



Palm Island Voice



Issue 94
Thursday 15 December 2011

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

\$1.25

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Palm Island needs greater regional status – Mayor

Mayor Alf Lacey has asked a conference of activists from around Australia as well as an Afro-American law enforcement officer and a Cherokee Professor from Washington’s Georgetown University to consider his call for greater regional status for Palm Island.



Speaking at the First Nations Pathways Conference in Townsville last month, Mr Lacey said without any disrespect to the Torres Strait, Palm Island deserved the same. "Some of our communities, we're missing out on wider services for our people and there has to be another model in terms of great autonomy for ourselves," he said. "The Premier is backing our brothers and sisters in the Torres Strait and they deserve it and they should have it. My call today as the Mayor of Palm to the wider audience and to people here is Palm needs great autonomy and a regional status in terms of who we are because otherwise we are always going to be dealing with the layers of bureaucracy rather than dealing with ourselves." Also at the conference, and under special release from his bail conditions, Lex Wotton spoke twice to delegates about what had happened to him since he was jailed for inciting a riot. He said even though he sometimes found it hard, he had no regrets about what happened and had accepted his fate. He also thanked his supporters. More than 60 speakers and 150 delegates attended the conference, coordinated and organised by Dr Gracelyn Smallwood, who said the conference had achieved what it set out to do. Dr Smallwood will graduate with her PHD this coming Saturday in Townsville. "We have a real balance of gentle and non-gentle people, but let me tell you brothers and sisters, there's black and white in this audience, and most conferences don't let activists talk," she said.



National first for Rotary in Australia...p 3



PCYC News...p 6-7



All the latest Boxing & Footy News...pages 17-20!!!

...More on pages 4-5...



Lavenia to marry tomorrow in Fiji
Lavenia Tubuia (pictured left from our files in 2008) has done an amazing job working with our young people at the PCYC for almost five years, says PCYC Youth Programs Coordinator Deniece Geia.

"Lavenia has moved and often visits Palm Island PCYC in her new role with the Indigenous Business Unit based in Townsville," Mrs Geia said. "On 16

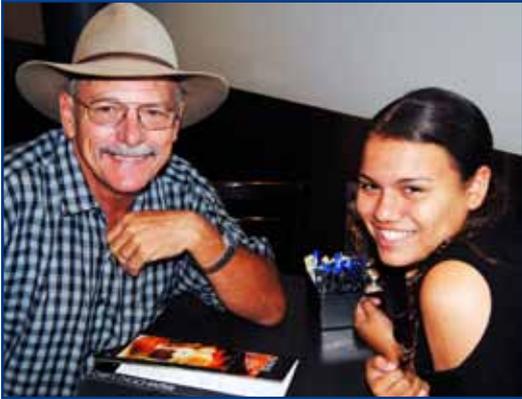
December 2011 Lavenia and her fiancé' Seta Waqa are getting married and a few Palm Islanders are travelling to the Pacific Islands to witness first-hand a traditional Fijian wedding. The PCYC family would like to congratulate Lavenia and Seta and wish them all the best for the future together."

Palm Island Voice hopes to have pics of the wedding to share with the community next year!!!



Hinchinbrook Mayor Pino Giandomenice presented Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley with rocks from Ayr, Charters Towers & Ingham for the Palm Island Monument last Saturday.

...Out & About...



Left: Bill Blackley & granddaughter Jerri in Townsville last week.

Right: at the Yarrabah AllBlacks was Christopher Pompey, Linda Sailor, Carmen Walsh & Cecilia Walsh



Mass set for Christmas Eve @ 6pm & Christmas @ 9am

Christmas Eve family Mass will commence at 6pm and Christmas Day will have a Sunday morning Mass at 9am, say local Sisters.

"We look forward to gathering to praise God for sending us Jesus on this feast day of our Year," Sister Robyn said.

At the end of May Sisters Christina, Maria and Madge departed from Palm Island, but before leaving they passed on the baton to another two sisters from the Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan - Sisters Robyn Brady and Lal Smith (*pictured above with Father Daniel*). Sister Lal was present on the



Island before the Franciscans sisters left and Sister Robyn joined her at the end of June. "We have been warmly welcomed by the Palm Island

community and we both look forward to working alongside and with you in whatever way we are needed, honouring and respecting all who have preceded us," Sister Robyn said.

Australian first for Palm Island as Ingham Rotary's 'Satellite'



Palm Island has become the first Rotary 'Satellite' Club in Australia after the Rotary Club of Ingham was accepted into an international pilot program.

Rotary Club of Ingham President Bernice Day said a formal induction ceremony and celebratory lunch on the Island last Saturday was "a memorable occasion, two and a half years in the making". "The Rotary International Pilot Club Program is assisting to bring Rotary to remote communities," she said. "Members of a Satellite Club actually become members of a Sponsor Club and in this instance it is the Rotary Club of Ingham." She said members of the Palm Island Satellite Club would receive ongoing mentoring, support and assistance by the Rotary Club of Ingham to carry out Rotary Projects on Palm Island. "The Sponsor Club and the Satellite Club are required to meet quarterly and we have agreed to meet on Palm Island for a Saturday lunch meeting three times each year," she said. "We are also planning for the Rotary Club of Ingham to host members of the Palm Island Rotary Satellite Club overnight

so that they can come to Ingham once a year." She said their first project would be a secondhand furniture shop. "Orpheus Island Resort has donated two shipping containers of second-hand furniture to start up a Rotary Secondhand Shop," she said. "My vision is that down the track this shop may create a permanent full-time job and that Palm Island will eventually charter a Rotary Club of their own." Mrs Day said all proceeds from the sale of the secondhand furniture would be put into the Rotary Satellite Club Bank Account. "So this money will be earmarked for projects that will benefit the community of Palm Island," she said. In total 16 members were inducted into the Palm Island Rotary Satellite Club. They were: Louise Reid, Raymond Sibley, Merlene Robertson, Veronica Coutts, Susan Pryor, Nazareth Youngblutt, Steven Boyd,

Jeanie Ling and Robert Blackley. Unable to attend was: Gary Recklies, Tony Hosie, Grace Kabay, Roderick Geesu, Victor Parker, Alice Phetomy and Loretta Pryor. A contingent of people from Ingham, Townsville and Charters Towers travelled by barge to the Island to be part of the occasion. "The Rotary Club of Ingham would also like to sincerely thank Day & Day Shipping for providing free transport to and from Palm Island on Saturday," Mrs Day said. Those present included: Craig Bowen, Denise Bowen, Guido Giliberto, Carol Olivero, Lex Kanakis, Louise Zaghini, Diana Friday and guests Mattina Kanakis and Jack Russo, Ian Friday, Beryl Friday, Barbara De Bono, German Exchange Student Vicki Rosner, Rotary Club Port of Townsville member Rod Short, Rotary Club of Charters Towers Lex Foot, Hinchinbrook Shire Council Mayor Pino Giandomenice and Councillor Sherrie Kaurilla and Palm Island elders Iris White, Mavis Foster and Nancy Murphy.

Strong Palm Island presence at First Nations conference in Townsville

The following is an edited transcript of what Mayor Alf Lacey said in his presentation to the First Nations Pathways Conference in Townsville last month:

"Palm Island, regardless of all the knocking, all the kicking in the guts that we've faced, we continue as a community to get up, to hold our heads high and continue to be strong, and that's what makes a community," he said.

"It's about leading for tomorrow and continuing the fight.

"I'm just going to talk about a few issues from a community point of view because that's certainly where I come from.

"We hear about all the degrees in the room – one of the best things I think I've probably got instead of a university degree is my community degree because that's what you need in black community.

"I can speak from experience.

"Someone else is always setting the agenda but us.

"My call today as the Mayor of Palm is we need greater autonomy and a regional status in terms of who we are because otherwise we are, as Percy Neal always says at Yarrabah, always going to be dealing with layers of bureaucracy rather than dealing with ourselves.

"In the past couple of years I've been on the Council I've found there is an immense energy you have to put in, in educating about how our community operates and how things should be done in our community – setting up foreign models that become quick fixes in our community is not the thing to do.

"[For example] the education of our kids is far off the rails.

"Again I can speak from experience.

"Two of my kids just won't go back to school.

"So, how do we fix it and how do we find that common ground?

"The Director General met with us the other day.

"Their solution to fixing the truancy issue for Palm Island is putting a flexi-centre into Palm Island.

"It's one of the models they have.

"And then we're saying, and I don't know what they mean by flexi-centre –like it's an adult/ children type learning centre.

"But if we continue to see people jump off planes or drive in government cars coming in and out of our communities bringing the agenda to us then you wonder why people, like myself, are calling for us to set our own agenda cause they will continue to do it.

"And it's happening every day at a rapid pace.

"Community wellbeing is also another very important thing.

"The other important thing is that we as a community must understand is lateral violence.

"What we've got to do as leaders in our own community is pull up that type of violence or gossiping or whatever against our own people because we become our own worst enemy.

"The people, at the end of the day, who will get the blame on the ground in the communities are the community leaders who have to take the whacks and the kicks and everything else from community members.

"It's important to understand also that the answers lie within us.

"And that's the type of stuff the we have to say to our community, that we have a responsibility in terms of helping our community to understand that we have to also work together as a community to achieve and knock down some of the goals that we'd like to achieve because if we don't do that then let's forget about tomorrow because there's never going to be a tomorrow.

"We might as well go sit at the pub and get drunk and stay drunk for the rest of our lives.

"But the determination of a lot of us who have persevered for quite some time, who have stood up to be counted and have watched a lot of people for many years is helping to mould our community.



"We have to find the answers, not everybody else find the answers for us.

"We've got to find the answers to fix whatever our issues are on the community

"Palm has come a long way, don't get me wrong.

"We've done some good stuff.

"But in terms of finding our independence and in finding where our future lies, then that's always in the hands of someone else, and it needs to shift.

"That change needs to shift back into local people's hands and allow us, as a community, to develop and move forward.

"When we look at the last 20 years Palm Island has evolved but some things haven't changed.

"I got up in a Council meeting the other week when one of the staff from the Department of

Communities office said: 'Alf, the goal post has shifted.'"

"I said: 'You wonder why I have a sore back from lifting the goal post and trying to put it back into the same place again.

"That's all we're doing all the time.

"We're trying to get the goal post and put it back in the same place.

"But we need to remain focussed and we need to remain on line with achieving some of those goals – our goals, not theirs.

"Thank you – the debate we're facing at the moment as Indigenous Councils in Queensland is in terms of how we mould our community for the future.

"But while these things are happening all around us we also need to remember to set our own agenda for tomorrow."

ALSO AT THE CONFERENCE...



Ernie Hoolihan, Hopevale Mayor Greg McLean, Gracelyn Smallwood & US visitor Prof Bette Jacobs

Glorianna Captain, Sean Choolburra, Telisha Captain & Nye-Kye Clumpoint

PCYC hitting the mark

with after-school care

Childcare Supervisor Bernadine Castors and Childcare worker Josephine Nallajar have been extremely busy from Monday to Friday providing after-school activities for over 100 school age children everyday at the Palm Island PCYC.

Extra supervision from youth workers Deniece Geia and Vaina Fave as well as Police Liaison Officer Damien Friday have all lent a hand to ensure activities are delivered in a friendly, happy and safe environment.

Branch Manager Sgt Bernie Mead said he couldn't say 'thanks' enough when it came to hard work, dedication and strong commitment his PCYC staff who had worked outside of their normal duties and hours to 'be there' for the students as well as the young people of Palm Island. "I am so thankful that I have a very good group of dedicated staff at the PCYC," he said.

Bernadine and Josephine are all hands on, the jumping castle is very popular with the young children and indoor cricket is also very popular!

The Program shuts down at 5pm, giving the opportunity for staff to have one hour break to prepare for the next 3-4 hours of Night Programs run by Deniece Geia, Vaina Fave, Det Paul Enders and volunteers.

Attendance at night ranged from 14-26 years of age.



*Above: Mitchell Baira, Fred Ross and Peter Reid styling up at the PCYC discos for young people
Right: Deniece Geia and Koipe Castors @ the PCYC*

Sgt Meade said the most popular sport for men was indoor touch footy.

"It's also great to see parents are also visiting the PCYC at night to just sit and have a yarn with staff," Sgt Meade said.

He also wanted to draw attention again to the PCYC's current volunteer drive.

"If you're out there and you want to give back to the Community of Palm Island in some small way, then why don't you sign up as a volunteer," he said.

"Drop in to our office and grab a application form.

"PCYC will be running a Summer School Holiday Program as well.

"Thank you to all those who supported us throughout 2011."

*Our
Island
Home*





Above: This year's pre-preps enjoying a visit from Santa with the help of the PCYC

Below: Painting and Face Painting activities at the PCYC



Youth take time out

Late last month 15 young people and adults attended a Youth Camp on Fantome Island enabling students and disengaged youth to enjoy some 'young people's time'.

Local school teacher Chris Evers worked with PCYC, Gospel Outreach Church, parents and students to engage in cultural activities over the four day camp.

Organisers wanted to particularly thank Roy Prior (CDEP), Albert Gorringe and NRL Cowboy Obe Geia Jnr for taking the students and adults by boat to Fantome, and also collecting them by the end of the week.

Unfortunately police, due to lack of resources, could not assist but Sgt Tony Hosie said they would be better prepared for next time.

Newly-appointed Youth Development Officer Mrs Deniece Geia worked closely with Mr Gundy to make the camp a success, with thanks also due to Sgt Bernie Mead for allowing his staff the time to assist..

Palm Island Council also donated funds to local church group.

Pr Ron Geia welcomed a generous donation from the Council for the purchase of camping gear.

"One of the things that we want to do on the Island is expose our young people to 'bush way of living' and teach them respect and values," Pr Geia said. Mr Evers said the students were well-behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor life.

"Even though the flies mobbed us and the weather started to turn bad they started to learn even how to cook their own meals," he said.

PCYC is planning two more youth camps over the Festive Season, watch this space for more information as it comes to hand.

Twins fight for stolen wages

Identical twins Paul and Arthur Ah Wang travelled to Brisbane to meet with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Minister Curtis Pitt about their stolen wages last week.

One brother was paid out of the Indigenous Wages & Savings Reparations fund and the other not paid, even though they both did the same job at the same times. Now aged 76, Paul lives in Townsville and Arthur in Mackay.

As Palm Islanders are aware, hundreds of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders are still owed wages from decades of enforced labour during the period when a series of State Governments, via a system of Protectors, held onto individual and collective accounts for those workers. Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) Secretary Ron Monaghan and Indigenous Industrial Officer Gwen Taylor also attended the Minister's meeting with the Ah Wang twins.

From the age of 13 Paul and Arthur worked on a pearling lugger between Gladstone and Cooktown, free diving to collect pearl shell and doing deckhand duties after leaving school in grade five. It was dangerous work, and if they misbehaved they were often sent below deck to bed without dinner. They are pictured above as 14-year-olds dressed for Sunday church on Palm Island after their skipper insisted they go to church.

Their work was little more than slave labour but Paul received just \$3000 for his years of labour whilst Arthur didn't because he did not have sufficient documentary evidence for his application. They said the Minister gave them a good audience.

"There was television crews from all of the major networks, SBS and mainstream print media there, and the Minister said he would look into Arthur not being paid," Paul said.

Arthur said that at one stage Mr Monaghan "got a bit cranky" with a response from the Minister but was confident he would be paid his outstanding money.

"I think it went pretty good and I am glad we came down to Brisbane," Arthur said.

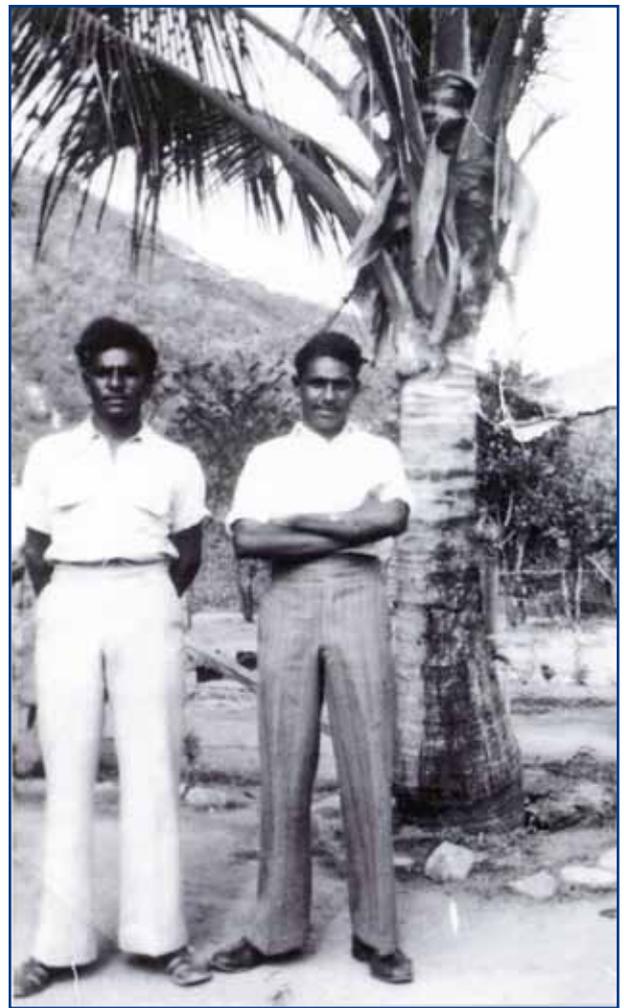
The twins said they hoped their trip would help other stolen wages claimants receive what was due to them.

"Many of the claimants are dying before they get their money," Paul said.

QCU Townsville Branch President Les Moffitt said the whole stolen wages process was flawed.

The QCU has given a commitment to claimants to continue campaigning until all stolen wages were paid.

They have also finalised a statement of claim for a test trial to be held soon on behalf of stolen wages claimant Uncle Conrad Yeatman from Yarrabah.



VALE ARTIE BEETSON

THE late and great rugby league legend Arthur Beetson had a special affection for Indigenous people including those on Palm Island.

When Artie visited Palm in 2006 for a job expo he was treated like royalty and mixed with residents.

Artie Beetson inspired young Indigenous people and has given plenty of advice to Palm Islanders at career expos in Townsville over the past two years.

"There are many talented footballers on Palm," he told the Palm Island Voice in September this year at the FOGS expo in Townsville.

Rugby league Immortal Artie died, aged 66, after suffering a heart attack on the Gold Coast whilst riding his push bike on 1 December this year.

Big Artie, as he was known around the country, was the first Indigenous Australian to captain a national team in any sport.

He played 28 Tests for Australia and was captain in two, in addition to skippering Queensland in the first State of Origin match in

1980.

Beetson played 235 club matches between 1963-81 in the Sydney and Brisbane first grade competitions.

He captained Eastern Suburbs to back-to-back Sydney first grade premiership wins in 1974 and 1975.

He began his stint in Sydney with Balmain in 1966, famously missing its 1969 premiership victory because of suspension, and finished up with Parramatta in 1980 before returning to Redcliffe in the Brisbane first grade competition. His coaching career included leading the Maroons to Origin series victories in 1983, 1984 and 1989, while at the club level he was also at the helm of the Roosters and Cronulla.

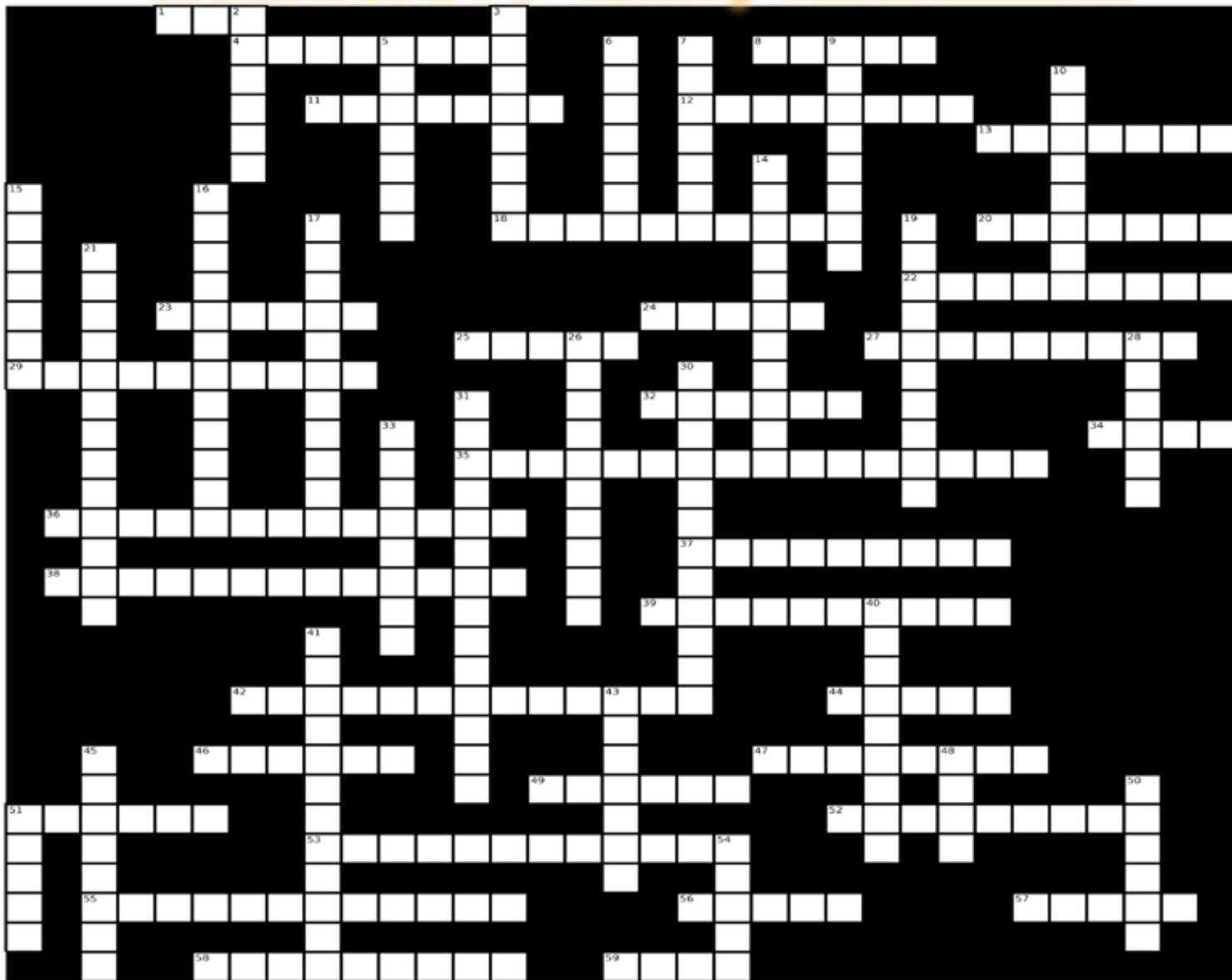
NRL chief executive David Gallop said Beetson was one of the great promoters of the game.

Below are some of the Palm Islanders who enjoyed Artie's visit in 2006.



Palm Island Voice

Crossword 94 - Merry Christmas!!!



Across

1. A round disc with your favourite movies
4. Australia Day is coming up, but some see it like this
8. Famous sports ground in Brisbane
11. Summer sport gaining support on Palm
12. Type of palm common on the Queensland Coast
13. Reindeer with a red nose
18. What some people watch too much of over Christmas
20. Man made of snow and ice
22. 25 December celebrations
23. Santa rides on one of these
24. We wish you a ? Christmas
25. Type of paint ground from rocks
27. Type of long fish
29. Cricket team from the Caribbean
32. Christ is said to have been born in one of these
34. Another name for Christmas
35. Solemn religious and family

- ceremony common in the Torres Strait (2 words)
36. TSI League star retired, likes boating (2 words)
37. People talk a lot on this at Christmas time
38. The 'CC' in CCTV
39. Sport with a net and many players on each side
42. Palm Island's women's rugby league team
44. A favourite game with some Aunties in town - lots of numbers!
46. Glitter on a Christmas tree
47. Australian dance company celebrating 20+ years
49. Hot dry summer is caused by this (Spanish)
51. Deadly Awards Winner, Jessica ?
52. Dangerous bird with big 'feet'
53. Second part of the holy bible (2)
55. The Chinese invented these - they go off with a bang!
56. Drink 2 litres of this a day

57. On top of a Christmas tree
58. For health emergencies call this service
59. Keep your drinks cool in one of these

Down

2. Small boat and the way to get around
3. Another name for World Wide Web
5. Don't get 'bitten' by one of these in the water
6. Some say Christmas is the ? season
7. Maori's call it hangi - but it's a bit different
9. Malay prawn paste used in island cooking
10. International aid organisation present on Palm Island (2)
14. Another name for Santa Claus
15. Gospel that tells the birth of Christ
16. Sung at midnight on New Year's Eve
17. Popular Christmas song (2)

19. Small child
21. Providing food delivery for disadvantaged and homeless people (3)
26. Cricket competition held in Tully (2 words)
28. Sea cow
30. Designer of the Aboriginal Flag (2 words)
31. This is named after St Anthony (2 words)
33. Mostly pink flower that thrives in the tropics
40. Day after Christmas
41. Sang 'Island Christmas'
43. Disastrous event in the Indian Ocean Boxing Day 2004 and earlier this year in Japan
45. Christian symbol
48. River running through Townsville
50. North Queensland summer fruit
51. Mark Bin Bakar's comedic alter ego
54. Cyclone that destroyed Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974

Holiday Puzzles

Hey kids, can you find all the words??!!!

s c h o o l h f r o c k a
 e f h f n w o i c m o a n
 h o c r y t r s h p c r j
 p o o u a l s h i a f r e
 a t r i r w e i c l a m t
 p n a t n c a t k m t o t
 e t l b o o k l e t u n y
 r b i k e o a w n o r k h
 k k a u n t y a w u t e o
 d o c t o r d t o n l y m
 i s l a n d o e r c e a e
 b o a t u a g r k l s r i
 b a l l p l a y w e l c b

dog jetty
 cat uncle
 turtle aunty
 monkey coral
 palm doctor
 island yarn
 fish water
 chicken book
 horse home
 bike work
 school fruit
 boat play
 foot paper
 ball rock

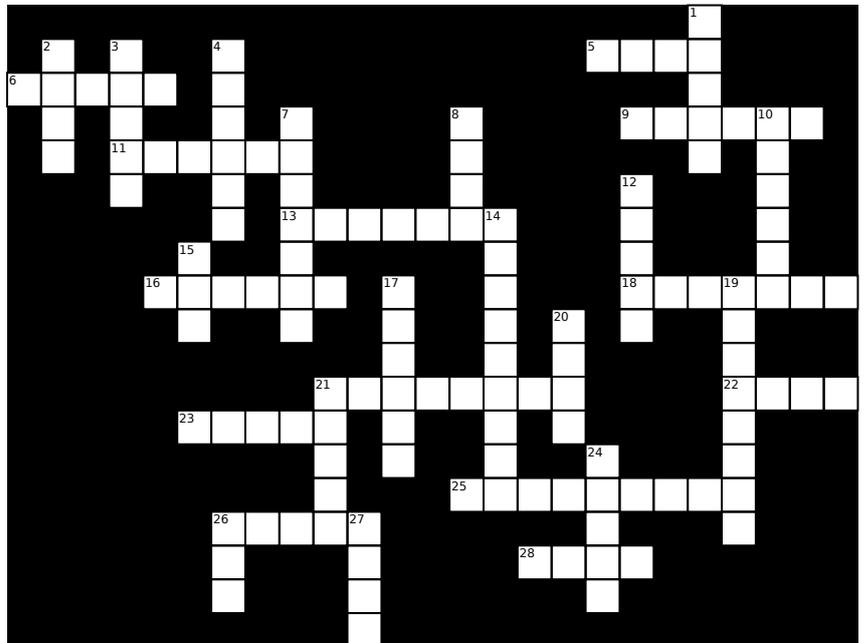
Thanks again to David Goeldner
 & the puzzle makers @ <http://www.armoredpenguin.com>
ANSWERS P 12 (no cheats!)

Across

5. King of the jungle
6. The reefs are made up of this
9. They wear blue uniforms and help with community problems
11. I got sick and went to see this person
13. Lots of feathers and the eggs taste good
16. Very cheeky and loves to climb trees
18. School would not be school without this important person
21. A game of running, passing and kicking
22. It's okay to do this after working all day
23. We all need to drink plenty of this
25. Big teeth with an evil grin, be careful with one of these
26. The ferry comes in here
28. Catch these for dinner

Down

1. Older male member of my family
2. A motor makes this go faster
3. There are 52 of these in each pack
4. Lives in the sea and lays eggs
7. Bat, ball and wickets, it must be _____!
8. There's no place like _____!
10. Where people go to pray and give thanks
12. Jolly old man with a beard and red coat
14. Tells me what's happening with written words and pictures
15. This is a good pet



17. It's holiday time - not going back here till next year
19. Found in schools and offices and used for the internet
20. Type of tree
21. Contains vitamins and is very juicy
24. Wear your helmet when you ride one of these
26. Another name for work
27. Lots of talk and a good story or two

These puzzles were first published in Palm Island Voice Issue 49, 15 December 2009

Watch out for stingers!!!

Stingers are back, with Palm Island Ambo Ian Day reporting the first envenomation on the Island just on two weeks ago.

"I can report we have had our first Irukandji envenomation at Butler Bay near the boat ramp, with a further two more marine envenomations," he said.

"But were more then likely sea lice not jellyfish.

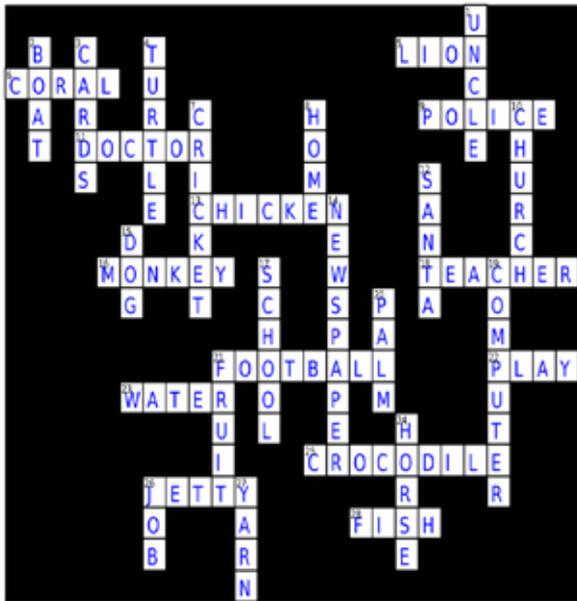
"So the season has started again and we have stinger suits available but don't have many in the little sizes as funding didn't come through as expected."

Mr Day said he would keep in touch with the *Palm Island Voice* about the suits as news came to hand.

Vinegar Stations on Palm Island are at:

- **Barbie Lenoy, Long Beach;**
- **Ferdy's Haven Farm Area;**
- **Bindy Geia, Beach Road;**
- **Barge Terminal Jetty;**
- **Doris Watson, Butler Bay.**

Palm Island Voice Crossword 94 & Puzzle Answers



s c h o o l h f r o c k a
 e f h f n w o i c m o a n
 h o c r y t r s h p c r j
 p o o u a l s h i a f r e
 a t r i r w e i c l a m t
 p n a t n c a t k m t o t
 e t l b o o k l e t u n y
 r b i k e o a w n o r k h
 k k a u n t y a w u t e o
 d o c t o r d t o n l y m
 i s l a n d o e r c e a e
 b o a t u a g r k l s r i
 b a l l p l a y w e l c b

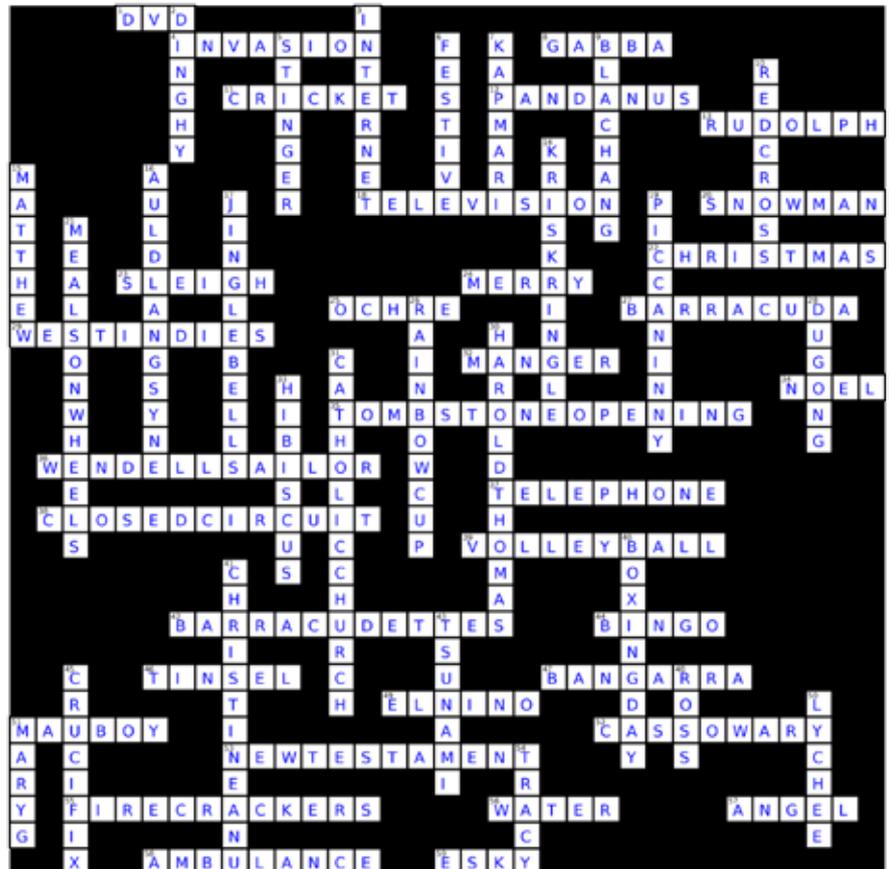
Sea country grant apps open

Traditional Owners are being encouraged by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to apply for Sea Country Grants of up to \$50,000 to support environmental initiatives that will improve the resilience of the Reef.

GBRMPA Chair Russell Reichelt said the Sea Country Grants Program was part of the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program.

Traditional Owner groups from the Great Barrier Reef region have until 17 February 2012 to apply for the grants.

See www.gbrmpa.gov.au for more information.



Palm Island Voice

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The Palm Island Voice is funded and supported by advertising and hard copy sales and the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

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Ferdy's Haven

Ferdy's Haven Alcohol Rehabilitation Aboriginal Corporation: ph 4770 1152

POSITIONS VACANT

Female AA Member

3 hrs per day (Monday - Friday)
To deliver the AA Program to Female Clients only

Position Objective:-

To maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of the Service Delivery, provided by Ferdy's Haven.

Casual Male - Case Worker

(Counselling Men Only)

Position Objective:-

To maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of the counselling services provided by Ferdy's Haven.

Job Descriptions are available from the office.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO: Manager Ferdy's Haven
Palm Island Qld 4816
Fax: 47 701160

Palm Island Rugby League Election Results

**The new governing Committee for the PIRL
as of the AGM held on 6 December 2011 is:**

President – Ili Dabea
Vice President – Arthur Clumpoint
Secretary – Delena Foster
Treasurer – Norman Bounghi
Public Officer – Leah Dabea
Committee member – Obe Geia snr
Committee member – Genami Geia snr

Public Notice

Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation for CDEP will be conducting a four day community clean up on the 19 and 20 of December before the cyclone season. If any one wants rubbish removed put it out and we will pick it up on those days or contact Ray on 4770 1233.

Ray Roberts.
Deputy CEO
Coolgaree Corporation
Palm Island

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MOONEY ST NEWS & CASKET	PARKSIDE NEWS
- 86 Mooney St, Gulliver	- 148 Bamford Lane, Kirwan
KIRWAN NEWS	CRANBROOK CONVENIENCE STORE
- 1 Forest Ave, Kirwan	- 476 Ross River Rd
BAMFORD LANE MINI MART	IN INGHAM:
- 113 Bamford Lane, Kirwan	ZAGHINI'S IGA
MOUNT VIEW NEWS	82 Cartwright St, Ingham
- 32 Bamford Lane, Kirwan	AND IN CAIRNS:
NEWS ON THE AVENUES	ORCHID PLAZA NEWSAGENCY
	Lake St, Cairns

MANDY JOHNSTONE MP Member for Townsville



***Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a
Safe, Happy & Healthy New Year***

For the latest news in your electorate, go to:

www.mandyjohnstone.com

Also follow Mandy on Facebook at

[mandyjohnstonemp](https://www.facebook.com/mandyjohnstonemp)

or contact the

**Townsville Electorate Office
on 4772 4711**

*The Mayor, Councillors & staff would
like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas
& a prosperous New Year to all!*

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council



is closed every second
Friday (Council pay

week) for RDO. The next RDO is Friday 23 December.

**REMEMBER: the Bank and Post Office
will now close each Council RDO**

For emergencies on a Friday please call 0458 789 011

**Council offices will also be closed for
Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day,
but will remain open on all other working days over the
Christmas/New Year period.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE
COUNCIL ON 4770 1177**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFULL AND SAFE CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR IN 2012 FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT, STAFF AND PARTICIPANTS OF COOLGAREE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION FOR CDEP, PALM ISLAND.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Please be advised that the Office will be closed down during the Christmas break from close of business Friday 23/12/11 at 4pm and re-opening Tuesday 03/01/12 at 7am.

• KIOSK: open throughout the Festive season except for all day Christmas Day (Sunday) and half day Boxing day (Monday). Re-opening for normal trading Tuesday 27 December at 7am to 4pm. Open New Years Day.

• BAKERY & CFC: Closed from 12 noon on Christmas Eve (Saturday) through to 8.30am Wednesday 28 December.

Closed 12 noon New Year's Eve (Saturday 31 December) & re-opening Tuesday 3 January 2012.



On behalf of The Palm Island Community Justice Group I'd like to wish you all a very Happy Holiday & May you all stay safe throughout...Our office will be closed from the 28/12/2011 and will re-open on 03/01/2012!!! Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year One & All!

...a little message from the Ambos on Palm for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Xmas...

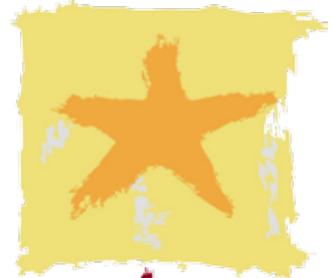
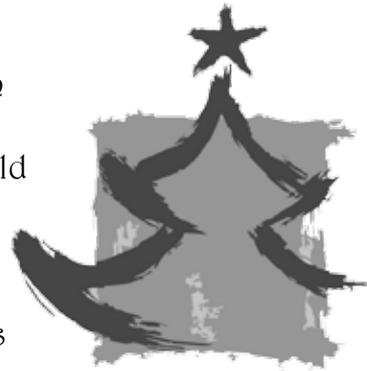
Wishing everyone a safe, relaxing, blessed Christmas for 2011. May the New Year 2012 bring peace, joy and safety as we spend our time with families and friends celebrating together.

Remember to be safe throughout this festive season at all times. If you are going out camping, boating, hiking, walking remember to slip on shirt, slap on a hat & slop on sunscreen. Drink plenty of water to keep hydrated, and eat well. Always let others know where you are going & what time you will be coming back.

Thanks for all your support throughout this year 2011. God bless from Councillor Ruth Gorringe and family.

On behalf of my family and Palm Island PCYC local staff I would like to take this opportunity in wishing all our valued members and frequent users of the Centre and all the families of Palm Island a Safe, Healthy and Holy Christmas....)

....Merry Christmas...Sgt Bernie Mead



In Review: Palm Is boxing in 2011

Over the past year *Palm Island Voice* has strongly supported the Palm Island Boxing Club, having travelled with these talented fighters and officials to far away Emerald, Mount Isa and, closer to home, at Charters Towers. We also covered the State Titles at Townsville Showgrounds and the Palm Island tournament at the local PCYC during August. Here is a summary of 2011.



Above: Patrick Clarke with his gold medal won at the State Titles at Townsville Showgrounds
Above Right: During a stop off at night on the way to the Western Games in Mount Isa were these Palm boxers



Below Right: Assistant trainer Chris Evers and Selwyn Seaton with Palm boxers during the State Titles at the Townsville Showgrounds



The year has been very successful for the club which has the most number of Aboriginal boxers of any in Australia.

Boxers Dennis Haines jnr and Albert Gorringer jnr competed at the Queensland Golden Gloves and both came away with gold medals.

At the State Titles held at Townsville Showgrounds, Palm Island won more medals than any other club in Queensland. "Since I have been training on Palm for the past 13 years this now brings our medal tally to 41 Australian Titles, 60 Queensland State Titles and 86 Golden Gloves trophies," trainer Ray Dennis said.

"Every one of these boxers

who won started from scratch and could not throw a competitive punch before that." He said because of the prohibitive cost of travel to New South Wales, our boxers did not contest the Australian Boxing League Titles in November.

"I feel we would have won more Australian champions if we had made the trip," he said. However some Palm boxers did compete at the Australian Golden Gloves at Caboolture which is the biggest such tournament in the country run over three days comprising 160 bouts.

"Young Isaac Bulsey did well to win a gold medal and Patrick

Clarke was the best performed boxer from here and was narrowly beaten by one of the best boxers in Australia," Mr Dennis said.

CYCLONE YASI

Earlier in the year Tropical Cyclone Yasi stopped our boxers from competing in the Queensland Boxing Association State Titles.

That could well have spelled the end of Reggie Palm Island's career developing any further, at least at the time, but the Association decided he should still have his chance, offering him the opportunity to challenge the National champion and win a spot for Australia at the World Amateur Titles. **...Cont next page...**



Pictured above are our boxers in Emerald and at our own tournament here on Palm Island back in August

...From Previous Page...

They paid for Reggie and Mr Dennis to fly to Melbourne for the challenge bout.

"The Australian champion who was Reggie's opponent did not show up for the scheduled bout so Reggie was given the opportunity to travel to the World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan," Mr Dennis said. But bad luck struck again and Reggie, who was the only boxer from the State League picked, injured his wrist and could not go.

"If it was not for Mike Munro from Channel 7 and Mike Tancred from the Olympic Games committee Reggie would never have had the chance," Mr Dennis said. Mr Dennis said Channel 7 also paid for himself and Reggie to go to Sydney for a Danny Green fight and they enjoyed ringside seats.

BRIGHT FUTURE

Mr Dennis said our boxers have a bright future if they can train hard and stay out of trouble. "Rashaun Creed, Isaac Bulsey, Joey Geia, Steen Walsh, Daniel Murphy, William and Reggie Palm Island, Patrick Clarke and Sam to name some," he said. "Also Dennis Haines jnr who

is trained by his father Dennis senior."

Albert Gorringer jnr is another rising star who does not get to train very often because he attends boarding school at Abergowrie College near Ingham.

"Albert is very well educated and may one day be the Mayor of Palm Island," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said he believed David Sam, Patrick Clarke, Reggie Palm Island and Joey Geia all had the capacity to represent Australia or win a world title.

And he speaks from experience, having trained champion professional boxers Doug Sam and Neil Pattel as well as Junior Thompson and Terry Tears.

"I also trained the late Esrom Geia from when he was aged nine and he later won the NQ light heavyweight title the night after he won the best forward playing in an under 14 rugby league game," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Dennis also trained Alfie Clay to win a State Title and quality boxer Joshua Geia who was one of the best rugby

league players in NQ.

Other good boxers Mr Dennis trained included Stanton Friday, Roy Pickles and Kevin Geia.

Mr Dennis also trained former Brisbane Broncos, Queensland State of Origin and Test fullback Colin Scott to win 21 of 23 bouts.

"I trained him from when he was aged nine," Mr Dennis said. Carl Wyles was another star boxer trained by Mr Dennis. "Carl used to play Aussie Rules, rugby league, basketball and did boxing," he said.

WHAT'S IN STORE

Mr Dennis said he would be pondering over his own future during the Christmas break and into the New Year.

"I have spent my pension money many times and now am considering my future," he said.

He said retirement was definitely on the cards for 2012 but he says the club is in good hands with his assistant trainer Chris Evers ready to take over.

"Chris has the ability to be a better trainer than I have been," he said.

"I'm getting a bit old and cranky."



...FROM PAGE 16...

Skipjacks included members of the Marpoondin family (*below right*) and after the first game between Stingrays and Skipjacks, Owen Marpoondin presented the shield to Stingrays captain Tabua Oui on behalf of the family. In game two, Palm Barracudas United number one team defeated Charters Towers 32-24 after leading 22-6 at halftime. Popular Palm resident Bully McKean ran the water for Charters Towers. In an exciting encounter Yarrabah Bukki

Buna defeated Barracudas United number two side 20-16 in game three. Many of the Palm based players lined up in all three games.

Spectators were on the edge of their seats for most of the main game between Bwgcolman Brothers, and Charters Towers. Eventually Brothers scored a 44-32 win over the Towers. Brothers supporter Chris Evers said it was a good game with the scores locked at 32-all with five minutes remaining. "Brothers scored two tries in the last five minutes and John Baira crossed for the last one," he said. Charters Towers fought back well after trailing 6-22 at halftime. Special thanks were offered to referees Jason Poynter and Kevin Castors and all the touch judges.



Win-win for Bwgc Colman Brothers' carnival

Bwgc Colman Brothers' rugby league carnival held at the local footy oval was a great success earlier this month, attracting five locals teams as well as visiting sides from Yarrabah and Charters Towers.

A large crowd was at the oval to see some top class football action in four games played over two 30 minute halves in 35 degree plus heat. **...CONTINUED PAGE 15...**



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and to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

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Palm Island Voice

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Thursday 5 Jan	95	THURSDAY 12 January
Thursday 19 Jan	96	THURSDAY 26 January
Thursday 2 Feb	97	THURSDAY 9 February
Thursday 16 Feb	98	THURSDAY 23 February