

Palm Island Voice



FREE! Issue 456
THURSDAY 3 September 2026



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



Congratulations!

to our newest
fully-fledged Fixed
and Mobile Plant
Mechanic Henry
Mossman, who has
just completed his
Certificate III in
Engineering!
Well done Henry!

Palm Island Spring Fairs moves to every second year for quality, not quantity

After last year's outstandingly successful Spring Festival, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has resolved to hold the festival every second year to enable a high-quality event to celebrate the community.

The next festival is scheduled for 24 and 25 September 2027.

The decision reflects Council's commitment to delivering a high-quality event to highlight Palm Island's rich culture, strong community spirit, local talent and unique identity.

"The 2025 Spring Festival was a great success, delivering a great line-up of performers headlined by Jessica Mauboy and some of our best local talent," Mayor Alf Lacey said. "Residents, families, visitors, performers, businesses and community organisations came together in a celebration of everything that makes Palm Island special.

"We understand some community

members may be disappointed that the Spring Festival will not be held every year. However, events of this scale require significant planning, funding, resources and community effort."

He said several important annual events and celebrations throughout the year brought people together and showcased the strength of the community.

"Palm Island has a busy calendar of annual events that our community proudly supports," Mayor Lacey said.

"By holding the Spring Festival every two years, Council can focus on ensuring it remains a standout event that continues to

grow and deliver the same exciting experience enjoyed in 2025 and potentially something even bigger in the future."

Continues next page...



Spring Fair on for 2027

The biennial approach allowed Council to secure partnerships, attract entertainment and activities, support local businesses and organisations, and invest the time required to develop a festival that would leave a lasting impression on residents and visitors alike.

“We want the Spring Festival to be a truly special event,” he said.

He said the Council as a whole acknowledged the hard work of staff, volunteers, sponsors, local organisations, performers and community members who contributed to making the 2025 festival such a success.

“We would like to thank everyone

who played a role in delivering the 2025 Spring Festival,” he said.

“The energy and support shown by our community made the event something we can all be proud of.”

Council looks forward to welcoming everyone back in 2027 for another deadly celebration of our people, our culture and our community.

Council drops paper agendas

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has moved to a fully digital Council meeting process, using the Resolve Meeting Management System.

The change means an end to bulky paper agendas.

“Councillors now securely access their full meeting agendas, reports and supporting documents anytime, anywhere, directly from their devices,” CEO Emma Bradbury said. “This achievement is the result of the dedication, commitment, and willingness to embrace change shown by our Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Council staff throughout the transition process.”

She said the community could still access the agendas online.

A chance to have your say...

The opportunity to have a say on environmental health was part of the community consultation expo held in the mall yesterday, but that doesn't mean it's too late.

Council is encouraging all residents to have their say on the environmental health issues that matter most to our community.

Environmental health is about keeping our community healthy and safe by reducing risks from our environment and promoting healthy living for everyone.

Community feedback will help Council understand local concerns and develop an Environmental Health Plan that reflected local needs.

The survey can still be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/PIASCenvhealth> or via Council reception.

Applications are now open for the 2026 Innovate with nbn® Grants Program, with \$125,000 in funding available for regional businesses using connectivity to innovate, boost productivity and create positive community outcomes. There are seven categories:

- AgTech and Environment
- Arts, Culture & Tourism
- Education
- First Nations Business
- Health and Wellbeing
- Innovation for Productivity — new in 2026
- Women in Regional Business

Each category winner will receive \$15,000, with an additional \$20,000 awarded to the overall 2026 Innovate with nbn® Champion.

Applications close at midnight on Monday, 12 October 2026. Learn more and apply: <https://www.nbnco.com.au/campaigns/innovate-with-nbn-grants-program>



Local government hosts statewide communications networking event



LGx is the Local Government Association of Queensland's (LGAQ's) annual conference for media and communications professionals in local government.

This year, more than 100 attendees came together at Cloudland in Brisbane across 25–26 August for

two days of professional development, networking and sharing ideas and experiences from councils across Queensland.

The program covered a broad range of topics relevant to council communications, including social media, community engagement, communicating challenging issues, marketing, campaigns, audience insights and AI.

As part of professional development, Palm Island Council attendees Tanya Haines and Riana Mabo took the chance to connect with other teams, hear from inspiring speakers and explore fresh approaches.

Pics thanks to LGAQ.



**Palm Island
NAIDOC
Shirts
ON SALE
now at the
Palm Servo!**

SENIORS NEED TO BE STRONG!
Palm Island Gym is offering
25% less
on membership fees.
for people aged 50+
DAY PASS: \$8.25 6 MONTHS \$139.50

TENDER **OPPORTUNITY**

PALM ISLAND WASTE TRANSFER FACILITY – DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION



Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council is inviting suitably qualified contractors to submit tenders for the design and construction of the new Palm Island Waste Transfer Facility.

This important project will support improved waste management services, strengthen community infrastructure and contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable future for Palm Island.

Tender documents and submission details are available via VendorPanel: <https://bit.ly/PIASCWTF> or via the QR code above.

POSITIONS VACANT

- **Chief Financial Officer**
Applications close Friday, 25 September 2026
- **Environmental Health Officer**
Applications close Sunday 13 September 2026
- **Trainee Environmental Health Worker**
Ongoing Applications
- **Director – Corporate, Community & Economic Development**
Ongoing Applications

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire 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.

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

A core focus of this transformation is building local capacity and creating opportunities for local people to step into leadership and grow their careers.

These roles may be based on Palm Island or in Townsville, with travel to Palm Island as required, and 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. Apply now via the QR code above (and watch this space!) or at: <https://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au/My-Council/Jobs-vacancies>



THE NEXT *Palm Island Voice* DEADLINE*

(Issue 457*) will be Monday 14 September for publication by Thursday 17 August



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 3500 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 more than 8000 'followers' on Facebook!!!