



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 23 August 2012

\$1.25

Issue 111

Value our past and step up for the future



## Palm Island

Spring Fair Festival  
Held 6th - 8th September 2012

Full Program and more details next Issue - see inside  
for how to secure your 2012 Spring Fair t-shirt!

Old Palm Island - It was their time



New Palm Island - now it's our time



# Spring Fair Festival Shirts for Sale



**\$65 each  
only 100  
available  
in each design  
& in limited sizes  
which means  
'first-in,  
best-dressed'!**

**For more  
Information:**

**Ph: 4770 1177**

**Fax: 4770 5291**

**Or contact Candice Walsh  
on 0499 789 033 or via email  
events@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au**



**Out  
&  
About**

*Above Left: Alfred Noble, Vincent Gadd, Jai Lawrence & James Grannigan in Townsville;*

*Above: Iris Ketchup was with her children Nowella, 9, & George, 2;  
Left: p 02 Alex Morgan who had been down to Cherbourg for his daughter Dyella Morgan's 21st birthday party*

# Time for Grandparents



**Last weekend Townsville grandparents caring for their grandchildren were invited to Magnetic Island to take some time out at a respite camp.**

Palm Island's Lizzie Clay went along for the ride and said it was 'great'.

"The camp was great," she said.

"It helped me and little Dougie to work out a lot of tension and we were a lot less stressed at the weekend.

"It helped me better understand my grandson.

"Being a sole grandparent and having no father or grandfather figure to help guide his way, I feel little Dougie and I now better understand each other.

"Little Dougie was less angry after spending time with one of the professional staff that we bring to the camps.

"I highly recommend the camp to other Grandparents who need some timeout or support

for the grandchildren."

Organiser/Coordinator Dulcie Bronsch said the camps were provided as a way to give grandparents some timeout.

"At the same time grandchildren are provided with a host of activities conducted by our professional staff to keep them out of your hair for a day and a half while you relax and take timeout and for us to help you with your concerns," she said.

The Time for Grandparents program is operated through Uniting Care Community in Brisbane and provided a full weekend of activities including ball sports, swimming, fishing and adventure games for the children while Grandparents took things a little easier.

Lizzie and her grandson were

two of 25 participants at the weekend camp.

The program is a state-wide service for grandparents who are the primary carers of their grandchildren, and who are not receiving the fostering allowance and/or not an approved Department of Child Safety kinship carer.

Support includes information, referrals and resources, as well as providing financial assistance for the grandchildren to join sporting activities or recreational opportunities such as dance, girl guides, school camps and other similar activities.

The program also provided for the Townsville grandfamilies' Maggie Island camp and the one coming up soon for Palm Islanders (*see page 8 for details*).

**To find out more and to register for the Time for Grandparents program contact Seniors Enquiry Line and Grandparents Program on 1300 135 500.**



# Go to School!

**That's the message from NQ Cowboys superstars Matty Bowen and Johnathan Thurston who have been busy urging students around the far north to get educated.**

Bowen and Thurston were special guests at Kirwan High School in Townsville last month, where they spoke to 150 students who had taken part in an 'Every Day Counts' strategy aimed at increasing school attendance.

"I went to Abergowrie College and we had rules where we had to wake at a certain time in the morning and make our beds before breakfast," Bowen said.

"We couldn't wag school and good attendance at school gives you the best chance of finding a good career."

Thurston said education was so important for high school students as they approached an age where they would soon be looking for work.

"If you get a job and finish an apprenticeship you should strive to own a business at some stage," he said.

School captain Chris Nai said the strategy had been a success.



"This has been a major success and to have Cowboys star like Matty Bowen and Johnathan Thurston here today is great," he said.

The school's Communication Education Councillor and mother of Brisbane Broncos, State of Origin and Test star Sam Thaiday, Julie Thaiday also said the program had been a success.

Thurston said he and his team mates were more than happy to support and promote the 'Every Day Counts' strategy.

"Kirwan State High School is renowned for the sporting achievements of its students, and rugby league plays a big part in the student community," Thurston said.

"If we can use the sport of rugby league, and the involvement of Cowboys players, to encourage kids to stay in school to better their futures, then it is a very worthwhile cause."

Thurston told the students that more days at school led to a better education which ensured career options were higher.

'Every Day Counts' was a joint initiative between Kirwin High School and the North Queensland Cowboys.

During the program 15% of the 154 challenge champion winners achieved 100% attendance during the period and the others reached higher than 90%.

That was a big increase on the attendance figures for the same term last year.





# Big turn-out for Townsville fest

**HUNDREDS of Palm Island men, women and children were amongst the crowds at the 18th annual Cultural Fest held at Strand Park in Townsville from 15 to 18 August.**

One of Australia's biggest such festivals, it featured more than 60 cultures.

There was 28 food stalls, 85 cultural entertainment groups and more than 50 craft stalls in the Global Village.

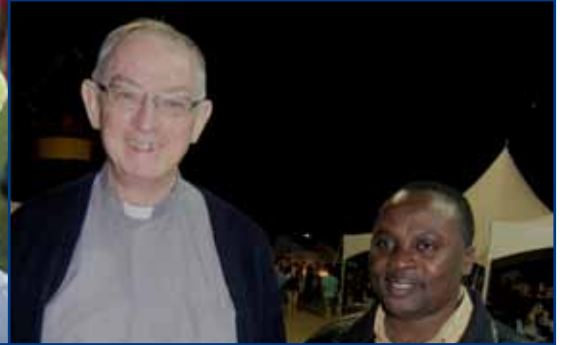
This year two stages were used including the main one with seating for 1000 where the St Michael's School entertainers performed.

Voice was there to snap pics of Palm Islanders, many who came to the mainland by ferry on 16 and 17 August.

See if you can spot somebody you know in our pic spread.

More than 70,000 men, women and children were expected over the duration.

***...more pics page 12...***





# Teaming up with GBRMPA & Ergon for

## Students from Reef Guardian Schools on Palm Island have been enlisted to protect plants, animals and habitats near the shoreline of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

More than 25 students from two schools took part in the day-long Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's 2012 Future Leaders Eco Challenge, which included hands-on activities and field trips.

GBRMPA Reef Guardian Schools Acting-Program Manager, Carolyn Luder, said students learned how the coastal, marine and Reef catchment areas were interconnected and reliant on one another to function. "Inshore ecosystems cover about 10 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef and are made up of a diverse range of habitats including sea grass meadows, salt marshes, mangroves, estuaries and beaches," she

said. "Some of these habitats and species may not be part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area but they are interconnected and vital to the health of the Reef. These areas are under a lot of pressure from a range of impacts including coastal development and declining water quality, so it's important students understand the need for long-term protection of these habitats."

Gail Barry from GBRMPA's Indigenous Partnerships Group said she was pleased to see local student leaders and environmental experts brought together on country.

"It's important for students to not only enjoy their environment, but also learn the science behind what makes their environment healthy and sustainable," Ms Barry said.

Supporting the event was Ergon Energy's **powersavvy** team, who worked with students on the importance of saving energy. Education Officer Cathy Nixon said the children were very enthusiastic.

"The kids were awesome!" she said. "They





# leadership and conservation

were a big credit to their families and teachers.” Ms Nixon said the children learnt in school about how electricity is produced and how Ergon Energy’s diesel generator worked to supply power to Palm Island.

“Students investigated how wasting power makes greenhouse gases which can harm the reef and marine life,” she said. “They also learnt about watts and how much power was needed to running a fan or an air conditioner, and about solar power and importantly how it can help the environment because it is a clean and renewable energy source.”

**powersavvy** gave each child a green T-shirt so they could spread the “Be Smart With Power” message to their community.

They also took home an information pack for their families, and a solar car toy. Residential Program Coordinator Mick Miller said he would also be working on Palm Island to train local residents employed to work as community field officers.

“They will work with families in their homes to help them save money on power cards,” Mr Miller said. “It’s the little things you can do that make a powerful difference to your electricity use and how much money your spend on electricity.”

Also supporting the Future Leaders Eco Challenge were partners Tangaroa Blue, Museum of Tropical Queensland and WWF-Australia. Reef Guardian Schools is an environmental education program run by GBRMPA.







**Palm Island Aboriginal  
Shire Council**

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

**The next RDO is  
Friday 31 August**

**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**

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Grandparents  
Fulltime Caring for their Grandchildren  
(Affectionately called *Grandfamilies*)**

**RESPITE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED FOR  
GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE THE MAIN CARERS FOR  
THEIR GRANDCHILDREN LIVING ON PALM ISLAND**

**WHEN:** Fri 7 - Sun 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

**WHERE:** Magnetic Island Recreation Centre

**COST:** *There is no cost to Grandparents*

You will need to organise yourselves to Townsville. Dulcie will meet you there  
and everyone will travel together to Magnetic Island for a 2-night stay.

**WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?**

- ENJOY THE RELAXATION
- ART/CRAFT ACTIVITIES
- THE MURRI KIDS CONCERT
- TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY to TALK to  
professional staff

YOUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE DOING ACTIVITIES  
AND CARED FOR BY OUR ACCREDITED RECREATIONAL OFFICERS  
- TO GIVE YOU SOME TIME-OUT -

**TO ATTEND THE WEEKEND GRANDPARENTS NEED TO BE  
REGISTERED WITH OUR PROGRAM BY 1st SEPTEMBER**

- See PICC Women's Service or Council for registration forms -  
***Get in quick as places are limited for the camp***

Contact Dulcie Bronsch  
Time for Grandparents (Indigenous) Program  
Ph: 1300 135 500  
E: [dulcie.bronsch@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:dulcie.bronsch@uccommunity.org.au)

## 2012-2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates

### ADVERTISE!

**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**

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

### SUBSCRIBE!

**Individuals & Families: \$60 (up to 06/13)**

**Community & NGOs: \$120 (up to 06/13)**

**Government: \$180 (up to 06/13)**

Subscription 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).

**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](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)**

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



# Blue card training coming soon to PCYC

**Neil O'Connor and Monisha Breay from the Children's Commission's Community Information and Education team will be visiting Palm Island to yarn with community members about blue cards later this month.**



They said the visit came about because they have received many questions from Palm Island community members who wanted to know more about blue cards.

Questions they hope to answer include:

- when you need a blue card
- how to fill out application forms
- what to do if you don't have ID, and
- whether you can get a blue card if you've had problems with the law.

People may need blue cards if their work or business is child-related and falls under one of the Commission's categories of regulated employment

**Anybody can call the Blue Card Contact Centre on 1800 113 611 or view information on the blue card website: <http://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au>**

**Neil and Monisha are looking forward to meeting Palm Island community members on Tuesday 28 August and will be happy to help with application forms and answering your questions at a community BBQ from 12:30-2:30 at the PCYC.**

or business (such as child care, schools, churches, clubs or associations to name a few).

In some cases, parents who are volunteers in their own child's school, child care centre or sport may not need a blue card, so it is important to check with the organisation if you are not sure.

If someone has criminal history it doesn't mean they will not get a blue card but the Commission may ask for more information to help them assess whether that person is able to hold a blue card.

If a person has trouble filling out forms or does not have ID, the Commission's friendly staff are always happy to help where they can.

## Clinics at no cost critical to women's health says mobile nurse

**Free specialist clinics for women will be held at the Joyce Palmer Health Centre on Tuesday 11 September and Tuesday 9 October from 8am – 3.30pm.**

Queensland Health's mobile women's health nurse for the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Jan Gale encouraged women to visit the clinic and said no appointment was required.

"A specialist Women's Health nurse will be in attendance and the clinics are open to Indigenous and non-indigenous women of all ages," she said.

Over 2012 Queensland Health Women's Health Service has celebrated 21 years of providing free women's health clinics to women in rural and remote areas.

The Mobile Women's Health Service was established in Queensland in 1991 to encourage more women to be screened for cervical cancer. Since then, the rates of women found to have

cervical cancer or dying from it have more than halved.

"Women living in remote and rural areas can't always get to the major towns for health checks, so I'm bringing the service closer to them," Ms Gale said. "It's really important women aged 18-69 years, even if they have had the cervical cancer vaccine, make the time to have a regular Pap smear as this remains the best protection against cervical cancer."

"A Pap smear is a simple test that detects abnormal changes in the cervix before cancer develops."

"These changes are caused by human papilloma virus, a very common virus that's transmitted through sexual activity."

"In most cases, women clear the virus and suffer

no harm, however, if the virus stays in the body a long time, it can lead to cervical cancer. That is why it is so important for all women who have ever had sex – even if it was a long time ago – to have a Pap smear regularly.

"In addition to Pap smears, I also provide women's health checks and information on a broad range of issues, including sexual health, continence, family planning and contraception, menstrual cycle concerns and menopause."

**Clinics are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.**





# PIRL FOOTY

18 August

11 August

## **RAIDERS SKIPPED TO OUTRIGHT 2ND**

A WELL-drilled Mount Bentley Raiders scored a hard fought 36-24 victory over Skipjacks in the main game at headquarters.

For Raiders winger Devon Palm Island scored two tries with singles to Sterling Aden, Tabua Oui, John Watson, Ben Nomoa jnr and Thomas Massey.

Accurate kicker John Baira landed three goals with one to Kevin Morgan.

Skipjacks tries went to Owen Wilson, James Sibley, Georgie Dabea and Jason Bulsey.

Veteran club stalwart Esrom Geia and Kenny Wilson each booted two goals.

The win left Raiders on outright second on the ladder with the finals series to commence in three weeks time.

These two clubs are sure to figure prominently come the semi finals.

## **JETS TAKE OFF TOWARDS FINALS**

REIGNING premiers Jets showed they are a great chance of defending their title when they defeated Mundy Bay Warriors 54-nil in the first game.

Warriors started the game with 10 men, three short of a run on side with no reserves.

But when two of those players were injured leaving Warriors with just eight men, the match was called off at half time.

For Jets classy forward Steven Lowatta scored three tries, with two each to Costa Sam and Gary Murray.

Singles went to Robert Chookie, Garrison Sibley, Germaine Bulsey and Greg Walsh.

Garrison Sibley and Steven Lowatta each kicked two goals with one to Germaine Bulsey.

Lowatta scored the most individual tries of any player in the three matches.

## **BULLS CHARGE OVER BROTHERS**

PREMIERSHIP hotshots Butler Bay Bull had the game against last year's beaten grand finalists Bwgcolman Brothers won when they led 34-nil just before halftime.

Bulls went on to record a 40-6 win but full credit to Brothers for trying hard even though they have no prospect of figuring in finals action.

Tough utility Adrian Poynter and Allan James each scored two tries with singles to Billo Wotton, Pita Morgan and John Oliffe who also chipped in with three goals.

Other two pointers went to Val Fulford, Billo Wotton and Pita Morgan.

For Brothers Gavin Johnson scored the only try with Robert Johnson kicking the goal.

Bulls had won the 2008, 2009 and 2010 grand finals before Jets flew high to take out last year's decider.

Hornets had the bye.

## **RAIDERS SHOW CLASS**

MOUNT Bentley Raiders stormed into premiership contention with a 66-24 win over premiers Jets on Saturday at the football oval.

It was a convincing victory by Raiders which are hitting form at the business end of the season.

For Raiders Thomas Massey scored three tries, Frank Pompey, Alan Baira and Devon Palm Island each scored two and John Watson one. Tabua Oui booted eight goals).

Jets try scorers were Thom Walsh and Germaine Bulsey with two each and Robert Bulsey one.

Robert Bulsey kicked two goals.

Jets coach Norman Bounghi said his best players were utility



*Above: Steven Lowatta; Below: Esrom Geia*





Germaine Bulsey, centre Thom Walsh, prop Darryl Daisy, hooker Gary Murray and second rower Kevin Kidner.

### FORFEITS

Skipjacks won on forfeit from Butler Bay Bulls which had players unavailable due to a wedding.

Hornets won on forfeit against Mundy Bay Warriors and Bwgcolman Brothers had the bye.

There is one week of fixtures before the finals series next Saturday which will determine the top two sides and those will earn the double chance in the final.

## PIRL Current Points Table

**=1 Butler Bay Bulls**  
**=1 Mount Bentley Raiders**  
**3 Skipjacks**  
**4 Jets**  
**=5 Mundy Bay Warriors**  
**=5 Bwgcolman Brothers**  
**7 Hornets**

## Another Clay set to try her hand in the ring

**Another female member of the Clay family will start boxing with the Palm Island club in coming weeks.**

Natarlia Clay, a younger sister of established boxer Noby Clay (pictured right with Whanu Cummins) is set to commence training at the Palm PCYC gym.

Noby said she was enthusiastic about her sister's prospects.

"She is only 14 and has the potential to be better than me," Noby, pictured with Whanu Cummins at the Townsville Cultural Festival, said.

Meanwhile boxers will travel to Ayr next Saturday 25th August for an amateur tournament at the Burdekin PCYC.

Trainer Ray Dennis said that Reggie Palm Island, Patrick Clarke, Selwyn Seaton and local Scottish worker William Philp are keen to make the trip.

"Patrick and William had a good sparring session here during the week," Mr Dennis said.

A night before in Townsville at the RSL Stadium there is a big pro-amateur fight night which will feature one Palm boxer on an undercard.

Mr Dennis said he was disappointed that Palm boxers never made the journey to Rockhampton for a tournament last Saturday (18 August).

A large contingent of Palm Island boxers will travel to Acacia Ridge in Brisbane at the end of the month for their



biggest tournament of the year, the prestigious Boxing Association Golden Gloves.

The gala tournament will be held at the Acacia Ridge Hotel in the State capital and will feature more than 200 bouts with competitions from around Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Samoa.

Trainer Chris Evers said the tournament will be held from August 31st to 2nd September.





## - Townsville Cultural Festival -

- Story & Pics by Alf Wilson - see p 5 for more! -



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