



# Much needed vet service open for business

Palm Island's new vet service is open for business and already up and running from the Old CDEP building on Farm Road.

By the end of their first day of business Tropical Vets, with help from Council staff, had also seen 27 new patients – all dogs + one fluffy fox (toy) – in total; with 16 microchips implanted and 20 vaccinations.

Tropical Vets, which is Townsville-owned, has offered their support to the much-improved service, which is an initiative of Council.

CEO Adele Young said it was a great start.

“Council staff continued to work over the weekend on improving and securing the new clinic, which is not quite finished,” she said.

She said the service was open for business.

“Vet Tobin will be back on Wednesday this week,” she said. “Drop a quick email to [vetonpalm@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:vetonpalm@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au) with your details and they will contact you with a confirmed appointment.”

She said surgical appointments would start on Friday 22 January.

“We have all new surgical, anaesthetic, and sterilisation equipment,” she said.

“One of the best things about this is Council's Animal Welfare officers will be integrated with professional support.”

*Continued next page...*



*ABOVE: Tobin's first patient and owner.*

*VET SERVICES OPEN 8:30am to 2:45pm*

*Wednesday 13 January!*

*NEW LOCATION - OLD CDEP BUILDING,  
FARM ROAD.*



**Is it too soon to call wedding of the year?! Our New Year newly weds might just have taken it already! See pages 4-5 for more!**

From page 1...

“We will be looking to promote or appoint and train staff in the animal welfare roles and also veterinary nursing and vet administration,” CEO Adele Young said.

“In conjunction with our Vet partners, programs focusing on education, pet health including registration, microchipping and spaying will be rolled out soon on the island.”

She said issues around unrestrained dogs and wild horses were next on their list.

“Reducing the number of dog bites and scary incidents is a top priority,” she said.

“Rehoming, removal, and destruction are all options depending on the circumstances – along with improved animal welfare programs and education generally.

“We will also be calling for contractors to tackle the issue of wild horses numbers and feral pigs, which are starting to come in on residential areas.”

She said funding for these animal welfare and management programs was a Council priority.

“Council gets no funding to provide these services or programs to residents, that’s why our reform plan is so important to turning our finances around,” she said.

## VET SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Wednesday 13 January
- Friday & Saturday 22-23 January (surgeries start)
- Friday 29 January
- Friday 5 February
- Friday 12 February
- Friday 19 February
- Friday 26 February

Book at:

[vetonpalm@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:vetonpalm@palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)



# Happy New Year, Mayor Mislam Sam writes...!

The first thing I want to do is congratulate Mr and Mrs Ingai Geia on their marriage, right here on Palm Island – what a way to start 2021!

As we turn the page on 2020, a year that will never be forgotten due to the pandemic, what have we learned?

We already knew that if you don’t have a job to go to and you’re stuck at home for long periods of time, it can cause domestic tension.

The rest of Australia experienced some of that, perhaps for the first time for some.

During the pandemic we were locked down in our own community but, perhaps to our surprise, there was peace – our community was quieter than it usually is and we were respectful of this ‘new norm’ and of each other.

We learned from the experience.

We are not out of this pandemic yet, but so far we have carried ourselves well and with dignity – let’s keep that up.

We all need our safe spaces and our homes should definitely be one of those places.

I would like to remind everyone that we must remain vigilant and follow all the health advice as it comes to hand.

### “From little things big things grow”

When I attended the senior school clap out at the end of last year, I listened to the kids sing beautiful Palm Island.

It made me cringe because I feel we are not doing enough to show the kids what they are singing is true.

What came to mind was our families in Butler Bay getting involved in their clean up weekend last year, because things like that are what real pride in our community is all about.

I hope we can continue to do these clean ups on suburb to suburb basis in 2021 – that would be a great start to really adding some meaning to that song.

I would also like to acknowledge Bulloo Vernon and Uncle Joshie, who have done similar work in their suburbs, and Shane Robertson, who used to clean up down the farm area.

It can be done and Council, for our part, will undertake to do more to clean up our waste site and provide bins where necessary.

## What's new in 2021

It was great to see the level of interest in our Christmas Lights Competition and hopefully 2021 will be bigger and better.

Don't forget to stay tuned to the Amazing Race when it starts airing next month.

We created history with that, and feedback from the production company was positive, with the highlight being Germaine and Tanya's dance team.

This year I'm really happy to announce we will have an additional ferry service operating every Wednesday, starting this week.

I would like to thank the State Government and Sealink for getting us there, but I would like to add we still need it to run seven days a week.

### Elders First

This year let's show our elders how much they mean to us by allowing them to board first especially on the Townsville side (RESPECT).

It's a long journey and parents need to control their kids on the ferry as quite a few elders have complained about certain behaviours (noise and kids running up and down).

Remember, kids cannot be swimming in and around the jetty when the ferry and barges are docking – they are an accident waiting to happen.

As we turn the page on 2020 we welcomed with rain, rain and more rain.

This is starting anew, this is life and new beginnings but we should never forget it can also be dangerous – flooded creeks can be hazard and we must ensure our kids are safe, so please don't let them swim alone.

### Healthy futures

I know a lot of families went through sorry times last year and as a community it has severely impacted each and everyone of us.

Our health must be at the forefront of all our concern and I'd like to encourage and thank our local Indigenous Health workers for being there for us in 2021.

They do need our help and one of the best ways we can do that is through sport.

We need our netball and rugby league competitions back up and running, and maintaining our health could be as simple as that.

Council can't run everything, but we can certainly do a bit to support anyone who wants to take on these positive challenges for all of us.

Come and see us, let's see what we can do to support you.

*Mayor Mislam Sam*



Last month the Palm Island Council, CEQ, Palm Island Barge Company, Hinterland Aviation and Sealink banded together to support Palm Island's first Christmas lights contest.

The judges, who shall remain anonymous, said it was a hard decision but wanted to make special mention of the work families had put in to the cemetery.

The results were:

1st place – 274 Coutts Street – Austin – \$500 CEQ voucher + Palm Island Barge vehicle transfer



2nd place – 254 Stanley Street – Beryl – \$300 CEQ voucher + 4 x Sealink family return passes

3rd place – 438 Joinery Lane – Thomas and Regina – \$200 CEQ voucher + 3 x Hinterland Aviation adult return airfares



## Palm Island was witness to Ellen Tapau & Ingai Prior-Geia's wedding on New Year's Day.

The pair were to be married at Freedom Park but rain forced them indoors to the PCYC centre – people are still talking about how much fun and happiness everyone enjoyed on the big day.

Ellen said even as they made their way to the ceremony, people were on the streets and at their front gates as they passed, wishing them well.

She said they had a ball and wanted to thank several people for helping to make the day the huge success it was – a day that will be talked about for many years to come!

Ellen said all their clothes were handmade by her beautiful sister-in-law Otare Joseph, Aicey Day's partner.

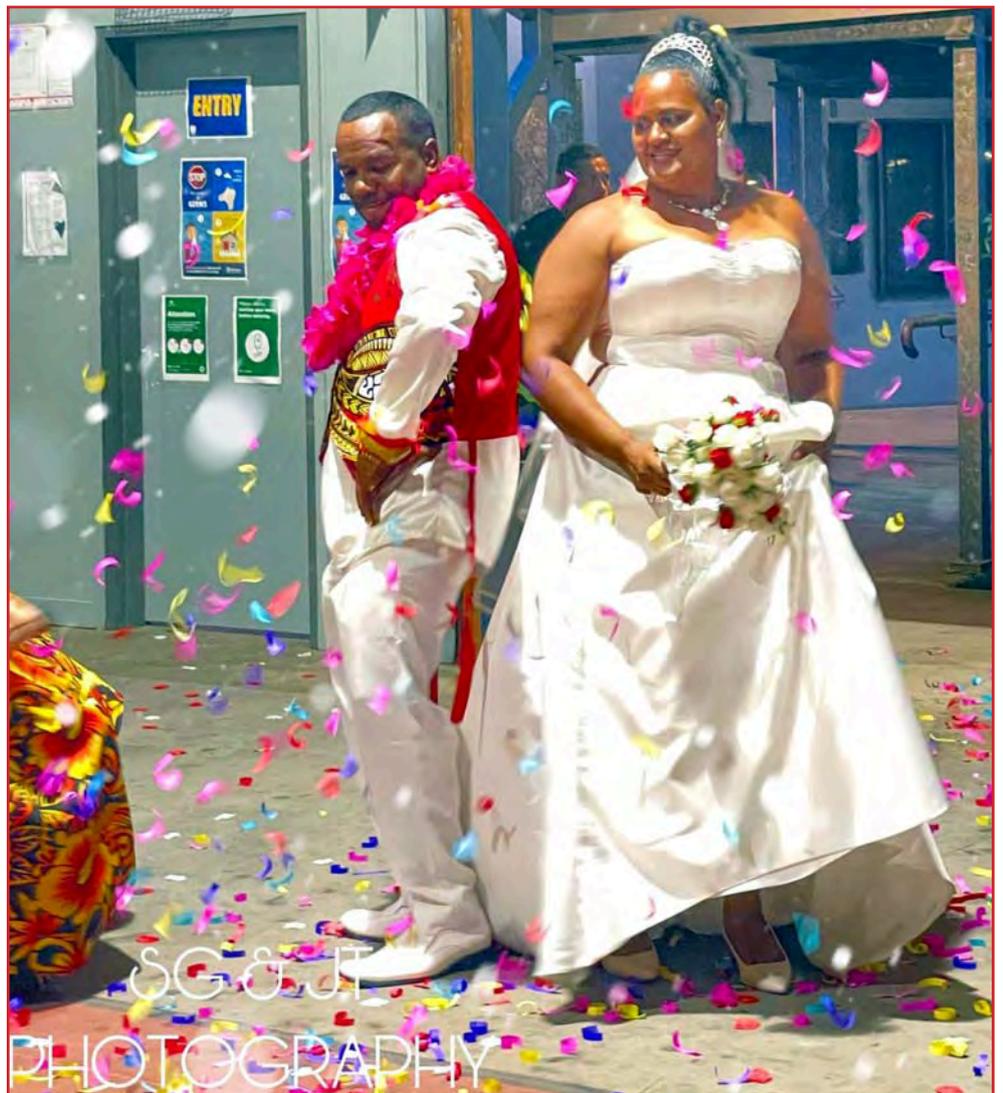
“She did an amazing job including altering my dress to include our bridal material as the train of the dress,” Ellen said.

“Thank you to Joyce Tapp and Sondra Gorringer for taking all those amazing photos also Uncle David Geia & Aunty Korina Geia for a beautiful wedding cake, to friends and family who travelled from the Torres Strait for our wedding and to our beautiful bridal party, it was an honour to have you all by our side, love u all.”

The wedding party was Darryl Pearson (Best Man) & Sameria Sinak (Maid of Honour); Jade Prior & Martha Clark; Peter Morgan & Gillian Prior; Nui Geia & Rebecca Billy; Gelam Geia & Elma Evenette; Sam Keast & Aba Tapau; Inosi Geia & Jennifer Prior; Parisa Geia & Nedeem Tapau; and Parisa Geia & Emily Noah.



# Congratulations Mr & Mrs Geia!!



# Free app for reef fishers

Reef authorities have called on fishers to download a free marine parks zoning app to use when they are on the Great Barrier Reef this year.

The free Eye on the Reef app contains a mapping feature that works outside of mobile range to pinpoint the user's location to show what zone they're in and what fishing activities are allowed there.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority acting General Manager Richard Quincey said the free app, chart plotters, and free zoning maps could all be used to help visitors know the rules out on the water.

“We want everyone to have a great time out on the water this year – by following the rules you contribute to Reef health and avoid the penalties that apply for breaking the rules,” he said.

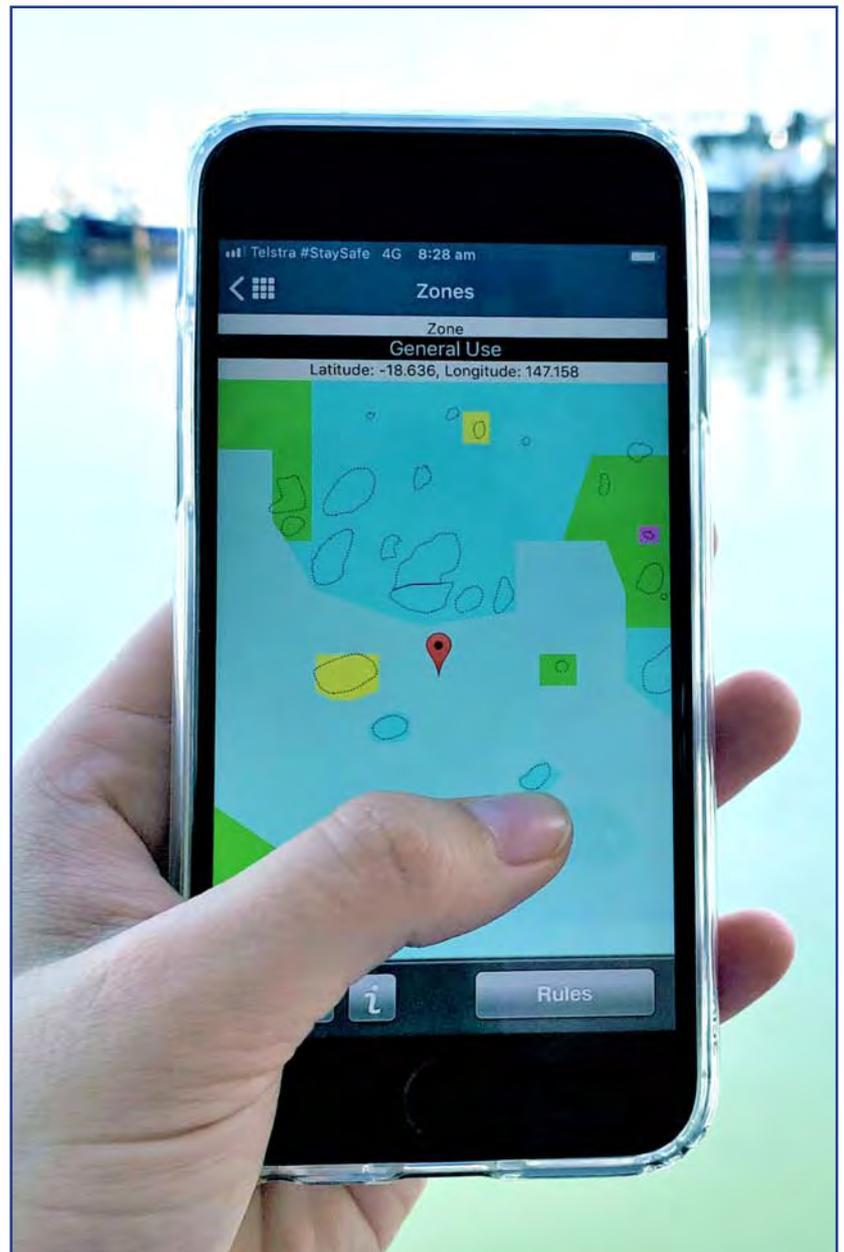
“Before leaving home, fishers should download the Eye on the Reef app to help plan their fishing or boating trips to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

“Chart plotters and free maps are also useful tools.

“On-water and aerial compliance patrols will be operating day and night these holidays, particularly at known illegal fishing hotspots.

“Anyone caught fishing in a no-take green zone can expect a \$2220 fine.

“While most fishers do the right thing, even a small amount of illegal fishing can have serious impacts on Reef health – particularly when coupled with coral bleaching and cyclones.”



More information about the app is on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority website: <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/access-and-use/zoning/eye-on-the-reef-zoning-app>.

Any suspected illegal activity can be reported to 24-hour free hotline 1800 380 048, or online at <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/report-an-incident>.

# Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council



## 2021 Events Calendar

January							February							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31			
31																				
April							May							June						
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							30	31												
July							August							September						
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October							November							December						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				

COUNCIL MEETING DATES	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	REGIONAL HOLIDAYS - PALM ISLAND ONLY	SIGNIFICANT PALM ISLAND EVENTS	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	SCHOOL TERMS
Jan 27 Ordinary & Land Trust Feb 24 Ordinary & Land Trust Mar 31 Ordinary & Land Trust Apr 28 Ordinary & Land Trust May 26 Ordinary & Land Trust Jun 30 Ordinary & Land Trust Jul 28 Ordinary & Land Trust Aug 25 Ordinary and Land Trust Sept 29 Ordinary & Land Trust Oct 27 Ordinary & Land Trust Nov 24 Ordinary & Land Trust Dec 15 Ordinary & Land Trust	Jan 1 New Year's Day Jan 26 Australia Day Apr 2 Good Friday Apr 3 Easter Saturday Apr 4 Easter Sunday Apr 5 Easter Monday Apr 25 ANZAC Day Apr 26 ANZAC Day (substitute day) Jul 5 TSV Show Holiday Oct 4 Queen's Birthday Day Dec 25 Christmas Day Dec 26 Boxing Day Dec 27 Christmas Day (substitute day) Boxing Day (substitute day) Dec 31 New Year's Eve	28 May Strike 57' Commemoration Day	Jun 11 Bwgcolman Day  Jul 4 - 11 NAIDOC Week Celebrations  Sep 3 Spring Festival	December 10 - 11 2020 Student Free Days 12 Dec 2020 - 26 January 2021 2 April 2021 - 16 April 2021 26 June -11 July 2021 18 September - 3 October 2021 11 December 2021-27 January 2022	<b>Term 1</b> 27 January -1 April (Semester 1)  <b>(Semester 2)</b> 27 April -25 June  <b>Term 2</b> 12 July - 17 September (Semester 3)  <b>(Semester 4)</b> 5 October - 10 December

\*PUBLIC HOLIDAYS Queensland public holidays are set by the Industrial Relations Minister. Public holidays for local show days are not shown due to diversity of dates across the state.

The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit

[www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au](http://www.palmcouncil.qld.gov.au)

#### OFFICIAL OFFICE

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## Compliments of the season to all!

It's a great time of the year which is filled with lots of love from friends and family around us.

It's also a good time to remember those people who may have been alone and reach out to them.

As we start the new year, we might also want to think about our goals and aspirations for 2021.

One common aspiration I'm sure we all have is the end of this pandemic.

The recent situation in NSW reminds us that this is not over yet.

While we wait for the vaccine, it is important that we keep our vigilance and take our COVID precautions, not sharing smokes and drinks, coughing into elbows, physical distancing, and masking in situations when we cannot physically distance.

It also reminds us of the importance of getting tested if we have even the slightest of symptoms.

Most of us will have health goals for the new year.

I find a good starting point is reflecting on what I have done through the past year to see what changes I will need to make in the new year.

Whether that might be eating healthier, losing weight, exercising more or even just getting a health check, make sure you keep your goals simple and realistic so you can build up on them as the year progresses. 2020 has been a difficult year for many of us but there have also been a lot of positive outcomes.

Let's focus on the positives and start the new year in good spirits.

Wishing you all the best for a wonderful and healthy 2021.

Doc Francis

## New Wednesday ferry service

As of this Wednesday, 13 January, SeaLink will be operating an additional return service to and from Palm Island.

The new Wednesday service will offer customers a return ferry six days a week from Wednesday to Monday. This Wednesday service will depart Townsville at Midday and the return service from Palm Island will depart at 2pm.

Please find below amendments to the Palm Island Timetable for this week.

Date	Depart Townsville	Depart Palm Island	Reason
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 2021	12.00 pm	2.00 pm	Commencement of an additional weekly return ferry service
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January, 2021	8.00 am	4.00 pm	Layover to facilitate funeral arrangements as approved by PIASC

NATIONAL CABINET DECIDES FACE MASKS COMPULSORY ON ALL FLIGHTS - this includes Hinterland Aviation and charters to and from Palm Island.

Brisbane's lockdown will end tonight, but all our Palm Island residents must stay on top of social distancing and general hygiene for themselves and their families.

We do not want the start of 2021 to be a repeat of last year's biosecurity lockdown.



## OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 317) will be Thursday 14 January for publication on MONDAY 18 January!

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 2,672 'likes'!

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**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 4,128 'likes' on Facebook!!!

