



**Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice**

**Issue 57
Tuesday 15 June 2010**

Talks soured by newspaper's front page 'beat-up'

"THREE hundred passengers on a Sunferries ride to Palm Island ran amok, turning the trip into a terrifying ordeal for staff, who had to lock themselves away as they went on a drunken rampage."

The sentence above was the front page lead in last Friday's Townsville Bulletin.

It refers to an incident which occurred on the ferry on the Friday of the week before.

The story appeared less than 24 hours after Palm Island Council met with Sunferries, police and transport department officials to discuss what was agreed by everyone at the table to be a "minor incident".

One of those parties apparently 'tipped off' the Bulletin, prompting the following response from Mayor Alf Lacey, which was widely circulated to media outlets:

"I'm really disappointed and my Council is really disappointed to see an issue we met with key stakeholders about only yesterday is today on the front page of the Townsville Bulletin," he said.

Continued p 2...

Origin success!



FIVE Palm Island footballers, including Walter Geia pictured above celebrating, have played leading roles in a historic victory by Mua Rajorbacks in the 25th Island of Origin rugby league carnival over the weekend.

FULL STORY P 16

**ALSO IN THIS
ISSUE: U17s
netballers take
4th in Townsville**



Sister Christina recovering well

MUCH loved Catholic Franciscan Sister Christina McGlynn has recovered well from a nasty accidental fall on the barge back from Fantome Island a fortnight ago.

Readers and community will be happy to know Sister Christina is well and happy – apart from a few bruises and a cut to her head. Sister Christina was one of the main organisers of the historic trip by former patients and workers to the former leper colony of Fantome Island on 31 May.

The well-known Septuagenarian was treated on the spot by ambulance officers Ernie Landers and Jason Obah whilst on the vessel on the sea off Palm, and did not have to seek further treatment at the hospital.

“Apart from some very colourful bruises, a small cut on the back of the head and possibly a cracked rib, I am fine, thank God,” she said.

“A miracle I am alive according to the captain, but with lots more mischief planned for the future! And very relieved and happy with our celebrations.”

Sister Christina left her native Scotland in 1964 to spend 10 years nursing in Pakistan, followed by five years in Papua New Guinea and two years in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, before moving to Sydney in 1991 and coming to Palm in March 2004.



...From p 1...

“Council spent two hours in good faith with Sunferries, police and transport department officials to work on a set of issues which are now in the public domain.

“Everyone at that meeting agreed it was a minority group of not more than 50 people who caused the problem under discussion.

“To blame the whole community – or even just the other 200+ people on board – for the actions of a few, which were the direct result of some of the most racist laws in the country, is patently unfair and goes against the grain of discussions we thought we were having between ourselves.

“To us as a Council, Sunferries in particular has betrayed our trust and plainly indicated they are not genuine about working with us.

“We understand the police and the transport department were also aware the issue was about to go public and they also failed to inform us.

“We’re really disappointed that they’ve asked us to help them and we agreed to do so - I think what they’ve done is blatantly unfair.

“As for last Friday, we did agree a small group got out of hand, but for them to be using words like ‘terror’ is just firing a cheap shot

and sensationalising what yesterday’s meeting collectively agreed had been a minor issue.

“They did not inform us they were going to go public on it, they’ve gone behind our backs, and they should have been honest enough to say they were going to do that in the first place.

“The Queensland Government’s alcohol management laws are some of the most racist laws in the country and we don’t need sensationalist and overblown front page headlines once again blaming the entire community for the actions of a few.”

Mr Lacey’s statement was sent to Ministers Desley Boyle, Rachel Nolan and Neil Roberts. The Townsville Bulletin webpage also published a comment from B. Legg of Palm Island, who said they were on board the same ferry.

“I was on the boat and it was a huge crowd on board that day,” he said, in part. “In the downstairs cabin area there was absolutely no misbehaving and no fighting. My understanding is that the CCTV picked up some action outside the cabin but there was no way that 50 people would fit there so I’m guessing that is also an exaggeration. If they’ve got the footage then they should charge the individuals.”

* http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2010/06/11/145495_news.html



Mabo Day well-attended in Townsville

MORE than 300 people celebrated Mabo Day in Townsville on June 3, in recognition of the late and great Murray Islander Eddie Mabo who championed Native Title and Land Rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It was the 18th anniversary of the handing down of the Mabo Decision by the High Court of Australia in 1992 and is highly significant for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people around the country.

Mal Mabo, a son of Eddie Mabo, lives and works on Palm Island where more than 100 men, women and children of Torres Strait islander descent living. Celebrations commenced at 10:30am when marchers started from outside of Magani House on Flinders Street, proceeding from there, down Stanley Street, Rooney Street and across Lowths Bridge,

and along the Central Park footpath beside Ross Creek to the Mabo monument near Victoria Bridge.

Guests were welcomed to country by Dorothy Savage on behalf of the local Bindal people and Virginia Wyles for the Wulgurukaba people.

"This is a very important day for Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal people," she said. Ms Wyles was on Palm Island three days earlier amongst the 80 people who travelled by barge to the former leper colony of Fantome Island for Commemoration Day.

A highlight of the 40-minute Mabo Day Ceremony was the number of people in

traditional colourful attire.

Pastor Donald Whaleboat, a cousin of Eddie Mabo, spoke and Meriam entertainment performed their Komet tribal dances to loud applause.

Eddie Mabo's widow Bonita Mabo was in Canberra and their daughter Gail Mabo was too emotional to speak to the crowd.

However she did tell the Palm Island Voice she felt very close to her father on this great day.

A Mabo Day Lunch was then held at Strand Park with Torres Strait Islander feasting, dancing and special performances by local school children.





The **Youth In Tune** program is progressing slowly yet surely with optimistic facilitator Mr Ronald Fave. The program has 15 participants keen to progress with varied musical abilities. Two participants with no musical playing abilities at all have attended and following a one-on-one session with Mr Fave, picked up enough skills on chords to jam with their peers. The program will continue to be delivered right through the June – July school holidays with the possibility for greater ventures with the Youth in Tune program. Come along and check it out on Mondays and Wednesdays weekly for the month of June to July.

Lavenia Tuibua – Youth Development Officer, Palm Island PCYC



PISC News: June 2010

Skills on Show – Careers Expo

On Thursday May 27, 13 Senior Campus students travelled to Townsville to participate in the SF4NQ Careers Expo.

Students enjoyed their time there and gained valuable information of a number of careers. They especially enjoyed the hands on trade section.

Senior Campus would like to thank Catherine Cowan for her support, and the Palm Island Community Company for sponsoring the excursion.

The same students were also rewarded for their school attendance and behaviour with some free time at Stockland Plaza.



Parent/Community Meeting

Senior Campus would like to thank parents, guardians and community members who attended the meeting at the Senior Campus on Tuesday May 25th.

A number of strategies were discussed and actions are being taken to address issues around non-attendance.

The next Parent/Community meeting will be held early in Term 3.

School Based Trainees and Apprenticeships (SBAT)

Senior Campus is currently trying to increase employment and training opportunities for its students.

School Based Trainees & Apprenticeships offer students the opportunity to complete their schooling requirements whilst completing a paid traineeship or apprenticeship.

Students are able to work one or two days in a SBAT and three or four days at school.

If you are a business owner or manager on Palm Island and you are able offer an SBAT, please contact us on 4770 1875.

Boxing doco set to debut on Palm

A huge audience is expected to converge on the local PCYC this Friday night when 'Boxing for Palm Island' will be screened for anyone who wants to see it.

"I would think that it will be a packed house at the PCYC," said Palm Island Boxing Team trainer Ray Dennis (*pictured below*).

The documentary was one of two films chosen to open the 2010 Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival at the Sydney Opera House in



early May, and will screen in Townsville on Saturday as part of the same festival.

Palm Island Boxing Club trainer Ray Dennis, star female pugilist Noby Clay, male fighters Selwyn Seaton,

Craig Desatge, and Dennis Haines jnr, along with official Dennis Haines senior made the trip to Sydney for the festival.

Mr Dennis said the same night as the Palm Island screening, a boxing tournament would be hosted by Townsville Hawks Club and some of his fighters would be participating.

"I will be staying here for the screening," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said the documentary would also screen on ABC's Message Stick in September this year.

MEANWHILE star Palm Island female boxer Noby Clay (*pictured below*) has been invited to travel to Sydney again later this year to present an award at the prestigious Deadly's night.

"I am over the moon about this and was so excited to be invited," she said.

"I just am so happy and Palm will get great national coverage."

The Deadlys will be held in September and she doesn't yet know which award it is she will present.



'Sunday Night' visit confirmed

Seven's national television program 'Sunday Night' is set to send a film crew and renowned reporter Mike Munro to Palm Island early next month to do a report on the local boxing team.

Veteran Palm Island trainer Ray Dennis said after preliminary discussions with a mutual contact, Mr Munro phoned him to say he and

their crew would be on the Island on July 2 and 3.

"He had seen the publicity when our team went down to the Sydney Opera House for the recent Film Festival," Mr Dennis said.

That will be soon before the boxers travel to Atherton for the prestigious Golden Gloves Boxing Titles.

"When I told Mike Palm Island

has had 72 Golden Gloves champions in the 11 years I have been here he couldn't believe it," he said.

News the program was coming has already spread through the Palm Island 'bush telegraph'.

The highly rated program can be viewed on Sunday evenings between 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

We've got mail!



Dear Editor

Regarding Fantome Island Remembrance Day (*Palm Island Voice Issue 56*), I wish to express my greatest of appreciation of the work carried out by the Palm Island Council, The Catholic Dioceses, Palm Island Community Members, Production Team of Fantome Island Documentary and the owners of Day & Day's Shipping Barge 'Olympic'. These people made this important day happen.

Due to circumstances I had to give a keynote speech without my prepared notes.

The following extracts are from those notes.

"From 1939 to 1973 Fantome Island Hansen's Disease Institution was jointly under the care and supervision of the Queensland Department of Native Affairs and Department of Health, with the superintendent of Palm Island having overall authority over Fantome Island.

The doctor based on Palm Island was responsible for overseeing patients' health care with a visiting specialist once a month from Brisbane.

But! The people who carried-out the most important role, the physical, emotional and spiritual care of the patients on Fantome (including daily dressing wounds & dispensing medication), were the Sister of Our Lady of

Help of Christians (for a short time) then the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Other people providing support were the Ministers of the Catholic Dioceses and the Palm Island Aboriginal & Islander staff.

All these people lived on Fantome and committed themselves to the care of the patients and the community facilities to ensure our stay was comfortable and supported on a day to day bases.

My very personal appreciation goes to Sisters Carmel, Christina, Maria, Madge and other members of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, my Fantome family Winnie, Philip (Snr & Jr) Obah and my new-found family Laurie, Veronica & Yolanda Coutts and Todd (Laurie's & Veronica's son in-law) for accepting me as family and for their kindness & support during my visit to Palm & Fantome.

Special thanks to my eldest brother Terry for his support and being there with me to pay our family's respects.

I wish to express on behalf of my family and friends of Fantome our highest praise and appreciation to all those people mentioned in this letter.

**Selwyn (Joe) Eggmolesse
Fantome Islander (1945 to 1956)**

CFF bikes ready for Palm kids again



The Catherine Freeman Foundation is looking forward to two upcoming visits to Palm Island during the last week of Term 2 to present the Non-Truancy Program Bike Awards to students from Bwgcolman and St Michael's Schools.

Catherine will be here with Svea and they are also very excited about being able to attend the combined schools' athletics on the 22nd and 23rd of June.

CFF also wanted to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Jen Healy for her fantastic work in the community with regards to sports and in general for her support of the Catherine Freeman Foundation over the past year.

CFF is also very excited about the junior netball on Palm Island being so well supported and would like to thank Jodie Ryan for her hard work on the Junior Girls Netball competition.

We are also very happy to see the community taking the initiative on further netball events and would like to recognise Murielle Morgan for the work that she put into the Palm Island representative team playing in the Townsville PowerAde Cup - CFF was happy to support this in a small way and would like to congratulate

Murielle and the girls on such a fantastic effort, well done!

The Catherine Freeman Foundation will also be on Palm Island in July to introduce the new Literacy Program and the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation to key groups and members of the community, and to attend the Catherine Freeman Netball Challenge on Friday the 16th of July.

We will also be holding a Community Consultation Group meeting during the July trip on Wednesday the 14th of July at 12 noon at the PCYC.

A light lunch will be provided and we encourage all community members to attend, particularly those interested in meeting the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation staff who will be with us to discuss the new literacy program.

Below is a timetable for what we are doing!

June 22nd	Non-Truancy Bike Awards
June 23rd	Cathy Freeman to attend the combined schools Athletics Carnival
July 13th-16th	Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation visit with CFF to Palm
July 14th	Community Consultation Group Meeting, 12 noon, PCYC
July 16th	Catherine Freeman Netball Challenge, ferry details to be advised.

See Jen Healy or Jodie Ryan for more info.





COOLGAREE CDEP MINUTE



Coolgaree Aboriginal Corp for CDEP is a non-profit organization that provides its participants the necessary training and work experience to maximize their employment goals. By being a participant, you will be first skills assessed to determine your skill gaps prior to implementing your specific training and work experience plan to achieve these identified skills.



An examples of this is the Outstation North's Rural Skills Training and Work Experience Program which is being run at Springvale, a working cattle station in a true to industry, operational environment for interested Indigenous youth. This accredited five week full time training program provides a practical work experience, which could lead to employment within the pastoral industry. We currently have four participants (see Photo left) on this program and a further five participants nominated for the next program commencing in July.



AGForce equipment training conducted on Palm Island in Backhoe, Tractors, Forklift and Bobcat operations will provide our CDEP participants, on completion of this program, their respective licenses.

Other typical ongoing training programs are:-

- 1) Backhoe, Forklift, Bobcat, Tractor training and licensing
- 2) Housing Repairs & Maintenance
- 3) Learning for Earning
- 4) Horticulture

Commencing shortly are other programs in:-

- a) Security Operations
- b) Tree Lopping machine
- c) Dangerous Goods
- d) White card & Learner driver licensing

Expressions of interest are still being sort for employment opportunities still vacant in our various business units – all successful participants will be trained into these positions.

- a) CFC – Kitchen hands, Counter Staff and Kitchen supervisors
- b) Bakery & Café – Kitchen hands, Counter Staff and Kitchen supervisors
- c) Building & Construction – Carpentry, Fencing and Rendering
- d) Kiosk & Fuel Station – Counter staff
- e) Mentors
- f) Employment Officer
- g) Trainee Retail Managers

If you are interested in learning new skills and increasing your chances of gaining employment contact us on phone 4770 1233 - or call in at our office.

CDEP is always looking for additional participants.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices



NAIDOC is only 4 weeks away 4 - 11 July! Anyone with ideas or interest or who just wants to help, should come to the meetings every Wednesday at 1pm at the Council Chambers. **Please note, every second Friday (Pension Week) Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed for our Rostered Day Off (RDO).**

Palm Island Voice

Advertising Information & Rates

Display Advertisements

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

Full Page \$440

Half Page \$231

Quarter Page \$121

Eighth Page \$66

Sixteenth Page \$44

Classifieds

(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!!



POSITIONS VACANT

The following positions are currently open for application:

Youth Officers x 4 (P/T)

Family Support Worker x 1 (F/T)

Disability Services Coordinator (F/T)

Disability Support Workers x 4 (P/T)

Administration Officer (Casual)

All of the above positions require attendance and completion of mandatory training. Further opportunities for training and development are also available to all staff.

Please contact Hedley Ally on 07 4770 1710 for Position Descriptions. Advice and assistance with the application process is also available on request.

Expression of Interest:

Catherine Freeman Foundation + Australian Literacy & Numeracy Foundation



The Catherine Freeman Foundation

The Catherine Freeman Foundation (CFF) and the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) is excited to announce the new Early Childhood literacy Program for Palm Island.

This new program will commence in July 2010 and we are looking for a local Palm Island resident to be a part time Community Liaison for this program.

There is no job description or selection criteria to be addressed at this stage, we are simply looking to see who in the community may be interested in the role. The position could commence as early as July if a suitable applicant is identified so please give Svea a call or send her an email if this sounds like something you might be interested in doing.

If you are interested in working with the families of young children on Palm Island to communicate on the program to all stakeholders in the community, including CFF and ALNF, please email Svea Pitman on: programs@catherinefreemanfoundation.com or call her on 0447 777 313

... OUT & ABOUT ...



Manly supporter undaunted

Popular Palm Island truck driver Roger "Bully" McKean didn't mind in the least feeling a bit lonely in Townsville the Saturday night his team, Manly, rolled the Cowboys 24-20 at Dairy Farmer's Stadium.

Roger is a keen Manly Sea Eagles supporter and travelled to Townsville to see the game.

"I reckon there was only about 150 Manly supporters but I go to Dairy Farmers every time Manly plays and was over the moon when they held on to beat the Cowboys," Roger said.

Roger's family hails from the Charters Towers region and he has lived on Palm Island for 25 years.

Breakfast support for NAPLAN testees

Bwngcolman students were given the best start possible on NAPLAN testing days recently when Red Cross workers and volunteers came in early to prepare a hot breakfast.

As featured in Issue 56 of the *Palm Island Voice*, Denise Geia, Leonie Bligh, Sandra Kerr and Ruth Gorringer worked tirelessly for three mornings in a row serving up to 200 meals of bacon and eggs, toast and fresh juice and fruit.

The kids loved it!

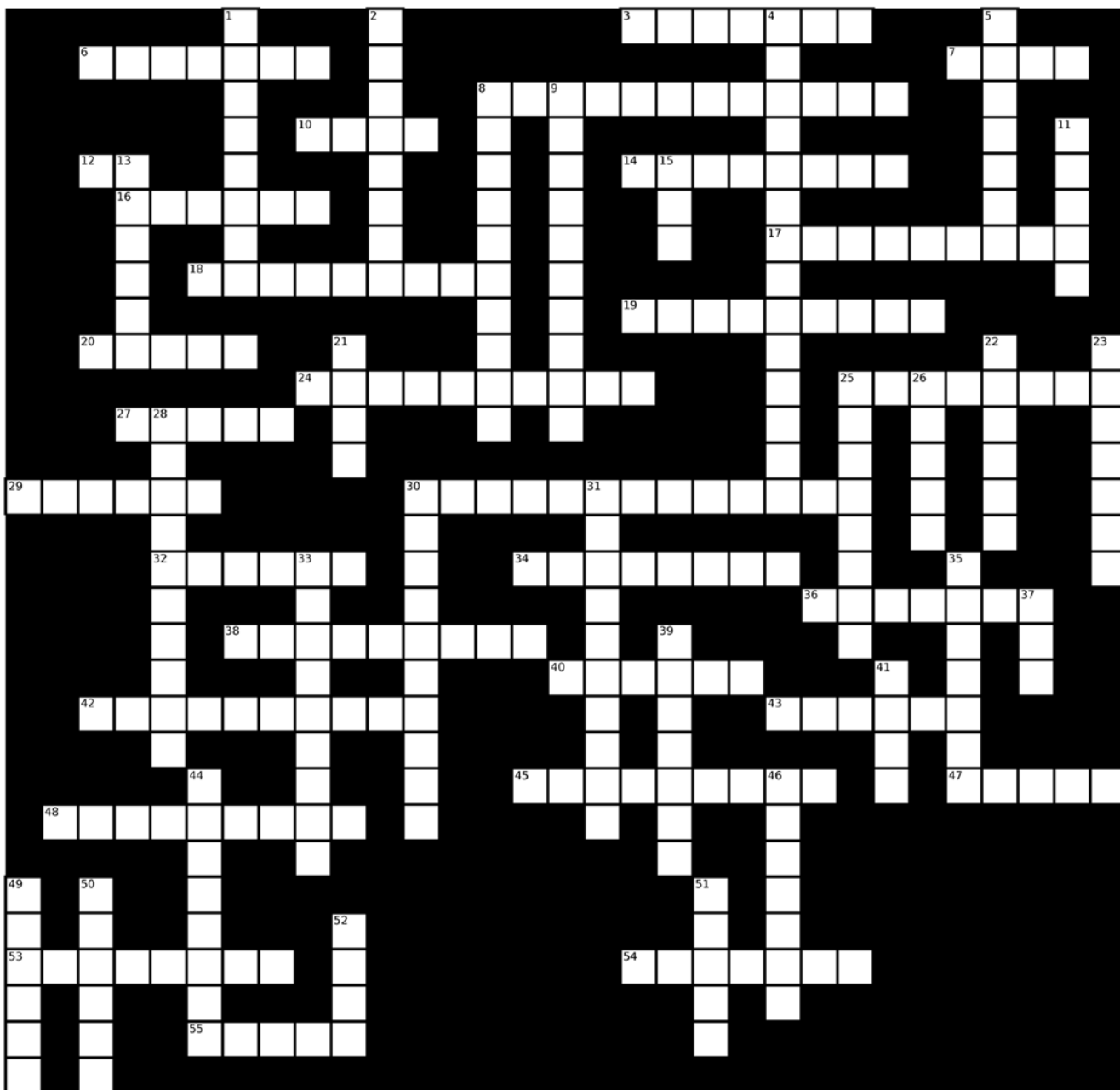


Local SES volunteer Niu Rabuka and his children Dan, aged 10, and Pita, 6, recently went to stay with family in Townsville to do some shopping.

A Parramatta Eels fan in the NRL, Niu said he was happy his side had beaten the Melbourne Storm in an NRL game that same weekend - effectively a replay of the 2009 grand final.

However Niu wasn't quite so enthusiastic about the 49-3 loss by Fiji to the Australian Wallabies in the rugby union Test at Canberra the night before.

PI Voice Crossword 57



Across

3. spectrum of colours after rain
6. Court-based game with hoops
7. ebbs and flows
8. Formal written rules of a club, society or nation
10. dry climate
12. Company involved in Mexico gulf oil spill
14. popular NQ fish species
16. Place of work
17. Type of lawyer in court
18. Palm Island jetty name (2 words)
19. Aged care hostel (2 words)
20. Parking spot for a boat
24. This shark's head like a builder's tool
25. Trees grown in salt water fringes
27. Cargo ships dock here
29. PNG national RL team
30. Round-the-world teenage sailor (2 words)
32. Change gears with one of these
34. Councils meet in these
36. Type of fishing without bait

38. Orbits the Earth
40. Formal discussion with two opposing teams
42. Winner of first Origin game 2010
43. Large mountain behind Townsville
45. duplicate document
47. small whirlwind at sea, water _____
48. Building or room with fitness equipment
53. Palm's 'deadly' female boxer (2 words)
54. World's hardest gem
55. Hang washed clothes on this

Down

1. Like a newspaper, but more photos and gossip
2. Genetic condition affecting skin pigmentation
4. Palm Island RL premiers (3 words)
5. Butler Bay has one of these facilities nearby
8. Townsville's race course (2 words)
9. Commemoration week in July (2 words)
11. Powder used to flavour food
13. law enforcement

15. National Broadcaster (initials)
21. conversation or story
22. An 'easy' wind
23. Small fish scooped up in nets
25. Opposing poles and name of an island
26. National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (initials)
28. 'hovering' aircraft
30. Dreadlocked Blues and Bulldogs centre (2 words)
31. Head of a university
33. Retail products advertised in this
35. Notes taken at a council meeting
37. Device used for satellite navigation
39. Deserted island near Palm
41. Car and driver for hire
44. New Palm Island councillor (2 words)
46. Ghost who walks (comic)
49. Weather condition when ocean is warm (2 words)
50. Phone not fixed to land line
51. electronic message
52. Unofficial 'religious' group indoctrinating members

Ref kept busy between Townsville & Palm

WHEN the North Queensland Cowboys play home matches at Dairy Farmer's Stadium in Townsville, Matt Sibley can be seen around the country on television as the man on the sideline who is in control of interchange players going onto and leaving the field.



On the same weekend as the Cowboys played Manly in Townsville recently, Matt was on Palm Island the following day refereeing rugby league matches in the local domestic competition.

Matt was seen a number of times on pay television doing his excellent work on the sideline when Manly rolled the Cowboys 24-

20 on the night of May 29.

Scores of Palm Islanders were in the crowd at Dairy Farmer's Stadium that night, with the majority barracking for the Cowboys.

And again the next day, Matt was on Palm refereeing the Skipjacks versus Mundy Bay Warriors game and the Brothers win over Hornets.

Hornets hope to gain from father-son combo

AT the age of 48, former North Queensland Marlins and Mount Isa Foley Shield star Josh Geia has made a comeback to rugby league, playing beside his youngest son, 18-year-old Daniel, in the Palm Island domestic competition.

One of the best talents in the region, Josh Geia played for Hornets in their two points loss to Raiders in round two of fixtures.

"It was my first game in two years, the last was when I lined up with AJA's Boys in the 2008 Daisy Cup Allblacks carnival in Townsville," he said.

Josh played in the centres for Hornets with Daniel at five eighth, the youngster firing out a few passes to his dad.

Despite niggling injuries has lined up in games since.

"I heard how good a player dad used to be," he said.

Josh is a loyal supporter of Palm Island rugby league and is looking forward to the remainder of the season as an opportunity to pass on some of his experience to the young Hornets side, which had not won a game in the first five rounds.

Local official Genami Geia was on the sideline assisting Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea and praised Josh for his comeback performance.

"When Josh gets fitter he will be a good player for Hornets," Genami said.

"He didn't train before his game and played for 30 minutes in the first half."



Footy Round-Up: Round 6 (June 6)

JETS rebounded after a loss the previous week to thrash Brothers 78-12 and had plenty of stars.

Champions backs Caleb Geia and Tabua Oui each scored three tries with two each to Gregory Barry, Robert Bulsey and Hosea Murphy.

Singles went to Karem Sam, his brother Costa Sam and Gavin Barry in what was a fine team performance.

For Brothers Thomas Ketchup and Les Noble scored tries and Anthony Thompson booted two goals.

Skipjacks won on a forfeit from the Butler Bay Bulls which had not lost a game in the previous five rounds.

In a cliffhanger main game, Raiders 36 defeated Mundy Bay Warriors 34 in front of a large crowd.

For Raiders, Neville Bonner and Frank Baira each scored two tries with singles to John Baira and Steve Lowatta.

Try scorers for Warriors were Ezra Langlo, Luke James, Allan Walsh, Dwayne Blanket, Fred Larry and Alan Brown.

Referees from the mainland were not available and Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea paid tribute to locals Kevin Castors and Anthony Bourne who controlled the game with the whistle.

Well done lads as refereeing is not an easy task.

A FULL REPORT OF ROUND SEVEN RESULTS WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PRINTING: SEE THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PALM ISLAND VOICE FOR MORE!



THE RESULTS

Round 6: 6th June

JETS 78 d BROTHERS 12

**SKIPJACKS d BUTLER BAY BULLS
(FORFEIT)**

**RAIDERS 36 D MUNDY BAY WARRIORS 34
HORNETS (BYE)**

Round 7: 12 June

**WINNERS: JETS, SKIPJACKS
& BUTLER BAY BULLS
(No scores available)**

Current League Table:

**=1st= Jets + Skipjacks + Butler Bay Bulls
4. Raiders
5. Brothers
6. Mundy Bay Warriors
7. Hornets**

PI netballers claim 4th in Townsville regional tournament

Ten girls aged between 13-17 years were selected to compete in Townsville at a Junior Netball Carnival hosted by the city's Netball Association mid-last month.

The event followed on from the success of Palm Island's Summer Netball Competition, hosted by the Catherine Freeman Foundation and held over the Christmas holidays.

Our own U17s Netball Representative Team competed in the Cadets Division (B), where they battled against teams from throughout the North Queensland Region.

All our players were enthusiastic, energetic and keen to compete in the Carnival, they played with confidence and team spirit with each individual player encouraging their team-mates.

Motivation and a drive to win was much in evidence as we faced eight other teams, demonstrating our deadly Bwgcolman style of Netball playing to bring us home in 4th place.

Our youngest player at 13-years-old, was Janya Barry who was selected from the



Island's U12s.

Janya showed she had the ability to mix it up with the big girls, as she played alongside big sister Sondra Barry, aged 17 and was selected Best & Fairest player by the opposing teams on a number of occasions.

The Palm Island U17s Netball team was coached and managed by myself along with Samuel Coutts, Zita Robertson, Thomasina Morgan, Eva Haines & Maisie James.

We'd all like to offer our big thanks and appreciation for support and sponsorship from:

- Catherine Freeman Foundation
- Bindal Sharks, Sports & Recreation
- Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Murielle Morgan



Boxers bring home gold from Emerald



SIX of eight Palm Island boxers have returned to Palm with gold medals from a boxing tournament in Emerald late last month.

The team fought eight of the 12 bouts at the event, which would not have been such a success without them.

Patrick Clarke defeated Nathan Murgha from Woorabinda who was boxing for the Rockhampton PCYC in a 63.5kg bout.

"After Nathan hit the canvas twice the referee stopped the bout in the third round," trainer Ray Dennis said.

"It was a very impressive effort as Patrick is just 16 and his opponent aged 26," trainer Ray Dennis said.

Joey Geia defeated Brandyn Sigler from Rocky in the under 38kg division.

"He was 3kg heavier and a year older than Joey who is one of our best young boxers," Mr Dennis said.

Nathan James defeated a more experienced Lincoln Martin from Rocky in a 41kg bout and Fred Bulsey beat Emerald boxer Cameron Sue in the same division.

Thomas Blanket beat Tyson Best from Mackay

in a 54kg fight and William Palm island won over Simon Purcell also from Mackay in a 48kg contest.

Timothy Nardoo was beaten by Dylan Katthagen from Mackay in a 67kg split decision.

Steen Walsh was narrowly defeated by a much heavier Lincoln Martin in the 41kg bout.

"Young Isaac Bulsey and Allan Palm Island could not be matched and we were delighted to win six out of eight," Mr Dennis said.

The team travelled by bus driven by assistant trainer Chris Gundy, leaving Townsville at 2.30pm and arriving in Emerald at 9pm the day before the first punch was thrown in the ring.

They returned by bus at 9pm after the last bout, arrived in Townsville at 5am and had to wait four hours for the ferry back to Palm.

Palm Island Voice caught up with the proud lads who had their trophies at the ferry terminal in Townsville.

Island of Origin success for Palm



On Badu Island from left were Josiah Geia, Fred Bulsey and Walter Geia with Ned Mosby in his Yorke Island colours and Sam Joe putting a headlock on him for the camera, next to Ezrom Geia and George Dabea

FIVE Palm Island footballers have played leading roles in a historic victory by Mua Rajorbacks in the 25th Island of Origin rugby league carnival over the weekend.

Fred Bulsey, George Dabea, Walter Geia, Josiah Geia and Ezrom Geia were on Badu Island, all having qualified under the rules which state players must have a blood line on at least one side of their family from the island they represented.

Twelve men's and five women's teams contested the Seaswift sponsored Island of Origin for this year.

Bulsey, Dabea, Josiah, Ezrom and Walter Geia shone for Moa Island team Rajorbacks who beat Malu Kiai from Boigu Island 50-26 in the grand final on Sunday in front of a huge crowd at the Joe Mairu Memorial Oval.

In a semi-final a day before, Rajorbacks rolled carnival hot favourites Maru Badulgul number three side by two points in what locals described as the biggest upset in the quarter of a century the carnival has existed.

Josiah Geia shone in the final as a utility back scoring two tries, while Fred, George, and Ezrom also played strongly.

Walter Geia missed the final due to a shoulder injury but had been in devastating form in the earlier games.

They were recruited to Badu by Mua Rajorbacks official David Bosun who enlisted the help of Townsville-based Obe Geia senior.

They five flew from Townsville to Cairns and then from there to Horn Island before making the journey by small charter flight to Badu.

Their Rajorbacks team was captained by former Melbourne Storm footballer Sammy Joe.

"I feel so great and we are going to celebrate," Josiah said.

George Dabea said, "I feel like I'm in heaven."

Ezrom Geia said, "I feel so happy playing in a final like this and there was so many people."

Fred Bulsey simply said, "I feel real good" and Walter said he enjoyed the experience.

Another Palm Island footballer, Ned Mosby, played for a Yorke Island side.

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

PUBLICATION DETAILS FOR THE

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Editor: Christine Howes (chowes@westnet.com.au)

Ph 4770 1177 or 0419 656 277

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