



Palm Island Voice



Issue 75
Thursday 24 March 2011

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

\$1.00

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Palm plays a role in NSW Apology event



L-R- Cr Pino Giandomenico, Mayor Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Premier Anna Bligh, Cr Paul Bell, LGAQ President and Cr Alf Lacey, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey attended the first forum to tackle issues surrounding Queensland's summer of natural disaster in Brisbane last week.

The high level Conference was hosted by the Local Government Association of Queensland and was the first of its kind to aim specifically at tackling Natural Disaster Recovery.

Key leaders at Queensland's Infrastructure and Planning Symposium included Queensland Premier Anna Bligh, deputy Premier and Local Government Minister Paul Lucas and new Queensland Reconstruction Authority chief executive Graeme Newton.

Mr Lacey heard speakers give insights into how the state will address the huge recovery and reconstruction task following the flooding

and cyclone events that have hit much of Queensland in recent months.

LGAQ president Paul Bell said the symposium also heard the latest on how the revised Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements were operating.

"It is important for local leaders and other representatives of local government to identify the opportunities and barriers confronting their communities in the near and distant future so they can play their part in shaping the way forward as Queensland re-builds and moves into the second decade of the new millennium," he said.



Image from The Cairns Post

CMC ruling – reports & opinion



Boxers pack some punch in Rockhampton

Honouring Mums ready to go in May

The popular "Honouring Mother's Luncheon" will be held on Palm Island for the second year in a row at 9am on Saturday 7 May at the PCYC.

Last year (*pictured right*) women aged from 17 to well into their 80s were treated to free massages, hair styling, nail painting and make-up.

The event is organised by Deniece Geia who says if anyone is interested in volunteering to help out on the day they should contact her. She said the alcohol-free event would have lucky door prizes, a three-course meal and "lots more goodies on the day".

At last year's event mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers and even a couple of great great grandmothers were served up non-alcoholic champagne and lunch and desserts cooked and prepared by a chef from Townsville.

There were numerous sponsors including Rotary International, Day & Day Shipping, the Palm Island Community Company and Glama Co.

"The purpose of the exciting event is to honour our mothers and love and appreciate what our mothers do for us," Mrs Geia said



last year.

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

The message Mrs Geia wanted to get out to all Palm Islanders is to love and respect their mothers.

"Pampering our mothers on their Special Day has put words into action.

"Mothers were pampered by local talented Indigenous ladies as well as non-indigenous locals who volunteered their time and expertise towards the Honouring our Mothers' Luncheon."

Don't forget your flu vaccs next week!

Palm Island community health services are hoping to immunise most of the community's residents against flu by the end of the month.

Nearly all Palm Island residents are eligible for free vaccinations.

The community is asked to come in to the health service next week from Monday 28 March to Thursday 31 March from 8am-3pm each day.

The flu is highly contagious and infects the upper airways and lungs, and can affect other parts of the body.

A person can spread the flu to others through coughing or sneezing – one sneeze can carry your germs for a metre or more, infecting anyone and everyone in their path.

Someone with the flu may feel hot, have a dry cough, aching muscles or joints, feel tired and have a sore throat and stuffy nose.

Plenty of bed rest, fluids and some pain tablets is the best treatment, which may be needed for a week.

The flu can lead to pneumonia, especially in young kids, the elderly or those suffering from chronic disease.

The best way to protect your family and yourself is to be vaccinated.

The health service is also offering free hearing tests for CDEP workers and pensioners aged over 50-years.

See Aggie at Child Health or call 4752 5172 for more details.

Second rodeo billed for September

PALM Island looks set to have a second rodeo for 2011 in September with negotiations between organisers and a corporation on the mainland nearing completion.

The official Palm rodeo is scheduled for May 14 at Charters Towers.

Organisation is at an advanced stage and the Palm Island Voice will have a full report on the venue of the other rodeo in the next edition once approval has been rubber stamped.

The 2010 rodeo, which was to be held on the island, had to be cancelled twice due to wet weather.

May's rodeo had to be switched to Charters Towers, 130km west of Townsville, because of the costs of transporting bulls to Palm by road and then barge from Lucinda.

Already numerous Palm Island residents have booked

accommodation at Charters Towers, 130km west of Townsville.

Others have contacted relatives in the former mining town to organise billets for the day of the rodeo.

Palm Island rodeo is organised by respected local couple Pauline and Shaun Shortjoe and ring events by Townsville based John Moss of Bucko Billy Rodeo.

On March 17, Mr Moss said there were plans afoot to have a second rodeo this year which would be run under the banner of Palm Island and venue representatives.

"Pauline has been talking to the other people and it should be a good venue," he said.

"Also we are trying to organise

fliers to be printed to let people know of the Charters Towers event which should be a ripper."

Having the rodeo at the Towers will save organisers a lot of money because most of the bulls will come from properties near there.

That will cut the costs of trucking the animals to Lucinda and then by barge to Palm island.

"It will be far cheaper to have the bulls travel a short distance from the stations around Charters Towers to the Showgrounds there," he said.

Mr Moss still expects Palm Island to gain from the event and recently he travelled to the NT and publicised the rodeo.

Palm represented at NSW Apology function

Palm Island performing artist and poet Maggie Walsh and National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Chair Florence Onus were special guests at NSW Governor's House last month, for the Anniversary of the Apology by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to Indigenous people.

Mr Rudd who is now the Foreign Minister was also there.

"Maggie captivated the audience with her poems about dormitory life on Palm Island and what the Apology and healing means to her," Ms Onus said.

"Maggie was invited to share her poems which alongside my speech drew a big applause from all those attending in particular from



Florence Onus, Kevin Rudd & Maggie Walsh

Kevin Rudd," Ms Onus said.

Ms Onus was the only Indigenous person named in North Queensland's 50 most powerful people list in the Townsville Bulletin. Ms Onus was rated number 44 on the list, which included seven women and coming in ahead of Townsville City Council Councillor Natalie Marr (45) and Burdekin Mayor Lyn McLaughlin (49).

FEDERAL member for Herbert Ewen Jones has come out in support of comments made by Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey condemning a decision not to discipline police who botched the death-in-custody investigation of Mulrunji at Palm Island during November 2004.

Mr Jones, who visited Palm Island before and after his success at the 2010 Federal elections, sent a prepared statement (also published in the Townsville Bulletin) last week which said:

You know, it does not matter what the CMC recommends in relation to the investigation into the death in custody of Mulrunji on Palm Island in 2004.

The fact is that to every Queensland man, woman, and child, justice has not been seen to be done.

I do not know what happened in 2004 or why it happened that way.

But what I do know is that the method of investigation was fundamentally flawed. Never at any stage should these officers from the Townsville Police have been put in the position of investigating this incident. It was a bad look then.

It is a bad look now.

It simply does not matter if they did their job properly or not.

There will always be the questions asked about the process here. This is a clear case of perception being reality.

A mate of mine always says that perception is neither right nor wrong – it just is. So, to all those people who believe that Mulrunji's death was an accident with no one to blame and that the investigation was beyond reproach, nothing anyone says will change their mind. But to the people of Palm

Island, and the Aboriginal and Islander people of Queensland, the perception is quite different.

Their perception must be that no matter what, it is pointless trying to get justice because justice is not for us, so why try.

And that is the great shame here.

I point no finger at those officers who did their job, hopefully to the best of their ability.

I point the finger of blame fairly and squarely at the senior management of the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Government who let this happen, and have perpetuated it throughout the past seven years.

Surely, at some point, someone somewhere must have said, "this may not be the best way to go", or, "you know, we really should put some thought into what is happening here as this is not a good look for us".

Now the TV stations get Alf Lacey and Gracelyn Smallwood to speak of their disappointment and hurt.

To their credit, they handled it a damn site better than I would have if it was my friend who died in custody.

The Queensland Government and the Queensland Police Service need to do what is



right here.

Right from the Premier and Commissioner to the officers on the street.

They know that what happened was wrong and they need to make a definitive statement on what happened and why it was wrong.

They need to apologise to the people of Queensland for letting our state down.

They need to apologise to the people of Palm Island and the Doomadgee family because they know that they did the wrong thing in sending those officers there in the first place.

They need to come clean so that this does not happen again.

The Queensland Police Service must not only provide an open and honest service where people are treated equally, the perception that they do this must be obvious to all of us.

CMC ruling shocks Queenslanders

Queenslanders are shocked those responsible for the botched investigation into the death in custody in 2004 on Palm Island have not been held accountable and will not be appropriately disciplined says the state president of Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation (ANTaR) Qld, Kitty Carra.

"It is a stain on Queensland's reputation and is a very serious issue of accountability," Ms Carra said.

She said events this week had demonstrated very clearly why everyone should be concerned about what happened seven years ago.

"We should care because a lack of accountability undermines any institution and makes it difficult for those who do the right thing, the ethical thing, to act against those few people who don't," she said.

ABC News journalist Jeff Waters said on the ABC news website that Queensland Premier Anna Bligh responded to the decision not to discipline officers with soothing, and potentially positive words.

They said she was quoted as saying this outcome would put new focus on the police disciplinary process, which is something Crime & Misconduct Commission chair Martin Moynihan says needs to be re-drawn.

"I want a better police disciplinary process; not one that takes six or nine years but one that responds to issues quickly and fairly and treats police officers fairly and is accountable to the public," ABC said the Premier was quoted in the media as saying.

"I think the family concerned, the public and the whole police service would have wanted this matter dealt with (more quickly)... that's why we are now reviewing the whole police disciplinary process."

But, the website said, Anna Bligh, with all of her post-disaster popularity, sits in the same office as so many other premiers who failed



**The Cairns Post,
18/19 March 2011**

to make change.

Mr Waters said, "Perhaps it's finally time to pick up on an idea being spruiked by the Civil Liberties Council's Terry O'Gorman, who has suggested to me that what this country needs is a national police oversight body."

"Maybe it is, indeed, time for the Federal Government to step in and impose a new watchdog on all of the state's police forces which, over the years, have failed to prove they can police themselves," he said.

"Until something like that happens, there can be no guarantee that the rule of law will apply equally to all Australians."

Jeff Waters is Senior Correspondent for the ABC's Asia Pacific News Centre, and author of "Gone for a Song, A death in Custody on Palm Island," published by ABC Books.

Quotes published here are from an ANTaR Qld media release and 'Exception to the Rule of Law on Palm Island', Wednesday 16 March 2011, by Jeff Waters (ABC News) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/16/3165087.htm>

Loans available for nil interest from ICAN

ICAN runs a Palm Island 'No Interest Loans Scheme' (NILS), which provides safe, affordable loans to people and families on low incomes.

NILS loans are small – around \$800 - \$1,200 – and completely free of interest and charges such as application fees.

They also do not require applicants to offer any security for their loan.

The loans help people on low incomes purchase essential household items such as fridges and washing machines.

The NILS scheme has been operating nationally for almost 30 years but has expanded in recent years with funding provided by the National Australia Bank.

Only a small number of loans are available on Palm Island but funds are recycled as loans are repaid so more loans can be made.

Each loan is generally made over one to one and a half years though this depends upon the amount borrowed and the amount repaid each fortnight.

The NILS program also provides borrowers with financial mentoring and helps people to develop savings and budgeting skills.

Potential borrowers must undergo training before receiving their loan to ensure they can manage their repayments.

Borrowers must have a health care or pension card.

Due to the limited number of loans only one loan per household can be made at any time, though households can apply for another loan after they have repaid their first loan.

In some communities households have received two or three loans over time as they have developed improved budgeting skills and repaid their loans quickly.



*Pictured: Above: ICAN staff member Emmakita Geia helps Vernon Walsh complete the paperwork for a NILS loan;
Below: ICAN staff member Jon O'Mally making another NILS delivery to Palm Island*

Loans are provided for essential household items and can also include items such as generators or lawn mowers.

Funds are not provided to meet debts and applicants do not handle the loan funds themselves – ie ICAN purchases the agreed items on behalf of the borrower, which also saves the borrower the cost of travelling to the mainland to make their purchase.

We have also negotiated deals with traders to ensure borrowers get high quality goods at discounted prices.

Borrowers must meet freight costs, but ICAN staff transport goods rather than using commercial operators keeping those costs as low as possible.

Deliveries are made when sufficient loans have been approved to purchase enough items to fill a truck – which is generally every two to three months.

Come and see the staff at ICAN who can explain in more detail the requirements for the scheme, book you in for training and show you a catalogue of the products available.



Sting(ers) in the tail of extended wet season – make sure your tail isn't stung!

Swimmers should be aware that heavy rainfall has flushed marine stingers out of creeks and rivers, which has increased the presence of box jellyfish, even though there has been no recent reports of anybody being stung.

Palm Island ambo Ian Day said the official stinger season doesn't usually finish until April but may extend into May this year due to the big wet season.

"We haven't had any reports of marine envenomations at all recently - haven't heard of any presenting to the hospital either," he said. The Queensland Government has issued some simple rules for safe swimming apply to help reduce the risk of incidents involving

marine stingers including:

– Look for, observe and obey safety and warning signs.

– Wear protective clothing (a full-body lycra suit, wetsuit or equivalent).

– Enter the water slowly – this gives marine stingers time to move away.

Symptoms for some stings may take up to 40 minutes to develop – if in doubt seek medical aid.

For more information on marine stingers, go to <http://www.marinestingers.com.au>

...Out & About...

Former champion Palm Island rugby league player Hosea Murphy was affectionately known as the 'Black Pearl' in his heyday when he starred on the field.



He's pictured here outside the Cowboys League's Club where he was with Debbie Bourne and he sister Harriet Murphy. "I have fond memories of playing football on Palm," he said.



YOUNG Jamestyn Baira (top left) enjoyed a round of shopping with mum Romeenah Baira at the giant Castletown Shopping Centre in Townsville late last month.

Also shopping in town last weekend was Palm Island residents Leah Dabea and her sister Bindy Geia (below left). "I like it here as there are lots of shops," Leah said.



TRIBUTE: Much loved Councillor and singer still missed by family and friends

Michael Edward Thaiday

Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle and Friend
Died 18 March 2010 Aged 57

Founder of 4K1G Radio Station of Townsville

Councillor for Palm Island

King of Karaoke on Palm Island

Father of Glenda, Milton, Christopher, Mellissa, Jarb, Kylie, Derek, Michael and John
Grandfather of Dwayne, Tara, Michaela, Trudy, Alex, Matthew, William and many
many more xxxx

Vale Cr Mick Thaiday

HIGHLY respected Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Councillor Uncle Mick Thaiday passed away in late March and his funeral on March 31 in Townsville was attended by people from all over the country.

Mick was elected as a Palm Island Councillor on 15 March 2008, and throughout his life assisted and touched the lives of many.

He was the pioneer of the Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Media Association which runs 4K1G FM, one of Australia's largest Indigenous regional radio network.

"His contribution to the development of Aboriginal and Islander radio around country is significant," said Townsville community leader Florence Onus.

Michael Edward Thaiday was born at his beloved Palm Island on November 23rd 1952 and was the ninth child of Willie and Madge Thaiday.

The Thaidays' lived in the upper area of Palm Valley where dad Willie Thaiday had a small selection growing bananas, sweet potato, taro, yam, cassava, peanuts and chickens to help supplement the Government rations given to families at that time.

In 1957 Micky and his family were extradited from Palm Island to Woorabinda in response to dad Willie Thaiday and six other men standing up for human rights and values on the island – The Strike.

By the late seventies Micky meet and married Irene Anderson on Palm Island.

The eighties saw Micky join with big brother Bill, in Aboriginal Radio.



Criss crossing the country teaching and training other indigenous people what they had learnt, thus contributing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

One of the biggest things most people knew about Micky was his passion for singing.

Back in the eighties he won Best Indigenous male singer at the annual "Tamworth Country Music Festival, something that he achieved deservedly.

Micky sang at many venues, weddings and so on, so many functions always wanted him to sing. When he performed at these venues, he did them well.

He was a big man with a big heart, big smile and laugh and a beautiful singing voice.

Boojarn, as he was also known, loved his family, his brothers and his sisters, cousins, nephews and nieces and grandchildren.

Mostly his loving wife Irene along with his children Glenda, Melis, Mike, David, John, Chris, Milton and Derek.

With his wife and children, Boojarn's life was complete.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Palm Island Voice Public & Community Notices are your best choice for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Meeting Notices, sales & all your classified needs - and most of them are free!
See p 10 for details

Raffle for World Youth Day!!!

1st prize – Food Hamper

2nd Prize - \$30 meat pack

Tickets only \$2, see Dianne Foster and Deniece Geia.

The Catholic Church is fundraising in the mall every Thursday to raise funds for a team of locals to attend World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, from 16-21 August 2011. Please support our fundraising event. We will be selling knick-knacks, pot plants, tea/coffee, cakes, clothing, etc. If you would like to donate towards this exciting event please call Christina on 4770 1176 or email christinamcglynn@yahoo.com

Printed copies of the *Palm Island Voice* are available now at the following shops and newsagents in Townsville:

KIRWAN NEWS - 1 Forest Ave, Kirwan

BAMFORD LANE MINI MART - 113 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

MOUNT VIEW NEWS - 32 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

CRANBROOK CONVENIENCE STORE - 476 Ross River Rd, Cranbrook

NEWS ON THE AVENUES - 85 Burnda St, Kirwan

PARKSIDE NEWS - 148 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

POSITIONS VACANT

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

2 x BREAKFAST CLUB CONVENORS

BASED ON PALM ISLAND

2 HOURS PER DAY MONDAY – FRIDAY

ARC is looking for two local energetic and enthusiastic people to work early hours in the morning, providing healthy breakfast for school age children.

One position is vacant at St Michaels School and one position is vacant at Bwgcolman Community School.

Applicants must:

- be the holder of current Qld Drivers License
- be willing to undertake a National Criminal History Police Check
- hold a current Working with Children Blue Card, or willing to apply for one
- be able to represent Australian Red Cross at social and professional functions in a positive and professional manner.
- be able to work within the Policies of the Australian Red Cross
- have excellent communication skills
- enjoy working with school age children
- be willing to obtain First Aid Certificate as well as other training as directed

Expressions of Interest in writing to Mrs Deniece Geia, Manager, ATSI Partnerships, 2 Main Street Palm Island Qld 4816

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 12PM TOMORROW!!!

FRIDAY 25 MARCH 2011



**Palm Island Aboriginal
Shire Council
is closed every
second Friday**

(Council pay week) for RDO.

The next RDO is Friday 1 April.

**For emergencies on a
Friday please call 0458 789 010**

REMINDER: PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2011

The following holidays are appointed for the Community of Palm Island in 2011:

Friday 3 June: a holiday for the purpose of the Strike 57 Commemoration Day;

Friday 10 June: a holiday for the purpose of the Establishment Day/BWGCOLMAN Day;

Monday 4 July: a holiday for the purpose of the Townsville Annual Show;

Friday 8 July: a holiday for the purpose of NAIDOC;

Friday 2 September: a holiday for the purpose of the Spring Fair. Festival Day

**For more information contact the
Council on 4770 1177**



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Worried you might miss out on your hard copy of the *Palm Island Voice*? Subscribe now for guaranteed delivery to your nearest mail box!

PDF copies of the *Palm Island Voice* are sent out a week after publication date and from now until the end of the financial year (Issue 83) will cost **\$16**. **Hard copy** subscription, from now until the end of the financial year, will cost **\$35**.

CORPORATE SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$70

Please make cheques/postal orders payable to: Palm Island Voice
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council,
c/ Palm Island Post Office,
Palm Island Q 4816

Reference PIV1011 (important!)

OR via direct deposit to:

PIASC: BSB 064817

A/C No 00092534

Reference PIV1011 (important!)

Make sure you send your payment details and address requirements to the Editor (see details below).

Advertising Information & Rates

Display Ads

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication - smaller ads by negotiation with the Editor)

Full A4 Page \$450 Half A4 Page \$230

Quarter A4 Page \$120

ADD GST + 10% for design work

Classifieds

Items for sale under \$1000 – FREE
Public & Community Notices – FREE
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Birthdays – FREE
Sale Price over \$1000

& Other Notices – 4 lines – \$10

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

For more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au

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

Happy Birthday

15 March Happy 21st birthday **Sandra Oui** we hope you had a wonderful day Love from mum Alice, Mersane & NaQarne, Ebanese & Nikki & family, Thomas, Loyla & family and the Oui, Morgan, Bligh families of Palm Island & Townsville

19 March Happy Birthday **Trenton Bligh** wishing you all the best on this special day love from mum, dad & your family & friends of Palm Island, Cairns, Kuranda & Townsville.

20 March Happy Birthday **Kaylene Walsh** may your day be special love from your family & friends of Palm Island, Cairns, Kuranda and Townsville.

22 March Happy 18th Birthday **Lynishia Bligh** hope you enjoy this day and remember we love you from mum Pamela, your grandfather, your aunts Jennifer, May, Ruth, Loyla, Jan & your brothers Brendon, Daniel, Rhys and sister Toni & your family and friends of Palm Island and Townsville.

27 March Happy 40th Birthday **Vincent Bligh** wishing you all the best may you have a wonderful day love from mum, dad & your family and friends of Palm Island, Ingham, Cairns, Kuranda & Townsville.

29 March Happy 21st Birthday **Edith Dawn Bligh** may your day be special and wishing you all the best love from mum Jennifer, your grandfather Maurice, your aunts May, Ruth, Loyla, Jan, Pamela and your family & friends of Palm Island & Townsville.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It is time to bring to attention what is happening in our place, Palm Island.

Firstly, it is important to emphasise past history of Palm Island briefly.

I was born on Palm Island to wonderful parents who were married here.

It was a time when the state government agent ruled Palm Island people severely.

Our old people were treated like a community of dummies but we were and are quite the

opposite.

Today on Palm Island, people are being belittled again as we were in the 1950's and 60's.

To add to that belittling rule over a Community of caring people who have our hopes and aspirations, we are now subjected to an "outside" government concept, namely:- "The Palm Island Community Company".

I had placed a public challenge to the Company for Palm Island people to hear what great changes they have planned for our place, Palm Island.

Following that challenge, I would respond with our hopes and aspirations.

They didn't even give me the respect to respond to my request.

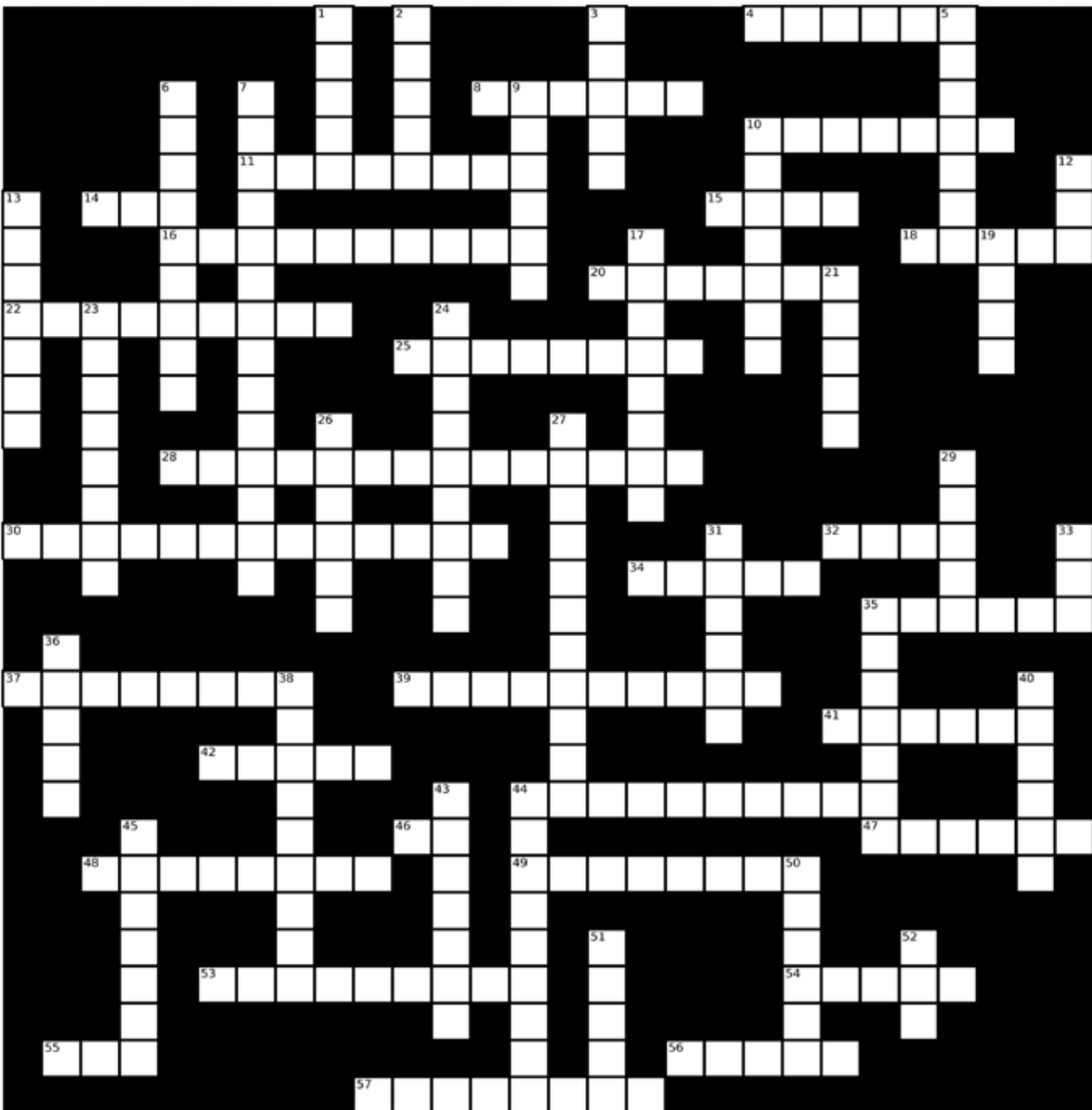
It is clear in the review of the Company that the concept of the Company is not working in our Community and therefore, its time for the Company to leave our community and hand back our Services. As the NAIDOC Theme for 2011 says: "Change ... the next step is ours".

**Erykah Kyle,
Palm Island**

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE Palm Island Voice ARE WELCOME!!!

If you've got something to say, celebrate, talk about, take photos of, mention, acknowledge, spin a yarn for, something going down, up, sideways or perpendicular, we think you should send what you have to us, so we can put it in the **Palm Island Voice**. Make your **Voice** heard!!! The Palm Island Voice is your newsletter about your community, make it so! Talk to, or email the Editor, Christine, today on 0419 656 277 or chowes@westnet.com.au

PI Voice Crossword 75



With thanks again to David Goeldner & the Crossword Puzzle Maker at <http://www.armoredpenguin.com>

Across

- 4. Capital of Tasmania
- 8. National population count
- 10. Welcoming & cleansing ritual – ? ceremony
- 11. Dugong feed from this
- 14. family group (colloquial)
- 15. What you do with tea
- 16. Sudden rupturing of the Earth's surface
- 18. National Congress of Australia's ? Peoples
- 20. Power from uranium
- 22. The PI community - many tribes, one people
- 25. Palm Island fringes this sea (2)
- 28. PI League Champs (3)
- 30. Coming in July, National Aboriginal and Islander Day of ?
- 32. Basketball has this attached to a backboard
- 34. Southern indigenous peoples
- 35. Extracting minerals from the Earth
- 37. Someone who watches and protects
- 39. Keeping exotic pests and disease at bay
- 41. Type of phone

- 42. NQ Cowboys fullback, Matt _____
- 44. Image in a mirror
- 46. Member of Parliament (initials)
- 47. female sibling
- 48. Painting of a person - head & shoulders
- 49. Undergraduate degree
- 53. Two weeks
- 54. Popular PI animal
- 55. Another name for 'derriere' - sit on it!
- 56. Food in celebration
- 57. Maximum darts score - accuracy counts!

- 13. Popular women's court sport
- 17. Young and immature
- 19. A-League soccer champs 2011
- 21. Legendary singer, song writer, Archie ?
- 23. eye disease
- 24. Famous Australian female tennis champ, Evonne ?
- 26. Parliament's house of review
- 27. PI's favourite form of footy (2)
- 29. Where the March 11 earthquake struck
- 31. Mundine & Green are rivals in this sport
- 33. canine
- 35. State of Origin RL title holders
- 36. Northern indigenous peoples
- 38. Townsville Bulletin is this
- 40. salt and ?
- 43. Alice ?
- 44. NRL star Greg Inglis joins this team
- 45. Broncos fullback, Josh _____
- 50. Australian Human _____ Commission
- 51. Palm Island set to win this RL shield
- 52. Goods and Services Tax (initials)

Down

- 1. PI Rugby League President, Ili ?
- 2. Australian ? Party
- 3. Controversial law enforcement weapon
- 5. Gigantic destructive wave
- 6. Colourful shark
- 7. Favouring one culture over another
- 9. Holy time for Christians in April
- 10. Another name for snake
- 12. Painting, drawing, carving are this

2011 PIRL delayed again for rain

THE long awaited start of the Palm Island domestic rugby league competition may be delayed a week due to recent wet weather which has waterlogged the local football oval.

Excitement has been building in recent weeks over the coming season, which is the major sporting blue ribbon competition on Palm Island.

Large crowds are common at the footy with supporters following their teams and every week entire families gather to cheer.

In fact most supporters agree the new season is being touted as the most even and much anticipated in years.

The action was scheduled to commence on Saturday March 26 however yet another downpour last weekend now may see the first matches of the 2011 season be on the following weekend.

A Palm Island Rugby League spokesperson said all the

rain which has drenched the island will almost certainly see week one games on the first Saturday in April.

"There is a lot of moisture under the grass on the oval and it needs to be mowed before the football can go ahead," they said.

The ground will be monitored during later in the week and any further rain will definitely delay the kick off.

Seven clubs – premiers Butler Bay Bulls, Jets, Skipjacks, Brothers, Mount Bentley Raiders, Mundy Bay Warriors and Hornets will battle it out for premiership honours.

All players will be keen to impress in the first month with spots in the Palm Island/Bowen team

to contest the 2011 Foley Shield up for grabs.

The Foley Shield commenced in 1948 with six sides and is the blue ribbon North Queensland representative competition with only the NRL more popular.

Palm Island will make an historical debut in the Foley Shield and deserve their spot after beating Bowen convincingly last year in an exhibition game played a curtain raiser to the final in which Townsville defeated the combined Mount Isa/Mid West.

A match between Palm Island and Bowen will be played soon as a selection trial for the Foley Shield team.

Obe jnr stars for Atherton Roosters

PALM Island footballer Obe Geia jnr starred for his new club the Atherton Roosters in their round two win over Yarrabah in the strong Cairns and District competition two weekends ago.

In the match at Yarrabah on March 13, Geia jnr and his good mate - and another Palm Island footballer - Fred Haines jnr also crossed for two four pointers.

Atherton had the bye in the first round the previous week.

Speedy Geia jnr (*pictured right with grandmother Peena*) played at left centre was rampant and also set up another two ties for Atherton which is coached by former Townsville footballer Trevor Bowman.

In the 2009 season champion NRL Sydney Roosters back Todd Carney lined up for Atherton which will be one of the favourites to take out the premiership.

Obe Geia junior was the first Palm Islander

to play for the Cowboys with whom he had two A grade matches in season 2008.

He is the son of Obe Geia snr and the grandson of Palm Island elder Peena Geia and has an annual junior school competition

held on Palm named in his honour.

The second Obe Geia Junior Rugby League Challenge and Cultural Day held at Palm last October 22 was a great success.



PIRL PLAYER PROFILES: Mark James

***IN the lead up to, and throughout the footy season this year Palm Island Voice will profile a local Palm Island Rugby League player or two each fortnight...
...who will be next??!***

VETERAN Palm Island footballer Mark James has played with six of the seven clubs which will be competing in the domestic rugby league competition this year, and is not yet sure who he will line up with for the 2011 season.

The 37-year-old played for Mundy Bay Warriors in 2010 in the club comp, and also with Hornets when they competed at the Bindal Allblacks carnival last October in Townsville.

The hard hitting second row forward said the only team he hadn't played for was Brothers.

"I have also previously played with Jets, Raiders, Bulls and Skipjacks but never for Brothers," he said.

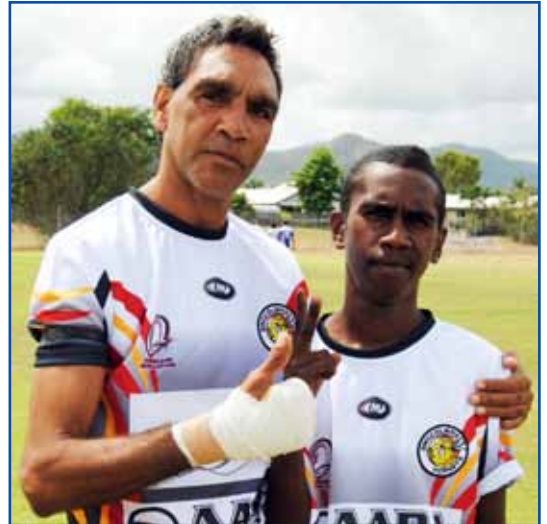
Mark (*pictured on the left with team mate Kenneth Wilson*) said he enjoyed being a part of Mundy Bay Warriors last year but had been approached by Hornets to line up in their colours when the games commence.

"I like both and have to make up my mind," he said.

He also said he loved being involved in Palm Island rugby league and despite being one of the oldest players had no desire to retire.

"I have been playing over here since I was a young fella and still enjoy it," he said.

Last year while playing for Mundy Bay Warriors he suffered a head wound in a game and had blood seeping through his bandage.



"I went in for a tackle and got accidentally kicked in the head," he said.

That was in week three of fixtures as Mark was a star when Mundy Bay Warriors scored their historic first win by downing hot favourites Brothers 36-30 after trailing at halftime.

A try in the last minutes by speedy John Olaff sealed the victory for Mundy Bay Warriors and coach William Blanket was delighted.

THE Palm Island esplanade is a long way from Premadasa Stadium at Colombo but both places have shared links in Jason Krejza, who visited our community as a member of the Australian A side back in 2009.

Krejza made the Australian side attempting to win their fourth World Cup competition in a row.

Krejza has bowled beautifully throughout the competition, with lots of spin, flight and loop to be the pick of the Aussie bowlers.

After playing Kenya, Canada and most recently Pakistan last weekend, Australia is now in the knockout quarter-finals of the competition, set to play India this week.

Krejza was one of four Australia A cricket team players who conducted a coaching clinic for 40 or more students on Palm. At the time he said the Island was a beautiful place.

No doubt Krejza will play a vital role for Australia on spin friendly wickets and those young Palm Islanders lucky enough to have attended that clinic will have lots to tell their school friends.



Josiah Geia

JOSIAH Geia is one of the stars of Palm island rugby league and will be a key member of the Brothers team competing in the 2011 Townsville A Grade competition.

The talented Josiah, son of prominent Palm Island residents Ron and Deniece Geia, enjoyed huge success last season.

Aged 19, Josiah played with Skipjacks club on Palm as well as travelling far and wide to compete at Allblacks carnivals around North Queensland and in the Torres Strait.

Last May Josiah was a key member of the Palm Island Barracudas side which thrashed Bowen 40-4 in an exhibition match played as a curtain raiser to the Foley Shield grand final at Brothers League's Club.

That handsome win played a major role in a combined Palm Island/Bowen side gaining entry into the 2011 Foley Shield.

A month later, Josiah was one of five Palm Island footballers who travelled to remote Badu Island in the Torres Strait to line up for Moa Island side Mua Rajorbacks at the 25th silver jubilee Island of Origin series.

On August 20, Josiah was a standout player for the Skipjacks side which lost 22-16 to the Army Thunder team for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield at the Palm footy oval.

At the 16-team Bindal carnival in Townsville last October, Josiah played a leading role for winning team Curacoa Crusaders which beat the Palm Island Barracudas 37-6 in the final.

A week later at Queensland's biggest Allblacks carnival in Cairns at which 30 teams battled it out for honours, Josiah lined up for Cannonballs and starred.

In January 2011, Josiah shone for Curacoa Crusaders which scored a 66-14 win over Gladstone side Goori United in the grand final of the fourth Annual CQID Indigenous Reconciliation Rugby League carnival contested by 18 teams at Rockhampton.

Proud mother Deniece said Josiah graduated from Year 12 at Abergowrie College near Ingham.



Proud mum Deniece with Josiah Geia & Telston Sibley

"In 2007 Josiah played in the Confraternity Cup in Ipswich and was scouted by Redcliffe Dolphins and South Logans Magpies, the feeder club to the Canberra Raiders," Mrs Geia said.

"Josiah along with his brother Ron, chose South Logan Magpies, Josiah then moved to the Club in 2008 and was a key player in the Souths Sunnybank Side.

"After living in Brisbane for 18 months, Josiah headed back home to Palm Island and played for Palm Island Skipjacks and Palm Island Barracudas.

"He was also selected to play at Darwin during 2008 in the Queensland U-18 Side."

Josiah is the fourth member of his family who has represented Queensland, he matches both his parents his dad, Ron Geia snr, known as one of the best locks in the game back in the Barracuda days under Vern Daisy coach/captaincy, and mum Deniece also was selected in the Indigenous Queensland Netball Team along with Georgina Haines, Leah Dabea and Mersane Oui Snr.

His eldest brother, Telstan Sibley also represented Queensland State Touch Side in 2000 and played in Tasmania.

Ron Jnr is also a key player in the South Logans Magpies Qld Cup side this year.

"We are very proud of his success, and we always remind him that he must never forget where he comes from," Mrs Geia said.

"He is talented, strong and gutsy and a very professional player both on and off the field. Josiah is also a first year Apprentice Plumber working for Smedley Plumbing & Drainage on Palm Island and Townsville when required.

Mixed results in Rocky after long long ride



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

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

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

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

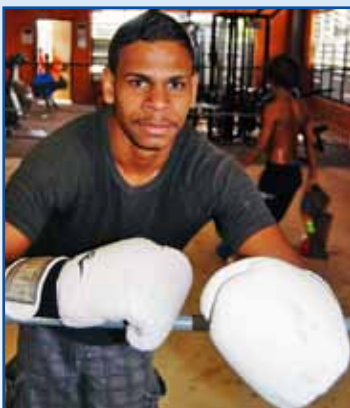
The team along with trainer Ray Dennis and assistant trainer Chris Gundy, left for the 715km trip to Rockhampton at about 4am on Saturday.

"It was a long and tiring

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

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

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



FIST of Fury is the name of a popular movie and it is also a good description of the right hand of rising young Palm boxer Reggie Palm Island.

Last year on June 20, champion boxer Danny "Green Machine" Green sparred with Reggie Palm Island who managed to split his lip.

"That young Reggie sure packs a punch," Green said afterwards.



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