



# Palm Island Voice

**FREE!**

**Issue 308.1**

**MONDAY 14 September 2020**

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



## *Making it Formal...*

*...in Charters Towers was Pita Rabuka, Moarani Sam, Rolland Geesu, Chylesiah James, Norman Bounghi, Tina Yasserie, Maurice Bourne Etosha Pearson & Zimarne Oui. Pic thanks to Tina Yasserie.*

## Water pipes to undergo 'critical' upgrade

A vital upgrade of our water infrastructure will start this week, with the replacelment of 420 m of pipeline along Farm Road between the water treatment plant and Solomon Dam, Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam says.

Cr Sam said it was a Government project to be undertaken by FB Contracting.

"PIASC staff are liaising with Government and the contractors to help with the smooth running of this project," he said.

"We have insisted on as many backup plans and strategies as possible to ensure residents aren't negatively impacted during this

critical work, especially if we face rain, delays or other events beyond our control.

"The existing pipeline is over 30 years old and has to be replaced to avoid leaks and deliver high quality drinking water to residents.

"Our water treatment people will be juggling a large workload over the next eight weeks to facilitate the completion of this project by

November, which is a very tight timeframe."

He said residents were advised the Contractor would be digging trenches and operating heavy machinery alongside Farm Road.

"Please keep yourselves and your children a safe distance from these works," Cr Sam said.

He said the contractor would work seven days a week from 6am to 5pm.

## Voluntary redundancies now open

Expressions of Interest for PIASC staff to take up Voluntary Redundancies open today for the next two weeks CEO Adele Young says.

"From now until Friday 25 September staff are eligible to apply if they wish to be considered," Ms Young said.

"Council has already started a repair plan to turn our organisation around and tackle the legacy issues we have been left with – in the face of a \$7 million deficit, with no cash or savings, we have no choice.

"I have already halved senior

management and taken steps to reduce expenditure to help address the shortfall."

She said the redundancy offer was a rare opportunity.

"Making an application doesn't mean you will automatically be accepted, but every application will be assessed against clear criteria," she said.

"All the information is available on our website, or by contacting

our HR Manager or team leaders.

"Everything we do is about making Council a sustainable, high performing organisation where staff are supported and valued in delivering quality services to residents.

"We've made a start, but there is much more to do."

She said applications would be assessed by no later than Friday 2 October.

The jury isn't out yet, but they do have our new vet! Last week we heard our new vet – on the eve of coming to Palm and getting started – was called on to perform jury duty for three weeks!

Another vet will be secured and an intensive period of services to catch up on demand will then be underway.

A desexing, vaccinating and microchipping campaign will be held as soon as possible.

Following this campaign, an amnesty for registration of pets will occur.

It's time for all our pets to be desexed, vaccinated, registered and kept at home!

Every week residents complain about stray dogs being a nuisance with too many dog bites reported.

Do the right thing, keep your dog in your yard.


If residents have any litters of pups, Angel Paws in Townsville are happy to find good home for your new puppies.

Contact Council reception for more information.

## COVID-19 Travel Fact Sheet

Important Information for when travelling back to community

### SOCIAL DISTANCING


- Stay at least 1.5m away from people as this prevents the spread of the virus
- Travel in group sizes no larger than 2 people unless immediate family
- Stay with your family and do not interact with anyone


AVOID SHAKING HANDS, HUGGING OR KISSING OTHER PEOPLE



Please remember the following at all times when you are on the bus, at the airport, on the aeroplane or in your own car.

### GOOD GENERAL HYGIENE PRACTICES

#### WASHING HANDS WITH SOAP:


- Before preparing food and eating
- After going to the bathroom
- Changing baby's nappy or touching animals





#### USE GOOD COUGH MANNERS:

- Cough away from people or into your elbow or if you cough into a tissue make sure you throw it in the bin
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing respiratory symptoms





If you or someone you know has symptoms call your doctor or 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84).  
For more information about COVID-19 visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>



**We're going weekly (for a bit)! OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 308.1) will be this Thursday 17 September for publication on Monday 21 September!**

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 2,646 '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 4,030 'likes' on Facebook!!!