



Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 10 October 2013

\$1.25

Issue 139

Respect for a legend carries a footy tradition

IN one of the best games seen on Palm Island for years Army Thunder defeated Skipjacks 32-28 at rugby league headquarters last week, when the two sides played for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield.

This was the sixth Bill Coolburra Shield match which came about because of Bill Coolburra's love for the Army and his favourite Palm Island team, the Skipjacks.

It was his wish that the Army and Palm Island play an annual game that would forge friendships and closer ties between the Army and the indigenous community.

Army players and officials travelled to Palm by ferry and went to the



cemetery where they participated in a memorial service for Mr Coolburra. His widow, Edna Coolburra and other family members were there, as was Commander of the 3rd Brigade, Brigadier Shane Caughey.

Skipjacks produced a mighty comeback after trailing 20-4 at halftime when the game looked gone.

Army was expected to come home the better in the second half with a fitness advantage but the courageous Skippies has different ideas before a huge crowd.

NITV was there filming the game and the special guest was former NRL star Preston Campbell.

Try scorers for Skipjacks were Robin Nallajar, Gary Pearson, Val Fulford, Gabriel Geesu and veteran Brian Conway.

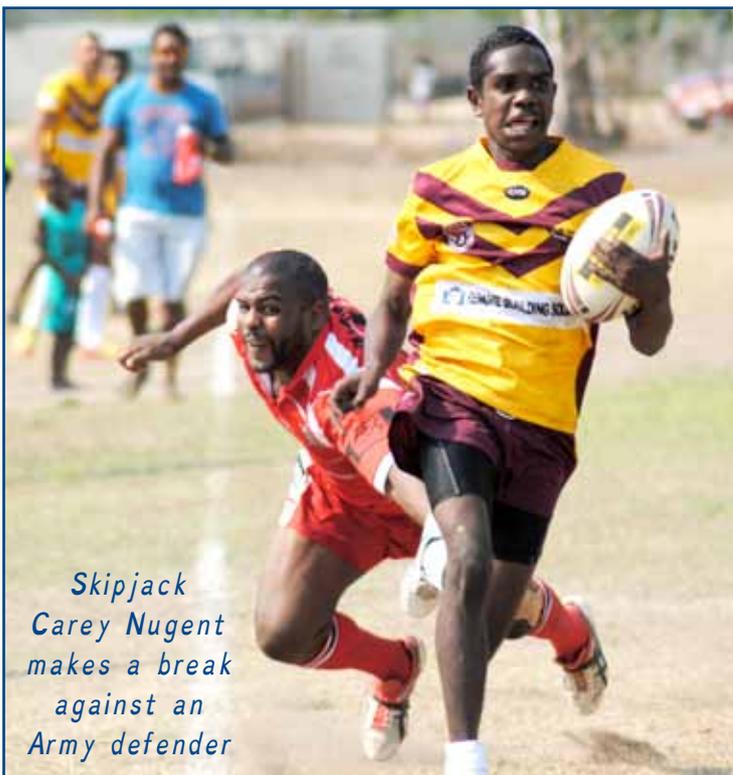
Anthony Thompson kicked three goals and Gary Pearson one.

Best for Skipjacks were Obe Geia jnr, Carey Nugent, Fred Bulsey, Jason Bulsey, Gabriel Geesu and Val Fulford.

Army try scorers were Wania Nomoa with three, captain Mitchell Kaminski, Cameron Griffiths and Mark Gransfeld. Aaron Spicer and Kevin Ashby each kicked two goals.

Game referee was Kevin Castors and touch judges Russell Sarabo and Jason Poynter.

The annual game was named in honour of the late Mr William "Kookaburra" Coolburra, a war veteran and highly-respected elder of the Palm Island community.



*Skipjack
Carey Nugent
makes a break
against an
Army defender*



Cowboys should have had it!

Many Palm Islanders were outraged about the controversial way the North Queensland Cowboys were eliminated from the NRL finals series.

A mistake by referees early in the clash saw the Cronulla Sharks score a 4-point try on the seventh tackle – one more than is allowable under the rules – in a game the Cowboys lost by only two points on the final siren.

Palm Island Voice spoke to Alfred Noble, Reynard Chookie, Cedric Barry and Anthony Walton two days after the loss and they were devastated.

“It was the fault of the referees and the NRL has admitted that,” Mr Barry said which was echoed by his three mates.

Despite the loss the Cowboys team and management took it ‘on the chin’.

“We will now be turning our focus to the 2014 season when we again expect to be fighting for the premiership,” Cowboys CEO Peter Jourdain said.

LGAQ meeting in FNQ

Council representatives from all over north Queensland, including Palm Island, met in Cooktown last week for the North Queensland Local Government Association Conference.

A diverse range of issues including leadership, ethics, innovation and resource management was discussed and the Conference was attended and addressed by Queensland Minister for Local Government David Crisafulli.

LGAQ CEO Greg Hallam was also at the two day event which featured a presentation from LGAQ Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations Team Leader Logan Timms on Waste Management.

NQ Land & Sea grants open to application now

State Environment and Heritage Protection Minister Andrew Powell is urging communities to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 available under the Newman Government’s North Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Grants to help support sustainable on-ground management of natural and cultural resources.

“The Newman Government has expanded the program, previously only open to Indigenous communities in the Cape York region, to include North Queensland,” Mr Powell said.

“The program enables skills development, the passing on of knowledge between generations, protection and improvement of natural resources, preservation of heritage values and jobs for the local community.”

Mr Powell said the grants program complemented the successful Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program which funded Indigenous rangers working in remote communities.

Closing date for applications is 31 October 2013 and successful applicants will be announced by the end of the year.

More information about how to apply for the North Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Grants program and examples of previous successful grant projects are available at www.ehp.qld.au

Dangerous fire wastes minibus

One child has been dealt with and inquiries are continuing into those who may have been responsible for a minibus fire which took place next to a vacant house on Dee Street during the school holidays.

Detective Sergeant Paul Enders (OIC CIB Palm Island) said police and the local fire service attended to the blaze.

“The vehicle was well alight and concerns were held for the house which was then unoccupied due to being renovated,” Sgt Enders said.

“Thankfully the local rural fire service was able to attend and extinguish the fire in time to prevent any damage to the house.

“Inquiries revealed that neighbours had seen a number of young persons in the yard.

“They were observed to be playing with fire in the vicinity.

“Inquiries also revealed the young people had unlawfully entered the yard of that house whilst playing.

“One young person has been dealt with under the provisions of the Youth Justice Act and inquiries are continuing in relation to others who were also present.

“Whilst the vehicle had not been on the road for some time, the owners had plans to repair the minibus involved, or to use parts from it on another project, and it is sad to see the loss for this family, who have given up so much of their time over the years for the

Palm Island community.”

Minibus owner Leah Dabea asked parents to be more aware of where their children were at night.

“Parents on Palm Island where are your children?,” she asked on a Facebook notice board page.

“Bored kids on Palm Island did this to a bus parked in my yard at Dee Street, which is being renovated at the moment.

“Something needs to be done sooner rather than later because people are getting sick of what the kids are doing.

“Thank you to Blacky Miller for helping my husband and sons Jona Dabea, Jioji Dabea, daughter Emele Dabea and her brother-in-law Apimeleki Rabuka, and my other daughter Silina Dabea. Big thanks and very much appreciated.”

Detective Sergeant Enders said parents needed to watch their kids.

“This is a good opportunity to remind parents to keep an eye on their children and to remind them of the dangers of playing with fire, particularly in the current dry conditions,” he said.

“Parents also need to remind their children that they should not go into other peoples’ yards without permission.”

Facebook comments about the incident included:

- I think we parents should do something to help our young people this time before its too late. We got men’s group, women’s shelter, Palm Island company, Palm Island Council and parents who should get together – if something happen it will be too late to say sorry. PLEASE let us do something to save our community.
- Them parents need to be shamed up and made to pay for the damages.
- Yep and charged.
- This is making me really wild, can’t imagine how you feel!
- That’s terrible n dangerous what they did.
- It’s sad that some of our young pepl are behavn dis way . wat they bored? No need fo dis kind behaviour.
- Whoa, that’s terrible...
- I don’t even know what to say!
- Thank goodness the house was saved.
- Thank God no-one was injured.
- Thank God you and the family are okay.

Ex-footballer backs station-based training

Football great Vern Daisy has thrown his weight behind planning for a new job training facility supported by the North Queensland Cowboys' Learn Earn Legend! program in the Townsville region.

Under the guidance of Geoff and Vicki Toomby, Wonderland Station at Alice River, just west of Townsville, is being developed to support young people wanting to gain qualifications and employment in agriculture.

The live-in, hands-on facility will provide students with career pathways leading to guaranteed employment placements.

Cowboys co-captain and Learn Earn Legend! ambassador Johnathan Thurston visited Wonderland in late July with

Palm Island Indigenous elder Vern Daisy, Townsville deputy mayor Vern Veitch and Cr Tony Parsons.

“Wonderland Station will meet two needs at once,” Geoff Toomby said.

“There is a growing shortage of skilled workers on the land and we have youth out there struggling for employment that would be well suited to this vocation.

“Backing up the training is placement into real jobs.”

The Cowboys said they were excited about the opportunity the new facility provided for the many indigenous secondary students participating in the Learn Earn Legend! program.

have always been passionate about training young people, especially young Indigenous Australians, to support primary producers.

“This training centre has been in the pipeline for a few years now, however has



“Geoff and Vicki Toomby have many years of training experience in this industry and are both highly regarded and sought after nationally,” LEL program co-ordinator Pam Santo-Appleby said.

“It will be a fantastic advantage to have this facility based here for school leavers who aspire to work on the land.”

The Toombys said they

been delayed a bit by red tape due to the Station being under a Government Lease agreement,” Geoff Toomby said.

“The good news is that the lease issues have been resolved with the help of many members of the community and the Queensland Government, and the only hold-up now is getting the material change of use approval pushed through Council.”

Western Yalanji celebrate!



A busload of more than 30 Palm Islanders attended a Federal Court of Australia hearing held in Cairns to recognise Western Yalanji People's interests in two consent determinations last month.

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Andrew Cripps said the determinations officially recognised the Western Yalanji People as the native title holders of their traditional lands to the north west of Cairns.

"The Western Yalanji People have today been recognised as having exclusive native title rights over approximately 148,000 hectares and non-exclusive native title rights over approximately 74,000 hectares of land surrounding the Bonny Glen Pastoral Station," he said.

"They have also been recognised as having non-exclusive native title rights over two additional pastoral properties covering approximately 108,000 hectares of land near the Palmer River.

"The Western Yalanji People can camp, hunt, gather, conduct ceremonies, and maintain places of importance and significance on their traditional lands in accordance with traditional laws and customs."

When the Court was done celebrations were held at Tjapakai Aboriginal Cultural Park. MC for speeches after lunch said they were happy to have so many Palm Islanders on board.

"I'm glad we've been able to extend our membership and our voice down to Palm and we look forward to more engagement on that Palm Island side," he said.

Palm Islander Raymond Sibley thanked the Elders for their work towards the Determinations.

"I'm just very proud to be standing up and being part of this celebration," he said.

"Elders who passed away before us and, I'm getting a bit emotional, but they'd be looking down on us and seeing how far we got with this.

"I'd like to say a quick thank you to Margaret from North Queensland Land Council for organising the accommodation and the trip, I know it's very hard but you've done a good job.

"Aunty Betty, thank you for inviting us up for the first meeting. But I tell you what, you know, Western Yalanji, no matter where you come from, you're a great bunch of people."

Steven Boyd said NQLC had paid for 36 people to come up on the bus.

"It gave all of us the chance to meet other relations we're connected to because of our grandparents, grandfathers and grandmothers," he said.

"We were sent to Palm Island under the control of the Government.

"It's a happy and sad day because of the Determination, but in the sad sense because a lot of our old people who took the hard slog in the first place to fight for this land are no longer with us.

"But I suppose, in the Murri way, they're here in spirit.

"For us that live far away off country it's been a hard slog but it's really been a good thing."

Photograph by Christine Howes and courtesy of the North Queensland Land Council.



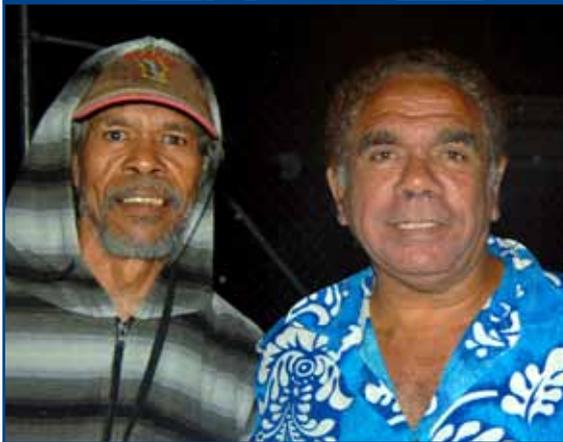
2013 Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield





2013 Spring Fair





Palm Island Voice

*Public &
Community Notices*



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 183 'likes' on Facebook!!!



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every 2nd Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDO is **Friday 18 October** For emergencies on Friday please call **0458 789 011**. For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.

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 <http://www.studiostudio.nl>



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Subscription rates will vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in January 2014 the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2014).

To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au

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South Sea Islanders' rep body visits Palm

President of the interim national representative body for Australian South Sea Islanders (ASSI) Emelda Davis said coming to Palm Island for the first time last week was a “wonderful experience”.

Ms Davis was of Tanna Island (Vanuatu) descendant and, with her mother Nellie Enares, was also founding member of the organisation, currently busy organising the second ‘Wantok’ Conference to be held in Brisbane early next month.

“Going to Palm Island for the first time was a wonderful experience in that the people are so warm and welcoming,” she said.

“As we left the ferry the children and teenagers said, ‘welcome to Palm’ with such pride and giggles.

“It was a wonderful energy and so exciting to be invited to watch the famous Coolburra Cup.

“I had the privilege as a part of my working on Palm to attend the remembrance ceremony of Mr William Coolburra.

“During my time in speaking with the community I discussed the issue of recognition



for Australian South Sea Islanders and the establishment of a national representative body that will be voted in at this year Wantok 2013 forum to be held at the State Library QLD in Brisbane City.

“Elders and Mrs Edna Coolburra understood the history and said, ‘yes they should be recognised’.

“Another young lady from the Zaro family spoke strongly of her Torres Strait and Australian South Sea Islander heritage and having heard about Wantok. She vowed to get her family to all attend.”

Ms Davis also said some of the names – and there were many more – who may have bloodlines as descendants from the indentured labour trade between 1863 to 1908 included: Backo, Cassidy, Cole, Vickery, Minniecon, Henaway, Herron, Lammon, Lampton, Malamoo, Malayta, Tallis, Talonga, Ambertal, Andrews, Bandler; Bobongie, Bunn. Darr, Bicky, Corowa, Percy, Enares, Fatnowna, Geesau, Heron, Morseu, Kinch, Bandler, Labanca Lampton, Leo, Macken, Marlla, Miller, Mooney, Motto, Oba, Parter, Pelayo, Quakawoot, Quaytucker, Reid, Rode, Satani, Sabb – Toga, Slochee, Mount, Swali, Tarryango, Tass, Ivy, Toas, Tonga, Tamock, Viti, Willie, Womald, Yasso, Banu, Yatta, Ahwong, Ambertal, Andrew, Arrow, Auda, Baggow, Bickey, Boah, Budby, Choppy, Coakley, Deshong, Dudley, Feugwandie, Giblett, Gorman, Kissier, Kiwat, Mackeleo, Manaway, Mann, Marrler, Mezzin, Motto, Pelayo, Penola, Quero, Sautherland, Saylor, Sheppard, Sippie, Solomon, Stephens (Quaytucker), Tallis, Tammorah, Tarryango, Tarrella, Tass, Tattow, Thomas, Toga, Trevy, Vice, Williams, Yasserie, Youse, Mount, Watego, Skinner, Smallwood, Reys, George, Hodges, Christian, Moreton, Johnson, Savaige, Ware, Wymarra, Saukuru, Togo, Lui, Geia, Sandow, Maninga, Davis and so on.



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REGISTER NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

ASSI.PJ@GMAIL.COM

PHONE: 02 9518 8981 MOBILE: 0416 300 946

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... Out & About ... Spring Holidays 2013



PUBLICATION DETAILS:

Contact Details + Publisher Details

Editor: Christine Howes (chowes@westnet.com.au)

Ph 4770 1177 or 0419 656 277

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