



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
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ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 20 September 2012

\$1.25

Issue 113

## Springing into Spring Fair!



...MORE PICS p 5 + next Issue...

**Once known as the Palm Island 'show', this year's Spring Fair has once again been a huge success thanks to the input and participation by almost every family along with hundreds of visitors from the mainland.**

Elder and traditional owner Allan Palm Island welcomed visitors before a smoking ceremony was performed by Archie Fraser and Mayor Alf Lacey spoke of the importance of the event.

"Older residents will recall that we used to have a Palm Island Show and this has been revived and evolved as this Spring Fair," he said. "This brings us together as a community and is important for our children who are the future."

Aunty Iris White made an emotional speech while student leaders from St Michael's Catholic School and Bwgcorman State Primary spoke to generous applause. Entertainment was provided by St Michael's dancers, visiting PNG Gospel dancers, Great Northern dancers, Prior/Geia Hula dancers, Palm's Torres Strait Islander descendants group and Maggie Walsh.



*During several days of goodwill and festivities for Spring Fair the police were out in full force checking passengers' belongings on extra ferry services offered by Sunferries.*



**They only came third in this year's round robin, they haven't won a premiership since 1998 and it rained, but with strong fight back late in the game *SKIPJACKS* scored an exciting 32-28 victory over **Butler Bay Bulls** in last Saturday's grand final of the Palm Island Rugby League**  
**FULL RESULTS P 8**

# Palm's dose of footy fever as season's close and tournaments loom

## FOOTBALL fever was high on Palm Island during the finals series with many players and coaches from the last three clubs remaining in the 2012 season 'out and about' over the past few weeks.

Mount Bentley Raiders coach Ben Nomoa was photographed (*below*) at the jetty during the Spring Fair with his son Ben Nomoa jnr.



In the CBD area Skipjacks back Kenny "Wizard" Wilson and his cousin Owen Wilson (*below*) were also 'out and about'. Diminutive Kenny is one of the smallest players in the seven club competition but has been a vital link for Skippies at halfback whilst Owen is a fullback.



Butler Bay Bulls forward Walter Geia and his uncle Gelam Geia (*above right*), who are both stars, took time out from their busy schedule to be photographed for the *Palm Island Voice*. Bulls utility Lincoln Poynter (*below*) had his arm in a sling as a result of an injury on the field but was confident of playing in the grand final.

### As it turned out ...

SKIPJACKS moved into the grand final against minor premiers Butler Bay Bulls when they defeated Mount Bentley Raiders 34-24 in the preliminary final at headquarters.



The well-drilled Skipjacks led 18-6 at halftime and withstood a fight back from Raiders to out score them in the final 40 minutes.

For Skippies crafty centre Clinton Pearson and rampaging front rower Georgie Dabea each scored two tries with singles to halfback Anthony Thompson and hooker James Sibley. Anthony Thompson kicked five goals for a personal tally of 14 points.

For Raiders five eighth Kevin Morgan scored two tries and winger Sterling Aden and halfback John Baira scored singles. Tabua Oui and Kevin Morgan each kicked two goals.

Best players for Skipjacks were second rower Jeremy Puleh, George Dabea, Clinton Pearson and his brother Gary who played five eighth.

For Raiders John Baira, centre Caleb Geia, prop Thomas Oui and Kevin Morgan were the standouts.



**ALSO in footy Yarrabah Seahawks Reserve Grade were winners in the Cairns & District rugby league for 2012 last weekend.**

**Well done Yarrie!**

2 (With thanks to Cintaa Ahkira Keyees Yeatman for the pic!)

# Where there's smoke ...



## **WITH the dry season in full swing the risk of fires has increased dramatically on Palm Island.**

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) Northern Region has asked residents to be cautious and vigilant with a heightened grass fire danger predicted in the coming months. With temperatures expected to reach 35 degrees, relative humidity down to about 10 per cent and winds to 45 km/hr in some areas, the fire risk increases. These conditions make it very difficult to contain vegetation fires which can flare up. With activity ramping up around the State, QFRS said it was crucial for residents to make sure they were doing all they could to prepare their homes and properties. "If they haven't done so already, I urge residents to finalise preparing their property and visit the Rural Fire Service website to download a bush fire survival plan so that no one is caught off guard," a QFRS spokesperson said.

"We are also asking people to ensure they are not throwing cigarette butts out of car windows and to be careful when operating machinery in dry grassed areas."

More information about how to prepare for bush fire season can be found at <http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au>



*The Fulford family in Townsville together for the Cowboys v Broncos semifinal*

# Budget \$ for housing refurbbs

**Queensland Treasurer Tim Nicholls has included Palm Island in his State budget announcement.**

"We've significantly invested in Palm Island, with \$30.5 million in funding provided to build and upgrade homes in the community," he said in a media release.

"We've also moved to protect the Great Barrier Reef, providing \$8.3 million to the Great Barrier Reef Park Authority for its field management program."

Mr Nicholls said the 2012-13 State Budget would encourage long term job and economic growth across the four pillars of the economy - tourism, agriculture, resources and construction - and ensure cost of living remained low for Queensland families.



**Isiah Blackman and Nikita Murgha-Harris were married at St. Joseph's Church the Strand in Townsville last month.**

Family & Friends wished them both happiness and success for the future as husband and wife. Congratulations Isiah & Nikita from your Families of Palm Island, Townsville & Yarrabah... and the *Palm Island Voice!*

## **Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey and Councillors would like to pay tribute to trailblazer and Elder Statesman Mr Eric Deeral who sadly passed on 5 September 2012...**

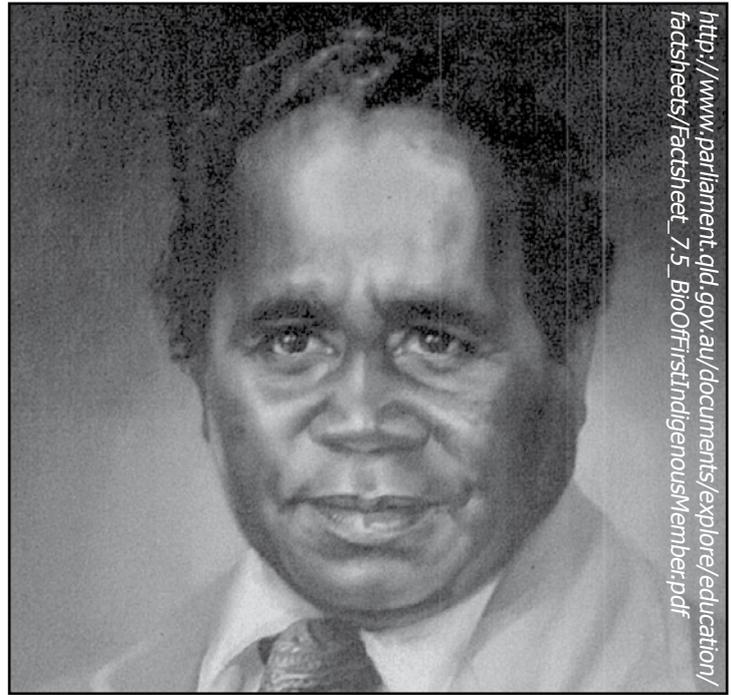
Eric Deeral was the first Aboriginal person to be elected to an Australian state parliament, representing the seat of Cook in the Queensland Parliament from 1974 to 1977.

Born at Hope Vale Lutheran Mission in 1932, Eric Deeral was evacuated to Woorabinda during World War II, where he was educated at the Woorabinda Central School. He left school at the age of 13 and held down various jobs as a labourer, bush worker and stockman.

Eric continued to educate himself and, in 1957, became the Chairman of the Hope Vale Mission Community Council and then a liaison officer with the Queensland Aboriginal Affairs Department. In 1973, he was appointed as a consultant to the Queensland Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

In the 1974 election – 10 years after his Elders and the Elders of the surrounding Cape York and Torres Strait communities had met at Palm Island and selected him to stand as a candidate for parliament – he defeated six other candidates to win the state electorate of Cook, representing the National Party. In parliament, Deeral raised issues facing Aboriginal Australians, but made it clear he represented all members of his electorate. He sought improved roads for the far north to allow tourism and other industries to develop. He also ensured improvements were made to schools and medical treatment access. He pointed out that he considered himself an Australian from Queensland, as the Deerals had lived in the Cook electorate for over 20,000 years. After losing his seat in the 1977 election, he continued to work closely with the community. He was the first chairperson of the Aboriginal Coordination Council established in 1985 to advise the government on the wellbeing of Aboriginal people living on communities. He was a representative of the Queensland Coordination Council in 1988, and, in the same year, was a delegate to the World Heritage Organisation which met in Paris. He became the Chairman of the Legislation Review Committee that examined Queensland legislation and its impact on Aboriginal land rights during the early 1990s.

In 1995, he directed a project on the positive role Elders could play in reducing the number of Aboriginal people in Queensland prisons and youth detention centres. From 1998 to 2003, he was a member of the Wet Tropics Management Authority



[http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/explore/education/factsheets/Factsheet\\_75\\_BioOfFirstIndigenousMember.pdf](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/explore/education/factsheets/Factsheet_75_BioOfFirstIndigenousMember.pdf)

Board. Deeral was also instrumental in establishing the Cooktown Museum.

In July 2002, Eric Deeral was appointed interim chair of the Aboriginal body, known as Yalanji Ang-Narra Yimidihirr Peoples Council, formed in response to the Fitzgerald Cape York Justice Study. More recently, he was involved in the 2003 Hands on Parliament inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' participation in Queensland's system of democracy. He continued to be involved in Aboriginal justice issues as an Elder of the Gamay clan of the Guugu Yimithirr nation.

On 18 June 2012, the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, Hon. Fiona Simpson, MP formally acknowledged Mr Deeral's service at a ceremony held on his land in Hope Vale. At this ceremony, the Speaker also sought permission from Mr Deeral to rename the Parliament's annual Indigenous Youth Parliament event in his honour, to which Mr Deeral graciously agreed.

The Inaugural Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament was then held at Parliament House on 28 June 2012. Mr Deeral was a special guest at this event which provided young Indigenous leaders a forum to speak on matters of importance and debate a Youth Bill on education issues.

Eric Deeral sadly passed away on 5 September 2012 in Hope Vale, Queensland at the age of 80.




**Palm Island**  
 Spring Fair Festival  
 Held 6th - 8th September 2012



**"We have about 200 people of TSI descent here on Palm in 11 families and this has been great," Descendants leader Joe Reuben said at the 2012 Spring Fair.**

Nikki Willis was the mentor of the St Michael's dancers and said they did the Island proud. "These kids are so talented and also recently performed at the Cultural Fest in Townsville," Ms Willis said. There were also stalls, a community lunch, singing, a fashion parade, a blue light disco, and a spectacular fireworks display. **5 MORE PICS NEXT ISSUE!**

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following positions are currently open for application for our new service in a new, purpose built facility:

- Palm Island Children and Family Centre Manager – full-time
- Clinical Nurse (Child Health) - full-time
- Early Childhood Practitioner – full-time



(Flexible options exist for applicants who are successful but who do not reside on the Island. The remuneration includes a generous salary sacrifice package.)

**Applications close Tuesday 2nd October 2012**

To be considered for this position, please submit to [mmcann@picc.com.au](mailto:mmcann@picc.com.au):

1. A completed employment application form
2. Written response to the key selection criteria (refer to selection criteria contained in the position description)
3. A copy of your current resume

**Please contact Mark McCann on 07 4721 2277 or email [mmcann@picc.com.au](mailto:mmcann@picc.com.au) for a copy of the Employment Application Form and Position Description/Selection Criteria.**

**Advice on the application process is available on request.**



is closed every second Friday  
(Council pay week) for RDO.

**The next RDO is  
Friday 28 September**

**REMEMBER:** the Bank & Post Office now closes  
each Council RDO (every second week).

**For emergencies on Friday  
please call 0458 789 011**

**For more information contact  
Council on 4770 1177**

Coolgaree Aboriginal  
Corporation for CDEP  
wishes to advise  
our Town office has  
now moved into new  
premises.

Our addresses are now:  
Residential Office:

**Unit 3 / 167 Denham Street  
Townsville QLD 4810**

Postal Address:

**PO Box 339  
Townsville QLD 4810**

Phone Contacts: **4770 1233** or:

**Inniss Haines 0434 742 847  
Ian Woodward 0434 742 848  
Leticia Lenoy 0434 742 849**

Please note our banking details have also  
changed.



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**Boxing more popular than ever as  
old & new faces turn up for training**

**SOME new and old faces have started training with the Palm Island Boxing Club at the PCYC which has delighted veteran trainer Ray Dennis.**

Former star boxer Gerald Wotton jnr is back again and will be ready to have a bout within the next month.

The 26-year-old Wotton was a stable star having won many bouts under the Palm banner and also trained with the AIS Rising Elite Team.

"Gerald won an Australian Title way back in 2001 and had about 30 fights winning most," Mr Dennis said.

Another ex quality boxer Mick Castors is also training hard preparing for a return to the ring.

"Mick had a heap of fights as a youngster and won a lot and is still only 21," Mr Dennis said.

**GIRLS LOOKING FOR BOUTS SOON**

Youngsters who have turned up at the gym include young female boxers Natalie Clay, 14, Shirley Curley, 13, Natalie Grannigan, 13, and Alvina Walton, 15.

"They could all have bouts once they have been training for a while," Mr Dennis said.

**CAIRNS TRIP**

Mr Dennis also said he was looking at taking some boxers to Cairns for a Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament on Saturday (22nd September).

"It will depend on a few things but Reggie Palm Island is one who is raring to go and has been training strongly," he said.

"Although his hand which he injured at the Association Gold Gloves at Acacia Ridge is still sore.

At this stage boxers who may go to Cairns include Isaac Bulsey, Dennis Haines jnr and Derrick Creek.

**SAM MISSES AUS REP**

Last weekend David Sam fought in trials to represent Australia in the World Youth Championships.

Unfortunately he lost his fight against Tasmanian Zac Faulkland in the final by disqualification.

David fought well and was winning but his mouth guard fell out three times during the fight and under the rules this led to him being disqualified.

"However he fought to the best of his ability and was a credit to himself his family and the community," Mr Dennis said. "He is only 17 and this is a learning experience for him I am sure he will come back better than ever as he has great potential in the sport.

"All the boxers have been great representatives for the community."

# Skipjacks 2012!

**Skipjacks scored an exciting 32-28 victory over Butler Bay Bulls in last Saturday's grand final of the Palm Island Rugby League in a seesawing game with both sides in control at different stages.**

A rainy start made the ball slippery but Skipjacks handled the conditions better early and looked on top when they led 18-6 in the first half. By halftime the Bulls had reduced that deficit and Skippies led 18-12. However after the break Bulls scored first and converted the try to equal the score at 18-all. Bulls then scored two more tries to lead 28-18 and looked in control. But then Skippies came home with a wet sail to get up by the four point margin much to the delight of its Army of faithful supporters.

Hooker James Sibley scored three tries for Skipjacks with one apiece to five eighth Gary Pearson, front rower George Dabea, winger Owen Wilson and star back Clinton Pearson. Anthony Thompson and Clinton Pearson each booted a goal. Best players for Skipjacks were forwards James Sibley, Georgie Dabea, Fred Bulsey and Jeremy Pulleh along with stalwart fullback Esrom Geia.

For Bulls utility John Olliffe and forward Walter Geia each scored two tries with one to second rower Billo Wotton. Pita Morgan booted three goals and Walter Geia one. Best players for Bulls were fullback Gresham Ross, Pita Morgan and forwards Isiah Blackman, Walter Morgan and Walter Geia.

Emotional Skipjacks captain "Fabulous" Fred Bulsey spoke to the *Palm Island Voice* soon after the win and said he was still "over the moon".

"We finally did it having won our last premiership back in 1998," he said. "I have never seen so many people at a football match, it seemed like the whole island was here. All my family was here and we are all just so happy. Tonight we are having a big party at Dee Street." Bulsey also paid tribute to local referee Kevin Castors, who he said did a great job.

It was a magnificent effort by Skipjacks to win as they came from third position and didn't have the luxury of the double chance in the finals series. By comparison Bulls ended up minor premiers and earned their grand final berth with a win over Raiders in the qualifying semi final. They also had a week's rest.

It was a highly successful season for the PIRL with seven teams playing in a competition started in April this year. Palm Islanders will have a bevy of football over the next month or two, Jets will play Girringun Pirates on Palm come 29th October. The following weekend four Palm senior sides and one under-18 team will contest the 25th Bindal Sharks Allblacks carnival in Townsville.

**You will see full reports about these comps and more in your *Palm Island Voice* over the coming months.**



## **PUBLICATION DETAILS:**

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## **Palm Island Voice**

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