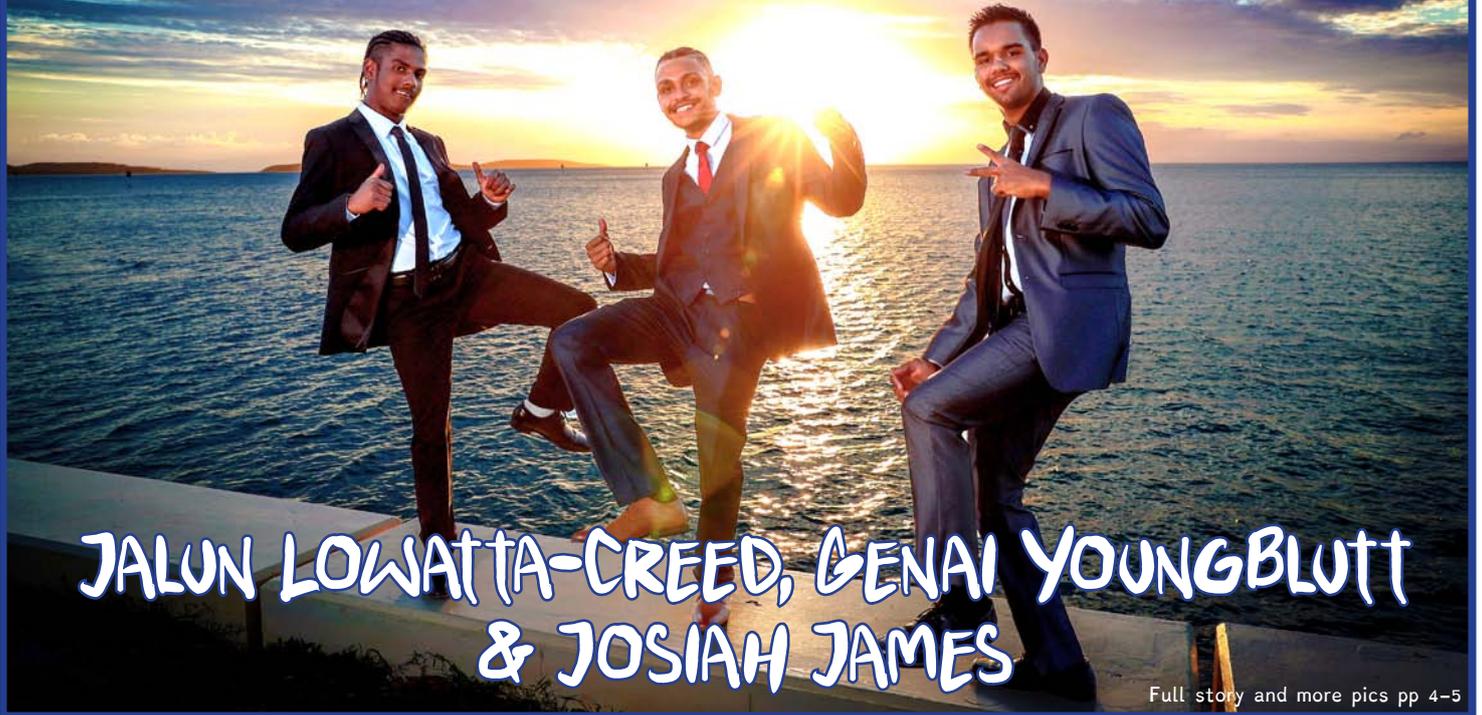




## OUR 2017 GRADUATES - CONGRATULATIONS!!!



JALUN LOWATTA-CREED, GENAI YOUNGBLUTT & JOSIAH JAMES

Full story and more pics pp 4-5

## Palm Island polling booth clear on result

The majority of 436 Palm Island voters who cast formal votes in last Saturday's State Election opted for ALP candidate Scott Stewart in the seat of Townsville.

Mr Stewart, who visited Palm island regularly during his first term, polled 260 votes from locals, or 59.63% of the total. That compares with him achieving 8142 of the formal votes over all polling booths in the Seat, or 33.70% of the 34,926.

At the time of printing the overall result for the Seat was yet to be decided.

LNP candidate Cassie Scott, who visited Palm in the week before the election, polled 73 votes at the Palm Island booth, which was 16.74% of the total.

Greens candidate Rebecca Ryan, also visited the Island on the Thursday before the election and polled 53 votes whilst Lindy Collins got 31 and One Nation

Candidate Alan Evans polled 13.

It was expected preference counting would continue into later in the week (after we go to print) to determine the final outcome.



Candidate Cassie Scott, Federal Senator Nigel Scullion & Councillors

# Local training for Elder carers

Delivering quality care to Palm Island Elders is being supported and enhanced by TAFE North from Cairns through a funded program delivered by their Rural and Remote Project Team.

It will mean 10 students from residential and outreach care will be undertaking training here on the Island.

The course will deliver better outcomes for residents and clients of the Island's elderly care services.

When training is complete the students will achieve a Certificate III in Individual Support, giving them skills and confidence in the important job of maintaining the health and wellbeing of our Elders.

This, in turn, will make a the aged care workforce

sustainable for the future and will give the community satisfaction and confidence knowing that Elders are being cared for by their own community members.

To be successful students are required to undertake thirteen units covering all aspects of care including infection

control, safety, duty of care, personal support, empowerment, dementia care, chronic disease and medication assistance.



# Garbutt celebrates reunion

THE Garbutt Magpies sporting club, of which the late Manny Ross was one of the mainstays, held a reunion at Townsville's Centenary Hotel last weekend.

Many descendants of Manny Ross and the late Anastasia Maria Ross, of Darnley Island descent, were there.

The club was formed in Townsville in the late 1950s and competed until early 1990s.

A special guest at the reunion was Professor Gracelyn Smallwood who, just the night before, had celebrated her 66th birthday.



# Proud history inspires newest batch of paramedic cadets



Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has congratulated 13 new Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Paramedic Program Cadets, three of whom are from Palm Island.

Gerald Wotton, Selina Hughes and Keita Lenoy (*pictured above*) were each presented their First Stripe Epauettes last week after demonstrating competency in their clinical care, skills and knowledge.

William Obah is already qualified and there have been several before them including Gemma Armit and Robert Blackley as well as Patient

Transport Officers Jenni Geia and William Landers.

“I’m an Indigenous Paramedic now,” Selina said.

“I always said to myself as a young teenager, even seeing two of our very own Palm Island Paramedics, Gemma Armit and William Obah, I thought working for QAS was something I would never do, right up until I started working

in health in 2015.

“But look where I am at today, I love this job, and this could be my forever job.

“Those initially fearful thoughts made me who I am today – a proud, strong, black woman who will keep working for my goals.

“I want to say if we can do it, you can do it – anyone can do it!”

A candlelight/prayer vigil and community BBQ was held in the mall area to acknowledge the 13 years which has passed since Mulrunji Doomadgee died on Sunday 19th November.

Organiser Valmae Doomadgee said she was grateful to the community for turning up in support of her and her family.

“I want to thank the Council, Raymond Roberts, Sergeant Dave and his colleagues,” she said.

“Also a very special thank you to Cr Deniece Geia for all the time and patience she has put in to help us organise and remember our brother Cameron Doomadgee RIP, on the 19th November 2017, thirteen years later.

“I would also like to add a very very big thank you to Dr Gracelyn Smallwood for all she’s done for the family and members of the community over these years, endlessly speaking on behalf of us all for justice and our rights.

“With all my love and respect I thank you all.”



# Graduate success cause for community celebrations

Bwgcolman Community School was excited to celebrate the end of Year 12 for three students last week. Josiah James, Jalun Lowatta-Creed and Genai Youngblutt all successfully completed their Queensland Certificates of Education (QCEs) and immediately began full time employment with the Palm Island Council.



The entire school helped to celebrate with two ceremonies – the ‘Clap Out’ and the Graduation Dinner (*above*).

Clap Out was a chance for the students to be congratulated by different members of staff, the council and also the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

The event culminated with all our students lining a pathway to the front school gate, where the young men were clapped, hugged and congratulated as they exited the school for the last time as students.

The Graduation evening was a great chance to celebrate the

student’s success with families.

Family members spoke about memories of the boys when they were younger and gave their sincere congratulation and advice for the future.

The Palm Island Shire Council was represented by Mayor Alf Lacey and Councillors Deniece Geia and Edward Walsh.

They spoke glowingly about the graduates and presented them each with a gift.

The school was proud to say that we have achieved 100% QCE attainment as well as 100% post-secondary outcomes (full time employment).

This is an important achievement as it relates

directly to the school’s ‘Bwgcolman Compact’ which guarantees a post-secondary outcomes for all of our students.

We are looking forward to continuing on with this success next year as we have already secured five students in school-based traineeships through the Palm Island Community Company and Connect ‘N’ Grow as well as another three potentially school-based apprenticeships through the Palm Island Shire Council.

**Lyndal Thompson**  
Acting Head of Secondary  
Bwgcolman Community School



*ABOVE LEFT: The Clap Out for Year 12 graduates Jalun, Genai & Josiah;  
 ABOVE RIGHT: BCS Year 10 and 11 students completed a Certificate II in Community Services and Certificate II in Health Support Services;  
 LEFT: Year 10 Home Economics class;  
 BELOW: BCS 2017 Year 6 graduates*





ABOVE: Junior Footy Presentation Night;  
 RIGHT: Kelvin Castors graduated from St. Teresa's College, Abergowrie;  
 BELOW RIGHT: Shoshanna Daisy graduated from Kirwan High;  
 BOTTOM LEFT: Ivy Rose Lind, Anna Lind, Robert Ryan, who graduated from Columbia Christian College, & Robert Ryan snr;  
 BELOW: Jada Kyle-Sailor and Robert Ryan, both Year 12 Graduates from Columba Catholic College, Charters Towers



# Palm Island Voice

Public &  
Community Notices



*Don't forget!!!*

The **LAST 2017**  
**DEADLINE** for the  
**PALM ISLAND VOICE**  
(242) is

**Thursday**  
**7 December**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday**  
**14 December**

*Check out our  
Facebook page!*

## **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  
[palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au](mailto:palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au)



**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 1,789  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!



## **Pat Morgan @ Stable 2017! Gospel Singer**

Pat Morgan celebrates her Golden Jubilee in 2017, marking the 50th anniversary of her ministry through Gospel Music. Throughout this time Pat has travelled to many nations to share the message of Jesus and acknowledges God's faithfulness to keep her and guide her each step of the way. Pat invites you to celebrate with her at Stable on the Strand this year and through the release of her new album 'Here He Comes'.

**Catch Pat @ Stable on the Strand  
Monday 18, Tuesday 19, Thursday  
21 & Friday 22 December**

# FREE online Tourism and Travel Management Course

Leading tourism practitioners and researchers offer insider perspectives on this dynamic and growing industry.

Developed in partnership with Tourism and Events Queensland.

Particularly designed for students learning about these industries for the first time; professionals working in the tourism (travel, hospitality, events, sport and leisure) industries; and, individuals who have an avid interest in tourism and travel.

This online course is free, for more information see <http://www.edx.org/course/tourism-travel-management-ux-tourismx#>

Founded by Harvard University and MIT in 2012, edX is an online learning destination and Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC) provider, offering high-quality courses from the world's best universities and institutions to learners everywhere.

With more than 90 global partners, we are proud to count the world's leading universities, nonprofits, and institutions as our members.

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As part of the community engagement day we invite you to attend an information session to provide feedback on the proposed master plan for the **Palm Island Jetty Precinct**.

You can drop in at anytime during the information session.

**When:** Monday 11 December 2017  
**Time:** 10.00 am – 12.00 pm  
**Venue:** Mall area, Town Centre

For further details please contact Allison Rossetto **4770 0200**



## PALM ISLAND HEALTH WEEK FOR FELLAS

**FREE health check for 15-30 year old fellas**  
\$30 Store Voucher

**TWO GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON**  
Cowboys Indigenous Jersey plus Cowboys signed football

**WHEN:**  
4th to 8th December  
10am – 6.30pm

**WHERE:** Mobile health van near Campbell Page

## PALM ISLAND MOTEL

Invite your family & friends  
WEEKEND DISCOUNTS  
Standard room \$99/night\*  
Executive room \$122/night\*  
Family rooms available  
\*\$33 for additional adult

**For bookings call 0458 789 566**

## PALM ISLAND HEALTH WEEK FOR FELLAS: 4th to 8th December 2017.

Palm Island fellas aged 15 to 30 are invited to come and get a health check at the mobile clinic which will be located near Campbell Page from the 4th to 8th of December, 10am to 6:30pm daily! There are store vouchers to give away, plus two great prizes to be drawn, including a North Queensland Cowboys 2017 indigenous jersey and a signed Cowboys football!

**We hope to see you there!**

Dear Editor

It was a real pleasure to meet so many wonderful people on a brief visit to Palm Island before last weekend's election.

The beauty of the people and the place itself was overwhelming.

We were treated with a tour of the island by Ryan Pugh, a teacher at Bwngcolman school.

The variety of the landscape is truly beautiful. I'm looking forward to coming back to catch up with new friends and hopefully be introduced to others.

The water was so appealing and the boys and girls were having so much fun diving in off the pier that we had to have a go too.

The whole area is gorgeous and I can't wait to see the improvements after redevelopment of the foreshore.

The heart of my approach to politics is to cultivate relationships in order to bring about positive change and I'm going to continue my efforts to improve our part of the world.

Rebecca Ryan

<http://m.facebook.com/RebeccaRyanTheGreens>



## Out & About...



Have you ever been pushed into buying something you didn't want or need by a dodgy door-to-door trader?

The Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN) held a community information day and free BBQ on Palm earlier this month, inviting the community to come and learn about what we can do to stop unscrupulous door-to-door traders knocking on their door.

The Island will be the fourth Do Not Knock informed community in Queensland, following the program launch in Wujal Wujal in April 2016 and successful expansion to Yarrabah and Hope Vale this year.

On the day consumers on Palm were also encouraged to learn about safe microfinance options available (eg NILS loans) and support was offered to any residents finding themselves in hardship trying to pay back loans or lease agreements.

Rent4Keeps is an example of a company who has been visiting and selling Palm residents products with mark-ups of sometimes three, four or five or more times the actual value of the product.

Example: Westinghouse 180L Upright Freezer

- Rent 4 Keeps – \$19.90 p/w x 36 months = \$3,104.40
- The Good Guys – \$649.00
- Betta Electrical – \$629.00

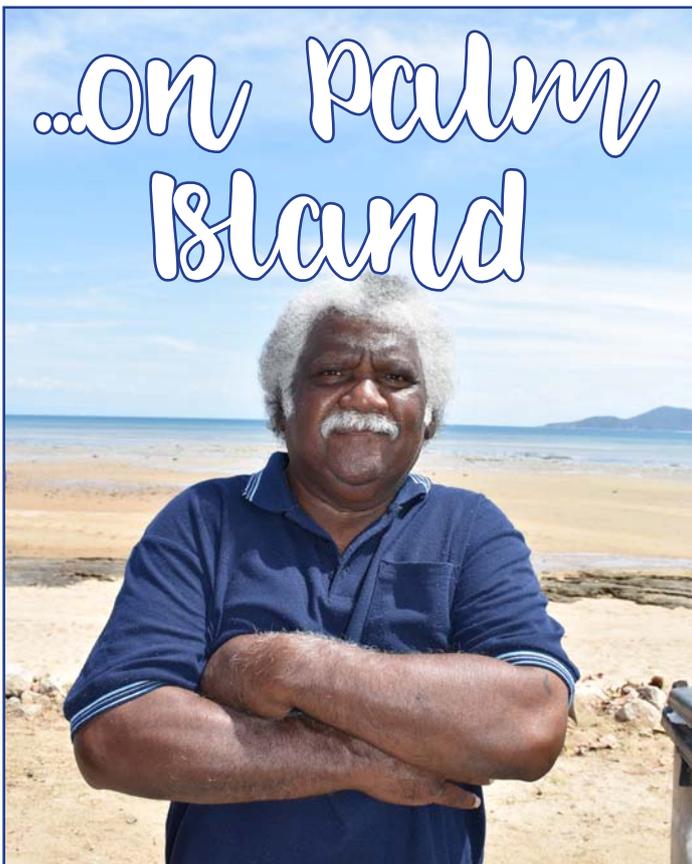


ICAN Board Member, Velma Gara with Palm Island Cr Edward Walsh and Mayor, Alf Lacey at the Do Not Knock Launch on Palm Island.

MEANWHILE ICAN will be re-establishing our office space on Palm (awaiting confirmation of location) to work closely with our consumers to provide free consumer advice and financial counselling services.

This will mainly pick up in the new year with a Financial Counsellor being available every week on Wednesday to help support the local community with any financial issues. We will touch base again once we can confirm exact details, so watch this space!

Conrad Dwyer, Financial Counsellor



# Palm may host 2018 boxing tournament

PALM Island looks set to host a boxing tournament in March next year to coincide with 100 year birthday celebrations.

Trainer Ray Dennis said it would be a great way to recognise the many boxers who have represented the Island.

“Many visiting boxers from the mainland would come over so we are looking forward to it,” Mr Dennis said last weekend.

In previous years the few tournaments held on the island have attracted big locals crowds and boxers from as far away as Rockhampton, Cairns and Mount Isa.

Mr Dennis said there were no more tournaments for local boxers to compete at during 2017.

Next year he is tipping that Sterling Aden will be a star.

“Youngsters Jase Thimble and Brayden Nallajar will be boarding students at Abergowrie College but will still be able to attend tournaments representing Palm,” he said.

*“This is my dreaming and how I see our people moving toward a better future with the help of Campbell Page,” Community Development Program Activity Supervisor Ian Palmer says.*

Ian’s painting “Our Hands” was commissioned to represent Campbell Page’s Acknowledgement of Country for Palm Island.

“At Campbell Page our ambition is to help people find great jobs and a brighter future, by placing our communities at the heart of what we do,” Campbell Page says on their website.

“This means embracing the various communities we work with and our Acknowledgement of Country is a dedication to the traditional Elders of all the lands we work and meet on.

“Our Acknowledgement of Country is also our way of symbolising our respect to our Indigenous team mates, participants and communities.

“We commissioned our very own Ian Palmer, a resident from the Palm Island Community and an Activity Supervisor for our Community Development Programme, to produce the art work representing our acknowledgement.”

Ian produced the painting “Our Hands” with the following inspiring message in mind:

“As the artist of this painting I would like to put my interpretation forward on how Campbell Page is helping our community,” Ian said.

He said the hands represented how Campbell Page was supporting and helping our community to branch out and connect with others, the dots represented our communities and how we are all connected and the background was the night sky.

