

# Palm Island Voice

Issue 184: 30 July 2015

\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*

WARNING! Some images in this Issue may contain deceased persons that may cause distress to some people.



It's not often – and perhaps even not ever – the sounds of classic gypsy and jazz violin and piano are heard across the hills and beaches of Palm Island, but tonight will be different!

Australian classical violinist Ian Cooper and pianist Ambre Hammond will be flying in to perform a free concert for Queensland Music Festival's Cooper & Hammond: Classics, Gypsy and Jazz.

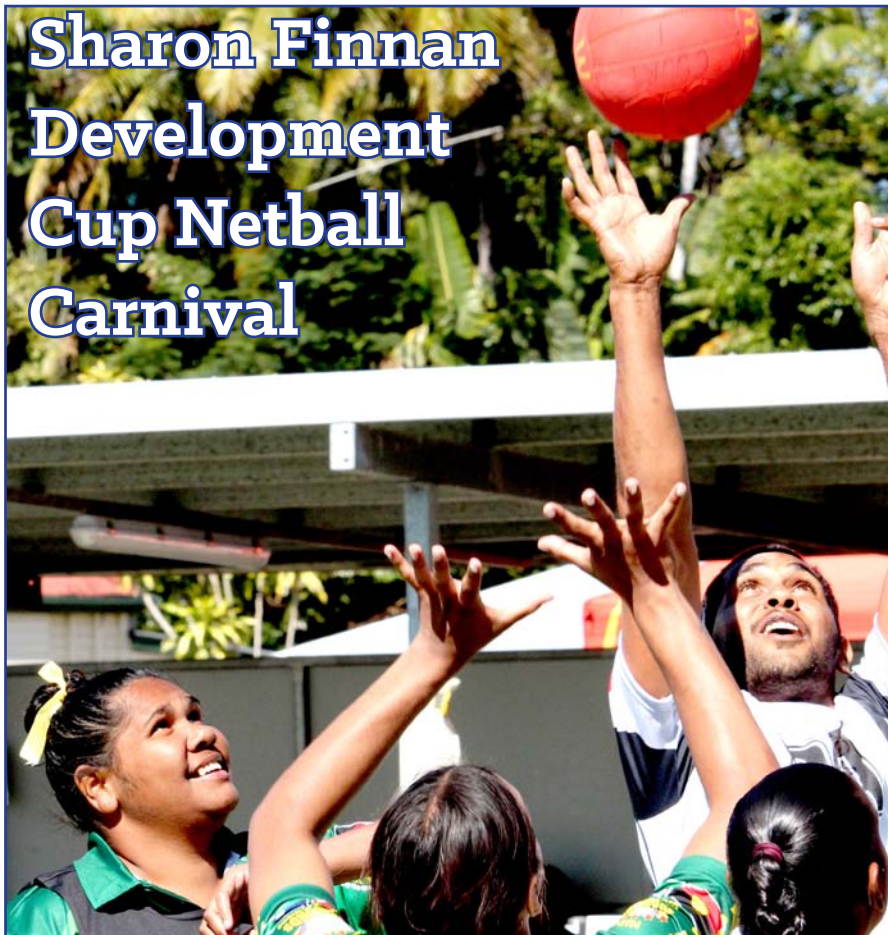
Cooper and Hammond are two of the finest classical musicians Australia has to offer, and have performed to audiences in their thousands from Sydney, to New York, to London, to Paris. The event is proudly supported by PIASC.

7pm tonight only!

COOPER & HAMMOND:  
CLASSICS AND GYPSY  
JAZZ FLYING TOUR

QLD MUSIC FESTIVAL  
17 JULY - 2 AUG 2015

## Sharon Finnan Development Cup Netball Carnival



Six teams, several support staff and some hard and fast netball were the highlights of the Sharon Finnan Development Cup Netball Carnival held in Cairns earlier this month.

Six out of six teams placed in the event with the Panthers – Andrew Castor's team – winning the Mixed Division.

Runners Up in the U12s was the Cathy Freeman Foundation team.

The other three teams came third in their respective divisions – the Palm Island Sapphires in the U16s; the Palm Island Diamonds in the Mixed Division and the Palm Island Pearls in Division 1.

More pics inside, full report next issue!!!

# Palm to host North Queensland local government conference

Palm Island will host the North Queensland Local Government Association's annual conference next week, which will see more than 100 delegates, including Mayors, Councillors, sponsors and speakers from north of Rockhampton.

On the agenda will be discussion around issues of relevance to councils across north Queensland, representing a significant opportunity for Palm Island as a chance to showcase the island.

Services for the conference will be delivered primarily by local businesses and local people including managing and organising the conference, accommodating delegates, catering, transport, cleaning and more.

While the conference is only over a short time, a considerable amount of money will be spent in the local community.

At the close of the conference delegates will also be invited to take history tours and purchase souvenirs at locally run markets in the Cultural Precinct.

Attracting conferences like this, and the Indigenous Leader's Forum last month, provides chances to generate good news stories for Palm Island.

It is not easy to host conferences like these, it takes a lot of planning and a lot of people to bring it all together.

It is an opportunity to show what we can do.

To assist us conference organisers have raised more

than \$80,000 in sponsorship, an amount which far exceeds previous NQLGA conferences.

Delegates will be accommodated at the Palm Island Motel, Klub Kuda, QBuild and John Friend camps at Butler Bay, and in a tent city erected for the purpose of the conference on the Bwgcolman Community School oval.

If you require further information about the organisation of the conference or any other detail please visit [Council reception](#) and ask for Murielle or Tanya. Murielle can also be contacted on 0458 700 208 or at [murielle.morgan@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:murielle.morgan@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)

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## New dialysis chair sits well with patients

Dialysis has recommenced at the Joyce Palmer Health Service following a refurbishment and upgrade to equipment Townsville Hospital and Health Service Indigenous service group director Liza Tomlinson says.

"We started treating patients at the newly renovated facility on Tuesday 23 June and we can currently see up to eight patients per day," Ms Tomlinson said.

"The upgrades to the renal unit include refurbishment works which allow for increased space, a new reverse osmosis machine, an additional haemodialysis machine and all-new dialysis chairs.

"The unit previously housed three dialysis chairs so we also increased that number to four, allowing more of our patients to have their dialysis on the island, helping to

reduce travel and allowing patients to stay in their own community for treatment. Four chairs means four patients can dialysis in the morning and four patients can dialysis in the afternoon. To support the afternoon rotation of patients dialysing we have also recruited an additional nurse."

Ms Tomlinson said another major improvement from a technical perspective was the installation of the reverse osmosis water-treatment plant.

"This equipment produces ultrapure water in line with other major

hospitals in Australia," she said.

Joyce Palmer Director of Nursing John Rallings said community and staff had welcomed the new facility.

"Our staff have received plenty of support and praise from the community," Mr Rallings said.

"Patients who dialysis at the new facility are very appreciative of the new area and have commended us on the upgrades."

The refurbished unit will be named in the coming months following close consultation with the Palm Island community and an official opening will follow shortly after.

# Will one of these students be our first Bwngcolman school uni graduate?



*In Melbourne: Alma Solomon, Mirinda Bulsey (attends Rockhampton Girls Grammar), Kathleen Haines, Heath Lacey and Jeriah Coutts*

Bwngcolman Community School may boast not one but at least two ‘first-time’ university graduates over the next few years after four current students travelled to Melbourne for a recent camp.

The university camp experience was attended by year 12 students Kathleen Haines and Heath Lacey, and year 11 students Jeriah Coutts and Alma Solomon.

They were supported by Senior Secondary Coordinator Lynette Kim Sing who said it was the first time the camp had been available to students from a community school.

“The Palm students were the only ones attending a Community School, the rest were from private schools, boarding schools or large

schools in major towns or cities, where the Yrs 11/12 curriculum is already set for a pathway to university,” she said.

“The Melbourne University staff couldn’t stop thanking me for getting the students to Melbourne.

“They said the Palm students added to the overall experience for all the other 47 participants.

“They said their willingness to share their culture through their dances, was motivating for all the other students.

“They taught the HULA to everyone else and the ‘shake a leg’ to the co-ordinator.

“Academically they were on an even par with the others, showing that they can still learn in a small community and display levels of confidence and self-motivation, that even students in the large schools, have not yet developed.

“I am extremely proud of them.”

*More pics and reflections from the four participants in our next issue!*

# Stolen wages payments hope for early 2016

The creation of a Stolen Wages Reparations Fund is a key Budget initiative aimed at delivering better outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt says.

He said the Government was upholding its election commitment with \$21 million over three years to establish a Stolen Wages Reparations Fund.

He said a special taskforce would be established to develop criteria for the allocation of funds as well as assessing applications.

Queensland Council of Unions Field Officer Lara Watson said Minister Pitt sent a letter to all remote community Mayor's inviting them to use their own protocols and structures to select a Stolen Wages Representative.

"Sixteen nominations were received for the Stolen Wages Taskforce and they will go to Cabinet for them to select

representatives for that taskforce," she said.

"We should know who those representatives will be around mid-August."

She also said a '1800' number and website would be set up for Stolen Wages as soon as possible.

"Claimants who were eligible last time will then have a number to contact to change their details, if they have changed since receiving a payment last time," she said.

Ms Watson said the taskforce was to be well-supported.

"There has been two additional people employed by Government to work on Stolen Wages, and the Taskforce will have a team dedicated to assist them in administration,

research and any other area of need.

"Once the Taskforce representatives have been selected there will be a submission process which will allow people to advise the Taskforce on what issues they need to address, what should be included in their recommendations and any other matter they wish to highlight.

"The Government would like to start payments by the end of the year, but will rely on the direction of the Taskforce and Community recommendations on how that process might be achieved.

"They are confident payments & the application process for new claims will commence no later than February 2016."



**FLASH BACK!**

*May Day*

*2011*

*Marching for  
stolen wages  
in Townsville  
(from Palm  
Island Voice  
Issue 49)*

# Prep 1A wins 2015 NAIDOC float comp!



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council coordinated NAIDOC Week Palm Island-style starting with the Open Day and followed by twilight Combined Church Service on the Esplanade with beautiful sunset and sea views.

A minute's silence and prayer led by Father Daniel, a speech from Mayor Alf Lacey and a welcome from Traditional Owner Allan Palm Island officially launched the week at a flag raising ceremony in the mall area.

Locals of all ages took the opportunity to showcase their skills and talent with cultural and contemporary dance displays, music, live bands and karaoke in "proper deadly style"!

Competitions and activities such as ash damper cooking, fishing, the float and tribal banner march, traditional games, best dressed horses and

dogs, best artefact and relics, coconut peeling and throwing, and movie nights also attracted large numbers.

Locals and Government stall holders enabled the community to access and enjoy information and assorted foods and beverages.

Due to Sorry Business activities were limited over the final weekend, however the fireworks went ahead as planned for a memorable experience.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Community Services Director Lyn Freckleton and Events Officer Bernadine Castors, along with Bw5colman

Arts' Susan Pryor and Business Lifestyle Learning Consultancy's Zina Prior did the job of coordinating the events for the week with the help of the schools, various government agencies and business operators.

Many thanks should also go to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council's external staff who helped throughout the week – Rodney Kerr, Robert James, Robert Nallajar, Hector Poynter, Robert Ryan, Joiiji Dabea, Noel Coolwell and Christopher Bourne.

*Words thanks to Zina Prior.  
Pics thanks to Joe Istria, Emele Dabea and Zina Prior.*



During NAIDOC week the Palm Island Council hosted a BBQ with contractors Mendi and Hutchinson Builders at the new Rodeo Grounds subdivision to offer the community a chance to have a look at the new development.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the area would eventually be one of the biggest suburbs on the island.

“The civil works part of it is now completed and now within a month the first 20 homes will start to be built,” he said.

“Council has won a tender to build nine of those houses in our own right, which will be a great achievement for our Council workforce.

“And that should bring some extra employment as the project rolls on.

“With 59 houses to eventually be built on this subdivision, this area will be Palm Island’s biggest suburb.

“So Council is very pleased and excited about this.

“One of the nicest thing about it was the school’s student council was given the opportunity to name all the streets down there, so all those names have come from them.”



# NAIDOC Week 2015



# 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 or 4770 0200



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

## 2015 Rates & Dates

### 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  
192    Thursday 12 November / 19 November  
193    Thursday 26 November / 3 December  
194    Thursday 10 December / 17 December

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Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST

Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST

Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day  
(see above) and all material submitted no later than COB  
the next day. Print approval required by Monday COB.

### **SUBSCRIBE!**

Individuals & Families (hard copy): \$30

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Government & Corporate (hard copy): \$120

\*All from now to 30 June 2015\*

*Palm Island Voice is online at [chowes.com.au](http://chowes.com.au)*

Subscription rates vary according to when the initial  
subscription is taken out – eg if taken in January 2015 the  
rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2015.

To book an ad or inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor,

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!**

# Jets take the lead in local league

JETS lead the ladder in the Palm Island Community Rugby League competition after the second last round of fixtures last Saturday (25th July).

Sitting on 12 points, Jets top the table from premiers Butler Bay Bulls and Skipjacks (8 points) and Bwgcorman Brothers (4 points).

In last Saturday's fixtures Skipjacks beat Jets 42-28 and Butler Bay Bulls defeated Bwgcorman Brothers 50-28.

This weekend in the last round Bulls meets Jets and Skipjacks take on Bwgcorman Brothers.

Next Saturday the semi finals are on and the sides finishing first and second will meet in a qualifier. Third and fourth will clash in an elimination semi final.

The preliminary final will be held a week later with the grand final the Saturday after.

Big crowds are expected for the finals series and the last round of fixtures.

## FOUR BARRACUDAS IN REP GAME

MEANWHILE four Palm players – Fred Bulsey, Mickeal Sibley, Clinton Pearson and Clifford Beetham – played for Northern United in last Saturday's representative match against Queensland Outback on Thursday Island.

Outback won an exciting game at Ken Brown Memorial Oval 32-30.

Veteran Cairns based referee Rod "Hairy" McCrae was a touch judge for the game and said the Palm players performed strongly.

"Fred Bulsey was a forward and ran the ball hard whilst Mickeal Sibley had limited opportunities on a wing," he said.

"Clinton Pearson and Clifford Beetham were beside each other in the halves and were amongst the team's best, they both shone."

He said the game was played in overcast and windy conditions at the ground known on TI as the "Rock".

It was the third game between the sides and Outback now has a two/one lead after winning the match two years ago.

## It's time to train for Obe Geia!

To the U10s to U12s junior Rugby League players who attended the skills training session on the TOP OVAL last week, thank you for putting in a great effort.

The Obe Geia Challenge will be held on the 11th of September – club footy training sessions will lead to the selection for the Palm Teams. There should be three teams to represent Palm Island at the Challenge, each team to consist of 13 players.

Watch the notice boards or see Lynette Kim Sing for training session details – the only way to get picked for one of these teams is to get to training!!!



Northern United was the victor last year.

The four were picked after shining for the Palm Island Barracudas at the Remote Area Rugby League FNQ Challenge at Cairns in late June.

## TOWNSVILLE PLAYERS

Palm Island players can be dual registered to compete for clubs in the Townsville and District Rugby League competition.

Some will line up for teams next month who have qualified for the TDRL finals series.

The Palm Island Voice will report on their efforts in coming editions.

# Sharon Finnan Development Cup



*Top: Panthers  
Middle: Cathy  
Freeman  
Foundation  
Below:  
Palm Island  
Diamonds*



# Netball Carnival, Cairns 2015

*Top: Palm  
Island Seagulls  
Middle: Palm  
Island Pearls  
Below:  
Palm Island  
Sapphires*



*Above: Lillian  
Lampton, Loretta Prior  
& Sharon Finnan at  
the Carnival*



# Sharon Finnan Development Cup Netball Carnival, Cairns 2015



Pics by Christine Howes

TEAM PICS INSIDE: MORE PICS NEXT ISSUE!