



Skipjacks tie the Coolburra Shield series



EXCITEMENT reigned supreme in the closing few minutes before Palm Island Skipjacks beat Australian Army Thunder 26-20 in the 10th annual rugby league clash for the prestigious Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield.

It was played at Townsville's 1300Smiles Stadium late last month as a curtain raiser to the North Queensland Cowboys versus Newcastle Knights NRL game, which was the Anzac Day Memorial round eight.

The win by Skipjacks made it five wins each in the series.

The match was played over two 30 minute halves and light rain before the kick off ensured a slippery ball in the early stages.

However that didn't deter Skipjacks and in the second minute crafty fullback Gresham Ross jnr crossed for a try in the corner and his side led 4-nil.

Halfback Gordon Daisy, five eighth Clinton Pearson and hooker Clifford Beetham were creating havoc for the Army defence and in the 10th minute Obe Geia jnr scored a try

and Gresham Ross converted to give Skippies a 10-nil lead.

In the 18th minute Gresham Ross jnr continued his dominance with a try which he converted to give Skippies a 16-nil buffer.

Just before the break Army's Andrew Martin scored and the Lawrence Craft conversion saw Skipjacks lead 16-6 at halftime.

A motivational halftime speech by Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan and captain Raoul "Tough As Nails" Miller saw a fired up side take the field for the second half.

In the first few minutes dynamic centre Isaac Bulseay scored a long range try after a backline movement and Ross converted to give Skipjacks what seemed a match winning 22-6 lead.

But Army had other ideas and scored three tries to Chris Gray,

Ben Kingston and Andrew Farrell which saw that lead reduced to 22-20 with four minutes remaining.

Army may have led, however their goal kicker missed two simple conversions.

Skipjacks defended strongly and inside the last minute Gresham Ross jnr scored his third try to give his side the 26-20 victory.

The match was played in good spirit even though both sides were responsible for some big defensive tackles.

Bill Coolburra's son William and great granddaughter Gail Coolburra presented the shield.

"The boys trained hard at home on Palm and put in a mighty effort on the field," Skipjacks coach Alex Morgan said. "We had to fight hard but this game means a lot to us and we got the win."

Funding battle for housing prompts emergency meeting in Cairns

The Federal Government has hinted current arrangements for funding housing in remote communities will finish in June next year, prompting Queensland's Indigenous councils to meet in Cairns last month to call on the Commonwealth Government to continue the scheme.

Torres Strait Mayor Fred Gela said gains achieved by the State Government should not be jeopardised.

"The cloud over ongoing federal funding is a real worry," Mr Gela said.

"There is no cost savings in increasing overcrowding.

"Without the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing investment continuing you can expect continuing and increasing challenges with health, educational attainment, employment outcomes, social emotional well-being and family safety.

"You can't build up remote economies without a strong pipeline of construction work."

Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Mark Furner also attended the meeting and said maintaining the funding was an important factor in improving

outcomes for remote communities.

"Safe, secure housing and partnerships are crucial to Closing the Gap on health, education and employment outcomes, and that's why a meaningful commitment to funding from the Turnbull Government for more housing in Queensland's Indigenous communities is so important," he said.

Queensland Minister for Housing and Public Works Mick De Brenni said uncertainty around funding had the potential to unravel positive outcomes achieved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

"The Turnbull Government appears just a step from walking away from national funding agreements, putting a decade of progress at risk of a massive slide backwards," Mr de Brenni said.



Minister for Housing and Public Works Mick de Brenni says uncertainty around Federal Indigenous housing funding is putting a decade of progress at risk.
Photo: twitter @ABCFarNorth

"Communities, local governments and the states demand certainty, and we need it quickly, before development, jobs and hope dry up."



*CONGRATULATIONS to AUNTY LIL WILLIS for graduating from the University of Wollongong with a Post Graduate Degree in Indigenous Trauma Recovery.
Thanks to Whanjullah-imbala Palm Island-bwgc Colman Buddah for the deadly photo.*

Workers' conference in Townsville to kick off 57 Strike commemorations

In the lead up to this year's 60th anniversary of the '57 Strike an Indigenous Workers Conference will be held in Townsville in early June.

The conference will raise awareness of the '57 Strike in Townsville and the national community and help to promote ownership of the story amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait who lived on Palm at the time and have since moved onto the mainland.

Representatives from various Australian organisations will be in Townsville to participate in the conference that will have five panels throughout the day as well as the live performance of the Strike '57 Play.

Jeff McMullen and Mark Davis will facilitate the panels, the subjects of which will include the 57 Strike, stolen

wages, equity and employment and sovereignty.

Along with local dignitaries Mayor Jenny Hill, Federal Member for Herbert Cathy O'Toole, Member for Townsville Scott Stewart and Rail Tram and Bus Union Les Moffitt, the conference will also be attended by Industrial Relations Minister Grace Grace and Australian Council of Trade Unions Secretary Sally McManus.

The Indigenous Workers Conference will be organised by the Geia Family.

The Congoo, Geia, Lymburner, Sibley, Tapau, Thaiday and Watson families, as a

collective, are organising a four day event on Palm Island on 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th June 2017.

The Congoo family are organising the Tombstone Unveiling of the late Bill Congoo and Rose Congoo (nee Kyle); Thaiday and Isaro Families are organising a book launch and theatre production to highlight the strike of '57 and the Sibley Family are introducing social and emotional wellbeing workshops. **The Indigenous Workers Conference will be held at Perfume Gardens on Friday 9th June 2017.**



ANZAC Day services well-attended

The presence of the Army at Palm Island's ANZAC Day ceremonies was encouraging and added dignity to the Palm Island events, Catholic Church spokesperson Robyn Brady said.



Pics with thanks to Bwgcolman Community School, Paul Enders (QPS) & Cr Roy Prior, including Mhontay Prior and Sonja Solomon (above) who participated in the Rockhampton ANZAC parade



Ms Brady said there were two services, one at dawn and one at 10am.

"I went to both," she said.

"The first one was conducted well with an opening address by Cr Roy Prior and then a young army person gave a good address in reference to Bill Coolburra and what he had done in Vietnam.

"At the 10 o'clock ceremony the schools featured with the laying of the wreaths. The attendance at this one was pretty good.

"It is good for us all to be able to honour our ex-servicemen and women on this day."

The two events were organised by Cr Deniece Geia and attended by Army Service personnel from Townsville as well as locals on the North Queensland Aboriginal Shire.

Cr Roy Prior and Cr Eddie Walsh attended the Anzac dawn service and said it was a success.

"The service ended up turning out pretty good," Cr Prior said. "There was the usual community locals who regularly attend the yearly service along with the soldiers, police, health workers and teachers including Principals from St Michael's Catholic and

Bwgcolman State School."

During the Anzac march the police were led by Jason Coolburra a son of the late Vietnam Veteran Bill Coolburra and PLO Manatu Nelliman.

PLO Nelliman and local PCYC Sgt Warren Murdock were amongst many who laid wreaths at the memorial.

Lieutenant Joseph Sorrensen and six soldiers from 3rd Combat Engineers based at Townsville's Lavarack Barracks attended Palm Island for Anzac ceremonies.

Playing with heart

Tropical Cyclone Debbie may have caused the cancellation of the first round of junior rugby league games from kicking off, but nothing could keep them away once the weather cleared and four teams were able to ferry across to participate.

They were joining the Townsville & District Junior Rugby League competition, thanks to some hard work from the QRL's Scott Nosworthy and TDJRL chair Bert Petersen.

Organiser Mislam Sam said he also wanted to thank parents, the Council and their hard working coaches and managers for each team.

"They got us to the first game and it was a huge success," he said.

"We'll be playing, on a trial basis, under-6, 8, 10 and 12.

"That means eight games every weekend.

"It's been more than a decade since we've participated in the Townsville league at this level.

"We were welcomed and thanked by the other teams for our efforts to get there.

"We just need some more parents to be involved and to help us out, especially with fund raising.

"At this stage we are going over on the Friday afternoon ferry, looking for accommodation in Townsville for the night, and then catching the Saturday ferry back."



Pics thanks to Keona Smith



Pics thanks to Alf Wilson - more in our next Issue!





Palm Island Voice



Public &
Community Notices



Don't forget!!!

The **DEADLINE** for the
NEXT
PALM ISLAND VOICE
(228) is

**Thursday
11 May**

FOR PUBLICATION

**Thursday
18 May**

*Don't forget to check out our
Facebook page!*

ADVERTISE!

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

Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST

Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST

Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST

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

Print approval required by Monday COB.

To book an ad, make a contribution or
inquire about subscriptions please contact

the Editor, Christine Howes,

on 0419 656 277 or

palmislandvoice@chowes.com.au



**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 1,471
'likes' on
Facebook!!!

Expressions of Interest for permanent public art

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is
seeking the services of suitably qualified
individuals or organisations to coordinate
a ceremonial pole public art installation
as a key element of the Coolgaree Bay
foreshore redevelopment.

**A Consultant's Brief is now available by
contacting Allison Rossetto at
allison.rossetto@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au
or on 0438 272 725.**

**EOIs close Friday
19 May 2017**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Palm Island Children and Family Centre Ready Together Project Team



The Ready Together Project is aiming to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's Kindergarten and Playgroup participation. The project will support children's transition from home to Early Years Services and then to school. The following positions are currently open for application:

Coordinator (Full-time) 1 x Casual Project Worker (variable hours)

All positions are available on contract to 30/12/2017, with the possibility of extension.

Applications close on Friday 12/05/2017

To be considered for this position, please submit to mmccann@picc.com.au:

1. A completed employment application form, including a response to the Selection Criteria.
2. A copy of your resume (including copies of qualifications & certs)

Please email mmccann@picc.com.au, for a copy of the Position Descriptions and Employment Application Form. The package can also be collected from the Children and Family Centre during office hours.

Queensland Regional Arts Awards

The Queensland Regional Art Awards (QRAA) is an annual visual arts prize and exhibition for established and emerging artists living in regional and remote Queensland.

The program aims to provide a platform for further professional development. In 2017, the QRAA theme is 'Iconic Queensland'. Queensland is rich with iconic structures, people, locations, events and lifestyles that shape the State's identity.

Artists are invited to consider the unique and iconic elements within their own regions, to produce works that reflect our diverse Queensland communities.

The theme is to be addressed in an accompanying artist statement of 100 – 150 words.


All entries are eligible for the \$10,000 Flying Arts 'Art for Life' Award and for selection in the touring exhibition.

Please note entry fees apply.

**Applications are open – closing date
5pm Monday 17 July 2017**

<http://flyingarts.org.au/enter-qraa/>





FIND THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOUR ORGANISATION

IMPROVE YOUR GRANT WRITING SKILLS


GET FEEDBACK ON YOUR APPLICATION OR WRITE THE APPLICATION ON SITE

ATTEND ALL OR PART OF THE WORKSHOP

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH GRANT WRITING

Monthly Community Grant Writing Workshops
Time: 3.30 to 6.30pm
Where: Indigenous Knowledge Centre

Do you or your organisation need to find funding to deliver on your objectives? Struggling with finding or submitting successful grant applications? This workshop is for you. Come along with a grant you want to apply for or with an idea and together we can look for the right grant for you. If you have one, bring your computer and we can write the application together.



DATES

- 30th May
- 27 June
- 25 July
- 29 August
- 30 September
- 24 October


Your Stolen Wages!

Can I join?

- Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
- Did you work before 1973?
- Did an immediate family member, who has passed away, work between 1890 and 1973?

If you answered **yes**, you may be eligible to join our class action for Stolen Wages and get **PROPER COMPENSATION!**

You should be paid in TODAY's dollars, not yesterday's!



Do I have to pay upfront? NO. You can talk to us even if you have already received a Reparations payment. We have worked hard to find alternative funding for the court case, so you **don't** have to pay anything upfront.

STOLEN WAGES HOTLINE
07 4041 1641
stolenwages.com.au

We need to know:

- Your work history, prior to 1973
- Your birth date
- Your work places
- Who you worked for
- What work you did
- How much money you were paid

+ Bring a copy of your ID

STOLEN WAGES HOTLINE
07 4041 1641
stolenwages.com.au

belaw
BOTTOMS ENGLISH LAWYERS

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Member of Queensland Law Society



PALM ISLAND Community Services Coordination Calendar

DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH - 1-31 MAY

MAY 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 Public Holiday 	2 BDM & Blue Card Workshops ICAN Youth Justice QIFVLS	3 BDM & Blue Card Workshops Youth Justice JPHS—Physiotherapy Clinic	4 JPHS—Australian Hearing (Child Clinic)	5
8 Youth Justice	9 PIASC Engagement Days Youth Justice Magistrates Court ATSIWLSNQ Tafe Qld North ICAN JPHS—Diabetes, Dietitian & Podiatry Clinic DATSIP	10 Bwngcolman Family Fun Day NQDVRC Magistrate Hearings Youth Justice JPHS—Pediatric Clinic DATSIP	11 NQDVRC DATSIP	12
15 Youth Justice	16 ICAN Youth Justice QIFVLS	17 Youth Justice JPHS—Physiotherapy Clinic	18 JPHS—Indigenous Respiratory Outreach Care	19
22 Deadly Ears Clinic Youth Justice	23 Deadly Ears Clinic Magistrates Court ATSIWLSNQ Youth Justice ICAN DATSIP	24 Deadly Ears Clinic Magistrate Hearing Youth Justice NQDVRC DATSIP	25 Deadly Ears Clinic NQDVRC DATSIP	26 
29	30 PIASC Land Trust Meetings ICAN QIFVLS JPHS—Cardiac & Echo Cardiography Clinic	31 PIASC Ordinary Meeting JPHS—Physiotherapy Clinic	NQDVRC—North Qld Domestic Violence Resource Centre, JPHS—Joyce Palmer Health Service, TAIHS—Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service, ICAN—Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network, DATSIP—Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, ATSIWLSNQ—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Women's Legal Service North Queensland, CYMHS—Child Youth & Mental Health Service, PIASC—Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, QIFVLS—Qld Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service,	

PALM ISLAND CLASS ACTION NOTICE

PALM ISLAND CLASS ACTION NOTICE

ATTENTION ALL PALM ISLAND RESIDENTS: YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM

ARE YOU: 1. FROM PALM ISLAND? 2. ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER? 3. AFFECTED BY THE POLICE RESPONSE TO THE PROTESTS IN NOV 2004?



A Why is this notice important?

This notice tells what you need to do to claim money that you may be able to receive, through the class action lawsuit which Lex, Cecilia and Agnes Wotton brought against the State of Queensland. You might be able to be part of this legal action if

- 1 You are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and
- 2 You usually lived on Palm Island between 19 November 2004 and 25 March 2010, and
- 3 You were affected by the police response to the protests in the community in November 2004.

If all of these points apply to you, you have the right to register as a group member in the class action which is explained in this notice and you may be able to make a claim for compensation. Please read this notice carefully.

B What has already happened about this?

The Federal Court of Australia made a decision on 5th December 2016 in a case about the police investigation into the death of Murrinjil Doomadgee in November 2004 and the police response to the protests in the community at that time.

The judge decided that police officers had committed acts of unlawful racial discrimination against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of Palm Island in November 2004. The judge ordered that the applicants (the Wottons) should be paid compensation.

The judge has also ordered that this notice should be published so that people who might be group members in the class action know about their right to make a claim for compensation.

C What can you do?

The judge's decision (which is called the "judgment") means that some other Palm Island residents who were affected by the police officers' conduct, may also be entitled to be paid compensation or to get some other help called "redress", which means things like an apology from the government, or being given medical assistance or counselling.

Not every Palm Island resident who was there in November 2004 will be able to get compensation or redress. The judge will have to decide if you have suffered some kind of harm, like being emotionally or physically hurt, or not being allowed to do something that you would normally be able to do (like travel to Townsville).

You have to register your intention to make a claim by 30 June 2017, by doing one of these three things:

- speak to Lewitt Robinson (the law firm that helped the Wotton family with their case) by calling 02 9286 3133 or by emailing palmisland@lewittrobinson.com; or
 - speak to one of the lawyers from Lewitt Robinson who will visit Palm Island between Thursday 27 April and Friday 5 May 2017; or
 - complete a "Registration of Intention to Claim" form, which you can download at www.lewittrobinson.com/palmisland, and post it to the address on the form.
- Make sure you do one of those things by 30 June 2017.

PALM ISLAND RESIDENTS / QUEENSLAND POLICE CLASS ACTION / DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: 30 JUNE 2017

**DEADLINE FOR
REGISTRATION:
30 JUNE 2017**

Record breaking boxers punch well over their weight

11-year-old Palm Islander Musa Prior was one of the stars of the 18 bouts of the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournament at Townsville's Centenary Hotel last Saturday night.

Having his first bout, Musa fought brilliantly in the 33kg division to win on points over a Babinda opponent.

"Musa went really well and if he trains hard will have many more wins," veteran trainer Ray Dennis said.

Musa is one of the aptly named "Mosquito Fleet" of young emerging Palm boxers who have skills, speed and excellent eye/hand co-ordination.

Tristan Robertson was gallant in his points loss in the 63kg division against a heavier opponent.

Jason Thimble jnr and Brayden Nallajar fought entertaining exhibition bouts. Raymond Haines lost to Hawks Club Jaylen Tait in the 57kg division by split point's decision in a result which could have gone either way.

Dennis Haines jnr lost on points in the 67kg class.

Chris Pearson, aged 10, and Lamar Sibley didn't get bouts because they couldn't be matches.

Mr Dennis thanked the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for their kind sponsorship.

"Council provided the team with ferry return ferry tickets," Mr Dennis said.

Townsville Club, Art of Strength, organised the tournament.

"Scooter kindly let us stay at his house for two nights and we are grateful. He is a big supporter of Palm Island boxing," Mr Dennis said.



Pics thanks to Angel Harry and Zina Prior