



Palm Island Voice



Issue 82
Thursday 30 June 2011

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

\$1.25

Mayor sports Katter's hat for high level economic development talks in Canberra

A highlight of Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey's visit to Canberra this week was a meeting with Independent MP Bob Katter.

Mr Lacey said he had an opportunity to catch up with a number of different Parliamentarians to talk to them about Palm Island.

"Mr Katter has been a major supporter of unlocking economic potential in the five 'bottom' Indigenous communities and I'm proud to say Palm is part of that.

"Woorabinda, Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Yarrabah and



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



57 Strike Day pics



Laurie Spina Shield

Palm Island make up those five communities who have collectively argued we need a different approach in terms of building economic strategy for our communities.

"Bob Katter has been one of the major supporters and has been in negotiations with people like Mark Arbib (Employment Minister) and others on our behalf.

"So myself and Yarrabah Mayor Percy Neal took that opportunity to talk up economic strategy with different people and while we were there Bob put the hat on me.

"He has also accepted an invitation to visit Palm Island in September for our Spring Fair, and we've put in a request for Julia Gilliard to come at the same time.

"If she does it will be history in the making because she would be the first-ever Prime Minister to visit Palm Island since its establishment as a mission."

He said the main purpose of his visit, however, was to attend the Australian Local Government Association's national meeting.

"The Australian Local Government's meeting was excellent, and certainly we made sure the Indigenous shires were certainly placed on that agenda as well," Mr Lacey said.

"The most important thing I'd like the community to understand is that the government will be calling a referendum on the preamble of the Australian Constitution to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and to recognise Local Government at some stage very soon.

"A lot of discussion was centred around that and we need to get behind and support the referendum." **Cont page 2...**

Economic development in Canberra discussions

...from page 1...

"A mention in the Constitution could make a big difference, particularly for Aboriginal communities, in terms of getting Local Government into that preamble," Mr Lacey said.

"Whilst at the conference I was also able to catch up the new CEO of Indigenous Business Australia, Chris Fry.

"I had discussions with him about the retail precinct and the plans that were developed by the Council and what the economic benefits might be for the Palm Island community.

"So the last few weeks have been very busy for me in continuing to push things along for the community and our people."

IN OTHER Council news Mr Lacey said housing renovations were well on track and he wanted to thank those who had had work done on their homes for their cooperation.

"That's the start of it and certainly there's going to be more work yet to come, particularly after the first of July," he said.

"We've also just finalised the tarmac of the airport as a part of a normal upgrade there.

"We are meeting this week about the foreshore redevelopment where it looks possible we might attract as much as \$22 million for that because it was damaged pretty badly by cyclone Yasi.

"The green light has not been given yet by the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments but it looks very promising.

"We're currently in our budget meeting for this next financial year as per requirements under the Local Government Act."

Dear Editor

Greetings to my Palm island friends from a very cold Sydney where I have just finished packing up to fly to New York to begin my Sabbatical...a time of rest and reflection about the past and the future.

So my dear friends I hope you are well and I want to thank you for my time there.

On the 24th May, Sister Maria and I made our final farewells on the jetty where our tears mingled with those of our dear Aboriginal brothers and sisters. Sister Peena and the Elders gave us a final blessing.

My lasting memory of Palm will be that of our friends waving from the jetty until we were out of sight, on the glorious sunny day.

I just thank God for those very special years on Palm amongst pretty special people.

A week ago the Sisters in our Rooty Hill Convent invited me for an afternoon, of

"Remembering Palm Island' as many of them had worked there over the years and were very sad our Congregation had withdrawn.

We concluded the evening with prayer for the Palm Island community and they brought photos and had many stories to tell. I hope you will email me the Palm Island Voice still and I can share it with other Sisters. My loving wishes and blessings on you.

Sincerely.

Christina FMM

Editor's Note: of course we will!!! Many thanks for your contributions to the Palm Island Voice over the years to us as well, Sister, we all wish you the very best in your travels.



Welcome to our world young Rosina Clay



Palm Island boxer Noby Clay gave birth to a bouncing baby girl – Rosina Marlanie Dani Raye Clay – on 16 June.

Noby said Rosina was already well above her birth weight and she was looking forward to her first fight for the year in September.

"Then the Olympic trials in December," she said.

"Rosina and I are both doing great, I can't wait to go home with her and then get back into training."

Youth Parliament will have Jimeka's input

Palm Island's Jimeka Richardson (pictured) has been selected by the YMCA as a Youth Member for the 2011 Queensland Youth Parliament program.

This year 170 nominations were taken for only 93 positions representing each State Government electorate across Queensland.

The YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament is a Queensland Studies Authority accredited education program for young people Queensland-wide.

The program, now in its sixteenth year, has been providing an apolitical environment where participants can engage with community issues.

As well as providing an

important link for youth to influence real levels of Government, QYP is a fantastic opportunity for participants to improve confidence through interacting with other like-minded young people of varying backgrounds and opinions.

Over the years, participants have gone on to achieve outstanding milestones in both personal and public life, most notably, the program's first Premier and Opposition Leader, Kate Jones and Aidan



McLindon have gone on to become two of Queensland's youngest members of Parliament, currently representing Ashgrove and Beaudesert respectively.



Business idea has Future Solutions backing
WELL-known local Victor Daisy is in the process of setting up a small business on Palm Island.

Mr Daisy was recently spotted in Townsville with Director of Future Solutions Australia, Dean Rowley (pictured on the left), "I'm helping Victor establish his amusement arcade/ferry terminal business on Palm Island and have been helping Indigenous businesses throughout northern Queensland, the Torres Straits and Northern Territory for the past 10 years from my base here in Townsville," Mr Rowley said.

Mr Daisy was the manager of the Palm Island/Bowen rugby league side which competed at the Foley Shield competition in May this year.

He is also heavily involved in the local Palm Island domestic rugby league competition.

Adrian & Andonia 'tie the knot' on Maggie

FORMER Palm island worker Adrian Hepi married his lovely bride Andonia at idyllic Arthur Bay on Magnetic Island on June 17.

Many well-known Indigenous men and women including Gracelyn Smallwood, Robbie Cedar and Gavin Kumsing were in attendance.

Vows were exchanged on the beautiful beach just after 4.30pm and then invited guests walked to a nearby mansion for the celebrations.

Mr Hepi has been a strong advocate for decades for improving Indigenous health and was popular with Palm Islanders during his long time run on Radio 4K1G's sports program.



Reconciliation Week 2011

Pics courtesy Cr Hal Walsh



MOST of the time former Palm Island Deputy Mayor Zac Sam looks after patrons at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill.

So it was great for Zac to be able to get some time off and have some leisure at the Seaview Hotel on Townsville's Strand, enjoying a night watching his son David on an amateur boxing card.

Zac and other members of his family had a great time, he's pictured here with Sterling Aden senior.

NAIDOC Week promises plenty for everyone, including an Army-led footy invasion

PALM Island adults and children will have much to see and do over the coming two weeks, with local NAIDOC week celebrations, the Townsville Show and the V8 Supercar series.

This year's NAIDOC Week runs from July 3 to 10 with a full program of events scheduled.

See the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council notice boards for full program details.

There will also be lots of media on the Island with the Motel already booked out for the many visitors expected over the week.

A highlight is expected to be an invasion of Army personnel for the annual rugby league game in memory of the late and great elder Bill Coolburra.

Local club Skipjacks will meet the Australian Army Thunder for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield at the football oval on Thursday July 7. Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan is confident that his side will keep the Shield on Palm this year after losing to the Army 22-16 last August.

"I am confident we will win it this year and we will be well prepared," Mr Morgan said.

He said a number of NAIDOC events would be held at the football oval and that he was confident Palm Islanders would turn out in big numbers in support of Skipjacks.

"The Army players and supporters will be coming over on a ferry that morning and going back on it later in the day," he said.

It will be the fourth Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield game.

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

Before the game there will be a memorial service and plaque laying ceremony which will be attended by family members, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and Army representatives.

On the flipside, hundreds of Palm Islanders are expected to converge on Townsville for the 131st annual Show from July 1 to 4.

The Show commences at 5pm of Friday and runs until 10pm the following Monday.

And if that's not enough, the Sucrogen V8 400 Supercar series will be held from July 8 to 10.

Palm Island Voice hears tickets have already been purchased by certain Palm Islander 'rev heads' for what should be an exciting weekend.



This year will be the fourth game in the Bill Coolburra Shield series. The 2008 and 2009 clashes were held at Brother's League's Club in Townsville and were won by Skipjacks in amazing similar circumstances - in both years scores were deadlocked at 28-all when the final siren sounded but Skipjacks were awarded the Shield under game rules because they scored first. Born in June 1945, Bill died on October 29th in 2009 so the game was for his memorial shield for the first time last year, and played for by the team above.

Mr Coolburra had attended the first two games.

Palm Island team puts up a good show for Laurie Spina in under-11 Shield competition

PALM Island was amongst a record 58 under-11 rugby league teams to contest the prestigious Laurie Spina Shield in Townsville on June 17 and 18.

Organised by the North Queensland Cowboys, the carnival is in honour of Ingham born former Cowboys star Laurie Spina who also played for North Sydney, Easts (now Roosters) and Cronulla during his 151 first grade NRL games.

Spina retired at the end of 1995 at the age of 31.

Brothers League Club hosts the carnival which brought together teams from the far north as well as from Mount Isa and Rockhampton.

The competition was contested in eight pools and in which each side played each other in a round robin.

Palm Island lost 8-4 to United Suburbs Red, 12-8 to Middlemount Panthers, and then drew 28-all with Redlynch Razorbacks.

The team had a win for scoring first, however, and Isaac Bulsey, son of champion Skipjacks forward Fred Bulsey, scored an amazing five

tries.

For their last game on day one, the gallant Palm Island lost 12-8 to a bigger Rockhampton Brothers.

After that game Laurie Spina himself came to talk to the team and told them they played really well.

"You put in a good effort and tried your hearts out, you stuck together and went out and did the best you could," he said.

"Keep trying as rugby league is a great sport." Palm official Leah Dabea said many of the players were only 10-years-old.

"There are some really good players of the future," she said.

On day two, Palm Island defeated Proserpine Brahmans 8-nil, with tries to Arona Miller & Hananias Murphy.

In their last game Atherton Roosters beat Palm 8-nil.





Everyone played really well over the weekend with stand out players including Alwyn (Ali Baba) Grannigan, Trakium Barry-Prior, Hananias Murphy, Eliar Charles, Brayden Prior, Isaac Bulsey and Arona Miller. "The kids did really well in the relay – all 58 teams ran with Edmonton Storm being the eventual winner," Leah said. "Palm finished 4th and did us all proud."



***Pictured:
On page 6 and above:
members of the
Palm Island team
with Laurie Spina;
Right: Isaac Bulsey;
Below Right:
supporters at the matches,
including respected official
Margaret Conway***



57 Strike Day

I thank the Lord for giving us a beautiful sunshine day to come together in unity to commemorate what happened back in 1957 on this important day.

The community was very patient and enjoyed everything as it happened. Strikers' families and community Elders laid a wreath each on the Commemorative Monument for our fallen heroes of 1957, with respect, honour and gratitude of their fight and struggle making our future better to enjoy and the freedom to choose our own path in life.

Then there was Strike Day 2011 trophies to win.

Three of the seven sporting events did not take place, but in the near future OzTag, the Junior Dance competition and the Grand Final of the Junior Netball will go ahead in play-offs for their perpetual trophies. In the senior netball Co-ordinator, Sista D, picked a 'Merit' side of seven girls who could be a winning side for Palm Island if represented on the mainland.

Results:

Senior Netball – Stealers

Runner-Up – Strikers

Pool – Frank Hughes (Jnr)

Runner-Up – Gavin Barry

Darts – David Haines

Runner-Up – Gavin Barry

Junior Art – Hilton Watson

At various time the speakers and pro strike' themselves, back to our old pe there was limited knew it was a good come together and At the Elders Morn took turns in telling of what they reme days and ways living as well as their mer of 1957.

It was wonderful to don't usually speak up telling us their s a tune or singing a Our Elders from home enjoyed their Later in the aftern communal feast ser food to the commu As everybody fina relaxed that night, dancing and karaok Sports Bar, where traditional dance Strait Islander Dan Visitors from the enjoyed the day an to come back again the community. Palm Island peopl agreed they could of community unity were confident ne



- 3 June 2011

Throughout the day projectors went on making us think people's days when technology – we had women for us to compromise.

Morning Tea everybody telling us their stories remembered of the old time on Palm Island, memories of the Strike

to see families who look publicly standing stories, strumming song. the Old People's themselves.

Evening we held a big evening up traditional unity.

Everybody sat back and with fine dining, like at the Coolgaree we also enjoyed from the Torres Strait Group.

From the mainland also said they wanted to celebrate with

and our visitors feel a strong spirit at the event and next year's 57 Strike

Day will be bigger and better than ever.

The Strike 1957 Committee of 2011 would particularly like to thank the following agencies for their valuable contribution and support making Strike Day 2011 a successful and memorable event: Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation for CDEP; Coolgaree Sports Bar & Bistro; Palm Island Aboriginal Council; Palm Island Community Company; Palm Island PCYC; Palm Island Ambulance Service; Palm Island Retail Store; St. Michael School; Bwgcolman Community School; Palm Island Quality Meats; Sunferries; Day & Day Shipping; WestWing Aviation; 7 to 7 Bait & Tackle in Townsville; Radio Station 106.3FM; and, Elizabeth Siebel Office, Townsville

We also like to thank the men who did the preparation and traditional cooking for our communal feast which was perfection.

A special thank you also to Jenny and Vera Boyd for respecting and serving our Elders at the Morning Tea and BBQ Luncheon.

And lastly, but not least, thanks to the community for coming out supporting and enjoying with us a memorable event that is cherished and close to our hearts.

Written by Evelyn Lymburner + pics with thanks to Shane Stratton & others



Palm Island Voice

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Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

is closed every second Friday
(Council pay week) for RDO.
The next RDO is Friday 8 July.

**For emergencies on a
Friday please call 0458 789 010**

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For more information contact the Editor on
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Traditional Owners can apply for Sea Country sponsorship to the value of \$5000 per person to cover participation in training, events or exchanges.

The Sea Country Partnership's Sponsorship Program is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's implementation of the *Caring for our Country Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program* funded by the Australian Government.

Possible sponsorship opportunities can include attendance at conferences, events, forums, workshops, education and training, or any other activity that promotes sea country management deemed appropriate by the application assessment panel.

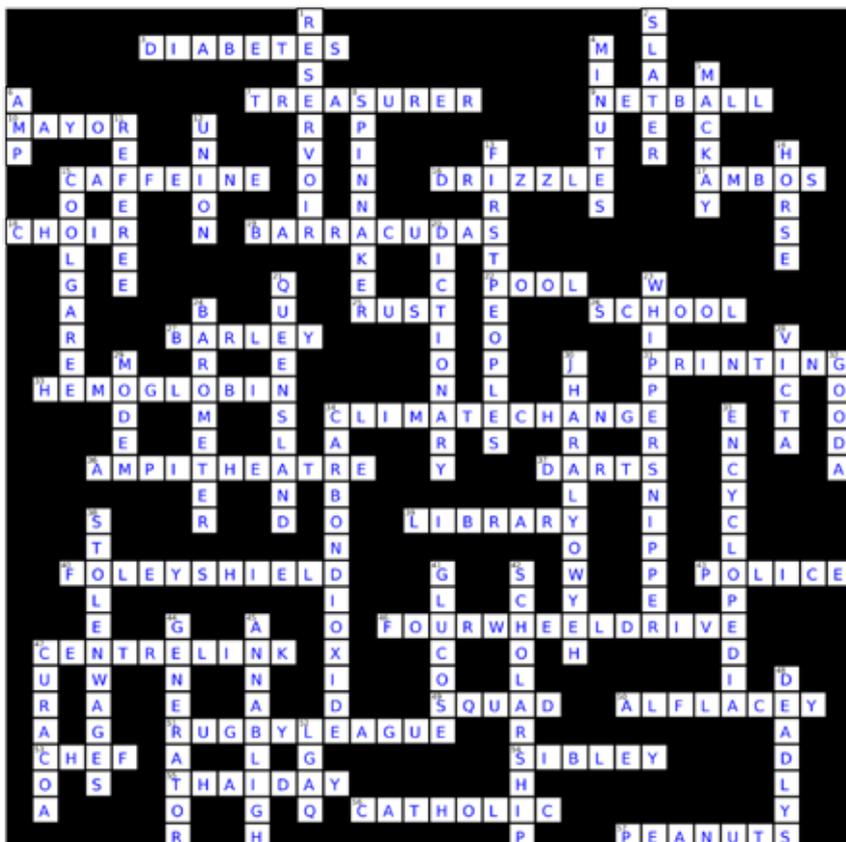
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CKM2140



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Answers PI Voice Crossword 81

GOT A CLUE??!!!

SEND YOUR CLUE IDEAS TO THE EDITOR AT

chowes@westnet.com.au or drop them into the Council reception and they'll be passed on to Christine or David.

Crossword completed with thanks again to David Goeldner & the Crossword Puzzle Maker at www.armoredpenguin.com

It's a long way to the Straits



*On Badu Island earlier this month were Island of Origin contenders
Walter Geia, Jason Bulsey and Vernon Baira*

Only three Palm Island footballers travelled to the Torres Strait for this year's Island of Origin rugby league competition over the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Badu Island hosted the 26th year of the event, attended by Jason Bulsey, Walter Geia and Vernon Baira.

Forward Jason plays for Skipjacks in the Palm Island domestic competition, whilst Walter and Vernon are with Atherton club in the Cairns and District comp this season.

At the Island of Origin they lined up with Maur Brothers United, a side consisting of players with Moa Island descent.

"My brother Fred was going to come up again but was injured and I came instead," Jason said.

All three played well even though Maur never reached the finals of the series in the men's

division.

Vernon scored one try described as a masterpiece when he chipped ahead and regathered near the posts.

This year's gong goes to Argun Warriors after they beat Saguci 20-14 in a hard fought men's final before a large crowd.

In the women's game Sundown Sirens from TI rolled Bau Au Stingers from Mabuyag 20-14 in the ladies.

FOOTNOTE: NITV filmed the Island of Origin games and matches will start to be shown on the pay television channel during NAIDOC week celebrations in July.

Haines plays long weekend for NQ Marlins

MEANWHILE Palm Island's Fred Haines represented the North Queensland Marlins at the QRL Divisional Championships over the Queen's Birthday weekend.

The Marlins lost 18-16 to Central Qld in game one and then played an 18-all draw a day later against the SEQ Poinsettias.

Fred Haines, who is the son of Fred

Haines senior and Inniss Haines, scored a try against SEQ.

The youngster possesses blistering speed and was picked for NQ after the recent Foley Shield carnival.

PIRL PLAYER PROFILE: ANTHONY THOMPSON

HIGHLY respected Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan describes his crafty utility back Anthony Thompson as one of the most talented and experienced players in the Palm Island domestic rugby league competition.



"Anthony has been playing since the 1990s and has been with a few clubs on the island," he said. "He can play anywhere in the back line, but his best positions would be halfback, five eighth or centres and he has a very good passing game. Also Anthony has a great kicking game and is very good at controlling a match."

Having a skilful back who can fire out precision passes to team mates at speed is indeed a bonus for any team. To have a footballer like Thompson who kicks in general play and is also an accurate goal kicker makes him gold indeed.

Thompson's game statistics back up Morgan's assessment.

When Skipjacks defeated previous equal ladder leader Bwgcorman Brothers 44-28 at the local football oval on June 3, Thompson scored a try and kicked five goals for a personal tally of 14 points.

Thompson also played for the Palm Island Barracudas when they played an exciting 24-all draw with Bowen/Collinsville in the Foley Shield selection trial at Ayr on May 7. Thompson scored one of the four Barracudas tries against good opposition.

Skipjacks are one of the four favoured sides to battle for premiership honours along with Brothers, Jets and Bulls. If Skippies players do hold the trophy aloft after the local grand final, you can be sure Thompson would have played a major role.

Thompson said he was a proud Palm Islander who loved representing the Barracudas.

PIRL season set for firecracker finish

LAST year's grand final combatants Butler Bay Bulls and Jets again loom as big dangers for the coming final series of the Palm Island domestic competition after a round of exciting fixtures last Saturday.

Other genuine prospects to hold the premiership trophy aloft are Skipjacks and Brothers with Hornets an outside chance.

Big news for local football followers is that players who had lined up in the Townsville and District Rugby competition for Bindal Sharks club this season are now back with Palm clubs.

They had not been allowed dual registration.

BULLS ROAR

Reigning premiers Butler Bay Bulls continued their great recent form with a 44-30 win over the high rolling Brothers in the main game.

Quality utility Josiah Geia, who had been with Townsville Brothers Club and Clinton Pearson each scored two tries, with singles to Pita Morgan, Valentine Fulford and Ike Haines. Valentine Fulford booted six goals with singles to Pita Morgan and Alan Bonner.

For Brothers Mikael Sibley and Gavin Johnson scored two, with one apiece to William Bramwell, Robert Johnson and Georgie Dabea. John Baira kicked the only goal.

JETS FLY

Jets, beaten by just two points by Bulls in the 2010 grand final, looked the goods when they rolled Mundy Bay Warriors 88-18 in the second game.

Robert Bulsey scored four tries and kicked three goals,

Tabua Oui scored three tries and booted six goals, Costa Sam scored three tries, with singles to Gavin Barry, Arona Miller, Greg Barry, Ian Noble, Doug Miller and Ingai Geia. Other goals went to D Bulsey (two) and Hosea Murphy (one).

In arguably the best individual try of the season, Costa Sam caught the ball on his line from a kick off and ran 90m to score bursting through the Mundy Bay defence like a rubber band man.

Jets coach Norman Bounghi has players getting good combinations together as the business end of the season looms.

For Mundy Bay Warriors tries went to Luke James, Ray Noble and Ralph Doomadgee. Luke James kicked two goals and Gary Fulford one.

SKIPIES STING

HORNETS

Skipjacks also showed they are genuine premiership aspirants with a 56-30 victory over Hornets.

Inspirational utility forward Raoul Miller scored four tries for Skippies, with a pair each to Brian Conway and Jason Bulsey.

Clarence Nugent, Fred Bulsey and Peter Fox scored on try apiece while Anthony Thompson kicked five goals, some from acute

angles, and Jason Bulsey one. For Hornets Matthew Marpoondin and crafty back Rob Snyder each scored two four pointers with one each to Jayden Farrell and Joshua Landers. Ron Snyder kicked three goals.

Delighted Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan said Miller and Thompson were match winners.

"Raoul seemed to be everywhere. We only had 12 players as some of the boys were in Townsville. Anthony held us together and kept the forwards going ahead," Mr Morgan said.

SATURDAY 18 JUNE.

Mundy Bay Warriors and Butler Bay Bulls played a 34 all draw, Brothers defeated Hornets, and Jets 64 beat Skipjacks 14 when game called off with 25 minutes remaining because Skippies had less than 9 players.

RUMOUR MILL: a FORMER NQ Cowboys NRL player looks set to line up with Butler Bay Bulls as soon as his release from a Cairns & District Club comes through.

LADDER

**=1 Skipjacks + Jets=
3 Brothers
4 Butler Bay Bulls
5 Hornets
6 Mundy Bay Warriors**



Boxers miss Golden Gloves opportunity

Palm Island boxers have competed in the prestigious Queensland Golden Gloves boxing tournament every year since 1999...until now.

No available hire bus meant 10 Palm boxers and officials could not make the journey to Cairns for the 2011 Golden Gloves held last weekend.

"The Palm Island Community Company was going to sponsor us for the trip but it was impossible to hire a bus to take us to Cairns," trainer Ray Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said over the years Palm Island boxers had won 84 gold medals at Golden Gloves events.

The next probable away trip for the boxers is a

Global tournament in Rockhampton on 2 July. That will involve a trip by ferry to Townsville and then a 700km bus journey to Central Queensland.

FLATEN'EM

Townsville's Flaten'em Promotions is going ahead with an amateur boxing night on July 8 and the venue will be the old Bombay Rock building in Flinders Street West.

Promoter Gonzo Hooper (*pictured left*) said he was keen to get as many Palm boxers as possible to the night.

"It will be held on the Friday night of the V8 Supercar races in Townsville and there should be lots of visitors there," Mr Hooper said.

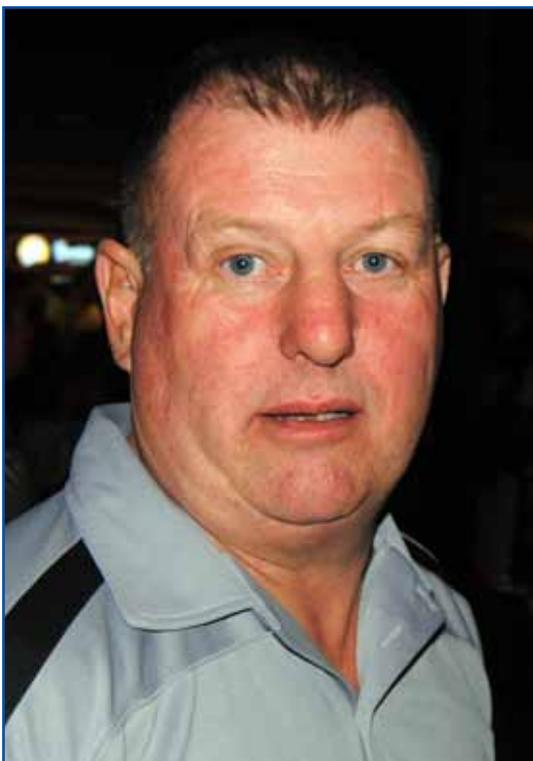
"Palm Island boxers are entertainers and will be great crowd pleasers."

Three Palm boxers fought at the most recent Flatenem tournament held at the Seaview Hotel.

BRISBANE TRIP

Star Palm boxers Reggie Palm Island and Patrick Clarke are expected to fight on a big night in Brisbane at Broncos League's Club on July 15.

More in the next Issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.



Palm to host boxers in local tournament

PALM Island looks set to host a gala boxing tournament on August 27 which will attract lots of boxers and their supporters from the mainland.

It means Palm Islanders who will get to see their own boxers in action and it also means our boxers will get to enjoy great support from relatives, friends and sports-minded locals.

At least 15 bouts are planned and that could bring more than 20 mainland boxers, depending on the support from the various clubs.

Throughout the year Palm boxers have travelled long distances to get to away

events.

They have gone to Brisbane, Rockhampton, Blackwater, Emerald, out west and to the far north.

Most of the trips have involved marathon bus trips and have cost a lot in time and money.

Many of the tournaments Palm boxers have competed at would not have been as successful without the team's participation and support.

"Boxers from Emerald,

Rockhampton, Townsville and a few others places have indicated they will come over," said trainer Ray Dennis.

August 27 was chosen because it was the only date left on the northern amateur boxing calendar.

This will be the fourth such tournament held on Palm in recent years with previous events have been well-supported.

Visitors will be accommodated at the PCYC.



TEN-year-old Diane Fulford was excited to represent Palm Island at the Laurie Spina shield under-11 rugby league carnival in Townsville.

Diane enjoyed having her picture snapped with her male team mates and legendary former Cowboys captain Laurie Spina.
MORE DETAILS & PICS
PAGES 8-9

FOOTY FOOTY FOOTY!!! MORE ON PAGES 8-9, 12-13-14!!!

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

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