



## Youth Fest still the talk of the town!



*The spirit of the community was lifted to a height to truly reflect unity and harmony, and I felt so proud I was able to share in and participate in this event, Virginia Prior writes...*

*Full text page 2...*



Kudos, congratulations and respect has been the word since Palm Island's Youth Festival – hailed by all as a great success – was held late last month in conjunction with the community's Spring Fair. And the *Palm Island Voice* still has more pics to offer in this issue on pages 2, 6 & 7!!!

## Letter from Virginia Prior

My reason for writing is to express my sincere appreciation for the tremendous effort Lyn and her team of workers displayed in organising this significant event for the people and the youth of Palm Island.

The spirit of the community was lifted to a height to truly reflect unity and harmony and I felt so proud I was able to share in and participate in this event.

What has also impressed upon my mind was families coming together and enjoying the festive atmosphere while their children were enjoy themselves in a safe happy environment.

The quality of the various stalls both food and arts and craft is a credit to those individuals' commitment.

So many memorable moments from those three days took my mind back in time to the days when we had our local two-day show (in the 60s and 70s) and it brought a tear to my eye when I witnessed and experienced the same community spirit at this years festival.. just like the days of old.

The entertainment was second to none, and having the young people being proud to display the cultural dance and song was another highlight.

As for the fire works...well what can I say...they were the final icing on the cake - what a way to exit the stage for 2015.

Bringing the youth forum together was a brilliant initiative for the community as a whole.

It is obvious to me the success of the festival was because of the coordination, planning, team work, leadership and funding it has taken to implement such a significant event.

I would like to also acknowledge Mayor Lacey and Councillors Prior, Walsh, Sam and Conway for their hard work and effort towards ensuring this years festival was a success.

Thank you all for putting on a great festival for the Palm Island people and for our youth.

The bench mark is set for 2016 and I sincerely look forward to a bigger and greater Festival for our community.

Kind regards

*Virginia Prior*





# Winners!

*Left is Winnie Obah with Harley, Eddie-Robin, Kurt & Philip Jr at the Cowboys versus Sharks game in Townsville a few weeks back. You can bet they'll be happy about the Cowboys' sensational win last weekend!*



## Oil spill provides birds eye opportunity



In late July, a week after an initial sighting of oil was made by a fisherman at Cape Upstart, clumps of oil began washing ashore at Hinchinbrook Island, Taylor's Beach, Forrest Beach and Palm Island.

The multi-agency response to the oil spill was led by Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) and involved close cooperation with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

A dedicated incident coordination centre was set up at MSQ in Townsville to manage the response and clean-up of affected beaches.

At its peak, the on-ground team numbered nearly 120 people, with support bolstered by local councils.

An inspection of the Palm Island's shoreline was made with the help of the GBRMPA and Palm Island Council Mayor Alf Lacey.

The multi-agency clean-up crew working around Palm Island was

provided with operational and logistical support by staff from the Palm Island Council and members of the Queensland Police Force based there.

This meant oil patches could be removed and beaches reopened to the public as quickly as possible.

The source of the oil remains unknown and is being investigated.



## Starting blocks see record numbers

Around 1600 students from four remote communities across Australia celebrated the end of Term 3 with the presentation of more than 500 Cathy Freeman Foundation (CFF) Starting Block Awards.

The communities of Palm Island and Woorabinda in Queensland, Galiwin'ku and Wurrumiyanga in the Northern Territory each held CFF Starting Block award ceremonies acknowledging the academic success of their students in the areas of school attendance, improvement in literacy and outstanding classroom behaviour.

In Term 3, 16 Year 7 and Year 8 students enjoyed a trip to Canberra and Sydney welcomed 14 Year 11 and 12 students from our four partner communities as part of the Horizons program.

“For some students these trips are the first time they have ventured from their community and for many it is their first time to a major capital city,” newly appointed CFF CEO Jamie Howden said.

“The camps therefore provide a life-changing opportunity to broaden their horizons and enrich their knowledge, understanding and experience of themselves.”



*Above Palm Island dancers and winners; Left: some Woorabinda faces at their Starting Block Awards*

Parents of under-8s on Palm Island are invited to participate in a new Early Childhood, Parenting and Health and Wellbeing program being developed by Sophie Sam (coordinator) and Ray Armit (project worker) out of the Palm Island Community Company.



The team hopes that with parental involvement and participation they can help new parents in particular understand the importance of early childhood health and development including:

- development milestones;
- available services in the community and how to access them;
- the need for regular health and development checks, including immunisation; and,
- the need for all children to be engaged in some form of early childhood education, such as playgroup, kindy or HIPPY.

They said with the kind of support they can

offer through the project children will be 'ready for school'.

Sophie and Ray said they were happy to take on ideas and share information from their office in the mall or in people's own home.

Appointments can be made by calling Ray on 0459 185 036 or Sophie on 0459 191 229.

Sophie works from Monday to Friday while Ray is on the island on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The project is funded by the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet.

**“We hope you can be part of this exciting project for your child.”**

## Your Child's Early Development is a Journey

Check off the milestones your child has reached and share your child's progress with the doctor at every visit.

**6 MONTHS**

- Turns his head when you call his name
- Smiles back at you
- Responds to sound by making sounds
- Sits without support for a short time
- Likes social play (games like peek-a-boo)

**12 MONTHS (1 YEAR)**

- Uses simple gestures such as shaking head for "no" or waving "bye-bye"
- Pulls up to stand
- Copies you during play (like clapping when you clap)

**18 MONTHS (1 1/2 YEARS)**

- Responds when told "no"
- Says "mama" and "dada"

**2 YEARS**

- Follows simple instructions
- Kicks a ball
- Points to something (like a toy or picture) when you name it
- Shows affection for playmates
- Uses 4- to 5-word sentences
- Shows more interest in other children
- Looks at something when you point to it and say "look!"
- Uses 2- to 4-word phrases

**3 YEARS**

- Copies adults and playmates (like running when other children run)
- Climbs well
- Plays make-believe with dolls, animals, and people (like feeding a teddy bear)
- Walks without help
- Uses several single words to get what she wants
- Plays pretend (like talking on a toy phone)
- Points to interesting things

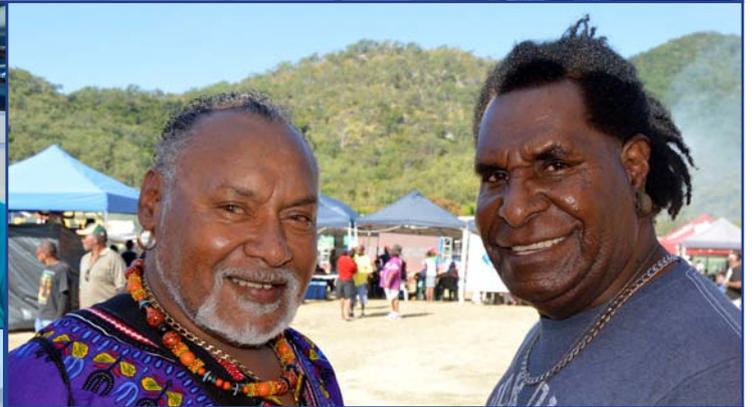
**4 YEARS**

- Follows 3-step commands (like "get dressed, comb your hair, and wash your face")
- Hops and can stand on one foot for up to five seconds
- Uses 5- to 6-word sentences
- Shares and takes turns with other children
- Draws circles and squares

These are just a few of many important milestones to look for. For more complete checklists by age visit [www.cdc.gov/ActEarly](http://www.cdc.gov/ActEarly)



*Out & About @ the Palm Island Spring Fair/ Youth Fest*



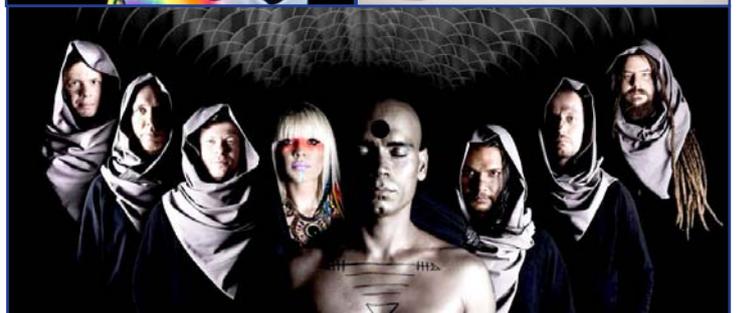


*Pics above and below thanks to the Bwgcolman Youth Festival Facebook page!*

*Above: young people working on the Palm Island youth mural; Below: Chris Tamwoy; Briscoe Sisters; Dizzy Doolan; The Last Kinexion and Dubmarine*



*Above: Hans Gasa, 70, was on his first visit to Palm Island. He said this event has been spectacular. "I'll be telling all my friends about this beautiful island and I'll be back," he said.*





*Marrying in Townsville's Anderson Park on 26 September were Genami & Selena Geia, pictured above with their children Walter, John, Genami Jnr, Evagirl and grandson Jias; Below: The Geia family; Right: Leah Dabea with her granddaughter Michelle Dabea. Pics thanks to Kyneesha Romelo.*



**Happy Anniversary!!!**  
**Noel & Jenny Cannon**  
 (44 years of Marriage on the 30th October 2015)  
 Love & Best Wishes Families & Friends

# Palm Island Voice

## Public & Community Notices



Happy 55th birthday to Iris Cannon who spent her special day watching the Grand Final in Sydney!!!

Happy Birthday Daniel Geia  
5 October  
Love from Dad, Mum & Family

To my Daddy!  
Happy Birthday for  
5 October  
Love Lasharntai

Happy birthday Erykah Kyle (8 October) and Erica Jnr Kyle (14 October) with love from your children grandchildren & great grandchildren and for Erica jnr, love Mum Dad & Jada

Happy

Birthdays!!!



## 2015 Rates & Dates

### Issue No. Deadline / Publication

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

### 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): \$30

Community & NGOs (hard copy): \$60

Government & Corporate (hard copy): \$120

\*All from now to 30 June 2015\*

*Palm Island Voice is online at [chowes.com.au](http://chowes.com.au)*

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)

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!**



## The Townsville Hospital and Health Board announces 2014–2015 Achievements

*The Townsville Hospital's Mitchell Herriman is one of the first emergency department physician assistants in Queensland*

### Achievements for 2014–2015 include:

- A mobile dental van commences to deliver oral health care to Palm Island school students
- A community health van commences to support the health and well-being of Palm Island residents
- The Beryl Castors Home and Community Care Centre opens on Palm Island to assist local people who need extra support with home maintenance, personal care and socialisation
- The Townsville Cancer Centre, which includes 26 additional chemotherapy chairs and a paediatric oncology day unit, opens to benefit North Queensland communities
- A stand-alone paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) opens at The Townsville Hospital for critically ill North Queensland children
- The Townsville HHS achieves four years unconditional accreditation from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards
- A cochlear implant service begins at The Townsville Hospital to benefit North Queensland communities



'It is a great privilege to chair the Townsville Hospital and Health Board. I am proud of what has been achieved over the past year for individuals, families and communities in our HHS and beyond. I'd like to sincerely thank our staff for putting patients and families at the centre of everything they do.'

**John Bearne**  
*Chair, Townsville Hospital and Health Board*

#### Elective Surgery

Patients waiting longer than the clinically recommended time for elective surgery:

	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015
Urgent	3	0	0
Semi-urgent	73	0	0
Non-urgent	31	0	0

\*Clinically recommended time for urgent elective surgery = 30 days

\*\*Clinically recommended time for semi-urgent elective surgery = 90 days

\*\*\*Clinically recommended time for non-urgent elective surgery = 12 months

#### Dental

Patients waiting longer than the clinically recommended time for general dental care:

	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015
Number of patients	693	0	0

Clinically recommended time for a general dental appointment = two years

#### Townsville Hospital Emergency Department Presentations

	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015
	72,255	74,257	76,217

#### Growing our Frontline Services

	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015
Nurses	1,950	2,025	2,169
Doctors	533	562	589



*Community health worker Melita Murphy is making a difference at the Joyce Palmer Health Service*

To provide your feedback on any aspect of the health service please email [townsvillehhs-engagement@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:townsvillehhs-engagement@health.qld.gov.au) or phone 07 4433 1016.



# POSITIONS VACANT

## **1. Are you interested in joining a dynamic, creative, exciting and innovative community mental health organisation?**

(This position will work 30 hrs a week)

SOLAS is committed to working with people to achieve a life of choice, purpose, meaning and citizenship.

SOLAS understands, acknowledges and respects that the people who use services are best placed to determine their needs. We strive to promote opportunities for people to engage in activities that will enable them to choose meaningful and purposeful lives.

We are looking for someone who:

- Have knowledge of Community Mental Health Programs
- Displays a high level of verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills to efficiently communicate at all levels both internally and externally.
- Possesses or has the ability to obtain a Working with Children (Blue Card) and a Disability Services Positive Notice Card (Yellow Card) exemption.
- Experience and skills in operating a Windows platform.
- Experience working in a mental health field with a commitment to the principles of relevant legislation
- Possess a current Queensland Drivers licence.
- Current First Aid and CPR Certificate or willingness to obtain same upon commencement.
- A personal lived experience of a mental illness.

# SOLAS

mental health & wellbeing

## **2. Are you the new face of SOLAS? We are currently looking for someone to fill our receptionist role on a Full time basis in our Palm Island Office.**

We are looking for someone who meets the following criteria:

- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate effectively with internal and external stakeholders in a friendly and professional manner.
- Ability to work within a staff team environment and the capacity to work with minimal supervision with autonomously.
- Certificate III in Business Administration or willing to obtain and/or relevant industry experience in a similar role.
- Display competency in operating within a Windows environment using Microsoft Office Software including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Enquiries can be made by contacting our Palm Island Service Coordinator Rosanne Bennett. Applications close Friday 9th October 2015.



**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 886 'likes' on Facebook!!!

Palm Island Aboriginal Land Trust

## REQUEST FOR TENDER FOR THE OPERATION OF THE OLD POULTRY FARM &/or OLD MARKET GARDEN

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (the Council) invites tenders from person with appropriate experience for the operation of either the Old Poultry Farm or the Old Market Garden or both properties.

The License Agreement will be for a two year fixed term, with further options to use. The Council reserves the right in its sole discretion to offer a further two year term to the successful tenderer(s).

For further information regarding this tender please contact Ross Norman, Chief Executive Officer on 07 4770 0200.

Tenders close at 5pm on Monday 19 October 2015.

# Boxing champs

At the recent State titles in Mackay for Sunstate Amateur Boxing League Darryl Richardson, Leelan Sibley and Joseph Nallajar all won gold medals and Brayden Nallajar won a bronze.

Natalie David also won Gold without having to lift a glove.

A great supporter of the Palm Island Club has always been the Art of Strength Boxing Club in Townsville

Ties between the two clubs go back more than 30 years – Greg (Scooter) Hooper said he met Uncle Ray Dennis when he fought professionally in the early 1980s.

“Everyone who was boxing in those days knew Uncle Ray Dennis,” Scooter, who trained alongside the likes of Junior Thompson and David Sarago at Scorpio Lodge, said.

“This was where Ray learnt the benefits boxing could have to children of all ages and gender, with fitness and self-esteem two of the major factors.”

When Scooter started his own club in 2009 he said Uncle Ray agreed to remain as the trainer on Palm Island with their help.

Scooter’s wife Angel is a granddaughter of Thomas (Cat) Prior from Palm Island.

Scooter and Angel’s son Hayden is also a fully qualified Trainer, a dual Golden Gloves and Queensland Champion, and was a Bronze medallist in last year’s Australian titles.

Hayden and Scooter help Uncle Ray train the kids whenever possible as well as assisting with the corner work at tournaments.

Art of Strength has had three tournaments this year, with another to come on Magnetic Island next Saturday.

“Palm Island boxing has a big future with lots of young talent now coming through the ranks,” Scooter said.

