

Palm Island Voice



Issue 160: 14 August 2014

still only \$1.25



Palm Island / Bwgcolman Babies 2014

More pics on pages 4 & 5



ALSO INSIDE:

- WHO REMEMBERS...
...jumping off this
barge when they were
a kid??? More 'old-
time' pics on page 7!



WARNING! Some images in this Issue may contain deceased persons which may cause distress to some people.



Out & About



Top: A meeting of Mayors on the Gold Coast in May; Above Left: NAIDOC Person of the Year Gracelyn Smallwood with Mayor Alf Lacey; Above: Corey Prior with a prize catch; Far Left: Palm Island Police Officer Dave Rutherford in Townsville's Sausage Roll Factory with worker Jameela Roper; Left: Margaret Conway, Alice Conway and James Langlo in Townsville last month.

New Townsville clinic breaks new health ground

PALM Islanders living in Townsville and locals who visit family and friends there are set to benefit from the opening of the first private 24 hour Indigenous Health Centre in the country.

Dr Praveen Kumar (*pictured right with Mayor Alf Lacey*) has self-funded 'My Family Doctors' in Kirwan, a 24 hours a day service with all patients bulk billed.

The Centre is geared to provide primary care to the Indigenous community and has a pick up and drop off bus available to patients.

At the grand opening last week Palm Mayor Alf Lacey and Elder Elizabeth Clay were amongst hundreds in attendance.

"This will provide another alternative for our people, a lot of Palm Islanders live in suburbs near here," Cr Lacey said.

People with non-life threatening ailments will likely head for the new centre rather than wait a long period after hours at Townsville Hospital.

NAIDOC person of the year Professor Gracelyn Smallwood was made an official ambassador for the Centre.

Professor Smallwood will be present at the Centre on most days to enhance community confidence and to offer advice.

"This opening is a landmark for our community and the whole country being the first one of its type," she said.

"It is not taking anything away from community control and is long overdue."

Guests were welcomed to country by Dorothy Savage for the Bindal people and Virginia Wyles on behalf of the Wulgurukaba mob.

"Our people don't always get sick between 9am and 5pm and this centre has also created employment for some of our people," Mrs Savage said.

A smoking ceremony was conducted by Uncle Alfred Smallwood and the crowd entertained by the Wulgurukaba Walkabout and Kirwan High TSI dancers.

As hundreds of general practitioners nationwide begin to deliver more specifically to Indigenous communities as part of the Abbott Government's Closing the Gap scheme, Dr Kumar has gone it alone.

It comes as the debate over the indigenous health crisis intensifies, with billionaire Andrew

'Twiggy' Forrest getting prominent indigenous backing for a "healthy" eftpos-style welfare card that would block spending on alcohol and gambling.



"I'm not banking on charging anyone, I can't because these people can't afford that," Dr Kumar said.

Dr Kumar said during his 12 years in Townsville he had noticed recurring illnesses among indigenous and islander patients such as gout, obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes.

"We have six Aboriginal health workers, a disabled-access bus, a kitchen to tutor locals in healthy eating, a bathroom and barber's facilities for the homeless, a multimedia room for elder meetings and \$15,000 of health pack giveaways," he said.



Palm Island / Bwgcolman



On Monday 14th July, as a part of the NAIDOC Celebrations Palm Island babies from 0-2 years old were presented with a Bwgcolman Baby Certificates and gift bags.

0-2 year old babies, 2014



Cr Eddy Walsh, who started the project back in 2012, was on hand to present each baby (and parent) with their certificate.

Afternoon Tea – fairy bread, fruit was provided for the little ones and they all enjoyed it!!!

Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget...
BIRTHDAYS,
ANNIVERSARIES
AND OTHER PUBLIC/
COMMUNITY MESSAGES
ARE FREE (subject to
space)! See contact details below!



A big happy birthday
to my Granddaughter
Te'Aroha (Tia) Prior
who turned 1 on August
4... from your loving
Grandparents, Uncle,
Aunts and family...



As of Tuesday 1st July 2014
**New Operating Hours for
Council are**
Monday – Friday
8:00am – 5:00pm
WEEKLY

If you have any questions please contact 4770 1177

Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 355
'likes' on
Facebook!!!



Message from the Palm Island Police

DON'T FORGET!!!
Wearing helmets is
compulsory from 1st August.
Helmets are cheap:
our children are priceless.
Helmets cost from \$10.00 in Townsville.
Fine for not wearing a helmet \$113.00.

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across nominated page): \$120
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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.

**THE NEXT PALM ISLAND VOICE
DEADLINE (for Issue 161)**
will be **THURSDAY 21 August** for
publication on **Thursday 28 August**

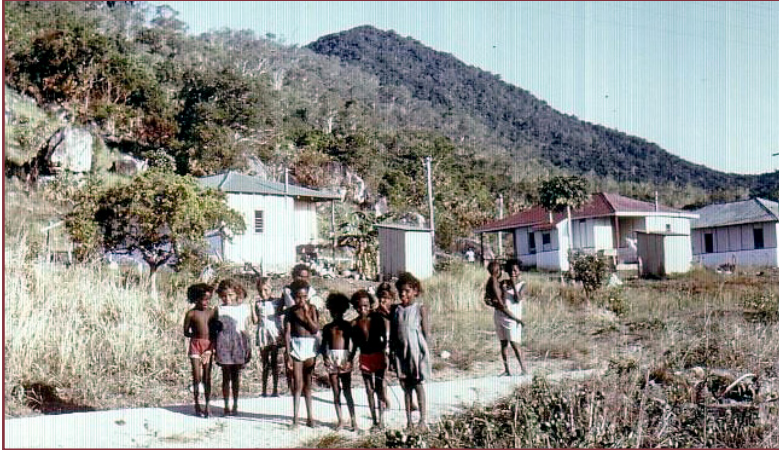
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Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277
or via chowes@westnet.com.au

**PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!!!**



Pics on this page with thanks to Ashley Lenoy who has been busy scanning his family's pics and posting them up onto Facebook – we have reprinted them here with his permission, thanks Ashley. Top Left: Old hall & Clocktower; Top Right: Grandad Alf Palmer, the boat builder; Middle Left: Fridays, Kidners & bottom end kids walking to Doc's house, now Jacob Baira's; Middle Right: Old Hall, burnt down; Above: Overseer's Office, Hygiene Office, Bread & Veggie Office & Timber Mill, all where the Council offices are now, Garage and Public Toilets on the right, early-mid 1960s; Below: St Michael's class late 70s-early 80s.

Wedding - Mick and Martha Brown, Daphne Andersen, Gladys, Ester Thompson, Louisa Murray, Lexiw Roma.



Yarrabah celebrates!



Left: Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation CEO Sue Andrews, Elder Les Baird, Yarrabah Mayor Errol Neal, NAIDOC Person of the Year Gracelyn Smallwood & Gurriny chair Sandra Houghton

Yarrabah's Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation has signed an historic agreement with Queensland Health resulting in Queensland's first transfer of a local primary care service from the State to a community-controlled health organisation.

Gurriny CEO Sue Andrews said it had been a long journey for her community, which now has a 12-month contract to prove that it can work.

"This started back in the early 80s when a group of elders got together under a tree and decided the current service in Yarrabah wasn't actually doing anything or making an impact on health for our people," she said. "They talked about a community health program back then so this has been a journey since the 80s. The original service we had was like a little shop front, delivering pretty much primary health care out of that with one doctor, one nurse and one health worker. The process for change was driven by health workers. For us here in Yarrabah community-controlled health service is about the social as well as the clinical side of health. That



means we not only fix the individuals, we fix the families and the whole community. We're about prevention and early detection. The community has ownership to it and they know when they come to the service they're going to get the best care possible for them. There's so many people to thank along the way from the elders to the local people here in Yarrabah to government at all levels, and especially the local people who have been part of the journey of Gurriny since we started the journey."



At the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Summit in Cairns was Animal Control Officer Raoul Miller, Dr John Wenitong, Adrian Carson & Mayor Alf Lacey, who later took part in a forum discussion on community-controlled health services.