



Palm Island Voice



Issue 66
Tuesday 19 October 2010

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

Palm in bid to Winfrey tickets + visit

Palm Islanders have come out in support of a bid by Mayor Alf Lacey to invite American TV talk-show host Oprah Winfrey to visit their beloved home during her coming Australian visit.

Oprah is bringing 300 of her US viewers with her on the historic trip Down Under which attracted worldwide headlines when it was announced in mid-September.

On December 14, Oprah will have a show filmed at the Sydney Opera House when

the iconic building will be the subject of cameras from media around the globe.

Thousands of Winfrey's Australian fans will be invited to sit in the audience and hopefully some Palm Islanders will be there.

A 'straw poll' of about 20 Palm Islanders at the Bindal footy carnival indicated full support for Oprah being asked to come to our beautiful Island.

Fans wanting to be in the audience have to apply online and will be picked by lottery. Oprah has said she wanted

to visit an island paradise and the Great Barrier Reef, which prompted Mayor Lacey to invite her to Palm.

Mayor Lacey said he heard that Oprah wanted to visit an Indigenous community and is keen to get her to Palm – a bid supported by Townsville Mayor Les Tyrell

The last really famous A-List person to visit the Island was Australia's Hollywood movie star Russell Crowe in 2004.

Crowe played in his band on the Island and stayed overnight.

AllBlacks carnivals score for Palm Island footy

PALM Island footballers and supporters travelled to Cairns for Queensland's biggest rugby league Allblacks carnival last weekend, hot on the heels of huge Palm Island success at the Bindal Allblacks held the week before in Townsville.



A Palm Island under-18 side competed in Cairns under the guidance of astute mentors Roy Prior and Fred Haines. Whilst no Palm Island Barracudas side contested the A Grade men's section, which had an amazing 32 teams, some local footballers played for various sides. Fred Bulsey was a key member of the Cherbourg Hornets side, who won the Cairns grand final beating Kulipyam from Badu Island 28-20.

Raoul Miller, Darryl Pearson and Josiah Geia lined up for Cannonballs, who reached the last 16 teams on day two before being eliminated. Malcolm Lawrence played for one of the three Yarrabah sides.

Our pictorial coverage of Palm Islanders at the Cairns carnival will appear in Issue 67 of the *Palm Island Voice*. MEANWHILE see pages 10-12 for coverage of the Bindal Allblacks in Townsville. Pictured above is Palm Barracudas lock Raoul Miller heading towards the line to score an early try against Bowen Stingers in the 26-18 quarter final victory in Townsville.

Fantome yarn draws international interest

AN international newspaper has run a story on the recent reunion of former patients and unveiling of a plaque at Fantome Island.

The Scottish Banner is a monthly paper with offices in Florida, USA, Niagra Falls in Canada and Marrickville, New South Wales, and is distributed around the world with many subscribers in far off countries.

The story was published in 'paper's' the October edition with a picture of Palm Island based Catholic Sister Christina McGlynn and Katherine Graham (above right), both on Fantome Island.



Sister Christina is of Scottish descent and was one of the organisers of the Back to Fantome Island reunion, also attended by Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey and other special guests.

Sister Christina has a copy of the article and the edition of the Scottish Banner the story appeared in.

Over-representation cause for concern

STATISTICS released recently show a huge percentage of total prisoners at the Townsville Correctional Centre are Indigenous.

The numbers indicate 60% of male prisoners and 75% of women are Indigenous, mainly Aboriginal.

The high number of Aboriginal people in State prisons was one of the subjects raised with Police Minister Neil Roberts when he visited Palm Island recently.

Palm Mayor Alf Lacey, Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley and Cr Hal Walsh questioned Mr Roberts on a number of issues including the high percentage.

Mr Roberts said he was also concerned but hadn't responded to further inquiries from the *Palm Island Voice* at the time of going to print

Rodeo ready to run this weekend



TWENTY-five bucking bulls will battle it out with a majority of local riders at the third Palm Island Rodeo to be held on Saturday.

Action commences at the Palm rodeo grounds at 6.30pm on Saturday in the shade of the evening away from the burning sun. The rodeo is being organised by Pauline Shortjoe and her husband Shaun, whilst John Moss will be in charge of the ring action.

Mr Moss said he expected there would be a wonderful evening of riding which will live in the memory of locals for decades.

"There will be eight riders in the open bull section over two rounds, 14 in the novice, 10 in the juvenile, and 15 in the calf section. Most will be from Palm Island," Mr Moss said.

Locals like Roy Murray, Desmond Bramwell, Paul and Bruce Shortjoe and even the "man" Shaun Shortjoe himself (*pictured above in 2008*) will be names to watch.

"We will have about 24 bulls there and it will be well worth watching," Mr Moss said.

Competitors from Kowanyama, Hopevale and Wujal Wujal are also expected.

Cardwell game postponed for rodeo

THE rugby league match between Palm Island Jets and Girringun Pirates at Cardwell has been postponed until November 20.

Saturday's games would have clashed with the popular Palm Island rodeo.

Girringun Aboriginal Corp

CEO Phil Rist contacted the *Palm Island Voice* yesterday advising of the postponement. "Just letting you know that I have talked to Mislam Sam from Palm this morning regards our footy game here in Cardwell," he said. "This weekend's event would have clashed with Palm Island

Rodeo so jointly we have decided to postpone it to Saturday 20th November here in Cardwell."

Girringun Pirates enjoyed a 48-40 win over a gallant Palm Island Jets A Grade team last year in the match named in honour of the late Jack Henry and Desmond (Joe) Romelo who tragically drowned the previous February.

However in the 2009 under-17 game Palm Island Barracudas defeated Girringun Pirates 44-20.

A large crowd is expected to travel to Cardwell for next month's matches with both sides confident of victory in the senior and 17-years divisions.



Freeman to visit Palm this week

Cathy Freeman and staff from the Catherine Freeman Foundation (CFF) will arrive on Palm tomorrow (Wednesday) for a full calendar of events.

On Wednesday Cathy and Eve Ash from Save the Children will be filming at the schools as part of Eve's award-winning Finding My Magic program, a cartoon-based series that teaches children the power of positive thoughts and self-belief.

On Thursday at 10am the Palm Island Community Consultation Group meeting will be held at the PCYC.

All members of the community are welcome to attend to give CFF feedback on programs and input on CFF activities going forward.

A light snack will be provided.

At 1pm at the PCYC, CFF will be presenting to outstanding students Awards for Achievement in Literacy.

At 2pm CFF will be holding its first annual 400 metre Champion of Hope Fun Run, to join with schools across Australia as we celebrate Indigenous Culture and promote healthy lifestyles for all Aussie kids.

The Fun Run will take place on the oval in



front of the PCYC, followed by a community BBQ.

All are welcome to attend.

If any community members are interested in more information about the Catherine Freeman Foundation or would like to be involved with their programs they are welcome to talk to Cathy or any other CFF representatives.

Best and fairest players for the Palm Island teams who competed at the recent National Netball Championships at Corcoran Park in Townsville

have been named. In the Mixed Open Zac Sam junior (*right*) was the worthy winner, Bronwyn Kerr in Open Women's section, Janaya Barry in 17 years and under and Ngaire Pearson in the 14 years and under grade.



Plenty of Palm Islanders at league greats' career expo in Townsville



A large number of Palm Island students rubbed shoulders with 12 former and/or current State of Origin rugby league greats when they attended a career expo at Townsville's Entertainment Centre earlier this month.

It was the seventh and final Former Origin Greats Indigenous Employment and Career Expo (FOGS) for 2010.

Several Palm men and women were amongst more than 3000 students from around North Queensland checking out more than 60 exhibits at the Centrelink-organised event.

'Greats' at the expo included Artie Beetson,

Colin Scott, Greg Dowling, Gary Belcher, Allan Langer, Gene Miles, Sam Backo, Ty Williams and 2010 stars Sam Thaiday, Matt Scott and Johnathan Thurston.

Former North Queensland Cowboys and Gold Coast Titans back Brenton Bowen, who is also a Cairns-based Centrelink employee, was also there. Billy Landers of the Palm Island Ambulance was there with Thomas Bonner, who was looking for a carpenter's job.

Retired Cowboys star Ty Williams back and Australian Kangaroos Test forward Matt Scott had their photo taken with Palm Island Kirwan High campus students Maggie Clumpoint, Joeleen Greenway and Jacinta Obah.



Graduates ready to launch into careers

Six Palm Island students celebrated with family and friends when they received their Certificate II in Construction Pathways qualifications at a moving graduation ceremony at the Coolgaree Sports Bar last month.



Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey presented certificates and awards to:

- Jonathan Burns (Leadership Award)
- Valentine Fulford (Outstanding Achievement)
- Charles Gibson (V G Steel Award for Excellence)
- Walter James (Outstanding Achievement)
- Kiefer Ling (Outstanding Achievement)
- Jason Poynter (Outstanding Achievement)

Congratulating students on behalf of Council, Mayor Lacey said he hoped they would all have a role to play in construction work planned for the Island.

Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE's Director of Studies Wendy Lang said Course Coordinator and Trainer Valentine Nona contacted her a year ago to inquire about opportunities to deliver construction training.

She said the decision to begin negotiations on partnering arrangements was not a hard one for her to make knowing Mr Nona brought with him a lifetime of experience and industry contacts which would benefit his students. Mr Nona said, "if we are going to have a strong construction industry on this Island, we need a strong local workforce".

He also acknowledged construction skills he had



learned from his own family growing up on Palm Island – as a young boy, he helped his Uncle Thomas Geia to re-build the Naomi, a well-known wooden fishing boat.

Mr Nona also made special mention of co-trainer Gary Haines for his role in the first construction course, and thanked business associate, Kim Kersh, for helping to provide employment and work experience opportunities in Townsville.

Speaking on behalf of parents and carers, Mrs Beryl Gorringer recalled her happiness on receiving the news that the boys had completed their course. Mrs Gorringer thanked Mr Nona for having the passion to come back to Palm Island and congratulated graduates on their well-deserved awards.

"It's up to us older people to support the younger people – how we grew up, it was hard; and it's harder today because of all the pressures," she said. "I am so proud that you have found yourselves, your place in life and what you want to become".



Boxing champs



A 14lb sledge hammer has been suggested by trainer Ray Dennis as the main reason 17-year-old champion Palm boxer Patrick Clarke has such a powerful pair of fists.

In fact, Mr Dennis went as far as to say it was the reason Mr Clarke possessed a lethal knockout punch.

His record says so, with Mr Clarke winning five of his past seven fights either by knock out or TKO. That doesn't occur much in amateur ranks.

"I don't hear of any other amateur boxers who have stopped their opponents in five fights in a row,"

Mr Dennis said. "It is unheard of."

As part of his training routine Mr Clarke stands on a large tyre and belts it 50 or more times with the hammer. "It was very hard work and makes me sweat," Mr Clarke said.

Mr Dennis said he was confident that Clarke can go onto become a world champion if he maintains his intensity. "He is a level-headed young fellow and at this stage is committed to boxing. We can't always find opponents who will fight him," he said.

Looks like his growing reputation has scared many off.



SEVENTEEN year old Ellen Gee-Gee is one of a growing number of young women getting into fitness through boxing on Palm.

As a bonus, they are also learning self defence techniques.

Ellen was hard at it at the PCYC as she sparred, did rope work and other fitness related exercises.

"I am from Mount Isa and have been here for a month on Palm Island. I really want to develop my self defence skills and get fitter," she said.

Nearby there were younger girls training along with several adult women.

Trainer Ray Dennis reckons Ellen could be a quality boxer if she continues training sessions.



It was an emotional time for proud mother Alima Prior to watch her 12-year-old son Joey Geia in a boxing bout for the first time.

It was when Alima traveled to Mount Isa with Joey and the Palm boxing team for a tournament on August 21. Joey is one of the rising stars of amateur boxing and has won most of his 13 bouts. His reputation in the ring is becoming so deadly that often it is difficult to find opponents for Joey who won in Mount Isa.

"I cried and was just so proud of Joey watching him in the ring for the first time," Alima said.

Alima also travelled to Mackay in the team bus to see Joey fight at the State Titles and reckons she won't be missing too many of his future bouts.

For the record Joey continued on his winning way when we caught up with them both at the Palm Island ferry after they returned by bus from Mackay.

HE is just 15 but already David Sam weighs 94kg and is being touted by respected trainer Ray Dennis as a future professional heavyweight champion.

But with that huge compliment comes a qualification of his comment, "if David continues to train hard he could be anything," Dennis enthused guardedly.

David is already in the super heavyweight division of the Sunstate

Amateur Boxing League's classes.

It is highly unusual for one so young to be so heavy but it must be pointed out that David is not fat.

"David has had three fights for two wins and many more are to come," Dennis said.

Dennis said that Sam, for his size at such a young age, possessed remarkable speed.

But the dilemma for Dennis and his star young charge is that at such a tender young age, his near future opponents will be much older and probably adults.

"I don't want to rush him but he has lots of class," Dennis said.

As Sam sparred with champion boxer Selwyn Seaton it was clear they were giving each other a solid workout.

"He hit me with a few good ones and apologised, but we are good mates," Seaton offered.

Young Sam doesn't appear to have any fat on



his body frame and is from an ideal boxing pedigree.

His uncle Doug Sam was an Australian professional boxing champion and once fought for a world title.

His dad Zac Sam is also a former quality boxer and he has brothers Assan, Kareem, Costa and Moa who are all fine boxers.

They are known affectionately as the "Fighting Sam Family" but one can only ponder what any nickname would be from beaten opponents.

"David has speed to burn and I have never in my long time as a trainer seen anything like it. Mohammed Ali had it but you couldn't compare David with him at this stage," Dennis said.

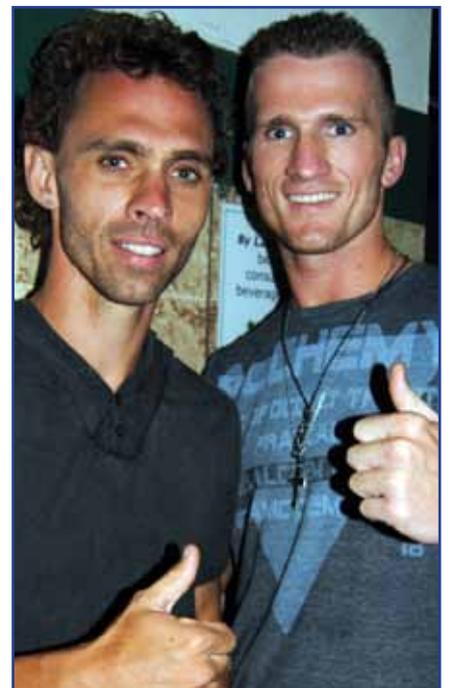
But Dennis still reckons that David Sam is a name the boxing fraternity will hear about in the not too distant future.

David also won a gold medal at the State Titles held at Mackay in early October.

Gundy success in Townsville pro fight

TALENTED Palm Island boxer Chris Gundy won his professional boxing bout in Townsville earlier this month, beating highly rated opponent Quentin Donohue.

Trainer Ray Dennis said it was a great effort by Gundy, especially after Donohue had beaten Australian ranked pro Leigh Lindgren at Ingham two months ago. The promoter was so impressed with Gundy they have booked him for another fight in Townsville on December 11. During the pro/amateur night, Palm boxers Patrick Clarke and Luke Lenoy had exhibition spar sessions with top Townsville based professional boxer Josh King. Clarke and Lenoy are rising stars in amateur boxing ranks and will almost certainly turn professional within the next few years. Young Thomas Blanket fought an amateur bout on the big night and was defeated, but enjoyed the experience before such a massive crowd. Gundy is pictured right with star pro boxer Les Sherrington.



Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

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

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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 AVAILABLE

The Palm Island Women's Shelter is opening soon and the following positions are currently open for application:

Coordinator (F/T)

Support Workers x 3 (F/T)

Administration Officer (P/T)

*Applications Close Monday,
1st November 2010*

Please contact Narelle Gleeson-Henaway on 07 4770 1136 for Position Descriptions or further information.



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every second Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDO is Friday 29 October. For emergencies on a Friday please call 0458 789 010.

Palm Island Obe Geia Challenge

COWBOYS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Obe Geia Challenge – a hugely popular junior rugby league carnival held at the Indigenous community of Palm Island – was developed by the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys to bring communities together.

The inaugural carnival in 2009 was hailed a great success, and there has been overwhelming demand from schools to participate in 2010.

With support from All Stars Indigenous funding and partnerships with key stakeholders (including the Department of Communities – Sport and Recreation Services, PCYC Palm Island, QRL, ARL, Education Qld, Catholic Education and the Palm Island Council), this junior rugby league competition has been developed and coordinated with teams of 15 players aged 10-12 years.

The Cowboys and the event's supporting partners aim to bring communities together and promote the benefits of sport, fitness and healthy living.

The event is named after Cowboys player Obe Geia, a Palm Island local, which helps to forge a strong connection with local juniors.

Thank you to our partners for their contribution and support of this event!

Participating Schools:

Heatley State School; The Marian School;
Rasmussen State School; Kelso State School;
St Michael's Catholic School
Good Shepherd Catholic Community School;
Vincent State School; Bwgcolman Community School
Magnetic Island State School;
St Joseph's Catholic School, The Strand



**9am-4pm Friday
22 October
Palm Island Senior
Rugby League
Grounds
("The Farm")**



www.cowboys.com.au/community



*Pictured: Clockwise from Top:
Palm Island Barracuddas; Palm
Island Jets Ladies; Thai Day
Brothers Memorial Side;
Bwgomlan Hornets & Ronald
Walsh Memorial Dream Catchers*



AWARDS

Crusaders players dominated the carnival awards, Lester Hero won player of the carnival. Theeran Pearson the player of the final, and Algon Congo the best forward. However Barracuddas centre and Tabua Oui won the best back of the carnival award.

FOOTNOTE: The Palm Island Voice would like to dedicate these pictures to the sporting men and women of Palm Island and their supporters. Well done to all!!

Never before have Palm Island sides performed so well at such a big carnival in what was a historic weekend.

It was estimated that more than 2000 Palm Islanders watched games on the weekend.

Palm Island Voice was there for the duration to record the action, sportsmanship, blood, sweat and tears.

Sixteen men's teams and four ladies sides competed at what is widely regarded as Queensland's second biggest carnival after Cairns.

During the grand final, which commenced just before 6pm on October 10, more than 1000 Palm Islanders were on the sideline cheering for their respective teams.

THE WEEKEND

Early on day one the Palm Island Jets ladies defeated a much bigger Brisbane Blacks side, 36-24, on field two at Townsville's Brothers League's Club.

Moarna Sam scored three tries for the Jets and another player who stood out was 42-year-old Lorraine Kennedy. In the men's division on day one, Curacoa Crusaders 58 defeated Bwgcolman Hornets 0 and also hammered Charters Towers Dreamtime 50-6. In that whitewash Phillip Daisy, a son of former Barracudas and Mount Isa Foley Shield star Vern Daisy, scored five tries.

The Thaiday Brothers Memorial team drew 24-all with Charters Towers United and also defeated Bindal Sharks 18-16.

In a moving moment before one game, a minute silence in honour of former Palm Island

Aboriginal Councillor Mick Thaiday was observed as players from both sides stood on the field.

Mick Thiaday's son and former NRL star Milton Thaiday gave an emotional speech.

Later on day one Palm Island Barracudas defeated the Hopevale Dhaarrba Bulls coached by NQ Cowboys champion Matty Bowen 21-16, and also thrashed Blood Brothers 52-4.

Dream Catchers lost to Estates United 20-4 and also went down to Walkabouts 30-10.

Bwgcolman Hornets lost convincingly to CQ Warriors in their other game.

"We have brought over a young side of Palm Island boys," Hornets manager Rio Walsh said.

DAY TWO

On day two, the top eight sides played off in quarter finals of the winners comp and the bottom eight team in the plate, or losers section.

In games in the plate competition Dream Catchers lost 48-8 to Bindal Sharks, and Walkabouts rolled Hornets 40-4.

In the grand final of the plate Charters Towers United defeated Bindal Sharks United 24-18.

WINNERS COMP

In the quarter finals CQ Warriors 12 narrowly beat a gallant Thaiday Brothers Memorial side 10, Curacoa Crusaders 36 d Hopevale Bulls 22, Palm Island Barracudas 26 d Bowen Stingers 18, and Bowen River Broncos fought

out an 18-all draw with Estates United.

Bowen River Broncos advanced for scoring first. In the semi finals Curacoa Crusaders 22 beat CQ Warriors 14, and Palm Island Barracudas 28 d Bowen River Broncos 22.

That set up a wonderful showdown between the Barracudas and Crusaders, the undoubted two best sides at the carnival.

GRAND FINAL

Curacoa Crusaders consisted of players from Palm Island, Townsville, Yarrabah and Brisbane whilst Barracudas was mostly Island players with star recruits in NRL South Sydney Rabbitohs halfback Chris Sandow and Cherbourg dynamo Bernard Hopkins as guest players.

Crusaders led 13-6 at halftime and ran away to win 37-6 at the siren. For Crusaders Robbie Congoo scored two tries with singles to his brother Malcolm Congoo, Phillip Daisy, Butler Bay Bulls' Clinton Pearson, and Keelan Ludwig. Theeran Pearson booted five goals and Fred Haines jnr one. Theeran Pearson also slotted a field goal.

For the Palm island Barracudas, Clinton Burns scored the only try and Tabua Oui kicked the goal.

LADIES FINAL

To qualify for the grand final Palm Jets had to beat Brisbane Blacks 28-22 on day two, but then never looked likely in the decider which Bindal Sharkettes won 62-nil.

Success in Townsville for PI teams



SIX Palm Island teams competed at the Bindal Allblacks carnival in Townsville on October 9 and 10 and two of them, the Curacoa Crusaders (*above*) and home favourites Barracudas (*below right*), reached the grand final.

The other sides were the Ronald Walsh Memorial Dream Catchers, the Bwgcolman Hornets, and the Thaiday Brothers Memorial team named in honour of the late Cr Mick Thaiday and his brother Aloysius. To make it a wonderful and memorable effort by Palm Island sportsmen and women, the Jets side reached the grand final of the ladies division. ... **CONTINUED P 11 ...**



PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

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