

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

**Issue 415.1
16 December 2024**



Premier drops in on Christmas Cup

Queensland Premier David Crisafulli, Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Fiona Simpson and local member Adam Baillie have thanked Palm Islanders for their hospitality after they dropped in to check out the first day of action in this year's Christmas Cup on Friday.

Council organised a series of events for the visiting Parliamentarians, including a morning tea with elders, engagement with Council and Councillors from Palm Island and

Woorabinda, and officially opening the Palm Island Christmas Cup Rugby League tournament.

Premier Crisafulli said the hot weather hadn't stopped them.

"Thanks for having us," he said. Mayor Lacey said it was a privilege to have them on board.

MORE PICS & YARNS INSIDE!



Georgia scores her first job!

NRL Cowboys House Student Georgia has secured her first job.

The 15-year-old St Margaret Mary's student from Palm Island started her new part time job at Chempro Chemist Domain Central last month.



After completing work experience at Chempro in Term 4 of Year 10, Georgia submitted her resume and was successful.

Now, with her very own uniform and name badge her achievement is sinking in.

"This is my very first job and I'm so happy," Georgia said.

"I did work experience here and I loved it, the team has been great, super helpful and really nice.

"It's great that I'm getting the retail experience, and I love serving the customers.

"I have been very nervous and felt super shy in the past, I didn't know that I'd get to this point but I'm very happy I did."

Chempro Townsville Retail Manager Teresa Veal said Georgia was a great fit.

"Georgia has settled in really well and she seems to really enjoy being with the team," she said.

"I've seen Georgia's confidence grow during her time here already.

"She is a kind and caring young woman so the healthcare field could be a wonderful fit for her."

Georgia will continue with her part-time role as she embarks on her senior secondary school years while boarding at NRL Cowboys House.

She said she was grateful to House Career Transition Officer Leita for introducing her to the Chempro team and encouraging her to take the leap.



New remote jobs program ready to roll



Eligible employers in remote areas can now apply for grants to employ local job seekers as part of the first round of grants for the Federal Government's new Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program.

The program was tested through community consultations and modelled through job trials in more than 300 communities nationally, including Palm Island.

As a result of the Palm Island trial, local jobseeker Taneeka Palmer (*pictured*) was appointed as one of 20 new community service workers with Palm Island Community Company.

"I feel confident in this role, thanks to a huge support system behind me, that continues to help me witness and experience the greater purpose of the role for myself, my peers and my community," Taneeka said.

The RJED program was the first step in replacing the Community Development Program (CDP).

The second stage would design and deliver a new remote employment service to support people who were looking for work or may need help to get job-ready, with the skills and resources they need.

The first grant round will run until February, ahead of a second grant round opening.

For more information about the RJED grants, or to access the dedicated helpdesk, visit www.niaa.gov.au/remote-jobs

Premier & Minister meet with Elders





Discussions with Council covered many topics, including the Premier's commitment to delivering private home ownership on Palm Island, investing in new homes and associated civil and essential services infrastructure, supporting tourism on Island and supporting Council's focus on economic development through local apprenticeships, employment and businesses.

Councillors Bulsey and Oui said they were impressed with Premier Crisafulli's commitment to private home ownership and hoped they could be among the first to take it up when it became available early in the new year.

After opening the Christmas Cup, Premier Crisafulli kicked off the game and hoped into the commentary box to help with the live broadcast on TV and radio.

Minister Simpson acknowledged the importance of the event to community, which was underscored by the live stream viewing results which showed over 100,000 downloads for the live TV over the three day event.

Council thanks Premier Crisafulli, Minister Simpson and Adam for their attendance and looks forward to working closely with them in 2025.





Premier & Minister open footy carnival





CHAMPIONS!

Stumbo Walsh Snr Memorial Team



Men's Grand Final

Stumbo Walsh Memorial 19 def
Barracudas One 6

Women's Grand Final

Waandi Warriors 20 def Birri Guthalins 0

Best Forward

Anthony Gray

Best Back

Gordon Daisy

Player of the Carnival

Andre Wright

Merit Team

(pictured next page)

1. David Mills-Prior
2. Rachine Doyle
(most tries over the weekend)
3. Brock Barba
4. Oshay Tyerman
5. Rayzarlin Pearson
6. Zach Mossman
7. Joshua Natoli
8. Anthony Gray
9. Diesel Jacobson
10. Yaza Stephens
11. Tareece Baira-Gela
12. Andre Baira
13. Gordon Daisy

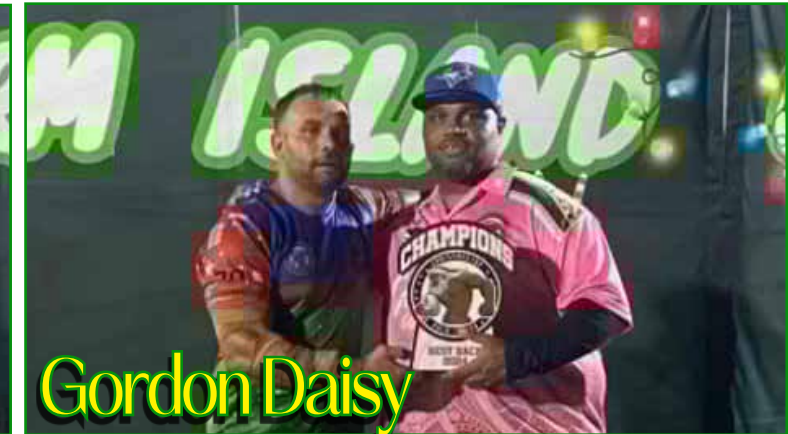
WOMEN'S RANKINGS		
POSITION	TEAM	POINTS
1.	BIRRI GUTHRALINS	10
2.	WAANDII WARRIORS	9
3.	ROSIE MINDA MEMORIAL	5
4.	BARRACUDETTE	0.5
5.	CHERBOURG TIDDAS	0

MEN'S RANKINGS		
POSITION	TEAM	POINTS
1.	CHERBOURG BROTHERS	10
2.	NORTHERN CROCS	9.5
3.	STUMBO WALSH MEMORIAL	9
4.	BARRACUDAS 1	7.5
5.	YARRABAH YULU	5.5
6.	WOORABINDA WARRIORS	5
7.	MT. BENTLEY RAIDERS	5
8.	WAANDII WARRIORS	4.5
9.	STINGRAYS	4.5
10.	BARRACUDAS GREEN	3.5
11.	MANTA RAYS	1
12.	BAY SIDE TRIDENTS	0.5
13.	WALLABY POINT BOARS	0

CHAMPIONS!



Waandi Warriors



Andre Wright

Gordon Daisy

2024 Merit Team





Committee, Live Stream Team & Volunteers



Birri Guthalins



Rosie Minda Memorial



Cherbourg Sisters



Cherbourg Brothers



Woorabinda Warriors



**Northern Crocs
(Yarrabah)**



Barracudas One

Our Graduates



LEFT: High academic achiever Christopher Pearson was the first Bwgcolman student to graduate year 12 from St Brendan's Collage Yeppoon earlier this year. Well done Christopher!

Big Congratulations to the Year 6 Class at Bwgcolman Community School. The students and families had an amazing celebration and kup murri in the school hall. Speakers were Principal- Karen Heales- Geia, Year 6 Teacher- McKenna Neises, Councillors Mersane Oui and Ebanese Oui and our school captains (also pictured with their families) were Anukie Miller and Emmakita Baira-Miller.

Bwgcolman Community School Graduates 2024

- Emmakita Baira-Miller
- Jaala Barry
- Latrell Burns
- Nathaniel Chookie

- Leonard James
- Davetta Kennedy
- Selwyn Kennedy
- Kassia Kerr
- RoberT Ketchup-Charles
- Damien Langdon
- De'Vante Lowatta

- Connie Luff
- Anukie Miller
- Que'shon Nallajar
- Thomas Oui
- Leonie Parkinson
- Heather Pompey
- Shavontae Poynter-fulford

- Cedella Prior ★
- Jae'narie Robertson-Maloney
- Chyarnah Sibley
- Laveya Sibley-Johnson
- Kiessa Thimble





Mayor's Christmas Appeal a success!

The Salvation Army donated toys and food boxes for this year's Mayor's Appeal, with support from Council in the form of hams for more than 120 elders and families in need.

The Mayor's Appeal was based at the PCYC with some help from Santa, who dropped in to give presents to the kids.

He even had his own elves to help him give the gifts out.

Mayor and Councillors worked through the day ensuring all hampers were delivered to the community.

We would like to thank ABC reported for coming over for the day, and thanks to the partners – PCYC, PICC, the Salvation Army and the YWAM Youth Group – who contributed to making the day successful.



We Are Hiring! Calling All 2024 School Leavers and others interested!



We are extending the opportunity for school leavers and others interested to apply for these positions to 17 January 2025

We are excited to announce five building and construction apprenticeships commencing in 2025!

Launch your career with our 2025 Building & Construction Apprenticeships at the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council! This is a unique opportunity to gain hands on experience, learn essential skills, and contribute to meaningful projects that benefit the community—all while training in the building and construction industry.

We're seeking motivated individuals ready to learn the trades, work on real projects, and start building their future with us!

Why Join Us?

- Earn while you learn – Get paid to develop your skills on the job.
- Supported training – Complete your apprenticeship with mentorship from skilled professionals.
- Make an impact – Be part of projects that enhance Palm Island's infrastructure and spaces.

Key Dates:

- Expressions of Interest Open: 1 November 2024
- Applications Close: 17 January 2025
- Apprenticeship Start Date: February 2025

How to Apply:

- 1 Indicate your interest in building and construction apprenticeships.
 - 2 Submit a brief Expression of Interest telling us why this opportunity excites you and any relevant skills or experience you bring.
 - 3 Send it to eva.haines@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au by 17 January 2025.
- Don't miss this chance to start your career in a hands on, impactful way.

Apply today and help build the future of Palm Island!



I am very pleased to be representing our wonderful community as Mayor again. This is my sixth term on Council and my fourth as Mayor, Cr Alf Lacey writes...

Our community has been blessed with strong leaders over the decades, and it is wonderful to see that the community has elected four young Councillors to work with me during this four-year term.

As we come to the end of 2024, and we have been in our roles for a bit over 6 months, I thought it was timely to provide a report card to community on our achievements for 2024 and let everyone know what our plans are for 2025.

As always, our focus is on the economic development, vitality and liveability of our community with a particular focus on private home ownership, new housing and tourism infrastructure, broad economic development and local business investment.

Our vision at Council is to promote and encourage a safe, healthy, prosperous shire that invests in our future growth whilst respecting and preserving our dynamic cultures and customs of the Manbarra traditional owners and Bwngcolman historical owners who call the Palm Island Group of Islands home.

Our purpose at Council is to lead and support the wellbeing of all community members.

We aim to achieve this through strong leadership, enhanced social and cultural inclusion, the delivery of essential services and infrastructure, and driving self-determination and economic development.

I thank the previous Council for their hard work and in particular acknowledge the leadership of Mr Mislam Sam in his role as Mayor, who worked through the challenges of COVID and laid the foundations for our economic and governance reforms that have contributed to the success I've outlined in this report.

Councillor Alf Lacey
Mayor



Tameira signs for St George

Bwgcolman student Tameira Wotton-Robertson, 16, has been selected to play in the St George Illawarra Dragons' Lisa Fiola Cup Squad in 2025.

After trying out in September, Tameira had her orientation with the club in October and, after signing the contract, has moved to Sydney to live with a Townsville family and the majority of her team in one big house.

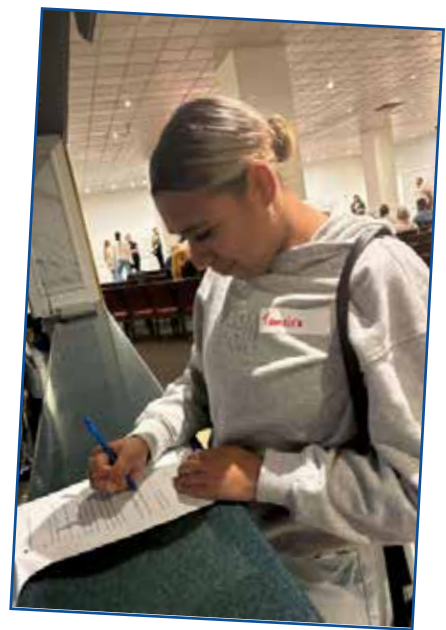
She has also started school in her new city.

The Lisa Fiaola Cup is a NSWRL junior representative tackle competition

for female players aged under 17 and an important part of the pathways program leading on to the Tarsha Gale Cup (U19 Females) and beyond.

Tameira's first game will be against the Illawarra Steelers at 11.30am on Saturday 1 February at the Collegians Sporting Complex in Woollongong.

She and her family wanted to thank the Palm Island Community Company for their help and support for Tameira.



Our FIRST *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE for 2025* (Issue 416*) will be Thursday 23 JANUARY for publication on Monday 27 January



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!!!