



Mayor takes the lead on COVID vaccination – what a week!

More than 400 Palm Islanders did the best thing they could do to take the strongest possible stand against COVID-19 last week – they rolled up their sleeves and took their first vaccination.

Mayor Mislam Sam was the first in a line out of 444 people to be vaccinated at the COVID clinic last Monday, leading the successful community campaign against the disease. The vaccination team will be back in early June for second jabs and, they hope, more first jabs.



“Well done Palm Islander people in making a stand for a healthier community,” Townsville Public Health Unit Director Dr Steven Donohue said.

“About 21 percent of the eligible group for the vaccine, which is now 16 years and older, have been vaccinated.”

He said he was keen to remind the community again why it was important to be jabbed.

“Healthy people can still transmit the virus to others and COVID is a severe illness for people who have diabetes or heart disease and kidney disease,” he said.

“It is important for everyone to be vaccinated to reduce community transmission.

“People want to be able to visit family



Pictured above: Mayor Mislam Sam & THHS Health Service CE Kieran Keyes; Below left: Nina Clay & Nurse Morgan Sleader; Below: Crs Andrew Castors & Andrea Kyle-Sailor, Kieran and RN True Oldaker.

and friends in other towns without the worry of getting the virus and bringing it back to Palm Island.

“We are asking people to do it for themselves, their family and their community.”



There will be Palm Island clinics held again from Monday 7 June to Friday 11 June and again from Tuesday 6 July to Friday 9 July.



Happy Birthday Father Manh!



A day (off) to remember ... united we stand
Palm Island will enjoy a public holiday on Friday 28 May, to commemorate the 1957 Palm Island Strike.

The Strike of 1957 was a time the people of Palm Island met in silence and unity to fight for better wages and living conditions for all.

As a result of these meetings seven men from seven families were branded as leaders and troublemakers.

While they may have all passed on now, Willie Thaiday, Albert Geia, Eric Lymburner, Sonny Sibley, Bill Congoo, George Watson and Gordon Tapau will not be forgotten.

These men and their families were rounded up by police in the early hours of the morning, forcibly removed from their homes and

banished from the Island.

Most of them were not to return until decades later.

“We should all stop and remember that day back in 1957 when these seven men and Palm Island people stood up for their rights and said no more to the Government people who controlled their life,” family member Evelyn Lymburner told the *Palm Island Voice* in 2011.

“This was the time when our parents and grandparents were living under ‘The Act’, living as slaves and living by the bell to wake up for work and down for sleep at night.

“They had no say in what they can do or where they can go.

“They could not meet in crowds, segregation and boundaries, children were separated from families and put into dormitories.

“All were from different tribal backgrounds, and were taught and told to speak English and not their own traditional language.

“We have this freedom now to choose our own path in life.

“To acknowledge this day every year is our way of healing and helping the reconciliation process between all races of people.

“We are proud Bwngcolman people of Palm Island.”

An excerpt from the Palm Island Voice, Issue 79, published on 19 May 2011.

Memories are made of learning

Students who visited Palm Island last month from the University of Sydney's Service Learning in Indigenous Communities (SLIC) program have taken home some great memories of their time here host Valentine Nona says.

"SLIC students have been working with Tribal Warrior and their partners to document the planning and preparation for the upcoming Palm Island Maritime Project, made possible because of an enduring partnership between Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation and the Palm Island community," he said.

He said Tribal Warrior was a key partner to the Deputy Vice Chancellor's Indigenous Strategy and Services Portfolio at the University of Sydney, whose SLIC program sponsors helped to make the visit possible along with Palm Island partner Jina Gunduy Ltd.

"Having students experience Palm Island, meeting and getting to know people here and knowing that they went away with a better understanding of our community was important for me," he said.

"There were so many highlights – Aunty Florence Izzard gave them some wise advice about the things that really matter in life, they met Dr Lynore Geia and learned why it's so important for the Palm Island community to lead local projects, they took a day trip to Orpheus with Uncle Alf Clay and Tribal Warrior trained coxswain Charlie Gibson, they shared a Kup Murri with the community, they met with the Palm Island Mayor and Councillors and they heard what representatives of other Palm Island organisations had to say about Tribal Warrior's maritime training."



More news about the 'Kai Lag' – the boat that will be here soon! – in the next *Palm Island Voice*!

**PUBLIC NOTICE PURSUANT TO
S93 OF GREAT BARRIER REEF
MARINE PARK
REGULATIONS 2019 AND
S15(1) OF THE MARINE PARKS
REGULATION 2017**



PROPOSAL to install underwater sculptures at Magnetic Island and Palm Island

Notice is hereby given that the Museum of Underwater Art Limited (MOUA) has applied to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Department of Environment and Science (the Managing Agencies) for permission to install underwater sculptures at Magnetic Island and Palm Island in the Townsville/Whitsundays Management Area(s) of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The proposal is to expand Stage 1 of MOUA (The Strand, John Brewer Reef) with two additional locations. Based on environmental assessment and consultation to date the preferred design and locations include:

- 8 x human sized sculptures of reef scientists in 3-5m of water at Geoffrey Bay, Magnetic Island (-19.15405. 146.8680333); and
- 5x5m circular sculpture "Corroboree" for a cultural trail in North East Bay, Palm Island (-18.74881667. 146.64441667).

The aims of the project are to increase knowledge, education, stewardship, tourism and conservation of the Reef and the region.

An information package including further details of the proposal is available from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority website at www.gbrmpa.gov.au/about-us/consultation

or from the Applicant:

Paul Victory, MOUA, 52 Walker St, Townsville QLD, www.moua.com.au

Interested persons, especially those who believe that the proposal will restrict their reasonable use of this part of the Marine Parks, are invited to lodge written comments on the proposal with the Managing Agencies by 13 July 2021.

Comments should be forwarded to:

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Environmental Assessment and Protection Unit
PO Box 1379
Townsville QLD 4810**

or email: assessments@gbrmpa.gov.au

Comments will not be regarded as confidential unless confidentiality is specifically requested. This notice does not imply approval for the project. Due consideration will be given to public comments in making a decision on the proposed use. The applicant may be provided with a copy of, or summary of, the comments received.

**OUR NEXT fortnightly DEADLINE* (Issue 327)
is this Thursday 27 May
for publication on **MONDAY 31 May!****

The **Palm Island Voice** is published *weekly if we have paid advertising, or otherwise 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 2,724 '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 4,227 'likes' on Facebook!!!

