



## Skipjacks to play Cowboys curtain-raiser

PALM Island Skipjacks will be seeking sweet revenge when they take on Australian Army Thunder rugby at 1300Smiles Stadium in Townsville on the last Saturday in April for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield.

The game will be a curtain-raiser to the Cowboys versus Parramatta Eels NRL clash.

Last October Army Thunder beat Skipjacks 32-28 in an exciting game on Palm Island.

It was the seventh game for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield named in honour of the man who served the Australian Army with distinction.

In October 2012 the Army beat Skipjacks 32-14 played as a curtain raiser to the Test between Australia and New Zealand in Townsville.

Skipjacks won the 2011 clash held on Palm Island's football oval 46-30 over a strong Australian Army Thunder.

It was sweet revenge for Skipjacks which lost the 2010 game 22-16 to Army Thunder.

The 2008 and 2009 clashes were held in Townsville and were won by Skipjacks in amazingly similar circumstances.

Bill Coolburra loved the Army, but he also loved his Rugby League, and his favourite Palm Island team, the Skipjacks.

It was his wish that the Army and Palm Island play an annual game.



*THE DAY THE SEASWIFT BARGE GOT STUCK on a reef several loads of passengers had to be taken to and from the ferry one boat at a time. Pics with thanks to Leah Dabea and Arthur Clumpoint.*



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*WARNING! Some images in this Issue may contain deceased persons which may cause distress to some people.*

## Congratulations to Mallory Morgan who has been selected into the U15 Australian Indigenous Netball Team for 2014!!!

The team will be competing against other countries on the Gold Coast for a week from Saturday 5th–12th July 2014. Mallory was first selected for the South Queensland Netball Team, which she tried out for on the Gold Coast in early January. Regina James (Grandmother), Murielle Morgan (aunt), Austin Walsh (uncle), Taelah Morgan (sister) and Phoenix Walsh (cousin brother), all travelled with Mallory to support her during the trials.

On behalf of the Morgan Family, we would like to thank Robyn Nallajar snr (dad), the Sibley Seaside Service Station, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, the Palm Island Community Company, for their financial assistance, encouragement and support for Mallory. We are so very proud of Mallory's selection into the U15 Australian Indigenous Netball Team.



*This pic was taken at Junior Netball last month. It is Deniece Geja's "beautiful grand daughter Lana and beautiful nieces Bree & Ashton". Thanks Deniece!*



## Out & About

*This week's pics are from the Cathy Freeman Foundation Starting Block awards held last week. The awards recognised school achievement of over 250 Palm Island students who excelled in literacy, attendance and good behaviour, just in time for a well-earned Easter break.*



# Youth lead the way in talks with agencies

Acknowledging those who have been before them and building their own voice were two of the main themes emerging from Palm Island's first Youth Services Provider Forum last month.

Under Malachi Bligh's leadership the Palm Island Youth Council and Bwgcolman Community School Junior Secondary Student Council together with Bwgcolman PCYC worked together to fire off some challenging questions to service providers and agencies who work in the community with young people.



Joyce Palmer Health Service, Palm Island Community Company, Campbell Page, Justice Group (PICC), St Michael's School, Bwgcolman Community School, Palm Island Youth Council, CAMP OPAL, and the Department of Communities and the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet were just some of those in the firing line.

Six youth representatives participated in some in-depth discussion with all the participants.



Elders Margaret Parker and Bonita Noble shared their valuable wisdom on community development and collaboration with the youth, and the importance of learning from the Old People's ways.

One of the main messages was about valuing Palm Island's past and the people who worked so hard.

Other key points that were raised included:

- working together and building relationships;
- Programs need to have ongoing funding;
- The importance of the community Youth Voice;
- Capacity-building linking to career pathways & training;
- Agencies need to promote their programs to inform the wider community about their service delivery; and,
- Use of volunteers in creative programming to build positive rapport with youth in the community.

The forum was funded by the Prime Minister and Cabinet through the Bwgcolman PCYC



under Youth Project/Program & Services Development.

All the young people involved deemed the day a success with requests for more forums throughout the year.

A big thank must go out to Malachi Bligh and the Palm Island Youth Council; Yolanda Kerr, John Sibley Jnr, Jeanon Kidner, Gary Walsh, Joshua Watson, Emily Dabea and also to Shamika Geia for their support and hard work in making this first youth forum a fruitful one for all participants.

We look forward to more forums in the future with more youth participating in building their future on Palm Island.

*Lynore Geia*





# Farewell to a champion for reconciliation

THE Catholic Church Bishop who declared former patients of the Fantome Island leper colony had been sent there many years ago to “protect white people from catching the disease more than to cure Aborigines” has lost a 16-month battle with stomach cancer.

The Townsville-based Bishop has been described as a “champion for reconciliation” by Aboriginal leaders.

The 67-year-old was a passionate supporter of Indigenous people, especially in north Queensland, and visited Palm Island many times.

He blessed the graves at the former leper colony of Fantome Island nearly four years ago and made many touching comments about the treatment of Aboriginal people there.

Fantome Island was a leper colony between 1939 and 1973 and in 2010 about 80 people, including former patients and workers and their descendants along with invited guests, travelled by barge to witness the moving ceremony.

“This is the beginning of a healing process

and what happened on Fantome Island was one of the saddest chapters in Indigenous affairs,” Bishop Putney said at the time.

“These were normal people who lived, laughed, married and died here.

“But they had poor conditions, the food was bad and the medical help not the best.

“The workers who were here did their very best for the patients.

“Thank God this day is the beginning of telling the true story about Fantome Island.

After the death in custody in November 2004 of Mulrunji Doomadgee, Bishop Putney was one of the first to visit Palm Island to comfort locals and help them cope with the loss.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said Bishop





Putney had been a passionate worker for rights and a fair deal for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“The Palm Island community is saddened by his passing and he was very passionate about social justice for our people,” Cr Lacey said.

“He was very supportive of the good work St Michael’s School does here on Palm. Bishop Putney was formidable in terms of reconciliation.”

Last October as his disease started to slow him down, the Bishop was a special guest at the Bindal Allblacks rugby league carnival in Townsville.

At one stage Bishop said he was feeling unwell but wanted to complete his task and was later pictured with former Cowboys star Matt Bowen and others.

Bindal’s Jenny Pryor said Bishop Putney was a true servant of the Lord.

“Bishop Putney walked with all people and Bindal Sharks was privileged to be one of the many and to have had the opportunity to be associated and supported by him,” Ms Pryor said.

“We will miss him at this year’s All Blacks.

“He will always be remembered for the work he undertook with our organisation.

“A visionary man, and believed in the importance of Reconciliation.”

Palm Island Voice journalist Alf Wilson also recalls an emotional conversation Bishop Putney had with locals on Palm Island about several nuns who were leaving after years of loyal service.

“I will see you in heaven,” he said.

Dear All,  
Greetings from Dublin and many thanks for informing me of Bishop Michael’s death. I have been following his journey on the internet and was aware of his impending death.

He has been so courageous in accepting his illness – now he is at peace and surely already reaping the rewards of an exceptional life in the service of the Church. His love for and interest in our Palm Island Aboriginal community was exceptional and he was greatly loved by them.

I take this opportunity to send my loving greetings to all my Palm Island and Townsville friends whom I never forget.

Love and Blessings,  
**Sr. Christina FMM**

Bishop Michael has been a friend to all on Palm Island.

He has visited us for Confirmation for the last three years that we have been here.

He will be sadly missed. He invited the Good Samaritan Sisters to come and be present here on Palm Island, and he has always been concerned for us personally.

He has been an extraordinary example to us all in the way he accepted his illness. We know that he will continue to look after us always.

**Robyn**

# Palm Island Voice

Public &  
Community Notices



## VET CHARGES

Please note the visiting vet is no longer free. Contact Council reception or see Community Notice Boards for details.

The next RDO is this Friday, 11 April. RDOs are every fortnight after that. For out-of-hours emergencies please call 0458 789 011.

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 302 'likes' on Facebook!!!

## POSITION VACANT

### Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE Indigenous Student Support Officer (Identified)

- Palm Island based
- Excellent career opportunities
- Great location with good work/life balance

#### QLD/BRIT8940/14, Palm Island Campus, Temporary Full Time to 19/12/2014

Duties / Abilities: The Palm Island Customer Service Centre is part of The Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE and is a progressive training organisation supporting the rapidly growing economy across regional Queensland. You are invited to become part of the Institute team. The Indigenous Student Support Officer will ensure optimal services through the development, management and maintenance of communication networks within the community to maximise demand for Institute Programs and co-ordinate all course enquiries, visitor access, and facilities bookings.

For Enquiries & an Application Kit contact Daniel Geia on 07 4042 2634 or 0409 738 529 to express your interest.

**Closing Date: Thursday, 17 April 2014.**

THE NEXT PALM ISLAND VOICE DEADLINE (for Issue 152) will be **THURSDAY 17 April** for publication on Thursday 24 April

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To book an ad or inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

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# Barracudas take on Rocky comp

Barracudas have entered a side in the CQID Indigenous Reconciliation Carnival to be held at Rockhampton's Central Queensland University later this month (19-21 April).

Teams who have so far nominated, with more to come, were:

Men - Gunboat Raiders, Wayne Guivarra Memorial, Millie G Mob, Macca United, North Coast Dolphins, Roy James Hopkins, Jason Lingwoodock Memorial, Rocky Allblack Tigers, Marcia Mob, Black Magic, Buka Kanaka, Woorabinda Warriors, CQ Warriors, Eidsvold Eagles, Gladstone Goori United  
Women - Macca United,

Highlanders, Bowen's Buccaneers, All Blacks Stars, CQ Warriors.

Barracudas stalwart Fred Bulsey, who recently celebrated his 34th birthday and fourth wedding anniversary, said a star-studded side would travel to Rockhampton.

Some Palm players have been competing for teams in the Townsville and District comp which has had four rounds while others have been training strongly for the Rocky trip.

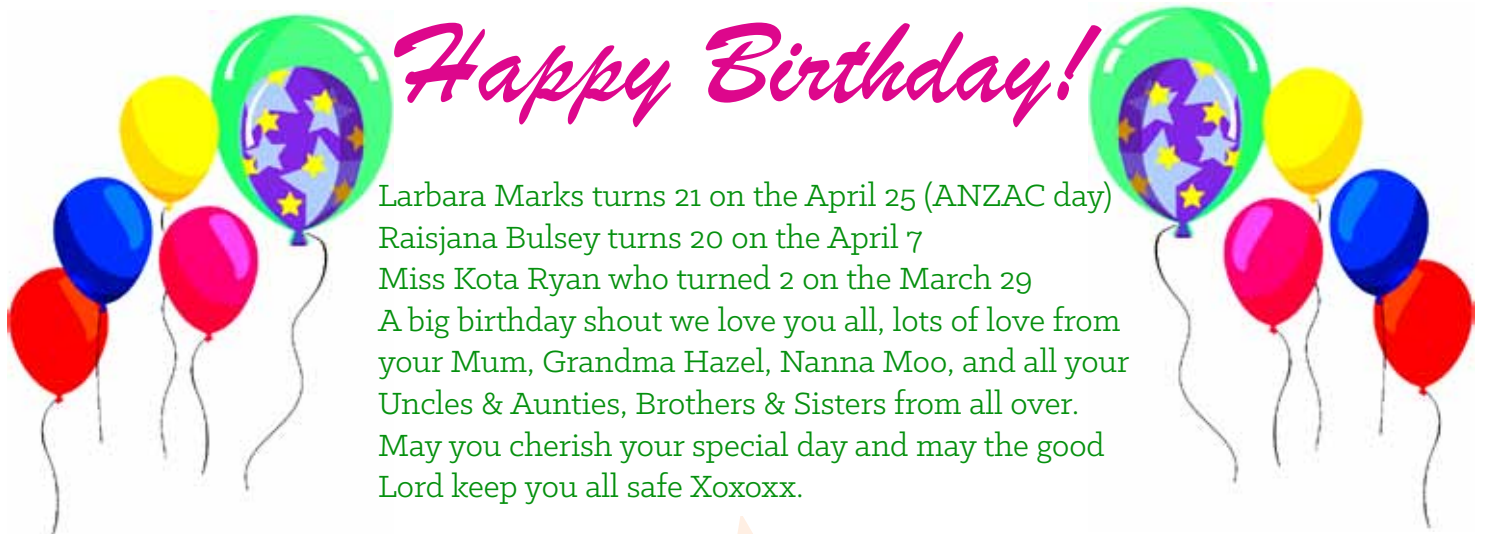
## CLUB NEWS

IT is expected Palm Island club football rounds will start the week after the Rocky carnival.

Palm Island Voice has been told this year's competition could involve a four-club A grade and reserve grade competition.

The first four clubs to pay player insurance will be accepted.

A PIRL meeting will be held to finalise.



## CONGRATULATIONS!



*Vyneika Haines and Alfred Lacey Jnr are proud to introduce baby Frederick James Owen Roy Haines-Lacey, brought into this world on 29/3/2014 at 7 pounds 1 ounce (about 3.5kg).*





# Our boxers have got talent!

**TALENTED** Palm Island boxer Levi Baira won a gold medal after knocking out his opponent in round two of his grand final bout at the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament.

The match was part of the North Queensland Games in Townsville last weekend at Aitkenvale PCYC.

The 13-year-old Levi beat Darcy Harrison from Cloncurry in the 44.5kg division on Saturday night, impressing his trainer Ray Dennis.

“If he trains hard Levi has a good career to look forward to,” Mr Dennis said.

“He has outclassed his opponent and that was his fourth straight win for the Palm Island Boxing Club.”

Fifteen-year-old female boxer Kathleen Haines also won a gold medal without throwing a punch.

Kathleen couldn't be matched in her 48kg division, so with no opponent found to fight her she was awarded the gold.

Brayden Nallajar, aged 11, won a silver medal in the

35kg division losing his final by split judge's decision to Riley Whitestyles of Northern Beaches Club from Mackay.

Brayden won a qualifying bout on night one last Friday defeating Andy Hoffman of Moranbah Club.

Natalie David, 13, gave away two years in age and 4kg in weight when she lost her final in the 67kg female class.

“I thought Natalie won but we accept the judge's decision,” Mr Dennis said.

“She weighed 61kg and had to fight in the 67kg class.”

The other Palm boxer who made the trip to Townsville was Shirley Curley who didn't get a bout in the 43kg girl's class.

The team travelled to Townsville last Thursday and returned home by ferry to Palm on Sunday.

Boxing was one of more than

40 sports contested at the biennial North Queensland Games which have been held since 1984 and are recognised as Australia's largest regional multi-sport event.

Alternating between Townsville, Cairns and Mackay, the event covers a multitude of sports, this iconic event attracts thousands of competitors and spectators.

