



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Sisters' farewell in Townsville



Preppies' Easter Parade pics



Our 'larrikin' boxers!



Charters' rodeo cancelled but Mungalla to go ahead

Prohibitive costs have forced the cancellation of the Palm Island rodeo scheduled for May 14 at Charters Towers.

However organisers say another rodeo to be run under Palm Island's banner in September looks sure to go ahead at Mungalla Station, near Ingham.

The events were being organised on the Palm Island side by couple Pauline and Shaun Shortjoe with the ring action under the wing of Townsville man John Moss of Bucko Billy Rodeo.

Mr Moss said due to high costs and "other unforeseen circumstances", the Charters Towers event had to be cancelled.

"The decision was made on April 19 even though the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council generously offered \$2000 towards it," he said.

"At least \$7000 was required with the rest from other sponsors so we had no option but to cancel it."

Mungalla Aboriginal Business Corporation spokesman Jake Cassady (*pictured*) said everybody there was looking forward to September.



Mr Cassady has been liaising with the Shortjoes' and Mr Moss and will work with them closely in the lead up to the event.

"Hopefully this can become an annual event for Mungalla," he said.

"This is good for our tourism enterprise as it will lift the profile of our organisation and promote the Mungalla tourism experience.

"I also hope that all our mob can be involved throughout the event and that we get people attending from all over the region both Indigenous and non-indigenous.

"I'm sure that the event will generate a great atmosphere with camping, barbecues and big kup murri, there will be cart rides down to the wetlands, stalls, tours, rides for the kids.

"We want all the communities in the region to come and enjoy the experience of Mungalla Station."

That sinking feeling...



Pic courtesy Cr Hal Walsh

Last month there was a small a drama 'on the high seas', just as the barge was approaching the jetty its huge cargo – including a bobcat on the back of a truck – unexpectedly unloaded into the sea. A rope holding a huge truck and its trailer had snapped. The truck remained in the water overnight and was raised to the surface the next day. No-one was injured as a result of the incident.

Call for action against DV

Member for Townsville Mandy Johnstone has called on all North Queenslanders to Act as 1 against domestic and family violence as part of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month.

Ms Johnstone said the "Act as 1" message was a call to neighbours, friends, family members, work colleagues and community members to take a stand against domestic and family violence and support those affected.

"We want communities throughout the state to send a powerful message that domestic violence won't be tolerated," Ms Johnstone said.

"We want everyone to get involved — You could be the 1 to make a difference — and stand up against domestic and family violence."

"It's important that people experiencing this sort of violence and abuse know they are not alone and that help is available." People affected by domestic and family violence or who know someone who is should call DV Connect on 1800 811 811 or the North Queensland Domestic Violence Service on 07-4721 2888.

For more information or to get involved in the Act as 1 campaign:

Web: www.actas1.qld.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/actas1

Twitter: www.twitter.com/actas1

Palm Island ANZAC Day well-attended

More than 200 people attended the Palm Island's Anzac Day Memorial Service next to the Memorial Plaque in the mall area.

Local, Ian Keyte, said even more were at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill the same afternoon where a game of Two-Up lasted a couple of hours.

"That was very successful and I reckon we had about 250 adults there," Mr Keyte said.

IF YOU HAVE pics of this or any other events on Palm Island, you could have them published here!!! Contact the Editor (see back page) for more details...

Sisters first 'farewell' in St Teresa's church

THE first of two farewells for the much-loved Palm Island Franciscan Missionaries of Mary was an emotional but happy affair at St Teresa's in Garbutt, Townsville last weekend.

Sr Maria van Galen, Sr Madge Hore and Sr Christina McGlynn will also be a second farewell to be held on Palm Island on May 15.

Catholic Bishop Michael Putney presided at last Sunday's Mass and will also be on Palm to farewell the three sisters who will leave the Island on 24 May. The Order has sent 34 members who have served the Palm Island community with distinction since 1945.

"Palm Island was still a penal settlement near the end of World War II when they arrived there," one woman said.

St Teresa's Church was packed with more than 150 well wishers for a farewell which was started with a smoking ceremony by Billy Cummings.

Guests were welcomed to country by Palm Island born Stephanie Miller who was part of the Ngulumburu Boonyah dancers along with Janine Wyles and Trinity Wyles.

That was followed by prayers and hymns.

...More pics and text next page...



Sisters Christina, Madge & Maria, from left to right, cutting the cake below



Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey was at Castletown Shopping Centre in Townsville last Friday with wife Melissa and children Deborah, aged 13, and Teegan, 5. They had travelled to the mainland to attend a funeral and wake. Mr Lacey wanted to wish Melissa and all our Mothers on Palm Island a special 'Happy Mother's Day' for Sunday.



Sister's first farewell in Townsville

...from previous page...

Bishop Putney gave an emotional speech praising the Sisters.



"All of the Sisters who have served on Palm and Fantome Island have had abundant amounts of faith, hope and love for the people there," he said.

"In the 10 years I have been here many Aborigines have told me they gained their faith from the Sisters."

Aunty Mary Twaddle, aged 82, said the Sisters had been good for Palm Islanders.

Nerida Lampton, who was born on Fantome Island when it was a leper colony, said sisters of the order had been tireless in helping people. Nerida made a presentation of art to the Sisters as did renowned painter Karen Doolan, who said her dad and mum had been taken to Palm Island where they met.

Ngulumburu Boonyah dancers performed their Gidijma dance much to the delight of everybody.

"It is a kite hawk dance," Stephanie said.

The Sisters spoke to the congregation and each said Palm Islanders would remain in the prayers when they left.

"I thank God for my all too short time on Palm and the people for allowing me to be here," Sr Madge said. "It has been a wonderful

experience and my prayers will always include Palm Island people."

Sr Maria recalled the first person she met there was Uncle Reg Barry who had been walking on the beach with his grandson.

"He greeted me with a warm 'you must be the new Sister', and made me feel right at home," she said.

"I am deeply grateful for the time here and will always carry the memory of Palm Island



and its people in my heart.

"God has a special love and a task for you, our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, I will never forget you," Sr Maria said.

Sr Christina said she had completed seven years of very special time on the Island.

"It has been a privilege to live amongst you and serve you," she said. "I will leave with a mixture of sadness and also beautiful memories."



Local MP joins CFF for busy visit

Member for Townsville, Mandy Johnstone said she enjoyed a jam-packed visit to Palm Island in mid-April.

"It was a great day," she said.

"I spent the time meeting with people individually and in groups, visiting both schools, the PCYC and Bwgcolman Radio."

Ms Johnstone took the opportunity to pay credit to the work of the Catherine Freeman Foundation and Cathy's personal commitment to the children of Palm Island.

"I was genuinely touched and inspired to be able to spend time at both primary schools on the day that Cathy Freeman was there to recognise so many children with great school attendance records for the first term of 2011," she said.

"Congratulations to all the children who received awards.

"There are certainly going to be a lot of aspiring netballers and footballers on the island after the amount of awards handed out.

"Cathy is an inspiration to us all and to meet with her personally and see the passion she has for Palm Island made the day all the more special."

She said the day was also a great opportunity to meet with people one-on-one to talk about the issues they felt strongly about or concerns they held.

"A big thank you to Shane and Zac at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Bistro for their warm hospitality and fabulous luncheon," she said.

"We all enjoyed our time in the Bistro speaking



with members of the community and taking in the breathtaking ocean views.

"I'll be following up and keeping in touch with those individuals on the issues they raised with me."

On the day Mandy and her Electorate Officer Nikki Burrell also:

- Called into the Council office to say 'hi' to Mayor Lacey.

(PS with thanks to Deputy Mayor Sibley for the lift to the airport!);

- Called in for a chat with Tim and Jazz at Bwgcolman Community Radio;

- Said 'hi' to Sergeant Bernie and checked out the new PCYC after school care program and their awesome interactive computer games;

- Enjoyed the fabulous new hall at Bwgcolman Community School;

- Congratulated the fundraising efforts of the Sister Christina and her team at their community stall;

- Inspected damage to the Jetty and foreshore after Cyclone Yasi; and,

- Discussed the various Disaster Relief supports available after the Cyclone.



Palm's Easter Parade!



With thanks again
to Cr Walsh for
sending these
photos!



...Out & About...

Emmakita Geia (below) was in a dual role of mother and grandmother whilst busy shopping in Townsville last month. She was with her son Montel Geia, 3, and grandson Jaydan Geia.



MEANWHILE
ZOWIE Wills
(right) was
walking
through
Castletown
Shopping
Centre in
Townsville in
late April with
Jahmarley
Robertson,
aged 2 in
a pram,
Raisjana
Bulsey, 17,
and Zhakeen
Kerr, 10.



Aunty Bel says...



My name is Beryl Gorringe and I live on Palm Island.

I am descended from the Djirrbal people of Herberton and Ravenshoe. My father was Johnnie Haines.

He played rugby league in 1927 for the Herberton Junior League in the Eacham Rugby League Charity Cup of that year. His team were the premiership winners. I have a photograph that shows that he and his brother, George Smythe, were the only Aboriginal men in the team. They were 16 and 17 years old respectively.

Obe Geia Jnr and Fred Haines Jnr are my grandsons on my brother's side, John Haines (now deceased).

Obe's mother is Georgina Haines - one of the first Palm Island school teachers - and Fred's father is Fred Haines Snr, who represented Queensland in a State of Origin curtain raiser, when he was 18 years old.

I am very proud to see that Obe and Fred are carrying on a tradition to play rugby league in the same area their great-grandfathers played footy.

I would also like to mention the young boxers who have been making great strides in their sport.

I am very proud of them all as well (Albert and Dennis, my grandsons, and Derek and Shaun, my great-grandsons).

May the Lord continue to bless Obe, Fred and Algon and all Indigenous young men and women who aspire to positive dreams for their future.

Thank you to the men and women who have contributed in many ways, to our young sports people of Palm Island.

May God bless you all.

Our 'Iarrikin' boxers: a peek from the inside!

A TRIP away with the Palm Island boxers is something everybody should aspire to do if they can. Those who do get the opportunity will remember the experience for life.



Such a trip makes one realise just how well they have become known after extensive local and national print and electronic media appearances during 2010.

Palm Island Voice was lucky enough to travel to Emerald with 10 of these fine young boxers, along with trainer Ray Dennis and assistant trainer and bus driver Chris Gundy – and what a great time it was.

Most of the team travelled by ferry from Palm which arrived in Townsville just after noon, where they were met by Mr Gundy with a 25 seater bus.

Mr Gundy had been in Townsville since the day before for work. Before leaving on the 600km journey, the youngsters wanted to have a bite to eat, so first stop was the KFC store in Garbutt. From there they travelled 130km to Charters Towers where the bus stopped at the BP Roadhouse to fuel up.

A truckie taking on diesel nearby asked if they were the Palm Island boxers he had seen on the ABC Message Stick program.

From there the bus headed off on the 360km trip to Clermont and along the way the fun begun.

Albert Gorringer jnr showed his many skills as a singer, speaker and joke teller on the bus microphone which had most rolling in the aisles with laughter.

One song they all got into big time was about why they are so proud to be "children from Palm Island."

There was even a silent phantom "wind passer" whose identify is still to be determined but one thing is for certain, just about everybody pointed the finger at one of their mates.

There was another on the bus who was unable to remain anonymous because of the volume of his uncontrollable body noises, which may have had

something to do with he had earlier dem

The lads listened while along the way Belyando Crossing

yet another truckie from their appearance 'Sunday Night' prog

By 7pm the bus a for another fuel up large roadhouse b

final 107km to Em On arrival the lads v

Incorp Gym wh overnight. As soon as they ar some training with to them, while som ring. They slept on blow one amongst the y green frog on a gue there. This fella has a g



with take away food polished.

led to their music by pulling up at the Roadhouse, where we recognised them once on Channel 7's program.

arrived at Clermont to stop and feed at the roadhouse before driving the bus back to Emerald.

we went to the Fighters Club where they stayed.

arrived they got into the gear available and some sparred in the gym.

up mattresses and youngsters threw a party who also stayed.

genuine phobia of

such frogs and thought it was a "Joe Blake" – or snake for those who don't know the term.

Nobody owned up to the funny incident but it was the subject of considerable mirth for the remainder of the trip.

Trainer Ray Dennis had set up numerous mattresses on top of each other in a bid to get a comfortable sleep but fell off his makeshift bed during the dark of night.

After a golden-arch brekkie, the lads went to the Emerald Town Hall for showers and then a walk around the scenic town.

Weigh-in was at the Town Hall at 3pm while fights commenced some four hours later.

The Palm boxers were the subject of conversation amongst the 500 plus audience already on hand.

Some of the older boxers certainly proved attractive to local lasses who chatted them up until the night

finished at 11pm.

The bus left Emerald just before midnight on April 16, stopping off at Clermont for a snack and fuel.

On the long trip back to Charters Towers all of the boxers slept with legs and all spread over three seats on both sides of the bus.

Driver Gundy stopped at rest areas several times for power napping before the team finally arrived at the Charters Towers Roadhouse about 6.30am.

The trip back to Townsville was basically uneventful and the lads arrived back at the ferry 40 minutes before it departed for Palm at 9am.

One thing to emerge from the trip was that these talented sportsmen and youths are genuine ambassadors for their beloved Palm Island.

They have great camaraderie, a love of Palm Island and are honoured to represent their home.

Palm Island Voice

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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!

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BAMFORD LANE MINI MART - 113 Bamford Lane, Kirwan	NEWS ON THE AVENUES - 85 Burnda St, Kirwan
MOUNT VIEW NEWS - 32 Bamford Lane, Kirwan	PARKSIDE NEWS - 148 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

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

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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).



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is closed every second Friday (Council pay week) for RDO.

The next RDO is Friday 13 May.

For emergencies on a Friday please call 0458 789 010

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNCIL ON 4770 1177

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

9am Saturday 7 May PCYC VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!!!

For more info contact Deniece Geia

STRIKE OF 1957 COMMEMORATION DAY FOR 2011

FRIDAY 3rd June 2011 9am to 3.30pm

"COME AND CELEBRATE A FUN FILLED DAY OF ACTIVITIES"

Cheering on your local Oztag, Netball, Pool and Dart team/players
 Battling out for the Winner of the Strike Day Commemoration Trophy
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Traditional Dancing
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 Storytelling
 Slide shows of old P I
 Tea/Coffee provided —10am to 12noon
 @ the Coolgaree Sports & Bar Bistro

There will be Food and drinks on sale

Contacts: Pool & Dart Comp—Zac Sam
 OzTag—Milton Thaiday
 Cliff Lymburner
 Netball—Sister D

TO TOP THE DAY A DINNER DANCE & KARAOKE COMPETITION WILL BE HELD 6PM TO 11PM @ THE COOLGAREE SPORTS & BAR BISTRO

TICKETS \$30 EACH ON SALE PRIOR TO THE DANCE FROM EVELYN @ CDEP

WE HAVE REQUESTED FROM THE COUNCIL FOR SUNFERRIES TO DEPART PALM ISLAND @ 4PM.

Picture: 1932—Beach huts in front Palm Island

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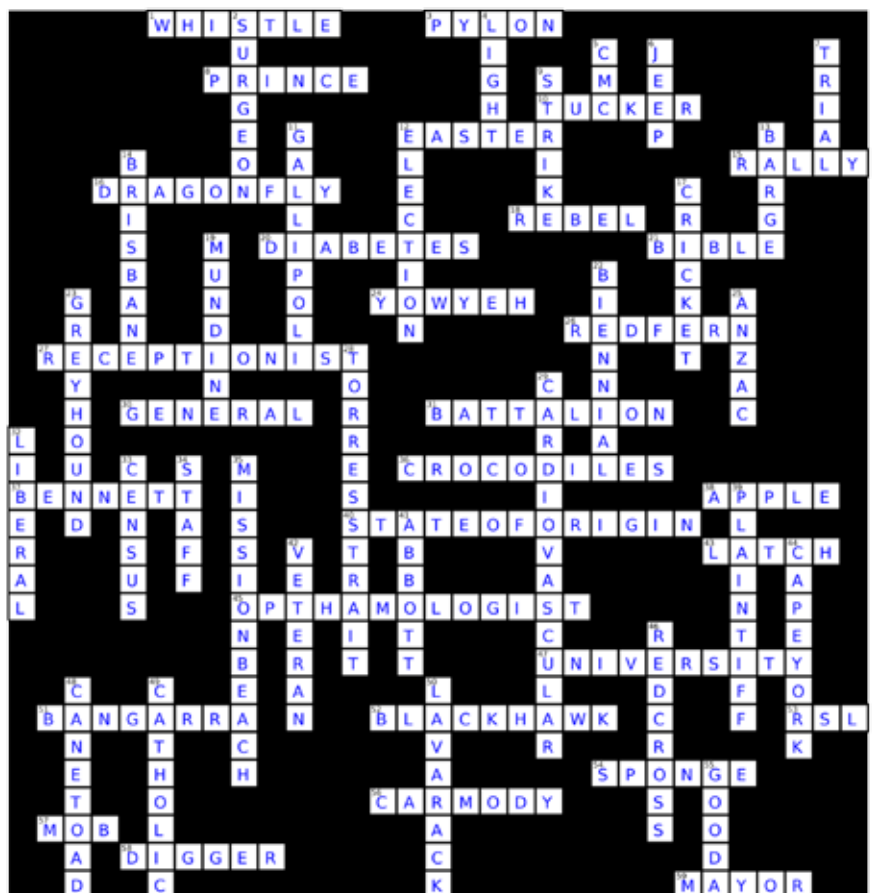
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PI Voice Crossword 77 Answers

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TWO?**

If you would like to
contribute some ideas for
Crossword Puzzle clues email
them to the Editor (see back
page for details) or drop them
into the Council today!!!



Boxers face bans in the search for competition

TALENTED Palm Island boxers who are members of a breakaway group called the Queensland Amateur Boxing League face bans of four years by the official body, Boxing Queensland (BQ) if they join, re-join or fight in any rival organisations' tournaments.

The bans would make the boxer or boxers concerned ineligible for selection in the Australian team for the London Olympic Games. BQ has publicised the potential bans on its official website.

Palm Island Boxing Club's coach Ray Dennis has reacted angrily to the threat, saying there was no way the Club could afford – either financially or in terms of boxers gaining experience – to only fight in tournaments held in south east Queensland.

He also said the bans may also see him finish up as coach for the team.

"If North Queensland boxers registered with the Association have to travel south for every bout to get experience and they will need a very wealthy sponsor," he said. "If the Association wants to put a four year ban on some of our Australian boxers they may be banning a boxer capable of winning a Gold Medal."

The threat was brought to the attention of the *Palm Island Voice* by another North Queensland Aboriginal boxing trainer, who did not wish to be named.

"To all unaffiliated clubs, coaches and boxers ... Boxing Queensland have no alternative but remind all parties that to protect our boxers and association that any individual or club who joins Boxing Queensland and subsequently rejoins the breakaway group will be ineligible to rejoin Boxing Queensland for a period of FOUR YEARS [*their emphasis*]," the website advised as of last week. "This will in effect make it impossible for your boxers to aspire to the Olympics or Commonwealth games or any representation for their country, so think carefully THIS COMES INTO EFFECT FROM NOW."

It is followed by an offer of reconciliation to the rival Boxing League: "Your organization can join Boxing Queensland simply by affiliating the whole organisation," it says. "In this way all

of your clubs would be eligible to box on any BQ tournament throughout Queensland ... You would also be entitled to compete in the State Titles and gain selection in the State team to compete at the Australian Titles (automatic selection if you win the State Title), ultimately representing Australia at the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and World Titles etc. ... IT IS UP TO YOU! ACT NOW AND GIVE YOUR BOXERS THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY DESERVE...SPEAK UP."

Palm Island Voice emailed representatives from both organisations for comment but has not received a reply.

This year the Palm Island Club has fought for the Boxing League and BQ, as well as those organised by a third rival group called Global. Mr Dennis was also forced to register a separate club with BQ because he felt two boxers in particular – Patrick Clarke and Reggie Palm Island – had the ability to the gain Olympic selection.

An emotional Mr Dennis said he had seven fighters registered with both BQ and the League.

"If the League, Global and Association Australian champions could fight off they may be able to find the best boxers to represent our country at the London Olympics instead of putting a ban or possibly the best in the country," he said.

"BQ is not doing Palm Island boxers any favours as they have put up the cost to register a boxer with seniors now \$37 from \$22 and juniors more than double the previous \$11 to \$26. Many of our boxers never seem to have any money and putting the cost up is no way to assist boxing on Palm Island.

"If the Association wants to ban my best boxers, they are also putting a ban on me and I will be forced to give up training on Palm Island."

PIRL MEDIC PROFILE: BILL LANDERS

IN the lead up to, and throughout the footy season this year Palm Island Voice will profile a local Palm Island Rugby League player, coach or admin support each fortnight...

LOCAL ambo and rugby league club official Bill Landers has been appointed the medic of the Palm Island Barracudas side, which will travel to Ayr next Saturday for the clash with Bowen district.

From that game a combined Palm Island/Bowen team will be selected to compete at the Foley Shield competition in Townsville from May 20 to 22.

Mr Landers said he was looking forward to it.

"I managed to get the time off work and I'm looking forward to it," he said. "We will be going over on the Friday ferry to Townsville and then travel down to Ayr on the morning of the game."

That was one thing that delighted Mr Landers and the other was the form of his rejuvenated football club Hornets. Mr Landers was behind the Hornets entering the Palm Island Rugby League competition last year. They struggled, never winning a game, and finishing at the bottom of the table but players gained valuable experience and even entered a side at the Bindal Allblacks carnival last October in Townsville. They say that clubs only succeed on the field if they have a strong administration and with Mr Landers at the helm it has worked wonders for Hornets who had attracted other hard working locals into the fold. Hornets have charged up the ladder already in season 2011, winning two out of their three games to sit third on the ladder.

The Hornets lads celebrated after their big 42-40 win over Skipjacks last Saturday in the main game in round three.

"Everybody was happy and we dug deep when it mattered," Mr Landers said.

He said big prop Frederick Larry, halfback Eugene Barry, centres William Blanket and two try hero Rob Snyder, and five eighth Steve Lowatta all played well.

"But it was a great team effort," he said.

Despite the success of the first rounds Mr Landers is not getting carried away and paid respect to Skipjacks adding their champion forward Fred Bulsey, and several other players, missed Saturday's game due to injury.



Footy kicks-off with some early upsets

SKIPJACKS and Brothers led the points after round two on April 23, which was Easter Saturday.

Skipjacks defeated Jets 50-32.

Coach Alex Morgan said that his best players were Fred Bulsey, William Marpoondin, Jason Bulsey, Clarence Nugent and Raoul Miller.

"They all played well as a team," he said.

Brothers defeated Hornets 24-16 and a Brothers' club spokesman said hooker John Watson, forwards Georgie Dabea and Ben Namoa, and wingers Sterling Aden and Frank Nugent shone in the first two victories.

Dabea and Namoa are off-season signings from other clubs, blockbusting Dabea played with Skipjacks in 2010 and Nomoa with defunct club

Raiders. They will both add power up front.

In the other match reigning premiers Butler Bay Bulls thrashed Mundy Bay Warriors 70-16.

It was a great effort by Bulls, which has lost players from last year's grand final winning team who are now playing with Bindal Sharks in the Townsville and District A Grade competition.

EXCITEMENT reigned supreme in last Saturday's main game in round three of the local rugby league competition when fledgling club Hornets narrowly defeated Skipjacks 42-40.

Hornets finished 2010 with the wooden spoon, whilst Skippies came in third.

But Hornets recruited well during the off-season and supporters were delighted with the win making it two from the first three fixtures in the 2011 season.

Robert Snyder scored two tries for Hornets with one each to Edward Kidner, Cooper Kerr, Roy Bramwell, Christian Richardson and William Prior. Steven Lowatta kicked three goals whilst William Prior booted one.

For Skipjacks, Gary Pearson scored two tries with singles to Leonard Noble, Anthony Thompson, Clarence Nugent and William Marpoondin, whilst Peter Fox and Anthony Thompson booted three goals each.

Palm Island Rugby League President Ili Dabea said big crowds watched the games at the local football oval.

"Hornets scored the winning try in the last four minutes and the players and officials were very happy," he said.

In the curtain raiser, beaten 2010 grand finalists Jets returned to form with a 52-22 win over Mundy Bay Warriors.

The well-drilled Jets never looked like losing and Assan Sam and Moa Sam each scored two tries.

Singles went to Roana Miller, Chris Walsh, James Palmer, Thomas Walsh, Joshua Fullarton and Lloyd Cedric.

Greg Barry kicked two goals with one apiece to Galem Geia and Chris Walsh.

For Mundy Bay Warriors Esra Langlo scored two tries with one each to Gary James, Daniel Nallajar and Gary Marpoondin. Luke James chipped in with a goal.

In the first game of the day Brothers retained their unbeaten record when they took the points by technical forfeit against 2010 premiers Butler Bay Bulls.

Mr Dabea said the game was called off 20 minutes into the first half when a Bulls player suffered an injury leaving only eight players on the field of a normal team number of 13. Brothers were leading at the time and are the only undefeated club and alone at the top of the points table.

There will be no fixtures on the coming weekend because a Palm Island side travels to Ayr for a Foley Shield selection trial against Bowen district. Round four will be held on May 14.

Ladder after round 3:

1 Brothers 12 points

2 Skipjacks 8 on %

3 Hornets 8

4 Jets 4

5 Butler Bay Bulls 4

6 Mundy Bay Warriors 0

Footy footy footy!!!

Hornets scored a historic first win in the Palm Island domestic rugby league competition when they defeated last year's runners up Jets 32-10 in round one of the 2011 PIRL.

Hornets entered the competition last year and finished with the wooden spoon but recruited well in the off-season.

Hornet's spokesman Bill Landers said his players stood out "across the park". "The boys all did well and we are confident of a big season," he said.

Mr Landers nominated the best players as Victor Courtney, Donovan Cannon, Leigh Chandler,

Christian Richardson, Rob Snyder, Ben Kennedy and exciting youngster Darryl Bramwell.

"Darryl is a certain Barracudas rep player in the near future," Mr Landers said.

In other games Skipjacks defeated premiers Butler Bay Bulls and Brothers rolled Mundy Bay Warriors 44-32.

Six clubs are competing this season after Mount Bentley Raiders withdrew. Round one games were played on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in the week before Easter Friday after two previously scheduled starts to the season were postponed.

PALM Island rugby league players have been training hard in preparation for their Foley Shield selection trial match against Bowen in the Burdekin on May 7.

A large number of Palm Islanders will travel to Ayr for what will be history in the making.

Lloyd Morgan has coached the Palm Island side and said his charges had been training strongly for several weeks.

Morgan was at the helm of the Butler Bay Bulls in their last three Palm Island domestic club competition premiership wins.

"We have had about 40 players training and they are very keen and I reckon we will field a good team against Bowen," he said.

A squad of 25 players won't be finalised until Friday.

Players will certainly strip fit in the trial with Ray Dennis and Chris Gundy from the Palm Island Boxing Club agreeing to help in that department.

"They will be belting big tyres with a hammer and will end up fit," Dennis said.

From the May 7 trial a combined Palm Island/Bowen team will be picked for the historical debut in the prestigious Foley Shield rugby league competition from May 20 to 22.

Mr Morgan said some of the players who had been training hard included Fred Bulsey, Raoul Miller, Austin Walsh, Clinton Byrnes, Brian Conway and Brian Kidner.

"There is a good pretty feeling about it over here," Morgan said.

ROUNDS TWO & THREE SUMMARIES ON P 15



Local footy star Fred Bulsey has been training hard hoping for selection into a combined Palm Island/Bowen team to play in the Foley Shield

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