



# Palm Island Voice

Your Community  
Your Newsletter  
Your Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

Thursday 9 May 2013

\$1.25

Issue 128

## Who will be Hunter of the Year?!

The tea trees are in flower which means it must be time to start looking for mackerel and this year the Bwngcolman Community School fishing program is geared up and ready to mix it out on the water.

The Step-Up boys and the Gr 9/10 Duke of Edinburgh Award boys will be competing for the Hunter of the Year award to find out once and for all who can really hunt and who will be left to gather.

The fishing program will not only see the boys catching fish but also learning many skills from making rigs, tying knots and catching bait to working out tides and the importance of keeping their spots secret.

As an offshoot, we will also be looking into teaching budgeting type skills so the boys can appreciate the cost of things like tackle and fuel.

Our first two trips out were quite successful with Zac Roma & Dan Namoa landing two nice mackerel during a morning trail and the older boys getting amongst the nannygai on a night session around our beautiful island.

*With many thanks to Joe Istria for words & pics.*



### Anzac Day Ode

They shall grow not old, as  
we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the  
sun and in the morning we  
will remember them.



Full story with more  
pics on pages 4-5

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# Is it Beau or Sam? He said, 'Sam, I am, who is Beau?!'

For a minute there, passengers on a charter flight last month thought NRL Cronulla Sharks star and Channel 9 Footy Show personality Beau Ryan was taking them for a ride.

Turns out it was really Bluewater Aviation pilot Sam Farnell, who is a genuine look-alike of Ryan.

But the 25-year-old Sam had never heard of the NRL player.

"I am an AFL man from Melbourne," he said.

The pilot Googled the footballer on his mobile phone to find his image on screen.

"I suppose I do look like him," he said.



Passengers were impressed with Sam's flying ability and friendly attitude.

## News Bits

THE Townsville Bulletin has reported the Newman Government's confirmation Fantome Island could be the location for Townsville's youth boot camp.

Tenders have been sent out and Mayor Alf Lacey was reported to have spoken to Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie about the proposed site.

[http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2013/04/22/379792\\_news.html](http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/article/2013/04/22/379792_news.html)

MEANWHILE ABC News has reported an increase in violent crime on some Aboriginal communities, including Palm Island, over 12 months between 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

They also reported Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Wayne Butcher said alcohol restrictions had not solved the problem.

"They took away one substance and the drug marijuana has come into the community in a big way," Cr Butcher told the ABC.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-05-01/report-puts-spotlight-on-indigenous-community-violence/4662340?section=qld>



*Above: Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill security officers Gertie Richardson and Fred Bulsey snr; Below: David Bulsey and his daughter Cameron Bulsey, aged 8.*

## Out 'n About



# Strike '57 planning underway

Every year the Palm Island community remembers their fallen heroes and leaders on the special anniversary of the 1957 strike, known as “Strike '57”.

The day commemorates a time the whole community came together to fight for better wages and living conditions, Evelyn Lymburner, who is the daughter of striker Eric Lymburner, said.

“This made the authorities angry and knew that they needed to do something to disband the gatherings before it got out of hand,” she said.

“Because of fear for their family and life, the community unwillingly gave in but seven men stood strong, holding their ground and not adhering to the authorities – they were ‘going for broke’.

“The seven – **Albie Geia, Willie Thaiday, Eric Lymburner, Sonny Sibley, Bill Congoo, George Watson and Gordon Tapau** – were rounded up in an early hour dawn raid and forcibly removed from Palm Island on 14th June 1957, along with their wives and children.

“They were taken in handcuffs onto a boat in rough seas to the mainland Townsville and sent to other missions such as Cherbourg,

Woorabinda and Bamaga.

“Some of them wrote to the authorities and tried to go back to Palm Island but were refused because they were branded troublemakers, never to return again to the only home they knew.

“As a mark of respect for the ‘Magnificent Seven’, the Palm Island Aboriginal

Shire Council has arranged an officially declared public holiday for Palm Island.

“No more in silence, the whole community comes together each year participating and remembering the achievements and success we have today because of the Strike of 1957.”

## STRIKE '57 COMMEMORATION DAY

Monday, 3rd June 2013

‘A TIME TO REMEMBER AND BE PROUD’

‘Honouring our Past Leaders of this Community  
and the Seven Men who did not stand down ‘Going for Broke’.

Albie Geia  
Willie Thaiday  
Eric Lymburner  
Sonny Sibley  
Bill Congoo  
George Watson  
Gordon Tapau



Young and old attended ANZAC Day, making the commemoration ceremony a great success for Palm Island.

A visiting contingent of service personnel from Townsville was organised by Defence Indigenous Engagement Officer Lee Smallwood.

Others to fly in that morning included Army Private Kieren Marr, who has family connections to the Island, and Private Kevin Hourn, both from the 3rd Combat Signals Regiment along with Corporal Hiagi Mario of Defence Force Recruiting and RAAF Sgt Louise Cummings.

They brought wreaths, some of which were hand crafted at the Townsville Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. Soon after arriving, the five went to the Palm

# Lest we forget...

Island cemetery where they placed two of their wreaths on the grave of the late Bill Coolburra, a highly respected Palm Islander who served as a member of the famous Tunnel Rats for the Australian Army in the Vietnam War.

The main ceremony was held in the town square around the monument which includes the names of Palm Islanders who have served in various conflicts.

After a street march the ceremony commenced with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Alf Lacey giving an emotional speech during which he honoured those who had paid the ultimate price with their lives. "Amongst those killed at Gallipoli was an estimated 100 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander servicemen," Cr Lacey said.

After a hymn, Cr Lacey, Deputy Mayor Cr Mislam Sam and Cr Eddie Walsh were amongst the many who laid wreaths beside the monument.

They included police, Joyce Palmer Health Centre staff, families and relatives of ex-service men and women, members of the public and students from Bwgcolman Community and St Michael's Schools.





Current members of the Army Reserve including Privates David Geia, Frank Sibley and Bryan Conway were also proud to lay wreaths. MC Rio Walsh then read the Anzac Day ode.

The Last Post was played followed by the National Anthem and school captains raised the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian flags. A morning tea was provided where many elders spoke about their descendants who had served in wars.

At 1pm many gathered at the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill for the continuation of the commemoration which included a few games of Two Up.

Cr Lacey described the ceremony a great success and Ms Smallwood thanked the Palm community.

*FOOTNOTE: The day would not have been possible without the support of: Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Australian Defence Force, Queensland Police Service, Joyce Palmer Health Service, Queensland Ambulance Service, Bwgcolman State School, St Michael's Catholic School, Palm Island Quality Meats and the Coolgaree Sports Bar and Grill.*





**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council** is closed every 2nd Friday (Council pay week) for RDO. The next RDO is **Friday 24 May** For emergencies on Friday please call **0458 789 011**.

For more information contact Council on 4770 1177.

**PALM ISLAND  
ABORIGINAL  
SHIRE COUNCIL  
DELEGATION DAY  
MEETING  
WILL BE HELD  
TUESDAY 14th MAY  
2013  
PIASC BOARDROOM**

*If you would like to attend, please register your interest at the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.*

#### ABOUT THIS FONT:

The font used in this newsletter is called 'Dyslexie' and has been designed for people who have difficulty reading, especially those with dyslexia, so they can read more easily.

For more information see <http://www.studiostudio.nl>



Ferdy's Haven Alcohol Rehabilitation Aboriginal Corporation

## AA Sharing Night - Fridays

Ferdy's Haven Board, Management and Staff would like to invite existing members and all community members to Open AA Sharing every Friday Night. Come along and be in good company and share in harmony.



# Happy Birthday!!!

Best Birthday wishes to  
**Ikanau Conway** turning 8 on May 5,  
**Aaliyah Conway** turning 10 on May 4,  
also **Ronnie Watson** (12)  
& **Victoria Fraser** (8),  
both on May 6  
from Frank Conway and family.

# Barracudas advantage in new comp play-offs

An early start this year for Palm Island's seven-club domestic competition should give the Barracudas a big advantage when they contest the Remote Area Regional Rugby League Far North Queensland Challenge carnival in Cairns later this month.

The other combatants on 26-27 May will be Torres Strait, Southern Cape York, Northern Cape York, Three Rivers League and a combined Bowen/Collinsville.

Torres Strait will be selected from the Thursday Island based Kaiwalagal Rugby League competition which doesn't start until 11th May. The Northern Cape team will include players from clubs Mapoon, Weipa, Napranum Natives, Napranum United, Aurukun and NPA if the latter decides to participate.

"Those sides will be having a selection trial on Saturday 18th May in Weipa for the FNQ Challenge," QRL Northern Division Cairns based regional co-ordinator David Maiden told the Palm Island Voice.

Maiden also said the Southern Cape side, which would be picked from Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Coen and Lockhart River, were having their selection trials on 11th May in Coen. He said the Three Rivers League had been due to start on Friday 26th April. Three Rivers League consists of two sides from Hope Vale, and one from Wujal Wujal and Cooktown. Bowen/Collinsville started its competition a week after Palm.

## 2012-2013 Advertising & Subscription Rates

### ADVERTISE!

**Page Sponsorship: (1cm or 18pt banner ad across nominated page): \$120**  
**Quarter A4 Page: \$250 + GST**  
**Half A4 Page: \$350 + GST**  
**Full A4 Page: \$550 + GST**

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

### SUBSCRIBE!

**Individuals & Families:**

**\$30 (to end 06/13)**

**Community & NGOs: \$50 (to end 06/13)**

**Government: \$90 (to end 06/13)**

Subscription rates will vary according to when the initial subscription is taken out (eg if taken in January 2013 the rate will be half of the full year to take it to July 2013).

**To book an ad or to inquire about subscriptions please contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or via [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au)**

**Please support us so we can continue to support you!**

RTO 31905



Community Training Australia

## What are you waiting for!

### Become a Youth Worker!

Enrolments now open for:

CHC51408: **Diploma of Youth Work**



Train two nights per week right here on Palm Island!

### Taking enrolments this week!



**Study Now, Pay Later!**

(Conditions Apply)

**Secure your spot today and finish training in as little as 6 months!**

**For more information call Bree or Serra on 07 4772 4103 or visit [www.cta.com.au](http://www.cta.com.au)**



Multi-skilled sportsman Harry Reuben (*left*) has been a great signing for premiers Skipjacks in the local footy competition.

Harry is a quality utility player equally at home in the forwards or backs.

Super fit Harry is also a handy boxer and last year played rugby union in Townsville for Western Devils.

Harry said he had lined up with local clubs

Bwgcolman Brothers and Mount Bentley Raiders in some previous seasons.

“I think Skipjacks will go well again this season, we have good players in Jason Bulsey, Bryan Conway, Georgie Dabea, Ezra Langlo and Val Fulford,” he said.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Local PIRL fixtures scheduled for last weekend were postponed to this Saturday, 11th May. The *Palm Island Voice* will bring you full reports of all matches as they come to hand and as we do!

## Whirlwind start for new boxers

Two female boxers from Palm will make their tournament debuts in Blackwater, Central Queensland, this weekend.

The weekend will also mark 10-year-old boy Brayden Nallajar's first fight.

The young women will take the spotlight in two of the main fights of the day.

“It looks like Josie and Kathleen will fight two of the main events and that doesn't happen at many boxing tournaments,” trainer Ray Dennis said.

Mr Dennis said the lasses had been training strongly

at the Palm PCYC gym in preparation for their bouts.

“I have a high opinion of both,” Mr Dennis said.

“Josie will fight in the 60kg ladies division whilst 15-year-old Kathleen will be in the 47kg class.

“Brayden will be in the 29kg class.”

The veteran trainer said Josie had sparred seasoned male boxers Reggie and William Palm Island.

It will be a whirlwind trip with boxers and officials travelling from Palm to Townsville by ferry late on Friday afternoon before leaving by bus early on Saturday for the seven hour trip.

They will then leave immediately after the bouts to ensure they arrive in time to catch the 10.30am ferry back to Palm on Sunday.

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Fax 4770 1305 With thanks to Alf Wilson & to all the Palm Islanders who have contributed to this issue of the *Palm Island Voice*.

**Published by PIASC © 2013**

## **Palm Island Voice**

<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>ISSUE #</b>	<b>PUBLICATION DATE</b>
Thursday 16 May	129	THURSDAY 23 May
Thursday 30 May	130	THURSDAY 6 June
Thursday 13 June	131	THURSDAY 20 June
Thursday 27 June	132	THURSDAY 4 July