



## No Townsville comp for Barracudas

A decision to allow the entry of the Barracudas and Bindal into the 2014 mainland competition has been reversed by the Townsville and District Rugby League.

At its Annual General Meeting in December the TDRL board gave provisional approval for Palm Island and Townsville-based Bindal to enter.

However at a meeting with TDRL officials on 4th February, Palm and Bindal officials were advised that the entry had been knocked back.

A TDRL official said some conditions required from Palm and Bindal had not been met and confirmed they would not be part of the 2014 competition.

Bindal's Jenny Pryor was disappointed their final submissions had not been accepted by the TDRL.

"We were informed that our final admission to the TDRL was denied – Palm Island did not submit sufficient responses and guarantees to meet the requirements," she said.

"Bindal needed to have the football functions separated from the mother organisation Bindal Sharks United Training and Employment Sports and Recreation Aboriginal Corporation.

"The constitution does not specifically adopt the QRL rules.



### High tides!

*Pic thanks to Leah Dabea*

*Palm Island residents have been praised for their response to Cyclone Dylan which may have missed its mark but was a great opportunity for the Palm Island Local Disaster Management Group some theory into practice.*

**MORE ON PAGE 3...**

"With this Bindal will definitely be ready for 2015 with a newly incorporated Body specifically for Rugby League. We are disappointed – old saying better luck next time."

The TDRL will consider any future application for Palm Island/Bindal to enter into the 2015 season.

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*Sealink flew an Aboriginal flag on the Palm Island ferry on 26 January, says Cr Eddie Walsh, who took these pics. The Magnetic Island ferry stayed with the usual, but not Palm Island!*





# Survival Day success

Respecting our deceased Elders and a kup murri feast at the Diversionary Centre marked a very successful Survival Day on Palm this year.

Event spokesman Vaughn Charles said a lot of organisation went into the Survival / Invasion Day event on 26th January.

“It was important that we remember and respect elders who are no longer with us who have done so much to inspire us,” Mr Charles said.

He said a lot of men, women and children visited the Palm Island cemetery to pay their respects to the elders, now laid to rest but who had worked hard during their lives to achieve justice and better conditions for Islanders.

“After that there was a big gathering at the Diversionary Centre where a big Kup Murri feast was held. Everybody enjoyed the baked fish cooked on the Weber barbecue,” Mr



Charles said.

Cr Frank Conway and Cr Eddie Walsh attended and lent a hand whilst David Baira, Jim Baira, Hector Ketchup, Alan Brown and MC Sidney “Chico” Charles worked tirelessly.

Mr Charles was glowing in his praise of living elders Mo Bligh, Keith Bligh, Tom Curley and Ralph Watson who he said continue to be role models for the Palm community.

The Palm Island Aboriginal

Shire Council donated \$500 towards the day, Palm Island Community Company provided the venue and cooking utensils, whilst Campbell Page was a sponsor. The event was in planning before Christmas and into the New Year during regular Men’s Gathering meetings.

“Everybody at those meetings had an input on what we did on Survival Day and we also asked young fellas for their opinions,” he said.



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# Kudos for best possible cyclone preparation

Mayor Alf Lacey said Palm was more prepared than ever before when Cyclone Dylan and higher than usual tides loomed as a threat to the community late last month.

“I want to congratulate everybody – the Council staff, Emergency Management Queensland, the Queensland Police Service, our local organisations, the schools, the hospitals and the other NGOs in the town for their prompt response to Local Disaster Management meetings,” he said.

Northern Region, Regional Community Engagement Officer for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Paul Cannon (*pictured below with Alf Clay*) said the season was not over yet. “If the past week is anything to go by, we could be in for a busy end of season,” he said.

“Island residents responded very well, but the key is to not become complacent because while this one missed us, next time we may not be so lucky.”

He asked everyone to familiarise themselves with the SES Get Ready Guide and Palm Island Storm Tide brochure so they were ready for any further cyclones this season.

Mayor Lacey said he would continue to pressure the Government for a proper cyclone shelter on the Island.

“We are vulnerable because we live within the Great Barrier Reef and I will continue to call on the Premier of Queensland to sit down and discuss a cyclone shelter with our community. Hopefully we will see a new cyclone shelter built or an upgrade to cyclone-standard shelter of an existing building – the PCYC is probably the likely building.

“Meanwhile the exercise we’ve done for Cyclone Dylan saw everyone working steadily and calmly with the timely

advice we were able to get out there, and I do want to thank the community for that, it was the best preparation we could possibly have had.”



*Pic thanks to Elvera Boyd*



*Pics below thanks to Leah Dabea*



**3** *Above: high tides around the Island.*

# Seawall construction ahead of schedule

Council workers are well ahead of schedule in the construction of their section of the new seawall on the western side of the Reel Women Jetty, Mayor Alf Lacey says.

“We’re ahead of ourselves,” Cr Lacey said.

“The section of the wall we were awarded to build ourselves was started two weeks before the other ‘slab column’ sections.

“We’re on track with our own Council workers, who are doing a good job.

“The main part of the town won’t have a rock wall, it will have slab walls, so from the eastern side of the wharf to the helipad will be those slab columns.

“In terms of the Doctor Point to Pawpaw Creek section, Council is well aware of the cultural significance of that particular area, and we want to inform the community we have had a number of conversations with the Traditional Owners and Bwngcolman Elders.

“It’s a work in progress on the best way to protect those sites.

“If there are any more community concerns or community members want an

update in terms of Council’s conversations with the Traditional Owners then we invite the community members to come and talk to the Council during the next Delegation Day on the 11th of March.

“I particularly want to thank Cr Frank Conway, Cr Roy Prior and our CEO Ross Norman for meeting those discussions with the Elders and TOs and working towards a reasonable outcome.”





Making good use of the new rock wall is Harlen Clay, 10, who enjoys a spot of fishing, spearing and reefing and is always coming home with a catch of fish, mudcrab or even the odd flathead.

He has also been trawling for trevally or mackerel with his class in the school boat.

It's not unusual to find him with his pet dogs walking along the beach at the farm area with his trusty rod or spear.

The new rock wall along the Doctor's Point Road is the perfect spot for him and other

budding young fishers to throw in a line when the tide is coming in.

Proud mum Delphine Robertson said his catches can feed his whole family.

He takes pride in his traditional role at hunting and is a great example to his peers, she said.

5 *Story & pic with thanks to Tanya Haines*



# Palm Island Voice

Public &  
Community Notices



Issue 148 **DEADLINE**

**Thursday 20 February** for **publication Thursday 27 February**

For a full year 'Rates & Dates' sheet, to book an ad or inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419656277 or via [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

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Meetings for March 2014 will be:  
Delegation 11 March  
PIASC Ordinary 26 March

The next RDO is this Friday, 14 February and RDOs are then each fortnight.  
For out-of-hours emergencies please call 0458 789 011.

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 289 'likes' on Facebook!!!

Issue #	DEADLINE Day	Publication Date
148	THURSDAY 20 February	Thursday 27 February
149	THURSDAY 6 March	Thursday 13 March
150	THURSDAY 20 March	Thursday 27 March
151	THURSDAY 3 April	Thursday 10 April
152	THURSDAY 17 April	Thursday 24 April
153	THURSDAY 1 May	Thursday 8 May
154	THURSDAY 15 May	Thursday 22 May
155	THURSDAY 22 May	Thursday 29 May
156	THURSDAY 5 June	Thursday 12 June
157	THURSDAY 19 June	Thursday 26 June

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# Hunter in the making

**HUNTER Sam**, a member of Palm island's renowned boxing family, is the new Australian National Boxing Federation Heavyweight champion.

The 29-year-old Hunter is the son of former star Australian boxing sensation Doug Sam who works on Palm Island.

Doug Sam was one of Australia's most gifted boxers ever and was World rated and OPBF Champion.

Hunter is a cousin of Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council's Cr Mislam Sam and a nephew of former Councillor and Deputy Mayor Zac Sam.

Power puncher Hunter (108.6kg) won the title in

December when he beat David Levi (114.10 kgs).

He was able to weather the early storm from Levi, who appeared to punch himself out in those early rounds and was able to go on to a unanimous points victory.

Hunter won a unanimous points victory in the bout.

Palm boxing trainer Ray Dennis said he trained Doug Sam and Brisbane based Hunter was following in his famous dad's footsteps.

"Many of the Sam family have been great boxers," he said.

Respected Townsville trainer and former professional boxer Gonzo Hooper was glowing in his praise of Hunter.

"I was Hunter's main corner man for one of his last amateur bouts, which he won," Gonzo said. "He's always shown plenty of potential, great smooth boxer, very good style, fast all-round good boxer with a great personality to go with it.

"Hunter has a big future."

## Good show from Palm @ Goldfield Ashes



Cricketers, including our local police detective Paul Enders and ex-local truck driver Irwin Ambrym, competed at the Goldfield Ashes carnival held in Charters Towers late last month.

The Ashes started back in 1948 with just six teams and this year had a world record 228 sides in five grades.

Paul lined up for Wannabee's XI in the B-2 division which had 138 teams and finished 98th.

"Saturday was the hottest of the three days. Sunday wasn't too bad and I enjoyed the Bulls Masters game until the weather ruined it. The closest I got to the ball for

Wannabees was dropping two catches," Paul said.

West Indigies also contested B-2 where Noel, Jermaine (below centre) and Justin Ross (below right) all

shone. Their side was undefeated with wins over Beeralong XI, Grazed Anatomy and Bigger Than Jesus.

Noel and Jermaine both scored half

centuries whilst Justin was solid as wicketkeeper.

Former Palm Island truck driver Irwin Ambrym (below left) was a star for West Indigies.

