



Palm Island Voice



Issue 93
Thursday 1 December 2011

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

\$1.25

Council on track with 4th successful audit in a row

For the 4th year in a row Palm Island has been given the nod by auditors and the Auditor General, signalling loud and clear that the current Council and its staff is well and truly on track.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey and Finance Director John Mugambi congratulated staff for their efforts.

"I am proud to lead a Council and an Administration that has produced good audits four years in a

row," Mr Lacey told staff in an email. "We haven't seen this in a long time, since the 1980s. Staff members you should be proud that the good work you all have done is now on the public record."

...continued page 3...

Don't blow the game!

Pre-footy breath tests popular with players

BREATH testing of players before they could compete in last Saturday's Bwgcolman Brothers rugby league carnival at the local footy oval was a great success.

As it was an alcohol and drug free event, carnival co-ordinator Vernon Walsh requested police carry out the tests before anyone could run onto the field.

"We wanted to ensure no players had any alcohol reading and if they did they would not be allowed to play," Mr Walsh said. Local police were happy to oblige between jobs with Acting Snr Sgt Tony Hosie and Constable Russell Satour on hand. Every player from the visiting Charters Towers side and Barracudas United number one team blew into the machine before they ran out for their clash.



"They all passed and none had a reading," Acting Snr Sgt Hosie said. One local player who was keen to be tested was Greg Barry (*inset*) who blew an over the limit reading but was happy not to have a run.

"I just wanted to see as I had a few drinks last night," he said. Barracudas United player Miceal Sibley (*main picture*) was happy to be photographed

as he was tested.

"This is a good thing, I don't drink anyway so there was no chance I would have a positive reading," he said.

Four top class games were held with teams from Yarrabah and Charters Towers competing against local sides.

See the next issue of the Palm Island Voice for a full roundup and pics!!!

Life on Palm Island - from very low tides in Winter (below) to very high in Spring (right)



PASSENGERS who travel between Townsville and Palm Island aboard Sealink ferries are advised to get to the terminal well before scheduled departure times after scores of people were stranded last week.

Last Friday the ferry was full, resulting in at least 50 men, women and children not being allowed to board.

The situation was due to several factors, one being that many Palm Islanders had come to Townsville on the ferry the day before to do their shopping.

Shoppers weren't to know numerous football players, officials and supporters from Charters Towers and Yarrabah were also hoping to be on their way to Palm for the Bwgolman carnival.

Those who were stranded in Townsville had to rely on the goodwill of family or friends for accommodation until they could catch the Sunday ferry back, which didn't leave until 1.30pm.

The barge above has been unloading gravel and sand on Palm for the past month or so as part of the Mt Bentley/Bamboo Creek project under the 2010 Natural Disaster Recovery Arrangements



...from front page...

Audit demonstrates leadership & credibility – Mayor

“Keep up the good work, this goes to show good leadership and partnership is producing these good results on behalf of our people – we are walking the talk,” Mr Lacey said.

“I can now inform the community that the books are in good order for the new Council and I can hang my hat on that.”

Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Curtis Pitt said news of the audit was great to hear.

“Well done to the Council for yet another positive audit result,” he said.

“This council has certainly been leading the way with its financial audits and it’s encouraging that there remains a strong focus on governance and financial accountability. I look forward to hearing more great news from Palm.”

Local MP Mandy Johnstone said the result was fantastic for Palm Island.

“I congratulate the Palm Island council on another fantastic result,” she said.

“I believe there are fantastic opportunities waiting for the Palm Island community.

“I’m pleased that the council is continuing to put themselves in the best possible position to take advantage of them when they arise.”

Mr Lacey said good leadership had led to good financial management.

“It goes to show the good leadership that is happening on Palm, and that we’re able to balance the Council books at the end of the financial year, provide a good financial management and have good financial systems in place.

“And what that means at the end of the day is that not only ourselves but the rest of the world can see once and for all that the people of Palm and the leadership of the community can manage its own financial affairs and that has put credibility back into our community.

“I’m pleased to be a part of that leadership that allows this community to move forward financially and in other ways, with that credibility.

It is important that we continue to grow and still remain financially responsible in terms of managing Council’s affairs and the assets of the community. And we can only do that with the support of community members because they’re an important part of ensuring that we do our jobs, and the administration is there to ensure we hold our finances to a very good standard.

“We can say now we are quite happy to face a Local Government election where a new or incoming Councillors will take the reins of an organisation which has a clean bill of health.

“I certainly want to congratulate the Council members for making the hard

decisions and following those business processes which ensure we’re doing the right thing.

“These are good stepping stones when we talk about self-management and self-determination, this is what it’s really about.

“It’s about our people managing our own affairs and showing the rest of the community that we can do it, so I’m very pleased and proud that the Palm Island Shire Council and its staff are continuing to provide these types of results on behalf of our community.”



Lorelle Wilson, Verona Baira, Allan Baira and Dulcie O’Brien (pictured) are all looking forward to spending time on Palm Island over the Christmas break

A good sport...

Jason Geesu has worked on Palm Island since 2007 in a variety of roles with the Queensland Government's Department of Communities.

Those jobs have included capacity building with the NGOs and assisting other government departments to roll out services to the community.

"I generally supported initiatives that improved the quality of life for my people on Palm Island," Jason said.

Jason was spotted competing at Queensland's biggest Indigenous cricket carnival, the Rainforest Cup, held in Tully and Innisfail last month.

He said after growing up in the Brisbane suburb of Inala the best thing he got out of working on Palm Island was getting to meet family.

"I got a better understanding

of what my grandparents experienced when they were put on Palm Island in the early 1930s," he said.

"In my new role with the Queensland Police Service, I am the new Senior Cultural and Community Crime Prevention Advisor for the Northern Region.

"My role is to develop, implement and promote initiatives to strengthen regional and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community crime prevention projects.

"So hopefully in the near future I can get back to Palm Island to work with the community."



Don't miss out on ABSTUDY payments in 2012

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students moving into to high school in 2012 are urged to confirm their enrolments as soon as possible and check their eligibility for ABSTUDY.

Centrelink Palm Island manager Tanya Maloney said it was important to make arrangements before schools close for the summer holidays.

"We strongly encourage parents and guardians of Indigenous students to act now and call the ABSTUDY team on 13 23 17," Tanya said.

"Leaving it to the last minute may mean missing out on a place at your preferred school and affect ABSTUDY payments."

Students already receiving ABSTUDY are being reminded to complete the 'End of Year Review' form sent to customers at the end of October.

"If you intend to keep studying in 2012, it's important to let us know by completing and returning this form as soon as you can," Tanya said.

"If Centrelink doesn't receive the 'End of Year Review' form by 31 December 2011, there's a risk that ABSTUDY payments may be stopped.

"To make it easier Centrelink offers the option of completing the review over the phone by calling 13 2317."

Tanya said students who are under 16 **4**

years of age need to have their parent or guardian complete the form on their behalf.

"We also remind that for students aged over 16 years a tax file number is required," she said. Boarding school students using the ABSTUDY travel service are also urged to review their obligations.

"Centrelink organises transport to and from boarding schools for eligible ABSTUDY students so it's a busy time right now," Tanya said.

"If students are taking a flight it's important that they turn up or notify Centrelink in advance if they cannot take the flight.

"If the flight is missed and Centrelink is not notified, parents of students may be billed for the cost of the fare.

"To check student travel bookings or to notify Centrelink of changes simply phone 13 23 17."

For more information parents and students can also phone the Indigenous Call Centre on 13 63 80. See also the Centrelink website as well as through Centrelink agents and visiting services.

PCYC working hard for Palm Island kids

Developing partnerships between Palm Island Community Company and the local PCYC were in full swing during Palm Island's own Children's Week held at the PCYC earlier this year.

The official opening was addressed by Mayor Alf Lacey, PCYC's Sgt Bernie Mead and school principals from St Michael's and Bwgcolman schools Gary Recklies and John Duss, respectively.

Daily numbers were recorded and an average of 100 children per day were welcomed with smiles and plenty to do.

Fresh fruit donated by Retail Stores (Brisbane) along with cold drinks were all provided for the thirsty future leaders and community of Palm Island!

Activities included jumping castle, water play, face painting, puzzles, colouring-in, reading books donated by Seconds-to-Give, indoor netball and 3 on 3 basketball.

Cricket was the most popular sport during the week, which had workers wondering if we may have a future Viv Richards here on Palm Island!

The Deadly Youth Nights program was held from 6.30pm – 9.30pm with Friday night going through until 10.30pm – most of the children/



young people did not want to go home....! At the end of the long hot week, staff and children were exhausted, but in the end it was well worth it just going to prove people would do anything for our children, who are our future.

Activities provided by Palm Island Community Company were supervised by Ruth Gorringe and carried out by Moira Baira, Samuella Conway, Ben Castors, Boleen Gorringe, Racheal Ryan, Natasha Baira and Gary Walsh. PCYC staff also on hand included Deniece Geia, Josephine Nallajar, Bernadine Castors, Damien Friday and Vaina Fave.

Watch this space for more news about what's going on with the PCYC over the Christmas and New Year breaks!

Women's group plans to meet every fortnight

Palm Island has a new women's group working to the motto, 'What Women Want'.



Organised by Delena Foster (*pictured*), Selena Shepherd, Deniece Geia and Georgina Haines, the group has decided to meet every fortnight.

"We have made a decision to have fortnightly meetings so the next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th December at 5pm under the Cherry Plum Tree near the old Baker Shop," Mrs Foster said.

"At our first meeting discussions were

held around issues that affect us as sistas, aunties, grannies, mothers and women.

"All Palm Island Women are most welcome to attend and if they would like to come along they should bring a plate of something to eat and share.

"We are also organising a meeting with the newly formed Men's Group for some time soon."

NSW/ACT artist/healing tour 'good exposure' for Palm



PALM Island elder Maggie Blackley was all smiles after returning from a two week Women's NSW Healing Trip to NSW and the ACT last month.

"It was a fantastic trip and gave Palm island lots of good exposure," she said. The *Palm Island Voice* reported meeting with Maggie, artists Sandra Clay, her daughter Noby Clay, Aunty Mary Twaddle, arts co-ordinator Caroline Doyle

(nee Sibley) from Mackay, and tour co-ordinator Oni Kirwin at the Townsville Airport before they left. Another Palm artist Ranietta Lind joined the group a day later. On this page is just some of what they all got up to while they were away!!!



Amnesty facilitates human rights training for locals

Rights and discrimination was the focus of a training program attended by more than 30 Indigenous men and women, including six from Palm Island, held in Townsville earlier this month.

The 'Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Justice Advocacy Training Program' was organised by Amnesty International Australia in partnership with The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP).

DTP was founded in 1989 and is an independent not-for-profit organisation affiliated with the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales.

The theme was Indigenous Peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals, and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination in the exercise of their rights.

Palm Islanders at the conference were Cr Zina Prior, Frank Conway (*below left*), Zita Robertson (*below right*), Norris Daphney, Brendon Roberts and Phillip Obah (*above right*).

"Besides our Palm Island people, the others were from Torres Strait and the

Human Rights group with Uncle Bongo," Cr Prior said.

"In attendance were high powered people whom assisted in the presentation to the group."

Indigenous and non-indigenous trainers on the program included lawyers with extensive experience in international law and Indigenous rights, community advocates with effective skills in lobbying and campaigning, people with media background and community workers with a history of justice.

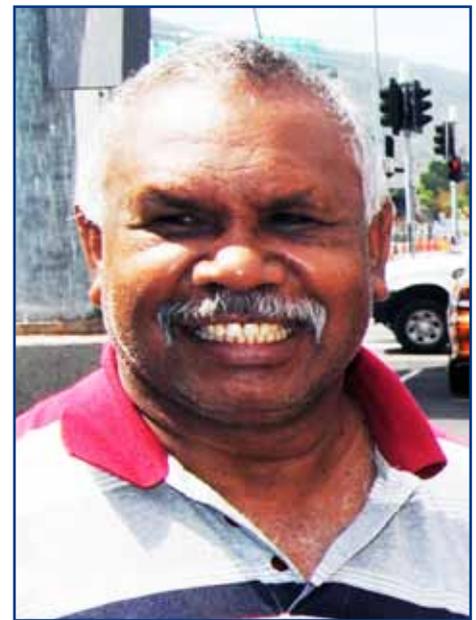
Townsville-based Velma Gara spoke about different types of media.

The aim of the program was to build on knowledge and skills to support participants in promoting and protecting rights as well as presenting a valuable opportunity to share experiences and knowledge.

Other participants included Robert "Bongo" Sagigi, Abigail Harry (from Thursday Island), Harry Nona, Tom Jack Baira (both Badu) and Sandra Creamer (Yeppoon). "It has really been good especially hearing about the United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous People," Mr Sagigi said.

The five day intensive program's objectives were:

- To build knowledge of Human Rights and the Rights of Indigenous People and how this applies to the Indigenous Peoples;
- To look at the International Human Rights Framework and the obligations of the Australian Government to respect, protect and fulfil Human Rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- To explore how Human Rights can be used to hold governments accountable at the state, national and international level;
- To develop practical lobbying and advocacy skills; and,
- To provide opportunities for participants from Queensland to share and learn from each others' experiences and to develop support networks.



Stagpole St turns 20!

Townsville's Stagpole Street Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre celebrated more than two decades of service with a 20th birthday Open Day last month.

Residents, staff, invited guests and members of the public, including

many Palm Islanders were on hand to assist with and enjoy celebrations. Ferdy's Haven Rehabilitation on Palm Island was started as a result of the early success of the Townsville Centre.

Palm Island-born Fay Thimble (*pictured top right*) gave an emotional speech to the large audience.

28-year-old Palm Islander David Clarke (*below right*) has been a Centre resident for a month and spoke how his life was being changed.

"I want to set an example for my little brothers on Palm as they look up to me and I used to sit with them all the time," he said.

"I will be here for another two months and it has been very good for me." Over the past two decades the Centre has helped rehabilitate more than 1000 men and women from all parts of North Queensland.

Master of Ceremonies for the day was Centre Engagement Officer Bruce Adams and there were speeches by guests and current and former residents.

Entertainment was provided by volunteer band "Joyful Noise", Shalom Christian College dancers, Uncle Albert Abdul Rahman and Centre Cultural Officer Potepa Captain.

Centre Case Manager Bando Neliman said whilst there was a focus on rehabilitating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, there were also many non-indigenous people who had benefited.

"It is a great achievement to be celebrating 20 years," he said.

A Kup Murri feast of pork prepared by Centre Case Manager Merv Prior, residents Brendan Hunter and Corey Geesu, and ex-resident Charles Newbury proved popular.

Mr Geesu and Mr Newbury are both from Palm Island.

The food was dug out from just under the ground at the foot of Townsville's best known landmark Castle Hill (*right*).

Nearby was a vegetable garden in which corn, zucchini, lettuces and tomatoes have been grown successfully.

Centre Arts and Activities Officer Kim Munro said the open day had been a great success which had been appreciated by all of their clients.



Digital tv switch-over ready and steady to go

Palm Island is 'moving with the times' and just about set for switching over to digital-only TV in a couple of days time.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said he understood a lot of families had bought new televisions for the switch to digital TV.

"We know there are still some black spots in our community that need to be attended to and fixed, and they will be," he said. "I also understand that assistance, particularly for some pensioners and people on low incomes is in the Shire to access digital network television."

digital switchover", she said.

"After the morning tea, I think a few Elders went to Centrelink to register for the Household Assistance Scheme while a few other community members went to the local Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN) office to see if they could take out a loan for a digital set-top box or digital TV. All community members need to have digital TV because analog TV is switching off on 6 December 2011 and you need to have digital TV to keep watching (free-to-air) TV from this date."

a number of schemes to "help people make the switch to digital TV".

"If you own a working TV, or can't watch digital TV and get the full rate of Aged Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carers Payment, or the Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Pension or Department of Veterans' Affairs Income Support Supplement you might be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme to help switchover to digital TV", Ms Wick said.

"If you receive one of these payments, you would have received a letter from Centrelink inviting you to apply for the scheme".

"If you think you are eligible for the scheme, you need to call 1800 556 443 or visit the Centrelink office. The Household Assistance Scheme will be open until 25 January 2012. "

She said if you were eligible for the scheme, you would receive, free of charge, a high definition set-top box installation and demonstration of your new equipment by a technician, and 12 months of support and service.

If you rent your home, and needed work done to your TV antenna through the scheme, you would need to talk to your landlord or housing officer about getting any repair or replacement work done.

Mr Lacey said, "things in the world are changing, and television is part of the changes".

For more information about the Digital Switchover call 1800 20 10 13 (free call except from mobiles) or go to www.digitalready.gov.au



Close to 20 Elders and community members attended a morning tea with Digital Switchover Liaison Officer for North Queensland, Melissa Wick, and Winangali officer, Brian Arley, in October to learn more about the digital switchover program and to make people aware of the support schemes in place.

Ms Winnie Obah, Senior Community Support Officer for the Palm Island Community Company said the morning tea was "really good" because "Elders were given more information and had their questions answered about the

The switchover team said households would need to make sure their televisions can receive the digital TV signal through either buying a set-top box or digital recorder and connecting it to an analog, TV, or buy a digital TV. Digital TV provides 16 free-to-air channels as well as greater picture and sound quality. They said if you can watch ABC 2 or SBS 2, and other digital channels, you already have digital TV and don't need to do anything.

Digital Switchover Liaison Officer Melissa Wick said the Australian Government have

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**The next RDO is
Friday 25 November.**

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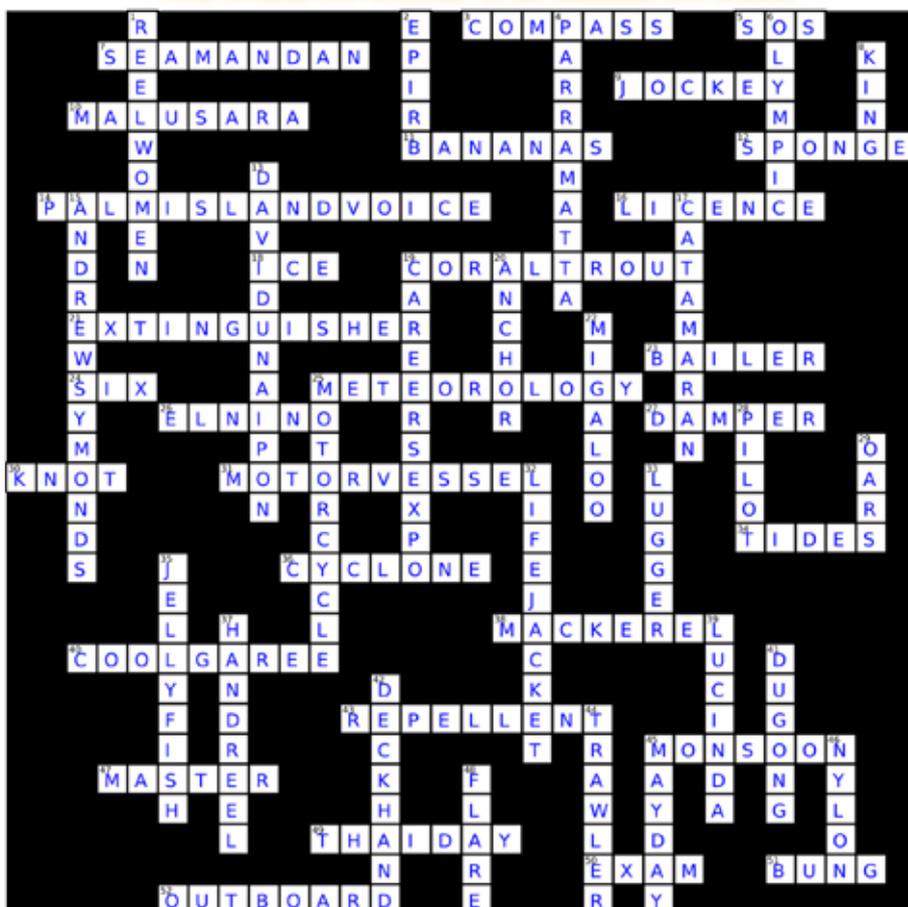
HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY

Resipa Akalene Geia

1st December 2011

Wishing you all the best and may you have many
more. God Bless. Love from Mum, Unelz, Marina,
Obe, Alinah & nieces / nephews, Haines, Gorringe,
Murgha, Ryan & Allen Families.

Palm Island Voice Crossword 92 Answers



Palm Island Voice

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Friday 20th January 2012**

Dan Ropeyarn Palm Island to



Pictured:
Top Left: Barracudas to Bamaga – from left after returning from Bamaga are Donella Sam, Retemoi Sam and Stanley Fraser
Middle Left: Youngsters Thomas Oui, left, and Stanley Fraser after returning from Bamaga
Bottom Left: Tabua Oui, left, and Costa Zam
Above: Zac Sam who came back with a Warrup

Memorial → Barracudas trek from Bamaga for hard fought games

A PALM Island Mount Bentley Barracudas side made the marathon road journey to Bamaga on Northern Peninsula Area at the tip of Cape York for the Dan Ropeyarn Memorial Allblacks rugby league carnival last month.

Players and officials went in three small buses on the trip, across some of the roughest dirt roads in the country and this totalled more than half of the 1000kms plus journey (see footnote).

Ten men's sides and two women's teams competed at the carnival.

The trip was organised by Palm Islanders Ben Nomoa and Zac Sam who said they were pleased with how the boys went.

Tabua Oui, Caleb Oui, Costa Sam, David Sam, Frank Baira, Thomas Oui jnr, Stanley Fraser, Lleyton Sam, Ralph Watson, Ben Namoa jnr and Selwyn Seaton all made the journey as players.

"Some of the boys pulled out and we only ended up with 11 players so some of the younger fellas had a game and we got some players from Bamaga including my nephew Brian Tamwoy is aged in his forties," Zac said. Stanley Fraser is just 15 and Thomas Oui aged 17 and they both enjoyed the experience against much older opponents.

"I am so proud of them, they went well," Tabua Oui said.

"Caleb Oui at 29 and myself at 24 were two of the eldest players too."

The side won one game and lost three which was a great effort after travelling so far.

In their first game with just 11 players the Barracudas won by two points over the Seisia Sharks and then lost narrowly to a Weipa team. On day two the Barracudas lost to NPA premiers Alau Eagles which ended up making the grand final before losing to Waur United from Kubin Village on Moa Island.

In their last game the gallant Barracudas lost to eventual champions, Waur United.

Some of the best Palm players were Zac's sons Costa and David Sam, Selwyn Seaton and Frank Baira.

Veteran referee Rod "Hairy" McCrae said the football was of a high standard and he was glowing in his praise for the Barracudas.

"There was six games on the first evening, 11 matches on day two and nine games including the finals on the last day," he said. "Qualifying games were 20 minutes a half and that helped as well.

"The Barracudas lost a few games and won one at the carnival.

"They came a long way from Palm Island to Bamaga and did really well."

A strong Waur United side from Moa Island which included former Melbourne Storm player Sam Joe scored a 42-40 win over Alau Eagles in a cliffhanger grand final.

Champions Waur United had a strong Palm Island connection with another of Zac's sons, Kareem Sam, lining up for them.

Zac Sam said he didn't barrack for either side as two of his sons played against Kareem.

"I just sat there and watched but we had a really good trip and I came back with a Warrup given to me by a cousin," Zac said.

Zac's wife Donella and daughter Retemoi, aged 14, also made the long bus trip.

"It was tiring but we all had a great time," Donella said.

The Palm contingent left Bamaga after the carnival and slept in Cairns on 21st November before arriving in Townsville the night after.

"We will all have a good sleep when we get back to Palm," Zac said,

Well done to all concerned for flying the Barracudas banner so far away.

FOOTNOTE: The distance from Cairns to Bamaga is 997.62km, with the distance from Lakeland to Bamaga being 755.13. Apart from bitumen strips in front of stations and when travelling through towns (Laura, Coen etc) you could pretty well say the dirt starts just north of Lakeland. Townsville to Cairns is another 350km which means the Barracudas drove 1347km.

Barracudas!!!

A season round-up EXCLUSIVE to the *Palm Island Voice*

Barracuda colours have been on show around North Queensland and beyond as Season 2011 would have to have rated as one of the most successful on record for the Palm Island Rugby League.

The history-making debut of Palm Island in the prestigious Foley Shield competition during May was one of the highlights.

A combined Palm Island/Bowen team competed in the Foley Shield which featured seven other sides, Townsville City, Townsville Country, Mackay, Cairns, Remote Area Rugby League, Innisfail Eacham and Outback League.

It is little wonder that officials gave Palm Island the nod for the Foley Shield which commenced in 1948 with six teams.

Passionate Palm Islanders outnumbered supporters from any other centre during the two-day Foley Shield at Brothers's League's Club in Townsville.

In the lead up to those games a Barracudas side travelled to Ayr to play Bowen in a selection game to pick that team.

This year six sides contested the local Palm Island domestic competition – Jets, Brothers, Skipjacks, Butler Bay Bulls, Mundy Bay Warriors and Hornets.

Jets went on to win the grand final easily over Brothers and Skipjacks and Bulls also made the semi-finals.

A big positive was that Mundy Bay Warriors and Hornets, which both joined the competition the season before – fielded competitive sides and have signed good players for 2012.

Many rugby league followers on the mainland, and that includes North Division officials, are amazed that Palm Island with a population of 3000 can field six teams.

By comparison, Townsville which has 160,000 residents and has just seven clubs and three of those are out-of-towners Charters Towers, Burdekin and Herbert River. There is even some talk that Mount Bentley Raiders Club, which pulled before the 2011 season, may nominate for next year making it seven clubs. Barracudas sides travelled far and wide to compete at Allblacks carnivals this year starting with the Rockhampton Reconciliation event last January.

In June Skipjacks club forward Jason Bulsey lined up for Moa Island team Maur Brothers United at the Island of Origin carnival at Badu island in the Torres Strait.

In August the Australian Army Thunder travelled to Palm where they were easily beaten by Skipjacks in the annual memorial shield match named in honour of the late and great elder Bill Coolburra.

The Barracudas also contested the Bindal carnival in Townsville during October and a week later at the Cairns Allblacks, where a women's team was also entered.

Barracudas under 18 teams

also gave us a presence and that augers well for the future of Palm Island football.

On the last weekend in October the Jets side travelled to Cardwell to play Girringun Pirates for the Jack Henry and Joe Romelo Memorial rugby league.

Jets gave away a big half time deficit to come home with a wet sail before going down 36-34.

In the under 18 game Pirates defeated Jets 14-10 in front of hundreds of Palm Islanders who were at the Cardwell Showgrounds for the matches. On the same weekend two Barracudas sides – gold and white – competed at the Bishop Arthur Malcolm carnival at Yarrabah.

Barracudas Gold reached the semi final and again, many Palm Island people were at Yarrabah.

News that Palm will host a "residents only" Allblacks carnival next February is exciting and has already attracted much interest from other communities.

No NRL stars will be eligible and all players in each team must live on their community. Barracudas will have massive crowd support.

Palm Island Voice would like to say 'well done' to every player, official, supporter and spectator who has contributed to such a wonderful 2011 footy season...and roll on 2012!!!

Boxers punching above their weights – when they can...

THE deadly reputation about the ability of Palm Island boxers has resulted in many not being able to find opponents when they travel to away tournaments.

Such was the case at the 12th November Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament hosted by the Charters Towers Gold City Club.

Three Palm boxers – Steen Walsh (*left*), Joey Geia (*back page*) and Reggie Palm Island (*below with partner Sharna Robertson*) – were ready for ring action.

However much to their disappointment only Joey could find an opponent and that was an exhibition bout.

“Steen could not be matched and Reggie offered to find a much heavier opponent but I think he heard about

Reggie’s ability and pulled out,” said Palm trainer Ray Dennis.

Mr Dennis wanted to thank Gold City Club officials for their hospitality and said his boxers would return there again.

MEANWHILE STAR boxer Reggie Palm Island has recovered from a wrist injury and will make his long awaited comeback at the Queensland Association State Titles in Brisbane on 10 and 11th December.

The 18-year-old Reggie Palm Island injured his wrist whilst training to represent Australia at the Elite World Amateur Boxing Titles in Baku, Azerbaijan from 22nd September to 10th October.

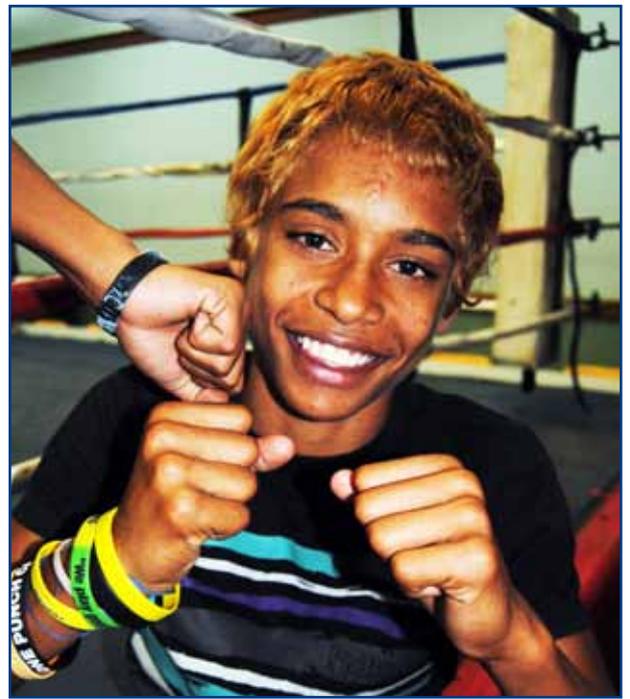
Reggie was forced to miss that trip which was the first boxing qualification event for males hoping to gain 2012 Olympic Games selection.

“Reggie was all ready to leave with the Australian team but suffered a 3ml cartilage tear on one wrist,” Palm island Boxing Club assistant assistant Chris Gundy said.

“He was disappointed but I contacted people down there at the AIS and if he had gone to the titles and fought it may have ended his career.

Reggie flew to Townsville on 21st and has recovered steadily – surgery was not required.

Trainer Ray Dennis said that Reggie was still very much in the running for selection at the London



Olympic Games.

“Reggie has been training strongly and looks very sharp and is in good shape,” Dennis said.

Reggie fights in the 46-49 kg weight category competition and is one of Australia’s most polished amateur boxers.

The quietly spoken Reggie was ready for action at the 12th November Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament hosted by the Charters Towers Gold City Club but no opponent could be found for this rising star of Australian boxing.





Reflecting on a great future? Joey Geia considers his options as he gets ready for comp in Charters Towers early last month - see p 14-15 for more!



12-year-old Marcus Ketchup (left) was all smiles when he asked us to snap his pic whilst at the Bwgcorman football carnival at the local oval last Saturday



Shoppers Ivan James, Margaret Conway and Michael Conway were spotted as they entered K-Mart Plaza in Townsville last month. "We have come over to do some shopping," Margaret said.

HAVE YOU GOT A PHOTO FOR THE PALM ISLAND VOICE? We will accept phone pics if they are the best possible quality - write to us today to find out how you can contribute your own 'Out & About'!!!

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
 TO ALL!!!**