



Issue 50
Tuesday 9 March 2010

Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



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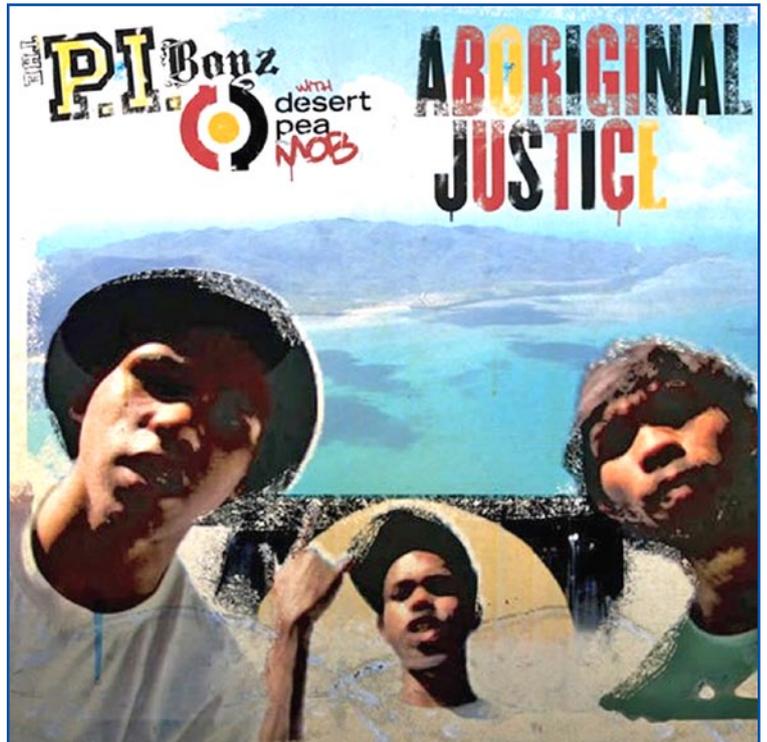
PI rappers hit number one on JJJ national music charts

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.

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...**

Youth issues discussed

...Continued from previous page

Many speakers blamed parents of the alleged youngsters with some suggesting the youths or children found guilty of an offence should be removed from the island.

Others also expressed dismay that parents could not discipline youths with corporal punishment as they risked being charged by police.

Some other suggestions included authorities look at having a curfew for youths and children at night, a Community Court and/or Night Patrols be put in place, more organised activities for youngsters to prevent boredom, and that the parents of anybody found guilty be made to pay restitution for any damage.

Sgt Hosie said that police wanted to hear from the community about the possibility of setting up a Community Court.

Palm Island Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley suggested the way to solve the problem was to make parents pay for damage their children caused.

"Why waste money on a Community Patrol," Mr Sibley said.

Cr Ruth Gorringer said that events needed to be organised for bored youths, including sport.

Mayor Alf Lacey said that Council wanted to find a solution and would discuss fixing up two old boats which could be used taking youths to nearby islands for camping trips.

"We need community support and people often buck when hard decisions are made," he said.

Mr Lacey also said not all break and enters were done by children, pointing out the CDEP break-in on March 2 was done by offenders alleged to be over 18.

It was agreed that another meeting should be held within two weeks where youth would be invited to talk to elders and put their views forward.

Q-Build apprentices making their mark

In a Palm Island first, Q-Build inducted six apprentices, two construction trainees and an administration officer in mid-February over a morning tea held for the families and Regional Manager.

Q-Build will be spending \$1.5 billion on Palm over the next ten years so this is a great start. Clint Burns in the photo is multi-talented he can drive trucks and bobcats and has had time to graduate as a carpenter.



He started as a labourer with Q-Build and worked his way through to an apprenticeship and now has his trade certificates.

He is a great role model for our trainees and apprentices, and a model for the community.

Palm Island community is invited come and see these apprentices receive their tools at a public BBQ in the mall at 12pm on Thursday 18 March.

... OUT & ABOUT ...



Some Palm Islanders travelled far away to visit family and friends over Christmas and mates Alf Clay jnr, Moa Sam and Sam Wallis were amongst them. Palm Island Voice spotted the trio enjoying tea at the Sizzler Restaurant at Cairns on Boxing Day evening, December 26. "We came up here to catch up with family and we are going back tomorrow," Alf Clay junior said.

Coolgaree set to re-open later this month



Above: Trying out new table settings and chairs in the bar were Ken Prior, Zac Sam, Costa Sam, Shane Stratton and Paul Kidner

The Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar and Bistro looks set to open later in March and will be a modern facility for residents who want to go there to enjoy.

There has not been a licensed bar on Palm Island since December 2008.

Palm Island Voice paid a visit to the building on March 3 to talk to the licensees Shane Stratton and former Palm Island Deputy Mayor Zac Sam.

"We are having electrical wiring done at the moment and will have a final building inspection, also Liquor Licensing (inspection) before we can open," Mr Sam said.

Helping the pair were Paul Kidner and Ken Prior, who will be caretaker when the facility opens.

There were modern chairs inside and an area out the back with umbrellas where smokers can go.

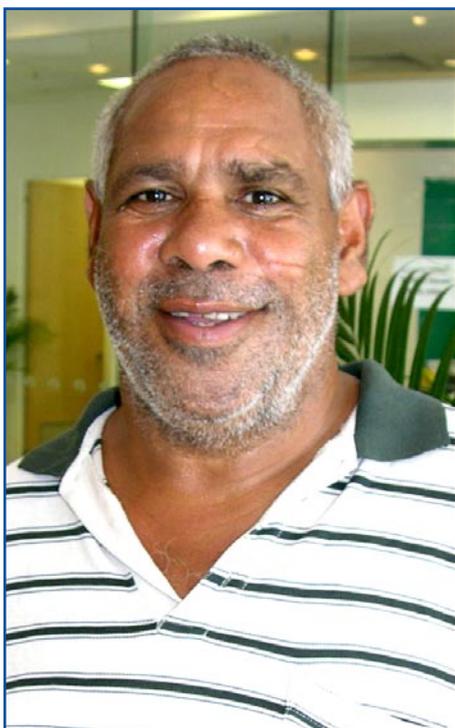
When it opens the bar will be a place where families can go and enjoy a meal in pleasant surroundings.

Doing the electrical work were Townsville tradies Jason Fischer and Michael Saunders.

"We expect all then work will be done this week," Mr Fischer said.

The bar will be subject to strict alcohol enforcement laws.

Poynter family looking for news clip



The family of late champion Palm Island rugby league player Hector Poynter is trying to find an old newspaper cutting about him.

Lincoln Poynter (left) has appealed to anybody who may have a cutting about Hector who played a cricket game at the Gabba in Brisbane to give his family a copy.

"I think it was in the late seventies and Hector played in a hearing and speech impaired side at the Gabba. Our family would love to track it down. I can remember that

Hector was holding a bat and it was either in the Townsville Bulletin or the Courier Mail," Lincoln said.

Lincoln is sure than somebody on Palm would have a copy of the cutting or know where one is.

The *Palm Island Voice* has tried to track down information on the game with the Queensland Cricket Association but to no avail.

For many years Hector Poynter was one of the best backs playing rugby league for the Palm Island Barracudas.

Palm Islanders will be the primary beneficiaries of a major development planned for the site which was formerly the Aboriginal Reserve beside Ross River Road in Townsville.

Said to be one of the largest Indigenous development projects to have ever been put forward for funding from this region, the debate as to the future of the Aitkenvale Reserve has now been put to rest.

Bwagman Aboriginal Land Trust Representatives voted unanimously in December to appoint Dreamtime Operations Pty Ltd as the developer and managers for the property. The proposal put forward by Dreamtime Operations features facilities that would benefit the entire community, not only its Indigenous residents.

Some of those facilities include:

- over 100 townhouse style 3-4 bedroom units
 - 380+ self contained student single room accommodation units
 - 50+ business incubator serviced offices with conference facilities and training room
 - 28+ training rooms scattered throughout the site to provide on-site (on the job) training to people of the area
 - four Lecture theatres for conferences and presentations
 - 1000 seat performing arts centre and cultural centre (to include an Indigenous Museum and historical language centre)
 - Up to 50,000 seat stadium incorporating a 50m Olympic sized aquatic centre and hydrotherapy pool, boxing stadium, gymnastic floor, gym and training rooms
 - Recovery centre for people coming out of hospital still needing some additional care for a short time
 - Community lounge for support services to families in the community
 - Commercial hub and medical centre
 - 120 room resort style accommodation and a variety of other facilities for training and education.
- The project has been sent through to various levels of the government for funding considerations with a number of Federal and State ministers expressing their interest in the project. Dreamtime Operations is not looking at it as a construction program, but rather an education and training program for unemployed people to gain valuable skills and trades.

"It just happens to have real buildings as the outcomes of the training program" Dreamtime Operations Training Program Coordinator Gaven Ferguson said.

Dreamtime Operations expect to provide a minimum of 150 indigenous apprenticeships along with 250 labouring jobs during construction out of an estimated 1000 construction jobs over a period of three to four years.

"Our aim is to have an indigenous person working alongside every tradesman, learning their craft and making it more a 50-50 work site rather than the normal 20% for traditional construction projects" said Project Manager Obadiah Geia said.

Once completed there will be in excess of 80 full time jobs available, with indigenous people being offered first.

"Palm Island community, the owners of the land will be the major beneficiary of the development and the amount of revenue potential a site like this could have would mean Palm Island would not have to keep looking to the government for support," Mr Geia said.

"People and businesses need to understand that this project will boost the employment for people black or white in the region and will have long lasting flow on effects for many businesses.

"There will be a lot of support required for the project over the expected three to four year development time frame." Operations Manager Kevin Kingston said.

"Our main goal however is to increase indigenous employment and through a program of this scale this is achievable."

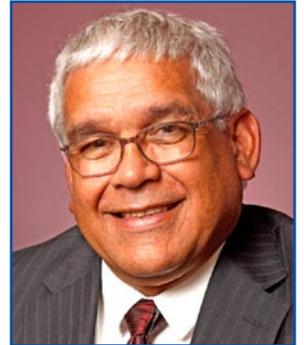
Dreamtime Operations has begun lobbying the government at every level because they believe the Aitkenvale Reserve Development goes towards the governments 'Closing the Gap' commitments to Australian Indigenous communities.

If you require any further information or would like to speak to a representative from Dreamtime Operations please email them at admin@dtops.com.au.



Rights advocate set to visit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda, is taking to the road next week to meet with key organisations and community leaders around Australia, including here on Palm Island.

Commissioner Gooda starts his visit this weekend in Cape York and will also be visiting Palm Island in the coming month.



"I am really excited about this trip because it will give me first hand information at the beginning of my term as Commissioner on what human rights issues Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities think need to be given specific priority," Commissioner Gooda said.

"The trip has been organised so that I can work with people on the ground to identify new or emerging issues and gather up-to-date information and case studies to inform my work.

"I will be connecting widely with a range of people and building strong relationships with Indigenous leaders and others."

Watch this space for more information on Cr Gooda's visit as it comes to hand.

Barge service extended

After ten years of service to Palm Island, Day & Day Shipping are extending their timetable to provide a six-day a week service.

Co-owner Bernice Day said the service would be supported by a road transport from Townsville. "We are extending our service to six days a Week Service and commencing a daily freight service from Townsville to Palm Island," she said.

"The Townsville to Lucinda leg will be by road transport and then transhipped from Lucinda.

"We have secured a depot in Townsville and will be sending a truck there every day and shipping the freight to Palm Is by 10.30am the next morning."

She said Palm Island was currently only receiving a service from Townsville twice a week.

"We have sent out notices to our customers, but we would like to let people know through the Palm Island Voice to advertise this," she said.

"It is also ten years this year that we have been providing a barge service to Palm Island."

ICAN secures 2 years of funding for PI office

ICAN services on Palm Island will soon be fully resourced again thanks to the support of the State Government's Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

Fair Trading Minister Peter Lawlor said the OFT would partner with the Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN) to deploy specially trained officers in Yarrabah and Palm Island.

Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Desley Boyle said the community did not traditionally lodge consumer complaints direct to OFT or pass on information when things go wrong.

"We need to change this situation which is why seven ICAN staff are being trained on fair trading matters," she said.

"They'll work within the

community and be armed with even more knowledge and skills to protect the rights of residents, and where necessary pass on information to OFT for enforcement action."

The OFT has provided the funding for two years as part of its 2009-10 Indigenous Strategy.

For more information about the Office of Fair Trading visit www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au or about ICAN www.ican.org.au



At the Retail Store opening was Cr Zina Prior (left) while above at the airport was Local Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone, Minister Desley Boyle & Mayor Alf Lacey



**The
Catherine Freeman
Foundation**

The Catherine Freeman Foundation is very excited to let everyone know that we will all be back up on Palm on the 29th and 30th of March.

I will be presenting the new Literacy Book Awards to students from all three schools on Palm, and also to present awards to the junior girls netball players, who have been fantastic in the first round.

I would like to congratulate Jodie Ryan for her great work on getting the netball comp up and running and am so pleased that so many girls are getting involved, as well as their families!

We will also be holding a Community Consultation Group meeting on Tuesday the 30th of March at 12 noon at the PCYC with a light lunch provided.

I want to encourage people to attend this meeting to let myself and our General Manager Carol Ross and our Program Manager Svea Pitman know what the community think of the work CFF is doing on Palm Island.

Please bring your own new ideas for projects to us and find out more about what we are doing and planning to do in the next year.

The most exciting new project we're working towards is the Literacy Program which we hope to run in the early childhood years on Palm and will involve working with families and support staff to develop fun ways to grow reading and literacy skills.

Our plan is:

Monday 29th March - 11am Schools Book Awards Presentations

Monday 29th March - 6pm Junior Girls Netball Awards Ceremony, PCYC

Tuesday 30th March - 12 noon CFF Community Consultation Group meeting, PCYC

Thank you to everyone on Palm for supporting me and the Catherine Freeman Foundation.

I am looking forward to a nice walk on the beach when we get there!

**See you soon,
Cathy Freeman**





State Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Desley Boyle (right) seemed happy when she visited Palm Island last week to officially open the new-look retail store, which has had extensive renovations.

With Ms Boyle was Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone, as they unveiled a plaque in front of the store, with Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey and Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley.



"When Mayor Lacey took us for a tour of this beautiful island before the opening he told me this needs doing and that needs doing, so he took the opportunity to bring my attention to that," Ms Boyle said.

She told the audience, who later enjoyed a complimentary barbecue under a tent in front of the store, the project had transformed it into a modern and welcoming community facility.

"Serving the community for 50 years already, this extensive upgrade has really given the retail store a new lease on life," she said.

"With extra shade out the front, better seating on the ocean side of the building and places for displays, it can also serve the community as a place to meet and catch up," she said.

Ms Boyle made an inspection of the aisles inside the store which were named after a community contest.

"The renovation has also included a significant upgrade to store refrigeration, new internal wall lining and ceiling, new floor covering, shelving, an upgrade to the takeaway facilities and replacement of external walls, roof and windows," she said.

"Store management worked with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council during the construction phase to ensure the facility was as pleasant and welcoming as possible.

"They've certainly achieved that."

Ms Johnstone was also impressed with the store.

"Importantly healthy items are subsidised to keep prices in line as much as possible with the rest of the State," she said.

"The refurbishment has helped ensure that the Palm Island community is serviced by a modern industry-standard store that better meets its needs."

Store "checkout chick" Susan Morgan and other workers Clint Barry, Brian Lind and Ili Dabea also enjoy conditions in the modern store which easily compare to Woolworths, Coles and IGA supermarkets in Cairns and Townsville.



Checkout operator Susan Morgan

Every week day from just after school, up to 50 young boys and girls go down to the Palm island PCYC to train for boxing under veteran mentor Ray Dennis.

"Some of them do it for fun and fitness and it is great so many come down here," Ray said.

"The youngest is about five and the eldest is Tim Nardoo who is aged 19."

Mr Dennis can identify talent from a young age and his boxers are in high demand for tournaments around North Queensland.

"The girls get on the skipping ropes and the lads spar in the ring," he said.



Palm Island Senior Campus

PISC News

March 2010



This year not only are we welcoming to our campus a new group of Year 11s but for the first time Year 10s.

We are also welcoming to our staff Ms Leanne Young who will be our Head of Campus. This is a new position and Ms Young will be living on Palm Island after moving from St George in south-west Queensland. She has spent most of her teaching career in the Far North.

We also welcome Miss Michelle Hall to our Campus. Miss Michelle has moved across from Bwgcolman Community School and will be teaching Year 10, 11 and 12 Art and Year 10 English.

Also this year the Senior Campus is offering a wider variety of subjects including:

Year 10 English, Mathematics, Science, SOSE, Art, SDE and TAFE

Year 11/12 English, Mathematics, Marine and Aquatic Practices, Social, Community and Indigenous Studies, Art, SDE and TAFE.

A reminder that covered footwear should be available to be purchased from the Senior Campus from about Week 3. Alternative footwear may be worn until covered footwear is available. Extra School uniforms have also arrived.

The Senior Campus has two break times during the day, the first break is 10.20am – 10.50am and the second from 12.40pm – 1.10pm. Students are to be back from breaks promptly.

Last month and earlier this month some of our students participated in a Provide Basic First Aid Course. The course was run by the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Please be advised that Thursdays at the Senior Campus are TAFE days. All students enrolled at the Senior Campus (who are not school-based trainees) must attend the Senior Campus on a Thursday and complete one of the three TAFE courses available.

Medal chances for PI Boxers

Palm Island boxers Selwyn Seaton and Reggie Palm Island have been nominated by trainer Ray Dennis Palm Island boxers for the Queensland trials which will give them a chance at Commonwealth Games selection.

"Our Palm Island boxers are training very hard for as many tournaments as they can find finance to attend, I have nominated them for the trials," Mr Dennis said.

"Selwyn Seaton has four times been Australian Amateur Boxing League champion and Reggie Palm Island only started boxing in March 2008.

"He has since beaten a three-time Australian champion and two two-time Australian champions.

Reggie Palm Island (*pictured right*) has given away weight to every opponent he has faced in the ring.

Patrick Clarke is just as good but is only 16 years old and too young to nominate for the Commonwealth Games trials."

Dennis said he was confident that Selwyn Seaton and Reggie Palm Island may do all right in the trials.

"They will be much better for the Olympic trials, they will be older, stronger and much more experienced by then," he said.

"The Queensland Boxing Association may not even allow our League boxers to compete in the Commonwealth Games trials, the two boxers may be a big young this year.

"But the experience will help make them much better by the Olympic trials."

Dennis said the Australian Boxing League nominated Selwyn Seaton for the Commonwealth Games trials.

"The Australian Boxing Association may still not allow him to take part in their trials.

"It is very disappointing that the best boxers in Australian may not have the chance to represent Australia.

"Boxing Australia need to find some new talent somewhere if they are going to have some success at the Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

"I believe the first gold medal winner could

come from Palm Island if they are given the chance to compete.

"Doug Sam won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games and later fought for a world title.

"Alf Clay and Joshua Geia both trained with me in Townsville when they were young and won state titles.

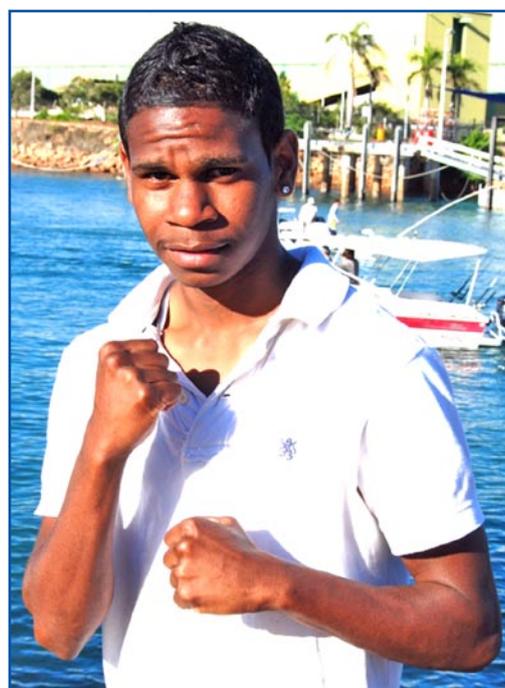
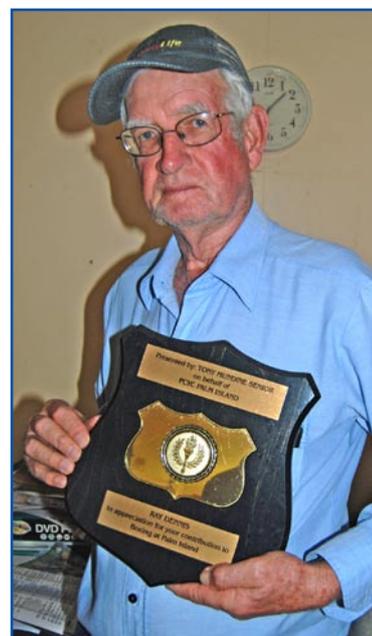
"They both defeated Norm Stevens who later went on to represent Australia at the Commonwealth games.

"I was very proud of the performance of the Palm Island boxers at the Australian titles held in Geelong.

"If they were given the chance, one of them will possibly represent Australia.

"I think it is time for the different boxing associations to give the best boxers the chance they deserve."

MEANWHILE Palm island boxing trainer Ray Dennis was nominated for the Australian of the Year awards 2010. More than 2500 people were nominated Australia-wide but Mr Dennis did not make it to the finals.



LETTER TO THE TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN EDITOR
Published Friday 12 February 2010

Dear Editor, I am writing in response to the story titled "Islanders Still Smuggle Grog" which appeared in the Townsville Bulletin. The article points out that police are concerned some residents are bringing restricted alcohol onto Palm Island from the mainland in small boats risking their lives. Whilst I don't condone this there are some points which must be made and the Office of Liquor and Gaming needs to get it act together. Palm Island has not had a licensed canteen since December 2008 and many locals feel they are being discriminated against once again. In late May last year a commercial hotel license was provisionally granted subject to 60 conditions that would be unheard of elsewhere. Our community has been subject to some of the most stringent liquor licensing laws in Australia. Since June 2006, Palm Island has been an alcohol restricted area meaning only one carton of light or mid strength beer

can be brought onto the island per person. I have been to many outback places such as Hughenden, Richmond and Julia Creek with large Indigenous populations and they have up to four liquor licenses. It is time the Office of Liquor and Gaming sorted themselves and promptly granted the license. This license would also have alcohol restrictions unlike others on the mainland and many Palm Island people go to Townsville. The Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar will be a place where the entire family can go and listen to music and other recreations. Those who don't want to drink alcohol don't have to. Or they don't have to go there. I call on the Office of Liquor and Gaming to immediately issue the license so that Palm Islanders have the rights of others. A choice.

Alf Lacey
Mayor Palm Island Aboriginal Shire.
Palm Island.

Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation within the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Executive Director Michael Sarquis refused the *Palm Island Voice* permission to reprint his letter (also published in the Townsville Bulletin) written in response to Mayor Lacey's letter. Mr Sarquis' letter reiterated the conditions of the license and referred to a report from the Department of Public Works indicating the building is structurally unsound and still required extensive upgrading.



TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED
EX SERVICEPERSONS ASSOCIATION
(TOWNSVILLE) INC

A.B.N. 69 008 600 579



16 November 2009

Dear Mr Lacey

I am writing to thank you for arranging transport and the amenities provided on the island for the visiting attendees of Billy's funeral.

I was truly appreciative of the benevolent welcome and attention to my comfort extended by your people.

Once again thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Benson L.M." with a flourish at the end.

Barry Benson L.M.
President.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Advertising Information & Rates

Display Advertisements (14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

Full Page \$440 Half Page \$231 Quarter Page \$121

Eighth Page \$66 Sixteenth Page \$44

Classifieds (payable in advance) Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE

Public Notices – Births, Deaths, Marriages, Birthdays – FREE

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

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

PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!!

Palm Island Community Company

**Proudly supporting
Naidoc Week**

July 4 ~ 11, 2010

www.naidoc.org.au



Reid Lane (Old Kindy building)

Palm Island QLD 4816

Phone 07 4770 1736

Palm Island Voice

Seeing things around the community you think should be in the *Palm Island Voice*?

Heard about something you want to read more about in your newsletter?

Think you might have a knack for talking to people and taking pictures yourself?

So why don't you tell us about it?!! It's easy, all you have to do is have a yarn to Christine Howes or Alf Wilson to find out how you can contribute to your community voice on Palm Island.

See our contact details on the back page and give us a yell soon for more information.



Day & Day Shipping to Increase Services to Palm Island

Day & Day Shipping are increasing our barge services from Lucinda to Palm Island to 6 Days per week Monday through to Saturday effective immediately. Our service schedule is as follows:

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 am
Arrive Lucinda:	3:00 pm

Friday

Depart Lucinda:	8:00 am
Arrive Palm Is:	10:45 am
Depart Palm Is:	12:00 am
Arrive Lucinda:	2:30 pm

Saturday

Depart Lucinda:	7:00 am
Arrive Palm Is:	9:45 am
Depart Palm Is:	11:00 am
Arrive Lucinda:	1:30 pm

Our new Warehouse in Townsville situated at **21B Keane Street, Currajong** is now operational and freight can be delivered to our warehouse between the hours of **9:00am to 2:00pm Monday to Friday**.

All freight received at our Townsville warehouse will be road freighted to Lucinda and shipped to Palm Island the following day. This service will provide the community and businesses on Palm Island with a six day per week next day freight delivery service from Townsville to Palm Island.

Should anyone have questions or wish to discuss their freight requirements please contact our friendly staff on 4776 5055.

QRL appoints ten trainees to promote local game

RUGBY league on Palm Island has received a major boost with the appointment of Tanya James as one of 10 new young Indigenous trainees who will work for the Queensland Rugby League.

Tanya will be based on Palm Island and attended the launch of the exciting new project at Townsville Sports House in North Ward on February 3 with her proud mum Maisie James and Grandmother Helen Wacando amongst invited guests and officials in the audience.

"I am really looking forward to this and will be helping Palm island Rugby League President Ili Dabea," Tanya told the Voice.

Tanya played for Barracudettes at Bindal Allblacks.

QRL Northern Division Chairman Greg Sutherland told the audience at the launch that Palm Island looked set to have a six (now seven) team domestic competition in 2010, one up on the five which competed last season.

"Palm Islanders love their football and I call this an M to M project where Murri talks to Murri about it," Mr Sutherland said.

Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development Andrew Fraser said the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative's First Start program had committed \$190,000 for the positions in Mackay, Cairns, Townsville, Mount Isa, Palm Island, Weipa and Bamaga.

"Each trainee will be working with QRL Northern Division staff while also studying for a Certificate II in Community Recreation and are all together this week to complete their induction training," Mr Fraser said.

"Employing Indigenous people in positions promoting the game will help communities, clubs, players and others by encouraging healthier lifestyles and improving the QRL's operations across North Queensland.

"These areas have already produced some great Indigenous players who are role models to many more but it is great to have support

Pictured: Tanya James received her traineeship book at the launch of a new project which will see her and nine others working with the QRL



from the QRL to create employment and training opportunities for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, especially on Cape York."

The other trainees at the launch were Jack Fell, Neil Cedar, Matt Toby, Josh Mene, Freddie Faid, Gilmore Levi, Tyrone Corrie and Regan Davis.

Mr Sutherland said that high profile events like the Indigenous All-Stars game on February 13 on the Gold Coast relied on the strong organisation of grassroots rugby league and these traineeships would introduce young Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders to another side of the game.

"The trainees will work under the supervision of other staff members and perform office duties, organise and take minutes at meetings and help organise and run promotional events among other jobs," Mr Sutherland said.

"They'll also be asked to help out at training and at games where they'll help with retail operations, setting up fields and training equipment and they'll also complete some first aid training.

"These trainees will also help improve the cultural awareness of our organisation and improve how we work with Indigenous people and communities in the region."

Locals riding high at regional rodeos

Palm Island will have two rodeos in 2010 with a one night event on June 19 and the bigger two night extravaganza during August.

Local Palm Islanders Pauline and Shaun Shortjoe and Townsville based John Moss from Bucko Billy Rodeo have organized the last two events there.

The 2008 rodeo was the first on Palm Island in 32 years and along with the 2009 event proved a big hit with residents who turned out in large numbers.

Moss told the *Koori Mail* in February that the main two-night Palm Island rodeo would be held on August 14 and 15 this year.

"The one night rodeo on Palm in June 19 has been organized. Then I can leave all my gear over there until the big one in August," Mr Moss said.

Mr Moss ran the Bucko Billy Bull Ride spectacular held at Charters Towers Showgrounds on January 23 at which Palm Island competitors Dimitri Shortjoe and Nathaniel Murray won gold. Dimitri won the juvenile bull ride from Tyler Barrett and Clancy Barden before 2000 screaming spectators.

Nathaniel Murray won the calf ride from Charters Towers local Ben Edmondson.

"They are both very promising and Dimitri is



Dimitri Shortjoe & John Moss

living here in Townsville at my house," John said.

Mr Moss said that the 14th Charters Towers rodeo was the biggest ever and was delighted that a large contingent of Palm Islanders were there.

"Desmond Bramwell competed in the open and novice bull rides but was bucked in both. We had about 70 riders and 30 bulls," he said.

Young Palm Islander Anthony Tyson received an encouragement award.

Mick Malone won the open bull ride from Willy Bethel and Chris Laguna and Shane Morrison tied in the novice with James Lethbridge third.

Rugby pics sought for new museum

Former quality rugby league player and administrator Vince Thimble has collected 130 historical photos destined for a Palm Island museum in the CBD precinct.

Mr Thimble and another top ex-player, Robert Blackley, are enthusiastic about the collection.

"The pics are all about the history of Palm Island football and date back to 1928 when Palm defeated a Brisbane representative side in the State capital as a curtain raiser to a Great Britain game," Mr Thimble said.

Mr Thimble was President of the Palm Island Rugby League from 1995 to 2003 and has team shots of great sides of the past.

Mr Thimble said the Barracudas name came about when the committee voted for it in

1980 and Mr Blackley recalled that the late Algon Walsh senior had been amongst the prime movers.

"I was captain coach of the Palm team which won out first Allblacks carnival at Hugh Street grounds in Townsville during 1994," Mr Thimble said.

Mr Blackley said Palm Island rugby league had a great history and the museum would encourage youngsters to reach the heights of many of the great players from the past.

Both their grandfathers were star Palm Island rugby league players from a past era.

They were Les Thimble and Thomas Geia.

"Anybody who has old pics who could give them to us for the Museum that would be greatly appreciated," Mr Thimble said.

Thaiday signs up for Bindal Sharks

Former NRL star Milton Thaiday has signed with Bindal Sharks United for the Townsville and District Rugby League competition which started on March 7.

Milton turned 30 on February 15 and has many family and friends on Palm Island.

A signed action shot of Milton in his playing days for the Newcastle Knights holds pride of place in the front office of Palm Island Aboriginal Council.

The *Palm Island Voice* caught up with Milton at the recent Rockhampton Reconciliation Allblacks carnival.

"I am looking forward to getting back to Palm Island and have many people to see there. I may take mum and dad down to Brisbane for a holiday," he said.

The talented footballer played for the Ipswich Purga Wagtails at the Rockhampton carnival which lost the grand final 37-24 to Cherbourg Hornets.

"I dislocated my finger in a game," he said.

Milton played for Okoloho Jabirus at the 2009 Bindal Allblackscarnival in Townsville and also for the Palm island Barracudas at the Daisy Cup two years ago.

The quietly spoken Milton played with the Newcastle Knights in the NRL and also with the NSW Waratahs in Super 12 rugby union before that.

During his NRL career, Milton was a fullback and was renowned for his strong defence and attack.

At the Rockhampton carnival, his side Ipswich scored a 66-nil win over Mimosa Goannas in which Milton scored the second try.

Playing as a centre, Milton scored the last and winning try when Ipswich defeated Ghungalu 30-26 in their second game.

Then Milton crossed for a try in Ipswich's 20-10 victory over Bundaberg Eels in the shield semi final to set up their showdown with Cherbourg in the decider.



7 teams to play local comp

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"At this stage it will commence on March 27 and later we will have an under 16 comp, then junior grades for kids aged six to 12," he said.

"There may also be a women's comp with at least three teams."

Mr Dabea and PIRL secretary Regina James said they were delighted to have two new teams in.

"That will result in a bye but it is great to have seven clubs as we never had that before," Mr Dabea said.

As another bonus the main football field has been upgraded with a state of the art underground sprinkler system and new grass which will make it the envy of many other Queensland comps.

The *Palm Island Voice* travelled around to various training sessions last week and saw about 20 Brothers players training on the area across from the CBD.

At the main football field off Palm Street, the Jets had more than 30 players and nearby Skipjacks had 25.

The *Palm Island Voice* will bring readers previews on players for the various clubs in coming editions.

QRL Northern Division Chairman Greg Sutherland said it was exciting to hear the new clubs had been formed.

"Rugby league is going ahead in leaps and bounds and we also look set to have a competition in Bowen this year," Mr Sutherland said.



Teams ready for record-breaking kick-off

This year a record seven clubs will compete in the Palm Island men's rugby league competition on Palm Island, which officials say looks set to commence on March 27.

Two new clubs – Hornets and Mundy Bay Warriors – will battle for premiership honours against reigning premiers Butler Bay Bulls, runners-up Skipjacks, Jets, Raiders and Brothers.

An amazing effort when you consider that Palm Island has a permanent population of about 3500 compared to Townsville with 160,000 people.

The Townsville and District Rugby League 2010 comp will also have seven clubs and that includes out-of-towners Charters Towers, Burdekin and Herbert River.

Palm Island Rugby League (PIRL) President Ili Dabea told the Palm Island Voice on March 3 that the new season had locals brimming with excitement.

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Fishing buddies & legends on Reel Women Jetty, PI!!

Pictured: Above Left: Shanna with her Barracuda; Above Right: Mitchell, left, and Wilgie with a trevally on Palm jetty; Below: Justin Scott and Kevin Wilson and front Alex Wilson and Zare Baira

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

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