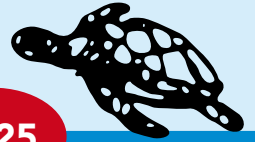




Palm Island Voice

Your Community
Your Newsletter
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 23 February 2012

\$1.25

Issue 98

Residents' anger at being searched again (and again)...



'ENOUGH'!

PALM Island residents are angry police have searched their bags again on at least two separate occasions as they boarded the Sealink ferry in Townsville last week.

Waiting to hear...



Mum, Sandra Kerr, with Ashton Kerr and Breeannah Cannon (in front) waiting for the Deadly Ears mob to help them out. More on page 5...

Regular bag checks have been conducted either at the Breakwater ferry terminal in Townsville or at Palm's Reel Women Jetty over the past few weeks. Several passengers were keen to offer the *Palm Island Voice* their opinion on the searches.

Football official Vernon Walsh questioned why such rules should apply to his beloved island and not on mainland Townsville.

"We feel as if we have rules on us that others don't and it is not right," Mr Walsh said.

Bwgcman Radio station manager Tim Miller said the searches were "degrading".

"The police are treating Palm Islanders like second class citizens and in that category are the white people who work on the Island," he said.

Bronwyn Kerr described the searches as disgraceful and said they were targeting Aboriginal people.

"They found nothing, this is really a bad law," she said.

On a separate occasion, just days later resident Phillip Kyle said he was angry three officers could be spared by Queensland Police to conduct the searches.

"There is a sex predator on the loose in Townsville and they send three down here to search bags," Mr Kyle said.

Nominate your Palm Island 'Legends of League'!

Palm Island Voice readers are being asked to nominate past and present players for a Palm Island all-time "Legends of League" team.

Several readers have provided the names of those they felt could make such a side.

Players such as Josh Geia, John Baira, Lennie Malone, Tony Camazuli, Vern Daisy, Jim Baira,

Pat and Steve Walsh, Algon Walsh, Hector Poynter, Roy Nallajar Ron Geia, Cedric Harvey, Billy Barnes have been nominated already by avid league fan Bill Blackley.

"There would be so many and some I have missed," he said. Others to get a mention from various sources included Vince Thimble, Jason Thimble, David Geia and David Baira.

Contact the *Palm Island Voice* directly or write down your nominations and leave them at Council reception. We'll publish them in our 100th Issue (due out the Issue after next on Thursday 22 March - see deadline & contact details page 10!).

MEANWHILE Skipjack's star Jason Bulsey, pictured above with Rosina Clay, said he was "really looking forward" to this weekend's Palm Island Allblacks carnival.

More about the PI Allblacks Carnival on pages 6 and 7!



More time to enrol

Palm Islanders and other Queenslanders looking to enrol before local government elections now have more time to do so.

Attorney General and Local Government Minister Paul Lucas said the move means people will be able to enrol to vote in Local Government Elections until February 25, the same day as rolls close for State Government elections.

"What this means is that voters who have moved or their enrolment is not up to date enrol for both Local Government elections as long as their enrolment is received before February 25," he said.

"If you've moved house or will be 18 years old by April 28, it's important to ensure you are on the rolls so you are eligible to exercise your democratic right to vote.

"Also, with council elections, you are only able to vote on the day if you are in your Local Government Area.

"However, if you are away, you need to organise in advance for a postal or pre-poll vote.

"Updating your details for Local Government elections mean you will automatically be enrolled for the State election."

The 2012 State Government election will be held on Saturday 24 March, followed by Local Government elections on Saturday 28 April.

For more information or to enrol to vote, go to www.ecq.qld.gov.au



Ivy-Rose Sam, Costa Sam, David Sam and Ngarlie Sam at the Breakwater Ferry terminal about to return to Palm Island. David recently won a national boxing title at the Australian Association Amateur Titles in Hobart. Well done David & welcome back!!! More boxing on p 11... 2

Former workers' camp adds 16 rooms to visitors' accommodation options



CEO Ross Norman and caretaker Assan Clay are pictured above at the former Laurie Lindner camp, which has been taken over by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.

The 16 rooms are being upgraded and will be converted into motel style accommodation to be rented out to visitors on a nightly, weekly or monthly basis.

There is a shared shower and toilet block, a covered area to sit and eat, and a great kitchen.

Visitors have already described it as a top facility.



Councils win software \$

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is one of 12 Indigenous Councils across Queensland set to benefit from State Government grant to assist in replacing key financial management software.

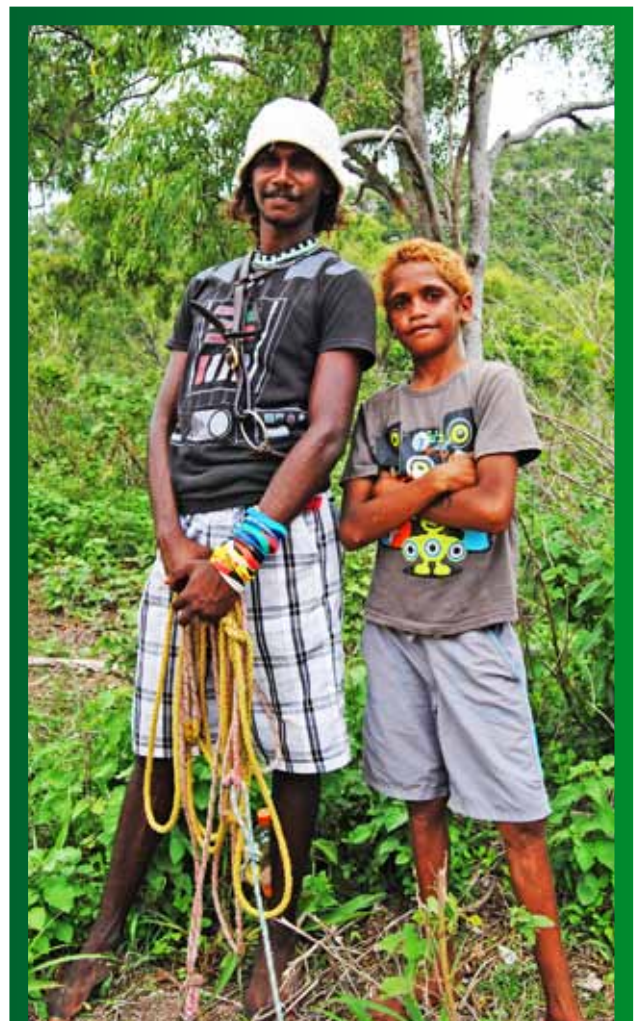
Minister for Local Government Paul Lucas said the Councils had worked together to identify a common solution that would result in cost savings for their communities.

"I commend their approach to source a common system and obtain a group rate as it enables better sharing of resources, portability of skills and value for money," he said.

"The grant will be provided through the Department of Local Government and Planning's Indigenous Councils' Capacity Building

Program."

Indigenous Councils to benefit from the grant are: Aurukun Shire Council, Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, Mornington Shire Council, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council, Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council and Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council.



Russell Snyder & Paul Parker looking for a ride home from behind the swamp

Road works on track

Infrastructure works on Palm Island still going full steam ahead while the rain stays away, hopefully long enough to see these roadworks on Bamboo Creek Road completed in time.

It's a tough job with a view which is hard to take, but workers seem happy enough to take trek up the mountain each day to get to work.

Visitors, such as Andrew Woods (*below left*) have also been busy, including developing an appreciation for Palm Island's spectacular scenery. Late last

month he was delivering road base to the Bamboo Creek Road work site driving a golden oldie 1988 model Ford Louisville. Andrew works for his brother's company, Woods Truck Hire, and said he was enjoying his time on Palm. "This is a really beautiful place," he said.

He said the Louisville came over the ocean by barge from Lucinda past Ingham.

"My brother purchased the truck from Caboolture, it goes really well and is suited to this work," he said. "I am picking up material from near the jetty and delivering it to an area where it is being stockpiled for the upgrade of a road up to the hill here."



'Stay well away from power lines' – Ergon

Palm Islanders can look forward to continued reliable power supply into the future with vital maintenance works underway on power lines and plans to update equipment at the Island's power station.

Ergon Energy Regional Services Manager Geoff Bowes said crews had been working on routine maintenance around the Island's electricity network in recent weeks that would continue to ensure a safe and reliable supply.

"We are also finalising plans to replace one of the generators

at our Palm Island power station in the near future," Mr Bowes said earlier this month. He said the estimated \$1.3 million investment in the Palm Island power station would help keep a reliable supply of power available to Ergon Energy's customers. "Our first priority is always

keeping our network safe," he said.

"However I would urge everyone in the community – whether on Palm Island or anywhere – to ensure their children know to stay well away from power lines and treat this equipment with the respect it deserves."

Deadly Ears team back soon

The State Government's Deadly Ears team visited Joyce Palmer Health Centre for the first time late last year to provide Ear Nose & Throat clinic and surgery for the children of Palm Island and is set for a return visit at the end of April...

Deadly Ears is Queensland Health's Statewide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ear Health Program for children working towards managing and reducing the high rates of ear disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The team wanted to thank the health centre staff for being so prepared for their visit.

"Our visit increased the work load to the local area staff and we have been impressed," they said.

Efforts particularly noticed by the team were the cleanliness and tidiness of the Health Centre, thanks to cleaning staff, the food supplied for both the Deadly Ears team and the children following their surgery, and the efficiency of the health care staff in organising clinic appointments and attendance.

"It was great to see the staff members taking the opportunity to participate in professional development to increase the understanding of treatment of ear disease in children," they said.

"The client attendance at clinic was excellent.

"We saw 99 clients over 1 ½ days and did surgery on 19 clients over 2 days.

"Yes, it is a long wait for some on surgery day but they waited and remained hungry just so they could get their surgery done.

"Thank you to the children and parents for your patience on these days."

Deadly Ears will return next year on 30 April – 1 May for clinic and 2 – 3 May for surgery.

"We will return about 6 months after this," they said.

"Comments from community members were that it was wonderful to have their procedures done here and not have to travel to Townsville and leave family."



It's nearly Palm Island Allblacks C

TWO Palm Island Barracudas rugby league sides will face off from Woorabinda, Hope Vale, Yarrabah, Charters Towers, at a gala Allblacks carnival here on 25 and 26th February

The two-day carnival will be held at the football oval and is expected to attract up to 2000 local and visiting team supporters and spectators.

Bindal Sharks from Townsville and Murray Island Descendants from Cairns will be the teams to beat, both being from North Queensland's two biggest cities.

The carnival has been organised by coach of the 2011 PIRL winners (Jets), Norman Bounghi, and Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey.

Each of the teams will have a huge incentive with \$8000 on offer for the winners and \$2500 for the runners up.

Barracudas Gold and Barracudas Green will be our own local heroes, ready to take on the visitors.

Team officials will include former Newcastle Knights NRL star Milton Thaiday, Skipjacks club champion forward Fred Bulsey, Genami Geia, Lloyd Morgan and Vaughn Charles. Three referees will travel from Cairns to handle the games which start with a round robin in two pools on Saturday 25 February at 9am.

Games will be played over 20-minute halves and will continue under floodlights into the evening.



**All are welcome to the Inaugural
Palm Island
Barracudas
Rugby League
Allblacks Carnival
25-26 February 2012**

**Max 8 teams – nominate your team today!!!
Nomination \$1300 per team**

– For more information contact Norman Bounghi 0448370969 –

On Sunday 26 February, quarter finals will commence followed by semi finals and the grand final late in the day.

"Many of the players will arrive on the Sealink ferry from Townsville the day before the carnival, and the Cairns and Hope Vale players and supporters by barge from Lucinda," Mr Bounghi said.

They won't leave Palm Island until the day after the carnival.

Most will be billeted with local relatives and families or accommodation.

Some of Queensland's most talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players

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Carnival time!!!

See an invasion of teams from Cairns and Townsville this Saturday.



on display at the carnival.

The Descendants side is being organised by Cairns-based referee Richard Grogan who has regularly officiated over games at the Island of Origin Series on Badu Island, the Zenadth Kes on Thursday Island and Bamaga's Dan Ropeyarn carnival.

"They are all from Cairns and are of Torres Strait Islanders descent mostly Mer," Mr Bounghi said. Descendants are sure to have many supporters

amongst people of TSI heritage living on Palm.

Palm Island sides competed at the Hope Vale Allblacks carnivals held last October.

Mr Bounghi said the Hope Vale team was also strong, having been organised by members of the Bowen family who are relatives of Cowboys star Matty Blair.

The Palm Sharks reached the grand final of the Townsville Allblacks carnival last November but lost to Cannonballs.

Abinda is also expected to field a very strong team with many of their players having lived on Palm Island as well.



SOME of the best and toughest forwards and fastest backs will compete at the Palm Island Allblacks carnival this weekend.

The "up front" clashes are likely to resemble a battle of Panzer tanks during World War II.

However there will be no metal but lots of bone jarring tackles as the sides try and get on top to give their speedy backs plenty of scoring opportunities.

Harry Mooka (above), regarded as amongst the top bracket of Allblacks carnivals forwards in Queensland will line up for TSI side Descendants from Cairns.

"I'll be playing for Descendants and most of our players will be in their first season but there will be the likes of brothers Brian and Fenton Murgha from Yarrabah and Lewis and Bert Whap from Mabuia Island," he said.

"We are looking forward to coming to Palm."

As a prop forward Mr Mooka's Allblacks carnival record is outstanding, having played in winning sides at Cairns, Townsville, Thursday Island, Badu Island, Mount Isa, Rockhampton and Bamaga.

He is now hopeful of adding Palm Island to his CV of winning venues even though the Barracudas' forwards will have other ideas.

Mooka's impressive record includes:

2009: Island of Origin on TI for winner Mulga United and won forward of carnival.

2010: Daniel Ropeyarn cup (Bamaga) Played for NPA side and winners Alau Eagles, and won player of the finals.

2011: Player of the Carnival at Island of Origin on Badu.

2011: Gordonvale Allblacks played for Cairns Descendants; captained Waur United from Moa Island at the Daniel Ropeyarn cup carnival in Bamaga; and Argun warriors at the Cairns Allblacks (all winners).

2011: Zenadth Kes Torres Strait Cup played for Malu Kiwai from Boigu Island and won that comp alongside Ben Barba and his three Brothers.

2011: Major Cup (Mt Isa) played for Boigu island and won that.

2011: Cooktown Allblacks captained Cairns Panthers to the grand final and fell short by a golden point field goal.

Palm Island Voice

Public & Community Notices

Palm Island Voice Public & Community Notices are your best choice for anniversaries, birthdays, Meeting Notices, sales & all your classified needs - and most of them are free!



Flying to
Palm Island
7 days a week
To make a booking
phone 4759 3777
www.westwing.com.au



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

is closed every second Friday
(Council pay week) for RDO.

**The next RDO is
Friday 2 March.**

REMEMBER: the Bank & Post
Office will now close each
Council RDO.

**For emergencies on Friday
please call 0458 789 011**

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

Proposed Council Meeting Dates

FEBRUARY 2012			
Delegation Meeting	TUESDAY	FEBRUARY	14/2/2012
Land Trust Meeting	SATURDAY	FEBRUARY	25/02/2012
General Meeting	WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY	29/02/2012

MARCH 2012			
Delegation Meeting	TUESDAY	MARCH	13/03/2012
Land Trust Meeting	SATURDAY	MARCH	24/03/2012
General Meeting	WEDNESDAY	MARCH	28/03/2012

APRIL 2012			
Delegation Meeting	TUESDAY	APRIL	10/04/2012
Land Trust Meeting	SATURDAY	APRIL	21/04/2012
General Meeting	TUESDAY	APRIL	24/04/2012

MAY 2012			
Delegation Meeting	TUESDAY	MAY	8/05/2012
Land Trust Meeting	SATURDAY	MAY	26/05/2012
General Meeting	WEDNESDAY	MAY	30/05/2012

*Happy Birthday to Yolanda Kerr from the
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council & Staff*

Community Notice

An Action Group has been formed for the Damage to Community Infrastructure & Private Property (Break-ins). The next meeting will be held as follows:

DATE: Wednesday 29th February

TIME: 10:00am

VENUE: Meeting Room (on Football Field)

If you would like to be a part of the action group, please register your interest at the Council Office. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council on 4770 1177.

Community Action Grants are now open for application to help communities improve their local environment. Applications close 27 March 2012.

Types of funding activities include:

- encouraging community participation in protecting, restoring endangered ecological communities
- improving land management practices
- recording and using traditional ecological knowledge
- developing natural resource management plans
- developing land and sea country plans
- increasing and improving biodiversity
- reducing critical threats to native habitats
- reducing the spread and impact of Weeds of National Significance
- tree planting and other revegetation activities
- dune rehabilitation
- reducing the impact of vertebrate pest animals
- increasing wildlife habitat

For further information please visit: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/cag/index.html>

**MAYOR LACEY & COUNCILLORS
CORDIALLY INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO ATTEND**

**The Official Unveiling of the
Palm Island Community Monument**

Including the opening of the:
Indigenous Knowledge Centre
Community Meeting Room and
Arts Centre located within the Cultural Precinct

**Official Proceedings to Commence at: 10.00am
Venue: Clock Tower
Date: 24th February 2012**

**February Birthdays for the
Geia Family!!!**

**1 - Happy 21st Birthday to
Alinah Geia**

**8 - Happy 50th Birthday
to Josh (Camel) Geia**

**12 - Happy 23rd Birthday
to Obe Geia Jnr**

**12 - Happy 4th Birthday to
Eva Geia jnr**

**25 - Happy Birthday to
Mickey Geia**

**With love & best wishes to
all from Geia families,
Palm Island & Townsville**



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services is about people and delivering the services they may need at different stages of their lives. It includes Child Support, Centrelink and Medicare as well as CRS Australia and Australian Hearing. Each day, about a million people make contact with the Department of Human Services and each year we deliver more than \$90 billion in payments. The department is seeking highly talented and motivated people to join its team.

Customer Service Advisor (Identified)

Indigenous, Regional and Remote Servicing

APS 3 non-ongoing intermittent/irregular
Palm Island
Salary \$52,849 – \$58,903
PN: 747-201112

As a Customer Service Advisor with Department of Human Services (DHS) you will assist people from a range of backgrounds to access important government services. You will be required to identify needs and make decisions based on the individual requirements, policy, legislation and outcomes sought by government and client agencies.

In order to perform the duties of this identified position effectively, the occupant needs to have an understanding of the issues affecting Indigenous people and an ability to communicate sensitively and effectively with them.

A non-ongoing employee engaged as intermittent or irregular (a 'casual' employee) will receive a 20% loading on their hourly rate of salary in recognition of the irregular nature of the work.

Accommodation is not provided by DHS and it can be difficult to obtain and expensive.

To apply: Go to www.humanservices.gov.au or telephone Sharon Ware on **07 4033 4920** for more information and an application kit.

Applications close at 5pm on 9 March 2012

Palm Island Voice 2012

Advertising Information Rates & Dates

Page Sponsorship Banners

(14 days to pay, invoiced on publication)

18 point (about 1 cm), single colour, include your logo and/or multiple weeks by negotiation with the Editor - only \$99 (+ GST) per page! Your contribution will help us to print extra colour pages and photographs of your favourite sporting team or event as required.

Display Ads

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

Add 10% for design work and another 20% for a guaranteed colour page in hard copy.

Full A4 Page \$450 + GST Colour \$540 + GST Half A4 Page \$230 + GST Colour \$276 + GST

Quarter A4 Page \$120 + GST Colour \$144 + GST

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 and material submitted no later than COB the next day. For more information contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au

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Hard copies of the Palm Island Voice are available at the following shops and newsagents in Townsville, Ingham & Cairns:

IN TOWNSVILLE:

MOONEY ST

NEWS & CASKET

- 86 Mooney St, Gulliver

KIRWAN NEWS

- 1 Forest Ave, Kirwan

BAMFORD LANE MINI MART

- 113 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

MOUNT VIEW NEWS

- 32 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

NEWS ON THE AVENUES

- 85 Burnda St, Kirwan

PARKSIDE NEWS

- 148 Bamford Lane, Kirwan

CRANBROOK CONVENIENCE STORE

- 476 Ross River Rd

IN INGHAM:

ZAGHINI'S IGA

82 Cartwright St, Ingham

AND IN CAIRNS:

ORCHID PLAZA NEWSAGENCY

Lake St, Cairns

Palm Island Voice 2012

<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>ISSUE NO</u>	<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u>
<i>Thursday 19 Jan</i>	96	THURSDAY 26 January
<i>Thursday 2 Feb</i>	97	THURSDAY 9 February
<i>Thursday 16 Feb</i>	98	THURSDAY 23 February
<i>Thursday 1 March</i>	99	THURSDAY 8 March
<i>Thursday 15 March</i>	100	THURSDAY 22 March
<i>Thursday 29 March</i>	101	THURSDAY 5 April
<i>Thursday 12 April</i>	102	THURSDAY 19 April
<i>Thursday 26 April</i>	103	THURSDAY 3 May
<i>Thursday 10 May</i>	104	THURSDAY 17 May
<i>Thursday 24 May</i>	105	THURSDAY 31 May
<i>Thursday 7 June</i>	106	THURSDAY 14 June
<i>Thursday 21 June</i>	107	THURSDAY 28 June
<i>Thursday 5 July</i>	108	THURSDAY 12 July
<i>Thursday 19 July</i>	109	THURSDAY 26 July
<i>Thursday 2 August</i>	110	THURSDAY 9 August
<i>Thursday 16 August</i>	111	THURSDAY 23 August
<i>Thursday 30 August</i>	112	THURSDAY 6 September
<i>Thursday 13 September</i>	113	THURSDAY 20 September
<i>Thursday 27 September</i>	114	THURSDAY 4 October
<i>Thursday 11 October</i>	115	THURSDAY 18 October
<i>Thursday 25 October</i>	116	THURSDAY 1 November
<i>Thursday 8 November</i>	117	THURSDAY 15 November
<i>Thursday 22 November</i>	118	THURSDAY 29 November
<i>Thursday 6 December</i>	119	THURSDAY 13 December

Please support us so we can continue to support you!

New boxers hit their stride in training

Hopes are high an influx of new youngsters will prove to be a major bonus for the Palm Island Boxing Club.

Assistant trainer Chris Evers said 10 senior and 16 juniors have become regular attendees at PCYC training sessions.

"There are a lot of new faces and most of the regulars here as well," he said.

Former star boxer Selwyn Seaton is back in training along with current champions Patrick Clarke, David Sam and Thomas Blanket.

"It is very good to see Selwyn back here," Evers said.

Not only is Seaton a polished pugilist but he is also a genuine role model for the younger brigade.

Sixteen-year-old Sam is hard at training after winning a national boxing title at Hobart earlier this month in the Youth Super Heavyweight division.

Mr Evers said the new boxers would be evaluated so see who is ready for a bout in coming months.

"There is a Boxing Association tournament on 17 March at Bundaberg which our boxers may go to but we just have to get finance for it," he said.

The team has also been invited to participate in the Sunstate Amateur Boxing League tournaments at Home Hill on 3 March, Charters Towers on 17 March, and at Townsville Kanaka Kings Club on 31 March.

If funding can be obtained some Palm boxers are certain to accept the invitation considering all three venues are close in compared to some of the longer trips they have

made in recent times.

Meanwhile back on the Island, male boxers have been in big numbers at training, not so women.

"We didn't have any girls here at training tonight," Mr Evers said.

The club remains hopeful that champion fighter Noby Clay will return to training soon and it is known quality boxer Reggie Palm Island has been spending lots of time with his partner and baby in Charters Towers.

Mr Evers looks set to take over as head trainer in coming months with veteran Ray Dennis on the verge of retirement.

"I know Chris will do a wonderful job," Mr Dennis said.



Enjoying the view!



Left: Alwyn Daley & Charmaine Inkerman; Right: Len James with granddaughter Shonette **11**

PALM Island born cricketing brothers Colin and Bernie Lamont shone at the Imparja Cup Indigenous cricket carnival at Alice Springs earlier this month.

Their efforts were followed closely by their many relatives on Palm, including Bernie's brother Victor Daisy (pictured).

Bernie and Colin live in Tasmania but *Palm Island Voice* was there in January and snapped some pics of them which have since been presented to Victor and another relative Margaret Parker.

Bernie is the leading run scorer in Imparja Cup history and lined up with Tasmania in the State and Territories Division.

Tasmania finished down the ladder



but Bernie scored one hard hitting innings.

Colin was not selected for Tasmania so played with Darwin in the Major Centres Division. While he was in Alice Springs Colin spoke to *Koori Mail* sports editor Graham Hunt.

"Darwin won the final in a cliff-hanger and Colin was named player of the series

and scored sixty-odd in the final," Mr Hunt told the *Palm Island Voice*. "He wanted to rub it into the Tassie selectors for not picking him in the Imparja Cup team, he said he wanted to let his bat do the talking."

The brothers say they want to visit Palm Island soon and possibly conduct a cricket coaching clinic.



*Clockwise from Right:
Irene Watson & g'son Ronald Maloney; Donna Starlight-Lenoy & Todd Pearson; Bobby Ryan; and Deputy Mayor Ray Sibley*



PUBLICATION DETAILS:

Contact Details + Publisher Details

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Ph 4770 1177 or 0419 656 277

Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson

and to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

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Palm Island Voice

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