



6-year-old Annie performing with the Injinoo Dance Troupe at Injinoo

wer'em (wear them)

"Condoms are cool" is the message from Tropical Population Health Services (Queensland Health) and NPA Family and Community Services, ATSI Corporation, Bamaga, bringing awareness to health issues and protection from sexually transmitted infections, held at the Injinoo Youth Centre, July 09.

During 2008, workshops on 'How to make condoms cool' were held throughout the communities, with the aim to target the 16 to 25-year-old NPA youths, in order to reduce the number of STI's.



'We have our own art' was one idea, resulting in an art competition held by the workshops and schools. Miss Rhian Phineasa won with her outstanding work of 'Mating Turtles', which is used in branding the WARU condom product.

Other ideas were slogans, music, dance and face painting.



Artist, Mr. Billy Daniel, set out to work on WARRIOR, combining the heads of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander into one.



The underlying message of unity ...as one, is clear.

The song 'If it's not on, it's not on', composed by Mr Tommy Rueben, Mr Vincent Babia and Mr Rim Chris, could not be performed due to time constraints, but is already used as background music in some Radio announcements.

All the hard work came finally together, for the first ever event of this type in the NPA, with the help of Injinoo Women's Shelter and local support. Mr. Billy Daniel explained, "We need to protect the past, today, and the future. Mrs. Mary Yoelu, Dir. of NPAWS introduced Dr Alan Crouch (Qld. Health), who thanked the traditional owners, paid his respects to the local communities, school children, and the Organising Committee, for helping to bring out a strong message to young people about keeping safe.

The Injinoo Dance Troupe captivated the audience with their performances. Stories from Saibai Island performed as song, all accompanied by local dancers in traditional costumes on the sand covered grass at Injinoo Youth Centre.

"Queensland Health is pleased the local community groups helped launch the two condom brands," Dr Alan Crouch explained, "... which are freely available from purpose built dispensers, and through vending machines."



Dancer Damien Elu

Mrs. Beverly Jacobs, NPA Family & Community Services ATSI Corp, who is also the Sexual Health Promotion Officer, explained: "Our aim is to keep it (STI's) under control. We want healthy families. We're targeting the youths, but the message is to the whole community to try to control infection."

"It is not just the responsibility of the Health Department, but the whole community needs to take control."

Future plans are setting up work groups to look after the vending machines. Mr. Aaron Tamwoy, Family Planning Educator, displayed a range of promotional material, T-shirts, wristbands, condom packets, caps, all bearing the artworks as product brand, aimed to bring the message, the need across to guard one's health. "Condoms are cool" is cool.



The handprints on the mural at Injinoo Youth Centre, in the colours of the past, the land and its people, left by those that are the future.



6-year-old Rueben making his mark

Careers Market at Bamaga

NPA Regional Council joins NPA State College in organising the third Careers Market at Bamaga. Many local organisations and businesses came out in support of this event, giving advice and information about employment opportunities. Behind the scenes, Mr. Lance Green (Student Guidance Officer, NPASC) and Mr. Alex Barker (Economic, Employment Development Unit, NPARC), organised the Bamaga event.

"Kids, this is for your benefit, for your future," said NPARC Mayor Elu in his opening address. "There are enough jobs in NPA for NPA people to take up," but he also stressed the need for development and more private enterprises to establish in the area.



NPASC Principal, Mr. Ken MacLean, explained the 'Service Commitment' the college is undertaking, so that by the end of year 12, students are aware of their University or TAFE options, available Apprenticeships and Traineeships, or a direction into the workforce. Addressing the students, Principle MacLean added, **"Make it work for you."**



Careers Market is an opportunity to bring recruiters, training providers and education bodies together with job seekers and those who consider a career change.

Students and parents had opportunities to speak with members of the Student Recruitment Team, University Queensland, to make informed decisions about tertiary study options and access up-to-date publications and information. Material provided by the many organisations on exhibit will no doubt assist in broadening one's outlook towards current and future opportunities. Students of the college had to complete an assignment to interact with service providers and agencies. Hope is, that college students in the far off West Cape, become aware of the possibilities available, be that locally, or Australia wide.



Careers Market (continued)

The Police display contained a wealth of information, with recruitment officers on hand to advise on the various career paths in the Police department. 'Careers without borders', a booklet prepared by Australian Customs Services, inform of Indigenous Cadetships, Torres Strait Island Marine Traineeship and contain some short stories on locals who took that path some years ago.

Participants in this year's events include Workplace Health and Safety, Family Community Services, Police, James Cook University, Australian Customs, ITEC Employment, Jobfind, Skill360 Australia, Regional Pacific, Rio Tinto and many others. Tropical North Queensland TAFE issued the 2010 Program Guide 'Anything's possible'.

Bamaga Careers Market is sponsored by Seisia Campgrounds, Skytrans, Bamaga Resort, Umagico Supermarket, Punsand Bay Resort, Peddells Ferry and Loyalty Beach Campground. Raffle tickets sold to raise funds for the Senior Graduation Formal, offering a first prize of 4 return airfares (Bamaga - Cairns), 2 by Skytrans Airline and 2 by Regional Airline. Second prize was seafood dinner for two, at the Punsand Bay Resort. Two return tickets from Bamaga to Thursday Island (Peddells) were the third prize. Bamaga Resort donated a lucky door prize, and many more mystery prizes were on offer to attract community participation.

It is good to see an increase in local business participation at this year's event. 'Thanks' to many of the exhibitors, who undertook the effort of coming to our remote communities, providing opportunity to interact with 'outside' organisations, and in the process injecting welcome custom to local businesses.



tourists alike. Open hours are between 4pm to 6:30pm.

Perhaps you'll meet Mrs. Mary Harris, Seisia, who knows just the right way to fashion environmentally friendly sun protection. What better than the locally grown coconut leaf? Custom sized to fit one's head, woven right there, at the Markets. Aunt Mary, as she is known in the local area, will show exactly how it is done: Shape the midrib (tingting) to a pliable size, cut the length to suit head size, join and secure the two ends and weave the blades into another.



The final product is a charming hat, handmade, unique... Aunt Mary Style.

Other uses of a coconut leaf: Bowls, a pouch to carry things or to cook in, woven mats, roofs, walls, fencing, even brooms, as the midrib is very strong.



Plug pulled before plumbing connected

\$150000 has gone down the drain in the ablutions block at Umagico Sports Ground. Jim Foody (Director of Engineering Services) points to a building site. "You'll see the slab and block works...? The State Government withdrew the funding, we've started it. Council is now \$150,000 out of pocket on that one. It looks like we will have to fence the facility from the community and label it as an 'amalgamation present'."



Director of Engineering Services, Mr. Jim Foody, explains about the support facilities at Umagico Sports Ground.



"It's a building with washing facilities and toilets, so that we can safely use the hall. It (the hall) can't be used. Because it is a community sporting facility, there have to be 17 toilets, male and female, showers and everything, a \$400,000 toilet block, that's what it was, to allow us to use that building."

The State Government retracted the offer of the grant funding, after we'd started, and basically, we've got a contract, which is a legally binding contract with a Building contractor. We are liable for that money."

**Plug pulled...
funding slammed...
"and we're not happy about it!"**

"There were a lot of issues with that ablutions block, when we inherited the project at the time of the amalgamation. We didn't know about it for a long time."

"We arranged with the funding body (Sports and Recreation) to continue with the project. Then we found that the original design for the ablutions block was not compliant with relevant building codes, so we had to re-design it, then re-tender it. All that unfortunately took six to eight months to get through the hurdles. After we called for tenders, we found we were still outside the current funding dollars, so we had to renegotiate with the lowest bidder. We finally got them down to an amount that was inside the budget. We started (construction), and two weeks after we'd started the job, the State Government just withdrew the funding. We're not very happy about that one, I can tell you," adds Jim.



New slashers for Parks and Gardens



Three new tractors, complete with slashers arrived at Plant and Maintenance Depot, Bamaga, earmarked for Parks and Gardens. Two tractors (at \$50k each) and a larger tractor (\$55k), each with a slasher, are all part of the \$250,000 of investments NPARC has made for new equipment, such as

ride-on mowers, whipper snippers, a forklift, other basic equipment, as well as a yet to arrive power broom.

A \$68k skip-bin truck, delivered at the end of last year is in operation for Central Services Department. Several skip bins are hired out to private business, generating some income to the NPA Regional Council.



Workshop Manager of Plant and Maintenance, Mr Anton Marinki, is keeping the equipment in good working order, out of the Bamaga Depot, with regularly scheduled preventative maintenance programs for each of the Council's assets.

