

Looking to DEADLY futures



Palm Island's future is in their hands and at the the launch of the third Centenary event – Deadly Futures – around 80 secondary students took to the waters around their Island home to have a yarn with some deadly leaders and role models.

The 'Conversations with....' Cruise around Palm Island was attended by students from Bwgcolman and Townsville schools.

As the sail got underway they had the opportunity to engage with two panels of amazing speakers who have broken down barriers to succeed in their chosen field.

They included Nic Marchesis (Orange Sky), Shaunai Batzke (Wiradjuri Soprano), Lauwana Blackley (Manager), William Enoch Tranby (Tourism leader), Veronica

Coutts (Educator), Dr Raymond Blackman, Professor Gracelyn Smallwood and Obe Geia.

All of them spoke about overcoming the obstacles they had faced such being challenged at school, being a young single mother, or not having a clear vision for what they wanted to do at an early age.

Their successes emerged as they learnt to apply themselves to their goals, surround themselves by people who believed in them and learn to be

confident in their own abilities.

Students were inspired with quotes such as, "the world doesn't owe you anything, you owe the world to give back", "Keep aiming high and go for your dreams" and, "when the tide rises, all boats will rise up!"

Ms Batzke sang for the crowd who were also entertained by a cheeky young whale who came to check them out during the cruise.

Pics thanks to Adam Manovic (NITV) – see p16 for more!

IKC stars in digital story role

Bwgcolman Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC) recently played a star role in a digital story commissioned by Telstra and State Library of Queensland (SLQ).

The story was to highlight the achievements the Deadly Digital Communities program has contributed towards bridging the digital literacy gap in Queensland remote

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The State Library of Queensland's partnership with Telstra works to make a difference to the lives of

Through our partnership with Telstra and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils' IKCs, we're able to build digital skills and give people to the confidence they need to live and work in a digital world.

If you are interested in finding out more about the program or becoming a Local Champion, please contact IKC Coordinator Regina James on 4770 0260.



not only the people of Palm Island, but remote communities throughout Queensland.

Palm Island is just one of many communities the program is delivered to.

FNQ Challenge off the table for now

PALM Island has withdrawn from the Skytrans Remote Area Rugby League Far North Queensland Rugby League Challenge in Cairns on June 16.

That leaves Torres Stingers, Northern Cape, Southern Cape and the new Lower Gulf Brumbies to compete.

Palm Island Community Rugby League President Algon Walsh advised *Palm Island Voice* on the decision, which was made after the costs of player insurance was prohibitive.

"We will be concentrating on starting up our local Palm Island competition soon and we will be entering the FNQ Challenge next year," Mr Walsh said.

After the FNQ Challenge a Northern United representative team will be picked to meet Queensland Outback.



ABOVE: Palm Island dancers ready to 'wow' the crowds at the Palm Island Deadly Futures Healthy Sports Carnival – full story and more pics on pages 6–8

Bwgcorman 'most improved' in Term 1!

Palm Island's Bwgcorman Community School has celebrated a major win, beating 13 other North Queensland schools with the most improved attendance rate in Term 1 this year.

They are already backing up their achievement with strong attendance in Term 2.

Try for 5! encourages students in participating schools to strive to achieve 100% attendance. Classes are challenged to compete against each other, with fortnightly prizes and Try for 5! Hero awards for the best performing.

The school with the most improved attendance at the end of the year will be crowned the champion of the Sun Metals Try for Five! Challenge, winning a framed 2018 team-signed Cowboys jersey.

Sun Metals Chief Financial Officer Kathy Danaher was impressed.

"Well done to the students and the schools that have achieved some great results,"



Ms Danaher said.

Former Cowboys players Ray Thompson and Matthew Bowen visited all fourteen North Queensland primary schools in Term 1 to encourage students to improve their school attendance.

Mr Thompson said they promote, challenge and celebrate students' efforts as a part of the program.

"Our visits to schools aim to encourage good attendance and reward real achievements. We back up those visits with fortnightly video messages from Matty and I to celebrate those achievements," Mr Thompson said.

"Every student at Bwgcorman and their parents and teachers should be incredibly proud of what they achieved last term. Our challenge to them school was to continue improving in Term 2 they are.

The Try for 5! program is an intra-school challenge, designed to address short and long term impacts of students missing foundation learning in their primary years through poor school attendance.

For more information on the Try for 5! program go to <http://www.cowboysfoundation.org.au/programs/try-for-5/>



Traditional skills on CDP activities agenda

Members of the Palm Island CDP Arts and Culture Activity Team have jumped at the chance to 'go bush' and learn some of the traditional skills of the Manburra and Bwgcolman people.



Friday 25 May marked the first of five mornings Palm Island Elder Harold 'Ringo' Wilson was to share his knowledge and skills in the collection and preparation of traditional bark painting.

He taught the participants how to identify the perfect trees for the process and how to remove and prepare the bark for painting.

"The traditional skills and customs being taught to the Arts & Culture Activity Team are a huge part of the identity of the Bwgcolman and Manburra peoples," CDP Programme Manager Nathan Vinson said.

"By learning these skills the



team is making an attempt to keep the culture alive for generations to come."

Ringo had many skills he hoped to pass onto younger and future generations of the community.

Ex-cricketer enjoys Centenary celebrations

Former star cricketer Russell Penny was glowing in his praise for Palm Island during the 100 year birthday celebrations.

"This is a beautiful place, the people really friendly and the 100 year birthday event was the best," he said. "I was glad to be here."

For many years Russell held a unique record in Australian cricket in that he scored the equal fastest century in just 19 minutes and off 23 balls.

It was at the Charters Towers Goldfield Ashes Cricket carnival in the late eighties when he played for Malchecks XI.

At the time Russell received national publicity as the equal record holder for the fastest 'ton' with the world's greatest ever cricketer Sir Donald Bradman.



ABOVE: Russell Penny and workmate Gary Cooper

Laundry firm testing the waters before offering new service

Laundry firm Orange Sky Australia is working on a plan with Palm Island council, Elders and community leaders on an opportunity to provide free clothes and linen washing to our community.

Members of the Orange Sky team, who were finalists in the Queensland Reconciliation Awards for their work in Lockhart River over the past six months, spent three days on Palm Island last week talking with people about what might be possible.

“Consultation and collaboration is at the heart of the project and Orange Sky has the ability to build a washing vehicle that is specific to the needs of Palm Island,” Brand and Communications Manager Ben Knight said.

“Our first loads of washing were complete at Butlers Bay

where Orange Sky interacted with the community and listened to their needs.

“We will be back soon to talk more with Elders, the Council, organisations and the general community.

“Everyone has the opportunity to talk through the options of free washing on the Island and how it can support health and wellbeing outcomes.”

Orange Sky has been operating in the community of Lockhart River after that



community provided specific feedback.

As a result, a laundry truck was built from an old army vehicle and the focus was on supporting locals with their employment programs and working towards community ownership of the vehicle.



If you have any questions about the program you can email Ben Knight from Orange Sky at ben@orangesky.org.au and stay tuned to the Council and *Palm Island Voice* Facebook pages for updates.

Deadly Futures Healthy Sports Carnival

Bringing together the Aunty Kathy Tarpaulin Memorial Shield netball challenge and the Obei Geia rugby league carnival, the Deadly Futures Healthy Sports Carnival saw more than 150 school children from Townsville and Magnetic Island together with Palm Island students for one of the biggest days of sports ever seen in the community.

The focus of the carnival was on healthy habits and a healthy future for the people of Palm Island, closing the gap one step at a time.

The carnival finale included traditional dancing and contemporary musicians.

Former North Queensland Cowboys, Queensland State of Origin and Australian Test player Matt Bowen and Obe Geia Junior were special guests at the Obe Geia Challenge rugby league carnival which was contested by nine primary school teams including Bwgcolman Hunters, St Michael's Ark Angels and a combined Palm Island Crayfish outfit.

Meanwhile star athlete Cathy Freeman enjoyed watching the Aunty Kathy Tarpaulin Memorial Shield being played out at an adjoining field.

Two Palm Island teams – one each from Bwgcolman Community School and another from St Michael's – were in the netball.

In the football pool winners Rasmussen and Kelso met in a close grand final which included some exciting rugby league.

Scores were deadlocked at 8-all when the siren sounded and Rasmussen was the champion team having scored the first try.

"I have seen some quality football here today and there will



*Pics thanks to
Alf Wilson*



be many stars of the future," Bowen said.

Obe Geia jnr said it was great to see so many Indigenous and non-Indigenous footballers competing.

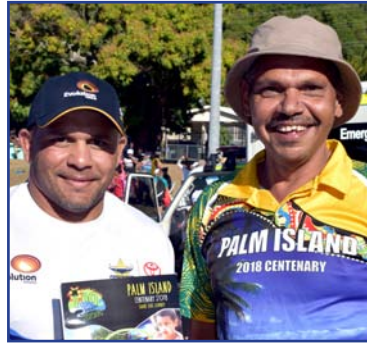
In the netball, finals were played out between Ryan Christian College and Cathedral School, with Ryan taking out the win by 9-5.

Most Valued Player for the carnival was Palm Island's

own Shaquarna Castors from Bwgcolman Community School. St Michael's best and fairest was Tameira Robertson-Wotton.

Trophies were presented by Cathy Freeman, who said it was privilege to be there.

"It's a privilege to be involved in such a huge and successful community event and the excitement in the kids competing was contagious," she said.



Netball scorer Leah Dabea said a Palm rep team was to be selected from the teams to compete in a carnival in Charters Towers in August.

“Four local umpires – Andrew, Lance, Benny and Andrea Castors, and Georgina Haines – were also unofficially tested on their skills,” she said.

“It was a really good day, everyone enjoyed themselves and

look forward to the next one.”

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said the carnival was great for reconciliation and after the games visitors were treated to some traditional Aboriginal dancing which drew warm applause.

The day was enjoyed by all involved and featured a strong cultural education component, with students having the opportunity to experience first-hand the beauty

of Palm Island, its people and their culture.

The Deadly Futures Healthy Sports Carnival was supported by the Cathy Freeman Foundation, North Queensland Toyota Cowboys, the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and the Commonwealth Games Embracing 2018 Legacy Program.

MORE PICS NEXT PAGE...



Boxing tournament held at the 'right time' for Centenary – Mayor

Four local boxers won their fights on the nine bout Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament at the PCYC earlier this month, an event which was part of the 2018 Palm Island Centenary calendar.



Musa Prior, Elijah Cannon, Daniel Nomoa and Isaac Bulsey were impressive in winning their bouts, while Raoul Miller, Darryl Richardson and Patrick Clarke were courageous in their losses.

Visiting boxers from Townsville clubs Art of Strength and Hawks as well as from Rockhampton PCYC and Cairns' Toe to Toe competed.

Allan Palm Island welcomed guests to country and then Mayor Alf Lacey spoke.

"During our 100 year history Palm Island has been well known for producing good boxers," Cr Lacey said.

"This is a good time to host a tournament."

Sunstate Amateur Boxing League

President Scooter was glowing in his praise of our boxers.

"For a long time Palm Island has been a breeding ground for quality boxers," he said.

Jase Thimble could not be matched with an opponent of his age and weight.

In the first bout young Musa Prior continued on his winning way with a points win over Rockhampton's Bodhi David.

Then Elijah Cannon beat Peter Saunders and Daniel Nomoa defeated Blake Hughes, both visitors from Rockhampton.

Hawks star Luke Jeffs beat Raoul "Blackie" Miller was next up and showed courage beyond the call in his loss.

Blackie had not trained to box

in the lead up to the competition, having only accepted the bout to ensure a big card of fights.

Palm's Brodie Kerr lost to Colby Campbell from Rockhampton before Tuquri Ross and Hawks' Jalen Tait fought an exhibition bout which was much appreciated by the large crowd.

One of the most impressive wins of the day was by Isaac Bulsey, who beat polished Rockhampton boxer Greg Toby.

Toby was forced to retire in round two after injuring his shoulder but had taken some punishment from Bulsey at the time.

Darryl Richardson lost to Hawks Luke Jeffs who scored his second victory of the day.

Continued next page...



The much anticipated main bout between champion boxer Patrick Clarke and Toe to Toe's Allan Patterson, who is of Yarrabah descent didn't disappoint.

After four rounds the judges awarded the bout to Patterson

by split points decision and both fighters received a standing ovation.

Patterson suffered a nose bleed in round two but continued on.

Musa Prior won the trophy for the best junior fighter of the tournament and Patrick Clarke was

named the best senior.

After the bouts the Palm Island Boxing Club's 100 year committee presented trophies to trainer Uncle Ray Dennis, Doug Sam who watched every bout, Alf Clay, Dennis Haines, Scooter Hooper,



his son Hayden Hooper, Albert Gorringer, Sibley family, Josh Geia, Sealink and Rosscoe Pryor for their services to the sport.

The committee also made presentations to families of former greats George Brakenridge (received

by Jo Alderman niece and Jo's daughter Sylvie Wharton), Jack Hassen (received by his three daughters), Ron Richards and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (received by Cr Robert Castors).

Chief referee for the tournament

was Greven Breadsall from Mackay.

"Over decades I have refereed bouts of three generations of the Haines family," he said.

Boxing was a winner on the day and so was Palm Island.

Presentation Pics next page...



Palm Island Boxing Tournament Presentations 2018



Palm Island Voice



**Public &
Community Notices**



Don't forget!!!

The next DEADLINE
for the
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(253) is

**Thursday
21 June**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday
28 June**

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



Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 2,358
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

COMMUNITY NOTICE

CAR PARK ROAD CLOSURE

Wednesday 30th May until further notice

CAR PARK AREA UPGRADE

The Car Park will be closed off to the Public
to allow scheduled works to be completed



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following positions are currently open for application:



Children & Family Centre – Active Healthy NQ Program

1 x part time Coordinator

1 x full time Project Worker/Health Worker

Applications close Friday 22nd June 2018

Women's Service

1 x part time Support Worker

Community Justice Group

– Domestic & Family Violence Court Enhancement Program

1 x part time DFV Court Support Worker - Male

1 x part time DFV Court Support Worker - Female

Applications close Friday 29th June 2018

To be considered for these positions, please submit the following to Mark McCann at mmcann@picc.com.au

1. a completed employment application form (available from the Children & Family Centre or the Safe Haven Mall Office, Palm Island)
2. a copy of your resume



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He's finally on the record...

Palm Island Voice is happy to put Council worker Jason Thimble on the record for holding two unique finals records in rugby league not many people would know of.

The records are that he is the only footballer to have played in winning grand finals sides for all grades – A-Grade or Seniors, Reserve Grade and under-20s – in a competition during the same season.

And he did it twice!

Once on Palm Island, and the other time on the mainland.

In 1992 Jason was a member of each of the Raiders teams which took out the Under-20, Reserve Grade and Senior grand finals of the Palm Island Rugby League comp.

The next year Jason was in the Charters Towers Under-20, Reserve Grade and A-Grade sides who won the Townsville and

District competition premierships.

By 1996 – in his heyday – Jason became a member of the North Queensland Cowboys Young Guns side.

Now aged 45, Jason will pull the footy boots out from the cobwebs to line up for the Palm Island Barracudas at Allblacks carnivals, if they are short of players.

A tough man on the field Jason is an inspiration and role model to younger footballers.

Palm Island Voice was told about these achievements by Jason's brother Vince Thimble.

We are happy to recognise such as great effort.

Well done Jason!



Above: Eddie Prior in Yarrabah and Left: Francelle Thomas & Maryanne Savage working together in Pormpuraaw – all three have Palm Island connections and wanted to say 'hello' to families here!

Out & About ...in Yarrabah & Pormpuraaw...



Pics by Christine Howes



Deadly Futures 'Conversations with...' Cruise, June 2018

*Left: Adam Manovic
& Obe Geia; Right:
Shauntai Batzke and
Below: part of the
group! Pics below
the group thanks to
Candice Williams*

