



Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 18 October 2012

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Issue 115

Barracudas!!!

Palm Island is still celebrating the Barracudas' big grand final win at the 25th Bindal Sharks Allblacks carnival. Hundreds travelled to Townsville for the 6th and 7th October carnival at Brothers' League's Club grounds to see the 'Cudas go through undefeated for the duration of the 19-team comp. SEE PAGES 5-12 FOR MORE!



Sensing victory: William Blackman, Raoul Miller, middle, and Mickeal Sibley celebrate Darryl Pearson (obscured) scoring a try in the semi-final

Alcohol Management Plan reviews on Mayors' agenda

Mayor Alf Lacey says everyone on Palm with anything to say about alcohol should watch out for a series of meetings with community stakeholders set to be held very soon.

Earlier this month Mayors of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Councils across Queensland welcomed the Government's review of AMPs, but expressed concerns about various aspects of the review process.

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands and Multicultural Affairs Glen Elmes has given a commitment that local councils would facilitate and lead the preparation of community proposals to manage alcohol-related issues as an alternative to the discriminatory AMPs.

"Our communities should not be treated differently than other Queensland communities," Yarrabah Mayor Errol Neal said on behalf of the Local Government Association of Queensland's (LGAQ's) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Leadership Forum

(ATSILF) in Cairns early this month.

"In that vein, we welcome this review of a practice that applies exclusively to Aboriginal communities and has caused so much angst to so many of our people. "Local government councillors and mayors are democratically elected to represent their communities.

"We all live and work in our communities and are ideally placed to examine alcohol-related issues and identify acceptable and workable solutions for our communities."

At the opening of the new Palm Island restaurant (*full story page 3*) it was noted people could enjoy a coffee, soft drink and/or snack at the restaurant but not wine or spirits. However in his speech to the opening crowd Local Government Minister David Crisafulli hinted that may change.

"I look forward to coming back in the future and having a glass of wine and food here," he said.

Currently all wines and spirits are banned from the Island with residents only allowed to bring one 30-pack carton of mid-strength beer Mr Lacey insisted everyone would get to have their say in the review process. "That didn't happen last time, but I'm going to make sure it does this time," he said.

The Mayors' meeting also noted the Government's commitment to consider proposals from Councils but said the real test would be in its willingness to not only listen to communities, but to act on their views. The LGAQ's Leadership Forum is made up of the Mayors and Chief Executive Officers of Queensland's 17 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Councils.

Memorial Shield played before Test match

Skipjacks players and Edna Coolburra were VIP guests at Townsville's Lavarack Barracks last Friday, for a meet and greet before the big football match at Dairy Farmer's Stadium the following day.

The game between Skipjacks and an Australian Defence Force side for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield was a curtain raiser to the Australia vs New Zealand International Test Match.

In late breaking news the *Palm Island Voice* can report Skipjacks lost the match, 32-14.

Mrs Coolburra said she enjoyed the Friday.

"The ferries from Palm Island and planes have been booked out," she said.

"I think Bill will be looking down and be very proud for the Island." The Islanders were treated to a feast and got to meet some of the Army players and officials.

**FULL STORY + GAME PICS
NEXT ISSUE!!!**



Pictured: Left: Edna Coolburra, Skipjacks captain Fred Bulsey and Alex Morgan at Lavarack; Below: Fred Bulsey and Army captain Pve Mahn Darley of Sydney eye off the Bill Coolburra Shield; Bottom: players enjoying their lunch at the Friday reception



See page 4 for more Spring Fair pics!



Well-known couple Wes and Jan Lenoy enjoyed the first birthday party of their 24th grandchild Taikaha on the Townsville Strand Water Park last month (left).

Wes is a heavy machinery operator on Palm and wife Jan is now Manager at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill. Taikaha is the child of Wes and Jan's son Stacy and his partner Kirsten Lenoy.

Palm's first restaurant open

Million dollar views, great food and a happy atmosphere are the hallmarks of Palm Island's first sit-down restaurant, opened by Local Government Minister David Crisafulli and State Member for Townsville John Hathaway earlier this month.



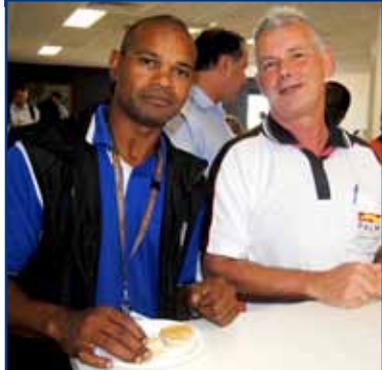
The restaurant, which is part of the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill and doubles as a bistro and café, is situated near the ocean with scenic views through a big glass window.

Proprietor Shane Stratton said the restaurant already employed seven people and more locals could get jobs in the near future.

"We will be open six days a week, excluding Sunday, from 7am until 9pm and have employed a chef from Brisbane," Mr Stratton said.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the opening showed his Shire Council was setting new standards.

"This is a place where families can come together to enjoy a meal and visitors can spend money in our shire," Mayor Lacey said.



Mr Crisafulli said it was a special place, equal to anywhere in the state.

"This is a really special place and takes hospitality to the next level," he said.

"You could be in Brisbane and the views are sensational."

Palm elders Iris White and Leonie Hopkins presented Mr Crisafulli with a didgeridoo crafted by a local artist.

Mr Hathaway said the restaurant was a great asset for Palm and said people in Brisbane would be envious of it.

"This is a tropical island paradise and the view from the back is great," he said.

"You wouldn't get this in Brisbane."

Staff prepared a feast fit for royalty which was blessed



by Sister Robyn while entertainment was provided by local group 'Mother's Dust' which included Wally Foster, John Clumpoint and Rosetta Thimble. "We sing about Palm Island which is our home," Rosetta said.

There was a queue at the counter as invited guests ordered coffee.

This restaurant is expected to be popular with locals as well as fly in/out workers from the mainland.





Barracudas!!!

Words & Pics by Alf Wilson



The Barracudas senior team are the pride of Palm Island after winning Townsville's Bindal Sharks Allblacks Carnival earlier this month. Palm Island Voice is celebrating with a special liftout of pics telling the story!

Out of a field of 19 senior teams, and for the first time since 1994, the green and gold triumphed undefeated over two days of knock-out competition.

They beat Doolan-descendants' team Yunga Boongi by 22-8 in the grand final, which producing tears of joy from players and supporters alike.

Last time the Barracudas won

the carnival was in 1994 – some players from that side including Algon Walsh jnr were there to see it. Barracudas players scooped carnival's individual awards with Raoul Miller winning best forward.

Darryl Pearson was player of the entire carnival as well as best back.

In round one the Barracudas

beat Girringun Pirates 24-10 then thrashed Walkabouts 52-4 in round two.

They finished at the top of the points table after the qualifying games and beat Bowen River Broncos 24-16 in their quarter final.

In their semi final the Barracudas beat GH United from Mackay 36-4 to earn their place in the decider.

Ironically their grand final opponent Yunga Boongi was captained by popular Palm Islander and former NRL star Milton Thaiday and included his brother Aaron.



Mayor Alf Lacey, elder Bonny Noble, Jenny Pryor, elder Margaret Parker and former star David Baira

**...CONTINUED
OVER NEXT 8
PAGES!!!**

GRAND FINAL

Before the final commenced Palm Island elder Margaret Parker was honoured and kicked off.

Yunga Boongi started well scoring in the first minutes through Milton Thaiday.

In the seventh minute Hezron Murgha scored out side to level the scores then fullback Kevin Morgan repeated and the Brian Murgha conversion saw Barracudas lead 10-4.

But Yunga Boongi scored at the 27th minute and Barracudas led 10-8 at half time.

Solid and often bone jarring defence by both sides was a highlight of the first 15 minutes after the break.

Then with 18 minutes remaining super fit Barracudas utility Ron Geia jnr scored and the Brian Murgha conversion saw the Palm Islanders lead 16-8.

...Continued Next Page...





...From Previous Page...

But not to be denied Yunga Boongi attacked and almost scored on several occasions with desperate defence holding them out.

The sealing point came with six minutes remaining when Brian Murgha booted a long range 40/20. Soon after flying back Mickeal Sibley scored much to the delight of the Barracudas fans.

"We played good hard Mission Murri football cause we come from Palm Island and we are proud of that," an emotional Barracudas captain

Fred Bulsey said minutes after the win at the official presentation.

"All the boys played well and we thank all the supporters who are here."

Yunga Boongi was coached by Jimmy Doolan with Palm Island family connections and their skipper Milton Thaiday praised the Barracudas.

"We had no excuses and the Barracudas were just too good for us. But my boys played their hearts out," Thaiday said.

...Continued Page 11...



This page brought to you by the Palm Island Barge Co who would like to congratulate the Barracudas on their stellar victory!

Barracudas!!!





***2012 Bindal Allblacks
Carnival Champions!!!***





OTHER PALM TEAMS

Ajas Boyz (*above top*) and Bwgcolman Hornets (*below*) also competed at the carnival as well as Noogini Warriors which was a Prior family team. The Ajas Boyz side consisted of members of the Geia family.

"Aja is my mother's language name," Innis Haines said.

"The great old Eva Geia, this was a memorial team in honour of her.

"All the boys who played were her grandsons, therefore we called the team Ajas Boyz."

The side lost their two games on Saturday against Cannonballs and then GH United from Mackay.

Ajas Boyz had led in that exciting match and lost 30-18 after two tries by Barba.

On day two Ajas Boyz defeated Isa Razorbacks and then lost to Cannonballs in the plate section.

Hornets lost their two games on day one narrowly.

OTHER WINNERS

Cannonballs took out the plate final, beating Noogini Warriors, and Australian Army Thunder won the Kevin Aldridge Shield final.

UNDER-18s

A quality North Coast Dolphins easily won the under-18 final.

Palm Barracudas was one of eight teams in the under-18 division and coach Cr Roy Prior said it was a good effort against tough opposition.

"I think we only played with 11 players in our first game against Bowen, and five who took part never played rugby league before," he said.

"The effort from the council to organise sponsors and assistance was tremendous.

"I think our Mayor really led the way in making this possible .

"I think there are some good points to come from the weekend, we have unearthed five players who could make some contribution to the team and the club in the next few years.

"Some of the players who really stood out were Richard Martin, Semion Oui, Thomas Oui, Chavez Morton, Norman Nelliman and Alfred Lacey (jnr)."

Member for Townsville John Hathaway said: Congratulations Barracudas on breaking the drought and winning the Senior All Blacks Championships last weekend. A great result for the team and a well-deserved win after 18 years. What a great way to showcase the footy talent from Palm Island. Well done.

BARRACUDAS

Rugby League

Representative Players

On behalf of the

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire & Council Staff

**We would like to congratulate you
for bringing it home, you have
instilled Pride back into the
community, and we say**

Thankyou

Late Mrs Betty Geia: 01/07/1927 – 26/09/2012

Bwgcolman Elder, Kalkadoon and Clumpoint Woman

Founding and Life Member of Palm Island Netball Association

Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Sister, Aunty, 'Mum Betty', and Friend

On behalf of the Geia, Spencer and Clumpoint family, we wish to thank the Bwgcolman people, family and friends for their condolences and attendance at the Celebration of Life Service for the late Mrs. Betty Geia which was held at the PCYC Community Centre, Palm Island on the 5th October 2012.

We bless you for your care and support at this time of family bereavement.

We especially thank the following persons and organisations who made the logistics and burden easier to bear for our family through your giftings, and your generous and gracious offering of service: Lavinia and the staff of the PCYC for the use of the centre and its resources for the service and the wake; Elizabeth, Nina and Bethel Clay and their family; Mrs Edna Lowatta and family; Ili Dabea, Nui Rabuka and Simone Cagliaba and their family; Stephen Fullerton and co-workers;

Joe Istria; Ronald and Valentine of VG Steel; Roy Prior and Board of Directors of CDEP; the Palm Island Community Company; Bwgcolman Community School; Christopher Bourne and Co-workers; the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council; Merle Robertson and the HACC Program; John Mugambe; Alf and Melissa Lacey; Delena Oui Foster; Bob and staff Palm Island Butcher; Beryl Bunn and the Palm Island Netball Association; the Team of the Beautiful One Day Production; and the Youth With A Mission Team (YWAM); finally thank you to all those people who worked behind the scenes, please know that your contribution to our mother Betty and the family is so very much appreciated.

We also extend our thank you to Dr Wade, Nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers and Allied Staff of the Joyce Palmer

Health Service for your care of our mother during her stay in the health service.

Lastly, thank you to our own family members who untiringly gave of themselves and their giftings and resources to honour our mother Betty.

Betty loved Palm Island and the Bwgcolman people, she was a tireless prayer warrior, and prayed earnestly for the people and the land of Palm Island; her desire was that one day the Bwgcolman people would come to know God as she did and experience a freedom in life that she experienced during her years on this earth.

Her enduring message to us all is to love and forgive one another in our daily lives.

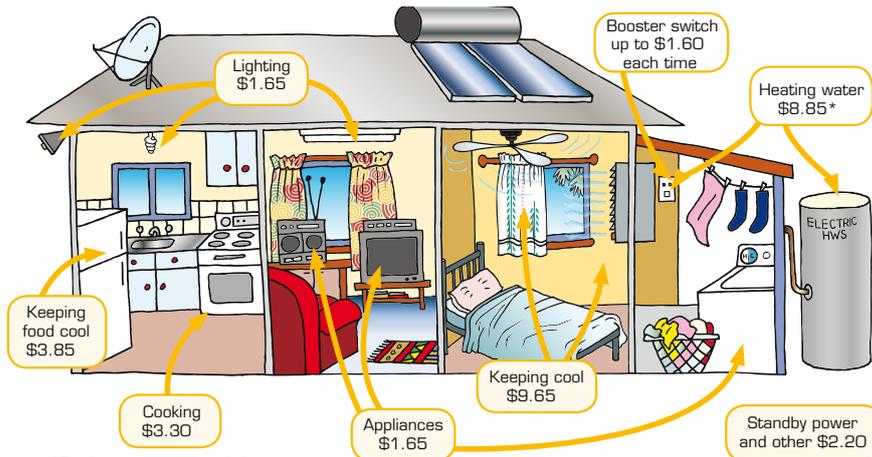
Our heartfelt thank you to all who held out your hand of condolences, support, care, love and friendship to Betty Geia (Snr) and her family, may God richly bless you for your giving, thank you.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Where does my power card go?

Average energy costs in Palm Island homes each week



Want to reduce your power costs?

See your local **powersavvy** officers
Bernadine (Blackie) Castors and **Zac Sam**
at **Palm Council** @ the old post office, or contact them
through the Council office on **4770 1177**.

www.facebook.com/powersavvy.au

www.powersavvy.com.au



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

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

**The next RDO is
Friday 26 October**

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**



**DON'T FORGET
\$1500 PRIZE!!!**
Closes 5pm Monday
10 December
Call for interested
artists to design
a **NEW PALM
ISLAND FLAG!!!**
See Council
Reception for more
information.

Palm Island Voice

2012-2013

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we can continue to
support you!**

Happy Birthdays!

Erykah Kyle (75)

8th October

Erica Kyle Jr 14th October

Leah Dabea 19th October

With love from your families



Boxers hope to get to southern tournaments

PALM Boxers will travel to two away tournaments on the Sunshine Coast and Inala on 9th and 10th November.

As many as 10 boxers will make the trip by bus for Boxing Association events.

They will include promising Marcus Ketchup (*pictured left*) who has just re-commenced training at the Palm PCYC gym.

Boxers were scheduled to compete at a mainland tournament last weekend however that was cancelled.

It is hoped a contingent of Palm boxers will also travel to Brisbane for the State Titles on 30th November to 2nd December.

In other news Reggie Palm Island may compete at important titles at Mackay soon.

Some thoughts on the PIRL now the dust has settled...

THE dust has settled on the highly successful 2012 Palm Island Rugby League competition in which seven clubs competed.

It is now history that Skipjacks (*pictured*) won the grand final narrowly beating Butler Bay Bulls before one of the biggest crowds ever at the local footy oval.

There is a lot of ongoing talk around Palm football circles about how the 2013 competition may be even further improved. Towards the end of the fixtures there were some forfeits when players from sides which had no chance of reaching the semi-finals lost interest.

One suggestion is that the top four clubs of 2012 make up an A-grade comp for the 2013 season. The bottom three clubs would then contest a reserve grade comp with links to three of the A-grade clubs with the premiers of 2012 not having a feeder reserve grade squad as a handicap. Skipjacks, Bulls, Mount Bentley Raiders and Jets would contest a very strong A-grade comp and as a bonus with four clubs there would be no weekly bye.

The clubs which didn't reach the semi finals - Mundy Bay Warriors, Bwgcolman Brothers and Hornets - would battle it out in the reserve grade with the premiers Skipjacks also fielding a second's side.

Mundy Bay Warriors, Bwgcolman Brothers

and Hornets would have links with either Bulls, Raiders or Jets. Then the bottom club after the 2013 A Grade comp would drop back into the reserve grade. The winner of the reserve grade comp would be promoted to the A Grade in 2014.

This will allow a better competition based around a handicap system, movement of players in different clubs and a united competition based around promotion and demotion. Some of these points and suggestions are sure to be spoken about at coming meetings of the Palm Island Rugby League.



...Continued from page 16...

Netball = success for students

The Cathy Freeman Foundation Netball Challenge was a culmination of the CFF After-School Netball Competition, aimed at increasing student attendance rates and class participation in school.



"The Netball Challenge is especially great for the students involved as they get the chance to show off their netball skills and build relationships with neighbouring schools," Ms Lawrence said.

Womensport Queensland, who run CFF's monthly netball clinics, and the SOS Foundation were also there to motivate the players and help with umpiring and pre-match warm-ups.

CFF Programs Director Jamie Howden said last year's challenge was also a success.



"After the success of last year's Netball Challenge we were excited to work with the schools and community again to bring this annual event to life," he said.

The day also included a free lunchtime BBQ and traditional dancing.

Superstar super tackle!!!



Palm Island's Esrom Geia chased down rugby league super star Ben Barba at the Bindal Allblacks earlier this month. Barba left a trail of players in his wake, but Esrom was determined and got his man down, even though Ben scored in the end!



Bwggcolman come out on top of netball challenge!



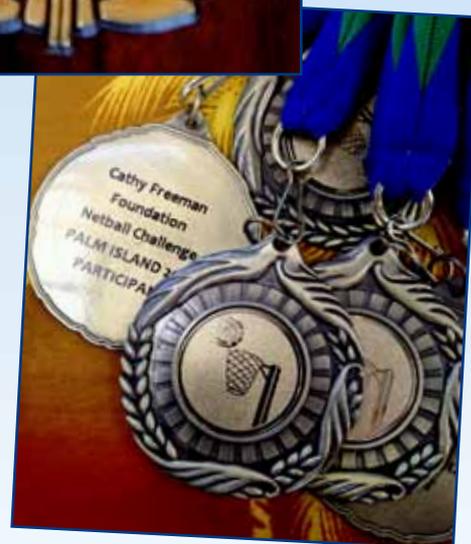
The annual Cathy Freeman Foundation Netball Challenge bounced off last Friday at the Police Citizens' Youth Club (PCYC) with an overall win going to Bwggcolman Community School this year.

Last year's Challenge was won by St Michael's.

Sixty participants from six schools across Palm Island, Magnetic Island and Townsville came together to play for the prestigious Kathy Tarpaulin Memorial Shield, an annual tribute to one of the Island's late, great netball players and community members, Aunty Kathy Tarpaulin.

"Aunty Kathy was a great role model for the children and is remembered as a generous, kind lady who, over 30 years as a teacher's aide, not only passed on her netball skills, but encouraged children to attend school," CFF Programs Coordinator Daphne Lawrence said.

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