



Families & friends come together for Christmas & New Year



These families and friends were photographed at the Gordonvale Allblacks last month but families getting together and enjoying what they do is a big part of what Christmas is all about. There are more pics on pages 6-7 of the Gordonvale Allblacks and a Christmas message from the Mayor and Council on page 3. The *Palm Island Voice* wishes all the Palm Island families and community the very best for the Christmas and New Year period and we look forward to working with you again in 2016, especially as we celebrate our 200th issue in March – how deadly is that! We'll be back in mid-January – a full card of next year's Rates and Dates is on page 12!

*Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year Palm Island!!!*

Unleaded fuel sales illegal on Palm

With the support of the Palm Island community, the Australian Government has made the sale of regular unleaded fuel on Palm Island illegal.

A Legislative Instrument signed by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, under the Low Aromatic Fuel Act 2013 has been registered, making the sale of the petrol on the island illegal.

It is the first time an area has been designated as a low aromatic fuel area under the Act.

“The roll out of low aromatic fuel is a high priority for the Australian Government as

part of a proven strategy to reduce harmful petrol sniffing,” Minister Scullion said.

“The Legislative Instrument has come into effect and so it is now illegal to supply, transport, or possess regular unleaded petrol for supply to a person on Palm Island.

“If a corporation does any of these things, it will commit an offence under the Low Aromatic Fuel Act 2013 and may be fined up to \$54,000 per offence.

“My decision will not affect the availability of diesel fuel on the island.

“The Government will continue to work with stakeholders on Palm Island to ensure there is a smooth transition to this trading environment.”

There are now more than 150 locations in remote and regional areas in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory that sell low aromatic fuel.

Live long and healthy

Neilene and Leon Tromp moved to Palm Island from Hervey Bay to continue the work of Medical Missionary Training Institute. Palm Island Voice will publish semi-regular columns from them covering different, easy and natural ways to implement change into your lifestyle that seem small but can make a huge difference to your future health and longevity.

Our focus this month is on water. As we know here on Palm Island OUR focus is surely on the possible shortage of tap water with the ongoing drought. With the beautiful sunny days and the summer heat it is still imperative that we do not neglect our water intake over the holiday season. Our summer consumption of water should be at least 6–8 glasses of water (nothing added) per day. It has been proven that a big percentage of our ailments are caused by dehydration and this is so easily avoided.

Remember also that while drinking soft drinks, alcohol, tea and coffee our water intake should be doubled to counteract the dehydrating effect of these beverages. None of us want to end up sick unnecessarily over the festive season just because we neglect our water intake.

May every one on Palm Island have a happy and healthy Christmas break and a prosperous New Year and we look forward to passing on some health tips in our local paper the *Palm Island Voice* in 2016. Best wishes from Neilene and Leon and the MMTI team.

Regional funding secured



The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has secured nearly \$1 million in funding through the Australian Government’s National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) towards an upgrade of the Island’s sewer and water infrastructure.

Regional Development Australia Townsville and North West Queensland (RDA) Committee Chairman Mr Paul Woodhouse said the funding would provide a boost to the region’s economy, while creating short term and long term jobs.

Pictured above are Councillors Frank Conway, Roy Prior and Mayor Alf Lacey with RDA committee member Lyn McLaughlin.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors and the Council staff I'd like to pass on our very best wishes to the community for a safe and happy Christmas.

As we look back over the year from the Council's point of view there is much to celebrate. The community as a whole has done itself proud on not one but several occasions – the Open Days, hosting the Indigenous Leader's Forum and the North Queensland Local Government conference, our football and netball teams, our graduates, new housing and subdivisions, road works, and the ongoing development of our cultural and business precincts – we have so much to be proud of.

And as much as those opportunities may or may not have come along without the Council, so too the Council is grateful for the community's backing and support – and hard work – that has gone into making several of these events the huge successes they were.

Well done Palm Island!



SHERRY KAURILA
Councillor

Dear Alf
Just a quick note to thank you and your Councillors and Staff for your hospitality at the NQLGA conference on Palm. It was great – historic and a little emotional for me to see the Bugcolman Community doing so well. Good leadership from Mayor Alf, and Councillors Prior, Sam, Walsh, and Conway. Well done, Alf! Greetings to all on Palm. Sherry

Pictured is one of the many letters of congratulations received by Council over the past year.

So enjoy your Christmas and New Year break, it's been well-earned, and we'll look forward to working with you again into 2016.

Cr Alf Lacey



High hopes for new studies

Late last month Robert Blackley's finished his final full time shift with the Queensland Ambulance Service and is now looking forward to studying medicine.

Robert rose through the ranks of the QAS Indigenous Cadet program, finishing his paramedic degree through the University of Tasmania.

He is now going on to study medicine through the University of Sydney to qualify as a doctor.

"From your QAS family throughout the State – all the very best Robert," the QAS wrote on their Facebook page.

"You're an inspiration to all paramedics."

Mr Blackley said he promised to work hard at his studies. "Huge thanks to the QAS, especially Ian Day, Peter Baron and the staff on Palm," he said.

"Thank you for the support I received from the people of Palm Island, I promise I will work hard at medical school in Sydney to make Palm Island proud."

Rodeo first should draw national interest

COMPETITORS from many Aboriginal communities, including Palm Island, are expected to take part in the first Bucko Billy Thunder Down Under Queensland and Northern Territory Indigenous Bull Riding Championships in Charters Towers early next year.

They will be held during the world's biggest cricket carnival, the Goldfield Ashes, on 23 January. Organiser is Townsville based John Moss who has been involved in rodeos around North Queensland for more than 20 years.

"I have run several rodeos on Palm Island and another at

Mungalla Farm near Ingham during the past 10 years and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander riders who took part were so good," Mr Moss said.

"So I have decided to run the first Indigenous Bull Riding Championships."

There will be open, novice and

juvenile sections with rich prize money on offer.

Mr Moss has contacted Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Palm Island, Kowanyama, Doomadgee, Aurukun and Hope Vale about the event.

He said he will also contact Bamaga, Injinoo, Umagico, Seisia and New Mapoon.

It wouldn't surprise Mr Moss if many riders from Palm island had a crack at the prize money including some who competed in the 2008 and 2009 events on their home soil.

"I'll be sending out fliers to Palm Island, the NPA and Cape York communities and have already contacted Aurukun and have interest from there," he said.

Mr Moss will be able to access Charters Towers bucking bulls and stock for the big event and is hopeful of a big crowd.

"The bulls will weigh between 500kg and 700kg and riders will have to stay on for eight seconds which will be no easy task," he said.

Whilst many of the riders will be from Queensland, Mr Moss said some will also travel down from the NT.

He said CAAMA (Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association) from Alice Springs had helped with some sponsorship.

"I think we will get riders from the NT including Alice Springs and Arnhem Land," he said.

Competitors who want to enter will have to do so through Queensland Rodeo Association central booking on 4627 5687.



Alley-Prior family proud of Zach

"Grab it, take it as it is and don't break the rules," was Grandmother Dell Prior's advice to her 12-year-old grandson Zach Alley-Prior who has won himself a scholarship into Year 8 at Ipswich Grammar next year for his football.

Pictured above with his family: McKenzie Alley-Prior, Shandell Prior, Zach Alley-Prior, Luella Wallace, MJ Prior, Dell Prior and Joe Wallace.

Zach said his favourite team was the Rabbitohs but his favourite player was Jonathan Thurston, which he agreed was a bit weird.

He also said education was also important to him.

"I want to get a better life, get a better education," he said.

"It's very important to me, I like football more though."

White Ribbon day well-attended

Recognising the positive role that men play in preventing violence against women was a key theme to this year's White Ribbon Day event on Palm Island late last month.

BWGCOLMAN SAY NO TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE was well attended with a street march, speeches by community leaders, school leaders and local people.

A number of domestic violence information stalls were set up in the island mall, a free barbecue lunch, and music and entertainment by local band "Mother's Dust".

A minute silence followed to remember all victims of domestic violence.

Messages of the dangerous effects of domestic violence and lateral violence in our community were expressed by the local people who got up and shared their views, concerns and hope for a more peaceful, violence-free community.

In the evening there was a candle light ceremony to remember victims of domestic violence; a chance for people to reflect on the day and what it meant to keep violence out of our community.

People personally were able to pledge an oath to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women and children.

The day was also about encouraging male leadership in the prevention of violence against women, children, and violence in general in their community.

The PI Domestic Violence Advisory Group are committed to eliminating domestic, family and lateral violence from the community.

They strongly encourage Palm Island people to stop violence from occurring in the community, and to teach the younger generation that violence in all forms is wrong.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence – seek help, support is available.

There are a number of agencies with trained staff on Palm willing and ready to assist.

The PI Domestic Violence Advisory Group



would like to say a big 'Thank You' to Palm Island Community Company, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Joyce Palmer Health Service, St Michael's School, Bwgcolman Community School, Palm Island Retail Store, Campbell Page, Palm Island Quality Meats, North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service, QLD Health Narrative Therapy Team, SOLAS and Palm Island Police for their generous donations, input and support for the day.

DV Connect Men's Line – 1800 600 636

(9am – Midnight, 7 days)

DV Connect Women's Line – 1800 811 811(24hrs)

Men's Line Australia – 1300 789 978 (24 hrs)

Kids Help Line – 1800 551 800 (24 hrs)

**THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT YOU CAN GIVE
YOUR FAMILY IS PEACE, LOVE & NON-VIOLENCE.**





Pics by Christine Howes

Out & About @ Gordonvale AllBlacks





BCS Award winners



Bwgcorman Community School Stay Strong Award winners for 2015:
 Senior – Kathleen Haines
 Junior Secondary – Shauna Clumpoint
 Primary – Waisie Miller
 Congratulations on receiving BCS's most prestigious award.

All the best to our departing staff Ms Jess & Mick, Ms Barb, Mr Dave & Ms Jill Hughes, Ms Latoya, Ms Julie B, Ms Karen & Mr Patrick O'Shea. Bwgcorman Community School wishes everyone a fantastic and safe Xmas / New Year and we will see everyone again at the start of the 2016 school year.



After their Gold level behaviour trip to town Phyliss & Shaquana wrote:
 "Yesterday all of the Gold Trip people went to Townsville on four planes – three normal size planes and a tiny one.

taxi to Kingpin.

"We went to play laser tag and bowling.

"We also had free time and snacks.

"Then we went to Riverway for swimming and we ate 27 pizzas.

"The best thing was the laser

skirmish and pizzas.

"Next time we should let a student choose a place for all of us to go and have fun like Billabong Sanctuary or Reef HQ.

"We would like to thank the pilots, the bus drivers and our teachers for taking us to such fun places.

"Thanks to West Wing & PICC for their support."



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 1,114
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

STOLEN WAGES HELPLINE: 1800 619 505
(Free if calling from a landline, charges apply
if calling from a mobile) Alternative number:
07 3224 8464 (normal charges apply)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Queensland Government Department
of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Partnerships (DATSIP)
[http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/programs-
initiatives/reparations](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/programs-initiatives/reparations)

and/or

'Support the Stolen Wages Elders of
Queensland' Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/qldstolenwages>

**HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY
LA SHARNTAI PRIOR-GEIA
LOVE BULLOO JOSH & NAN
PAULETTE**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY BABY GIRL
LOVE DADDY XX**

**Happy Birthday Sharntai
Love from your family in Mackay**

**A late birthday shoutout for
LaSharntai Prior-Geia for 24th November from Sondra**



POSITIONS VACANT: Sandy Boyd Aged Care Hostel

MALE PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT

X 2 CASUAL

2 x Male Casual Personal Care Attendants are required to work in the Male (PODS) at the Sandy Boyd Aged Care Hostel.

FEMALE PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT

X 2 CASUAL

2 x Female Casual Personal Care Attendants are required to work in the Female (PODS) at the Sandy Boyd Aged Care Hostel.



We are seeking dynamic person/s with:

- Good literacy & numeracy skills
- Previous experience working in Indigenous Health/Aged Care
- Ability to follow directions from management and senior staff.
- Willing to work shifts, Public Holidays and weekends.
- 20hr per Week minimum.
- Must have a Police Clearance (as set out in the Service Providers Guidelines)

Training to suit this role will be included for the right candidate.

This is a casual position which may become permanent after a probation period of 3 months. Please submit your resume addressed to the CEO at the Council Office with any relevant Certificates and Licences attached.

**For further information please contact Mia on Phone (07) 4770 0271.
Applications close at COB Monday 21st December, 2015**

REGISTERED NURSE/AGED CARE MANAGER

Palm Island, also known as Great Palm Island, or by the Aboriginal name Bwgcolman, is a tropical island with a resident community of about 5,000 people. This remote municipality that has a strong focus on their local community and providing the best community services to their constituents.

Due to an internal restructure the business requires an experienced RN Aged Care Manager to allow them to continue to provide their already high level of service and quality care to their clients.

Working alongside an experienced team you will report to the Director of Community Services and will be responsible for coordinating inpatient care. This will include but not limited to the administration of medication to monitoring and treatment for individual resident needs. Drawing from your extensive Aged Care experience you will be well versed in minor triage, pharmaceutical interactions and be able to provide advice on basic drug administration. You will also be responsible for coordinating all support staff and develop initiatives to help stimulate the clients.

To be successful you will be a Registered/Enrolled Nurse with a number of years experience working in Aged Care. As this is a leadership role it will be highly desirable that you have demonstrated experience leading teams to achieve set targets. You will be focused and driven with excellent time management and communication skills.

**Closing date: 4th January, 2015
For a confidential discussion or for more information,
please contact William Ballam on 07 4771 5100.**

Palm Island Voice

2016 Rates & Dates



Issue No. Deadline / Publication

- 195 Thursday 7 January / 14 January
- 196 Thursday 21 January / 28 January
- 197 Thursday 4 February / 11 February
- 198 Thursday 18 February / 25 February
- 199 Thursday 3 March / 10 March
- 200! Thursday 17 March / 24 March
- 201 Thursday 31 March / 7 April
- 202 Thursday 14 April / 21 April
- 203 Thursday 28 April / 5 May
- 204 Thursday 12 May / 19 May
- 205 Thursday 26 May / 2 June
- 206 Thursday 9 June / 16 June
- 207 Thursday 23 June / 30 June
- 208 Thursday 7 July / 14 July
- 209 Thursday 21 July / 28 July
- 210 Thursday 4 August / 11 August
- 211 Thursday 18 August / 25 August
- 212 Thursday 31 August / 8 September
- 213 Thursday 15 September / 22 September
- 214 Thursday 29 September / 6 October
- 215 Thursday 13 October / 20 October
- 216 Thursday 27 October / 3 November
- 217 Thursday 10 November / 17 November
- 218 Thursday 24 November / 1 December
- 219 Thursday 8 December / 15 December

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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.

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Individuals & Families (hard copy): \$30
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All from now to 30 June 2016

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.

Palm Island Voice is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

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!)



Make Palm count!

"Make Palm Count" is the call from Mayor Alf Lacey for this weekend's State Government election.

"It's very important you make your vote count in the State Election because it brings more to the community...we've got to make sure we are counted," he said.

He said the Council had been lobbying hard for the retail precinct, which was a really important project. "We've placed that as our central push for the Queensland State Election

and we certainly will put both parties on notice not for funding welfare programs for Palm, but funding economic opportunities such as the business retail precinct," he said.

"This project will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Palm to put this vital asset into our community."

"It will mean more jobs for local people and at the same

time will create opportunities for local family businesses to find their way economically on Palm. We need to make our votes count on Saturday, while we may not have the numbers to change the overall count, our polling booth figures will be noted by whoever wins our seat, that's one thing we can definitely count on."

See pages 8 & 9 for candidates' statements re Palm Island.

Inside!

- Nethallers travel to Gold Coast
- Mayor Alf Lacey's take on 2014 and into 2015



Leaders' meeting great success for Palm

Mayors, Councillors and CEOs from 17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities across the state were on Palm last week for the Local Government Association of Queensland's (LGAQ's) Indigenous Leaders' Forum.

A total of 66 delegates attended along with LGAQ President Margaret DeWit, staff and representatives and several others including Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt, Minister for Housing and Public Works, Leanne Enoch, Minister Assisting the Premier

on North Queensland Coralee O'Rourke, Police Commissioner Ian Stewart and their staff. LGAQ President Margaret de Wit said the forum provided an opportunity for elected members from Queensland's 17 Indigenous councils to come together, identify common concerns and prioritise issues and strategies.

The forum agenda included discussion on increased economic participation, employment programs, housing and overcrowding, drug use in communities, and future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Communities.



MORE INSIDE!!!



Welcome to Palm Island's biggest event in 97 years: the 2015 North Queensland Local Government Association's annual conference



Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation shut down

Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation - a community-owned company - is in liquidation after experiencing one break-in after another, the most recent two days after the organisation closed its doors, and too many incidents of vandalism to count.

Acting-Operations Manager, now caretaker Ray Roberts says they have been the stick which has "broken our back" at a cost of more than \$70,000.

"\$70,000 in stock loss at Coolgaree, thousands more at

the airport, post office, fish shop, PCYC, Pub - what is the total for this community?" he said.

"I don't know what my position is now because I've just been asked to stay on as caretaker."

"I don't know what will happen to our services now, someone will probably come in and take them over once they start selling them off."

Continued p 2...



In this Issue...

- Gold Coast Suns AFL players kick for long term goals at schools



New Premier has the Plan in hand



Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey took the opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with new Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk during last month's Community Cabinet meeting in Townsville.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk was handed a copy of the 'Growing Our Economy' document by Cr Lacey. Scores of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were amongst hundreds who attended the meeting. The focus was on Indigenous

issues and during question time NAIDOC person of the year Professor Gracelyn Smallwood asked the Premier to sit down in the near future with all Aboriginal and TSI community leaders in a forum like meeting to discuss concerns. Ms Palaszczuk replied she would ask her Minister for North Queensland to organise such a round table meeting which



Top: Cr Eddie Walsh, Alf Lacey & Frank Conroy with Ms Palaszczuk. Above: the Premier with Eddie Walsh Cr Walsh would be at to discuss the issues. Two of the main issues generally at the community meeting were employment and health. ...MORE PICS NEXT PAGE...

In this Issue...

- Bill Cooburra Memorial Shield
- School News
- Footy, boxing and more...!



The Palm Island Voice is free and online!!! Hard copies of the Voice can be picked up free from Council reception or via subscription (charges apply). You can also access the Voice online - we have a new Facebook Page or you can find us at chowes.com.au Don't forget to support us so we can support you!!!



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



It's not often - and perhaps even not ever - the sounds of classic gypsy and jazz violin and piano are heard across the hills and beaches of Palm Island, but tonight will be different! Australian classical violinist Ian Cooper and pianist Ambre Hammond will be flying in to perform a free concert for Queensland Music Festival's Cooper & Hammond: Classics, Gypsy and Jazz. Cooper and Hammond are two of the finest classical musicians Australia has to offer, and have performed to audiences in their thousands from Sydney, to New York, to London, to Paris. The event is proudly supported by PIASC.



Sharon Finnan Development Cup Netball Carnival



Six teams, several support staff and some hard and fast netball were the highlights of the Sharon Finnan Development Cup Netball Carnival held in Cairns earlier this month.

Six out of six teams placed in the event with the Panthers - Andrew Castor's team - winning the Mixed Division. Runners Up in the U12s was the Cathy Freeman Foundation team. The other three teams came third in their respective divisions - the Palm Island Sapphires in the U16s; the Palm Island Diamonds in the Mixed Division and the Palm Island Pearls in Division 1. More pics inside, full report next issue!!!



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!!!



Palm Island Youth Fest - where to from here?



A survey aimed at examining the social cost of drug, alcohol and volatile substance abuse will be an important follow up from the hugely successful Palm Island Youth Fest last month, Palm Island's Dr Lynore Goia says.

"It will be the next step towards supporting and informing a longer term Palm Island Youth Strategy," she said. James Cook University (JCU), Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service

(TAHS), Ferdys Haven and Community Action-Mentoring Services Network (CAMSNS) Palm Island are working together on the project. "Murri youth are coming to the attention of governments and non-government services in

unacceptably high numbers," Dr Goia said. "We know that families are carrying the burden of disruptive behaviour of some youth and young adults on Palm Island." Continued next page...

Barracudettes headed for Mackay

A PALM Island Barracudettes team is expected to compete at a big ladies only carnival in Mackay early next year.

The QRL sanctioned event will be held at the Mackay Junior Rugby League grounds on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th March.

It will be open to ladies rugby league teams from throughout Queensland.

One of the carnival organisers Renae Kunst said the aim of the carnival was to boost interest in ladies football.

“We want as many teams from the Torres Strait, Cape York, Bamaga, Hope Vale, Palm Island to compete,” she said.

“The carnival will showcase and rejuvenate women’s rugby league in Queensland.

“It has dropped off in past five or six years.

“We expect up to 20 teams.”



The Barracudettes in Cairns, 2011 (from Palm Island Voice Issue 91 at <http://www.chowes.com.au>)

Ms Kunst said the best Indigenous and non-Indigenous players in the State would be there.

“It is open to everyone, they don’t have to be a rep

player, and already we have nine teams nominated,” Renae said.

Some Palm Island players will line up for sides from Townsville and Cairns.

A great year of boxing draws to close Dennis says

Palm Island PCYC Boxing Club will not be competing in any more local tournaments in 2015 after a hugely successful year, veteran trainer Ray Dennis says.

“Three of our boxers won Queensland State Titles,” he said.

“Leelan Sibley won a Golden Gloves gold medal and was judged the best junior boxer there.

“He also won the State Titles and is unbeaten in five bouts.

“Darryl Richardson also won the State Title by knockout

defeating an opponent who had earlier beaten him in Townsville “And Joseph Nallajar won the Queensland junior title so I am hopeful the trio can make it to the Australian Titles.”

Mr Dennis said Joseph had just turned 17 and will now have to fight opponents up to 19.

“It will be a big effort by

him,” he said.

Kathleen Haines has also done a great job against much heavier opponents.

“Natalie David has been unable to get matches and also won the State Title by walkover,” Mr Dennis said.

“Brayden Nallajar is training very well and has won his last two bouts.”

Cost of travel behind push for new carnival

...From page 16

It cost around \$30,000 for airfares, nomination fees, accommodation and other expenses to be part of the Brisbane event for each of the Torres Strait sides.

Costs for an opposition carnival in Cairns would be far less for roughly the same prize money as the Murri Knockout, depending on the number of nominated teams.

The 2015 Murri Knockout was by far the biggest such event in Queensland.

A total of 28 sides were in the Deadly Choices Open men's section, 10 in the AEC women's division and 17 in the UQ and Queensland Government under 15 grade.

The Cairns carnival could attract up to 50 teams and a Barracudas side with the cream of local footballers would be a great chance of success.

To be known as the 2016

NQ Cup, the dates being put forward are from September 30 to October 2 in 2016.

A committee will be set up by the QRL Northern Division with representatives from all Indigenous rugby league carnivals and its members will seek input from their communities about 2016 events including such a Super carnival.

That was one of the decisions made at a meeting in Cairns on December 9 at which officials from many of the 2015 North Queensland Allblacks carnivals attended.

One of those was Eddie Prior, who has Palm island and Yarrabah family connections.

It is understood Palm Island is looking at hosting an Allblacks carnival next year and that the Palm Island Community Rugby League will be invited to have a delegate on the committee.

Northern Division QRL Division Manager Scott Nosworthy

said there were some great outcomes at the meeting.

"It went very well with great representation and some clear outcomes," he said.

"We are going to set up a strategic committee involving all carnival organisers and a few independents to look at getting some clear direction going forward that involves community consultation."

He said they were still waiting on some advice from the QRL re the Murri Carnival before confirming the new carnival.

Cairns based Northern Division Operations Manager Sheron McDougall said the decision to form a committee was well-received.

"The committee will have input into the future direction of ATSIC Carnivals with consultation taking place for a possible North Queensland Murri Carnival," she said.



Detecting cricket is in the air

Palm Island police detective Paul Enders is detecting cricket in the air before heading off to the Goldfield Ashes cricket carnival again next month.

Paul will line up for Wallaby's XI in the Men's B-2 division. "I'm getting sunburnt just thinking about it. I'll probably just go out there for one or two days," he said.

"I'll ask boxing trainer Ray Dennis again if he is interested in coming along. He has said several times that he would like to catch up with an old mate out there."

The famous Ashes are on January 22nd to 24th. Last year 223 teams competed. *Palm Island Voice* will be there!!!

NQ 'super' carnival on the cards

Palm Island's Barracudas are expected to compete in a new 'Super' North Queensland rugby league Allblacks carnival which looks certain to be held in Cairns next year.



From left Alby Anderson (NRL Game Development Officer Cairns), Richard Grogan (Yarrabah), Robbie Moore, Troy Fraser (Sport & Rec), Sean Durant (seated), Terry Abendego, Rod McCrae, Scott Nosworthy, Steve Harris (Southern Suburbs RL), Jason Joinbee (Gordonvale All Blacks), Farran Willett, Eddie Prior, Sam Bann, Gillian Bann, Lucrecia Willett, Fiona Prior, Leigh Anderson (Nth Division Chairman), Sha-Lane Gibson (Cairns District Womens RL), Nigel Tillet (Nth Division)

The carnival would be in direct opposition to the QAIHC Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri Carnival at Redcliffe, which is Queensland's biggest such event.

No Palm Island sides and only a handful of players took part at the most recent Murri Knockout held at Redcliffe, near Brisbane, in October.

Prohibitive costs of travelling was one of the main reasons put forward for having a northern carnival.

(Continued on page 15...)

Vigoro champ stars again

PALM Island Community Company Program Support Worker Kamara Thompson starred at the annual representative NQ Cup vigoro carnival matches between Townsville and Cairns earlier this month.

Kamara was a prime mover in Townsville winning the A Grade division, snaring 19 wickets and the overall bowling aggregate.



"Out of the 11 girls who were playing in the team, there were only three non-indigenous ladies," Kamara said.

"Most of us are all both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island descent or both.

"Overall we won 15 points to nil against Cairns. Townsville got Cairns all out in the second game for only three runs."

Individual awards – Tenille Humphreys from Townsville scooped the batting awards taking out the aggregate (82), average (41) and highest score (49no).

Kamara Thompson took most wickets with 19, Krichelle Ross won the bowling



average (1.86) and also the most run outs off bowler (9).

Fielders Catches went to Tenille Humphreys (3), wicketkeepers dismissals was shared by Kalen Santo of Cairns and Townsville's Karley Dempsey.