



They're the best club in Queensland!

Pic: Alf Wilson



Palm Island boxers' triumphant return from the Australian Boxing League National Titles with five gold and two bronze medals has crowned them the most successful club in Queensland. The *Palm Island Voice* was at the Townsville Airport on Sunday night to meet the boxers on their return. More on page 12...

Audit signals 'clean bill of health' for Council

For the first time in a long time Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council's finances and finance management have received a 'clean bill of health' from the State Government's Auditor-General's office.

Mayor Alf Lacey said Council was audited every year, as were the other communities. "This is a clean audit, a clean

bill of health, that we haven't seen in a long time," he said. "Before we were getting qualified reports but now we've got an unqualified report for this financial year so it goes to show that the council is doing some really good things financially. "It's a good reflection on how well Palm is being managed at the moment, it's been a team effort and

certainly we hope that this good work will continue. "I'd like to thank all the staff for working so hard, this should be a clear indication to the community that we are moving in the right direction and successfully fulfilling our obligations under the Act. "Council is over the moon about the result and the team we have working for us."



**Congratulations
Year 12
High School
Graduates!!!**

**Today is
World AIDS
Day... more
on p 8**

Hearing re-opens Inquest

A re-opened inquest into the death in custody of Mulrunji Doomadgee in November 2004 will start on Palm Island in March next year.

A directions hearing was held in Townsville Court on November 20 where a large contingent of media gathered outside. Mulrunji's sisters Jane and Elizabeth Doomadgee, and Valmai Aplin, Townsville activist Gracelyn Smallwood and other supporters were there. A commemoration was held on Palm Island the day before the November hearing to acknowledge the fifth anniversary of the death.

A pre-Inquest hearing will be held in Brisbane in late December when an assessment process of allowed evidence will be completed and made available to all parties. Two days (March 8-9) have been set aside for Palm and then it will move to the Townsville Court for the remainder of that week.

The new inquest could last up to 10 days during which time seven witnesses who gave evidence at the previous Inquest, and another witness, will be called. Those witnesses will include arresting officer Snr Sgt Hurley.

by Alf Wilson

Council appoints new Lands Officer

Questions from the community about land issues and town planning can now be directed to the new state government funded Lands Officer position, based at the Council.

Robert Blackley (*pictured*) has taken on the role and says he's looking forward to working with everyone concerned.

"If you have any questions regarding land, especially the ILUA which is expected to be finalised next year, just give the Council a call," he said.

"I encourage everyone to come and talk to me about their issues and over the next few weeks we'll be carrying out some consultations from suburb to suburb."

Mr Blackley will also be working with the Council to help progress the Town Plan.

Council CEO Barry Moyle said although the position was only funded to June next year it was hoped Mr Blackley would be able to continue in the role.

"We hope we'll get some additional funding to keep him employed and he'll be like our town planner," he said.

"Once we get our town plan up and it's all compliant with the various planning acts, he'll be the person to talk to if somebody wants to lease a bit of land or some other business.

"Part of the reason we have his position now is to make sure we get information out more frequently."



Last Saturday week was a great day to go out fishing off Horseshoe Bay as **Rowena Ryan and Gregory Walsh** found out! Rowena hooked this monster 15-20 kg Dolphin Fish, reeled in with Gregory's help.

If you have any fishing photos or stories to publish contact Tim or Christine and we will include them in the Palm Island Voice!!



CONGRATULATIONS to Palm Island Senior School Campus Year 12 graduates for 2009 - your hard work for all those years at school has finally paid off!!! Mayor Alf Lacey also sent his congrats to all the Year 12s from boarding schools across the state as well - see p 7 for more.



Films deemed best by Australian media teachers

Another big congratulations goes to all the 2008 Strong and Smart Film Club students at St. Michael's and Bwgcolman Schools.

Two films from Palm Island were selected as finalists in the Best Primary School Film category at this years Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) Awards.

They were 'Journey to the Center of the Art', a documentary produced at Bwgcolman Community School, and 'Miss Lil's Magic Egg Rock', a short comedy produced at St. Michael's Primary School.

The awards ceremony was held in Melbourne on the 23rd of October and the winner of this years Best Primary School film was 'Miss Lil's Magic Egg Rock'!

Sean Gilligan from Strong and Smart was lucky enough to be in attendance when the winner was announced and collected the trophy on behalf of St Michael's School.

Congratulations to Thyra, Toni-Ann, Micaela, Stanley, Wayne, Danielle, Joelle, Shanden and Kearhla from St. Michael's; and Jerri, Shannon, Ethan, Ella, Moewaiya, Ngaire, Amber, Kenny from Bwgcolman Community School. Plus a big thanks to Sean Gilligan and Adrian Strong from Strong and Smart and all the teachers and staff who gave support to the Strong and Smart program, as well as the community members who took part in the documentary.

All the Palm Island Strong and Smart films will be online soon for everyone to see. Look out for the web address in the next issue of the *Palm Island Voice*. ATOM Award details can be found at <http://www.atomawards.org/>



Rotary support well-received and appreciated

As reported in the last *Palm Island Voice*, earlier this month Rotary supported Palm Island's participation in the Great Northern Clean Up Australia, during this, the 20th year of Clean Up Australia Days.

More than a dozen members of the Ingham Rotary Club along with Rotary District Governor Brendan Porter of Townsville and Past District Governor Craig Bowen of Ingham travelled to Palm for the day.

They were joined over here by Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley and his family, Councillor Ruth Gorringer and her family, Deputy CEO Deniece Geia and her family, the principal of St Michael's Catholic School Gary Recklies, and teachers and school children from St Michael's and Bwgcolman Schools as well as members of the community.

PCYC provided a bus to transport volunteers to the respective collection points and treated visitors to a mini tour of the island on arrival.

Council provided a loader and skip.

Mr Porter said the school children were absolutely wonderful and enthusiastically helped to pick up rubbish.

A picnic lunch was enjoyed by participants on the beach front picnic area where BBQ's and playground equipment have recently been erected by Council.

The Ingham Rotary Club would like to thank everyone who was involved in the day and thank the Island for their warm welcome.



Rotarian Denise Bowen (left above) recently presented Palm Island Hospital with a suitcase full of shorts and t-shirts sewn together by a group of ladies organised to help in Ingham

STOP PRESS: On Saturday a Rotary Membership Drive was held at the PCYC on Palm. At the meeting Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley accepted the position of President, Fiona Prior accepted the position of Secretary and Meryl Robertson accepted the position of Treasurer. The Ingham Rotary Club will sponsor the Palm Island Rotary Club and District Governor Brendan Porter from Townsville will be instrumental in setting up the Club. Brendan and his wife Roberta travelled to Palm Island on the day to assist members of the Ingham Rotary Club present a Rotary Information Luncheon.

CFF plans busy visit for next week



Some of the CFF PICG members (clockwise from front right): Paul Enders, Lynore Geia, Alf Lacey, Svea Pitman, Catherine Freeman, Uncle Allan Palm Island, Magdalena Blackley, Ili Dabea, Ray Dennis & Gary Recklies

Once again the Catherine Freeman Foundation will be on Palm Island next week to present bikes for non-truants and yarn with her Island consultation group, especially about a proposed new literacy project for the Island.

On Tuesday Catherine Freeman will present 19 bikes to the students who had the best attendance records from each year level from St Michael's and Bwngcolman Community Schools.

"We will also be bringing a new Board member of CFF, Wesley Walden to the island for the first time and I look forward to introducing Wes to the community," Ms Freeman said.

"On Wednesday at midday we're meeting with the Palm Island Consultation Group at the PCYC to discuss with them and other community members an exciting new project we are looking to launch in 2010."

She said the Palm Island Literacy and Numeracy project would have two components.

"Firstly we will be introducing a Books Award program, which will be run much in the same way as the bike awards, and secondly we are looking to partner with the Australian

Literacy and Numeracy Foundation to work with the community in bringing an early childhood program to Palm Island," she said.

Ms Freeman also said she was excited to announce that Jodie Ryan had been employed by CFF as the Young Women in Sport and After School Activity Facilitator for CFF on the Island.

"Following on from talks we had with the community, PICG and the Education Council in October, we are also interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be involved in the After School Activity Program as a mentor or who would like to share their skills with the kids of Palm Island," she said.

"And finally, I'm very excited to be attending the community concert on the Tuesday night and can't wait to see all the beautiful kids of Palm Island performing!"

For more information or to get involved, particularly with the After School Activity Program, please contact Jodie at the PCYC or Svea on: svea@catherinefreemanfoundation.com

'Giraffe's can't dance' Palm style!



On Thursday the 19th of November the students of JUN C at Bwgcolman School put on a deadly dance performance for their parents and families.

The kids have been learning about different dances throughout the term and adapted the story 'Giraffe's can't dance' by Giles Andreae, and gave it some Palm flavour. Some girls did hula, some of the boys did corroboree and some did Michael Jackson moonwalking, and the star of the show DYLAN DESATGE did a spectacular dance solo. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the show and were delighted by the variety of great dancing skills! An extra special big thank you goes out to all of the parents and families who came to watch the performance!

2009 Art Club success

Over the year keen artists from years 2, 3 and 4 at Bwgcolman school have been taking part in Art Club every Thursday afternoon.

Sadly we have had our last Art Club for 2009, but we hope it can continue again next year.

A special big thank you to all of the wonderful kids who have participated and created so many fantastic pieces of art.

Some of their work will be on display at the end of year Speech night on Tuesday 8th December 2009.

Well done Vasenai, Dianne, Maya, Hananias, Tallis, Hannah, Jada, Ashton, Rikisha, Miriam and Tarrisha!!

Cast

Narrator: Miriam Palmer
Gerald the giraffe: Dylan Desatge

The cricket: Jada Kerr

Hula girls:

Zanthia Coutts Landers

Jaisheree Oui

Ashton Kerr

Rikisha Cummins Luff

Mary Williams

Corroboree boys:

Kelee Malone

Levi Baira

Moe Moe Camenzuli

Moonwalkers:

Raymond Haines

Hananias Murphy



From the

Mayor's Desk

Welcome again to this, the second last edition of the *Palm Island Voice* for the year.

This month, amongst the many things the Council and myself are working on, I particularly wanted to let the community know about a few things.

One of them was that an upgrade of the sports complex is still being looked at by Council.

A lot of work is being done down there at the moment and Council is still talking to the Indigenous Coordination Centre about working together on the leagues club.

Hopefully we'll see a lot more work being done early in the new year.

The Catherine Freeman Foundation has also contributed \$5,000 into helping with the upgrade of the netball courts on Palm which we're quite pleased and we want to thank Cathy and her Foundation for making that contribution.

Another other issue for Palm to consider into the new year is coming on board with the community cultural and museum precinct.

One building has been lost to us but there's another building there so we're still keen and passionate about ensuring that the history of Palm is put somewhere.

In the new year we hope to put an Expressions of Interest to community members who want to come forward with their ideas about what Council should do from here.

On other matters, recently the State Government introduced a Bill to Parliament to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the preamble of the State's Constitution.

As the Mayor of Palm Island I'd like to congratulate the Bligh Government for doing that.

I think this Bill sends a very important message to the younger generation that we can live



side by side together whether we're black or white.

I also think the Prime Minister should take this on board and also include us in the national Constitution.

Putting us in the constitution doesn't mean a lot of things but at the end of the day it gives us recognition that we always were and always will be the first people of Australia and that we're the first people of Queensland.

And lastly on this, I think it's very important to also call on Anna Bligh to do more and to follow it through with some real meaningful work around economic development and jobs for our people.

She needs to take that next step and give us ownership over economic development arrangements for our community and provide us with full support around employment for our people.

Finally, but by no means least importantly, I'd like to congratulate our school children who have graduated with their Year 12 Certificate, especially those from boarding schools.

Very well done to you all for succeeding and getting your certificates.

Your families need special mention as well, for the support they've offered their young ones in helping them to achieve what they have.

I hope they use their Certificates to move on in life and to continue their journey with as much success.

I'll have some more news for you around housing in the next issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

**Yours in community spirit
MAYOR ALF LACEY**

Condoman walks again on World Aids Day

World AIDS Day is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education.

The World AIDS Day theme for 2009 is 'Universal Access and Human Rights'.

World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done. The day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. Earlier this year Condoman – a local initiative first launched from Townsville in the late 1980s – was re-launched during NAIDOC Week in Brisbane.

He was never intended to go any further than Townsville and other north Queensland communities but in his time anti-AIDS campaigner and educator 'Condoman' went global. Now, 22-years later, he is walking again. While the infamous grim reaper campaign held its own shock value to mainstream communities, it was quickly realised by a group of Indigenous healthworkers in Townsville that rural and remote communities in particular didn't "get it".

Condoman - an Aboriginal or black male character wearing the colours of the Aboriginal flag - spread the message of safe sex and male responsibility for condom use with a phenomenally greater impact than campaigns such as The Grim Reaper, according to a National AIDS bulletin published in 1998.

His popularity, or even cult status during the late 1980s and early 90s, turned him into a national icon for safe sex awareness for all Australians, particularly youth.

Then-Sexually Transmitted Infections nurse Gracelyn Smallwood, who worked on the original and is still practising as a Registered Nurse in Townsville, said re-launching Condoman was a credit to the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC) and the Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Health Council (QAIHC).

"I'm so pleased he's walking again because there hasn't been a lot of 'in your face' stuff about STIs and HIV/AIDS in recent years and I think people assume it's gone away," she said.



QAHC (previously the Queensland AIDS Council) General Manager Paul Martin said based on the success of the original campaign they had partnered with QAIHC to make it happen again.

"The re-launching of Condoman is about making sure we are able to contain AIDS/HIV and other sexually transmitted infections as much as possible, and to make sure that future generations of Aboriginal and Islander people are aware of safe sex and condom use," he said.

QAIHC Executive Officer Dion Tatow said a new set of posters and comics would be distributed to communities through medical, health and other service organisations.

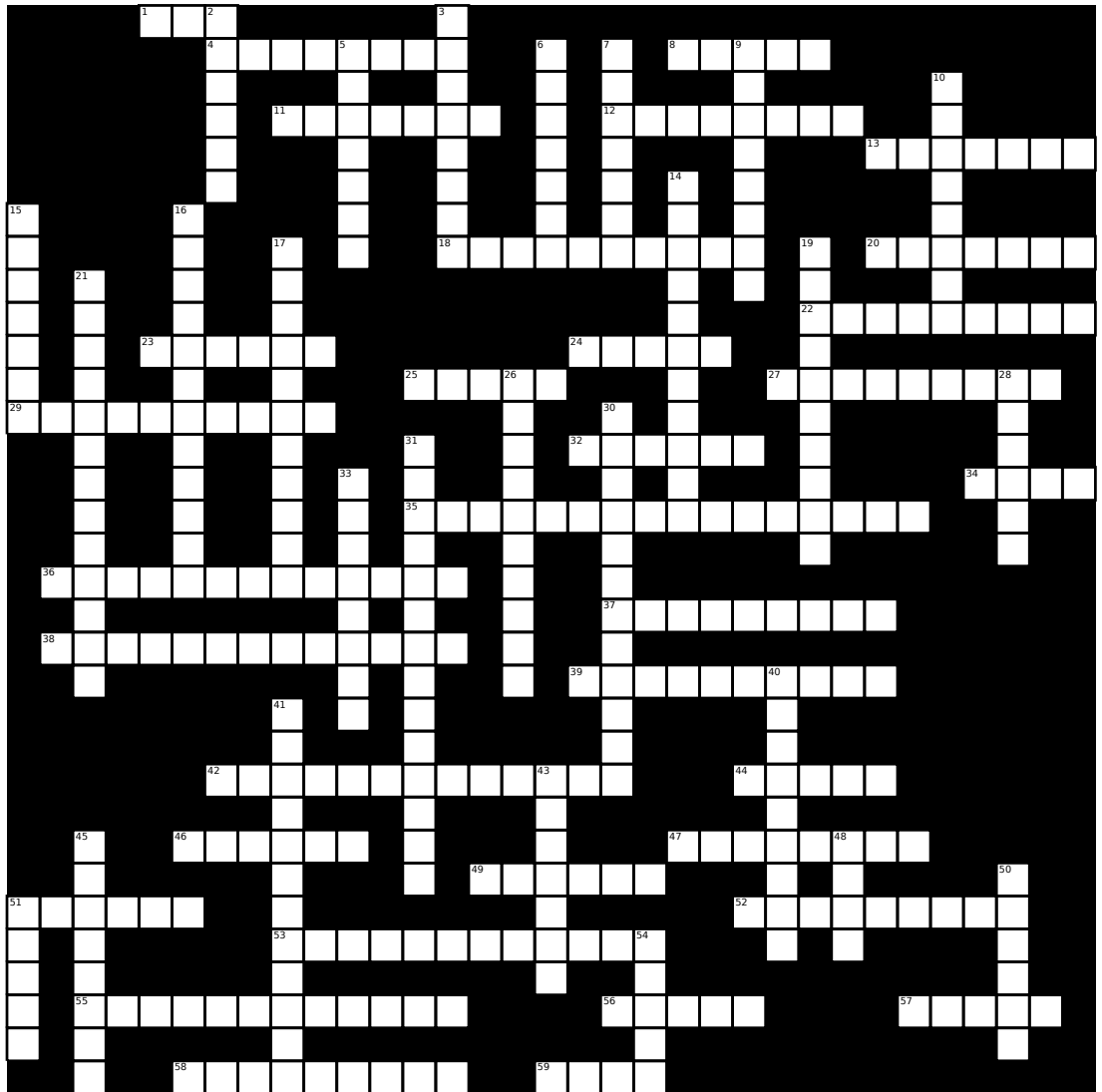
"The Condoman image or concept was successful in the raising awareness on the use of condoms and safe sex in the original campaign," he said.

"This re-launch of the brand hopes to bring these messages to a new generation."

The new Condoman material is available on Palm Island through Rachel Tipoti at the Joyce Palmer Health Service.

Palm Island Voice Crossword 48

This week it's all about Christmas as crossword geek David Goeldner has come up with a new set of clues for us to ponder for this Festive Season. Once again he's done this week's crossword with the help of the crossword puzzle maker at <http://www.armoredpenguin.com.crossword/> WATCH OUT NEXT ISSUE FOR A PAGE OF KIDS' PUZZLES TO DO OVER THE HOLIDAYS!!



Across

1. A round disc with your favourite movies
4. Australia Day is coming up, but some see it like this
8. Famous sports ground in Brisbane
11. Summer sport gaining support on Palm
12. Type of palm common on the Queensland Coast
13. Reindeer with a red nose
18. What some people watch too much of over Christmas
20. Man made of snow and ice
22. 25 December celebrations
23. Santa rides on one of these
24. We wish you a _____ Christmas
25. Type of paint ground from rocks
27. Type of long fish
29. Cricket team from the Caribbean
32. Christ is said to have been born in one of these
34. Another name for Christmas
35. Solemn religious and family ceremony common in the Torres Strait (2 words)
36. League star just retired (2 words)
37. People talk a lot on this at Christmas time
38. The 'CC' in CCTV
39. Sport with a net and many players on each side
42. Palm Island's women's rugby league team
44. A favourite game with some Aunties in town - lots of numbers!
46. Glitter on a Christmas tree
47. Australian dance company celebrating 20 years
49. Hot dry summer is caused by this (spanish)
51. Deadly Awards Winner, Jessica _____
52. Dangerous bird with big 'feet'
53. Second part of the holy bible (2 words)
55. The Chinese invented these - they go off with a bang!

56. Drink 2 litres of this a day
57. On top of a Christmas tree
58. For health emergencies call this service
59. Keep your drinks cool in one of these

Down

2. Small boat and the way to get around
3. Another name for World Wide Web
5. Don't get 'bitten' by one of these in the water
6. Some say Christmas is the _____ season
7. Maori's call it hangi - but it's a bit different
9. Malay prawn paste used in island cooking
10. International medical aid organisation (2 words)
14. Another name for Santa Claus
15. Gospel that tells the birth of Christ
16. Sung at midnight on New Year's Eve
17. Popular Christmas song (2 words)
19. Small child
21. Providing food for disadvantaged and homeless people (3 words)
26. Cricket competition held recently in Tully (2 words)
28. Sea cow
30. Designer of the Aboriginal Flag (2 words)
31. This is named after St Anthony (2 words)
33. Mostly pink flower that thrives in the tropics
40. Day after Christmas
41. Sang 'Island Christmas'
43. Disastrous event in the Indian Ocean - boxing day 2004
45. Christian symbol
48. River running through Townsville
50. North Queensland summer fruit
51. Mark Bin Bakar's comedic alter ego
54. Cyclone that destroyed Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Advertisement

Palm Island Women's Shelter funding available

Non-government organisations are invited to apply for funding of \$339,061 per annum for three years to deliver the Palm Island Women's Shelter services from April 2010.

The shelter provides safe and secure short-term accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, with a priority to women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Information packages are available at www.communityservices.qld.gov.au or by phoning (07) 4760 7300.

Applications must be lodged by 4pm on Friday 18 December 2009.

Department of Communities



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Palm Island Service Schedule "MV OLYMPIC"

Monday

Depart Lucinda: 7.30 am
Arrive Palm Is: 10.15 am
Depart Palm Is: 11.30 am
Arrive Lucinda: 2.00 pm

Tuesday

Depart Lucinda: 9.00 am
Arrive Palm Is: 11.45 am
Depart Palm Is: 2.00 pm
Arrive Lucinda: 4.30 pm

Wednesday

Depart Lucinda: 8.00 am
Arrive Palm Is: 10.45 am
Depart Palm Is: 12.30 pm
Arrive Lucinda: 3.00 pm

Thursday*

Depart Lucinda: 8.00 am
Arrive Palm Is: 10.45 am
Depart Palm Is: 12.30 pm
Arrive Lucinda: 3.00 pm

Thursday departure from Palm Island is subject to change. Please call on the day to confirm time.

Friday

Depart Lucinda: 8.00 am
Arrive Palm Is: 10.45 am
Depart Palm Is: 12.00 pm
Arrive Lucinda: 2.30 pm

Please note that loading of the barge commences 60 mins prior to departure time. Scheduled departure and arrival times should be checked at time of booking.

For all bookings please contact our office on (07) 4776 5055



Palm Island Voice

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(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

Full Page \$440 Half Page \$231 Quarter Page \$121

Eighth Page \$66 Sixteenth Page \$44

Classifieds Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE

Public Notices – Births, Deaths, Marriages, Birthdays – FREE

Sale Price over \$1000 & Other Notices – 4 lines – \$10

Ads are to be submitted by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see p 12 for details).

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Hard copy format (postage included) - \$30 from now until the end of June 2010 - posted by the Thursday after publication.

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Palm Island Aboriginal Council

c/ Palm Island Post Office

Palm Island Q 4816

OR via direct deposit to PIAC:

BSB 064817 A/C No. 00092534

Ref PIV0910 (important!)

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Seaton selected for 2010 Commonwealth Games try-outs

...continued from p 12

Selwyn Seaton, 17, won gold in the 71kg Intermediate Division before stepping up to fight Aaron Sowter in the 75kg category. He was narrowly beaten by his heavier opponent.

"Selwyn has been selected by the Australian Boxing League to take part in the trials for the Commonwealth Games in Western Australia during April 2010," Mr Haines said.

Noby Clay, who celebrates her 27th birthday on December 21, took out gold when she defeated Deanne Schafer from Mount Isa in the female 48kg class.

"Noby boxed really well to out point the boxer who defeated her in the Golden Gloves earlier this year," Mr Haines said.

Dennis Haines Jnr, 15, won a gold medal by defeating Stephen Firth from Mareeba in the 51kg class.

Mr Dennis said Reggie Palm Island, 16, defeated Broughton Worth from Babinda in an elimination bout in the junior 54kg division.

"Reggie won his gold medal by defeating Harlen Eales from Mareeba in the final of the 54kg class," Mr Dennis said.

Patrick Clarke, 16, also received a gold medal when he defeated Lachlan Puig from Brisbane Valley Boxing Club.

At age 26, Craig Desatge is the veteran of the male Palm boxers and was beaten by Ed Abel from Victoria in an elimination bout to claim the bronze medal.

"The club was sponsored by writer Chloe Hooper, the Catherine Freeman Foundation, Palm Island Community Company and Purskey Productions Company, which is filming a documentary," Mr Dennis said.

He said Palm Island was the most successful club from Queensland and was hoping for continued success in 2010.

"We are also hoping for more financial assistance in the future," he said.



NEW OFFICE NUMBERS

PALM ISLAND
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POSITIONS VACANT

The following positions are currently open for applications:

Parent Support and Education Officer (P/T)

Youth Officer (F/T & P/T)

Coordinator – Disability Services (F/T)

Support Worker – Disability Services (P/T)

Support Workers – Women's Services (F/T & P/T)

All of the above positions require attendance and completion of mandatory training. Further opportunities for training and development are also available to all staff.

Please contact either Jane or Sue on 07 4770 1710 for Position Descriptions. Advice and assistance with the application process is also available.

Seaton boxes his way into Commonwealth Games try-outs

Story and pics: Alf Wilson

Six Palm Island boxers made the marathon journey to Geelong in Victoria for the Australian Boxing League National Titles over the weekend, bringing home five gold and two bronze medals.

Trainer Ray Dennis (pictured right) and official Dennis Haines Snr travelled with the boxers and were both impressed.

"All Palm Island boxers performed really well and also proved to be good sportsmen and woman," Mr Dennis said.

Continued p 11...



Skipjacks to compete in Rocky

Palm Island's Skipjacks will contest the strong Rockhampton Allblacks Reconciliation carnival to be held in the Central Queensland city on January 23-25 next year.

Between 16 and 20 teams are expected to compete and Skipjacks will be strongly competitive.

The side is being organised by Palm Island league stalwarts Alex Morgan and Ben Kennedy.

Teams who will travel from all over Queensland may include the Cherbourg Hornets, Storm United, Bundaberg Eels and Bundaberg Panthers, Ghungalu Knights, Highlanders, CQ Warriors from Woorabinda, Mangurris, Tannum Sands Seagulls, Gladstone United, Ipswich/Purga Wagtails and Yarrabah United.

Project Manager for Central



Earlier this year the Skipjacks brought home the prestigious Bill Coolburra Shield from Townsville

Queensland Indigenous Development Walson Carlos said last year two Palm teams competed and he was still hopeful the Barracudas

would also make the journey. The *Palm Island Voice* will be in Rockhampton to cover the carnival.

Words & Pic Alf Wilson

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Thursday 21 January 2010

Thursday 4 February 2010

PUBLICATION DATE

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AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Tuesday 26 January 2010

Tuesday 9 February 2010