



# Palm Island Voice

**FREE!**

## Issue 289

Thursday 21 November 2019

PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons within this publication.



# Inter-community footy comp on again after 20+ years

A team effort means the Christmas Cup will be played again this year on Saturday 7 December for the first time since the late 1990s.

The Christmas Cup was aimed at bringing communities together and was last played between Yarrabah and Palm Island on Palm Island – and won by Yarrabah – in 1997.

Some hard work and networking by Telstan Sibley, Palm Island District Rugby League (PIDRL) committee member Cr Deniece Geia, Queensland Rugby League's (QRL's) Scott Nosworthy and Waltlec Industries means the Christmas Cup is back.

Mr Sibley said the event would be 'a big step' towards re-invigorating a local competition next year.

"This is a community event and I want community members to get

involved," he said. "It will bring back interest in footy for men and women on the Island and all our proceeds from the gate and stall fees will go back into the PIDRL."

He said they had good support.

"I've worked closely with my mum, Cr Geia, and Scott Nosworthy has pushed this event tremendously," he said.

"Townsville Brothers have donated goal post pads, and are interested in doing a development workshop on the day.

"Palm Island Council has been very supportive, as has our major sponsor, Waltlec Industries. My good mate Andrew Walters wanted to give back to the community, his company are



*Ready and steady! John Baira Jr & Josiah Geia*

on the Island working on the new precinct, so he was happy to provide jerseys and t-shirts. QRL, through OAMPS Insurance Brokers, have got us insurance for the Christmas Cup to go ahead."

The game was to have been supported by an invitational match for the Hector 'Dibby' Poynter Shield between the Woorabinda Warriors and the Butler Bay Bulls, but Woorie has had to withdraw. At the time of going to print, organisers hoped Yarrabah might field a second team to make up the shortfall.

Mr Sibley said all their communities had been affected by sorry business and he was keen to see the year end on a high for all.

**Palm Island CHRISTMAS CUP**

**7 Dec 2019**  
Football Grounds, Farm Rd

\$7 Entry  
\$5 Elders  
FREE child - 16yo

U18'S  
WOMEN'S  
MEN'S

There will be a return ferry service for all travelling teams and spectators on Saturday the 7th of Dec 2019  
\*\* this is not a free service \*\*

Food Stalls \$200 available

Telstan Sibley: 0458 698 687

**Palm Island BARRACUDAS VS Yarrabah SEAHAWKS**

**Invitational Teams**  
**HECTOR "DIBBY" POYNTER SHIELD**  
PPP VS. BUTLER BAY BULLS

ENDORSED BY PDRL PALM ISLAND DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE

Proudly Sponsored by

WALTLEC INDUSTRIES TROY KENNEDY SUPERWEAR INCORPORATED IN AUSTRALIA ONE SHOT OAMPS Insurance Brokers 44 YEARS OF BUSINESS

Let's GO!

# New venture successfully launched

The Palm Island Bush Tucker and Walking Trails Project was launched by Bwgcolman Community School and the Palm Island Community Company (PICC) last week.

The launch included a tour of the school bush tucker and vegetable gardens and a kup murri.

The project, which was supported by the North Queensland Regional Health Network and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT), was the result of a unique community partnership between the Bwgcolman School and PICC to encourage Palm Island people to access bush and other healthy foods, and assist in the transmission of local Aboriginal cultural information to young people.

The project has developed 3kms of walking track from Butler Bay with numerous bush tucker plants highlighted along the way.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey officiated proceedings and said as a genuinely community-driven initiative, the project was important to Palm Island people.

He said the Bush Tucker garden and Butler Bay walking track developed by the project could also contribute to increasing tourism attractions in the Shire, a focus of his Council which is trying to encourage and develop local industries.

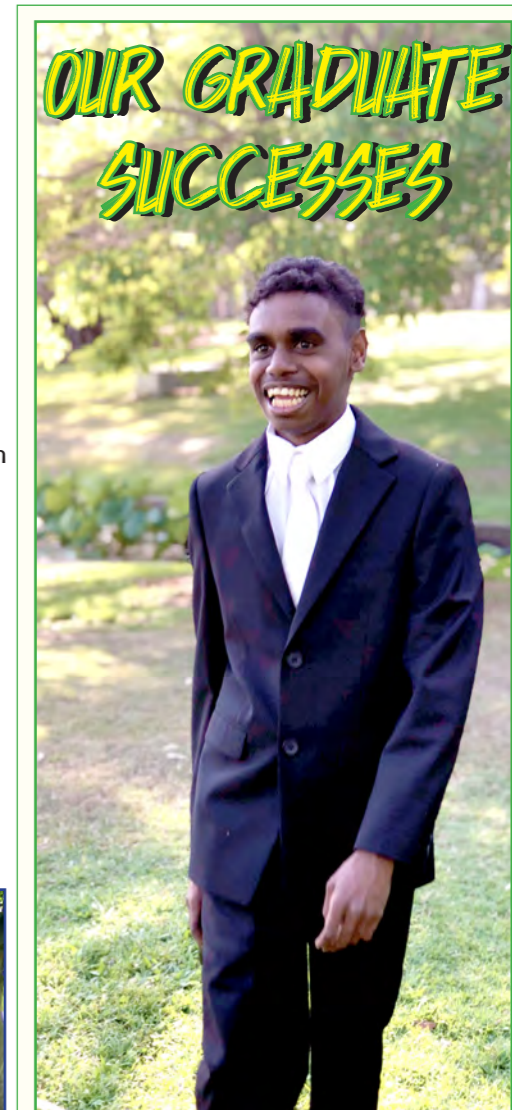
Bwgcolman Community School Principal Beresford Domic said he was excited about the project as a real partnership between agencies committed to ensuring local cultural knowledge was effectively transmitted and pride in identity was an outcome for all Bwgcolman people.

He said project coordinator Brad Foster had done a great job in forging those partnerships and developing the resources.

Mr Foster was also acknowledged by PICC Manager and Deputy Mayor Cr Roy Prior, who said he believed the project was an asset to the Island's developing tourism industry.

He said 10 young men and five women had been employed on a six month contract from a 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' grant from DESBT to build their skills and hopefully gain ongoing employment in conservation, land management, horticultural or landscaping Industries.

The launch was attended by about 120 people representing a broad range of Palm Island community agencies interested in the project.



*Faron Ketchup graduated from Year 12 at Townsville State High earlier this month and is pictured here on his way to his formal last week. See our next Issue for all your graduate successes and pics!*



## Mental health focus for fun day in the sun

Shedding some light on mental health issues, and services which can help, is the aim of World Mental Health Week, celebrated in the second week of October every year.

This year for the first time several services came together to support Palm Island's Community Mental Health Day, held on Wednesday 9 October, under a theme of: 'Let's take time for mental health...to heal, connect and share'.

Held beach side at Fred Clay Park, the highlight of what organisers said was a relaxed and cheerful day was local entertainment by Uncle Walter and Auntie Rosie, along with visiting performers Sayla V and Amos, all of whom were very positively received.

About 350 people shared in the fun of a free BBQ and relaxation activities such as macramé, five minute neck massages from

SOS Health Services Physio Neroli and hand massages from Community Mental Health Nurse Teika as well as information stalls put together by the Justice Group, Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Services (TAIHS), Ferdy's Haven, Selectability, Community and Mental Health and Alcohol & Other Drugs (AODs).

Organisers said it was wonderful to bring the community together "to celebrate our resilient strength that is Palm Island".

They said they were also lucky enough to be able to share this year's Queensland Mental Health Week artwork called 'Communicate through

our strengths' by Ailsa Walsh (2018). The artwork came with the message below, which they said was particularly relevant in the age of social media.



### Communicate through our Strengths

**Ailsa Walsh, 2018**

Tribal connections - Kullili (Thargomindah QLD), Lardil (Mornington Island QLD), Yuggera (Ipswich QLD)

'Communicate through our Strengths' represents our strengths in Indigenous families.

Most of us have suffered or have witnessed family/friends go through mental illness. Our strengths in culture and lore allow us to have a voice in decision making, advocating and guiding our young ones to see a better light other than suicide.

In 2018 we can now use technology, which is represented through "Wi-Fi bars" in the middle of the painting.

This lets us communicate in ways other than face-to-face when we want to talk to someone.

Some of us can feel 'shame' and 'weak' when discussing certain sad subjects.

I want to change this through my art.

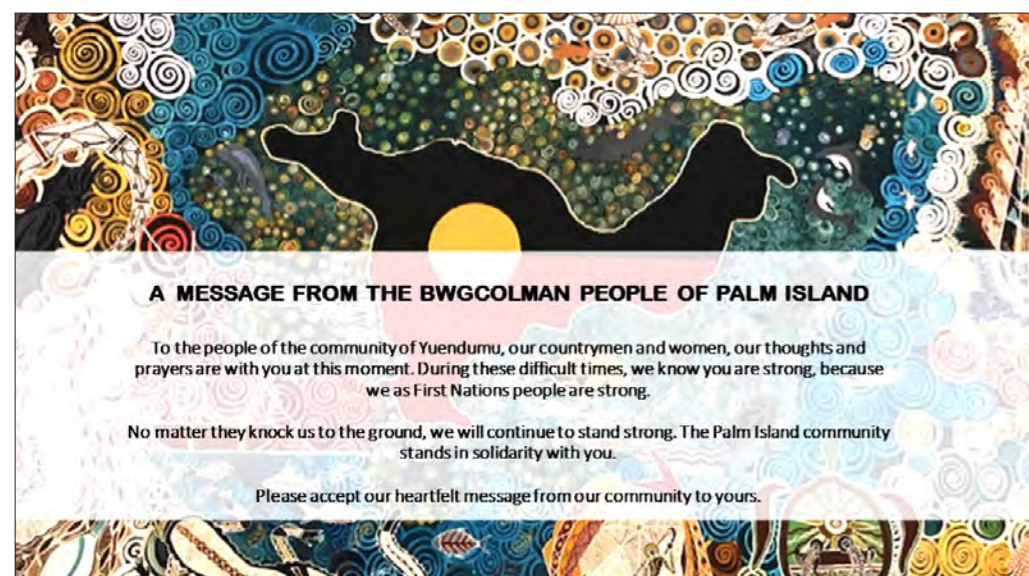
*Ailsa Walsh*

### For walk in and referrals:

Palm Island Community Mental Health Service and Alcohol and Other Drugs is located at the new Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre on Main Street across the road from the Police Station, between the PCYC and the new Shopping Precinct building.

PICC Children Family Centre have a Social Emotional Wellbeing Service that is available for walk in and referrals also.

*Photographs with thanks to Rob Parsons & Through the Looking Glass Studio.*



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

SEND US YOUR GRADUATION PICS! Our next deadline will be Thursday 28 November and our next issue will be a HUGE celebration of our brightest young stars – make sure you don't miss out!

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS INFORMATION

Local government general elections are held every four years, and on the same date for all 77 councils across Queensland. The last elections were held on Saturday 19 March

2016 and the next elections will be held on Saturday 28 March 2020. The Queensland Government is pursuing a rolling reform agenda to strengthen the transparency, accountability and

integrity measures that apply to the system of local government and elections in Queensland.

This means there are some changes that candidates for the 2020 elections need to be ready for, even if you are an existing mayor or councillor or have been a candidate before.

For more information on elections and candidate obligations contact the Electoral Commission of Queensland. See also: <http://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/so-you-want-to-be-a-councillor.html> and <http://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/stage-2-reforms/local-government-reform/stage-2-reforms.html>

COUNCIL ORDINARY AND LAND TRUST MEETING DATES	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY
Wednesday, 27 November 19	Wednesday, 13 November 19
Wednesday, 18 December 19	Wednesday, 11 December 19
Wednesday, 29 January 20	Wednesday, 15 January 20
Wednesday, 26 February 20	Wednesday, 12 February 20
Wednesday, 25 March 20	Wednesday, 11 March 20
Wednesday, 29 April 20	Wednesday, 15 April 20
Wednesday, 27 May 20	Wednesday, 13 May 20
Wednesday, 24 June 20	Wednesday, 17 June 20
Wednesday, 29 July 20	Wednesday, 15 July 20
Wednesday, 26 August 20	Wednesday, 12 August 20
Wednesday, 30 September 20	Wednesday, 16 September 20
Wednesday, 28 October 20	Wednesday, 14 October 20
Wednesday, 25 November 20	Wednesday, 11 November 20
Wednesday, 16 December 20	Wednesday, 9 December 20

**The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Office will be closed from Monday 23 December 2019 until Tuesday 2 January 2020 for the Christmas/New Year period.** Council Office will re-open and resume regular operations on Thursday 2 January 2020. **The on-call register will be provided as normal on Friday 20 December 2019 for staff at work during this period.**

HOLIDAYS & EVENTS	DATES
NEW YEAR'S DAY	WEDNESDAY, 1 JANUARY 2020
AUSTRALIA DAY	MONDAY, 27 JANUARY 2020
GOOD FRIDAY	FRIDAY, 10 APRIL 2020
HOLY SATURDAY	SATURDAY, 11 APRIL 2020
EASTER SUNDAY	SUNDAY, 12 APRIL 2020
ANZAC DAY	SATURDAY, 25 APRIL 2020
LABOUR DAY	MONDAY, 4 MAY 2020
STRIKE 57' COMMEMORATION DAY	FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2020
BWGCOLMAN DAY	FRIDAY, 8 JUNE 2020
TOWNSVILLE SHOW HOLIDAYS	MONDAY, 6 JULY 2020
NAIDOC WEEK	FRIDAY, 10 JULY 2020
SPRING FESTIVAL	FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2020
QUEENS BIRTHDAY	MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2020
CHRISTMAS DAY	FRIDAY, 25 DECEMBER 2020
BOXING DAY	MONDAY, 28 DECEMBER 2020

## NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 290) THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER for PUBLICATION on THURSDAY 5 December

The **Palm Island Voice** is published fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor. You can follow us on Facebook! We have 2,534 'likes'! We accept paid advertising. For rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

**Operating Hours for Palm Island 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 3,446 'likes' on Facebook!!!

