



From school to cool - local students to go straight onto payroll for local work



Three Year 12 boys will finish their schooling on Friday 21 November and start working on Palm's new subdivision by Monday 24 November, thanks to some quick work by the school, MEGT, TAFE NQ and Mendi Constructions.

They'll be working on the earth-removing and grounds preparation phase, Senior Secondary Coordinator and organiser Lynette Kim Sing said.

She said over the past two weeks Mendi Group Chief Operating Officer Kelly Thompson and Operations Manager Chris MacDonald have visited the school to interview the students.

"Each interview lasted more than an hour and they were questioned thoroughly about their work placement experiences and future goals," Miss Kim Sing said.

"The interview opportunities came about, as a result of their outstanding work placement performances, high attendance at school and

completion of their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

"Neil and Kenny Baira and Cassian Tanner, impressed the Mendi Staff in their interviews, so were offered the Certificate II in Civil Construction traineeships, of course, they happily accepted.

"They are the first group of students to go directly

from school through to an employment pathway. To be able to organise everything in advance was a bonus.

"Sarah from TAFE NQ said she had not been previously involved with paperwork signings before students had finished school, so she was very impressed.

Thanks to Lynette Kim Sing for words & pic.

INSIDE: Gindaja Cup footy pics!





Eight new street names for the new subdivision have been selected by student leaders, Neil Baira, Christine Cannon, Heath Lacey and Kathleen Haines, along with Deputy Mayor Eddie Walsh and Senior Secondary Coordinator Lynette Kim Sing. Students chose to name the streets after words which describe the beauty of Palm Island. It should be no surprise to anyone, therefore, that the names will be Magnificent Street, Sunset Street, Radiant Street, Beautiful Street, Superb Street, Treasure Street, Paradise Street and Serenity Street.

New homes and reno numbers building across communities

A joint initiative between the Queensland and Australian Governments in housing is reducing overcrowding and homelessness for Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Member for Cook David Kempton (*pictured below*) says.

One hundred and sixty-eight Queensland families living in remote Indigenous communities have moved into brand new homes in the past 12 months, under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH).

"More than \$106 million has been invested in some of Queensland's most remote communities in the 12 months from October 2013, to build 168 new houses and complete 270 refurbishments," Mr Kempton said.

New houses have been built at Palm Island (45), Aurukun (30), Kowanyama (25), Woorabinda (15), Pormpuraaw (10), Torres Strait Island (10), Doomadgee (9), Mapoon (6), Napranum (6), Hope Vale (5),

Northern Peninsula Area (5) and Mornington Island (2).

Housing Minister Tim Mander said NPARIH also delivered employment opportunities for local Indigenous people, with around 24 apprentices and 35 trainees currently employed in NPARIH projects.

"We have entered into partnerships with Aurukun, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mornington Island, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area, Woorabinda and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Councils to take on future construction contracts and are working closely with other councils to build-up their capacity so that they can also undertake new housing construction in their own communities," Mr Mander said.



"The 2014-2015 NPARIH program provided more than 37,728 employment hours for housing construction, of which 91 per cent was undertaken by indigenous people.

"In addition, nine local community members have been employed as Housing Officers in Woorabinda, Wujal Wujal, Palm Island, Hope Vale, Mapoon, Napranum, Mt Isa and Doomadgee communities to provide tenancy management and support in their local community."

Some Palm Island radiance...



Pic with thanks to Louise from Palm Island Barge Company

Sportsground facelift complete

The Palm Island Community Sportsground has been undergoing a facelift over the past six months and was formally re-opened last week.

The grounds, widely used by the Island football teams for practice and major carnivals, were in need of an upgrade for some time Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation CEO Rob Beattie said.

“As part of the Remote Jobs and Communities Program Coolgaree has done major repairs to the buildings,” Mr Beattie said.

“The works included painting inside and out, repairing and renewing the perimeter fencing and gates; landscaping the front of the main building;



planting 20 semi-mature shade trees and erecting nearly 100 additional spectator seats.”

He said the aim of the RJCP was to educate and train Palm Islanders for work and to engage them in community-based and meaningful activities.

“This project has provided



the work crew with added and upgraded skills in a number of areas such as painting, landscaping, construction and fencing,” he said.

Strong sides do well in Cairns for Yarrabah

Two Palm Island sides performed strongly for the Gindaja Indigenous Rugby League Cup in Cairns earlier this month.

Gindaja Treatment and Healing Centre – a 21-bed hostel catering for both men and women with drug and alcohol related problems in Yarrabah – were the major sponsor for this year's carnival and have sponsored the Yarrabah Seahawks for many years in the Cairns & District Rugby League Competition.

Bwgcolman Warriors reached the semi finals of the winners section whilst the Barracudas

won the plate decider with a handsome 48-16 win over KC Raiders from Kuranda.

Sides were split into three pools for the carnival at Jones Park (Mann St) held on 8th and 9th November.

In day one qualifying games Bwgcolman Warriors 28 (Billo Wotton 2, Mickeal Sibley, William Blackman, Gresham Ross jnr 1 tries, Gresham Ross jnr 2, Darryl Pearson 2 goals) d Appun United 20.

The Bwgcolman Warriors 28 (Gresham Ross jnr 2, Mickeal Sibley, John Baira, Thomas Oui 1 tries, Gresham Ross jnr 4 goals) also defeated Ibwaw Baw 16 and Innisfail Waru 22-18.

In their quarter finals the Warriors defeated Mooraridgi United before losing to Djumbunji Bigun in their semi final.

Yarrabah Seahawks Pink went on to win the grand final over Djumbunji Bigun 24-16.





Pics by Christine Howes

It was a great win by the Telstan Sibley coached Barracudas in the plate final to score 48 points over KC Raiders' 16.

Try scorers were Caleb Geia (two) with singles to Fred Haines jnr, Vernon Baira, Billo Mosby, Adrian Poynter, Aidan Ketchup, Costa Sam, and Justin Sibley.

In their plate semi final Barracudas defeated Ibuwaw Baw. In their qualifying games on day one – Vanuatu Descendants 24 beat Palm Island Barracudas 18 (Vernon Baira, Clinton Person, Fred Bulsey 1 tries, Fred Haines jnr 3 goals).

Djumbunji Bigun 32 beat Palm Island Barracudas 10 (Tabua Oui, Adrian Poynter 1 tries, Fred Haines jnr 1 goal).

Barracudas also lost 22–6 to

Yarrabah Seahawks Pink Points after Qualifying Rounds – Pool A: Bwgcolman Warriors 13, Appun Warriors 6 (–6 f/a) Innisfail Waru 6 (–10), Ibuwaw Baw 5.

Pool B: Djumbunji Bigun 10, Seahawks Pink 10, Vanuatu Descendants 8, Palm Island Barracudas 1.

Pool C: Woorabinda Warriors 14.5, Seahawks Maroon 8.5, Mooraridgi United 6, KC Raiders 1.

The Bwgcolman Warriors player squad on the official QRL sheet was: Gresham Ross jnr, Vernon Noble, Billo Wotton, Arona Miller, Miceal Sibley, Darryl Pearson, John Baira (Kidner), Moa Sam, Zach Foster, Lester Hero, Jordan Prior, William Blackman, Frank Baira, John Henry, Bennett Blanket, Isaiah

Blackman, Anthony Thompson, Alfred Lacey, Jason Poynter, Shane Noble, Thomas Oui, Todd Pearson, Water Geia, Genami Geia, Allan Brown, John Watson, Simmeon Oui, Robert Fraser, Terence Sibley, Vaughan Charles.

The Barracudas squad was: Fred Haines jnr, Tabua Oui, Gary Pearson, Josiah Geia, Vernon Baira, Billo Mosby, Clinton Pearson, Joijoi Dabea, Ron Geia, Fred Bulsey, Caleb Geia, Raoul Miller, Landon Kynuna, Adrian Poynter, Robert Pearson, Aidan Ketchup, Germaine Bulsey, Costa Sam, Leslie Ambrym, George Toby, Steven Lowatta, Justin Sibley, Barry Prior, Matthew Friday, Coach: Telstan Sibley, Manager: Matthew Friday.

More pics on pages 7 & 8...

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices



Palm Island's Christmas Festival

Volunteers needed

Stable on Palm Island is happening from

Friday 28 November to Sunday 30 November.

We tell the Christmas Story and have adults setting up the Stable.

We need the following characters for the Christmas Story:

Shepherds, Wise Men, Angels, Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus.

We encourage you all to participate.

Costumes are provided and there are no speaking parts only a narration.

There will also be a combined churches choir for Carol singing.

Saturday evening is set aside for local groups to perform either in dance, drama or song.

If you have an item you'd like to perform please let us know.

There is also a children's play we encourage you to tell your children about. If you are interested, please contact Sr Robyn on 4770 1176.

Practice is every Wednesday evening from 5-6pm in the PCYC.

We hope to see you there!



**Operating Hours for Council are
Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm
WEEKLY**

If you have any questions please contact
4770 1177



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 443 'likes' on Facebook!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

TO OUR BEAUTIFUL GRANDDAUGHTER
LASHARNTAI PRIOR GEIA

HAPPY 1ST BIRTHDAY 24/11/2014

LOVE BULLOO JOSH AND NAN PAULETTE

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DEADLINE (for Issue 167)**

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Gindaja Indigenous Rugby League Cup 2014

Pics by Christine Howes



Strapping young physio volunteers in Cairns

Palm Island footballers were in good hands in Cairns last weekend, with Canberra-based physiotherapist Jamie Clough along for the ride.

Mr Clough volunteered for the extra work after spending five days on Palm volunteering as part of a Health Outreach Mission organised by the SOS Health Foundation.

“As well as taking clinic and exercise appointments at the newly established SOS health clinic during the week, we were involved in exercise classes at Ferdys Haven, one-on-one and group sessions with residents at the Sandy Boyd aged care hostel, we met the women’s and men’s groups, provided in-service presentations to the staff at the hospital and Child and Family Centre, ran Pilates classes, and undertook some strapping and injury screening at league training – among other things,” he said.

“I was in Cairns providing physiotherapy service to the Palm Island Barracudas, and the



Bwgcolman Warriors during the rugby league tournament.

“I had a really enjoyable week, hopefully we made a significant contribution to the health of those on Palm, and can make that an on-going contribution with the SOS Health Clinic now up and running with a full-time physio on board.”



Pics by Christine Howes



Out & About in Cairns!

More people pics next issue!



More Gindjara Indigenous Rugby League Cup 2014 pics on pages 4-5 and 7!