

# Palm Island Voice



**FREE!**

**Issue 442**  
**17 February 2026**



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

## Angel Paws vets 'making a real difference'

Last week, a dedicated team from Angel-Paws Inc paid a visit to Palm Island to help local pet owners by desexing 12 dogs and providing vital animal health support to the community.

Angel-Paws is a not-for-profit animal rescue organisation based in Townsville that works across North Queensland, including neighbouring towns of Charter Towers, Ingham, and Ayr, as well as remote communities like Palm Island.

During their visit, Angel-Paws' veterinary staff focused on desexing – a key part of controlling unwanted litters and improving animal welfare and

population control.

Desexing not only helps reduce the number of unwanted animals in the community but also lowers the risk of certain diseases and contributes to calmer, healthier pets overall.

Angel-Paws also helps to ensure the animals being desexed receive a treatment for parasites (fleas, ticks and mange) and a microchip.

"We are so grateful to Angel-Paws for their ongoing support and commitment to Palm Island," Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council CEO Emma Bradbury said.

"These visits make a real difference by helping to keep our pets healthy and our community safe.

"Desexing and veterinary care are essential services that many families wouldn't otherwise have access to locally and we thank the Angel-Paws team for their care, professionalism and connection with our community."

Council and community members welcomed the visit, recognising



that healthy pets were part of a healthy community.

Angel-Paws will visit the community over the next few months to continue with desexing animals.

The desexing service is completely free to community members.

**If you are interested in having your dog or cat desexed, reach out to the local group, Guardian Tails Welfare Group, on Facebook to be added to the list.**



### The AEC can enrol or update your address on the electoral roll based on information from other government agencies.

All Australian citizens 18 years and older must enrol to vote in elections and referendums.

You need to let us know every time you change your address or your name.

Federal, state and local government elections occur at different times.

#### Access to enrolment information

To maintain the electoral roll, we can collect and verify your personal information. This is in line

with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (CEA)*.

If you believe having your address shown on the electoral roll will put you or your family at risk, please call 13 23 26 to discuss the options available.

#### Special enrolment options

There are options for people with special needs or with specific circumstances that may affect their enrolment.

**Visit [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au) for more information and enrolment forms.**



**Key information for enrolling and voting**

# Gym 'sneak peek'!

On Monday this week the Palm Island community was invited to drop in and take a look at the new Palm Island Gym at a Sneak Peek Open Day, ahead of opening for operations.

The open day was an opportunity for the community to walk through the facility, see the equipment and share feedback with Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council on how a community-operated gym could best meet local needs.

Council was keen to hear ideas and suggestions to help shape how the gym was run, ensuring it was accessible, welcoming and supportive of community health and wellbeing.

The new gym was part of Council's broader commitment to promoting active lifestyles and improving local facilities that support physical and mental wellbeing.

By inviting the community in early, Council hoped to build a sense of shared ownership and ensure the gym reflected what the community wanted and needed.

"We were really excited to welcome everyone to the Sneak Peek Open Day," CEO Emma Bradbury said.

"This was a great chance for people to come in, have a look around and tell us what they thought.

"We want this gym to be a place the whole community feels comfortable using and a space that supports health, connection and positive outcomes for our families.

"Your feedback will help shape how the gym operates when it officially opens."

Whether you're already active or thinking about getting started, everyone was welcome to come along, have a look around, ask questions and be part of the conversation.

More details about opening times, memberships and programs to come – watch this space!

Regional Australia Employment Service (RAES) is working on Palm Island to provide practical support, advice and pathways into employment, training and education as part of the Palm Island Economic Development Foundation.

RAES replaced the Community Development Program (CDP) in November last year and works with individuals and employers across regional and remote communities.

They aim to help people prepare for work, connect with local opportunities and build skills that lead to long-term employment.

They have been focused on meeting with community members, understanding local needs and supporting people to take the next step toward work or training.

Staff have also spoken with job seekers about resume preparation, job readiness, training options and pathways into local roles, apprenticeships and traineeships.

RAES is taking every opportunity to strengthen relationships with local organisations and explore how employment services can better align with community priorities.

Access to on-Island employment support was especially important for Palm Island, where travel to the mainland could be a barrier for many people.

Community members are encouraged to take up employment opportunities through Council and other local service providers.



**SNEAK PEEK!**  
**OPEN DAY**  
**NEW GYM**



**You're invited!**  
Come and take a look at the new gym.

We're seeking community feedback on a community-operated gym, so drop in, have a look around, and share your thoughts.

- Monday, 16 February 2026
- 10:00AM – 3:00PM
- Community Clubhouse

**BEFORE THE GRAND OPENING IN MARCH 2026**

# Rugby League great visits Palm Island

Rugby league legend Gorden Tallis joined the Palm Island community for a game of footy, fishing and art with selectability recipients last week.

He was working in collaboration with selectability's ILC program, PCYC, Ignatius Park College and Townsville-based charity 'Fuel for Schools'.

The team visited the island over two days to talk about breaking the stigma of seeking mental health support and where to find it in the community.

selectability program coordinator Daniel Jakob said the event was a strong collaboration between local service providers, schools and charities.

"To have Gorden come to Palm Island has been fantastic," Daniel said.

"Support from local Palm Island services like the PCYC, as well as Townsville's Ignatius Park College and Fuel for Schools, has been so important in delivering vital support to young people in the community."

Funded by the Department of Health, Disability & Ageing, the ILC program aimed to increase community participation for young people living with psychosocial disabilities.

"We are looking forward to working with more local services in the future to build more positive outcomes for young people on Palm Island," Daniel said.





COMPETITION

# LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

## Design the new logo for *The Foundation*

The Palm Island Economic Development Foundation (The Foundation) is calling on our community's creativity to design its very first logo!

The winning design will be proudly displayed on:

**BUILDING SIGNS • STAFF UNIFORMS • OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS**

Entries close:

**Sunday, March 1 2026**

Open to the Palm Island community

Submit your logo design to:  
[reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:reception@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)

Disclaimer: The winning logo design may be subject to minor modifications or adjustments to ensure suitability for digital use, printing, signage, uniforms and other materials. Any changes will be made with care and utmost effort to preserve the integrity and intent of the original design.



**THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE\***

**(Issue 443\*) will be Thursday 26 Feb  
for publication on Tuesday 3 March**



The ***Palm Island Voice*** is published FORTNIGHTLY (\*unless we have paid advertising) by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor.

For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor, Christine Howes, on 0419 656 277 or at [howeschowes@gmail.com](mailto:howeschowes@gmail.com) You can also follow us on Facebook, we have more than 3,400 followers! The ***Palm Island Voice*** is also available 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 7,300 'followers' on Facebook!!!