



Palm Island Voice

Issue 74
Thursday 10 March 2011

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

\$1.00



Former Palm Island priest gives artworks back to community

When Catholic Priest Father Tony O'Brien MSC worked on Palm Island in 2005 and early 2006, he did an art course and painted many images of prominent residents.

Since then he has made a two-day whirlwind visit to Palm Island from his Sydney base to present the images to the subjects. He now wants to share his work with residents through the *Palm Island Voice*.

"Many people on Palm Island were suffering and I did the art course and wanted to capture their feelings on pastel," Father O'Brien said. The 77-year-old Father O'Brien created images of Reg Barry (*right*), Bill Coolburra (now deceased), Bernadette Johnson, Billy Prior, Mavis Foster, Kypie Pryor, Doreen Morton and Elizabeth Doomadgee.

"I was here as an island Priest and loved the people and they will always remain in my heart," he said. ***More paintings on p 8...***



New apprentices welcomed to their trades



TWO new apprentice tradesmen were welcomed to their exciting new careers at QBuild by local MP Mandy Johnstone late last month. Pictured above are 2nd year plumbing apprentice Ingai Geia, 1st year plumbing apprentice Daniel Geia, Mandy Johnstone MP, and 1st year carpentry apprentice Bryan Conway.

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Recent floods and Cyclone Yasi have damaged many parts of the region, including Palm Island, mean the new apprentices will have plenty of work and learning to do.

Ms Johnstone visited the Island with Building Services Minister Simon Finn, and congratulated the two on being offered an apprenticeship with QBuild. Two other QBuild apprentices in the 2011 intake were David Vanderjagt (Electrical Mechanical - Townsville) and Ethan Bray (Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Charters Towers). Due to flooding and cyclone events across the state, interviews are still to be carried out for one remaining Construction Worker Trainee position on Palm Island.

"I wish them all the best in their future careers," she said.

Mr Finn said QBuild was one of the largest employers of apprentices in Queensland.

"QBuild received more than 3900 applications for this year's apprentice intake," he said.

"The skills the apprentices gain as they advance through their apprenticeships will give them a head start in the industry, equipping them with life-long trade skills that will enhance their career prospects."

On hand to give the two new Palm apprentices first hand knowledge about the job was well-known local footballer Ingai Geia, a second year QBuild plumbing apprentice.

Mr Geia was one of eight apprentice tradesmen in the 2010 QBuild intake of apprentices on Palm Island.

Palm Island Voice gaining popular recognition

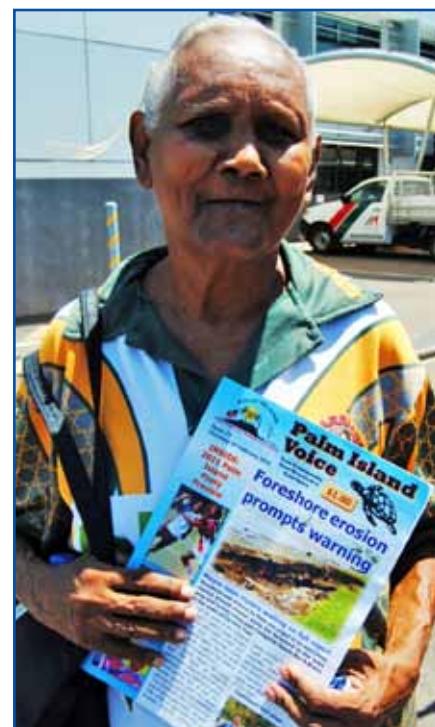
Palm Island born and bred Lorna Doolan was happy to be photographed with her copy of the *Palm Island Voice* outside the Hermit Park Commonwealth Bank on Charters Towers Road earlier this month.

Lorna was one of the elders and other mums honoured at last year's Palm Island Mother's Day celebrations.

MEANWHILE the *Palm Island Voice* will soon be sent to the Townsville Correctional Centre for distribution.

A number of Palm Island residents with relatives or friends in the Centre have asked about the possibility of having some copies being made available to them so they could keep up with the latest news from there.

"It would be great for them if they could keep up with the news on Palm Island through



the pages of the Voice,' one woman said.

A/Assistant General Manager, Townsville Women's Correctional Centre Kris Winter, said they would love to distribute the publication.

"We would love to distribute the *Palm Island Voice* to inmates at the Centre," she said.

AMP laws up for High Court challenge

Late last month The Australian newspaper reported on claims by Palm Islanders that AMPs are racist.

In 'Grog bans face High Court test' (published on 28 February 2010) it was revealed that lawyers were busy preparing to challenge Alcohol Management Plans.

The newspaper reported a test case, "drawn from one of the hundreds of appeals filed in the District Court, will claim the laws are racist because the restrictions were imposed only on Aboriginal communities and not the entire state".

"The success of the nearly 400 remaining claims will depend on the test case being upheld," the report said. It said a similar legal challenge launched by Palm Island woman Florence was dismissed last year by the Court of Appeal. **Full story is at: <http://tinyurl.com/6kvz6nc>**

Post-cyclone recovery well on track



L-R: Donna Scibberas (Centrelink); Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey; Wally Tallis (Recovery worker – Department of Communities); Greg Anderson (Regional Director NQ ATSIS – Recovery Manager) & Mal Grierson (Director-General, Public Works)

Queensland Government Community Recovery teams have been out in force helping Palm Islanders along the road to recovery since Cyclone Yasi crossed the coast in early February.

Department of Communities Regional Director for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Services Greg Anderson said recovery efforts were established four days after the disaster to help ensure the community had access to vital support services.

"We set up a Community Recovery Centre at the PCYC on the Monday after the cyclone hit, so we could be on the ground to provide support to those residents who were in need," Mr Anderson said. "The Recovery Centre is a one-stop shop for all the support services needed in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Through the centre here on Palm Island, around 200 applications for assistance were processed each day in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone. This resulted in payment of almost 500 Emergent Assistance Grants and around 100 Essential Household Contents Grants."

Mr Anderson said the Department of Communities, in conjunction with its recovery

partners – Red Cross, Centrelink, Lifeline and PICC, also deployed outreach teams to visit homes.

"Outreach teams were out and about door knocking homes to ensure that everyone was aware of the recovery services available to them," he said. "It also gives our team an opportunity to identify those residents in need of additional services and link them with our partner agencies. So far, our teams have met with the majority of residents during outreach operations and through the recovery centre." Mr Anderson said outreach teams were still working hard to assess the needs of a number of residents.

"The weather over the past few weeks has made it difficult for our teams to get to some of the areas of the island," he said. "At this stage it looks like outreach operations will continue on Palm for a couple of weeks, until they have been able to make sure that everyone has got the support they need."



Townsville Cathedral School's staff and students have been celebrating the achievements of Year 9 Palm Island student Moewaiya Youngblutt following her induction into a leadership position for the 2011 school year last month.

Moewaiya was chosen by the school's students and teaching staff to be the female Middle School Chatham House Captain for the 2011 school year. The School also said Moewaiya had been a boarding student since she started Year 8 at the school in 2010 and had shown "exceptional leadership qualities" during her time.

...Out & About...

At left well-known Palm Island resident and top footballer Lindsay Malone enjoying a moment of reflection from the Reel Women Jetty, while above right, Eva Haines , left, & Jenny Pryor were all smiles



Kids urged to consider ADF careers

YOUNG Palm Islanders have been strongly urged to seriously consider a career in the Australian Defence Forces by 45-year-old Chief Petty Officer Ray Rosendale.

CPO Rosendale (*pictured right with Palm Island kids last year*) is an Australian Defence Force Indigenous Engagement Officer with the Fairness and Resolution Branch based in Cairns.

The man, who is passionate about helping Indigenous youth gain good careers, was a key organiser for the rugby league game between the Australian Army Thunder team and local club Skipjacks for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield last August. His trip doubled as a chance to tell youngsters about the benefits of a career with the Army, Navy or Airforce. Earlier this year CPO Rosendale spoke at the biggest single intake of Indigenous people into the Australian Navy since World War II when 11 youngsters were enlisted at Townsville



on January 17. CPO said wanted his message to be relayed onto young Palm Islanders. "This is the biggest intake of Indigenous men and women into the Navy since World War 11 and this has been set up as part of the Closing the Gap Scheme," he said. "The Navy is a great career, recruits will get to see Australia and the world, get good pay, and free medical." On Palm Island, CPO Rosendale was popular with

kids as he handed out gifts and told them about some of his experiences.

"I have been in the services for 20 years and you get good pay, training, to travel and lots of other benefits," he said.

He said he couldn't wait to get back to Palm for the fourth game when he will continue his ongoing campaign to persuade Palm Island youth to consider a career in Defence.

Gold Coast reward for committed Year 6s & 7s



A group of Palm Island primary school students has taken part in a wellbeing camp on the Gold Coast as part of a truancy program which encourages school attendance on all days of the school week, and is also for children who have shown commitment to their schooling.

The trip was made possible by a special sponsorship from West Wing Aviation.

Students from both Palm Island Schools were chosen under the truancy program which is supported by Cottage By The Sea – an empowering camp supporting children to develop their mind, body and wellbeing working in conjunction with the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

Students learned how to grow self-esteem and make and sustain new friendships while living in a healthy, exciting and positive environment at the Twin Towns Resort in Coolangatta.

Cottage By The Sea Intake Coordinator, Jenny Marshall said activities for the week included attending an international surfing competition and a visit to a theme park.

"The group of eight Palm Island children will be guests at the Quicksilver Pro 2011 international surfing competition, meeting some of the surfers and having private surfing lessons," she said.

"The students will also visit the Wet and Wild theme park thanks to Quicksilver sponsorship, go shopping and learn how to make a photo diary of their experience to show their families and friends when they return."

"We believe the children will benefit in social skills and confidence from this wonderful experience as well as expanding their horizons through this incredible educational and personal journey."

Deputy Principal at St. Michael's Catholic School Kelly Dwyer said it had been hard to choose who to take.

"The opportunity to experience something like this isn't very common for the students on Palm Island," he said.

"It is quite amazing, this is such an incredible way for us at the school to reward consistent good behaviour, but it is so incredibly hard to pick which students get to take the trip."

"We are fortunate to be given two opportunities this year for students, the second trip will be later in the year and we are taking a group of students to the snow, which will just be mind blowing."

West Wing Aviation Townsville Base Manager, Christine Rice said they were pleased to be a part of the program.

"We are always pleased to get behind these life changing initiatives and offer assistance where and when we can," she said.

"We hope the children enjoy their trip."

Qld's newest LNP branch opened on Palm

LNP Leader John-Paul Langbroek has welcomed the formation of the first LNP branch on Palm Island.

"I have no doubt the renewed interest in the LNP on Palm Island is the result of years of disillusionment with state and federal Labor governments who have promised the world to get votes and then consistently failed to deliver on those promises," Mr Langbroek said. "Like many Queenslanders, Palm Island residents have said they feel successive Labor Governments have not done enough for their region and they want to be heard by their politicians. Palm Island has long been a bastion of Labor Party supporters, so the opening of a new branch is a testament to this sentiment and the efforts of former Palm Island Mayor Delena Foster who has worked so hard to get the branch up and running."

Mr Langbroek visited Palm Island last month accompanied by Shadow Minister for North Queensland, Reef Protection and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economic Development Andrew Cripps, Shadow



Parliamentary Secretary for Cost of Living and Burdekin MP Rosemary Menkens and LNP candidate for Townsville John Hathaway. Pictured above, L-R, is Delena Foster, Tenielle Oui, JP Langbroek, Deniece Geia & Sylvia Palmer (seated).

CDEP skilling up workers

The Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation has just added six more skilled workers to our Island's growing workforce.

The Chainsaw Operations course, operated at Coolgaree in partnership with Jobfind, saw six Palm Island boys – Rod Gyemore, Ray Georgetown, Maverick Fox, Harold Wilson, Dennis Braun and Trevor Bowen – gain their certificates. This growing workforce will benefit the Island in gaining contracts for local work and also provide skills for our all important community projects such as the Island's cyclone cleanup and our emergency response teams.

Another feather in our cap comes as Coolgaree initiates nine trainees and two apprentices into the Coolgaree hospitality business units. The trainees are: Mervyn Bengaroo, Priscilla Geia, James Roberts, Francella Tomachy, Julia Tomachy, Gloria Walton, Doreen Watson and Kevin Wilson. The apprentices are: Peggy Palm Island and Eunice Webster. Coolgaree is also currently sending six Palm Island boys to Townsville for training in vehicle windscreen fitting and repair. These lads are: Dennis Braun, Dwayne Creed, Frederick Bulsey, Kevin Barry, Noel Schrieber and Walter James.

New accredited courses are starting soon at Coolgaree these include: Mechanics, Construction and Hospitality. **If you want to join an innovative training organisation and become part of the Island's growing qualified workforce call in and see us at Employment & Training at Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation.**



Cyclone Yasi impacts on the Great Barrier Reef assessed

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service marine specialists have returned from their initial surveys to assess the damage caused to the Great Barrier Reef by cyclone Yasi.

About 13 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef, from Cairns to Townsville, was exposed to Yasi's destructive winds. Scientists have conducted rapid assessments of 36 reefs in this region to ascertain the extent of the damage. "The good news is that the damage

to these reefs has been patchy," GBRMPA's assessment coordinator Dr Paul Marshall said. "In some instances, neighbouring reefs and coral structures have remained relatively unharmed. These surviving corals will help the damaged areas to rebuild."

Two homes are better...

LIFE is a genuine case of two places for Lincoln Poynter and his partner Lynette Parkinson.

The pair live in the Townsville suburb of Cranbrook but visit their other home of Palm Island whenever they can.

Many relatives and friends also stay or visit their Cranbrook home when they come over from Palm Island.

Lincoln and Lynette have six children Shinnean Parkinson, aged 3, Jonelle Parkinson, 23, Lincoln Poynter jnr, 19, Twanah Parkinson, 17, Clorene Parkinson, 16, and baby Rahami Poynter, eight months old.

"It is always great to catch up with everybody on Palm Island where I have two



sisters and lots more relatives and heaps of friends," Lynette said.

Cousin Gertie Richardson from Palm Island is a regular, as are two others cousins in Sophie Richardson from Palm and Veronica Richardson from Woorabinda.

"Myself, Sophie and Veronica are all aged 41 so we have a lot to yarn about," Lynette said. Lincoln's mother was the late Burma Poynter who was a well-known and respected

elder on Palm Island.

Known affectionately as "Burma Rose" she had lived on Palm Island for more than 50 years.

Burma had 10 children, five sons and five daughters and there is a big mob from both sides of my family around the area. "We can catch the ferry over to Palm Island when we want to get away from busy Townsville and family from both places is very important to me," Lynette said.



PALM Island Aboriginal Shire Councillor Zina Prior was in Townsville last weekend, taking the opportunity to support our boxers competing at the pro/amateur tournament dubbed 'March to Victory' on Saturday night.

Cr Prior is pictured here with Thomas Lenoy at the Hotel Allen where numerous other Palm Islanders were staying for the event.

For more BOXING NEWS see pages 16



More of Father Tony O'Brien's drawings (see p 1) –
Bernadette Johnson (above); Elizabeth Doomadgee
(below left) & Kypie Pryor (below right)





The newly formed Palm Island Youth Council is off to a flying start.

In February they attended the Indigenous All Stars event on the Gold Coast where they took part in leadership workshops, football clinics and cultural activities where the 16 Council members had the opportunity to meet many well-known Indigenous athletes. On February 27-28, their leadership group was hosted by the Burdekin Shire Youth Council.

This meeting enabled our group to get a better understanding of just how a successful youth council operates and how it can be designed to create future leaders.

The leadership emphasis on this field trip was to illustrate that leaders have a responsibility for those in their care, that leaders can have either a positive or negative impact on those with whom they come into contact, and that leaders must have patience with people.

The Mayor of the Burdekin Shire, Lyn

McLoughlin, met the Palm Island Youth Council members and was very positive about the cross-cultivation of the respective Youth Councils.

"It is through groups like these," she emphasised, "that the leaders of their communities will be drawn."

To cement their new partnership, the Palm Island Youth Council invited the Burdekin Shire Youth Council to visit Palm Island in the near future.

The aim of the Palm Island Youth Council is to address any and all matters that may involve the young people on Palm Island. If you are between the ages of 12 and 25 years old and would like to make a difference in your community, call Moarna Pryor at the HUB on 4770 1736 to find out where and when the next meeting is being held.



Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Sporting Sponsorships

Applications and Guidelines for Sporting Sponsorships from PIASC and Sunferries are now available from Council reception. These forms must be completed before funding is granted.

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



The next RDO is Friday 18 March. For emergencies on a Friday please call 0458 789 010

For more information contact the Council on 4770 1177

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM FLU
Flu Clinics Mon 28 - Thurs 31 March
BE WISE, BE IMMUNISED
Full details next Issue

COOLGAREE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Are proud to announce the results of our **Annual General Meeting**

Mr STEVEN BOYD has been returned as Chairman with DAVID HAINES as Deputy Chairman.

The following people have been successful as directors:

NEIL FRASER
HAROLD WILSON
RUSSELL SARABO
STEVEN SARABO



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Advertising Information & Rates

Display Ads

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication - smaller ads by negotiation with the Editor)

Full A4 Page \$450 Half A4 Page \$230
Quarter A4 Page \$120
ADD GST + 10% for design work

Classifieds

Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE
Public & Community Notices – FREE
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Birthdays – FREE
Sale Price over \$1000

& Other Notices – 4 lines – \$10

Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see back page for details) and material submitted no later than COB the next day.

For more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au

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

Has your not-for-profit organisation or business suffered damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Yasi?

The Queensland Government has a range of financial assistance, support services and advice available to assist small businesses, primary producers and not-for profit organisations/charities affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasi on Palm Island.

Organisations directly affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasi may be eligible for recovery grants administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA).

Tier-one grants of up to \$5000 are immediately available. You must provide proof that you have suffered damage as a direct result of the cyclone.

Tier-two grants of up to \$20,000 are available to help eligible organisations to recover costs paid to repair direct cyclone damage. Grants will be provided on proof of expenditure.

If you are unable to pay for costs to be incurred, financial hardship provisions are available.

Low-interest loans are also available to eligible organisations to fund the repair and /or replacement of damaged plant and equipment, buildings or stock.

For full details on the financial assistance available including eligibility guidelines, declared areas and application forms, visit the QRAA website (www.qraa.qld.gov.au) or phone 1800 623 946.

For further information about assistance available please contact: DEEDI Indigenous Development Officer William Hyams on 4799 7411 or 0419 796 255

Happy Birthday

02 March Happy 7th Birthday **Preston Robertson** have a great day love from dad Jon, mum May, Jon & Kasi, Earl, Winston, Janesha, Edward and your family and friends of Palm Island & Townsville.

04 March Happy birthday **May Bligh** have a great day love from your family and friends of Palm Island & Townsville.

05 March Happy 6th Birthday to **Tooya Gorringe** have fun on your special day love from mum Ruth, dad Albert, Albert jnr, Hannah, Sondra and your family and friends of Palm Island & Townsville.

05 March Happy Birthday to **Malcolm Palmer** love from your family and friends of Palm Island & Townsville.



10 March Happy 17th Birthday **Winston Robertson** love from dad Jon , mum May, Jon & Kasi, Earl, Janesha, Edward, Preston & your family & friends of Palm Island & Townsville.

12 March Happy birthday to **Sophie Oui Snr & Alice Oui** from the Oui, Morgan and Bligh families of Palm Island & Townsville.

13 March Happy 16th birthday to **Albert Gorringe Jnr** have a wonderful day love from mum Ruth, dad Albert and your sisters Tooya, Hannah, Sondra and families and friends of Palm Island & Townsville.



In Memoriam

Michael Edward Thaiday
for 18 March from your Loving
Wife and Family



If tears could build a stairway,
And heartache make a lane,
I'd walk the path to heaven,
And bring you back again.
People say memories are golden,
Maybe that is true,
I never wanted memories,
I only wanted you.
There were many times I needed you,
And many times I cried,
In life I loved you dearly,
And I always will,
My heart holds a place no one else with ever fill.
Though your time is over and I must walk alone,
Your smiles stays in my memory,
My heart is now your home.



Palm Island Indigenous Cultural Festival



Traditional dancing - MUSIC Handicrafts - FOOD

haldoc week 3 - 10 JULY 2011

*For more info or to book your
dance team in, contact:*

Tim Miller

Colman H

Main Rd

Palm Island. QLD. 4816
PH:(07) 47701863 or 0439972221

PI Voice

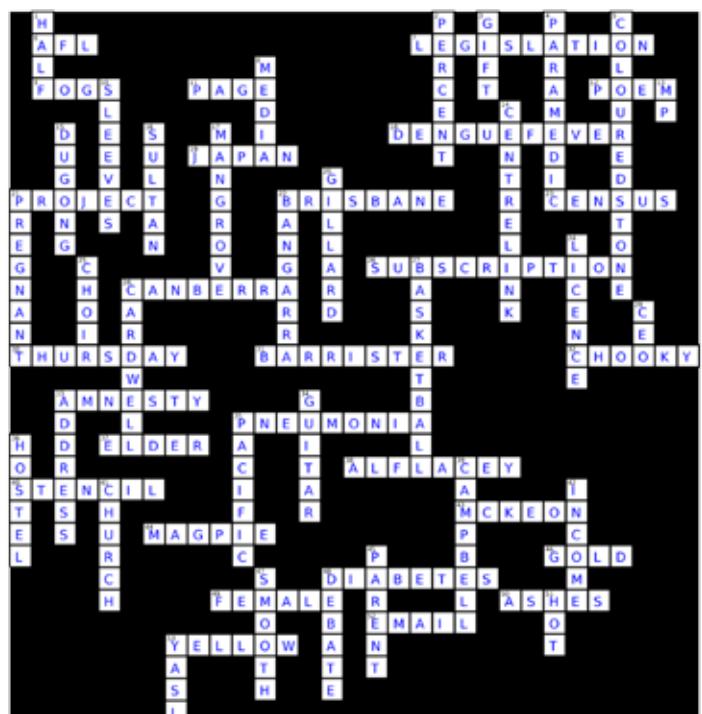
Crossword

Answers 73

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

HAVE YOU GOT A CLUE OR TWO?

If you would like to contribute some ideas for Crossword Puzzle clues email them to the Editor (see back page for details) or drop them into the Council today!!!



PIRL PLAYER PROFILE: Fred Haines Jnr

**IN the lead up to, and throughout the footy season this year Palm Island Voice will profile a local Palm Island Rugby League player each fortnight...
...who will be next??!!**

Apparently destined to follow in his father's footsteps, last year rising young north Queensland rugby league star Fred Haines Jnr played for winning sides in Queensland's three biggest Allblacks carnivals.

Some feel Fred jnr may be the youngest Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders ever to achieve such a feat and it was in a short four month period between October 2010 and late January. Even more unique is that the sides Fred junior shone for went through each of the carnivals undefeated. The 18-year-old Haines starred for Curacoa Crusaders which won the 4th Annual CQID Indigenous Rugby League Reconciliation Carnival in Rockhampton from 22nd to 24th January.

Gifted Haines was named best back of the 18 team Rockhampton carnival, highest point scorer and was also made the elite squad of players selected from the 18 competing sides. Last October, Haines also played for the Cherbourg Hornets side which scored a 28-20 victory over powerful Torres Strait Islander side Kulpiyam in the grand final of Queensland's biggest Aboriginal Allblacks carnival in Cairns. Only a week earlier Haines shone for Curacoa Crusaders which defeated the Palm Island Barracudas 37-6 in the grand final of the Bindal Sharks Allblacks carnival in Townsville. He said the hardest carnival of the three was hard to choose.

"It would have been the Cairns All Blacks when playing for Cherbourg," he said.

"The Torres Strait Islander teams are the hardest ones to beat along with Yarrabah as they always put in strong teams.

"Playing in the team with Chris Sandow was an honour.

"Not every day you get to play alongside a NRL star like Chris, he has proved you can do anything you want as long as you put your mind to it and he has also showed that size doesn't matter."

Proud mum Eva Haines (nee Geia) said Chris Sandow had played for the Barracudas at the



Pictured after the Bindal carnival win in Townsville last year was Fred Haines Jnr, mother Eva, sister Vyneika, and father Fred Snr

Townsville All Blacks in honour of his late Uncle Greg Santo who came to Townsville in the 1980's to play for the Palm Island Barracuda's in the TRL comp along with his Brother Alex. "It was actually Fred's grandmother the late Eva Geia with whom they were boarding with at the time," she said. She said the family was very proud of Fred's efforts.

"Fred jnr was also a Townsville and District Rugby League best and fairest winner in the 2009 and 2010 seasons and is certainly following in his father Fred snr's footsteps," she said.

Haines snr was a classy back who lined up with defunct Townsville club Souths and the Cardwell Axemen in the Herbert River competition in the 1980's.

"I've always told him, if he ever made it and became famous, never forget where he came from, a little Bwgcolman boy from Palm Island," his Mum said.

"His father says it's the attitude and discipline that will get you where you want to go.

"He still has to make Queensland to catch up to his father."

Seven club comp almost ready to kick-off

Palm Island's domestic rugby league competition has been scheduled to commence on Saturday, March 19, although final team numbers are dependent on clubs paying their player insurance premiums before kick-off.

The premium has to be paid under Queensland Rugby League Northern Division rules.

So far seven clubs – Butler Bay Bulls, Jets, Skipjacks, Mount Bentley Raiders, Brothers, Mundy Bay Warriors and Hornets – have flagged their readiness to battle for

premiership honours.

Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea said he was under the impression clubs on remote communities would have to pay \$2300 for premiums.

"I will be talking to QRL Northern Division Divisional Manager Scott Nosworthy about that soon," he said.

He also said a meeting was held last week discussed what might be in store for 2011.

"It will be the same committee as last year until the Annual General Meeting which we hope to have before the season commences," Mr

Dabea said.

He said the Palm Island football oval was waterlogged because of recent rain and the aftermath of Cyclone Yasi.

"When it dries out we will have to get it mowed to make it good to play on," he said.

The debut of a combined Palm Island/Bowen side in the May Foley Shield competition is also set to be discussed with Mr Nosworthy.

A selection trial will be played between Palm Island and Bowen soon, from which a squad will be picked to compete for the Foley Shield.



MEANWHILE A CLEVER recruiting drive over this year's off-season could see Hornets Club (above) score their first ever win in the 2011 domestic Palm Island rugby league competition.

Hornets had their sign on last Sunday at the home of club president Bill Landers.

"We had 19 players sign on and have another 11 who are on the mainland waiting to do so when they get back to Palm," he said.

Players to watch in the 2011 season will be forwards Tim Asai, Lindsay Richardson, William Blanket and Maynard Ross as well as young back Daniel Geia. Last season, Hornets and Mundy Bay Warriors were the two new clubs in the competition and both gave the other five

clubs some spirited opposition at times.

Although Hornets did not win a game, they lost a number of close encounters and enjoyed a large supporter base.

Mr Landers, a long serving Palm Island ambulance officer, said he was excited about the coming season.

"I think we will improve in the coming season as lots of new recruits have told us they will be with us," he said. "We had lots of young blokes last season, we will give it a good shake."

The team will be jointly coached by respected rugby league identities Lance Poynter and Victor Daisy, both of whom have plenty of experience. Rio Walsh will be manager and media manager.

Outer Islands vs Palm on the cards for 2011

AN annual rugby league match between Palm Island and an Outer Islands teams from the Torres Strait is looking very possible for later in the year.

Chief organiser of the highly successful Torres Strait Island of Origin Series Wayne Guivarra said he was keen.

"If we could get some good sponsorship, I reckon we can get a reciprocal annual or biannual match going between Palm Island and the Torres Strait Outer Island team," he said.

"I will talk to Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey about it."

Such a game would see a Palm Island team travel to Badu or another outer island every second year and Palm to host the game on the other year.

He said any eligible Palm Island players would be welcomed back to the next Origin series.

"The best thing about Palm Island players is they can be leading by 40 points or losing by 40 points, but they will never give up," he said.

"It's excitement all the way – you think Matty Bowen is exciting, Palm Island is a team full of Matty Bowens."

MORE FOOTY PAGES 14-15



Trainer Ray Dennis at back with boxers from left Sterling Aden, aged 19, Patrick Clarke, 17, and Reggie Palm Island, 18

RISING Palm Island boxing star Sterling Aden scored a handsome win before a big crowd at an amateur bout during a gala fight card dubbed "March to Victory" at the Greek Community Hall in Townsville last Saturday night.

Lanky 19-year-old Aden took his record to three wins and a draw on an action packed card, which included nine amateur bouts, mixed martial contests, and one professional fight. Aden did well and trainer Ray Dennis said he would improve considerably if he trained harder.

"He knocked up a bit at the end but did well," Mr Dennis said.

Patrick Clarke, 17, was beaten on points in the main amateur bout against highly rated Townsville boxer Jay Thompson.

"It could have gone either way," Mr Dennis said.

An exhibition bout between top Palm amateur Reggie Palm Island and assistant trainer and local professional boxer/school teacher Chris Gundy was well received.

"Nobody wanted to fight Reggie and the crowd loved the exhibition bout. Chris has really been a big help to the club. I had so many people come up to me saying they appreciate our boxers," Mr Dennis said.

In the much anticipated pro bout Brisbane heavyweight Shane Tilyard knocked out Townsville's Mick King in round two.

Palm Island amateur boxers' next scheduled tournament will be in Rockhampton on March 18 and 19 as long as sponsorship can be gained to help fund the long bus trip.

Anybody who can help should contact Mr Dennis.

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

Contact Details + Publisher Details

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