



Issue 56
Tuesday 1 June 2010

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



LOTS OF 'OUT & ABOUT'



ALL THE LATEST BOXING, NETBALL & FOOTY NEWS!!

Fantome Island remembered...



Emotions ran high at the historical remembrance for Fantome Island celebrations held yesterday.

Just after 10am Day & Day's Shipping barge 'Olympic' left Palm with about 90 passengers headed for the now-deserted Fantome Island, which between 1939 and 1973 was a leprosarium for Aboriginal people suffering from the disease.

The event was organised by the Indigenous Catholic Council and the Palm Island Parish, and supported by Day & Day Shipping, amongst others. Some passengers on the emotionally-charged 45 minute journey had been former-patients or workers on the Island, including 71-year-old Joe Eggmolesse who was a patient there from 1945-1956.

Mr Eggmolesse is to be a major focus of a documentary about Fantome being filmed by the Strong & Smart Media Training Company, which is based in Cherbourg.

Guests were welcomed to country by Mr Allan Palm Island (Manbarra) and then walked to the memorial site.

St Michael's Aboriginal dancers were there and Catholic Bishop Michael Putney and Mr Eggmolesse unveiled a memorial plaque after prayers.

From there most walked the 1km to the old Fantome Island cemetery where graves were blessed and ashes of Paddy Tanna were scattered by an emotional Katherine Graham.

The barge arrived back on Palm Island at around 3pm where a photo exhibition was on display at the PCYC. **(More pics pp 6 & 7)**





Newly-elected Cr Hal Walsh

Palm’s newest & youngest Councillor keen for first meeting

HAL Walsh is the new Councillor for the Shire after a by-election last weekend, and says he is looking forward to attending his first Council meeting this Wednesday night.

Mr Walsh beat seven other candidates for the position which was previously held by the late Cr Mick Thaiday who died in March.

Of the 1015 enrolled, a total of 551 people voted with Mr Walsh polling 160 votes – beating his nearest rival by just 20 votes.

“Since my election win I have had contacts on Facebook from around the world and even as far away as Norway wishing me well,” he told the Townsville Bulletin.

The Townsville Bulletin also said Mayor Alf Lacey said he looked forward to working with Mr Walsh on Palm Island’s important issues like housing and economic development.

Break-ins and property theft ongoing ...

Recently local resident Eddie Walsh has had his car battery and his boat battery stolen from his house.

Mr Walsh has put up public notices asking for anyone who may have information on the whereabouts of these two batteries call him or leave a message at the Council office.

Residents are reminded to lock up property and if need be get your possessions engraved and registered.

If you know of any crime being committed please call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or local Palm Island Police on 4770 1802.

‘Thank you’



Irene Thaiday, widow of the late and great Palm Island Councillor Mick Thaiday, says a memorial service for her husband held in mid-May at the PCYC was very emotional and well-attended.

Mrs Thaiday is pictured left above with her sister Iris from Derby in WA on the right.

“The memorial date would have been our 31st wedding anniversary,” Mrs Thaiday said.

Irene wanted to thank the people of Palm Island and the Council for their support of the memorial which included a Kupp Murri.



Bar unlikely to open before mid-June

The Coolgaree Sports Bar and Bistro on Palm Island may not open until the end of June says licensee Shane Stratton (pictured left).

Mr Stratton said one last health approval had to be obtained before final approval to open would be given.

"Hopefully that will be some time during June," Mr Stratton said.

Liquor Licensing has placed 61 stringent conditions which will have to be abided by once the bar is opened.

Not good enough – former Chair

Former Palm Island Councillor Jacob Baira says a majority of residents are angry approval hasn't yet been given for the Sports Bar and Bistro to open.

The 60-year-old Mr Baira said he wanted their concerns aired.

"Most of the people on Palm Island believe the bar should be open now and approval not held up all the time," he said.

"We want to be treated just like people on the mainland." Mr Baira is aware that some people on the island don't approve of the bar, which was closed by the Government in December 2008.

"It would be their choice not to go there and only residents who want to would," he said. When he was Chair of the



Council in 1984, Mr Baira said it had been open from 10am to 10pm and sold heavy alcohol.

"People who don't approve claim that domestic violence increases when it is open but statistics reveal it is about the same whether we have a bar or not," he said.

Mr Baira was Chair of the Island Council between 1984 and 1987 and served a total of 33 years as a Councillor.

"Before it closed in 2008 I was

a part time security officer at the bar and there was hardly any trouble," he said.

"At the last State election we were given local government status but not the same rules that apply to other shires.

"Even when it opens we will be subject to terrible alcohol management.

"I am angry that residents are only allowed to bring light or midstrength alcohol here and have their bags searched at the jetty like we are criminals - the Human Rights Commission should look into it." Mr Baira suffers from a kidney disease and requires regular dialysis on the island and these days sells cakes baked by his wife.

"I do that to help with my kids schooling," he said.

'Youth in Tune' project underway

The Youth in Tune project is for youth between the ages of 13 – 17 years as well as any older people interested in learning how to play a musical instrument.

Anyone who is keen can come along to sessions facilitated by a professional musician at the local PCYC from

yesterday and throughout June and July (see page 8 for details).

The short-term goal is to form a band for local participants, the long-term goal is to have a number of local bands who can contest a battle of the bands festival here on Palm Island sometime in 2011.

Good food provided by good support for school's testing time

Cooking up a storm to provide healthy hot breakfasts during recent NAPLAN testing for Bwgc Colman Community School students had the support of Council, Red Cross and the PCYC.

For the three days of testing volunteers Cr Gorringe, Deniece Geia and Leonie Bligh (Australian Red Cross), Lavenia Tuibua (PCYC), Sandra Kerr (parent) and school principal Leonie Betts ensured more than 100 students were fed to help them concentrate and learn more.

Mrs Geia said it was fantastic to have such a committed group of supporters.

"It was fantastic to see support from the local Council, Cr Gorringe attended and helped cook bacon and eggs as well as serve the

students," she said.

"Sandra Kerr was also part of the working party and showed compassion and dedication, cooking breakfast from 7.30am in the morning." Mrs Geia also wanted to thank the Palm Island Retail Store who provided fresh cartons of fresh apples and oranges.

"Thanks to Narelle Geesu, Morris Ling and Merle Robertson for their support and assistance in ensuring that the Tuckshop is opened Monday – Thursday, with Friday being a fund-raising day for the School," she said.

May 2010



Media Watch

Winging it on the weekends

PALM Island residents will now be able to fly to Townsville on weekends with the introduction of a new commuter airline on the flight path.

West Wing Aviation officially launched its service yesterday after taking over the Townsville to Palm Island route from Skytrans.

The company has already expanded its flight schedule during the week, and will now roll out four flights on Saturdays and Sundays in the coming weeks.

West Wing Aviation director Peter Collings said the company had a focus on regional areas such as Palm Island.

"I think there will be high demand, especially for the weekend services," he said.

"The residents haven't been able to go and do some shopping on the weekend or go to the football and things like that.

"We are based here, this is our focus, and we think we should be able to do it well."

The company's general manager Owen Taylor said the transition process began after an agreement was made with Skytrans in March.

"From feedback from members of the community both locally on Palm Island and also representatives of people that travel back and forth from the mainland on a regular basis, it is a very important link," he said.

"The demand has been obvious."

Mr Taylor said fare prices would continue at the current levels, along with a special fare for residents.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said it was important for residents to have access to the mainland, particularly for the business, government and sporting community.

"We use it also for leisure and pleasure, getting into Townsville and dining out and things like that," Cr Lacey said.

"I think it's been a couple of years since we've had the weekend flights so with West Wing introducing the weekend flights it's going to be a tremendous boost to the community."

Cr Lacey said he had met with West Wing about employing community members as part of their work on the island.

"Palm has a very high unemployment rate," he said.

"Working with West Wing and other service providers brings employment and that employment has to be high on everyone's agenda."

"We know in any shire or any town when there's a major investment, in terms of capital or otherwise, then jobs come with it."

Mr Taylor said as opportunities came up and vacancies opened the company was looking to employ more residents both on the island and in Townsville. — RACHEL TOUNE



ON A HIGH... West Wing general manager Owen Taylor, Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey and West Wing managing director Peter Collings. Photo: TROY RODGERS

LEFT: Westwing Aviation's May newsletter recently featured new Palm Island flight services on weekends via a 'Media Watch' section, which included a Townsville Bulletin report on same.

The Townsville Bulletin
Tuesday 20 April, 2010

Vandals strike ticket office and school again



Assan Clay and Ray Cockley have been working on repairs to the ticket terminal at the end of the Reel Women Palm Island Jetty.

The building has been the target of continual vandalism and graffiti attacks.

"We had to clean it down and place cement render on it and it is a big job," Ray said. Ray is a solid plasterer working for Laurie Lindner with his assistant Assan.

MEANWHILE a vandalism attack on the school in late April has left new year 6 teacher Steve Bennett scratching his head as to why. "It was with great disappointment that I

discovered significant wilful destruction of school property had occurred over the Anzac Day long week-end," he said.

"As one of the teacher's whose classroom was impacted, I feel it is important to let the community know that this act caused disruption on more than just a physical level.

"Not only did it have the visible, physical consequences on school and personal property, it also resulted in significant disruption to the students of my class.

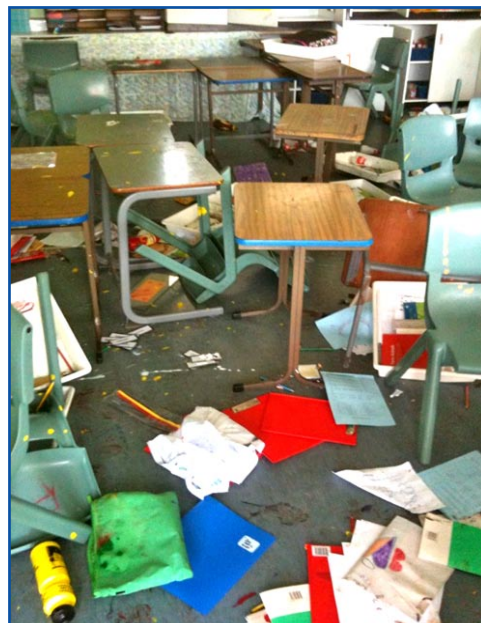
"Unfortunately, much of the students' hard work from term one could not be salvaged and it was sad to see their reaction when they realised that projects they had been working hard on for many weeks, would need to be started from scratch.

"Students felt angry, disillusioned and very anxious when they returned to the classroom after the incident and this was reflected in their motivation and behaviour in the classroom and changed attitude towards school in general."

Mr Bennett said he wanted to thank staff and students who gave up their time on the public holiday help the school clean up the mess.

"As a new teacher at the school, this was a show of great support," he said.

Mr Bennett said he was otherwise enjoying life on Palm Island.



Success for mentoring weekend

A very big thank you to Lavenia Tuibua, Lindsay Malone, Manatu Neliman, Veronica Coutts, Selena Shepherd, Danice Nallajar and Naiki Castors for attending the Young Sisters Stand-Up Mentoring Program which has been running since March 2010.

I have been working alongside Jenny Prior and Viella Aldridge (Sister) to ensure that the young sisters of Palm Island attend the Program and get some positive things out of it!!

Unfortunately, Daphne Lawrence, Jen Healey, Yolanda Kerr, Zenovia Nallajar, Nikita McKean, Virginia Chatterton and Murielle Morgan could not make it due to other commitments.

On the week-end of the 15-16 May mentors took the young sisters to Townsville for an enjoyable and rewarding two days of exciting workshops, role plays, and lots and lots of laughs.

All participants enjoyed their time off the Island, but were happy to return back home on Sunday.

Special thanks to Bindal Aboriginal Corporation for funding the weekend as well as their ongoing support during the Program.

**Deniece Geia
Australian Red Cross**

*A day spent remembering
Fantome Island...*





Page 6: Top Left: George Tanna; Top Right: Ralph Watson; Middle: Lilian Willis;
Below: Bishop Michael Putney & Mayor Alf Lacey.

This page: Top: Plaque unveiling by Joe Eggmolese and Bishop Putney; Middle: Terry and Joe Eggmolese working with Strong & Smart Media towards a documentary about Fantome Island; Above: Katherine Graham scatters the ashes of Paddy Tanna with the help of Sister Christina

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

POSITION VACANT **Administration Assistant –** **Sandy Boyd Aged Care Hostel**



The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is seeking applications for the position of Administration

Assistant at the Sandy Boyd Aged Care Hostel on a full-time permanent basis.

The successful applicant is to provide general administrative support for the operations of the Hostel. The applicant must have excellent communication skills and the capability to work in a positive team environment is essential, as well as taking on autonomous roles. On the Job Training will be provided.

Job Description and Selection Criteria is available at Reception, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Chambers.

For further information, please contact Andrea Kyle-Sailor, Palm Island Council.

Applications in writing together with the completed Selection Criteria with any relevant qualifications and information to: Jeff Brown, A/CEO, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Applications close: 4th June 2010

Interested to be in a
BAND? Yeah...that's
right...a deadly Palm
Island Youth Band!!!

Deadly fingers, can jam a guitar, passionate drummer....here is your chance. Can learn in a team setting playing music instrument with professional support.

Venue: Palm Island PCYC

Time: 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Day: Monday & Wednesday in June – July 2010 excluding PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Target Group: 13 – 17 yrs old

Further enquiries contact the Youth Development Office - Lavenia Tuibua on 07 477 01 793



HEALING FOUNDATION gathering 2010 "let's talk healing"

James Cook University Townsville
25, 26 and 27 June 2010

STRONG
SPIRIT

STRONG
CULTURE

STRONG
PEOPLE



Register your interest by visiting
www.healingfoundation.org.au or
phone **0406 339 275**

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INVITATION TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS, HEALING PRACTITIONERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation is proud to announce that it will be holding the first national Healing Foundation Gathering in Townsville on 25, 26 and 27 June 2010.

The Healing Foundation Gathering will bring together examples of community healing initiatives from around the nation and showcase best practice healing programs.

Community members and practitioners are invited to attend the Gathering, exhibit their program or assist as a volunteer. Attendees and participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences and discuss the diverse models available to assist in the journey of healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Palm Island Voice

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Sixteenth Page \$44

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Marriages, Birthdays – FREE

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than 5pm on deadline day (see
back page for details).

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Government

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- Sexual Health Matters
- Menopause Information
- Contraceptive Advice
- Information and advice on various women's health issues

Joyce Palmer
Health Service

Next Clinic
Wednesday, June 9

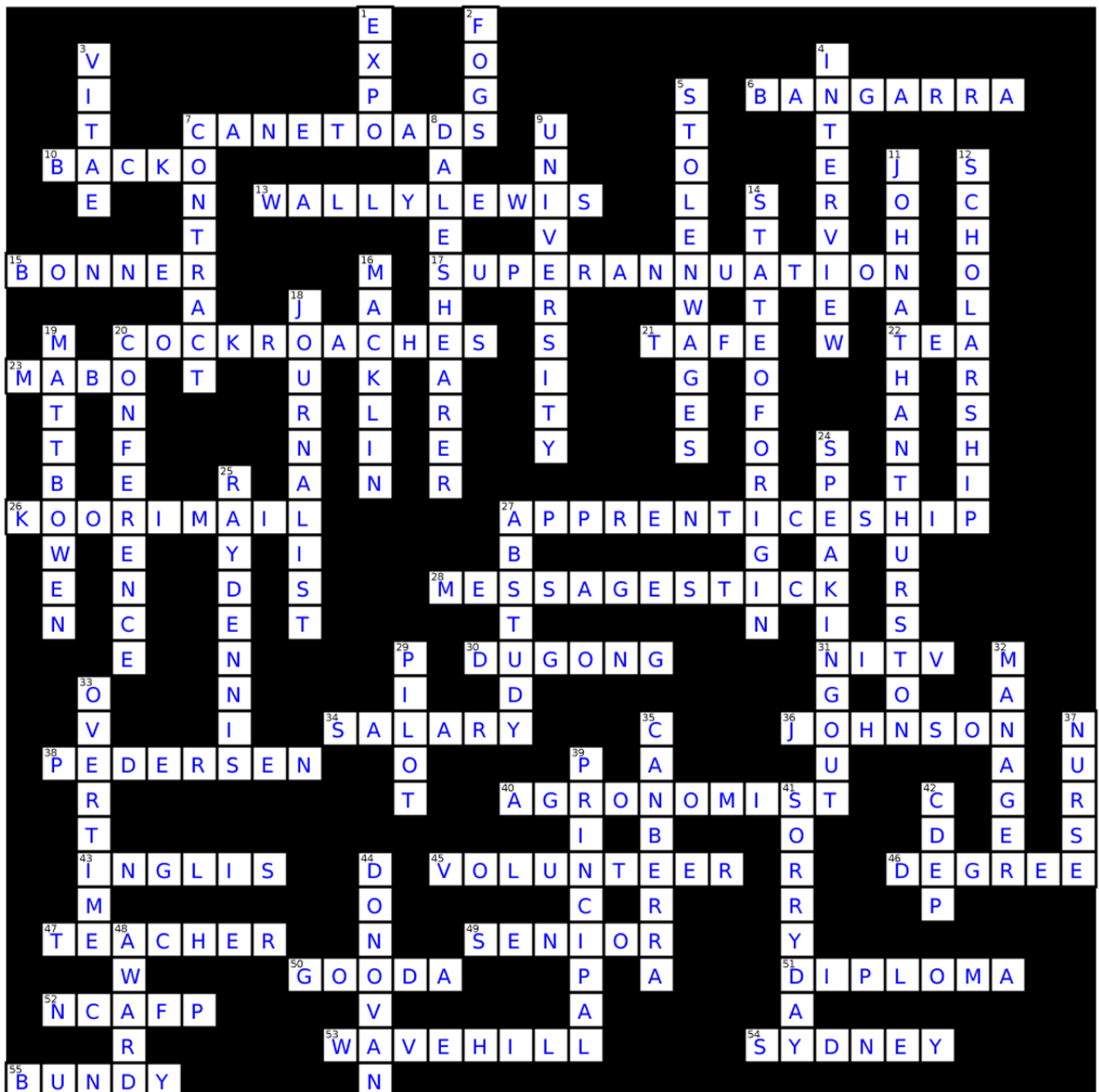
Ph: 4799 9500

For an appointment to see the
visiting women's health nurse



Well known Palm Islander Robert Blackley looks pretty happy for good reason - he was holding hands with his fiancée Marisa Ingleton when he was spotted on the Reel Women Jetty yesterday.
"We met when I was down in Melbourne," Robert said.
The two travelled together to Fantome Island for the day of celebration and remembrance.

PI Voice Crossword 55 Answers



... OUT & ABOUT ...

Five-year-old Kellia Coutts enjoys nothing better than to get a horse to school seated up behind 15-year-old Talani Coutts.

"I am in grade 10 at the Palm Island Kirwan High Campus and Kellia is in grade one at a primary school," Talani said.

"Bella is a very gentle horse and we love her."



FORMER Palm Island resident Sala Saukuru was welcomed with open arms when she made a short return visit in early May.

Sala lived on Palm for nine months during 2008 and came back to Palm with her friends Kim Close, Necole Hampton and Hannah Patterson.

"It was great to catch up with many people I knew when I was here," she said.

"When I lived on Palm I helped with the Australian Indigenous Ministries Church and my husband Kitione played football with Brothers Club."

The four women, *pictured*, said they were committed Christians, now with the Outback Mission, and came to Palm to help with the Mother's Day party.

Sala was greeted warmly by respected elder Peena Geia and many others.

Hannah was the only one of the four who had never previously been to Palm and was impressed.

One of the most popular trucks with kids on Palm Island is an old Mitsubishi truck also known as the '2 Sweet' ice-cream truck.

Outside the football ground on May 9 Peter and Rose were doing a roaring trade as youngsters walked up the steps and into the back to buy an ice-cream or cold drink.

The truck has been singing its song around Palm for many years now.



Footy Round-Up: Round 4 (22 May)

Powerhouse sides Jets, Butler Bay Bulls and another premiership threat Skipjacks all had strong wins in round four fixtures of the Palm Island domestic rugby league competition on May 22.

In the first game, Jets defeated Mundy Bay Warriors 58-22 with star young back Tabua Oui starring once again.

Many consider that young Oui has the natural ability, skills and football brain to play at NRL level with the right opportunity and who could argue. Oui scored four tries and booted four goals for a personal tally of 24 points and Inosi Geia chipped in with two tries and Gerard Prior had a handy match with a single.

Mundy Bay Warriors had won their previous two matches and flying winger Alan Brown scored a hat trick of tries, with one each to Jerry James and John Olaff who continues to impress.

In game two the high rolling premiers of the past two years Butler Bay Bulls proved they are the yard stick again with a 70-24 win over the young Hornets team.

Palm Island Rugby League president Ili Dabea told the Palm Island Voice that centre Billo Wotton scored three tries, with two each to classy utility back Pita Morgan, and front rower Gary Mimieli. Gary Pearson and Todd Pearson also shone for Bulls which have scored percentage boosting victories in their unbeaten run to date.

Mr Dabea said that forwards Daniel Brown and Christian Richardson went well for Hornets.

Last year's beaten grand finalists Skipjacks rolled Raiders 56-20 in the final match and had the



game wrapped up mid way through the second half when they led 42-14.

Mr Dabea said that Skipjacks forwards Ned Mosby and Fred Bulsey made plenty of ground and back Thomas Foster scored two tries. John Baira and Ralph Doomadgee were tireless for Raiders.





Footy Round-Up: Round 5 (30 May)

REIGNING Butler Bay Bulls proved they are again the competition favourites when they beat arch rivals Jets 40-22 on May 30.

Both sides has been unbeaten going into the round and the Lloyd Morgan coached Bulls led 16-12 at half-time.

However Bulls ran away with the match late and scored eight tries to four. For Bulls winger Gresham White and Gary Pearson each scored two ties with singles to Billo Wotton, Richard Fourmile, Darryl and Clinton Pearson. Darryl Pearson kicked three goals and Clinton Pearson one.

Star centre Caleb Geia scored two tries for Jets including one gem where he chip kicked a ball and caught it before breaking clear. Singles went to Jason Thimble and Gelam Geia with two goals to Tabua Oui, and one to Robert Bulsey.

Three umpires best and fairest votes went to flying Bulls back Gresham White, two to Jets Caleb Geia and one to Jets back Luke Lenoy.

Skipjacks 'looked good'

An under strength Skipjacks never looked likely to lose in their percentage boosting 56-6 victory over Mundy Bay Warriors which had won two of their previous four games.

Blockbusting utility Walter Geia scored three tries for "Skippies" with two to Mickeal Sibley and singles to Nui Rabuka,

James Sibley, Lenny Noble, Ned Mosby, Cooper Kerr and Ronald Palmer. Kevin Morgan booted six goals.

For Warriors Steven Watson scored the only try and John Oliffe potted the goal.

Three referees best and fairest votes went to Walter Geia, two to Kevin Morgan and one to Steven Watson.

Brothers chance

Brothers showed they are a chance to make the final four come semi final time with a 46-12 win over a gallant Hornets.

Three referees votes went to Frank Nugent, two to Kenny Wilson and one to Terry Sibley.

Anthony Thompson scored three tries for Brothers, Terry Sibley two, and one apiece to Ashley Johnson, Winston Noble, Milton Reid and veteran Ian Ketchup. Anthony Thompson kicked four goals for a handsome personal points tally of 20 points and Ashley Johnson kicked one.

For Hornets Kenny Wilson, Christian Richardson and Lawrence Ketchup scored tries.

THE RESULTS

Round 4: 22nd May

Jets 58 d Warriors 22

Butler Bay Bulls 70 d Hornets 24

Skipjacks 56 d Raiders 20

Brothers bye.

Round 5: 30th May

Brothers 46 defeated Hornets 12

Skipjacks 56 d Mundy Bay Warriors 6

Butler Bay Bulls 40 d Jets 22

Current Points Table:

- 1. Butler Bay Bulls 20p**
- 2. Jets 16p**
- 3. Skipjacks 16p**
- 4. Brothers 12p**
- 5. Raiders 8p**
- 6. Mundy Bay Warriors 8p**
- 7. Hornets 0p**



Boxers take on Mackay with mixed results

Nine Palm Island boxers travelled to Mackay last month to take part in a tournament at the Entertainment Centre, but only six had bouts.

A scheduled opponent withdrew before a bout against one Palm lad and two others could not be matched.

There were 20 bouts on a good program and trainer Ray Dennis said the best Palm boxer was Patrick Clarke who defeated Brodie O'Malley from the Pioneer Valley club in a 63.5kg bout.

"It was a very impressive performance from Patrick and he knocked out his highly rated opponent in the second round," he said.

"Patrick also won the Australian Title in 2008 and 2009 and looks like he will be hard to beat in the National Titles in Hobart Tasmania this year."

Mr Dennis said Alan Palm Island made a good start to his boxing career beating Simon Purcell from Starbodies club after the referee stopped the 48kg bout in round two.

Nathan James was defeated by Lincoln Martin from Rockhampton in a 41kg bout.

Frederick Bulsey from Palm lost to Brendan Siegler in a 41kg bout and Selwyn Seaton lost to Lachlan Hinchcliffe of Rocky in his 71kg event.

William Palm Island lost to Daniel Matheson of Townsville Hawks Club in his 51kg bout.

"It has been very difficult for our boxers to attend boxing tournaments because of a lack of finance for travel and accommodation," Mr Dennis said.



"We are grateful to the Palm Island Community Company for paying for the bus and boat tickets for our trip to Mackay and all the assistance they have given us in the past."

He said his outstanding boxers could never win titles or attend various tournaments if they did not get financial help.

"Writer Chloe Hooper and the Cathy Freeman Foundation have helped us greatly in the past three years," he said.

"I am very hopeful we can get our own grant shortly so we do not have to depend on someone to sponsor us all the time.

"Palm Island Boxing Club is the only sporting body on the Island to continually compete against the best in Australia nine months of the year.

"I am very confident we will have at least one boxer representing Australia at the next Olympic Games."



Tiny Massey proudly wears a Barracudas rugby league supporter's jumper when he gets around Townsville.

Palm Island-born Tiny and his partner Lana Nugent were spotted in Garbutt last week.

"We love Palm Island and get there when ever we can and also to family things," Tiny said. Tiny is one of the many Townsville based Palm Islanders who follow rugby league back home. "I barrack for Raiders Club and also the Barracudas when they play over here," Tiny said.

PI players wanted for TI games



Fred Bulsey, Caleb Geia & Billo Mosby played for Arkai Brothers in last year's Zenadth Kes

QUALITY Palm Island footballers are being sought after by teams wanting to compete in the 25th Island of Origin rugby league carnival on Badu Island in the Torres Strait over the coming Queen's Birthday long weekend.

Under Origin rules, players have to be on TSI heritage on at least one side of the family and at last count there was about 20 footballers competing in the seven club Palm Island domestic comp who qualify. Star Skipjacks and Barracudas representative forward Fred Bulsey has Badu Island decent on his mother's side and has already played rugby league in the Torres Strait.

Fred the "Enforcer" lined up for Kubin side Arkai Brothers at the 2008 Zenadth Kes (formerly known as Torres Cup) on Thursday Island and shone.

Another Skipjacks star Walter Geia is also being sought after to play for the St Paul's side, one of 12 men's teams to compete. His team-mate Georgie Dabea is also a target. Jets star Caleb Geia also starred for Arkai Brothers which lost the grand final last year.

Several teams are chasing him. Josiah Geia, who plays with Brothers club in Townsville, may also travel to the Origin. Skipjacks star centre Ned Mosby said he will be lining up for the Yorke Island side coached by his father.

Island of Origin and Zenadth Kes are the two premier sporting events in the Torres Strait.

Watch this space for more on who goes to Badu for the Origin which also looks like also having six ladies teams.

Netball round-up

Games were very close and 'goal for goal' all the way.

But Midnight strikers scored the last point which gave them victory and two game points.

Red Roses played a good game and won 12-3 points over Bouncers and have gained 2 game points.

This round Moonlight Strikers and Midnight Strikers both earned 2 points for their games.

**Jodie Ryan,
Organiser**

Junior Netball U-15 Fixtures

Results for Round 9:

Midnight Strikers 5 d

Moonlight Strikers 4,

Red Roses 12 d Bouncers 3,

Points Table:

Palm Island Roses

Moonlight Strikers

**Midnight Strikers equal third
with Bouncers**

Palm Island Voice is very keen to include photographs of netball players, games and supporters - please send your pics to the Editor below or drop them into the Council office reception!!!

Palm Island Footy Round-Ups, Results & Pics ... See pages 12-13

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Contact the Editor (left) or see Council Reception for more information

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