



# The Islander



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Christmas Island Community Newsletter

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## Christmas Island Solidarity Halal BBQ Morning

A classic Christmas Island crowd turned out for the Solidarity Halal BBQ event at Flying Fish Cove on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The event was organised by the Community Consultative Committee and Shire of Christmas Island as a community response to the barrage of negative messages and calls made in the last fortnight to island organisations including the Shire, Union of Christmas Island Workers and Christmas Island Tourism Association about the presence of a halal bbq facility on Christmas Island.

Various anti-Islamic social media groups have shared pictures of the innocuous facility, generating several thousand reposts and comments largely in the negative. Several phone calls made to the George Fam offices were especially offensive when the caller realised the person answering the phone was also of the Islamic faith.

In the past, staff have disregarded this kind of intolerance when it occasionally arrives from the mainland. However, this recent spate of sustained abuse has led to a retaliation the only way that islanders know how to – with a bbq apron, an open invite to all our neighbours and apparently, the first choo-choo train to run on Christmas Island in 40 years!

To the delight of the kids at the event, Fadal Maswari donned his train engineer hat and ran a ride-on mower powered kids train. Block 410 transformed into Christmas Island's first active train station in quite some time, with scores of kids and parents checking the train timetable to catch the Flying Fish Cove Fadal Express.

A team of volunteers ensured that the food and drinks kept flowing to feed the 250 odd crowd.

Shire President Gordon Thomson, UCIW President Foo Kee Heng and President of the Islamic Council Zainal Majid presented speeches at the event on themes of solidarity, multiculturalism and addressed the reasons why halal facilities shouldn't be considered a threat to anyone if they appear here or in mainstream Australia.

Christmas Islanders are at our best when we are together. We have something here in our society of the East and West that is missing in far too many places in the East and the West. You can feel it at Cove Day, at Territory Week Sports Day, the Post Office water slide on school holidays and in little interactions with each other at the shops, daycare centre and amongst the student body at CIDHS.

There is something tangibly good about this society and it is up to us to preserve it and share it with others in our nation when we can.

Thanks to all the Christmas Islanders who came and to the many more who wanted to come, but were participating in the emergency exercises at the airport. Thanks to the volunteers on the day helping with marquees, tables, sound, wifi, train driving and cooking.

The Solidarity Halal BBQ was one of actually three halal offerings that took place that day; the airport exercise and the finals of the CI Soccer 7s also had bbqs on for participants.

An especially Christmas Island way to spend a weekend.

Article by SOCI



# Sunday Soccer Finals Thriller



Sunday 5th June saw the grand final of the CICSC Soccer 7s tournament fought out between the SupaStrikas and Nutmeg FC. In a game that was full of quality football the SupaStrikas proved too strong for Nutmeg FC and took out the tournament 1 goal to 0.



**Above Left** : Sobri Ibrahim #6 defends an attack by the Strikers for Nutmeg FC. **Centre**: from left Supa Strikers and right Nutmeg FC with Matt Gallen Referee and Linesmens Steve Jackson & Sultan Syed. **Right**: Head to head, Hollis Kwon of Nutmeg FC & Strikers Safwan Md Sharif



**Above**: Victors Supa Strikers, Faizul Pereira, Shahrhan Asmad, Radhi Md Sharif, Safrizan Aksan, Ellias Loh, Norezuan Melan, Safwan Md Sharif & Hafiz Abdul Rasit



**Above**: Runners up Nutmeg FC, Chun Kiat Boong, Azri Husinuddin, Sobri Ibrahim, Chun Yan Boong, Rashid Othman, Syukri Ramlan, Hollis Kwon & Elle Smith (not in picture)



**Left**: Christmas Island Cricket & Sporting Club President Matt Gallen awards Muslih Arif of CIP the Most Valued Player Award

Congratulations to Anuar Ahmad (SupaStrikas) who won the Golden Boot for the league and Muslih Arif (CIP) who won the league MVP (Most Valued Player). A special thanks to Oly for refereeing every week, for Sultan and Jacko for helping out in the grand final and the cricket club members who helped out with the bar and bbq!

Article by Matt Gallen