



NAIDOC 2011 - Palm Island style!



NAIDOC celebrations on Palm Island have been well-supported by locals with one of the highlights being a visit by the Lockhart River dancers (*above*).

These dancers won at the recent Laura Festival and were a genuine hit with locals and visitors at various NAIDOC events and received generous applause when they performed last Friday at the local football ground when the Army Thunder side played Palm club Skipjacks (*below left*).



Late Palm Islander Bill Coolburra's widow Edna said many of the dancers were related to her husband.

After the entertainment at the football ground, hundreds gathered near the CBD for a family afternoon.

Kids were having a great time on a jumping castle.

Other events during NAIDOC included another footy match between the Palm Island Barracudas and Yarrabah, a netball competition and various other unveilings and openings over the week.

**...MORE REPORTS
INSIDE...**

New PIASC CEO due to start mid-July



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has appointed a new CEO – Ross Norman – who will take up his position in mid July. For the past year or more Jeff Brown (*pictured left with Mayor Lacey*) has been acting CEO and said he wanted to thank the Council for having him. "Thank you to the Mayor, Councillors and staff for the opportunity to work with the Palm Island Council for these past fifteen months," he said. "I have enjoyed working with the council and the community, and am pleased with the progress that has been made."

New housing estate plans available for public consideration

ABC News gave an update last week (7 July 2011) on the Palm Island Council's agreement with the State Government to build new public housing in the community signed up on last year.

The report said the agreement allowed the Government to build, manage and maintain housing in Indigenous communities.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey

said the council had released plans for two new estates to create 60 houses.

"The new housing into Palm is going to alleviate, not fix, the problem," he told them.

The report said plans were open for public consultation with construction due to start in November.

For more information see PIASC reception.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/07/07/3263321.htm>

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Ferry packed for NAIDOC Week

Sunferries had one of their busiest weeks of the year last week with NAIDOC celebrations and events.

Comings and goings over the week included footy teams, netball teams, tourists, visitors and the usual crew of locals, workers and family members hoping to enjoy our beautiful Island over arguably the best week of the year - and who wouldn't want to be here at this time of year!!!

Council invests in past & present

An honour board and large painting has been unveiled in the Palm Island Council Chambers' meeting room during an afternoon tea put on by the Council as part of NAIDOC Week celebrations.

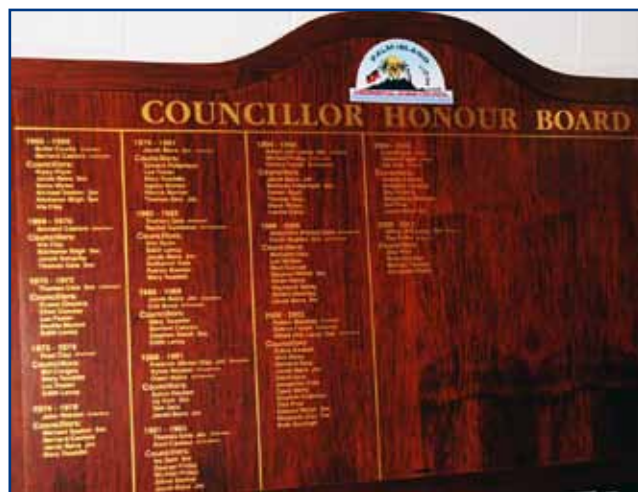
The Honour Board recognises every Palm Island Councillor who has served since 1966 and up until the next local Government elections to be held in March 2012. In addition a large painting now holds pride of place in the meeting room.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the honour board would recognise all Councillors who had done a wonderful job for Palm over the past 45 years.

"People like Jacob Baira, Aunty Mary Twaddle and the late Tom Geia Snr to name a few," he said. "It will also be a way we can remember those who are no longer with us and who have done so much – because of those on the honour board Palm is moving forward and has a bright future."

Mayor Lacey said the painting was created by numerous local artists under the guidance of Catholic Nun Sister Maria who left the Island in May.

"A lot of effort went into to



putting it together and it looks great," he said. "There is a smaller painting on the other wall by Damien Donaldson."

The Mayor thanked the community for their support and asked residents to stay focused on continuing to

move forward.

"We have put some investment into the administration and the Chamber building to make it more modern now that we are a fully fledged local government authority," Mr Lacey said.



NITV crew checks out footy and boxing clubs form

PALM Island will feature again on NITV soon, after a visit by former NRL star David Peachey and champion boxer Glen Kelly last week.

Mr Peachey (*right*) was reporting for NITV's popular Barefoot Footy Show while Mr Kelly (*left*) spent some time with the Palm Island Boxing team. Boxing trainer Ray Dennis said Kelly was looking to help with seeking sponsorship for the Palm Boxing Club.





CONGRATULATIONS to Jobfind's June 2011 Regional All Star winner SONNY SIBLEY.

Here's what some of his co-workers had to say:

"Sonny has been with the company for four years and is our longest serving employee on Palm Island. Sonny has seen lots of changes as both the organisation and Palm Island have evolved during this time."

"Sonny is a rock within the Palm Island team and provides support to both his participants and the newer staff within the Palm Island team."

"Sonny is a committed and loyal Jobfind employee who has been with Jobfind Palm through thick and thin, Sonny is always calm and collected when dealing with all parties whilst putting our clients needs first. Big Holla to our Uncle Sonny at Jobfind Palm for his commitment to improving the local community one client at a time."

Albert and Dennis bring home the gloves

PALM boxers Albert Gorringe jnr (below left) and Dennis Haines jnr (below right) both won gold medals at Golden Gloves matches in Cairns last month.

The quality boxers went to Cairns with Dennis Haines senior and fought well at the prestigious titles contested by competitors from around the region.

A large Palm team of 10 boxers had planned to make the 350km road journey to Cairns however the unavailability of a hire bus prevented them from being there, unless under their own steam.

Our boxers have competed at every Golden Gloves since 1999, during which time they have won an impressive 84 gold medals.

That tally now stands at 87 gold medals after Albert Gorringe jnr won two gold medals and Dennis Haines jnr one.

Albert won gold in his 51kg

division and went up two divisions to 54-57kg where he beat Alex Waddington of Dragon Do Jos Club in Townsville for his second gold.

Dennis jnr won his gold in the Intermediate class 54-57kg over arch rival Daniel Matheson of Townsville Hawks club.

Both Dennis and Albert are young promising boxers who have once again done their community proud.



14 offered path to mechanic apprenticeships

An employment program to be run jointly by Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation and JobFind is providing 14 job seekers with a great start towards becoming fully qualified mechanics.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development Mark Arbib, said the program was a chance for some young Palm Islanders to get qualified in an industry that was experiencing skills shortages.

He said for six months participants will undertake work experience with the Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation while completing their study through the MTA Institute of Technology.

"At the end of the six months participants will receive a Certificate II in Automotive Mechanical, ensuring they are well-prepared to begin their apprenticeship," he said.

"In addition, they will receive literacy and numeracy support and complete a two week training course to prepare them for full time work.

"Throughout their training participants will have access to local Indigenous and qualified mentors that will provide assistance if any issues arise.

"This is not just training for training's sake, this program is providing increased job and training opportunities for Indigenous Australians on Palm Island without needing to go to the mainland."

'New day attitude' for youths

Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation for CDEP would like to celebrate the fantastic achievements of a group of under-21 youths who attended a three day Youth Development Workshop at the North Qld Toyota Cowboys Club in June.

The workshop was held at the Cowboys Stadium with Allan Palm Island, William Palm Island, Inosi Geia, Gelam Geia, Nui Rabuka, Simion Dabea, Parisa Geia, Malcolm Larry, Alwyn Parker, Ezra Noble and Navarone Curly.

Over three days these young men called themselves 'Boyz in the Shed' and worked under the mentorship of 'Muso Magic', CDEP mentors Margaret Conway and Bennett Blanket and the Cowboys team to compose the



lyrics and music and develop a video clip called "New Day Attitude" (lyrics below).

Muso Magic is led by former Chocolate Starfish lead singer Adam Thompson who said the workshop has helped to motivate and empower the Palm Island group.

"They've come here not knowing this is what was going to happen to them and look what they have produced," he said.

"It's been great seeing them build throughout the project and it was fantastic to hear the song being sung by Boyz In The Shed."

The clip was played at the Cowboys stadium on the big screen at their game against the New Zealand Warriors on 18 June.

For their work the boys were given a standing ovation as they were well and truly patted on the back by the huge crowd.

The song has already been given air time on 4K1G and local radio station 4T0.

Cowboys Captain Jonathan Thurston said it would have been "daunting" for the group to come and do what they did.

"They've shown a lot of confidence to do that and get out of their comfort zone," he said.

"Hopefully they can take that confidence with them and put that into different projects they want to do throughout their life.

"They're very shy kids. They don't show much

and I think if they can get that confidence in themselves, and get some good self-esteem about them, it will help them go a long way.

"It was great for them to be out there in front of so many people singing the song."

A spokesperson for Coolgaree said the aim of the project was to give youth a sense of achievement, pride in themselves and to show them, that with help, they can achieve. They said it was envisaged the project would give them encouragement to engage in training and achieve their life goals.

LYRICS – New Day Attitude

*Life is a mystery Inside my soul
Passion and freedom Let's take control
Stand up Be Heard Let's all show the world
We are the island, we are the sea
We're alive with possibilities
From the dreamtime Ready to choose
How we paint tomorrow
With a new day attitude
Destiny's waiting Don't be afraid
With eyes of a child A brand new day
Stand up Be heard Let's all show the world
We are the island, we are the sea
We're alive with possibilities
From the dreamtime Ready to choose
How we paint tomorrow
With a new day attitude*



VISITORS who arrived at the Reel Women jetty by ferry during NAIDOC week were thrilled to see the group of youths above riding their horses on the area in front of the foreshore exposed by low tide last Thursday. Included amongst passengers who witnessed the spectacle was a group of about 40 senior citizens from the Gap Uniting Church in Brisbane, making a whirlwind tour. They had stayed at Mungalla Station near Ingham for several days and were brought over by Jake Cassady (*pictured right with boxing trainer Ray Dennis*). "There were about 40 of us and we loved Palm and got an unexpected greeting when we saw the horse riders as we got off the ferry," one of them told the *Palm Island Voice*.

Spectacular welcome for NAIDOC visitors



A family open day was hosted by the Red Cross in Townsville last Wednesday as part of NAIDOC celebrations. The event, which featured information displays, rock climbing and playgroup, was attended by a number of Palm Islanders including female boxer Noby Clay, pictured left and above with Red Cross workers Michelle Deshong, left, and Bonny Hoey.

A helping hand from Randall for travellers



VERSATILE long-serving Sunset Snack Foods worker Randall Parker proved to have another skill whilst on the ferry to Palm Island – a tourist guide who is passionate about his love of Palm.

On the ferry which left Townsville at 8am last Thursday, Mr Parker heard some tourists asking about the identity of small islands the catamaran passed.

Not only did Mr Parker tell the people what the islands were, he also gave them a rundown on some history.

He pointed out Punishment, Fantome and Curacoa Islands as well as naming the bays on Palm. Mr Randall has worked at the Palm Island fish shop for an amazing 13 years, and also let the tourists know where the best food is.

"We have the best fish and chips in Australia and it is mackerel caught in Palm waters," he said. They must have listened too, because of the way home about 10 of them had packets of fish and chips.



From Laura to Palm Island – Lockhart Dancers put on a show for NAIDOC

AWARD winning Lockhart River dancers proved a great hit during NAIDOC celebrations on Palm Island.

The dancers won at the recent Laura Festival and entertained Palm Islanders and visitors at various NAIDOC events.

Their trip to Palm Island was organised by Palm Island local Yolanda Coutts, who has worked at Lockhart River.

The group included singers and elders led by Brian Claudie, Laurence Omeenyo, Abraham Omeenyo and Joseph Omeenyo.

Dancers included Deanne Macumboy, Richard Omeenyo, Grant Omeenyo, Anna Claudie, Gerita Pascoe, Jayranie Hobson, Kieran Johnson, Gennis Giblett, Frankie Hobson, Haylene Macumboy, Rowena Butcher, Rheannon Clarmont, Benedict Macumboy, Franzika Omeenyo, Kyanne Accoom, Natasha Accoom, Jimmy Kepple and Zeffirah Butcher as well as Lockhart River Shire Council Mayor Rodney Accoom.





Above Left: Jason Poynter and family;
 Above: Peter Bonner and family;
 Middle Left: David Sam, left, and Mislara Haines;
 Below Left: Sam family members Retemoi, Tessepa, Donella and Leighton.
 Below: 12-year-old Peter Pompey on the tyre of a monster truck at the **Townsville Show** (Pics by Alf Wilson).





Above: Vaughn Charles and family; Right: Douglas Miller, and partner Gillian Baira and their children Paula, 1, and Mavis, 2; Below Right: Natasha Cannon, middle back row, and some family; Below: Albert Gorringer jnr with a prize; Far below: Nardia Logan, partner Ashley Sailor with baby Akeira Sailor, 2, and Les Aldridge



Palm Island Voice

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CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!!**



POSITION VACANT Events Co-ordinator

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is seeking the services of a highly motivated individual to serve the Council as the Events Co-ordinator.

This person will be primarily responsible for co-ordination of Council Events. This person will be responsible for monthly events and monthly markets.

You will require excellent communication skills and the capability to work in a positive team environment is essential, as well as taking on autonomous roles.

The position is a permanent part time position with the Council with benefits applicable.

For a Position Description, please contact Jeff Brown, A/CEO at the Palm Island Council Office or email at jeff.brown@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au or Phone 0458789010.

Applications should be marked CONFIDENTIAL and in writing with any relevant information to:

**A/Chief Executive Officer,
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
Applications close: 22 July 2011**

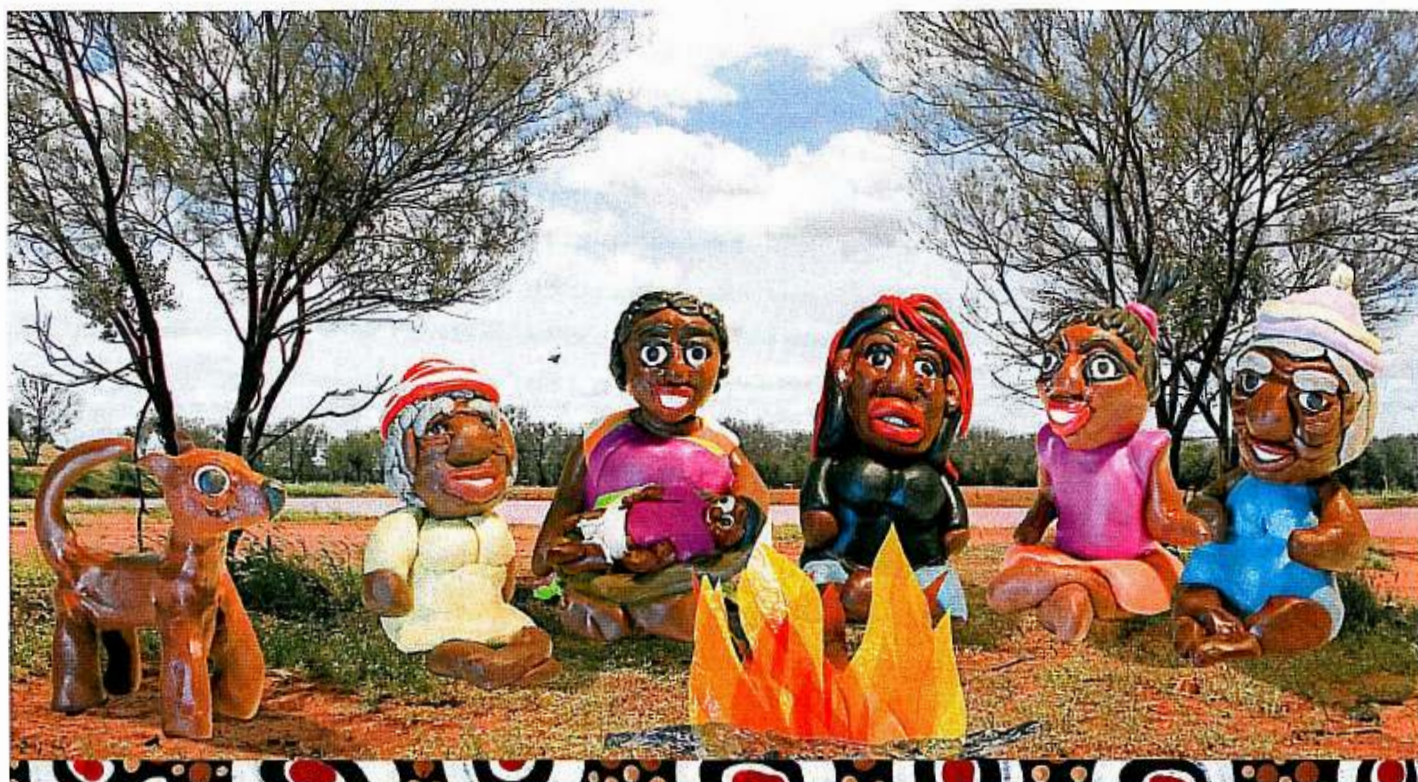
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

**is closed every second Friday
(Council pay week) for RDO.**

The next RDO is Friday 10 June.

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE
COUNCIL ON 4770 1177**



Are you worrying
about someone
because they are:

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

Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs)

can help them with:

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

No shame

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

Respect

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

Safe place

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

Where to find your
local PHaMs worker:

New Way Agencies Pty Ltd
PO Box 1715
Thuringowa Central 4817

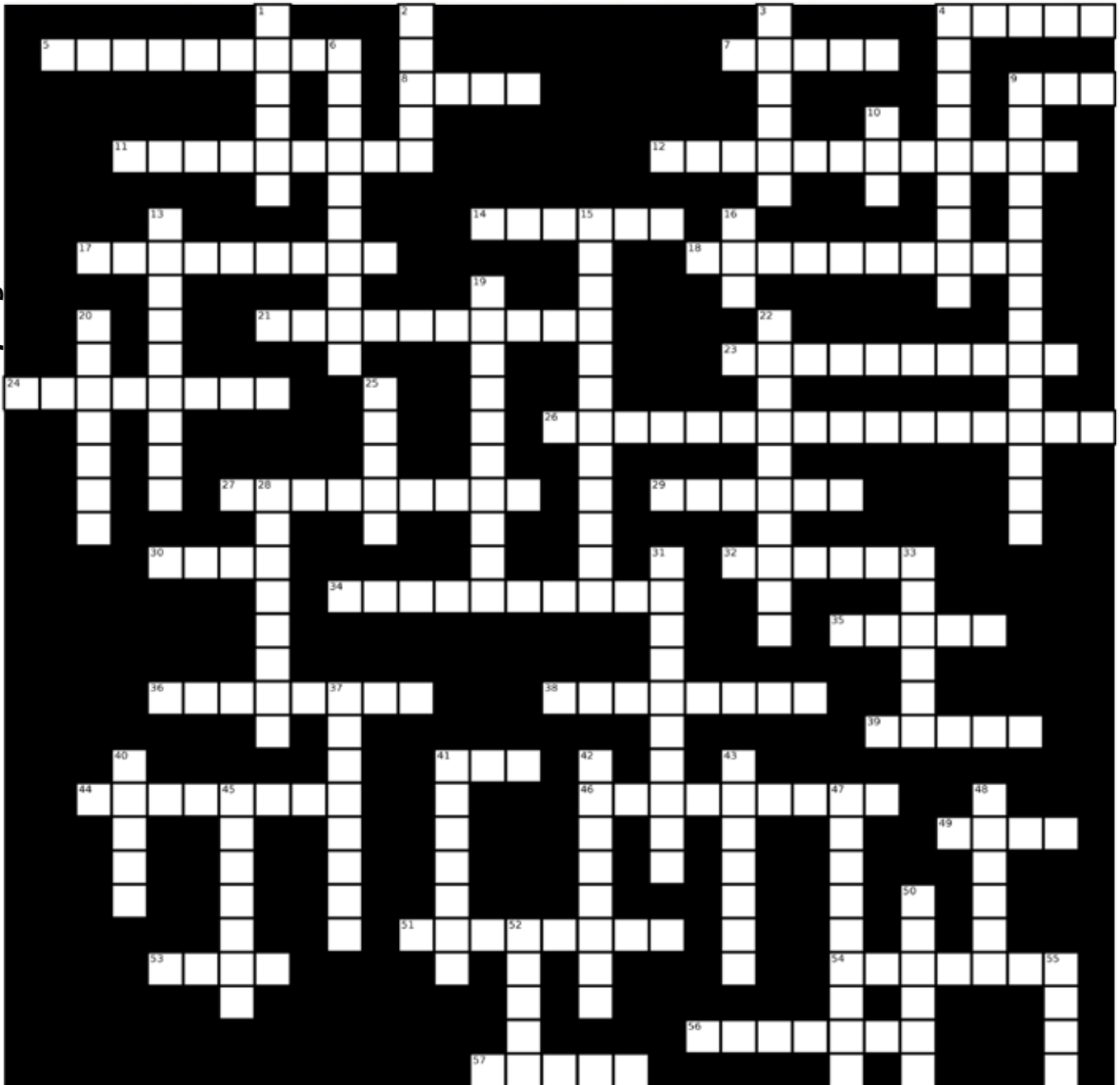
Ph 4723 7311 Fax 4723 7533
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FaHCSIA would like to thank the Warlpiri people of the community of Yuendumu for their support. The figurines used were developed by members of the community and all final products have been approved by the community appointed cultural adviser as culturally appropriate. Painting by Audrey Brumby 2010.

PI Voice Crossword 83

Crossword completed with thanks again to David Goeldner & the
Crossword Puzzle Maker at www.armoredpenguin.com



Across

4. Australia's 2011 Girls Wimbledon Champ, Ashleigh ?
5. National Indigenous newspaper (2)
7. Traditional way of story telling
8. Prayer's last word
9. Community Justice Group (init)
11. Laundry item
12. Disease of the lung
14. Stop work industrial action
17. Jacks are trumps in this card game
18. Presides over a court hearing
21. Famous Sydney landmark (2)
23. Pockets of rough air or water
24. Large dam to the south of Townsville
26. Official greeting on indigenous land (3)
27. PI's deadly boxing trainer (2)
29. This national population count coming soon
30. breaking waves
32. July's week of commemoration
34. Queensland Maroons mighty coach (2)
35. Above water platform
36. Professional food and beverage service
38. Child care workers need this identification (2)
39. Quade Cooper plays this type of Rugby
41. distress signal
44. headache
46. Bwgcolman and St Michael's students are good at this
49. Butler Bay Bulls rivals
51. High outcrop to the sea
53. money owed from employment
54. PI's popular girls sport
56. Singing on stage to backing music
57. mountain spine

Down

1. A lot of dough is made here
2. An ingredient in bread making
3. Unleavened bread
4. PI's many people
6. Carry one per person per boat - bright yellow (2)
9. In charge of a company, ?
10. A sister of the Catholic Church
13. Ambulance Officer
15. Four years on, this NT policy still in place
16. Time to file this ATO return
19. North Queensland's unofficial capital
20. Where planes land
22. State of Origin 2011 series winner
25. This bucking bronco event planned for Ingham
28. Palm Island Mayor (2)
31. TV cooking show
33. Plant used for clothing
37. Money charged on a bank account
40. Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (initials)
41. Popular fish schooling in seagrass
42. Jersey 7 plays this league position
43. Internet home page
45. What Kevin Rudd led on 13 February 2008
47. Christian ceremony
48. Horses get this virus from bats
50. Mail the old fashioned way
52. Torres Strait head dress
55. Local Government Association of Queensland (init)



Netball challenge success for CFF

The return of the Kathy Tarpaulin Memorial Shield to Palm Island at this year's Cathy Freeman Foundation Netball Challenge, was much celebrated when it was held at the PCYC in mid-June.

With community members, teachers and parents cheering from the sidelines, Palm Island's St Michael's were the proud winners of the tournament, which saw six schools compete for the prestigious award.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the community support for one of our most important program events that gives young Palm Islanders the opportunity to meet with their fellow peers from neighbouring schools," Jamie Howden, Programs Manager for the Cathy Freeman

Foundation said.

The tournament started with a Welcome to Country and was officially opened by Mayor Alf Lacey.

Representing Womensport Queensland, who provide support to the Foundation's After School Netball Competition, Australian netball legend Vicki Wilson was also present on the day to present players with 'gold' medals and free netballs to the best and fairest.

"Our wonderful partners from Womensport Queensland and the SOS Foundation were there to motivate the players and help with umpiring and pre-match warm-ups," Mr Howden said.

Palm Island netball teams were also treated to a surprise at their pre-Challenge training session when they

were each given a brand new pair of runners donated by friends of the Cathy Freeman Foundation, Pacific Brands.

"It was certainly a highlight of the tournament to see the future stars of Australian netball playing their best in their new running shoes," Mr Howden said.

The event was funded by the Queensland Department of Communities and was a culmination of the Cathy Freeman Foundation After School Netball Competition, which has up to fifty students participating on a weekly basis.

"We feel it is a great privilege to be able to provide the youth of Palm Island with structured sporting and recreational activities and look forward to next year's Netball Challenge," he said.



Week of footy capped with Barracuda victory over Yarrie

PALM Island Barracudas defeated the visiting Yarrabah side 32-30 in the invitational game at the local football oval on July 8 during NAIDOC celebrations.

For the Barracudas tries went to Alan James, Robert Bulsey, Billo Wotton, Costa Sam, Jason Bulsey and Pita Morgan. Tabua Oui kicked four goals. Yarrabah's side included some Palm players including Milton Thaiday, David Bulsey and Jermaine Bulsey who all scored tries. Yarrabah always fields a strong side so hopefully the win is a good sign for the Barracudas at Allblacks carnivals later in the year.

There were no games on Saturday July 9 because of NAIDOC week and locals enjoyed a feast of footy action.

There was the Skipjacks versus Army Thunder match last Thursday and the Barracudas versus Yarrabah clash on Friday.

In the round over the week before Jets 58 defeated Brothers 18. Winning coach Norman Bounghi rated brothers Costa and Assan Sam,

Tabua Oui and Robert Bulsey as the best players. Skipjacks rolled Mundy Bay Warriors 92-38 and coach Alex Morgan said the best players were Owen Wilson, Peter fox, Nazrone Curley and Fred Bulsey. Butler Bay Bulls beat Hornets 36-22 in the other match.

Playoffs for the local domestic competition will start on August 27 before the preliminary final on September 3.

The grand final is scheduled for September 9.

FOOTNOTE: *Palm Island Voice salutes all the footballers and officials for their hard work and contributions towards a great week of footy for our community over NAIDOC – go Palm Island!!!*

LADDER

**=1 Skipjacks + Jets=
3 Butler Bay Bulls
4 Bwngcolman Brothers
5 Hornets
6 Mundy Bay Warriors**



PIRL PLAYER PROFILE: Moa Sam

FORWARDS lay the platform for winning rugby league teams and tough front rower Moa Sam will play a major role in Jets charge for premiership honours.

The 25-year-old has been in fine form for Jets which have arguably been the form side of the Palm Island domestic competition in the past month.

Moa is a go-to man in the Jets engine room and never takes a backward step.

In the Jets' percentage-boosting 72-18 win over genuine contender Brothers on July 2, Sam scored three tries.

"I have played three games for Jets up until then and I think we can win the flag this year," he said. Moa is a tough as nails prop who makes plenty of metres forward

especially through the centre of the ruck – as a bonus he can also unload a precision pass when tackled to running backs.

Multi-talented Moa was also a quality amateur boxer who represented Palm Island with distinction and said he intended to return to the sport next year.

In late 2009, Moa starred for the Jets side who travelled to Cardwell to meet Giringun Pirates.

"I am looking forward to going up to Cardwell again later this year for that game," he said.

Jets coach Norman Bounghi said Moa was an asset to the team.

Shield win for local side against Army



Last year Skipjacks lost 22-16 to Army Thunder after winning the first two clashes in 2008 and 2009.

This year the tide was turned again after the Skippies rallied several times to snatch and hold the lead into the second half. Army players travelled by ferry to Palm Island early in the morning.

Skipjacks started well with Darryl Pearson scoring a try in the first few minutes which was converted to give his side a 6-nil lead.

Utility back Josiah Geia shone, often breaking the Army defensive line and at the 10th minute Obe Geia jnr crossed out side to give Skipjacks a 10-nil advantage.

Army hit back hard with two

quick tries but Skipjacks rallied again with four pointers to Aaron Thaiday and Obe Geia jnr to hold an 18-12 halftime lead. The game could have gone either way midway through the second half but Skipjacks finished much better to run away with the win in the final 15 minutes.

Best for Skipjacks were inspirational forward and captain Fred Bulsey, Obe Geia jnr who ended up scoring three tries, Josiah Geia, centre Tabua Oui who scored two tries, Darryl Pearson and fullback Esrom Geia.

"We are going to win this year for sure," courageous captain Bulsey said before the game. Army coach WO2 Jason Griffiths said Obe Geia jnr

was the match winner for Skipjacks.

"He got us on edge and kept us on edge," Griffiths said.

Griffiths rated forwards Jared Bassett and Leon Abdul Rahman, five eighth Eddie Abdul Rahman, and props Jamie Otto and Daniel Leedie as his best.

Before the game there was a memorial service and plaque-laying ceremony attended by family members, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and Army representatives.

Army wanted to thank Department of Communities staffer Phil Peachey and Jason Geesu as well as Commander of 3rd Brigade Stuart Smith for their assistance with the game.



The return of the Kathy Tarpaulin Memorial Shield to Palm Island at this year's Cathy Freeman Foundation Netball Challenge, was much celebrated when it was held at the PCYC in mid-June: FULL STORY P 13



SKIPJACKS gained sweet revenge for last year's loss to beat Australian Army Thunder 46-30 for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield at the Palm Island football oval last week.

Bill "Kookaburra" Coolburra was a highly respected Palm Island elder who was an Australian Army Vietnam War hero who served with the famous tunnel rats. Before the game a wreath laying service was held at the cemetery where his wife, Edna, is pictured left. **More footy inside.**

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