

Gala dinner gives massive boost to 2018 centenary celebrations



Planning for Palm Island's Centenary year has been given a huge boost thanks to those who attended the Gala Fundraising Ball in Townsville last weekend.

Several thousand dollars were raised to support a series of events throughout the year which Mayor Alf Lacey announced would focus on three themes – the Island's past, present and future.

"We kick off the year on January 10th with a launch," he said.

"The launch event will be a full day of dance and ceremony and include hosting of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton.

"In March we will commemorate the Island's

past on the date a cyclone devastated the Hull River Mission, triggering the removal of survivors to the Aboriginal Reserve on Palm Island."

"The Island's present will

be celebrated in April with a three-day music festival.

"Looking to the Island's future, on Bwgcolman Day, the celebrations will focus on our young people." *Continued...*



Top: Descendance performance; Above Yarrabah and Palm Island Councillors at the Gala Dinner

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Cr Lacey acknowledged several guests to the Gala Dinner who included the Palm Island Council, Yarrabah Mayor and Councillors, former MP Mike Reynolds, and Mayors Jenny Hill (Townsville), Lyn McLaughlin (Burdekin) and Liz Schmidt (Charters Towers).

“This is a time to reflect on the past 100 years, to see what our ancestors before us endured and to see how far we have come,” he said.

“But it is also a time to look to the future.

“It will be a big year for us, and we invite you to share our journey – it all starts here.”

MORE PICS NEXT ISSUE!



PICTURED: Maryam Clay with guest performer William Barton; Irene Thaiday and Valmae Doomadgee; Yarrabah Councillors, their wives and partners with Palm Island's Letitia Murgha; and, LGAQ guests Joshua O'Keefe, Samantha Dean, Sarah Buckler, Glen Beckett and Tony Goode



Words & pic thanks to Polly Wilson

Palm Island's Women's Group enjoyed an end-of-year Christmas Party at Ferdy's Haven earlier this month, thanks to organisers Iris Cannon and Kalie Obah.

Legal educators Andrea Kyle-Sailor and Karena Andrew, who can help with advice on all legal situations such as DV, Elder Abuse and where to go for help through the ATSI Women's Legal Services, etc, were there, as was Cyndell Musu and

Vanessa Sutch from ATODS, who can provide drug and alcohol education and support.

We'd particularly like to thank all our participants and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Next year will see programs

to empower these women to forge ahead with their health and well being.

Our mother Iris is a wonderful asset to this group and to Palm Island, we all thank you all for your help and support over the year.

Local church beyond repair

With “deep regret” the Anglican Church has announced the demolition of St George’s Church on Palm Island.

North Queensland Bishop Bill Ray said the Anglican Diocese had made every effort to keep the Church open by undertaking some work to provide a space for worship.

“Sadly, that did not prove to be a workable solution,” he said.

“With the Church in such disrepair, there were a number

of concerns about safety within the community.

“The Diocese thanks the Mayor and the CEO for their support and help in making the building secure until the demolition begins.”

He was quick to add all was not lost.

“I am very pleased that the Sisters at the Parish Centre

on Palm and the Roman Catholic Diocese’s Bishop Tim has allowed us to use their Church for Anglican worship,” he said.

“This is a very generous offer.

“Once the demolition work has been undertaken the Diocese will explore ways forward, both in terms of sacred space and ministry.”

Men’s health week a great success!

The Palm Island Health Week for Fellas was a big success with 118 young men attending over five days.

A big thank you to those who supported this initiative, including Joyce Palmer Health Service, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, the Townsville Public Health Unit, the Bwgcolman Supermarket, the North Queensland Cowboys and the Palm Island community.

A special shout out to our peer recruiter team who did an awesome job in helping to achieve a great number of attendees!

Thanks fellas!

The Cowboys jersey and football prize will be drawn this week, and the two winners will be notified shortly after.



Above: Alex Morgan, Joshua Friday, Dr Jacques du Toit, Alex Massey, Monica Fourmile, Owen Creed, Bernie Longbottom, Chris Gorringe; Below: Peer Recruiter team Alex Morgan, Alex Massey, Wilfred Wyles, Joshua Friday, Clinton Palmer, Tobias Hero, Jonathan Robertson, Mario Assan, Michael Noble, Tyson Ellis



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

North Queensland Bishop Bill Ray

Jesus, our Lord and Saviour was born in the town of Bethlehem.

There was quite a story that led up to the birth of Jesus and quite a story that followed his birth.

In the lead up, Mary found herself pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

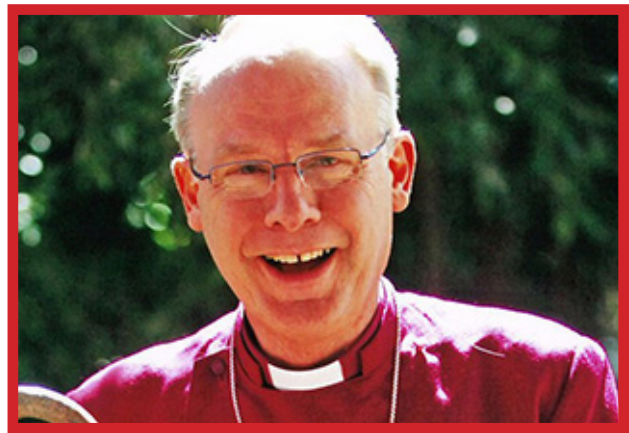
Joseph did not want to disgrace Mary so he sought to divorce her without fuss.

However, the Holy Spirit told Joseph to take Mary as his wife.

This would not have been easy but Mary and Joseph were faithful and we too must be faithful to our Lord.

The Emperor called a census and Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem.

This would have been a nuisance.



There are often situations in life that are not easy but God is with us.

When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, there was nowhere they could stay, so Jesus was born in a home for animals, a stable, and his bed was a cattle feeding trough, a manger.

This reminds us that we do not always need the latest and the best in life.

Following the birth of Jesus is the second story, the story of the visitors.

The first visitors to Jesus were the shepherds, not the political or the religious leaders of the day.

It reminds us that Jesus came for each one of us.

Another lot of visitors were the wise men.

They offered gifts that remind us that: Jesus would die for us and our sins (myrrh); that Jesus would be our great high priest (frankincense) and Jesus is our King (gold).

Not only that, Jesus came that we may have life, life in all its fullness.

Let us give thanks for the birth of Jesus, that our Saviour came among us and is with us always.

I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing for 2018.

St Teresa's College

Assistant Principal Fr Pius

The holiday season is here and soon Christmas and New Year will be upon us which means our boys will be busy fishing and hunting and catching up with family and friends.

At St Teresa's College we have completed another year and have celebrated the graduation of our Year 12 boys.

Graduation Day reminds us all of how important education is and that it gives to these young men a variety of pathways to choose in creating their own futures.

In 2017 we saw Kelvin Castors, Neil Fraser, Zachariah Ketchup and Jack Sibley all graduate.

Some exciting new developments await us in 2018.

A new dorm for Year 10 boys opens and another begins to be built. This will allow us to increase our enrolment.

Our new captains have been chosen, and Liam Gibson-Kerr from Palm is one of those captains.

After four years, our Principal,

Rob Corboy has taken up the challenge of Principal at St Brendan's in Yeppoon.

Michael Conn, who was Principal of Ignatius Park, for 15 years has been appointed Principal for 2018.

Rob has been an outstanding Principal and we have seen the College go from strength to strength under his leadership.

St Brendan's is certainly fortunate to gain Rob's expertise.

We are all excited about 2018 however the holidays are here to be enjoyed for the moment.

From all of us at St Teresa's College, we wish the people on Palm every best wish for a safe, happy and blessed Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.



St Anne's Parish, Sister Robyn

There has been many activities at St Anne's parish during this year.

We farewelled Fr Mick Peters and Len Horner.

We also farewelled Fr Emmanuel and we have had some visits from Fr Pius Jones from Abergowrie to

celebrate Mass.

We were happy to have the news of the new Bishop for Townsville.

And we were happier still to have his first pastoral visit to Palm Island in November.

Christmas has come upon us and I take this opportunity to

wish the members of the Palm Island Community a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Our Mass times for Christmas-

SUNDAY
CHRISTMAS EVE
7.PM FAMILY MASS
MONDAY
CHRISTMAS DAY
9.00AM MASS

Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!
The FIRST 2018
DEADLINE for the
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(244) is

**Thursday
18 January**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday
25 January**

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Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 1,789
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Carols by the Sea

Palm Island's Christmas Festival
Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th December 2017

Saturday 16th: Carols by the Sea: 5pm-10pm
Sunday 17th: Combined Churches Service
Venue: Clock Tower Area

Mayoral Christmas Appeal

Contacts:
Palm Island Council: Murielle Morgan - 47701177
Palm Island Council: Deniece Geia - 47701177
Event Manager: Ada Boland - 0499117346

Proudly sponsored by Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Your Council working for our community



The Palm Island Community Rugby League held their AGM last month, re-elected President Algon Walsh writes...

There are some new committee members, as well as past members who have shown interest for the upcoming 2018 season.

The committee is made up of myself as Chairman, Deniece Geia as Secretary and Telstan Sibley as Treasurer, all of whom will make up the executive.

The other elected committee members were Gresham Ross, Tanya Haines, Germaine Bulsey, Lillian Lampton, Frank Conway and

Sam Johnson.

Congratulations to the new members elected, as well as our former members re-elected to their respected positions.

We look forward to a challenging and hopefully successful season of rugby league for our community.



Skipjacks win a lasting memory

IT has been almost eight months since Palm Island Club Skipjacks beat Army Thunder 26-20 in the 10th annual rugby league clash for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield.

It was played at Townsville's 1300Smiles Stadium on April 22 as a curtain raiser to the North Queensland Cowboys win over the Newcastle Knights NRL game which was part of the Anzac Tribute round.

Without a doubt the win was one of the sporting highlights of the year for Palm Island.

Skipjacks fan Owen Wilson was at the IGA Supermarket in the Townsville suburb of

Douglas in early December and said he was still celebrating.

"That was great win by Skippies," he said.

Owen is closely related to the Coolburra family and that levelled the series at 5 games all.

The game is named after the



late and great Palm Aboriginal elder Bill Coolburra who served in the Australian Army for many years and was an avid Skipjacks supporter, a club which is more than 80 years old.

Owen was in the *Palm Island Voice* earlier this year after he was photographed the day before the game at Bill Coolburra Memorial Park at the top of Kissing Point.

With his two mates, Owen wants to wish all Palm islanders a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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*\$33 for additional adult

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Boxers reflect on a difficult but successful year

PALM Island boxers may not have attended as many tournaments during 2017 as veteran trainer Ray Dennis would have liked, but there have still been many highlights, and with many more to come.

Palm Island is set to host a tournament in the New Year and Patrick Clarke will turn professional, so it's fair to say the future looks bright.

Looking back, one of the main highlights of the year was the induction of Mr Dennis into Queensland's Boxing Hall of Fame during a gala ceremony attended by more than 300 at Yatala, near Brisbane, in July.

Eighty-year-old Uncle Ray has



Above: Ray Dennis and Scott Hooper at the Hall of Fame Awards

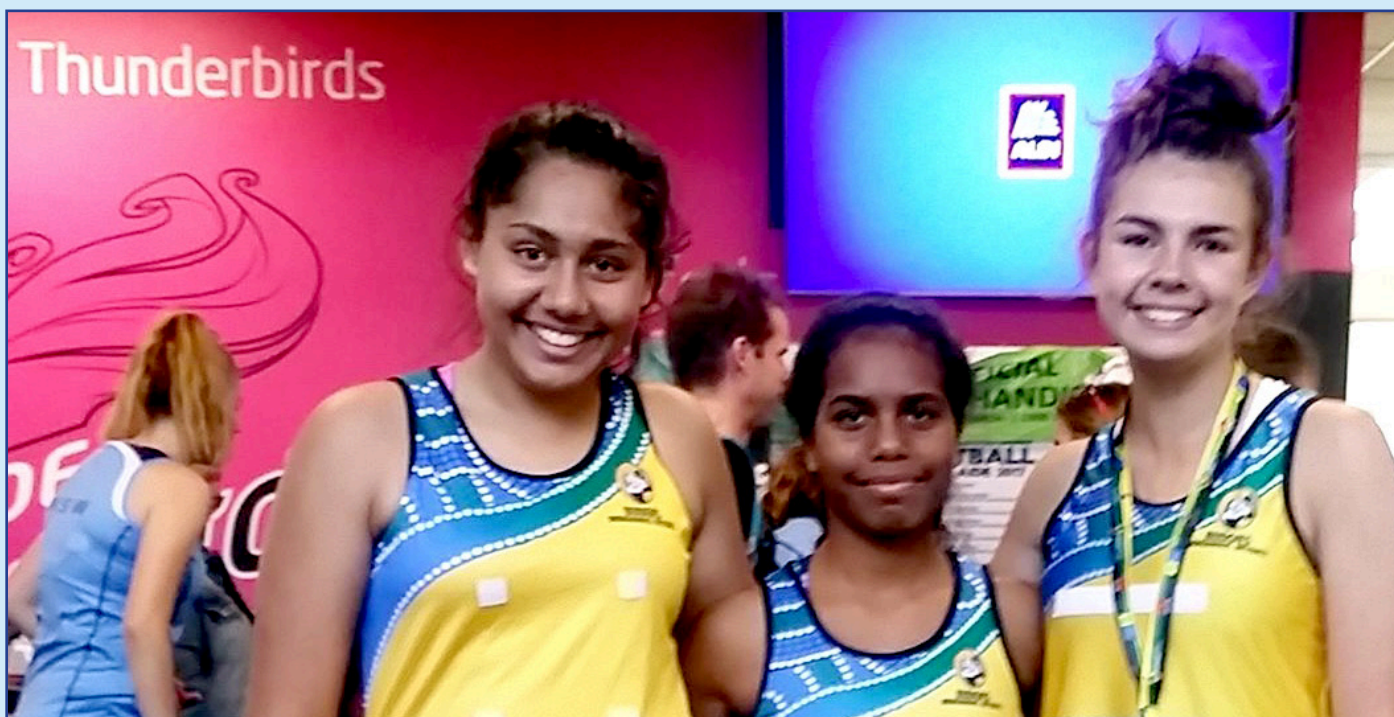
trained boxers on Palm Island since 1999 and those have included too many National, State and Golden Gloves amateur champions to count.

He has a proud history with Indigenous boxers since he started training at the Townsville Fitness

Centre in 1967.

Uncle Ray has been ill most of this year but that hasn't kept him from training his team.

There have been many rising star young boxers who, with commitment, will be top performers next year and beyond.



Outstanding!!! These three Bwgcolman girls will represent on First Nations Budgies Indigenous Junior Netball teams after playing at the 10th Pacific School Games in Adelaide last week. They are Darima Foster and Ikanau Conway (under 12/13s) and Ella Blackman (under 15s). Well done!!!