



Full team of boxers will bout in Townsville this weekend

PATRICK Clarke will fight the main bout and Selwyn Seaton will make a comeback after a long break at next Saturday's (April 9) Sunstate Amateur Boxing League's gala card at Townsville's Centenary Hotel.

Palm Island PCYC Bowling Club trainer Ray Dennis said he is hoping to take a big contingent of fighters there for the tournament being organised by Art of Strength Club.

Mr Dennis nominated Natalie David, Shirley Curley, Brayden Nallajar, Thomas Baira, Darryl Richardson and Shemika Geia as boxers eager to have a bout there.

"I think we will go very well and Patrick has been training well," he said.

Selwyn last fought in 2011 and is based in Charters Towers but will still fight under the Palm Island banner.

"He is just 24 and weighs 80kg which is only 2kg heavier than five years ago, when he fought with great success," Mr Dennis said.

A big crowd is expected at the 'Cen Ten', as the hotel in Pimlico is known.

See page 7 for a flashback to 2011!



Record third term for Mayor Alf Lacey



Last Thursday Returning Officer Merlene Robertson officially declared Alf Lacey re-elected to his position as Mayor and Edward Walsh, Deniece Geia, Roy Prior and Robert Castors to be the elected Councillors of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

It will be Cr Lacey's third term as Mayor.

Crs Walsh and Prior are also re-elected while Cr Geia, who was on the then-Community Council in the early 2000s, and first time candidate Cr Castors are both former employees of the Council.

The new Council was sworn in on Tuesday 5 April.



This beautiful picture of these beautiful young women from Palm Island was taken, we think, in 2010 by photographer unknown. They are: Astrid Bligh, Nerida Geia, Tienielle Oui, Evelyn Hopkins, Kylie Doomadgee, Lana Daisy, Elizabeth Geia & Sedonia Donna Ross. We hope to bring you more 'Palm Island Stunners' in weeks to come!

It's finally over!! No more chemotherapy for my little Zede, Tienielle Oui writes...

I remember the night when the doctors told me that you had cancer, a thousand thoughts ran through my head, my heart was broken, I've cried and cried. I now know this is the end of a new beginning. Zede inspires me to be strong no matter what I'm going through. To everyone who prayed for us your prayers were answered because its the power of prayer that makes miracles – Zedekiah is a living testimony of how God can turn things around when you give it all to him.



Pictured is Delena, Steven (my mum and dad) with my children Zephaniah, Delena 3rd & Zedekiah; Zephaniah Zedekiah & Delena; and, Zephaniah, myself and Zedekiah



In our previous Issue, which was our 200th, we did an acknowledgement of previous editors of the Palm Island Voice. It has come to our attention that Jon Ortlieb – a former editor of the Adelaide Advertiser, Mackay Mercury and several other publications, also did the Palm Island Voice for a couple of years too, sometime around 95–97 according to our sources. We salute you Jon, and your colleagues in days gone by. For the full story and more, you can see all 200 issues of the Palm Island Voice online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

New info management system installed at JPHS

Improving management of patient information is behind a new primary health care information system implemented at the Joyce Palmer Health System late last month.

Joyce Palmer Health Service Director of Nursing John Rallings said the new system was vital in providing comprehensive health care for the population of Palm Island.

“MMEX is a web-based e-Health platform that connects people to a diverse health community,” Mr Rallings said.

“Designed by clinicians for clinicians, MMEX began at the University of Western Australia as a vision to facilitate secure communication between health professionals.

“The system is intuitive and will help the Health Workers, doctors and nurses easily record, find and report patient information.

“The program produces graphs so the Health Worker can show the patient their data and results.”

Key features of the MMEX solution are recording medical history and procedures; recording progress notes; recording and charting observations; medication management with MIMS integration; recording immunisation (including scheduling); assign and administer Patient Care Plans and associated activities including recalls for patients for immunisation and Rheumatic Heart Disease.



It will also eliminate manual Medicare Billing vouchers and enable staff to process patient information direct from MMEX to Medicare.

Previously, patient information was manually recorded in patient paper based charts, spreadsheets and diaries so it was very difficult for staff to be fully knowledgeable of the patients' health.

The system is used by health workers, doctors, nurses and administrative staff and will benefit the Joyce Palmer Health service with access to:

- Improved management of patients and their care plans and to minimise potentially preventable hospitalisations.
- Ability to extract population health outcomes and needs from patient records.
- Decreased duplication of information stored on manual records.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service, Service Group Director Liza Tomlinson said she saw MMEX

as a solution to the old system by providing new tools previously unavailable to Health Workers, doctors, nurses and administrative staff at JPHS.

“This is essential to address the comprehensive health care information requirements for the delivery of health services to the population of Palm Island.” Ms Tomlinson said.

“The solution will enable and facilitate the reporting of health outcomes, Continuous Quality Improvement activities, clinical practice, service delivery and planning, national key performance indicators and benchmarking through improved access to quality information and tools.

“The data from this system will help us have informed discussions with the Palm Island community about their health and strategies that will work for them.

“Additionally we have been a pilot project which will demonstrate benefits for other Aboriginal communities.”

NRL House boost for young students

A new NRL Cowboys House in Townsville will benefit young footballers from Palm Island and other Indigenous communities by helping young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from remote areas complete their education and find jobs, Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Senator Nigel Scullion says.

The House is a new joint initiative between the North Queensland Cowboys, the National Rugby League and State and Australian Governments, representatives of whom were there to celebrate the first sod turned on the site on former Townsville TAFE land. NRL Cowboys House will be supported by a \$9.5 million investment from the Australian Government and will provide accommodation for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from the beginning of the 2017 school year.

Co-captain and Origin star Johnathan Thurston, with former champion fullback Matt Bowen, will be Cowboys Ambassadors for NRL Cowboys House which will be home to up to 50 students from remote areas in northern Queensland attending secondary schools in Townsville.

Senator Scullion said NRL Cowboys House had been modelled on AFL Cape York House in Cairns which has operated successfully in Cairns for three years.

“This new facility will provide accommodation for students from remote communities and ensure they have the best chance possible of completing high school and moving into the workforce or on to higher education,” Senator Scullion said.

“The house will provide supported accommodation for male students aged 12 to 18 from remote areas so they can study in high schools throughout Townsville.



“It will be home to 25 students in its first school year – 2017 – and it is planned to move to full capacity of 50 by 2018.”

Guests at the celebrations were welcomed to country by Auntie Dorothy Savage of the Bindal people and Ashley Saltner jnr of the Wulgurukaba mob. Walkabout Aboriginal dancers were on hand to perform.

Queensland State Minister for Housing and Public Works Mick de Brenni said the Cowboys had a high profile throughout the communities in northern Queensland.

“NRL Cowboys House will be an extension of community support programs that the football club had been running for about five years,” Minister de Brenni said. “NRL Cowboys House will be managed by the Cowboys Community Foundation, the charity arm of the North Queensland Cowboys, with financial and other support from the NRL.”

Australian Rugby League Commission member Dr Chris Sarra also spoke as did North Queensland Cowboys CEO Greg Tonner, who said NRL Cowboys House fitted perfectly with the football club's commitments to communities in the north.

Mr Tonner said the Cowboys would work closely with families and community leaders from the remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure the success of the program and the young people involved.

“NRL Cowboys House is designed to encourage and nurture students, whether their interests are in the arts, academic pursuits or sport,” he said.



Out & About



Top Row: Harry Reuben; Kerry Nallajar; Ilan Walden, Anthony Barry and Cedric Barry were in the Townsville CBD over Easter; Middle: Thomas Ketchup; Robert Wilson; Walter Morgan and on the right is Nadine Hero and baby Faith Burns, aged 2.



Palm players join Townsville comp

ADRIAN Poynter is one of several Palm Island footballers who will line up for clubs in the Townsville and District Rugby League competition in 2016.

The eight club comp commenced on the first weekend in April and Adrian said he was playing with Norths Club.

“Myself and Vernon Bourne and a few other Palm boys will be with Norths and we are looking forward to it,” he said.

Under QRL Northern Division rules Palm players can be dual registered to play in the Island’s domestic comp as well as the TDRL.

Other Palm players will be in the Western Lions club, which has made its debut in the TDRL, whilst others have indicated they will be in University or Centrals Tigers colours.



Palm Island Voice



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Community Notices**



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The **DEADLINE** for the
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Thursday 21 April

FOR PUBLICATION ON

Thursday 28 April

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Justice Group

The Palm Island Justice Group calls for expressions
of interest for those community members of Palm
Island interested in becoming:

Justice Group Members

All Expressions of Interest should be submitted to:
justicegroup@picc.com.au or
PO Box 1415, Townsville QLD 4810

Please contact the Justice Group office on 07
4791 4001 or email justicegroup@picc.com.au, for
additional information on becoming a Justice Group
Member.



Operating Hours for Council are Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm

If you have any
questions please
contact Reception on
4770 1177 or
4770 0200



Palm Island
Aboriginal
Shire Council
has 1,128
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

Flashback to 2011

Mixed results in Rocky after long long ride



Palm Island boxers made the marathon bus run to Rockhampton last weekend for a big amateur tournament, which saw four out of the seven-member team win their bouts.

Winners were 15-year-old David Sam in the heavyweight division, Nathan James (45kg), Jy Prior (57kg) and Isaac Bulsey (41kg).

Patrick Clarke (64kg division), Shaun Creed (32kg) and Selwyn Seaton (84kg) lost their bouts.

The tournament, held at the Rocky PCYC, was well attended with a total of 36 bouts.

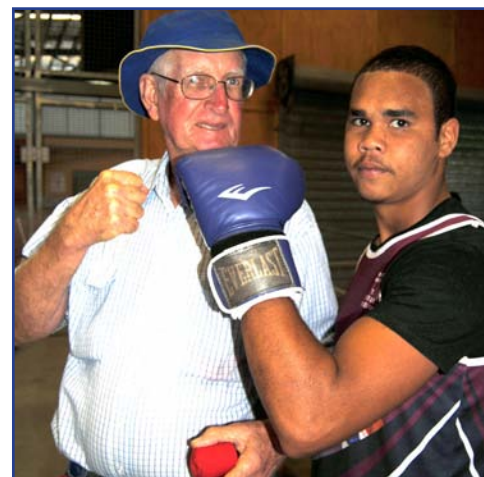
The team along with trainer Ray Dennis and assistant trainer Chris Gundy, left for the 715km trip to Rockhampton at about 4am on Saturday.

"It was a long and tiring

journey and I had expected other boxers to come but they didn't," Mr Dennis said.

They drove again at 11pm on Saturday night for their return journey – their goal was the 10am ferry back to Palm, which they made with only 10 minutes to spare.

"Chris Gundy did a great job driving the bus and we couldn't have done it without him," Mr Dennis said.



Pictured above is trainer Ray Dennis with promising young boxer Selwyn Seaton in 2011.

Left was the back page of Palm Island Voice Issue 75, published on Thursday 24 March 2011.

Selwyn is third from the left and many of the other boxers in the pic are still around today!

Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield holds fond memories

Much loved, Bill Coolburra served as a Regular soldier in the Royal Australian Engineers after enlisting in 1964.

His overseas service included Borneo, Malaya and Vietnam, serving as a member of 1 Field Squadron and also 3 Field Troop.

He saw action in Vietnam as a tunnel rat in the tunnels of the infamous Hobo (pronounced Ho-Bo) Woods while attached as an engineer to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) and the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR) in 1965 and 66. It was while serving in the Army that he received the nickname "Kookaburra." Bill Coolburra served 16 years in the Army.

Bill Coolburra loved the Army, but he also loved his Rugby League, and his favourite Palm Island team, the Skipjacks. It was his wish that the Army and Palm Island play an annual game that

would forge friendships and closer ties between the Army and the indigenous community.

The past few games have been held at the North Queensland Cowboys home ground 1300Smiles Stadium in Townsville.

Last year a much bigger and fitter Australian Army Thunder side beat Skipjacks 44-18.

It was a curtain raiser to the North Queensland Cowboys 28-24 NRL win over the Zealand Warriors.

Most of that Skipjacks side were aged under 25.

A year before former NRL players Milton Thaiday and Obe Geia jnr led Skipjacks to a 50-32 victory.

The previous year Army Thunder beat Skipjacks 32-28 in an exciting game on Palm Island.

In late 2012 the Army beat Skipjacks 32-14 played as a curtain raiser to the Test between Australia and New Zealand in Townsville.

Skipjacks won the 2011 clash held on Palm Island's football oval 46-30.

It was sweet revenge for Skipjacks which lost the 2010 game 22-16 to Army Thunder.

The 2008 and 2009 clashes were held at Brother's League's Club in Townsville and were won by Skipjacks in amazing similar circumstances.

Scores were deadlocked at 28-all in both when the final siren sounded but Skipjacks were awarded the victory because they scored first under game rules.

Before the game a memorial service will be held at the Palm island cemetery in honour of Bill and it will be attended by many of his family members.

A ferry will take visiting players, officials and Palm Islanders living on the mainland to the island for the match which will commence at 11am.

Skipjacks confident they can win over Army

PALM Island Skipjacks will be relying on the “big guns” when they clash with the Australian Army Thunder for the coveted Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield rugby league blockbuster on Thursday 14 April.

It will be the ninth clash between the sides and both have won four making this the most anticipated on record.

Stars Fred Bulsey, Clinton Pearson, William Marpoondin, Raoul Miller, Anthony Thompson, Mickeal Sibley, Gary Fulford and Toby Hero will lead the way for the side known locally as Skipjacks.

“We’ll be bigger, stronger and faster this year. Looking forward to the clash, can’t wait mate,” were the defining and confident words of Palm Island Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan said.

Palm Islanders are fanatical rugby league supporters and will be out in force for the game in which the stakes are high.

It is expected a huge crowd of locals will be at the local football oval to support the lads.

There will also be an invasion, pardon the pun, of Army players, officials and supporters from the mainland.

Star forward Raoul Miller said the feeling amongst players was confident.

“We will have a stacked side and I think we can win it,” he said.

See page 7 for more...

