



Photo of the Inaugural Council Meeting, taken May 08  
 Top from left: Councillor for New Mapoon, Mr Michael Bond, Councillor for Seisia, Mr Jeffrey Aniba, Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Bamaga, Mr Reg Williams and Councillor for Umagico, Mr Peter Lui. Bottom from left: Councillor for Injinoo, Mrs Gina Nona and Mayor Joseph Elu.

“Welcome to the first edition of the NPA News Letter,” says Mayor Joseph Elu, “We look forward to providing stories of community interest and information and invite the community and businesses alike to submit stories that are informative and suitable for inclusion.”

Submissions can be emailed to:

Media Liaison:

[heinz.ross@nparc.qld.gov.au](mailto:heinz.ross@nparc.qld.gov.au)

tel: 07-4090 4608

fax: 07-4069 3253

## Welcome back to country



Thousands of visitors from across Australia were in for a treat, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival, held June 19-21st, 2009, celebrating the world's oldest living culture.

Laura, located 317km northwest of Cairns, has been the venue for this significant cultural event for the last 25 years, although 30 years ago the event was known as the Cape York Festival, then held at Cooktown and Hopevale. This year, 500 dancers enthralled the crowds on sacred Bora ground (Quinkan Country), expressing stories as dance to the sounds of song, didgeridoo and clapping of sticks.

80 people from Injinoo headed south, on a 40-seater bus, together with 4 Hire cars and three private vehicles, down the long track to Laura, carrying dancers from the Injinoo Dance Group, Injinoo Elders and Musicians.



Regular guests to Laura had their eyes on the Injinoo youths for years, as the Injinoo Dance Team is a regular participant for the last 15 years. This year Injinoo surprised everyone. For the first time, the gels (girls) from Injinoo took part in this event. Traditionally only bois (boys) are part of such ceremonial dances. The local elders decided to change the long standing customs and encouraged the girls to be a part of this, to know and strengthen their culture. With the inclusion of female dancers, the team has grown to become the 'Injinoo Dance Group', comprising young people who share Aboriginal and Islander blood, many able to perform for either culture.

"All care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication however NPARC, its officers, employees agents and consultants make no warranties or representations about the quality, accuracy, completeness, merchantability or fitness for purpose of any material in this publication. Subject to any law to the contrary which cannot be excluded, any liability howsoever arising (including in tort or for any incidental, special or consequential damages) is hereby excluded. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the NPARC and the inclusion of material in this publication does not represent an endorsement of that material by NPARC."

Media Liaison: [heinz.ross@nparc.qld.gov.au](mailto:heinz.ross@nparc.qld.gov.au)

tel: +61-7-4090 4608 fax: +61-7-4069 3253

NPARC-NL-001





Image courtesy Mr Bernhard Charlie,  
from left: Charlotte, Elimay and Louanne



Image courtesy Mr Bernhard Charlie,  
from left: Windsor, Jordon and Tapee or Steven

During their 2007 attendance, the biennial event saw Injinoo dancers awarded with 'Respect and Recognition' for keeping Aboriginal Culture strong. This award is on display at the NPA Regional Council Building at Injinoo. The Injinoo group also performed at Cardwell (June 09), Caboolture (Dreaming Festival) and Woodford (in 2005).



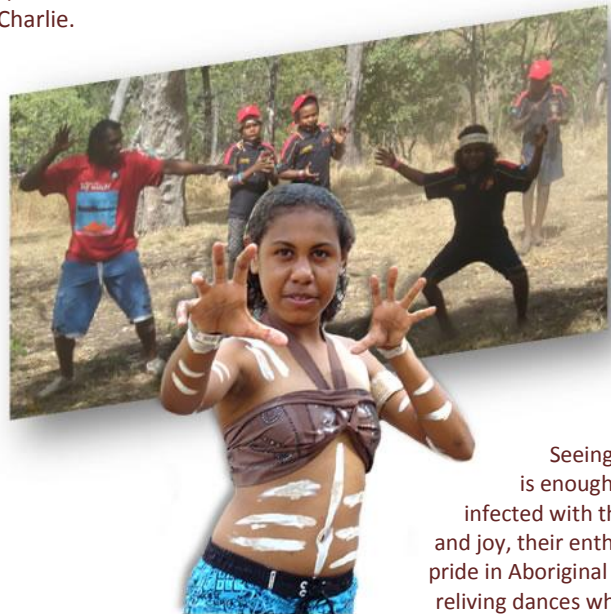
Elder Mr George Mamoose



Proudly displaying the Laura Trophy are Elders  
Mr Gordon Solomon and Mr George Mamoose.

Injinoo Dance Group took home a large trophy, featuring small scale traditional tools and implements used in Aboriginal culture. As a result of their impressive performances, the group has had offers and invitations coming in from as far as Tokyo and Bali, but also Croc Eisteddfod, Thursday Island, Weipa, Northern Territory, Sydney and Cooktown, all keen to get a taste of their powerful routines.

The dancers from Injinoo are trained by Injinoo elders, Mr Meun Lifu ('Shorty'), Mr George Mamoose, Mr Doyle Sebasio, Mr Reginald Bowie and Mr Roy Solomon. Mr Gordon Solomon is the co-ordinator for the Injinoo Dance Group and contact person for any enquiries (+61-7-4069 3542). Mr Bernhard Charlie is organiser of the Dance Group, as well as the Manager for the Injinoo Youth Centre. "Thanks to all the community support groups, parents and the major sponsors, NPARC and Arts Qld," said Mr Charlie.



Seeing them once is enough to become infected with their passion and joy, their enthusiasm and pride in Aboriginal expression, reliving dances which go back as far as dreamtime itself.



"We teach the kids to dance in the traditional ways," says Elder and Dance Instructor Mr Meun Lifu, "we also teach them hunting, eating bush tucker, roots, seeds, how to boil turtle in the shell, eat crocodile eggs, cassava, sweet potatoes, sugar cane and yam. We teach them how to look at low tide, look for crabs, oysters and shell."



Body painting



Maisha Yoelu / Tamika Lui



Rehearsals at Laura

Laura 2009, a place to meet, to share and heal, becoming one with the wider Aboriginal community, a gathering for many different groups, each knowing, that as one there is identity, strong tradition and history in Aboriginality, unequalled anywhere.

**Esso (thank you), to the Injinoo Dance Group and the tremendous community support received.**

Funding for this event was provided by Department of Communities.



## Tourist Season in full swing

### by road, by boat, on wings

The Australian Piper Society dropped in for a visit, on their 'Cape, Coast & Coral Adventure, 2009', approaching NPA airfield with 17 privately owned planes.



NPA Airfield packed with planes. The Piper group left from Richmond to fly to Karumba, Weipa and Bamaga, then followed on to Torres Strait Islands. The return leg is down the coast via Cooktown, Townsville and the Whitsundays.



The '22<sup>nd</sup> Great Endeavour Rally' snaked their way up the long corrugated red-soil tracks on their way through. The 380 strong group assembled at Seisia Fishing Club, where they flushed down the dust to the sights and sounds of island dances. A total of 140 vehicles took part in the rally. "To wrap it up for Endeavour Foundation, it has been a brilliant affair and **the fund raising has blown us away**," says Col Clifford, special event organiser. Car 74, 'The Wanderer', was declared the overall winner in Townsville. 'The Phantom', Car 70, earned the title as 'Highest Fund Raiser', coming back with over \$65,000! Back in 1988, the first ever 'Great Endeavour Rally' raised a total of \$30,000. It has since grown into a regular event, raising almost \$3mill to help support men and women with disabilities. Endeavour Foundation reports 2009 as possibly their best ever fundraising

year. Congratulations and thanks to all the wonderful work you've done. See [www.greatendeavour.com.au](http://www.greatendeavour.com.au) for more.



Earlier in the year, Endeavour Foundation, Mackay Division helped chip in, providing toys for the Bamaga Hospital and all Medical Centres in the NPA, so that kids could be distracted from injection needles. Members of the Ulysses Motorcycle Club and Mackay Police helped organise that event, with support from Mackay businesses Clark Rubber, Toys R Us, Team Safe, Darryl and Mandy Shaw and countless other individuals. Young 'Minnie' parted

with some of her loved furry friends to share with the kids of Bamaga. Special thanks to the Police Air Wing, Brisbane and Cairns, who brought the toys free of charge into Bamaga, over 50kg in total. Things can happen, and happen quickly, when individuals and businesses with a social conscience step up and say 'Count me in.'



8-year-old Manasseh in Bamaga Hospital putting the pieces together

## Tourist Season

"People say they had never seen as many tourists on the road," says Mr Arthur Wong, Director of Enterprises and Treasurer of Seisia Fishing Club.

"The style of tourism has changed; people now come on big buses, the grey nomads, as well as 4WDs with camping trailers. They are looking for luxury, the comforts of home. I don't know why they're bringing their homes with them?"

"Last year was a big increase in tourism. The number of people is even more in 2009; the number of vehicles is about the same, but there are more people per vehicle. A lot of people come up to say, 'I've been to the Tip at Cape York. I've come that many miles to see this'. But while they're here they also see Injinoo, Seisia, Umagico, New Mapoon, and Bamaga, Loyalty Beach, Punsand Bay and all the places along the East Coast. There is Mutee Heads, Virilya Point, Somerset, and all the other beautiful spots up here. They do some fishing and go out to Thursday Island and many of the other islands."



Twenty-four new campsites created in recent weeks expanded the capacity of Seisia Camp grounds to help cater for increase in demand. "The extension was paid for by Enterprises and monies raised from investments. NPARC helped with the ground work," says Mr Wong. "There are 24 new powered sites. We still have to do a lot of work to it. We have to fence it off, beautify it and plant it in the next wet season. It will look a lot better than barren ground."



above: Seisia extension  
left: Seisia Beaches





Somerset during dry season

"Tourists bring money, and with that money we can develop the area, just look at it now," adds Mr Wong. "But with an increase in tourism, corresponding infra-structure needs to be build. Better signage is needed, eco-friendly facilities along the route and garbage pits. Many of our communities are still without mobile coverage or access to wireless technologies, broadband."

"As it is now, that is what the camp ground used to look like, back in 92, before they started putting the first trees in. Tourists used to come up fishing initially; they drove up here, 4WD as a challenge. Bamaga didn't have a Hotel/Motel then. They did have one for Tradesman, but they brought their own camping gear. Seisia didn't have hard-top accommodation; they just came here and set up camp. That's how it got started."

The Department of Tourism and Regional Development is helping with the new campground at Somerset, which is in progress.



## Umagico camp ground

Alau Beach, with million dollar views, black palm cockatoos, green parrots and finches, is in need of promotion.

Regular visitors are the migratory curlews, who fly in all the way from Russia and China, visiting the camp grounds, which are located next to the beach. They feed on small crabs and molluscs. Umagico and the surrounding area is a place of tranquil beauty, offering reef fishing from the rocks and some of the best sunsets on the West Cape.



All images taken around Umagico.

Umagico means: Black headed Python Place



Long before Umagico became established, the language 'Lalau' was spoken in the area. Over time this was shortened to 'Alau'.



Locally known as 'Alau', Umagico was originally established in 1963, with Aboriginal people from the Lockhart River Mission. The early 70s saw the arrival of Moa and Torres Strait Islanders, and people from Kubin in recent years.

## NPARC launches Newsletter

The first edition NPARC Newsletter is out and you are reading it this moment. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform NPA residents and local communities of the various activities NPARC is undertaking. It aims to introduce the various departments, inform of their scope of operations and work currently undertaken in the communities. Stories that are of particular importance or of general interest may also appear in this publication, and may come from the any area, such as Health, Education, Wildlife and many others.

Whilst circulation of this publication is initially small, exposure will eventually reach the world via the NPARC website (a future project), email distribution and selected stories featured in social websites. Other publications, Newspapers, Radio and TV are encouraged to pick up any feeds found within this Newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed the first edition of NPARC Newsletter. NPARC Newsletter is produced by Heinz Ross, acting as Media Liaison Officer for NPARC. Your feedback, comments or stories are welcome and can be emailed to: [heinz.ross@nparc.qld.gov.au](mailto:heinz.ross@nparc.qld.gov.au)



## Bamaga Pool is OPEN

Bamaga pool is open for business. Opening hours are 9am to 6pm. The pool, which has wheelchair access, is used Wednesdays and Thursdays for aerobic classes by school children.

