



Palm Island Voice

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ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

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Issue 112

International stage set for Coolburra Shield curtain-raiser

IN a major positive for Palm Island, local club Skipjacks will play Australian Army Thunder for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield at Townsville's Dairy Farmer's Stadium on 13th October.

The game will be a curtain raiser to the Australia versus New Zealand rugby league Test match, which

will receive huge media coverage around Australia and overseas. An emotional Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan said it was wonderful news.

"This is wonderful for Skipjacks as well as Palm Island," he said. "We can't wait. Skipjacks will be captained by our champion Fred Bulsey."

Bulsey said it would be the biggest stage a Palm Island side had ever played on.



Back Row: Patrick Clarke, William Philip, Thomas Blanket, Reggie Palm Island, Marcus Ketchup and David Sam, Front Row: Levi Baira, Chris Evers, Thomas Solomon & William Palm Island

GOLD medals, an injury and failure to find opponents combined to give Palm Island boxers' campaign at last weekend's National Golden Gloves Titles in Brisbane the look of a Hollywood movie script.

A huge 640 boxers from every Australian State and Territory, New Zealand, South Sea Islands and England competed at the Association tournament held at Brisbane's Acacia Ridge.

Trainer Chris Evers snr took a team of 10 Palm Island boxers to the tournament who returned with three gold medals, five silver and one bronze and the respect of some very big crowds. Palm Island has had some very positive publicity as a result.

Thomas Blanket won a gold medal in the 56kg division in an impressive performance.

Reggie Palm Island was on target to win a gold after winning his first qualifying bout but injured his right hand and had to withdraw from the tournament.

Chris Evers jnr, aged 10, and David Sam -

the youngest and heaviest Palm boxers won gold medals without having to throw a punch. Diminutive Evers jnr, was nominated for the 28kg class but had to step up to 30kg whilst Sam was in the super heavyweight division.

"Both could not get an opponent to fight them so they automatically won gold medals," Evers snr said.

Silver medals went to Marcus Ketchup (42kg), Levi Baira (32kg), Thomas Solomon (48kg), William Palm Island (49kg) and Scotsman William "Liam" Philip (see back page for more on 'Scotty!').

Patrick Clarke won his first bout and went on to claim a bronze medal in the hotly contested 64kg class.

Out & About



Above: Mayor Alf Lacey took the opportunity to drop into the 'Racisms in the New World' conference in Cairns last week. He is pictured above with Aunty Renarta Prior and Jackie Huggins;

Left: Cr Eddie Walsh arriving in Townsville off the ferry;

Below: Other ferry travellers arriving in Townsville at the end of August





Yarrabah! The Musical

Mayor Alf Lacey was lucky to be in Cairns to catch 'Yarrabah! The Musical' - a two-performance production supported by Opera Australia starring Casey Donovan, Troy Brady, Nick Backstrom and 60-80 locals, with behind-the-scenes coordination from Rhoda Roberts, Marilyn Miller and Rita Pryce. The Mayor is pictured below left with local cast lead Elverina Johnson and her son Levi.



A LARGE number of Palm Islanders attended the beautiful wedding of James Tapau jnr and Ellie McMartin held at St Joseph's church in Townsville last month.



James jnr's mother is Sybil Prior and his father is James Tapau senior, who was a champion boxer in his heyday.

The wedding ceremony was performed by Catholic Father Mick Peters, well-known to many Palm Islanders.

About 200 men, women and children packed into

the historical church.

Amongst the groomsmen were North Queensland Cowboys back Robert Lui.

Two of the bridesmaids were James jnr's sisters Valencia Tapau and Nadine Tapau.

The *Palm Island Voice* was honoured to have been invited.



St Michael's students performing at the Townsville Cultural Festival last month



Introducing...

Cr Roy Prior

Cr Roy Prior, due to be Deputy Mayor in 2013, was 'born and bred' the eldest of five kids here on Palm Island.

"I went to school St Michael's, then tried to go away to boarding school - St Theresa's in Abergowie - but I left in Year 11 in 1986-87," he said.

"I didn't go back to graduate, which is something that I regret.

"My Grandfather and my Dad was pretty much into carpentry, so I did a two-year carpentry apprenticeship and then I left for a while.

"I worked on cattle property for about a year and a half out of Quilpie, down in Southwest Queensland.

"A lot of people don't know that.

"I actually loved Quilpie, it was a quiet town; people were always friendly – good hard-working staunch people.

"After that I did a fair bit of work for the Council here for awhile and I also worked with Queensland Ambulance for about two years then I was a wardsman.

"I did a fair few jobs, actually, now I'm thinking about it!

"It wasn't until I had a few kids of my own that I went back and did a fair bit of studying.

"I got back into the books and taught myself, before I was chairman of Coolgaree for a while and I did some additional training in admin and business.

"I was an understudy to the CEO Lyn Freckleton back then and then once Lyn I left sort of stepped into the role and I'm still there.

"I ran for Council because I think it's always something that I can contribute.

"Coming from a humble background I seem to relate to a lot, I suppose, of people's issues or problems.

"So I just thought I could contribute in some way to Palm Island moving forward.

"My portfolio is Infrastructure, which means I deal with contractors and things like that.

"I'm current working with engineers on the new wall going up along the foreshore.

"Key outcomes and milestones reached and on time, that's pretty much what I hope to bring to the table.

"I get a big kick out of seeing someone - anyone - come from nothing and making something of themselves."



SNAPSHOT: a few of Roy's favourite things...

Favourite football team: Cowboys ... on the Island I have soft spot for the Mt Bentley Raiders, but a lot of my family played for Jets too, and I also like to support all of the juniors I used to work with.

Favourite music: Country and the old classics I grew up with Mum – Fleetwood Mac, the Eagles, and a bit of pop and R&B through my kids.

Favourite read: I read a lot, I like real stories and I've read 'The Tall Man' and 'Gone for a Song'.

Favourite pastimes: fishing, diving, camping, with my family and with my kids.

Favourite food: seafood is a big thing for me and also anything Italian.

Favourite drink: Powerade and water.

Favourite movie: Forest Gump.

Favourite TV: news and local news, occasionally I might watch rugby league if it's Cowboys.

THE Palm Islanders played in bare feet and the Townsville side wore sandshoes in a historic rugby league game played in Townsville in 1928.

Canberra historian David Huggonson believes this match on Sunday, May 6, 1928, was the first official encounter between Palm Island and Townsville.

Townsville won 19-16.

Mr Huggonson, who is researching Aboriginal participation in rugby league from 1908 to 1958, contacted the *Townsville Bulletin* last week seeking anecdotes and pictures from that era.

He plans to write a booklet for this year's centenary of rugby league in Australia.

Coincidentally, there has been a revival of rugby league on Palm Island this year, 80 years after the historic Townsville game, with the introduction of a five-team competition two months ago.

Palm Island has not played in the Townsville district competition since 2003.

In Mr Huggonson's view, black rugby league players achieved some equality with white opponents and team-mates akin to that gained by Aboriginal soldiers in World Wars I and II.

"Rugby league proved popular with Aboriginal men almost as soon as the code was established in Queensland," he says.

"Most government settlements established by the Chief Protector of Aborigines had rugby league teams from the early 1920s.

"By 1928, the Palm Island rugby league side was deemed good enough to tour Townsville, Brisbane and Toowoomba.

"Before each match the players gave exhibitions of spear and boomerang throwing. They also performed corroborees to draw



THEN Again

with Ian Frazer

crowds and increase gate-takings."

The Townsville Daily Bulletin estimated the crowd at what it described as an eagerly awaited game on May 6 at between two and three thousand!

Townsville kicked off into the sun and found the Palm Island forwards strong in attack and defence.

For an unexplained reason, Townsville played with a pack of only five: A McIntyre, Hansen, Byrnes, Ferguson and Christensen.

All Townsville players wore sandshoes.

"(They) had a very hard battle to hold their opponents and to heel the ball," the *Bulletin* observed.

But Christensen and McIntyre were prominent in the loose and a strong run by the former set up centre C Garbutt for Townsville's first try, converted by five-eighth Listster.

Palm Island was unlucky in the first half, having missed an easy penalty goal and with a disallowed try by centre Harvey.

Their captain and fullback C Smith looked dangerous with his 'remarkable turn of speed and a nice swerve' but winger Doyle was forced to retire, having

recovered from pneumonia just a week earlier.

Townsville extended its lead to 10-0 five minutes before the break with a try by winger Creasey, converted by Listster.

During the interval there was a 'most exciting and much appreciated' demonstration of corroboree dancing and spear-throwing by 'a party of Palm Islands boys'.

The second half began with a 'fierce rush' by the visitors which yielded a try by halfback Muzza, converted by Smith, who had switched from fullback to five-eighth.

Townsville replied with an unconverted try by winger Verra. "The Townsville backs began to look very dangerous on many occasions, but determined tackling kept them out," the *Bulletin* noted.

Verra's try spurred the visitors into another rally which resulted in a converted try by Smith. Townsville hit back when their pack forced the ball over the line and McIntyre touched down, but the conversion attempt failed.

But Palm Island finished full of fight with two tries in the final 10 minutes, one converted, the other

not, which gave them a hope of victory.

The try-scorers were the fleet-footed centre Harvey and a player named Ryan not named in the starting team, possibly substituting on the wing for Doyle.

"Until the final whistle was blown, Palm Island tried desperately to draw level, but no further scoring 'look place,'" the *Bulletin* reported.

"Considering that five of their best players had been left behind in Palm Island, the coloured team put up a very fine show.

"Throughout the first half and during the first part of the second half they seemed to suffer from lack of organisation and teamwork, but for the last quarter of an hour they played very well.

"Every member of their team worked hard the whole time.

"Their tackling was magnificent, especially that of Ryan and it was only on rare occasions they they could be seen going high.

"Their punting, with bare feet, was a performance quite beyond the comprehension of a white man."

Townsville fielded a talented, first-class team.

Several of their players: Lou Listster, Jim Glover, Tanny Barnes, Arch McIntyre and Charlie Christensen represented North Queensland against England the same year.

The Townsville team was: J Glover, T Creasey, C Garbutt, J Hynes, S Verra, H Backer, J Listster, A McIntyre, E Hansen, J Bulley, T Barnes, Ferguson, C Christensen. Emergencies – forwards C Fisher, J Jones, M Glashen. Backs – J Windle, E Crow, E Cullen.

The Palm Island team was: C Smith (captain), fullback, Doyle,

1928

- DON Bradman plays first Test for Australia, vs England in Brisbane, scores 18 and 1
- ALEXANDER Fleming discovers antibiotic properties of green mould called *Penicillium notatum*
- HERBERT Hoover elected US president
- NINTH Olympic Games held in Amsterdam
- SYDNEY Harbour Bridge construction begins
- AERIAL Medical Service, forerunner to the Flying Doctor Service begins operating in Queensland
- CONSTRUCTION under way on Apilins Weir, Ross River
- HAYES begins fortnightly ferry service to Green Island

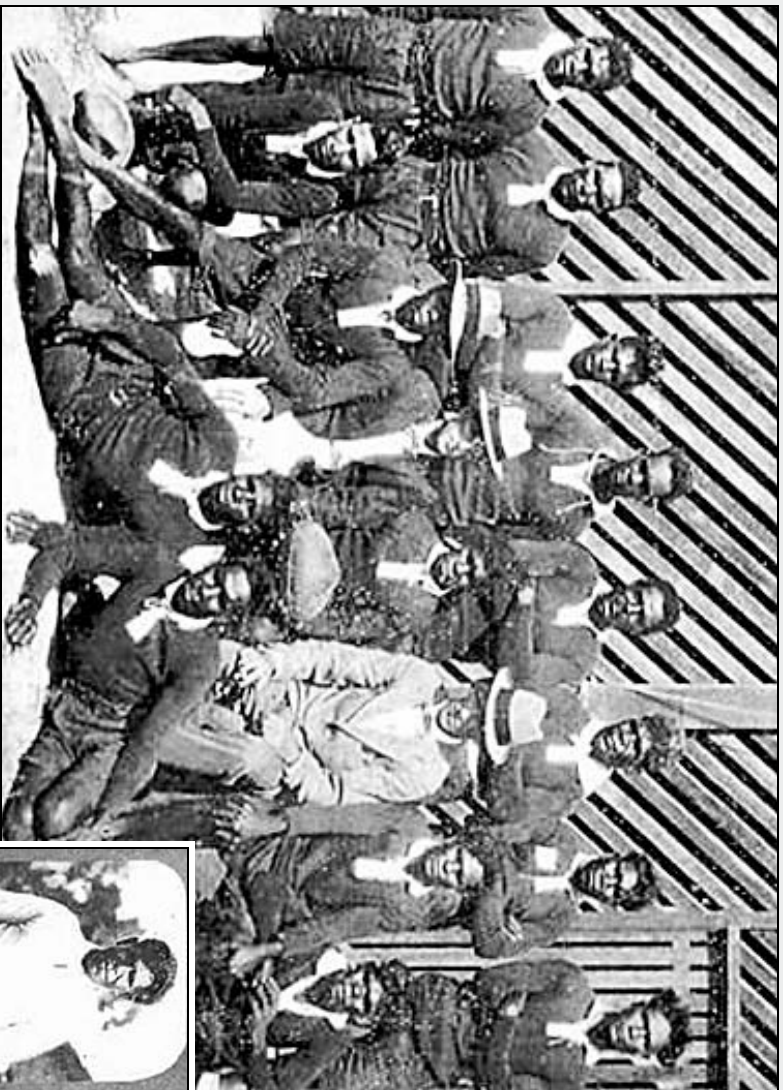
Harvey, Kyle, Skeen three-quarters, Muzza halfback, Pickle five-eighths, King, Banfield, Gemma, D Kyle, Madican, Tugham forwards.

Palm Island's referee, Wondai, was presented before the game with a full referee's outfit by the secretary of the Townsville Referees' Association, Mr J Quinn.

Wondai officiated as a linesman.

But later that year he is reported to have refereed the first half of a game between Palm Island and Brisbane, in Brisbane. Mr Huggonson is seeking more information about Wondai and Palm Island's 1928 tour.

He can be contacted on 02 6288 2722.



LEFT: Bindal's Jamaime Pryor tackles Palm Island's William Blackley in a 2001 game. Palm Island played in the Townsville district competition until 2003

ABOVE: The Palm Island football team of 1928, from Cummins and Campbell's Monthly Magazine, November, 1928. Named, not necessarily in order, were: Captain Smith, J Banfield, I Harvey, C Beckett, G Bowen, Felix, Muzza (the comedian and musician), Puttaburra, A Wyles, T King, A Wilson, Gemina, M Ryan, R Fullarton, A Breckenridge, F Saunders.

RIGHT: Wondai, the Palm Island referee

League popular on Palm

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**Happy 40th Birthday to
Royston Marks**

of Townsville for 25 August

**Happy 11th Birthday to
Kyam Nallajar**

of Magnetic Island for 14 August

**Happy 30th Birthday
Raina Simon**

of Townsville &

**Happy 25th Birthday
Navanka Luff**

of Mareeba for 12 August

*love Mum, Dad AJ, Grandma Hazel,
brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews
and all of Mango Ave on Palm Island*

**Happy 22nd Birthday
Noah Marks**

of Townsville for the 11 August

*love from your son Dquran, Mum, Dad
AJ, Grandma Hazel, brothers and sisters,
nieces and nephews and all of
Mango Ave on Palm Island*



**Palm Island Aboriginal
Shire Council**

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

**The next RDO is
Friday 14 September**

REMEMBER: the Bank & Post Office now closes
each Council RDO (every second week).

**For emergencies on Friday
please call 0458 789 011**

**For more information contact
Council on 4770 1177**

...Sports' Reports...

Maggies' Magpies comes up trumps for U12s



THE Magnetic Island Magpies - including Palm Island lad Kyam Nallajar - were crowned under-12 champions in an Aussie Rules round robin carnival two weeks ago.

The team beat the Thuringowa Bulldogs Blue team by one goal in the grand final.

Proud grandmother Martha Marks has organised for these photographs to be published in the *Palm Island Voice*, courtesy of the **Townsville Bulletin**.



Tillett makes the grade for Indig rugby league

Palm Island-born Stephen Tillett has been appointed to the Australian Rugby League's new 2012 Indigenous Council.

The Council was unveiled at the launch of the 2013 Harvey Norman Rugby League All Stars in Brisbane on 16th August.

The new council is: Percy Knight (Chair); Preston Campbell; Linda Burney MP (NSW); Glenn Brennan; Katrina Fanning; Darren Godwell; William 'Smiley' Johnstone and Stephen Tillett (*on the left in the pic!*).

In announcing the Council, the Commission paid tribute to the inaugural ARL Indigenous Council Chaired by Mr Johnstone and established in 2008.

Mr Tillett will be a member of the Indigenous police team to compete at the coming Murri knockout carnival which will include numerous players of Cape York and TSI descent.

Mr Tillett was born on Palm Island and grew up in communities such as Weipa, Bamaga and Thursday Island.

He currently works as the Cross Cultural Liaison Officer for the Queensland Police Service.



RAMPAGING WOTTON LEADS BULLS CHARGE.

FIVE tries by tough-as-nails forward Billo Wotton led Butler Bay Bulls to a 44-28 victory over another high ranking side Mount Bentley Raiders.

Wotton shone and continually made metres up the centre of the ruck and was a match winner.

Allan Brown, Pita Morgan, Val Fulford and Gresham Ross scored one try for Bulls.

Val Fulford kicked four goals.

For Raiders hooker John Watson scored two tries with one each to Alan Baira, Lleyton Sam and Kevin Morgan.

Kevin Morgan kicked three goals and John Baira one.

SKIPJACKS WIN CLIFFHANGER

IN one of the most exciting games of the season Skipjacks

beat premiers Jets 44-42 in the main game at headquarters.

The old saying "save the best to last" came to fruition as both sides looked winners at different stages of the last game of fixtures for season 2012.

Jets had led 24-10 at halftime even though they were short a few players. However Skippies fought back to lead 34-30 with 20 minutes remaining.

For Skippies rake James Sibley scored three tries, veteran Esrom Geia chipped in with two, with singles to Fred Bulsey, Terence Sibley and Anthony Thompson who also kicked three goals. Esrom Geia booted two goals and Terence Sibley one.

For Jets, Robert Chookie scored two tries with one each to Steven Lowatta, Gary Murray, Costa Sam, Gavin

Barry and Alan Walsh. Gavin Barry kicked seven goals for a personal tally of 18 points.

Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan said his best players were Fred Bulsey, Dennis Blanket, Anthony Thompson and Vernon Geia.

Astute Jets mentor Norman Bounghi said his best players were Germaine Bulsey, Gary Murray, Jias Geia, Costa Sam, Garrison Sibley and Allan Walsh.

HORNETS WIN ON FORFEIT

Hornets took the points without touching the ball when they beat Bwgc Colman Brothers who forfeited. Mundy Bay Warriors had the bye.

FINAL POINTS

These were the last fixtures before the finals series and the following points were provided by the Palm Island Rugby League.

PIRL

Final Points Table 2012

- 1 Butler Bay Bulls 36 (best %)**
- 2 Mount Bentley Raiders 36**
- 3 Skipjacks 34**
- 4 Jets 24**
- 5 Mundy Bay Warriors 16**
- 6 Bwgc Colman Brothers 10 (best %)**
- 7 Hornets 10**

Bulls charge into Grand Final

BUTLER Bay Bulls charged into the grand final and premiership favouritism after beating Mount Bentley Raiders 54-34 in the qualifying semi final.

High rolling Bulls led 22-6 at halftime and withstood a spirited Raiders comeback after that.

For Bulls, second rower Billo Wotton and speedy Alan Brown each scored three tries with one apiece to Pita Morgan, Gresham Ross and Alan Bonner.

Pita Morgan booted nine goals and had a major influence in the win.

One of the smallest players in the Palm island Rugby League, Morgan was as tough as nails and continually played above his weight.

For Mount Bentley Raiders Frank Pompey and Sterling Aden scored two tries each with one to Kevin Morgan, John Baira and John Watson. Kevin Morgan kicked three (3 goals).

JETS SHOT DOWN BY SKIPJACKS

SKIPJACKS scored a hard fought 42-32 victory over arch rivals Jets in the elimination final.



Billo Wotton scoring for the Barracudas

The consistent Skippies led 12-6 at halftime and there were lots of scoring in the second 40 minutes.

Star of the Skipjacks win was lock Thomas Ketchup who scored three tries, with singles to five eighth Garry Pearson, centre Mickeal Sibley, halfback Anthony Thompson and forwards Fred Bulsey and Georgie Dabea.

Anthony Thompson kicked five goals.

For Jets winger Robert Chookie scored two tries, with one apiece to five eighth James Palmer, halfback Allan Walsh, centre Germaine Bulsey and hooker Gary Murray.

Gavin Barry booted two goals with one each to

Robert Bulsey and James Palmer.

Jets players will hang up their boots until next year and won't get a chance to defend their 2011 premiership.

REMAINING FINALS GAMES.

Skipjacks will meet Raiders next Saturday in the preliminary final with the winner to meet Bulls in the season decider a week later.

Bulls players will be able to get over any nagging injuries as they watch Skippies and Raiders battling it out in what looms as a real showdown.

Make sure you are at the footy ground for these last two games.

They will be rippers.

Scotty a boost for Palm Island boxers

SCOTSMAN William "Liam" Philip loves being part of the Palm Island Boxing Club and in return has proven an inspiration to the local pugilists.

Superfit Philip arrived on Palm a few months ago to work as a carpenter for John Friend Constructions and has proven a big "hit" with his fists since.

"Scotty, as we call him, is the fittest bloke in the gym and he has introduced a new fitness attitude to our club," trainer Ray Dennis said. "He has given up the booze whilst he has been training and is an inspiration to the other boys – and a bloody good boxer."

Philip lived up to that compliment when he won his first two fights on debut under the Palm banner.

In Townsville last month he won his first bout in the 69kg welterweight division, outpointing a well-credentialed opponent at a Pro-Am tournament that night run by Hawks Club.

The following night in Ayr he also was victorious at the Burdekin PCYC Hall. Dennis said the boxer Philip outpointed at Ayr was highly rated Shane Thomas from Babinda.

"Thomas has had more than 60 fights and Scotty beat him," he said.

"There weren't too many other fighters keen to step in the ring with him but Scotty did. Mind you I never told Scotty about his impressive record beforehand."

Philip was also part of a team of



10 boxers in Townsville who went to Brisbane last week.

WHALE OF A TIME

"It was great on the way over as two whales came up close to the ferry," he said.

The 26-year-old hails from the Glasgow suburb of Bearsden.

"I had 13 amateur fights in Scotland for eight wins before travelling to work Down Under," he said. "I boxed in Glasgow with Kris McAdam and decided to continue with it since I have been on Palm Island."

He said he has been in Australia for 11 months and but had heard bad reports about Palm Island back in Scotland.

"Palm has gained publicity for all of the wrong reasons but when you come here it isn't like that," he said. "The

people are wonderful and the place is beautiful. These boxers are awesome and it is an honour to be one of them."

Former champion professional boxer Gonzo Hooper, who used to enter the ring before his bouts with a snake around his neck, said Philip was a real find.

"He was bloody impressive in those two wins," he said.

"He told me wasn't going to celebrate too much because he felt wonderful as he hadn't had a beer for four weeks. He

also said was going to keep training and fighting and see what came of it. Ray Dennis

tells me he does 6km run after a training session, so I'm going to keep my eye on

him for future reference, he'd make a decent pro boxer."

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