



Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation shut down

Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation – a community-owned company – is in liquidation after experiencing one break-in after another, the most recent two days after the organisation closed it's doors, and too many incidents of vandalism to count.

Acting-Operations Manager, now caretaker Ray Roberts says they have been the stick which has “broken our back” at a cost of more than \$70,000.

“\$70,000 in stock loss at Coolgaree, thousands more at

the airport, post office, fish shop, PCYC, Pub – what is the total for this community?” he said.

“I don't know what my position is now because I've just been asked to stay on as caretaker.

“I don't know what will happen to our services now, someone will probably come in and take them over once they start selling them off.”

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AFL player Nick Malceski enjoying the water off Palm Island. Pic courtesy GC Suns videographer Josh Hamilton

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"Services lost to that area of the Island include power card sales, which is a big important thing, the yard maintenance crew plus the – well it wasn't CDEP anymore, but it was a place for those workers to go, you know, get up in the morning and come down and do something; now I suppose they don't have anything to do now," Mr Roberts said.

"I also don't know about pays yet, staff got their fortnightly wages but as for redundancy, they have to wait for everything to be signed off on.

"We had three managers and about seven staff."

Mayor Alf Lacey said there was nothing Council could do.

"We are disappointed and feel for those families who have lost an income," he said.

"Unfortunately, Council hands are tied because Coolgaree is a legal community identity which made its own decisions through its Board.

"Coolgaree was a community-

run organisation which took on Remote Jobs on Community Program contracts but also had to make it's own profit through the cafe, mechanic shop and other enterprises.

"They turned CDEP around to make it into a business enterprise but it hasn't worked out.

"To be fair to the Board, the Board had to make a decision.

"It was going to be their heads on the block if they kept on trading insolvent.

"The whole loss of Coolgaree itself is certainly another dent into the community.

"This is why it's so important in terms of economic opportunities for Palm, this is what happens when you just rely on welfare because government programs change and they change every time you get a new government. What we have to understand for Palm is that we really have to round up economic opportunities to sustain ourselves because this is what it's going to be about."

Mr Roberts said he wanted to thank the wider community for their support.

"You can thank the community for their support of Coolgaree over the years," he said.

A profile of Coolgaree published in the Palm Island Voice, Issue 150, March 2014

After something of a rocky recent history the old Coolgaree CDEP has officially cut all ties from government funds and is now a stand-alone community-owned company in its own right.

Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation CEO Rob Beattie, who started in July last year, said while there was still a strong training element to what they did, their three up-front businesses were up and running and always looking to the community to support them. He said the fourth element to their business, the Remote Jobs in Community Program (RJCP), received project-specific funding for some of what they did, but was also standing on its own.

"No longer are we CDEP or government funded," he said. "Coolgaree itself is now Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation (CAC), no longer

associated with CDEP or Community Development Program or anything like that. "Essentially now we are a company with four businesses. "Three of those businesses – the mechanical workshop, Coolgaree Mechanical; the building workshop which is Coolgaree Construction; and the bakery/kiosk are open for business with the community and other agencies working on the island. "The fourth one, headed up by Shelly Scholz, is our RJCP component, which is a program delivered on Palm in association with Campbell Page, PICC and Department



of Prime Minister & Cabinet. It focuses more on employment now rather than just activities and training.

"That means economic development in proper infrastructure offering real outcomes that are going to give people work and development.

"Where it used to fall over in the past, from what I can see, was a lot of these projects ran for three months and finished, and after that we did another project and another one.

"They were never really thought upon to become a sustainable entity in their own right to continue trading."

Coolgaree Mechanical is managed by certified mechanic Neville Donaldson who has run his own business in Townsville for the past 10 years. At \$90 an hour labour the workshop is a much cheaper alternative than transporting vehicles to Lucinda/Townsville for their regular checkups. The business bulk-buys parts and can handle everything from lawnmowers to boats and any motor or machine in between at competitive rates. Pictured right is mechanic Norman Summers.



He said CAC was now a stand-alone organisation, non-government and not-for-profit organisation, which was unique for Palm Island.

"We self-fund, we generate our own income and we've got overheads just like everyone else, it's a very unique business model Palm Island," he said.

"Our Board members include Raymond Sibley, Victor Daisy, Rachael Atkinson, Luella Bligh and Winnie Obah.

"Where we differ from a lot of other not-for-profits on the island is we're not receiving any operational grants.

"We receive project specific funding, through the RJCP.

"We all have to generate our own income to keep it sustainable.

"Coolgaree is governed by its members, a board of the directors, and the CEO.

"Coolgaree works under the CATSI Act (2006), we are not a funded entity, we are a stand-alone entity, a real business."

A whole new workshop's worth of cabinet making machinery is on its way to Coolgaree Construction which is currently working of their third kitchen out of ten for some of the new housing around the Island. The business can also handle cabinet making, joinery, kitchens, earth moving, tree lopping and traffic control. Pictured right is cabinet maker Albert Gorrings.

RJCP has three projects running at the moment – a painting program which includes community graffiti removal, a cleaning and maintenance project and landscaping and yard maintenance which includes tidying up footpaths and roadways. Pictured right is RJCP Projects Manager Shelly Scholz with CAC CEO Rob Beattie.



The yet-to-be-renamed Coolgaree bakery and kiosk is now combined as one. Apart from their usual bread and butter, the catering side to things is also still up and running. A hot food van is on the cards for later this year, which will run to the more remote suburbs once or twice a day. Pictured above is CAC Operations Service & Support Manager Ray Roberts with baker Simon Cairns, and right is Joey Boyd serving at the Bakery/Kiosk.





...Out & About... ...on their way home...

It was a crowded ferry heading back to Palm Island on Friday afternoon, Palm Island Voice was there, more pics on page 8! First up we have Todd Pearson & Arona Miller on the left and Wayne Prior on the right...



Family skills support program launched for 2015

Townsville's Red Cross 2015 Family Support Program (FSP) was launched late last month.

Red Cross Indigenous Team Member and Case Manager Bonny Hoey said the Family Support and Referral for Active Intervention programs worked at developing additional parenting, communication and support skills for families and children.

"A lot of the families we work with have large extended families often from Palm Island that come to Townsville for a whole range of issues; education, the justice system, and medical," she said.

"When these families are referred to us and they become part of our programs we develop a plan that's achievable by the parent and support them every step of the way."

The free Family Support Program was available to families with children under five years of age, focusing

specifically on the needs of the child, the family and the family within the community.

Ms Hoey said the model was an intensive, holistic case management model based on the needs and strengths of the individual client and their families.

"Our approach needs to be flexible as our clients have a wide range of needs," she said.

"Across all our programs we have a strong focus on ensuring we support individuals and families in a culturally appropriate manner, including utilising our deadly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers to guide our practice."

Red Cross Senior Regional Services Manager Gerard Byrne says the event was focused on Red Cross supporting healthy family development and strong relationships for local families in Townsville, as well as

providing clients with access to other specialised services in their community.

"The Family Support Program's staff is also available to support children and families in other community locations including Day Care Centres, Kindergartens or any other community groups or services," he said.

Anyone looking for more information on the program should visit <http://www.redcross.org.au/families.aspx>



Bonny Hoey, Hannah Roberts, Holly Mallardi & Christine Krompci

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Gold Coast Suns kick for long term goals at schools

Gold Coast Suns AFL players Jarrod Harbrow and Nick Malceski travelled to Palm Island last week, as part of the Australia Post Community Camp.

Kathleen Newman, AFL Townsville Regional Manager said both players were very keen to visit to spend some time with the kids and staff at the local schools.

“They were awe struck by the beauty of the island and the friendliness and generosity of

the people they met,” she said.

“AFL Queensland is happy the players were able to make the journey across to Palm Island as last time we planned the trip the flight unfortunately was cancelled due to bad weather.

“The children on Palm Island

were involved in a number of AFL carnival days in 2014 including the Garbutt Magpies Cup.

“We hope that this visit sparks a bit of interest in playing AFL as there is an abundance of talented boys and girls on the island.”

Their visit was not long after the Suns defeated the Geelong Cats in a NAB pre season game at Townsville’s Tony Ireland Stadium.

Suns players have travelled across Queensland and northern New South Wales as part of the 2015 Australia Post AFL Community Camp program.

“When we went through the classrooms, we spoke to the kids about healthy eating and





Pics courtesy GC Suns videographer Josh Hamilton

how important education was,” Malceski told Suns TV.

“We went through the diet we have and how important it is to eat healthy and drink healthy.

“We also explained how we had to have education before we got to where we were and

it is important for life skills when we finish school.

“It was important for us to share our knowledge with that. Hopefully they took a little bit out of it.”

Harbrow, a product of North Queensland, echoed Malceski’s

sentiments on spreading the word on the game of AFL.

“It’s obviously rugby league dominated up here so its good to spread the AFL code on the back of the game we played on Sunday against Geelong,” he said.



Palm Island Voice



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176	Thursday 2 April / 9 April
177	Thursday 16 April / 23 April
178	Thursday 30 April / 7 May
179	Thursday 14 May / 21 May
180	Thursday 28 May / 4 June
181	Thursday 11 June / 18 June

Issue No. Deadline / Publication

182	Thursday 25 June / 2 July
183	Thursday 9 July / 16 July
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186	Thursday 20 August / 27 August
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Footy calendar offers tons of opportunity

PALM Island may have missed out on hosting the Northern United versus Queensland Outback rugby league game in June, but local footballers will still have a host of football action to attend to in 2015.

The first carnival Palm players will get to compete in is the Central Queensland Reconciliation event at Rockhampton in early April.

Skipjacks will play Australian Army Thunder at Palm later in April for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield.



A clerical hold up forced Palm Island boxers to withdraw from a tournament in Home Hill last weekend.

Two weeks previously trainer Ray Dennis (*pictured right below*) travelled to Townsville to register boxers with the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League. Red tape between officials resulted in the registrations not being processed in time for the event.

Club boxers Brayden Nallajar, Fred Ross, Darryl Richardson, Arona Miller, Leelan Sibley, Leroy Baira and Marcus Ketchup along with females Natalie David, Kathleen Haines and Josie Nallajar are now looking forward to a tournament at Mackay on 21st March.

"We should do well," Mr Dennis said.

A Northern United side will be picked to meet Outback after the FNQ Remote Area Regional Challenge at Cairns in late June.

Palm Island will field a side against last year's champion side Torres Stingers, Bowen, Northern Cape York and Southern Cape.

Whilst Palm Island was given a strong chance of hosting the 2015 United versus Outback clash the QRL Northern Division has again given the game to Thursday Island on July 4.

Last year United, including Palm's Lincoln Poynter jnr, won 30-24 at TI's Ken Brown Memorial Oval.

There are many other QRL sanctioned carnivals which Palm players will compete in.

These include the Island

of Origin on Badu Island from 5th to 7th June and Murri Knockout in southern Queensland from 24th to 27th September.

That will be followed by the Mareeba PCYC under 17 Cup on 2nd and 3rd October.

Townsville's Bindal Allblacks carnival is on 10th and 11th October followed by Zenadth Kes carnival on TI from 16th to 18th October.

The Gindaja Cup at Cairns is from 23rd to 25th October and the Dan Ropeyarn Memorial NPA Cup at Bamaga from 29th to 31st October.

The Gordonvale Indigenous carnival is on 7th and 8th November and the season will officially end on 14th and 15th November with the John Bowen Memorial carnival at Hope Vale.



*...Out & About...
...on their way home...*



On their way home on the Palm Island ferry last Friday were: (top left) Caleb Geia at the ferry luggage desk; (top right) Candy Walsh, left, holding Jarramarli Doolan, 3, with Karen Doolan holding baby Eli Doolan; (middle left) Detective Paul Enders; (middle right) Costa Sam and Tabua Oui at the ferry and (bottom right) Patricia Seaton, second from right, with friends. And, finally, (bottom left) getting amongst it for Clean Up Australia day on Palm Island.