



FREE!

Issue 423

28 April 2025



PLEASE note there are images of deceased persons within this publication.

“Lest we Forget” ANZAC Day 2025



FULL STORY + MORE PICS PAGES 4-5



Senate-hopeful Wayne 'Coco' Wharton drops into Palm

Long-time Indigenous activist Wayne (Coco) Wharton came to Palm, Townsville and Hinchinbrook last week, to campaign as an Indigenous Aboriginal Party of Australia (IAPA) candidate for the Queensland Senate in the upcoming Federal Election.

He said the message he heard the most was that housing was a major issue in the community.

Wayne said he was stepping forward to represent the voices of First Nations people in the fight for justice, self-determination, and truth.

He has been a vocal proponent of land rights, cultural preservation and reparations for the enduring impacts of colonisation, including the Stolen Generations and dispossession of traditional lands.

A key aspect of his vision was how restitution could directly empower Indigenous communities, closing the gap by providing resources and opportunities that address systemic disadvantages.

“For too long, Indigenous communities have been trapped in cycles of poverty, with children denied the opportunities they deserve,” he said in his campaign statement.

“While the wealthy can afford private solutions, young Indigenous people are left to struggle, rejected by systems that should support them.

“This is not just a failure of policy—it is a failure of humanity.”

He said organisations and bureaucrats who claimed to represent Indigenous Australians had become part of the problem.

“They are complicit in maintaining a system that benefits the state and perpetuates inequality,” he said.

“Indigenous Australians are not a welfare problem—they are a sovereign people with inherent rights that must be recognised and respected.”

He said restitution delivered directly to Indigenous individuals and communities cut out the middlemen and reduced bureaucratic inefficiencies.

“Ensuring that funds and resources are used where they are needed most,” he said.

“This approach not only fosters self-determination but also enables communities to invest in education, healthcare, housing, and economic development on their own terms.”

Wayne said the Senate should be used properly and “not just a rubber stamp”.

“The Senate should be about checks and balances on the incumbent government,” he said.



For more information, see <https://www.indigenouspartyofaustralia.com/>

Doctor Point well on-track again

Several teams of local Council workers, contractors and other interested parties are celebrating the successful near-completion of repairs to the Doctor Point landslide site in the wake of several unprecedented 'heavy rainfall' events earlier this year.

"The team at Cairns Rope Access, Tanye and Ali, the Koppens team, Callum, Bejae, Naveen, Damien and others, the Ergon team, who are too many to mention, Jun from DTMR, the Palm Island police crew, and our disaster management colleagues at LDMG, DDMG and QPS, are all to thank," CEO Michael Bissell said.

"The community is also to be thanked for their patience and cooperation as we worked through what was a significant event for us.

"That first event – one of several – took out our power and water for a couple of days and presented serious technical and safety issues in our clean-up.

"Everyone has contributed and done an outstanding job in getting us to where we are now.

"Particular acknowledgment to the Koppens excavator operator who has been on site this week and worked some magic in doing a difficult job exceptionally well and in a very safe manner."





Palm Island's ANZAC Memorial Service was held on Friday, starting with a Dawn Service at the foreshore and a Community BBQ Breakfast at the PCYC, followed by a second morning service, which started with a march from the Police Station.

Morning Tea was provided after the two events at the Council Chambers and an ANZAC Portrait and History Exhibit was on display at the Bistro for the rest of the afternoon.

The Council worked alongside Queensland Police and other local community organisations, including the two schools, who hosted the day's events.

The dawn service was led by OIC Snr Sgt Brett Humphries and local Retd Able Seaman, Aust Navy, Luke Lenoy.

The second service was led by Uncle Edward Walsh (whose uncle served in World War II).

Local returned serviceman, Retd Able Seaman, Aust Navy, Uncle Roy Thomas Prior, was also there.

Thank you to the Palm Island-Coolgaree Bay Sports Bar & Bistro, Queensland Police Service, Palm Island Community Company and our local PCYC, our two schools, Bwgc Colman Community School and St Michael's Primary School, and especially their leaders and staff.

Council also thanks Rainbow Gateway staff for having their buses available for the community.





ANZAC DAY
LEST WE FORGET



Holiday fun with PCYC



A jam-packed two weeks of holiday activities included fishing, colour run, disco, sporting activities, cooking and arts and crafts, and a netball and Oztag competition down at the netball and football ovals. Every event was a huge success and attracted hundreds of kids and their families. Thanks to the Palm Island Netball Association, Junior Rugby League, PICC, Palm Island Council, Murrup, CEQ, Police and community members as well as the PCYC team, for what was a massive two weeks.

'Azzie' hopeful for a run with NQ Cowboys

By Alf Wilson

Rising young Palm Island rugby league star Assariah Lenoy is hoping to be the third player from Palm Island to make the top Cowboys NRL squad.

At just 20-years-old, Assariah looks well on the way to achieving his aim of making the full-time squad after starring already this season for the Townsville Blackhawks in the Queensland Cup competition.

Lining up at centres in just his second Q-Cup match, Assariah was named man of the match for the Blackhawks when they beat the CQ Capras 20-18 in Townsville earlier this month.

A week before, in his Blackhawks debut, he played the full 80 minutes when the side rolled Cairns Northern Pride 28-14.

Now in his second year of a Cowboys Young Guns scholarship, he played a pre-season trial with the NQ Cowboys team in Cairns in February.

Only two Palm Islanders have lined up for the Cowboys – Obe Geia jnr, who played two A-grade matches in 2008, and Dr Raymond Blackman, who played three matches in 1995.

Assariah's proud mum, Renee Grinfelds, has travelled from her Palm Island home to see every one of his games.

"I am incredibly proud of Assariah and always talk to him," she said.

"Many people on Palm follow him as well."

As a youngster Assariah travelled a lot with his single mum, who was a member of the Army.

"He went to school in Brisbane and Darwin and also at Southern Cross College in Townsville," she said.

"His high school years were at Columba College in Charters Towers."

Whilst there, Assariah played A grade for the Charters Towers Miners in the Townsville and District competition.

"I had to sign permission for him to play A grade



there," she said.

Assariah captained Columba Catholic College to NQISSRL and Confraternity Cup Division II glory, and also represented the North Queensland Schoolboys.

Last year, Assariah played Mal Meninga Cup Colts matches for the Cairns-based Northern Pride before joining the Blackhawks.

Blackhawks' coach, former Canberra Raiders champion Terry Campese, has taken Assariah under his wing.

Another big fan was his Blackhawks teammate, hooker Jayden Hodges, who has played NRL games for Manly and the Cowboys.

"I was impressed with Assariah against the Capras, and he was solid defensively when he marked a good opponent, who has been a PNG representative and showed good speed," Jayden said.

Proud of his Palm Aboriginal heritage, Assariah has also played for the Barracudas at Allblacks carnivals.



Koori Mail 23 April 2025



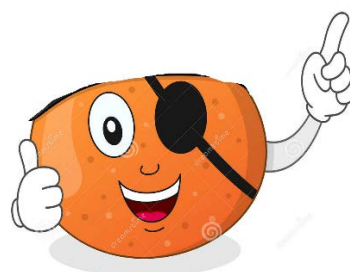
Another rising star this year has been Tameira Robertson-Wotton, who has played number three in this year's NSW NRL Under 17s Lisa Fiaola Cup for the St George Dragons. The fullback is in Year 12 this year and celebrated her birthday last week – happy birthday Tameira!!!

FREE Eye (vision) checks for Prep children at school **Tuesday 29 April**

The Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program (PSNHRP) is a free Queensland Government initiative offering vision screening for children in prep. It is important to fill the consent form out and give it to Miss Katie at Bwgcolman and Miss Therese at St Michael's, if you haven't got one ask your child's Prep teacher. This is only for Preps. If your other children need to have a vision check see Jeriah Coutts at Bwgcolman Healing

More information can be found on this link.

<https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/our-work/prep-vision-screening>



First, we play a game.

The game is fun!

I get to dress up like a pirate!



Then I get a picture of my eyes.

Information about Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council services and activities, including ramp and jetty closures, water supply issues, vet visits and meetings, etc, is regularly updated on our Council's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PalmCouncil>

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*
(Issue 424*) will be Thursday 8 May
for publication on Monday 12 May



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!!!