

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 439

8 December 2025



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



Christmas Appeal kicks off our Christmas!



Families are invited to come together to celebrate, connect and share in the joy of giving at this year's Mayor's Christmas, set for this Friday, 12 December, from 3pm to 5pm at the Palm Island PCYC.

Mayor Alf Lacey said his annual Toy Appeal, and the resulting celebration, was one of the most meaningful events on the Council calendar.

"Christmas can be a tough time for many families," he said. "The Toy Appeal is about making sure every child on Palm Island feels included, valued and excited on Christmas Day. A single gift can make a huge difference in a young person's life, it brings our whole community closer together."

The Toy Appeal invited the community, service organisations and supporters to donate or sponsor a present for Palm Island children aged 0 – 16 years.

Mr Lacey said the appeal was not just about presents, but strengthening the spirit of generosity and unity that defined Palm Island.

"Our children are our future, and this is one small way we can show them love, hope and community pride," he said.

"When we come together to support one another, we remind our kids that they matter and that this whole community stands behind them.

"Let's come together, Bwgcolman, to make this Christmas one to remember."

Community members who can contribute, whether big or small, are encouraged to drop off gifts, sponsor a present or donate funds before the event.



MAYOR'S Christmas Toy APPEAL

**Friday 12 December 2025
3-5pm, Palm Island PCYC**



Spread some Christmas cheer to the community and donate or sponsor a present.

PRESENTS FOR ALL AGES, FROM 0-16 YEARS.

Please donate presents or money to the library or Council reception.





BEFORE



AFTER

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is excited to share progress on our Walking Trails Project – a sustainable initiative creating local jobs, boosting community health and wellbeing, and growing our tourism experience.

Council staff have partnered with the Mingga Mingga Rangers and have welcomed Beth and Willy from Tricky Tracks, who have brought valuable expertise to support our local teams in building and maintaining world-class trails.

“This collaboration is actively engaging with community as the project progresses and helping develop skills right here on Palm Island while driving economic development and employment opportunities,” CEO Emma Bradbury said.

“The walking trails will offer safe, scenic spaces for walking and connection, delivering benefits for both local community members and visitors.

“We really are building something special for our community and for generations to come.”

Making great strides on our walking tracks



BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER

Come and see the progress of our new walking trails – and have your say on the design and location of future tracks – we want your feedback!

Drop your ideas at Council Reception or email us at feedback@palmcouncil.com.au



Keeping our waters safe

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is reminding all Bwgcolman families about the importance of saving water and looking after one of our most precious resources.

Palm Island relies on a limited water supply, and while Council continues to invest in infrastructure and maintenance, every household plays an important role in making sure we have enough clean water for drinking, cooking, washing and everyday life, especially during long dry spells or high-demand periods.

Mayor Alf Lacey said water conservation is essential for a healthy, sustainable Palm Island.

“Our community depends on this water source,” he said.

“When everyone does their bit to save water, it helps protect our supply, reduces pressure on our system and keeps our families safe.

“Water is life for our community and small changes at home can make a very big difference.”

Council continues to:

- Maintain and upgrade water infrastructure;
- Monitor daily usage and dam levels;
- Repair leaks and breakages around the community;
- Promote water-saving education and outreach; and,
- Plan for future growth and improved capacity.

For more information or to report a leak, contact Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council on (07) 4770 0200 or visit the Council office.

Community heard at successful Expo

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council hosted a successful Community Consultation Expo at the Palm Island PCYC last Wednesday.

Deputy Mayor Mersane Oui (pictured below right) said she was pleased to see so many people there.

“Our community showed real interest in the future of Palm Island,” she said.

“People want to be heard and this Expo was about listening.

“We’re grateful to everyone who came along, had a

yarn and shared their ideas.”

Residents, service providers and Council teams were there for a full day of information sharing, conversation, and community input as a key part of Council’s consultation for the 2026–2031 Corporate Plan, as well as several other major projects currently underway.



Throughout the event residents had an opportunity to have input into:

Corporate Plan 2026–2031

- Community members were encouraged to have their say on Council’s draft plan, highlighting the priorities they want to see for housing, employment, education, culture, leadership and community wellbeing.

Housing Design Principles

- Council’s housing team presented early design concepts aimed at improving liveability, ventilation, safety and sustainability in future homes. Attendees provided valuable feedback on what works for families and what improvements they wanted to see.

Disaster Season Preparedness

- With storm season approaching, the Local Disaster Management team provided information on emergency kits, communication plans, self-readiness

and how to stay safe during cyclones or severe weather. People were also reminded to report hazards and stay updated through official channels.

Community Economic Foundation

- This new Foundation, focused on local jobs, enterprise growth and wealth creation, was introduced to the community, giving people a chance to learn how it will support small businesses, training pathways and long-term economic independence.

Walking Trails & Public Spaces

- Council showcased plans for new walking trails and improvements to public open spaces, aimed at boosting health, accessibility and recreational opportunities.

Staff from across Council also shared updates on waste management, community safety, youth programs, tourism development and upcoming infrastructure projects.

Corporate Plan 2026 - 2031

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK...

"This Plan will reflect our community's priorities and vision for the future. Your voice will help shape our legacy and how we deliver it." **MAYOR ALF LACEY**



Complete the survey:
palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Get in touch by emailing:
feedback@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au



Call for community ideas for next Corporate Plan

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is calling on the community to help shape the future of Palm Island, with public consultation now open for the 2026–2031 Corporate Plan.

The Corporate Plan is Council's key strategic document, setting out the priorities, goals and major projects that will guide Palm Island over the next five years.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the Corporate Plan would only be successful if it reflected the voices, aspirations and ideas of the whole community.

"This is our home and our future," he said.

"We want a Corporate Plan that truly represents the hopes and priorities of Bwgcolman people.

"That's why your feedback is so important.

"Council is here to listen."

Consultation will run until the end of January 2026, giving residents plenty of time to share their thoughts, ask questions and help refine the final plan.

Community members can:

- View the draft Corporate Plan
- Complete the community survey
- See project summaries and key focus areas
- Talk directly to Council staff about what matters most

All information, including the survey link, is available now on the Palm Island Council website at www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

Residents can also drop into the Council office or speak with staff during outreach sessions held across the community throughout December and January.

Mr Lacey encouraged everyone, from Elders to young people, to get involved.

"Every voice counts," he said.

"Whether you have one idea or a whole list, we want to hear from you.

"Together we can build a stronger, healthier and more prosperous Palm Island."

The final Corporate Plan for 2026–2031 will be adopted after the community consultations.

Community Feedback Driving Future Decisions

CEO Emma Bradbury said events like the Expo were vital to making sure Council's decisions reflected the community's expectations.

"Our community's voice guides our planning," Ms Bradbury said.

"The ideas and feedback we received will directly influence the final Corporate Plan and the projects we deliver in the coming years."

Residents who were unable to attend still have time to contribute and provide feedback on the Corporate Plan 2026–2031 until 31 January 2026, with surveys and information available online at www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au and at the Council office.

2025



Christmas Cup

FRIDAY 5TH - DAY 1

GAME 1 9AM	MULRUNJI DOOMADGEE MEMORIAL GUYALA
GAME 2 10AM	WALLABY POINT BOARS LOYLA MORGAN MEMORIAL
GAME 3 11AM	PALM IS. BARRACUDAS MANBARRA MANTA RAYS
GAME 4 12PM	BULL&DUCKY MEMORIAL WOORABINDA WARRIORS
U-16 GAME 1 1PM	U16 U16
U-13 2PM	U13 U13
GAME 5 3PM	GUYALA WALLABY POINT BOARS
GAME 6 4PM	LOYLA MORGAN MEMORIAL ELIJAH HERO'S AUTISM AWARENESS
GAME 7 5PM	NORTHERN CROCS PALM IS. BARRACUDAS
GAME 8 6PM	MT. BENTLEY RAIDERS MULRUNJI DOOMADGEE MEMORIAL

SATURDAY 6TH - DAY 2

GAME 9 10AM	MANBARRA MANTA RAYS BULL&DUCKY MEMORIAL
GAME 10 11AM	ELIJAH HERO'S AUTISM AWARENESS NORTHERN CROCS
GAME 11 12PM	WOORABINDA WARRIORS MT. BENTLEY RAIDERS
U-16 GAME 2 1PM	U16 U16
GAME 12 2PM	GUYALA LOYLA MORGAN MEMORIAL
GAME 13 3PM	WALLABY POINT BOARS ELIJAH HERO'S AUTISM AWARENESS
GAME 14 4PM	NORTHERN CROCS MANBARRA MANTA RAYS
GAME 15 5PM	PALM IS. BARRACUDAS WOORABINDA WARRIORS
GAME 16 6PM	BULL&DUCKY MEMORIAL MT. BENTLEY RAIDERS

SUNDAY 7TH - DAY 3 | MENS TOP 8 QUARTER FINALS

U-16 GAME 3 9AM	SKIP JACKS BINDAL SHARKS
GAME 17 10AM	GUYULA NORTHERN CROCS
GAME 18 11AM	LOYLA MORGAN MEMORIAL MT. BENTLEY RAIDERS
GAME 19 12PM	PALM IS. BARRACUDAS ELIJAH HERO'S AUTISM AWARENESS
GAME 20 1PM	MANBARRA MANTA RAYS WOORABINDA WARRIORS

SEMI FINALS

Guyula

GAME 21 - 2PM

Mt Bentley Raiders

SEMI FINALS

Palm Is Barracudas

GAME 22 - 3PM

Manbarra Manta Rays

GRAND FINAL CURTAIN RAISER
WARRIORS
HUNTERS

GRAND FINAL - 5PM

Guyula
GAME 23 - 5PM
Manbarra Manta Rays

AUSWIDE
Electrical, Communication
& Air Conditioning Services

FTEC ELECTRICAL
Specialist Electrical Contractors

MAKING WAVES

On Common Country

GOATS CHALLENGER RBY

HYDRAPLAY
THE NATURAL ADVANTAGE

feet
sportswear



Pics supplied.



Manbarra Manta Rays

Guyula wins over Manbarra



"We play our rugby league tough, but always with respect. Congratulations to the Northern Crocs for making it this far. You mob had a brilliant carnival. At the end of the day, we are all one — the same community of Yarrabah, "Paradise by the Sea." Hold your heads up high. We Are All GUYULA."



Community urged to get ready for wet season

As the wet season approaches, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is reminding all Bwgcolman families to Get Ready Palm Island by preparing early for cyclones, heavy rain and other severe weather.

Each year, disaster season brings real risks to our island community, from power outages and road closures to storm surges and damage to homes.

Being prepared can make a big difference in keeping our families safe and helping our community recover faster.

Mayor Alf Lacey said now was the time for households to get organised.

“We know cyclones and severe storms can come quickly,” he said.

“By preparing early, checking your

home and making a plan with your family, you help protect yourself and your neighbours.

“When we’re ready, our whole community is stronger.”

Elders and Others

Council asks all families to check on Elders, people living alone and community members who may need extra help preparing for storms or cyclones.

A quick visit or phone call can help save a life.

Mayor Lacey encouraged everyone

to take disaster season seriously.

“Preparedness is everyone’s responsibility.

“Please take the time now to get ready.

“Look after your family, look after your neighbours, and together we’ll keep Palm Island safe.”

For more information on how to Get Ready Palm Island, visit getready.palmisland.gov.au or speak to Council staff at the office.

Stay safe, stay prepared, and look out for one another.

Tips to Get Ready Palm Island

1. Make an Emergency Plan

- Talk with your family about where you will go if you need to evacuate
- Decide who will look after Elders, young children or pets
- Make sure everyone knows emergency phone numbers
- Charge phones and keep portable chargers ready

2. Prepare an Emergency Kit

Your kit should include:

- Torch and spare batteries
- First aid supplies
- Bottled water
- Long-life food
- Medications and important documents in a sealed bag
- Radio and phone chargers
- Baby supplies if needed

3. Secure Your Home

- Clear gutters and drains
- Tie down loose items around the yard
- Trim tree branches near your house
- Check your roof, windows and doors
- Store important items in watertight containers

4. Stay Connected to your community

- Follow reliable news outlets for updates
- Listen to emergency radio announcements
- Keep your phone charged and turned on during severe weather
- Report hazards such as fallen trees, blocked drains or damaged infrastructure

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*

(Issue 440*) will be in 2026!!!

PIASC will close on Thursday 18 December until Monday 6 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 8am–5pm Monday–Friday

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!!!

