



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

## Lauwana 'shines' for her dedication

Palm Island nurse Lauwana Blackley says she doesn't really like media attention, except from the *Palm Island Voice*, of course.

Lauwana, pictured with her grandson Koda and flowers from her parents to celebrate, has found herself in the spotlight as the 2020 winner of Victorian newspaper, The Weekly Times, Shine Award for Dedication.

The Shine Awards fall into six categories which celebrate the passion, spirit, courage, belief, dedication and grace of Australia's rural and regional women.

"It is a means to an end for me because what I really hope is that other Bwngcolman might be inspired to go out and get qualifications and skills and to bring them home to community," she said.

"I was surprised and delighted to have been nominated, I didn't know what a Shine award was.

"When I found out it was a national award and I read



about the other nominees and past winners I was blown away to have even been included in a field of such amazing women.

"I feel absolutely honoured to have been chosen as the winner of the Dedication category.

"Looking after my own people is a reward in itself and I feel as though I am being celebrated for something I really love to do."

Lauwana started work at the Palm Island Hospital in 1999 as an Indigenous Health Worker.

"I was inspired by other local health workers, my Aunt Bindy Geia, Barbie Baira who I call sister," she said.

"These women were amazingly

skilled, and I loved to watch them work, to learn from them was profound for me and they really did set me on my journey.

"I draw strength from other Indigenous nurses, past and present, who work or have worked to improve the health of our people.

"I continue to walk beside them in the footsteps of those that came before us and I hope that one day my footsteps will guide others down this pathway for the betterment of our people.

"I would like to thank the Weekly Times and Harvey Norman for this wonderful award, it is truly an honour to receive."





LEFT: Patrick Pearson with Year 12 graduate Tonia Burns and proud parents Agnes Wotton & Saul Burns.



RIGHT: Stolen Wages claimants Joe & Harry Reuben were happy with the financial advice and information provided by Cape York Partnerships. For more information or assistance call CYP on 0497 473 589.



## Patrick back in the ring

Leaving no stone unturned, with some great sparring and support from Yungubadijarri Yanner, Patrick Clarke, Chris Evers and Craig Evers and, below, Liam Wilson and Miles Zalewski



**We're going weekly (for a bit)! OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 314) will be this Thursday 26 November for publication on Monday 30 November!**

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 2,669 'likes'!

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

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