



## Taking a community-approach to ICE

“THE social cost of drugs and alcohol is everybody’s business, it is the community’s business,” Dr Lynore Geia says. “The families of those using ICE (crystal methamphetamine) are affected, but it affects the community as well, so we have to take a community approach to this.”

Dr Geia spoke to the *Palm Island Voice* after attending a public forum in Townsville it’s expected will lead to the formation of a community taskforce – as per the Prime Minister’s strategy – to combat the drug ICE.

“The forum in Townsville and

what we’re doing on Palm is at the early stages of developing, but there’s a lot of goodwill and commitment around it, so we want to be able to go forward,” Dr Geia said.

“There’s no official record of ICE being on Palm, but there’s certainly a risk of it coming in;

look at Townsville.

“There are huge risks so we want to be proactive and preventative, proactive in raising awareness about it and finding community strategies to prevent it coming in and having disastrous effects.

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- Palm Island’s second open day
- Tons of footy, boxing and more...!

*Arona Miller, 15, and Preston Sam, 10, prepare to welcome guests to the Open Day. See pages 6–7 for more pics!*

# Community input essential to strategy

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“Nationally, they’ve identified ICE as the current epidemic,” Dr Geia said.

“The Federal Government set up this national taskforce on ICE and, for me, the local community needs to inform the taskforce from community level.

“We need Indigenous people in there because ICE is affecting a lot of Aboriginal communities around Australia and decimating families, and we don’t want that to happen on Palm, we don’t want it to come to that up this way.”

She said community-led research and action was the best hope for Palm Island to influence policy on the drug.

“Having community-led research is the only way that’s going to inform public policy, so we’ve got to get the information that we need from the community to then say whoever is making policies this is what you need to address,” she said.

“Our project on Palm, which is called the Palm Island Youth

Strategy, has been supported by Council and other service providers because everyone’s aware of how devastating the issue can be if we don’t sit down and try and work out some strategies to prevent any further damage.

“This all came out of what we developed through Camp Opal first and then we evolved into Community Action Mentoring Services Network (CAMSNS), and we’re looking at mentoring strategies around youth and families.

“It’s voluntary – we all come around the table and talk about local strategies and local issues. “We are in this process now through partnership with Ferdy’s Haven Palm Island, Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service and James Cook University Nursing and Midwifery.

“This is a youth strategy and we’re looking at the social cost of drug and alcohol that came out of that initial conversation



“We had a meeting about three weeks ago; we’re having another one hopefully next week, so it’s a community-consultation process, we’re trying to be as transparent and inclusive of community services as possible so everybody knows what’s going on.”

The forum in Townsville was organised by Relationships Australia, Youth Justice and Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Services and the volunteer co-ordinator was Uncle Albert Abdul Rahman.

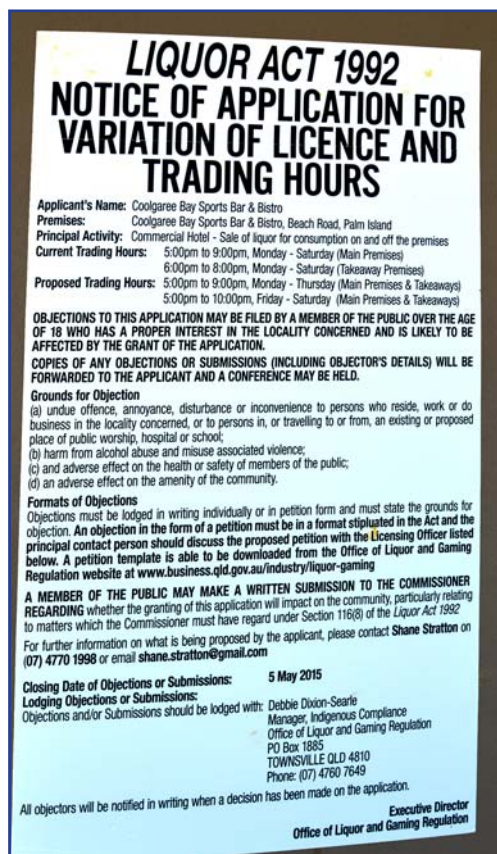
Assisting Uncle Abdul Rahman to MC the forum were volunteer criminologists Jay Barrett and Suzanne Highley.

In attendance at St Theresa’s Church in Garbutt were representatives from a range of community groups from across Townsville who have joined forces to battle the epidemic, which is destroying families and fuelling crime.





# Application in for extended trading hours



## COOLGAREE

Sports Bar and Grill has made an application to the Liquor and Gaming Regulation for a variation of their Licence and trading hours.



*Corrina Ross with the new menu board*

A sign on the front wall of the building advises members of the public of the application. An extension of trading hours on Friday and Saturday nights would enable patrons to watch the football on television.

The application asks for two extra middle strength drinks to be served to patrons during opening hours and for 12 cans to be sold after that as takeaways.

There is also a new electronic notice board in the bistro which has proven popular with patrons.

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Amongst the 100+ strong audience were State Member for Townsville Scott Stewart, Townsville City Council Deputy Mayor Vern Veitch, Cr Ray Gartrell and police.

Pastor David Gela of Darnley descent is the manager of Indigenous Radio Station 4KIG was also there.

Uncle Alfred Smallwood welcomed the audience to country on behalf of the Bindal people.

“ICE has become a major problem for communities and is affecting families,” he said.

“We are not into a blaming game here but want to seek solutions.”

Fifteen-year-old Matt Bloomfield gave an emotional

speech telling the audience he had seen first hand the damage ICE can do.

Mr Bloomfield said he had not been an ICE user himself but had seen its affects on others.

“I have seen mates on ICE who start fighting for no reason and also stealing money,” he said.

“It also causes domestic violence. It is only a phone call away to get.”

Police Inspector Roger Whyte told the audience that public awareness was vital in the fight against ICE use.

“People who distribute ICE make profit and we urge any member of the public who knows of their activity to phone crimestoppers or advise police,”

Inspector Whyte said.

“This is a problem throughout Queensland and Australia.”

Uncle Albert said statistics revealed that about 50% of ICE users in the region were Indigenous.

“We will be holding another meeting on May 5 to name the members on the Task Force,” Uncle Albert said.

“We don’t want it to be bureaucratically top heavy.

“This is a problem for the entire community.”

Uncle Albert welcomed input from concerned members of the Palm Island community.

For more information contact Albert Abdul-Rahman – Former Murri Court Elder & Current Community Elder – 0402 858 065.



## Taking a walk for autism awareness week

Patrick Mosby and his partner Christine Hero – parents of nine-year-old Elijah – took part in an Autism Awareness walk in Townsville earlier this month.

Elijah suffers from a high sensory form of autism.

“Elijah needs 24/7 supervision as he is not aware of danger or consequences,” Christine said.

“Patrick and I are passionate

about Autism awareness as we think it’s very important to share our story.

“A lot of people do not understand Autism.”

With them were their other

son Zechariah, 11, daughters Shanti, 6, and baby Christine jnr, aged three months.

Families who marched urged Governments to increase funding for Autism sufferers.

## Cathy Freeman Foundation expands its work

The Cathy Freeman Foundation (CFF) has officially extended its work on Palm Island to three additional remote Indigenous communities, by hosting four end of term Awards ceremonies for 1600 Indigenous children and their families in the Northern Territory and Queensland.

Details of CFF’s recent community partnerships include:

- 277 Awards were distributed in Palm Island on 31 March. CFF has been working with the Palm Island community, Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael’s Catholic School since 2007;
- 93 Awards were distributed in Woorabinda in central Queensland on 1 & 2 April. The Foundation has been working with Woorabinda community, Woorabinda Primary School and Wadja Wadja High School since October 2014;
- Approximately 110 Awards

were distributed in Galiwin’ku, Elcho Island in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory on 27 March. CFF has been working with the Galiwin’ku community and Shepherdson College since February 2015; and

- 208 Awards were distributed in Wurrumiyanga on Bathurst Island, Northern Territory on 24 March.

School Principal of Bwgcolman Community School on Palm Island, Jeff Jones, has been working with CFF for the last four years and said he valued the impact the CFF partnership had on the growing success of

the school community.

“Of all the organisations that come and go, the Cathy Freeman Foundation team is the only ones that stay and we choose to embed their programs in our students’ daily school lives because we know their approach works,” Mr Jones said. “The students and families on Palm Island share a deep respect for the Cathy Freeman Foundation and the Palm Island community is equally proud to see the success of this work extend to central Queensland and the Northern Territory.”



# ***Palm Island - Open for business!***



**THE** second open day for tourists on Palm Island last Sunday proved to be a great success.

More than 200 people from the mainland arrived just after noon on the Sealink ferry and were greeted by balloons on the Reel Women Jetty.

They were introduced to the wonders of the tropical paradise and some were from as far away as Latin America.

A short walk to Frederick William Clay Park followed where visitors were welcomed by Mayor Alf Lacey.

“It is great to have you here to see our island paradise and we are open for business,” Cr Lacey said.

Traditional Owner Allan Palm Island welcomed guests to country.

Visitors learnt about the

island’s history from local Indigenous guides, listened to stories and checked out painting and weaving with experienced artists.

They tasted some local tucker and enjoyed entertainment by local band Mother’s Dust, Great Northern Dancers and the TSI Darnley dancers.

They strolled through the park next to the Coolgaree Bar and Grill and loved this unique day.

Some listened to the yarning circles showcasing the island’s history.

At one stage a male visitor climbed a coconut palm near the foreshore.

Much to the delight of local youngsters he pulled several

coconuts off and they fell to terra firma.

Some of the visitors hailed from far off countries including Latin Americans Ivany Argeuta (Honduras), Melina Rodriguez (Colombia) and Diana Bazmino (Ecuador) (*pictured above*).

“We all loved it and the island is great, the people friendly and the craft and food just wonderful. I would recommend to everybody,” Ivany said.

The return ferry to the mainland left at 4.30pm and arrived back at Townsville’s Ross Creek two hours later.

**The next Open Day on 17th May is already heavily booked.**









## ***Palm Island Open Day April 2015***





# Palm Island Voice

Public &  
Community Notices



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If you have any questions please  
contact Reception on 4770 1177



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

## 2015 Rates & Dates

### Issue No. Deadline / Publication

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
183	Thursday 9 July / 16 July
184	Thursday 23 July / 30 July

### Issue No. Deadline / Publication

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
190	Thursday 15 October / 22 October
191	Thursday 29 October / 5 November

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Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)  
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*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!**



**Are you the new face of SOLAS? Due to an internal promotion, we are currently looking for 2 people to fill our receptionist role on a part time job share basis in our Palm Island Office.**

**SOLAS**  
mental health & wellbeing

We are looking for people who meet the following criteria:

- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate effectively with internal and external stakeholders in a friendly and professional manner.
- Ability to work within a staff team environment and the capacity to work with minimal supervision with autonomously.
- Certificate III in Business Administration or willing to obtain and/or relevant industry experience in a similar role.
- Display competency in operating within a Windows environment using Microsoft Office Software including Word, Excel and Outlook.

**Enquiries can be made by contacting our Palm Island Service Coordinator Rosanne Bennett. Applications close Friday 24th April 2015.**

## BOXING NEWS

It's been a big couple of weeks for the Palm Island Boxing Club travelling to tournaments and there are a big couple of weeks ahead.

Over the 27th, 28th and 29th of March, Reggie Palm Island and Chris Evers travelled to Brisbane to compete in the 2015 Queensland Boxing Titles.

The boxers fought exceptionally well and both of them easily won their fights.

Reggie won the men's 52kg final against a boxer from the Gold Coast and Chris won the U15 36kg division against a boxer from Caboolture.

Then on the 11th of April Reggie Palm Island, Chris Evers and Craig Evers travelled to Bundaberg to compete in the Wide Bay Boxing Titles.

Once again the Palm Island team was too good for the opposition, with all of the team dominating to win their respective divisions.

Reggie won the men's 52kg division stopping an opponent from the Sunshine Coast, Chris won



the U15 36kg division against an opponent from Moranbah and Craig won the U13 34kg division stopping an opponent from Bundaberg.

Also because of his outstanding form at the moment, Reggie has been the first boxer selected to fight in Port Moresby in June against the PNG national team.

Both Reggie and Chris are focusing now on the upcoming Australian Boxing titles being held on the Gold Coast from the 27th of April to the 2nd of May.

The boxers are training hard preparing for the titles, where they will have to fight and win every day for five days if they are to claim the Australian title.



# Palm's presence felt at Rocky's CQID carnival

PALM Islanders Vernon Bourne, Ritchie Martin and Gresham Ross jnr shone for the Bunji United side which won the eighth Central Queensland Reconciliation Allblacks rugby league carnival at Rockhampton over Easter.



Bunji United defeated Ian Munns Memorial Team with players from Woorabinda/Rockhampton 32-20 in the grand final.

Twelve sides battled it out in the men's division in four pools of three as well as eight women's teams at the 4th and 5th April event which was the first Allblacks carnival of 2015.

Bunji United spokesman Zac Moss said more than half the side had been boarding students at Yeppoon's St Brendan's College, a noted breeding establishment of quality young rugby league footballers.

"Bunji is an Aboriginal word meaning 'Brother' and 13 players from the 25 went to St Brendan's College as boarder students and finished

in 2008/09. Me and my best mate Dean Blackman, the team captain just wanted to get all the boys back together to play together again. Daniel Pickering scored three tries in the grand final," Moss said.

Vernon created havoc from dummy half whilst Gresham jnr and Richie starred throughout the carnival.

## TIDDAS CAMPAIGN

Southern Cross Tiddas with a number of young women from Palm island competed in the ladies division and gained valuable experience.

Coach of the side Charlie Williams has family connections on Palm Island.

The Palm Islanders included Georgina Haines jnr, Jessica Johnson, Anita Johnson, Lyn Inkerman, Racine James,

Josephine Landers and Sharonna Johnson.

Team officials were Palm Islanders Sasha Pearce, Tracey Hero and Rachel Obah.

In their qualifying games Southern Coast Tiddas lost 32-0 to Coastal Gummaz, and 40-10 to Harmony's Angels.

In their quarter final game Southern Coast Tiddas lost 44-6 to Coastal Gummaz to be eliminated from the carnival.





# High hopes for 2015 start on rugby league

QRL Northern Division Manager Scott Nosworthy is expected to travel to Palm Island today to meet with local officials in a bid to get a local rugby league competition started in 2015.

“I will be speaking to people like Algon Walsh and other Palm Island club representatives about when a start can be made and whether Palm Island will be able to select a team to compete at the NQ United trials in Cairns in mid-June,” he said.

“There is a bit of work to do and we will be relying on some community ownership to make it a reality.

“I am sure we can get it up and running sooner rather than later.

“Palm Island has a great history with the game of rugby



league and I certainly want this to continue.

“Whilst a normal six club domestic competition would be preferable there is some talk that a nines comp will commence.”



**2015 Coolburra Memorial Shield - full story next page!**



A young Skipjacks side lost their game for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield 44-18 to Army Thunder at 1300Smiles Stadium on Saturday.

The game, now in its eighth year, was a curtain raiser to the North Queensland Cowboys versus New Zealand Warriors NRL game.

Army's big win makes it four victories each in the popular game.

Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan said the side has seen a "changing of the guard" with many of the experienced players not there.

"Most are aged under 25," Morgan said.

It was drizzling rain early making the ball slippery and Skipjacks looked good in the second minute when they scored a try courtesy of Genami Geia jnr, converted by Clinton Pearson saw them lead 6-nil.

But the much bigger Army side dominated the next 38 minutes to lead 30-6 at halftime.

Army extended that lead to 44-6 with 10 minutes left on the clock.

But two tries to Robert Fraser and Clarence Nugent saw the Skipjacks show some late momentum.

Best players for Skipjacks were Raoul Miller who injured his arm, Jason Bulsey who suffered a broken nose in a tackle, Clinton Pearson and Robert Snyder.

# 4-4 tally for Coolburra Shield



Snyder ran down a much bigger Army attacker who broke the line and headed for the try line.

Veteran Thomas Ketchup aged 40 was the oldest player on the field and had a good match.

After the siren Bill

Coolburra's widow Edna congratulated the Army and said the Palm boys would be looking for sweet revenge next year on the island.

There has been no football on Palm this season and the Army players were much fitter.