



Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 1 November 2012

\$1.25

Issue 116



This magnificent photograph was sent to us by Bwgcolman Community School teacher aide Elaine Williamsz...well done Elaine, and thank you for sharing!!

Obe Geia Challenge showcases determination... and pluck...



THE fourth annual Obe Geia jnr Challenge held on Palm Island was a great success with hundreds of Palm people turning up at the football oval mid-last month.

Some stars of the future were on show when the 12 primary school sides battled it out in the prestigious competition. Three local sides – Barracudas Green, Bwgcolman Warriors and St Michael's – came up against Townsville District schools Marian, St Joseph's, Magnetic Island, Good Shepherd, Shalom, Rasmussen, Vincent, Kelso and last year's winners Heatley.

FULL STORY & MORE PICS PP 4-5

Bravery award for flood save

Former Palm Island-based policeman Snr Constable Rohan McDonald has been presented with a Commendation for Brave Conduct after rescuing a woman trapped in floodwaters in February 2010.

The Governor of Queensland Penelope Wensley, AC presented the award at an Investiture Ceremony at Government House in Brisbane last month.

The citation said: "On the evening of 18 February 2010, Senior Constable McDonald and a colleague responded to a woman trapped in floodwaters after her vehicle was washed into a swollen creek on Palm Island.

They arrived at the first causeway crossing and searched for the vehicle.

They were then informed that the vehicle was at the next causeway.

With approximately 1.5 metres of water rushing over the causeway, they crossed the flood way and ran two kilometres to the second causeway.

When they arrived, they saw a sedan in the creek, its rear lodged into trees.

The policemen tied a strap to a metal pole and waded into the creek, forcing open the door and dragging the woman free.

The officers then carried her back to the creek bank and administered first aid.

For his actions, Senior Constable McDonald is commended for brave conduct."

Snr Cons McDonald is currently posted in south east Queensland.



Above: Crusher, Africa & Lex

Below: Council CEO Ross Norman with Selina and Murielle



Police union payment widely condemned Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation Queensland (ANTaR Qld) and others have condemned a recent State Government decision to reimburse the Queensland Police Union for the cost of legal fees arising from the 2004 death in custody on Palm Island.

"It is hard to comprehend why the State Government would support the actions of these police officers." ANTaR Qld President Kitty Carra said.

"The Coroner's report and the CMC findings clearly showed that these police officers did not carry out a thorough, impartial and rigorous inquiry.

"The circumstances surrounding this death remain a shameful part of Qld's recent history."

Terry O'Gorman from the Council for Civil Liberties described it as "yet another bad misstep in this whole sorry saga".

Barrister Andrew Boe said the Government's decision to

reimburse the Police Union was "obscene".

Mayor Alf Lacey said the Government's compensation payout to the QPU was racist.

"If you're black in this state you get nothing and if you're white you get the bank vault," he said.

Ms Carra said the decision was wrong.

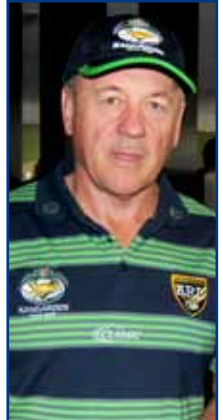
"If the Police Union wants to defend officers who collude in the perversion of justice it is not for the Queensland Government to then endorse that," she said.

ANTaR Qld called on the Government to reverse its decision.

Out & About



It's been all about footy over recent weeks as these punters were photographed at the Obe Geia Challenge (top) and the Dairy Farmers Stadium in Townsville before the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield match. Some were lucky enough to catch up with Aussie players and coaches after the match closer to town.



No-interest loans back up and running

ICAN is pleased to announce NILS program is now back and running and wanted to thank the community for their patience over the past few months.

Due to a high number of loans not being paid, ICAN said they needed to take a break from the program for a few months.

They said NILS loans were not like regular bank loans because the same money loaned to one person was paid back into funds which were then used to loan to the next person.

The money for NILS loans therefore stays on the community so everyone can benefit, particularly those on Centrelink and/or low incomes.

Anyone interested in getting a NILS loan should drop by the ICAN Money Management Office and to chat with Ron Fave or Andrea Kyle-Sailor.

MEANWHILE Palm Island's recent Pink Ribbon Day was attended by Ms Kyle-Sailor (*right*), who took the opportunity to speak to women about how ICAN can help them reduce their bills.

Most of the time the shopping and bills are left for women to handle so ICAN's money resource kit, which comes in a useful and washable calico

bag and contains information on how to save money, was handed out on the day.

The bag includes some useful shopping tips, how to reduce electricity bills and a budget planner.

The resource kits are also available from the ICAN office for anyone who is interested.

The Pink Ribbon function, held at the PCYC, was

to honour those who had survived breast cancer and to cherish the memory of those who had been lost.



...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Each side played five games of 10-minutes duration.

Marian Catholic School defeated Heatley Primary 8-4 in a hard fought, quality grand final.

St Michael's and Barracudas Green won their fair share of games whilst Bwgcolman Warriors fielded a young side.

Obe Geia jnr was the first and only Palm Islander to have played A-Grade football for the North Queensland Cowboys.

Also at the carnival were Cowboys assistant coach Terry Matterson, back Robert Lui, and Toyota Cup back Javid Bowen, a cousin of Matty Bowen.

As well as playing some top class football, the visitors enjoyed a cultural experience at the Evolution Mining sponsored carnival.

Everybody was welcomed to country by traditional owner Allan Palm Island, followed by speeches from Deputy Mayor Mislam Sam, Cr Eddie Walsh, Obe Geia jnr and others.

"It is good to see so many local players and families as well as the visitors here," Mr Geia said.

"Most times our youngsters have to travel away, and at this carnival they play in front of their families."

St Michael's Catholic School dancers performed before the games and received loud applause.

The carnival also received great positive publicity with coverage by the Palm Island Voice, the Townsville Bulletin, Seven News, Koori Mail, Torres News and Cooktown Local News.

Local Bwgcolman Radio broadcast games and Radio 4KIG also did a live cross to the carnival.

Others in attendance included professional boxer Jordan Gee Hoy, who was watching his nephews Aron Gallagher, Tristan Evans and Nehemiah Gallego, all of whom played for Vincent State School





"This is a really great carnival with so much talent on offer. I have really enjoyed the day," Mr Gee Hoy said.

Neil Sabatino, of Hammond Island descent, was the Good Shepherd School coach and said there was an overflow of talent.

The Challenge, now in its fourth year, was a partnership between the Palm Island community, the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys, the NRL All Stars Game, the Department of Sport & Recreation and the Palm Island PCYC.

It was hosted and run by the Palm Island community.

It's a unique carnival for the kids from Palm Island, who get the chance to play some home games in front of their family and friends, and the youngsters from the mainland, who travel two hours by ferry to play on the picturesque island north-east of Townsville.

Each young footballer has earned the right to play in the carnival thanks to their regular attendance and positive behaviour at school all year.

North Queensland Toyota Cowboys community manager Fiona Pelling said it was a huge day for the kids. "It's a huge day for many of the kids – four hours of travel for those who come from Townsville or Magnetic Island, a couple of kilometres walking as well as five modified length games of rugby league – but a very enjoyable and educational one as well" she said.

"Once all the teams have arrived we all take part in a community welcome to country which includes some traditional dancing from the Palm Island locals.

"We really encourage all the kids, once they are invited, to join the dancing because it's a great ice breaker and really sets the atmosphere for the day."

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every 2nd Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDO is



Friday 9 November.

REMEMBER: the Bank & Post Office now closes each Council RDO.

For emergencies on Friday please call 0458 789 011. For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.

Palm Island Voice

2012-2013

Advertising & Subscription Rates

ADVERTISE!

Page Sponsorship
(1cm or 18pt banner ad across nominated page): \$120

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Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST

Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

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

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Individuals & Families:

\$45 (up to 06/13)

Community & NGOs:

\$70 (up to 06/13)

Government:

\$110 (up to 06/13)

Subscription rates will vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in January 2013 the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2013).

To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via chowes@westnet.com.au

Please support us so we can continue to support you!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE



The following positions are currently open for application:

Safe Haven

- 2 x Support Worker
- 2 x Youth Worker – part time (20 hours pw)

Applications close Monday 12th November 2012. To be considered for this position, please submit the following to mmccann@picc.com.au:

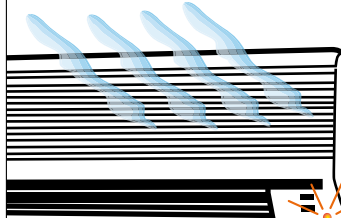
- A completed employment application form
- Written response to the key selection criteria (refer to selection criteria contained in the Position Description)
- A copy of your resume

Advice on the application process is available on request.

Contact Mark McCann on 07 4721 2277 or email mmccann@picc.com.au, for a copy of the Employment Application Form and Position Description/Selection Criteria.

Be smart with power — simple ways to save

Summer's coming ... make your power card last longer.



Air conditioners can be the biggest users of power in your house. Here's some tips to stay cool and make your card last longer.

- Use your fans to keep cool instead of switching on the air con
- If you do switch on the air con, close doors, windows, curtains and blinds to keep in the cool air
- Cool only the room you are in
- Switch your air con off when you go out
- Clean the filter pads on your air conditioner regularly
- Set your air conditioner to a cool and energy efficient **25°C**, or number 5 on the setting knob



Want to reduce your power costs?

See your local **powersavvy** officer **Bernadine "Blackie" Castors @ Palm Council** @ the old post office, or contact her through the Council office on **4770 1177**.

www.facebook.com/powersavvy.au

www.powersavvy.com.au



...FROM P 8...

Bill "Kookaburra" Coolburra was a highly respected Palm Island elder who was an Australian Army Vietnam War hero having served with the famous tunnel rats.

Born in June 1945, Bill died on October 29th in 2009 and his family, including wife Edna and son William, were there to present the shield to the Army team.

The Army forward pack looked awesome and heavily outweighed their Skipjacks counterparts.

Comeback boost for boxing team



FORMER Australian amateur boxing champion Gerald Wotton jnr looks set to make a successful boxing comeback after eight years break from the ring.

Now aged 28, trainer Ray Dennis said the classy Wotton won his Australian title back in 2001.

"Gerald was a very good boxer and will be a great part of the team," Mr Dennis said.

After training strongly at the Palm PCYC gym, Mr Dennis said he doesn't expect Wotton will have a rusty start when he gets into the ring.

"That may be at a tournament in Moranbah on 10th November," he said.

"Gerald won a lot last time he fought."

However Skipjacks was the first to score, courtesy of centre Mickeal Sibley at the eighth minute without a conversion.

Army hit back soon after with a converted try to lead 6-4 but a second Mickeal Sibley try after a high kick saw Skipjacks hold an 8-6 advantage.

At the 23rd minute mark Army scored to hold a 12-8 lead at halftime.

After the break it was all the Army which scored four tries to lead 32-8.

In the dying minutes speedy back Fred Haines jnr crossed for Skipjacks and the Anthony Gadd conversion sealed the 32-14 final result.

Army had some Indigenous footballers who starred including Thursday Islander Private Nomoa who was excellent in attack and strong in defence from his wing.

"I am very proud of my Torres Strait heritage and want to say hello to all of my family up there," he said.

Another top player for the Army was big forward Apa Matalau who made plenty of metres up the centre of the ruck.

Skipjacks best were Mickeal Sibley, captain Fred Bulsey, Esrom Geia until he went off with a knee injury, Georgie Dabea, Jeremy Pulleh and James Sibley. Overall Skipjacks will hold their 3-2 lead out of the five matches.



Skipjacks hold 3-2 lead overall in tight Shield play-off

IT took a whole Australian Army rep side of superfit players to overcome Palm Island Skipjacks 32-14 in a game played as a curtain raiser to the Test between Australia and New Zealand in Townsville last month.

And that was only after a second half blitz after Army led by only four points at halftime.

The 13th October game was at Dairy Farmer's Stadium for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield. Two hours later Australia beat New Zealand 18-10 in front of 26,000 spectators.

It was the fifth Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield game between the Australian Army Thunder and the team which were the PIRL 2012 competition premiers.

The game was full of positives for Palm Island. The Island received great publicity and the lads performed brilliantly on their biggest stage ever.

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Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson & to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!! We'll be back in the new year!