



FREE!

Issue 393

5 February 2024



PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons within this publication.

Nominations for Council open now

Returning Officer Tyneal Palesoo will be on Palm Island from tomorrow until Thursday 15 February to support candidates as they nominate for the 2024 council election to be held next month.

Tyneal will accept and process nominations before they close at midday next Tuesday, 13 February before doing the ballot paper order draw at 10am next Wednesday, 14 February.

ECQ First Nations Engagement Officer Quentin Barba said voting in a council election was important because it was about having a say about who made decisions in community.

“I’ve been travelling to as many communities as I can in the lead up to the elections to meet with people and help them understand why it’s important to vote,” he said.

“I’ve also been listening to mob, to find out how we can make voting and nominating for elections easier.

“This includes talking to people who wanted to nominate for council.

“Councils play a big role in community, so the elections are a chance to have a say about who your local decision-makers will be.”

Quentin said getting the word out about the election

was also important.

“We will always do as much as we can to let people know the election is happening,” he said.

“It’s great to see newspapers like the Palm Island Voice letting everyone know that their Returning Officer will be in town tomorrow.

“As we get closer to the election, we’ll share information on Facebook and through flyers and posters around the community, so make sure you follow the ECQ on social media.

“We’ll also work with local radio stations and other media to help get the word out.”

If people in Palm Island need any help or advice in relation to the election, they can have a yarn to Quentin by calling 0436 396 222.

Stay up-to-date with the elections by visiting the ECQ website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au



ECQ First Nations Engagement Officer Quentin Barba with Tara and Kimberly at Radio Cherbourg last week.

Stop and consider.

Get the **facts**

about elections from

Queensland’s electoral experts.

Learn more
ecq.qld.gov.au/electionfacts



Electoral
Commission
QUEENSLAND

Cyclone Wrap

Palm Island Council's work gangs have started on repairs in the wake of TC Kirrily (and Jasper) this week.

CEO Michael Bissell said they had expected some "pretty significant" winds, but it had not been as bad as it could have been.

"We were concerned for Butler Bay, which was exposed, but we went with the police and our local rangers and did a lot of engagement to get people into safety, putting them up with family or even in the motel," he said.

"We were well-prepared with the barge bringing additional food and fuel the day before, and our Local Disaster Management Group continuously monitored the situation as it unfolded."

Mr Bissell told several media outlets Palm Island did not have a cyclone shelter.

"We're Australia's largest remote Indigenous community with over 4,000 people here," he said.

"We don't have a cyclone shelter or a place of refuge.

"So our policy is to shelter in situ, ie stay indoors."

He said the island became isolated very quickly, even during TC Jasper before Christmas, which was 4-500km away from the community.

"We were isolated for three

days without the plane, the ferry and the barge service," he said.

"This time the planes and barges were stopped the day before, so we were isolated for that whole weekend."

He said the community had done well.

"You're always nervous when these big events are out there," he said.

"Cyclones are very unpredictable and the message that we do is stay calm, be prepared, and we think most people heed that."

He said other than some pontoon, ramps and road damage, they had weathered the storms and repairs were underway.

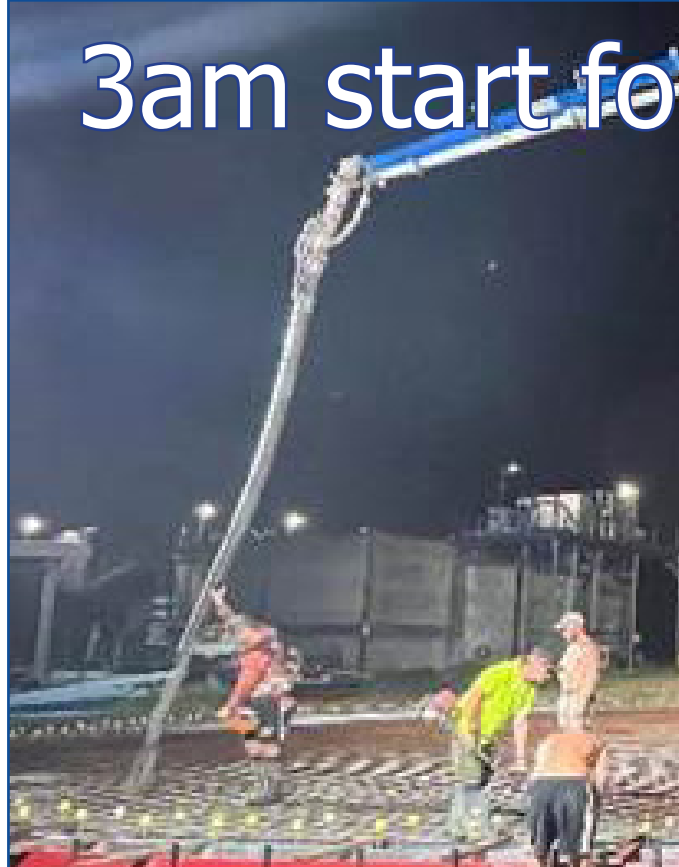
"Road repairs will be starting at the Rodeo Grounds this morning and will be working gradually to other sub-divisions," he said.

"Please be aware of workers on the roads.

"The pontoon and associated ramps are closed to all access until further notice and the ferry is boarding via the end of the jetty via the top ramp.

"It is likely to be closed for four weeks and we will keep community updated."

3am start for



The largest ever single concrete batch (concrete-making) plant

The 143 square metre concrete slab pour was started at 3.30am and finished by mid-afternoon as part of the foundations for a new balance tank at the Sewer Treatment Plant (STP).

Luke and Thaddeus worked with Shannon and Alan to finish the job, which was part of more than \$3.7 million in upgrades to the STP.

PIASC Water & Waste Reform Coordinator Steve Martin said the two million litre tank was to hold raw sewage before it was pumped into the STP.



"The slow improvement leaves the tank to be effective. It's a plan for the future."

Palm's biggest concrete pour



the pour on Palm Island was achieved by Council's team, led by Luke and Thaddeus, last week.

The new reservoir will balance out flows into the plant, allowing us to feed into the STP and therefore improve the quality of the final effluent leaving the plant," he said. This tank is part of a \$3.7million rebuild in front of the STP that is designed to make the plant run more efficiently and effectively. It will improve the quality of the effluent, increase the capacity of the tank and provide some redundancy so that operators have the time to maintain

equipment inside the plant.

"Construction of the new tank will begin later this month.

"We hope to have the entire new section working by the end of this year."

CEO Michael Bissell said the team did a great job.

"Their professionalism and commitment just goes to show the capacity of our batch plant team in producing and delivering concrete for our many and varied jobs and customers on Island," he said.

"Well done."



Digital Service centre kicking goals



Palm Island Community Company (PICC) is excited to share with Community that our call centre – the Palm Island Digital Service Centre (PIDSC) is live.

With the assistance and support of the Telstra trainers, the team started taking calls in October last year.

By November the team was flying solo, with no teachers and no trainers – just each other – and throughout the month they took a whopping 847 calls on their own.

The PIDSC team consists of eight superstars who all deserve their place in our hall of fame: Juelisa Geia (Operations Manager), Gary Prior (Team Leader), and our six Customer Contact Specialists; Yvette Nicholas, Teri Foster, Perry Thompson, Clarissa Wales, Janine Sibley and Sunshine Smith.

The second group of future Customer Contact Specialists was due to graduate from TAFE later in December, but unfortunately Cyclone Jasper had other ideas.

The graduation day was rescheduled to next Thursday – 15 February – and an open invitation to family and friends.

Last month a full team of 11 moved into the next phase

of specialised training, delivered by Telstra.

We look forward to them all joining the Palm Island Digital Service Centre team.

Keep an eye out on the PICC Facebook page for updates.



Palm Island

COMMUNITY COMPANY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Palm Island Community Company Limited ACN 640793728 is to be held at 11 am on Tuesday 27th February 2024, on the first floor of the Retail Centre, Palm Island

Business of Meeting

1. To receive and consider the Reports of the Company as delivered at the meeting.
2. To receive and consider the Statement of Financial Position and Performance of the company as at 30th June 2023 and supporting financial statements with the Directors Report and Declaration and the Report of the Auditor.
3. Director Harriet Hulthen will stand down by rotation in accordance with Rule 41 of the Company Constitution, and offer herself for re-election.
4. Director Raymond Palmer will stand down from his appointment to casual vacancy in accordance with Rule 42 of the Company Constitution, and offer himself for re-election.
5. To consider any other Nominations for election
6. To confirm as auditors of the company Crowe Audit Australia.

General Business

7. To receive and consider any other business brought forward in accordance with the Constitution.

Members Entitlement to appoint a Proxy

Members are informed of their right to appoint a single proxy under Clause 36 of the Constitution. The instrument or form appointing a proxy must be in writing and deposited with the registered office of the company at least 48 hours prior to the commencement time of the meeting. Proxy Forms are available at Bwgcolman House, Palm Island, and on the company's website: www.picc.com.au



THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*

(Issue 394*) will be Thursday 15 February
for publication on Monday 19 February



The **Palm Island Voice** is published *weekly if we have paid advertising, or otherwise fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at howeschowes@gmail.com Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor, Christine Howes. You can also follow us on Facebook! We have 2,900 'likes' and more than 3,000 followers! The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

Operating Hours for Palm Island Council are Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm

If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 5,400 'followers' on Facebook!!!