

# Palm Island Voice

Issue 218

Thursday 1 December 2016

\*\*\*FREE\*\*\*



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



Seven outstanding Year 12 students have graduated from Bwgcolman Community School and, for the first time in Palm Island history, 100% of our senior students have finished with their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

Palm Island Councillor Eddie Walsh congratulated the students on behalf of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and remarked on the pride that comes from Palm Island students completing their Senior Studies at Bwgcolman. Graduation night was a

wonderful celebration enjoyed by parents, staff, invited guests and, of course, our departing students. "Congratulations to all involved," teacher David O'Shea said. "We strongly believe that it takes a whole community to

educate a child and today we celebrated the unprecedented outcomes from working together. "We wish our graduating seniors every success in their future endeavours. "Know that we are forever proud of your achievements." *Thanks to David for pic and comments.*

IN THIS ISSUE: What's going on with the Mall +  
New money for sports precinct upgrade +  
Health Action Plan news + MORE footy pics +  
Our new national boxing champs!!!



# Mall re-development expected to take 6 weeks

Work has begun on Palm Island's Mall with a new upgrade expected to take about six weeks to complete.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the development was in partnership between the Council and the Queensland State Government through the Department of Economic Development.

"The Mall has been looking tired for quite some time and I'm pleased to inform the community Council has been able to secure much needed money to upgrade the area, to make it a more comfortable and livable area in the community," Cr Lacey said.

"It's a much-needed face lift given the Mall is probably one

of the shining lights of the town as a place of gathering. "People of every generation have used the Mall to sit down and catch up with their young, their old and everyone in between."

He said the Mall would be closed for the next six weeks and asked the community to be patient.

"Cooperate with Council officers and I would ask the community to watch the space as it develops," he said.

"As one the most popular places on the island, it will

be rewarding for everyone in the community, particularly families, to have a more comfortable space to share together and with friends.

"We want to ensure the Mall continues to be a popular community space everyone can enjoy."

**Note:** Council Reception will temporarily be relocated to the back entrance of the Executive Services Building – of course if you are reading your *Palm Island Voice* on paper right now, you've probably already found it!

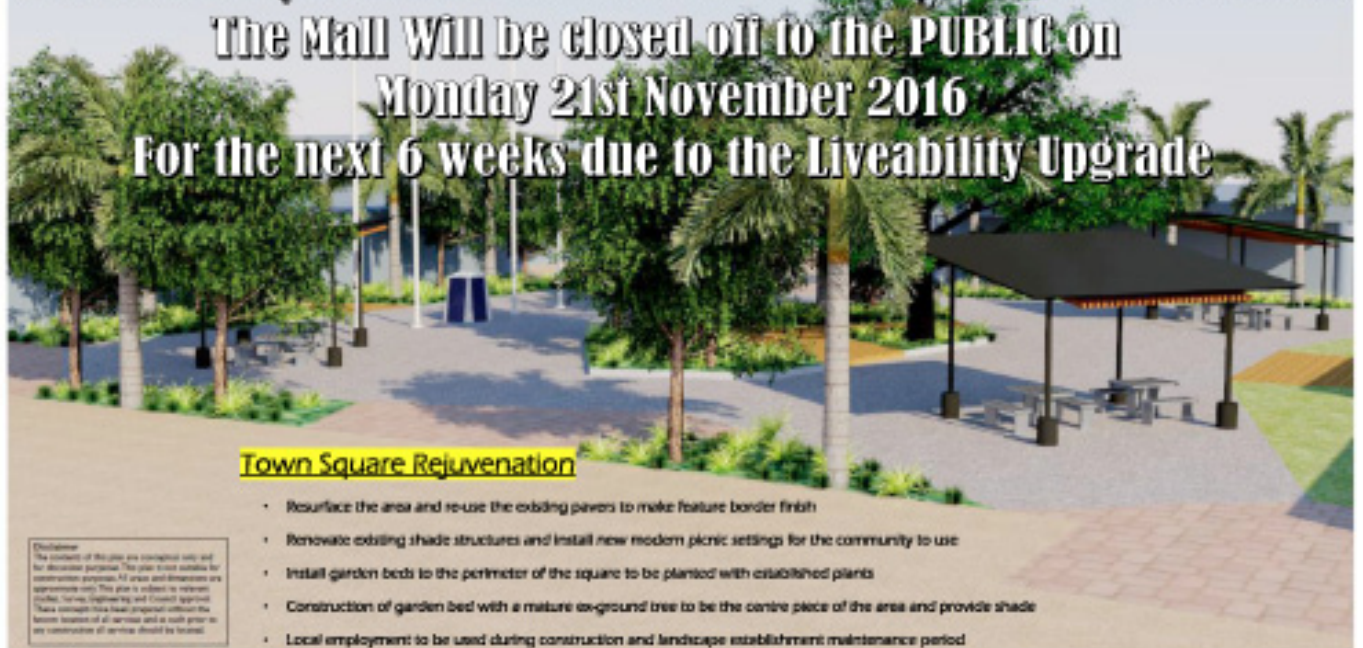
# COMMUNITY NOTICE

## TOWN SQUARE MALL LIVEABILITY UPGRADE

The Mall Will be closed off to the PUBLIC on

Monday 21st November 2016

For the next 6 weeks due to the Liveability Upgrade



### Town Square Rejuvenation

- Resurface the area and re-use the existing pavers to make feature border finish
- Renovate existing shade structures and install new modern picnic settings for the community to use
- Install garden beds to the perimeter of the square to be planted with established plants
- Construction of garden bed with a mature ex-ground tree to be the centre piece of the area and provide shade
- Local employment to be used during construction and landscape establishment maintenance period

Disclaimer  
The content of this plan is intended only as a guide and does not constitute a contract. The plan is not intended for construction purposes. All areas and dimensions are approximate only. This plan is subject to relevant traffic, zoning, engineering and Council approval. These conditions have been prepared without the benefit of a site visit and as such prior to any commencement of works, should be treated.



PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL  
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Palm Island - Council Forecourt



# Grant monies hard-won for sports precinct upgrade

After two years of hard work and 'rigorous' assessment, more than \$400,000 has been granted to the Palm Island Council to upgrade essential services at the community's sports precinct to ensure its safe operation and improve security.

Mayor Alf Lacey said he was pleased to have the State Government's support.

"Council is pleased, and I'm certainly pleased, all that hard work has paid off and we can deliver some really good results for the benefit for the whole community," he said.

"What it means for us is we will see the upgrade to the facility itself, but more importantly I think it's about

the health and wellbeing of the community on Palm.

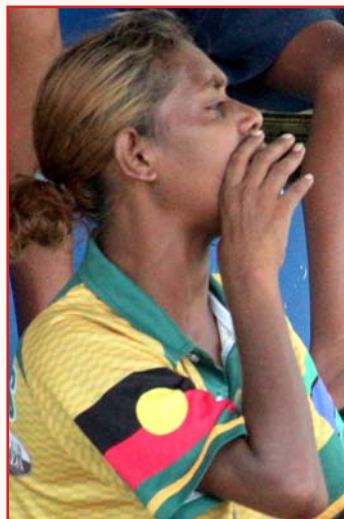
"Council will be holding a forum down at the sport complex in the near future to talk about how we can incorporate community input into the upgrade, the design and what needs to happen.

"There are some preliminary works that have been done for the design phase, but Council will be looking to all

interested community members and sporting bodies on Palm for input.

"Community notices will come out soon because this is going to be a whole of community facility and we need as much input into the upgrade as possible.

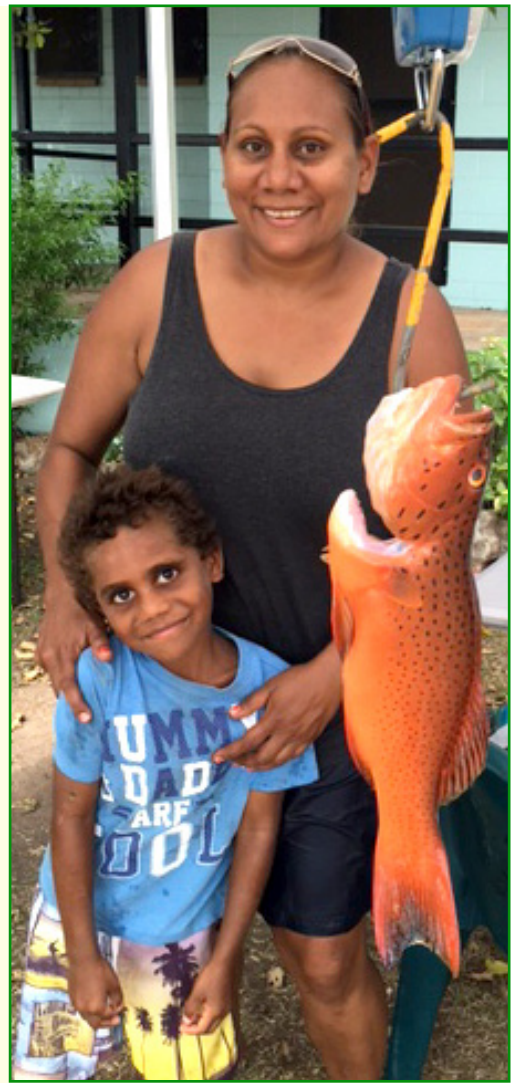
"I think it's really important that the local sporting groups and individuals get involved in what the new upgrade will look like."



## Out & About @ the Gindaja Cup in Cairns







## Palm Island Fishing Comp



Thanks to Cr Roy Prior & Frank Conway for the pics!





# Community input essential to healthy future

The 2017–27 Palm Island Health Action Plan is being developed now and community input is needed to make sure the team working on the plan gets it right.

Team leaders Barbara Schmidt and Phillip Mills said a team of people were working to find out what Palm Islanders themselves thought were the most important issues to be addressed to improve health in the community.

Lillian Lampton and John 'Chico' Charles are on the team to let individuals and community groups know about the development of the Plan and to encourage community members to tell the planning team about the health issues they think need to be addressed in the plan.

Joyce Palmer Health Service's Indigenous Community Liaison and Engagement worker Jennifer Ketchell and Palm Island Aboriginal Council's Health Liaison Officer Leonie Hopkins were also on the team to provide advice and logistical support for the health planning activities.

Community members and service providers have been meeting with the team over the past six weeks to collect information about current services and to look at what has changed over the past six years.

Information collected by the health planning team was to be

shared at the Palm Island Health Planning meeting held yesterday and today. Everyone was invited to the meeting to help provide direction about health strategies the community wanted to be included in the Palm Island Health Action plan 2017– 2027.

"This is exciting times for Palm Island because the vision of the people, both past and present, for health is becoming more clear and will soon be a reality," the team said. "Current progress with health planning for the next ten years means the community is moving forward and we are making our own decisions about what we believe is the right way for our community and the actions required for the healthy continuation of our lives on Palm Island and long life for our future generation.

"The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council carried the voice of Palm Island community and fought vigorously to secure the funding to build a new purpose built primary health care centre on Palm Island so we have better access to primary health care services.

"The Townsville Hospital and

Health Service has committed to move the community health programs from Joyce Palmer Health Service to the new purpose built facility and that the primary health care facility will transition to the management of a community controlled health organisation.

"It is important to note that the hospital emergency department, renal dialysis and inpatient beds will stay at the Joyce Palm Health Service building and not be moving.

"The commitments made by the Queensland Government means the health planning meeting will be more than a talk fest.

"Important decisions – which will affect Palm Islanders for generations to come – about what people want the community controlled health service to look like and how they want the primary health care services to be delivered have been discussed."

**For more information about the Palm Island Health Planning process contact Lillian Lampton (0474 044 874) or Barbara Schmidt (0412 039 493).**



*Health professionals, Councillors and Council staff met regularly to ensure the Palm Island Health Action Plan 2010–2015 was put into action (from Palm Island Voice Issue 105)*





Pics by Christine Howes – more at <http://www.chowes.com.au>







Gindaja  
Cup: Cairns 2016





# He's had enough!



“It’s got to be people who are not from my Island,” Elder Keith Pickles says when it comes to people destroying street signs around the community.

Furious at the disrespect for a small but hard fought-for right to own and name the streets the Island, Mr Pickles, 70, invited anyone who didn’t like living in the community to leave.

“This is about the way some fools or idiots – I don’t know how they would like to be perceived – are destroying street signs all over the community,” he said.

“I don’t know why people are just destroying them, I don’t know why.

“It’s got to be people who are not from my Island and don’t care about my Island, so if they don’t like my Island, please leave, don’t destroy it.”

Mr Pickles was born on Palm Island just after World War II.

He did an apprenticeship at the Golden Circle Cannery in Brisbane in the 1960s and is a retired mechanic, who has now taken matters into his own hands.

When he saw people trying to break the signs on the street he lives on, he took it upon himself to save them by nailing them onto his house.

The signs are therefore still functional, unable to be bent out of shape and safe from vandals.

He said he hates the way people “rubbish and vandalise our beautiful island”.

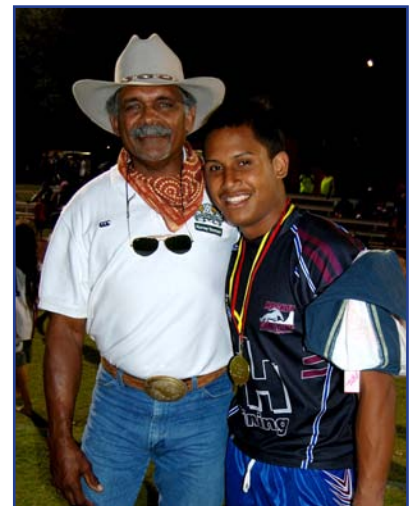






## Out & About

Top Left: Admin officer at the Cherbourg Ration Shed, Matthew Malone (pic: Christine Howes); Top Right: Ingai Prior, his partner Ellen Tapau and young Pearl Noah; Middle Left: Randall Parker was with friend Mandy Brown; Middle Right: Nui Rabuka; Left: Gerald Wotton jnr is looking forward to a new career as a paramedic in the New Year. The Palm Island boxer has been self employed as a tradesman in recent times. Right:



Flashback to late 2008 when legendary Palm Island footballer Vern Daisy was pictured with current NRL star Ben Barba. Vern was one of the greatest footballers ever to lace up a boot in North Queensland – This was at the Daisy Cup at the Townsville Sports Reserve. Barba has since gone on to become a marquee NRL player who shone for the Cronulla Sharks which won the 2016 grand final beating Melbourne Storm 14-12.



# Palm Island Voice

Public &  
Community Notices



LASHARNTAI SABRINE LOIS PRIOR GEIA: 24 NOVEMBER  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!**  
WITH LOVE FROM BULLOO JOSH & NANNY PAULETTE  
AND AUNTY MEGAN IN MACKAY; HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY  
LITTLE SISSY LASHARNTAI BIG SISSY LOVES YOU! XX

Don't forget!!!  
The DEADLINE for the  
LAST  
PALM ISLAND VOICE  
(219) FOR 2016 is  
**Thursday 7  
DECEMBER**  
FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday 14  
December**

See our Facebook page for a full list of  
Rates & Dates for 2016

## ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner  
across nominated page): \$120  
Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST  
Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST  
Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

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.

To book an ad, make a contribution or  
inquire about subscriptions please contact  
the Editor, Christine Howes, on  
0419 656 277 or [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)



**Operating Hours for  
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 1,280  
'likes' on  
Facebook!!!





CATHY  
FREEMAN  
FOUNDATION  
EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES



# CATHY FREEMAN FOUNDATION

## JOIN OUR TEAM: 3 HIPPIY TUTORS NEEDED

If you care for a child born between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 or have recently participated in the HIPPIY program, then you are eligible to become a HIPPIY Tutor for 2017.

Join the CFF Team and help us deliver activities to improve early-childhood development and school readiness of Palm Island children, by working through weekly activities with their parents.

**Approx. 20 hours per week (Mon - Thurs) with extensive training and development included.**

To request a position description or for more information contact **Boleen Gorringe** on 07 4770 1555 or email [boleen@cathyfreemanfoundation.org.au](mailto:boleen@cathyfreemanfoundation.org.au)

**Applications close at 5pm on Monday 12 December, 2016**



# Champions!



Palm Island's Brayden Nallajar and Raymond Haines both won gold medals at the Australian Amateur Boxing Titles held at Edmonton, near Cairns, last weekend, making them National Champions in their respective divisions.

Fourteen-year-old Brayden beat a Tasmanian opponent in the final of the 41kg division whilst Raymond won the 57kg class.

Patrick Clarke took out a bronze medal in the 67kg class.

Trainer Ray Dennis was ill, so he stayed in Townsville, but the lads travelled to the titles with Greg 'Scooter' Hooper's Art of Strength Club members. Palm Island boxers' next tournament will be in the New Year.



Pic by Alf Wilson