

In this Issue: Housing, Wildlife, Yumpla, Vet, new faces, AWME, keeping active, NPARC Christmas Message and more...

Injinoo Dance Group

opens
**Australasian
World Music
Expo**



Performance at George Fairfax Theatre, Foyer



Arts Centre, Melbourne, opening day

The Injinoo dancers, selected to perform the opening ceremony of this year's **Australasian World Music Expo** in Melbourne, captivated the crowd of invited guests. Their first ever dances in a large Australian city impressed many of the festival directors, producers, event organizers and agents from Australia and abroad. The group performed at the George Fairfax Theatre Foyer, at the Arts Centre and next day danced at the EQ Café Bar, which is located next to the Yarra. This event, hosted by Arts Queensland, brought opportunities to mingle and network with the invited guests. The Injinoo Dance Group had two performances on the last day of the three day festival, performing at the Recital Centre, at Southbank Boulevard, all events located at the heart of the city.



Picnic at the zoo (left). Virtually every child at Injinoo is a dancer. While the streets back home were quiet for a week, the thoughts of many in Melbourne were with the ones that stayed behind. The 30 that went performed for all the kids in Injinoo. With the support of every parent, the tireless commitment of every performer, and the dedication of the elders and dance instructors, this group has shown that it can consistently keep an audience mesmerised.

The faces of the ones watching in Melbourne reflected their appreciation, that here is a group that is as close to the roots as one can get, unique in its blend of local influences.



Female dancers: Youngest girl is Elma Yoelu, (8), with Louisa Bowie, Doreen Ingui, Tamika Lui, Charlotte Pablo, Eileen Pablo, Chervon Solomon, Nemma Solomon, Tinisha Solomon, Nancy Warradoo, and Myiesha Yoelu.

Male dancers: Gordon Solomon (Jnr) is the youngest boy, (10), with Philip Bagie, Brian Bagiri, Windsor Bowie, Stanley Ingui, Michael McDonald, Jason Mosby, Wilfred Namai, Daniel Nona, Donald Pablo, Levi Pablo, Rex Pablo, Stephen Sagigi, Francis Salee, Tapee Salee, Tolowa Salee, Anthony Solomon, Jordan Solomon, and Glenden Woosup.

Supervising adults: Mrs Gloria Pablo and Mrs Gina Nona, Costumes – Girls, Mr Gordon Solomon (Snr) Manager, Mr Bernard Charlie, Coordinator, Mr Roy Solomon, Singer, Costumes – Boys, Mr Doyle Sebasio, Drums, Costumes – Boys, Mr Meun Lifu, Drums, Costumes – Boys, Mr Denson Bowie, Drums, and Ms Janet (Jay) McDonnell provided technical support.

...more on page 8, 9 and 16



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Housing: Umagico

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A work in progress, at Mara Street, Umagico. This house grew over the last few weeks.

1. Bare ground, levelled

2. Footings in place

3. Preparing for block work

4. Fill with sand

5. Steel reinforcing, add plumbing pipe work

6. Concrete being levelled

7. Position pallets

8. Select the first block

9. Left wall in place

10. Construction well advanced

11. Fixing battens to rafters

12. Mara Street view

13. Rear / side view

Insulation work, guttering, downpipes, solar hot-water system and internal work are currently underway. This house will suit tenant with a physical disability.

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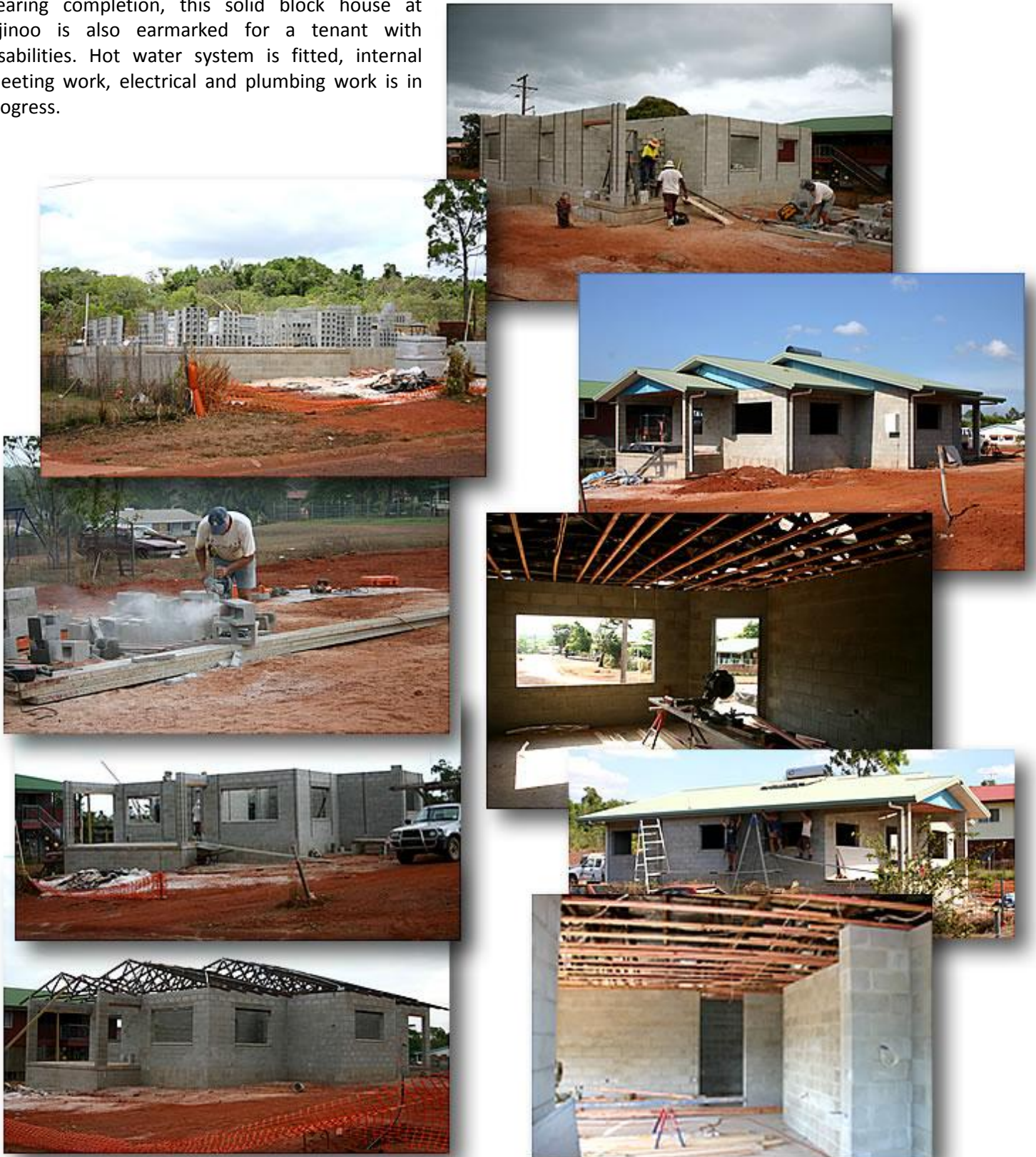
Umagico: This metal framed high-set family house is almost completed, located at the road towards the camp ground. It features large, spacious veranda and is fully enclosed underneath.

Free Dental Treatment

All children between the ages of 4 to 10 years are eligible for free dental treatment. Contact Steve or Carol at the Dental Clinic, on 4090 4233 or 4069 3166, to arrange an appointment.

Housing: Injinoo

Nearing completion, this solid block house at Injinoo is also earmarked for a tenant with disabilities. Hot water system is fitted, internal sheeting work, electrical and plumbing work is in progress.



Injinoo P-6 Campus, construction starts

Following the signing of the ILUA (Indigenous Land Use Agreement), covered in NPARC News Letter, Issue 6, work has begun in the smaller of the two pieces of land. The Administration building and Library will be located here, at Bowie and Lifu Streets. Workers are marking out the position for the new constructions. The playground equipment (under the shade cover) will be relocated to the rear of the existing school. Student attendance figures have improved. A school building without kids is after all just a building; all school age kids are invited to help turn it into a real school, for the benefit of the community and each that is living within.



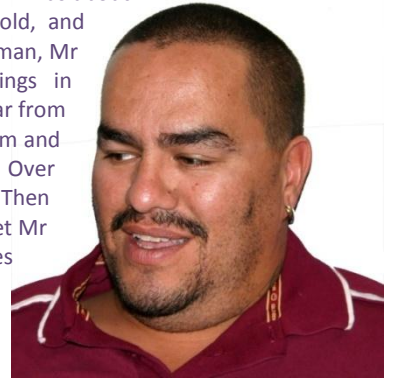
Artist: Kori Mason

Contact Mr Kori Mason on: kori.mason@gmail.com



Airport Manager, Aircraft Refueller, Runway clearer, Hunter. What else is Mr Mason? Read on and find out.

"From a very young age I did traditional Maori bone carving, when I was about 9, and was selling them commercially when I was 16 years old, and making good money. I had a little bit of training with a NZ gentleman, Mr Norman Clark who was allowed to exhibit his bone carvings in exhibitions in the US and Europe, called 'Te Maori'. He lived not far from where I grew up in New Zealand. I spent a couple of days with him and learned massive amounts from him. In NZ we carve whale bone. Over here, you see boys do dugong out of the tusks and the rib bones. Then



I started a little bit of painting, not much. Once I moved to T.I., I lived there for 7 years before I moved here; I met Mr Barry Williams over there. He is very well known for wood sculptures, using the Wongai Tree. He'd carve turtles and dugong. There is a fable, 'when you eat from the Wongai Tree, you'll always return to the area.' The beauty of the Wongai Tree, you cut it down and roll it around in salt water for about a minute and it never splits. It is a very plain looking tree. You knock the bark off it and you carve it, and the colour that comes out is a very rich caramel colour. I was his 13th student that he taught how to do these carvings. I do wood turning, turn bowls and I carve a rim with NZ patterns around the rim, and people seem to love them."

"There are some 'trade secrets' about my paintings. I start with pen, by hand, onto a canvas. I am about to do some curtains for the house. My partner, Chinelle, bought the curtains and I'm doing, like a banner, across the bottom of the curtains and go from there."

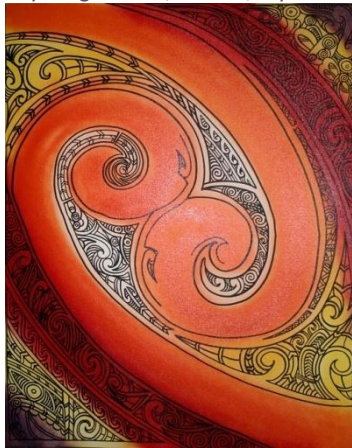
"I've given away some of my paintings and sent photos to friends. I don't know how, but I have been approached by companies from Cairns who wanted to do limited print runs. But I haven't really looked at it. I've been told that I should enter some of these indigenous art competitions, but because I'm not an indigenous person from the Cape or Torres Strait, I'm not sure if I can enter, because I'm a New Zealand indigenous. But I do get good responses and a lot of people wanting them."

"In Thursday Island, I was known as the 'car stereo man', doing show style installations, advising people of what mag wheels to get, how to do up their car with TV and huge sub woofers. I did custom installations, fibre glass work, very extreme stuff. Then I started making furniture out of wood and metal. Then I started doing sculpture, free form sculpture in metal. I might do a cockroach, 1m long, out of scrap metal, also dogs and pigs and put them in my garden. I would like to get back into carving in bone. I would love to do exhibition with my sculptures and art, at the same time I don't like to see them leave (when they sell). I've been offered well over \$800 for 'Mokopuna', and I turned it down. I offered them a print, but they wanted the 'only one'. I will not sell it for what it represents, that are my children. I suppose I would do paintings on a commission basis. My background and the style that I do, I can't see anybody wanting them up here (in Far North Qld). I haven't seen anything around, in both, my culture or other cultures that have those sort of colours in them."



Ta Moko (Facial Tatoo)

"A representation of traditional Maori tattoos, because I have so many, I'm covered in them. On each side of the body, the tattoos represent one parent. The right side is my mother's side and left shows my father's side."



Mokopuna (Children)

"This symbolises my children (Chloe and Charlie), myself and my ex partner. The left spiral is my oldest daughter, the right is my younger daughter, my ex partner is in top right corner, I am in bottom left corner. It shows the journey of how we came together and our family line all the way through it. My youngest daughter is a Type 1 diabetic, and her troubles are in that as well. When you look closer you can see the face, the tongue, the eye."



New Beginning

"A new start of life. After I split up with my ex of 7 years. I was trying the rebuild, get a new start. It was a horrible time of my life. Out of all this pain came the paintings. Sometimes I can do a whole painting in a very short time, it just pours out of my head. Other times it can take up to 4 months to do one."



Tino Rangatiratanga

(Self determination, Maori

independence, incomplete artwork)
"This one is a painting I make for Jo, at the hospital. I give it to him as a present. At some point the painting tells me, 'hey, it's enough', but this one is not yet finished. The basic design of this is the NZ Maori flag. Jo has a flag on his wall and I wanted something that ties in with that. The translation of 'Tino Rangatiratanga', to me it means 'my people, my home', but Jo would know the translation."



He Whanau (My Family)

"This represents the different members of my family and the different make-up in my family. 'My family' doesn't necessarily mean my blood family, it means my friends, good friends from wherever they come from, Europe, Maori, Italy, Aboriginal, Torres Strait, I consider all of them 'my family'."



Thought of the Month

The step toward restoring a relationship is to confess your part of the conflict. If you're serious about restoring a relationship, you should begin with admitting your own mistakes.

"First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."

Since we all have blind spots, you may need to ask a third party to help you evaluate your own actions before meeting with the person with whom you have a conflict. Ask, "Am I the problem? Am I being unrealistic, insensitive, or too sensitive?" "If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves."

Confession is a powerful tool for reconciliation. Often the way we handle a conflict creates a bigger hurt than the original problem itself. When you begin by humbly admitting your mistakes, it defuses the other person's anger and disarms their attack because they were probably expecting you to be defensive.

Don't make excuses or shift the blame; just honestly own up to any part you have played in the conflict. Accept responsibility for your mistakes and ask for forgiveness.

"Written by an NPA resident, reproduced here with permission"

Flatback Wombat

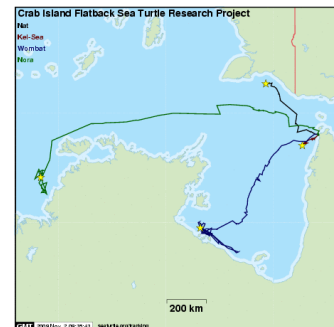
A satellite tracking project has provided the first insights into the migratory patterns of flatback turtles which nest on Crab Island, the largest known nesting site for the species. Mr Brett Leis conducted the study as part of his research thesis with the National Marine Science Centre. He has been studying the nesting biology of Crab Island's flatback turtles for the last couple of years.

Mr Leis said, "A total of four turtles had transmitters attached by specially designed harnesses. I call them the 'Flatback Backpack.'" A corrodible 'weak link' was incorporated into the design to enable release after 9-12 months.

Some of the results have been astounding. "One turtle called 'Nat' travelled north to Indonesia! Nat was the first flatback turtle to ever be tracked outside of Australia!" said Mr Leis.

"Another turtle, named 'Nora', swam to a feeding ground close to the Western Australian border! That's a distance of over 2000km!! A third turtle, named 'Wombat', travelled south to the bottom of the Gulf of Carpentaria – a distance of over 1000kms!" said Mr Leis.

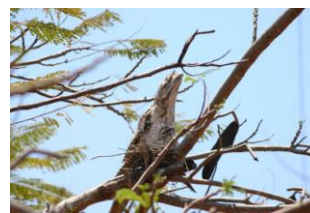
In addition to these tracked turtles, another flatback which Brett had tagged (with a numbered titanium tag inserted into the flipper) was caught in a fishing trawler 400km away just off the coast of PNG in the Gulf of Papua. She was released alive.



The results show that feeding grounds supplying Crab Island are widespread, extending in all directions and cross national and international borders. This information will help determine what areas are important to flatback turtles and what kinds of threats are likely to impact them in these areas. (Story and images courtesy of Mr Brett Leis)



Papuan Frogmouth has mouth to feed



A Papuan Frogmouth (*podargus papuensis*), bird species of the Podargidae family, found nesting in Bamaga, guarding its fledgeling in inconspicuous pose. The young is barely visible, neatly tucked in, on mother's chest. In Australia, this species is only found in north Queensland, but also Indonesia and PNG. The Papuan Frogmouth has excellent hearing and eyesight, including night vision capabilities.



Yumpla



NPASC student, Ebony Tamwoy (left), is the designer of the Yumpla 2009 T-Shirt.



'Music, count us in', Bamaga Senior's Campus is part of an Australia wide event where students across the country sing 'The music is everything,' all at the same time, the voices of all students combined and televised Australia wide. Since Bamaga Senior College's Radio Station is not yet operational, an earlier recording is used by another radio station, linking NPA voices with the rest of the country via TV broadcast. At the predetermined time, the students at the NPARC joined in live.



Totally absorbed (above), young dancers rehearsing the Hula, with teacher, Ms Kym Kocsis. The concert performance was enjoyed by all, many

admitting with a sheepish grin, 'Yes, the Hula, very nice.' Fully dressed up (above left), young Asuelu, son of Mr Vincent Babia. Mr Babia delivered a powerful and electrifying performance.

At Injinoo Campus, Mr Teho Ropeyarn is preparing the side of a building, assisted by Ms Rhian Phineasa. The artwork will feature the totems of all five tribes living at Injinoo. The Dingo for Atambaya, the Turtle for Angkamuthy, Goanna for Gudank and Erakenu, and the Diamond Stingray for the Whutathi people.



During last year's Yumpla Festival, Artist Teho Ropeyarn painted a large mural at Bamaga Campus, featuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait motives. Once a student at Bamaga, Mr Ropeyarn, born at Mt Isa (Angkamuthi, Woppaburra and Badjtala), spent much of his life at Injinoo. Following NPASC he moved straight to Sydney, attending the 'College of Fine Arts'. Parents and guests showed a keen interest in NPARC's library display.



Rocking the crowds 'til late (img left), the Seisia Sunset Band performing at Bamaga.



Rev Mary Eseli and Deacon Erris Eseli explaining instruments used in traditional song and dance. 'Where do the feathers in a pillow come from?' These kids know, thanks to Rev Eseli.



"Going once, going twice..., SOLD!!!"

"...and I didn't even move my fingers"



Deputy Principal, Mr Jim Buckley, conducting the fund raising auction. Each piece on offer an original art work by local students, some fetching hundreds of dollars. The variety and high standards of the works indicate a hint of things to come from many of the young and evolving artists. *The height of the sky is beyond measure. The ground is for walking, the sky for them to soar.*



Injinoo Dance Group

at the Australasian World Music Expo, Melbourne



The Injinoo dancers, with a group size of 37 (13% of its population) performing in Melbourne, which has 7831 times more people than the whole of Injinoo. The event, now in its second year, features three days of the finest indigenous roots and world music from the Australasian region. During daytime, the event is a trade fair, a beehive of influential festival organizers, talent

agents, record label executives, each scouting, looking, searching. At night, it's time to claim the stage and attention of all. Here is where they find them, the best in folk and indigenous music, dance and performance.



Yes you can, with a little help

The group rehearsed at the back of Mr Gordon Solomon's place for weeks. Having gone through the selection process of picking 30 dancers out of so many, having flown from the top end of the country, via Cairns to Melbourne, 4000km from home, the moment is now, to take in this experience.



The group, who always lived at the Top, did so in Melbourne too, atop the Hotel Discovery, literally. The first night was cool, but the second night brought the warmest November night on record, 28deg Celsius. Melbourne being Melbourne tried to accommodate by starting its own Rain season on the last few days of their stay. The rain was so generous, that the group had to relocate from the artificially grassed top deck double bunked group tent housing of the hotel into proper rooms.

For most of the kids Melbourne

provided many firsts to experience: the first tram rides, the first traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, high-rise buildings, and their first visit to the Zoo, Aquarium and Luna Park. They experienced the hectic lifestyle in a major city, four seasons in a day, and countless opportunities for shopping, dining and sightseeing.

Many of the artists, who performed at last year's AWME, used it as a stepping stone, resulting in engagements at North American, Asian and European festivals. The business cards Mr Gordon Solomon handed out went like hotcakes, a clear sign of the tremendous interest in the group. The Injinoo Dance Group had the support of Skytrans, Regional Pacific, Arts Queensland and Arts Centre, Melbourne, as well as the NPA Regional Council. Thanks to Qantas, Bohemia Resort, Cairns and Hotel Discovery, Melbourne. Thank you all, for the terrific help extended to the group and the assistance of many others behind the scenes is much appreciated. *Without such support there would be little chance for any of the far off remote communities to share their traditions and customs, to enable their children to experience such an event. Likewise does it offer Melbourne a unique opportunity to witness true indigenous root performances from the children of the tribes of the Gudang, Angkamuthi, Erecan, Atambaya and Yadhaykenu and Torres Strait peoples. This in itself is a rare privilege indeed.*



The 2009 AWME line-up:

Blue King Brown, Archie Roach, Toguna (Reunion Islands/France), True Live, Oka, Batucada Sound Machine (NZ), Dubmarine, Djan Djan (Mamadou Diabate, Bobby Singh, Jeff Lang), Shakura Stringband (Vanuatu), The Last Kinection, Mad Professor (UK), Dya Singh (India/Australia), Mihirangi (NZ/Australia), The Public Opinion Afro Orchestra, The Pigram Brothers, Little Bushman (NZ), Grace Barbé (Seychelles/Australia), Emma Donovan, Noreum Machi (South Korea), Moab Stringband (PNG), Tama Waipara (NZ), San Lazaro, Heartical Hifi Outernational, Richard Mogu (PNG), Narasirato Pan Pipers (Solomon Is), Tumi (South Africa), Kamerunga, Stiff Gins, Chant Down Sound, The Red Eyes, Rhombus (NZ), Ykson (New Caledonia), Zulya And The Children Of The Underground, Groundswell (Deline Briscoe, Radical Son, The Medics), Afro Dizzi Act, Way Out West, Tabura (West Papua), Laya Film Project (India), Kartick & Gotam (India/Israel), Sista Itations Feat. Mc Rifrapp, Ennio Styles, Mr Fish, Chooky Dancers, Injinoo Dancers, Shellie Morris, Valangha Khoza (South Africa/Australia), Ria Soemardjo (Indonesia/Australia), DJ Damon (Aka The Nomad) (New Zealand), and more.

See: <http://www.awme.com.au>



In the dressing room before performance



Performing at Fairfax Theatre, Arts Centre.

The Injinoo Dance Group's weeks of intensive training shows. The group is now synchronized to perfection with all dancers breathing and chanting as one.

AWME in Melbourne, November 2009



Influenced by its close bonds to the Torres Islands, the Injinoo Dance Group uses the warup (drum), with goanna or file snake skin. Boomerangs are not used in Cape York, as it has little open country. Clapping sticks are used instead, made from locally grown Cooktown

Ironwood (*Erythrophleum Chlorostachys*), which has excellent acoustic properties. This very dense timber, one of the hardest on earth, will sink in water. It is also used in the tips of spears, the body of the spear made from Scrub Trees. Tips are sharpened with the resin of gum trees. In Melbourne, the spears had no tips, due to airport security. The group also used rattles made from the *culap* or *gorr* vine (its spelling may not be correct).



Time for pictures in Melbourne.



Wishing the team well.



Home is where the heart is, back in the NPA.

...more on last page

NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Mr Stuart Duncan

Snapshots of Melbourne



Exhibition Building



St Kilda Rd, Bridge across the Yarra, near Arts Centre



Fountains at Arts Centre



Parliament, Spring St., Victoria



From left: Flinders St. Station.
Inside St. Patrick's Cathedral.
Yarra.
Fitzroy Gardens.
Rialto Towers.



Christmas message from the NPA Regional Council

"A big **'Thank you'** to all employees of the NPA Regional Council, who have made a tremendous effort during the year to help make the NPA a better place to live and work in. There have been numerous challenges since amalgamation and 'one by one' these are being overcome. There will be more challenges ahead, but together we can, and we will address them to build a better future for all who live in our far off communities."

"NPA Regional Council is overwhelmed by the strong community support it received, and people's willingness to move ahead, embrace the future and prepare the ground for all of our children for better times ahead. We can look towards tomorrow without fear, and with the knowledge that opportunities exist in the NPA to prepare this and the next generation for the years ahead."

"Despite the financial turmoil in the world, the NPA has been very much shielded by the impact this had on many lives elsewhere. We are fortunate to receive funding from many sources, which enabled us to provide improvements in infrastructure and complete many other projects, directly relating to the wellbeing of our peoples. We sincerely thank the providers of all funding and grants, and do appreciate the strong relationship that has been fostered between the NPARC and the State and Commonwealth Governments."

"We are in the process of building communities that can live in harmony and become contributing members of the larger Australian community. Many of our enterprises have been able to strong trading practices, which is a reward of their own efforts. The pride this brings is beyond description."

"We need leaders for the future, leaders that can lead with vision and have the appropriate educational foundation behind them. We find these leaders in the young in our schools. As a Council, we can help to provide whatever is in our power, to give our young a chance to be equal with the best in the world."

"We are fortunate to live in a part of Australia that is gifted with pristine wilderness, with wildlife and culture that is unique to the NPA, with natural beauty that is beyond compare. Together we can improve many things, and with the participation of each in our communities, we can overcome the issues we are facing."

"To all employees and every family in the NPA, thank you, and a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

NPA Regional Council, and
NPA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Stuart Duncan,
Deputy CEO Mr. Danny Sebasio, and
The Executive Directors.

NPARC News Letter flying high

Perhaps you're reading this coming to the NPA, inside a plane, perhaps you're heading south, maybe you're on the ocean going north or south, chances are you're on either, Skytrans, Regional Pacific or Seaswift, thinking about home. All three carriers, the lifeline of the NPA, have kindly agreed to offer this Newsletter as reading material on your journey.



Vet in NPA



Dr Lauren Porter, BVSc, is visiting Vet from Katherine Vet Care (NT). "With the help of Essential Services Officers and the co-operation of the communities we have been able to remove some of the dogs with mange (mange) that have the potential to make people sick. We have also been spaying dogs (de-sexing of female dogs), so that there are no unwanted pups in the future, and removed dogs that are a nuisance to people."



"From the reactions I get I feel the community is pleased and I am pleased in how the communities are responding. Lots of people are very keen to have Vet work done; they want advice about other things as well, which I have been attempting to give them. Hopefully the communities are pleased with the work I've done," says Dr Porter. Some of the veterinarian services are free; others were paid for with arrangements with NPA Regional Council. At the time of speaking to Dr Porter, 20 dogs had received treatment and 50 dogs destroyed.



Susie (the bitch) undergoing de-sexing operation on the back of a utility in Umagico. "There is the uterus, there is the ovary and what I'm doing is going below the ovary, tying off the blood vessels," says Dr Porter, "then I can take out the ovaries and the uterus and she won't come on heat."



Unexpected visitor

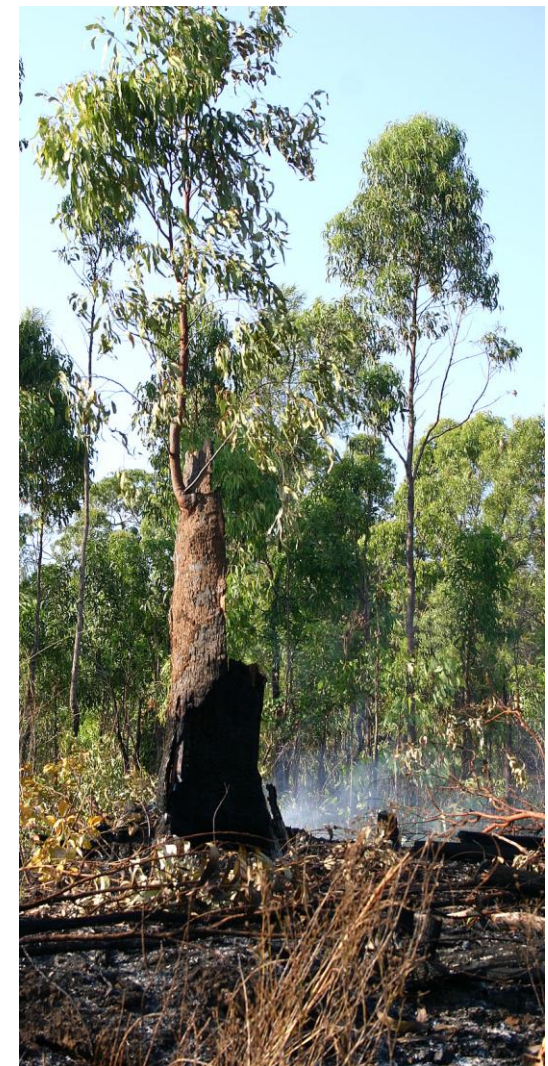
'What a day. Thought I come for a Health Check-up, what do I find? No hay, no grain, no buckets of water, not even a single cube of sugar. No carrots either, apples, none, and, guess what, they don't do horses anyway. It's all a wee bit tight to turn around, better give it a miss..., where is my herd?'

Road at the Top



Coming into Bamaga from the south, near the oval: 60km/h sign is right, only the road appears a bit lofty.

The force of Life



Its trunk long gone, its hollowed shell scorched black, despite, new growth is reaching. One branch, sprouting from the thin remnants of a once healthy tree, has little choice but try. Try to survive, this, each cell within knows since time began, life needs living. Despite all odds, it does.

Queensland's birthday: 150 years

December 10th and Queensland celebrates its 150th birthday. In 1859 it became independent from New South Wales.

The First Fleet arrived in Australia in 1788. The eastern half of the country was initially named 'New South Wales.' In 1851, a public meeting discussed considering separation from NSW. Queen Victoria's signature created Queensland as a self governing colony in 1859. June 6th is celebrated as 'Queensland Day,' the day that document (Letters Patent) was authorized. The first day of January, 1901, saw Queensland become one of the founding States of the Commonwealth of Australia (source: today.wmit.net). This is known as Federation Day. Population at that time was ½ million people in Qld. Today's estimates are nearly 4.46 million people (ABS). In 1879, the Torres Strait Islands were annexed by Queensland.

First Governor of Queensland was Sir George Ferguson Bowen, who arrived in Brisbane on 10th Dec, 1859. Sir Robert George Wyndam Herbert became the first Premier of Qld. He arrived in Australia on the same day. Queen Victoria's Letter Patent was first published in the NSW Government Gazette (29th Nov, 1859), and in the first edition of Queensland's Government Gazette, issued Dec 10th that year. It was a weekly paper.

January 26th is Australia Day, commemorating the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove. During the bicentenary celebrations in 1988, this day has also become known as 'Invasion Day' by many Aboriginal people, protesting about inequality between Indigenous and white Australians.

150 years ago, 1859, were different times for the indigenous communities at Cape York and Australia. None of us lived at that time. What we know about 1859 comes from stories passed down through the generations or from official records. It was a time before the arrival of the Jardine family.

By October, in excess of 1100 people had been vaccinated for Swine Flu (H1N1) in the NPA and Torres Strait. In November, the Regional Pacific Argan Warriors (after extra time) left the NPA with big smiles, claiming the pot at the Dan Ropeyarn Memorial Cup. The visiting Vet did a good start in the effort to get on top of our dog problems. Construction of the new airport fence gets underway. NPA Airport's emergency response was tested. NPA had a pre Wet Season clean-up. The Prime Minister says 'sorry' to the Forgotten Australians. Melbourne during the AWME will be remembered by many, while the ablution's confusion reached a conclusion. New road surface work between Injinoo and Bamaga is currently in progress, and the lofty road, with the 60km speed sign at Bamaga (see page 6), has come back to the ground. At time of this writing, December starts with a new leader in the Liberal Party, but most of the month is still ahead.

Yes, for a short time the flour had run out at the bakery, the water didn't flow as we're used to, the ship had some mechanical problems and the petrol station couldn't pump fuel. There have been accidents and injuries. Some people had their guardian angels close by. Cars rolled and trailers wrecked on some of the red dirt tracks. There have been savage attacks from dogs on pigs, from pigs on dogs, from dogs on foals, on children and adults. Not every issue could be solved. There is hopefully a greater awareness for issues that affect our health, safety and wellbeing. The NPA has experienced 20% inflation during the year, not in the cost of living, but in the birthrate. One hundred children were born during 2008, while 120 precious babies were born this year. The year's not yet over. The dark rumbling clouds are starting to roll in, announcing a change in season, carrying rains that will wash the red dust off the leaves and houses. A new year lies ahead with new opportunities for those who reach out for them.

The year in the mirror



With the year almost behind us, what happened in 2009? January, floods rage across north Queensland. Qld has \$1.573 billion budget deficit, and Premier Anna Bligh calls early election for March.

What happened in the NPA? Mensheds Australia opens in February. April 09, Seisia Camp Site No 7 has athlete Ms Freya Hoffmeister dropping in. She left Melbourne on Dec 08, on her race to circumnavigate Australia (15000km) in a canoe. She spent the whole year on the ocean, inching around the continent at 60km per day, in a test of endurance and a quest to fulfill her self-set challenge. She's now past Adelaide, Victor Harbour, and well placed to reach Melbourne before the year is over. Dengue fever also arrived in that month.



On the journey through life, some have reached the Stop sign and will be sadly missed by loved ones and the whole community. April 09, a time when the soothing voice of one calmed the concerns of her dying husband of nearly 50 years. May, another month that will not be forgotten, and there are more that have brought sorrow. In this time of year, many may need the special support of the community. June brings Laura to mind and August brings a wealth of information of the many career opportunities for the future of our children.

Umagico and Injinoo sports ground have received underground drip irrigation systems. September, a time of smoke inhalation, NAIDOC Day, ILUA authorization and Shell leaving the NPA. October saw LIPA signed, and the opening of Sepoima Woosup Early Learning Centre, Somerset Camp Ground, Recording Studio, Yumpla, Blue Light Discos and the Bamaga Roo's winning the NPA Grand Final.



Syzygium bamagense (yes, it is in language, Botanical)

In Issue 1 of this Newsletter we covered the extension to Seisia Camp Ground. At that time it was red soil barren ground.

Mr Rupeni, grounds manager at Seisia Camp Grounds is preparing to plant. Grevillea shrubs and native trees will get a boost



once the rains give it a good soaking. Here, Mr Rupeni plants a Bamaga Satinash, which can reach a height of 8m, and measure 5m across. Young natives, timely planted, will add to the appeal of this prime location camp ground.



The plant was discovered and scientifically named by the Atherton CSIRO Botanist, Mr Bernie Hyland, who did a lot of botanical exploration work at the Cape in the 1980s and 90s. Mr Hyland named the scientific name *Syzygium bamagense*, hence

Bamaga Satinash is the obvious common name. The type specimen (ie the original botanical collection used for naming the plant) was made at the Claudie River in Iron Range in 1983, but the plant is fairly widespread throughout the northern end of Cape York Peninsula in gallery rainforests along the creeks and rivers, as well as in 'dry scrubs'. It is certainly a local plant of the Bamaga area. The plant is a member of the Lilly-pilly family. It bears masses of white fluffy flowers, followed by large white fruit, which litter the ground in great numbers. The fruit are edible (ie they are not poisonous) but they are not particularly palatable!

Meet Ms Dianne Lewis, Healing Centre Coordinator



Ms Dianne Lewis has started work at the Healing Centre, Injinoo. She is a Family Violence Counsellor and the Healing Centre Coordinator. She arrived mid Oct

from NZ with her son. At the Injinoo Healing Centre, Ms Dianne Lewis (right), with some of the locals and staff.



Meet Mrs Lesley McCartney, Program Manager, Bamaga

Mrs Lesley McCartney is now working at Family Resource Centre in Bamaga as Program Manager for all client services. Mrs McCartney was born in Scotland and has lived and worked in Africa, United Kingdom and Australia. She has held a variety of roles in community services, particularly counseling, working with individuals, families, groups and communities. Mrs McCartney is married to husband Barry and has four children. She is enjoying the role of grandparent to her three grandchildren. Lesley's family live on the Gold Coast.



She is looking forward to camping in this beautiful area and has limited experience of fishing, but needs much more practice! So, if you see when she is trying to catch some fish, please stop and say 'hello.' Mrs McCartney also likes music, cycling, reading and sharing a yarn 'round a campfire.

Meet Mrs Jackie Kelly, Health Education Manager, Bamaga



"I have moved from NSW to the NPA to work at the NPA Family & Community Services as the Health Education Manager. From the time I saw the position advertised I was so excited about the opportunity and when I was offered the job I was so grateful. I have been here for a couple of weeks now and absolutely love it. I'm living at Injinoo, next to the Healing Centre and am doing lots of walks to the beach with Pete, my husband. In the past I have worked with Forster Aboriginal Land Council and Medical Service, Awabakal Medical Service, Hunter Area Health and Correctional Services, supporting Aboriginal men from jail back home into employment"

Meet Mr Brett Hayes, Alcohol, Tobacco & other Drug Counsellor

"My name is Brett Hayes and I am the new Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Counsellor at the NPA Family Resource Centre in Bamaga. I have just moved here with my family (my wife Nena and our five children) from Darwin. The things I enjoy doing are spending time with my family, fishing, running, and going to the gym. I have been working in the Alcohol and other Drugs field for approx. six years and have held various roles within this area. So if you are concerned with your alcohol or other drug use, you can contact me on **4069 3555**, and we can arrange a time to catch up."



Meet Mr Andy Chappell, Child & Youth Therapist, Bamaga

"My name is Andy Chappell. I am the new Child & Youth Therapist at the NPA Resource Centre. My wife and I have moved here from Brisbane and have comfortably settled in to our new home and NPA lifestyle. Before moving to the NPA, I was working with high schools in Brisbane, running programs for disengaged youths and prior to that, I'd spent 4 years working and studying abroad in various International schools and NGOs. My wife and I love to fish, so if you can see us down on the Jetty, come and say 'G'day,' and give us some pointers on how to catch the big GTs."



Meet Miss Susan Shand, Intensive Family Support Officer



"I'm Susan Shand and I am the new Intensive Family Support Officer at NPA Family and Community Services, ATSI Corporation, Adidi St, Bamaga. I have moved from Townsville to live and work in this beautiful part of Australia. My daughter and my dog have also come to live with me. My hobbies and interests are music, exploring the bush and beaches, gardening and fire twirling. I look forward to working within the communities of the NPA and exploring the area on my days off."

Keeping active

Mr Edmond Aniba, born on Saibai, lives in Seisia. He comes from a

family of craftsmen where the traditions of canoe building are passed on. Mr Edmond Aniba learned the craft from his uncle, Mr Wilfred Aniba, who in turn learned canoe building from his father (Mr Aniba Asa). An article in the Torres News featured Mr Wilfred Aniba and tells of the way he learned the craft. And so it was for Mr Edmond Aniba too, from a very young age absorbing knowledge by watching, learning and practicing.

"I was small boy, see, my father (meaning uncle), he was boat maker," explains Mr Edmond Aniba, "He make boat on T.I., slipway. I see him make lugger boat ...long time (ago). When my boats become a little bigger, I understand my way. When I was small, my grandfather made canoes, he buy it from New

Guinea, from the bottom one. When they come Saibai, they built it out, from the timber (adding the out-riggers), sails too.

Mr Edmond Aniba has a workshop right behind his Seisia house. He is currently working on a small lugger boat and a canoe. "I born Saibai. After WWII we come here, T.I., my father, in lugger boat. He make big one, I only make toy one."

"Father (meaning uncle), Wilfred Aniba, T.I., he still alive. Jeffery Aniba is my nephew, my brother's son. The lugger still needs a propeller."



"I cut this one out with a chainsaw, deep in, steady, steady, take long time to finish."



"This tree, I don't know the name of it, it is good for chairs and tables, good colour, it's not too hard, not too soft, it's good, has yellow, black and red, good colours."

"Cotton tree, it gets rotten from the rain. We use big one for fishing. When I get my license (renewed), I go into scrub, looking for dead one (trees). Before we cut them green ones." Mr Aniba drives a small truck, with a yellow and brown door. Mr Edmond Aniba also works at NPA State College. "Sometimes I show them how to make (plant) cabbage, but they don't listen to me, they walk around, don't listen to me. No good. I wasting my time, they don't listen." Mr Aniba is also a good dancer, traditional Saibai dancing, a good walker and enjoys working with plants.

"I built the raft at Seisia Fishing Club," says Mr Aniba. Mr Michael Aniba (son) explains, "Two years ago, the T.I. Raft Race, starting at Horn Island then across



"This one was used in raft race, outriggers, wires come up, sail. I'm thinking of next race, Loyalty Beach up Seisia."

"He built another one for tombstone opening, it's at Umagico, they put the food in it then, in the canoe," says Mr Michael Aniba.

"'Amana-Kazi,' it means 'Mummy Boy,'" explains Mr Aniba, "In my lingo 'Mummy Boy' means 'Amana-Kazi.' My father make a boat at slipway in T.I., I see it."



"I'm making the drum now."



"Someone stole dad's old planer," says son Michael, "It was done in the 60's, the 50's, a real olden days one, made in England. Somebody stole it."

"If I cut green tree, I get fined now, no good cutting green tree," says Mr Edmond Aniba. "Got to look for a dry one. I cut pieces long time (ago), they are dry now, I can use them."



“... our kids, our people should have the fire, like when they dance ...”

Mr Jeffery Aniba, is Councillor for Seisia, Chairman of the new Education Council, a cultural performer, a Coast Guard commander, a SES local controller and an indentured tradesperson.

“One of the things that motivate me is the move from Saibai to here. I wasn’t even born then. My mum and my grandmother were in the boat that ran into the cyclone (un-named cyclone hit



NPA on 6th and 7th Jan, 1948).

My mum was a baby in Muttee Heads. They

survived and

came here. The vision that Saibai people saw is

what motivates me. When I grew up, I felt it in

me in being a leader, but in which way, I didn’t know. I always did well in my class at school. In 2000, I said to myself, I give this leadership a go. A couple of people encouraged me earlier and I said, ‘No, I don’t think I’m ready for it.’ I was going through the transition of a teenager, ‘Yes, I know everything.’ I had a go since 2000 and I’m still here as a leader.”

“I left school at year 10. I didn’t do anything for 13 years, just did labouring work. After 13 years, I went back and did an apprenticeship on boiler making. In the first year, I was going to quit, even in the first week. I couldn’t go back to school after 13 years. It was too hard for me. But I said, ‘No, I give it a go,’ because I was one of the top students in class when I grew up, I’m sure I can break this barrier easy. In the second week I said, ‘No, this is too hard, math, things we’d done 13, 14 years ago’. I did my first year, second year I enjoyed it, today I’m a boilermaker by trade as well. It opened my mind again. I did a lot of courses, being a Coast Guard commander. Went back and did some courses through SES and became a local controller for SES.”

About the young: “They have to learn to respect. To me, there is not enough respect these days. We were flogged, with a belt, with a hose, or a branch, and that really taught us to behave and respect. Today you can’t do that. It’s against the law now, but what the kids need to realise is the hardship that our parents and our forefathers have had and respect that, and then they’ll respect themselves. They have to change their lifestyle individually. First, it’s going to be changed as a community, they need to start respecting, the responsibilities and all that. They need to be pro-active, need think about the history, about whatever happened prior to Captain Cook. They need to think there, because how that impacts on our lives. The young generation needs to respect that and value what happened before. Our elders are regulators. They are the wise men. The young don’t respect the elders anymore. What the western system has done, we are all equal now.”

“We should have our own law system, what happened before. Our kids, I don’t know how you can mindset them today. I took the Seisia kids out camping; we visited the Captain Cook memorial where our people come through Possession Island, talking about the history, our culture. I told them, ‘The elders are the libraries of tomorrow. You guys got to value that and respect that, because we got an oral culture, oral history.’ We are basically killing our own race by not eating right, through lifestyle and we basically lost everything. The TV influence, we no longer sit, like we used to do, with our elders, around a campfire or somewhere around the house, and just yarn about things. They’d yarn about the boat life, how they had to struggle, but that is how they taught us, by yarning, sitting around, tell stories. I used to sit around and listen, don’t get bored, no complaints. Today you ask your little kid to sit down, they say, ‘Yeah, I know, Daddy, don’t repeat yourself.’ When they break down and they are in trouble, it is Mummy and Daddy back again, ‘Told you. You wouldn’t listen.’ But when will they listen?”

“We never had water from the Jardine River when we came here. We had a well, used drums, down at Joseph’s (Mayor Elu) place. It was muddy.



You had to boil it. They don’t realise what we went through, cutting firewood for cooking food, wash things in the creeks, carry things forth and back.”

“Everything needs to come together and work collaboratively in partnership. That is why ‘Closing the gap’ is not working in the indigenous communities, because it’s not coming from the people. People are still trying to close the gap, but government has a different strategy in place to close the gap.”

“The indigenous people need to educate themselves more, to be in there somewhere. Our people here have no representatives on the benches, like in parliament actually. We’ve got ministers there that are saying on our behalf whatever we want. Is what they are saying what we want? Or is, like they say, they’re not playing the blame game? They have to be equal up there.”

“Maybe people who come from other (underdeveloped) countries (to study here), they got people who are suffering, poverty. When they come from those countries, they have the fire inside, ‘I got to be a doctor so that I can fix my people.’ But here, we got Centrelink, we got CDEP, we got the hand-outs that government gives us. Bugger it. I don’t need to be a doctor. I can get Centrelink every fortnight if I don’t want to. Forget about it. My people are alright. They’re still breathing, having bread and butter on the table, because of Centrelink. Other countries don’t have that. That’s why when they come (overseas students), they have the fire to go back and support their people, back in other countries. People from other countries are coming here, they are getting their education, getting qualified, and going back to their countries. What about the people from here? We are just whining.”

“I wished that our kids, our people should have the fire, like when they dance, like when they go fishing, to being a doctor, or being lawyer, and make something of their lives. But how do we do it, is it too hard? Is it our literacy, numeracy, is it that problem?



English is our second or third language, is it that problem? What is the problem? People need to come out and say it. Don’t hide it. Put your strategies in place. You can target what is not working for us indigenous people and put programs in it, so that it will improve. But we could be saying, ‘We should be doing this, because this is better than that,’ but...”

“I speak language, because my parents, they spoke language at home. When I went to school, it was English only. A little bit of Creole to understand English.”

Continued next page...

“... our kids, our people should have the fire, like when they dance ...” (...continued)

“We were at that time writing English down. Because when you write something down, it’s a meaningful thing to do. Some people can’t read, but they can write that, to get the meaning or message across. I am fortunate today, that I can speak language and can understand Standard English. I can code switch, which is good, I’m lucky I got that in me so I can use it, to negotiate and so on. I know I can break this barrier; I can communicate with the people, through my cultural knowledge, through my language. That’s how you get into the people on the grass root, or the community, because if you haven’t got the skills, it’s going to be hard. That is why language is important. Because our generation don’t speak language, it’s hard to adapt back to our days (the past ways). They (the young) speak English, yet they don’t go to school. Like whom do you blame? You blame the school, you blame the language?”

“It is up to the parents to get kids to school, but if parents are gamblers, alcoholics... what do you do? It is really a community issue that needs to be identified by the community people, to address it.”

“If we change individually, the community will change. If I change, he’ll change, they’ll change, everybody will change; you will see the community start changing. To me, as leader, I can’t change this whole community overnight. I can change myself overnight, but I can’t even change my kids overnight. But if I change, and my kids change, and eventually everybody changes, it will work. But... how do you do it? There are a lot of Service Deliveries and programs around.”

“Many say, ‘I don’t care, I go to CDEP, I go to Centrelink, as long as I get paid to get my bread and butter,’ that’s it, tough luck, but you have people in the community as well, who have the fire to drive progress.”

“I have an obligation to the community, at least in my term as a councillor, to do something. As a leader, you have to leave a legacy behind, to say, ‘Yeah, I’ve done something for my people.’ The move from Saibai is what motivates me, because of the people who came here to start a new life.”



At the Healing Centre, Injinoo, busy hands preparing for the upcoming ‘Dan Ropeyarn Inaugural Cup’.



The NPA – internationally important for sea turtles

The NPA region is recognized as one of the most important areas in the world for sea turtles. This time of the year highlights why this area is so special. To our north, thousands of Green Turtles congregate off the coast and within the Torres Strait to mate. In fact, this is one of only a few courting areas known in the world and possibly the most important. Turtles travel thousands of kilometers, often from other countries to come here. Once courtship is complete, males head back to their feeding grounds and females continue on to their nesting beaches. Many head to Raine Island to the east – the world’s largest green turtle rookery. On the west coast, the winter/spring nesting season is coming to an end. This area contains the largest nesting site for Flatback Turtles, a rare and little known species which only nests in Australia. Crab Island sits only 1.5km off the mainland and is a biological treasure. On the east coast, as the weather warms up, hundreds of *critically endangered* Hawksbill Turtles will migrate from areas such as Indonesia, PNG, Solomon Islands and New Caledonia to nest on



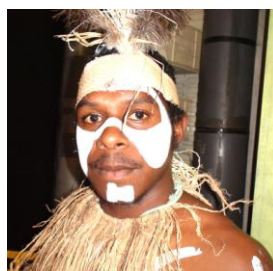
islands on the Great Barrier Reef. In fact, Milman Island is one of the most important nesting sites across the globe for the species. This is also one of the only areas in the south pacific where the rare Olive Ridley Turtle nests. Our west coast beaches contain Queensland’s entire nesting population.

The reefs, seagrass beds and offshore waters of the region also provide important habitat for these species, as well as the Loggerhead Turtle and Leatherback Turtle. The only species not found here is the Kemp’s Ridley, which is restricted to the Gulf of Mexico! We are very privileged to live in such a rich and diverse area. However, all these sea turtles are listed as threatened species and it is important that we look after them!



(Both Images: Flatback Turtles on Crab Is., Story and photos by Mr Brett Leis, Turtle Project Officer, Cape York Sea Turtle Project)

AWME in Melbourne, November 2009



The group arrived on Skytrans and Regional Pacific safely back home.

Injinoo Dance Group Contact: Mr Gordon Solomon (Manager), +61 7 4069 3542,

Ms Jay McDonnell (Events Coordinator) +61 418 757 888, (Injinoo@lovejayproductions.com.au)