



Vale Cr Mick Thaiday

**Palm Island
Aboriginal Shire
Council Mayor
Alf Lacey is much
saddened to
have to relay the
passing of one
of our great Island
heroes, Councillor
Mick Thaiday.**

"Myself and all of our Councillors would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all of his family and to everyone who knew him," Mr Lacey said. "I'd like to acknowledge his enormous contribution to our community life here on the Island, particularly with his karaoke, and to broadcast media and 4K1G in particular, all around the country. "He will be greatly missed by all of us."

**Cr Thaiday's
funeral service
will be held in
Townsville on
Wednesday 31st
March.**

Shire storm-ready as cyclone loomed close



AS people across North Queensland braced themselves for Cyclone Ului over the weekend, Palm Islanders had the safe UMBRELLA of the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) ready to swing into action.

Group meetings were held on March 18, 19 and 20 as authorities looked at all possibilities which could emerge if the cyclone hit Palm.

Even if it didn't, the group considered effects that associated strong winds and heavy rain could have on the community.

It is now history that Ului hit the coast around Airlie Beach just after 1am on March 21 with winds of 202km per hour recorded at Hamilton Island.

Palm Island and nearby Townsville hardly suffered from the cyclone other than windy conditions and some rain.

But it is comforting to know that Palm Islanders can be assured that local authorities will be looking after them in the event of future cyclones, which can come at any time.

A meeting held on Friday 19 March in the offices of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council at 10am was attended by the *Palm Island Voice*.

Outside the normally busy mall area was almost empty as it rained, apart from a few people who braved the conditions to buy food from the store.

It was chaired by Palm Island Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley and attended by representatives of local police, ambulance, retail store, SES, schools, aged care, hospital, Ergon Energy and, Ferdy's Haven Rehabilitation Centre.

The 18 people at the meeting also had a phone link up with Wayne Preedy of Emergency Services Queensland organised by PIAC's Andrea Kyle-Sailor.

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Cyclone-ready

LDMG representatives discussed possible evacuation of people living in low lying areas and other co-ordinated measures.

At that stage a Cyclone Watch was in place and one concern was that people would panic buy at the Palm Island Retail Store if that was upgraded to a Cyclone Warning.

Management agreed that the store could open for an extra hour if required and advised that a week's supplies of food were in stock even if the barge was cancelled.

Sunferries ran services on Thursday March 18 and Friday 19 but a staff member advised

passengers on the latter that the Sunday service may be cancelled depending on the cyclone movement.

As it turned out the 9am Sunferry to Palm Island went ahead as scheduled.

Palm Island Voice spoke to a number of Islanders in the lead-up to the weekend.

Barry Rosser works part time for the retail store and was cleaning up anything that could be blown as Islanders prepared for strong winds.

"This is the time of year cyclones are around and we have to prepare," he said.

Resident Tom Tyson, walking to work, said he was very worried about the winds.

"I have lived here for many years and one cyclone which hit here resulted in all the trees on nearby Mt Bentley being flattened," Mr Tyson said.

Former Mayor Erykah Kyle (pictured left) said she lived in a corrugated iron building at Butler Bay, one of the areas



winds would hit.

"I have grown up with cyclones and pray it doesn't hit here. What else can I do, she said.

Josephine Dosetto, aged 57, has lived on Palm island most of her life and "was scared stiff" of the cyclone.

Stewart Rosser (pictured above) was with his dog and said he didn't dare go fishing on the Palm Island jetty.

"To be safe I think I will not go fishing today," he said.

Cerita Peter, her daughter Keona Peter, aged 4, and Gertie Richardson were going to the supermarket and were the only ones in the mall area where normally scores of people would gather on a Friday. "We all live in the Farm Area and if the winds come we may be blown away," Cerita said.



Palm Island Voice

Seeing things around the community you think should be in the *Palm Island Voice*?

Heard about something you want to read more about in your newsletter?

Think you might have a knack for talking to people and taking pictures yourself?

So why don't you tell us about it??!! It's easy, all you have to do is have a yarn to Christine Howes or Alf Wilson to find out how you can contribute to your community voice on Palm Island.

See our contact details on the back page and give us a yell soon for more information.

PI apprentices making the grade for QBuild

EIGHT apprentice tradesmen started their new jobs on Palm Island for and will have exciting career prospects.

Pictured above, they are Germaine Bulsey, Robert James, Ebenese Oui (carpentry), Ingai Geia (plumbing), Darryl Pearson, Todd Pearson (painting), and Michael Wotton and Selwyn Seaton (construction worker).

A presentation was held at QBuild Depot on March 19 at which former rugby league great Steve Renouf spoke to the apprentices about the importance of having a successful career.

State Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone congratulated the eight eager future tradies from Palm Island on starting apprenticeships.

Ms Johnstone said young people on Palm Island often struggled to find meaningful employment and the jobs for eight new apprentices were extremely welcome.

"Starting today these future tradespeople begin careers with QBuild that will result in them gaining qualifications that are in demand, not only on Palm Island but throughout Queensland," she said.

"A QBuild apprenticeship is highly regarded



Todd Pearson, Darryl Pearson, Ebenese Oui, Germaine Bulsey, Ingai Geia, Robert James & Selwyn Seaton, with Michael Wotton in front.

in the industry and these future tradies should be proud they have been offered an apprenticeship and now they have a great opportunity to

learn the vital skills to build their career in the building and construction industry."

Minister for Public Works Robert Swarten said QBuild was one of the largest employers of construction and engineering industry apprentices in Queensland and received more than 4,300 applications for this year's apprentice intake.

QBuild provides uniforms, footwear, protective equipment and tools of trade as required.



The ferry trip from Townsville's Ross Creek to Palm Island takes between 90 minutes and two hours depending on the weather. It's a time when many locals catch up for a yarn, including these five very friendly gents who were keen to have their picture taken!

PI teens join peers in Ingham learning about life

Six Palm Island teenagers were taught a series of valuable life lessons at a three-day Youth Forum in Ingham earlier this month.

Joined by nearly 100 teens from Townsville, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Cardwell, Tully and Ingham, the Palm Island group was involved in seven educational workshops related to health and wellbeing, art, the environment and music.

The Palm Island Community Company (PICC) funded the weekend getaway for teens Malachi Bligh, Thomas Massey, Winston Robertson, Yolanda Kerr, Tania Prior and Jennifer Burns.

In a highlight of the weekend, participants were able to obtain their CPR Certificates in a program called Save-A-Mate, which was part of a drug and alcohol overdose program.

Workshops also covered car maintenance and mechanics, self defence, healthy eating plans, healthy living habits, a beat box workshop and battle of the bands, art therapy and a visit

to Ingham's Tyto Wetlands. PICC general manager Rachel Atkinson said the teens would bring their new experiences home to share with family and friends. "This program was a wonderful opportunity for those six Palm Island teens to mix with other regional youth while getting hands-on experience through the range of workshops provided," Ms Atkinson said. "We were very keen to help fund and support the initiative and we believe those that attended got a lot out of the three day experience."

Ms Atkinson said the Youth Forum was just one of many initiatives that PICC would provide or support for the young people of Palm Island. In a partnership with PCYC, PICC is setting up a Youth Council which aims to give the next generation a voice to tackle important community issues.

The program will allow the island's future leaders to make decisions and provide ideas in relation to the community's youth services, activities, facilities and its future.

The council, made up of adolescents under the age of 18, will also be educated on political systems to ensure a greater connection between the island's youth and community leaders throughout Australia.

The Youth Council is expected to participate in a Youth Parliament which is scheduled to meet on Palm Island during NAIDOC Week in July.

All Palm Island residents under the age of 18 are encouraged to enrol in the Youth Council by contacting PICC on 4770 1710 or visiting the office on Reid Lane (old kindy building).

Local MP supports youth, emergency & art

Funding for the Palm Island Youth Development project should ensure activities will continue until the end of this year.

During 2009 the program ran more than 16 programs including a broadcasting radio station, the Adopt-A-Cop volunteer program, a graffiti program and the Suburb Sports program. Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone said it particularly helped people who had brushed with the law.

Earlier this month Ms Johnstone, in conjunction with Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts announced \$3.8 million in funding towards the Jacob Baira Joint Emergency Service Centre.

Mr Roberts said the new centre would

accommodate officers from the Queensland Ambulance Service, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service.

Ms Johnstone said emergency services staff and volunteers carried out important work in the community every single day.

And finally, last week Ms Johnstone visited St Michael's School to present certificates and prizes to students who entered the Health Homes School Art Competition.

"As winners of second prize in the overall schools category, St Michael's School has received a prize-pack valued at \$1000," Ms Johnstone said.

She also announced former student Anita Nuggins as the individual winner of the year four to year seven category.

Senior campus celebrates new building/classrooms

Last week the Palm Island Senior Campus was officially opened by Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone, representing Minister for Education Geoff Wilson.

Mr Wilson said the new campus was a \$2.1 million investment in the school, the community and the future generations on Palm Island.

"The recent construction of the new administration and classroom blocks also created 16 jobs for the community," Mr Wilson said.

"Established in 2007 on a temporary site, the senior campus has already celebrated some major achievements.

"Last year, six of the seven Year 12 students received two or more TAFE qualified certificates, while four of these students received four certificates.

"At present, students can complete TAFE certificates in conservation and land management, business, hospitality and tourism and this list keeps growing.

"This year has seen Year 10 students start studying at the campus, taking the enrolment to 70 students.



"This significant increase in the student population reflects the support the school is receiving from the community."

Josephine Geia (Aunty Pena) also addressed the gathering and spoke about the importance of Education.

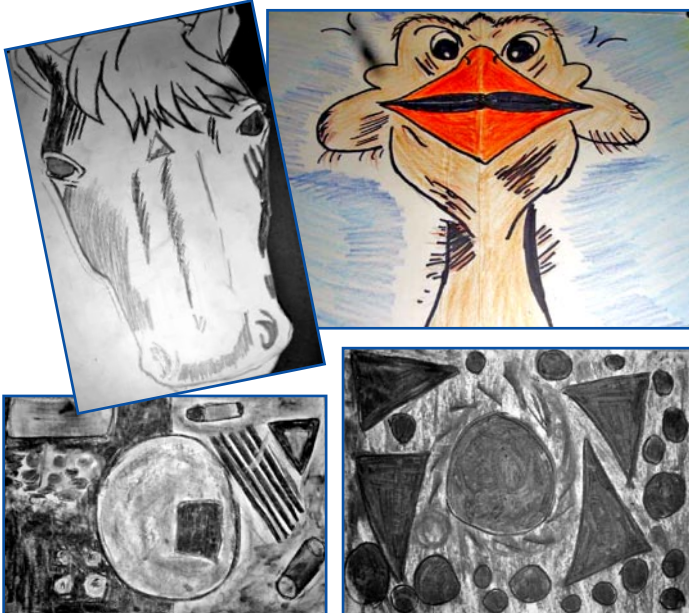
Those in attendance enjoyed a hula performance.

Regional Director-Townsville District Mike Ludwig and Executive Director-School Improvement Peter Krugal represented Education Queensland at the opening.

John Livingston and Meredith Wenta from the Main Campus of Kirwan State High School were present were also there.

The Senior Campus would like to thank Coolgaree Café Catering, PCYC and Bwgc Colman Community School for their assistance with the day.

A special thank you to Case Workers, Lindsay Malone and Iaga Viri for all their efforts and making the day run smoothly.



Above: Artwork from years 10, 11 & 12. Year 10 is learning about the historical development of art and has been researching artists like Picasso and Dali. Both Year 11 and Year 12 classes have been doing Animation. Look out for them, as we might have a public screening of them in the community once completed.

The Senior Campus will hold a Solutions Focussed workshop on Tuesday the 30th of March, as a follow on from the workshop held on the 8th of October 2009.

It is hoped that at this workshop participants can work together to find solutions to enable the majority of students to attend and participate in the Senior Phase of Learning at the Senior Campus. All parents, students, staff and interested community members and organisations are invited to attend.

The workshop will be chaired by Eileen Heywood and held at the PCYC from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Food and beverages will be supplied. More information to follow.



Pictured this page:

Above: Elizabeth Clay and Tracey Twaddle.

Right top: Sam Watson and Gracelyn Smallwood in discussion with Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey.

Right below: Mulrunji's eldest living sister, Victoria Dommadgee, left, at the Inquest with Jennifer Starlight.

Below: Mulrunji's sister, Jane Doomadgee, with on one of his nephews, Stephen Martin, from Palm Island outside the Townsville Court.



Facing page:

Top: Mulrunji's sister Elizabeth Doomadgee walking into the Inquest.
Bottom: Palm Island PLO Lloyd Bengaroo at the Inquest



Community support strong for Doomadgee family

Townsville Courtroom was packed from March 10 to 12 for the third Inquest into the 2004 death in police custody of Mulrunji.

Many were from Palm Island as relatives, friends and supporters of the Doomadgee family.

Included were Mulrunji's sisters from Palm Island – Victoria Doomadgee, Elizabeth Doomadgee and Valmai Aplin, along with Jane Doomadgee, who came from her home of Burketown.

Mulrunji's long time partner Tracey Twaddle was also there, as was Agnes Wotton, the mother of Lex Wotton.

Earlier during that same week the Inquest held sittings on Palm Island in a makeshift courtroom at the PCYC.

Snr Sgt Chris Hurley gave evidence in Townsville which included an apology.

"I have always wanted to say to Tracey (Twaddle) and the family that I offer my sympathy for Mulrunji's death," he said.

"I'm sorry for the angst that they have had to suffer over the past number of years."

His apology was rejected by the family.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey traveled to Townsville for the Inquest as did Brisbane-based activist Sam Watson.

Also there was respected community leader Gracelyn Smallwood.

Both Mr Lacey and Ms Smallwood said they felt local, statewide and national media reports on the Inquest had resulted in the State police involved being seen in a negative light.

Whilst the Inquest officially ended on March 12, Coroner Brian Hine has called for written submissions to be lodged with the Court by April 1.

His findings will be handed down on a date to be fixed.



Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Advertising Information & Rates

Display Advertisements

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

Full Page \$440
Half Page \$231
Quarter Page \$121
Eighth Page \$66
Sixteenth Page \$44

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(payable in advance)

Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE
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Marriages, Birthdays – FREE
Sale Price over \$1000
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**Ads are to be submitted by no later
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Part-time (minimum 2 days per week)

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Several positions

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Job Reference: 10473942

Contact: Mirela Krako – 0448 198 894 mirela.krako@centrelink.gov.au

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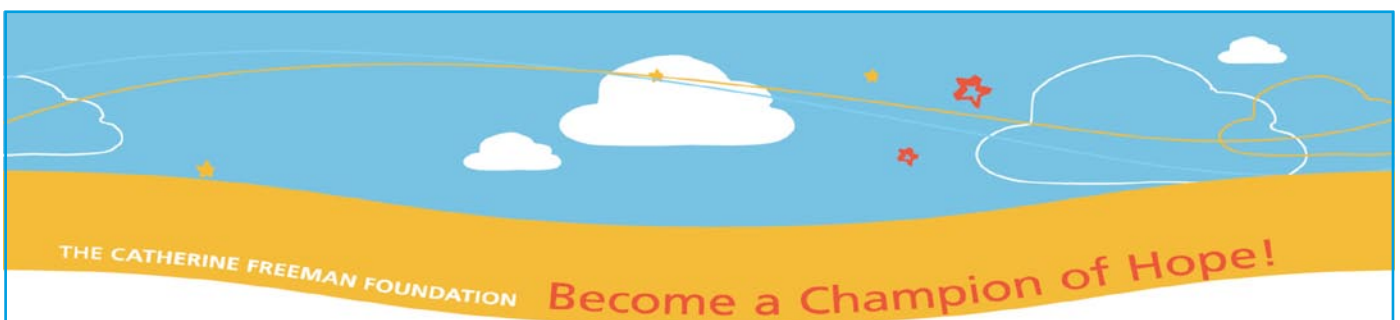
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* Salary may be negotiated based on skills, experience and knowledge.

adcorp22837

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Catherine Freeman will be back on Palm Island from Monday 29th to Tuesday 30th March.



The
Catherine Freeman
Foundation

- The inaugural combined school Catherine Freeman Foundation Book Awards will be held at the Senior Phase of Learning Campus, 11.30 on Monday the 29th March.
- The CFF Junior Girls Netball Summer Round Awards and BBQ will be held at the PCYC Monday the 29th at 6pm, all players, supporters and family welcome to attend.
- CFF Community Consultation Group meeting 12noon - 1pm with light lunch at the PCYC Tuesday the 30th March, all community members welcome to attend.

For more information contact Jodie Ryan.



Day & Day Shipping to Increase Services to Palm Island

Day & Day Shipping are increasing our barge services from Lucinda to Palm Island to 6 Days per week Monday through to Saturday effective immediately. Our service schedule is as follows:

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 am
Arrive Lucinda:	3:00 pm

Friday

Depart Lucinda:	8:00 am
Arrive Palm Is:	10:45 am
Depart Palm Is:	12:00 am
Arrive Lucinda:	2:30 pm

Saturday

Depart Lucinda:	7:00 am
Arrive Palm Is:	9:45 am
Depart Palm Is:	11:00 am
Arrive Lucinda:	1:30 pm

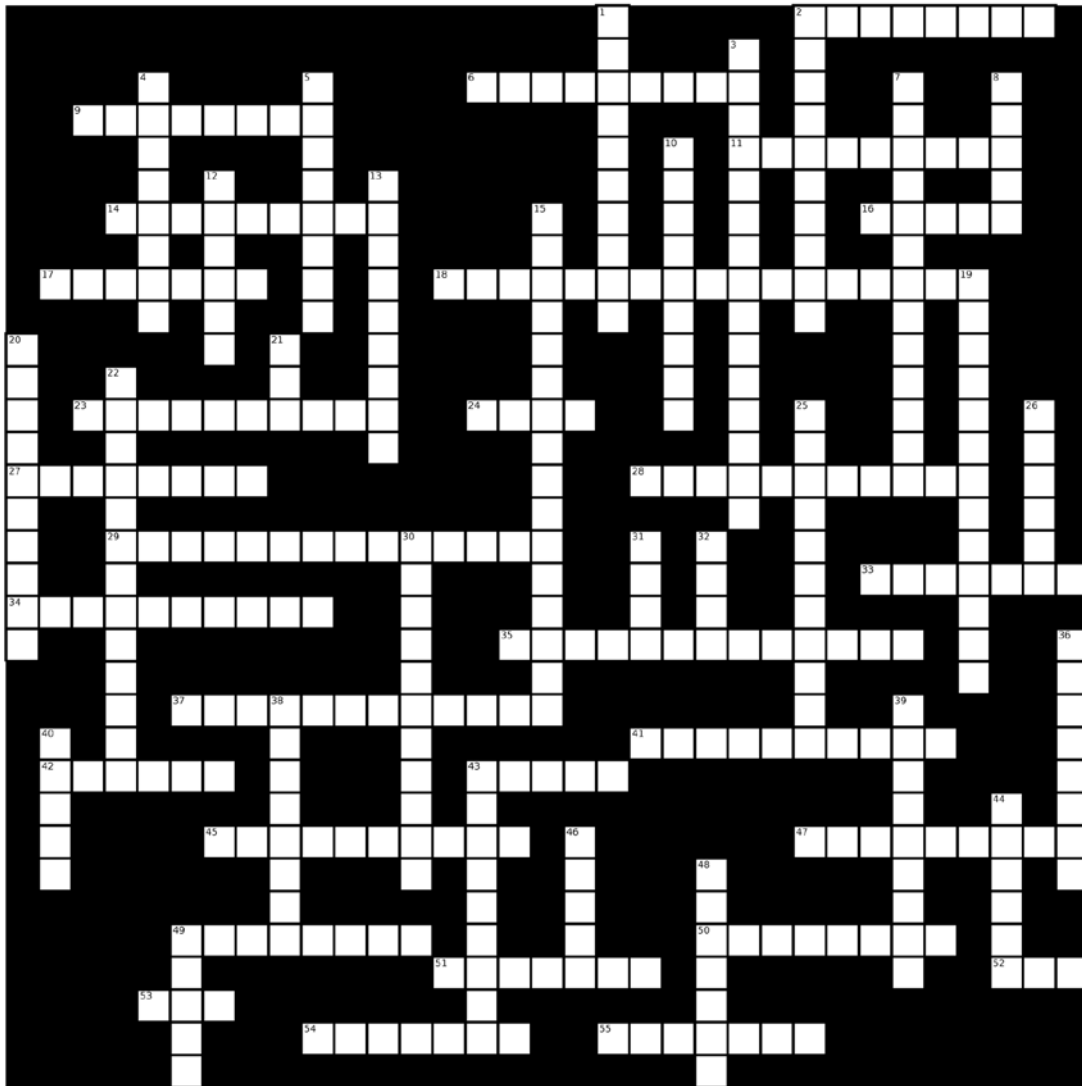
Our new Warehouse in Townsville situated at **21B Keane Street, Currajong** is now operational and freight can be delivered to our warehouse between the hours of **9:00am to 2:00pm Monday to Friday**.

All freight received at our Townsville warehouse will be road freighted to Lucinda and shipped to Palm Island the following day. This service will provide the community and businesses on Palm Island with a six day per week next day freight delivery service from Townsville to Palm Island.

Should anyone have questions or wish to discuss their freight requirements please contact our friendly staff on 4776 5055.

Palm Island Voice Crossword 51

Thanks again to David Goeldner & the puzzle makers
@ <http://www.armoredpenguin.com>



Across

2. Australia day also referred to as _____ day
6. ATSI social justice commissioner coming to Palm Island soon (2 words)
9. The lunar phase at Easter (2 words)
11. Palm Island school name
14. Beams TV to remote communities
16. May 26 each year is _____ Day
17. Catherine _____ Foundation
18. Indigenous All Stars skipper (2 words)
23. Noodle made of rice – often cooked with chicken
24. Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network
27. Local PI family big with bull riding
28. This Queensland politician opened the new retail store (2 words)
29. Mosquito-borne disease named after a river (3 words)
33. Called before a court to give evidence
34. 4K1G morning radio host (2 words)
35. Often blamed for Christ's crucifixion (2 words)
37. Type of bread eaten on Good Friday (3 words)
41. Christ died on this day (2 words)
42. Religious holiday season
43. Flat-bottomed boat
45. Located 18 degrees south and 146 degrees east (2 words)
47. Old style WW1 single engine bi-plane (2 words)
49. Body of water to the east of Palm Island (2 words)
50. Christian symbol
51. Stinging insect and name of a fierce rugby league team
52. Another name for satellite navigation (initials)
53. Centre of the aboriginal flag represents this
54. Represents the blood of Christ (2 words)
55. Wharf in Cairns

Down

1. Presides over a court hearing
2. The _____ All Stars won first match at Skilled Park
3. Type of Palm Tree, sounds like a vegetable (3 words)
4. Palm Island mayor (2 words)
5. Church founded in England
7. Local league legend related to Bronco's Sam (2 words)
8. Older female member of the family
10. Another name for Holy Communion/Last Supper
12. Palm Island _____ Store
13. Large water storage
15. This League team new to the PI footy comp (3 words)
19. First indigenous member of Australian parliament (2 words)
20. North Queensland's largest city
21. Car with a flat tray at the back
22. Australian historian from JCU, author of 'Why weren't we told' (2 words)
25. Health service on Palm Island (2 words)
26. Population count held in 2011
30. Hotly contested NQ regional league comp (2 words)
31. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
32. Nickname of Queensland Rugby Union Team
36. Another name for Dolphin Fish (2 words)
38. Flying boat based at Palm Island in WW2
39. Well-known Palm Island boxing trainer (2 words)
40. TV, Radio and Newspapers are all part of this
43. United Nations Secretary General (2 words)
44. This sport packs a punch on Palm Island
46. Your own newspaper, Palm Island _____
48. Severe weather formation often at Easter time
49. Where cases are heard

2010 PI Rugby League comp ready to start 17 April

Palm Island's Rugby League competition, due to commence on March 27, has been put back to start on April 17 to enable all the teams' insurance to be finalised.

Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea said some clubs were also waiting on jerseys. "So we decided to start it on April 17 and it will be a great season," he said.

Seven clubs are due to battle it out over the year including new teams Hornets and Mundy Bay Warriors who will be up against reigning premiers Butler Bay Bulls, runners up Skipjacks, and the already established Jets, Raiders and Brothers.

This week the Palm Island Voice looks at the chances of last year's beaten grand finalist Skipjacks who have signed star back Raoul Miller.

'Blacky' Miller (*pictured right*) has the ability to break the line and offload one handed passes to running team mates in the same mould as former Queensland State of Origin and Brisbane Broncos star Gene Miles.



"I think that we and Jets will be the team to beat this season," said Miller, who played with Jets last year. Blockbusting Skipjacks forward Fred Bulsey said that the club would be all the stronger with Miller lurking in the backline.

"It is like me the veteran and Raoul as the new lad who will help us," 30-year-old Bulsey said.

Over our next few issues the Palm Island Voice will preview the chances of all our rugby clubs.

Clubs score from league legend

Former Brisbane Broncos, Queensland State of Origin, and Australian Test rugby league great Steve Renouf visited Palm Island on Thursday last week to present sporting equipment to the local boxing club and PI Rugby League.

Mr Renouf handed over boxing gloves and protective head gear to Palm Island Boxing Club trainer Ray Dennis at a ceremony at the QBuild Depot.

Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea was also given some head gear by Mr Renouf.

"This is my second visit to Palm Island and last time I told Ray Dennis that I would try and get some gear for the boxing club," he said.

"Brian Carmody of Madison Sport in Brisbane used to sponsor my head gear when I played and he was happy to donate this equipment for such a good cause."

Mr Dennis was delighted with the gear which he said was the most modern around and would help the 50 plus Palm Island boys, girls and youths he trains.

"There was heaps of gear and would be at least \$1200 worth," he said.

"This will last for years and I am so delighted that a man who is a rugby league legend like Steve Renouf would arrange this."

Mr Dennis also wanted to thank the Palm Island Community Company who played a major part in getting Mr Renouf to the island.

"They asked me a while ago for a wish list and this was one of the things I asked for," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Renouf was born on June 8th at Murgon in Queensland and is regarded as one of the best centres in the history of the game.



Renouf (left) with boxing club trainer Ray Dennis

Assistant trainer Chris Gundy has proven to be a major asset for the Palm Island Boxing Club.

The 25-year-old Mr Gundy has been helping long time trainer Ray Dennis for three months and is well-qualified, having fought more than 100 amateur boxing bouts himself.

"Chris has been wonderful and shows the boxers lots of different things," Mr Dennis said.

Cherbourg born Mr Gundy said he loved helping out because it enabled him to fine tune his own skills for a comeback to the ring.

"There are some very talented boxers here and some have the ability to go a long way," he said.

Late last week Mr Gundy was sparring with one of the club's genuine rising stars, Reggie Palm Island.

"I am learning from Chris and Ray all the time," Reggie said. More than 50 youngsters were training that afternoon, including a rising number of female boxers.



PI LEAGUE SEASON TO START IN APRIL - SEE P11 FOR DETAILS

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

Palm Island Voice

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Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson
and to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed
to this issue of the Palm Island Voice.

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Contact the Editor (left) or see Council Reception
for more information