



2018 Centennial celebrations ‘highly commended’

Palm Island’s hugely successful 2018 Centenary events have won the community a ‘Highly Commended’ in the Community category of the Queensland State Government’s Reconciliation Awards for 2019.

The Yarrabah Band Festival, which started in 2013, won the category overall.

The Palm Island 2018

Centenary Events won the commendation because they: “provided an opportunity to share the history, stories

and heritage of more than 40 tribes that now call Palm Island home with the broader Australian community. The

events brought people together, building a better understanding of the myths that surround Palm Island and debunking preconceived ideas and stereotypes. The sharing of their stories has, in many ways, assisted the Palm Island community to progress its ongoing reconciliation journey.”

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said the entire community was to be commended for their participation and support over the year.

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“We particularly want to commend the community for their participation in putting Palm on the map by pulling together as one and supporting and attending the celebrations as you did,” he said.

“Congratulations to the Palm community for this win.”

Described last year as a ‘stalwart leader’ Jennifer Ketchell said winning the commendation was ‘great’.

“I’m so proud of Palm Island,” she said. “This can help us to move forward.

“A lot of work was put into this, to achieve this we had to have a team, who worked to their bones and were able to achieve this.

“And to all those people on Palm Island, I thank them for their contribution.

“It wasn’t just us here in the room, it’s all of you from Palm Island, you’re all leaders in your own right, so thank you to Bwgcolman community, and I hope we can work on this and add to this in the coming years.”

Awards Ambassador Johnathan Thurston extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the finalists and winners.

“I’m so honoured to be Ambassador for these awards



and have the opportunity to witness what’s being done across the state to create meaningful change and positively impact the lives of Indigenous Queenslanders,” Mr Thurston said.

“This year’s winners should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved – they are certainly well deserving of this accolade.”

Acting PIASC CEO Ross Higgins has worked for more than 45 years in state and local government.

“I commenced my local government journey with the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council in 1995 in the role of Deputy Chief Executive Officer and was acting Chief Executive Officer on many occasions,” he said. “After 16 years at Cherbourg, it was time to move on and undertake some travel.

“On return, I carried out some relief work which included acting CEO at Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council for five months in 2012 whilst assisting Council to recruit a permanent person to the position. Later in 2012, I commenced work with the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council in an interim capacity whilst

recruitment for a permanent CEO was being considered.

“I was then offered that permanent position and remained there until late 2016 when it was time to move home to the Sunshine Coast for some semi-retirement. I now undertake Executive Management/CEO roles in an interim capacity through Peak Services (an arm of LGAQ) and over the past two and a half years have spent time at Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council, Burke Shire Council, Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council and now Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

“In late 2018, I was honoured to



be appointed as the independent Chair of the Hope Vale Council Audit Committee.

“My priorities as part of the interim roles now undertaken are to ensure that normal operations of councils continue and I am able to provide some fresh eyes over these operations and follow up with advice and recommendations back to Councils.

“Personally, I enjoy current affairs, travel, the beach and bush walking.”

IDX team flying high over Palm

The Indigenous Digital Excellence (IDX) Initiative is visiting Palm Island this week (Monday 2nd June to Friday 7th June) to deliver digital making workshops with students, teachers and members of the Bwngcolman Community School.

The team, which includes Delilah MacGillivray; Grant Cameron; Chantelle O'Donohoe & Abigail David (*pictured*), said their digital learning workshops “hoped to spark the interest, ideas and talent of our mob in making digital technology”.

They travelled from the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) based in Redfern, Sydney to deliver the workshops in collaboration with the School.

“During the five-day program mob will learn a range of new skills, including coding robots, using drones to care

for country, digital storytelling skills and explore virtual worlds using virtual reality headsets,” they said.

IDX Operations Manager and Kamilaroi man Grant Cameron said the workshops were focused on hands-on learning and igniting young people’s interest in technology, while also highlighting potential career paths and opportunities.

“We’ll train-up local members of the community and make them confident in using the



technology and running the workshops for local mob in the future,” he said.

The IDX team will host a free BBQ tomorrow, Friday, from 3pm onwards at Bwngcolman Community School. If you are interested in finding out more about the program come on down and meet the team.

Now this...!

SOS Health Services Palm Island in partnership with PCYC will be joining the community NAIDOC Week Celebrations with some fun activities.

Breakdance Classes and Sessions: Adrian our SOS Volunteer Physio on Palm Island during NAIDOC Week is also a breakdancer and he will be running some classes mid-week as well as some sessions on Friday 12 July at the SOS Health Tent and on stage.

Spikeball: is a new sport taking off in Australia. SOS Health is bringing a Roundnet Australia – Spikeball coach to Palm to run some clinics during NAIDOC Week, and an inaugural Palm Island Spikeball Championship will be part of the community sports day on Saturday 13 July.

Spikeball is played by teams of two people and no previous experience necessary!

Who will be the Palm Island junior (under-13), men’s and women’s champions? Great prizes and lots of fun learning a whole new sport!

Posters with dates and times for both SOS Health Breakdance and Spikeball events will be around the community in the lead up to NAIDOC Week.



Come along, learn something new, get active and have some fun!

Record breaking numbers around this year's flu



Health care workers at the new Palm Island Primary Healthcare Centre say there has been an unprecedented 'spike' in the number of Palm Islanders making the most of the free Influenza vaccine.

On one day alone more than 175 people received their vaccination, Senior Medical Officer Dr Shaun Hosein said, as the number of confirmed cases across north Queensland was confirmed to be more than three times that of last year.

He said on Palm Island more than 525 people – about 20 per cent of the population – had opted for the injection.

“We’ve seen a remarkable response from Palm Islanders to this year’s Influenza campaign and I think the convenience of being able

to access the jab from the new centre has made a huge difference,” he said.

“It has been a really severe Influenza season across all of Queensland, so I hope we continue to see high numbers of people wanting their vaccination in the coming weeks.”

Service Group Director Liza Tomlinson said the opening of the \$16.5 million Palm Island Primary Healthcare Centre by Minister for Health Steven Miles had been quickly embraced by the community.

“The community has really

voted with its feet,” she said.

“The feedback from the staff is that the community is loving being able to get care and the new facility and access to the Flu vaccine has been a big reason our staff have been kept busy.”

Influenza is a serious viral illness, which is not the same as a common cold, and can lead to life-threatening complications, particularly in the very young, pregnant women, the elderly and people with complex chronic diseases like heart disease or diabetes.

Bush Tucker project a growing concern for healthy outcomes

An ongoing joint-project to raise awareness around healthy eating and exercise has ended up covering ground from the development of raised garden beds at the Children's Family Centre, schools and other places in the community, through to an exploration of some old 'bush tucker' tracks across the hills into several Palm Island bays.



The Bush Tucker project is funded by Primary Health Network (PHN) and run by the Palm Island Community Company, and has enjoyed wide support from across the community, including the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and Campbell Page.

Coordinator Brad Foster said opportunities, particularly in nursery and horticulture work, were opening up for those who had been involved.

"We built the garden beds from scratch," he said.

"Not just the English

vegetable-type garden beds but bush tucker, which is why we're using the bush tracks.

"Campbell Page came to us looking for some activities, so it's become something of a community project.

"We've put together a bit of a database of 20-30 bush tucker plants which was a starting point for developing a nursery for the 24 garden beds."

He said the work done had included everything from soil testing samples to a trip to Bunnings for fertiliser.

"It's a great project," he said. "The range of activities covers kids to elders, where we are taking the opportunity to record their information and history of uses for some of the bush tucker available on the island."

He said they were now hoping to find funds to run a full 26-week program which would see 10-15 young men and women working on the project.

"In a way we're creating a new industry so we can lead these young people into opportunities down the track," he said.

Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



The next DEADLINE for
the PALM ISLAND VOICE
(278) will be

**Thursday
13 June**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday
20 JUNE**

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Print approval required by Monday COB.

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COMMUNITY WATER NOTICE UPDATE

Council has fixed the maintenance issues
at the Water Treatment Plant
and are continuing to flush the lines.

Council are now looking at options for
desludging reservoirs and cleaning the
lines over the next week.

Water Tests are being undertaken daily,
with results being sent to the State Water
Regulator who must give the approval to lift
the boil water requirement once the
appropriate standard is reached.

If you have any questions, please contact
the Palm Island Council Works and
Facilities Dept on 47700282

Kinds Regards Council

**Operating Hours for Council are
Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm**



Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 3,153 'likes' on
Facebook!!!

If you have any questions please contact
Reception on 4770 1177 or
4770 0200

Palm misses out on RARL trials

Palm Island, Torres Strait Stingers and NPA will miss out on this year's RARL because of a late start to this year's local club competition.

The three represent half of the original six teams who were set to play in Cairns on 15 June.

A big wet season is to blame after rain has meant fields were unable to be prepared in time to kick seasons off before the cut-off dates.

The competition will now be held on June 29 and 30 between

Gulf, Northern Cape United and Southern Cape United.

QRL Northern Division Assistant Divisional Manager Robbie Moore said selected players would be brought into Cairns to participate in Development Training, Education and Wellbeing sessions with coaches and

Deadly Choices.

“Players will be involved in some respect and mentoring programs with Deadly Choices and will be identified into the top 25 NQ United ID Squad for future development into the NQ United team to play Queensland Outback on TI in July,” Mr Moore said.

TDRL NEWS

GORDON Daisy, a son of legendary Palm islander Vern Daisy, was the star of round seven of Townsville and District A grade fixtures.

Gordon scored an amazing four tries and kicked three goals for a personal points tally of 22 in Brothers 48-18 victory over Norths.

In reserve grade Gresham Ross jnr scored a try in Brothers 20-all draw with Norths.

Genami Geia jnr scored a try for Centrals in their 26-24 win over Herbert River.

Darryl Pearson scored a four pointer and kicked a goal in Western Lions 24-16 reserve grade victory over Charters Towers.



Junior League Home Games round one: a visitor's view

The kids and families that went greatly enjoyed the day, and it was only marred by the ferry trip home – quite the rough trip!

“Today has so far been fantastic. What a lovely turn out for our players and thanks to Palm who were eagerly waiting for the game. The smiles on their faces said it all”

Palm Island Junior League 2nd Home Game 2019

Pics thanks to St Michael's School

