



Palm Island Voice

FREE!

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



New retail precinct ready to go!



Palm Island's new retail precinct opened last week, amidst high hopes it would be a 'game changer' for the economics of the island.

Federal Member for Herbert Phillip Thompson said the project, which provided

570m2 of retail space and 570m2 of commercial space, would bring major economic

benefits to Palm Island.

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE!



Pics thanks to Phillip Thompson & A Gabrielli Constructions



...from page one...

“This is a major win for the community of Palm Island,” Federal Member for Herbert Phillip Thompson said.

“Until now there has been limited access to basic supplies without having to travel to the mainland.

“Not only will this facility make everyday life more convenient for locals, it will also have massive flow-on economic benefits the wider community.

“It’s already created 12 jobs during construction, and another 40 are expected to come online here.

“Having a modern and diverse offering for visitors will also be a catalyst for growth in attracting tourists to the island.”

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the Australian Government’s \$9,994,432 investment in community infrastructure would provide long term benefits to Palm Island.

“In addition to making the region a more attractive place to live, this investment

will also produce long-term economic benefits to the region by increasing the number of new businesses which in turn creates job opportunities and additional flow-on economic advantages,” Mr McCormack said.

The \$10 million ‘retail and business precinct’ was funded by the Federal Government with an additional \$1 million State Government contribution.

A Gabrielli Constructions Strategic Planning & Operations Manager Maddy Gabrielli said they were honoured to have spent the past 12 months working with the community.

“We are honoured to have spent the last year working with the Bwngcolman community to complete their



new Retail Centre on Palm Island, and proud to continue to support the very talented local artists through the sponsorship of their upcoming art gallery,” she said.

“A big thank you to all involved, especially: Tippet Schrock Architects, John Friend Carpentry, Waltlec Industries, Cairns Steel Fabricators, Glen Carroll Painting, Simonsen Plumbing, Contract Building Services, Balarinji, Townsville Texture Coating, Lift Shop and the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council!”

Pics on this page thanks to Phillip Thompson & A Gabrielli Constructions

Maternal health team working on pregnancy app for new mums and dads

A new app for expectant Mums and their partners is being developed by Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre’s Maternal Health team, and they are excited, Promotion Officer Kiera Blackley says.

She said the app will help them keep track of progress throughout the pregnancy and provide a range of interesting links and resources.

“The app will consist of information about their pregnancy, like current weeks of pregnancy progression, as well as prompts and notifications for appointment dates with midwives and any upcoming clinic visits they will need to attend for antenatal care,” she said.

“It will also provide wonderful and interesting links and resources to a wide range of pregnancy health care

information for the women such as what to expect when expecting, how to stop smoking, the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, how to monitor your baby’s movements and a lot more.”

Clinical Midwife and Project Lead Jane Connell said there would also be an element of live interaction.

“There will be a forum where you can post and have contact with others on the app, and they will be able to message the maternity staff any questions they might



have,” she said.

Young Parent Support Midwife Julie Rockett said it was also possible the app’s usefulness might be extended until the new baby is three months old.

“Then we can include all the care information you might need such as the importance of vaccines and health care checks,” she said.

Bwngcolman artwork on show in new precinct

The Bwngcolman Retail Centre pays tribute to the community through its artwork, A Gabrielli Constructions Strategic Planning & Operations Manager Maddy Gabrielli says.

“Based on original artworks by three local artists, the facade captures the natural beauty of the island community, representing the ocean and the night sky,” she said.

“We were particularly excited to have the opportunity to work with Balarinji which was a wonderful opportunity to bring together and promote a group of local artists from

Palm Island, and ensure the building is reflective of the diverse values and beliefs of the Bwngcolman community.

“After the Balarinji workshop, artwork from three local Palm Island artists was chosen to create the layers forming the exterior art facade of the Centre. Works by Jesse James, Joshua Friday, and Ian Palmer have also been selected and will be gradually added.”

She said through the project a group of artists formed the

Palm Island Arts group which has successfully tendered on the creation of an art workshop and gallery in the new building, with the backing of A Gabrielli Constructions.

“They look forward to showcasing their work and culture to a broader audience with the launch of their website and gallery later this year,” she said.



Garbutt girls ready to make history

Garbutt Magpies Australian Rules Club in Townsville will play the Townsville AFL women's competition with a senior team for the first time in 32 years this year.

The last time Garbutt Magpies had any senior team in the local AFL was in 1988.

A large majority of the team will be members of the Ross family.

The Magpies formed in 1956 and were an important part of the Garbutt suburb community in Townsville, producing champion footballers some of whom included the late Zac Sam, Ricco Butler, David Nogar, Noel Ross, Harry Akee, Francis

Tapim, David Smallwood, Morris Bowman, Russell Butler, Gordon Ross, Wally Tallis and Michael Horope.

Garbutt Magpies Club President Nicole Ross (*pictured*) said the club's reinstatement back into the competition was due to countless years of hard work and will undoubtedly help the community in the future.

"It's an unreal feeling to be back," she said.

"It means everything to the Garbutt community and the elders.

"We've worked on it for years and the endless work done behind the scenes has been unreal.

"We wouldn't have come this far if not for the team."

AFL Queensland's State Manager – Senior Football Operations, Barry Gibson, said the Magpies had worked extremely hard to put themselves into a position where they could gain entry back into the senior space.

"The Garbutt Magpies history dates back some 64 years, so it's fantastic that they have been able to put themselves in a position to expand on that history," Mr Gibson said.

"With more and more young females being exposed to our game through junior football, and the rapidly growing Q Schools Cup, AFL Queensland is looking forward to the role the Garbutt Magpies will play in providing opportunities for females within their community group to participate in football in Townsville."

They will play their first game on Saturday March 21.



**OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 295) will be
Thursday 5 March
for publication on Thursday 12 March!**

The **Palm Island Voice** is published fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor. You can follow us on Facebook! We have 2,549 'likes'!

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