



Pride of Palm Island



Top: Palm Island hosted the 'first ever' Year 12 Formal Graduation last week. The students loved the formal event, which was held at the PCYC function room. Teacher Lynette Kim Sing organised the event which was a huge success.

MORE PICS & FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

Right: A great day for our little Palm boys, Aaron

Thaiday-Jantzen says. "Big congratulations to two boys I'm very proud of, Isaac Geia and Michael Sibley, who have graduated today along with the other boys who won awards," he said.

Below Right & Below: Graduating students from Bwgcolman Community School visited Cowboys HQ to tour the stadium where they also happened to catch up with Cowboys co-captain Matt Scott. Staff from Connect n Grow, with whom the students had been completing a Certificate in Indigenous Health, were also there. Students took part in a presentation by former North Queensland Cowboys player, Life Member and Manager of the Cowboys High Performance Unit Paul Bowman.



Pride of Palm

This year's graduates all said, "We are more resilient, now. We can handle things, better than before," teacher Lynette Kim Sing writes...

I am not surprised. Every day in the classroom they would hear, 'every day counts, show your commitment, have good discipline, make the right choices, pick each other up when someone falls, believe in your own ability, you are capable, build a strong mind and your positive outlook will get you over the finish line'.

The students in this year's Year 11/12 class feel like we are a family group, we have such a close connection with each other.

This, I believe, was a major contributing factor to the 2015 group of Year 12s becoming the most successful group to date.

At the end of 2014, plans were made for a formal graduation for 2015. I was fortunate, to get the full support from the PCYC and the PIASC councillors. The PCYC allowed us to use a space that had not been previously used for functions, and it was the perfect space



for our formal graduation. The PIASC made donations to the school which covered the costs of the barge fees and motel fees for the caterers. Samuella Castors and John Castors, put together a team of people to decorate the function room, it was beautifully decorated and well-suited to the occasion.

I was the MC and host of the event. Speeches were made by Bwgcolman Community School Principal Ross McHutcheon, St Michael's School Principal Gary Recklies, Mayor Alf Lacey, BCS Deputy Dave O'Shea, Councillors Edward Walsh and Mislam Sam, and our very Special Guest Speaker – Iaga Viri.

For the 2015 graduates, a special presentation was made by Crs Walsh and Sam to this group for being the most successful group to date. They were presented with gifts from the PIASC – seven graduates, received Samsung 6 Galaxy Smart Phones and two graduates – Kathleen Haines and Heath Lacey, who are entering a university pathway in 2016 – received Laptop Computers.

It was the bringing together of people from different areas of the community, including the police – Senior Sergeant Frank (the BCS Adopt-a-cop).

Everyone enjoyed the formal graduation and it was a great night of celebration.

As the Senior Secondary Co-ordinator of the Bwgcolman Community School, I am extremely proud of the 2015 graduates, I feel that, after sharing their educational journey for the last two years, they are now, well-equipped with the tools, to be able to take-on challenges, solve problem situations, have the confidence and courage to follow their new pathway into employment or further studies, with their goal of achieving success.





Left to Right: Koipe Castors, Racine James-Baira, Shirl Barry-Curley, Joseph Nallajar (Walton), Tarika Cummins, Janesha Robertson, Heath Lacey, Kathleen Haines, Emmanuel Blackman.



Mayors and Councillors recently met in Yarrabah at the invitation of Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt. Left to right above is Cr Fred Gela, Cr Ken Bone, Cr Pedro Stephen, Cr Alf Lacey, Cr Wayne Butcher, Minister Pitt, Cr Peter Guivarra, Cr Clifford Harrigan, Cr Robert Holness, Cr Rex Burke and Cr Terry Munns; Left is Crs Frank Conway & Mislam Sam with family.

Joyce Palmer staff celebrate long service

Joyce Palmer Health Service's longest serving staff were honoured last week at a ceremony to thank them for their dedication to health.

Eleven staff members celebrated up to 20 years' of providing quality health care to the Palm Island community.

Director of nursing at Joyce Palmer Health Service, John Rallings said he was delighted to see the commitment to the care of



patients on the island.

"This level of commitment is exemplary and provides much valued support to locals receiving care at our facilities," Mr Rallings said.

"Those being recognised today are vital in providing person-

centred care to patients and are all deserving of this honour."

The length-of-service certificates were presented by Townsville Hospital and Health Board member Donald Whaleboat and Townsville HHS interim chief executive Kieran Keyes.



*Out & About
@ Gordonvale
AUBlacks*

More Pics Next Issue!



St Michael's fund raiser update

Over past weeks senior St Michael's students involved in the fundraising activities have used their creative talents to decorate wooden crosses with Aboriginal dot painting.

The students put a lot of effort into their art work and their beautiful crosses sold in no time.

In fact people were even asking for more.

As reported last week, the proceeds are used to buy gifts to surprise community elders and others in the community who might be struggling this Christmas.

The students are now busy packing bags and boxes with all the items that have been donated by kind-hearted customers of the local Retail Store and staff members of St Michael's.

The Christmas fund raiser has also received much appreciated support from Nicole Willis and Lillian Willis, who organised a very successful raffle at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Bistro.



The lucky winner, Frances Doyle, took home a scrumptious meat tray donated by our friendly butcher Robert Hopkins.

A big thank you to Mr Hopkins and the Willis sisters!

St Michael's students will be distributing the gift bags and boxes in the first week of December, just before their school holidays.

A fish and chips lunch at the Sandy Boyd Aged Care Centre is also included in their plans of Christmas surprises.

The students hope very much to be able to bring some smiles to the faces of all the children, families and elders who will receive the gifts.

As the fundraising activities are coming to an end, St Michael's student leaders would like to thank everyone who kindly supported their activities – your contribution is greatly appreciated!

*Words & Pics thanks to
Susanne Schneider*



Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



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

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



Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 995
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

DON'T FORGET!

Tuesday 8th December

- Councillors will
be holding their
last Community
Engagement Day for the
year;

**Wednesday 9th
December**

- Palm Island land Trust
10am
- Palm Island Shire
Council Meeting 11am.

ISSUE 194 – OUR
LAST ISSUE FOR
THE YEAR – promises
to be a bumper issue,
full of Christmas
cheer and several catch-
up stories & pics...
Got a Christmas
message? Make
sure you contact
Christine (details
below) or leave a
private message on our
Facebook page!

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

194 Thursday 10 December / 17 December

**Next Year's Dates in our
Next Issue!**

ADVERTISE!

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

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MESSAGES ARE FREE** (subject to space!)

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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.

National disabilityinsurance Agency

JOBS AVAILABLE WITH THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE AGENCY PALM ISLAND

Join the National Disability Insurance Agency team and help people with disability and their families on Palm Island access the support they need.

We are looking for two local people for these full time jobs:

- Local Area Co-ordinator
- Community Connector

The jobs will be based on Palm Island and will be supported by the Agency team in Townsville.

For a copy of the Position Descriptions please visit our website:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/jobs> with the NDIA/current vacancies with NDIA

Applications close 17 December 2015

If you have any questions please contact Pam 0477 356 568

Ferdy's Haven Carols By Candle Light

Ferdy's Haven would like to
invite you to join our Carols
by Candle light

Where: Ferdy's Haven

When: 9th Of December 2015

Time: 5:30pm — 8:30pm

Transport is provided please contact Catherine Inkerman on
[47701152](tel:47701152)

- Kids corner
- Sausage sizzle
- Lantern Raising
- Christmas treats
- Photos with Mr & Mrs Clause
- Face painting



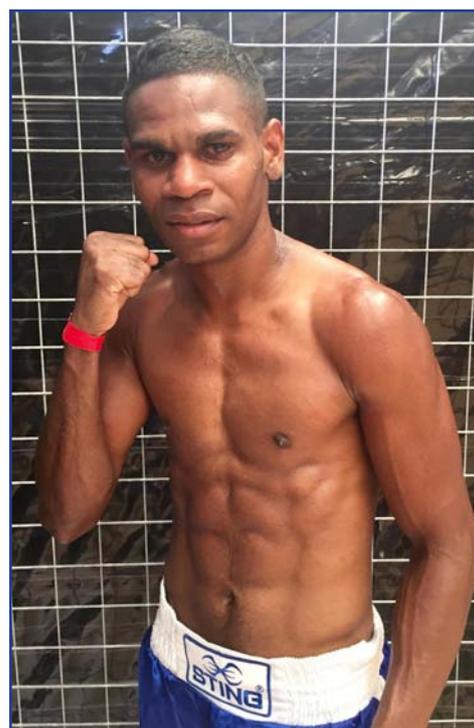
Good work by Reggie Pam Island, winning the silver medal at the Australian Olympic trials, going down in a close points decision that could have gone either way.

Congratulations to the gold medalist Alex Winwood from Western Australia who fought a great fight.

Reggie still has an opportunity to

qualify as he has been given a rematch

CHAMPION!



against Alex in Melbourne next week.



The North Queensland NRL Provan-Summons premiership trophy visited Palm Island early last week, as the community took their turn at dreaming a little and being inspired.

St Michael's Principal Gary Recklies said the pupils were inspired to see the trophy on their island.

"We all loved having the chance to touch and gather around the

powerful symbol of belief that anything is possible when you put enough work into it," he said.

Cowboys Community Relations Co-ordinator Bruce Muller said Palm Island was an important leg of the trophy tour to many places.

"Students, staff and community members had the chance to view the trophy at both Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael's Catholic School," he said.