



## Bravery awards delivered for 2011 rescue



Three young boys awarded for bravery have received their awards.

Ellen Friday accepted the awards on behalf of Harry Friday who received Bronze Medal- 2013 Rupert Wilks Trophy and Ralph Hughes who received a Certificate of Merit, while Alana Nugent received the award on behalf of Carey Nugent who received a Certificate of Merit.

Pictured left is an extract from the The Royal Humane Society of Australia Annual Report 2013.

**BRONZE MEDAL - 11872**  
**2013 RUPERT WILKS TROPHY**  
**HARRY FREDERICK FRIDAY**, aged 12 years, of Palm Island, Qld.

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT - 11873**  
**RALPH PAUL HUGHES**, aged 11 years, of Palm Island, and,

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT - 11874**  
**CAREY LENNY NUGENT**, aged 16 years, of Palm Island, in going to the rescue of a girl from being raped at Palm Island on 12 May 2011.

At 2.00pm a man showed Harry, Ralph, Carey and a girl \$50 and some cannabis and convinced them to go with him to the laundry off the balcony of a house.

The man then sent the boys outside and when the girl went to leave, he grabbed her and pulled her back into the laundry and closed the door and attempted to assault her.

Harry Friday was concerned for the girl and tried to push the door open, ignoring the man's demands to close the door.

With the help of Ralph and Carey, Harry was finally able to open the door and they all pulled the girl to safety.

## In this Issue...

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- Local graduate Gail Barry
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## National protest calls to ‘Close the Gap, not communities’

Palm Islander Professor Lynore Geia was amongst scores of people who protested in Townsville against proposed forced closures of Aboriginal Communities in Western Australia.

The community protest was held on the busy corner of Nathan Street and Ross River Road starting at 9.30am on 19th March.

It was outside the offices of Liberal Federal Member for Herbert Ewen Jones who was in Canberra at the time.

Car drivers honked their horns

in support of the protestors who held placards and chanted condemnations of the closures.

Many of the protestors participated at short notice but such was their dedication in hot conditions many remained there for hours.

Capital cities, small towns and communities around the

country held similar protests after Western Australians themselves called for a national day of unity to protest the closures on Close the Gap Day.

**MEANWHILE** Yarrabah protesters braved pre-cyclonic conditions to make their point (pictured below).

# Virtual Protest

10am, Thurs 19th March 2015

[www.sosblakaustralia.com](http://www.sosblakaustralia.com)



HOW TO JOIN THE MARCH online

## STOP

the FORCED CLOSURE of Aboriginal Communities

**step 1.**



Take a photo of you or your group holding a sign, banner or message

**step 2.**

Add hashtags  
 #SOSBLAKAUSTRALIA  
 #NOconsent #Lifestylechoice

**step 3.**



Upload/Tag to Social Media links below

Geography & Disability friendly 

 [www.facebook.com/sosblakaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/sosblakaustralia)  @sosblakaust



Above: Protests online are ongoing; Top right: Yarrabah Bottom right: Lynore Geia & Daniel Horsburgh

# Footy nines team may be headed for Thailand

AS many as eight Palm island rugby league players look set to compete at an international nines carnival in Thailand in June or July.

They will be part of the Northern Queensland Hornet side which has been invited to Thailand.

Organiser Bill Landers said that Gresham Ross jnr, Simmeon Oui, Andrew Willis jnr and Fred Haines jnr were confirmed.

“There could be four others and I have to get their travel documents,” Mr Landers said.

Earlier this year the Hornets travelled to Sydney for a nine’s tournament where they reached the plate grand final, going down narrowly 22-18 to

American Samoa.

Mr Landers said a total of 33 teams competed in a top quality carnival.

“Our side won six of seven qualifying games including one by forfeit and lost the plate final narrowly,” he said.

# Family celebrates Bachelor of Business award

PROUD Bwgcolman woman Gail Barry was of several Townsville James Cook University students who graduated with a Bachelor of Business at a ceremony at the Townsville Entertainment Centre last week.

Gail was joined by her son Duncan Johnson, and daughters Karen and Jahmillah Johnson.

A special Indigenous Sashing Ceremony was held just before the official presentation.

Graduating students who identified themselves as Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are entitled to wear a James Cook University cultural sash at graduation or formal academic ceremonies.

The sash is placed around the wearer’s neck by the Chancellor at a dedicated ceremony that takes place in a side-room within the graduation venue.

Family and friends were also in attendance and speeches were given by NAIDOC person of the year Professor Gracelyn Smallwood and Florence Onus, JCU Indigenous Student Support Officer College of Law, Business & Governance.

“It is so good to see so many Indigenous graduates and I am proud of Gail who is from Palm Island where I also have heritage,” Professor Smallwood said.

Gail said her 82-year-old mother on Palm would be very happy.



*From left are son Duncan Johnson, Gail Barry and daughters Karen Johnson and Jahmillah Johnson*

**Don't forget...BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER PUBLIC/COMMUNITY MESSAGES ARE FREE IN YOUR PALM ISLAND VOICE (subject to space)!**

**For more information see page 6!**





*John Ralling, acting director of Nursing at Joyce Palmer Health Service, and the woman is Sarah Jones, dental assistant with Oral Health Services*

## Dental van offering treatment for schools

A mobile dental van has arrived on Palm Island helping to promote the importance of mouth hygiene and deliver dental treatment to local school children.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service oral health services manager Chris Pittard said the dental van, which arrived at Bwgcolman Community School 27 January this year, would help increase access to oral health services for the Palm Island community.

“Having the van on the island will help reduce dental wait times and patient travel to Townsville,” Ms Pittard said.

“Good oral health care is important for all Australians and we want to encourage the community to engage in preventative oral health care and contact the clinic for an appointment.”

“Parents are encouraged to attend appointments with their children to help learn about oral health care and good oral hygiene,” she said.

Ms Pittard said the van is an important reminder, particularly on World Oral Health Day (March 20), that oral hygiene is crucial to maintaining strong teeth.

“World Oral Health Day aims to draw awareness to the benefits of a healthy mouth, as well as the impact of oral diseases on general health and well-being.

“A key challenge for our health workforce is to find creative ways to improve oral health and to raise awareness of the links between oral health and general health.

Ms Pittard said the dental chair permanently located at Joyce Palmer Health Service and mobile dental van chair both currently operate five days a week on Palm Island.

“The oral health staff on

Palm Island have been working very hard to set up the mobile van to provide efficient dental care services to the Palm Island community.”

Townsville Hospital and Health Service Indigenous Health Service Group Director Frank Mills said the dental van is already producing results.

“Having the dental van at the school brings the service in line with similar services delivered at other state schools in Townsville and we have seen great results in a short period of time already,” Mr Mills said.

The van will be temporarily located at the school until mid year and will then move to the hospital site.

To book an appointment contact the call centre on 1300 300 850.



# Volunteers raise funds for St Michael's visit



STAFF and students from Townsville's Ignatius Park College have been running a Close the Gap campaign for a few years now, finishing with a visit to Palm Island's St Michael's Catholic school.

Their latest fund raising venture was a sausage sizzle outside the huge Bunnings Store at Domain Centre.

Indigenous Support Officer Andrew Kirkpatrick said the fundraiser was a success and they would be on Palm next month.

"While we are over there we spend a day in the classrooms with the students interacting with them and giving them a hand with some school work," he said.

"It is a really positive experience for the students from IPC but is also very much appreciated by the St Michael's students.

"The proceeds from the sausage sizzle at Bunnings will go towards getting a number of staff and students over to St Michael's for a day and also contribute towards purchasing some sports gear and some stationery supplies that we will donate to the school community."





# Palm Island Voice



Public &  
Community Notices



Operating Hours for  
Council are

**Monday – Friday  
8:00am – 5:00pm**

If you have any questions please  
contact Reception on [4770 1177](tel:47701177)



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

## 2015 Rates & Dates

### Issue No. Deadline / Publication

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
182	Thursday 25 June / 2 July

### Issue No. Deadline / Publication

183	Thursday 9 July / 16 July
184	Thursday 23 July / 30 July
185	Thursday 6 August / 13 August
186	Thursday 20 August / 27 August
187	Thursday 3 September / 10 September
188	Thursday 17 September / 24 September
189	Thursday 1 October / 8 October

### **ADVERTISE!**

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Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST

Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST

Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

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(see above) and all material submitted no later than COB  
the next day. Print approval required by Monday COB.

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subscription is taken out – eg if taken in January 2015 the  
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Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)  
PDF archives of the Palm Island Voice are available at <http://chowes.com.au>

*Don't forget...*

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER PUBLIC/COMMUNITY  
MESSAGES ARE FREE** *(subject to space!)*

**PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!**

# CFF Term 1 Starting Block Awards

Tuesday 31 March

10am - Bwngcolman Community School

1.30pm - St Michael's Catholic School



All welcome to attend and celebrate the achievements of Palm Island students.

## Cathy Freeman

FOUNDATION

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
DENEICE GEIA FROM THE  
COURTHOUSE GANG FOR  
THE 23RD MARCH. ENJOY  
YOUR DAY AND PARTY!!!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
ANDY KYLE SAILOR...  
HAVE A BEAUTIFUL DAY/  
NIGHT CELEBRATING  
WITH FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS. WISHING YOU  
ALL THE BEST..LOVE RON  
N DENEICE GEIA AND  
FAMILY, AUNTY BERYL,  
BOB BEAR N NINA, THE  
DABEAS AND DELPHINE  
AND ASSAN X X X X**

## Vigoro win for Kamara

PALM Island Community Company Programs Support Officer Kamara Thompson starred for her side Rabbits White which won the grand final of the Townsville ladies A Grade vigoro competition at Queen's Park in Townsville earlier this month.

Kamara retired on 38 as Rabbits White 3/110 defeated Rebels 11/28 by 82 runs on the first innings.

Tenille Humphreys 42 and Deliah Doolah 10no also batted well for the winners while Kerrie Smallwood claimed 1/23 for Rebels.

Krichelle Ross also of Palm descent on one side of her family line took 3/6 for Rabittos White.

"I had a bat then I had to jet off to my uncle's wedding," Kamara said.

Boxing trainer Chris Evert said his Palm Island Boxers have competed in one tournament to date this year.

“On the 7th of February Reggie Palm Island (pictured), Chris Evers and Craig Evers travelled to Bundaberg to compete in a Boxing Queensland tournament,” he said.

“All three boxers won their fights, Reggie and Chris easily winning on points and Craig won by stopping his opponent in the third round, Craig was also voted the best sub-junior boxer of the tournament and Chris was voted the best school-boy boxer of the tournament.

“Then on the 14th and 15th of March the three boxers were invited to a development camp in Cairns run by the national development coach Jamie Pittman and the Queensland development coach Mark Evans.

“The top emerging boxers from all over Queensland attended and the three boxers from Palm Island impressed the national coach.

“He was so impressed he has invited all three down to the Australian Institute of Sport later this year for a national talent training camp, Reggie to train with the national men’s team and Chris and Craig to train with a national talent development squad.”

He said over the next few weeks Reggie and Chris will compete in the Queensland trials held in Brisbane over the 27th, 28th and 29th of March. “If they win their divisions they will gain selection in the Queensland team to contest the national titles on the Gold Coast in April.

“Last year the Palm Island Boxing team won four gold medals at the Queensland titles, the best result for any club in Queensland, with William and Reggie Palm Island winning as well as Thomas Blanket and Chris Evers.

“If Reggie can win the Queensland trial and National titles on the Gold Coast, then he will be selected in the Australian team to fight at the World Championships in Russia.

“The national coaches have already said they like his chances and that they have never seen him fitter or boxing better than he is at the moment.”

# BOXING NEWS



He said the team would like to thank Sealink who have supported them with boat tickets for attending boxing tournaments.

**MEANWHILE** Cyclone alerts forced several boxers to withdraw from a tournament in Mackay on the weekend (21st March).

Trainer Ray Dennis said travel arrangements had to be put on hold because of the weather.

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 had been looking forward to the Mackay tournament.