

# Palm Island Voice



**FREE!**

**Issue 446**

**14 April 2026**



**ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL**

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

## PIASC Civil/ Open Spaces crew – working hard to keep us on track!



*Our civil works crews are working hard to complete the Queensland Reconstruction Authority repairs with disaster event funds from the island's rain event in March. Pictured above [inset] are supervisor James Palmer with Tim Asai, Ralph Doomadgee, Neville Murgha and Paul Kidner.*

Also working hard to support the community is new Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council admin officer Tarenceha Bonner.

Tarenceha has demonstrated strong commitment, focus and pride in her work with a set of goals already lined up for the year. Her proactive approach and clear direction reflect a readiness to contribute to the Council's operations and to support positive outcomes for our community.

Council is glad to have her on board and wish her every success as she works towards achieving her goals.



**Want to know more about how you can build your business or career with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council? See inside for details about the PIASC Local Suppliers Expo next Wednesday, 22 April!**

# Local Suppliers Expo

If you are a local small business – from catering to trade work or a consulting service – you are invited to come and find out how you can register as a supplier to Council.

If you have a new business idea, Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and the Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN) will also be there to offer support and funding ideas.

**DATE: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**

**TIME: 11am – 2pm**

**VENUE: Fred Clay Park**

**FREE Community BBQ**

Come along to find out how to work with Council.

We hope to see you there!



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# Palm Island Local Supplier Expo – good food, great opportunities!

Community, opportunity and local success are set to be celebrated and hopefully expanded at next Wednesday's (23 April) Local Suppliers Expo.

If you have a business, or you are thinking about starting one, the day will be a chance to have a yarn with Council about how to bring it to life and potentially become a local supplier – this is a chance for Council to register all local businesses so we know who to contact when work comes up.

CEO Emma Bradbury said the day wasn't just about information.

“This is about backing local people, growing local businesses and creating real pathways for Palm Island,” she said. “Council is committed to identifying and supporting local suppliers, and this event is all about putting community first.

“We want to ensure that we use local people and businesses first wherever possible.”



*Scan the QR code to register or if you can't be there on the day, see Council reception for more information.*

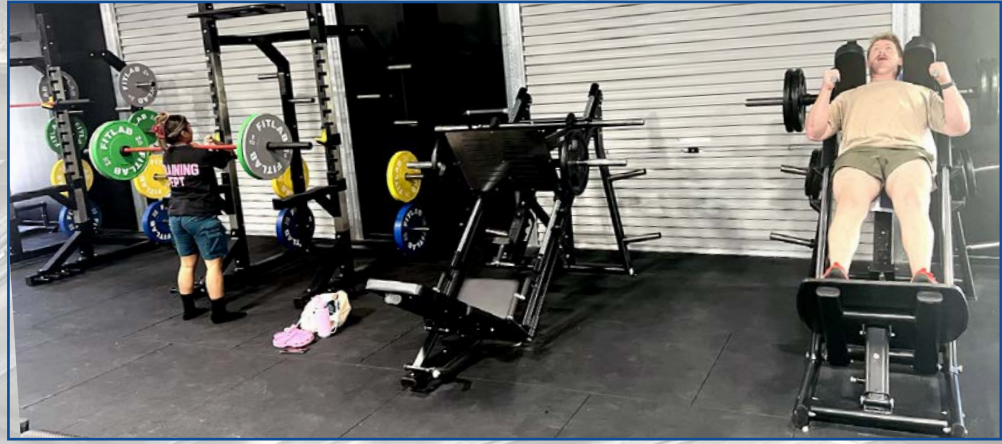
## Something to celebrate - 250,000+ containers saved from landfill!

The PIASC Local Suppliers Expo day, next Wednesday 22 April, will include a celebration of our Containers for Change team, who have helped to keep more than a quarter of a million containers out of landfill.

To mark the occasion, they are firing up the BBQ to share with the community, so come along for a feed and enjoy the day while connecting with people who can help turn your ideas into real opportunities.

Containers for Change employs and empowers locals, saves our precious and beautiful environment, and has inspired teamwork and initiative.





# 'Best gym' up and running

New PIASC Sports Coordinator Shane Wylie says he is determined to get the community moving in what he's described as the "best gym I've ever seen" in a remote community.



"Rather than wait for everything to be perfect, we've decided to open the gym and give the community a chance to love it," Shane said.

"We've got two weeks of free trials, with six hours of access every day, before we move to a membership model.

He said it was not just the facility that was impressive – it was the value.

After the trial, memberships were available at what could be the best rate in Australia: just \$180 for six months of access.

That's unlimited use of a fully equipped, modern gym for less than the cost of many city monthly memberships.

With more than 35 state of the art machines, cardio equipment, strength stations and a full dumbbell rack up to 50kg, the gym is built for everyone – from beginners finding their feet to serious lifters chasing PBs.


"The Council have been adamant they wanted the very best for Palm Island, and they've secured it," Shane said.

"There will be a few minor adjustments and improvements over time, but I can guarantee there is nothing better in remote Australia.

"This gym is something the whole community can be proud of."

He said now was the perfect time to come and try it out – get a start on your fitness journey on Palm.

*ABOVE: Beau Rogers and Chantelle Cuevas were two of the first to test the equipment out last week.*



## GYM MEMBERSHIP

**\$180 FOR 6 MONTHS**  
**6AM TO 9PM ACCESS**

**\$10 CASUAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE DURING STAFFED HOURS**

Available for 16+ to 50 (above 50 will require health clearance)

Ages 12-15 must be part of a supervised group, casual rates to apply

**Bring a Towel!!!**

# Flying Azzie hits the scoreboard

Rising rugby league star, Assariah Lenoy, is playing hard for the Rabbitohs' Under 21s men's competition for the Jersey Flegg Cup in Sydney.

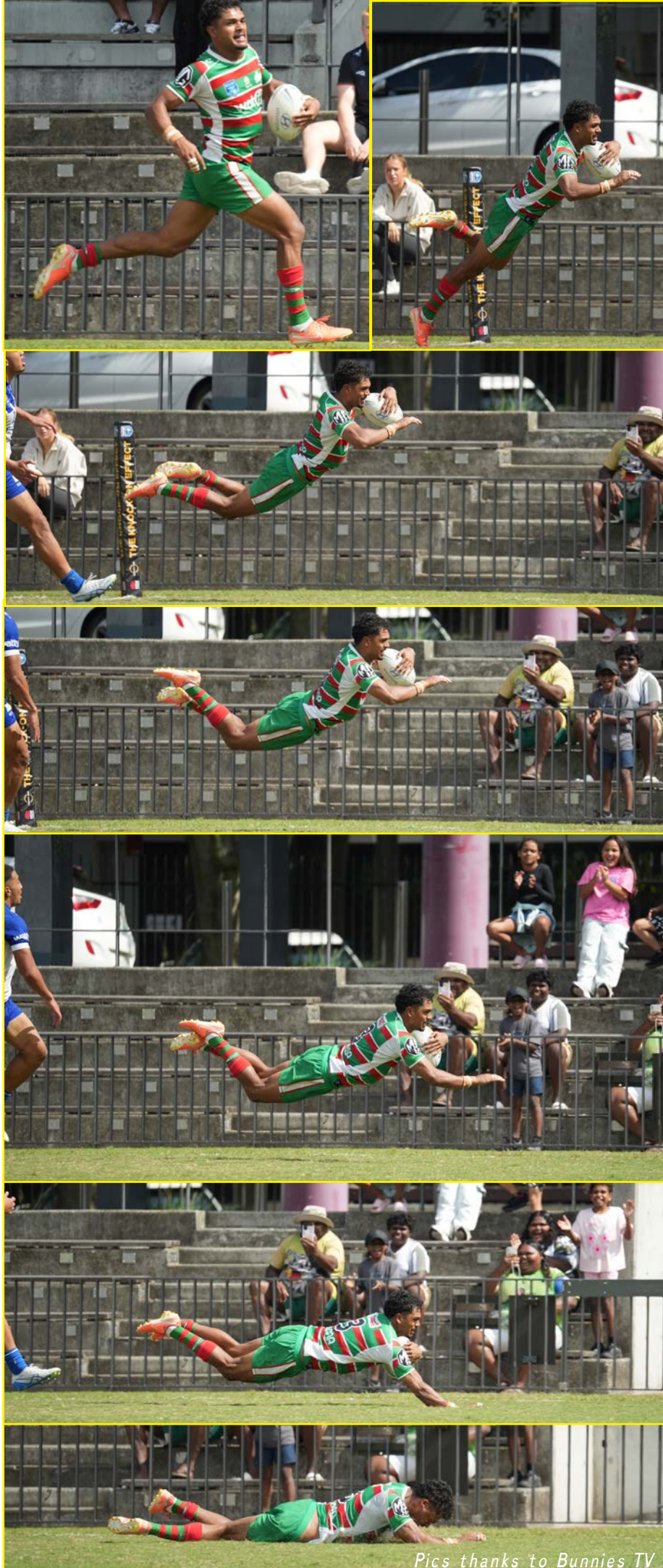
The 26-week competition consists of 14 NSWRL clubs, including 11 existing NSW-based sides, the Melbourne Storm, Warriors and Kaiviti Silktails.

They lost round five, played over the Easter weekend, when several family and friends were in the audience, down from Palm Island and Townsville, to see 'Azzie' play a mixed game – at one end spending some time in the sin bin and at the other scoring a magnificent try.

"It was tough," he told Bunnies TV after the game. Myself going into the sin bin obviously didn't help, but the boys definitely dug it, and it was a great effort from us. We know what we're capable of and we learn from it."

He said he enjoyed his "big dive".

"I haven't been in open space for a while, so grateful to get a try for the year," he said.



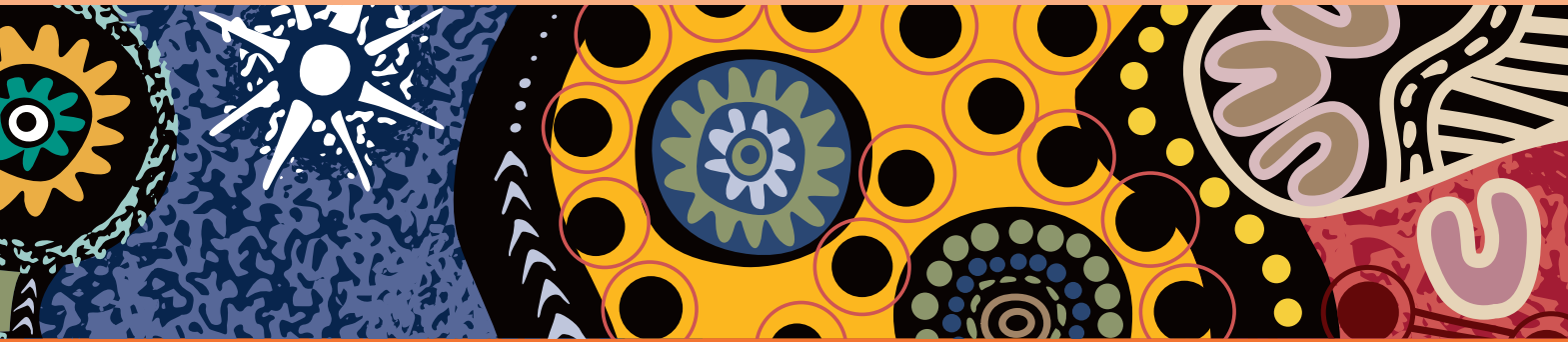
*Big congratulations to Christian Foster, who has made the Northern Under 12s team again this year. His achievement has been credited to the coaching, guidance and time from the PIJRL, and a lot of hard work and support behind the scenes.*

*Pics thanks to Bunnies TV*

# There's a Census job for you



Census



- ✓ Support your community
- ✓ Work flexibly and locally
- ✓ Temporary jobs available all over Australia

We're hiring over 30,000 people for the 2026 Census.

See all opportunities at [census.abs.gov.au/jobs](https://census.abs.gov.au/jobs)



# Palm Island Walking Trails

## Your Input is Invited

Council is inviting input from Elders, Rangers, community groups, businesses, and residents to help shape recommendations around:

- Potential walking trail routes (including Wallaby Point, Airport to Pencil Bay, and Palm Valley Walk)
- The visitor cultural experience
- Construction and delivery (local participation, long-term operations, sustainability).

### **Community Survey**

**Open: 15 April – 15 May**

Available via Facebook, community workshops, and Council websites.

### **On Country Conversations**

Arrange a one-on-one or small group yarn between **15 April and 15 May**

### **Become a Project Ambassador**

Help gather community feedback  
**Paid Opportunity**




Complete our Walking Trails Survey for your chance to **WIN one of five SeaLink multi passes**

## Community Workshops

### Workshop 1 – Inform Lead and Learn

 **Wednesday 29 April**

 **11:00am – 5:00pm**

 **Minggamingga  
Rangers Headquarters**

- What is the walking trails project?
- Where should trails go?
- What facilities do we need?  
Arts hubs • Cultural welcome  
• signage • seating • educational
- Cultural significance and community benefits?

### Workshop 2 – Co-design Prioritise and Equip

 **Thursday 30 April**

 **11:00am – 5:00pm**

 **Palm Island  
Community Company**

- Working together on what this could become
- Review preferred trail options
- Identify priority tracks and staging
- Local employment opportunities (guiding, rangers, cultural delivery)
- How can we share Palm Island's stories
- What are the opportunities for community-led business and enterprise.

### Workshop 3 – Validate Transform and Empower

 **Wednesday 13 May**

 **11:00am – 5:00pm**

 **Fred Clay Park  
Foreshore**

- Confirm community preferences
- Present key ideas
- Outline next steps
- Training, jobs, future opportunities (Build workforce capabilities and career pathways).



### CONTACT

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**Queensland  
Government**



## Key information for enrolling and voting

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.

# EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

## AIRPORT CAFE

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably experienced individuals, businesses and community enterprises to establish and operate a café at Palm Island Airport.

Council will provide a dedicated space within the airport terminal, and is seeking innovative and practical proposals that enhance the passenger experience and contribute to the amenity and activation of the airport precinct.

Find the documents at the following link or come into Council reception to get a copy:  
<https://www.vendorpanel.com.au/PublicTenderAccess.aspx?id=681968cb987946c28456888b59f039c2s502731>

Expressions of Interest close on Friday 17 April at 2pm.

## NEXT UP...

EOI for Interested Persons on Planning Committees for ANZAC, NAIDOC open on Monday 13 April. For more information watch this space, or see Council reception for more information and paperwork.

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE\*  
(Issue 447\*) will be Thursday 23 April  
for publication on Tuesday 28 April



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!!!