



## Palm teams dominate Bindal Allblacks



**HEAPS MORE  
PICS INSIDE...**

*Pic thanks to Pel'e Reuben*

## Draft report calls for service delivery overhaul

A draft report from the Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC) has recommended new and improved approaches to service delivery for discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland.

The report, now available for feedback, has made 16 draft recommendations.

The recommendations propose reforms in three key areas:

- accountability and decision-making, funding and resourcing, and progress monitoring;
- individual and community needs;
- community development.

Commissioner Bronwyn Fredericks said she and the QPC team consulted with communities to investigate service delivery across all areas including education, health care, housing and community safety.

“Members of the QPC Inquiry team visited Palm Island in June during our last round of consultations,” she said.

“We held broader meetings and also made ourselves available for individual meetings.

“In this current round of consultations we are visiting communities who have not received a visit as yet.

“The team is happy to hear from anyone on Palm Island or in other communities who would like to talk with us.”

*Continued...*

“Our inquiry team was asked to look at what the Queensland Government currently spends on services and what’s being delivered, and opportunities to improve services and outcomes for communities,” Professor Fredericks said *(from page 1)*...

“While some services are being delivered well, many are not.

“All stakeholders agree the current system is not meeting community, provider or government expectations.”

Traditional arrangements make it difficult to get services delivered well, Prof Fredericks said.

“Most service delivery issues are well-known to government, providers and communities,” she said.

“What have been missing are the mechanisms for communities and government to achieve change.

“The proposed reforms aim to achieve two long sought-after goals – enabling communities to develop ways to improve outcomes for themselves and ensuring genuine

accountability for outcomes.” QPC is now seeking feedback on its draft report and recommendations, as well as further evidence and feedback on a wide range of areas from housing to land tenure and municipal services.



its final report to the Queensland Government by 22 December 2017.

Prof Fredericks encouraged everyone to look at the Draft Report and to make comment via a written submission, audio file, photographs, video or another means; or to contact the team to discuss before the 8th November.

QPC will provide

The draft report is available online at: <https://www.qpc.qld.gov.au/inquiries/service-delivery-in-queenslands-remote-and-discrete-indigenous-communities/>



## Nation-wide call out for didgeridoo players

**DIDGERIDOO** players from Indigenous communities around Australia have been invited to be part of an attempt to break a world record on Palm Island in early 2018.

The most participants in a didgeridoo ensemble was 238 at the Didge Fest UK in Escot Park, Devon, UK and that has received recognition in the Guinness Book of Records.

At attempt to break the record will be held early next year during the 100th year birthday celebrations for Palm.

Mayor Alf Lacey said plans for

the bid were coming along nicely.

“The record should be held by an Australian Indigenous community and not in the UK,” he said.

“We are calling on Aboriginal and any Torres Strait Islander didgeridoo players from around Australia to be part of this.”

Such an attempt requires a lot of organising but Cr Lacey was confident many didgeridoo players

from across the far north would participate. Palm Island has a permanent population of around 3500, many of whom have family connections around the country.

The community has residents from more than 40 tribes and came into existence in 1918.

100th year celebrations will be held from next March and throughout the year.

# Support for CDP workers from trade unions

A new union to support Community Development Program (CDP) workers has been formed and several Education Officers from the Australian Council of Trade Unions have visited communities such as Palm Island and Yarrabah to support their cause.



The First Nations Workers' Alliance's (FNWA's) main aim is to campaign for the end of the current CDP.

"All Australians deserve the opportunity to have a good, steady job and the dignity of work," ACTU Indigenous Officer Lara Watson said.

"The Turnbull Government's CDP is depriving tens of

thousands of people of that opportunity.

"It's punitive, heavy-handed and racially discriminatory.

"We are working with CDP workers and the community to give a voice to these workers who are being exploited.

"The FNWA is a new organisation which will campaign to end the CDP and

replace it with a program that works for Indigenous people rather than oppressing them.

"The First Nations Workers' Alliance is free for CDP workers to join."

Workers can join FNWA at [fnwa.org.au](http://fnwa.org.au) or email [fnwa@actu.org.au](mailto:fnwa@actu.org.au) for more information.

## Search is on for digital savvy champion

Palm Island's Indigenous Knowledge Centre will be facilitating a new digital literacy program over the next few months and is looking for 'Deadly Digital Champions' to help them.

The program – Deadly Digital Communities – offers participants the chance to learn about everything from

searching the internet to using social media.

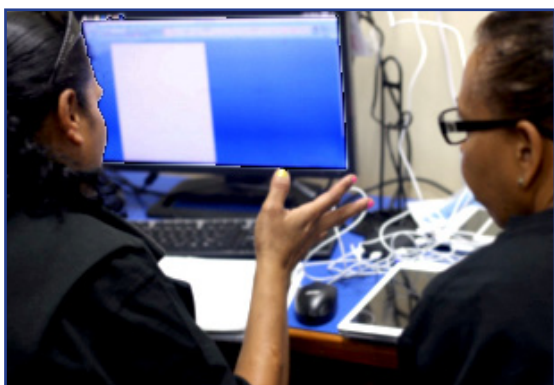
Bwgcolman IKC joins a number of other remote and regional Ab-original and Torres Strait Islander communities in rolling out the project.

The project is looking for local people to nominate themselves as Deadly Digital Champions to assist with delivering the free

training in consultation with State Library and the community.

If you are interested in becoming a Deadly Digital champion, call in to the IKC and speak with IKC Coordinator Regina James.

Deadly Digital Communities is an initiative of the State Library of Queensland Telstra in partnership with Indigenous Knowledge Centres and Indigenous Shire Councils.



# Townsville display shows talent

Palm Island artists are being showcased in an exhibition called the 'Lost Artists of Palm Island' in Townsville this month.

Working with the Townsville Art Society and Campbell Page, the exhibition was launched late last month and will run until 27 October at the Jezzine Gallery from 10am–4pm.

The event displays artworks from the 40+ tribes of the Palm Island and Bwgcolman people showcasing their talents in a way that has not been done on Palm Island before.

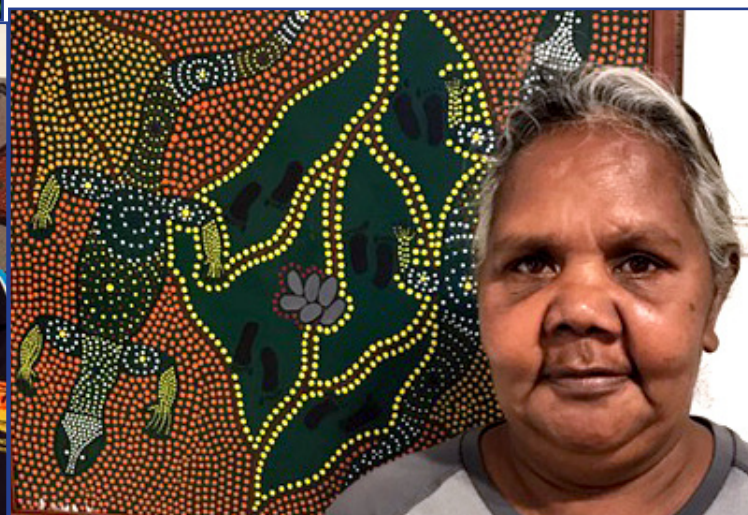
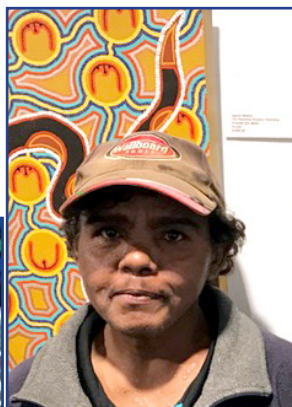
"We wanted to highlight the incredible talents of our people and provide them with an opportunity they may not have had otherwise," Campbell Page CDP Operations Manager Nathan Vinson said.

"Campbell Page have been assisting in the development of the community on Palm Island for three years.

"In that time, we have seen some fantastic stories come from the programs that we run, and now we want to share our success stories."

Artists include Ian Palmer, Anthony Bourne, Allanah Nugent, Agnes Wotton, Patricia Kidner and Steven Watson.

*Additional reporting thanks to Tiarne Pattison, pics thanks to Campbell Page.*



# WIN WIN WIN for Palm Island @ 2017 Bindal Allblacks carnival!

As very confidently predicted by the *Palm Island Voice* in Issue 237, Palm Island sides have dominated the Bindal Sharks Allblacks carnival, held in Townsville last weekend.

It was the community's best performance at the carnival in more than 25 years.

Two Palm sides, Aja Boyz and Barracudas Gold, battled it out in the men's grand final, the Under 18s won their grand final and Aja Girlz won their games.

Ultimate winners, Aja Boyz, also took a swathe of trophies home (*see next page for details*).

Coach and founder of Aja Boyz, Genami Geia, dedicated the win to his grandmother and all Aja Boyz players and supporters, past and present.

"We finally did it, to win a Bindal Sharks All Blacks Carnival," he said on Facebook.

"This is to every single player that has played for this team that has competed at the Townsville All Blacks Carnivals.

"Big love to everyone that has been on this roller coast ride, my Grandmother would have up there smiling down on us as she was Mother

Barracuda to a lot of old players, beating her drum.

"I would like to thank the organisers of the carnival and the Palm Island Barracudas on your effort but there had to be one winner and after having so many attempts we finally did it!"

The grand final showdown pitted family members against each other including Dabea brothers Joiiji and Simone.

To get there Aja Boyz had to beat Coastal Balaz, who have won the past two Bindal comps – 16-14 in the first semi final.

In the other semi final Barracudas Gold beat Gulf Bulls 22-4.

In the 16 team strong men's division Barracudas Green also competed, finishing sixth after qualifying games.

They were eliminated by Coastal Balaz in a quarter final.

Another Palm team, Bwgcorman Brothers, finished well down the ladder but still performed well.

## UNDER 18 SIDE TRIUMPHS

Thunder – which some said was reminiscent of Eva's drum – accompanied the Under-18s Barracudas side when they ran on to the field to win the Under-18s grand final, beating KR Memorial 40-15.

In their semi final the young Barracudas rolled Bowen Stingers 32-10 after finishing top of the table after the fixtures.

## AJA GIRLZ

PALM Island's Aja Girlz beat Bowen 18-16 in a hotly contested ladies exhibition game.

"We have some great talent in our side that held us together really well, we've even got Jenni-Sue Hoepper in there," coach Jacintha Geia said.

"She led our team and I feel privileged to have coached her.

"It was also so an honour to have Samartha Leisha who played in the 2017 Women's Indigenous All Stars Team."

Samartha said she was privileged to be a part of the team.

"It's always good to go and play outside of my normal area with new teams and a new environment," she said.

**THANK YOU FACEBOOKERS!!!** AFTER stalking, begging and broadcasting on Facebook for a whole day for pics of the winning Under-18s Barracudas, we have finally sourced a page of same – but alas it's too late for this Issue! We promise to put a good spread of them in our next Issue, in the meantime we hope the team and their supporters will accept our HUGE apologies and HUGE **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



On behalf of The Geia Family we would like to say a big thank you to Jenny Pryor for hosting another successful carnival, Jacintha Geia writes...

Also to all the Aja Girlz and Aja Boyz who played in honour of Nan Eva Grace Geia Nan Aja.

Both teams won the Grand Final last weekend at the 2017 Bindal Sharks Townsville All Blacks Carnival.

Congratulations also to the Coaches of both the Women's and Men's Jacintha Geia and Genami Geia and to the Captain's of both sides Vynieka Haines and Obe Geia jnr.

Over the weekend we had a lot of great talent shine in both sides, including the women who had two Indigenous Allstars, Theresa Anderson and Samartha Leisha, alongside with Australian Jillaroo and Dally M Award winner Jenni-Sue Hoepper.

Aja Boyz also had some great talent throughout the team with the sons of Indigenous league legend Vern Daisy ,Phillip and Gordon, as well as Anthony Gadd, Blackhawks' player Jonathan Reuben and Joshua Geia's son, Jayme.

The men also came away with:

- Forward of the Carnival- Walter Geia
- Back Of the Carnival- Frederick Haines Jnr
- Player of the Finals- Ezekiel Baira
- Player of the Carnival- Anthony Gadd

Emotions are still high with this victory for both sides.

We hope to bring the Aja Boyz and Girlz back in 2018.





# 2017 Bindal Allblacks

*Pics by Colin Cargill*



# Palm Island Voice



**Public &  
Community Notices**



**Don't forget!!!**  
**The DEADLINE for the**  
**NEXT**  
**PALM ISLAND VOICE**  
**(240) is**

**Thursday**  
**26 October**  
**FOR PUBLICATION**  
**Thursday**  
**2 November**

*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)

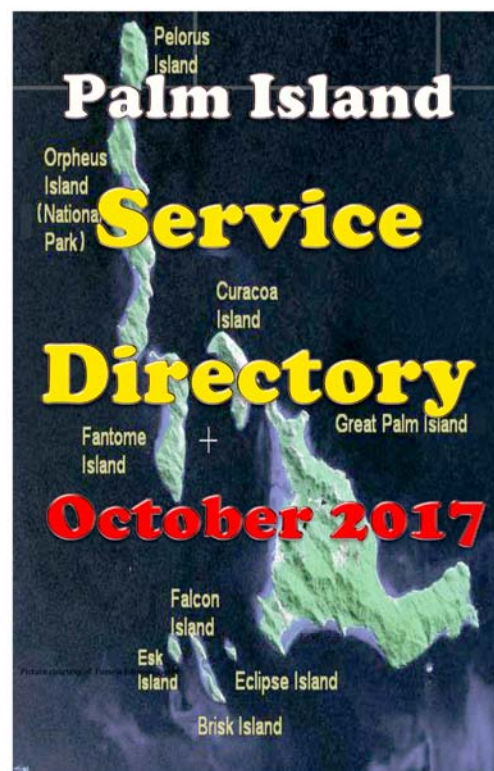


**Operating Hours for  
Council are Monday –  
Friday 8am – 5pm**

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



Palm Island  
Aboriginal  
Shire Council  
has 1,767  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!



**OUT NOW!**

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.



## Careers with Queensland Health

### TV255695 Trainee Health Worker – Male (Identified) – Palm Island

Please note this role is based on Palm Island and Applicants must have current resident accommodation on Palm Island. The successful applicants must provide proof of current residency on Palm Island.

Under s25 of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the incumbent to be indigenous to the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community.

Remuneration package of up to \$62,323 p.a. (+ other applicable allowances/benefits) comprising salary range of \$1930.80 - \$2093.70 p.a. (002), recreational leave loading (17.5%), and employer contribution to superannuation (12.75%).

#### Working on Palm Island

As an employee on 'Palm', you will be contributing to health service provision in an area with unique needs. The Australian Government has signalled a need to "close the gap", a gap that exists in health standards between Aboriginal (and Torres Strait Islander) peoples and other populations. Since Palm Island is almost exclusively populated by Aboriginal peoples, every health service employee plays an important role in making a real difference there. Staff members contribute not only through using their health service expertise, but also their cultural capability.

#### About the role

This is an entry level Men's Health Worker position available in Primary Health Care, Joyce Palmer Health Service at Palm Island. This position is part of a multidisciplinary team participating in, and contributing to the delivery of culturally sensitive and respectful primary health care to the people of Palm Island.

#### What's on Offer?

We are committed to providing a wide range of rewarding career opportunities to our employees and encourage professional development. To attract and retain a workforce who also strive to excel we offer a generous remuneration package and employment benefits which includes salary sacrificing options, recreational leave loading, generous employer superannuation contribution, shift allowances, locality allowances, professional development assistance, flexible working arrangements, access to corporate discounts, staff wellness programs and the employee assistance program.

To apply or for more information contact **Judith Townsend-Stahre** on 0490 150 991 and visit Smartjobs and Careers, applications close **Sunday 5 November 2017**.

You can apply online at [www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au)

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job.  
A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.



Queensland  
Government

## Attention Bwgcolman people

An art installation is to be built along the foreshore. These works will represent all the different tribes (clans) that were sent to Palm Island ('punishment island' as it was once called). This installation will represent every tribe that was known to be sent to Palm Island and this work will be a memorial to these people, to be acknowledged for who they were and where they were sent from. This memorial, I believe, is a giant step towards reconciliation and an understanding of why this settlement exists with the now Bwgcolman people. Totems of each of the tribes will be added as a symbol of these people and to show non-indigenous peoples why totems are important to these tribes.

**Is your clan totem here?**



Clan	Totem	Traditional Country
Kalkadoon	Emu	Mt Isa
Butchala	Carpet snake	Fraser Island
Eramin	Sea eagle	Gilberton
Takalaka	Brolga	Croydon
Jiman	Carpet snake	Taroom

**Contact Billy Doolan on 0477 507 464 or Michael Rosser on 0436 427 335 to add your clan totem.**



# Happy Birthday

9TH OCTOBER HAPPY 30TH GAVIN BARRY JR  
16TH OCTOBER MRS JENNY CANNON-BIRTHDAY  
WISHES + HAPPY 18TH CHANTA-LEIGH FRASER JR



14TH OCTOBER HAPPY 17TH BIRTHDAY TO NEIL  
FRASER JR



21ST OCTOBER HAPPY 17TH BIRTHDAY JOSEPH MURCHA



30TH OCTOBER HAPPY  
46TH WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY TO  
NOEL & JENNY CANNON



# A healthy outlook for North Queensland

"This sound financial performance puts us in good stead to continue to deliver excellent healthcare for our community"

Tony Mooney

BOARD CHAIR

Townsville Hospital and Health Service

## Our financial health

This year's record budget and healthy surplus will make sure the North Queensland community receives world-class, compassionate and innovative healthcare from the Townsville Hospital and Health Service.

In 2017-2018, the budget has been increased by \$71.6 million to \$935.9 million.

The HHS delivers a  
**\$7.3 million**  
surplus for  
reinvestment  
in services



This money is being reinvested into essential health infrastructure, equipment and services including:

- Replacement of bedside equipment which will allow clinicians to feed patients' vital signs into their medical records in real time
- A state-of-the-art research and innovation hub at The Townsville Hospital
- Further expanding and improving car parking infrastructure for staff and the public

## A day in the life

**322**   
patients attend the  
**Emergency Department**

**7**   
babies are born

**40+**   
patients have an  
**operation**

**233**  
  
patients are  
admitted to  
hospital

**409**   
patients have a specialist  
outpatient appointment

## No long waits

**0** Elective surgery long waits  
**0** Specialist outpatients long waits  
**0** Endoscopy long waits  
**0** General dental long waits



## Our staff

The Townsville HHS is the region's largest civilian workforce, employing one in 50 North Queenslanders. Every day we spend \$2.46 million on providing tertiary health services to our region.



**1 in 50**  
people works for the HHS  
which has a monthly pay  
run in excess of **\$50 million**.

## Building for the future

Projects committed for 2017-2018 as part of a \$54.8 million infrastructure program:

- \$10.7 million to expand and improve renal and endoscopy services
- \$9.77 million for new clinical equipment
- \$6.2 million to expand surgical outpatient clinics
- \$1.6 million to relocate BreastScreen Queensland to Domain Central

In 2016-2017, the health service worked hard expanding services and investing in new infrastructure. Major health infrastructure projects already completed or commenced during 2016-2017:



**\$13,500,000**

Queensland Government-funded  
**Alec Illin Secure  
Mental Health  
Rehabilitation Unit**  
opens at The Townsville Hospital

Construction begins on the

**\$6,600,000**  
expansion of The Townsville Hospital's  
**paediatric unit**



Site preparation begins on the

**\$16.5 million**

Palm Island **Primary Care Centre**

## Joyce Palmer Health Service snapshot

The 2016-2017 financial year marked another bumper year for admissions and emergency department presentations at the Joyce Palmer Health Service.



**7,795**

presentations to the  
**Emergency Department**

&

**708**

admissions to the  
**15-bed hospital**



Work has begun on the

**\$16.5m**

**Palm Island Primary Care Centre**  
which will deliver expanded  
health care services for Palm  
Island residents.

This facility, once completed and operational, will improve access to medical services, create a base for medical specialists who visit the island for clinics, and bring together services that support residents' mental health, social and other well-being services.

## Local spend

In 2016-2017, the HHS spent

**\$34.7 million  
with 684 local  
businesses**

to run our health services



In 2017-2018, the  
Queensland Government's new  
**'Buy Queensland'**  
policy will increase local  
business spending.

To read the full Townsville Hospital  
and Health Service Annual Report visit:  
[https://www.health.qld.gov.au/  
townsville/about/annual-report](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/townsville/about/annual-report)



