

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 443

3 March 2026

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

Leading the way



(photos and permission granted by Leilani Geia and Marni-Rose Kyle)

Young leaders whose families are from Palm Island doing great things at schools in Townsville.

Newly appointed Captains for Kirwan State High School were lucky to be presented with their badges by Queensland Premier David Crisafulli.

In the right hand picture is new Cultural Captain Brielle Geia with Premier Crisafulli,

Kirwan Cultural Liaison Officer Lorna Savage and Thuringowa MP Natalie Marr. Pictured above on the left is Brielle and mother Leilani Geia, and Mahalia Kyle (Indigenous Captain, Bohlevale State School) and her Mum Marni-Rose Kyle.

WEATHER WATCH

A weather system in the Coral Sea may bring heavy rain to our region this week.

Households are encouraged to:

- Do a small top-up of groceries and essentials
- Allow extra time for travel planning
- Keep an eye on Council and emergency service updates

Council services and response teams are prepared and planning ahead, and we'll keep the community informed if conditions change. Being prepared early helps reduce stress later.

Boxing champs shine in Townsville

Three Palm Island boxers performed strongly at the Battle of the Port tournament at the Quayside Terminal in Townsville late last month.

Brayden Nallajar and Laphya Reuben-Kawane fought in two of the three professional bouts on the card, which also boasted amateur fights and an exhibition contest featuring rodeo riders.

Much-improved middleweight Laphya Reuben-Kawane won by first-round knockout, whilst Palm Island's Brayden Nallajar lost in the last round against a quality opponent.

Brayden lives on Palm but trained with Matty Rooney's Knuckles Club in Townsville when on the mainland.

The 27-year-old Laphya won after the Rawlins corner threw the towel in.

He delivered a barrage of punches to Rawlins in the first round of four, which resulted in knockdowns.

He said Rawlins landed a heavy punch "square on his nose" in the first exchange of the fight.

"After taking that punch, I landed some big combinations and got him with both fists," he said.

"It felt unreal to win before such a big crowd."

It was the fourth pro fight for Laphya, who made his pro debut last June and lost three other bouts before his Townsville victory.

Respected Townsville trainer Gonzo Hooper told Voice that Laphya had improved in leaps and bounds.

"He has one of the best trainers in the sport in Stephen Deller, who runs Fortitude Valley Gym in Brisbane," Gonzo said.

Asked the reason for his sharp improvement, Laphya said he had better preparation.

"I did a lot of running and conditioning work before the fight," he said. "I have many family on

Palm, including amongst the Blanket and Reuben families and extended families. I fought two bouts over there a while back in a charity tournament and love it there."

Laphya is the older brother of quality female boxer "Princess" Leah Reuben, who watched him from ringside.

"It was a really good win, and Laphya landed some powerful left-hand hooks, which resulted in knockdowns," Leah said.

"There were many Palm people in the packed crowd supporting them."

Leah has had eight pro bouts for an impressive five wins, two losses and a draw.

"My next scheduled bout will be in Brisbane during May and maybe another at Townsville the following month," she said.

The gala night in Townsville was organised and promoted by Knuckles Club supremo Matty Rooney.

Brayden 'Bull Shark' Nallajar lost



by fourth-round TKO to Cody 'The Outlaw' Renouf from Forrest Beach.

"I was very impressed with both Laphya and Brayden Nallajar, who fought a more experienced opponent, and he will win many pro bouts,"

Rooney said. *Story by Alf Wilson.*



Top: Brayden Nallajar weighs in before his bout. Above: Laphya Reuben-Kawane has his arms raised after winning his bout. Pics supplied.

Supporting Palm Island's young learners

St Michael's Kindergarten plays an important role in supporting young children and families on Palm Island.

The Queensland Government-approved Kindergarten program operates from Tuesday to Thursday for children in the year before they begin Prep.

Early Childhood Teacher Paul Rogers said the Kindergarten program was special.

He said the program focused on preparing children socially, emotionally and academically for their transition to school.

But, he said, it was about much more than learning letters and numbers.

"Kindergarten is such an important time in a child's life," he said.

"It's about building confidence, developing friendships and helping children feel proud of who they are.

"When children feel safe and connected, that's when real learning happens."

The program was delivered by Paul with the assistance of dedicated Educators, who work together to create a nurturing and engaging environment.

Through play-based learning, children participate in hands-on activities including art, storytelling, music, outdoor exploration and group experiences that build early literacy, numeracy and social skills.

Paul said there was an emphasis on the importance of community and belonging.

"We want every child to feel a strong sense of belonging here at St Michael's," he said.

"We work closely with families and value the cultural connections that are so important in our community."

St Michael's Kindergarten is looking for a Casual Educator to assist in delivering the program.

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone passionate about early childhood education and supporting local children and families.

For more information about enrolments or employment opportunities, families are encouraged to contact St Michael's Kindergarten.



Join the
St Michael's Kindy
Team



APPLY NOW



MANAGED BY

MARY
MACKILLOP
CHILDCARE NQ

**St Michael's Kindy is
seeking a Casual Educator
to join our team
Tuesday to Thursdays.**

Email: employment@mmcnq.catholic.edu.au

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 or www.ecq.qld.gov.au for more information and enrolment forms.

Key information for enrolling and voting

****WATCH SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATED INFORMATION RE THE WEATHER**

Community Consultation EXPO

WEDNESDAY
4 MARCH

PCYC

11AM-2PM

This is the community's chance to provide feedback

Enjoy a free sausage sizzle & hear from experts on the topics



Thursday 26 February 2026

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FERRY FREIGHT DISRUPTIONS

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Council advises the community that temporary disruptions to ferry freight unloading may occur over the next few days due to essential repairs to the ferry terminal pontoon brackets and current tide conditions.

These disruptions are expected to commence from **(FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY)**.

Council is undertaking urgent repairs and is working closely with SeaLink to explore possible ferry timetable adjustments during this period. Passenger safety will be maintained, with Council using a telehandler and gang plank to support safe boarding and disembarking while works are underway.

Council appreciates the community's patience while these important safety works are completed. Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.



PLEASE CALL COUNCIL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*

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for publication on Tuesday 17 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 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!!!