



Palm Island Voice

Issue 89
Thursday 6 October 2011

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

\$1.25



Boxing champ down but by no means out



AN injury has robbed boxing sensation Reggie Palm Island of his chance to represent Australia at the Elite World Amateur Boxing Titles in Baku, Azerbaijan this month.

The titles were the first men's boxing qualifying event for the 2012 Olympic Games. "Reggie was due to leave with the Australian team, but had a 3mm cartilage tear on one wrist," trainer Chris Gundy said. "He was disappointed, but if he had gone to the titles and fought, it may have ended his career." Head trainer Ray Dennis said the injury would not

affect Reggie's prospects of representing Australia at the next Olympic Games. "Reggie has impressed them at the AIS and will still be eligible for selection," he said. Gundy said if the injury does not heal within three weeks, Reggie would have surgery in Townsville. "I am told he will be right to fight again by December," Gundy said. **State boxing results p 15**

Croc sightings verified



Last issue the *Palm Island Voice* reported various sightings of a crocodile around the paperbark swamp area. Here's the proof in a photograph kindly provided by local photographer *Shane Yasserie*. OIC Paul James said police were keen for

the community to be aware of the croc, which looks to be about 3m in length. "There have been a number of sightings in the Pencil Bay and Casement Bay area over recent months and National Parks have erected signs in the Old School Road area to alert people," Mr James said.



Jobseekers, above, were awarded certificates by Mandy Johnson MP after completing their Certificate IIs in Work Preparation last month. Sixty participants took part in a nine week training program, offered by Jobfind Centres Australia and funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' (DEEWR). The certificates are a pre-requisite for an Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) run by Palm Island's Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation CDEP. IN MORE good news from Coolgaree a new chipper has arrived (below). The Corporation's men have already been doing training cutting and mulching trees at the farm behind the Council workshop. **More Coolgaree news on page 10.**



Search for director on now

Palm Island Community Company is seeking nominations from interested and qualified individuals for appointment to the position of Director of the Company.

The position is open to residents of Palm Island. Directors on the Board are representative of the company shareholders and currently comprise: an independent

Chairperson, a Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council nominee, a Palm Island Traditional Owner, Queensland Government nominees and Community Directors.

Palm Island Community Company General Manager Rachel Atkinson (pictured) said it was a great opportunity "to become part of a dedicated, skills based



board which has extensive experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities."

For more information see page 12

RIGHT: Cr Hal Walsh, CEO Ross Norman, Deputy Mayor Ray Sibley, Andrea Kyle-Sailor and Cr Zina Prior returning from a Land Trust Meeting with Preston Law in Cairns. Mayor Alf Lacey & Cr Ruth Gorringer chose to return via road.



2nd win for Murri Kook Off team captain

FOR the second year in a row Palm Island-born Trevor Prior has captained the winning team in a Kup Murri Kook Off at the Mungalla Festival last month.

Prior, 74, was part of the Gilroy Gourmet Cowboys representing the Gilroy Santa Maria College in Ingham, which was an equal winner of the Kook Off, contested by six teams. It featured traditional-style underground preparation of meats and vegetables which were later eaten by people attending the festival.

People came from all over North Queensland and many camped at Mungalla Station for the duration.

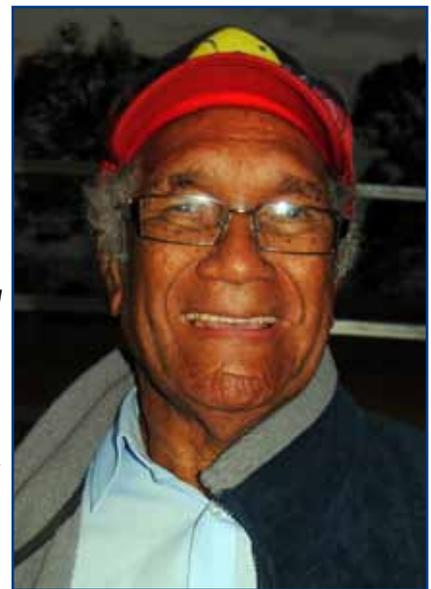
Mr Prior was described by Mungalla spokesman Jake Cassidy as one of the very best cooks and singers in North Queensland. He left Palm Island when he was six years old and loves coming back.

"There have been some very big changes on Palm since I was a kid," Mr Prior said.

Another well-known Palm Island-born man at the festival was father John Anderson who enjoyed chatting to many family and friends including those who were there for the Mungalla Rodeo (see page 7).



ABOVE: Master traditional chef Trevor Prior at the Kook Off
LEFT: Star footballer Theo Willis was snapped in the local bus with an injured leg received whilst playing for Vincent at the Obe Geia jnr Challenge. He is of Palm descent and is also a quality rodeo rider.
RIGHT: Fr John Anderson
FOR MORE on the Palm Island rodeo, held at Mungalla Station near Ingham last month, see page 7.



Kylie Doomadgee, Doola Anderson and Irene Thaiday were at 30th birthday celebrations for Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Media Association (TAIMA). The late and great Mick Thaiday, and his brother Bill, were founding members of TAIMA back in 1981.
FULL STORY P 5

Mayors working with Mayors via LGAQ

IN a first for Queensland, mayors and chief executives from most of the state's 17 Indigenous councils will attend a special Indigenous Leaders Forum as part of the Local Government Association of Queensland's 115th Annual Conference on the Gold Coast this week.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey (*pictured*) and deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley are attending for Palm Island.

LGAQ president Paul Bell said the unprecedented turnout of Indigenous leaders to the forum demonstrated their commitment to providing competent, efficient and capable service to their communities.

"Research by both the State and Federal Governments is telling them they need to do things differently if they are to ensure a better future for these communities," Cr Bell said.

"For too long, well-intentioned bureaucrats and politicians have acted in what they believed were the best interests of these Indigenous communities, but delivering proper infrastructure and services to them remains an elusive goal."

Cr Bell said the message from Indigenous councils was simple.

"Stop talking and start listening to the people who actually live in these communities and have been elected to represent their interests," he said.

He said Indigenous leaders know there is no

easy solution to the challenges affecting their communities.

"But they are confident that a brighter, more sustainable future is possible if these

communities are provided greater autonomy and capability to deliver solutions themselves," he said.

Mr Lacey, who is the Indigenous Councils' representative on the LGAQ Policy Executive, said he hoped the State and Federal Governments would listen to the message from the Forum.

"Indigenous mayors and councilors live first-hand with the outcomes of every State and Federal Government initiative that affects our communities," he said.

"But we know what is needed and what will work and what won't work because we are listening to our communities."

"Governments need to learn to listen to us more and trust us better."



ICAN has moved...

ICAN has recently moved into a new location, but say they still offer the same great free services.

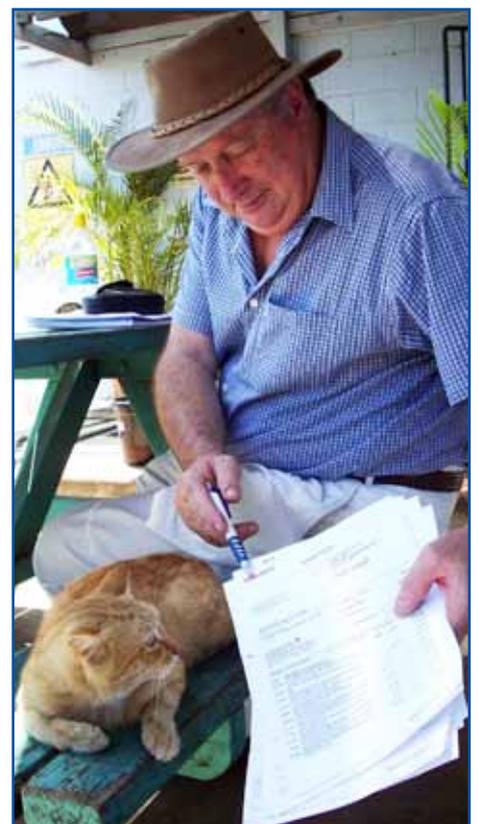
The new office is now located near the Old People's Home in Park Road and provides wheelchair access.

The Palm Island ICAN office will continue to provide FREE money management training, NILS, financial counselling, consumer advocacy and tax help.

ICAN's financial counsellor, Ray Kent (*pictured right*), enjoyed his first client visit after the move.

"We considered a NILS loan for a small bed with built-in plasma, but we noticed that expenditure on pet food seemed to be a bit high and might need to be addressed when devising a budget," he joked.

Jokes aside the ICAN team members are happy with the new office and look forward to continuing the needed service on Palm Island.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TAIMA!!!



TOWNSVILLE Aboriginal and Islander Media Association celebrated 30 years of operation with a gala dinner at Jupiter's Hotel Casino on September 23, followed by a community concert and family event the following day at Strand Park.

TAIMA started out in a very small way as an idea in the minds of the Thaiday brothers, Bill and the late Mick, who had been to a meeting in Alice Springs in 1980 where they saw what was happening with CAAMA.

There were many Palm Islanders at the event including Mick's widow, Mrs Irene Thaiday..

"TAIMA began broadcasting in 1981 and was the first Aboriginal and Islander

Media Association in Queensland and the second nationally behind CAAMA in Alice Springs," said Florence Onus, former TAIMA chairperson.

"TAIMA has provided opportunities to all those who have worked or volunteered over the past 30 years and has been a launch pad for Aboriginal and Islander people to develop and become leaders of their communities and organisations today."

"TAIMA gave us a voice to inform our communities of the political issues impacting our people as well as inform us of the positive

developments that are occurring."

Grahame Steel, former ABC journalist and TAIMA advocate, was a key player in the early days of setting up the organisation.

"I hold TAIMA and the people who are involved with it in the highest regard, as I will never forget the beginnings of the organisation," he said.

"TAIMA has come a long way over the last 30 years from formerly housing a

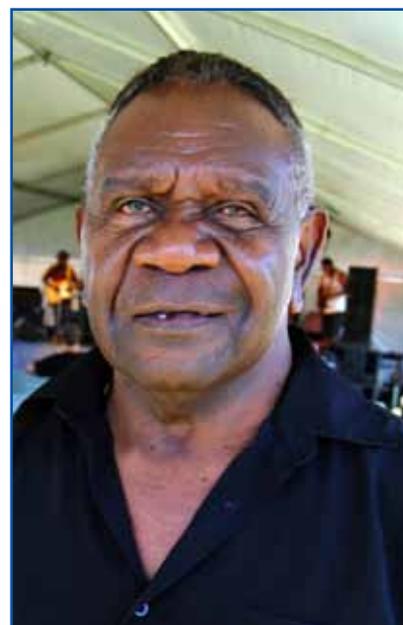
State (QLD) BRACS co-ordination unit, arts department, business unit, video production unit and, of course, radio 4K1G which has gone on to become one of the leading Indigenous radio stations in Australia," said manager of TAIMA/4K1G Linda Saltner,

"This is an important milestone of TAIMA's 30-year anniversary celebrations as it reflects on community aspirations, the organisation and the many people that have helped make TAIMA the organisation it is today and into the future."



Left: Trevor Prior

Right: Tom Tyson



Horse sense for healthy horses

Contributed & written by Gemma Gadd

Pic by Alf Wilson

COUNTRY veterinarian Dave Hall understands better than most the unique bond shared between man and horse.

From his practice at Walwa, in the Upper Murray district in north-western Victoria, Dr Hall has worked with many high country horsemen and women, but it's his latest venture to Palm Island that has him determined to improve and promote horse health as integral to community wellbeing.

Dr Hall has worked voluntarily over the past six years with villagers in East Timor and closer to home with those affected by the Upper Murray bushfires.

When he arrived in Palm Island he found a friendly and vibrant community endeavouring to maintain a domestic horse population of around 100 and a wild horse population possibly more than 200.

Over three days in April, Dr Hall and Dr Ray Barnett (from Grafton in NSW) worked with Palm Island Aboriginal Council Animal Control officers Raoul Miller, Fred Bulsey and local horsemen Fania Nona and Robert Nugent.

The team gelded, branded and de-wormed horses mustered by the locals in makeshift yards - for nothing.

"We branded 44 horses with individual brands for each owner to slowly introduce the idea of responsibility for horses," Dr Hall said.

Already the feedback has been positive.

The horses, which provide transport for the island's children, are better to ride and fight less.

"There is a lot of talk about how to keep horses out of the town, but I think if they are looked after, branded, gelded and not a nuisance, why shouldn't the kids have their horses there?" Dr Hall said.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey conceded there was some way to go in controlling the horses on Palm Island, but was confident the program was moving in the right direction.

"We have our own animal control program but we don't receive a lot of funding, so



*Palm Island's Animal Control Officers
Raoul Miller & Fred Bulsey*

programs like these with David go a long way in assisting the community in caring for animals and learning how to maintain their horses," he said. "It's important to take care of the health of the horse population not only for our community, but for the general wellbeing of people living in our shire."

"We'd all like to preserve the idea of wild horses and it's the same on Palm Island," Dr Hall said.

"They see themselves as horse people."

Mr Lacey agreed.

"Aboriginal people and people on Palm Island have long history with Australia's pastoral industry," he said.

"Our forefathers and foremothers have worked very hard in the pastoral industry in this country and that's why our people are so in tune with horses."

Dr Hall has visited indigenous communities at Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah in order to learn of their horse management programs and offer assistance.

He will return to Palm Island next month to continue the work with Council officers.

"It's a privilege to have a skill that allows me to go places I wouldn't normally get to go and meet people I wouldn't normally get to meet," he said.



A tangle of arms, legs, heads & horns!!

BULLS ruled riders at the inaugural Mungalla Station Rodeo at which Palm Islanders made up the majority of competitors.

Eight Palm Islanders – John Shortjoe, Roy “Boy” Murray, Shaun Shortjoe senior, Shaun Shortjoe junior, girl Sheldean Clarke, Billy Clarke, Anthony Tyson and Marella Tyson – were amongst the 14 competitors.

Other competitors came from Cooktown, Normanton, Townsville and around Ingham. A total of 28 mean and angry bulls with the heaviest weighing over 900kg were trucked there from Charters Towers in two rigs by Ben Moss and Darcy Davidson.

At least seven others had indicated they would compete but organisers said they became “scratchings” when

they checked out the bulls in the holding yards.

Not one rider managed to stay on a bull for the required eight seconds in any of the open, novice or juvenile bull rides.

John Moss of Bucko Billy Rodeo was in charge of the ring action and confirmed not one rider managed to stay on a bull for the required amount of time in the open, novice or juvenile bull rides.

“No scores were recorded and the longest anyone stayed on was just under five seconds,” he said.

“Marella Tyson won the 12 years and under calf ride.

“Roy Boy Murray was the best rider of the event.”

“There would not have been many events without the Palm Island competitors.”

Several of the Palm Islanders

posed for pics with clowns Callen Archer and Dalton Poole.

Pauline Shortjoe, who

organised rodeos on Palm Island in 2008 and 2009, made an impressive debut as the ring announcer.

Mr Moss said there would have been more competitors if Kowanyama had made it.

“Their vehicle broke down on the way and they couldn’t get here,” he said.

Mr Moss said Mungalla officials were impressed with the action and crowd and already had booked it to go ahead again next year.

“It will be bigger and better,” he predicted.



ON THIS PAGE Palm Islanders, including organisers Shaun & Pauline Shortjoe, at the first PI Rodeo hosted by Mungalla Station





Palm Island well-represented in Spain

SIX Palm Islanders enjoyed the experience of a lifetime when they attended World Youth Day (WYD) celebrations in Madrid, Spain, in August.

WYD is a youth-oriented Catholic Church event which celebrates the faith, and the invitation to attend extends to all youth, regardless of religious convictions.

Making the trip from Palm Island were Albert Gorringe Jnr, Isaac Geia, 14, and Margo Foster, 23 along with supervisors Deniece Geia, Father Daniel and Diane Foster.

On their return from Spain, Albert, son of Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Councillor Ruth Gorringe, said it had been a great trip which also featured a visit to the Eiffel Tower and the Notre Dame Cathedral in France.

"It was very enjoyable in Madrid and there were many people there, and we saw the Pope from a distance," Albert said.

"Many people were interested that we were from Australia and asked about it.

"No one had heard of Palm Island so I told them how beautiful it is.

"I even learnt to speak some Spanish."

The six were very appreciative of the local support they received.

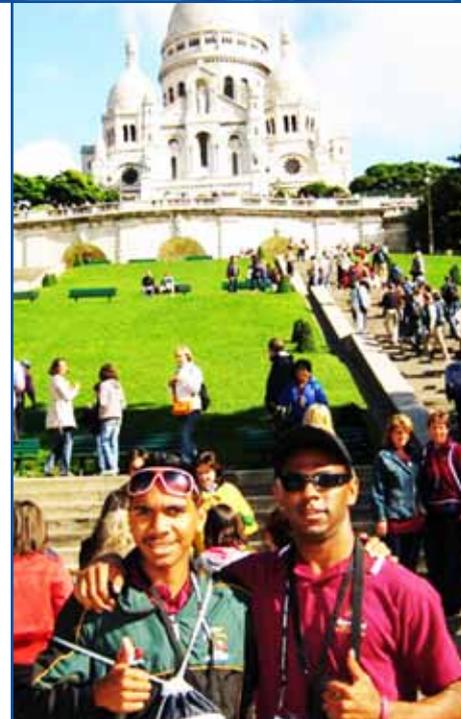
"The group representing not only Australia but Palm Island itself, would like to thank those at the local Catholic Church who helped with the fundraising, Palm Island Community Company and the Palm Island Shire Council, who also supported our trip, as well as those in our community who donated cash and wished us well on our journey," Deniece said.

"Madrid was an amazing experience even though the journey by Thai International was long, it was worth it!"

World Youth Day is held every three years for all young people and those young at heart.

"Next World Youth Day is in Brazil and we would love to see more young Indigenous youth men and women be a part of this International event," Deniece added.

"Also thanks to all those who were praying for us. God bless you."





Under-8 students day with St Michael's & Bwngcolman Community School students





The construction of a new disabled toilet block and Referees Room at the Palm Island Football Clubhouse is set to benefit the whole community Coolgaree CDEP says.

The project was a joint venture between Coolgaree CDEP and the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, with funding from the Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs and the Cathy Freeman Foundation. Under the supervision of John Murison and Chris Stokes building program participants have gained valuable experience in this type of construction and should be proud of their achievements.

It is significant as the group will see the building through to full completion: from the very first step of setting out and digging footings - to lock up. Windmill Bricklaying deserve special thanks for the provision of 3 skilled blocklayers who helped to get the walls up once Coolgaree CDEP did the concrete slab and steel-work.

SEVEN CDEP participants recently completed an important and invaluable workshop on suicide prevention.

Most people on Palm Island have been affected by suicide in some way through the loss of a partner or a family member. It is extremely important for community members have the skills and awareness to recognise the signs of a person who is suicidal. One suicide is one too many. Hopefully, the seven successful participants, who are of all ages, will prove to be a positive example for other Palm Islanders motivating them to have a go themselves and do something invaluable for the Palm Island community. "It broadens your horizons and makes you more aware of when people need help," said Coolgaree CDEP's Brendon Roberts.

THE first winner of the Coolgaree CDEP (Community Employment Development Project) Employee of the Month is Robert Thompson.

Robert, who is from the Coolgaree Mechanical Workshop, is a reliable and dedicated worker. He is a quick learner and once he starts a job he doesn't stop until he is finished. Other members of the Mechanics Gang said: "He is a deadly fella to work with" and he is always there to lend a hand. Robert wins a \$50 gift voucher at the Country Fried Chicken. The award is Coolgaree CDEP's new way to reward dedicated hard workers.

Congratulations Robert. Don't eat it all at once!

*ABOVE: the coming together of the new block at the football oval - the roof should be on this week, says Coolgaree CDEP
RIGHT: participants in an anti-suicide workshop hosted by Coolgaree CDEP*



Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Palm Island Voice Public & Community Notices are your best choice for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Meeting Notices, sales & all your classified needs - and most of them are free!



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

is closed every second Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDOs are Friday 14 + 28 October.

For emergencies on a Friday please call 0458 789 011

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNCIL ON 4770 1177

Palm Island Voice is a fortnightly community newsletter, first launched in August 2007.

Advertising space is available to any businesses, organisations and individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community.

Palm Island Voice was initially launched with the assistance of a Queensland State Government initiative through the Community Renewal program. It is now funded by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and supported by advertising and subscriptions. Up to 800 copies of the *Palm Island Voice* are distributed to retail outlets on Palm Island and in Townsville. For distribution inquiries contact the Editor (details next page).

Contributions

Article and photo submissions to the *Palm Island Voice* are very welcome. Original submissions of articles or photographs must belong to the contributor, and/or delivered with an indication of the owner's permission to publish, no later than 5pm on deadline day. Articles should be no longer than 400 words, unless by prior arrangement, and digital photographs should be as high quality as possible (at least 250dpi & no thumbnails please!). **Final say on advertising, news items, other contributions and photo reproductions is at the discretion of the Palm Island Voice Editor, Christine Howes.**

MANDY JOHNSTONE MP

Member for Townsville



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Community Director – Nominations Wanted

The Board of the Palm Island Community Company (PICC) Limited is seeking nominations from suitably qualified individuals, living in the Palm Island community, for appointment to the position of Director of the Company.

PICC has been set up for, and with, the people of Palm Island, to help realise their aspirations. In the interests of the people, communities and organisations of Palm Island, the company will pursue its own strategic action plan (as outlined in the Strategic Plan document), and will work with existing organisations to secure benefits for the community.

PICC has been operational for almost three years. In keeping with its original strategic plan, during the first three years of operation the Company has focussed on building relationships with key Palm Island individuals and organisations, developing social capital by impartially supporting individuals and organisations, and providing social services that improved safety and security on the Island.

This is an opportunity to contribute to your community as part of a skills based Board that includes nominees from the Palm Island community.

The role requires a commitment to attend monthly meetings and other related activities. The role is remunerated.

For an information pack please contact Sharon Lovett on 07 4721 2277, or for an initial discussion contact Mike Gilmour, Company Secretary on 0416 185 153.



Palm Island Voice **Advertising Information & Rates** **NEW!**

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(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

18 point (about 1cm), single colour, include your logo by negotiation, multiple weeks by negotiation - only \$99 (incl GST) per page! Your contribution will help us to print extra pages and photographs of your favourite sporting team or event as required.

Display Ads

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

Full A4 Page \$450 Half A4 Page \$230

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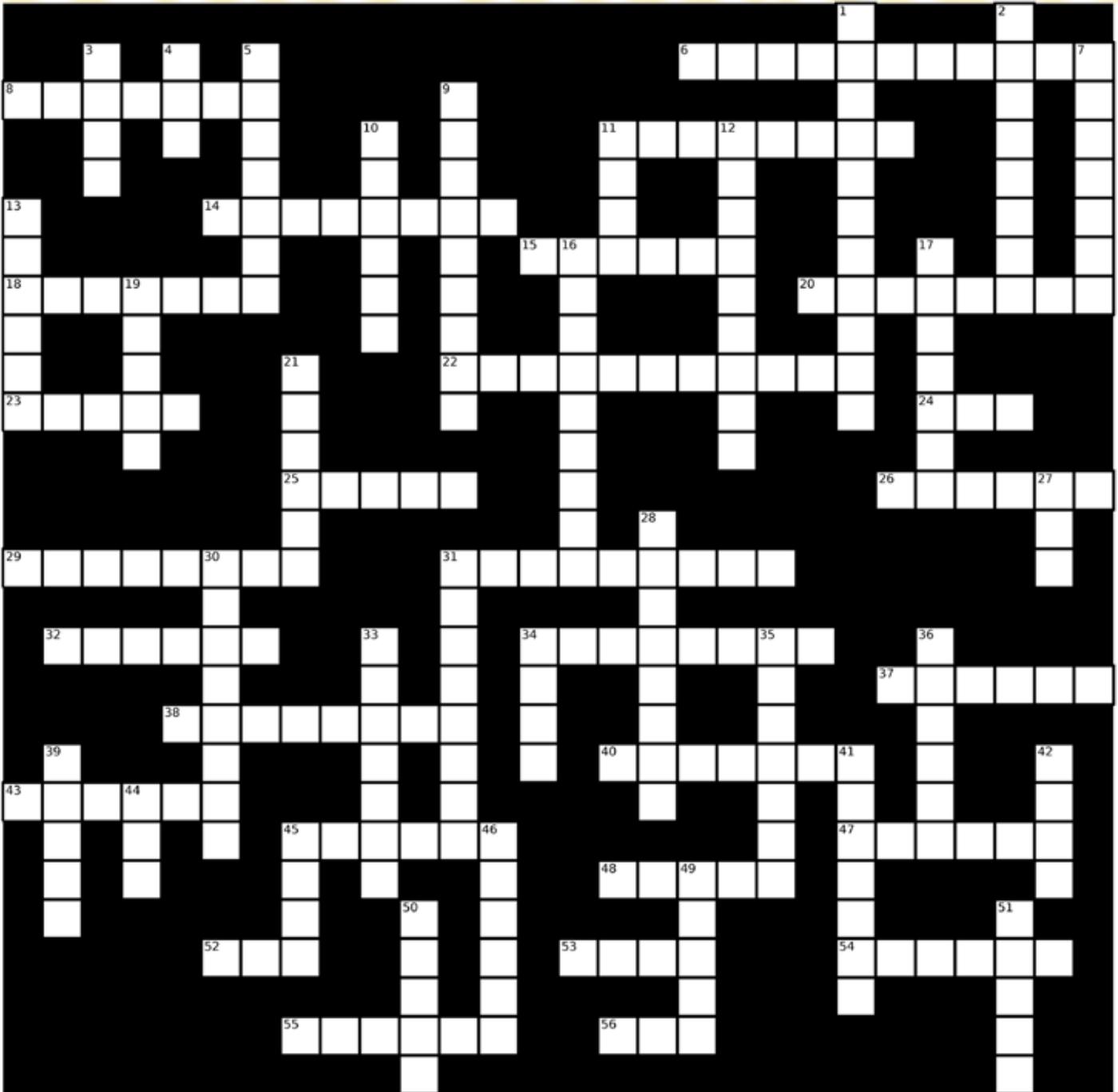
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Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day and material submitted no later than COB the next day. For more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au

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

PI Voice Crossword 89



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

Across

6. Melbourne's 'Black and White' AFL team
 8. Junior RL carnival, ? ? Challenge (2 Words)
 11. Retiring Titan's League legend, Preston ?
 14. Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium's former name (2)
 15. Popular with kids, jumping ?
 18. Nurse who delivers a baby
 20. Crocodiles could lurk here, ? Bay
 22. 'Greatest game of all' (2)
 23. Cranium
 24. Long curved bone
 25. Broken arms rest in this
 26. A 'one pointer' in AFL
 29. Familiar greeting for 'How are you?' (2)
 31. Thigh muscle (footballers often injure this)

32. NZ Warriors coach in 2011, Ivan ?
 34. Safety device in a car
 37. Where errant footy players sit (2)
 38. Old style footy ache remedy
 40. Popular summer sport
 43. Federal NQ politician, Bob ?
 45. Sydney Swans AFL legend, Adam ?
 47. Old style TV signal
 48. Thigh bone
 52. Australian Football League (initials)
 53. Brownlow medal winner 2011 (AFL), Dane ?
 54. Protective metal coating
 55. Warning card is this colour
 56. A 'four pointer' in rugby league

Down

1. Dally M NRL winner 2011 (2)
 2. PI Councillor, Ruth ?

3. PI Rugby League Premiers 2011
 4. Card colour that says 'You're out of the game'
 5. Applies to wounds
 7. Tooth doctor
 9. Chris Sandow's south Queensland home town
 10. AFL adjudicator
 11. Geelong AFL team also called this
 12. Type of swampy tree
 13. PNG's national rugby league team
 16. NZ's Rugby Union team (2)
 17. Rugby league adjudicator
 19. Large aquatic mammal
 21. Each footy player wears one of these
 27. National Rugby League (init)
 28. PI RL runners-up
 30. NRL Grand Finalists from Auckland

31. Period break in footy match (2 Words)
 33. Rugby League legend, Arthur ?
 34. Tibia
 35. Broncos retiring captain, Darren ?
 36. Calf bone
 39. Bulldogs sensational fullback, Ben ?
 41. Broncos captain for 2012, Sam ?
 42. Former Origin Greats (init)
 44. Used to kick goals and start golf
 45. In AFL it's six, in NRL it's worth two
 46. Off to the Parra Eels in 2012, Chris ?
 49. NRL's Sea Eagles
 50. Wallaby fullback, Kurtley ?
 51. Hawthorn's star full forward, Lance '?' Franklin

AS she walked around Palm Island looking out to sea recently, memories flowed back of where it all started for Seneva Baira.

Now aged 34, Seneva's grandfather was Jacob Baira, who was born on Badu Island in the Torres Strait.

Her grandmother Isobel Baira was born on Palm Island and a descendant of the Kuku Yalangi Tribe.

"I am from the Stolen Generation," she said.

"I was born on Palm Island and rugby league was a way of life for our family.

"I grew up watching my dad Roy Baira snr and all my uncles –Jimmy, Raynard, and the late John Baira – play football.

"This was when the games were at the Sports Reserve and Great Aka Eva would bang her drum.

"This was Palm Island Rugby League at its best.

"I enjoyed watching the senior players from the Baira, Geia, Daisy, Walsh, and Haines families.

"There was Jason Thimble, Genami Geia, Roy Prior and Fred Haines snr who was in the under 18's side."

Seneva said she now enjoys watching her brothers and nephews, and their sons and nephews, grow up and play.

"It's been a privilege and an honour, from club football to school football," she said.

"The clashes between Clint Barry and my brother Roy were highlights for me.

"Big solid hits by both of them.

"Then there was Milton Thaiday and my brother Roy at Ignatius Park in a semi final between Town High and Pimlico High.

"I'll never forget Carl Lymburner coaching all the boys in the Youngbloods Team.

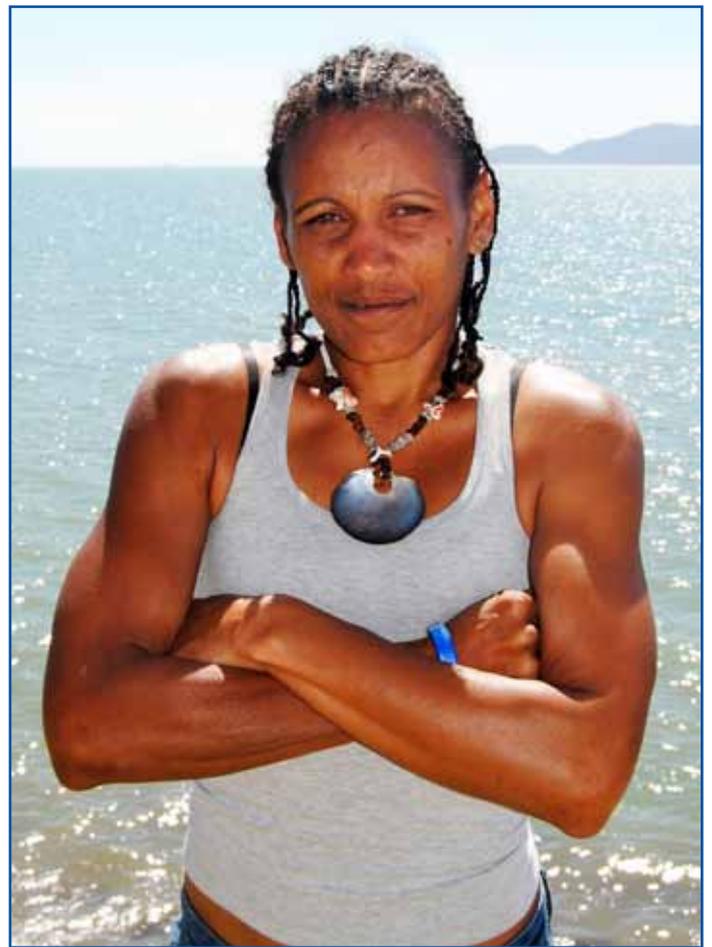
"Now that was Deadly.

"They have the same skills and talent just like their fathers and grandfathers.

"The Palm Island Rugby League is being well represented by many young men who have joined mainland competition - Roy Baira, Jimmy Baira, Royston Lightning/Baira, Richard Watson, Lester Hero, Josiah Geia, Ronnie Geia Jnr, Vernon Baira, Fred Haines jnr, Obe Geia jnr, Walter Geia, Gordon Daisy, Phillip Daisy,

Algon Congo, Frank Baira, Edward Palmer/Baira, Frank Conway, Milton Thaiday, Ian Palmer, Daryl Pearson, Clinton Pearson, Kevin Morgan, Wayne Barry, Gresham Ross, Nui Geia, Justin Prior, Jordan Prior and Gerard Pryor to name just some."

Seneva has been in rugby league for 19 years and said she started playing at the age of 15 for the Palm Island Barracudettes, coached by Bully McKean, and with her sister Rothana Baira as well as Isobel Baira, Emma Baira, Sister Doolan, Margaret Conway, Maise James and Minnie Norman.



"Throughout my football career I've had the opportunity to play

football for some great teams and made many wonderful friends along the way," Seneva said.

Some of her female teammates and opponents have included those of the calibre of Shaylene Solomon, Rachel Solomon, Gertie Solomon, Puni Anu and Sister Doolan.

She also said the Murri Kosker coach was Celestino Ross snr for Rothana Baira, Kimmy Ross, Kelly Dempsey, and Kismi McDonald.

"I then join Bindal Sharks and my coach was Carl Lymburner," she said.

"Sister Doolan, Sasha Obah, Meaghan Cummins, Melinda Barry, Sharona Johnson, Missy Johnson, Shaylene Solomon, Rachel Solomon were great teammates.

"I always enjoyed playing with my Bindal Sisters." In 2010 Seneva played for the Brisbane Blacks which was organised by her sister Damita with Jo Tapau and brother Jonathan Tapau.

"I played in the Memorial Side for the late Nita Tapau at last October's Bindal Allblacks carnival," she said.

In 2011 Seneva signed for the Townsville Brothers ladies Team and said she was honoured to play again with her sisters Rothana, Sonja and Romeenah.

"I also have the opportunity to now play with Angela Solomon and Aggie Solomon who are the daughters of Shaylene and Rachel Solomon," she said.

Our newest state champ!

PALM Island boxers shone in the winner's circle at the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League State Titles in Townsville last month.

"Our boxers won five gold medals, one championship award trophy (by schoolboy Steen Walsh) and three silver medals," trainer Ray Dennis said.

Competing in the titles were boxers from Napranum, Rockhampton, Mackay, Emerald, Cairns, Blackwater, Babinda, Sarina, Mount Isa, Charters Towers and Mareeba. Rashaun Creed, who played eight games of junior rugby league in the 30 hours leading up to the titles, won gold in the 32kg sub-junior under-13 class.

Dennis Haines Jnr won in the 57kg intermediate class when he defeated another Palm Island boxer, Thomas Blanket. "We don't like fighting against each other because we are mates," Haines Jnr said.

Patrick Clarke won the 67kg intermediate division.

Comeback king Selwyn Seaton

has been training hard and shed a lot of weight which paid dividends when he defeated Isaac Mundraby of Cairns in the 81kg light heavyweight final.

William Palm Island won gold in the senior 48kg class by walkover because no opponent could be found to fight him.

Silver medallists were Albert Gorringer in 54kg, Steen Walsh and Thomas Blanket.

Mr Dennis was very impressed by the effort of young Rashaun Creed (*pictured*).

"You are looking at the new Queensland 32kg boxing champion," a proud Mr Dennis said.

"Rashaun also played eight junior games of rugby league in the Obe Geia Challenge and in Townsville in the 30 hours before the fights."

Mr Dennis also heaped glowing praise on Patrick Clarke who he said fought the best fight of the titles when he beat Ryan Lucas from Hit Pit Gym of Cairns.

"That was a great bout and both threw punches which would have knocked out most opponents," he said.



"Dennis Haines Jnr is in great form and will be very hard to beat at the coming Australian Titles for which gold and silver medals winners are eligible," he said.

The National Titles will be held in NSW – boxers under 14 are not eligible to compete, which rules out Rashaun Creed and Steen Walsh.

"I think we will still take a team of seven boxers to the Nationals," Mr Dennis said.

"It will be almost impossible for all of them to go unless a lot of finance can be found."

(...Continued from previous page...)

"Shaylene and Rachel have always encouraged and supported me in all aspects of my football career.

"My little brother Roy Baira is the captain of the Brothers A grade team and my oldest sister Rothana is the captain of the ladies team.

"Roy is the most influential player at the club, he inspires me to reach beyond my talents and perform above what I can achieve. Seneva trains hard up to six hours a day in her bid to play at high level.

"I have my own weight program, diet program, football program, boxing program and sports nutrition program," she said.

"With football comes disappointments.

"After training so hard 6 hours a day everyday for 12 weeks

I was not selected in the Townsville Foley Shield Team.

"I powered on, training harder and harder and with sheer determination, commitment, courage, strength, faith and hope in God, I made it four games before the finals.

"I have waited all my life to play in the Townsville Rugby League Competition with my brother and my sisters.

"Now we have that chance to share our pride, our power and our passion for the game of Rugby League with all of you."



IT was one of the biggest sporting presentation days seen on Palm for some time when premiers Jets players and supporters gathered for end-of-season celebrations at the Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar and Grill last month.

"We even presented each player with a drink cooler with the team picture after we won," Jets coach Norman Bounghi said.

Player awards were:

Player of the year - Costa Sam

Best forward - Assan Sam

Best back - Robert Bulsey

Most improved forward - Gelam Geia

Most improved back - Thom Walsh

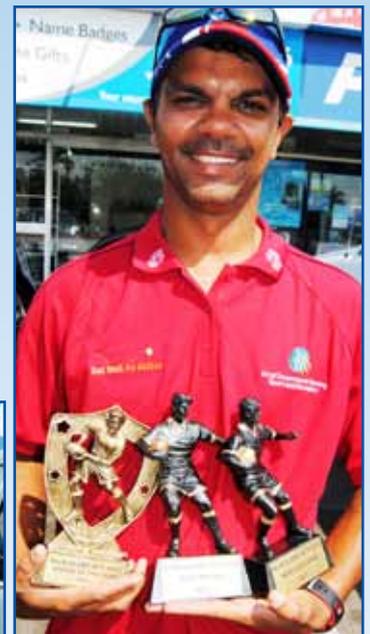
Jets player of the Grand Final - Tabua Oui

Most tries scored - Costa Sam/Robert Bulsey

Rookie of the Year - Ezra Noble

Some Jets players and other Palm Island footballers will now compete at the Bindal Allblacks carnival in Townsville.

Jets will also travel to Cardwell on October 29 for the annual match against Girringun Pirates.



Jets coach Norman Bounghi (left & above) and partner Doreen Prior with some of the trophies presented at awards night; Centre: Former Jets player Heath Prior

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