

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 373

10 April 2023



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

Happy Birthday Uncle Ray!

'Uncle Ray', as long-time boxing trainer Ray Dennis is affectionately known by many far and wide, celebrated his 86th birthday at his favourite spot, in his favourite pub, watching the sunset with great friends who were there to spoil him just a little last month. Ray has trained and prepared many a boxer, male and female, in his time on Palm Island since the 1990s – see some recent history on page 2, with pics from 2009–2017 below with thanks to his great mate Alf Wilson.



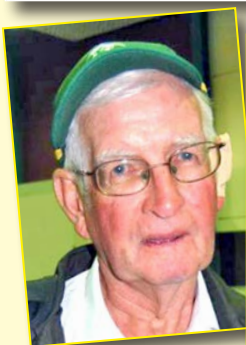
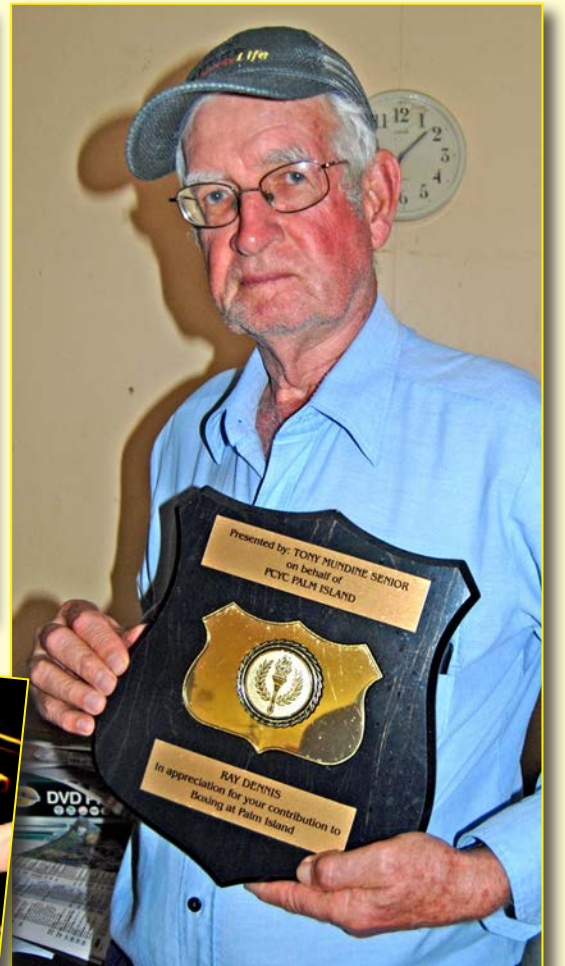

Palm Island Voice
Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

Issue 48
Tuesday 1 December 2009

They're the best club in Queensland!



Palm Island boxers' triumphant return from the Australian Boxing League National Titles with five gold and two bronze medals has crowned them the most successful club in Queensland. The Palm Island Voice was at the Townsville Airport on Sunday night to meet the boxers on their return. More on page 12...



Electoral commission meets local partners



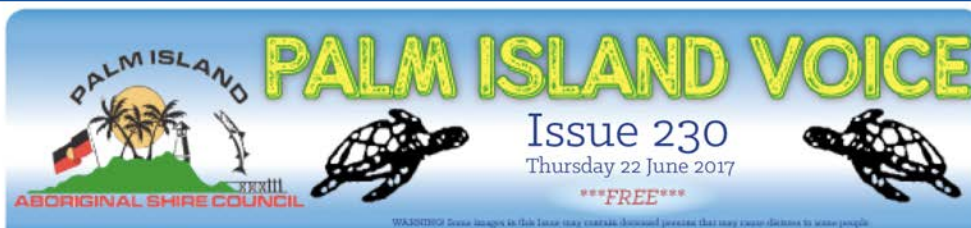
ABOVE: Astrid Bligh, Marlene Robertson, Cyndell Pryor & Catherine Williams. Sitting Ray Sambo and William Landers. NEXT PAGE BELOW LEFT: Alf Lacey, Marcia Law, Lisa Law & Ray Sambo. INSET: Telita Reuben. BELOW RIGHT: Anniqae Jones.

Ray Sambo and Telita Ruben from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) visited Palm Island late last year to thank staff who worked hard at the Federal Election in May 2022.

Mr Sambo said it was great to see 100% local Indigenous people working at the polling booth.

“Voters feel more comfortable when they come to vote and see familiar faces,” he said.

He also thanked Cr Andrea Kyle Sailor, who took on the role of Officer in Charge, and other staff



In the league of the greats

Ray Dennis is already a legend on Palm Island for his contribution as a boxing trainer but will be recognised further afield next month when inducted into the Queensland Boxing Hall of Fame.

Mr Dennis and Townsville-based Neil Pattel, a former Australian professional champion in both the welterweight and middleweight divisions, will travel to Yatala in southern Queensland for the induction on July 16.

Ironically Mr Dennis trained Mr Pattel when he was a rising amateur star.

Uncle Ray as he is known affectionately on Palm Island and beyond as a mark of respect, doesn't like giving self praise.

But Sunstate Amateur Boxing League President Scooter Hooper who has a close association with Palm boxing, was delighted to provide testimony.

“I am lucky enough to be Ray's friend,” he said.

“The word that is used far too often these days is Legend, however Uncle Ray is one of the men who deserves to be called that.

“I have known Ray for 40 years now and have become especially close over the past seven years.

“He has been a rock to so many children over the years be it as boxing trainer, mentor, Uncle or friend.

“The unrecognised work he has done for boxing in Queensland but especially in Townsville and Palm Island just can't be explained as people will not believe it.

“Ray would go hungry and spend his pension on food or wraps or other gear needed by his fighters, or to travel.”



“But that's the difference – they aren't just his fighters, everyone who has come through the doors of the gym and stayed a while becomes more like one of his children, than just another person who he trained,” Scooter Hooper said.

“He cries when they lose and looks to blame himself, he gives them guidance on life's road and this is often speaking from his own life experiences.

“He lives in a tin shed that leaks when it rains, has to walk through another room that is used by everyone in the Barge Company to go to the toilet or shower.

“But never complains, he just says, ‘at least they gave me somewhere to live’.

“I could go on for days about the massive impact he has had in giving so many on Palm Island a reason, to put it bluntly, to keep living.

“He's an inspiration to so many people of all walks of life, myself included.

“He is also respected by past greats of both football and boxing who he was also involved with in their younger years.

“Those include Neil Pattel, Junior Thompson, Doug Sam, Colin Scott, Ricky Dallachy, the Geia boys, Clays and others too numerous to mention.”

including Merlene Robertson, Astrid Bligh, Catherine Landers, William Landers, Cyndell Pryor and Olive Puttaburra.

“It was good to see the team consisting of young and older polling officials, with special mention of the one male William Landers,” he said. “All staff said they enjoyed the experience and were keen to work again.”

He said partnerships with Rainbow Gateway and the Indigenous Consumer Advice Network (ICAN) would further assist the community.

“Rainbow Gateway can assist community members complete and update their enrolment details and provide other electoral information on behalf of the Australian Electoral Commission,” he said. “If you are unsure if you are enrolled, please visit the friendly staff at Rainbow Gateway and they can assist you – remember you can’t have a say on who is your elected representative if you are not on the electoral roll.

“This applies to all levels of Government – Federal, State

and Local Governments, and Referendums.”

He said they also met with ICAN staff, including Annique Joney, to talk about how to manage fines for not voting.

“When community members get a letter for not voting at the election, please respond to this letter, don’t ignore them,” he said. “If you had a reason for not voting, like maybe you were sick, or looking after a sick relative, these are valid reasons to not vote.”

For more info talk to Cr Andrea Kyle-Sailor, Rainbow Gateway staff or contact Ray Sambo directly on (07) 3834 3450.



Palm Island Barracudettes won 12-6 over Thumpmul last month as part of the curtain raiser to the Legends of League game. Pic: Telstan Sibley.

Containers for Change open now!

Manbarra Road Depot (turn off at Council Yellow Shed)

8am-1pm Monday to Thursday

What you need to know:

- **There is NO CA\$H**
- **You need a Container Scheme ID number**
 - o For registration and bag drop please have ID
 - o Help is available for those not yet signed up
 - o You need your bank account details
 - o All transactions will be directly deposited into your bank account
- **Please make sure you only bring containers eligible for refund**
 - o cans, plastic bottles and fruit poppers are ok
 - o no milk, spirit, cordial or orange juice bottles
- **There is a LOT of plastic and aluminium on the Island, please be **patient** with staff as we work through each bag drop!**
- **To find out more see the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council's Facebook page or <http://www.containersforchange.com.au/qld/>**



Request for Tender

PIASC are calling for Expressions of Tender for the Lease of the Palm Island Bistro.

Please call into the office for a Tender Document.

Please forward to your relevant contacts who may be interested in applying.

Reception number: 4770 0200.

Request for Tender (RFT)	Lease of the Palm Island Bistro
RFT Number	202301
Tender Closing Time	4pm, Friday 28 April 2023.
Contact for Tender Documents	Greg Constantine - Manager Finance, Governance and Administration, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Greg.Constantine@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*
(Issue 374*) will be Thursday 20 April
for publication on Monday 24 April.



The ***Palm Island Voice*** is published *weekly if we have paid advertising, or otherwise fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@hotmail.net.au Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor, Christine Howes. You can also follow us on Facebook! We have 2,900 'likes' and more than 3,000 followers! 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 5,200 'followers' on Facebook!!!