



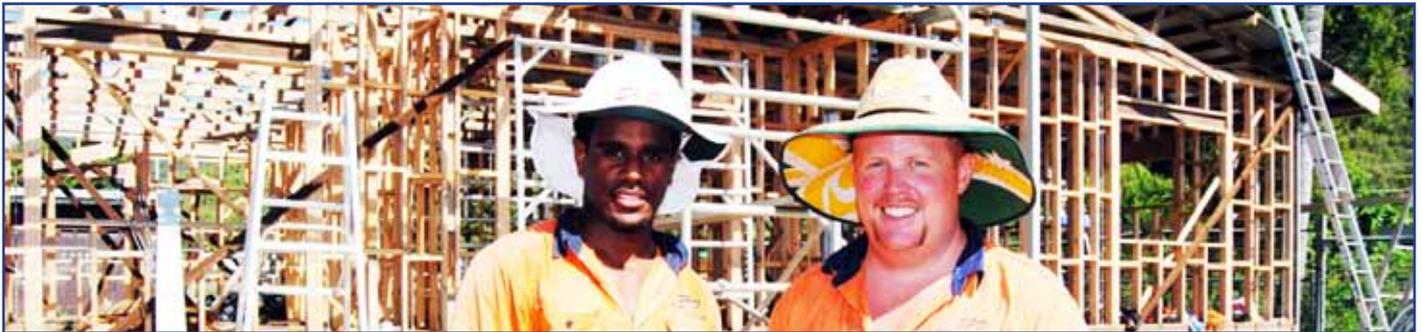
Palm Island Voice



Issue 65
Tuesday 5 October 2010

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

Census highlights need for new housing – which is on the way!



There has been a lot of building activity lately on Palm Island, which is good news for locals after a recent Census organised by Council revealed each household had an average of 16 people calling it 'home'.

Mayor Alf Lacey said there were 375 properties on the island rented to residents by Council even though the Census had also shown there were more than 3000 residents. Six people who had good local knowledge carried out interviews for the Census door knocking all houses, bush camps and caravans around the bays away from

the main residential area.

"The official Government Census in 2006 said we had about 1980 people and we wanted to have our own done as we knew it was more than that," Mr Lacey said. "Our Census will be sent to Government departments."

He said the Council's Census was analysed by James Cook University statisticians

and provided a much more accurate population figure than the last official Government count.

But, he said, it was also suspected quite a number of residents were on the mainland at the time it was carried out, with possibly as many as 10% still not being counted.

...Continued p 2...

Pictured above: helping to bring new housing to Palm were Josiah Geia, left, and Adam Simpson in front of a new house along Coconut Grove; Below left: prefab housing on the barge; Below right: Chris Camenzuli, left, and Leon Watson in front of some houses near the esplanade



Sewerage upgrade in good hands

Laying of new pipes as part of a \$600,000 sewerage upgrade is underway on Palm Island.

The pipes have been barged from the mainland for the work, which is expected to take six months to complete.

Hard at work on the job last week was Wes Lenoy operating a bobcat, and Lex Wotton.

A tradesman and plumber, Mr Wotton was unable to speak to the media, but Mr Lenoy said he was a great worker and good team member.

"It is very hot and Lex is a great worker and a good team member," Mr Lenoy said.

"He is in charge of pipe laying and is a big part of the project."

Red Cross office manager and former Council-employee Deniece Geia said Mr Wotton was playing a vital role in an important project for the community.

"This is really a major sewerage upgrade, some of the existing pipes are 25 years old," she said.

"Lex is the ideal man for the job with his



plumbing experience and love of the island." Mayor Alf Lacey said for such a project like this it was important to have somebody of Mr Wotton's experience in the role.

"Given his plumbing experience the Council was happy to offer Lex an employment contract for this major upgrade," Mayor Lacey said.

Footy presentations postponed to later this month

The annual presentation of trophies for the Palm Island Rugby League scheduled for last Saturday night at the PCYC has been postponed with a

possible but unconfirmed new date being Saturday 30 October. A PIRL spokeswoman said with so much football being played over the next few weekends, October 30

looked the likely date. Palm Island Voice is proud to be able to assist with providing a slide show of action, team and crowd shots from the season.

...FROM P 1...

The Census proves just how vital the new houses being built on Palm are.

There are 14 currently under construction, all expected to be finished by the end of 2010, with another 40 to come next year.

They are part of funding for 146 new homes planned for various locations around the island over the next eight years.

An additional 20 homes will be built on a \$14 million

subdivision at Butler Bay to be named after the late and great Bill Coolburra.

"The new houses here will put more people into homes and cut the number living in present ones," Mayor Lacey said.

There is a hive of activity going on around the Island, with builders, carpenters, plumbers and other tradies involved in the new construction.

Josiah Geia is an apprentice plumber who works for

Smedley Draining and was with a group of 10 tradies building a house along Coconut Grove.

With him was Smedley plumber Adam Simpson and the rest were Q-Build employees.

"There are five new homes going up along here," Josiah said.

FOOTNOTE: Palm Island Voice has a copy of the Council Census and will provide more information over future editions.

Service provision focus to Red Cross visit

Red Cross Queensland's Executive Director Greg Goebel said his recent visit to Palm Island had been a great opportunity for him to meet local manager Deniece Geia and get to know a bit more about the community.

"The visit was a good opportunity for me to meet local manager, Deniece Geia, as well as get to know more about other organisations on the Island and to fill them in about what Red Cross is doing," he said.

"That way we can all get a better idea of where there are gaps in our services and do some mapping of our services. As a result, we have agreed to set up a regular interservices network so that all agencies working on the

island could coordinate and swap information.

"Red Cross has a strong commitment to continuing its work on Palm Island, not only with the Good Start Breakfast Club but also as a partner with the PCYC in 'Deadly Youth' nights.

"We are also working with the Catherine Freeman Foundation to collaborate with service delivery.

"In the future, Red Cross wants to work even more closely with young people, so

we are planning to set up a Night Café – an outreach service similar to the one we run in Brisbane – that would incorporate the save-a-mate peer support program."

Ms Geia said Mr Goebel also met



with Traditional Owner and community elder Margaret Parker and Allan Palm Island.

"Mr Goebel was invited back to the Island originally by Mayor Alf Lacey to meet with service providers in relation to service delivery," Ms Geia said.

"The meeting was held in the council chambers and chaired by Cr Lacey with PCYC, Ferdy's Haven and Palm Island Community Company also there to discuss current and future programs.

"Mayor Lacey has indicated the next interservices network meeting will be held later this month and facilitated by another NGO."



Torrential rain in late September has proven a great bonus for organisers of the Palm Island rodeo to be held later this month on October 23. Pictured here is worker Daniel Nallajar clearing a channel for water from that rain to escape. Rodeo organiser Shaun Shortjoe was also nearby with another volunteer worker Jacinta Obah.



Mayor in call to end grog plan

Article & pic courtesy Koori Mail

ONE in three adults on Palm Island faced court on a single day charged with breaching the community's alcohol management plan.

Between 400 and 450 people faced the Palm Island Magistrates Court last Thursday charged with breaching laws that restrict the type of alcohol that may be brought into the Indigenous community, off the north Queensland coast.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the fact almost one-third of the island's adult population had faced court in a single day showed the Queensland Government's alcohol restrictions weren't working.

"It's getting to a point when it's quite clear the alcohol management plan isn't working," Mr Lacey said.

Most of those charged had pleaded not guilty because they believed the alcohol management plan to be invalid, he said. "They are exercising their human rights," Mr Lacey said. "If I'm in Townsville or Cairns, I don't get issued with an alcohol breach."

A Justice Department spokeswoman said the matters had been adjourned for the past few years, while a test case involving Palm Island woman Florence Morton made its way through Queensland's court system.

Ms Morton was convicted and fined \$150 in Townsville Magistrates Court in 2008 for possessing a bottle of bourbon, but appealed the matter to the District Court and the Court of Appeal. Both of those appeals were unsuccessful, but the matter is now being appealed to the High Court. Mr Lacey called for a review of Palm Island's alcohol management plan to allow pre-mixed spirits. "We want to be treated like any other shire in Queensland," he said.

The mayor said that while alcohol abuse was a problem in many Aboriginal communities, authorities should be looking more at the issues behind it, such as high unemployment.



... OUT & ABOUT ...



JASON Thimble is one of the toughest rugby league footballers on Palm Island, known as a 'man of steel' on the field. When the front row Jets forward gets a head of steam up he is mighty hard to stop, and he is a fierce defender.

But Jason is also a doting father of three.

He's pictured here with five-day-old baby Theo at a shopping centre in Garbutt a couple of weeks back.

Also a noted fisherman, Jason will be lining up for the Barracudas at the coming Bindal Allblacks carnival in Cairns in a couple of weeks, as well as with the Jets when they travel to Cardwell on October 23 to take on the local Pirates team.

First visit for Minister promises 'champion' for policing

POLICE Minister Neil Roberts told Palm Island Council during a meeting on September 30 one of the current QPS Assistant Commissioners would soon be appointed to a position as a "champion" for Indigenous Policing.

It was the first visit to Palm for Mr Roberts who attended a 40 minute long meeting at the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council offices where he was questioned by Mayor Alf Lacey, Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley and Councillor Hal Walsh.

Acting CEO Jeff Brown was also at the meeting.

"While this is was an operational decision from Commissioner Bob Atkinson as to which of his Assistant Commissioners would be given the role, I think the role will be given to one of the Assistant Commissioners outside of the greater-Brisbane region," Mr Roberts said.

"There will also be additional resources available and the Police Commissioner has made it clear he wants the best model for Indigenous communities we can get.

"I will be speaking again to him about it."

Mr Roberts was asked some hard questions during the meeting including about the Alcohol Management Plan, policing on Palm Island, the recommendations of the recent the CMC report, and the large number of Indigenous people in prisons.

Mayor Lacey told Mr Roberts was told that relationships between police and residents on Palm Island was rocky and he was asked when disciplinary action against the officers in the death of Mulrunji Doomadgee would proceed.

"This has been a long saga and people need to know so they can move on and begin to heave healing,"



Mayor Lacey said.

Mr Roberts was told the AMP did not appear to be working on Palm where 450 people fronted court there recently for alleged breaches (see Koori Mail article on page ...).

"The AMP is clearly not working and we need a review," Mayor Lacey said.

After the meeting Mr Roberts, who is also Emergency Services Minister officially opened the new \$3 million joint emergency services facility.

Beetson to show at Townsville job expo

SCORES of Palm Island students and adults will be checking out potential careers at Former Origin Greats Indigenous Employment and Career Expo at Townsville's Entertainment Centre tomorrow.

Centrelink Indigenous Ambassador and rugby league legend Arthur (Artie)



Beetson will be among the guests of honour at the expo, expected to be attended by thousands from around North Queensland. Mr Beetson said the Career Expo was a great opportunity to learn more about what it takes to get a good job. "Having a good education behind you is really important and that's where programs such as ABSTUDY come into their own. ABSTUDY could help you to stay at school or go on to further studies," he said.

For more information call Centrelink on 13 2317.

New facility named to honour Jacob Baira

Palm Islander Jacob Baira was honoured at the official opening of the new joint emergency services facility last week.

Minister for Emergency Services Neil Roberts said the facility was named in recognition of Mr Baira's significant contribution to emergency services over a 30-year period.

"Mr Baira was appointed Chair of the Palm Island Aboriginal Council in 1976 and was responsible for the management of the Palm Island rescue, sea rescue and fire services until the establishment of State Emergency Service (SES) and Rural Fire Service on the island," Mr Roberts said.

"He retired in 2004 and continues to be actively involved in ensuring the Palm Island community has access to quality emergency services.

"This new facility has been named the Jacob Baira Joint Emergency Services Facility in his honour and will provide important services for the Palm Island community well into the future."

Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone said the \$3 million facility honoured an election commitment and was an important investment in the safety of the Palm Island residents.

"This purpose built station accommodates paramedics, volunteer rural firefighters and volunteer SES personnel into a single modern facility," Ms Johnstone said.

"In communities like Palm Island, these personnel are key members of the local community and are well known and trusted people who regularly work in difficult and



confronting circumstances.

"During the 2009-10 financial year the Palm Island Rural Fire Brigade responded to 41 incidents and QAS responded to around 2400 incidents.

"This new facility provides our hardworking personnel with a centralised location to coordinate emergency services responses and will help keep the community safe."

Ms Johnstone said in addition to the opening of the new facility, emergency services on Palm Island had received extra resources in this year's State Budget.

"As part of the strategy to improve employment opportunities in Indigenous communities two Indigenous Cadet Paramedic positions have been approved for Palm Island," she said.

"These officers are in addition to three Indigenous



It's a croc...

A PICTURE of a huge shark stalking a kayaker was the hot subject of conversation aboard the Sunferry catamaran out of Palm Island recently.

But was it a fair dinkum photo or a hoax?

"I was told that a family of Palm Island fisherman were at Mundy Bay on Monday and saw the kayak paddler and also that giant shark behind her and one snapped a pic on his mobile phone camera," one speculator said. "They warned her and she stopped paddling and it swam off. Lots of teachers and public servants go paddling off Palm and there are thousands of sharks out there."

Many people on the ferry asked for the pic to be sent to their mobile phones. *Palm Island Voice* can reveal that the pic was in fact real but was not snapped on Palm Island. According to internet site 'Hoax Slayer' the photograph is genuine but a number of stories around the pic are not (<http://www.hoax-slayer.com/shark-following-kayaker.shtml>). The site says:

"Although some have doubted its authenticity, the photograph is genuine. It was taken from the September 2005 issue of *Africa Geographic*...The photograph, along with other shark photographs taken by Michael Scholl and Thomas Peschak, was later reused as part of an April Fools joke perpetrated by a French magazine. After its publication, the story - a fanciful tale involving a Great White Shark's devotion to a kindly fisherman who once saved its life - began circulating via email and the Internet as a slide show."



Previous page above: Minister Roberts & William Obah; Below: dancers at the new Centre; This page above: Mayor Alf Lacey, Jacob Baira & Minister Roberts; Right: Billy Landers with the new vehicle



► ambulance attendants who have already been serving on the island for several years. "One of these officers, William Obah, will soon be presented with an Assistant Commissioner's Award Commendation for his good work during an incident involving a young man armed with a knife. "The budget also approved a new \$135,000 V8 Toyota Landcruiser Troop Carrier ambulance which was handed over today. "In addition to this, the Queensland Ambulance Service has also donated a decommissioned four wheel drive ambulance to the SES for use

by volunteers in the course of their duties." The new ambulance has been designed in line with the latest international best practice for emergency vehicle safety and is consistent with the department's Zero Harm policy. "This fully equipped vehicle provides access to patients requiring four wheel drive retrieval in remote areas while balancing the need to provide appropriate patient care," she said. "I hope these additional resources help our emergency services personnel continue to deliver a high level of care to local residents and I wish them all the best in the future."

THE Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) and Indigenous leaders will present Queensland Minister Craig Wallace with a STOLEN WAGES petition at a meeting in Townsville on Friday.

They hope the petition, and similar actions across the state, will convince the Government to settle outstanding Stolen Wages for claimants around Queensland including many on Palm Island.

Indigenous people from the Torres Strait islands, Cape York, Hopevale, Wujal Wujal, Lockhart River, Palm Island and other communities as far west as Camooweal and south to the NSW border have outstanding claims for Stolen Wages.

QCU Townsville Provincial Council President Les Moffitt said the meeting with Mr Wallace would also be attended by two local Indigenous leaders.

"The QCU will continue to run an extensive community and political campaign," he said.

"The local Townsville QCU has arranged a meeting with the Minister for Main Roads, Craig Wallace at 1pm on the October 8th to seek his support on convincing the government to settle the Stolen Wages issue.

"This meeting will be attended by local QCU Union Representatives and two local Indigenous Elders.

"We will be presenting Mr Wallace with a petition which has been signed by over 1,500 people calling on the government to do the right thing and settle the Stolen Wages case."

Mr Moffitt said a request had also been forwarded

to Premier Anna Bligh for a similar meeting when she visits Townsville next week.

"Despite the Queensland Government claiming it is not accountable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers for wages, the Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) will continue its campaign for wage justice," Mr Moffitt said.

"The QCU is continuing to support Uncle Conrad Yeatman in his legal case against the Queensland Government.

"Union Solicitors worked hard to put a substantial response together against the government's defence.

"Uncle Conrad Yeatman is a former carpenter and labourer whose wages were withheld from him since he began work at 14.

"(His) story is one of hundreds we have heard about Aboriginal people through out Queensland."

Mr Moffitt said that QCU was campaigning for full recovery of the \$55.4 million Stolen Wages reparations, originally promised in 2002 by former Premier, Peter Beattie.

"In 2002, Peter Beattie estimated that up to \$500 million in wages could have been stolen from Aboriginal workers over the years and offered \$55 million in reparations," he said.

"The State Government cannot even honour its promise to pay this amount to these workers.

"Even though the government re-opened the Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme in 2008, they still siphoned off over \$20 million into an education fund for Indigenous children.

"We have no problem with the setting up of the fund however we do not believe it should be established using workers money.

"The \$55.4 million was set aside to repair the significant and long lasting damage inflicted on workers whose wages were stolen and it should be used for that purpose and no other.

"All we are asking is that the government come good on its promise to pay these workers what was promised to them."

In early August more than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people attended a Townsville meeting organised by the QCU.

The meeting urged the Government to immediately pay Stolen Wages.

QCU General Secretary Ron Monaghan and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Industrial Officer Gwen Taylor attended the meeting.

At the time everyone agreed to sign the petition and distribute it to relatives.

Only a small minority of claimants at that meeting had been paid any money, many feared they would be deceased before receiving their claims.

See the QCU website at: <http://www.qcu.org.au>

Karaoke & pool comp helps Bistro success

After just under one month of operations the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Bistro has gained 600 members and hopes to boost that to more than 1000 by early next month.

"We have 600 members and hope that increases to past 1000 when the official opening is on and all the community Mayors' are on Palm during early November," co-licensee Shane Stratton said. The bar had a low key opening last month when about 60 people turned up to break what has been a long drought for the Island's moderate drinkers. The previous licensed bar closed in December 2008.

Both co-licenceses said they were



confident about the future of the bar, which serves top quality meals and serves up icy cold drinks with lots of entertainment.

Some of that entertainment includes popular Wednesday night karaoke conducted by former Newcastle Knights NRL star Milton Thaiday, son of the late Councillor Mick Thaiday. Included among singers has been champion female boxer Noby Clay. A pool competition has also proved popular, as has a slide show of 2010 Palm Island football season action, team and crowd shots provided to the bar

for the big screen by the *Palm Island Voice*.



PALM Island couple Darren and Kym Luke-Wood credit locals with their happy life.

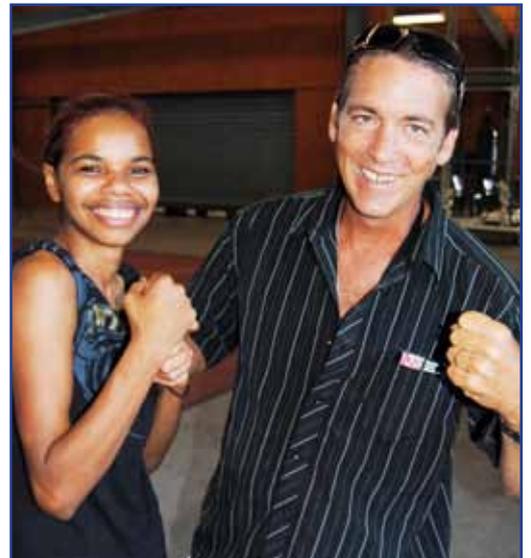
Kym is a teacher at St Michael's Primary School and Darren a handyman who is well-known around the island. They have lived on Palm for a year and reckon the beauty of the Island and the friendliness of locals have made their courtship very romantic.



"We got married on Magnetic Island on the beach and soon will be having another smaller ceremony on Palm," Darren said.

They love walking their dogs around the island.

"I also enjoyed watching the Message Stick program on ABC television and it was great to meet one of the stars – Noby Clay – in person here," Darren said.





Boxing champions Craig Desatge, Joey Geia, Luke Lenoy, Patrick Clarke, Albert Gorringe, Noby Clay, Thomas Blanket and David Sam on the Palm jetty before leaving for State Titles

Latest medal haul does us proud

PALM Island boxers returned from the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League State Titles in Mackay last weekend with six gold medals, five championship belts, one silver and two bronze medals.

Joey Geia, David Sam, Luke Lenoy, Selwyn Seaton, Patrick Clarke and female Noby Clay all won gold medals.

Sam, Lenoy, Seaton, Clarke and Ms Clay also won championship belts for outstanding performances.

The five all went up weight divisions to win.

"Noby is 46kg and fought an opponent who weighed 54kg," trainer Ray Dennis said.

Thomas Blanket won a silver medal whilst Craig Desatge and Albert Gorringe won bronze medallions.

The boxers travelled from Palm on last Thursday's 11am Sunferry catamaran and went by hire bus driven by assistant trainer Chris Gundy to Mackay.

They arrived back in Townsville on Sunday morning about 10am and had to find accommodation at the Hotel Allen after the scheduled Sunday noon ferry was cancelled due to rough weather.

MEANWHILE veteran Palm Island boxing trainer Ray Dennis



didn't wheelie look like he was having a wheelie good time early one morning, as he borrowed a really bin to take care of some rubbish on his way to the State Titles in Mackay.

Ray found the bin with gardener Joe Reuben who was happy to make the loan.

Ray said he wanted to thank all the people who purchased tickets in a raffle held the night before at the Coolgaree Bar and Bistro, which raised \$150 to help with costs for the trip.

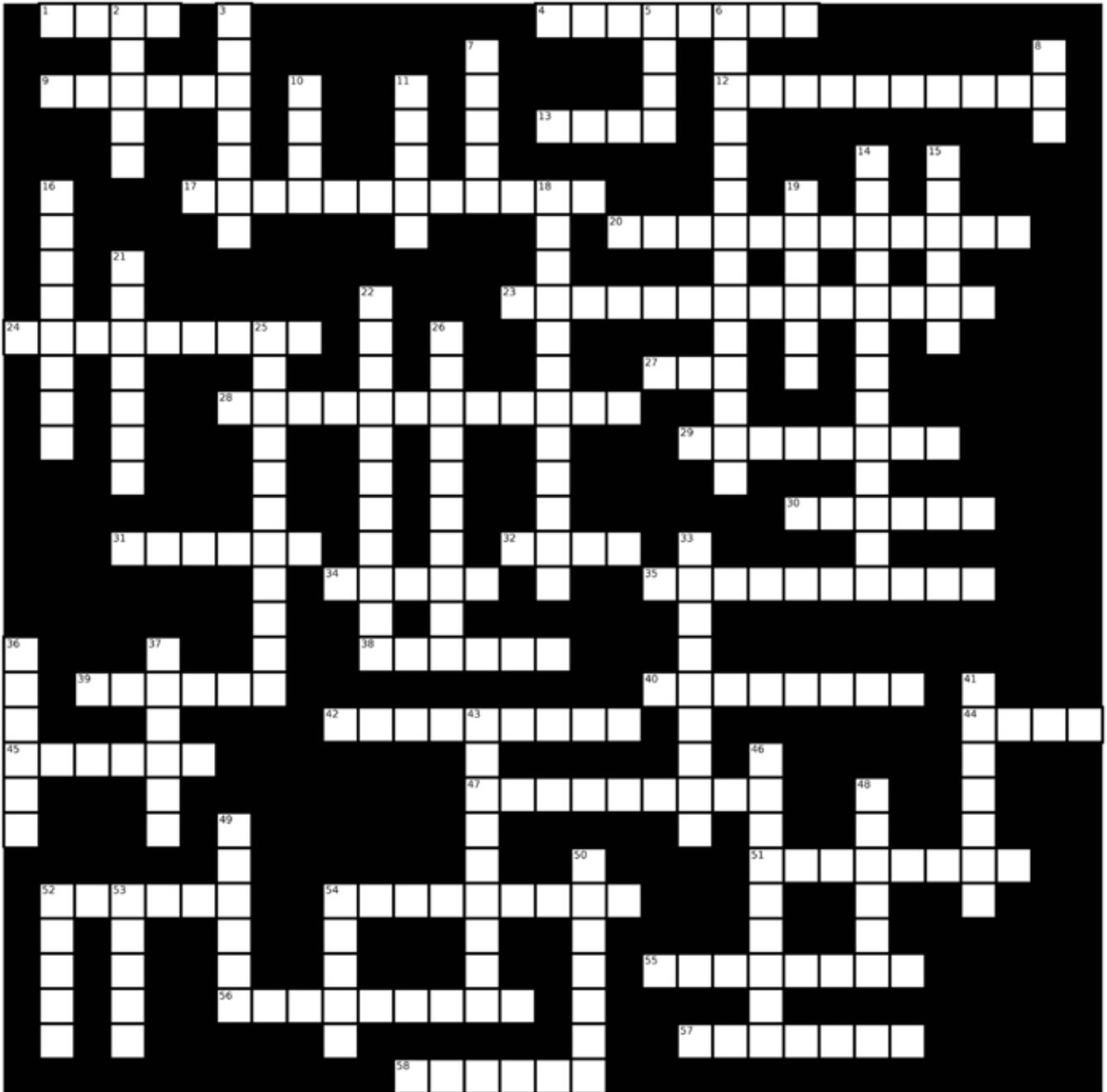


Palm Island boxer Chris Gundy will fight Quentin Donohoe (above) in a featherweight professional bout at the Aitkenvale PCYC in Townsville on Saturday night.

Last weekend Gundy drove the bus to Mackay for the State Titles where he sparred five exhibition rounds with Australian professional bantamweight boxing champion Fred Mundraby. The weigh-in will be 7pm at the Shamrock Hotel in South Townsville on Friday night. Saturday night's tournament is a pro/am event. Thomas Blanket (54kg) and Harry Friday (33kg) will fight on the amateur undercards.

PI Voice Crossword 65

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



Across

1. Community Development Employment Program (initials)
4. Drug causing depression & schizophrenia
9. Australian grey crane (bird)
12. Sportsman of the Year, NRL (2 words)
13. Turtles lay these
17. Indigenous affairs TV show (2)
20. November's big horse race (2)
23. Plants make oxygen by this process
24. Made of milk and cocoa
27. My Island Home singer
28. Indigenous 'Oscars' at the Opera House (2)
29. Preston Campbell leads this Indigenous team (2)
30. Main component of glass
31. Dry skin condition
32. Catching a ball in Aussie Rules
34. ATSI Social Justice Commissioner, Mick ?
35. Type of judge
38. Large boats powered by this fuel

39. Salt and ?

40. Southern continents were once joined as this
42. Ambulance officer
44. Coconut fibre
45. A point score in AFL
47. This bar and bistro now open here
51. Palm Island Mayor (2)
52. Colour of Queensland
54. Thorny sunshine fruit
55. Famous Indigenous hip hop band
56. Singing TI Uncle (2)
57. You might do this on the jetty
58. Internet search engine

Down

2. Another name for era
3. Leptospermum - native oil tree (2)
5. National Indigenous Radio Network (init)
6. PI League Premiers (3)
7. A ship's guide
8. Play on words (meant to be funny)
10. PI League runners-up

11. Postponed event now on October 23
14. Footy Show favourite from St George (2)
15. Queensland floral emblem, Cooktown ?
16. 1996 stockmen's strike was here (2)
18. Sydney 2000 Olympic Medalist (2)
19. Gurgu (sea creature)
21. Indigenous Affairs Minister, Jenny ?
22. AFL 2010 Premiers (Yay! Ed.)
25. Measures heat by degrees
26. Deadly winning movie (3)
33. Large flightless NQ bird
36. Tyres are made of this
37. Sea creature that soaks
41. Deep water pathway
43. Native Australian nut
46. Disease from intravenous drug use
48. Extra time in NRL plays for this point
49. Population count
50. Type of sugar in the blood
52. Singing sisters from TI
53. Deadly Awards singer, Archie ?
54. Personal Helpers and Mentors (init)

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Happy Birthday to
Melissa Lacey
with love from the
Lacey & Prior families
Tuesday 5 October

Palm Island Voice

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 deadline details.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

to the

Palm Island Voice

are welcome.

Contributions may include news,
yarns, pics, letters-to-the-editor,
poetry, community notices
and/or advertisements.

Contact Andrea Kyle at the

Council offices:

Ph 4770 1177 or

Fax 4770 1305

**If you have email you can write
to the Editor, Christine Howes,
at: chowes@westnet.com.au**



POSITIONS VACANT

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has two (2) part-time positions with the Indigenous Knowledge Centre. The successful applicants must be prepared to travel and undergo training. These positions require some flexibility with hours and may include weekend shifts.

An information package containing position description, selection criteria may be obtained from Reception, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

Written applications with a completed selection criteria should be forwarded to the A/Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Post Office, Palm Island.

Applications close 20th October 2010

Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.

**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
is closed every second Friday
(Council pay week) for RDO.**

**The next RDO is Friday 15 October.
For emergencies on a Friday please
call 0458 789 010.**

For more information contact
the Council on 4770 1177

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MUM!!!*

(ERYKAH KYLE)

*With love from your Family for
FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER*

POSITION VACANT

Do you want to make a difference in your community?

Title: Community Engagement Support Officer
Agency: Department of Communities
Employment type: Temporary, Full-time
Location: Government Coordination Centre, Palm Island
Job duration: Until 31 December 2010
Salary per annum: \$59,270 to \$65,174

The role of the Community Engagement Support Officer is to coordinate and/or undertake community engagement and support functions to facilitate the delivery of programs and services provided by the Department of Communities' staff on Palm Island.

The principal responsibilities of this role are:

- Liaise with departmental officers, community representatives and a wide range of stakeholders in relation to community engagement activities
- Undertake administrative duties related to meetings including developing draft agendas, invitations, taking minutes of meetings and organising mail-outs of information as required
- Develop and/or maintain confidential, accurate and effective office administration, records management and other information systems to support service provision on Palm Island
- Provide general administrative support to departmental staff across all service areas on Palm Island as required
- Provide a central point of contact for all service areas regarding enquiries from a diverse range of external and internal clients in a courteous, professional and timely manner

The Department of Communities will support you to build a challenging a rewarding career while maintaining a healthy work and life balance. You will enjoy a competitive salary, superannuation, salary packing, flexible working hours, flexible leave options, a safe and healthy work environment and professional development.

Closing date: Friday, 22 October 2010

**For more information contact be Liz Johnston,
Homelessness and Housing Services,
Palm Island on 4799 5382**

Plenty more footy to come!

Palm Island will have four, possibly five men's teams and one ladies side contesting the Bindal Allblacks rugby league carnival in Townsville this weekend.

Teams will include former Newcastle Knights NRL star Milton Thaiday and young Cowboys back Obe Geia junior. Milton will play a major role in the Thaiday Brothers Memorial side which is being named in honour of his late and great father, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Councillor Mick Thaiday.

"We are looking forward to the carnival and it is also being named after Aloysius Thaiday," Milton said. "There will be at least five Thaiday family members in it." Bwgcolman Hornets are also entering a side, with spokesman Billy Landers saying the team and supporters will have a large banner that will be the envy of others.

Some of the Hornets players will include Christian Richardson, butcher Lee Chandler, Rob Schneider, Owen Robertson, Josh Landers and Daniel Geia.

Respected Palm Island rugby league identity Roy Prior said he had been asked to taken on a management role by players.

"I have been asked again by the players to be part of it on a management basis which I don't mind doing," he said. "Once again ever reliable Fred Haines will lead the team as captain of the side and Thomas Morgan will over see the coaching development of the team."

Star Jets forward Jason Thimble is another definite starter for the Barracudas.

There are two other Palm Island teams which look certain to nominate for the Bindal carnival as well



Billy Landers

are the Telstan Sibley team the Curacao Crusaders, and a Broncos side not much is known about. It is understood that Obe Geia junior and the star Pearson brothers of premiers Butler Bay Bulls fame will be in that Crusaders outfit.

A Jets side looks set to mount a challenge for the ladies section of the Townsville carnival.

Local boxer Noby Clay said she would be lining up as hooker with other girls Lindsay Malone, Libby Clay, Rosina Clay, Ngarla Sam and Alima Geia ready for the challenge.

The following week Mr Prior and Fred Haines will take a Palm under-18 team to Queensland's biggest Allblacks carnival in Cairns.

With 50 teams between Men, Ladies and Under 18 male divisions, the competition could rival NSW's AllBlacks as the biggest in the country this year.

"Fred Haines and I will again be taking our Junior Palm Island Barracudas side to Cairns Kungi All Blacks, we have a number of juniors who now know have what it takes to play at that AllBlacks carnival level," Mr Prior said.

"Without putting too much pressure on the boys we may snag the U18 title this year, fingers crossed."

FOOTNOTE: *Palm Island Voice* will be taking pics at the Townsville and Cairns carnivals.



Milton & Joshua Thaiday

Good show at National Netball titles (from p 16...)

More than 80 players, officials and supporters travelled for the prestigious event, with games held before good-sized crowds at the Corcoran Park Netball Association courts from September 24 to October 2.

Some were accommodated at Shalom Christian College whilst others stayed with family and friends in Townsville.

The two youngest age groups were sponsored by the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

There were also many Palm Island-born people who live in Townsville on the sidelines barracking for the sides.

All of the Palm teams looked magnificent in their uniforms, which really stood out earning the island much praise from opponents.

Coach of the Open Ladies team Kevin Ryan said his side won two of their first three games.

"We are giving this a good shot and the ladies have played very well," Kevin said. Other teams in the Open Ladies division were Beenleigh, Townsville Shooters and

Corcoran Park.

In the 13-years and under, other teams included Corcoran Park Gold and Blue teams, Marleston from South Australia, AYC from Tasmania, Highlanders Fire, and South Australia United Churches team (Saunca).

Team coach Elsa Morton said the girls had performed well during the carnival.

"Most of the girls from the other sides were much taller than ours but this carnival has been good experience," Elsa said.

On a nearby court, the Palm 17-years and under team were ready to play under astute officials Leah Dabea and Murielle Morgan.

"The girls have done well," Leah said.

The side lost that game to a Highlander side, which again on average had much taller

players than Palm.

Palm Mixed team members Zac Sam junior, Ben Castors, Jim Robertson and Stephen Fullerton were on the sidelines cheering for the Open Ladies who then took on Beenleigh. Early the next morning the Palm Open Mixed side took on Marleston on court six.

Player Zac Sam junior said everybody enjoyed the carnival.

RESULTS: The four teams failed to reach Saturday's grand finals. Leah Dabea said that the 13-years team played their last games on Thursday, the 17-years team reached the semifinals but were eliminated. The Ladies Open won six games and reached Friday's preliminary finals, matching the Mixed side but not going any further.

Well done to everyone involved!!!



Above: U13s & Top Right: U17s + Right: U13s 'dwarfed' by taller opponents

Two teams make prelim finals at National Netball titles

FOUR Palm Island teams competed at the Combined Australian Netball Association (CANA) National Championships in Townsville over a week late last month.

The teams competed in 13-years and under, 17-years and under, Open Ladies and Open Mixed divisions.

The latter two teams - Ladies and Mixed - both made it to their respective preliminary finals. **...Continued p 15...**



Left: Open Ladies & Below: Open Mixed teams



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Editor: Christine Howes (chowes@westnet.com.au)
 Ph 4770 1177 or 0419 656 277
 Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson
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