

Palm Island Voice

Issue 200!
Thursday 24 March 2016

FREE

WARNING! Some images in this Issue may contain deceased persons that may cause distress to some people.



We're on the record - permanently!

The State Library of Queensland has started officially collecting and cataloguing PDF copies of the *Palm Island Voice*.

State Library of Queensland Legal Deposit Coordinator Libby Fielding said there was significant value in having a newsletter such as the *Palm Island Voice* in the context of the John Oxley Library collections, which is focussed on Queensland materials.

"Publications such as this one contribute significantly to Queensland's documentary record and it is very important that we collect them for the benefit of researchers now and in the future," she said. "Materials acquired under legal deposit are collected for posterity – which means we make a commitment to preserve them for the future. In the case

of electronic documents we are making provision for a technical solution which will allow us to format shift when a format (such as PDF) is superseded.

"Deposited issues will always be available to the general public regardless of what happens to the website on which they were originally hosted and depositors can refer their enquirers to SLQ's online catalogue for past issues.

"In terms of the John Oxley Library collections *Palm Island Voice* is a particularly appreciated collection resource, given its unique content and its value as a window on community life and

issues local to Palm Island.

"SLQ does not hold any other news or newsletter publication specifically related to Palm Island and this obviously adds to the research value of this publication."

Legal Deposit legislation, established under the Libraries Act 1988 requires that a PDF copy of the *Palm Island Voice* is lodged with the State Library within one month of its publication.

More information about Legal Deposit legislation is available on the State Library website at: <http://www.sla.qld.gov.au/info/pw/legdep>

To find the *Palm Island Voice* on the SLQ catalogue see:

<http://onsearch.sla.qld.gov.au>

Election results yet to be determined

Results for the Local Government elections last weekend are not expected to be available until after postal and declaration votes are counted, which won't be for several more days after our deadline.

To date all indications are that Mayor Alf Lacey will be returned but the *Palm Island Voice* will bring you full and final results and pics in our next Issue (201), due to be published on Thursday 7 April.

Pic thanks to Ashley Lenoy





Clean up Australia Day result better than 2015

Clean Up Australia Day was a chance for St Michael's students to keep our community clean and show respect for our environment.

Students wanted to send a

big thank you to the Council for assisting them with the road closure during this time.

They said about five bins of plastic, cans and other rubbish was removed on top

of their regular creek and beach clean ups.

Overall they said they were very happy because there was a lot less rubbish than this time last year.



Hopes new paramedic program will bridge gaps

Two new recruits from the Queensland Ambulance Service's Indigenous Paramedic Program will begin working on Palm Island as part of a unique program designed to bolster services in regional and rural areas.

Member for Townsville Scott Stewart said the program was designed to bridge gaps.

"These new recruits will strengthen service delivery on Palm Island and provide specific pre-hospital care to the island's Indigenous community with an aim to improve mortality rates," he said.

"This one-of-a-kind program is bridging the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous people in the Townsville area by building a closer relationship



Member for Townsville Scott Stewart meets indigenous paramedic recruits Angela Beatson and William Obah, who will be working with the Queensland Ambulance Service to improve health outcomes on Palm Island

and understanding between the QAS and the Palm Island community. It is also building the self-confidence, leadership and teamwork skills of these new Palm Island recruits and developing their sense of

place and worth within the community. These recruits will bolster the QAS's presence in the local area and contribute invaluable local knowledge and cultural understanding to the service on the island."

Chris Tamwoy has (grand final) talent

Palm Island Youth Fest guest Chris Tamwoy recently made the Grand Final of Channel Nine television program 'Australia's Got Talent'.

Mr Tamwoy was one of five entertainers to make the final after 10,000 people nationwide auditioned for the show. He said his finals performance was inspired by his grandmother.

"I dedicated it to my late grandmother Maulo Tamwoy who I loved dearly before she died at age 61," he said. "She was my Queen. I learnt my guitar skills on Badu Island when I was very young."

His performance in the final earned Mr Tamwoy a standing ovation from all four regular judges and guest judge, Hollywood's Jack Black.

Mr Tamwoy thanked his backup performers Danielle Reuben, Corina Nwobu and Daniel Tapau.





Silver Creek pics thanks to Telstan Sibley



Good report for community's first women's health forum

As previously reported in the *Palm Island Voice*, the first Community Women's Health forum was a huge success Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Community Development Health Liaison Officer Leonie Hopkins says.

"In my role I facilitated this forum," she said.

"I'm happy to say to you that our women embraced it and the attendance was more than expected. Thank you community women, this was about empowering you!"

She said they had particularly targeted young women.

"The point is about being proactive in respects to our overall health," she said.

She said they had much

feedback on what support was needed from attendees including: workshopping on issues pertaining to young women's health including sexual assault and harassment with support from the Island's female police, ambulance officers and sexual health officers, and involving other agencies such as Justice Group, SOLAS, Ferdy's Haven and the Women's Centre; lobbying for a youth centre

and for youth training in governance; another youth conference; weight loss/exercise/diet support; care and support for young mothers; and a public transport system for the Island.

She said the Community Women's Health forum would happen every three months and the next one would be facilitated by Joyce Palmer Health Service Liaison Officer Jennifer Ketchell.



Pic thanks to Sonda Gorringe

New group hopes to re-open Cultural Centre

Saving the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre is the aim of a new support group based on the mainland and on Facebook.

The Cultural Centre lost funding and closed its doors to the public in late November last year.

Until its closure the Centre had provided jobs for many Palm Island artists and entertainers who had their talents showcased there.

Group spokeswoman Rosalind Sailor said a Facebook page called 'Save the Cultural Centre' was created to help support the Centre.

"There have been several open community meetings held recently where it was decided that the best support we could give to the Centre would be to increase its membership base," she said.

"Membership is free and all interested persons – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – are invited to join."

She said the Cultural Centre, situated beside Ross Creek and next to the world renowned

Aquarium and Museum of Tropical Science, was important.

"The Centre is important to the Townsville community as a whole," she said. "We were just shocked.

"The Cultural Centre is an asset which cannot be lost."

Members of the group recently obtained new Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian flags to fly outside the Centre to replace the old tattered ones.

The next meeting will be held at 10am on Saturday 2 April at the deck behind the Centre (tbc + byo chair). For more information call Rosalind on 0458 590 391.

Closing the Gap award for pioneering partnership

This year's Closing the Gap Day saw Palm Island's Campbell Page SES members receive certificates for the courses they have completed as well as recognition from the Northern Region (Townsville Area) Queensland Fire and Emergency Services after they received a Closing The Gap Award.

The award was given in recognition of pioneering QFES and Campbell Page partnership.

Operational Capability Officer Ian Neale and Regional Community Engagement Officer Paul Cannon have provided training and disaster resilience/mitigation activities for as many as 24 Palm Island residents as a result of the program which requires the participants to become fully trained SES members and to carry out



resilience/mitigation work around the Palm Island community.

"This is the first time we are aware of that work for the dole participants have been formally partnered with the SES to improve responsiveness and resilience within an Indigenous community," State Emergency Services Area Controller for the Northern Region Sally Bloomfield said.

"The ultimate aim for the Palm Island community is to have a robust, well-trained emergency service capability that can respond in times of need.

"Participants have recently achieved their Participation in a Rescue qualifications and gained another national recognised qualification which allows them to safely drive All-Terrain Vehicles.

"They also have their Map and Navigation certificates and will be undertaking Level 1 Chainsaw qualifications within the next few weeks."

She said they hoped in future to identify members who could undertake a training qualification to enable the group to deliver their own training.

Happy 200th Birthday Palm Island Voice!

For our 200th issue, as the current editor of the *Palm Island Voice*, I wanted to acknowledge those who have been before me.

As far as my research has taken me there has been:

1960s–1970s – Palm Island Smoke Signal: Fred Clay, Bill Rosser and Len Malone

Bill Rosser went on to publish the Black Knight, previously known as the Palm Island Smoke Signal, in 1975

1976–79 – The Palm Islander: Shorty O'Neill and others – the below was re-published in the *Palm Island Voice*, Issue 30, in March 2009

From the Archives ...

Orpheus Island was traditional tribal land belonging to Palm Island and today, part of Orpheus goes up for auction. Murries on Palm Island think that if a big company buys this land it would be the first step in taking over the Islands around Palm. At present Europeans are camping on all Islands around Palm which are still part of the reserve. Signs have been erected on these Islands saying "This is an Aboriginal Reserve. Anyone entering without permission are liable to be fined up to \$200". At least two of these signs have been pulled down. Delegates on Palm have been in touch with the North Queensland Aboriginal Land Committee who in turn approached a barrister in Sydney to try and get a court injunction to stop the auction but they found it wouldn't stand up in court as there is no law in Queensland that says "Aboriginals own Land". The North Queensland Aboriginal Land Committee and many people on Palm plan to hold a demonstration outside of the auction.

(*The Palm Islander*, Vol. 1, No. 15 – 27th May, 1977. Editor Shorty O'Neill)



Sport is an important part of the *Palm Island Voice's* news reporting, pictured left is are our women's Soccer team from around 1981–2. The team was sponsored by the then Bush Pilot Airways. Pic thanks to Jennie Geia. Above is the 1984 Barracudas, pic thanks to Ashley Lenoy.

1990's – Steven Hanson, Michael Friday, Albie Geia
 1998–9 – Health workers Maylene McAllear; David (Daggs) Walsh, June Walsh, Ash Lenoy, Marion Turner and Jenni Geia under team leader Mona Gurgis contributed to a publication just for Palm Island put out by Queensland Health
 2007–8 – The Palm Island Voice – Catherine Lawler edited the first 20 issues of the current run

of the *Palm Island Voice*...here is an excerpt from her first editorial published on August 17 in 2007:

An old friend is reborn

Welcome, to the new Palm Island Voice. It has been wonderful to have had the announcement of this new community newspaper received with such enthusiasm and excitement. I hope this newspaper will honour the heritage of the original 'Palm Island Voice' while looking forward to a future filled with new directions for Palm. The newspaper will aim to ensure members of the community are kept informed of news and events. This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the unique heritage of the Palm Island community and to promote the community to the wider Australian public. I believe this new version of Palm Island Voice will be an important way of ensuring the voices and stories of the people of the Palm Islands are heard and recognised. Special thanks to Alfred Clay, who designed the masthead and logo for us. Catherine Lawler— Editor

It was with these ideas in mind that I took up the reins in October 2008 with Issue 21. I am a Koori Mail correspondent based in Cairns and I work closely with my Townsville-based Koori Mail colleague Alf Wilson. Alf and I are very grateful to the community for having us, we love the work and look forward to continuing to highlight the good, the better and the very best of your beautiful Island home.

Palm Island Voice

Your community Your newspaper Issue 1. 17 August 2007



Learning pathways students from TAFE with a mural they created about Strike '57, in response to teachings from community Elder, Ralph Norman.

In this Issue

News and Events

NAIDOC 2
 Strike '57 2
 Boxing Success 3
 Dreamkeepers 4
 Palm Weavers 4
 Department Communities 4
 BF Kids Program 5
 Marti Court 5
 Building Team 6
 Store Proposal 7

Regular Columns

Editorial 6
 Council News 8
 BF News 8
 Ferdy's news 9
 Overseas News 10
 Leader Profile 11
 Training 12
 Health 13
 First Aid 15
 Letters to Editor 15
 Notice Board 16

Publisher
 Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
 Main St, Palm Island QLD 4816
 ABN 68 799 811 816
Editor
 Catherine Lawler
Editorial Assistant
 Alfred Clay

Contact Details
 Telephone: 07 4770 1215
 07 4770 1177
 E-mail: editor@piac.com.au

Printed by:
 Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
 Main St, Palm Island QLD 4816
 ABN 68 799 811 816

The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher or sponsors.

Readers are advised this publication contains the names and images of people who have passed away.

Opportunities for building strength in Community

It has been an eventful and positive year for the Palm Island community so far.

The Dormitory Reunion, the 50th Anniversary of Strike '57 and a wonderful NAIDOC week have provided a number of opportunities for Palm Island people to celebrate the distinctive heritage and cultures of their community.

The Local Government reforms provided a few anxious months until the final report was released.

The decision not to amalgamate the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council with any other council means its unique position will be maintained.

The Council retains its capacity to work with the community to meet the needs and aspirations of residents on the Island.

This new newspaper *Palm Island Voice* is another opportunity for building strength within the community and working toward a positive future.

In the spirit of NAIDOC 2007, let's continue "Looking Forward, Looking Black" and working together to build a strong and proud community.

Palm Island Voice
 ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL
 Issue 50
 Tuesday 9 March 2010
 Your Community Your Newsletter Your Voice

INSIDE:

- Minister opens new retail store
- Boxers try-out for medal chances
- Pics wanted for new rugby museum

PI rappers hit number one on JJJ national music charts
 Three local lads from Palm Island, Desert Pea Media and The Smugglers of Light Foundation have joined forces in the creation of a vivid commentary on the ongoing difficulties facing the community of Palm Island and the people of the Bwgcoman tribe. The lyrics were written & recorded by Toby Finlayson & Matthew Priestley in May 2009 at Palm Island during a hip hop mentoring program with local residents Kiefer Walsh, Morris Walsh and Patrick Seaton. The song was at number one overall on national radio station Triple J's nearheard website last month and is currently in ninth spot on the same website's hip hop charts (<http://www.triplejunearthed.com/>).

Community meets over youth concerns
 More than 70 people were at a sometimes heated Youth Forum on Thursday last week, to discuss possible action and solutions following a spate of recent break and enters by youngsters. Representatives of the Palm Island Aboriginal Council, Government Departments, the Palm Island Community Company, teachers, police, parents, and other concerned residents attended the meeting, held at the PCYC. Angry attendees said they were "sick and tired" of all the break and enters and were demanding immediate action. "They are wrecking our community and all this damage impacts on us all," one said. The meeting was supposed to last for one hour but ended up going for almost two. **Continued p 2...**

Palm Island Voice
 Your Community Your Newsletter Your Voice
 Issue 100
 Thursday 22 March 2012

Local councils call for independent AMP review
 Controversial Alcohol Management Plans affecting Indigenous communities should be reviewed so an independent judgement can be made on their effectiveness, says the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

LGAQ President Cr Paul Bell said member councils across Queensland had called for a review last year, citing increased evidence of unintended social and economic consequences arising out of the alcohol restrictions. "These restrictions are more than a decade old and an independent call has to be made on whether the benefits outweigh the problems they have caused," he said. "We know that since the AMPs have been introduced, incarceration rates for young people have increased in some communities, people have been dislocated and there have been increased rates of homelessness."

Palm Island Aboriginal Council Mayor and LGAQ Policy Executive member Alf Lacey said, "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island councils stood ready to work in a genuine partnership with whichever party formed government, to address alcohol abuse problems besetting their communities. Cr Bell said Indigenous councillors lived in the community, saw first hand the problems caused by alcohol and dealt daily with its consequences. "They are ideally positioned to know the extent of any issues, as well as what will work and what won't work to fix any problems," he said. "Imposing AMPs from outside is not the solution."

"Let's work together and fix an issue that has been seen too much as a political football and not enough as a problem that stands in the way of sustainable improvements for Aboriginal communities."

Palm Island Voice has asked the question and has material on AMPs from all local candidates standing in the State election except Jenny Spring (Greens) & Michael Purton (Family First Party). See page 2 for more...



Palm Island Footy Carnival PICS INSIDE
 SHEER EFFORT shows on their faces (right) of Barracades Malcolm Larry, Shaq Palmer, Josh Lawlers, Billio Wotton & Owen Marjominin. Descendants, above, were narrow victors on the day. See pp 6-7...

Palm Island Voice
 Issue 150
 17 March 2014
 "Will only \$1.50"

Junior footy to kick off soon!
 Palm Island now has its own Junior Rugby League after pulling in support from the National Rugby League (NRL) Council and the Palm Island Community Company (PICC). President Arthur Clumpnet and Vaughn Charles signed the papers they said would "kick start" the new league. "After so many years of debating about getting it going, so we finally got it going ahead and up and running now," Mr Clumpnet said. "Council is backing us 100%. PICC is doing all the paperwork for all of us as well, and hopefully within the next two months we'll get it up and going as quick as possible. "We've also made a deal with the NRL to come over here and start programs in the schools with the kids, so that's going ahead."

He said sign-up day for juniors would be held soon. "We're going to try and start with three teams, it might be four, hopefully. And then on the weekends when we have our team games we'll going to slot them there. "We also want to get our mob to travel to Townsville for competitions in town, so we're looking at that down the track."



INSIDE:
 • Out & About on Palm Island p 2
 • Coolcare Aboriginal Corporation p 4-5
 • Boxing News p 6-8

Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!

The DEADLINE for the next NEXT PALM ISLAND VOICE (201) is

Thursday 31 March

**FOR PUBLICATION ON
Thursday 7 April**

See our Facebook page for a full list of Rates & Dates for 2016

ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt high banner across nominated page): \$120
Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST
Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST
Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see above) and all material submitted no later than COB the next day. Print approval required by Monday COB.

SUBSCRIBE!

Individuals & Families (hard copy): \$30
Community & NGOs (hard copy): \$60
Government & Corporate (hard copy): \$120
All from now to 30 June 2016

Subscription rates vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out – eg if taken in January 2015 the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2015.



We'd like to introduce Jonathan "Jono", who is now working on Palm Island to offer support around problem gambling.

Jono is a counsellor with Centacare North Queensland and can provide free and private counselling for people wanting to change their gambling, or family of problem gamblers and the community as a whole.

If you need help around gambling, stop and have a chat to him, he is on the island on Wednesdays.

Or call Centacare on 4772 9000.



**Operating Hours for
Council are Monday –
Friday 8am – 5pm**

If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 1,129 'likes' on Facebook!!!

**ST ANNE'S
PARISH
EASTER
TIMETABLE
ST ANTHONY'S
CHURCH**

We have fast approached the most important days of our Catholic Timetable – the celebration of Holy Week.

Holy Week began with Palm Sunday on March 20. This week we have:

**HOLY THURSDAY
- MARCH 24TH
– MASS OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER –
7PM;**

**GOOD FRIDAY
- MARCH 25TH
COMMEMORATION
OF THE LORD'S
PASSION AND
DEATH - 3PM; and,
EASTER SUNDAY -
MARCH 27 – MASS
9AM** - the blessing of

the Easter Fire, the lighting of the Easter Candle and the blessing of Easter Water.
**DATE CLAIMERS after Easter TIME OF PREPARATION FOR RECEIVING
THE SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION, CONFESSION AND FIRST
COMMUNION.**

As we did last year the Sacraments are prepared for out-of-school and on Sunday mornings after Mass in St Anthony's Church. It is necessary for all children who are baptised from Year 4 upward to enrol in the program, which will run for five weeks: **ENROLMENT SUNDAY APRIL 17 - 9am MASS**

Letters will be sent out through the both schools before the Easter Break and again on the first day back at School for TERM TWO.

For all information ring SR ROBYN on 4770 1176

National Youth Week is an annual, weeklong celebration of young people (aged 12 - 25) throughout Australia.

BE THE FUTURE

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

8 - 17 APRIL 2016

**Be The Future
Palm Island Career
Expo**

Wednesday April 13th, 12PM– 5PM
PCYC Palm Island, Mango Avenue
For more details contact Hunter on (07) 4770 1793

For more information on NYW events in your area,
visit www.pcy.org.au/youthweek or www.qld.gov.au/youthweek

INYW NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK
An Australian, State, Territory and Local Government Initiative

Queensland Government

Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PCYC

  
National Youth Week QLD
pcyc.org.au/youthweek

Out & About



Above: Ronald Fave and Sam Coutts sharing their lunch in the ICAN office



L-R Top: Florence Ketchup; Lucille Coolburra; Ena Archibald with children Selena, aged 6, and Jharal, 4; Left: Keith & Mary Anna Bligh; and Mooks Charger

BOXING NEWS BOXING NEWS

“The man no one wants to fight” is the apt description Palm island PCYC boxing trainer Ray Dennis has given to his star pugilist Patrick Clarke.

Not surprising if you consider no opponent could be found for Patrick on a gala Sunstate Amateur Boxing League card at Bohle Barn in Townsville earlier this month.

The event was organised by Townsville Club Art of Strength whose trainer, Scooter Hooper, has been an ardent supporter of the Palm boxers in the past.

“I knew that would happen and I had told Patrick he probably didn’t need to turn up,” Mr Dennis said.

“The boxer who won the main bout there was knocked out by him in an earlier fight night. It was a big night of 14 bouts and a packed house.”

Patrick has been training strongly for the past month hoping to get a bout.

“Patrick is 22-years-old and has won more than 20 bouts,” Mr Dennis said.

Rising young boxer Leelan Sibley

was the only Palm competitor to get a bout. Leelan scored a points win over Robert Jansen in the 54kg class and Mr Dennis said he expected more victories were ahead.

“That was his sixth win in only seven bouts,” he said.

Although disappointed that Patrick is a feared opponent with limited opportunities, Mr Dennis feels he and other Palm boxers will have their chances in the not too distant future.

Successive tournaments will be held in Mackay (April 7), at Magnetic island (April 14/15) and Rockhampton (April 21).

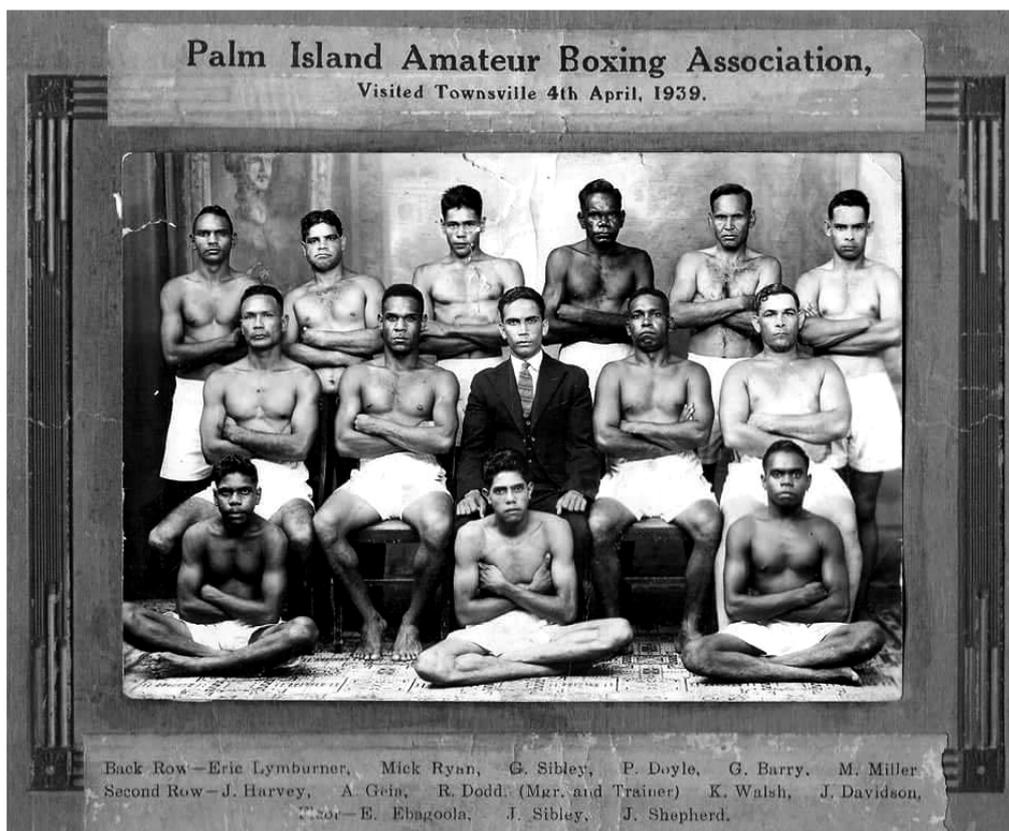
“I hope to take boxers to each one but we will definitely support the Rockhampton event as they have done the right thing by us in the past,” he said.

Mr Dennis is also confident young heavyweight David Sam will win this year.



Congratulations to Chris Evers, selected in the Queensland team as the U15 42kg representative for the Australian Titles in May.

“David has secured a job with the Council so I will have to train him after his work day and I’m looking forward to that,” he said.



**Palm Island Amateur Boxing Association,
Visited Townsville 4th April, 1939.**

Back Row—Eric Lymburner, Mick Ryan, G. Sibley, P. Doyle, G. Barry, M. Miller.
Second Row—J. Harvey, A. Geia, R. Dodd (Mgr. and Trainer) K. Walsh, J. Davidson,
Front Row—E. Ebagoola, J. Sibley, J. Shepherd.

77 years of history: The 1939 Palm Island Boxing Team that toured and fought teams from Brisbane and Townsville. Pictured in the back row is Eric Lymburner, Mick Ryan, George Sibley, P Doyle, Greg Barry, Mick Miller; second row: J Harvey, Albie Geia, Reggie Dodd (Trainer and Manager), Keith Walsh, J Davidson; and in the front row: E Ebagoola, Jack Sibley and Jack Shepherd. Pic thanks to the Palm Island Boxing Facebook page.

Out & About



Left: Alice Johnson; Denise Wilson; Eddie "Woody" Luff; Middle: Aunty Edna Coolburra, who will celebrate turning 69 on 27 March; Above: Candy Walsh & Laurel Palmer



Right: from Issue 21 of the Palm Island Voice: our first 'Out & About' page was taken at the Cairns Allblacks in October 2007

Who was at the Cairns All-Blacks?!

The Palm Island Barracudas put up a good show at the Cairns All-Blacks Carnival last weekend. Unfortunately Hopevale's Dhaarra Bulls beat them to go into the grand final (and lose) against Cairns United, but Palm Island supporters were there in force to cheer their teams on.



Pics on this page were taken by Christine Howes & appear courtesy the Koori Mail

