



Palm Island Voice



Issue 54
Tuesday 4 May 2010

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

New housing deal offers fair choice for everyone – Mayor

The Government's new housing deal for Palm Island will see 'real improvements' to housing stock and the opportunity for individuals to make their own choices about housing tenure says Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey.

But he also said he was concerned the 40-year lease aspect of the agreement had caused some confusion.

"I think the main gist of fears being relayed to the community are that Palm Island is being sold off, but that's simply not true," he said.

"In terms of the leasing arrangement I think it's quite clear cut in that the state will offer a 40-year lease over individual properties – not over all of Palm Island, but individual housing blocks – in the community which will lead to ownership over those homes.

"Home ownership for a lot of our communities has been talked about for a long time, including Councils here on Palm Island, and that's about giving residents the choice and chance of owning homes rather than renting for the rest of our lives.

"I certainly believe that while this opportunity is here we should take that on board and think very seriously about the benefits it will give to the people on Palm Island, which is first and foremost the most important thing – that is 'what do we get out of it?'"

Mr Lacey said he was satisfied that what was presented to Council in November last year would benefit everyone on Palm Island.

"120 new homes within the next couple of years, 25 new homes by the end of this year, which is a real improvement to the current housing

stock we have at the moment," he said.

"There's also \$7 million in upgrades over the next two years for nearly 150 properties as well.

"At the moment we have 325 dwellings, which are social housing properties that Council rents to community members, and we have a population of 3,500.

"Those numbers speak for themselves, how do you put 3,500 people into 325 properties in the community?

"People are saying to Council on a day-to-day basis they are looking for homes and they want homes.

"I think this is a good opportunity for our mob to sit down clearly and think about what kind of benefit this brings.

"I know there's a lot of concerns about what the leases mean and what the overall package, including housing for Palm Island, is going to bring."

The Federal Government has committed \$1.156 billion over 10 years for housing reform in remote Indigenous communities throughout Queensland via its "National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing". The funding will provide more than 1,140 new houses to be built and upgrades to more than 1,200 existing houses in remote communities across the state.

More information about the package and what it means to Palm Islanders is available at the Council offices.

Pampered styling on the menu for pre-Mother's Day luncheon

MOTHERS on Palm Island will be honoured at a special 'kid-free' luncheon this coming Saturday, the day before Mother's Day.

Organiser of the 'Honouring Mother's Luncheon' is well-known Palm Islander, and mother herself Deniece Geia (*pictured right*). Mrs Geia said the luncheon would be at the PCYC and would show local mums just how much they are appreciated.

"The purpose of this exciting event is to honour our mothers and love and appreciate what our mothers do for us," she said.

"Some of us, have lost our mothers but we still miss them and talk about how much we valued and loved them."

The message Mrs Geia wants to get out to all Palm Islanders is to love and respect their mothers. "Pampering our mothers will put our words into action," she said.

"They will be pampered by local talent and non-indigenous women who have volunteered their time and expertise towards the luncheon.

"Light desserts and drinks as well as lucky-door-prizes and gifts bags will be shared out on the day.

"So a big thanks to all major sponsors, Palm Island Community Company, Palm Island

PCYC, Glama Co and others who have inspired organisers to host this event."

Mrs Geia works with a group of mothers who came up with the

idea of holding the event every year.

"So that we don't lose the focus of what Mothers Day means to us here on Palm Island," she said.

"Invitations will be sent out to at least 300-400 mothers, we

want all mums to come along and have fun. "We're particularly asking that children not attend as this Luncheon is for Mothers only, so we are looking at options for babysitting as well," she said.

Mrs Geia also said there would be a motivational speaker and qualified people to do their nails, hair, massaging heads and shoulders, and make up during the event.



Public meeting to foreshadow bar opening

A PUBLIC meeting will be held on Palm Island in the near future to announce the official opening date of the Coolgaree Sports Bar.

Co-licensee and former Palm Island Deputy Mayor Zac Sam said that all that remained was a final inspection and go ahead by Liquor Licensing.

"We will know soon and a public meeting will be held about it," Mr Sam said.

7 candidates put hands up for Council

SEVEN people will stand at the May 22 by-election for the vacant seat of Councillor on the Palm Island Aboriginal Council to replace the late and great Mick Thaiday.

The notice board outside the Council office has become the centre of attention since the names were stuck on it at the close of nominations.

Robert Blackley, former Mayor Delena Foster, Victor Daisy, Cindy Clumpoint, Hal Walsh, Veronica Coutts and Susan Pryor.

Mayor Alf Lacey said he wanted to wish all the candidates the best of luck in the upcoming by-election.

"I hope that whoever wins office will come in with an open mind and work with the current Council to move things along and put Palm on a good footing," he said.

CANDIDATES are invited to provide a short statement of not more than 180 words + a small photograph of themselves to be published in Issue 55 of the Palm Island Voice on Tuesday 18 May. The deadline for submissions will be no later than 5pm on Thursday 13 May. Late submissions will not be accepted. See back page for contact details.

Lightning Storm visit a thundering success

Queensland State of Origin, Australian Test rugby league and Melbourne Storm superstar Greg Inglis, along with teammates Ryan Tandy, Brett Finch and Dane Nielsen were treated like idols when they visited Palm Island late last week.

And they made sure no-one missed out, signing hundreds of autographs, jumpers and footballs.

The four hours they spent on the Island was during the lead up to the NRL match against the North Queensland Cowboys at Townsville's Dairy Farmers Stadium on Saturday night.

Current controversies around the Storm were forgotten as they proved popular with young and adult Palm Islanders while they were here.

Inglis came to Palm Island two years ago with Will Chambers but for the other three it was the first time.

After a visit to the Council office and mall, the four went to the Bwgcolman State Primary School where Inglis gave an emotional speech to a few hundreds students.

"I am proud to be Indigenous and the Storm picked me up as a teenager," he said.

"There has been a few bumps along the way but education is very important and I have just finished a certificate in youth work so that I will have a career after football."



Inglis also spoke about vandalism.

"I want to push a point that vandalism is not good," he said. "You could end up in jail looking at four walls. Nobody should damage other people's property like smashing windows or writing on buildings."

From BCS the Storm players went to nearby St Michael's Catholic School where Inglis spoke to the students on the dangers of drugs.

"Drugs and alcohol are not good things to do," he told students.

Then Inglis and the players went back to the Council offices where they signed autographs and had their pictures taken with youngsters.

youngsters.

After that Inglis went down to the esplanade for some interviews while the others did some training drills with members of the Barracudas side due to play the Foley Shield last weekend.



[More pics back page + Foley Shield story pages 8-9]

Road repairs back on track



Roads around Palm Island will be far safer to travel on soon with ongoing repairs and resurfacing going on.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said roadworks were finally underway again with RoadTek working alongside local workers to try and get our roads sorted again.

"We're a bit behind but the weather has finally allowed us to get out there again," he said.

Rain in recent months has resulted in pot holes on many roads and especially along the Esplanade near the entrance to the Reel Women Jetty and nearby barge and boat ramp.

Work is in progress re bitumising that area where traffic controllers were on hand.

They said short delays in traffic would be worth it when the work was complete.



Invite for local stolen generation exhibition

PALM Islanders who are members of the Stolen Generation have been invited to show an expression of interest in being part of a local exhibition in which they will tell of their experiences.

The invitation follows the 'Broken Links' Queensland State Library exhibition on display at Thuringowa, Aitkenvale and Townsville Libraries during March and April.

The exhibition, which

marked the passing of a decade since the publication of Bringing Them Home, features personal testimony and pictures outlining the personal experiences of Stolen Generation victims Pamela Croft, Lance Riley, Sharon Kinchela, Ruth Hegarty and Doreen Cockatoo.

Indigenous Library Resource Officer for Lifelong Learning for City Libraries Townsville, Kerry Clarkson, said she was interested in putting together a similar exhibition about the experiences of local Stolen

Generations victims, including those from Palm Island.

She said the exhibition contained boards, books, a dvd and links to the oral stories on the State Library website to assist in promoting awareness and understanding of the experiences of the stolen generation and their descendants who were affected by the laws and policies of the day.

To access further information online go to http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibit/online/broken_links

From the

Mayor's Desk

Once again, welcome to the 54th issue of the Palm Island Voice, as we know our newsletter provides updates and news to the community.

We've missed a couple of my columns over the past couple of issues but we're back on track again now.

First of all I want to reiterate my sympathies for the Thaiday family for their loss and the sorrow they've felt in terms of the passing of the late Cr Mick Thaiday.

Mrs Thaiday has informed me that on 19 May she is organising a memorial service at the PCYC, so we'll keep everyone posted on that.

In the last issue of the Palm Island Voice we also welcomed new acting-CEO, Jeff Brown to the Palm Island Council.

I want to thank Jeff for giving up his family time and taking the position on short notice to come and help Palm Island, to get us back in order and on the straight and narrow.

I also want to wish him the best and say that so far he's done a wonderful job.

In other news from the Council, we've been negotiating around an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), which is working towards a land use agreement over the Palm Island Shire, with Traditional Owners, the Munbarra people.

We haven't made a final decision on that yet, so those negotiations will be ongoing.

The Bwgcolman Tribal Council has also been playing a small role in those negotiations.

Also lately the community may have noticed there has been a lot of surveyors working around different parts of the town.

They're there as part of what is required under the Local Government Act for our town planning.

It is a requirement that we do a town plan for the Shire.

The plan hasn't been finalised yet but will go out for community consultation over a 60 day



period for input from community members, so they will be able to comment on that.

The town plan will talk about things like housing development, sporting grounds, bush walking tracks or transport issues, and all the other issues that affect space on our Island.

So that will be interesting to watch, it's something new for us as Council members and something new for any Indigenous community because we haven't really done that business before. It's essential for us to do that properly though, in order to get extra infrastructure and have extra funding in the community – overall it will mean better services on the ground for the local community.

We've also had some discussions with Education Queensland about various issues concerning Bwgcolman Community School, those discussions were very successful and certainly we'll look forward to working with the school for better outcomes for the kids on Palm Island.

We've only had one general meeting since our recent funeral, so there hasn't been a lot happening.

Lastly to those families who have lost loved ones, I just want to again reiterate my own and the Council's sympathies to them: the Cannon family, Wyles, Nugent and the other families, including the Ambrym family in Yarrabah, who have suffered those losses.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Palm Island Voice and will look forward to seeing you around the community soon.

Yours in community spirit,
Mayor Alf Lacey



Seas were calm last week as the Sunferries catamaran cruised to and from Townsville's Ross Creek to Palm Island. Enjoying the 100 minute trip was long time resident Ben Nomoa, his partner Marita Baira, Sophie Barry and her children Myin, aged 1, and Maizi, 2.

PISC News

Attendance

Student numbers are very low at present at the Senior Campus.

If your child is enrolled at the Senior Campus they must be attending school.

A letter will be sent out shortly to collect information on the location and current activities of non-attending Senior Campus students.

If your child has enrolled in another school or is employed full time, please contact the Senior Campus so we have up-to-date records.

Parent/Teacher Information Afternoon

The Senior Campus wants to hold a Parent Information afternoon so teaching staff can discuss Term 1 progress of individual students.

It is also hoped on the same afternoon a meeting can be held to discuss current issues at the Senior Campus.

These issues include attendance, break times, transport and uniforms.

It is hoped that a Parent Group will again be formed for the remaining of the 2010 school year.

Please contact the Campus to suggest a suitable time and venue for this afternoon.

Please also be advised that teaching staff are only available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays until 3.30pm.

You can phone: Ms Leanne Young on 4770 1875 with your suggested day and time for such a Parent Information Session.



Skills on Show

On Thursday the 27th of May, 15 students from the Senior Campus will be travelling to Townsville by charter flight to participate in the Skills on Show Careers Expo at the Barrier Reef TAFE, Fulham Road, Pimlico.

Students will be selected according to their attendance and behaviour leading up to the excursion.

Students are being monitored each day with respect to their attendance in class and their ability to Be Engaged, Be Safe and Be Respectful.

The Senior Campus would like to thank the Palm Island Community Company for their financial support for this excursion.

Public Holidays

The Senior Campus will be observing the following holidays this term:

- STRIKE 57 Friday the 4th of June,
- ESTABLISHMENT DAY Friday the 11th of June, and
- QUEENS BIRTHDAY Monday the 14th of June.

...OUT & ABOUT...



Sitting on the concrete seats situated along the Palm Island Esplanade has become a very enjoyable recreation for residents.

Walking between the Reel Women Jetty and Coolgaree Sports Bar building on last week, we spotted Veronica Johnson, John Johnson, little Patricia Palmer, aged 1, Alec Wilson, 9, and Roberta Ketchup. "We just love coming down here and enjoying the view," Roberta said.

Popular Palm resident Shaun Shortjoe has a new job and is now a common sight driving a QBuild truck carrying a variety of construction material including timber, fibro, panels and lattice around the Island.

Shaun used to be the island animal controller and also organises the annual Palm island rodeo with wife Pauline.

Who can forget his famous ride on one of the meanest, angry bulls you could ever wish not to meet at the inaugural Palm rodeo in 2008 which earned him applause from the huge crowd.

"It is very good here on Palm Island and there is lots of work with building maintenance and construction," he said.

The Isuzu is a perfect truck for the work and Shaun gets to remote parts of the



island along dirt roads.

When *Palm Island Voice* caught up with Shaun, he was at the QBuild depot where former Brisbane Broncos, Queensland State of Origin, and Australian rugby league player Steve Renouf was speaking to eight new apprentices.

Several of the apprentices said that Shaun was a genuine role model for them.



Palm Island mates Jack Nugent, John-Paul Wilson and Jai Lawrence enjoy a trip to mainland Townsville when they can.

Palm Island Voice spotted the trio along the trendy Palmer Street precinct in South Townsville late last month. They all said they looked forward to the Palm Island domestic rugby league comp's start late last month.

"Myself and Jai are Skipjacks supporters and Jack is going to barrack for new club Hornets," John-Paul said. Jack though said he would be still be cheering for Skipjacks with his mates with the exception being when they play Hornets.

"We love Palm Island but we also like coming over to Townsville by ferry," Jai said.



Barracudas score curtain-raiser victory

A FIRED up Palm Island Barracudas thrashed Bowen 40-4 in the curtain raiser to the prestigious Foley Shield rugby league grand final played at Brothers League's Club's Jack Manski Oval in Townsville last weekend.

The side was coached by Jets club coach Eddie Prior with assistance from Butler Bay Bulls mentor Lloyd Morgan, and never looked likely to lose after starting the game like greyhounds chasing a lure. A huge number of Palm Islanders traveled to Townsville to watch the game as the Barracudas scored seven tries to one in a well drilled performance.

Speedy winger Tabua Oui scored three tries and booted five goals for a personal tally of 22 points, with single four pointers to Caleb Geia, Alan James, Ned Mosby and Darryl Pearson. Pearson also kicked a goal.

As Barracudas supporters cheered enthusiastically for their beloved side, Tabua Oui scored the first try in just the third minute followed nine minutes later by a spectacular try by centre Caleb Geia. Looking every bit like he was trying to emulate Brisbane Broncos star Israel Folau or Brisbane Lions AFL champion Brendan Fevola, Geia showed courage and may well be equally at home in a high jump event at the Olympic Games. Geia leaped high into the air after a kick and grabbed the ball before twisting over and scoring much to the delight of fans.

The game was played fair but with plenty of spirit and Gary Pearson injured his knee and received a ride to the sideline courtesy of a medicab. Barracudas forwards Georgie Dabea and Fred Bulsey were making plenty of ground up the centre of the ruck which created many scoring opportunities for more than eager backs. At halftime the Barracudas led 16-4 and Bowen coach Rod Wells gave an inspirational speech hoping his boys would mount a comeback. But it was not to be, leaving Tabua Oui and five eighth Darryl Pearson to run riot.

Young utility Costa Sam received a head injury which required bandaging and later Josiah Geia was ordered to the sin bin by the referee. Allan Brown also had a blinder for the Barracudas who looked smart in their colorful jumpers.

A great win by footballers who love representing their beloved Palm Island. Townsville rolled a combined Mount Isa/Mid West side in the Foley Shield final.





Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Naming of the New Sports Complex

Nominees must provide their name and full contact details, their proposed name and the reasons for their proposal.

The Council appreciate your input and would like to encourage more community members to have their say.

All nominees will be contacted following the completion of the Council's general meeting in May 2010.

CLOSING DATE 21 MAY 2010.

If you have any questions contact Murielle Morgan on 4770 1177 or via email at murielle.morgan@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au



TENDER OPPORTUNITY

Two bedroom donga at Butler Bay. Removal is the successful tenders responsibility.

CLOSING DATE 21 MAY 2010

If you have any questions contact Murielle Morgan on 4770 1177 or via email at murielle.morgan@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Palm Island Voice

Advertising Information & Rates Display Advertisements

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Half Page \$231

Quarter Page \$121

Eighth Page \$66

Sixteenth Page \$44

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(payable in advance)

Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE

Public Notices – Births, Deaths, Marriages,
Birthdays – FREE

Sale Price over \$1000

& Other Notices – 4 lines – \$10

Ads are to be submitted by no later than 5pm on deadline day (see back page for details).

**PLEASE SUPPORT US SO WE CAN
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOU!!**

FOR SALE BY TENDER: 6 ALUMINIUM BOATS

The boats below are to be sold by tender in an 'as is, where is' condition, with the successful tenderer being required to move the boat or boats from their existing location within three days.



Description

a) Two Sea Jay 4.6M aluminum boat without trailers in an 'as is, where is' condition. Located at the Coolgaree Farm.



b) Four other 4.6M aluminum boat without trailers in an as is where is condition. Located at the Coolgaree Farm on Palm Island

Tender offer and contact details to be received at Coolgaree CDEP by 5.00pm Friday 28th May 2010. Successful tenders will be notified within one week after the closing date.

Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation For CDEP

Farm Road, Palm Island Q 4816

C/ Post Office, Palm Island, QLD. 4816

Phone: 4770 1233 Fax: 4770 1257

Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation for CDEP has been operating since 1989. We are a non-profitable organisation which offers training and relevant work experience to assist you in achieving your employment goals both On & Off the Island.

To start at Coolgaree you will first need to sign up with Centerlink and Jobfind. Coolgaree will then sit and chat with you on your employment history and needs for your future employment and or training.

At Coolgaree we also have a few businesses operating that require further staff and employees, these activities are mainly within the Retail, Construction, Mechanical, Farming and Administration areas. We encourage community members to come and talk to us if you are looking for full time, casual work or training at our complex on Farm Road or phone us on the number above. Just ask for our Employment & Training Manager, Mr. Bob Howard or Employment Officers, Alima Prior or Shelly Scholz.

Expressions of Interest Required

(1) POSITIONS: Trainee Retail Managers

Selected candidates will be trained into these positions with a potential of full time permanent employment offered to trained competent selected candidates.

The business enterprises are located within the Coolgaree CDEP complex and will operate between 0700 and 1600 daily, with shift work available for out of work operating hours.

Work experience will be on offer at various existing retail facilities while undergoing training.

Typical positions available:

- Trainee Manager CFC
- Trainee Manager Kiosk & Fuel Station
- Trainee Manager Bakery

Knowledge:

Suitable selected candidates will be trained & coached in the necessary identified skills and knowledge to perform their position duties.

Typically the Training undertaken will be:

- Food Handling & Food Handling Supervision
- White Card, First Aid Certificate
- Retail Management &/or small business management

(2) POSITIONS: Multiple permanent & casual positions available

Business Unit: Country Fried Chicken Franchise & Bakery

Salary: Award Rates

Working Hours: Flexible (shift work available)

These positions require employees with the ability to work in a fast paced environment. This business enterprise is located at Coolgaree CDEP complex and will operate between 0700 and 1600 daily with shift work available for out of work operating hours.

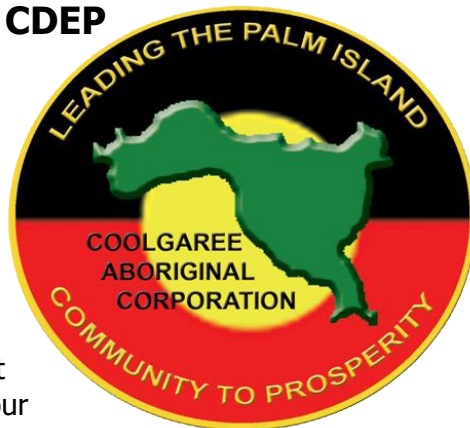
Typical positions available:

- CFC & Baker Supervisors Permanent
- CFC & Bakery Kitchen Workers Permanent & Casual
- CFC & Bakery Front Counter Attendants Permanent & Casual

Knowledge: Suitable selected candidates will be trained & coached in the necessary identified skills and knowledge to perform their position duties.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Cert II in Food Handling
- Cert III in Food Handling Supervision
- Blue or White Card
- First Aid Certificate



Initial Enquiries to: Employment & Training Manager on 4770 1233.

Closing date for Expressions of Interest in these positions is 21 May 2010.

DAY & DAY SHIPPING

FREIGHT SERVICES TOWNSVILLE TO PALM ISLAND

DRY GOODS FREIGHT DEPOT

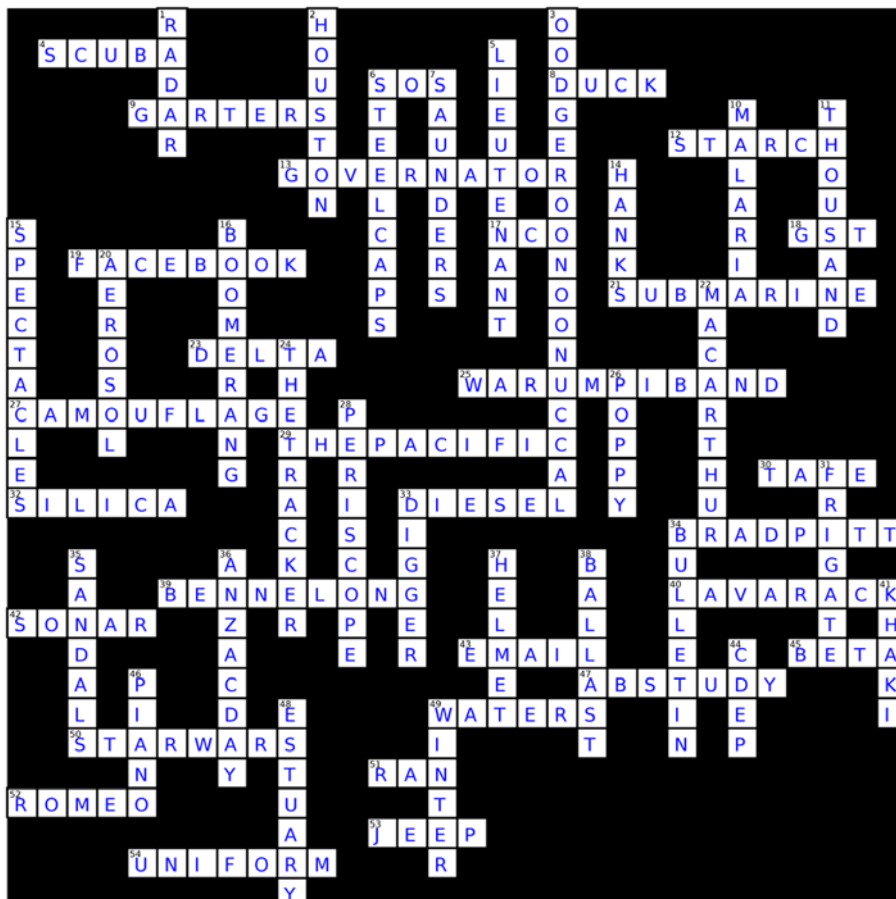
21B Keane Street,
CURRAJONG QLD 4812

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Freight received between the hours of 8.30am – 12.30pm for delivery to Palm Island the following day.

P.O. Box 397
INGHAM. Qld. 4850
Phone: 07 4776 5055/Fax: 07 4776 3012

PI Voice Crossword 53 Answers



Palm to host Shield during NAIDOC

PALM Island will host the Reconciliation rugby league match between local club Skipjacks and the Army Thunder team for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield for the first time during NAIDOC celebrations in July.

This will be the third year of the game with the previous two being held at Brothers League's Club in Townsville.

The match is about relationship building between the Indigenous community of Palm Island and the Army.

Skipjacks official and coach Alex Morgan said it was exciting to have the match on Palm Island for the first time.

"Army officials have visited Palm recently and have given our facilities the green light to have the game here," he said.

"The upgrading of our football oval has ensured we can now have it here every second year.

"They are also happy that in the case of an injury the Palm Island Hospital will be able to handle it."

Mr Morgan said the match would be held in early July to coincide with NAIDOC celebrations, which would make it even more significant for Palm Island and the many expected Army visitors.

"They are looking at bringing players in by helicopters and may even arrange a ferry over and back that day to carry supporters," Mr Morgan said.

The shield is named after the late and great Palm Islander Bill Coolburra who served with distinction in the Armed Forces.

"It had been for the Bill Coolburra Shield and now it will be the Memorial Shield," he said.

The two clashes to date already have a great history with Skipjacks winning both after scores were deadlocked each time at 28-all when the full time sirens sounded. Skipjacks retained the Shield because they scored the first try in both matches, as per the rules of the competition.

Morgan reckoned the Army side would come looking for sweet revenge after the two losses.

"I hope they don't have any ring-ins but we will have a good side and the home crowd yelling for us," he said.



Palm Island Voice

Seeing things around the community you think should be in the *Palm Island Voice*?

Heard about something you want to read more about in your newsletter?

Think you might have a knack for talking to people and taking pictures yourself?

So why don't you tell us about it??!!! It's easy, all you have to do is have a yarn to Christine Howes or Alf Wilson to find out how you can contribute to your community voice on Palm Island.

See our contact details on the back page and give us a yell soon for more information.

Boxers put up good fight in Rocky



FIVE Palm Island boxers won gold medals on a gala 26 bout program at the Rockhampton PCYC last month.

However it was disappointing that local boxers Allan Palm Island and Thomas Blanket made the 700km, nine hour bus journey to Rockhampton with trainer Ray Dennis and the 11-member team and could not get a bout.

After the last bouts finished at around midnight on the day, they travelled home and linked up with the ferry back to Palm on April 18.

Rising star Reggie Palm Island won the main senior support bout and defeated two times Australian amateur champion Harley Broom from Rockhampton.

"It was a top class bout and once again Reggie gave away a lot of weight and boxed better than he has ever boxed before," Mr Dennis said.

"Reggie and Harley have fought each other six times and won three bouts each."

William Palm Island gave away 9kg and defeated Jack Busby from Rockhampton in a 55kg bout.

"William only weighed 46kg and is aged 17," he said.

"Being a light flyweight it is almost impossible to get him a bout but he is very strong and never looked like losing."

Super Heavyweight schoolboy David Sam, a son of former Deputy Mayor Zac Sam, weighed in at 94kg and defeated J Green from Logan PCYC and who was 2kg lighter.

"David Sam is a big, strong and very fast and Green did well to go the distance with him" Mr Dennis said.

"He has a big future in boxing if he continues to train hard."

Timothy Nardoo also gave away weight and easily defeated D Ash from Logan.

"Timothy weighed 64kg and his opponent was 69kg," he said.

"He has won two of his last three bouts and is getting better all the time."

Albert Gorringer beat Lincoln Martin from Rocky in a 44.5kg bout and Palm islander Sterling Aden did very well in only his third bout, a fight a draw with Australian champion Gage Ireland from Mackay.

He said Patrick Clarke acquitted himself well even though beaten by experienced Rocky local Wade Goltz," he said.

"He lost in a split decision in the 60kg bout and Patrick is only aged 16 and his opponent was 19."

Mr Dennis said it was a very good tournament and all enjoyed the trip.

"We stayed at the Ascot Hotel run by former North Queensland Marlins rugby league coach Will Cordwell.

It was also good to see former top boxers Arthur (Bullet) Bradley and Neil Geddes judging the amateur bouts," Mr Dennis said.

Palm Island's domestic rugby league competition kicked off late last month with an all-time record seven clubs, including new teams Hornets and Mundy Bay Warriors.

Best players

Bulls had numerous stars including fullback Pita Morgan, Tony Morgan, Gary Pearson, Clinton Palmer, Darryl Pearson, Malcolm Lawrence and Jason Poynter starred.

Warriors were well-served by Malcolm Larry, Freddy Larry and Vincent Palmer.

Brothers showed true grit to get the points in a close contest with Terence Sibley, Robert Johnson and Roy Bramwell going well according to a club spokesman.

For Raiders big forward Ben Nomoa, and utilities Ralph Kennedy, Adrian Poynter and John Watson shone.

Last year's beaten grand finalists Skipjacks had winners galore including Walter Geia who scored two tries and booted eight goals for an impressive tally of 24 personal points.

Jason Bulsey scored a hat trick of tries and new recruit Raoul Miller crossed for two four pointers.

Hornets fielded a young side which will improve as the players gain more match experience.

Palm island Rugby League President Ili Dabea said there were good crowds and the football was of a high standard.

There were no fixtures over the May Day long weekend due to the Palm Island Barracudas meeting Bowen Stingers in a curtain raiser to the Foley Shield grand final at Brothers League's Club in Townsville.

Grudge match

Fixtures resume this weekend on Saturday May 8 when Jets play Skipjacks in what is being billed as a match between two highly competitive teams. Jets had been tipped as an early favourite to win the premiership and one of their stars from 2009, Raoul Miller, is now in Skipjacks colours. Although Miller won't play this Saturday due to an ankle injury.

Both have good mobile forward packs and speedy backs. Brothers should have too much power for Mundy Bay Warriors and Raiders look likely winners over Hornets.

MEANWHILE CASH strapped clubs on Palm Island have been promised some financial assistance from the northern division of the Queensland Rugby League.

Division Manager Scott Nosworthy spoke to players and officials on Sunday after the Barracudas defeated Bowen 40-4 in a curtain raiser to the Foley Shield at Townsville.

Mr Nosworthy is very impressed that an island with a population of 3500 has seven clubs actively organising and playing in their own competitino.

"If any clubs need assistance with things like jumpers we will look at helping anyway we can," Mr Nosworthy said.

A few weeks back Mr Nosworthy attended a meeting on Palm with officials of five of the seven clubs where issues such as player insurance and registration were discussed.

THE RESULTS

Premiers of the past two seasons, Butler Bay Bulls, 52, defeated Mundy Bay Warriors, 4.

Brothers, 42, narrowly beat Raiders, 40.

Skipjacks, 70, rolled Hornets, 6.

Jets had the bye.

SEND US YOUR PICTURES!!!

If you find yourself at any of the Palm Island games of footy this weekend, Palm Island Voice would be happy to publish a photograph from you, whether it's of you with family and friends on the sidelines, or of your favourite team. See back page for contact details.



Young Palm Island rugby league under 10 players gained plenty of valuable experience competing in the Gorden Tallis competition held at the Townsville Junior Rugby League grounds over the weekend.

Sides came from all over North Queensland and the Palm Island Warrior Barracudas did well, according to proud coach Jason Poynter.

“We won a game and lost eight but all the boys went really well,” he said.

The competition is named after former Brisbane Broncos, St George, Queensland State of Origin and Test forward turned commentator, Gorden Tallis, who played with Centrals club in Townsville.



Above: Greg Inglis sporting a Butler Bay Bulls jersey & Left: at St Michael's School

Storm visit success

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THE FOOTY SEASON HAS KICKED-OFF!! SEE P15 FOR DETAILS

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

Palm Island Voice

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