

## ‘Lost Artists of Palm Island’ works featured inside & out of new centre

Eight months after the ‘Lost Artists of Palm Island’ team was commissioned to provide artwork for the recently opened Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre, the panels have finally been placed along the two main entries to the building.

The original artwork is also displayed throughout the inside of the building.

Campbell Page’s Community Development Program manager Nathan Vinson said it was a fantastic achievement.

“This is a fantastic achievement for them especially to have their artwork displayed and open to public viewing,” he said.

“It is also great to know that further commissions have been offered to many more of our

artists for the various building projects around town.

“From all our staff at the Community Development Program we are very proud of the Lost Artists of Palm Island team and we wish them the very best for the future.”

*Pictured above is Ian Palmer, and right Alannah Nugent, with their respective artworks; Below is the panels at the main entry.*





## Justice Group working hard for good outcomes

The Palm Island Community Company (PICC) Community Justice Group (CJG) has committed to actively supporting the Courts with two members in attendance every fortnight for the past two years, Coordinator Deniece Geia writes...

Members who attend Court are paid a small allowance and provided lunch for their time and input, and are expected to be there from 8.30am – 4.30pm.

CJG also holds a fortnightly Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Specialist Court which all members are expected attend on a rotation basis to provide advice and recommendations to the Magistrate where needed.

PICC employs two DFV Support workers who play a vital role in the Specialist Court, and we have been actively involved in developing a draft DFV Action Plan.

CJG members work voluntarily with parents and children in the community in relation to the crime on the Island.

Our core business is:

- Court support/hearings and sentencing and bail processes as provided for in the Bail Act 1980, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992;
- Specialise in DFV Courts;
- Mediation (conflicts between individuals and families);
- Referral agency to other PICC services;
- Liquor Accord Group membership;
- Provide Cultural Pre-Sentencing Reports to the Courts;
- Restorative Justice Program membership with the Department of Youth Justice, under the Youth Justice Act 1992;
- Process Dry Place Applications;
- Make recommendations to the Minister under Part 6A (Restricted Areas) of the Liquor Act 1992; and,
- Develop networks with relevant agencies to ensure crime prevention, justice, corrections and related issues impacting on our community are addressed.



# Big win for LNP in Townsville

LNP candidate Phillip Thompson convincingly won the seat of Herbert at last Saturday's Federal election.



At the Palm Island booth there were 513 formal votes cast of which Mr Thompson had 113 votes, which was 22% of the total first preference votes.

The other numbers were: Labor's Cathy O'Toole (310), One Nation candidate Amy Lohse (15 votes), United Australia Party's Greg Dowling, who is a former Brisbane

Broncos and Test rugby league player (40 votes), Katter Australia Party's Nanette Radeck (10 votes), Greens' Sam Blackadder (17), Fraser Anning's Conservative National Party (1 vote) and Animal Justice Party's Mackenzie Severns (7 votes).

Mr Thompson is pictured left with his mother-in-law, Palm Island-born Florence Burns.

## LNP promise to end water issues on Palm

The re-elected Liberal Nationals Government has promised to invest up to \$2 million to urgently address the unsafe water quality impacting Palm Island and examine options for a permanent solution to the issue.

Liberal National Party member for Herbert Phillip Thompson said earlier this month that no Australian deserved to live without access to clean and safe water such as what Palm Island was experiencing.

"The water quality issue plaguing Palm Island needs to be urgently addressed," he said.

"I am announcing that the LNP will deliver funds to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for urgent repairs and ongoing maintenance to identify and fix the immediate water quality issue and we will also examine a permanent solution to secure Palm Island's water.

"This is a solution we have

developed in partnership with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council."

He said funding for the project would be delivered out of existing resources within the \$5.2 billion Indigenous Advancement Strategy and provided to Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council to engage a suitably qualified Indigenous and local firm to deliver the repairs.

**MEANWHILE** several Palm Island people living on the mainland have expressed their sympathy for relatives and friends who are negotiating their way around an undrinkable water supply, which can now only be consumed or cooked

with after it is boiled.

Some even said they were staying in Townsville because of the water crisis, saying it was better to have water which was safe to consume.

Robert "Rock" Bulsey was pictured on the right with Clifford Johnson below at Castletown Shopping Centre last week.

"Palm people should have water at all times," he said.



## Skipjacks steal Army's thunder in annual reconciliation match



**The recent reconciliation rugby league match between Palm Island Skipjacks and the Army Thunder team saw history repeat itself when scores ended up deadlocked on 28-all at full-time.**

Under the rules of the Bill Coolburra Shield competition the Skipjacks retained the trophy because they scored the first try in the match.

The inaugural Bill Coolburra Shield was held in July 2008 when – ironically – the scores were also 28-all at full-time and the Skipjacks took that win because they scored the first try.

The game started with Skipjacks racing to a 10-nil advantage after 10 minutes before Army evened the score by half time.

In the second half, Army scored three times within 10 minutes to take the score to 28-10.

However, Skipjacks scored three tries and converted all

three goals to draw at 28-all. Palm Island born Bill "Kookaburra" Coolburra, an Australian Army Sapper of more than 40 years who served in Vietnam, Borneo, Singapore and Thailand, presented the trophy.

The Bill Coolburra Shield match is about relationship building between the Indigenous community of Palm Island and the Army. The strong history of Aboriginal and Islander men and women who have served in the ADF since the Boer war is well-known to the Aboriginal community. As an Army sapper Bill performed heroically as a 'tunnel rat' with the 3rd Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers in Vietnam. He left Palm Island when he was 18 to travel to Charters Towers. "I was going to get a job on a station, I met a mate who said the army was pretty good, so I went there instead," he said.

These days he is highly respected in the North Queensland community for his support and mentoring to Indigenous youth. Over the years he has encouraged youth participation in sport as a pathway to a healthy and purposeful life.

Australian Army Thunder was a national Army side, with players based at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville and throughout NQ.

Skipjacks players were jubilant on their return trip to Palm Island.

Coach Alex Morgan said his best players were front rower Jason Bulsey, who scored the first try, centre Tabua Oui, halfback Maverick Fox, veteran Clinton Bourne and hooker Gary Fulford.

"We led early then Army had a good lead and we fought back with a late try," he said. "It was a great game and we are very proud."

*Word & Pic: Alf Wilson*

This year's annual clash between the Palm Island Skipjacks and Australian Army Thunder for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield will be held at the 1300Smiles Stadium on Friday 9 August.

It will be the 12th game between the sides, with Army holding a 6-5 advantage over Skipjacks who will have a great chance at equalling the ledger.

The late great Palm Aboriginal elder Bill Coolburra served in the Australian Army for many years and was an avid supporter of the Skipjacks, now more than 80 years old.

**2008–2009:** Both clashes were held at Brother's League's Club in Townsville and were won by Skipjacks in remarkably similar circumstances: scores were deadlocked at 28-all in both when the final siren sounded but Skipjacks were awarded both games because they scored first. Pictured left is a *Palm Island Voice* report from Issue 41 (25 August 2009) about the enormous coincidence of winning two years in a row with the same scores and under the same circumstances.

**2010:** Skipjacks lost 22-16 to Army Thunder.

**2011:** In a game of sweet revenge, Skipjacks won the clash held on Palm Island's football oval 46-30.

**2012:** the Army beat Skipjacks 32-14 played as a curtain raiser to the Test between Australia and New Zealand in Townsville.

**2013:** Army Thunder beat Skipjacks 32-28 in an exciting game on Palm Island.

**2014:** NRL players Milton Thaiday and Obe Geia jnr led Skipjacks to a 50-32 victory. Thaiday, now working hard at the helm as President of the Palm island Rugby League, would love to see Skippies win.

**2015:** at 1300Smiles Stadium a much bigger and fitter Australian Army Thunder side beat Skipjacks 44-18. It was a curtain raiser to the North Queensland Cowboys 28-24 NRL win over the Zealand Warriors.

**2016:** Army won the match on Palm Island 36-24.

**2017:** Skipjacks defeated Australian Army Thunder 26-20 at the Cowboys' home ground.

**2018:** Last year's game was a curtain-raiser to the Cowboys 18-8 loss to Canberra Raiders in Round 8 – Army won the game 52-24.

# Palm Island Voice



Public &  
Community Notices



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(277) will be

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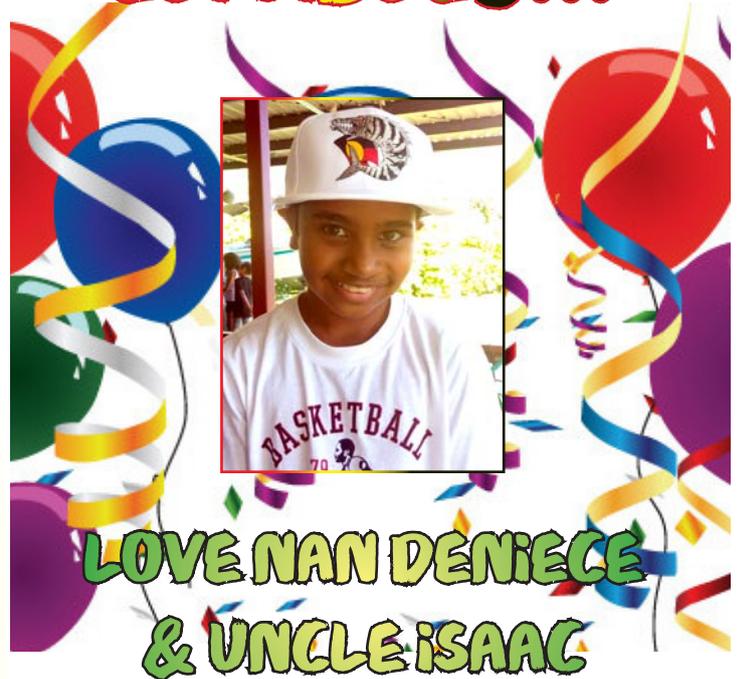
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# TDRRL games showing talent

**TALENTED** Palm Island footballers Darryl Pearson and Gresham Ross jnr were amongst the stars during round six of Townsville and District Rugby League fixtures over this month.

These gifted and multi-skilled players were well amongst the tries for their respective teams in reserve grade.

Darryl scored four tries and kicked four goals in Western Lions 32-14 win over Burdekin for a personal tally of 24 points.

A wonderful performance by the lad known affectionately as “Pinky”.

Gresham scored two tries in Brothers 37-12 victory over arch rivals Herbert River.

In A grade Phillip Daisy scored a try in Brothers 22-12 win over Herbert River.

Phillip is a son of the legendary Vern Daisy who is

a genuine role model for youths.

That left Brothers at the top of the table: Points: Brothers 24, Charters Towers 16, Herbert River 12, Burdekin 12, Western Lions 12, Centrals 8, Norths 4.

Also a big congratulations to Lyrech Mara (*pictured*) who was selected for the NQ Marlins ladies team after Women’s Championships in Townsville at the beginning of the month.

Townsville women dominated the weekend with a 3-0 record to win the carnival – 10-6 over Mackay, 48-0 over Cairns, and 46-0 over Outback.



Jenni-Sue Hoepper, Lyrech Mara and Angela Solomon, along with Cairns’ Stephanie Mooka and Mackay’s Levinia Robinson, will represent North Queensland against Central Region in Mackay.

## Licensing sorted for CDP participants

Earlier this month Daisy Gigiba & Barry Lea from the Queensland Indigenous Drivers Licensing Unit (IDLU) stayed on Palm Island for two days to help CDP participants and others with their licensing needs.

The IDLU and the programs they run aim to reduce unlicensed driving in remote and Indigenous communities in far North Queensland including Cape York, the Gulf and Torres Strait islands.

Through increasing licence ownership, the IDLU aims to reduce incarceration rates for licensing offences, reduce road trauma and improve access to employment, education, health, social and cultural activities.

Campbell Page and the Community Development Program supported 16 participants in gaining their learners licences for the first time, four to renew



their licences and one to conduct her practical drivers test.

(Pic taken in Lockhart River by Christine Howes)

# Home game success for league juniors

Palm Island junior rugby league's first home games of the season were a success, PIJRL Secretary Tanya Haines says.

"We had six visiting teams come over on an early ferry from Townsville and about 150 people come through the gates," she said.

"Campbell Page and the Palm Island Community Company help us with buses to transport the players.

"The Under 6-year-olds played against the Brothers Shamrocks, the 7-year-olds played Central Tigers White, the 8s against Brothers Norths Blue, the 9s played Western Lions Kings, 10s against Central Tigers Black and the 11's played against Central Tigers Gold.

"It was a very successful day, the 10's game was very fast and exciting game

which had all the spectators, managers and other teams cheering them on.

"A number of the 9-year-olds also stepped up into the 10s, including Lulu and Raymond Walsh, as well as Mickeal Sibley."

She said the teams' new jerseys had arrived just in time.

"We also had a canteen going selling hot food and cold drinks," she said.

"Everyone enjoyed the day and many families came out to support our junior players.

"So I'd like to say thank you to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, PICC and Campbell Page.

"Also Genami Geia Snr for

being our MC and PIASC staff Lex Wotton, Bob Ryan and Shanden Burns for their hard work and support throughout the day, especially with setting up early in the morning and helping out wherever they were needed throughout the day.

"Our last game was played at 12.15pm and finished by 1pm which left visitors time to visit the Fish Shop, for their famous chips, and also for some of the players to have a swim and play at the sandbank while waiting for the ferry to arrive."

She said more volunteers were needed for the next round of home games on Saturday 1 June.

