

Palm Island Voice

Issue 214
Thursday 6 October 2016

FREE

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



Palm to field 5 teams in Townsville Allblacks

PALM Island sides will play a major role at the Bindal Sharks Allblacks rugby league carnival to be held at the Townsville Sports Reserve this weekend.

Cr Roy Prior, who holds QRL coaching certificates, said the Bwngcolman Warriors were entering the under-16 division.

In the senior men's division the Barracudas will be amongst 16 teams including three others from Palm Island.

"Barracudas will represent the

Palm Island Community," he said.

"Currently there are four other teams coming out of Palm with Ajas' Boys, Fantome Island Hunters and our rugby league president Algon Walsh's side Northern United."

Cr Prior said the Barracudas

may not be as strong as last year due to the amount of teams.

"But we will be competitive come the carnival," he said.

A large number of Palm Islanders will turn out at the 30th Bindal carnival to support their teams. ...Continued p 2...



Several Palm Islanders, including Mayor Alf Lacey (pictured below with Torres Strait Shire Cr Vanda Malone) and Cr Deniece Geia, attended the Winds of Zanadth Cultural Festival on Thursday Island last month... Full story & more pics in our next Issue!



Pics above & below thanks to Rosalie Jensen (Torres Strait Events)

Palm to field 3 teams in Townsville Allblacks



Above: At the 2015 Bindal presentation was TAIHS CEO Donald Whaleboat, Cr Roy Prior, Jenny Pryor and referee Dean Saunders; Right: Ben Barba, who lined up for the Cronulla Sharks in the NRL grand final against Melbourne Storm in a game against Ajas' Boys from Palm at a previous Bindal carnival.



...From p 1...

Many will stay with family in Townsville.

Many Townsville residents with Palm connections will also be there amongst the large crowds.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey has been invited to participate in the carnival opening ceremony.

Last year Coastal Balas, which included NRL stars Kierran Moseley and Nene Macdonald, won the final over the Northern Dolphins.

Macdonald was a standout for the Titans in season 2016 as they made the top eight and he has been signed by the St George Dragons.

Barracudas took out the plate section having last won the senior men's division back in 2012 when the carnival was held at Brothers League Club grounds.

Organiser Jenny Pryor has earned the title of 'The Iron Lady' of north Queensland Allblacks carnivals during her three decades of organising North Queensland's biggest Allblacks carnival.

Her first carnival was in 1987 at the Townsville Showgrounds

and the 30th will be held at the local Sports Reserve in October.

During those three decades Jenny has seen many Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal footballers develop into NRL stars including Ben Barba, Chris Sandow and Robert Lui.



Butler Bay Sunrise

Pic by Ashley Lenoy



Walkabout offers ADF experience & opportunity

EXPERIENCING life in the Australian Army has become part of training for the Walkabout under 15 rugby league team.

Three players with Palm Island family connections competed in their division at the Arthur Beetsen Foundation Murri Knockout carnival in Redcliffe, just north of Brisbane, last month.

They were Tareā Parter, Trakimum Prior-Barry and Sesonī Koroi and coach Chris Congoo (*pictured above*).

The Townsville team stayed at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane where players participated in an activity called ‘Exercise Walkabout’ supported by Army and 7CCSB in Brisbane, as well as DFR Townsville and Brisbane.

Australian Army’s Cultural Advisor for the Regional Indigenous Liaison Office (RILO), Lee Smallwood, travelled to Redcliffe with the team.

Army’s support for the Townsville Walkabout team was intended to emphasise to young Indigenous men the many career opportunities within the Australian Defence Forces as well as the importance of a healthy lifestyle, education and positive life choices.

“The RILO NQ, and RILO

SEQId are working together to develop a Community Engagement program to reflect back to the Army Indigenous Strategy to encourage more Indigenous men and women to consider the ADF as a preferred employer through sport,” Ms Smallwood said.

Youths who stayed on base included Zawai Murray, Tyreece Pott, Ricky Wardle, Trakimum Prior-Barry, Ben Anau, Pemulwuy Yanner, Tareā Parter, Kim Vaughan, Rayshan Mills-Prior, Malcolm Kaitap, Tyreece Whyte, Liam Hall, Tan Roberts, Logan Bone, Coby McClelland, Jiro Whyte, Lleyton Anderson, Bailey Saltner, Zion Osae, Mark Gardiner, Nathaniel Geia, Wilfred Tapau, Abai Chatfield, Sesonī Koroi, Tyrone SIRRIS, Officials: Chris Congoo, Terrence Whyte, Ricky Phinasea, Godro Koroi, Lee Smallwood.

The side won the under 15 division in 2015 and finished fourth of 15 teams this year.

Team coach Chris Congoo also represents the Salvation Army on the Management Committee.

“This is only one instance which shows that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community are engaged by government and non government organisations at a grass roots level, and can speak into youth issues that impact on their young people, there can be a shift in the way programs are designed, delivered and their effectiveness,” he said.

Mr Congoo said the Defence Force provided the players with an opportunity to be exposed to life in the ADF and see the host of employment options available.

The Salvation Army invited players back after the carnival to participate in a leadership and resilience program which focused on identity, health and wellbeing, education and employment, and healthy relationships.

He said the Murri Knockout required players to undergo health checks and they must have good school attendance to qualify for selection.

There was also the opportunity to be selected in a Queensland side to tour New Zealand.



Champion trainer breaks all the records

VETERAN Palm Island boxing trainer Ray Dennis hasn't been enjoying the best of health recently but will still be taking boxers to a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament at Magnetic Island later this month.

Mr Dennis is aged 79 and arrived on Palm Island in 1999.

Since then he has trained 42 Australian Title winners, 62 State Title gold medalists and 92 Golden Gloves tournament victors.

"I remember about three months after I arrived here and took 11 boxers to Proserpine and 10 of them won," he said.

He has a proud history with Indigenous boxers since he started training at the Townsville Fitness Centre in 1967.

"At that time we were boxing under the North Queensland Boxing Association which was part of the Australian Boxing

Association," he said.

Mr Dennis said he trained 15 Queensland champions at that time including Palm Islander Doug Sam who went on to represent Australia and win a world boxing championship.

"Doug later fought for a world professional title in Korea," Mr Dennis said.

Alf Clay was another of the Dennis trained boxers who was rated the best junior in Queensland after defeating Norm Stevens who later represented Australia.

Another champion boxer trained by Mr Dennis was Neil Pattel who went on to win the Australian Welterweight

and Middleweight professional titles.

Junior Thompson was another good Aboriginal boxer trained by Dennis who went on to become an Australian professional champion.

"Josh Geia won a State Title and the late Esrom Geia was in my opinion the best of them all winning three State titles," he said.

"I thought he could have gone on to win a world professional title."

Dennis said that Stanton Friday was another quality boxer who won a State Title under his training.

"Colin Scott trained with me





for Palm Island Boxers over decades

from when he was aged just nine and he won 21 of 23 bouts and later went on to play rugby league with the Broncos, State of Origin and one Test for Australia,” Dennis said.

Versatile Carl Wyles was another good boxer who was trained by Dennis, who has fond memories of his ability.

“Carly played basketball, rugby league and Australian Rules for Indigenous club Garbutt Magpies and he was fast and good,” Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said a very talented boxer, Brian Magill, came from Sydney and never lost a bout whilst training with him.

“At the Commonwealth Games trials held in Maryborough for Queensland Magill easily beat the

Australian champion but I was refused permission to travel with him for the final selection trials in Tasmania,” he said.

Another Dennis trained boxer, Terry Tears, turned professional and had lots of bouts on the television program, ‘Ringside’.

“1969 was the first time the Queensland Association State Titles were held outside Brisbane, when Townsville hosted them,” he said.

“Our junior boxers in those days could only fight for State Titles, there were no National Titles.

“I have seen many great boxers here but some had sadly gone astray because of drugs and drink,” he said.



However Mr Dennis said that for every one young boxer who didn’t go onto achieve their full potential, he could easily find others.

Mr Dennis will celebrate his 80th birthday on March 30 next year.





Good medicine for local economy

The Townsville Hospital and Health Service (HHS) has ended 2015-2016 treating more patients in communities across North Queensland than ever before.

Townsville Hospital and Health Board Chair Tony Mooney said he was very proud of the work done across the region by more than 5,000 full-time staff treating hundreds of thousands of patients in hospitals, community health services and clinics from

Cardwell to Home Hill and west to Richmond.

During the 2015-2016 financial year, the Townsville HHS performed 8,292 elective surgical operations, admitted more than 75,000 people to hospitals and delivered 2,750 babies.

“In addition to delivering high-quality and compassionate care, the health service is also the region’s largest civilian employer,” Mr Mooney said.

“We employ one in 50 North Queenslanders and our wages bill alone contributes more than \$50 million a month into the local economy.”

Mr Mooney said the health service had

adopted a prudent approach to financial management.

“The budget finished with a modest surplus of \$1.5 million,” he said.

“In 2016-2017 we have approved an \$868 million balanced operating budget.

“Additionally, \$78.7 million has been earmarked in the budget for infrastructure, equipment and maintenance projects.

“These projects will improve the care we provide to the community and boost the local economy during these tough economic times.

“A key priority is to improve the children’s ward at The Townsville Hospital. The Queensland Government has come on board with \$6.6 million in funding to redevelop and expand the ward into a state-of-the-art paediatric facility. This commitment will make a big difference to the care that we can provide to sick kids.”

Mr Mooney said the health service was also on track to offer more than 369,000 outpatient appointments in the coming year.

“Cutting waiting times for specialist outpatient appointments is a major focus for the 2016-2017 financial year,” he said.

“In addition to delivering high standards of care, the health service and board are looking forward to building stronger ties with our communities to develop and deliver excellent public health care.”

\$78.7 million infrastructure, equipment and maintenance projects in 2016-2017 including:

\$12.5 million

clinical equipment across our facilities

\$6.4 million

infrastructure improvements at rural facilities

\$6.6 million

redevelopment and expansion of The Townsville Hospital children’s ward

300

additional staff car parks and

50

additional public car parks next to The Townsville Hospital Cancer Centre in addition to the existing 1982 staff car parks and 646 public car parks

\$16.5 million

new community health centre on Palm Island

\$12.1 million

22-bed planned procedure unit at The Townsville Hospital

\$1.57 million

Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at The Townsville Hospital

\$500 thousand

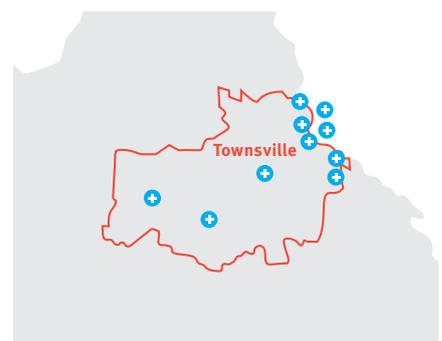
upgrade of residential accommodation at the Townsville Community Care Acquired Brain Injury Unit

\$2.25 million

expansion of medical imaging department at The Townsville Hospital

Where the money goes

In 2015-2016, the Townsville HHS revenue of \$864.4 million was spent as shown below. This included a modest surplus of \$1.5 million.



Our 2015–2016 achievements



At 30 June 2016, **no patient was waiting longer than the clinically recommended time** for all three elective surgery categories



At 30 June 2016, the Townsville HHS maintained its **zero long-wait status** for general dental treatment



The **\$13.5 million refurbishment** of the Alec Illin Secure Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit at The Townsville Hospital was completed



The Townsville HHS's cochlear implant service marked its first anniversary with **15 children and adults** fitted with life – changing cochlear devices



The renal unit at the Joyce Palmer Health Service on Palm Island was refurbished and an **extra dialysis chair** was provided



The Townsville HHS introduced **flexible visiting hours** to improve patient care

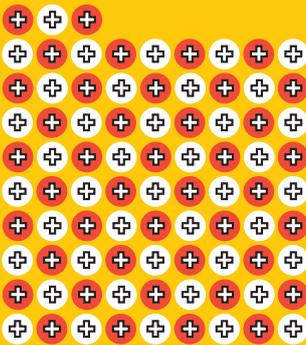


Eventide Residential Aged Care Facility **achieved accreditation** from the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

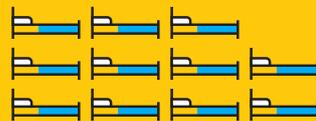


Townsville HHS staff celebrated more than **7,000 years of collective service** at length-of-service events

Joyce Palmer Health Service in 2015–2016



8,436 emergency department visits



11 beds



732 admissions



Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!

The DEADLINE for
the next NEXT
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(213) is

**Thursday 13
September**

FOR PUBLICATION

Thursday 20 October

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list of Rates & Dates for 2016

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questions please
contact Reception
on 4770 1177 or
4770 0200



Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 1,259
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

Make your house a dry place

A 'dry place' is a house where no alcohol is allowed. If you are a tenant, an owner-occupier or a lessee-occupier you can apply to make your house a dry place. All tenants, owner-occupiers or lessee-occupiers of the residence must agree to become a dry place. Dry place declarations are available in all discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as Mossman Gorge and Coen. This includes communities with a zero alcohol carriage limit. If your house is made a 'dry place', anyone who drinks or has alcohol in your house will be breaking the law. They could be fined up to \$2,238. Dry place declarations can be suspended for up to 7 days (e.g. for a wedding) or cancelled.

How to apply

If you want to make your house a dry place you need to fill out a dry place declaration application form and submit it to the Magistrates Court. There are no fees. You just need proof you are a tenant, owner-occupier or lessee-occupier.

Who can help you apply?

The community justice group (CJG) and the local police have application forms and can help with submitting it to the Magistrates Court. The CJG can also help with filling out the form.

The Magistrates Court checks and approves applications.

'Dry place declaration' signs

Once the house is dry place, you must display a sign at each entrance. Signs are available from the local police station. When the signs are up, your house is a dry place and anyone who has alcohol in your house can be fined. This includes homebrew.