



Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 14 November 2012

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Issue 117

Good record pays off for hard working students

— More stories & pics pages 4-5 —

Coolgaree looking to future – and that’s no wind up

Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation for CDEP is under special administration following a request for assistance from the directors, Registrar of Indigenous Corporations Anthony Beven says.

The directors met with Mr Beven to ask for help to restructure and reform the Corporation ahead of the introduction of the new Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP), which will replace CDEP on 1 July 2013.

The Corporation intends to tender for the new program and Mr Beven has agreed to appoint a special administrator to assist them in that process.

“Over many years Coolgaree has provided essential employment opportunities to the Palm Island community,” Mr Beven said. “To ensure its future, some difficult decisions now need to be taken. It is

pleasing that the directors have sought assistance at an early stage to meet the new challenges facing Coolgaree.”

Mr Beven has appointed Alan Eldridge from Australian Indigenous Business Services (AIBS) as the administrator.

“The future of Coolgaree is important to Palm Islanders and the special administrator will be aiming to secure its long-term future,” he said.

The special administrator has been appointed for six months. Member for Herbert, Ewen Jones, told ABC radio he would meet the administrator in the next few weeks to get a briefing on its restructure.

He said he was confident the administrator could fix the financial problems affecting the corporation.

“We need a good, positive outcome out of this but the problem you have when you do a CDEP program, it’s one thing getting the money, it’s another thing getting the outcomes,” he said. “I know that there are some issues over there when it comes to process and attendance at these programs and I think that’s what has to be addressed.

“But I think by and large the conversations I’ve had with the administrator have been centred on how we go forward, it’s not about winding up.”

Pink Day fun

Palm Island's Pink Day, organised by PCYC, was about celebrating and honouring women who have survived breast cancer, as well as remembering and cherishing the memories of those who had not, PCYC Youth Program coordinator Deniece Geia says.

She said the event was sponsored by Evolution Mining, who donated food and gifts handed out on the day.

"We wanted to make women feel special and loved and to show our appreciation," Ms Geia said.

"That we value the work the Cancer Council does in terms of prevention and to promote the importance of regular mammograms.

"Food on the day was prepared by Andrew Castors and Noreen Clay who worked their magic in the PCYC kitchen with the support of our PCYC staff.

"The presentation of food and fruit platters were amazing.

"Sunset Snack Bar also donated lovely fresh roast chicken towards the beautiful fresh array of salads and marinated BBQ steaks.

"Aaron Thaiday (PCYC employee) also got involved by providing gift bags and giveaways to our ladies, promoting the National Indigenous Ear Health Campaign (NIEHC).

"Andrea Kyle- Sailor was also representing ICAN who provided important information to our guests in relation to consumer affairs.

"Thanks to NIEHC who also donated the food for our BBQ.

"Special thanks to the Palm Island Community Company for transport provided to our elders to ensure that they would not miss out on an exciting annual event.

"We received a very positive response from the women of Palm Island and also those who were visiting on the day to our beautiful Island, came sat and enjoyed the atmosphere over a healthy lunch.

"Evolution Mining also provided lovely free gifts for everyone.

"Finally around 2.30pm everyone was exhausted and satisfied and was provided transport home after a big PINK Day!" **2**



Lex Wotton (pictured above with Cecilia at the Cairns AllBlacks) was elected chairman of the Palm Island Rugby League at the Annual General Meeting on 30th October.

Last year's Jets coach Norman Bounghi is the treasurer. QRL Northern Division's Scott Nosworthy and Doug Pitt travelled to Palm Island for the AGM.

Mr Wotton replaces long serving former chairman Ili Dabea who did not seek re-election.

MEANWHILE EVERY player in the 2013 Palm Island Rugby League competition may have the opportunity to represent North Queensland next season after the first ever Indigenous Rugby League Forum was held in Cairns last month.

QRL Northern Division Divisional Manager Scott Nosworthy said 38 people attended the forum, including Mayor Alf Lacey and Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher. **...FULL STORY NEXT ISSUE...**

Out & About



Above: Maurice Lenoy and Lavetta Parkinson; Below: Sam Coutts, Ray Newton, Leroy Smyth and QBuild Apprentice Plumber Josiah Geia. Pics courtesy Deniece Geia.



Sydney play ready to roll...

Three Palm Islanders – Kylie Doomadgee, Harry Reuben, and Maggie Blackley – are about to hit the stages of Sydney in new production called 'Beautiful One Day' writes Rachel Maza (left) for the *Palm Island Voice*...

The play is a collaboration between three theatre companies: Ilbjerri Theatre (Black fulla theatre in Melbourne), Belvoir and Version 1.0 (both migaloo theatre companies in Sydney).

They will be performing in and co-devising this show along with three other performer/devisers including myself - Bwgcolman descendant Rachael Maza.

My father, Bob Maza was born here in 1939, my Yidinji Grandmother was sent here 1918 and Murray Islander grandfather in 1921 – they're pictured below with my Uncle Claude.

Myself and the rest of the team (who are Paul Dwyer, Sean Bacon, Eamon Flack, Jane Phegan, Paul Prestipino) have been visiting Palm over the past 18 months talking to as many people as possible, and working with Maggie, Kylie and Harry in developing this play.

The play will be primarily documentary-based – that is to say based on true stories, real accounts of actual events taken from autobiographies; interviews; newspaper articles; court transcripts etc. Sometimes the actors will retell these stories word for word, sometimes we will show video of Palm Islanders that have been interviewed.

Palm Island is too often stereotyped in the media.



'Beautiful One Day' will show Australia the other side of the story: our side of the story.

I want Australia to see what a proud and resilient people Palm Islanders are despite everything they've been subjected to.

Australia needs to know these stories if Australia truly wants to "MOVE FORWARD"... let's face it – they can't move forward without us!

This will be an amazing opportunity for up and coming talents and leaders of their community Kylie and Harry to both develop their skills as performers and writers.

Regardless of whether they want a career in the Performing Arts, they will certainly learn skills that will put them in good stead in whatever career path they choose.

**BEAUTIFUL ONE DAY
opens in Sydney 21st November
closes 23rd December
@ Belvoir St Theatre,
Belvoir St Surry Hills 2010
Bookings 02 9699 3344**





Above from left: Dylan Wotton, Josiah James, Brad Prior, Tarrisha Baira, Gian Baira, Taniela Rabuka, Tkai Haines, Helen Watson Back: Mickeal Sibley (teacher's aide). Pic courtesy Andrew Railton.

Attending SCHOOL is COOL!!!

After travelling 2,500km south from their island home to the snow fields of Mt Buller, eight Palm Island saw snow for the first time in September, thanks to the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

The students spent a week learning how to snowboard as a reward for their school achievement.

The children were there as part of the CFF Horizons Program, which acknowledged their academic achievement and awarded the interstate experience based on merit, attitude and a demonstrated desire to achieve.

CFF CEO, Sonya Stephen said they were offering great incentives.

"The program offers great incentives for students to further engage in school and improve on their literacy and behaviour," she said.

"For some of these kids, it is the first time they have even heard of snow, let alone seen it or

touched it!

"We are very excited and proud to offer them this opportunity for their outstanding achievement in school."

CFF was recently recognised by the Australian Government as having 'programs that work'.

"We know our programs are having a positive impact on educational outcomes," Ms Stephen said.

"Being able to recognise and reward a child's achievement contributes to these outcomes.

The CFF Horizons Program is funded by global financial institution, Credit Suisse, which is also providing volunteers to assist and participate in some of the activities with the children.



For more information on the Cathy Freeman Foundation or to make a donation please visit www.cathyfreemanfoundation.org.au



Attending school paid off for four young students after they were invited to get along to a private training session for the Australian Rugby League Test team while they were in Townsville last month.

Brandyon Castors, Dianne Fulford, Robert Ryan and Jack Sibley were the lucky ones whose work on their best behaviour, willingness to learn and lead, and their attendance record earned them a personal meet and greet with Jonathan Thurston, Greg Inglis, Greg Bird and Billy Slater.

They were also able to pick up autographs from the rest of the team.

Townsville Enterprise and DefenceNQRegionIndigenous Affairs Engagement Officer Lee Smallwood, along with West Wing Aviation, made the trip possible.

Also travelling with the students was teacher aide Alyssa Haines.

Ms Smallwood said recognition should also go to the parents and guardians who encouraged these students to attend school regularly and understood the importance of a good education.



A trip to Fantome Island combining culture with fun was the reward for Bwgcolman students from class 6/5A for their hard work and good behaviour over the term (pics left).

Teacher Miss Jazz said because the students had studied hard, had great attendance and showed excellent behaviour in class they were deserving of some fun and relaxation.

Mr Dave captained the boat and Miss Maisie also came along to tell students about the importance of keeping the story of Fantome alive.

For many it was their first trip to Fantome and a chance to explore the remnants of the settlement.

The day before they left on their trip the class watched 'Fantome', the 2010 film about Joe Eggslesse and his memories, which gave them some idea of what had occurred on the Island from 1928 until as recently as 1973.

Joe is a regular visitor to the school when he is on Palm and recently accompanied another group of students to Fantome Island.

But it wasn't all about history, as the pictures show, with plenty of time spent swimming, floating on blow up boats, diving and picnics.

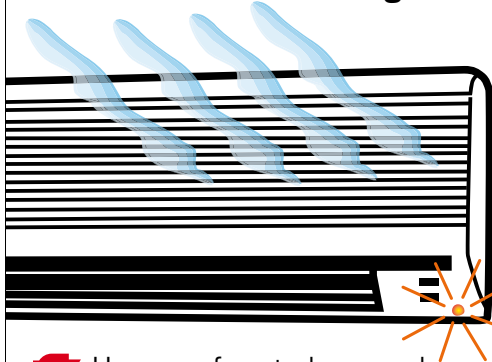
An exhausted group of happy students and teachers arrived home late in the afternoon looking forward to a good nights sleep!

Well done 6/5A.

Words & pics by Elaine Williamsz 5

Be smart with power — simple ways to save

Summer's coming ... make your power card last longer.



Air conditioners can be the biggest users of power in your house. Here's some tips to stay cool and make your card last longer.

- Use your fans to keep cool instead of switching on the air con
- If you do switch on the air con, close doors, windows, curtains and blinds to keep in the cool air
- Cool only the room you are in
- Switch your air con off when you go out
- Clean the filter pads on your air conditioner regularly
- Set your air conditioner to a cool and energy efficient **25°C**, or number 5 on the setting knob



For more information, call
powersavvy 1800 553 635

 www.facebook.com/powersavvy.au

www.powersavvy.com.au



Palm Island Voice Public & Community Notices

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

TO
Jayden Geia
5th Birthday
30th October
Mickeal Sibley jnr
2nd Birthday
3rd November

To my grandsons,
Wishing you all the best
on your special days
May you have many
more
God Bless and keep you
safe.

Lots of Love,
Nanny George,
Popi Tolowah,
All your uncles,
aunties, brothers
& sisters.

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material submitted no later than
COB the next day.

To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor,
Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au

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Subscription rates will vary according to when
the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in
January 2013 the rate will be half of the full year
to take it to July 2013).

Barracudas 2nd team 'did the community proud' – Alex Morgan

...Continued from page 8...

Palm Island Barracudas lost their first game 28-16 to Pergura from PNG, then thrashed Mossman 48-nil.

But they then lost 48-6 to the star studded and ultimate grand finalists Mulga Tigers, which included ex-West Tigers and Penrith player Dane Lawrie, Canberra Raiders' Travis Waddell and Malcolm Congoo, and ex-Cowboys star Rod Jensen. Co-coach Alex Morgan rated Mickleal Sibley, Gabriel Geesu, Germaine Bulsey, Isiah Oui, William Blackman, Gresham Ross, James Sibley, Anthony Thompson and Hosea Murphy as the best players.

"The majority of our players were under 25 and it would have only been their first or second Allblacks carnival," he said.

"Our main players from Townsville Allblacks were scattered in other teams.

"The players we had could hold their head up high and be proud of their efforts, because they

never took a backward step against much bigger and more experienced opposition.

"They have done themselves and their community proud and will only be better for the experience."

OTHER PALM PLAYERS

Four of Palm's best footballers – Fred Bulsey, Raoul Miller and brothers Darryl and Clinton Pearson lined up for Hope Vale side Dharrabah Bulls, which was coached by Cowboys superstar Matty Bowen.

Bulls won their first two games against a Boigu Island side and a Tablelands team.

The side had the bye in round three on day one and then easily defeated Natives in the quarter final before losing to Curacoa Crusaders in their semi final.

Words by Alf Wilson

...MORE PICS NEXT ISSUE...

POSITION AVAILABLE

The following position is currently open for application for our new service in a new, purpose built facility: Palm Island Children and Family Centre.

Clinical Nurse (Child Health) - full time

(Flexible options exist for applicants who are successful but who do not reside on the Island. The remuneration includes a generous salary sacrifice package)

Applications close Friday 23rd November 2012

To be considered for this position, please submit to mmccann@picc.com.au:

1. A completed employment application form
2. Written response to the key selection criteria (refer to selection criteria contained in the position description)
3. A copy of your current resume

Please contact Mark McCann on 07 4721 2277, or email mmccann@picc.com.au, for a copy of the Employment Application Form and Position Description/Selection Criteria. Advice on the application process is available on request.



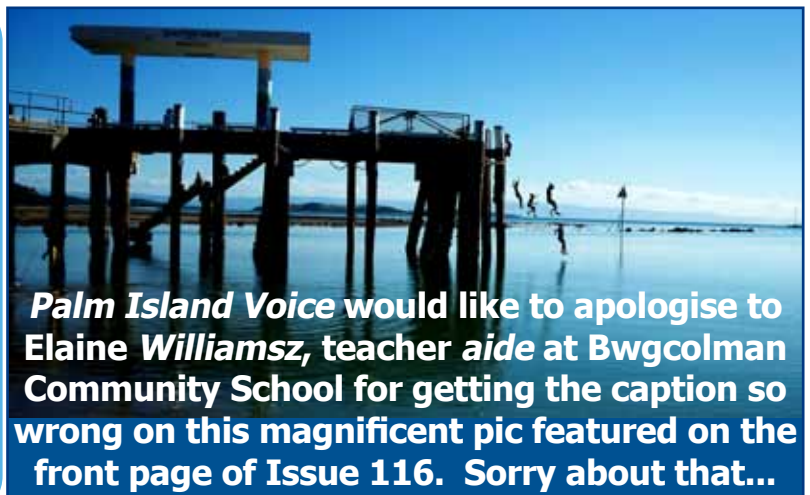
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every 2nd Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDO is



Friday 23 November.

REMEMBER: the Bank & Post Office now closes each Council RDO.

For emergencies on Friday please call 0458 789 011. For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.



Palm Island Voice would like to apologise to Elaine Williamsz, teacher aide at Bwgcolman Community School for getting the caption so wrong on this magnificent pic featured on the front page of Issue 116. Sorry about that...

Curacoa Crusaders win Cairns AllBlacks



Crusaders pic
by Mahala
Strohfeldt
courtesy
Koori Mail

It was another big win for Palm Island football when Curacoa Crusaders were overall winners of the Cairns Allblacks Carnival last month.

They won the grand final against Badu Island side Mulga Tigers 34-16. A huge field of 30 men's teams, 13 under-18 teams and four women's sides contested the carnival. Telston Sibley coached the team through their undefeated run with Malcolm Lawrence dominating the final in the second half after scores were deadlocked 10-all at halftime. Curacoa Crusaders included Melbourne Storm NRL player Maurice Blair. Palm Island players included Ron Geia jnr, Josiah Geia, Walter Geia, Jason Bulsey, Obe Geia, Frank Baira, Stephen Lowatta, Pita Bourne, Fred Haines jnr, Justin Sibley, and Vernon Bourne.

Other players in their team were Ricky Morris, Anthony Raymond, Trevor Bowman, Nathaniel Bowman (also received the trophy for best player of the Carnival), Justin Sibley (whose great grandfather was Jack Sibley a famous Palm Island boxer), George Jarrett, Algon Congoo, Phillip Daisy (a son of former Mount Isa Foley Shield legend Vern Daisy), Harry Ambrym, Andrew Dale, Lewis Currin, Daniel Pickering, Landan Kynuna, Justin O'Brien and Zac Moss.

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Pics below by Christine Howes



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MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
...Issue 120 due out in January 2013 on a date TBC...