



Call for community to back NAIDOC celebrations

Palm Island's NAIDOC committee has been planning a series of informal events leading up to a Tribal Dinner in early December.

And, in keeping with the rest of 2020, this year's NAIDOC will be different, Coordinator Jennifer Ketchell says.

"This year's theme, 'Always was, Always Will Be', are powerful words that create a sense of pride," Mrs Ketchell said.

"They speak to the strength and resilience of our people, especially Bwgcolman, who have lived on our island home for over 100 years, and are the inspiration for our Tribal Dinner on Wednesday 2 December.

"We have come through a tough year as a community – COVID-19 has challenged us, we have mourned the loss of love ones and our lives have been changed.

"This NAIDOC we remember our Elders past and present, our families and what Palm Island means to us.

"We celebrate the gift of their lives and the sacrifice they made to build community for the growth of Palm Island."

She said they had been granted a small amount of money they wanted to use as widely as possible, to create events for all the community to enjoy.

"Bwgcolman Elders today yarn the story of how our Old People gave their time and talent freely, and worked together to create

a community events for everyone to enjoy," she said.

"We want to follow in our Elders footsteps and encourage those who are involved in NAIDOC events this year to give their talent and their time freely, to make this NAIDOC especially memorable.

"Our aim is to honour our history and our present, to walk together, and to make some new tracks for our younger generation and teach them the value of building their own sense of pride in their community with their own hands, not necessarily with money."

Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam said this year's NAIDOC was an opportunity for the community to show the Elders their respect in a tangible way.

"This idea of taking a page out of their book and doing things the way they used to do them – without money – would mean so much more to everyone involved," he said.



Palm Island's Social Welfare Committees – above in the 1950s and below in the 1960s

"If you put a bit of sweat into something, it's so much sweeter on the day because you know you and everyone around you has worked hard for it.

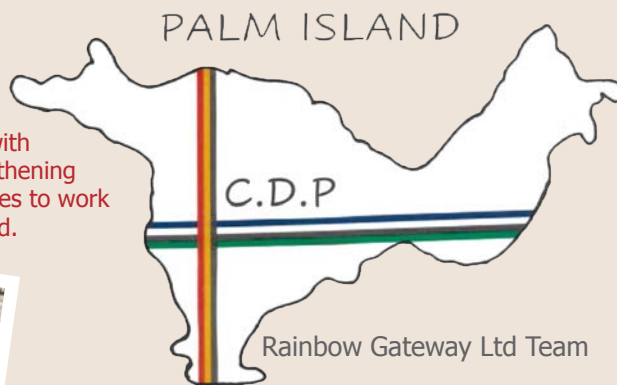
"We want to spoil our Elders for the night after what has been a tough year for everyone, I hope everyone will hear our call, come together as one and make it a night to truly remember for its meaning."



CDP program has returned to full service and job seekers have been returned to their mutual obligation requirements. That means face to face appointments and the return of activities such as our arts, crafts, men's and women's programs, yard maintenance, island beautification and training. Jenagar CEO Garth Beauchamp will be on island this week kicking off our construction and forklift training. Our working partnerships with Queensland Health and the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council are strengthening as our opportunities to work together expand.

RIGHT: Due to our working partnership with DOM Judy and her team at the hospital we are providing additional work activities and on-the-job training for Ian Ketchup & Cyril Johnson at JPHS.

"Thanks to Nugget and your team for the awesome work they did yesterday around the outside of the clinic, it looks great!" Primary Health Care Nurse Manager Jo Kingi says! Yay!



LEFT: Congratulations to Coralie (right) who has started with the CDP cleaning crew at the hospital this week!

BELOW: Robert Palmer was happy to be back with the yard maintenance crew working on a clean-up at the Palm Island Motel.



LEFT: Social enterprise yarning between local CDP participant Lee Chandler and BCS teacher Chris around aquaculture opportunities. There will be more to come on this one so watch this space when school returns in 2021!!!



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid

Building Strong Minds

You can make a difference to another person's social and emotional wellbeing.

- LEARN TO LISTEN AND NOT JUDGE
- RECOGNISE EARLY WARNING SIGNS THAT SOMEONE MAY NEED SUPPORT
- SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- GET ACCESS FROM OTHER SUPPORT NETWORKS
- ACCESS SUPPORT FROM PROFESSIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- SUPPORT SOMEONE WHO IS GOING THROUGH A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

PALM ISLAND

Dates:	24 th , 25 th and 26 th of November 2020
Times:	9am – 4:30pm
Cost:	Free
Venue:	CDP Training Room, Main Street
Contact:	Vince Umbers – vumbers@nesaps.com.au 0436 935 886



LEFT: Plumbers shed receives a face lift and return to stores as the partnership of CDP and Council strengthens.

ABOVE: Island beautification crew Ralph Doomadgee, Cyril Johnson, Elder & Team Leader David Baira, David James & Robert Palmer working on the foreshore, Business Precinct and ANZAC Park.

"What App?!"

Joyce Palmer Health Service

PoP! The new Pregnancy on Palm App!

We are so excited to bring you a update on the Pregnancy on Palm (POP) mobile application (app) being designed for Palm Island women and their partners by our Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre Maternal Health Unit.



We have made a lot of progress on the design of the Pregnancy on Palm Island (POP) mobile phone application, which can be used by parents throughout their pregnancy and beyond.

We have beautiful art work from local artist Agnes Wotton which will be featured on the app, and we have shirts, bags and more for our volunteers.

We are excited to be looking for people to download and test the new app with us.

Any mums-to-be who are keen to be involved, we'd like you to use it with us from December to January and give us your feedback before our official launch not long after that.

Come and see Keira or any of our friendly staff if you're keen!

Where are we now with COVID-19?

More than nine months have passed since the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Australia PHCC's Dr Francis says.

"Over that time we have seen more than 27,000 cases confirmed, and just over 900 deaths.

"We have done really well in Queensland, and particularly in our own community, but we need to continue working hard to keep the virus off Palm Island.

"The border to NSW has recently opened and it is anticipated the rest of the country borders will open before Christmas.

"This means we need to be more vigilant, and test early if

we have even the slightest of symptoms."

Dr Francis said COVID-19 did not discriminate – it affects all ages, all races, males and females, young and old.

"In July, NITV reported at least 60 Indigenous Australians had been affected by COVID-19," he said.

"This was before the peak of the Victorian outbreak so this number may be even higher now.

"People as young as 20 have died in Australia.

"Lots of people, young and old, have been left with long term complications such as difficulty breathing."

He said it was more important than ever to get

tested early.

"If you have a cough or cold, a fever, sore throat, difficulty breathing, change of smell or taste or just feel unwell like a flu, it is important to get tested," Dr Francis said.

"Getting tested means we can pick up the virus quicker, stop the spread and protect our community.

"It also means we can start treating you quicker and prevent long term complications and death.

"Finally, please remember to keep your physical distance, cough and sneeze into your elbow and stay home if you are unwell."

Joyce Palmer Health Service

The Museum of Underwater Art [MOUA] is looking for members of the Palm Island community to volunteer as models for two new large scale sculptures planned for the beach area adjacent to the ferry terminal on Palm Island.

Sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor said the planned sculptures would be placed as a **welcome** statement for arriving visitors and an **invitation** to explore the island and further underwater exhibits of MOUA in late **2021**.

Models of all backgrounds, ages and genders are sought, ideally resident or with strong connections to **Palm Island**.

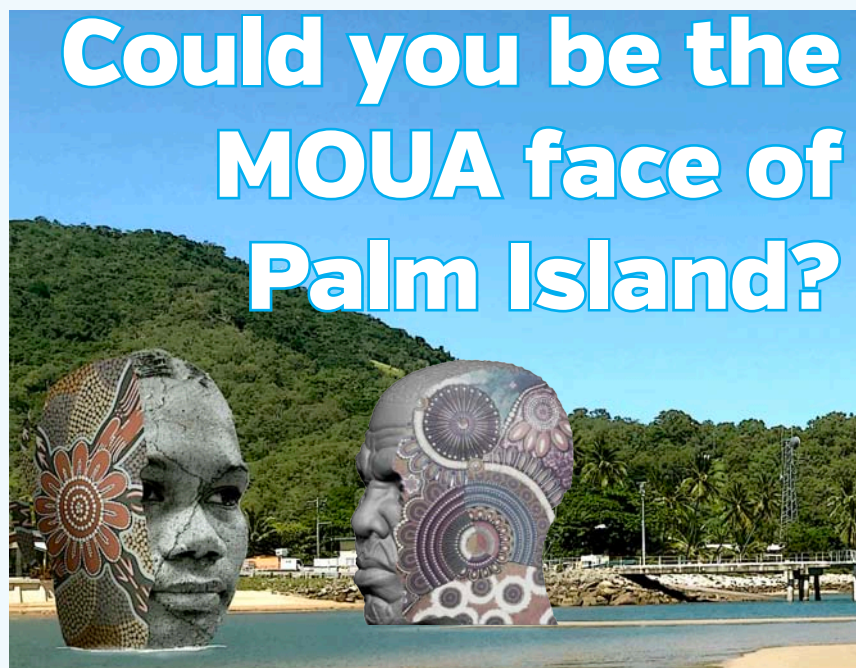
The selection will include one **male** and one **female** model of different ages.

The final sculpture will be **inspired** by the model and not an identical representation.

Once the sculptures are constructed **local artists** will be invited to depict the history of Palm Island in the form of murals and engravings to adorn the inside walls of the structure.

The aim of the final work is to portray the two individuals as **strong, resolute and proud**.

As the sculptures gaze towards the ocean it is hoped they will represent **positive** role models for younger generations and an acknowledgment of the **past**.



Ten models will be selected for a preliminary scan to take place on Palm Island on **MONDAY 30 November** from 10am.

The final two will be paid for their participation.

The Process: Models will be required to remain still and seated for 5-10 mins whilst a 3-Dimensional digital scanning technician will circle the participant taking a series of high definition photographs of the face and back of head. This process will be conducted in Palm Island around mid December for one day only.

There will be further opportunities to model in mid-2021.

For **further questions** on the project please contact:

Jason deCaires Taylor,
E: info@underwatersculpture.com
W: www.underwatersculpture.com

MOUA: Liam O'Brien : liam@wightman.com.au

To apply to be a model, please send a selfie style head shot (using any type of camera/cell phone), front facing and side profile to: info@underwatersculpture.com by **WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER**

We've gone weekly (for a bit!) OUR DEADLINE for Issue 313.1 will be this Thursday 19 November for publication on MONDAY 23 November!

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 2,664 'likes'!

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

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