



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

Seniors put Sealink under spotlight



During Term 4, Bwgcolman Community School's 11/12 Business Studies class undertook a project which saw them conduct a review of SeaLink Queensland's customer service on its Palm Island route.

They were required to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the company and then provide some suggestions for marketing

that would help build stronger positive customer relationships.

The students did an outstanding job with suggestions such as a 'Frequent Floater Card', suggestions of new ferry times/days and even created customer feedback forms.

SeaLink Queensland were extremely pleased with the outcome of the assessment and Katie Roberts (Operations and Community Events Organiser) met with the students involved to present special gift packs to show their appreciation.

They have also expressed a keen interest in involving students from the school in work experience with the company, which it is hoped will begin next year.

The student's work will be proudly displayed on the Palm Island Ferry Service for the Palm Island Community to see over the coming weeks.

Story & Pic thanks to Lyndal Thompson

Blackhawks hold training camp on Palm



Full story on pages 6 & 7!



Stolen Wages

Reparations Update

Reparations Scheme Applications will close on 16 December 2016, with assessments and payment processing continuing to June 2018.

The Reparations Scheme has made payments to over 3300 claimants across Queensland and continues to work on payments to previously eligible claimants; new claimant application forms and the reassessment of previously ineligible claims.

- Over 135 Palm Island claimants have been paid their reparations payment.
- Over 130 claims received from Palm Island residents are currently being assessed for eligibility and as claims on behalf of deceased family members. The Reparations Unit will be in touch should further information be required in relation to your claim.

More information is available on DATSIP's website at www.qld.gov.au/reparations or by calling the free call number 1800 619 505, which is free from landlines.

Stable on Strand expects big crowds

PALM Island will not have its own Stable on Palm Christmas celebrations event this year, however hundreds of locals will be in attendance at the Townsville event, to be held from 5.30–9.30pm on December 18 to 22.

Gospel singer Pat Morgan will be one of the guest entertainers.

Organiser Richard Hosking said they were expecting plenty of Palm Islanders.

“We get a lot of families from Palm who come over and stay with relatives,” Mr Hosking said.

Stable on the Strand will welcome around 40,000 guests to the event.



Soccer champ to take trip of a lifetime

ABOVE: Khalu Tomachy, a Bwgcolman lad who is the son of Julia Tomachy, is a year 10 student at Ipswich Grammar School and a Cathy Freeman Foundation sponsored high school student. Khalu is representing his school at international soccer tour of England, Spain and Italy. A once in a lifetime opportunity to experience other societies and broadening his education.

***Safe & happy holidays
to all from the
Palm Island Voice!***

*Alf Wilson and Christine Howes would like to thank everyone on Palm Island and beyond who have contributed to this year's Palm Island Voice - your support is everything to us!
Happy Christmas and New Year to all.*

Townsville & district men's group set to make new start



A collective of 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men from the Townsville Region, including Palm Island, met earlier this month to facilitate a process to establish a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men's Group for the region.

The group has been meeting regularly since the start of this year and was attended by Frank Conway and William Blackman, representing the Palm Island Men's Group.

The theme of the workshop was "Still here, still strong and getting stronger", which idealises the role played by Elders, men and youth in a society based on a strong cultural framework.

Mr Conway and Mr Blackman said they heard some positive things.

Morris Cloudy gave an overview of the aims of the group after a welcome to country.

There were three sessions on cultural capability and capacity; networking and partnering to co-ordinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's business; and men's health and wellbeing.

Sam Reuben spoke about men's state of mind, self doubt and the benefits of being positive.

"Everything needs to be based on a positive mind and attitude

is contagious," Mr Reuben said.

Mr Cloudy said the group wanted to address many issues affecting Indigenous men.

"Men need to take control of what is happening about issues," he said.

"The workshop successfully collated a range of views and perspectives against key areas which will now be drafted into a Strategic Business and Operational Plan.

"We will be adopting a framework and will have another meeting early in 2017."

For more information or to get involved with our group please contact Morris Cloudy on 0400 714 590.

St Michael's end of year fun!



CFF STARTING BLOCK LITERACY AWARDS



Kindergarten End of Year Breakup



CFF STARTING BLOCK BEHAVIOUR AWARDS



Christmas Liturgy



Kindergarten End of Year Breakup



2016 St Michael's Primary School Christmas Concert





Everyone enjoyed the various performances and the awards and of course Santa's visit!





ONE of the many highlights of a visit to Palm Island by Townsville-based rugby league team the Blackhawks, was being presented with shirts by Mayor Alf Lacey.

The Queensland Intrust Cup team came to the Island for a three-day training camp, attracting the attention of local players and fans alike.

Saylor Sports Management's David Saylor said local players Isaac Bulsey and Calvin Castors took the opportunity to train with them.

"Coach, Kristian Wolfe, and the Team Manager, Adrian 'Happy' Thomson, were only too happy to let these boys train with team and even provided them with Blackhawks training gear," Mr Saylor said.

"On arrival the team walked to the Council office where they were welcomed by Mayor Alf Lacey who thanked them for travelling to the Island.

"During his welcome Mayor Lacey also called up Isaac and Calvin and introduced them.

"The team then walked to the local school where they were also joined by another local player, Gresham Ross.

"The three locals trained with the Blackhawks for a solid two hours doing skills and conditioning work.

"All three kept up with the intense pace of training and Coach Kristian Wolfe was impressed with their performance."

Most of the Blackhawks players had never been to Palm before and enjoyed the experience.

"We had a great time on Palm and the shirts we

received were great," player Anthony Michell said.

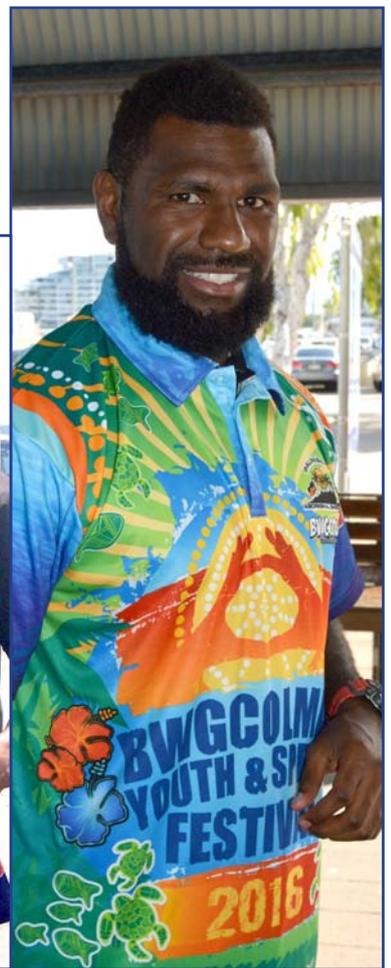
Blackhawks have away games in round one and two and play their first home match against Mackay Cutters at Jack Manski Oval in round three on March 18.

"Palm Island is within the Blackhawks footprint and if the opportunity arises they may take a ISC game to the Island in the future," Mr Saylor said.

Mr Woolf and 'Happy' said they were right behind the idea of the Townsville-based side playing a home game on Palm Island.

Cairns-based Northern Pride have played several home matches at Bamaga on the NPA in recent years with great success.

Blackhawks share training tips with local starters



Pics with thanks to Alf Wilson, Cr Edward Walsh, David Saylor, Cr Deniece Geia, Leah Dabea and Andrea Kyle-Sailor.

See page 12 for more!!!

Plans for a decade of health action falling into place

A wide range of health issues and services have been identified by the Palm Islanders as part of the development of the new Palm Island Health Action Plan, which will be in place for ten years from 2017–2027.

Actions to help people stay healthy, treat people when they are sick and with rehabilitation following illness or injury will be an important part of the plan.

A workshop held at the beginning of this month took more input from community and service providers.

Visitors were welcomed to country by Mr Palm Island on the opening day, with the blessing for the meeting given by Pastor Donovan Cannon.

During the opening proceedings Mayor Alf Lacey shared his vision for health on Palm Island and encouraged community members to take the lead for health and to determine how the new primary health care service will operate.

Lillian Lampton and John "Chico" Charles presented information about the issues raised by the community during consultations over the past six weeks.

A Palm Island health profile showing the changes

in health that had occurred over the past six years was given by Lisa Whop from the Department of Health in Brisbane.

She showed there had been improvements in child and maternal health, access to services and a reduction in hospitalisation for chronic disease.

Dr Raymond Blackman shared information about the stolen generation and explained this was part of the lived experience of most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on Palm Island.

He urged doctors and other clinicians to learn about the history and context of Palm Island so they have a better understanding of the issues their patients are dealing with to improve assessment and diagnosis of health problems.

He also encouraged community members to take more responsibility for their own health and not rely on the health service for their health.

He said leading a healthier

lifestyle e.g. quitting smoking and taking medicines prescribed is what will make the real difference to health of individual and their families.

Liza Tomlinson from the Townsville Hospital and Health service explained about the role of the Joyce Palmer Health service as a small rural hospital and the limitations that have been experienced when trying to increase primary health care services because of the limited space in the facility.

Sandy Gillies from the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Corporation explained how primary health care services are delivered by a community controlled health service delivery model to give people an idea of how primary health care services can be delivered in future.

The information shared by all the speakers was discussed in small groups.

These discussions came up with the key priorities for the



*Health action planning in
December 2016*



next Palm Island Health Action Plan and strategies to address them.

Day 2 started with a dance performance by the primary school children from the Bwngcolman School.

The theme for the day was young people, who are the future of Palm Island.

The dancers were a reminder that the health plan needs to include actions that support those children to lead happy, healthy and productive lives on Palm Island.

Frank Mills (Environmental Health Officer) gave a presentation about the environmental health issues impacting on the community

and some of the solutions to address them.

The two biggest environmental health issues that need to be addressed are smoking and animal management.

Workshop participants then broke into groups to discuss issues under the headings of social determinants of health, environmental and infectious disease health, culture and education and trauma, grief and loss.

Key issues and a range of actions required to create a healthy environment for the future were identified and shared with the group for inclusion in the plan.

The workshop closed on a

positive note with Cr Lacey sharing information about the projects the council was leading and other major developments that will be occurring in Palm Island.

All of these projects will contribute to improved health through better community infrastructure.

For example, a new primary health care centre and business precinct, an upgrade of the sewerage works and a better community environment that families and visitors can enjoy such as the foreshore and town square redevelopment projects.

The Palm Island Health Plan 2017 –2027 will be ready to launch by March next year.

If anyone wants to have input into the plan please contact **Barbara Schmidt** on 0412 039 493 or at schmidt@bigpond.com; or **Jennifer Ketchell** at the **Joyce Palmer health Service** who will pass the information on to **Barbara**.

Submissions can be accepted up until December 24, 2016.

Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!
The DEADLINE for the
FIRST
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(220) FOR 2017 is
**Thursday 19
JANUARY**
FOR PUBLICATION
**Thursday 26
January**

See our Facebook page for a full list of
Rates & Dates for 2016

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.

To book an ad, make a contribution or
inquire about subscriptions please contact
the Editor, Christine Howes, on
0419 656 277 or chowes@westnet.com.au

Christmas Programme at St Anthony's
Catholic Church

Saturday December 24th Christmas Eve

Family Mass - 7.00pm

*All families welcome - children to be part of
the Christmas story.*

Sunday December 25th - 9.00am Mass



**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 1,290
'likes' on
Facebook!!!



Out & About
© Gindaja Allblacks Cairns 2016



Pics by Christine Howes



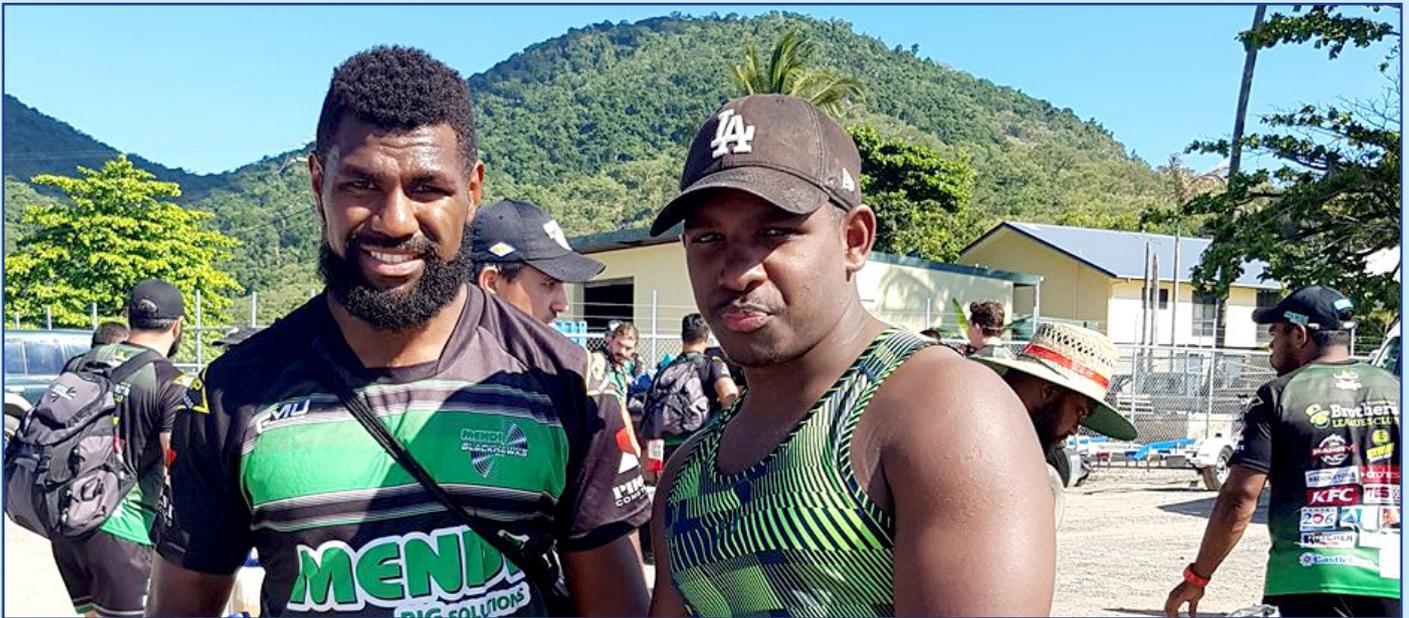
Palm Island Barge Company Xmas Schedule

December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				25	26	27
				28	29	30
				31		
				9.00am Loading Barge running		
January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Barge Runs Townsville Depot Opens				

PALM ISLAND BARGE CO

Our office will be closed as of midday Friday 23rd December and reopen Tuesday 3rd January. Please find our trading calendar to the left.

The staff at Palm Island Barge Company would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and joyous Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



Blackhawks

Pics thanks to Alf Wilson, Cr Edward Walsh, David Saylor, Cr Deniece Geia, Leah Dabea and Andrea Kyle-Sailor.

