



## Finally we've had rain! But...



...it didn't rain in the catchment areas, so water restrictions are still in place, Mayor Alf Lacey says. "If our community could just hang in there, we can be sure we're nearly there," he said. "It was great to see some good rain at least on parts of the Island." Pic above thanks to Sondra Gorringer. More rain pics on page 4...

## STOP PRESS!!!

Council has just been informed by Deputy Premier Jackie Trad that the remaining foreshore retaining wall – from the Helipad through to Doctor's Point – has been funded to the tune of \$2 million from the Queensland Government's 2015-16 Community Resilience Fund.

**FULL DETAILS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!**



MVP Lendell Sibley playing Oztag for Palm MORE ON P 8



# Good luck in Bamaga Lynette!

Much loved teacher Lynette Kim Sing departed Palm Island on the 4:40pm flight on Tuesday 25 January.

"It is sad to leave after 2 years and 5 months," she told her Facebook friends.

"I have been able to motivate the students to participate in more events, than in their previous years.

"Their learning outcomes improved as well. Maggie Blackley said to me, yesterday, 'You certainly livened up the Island in your time with us'.

"Super Walsh and his beautiful wife, saw me off at the airport and gave me a beautiful piece of art.



"I don't like saying 'Good Bye', but I will say, 'See you the next time, I am on Palm Island' to all of the Palm people I didn't had time to see before leaving."

Lynette has taken up a new position at the Bamaga

Junior Campus.  
*Pictured above: Lynette Kim Sing coaching the first 15-girl team to play in the Obe Geia Challenge in September last year (from Palm Island Voice 188)*

## *Out & About Out & About Out & About*



*Pictured above is Australian men's 52 kg champion Reggie Palm Island, Australian Schoolboys 40kg champion Chris Evers, Daniel Nomoa, Craig Evers, Billy Isaacs and Levonte Bond. Before this pic the boxers were sweating it out in the heat at training ready for their first fights of 2016 at the Aitkenvale PCYC in Townsville later this month.*



*Chenille Coolwell, 7, & Ursula Coolwell, 5,; Coolio Seaton; Cedric Harvey and Shereen Lenoy & Tameka Walsh, 10.*





# Recognition for dedicated north Queensland emergency personnel

From the Queensland Government Fire and Emergency Services Newsroom

<https://newsroom.psba.qld.gov.au/Content/Local-News/01-ENL/Article/Recognition-for-dedicated-north-Queensland-emergency-personnel/1017/1071/12049>

25th January 2016 10:30 AM

Whether it's rebuilding the Palm Island Rural Fire Brigade or leading the Palm Island State Emergency Service, First Officer Ilikena Dabea is truly dedicated in his support of the Palm Island community, earning him the Australia Day Achievement Award today.

Mr Dabea was nominated for the award by Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) Area Training and Support Officer Helaine Clerk for his operational support and dedication to the Palm Island community and Palm Island Rural Fire Brigade.

"Ili is the backbone of the Palm Island community and with the support of his family, has rebuilt the local brigade in recent years to increase its membership and

operational capability," Ms Clerk said. "Ili has also reinvigorated the Palm Island State Emergency Service, where he has been appointed as SES Controller.

"When he's not running the local convenience store, Ili provides emergency services coverage year-round to the Palm Island community in his volunteer roles, a service that is dedicated to protecting and saving lives.

"It's great to recognise him today and let him know his hard work is very much appreciated."

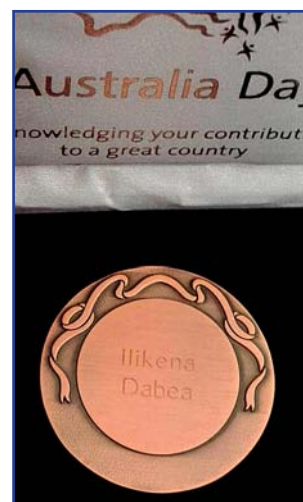
Mr Dabea was one of nine Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) recipients of the award at a ceremony in Townsville.

QFES Commissioner Katarina Carroll said the Australia Day Achievement Award was one of the highest individual acknowledgements of service to our community.

"Every day our staff and volunteers are ready to assist when called upon and while they don't do it for awards or accolades, they thoroughly deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication," Ms Carroll said.

"Their professionalism, selflessness and skills see them respond to some of the most terrifying situations, including road crashes, floods, fires and rescue operations. They are true leaders in their field, mentors to their colleagues and dedicated to continued development and training to ensure staff, volunteers and the community are well prepared and informed during times of crisis.

"Being an emergency worker is a challenging but rewarding task and I thank everyone recognised today for their commitment to helping all Queenslanders. I would also like to thank QSuper for its ongoing generous support of the Australia Day Achievement Awards."





# Amazing rain!



*Pic thanks to Sondra Gorringer*



*Pic thanks to Marina Coutts*



*Pic thanks to Emele Dabea*



*Pic thanks to Marina Coutts*

## ACTIVITIES AT ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pope Francis asked that 2016 be a Jubilee Year of Mercy. This means reflecting upon how God continually touches us with his mercy, love, grace and forgiveness. He has also suggested some activities to highlight this.

As a parish community we have planned some – the first one was a special opening of the door of our Church recognising that belonging to a Christian community can open us up to receiving mercy from God and mercy from one another.

Another activity suggested by Pope Francis was to make a pilgrimage. It would be good for us next time that we visit Townsville to make a pilgrimage to Bishop Michael's grave in the Cathedral.

Here on Palm Island we would like to make a pilgrimage to the places on Palm Island that are in need of God's healing and mercy.

We have planned to do this on **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24TH 5.30 – 6.30 PM** around the town centre – Dormitory Rd, Women's Shelter, monuments in PCYC, clock tower, rocks on the foreshore. We will stop at these places, praying, both in word and silence for God's healing grace.

Details will be given at a later date, but first mark it in your calendars.





# Out & About



*Above: Charlie Williams and Cenita Cubillo;  
Below left: Frannie Brown with Lolo James;  
Below right: Maverick Massey & Roberta Noble;  
and below: Lloyd Cedric with Cr Frank Conway*



## Far northern 'super' Allblacks in play

PALM Island has been invited to nominate representatives to be part of a committee being set up to look at organising a 'Super' North Queensland Allblacks carnival in Cairns.

QRL Northern Division Divisional Manager Scott Nosworthy said that was one of the decisions made at a meeting in Cairns last weekend.

The meeting was attended by Cr Roy Prior who coached the Barracudas at the recent Bindal Allblacks carnival in Townsville.

"Nomination forms will be sent out this week after another very productive meeting," Mr Nosworthy said. "We are going to set up a committee to look at the feasibility of a Northern Indigenous carnival with discussions still ongoing with the QRL and Beetson Foundation re the event."

Cr Prior said the meeting went very well.

"There in the process now of getting a steering committee working group together to start working of the northern Murri carnival," he said. "They haven't settled on a name for it. We will just wait and see how things pan out in the next couple of months."

Holding such a carnival has been a hot topic of conversation around North Queensland since late last year.

It was proposed to be in opposition to the Arthur Beetson Foundation Murri Knockout which was held at Redcliffe in October.

Whilst many NQ based teams competed at Redcliffe the cost of travel was prohibitive.

Representatives from junior and senior Rugby League clubs from as far afield as the Torres Strait attended last weekend's Cairns conference.

# Palm Island Voice



**Public &  
Community Notices**



**Don't forget!!!**

The **DEADLINE** for the  
next **NEXT PALM ISLAND  
VOICE (197)** is

**Thursday 18 February**

**FOR PUBLICATION ON**

**Thursday 25 February**

See our Facebook page for a full  
list of Rates & Dates for 2016



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

If you have any  
questions please  
contact Reception on  
4770 1177 or  
4770 0200



Palm Island  
Aboriginal  
Shire Council  
has 1,073  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!

## **ADVERTISE!**

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner  
across nominated page): \$120

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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\*All from now to 30 June 2016\*

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.

## **BOXING NEWS**

A comeback by young heavyweight  
David Sam has Palm island  
PCYC Boxing trainer Ray Dennis  
enthusiastic about 2016.

"There is not many around who would beat David  
when he is fit," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Dennis also feels experienced boxer Patrick  
Clarke will win plenty of bouts.

"Patrick has been training very well and is going  
to be hard to beat in any bout he contests," he  
said.

Female boxers Natalie David and Shirley Curley  
are back at training after the break.

In other news star boxer Joseph Nallajar has  
obtained a job in Mount Isa.

Former champion boxer Luke Lenoy is serving with  
the Navy based at Darwin.

The club boxers will be competing at various  
North Queensland Sunstate Amateur Boxing  
League tournaments which commence in March.



# Out & About Out & About Out & About



Renay Baira, Sherelle Bone, Lani Baira, and Cloreen Bone holding baby Eli Watson, aged six months; Sealink worker Kevin Barry

## CONTINUED FROM P 8...

The students all performed remarkably well and although they did not win their games, they improved with every game, Mr Chris continues...

After a long first day, in very hot conditions, a large thunderstorm came over and ended the day early.

The teams then went to dinner at Sizzler, thanks Mislam and Jeanie Sam (Klub Kuda), then back to Meridan for showers and bed.

Day 2 saw some finer weather and the teams took to the field for their next round of matches.

The girls took on some tough teams and managed to score a few tries and chase down some spectacular tags.

The boys also managed to score a few tries with a spectacular intercept try by Ben Kennedy.

In the afternoon more storms

rolled over and play was suspended for an hour and when it resumed the boys had a wet and muddy game narrowly going down 2-1.

That night we went to the beach for dinner and had a BBQ with Mr H and Miss Jill.

On Day 3 we had another early start; getting up, packing the buses and heading to the fields for our last games.

Both teams scored tries in the last games and finished on a high.

We celebrated by going back to the beach where Mr H and Mr Dave took the students out body boarding and surfing.

We returned to the fields to watch the finals before making the drive back to Brisbane airport to get ready for our flight back to Townsville.

We stayed the night at Iris Clay in Townsville and after yet another late night, the students were up early to make

the ferry back to Palm on Monday morning.

A special mention must also go to Josiah James who came on the trip as a mentor to the boy's team and was a fantastic role model throughout the whole trip.

Congratulations must also go to our Most Valuable Players, Lendell Sibley and Ben Kennedy, who were awarded for their fantastic sportsmanship and effort in all games.

This trip was made possible by the amazing contributions from the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, The Cathy Freeman Foundation, Palm Island Community Company, Sealink, Klub Kuda and Meridan State College and we thank them for their support.

A special thank you must also go to the organising teachers Miss Amy and Mr Dave for their dedication to making this trip happen.



*Thanks also to Chris Sachlikidis for words & pics*

## Bwgcolman Community School takes on Queensland's best in Oztag Junior State Cup

From the 28th – 31st of January, 24 students from Bwgcolman Community School travelled to the Sunshine Coast to compete against players from all over Queensland in the 2016 Oztag Junior State Cup, Mr Chris writes...

The students started the selection process in September last year and had to prove not only their skill on the field but also show a dedication to their schooling by attending school a minimum of 85% leading up to the trip.

Once selected in the team the training began two afternoons a week after school with the students learning the basics of the game as well as team work skills in order to be ready to take on the best on the Sunshine Coast.

The journey to the Sunshine Coast started on Thursday the 28th with the ferry trip to Townsville, followed by a

taxi to the airport then on the 7:50pm flight down to Brisbane.

Many students were nervous about the flight as it was their first time on a jet plane.

They handled it brilliantly, even entertaining the other passengers with a countdown to the touchdown!

From there we piled into buses for the drive up to the Sunshine Coast, arriving at Meridan State College where we would be staying for the trip at 11:30pm that night.

Friday saw the students woken up at 5:30am where we went down to Kings Beach at Caloundra for breakfast and a morning swim.

The students were all amazed by the waves and for many it was their first experience swimming in the surf and learning how to body surf.

Then it was on to the Opening Ceremony of the 2016 Junior Oztag State Cup at the Sunshine Coast Stadium where Shameka Sam and Ben Kennedy led the march out onto the fields in the opening flag ceremony.

Before long it was time for the first games to start and the students were nervous but excited to be taking to the field for their first game of Oztag. *CONTINUED P 7...*