

Issue 52
Tuesday 6 April 2010

**Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Palm Island's Easter wedding



A bit of 'scrub bashing' poetry

Bistro two inspections away from opening

A FINAL building inspection of the Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar and Bistro on Thursday this week should ensure the 'new' venue opens soon.

There has not been a licensed bar on Palm Island since December 2008.

Licenseses Shane Stratton and former Palm Island Deputy Mayor Zac Sam (*pictured*) have put a huge amount of work into renovations with the completion of electrical wiring over the past month or so.

"The building inspection is on Thursday and after that the final fire inspection will take place," Mr Stratton said.

He said he was confident that both inspections would meet



the required standards.

After that it was expected the Liquor and Licensing Commission would approve the opening.

The bar has been renovated inside and has an area out the back with umbrellas for smokers.

When it opens the bar will be a place where families can go and enjoy a meal in pleasant surroundings.

It will be subject to strict alcohol enforcement laws which already apply to Palm Island.



Be Aware! Almost constant rain over Easter has left water, water everywhere - take care on our roads until road crews can get out and about to fix potholes, etc.





Afternoon sports programs at the Palm Island PCYC are proving popular with youngsters.

Jodie Ryan (*pictured in purple*) is the Palm Island facilitator for the Cathy Freeman Foundation and also helps out with the programs. The *Palm Island Voice* saw more than 50 enthusiastic girls taking part in indoor volleyball early last month. "We run seven days a week and it is after school on week days," Jodie said. The variety of sports include indoor netball, soccer, cricket, touch, basketball, as well as volleyball. "The participants really enjoy it," she said.



On a lesser note...

ANGRY Palm Island resident Stephanie Boyd says youths - most likely older than those pictured above - are targeting the building at the end of the jetty for acts of vandalism.

Ms Boyd works as a ferry ticket officer and arrived at work on Easter Monday to find the glass window on the female toilet smashed.

"I am sick of this, you only have to look at the graffiti on the outside of the building here to see they are doing this all the time," she said.

Ms Boyd has called on authorities to take some action to address the problem.

In other news, Palm people without a return ticket to Townsville now have to purchase at the building ticket office. Tickets are now checked by Sunferries staff before they board the vessel and can only be purchased from the Palm ticket office.

Butchering to suit a good sense of humour

Russell Parker and Lee Chandler are two mature aged apprentices working at the Palm Island butcher shop owned by Robert Hopkins.



Mr Parker, 43, and Mr Chandler, 33, both love their jobs at the shop, which is located behind the Retail Store.

"I used to be a labourer and it was hot out in the sun so in the heatwave last week I was feeling how lucky I am to work in air-conditioning now," first year apprentice Mr Parker said.

Both said they love meeting and seeing Palm Islanders in their work.

"I employ Palm Islanders and have had the butcher shop for 14 years," Mr Hopkins said.

The shop sells meat at competitive prices – full cattle bodies are purchased from Airlie Beach and cut up at the shop.

"Cutting up gives the lads all of the training," he said.

There is also plenty of humour around the shop with some of that centering around the

eight boxes of kangaroo tails which were sold of late.

Mr Hopkins reckoned the roo tails were so popular with residents that they virtually HOPPED out

the door.

Then there was the "who put the roo in the stew jokes" which were also common when the roo was on sale.

Mr Chandler, a second year apprentice, also saw a crocodile beside a popular Palm Island beach recently.

When asked if he intended selling crocodile meat in the near future Mr Hopkins joked, "not unless I catch one."

PICC looks to fill new community director board position

A new opportunity for Palm Island residents to play a leading hand in the future delivery of social, economic and community services has opened with the Palm Island Community Company (PICC).

PICC is seeking nominations from individuals who are part of the Palm Island community for a position as a director on their board.

It's the first time a director's position has been offered to the public and comes after the company voted to amend some aspects of its Constitution and Shareholder's Agreement.

PICC, which has offices and staff on Palm Island and Townsville, is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for providing key services and capacity building across a range of activities for individuals, families and organisations.

PICC Chair Jim Petrich (*pictured above*) encouraged anyone interested in the future of the community to apply for the

important role.

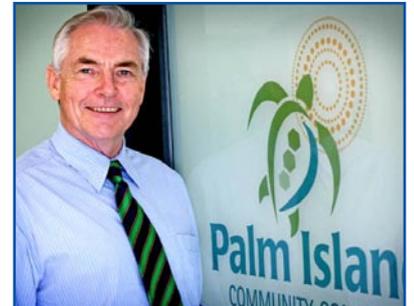
"This is an exciting opportunity for a Palm Island

resident to become involved in an organisation that delivers a range of essential services for the wider Island community," Mr Petrich said.

"Our decision to include a local resident on the board will give the community another strong voice between the people of Palm Island and government authorities.

"The successful nominee will receive sitting fees and appropriate training in order to undertake their duties as a director and meet their requirement under the Corporations Act, Company Constitution and the Shareholders Agreement."

To request an information package including full criteria, please email Company Secretary Mike Gilmour on MGilmour@picc.com.au or phone on 0416 185 153.



Vale Cr Mick Thaiday

HIGHLY respected Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Councillor Uncle Mick Thaiday passed away in late March and his funeral on March 31 in Townsville was attended by people from all over the country.

Mick was elected as a Palm Island Councillor on 15 March 2008, and throughout his life assisted and touched the lives of many.

He was the pioneer of the Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Media Association which runs 4K1G FM, one of Australia's largest Indigenous regional radio network.

"His contribution to the development of Aboriginal and Islander radio around country is significant," said Townsville community leader Florence Onus.

Michael Edward Thaiday was born at his beloved Palm Island on November 23rd 1952 and was the ninth child of Willie and Madge Thaiday.

The Thaidays' lived in the upper area of Palm Valley where dad Willie Thaiday had a small selection growing bananas, sweet potato, taro, yam, cassava, peanuts and chickens to help supplement the Government rations given to families at that time.

In 1957 Micky and his family were extradited from Palm Island to Woorabinda in response to dad Willie Thaiday and six other men standing up for human rights and values on the island – The Strike.

By the late seventies Micky meet and married Irene Anderson on Palm Island.

The eighties saw Micky join with big brother Bill, in Aboriginal Radio.



Criss crossing the country teaching and training other indigenous people what they had learnt, thus contributing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

One of the biggest things most people knew about Micky was his passion for singing.

Back in the eighties he won Best Indigenous male singer at the annual "Tamworth Country Music Festival, something that he achieved deservedly.

Micky sang at many venues, weddings and so on, so many functions always wanted him to sing. When he performed at these venues, he did them well.

He was a big man with a big heart, big smile and laugh and a beautiful singing voice.

Boojarn, as he was also known, loved his family, his brothers and his sisters, cousins, nephews and nieces and grandchildren.

Mostly his loving wife Irene along with his children Glenda, Melis, Mike, David, John, Chris, Milton and Derek.

With his wife and children, Boojarn's life was complete.

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.

A job well-done for everyone



Darnley Islander Joe Reuben had one of the most important jobs on the Island during the week before Cyclone Ului bore down on the North Queensland coastline.

For the past 30 months, Mr Reuben has been a gardener employed by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

"I had to clear everything that could be blown if the cyclone hit here and even if it didn't we had advice that strong winds associated with it would be here," Mr Reuben said.

Mr Reuben had worked at the local Bwngcolman State School for 23 years before starting with the Council.

"I last visited Darnley in 1999 but hope to get there later in the year," he said.

TSI people number about 100 on Palm island of a total population of 3500.

"We have TSI people on Palm from the Oui, Baira, Kabay, Gisu, Sam, Musu, Tamwoy, Reuben, Mosby, Asai and Nona families all with descendants from up home," he said.

The quietly spoken Mr Reuben said TSI residents liked to go fishing on Palm and many found it similar to their homeland because of the sea, beaches and nearby reefs.

"We catch mackerel, many coral trout, cod and trevelly and other species," he said.

"I keep in contact with relatives on Darnley, Badu, TI, and other TSI islands and others as far away as Perth and the Northern Territory," he said.

Whilst cyclones are definitely not welcome on Palm Island, rainbows associated with rain certainly are and on one occasion the *Palm Island Voice* was lucky enough to photograph Mr Reuben when one was over the mall.

The image above appeared on the weather section of NITV news.

Six lucky youngsters put on trust to fish

A GOOD Samaritan who owns a small timber dinghy has given a group of local youngsters permission to use his vessel for close to shore fishing.

The man works on Palm and over the Easter long weekend found his boat was missing from where it was anchored

just near the jetty.

"Three hours later I saw about six youngsters in the boat about 440m away at low tide and they started to run away," he said.

The man said he spoke to several who told him they loved fishing and thought they had a better chance of catching

some out from shore.

"So I gave them permission to use it whenever they want and they were happy," he said.

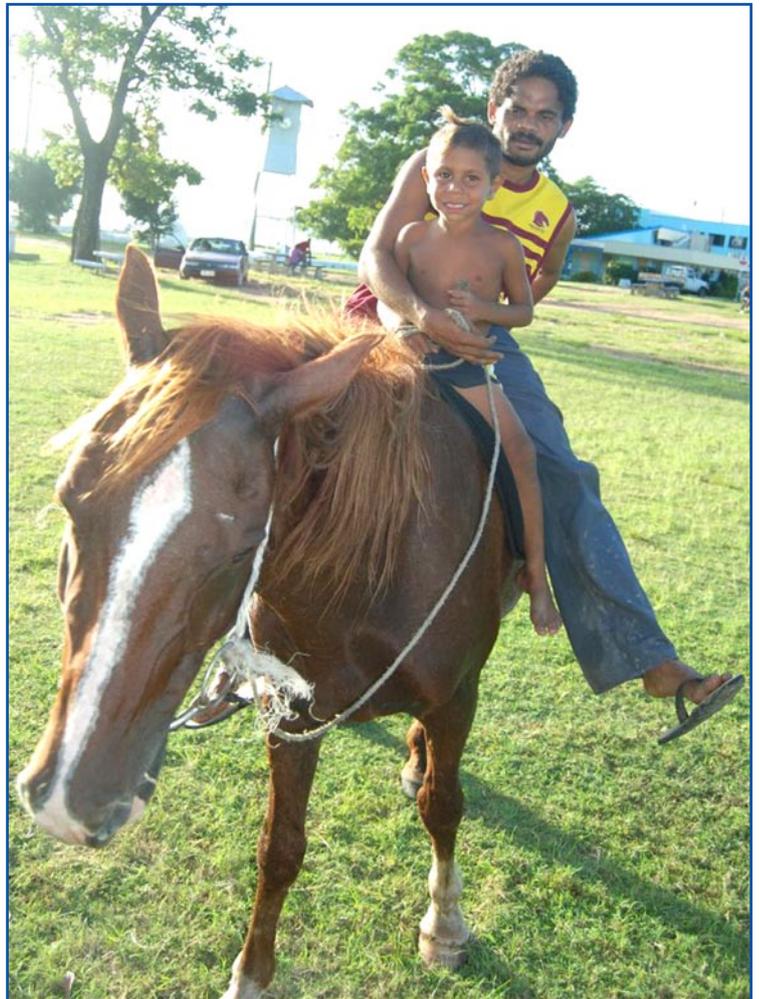
The man said recently unknown people has stolen the anchor rope and he had to paddle out in a canoe to near Fantome Island to recover it.

OUT & ABOUT!

Broken-in and formerly wild brumbies are a popular mode of transport on Palm Island and 24-year-old Owen Robinson loves his own horse named Nomad (right).

Owen and his three-year-old nephew were spotted riding along the park across from the mall area late last week.

"We like getting around Palm on Nomad and it doesn't cost any money for petrol," Owen said.



Eight-year-olds Lattrell James (pictured left in front) and Jawan Kerr were amongst about 20 men, women and children fishing from the Reel Women Jetty on Easter Monday.

The majority were boys and girls and several were using six-pronged spears to get small herring for bait. Some were also jag hooking herring to use as live bait in the deeper water out from the jetty. A shy young girl nearby landed a barracuda but didn't want her picture snapped.

But Lattrell and Jawan were delighted to hold it up for the camera.

"Over Easter we have been getting some good grunter, bream, barracuda, mangrove jack and salmon," Jawan said.

Another angler said that some legal sized Barramundi had also been caught there.



Quietly-spoken Tim Asai (right) is a labourer for the CDEP and says it has been seven years since he was back home on Yorke Island in the Torres Strait.

His trademark is his cap which proudly shows the TSI flag.

The *Palm Island Voice* caught Tim at the opening of the upgraded Palm Island Retail Store, which he reckons rates well.

Tim was a contestant at the last Palm Island rodeo and says he will be lining up again this year.



Easter love shines for happy couple

Palm Island showed it can put on a wedding to equal anywhere in Australia last weekend, with the Easter Sunday marriage of Krishna Hughes and Frederick Bulsey.

Mr Bulsey also celebrated his 30th birthday on the special day. More than 250 people packed into St Anthony's Catholic Church at about 5pm on Sunday for what has been described as the "Palm Community Event of 2010." Another 200 who couldn't fit inside the church stood outside and cheered when the lovely bride arrived more than fashionable hour late, due to a late flight.

Champion Palm Island footballer Frederick is the son of Fred and Tessa Bulsey and Krishna the daughter of Franklyn Hughes and the late Eunice Friday.

Best man was Clint Barry and the Maid of Honour Vera Hughes. Bridesmaids were Selena Hughes, Phyllis Bulsey, Jessica Hughes, Tiana Friday, Liana Cannon and Loretta Parker. Groomsmen were Jason Bulsey, Frank Hughes, David Bulsey, Gavin Sibley, Raoul Miller and Terence Sibley. Flower girl was Vinnievia Bulsey, and the page boy was Germaine Bulsey.

After exchanging vows in front of Father Mick Peters, Mr and Mrs Bulsey and their bridal party left the church in numerous vehicles to drive around Palm streets with drivers pumping the horns. Despite light rain, hundreds stood



on footpaths and on verandahs to cheer the newly weds. Palm Island deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley was MC for the night as people packed the hall, including along both sides on chairs and the cement steps.

Emotional speeches were made by many people including Frederick's mum and dad and Krishna's father. Young dancers mesmerized the guests before single ladies were invited onto the floor to

try and catch the bouquet of flowers thrown by Krishna.

Selena Hughes was successful and then Frederick tossed a ribbon to the single men and his friend Raoul Miller caught it. "I am getting married in September," Raoul said..

The cutting of the magnificent cake was a highlight and the night finished about 8.30pm. Wedding planner Deniece Geia said it was a celebration that Palm Islanders will remember for years to come.

FORMER alcoholic Aaron Richardson has turned his life around and will soon have a poetry book entitled "Poems and Rhymes" published by Black Ink Press.

Aaron is well known around Palm for being a word magician.

The highly talented poet has also won a NAIDOC award in 2009 from the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for his efforts towards cleaning up the Island as volunteer of the year.

"I was very happy with that and spent a lot of time cleaning up where those new Government buildings are now standing," he said.



Mr Richardson is an inspiration to others who have suffered hard times and said he had been an alcoholic until giving up the booze 18 years ago.

"I had been down as far as anybody could not imagine and I didn't know which was up," he said. "I really went to the pack when I was drinking and I prayed to God to give it up and he rescued me. I want others to know they can do it too."

Mr Richardson has had his poetry published in papers including the Koori Mail, and has recently handcrafted a didgeridoo.

He also penned this poem especially for *Palm Island Voice* readers:

SCRUB BASHERS

WHEN I was young and reckless,
And feeling pretty fit,
I had a Yamaha YZ250K,
And it went like a shower of s..t,
Up the hills and round the bends,
And through flooded creeks I'd go,
God I loved that bloody thing,
Only the good Lord knows,
I could pull it up in 3rd or 4th,
Gear or maybe more,
And when I flipped the funny thing,
God that made me so sore,
I'd have cuts and scratches and gravel rash,
From backside to breakfast time,
And that's why I'd pat the saddle,
Of this wicked beast of mine,
Before I'd rev it up and drop the clutch,
And spin the bloody wheels,
And give it a damn good thrashing,
To show it how it feels,
To be battered and beaten and broken and bent,
And generally in the s..ts,
Then I'd get home about night fall,
And work all night on it,
Under the light under the house,
And under its spell I'd be,
I'd pull it apart and put it together,
With love and affectionary,
Then I'd oil it up and grease it down,
And polish and spit and shine,
Dreaming of the next weekend,

When I'd hear that engine whine,
When me myself my mates and I,
We'd always go exploring,
New territories on our bikes,
It was never boring,
When the day came to pass,
That I knew so well,
With a tear drop in my eye,
I knew I'd have to sell it,
Cause I needed cash and had none,
And things were looking grim,
So I took it to the bike shop man,
And showed my beast to him,
And 300 bucks was all he'd give,
The dirty rotten sod,
I would have cracked up there and then,
But oh my bloody God (sorry),
What could I do?, What could I do?,
As my hands were bloody tied,
So I took the cash off the crook,
And I went home and cried,
But that was many years ago,
And things were different then,
But if I had my time over again,
No way I would sell my friend,
But sometimes in a distant roar,
When I hear somebody thrash her,
I stand up and I salute,
To the mighty scrub basher.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Palm Island Community Company

PICC Board Vacancy

The Annual General Meeting of the Palm Island Community Company unanimously voted to amend some aspects of the Company Constitution and Shareholder's Agreement.

The changes allow PICC to seek nominations from individuals who are members of the Palm Island community for a position as a director on the PICC Board.

The successful nominee will receive sitting fees and appropriate training in order to undertake their duties as a director and meet their requirement under the Corporations Act, Company Constitution and the Shareholder's Agreement.

To request an information package including full criteria, please email Company Secretary Mike Gilmour on MGilmour@picc.com.au or phone on **0416 185 153**.



Reid Lane (Old Kindy building)
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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 back
page for details).**

**PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!!**



NOTICE OF ELECTION PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION - OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR -

In accordance with the requirements of Section 274 of the Local Government Act 1993, I, John Mugambi, Returning Officer notify that a by-election for the Office of Councillor be held on the 22nd day of May 2010.

John Mugambi
Returning Officer.

1 April 2010



NOTICE TO PUBLIC RE: CLOSE OF VOTERS ROLE PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION 2010 VOTER ENROLMENT

**A by-election for the Office of Councillor will be held on:
22 May 2010**

In accordance with Section 274 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, I, John Mugambi, Returning Officer notify the voters roll for this election will close on **Tuesday 13th April 2010**.

Only voters registered with the Commonwealth/State Joint Electoral Roll by that date will be entitled to vote in the by-election.

Residents of Palm Island Aboriginal Shire who are not enrolled or who have changed residence in the recent past are advised to contact the Australian Electoral Commission or Electoral Commission of Queensland, to ensure that they are correctly enrolled by the closing date.

Enquires may be made as follows:

Australian Electoral Commission	132326 (Free Call)
Electoral Commission of Qld	1300 881 665
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	(07) 4770 1177

John Mugambi
Returning Officer

1 April 2010

Jets ready to fire

Star player Caleb Geia reckons his Jets side will be one of the powerhouse teams in the Palm Island domestic rugby league competition this year.

The season is due to start on April 17. Jets made the top four in 2009 but failed to reach the grand final which was won by Butler Bay Bulls over Skipjacks.

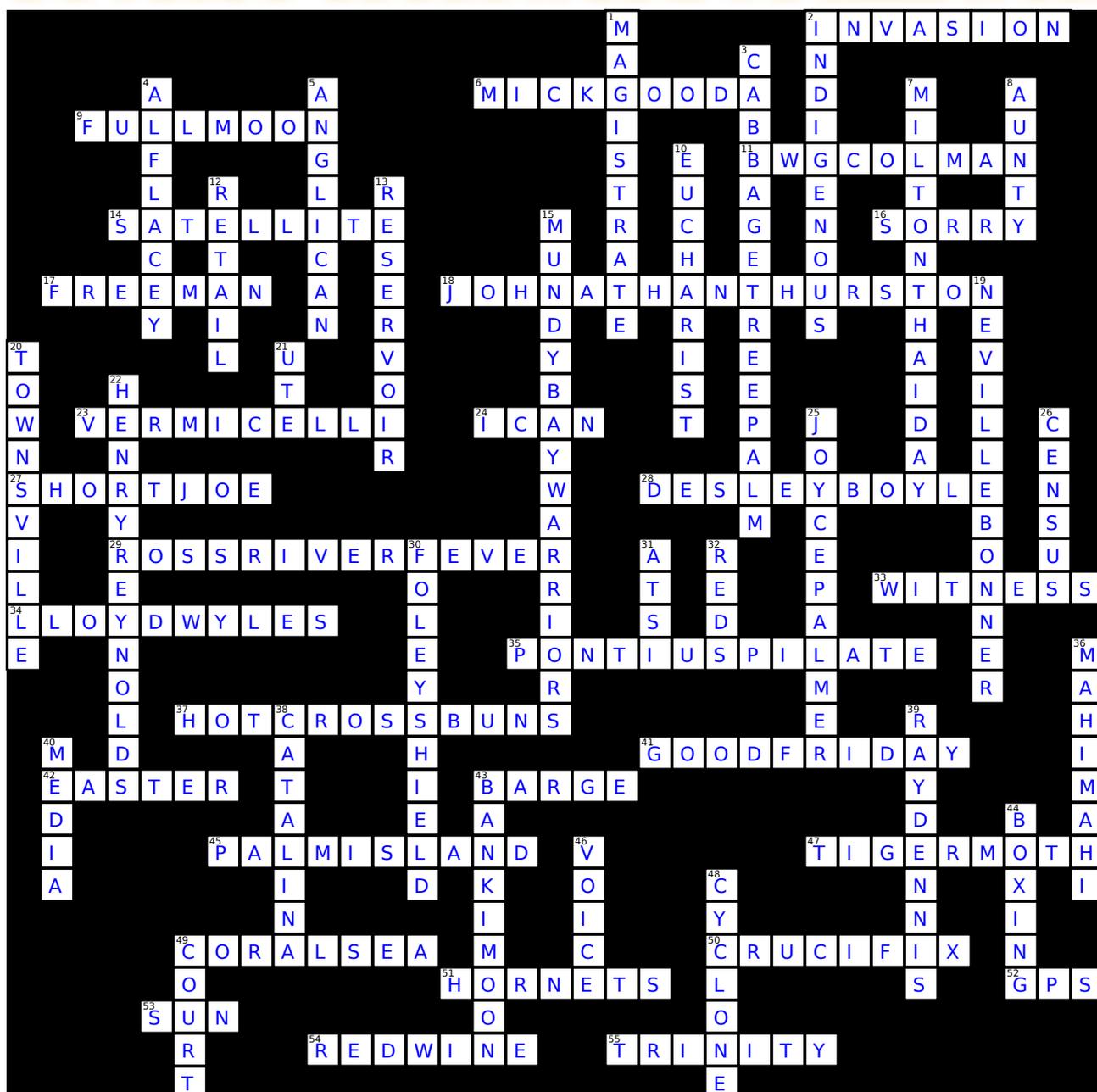
"We have Jason Thimble, and the Sam brothers Assan, Costa and Kareem, Alfie Clay junior, Jermaine Bulsey and others," Geia said.



Jets will be coached by Eddie Prior who has been putting his charges through a series of somewhat grueling training sessions.

About 30 enthusiastic players have been working hard and were looking sharp and fit already.

PI Voice Crossword 51 Answers



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

Boxers 'just missed' in Atherton comp says Dennis

Palm Island boxing trainer Ray Dennis says he was disappointed in some decisions made on bouts at a Sunstate Amateur League tournament in Atherton two weekends ago but the team is already looking forward to their next bout.

Mr Dennis said Patrick Clarke fought the main bout against Yungaburra boxer Raymond Cupitt at the Sunstate.

"Patrick gave away weight and age against the local champion and I am sure the crowd gave him little chance of winning," he said.

"But he gave as much as he received and at one stage had Raymond on the ropes.

"Although the decision went against Patrick, I am sure if the weights and age were the same he would have won, it was his best fight to date."

Mr Dennis said William Palm Island took

on four times Australian amateur champ Broughton Worth from Babinda over the same weekend.

"William was having just his third bout and gave away 7kg in weight and I thought he may have won but the decision went the other way," he said.

Lanky Timothy Nardoo was having only his second bout and fought Australian champion Gage Ireland from Mackay.

"Timothy was only narrowly beaten by a much more experienced opponent," he said.

Mr Dennis said he wouldn't be taking any boxers

to Cairns for the North Queensland Games starting this coming weekend.

However the team will be going to Rockhampton on April 17 when some of the young new boxers in the ranks will have their first bouts, including at least one female, and maybe two who have been training strongly.

"I look like taking up to 12 boxers to Rockhampton as they look after us down there," he said.

The following weekend on April 24 Reggie Palm Island will travel with Mr Dennis to Deception Bay to take on Global Association champion Jason Cooper in a 54kg bout.

"Jason narrowly beat Reggie in the Commonwealth Games selection trials and even though our lad will be giving away weight I think he will do well," Mr Dennis said.

The next *Palm Island Voice* will have a BIG story on the boxers who will be travelling to SYDNEY where they will give their beloved Palm island positive national publicity - don't miss it!!



Palm Island boxing champion Reggie Palm Island resting on the ropes at training

Women's league comp ready to rock



A PALM Island women's rugby league comp looks certain for 2010 season with at least three teams competing – Jets, Butler Bay Bull and Skipjacks.

Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea said that whilst it appeared the ladies comp would be held, he was not sure when it would kick off.

"I know Jets have a side already, and Bulls and Skipjacks are organising teams, but I don't think it will commence on April 17 when the men's fixtures do," Mr Dabea said.

It is important for a ladies comp to be held given that the Palm Island Barracudettes enter teams at various Allblacks carnivals around North Queensland.

There was no organised domestic ladies comp in 2009 but the previous year the ladies grand final still remains much talked about on Palm. Big hits were a feature of the 2008 final won 22-10 by Jets over Bull. Jets forwards Alvina Daphney and Lindsay Malone, both key members of Barracudettes teams at carnivals, didn't take a backward step as they were matched by Bulls enforcer Isobel Baira.

At halftime Jets led 12-6 and Townsville referee Jason Roberts awarded an unusual penalty for hair pulling.

Malone and Daphney were amongst the best along with backs Leah Cannon, Lyndell Sibley, and forwards Moarna Sam and Alima Geia.

The Jets also had local policewoman Sgt Michelle Sawtell in their side and she came under heavy fire from the Bulls defence.

Malone said that no quarter was given by both sides in the fiery encounter which resulted in Bulls forward Layla Morgan being stretchered off by three paramedics to an ambulance with a knee injury.

"Big girls put on some big hits," Malone said at the time.

Mundingburra MP Ms Nelson-Carr celebrated with the Jets after the win and said "girls win cause girls rule".

The full results provide some great memories: Jet 22 (Sam Conway, Raina Simon, Lindsay Malone, Christine Murray 1 tries, Raina Simon 2, Sam Conway 1 goals) d Bulls 10 (Erica Fulford, Layla Morgan tries, Maria Ketchup 1 goals).

Boxers prepare for Rocky comp - SEE P11 FOR DETAILS

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

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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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