

Budget wins for kids on Palm

This year's State Budget includes a \$2.5 million allocation for a splash park on Palm Island in response to ongoing conversations with parents and others, including government, about the need for new and fun recreational activities for the kids in the community.

The announcement follows earlier allocations for new playground equipment about to be installed at Sapper Park and Butler Bay along with exercise equipment along the foreshore footpath, two new half-court basketball courts in residential areas and two new competition standard netball courts with change rooms, which will be

built at the sports reserve.

“Council has been listening closely to the kids and the community on how to make positive changes and give something to these kids to keep them active” Mayor Alf Lacey said.

“Finding funding to put in place all the things that we as a community would like is never a quick and easy thing but the

budget announcement is an exciting move forward”.

Separate funds were made available in the budget to maintain the water infrastructure on Palm Island and Council is negotiating with the Queensland Recovery Agency for funding to repair roads, particularly after the past two wet seasons.



SEE INSIDE for CFF/Kathy Tarpaulin Shield netball, local football, Golden Gloves boxing and star athletics news!

Flying high with drone technology

Students at Bwgcolman Community School reached new heights last week thanks to a digital learning program delivered by the Indigenous Digital Excellence (IDX) Initiative.

With the use of a drone, participants flew like an eagle high above Palm Island taking in the view from above and out over the reef.

The experience was one of several digital workshops led by the IDX team and delivered during their visit to Palm Island.

Based at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) in Redfern, Sydney the Indigenous led team travel to communities across Australia running digital workshops with school students and members of the community interested in using and learning about technology.

During the five-day program primary school students at Bwgcolman learnt a range of new skills, including coding robots, using drones to care for country, digital storytelling skills and the opportunity to explore virtual worlds through the use of a virtual reality headset.

Principal of Bwgcolman Community School Beresford Domic said he welcomed the opportunity

to run the Flint program at the school.

He said the program has been exceptional in putting the children and staff at Bwgcolman Community School and those community members who participated, at the cutting edge of digital technology innovation in the 21st century.

“We at Bwgcolman Community School are determined to put our students in the best possible position to gain employment by attaining the skills for the future that these types of opportunities present.” Mr Domic said.

As part of the program the community will receive up to \$10,000 worth of technology of their choice to use in the future, to continue to run workshops and ensure the community continues to drive participation in digital technology.

The team also worked with



members of the Diversionary Centre interested in the use of drones to map country and to promote the Island for future tourism opportunities.

PICC Program Worker Brad Foster said the new skills would enhance the work the team have been doing on the Bush Tucker and Walking Track Project.

“Learning new skills is important for the boys” Mr Foster said.

He said the drones were a big attraction for the team who are interested in their capacity to take aerial shots.

“Recording country provides us with information about flora and fauna on the ground and helps provide information on how best to manage and protect areas that need managing,” Mr Foster said.

“These are just two activities that are positive to our project.”



RFDS flights critical to saving lives

PALM Island elder Owen Marpoondin is thankful to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) after they airlifted his wife Theresa Wilson to Townsville Hospital last week.

Mr Marpoondin said she had recovered well.

“Theresa was sick but is getting better now and I am thankful that the RFDS was able to do it,” he said.

“They save lives and this was an emergency.”

Mr Marpoondin said he stayed in Townsville with his daughter Bettina Marpoondin-Wilson and Peter Fox, not far from the hospital, until Theresa was released last weekend.

“The RFDS does a great job when our people get ill and so does the SES helicopter,” Bettina said.

MEANWHILE a Townsville RFDS spokeswoman said 32 patients from Palm Island had been flown to Townsville for medical treatment over the past year.



“Our planes go as far away as remote Indigenous communities on Cape York as do planes from our bases in Cairns and Mount Isa,” she said.

“It just depends on what craft is available and the urgency of the case.”

She said the circumstances of each patient determined whether the RFDS or SES helicopter did the evacuation from Palm Island.

The SES helicopter picks up patients from a pad near the Palm’s Joyce Palmer Medical Centre and lands at a pad close to Townsville hospital.

By comparison the RFDS planes from the Palm airport and lands at Townsville airport where patients are taken by ambulance to hospital.

The decision was most often made by the Townsville Hospital and Health Service THHS Chief Executive Kieran Keyes said.

“The Townsville Hospital and Health Service is proud to work in partnership with air emergency rescue services in our region to ensure those who require medical care can be transported to a hospital that can provide that care,” he said.





LEFT: At the recent Indigenous Leaders' Forum meeting in Cairns was Aurukun Mayor Dereck Walpo, Palm Island Deputy Mayor Roy Prior, Doomadgee Cr Vernon Ned with Mayor Jason Ned and Cr Dean Jupiter and NPA Mayor Eddie Newman.

RIGHT: SOS Health Occupational Therapist Lucy Magann has worked in collaboration with local Palm Islanders to create a new program aimed at developing confidence, resilience and cultural connection for young girls called 'Deadly Minds'. It is designed to use occupation-based therapy such as art, cooking and cultural engagement to facilitate conversation about mental health, trauma and to build the young girls skills in developing resilience, self-awareness and self-regulation. The girls will be showcasing their art works at the SOS Health tent during NAIDOC week to celebrate their amazing achievements and share their stories.



It is with great sadness that we must say farewell from our CDP team.

We want to give a special thank you to Mayor Lacey, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, the whole community and our providers for all the support we have received over the years.



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Another successful year for netball on Palm

The Cathy Freeman Foundation Netball Challenge was successfully run on the Bwgcorman Day Public Holiday with 11 schools for Palm Island, Magnetic Island and Townsville competing for the Auntie Kathy Tarpaulin memorial trophy.

Wet weather meant a rough boat trip and led to the event being moved to the PCYC, but all participants still had a wonderful time.

Both Palm Island schools competed strongly during the day with Bwgcorman Community School coming runners-up on the day. Cathedral School from Townsville were the winning team.

When they were not playing netball participants learnt about the history of Palm Island and undertook a weaving workshop (*pictured below*), providing cultural education for the visiting students.

The Cathy Freeman Foundation would like to thank Palm Island Netball for their assistance with organisation

and ensuring everything ran smoothly on the day.

Thanks also to Frank and the team at the PCYC for making the courts and facilities available at short notice and finally thanks to VIVA Energy, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet and SeaLink Queensland for their financial support for the event.



Golden Gloves up for grabs this weekend

A team of Palm Island boxers will travel to Townsville for the prestigious Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing tournament at the Centenary Hotel this weekend.

Trainer Ray Dennis has seen 98 previous Golden Gloves champions from Palm Island over the line over the past 19 years and hopes that success will continue.

“It looks like Darryl Richardson, Raymond Haines and Tiauri Prior will represent Palm and there may be a couple more,” Mr Dennis said.

Former powerhouse Palm boxer Selwyn Seaton, who now lives in Charters Towers will also compete for the island.

“Selwyn has been training strongly in Charters Towers

and will contest the light heavyweight division,” he said.

Richardson will compete in the 90kg, Haines (60kg) and Prior (67kg).

“I think we have a pretty good chance of adding to our tally of champions,” Mr Dennis said.

There is also some chance that decorated Palm boxer Patrick Clarke will glove up.

But that will depend on his work commitments.

“Patrick has a job at the Palm old people’s home and works a lot of night shifts so it will depend on his roster,”

Mr Dennis said.

Clarke’s niece, 11-year-old female Phyllis Clarke has shown potential as a boxer whilst training at the Palm PCYC gym.

“Phyllis looks very good at training and will have her first fight later on in the year,” Mr Dennis said.

I asked Mr Dennis who were some of the better Palm fighters who had won Golden Gloves gold medals.

“I would say that Luke Lenoy, Pita Bourne and Joey Geia were among the best,” he said.

Local footy season almost set to kick off

PALM Island Rugby League Chair Milton Thaiday is confident a local domestic competition with four teams will commence in late July.

Mr Thaiday is a decorated sportsman who has much to offer Palm Island rugby league because of his playing career in two codes as well as a solid background in administration skills.

Mr Thaiday said three clubs – Jets, Butler Bay Bulls and Skipjacks – were confirmed starters for the Palm comp.

“Those three are in cement and we are waiting to hear from Brothers and Hornets whether they also want to be part of it,” Mr Thaiday said.

He said it was possible

Brothers and Hornets would join forces.

“We expect the comp will go for about three months,” Mr Thaiday said.

Mr Thaiday has enlisted the services of respected league identities Genami Geia snr and Roy Prior as specialist advisers on local football.

He said he was delighted to see Townsville junior rugby league sides had travelled to the Island for away games over three rounds.

“We have a lot of good young players coming through,” he

said.

As for the Barracudas not being part of the RARL FNQ Challenge in Cairns on the last weekend in June because the Island didn’t have a club comp, Mr Thaiday said there was a positive side.

“We have been told five Palm Island players who competed in the Townsville and District comp will be invited for a camp up there,” he said.

Mr Thaiday will play for an Australian Classics side at a six-day competition in Noumea next week.

Karmine hopes for a run in nationals

Talented 10-year-old Karmine Friday is on his way to Toowoomba to represent North Queensland at the State Cross Country Championship next month.



Karmine achieved his spot after coming in first place at the Northern Queensland Cross-Country Trials in May.

The pint-size homegrown athlete was also selected to represent Townsville Schools in the Northern region 10-12 years Track and Field Trials. He competed well in the 100, 200 and 800 metres at trials last weekend in Townsville, with Billo Wotton, Naomi Sam and Wrench Mills by his side.

Karmine is a keen player for the under 11's Junior Rugby League and loves performing with the Bwgc Colman Dance Group.

Proud Auntie Stacey Friday said she wanted to thank everyone for their support.

“Thank you to all who have contributed especially to the Bwgc Colman Community School, St Michael’s School, Janet

Wigan, Josh Stamp, Jaimes Allick, Tess Fong, Hunter Lloyd-Pugh, Palm Island Community Company, PIASC, Tanya Haines, Germaine Bulsey, Hinterland Aviation, Jason Healey Electrical and Sealink Qld for your support,” she said.

“Karmine is set to brave the cold and travel south with his proud Grandparents Elsa Morton and Stanton Friday next month.

“If he comes first in Toowoomba he will compete for Queensland in the national competition, which will be held in New South Wales.

“Not only is Karmine representing himself and his family, he is also representing Palm Island.

“So we wanted to say ‘all the best’ to Karmine, who always shows great sportsmanship and is a deadly little role model to his peers and to the community.

“You’re definitely a legend in the making!”

Auntie Stacey said there were several raffles around the community to help with Karmine’s journey with prizes including a \$250 meat pack, two \$90 seafood platters and two return Hinterland tickets.

See Stacey or his Mum Jasmine for more info.

