

Palm Island Voice



FREE!

Issue 322.1

Monday 29 March 2021



Good local interest in Local Communities forum

Local interest was high at a meeting last week about how new Thriving Communities reforms might change the relationship between Palm Island and the State Government.

Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Partnerships (DATSIP) Director-General Dr Chris Sarra and colleague Tim Fell were welcomed to the Island on Thursday last week to facilitate a Local Thriving Communities Information Forum, at the request of the Mayor and local Council. They said the forum went well and there were some robust and positive conversations had on the ground.



Health workers lead the way with COVID-19 vaccine

Two prominent Indigenous Townsville University Hospital staff have put their weight behind supporting getting the COVID-19 vaccine

Cultural practice coordinator Trevor Prior (*right*), who also suffers with chronic disease, said his reason for making the vaccine a priority was to lead by example.

“I wanted to show other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that there is nothing to be scared of,” he said.

“Getting the COVID-19 vaccination means that as a health worker I am taking an important step to avoid getting COVID-19.”

Trevor said his personal health issues strongly influenced his decision to get the vaccine.

“COVID-19 was a scary



reality for me; I am over 55, a diabetic and have heart disease which has seen me have a triple bypass,” he said.

“I will also require another heart surgery soon to repair my aortic valve, so I realised there were a number of risk factors for me and that I actually needed the protection of the COVID-19 vaccine.”

Trevor said he urged all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to get the vaccine.

“This vaccine is an essential safeguard,” he said.

“People should do their own research and talk to their doctor for reassurance if they

are worried.

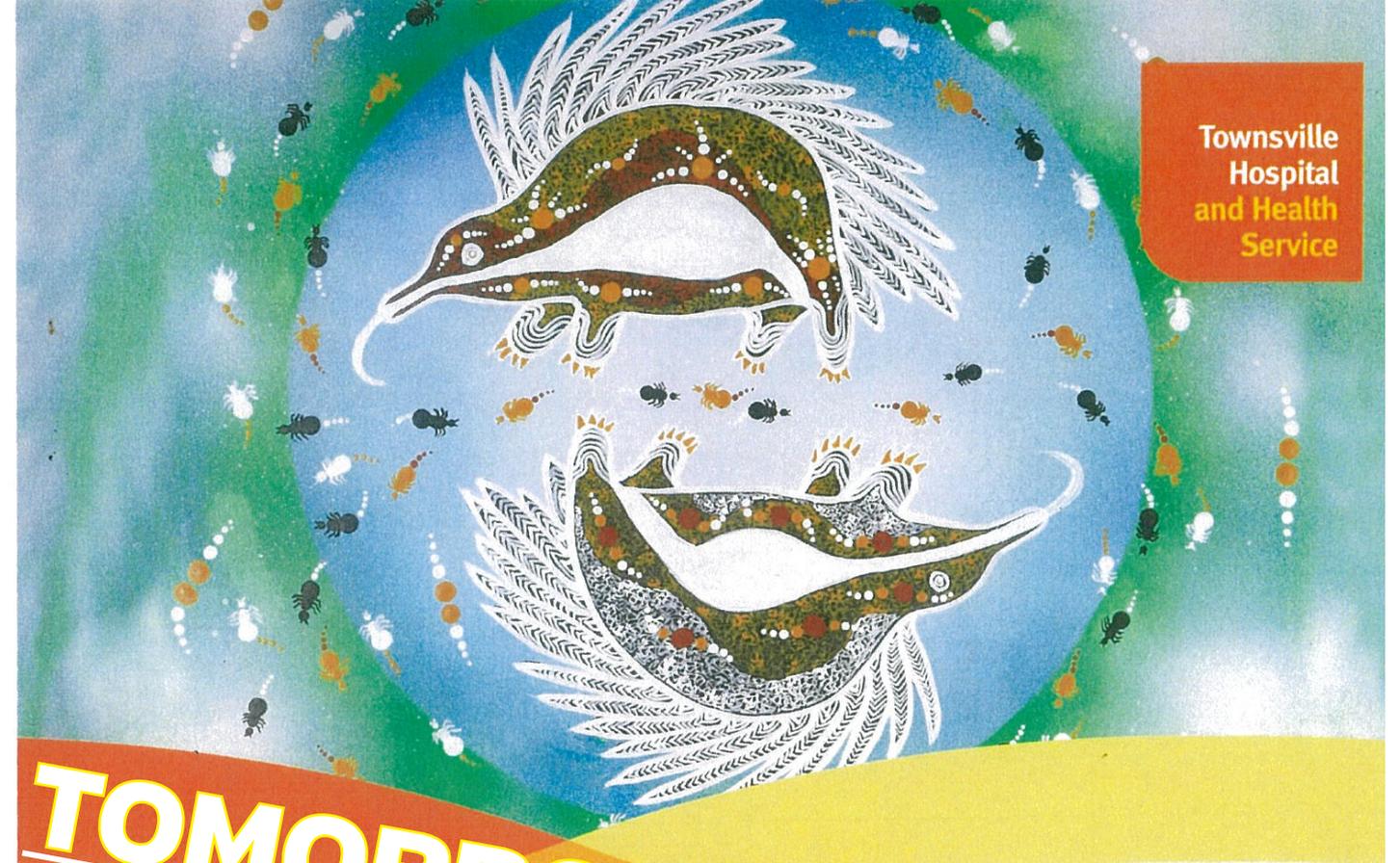
“I was unsure about the vaccine at first but after talking to my doctor and attending some education sessions I knew I would get the vaccine because with my health issues I just couldn't afford not to get it.”

Indigenous Health clinical nurse consultant Norma Lane (*left*) said she was thinking about vulnerable members of the community when she received the vaccine.

“I hope all of my friends and family get the vaccine; I had no side effects; it wasn't painful and is a small injection less than a bee sting,” she said.

“It's a simple task and is a big step forward in the fight against COVID-19





Townsville
Hospital
and Health
Service

TOMORROW - TUESDAY!

COVID Vaccinations – What you need to know

Date: Tuesday 30 March 2021

Time: 5pm – light refreshments will be offered

Venue: PCYC

Come and ask your questions. Dr Julie Mudd from the Townsville Public Health Unit will present information about the COVID vaccines and answer questions.

Local health workers will answer your questions.

Hear about plans to roll out the jab on Palm. Call Jennifer Ketchell mob 0429 899 328 with questions about the session.

For yourself, your family and your community.

Palm Island Primary Healthcare Centre



Veteran support-group SMEAC (a military-acronym meaning Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration & logistics, Command & communications) met with Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam, Councillors, senior staff and community justice representatives on Tuesday last week.



The Military use a SMEAC system to document their orders and instructions for field operations, so they can pass information on to their troops.

Since 2000, around 41 defence personnel have been killed in action yet over the same period around 699 have died by their own hands.

SMEAC Inc is a veteran-run, not-for-profit association dedicated to reconnecting, reintegrating, retraining by providing meaningful and purposeful employment.

They run school camps, veteran youth packages, youth justice programs, Indigenous youth programs, corporate training, extreme corporate packages, functions, reunions.

Their work on the ground includes extreme obstacle racing, triathlon, marathons and veteran-run drug rehabilitation programs.

Members 'Stomps', Aaron and Janelle

said Palm Island was “amazing” to visit.

“We did it and it turned out to be a great success with full support received from everyone we met,” they said on their Facebook page.

“The concept of Veterans Helping Veterans Helping the Next Generation did not go astray and it looks like we will be back in a month or so to develop a pilot program of SMEAC working with Palm Island’s next generation.”

LONG WEEKEND -EASTER HOLIDAYS

Palm Island Office will be Closed:
Friday 2nd April 2021 (Good Friday)
Monday: closed (Easter Monday)
Reopen: Tuesday 6th of April 2021

Appointments and Activities will re-commenced
Tuesday as Normal
8:30am start
Buses will be do pick up and drop off.
Office phone 0436 930 346

OUR NEXT fortnightly DEADLINE* (Issue 323) is Thursday 1 April (no foolin'!) for publication on MONDAY 5 April!

The **Palm Island Voice** is published weekly –*if we have paid advertising – or fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at chowes@westnet.com.au Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor, Christine Howes. You can also follow us on Facebook! We have 2,695 'likes'!

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 4,186 'likes' on Facebook!!!

