



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 15 August 2013

\$1.25

Issue 135

## Searches *still* an issue



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
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ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 23 February 2012

\$1.25

Issue 98

Residents' anger at being searched again (and again)...



**'ENOUGH!'**  
PALM Island residents are angry police have searched their bags again on at least two separate occasions as they boarded the Sealink ferry in Townsville last week.

Consultations around Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) have revealed punitive laws and police searches are a big issue for many Palm Islanders, as has been reported in the *Palm Island Voice* several times, including on the front page of Issue 98, published in February last year (*above*).

Mayor Alf Lacey said a draft AMP report to present to the State Government has revealed the AMP's rules and continual bag searches of

residents by police at both ends of the ferry continued to be an issue for locals.

"Council continues to be disappointed at police methods when they conduct bag

searches both in Townsville and on Palm," he said.

"So do residents and that is included in the draft report to be presented to the State Government."

...continued page 3...

# Proud railway history to go on show

MANY Palm Island men worked hard on the railway line between Townsville and Mount Isa some years ago as an integral part of the construction and maintenance of the vital rail link.



The stories and experiences of Torres Strait Islanders, Aboriginal people and Australian South Sea Islanders are on show in a new exhibition at Townsville's the Museum of Tropical Queensland.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey was invited to the official opening of "I've Been Working on the Railway", held last Tuesday.

Museum of Tropical Queensland Director Peter McLeod said the exhibition uncovered stories of camp life, the realities of the work, hardships, separation from their land, islands and families, and the opportunities and challenges of working on the railway. He said it also included acknowledgement of the World Track Laying record set on 8 May 1968 on the Mt Newman line in Port Hedland (WA).

Personal accounts of working life were central to the exhibition, he said.

"While some families went with the men, living in the arduous and every-changing camp existence along railway tracks, we also

explore the experiences of the many families who were left behind and continued life with their husband or fathers far away," Mr McLeod said.

"I've Been Working on the Railway" is open from 13

August to 13 October 2013 and will be accompanied by a display of local historical railway photographs, stories and objects.

It will also be shown in Canberra, Newcastle and Perth.

## Palm Island Rugby League (PIRL) Footy Results

### Saturday 27 July

Jets 62 d Mundy Bay Warriors 12,  
Butler Bay Bull 74 d Bwgcolman Brothers 22.  
Skipjacks did not play due to Hornets withdrawing from the competition. Raiders had the bye.

### Saturday 3rd August

Jets d Butler Bay Bulls,  
Skipjacks d Mundy Bay Warriors,  
Mount Bentley Raiders d Bgwcolman Brothers.

### Saturday 10 August

Bwgcolman Brothers 60 d Mundy Bay Warriors 40  
Jets 40 d Skipjacks 36  
Butler Bay Bulls 40 d Mount Bentley Raiders 12

## PIRL LADDER

- 1 Butler Bay Bulls 27
- 2 Jets 23p (+58%)
- 3 Skipjacks 23p (-23%)
- 4 Mount Bentley Raiders 22p
- 5 Bwgcolman Brothers 14p
- 6 Mundy Bay Warriors 9p  
Hornets withdrawn

...from page one...

# Elder has had enough of 'degrading' searches

Resident Elder Maggie Blackley (pictured middle below) said she was angry and disgusted police searches for alcohol continued.

A former-Councillor, Mrs Blackley said she was annoyed when seven police officers searched her baggage and that of other passengers as they were about to catch the 10.30am ferry on 8 August from the Townsville ferry terminal.

"We are treated like second class citizens," she said. "The police break the seals on bags and luggage and leave it that way after they finish searching.

"I was searched six times and I don't even drink."

Mrs Blackley also said police were rude as they searched.

A passionate advocate for



the rights of Palm Islanders, she said she felt the searches were degrading and made Palm Islanders feel like criminals.



"We have our personal items put on the ground for everybody to see and that often includes scores of passengers going to and from Magnetic Island by ferry," she said.

In one recent search Mrs Blackley said a couple were each taking a carton of legal mid strength beer to Palm and both were marked with their names.

"The lady picked up the two cartons to place them

on a trolley and the police confiscated them saying she could not take more than one," she said.

"This is what we have to put up with."

She said it was mostly Indigenous passengers who were searched, and that often police were also waiting at the Reel Women Jetty.

"If the police search our bags they should also be doing that to every worker coming to and from the Island such as nurses, doctors, police and everybody else," she said.

Overall, Mrs Blackley said, the searches were a genuine waste of public taxpayers money.

"What is the Australian public saying about this?" she said. "Why should our personal items be on display to the general public?"

"This is so degrading."

Townsville MP John Hathaway was contacted for comment but did not respond before deadline.

*Left: pics of police searches in Townsville from a source who did not wish to be named.*





BOXERS GALLERY

## Boxers back on the road again



**AFTER** a long break from competing at boxing tournaments, local Palm Islander pugilists travelled to Ayr in the Burdekin last Saturday to compete on a gala card.

Dennis Haines jnr, 19, Albert Gorringer jnr, 18, Kathleen Haines, 15, Brayden Nallajar, 10, Kevin Inkerman, 12, and Natalie David, 15, (pictured left to right above) made the 90km trip down the Bruce Highway with trainer Ray Dennis.

There were 25 bouts on the big card at the Ayr Catholic Church Hall and the six Palm boxers were all keen for a bout.

However three of our fighters – Kevin, Dennis jnr and Natalie weren't able to be matched.

Kathleen lost on points in her second ever bout but Mr Dennis said she was

heavily outweighed.

“She weighed 48kg and her Ayr opponent was 7kg heavier and much taller,” he said.

“It was a really good effort.”

Brayden lost on points in the 32kg division and Albert jnr was outpointed by a quality opponent from Babinda in 60kg class.

“We haven't been to a tournament for some months so it was a good effort overall,” Mr Dennis said.

Gene Barry kindly drove the 12-seater hire bus and supporters Luke Lenoy and Neville Haines also went along.

Gene is the father of

Brayden and Neville the dad of Kathleen.

Neville is well-known as a quality pool and eight-ball player at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill.

The team travelled from Palm by Sealink ferry on 9th August and stayed at Townsville's Hotel Allen that night.

They left for Ayr about 9am on the day of the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament which was well-attended.

Accommodation was found at the Ayr Caravan Park that night after the bouts and they returned at 1.30pm on Sunday 11th August to catch the ferry home to Palm.

# Palm Island Voice

## Public & Community Notices

### ABOUT THIS FONT:

The font used in this newsletter is called 'Dyslexie' and has been designed for people who have difficulty reading, especially those with dyslexia, so they can read more easily.

For more information see  
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**Please support us so we can continue to  
support you!**



Palm Island Aboriginal  
Shire Council has 167  
'likes' on Facebook!!!



**Palm Island Aboriginal  
Shire Council** is closed  
every 2nd Friday (Council pay  
week) for RDO.

The next RDO is

**Friday 23 August**

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

For more information contact  
Council on 4770 1177.

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# Star runners take the field for Bwgcorman

A small but very talented group of Bwgcorman students travelled to Shalom College on Friday 2 August to compete for a place at the District Athletic Championships.

The team returned with plenty of ribbons and two of our students have cemented a spot in the team.

Koipe Castors (16 boys) will be competing in the 100m, 200m and High Jump; and Kathleen Haines (15 Girls) in the 100m, 200m, 400m, Javelin and Discus.

Pics and full story of what happened at Red Track last Tuesday in the next issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

## Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY)

### 2014 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Brotherhood of St Laurence, through HIPPY Australia, is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from organisations to implement HIPPY in the 25 recently announced communities.

The program currently operates in 50 locations across Australia. It is a two year home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program that empowers parents and carers to be their child's first teacher. The program builds the confidence and skills of parents and carers to create a positive learning environment in order to prepare their child for school. It also offers some parents and carers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

Organisations wishing to apply should demonstrate experience in working with families, children and the local community, with links to early childhood education, child care, schools and other community, family and children's services. It is expected that organisations will provide managerial support to the program coordinator, as well as an office and a child-friendly group meeting space.

Interested organisations can download the EOI Application forms from [www.hippyaustralia.org.au](http://www.hippyaustralia.org.au) All enquiries should be directed to HIPPY Australia on (03) 9445 2400 or 1300 990 907. HIPPY Australia is open during business hours Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm (AEST).

**Completed applications must be received by 5pm (AEST) 30 August 2013. Only fully completed applications will be assessed.**



The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

#### COMMUNITIES SELECTED FOR 2014

1. Albury/Wodonga (NSW/VIC)
2. City of Armadale (WA)
3. Armidale (NSW)
4. Broken Hill (NSW)
5. Bundaberg (QLD)
6. Burdekin (QLD)
7. East Gippsland (VIC)
8. East Kimberley (WA)
9. City of Gosnells (WA)
10. Hervey Bay (QLD)
11. La Trobe Gippsland (VIC)
12. Mildura (VIC)
13. Moree (NSW)
14. Murray Bridge (SA)
15. City of Onkaparinga (SA)
16. Orange (NSW)
17. Palm Island (QLD)
18. Palmerston (NT)
19. Raymond Terrace/Port Stephens (NSW)
20. Riverland (SA)
21. Toowoomba (QLD)
22. Upper Ross (QLD)
23. Warwick (QLD)
24. Wellington (NSW)
25. Willmot/Shalvey/Emerton/Hebersham (NSW)

# Freeman foundation well-supported by local runners



*In a powerful show of support for the Cathy Freeman Foundation earlier this month a group of school teachers and students from Palm Island, Myers' staff and others were among those who participated in the Townsville Running Festival under the CFF banner.*



*Top: Photograph from the CFF Facebook page reprinted with permission; Above & right with thanks to Velma Gara.*



## Out & About...

*Left: Ken Pryor and his grandson Dennis Haines; and Right: Palm Island butcher Robert Hopkins in Townsville*



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## **Palm Island Voice**

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Thursday 5 September	137	THURSDAY 12 September
Thursday 19 September	138	THURSDAY 26 September
Thursday 3 October	139	THURSDAY 10 October