



Palm to host 2019 Coolburra Shield

Palm Island will host the much anticipated rugby league match between Skipjacks Club and Australian Army Thunder side for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield on October 4.

It was to be held at the 1300 Smiles Stadium in Townsville in early August but has been postponed.

A massive crowd is expected to be at Barracudas Oval where the home ground advantage is pronounced.

Skipjacks should field a quality side with a shortened local club competition ready to commence in July.



Pic of the action in 2018 by Alf Wilson

Another bonus will be the TDRL competition, in which many Palm footballers compete, will be over.

This year's game will be the 12th between the two sides with Army now holding a 6-5

winning record.

The late Palm Island elder Bill Coolburra served in the Australian Army for many years and was an avid Skipjacks supporter, a club which is now more than 80 years old.



LEFT: 'The Enemy Within' workshops were delivered by Joe Williams to several groups on Palm Island late last month, thanks to PICC, Ferdy's Haven and DATSIP. Full story and more pics on page 3...

Karmine's family working hard to get him to Championships

Karmine Friday and his family are still working hard to raise the money for him to travel to Toowoomba and represent North Queensland at the state Cross Country Championships later this month.

Some raffles have been drawn already while others are still going and will be drawn when they are sold (likely by NAIDOC Week). Tickets can be

bought from his grandmother, Elsa Morton, who will be sitting outside of the Safe Haven. If you're on the Island feel free to come and see her.



RAFFLE

2 Adult Return Ferry tickets to be won



Support Karmine Friday on his trip to Toowoomba to represent North Queensland at the State Cross Country Championship.

As soon as the tickets are sold out, Karmine will draw the winner

Raffle tickets are \$2
See Elsa Morton at the Safe Haven



RAFFLE

2 return Hinterland airfare tickets

Support Karmine Friday on his trip to Toowoomba to represent North Queensland at the State Cross Country Championship.



Karmine will draw the winner at 12pm on Friday 8th of July

Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20
Elsa Morton is selling tickets



2 Meat pack prizes to be won



PRIZES:

- 1st prize winner—\$90 meat pack
- 2nd prize winner—\$80 Family meat pack

The winner will be drawn after tickets are sold out

Support Karmine Friday on his trip to Toowoomba to represent North Queensland at the State Cross Country Championship.

Raffle tickets are \$2
Elsa Morton is selling tickets at the Safe Haven

SEAFOOD PACKS

to be won



Support Karmine Friday on his trip to Toowoomba to represent North Queensland at the State Cross Country Championship.

PRIZES

- 1st winner—\$145 seafood pack**
(2 kg cooked prawns, 8 cooked bugs, 1 dozen oysters, 1 seafood sauce, 1 cooler bag)
- 2nd winner—\$130 seafood pack**
(2 kg cooked prawns, 8 cooked bugs, 1 seafood sauce, 1 cooler bag)
- 3rd winner—\$85 seafood pack**
(1 kg cooked prawns, 3 cooked bugs, 1 dozen oysters 1 seafood sauce, 1 cooler bag)



Raffle tickets are \$5 each
5 for \$20
Elsa Morton is selling tickets at the Safe Haven

Joe's story gets into 'The Enemy Within'

Former NRL player, world boxing title holder and proud Wiradjuri First Nations man Joe Williams spent two days on Palm Island last month, talking to stakeholders and local mob regarding connection, wellness and suicide prevention.

Joe spent his time in community at the Mens Yarning Group, Diversion Centre, Palm Island Boxing Club and delivering 'The Enemy Within' workshop at the Children and Family Centre. He shared his own personal story regarding his struggles with mental health, and talked about his battle with bipolar and suicidal ideation, through to his journey of wellbeing and recovery.

It was his first visit to Palm Island and he said he absolutely loved it and can't wait to return.

For more information on Joe's story and the steps he took to get well check out his website <https://joewilliams.com.au/>

Thanks to PICC, Ferdys Haven and DATSIP for sponsoring Joe's visit to the community.



Tribute: Elizabeth Jane Cozens (nee Geia, nee Hanson)

20/10/1950 – 18/6/2019

Foundation Member – Palm Island Netball Association – 1975

The deadly sport of netball has been played on Palm Island for many, many years.

It was way back when, that one of our first Presidents of netball was Auntie Betty (Charles).

We believe she helped to run successful netball competitions on the Island.

In 1975 Elizabeth Geia and her friend Oriel Taylor established an official Netball Association, whereby Palm Island Netball became affiliated with Queensland Netball and then the Australian Netball Association.

As a result of this many

young women from this community took the opportunity to represent Palm Island Netball by travelling to the mainland to compete in many netball carnivals held all over Queensland.

These young women got to compete in carnivals in Cairns, Innisfail, Townsville, Mt Isa, Home Hill, Airlie Beach, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Noosa and Ipswich.

Elizabeth had 'opened the door' for our girls (and later, our young men) to showcase their talents to mainstream Australia.

It was no surprise then, that

the first Indigenous woman to be selected to represent Queensland at the National Titles, was a young woman from Palm Island.

Her name is Kathryn (Katie) Castors, now Katie Armit.

Katie got to travel to Hobart in Tasmania to compete in the National Titles for two consecutive years in 1976 and 1977.

Of course since then, there have been quite a few more players being

selected to represent North Queensland, Queensland and Australia.

Just to name a few, they included players such as Alice Morgan and Janelle Creed who represented both Queensland and Australia in the then Under 16s, and Darryl Haines who represented Australia in the men's division.

These players also had the opportunity to tour Fiji with the Australian Netball Team in 1994.

We genuinely and sincerely thank Elizabeth (and Oriel) for opening that 'door'.

Back in 1975 one of the Palm Island Netball Foundation Teams was the Geia Family team 'Seagulls'.

We are sure Elizabeth must have been extremely proud of the fact that, 44 years later, the Seagulls team is still the ONLY Foundation team to still compete to this day.

We can only imagine Elizabeth is now be sitting with her dear Mum, debating as to who has the right score for Seagulls whenever they played.

Now out of sight but Forever in our Hearts.

Rest in Peace Elizabeth.

Until we meet again.

In Loving Memory from the Bwgc Colman Netball Palm Island Committee Members.



ABOVE: A Facebook post with the link to Mrs Geia's obituary in the Townsville Bulletin drew this response from two former photographers for The Australian and The Sunday Sun in Brisbane [shared here with permission].

Palm Island Voice

Public &
Community Notices



The next deadline for the PALM ISLAND VOICE
(Issue 280) will be

Thursday 11 July

FOR ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION ONLY ON

Thursday 18 JULY

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Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 3,310 'likes' on
Facebook!!!

If you have any questions please contact
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4770 0200

TDRL shines on for Palm players

TALENTED Palm Island footballers continue to shine in the Townsville and District Rugby League competition.

In A Grade round 11 speedster Gresham Ross jnr scored a try for Brothers in their 24-10 loss to Herbert River.

Brothers which lead the ladder are coached by Roy

Baira of Palm descent.

In under 19 grade Trakium Prior scored a try for Western Lions in their 34-all draw with Burdekin. Patrick Congoo scored a try for Centrals under

19's in their 36-28 victory over Charters Towers.

In the women's league Sarah Prior and Kimikka Ross each scored a try in Centrals 32-16 win over Charters Towers.

2018 Coolburra Shield

Pics thanks to Alf Wilson



Editor's Note

The *Palm Island Voice* has been published and run on a shoestring budget for most of the past ten years and is about to downsize to four pages. I'm very sorry to say this will mean the boxing and football reports on these pages will likely be Alf Wilson's last 'paid' contributions to our pages.

Alf, you have done great work here, I'd like to thank you for that and wish you all the best with your ongoing work for the *Koori Mail* and the many other publications you will no doubt continue to write for.

Yours sincerely, Christine Howes, Editor.

Palm Island champions Golden Gloves comp

Palm Island boxers Raymond Haines and Eric Martin won gold medals at the prestigious Golden Gloves Championships without throwing a punch last month.

Boxers from as far away as Caloundra, Rockhampton, Mareeba, Cairns, the Burdekin, Gordonvale and Cape York competed at Townsville's Centenary Hotel from June 21–23.

A total of 23 bouts were held in various divisions at the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament hosted by Townsville Club Art of Strength.

Amazingly the 17-year-old Eric still hasn't had an official bout in the ring but still came away with gold in the intermediate 57kg division.

Raymond (*pictured right*) won his gold in the intermediate 60kg division.

"Both Eric and Raymond couldn't be matched in those divisions so won by walkover and

automatically got the gold medals," trainer Ray Dennis said.

"Raymond is an experienced boxer who has had plenty of bouts but Eric is still to have his but has got lots of potential."

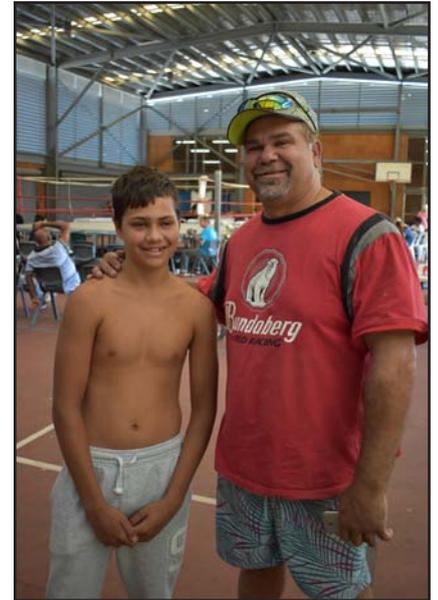
Raymond did enter the ring in the senior 60kg division and won a silver medal, losing the bout to Art of Strength's Wayne Raye.

"It was a split decision and could have gone either way – I thought Raymond did enough to win," Mr Dennis said.

Promising Palm youngster Jase Thimble (*pictured above right with proud Dad Jason*) also performed well to win a silver medal

in the Schoolboys 60kg class.

"His father Jason Thimble



was a quality boxer and rugby league player and young Jase will win plenty of bouts," Mr Dennis said.

Palm boxers will be heading to Townsville again for a Knuckles Club tournament at the Ross Island Hotel on August 3.

The club is hoping to have up to six boxers there.

"We may even have some at a Babinda tournament the next weekend on August 10," he said.



MEANWHILE an octogenarian bout may – or may not – be on the cards after boxing mentor Des Upton's issued a challenge to veteran Palm Island boxing trainer Ray Dennis for them battle it out in the ring one more time.

Mr Upton, aged 80 (*left*), is the head trainer of the Rockhampton PCYC Boxing Club and a close friend of 82-year-old Mr Dennis (*right*). Mr Upton said it would be a great spectacle if the pair could fight an exhibition match at a future tournament.

"I think I would win as I am younger than Ray," Mr Upton said.

When told of the challenge Mr Dennis laughed at the suggestion, saying he wasn't sure if either of them were fit enough to go another round.



Desert Pea Media group re-visits Palm Island youth

Desert Pea Media, who deliver community media projects in remote and regional Indigenous communities around Australia, will be on Palm Island until this weekend, working on a music and film clip production project with young people.

The organisation has been around since 2003 and has visited Palm Island previously (as reported in Issue 50, published in March 2010! – see right!).

Project Manager Belle Arnold said FNQ Primary Health Network funded them to deliver 'Break it Down' projects in the community, which is aimed at creating conversations about mental health, wellbeing, and drug and alcohol awareness.

The end result of their work will be the writing, recording and production of a hip hop song and music video and two short films articulating the conversation.

They have been working with as many as 20 young people aged between 14 and 17 over a five day period.



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INSIDE:



Minister opens new retail store



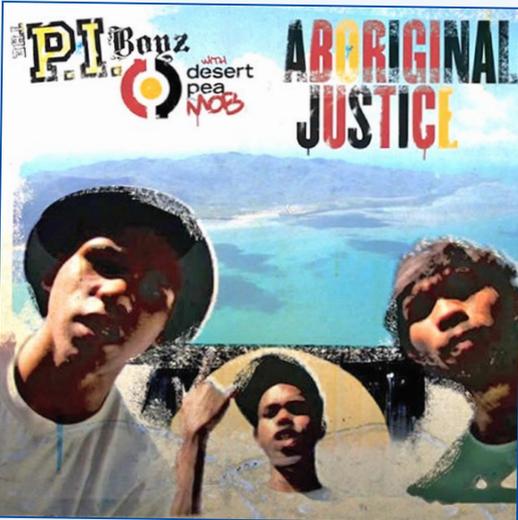
Boxers try-out for medal chances



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 Bwgcolman 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 unearthed website last month and is currently in ninth spot on the same website's hip hop charts (<http://www.triplejuneearthed.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. 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...**