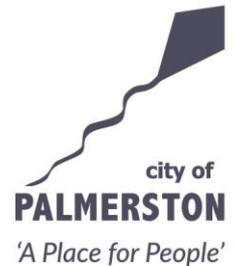


# MEDIA RELEASE



## PALMERSTON YOUTH FESTIVAL IS BACK IN 2026

24 March 2026

Palmerston Youth Festival returns 4 July 2026, bringing seven days of free events across the community and marking an important milestone in the festival's evolution.

What began in 2019 as Geekfest Top End has grown into a week long celebration of sport, arts, fandom, culture, talent, science and community connection. In 2026, new events will join returning favourites including Geekfest Top End and Palmy's Got Talent.

Since its inception, the festival has welcomed significant guests, attracted growing crowds and provided opportunities for young people to build confidence, showcase talent and connect with others.

City of Palmerston Mayor Athina Pascoe-Bell said the festival represents more than just a week of entertainment.

"We have watched this festival grow from a single event into a seven day celebration that belongs to our young people. What has been even more powerful is watching our youth grow with it.

Each year we see young performers step onto the stage for the first time and return more confident, more skilled and more connected. That is the real legacy of Palmerston Youth Festival."

The 2026 program will be delivered with support from the Northern Territory Government. This year represents the final year of the current funding commitment.

Mayor Pascoe-Bell said Council is proud of what has been achieved through the partnership.

"The support of the Northern Territory Government has helped this festival expand and reach more young people each year. The results speak for themselves in attendance growth, community participation and youth development outcomes.

We are focused on delivering an outstanding 2026 festival while continuing conversations about its future."

Expressions of Interest are now open for vendors, performers, community groups and food operators. A mural design competition is also underway to refresh the artwork near the





Palmerston Recreation Centre. The winning design will help shape the next visual chapter of the festival and leave a lasting mark in the community.

Palmerston Youth Festival is a celebration created with the community, for the community and 2026 is set to be its biggest evolution yet.

Expressions of Interest and mural submissions close 8 May 2026. Full details are available on the Palmerston Youth Festival website, <https://palmerston.nt.gov.au/PYF>.

**-ENDS-**

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