



# PALM ISLAND VOICE

Issue 246

Thursday 22 February 2018

\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*



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

## CENTENARY YEAR LAUNCHED WITH A BANG

See inside for more pics!

*Pic thanks to Joyce Palmer Health Service*

# T-shirt giveaway to encourage health in community

The Joyce Palmer Health Service is committed to encouraging improved health in our community, and to that end has launched a new t-shirt at the opening event of the Palm Island Centenary year.

A 'health worker focused model of primary health care' means the t-shirt is available to all community members who complete an holistic health check at the service.

The health check is available to all members of the Palm Island community and is the only way to get one of our shirts, as they will not be offered for sale.

They are offered by appointment only and take approximately an hour, although they may also be completed over two days if required..



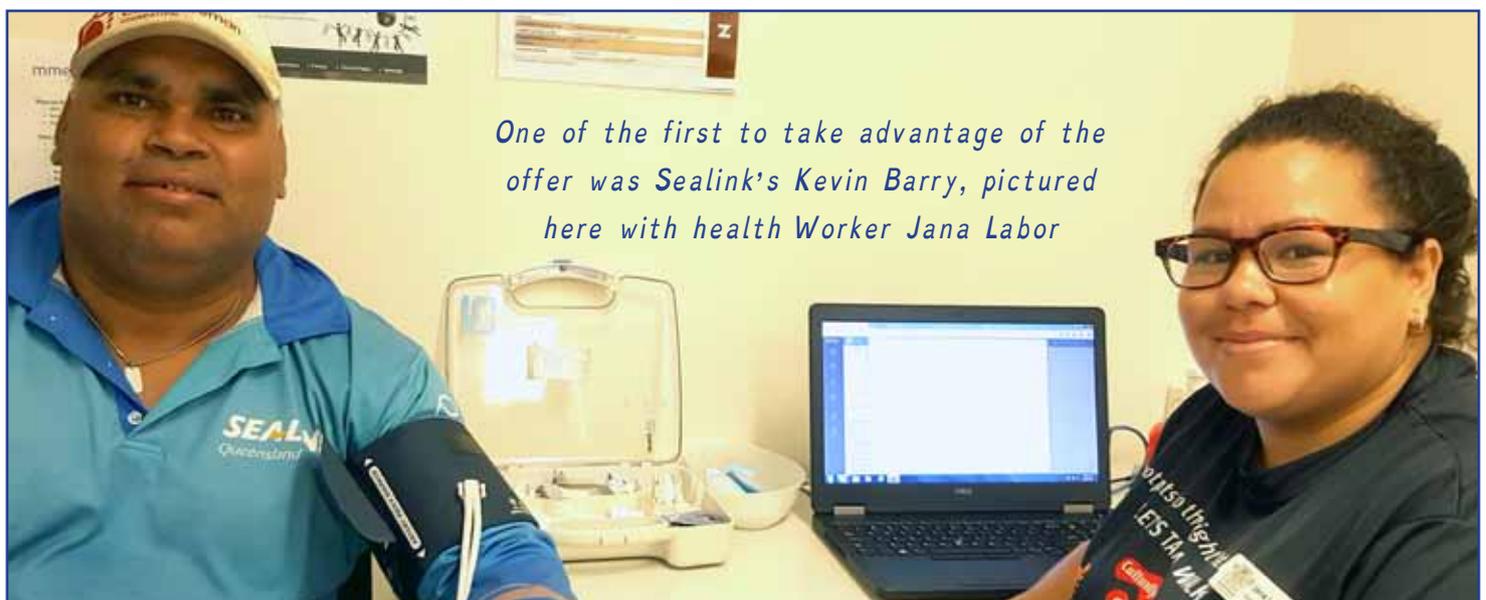
The first part of the health-check is undertaken by our qualified Health Worker team before it is completed by one of our Doctors.

All medical presentations to the hospital in office hours, are asked to present to reception and update their details, they will then be assessed by a friendly member of our team before seeing a

Doctor.

“We are proud of our growing workforce of Health Workers and support their training and development,” a spokesperson for the Joyce Palmer Health Service said.

“We are also proud of the achievements of our team and we are committed to offering more trainee positions to Palm Island residents in the future.”



*One of the first to take advantage of the offer was Sealink's Kevin Barry, pictured here with health Worker Jana Labor*

# Sharing yarns marks 10th anniversary of Apology

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council in conjunction with the Healing Foundation hosted a 'Heal our Past, Build our Future' event on Palm Island last week, to mark the tenth anniversary of the Federal Government's apology to the Stolen Generations.

The idea behind the day of speakers, a silent movie and several sessions of story-telling was to build awareness about the Stolen Generations and the effects of inter-generational trauma.

Students from both Bwngcolman Community School and St Michael's participated in what was an emotional event, led by Mayor Alf Lacey and elder Liz Clay along with other community elders and guests.

*Many thanks to Ms Clay for sharing her photographs.*



Palm Island has officially launched the Centenary Year with a community event held over a whole afternoon of activities and into early evening.

The event brought the whole Palm Island community together.

“It was a great way to bring together the community – everyone had a awesome day celebrating all of the great things about our Island home,” CDP Manager Nathan Vinson said.

Among several stalls on the day was Palm Island Community Development Programme’s Arts and Culture program aimed at highlighting the artistic talents of the participants and supervisors.

In addition whole range of stalls were set up along the newly landscaped foreshore where there was also entertainment for everyone.

“The entertainment was amazing with traditional dancing, plus storytelling and singing to the back drop of digeridoos and clapping sticks,” CDP Activity Manager Peter Sherry said.

“It was a beautiful sunny day with the aqua blue sea, palm trees swaying to a gentle breeze and children out in the shallows enjoying the whole experience,” he said.

To conclude the celebrations, a fireworks display lit the night sky.

The centenary provides an opportunity to reflect on the past 100 years, to celebrate the community’s time now and to invest in a new future for its people.

A number of events will be held throughout 2018 to mark the centenary – to keep up to date with what events are being held please visit the Palm Island Centenary website and don’t forget to read the *Palm Island Voice*!

<https://palmislandcentenary2018.com.au/>

Words thanks to CDP, pics on this page thanks to

Regina James.



# Foreshore works open and our Centenary year is officially launched!





MORE pics in our next issue!

Pic on this page thanks to Grail Films (Michal Beroun)



Queensland Local Government Minister Stirling Hinchliffe was on Palm Island overnight to officially open the Coolgaree Bay Foreshore redevelopment as the community also came together to celebrate the launch of Palm Island's Centenary.



Mr Hinchliffe said the beautification of the foreshore and infrastructure works marked a strong start to 2018 for Palm Island.

"These foreshore and infrastructure works will improve liveability and be a catalyst for economic growth on Palm Island," Mr Hinchliffe said.

"The \$2.6 million redevelopment was estimated by Council to create or support 64 jobs during construction and will drive growth by encouraging tourism.

"The foreshore redevelopment will improve community space, support tourism growth, and create new employment opportunities for locals.

"It's appropriate that this opening also coincides with the launch of Palm Island's Centenary, as one of the themes of the event is to celebrate the future ahead and this project will certainly benefit generations to come."

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart congratulated the Palm Island Shire Council and the local community on the completion of the project, saying it was the perfect way to kick off Centenary Celebrations.

"As Palm Island celebrates its Centenary, locals have an eye on the future and this now looks a whole lot brighter thanks to this landmark redevelopment," Mr Stewart said.

"I want to congratulate Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council on achieving two important milestones and I'll continue to work with the local community to drive further growth and economic development on the island."

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Alf Lacey said the project created jobs for young people during construction and would help to make Palm Island a wonderful place to live as well as to visit.



Palm Island Hospital  
Beach Road  
Palm Island  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Hi Alf,

JPHS staff want to say a big thank you to you and the Council and everyone else involved in an awesome day and fireworks display yesterday. The organisation of it all was superb, the band and food was really good and the fireworks display will be remembered for many years to come.

There was also a great atmosphere of excitement and friendliness. Palm Islanders can hold their heads up high.

Kind regards,  
Margaret Fielding  
Medical Superintendent Palm Island Hospital

"The value of creating jobs through Works for Queensland can't be underestimated and I have seen many of our young people with renewed vigour and confidence after working on the foreshore redevelopment," Mayor Lacey said.

"This is the ideal way to kickstart our Centenary and begin Palm Island's next 100 years."

*Pic thanks to Grail Films*

# Palm Island Voice

Public &  
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!  
The next DEADLINE  
for the  
PALM ISLAND VOICE  
(246) is

**Thursday  
1 March**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday  
8 March**

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If you have any  
questions please  
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## OPPORTUNITY

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is seeking applications from highly-qualified individuals, academics and representatives of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to attend the 38th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC38), to be held in Geneva from 18 June to 6 July 2018.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
Friday 16 March (17:00 AEST)**

<http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/human-rights/Documents/opportunity-to-attend-the-38th-session-of-the-human-rights-council.pdf>



Townsville  
Hospital  
and Health  
Service

## Palm Island Primary Care Centre



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Work has started on the \$16.5 million Palm Island Primary Care Centre. This centre will improve access to general medical services on Palm Island.

Improving non-hospital care on Palm Island is important in improving the health of all Palm Islanders.

Stay tuned to the Palm Island Voice for regular updates and information about the Palm Island Primary Care Centre.

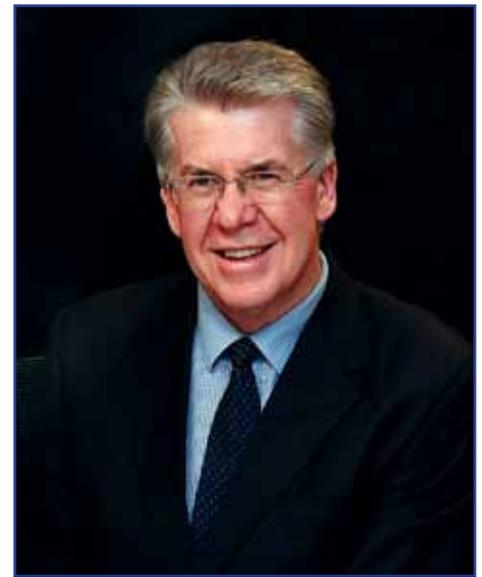


# Building a healthier future

Over the coming months, Palm Islanders will begin to see the new Palm Island Primary Care Centre spring up around them, Townsville Hospital and Health Board chair Tony Mooney (*pictured*) writes...

This major \$16.5 million project, funded by the State Government and the Townsville Health Service and in close partnership with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, will improve primary care services on Palm Island. The centre will become a central place for non-hospital services including dental care and care for mothers, babies and children. Hospital services will continue to

be delivered from Joyce Palmer Health Service. Improving primary care on Palm Island is an important step in improving health care for locals. This is not something we can achieve alone. It is a partnership with the local community and the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. As this project takes shape, I will provide regular updates here in



the *Palm Island Voice*. The Palm Island Primary Care Centre is an important part of how we can improve the health of all residents of Palm Island.

## Out & About: Townsville Survival Day 2018



Left: Coralie Cassady led the walk; Above: Naianga Tamwoy-Mabo; Below (L-R): Event organizer Ros Sailor interviewed by television reporters; Jo Alderman and Camillo Callegari; and, Walter Geia with Araluen Hoolihan and Taylen Hoolihan, aged 5





## High hopes for PI boxing event

FREE admittance for spectators – provided sufficient sponsors are found – at Palm Island’s big boxing tournament in April should prove popular with locals.

The event will coincide with the Island’s 100 year birthday celebrations.

Trainer Ray Dennis said funding and sponsorship should enable organisers to make entry free of charge.

“It is looking that way and we should get a big crowd,” Mr Dennis said.

Sunstate Amateur Boxing League president Scooter Hooper and his boxer son Hayden had visited Palm to discuss the tournament, to be held at the Palm Island PCYC.

Acting PCYC Branch Manager Yvette Starr (pictured above left with Ray Dennis) has been a great help to the club and has taken some pics of a training session for the *Palm Island Voice*.

The past two tournaments on Palm in 2015 and 2012 attracted huge crowds.

Locals will have plenty to cheer for as Mr Dennis reckons there will be 15 bouts and in at least 13 Palm

boxers will enter the ring.

“They are all getting very keen and we expect a lot of boxers from around the State including many from other communities including Cape York and the Torres Strait,” Mr Dennis said.

Mr Dennis hopes to have a Sealink catamaran bring visitors to Palm Island in the morning and return late the same afternoon.

In training have been Patrick Clarke, Darryl Richardson and a host of new youngsters.

Mr Dennis said he hoped some female boxers would also join the club, as has been the case in previous years.

Palm boxers will compete at a tournament held at Townsville’s Centenary Hotel on Saturday 10 March.

The Palm boys will be billeted by Scooter Hooper, who has also provided us with pics, at his suburban home which has an impressive gym and an undercover boxing ring in his back yard.



# Island of Origin in doubt

Palm Island footballers of Torres Strait descent will be disappointed to hear the popular Island of Origin rugby league carnival is in danger to being cancelled in 2018 after organisers of the past three out of five events, Badu Island's Kulpiyam Sports & Youth, said it would not be involved.

Spokesperson Jermaine Reuben said the cost of staging the carnival, a drop in sponsorship, difficulty in attracting teams, and problems with finding a suitable date had been contributing factors.

"If any other organisations are interested in running the carnival we would like to hear from them," Mr Reuben said.

Mr Reuben said he had been hopeful Thursday Island-based KRL would take over running the 2018 carnival.

However an informed source within KRL said while the carnival was almost certain to be cancelled in 2018, it may run again in 2019.



*FLASHBACK to 2011 at Island of Origin in Badu: from the left is Walter Geia, Jason Bulsey, Costa Sam and Vernon Baira*

## Bulsey to play for T'ville Centrals Club

**EVERGREEN** Palm Island rugby league forward Fred Bulsey looks set to sign with Centrals Club in the Townsville and District competition for 2018.

Fred shone for the North Queensland Murri Indigenous side, which lost 32-30 to the Paikea Kiwis Maori team earlier this month.

"I felt really good playing and enjoyed it and I

am going to sign with Centrals," Bulsey said.

Champion back Billo Mosby also will be in Tigers colours.

Team mate Matt Bowen will be coach for the season.

Several Palm footballers said they would line up for Townsville clubs, with some to join University.

**MEANWHILE** Fred Bulsey's son Isaac has tried out for Rockhampton-based Central Queensland Capras, who compete in the Queensland Intrust Super Cup comp, the second tier comp after the blue ribbon NRL.



# Waitangi Day celebratory games draw record crowds

Palm Islander players shone for the North Queensland Murri Men's and Women's teams who played against Kiwi Maori sides coinciding with Waitangi Day celebrations in Townsville earlier this month.



The event featured cultural performances, amusement rides, water slides, face painting and live entertainment before more than 10,000 spectators at the Western Lions Oval.

Hundreds of Palm Islanders were in amongst the biggest crowd at any event in

Townsville that weekend.

Many of them had made a special trip from Palm for the afternoon of sport and recreation whilst others were relatives who live on the mainland.

Fred Bulsey, Clinton Pearson, brothers Gordon and Phillip Daisy and brothers Roy and

Jimmy Baira had great games for the Men's side which lost a cliffhanger 32-30 to Paikea Kiwis Maori.

Phillip and Gordon are the sons of Janelle and Vern Daisy, the North Queensland rugby league legend who was there to watch the game.

Roy and Jimmy are sons of

*Pictured:  
Facing page:  
Matty Bowen  
leading the  
charge. On  
this page:  
Rothana Baira  
and Sonja  
Watson of  
Palm descent  
with their  
sister-in-  
law Cicely  
Baira; Tuliana  
Bukalidi with  
Palm Islanders  
Caleb Geia,  
Arona Miller,  
Gary Pearson  
and Todd  
Pearson;  
Vern Daisy;  
Genami Geia  
jnr, left, with  
Alfred Lacey  
jnr; Darryl  
Pearson; and,  
Frank Baira,  
Charmaine  
Koroi and  
Zara-Lee  
Palmer.*



the late Roy Baira snr from Palm Island.

Their elder sister Rothana Baira captained the NQ Murri ladies side which scored a handsome victory over the Kiwi outfit.

Hopevale's favourite son and former Cowboys champion Matt Bowen was also in the line up

for the Indigenous Murri team.

One of the undoubted highlights of the afternoon was when the Maori men performed the Haka which was countered with a fierce response led by Matt Bowen.

The day was rated a great success.

Sam Reuben, who was an

organizer of the NQ Indigenous teams, said the games were played hard in very hot conditions.

“Daniel Pickering was the best player but a special mention must go to Matty Bowen and Jim Baira – old heads did some damage on the right edge,” Mr Reuben said.

# Blackhawks hope to visit next week

Blackhawks Football Manager Adrian 'Happy' Thomson has confirmed representatives of the powerful Queensland Intrust Super Cup Club will visit Palm Island at the end of this month (27 February).

"We are intending to visit Palm again with our two main Coaches and a player or two," Mr Thomson said. "We are looking at coming over for the day and assisting the NRL Development guys with school visits.

"We would then work with the kids from the teams that are in the Townsville & District Junior Rugby League after school competition, and also have a coaches update

for all coaches in the late afternoon/evening.

"The group will travel back on Wednesday morning.

"As competitions are quickly

approaching we intend to come over next Tuesday."

Blackhawks are awaiting confirmation on their program to confirm everything.



*These spectacular storm pics were taken from the new Palm Island foreshore, with thanks to Cr Roy Prior – well captured and what a show!!! Thanks for sharing Roy!*

