Palmerston Needs a Hospital

In a stunning and welcome back flip, Chief Minister, Paul Henderson has acknowledged the Palmerston and Rural area needs a hospital.

The admission comes just 3 months after Health Minister Burns described the plan I announced in August of this year as a ‘cruel farce’.

It is obvious that the rapid growth of Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area will add further pressure to Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH). The area with the greatest growth is Palmerston so to avoid patient grid lock, action must be taken and that means the planning phase must start now.

Palmerston Needs a Hospital

The Country Liberals plan for the Palmerston hospital announced during the August Election included:

• a commitment of $100M over 15 years for the planning and staged construction of the hospital;
• stage 1 encompassed design and start-up costs to be completed by 2012;
• the Federal Government would have been asked to co-locate its planned $10M super clinic within the new hospital as part of the Palmerston Health Precinct;
• Stage 2 would complete the new facility’s Emergency Department and emergency surgical facilities, pharmacy, 10 emergency short stay beds and carpark by the end of 2014;
• Stage 3 would see a 130 bed acute care block including 20 mental health beds, medical, surgical/operating facilities, critical care, obstetrics, rehabilitation, expansion of emergency department, carpark and allied health services by 2023.

Great win for People Power

The School Council, staff, parents and students of Woodroffe Primary are to be congratulated for the superb outcome of their 2 year campaign to have a pedestrian crossing installed on Chung Wah Terrace.

“Suddenly the location DID warrant a dedicated pedestrian facility.

“The Government claimed it was an election promise; this is certainly news to the School, the School Council and the Opposition.

“I, and school stakeholders, will now be ensuring the Government fulfils its pledge to install the traffic lights by early next year.”

I would like to thank you for all of your support during 2008. I look forward to a great year in 2009 and remind you to call into the Office or call, if I can ever be of assistance to you.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. What ever you are doing, please keep safe and if you are travelling, please take special care behind the wheel.

“That position changed when the School Council organised more than 150 students to stage a rowdy protest along Chung Wah Terrace – which received wide media exposure.

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Yvette Wilkes, School Council Chairperson, being interviewed during the school protest

Merry Christmas

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A recent savage dog attack in Palmerston has left a local lady physically and emotionally scarred.

“I walked every morning for fitness but since the attack I have not walked. I was attacked by two big dogs near my home as I was returning from my walk. They chased me. One bit me a couple of times. I fell to the ground and feared the worse. If a neighbour had not been alerted by my screams and came to the rescue I am afraid to imagine what could’ve happened”.

This attack raises a number of issues.

What should you do if confronted by threatening dogs in the street? Who should roaming dogs be reported to? What action can I expect to be taken? What action can be taken against an owner of dangerous dogs?

The Palmerston City Council (PCC) has a very informative website and brochures that talk about dog attacks in Palmerston; the following has been taken from the PCC website.

Owners have a high level of responsibility to ensure their dogs are effectively contained, have adequate fencing and are under effective control when in a public place. This means being on a lead and being walked by a person of responsible age. Council will take action against owners who disregard their responsibility. These actions may include severe financial penalties or Court action against a dog owner.

When Council receives a complaint about a dog attack, the incident is thoroughly investigated and if the attack is substantiated, the dog owner can face possible warnings, restrictions placed on their dog’s registration and/or specific conditions placed on their license, infringement notices or prosecution in Court. Actions taken against a dog owner depend on the specific circumstances involved in the attack. In a severe attack Council can cancel a dog’s registration, requiring it to be removed from the municipality, or seek a Court order to have the dog destroyed.

Never take for granted that a dog will not bite. If you ever find yourself in a situation where you are being threatened by a dog, the following tips may prevent you being bitten.

- STOP and stand absolutely still. This is probably one of the hardest things to do, particularly as every muscle in your body is telling you to run. But if you can, you just may have averted a serious problem.
- DO NOT make eye contact with the dog. Make sure you can still see the dog with your peripheral vision.
- Back away very slowly, without running, yelling, waving your arms or kicking at the dog.
- Increase the distance between you and the dog.

There may be times when a dog will attack without warning. If a dog knocks you to the ground, lie in the foetal position with your arms covering your face and remain still.