

After weeks of preparation, community consultation and approval, we are pleased to announce that we will be starting up a **Gambling Help** yarning circle on Palm Island next Thursday (28 September).

We will be launching this with a free community BBQ at around lunch time hosted by the Gambling Help team.

The purpose of the weekly yarning circle will be to provide community education around problem gambling specific to Palm Island community members.

It will also provide an opportunity to meet with

me, Lucy Stephens, as the primary counsellor if community members want free and confidential counselling as per our normal counselling service.

We have found through consultation that community members are shamed to contact our normal intake service so this is a strategy we are trialling to provide a better service and greater access.

The yarning circle will run weekly on Thursdays from 10am-12pm from 28 September until 16 November at SOLAS office space.

*Lucy Stephens*  
*Acting Manager, Gambling Help*  
*Program (North Qld)*  
*HIPPY Program (Burdekin & Mt Isa)*  
*Pathways School Counselling Program*  
*External Family Group Meeting Convenor*  
*Ph 4772 9000*





Hinterland Palm Island employee Suzanne Jones spent her day off reading stories and celebrating Book Week with St Michael's students earlier this month.

The school Book Week theme was 'Reading makes you, makes me. Reading is Strong Smart and Deadly'.

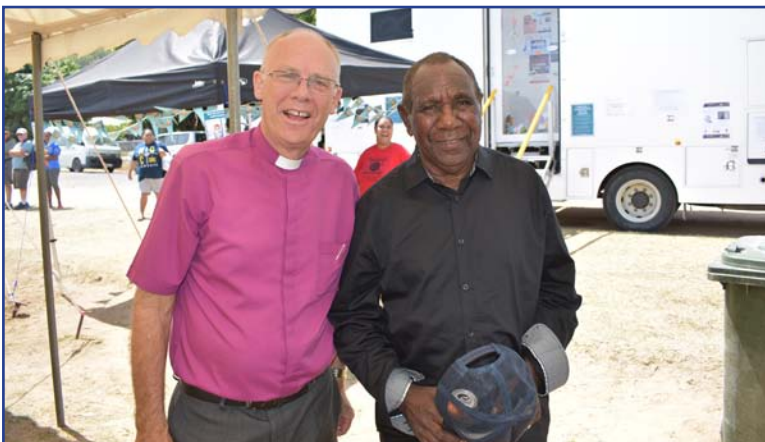
Suzanne told students about the importance of reading for information and pleasure.

Her story – What do they do with all the Poo from the animals at the Zoo, by Anh Do – caused considerable laughter.

Suzanne said she enjoyed her day and the children presented flowers to her in appreciation.



MEANWHILE Bwgcolman Community School students took the opportunity to hone their barista skills at the Cairns Business College earlier this month. Pictured is coffee shop rehearsal before they took on real customers from the College for morning tea. Students were practising coffee making, safe food handling, processing financial transactions and wait staffing skills. These were excellent, hands-on skills to transfer into future employment.



## Watch this space!

*Pictured left is Bishop Bill Ray and Deacon Noel Cannon who will have a **BIG** announcement to make towards the end of this month. You'll see it first in the Palm Island Voice!*



# Foreshore development funding on the way

Coolgaree Bay's Foreshore Redevelopment Stage I will receive Federal and State Government funding through the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure (TDDI) program, it was announced last week.

It was anticipated the project to improve the fore-shore area would help to drive growth in visitor numbers and boost local jobs.

Townsville-based Government Senator Ian Macdonald said the project would make it easier for visitors to Palm Island to experience what the area really had to offer.

"Tourism is important when it comes to helping

local economies," Senator Macdonald said.

"On Palm Island the foreshore development will create an avenue for greater cultural expression on the island, and a deeper experience of its history and nature."

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said an investment in tourism was an investment in jobs and the funding would boost

local attractions and deliver benefits across the community.

"The Queensland Government is committed to supporting business opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the Coolgaree Bay Foreshore Redevelopment project will help the community's economy and growing tourism industry," Mr Stewart said.



*Council was pleased to welcome Deputy Premier Jackie Trad to Palm Island this week along with mayors of Townsville City Council, Burdekin Shire Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council and Charters Towers Regional Council. It was an opportunity to set goals with our immediate neighbours and plan for the future of North Queensland.*



# New power station full steam ahead

Ergon Energy's new power station on Palm Island is "powering ahead" and is expected to begin supplying power to the community next year.

A lot of work has been done, however with a project of this size and complexity there is still more to do.

Some of the old buildings on the site have been demolished and replaced with new buildings while new generators have been delivered and will be installed and connected in coming months.

On-site electrical and mechanical installation works by Ergon crews from Cairns will continue until late October 2017.



It's part of a major job to build the power station, test and then connect it to Ergon's poles and wires network.

On completion of on-site construction works, there are 12 weeks of planned works for testing and commissioning activities, from November 2017 through to January 2018.

With public holidays in this period, the forecast is to complete commissioning and cutover activities by about March next year.

The new power station will replace the existing power station which is coming to the end of its economic life.



## Out & About



Top: Gwen Schriber, Fiona Johnson & Maryam Clay in Yarrabah;  
Below: Raynard Baira, left, and Sterling Aden sr; Above:  
Mother's Dust band members Wally Foster & Rosetta Thimble  
along the foreshore area where they often go fishing.





**CATHY O'TOOLE MP**  
MEMBER FOR HERBERT

*A strong voice for Herbert*

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Email [cathy.otoole.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:cathy.otoole.mp@aph.gov.au) | [www.cathyotoole.org.au](http://www.cathyotoole.org.au)  
Nathan Business Centre 340 Ross River Road Cranbrook Qld 4814

My sincere congratulations go to Mayor Alf Lacey, the Palm Island Shire Council and the broader community on Palm Island, MP Member for Herbert  
**Cathy O'Toole writes...**

The annual Spring Festival was an amazing success with well over 1,000 in attendance, who were thoroughly entertained, and those who visited from the mainland got to see the beauty of Palm by overlooking the pristine foreshore of the esplanade, where the crystal clear, vibrant

blue water was absolutely shining.

Visitors truly enjoyed the local guides, who conducted interactive guided history walks that re-enacted the stories about life on Palm Island in the days when the Islanders were under the Act.

The traditional dances performed by the local dancers, including very young children from the schools, led by teenagers and elders, and the local people from the Cook Islands were professional and told ancient traditional cultural stories.

It was great to see the young people dancing proudly with their elders.



The local artists who provided visitors with an introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander painting allowed participants to leave the workshop with a piece of their very own original art.

The local art on sale at the festival was stunning and truly unique.

Many people would have left the island with an original piece of artwork that they will proudly hang in their homes or wear.

Palm Island truly is the jewel in the crown of North Queensland and the opportunities for economic development via tourism are enormous.

**Congratulations Palm Island, you should be enormously proud of this year's Spring Festival and I genuinely look forward to attending next one!**












# PALM ISLAND

## *Spring Festival*







Along with Mayi Wunba (above), other special guests at this year's Spring Festival included Black Rising – Kuranda Band and Simone Stacey & Band who played on Friday afternoon. Also on this page: Joiji Dabea with Raoul Miller and his son; Andy Kyle–Sailor; Cr Deniece Geia; Russell Parker and children Kayla, 8, and Dirramah, 7; and, the Jay Crew.





# Palm Island Voice



**Public &  
Community Notices**



**Don't forget!!!**

The **DEADLINE** for the  
**NEXT**

**PALM ISLAND VOICE**  
**(238) is**

**Thursday**  
**28 September**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday**  
**5 October**

*Check out our  
Facebook page!*

## **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.

To book an ad, make a contribution or  
inquire about subscriptions please contact  
the Editor, Christine Howes,  
on 0419 656 277 or  
[palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au](mailto:palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au)

## **POSITIONS VACANT**



The following positions are  
currently open for  
application:

### **Farm Road Bakery**

1 x Cook/Supervisor Full Time

### **Farm Road Mechanic**

1 x Junior Trade Assistant Full Time

**Applications close Friday,  
29th September 2017**

To be considered for these positions, please submit to  
[smarschall@picc.com.au](mailto:smarschall@picc.com.au) :

1. A completed employment application form.  
(Employment application form available from the  
PICC Mall Office on Palm Island);
2. A copy of your resume.



**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 1,716  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!

COMMUNITY NOTICE

## **BEWARE OF FERAL PIGS**

THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS NOT TO APPROACH PIGS IF  
YOU SEE THEM IN THE COMMUNITY AS  
THEY CAN BE VERY AGGRESSIVE.



# Palm will dominate numbers at Bindal comp

Palm Island players and teams will dominate in terms of numbers at North Queensland's biggest Allblacks carnival organised by Bindal Sharks in Townsville next month.

So far 16 sides have nominated in the men's division and there will be under 11, 13 and 18 games as well.

Women have not been forgotten and an Eva Geia Memorial team will meet Bowen Stingers in an exhibition match which should be a crowd pleaser.

Men's sides so far are: Charters Towers Black Brems, Juru Gubulla Munda Bowen, Palm Island Barracudas Green, Palm Island Barracudas Gold,

Merinya Raiders, Mosby Eagles, Kross Memorial, Elijah Heroes, Aja's Boys, Eastern Warriors, Coastal Balaz, Bwgcolman Brothers, Gulf Bulls, Bowen Stingers, Young Bloods and Walkabouts.


Under 18 sides include: Palm Island Barracudas, Walkabouts, Bowen Stingers, K Ross Memorial and Bowen River Broncos.

An under 11's exhibition match will be played between Bindal Sharks (Mhumpa

Warriors) and Palm Island Barracudas.

The under 13 exhibition game will be between Cannonball and Bowen Stingers.


When the women's match is played golden memories of the late and great Aunty Eva Geia, who for many years barracked for the Barracudas men's team when they were in the Townsville and District Rugby League competition, are sure to surface in amongst fierce rivalry between the two teams.



**Return of PhD Thesis and Bwgcolman Family Stories**  
**Dr. Lynore K. Geia**

*It is with great pleasure to invite you to the handing back of my PhD Thesis and the Bwgcolman family stories of Elders and their families who contributed to my Doctor of Philosophy.*

Tuesday September 26<sup>th</sup> 2017  
9.30am for 10 am start  
Bwgcolman Knowledge Centre  
Palm Island



Contact information  
RSVP: [lynore.geia@jcu.edu.au](mailto:lynore.geia@jcu.edu.au)

Cairns  
Singapore  
Townsville



*Palm legends Fred Bulsey and Ray Dennis. Fred has recovered from an injury and said he is preparing to line up for the Barracudas at the Bindal Allblacks carnival next month. With them is Fred's son Zaquan, aged 8. Ray has an ongoing groin ailment which he is being treated for but still trains local boxers.*

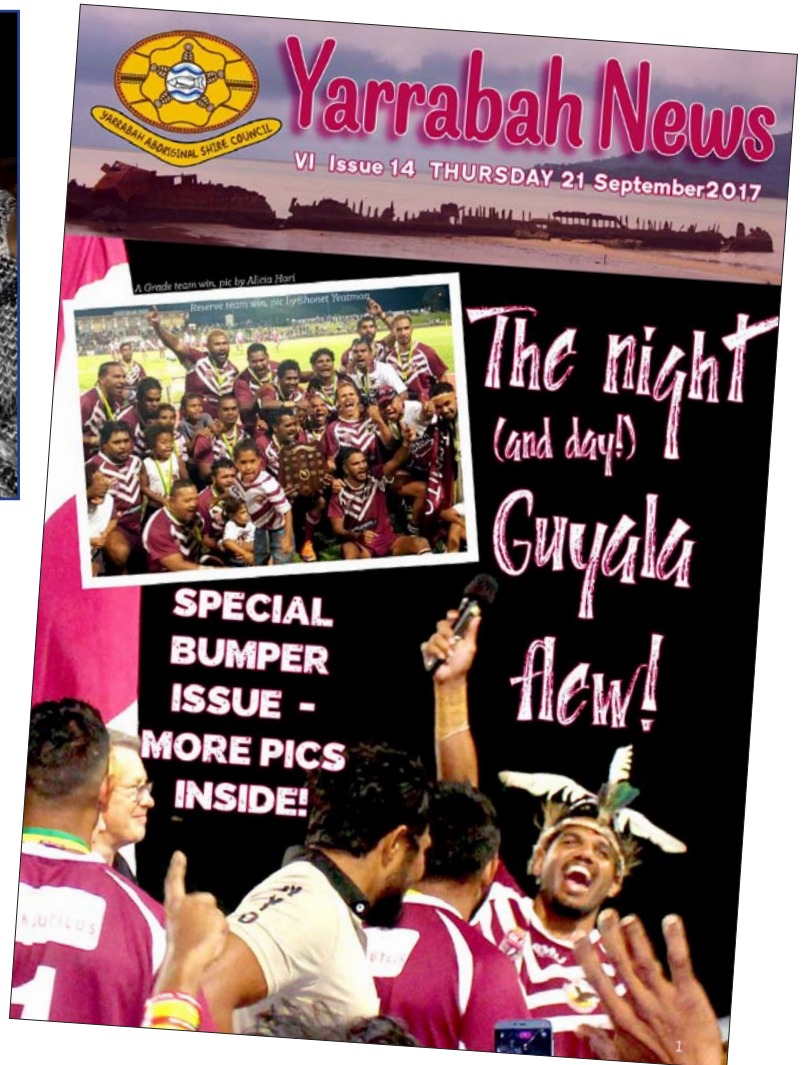


# Yarrabah's Guyala takes two out of three CDRL flags in 17-year first



Pictured above is Frederick Jnr, Frederick Snr and Eva Haines who were lucky enough to be in Barlow Park in Cairns when two out of three Yarrabah teams – A Grade and Reserve – won their respective Cairns & District Rugby League (CDRL) grand finals. What a day!

Other Palm Islanders who made the trip north included Loretta Prior, Dermie Walsh, Darren and Rani Johnson, Kevin Barry from Sunferries, and Genami and Walter Geia.



*Above: a sea of maroon as Yarrabah turned out in force to support their heroes; Right: chaos reigns as the A-Grade team celebrates their win. Pics with thanks to Alicia Hari & Shonet Yeatman.*

## FINAL SCORES:

C Grade: Tully 30 def Yarrabah 18  
Reserves: Yarrabah 32 def Brothers 26  
A-Grade: Yarrabah 31 def Innisfail 22





# Palm players shine in TDRL finals

Several Palm Islanders shone for Brothers, who defeated arch rivals Herbert River 18–16, in the Townsville and District Rugby League grand final earlier this month.

Gresham Ross jnr, Obe Geia jnr and Roy Baira were an integral part of the victory.

Ross jnr and Geia jnr are two of the best club footballers in North Queensland.

Quietly spoken off the field, 37-year-old Baira came out of retirement in May to play for Brothers.

He had also played for a premiership side back in 2014, after which he indicated he would put the football boots into the cupboard.

It was the eighth TDRL grand final victory for the genuine warrior of the competition.

“My reflexes weren’t too bad for an old fella and it wasn’t even in my mind that I’d be standing here and



winning another premiership,” he told the Townsville Bulletin.

Baira has played in scores of Allblacks carnivals around North Queensland including the Zenadth Kes on TI, the Island of Origin on Badu, and the Dan Ropeyarn Memorial event at Bamaga.



He has also tasted success at carnivals in Townsville, Cairns and many other places.

Last October Baira was a star for the Coastal Balaz team with withstood a late blitz by Can-nonball to win the grand final of Townsville’s 30th Bindal Sharks Allblacks carnival 24–20.

His sister Rothana Baira will be a key play-er for the Murri Sistas side which will compete in the ladies section of the Murri Knockout at Redcliffe from September 20 to 23.

Murri Sistas has won the last two ladies deciders at Redcliffe.

Last year Murri Sistas beat Tiddas United 44–0 and in 2015 the side defeated Highlanders 22–nil to claim the major prize.

