



# Palm Island Voice

**FREE!**

## Issue 291

Thursday 19 December 2019

PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons within this publication.



# Christmas Cup 2019

**FULL REPORT  
PAGES 4-5**



## Well done Doctor Robert Blackley!

Congratulations have poured in for former paramedic and Palm Island Mayor Robert Blackley, who has officially graduated from Sydney University as a GP.

Mum Magdalena Blackley said she was very proud.

“Congratulations to my son Robert James Blackley who graduated from Sydney University on Thursday 12th December 2019,” she said.

“You are now Doctor Blackley!

“I am so very proud of you.

“Your efforts are commendable, your perseverance and inner strength carried you through.

“We love you so very much and we wish you every success.”





# Hello Bwgc Colman Mob,

Christmas holidays are upon us, and we want to acknowledge that it's been a big year – and you've made it! You and your health are important! This time of year can be difficult when we remember those we have lost, so it is important to take time to care for yourself and to look out for each other too. A good way of doing this is to keep connected with each other and think about who would be a good support for you when you need someone to yarn to – who is someone you can support and yarn with?



*Jerusha Johnson and Latrel Kerr with the Bwgc Colman Support card at the Christmas Cup, 7th December 2019*

You may have seen a Bwgc Colman Support card at the Christmas Cup footy carnival the other week or just around in the community – below is part of the card to help you think about caring for yourself and your friends and family.

You can also check out the iBobbly App for young people 15 years and older.

It's free and private, and available from Google Play or the App Store.

It can help you set goals and manage your thoughts and feelings.

You can check out Dane Gagai's YouTube Video about using iBobbly at [https://youtu.be/nco34hH\\_wfo](https://youtu.be/nco34hH_wfo)

Please have a safe Christmas and New Year, keep connected with each other, stay Bwgc Colman strong and check on your Bros and your Sis.

A template for a Bwgc Colman Support card. It features a logo at the top with two hands holding a sun. Below the logo is the text "Bwgc Colman Support". The main section is a yellow-bordered box containing the question "1) Who are 3 people that you can rely on? Who are 3 people that you will check on?" followed by three horizontal lines for writing. Below the lines is the example text "E.g. Family mob, friends & mates, someone you trust". At the bottom of the card are logos for JCU, selectability, and Townsville Suicide Prevention Network.





# Health checks ticking all the boxes for young people Nearly 170 young people between the ages of 15 – 30 attended this year’s Young Fellas and Females Quick Check

It was a fantastic health screening event for the Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre (PIPHCC) in partnership with Community Development Program, who ran the three-day event out of the

Mobile health van. Everyone enjoyed a free BBQ lunch and the opportunity to have a yarn with the Social & Emotional Wellbeing Team from Palm Island Community Company or the Alcohol,

Tobacco & Other Drugs (ATODs) team from PIPHCC. The winners of the two Cowboys Jerseys were Benjamin Kennedy and Wungee Murgha – congratulations guys!





# Christmas Cup 2019



**BUTLER BAY BULLS (PI)**



**WOORABINDA WARRIORS**

This year's Christmas Cup was hot, but it was a fun, positive and happy time to catch up with families and friends from other communities, Cr Deniece Geia says.

Cr Geia said she enjoyed the day which was a 'reignition' of a carnival held between communities in the 1980s and 90s.

"Thanks to the 'motivating brainchild' who had the passion to make it happen, to reignite Palm Island Christmas Cup my eldest son Telstan Sibley," she said, in a long list of 'thank you's' (*next page*).

"I enjoyed my weekend with my family and had a good day at the footy — you can't beat mission footy, it's the best!"

"I look forward for 2020 Cup challenge."

When it came to footy it was a mixed bag of results which saw the Butler Bay Bulls, Yarrabah's Seagals and the Barracudas come out on top of their games.

Barracudas coach Fred Bulsey Snr said their game had been a good, action-packed showdown.

"The big crowd of more than 800

loved the football, which we won 36–18, but credit to Yarrabah for coming down," he said.

Bulsey's three sons — Fred Jnr, Isaac and Germaine — all played for the Barracudas side.

"It was the first A grade Barracudas match for Germaine and Isaac scored two tries," he said.

Palm's best back was Darryl Pearson and best forward was Caleb Geia.

Yarrabah ladies did their community proud when their Seagals side defeated Palm Island Barracudettes 48–4 in the women's match.

It was a long day for Yarrabah players and supporters who left Gordonvale near Cairns at 2am on the same morning for the 320km bus road trip before catching the ferry across with the Woorabinda Warriors, who had travelled twice that distance the day before.

In the first game of the day, Butler Bay Bulls defeated the

Woorabinda Warriors 26–24 for the Hector 'Dibby' Poynter Shield.

"Val Fulford kicked a goal just before the final buzzer to give Bulls the win," Bulsey snr said.

Event organizer Telstan Sibley said Bulls' William Charles scored a try just before the siren to equal the scores at 24–all.

"Then Val booted the goal from near the sideline," Telstan said.

Best back of the game was Raymond Oakley and the best forward Eli Charles.

It was the first time the Christmas Cup has been played since 1997 and it has had a positive outcome for Palm Island Rugby League.

There was no club comp on Palm island this year and Bulsey snr said admission money raised at the gate would help get a rugby league domestic comp up and running in 2020.

**PALM ISLAND BARRACUDAS**



**YARRABAH SEAHAWKS**



We appreciated the help of our volunteers on game day Tuliana, Melo, Silina & Vasenai Dabea, and my sis Mrs Leah Dabea, PIRL committee member Cr Deniece Geia writes...

Thanks also to Andy Kyle–Sailor and Ozzie Kyle who came down early to help set up marquees/ chairs/tables before kick off – much appreciated.

Special thanks to our visitors Woorabinda and Yarrabah for supporting the Christmas Cup and to our local teams, the Butler Bay Bulls, Barracudettes and the Barracudas.

Thanks to the Poynter family who gave us permission to go ahead and supported the Carnival.

Thanks to all our sponsors and supporters, especially our major sponsor Wattlec along with Palm Island Barge, Coolgaree Sports Bar 'n Bistro, TMV Plumbing, Palm Servo and One Shot Coffee — we

wouldn't have had the Carnival if it wasn't for people who gave and contributed from their heart in some way, so thank you.

Thanks to those stall holders who supported the Carnival and provided food and drinks to our players and supporters.

Thanks to Donna Willis and her family, Fred & Isaac Bulsey, Randall Parker, Kinsasha Nallajar, Mheelin Sibley, Micah & Josiah Geia, Isiah Blackman, William Blackman Jnr, Eric Martin, Henry Doyle, Bennett Blanket, Gabriella Smallwood & family and all our grannies for staying behind to clean the grounds and the clubhouse

Thanks to our refs, Dean Saunders & Mikeal Sibley, our

touch judges, League Safe people and our ball boys.

Thanks also to the QRL and Referees Association and A J Gallagher insurance for believing in us and approving the Carnival to go ahead.

Thanks to my budda Allan Palm Island who came and did the Welcome to Country and asked us all to join him in respecting 'one minute silence' for loved ones we've lost over the year(s) from all our Indigenous communities. #respect#

And finally, thanks to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for endorsing the Carnival.

*Pics thanks to Candice Doyle Sexton; Patricia Doyle, Avril Yeatman, Leah Dabea & others.*



**PALM ISLAND BARRACUDETTES**



**YARRABAH SEAGALS**



# FROM THE ARCHIVES: 2003

## RUSSELL CROWE'S VISIT TO

### PALM ISLAND

*With thanks to Alf Wilson*

SYDNEY MORNING  
HERALD

26 JULY 2003 (edited)

"Maximus, Maximus", shouted the crowd as Gladiator Russell Crowe gave the Aboriginal community of Palm Island a taste of live rock 'n' roll.

The Oscar-winning actor visited the troubled, isolated north Queensland community on Thursday night to perform with his band, 30 Odd Foot of Grunts.

The concert was a boon [plus] for the Island off Townsville, which has long struggled with alcoholism, violence, welfare dependency and boredom.

Few residents knew Crowe was in a band but most had seen Gladiator, so more than 1,000 people flocked to the makeshift stage on the oval.

Local Indigenous musicians Mother's Dust and an army band warmed up the crowd before Crowe's band blasted onto the stage.

Crowe told the crowd it was a privilege to play for them and later described the concert as a great experience.

"Everybody was into it," he told reporters.

<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/aboriginal-community-rocked-by-crowe-20030726-gdh5uw.html>





# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Are you enrolled to vote?

Do you need to update your details?

Has your address changed?

It is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 and over to enrol and vote in federal elections only, however, the next Local Government elections are being held on the 28 March 2020.

Here's how you can have your say on who gets in on your local Council.

You can enrol online (<https://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/>)

or change details via this link:

<https://forms.aec.gov.au/Enrolment/Form/Apply/83056040-0525-4745-bc91-a04d00a11c5d?mode=Wizard>

or pick up an enrolment form at any Australia Post, Centrelink or AEC office.

## Post Office hours:

### Monday

9:00am - 12 noon

1:00pm - 3:00pm

### Tuesday - Thursday

8:00am - 12 noon

1:00pm - 3pm

### Friday

8:00am - 1:00pm

**The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Office will be closed from Monday 23 December 2019 until Tuesday 2 January 2020 for the Christmas/New Year period.**

Council Office will re-open and resume regular operations on Thursday 2 January 2020.

**The on-call register will be provided as normal on Friday 20 December 2019 for staff at work during this period.**

**Palm Island Barge wishes you all a very happy, healthy and safe festive season, and a wonderful 2020!**

**Thank you for your support in 2019.**

Opening times over the Christmas period:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23	24 Barge running Palm Island Depot open	25	26	27	28
29	30 Barge running Palm Island Depot open Lucinda Depot open arvo	31 Barge running Palm Island Depot open Lucinda Depot open morning	1	2 Lucinda Depot open morning	3 Barge running Palm Island Depot open Lucinda Depot open morning	4



Our Townsville Depot will be closed for the full two week period.

***We pride ourselves on being competitive, providing a daily personalised service. We will beat any written quote from any other entity. Pick ups and deliveries are available.***

Palm Island Barge Company

<http://www.palmbarge.com.au>

Phone 4777 8282

Lot 392 Old Jetty Road, Lucinda Qld 4850

590 Ingham Road, Mt Louisa, (at the back of NQ Springs)

Our Palm Island Councillors and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (Decade!).

2019 has been a very big year, and also a very sad year in some ways.

We offer condolences to those who have lost their loved ones over the year.

Christmas is a time for the most important people in our lives - our families - to come together.

It's important we look after ourselves and look after our family - we should all appreciate the people in our lives who love and support us, as we love and support them.

As we move into 2020 and the start of a new decade, we hope there can be some peace in our community as we support each other and continue to move forward, even as we remember and respect those who have gone before us.

So as we move into the new year, remember to care for your families and spend some happy times over these coming holidays - look after each other and draw strength from each other.

Through some of our toughest times our families have always been our Bwgcman strength and they are the backbone of our community.

This is something we should never forget as we continue to build our future for generations to come into the New Year and beyond.

Safe and happy times to all... **Mayor Alf Lacey**



**OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 292) will be Thursday 23 January for publication on Thursday 30 January!**  
**Happy Christmas & New Year everyone!!!**

The **Palm Island Voice** is published fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor. You can follow us on Facebook! We have 2,541 'likes'! We accept paid advertising. For rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

**Operating Hours for Palm Island 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 3 473 'likes' on Facebook!!!**



The Palm Island Voice is free & online at [www.chowes.com.au/newsletters/palmisland](http://www.chowes.com.au/newsletters/palmisland)