



## Rodeo challenge to Palm Islander riders

**A CHALLENGE has been issued to Palm Islanders to stay on some of Australia's meanest bulls for the required time at the 3rd annual rodeo to be held on October 23.**

John Moss from Bucko Billy Rodeo Promotions will again run the events with locals Pauline and Shaun Shortjoe in charge of the entire rodeo overall.

Bulls for the open bull rides were provided by contractor Grant Liversage from Charters Towers, Mr Moss said they would include some of the angriest beasts in Australia. Some of the big names include Rampage, Stock Squad, Gun Metal, Nasa, Telstra, Romeo and Mexican Gunslinger. Nasa was so named because it takes off faster than a rocket and Romeo because he shows no love for riders. "Some of these bulls weigh up to 1000kg and they are very mean," Mr Moss said.

"The challenge will be for any Palm Islander to stay on one for the required time in the Open Bull Ride as there will be competitors from other communities such as Kowanyama."

Mr Moss said a local who won the Open Bull Ride would be a community hero.

He also said there were three other sections -



Novice, Juvenile and a Calf Ride for youngsters. "I am expecting this to be the best for competition and can't wait - the action will start at 6.30pm in the shade of the evening," Mr Moss said.

Last year no rider stayed on a bull for the required time in the open bull or juvenile rides.

**...Continued next page...**



*Liarna (nee Cannon) and Raoul Miller Jnr who were married last weekend at the PCYC. The wedding was attended by more than 100 guests from Palm Island and the mainland, including Yarrabah, Rockhampton and Bundaberg. Pics courtesy Hal Walsh.*



## CDEP working for PCYC



*The new family area at the PCYC is expected be completed within the next week or so says Youth Development Officer Lavenia Tuibua. CDEP workers have built a covered area with table and chairs where families can go to relax in style.*

## Trophy night set for Saturday week

**The annual presentation of trophies for the Palm Island Rugby League will be held at the PCYC on Saturday 2 October.**

It will be a gala function and the coveted award will be the best and fairest player in the seven club comp. During the 2010 fixture season, referees voted on a three, two, one points basis in each game and those will be added up to decide the champion footballer. *Palm Island Voice* has attended as many games as we could and have been happy to assist on the night by providing action, team and crowd shots from the season for a "slide show", which should prove popular. PIRL earned praise throughout rugby league circles for hosting a seven-club comp when the island has a population of 3600. By comparison Townsville, which has a population of 170,000, only had seven clubs.



**PALM Island Community Company has got behind sport in the community.**

**PICC Youth Workers Moarna Sam, Earl Robertson and Amanda Ross were down at the PCYC earlier this month**

**supervising youngsters enjoying after school sports activities.**

**"We are involved with basketball, touch, oztag, netball and any other indoor sports," Moarna said.**

## Rodeo challenge to Palm Islander riders

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It was not for the want of trying though as Gibbo, Shaun Shortjoe, Desmond Bramwell, Roy "Boy" Murray, Gavin Bramwell, and Norman Johnson senior tried to tame a beast only to be bucked off

before time.

In the Indigenous calf ride Andrew Willis junior from Townsville beat Rio Walsh junior and Fred Ross (both Palm Island) in an event during which three year

old Anthony Tyson had a supervised exhibition ride.

**Mr Moss said nominations from competitors would be taken until a week before the rodeo by phoning 4627 4197.**

# Boxers ready for State Titles in Mackay

**AT least 15 Palm Island boxers will travel to Mackay to compete at the Amateur Boxing League's State Titles in Mackay in a couple of weeks time.**

Winners and runners up will qualify to contest the Australian Amateur Championships at Hobart in Tasmania in November. Palm Island will, without doubt, have the biggest representation of boxers from Queensland.

The only female to go will be seasoned campaigner Noby Clay, who will be in the 48kg ladies division and will have to give away weight to take part.

Diminutive Joey Geia will

compete in the 35kg under 13 years division and Isaac Bulsey in the 38kg subjunior class.

Steen Walsh is a big chance of a medal in the 41kg sub junior whilst Nathan James has excellent prospects in the schoolboys under 15 and 44.5kg class.

Henry Bourne will contest the 51kg schoolboys category and Albert Gorringer the under 17 /48kg.

Dennis Haines jnr is in the 54kg class and David Sam

the super heavyweight over 91kg junior division.

William Palm Island looks like a top chance of a medal in the 48kg intermediate division under 19 years and his brother Reggie Palm Island the 51kg.

Other Palm Islanders looking certain to travel to Mackay include Thomas Blanket (intermediate 54kg), Patrick Clarke (62.5kg), Luke Lenoy (67kg), Selwyn Seaton (75kg) and Gerald Wotton senior (over 71kg over age 19).

## Bwgc Colman radio back on air

**Bwgc Colman Radio Station 97.3FM is back on air after their transmitter was blown down by strong winds late last month.**

Although the station had been taking programs from the National Indigenous Radio Service, only people living nearby the office at the PCYC complex could hear it.

Station manager Tim Miller was away last week so offside Tammaina Geesu (*pictured right*) was in charge during his absence.

Ms Geesu enjoys her work which is made up of a variety of tasks including announcing and organising interviews.

She is the mother of six children aged three to 10 and has been working at the station for three months.

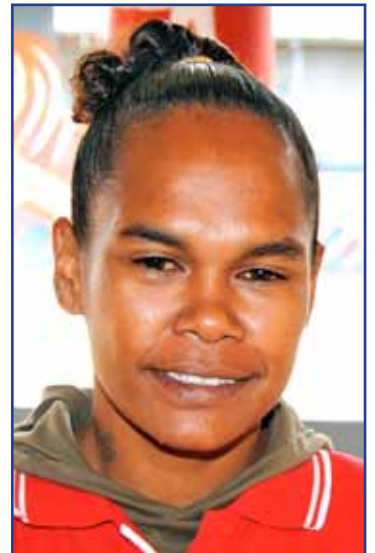
"It is very enjoyable work getting into the issues which affect Palm Islanders and I love it every day," she said.

Asked what the major issues she found affecting Palm Islanders were she said, "living costs, the alcohol management plan, lack of housing and education".

Mr Miller was glowing in his praise of Tammaina who he said was a very quick learner.

"When I was away in Brisbane and on Mornington Island she ran the station and did a wonderful job," he said.

He said her learning all aspects of radio work was a real asset for the community.



*Friends Hilda Winks and Alice Ptolemy were the first to be served drinks at the recently re-opened Coolgaree Sports Bar & Bistro earlier this month. The pair then settled in to enjoy the views and sunset from the back area of the bar.*



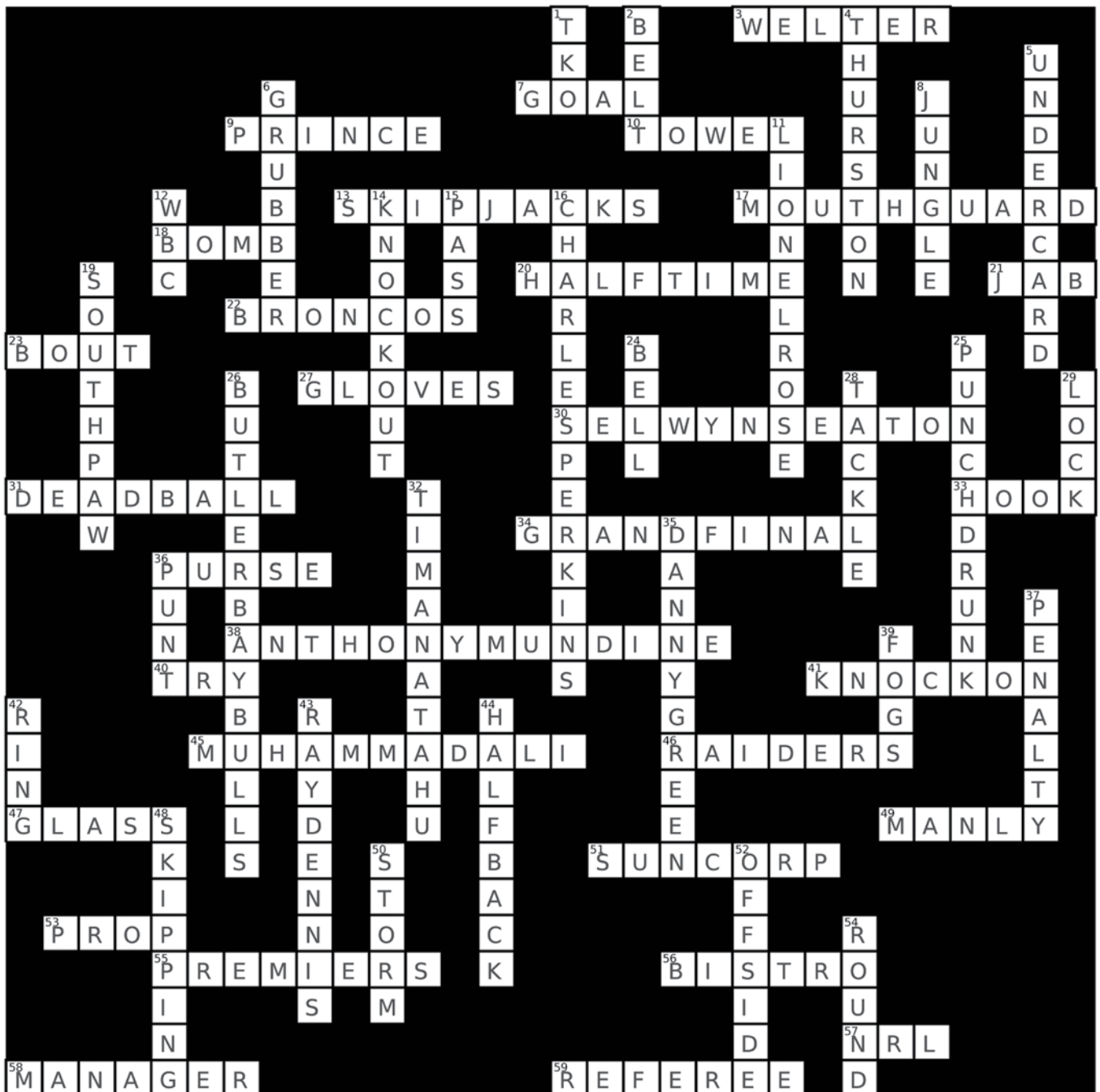


Local Palm Island residents Victor Daisy, left and Robin Nallajar were doing some shopping at the Retail Store after yarning with visiting Koori Mail sports editor Graham Hunt, who was on the island with his wife Julia (*above right*).

"We have a week long trip up to Townsville and the undoubted highlight was our trip to Palm Island," Mr Hunt said. "The people were so friendly."

## PI Voice Crossword 63 Answers

With thanks again to David Goeldner & the Crossword Puzzle Maker at <http://www.armoredpenguin.com>



# ... OUT & ABOUT ...



**JOYCE Nallajar** travelled by plane from Palm Island late last month to watch two of her grandchildren compete at **Primary School's Athletics carnival at the Townsville Sports Reserve.**

She's pictured here (left) on the side of the track with family members Danice Nallajar, Kevin Nallajar-Hopkins, Lauren Nallajar, and Amanda Nallajar-Cedric.

"It was good to come over from Palm to see my grandchildren Julann Hopkins and Lloydala Nallajar-Cedric compete," she said.

**WELL** known Palm Island worker **Barry Rosser (far right)** was recently leaving Garbutt IGA when he spotted former-Palm Islander **Thomas Thimble**, who now lives in Townsville. The two were happy to be photographed together for the *Palm Island Voice*. Many Palm Islanders have relatives living in Garbutt which is near the Townsville airport.



**WORKERS** in the upstairs section of the Palm island **Aboriginal Shire Council** offices think they are in heaven when they look out a door.

They can see the idyllic ocean and trees and it is a room with a view which many employees around Australia would envy. One who appreciates the scenic view is 19-year-old filing clerk **Sondra Gorringe**, a daughter of Cr Ruth Gorringe.

"It is lovely looking outside here as the view is great," she said.

**ZAC Morton** loves getting around Palm Island on his pet horse Gerard and his mates nearby yelled out that he was one of the best riders around.

Zac and a young relative of his were on the former brumby near the **Bwgc Colman Football Oval** in late August.

Zac reckons Gerard is a cheap mode of transport with no fuel costs and says he loves Palm Island.



# League's Reconciliation Action Plan

**Rugby League on Palm Island to the Torres Strait and further afield will benefit with the continued commitment to Indigenous communities through education, employment and health, the NRL says.**

And to help prove their ongoing commitment, the launch of the game's second Reconciliation Action Plan (RPA) was held at Townsville's Dairy Farmers Stadium on the eve of the game's Learn Earn Legend! Close the Gap Round.

Cowboys skipper Jonathan Thurston joined NRL Chief Executive David Gallop, Reconciliation Australia Board Member Dr Tom Calma, and ARL Indigenous Council Chairman

William 'Smiley' Johnstone, to outline details of the on-going partnership between Rugby League and Reconciliation Australia.

Also there were Cowboys stars Matty Bowen (*pictured right*), Ty Williams and Carl Webb along with coach Neil Henry.

"The recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Reconciliation Cups and All Stars games is important to all Indigenous

Australians and the fact that we can commit to a plan to make a difference through Rugby League really means something," Cowboys skipper and Indigenous Player Advisory Group member Jonathan Thurston said.

Already the NRL has undertaken an independent review with the Australian Human Rights



**SKIPJACKS Club on Palm Island has a proud history which 67-year-old local elder Dick Ryan says dates back to 1933. Dick was a former player and coach of the club and whose dad, George, also lined up for "Skippies". Jim Daisy, father of league legend Vern Daisy played for Skipjacks and others who were good included Steven and Frank Pickles, and Wanga Puttaburra. Dick, at 153cm tall, played halfback and was a spectator at the recent game against the Army.**

RECONCILIATION was alive and well when two Palm residents yarned at length with two visiting soldiers on the ferry recently. Alfie Noble and Patrick Friday saw the Australian Army's Jake Young and Will Day at the back section of the lower deck. "We found them really friendly fellows and had a good talk to them," Jake said. The soldiers were members of the Army Thunder team which rolled Skipjacks 22-16 later in the day.



- ▶ Commission of all vilification policies and recommended a number of initiatives to promote cultural awareness and to challenge racism of all kinds.

Congratulating the NRL on the launch of their second RAP, Dr Calma said Rugby League played an enormous role in Australian life and that the new RAP would continue to make a positive impact on reconciliation.

“Teamwork, respect, understanding, trust and relationships, both on and off the field, are key characteristics that Rugby League and reconciliation have in common,” Dr Calma said.

“The game’s new RAP contains a number of actions that will see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players continue to develop and perform at their best, which is what we all, as fans, love to see.

“This RAP’s commitment to programs that engage in education, health and welfare strengthens the commitments to reconciliation and Reconciliation Australia looks forward to regular updates on the progress of this significant new document.”

Rugby League’s Reconciliation Action Plan 2010-2013 and Reconciliation Action Plan Report 2008-2009 can be downloaded at:

[http://www.rugbyleague.com.au/rap/reconciliation\\_action\\_plan\\_2010-2013.pdf](http://www.rugbyleague.com.au/rap/reconciliation_action_plan_2010-2013.pdf)



Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley enjoyed the recent Skipjacks versus Army Thunder rugby league match at the local football ground. He’s pictured above with family members and visitors on the sideline.

Enthusiastic spectators John Bramwell, above left, and Patrick Friday showed the recent State of Origin series between Queensland and NSW had not been forgotten whilst they were on the sidelines at the Skipjacks versus Army Thunder game a few weeks back.

# Teams set to play Girringun



## Three Palm Island rugby league sides will travel to Cardwell on next month to take on Girringun teams.

The matches had originally been scheduled this coming Saturday but have been postponed.

Local Palm Island grand finalists Jets will meet the Girringun Pirates in the A grade men's game for a trophy in honour of the late Jack Henry and Desmond (Joe) Romelo, who tragically drowned in floods during February 2009.

Pirates won the inaugural match last year 48-40 over a gallant Jets team before a large crowd.

Jets reached the grand final of the seven club Palm Island domestic competition and lost the grand final earlier this month, against reigning premiers Butler Bay Bulls. A Palm Island Barracudas

17-year age group team will meet a similar Girringun Pirates who will be looking to win again after their 44-20 victory in 2009.

A Palm Island Barracudettes ladies side will meet a local female Cassowaries outfit in another curtain-raiser bound to create plenty of interest.

The games will be hosted by the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation.

Chief Executive Phil Rist said he heard Jets were looking to bring the trophy back to Palm this year.

"But the local boys are confident they can win it again," Mr Rist said.



**Palm Island footy fans at a recent game**





Are you worrying  
about someone  
because they are:

- having a hard time
- worrying or stressing too much
- shutting others out
- not acting like themselves
- being 'spaced out'
- imagining things that are not real
- overly sad
- really afraid, or mistrusting.

### Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs)

can help them with:

- having someone to talk to
- getting their family life and relationships back on track
- going to the doctor, clinic or hospital
- talking to Centrelink, legal aid or housing
- banking and money story
- being involved in the community.

### No shame

We know what it is to have a hard time. Many PHaMs workers have also had hard times in the past. We know that people can get better, and grow healthy and strong.

### Respect

PHaMs workers will always be respectful, friendly, helpful and understanding.

### Safe place

PHaMs helps people do the things they want to at their own pace. You can bring a friend or family member with you.

Where to find your local PHaMs worker:

New Way Agencies Pty Ltd  
PO Box 1715  
Thuringowa Central 4817



Ph 4723 7311 Fax 4723 7533

Email: [NewWayAgencies@hippond.com](mailto:NewWayAgencies@hippond.com)

FaHCSIA would like to thank the Warlpiri people of the community of Yuendumu for their support. The figurines used were developed by members of the community and all final products have been approved by the community appointed cultural adviser as culturally appropriate. Painting by Audrey Brumby 2010.

# Palm Island Voice

## **Palm Island Voice**

### **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

### **Classifieds**

(payable in advance)

Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE

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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 deadline details.**

### **YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

to the

## **Palm Island Voice**

are welcome.

Contributions may include news,  
yarns, pics, letters-to-the-editor,  
poetry, community notices  
and/or advertisements.

**Contact Andrea Kyle at the  
Council offices:**

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**Fax 4770 1305**

**If you have email you can write  
to the Editor, Christine Howes,  
at: [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)**

Article and photo submissions to the *Palm Island Voice* are welcome. Original submissions of articles or photographs must belong to the contributor, and/or delivered with an indication of the owner's permission to publish, no later than 5pm on deadline day.

Articles should be no longer than 500 words and digital photographs should be as high quality as possible (no thumbnails please!).

Final say on advertising, news items, other contributions and photo reproductions is at the discretion of the *Palm Island Voice* Editor.

## **Public & Community Notices**



### **POSITIONS VACANT**

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has two (2) part-time positions with the Indigenous Knowledge Centre. The successful applicants must be prepared to travel and undergo training. These positions require some flexibility with hours and may include weekend shifts.

An information package containing position description, selection criteria may be obtained from Reception, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

Written applications with a completed selection criteria should be forwarded to the A/Chief Executive Officer, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Post Office, Palm Island.

**Applications close 20th October 2010**

Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply.

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**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council  
is closed every second Friday  
(Council pay week) for RDO.**

**The next RDO is Friday 10 September.**

**For emergencies on a Friday please  
call 0458 789 010.**

For more information contact  
the Council on 4770 1177

## **Palm Island Voice**

If you can string a sentence or two together, or happen to be able to take a reasonable photo or three, the Palm Island Voice is interested in accepting your contributions to your community's newsletter. At the moment we are particularly interested in finding young people who might be willing to yarn with an elder so we can publish some of their stories. **If you're interested see Andrea Kyle-Sailor or Alf Wilson for more information or drop the editor an email.**

# Champ plans a come-back

**FORMER champion Palm Island boxer Gerald Wotton is making a comeback to the ring at the age of 26 after a break of almost five years.**

Gerald last fought in 2005 and had 19 wins from his 32 amateur bouts and had been a member of the Canberra based Australia Institute of Sport (AIS) talent identification squad. Gerald has been hard at work training down at the PCYC. "I weigh just under 80kg and want to get down to 71kg and fight in that division," he said.

"Basically I want to get fit again and train under Ray Dennis."

Before he retired, Wotton was part of the first ever-Indigenous boxing team to represent Australia in their tour of Fiji which they won 9-6. The national Indigenous team was known as Guru Guneemynina, which means all fighting. The then-21-year-old Wotton beat Romise Blu in the 64kg division.



## Busy weekend for boxing team

PALM Island boxers and officials were burning the midnight oil to get back to Townsville after travelling to a big tournament at Mareeba on the Atherton Tablelands last Saturday.

Five of six Palm Islanders who fought won gold medals – Selwyn Seaton (75kg), Jerome Walsh (45kg), Joey Geia (34kg), Sachin Walsh (34.4kg) and Fred Bulsey (44.5kg). Nathan James was narrowly defeated in the 54kg division.

It was a marathon weekend for the boxers and trainers after they came from Palm on the ferry, which arrived in Townsville late on Friday afternoon.

The boxers had a bus paid for by the Palm Island Community Company and headed straight out to Brother's League's Club in Townsville for the Hawks club tournament.

In a rare occurrence, all Palm boxers lost their bouts on points against highly rated opponents. Patrick Clarke, Selwyn Seaton, Isaac Bulsey and Jerome Walsh were beaten on points.



"Then we went by bus 400km to Mareeba on Saturday morning, leaving around midnight and didn't arrive back at Townsville until 5.30am on Sunday morning – it was a long drive," trainer Ray Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said his assistant coach Chris Gundy did a mighty job driving the bus.

"We stayed at the Hotel Allen in Townsville and went back on the ferry, which left for Palm at noon. We were all pretty tired," Mr Dennis said. He said Selwyn Seaton and Jerome Walsh fought

in Townsville and backed up the next night at Mareeba.

"I was also very impressed with young Fred Bulsey and Sachin Walsh," Mr Dennis said.

**MEANWHILE** it's not unusual for 40 or more to turn up to Monday afternoon boxing sessions. Pictured above is promising young boxer Thomas Blanket who was dared to get amongst the 50 or so sets of gloves required, many of which have been donated by well-known sports people.



***Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey proved a popular man as he was swamped by locals and visitors alike on a ferry trip to the Island from Townsville recently. The Mayor yarned to residents as well as one of the Army Thunder players.***



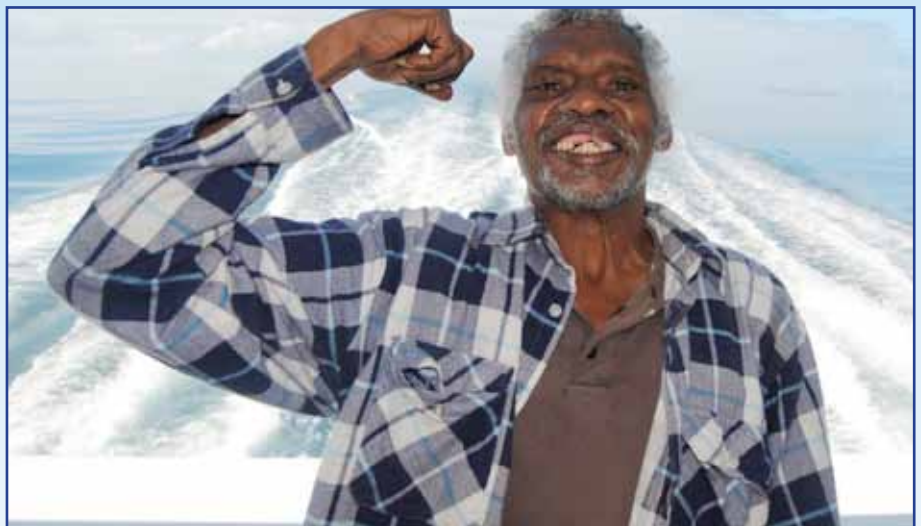
**Thomas Ketchup, Irene Thompson and Sandra Wallace enjoyed a trip back to Palm Island after a break in Townsville last week.**

The morning before they caught the ferry the winds were strong, however by noon it was much calmer.

"It was a very good trip over the Palm but it was very windy this morning," Thomas said.

Thomas is aged in his mid-30s and played rugby league for Brothers club on Palm during the just completed 2010 season. "I am retired now from club football but will be playing for Barracudas teams at coming Allblacks carnivals," he said.

Friendly Valentine Friday enjoyed standing out the back of the ferry recently as white waves from the backwash looked spectacular across a glassy sea from Townsville to Palm. "I like to have a talk to my mates out here," he said.



**PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE Palm Island Voice**

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