



Fantastic effort from Tribal Warrior crew

It's been a massive two weeks for a crew of 10 from Palm Island, Mission Beach, Tully and Cardwell who actually sailed Tribal Warrior's training vessel, The Coral Trekker, from Palm to Cairns over about a week earlier this month.

Captained by TAFE teacher Kippa Zechariah, the C-Class Tall Ship initially sailed from Sydney to Magnetic Island with a crew of 11 Kooris on board.

The Palm Island/Mission Beach/Tully/Cardwell crew island-hopped to Cairns before camping with Mandingalbay Yidinji Rangers at Djunbunji for the less hands-on aspects of their training with the soon-to-be crew members from Yarrabah.



MORE INSIDE!!



LIFE ON BOARD The Coral Trekker: Pics on pages 2-3 with huge thanks to Sereeah Wyles (pictured above and the only young woman on this crew!). MORE PICS PAGES 4-5!

Time to work together – Mayor

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey has appealed to members of the community to work together after the Queensland Government agreed to apologise and settle a class action in the Federal Court late last month.

Cr Lacey (pictured right with Deputy Premier Jackie Trad) said it was time to move on.

“While this is recognition of a dark chapter in our past, we must now draw a line in the sand,” he said.

“It is time to move on, it is time to look to the future.

“It is time to be respectful of the past and its lessons, and carefully guide our next generation of leaders towards a strong, unified Palm Island.”

He said the community deserved better than squabbles over money or recognition.

“This is about sharing hope with our children and teaching them it is not the right way to protest with violence,” he said. “Our community will only suffer for it.

“Our community deserves better.

“You deserve better.

“Together, united, we can ensure the next chapter in Palm Island’s story stirs pride and hope.

“I appeal to everyone to put individual agendas aside, and work as one to ensure this happens.”

Palm Island Ministerial Champion and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad said the Government was keen to work with the community.

“We will now endeavour to work with the Palm Island community on a fitting way to recognise this historic apology,” she said.

“I know that for many Palm Islanders this was an incredibly



difficult time in their history but I look forward to continuing to work closely with the community as we move forward together.”

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Yvette D’Ath said she hoped the outcome would provide some measure of closure and a way forward for the community of Palm Island.

Pride and teamwork results of good sail



The crews successfully attained their Coxswain's tickets after spending a good part of last Friday doing fire and rescue training at the Yarrabah PCYC pool.

The youngest on board, Eric Martin, took a leave of absence from his school work to be there.

Tribal Warrior Association Chair Mark Spinks said he and CEO Shane Phillips were pleased to meet with the Mayor and other Councillors on Palm Island before attending a presentation for Eric at Bwgcolman Community School before they left.

"We're very impressed with this young man," he said. "I love his confidence, because what I preach to my Men's group in Redfern, Sydney, is don't be shame, because when you're shame, you're last."

Captain Kippa said there was no time for any of that.

"From the moment they step on the boat it's training, it's just full-on," Captain Zechariah said.

"They tend watches, they work the sails, they do anchor watches – they soak it up as an experience.

"The potential in the maritime industry for Indigenous people is

just incredible, because they live on the water, they know the water, they've got their stories to tell and they are careful of looking after the ocean and the reef and the rest of it.

"They've become and going to become really competent seafarers, so they can get master jobs driving ferries, tourist boats, fishing boats, tug boats or whatever."

He said he couldn't speak highly enough of all the participants.

"I've seen them become really confident," he said.

"I've seen them develop some really wonderful skills and I couldn't speak highly enough of them.

"It's just been a really wonderful crew and full of enthusiasm and respectful and easy to get along with and got into their chores and got into their work tasks.

"Just pretty remarkable.

"We had beautiful weather all the way, and we had some night

sailing, which is a wonderful experience for anyone to have.

"Some of the younger ones were really keen on up in the rigging, I'd come out on the deck and wonder where young Eric was, couldn't find him, he'd be up the mast, just sitting up there.

"The navigation is quite a complex sort of subject and many people struggle with it theoretically, and these guys weren't any different, but then when they get out on deck with the hand bearing compass and a chart and they're plotting our positions, they're doing running fixes, plotting tide – when that happens it's a lot of joy.

"You know they're confident: they've got it.

"And if they've done all that, they've done all their navigation and all the seamanship skills, they can earn a living on a boat.

"They should be proud of themselves."



Training backed by school and CDP

Three of the Tribal Warrior crew members – Joshua Friday, Thomas Hanson and Stephen Chapman – were chosen from the Palm Island Community Development Programme to take part.

“Our three lucky job seekers participated in the training over 14 days, involving 10 days sailing aboard the Coral Trekker and four days training back on dry land in Yarrabah,” CDP Manager Nathan Vinson said.

“Through successful completion of the training, the participants have gained new skills and qualifications.”

Those qualifications include General Purpose Hand, (GPH/Deckhand) which taught survival, fire fighting, safety, seamanship, communication skills and First Aid, and will allow them to get a job as a deckhand or similar on commercial vessels.

The second was the Coxswains Certificate II, which builds on topics learnt in the General Purpose Hand course and included basic navigation, engineering, legislation, collision regulations, vessel handling, basic stability, radio communication, refuelling, and environmental considerations.

The course qualifies them to skipper a vessel up to 12 metres in length, and up to 15 miles offshore.

“On behalf of all the staff from the Community Development Programme and Campbell Page, we want to wish Joshua, Thomas and Stephen the very best on this exciting adventure and in obtaining future employment,” Mr Vinson said.

“We would also like to extend thanks to Valentine Nona, who organised our job seekers to attend the training.”

Pictured: Page 4: Eric meeting Kippa at the school, CDP participants, Seraeah Wyles and family in Cairns; and Eric and Ricky helping to rig up the mast. Page 5: Combined Yarrabah/Palm crews, the Palm crew sailing into Cairns, Palm Island crew with Djunbunji/MY Rangers and Fire and Rescue training in Yarrabah.



Pics on pages 4-5 by Christine Howes

Palm Island came alive last month, where thousands of people came together to celebrate the Centenary of Palm Island at the Deadly Didge 'n Dance 2018 Festival Federal Member for Herbert, Cathy O'Toole writes...

I was both humbled and honoured to be invited to participate in the “Present” centenary celebrations.

As I engaged in the celebrations I was struck by the enduring resilience of this community, especially the eldest past and present.

Palm Island has come a long way since 1918 and my sincere congratulations go to Councillor Alf Lacey, Mayor of Palm Island, the Councillors, the organising committee, the team of workers and volunteers and most importantly the community on Palm Island for an extraordinary job that was very well done.

I could not help but feel emotional as I stood and watched the symbolic bell set alight and burned to the ground on the beach.

The bell that ruled the lives of the people on Palm Island, the bell that people feared because failing to obey the bell meant severe punishment and even jail time.

This deeply symbolic gesture was incredibly emotional, especially for the elders in the community.

I felt a very real sense that at last the spirits of the elders could finally be free to rest in peace.

Talent from Palm Island and



across the state and nation entertained visitors and locals, including Sean Choolburra, Ian Zaro, the local traditional Bwgcoldman dance groups, Djuki Mala, Milton Thaiday, Maggie Walsh, Simone Stacey Band, Kiss N Hugz and Konnektd by Blud to name but a few of the outstanding performers.

The other highlight of the weekend was the Largest

Aboriginal Dance, where over two hundred people came together to dance a corroboree to achieve a Guinness Book of Records performance.

It was truly an exceptional and emotional experience to participate in this event, the energy and excitement was electric as we all performed with pride and determination to achieve the record, which



Pics on these pages (and page 8!) are thanks to Cathy O'Toole, Alf Wilson, Paddy McHugh, Erica Martin & Rachael Floyd-Jones



we unofficially accomplished.

Without a doubt Palm Island has all of the ingredients to be a great destination for cultural tourism and judging by the celebrations on the weekend they are up to the job.

Congratulations again to the people of Palm Island for an outstanding weekend of fun, culture and hospitality.





Joyce Palmer Health Service's Indigenous Community Liaison Officer Jennifer Ketchell and performer Maggie Walsh were thrilled to secure signed song lists from top line performer Isaiah Firebrace at the Palm Island Deadly Dance 'n Didge Festival last month.

Ms Ketchell was a backstage volunteer at the time.

"I was back stage helping out as a Volunteer/Co-Chairperson when Isaiah signed two copies, one each for Maggie Walsh and I," she said.



Palm Island Voice



**Public &
Community Notices**



Don't forget!!!
The next DEADLINE
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FOR PUBLICATION

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If you have any
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Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 2,344
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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following positions are currently open for application:

Safe Haven:

- 1 x full time support worker
- 1 x part time support worker

Applications close Friday 25th May 2018

To be considered for these positions, please submit: a completed employment application form (employment application form available from the Children & Family Centre or the Safe Haven Mall Office, Palm Island) AND a copy of your resume TO Mark McCann at mmccann@picc.com.au



NOTICES



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED NEW LOCAL LAW

On 3 May 2018, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council ("Council") resolved to make a new Local Law, being Local Law No. 6 (Waste Management) 2018 ("Proposed New Local Law").

The purpose of the Proposed New Local Law is to insert local government waste collection and management provisions that were previously contained in Chapter 5A of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 and section 7 of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011 into a Council Local Law.

Council has identified that the Proposed New Local Law may contain anti-competitive provisions, and Council has prepared a review of these anti-competitive provisions in accordance with legislative requirements. Public Consultation

Council invites the public to comment on the Proposed New Local Law and the review of anti-competitive provisions.

Comments may be provided to Council in writing, and may be delivered to Council:

- (a) by email to jbodenmann@prestonlaw.com.au; or
- (b) by post to PO Box 707N, North Cairns Qld 4870; or
- (c) by hand-delivery to Council Chambers, 1 Main Street, Palm Island Qld 4816.

Consultation is open until 5pm, Thursday 24 May.

Comments received after this time and date will not be considered by Council.

Contact: For copies of the Proposed New Local Law and the review of anti-competitive provisions or if you require more information please contact Council via jbodenmann@prestonlaw.com.au or on 4052 0717 or make enquiries at Council's Chambers at 1 Main Street, Palm Island.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council invites Community Members to put forward ideas for the

NAME OF THE NEW PALM ISLAND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE.

Suggestions/ideas should be put in writing and submitted to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Office or via Facebook by

COB Friday 25 May.

Contact the Council on 4770 0200 for more information.

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It's official! Bindal to host October Murri Carnival

PALM Island teams figure prominently in nominations to contest the **Arthur Beetson Foundation (ABF) Queensland Murri Carnival (QMC)** in **Townsville** this coming **October**.

Last month the **Palm Island Voice** reported the carnival would be moved from **Redcliffe** in southern **Queensland** to **Townsville**.

Earlier this month the **Queensland Rugby League Indigenous Advisory Council (QRL IAC)** made it official.

"The **QRL** is committed to supporting the development of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'** progression in our game of **Murri Rugby League**, and its partners who share our vision and mission statement," **QRL IAC Chair Edward Monaei** said.

"In light of this, we are pleased to announce that **Townsville** will host the **2018 ABF QMC** and a new girl's **U17's** competition will be an addition to this year's carnival moving forward.

"We have been advised by the **ABF** their webpage will be updated in coming weeks to reflect changes to the **Open Men's and Women's** competitions and the boy's **U15/16's** and girl's **U17** competitions.

"The **QRL** congratulates the **ABF** and its sponsors for bringing the **QMC** into **North Queensland**, and

with our continued support to drive **Murri Rugby League** will provide further opportunity pathways into the future."

The carnival will be run by **Townsville's Bindal Sharks** in partnership with the **ABF**.

It will be held at the **Townsville Sports Reserve** from **October 5 to 7** with women's matches and junior games starting earlier.

Bindal Sharks has run a successful **Townsville** carnival for more than 30 years.

QRL Northern Division Manager Scott Nosworthy said he was certain the **Townsville** carnival would be a success.

"We are excited that the **ABF** has brought the **QMC** to **North Queensland** this year and that all our teams don't have to travel to the south east corner again," he said.

"There is still some work to do

Mens' Teams who have shown interest include: **Aja Boyz (Palm Island)**, **Merinya Raiders (Townsville/Hughenden)**, **Cannonballs (Townsville)**, **Walkabouts (Townsville)**, **Eastern Warriors (Townsville)**, **Coastal Balaz (Townsville)**, **Bundaberg**, **KulKalgai United (Torres Strait)**, **Black Breams (Charters Towers)**, **Juru Gubulla Munda (Bowen)**, **Cherbourg Hornets**, **Dynevor Team (Cherbourg)**, **Mackay Stallions (Mackay)**, **Bwcolgman Brothers (Palm Island)**, **NRLWA (Perth, Western Australia)**, **Arafura Heat (Darwin)**, **Sharks United (Townsville)**, **North Coast Dolphins (Townsville)**, **Yarrabah Seahawks**, **Bwcolgman Warriors (Palm Island)**, **Gulf Bulls (Normanton)**, **Palm Island Barracudas**, **Brisbane Blacks**, **Weipa Raiders**, **East Coast Sharks**, **Wujal Wujal**, and **Queensland Connections**.
Womens' Teams who have shown interest: **Wongai Tiddas (Townsville)**, **Aja Girls (Palm Island/Brisbane)**, **Serenity Sisters (Townsville)**, **NRLWA (Perth)**, **Three Rivers**, **Brisbane Native Women**, **Yarrabah Sea Gals**, **East Coast Sharks**, and **Walkabouts (Townsville)**.
There will also be under-12 and under 15-sides competing.

on the future positioning of the **QMC** but for now teams can start preparing for the **Bindal Sharks** to run it this year.

"**Jenny Pryor** and her **Bindal** team have been running very successful carnivals for many years and I am sure this year will be a major success."

Bindal supremo **Jenny Pryor** said 27 teams had already nominated out of a total of 32 spots in the men's division.

"These are the teams and team managers who have contacted **Bindal** to nominate at this stage," she said.

"We know some teams are waiting for the website to open to nominate on line.

"There are only five spots left in the men's and it will be the first five which will nominate which will secure those spots.

"There will be eight women's team and we have had interest from 10 already."

Boxers to travel in warm up to PI comp

At least four **Palm Island** boxers will travel to **Townsville** tomorrow for a **Sunstate Amateur Boxing League** tournament at the **Centenary Hotel** in **Pimlico**.

It is being run by **Townsville Club Art of Strength**.

Trainer **Ray Dennis** said **Raymond Haines**, **Musa Prior**, **Leelan Sibley** and one other boxer, unconfirmed at time of printing, would travel.

The night will be an ideal warm up for the boxers as they prepare for the big **Palm Island** tournament at the **PCYC** on **June 2**.





2018 Skipjacks team for the Coolburra Shield

