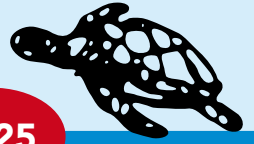




Palm Island Voice

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ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 14 June 2012

\$1.25

Issue 106

57 strike inspires holiday celebrations



Strike of 57 celebrations on Palm Island are in memory of seven heroic men and is, at times, a very emotional event. As a mark of respect for the 'Magnificent Seven', the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council gazettes a day every year for the Island's own Strike 57 Commemoration holiday.

For more pics and a full wrap up of the day see pages 4-7...



Above: Dulcie Isaro with Mayor Alf Lacey, Ernestine Lacey, aged 12 and Lisa-Shay Pryor, 12; Right: Erica Fulford Snr, Veronica Noble Snr, Irene Paula Watson Snr, Dulcie Isaro, Milton Thaiday

Local MP's maiden speech draws on Palm Island issues

Townsville MP John Hathaway - the first conservative candidate to win the largest share of votes on Palm Island - has delivered his maiden speech to the Queensland Parliament.

The Townsville Bulletin has reported a key theme of his speech was on improving

opportunities for indigenous communities.

"There are many amongst the Townsville and northern indigenous community who see the change in government as providing a new level of indigenous opportunity," he said. "The residents of Palm want to be masters of their own destiny.

"They are tired of the failed, demeaning and paternalistic policies of the last two decades.

"We need to work with this community of First Australians, rather than do things to or for them."

http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2012/06/01/334621_news.html



Liberal Senator for Queensland Sue Boyce (above left) was a recent visitor to Palm Island

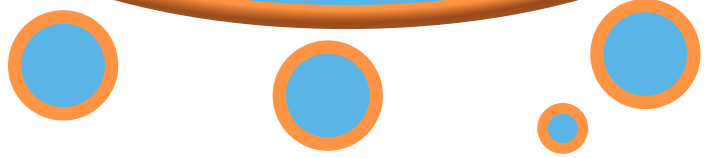
Fish dreaming...

Youths Alwyn Parker, Joseph Walton and Frederick Geia, were headed down to Gleeson's Weir in Townsville earlier this month.

"We have been staying around the corner and will be going back to Palm," Frederick said.

The boys were going to fish at a spot where many Palm people drop a line while staying with relatives in Townsville.

A few weeks earlier the 106cm long and 20kg plus Barra pictured was caught at the weir, but not by these boys. The lads were happy to be given a copy of the latest *Palm Island Voice* Issue 105 and also happy to hear the best bait to use in the fresh water section of Ross River near the weir was live stripey fish.



In Townsville last week...

...there was Mabo Day and the National Native Title Conference...here's some Palm Islanders and others who were there...

(Pics below by Christine Howes, courtesy NQLC + top right by Alf Wilson)





D1 or D2...?!

WHICH one is Dennis the Menace? Palm Island boxing trainer Ray Dennis and local CDEP bus driver Henry Dennis have a difference of opinion about the subject.

"I think Henry is," Ray said.

"No I reckon Ray is," Henry was quick to reply.

It was all good humoured fun and splitting them in this pic is Henry's 10-year-old granddaughter Alison Huddy.



In recognition of their achievement 20 students from Palm Island were welcomed to Sydney by the Cathy Freeman Foundation (CFF) and the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy (NASCA) earlier this month. An inspirational goal-setting workshop with Australian Olympian, Patrick Johnson, was the focus of the trip which also included a visit to the Opera House and a number of leadership workshops for the Year 9-12 students.



Left: Councillors and Palm Islanders at the Reconciliation Dinner in Townsville. Guests included Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda (4th from right)

Island heroes acknowledged on special day – here's our tribute to 2012's 57 Strike Day

Strike of 57 celebrations on Palm Island are in memory of seven heroic men and is, at times, a very emotional event.

As a mark of respect for the 'Magnificent Seven', the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council gazettes a day every year for the Island's own Strike 57 Commemoration Day.

While the strikers themselves may have all passed on, the families of Willie Thaiday, Albert Geia, Eric Lymburner, Sonny Sibley, Bill Congoo, George Watson and Gordon Tapau, along with many others, gathered on 4 June for a day of celebrations to honour them.

The seven were branded troublemakers and removed from Palm Island on 14 June 1957.

The theme of the day this year was "United We Stand" as hundreds remembered the days when Palm Island fought back for better wages and living conditions.

Irene Watson, now aged 65, is a daughter of George Watson, who she said she was very proud of.

"I was just a girl at the time and we were all sent to Cherbourg," Ms Watson said.

"It was very hard times but their actions have led to things being better for people here now.

"In those days you needed a permit from authorities to leave Palm or coming to Palm.

"It has been a very emotional day but it is great we remember them."

Lorna Doolan (nee Lymburner) and her sister Evelyn Lymburner, daughters of Eric Lymburner, were both emotional when they sat near the white concrete monument for their father along the foreshore.

Lorna, 75, said she was sent to Cherbourg as a young lady and feels her father and the other strikers should never be forgotten.

"I have cried here today a lot because it is so emotional," Lorna said.

Her sister Evelyn said their Mum continued to fight to be exempted from the Act while living in Cherbourg.

"The family was granted exemption and moved to Halifax where Dad had to work on the cane farms and report daily to the Police and prove we could stay out of trouble and assimilate and live in a white community," she said.

"After a while Dad yearned to be back on country and we move back to Roseneath, which was his Bindal Land.

She said she recalled their conditions living under one roof in one big room.

"There was 15 of us bathing and drinking from the river," she said.

"Mum taught us in secret our language as dad forbade her to.

"He told her that these children need to learn the white man ways and be educated so they can survive and control their own destiny in life.

"Looking back to that life at Roseneath and to now, my father was a very wise man as he has seen changes around him, especially with his children and grandchildren achieving success and carrying on their fight of injustice before he died.

"Once the authorities tried to arrest Dad, and took his grandson on a train to town thinking he had kidnapped a white boy.

"But it was his grandson white skin and blue eyes.

"We were treated badly.

"It is important today that we speak up for our rights.

"Palm Island is our grass roots and it is so important to us for parents to encourage their children to get a good education so they too can control their own destiny in life.

"We must never forget what these seven men did for us.

"They are our Fallen Heroes just like the war heroes of ANZAC."

The day was organised by a hard-working committee led by 27-year-old Aaron Thaiday and former NRL football star Milton Thaiday, both of whom are grandsons of Willie Thaiday.

Mr Thaiday said Palm Islanders may come from more than 40 different tribal backgrounds but were proud Bwgcolman people.

"We know only together as a united community we can move forward and live in harmony and peace with one another," Mr Thaiday said.

The huge day of events started early in the



Books, Art, Music & Speakers!

Above: Lorna Doolan-Lymburner, Sylvia Palmer, George Friday, Noel Cannon, Ralph Watson & Maggie Blackley; Right: Renarta Prior & Mavis Foster; Far Right:



Melambie Congoo, daughter of 57 striker Bill Congoo; Middle Right: Kathy Gibson; Middle Centre: Junior Art comp; Middle Left: Milton & Aaron Thaiday; Below: "Mother's Dust"



morning with the ringing of the bell and raising of the flags around a monument to the seven in the park near the Council offices and near the sea.

A Blessing of the Day was done by Pastor Emmanuel Fave followed by a welcome from the Traditional Owners and a touching speech by Mayor Alf Lacey.

Speeches were also made by family members of the seven including including Aunty Dulcie Isaro's (a daughter of Willie Thaiday), Malambie Congoo (daughter of Bill Congoo) and Evelyn Lymburner (daughter of Eric Lymburner).

Two wreaths were laid near the monument by the

strikers' families and members of the community. Then at the PCYC Dulcie Isaro's book, published by Black Ink Press, was launched by Mayor Lacey. Junior art and dance competitions, singing by local group 'Mother's Dust' and sports included netball, pool and darts were run over a "huge" day of events.

At night there was a community supper (kuppa Murri), singing and then the ringing of the bell at 8.30pm, as it has rung before, for bedtime and lights out.

**MORE PICS, YARNS & SPORTS RESULTS
NEXT PAGE!!!**

NETBALL, darts and pool competitions were held in conjunction with the Strike of 57 Memorial Day, attracting males and females, young and not so young.



Pool players battled it out for honours at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill in a hotly contested competition.

Alfred Ryan managed to win the event but faced some stiff opposition from Neville Haines, Daniel Langdon, Clay Hunter, his brother Kitchener Ryan and local truck driver Irwin Ambrum.

At the same venue was the darts comp contested by eight players with Neville Haines the winner.

Netball teams also battled it out for the Strike of 1957 Commemoration Day Trophy donated by the Palm Island Shire Council.

It was a mixed competition with three sides - Farmers, Stealers and Strikers - fighting for honours.

Qualifying games were held at the outdoor courts next to the Barracudas football oval. The grand final was played at the Palm Island PCYC where Strikers defeated Stealers 22-20 in a cliff-hanger in front of a cheering crowd.

Results:

Game 1: Strikers 16 def Stealers 13

Game 2: Strikers 20 def Farmers 15

Game 3: Stealers def Farmers 16

GRAND FINAL:

STRIKERS 22 DEF STEALERS 20

This was a very close match with Stealers catching up and leading by four goals in the third quarter. Strikers came back to win by just two points.

Deadly 7 Best Players were Eva Pearson, Thomasina Morgan, Sam Coutts, Ben Castors jnr, Shannon Morgan, Alinah Geia & John Sibley.

"This strike story belongs to the Island, it is not just my family's. Dulcie Isaro said. "The younger generation needs to know what happened."



the whole
story,"
generation
ed."



57 Strike Day 2012



"As usual it was a pleasure to cook for our elders and community here on Palm," head chef Danielle Sinn said.

"I found it very humbling being in company with some of the survivors of such a horrible time in their lives. Coming from a white upbringing, I had never even heard of 'the Strike' or even dormitory days or Phantom Island. It saddens me, how those people were treated, and I hope we are on our way to bettering our relations with Indigenous Australia. But a wonderful day was had by all!"

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Palm Island Voice Public & Community Notices are your best choice for birthdays, anniversaries, meeting notices, sales & all your classified needs - and most of them are free!

The *Palm Island Voice* will continue to be published fortnightly however due to financial constraints outside of Council control Issue 107 and beyond may be reduced in size and quantity, but not quality when it comes to bringing you your news.

We'd like to thank the community, especially the organisations and schools, who have supported us - we're still more than happy to accept your material when we can and will look forward to your ongoing contributions.

Please continue to support us, so we can continue to support you!!!



Australian Government

REMOTE JOBS AND COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Jobs and stronger communities for people in remote Australia

Invitation to Information and Consultation Sessions

The new Remote Jobs and Communities Program will provide a simpler, more integrated and flexible approach to employment services and participation in remote areas of Australia from 1 July 2013.

The program will assist people to get the skills needed to find and keep a job and help build stronger communities.

The Australian Government has already talked to a lot of people and organisations about these changes and the new service responds to the needs of people living in remote areas.

Information and consultation sessions will be held in regional centres and remote communities across Australia from late May to mid-July 2012.

Come and find out how the changes will benefit you, your organisation or your community. You can also talk to the Government about how the new service should operate in your area.

For information about the session times and locations, please visit www.deewr.gov.au/rsr, call 13 62 68, or talk to your CDEP, JSA or DES provider.

B11.0734



Teachers, parents, carers, families and all Palm Island community members are invited and encouraged to celebrate and recognise the achievements of Palm Island's future leaders at the

Cathy Freeman Foundation Term 2 Starting Block Awards Ceremony Wednesday 20 June, 2012

Start times:

Bwgcolman Community School - 10.00am

St. Michael's Catholic School - 1.45pm

*Participants of the next Horizons camp to Mt. Buller will also be announced. The Starting Block Program recognises and rewards achievement and improvement in Literacy, Classroom Behaviour and School Attendance.



To the Community of Palm Island

After 12 years off working here on Palm Island as the OIC and Paramedic I have decided to accept a transfer back to the Far Northern Region closer to where my house is in Cairns. I can let you all know that I have accepted a position at the Port Douglas Ambulance Station and will commence working there at the end of June.

Since coming to the island I have achieved many things an excellent rapport with the community and a sense of feeling at home here, some of my proud moments have been establishing

the ambulance attendant program with 5 full time aboriginal people working towards qualifications being employed with the QAS. The Stinger suit program which has significantly reduced marine sting envenomation's since its start, the camps and health programs that I have been involved in and lastly the new station at the farm.

I have made many friends and it will be sad to leave such a beautiful place, I will take with me many wonderful memories of this place and I'll be quite proud to let people know all the good things about this place.

I have laughed along side people have cried along side people, have seen tragedy and have seen miracles and the best thing is that I feel we have made a difference and I'm proud to wear the uniform and help people out when in need.

I ask that you support the new QAS officers that will start here on the island shortly and give them the same respect as you have shown me over the years and lastly if you are in the Mossman/Port Douglas area drop in and say hello.

Regards

Ian Day

Paramedic/OIC Palm Island



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

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

The next RDO is Friday 22 June

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

**For emergencies on Friday
please call 0458 789 011**

**For more information contact
Council on 4770 1177**

NEW 2012-2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates

In order to cut costs and to try to become more self-sufficient, the *Palm Island Voice* is currently undergoing a process of restructuring.

As a result our ad prices have been reviewed and are now:

**Page Sponsorship (1cm or 18pt banner
ad across nominated page): \$120**
Quarter A4 Page Col: \$250 + GST
Half A4 Page Col: \$350 + GST
Full A4 Page Col: \$550 + GST

SUBSCRIBE!

Individuals & Families: \$60 (up to 06/13)
Community & NGOs: \$120 (up to 06/13)
Government: \$180 (up to 06/13)

Rates will vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in January 2013 the rate will be half of that listed above to take it to July 2013).

**Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see page 12) and
material submitted no later than COB the next day.**

**To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor,
Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au**

Please support us so we can continue to support you!

Pride of Palm Is

LONG-TIME Palm Island Boxing Club trainer Ray Dennis has been nominated for a Pride of Australia medal, an initiative which enables unsung heroes in the community to be recognised.

In the 14 years he's been on the Island 'Uncle Ray' has trained 41 Australian and 60 State boxing champs, as well as 86 Golden Gloves title holders.

"It is an bit of an honour and I didn't really expect it until somebody phoned me two days ago," he said.

On numerous away trips, some as far as Mt Isa and Brisbane, Mr Dennis has spent his own pension money on the young Aboriginal boxers, as well as being their dedicated trainer.

All of the nominees from around the country in the 10 categories can be seen on website <http://www.prideofaustralia.com.au> where people can vote for anyone in 200 words.

The Pride of Australia Medal aims to recognise 'unsung heroes' in each state and say thank you for their contribution to our lives.

PIRL FOOTY

Roundup 2 June

JACKS SKIP CLEAR OF WARRIORS

Skipjacks continued on their winning way with a 72-22 win over Mundy Bay Warriors. Mickeal Sibley once again scored three tries. Clinton Pearson, Jason Bulsey, Owen Wilson and Mick Castors each scored two tries with singles to Georgie Dabea, Fred Bulsey and Gabriel Geesu.

Anthony Thompson booted six goals with one each to Esrom Geia and Mickeal Sibley. For Mundy Bay Warriors 22 craft halfback Maverick Fox scored two tries with one each to Mervyn Noble, Morris Watson and Ashley Clumpoint. Morris Watson kicked one goal.

Warriors will welcome the return of star second rower Bryan Brown (pictured) who was out with an injury but said he was looking forward to getting back into the thick of things.

HIGH FLYING JETS STING HORNETS

Reigning premiers Jets scored a percentage-boosting 82-10 win over struggling Hornets in the main game.

Jets main try scorer was Moa Sam-Illin with three, Moa Sam, Keenan Kerr, Raoul Miller and Gary Murray each scored two, with one each to Robert Bulsey, Germaine Busley, Greg Walsh and Costa Sam.

The radar-like boot of Gavin Barry snared eight goals, Hosea Murphy guided two through the big sticks and Robert Bulsey shot one.

Hornets try scorers were Josh Landers and Gene Barry. Josh also booted a two pointer. The young Hornets player give their all each week and should be encouraged to continue.

RAIDERS WIN ON FORFEIT

Mount Bentley Raiders defeated Bwgcolman Brothers by forfeit in what was the scheduled game on the day.

Butler Bay Bulls had the bye.

Roundup 9 June

BULLS HIT THE 100

GENUINE premiership aspirant Butler Bay Bulls scored a percentage boosting 104-10 win over bottom placed Hornets in the first match at the local oval.

It was a try scoring feast for the high rolling Bulls which scored 20 tries to two.

Leading the charge was Bulls' forward Billo Wotton with seven tries.

Centre Alan Brown scored four tries, John Oliffe three, Walter Morgan two and one each to Michael McLean, David Bulsey, Pita Morgan and Walter Geia.

Val Fulford kicked four goals, David Bulsey and Billo Wotton each two with one apiece to John Oliffe, Walter Geia, William Blanket and Walter Morgan.

Special mention must be made of Billo Wotton who ended the game with a personal points tally of 32 points.

For Hornets reliable Josh Landers and Gene Barry scored a try and Owen Robertson booted the only goal.

RAIDERS VICTORY WITHOUT STAR PLAYER

MOUNT Bentley, without star back Tabua Oui who was in Townsville, defeated Mundy Bay Warriors 88-38 in the second game at headquarters.

Fullback Lleyton Sam scored five tries, quality forward Frank Baira four, and lanky Sterling Aden crossed for two.

Singles went to Christin Baira, Alan Baira, Caleb Geia, Kevin Morgan, Leon Watson and Josh Fullarton.

The radar-guided boot of Kevin Morgan shot seven goals, with one each to Frank Baira, Caleb Geia and John Watson.

It was a great effort by Warriors with two tries to Ezra Langlo and Jack Friday. Single went to Phillip Kerr, Maverick Fox and Cr Frank Conway.

Morris Watson and Michael Noble each kicked two goals and Lenny Yoren one.



Above: Asset for the Mundy Bay Warriors second rower Bryan Brown with his son Bryan jnr, aged four.

Below: Powerful Raiders player Frank Baira



MAGNIFICENT 7 FOR SKIPPIES

CLASSY Mickeal Sibley continued on his try-scoring blitz this season when he scored seven four-pointers in Skipjacks 70-34 victory over Bwgcolman Brothers in the main game.

Mickeal possesses blistering speed and was well backed up by the crafty Clinton Pearson who crossed for two.

Anthony Thompson, Gary Pearson, Owen Marpoondin, James Sibley and Terence Sibley each scored a try. Gary Pearson kicked five goals and Mickeal kicked two.

For Brothers Ashley Palmer scored two tries with one each to William Bramwell, Robert Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Norman

Langdon and Malcolm Larry. Rod Shortjoe kicked two goals and Ben Baira one.

Premiers Jets had the bye.

INTERESTING GAMES

There will be some great matches in coming weeks as the top sides clash in games which will have a big bearing on how teams finish come finals time given that the top two each earn the important double chance.

Raiders, Skipjacks and Bulls are all firing and reigning premiers Jets have improved sharply in the past month.

Warriors have been keeping sides honest and Brothers are unpredictable whilst Hornets never give up.

PIRL

Current Points Table

=1 Mount Bentley Raiders 16p

=1 Skipjacks 16p

=1 Butler Bay Bulls 16p

4 Jets 10p

5 Mundy Bay Warriors 8p

6 Bwgcolman Brothers 4p

7 Hornets 2p



Noby's packing and raring to go!

Palm Island Boxing Club is hoping to take a team of fighters to the prestigious North Queensland Games on June 23 and 24.

Mackay District will host the event and the venue for the boxing will be the Bob Wood Cultural Hall at Sarina.

Before they go the boxers will need to be registered with the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League, who are running the tournament.

In recent months boxers have been travelling far away to compete at Queensland Boxing Association events.

Meanwhile star female boxer and mother of four Noby Clay is ready to return to the ring. The 28-year-old Aboriginal boxer is the mother of Rosina Marlanie Dani-Raye, aged one, Lorna Jennifer Anne, 3, Shenzey Alierah, 7, and Robin Cassius Clay, 8.

She said she would be training hard over the next few weeks as she showed her powerful fists up close.

We wish her the best of luck, along with all the Palm Island Boxers!



Pic by Christine Howes

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Palm Island Voice

<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>ISSUE NO</u>	<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u>
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Thursday 5 July	108	THURSDAY 12 July
Thursday 19 July	109	THURSDAY 26 July
Thursday 2 August	110	THURSDAY 9 August