

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 447

28 April 2026



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

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

Businesses jump at chance to register

Palm Island's aspiring business leaders and keenest workers turned up in good numbers to support the Council's first Local Suppliers Expo last Wednesday.

It was a chance for them to learn about how to become a registered local supplier that the Council could contact when work came up.

"It was good to see so many people with a wide range of skills and ideas to offer," Mayor Alf Lacey said.

"Council strongly supports and values local supplier engagement, they will always be our first port of call when work is available – we just need to know who they are and get them registered."

The expo was held to help local businesses understand how to register as suppliers.

"Council staff, and representatives from Local Buy were on site to assist with registration and sign-ups," CEO Emma Bradbury said.

"Local suppliers can continue to register through Council Reception. This is a way to ensure our local people and businesses are our first port of call wherever possible."

For more information, see Council reception.



ANZAC Day

Palm Island, 2026



St Anne's Catholic church on Palm Island was happy to acknowledge ANZAC Day. Pics above from their Facebook page. Pics below and on p 3 thanks to Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council.





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY — 2026 —

BWGCOLMAN WOMEN UNITED EVENT



More than 100 women celebrated Palm Island's 2026 Deadliest Female Elder, **Aunty Jenny Cannon**, at the community's International Women's Day event last month.

Aunty Jenny was recognised for her humble heart and tireless dedication to her family and the broader community.

As she was presented with a beautiful bouquet, gifts and a certificate of appreciation, the room erupted in applause for a woman known for her "kind words" and constant support of local services.

Under the 2026 campaign theme, "Give to Gain," the event highlighted the importance of supporting one another to ensure every woman in the community could thrive.

The day's proceedings were led by Master of Ceremonies (MC) **Tenielle Oui**, who made a powerful speech on 'Why balancing the Scales' mattered in 2026.

She then guided the audience through a packed agenda, introducing a series of guest speakers who shared insights on

empowerment, resilience, and the value of kindness.

A highlight of the celebration was a dedicated panel featuring managers and support workers from key local services.

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council Deputy Mayor **Mersane Oui** spoke on her life's journey of 'Giving to Gain'.

She then joined representatives from the Palm Island Women's Healing Service – **Kelly Botwright** and staff, **Bwgcolman Primary Health Centre** – **Keira Blackley**, **Dr Patricia Murphy**, **Ferdy's Haven** – **Lekara Sam-Wallis**, **SEWB/DFV Service** – **Janet King & Isobel Baira**, **Joyce Palmer Health Service** – **Lauwana Blackley**, and others, who talked about the vital work being done on the island.

The Panel discussion was focused on **The Equity Gap – Barriers & Strategies for Change**:

- **Domestic and Family Violence Support:** Providing safe spaces and crisis intervention for women and children.
- **Healing and Reintegration:** The Women's Healing Service shared their mission of supporting women through holistic case management, yarning circles and empowerment workshops.

Community Health: Emphasising the link between emotional well-being and physical health, drugs and alcohol issues and strategies.

The event closed with the cutting and sharing of the IWD 2026 cake, a group photo and a moving speech that echoed the "Give to Gain" theme, leaving the crowd with this final and inspiring thought:

"When we give something of ourselves and our kindness, we will always gain something back from others".



Strengthening our team to deliver for community



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is working hard from within to structure the organisation to deliver on the Corporate Plan, ensuring services, infrastructure and opportunities continue to meet community needs now and into the future.

To that end, Council is pleased to welcome two new Directors, who will start in early in May, after an extensive local and regional recruitment process:

- John Tumbers (on the left above) as Director – Infrastructure, Assets & Engineering, and
- Haloti Kailahi (on the right above) as Director – Corporate, Community & Economic Development

Both bring strong experience in local government, including work in remote Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities, and will play key roles in delivering Council’s program of works and service delivery priorities.

Council would also like to acknowledge Fahad Shaban, Interim

Manager – Assets & Engineering, and Dean Griggs, Interim Manager – Business Development, who will shortly conclude their interim appointments.

Both have provided continuity, professionalism and steady leadership during an important period of organisational change, and Council sincerely thanks them.

Mayor Alf Lacey said the new appointments reflect Council’s focus on long term capability and stability.

“Council has been very deliberate in strengthening its leadership so we can develop local talent, and deliver on our Corporate Plan and the priorities our community has set for us,” he said.

“At the same time, we acknowledge

the steady work of our interim leaders who have helped carry the organisation forward during change.”

CEO Emma Bradbury said the broader story was about people and progress.

“Transition is part of building a strong organisation,” she said.

“Fahad and Dean have made a valuable contribution and we now welcome John and Haloti as we continue strengthening how Council supports staff, delivers services and implements the Corporate Plan – always guided by our community.”

The recruitment process also identified stronger local talent, resulting in two further appointments and an internal promotion....more details in our next issue!

ORANGE SKY SHIFT SCHEDULE

PALM ISLAND

Free washers & dryers
for you to use + space for a yarn

	Morning Shift 9:00am - 12:30pm	Afternoon Shift 1:00pm - 4:30pm
MONDAY	BUTLER BAY	KITCHENER BLIGH
TUESDAY	PCYC	RESEVOIR RIDGE
WEDNESDAY	THE FARM	DEE STREET
THURSDAY	BUTLER BAY	STANLEY STREET
FRIDAY	RODEO GROUND	KITCHENER BLIGH

On extremely wet or rainy days we will set up at PCYC

Any Questions?
Call Orange Sky 0482 073 683

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REGISTER NOW FOR LET'S COUNT PALM ISLAND

Fully Funded Professional Development with Free resources and ongoing digital tools/support.



Register via the QR code or links below ↓
or ↓

<https://forms.office.com/r/S16FDY09WK>

LET'S COUNT Palm Island



Session 1:
Tuesday 12th May, 2026
9am - 3.00pm in person



Venue -
PICC BLUE Building
Palm Island



Session 2:
Tuesday, 16th June 2026
9:30am - 12pm ONLINE



For further information, or a paper option to register, contact either
Stacey on 0497 102 911
or
Donna (Smith Family) via
donna.kelly@thesmithfamily.com.au
0401 132 528

Queensland Government

Come see the Indigenous Drivers Licensing Unit on Palm Island

TUESDAY 26 May 2026	PCYC 9:30am - 4:00pm	Licence Testing (Written & Practical), Licensing & ID Services and all enquiries
WEDNESDAY 27 May 2026	PCYC 8:30am - 4:00pm	Licence Testing (Written & Practical), Licensing & ID Services and all enquiries
THURSDAY 28 May 2026	PCYC 8:30am - 1:00pm	Licence Testing (Written & Practical), Licensing & ID Services and all enquiries

Learner Licence Testing at **1:00pm** Tuesday & Wednesday

Practical Driving Tests

It is now a requirement that the **Hazard Perception Test** is completed before doing a driving test.

For more information, visit
<https://www.qld.gov.au/hazardperceptiontest>

Applicants must provide a vehicle for testing.
IDLU do not provide a vehicle.

Register your Interest now.

Scan the QR code or see

<https://events.humanitix.com/host/indigenous-driver-licensing-unit>



No Cash - EFTPOS available | Bring all I.D - Originals only

Call 1800 130 886 | Email: idlu@tmr.qld.gov.au

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



GYM TEMPORARY TIMES 27TH APRIL TO 3RD MAY

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 2PM - 8PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM

CONTACT:

SHANE.WYLIE@PALMCOUNCIL.QLD.GOV.AU
PHONE:0467361930



The first-ever Australian citizenship ceremony held on Palm Island will take place next Wednesday (6 May).

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey (*left*) said the ceremony marked an important milestone for the Council and community.

“This is about the values of citizenship, belonging and community,” he said.

“It’s a meaningful moment, it’s about welcoming new citizens and recognising the commitment they will make to Australia and the community they call home.”

Three people will take the Australian Citizenship Pledge of Commitment at the ceremony, to be held at the Council Chambers at 11.30am.



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

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*
(Issue 448*) will be Thursday 7 May for publication on Tuesday 12 May



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!!!