



Palm Island Voice

FREE!

Issue 299

Thursday 7 May 2020

PALM ISLAND



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

Looking good Palm Island – with thanks to CDP!

Palm Island CDP workers have taken great pride in being able to continue mowing and maintaining the foreshore, ANZAC memorial and elders lawns Regional Manager Janelle Whitehead says.

She said supervisors and volunteers have been adhering to all Covid-19 rules and processes to keep the CDP

operational over the past four weeks.

“The teams have really stepped up and taken pride in their community,” she said.

“They would like to do more and keep all the approaches to the Island maintained. I’m so proud of them all.”



Don't doubt it - you will be **FINED!**

Palm Island restrictions are still very much in place and people will be fined if they breach any of the current laws around movement, Deputy Mayor Deniece Geia says.

“We need people to understand Palm Island’s restrictions on movement, including boating and fishing, are determined by the Federal Government’s biosecurity laws, not the State Government or Council,” she said.

“It’s just unfortunate that last weekend people might have been thinking ‘today’s the day’ the state government has lifted the bans – but the easing of restrictions on the mainland doesn’t apply to us.

“Unfortunately, Palm Island Shire doesn’t fall within those laws, which were partly eased by the State Government last Friday, but not for us.

“The biosecurity laws we are under apply to all the Indigenous communities outside of the Cape including Yarrabah, Doomadgee, Woorabinda and Cherbourg, and the entire of Cape York and the Torres Straits is still locked down as well.

“We are all under the Federal Government’s law that says we still can’t go fishing, or come and go from our communities without going into quarantine.”

She said Palm Island’s Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) continued to meet several times a week to manage the situation.

“Covid-19 is just full on,” she said.

“All our new Councillors and our staff too, are well-aware the community is feeling frustrated.

“The phones are just ringing off the hook and we are being bombarded with emails and Facebook messages.”

She said the LDMG was led by Mayor Mislam Sam, acting-CEO Ross Higgins, OIC Sergeant Dave Rutherford and the Department of Housing, Homelessness & Public Works’ Area Manager Steven Boyd.

“Steven has come on board to help with some of the work around essential services and liaising with biosecurity officers,” Cr Geia said.

New Council up for more training on accountability and processes

The new Council's first weeks in office have been "extremely busy" and "very informative" Deputy Mayor (2020) Deniece Geia says.

"The acting CEO is making sure we've got all the information we need in terms of bringing the new Councillors up to date in relation to operations," she said. "So we've got all our email addresses and contact details up to date and we are well aware of our local government responsibilities. This week we have some additional training with local government,

just to make sure things like our personal interest forms and conflicts of interest registers – all that governance stuff – sorted out. And that's just about making sure that we understand that the importance of operating in a fair, open and transparent processes.

"It's also about making sure we're fully aware of the finances and our financial position, which we

had several fairly lengthy meetings about last week. We needed to get through that information, especially our financial statements, and just making sure Councillors are aware of our position."

She said Council was no longer under financial administration, but was operating as a 'normal' Council.

"Last week we made a decision on our new CEO but we can't make

any announcements about that until the contracts are sorted and signed," she said. "We had more than 40 applications but thankfully we had Peak Services, under the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to actually go through the recruitment process for us – their recommendations have come back to the new council and we've made our final decision."

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Councillors' Portfolios



Mayor Mislam Sam – Governance and Health

- Governance and Policy Development
- Government Coordination & Community Engagement
- Governance and Policy Development
- Health
- Economic Prosperity
- Emergency Coordination



Deputy Mayor Deniece Geia – Community Wellbeing

- Cultural Heritage Events and Planning
- Social, cultural and sporting services
- Education
- Children's Health and Education
- Land, Sea and Environment
- Youth Services
- Women's Issues



Cr Derek Haines – Infrastructure Services (assisted by Mayor Sam)

- Civil Works
- Water Supply
- Sewerage Services
- Cleansing Services
- Parks & Gardens
- Cemetery
- Men's Issues



Cr Andrea Kyle-Sailor – Facilities and Growth

- Arts and Culture
- Aged Care
- Community Housing
- Community Justice
- Alcohol Management
- Promotion of Palm Island
- Visitor Information
- Women's Issues

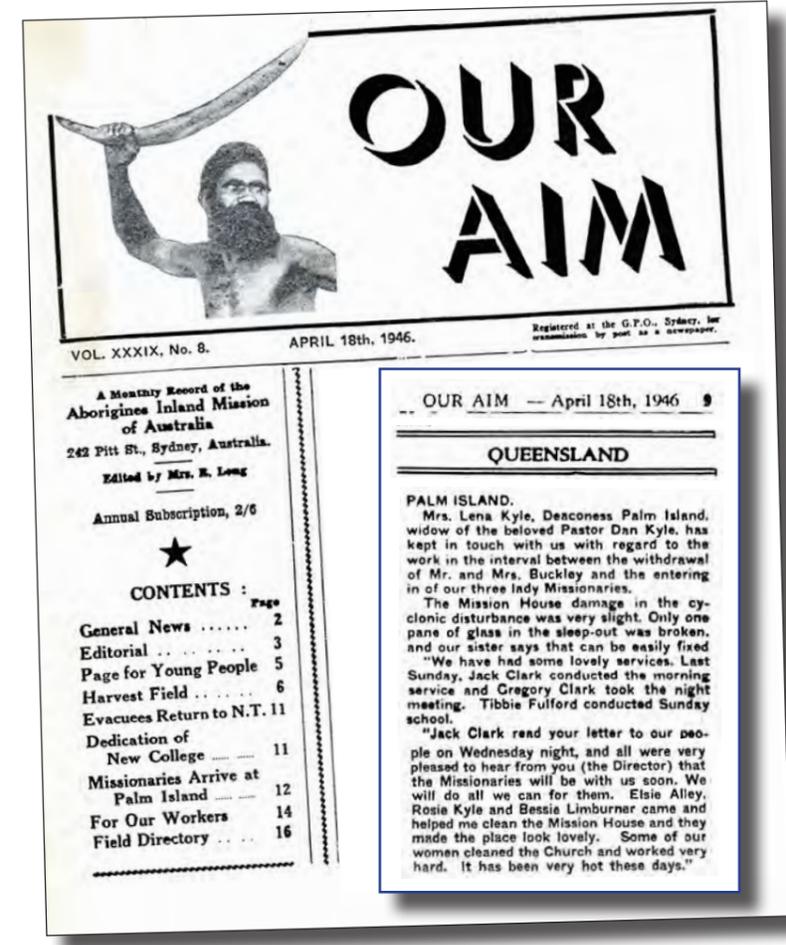


Cr Andrew Castors – Planning and Liveability

- Sustainable economic growth
- Employment and Training
- Planning of community facilities
- Recreation and leisure
- Food Safety
- LGBTI issues



Law & Order and Crime Prevention is the portfolio of all Councillors



Bubs leave their mark on spectacular wall-hanging

Every baby born in 2019 has had their footprint taken, printed on fabric and sewn into a spectacular wall-hanging aimed at promoting community engagement and ownership.

Midwife Julie Rockett said she brought the idea to life with the thought that when babies are older they would be proud.

"All of the Mums were interested to get involved and we had some good engagement from staff," she said.

"The wall-hanging will be displayed in the maternal and child health area of the Palm Island Health Care Centre so the children can see their footprints as they grow up when they come in for immunisations and other appointments."

She said she worked with Indigenous Health Workers Tulianna Dabea and Shoshanna



Proud parents Morris Baira & Mum Elaine Palmer-Wyles, holding Moira Baira, with midwives Julie Rockett & Jane Connell

Daisy on the project.

"It was a great team effort," she said.

"The end results were sewn together by midwife Julie Hanna and the additional artwork finished by Shoshanna with Shonelle Castors."

Midwifery consultant Jane Connell said the Mums

loved the idea.

"No one refused us," she said.

"And the Mums who have seen the finished product loved looking for their baby's footprint, as well as other children they know."

With thanks to Townsville Hospital & Health Service.

With thanks to Andy Kyle-Sailor for finding this for us!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Queensland Police Service officers can enforce movement restrictions and both State and Commonwealth laws may apply.

Under Queensland legislation, the maximum penalty for a person failing to comply with a relevant direction from a police officers is \$13,345.

Under the Commonwealth legislation, the maximum penalty for anyone who contravenes a requirement of the Commonwealth declaration is five years imprisonment and/or a maximum penalty of \$63,000.

<http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/coronavirus/travel-restrictions-remote-communities>



PUBLIC NOTICE

CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS

The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council wishes to clarify the situation surrounding the recent media from the QLD Government about the **relaxing of several restrictions across Queensland that will take effect as from midnight Friday 1 May 2020.**

The community needs to be aware that Palm Island is controlled by the **Commonwealth Biosecurity determination.**

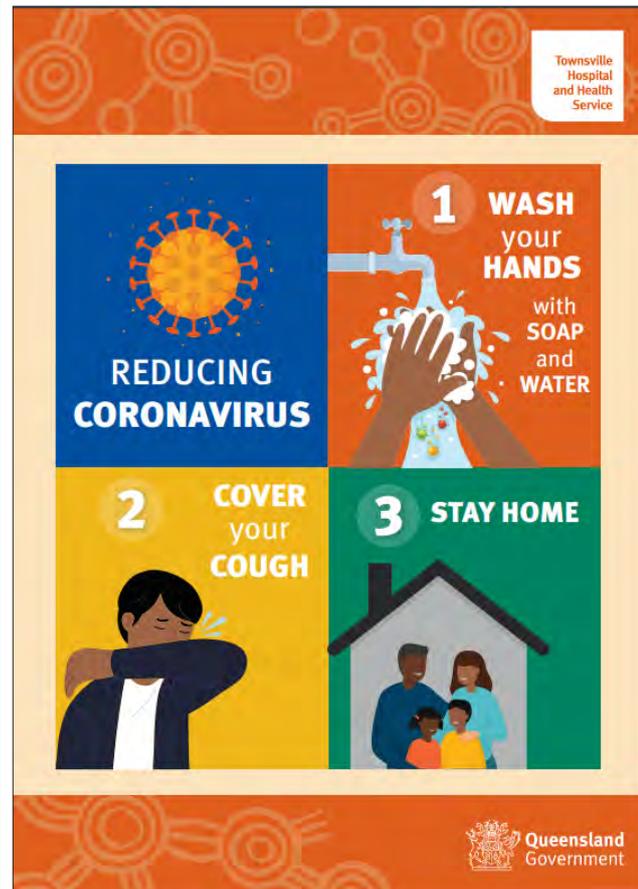
THIS MEANS THAT THE:

CURRENT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND THE MOVEMENT OF BOATS MUST REMAIN IN PLACE.

We understand that this could be confusing for community residents however please be assured that we are working with the Queensland Government to ensure the messaging relating to the **Indigenous Communities is very clear.**

As we, Palm Island residents live in a smaller designated area, travelling 50km is going to take us outside the designated area.

If this happens, you will need to go into quarantine for 14 days at your own expense before you can come back home. Which of course you may not want to do.



OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 300!!!) will be Thursday 14 May for publication on Thursday 21 May!

The **Palm Island Voice** is published fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor. You can follow us on Facebook! We have 2,588 'likes'!

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The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

Operating Hours for Palm Island Council are Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm

If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 3,709 'likes' on Facebook!!!



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