



CCTV leads to charges for kids 'gone too far'



Police have charged at least two juveniles with arson after a devastating fire early this morning destroyed the historical building intended to be a cultural centre for the community.

The building was the last intact structure from Fantome Island, moved across to Palm Island Hospital in 1976 before it was donated to the community by Queensland Health earlier this year.

Palm Island Police Officer in Charge Paul James said he expected at least five others would also be facing breaking and entering charges, thanks to high quality Closed Circuit Television which has been installed on Council buildings, including the servo where the culprits were able to be identified.

Palm Island residents were shocked to wake up to flames and thick black smoke coming from the building, which according to witnesses was blazing at full strength by about 6.30am.

Sgt James said the building was completely destroyed and would have to be demolished.

He said a number of witnesses had come forward with information and that investigations would continue over the next few days.

The incident has angered and saddened the community.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said they had lost what was going to be a significant asset for the community.

"That building and the building beside it were going to be renovated and made into a cultural centre for the community where a lot of Palm Island history was going to be kept for years to come," he said.

"It's really disappointing, this puts us back a couple of years, we were that close to having the dollars to do those renovations.

Continued page 2...

Arson attack 'gone too far' - Mayor

From page 1...

"A lot of the elders in the community have said they wanted that space where our history could be kept, and that building was right in the centre of town after Council took on the expense of having it moved from the Hospital grounds," Mr Lacey said.

"We have to go and look for money now to build something else, but it's not going to be the same and it's not going to be what we want, that was one of our very oldest buildings in the community and we don't



have many Queensland-style buildings.

"I'm very sad and disappointed.

"The police have found out who these young people are and they should be dealt with by the law, burning a building down has gone too far."

Councillors call on parents to 'teach kids right from wrong'

Vandals have again hit Sonny Sibley's 1957 memorial strike stone, upsetting the Sibley family and prompting further calls for parents to take responsibility.

Deputy Mayor Cr Raymond Sibley said it was a shame.

"It's a shame that vandalism has happened again," he said.

"Responsibility rests with the parents, they should be fined for not taking action against these kids."

Sonny Sibley Jnr, who works for JobFind, said it was a disgrace.

"I think it's a disgrace for them to do this to my uncle, who I am named after, he was one of the men who stood up for the rights of this community.

"I hope those people don't think it's me because it's not me, the plaque down there belongs to my uncle."

Cr Mick Thaiday told the Palm Island Voice his father's stone had also been damaged about a year ago.

He said the kids who were doing it had no respect and their parents needed to "teach

them right from wrong".

"They've got no respect and the community's screaming at the Council," he said.

"Take the kids home and teach them right from wrong, if that's the future we have to look forward to, we're in trouble."

Council said the plaque will be cleaned and the rock re-painted.



"I think it's a disgrace for them to do this to my uncle...he was one of the men who stood up for the rights of this community"

– Sonny Sibley Jnr –

Minister visits for 'on the ground' talks



Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women Karen Struthers visited Palm Island late last month to meet with elders and community leaders.

During her two-day stay on the Island she met with a number of non-government organisations, including the Palm Island Community Company, Kootana Women's Centre, PCYC, Murri Watch, Red Cross and Relationships Australia.

"The only way to get a clear idea of how services are operating and helping the community is to talk to the people on the ground – the staff who run the services and the people who benefit from

them," Ms Struthers said. She also inspected local housing with Mayor Alf Lacey. "It's an exciting time for Palm Island, we have invested \$5 million towards new community housing, which is currently at the tender stage," Ms Struthers said.

"On top of that, a federally-funded feasibility study is underway to find the best location for a new subdivision to bring more modern housing to the Island."

Inspecting refurbishment work ongoing at the retail store, which has been funded by profits generated by its operations, was also on Ms Struthers itinerary.

"We're spending \$1.4 million

to refurbish the complex, including a major upgrade of refrigeration facilities, a new internal wall lining and ceiling, new floor coverings, new shelving and a big upgrade of the takeaway facilities," she said. "When the work is completed, the Palm Island retail store will be unrecognisable, it will be transformed into a truly modern facility."

Minister Struthers said store management was working with the Palm Island Council to ensure the new store met the needs of the whole community.

Council, in consultation with the community, is currently considering a name for the refurbished store.

Legislative review to cover hunting, police and alcohol

Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Desley Boyle has announced reviews of the Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act 1978 and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984.

Ms Boyle said some provisions in the two pieces of legislation overlapped, including in the areas of hunting and gathering rights and the power of councils to employ community police to enforce local laws.

"These two pieces of legislation also differ

in areas such as alcohol provisions and rights of entry," she said. "It is high time we reviewed and harmonised the legislation. I assure the councils and the people of these communities that there will be thorough, local and genuine consultation.

"This is an important opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all other stakeholders to have their say and be part of developing a modern network of shire councils that can operate on a level playing field with every other council around the State," Ms Boyle said.

Health D-G warning: 'stay vigilant on basic hygiene'

Queensland Health Director-General Michael Reid has warned Palm Islanders to remain vigilant about basic hygiene to protect themselves against further outbreaks of swine flu.

Mr Reid (*pictured right*) visited the Island for the first time earlier this month and also said he was impressed with staff and facilities at the Palm Island Hospital.

"There is still the issues around swine flu and the impact of H1N1 which we think has receded now," he said.

"But we need to be vigilant as there is evidence from overseas that it comes in waves, so we just have to make sure that the basic principles that applied before with basic hygiene continue to apply."

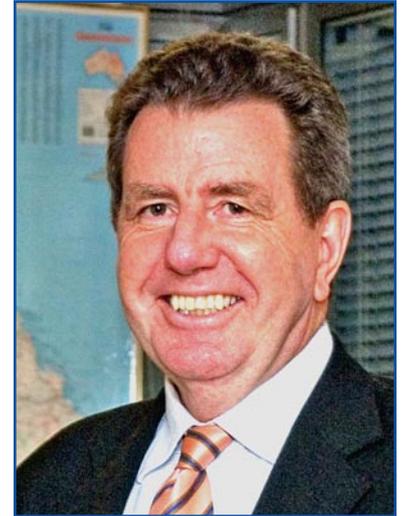
Mr Reid's visit was also about how Palm Island's Health Action Plan might be developed to "lay out priorities over the next few years for the community".

"I got an invite from the Mayor to come here to visit and I have taken up that offer to visit the hospital and the hospital staff, the primary care workers, health care workers and the Mayor," he said.

"The Health Action Plan is currently being developed and should lay out the priorities over the next few years for the community.

"I am proud to be associated with the hospital, (it's) clean, efficient, staffed with good staff and has some of the lowest waiting times in the state of Queensland.

"I think the task for the future is how we balance that acute care – one of the things H1N1 taught us was the community welcomes us being more proactive in health care and promotion



Safe house for kids will be ready next year

State Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone has announced a child safe house to be built on Palm should be completed by sometime in 2010.

She said the Government had made 10 other similar commitments to communities in north Queensland with funding which includes provision for a non-government service provider to run the houses.

"This funding includes more than \$3.1 million over four years for a non-government service provider to run the child safe house that will accommodate four to six children with live-in workers," Mandy said.

"It is anticipated that community workers will provide support and practical advice to families in need of out-of-home care.

"The Child Safe Houses will help remote Indigenous areas provide children with a temporary place to stay within their community while their longer-term needs are being assessed, and maintain their links with their family and culture.

"We know how important it is that children maintain their cultural ties and kinship connections, but they also need to be safe.

"That's why the Bligh Government is funding the Child Safe Houses so that children and young people don't have to be placed outside their communities for their safety.

"Each safe house will also have a family support service to provide intensive support and practical assistance for parents to address child protection concerns."

School's art features on mall chairs

Block chairs featuring artwork from Bwgcolman School students, have been put into place in the Mall. They are the final phase of the Palm Island Mall refurbishment. Pictured here is Trade Trainer Trevor Murat working with trainees Ingai Geia and Austin Walsh.



Palm riders win at Rollingsstone

Our very own star riders shared and celebrated a good deal of success over the weekend of the Rollingsstone Rodeo, says Palm Island Rodeo organiser Pauline Shortjoe.

"Our riders took out the Rollingsstone Rodeo in their category, so coming first, second and third were Freddy Ross and Theo Willis and Nathaniel Murray," she said.

"With the open and novice Roy Boy Murray, Gavin Bramwell, Desmond Bramwell and Roddy Shortjoe competed and had a very good rides.

"No points were taken, the bulls were mean and tough, but they had a good time.

"In the novice, Christopher Seaton also had a short but famous ride – very quick and very quick to fall off.

"We also had our female riders, we had one female in the novice, Zillah Bramwell, had her first ride at Rollingsstone and she had a good



ride, also very quick."

She said Juarral Newbery, Simeon Oui, Seldean and Billy Clarke, also rode and "did very well also".

"Three-year-old Anthony Shortjoe was the highlight of the evening, after winning the Mickey Bull Calf Rider out in Charters Towers and for this event he showed he wasn't frightened to ride, this was his fourth ride," she said.

"He was wearing spurs and everything and he's still the reigning youngest rider in Australia.

"We're just very proud that all our boys and our female riders competed in Rollingsstone and they're off to Ingham this weekend to compete in the Sugar Rodeo."

Spring Fair celebrates Palm Island lifestyle

Palm Island's lifestyle and history were celebrated last weekend with the community's famous Spring Fair.

Events included the opening of the 'Reel Women Jetty' and a football carnival featuring Townsville team the Bindal Sharks.

Cr Mick Thaiday said other activities included markets and karaoke.

"It turned out pretty good," he said.

"There was a big mob out on the Friday for the football and a big mob in the morning for the markets as well, so both days were really good."

Mayor Alf Lacey said the Council had worked with community members to name the jetty.

"'Reel' means the fishing line reel because as we all know a lot of our elderly women in particular use, and have used, the jetty for fishing which is a great pastime in our community," he said.

"There's a power that's attached to the jetty.

"Council was proud to honour our women in our community, particularly those 'reel women' who actually helped to move Palm forward in their own way."



Mr Lacey said he also wanted to thank other visitors to the Island for the two-day event, including the Bindal Sharks.

Cr Thaiday said he particularly wanted to thank Jody Ryan for a job well done.

"I just want to thank a couple of people for the success of the Spring Fair and the biggest thank you goes to Jody Ryan," he said.

"She's been being tireless for the past few months, getting everything ready, she never stopped.

"Thanks also to the council for helping all this along and getting it going, and the people for putting up a good show down at the football, here in the mall and the markets.

"But the main emphasis is to Jody Ryan for a job well done and every one else in the office for a job well done."

Bwgc Colman School develops their very own 'predator safe' social networking website

Bwgc Colman school kids are learning computer and social skills with what may be a 'first' through their very own online social networking site.

The Department of Education does not allow students to use commercial sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter while at school as these sites can be "subject to attack" from computer hackers and other less savoury members of the community at large.

But because our kids love using sites like this, especially as they get older, Mr Perry, the School's IT coordinator, has created a site purely for the use of the kids attending the Bwgc Colman school.

It is called My SpaceBook and has most of the features of commercial sites.

Users can chat, share photos, write up notes, join blogs and do all the normal social networking activities.

It is completely safe from hackers and will prove a

learning place where each student can "own" his or her own site and practice all the skills they will need to use Facebook type sites when they are older.

PLUS it provides a place where Mr Perry and their teachers can discuss the good things about sites like this as well as problems and other issues such as online "identity theft". Students and staff are already excited about the site and joining up quickly so they can access its many features.

Future Councillors test their potential

On Wednesday the 12th of August, JunC from Bwgcolman went on an excursion to the local Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council offices.

After learning about democracy and rules all term, the students enjoyed seeing some of the stuff they had learned in class in the real world.

Deputy CEO Aunty Deniece Geia showed us around and gave us information about what Council does.

The kids even got the chance to sit around the big table in the meeting room and pretended they were in a Council meeting.

We then went into the double story blue building and talked to all of the workers about their jobs for the Council. The kids really enjoyed their visit to the Council and learned heaps.

All of the kids put their hands up when asked "who wants to work for Council when you grow up?" Back at school, we had our own class election and we nominated four candidates to be our Class Mayor for a day.

The candidates were: Jaisheree Oui, Miriam Palmer, Dylan Desatge and Hananias Murphy, and each gave a little speech. Then all of the kids voted on their voting paper - choosing one person they thought most suited to be Mayor.



Once the votes were counted up it was revealed that Hananias was the Class Mayor. He got to make decisions in the class for one day, like what activities the class would do and who could go out to lunch first.

He even got his very own special "Mayors Chair" that he got to sit on all day. At the end of the day Hananias was really worn out, it's a big job being Mayor!

JunC would like to thank everyone at Council who spoke to our class and especially a big thank you to Aunty Deniece for giving us her time.

**Miss Jess and Nana Karen
JunC Teacher and IEA**



From the

Mayor's Desk

Welcome everybody to the Mayor's column for this edition of the *Palm Island Voice*.

Recently, we've seen two sets of community meetings held on the Island.

Council welcomes community meetings because we believe they are part of a healthy process.

What we don't like is the amount of abuse that goes on at some of the meetings and I'll make it clear to the community that these meetings need be structured in a way where people can sit down and talk about issues or concerns in the town.

The second community meeting called by the Council went very well.

We talked about a range of things such as town planning and the Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

Over the past month or two, we've seen some major developments with the ILUA.

Council and the Bwgcolman Tribal Council is currently sitting with Manbarra to talk about an agreement over the Palm Island DOGIT.

I know from the recent meetings there are concerns in the community, but I want to assure the people of Palm Island that we are in the early stages and there is no "done deal" in terms of an ILUA at this point in time.

How any agreement will look is something for the whole community, the Council and everyone to sit down and to talk about.

There is a lot of misinformation going around and I want to call on the community not to listen to that misinformation.

We all know that we have a strong attachment to Country and to the land that we live on.

With the misinformation that is going on, I would make my point quite clear as the Mayor of Palm that people will be informed and they will be informed properly in terms of any land use agreement on Palm.

At the community meetings we also talked about the Mal Brough agreement signed by the former Mayor, and we went through some of the issues around that.

People at the meeting said this particular agreement looked like a Northern Territory-style intervention.

One of the things we did say as Council is that the agreement is here, it's been signed, and we will try to work with it because it brings benefits for the community.

It's important to us as a Council that we continue our consultation process with the community.

We hope to have someone on board very shortly who will be working with the community to let them know how that agreement will work on the ground.

As a Council we believe that information should be given to the community, especially given the community did not have any input into the writing of that agreement.

This Council is prepared to put our documents on the table and invite the community to be a part of it.

We are very open to having more community input into any agreements around things such as land issues and other strong issues to do with the community.

But Council also has obligations under the Local Government Act to make decisions on behalf of the Shire, that includes all of us.

So these community meetings which have been happening over the past few months are very important to us.

I'd personally like to thank everybody for coming, it was a very good meeting and the responses I got from that meeting were very useful.

Certainly people felt it gave them an opportunity share their concerns and talk directly with the Council about community issues.



Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women Karen Struthers accepts a gift of local artwork from Mayor Alf Lacey during her recent visit

Some of the other things Council has been doing includes working on developing a Corporate Plan and a Town Plan, both of which are required under the Local Government Act.

I think it's important for community people to also have their input into this process with Council.

I want to invite community members to talk directly with the Council to make suggestions and certainly show up at community forums to put those issues on the table.

It is important to us that we get this business right for the community and that we are seen to be doing the right thing.

The 09-10 financial year budget sees Council having to tighten up the belt in terms of how we're spending and we are facing some cutbacks.

We're not the only council, as we've seen in the economic downturn, a lot of councils and governments are facing cutbacks, so I make

no apologies that.

It's very important that we get this right particularly when it comes to financial accountability.

The budget on public record and it's there for everyone to see.

We've rolled up our sleeves as much as we can in terms of the council.

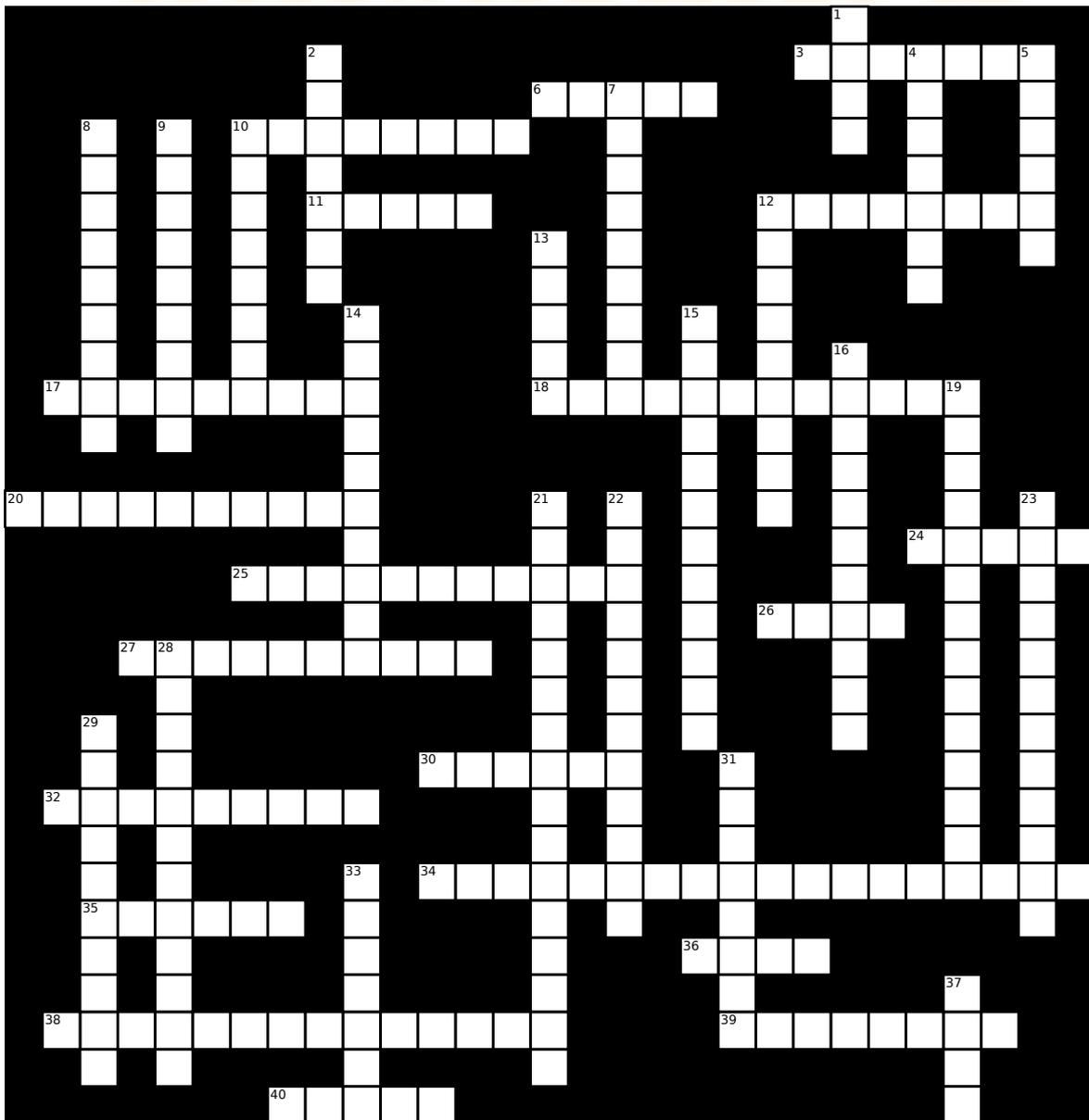
Lastly I just want to remind people that Council meetings are open to the general public and I encourage you all to come along and not listen to the misinformation that is in the community with people playing their own political politics in the community.

Council also continues to have delegation days for the community.

From me and the Council, thank you and we hope that you enjoy this edition of the *Palm Island Voice*.

**Yours in community spirit
MAYOR ALF LACEY**

Palm Island Voice Crossword Issue 42



Across

- 3 Federal indigenous affairs minister
- 6 Alf is our Mayor
- 10 How rugby league is played on NITV
- 11 Whaddyow - Mark Bin Bakar's character in a dress
- 12 Rugby League legend son of Evelyn Scott
- 17 The bay
- 18 Awards coming up soon
- 20 Company operating one of the ferry services
- 24 Action and spills on horseback
- 25 ABC radio show Sunday nights
- 26 Breakfast radio announcer on 4K1G
- 27 Australian of the Year
- 30 Reptile that lays eggs
- 32 Indigenous newspaper
- 34 NQ Cowboys captain
- 35 Mosquitoes carry this disease
- 36 TV station
- 38 This actress is 'radiant'
- 39 Yolgnu man who is a famous actor
- 40 Social Justice Commissioner first name Tom

Down

- 1 TI head dress
- 2 Original band to sing my island home
- 4 Cooked in the ground
- 5 National week of observance
- 7 Name of the reconciliation shield, first name Bill
- 8 Adam James hosts this show on NITV
- 9 **He made a tribute album for Kev Carmody**
- 10 Famous dance company
- 12 Palm Island's reconciliation shield winning team
- 13 Another name for calamari
- 14 Origin series winner
- 15 every first tuesday in November
- 16 2009 Dally M winner
- 19 kids love this time
- 21 NITV music show
- 22 Gold medal winner in Sydney
- 23 Palm Island junior boxing champ
- 28 Still happening in the NT
- 29 NBL basketball team
- 31 Australia's biggest indigenous music festival
- 33 Catholic school has this Saint's name
- 37 Rhymes with nice and good to eat

Palm Island Voice would like to acknowledge the Crossword Maker at <http://www.armoredpenguin.com/crossword/> and thank David Goeldner for his fine work in putting together these clues for us.

Bwgcorman books a popular success

The Bwgcorman series of animal welfare books written by popular horse carer and regular Palm Island visitor Rae-Jon Bunting has been distributed to over 180 schools across the state says Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries.

The set of four books explain how to care for animals through 'old fella Stan'.

QPIF's animal welfare senior project officer Ian Rodger said there had been an enthusiastic response to a survey conducted in schools about the books earlier this year.

Mr Rodger said some schools in larger urban centres where they had few Indigenous students and little exposure to horses found the books interesting and educational.



One Gold Coast school responded: "Having no Indigenous students at the school the books gave the children an insight into the lifestyle of another culture that loves animals."

Other schools noted that Indigenous students responded extremely well to the subject matter and the key messages.

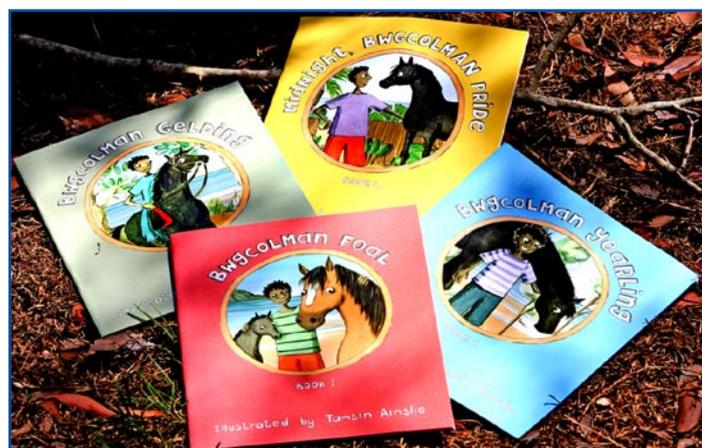
Schools in Indigenous communities in particular found the children responded most enthusiastically to the book.

Ms Bunting said she had been asked for copies of the books from as far afield as Indonesia.

"I don't know how they found out about it," she said.

She also said too much "horsemanship" on the Island was picked up from television.

"They get this from TV, unfortunately, it's not strictly the kids' fault," she said.



"One of the biggest things I've found is that kids tie their horses up by the reins with a bit in its mouth. You only have to watch a cowboy show and you see it and that is the biggest no-no because a horse can pull back and break its jaw and then it is finished."

Ms Bunting said kids should be also be wary of tying up horses in the hot sun.

"Every summer, those horses become heat-stressed and the kids, they'll jump up and get a glass of water or get a drink, but when a horse is hot a horse won't drink, you've got to allow it to cool down before it will drink," she said. "You've got to get off the horse, let him cool down and then he'll have a drink, he won't drink when he's hot."

She also wanted to encourage kids to take young horses to Blackie, Shaun or the others on the Island who know how to break horses in properly.

"If you're going to break it in, get somebody professional who knows what they're doing," she said.

She said there were at least four people on the Island who knew the right way to break-in and train horses.

Schools wishing to obtain free copies of the Bwgcorman books can contact the QPIF Business Information Centre on 13 25 23.

***** GOT A QUESTION FOR RAE-JON? *****

If you have a question about looking after any of your pets or animals, write to the Editor (see back page) and we'll pass your letter on for Rae-Jon to answer in the next issue.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

You 'wheelie' should know...!?

...Council wheelie bins are for sale @ \$88 each - pay at Collections then take your receipt to reception for the bins to be delivered to your household. **For more info call 4770 1177.**



Palm Island Voice

Advertising Information & Rates

Palm Island Voice is a fortnightly community newsletter, first launched in August 2007. Advertising space is available to any businesses, organisations and individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community. The hard copy format is black and white, hopefully soon to be colour, with an electronic versions available in full colour PDF for email distribution. A system of paid subscriptions for non-Palm Island residents will be implemented in 2009. *Palm Island Voice* is published by the Palm Island Aboriginal Council with support from a Queensland State Government initiative through the Community Renewal program.

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Eighth Page \$66 Sixteenth Page \$44

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Sale Price over \$1000 & Other Notices – 4 lines – \$10

Ads are to be submitted by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see p 16 for details).

Article and photo submissions to the *Palm Island Voice* are welcome. Original submissions of articles or photographs must belong to the contributor, and/or delivered with an indication of the owner's permission to publish, no later than 5pm on deadline day (as per details on p 16).

Articles should be no longer than 500 words and digital photographs should be as high quality as possible (no thumbnails please!).

Final say on advertising, news items, other contributions and photo reproductions is at the discretion of the *Palm Island Voice* Editor.

DAY&DAY
SHIPPING

Palm Island Service Schedule "MV OLYMPIC"

Monday

Depart Lucinda: 7.30 am
Arrive Palm Is: 10.15 am
Depart Palm Is: 11.30 am
Arrive Lucinda: 2.00 pm

Tuesday

Depart Lucinda: 9.00 am
Arrive Palm Is: 11.45 am
Depart Palm Is: 2:00 pm
Arrive Lucinda: 4:30 pm

Wednesday

Depart Lucinda: 8:00 am
Arrive Palm Is: 10:45 am
Depart Palm Is: 12.30 pm
Arrive Lucinda: 3:00 pm

Thursday*

Depart Lucinda: 8:00 am
Arrive Palm Is: 10:45 am
Depart Palm Is: 12.30 pm
Arrive Lucinda: 3:00 pm

Thursday departure from Palm Island is subject to change. Please call on the day to confirm time.

Friday

Depart Lucinda: 8:00 am
Arrive Palm Is: 10:45 am
Depart Palm Is: 12.00 pm
Arrive Lucinda: 2:30 pm

Please note that loading of the barge commences 60 mins prior to departure time. Scheduled departure and arrival times should be checked at time of booking.

For all bookings please contact our office on (07) 4776 5055

DAY&DAY
SHIPPING



Vacant Positions

• Warehouse Supervisor

Council is establishing a warehouse to control stock items and handle general freight for the Council. Council is looking for a self motivate person to manage the Council warehouse. This person will be capable of working unsupervised and have a good understanding or the ability to rapidly acquire knowledge of store procedures and processes. They will require a current Queensland driver's licence, computer skills and good communications skills. It would be an advantage for this person to have some experience in stores management and forklift licence etc.

• Housing Officer (temp)

Council is looking for a person to fill a position of temporary housing officer to process remedy to breach notices for Council. Experience in the housing management systems would be of advantage however not necessary. This person will be required to lodge document with the appropriate authorities and closely monitor their progress. This person will be able to follow direction, ability to seek information and obtain advice from appropriate people, require good computer skills, and a sound knowledge of social housing. They will also have excellent time management skills.

Applications close: Monday 21st September and must be addressed in writing to the CEO Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Main St. Palm Island or email: ceo@piac.com.au

ADVERTISEMENT

In Mandy's Words...

It was great to visit Palm Island again last week with Minister Struthers, this time for an overnight visit. It was fantastic to catch up with friends on the Island and I also found time for two walks along the beach. Hello to Mrs Gorringer. Thanks for welcoming us so warmly when we called into say Hi. On another note it was great to see Obe Geia score three tries for the Cowboys in the Toyota Cup competition. While this season may be over for the Cowboys NRL team, at least there is hope for the future with a player of Obe's ability coming through the under twenty's competition. Congratulations Obe your family and friends on Palm must be very proud.



I look forward to representing Palm Island in the State Parliament. Please contact my office on 07-4772 4711 with any enquiries you may have.

**Warm Regards
Mandy Johnstone
Member for Townsville**

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School shines in Townsville district comp

On the Tuesday 25th of August 50 students from Bwgcolman & St Michael's schools travelled to Townsville to compete in the District Athletics Carnival.

This was a big occasion for us because it's the first time in many many years we have been able to take so many kids to town.

From the moment our kids walked into the stadium it became clear that we were going to do something very special.

We were well prepared, we looked so good, we were so loud, proud, so fast and so fierce - we were the school that everyone was looking

at and talking about (for good reasons!).

We all should be so incredibly proud of our young athletes and not even because of the individual and group successes.

We need to be proud of the way they conducted themselves on that day.

It brought tears to my eyes watching these kids compete with such confidence, grace and this fierce determination that I'd never seen in them before.



We all went home exhausted after such a big day but we all went home happy and feeling very proud of a job well done.

I really hope that we remember what happened on that day and how good it feels to work hard and be part of something so special. Great things don't just happen by themselves there is always a group of very committed people at the core of it all. THANKS to Arthur Dalton, Tamsin Butterworth, Sam Coutts, Virginia Coutts, Kellie Dwyer and Luke D for your hard work as coaches and managers. THANKS to all the parents and families for your support. THANKS to Sunferries & PIASC for organising our travel and most importantly THANKS to the students for being too deadly.

**Jennifer Healey, Primary PE Teacher
Bwgcolman Community School**



Success celebrated in Palm Island Mall

In the mall on Thursday afternoon St Michael's and Bwngcolman Schools celebrated the achievements of their talented athletes who competed at the recent Red Track District Athletics in Townsville.

The afternoon started off with some impressive corroboree dancing by our local dance group (thanks Archie & Allissa for organising), then speeches were made by Mayor Alf Lacey, Georgina Haines and Miss Jen.

It was also great to see the Sunferries boss Darin come over and show his support to our kids. The athletes and the cheer squad received their certificates and then the event concluded with a huge, delicious cake which even had a photo of the District Athletics team printed on

the icing.

It was a fantastic afternoon and was great to see so many parents and guests attend.

A big thank you to all of the people from the two schools who helped organise the event.

Ms Jess & Nana Karen



Mayor keen for 2010 Palm Is All-Black comp

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said he will be taking the idea of the community hosting an All-Blacks footy carnival during NAIDOC Week next year to Council.

Mr Lacey said it may also be time for the Barracudas to "seriously look" at entry back into the Townsville competition.

"That's a discussion that probably needs to take place with the sporting community on Palm and certainly the rugby league community on Palm," he said.

"A lot of people said to me at the football carnival over the weekend that maybe Council should also think seriously about working

with the community towards putting on an All Blacks carnival for Palm Island during the NAIDOC weekend for next year.

"I've given it some serious thought and I'm going to be recommending to Council that we look at that, and that we work with the rugby league community on Palm to see if we can have an All Blacks carnival next year in July.

"I think it's important, sport is probably one of our biggest pastimes and a lot of our people are very strong when it comes to sport in the community.

"So we will be talking to the community about that."

Chance to meet Broncos not missed by locals!

William Marpoondin and his four year old daughter Amaisiah Ambrym were amongst scores of Palm Islanders who "ambushed" Brisbane Broncos players in Townsville a few weeks back.

The Broncos were preparing for their NRL game against the North Queensland Cowboys at Townsville's Dairy Farmers Stadium on Friday August 28.

The players stayed at the Holiday Inn on the Mall so William and a few other Palm Islanders sat outside waiting for stars to emerge.

They didn't have to wait long as soon winger Antonio Winterstein walked nearby.

He gladly signed an autograph and had his picture snapped with William and daughter.

"We also just saw Broncos and Queensland State of Origin champion Justin Hodges and had our pic with him on our mobile phone camera," William said.

William went to watch the match that night being amongst a huge crowd which saw the Broncos record their fourth win in a row 16-10 to finally end the Cowboys semi-finals chances.

"I have to go back to Palm in the morning to play club rugby league, I barrack for the Broncos and the players have been great," William said.



Popular Palm Island Council worker Rodger McKean is a big fan of former Barracuda and legendary Mount Isa rugby league player Vern Daisy. The Daisy Cup All Blacks Carnival is on in Townsville during October and the AJA's Boys team from Palm will be competing. Rodger is pictured here packing into a spectator scum with Vern Daisy, right, and his brother Frank at the last carnival.

Pics & stories this page contributed by Alf Wilson in Townsville - thanks Alf!

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