

Elders launch 'Past' event with a flourish



SEE MORE ON PAGES 4-5

Winter school offers insight

An insight into life at university is on offer for Grade 10, 11 and 12 students thanks to a new program developed by James Cook University Professor Martin Nakata, who was the first Torres Strait Islander in Australia to achieve his PhD.

The JCU Winter School for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students participants will attend a camp at Townsville's James Cook University in July this year.

JCU Indigenous Education and Research Centre Student Recruitment and Marketing Advisor Simone Markham said the program could host up to 100 students.

Applications can be downloaded from www.jcu.edu.au/events or email the Indigenous Education and Research Centre at ierc@jcu.edu.au or phone 4781 4676 for more information.

"We are hoping to make this an annual event," she said.

"It's an opportunity for Indigenous students to experience university life, build capacity for tertiary study and ultimately increase the retention of Indigenous students at university.

"The interactive program will provide opportunities to meet university staff and students,

as well as form bonds with other Indigenous students in the program.

"So when they come to JCU they are already familiar with their surroundings and probably already have met their lecturers and other students."

She said students can apply directly to the Indigenous Education and Research Centre if they are keen to participate.

Footy opportunities look promising

With the two biggest North Queensland footy carnivals – the Bindal Sharks and the Zenadth Kes Allblacks – scheduled for different weekends this year, it is expected many Palm Island footballers will take the chance to line up for both.

In recent years these prestigious carnivals had clashed dates, usually in early October.

This year, however, the QRL Northern Division has programmed the Bindal carnival for the Townsville Sports Reserve from October 5 to 7, whilst the popular Zenadth Kes will be held at TI's Ken Brown Memorial Oval between October 12 and 14.

Now with separate dates, it can only benefit both carnivals. Teams wanting to nominate

must do so swiftly after Bindal carnival organiser Jenny Pryor told the Palm Island Voice positions were filling fast.

"This year we have Open Men; Open Women; U12s and U15s," she said.

"At present we have filled our numbers in the open women, U12s and U15s, with only six spaces to be confirmed

in the Open Men," Mrs Pryor said.

The other big Torres Strait carnival, the Island of Origin will be held on Badu Island from July 27 to 29.



Past event – Becoming Bwngcolman – draws strong emotional response from community

Emotions ran high as Palm Island's first major Centenary event to commemorate the Past – named 'Becoming Bwngcolman' – got underway earlier this month.

Bad weather, including rough seas, windy conditions and rain, did not dampen the determination or spirits of the hundreds of Palm Islanders who packed into the PCYC Hall to participate in the commemoration.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said there was a mixed bag of emotions amongst residents, from the Elders who

remembered and experienced the Island's dark history, through to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, who represent the next two events on the Centenary calendar – Present and Future.

"This event gave our older people an opportunity to tell their stories and memories and it was so important for the

younger ones," Cr Lacey said.

"There was a lot of sadness as they yarned about the past and explored what ended up being a very popular photo exhibition."

He said famous entertainer and MC Maggie Walsh, a Palm Islander herself, also proved very popular.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...

Hard work pays off for hard-working pair

Two of nine graduates from last year's Certificate III in Rural Operations have been locally employed by Hutchinson Builders, Campbell Page is happy to report.

Thomas Martin and Clarence Friday have both lived on Palm Island for the majority of their lives.

And they have both been a part of several of the Palm Island Community Development Programme activities over the past year or two.

Both have partners and ten children between them (five each!), so when they were offered the opportunity to up-skill and gain their Certificates last year, they were keen to be involved in the hope of giving themselves and their families a boost.

"Because they were so keen to get their formal qualification, no one was surprised they were offered the jobs with Hutchinson Builders," Palm Island Community Development



Programme Manager Nathan Vinson said.

He said Hutchinson Builders were contracted to build and develop the new Health Precinct on Palm Island which meant both men could work and live locally while providing for their families.

"We couldn't be prouder of Thomas and Clarence!" Mr Vinson said.

"Their hard work and determination is proving to be the key to their success."

Over three days the community took the opportunity to reflect on stories of endurance and resilience from the many thousands of Bwngcolman people who have lived and died on Palm Island, and whose ancestors were deported from all over Queensland after it became a penal settlement more than 100 years ago.

The dates chosen for this 'past' event coincided with a cyclone that hit the Hull River Aboriginal Settlement (10 March, 1918) triggering the first forced placement of people on Great Palm Island.

The significance of the date was not lost on Wet Tropics Management Authority Chair Leslie Shirreffs who spoke to an audience of more than 300 people at the Cassowary Awards, held in Cairns 100-years later to the day.

“Ladies and gentlemen, before we commence tonight’s ceremony, I would like to draw your attention to a very important anniversary in the Wet Tropics’ history,” she said.

“Tonight marks the 100th anniversary of a severe, a brutal tropical cyclone at the Hull River Aboriginal Settlement, which claimed some 200 lives.

“This event is a particularly moving one in the history of Traditional Owner groups across the Wet Tropics, whose people had been forcibly relocated to the settlement and then, as a consequence of the cyclone, relocated on to Palm Island.

“The Wet Tropics Management Authority, and the Board, would like to pay our respects on this anniversary, and acknowledge the significance of this historical event, an impact of which continues to be felt up to today.”





Pics on these pages thanks to Rachael Floyd-Jones. See more on the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Facebook page.



MEANWHILE on Palm Island, the Centenary year's Present theme will be celebrated and explored with a three-day, two-night festival, the highlight of which will be a major didgeridoo and dance event, from Friday 20 April to Sunday 22 April.

There will be story telling, yarning, arts and culture workshops, comedy acts, markets, traditional food and children's rides.

Future's theme will then be held from June 8 to 10 and will include a sustainability forum, career's expo, sports carnival (Rugby League, netball, boxing), and a well-being 'tweetathon'. A Bwgolman Time Capsule will be buried containing contemporary items to be opened in 50 years.

Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



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

**Thursday
29 March**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday
5 April**

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



**PALM ISLAND
CENTENARY 2018**
SHARE OUR JOURNEY

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE DEADLY DIDGE n DANCE FESTIVAL

20 – 22 April 2018

As part of the Palm Island 2018 Centenary, the Palm Island community, in collaboration with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, is hosting a 3-day, 2 night Didge n Dance Festival on the 20-22 April to acknowledge "the present" period of the history of Palm Island. This event will be open for ticketed visitors.

To ensure a truly deadly event, we are seeking applications from interested persons who are willing to share, contribute and be involved with the success of your community commemoration, some roles are paid and some are volunteer.

We would love your help...

Go to <https://palmislandcentenary2018.com.au> or drop into Council reception, for all the details, available positions and application forms. Alternatively, you can contact Tony Reynolds, Event Coordinator E: tonyreynoldsevents@gmail.com or P: 0419 508 483.



**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 2,170
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

Tournament draws interest from wide field

Palm Island's big tournament, to be held on Saturday 7 April, is expected to have a card of between 12 and 15 bouts.

It is hoped to have Palm Island boxers will feature in each bout against opponents from clubs including Townsville, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Mareeba, Cairns, Mackay, Babinda and Yungaburra.

Organisers are hopeful that boxers from the TI' Zenadth Kes Club and from Napranum, Weipa, Cooktown and Wujal Wujal may also participate.

Free admittance for spectators will be popular at the tournament which coincides with the island's ongoing 100 year birthday celebrations.

Sunstate Amateur Boxing League president Scooter Hooper will also be there with boxers from Townsville's Art of Strength Club.

"We're chasing an opponent for Patrick Clarke for the main event," he said.



Brothers Peter and Thomas Warria who look set to fight at the Palm tournament on April 7

"The main Junior fight will be Raymond Haines jnr against NSW seasoned fighter Ty Payne and we are hoping to match a few more from NSW against local fighters from Palm Island or Townsville."

Palm Island's previous tournaments, in 2015 and 2012 respectively, attracted huge crowds.

Organisers hope a Sealink catamaran will bring visitors over in the morning for a return late on the same afternoon.

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

Perpetual recognition for the best of the best

Former world-ranked boxer Doug Sam and respected trainer Ray Dennis will have a perpetual shield named in their honour at Golden Gloves Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament in August this year.

The Doug Sam/Uncle Ray Dennis trophy will be presented to most promising fighter at the prestigious event, to be held in the Burdekin region.

It is expected several Palm Island boxers will compete for the honour of being the first recipient.

The biggest fight of his wonderful professional career was in 1987 when he fought for the IBF World super middleweight title against South Korean Park Chong-pal.

His final bout was in 2000 against New Zealander Ken Suavine, where he won his last belt for the Queensland State cruiser weight title.

Doug fought in the middleweight, super

middleweight, light heavyweight, cruiser weight and heavyweight divisions during a professional career which included 31 bouts for 24 wins with seven by knockout.

His career spanned from 1982 – 1989, 1992 and 2000.

He also had a distinguished amateur career before turning pro.

Former Australian professional boxing champion in the welterweight and super middle weight divisions Neil Pattel, 60, and trainer Ray Dennis both rated Doug Sam as amongst the best boxers they had seen.

“Doug came along a bit after me but I sparred him and he was classy,” Mr Pattel said.

He said other boxers he and Mr Dennis also rated highly included the late Esrom Geia, whom Mr Dennis trained as a 12-year-old.

“He was amongst the very best amateur boxers I trained and there have been many,” Mr Dennis said.

Mr Pattel echoed that



opinion: “He was without a doubt the best amateur I ever seen but I never fought him as he was heavier than me, Esrom never received the accolades he so rightly deserved.”

“I thought he could have gone on to win a world professional title,” Mr Dennis said.

The much-respected Mr Dennis turns 81 on Good Friday – 30 March.

He was recently inducted into the Queensland Boxing Hall of Fame for his services and commitment to Palm boxing.

