

Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 8 March 2012

\$1.25

Issue 99

Cultural Precinct openings a monumental success



Pic courtesy Merv Ah Kee

Palm Island's Cultural Precinct incorporating the Arts Centre, Community Meeting Room, Indigenous Knowledge Centre and monument (pictured left), as well as the Tom Geia snr Memorial Bridge – has been officially launched with a little help from the Bwgc Colman School dancers below! See pages 4-5 for more...



Housing boost for young families

Dozens of families on Palm Island could find themselves enjoying dramatically changed lifestyles within the next 12 months or so as more than 60 homes are expected to become available across two new subdivisions, Mayor Alf Lacey says.

Mr Lacey said work on the Upper Lama Lama subdivision has already gone out to tender, with a provision that homes are built as each block becomes available, rather than waiting for all the blocks to be done and then building homes.

"We actually have two new subdivisions which will see a yield of 60 homes," Mr Lacey said.

"There will be 20 on the Upper Lama Lama and 40 straight up on the Kitchener Bligh subdivision, so within the next 12 months we'll see over 60 new homes in the town on the ground.

"We've asked that as soon as the blocks become available we want homes put straight on them so we can start building and sorting out our housing issues.

"That's very good for the community, I'm very happy with this.

"When someone gets a home, then their lifestyle and their family lifestyle changes dramatically because they're not living in overcrowding situations.

"These homes will go a long way in terms of progressing overcrowding situation.

"I'll say what I said before is that

we strongly recommend that young families be given priority in terms of allocation of these homes in the town.

"Housing has made it clear to Council they won't put families in two-bedroom or one-bedroom flats anymore, that they will allocate proper standard homes to families with more than three children.

"I think that's good; that's a win for the community, particularly for young people and young families."

...See page 7 for more infrastructure news...

Re election material...

The Local Government Act is very clear on the role of the *Palm Island Voice* in terms of Local Government elections.

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council - our primary funding body - officially moves into caretaker mode as of this Saturday.

Section 90D of the *Local Government Act 2009* reads:

90D: Prohibition on election material in caretaker period:

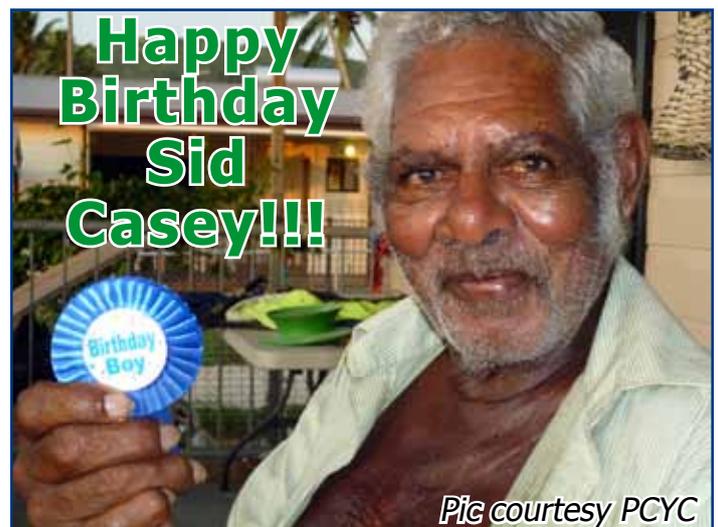
- (1) A local government must not, during a caretaker period for the local government, publish or distribute election material.**
- (2) Election material is anything able to, or intended to –**
 - (a) influence an elector about voting at an election; or**
 - (b) affect the result of an election.**

During the caretaker period Council can continue to make decisions around the day-to-day operations of the organisation but must abide by certain limits to financial commitments made between then and the election declaration. The *Palm Island Voice* will continue to publish any community members' day-to-day business or activities of interest to the community – including that of the current Mayor, Councillors and any potential candidates – but there won't be any letters, articles or advertisements touting for votes or even acknowledgement of candidacy for Council within these pages between now and the end of polling day.

FYI: Emily and Claire from the Deadly Ears Program (Allied Health) will be visiting Palm Island on the 20th and 21st of March. They will be spending most of their time at Goodoo and in the two schools talking about ways to help kids with hearing problems.



HEALTH is an important issue on Palm Island and well known locals Raynard Baira (above) and Alex Morgan have been walking a lot. "I have lost about 4kg since we commenced walking and feel really good," Raynard said. The pair are a great example it's hoped others will follow.



Pic courtesy PCYC



SISTER Hiro Kageyama from Japan has spent some time on Palm Island, and loved it. The Catholic Sister is pictured below sitting in the CBD with Sister Lal. Sister Hiro hails from Nara, near Kyoto, and was on Palm as part of her Sabatical. "This is a beautiful place and I am very much drawn to the friendly people here," she said.

State candidates must be called to account – Mayor Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey says he has a number of things on his 'ask-list' in the lead-up to State Elections.

"As you know we have a state election coming on, and one of the things I'm going to be very strong on is asking all candidates, who are running for the State seat of Townsville not to take Palm Island votes for granted," Mr Lacey said.

"We deserve all parties to come clean on their views about the Alcohol Management Plan (AMP). "And all candidates should be able to explain to us what financial investment they will put into our Shire to bring us into line with any other Shire in the State.



"We see the Blakeys Crossing getting an injection of funds from the current State Government, in terms of infrastructure investment.

"So other than normal committed infrastructure money into our Shire, is there anything new there to bring us in line with other Shires in the State?"

"They need to tell us what they are putting into Palm Island.

"I invite all candidates to come to the Island and tell us what they will commit to the Shire in terms of new investments."

Full list of league legends in our 100th Issue!

The merit Legends of League team to be picked from the best ever players on Palm Island has created widespread interest in the community since it was announced in Issue 98 of the *Palm Island Voice*.

Other people have come forward to nominate players they feel would be worthy of inclusion to add to an already impressive list of nominees. Jacob Baira senior was nominated himself by several people and was asked for his thoughts. His nominations included Sam Conway jnr, Kenny Watson, Eddie Cooktown, Phillip Bengaroo, Raymond Burns, Wayne Chookie,

Roy Baira snr, Cooper Kerr snr, Ezra Langlo, Ronny Hero and Peter Cannon.

Former league star Raynard Baira nominated Ray Georgetown, Greg Santo, Alec Santo, Ron Geia, Russell Parker, Gary Doolan, and Vernon Noble. Russell, pictured here with his two children, was absolutely delighted to hear news of his nomination.



The Palm Island Voice is now available to read at the Indigenous Knowledge Centre. Palm Island Voice Issues 21 - first published in October 2008 - right through to the current Issue have been printed in full colour and are in the safe hands of Regina James at the IKC for anyone to look at. Pictured left is Mayor Alf Lacey, Regina James and Cr Zina Prior looking over the new collection, and right is Corporate Services Director Andrea Kyle-Sailor and CEO Ross Norman.



Past and present take front seats at Cultural Precinct openings



Palm Island's Community Cultural Precinct is officially open after celebrations shared by hundreds of people finally went ahead last Friday.

An Arts Centre, the Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Community Meeting Room and the Tom Geia snr Memorial Bridge, as well as the new monument, were the main attractions as visitors were welcomed to country by local elder Allan Palm Island.

Other speakers included Bishop Austen Crapp, Father Daniel, Pastor Emmanuel and Pastor Noel Cannon, and local MPs Ewen Jones and Mandy Johnstone.

Mayor Alf Lacey said he was pleased it all went so well.

"I congratulate the community for partaking in the official opening of the three buildings and the monument," he said.

"The monument in particular is something the community is responding very well to.

"The turn-out was massive, which was really good.

"We deserve the same access to services like any other mainstream communities in

Queensland, we're no different and I think that's really important for our community." The Cultural Precinct has been in planning for four years.

The monument includes plaques which list the important footprints of Palm Island history. Starting with the opening of the community in 1914, important dates include the 1957 Strike when seven people were punished by authorities for trying to get a better deal for their people.

Gordon Tapau, Bill Congoo, George Watson, Albie Geia, Eric Lymburner, Sonny Sibley and Willie Thaiday were handcuffed, chained and removed from the Island at gunpoint by an oppressive State Government when they took part in a strike triggered by a system that meant every Indigenous person on Palm Island had to work for 30 hours per week while being paid only in rations.

The monument also recognises those who led



the Under Award Wages campaigns against the Government which has resulted in payments being made across the state. They were Kitchener Bligh, Buller Coutts, Mavis Foster, Fred Lenoy, Maurice Palmer, Jack Sibley and Jean Sibley. Mr Jones said the new knowledge centre, meeting room, arts centre and museum were exciting new attractions for the community. "This is an important project for Palm Island that provides a cultural hub for residents," he said. "The community has really come together on this and it was a great morning of

celebration on the island." Mr Lacey said the monument unveiling was a great highlight of the celebrations. "Every Indigenous community from the Torres Strait to Cape York, down south and west have sent stones for this monument and it is a sacred place here," he said. "It is here so our children and grandchildren will know of the past injustices. "This is a significant landmark which has come about after much consultation with elders and is now very much a community asset."

Bridge naming recognises commitment

Thomas Geia Snr's work as a former Chair and Councillor for Palm Island was formally recognised last Friday with the opening of the new 'Tom Geia Snr' footbridge behind the child care centre.

Tom Geia Snr was a 'jack of all trades' for the Palm Island community before he passed on more than 20 years ago.

Thomas Geia Jnr was honoured to be a part of the bridge opening ceremony along with his mother Betty, and other siblings.

"I was born here, my dad was born here and the rest of the



kids were all born here," Mr Geia Jnr said.

Mr Geia Jnr has followed in his father's footsteps, serving as a Chairperson and a Councillor for the Palm Island community himself.

In keeping with the difference both Mr Geia's have made to the community, the new bridge will make all the difference to people trying to get across from the school area to the town on foot during the wet season.

...Out & About...



*Top Left: Milly & Allan Palm Island; Top Right: Irene & Norris Daphney
Right: Daniel Murgha, Richard Jenkins, Gerhardt Pearson and Hans Pearson on Palm for the Cultural Precinct openings & football carnival.*



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Community Infrastructure News

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) has provided more than \$8 million dollars in funding for road and other infrastructure works up to now, says Mayor Alf Lacey.

"Part of Bamboo Creek road upgrade is a part of it because of access to the radio tower up there that has to be used for the ambulance, and other road works are being done also throughout Palm," he said.

"We have also put up a new submission for the foreshore redevelopment. We've said to them we don't want just any foreshore or rebuilding happening on the foreshore, but it has to be done with Council and the community. I know in one of the previous Palm Island Voices I made reference to a visit by the Reconstruction Authority to the community. Their recommendation to us is that it's best for us to do it in three or four-phase type of arrangement, which we think is the best way to do it.

"So we'll do one section and then continue on with another section, rather than trying to go on with the full reconstruction

of the whole foreshore, because of costs involved. I understand at the moment they're re-assessing the Palm Island Council submission under the Reconstruction Authority on that basis. Hopefully by the end of next year we'll see some headway in terms of the foreshore redevelopment and that's good for Palm. The foreshore is an important recreational area for the community, and also for visitors, so we want to make it more family orientated and put some extra assets there so it becomes a family setting.

"I think that's really important.

"In terms of other works, an upgrade to the runway is also on the agenda.

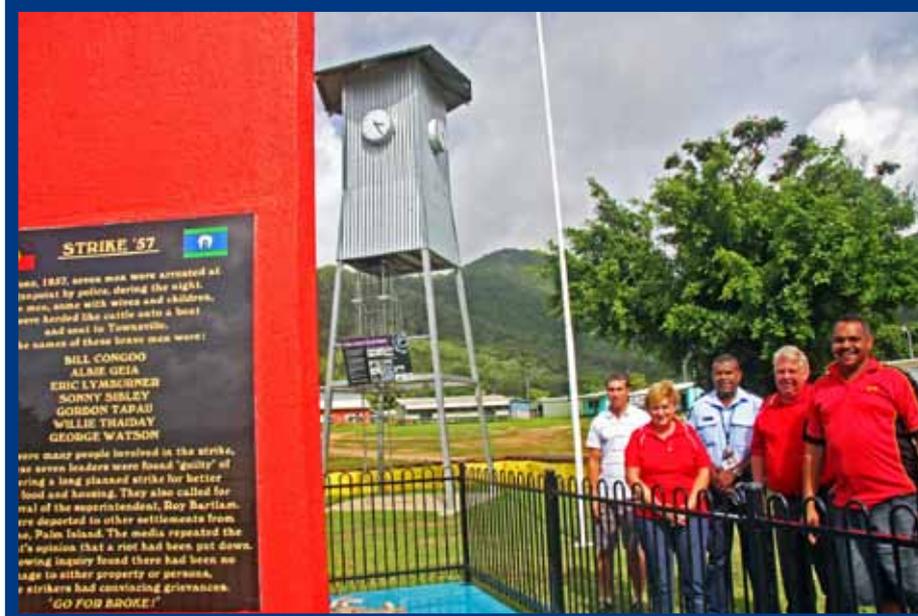
"It needs to be widened and the surface made thicker.

"The amount of rain we've been getting here, I think over the past two years, has really made the ground soggy and for safety sake

the recommendation from Civil Aviation Authority is to redo the work at the airport to make sure it meets the safety standards. I think it's good for us because it allows our community to have good access to the mainland on a regular basis.

"We're also looking at finding some dollars to upgrade passenger transport access via ferry in and out of the town.

"Because the ferry is the cheapest way for families to go on and off the Island we want to ensure the ferry can come anytime, like it does in any other town, instead of being bound by the tides and travelling at different times from week to week. We'll do some feasibility and get some costings around it, but certainly I'm going to be pushing very strongly that we have better access in terms of ferry services in and out of Palm, which I think is also really important."



Denise & Bruce Morecombe – parents of tragically lost teenager Daniel – visited Palm Island last week and were much interested in checking out some of Palm Island's community history while on tour to as many schools as they can visit across the State. They are pictured here with Deputy Principal BCS Chris Wicks, Acting Sen Constable Francis Bowie and Mayor Alf Lacey.

Pic by Christine Howes

League ladies hopeful for 2012 season

ABOUT 60 ladies on Palm Island are hopeful a ladies rugby league competition can commence during the 2012 season.



Jets were grand final winners in most recent ladies comp, held during 2008.

One of the prime movers behind the restoration of such a comp is Lindsay Malone, one of the most accomplished female footballers around.

"We have 60 ladies keen to play," she said.

"And we want to get at least two teams, they will probably be Hornets and Jets."

The ladies compete with distinction at various North Queensland Allblacks carnivals and reckon a local comp will give them much needed regular games. If the local comp doesn't kick off the ladies will try and enter a team in the Townsville and District ladies rugby league.

However that involved significant cost and they would prefer to have a run at home.

Noby ready to train again

Champion female fighter Noby Clay has indicated she wants to get back into full training, which is great news for the Palm Island Boxing Club.

Trainer Ray Dennis said he was absolutely delighted Noby was re-committed to returning to the ring.

"She has great ability and I am very pleased," Mr Dennis said.

As reported in the last edition of the Palm Island Voice, there have been many new young boxers turning up for training in recent weeks.

While that is also positive news, it also brings with it challenges to find finance to enable all the team to have a shot at bouts in tournaments off the Island.

Mr Dennis said while he is still involved with his beloved club, assistant trainer and star professional boxer Chris Evers was taking on a bigger role.

"Chris wants to take a team to Bundaberg for a tournament on 17 March and the club is going to receive \$3000 from the Cathy Freeman Foundation," Mr Dennis said.

"That will pay for one trip down south."

During the opening of the Cultural Precinct Mr Dennis was also presented with a cheque for the club from Norm Canton of Garbutt in Townsville.

"That kind donation will help to register our club and five boxers with the Sunstate Amateur Boxing Association to give them a chance to represent Australia," he said.



STOP PRESS: STAR boxer William Palm Island scored a win at the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament held in Home Hill on Saturday night. William beat Lachlan Curry of KO Gym in the 53kg division which was the first bout of 21 on the big card. Now temporarily living in Townsville, he is training with Drajon Do Jos Club.

Roundtable yarn focused on education

A regular school bus run, birth registrations and a volunteer program are all on the agenda for Palm Island following a productive Education Roundtable held last month.

Department of Communities Director General and Government Champion for Palm Island, Linda Apelt, and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Alf Lacey hosted an Education Roundtable at Council's new community meeting room on Tuesday 21 February.

The roundtable was well attended by a range of government and community stakeholders.

Visitors to Palm Island were welcomed by Allan Palm Island.

In his opening remarks Mayor Lacey outlined his vision for schools in the community.

"I want to see the schools move closer to the community and a five-year plan developed to guide the delivery of education to our community," Mayor Lacey said.

Ian Mackie, Assistant Director-General of the Department of Education and Training supported Mayor Lacey.

"Successful schools are connected to their local communities," Mr Mackie said.

"Every staff member in a school needs to take responsibility for making their school a great place so children want to come to every day". The Roundtable identified a number of strategies to improve the delivery of education on Palm Island.

"It is important that the planning undertaken to date by the Palm Island Community Education Council (PICEC) is supported and implemented," Ms Apelt said.



"PICEC is best placed to guide and monitor the delivery of education on Palm Island and I would like to see PICEC meet quarterly." A regular school bus run and the implementation of strategies to ensure all that all births are registered were also identified as priorities.

"Possession of a birth certificate is required to access so many opportunities," Mr Mackie

said. "Every child should have a birth certificate." Ms Apelt also announced she would ask the Office for Volunteering to commence a project on Palm Island to support local volunteers. "Volunteers could assist literacy and numeracy activities on Palm Island," she said.

Article and photographs kindly provided by the Department of Communities



PCYC offers safe ha

PCYC Youth Program Co-ordinator Deniece Geia as possible to get involved with the Centre's busy



"I'm working mainly with disengaged youth, troubled youth who are constantly getting into trouble with the police," she said. "Kids are not reconnecting with families or their own peers, and that age group goes from 14 to 25. "We're trying to provide a safe haven for them from 2.30 after school right through to 10.30

at night, and that's Monday to Friday. We've always got something happening for them. "Activities like indoor touch, indoor cricket, trying to get a specific program for young girls and teenagers who are wanting to learn about make-up, hair and beauty and to boost their self-esteem, their self-confidence.

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
						Mar-08		Mar-09	
						Youth Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Deadly Night Program (6pm - 10pm)	
Mar-12		Mar-13		Mar-14		Mar-15		Mar-16	
RD - No Night Program (9am - 5pm)		Movie Night (7pm - 9pm)		CFF Netball Game (4pm - 5pm) Touch Footy Competition & Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Youth Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Deadly Night Program (6pm - 10pm)	
Mar-19		Mar-20		Mar-21		Mar-22		Mar-23	
RD - No Night Program (9am - 5pm)		Movie Night (7pm - 9pm)		CFF Netball Game (4pm - 5pm) Touch Footy Competition & Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Youth Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Deadly Night Program (6pm - 10pm)	
Mar-26		Mar-27		Mar-28		Mar-29		Mar-30	
RD - No Night Program (9am - 5pm) *Organize stuff for NYW 2012		Movie Night (7pm - 9pm)		CFF Netball Game (4pm - 5pm) Touch Footy Competition & Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Youth Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Deadly Night Program (6pm - 10pm) *TERM 1 ENDS	
Apr-02		Apr-03		Apr-04		Apr-05		Apr-06	
HOLIDAY PROGRAM Holiday Program Activities (10am - 5pm) RD - No Night Program *Depends		HOLIDAY PROGRAM Holiday Program Activities (10am - 5pm) Movie Night (7pm - 9pm)		HOLIDAY PROGRAM Holiday Program Activities (10am - 5pm) Touch Footy Competition & Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		HOLIDAY PROGRAM Holiday Program Activities (10am - 5pm) Youth Night Program (6pm - 10pm)		HOLIDAY PROGRAM *Easter Youth Rally (6pm - 10pm) *Easter Youth Rally Apr 6th - 9th	
Apr-09		Apr-10		Apr-11		Apr-12		Apr-13	
PUBLIC HOLIDAY *Easter Youth Rally (6pm - 10pm)		Movie Night (7pm - 9pm) * TERM 2 STARTS		CFF Netball Game (4pm - 5pm) Touch Footy Competition & Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Youth Night Program (6pm - 9pm) *Organize stuff for NYW 2012		NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK Apr 13 - 22nd Deadly Night Program (6pm - 10pm)	
Apr-16		Apr-17		Apr-18		Apr-19		Apr-20	
NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK National Youth Week Activities (1pm - 5pm) Afternoon Workshops: Drumming, Music & Graffiti RD - No Night Program		NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK National Youth Week Activities (1pm - 5pm) Movie Night Organised by Bornhoffen Participants (6pm - 9pm)		NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK National Youth Week Activities (1pm - 5pm) Afternoon Workshops: Drumming, Music & Graffiti Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK National Youth Week Activities (1pm - 9pm) Afternoon Workshops: Music, Zumba & Graffiti Youth Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK National Youth Week Activities (1pm - 9pm) Afternoon Workshops Music & Zumba Deadly Night Program (6pm - 10pm)	
Apr-23		Apr-24		Apr-25		Apr-26		Apr-27	
RD - No Night Program (9am - 5pm)		Movie Night (7pm - 9pm)		CFF Netball Game (4pm - 5pm) Touch Footy Competition & Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Youth Night Program (6pm - 9pm)		Deadly Night Program (6pm - 10pm)	



vens for youth

is keen to encourage as many people program of kids' and youth activities.

"We have cooking classes as well so then everybody gets a feed, and that's part of our Night Café program. We have parents coming around on a Friday night, and we like to make them a cup of tea and chocolate cake. The young people do everything."

Mrs Geia said they relied on volunteers.

"We have supervisors, myself as a certified worker, and community volunteers who come in, give us their time, a couple of hours of the night and just help with activities," she said.

"Not everyone has access or will want to use the PCYC, but we're trying to encourage people to come along, we want to give that opportunity to young people as well as parents and caregivers and get the message out that they're welcome here.

"People can come, and if they don't want to come, that's okay.

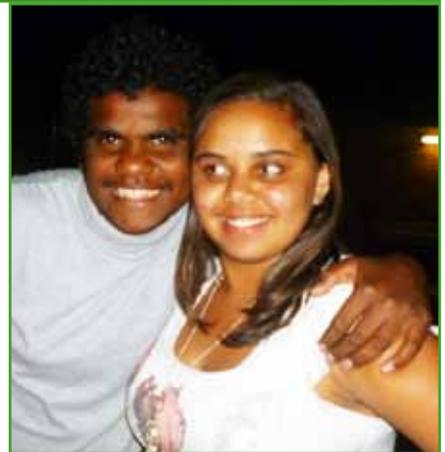
"It's to also try and reduce crime.

"We have a Youth Leadership and a Mentoring Program as well as cultural days happening on the weekends.

"We have a program that's Caring for Our Kids, where there's maybe a family that would send their child here for two hours.

"It's all about letting them know about their space.

"We have all the facilities here and we are all lit up at night and all our rooms are air-conditioned. "And they know us, we're local people here, we're all Palm Island staff."



Palm Island Voice

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New Bank Trading Hours Effective Monday 12 March 2012

Day	New Start Time	Closed for Lunch	New Closing Time
Monday	9.00	12.00 - 12.30	14.30
Tuesday	9.00	12.00 - 12.30	14.30
Wednesday	9.00	12.00 - 12.30	14.30
Thursday	9.00	12.00 - 12.30	14.30
Friday	9.00	12.00 - 12.30	14.30



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

is closed every second Friday (Council pay week) for RDO.

The next RDO is Friday 16 March.

For emergencies on Friday please call 0458 789 011

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177

REMEMBER: the Bank & Post Office now closes each Council RDO (every second week).

WHAT WE MEANT TO SAY last Issue was Happy Birthday to Yolanda Kerr from the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council & Staff!!! Sorry about that!

FOR SALE!!!



2002 Holden VX Commodore Air Conditioning Power Steering Tinted Windows CD Player Cruise Control 6 Months Rego \$4000 ONO PH Travis 0407 179 460

1991 Subaru Brumby 4WD Ute Tow Bar Bull Bar Low Low Kilometres 1 Owner 6 Months Rego \$3500 ONO PH Travis 0407 179 460

1992 Nissan Pulsar Hatch Air Conditioning CD Player Tow Bar Automatic 6 Months Rego \$2500 ONO PH Travis 0407 179 460



POSITIONS VACANT

Land Liaison Officer



The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is seeking the services of a highly motivated individual to serve the Council as the Land Liaison Officer.

The position operates in a challenging work environment and applies expert technical knowledge to the allocation of land and related matters dealt with under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Acts Native Title legislation. The position is specifically responsible for the management of leasing processes associated with the acts; works closely with other departmental functional groups and interacts with peak bodies, community groups, other government agencies and local authorities to achieve its aims.

You will require excellent communication skills and the capability to work in a positive team environment is essential, as well as taking on an autonomous role.

The position is a fixed position for three years. An attractive salary is attached to the position and will be dependent upon experience and qualifications.

Community Project Officer (Sub-Divisions)

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is seeking the services of a highly motivated individual to serve the Council as a Community Project Officer (Sub-Divisions).

This position has three (3) main functions:

- Provide program management and coordination support to PIASC in regard to the implementation of the housing development on Palm Island over the next three years;
- Liaise with the Palm Island community about issues and concerns about the housing program that may arise during planning and implementation stages; and
- Hold a capacity building responsibility across PIASC, Coolgaree CDEP and the local community.

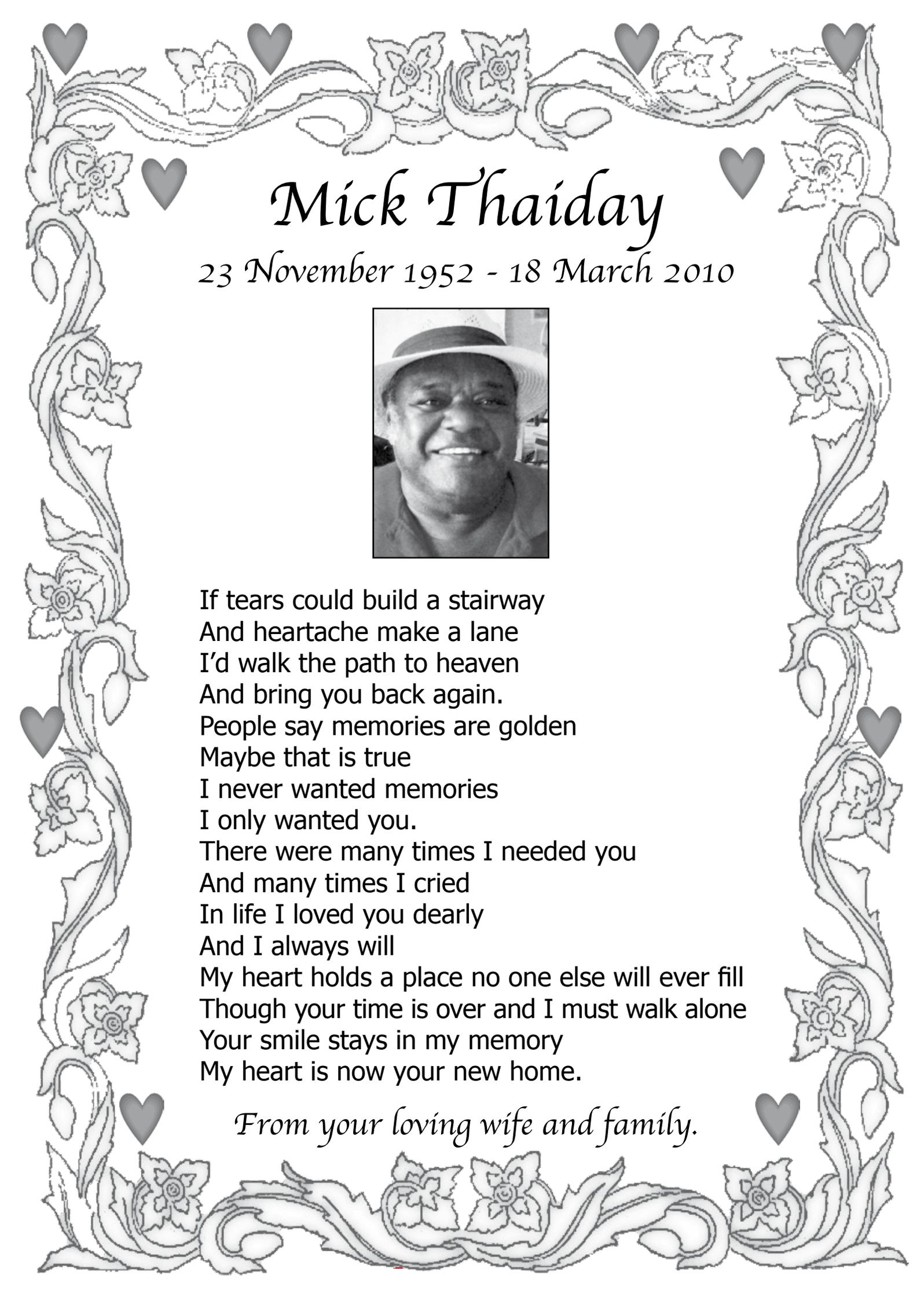
You will require excellent communication skills and the capability to work in a positive team environment is essential, as well as taking on an autonomous role.

The position is a fixed position for two years with a possible extension. An attractive salary is attached to the position and will be dependent upon experience and qualifications. The position is funded by the Australian Government.

For Position Descriptions please contact Andrea Kyle-Sailor, Director Corporate Services, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council or email andrea.kyle-sailor@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Applications should be marked CONFIDENTIAL and in writing with any relevant information to: Ross Norman, Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Palm Island

Applications close: 6th April 2012



Mick Thaiday

23 November 1952 - 18 March 2010



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

From your loving wife and family.

Palm Island Voice 2012

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

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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, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au

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Hard copies of the Palm Island Voice are available at the following shops and newsagents in Townsville, Ingham & Cairns:

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- 113 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

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- 32 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

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- 85 Burnda St, Kirwan

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<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>ISSUE NO</u>	<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u>
Thursday 15 March	100	THURSDAY 22 March
Thursday 29 March	101	THURSDAY 5 April
Thursday 12 April	102	THURSDAY 19 April
Thursday 26 April	103	THURSDAY 3 May
Thursday 10 May	104	THURSDAY 17 May
Thursday 24 May	105	THURSDAY 31 May
Thursday 7 June	106	THURSDAY 14 June
Thursday 21 June	107	THURSDAY 28 June
Thursday 5 July	108	THURSDAY 12 July
Thursday 19 July	109	THURSDAY 26 July
Thursday 2 August	110	THURSDAY 9 August
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Thursday 27 September	114	THURSDAY 4 October
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Thursday 25 October	116	THURSDAY 1 November
Thursday 8 November	117	THURSDAY 15 November
Thursday 22 November	118	THURSDAY 29 November
Thursday 6 December	119	THURSDAY 13 December

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Local footy comp ready to run with 7 teams

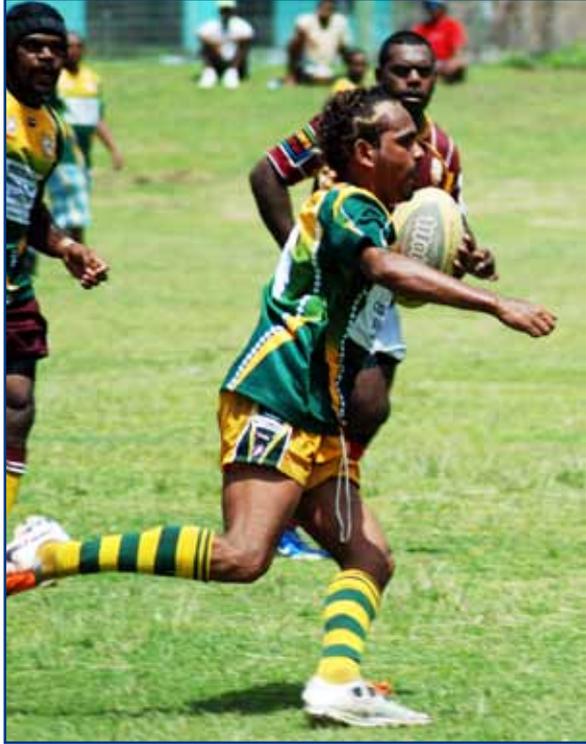
SEVEN clubs will contest the 2012 Palm Island Rugby League competition including Mount Bentley Raiders who will return after missing last year.

The signings of champion back Tabua Oui and star forward Costa Sam will ensure returning club Raiders field a powerful side in the local derby.

Oui and Sam were mainstays for the Jets side who won the 2011 grand final over Brothers.

"We are certain to play for Raiders which will be coached by Ben Nomoa," Sam said.

Raiders didn't compete last season but have been a quality club since the current competition commenced in 2008.



The seven clubs are Jets, Brothers, Skipjacks, Butler Bay Bulls, Raiders, Mundy Bay Warriors and Hornets.

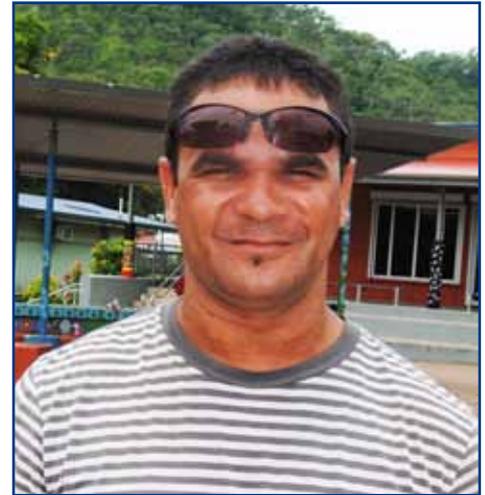
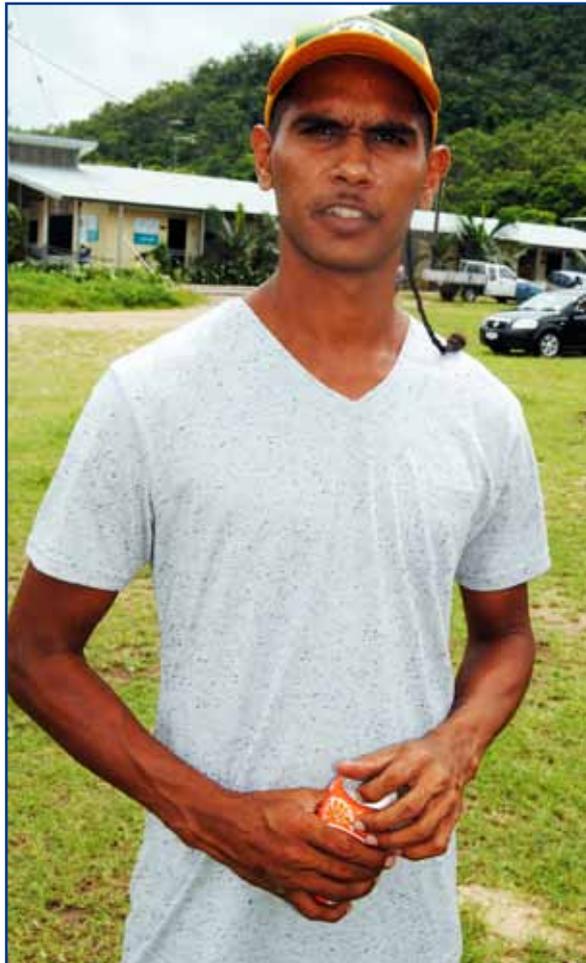
A PIRL official said games would start in March and urged all club officials to ensure player insurance premiums were paid early.

There is going to be many players changing clubs and some new faces.

Others will be staying with their club in a bid to be part of a premiership.

Palm Island Voice has spoke to a representative from each club about what the season may bring.

See next page for a team by team rundown...



JETS: Premiers last season but look to have lost champion back Tabua Oui and rampaging forward Costa Sam. But as official Norman Bounghi said, "We will also gain some players". Jets still have the player depth and massive support to again be a strong force.

BROTHERS: Lost the grand final convincingly last year and will have many of the same players including lots of youngsters. They have also lost Georgie Dabea and quality back Mikeal Sibley, who are going back to Skipjacks. Will build their forward pack around Gavin Johnson and should again be thereabouts.

SKIPJACKS: Will be very hard to beat with big forwards Fred and Jason Bulsey leading up front. Raoul Miller has indicated he will stay and Joiji Dabea will make the forward pack even more devastating. Early favourites to be holding the trophy come September.

BUTLER BAY BULLS: Finished fourth last year and official Jason Poynter is very keen on their chances of charging up the ladder in 2012. Bulls won the 2008, 09 and 10 premierships and have a powerful backline including Billo Wotton, who is a class act. Other trump cards for Bulls will be workhorse utility Adrian Poynter, speedster Gresham Ross, Vincent Palmer and Alan James. "We will match it with them all," Jason confidently predicted.

MUNDY BAY WARRIORS: Just failed to make the semi finals last year but finished strongly towards the end. Will rely heavily on the James brothers Frank, Luke, Ivan and also Ezra Langlo. Huge chance to make the finals for the first time.

HORNETS: Official Bill Landers said the club was relying on its youth policy which would hold it in good stead in the future. "We mainly have the same boys as last year and they will be much improved." Started well last season but faded towards the mid- and later-half. Should go well.

MOUNT BENTLEY RAIDERS: Tipped as the team most likely to be grand final contenders. Coach Ben Nomoa said Tabua Oui and Costa Sam would be great for the club and he also expects big seasons from John Baira and John Watson.

Action from the 2012 Palm Island Community Challenge Allblacks Carnival



Full story next page, more pics next Issue...



League wins at first PI Allblacks

THE inaugural Palm Island Community Challenge Allblacks rugby league carnival has been hailed a success after seven teams competed to an audience of more than 2000.

Visiting teams Descendants, made up of players of Torres Strait Islander descent living in Cairns, won a nail biting grand final, defeating local team Barracudas Green 23-22.

The final was not without controversy after Descendants were awarded a try in the final minutes. Numerous Barracudas players claimed the ball was not grounded and should have been disallowed, which would have given the home side victory.

The other teams were Hope Vale, Bindal Sharks from Townsville, and three Palm Island teams – Barracudas Gold, Lime and White.

Sides from Charters Towers, Woorabinda and Yarrabah nominated but withdrew either due to wet weather or financial considerations.

The star studded Barracudas Green had two former NRL stars in Milton Thaiday (Newcastle Knights), Obe Geia jnr (Cowboys), 2011 North Queensland Marlins back Fred Haines jnr and many others who represented Palm Island/Bowen in last May's Foley



Shield competition.

The carnival was organised by Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey and Norman Bounghi (*pictured right*).

"We had 1800 people though the gates on day one and even though there was rain around everybody enjoyed it," Mayor Lacey said.

Mr Bounghi said the final couldn't have been more exciting for spectators.

"Descendants player of the final Brian Murgha booted a field goal with 10 minutes remaining to give his side at one point advantage," he said. "Then Barracudas Green scored a try, but Descendants then scored the last try, just before the siren."

Mother Nature had some hand in the outcome with heavy rain on day two ensuring the usually lush green field - at least at this time of year - was waterlogged.

That made things difficult for the much heavier Barracudas Green forward pack while playing into the hands of the smaller speedier Descendants backs.

Barracudas Green coach Genami Geia said he thought his side was a little unlucky but paid tribute to Descendants.





"They scored a try with three minutes remaining," he said. "Considering the conditions it was a top class match."

Geia said that his best players on the weekend had been Obe Geia jnr, Fred Haines jnr, Clinton Burns snr, Vernon Bourne, Fred Bulsey, Raoul Miller and Clinton Pearson. Forward of the carnival was Barracudas Green champion Fred Bulsey.

Referees for the carnival were Rod "Hairy" McCrae, Bernie Ryan, David Rose and David Gillbard.

McCrae is a veteran of refereeing at numerous TSI carnivals and described the football as top class.

"This is the first time I have been to Palm and we were very well looked after," McCrae said. Decisions made in a split second by referees often decide the result of tight football finals, especially when there is no backup video film from which to adjudicate.

Numerous Palm Island Green players thought their side should have won the grand final of the Community Challenge Allblacks rugby league carnival. "We were robbed," several said.

A spokesman for the four referees at the carnival said: "The two referees spoke and one didn't see the grounding but the other said he did and the try was awarded."



...MORE PICS NEXT ISSUE...



Kelsey wins place in team to race in Boston

Last month three young runners, including Palm Island's own Kelsey Youngblutt, climbed over Canberra's harsh Brindabella Mountains to secure themselves a place in the Indigenous Marathon Project team for the Boston Marathon in April.

Just two months out from the famous event which was first run in 1897, Kelsey, along with Yirrkala's Jamie Wunungmurra and Derby's Tegan Pigram (*pictured*) have proved to themselves they are ready.

Director and founder Rob de Castella, said Kelsey's achievements were "amazing". He said he was particularly proud of the runners' performance in one of Canberra's toughest running events, the Stromlo 30km Lightning Strike.

"They have highlighted their guts and determination by completing their gruelling event that saw them run along fire trails, up and over mountain ranges, and even through creek crossing as high as their thigh" he said. "This run is a great lead up and preparation for the tough Boston course which has some big hills including the famous heartbreak hill at 30km.

"What Kelsey has achieved in the last 9 months is just amazing and a credit to her spirit, determination and commitment to the long, hard training. She has evolved from a speed and short distance runner into now being ready to run 42km in Boston, which is a credit to her ability. I'm excited to see her run in one of the world's biggest marathons representing Palm Island, and she'll do really well and return with some great stories."



Lost anchor leads to cray bonus



Greg "Eggy" Walsh (*pictured left*) speared this Barramundi last Tuesday week on the Palm Island Reel Women Jetty.

He did not get a weight at the time but when asked, Eddie "Rex Hunt" Walsh – who tells a good fisherman's tale or two – said it was heavy. "It must have been about 15kg or more," he said. "He got the northern cray about three hours later when he decided to go and look for an anchor he lost a couple of weeks before at the wreck of the 'Kunnawarra'.

"The Kunnawarra was a steam ship that used to bring cargo to Palm in the late 20's early 30's.

"It ran a ground, so superintendent Curry gave some explosives to Bulloo Peter Gullumbah Prior and old Clive Beckett to blow it up after a cyclone had done more damage after it ran a ground.

"Well that's the yarn that was handed down to us."



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