



**Your Community  
 Your Newsletter  
 Your Voice**

**SPECIAL:  
 FREE ISSUE!!  
 (\$1 IN 2011)**

## Welcome to the new-look Palm Island Voice!

PDF subscribers may not notice the difference BUT the Palm Island Voice is being printed in full colour in Townsville for the first time this fortnight, and will be distributed via retail outlets across Palm Island as well as from selected newsagents in Townsville. If your local newsagent isn't stocking the *Palm Island Voice* and you would like them to, give them our contact details from the back page and tell them we can arrange delivery every fortnight, thanks to the assistance of the Palm Island Community Company. Advertising and subscription information is on page 18.

# Survey says...

**Median incomes for Palm Island residents are just over half of what "average" Australian households earn, a Council survey carried out in May-June this year has shown, while unemployment on the Island remains a big issue.**

The survey was undertaken by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for 2010 and provided some very interesting statistics about day to day life on Palm Island.

It was endorsed by Mayor Alf Lacey and Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley along with Councillors Ruth Gorringer, Zina Prior and Hal Walsh at a Council meeting in July. *Palm Island Voice* was given a copy of the results for the information of residents.

The last official Census was

conducted in 2006, so the survey was seen as a much-needed initiative for Council to assist planning the provision of services with a more up-to-date estimate of the population.

A team of six appropriately qualified individuals who reside on Palm Island and have great local knowledge, carried out the survey during May and June, and later compiled a summary which is the basis of this story.

**Continued Page 2...**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



**END OF YEAR  
 ROUND-UPS FOR  
 FOOTY, NETBALL,  
 BOXING & MORE!!!**

# Survey says 53% are 0-24

...from previous page...

**It must be pointed out that there probably would be more people living on Palm than those who took part in the census, which nevertheless is a guide.**

Survey team members were: Amos Njaramba (leader), George Kinoti (Data input/analysis) and enumerators Delena Oui, Mersane Oui, Olive Puttaburra and Albert Wotton.

Some of the challenges faced by team members were that some residents only spend part of their time on Palm and often visit family on the mainland, others were uncomfortable about disclosing personal details, several people refused to be counted, and others asked to be left questionnaires but did not submit them.

The end result was that 2765 people took part in the survey and 276 were counted as not taking part, making a total of 3042.

Previous Census showed Island populations as:

**Year (people)**  
**1921 (109)**  
**1933 (244)**  
**1954 (694)**  
**1986 (1790)**  
**1980 (1991)**  
**2001 (2098)**  
**2006 (1984)**

The 2006 Census showed 93.5% of people on Palm were Indigenous but for this survey 97% of respondents identified as Indigenous (and more than half were male).

Age amongst respondents also provided an insight into island living: **0-4 Yrs (10%), 5-15 (22%), 15-24 (21%), 25-54 (39%), 55-64 (6%), 65yrs & over (2%).**

Of 2625 respondents who answered a language question, 100% said they spoke English at home and nil for Kuku Yalanji and Torres Strait Creole. A question about spiritual beliefs or religion was answered by 2188 respondents with the following results:

**48% Catholic, 22% Anglican, 24% other Protestant, 1% Baptist, 5% no religion.**

Unemployment is a major issue on Palm Island.

Of 1729 respondents 33% said they were employed with 67% having no job.

That compared to 41% working in the 2006 census and 59% without jobs. Of those who responded in the 2010 survey:

**26% described themselves as labourers, 18% community service, 7% professionals, 26% clerical and administration, 15% technicians and trades, 3% managers, 1% in sales, and, 3% machinery operators.**

Of the above 23% were employed in local government, 65% social assistance services, 11% school education and 1% in employment services.

The median income was just \$258 in the 2010 census which remains massively under the average amount earned by most Australians. In 2006 it was \$220 per week for Palm Islanders compared to \$466 on average Australia wide.

## **NEWS BRIEFS**

**FEDERAL Member for Herbert Ewen Jones said he had a very productive meeting on Palm Island last week.**

Mr Jones met with Mayor Alf Lacey and Acting CEO Jeff Brown, both of whom raised several issues including housing, the Alcohol Management Plan and the 2011 Census. Mr Jones said he would be looking into the cost of housing on the Island and would work with the council to improve opportunities for local people being employed in the industry. He also has offered to assist Council with developing alternatives on other issues raised.

**THE FAMILY of the late Peter Prior, extended Prior families and the Palm Island community are invited to the opening of the new Peter "Gulimbrah" Prior ferry terminal on Palm Island this Thursday .**

This recognition has come about from the book 'Straight from the Yudaman's mouth: the life story of Peter Prior before, during and after the Robert Curry days, never told before' by Renarta Prior. The site where the ferry terminal is situated is the site where Peter Prior (then native police) shot Robert Curry (the then superintendent of Palm Island) whom went on a wild rampage shorting his family and many innocent people. This unveiling is a joint community venture by Queensland Transport, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Palm Island Community Company and the Prior family.



## **NEWS BRIEFS**

**St Michael Catholic Primary School has tied for first place in a competition conducted by the North Queensland Cowboys and Canegrowers as part of the 'Cowboys in the Classroom' or 'Cowboys-Adopt-a-School' community programs.**

Prizes were a limited edition print of Jonathan Thurston or a framed jersey signed by the whole Cowboys team.

St Michael's tied for first place with Townsville's Railway Estate State Primary School and St Anthony's Parish School from Dimbulah in far north Queensland.

St Michael's Principal Gary Recklies said they hoped to be able to present the award to the students next year.

**A MYSTERY Weipa Good Samaritan has thrilled the highly successful but cash strapped Palm Island Boxing Club by sending them some top quality gloves.**

Veteran Palm Island boxing trainer Ray Dennis said a container of boxing gloves arrived by post from Weipa.

He said he had never met the Weipa lady named Gail Black, who telephoned him after seeing one of the television segments. "The boxing gloves came in a box, I have her return address and will be writing to thanks her sincerely," he said.

"With them came a note saying she hopes we can turn them into gold.

"They had been in a cupboard at her place and are near new.

"They will be put to good use."

## **Black Ink celebrates with Fantome stories**

**QUEENSLAND'S only Indigenous publisher, Black Ink Press, celebrated their tenth birthday in October this year.**

While focusing mainly on picture-story books for children, Black Ink Press has also published poetry, fiction, Indigenous language books, traditional style stories and historical material.

Their newest publication - Fantome Island - falls into the latter category.

The book is an interesting mix of artist's impressions and old black and white photographs.

They honour the memory of Indigenous Australians who lived out their lives there as lepers (people with Hansen's disease). Storyteller and songwriter Kathy Gibson (*below*) has recalled her experiences as a young nurse.

They are brought together with photos from her album and sketches by visual artist Jack Bell, who lived on Palm Island at the time but now lives back home at Aurukun.

Publication of Fantome Island was supported by the Australian Government through the Family Violence Regional Activities Program of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

**See pages 10-11 for more news on Fantome Island**



# ...Out & About...



**Respected Palm Island elder Noel Cannon was spotted at Townsville airport last week, saying he was going "walkabout to Alice".**

"I am going to Alice Springs to pick up a grandson and then bring him back home to Palm," he said.

Mr Cannon said he had never been to Alice Springs before and that he was looking forward to Christmas and the New Year on his beloved Palm Island.

**Every time Mae Tapim goes fishing off the Palm Island jetty, she recalls a long gone era when she was forced by authorities to move to the Island which she now loves.**

Ms Tapim said she had been sent to Palm Island as a girl after an incident with a teacher at St Gabriel's College in Charters Towers.

"A teacher there took my pearls off me so I punched her and was sent to Palm Island where I lived in a dormitory," she said.

"But I ran into the bush all the time and wouldn't go to school." She now lives in Townsville and travels regularly to Palm Island to see family and friends, and of course, to go fishing off the jetty there.

"I go early in the morning and always end up with lots of fish such as mackerel and queenfish and I think of those days in the dormitory, Palm Island is such a beautiful place," she said.

Ms Tapim was born on Thursday Island and went to primary school on Murray Island where her descendants hail from.

"I attended high school on TI and was sent down to Charters Towers St Gabriel's College," she said. "From there I was sent to Palm Island and my family didn't know about it.

"After that I went back to TI and came down to Townsville as a young adult."

These days she works for the Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Service Youth Shelter and before that was employed at the Hostel for the Homeless.

Ms Tapim has extreme sympathy for Palm islanders still owed Stolen Wages.



**Cultural Liaison Officer with the Queensland Police Service, Trevor Adcock, was at a White Ribbon Day event in Cairns recently and had this to say about his Palm Island memories.**

"I'd like to say 'giddy' to all the Palm Islanders, I was the Sergeant back there from 1980 to 1986," he said.

"They were the best six years of my life and I've got many dear friends over there.

"Any good stories that come out of there I like to hear about so I'm looking forward to subscribing to the *Palm Island Voice* over this next year, it'll be great to know what's going on down there and to hear all the positive things."



# Students visit State Parliament



**Palm Island Senior High School Students enjoyed an educational tour of the Queensland Parliament where they got to participate in a mock vote in the Legislative Chamber earlier this month.**

Leanne Young, Head of the Palm Island Senior Campus, said the visit was co-ordinated by Indigenous Liaison Officer Brett Nutley who spoke about the history of Parliament House. "The officer took the students through the passing of a law which they found very interesting," Ms Young said.

"The students were able to sit in the green room in the places where the Ministers would be able to sit. They especially appreciated having Townsville MP Mandy Johnstone there to help with their questions. And they enjoyed meeting three Ministers and the Mayor of Brisbane and the Mayor Ipswich by accident upon their arrival."

Ms Young said the students mixed with a number of important people over morning tea. "One student marvelled at the age of the chair that she was sitting in," she said. "Another student said the visit to Parliament House was the highlight of the excursion for her."

Ms Johnstone said it was an honour to be in the Parliament with the children and to speak to them about the legislative process.

"I want the future generations of Palm Island kids to know that they can do anything with their lives, including becoming a Member of Parliament," she said. "The leaders of tomorrow may well be amongst the young people who are graduating from high school this year. I wish school captains Yolanda Kerr and John Sibley and all other graduating students all the very best for the future."

Ms Johnstone paid tribute to Ms Young for organising the trip away for the students.

"Their special tour of the Parliament was part of a week long set of activities in Brisbane and surrounding areas. Congratulations and thank you to Leanne Young, Iagata Viri and Lindsay Malone for accompanying the children on this trip." Ms Johnstone said.

**More PISC News pages 8-9**

*IT was a happy occasion for Terence Creed as he carried his four-year-old son Zion over his shoulders walking along the esplanade a month or two back. Walking with the pair were Raymond Sibley (not the Deputy Mayor), his son Ahzali Sibley, aged 2, with Yarna, 8, Charesa, 7, & Terri-Lee Sibley, 5.*



# New 'Palm' look to Cathy Freeman's foundation



**Cathy Freeman**  
FOUNDATION

**The Catherine Freeman Foundation has undergone changes recently, starting with a name change and a new look.**

The organisation will now be called the Cathy Freeman Foundation and the logo more representative of the PI community.

The Foundation also welcomes two new team members, Daphne Lawrence as Programs Coordinator on Palm Island and Programs Manager Jamie Howden.

Both bring a great deal of energy and expertise to their roles and are a welcome addition to the CFF team.

Candace Ohanessian was on Palm Island late last month to present end-of-year awards to students at Bwgcolman and St Michael's.

Congratulations to Frank Sibley, Jah Burns, Toni Hero, Mary Williams, Eliar Charles, Nathan Age, Robert James, Tarena Charles, Jaleen

Barry, Craig Evers, Etosha Pearson, Denita Baira, Chris Evers, Davena Miller, Shaylan Haines, Karneisha Tanner, Koipe Castors, Christine Cannon, and Micaela Robertson.

Each student showed improvement in attendance and work ethic, well done all!

This awards ceremony marked the end of the Literacy and Non-Truancy program.

Next year CFF will launch the new program, 'Kids on Track'.

The Kids on Track program will reward more students for a greater number of accomplishments.

Going forward every student who attends school 80% of the time, or four days out of five, will receive an award.

Additional awards will be given for improvement in reading levels, good effort, and overall improvement.

And, as a child's education is a family affair, the 4th term awards will include an award for the family of the child with the highest attendance throughout the year.

The Cathy Freeman Foundation is very excited about all these changes and looks forward to working with the schools, parents and community with all our projects in 2011.



**Staff members and friends of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Finance Section enjoyed an 'end-of-year' dinner at the Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar & Bistro in November this year.**



# A big year for Coolgaree CDEP

During 2010 Coolgaree has completed many notable achievements which have produced many employment opportunities, we celebrate the small steps as well the large and following are some of our notable successes:

## OUTSTATION NORTH

This was a stockman's program for four participants who were successful in gaining employment on cattle stations in the north. The story was taken up by the Channel 7's Queensland Weekender program and aired on 7th November. The participants were Marshall Robertson, Bennett Blanket, Clarence Nugent and Vincent Palmer.

## CERTIFICATE II IN SECURITY OPERATIONS

This course was successfully completed by 16 participants who are now awaiting the issue of their Security Licenses. Five of those participants have been offered employment opportunities.

## CERTIFICATE II IN HOSPITALITY

19 participants have completed and will shortly graduate with nine participants gaining employment.

There have been many other projects instigated by Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation that have been of benefit to our community such as:

- The PCYC upgrade of paving and tables and seating.
- The upgrade of the football clubhouse
- The resurfacing of the netball courts and the ongoing refurbishment of the netball buildings which will complete next year
- The ongoing work with the disabled toilets at the Sports Facilities.
- The Green Army has supplied employment for 10 participants and is involved in greening, horticultural activities.

**Michelle Scholz**  
**Employment & Training**  
**Coolgaree Corporation for CDEP**



*Above & Below: During the recent Aboriginal Mayor's meeting on Palm Island Coolgaree CDEP hospitality students catered for more than 20 distinguished guests, including Ministers, to wide acclaim. A job very well done!!!*



# Palm students 'did themselves proud'

**For the first time in four years, a selected group of Palm Island Senior Campus students were able to participate in an end of year excursion to Brisbane and the Gold Coast.**

The excursion was held from Monday 29 November to Sunday 5 of December and was organised by Head of Campus, Ms Leanne Young.

The Senior Campus would like to thank Sunferries for their assistance with our travel from Palm Island to Townsville and return.

On arriving in Brisbane, students checked into their student accommodation at International House at St Lucia.

The first day of the excursion was filled with university visits to the Indigenous Support Units at the University of Queensland and Griffith University.

Senior Campus students were informed of university life and were able to tour the each campus with a guide.

Many questions were asked and some students were inspired to seek further information about enrolling in university.

At night students attended the performance of Grimm Tales at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

On Wednesday students were up bright and early so they could head to the Gold Coast to visit Seaworld for the day.

Upon arriving at Seaworld the group were met by guides and taken straight to the Polar Bear exhibit where they had an educational talk on Climate Change.

The seal show and dolphin show were both attended and greatly received by students.

The rest of the day students were free to enjoy the rides and exhibits of Seaworld.

At night students were driven to Mt Coot-tha to view



the city lights – although the view was great the group only remained a short while as it was too windy and cold for them.

Parliament House was visited on Thursday (see story p 3) and that night students went late night shopping at Indooroopilly Shopping Centre and attended a late night 3D movie session.

On Friday the students visited Movie World and were able to enjoy the rides and attractions at their leisure. A highlight for some was the Stunt Driving Show and the 4D Journey to the Centre of the Earth presentation. Much fun was had on the Superman Ride and the Scooby Doo Roller Coaster.

On Saturday morning students returned to South Bank where they visited the Indigenous Collections at the Queensland Museum and a guided tour of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre before attending a matinee performance of West Side Story.

After the performances students had a ride on the Brisbane Wheel so they could get a bird's eye view





# KIDS' CROSSWORD!!!

## Across

4. Type of hat
6. Two of a kind
7. Where you live
8. Attached to rope and stops a boat
11. Santa's helpers
14. Cut paper with this
17. Some kids watch too much of this at Christmas time
18. Hung on a wall with dates and months
20. Made of sand
21. Annoying insect, shoo away and don't bother me
24. 25 December
25. Revolves around the earth and not made of cheese
26. Type of fish with big scary teeth
28. A sport with gloves and packs a punch

## Down

1. A picture taken of your skeleton
2. Make a sandwich with this
3. A book you write in to record daily events
4. Townsville's footy team
5. Ride this animal with a saddle

9. Play this game with a bat and ball
10. The ceremony when two people get married
12. Largest island continent
13. He's green and mean and hates Christmas
14. Another way to say taking a bath
15. Jolly man with a beard and a red suit (2 Words)
16. Filled with air and sometimes water when you make water bombs
19. 'Meow' says this animal
22. A picture taken with a camera
23. Fruit with yellow skin
26. To hunt squid, use one of these
27. Like a stone but bigger

of South Bank and the City.

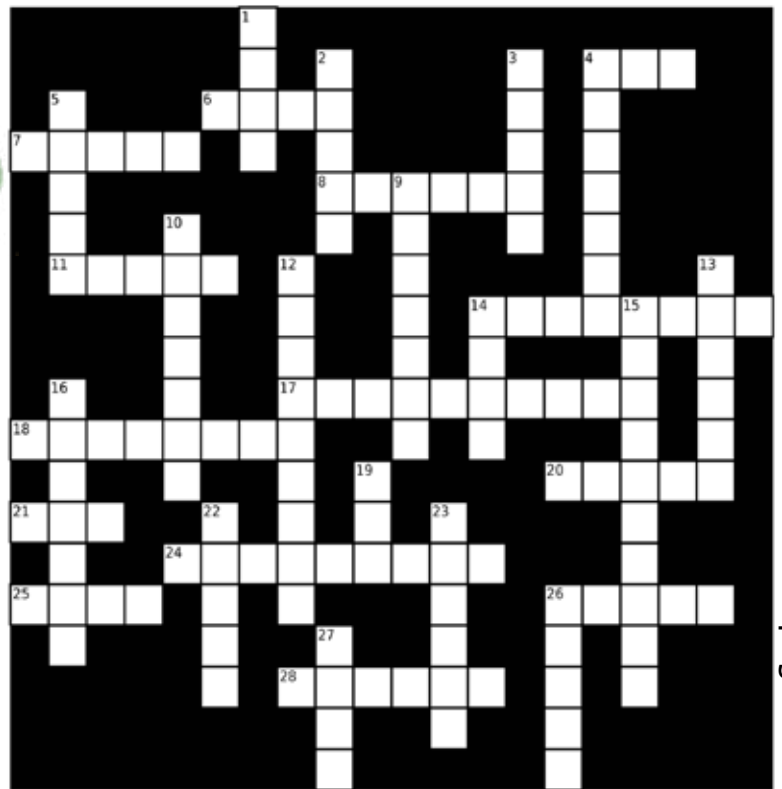
It was then back to International House to pack for an early departure on Sunday.

They returned home to Palm Island on Sunday afternoon.

The Senior Campus would like to thank the following organisations for their financial assistance towards the end of year excursion: Kirwan State High School, Day and Day Shipping, Ingham Rotary Club and the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

The excursion enabled students to participate in and enjoy the leisure activities available to them in a larger centre but more importantly it enabled them to meet people that can assist them in the future should they wish to enrol at university or move to Brisbane. A lot of learning occurred whilst away, both planned and incidental and in the short time that students were away they grew and developed.

The students did themselves and Palm Island proud with the way they presented themselves on the Excursion. I hope this is the first of many excursions that the students of Palm Island Senior Campus can participate in.



...Answers page 20...

## FAREWELL from Head of Palm Island Senior Campus:

I would like to thank the people and community of Palm Island for welcoming me to the Island for 2010. I have enjoyed working with the students and have am honoured to have been the first administrator for the Senior Campus to have lived on the island. It is because of this that the Senior Campus was able to have its first Senior Formal and End of Year Excursion in 2010. I am leaving to return to my substantive position at Northern Peninsula Area State College (Bamaga) for 2011. Thank you to Iaga Viri and Lindsay Malone (Case Managers) for their support and guidance during 2010. I wish the continuing staff well for 2011 and hope that the profile and successes of the Senior Campus continue for next year and beyond.

**Leanne Young**

# Fantome committee to bid for heritage listing

**A committee has been set up which includes Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey in a bid to have Fantome Island heritage listed.**

Others on the committee include local Catholic nun Sister Christina who will leave Palm next May, and 71-year-old Joe Eggmolesse who had been a patient on Fantome Island between 1945 and 1956. Mr Eggmolesse was one of the organisers of an emotional Remembrance ceremony held on Fantome Island on May 31 this year, which was attended by more than 90 people including Mayor Lacey, Catholic Bishop Michael Putney and former patients and staff.

The *Palm Island Voice* was the only print media there for the ceremony.

Bishop Putney told former patients of the Fantome Island leper colony he believed they had been sent there many years ago "to protect white people from catching the disease more than to cure Aborigines".

At the unveiling of a commemorative plaque Bishop Putney said that when Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised to Indigenous people one of the places he was referring to would have been Fantome Island.

The plaque was erected on the original site of the Mary Immaculate Church.

"This is the beginning of a healing process and what happened on Fantome Island



was one of the saddest chapters in Indigenous affairs," Bishop Putney said. "These were normal people who lived, laughed, married and died here.

"But they had poor conditions, the food was bad and the medical help not the best.

"The workers who were here did their very best for the patients.

"Thank God this day is the beginning of telling the true story about Fantome Island. Mr Eggmolesse is also a major subject of a documentary being filmed about Fantome Island by the Strong and Smart Media Training Company which is based in Cherbourg.

Bishop Putney and Mr Eggmolesse unveiled the plaque after prayers and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Mayor Alf Lacey made a touching speech.

"The history of Fantome Island is something we need to tell our grandchildren and a lot of families have been talking about a day like this for years," he said.

"We acknowledge NAIDOC

Week, Sorry Day and the Palm Island Strike of 57 and it is important that we also do that with Fantome Island."

70-year-old Palm Islander George Tanna was a patient on Fantome Island for five years, and later a staff member for seven.

"This brings back so many memories today and I am so glad I could be here," Mr Tanna said.

Lilian Willis said she recalled visiting Fantome Island when she had been living in one of the Palm Island dormitories.

Nerida Lampton wept as she listened to prayers, songs and speeches.

"I was born on Fantome Island and this is my first time back. It is very emotional," she said. Descendants of Torres Strait Islanders were also there including Gladys Sailor (Darnley) Edna Lowatta (Yorke), and Palm Island-based Australian Indigenous Ministries Father Emmanuel Fave (Moa).

On the day the barge arrived back on Palm Island around 3pm and there was a photo exhibition at the PCYC.



## HISTORY

In 1939 the Queensland Government established a leprosarium there for Aborigines suffering from the dreaded disease of leprosy which is now known as Hansen's disease. In its early years Fantome Island was confided to the care of the Catholic Sisters of Our Lady Help of Christians, an Australian order founded in Sydney which worked on Palm Island. After five years of dedicated service, the Sisters were recalled and replaced by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who continued this special service to the patients until a cure was found in the form of Sulphone drugs. Fantome Island was finally closed in 1973 and the remaining four patients were transferred to a special unit at Palm Island hospital.



*Photos: p10: Ralph Watson. p11: Top: Katherine Graham scatters the ashes of Paddy Tanna with the help of Sister Christina; Above: Plaque unveiling by Joe Eggmosses and Bishop Putney; Below Left: George Tanna; Below Right: Terry and Joe Eggmosses working with Strong & Smart Media towards a documentary about Fantome Island*



## Littering likely to be visiting craft

**Palm Island anglers who go near the former leper colony of Fantome Island in their boats are asked to keep an eye out for visitors who leave rubbish on the sacred ground.**

Numerous reports have come in recently about rubbish found on Fantome Island, which was a leper colony between 1939 and 1973.

It is believed that passing people on yachts or other craft who illegally camp on Fantome Island may be responsible. If anybody witnesses such acts, they are urged to record a vessel number and report the matter to the Council.





# It has been a highly successful and historical year for Palm Island rugby league...

A record seven clubs competed in the local domestic club competition which – taking into account pro rata of population – rates as the most fanatically followed in the country.

The two new Palm clubs were Mundy Bay Warriors and Hornets competing against Butler Bay Bulls, Jets, Skipjacks, Mount Bentley Raiders and Brothers.

Butler Bay Bulls made it three premierships in a row when they defeated arch rivals Jets 24-22

in the grand final.

There were many highlights during the season including when a Palm Island Barracudas side defeated Bowen easily in a curtain raiser to the Foley Shield final at Townsville in May.

2010 was arguably the best ever for Palm Island sides and players at the big Allblacks carnivals. Let's not forget the Barracudas under-18 team, who performed well in Cairns with stalwarts Roy Prior and Fred Haines senior as mentors.

There was also the great game between Skipjacks and Australian Army Thunder played at the football oval for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield.

On the junior scene the Obe Geia Junior Shield was held on Palm recently







with nine teams battling it out including Bwgcolman State and St Michael's Catholic Schools.

To climax the season the Jets and Palm Island under-18 sides travelled to Cardwell on November 20.

In early 2011 over the Australia Day long weekend in January, Curacoa Crusaders will be amongst 24 teams competing at the Rockhampton Allblacks carnival.

Palm/Bowen's 2011 Foley Shield debut season is also eagerly being awaited by football followers. Roll on 2011.





# Stingers are here

**SWIMMERS off Palm Island beaches have been warned about the presence of marine stingers.**

Officer in Charge of Palm Island Ambulance Service Ian Day says there has already been three cases of marine envenomation.

"Also a further case of an allergic reaction to a marine creature with both cases in the past week," he said.

Many youngsters swim in waters off Palm Island including in the sea near the jetty and in front of the Shire Council offices. Earlier this month the Townsville Bulletin newspaper reported stingers almost the size of soccer balls had hit Townsville shores.

Swimmers across the region have been warned that stingers of this size usually start appearing after Christmas and in early January.

Box jellyfish have also been netted at Rollingsstone's Balgal Beach, and at beaches north of Ingham.

So the possibility they will start being found in bigger numbers off Palm Island is a concern.



## **Vinegar Stations on Palm Island are at:**

Barbie Lenoy, Long Beach;  
Ferdy's Haven Farm Area;  
Bindy Geia, Beach Road;  
Barge Terminal Jetty;  
Doris Watson, Butler Bay.

## **Stinger Suits are now available**

All sizes are available, costs have remained the same:

Children suits - sizes 2 to 6 - \$20 each  
Children and Adults sizes 8 to 20 - Family deal first suit \$30 there after \$20  
Adult suits sizes 20 - 28 \$30

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Dear Editor,**

Just to inform you all of an shocking incident that occurred last month here on Palm Island. QAS Palm Island was called to an assault case and was treating and unconscious male - when a male offender has slashed all the tyres on the new 4wd ambulance leaving it crippled for the weekend - this appalling incident put all of the Palm Island

community in danger as it left it with out 4wd capabilities to be able to respond into areas where the big ambulances can not go. The offender has been identified and charged.

The cost will be very high to replace all the tyres plus other costs associated with the repair bill. I still can't believe that an incident like this could occur - when all the ambulance is doing

here is trying to assist people in need.

The unconscious patient was transported to the hospital and as I send this email out, we haven't had any deaths or situations where the 4wd drive could have been used, but I can tell you this - if someone had died, this situation would have made headlines everywhere.

**Ian Day,  
OIC QAS Palm Island**



# Palm Island Voice

## Public & Community Notices

### **MISSED THE DEADLINE FOR LODGING YOUR TAX RETURN? IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

Even if you didn't lodge your tax return before the end of October, ICAN can still help you to complete and lodge your return. And if you have lodged returns for a few years we can help you obtain payment summaries and complete tax returns. You might be eligible for a nice refund. **For more information see Ray at ICAN on the top floor of the Council administration building.**



***Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council would like to pass on their best and safest wishes for everyone in the community over Christmas and New Year, we hope you all have a happy and safe time with your families and friends and we look forward to a bright and productive 2011.***

### *Christmas & New Year Greetings!!*

**Merry Christmas Greetings and a Happy New Year to everyone on Palms especially our Elders and members of the Palm Island Community Justice Group. We hope people will keep safe during the Silly Season and we look forward to working with everyone next year.**

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Anyone interested in the Cadetship Student Paramedic Program – Two positions are available, Expressions of interest close 10 January 2011. For more information contact Ian Day, OIC QAS Palm Island, Office number: 07 4791 5133 or email [ian.day@dcs.qld.gov.au](mailto:ian.day@dcs.qld.gov.au)



**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council will be closed from Friday 23 December 2010 to Tuesday 4 January 2011**

**For more information contact the Council on 4770 1177  
For emergencies please call 0458 789 010**



**Mandy Johnstone MP  
Member for Townsville**

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Townsville QLD 4800  
Email: [townsville@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:townsville@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
Telephone: 07 4772 4701  
Fax: 07 4721 2097**



*From our Family to yours*

*We wish you a Merry Christmas  
& a Safe, Happy & Healthy New Year.*

*Mandy & Carl Johnstone*



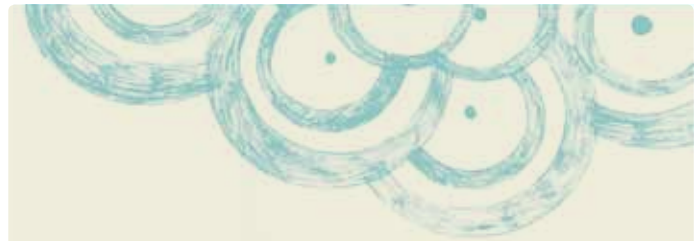
## *Christmas & New Year Greetings!!*

**Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation for CDEP would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year**

**Merry Xmas and a Happy and Safe New Year from the local Ambo Team**

**The Cathy Freeman Foundation would like to wish you all happy holidays and a wonderful new year!**

**Palm Island Voice would like to wish all our readers and supporters a very happy & safe Christmas break and an energised and productive New Year. We'd also like to thank those who have worked with us over the year, especially the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and various community organisations, schools, teams and others... Thanks! Christine Howes (Editor) & Alf Wilson (Journalist)**




To the Palm Island community  
**Seasons greetings**

and best wishes for 2011  
*from*

Linda Apelt and Mal Grierson  
Palm Island Government Champions



 Queensland Government

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Merry Christmas!

**Palm Island Community Company wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a safe New Year. Palm Island Community Company services will continue over the Christmas break.**







# SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM DAY & DAY SHIPPING

*To Mayor Alf Lacey, Councillors and the community of Palm Island: Our Management and Staff at Day & Day Shipping wish you and your families a Happy & Holy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the last twelve months and we look forward to continuing to support Community Events in 2011.*

## 2010/11 Christmas / New Year Schedule

21 Challand St  
Ingham QLD 4850  
P: 07 4776 5055  
F: 07 4776 3012  
Website: [www.mams-day.com.au](http://www.mams-day.com.au)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 <sup>th</sup> December	21 <sup>st</sup> December	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	24 <sup>th</sup> December	25 <sup>th</sup> December
Normal Service	Normal Service	Normal Service	Normal Service	Normal Service	
Depart Lucinda 7.30AM	Depart Lucinda 9.00AM	Depart Lucinda 9.00AM	Depart Lucinda 8.00AM	Depart Lucinda 7.00AM	
Depart Palm Is 11.30AM	Depart Palm Is 2.00PM	Depart Palm Is 2.00PM	Depart Palm Is 12.00PM	Depart Palm Is 11.00AM	
27 <sup>th</sup> December	28 <sup>th</sup> December	29 <sup>th</sup> December	30 <sup>th</sup> December	31 <sup>st</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> January
<b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>Public Holiday</b>	Normal Service	Normal Service + Cold Goods	Normal Service + Cold Goods	
		Depart Lucinda 7.30AM	Depart Lucinda 9.00AM	Depart Lucinda 8.00AM	
		Depart Palm Is 11.30AM	Depart Palm Is 2.00PM	Depart Palm Is 11.00AM	
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	4 <sup>th</sup> January	5 <sup>th</sup> January	6 <sup>th</sup> January	7 <sup>th</sup> January	8 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Public Holiday</b>	Normal Service + Cold Goods	Normal Service	Normal Service	Normal Service	Normal Service
	Depart Lucinda 7.30AM	Depart Lucinda 9.00AM	Depart Lucinda 9.00AM	Depart Lucinda 8.00AM	Depart Lucinda 8.00AM
	Depart Palm Is 11.30AM	Depart Palm Is 2.00PM	Depart Palm Is 2.00PM	Depart Palm Is 12.00PM	Depart Palm Is 12.00PM

# DAY & DAY SHIPPING

# **Palm Island Voice**

***Palm Island Voice* is a fortnightly community newsletter, first launched in August 2007.**

Advertising space is available to any businesses, organisations and individuals who have an interest in promoting services and events to members of the Palm Island community.

*Palm Island Voice* was initially launched with the assistance of a Queensland State Government initiative through the Community Renewal program. It is now funded by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and supported by advertising and subscriptions. 800 copies of the *Palm Island Voice* are distributed to retail outlets on Palm Island and in Townsville. For distribution inquiries contact the Editor (details below).

## **Advertising Information & Rates**

### **Display Ads**

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication - smaller ads by negotiation with the Editor)

Full A4 Page \$450      Half A4 Page \$230      Quarter A4 Page \$120

ADD GST + 10% for design work as required

### **Classifieds**

Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE

Public & Community Notices – FREE

Births, Deaths, Marriages, Birthdays – FREE

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

**Ads are to be booked by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see back page for details) and material submitted no later than COB the next day.**

### **Contributions**

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 400 words, unless by prior arrangement, and digital photographs should be as high quality as possible (at least 250dpi & no thumbnails please!). Final say on advertising, news items, other contributions and photo reproductions is at the discretion of the *Palm Island Voice* Editor, Christine Howes (contact details below).

### **Subscription Rates**

Subscriptions can be taken up from now until the end of June 2011.

#### **For non-Palm Island residents:**

PDF file format (up to 7mb) - \$20 from now until the end of June 2010

- posted by the Thursday after publication.

Hard copy format (postage included) will be \$40 from now until the end of June 2010

- posted by the Thursday after publication.

Please make your cheques/postal orders payable to: Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, c/ Palm Island Post Office, Palm Island Q 4816 OR via direct deposit to:

PIASC: BSB 064817 A/C No 00092534 Reference PIV0910 (important!)

**Palm Island residents and community organisations, contributors, paid advertisers and some media outlets are free in PDF format. Please note this may change in early 2011.**

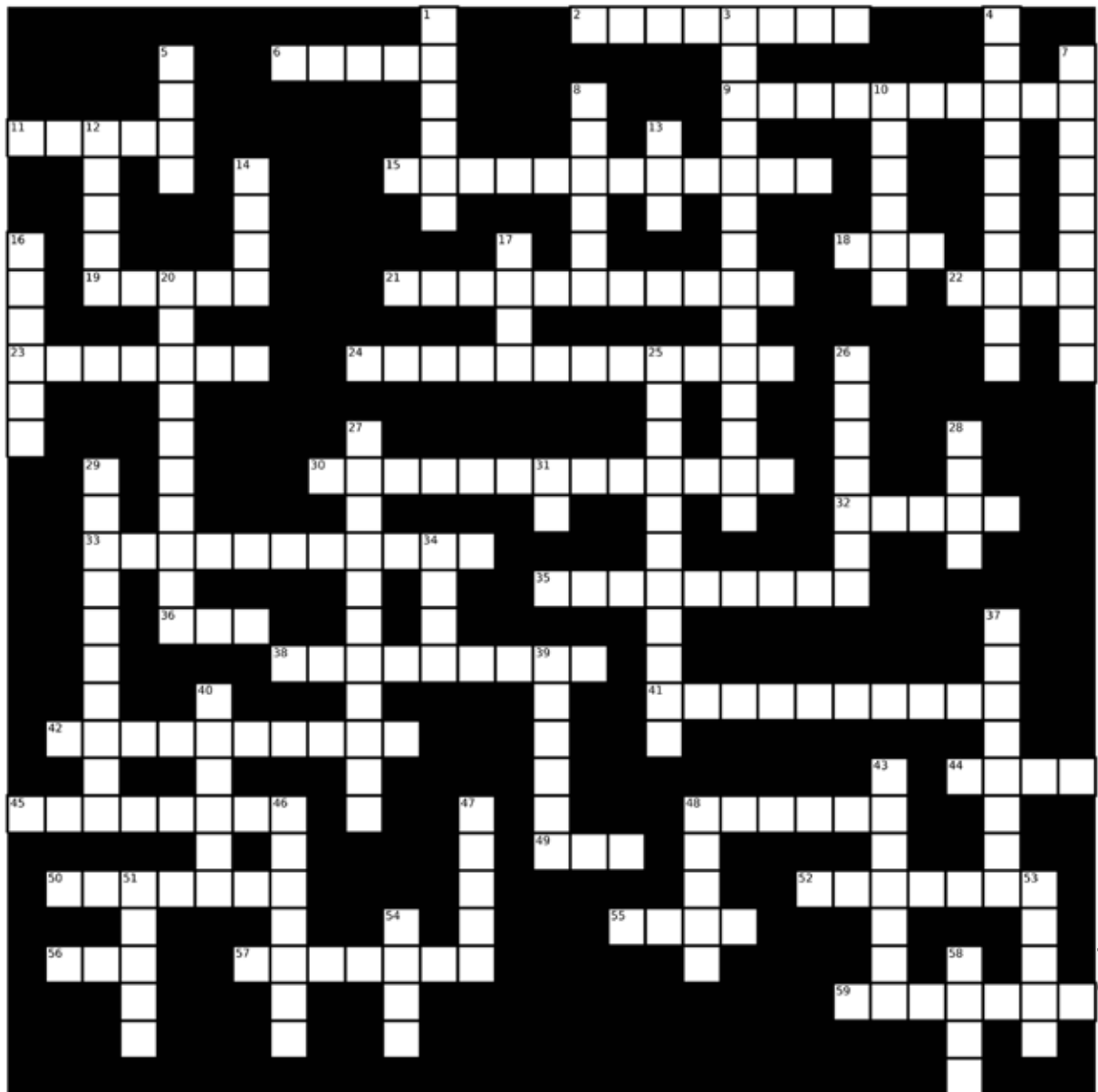
To be included on the email list for PDF copy please write and/or send proof of payment to the editor, Christine Howes, at: [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

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



# PI Voice Crossword 70

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



...Answers page 20...

## Across

2. Cold dairy treat (2 Words)
6. Australia's science organisation
9. Piece of PI history standing time (2)
11. Mayor of PI, Alf ?
15. Holy Bible contains these ten rules
18. Hot refreshing drink
19. Australia v England cricket contest
21. Regional footy comp starting early 2011 (2)
22. Car and driver for hire
23. Santa's reindeer with the red nose
24. December 25 (2)
30. Australia's first saint (2)
32. Energy powered by the sun
33. Right to land title (2)
35. PI boxing trainer (2)
36. Rostered day off (initials)
38. A puzzle of clues and answers
41. Decision made for the New Year
42. Kangaroos & Broncos forward (2)
44. American rapper on tour with U2
45. Regional airline (2)
48. Boss of a newspaper
49. December 24 is Christmas ?

50. Analogue TV will be replaced with ?
52. Famous English soccer player, David ?
55. Long-legged water bird
56. Plug-in computer key - stores files
57. Place to exhibit art work
59. Fuel made from sugarcane

## Down

1. Christmas cracker (2)
3. Coming together & resolving differences
4. Rugby league four nations champions 2010 (2)
5. Police & youth come together here
7. Estuarine reptile
8. Australia's national airline
10. baby cat
12. Asia's biggest country
13. Alcohol Management Plan (initials)
14. Kids like this for Christmas
16. People gather here on Christmas eve
17. PI rugby league runners-up - but still a deadly team
20. Air-borne vehicle with rotors

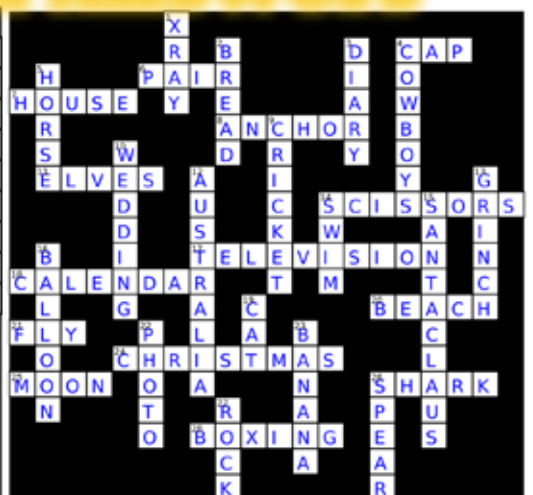
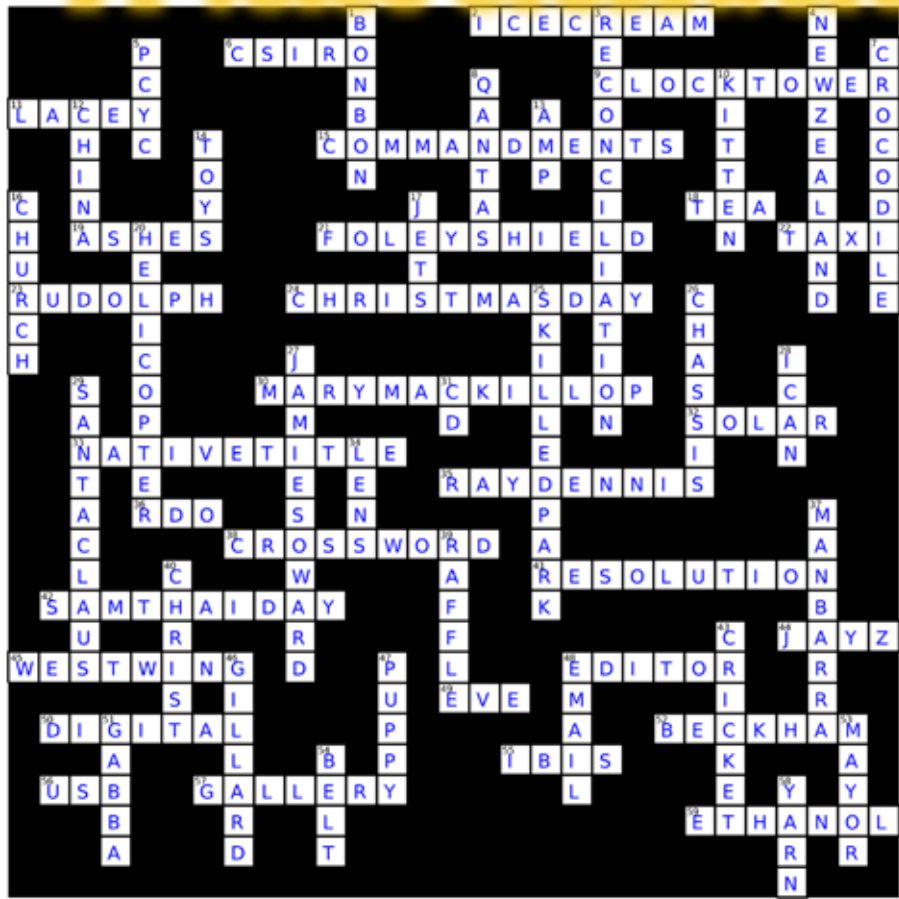
25. Indigenous All Stars game is played here (2)
26. Cars, trucks and buses built on this wheeled platform
27. St George Dragons goal kicker (2)
28. Indigenous consumer assistance network (initials)
29. Brings Christmas cheer in a red suit (2)
31. Your favourite music stored on this disk
34. Light passes through this part of a camera
37. PI traditional owners
39. buy a ticket and win a prize
40. Born in a manger, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
43. Australia's summer sport
46. Prime Minister of Australia, Julia ?
47. Young dog
48. An electronic message by computer
51. Another name for Brisbane Cricket Ground
53. Head of a shire, town or city
54. boxers want to win one of these
58. Spin a story

# KIDS' WORDFIND!!!

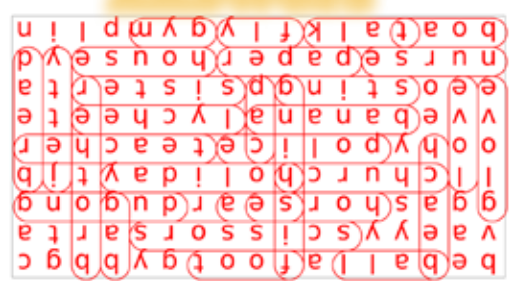
b e b a l l a f o o t g y b b g c  
 v a e y y s c i s s o r s a r t a  
 g g a s h o r s e a r d u g o n g  
 l l c h u r c h o l i d a y t j b  
 o o h y p o l i c e t e a c h e r  
 v v e b a n a n a l y c h e e t e  
 e e o s t i n g p s i s t e r t a  
 n u r s e p a p e r h o u s e y d  
 b o a t a l k f l y g y m p l i n

- |         |        |         |          |         |
|---------|--------|---------|----------|---------|
| foot    | dugong | holiday | paper    | beach   |
| ball    | fly    | sister  | house    | glove   |
| fishing | banana | brother | lychee   | gym     |
| boat    | sting  | nurse   | scissors | police  |
| jetty   | break  | talk    | bag      | teacher |
| horse   | church | sea     | cap      | love    |

## PI Voice Crossword Answers



## Wordfind Answers







## Indigenous Consumers' Assistance Network

<http://www.ican.org.au>

### **How to avoid mobile phone rip-offs!**

Have you ever been ripped-off by a trader? It is an awful feeling. It is not just the money you have lost but also the feeling that someone has taken advantage of you. Did you do anything about it or did you just say to yourself that you signed the contract or agreed to it so that is it. But did you know that under the law traders must ensure that the consumer understands what they are being asked to agree to. The trader must also consider factors such as whether a person cannot read or write and their level of education and they cannot take advantage of this. Traders also cannot engage in misleading or deceptive conduct. It doesn't matter whether the business set out to mislead you – if what they misleads you then the conduct is likely to be illegal. An example of misleading conduct would be a mobile phone provider selling you a phone without telling you that there is no coverage in your region.

In August this year the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) started legal action against mobile phone provider VIPTel Mobile alleging that the company engaged in misleading conduct. The ACCC has previously mounted legal action against this firm for its actions in Indigenous communities. The original action involved a number of Palm Island clients who obtained refunds. Since then ICAN has obtained full refunds for a number of other people that entered into contracts with VIPTel Mobile.

ICAN has also worked with the Telephone Industry Ombudsman (TIO) to help Indigenous consumers. The TIO is a free and independent service for consumers that have a problem with their phone or internet service. ICAN can make a complaint to this organization on your behalf.

**But if you have a complaint about phone companies or any offer service that you consider a rip-off you need to take some action and make a complaint. ICAN can help you. Come and see Ray or Emma at ICAN.**



*Summer on Palm Island*

# Great year for best boxing team in Queensland!



*Noby Clay 'socks it' to trainer Ray Dennis for local news cameras*

## **SOME of the best Palm Island boxers will be joining the Australian Boxing Association in 2011 to give them a better chance of representing Australia.**

The boxers are currently members of the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League but competitors under that banner cannot gain selection for their country.

Trainer Ray Dennis said more finance would be required in 2011 to enable his boxers to travel south to fight against the best boxers in the country. "Our boxers may find it tough going for a while. With experience I expect them to do well and hopefully at least one will make it to the trials for the 2012 Olympics," he said.

Mr Dennis said since he started training on Palm Island in 1999, his charges have won 41 gold medals at Australian Titles, 56 Queensland State Titles and 84 State Golden Gloves. "Now we want a Gold Medal at the Olympic Games," he said, adding that the year 2010 had been a very successful time for the Palm Island boxers. Our boxers have travelled to Mareeba, Ingham, Atherton, Townsville, Mount Isa, Emerald, Mackay,

Rockhampton and finally Hobart in Tasmania. Our boxers have won many bouts during the year and lost some," he said. Mr Dennis felt most importantly the boxers had learnt to be good sportsmen and women.

"They have learnt to accept defeat without having a whinge or say they were cheated. Our boxers have made good friends against many of their opponents and that goes a long way towards reconciliation between black and white people," he said.

The veteran and highly popular Mr Dennis believes his is the only all Aboriginal boxing team in Queensland.

"They are making a good name for the Aboriginal race and Palm boxers have performed well in the ring, some better than others," he said.

"They won 12 gold medals at the prestigious Golden Gloves which as more than any other boxing club in the Sunstate Queensland Boxing League.

"At the State Titles there were

more than 100 boxers from the League and the Global Boxing Association.

"Our boxers put up one of their best performances ever, winning five gold medals and five State Championship belts. "No other boxing club came anywhere near that."

At the recent Hobart National Titles, six Palm boxers won four gold, one silver and a bronze medal.

"All our boxers performed well and two were only defeated by split decisions," he said.

"I am also proud to be their trainer with Chris Gundy," he said. Two appearances on national television during 2010 increased the profile of Palm Island boxers—they were on ABC Message Stick and the other, entitled "Ready to Rumble", was on the Channel 7 Sunday Night program hosted by Mike Munro. "The Mike Munro story received a lot of publicity and the two stories certainly helped to put Palm island Boxing Club in the limelight," Mr Dennis said.



# Touch team has a go in Brisbane

**A team of fourteen Palm Island boys travelled to Brisbane to participate in the 17th Annual Sports and Cultural Festival, touch football carnival last month, writes Lana Godfrey for the *Palm Island Voice*.**

This event is the largest Indigenous sporting event in the country, with teams competing from all around Australia and other countries such as New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. The festival attracted a huge crowd of 15000 people with \$37,000 worth of prize money to be won and was a fantastic opportunity to be a part of. The Palm Island touch footy team; **'Bwgcorman Whuntuna**



**Flyers'** gathered at the Townsville train station for a television interview and newspaper photo shoot before they embarked on the 24-hour train trip to Brisbane, with travel expenses kindly sponsored by Queensland Rail.

Palm Island has not participated in this event for the past three years and the team was ecstatic to have the opportunity.

Everyone was happy to see Palm Island amongst the teams and the boys had the opportunity to meet many new people.

The weekend proved to be a rich experience for all involved.

An important aspect of community development is the empowerment – by the end of the event, the team themselves were brainstorming ideas for fundraising and devising strategies for training for the event in 2011.

This is indicative of their enthusiasm and pride for Palm Island. Unfortunately, the team did not make the finals, however played well and significantly improved during the tournament. Over two days the team had four games in total and the sprint relay.

A highlight of the weekend was one of our team members, Kevin Morgan, was selected to play in the QLD Indigenous Opens Men's side in the 'Battle of the States' game against NSW. Queensland won!

Sponsorship was secured from Queensland Rail, MMG, Holcim, Palm Island Council and

the East Brisbane Community Centre along with private donations from Dr. Julie Clarke, Denis and Shirley Lyons, Ken and Gail Godfrey and Lana Godfrey to financially support the team throughout the event.

Without this financial support, the team would not have been able to participate.

The team is extremely grateful for your contributions, thank you.

The Bwgcorman Whuntuna Flyers, Palm Island touch football team are excitedly anticipating a bigger and better event in 2011 with early preparation and the opportunity for many people from Palm Island to be involved both through participation and support.

Watch the *Palm Island Voice* and notice boards around Palm Island for information about the status of the team and come along to be involved in this wonderful event!



*Pics: Top: the team at Townsville Railway Station; Above: Coach Lloyd Morgan with his daughter and team volunteer Murielle*

## Palm well-represented in netball

**TWO Palm Island girls teams, a ladies open and a mixed team gained valuable experience when they competed at the Combined Australian Netball Association (CANA) National Championships held at Townsville's Corcoran Park courts in September this year.**

Four Palm teams contested the in the 13 years and under division, the 17 years and under age girls groups, the Open Ladies, and Open Mixed divisions.

Leah Dabea said the 13 years team played their last games to reach the semi finals but were eliminated, the Ladies Open won six games and reached Friday's preliminary finals, whilst the Mixed side also got to that stage.

"In the girls grades most of the players in the other teams were a lot taller and bigger than ours and we did really well and the experience had been so good," Leah said.

Best and Fairest players for Palm teams were Mixed Open: Zac Sam, Women's Open: Bronwyn Kerr, 17 Years: Janaya Barry, 13 Years: Ngaire Pearson.



*Top: Palm 13 years and under side with coach Elsa Morton  
Above: Palm 17 years and under side with coach Leah Dabea*

## Talented boxer shows his passion for dance moves

**TALENTED young Palm Island boxer Selwyn Seaton has another passion, showing his style as a dancer.**

The youngster is one of the rising stars on Queensland amateur boxing and works with Q-Build on Palm as an apprentice tradesman.

But boxing trainer Ray Dennis reckons he could end up famous later on in life as a dancer.

"Selwyn really can dance and whenever we go away he does a kangaroo dance," Dennis said.



### 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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Thursday 3 March

Thursday 17 March

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THURSDAY 10 March 2011

THURSDAY 24 March 2011