



Mayors set for 'high level' talks on Palm next week

A 'high-level' meeting of Indigenous Mayors and Ministers will be hosted on Palm Island next week.

Local Government & Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Desley Boyle announced the meeting in Parliament back in August.

Called a 'Ministerial Indigenous Roundtable', she said the meeting will be only the second of its kind hosted by an Aboriginal community since the historic Indigenous Partnership Agreement meetings in Yarrabah and Atherton in 2007. Earlier this year Bamaga hosted a similar meeting in May.

Mayor Alf Lacey welcomed the announcement and said he looked forward to welcoming his colleagues to Palm Island. "The Roundtable is really important for Indigenous Councils to engage with State Government and Cabinet Ministers," he said in August.

"Conferences of this magnitude give Ministers an in depth opportunity to look at the good things that are happening and



Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey with Acting-CEO Jeff Brown

there has been a lot happening on Palm. We welcome the Roundtable, Minister Boyle and Cabinet Ministers."

He said Council was particularly keen to host the event given it's the biggest of its kind held on the island in nearly 20 years. "We haven't seen an event like this since 1983," he said "We're looking forward to welcoming all these visitors to our Island and hope the community will make them welcome as well."

Ms Boyle said the meeting would build on previous discussions. "Mayor Alf Lacey is excited his community is hosting this high level meeting which will build on our discussions about local government

financial sustainability, sport and recreation opportunities, as well as progress other significant issues facing Indigenous Councils," she said. "Conferences of this magnitude give the Ministers and the Mayors an in depth opportunity to discuss the issues that they are facing. Holding meetings in an Indigenous community also gives the Mayors the opportunity to look at all the good things that are being done by the host local government. There is indeed a lot to see on Palm Island – for example the new emergency services complex, refurbished retail store, progress being made on establishing a new business precinct and new housing developments."

STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!!

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is the first of every Council in Queensland to be declared to have an unqualified - that's all clear – audit for this financial year. Mayor Alf Lacey said, "I am very pleased and must congratulate our senior management for a job well done." He said it was the third year in a row the Council had achieved a clean audit.



Last week Ferdy's Haven staff took part in a three-day Aboriginal Mental Health First-Aid course delivered by the Palm Island Mental Health Service (PIMHS). Lynette Anderson and Helen Malouf were the facilitators. Helen is pictured here (*on the far left*) with Ferdy's Haven staff members Dyella Morgan, Robert Nallajar and Dianne Foster.

Sports Bar & Grill a popular coffee stop

COOLGAREE Bay Sports Bar and Grill now has 750 members and is on track to reach 1000 soon.

Co-licensee Shane Stratton (*pictured right below*) said many people were also taking advantage of the coffee shop at the business, which is open from early in the morning.

One happy customer was Queensland Rugby League Northern Division Local Administrator Kerri Ritchie (*right*) who had been taken on a tour of the island.

"It is a beautiful island," she said, jumping at the offer to stop for a cuppa.

Ms Ritchie enjoyed her break there and also liked the view from the back garden section of the bar.

The bar opened in early September under strict conditions imposed by the Licensing Commission after the previous canteen on Palm closed in December 2008.

It had been allowed to open from 5pm to 9pm on Monday to Friday with the exception of CDEP payday once a fortnight.

However during October the bar also has a temporary licence to open on Saturday night and Mr Stratton said had been very successful.

"The Commission will review that and we hope to be able to open on Saturday evenings during November," he said.

Staff and management, including co-licensee Zac Sam, are gearing up for the official opening of the bar next week during the Indigenous Mayors' visit to the Island.



Police Liaison Officer Luella Bligh loves her coffee and loves popping in to the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill every day to pick up a snack and her favourite drink.

Luella said she enjoys her breaks out in the back garden section with its magnificent views of the ocean and nearby islands. "I come here for lunch every day," Luella said.



CDEP workers to feature in Ch 7 doco

A one hour television special on Channel 7 about training school 'Outstation North' is likely to include up to four Palm Islanders, says Coolgaree CDEP Training and Employment Manager Robert Howard.

According to Channel 7's publicity the 'Outstation North' will show: "... the extraordinary journey of young Indigenous Australians who are finding their way out of the destructive spiral of apathy and aimlessness, into a brand new life on the land."

The program is due to air at 4.30pm on Sunday 7 November.

Rain to blame for rodeo re-schedule to 2011

Rain is to blame for the cancellation of the long-awaited 3rd Palm Island Rodeo, which had been scheduled for Saturday, 23 October.

The event was organised by Palm Islanders Pauline and Shaun Shortjoe, with the bulls and ring action by Townsville based John Moss of Bucko Billy Rodeo.



A day before the event was ready to go it was clear the rodeo grounds and entrance were waterlogged after recent heavy rain. Mr Moss said the decision to cancel was made at 7.15pm on the Thursday night.

"I contacted the person who was providing the bulls at Charters Towers and it was too wet to move the bulls from the property which is 2km off the highway," he said. "They were due to leave Lucinda by barge at 7am on October

22nd so we had no option but to cancel."

Mr Moss was glowing in his praise for Mr and Mrs Shortjoe who he said arranged to have an alternative dry entrance to the rodeo grounds created at short notice.

"But in the end we just couldn't get the bulls moved from Charters Towers," he said.

The rodeo won't go ahead in 2010 but will be rescheduled for next year on a date to be advised in the *Palm Island Voice*.

Palm church celebrates Australia's first Saint

A simple, joyful celebration for the Canonization of Mary McKillop was held at Sunday Mass on October 17 in St Anthony's Church.

Teachers from St. Michael's School helped with the overhead projector and a special hymn sung in honour of Australia's first Saint.

Afterwards, parishioners had morning tea as they continued to celebrate.

"From what I hear very many people on Palm were glued to the TV on Sunday night when there was the live service from the Vatican," Sister Christina McGlynn said.

"At one stage I was delighted to see a venerable distant relative of Mary, a Mr Campbell, in his native [Scottish] kilt, being part of the main celebration."

Sister Christina said it was overall what wonderful media coverage we had of this very unique occasion.

"No doubt our Bishop Michael Putney and the many people from Townsville who were in Rome for the occasion will have

many tales to tell," she said.

Bishop Putney visited Palm Island earlier in the year and then went to Fantome Island for the reunion event.

On another note, Sister McGlynn also congratulated everybody associated with the *Palm Island Voice*.

"It is always great to read so many positive articles about Palm and especially the successes of our young people, God bless you," she said.



Our own 'Clancy of the Overflow' springs into action

RAOUL Miller was something like 'Clancy of the Overflow' and the "The Man From Snowy River" all rolled into one as he thundered along the Esplanade on his horse rounding up wild brumbies after they threatened youngsters a few weeks back.

The incident occurred recently as local animal control officer Raoul (*pictured below*) saw a large number of brumbies hanging around the park across from the Council offices and retail store.

It was 7.30am and some kids were spooked by the horses so Raoul sprung into action.



With whip cracking and his horse galloping along, he started to round the horses up.

It proved a difficult task as some gathered in the nearby PCYC grounds and other bolted around to a road near the school. His mate and the other animal control officer Fred Bulsey, who was riding bareback, joined the exercise as the horses galloped at speed along the esplanade road as people looked on yelling out to their heroes. Eventually they were rounded up.

"We have to put them in a holding yard on another part of the island as we didn't want them injuring anybody by galloping on them," Mr Bulsey said.

"There are about 100 of them

getting around the community."

Joining in the round up to lend a hand were young Palm riders Mislam Sam, 11, Waylon Sam, 12, Isaac Bulsey, 10, and Arona Miller, 10.

"They are very good with horses and have helped here today," Mr Bulsey said.

Former Palm Island Mayor Erykah Kyle witnessed the incident and described Palm horse riders as the "equal of any in the country."

"They just have a wonderful way with wild horses," Ms Kyle said.

Dogs have also been proving a problem on Palm Island recently with some strays seen wandering onto the airstrip.

"We will be on the lookout for those dogs to place them in another holding area," Mr Bulsey said.

A story on the round up which appeared in the Koori Mail was presented at an Indigenous Animal Control officers conference in Cairns recently.



Mislam Sam, 11, Animal Control Officer Fred Bulsey, Waylon Sam, 12, Isaac Bulsey, 10, and Arona Miller, 10

Jones raises Palm housing issues in Fed Parliament

Federal Member for Herbert Ewen Jones has used some of his time in Parliament to demand governments "get on with" building houses on Palm Island.

Speaking in Parliament, Mr Jones said promises from the previous Howard/Brough partnership and the current government had not been carried through.

"In 2007, when Kevin Rudd led the Labor Party to power, the outgoing Coalition Government left them \$762 million in housing funding for our first Australians," he said, according to Hansard, which is the official Parliamentary record. "Those first Australians include the community of Palm Island in my electorate

of Herbert. The then Coalition Minister for Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, Mal Brough, had released a plan for an estate of 46 houses on this Island. We are now in October 2010, three years on from Labor's hollow words and I would like to inform the house of the progress on this housing project. So far, let me see, carry the one, add up the next column and you get none. Not one of these 46 houses has been built."

Mr Jones said to add insult to injury money

was being wasted on 'kit homes' which were built without employing any qualified Palm Islander for plumbing or electrical work. There have been four temporary house structures placed on the Island," he said. "The cost of each of these structures, because you cannot call them homes, has been approximately \$300,000 each. The most disturbing part of this gross waste of money is that, although the island has its own electrician and four registered plumbers as well as a number of tradesmen and women, none were given any work on this job – not even the site clean afterwards. It all came from the mainland. When is the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs going to release the desperately needed funding for permanent housing on Palm Island?"

Palm players shine in Cairns



Above: the under-18 side which competed in Cairns – pic courtesy Lauren Brennan;

Below Left: Fred Bulsey & Hornets' Alex Morgan; Below Right: Norita Nelliman from Moa played with Cherbourg ladies and was with Manatu Nelliman from Palm Island



Out & About...in the wet!!!

COUNCIL maintenance staff have lots to do filling potholes after more than eight inches of rain fell on Palm Island in the middle of last month.

Many roads had water over them in low-lying parts, however there were no major hold ups preventing traffic from moving along.

There were reports of some non-bitumen surfaces bogging about 10 cars.

4WD owners and drivers had little difficulty other than mud on the inside of their prized possessions.



ROAD closed signs and holdups on roads are a thing mainly associated with cities such as Townsville and others.

However late last month, just near the football grounds, there were short holdups whilst machinery worked across the road doing sewerage upgrades. Then towards the airport and Butler Bay there was another detour up to the suburb on the top of the hill. The 'road closed' sign was just near where Banfield Drive and Butler Bay Road meet.



ON A BRIGHTER NOTE...

The Palm Island dam is nearly full! Torrential rains may not have done much for our road surfaces, but residents will be pleased to know water should not be an issue for the community for some time to come with the dam filled close to capacity – that's very good news!!!



Before the rain set in temps soared into the mid-30s for a month or so, prompting many Palm Islanders to take to the cool waters off beaches on their tropical paradise.

That is especially the case with youngsters.

Scores of youngsters are already swimming not far from the jetty as each ferry arrives.

Several also had horses with them on a sand section not covered by water but surrounded by it. Scores more youth have also been swimming and splashing in the lovely and idyllic ocean waters further around the Island.



Soldiers left behind after Boer War

Dozens of Aboriginal trackers who fought in the Boer War in South Africa – including Palm Islanders – are thought to have been left behind when Australian troops returned home in 1902, Queensland SBS correspondent Stefan Armbruster has reported.

Australia sent about 16,000 troops to fight more than 500 of whom were dead by the war's end in 1902, the SBS website says.

The report also said Dr Dale Kerwin from Griffith University in Queensland has been researching the fate for four Aboriginal men, most likely from Palm Island in the state's north.

However they also said there were few official details about the four so Dr Kerwin was appealing for the public's help in Australia and South Africa to uncover more.

Overall Dr Kerwin believes he's uncovered about 50 cases of Aboriginal people being abandoned in South Africa by the Australian government.

For more information visit <http://www.griffith.edu.au/education/faculty-education/research/forgotten-heroes>

To listen to the full SBS report go to <http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/Podcasts/world-view/episode/119816/Aboriginal-trackers-abandoned-in-South-Africa>



This pic showing the Palm Island foreshore and cloud coming over Mount Bentley was taken soon after the ferry arrived on a Friday a few weeks back.

It was spitting rain many visitors hoped it wouldn't set in. However several locals told them the rain was moving away and the island would experience only small patches of rain for the rest of the day.

Right they were as well.

Palm Island Obe Geia Challenge

COWBOYS IN THE COMMUNITY

THE second Obe Geia Junior Rugby League Challenge and Cultural Day held at Palm Island was a great success.

Obe Geia Jnr was the first Palm Islander to play for the Cowboys and was very proud and happy as hundreds of locals joined the more than 150 visitors from the mainland in a friendly atmosphere.

Students aged 10 to 12 participated with a focus on fun, fitness, participation and harmony and whilst teams played very well, winning was not the most important thing.

Representing Townsville schools were Heatley State, Marian, Rasmussen State, Kelso State, Good Shepherd Catholic Community School, St Joseph's Catholic School and Vincent State School.

Bwgcolman Community School and St Michael's Catholic School represented Palm Island and the 10th team was from Magnetic Island State School. Not all the players were boys with a handful of girls competing including 11-year-old Joyce Tapp for the Palm Island St Michael's Archangels.

Teams were split into two pools with St Joseph's winning the final over Heatley 4-nil.



*Above: Bwgcolman State School
Below: St Michael's*





From the Cowboys:

I think all would agree that every team was a winner that day! From everyone here at the Cowboys we would like to thank the many people involved with this extraordinary event – firstly the community of Palm Island who welcomed the visitors and really provided a wonderful day for everyone. The Grounds looked amazing the food was out of this world and everyone was made feel so welcome!

Bwgcolman and St Michaels – the Palm Island school communities in partnership with the Palm Island PCYC (Jen, Gary, and Bernie in particular and of course all the wonderful people they enlisted to help them) really were the back bone of the organisation of the event!

Such a lot of effort went into ensuring this day was a success for everyone who took part in it.

ARL and QRL – thanks for being part of it and bringing people over to referee, support us with insurances and provide the footballs for all the participants.

Department of Sport and Recreation, PCYC Palm Island and The Indigenous All Stars for assisting with contributions through grants to enable this event to be free of charge for participants.

The participating schools – thank you for supporting the event and to the teachers and principals who also supported the kids in allowing them to take part.

Palm Island Rugby League - thank you for allowing us to use the grounds for the

event – this meant we could invite four additional schools and the grounds were just beautiful!

To the Townsville Bulletin, WIN, the Palm Island Voice and Alf Wilson, thank you for taking the time out to come and get footage of this remarkable event and then for doing such a great job in promoting it for us to the wider public, you portrayed the event and the destination beautifully!

Finally once again - to the Palm Island Community and all involved in volunteering your time to this event – everyone had a wonderful time and every participant will go back to the mainland with some fantastic feedback not only of the carnival but of the beautiful Island and community that you call home!

ObeGeiaChallenge

(from previous page...)



From St Michael's:

Congratulations to all St Michael's Students who played in the this year's Obe Geia Football Carnival. Every one put in 110% effort and despite the fact we didn't come out on top, all players can be really proud of the way they conducted themselves on and off the field representing St Michael's.

Special thanks to Vaughnie Charles, Luke James (Sr) and Frank James (Jr) who assisted the coaching of the boys.

A special mention to Joyce Tapp who was the sole girl representing St Michael's.

Well done everyone!!!



From Bwgcolman State School:

Last Friday eight Townsville schools visited Palm Island to play Rugby League in the Obe Geia Challenge.

St Michael's trained all term for this event and we were very excited for this day.

On the Friday morning it wasn't raining too much, thankfully, so the St Michael's Football team met at School, put our Archangels uniform on and caught the bus down to the farm.

To start the Carnival we had a lovely welcoming ceremony which included a Welcome to Country by Allan Palm Island, corroboree dancing by the junior school and some speeches by Obe Geia Jnr and his family.

Our first game was against Heatley, then we played Kelso, Rassmussen and Marian while Bwgcolman played St Joseph's, Good Shephard, Vincent and Magnetic Island. Even though Palm Island didn't win the trophy we were all really happy to have played. After all the games we had a lovely Kupp Murri Lunch.

We would like to thank all the people who helped prepare the delicious food for us. We all really enjoyed the carnival, especially the food, football and making new friends – we really think it should happen every year. Last of all special thanks to Obe Geia Jnr, Miss Jen, Mr Gary, Miss Kellie and our coaches, Mr Archie, Luke, Vaughnie and Deakin for making the day happen.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Congratulations to St Michael's School winners of the Catherine Freeman Literacy Awards for demonstrating improved reading and writing skills in the past semester. Any student can receive these awards as it they are based purely upon improvement, behaviour and work ethic.

Well done Taishima Fraser (Prep), Tina Yasserie (Gr1), Chentalli Sibley (Gr2), Emilios Barry (Gr3), Giaan Baira (Gr4), Serabiah Galligan (Gr5), Raikiesha Castors (Gr6) and Brenda Aden (Gr7).

Students from both schools also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Catherine Freeman's gold medal run at the 400m in the Olympics with a fun run, jogging around the perimeter of the PCYC.

Gary Recklies, Principal



Ferdy's Haven Alcohol Rehabilitation Aboriginal Corporation: Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGM of the Ferdy's Haven Alcohol Rehabilitation Aboriginal Corporation will be held on Saturday 27th of November 2010 at the rehabilitation centre. The meeting starts 3.00pm, followed by family BBQ and Karaoke Night. Everyone is welcome

**For the Board of Directors
Matti Ronkainen, CEO**



Centacare

Centacare Catholic Family Services is an exceptionally flexible organisation, which acknowledges and respects staff as a vital asset, providing high quality employment conditions. It is a leading non-profit organisation in the Townsville and Mount Isa regions providing a range of comprehensive counselling and family support services.

> **Townsville**

INDIGENOUS FAMILY INTERVENTION WORKER

(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island persons are encouraged to apply.)

Family Intervention Service - Townsville/Palm Island

Part Time - 3 days per week

This position includes approximately 2 days per week of ongoing casework and community connections on Palm Island. This can vary depending on the agency's needs. \$42,655 - \$50,108 pro rata, plus generous salary packaging options.

The Family Intervention Service is a support program provided by Centacare Townsville for families and children subject to ongoing child protection statutory intervention. The program is looking for an Indigenous Family Intervention Worker for a part-time role to work in both Townsville and Palm Island. To provide a range of services which include: participating in case planning and case plan reviews, working with parents to enhance the development of practical skills, provision of supervised contact in order to develop practical skills, coordination, referral to and information on specialised services available in the local community and input in decision making regarding permanency planning. Palm Island Resident desired but not essential.

At Centacare Townsville, we offer a great range of benefits to our employees including:

- ✓ Generous salary packaging giving you significantly more take home pay
- ✓ Flexible working conditions ✓ 5 weeks minimum annual leave per year
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Plus: ✓ Financial and annual leave incentives based on length of service
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Application kits including full position descriptions may be downloaded from our website www.tsv.centacare.org.au or please contact Kelly Dicton on (07) 4772 9000 or email kdiction@tsv.centacare.org.au

Closing date for applications is COB Monday, 8th November 2010.



**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
is closed every second Friday
(Council pay week) for RDO.
The next RDO is Friday 12 November.
For emergencies on a Friday please
call 0458 789 010.**

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 –

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 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:**

Ph 4770 1177 or

Fax 4770 1305

Or the Editor,

Christine Howes on

0419 656 277 or at

chowes@westnet.com.au

THEFT OF BOAT AND TRAILER: INGHAM



On 21/10/2010 the victim's boat and trailer were undergoing repairs at NQ Borger Boats at 10 Challands St, Ingham. When repairs had been completed, the boat and trailer were left at these premises for return on the Palm Island barge to the owner. The vessel is very distinctive because of the repair work that has been carried out.

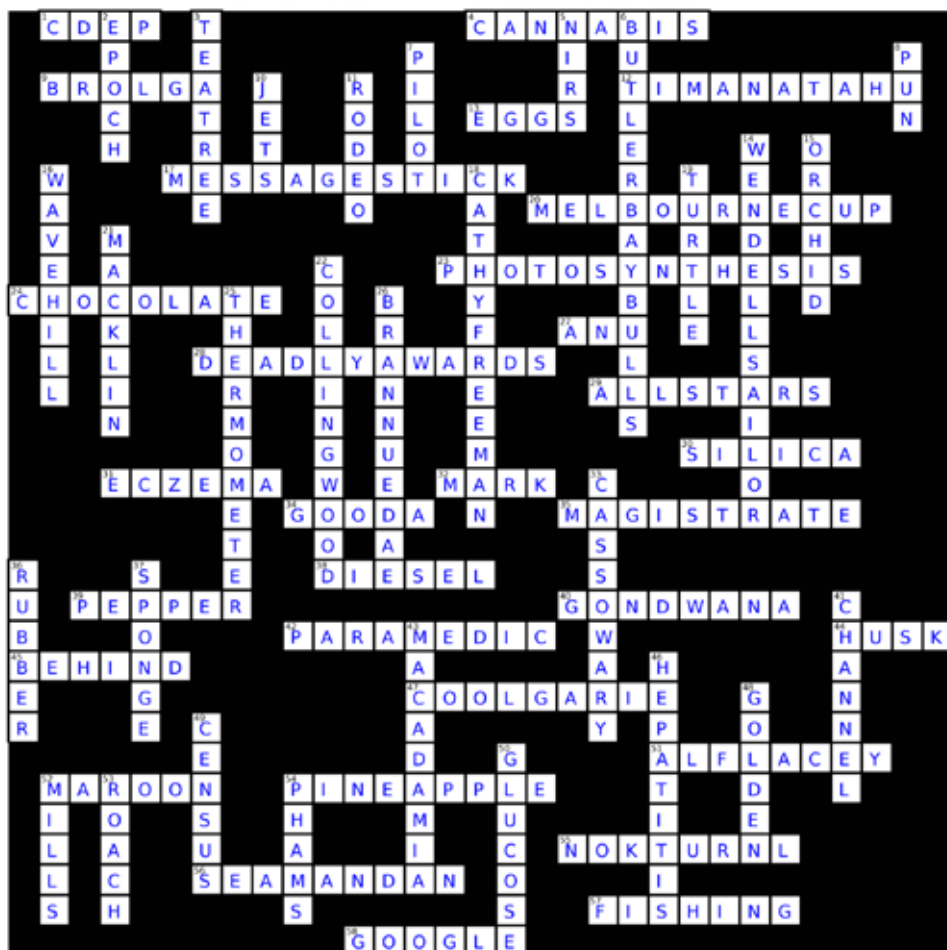
Description:

- Vessel – NQ Borger mono hull with rego SL858Q
 - Trailer – Dunbier trailer rego CP9565
 - Outboard motor – SUZUKI (70hp petrol). Serial No. 07001F680318.
 - Boat has the numbers NQB-018 punched into the top of the transom.
- Repairs included the removal of the front bow row and installing a bow rail at the front of the vessel which is 1100 mm high for the purpose of catching turtles. Also fitted was an Anchor locker at the front of the vessel and a Battery Box Brace at the rear of the vessel.

- Valued at \$7,500

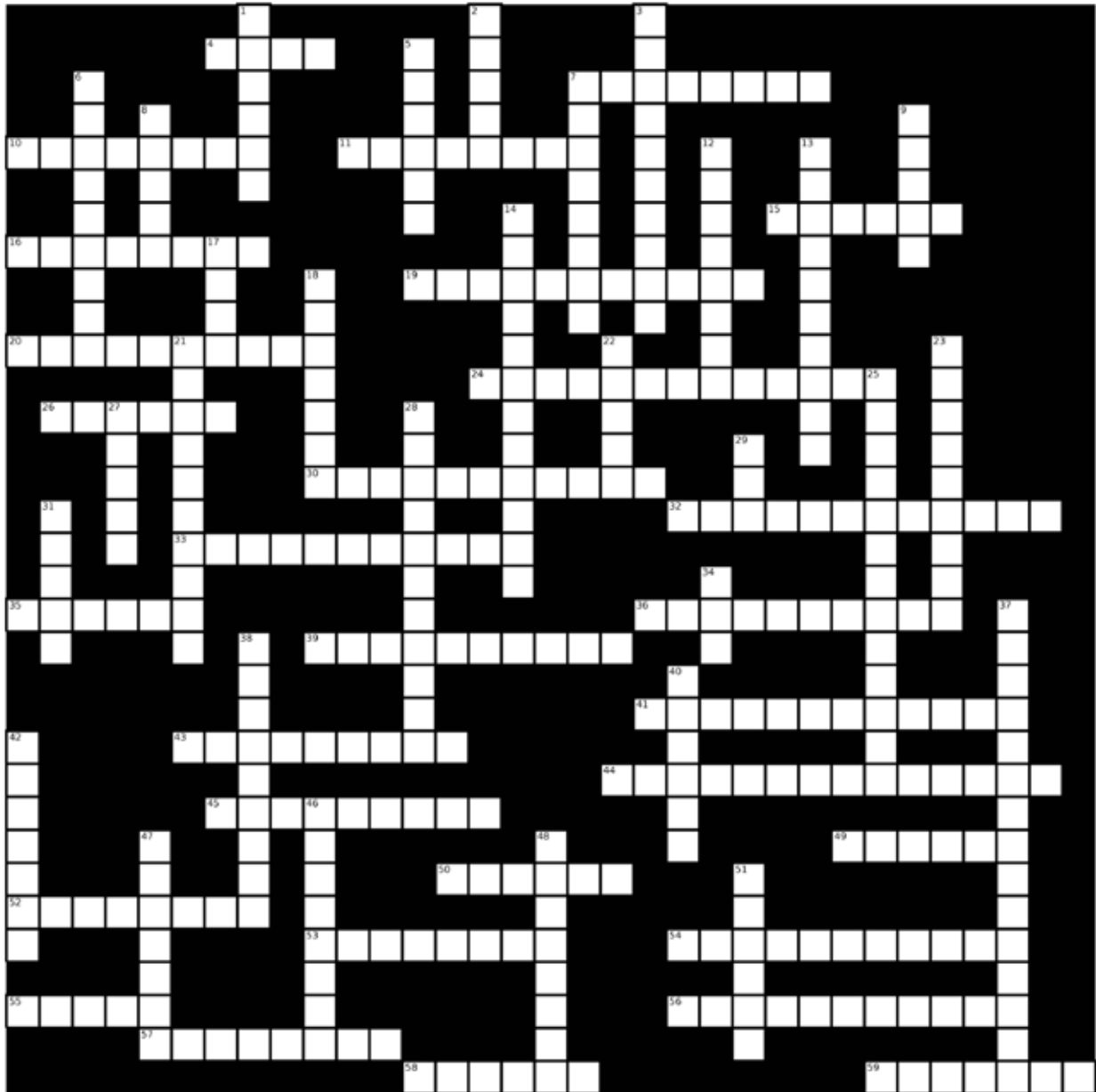
If vessel and/or trailer are located, please contact SGT Nev Byers at Ingham Stn or SGT Rob Pagett at Palm Island Stn.

PI Voice Crossword 65 Answers



PI Voice Crossword 67

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



Across

4. Recently retired African bishop and civil rights activist, Desmond _____
7. New indigenous member of Federal parliament (2 words)
10. Sea fringing the Great Barrier Reef (2)
11. Mostly harmless brown Qld spider
15. Horoscope sign - fish
16. This insect carries tropical diseases
19. Left rugby league to play AFL (2)
20. rice noodle
24. The planet is heating up (2)
26. Australia's national airline
30. Said to be unpaid earnings (2)
32. Famous horse race in November (2)
33. Aboriginal claim to land (2)
35. A barista makes & serves this hot beverage
36. Someone learning a trade
39. Cox Plate winner (3)
41. Black and white dog (2)
43. Palm Island school name
44. Madeleine Madden's famous activist grandfather (2)
45. Boss of your school
49. In charge of a newspaper

50. Dugongs also called this (2)
52. Weather bureau forecasts plenty of these this summer (plural)
53. Politician in charge of a portfolio
54. Well-known NQ Indigenous lawyer (2)
55. 1970s dance style
56. Wet season brings this disease (2)
57. NRL Premiers 2010 (2 words)
58. The twins (star sign)
59. Our most famous racehorse (2)

Down

1. Make music with this six-stringed instrument
2. Brisbane AFL team
3. Young Australian of the Year 2007 (2)
5. First indigenous Senator, Neville ?
6. A court room defender
7. Premier of NSW, Kristina ?
8. This famous landmark's 25 year hand back celebration was in October
9. Bull riding on show on Palm Island
12. Famed Indigenous dance company
13. Where to get a degree
14. Indigenous All Stars and Broncos winger (3)

17. Tertiary and Further Education (initials)
18. Deadly snakes and 'deadly' basketball team (plural)
21. Sydney's harbour bridge is said to look like this (2)
22. Flat bottomed boat
23. The 13yo who starred in Generation One's TV appeal, _____ Madden
25. Organised young indigenous TV plea (2)
27. health worker
28. Kangaroo ARL rep from NQ Cowboys (2)
29. National Basketball League (init)
31. Ship's guide through dangerous waters
34. Satellite navigation unit (init)
37. Queen's Australian representative (2)
38. Australia's rugby league team
40. St George Dragons goal kicker, Jamie ?
42. This Australian spider can be dangerous
46. This month means nine but it's not September
47. Sam Thaiday plays for this team
48. Nasty bite, hard shell, large claws and lives on land
51. Environmental political party

Jets confident of win in Cardwell

Cardwell footy organiser Mislam Sam is confident his Palm Island Jets side will do well against the Girringun Pirates at Cardwell on Saturday 20 November.

A large contingent of Palm Islanders will travel to Cardwell for the event.

"I think we will do really well, last year a lot of supporters went up to Cardwell," he said. Girringun Pirates had a 48-40 win over a gallant Palm Island Jets A Grade team last year in

the match named in honour of the late Jack Henry and Desmond (Joe) Romelo who tragically drowned the previous February.

However in the 2009 under-17 game Palm Island Barracudas defeated Girringun Pirates 44-20 in a high quality clash.



Call for Palm to re-enter Townsville comp

HIGHLY respected Indigenous leader Jenny Pryor has gone into bat for Palm Island by suggesting it was time the Townsville and District Rugby League approved a Barracudas team entering the mainland competition.

Speaking at the presentation of trophies at the popular Bindal Allblacks carnival in Townsville on October 10 (*pictured above and right*), Jenny said the time was near when Palm Island once again had a team in Townsville.

In the audience was an official of the Queensland Rugby League Northern Division and Townsville and District Rugby League.

"Look how many Palm Island people are here today, over on Palm they have seven clubs and that is the same as in the Townsville and District Rugby League. If the Barracudas get back in they will attract big crowds," she said.

The Townsville and District Rugby League clubs



are Bindal Sharks United, Centrals, University, Brothers and out of towners Herbert River, Charters Towers and Burdekin.

She praised Palm Island football, saying many quality footballers were produced.

If a Palm side was back in after a long absence it would ensure no club has a bye but funding such as a side is the major obstacle from a local point of view.

JT encourages juniors to play

YOUNG Palm Island rugby league players aged six to 12 inclusive who register with a Queensland Rugby League club in a competition for the 2011 season will receive a colourful booklet called "My Season".

With a junior competition almost certain to be established on the Island next season that will amount to a lot of Palm boys, and some girls.

Champion North Queensland Cowboys, Queensland State of Origin and Australian Test star halfback Johnathan Thurston was at a photo shoot in Townsville on October 28 when pics were snapped to be included in the



colourful booklet.

A large poster will also be produced for distribution around Queensland.

The theme of the booklet is "Great Game, Great Mates, Great Fun. FOR LIFE."

It includes coaching tips and has provision for the youngsters to record their season highlights.

"There is something in this for everybody," Thurston said.

Showing no signs of a painful leg injury which cost him a place in the Australian side for the Four Nations Series, Thurston also was filmed for a television advertisement to be shown across the state to promote the new season.

JT went through some training drills with the youngsters and chip kicked the ball several times.

QRL Northern Division manager Scott Nosworthy said up to 20,000 registered players would receive a copy of the booklet and that it was the first time filming, which was done at the Townsville Junior Rugby League headquarters, had taken place up north.

About 50 people watched on as Thurston first appeared in his Cowboys jumper and then changed into his flashy Maroons State of Origin gear, much to the delight of the juniors.

Boxers bring home 3 gold from Rocky

PALM Island boxers travelled to Rockhampton for an amateur tournament, winning three won gold medals, while narrowly missing out on two more, late last month.

Two star boxers Selwyn Seaton and David Sam were unable to make the long 700kms bus journey after falling ill on a very rough ferry trip from Palm to Townsville

the day before.

The same fate befell many of the passengers that day.

Bus driver and Palm Island professional boxer Chris Gundy was one of the worst affected but recovered sufficiently to get behind the bus wheel for the trip to Central Queensland.

Joey Geia won gold in the 38kg division against a much older opponent, Jerome Walsh was successful in his 35kg

bout, and 10-year-old Isaac Bulsey won gold beating an opponent who was aged 12.

Steen Walsh fought the main junior bout and lost narrowly to an opponent two years older.

Fred Bulsey fought gallantly in the 44kg class and also lost.

Mr Dennis said the next trip away may be to Emerald on November 6, if funding can be arranged.

Palm to side with Bowen for Foley Shield competition

PALM Island will have a side in the prestigious Foley Shield rugby league competition in 2011 which will help to ensure players in the local domestic competition will have an easier path to representative honours.

It's a first for Palm Island, which is the breeding ground of so many quality footballers, many of whom never get to show their considerable talents on the mainland.

Scott Nosworthy, the Division Manager for the QRL Northern Division (*pictured right with Allan Palm Island*), was on Palm for the Obe Geia Junior Rugby League Challenge late last month.

Mr Nosworthy said Palm Island and Bowen would field a combined side in the prestigious Foley Shield, which was first held in 1948 and named after the late Arch Foley.

Six teams contested the Foley Shield this year – grand final winners were Townsville over Cairns, Innisfail/Eacham, Mount Isa/Mid-West, Mackay and Cape/Torres. "In 2011 the combined Palm Island/Bowen team will compete along with a second Townsville side which will make eight teams and no bye," Mr Nosworthy said.

Mr Nosworthy said officials of the Palm Island and Bowen Rugby Leagues' would meet to decide when a trial would be played between representative sides from the two places after which the new Foley Shield side would be picked. "The Northern Division is impressed with Palm Island having seven clubs and now these players will have the chance to play Foley Shield football against the best club footballers around the region and also be in the running for selection in the North Queensland Marlins side," he said.

As a curtain raiser to the 2009 Foley Shield in Townsville last May, a Palm Island Barracudas team easily beat a Bowen side. Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea was delighted when told the news by Mr Nosworthy.

"We worked hard during 2010 and the seven-club comp here was successful," he said.

"I think the side will be very competitive and every player on the Island will have a chance to get picked."

Mundy Bay Warriors club secretary Margaret Conway was also over the moon.

"I am very happy, our boys will get a chance to show their talents and gain representative selection," she said.



When the Palm Island Barracudas competed in the Townsville competition many years ago, star Palm Islander David Baira gained selection in the Townsville Foley Shield team.

"I got into the Townsville Foley Shield side three times and now the boys will have their own side, it's great news for Palm Island, the young blokes get a chance," Mr Baira said.

The QRL Northern Division has a paid employee on Palm Island – trainee Tanya James – who is also very enthusiastic about the Foley Shield.

The 2011 Foley Shield games will all be played over one weekend during May in Townsville.

Respected elder Allan Palm Island was also enthusiastic about the news.

"The focus will be on our players and it gives them a chance to play for North Queensland," Mr Palm Island said.

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