

Palm Island Voice



ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

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



FREE!

Issue 452

6 July 2026

RAES crew steps up!



Palm Island's RAES program participants showed outstanding commitment last Saturday, turning up on their weekend to support one of Council's major community-building projects – the delivery of ten new one-bedroom homes at Chook City.

The Palm Island Community Economic Development Foundation and the RAES program are about creating real opportunities, building skills and supporting projects that strengthen the whole community.

So when the RAES crew stepped up last weekend, their efforts weren't just about working alongside other contractors to finalise preparations for the opening of ten new one-bedroom homes at Chook City.

With skill, teamwork and good humour, the crew pushed through the final preparations to ensure the housing project was ready for its NAIDOC Week launch.

Their efforts meant Palm Island was one step closer to welcoming families

into safe, modern homes when Housing completed its allocation process.

Council CEO Emma Bradbury said the work of the Foundation and the RAES team reflected the strong community-focused values championed by Mayor Alf Lacey through his leadership of the Foundation.

“Council is grateful for the contribution of the RAES team, whose commitment and efforts are a great example of the practical,

community-driven approach long advocated for Palm Island,” she said. “As Palm Island heads into NAIDOC Week 2026 under the theme *50 Years Strong and Still Deadly*, their contribution is a reminder of the strength, resilience and leadership that continues to shape this community's future.”

Residents and visitors can look forward to a vibrant week of celebrations

[Full program details inside!](#)



NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
5-12 JULY 2026



We have a winner!

The Palm Island Community Economic Development Foundation is proud to announce the winners of its Logo and Shirt Design Competition.

The winning design was created by the Year 9 and 10 girls from Bwgcolman Community School, whose artwork impressed the judging panel with its creativity and strong connection to the Palm Island community.

Foundation Directors Alf Lacey and Mersane Oui presented the students with a certificate and the \$1,000 prize in recognition of their outstanding achievement.

The winning design incorporates the Bwgcolman colours, along with a turtle and island motif, paying tribute to the 40 tribes of the Bwgcolman people and reflecting the Foundation's commitment to community, culture, and identity.

The Palm Island Community Economic Development Foundation congratulates the winning students and thanks them for their innovative design, creativity, and the pride they have shown in representing the Bwgcolman community.



MEANWHILE the Palm Island Community Economic Development Foundation has welcomed community to a healthy breakfast to celebrate their move to the Old Arts Centre building.

The team served bacon and eggs, fresh fruit, yoghurt and cereal, along with tea and coffee, while sharing information about the programs and opportunities available through the Foundation.

Community members heard about the new Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES) program and the new Cemetery Beautification Project – improving an

important community asset while paying respect to those who have gone before us.

Attendees were also updated on upcoming employment opportunities, including Census Worker positions and Administration roles with Council as part of the new Home Ownership Scheme.

Anyone interested in applying for any of these positions should visit the Foundation and speak with staff, who can help with information and applications.

The Foundation also wanted to encourage everyone to attend their scheduled RAES appointment to complete their registration.

Attending appointments was important to avoid any future impact on payments and to ensure access to training, employment and other support opportunities.



Palm Island Council stepping up to national level

Mayor Alf Lacey, Deputy Mayor Mersane Oui, Cr Ebanese Oui and CEO Emma Bradbury travelled to Canberra to attend the Australian Local Government Association's 2026 National General Assembly last month.

They said it was a full and productive program, engaging with councils from across the country, contributing to national discussions and ensuring Palm Island's voice was firmly at the table.

It was an opportunity to share our community's priorities, learn from others, and strengthen the partnerships that support our work back home.

Amongst those north Queensland Indigenous Councils met were Minister for Indigenous Australians Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories of Australia Kristy McBain, Minister for the Environment and Water Senator Murray Watt, Minister for Housing Clare O'Neil and senior advisers to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The delegation said they were proud to stand alongside elected members from across Australia as they advocated for Palm Island with commitment, respect and purpose.

Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey said they also took the time to visit some of the sites and suburbs named after prominent Aboriginal people in history, such as 'Clay Street', after Fred and Iris Clay.

"We were there to pay our respects on behalf of our people, to honour their legacy and visit the sites that have been named after them in Canberra on Ngunnawal Country," he said.



First Nations councils met with the Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy to discuss housing and regional priorities.

Palm Island celebrates ...



5-12 JULY 2026

A week of celebration, culture and community spirit. Join us for church services, flag raising, traditional dance, sport, markets, workshops, children's activities and our Community Open Day.

Everyone Welcome!

TUESDAY 7/7



- 9.45am Flag-raising – Elders, Mayor, Councillors & Youth Volunteer – Clocktower Park
- 10–10.15am Welcome & Acknowledgement – PIASC, Manbarra TO & Bwgcolman Elders
- 11am Yindinji Dance Group
- 11.30am Pacific Flowers
- 12pm Community BBQ – Dept. Housing
- 12pm Great Northern Dancers
- 1pm Bwgcolman Dancers
- 1.30pm TSI Descendants
- 1.45pm TSI (Darnley, Murray Island) Descendants
- 2pm Open Mic: Bwgcolman Kids Styling up
- 2.25pm Musical Performance – Singing by Milton Thaiday & Archie Fraser
- 3pm Karaoke Open MIC – Led by Valmai Aplin
- 10am–4pm Jnr Netball Carnival – Netball Courts
- 10am–4pm NAIDOC Display – Indigenous Knowledge Centre
- 10am–4pm Market Stalls – Clocktower Park
- 5pm–9pm Snr Netball Carnival – Netball Courts

SUNDAY 5/7

✚ 10–11am Combined Church Service, Blessing & Acknowledgement of NAIDOC Week – Mall Area

- 12pm Ferry Departs Townsville
- 2:15pm Ferry Departs Palm Island
- 3–5pm Combined Church Evening Service: Family sharing – Mall Area

MONDAY 6/7 ★

PUBLIC HOLIDAY – TOWNSVILLE SHOW DAY

- 12pm Ferry Departs Townsville
- 2:15pm Ferry Departs Palm Island



FERRY DEPARTURES



TO TOWNSVILLE

Monday 6/7 – 12pm
Friday 10/7 – 8:00am
Saturday 11/7 – 12pm
Sunday 12/7 – 12pm



TO PALM ISLAND



NAIDOC WEEK

50 YEARS DEADLY

5-12 JULY 2026



WEDNESDAY 8/7

- 9am-3pm Jnr Netball Carnival – Netball Courts
- 10am-4pm NAIDOC Display – Indigenous Knowledge Centre
- 10am-4pm Market Stalls – Clocktower Park
- 10am-4pm Children's Activities – Clocktower Park
- 12pm Elders Luncheon – Clocktower Park
- 10am-4pm Palm Island Community Company Events Day – Health Focused activities – Clocktower Park
- 1pm Community BBQ – Sponsored by PICC – Primary Health
- 4pm-8pm Snr Netball Carnival – Netball Courts
- 6pm State of Origin Screening at Bistro – Main Bar & Challenger Bay Bistro

THURSDAY 9/7

- 10am-4pm Market Stalls – Fred Clay Park / Mall Area
- 10am-4pm Children's Activities – Hosted by PICC & PCYC – Clocktower & Fred Clay Park
- 10am-4pm Spear-making workshop – Beach Front – Fred Clay Park
- 10am-4pm Jnr Netball Carnival – Netball Courts
- 1-3pm Spear-throwing competition – Co-ordinator: William Blackman – Beach Front – Fred Clay Park
- 1-3pm Manu – William Blackman – Jetty
- 2-4pm Cooking Competition – Fred Clay Park, Women's Shelter
- 5pm-9pm Snr Netball Carnival – Netball Courts

FRIDAY 10/7 – PALM ISLAND COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

- 8:00am Ferry Departs Townsville
- 10am QLD Government, Premiere, Housing Minister Launch – Chook City
- 11am Market & Information STALLS / WORKSHOPS OPEN – Fred Clay Park / Mall Area
- 11am Tribal Banner March – Start Fred Clay Park
- 12pm Official Address / Welcome to Country
Rent-to-Buy Scheme Announcement
- 12.30pm Yindinji Dance Group

- 1pm Finals Spear Throwing competition – Beach front, Fred Clay Park
- 1pm TSI Descendants – (Ekunyah)
- 1.25pm TSI Descendants (Darnley & Murray Island – Matthias)
- 1.30pm Pacific Flowers
- 1.45pm Great Northern Dancers
- 2pm Bwgcolman Dancers
- 2.30pm Dizzy Doolan
- 3pm Brothers Productions – ZMK
- 4pm Karaoke – Valmai Aplin
- 4.15pm Ferry Departs Palm Island
- 5pm NAIDOC Dinner – Palm Island Bistro
- 8pm Firework Display – Waterfront
- 10pm-1am Evening Function – Challenger Bay Bistro



SATURDAY 11/7

- 12pm Ferry Departs Townsville
- 6pm-1am Evening Function – Coolgaree Bistro
- 7pm-1am Extended Trading Hours – Various

SUNDAY 12/7

- 10-11am 2026 NAIDOC Closing / Combined Church – Mall Area
- 12pm Community BBQ – Mall Area
- 12pm Ferry Departs Townsville
- 2:15pm Ferry Departs Palm Island



DON'T MISS...

- ★ FLAG RAISING TUESDAY 7/7 9.45AM
- ★ ELDERS LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY 8/7 12PM
- ★ TRIBAL BANNER MARCH FRIDAY 10/7 11AM
- ★ SPEAR THROWING FINALS FRIDAY 10/7 1PM
- ★ FIREWORKS FRIDAY 10/7 8PM
- ★ COMMUNITY BBQ SUNDAY 12/7 12PM

Sunday 5/7 – 2:15pm
Monday 6/7 – 2:15pm
Sunday 12/7 – 2:15pm



School visits celebrate culture and connection for NAIDOC

Mayor Alf Lacey, Deputy Mayor Mersane Oui and Councillor Ebanese Oui were proud to attend Columba Catholic College's NAIDOC celebrations which marked a significant milestone for the school.

It was one of the biggest NAIDOC Week celebrations ever held at school as it demonstrated the school's ongoing commitment to recognising and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and achievements.

Deputy Mayor Oui had the honour of addressing students, staff and guests from the podium where she reflected on the importance of culture, identity and leadership.

Council was pleased to support the many Palm Island students who were studying and achieving success in Charters Towers.

Special guest Azzie Lenoy, a former Columba student and sporting role model, joined the celebrations.

Azzie's presence highlighted the strong inter generational connections between Palm Island families and his former school.

For many years, Charters Towers schools have played an important role in supporting Palm Island students to access educational opportunities while maintaining strong connections to their culture and community.

Council commended the College for its leadership in delivering a meaningful and inclusive NAIDOC celebration and looked forward to seeing this important tradition continue to grow in the years ahead.





Mayor Alf Lacey, Deputy Mayor Mersane Oui, Cr Ebanese Oui and CEO Emma Bradbury also went to Blackheath and Thornburgh College for some mentoring and yarning session with students before the end of Term 2.

The sessions were a chance to engage directly with young people about education, leadership, culture and future aspirations.

Students shared their experiences, achievements and goals while hearing from our local leaders about the importance of perseverance, identity and community.

The visit reinforced the value of education as a pathway to brighter futures and greater opportunities.

Council representatives were inspired by the determination and ambition shown by the students and acknowledged the support being provided by the school.



We are hiring WHSEQ Advisor



Chief Financial Officer

Support safe workplaces and
build a strong local workforce.

Learn, grow, and be part of Palm
Island's future.

Applications close: Friday 17 July 2026

Email: recruitment@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au

As Council's principal financial steward, the CFO provides authoritative advice to the Chief Executive Officer, Mayor and Councillors and plays a central role in shaping Council's strategic direction, long-term financial sustainability and governance assurance.

The role is responsible for aligning financial strategy with Council's Corporate Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Plans, Capital Works Program and significant grant-funded activities.

Beyond finance, the CFO contributes as a trusted executive partner across service delivery, infrastructure investment and organisational transformation.

This role may be based on Palm Island or in Townsville, with travel to Palm Island as required.

Preference will be given to Palm Island community members, in line with merit-based recruitment practices. Submit your resume and cover letter addressing the key responsibilities via Seek.

Applications close: 31 July 2026, with applications encouraged before this date as the role may be filled earlier.

<https://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au/My-Council/Jobs-vacancies/Chief-Financial-Officer>

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is hiring a Chief Financial Officer and a Workplace Health, Safety, Environment & Quality (WHSEQ) Advisor to help keep our workplaces safe.

The Council is entering an exciting period of growth as it delivers the bold vision of our Corporate Plan 2026–2031.

The current recruitment drive reflects progress and momentum – an opportunity for experienced

and emerging local government professionals to join a high-performing, values-driven team committed to lasting change for current and future generations.

A core focus of this transformation is building local

capacity and creating opportunities for local people to step into leadership and grow their careers.

They will be hands-on roles where you can learn, grow, and build your skills with support along the way.

Apply now (and watch this space!) at <https://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au/My-Council/Jobs-vacancies>

THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*
(Issue 453*) will be Thursday 16 July
for publication by Tuesday 20 July



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!!!