



# Palm Island Voice

Issue 76  
Thursday 7 April 2011

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice

**\$1.00**



## Family fun day planned to kick-off 2011 Palm Island footy season

**This year's seven-side Palm Island Rugby League season is ready to blast off with a huge family fun day this Saturday says PIRL president Ili Dabea.**

The day will have something for all Palm Islanders, he said. Round one of the 2011 season was due to start weeks ago, however a waterlogged local football oval after heavy recent rain along with non-payment of some player insurance premiums by some clubs, has caused the delay. Provided there is not much more rain, the much anticipated comp and family day should go ahead with massive crowds expected to participate.

Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea said the

draw for the first three games would be carried out at a meeting on the evening of April 5.

Premiers Butler Bay Bulls, runners up Jets, Skipjacks, Brothers, Mount Bentley Raiders, Mundy Bay Warriors and Hornets will compete for premiership honours.

There will be a bye in each round throughout the season. Some of the teams which finished down the ladder last season are tipped to improve sharply after some clever recruiting over the past month.

Mr Dabea said everybody on Palm Island seemed to be talking about the football.

"Our emphasis will be on having a big family day first up and we are expecting a very large crowd," he said.

"It would have started earlier but the ground had a lot of water.

"It should be right providing we don't get heavy rain."

Regina James is the PIRL secretary and Margaret Conway the treasurer.

***...More footy on pages 12-13...***

## Townsville Defence forum engages students

**BWGCOLMAN High School students were among 200 pupils from 12 secondary schools to attend an Australian Defence Force Indigenous Youth Challenge forum at Townsville's Lavarack Barracks last week.**

At the forum they got to ask challenging questions about life and check out possible defence force careers.

The students were presented throughout the day with various scenarios to explore issues and investigate the relevance of the ADF in today's society and to their own lives.



They were also asked questions on a series of subjects such as bullying, education, religion and detention, and were awarded points depending on their answers.

***Continued page 2...***

...From page 1...

A popular set of questions was about why they would make a good school captain. Photographs of well-known Indigenous servicemen who had been involved in different conflicts, including World Wars I and II, were also displayed on a big screen.

After that they were shown defence force dogs at work and the latest Army equipment. Navy, Army and Air Force personnel were on hand to answer questions, talk about their experiences and demonstrate some of their activities.

Head of Campus at Bwgcolman High Chris Wicks said it was a great opportunity.

"This is sensational and has provided a great opportunity to get the students thinking about careers, and the ADF caters for many with various abilities," he said



## Delena's granddaughter on the road to recovery

**WELL-known former-Palm Island Council chairperson Delena Oui-Foster has finally come home to Palm after a month away in Brisbane to be with one of her granddaughters.**

"A granddaughter of mine had a heart operation in Brisbane and is recovering now so I can come home to Palm," Delena said.

Delena was with her daughter Tenielle Oui, grandson Zephaniah Oui, son Ishmael and grandson Chase Noble when the *Palm Island Voice* caught up with her.

She said she had applied for funding to set up two Palm



Island small businesses.

"One will be a consultancy and management business part of which will be to help Palm Islanders who are released from prison get back into normal life, such as assisting them to find employment," she said.

She said the other idea was to try to help Palm Island women set up their own small businesses to suit their skills. "It will be showing them how to do paperwork and fill out things such as Business Activity Statements," she said.



# PI boxers sponsored for 'deadly' uniforms

**PALM Island boxers are not only amongst the best in Australia but are now going to be up with all pugilists in and out of the ring in the fashion stakes.**

Peter O'Brien from Wamboin in NSW flew up to Rockhampton last month to present 24 pairs of boxing shorts and 24 club jackets to the Palm Island Boxing Club.

Trainer Ray Dennis said he was "very very" grateful Peter and his wife Joan made the long trip to see Palm boxers in action on a card at the Rockhampton PCYC which featured 15 bouts.

Mr Dennis said national exposure such as on the Channel 7 Sunday Night program hosted by Mike Munro, and Message Sticks on the ABC, had made his club known around Australia.

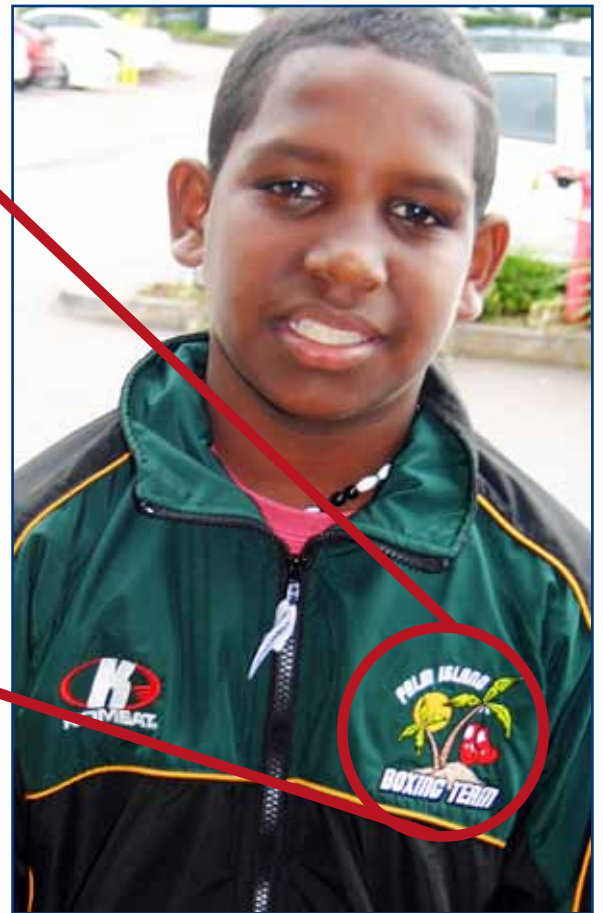
"A big thank you to Peter O'Brien and wife Joan, our boxers will be dressed well and look good," he said.

"We are very grateful to the Palm Island Community Company for making the trip possible.

"We are also thankful to Job Find as they have supplied is with singlets every year since 2001.

"Without financial help our boxers would not be able to leave our Island home to get experience against the best boxers on the mainland."

Mr Dennis said the away trips help with reconciliation



and enabled his boxers to be good sportsmen and women.

"They have to behave and stay out of trouble or they don't come next time," he said.

The Palm Island boxing team will proudly wear their attire on forthcoming trips possibly to Moranbah on April 8 and then to Emerald on April 16.

Their new gear was also worn with pride on last weekend's trip to Blackwater in central Queensland.



**Pictured: Above: Isaac Bulsey shows off his new Palm Island Boxing Team jacket with the logo**  
**Left: On their way to Blackwater in the back row from left are David Sam, Reggie Palm Island and Patrick Clarke.**

**In front is Isaac Bulsey & Joey Geia (More next issue...)**

# Early days on Fantome recalled

**"The True Story of Fantome Island" by Palm Islander Kathy Gibson was officially launched at St Michael's School last Tuesday.**

Published by Townsville company Black Ink Press, the launch was planned for several weeks ago but had to be postponed because Ms Gibson was caught by flood waters on the mainland. "The book came out before Christmas but now it is being properly launched on Palm Island and Kathy was an honoured guest," Black Ink Press co-ordinator Jeanie Adams said.

Palm Island Catholic Sister Christina McGlynn and school principal Gary Recklies organised a showing of the photos from the book which was projected on the wall screen and also available for sale as a CD.

Ms Adams said the book combined a personal story, artist impressions, by former Palm Island resident Jack Bell, and old black and white photographs. She said it honoured the memory of Indigenous Australians who lived out their lives there as lepers (people with Hansen's disease).

Ms Gibson – a respected elder, storyteller and songwriter – recalled her experiences on Fantome Island as a young nurse.

Ms Adams said it was about time the story was told to the current generation, before all those with memories pass away.

"Young and old will be moved by the story Kathy Gibson tells, and hopefully others on Palm Island will be inspired to bring out their own stories too," she said.

Black Ink Press also held a practical workshop for budding young Indigenous writers and illustrators to speak with other potential authors while they were on the Island.

Another historical Palm Island book is in the pipeline, a personal account of the



1957 strike and the effect on its families written and illustrated by Dulcie Isaro.

**For further information, photos or review copies please contact Jeanie, Sylvia, Lisa or Emma at Black Ink Press on 07 4773 5077 or see their website at:**

**<<http://www.blackinkpress.com.au>>**



# Four-eyes are better than none

**Over 300 Palm Island students received free eye tests and prescription glasses, as needed, as a result of free eye screening and testing carried out last week.**

The much-needed clinics were held over two days by the OneSight Foundation and attended by children from St Michael's Primary School and Bwgcolman High School.

Simon Tame, who took part in the clinic, said the kids found the clinic interesting and fun, as did the OneSight team.

"The kids loved it," he said.

"It was interesting and a lot of fun and the team loved it, it was definitely a great experience and one that we would look forward to next year."

He also said some of the kids had some issues.

"They had difficulty reading and were experiencing problems with eye co-ordination," he said.

Children who needed glasses initially chose a set of frames from the ready-made available selection, to give them improved sight straight away.

They should receive their custom-made glasses within the next few weeks.

Attending optometrist Shannon Peckham, auspicing company Luxottica's first indigenous optometry graduate, said many of the children did not have access to basic eye health services.

"Palm Island has so many children who don't have the means or mobility to access the proper care their eyes need," she said. "Having the opportunity to



provide these essential services to those in need is very rewarding.

"Poor vision impedes a child's ability to learn in school and robs an adult of independence, mobility and quality of life.

"The most common cause of visual impairment is uncorrected refractive error such as short-sightedness, long-sightedness, presbyopia and astigmatism, which all can be fixed simply by providing eye testing and prescription glasses."

Luxottica spokesperson Cait Tynan said Luxottica's employees from OPSM, Laubman & Pank, Budget Eyewear, Sunglass Hut and Bright Eyes provided enormous support for the OneSight Foundation.

The Foundation has helped more than 200,000 Australians in need over the past eight years through scheduled clinics and eye screening at schools, homeless shelters and community centres.



# 'The Tall Man' debuts at Adelaide Film Fest

A film called 'The Tall Man' made its debut at the Adelaide Film Festival early last month, and was attended by Palm Islanders Elizabeth Doomadgee and Valmai Aplin and a number of others from the far north.



The film explored the events surrounding the tragic death of their brother.

An Adelaide Film Festival spokeswoman said 347 people attended the session where premiere film adaptation of Chloe Hooper's award winning book of the same name was shown. It will also be broadcast on SBS 1 on April 17 at 8.30pm.

Film producer Darren Dale from Blackfella Films said he had aimed to present a truthful examination of the events and subsequent coronial enquiries.

The film relies on interviews, archival footage and news stories.

"We felt it was such a case of injustice and we felt a film adaptation of the book has the power to show on screen those people

who have been deeply affected, not just the family and community on Palm Island, but the lawyers as well," Mr Dale said.

"I feel broader Australian audiences need to know that these kind of things are still happening in our country in 2011."

Mr Dale had shown family members the finished film before its release, and arranged for them to come to the premiere.

"Obviously it was a hard thing for them to watch, but I think they feel really empowered that this film is going to be seen," he said.

Ms Hooper has been a major sponsor of the Palm Island Boxing Club.

PICTURED above are Elizabeth Doomadgee and Valmai Aplin with friends and supporters at the Adelaide festival.

## Ex-MP says 'giddy'

**RETIRED Member for Townsville and parliamentary speaker Mike Reynolds was a genuine friend of Palm Islander people over his years of service as an elected MP.**

On numerous occasions before he retired Mr Reynolds defied his own Party's views, expressing instead his support for the Island's position on various issues. But he said he was delighted to have the

opportunity to say hello to his many friends on the Island through the *Palm Island Voice*. He was also glad to see and yarn with Alice Barney, who grew up on Palm Island. "It was great to see Mike who

did a lot for our people," Alice said.

PICTURED with Alice was her niece Elizabeth Clarke and nephew Wallace Clarke, who are both from Palm Island but live in Townsville.





# September rodeo to be hosted by Mungalla

**MUNGALLA Station, located 12km east of Ingham, has been confirmed as the venue for the second Palm Island rodeo of 2011, to be held on 17 September.**

Mungalla spokesman Jake Cassady said at a meeting last week his Board had approved for the station to be used as the venue.

The station conducts Aboriginal Tours and also the popular Mungalla Festival, held from September 3 to 5 in 2010.

The station is run by the Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation which is an incorporated body set up by Traditional Owners to run sustainable enterprises, training, and education projects as well as manage the 2000 acre cattle property owned by the Nywaigi Aboriginal Land Corporation, which holds title to the property.

Memberships are made up from the seven Nywaigi traditional owner family groups or clan groups in the Nywaigi nation.

Mr Cassady said he was overjoyed to be able to contact organisers Pauline and Shaun Shortjoe to advise them of the good news.

Many Palm island residents are expected to travel to Mungalla for the rodeo.

As a bonus visitors will be able to camp

on the grounds, saving them expensive accommodation outlays.

The first and official Palm rodeo is scheduled for May 14 at Charters Towers where organisation is at an advanced stage.

Recent wet weather ruled out any possibility that either rodeo could be held on Palm Island after two scheduled events were cancelled during 2010.

Costs to transport bulls to Charters Towers and Mungalla Station are much less than having to take them to Palm Island.

Ring events at both rodeos will be organised by Townsville-based John Moss of Bucko Billy Rodeo.

Mr Moss said he was delighted about the Mungalla rodeo.

"It is a Palm Island rodeo and will attract people from all over North Queensland, it will be a great venue," he said.

**For more information about Mungalla, see their Facebook page or visit <http://www.mungallaaboriginaltours.com.au/>**



***Above: Pauline Shortjoe and John Moss at the 2009 rodeo on Palm Island***

***Right: Daniel Nallajar at the water-sodden rodeo grounds on Palm Island, taken back in October last year (yes, long before it \*really\* rained!)***





# ...Out & About...

**IT was smiles all round when Palm Island Deputy Mayor Raymond Sibley and his wife Ruby bumped into Stephanie Boyd and Ray Dennis at the Hotel Allen in Townsville late last month.**



**Well-known Palm Islander Maggie Blackley was enjoying the air-conditioning as she shopped in Townsville late last month. Maggie was with her 13-year-old granddaughter Kaiya Blackley.**



**Palm Island Rugby League president Ili Dabea was also shopping in Townsville recently. He was photographed with security officer Levi Savuro who has worked on Palm a few times.**



**FORMER NRL rugby league star and Palm island karaoke singer extraordinaire Milton Thaiday caught the ferry to Townsville last Friday to play football the following night for Bindal Sharks against Brothers. With Milton were other Palm Island players Gresham Ross, Vincent Palmer and organiser Vaughn Charles. "I have organised for young Palm players to come to Townsville so they can develop and that will assist footy over on the island," Mr Charles said.**



# Palm Island Voice

## Public & Community Notices

Palm Island Voice Public & Community Notices are your best choice for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Meeting Notices, sales & all your classified needs - and most of them are free!

**See next page for details**

### STATE MEMBER TO VISIT PALM ISLAND

Member for Townsville, Mandy Johnstone will be visiting

Palm Island on **Thursday, 14 April, 2011.**

Mandy is available to meet with members of the Palm Island Community and will be at the

**Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar & Bistro between 12.30 - 2 pm.**

If you would like to book an appointment to meet with Mandy on a particular issue, or if you have any queries we could assist with, please contact the Townsville Electorate Office on (07) 4772 4711.



### COME CELEBRATE EASTER 2011

**Palm Island Easter Celebration!**

**AIM Community Church.**

**Theme: JESUS- THE HEALER**  
**Luke 4:18,19**

**Visiting Speaker: Evangelist Joseph Walters**

*Reverend Walters has been in ministry more than 30 years. He is a renowned speaker, who has traveled and ministered in Asia, the Pacific islands, Australia and USA. He and his wife are Founding Pastors of Tabernacle of Prayer (TOP), a vibrant and growing Church, located in Port Moresby, the Capital City of PNG. Accompanied by his wife & a team.*

**Venue:** PCYC Hall, Palm Island.

**Time:** 6.00-9.30pm

**Dates:** Fri.22, Sat. 23, Sun. 24 April

**Special Highlights:**

- \* Creative Dances      \* African special
- \* Island Songs from PNG \* Country Gospel
- \* Water Baptism (Saturday morning)

Supported By Christians United for Palm Island.

Contact: Pastor – ph.(07-47701880)

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Palm Island Voice  
are available now at  
the following shops  
and newsagents in  
Townsville:**

KIRWAN NEWS

- 1 Forest Ave, Kirwan

BAMFORD LANE MINI MART -

113 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

MOUNT VIEW NEWS

- 32 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

CRANBROOK CONVENIENCE  
STORE

- 476 Ross River Rd,  
Cranbrook

NEWS ON THE AVENUES

- 85 Burnda St, Kirwan

PARKSIDE NEWS

- 148 Bamford Lane, Kirwan



## **Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council**

**is closed every  
second Friday**

**(Council pay week) for RDO.**

**The next RDO is Friday 15 April.**

**For emergencies on a**

**Friday please call 0458 789 010  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
THE COUNCIL ON 4770 1177**

## **POST OFFICE**

The Council have now taken over the Post Office on a temporary basis and we want to notify the community where it is and the hours.

Post Office is presently located at Bwgcolman House and this office space may change pending availability of other office space. We are seeking the co-operation and patience of the community during this transitional period.

**Hours : Monday – Thursday 10am – 4pm  
Friday 10am – 2pm**

### **REMINDER: EASTER DATES 2011**

12th April 2011  
21st April 2011  
22nd April 2011  
25th April 2011  
26th April 2011  
27th April 2011

Delegation  
NAIDOC Meeting  
Good Friday  
Easter Monday  
ANZAC Day  
Land Trust Meeting

### Letter to the Editor: Tribute

**Dear Editor,**

FORMER well known boxer from Palm Island Colin Gibson has recently passed away. I have been told that Colin Gibson was very unlucky not to represent Australia at the Olympics Games. Both Wally and Ollie Taylor of Mackay represented Australia at Commonwealth and Olympic Games and were both Australian

professional champions.

Doug Moody from Mackay trained both Wally and Ollie Taylor.

One day Doug Moody asked me when I was going to produce another Colin Gibson from Palm Island.

He tells you how good Colin Gibson was when he was boxing. If I can find another boxer as good as Colin Gibson we might just get at least one Palm boxer to the next Olympic Games.

Colin Gibson was a very good

friend along with another really good boxer Jack Sibley. Now they have both passed away.

I am hoping to find some young Palm Island boxers good enough to take over where Colin Gibson and Jack Sibley left off boxing.

Colin Gibson will be sadly missed by his family and many good friends on Palm Island.

**Yours sincerely,  
Ray Dennis**

## **Palm Island Voice Subscriptions**

Worried you might miss out on your hard copy of the *Palm Island Voice*?

Subscribe now for guaranteed delivery to your nearest mail box!

**PDF copies** of the *Palm Island Voice* are sent out a week after publication date and from now until the end of the financial year (Issue 83) will cost **\$16**. **Hard copy** subscription, from now until the end of the financial year, will cost **\$35**.

### **CORPORATE SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$70**

Please make cheques/postal orders payable to: Palm Island Voice

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council,  
c/ Palm Island Post Office,  
Palm Island Q 4816

### **Reference PIV1011 (important!)**

OR via direct deposit to:

PIASC: BSB 064817  
A/C No 00092534

### **Reference PIV1011 (important!)**

Make sure you send your payment details and address requirements to the Editor (see details previous page or on page 16).



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The **Palm Island Voice** is delivered to Palm Island courtesy of West Wing Aviation & PICC

**MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON**  
**9am Saturday 7 May PCYC**  
**VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!!!**  
 For more info contact Deniece Geia

## 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

### 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.**

For more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)

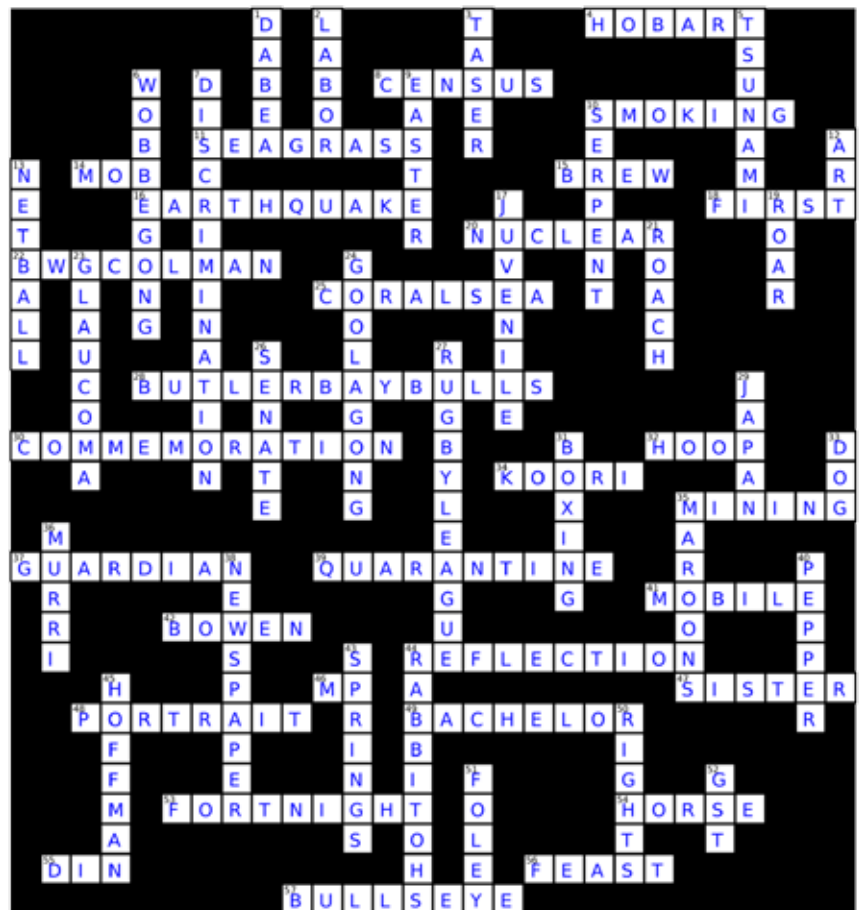
**PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN  
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!!**

# PI Voice Crossword 75 Answers

With thanks again to David  
Goeldner & the Crossword  
Puzzle Maker at  
[http://www.  
armoredpenguin.com](http://www.armoredpenguin.com)

**HAVE YOU GOT A CLUE OR  
TWO?**

If you would like to  
contribute some ideas for  
Crossword Puzzle clues email  
them to the Editor (see back  
page for details) or drop them  
into the Council today!!!



## Palm Island written into Swedish snow

**A young Swedish  
photographer  
who visited Palm  
Island last year  
was so impressed  
with the beauty  
of the place and  
friendliness of  
residents she  
has written a  
message about  
it in the snow at  
her hometown of  
Orebro.**

Maria Eriksson emailed  
a pic to the *Palm Island  
Voice* of herself standing  
in snow with a sign she

created which reads, "I loved Palm Island".  
The snow is in stark contrast to the photograph  
taken of the 23-year-old Maria standing along  
the waterfront on Palm Island during her visit.  
She said temperatures where she lived varied  
between minus 5°C and minus 20°C.

"Over here because it is so cold we have to



stay inside around the heater and I think of  
Palm and how good the weather is there," she  
said in her email.

"I had a really good time when we went to  
Palm. People were very friendly and happy to  
have a visitor from overseas, I definitely want  
to go back."



# Foley Shield ready to roll

**PALM Island will make an historic debut in the prestigious Foley Shield rugby league competition at 7pm on Friday May 20 against Townsville City, says QRL Northern Division manager Scott Nosworthy.**

And a trial game between Palm Island and Bowen for selection in the combined side looks set to go ahead in Ayr on 7 May.

Players who stand out in the seven-club Palm Island domestic competition in the lead up to the trial will be selected to have a go for the team.

The Foley Shield started in 1948 and is regarded as the major rugby league contest in NQ after the NRL.

Games in the 2011 competition will all be held at Brothers in Townsville from 20 to 22 May. Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea met with Mr Nosworthy (*pictured*) late last month about the much

anticipated debut.

"We spoke about the next step for the Palm Island/Bowen District team for the Foley Shield going forward," Mr Nosworthy said.

"I will need to confirm with the Townsville and District Rugby

League and the Bowen District League but we would like the Palm Island and Bowen and District trial to be held in Ayr on Saturday the 7 May.

"From this game there will be a team selected to play in the Foley Shield."



## Dual registration no-go for players

**The Palm Island Rugby League board has voted not to allow players dual registration between the local league and Townsville.**

The decision - which is about giving young players more opportunity - means Palm Island footballers who sign up with clubs on the mainland will not be allowed to compete in the local domestic competition.

Some star Palm Island footballers, including Jets champion Tabua Oui and Butler Bay Bulls play maker Darryl Pearson, lined up for Townsville and District Rugby League side Bindal Sharks United in round one of that competition on March 26.

In the 2010 Palm Island domestic grand final, Pearson starred for Butler Bay Bulls which scored a cliffhanger 24-22 win over arch rivals Jets, for which Oui was one of the best.

A number of other Palm Island footballers have expressed a desire to play for mainland

clubs but they also want to play for one of the Palm Island clubs when the competition starts on Saturday April 9.

Most Townsville games are played on a Sunday, which would allow it.

However Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea said the PIRL board had voted.

"If they decide to play in Townsville then they can't also play for Palm island clubs," Mr Dabea said. "It is their decision but we have to give young players here every opportunity." Manager for the QRL Northern Division Scott Nosworthy the decision was up to the PIRL.

Quality Palm Island footballers who play on the mainland are eligible for Townsville City selection in the Foley Shield, but not for Palm Island/Bowen.

# ***PIRL PLAYER PROFILES:*** ***Raoul Miller***

***IN the lead up to, and throughout the footy season this year Palm Island Voice will profile a local Palm Island Rugby League player or two each fortnight...  
...who will be next??!!***

**LANKY Skipjacks lock Raoul Miller is one of the most talented, loyal and respected rugby league players on Palm Island.**

The 29-year-old Raoul works as a Palm Island Animal Control Officer and is a top notch horse rider as well as having considerable ability as a footballer.

Palm Island Barracudas stalwart Roy Prior said Miller was also a loyal member of the Barracudas team.

"Raoul 'Blacky' Miller has been very loyal to the Barracudas team over the years and also to the Island when it comes to representation of our community," Mr Prior said.

"He started at a very young age and played under then coach Vince Thimble and with footballers such as Will Blackley, Fred Haines snr, Erwin Ambrym, Stanton Wotton and myself."

Mr Prior said Raoul was always the first to train, last to leave and always gave 100%.

"He leads by example and over the years playing with some of the old fellas has installed him the pride he must have when representing not only our team but also our community and the Bwgcolman people," he said.

"He has never asked for money or has been paid to pull the green and gold jersey on."

Raoul played with Jets club before the 2010 season when he switched to Skipjacks, who finished third.

He said he has signed again with the club for 2011.

"I think we will go well this season with players like Fred Bulsey and a good coach in Alex Morgan but we have lost forward Georgie Dabea who is going to be with Brothers," he said.

In January, Raoul played with the Palm Island Barracudas at the Rockhampton Allblacks carnival.

Last October Raoul lined up for the Barracudas



who reached the grand final of the Bindal carnival in Townsville.

Raoul scored arguably the best try at the 16-team carnival down the right hand side of the field after breaking through several lines of defence and running 60 metres.

At the Cairns Allblacks carnival a week later Barracudas did not field an A Grade men's side so Raoul played with and starred for Cannonballs which reached the final 16 of 32 teams.

Also a former talented boxer, Raoul fought several amateur bouts including one on Palm a few years back when Tony Mundine senior was a guest.

Raoul is a true Palm Island patriot and champion sportsman.





## Netball clinics to be a regular thing

**Palm Island's after-school netball program played host to three former-Queensland and Australian netball players in March.**

The junior comp has six competing teams playing twice a week, and it's not unusual for more than 60 budding young stars to take part in the league which is supported by the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

A special training session was held at both schools with netball champion Vicki Wilson (*above right*), former Firebird Karen Clarke and former Australian basketballer and CEO of Womensport Queensland Fiona Hannan (*centre right*).

Womensport Queensland is a service organisation that supports women and girls involved in sport and physical activity.

In partnership with CFF, the sportswomen visited Bwgcolman and St Michael's Schools to hold clinics aimed at encouraging both girls and boys to be involved in physical activity.

Principal of St Michael's School, Gary Recklies said the children really enjoyed the clinics held and appreciated the support.

The day ended with Vicki and Karen participating in the regular netball competition run by locals at the PCYC, and a community BBQ.

Fiona said the After School Netball Competition was a fantastic way to get both girls and boys on the island participating in sport.

"The girls and boys who played in the netball competition had a natural athletic ability and instinct for the game," Fiona said.

Karen, who played for nine years with the Queensland Firebirds, said she would fly to Palm Island on a regular basis as part of the Cathy Freeman

Foundation program, to assist in skill development and training.

"I am really looking forward to visiting regularly to hold netball clinics and assist with both girls and boys on the island getting involved in playing the game," she said.



# Champion netballers take on clinics at both schools



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## 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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### Editorial & Advertising Deadlines + Publication Dates:

#### **DEADLINE**

Thursday 14 April  
Thursday 28 April  
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Thursday 26 May  
Thursday 9 June

#### **PUBLICATION DATE**

THURSDAY 21 April 2011  
THURSDAY 5 MAY 2011  
THURSDAY 19 MAY 2011  
THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2011  
THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2011