



Issue 77
Thursday 21 April 2011

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice

\$1.00

Nuns prepare for final PI celebration

CATHOLIC Bishop Michael Putney will travel to Palm Island on May 15 to officially farewell The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary Sisters.

The last three Franciscan Missionaries of Mary – who are leaving Palm Island on May 24 – are Sisters Maria van Galen, Madge Hore and Christina Mc Glynn.

“It will be a celebration of all the FMMs who worked here and on Fantome Island but it

will be very hard to say the goodbyes,” Sister Christina said.

The day of celebrations will commence with a mass at St Anthony’s Church at 10am.

That will be followed by morning tea at the Parish Centre and then move to the Palm PCYC for dancing, speeches, story sharing, music and photo displays.

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary have served on Palm Island since 1944.

Lunch will be provided at 1.30pm by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and at 2.30pm the Fantome Island SBS documentary will be screened.

Much loved Catholic Sister Christina McGlynn said life has been hectic as the Sisters prepared for their departure.

“The really good news is that there will be Sisters of another religious congregation to replace us,” she said.

Our best boxers ready to pack some punch



Chris Evers, 8, Derek Creed, 10, Isaac Bulsey, 10, Craig Evers, 5, and Shaun Creed, 10, ready to rumble in Emerald, Central Queensland, last weekend.
...Full story p 16...

Fishing & culture - that's the go!!



CORAL trout fish are in plentiful supply for certain anglers on Palm Island and one who will be mounting an assault on a good feed of them within the next fortnight is 22-year-old Reggie Bligh.

Reggie will be fishing with his grandfather Keith Bligh, a respected Palm Island elder.

"We go in a boat off the beach at North East Bay but I am not going to say exactly where,"

Reggie said.

"But there are lots of coral trout to be caught and other types of fish."

Reggie grew up on Palm Island and loves the people there.

He is a talented Aboriginal dancer and didgeridoo player who has performed at various events on Palm and in Townsville such as the Cultural Fest.

"I have lots of family on Palm and live between there and in Townsville," he said.

League fixtures delayed again

RUGBY league fixtures due to start on Palm Island last weekend – and the weekend before – have been cancelled once again due to a death and out of respect for the family.

Games look certain to commence next Saturday April 23, although with only six teams now competing.

Mount Bentley Raiders have withdrawn, leaving premiers Butler Bay Bulls, Jets, Skipjacks, Brothers, Hornets and Mundy Bay Warriors.

In the first games Skipjacks are scheduled to meet Bulls, with Hornets to meet Jets and Brothers to take on Mundy Bay Warriors.

Palm Island Voice is keen to accept footy photos from readers, send them with full captions (who is who in your pic and which game it was taken at!) to the editor Christine Howes, at chowes@westnet.com.au as soon as possible after game-time!!

Riding the Bwgcorman airwaves

BWGCOLMAN Radio has entered into a partnership with a group running a Facebook campaign which will assist locals who have lost items during Cyclone Yasi.

For details see Station Manager Tim Miller.

MEANWHILE Robyn "Jazz" Jones has recently been appointed assistant manager of the station.

Mr Miller also said a Cultural Fest planned for July during NAIDOC celebrations has been postponed until later in the year.



Station Manager Tim Miller with newly appointed Assistant Manager Robyn 'Jazz' Jones

PI youth stepping up to the plate

Four young Palm Islanders will travel to Madrid in Spain with local Catholic Parish Priest Father Daniel for World Youth Day this coming August.

16-year-old boxer Albert Gorringe (*right*) said he was on board and was looking forward to the trip.

He is the son of Cr Ruth Gorringe and Albert Gorringe senior and attends Abergowrie College near Ingham.

"I am very excited about the trip," Albert said. In recent months fundraising efforts have included raffles, seeking donors, and selling craft to help with the trip.

People have been most generous but about \$7000 is still required.

World Youth Day is a youth-oriented event run by the Catholic Church.

While the event itself celebrates the Catholic faith, the invitation to attend extends to all youth, regardless of religious convictions.

World Youth Day was initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1984.

It is celebrated at diocesan level every annually and at a week international level every two or three years at different locations.

On another matter, Catholic Sister Christina said April 8 was one of the saddest days on Palm Island when the funeral of a beautiful lady Olive Langlo/Conway was held.

"The Church and grounds were packed with family and friends and the tributes were simply heart wrenching, a wonderful testimony to the goodness of this much loved woman," she said.



MEANWHILE Jimeka Richardson (year 12, Bwgcorman) is representing Palm Island at the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament, see <http://www.ymcaqyp.org/> for details.

Student Council leaders were inducted in a special parade on the last day of first term, more words and pics next issue.

The Queensland Government's Youth Leadership Program is still open for 18-25 year-olds to apply to. For details see <<http://www.reconciliation.qld.gov.au/events/leaders.html>>

The Foundation for Young Australians also offers a youth leadership program, for details see <http://www.youngsocialpioneers.org.au/>



Frank Conway was spotted travelling on last Friday's packed ferry out from Palm Island to play rugby league with Bindal Sharks in the Townsville competition against University last weekend.

For more about footy, including our Palm Island footballers playing on the mainland, see pages 12-14!

Controversial book launch attended by activists and elders

A controversial book called 'The Master of the Keys - Who Lives, Who Dies, I Decide ' highlighting shameful treatment of prisoners at the Townsville Correctional Centre was launched last month.

The cover of the book (*on facing page*) features a graphic drawing of a noose with cell keys attached by a ring.

Townsville Correctional Centre, or Stuart Goal or Prison as it is better known, has a high percentage of Aboriginal prisoners, including from Palm Island.

Author Shane Backhouse (*pictured below signing for local activist Gracelyn Smallwood*) is a Rockhampton-born non-Indigenous man and a former Vietnam Veteran who served as a prison officer at

the Townsville Correctional Centre from 1978 to 1990.

"The Master of the Keys is the story of my years as an officer at Townsville Prison," Mr Backhouse said.

"I have been motivated to speak out and share with the public my experiences within a system which badly needs improvement. "Everything in the book is true and was taken from my diaries and tells of the tragedy, corruption, discrimination and racial hatred."



Aboriginal activist Associate Professor Gracelyn Smallwood, local Torres Strait Islander community leader Randall Ross, and former local Member and Queensland Parliamentary speaker Mike Reynolds spoke in support of the book.

"I congratulate Shane on this book which is controversial and makes very serious complaints about what happened to our people in the prison and exposes corruption," Ms Smallwood said.

"It was very disturbing to read one part about what a senior ranking officer told staff what to do if a prisoner was found hanging."

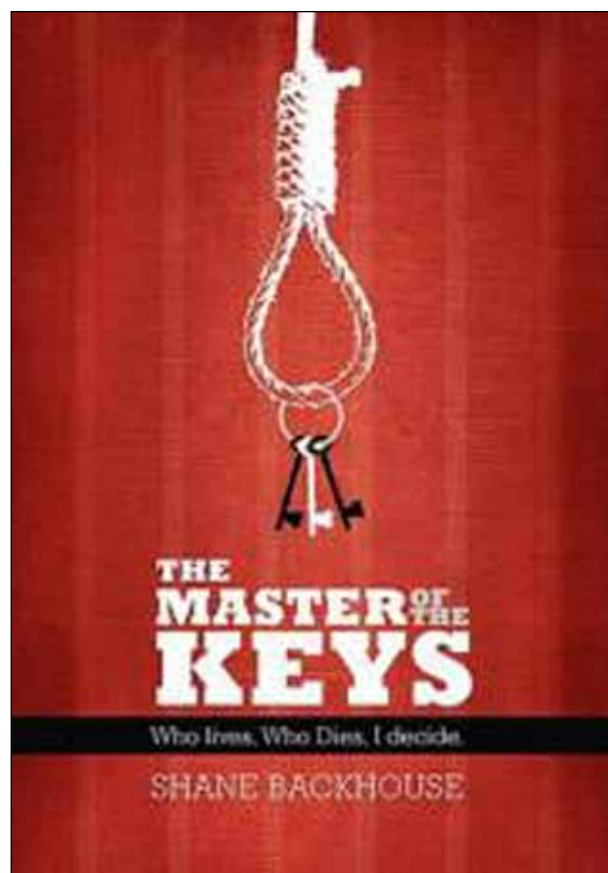
That paragraph was in the prologue, written by another former prison officer who had worked with Mr Backhouse.

"I clearly remember comments made upon my induction by a very senior ranking officer as I first entered those very daunting and fearsome prison gates and he said 'Remember staff, if you find a prisoner hanging from a beam on a roof – he made a gesture of grabbing and pulling the prisoners legs in a downward motion – make sure you finish the job and make sure they are dead before your report the find,'" it read.

The book claims prisoners were ridiculed and taunted and treated as sub human, prison officers of Indigenous heritage were tagged as crim lovers and given no acceptance for the general staff, KKK slogans and other term were frequently found written on wall towers, and threats were written in shift logbooks.

For most of the book names have been changed for obvious reasons.

Mr Backhouse said he had been more



determined than ever to expose corruption within the prison system and Queensland police force since the death in custody on palm island of Mulrunji in November 2004. "The level of corruption and impunity prevailing within the system leaves no doubt about the cover ups and the freedom to use their power and those in the justice system enjoy in the area," he said.

"We still need to find a solution and have measures taken to implement the fair treatment of the Aboriginal and of people in general by so called guardians of the law."

The Department of Corrective Services said a response to the book would be forthcoming soon.

The book was published by American Company Xlibris Corporation and retails for \$30.

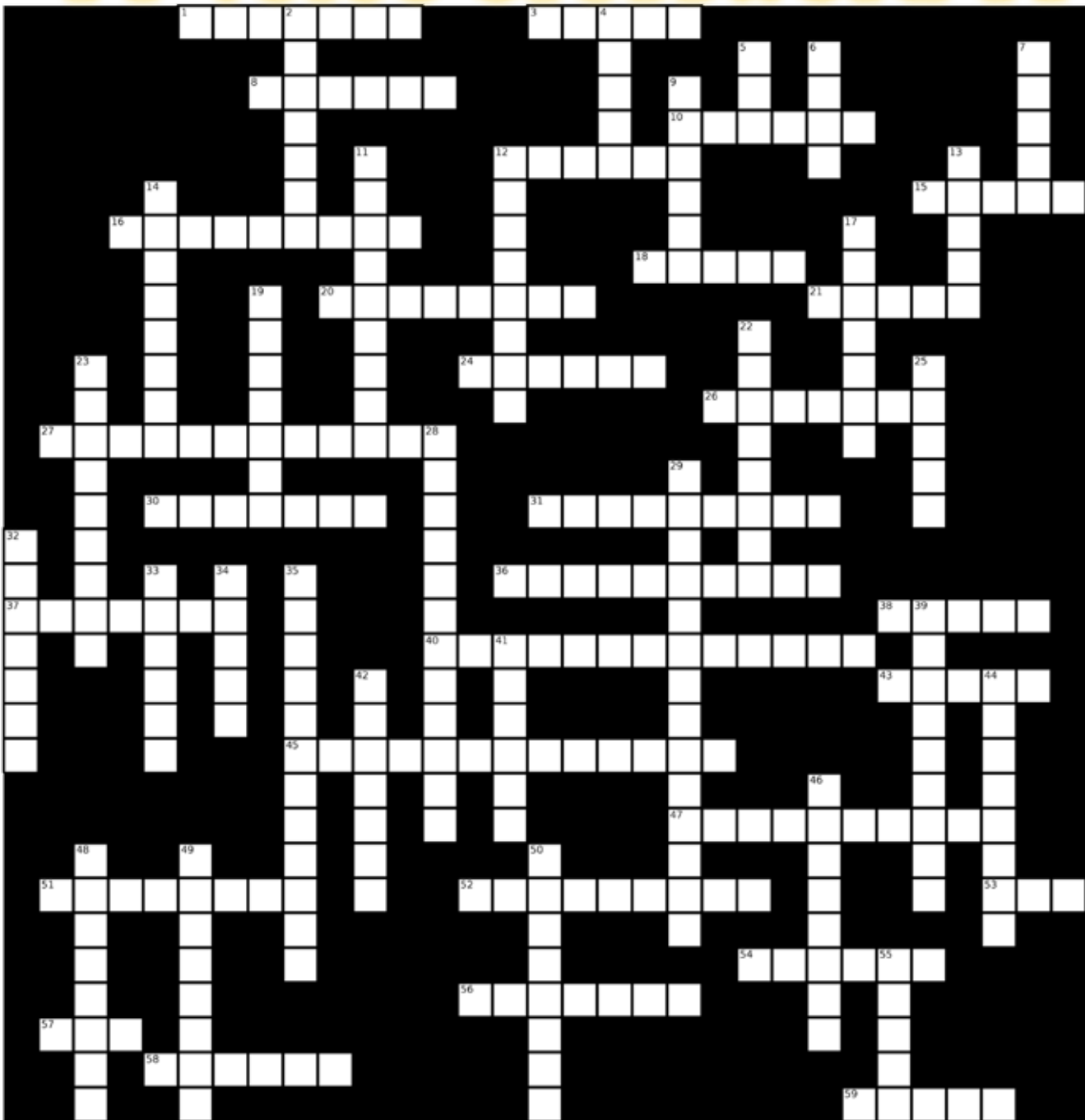
FOOTNOTE: Latest figures reveal regarding Townsville Correctional Centre figures reveal that 60% of prisoners (male) are Indigenous and 75% of women.

Total male beds are at 400 and female section is 154. 120 inmates are in high security.

Still swimming in our tropical island paradise...



PI Voice Crossword 77



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

Across

1. Referee blows this
3. Holds up a jetty
8. Son of a King or Queen
10. Another name for meal
12. Commemorates Christ's death and resurrection
15. Organised outdoor group protest
16. Type of flying insect
18. Someone who fights against it
20. blood sugar disease
21. Old and New Testament
24. Broncos winger, Jharal (2)
26. Sydney suburb famous for 'The Block'
27. Employee who controls the front desk
30. Army rank
31. Group of soldiers into battle
36. Townsville's national basketball league team

37. NRL coach heading to the Knights, Wayne ?
38. Said to be the forbidden fruit in the Bible
40. Getting closer to this Qld v NSW showdown (3)
43. A device that closes a door
45. Eye doctor
47. Place of higher learning
51. Australia's famous dance company
52. Type of military helicopter (2)
53. Returned Services League (init)
54. Sea creature soaking up water
56. Famous indigenous song writer, Kev ?
57. Another name for family or group of friends
58. Another name for Aussie soldier
59. Leader of a town or shire council

Down

2. Type of doctor
4. Many hands make this kind of work
5. Crime and Misconduct Commission (init)
6. American military vehicle
7. Court proceedings
9. Industrial stop work action
11. Where Anzac Day started
12. voting procedure
13. Flat bottomed boat
14. Queensland's capital
17. India won the world cup in this sport
19. Former NRL star turned champ boxer, Anthony ?
22. Every two years
23. Racing dog
25. April 25th is ? day
28. Thursday Island is located here (2 Words)

29. Circulation system - heart and blood
32. Party in power in NSW
33. Population count
34. Employees
35. Cyclone Yasi slammed into this settlement (2 Words)
39. One who lodges a legal action
41. Leader of the Opposition, Tony ?
42. Ex-Army service personnel
44. Top of the Australian mainland (2)
46. Not-for-profit charity organisation (2)
48. Amphibious Queensland pest (2)
49. Type of Christian religion
50. Townsville's army barracks
55. ATSI Social Justice Commissioner, Mick ?

What is ... “Queensland Strait Islander Foundation

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) is an independent public foundation established to serve Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by providing a secure funding source for bursaries and scholarships.

The foundation will fund educational and developmental opportunities for generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

QATSIF has been created to give Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families increased educational choices and life opportunities. A higher education is the foundation for employment and better quality of life; it is a resource not easily accessed by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

By providing support QATSIF will contribute to turning around the inter-generational legacies of past policies and practices, and help close the gap in educational and employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

Converting Past Injustices into a Positive Legacy for the Future

QATSIF was established with an initial capital of \$25.8 million, funds which represented the toil of previous generations of Indigenous Queenslanders who laboured under past control laws and policies. This was made up of \$10.8 million from the former Aborigines Welfare Fund (AWF) and \$15 million from the remaining unspent funds from the Indigenous

Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme (IWSR).

This initial capital has been invested by QATSIF’s Trustee, the Public Trustee of Queensland, with the interest earned annually providing the income stream from which scholarships and bursaries to provide greater opportunities to the current generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth can be paid. This means that funds can be distributed annually based on the recommendations of the Board of Advisors while still preserving the initial capital as the basis for ongoing investment and support. In this way, the toil of previous generations has a direct benefit to their descendants, meaning QATSIF will stand as a permanent and positive legacy for the future.

Aborigines Welfare Fund

The Aborigines Welfare Fund (AWF), a statutory fund established in 1943, was frozen on 1 February 1993 and has been accumulating interest since that time. In March 2008, the Queensland Government agreed to wind up the AWF and place these funds in the Indigenous Queenslanders Foundation, to provide scholarships for Aboriginal children and young people.

Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme

In 2002 the Queensland Government made a reparations offer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose wages and savings had been controlled under previous ‘Protection Acts’. It included:

- o A monetary amount of up to \$55.4 million in total
- o An apology
- o A Parliamentary Acknowledgment and

and Aboriginal & Torres Foundation" (QATSIF)?

statement in the House

o Government protocol to acknowledge traditional owners.

By 2007, payments totalling nearly \$20 million had been made to over 5,500 claimants under the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme (IWSRS), leaving a residue of \$35.87 million. In March 2008 the Queensland Government agreed that a further \$14.64 million be paid out to eligible claimants, and the remaining \$21.23 million would form a separate sub-fund of QATSIF.

In August 2008 the Queensland Government agreed to reopen the Reparations Scheme to new applications and set aside a further \$6 million out of the unspent funds from March for this purpose.

How does QATSIF work?

The principal goal of QATSIF is to increase educational and related opportunities available to Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. In pursuing this goal, QATSIF will work in partnership with the philanthropic and private sectors, schools, TAFEs, academies and universities to contribute toward the costs of education and tuition and related expenses that might otherwise prevent access to these opportunities. The intention is that QATSIF and its activities will complement, rather than replace, existing initiatives.

In addition to developing support programs, the Board of Advice will work to broaden the capital base. By attracting other donations, bequests and investments, the Board will increase the funds available for investment and distribution, and enable it to undertake efforts to build the capacity of other organisations to offer scholarships and other educational and vocational support to Queensland's Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander youth.

As well as a diverse and highly qualified Board of Advisers, QATSIF is supported by a small secretariat that manages the day-to-day operations of the Foundation as well as supporting the Board of Advice.

The QATSIF Board of Advisers

This Board is comprised of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people who are experts and leaders in their fields of youth, education, government, corporate, philanthropy, community affairs and finance. The Board has currently has seven members including five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Queensland: Cindy Shannon (Chairperson), Sione Fa'Aoso (Deputy Chair), Nereda White, John Goddard, Thelma Gertz, Leann Wilson and Kerrin Anderson.

The Board recommends allocation and prioritisation of QATSIF funds to the Public Trustee, and has a strategic role influencing Indigenous social and economic development in Queensland. It also plays a leading role partnering with community, private sector, philanthropic organisations and educational and financial sectors to create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to better share the same quality of life as other Queenslanders.

For further information on QATSIF and or the Board of Advice, please contact QATSIF Secretariat on FreeCall 1800 215 589, enquiries@qatsif.org.au, or at PO Box 277, Royal Brisbane Hospital 4029

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!

COME CELEBRATE EASTER 2011

Palm Island Easter Celebration!

AIM Community Church.

Theme: JESUS- THE HEALER
Luke 4:18,19

Visiting Speaker: Evangelist Joseph Walters

Reverend Walters has been in ministry more than 30 years. He is a renowned speaker, who has traveled and ministered in Asia, the Pacific islands, Australia and USA. He and his wife are Founding Pastors of Tabernacle of Prayer (TOP), a vibrant and growing Church, located in Port Moresby, the Capital City of PNG. Accompanied by his wife & a team.

Venue: PCYC Hall, Palm Island.

Time: 6.00-9.30pm

Dates: Fri. 22, Sat. 23, Sun. 24 April

Special Highlights:

- * Creative Dances * African special
- * Island Songs from PNG * Country Gospel
- * Water Baptism (Saturday morning)

Supported By Christians United for Palm Island.

Contact: Pastor – ph.(07-47701880).



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

is closed every
second Friday

(Council pay week) for RDO.
The next RDO is Friday 29 April.

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

REMINDER: EASTER DATES 2011

12th April 2011	Delegation
20th April 2011	Land Trust Meeting
21st April 2011	NAIDOC Meeting
22nd April 2011	Good Friday
25th April 2011	Easter Monday
26th April 2011	ANZAC Day

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
THE COUNCIL ON 4770 1177**

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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
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c/ Palm Island Post Office,
Palm Island Q 4816

Reference PIV1011 (important!)

OR via direct deposit to:

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A/C No 00092534

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Make sure you send your payment details and address requirements to the Editor
(see details next page or on page 16).



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NEWS
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Kirwan | PARKSIDE NEWS
- 148 Bamford
Lane, Kirwan |

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

9am Saturday 7 May PCYC

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!!!

For more info contact Deniece Geia

Bwgc Colman Community Radio Notice

The winner of this month's double tickets to the Saltwater Band concert in Townsville on the 20th of April at the Townsville Civic Centre was Bonnie Noble.

Tune in over the next few weeks for details about how to win one of four double passes to the Michael Jackson HIStory show in Townsville.

**Timothy Miller
Manager**

Bwgc Colman Radio Station 97.3fm

Palm Island

Ph (07) 47701863

Stolen WAGES

Built this STATE



Advertising Information & Rates

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(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!!

Palm players front up for Bindal

FOOTBALLERS from Palm Island are playing a key role in the improved form of Bindal Sharks in the Townsville and District rugby league competition this year.

A large crowd watched Charters Towers defeat Sharks 56-38 at Shark Park on March 10.

Alan Brown scored two tries, Darryl Pearson and his brother Clinton Pearson scored tries for Sharks and Tabua Oui booted four goals after playing at centre.

Other Palm players in the Sharks A grade side were Walter Geia, Frank

Conway, and Vaughn Charles who was the organiser from Palm Island.

With 15 minutes left on the clock Sharks had led 38-36 and then the Towers side took over.

A total of 18 tries were scored in an entertaining game.

Palm players also showed good form for the Sharks reserve grade team, which went down 44-12 to the Towers.

They were Bennett Blanket, Vincent Palmer, Kevin Morgan, Walter Morgan jnr, Terence Sibley and Mikael Sibley.

Kevin Morgan and Bennett Blanket scored tries for Sharks while Gavin Charles booted a goal.

The Sharks under-18 side also had a liberal sprinkling of Palm players in Thomas 'OJ' Oui, William Charles, Thomas Massie, Patrick Ketchup, Nui

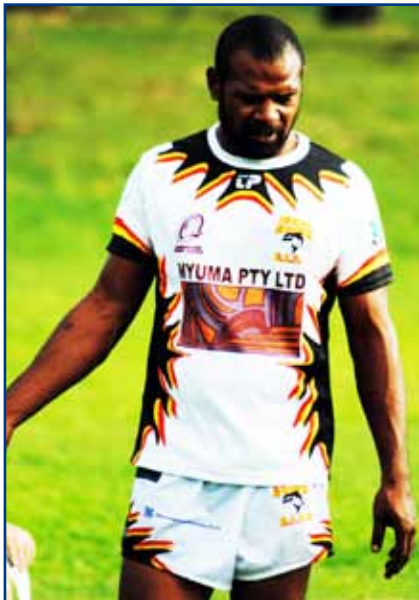
Rakuka and Gresham Ross. The side lost 72-12 with Norman Neliman and Nui Rabuka scoring tries and Gresham Ross kicking two goals.

Any Palm footballer playing in Townsville is not allowed to compete in the domestic island competition.

They are also only eligible to be picked for Townsville in the forthcoming Foley Shield, not Palm Island/Bowen.

Palm island players are lining up for Bindal Sharks in the Townsville and District A grade, reserve grade and under 18 rugby league competition in 2011.

On Sunday *Palm Island Voice* ventured out to James Cook University Oval in Townsville to snap action in the A Grade game between Sharks and University and we captured some snaps of Palm Islanders.



Pictured: Above: Milton Thaiday; Right: brothers Clinton & Darryl Pearson; Below: Frank Conway facing camera in half-time huddle; Page opposite: Left: all action; Right: Tabua Oui



Geia leads Atherton in Cairns comp

PALM Island's first footballer to play for the North Queensland Cowboys, Obe Geia jnr, has continued his sterling form for Atherton in the strong Cairns competition where he was the leading try scorer after round six.



Geia jnr scored two tries for Atherton on March 10 when they beat previously undefeated side Innisfail Leprechauns 26-22.

At the completion of round six in the 11 club comp, Atherton remained the only undefeated side with 12 points to be a runaway leader on the points table ahead of Brothers, Innisfail, Southern Suburbs and Kangaroos on eight.

Barring injury, Geia jnr now looks a certainty to be selected in the Innisfail/Eacham side to compete at the Foley Shield comp in Townsville from May 20 to 22.

With Palm Island/Bowen to make their historic debut in the Foley Shield and the possibility of others from Palm being picked in the Townsville side, it will give locals many reasons to be at the blue ribbon rugby

league contest.

Fellow Palm stars Algon Congo and Fred Haines jnr have also shone for the Atherton Roosters who are now a hot favourite to take out the premiership.

In round five on April 3, Congo scored two tries, and Haines and Geia jnr each scored a single when Atherton beat Brothers 38-24.

Ironically Brothers and Innisfail were second and third on the ladder after round six.

Geia junior became the first Palm Islander to play for the Cowboys in season 2008 when he played 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.



PIRL PLAYER PROFILE:

Jioji (Georgie) Dabea

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...

RELIABLE and hard working forward Jioji (Georgie) Dabea has signed with Brothers Club for season 2011 after playing with Skipjacks last year.

The 20-year-old is one of the most respected forwards in the seven-club Palm Island competition.

Skipjacks finished third on the table last season and Brothers ended up fifth.

Both clubs have been given good chances of doing well this year.

Jioji is the son of Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea and Palm Island Council officer worker Leah Dabea.

He is employed as a Road Tek worker on the island. Born in Townsville, Jioji went to Bwngcolman State School from grades one to seven and then attended Pimlico High on the mainland.

The 120kg and 180cm tall Jioji played his first junior football with Townsville club Upper Ross in under 13 grade.

From 2004-7 Jioji was a member of Centrals Club junior sides who took out four successive premierships. In his time at Centrals some of his team mates included Robbie Liu (West Tigers) and Ray Thompson (Cowboys).

He started his senior league at age 16 with Bindal Sharks in the Townsville and District under-19 competition.

In 2006 he showed his versatility by representing the Australian Indigenous under 16 Rugby Union team on a tour of New Zealand.

Most of all Jioji is a proud Palm Islander and during season 2010 travelled to far off Badu Island in the Torres Strait for the prestigious Island of Origin Series.

Twelve men's team contested the historical 25th Silver Jubilee series and Jioji was one of five Palm Islanders to play for Moa Island side Mua Rajorbacks which scored a 50-26 win over Malu Kuai from Boigu in the grand final.

Soon after Jioji played for the Skipjacks team which narrowly lost to Australian Army Thunder played at the Palm football oval for the Bill Coolburra Memorial Shield.

In last year's Palm Island club elimination semi final Jioji scored a try when Skipjacks defeated Mount Bentley Raiders 26-24.

Jioji has also played for the Palm Island Barracudas and Jets who played in Cardwell late last year.

Palm Island Voice salute's Jioji Dabea as a true Palm island football achiever.



Rocky ride for boxers in Blackwater

FIVE Palm Island boxers and officials made a long bus trip to Blackwater in central Queensland for an Association tournament earlier this month – although star 17-year-old Patrick Clarke (*pictured*) won the main bout.

Clarke defeated Sam Payne from Blackwater in the 64kg fight, top of the bill of 15 events on a well-supported card.

David Sam, Isaac Bulsey, Joey Geia and Reggie Palm Island all lost on points.

Trainer Ray Dennis said the boxers had to be registered or they would not have been allowed to take part in the tournament or eligible to represent Australia.

He said if it were not for Palm Island, Rockhampton and Emerald boxers it would have been a very poor tournament. "Very few Association boxers travelled to Blackwater from down south," he said.

Mr Dennis said Clarke won the closely contested main bout. "Sam Payne has been boxing with the Association for some time and is a very experienced boxer," he said.

"Patrick did well to defeat him, he is still on track to make the trials for the 2012 Olympic Games."

Super Heavyweight David Sam, aged just 15 and with only four bouts, was narrowly defeated by Gladstone's Anthony Taylor.

"Both boxers weighed in over 100kg, David was very unlucky to lose and I thought he won the first two rounds," he said.

"His opponent had 37 bouts, was only beaten by one point for the Queensland State Senior Title and is 20 years old so it was great performance

against experienced opponent.

"David has a great future in boxing or rugby league."

Eighteen-year-old Reggie Palm Island was matched against a Gladstone opponent in the 54kg flyweight division who never turned up.

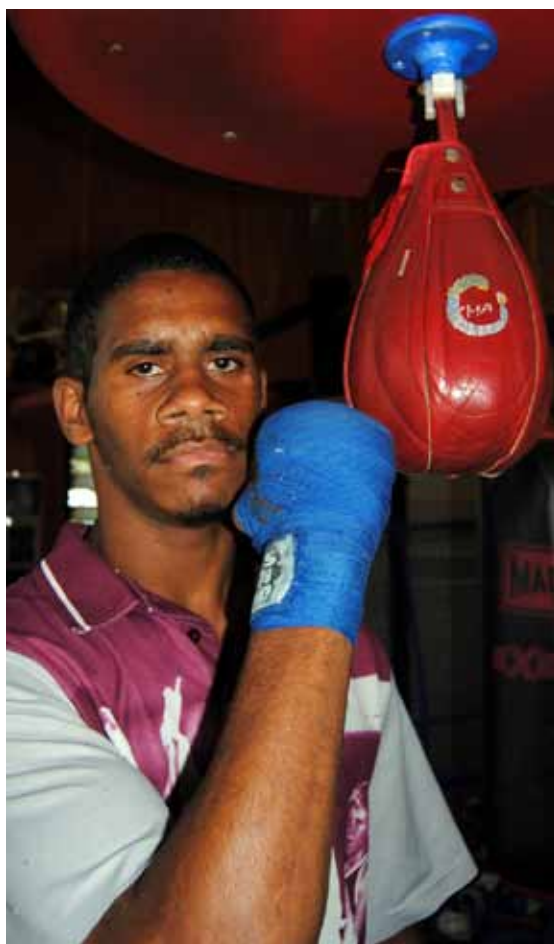
"So Reggie stepped up 12kg to fight Australian Junior Champion Nathan Hincliffe from Rockhampton who weighed 61kg compared to Reggie at 49kg," Mr Dennis said. "Reggie was narrowly defeated and is also on track to make the Olympic trials."

Joey Geia, aged 12, lost in the 38kg division to Bundaberg fighter and Australian Association champion Josh Muller.

"It was a very close bout between the Association champion and Boxing League champion Joey who was a year younger than his opponent," he said. "The wet weather has stopped Joey from training properly and he will do much better when he gets fitter."

Isaac Bulsey, aged 10, lost a close points decision to 13-year-old Brandon Sigler of Rockhampton in the 44kg division.

"Four of our boxers had to give



away weight or experience and I am sure the Queensland Boxing Association will have plenty of respect for the Palm Island team," Mr Dennis said. Former top boxer and quality rugby league player Jason Thimble helped the team with bus driving.

"It was a seven hour bus trip to Blackwater and we went via Charters Towers and Clermont," Mr Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said he wanted to thank the Palm Island Community Company for sponsoring the trip and their ongoing support.

Any sponsors who can help in the future would be greatly appreciated.

Boxers shine in Emerald



PALM Island boxers dominated a huge amateur tournament at far away Emerald on Saturday night where five won their bouts convincingly.

Patrick Clarke won the main support bout by TKO (Technical Knock Out) in round three against Woorabinda boxer Nathan Murgha, and looked at his damaging best.

William Palm Island, Alan Palm Island, Allan Walsh and Craig Desatge all looked sharp in their unanimous points victories.

Two other Palm boxers Albert Gorringer and Steen Walsh lost on points in bouts which could have gone either way.

Three youngsters Isaac Bulsey, Derek Creed and Shaun Creed also travelled the 600km one way by bus to Emerald but no opponents could be found to fight them.

One of the highlights of the 20 bouts was when diminutive Palm boxer Craig Evers fought an exhibition bout against a local opponent

of similar age. Both stood knee high to grasshoppers but threw many punches which excited the crowd and resulted in a shower of coins into the ring afterwards.

More than 500 people packed into the Emerald Town Hall for a tournament organised by Fighters Incorporated.

Trainer Ray Dennis said the hosts treated the team very well.

"I would like to thank the Palm Island Community Company for paying for the bus and also to Blair "Cowboy" Wilson who was the Emerald organiser and looked after us," Mr Dennis said.

Palm Island Voice travelled to Emerald with the boxers and officials and went to the fights.

Our next edition will report on the behind the scenes happenings and included some great pictures and yarns about who the jokers, singers and dancers are on the team.

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