

Palm Island Voice

Issue 187 10 September 2015



FREE

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



Youth Fest packs some cultural, economic & social wellbeing punches!



Pics thanks to Emelle Dabea (below) and Alf Wilson





Councillor Alf Lacey
 Mayor
 Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Dear Councillor Lacey (Alf)

I congratulate the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for its work in facilitating the upcoming inaugural Bwgc Colman Youth Festival and the annual Spring Fair in 2015.

The Youth Festival and the events that will occur this week between 3 and 5 September have been created and organised by the young people of Palm Island with the help of the Council. It's a great example of self-empowerment.

Importantly, the Youth Festival will provide an opportunity for the young people of Palm Island to have a voice in planning and making decisions about issues that affect them by contributing to the Palm Island Youth Strategy.

The Youth Festival and Spring Fair are both great examples of a community willing to invest time and energy into its own development and progress. These events are part of the wider community effort to develop the Palm Island economy and reflect Council's commitment to improving the health, education and wellbeing outcomes of Palm Island residents.

I wish the Palm Island community all the best for the events of this week and I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of the Bwgc Colman Youth Festival for the youth of Palm Island.

Yours sincerely



ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
 PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
 MINISTER FOR THE ARTS



*Senator Ian Macdonald & Mayor Alf Lacey at
 the Palm Island Youth & Spring Festival*

Palm Island Festival shows youth culture is thriving: Macdonald

MEDIA RELEASE

The Bwgcolman Youth Festival: Many Tribes, One People was held on Palm Island for three days from 3–5 September 2015.

The Festival was staged by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and the Palm Island Youth Council.

Townsville-based Government Senator Ian Macdonald attended the Festival on the first day and delivered a personal message from the Prime Minister.

“I was delighted to be back on Palm today to experience the Youth Festival which is being held for the young people on Palm Island by the young people on Palm Island,” Senator Macdonald said.

The festival was a key component of the Palm Island Youth Strategy which was developed around the principles of creating engagement with government, service providers and industry.

Festival events focused on creating safe spaces where the Island’s youth community could thrive.

“The core objective of the Strategy is to ensure that the needs of young people – and the communities in which they live and grow – are factored into decision-making processes,” Senator Macdonald said.

“During the festival Palm Island youth will be exploring themes that they have identified as important to them and their future. These include leadership, education, health and well-being, culture, sport, communications and music.”

Senator Macdonald said the festival focused attention and effort on providing better outcomes for young people on Palm Island – an objective that is shared by the Commonwealth Government.

“The Prime Minister’s personal message to the festival expressed the Australian government’s commitment to fostering a better future for Indigenous communities, and for all young Australians,” he said.



Top: Enjoying the Festival was Catherine Inkerman and Emele Dabea; Middle: a well-entertained crowd; Above: Cr Eddie Walsh and Senator Ian Macdonald; and below: Enjoying the boxing was Veronica Noble and Edna Coolburra with her granddaughter







ALMOST half of the Palm Island population of 3500 are young men and women aged under 24 and it was these youths and children who took centre-stage at the inaugural Bwngcolman Youth Festival.

It was part of the annual Spring Fair and thousands turned out for three jam-packed days of music, dance, art, sport, health and cultural activities.

They celebrated what it means to be a young person living on Palm Island.

Live performances, yarning circles, a youth market, short-film making, music video production and a youth parliament panel to discuss issues that are important to young people were all

part of the plan, along with local and visiting musicians, entrepreneurs, leaders, sporting professionals and entertainers – all over just three days.

The impressive local Youth Parliament consisted of Shamika Curley, Kathleen Haines, Heath Lacey, Jeriah Coutts, Janesha Robertson and Lindsay Parker-Geesu.

Young people had the opportunity to learn new skills in small group workshops run before, during and after the Festival.

Day one commenced on centre stage in the park across from the CBD with an official opening and welcome to country from Allan Palm Island.

Palm Mayor Alf Lacey said Council was proud to hand over the reigns to young people to take carriage of the annual Spring Fair,.

“The Bwngcolman Youth Festival is an event that has been planned by the Palm Island young people,” he said. “It provides an opportunity





for our future leaders to come together and discuss issues that are important to them celebrate their culture and set the direction for a strong future.”

Visiting entertainers included Chris Tamwoy, Toby Adams Dizzy Doolan, Briscoe Sisters, Zennith, Dubmarine, Troy and Dean Brady, Justin Wellington, the Last Kinecton, The D Hip Hop group and Australian Festival of Music Choir.

Local performers included the Bwgcolman and St Michael’s Junior Dancers, Great Northern

Dancers, Mother’s Dust, Pacific Flower Hula Dancers, Descendants of Darnley Island Dancers and Badu Island Dancers.

Townsville entertainers included Komet TSI group, the popular Shalom Arnhem Land Dancers, who brought the Saltwater Band with them.

Renowned singer Maggie Walsh was MC for the final day during which Ilbijerri Theatre Company and Belvoir presented their “Beautiful One Day’ documentary.

Ilbijerri included locals

Aunty Maggie Blackley, Harry Reuben, Kylie Doomadgee and Rachael Maza.

Other guests included Condonman and Lubelicious who promoted safe sex.

During the three days there was a sports workshop at the football oval which included netball, rugby league, touch and boxing.

Special guests for those included former NRL star Scott Prince, champion boxer Brad Hore, NQ Cowboys Gideon Gela-Mosby, Cameron King and Braden Uele.

More pics next page! Palm Island Voice will have more pics and a full report on the sports results in our next issue.







Pics on this page with thanks to Emele Dabea



PALM Island PCYC Boxing Club hosted its first tournament in four years on September 5th during the Youth Festival and locals performed strongly.

There were 11 bouts on the card with visiting boxers from Townsville, Babinda, Mareeba, Pioneer Valley and Rockhampton.

The travelled to Palm on the morning ferry and returned to the mainland at 4pm.

Arona Miller and Joseph Nallajar won their bouts on points.

In his 57kg class bout Arona defeated Pioneer Valley's Jack Finger whilst Joseph was impressive in beating Greg Toby from Rockhampton in 60kg.

Levi Baira narrowly lost to Hawks Alfie Canterella in 51kg, Edgar Rosser lost to Mareeba's Raymond Haines in 54kg and Maurice Watson lost to another Mareeba boxer Drew Cater in 60kg.

Patrick Clarke lost the main bout to Hawks Liam Paro in 68kg and Dennis Haines jnr fought an exhibition bout against Hayden Hooper from Art of Strength Club.

Trainer Ray Dennis said that his other fighters including star Leelan Sibley could not be matched.

"I weighed in 18 so a lot didn't get a bout," he said.

A special guest was champion Indigenous boxer Brad Hore who competes as a professional in the super bantamweight division.

Brad is a dual Olympian having represented Australia at the 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games'.

Money raised from the \$5 admission fee will be used to help pay for the Palm fighters trip to the State Titles in Mackay on September 18 and 19.

PALM ISLAND BOXING TOURNAMENT

DATE: SAT 5TH SEPT 2015
At the Palm Island pcyc

Weight In at 10am
First Bout Start at 12pm

Fighters from across Queensland

Entry Fee - \$5.00

Main Fight will be Patrick Clarke
Opponent to be announced on the day.

Promoter - Ray Dennis





Palm Island Voice

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Aboriginal Shire
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Issue No. Deadline / Publication

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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*“MAN OF THE MATCH Clinton Pearson mesmerised the opposition with his sidesteps and clever passing which often set up team mates for scoring opportunities.”
Full story page 16...*



Thanks to David Vetterly

Jets v Skipjacks in 2015 Rugby League Grand Final

FULL STORY P 16 Pics thanks to David Vaney





Pics thanks to David Vaney



Pics thanks to David Vaney



Jets 2015 champs



In one of the most entertaining Palm Island domestic competition grand finals in recent years Jets defeated arch rivals Skipjacks 38-34 late last month.

Star Jets halfback Clinton "Dancing Feet" Pearson was named man of the match for a dominating performance.

Pearson mesmerised the opposition with his sidesteps and clever passing which often set up team mates for scoring opportunities.

Jubilant Jets coach Norman Bounghi said it had been a great team effort.

"Clinton Pearson, Vernon Geia, Thomas Oui Jnr, John Baira, Todd Pearson, Ingai Geia and Mitchell Baira were standouts," Bounghi said.

Skipjacks best were back Rob

Snyder, second rower Mickeal Sibley, prop William Marpoondin, back Devon Palm Island, winger Roy Baira and centre Efrom Geia.

Palm Island Community Rugby League President Algon Walsh said a big crowd turned out at the local football oval for the decider.

"The final could have gone either way and both sides deserve credit," he said. "It was a top game with great action.

"Before it the players and crowd had a minutes silence in honour of those who have departed us."

To qualify for the final Skipjacks defeated Butler Bay Bulls 32-28 in

the preliminary final on August 15.

That decider was scheduled to be held on August 22 but was postponed due to sorry business.

A week before in the qualifying semi final Jets defeated Skipjacks 40-34. In the elimination semi final reigning premiers Butler Bay Bulls thrashed Bwgc Colman Brothers 76-22.

Barracudas will have a side in the Townsville Bindal carnival at the Sports Reserve in October.

MORE PICS INSIDE: huge thanks to David Vaney for his fantastic action and crowd pics, we'll have more in our next issue!!!

