

# Palm Island Voice



**FREE!**

**Issue 436**

**27 October 2025**



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

## Mayors lead on new Cabinet Accord

Queensland's First Nations council leaders have signed an agreement with the State Government to guarantee local leaders a seat at the policy-making table to secure real outcomes for their communities.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey, who signed the Accord with Queensland Queensland Ministers Fiona Simpson (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) & Ann Leahy (Local Government) and Lockhart River Mayor Wayne Butcher with LGAQ President and Gladstone Mayor Matt Burnett (pictured).

"This is a really important

step forward not just for us but for the next generation in our communities in that we've now got the opportunity to be seated at the table to raise our issues," Mr Lacey said.

"It's about liveability and our economic future and prosperity and determining our own future.

"This is a demonstration from

the State Government that it has the appetite and the willingness to sit at the table with us and hear directly from the third level of government in the state."

Ms Simpson said the agreement was about, "ensuring that there is an overcoming of the tyranny of distance, but also the barriers of bureaucracy".



## Community gets behind 2025 #REEFCLEAN #GBRCU25

**More pics inside...**



**GREAT BARRIER REEF  
CLEAN-UP 2025**

**PALM ISLAND CLEAN-UP**





Nearly two and a half kilometres of beaches and somewhere between 1000 and 2000 kilograms of rubbish were collected in a massive clean-up earlier this month, Palm Island's Minggamingga Land and Sea Rangers have reported.

Coordinator Natalie Friday said the final weight was yet to be confirmed.

She said the rubbish included bike and scooter frames, signs, batteries, glass and plastic bottles, aluminium cans, tyres, fishing lines and rope, net remnants and general household waste.

"The cleanup spanned six beaches and was a collaborative community effort involving St Michael's School, Bwgcolman School, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and the Palm Island Community Company, including their Youth Services, Men's Group (Diversionary), Ferdy's Haven teams and ourselves," she said.

"Thank you to everyone involved.

"It was a strong effort for our very first cleanup.

"Lots of lessons were learned and, as always, there is room for improvement."

She said she hoped the next one would be even better.

"Special thanks to PICC for providing water, fruit, marquees and tables, and to the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for providing the food, water and barbecue.

"Most importantly, thank you to everyone for bringing their spirit, effort and presence, showing our community how working together in harmony benefits us all.

"This reminds us progress is built quietly through steady effort and each act of contribution strengthens the foundation of our community.

"We honour the work, the learning, and the unity we share and move forward with gratitude, purpose and hope for the future."

# Palm Island cleans up!





# Council welcomes nine new local employees



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has formally welcomed nine new local staff with a Code of Conduct and Safety Induction held in the Council Chambers last week.

The new starters join teams across water and waste operations, civil and open space, administration and community infrastructure.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the appointments highlighted a depth of skill and commitment in the Palm Island community.

"We're excited to be able to tap into the incredible talent we have right here on Palm," Mayor Lacey said.

"Our people have the skills, knowledge, and drive to make a real impact.

"These new appointments show that when opportunities are available, our community steps up, and Council is proud to support that."

Chief Executive Officer Emma

Bradbury said the new employees reflect the level of experience within the community.

"It is great to see the enthusiasm and professionalism of our new starters," Ms Bradbury said.

"We're fortunate to have such a strong base of talent here on Palm Island and it's a privilege to bring that experience into Council.

"Each person adds genuine local insight and practical know-how that strengthens how we serve the community."

Two key traineeships, a Water Treatment Plant Operator (Trainee) and an Apprentice Plumber, will train locally to support the long-term sustainability of essential water services on the island.

Three new Labourer positions have also been created to support key community infrastructure projects – two of those dedicated to the construction of the new Waste and Recycling Facility and one to assist with the Palm Island Walking Trails project.

Both initiatives will deliver lasting improvements to essential services, local amenities and employment opportunities for Palm Island residents.

Council will continue to focus on developing its local workforce through training, mentoring, and succession planning, ensuring that opportunities for growth and leadership remain accessible to Palm Island residents.







## Careers with Queensland Health

### Home Care Worker – Palm Island

#### The Opportunity

Are you passionate about making a meaningful difference in people's lives? Join our dedicated Home Care Services team, where your work will directly support frail aged and younger disabled clients to live independently and with dignity.

As a valued team member of Home Care Services—part of the Medical Services Group—you'll deliver essential domestic assistance that promotes wellbeing and empowers clients to thrive in their own homes. This is more than just cleaning and support — it's about building trust, fostering independence, and being a compassionate presence in someone's daily life.

#### In this rewarding role, you will:

- Provide domestic cleaning and support services tailored to individual client needs
- Work within a structured roster that supports work-life balance
- Observe and report changes in client wellbeing
- Maintain professional boundaries while offering empathetic, client-focused care

If you're looking for a role where your care and commitment truly matter, this is your chance to be part of a team that values heart, purpose, and community.

#### What's on Offer?

Casual position available.

Generous casual rates \$39.05 to \$41.66 p.h. (OO2), plus employer contribution to superannuation (12.75%).

#### Additional benefits include:

- Salary packaging options (for long-term casual employees)
- Professional development opportunities
- Flexible working arrangements
- Staff wellness programs
- Supportive workplace environment

#### Role Requirements

To be successful in this role, you will need:

- A current National Police Certificate, as required under the Aged Care Act 1997 for work in identified Aged Care Facilities (Queensland Health will assist with obtaining this)
- A valid "C" class driver's licence, with proof required prior to commencement
- The ability to work within a structured roster and maintain professional boundaries
- A commitment to delivering respectful, client-focused care

#### How to Apply

For more information about this role, or to submit an online application, please visit the website below.

**Enquiries:** Merlene Robertson on 0428 754 161

**Online applications:** <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV666380>

**Applications close:** Tuesday, 18 November 2025

**You can apply online at [www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au)**

A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job. A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.

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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 437\*) will be**  
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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](mailto: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!!!