (PICC), in the interests of the people, communities and organisations of Palm Island, will continue to pursue its strategic action plan (as outlined in the Strategic Plan document), and will work with existing organisations to secure benefits for the people.

This is an opportunity to contribute to your community as part of a skills based Board that includes nominees from the Palm Island community.

The role requires a commitment to attend monthly meetings and other related activities. The role will attract sitting fees.

Nominations will be accepted up to the close of business Friday 31st July 2015.

For an information pack, or for an initial discussion please contact Mark McCann, Company Secretary on (07) 4421 4300 or 0448 099 940.

~~LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER~~

Sadly this is the last time I write to you as the principal of Bwgcolman Community School.

After 3 1/2 years here and I am moving into Townsville to re-join my family and take up a new position.

Bwgcolman Community School is a vibrant and active learning environment full of committed teachers who give up enormous amounts of their personal time to ensure that the students here have every opportunity to have rich learning experiences both here and off the island. I have had a tremendously rewarding time here and would like to acknowledge the great support that the Palm community gives to the school. The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council have been great supporters of our students and regularly acknowledge their success and contributions. They also are very helpful on large sale event days like the swimming carnival and athletics days.

PICC have been tremendous in their sponsorship of our Breakfast program and the running of the tuckshop. Both of these programs have ensured more students are coming to school and staying at school. Our partnership with Cathy Freeman Foundation is

one that everyone benefits from through their starting Block awards and the Horizon tours. The community support for our men's and women's business activities has added significant cultural value to these weekly programs. Joyce Palmer have also been supportive of the school through the Ear Health, immunisation and dental programs they are running in the school. The ease of access to significant health programs has meant that our students have greater understanding of their own health both theoretically and in a practical sense. One of the most important aspects of the school community relationship is the increasing number of people who attend school functions and events. It is this level of interest and engagement that helps motivate our students to achieve. We often comment that Palm is an events based community and without fail the island shines when it has to. As a school we are very happy to be a part of the positive Palm narrative and wish to continue. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this community. I feel privileged to have been able to live here and have always appreciated the warmth and genuine acceptance I have felt.

I wish all of you the very best for the future.

Jeff

~~LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER LETTER~~

Cowboys share important peer group messages

The North Queensland Cowboys' Try Time team was on Palm earlier this month to deliver their "Only dead fish go with the flow" message to students.

Workshops with year-11 & 12 students at Bwgc Colman Community School were designed to get them to better understand the peer and social pressures they face and motivate them to make positive choices for themselves, rather than simply following the group.

"We've got quite a team going to Palm Island, including our staff, Cowboys 1st Grade Player Scott Bolton and under-20's player Braden Uele and five of the dedicated youth staff and volunteers from YWAM" Cowboys General Manager Community Fiona Pelling said before the day. "It should be a fantastic series of workshops following on from the topics covered during the 2014 visit of Substance Abuse (Drugs and Alcohol) and Social Media (The Internet and Communications). This visit, topics covered will include Active Lifestyles, Engaging

in Life, Self Esteem and Body Image, Health Eating (Food and Obesity) and Creating Goals."

Bwgc Colman Community School Principal, Jeff Jones believed in the program so much he sponsored the flights over to Palm Island.

"We had the Try Time! program here last year and the response from the students was incredibly positive," Mr Jones said. "The messages are vital for our young people and we are really pleased to be part of the program once again. The Try Time! team have already delivered over 147 sessions to some 2,500 students across the Townsville region and McKinlay Shire with great feedback from teachers and students alike. Teachers surveyed have responded that the program is 'an effective way of improving students' engagement in school and in life in general'".

The fast-paced, interactive workshops have proved to be a

hit with students. The Try Time! messages about the importance of school also seem to be hitting the mark with students.

When asked "What things do you think would help young people stay away from drugs" responses from those attending the Substance Abuse workshop were:

- Staying in school, making a life for themselves,
- Being open and getting support from family and friends when you need it,
- Being active, staying healthy and having good friends,
- Learning more about the effects of different drugs earlier in life.

"The impact and the popularity of the program among schools has been Incredible, with the Try Time! team having forward bookings for 206 workshops in 2015 to date which will touch over 10,000 students," Ms Pelling said.





SOLAS signs up to sponsor local rugby league

SOLAS has signed up as a sponsor for the Palm Island Community Rugby League Inc to support the local rugby league competition.

They said the team at SOLAS was keen to be involved.

“It’s important for us as a community organisation to support the local community,” CEO Cathy O’Toole said.

“The local rugby league competition is a great way for us to do this.

“We’re proud to employ local Palm Island residents, and we’re proud to be a part of this community.

“So when Scott Nosworthy from the Queensland Rugby League and Algon Walsh, Chairman of the Palm Island Community Rugby League

spoke to us about the sponsorship opportunity, we agreed to get involved straight away.

“Sport is a great community activity, and we’re very happy to show our support.

SOLAS has signed on for one year.

‘2015 June/July School Holiday Youth Development Program’				
Monday 6 th July 2:00pm – 6:00pm	Tuesday 7 th July 11:30am – 12:30pm	Wednesday 8 th July 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Thursday 9 th July 11:30am – 12:30pm	Friday 10 th July 11:30am – 12:30pm
<p>Townsville Show Day Holiday</p> <p>We will be running our own:</p> <p>Palm Island Show Day</p> <p>With a jumping Castle, balloon animals, a clown, coloured hairspray and face painting</p> <p>ALL FREE</p> <p>2pm – 6pm</p>	<p>Farm</p> <p>CRICKET</p> <p>At the Football Oval 1:30pm – 2:30pm PCYC</p>	<p>PCYC</p> <p>ROUNDERS</p> <p>Main Arena 6:00pm – 9:00pm</p>	<p>Farm</p> <p>NETBALL</p> <p>At the Netball Court 1:30pm – 2:30pm PCYC</p>	<p>Butler Bay</p> <p>SOCCER</p> <p>At the Beachfront 1:30pm – 2:30pm PCYC</p>
	<p>CRICKET</p> <p>Main Arena 4:30pm – 5:30pm Butler Bay</p>	<p>DISCO</p> <p>6pm - 9pm</p> <p>A night filled with dancing, fun and excitement!</p>	<p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>Main Arena 4:30pm – 5:30pm Butler Bay</p>	<p>SOCCER</p> <p>Main Arena 4:30pm – 5:30pm Farm</p>
	<p>CRICKET</p> <p>At the Beachfront 6:30pm – 8pm PCYC</p>	<p>\$2 entry! That’s right, only \$2</p>	<p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>At the ½ Court 6:30pm – 8pm PCYC</p>	<p>SOCCER</p> <p>At the Football Oval 6:30pm – 8pm PCYC</p>
	<p>TOUCH FOOTBALL</p> <p>Main Arena</p>	<p>There will be some food and drink on sale on the night.</p>	<p>HOCKEY</p> <p>Main Arena</p>	<p>DODGEBALL</p> <p>Main Arena</p>

Yarrabah narrow winners over Palm netball side



Palm Island students who worked and played hard were rewarded with a Cathy Freeman Foundation-funded trip to Yarrabah last month.

“To be eligible for the trip students had to have been attending school a minimum of 80% of the time, have a clear behaviour record and attend at least 80% of training sessions,” teacher Chloe McIntosh said.

“We flew over from Palm Island on Monday 15th June and drove up to Yarrabah in a mini bus.

“We stayed in the Yarrabah PCYC Monday night and

played our game against the Yarrabah netball team.

“It was a very close, exciting game, which Yarrabah won 18/19.

“After the game we had a pool party at the PCYC and a BBQ before heading to stay at Coconut Palm in Cairns for the night.

“On Wednesday morning we visited the HMAS Cairns Navy base where we got a

tour and got to try out some (unloaded!) weapons.

“We then visited Gordonvale High School where we had a tour of their agriculture centre and played some golf before the drive back to Townsville to stay at Shalom College.

“On Thursday morning before the boat back to Palm Island we got to go to jump around on the trampolines at Launch Zone.”



A full team of boxers went to Cairns last weekend for the Golden Gloves comp. Full story and results next issue...





Fantome winners of 2015 athletics



Fantome won a clean sweep of both the Primary & Secondary Athletics last month.

Age champions:

- 9yrs Sholin Kerr & Annette Morgan
- 10yrs Ingai Geia & Lendell Sibley
- 11yrs Towyn Creed-Haines & Sarina James
- 12yrs Brodie Kerr & Lianna Walsh
- 13yrs Nashon Nona & Pamela Aplin
- 14yrs Trinity Fulford & Ngarlie Pryor
- 15yrs Chase Noble & Teri Foster
- 16yrs Marcus Ketchup & Moira Murray
- 17yrs Koipe Castors & Kathleen Haines

- Best and Fairest:
Nashon Nona & Teri Foster
- Fastest Man:
Raymond Noble
- Fastest Woman:
Amy Sachlikidis

