

# Palm Island Voice



**FREE!**

**Issue 444**

**17 March 2026**



**ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL**

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

## OUR NIGHT PATROL TEAM!



*In a rare daylight outing for some, our Palm Island Night Patrol Team enjoyed a morning tea with Mayor Alf Lacey and CEO Emma Bradbury at the Council Chambers earlier this month.*

*It was an opportunity to acknowledge the team and to reflect on the program's success and sustainability.*

*The Palm Island Night Patrol program was started in 2023 to engage with young people and their families after hours. Staffed by local elders and community leaders, the program aimed to deliver community-driven, community-led outcomes that improved behaviour through direct interaction with those engaged in disruptive behaviour.*

*The National Indigenous Australians Agency Regional Jobs and Education Program funded the program.*

## Council monitoring fuel supplies

**Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is continuing to monitor fuel supplies in the community, including petrol and diesel, as part of its routine oversight of essential services.**

Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury said Council was maintaining regular contact with suppliers and key partners to stay informed about supply arrangements and respond early to any potential issues.

“We understand that people can feel concerned when they hear about supply pressures more broadly, and we thank the community for remaining calm and not stockpiling,”

Ms Bradbury said.

“This helps ensure everyone is able to stay mobile and that fuel remains available and fairly accessible for those who need it.”

She said there were no indications of immediate disruption to fuel supplies on Palm Island.

“At this stage, supply arrangements for both petrol and diesel remain stable,” she said.

“Council is taking a measured and proactive approach.

“If circumstances change, we will consider appropriate steps to support continuity of supply and will keep the community informed.”

For now, she said, Council will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with suppliers to support steady supply and stable pricing wherever possible.

# Reel Women Jetty under repair

Maintenance works are ongoing at the Palm Island ferry terminal jetty – the Reel Women Jetty – as Council undertakes planned repairs to support the continued safe and reliable use of this important piece of community infrastructure.

The jetty was named, along with the Peter ‘Gulimbah’ Prior ferry terminal – which is no longer there – in the late 2000s and officially opened in 2010 at the Palm Island Spring Fair.

At the time, Mayor Alf Lacey said the Council worked with community members to name the jetty.

“‘Reel’ means the fishing line reel because, as we all know, a lot of our elderly women, in particular, use and have used the jetty for fishing, which is a great pastime in our community,” he said.

“There’s a power that’s attached to the jetty.

“Council was proud to honour our women in our community, particularly those ‘reel women’ who actually helped to move Palm forward in their own way.”

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Interim Manager Assets and Engineering Fahad Shaban said ongoing works formed part of Council’s ongoing responsibility to monitor, maintain and improve key transport assets that supported residents, visitors and freight services.

“These works are about making sure the jetty continues to operate safely and effectively, both now and into the future,” Mr Shaban said.

Specialist marine contractors have been engaged to carry out inspection and repair activities, supported by a qualified structural engineer who has reviewed the jetty structure and recommended improvements to strengthen long-term performance and resilience.

The program of works included maintenance to key structural components, with inspections undertaken at the same time to identify any emerging issues early and plan future works in an orderly way.

Council Chief Executive Officer Emma Bradbury said passenger safety and continuity of service remain the priority while the works were underway.

*(Continues page 3...)*

## Ferry terminal named and open for business

Late last year the new Peter “Gulimbah” Prior ferry terminal, adjacent to the Reel Women Jetty, was officially named and opened.



Top: Jacob Baira’s (Dec) wife Paula & granddaughter; Middle: L-R: Noel Rumble (DMR), Donna Willis, Renarta Prior (dec), Charmaine Koroi, Jeff Brown (CEO); Below Left: Kenneth & Health Prior; Below Right: Mersane Oui Snrr & Manny Blackman. Pics courtesy Donna Willis & Gary Prior.



# New era dawns for sports and rec on Palm

The appointment of a new Sports Coordinator, Shane Wylie, by the Palm Island Council marks a new era in sport, recreation and community well-being on Palm Island, Mayor Alf Lacey says.

The milestone appointment has come as community anticipation builds for the opening of the new community gym and an expansion of sport and recreation programs across the Island.

Mayor Lacey said the initiatives reflected the Council's strong commitment to improving health, well-being and active lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities, and marked a turning point for the community.

"This is about more than a gym or organised sport," he said.

"It's about investing in our young people, supporting healthy choices, and creating opportunities for everyone – from kids to Elders, from beginners to elite athletes – to be active, connected and well."

CEO Emma Bradbury said Shane brought broad experience across community and professional sport, with a strong track record working in remote and regional communities.

"As an athlete himself, Shane is passionate about engaging young people, strengthening local leadership and creating welcoming, inclusive spaces where everyone feels supported to



participate, whether they are new to fitness or returning to sport," she said.

"Importantly, Shane is focused on working alongside local people, groups and clubs, and building skills and confidence so community members can lead and sustain programs into the future.

"This approach aligns with Council's vision for sport and recreation to be community-led, culturally safe and accessible for all."

"We are taking a careful and proactive approach to looking after this infrastructure," Ms Bradbury said.

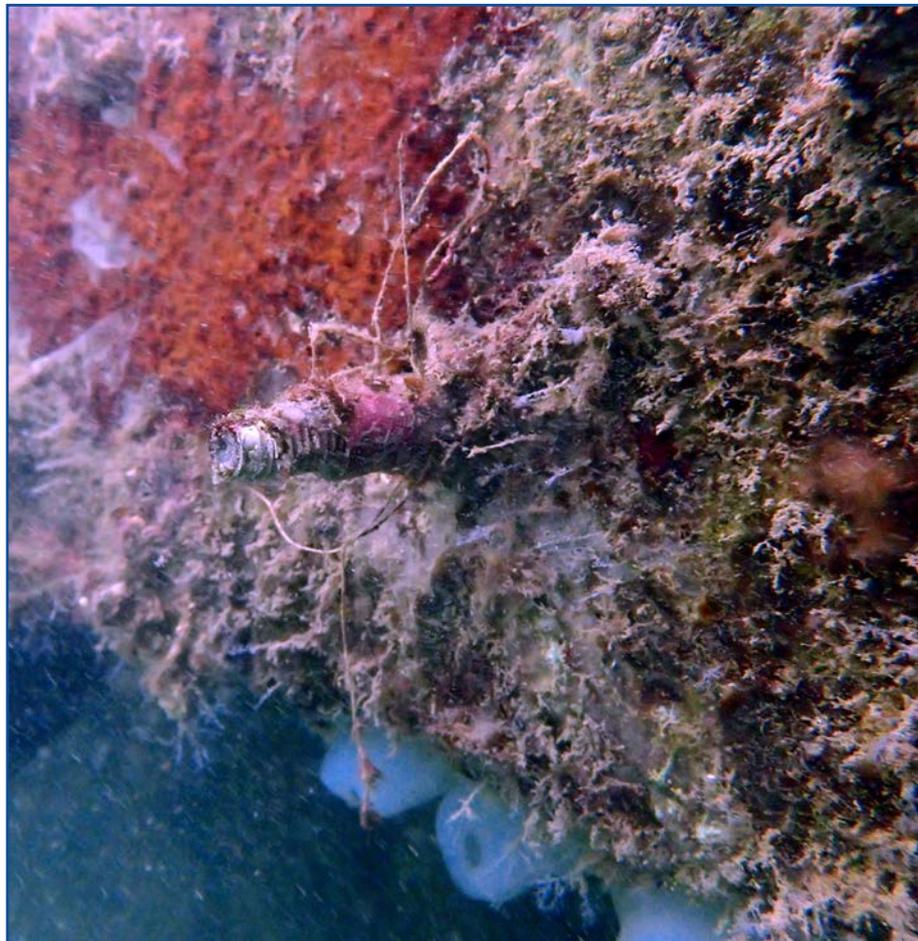
"In the interim, Council has put appropriate arrangements in place at the terminal to support safe access for passengers while maintenance activities are completed."

Ms Bradbury said Council appreciated the community's patience and would continue to keep residents informed as required.

"These works are part of Council's broader commitment to maintaining critical infrastructure so it continues to serve the community well into the future," she said.

*PICS: Page 2 Palm Island Voice coverage of the Reel Women Jetty.*

*Top page 2: Issue 45 (20 October 2009) when the name was announced. Bottom: a report and pics of the official opening at the 2009 Spring Fair from Issue 71 (27 January 2010). Right: pic of the base of the jetty under inspection for safety.*



# Exciting month ahead for PCYC

PCYC's 'Club and Culture' program for next month's school holiday break is looking bigger and better than ever!

Watch this space for a full program of events for 6-17 April which includes several workshops as well as daily cultural and sporting activities, a colour fun run, dance and performances.



## INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

### PALM ISLAND

PCYC PALM ISLAND

13th April  
9am - 3pm

FREE to register  
[shehoops.com.au](http://shehoops.com.au)



JACQUI DOVER  
FIBA International Referee

#### ALLY WILSON

Olympian, Opal, Gangurru  
INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM LEAD



KULBARDI  
SUPPORTING THE NATION



INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

## INDIGENOUS CREATIVE SOUNDS

### INDIGENOUS HIP HOP WORKSHOP

*Learn. Create. Express.*

Join us for an immersive Indigenous Hip Hop workshop where participants will explore beats, lyrics & Cultural Dance through music.

**WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:**

- Hip Hop & Indigenous Culture
- Beat Making & Lyrics
- Performance & Confidence

*Beginners Welcome • Ages 10 - 17 Years Old*

**DATE & TIME:**  
15th APRIL - 16th APRIL - 17th APRIL 2026  
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Daily

**FRIDAY PERFORMANCE 5:00PM-8:00PM DISCO**

**LOCATION:**  
PALM ISLAND PCYC

**WORKSHOP HOST:**  
NORMEY JAY

☎ 0423 350 920  
✉ [normejay96@gmail.com](mailto:normejay96@gmail.com)

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

(Issue 445\*) will be **Thursday 26 March**

for publication on **Tuesday 31 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.

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**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!!!