



Issue 62
Tuesday 24 August 2010

Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



Ewen Jones elected for Herbert with national result still in the balance

PALM Islanders voted in last Saturday's Federal election knowing it could have been the most important vote they would ever cast.

In the lead up to the election both major candidates for the seat of Herbert – Ewen Jones (LNP) and Tony Mooney (Labor) - visited Palm island several times accompanied by party heavyweights.

Winning candidate Mr Jones arrived on Palm early on in the campaign with Senator Barnaby Joyce and later with Shadow Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion.

Former Townsville Mayor Mr Mooney was on Palm with high profile Labor Minister Warren

Snowdon and later former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

On election day former State Labor Member for Townsville Mike Reynolds, highly popular with Indigenous people, was at the polling venue in a bid to maximize the party vote.

The official Australian Electoral Commission count revealed that 566 Palm islanders voted with 81 being informal.

Of the 485 formal votes, 286 went to Mr Mooney and 145 to Mr Jones. Greens candidate Mike Rubenach got 39 votes

whilst Family First's Michael Punshon received 15 votes.

The Labor vote was down 1.87% from the last election whilst Mr Jones gained 4.61% on the vote received by former LNP Member Peter Lindsay. On a two-party preferred basis, Mr Mooney gained 319 votes or 65.77% and Mr Jones 166 votes or 34.23%.

There was little difference from the last polling booth on Palm Island, with Labor's vote only .01% down and the LNP vote up by the same percentage.

Skipjacks play Army in memorial shield – full wrap up p 14



Promises, promises – but will he keep them?

Ewen Jones made promises to Palm Islanders in the lead up to the election in a bid to woo their vote.

One was that Mr Jones vowed to visit Palm at least every three months if elected.

Locals are used to having promises broken by politicians after elections and will he hoping Mr Jones is true to his word.

He also said he was saddened to see the conditions under which some Palm Islanders were forced to live.

"It's so bad that in one case, up to 30 people are forced to crowd into one three-bedroom home," he said.

"Others are squatting in the bush in tin sheds made from scrap iron they got from the tip; they've got no running water, power or sewerage.

"That's totally unacceptable in this day and age and shouldn't be tolerated by any government, regardless of politics.

"It's not just the federal Labor government, state Labor has to shoulder its share of the blame too.

"The Bligh Labor Government recently provided six small prefabricated homes at a cost of almost \$300,000 each," he said.

"They are basically dongas, glorified garden sheds – you could go to Bunnings and buy half a dozen pretty good garden sheds for

that money.

"The homes were prefabricated in the south with no Aboriginal or Islander involvement.

"I have been told that Palm Islanders were involved in planning and site preparation work but why can't they be constructed on site, using local labour and taking advantage of qualified local tradesmen?" he asked.

Ewen Jones said other concerns expressed by Palm Islanders included under-funding for youth and community activities, exorbitant rental charges on government housing and the high cost of living due to exorbitant freight costs.

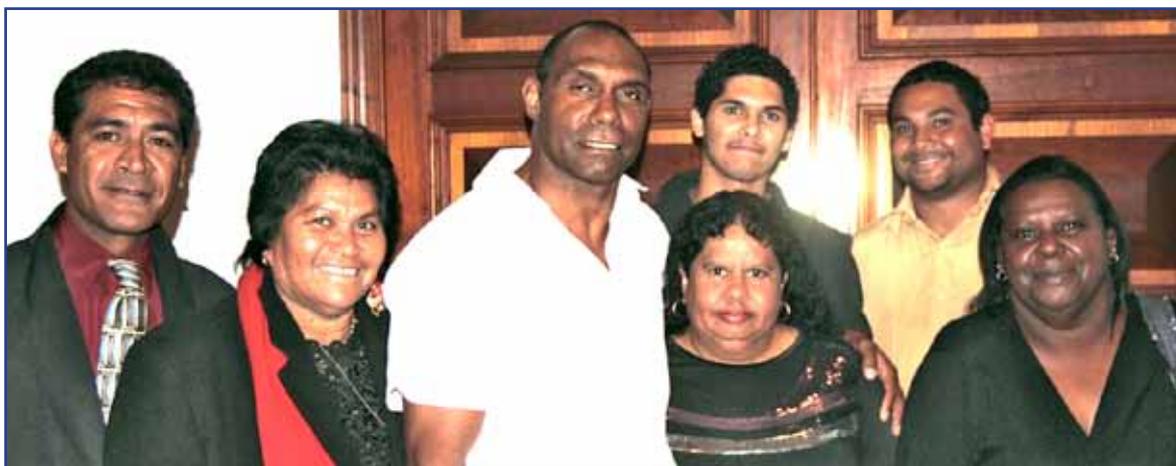
"Cr Sibley told me a carton of Coca-Cola that would cost a Townsville resident around \$16 on the mainland costs \$45 on the island.

"I don't want to be seen to be joining the conga line of politicians promising the world in return for a few votes, this is above politics, this is a national disgrace that we as Australians should be collectively ashamed of.

"If I'm elected on August 21, one promise that I am prepared to make is that I will do my level best to improve the lives of Palm Islanders.

"Palm Island has been out of sight, out of mind for far too long – let's stop the promises and make a real difference by keeping the spotlight on these issues."

Townsville NAIDOC draws Palm crowd



LEX Wotton and his wife Cecilia travelled from Palm Island to attend the Townsville NAIDOC dinner at the Southbank Rydges in Palmer Street on the night of August 13. Mr and Mrs Wotton were amongst guests from as far afield as Thursday Island, Brisbane, Mount Isa and Mackay. Mr & Mrs Wotton spoke to many friends and supporters before sitting down to dinner with close friend Associate Professor Gracelyn Smallwood and her family.

Palm to host Indigenous Mayors

Palm Island will host the next Ministerial Indigenous Round Table on November 9-10, Minister for Local Government Desley Boyle has announced in Parliament.

Ms Boyle said the high level meeting will build on our discussions about local government financial sustainability, sport and recreation opportunities, as well as progressing other significant issues facing Indigenous councils.

She told State Parliament Mayor Alf Lacey said it was important for Indigenous Councils to engage with State Government and Cabinet Ministers.

She also said holding the meeting in an Indigenous community also gave the opportunity to look at all the good things being done by the host Council.

"There is indeed a lot to see on Palm," Minister Boyle said. "For example, there is the new emergency services complex, refurbished retail store, progress being made on establishing a new business

precinct and new housing developments.

"I am committed to continuing our collaborative and positive partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mayors to achieve meaningful outcomes for Indigenous communities and help close the gap.

"The Ministerial Indigenous Roundtable in Bamaga on 12 May was the first to be hosted by a mainland Indigenous community since the historic Indigenous Partnership Agreement meetings in Yarrabah and Atherton back in 2007.

"It gave the Northern Area Peninsula Regional Council an opportunity to showcase council infrastructure and services and the tremendous progress that has been made since amalgamation.

"The mayors were particularly interested to hear of the

council's proposal to develop a 'community farm' which would provide traditional fruit and vegetables to locals and may in time supply other communities in the Far, Far North.

"In Bamaga, the mayors requested assistance from the department with training for staff but also for their councils in best practice financial management.

"I am pleased to say that on Wednesday next week the mayors of the Indigenous communities will be gathering in Yarrabah for their first financial management masterclass.

"I would like to congratulate all of the mayors on their ongoing commitment and hard work.

"They are making headway in taking their councils forward and improving their communities for generations to come."

A NEW area which will include tables and chairs where families can gather is being built by CDEP workers at the PCYC.

They are also doing paving which should make an area outside the complex safer to walk on.

Truck driver Ray Georgetown and his assistant Jason Poynter (*below*) were busy delivering fill in a CDEP Hino truck late last month.

Shovelling it into a nearby wheelbarrow was David Haines. While Ray Haines

was busy working on the area around where the table and chairs will be.

PCYC Officer-in-charge Sgt Bernard Mead said he was delighted with their progress.

"When this project is completed very soon it will be a benefit to everybody," Sgt Mead said.



Glowing reports back from Newcastle conference

Last week Aglow Bwgcolman sent five teenagers and four adults to Newcastle, north of Sydney, for the organisation's biannual convention.

Aglow is an international interdenominational Christian Women's Organisation which had it's beginnings in the America in 1967.

Aglow Bwgcolman Executive Committee President Lynore Geia said it was the first time an all Indigenous Aglow has been formed and accepted into this international movement of Christian women.

The teenagers were Kaiya Blackley, Alice Accoom, Ivy Accoom, Lotti Accoom, and Natalie Geia, the adults were Lindsay Malone, Clarissa Johnson (Aglow Executive Committee Member), Lisa Accoom (Aglow Committee Vice President) and Lynore Geia.



"Lindsay has a special interest in the development of the youth on Palm Island and we see her as being an important key in Aglow to reaching out to Palm Island's young people," Ms Geia said.

"We became involved in Aglow two years ago and became accredited as official in July 2010 when National President Kerry – Ellen Logan visited. "We're now connected to a Christian movement that ministers to over 17 million people a year, which is amazing, and there are over 200 nations around the world involved.

"While we were in Newcastle the girls met and befriended a teenage girl from Russia, for example, and they plan to keep in touch



with her.

"I believe this trip has been a very positive opportunity for the five teenagers to see another side of life and to be embraced into the hearts of over 700 women and men that were present in Newcastle with us.



"All women and men on Palm are welcome to come to our Aglow Bwgcolman monthly meetings.

"Our next meeting will be held in early September when we will give a presentation of our trip and hopefully the girls will share their experience."

For more information talk to Lynore Geia, Virginia Malone, Clarissa Johnson, Irene Nallajar or Lisa Accoom, who are our Executive Committee members.



Coolgaree pub to open next month

The long awaited opening of the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Bistro on Palm Island will finally happen early next month on Monday 6 September.

The previous bar closed on 1 December, 2008 and many residents on Palm have likened it to a drought or referred to the building beside the Esplanade as the 'pub with no beer'.

Queensland Licensing Commission has given the nod for co-licensees Zac Sam and Shane Stratton to officially open on 6 September.

Mr Sam is a former Palm Island Councillor and Deputy Mayor, and the pair have spent a huge amount of money renovating the Council owned building beside the ocean.

Liquor Licensing has placed 61 stringent conditions which will have to be abided by when the bar opens.

Mayor Lacey said the approval had been a "long time coming".

"I am pleased and it will certainly cut down the amount of sly grog finding its way to the island from the mainland," he said.

People arriving on Palm Island now can bring only one carton of light or midstrength beer from the mainland.

Police are regularly at the end of the Palm Island jetty searching bags and on occasions have done that at the Sunferries terminal in Townsville as people were boarding.

Mr Sam (*pictured below*) said the bar would be a place for the entire family to go and enjoy a social occasion.

He said all inspections had been passed which resulted in the all clear to open being given.

"Last week a senior Licensing Commission came from Brisbane for a public

meeting at the building here and explained to people the conditions," Mr Sam said.

"I am told it is the first time he has ever been to an Aboriginal community."

The bar will provide employment for 10 Palm Islanders with the chance for more in the future. Security officers will also be on hand during opening hours.

Last month, a coffee shop opened on the premises, which has proved to be very popular, attracting a diversity of customers including local police and visiting workers.

The bar is situated beside the idyllic Coral Sea near the Palm island esplanade and has a court yard at the back with ample seating providing one of the best views from such an establishment in Australia.

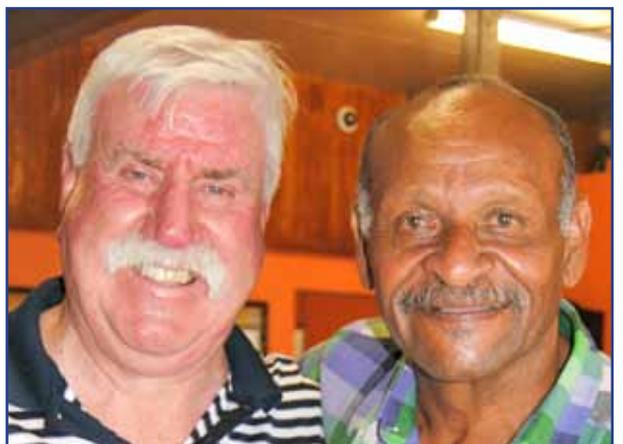
COMBATANTS they may have once been but when Zac Sam (right) unexpectedly saw Max Tomlinson walk into the Coolgaree Bay coffee shop on July 31, he was happy.

The last time they saw each other was three decades ago in 1980 when they were rivals competing in the Townsville AFL competition.

Zac was a fiery ruckman for Indigenous club Garbutt Magpies and Max a powerful goal kicking forward for arch rivals Wulguru Saints.

"I was absolutely delighted to renew acquaintances with Zac after over 30 years," Max said. "Unlike me, Zac looks like he could pull the boots on again and still get a kick. I remember Zac as a very fast, elusive footballer. He played hard but was always fair and we enjoyed a drink after the game."

Returning the compliment, Zac said Max had



always been a man to shut down when Magpies met Wulguru.

"Max was a great player and I never expected to see him walk in here," he said. "But it is great to catch up and have a yarn.."

Cultural fest draws crowd from Palm

SCORES of Palm Island people were at the 16th annual Cultural Fest at Townsville's Strand Park from August 18 to 22.

Leonard Noble and Jennifer Starlight said they enjoyed it a lot.

"There is a big mob of Palm people who have come over on the ferry," Leonard said.

Aboriginal dancers were the undoubted highlight of the opening ceremony at what is believed to be Australia's biggest Cultural Fest.

Crowds waited on the beach for the arrival of South Sea islanders dancers who came from the sea by canoe. When the Pacific Islanders reached the beach they were greeted by Virginia Wyles (Wulgurukaba people), and Associate Professor Gracelyn Smallwood (Bindal) who had earlier welcomed guests to country. There was also a smoking ceremony.

Townsville Mayor Les Tyrell said the festival was a "signature event" for Townsville.

"People come from all around Australia for this," Mayor Tyrell said.

The festival has a theme of unity in diversity.

Organiser Dr Farvardin Daliri said about 80,000 people would attend over the duration. "The Aboriginal dancers have been spectacular and it has been a wonderful opening ceremony," he said.

The crowd then walked from the beach to nearby Strand Park where more than 30 food stalls were selling a variety of international cuisine.

The huge covered tent near centre stage was packed as the Aboriginal dancers received warm applause being one of the first groups to perform.

Nearby was the Global Village where stalls offering crafts from more than 30 countries were on offer including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.



Above: Leonard Noble & Jennifer Starlight with Aboriginal dancer Ashley Saltner Jnr

Below: Algon Lawrence and Tibby Fulford and family members



Left: Dennis Haines Snr and his family enjoying day four of the Fest



Ambassador Beetson promotes Centrelink at Jobs Expo in Townsville

Palm Islanders Roy Snyder, Trenton James and Tim Bonner got a nice surprise from rugby league legend Artie Beetson when they attended a Centrelink Job Expo at Townsville PCYC a few weeks back.

The trio went job hunting and got to meet their idol Artie who is one of rugby league's famous immortals.

Artie presented them with an autographed football and they were delighted.

"I was looking for a job as a landscaper and it was really good to see Artie Beetson," Trenton said.

Roy and Tim were amongst



scores of Palm Islanders who were at the Expo checking out one of the 400 positions offered.

Artie and television fishing show host Scott Hillyer were official ambassadors for Centrelink at the expo.

Artie had attended a similar job expo on Palm Island during 2006 and spoke of his admiration for islanders.

"In my era, you had to have a job and not live off the earnings from football," he said.

Knowledge Centre & Council to benefit from state funding

New funding for the Bwgc Colman Indigenous Knowledge Centre on Palm Island will help local children improve literacy skills and learn about traditional culture, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Desley Boyle announced today.

Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone welcomed the funding saying it was good news for Palm Island residents.

"This is an investment in the children and young people of Palm Island," Ms Johnstone said.

"I visited the Knowledge Centre during a recent visit to Palm Island and I was really impressed with what I saw."

The funds will arrive at almost the same time as a \$3 million provided to the Palm Island Council under the State Government Financial Aid and the Revenue Replacement Program.

"This funding helps support their day-to-day administration, their recreational programs, health initiatives and other services as well as local employment," Ms Johnson said.

"In fact, this funding is a boost for the entire community and will support around 25 jobs."

Rodeo ready to jump in October

THE Palm Island rodeo for 2010 is a definite goer and will be held on Saturday October 23.

John Moss of Bucko Billy Rodeo, who has organised the bulls and competition side of the event for last two Palm rodeos, said everything was "ready to roll" on the new date.

"Other dates before then were looked at however they clashed with other events at Charters Towers, Collinsville and Bartlett Park so October 23 is the date," Mr Moss said.

It will be the third successive Palm rodeo after a break of 32 years and Mr Moss runs the action side of the rodeo.

The main organisers are Palm island couple Pauline and Shaun Shortjoe.

Mrs Shortjoe expects a large number of Palm Island competitors to be chasing the prize money.

Bulls would be barged across from Lucinda and the shute supervisor has to come from Brisbane.

Palm Island Voice

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than 5pm on deadline day (see
back page for details).**

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

Public & Community Notices



**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is
closed every second Friday
(Council pay week) for RDO.
The next RDO is Friday 3 September.
For emergencies on a Friday please
call 0458 789 010.**

The **Palm Island Land Trust** has a new process for Lease Applications. Applications will only be accepted on the approved forms available at Council Reception. Each application will stand on display for 28 days for comment and objection, before going back to the next Trust Meeting for consideration. Commercial leases must place a sign stating their details on the commercial premises for the general public to see.

**For more information contact
the Council on 4770 1177**



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Queensland Ambulance Courses August – November 2010

Applied First Aid*

Monday 30 & Tuesday 31 August

Provide Emergency Support First Aid**

Thursday 2 & Friday 3 September

CPR refresher and general First Aid*

Wednesday 6 October

Provide Emergency Support First Aid**

Wednesday 17 – Thursday 18 November

*Not funded - each applicant responsible to
pay the fee for the course

**Funded - Palm Island residents free of charge

**Anyone interested in the above courses
should apply to the QAS station in
person or by phone on 4791 5133**



Queensland Ambulance Service

The final round of 2010 Palm Island Rugby League fixtures had the following results:

**Skipjacks 48 def Brothers 18
Jets 34 beat d Hornets 8**

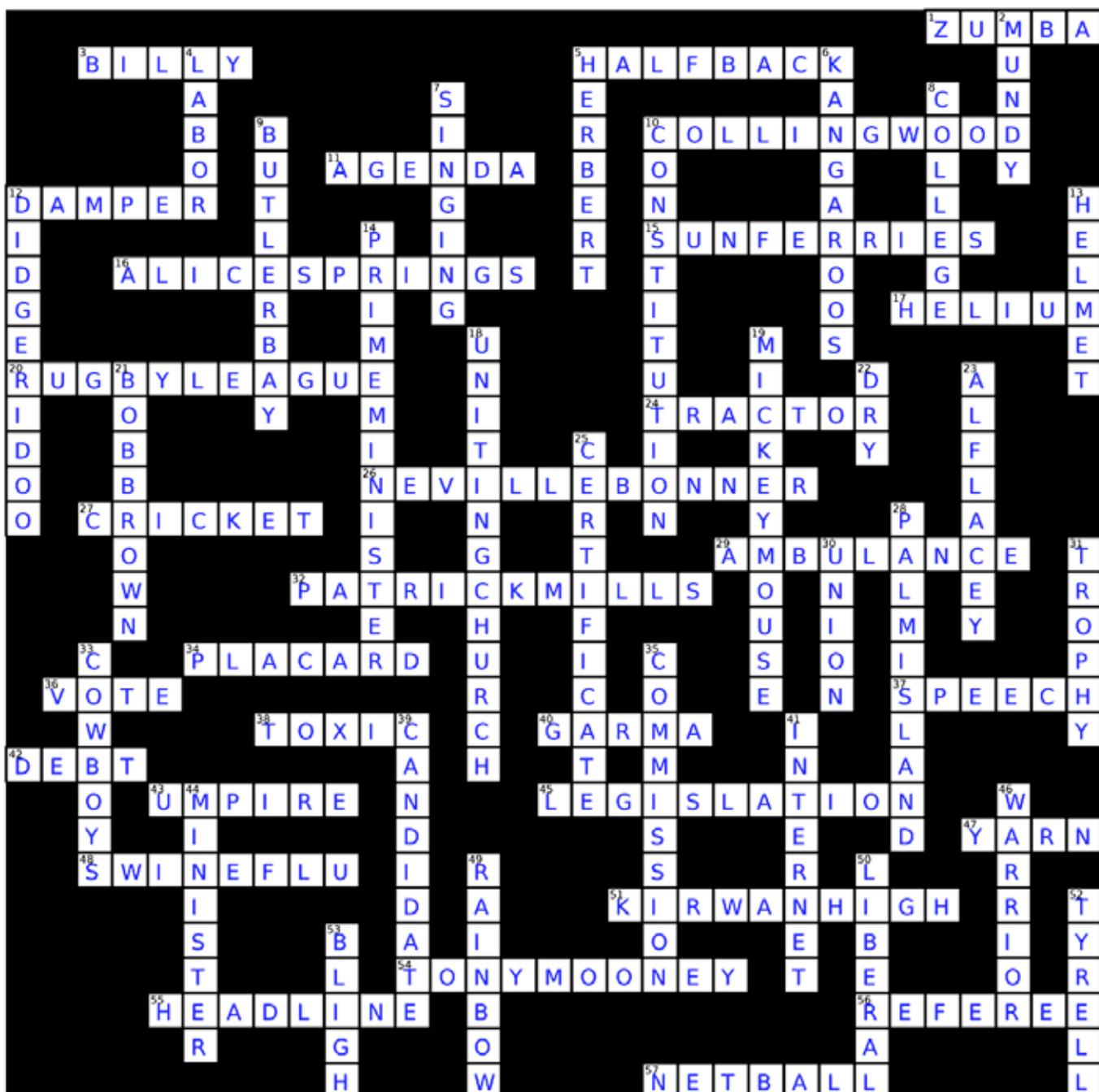
**Butler Bay Bulls 40 roll Raiders 16
Mundy Bay Warriors (bye)**

Final Points Ladder before the semi finals:

- 1 Butler Bay Bulls**
- 2 Jets**
- 3 Skipjacks**
- 4 Raiders**
- 5 Brothers**
- 6 Mundy Bay Warriors**
- 7 Hornets**

PI Voice Crossword 61 Answers

With thanks again to David Goeldner & the Crossword Puzzle Maker at <http://www.armoredpenguin.com>



Semi-Finals Round-Up: Sunday 22 August

QUALIFYING SEMI-FINAL: BUTLER BAY BULLS 36 D JETS 17.

REIGNING premiers Butler Bay Bulls will contest their third grand final in a row after beating arch rivals Jets 36-17 in Saturday's qualifying semi final at Bwgcolman Football Park.

The Lloyd Morgan coached Bulls produced a well-drilled effort to avenge a loss against Jets at their last meeting during the fixtures.

For Bulls experienced back Darryl Pearson scored two tries with one apiece to Billo Wotton, Gresham White, Walter Morgan, Pita Morgan and Chris Camenzuli, Clinton Pearson booted three goals and Pita Morgan one.

Jets try scorers were Gavin Barry, Dion Marks and Jason Thimble whilst ever reliable Tabua Oui kicked two goals and potted one field goal.

ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL: SKIPJACKS 26 defeated RAIDERS 24.



IN what turned out to be a cliffhanger elimination semi final, third placed Skipjacks defeated Mount Bentley Raiders 26-24 over the weekend.

For Skipjacks tries went to Walter Geia, Georgie Dabea (*injured, pictured left*), Jason Bulsey, Kevin Morgan and Thomas Foster.

Crafty back Kevin Morgan chipped in with three goals for a personal tally of 10 points.

Some of the Skipjacks players carried niggling injuries after playing two days before in the Skipjacks game against Army Thunder for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield.

One who missed that game was blockbusting forward Walter Geia who was as fresh as a daisy.

It was a gallant and courageous effort by Raiders with two tries to Ralph Watson and singles to Adrian Poynter, Jacob Baira, and Frank Baira. John Baira and Adrian Poynter each booted a goal.

NEXT WEEKEND

SKIPJACKS and Jets clash in the preliminary final next weekend with the winner to advance to the grand final showdown with Bulls on Friday September 3.

Bulls will be aiming for their third successive premierships flag after having beaten Skipjacks in the past two grand finals.

Palm Island-based QRL northern division trainee and local official Tanya James said a large crowd was at the semi finals.

"There was some really good football," she said.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES AND AWARDS

The end of year presentation of trophies for the Palm Island Rugby League will be held at the PCYC on Saturday 4 September. Watch this space for more information as it comes to hand!

A great day out for the Coolburra Memorial Shield



Earlier this month Australian Defence Force representatives and members of the local Palm Island Skipjacks Rugby League Club, along with Deputy Mayor Cr Raymond Sibley and Jason Geesu of the Government Co-ordination Centre met on the island to discuss the historical Army versus Skipjacks football match.

As a result of that meeting ADF gave the commitment to play on Palm Island last week and on the day agencies and support came from everywhere to ensure our visitors were made to feel welcomed on this special day.

Aunty Edna Coolburra's (the Late uncle Bill Coolburra's wife's) family was pleased in her heart to see not only her grandchildren and children sit amongst Army officials but almost half the Island came out to watch what was a wonderful performance by both teams.

Army Thunders won and took the legendary Shield 22-16 (see pages 12-13).

This Family Fun Day would not have been a success unless the people 'local unsung heroes', that worked hard to put the event together.

Volunteers and organisers included myself, Manatu Neliman (Sports and Recreation Officer based at PCYC) and Lavenia Tuibua (Youth Coordinator at PCYC).

We'd like to thank the following long list of people: Sunferries provided two services for that day to transport the Army Thunder football team as well as Senior ADF officers and supporters from the mainland, to watch the match played at the new Bwgcolman Sports and Recreation Complex, currently under refurbishment.

Local police officers Paul and Rowan who helped with the setting up.

Special thanks to Sgt Bernie Meade (Branch Manager of the local PCYC) and Lavenia Tuibua as well as Raymond Hughes, Loretta Parker and Grace Friday who missed out on the footy match as they were busy cooking all the meat and peeling onions at the local PCYC kitchen for the Community, Army and supporters.

Special mention also to the wonderful staff of

Centrecare, Townsville, who provided entertainment to all the school children, activities, traditional games, face painting and hair spraying as well as plough dough was amongst the local children's choice of entertainment.

Thanks to both St Michael's and Bwgcolman Community School teaching staff for turning up with students to enjoy and barrack for the local Skipjacks team.

Palm Island Company provided food as well as three youth workers.

Special thanks to visitors Sam Watson and Ken Georgetown of Murri Watch, Brisbane, who provided Islanders with tasty steaks and meat patties.

The Department of Communities also provided support to the fun day.

Norman Bounghi (Island referee), Rio Walsh and Frank Conway (Island linesmen), and Tanya James (QRL trainee) all did an excellent job officiating the games which were played in fairness and professionally both on and off the field.

The CDEP Catering Van provided spectators and supporters with an array of takeaways, assorted drinks and meals at a reasonable price.

And another very big thank you to all those who cleaned the grounds before and after the games, as well as those who set up of tables, chairs, markers, goal-posts pads and score cards before the game.

Lastly, but by no means least, thanks to the local Council which gave permission for the games to go ahead as well as being a part of the official proceedings.

Overall, the people of Palm island enjoyed themselves as they watched what was a very good game, even though the Skipjacks went down to the Army Thunders.

The game will be held again next year on a date to be confirmed.

**Deniece Geia,
Palm Island Red Cross Manager
and tireless volunteer.**

Close finish to Coolburra Memorial



A GALLANT Skipjacks lost the rugby league match against Australian Army Thunder side 22-16 for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield last week... but they did win the hearts of the visiting players and officials.

It was the first time the Army Thunder side played the game on Palm Island soil, the previous two games were in Townsville, won by Skipjacks.

In those two matches scores were deadlocked at 28-all when the final siren sounded but Skipjacks were awarded the Bill Coolburra Shield because they scored first under game rules.

Bill "Kookaburra" Coolburra was a high respected Palm Island elder who was an Australian Army Vietnam War hero who served with the famous tunnel rats.

Born in June 1945, Bill died on October 29th in 2009 so the game was for his memorial shield this year. Upon their arrival on Palm

a memorial service and plaque-laying ceremony beside the grave of Bill was held.

Widow Edna and Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley gave emotional speeches.

"I know Bill will be looking down at us all watching the game," Edna said.

From there it was to the nearby football oval where a family fun day was on to complement the football.

Before the action started, elder Ralph Watson welcomed guests to country and Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey spoke of how respected Bill Coolburra had been to the people of Palm Island.

There was a junior exhibition match between Bwgcolman

State School and St Michael's Catholic School played a curtain raiser to the big match.

Then the main game started off at a crackerjack pace.

Overall the Army Thunder outweighed Skipjacks and the Palm Island side had an edge in speed.

Locals controlled the game with Norman Bounghi the central referee and Frank Conway and Rio Walsh the touch judges.

Skipjacks was first to score early in the first half courtesy of centre Clinton Burns and Army Thunder hit back soon after through forward Mick Cunningham to level.

At half-time the score was 4-all prompting Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan to give

Shield game

FULL RESULTS:

Army Thunder 22

Mick Cunningham, Eddie Abdul Rahman, Doc Halliday, Clancy Fallon 1 try, Scotty Ragan 3 goals,

Best Players: Aaron Horvat, Eric Pere, Zac Redfern, Clancy Fallon, Doc Halliday, Mick Cunningham

d Skipjacks 16

Josiah Geia, Fred Bulsey, Clinton Burns 1 try, Clint Barry, Clarence Nugent 1 goals,

Best Players: Fred Bulsey, Jason Bulsey, Georgie Dabea, Clint Barry, Esrom Geia



an inspiration speech about tightening up defence and holding the ball.

After the break Army Indigenous hooker Eddie Abdul Rahman was creating havoc and Skipjacks had their own potential match winners in utility back Clint Barry and centre Josiah Geia who scored a try which was converted to see the locals lead 10-4.

Then Army scored to break the deadlock and the conversion saw the score again level at 10-all. Even though both sides were dropping a liberal sprinkling of clean ball, it was the superior Army fitness which started to come to the fore and they scored two

converted tries to bolt to a 22-10 advantage. Blockbusting Skipjacks prop Fred Bulsey then crashed over for a try and the goal saw Army lead close by just 6-points to 22-16. History looked like repeating itself in the final minutes as Skipjacks continually attacked hoping to level and their players realisation that if it was a tie at full-time they would retain the shield for scoring first.

But the Army defence showed true grit to hold on and win.

At the presentation, Army captain Clancy Fallon paid tribute to Skipjacks, saying they played with courage and determination.

"They are a good side and we look forward to coming back next year," he said. Skipjacks skipper Fred Bulsey said he was proud of his boys who never gave up. The Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield was presented to Fallon by Steven Wallace, a grandson of the great man. Edna Coolburra said she welcomed the Army Thunder back.

"We want to win the shield back next year," Edna said. On the ferry trip back to Townsville Army Thunder players were glowing in their praise of the Skipjacks team. Many of the Army players were sporting bandages on minor cuts from the gruelling and physical encounter.

Boxers bring home gold from Mt Isa

A marathon bus trip to Mount Isa 900km away did not prevent Palm Island boxers winning five gold medals last weekend.

Nine boxers caught last Friday's 10am ferry from Palm Island to Townsville and then traveled 900kms in two small buses driven by Kevin Castors and assistant trainer Chris Gundy. The grueling road trip along the Flinders Highway took 10 hours.

Trainer Ray Dennis said that Reggie Palm Island, Joey Geia, Jerome Walsh, Nathan James and female Noby Clay all won gold.

"Noby gave away 9kg to a big girl from Cloncurry and Reggie's opponent was 14kg heavier so they were great efforts," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said that Joey won his junior division whilst Jerome took out the 32kg division and Nathan the 38kg.



Star boxer Patrick Clarke could not get a fight and fought an exhibition bout against an opponent who has had several professional contests.

Three Palm boxers - Luke Lenoy, Isaac Bulsey and Thomas Blanket - lost their bouts but turned in great efforts.

"Luke fought the main bout and lost narrowly whilst Isaac was against an opponent

two years older than him," Mr Dennis said.

Nathan James had a second bout which he lost.

The buses left Mount Isa for the return journey at 11.30pm on Saturday and the boxers and officials caught Sunday's noon ferry back to Palm.

Mr Dennis said some Palm boxers may compete at a Townsville fight night next Saturday run by Flatenem's Club chief Gonzo Hooper.

Rainforest Cup to go ahead in November

PALM Island has been invited to enter a team in the Indigenous Rainforest Cup cricket carnival to be held in Tully on 6-7 November.

Even if Palm does not have a team at the unique carnival it looks certain that some youngsters from there will line up for the Yarrabah team.

Organiser Stan Lenoy said funding to run the carnival has been approved.

"Nomination forms are being sent out," he said.

"The captain of the Yarrabah team which played last year said he was encouraged that a few relatives from Palm may have a go this carnival."

If a Palm Island side does enter there is a possibility that former Sydney and Tasmanian A grade cricketer Colin Lamont may line up once again.

Lamont is an ex-Imparja Cup player for Tasmania who was born on Palm Island and was in Townsville during August for a school reunion.

Lamont said his brother Bernie – one of Tasmania's best Imparja Cup allrounders, and also born on Palm – would compete if invited.

Six women's teams along with a record number of men's teams are expected to play under the exciting Twenty20 format for the Cup.

... OUT & ABOUT ...

Emily Palmer (*right*) and her six-month-old son Hector Poynter IV had a couple of days on mainland Townsville before returning to Palm on the ferry a month or two back. "My baby is the fourth Hector Poynter in the family, and we have had a good time over here but it is always good to return to Palm," Emily said.



Sylvia Gibuma (*left*), her partner Ingai Geia and their children Kinoa Geia, aged 3, and Gabriel Geia, 2, shop as often as they can in Townsville and were also spotted heading for home from there.

"We have been shopping for a few days in Townsville and the children have enjoyed it," Sylvia said.

Sylvia has descendants on Boigu Island which is within sight of the Papua New Guinea mainland and says she loves Palm island.

Hubby Ingai is a QBuild employee on Palm Island.

Friendly driver Simon Woodward, right, is an owner driver for his Townsville based company TDL Logistics. He was spotted with a huge load pulling up near the boat ramp last month. "It is a generator which I brought over on Day & Day's barge from Lucinda this morning, it was for work on the Palm power station," Simon told the Palm Island Voice.



Good friends Lorraine Parker and Cynthia Watson enjoyed the calm conditions on the ferry trip from Townsville to Palm last Friday. It was one of two return ferry services that day due to the Family Fun Day on Palm and the Army versus Skipjacks rugby league blockbuster. Passengers on the ferry which left Townsville at 8am couldn't have wished for better conditions prompting Lorraine and Cynthia to stand out the back on the lower deck to enjoy the conditions. "I haven't seen it this calm in ages," Cynthia said.

A touch of *Irish...*

Irish visitors – guests and family members of Sister Christina - enjoyed wonderful time fishing from the Reel Women jetty when they were here last month.

There was Cairon, Conor, Tess, Deirdre, Francis and Sister Christina (all McGlynnns) there with friend Michael Crowe. Cairon had just pulled in a legal sized trevally.

"The family is from County Louth in Ireland," Sister Christina said. "Both Francis and his wife Deirdre are teachers. "They are here for five weeks during the school holidays catching up with friends and relatives in Australia.



"They all have Australian citizenship as they worked here for some years and two of the children were born here. "Our Palm Island community have been most welcoming and today our guests shared

with us their musical talents after our Church service. "They are just thrilled with the Island, the friendliness of the people and the beauty of the place, and, of course, the good fishing."

ONE can only ponder what co-workers Lloyd Morgan and George Dabea would have been talking about whilst doing some hard yakka on the road along the Palm Island Esplanade in front of the Sunferries building.



They were with other well know Palm Islanders Ray Palmer and Josh Cannon last month, working hard for RoadTek.

Lloyd is also the coach of leading local rugby league side Butler Bay Bulls which is leading the table, and George a big front row forward and star for their arch rivals Skipjacks. Bulls have beaten Skipjacks in the past two grand finals. "We don't talk much about football whilst at work," George said.

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PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE **Palm Island Voice**

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