

In this Issue: Dogs, Airport Emergency Plan, Sport, Play Grounds, Roads, School, Sea turtles, and more...

Is this for REAL?

\$66mill for housing in the NPA

the **best Good News story** we had in a long time. For that \$66 million to come in, we also need another \$40 to \$60mill worth of infrastructure, sewerage upgrades, access roads, because it equates to about 264 houses. It is a **major, major boost** for the NPA. The details are not yet clear, but I got one sheet of paper with the figures on it, and not much else."

"There is a big bag of money somewhere that we got to capture. There are some strings attached. There is \$18mill for this year, provided we can supply the service lots. Perhaps they think we can't come up with the numbers. Perhaps they think we're not going to be able to claim the \$18mill. You watch me, I ain't gonna let \$18mill go past me without claiming every cent of it," says Mr Foody, grinning with promise.

"I already had a talk with our infrastructure people, and we're going to hit the ground running with this one here. That \$18mill is not going past here. Some communities have quite a bit of spare ground, service lots. Some places need infrastructure development more than others, before they can take those houses."

"Bamaga, Seisia and New Mapoon are OK, there are spare lots. There are already subdivisions with no houses build. Umagico and Injinoo, there are not many spare blocks. We need to get two subdivisions on the way very quickly, sewerage, water, power, roads, the whole works. Umagico has sewage lines in place, the lots are mapped out, but there are no roads to it yet. We'll have to do kerbing and channels, roadworks etc."

The total package, following implementation of the National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing is: \$1,156bill over 10 years, 1,141 new houses to be built, upgrade of an existing 1,216 houses and... conditional on a minimum of 40 year leases.

NPA Regional Council Mayor, Mr Joseph Elu: "We (Council) have already decided that we won't lease back old houses to government. New houses, we take on pain and sufferance. We don't like it, but if that's the way we're going to get new houses... The Federal Government said to the States, 'If you don't do that, we won't give you the money.' The State Government is coming to us, 'If you don't give us the land, we won't build a house.' Meetings with Housing are currently underway. They put these tough issues on Council."

"I need to get more details on this," explains an excited Mr Jim Foody. "We're told there are \$18mill for 2010, \$11mill for 2011, \$14mill for 2012, and \$18mill for 2013, from Community Housing (Federal and State Governments), \$66mill over the next 5 years."

"If this is true, and we really need to follow up, it's probably

"We have engineers up here now (mid Dec)," says Mr Foody, "doing preparation work for the needs in infrastructure to capture the \$18million. The need to get extra houses in the NPA outweighs us. We simply have to do it. We don't like it (the fish hooks and strings attached), but we simply have to do it."

The funding is aimed to reduce overcrowding, homelessness, housing shortages and improve the housing conditions in remote Indigenous communities.

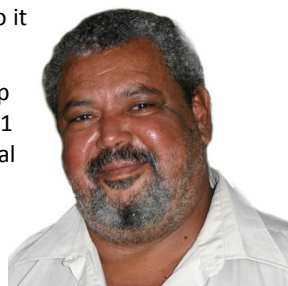
Trustees / Landowners will continue to own the land that is included in the 40 year (minimum) leases.

The Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program Office, located in Cairns, was established in July 09, within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS), which is part of the Department of Communities.

The Program Office aims to identify and remove roadblocks in remote Indigenous communities, to enable faster investment in housing, economic development opportunities, and social development.

State Government will provide the funding in the first year (2010, \$18.2mill), while the years 2011 to 2013 are funded by Queensland State and Commonwealth Governments.

Poor living conditions are in part to blame for many of the issues arising in Indigenous communities, such as poor health, education standards, domestic violence, child abuse and excessive alcohol consumption.



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Dogs in the NPA

On page 7, NPARC News, Issue 8, we covered 'Vet in NPA', the visiting Vet from Katherine Vet Care, Dr Lauren Porter. As a result of her visit, and with the cooperation of many responsible dog owners, a total of 212 dogs received treatment. 17 male dogs were castrated, 75 females de-sexed, 66 dogs darted and 120 euthanized. June 09 figures showed that there were 391 dogs in the NPA (NPARC News, Issue 6, page 5), indicating that many could not be treated during this visit. Dr Lauren Porter observed that many residents looked after their pets properly, by confining them to their yard and providing good care to the animals.



Despite this, the NPA has still an issue with wandering dogs, mange and the threatening behaviour of individuals and packs of dogs. These are mostly uncastrated male dogs. In particular the area around the disposal dump appears to attract the dogs.

Unfortunately, a number of dog owners were reluctant to have their male dogs castrated. Several animals have attacked people, at times even their owners. Health workers and the Bamaga Hospital are well aware of the many injuries uncontrolled dogs have caused in the communities. Some people still deal with the resulting infections 6 months after being attacked.

The NPA Regional Council's Tenancy Agreement states that only two dogs are allowed per house. This is also the case in most of Queensland. Exceptions can be made for hunting dogs... however, it goes hand in hand with responsible dog ownership. NPARC CEO, Mr Stuart Duncan was attacked by two dogs at once and many residents bear the scars following dog attacks. All animal owners need to be fully aware that each is responsible for the actions their animals cause. There may well be costly legal consequences for irresponsible dog owners who fail to keep their animals under control.

NEWS UPDATE 1: The Vet is expected in the NPA (mid Dec 09) to assist Council formulating an Animal Management Policy.

NEWS UPDATE 2: The Vet is expected to return to the NPA in Jan 2010, to continue her work.

Our sewage systems can't cope with this

A shirt, parts from a bicycle, rags, underwear, meds and condoms are not items that should be flushed down a toilet. The NPA has several sewage systems. They are designed to cope with human waste, excrement from the body (kuma, poo) that we flush down the toilet. Each pipeline that carries sewage to the treatment plant has a grill, to collect the large items that may potentially damage the pump. These grills are cleaned on a daily basis (not a pleasant job). Despite this, smaller items, such as rags, shirts, any type of clothing can get through the grill and wrap around the impellers of the pump, causing damage to the equipment. The rolled up end of a condom can also wrap around these impellers, even though it is only a small item.

Women and girls are advised to dispose of menstruation pads (women's business) in a bin (with lid), next to the toilet (the item wrapped in toilet paper and disposed in the normal rubbish bin). Rags found at the treatment plant indicate that some females use them for this purpose. Mothers and women are kindly asked to advise young women and girls of how to dispose of such items properly.

The grill can only catch larger items. Rags and condoms can always get through to reach the pump. Replacing pumps is a costly and time consuming exercise, which will stop the sewerage system from working temporarily. If it's not from you, don't use the loo.



Vinegar Pit Stop stations, located near popular water spots. If stung by Jelly Fish, call 000 and follow the shown instructions. Contact local Health Workers: Seisia 4069 3271, Injinoo 4069 3465, Umagico 4069 3306.

Pre Wet Season clean-up went underway in all NPA communities in December. With the Rain and cyclone season approaching, residents are advised to remove containers that can collect water, like tires, to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Dogs kill two foals

A sad sight confronted Police when attending the scene of recent dog attacks on two young foals in the NPA. One of the foals was just two days old, both died. If a mare can't defend her newborn, what chance does a parent have protecting their children against the vicious attacks by packs of roaming canines? There are a large number of images (taken by Police) clearly identifying the dogs in question. The images are very distressing and for this reason are not reproduced here. The thought that any child could become a statistic is unthinkable. These dogs have demonstrated their ability to attack and kill. They have attacked children and adults in the past. They have tasted blood and the likelihood of attacks with serious consequences is real.

Queensland Government (Department of Infrastructure and Planning) introduced statewide management of 'regulated dogs' on 1. July 2009, based on the new 'Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008'. A regulated dog is a dog that is subject to legal regulations: declared dangerous dog, declared menacing dog, and restricted dogs come under this category. Such dogs must be de-sexed and muzzled in public, and require a permit from the local government. They must further be micro chipped, wear identification tag, and be kept in a prescribed enclosure with a prescribed sign and be kept under effective control. For more detail see:

<http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/local-government/regulated-dogs.html>

Any member of the community can contact NPA Regional Council, who under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, chapter 4, section 89, can declare dogs as 'regulated dogs', if they are found to be menacing, threatening or dangerous, have caused fear to a person or another animal, act in a way that causes fear, or have seriously attacked. The Cats and Dogs information hotline is: 1800 467 561 (this is a free call).

Dogs also have rights, and it is the dog owner's responsibility to ensure that the animal receives a minimum standard of care. Fresh food and fresh water, walking and grooming are the owners (or keepers) responsibilities. According to the 'Animal Care and Protection Act 2001', the owner is obliged to ensure the dog's safety and wellbeing at all times. Fines of up to \$22,500 or jail for a year may apply.

There are many websites dedicated to the wellbeing of animals:

www.dpi.qld.gov.au

www.rspcaqld.org.au

www.publish.csiro.au/nid/22/sid/11.htm

The dog owner's responsibilities are many: dog registration, ensure dog wears registration tags, animal is contained within own property, keep dog from barking excessively, only have two dogs per property, dogs must not threaten people or any other animals, remove dog's droppings from public places, ensure native wildlife is not put at risk.

Previously, Queensland was the only jurisdiction (except N.T.) without mandatory registration and identification of cats and dogs.

All this has changed, and pet owners need to be aware of these changes.

Men mauled to death by dogs

16th Nov, 2009, east of Darwin, a 22-year-old man died, mauled by feral animals.

Sept, 2009, Alice Springs, two men dead following dog bite wounds.

6th Jan, 2009, Whitton, NSW, 3-year-old toddler killed by 5 dogs.

6th Jan, 2009, near Leeton, NSW, 15-months-old girl died from serious facial injuries.

30th July, 2008, Northern Territory, 26-year-old man eaten alive by wild dogs.

Flinders University, Adelaide, SA, reports 7591 cases of injuries from dog bites, based on hospital emergency department attendance records. Men's best friend can kill. Often it is men who let men's best friend down, by not providing proper care and attention to the animal, by sheer neglect, by not facing up to their responsibilities, or by allowing the animal to turn feral and allowing the wolf inside the dog to re-emerge. How can one blame an uncontrolled hunting dog that is capable of bringing down a 9ft boar?

NPA Regional Council has several Animal Control Officers trying to make the NPA safe. They need the support of the community and cooperation of animal owners to carry out their work. They suggest that hunting dog owners erect a safe enclosure on their property to contain the animal, or have it secured to a chain, and give such animals regular exercise and attention. Alternatively, the property needs to be securely fenced, including the erection of appropriate warning signs and a secure gate lock that prevents children from entering where the dog is running free. No parent, no relative, no dog owner in the NPA (or anywhere else for that matter) wants to read a headline, as above. Ignoring the dog problems in the NPA can have lethal consequences. Department of Environmental Health will assist dog owners who have dogs they may present a risk to the community or the dog's owners, as statistics show that a large proportion of dog attacks occur at the place the dog calls home.

Properly cared for dogs are an asset to the family and community. The benefits of dogs are well known. The companionship and their dedication to their owner are beyond compare. They will risk their lives, they have rescued countless people, they have warned of disasters and hazards to life. It is not the dog's fault that many of them have become a problem in the NPA.

NPA Airport: Aerodrome Emergency Plan tested

The Skytrans plane had disappeared from sight, following takeoff from NPA Airport just moments before. The radio call came in. The time: 1000 hrs (10 am), the place: Just south of Bamaga Airport.

“Skytrans Dash 8 experiencing undercarriage failure, returning to airport.”

Airport Manager, Mr Kori Mason: “Please clarify.”

The plane did not reply. Ten minutes later it responded in a huge cloud of smoke at the southern end of runway 13.

November 09 saw the Aerodrome Emergency Plan being tested for the first time at NPA Airport, in accordance with the requirements of the Aerodrome Manual. The exercise was planned and conducted by ‘Aviation Projects.’ It identified the strength and revealed opportunities for improvement in the future.

The final report indicates, that overall, the local emergency response teams demonstrated an acceptable standard of competency.

Aviation Projects made several recommendations following analysis of the exercise. The exercise involved Airport Manager, Mr Kori Mason, NPARC Director of Engineering Services, Mr Jim Foody, NPA Bamaga Ambulance, Mrs Alison Peteski and staff, NPA Bamaga Hospital, Mrs Maree Fort-Rushton and staff, NPA SES and Community Police, Queensland Police Services, Mr Don Roseby, Regional Pacific, Chief Pilot, Mr Mark Whitaker, Agent, Ms Cheryl Sanders, Skytrans, Mr Steve Jones, Mr Glen Cartwright, Agent (Mr Adam Davies), and Aviation Projects, Mr Keith Tonkin and Mr Phillip Loney.



Instead of a real plane, a small Toyota HiAce was set alight at the ‘crash’ location, representing the ‘crashed’ aircraft. NPA Airport has two runways, 13 (south/north) and 31 (north/south direction). Both use the same stretch of bitumen. Council employees played victims, some as ‘injured’ crash survivors, and others as ‘deceased’ passengers. All images courtesy of Mr Blondie Mills.



Debriefing and lunch brought all the *injured* and *dead* back to life again. The Safety and Security Committee met afterwards at Umagico, to receive post exercise debrief forms. Airline Representatives from Skytrans and Regional Pacific did observe and participate in the exercise. The report also indicated that lunch was ‘excellent.’



Bamaga: Basketball Court



Sagaukaz St, Bamaga, where new fencing has gone up around the basketball court. It was raining at the time. A few days later, and the ground is water-blasted in preparation for new synthetic surface for the court.

The ground work completed (right). The site features two basketball courts and a tennis court.



New playground equipment



New playground equipment has been installed in all communities. In Bamaga it is located within the swimming pool area. The boxed in areas will be filled with sand, weather permitting.

Church paint work



St Michaels and All Angels church, Injinoo, receives a new coat of paint.

Many in the community responded to the invitation by Mensheds to participate as volunteers.



Injinoo: Relocated school playground equipment



Mr Billy Baira, also known as 'Rambo', helping to relocate the School donated playground equipment to its new location, opposite Injinoo's Service Station. Following the ILUA authorization, the relocation makes room for construction of new buildings at P-6 campus.



Seisia: Topsoil for Camp Ground extension



Seisia's Camp Ground extension received some topsoil, preparing the site for the upcoming Wet season. Grounds manager, Mr Rupeni, has most plants in place. Irrigation is laid out. Nature will do its bit to colour it all in. This project is part of the Seisia Enterprise.

New Mapoon: Access to park



New Mapoon, Bond Street side, received new footpath bridges to the central park area. A total of 8 small access bridges are being replaced.



"We could have achieved a lot more..."



"The road between Bamaga and Injinoo has been resealed by Mainroads, using our TIDs (Transport and Infrastructure Development) money," says Mr Jim Foody, Director of NPARC Engineering Services. "This decision was made by Mainroads without any consultation with the NPA Regional Council. That road could have lasted another year or two. We would have prioritised that money in other areas, giving more benefit to the communities. Mainroads was managing the TIDs funds prior to amalgamation on all five Councils, as they were thought not to have sufficient resource to manage the funding. They were supposed to relinquish that hold at the time of amalgamation. They never did. We had



Mainroads using our money as they see fit."

"The matter is now resolved. TIDs funding will now be prioritised in conjunction with Mainroads. The Bamaga to Injinoo road needed resealing, when Cairns Standards are applied, but our volume of traffic is nothing like that. It was not Council's or my decision to reseat this road now. You're looking at approx. \$400,000 out there, with major equipment, bitumen spray trucks and gravel coming out of Cairns, at horrendous costs. In order of our urgencies, that money could have upgraded some roads, gravel sheeting, trying to get some roads (repaired) that fall apart every year, and cost us a fortune in maintenance. We could have achieved a lot more. Thankfully there is now agreement between Mainroads and NPA Regional Council that puts a liaison process in place."



The Umagico Works Depot received some surface bitumen, in order to keep the dust down in the area. Little Sebasio St in Bamaga also had road works completed.

"With the recent rain, we will get stuck into some maintenance grading. It is a lot easier when the first rains have come. We're going to start on the Lockerby road. If we do this type of work in the Dry, we need too much water, water to combine and compact the road. In the Dry season that is always a problem, we can't get enough water, we're limited to a couple of hundred meters a day, of what you can do. With the current (Dec) moisture in the road, we can do 5 to 6 km of road grading per day. Compare the cost of 200m/day and up to 6 km/day with the same equipment, it's a lot of saving. We always wait for the first storms, so that we can go in hard between the rains, it makes it so much easier. In the Dry, it would take the team 2 or 3 weeks to get to Lockerby (doing grading work), while now I expect them to get there in 2 or 3 days."

Umagico Oval



"There are sufficient funds to complete the Umagico Oval," says Mr Jim Foody, Dir of Engineering Services. "Turving is still needed. The expected completion is June, 2010."



There is a natural water supply, about a kilometer away, where we have built a recharge pit. Previously we had not sufficient funds to do that. Dep of Sports and Recreation thankfully provided the funding, via the ICC (Indigenous Coordination Council), which allowed us to work on these projects and provide an independent water supply for the oval."

Umagico and Injinoo Sports Ovals had underground drip system installed during August, 09. The completed pit will provide the watersupply for the turf at Umagico. The question of Injinoo's water supply is still on the table.



Road to Lockerbie

Mr Jim Foody: "With the recent rain, we will get stuck into some maintenance grading. It is a lot easier when the first rains have come. We're going to start on the Lockerbie road. If we do this type of work in the Dry, we need too much water, water to combine and compact the road. In the Dry season that is always a problem, we can't get enough water, we're limited to a couple of hundred meters a day, of what you can do. With the current (Dec) moisture in the road, we can do 5 to 6 km of road grading per day. Compare the cost of 200m/day and up to 6 km/day with the same equipment, it's a lot of saving. We always wait for the first storms, so that we can go in hard between the rains, it makes it so much easier. In the Dry, it would take the team 2 or 3 weeks to get to Lockerbie (to do the grading work), while now I expect them to get there in 2 or 3 days."

Saving Injinoo's Sea Turtles

Images and story courtesy Mr Brett Leis



Flatback sea turtles on the Cape York West Coast are under threat from feral pigs. In some areas, as many as 100% of nests laid are dug up and eaten! Their future is bleak - if this rate of predation continues, it has the possibility of causing regional extinction within the next 20 years!



However, the flatbacks have some new friends in their fight for survival. Injinoo Land and Sea Rangers, Mr Richard Woosup (left), and Mr Doyle Sebasio (right), as well as Apudthama Land Trust and NPARC, have been enthusiastic in getting turtle monitoring and feral pig control programs underway. They have been working with Mr Brett Leis, a Turtle Project Officer from the Cape York Sea Turtle Project (managed by Cape York



Sustainable Futures), who has been assisting in developing conservation and management strategies, and is providing ongoing training to the Rangers.

Mr Leis said, "The program is aimed at improving the breeding success of endangered sea turtles. It is a race against time. Rangers spend significant time on the beaches collecting data to gather

an understanding of turtle nesting numbers, pig activity and predation rates. Transects, sectors and sand plots are set up on nesting beaches such as those in the Jardine area. This information helps in developing management strategies and in implementing cost-effective control programs."



The nest plundered by roaming pigs (above and right). Those that manage to hatch, head straight down to the water, hoping for a safe escape. Waiting at the edges, large numbers of crocs feed on the unsuspecting hatchlings by the hundreds. Larger fish are also drawn to near the sites, feasting on the young.



Angkamuthi Traditional Owners, Apudthama Land Trust and Rangers, have been prioritising locations for focused aerial culls, baiting and trapping programs. Results to date have been positive. "In some areas, sea turtle hatchlings are returning to the ocean in encouraging numbers for the first time in decades," said Mr Brett Leis.



Rangers in the field, counting the eggs in a turtle nest.

Croc's eye fixed on hunter

Mr Jacob McDonnell on his regular morning expedition, spear in hand, slowly moving through the waters, off Injinoo Beach. He is looking for stingrays, fish, or crayfish. He'll slowly move into deeper water. Sometimes the water reaches up to his chest. Two years ago, friends watched him from the beach. A large croc, some distance away, had its eyes fixed on Mr McDonnell, then headed slowly, below the surface, towards him. Mr McDonnell's attention was on a stingray at one side, while the croc approached him from behind. Friends called out, but Mr McDonnell has a hearing impediment and did not respond to the warning calls. A nephew raced into the water, spear at the ready, straight for the crocodile. The challenged croc changed direction.

Mr McDonnell is a local Injinoo resident and well aware of the dangers in the waters around the Cape. Visitors to Cape York are advised to keep out of the water. Camp sites are best set up some distance from the water's edge. Do not leave food scraps, as they will attract crocs. Crocs have a liking for dogs, one of their favourite meals.



Half a century together



Bamaga couple, Mrs Kara and Mr David Sebasio, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 31st Oct, 09, with family, friends and members of the community, at Seisia Fishing Club. The couple first married in 1959, at Saint Michaels and All Saints church, Injinoo.



The couple renewed their vows before Reverend Mary Eseli, surrounded by many familiar faces.

Australia's Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd, and Governor General, Ms Quentin Bryce sent messages of congratulations to Mr and Mrs Sebasio on their special day.



NPARC Mayor, Mr Joseph Elu, extends his congratulations to the couple and presents both with the official documents.



The cake is cut, under golden balloons, and time to dance, as the



celebrations go into full swing.

All images courtesy of Mr Roger Bartlett.

Happy New Year with reflections on Federation Day



New Year, 2010, and Queensland's 150th is behind us. In Australia, the first day in the year is Federation Day, commemorating the anniversary of colonies forming a Nation. January 1st, 1901, and Sydney is the place of inauguration, the birth of the Commonwealth of Australia. January is also the month of Australia Day. Australia has evolved to a nation that stands unique in the world.

Federation Day, 2010, a time to reflect on the values Australia stands for, freedom, respecting other people's differences, treating another fairly. Australia promotes equal rights and protection from intimidation or violence. Australia stands for 'fair go' and equal opportunity in all facets of life. Achievements in life ought to be the result of one's hard work and talents, based on skills, ability and experience, irrespective of one's wealth or background.

New Year brings hope anew with every single sunrise, hope for 'chronic' health, and hope for classrooms filled with kids. As NPARC Mayor, Mr Joseph Elu, stressed at the opening of every place of learning, there are opportunities for better education of every child in the NPA.



The setting sun preparing to bring forth a brand new day.

Image taken from Loyalty Beach

"I always talk to the young people. I tell them, 'You must look after life. Your life is so precious.'"

In the voice of an elder: Mrs Ellen Daniel, (New Mapoon)

Mrs Helen Daniels was born on Thursday Island, but grew up in Mapoon (Mapuna). References made to 'Old Mapoon' relate to Mapoon (near Weipa), which is the traditional land of the Tjungundji people. 'Batavia River Mission' was opened in 1891, near Trathalarrakwana. In time, the Mission became known as 'Mapoon,' the word taken from the Tjungundji language, meaning 'Place where people fight on the sand hills.' The Mpakwithi, Taepithiggi, Thaynhakwith, Warrangku, Wimarrangga and Yupungathi peoples came to live in Mapoon. In 1954, a decision was made between Church and Government officials to close Mapoon and relocate its (then) 285 population to Weipa and other areas. In 1961, the Government started building a community at Hidden Valley, near Bamaga. By mid 1962, approx. 100 people had moved here from Mapoon. This place became known as 'New Mapoon' (sourced from www.mapoon.com/37.html). Mrs Ellen Daniel lives in New Mapoon, but tells of her childhood at Mapoon. These are her words:



"I went to school in Old Mapoon, until Grade 7. Then I worked in a Mission as a teacher, teaching all the small children. I was teaching and doing house-work at the Mission. When I was 20 years of age I got married. I married to a Torres Strait Island man. I stayed at Yam Island then. I moved from Yam Island to Thursday Island, back then, working there as a cleaner."

"When my family evacuated from Old Mapoon, some went to Cairns, some went to Normanton and Weipa. The time when they evacuated Old Mapoon, I was on the Islands then, the government moved the people from Old Mapoon."

"My mother belongs to Burketown (Lawn Hill), she was Aboriginal. My father, he comes from Solomon Island. We were ten in the family, five boys and five girls. I am the 6th in the family. I have two sisters and two brothers behind me (younger). When my father came from Solomon Islands, the Aboriginal that were living there before, the old fellow there, named Toeboy, he took my father for son (adopting). We never know our grandfathers from Solomon Island. My mother came when she was small, young girl. Government picked them up to make population in Old Mapoon. That was in Mr Hey's time (J.N. Hey was Reverend for dormitory)."

"I like living here (New Mapoon). I love fishing, camping. I'm sitting now, because of my leg. I can hardly walk now. I went to the doctor today. I am 84 years of age. I was born on the 24th of March, 1927. This is 2009, I am 83 now. I enjoy living here, we go dancing, we go fishing. I know all these parts, right up to Injinoo. I was living at Injinoo before, the place they called Cowal Creek. I went back to Old Mapoon and back again, and then we moved here. In old Mapoon we used to grow vegetables. We had a Mission garden. We plant sweet potatoes, corn, peanut, pumpkin, watermelon, but we don't like cabbage and lettuce. We plant tomatoes and after school we worked in the Mission gardens. The time when I was small, young, we had a very poor life. We didn't get money like now, no pension, no endowment, like money to support children. We got rations, tea, rice, sugar, milk. I think that's what we got. Then they raised all the cattle there. We had meat, we never had money. We work in the Mission, we get clothing, but we never got any money. We worked from Monday to Friday. Not like today, you get money today. You can buy whatever you like, but not then."

"I lived a poor life, but I lived a good life."

"We had poor schooling, like education. Today they got good education. We learned children what we could learn them. We lived a poor life, not like today, now. You got big money, you can buy whatever you want. We worked with our hands, scrubbed the floor... with the scrubbing brush. We had no mop, no bucket, like today... used to live like that... with our knees. But today, we survive. We lived on the land. These things here that you buy from the shops, sometimes we're not used to it. We get sick. But then, here we got used to it now. That was my childhood... schooling, poor schooling. We just got rations, but we lived a very happy life. We got no transport, no car. We lived in a place called 'Outstation.' We had to walk from where we're living, right down to the Mission. I don't know how many kilometres that was. We had to get up early in the morning to get to the Mission, and to school."

"I was living in a dormitory. Only Friday they let me out and I stayed with my parents. Monday morning, we had to walk down to the Mission again, only saw parents through the weekend. They took my mother from her home. She don't know her parents. They took her to live in Old Mapoon. Those with fair colour, they took them out, but those with dark colour... they leave (referring to her mother's time, the 'Stolen Generation')."

"When I see the young people (these days), they have a good education, but the smoking, the drinking, it makes me feel sorry. I don't smoke, I don't drink. I drink soft drinks. When I look at them (the young), they are destroying their lives instead of growing up healthy. They drink strong drinks, I'm sorry for them. Some of them don't go to school. Some of them have holiday from January to December. That's right, some go to school for one or two days, I'm sorry for them. I had a poor schooling, but I never missed school. When I look at them, I'm really sorry for them."

"I always talk to them when they come here to me and tell them, give them advice. They say, 'Oh yes, granny, oh yes, mummy, what you say to us.' But when you look at it, they forget about it. The older people try to give them advice."

"The life I've been living was a good life, Never mind we never had much food to eat, we go and hunt, but we still survived. When I think of the young people, when they got in their mind all the things they are doing, when they come to my age or older, in their 90's, my sisters and brothers, my brother is 90 years old now. He's still alive, still walking strong. I fell, I hurt my knee. He might get to be a hundred. My mother got hundred (101)."

"The place we used to go fishing (in Mapoon), they called it Red Beach, but in our language we call it 'Ragapine' that was our fishing ground. What I like to see change (here) is the drinking, smoking. That changed the community, the smoking, what they call Marihuana. I like to see the community change and try to build this place up, to be a good place. A happy, healthy place the young people can enjoy themselves in. Living a good life, that part I mean. If this place changes... everybody lives happy. Sometimes, but not all the time, when they get money... but I like this place to change, because the young, it's such a waste, because the young people they are coming (growing) up. We want them to grow up healthy, to live good live. Not drinking, smoking, because if they do that, they won't live long. Cancer, anything can come to their lung, their heart, the kidney, the liver, all that kind of things if they keep drinking, smoking. When they smoke, they damage their brain."

"Us old people, we may live only today, tomorrow we may be gone. I always talk to the young people when they come. I tell them, 'You must look after life. Your life is so precious.' I got children and grandchildren, grandsons and granddaughters, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, I talk to them. If you want to live long and carry this place, then it can become a beautiful place, a beautiful little community. I lived a poor life, but I lived a good life."



NPA Regional Council's Service Delivery Strategy available

The 'NPA Regional Council Service Delivery Strategy' is now completed. It is a comprehensive 45 page document, outlining the Council's plan to each of its divisions for the delivery of services to the communities. It spells out the service providers, description of the service, and the linked performance indicators relating to it. The document covers the areas of Community Services, Engineering Services, Council Administrative Services, Economic, Employment and Development, Enterprises, Strategic Finance and Accounting, as well as the Cairns and Divisional offices. It looks at the issues facing the people in our communities, and allocates responsibilities and action plan with timetable to address these. The various areas of funding acquisition are identified and proposed expenditure is projected into next year (2010).

The Service Delivery Strategy is based on the 'Corporate Plan.' This will be released early in 2010. The **NPA Regional Council Service Delivery Strategy** is available to any member of the community from any Council Office. Cost is \$5 per document.

"I am very pleased with the Corporate Plan for the NPA, and proud to present the Service Delivery Strategy of NPA Regional Council to our communities," says NPARC Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stuart Duncan. "Both documents are based on the identified needs of the communities, and are the culmination of many consultations and fruitful discussions with many community leaders and subsequent analysis by Council. The Corporate Plan takes into account the views and projections of all of Council Directors, and sets the direction for the coming year. I feel confident that we can reach the targets laid out in the two documents."

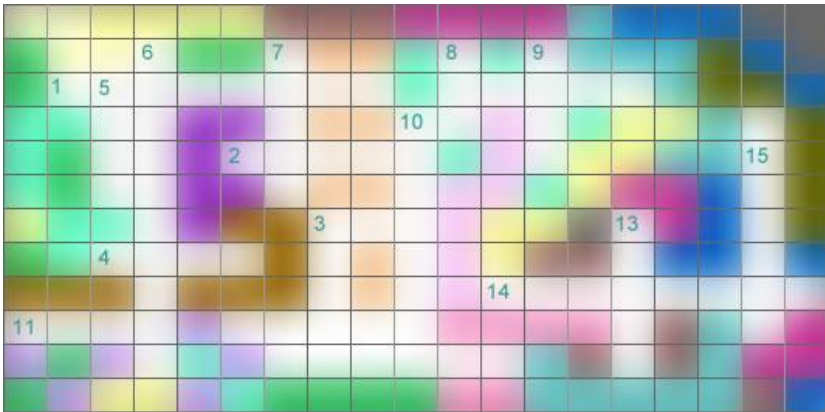


School buildings arrive for P-6 Campus



Dec 09, Seisia Warf and the Barge 'Collosus' brings mobile Crane and buildings, earmarked for Injinoo P-6 Campus. Low loaders deliver the buildings to Injinoo. A total of four buildings are being assembled at the School grounds.

The Pre-prep building comprises 5 building modules. Another five modules will become two class rooms and a preparation area, all located at the rear of the existing school. A library building will be located across the road, near the playground area (front of school). Weather permitting, all building work, including footpaths should be completed before school recommences in January, 2010.

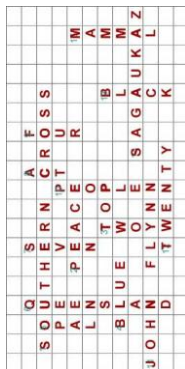


Within a few days, the combined modules take shape. The images at Seisia wharf are courtesy of Mr Roger Bartlett.



ACROSS

- Group of stars seen in the Southern Sky?
- What does the white colour in the Torres Islander flag represent?
- The colour black in the Aboriginal Flag is across which half?
- What is the background colour of the Queensland flag?
- Who started the Royal Flying Doctor Service?
- Which Australian Currency Note shows the Revered John Flynn? Spell out number only.
- Near which NPA street is a Basketball Court?



DOWN

- Name of Australian Gem stone.
- Name of second largest state in Australia.
- The largest star in the Australian flag has how many points?
- Name one of Australia's territories with 3 letters.
- How many colours are in the Torres Strait Islander flag?
- Australia has how many territories?
- What does the black colour in the Aboriginal flag represent?
- Colour that represents the people in the Torres Islander flag.
- What kind of animal is a whale?



NPA Artists gather at Youths Centre



Artists Mrs Agnes Mark, Mr Leslie Toby, Ms Susan Kennedy, (all New Mapoon) Mr Matthew Kulla Kulla, (Bamaga), and Ms Amy Walker (Injinoo, no image), gathered at Injinoo Youths Centre, early December 09. Ms Agnes Mark, who is Art Coordinator for the NPA is painting part of one wall symbols of fruit that grow locally, the 'Lady Apple.'



Mr Kulla Kulla (above) absorbed in the mural.



Apart from painting (above and left), Mr Leslie Toby also does wood carving.



Ms Susan Kennedy's work is taking shape.



Work in progress.

ocean's gift refused

all things must die,
death does not come with reason
what did I do to live?
I hid behind the grains of sand
as snouts of boars gorged on my hatching siblings
at edge of dawn toiled through,
raced from the rising sun
thought safe, found crocs lay waiting still
cut short so many trails
dodged all to reach the cool,
escaped the birds, the fish, the sharks
that came to hunt, each made their claim,
I've travelled long, swam far and wide
each year our numbers thinning
but managed to grow old



no breath is left, as left I'm left
at sign that says 'Carcasses'
with arrow pointing right,
left next to remnants of a feast



all things must die, and so have I
as feast refused I boil amidst refuse,
death does not come with reason



Turtle dumped on waste dump, next to the 'Carcasses' sign in the domestic rubbish area.

Mrs Agnes Mark wrote a story about Mapoon. The teacher who was going to help her turn it into a play has moved, so now the story is about to become a dance. It deals with the removal of people from 'old' Mapoon.

"The boat didn't come in," says Mrs Mark, "that is the part I want to put in the play. The boat that carried food went past, to Weipa (approx 1963). It didn't call in, for the shop. Terrible story, sad too, how we survived. I came here (to New Mapoon) with my aunts, I was little."

Ms Agnes Mark is from the Atambaya/Mpakwithi tribes.

Dan Ropeyarn Memorial Cup in freeze frame



It is history, it's all over. This is how history was made, with each scrum, each tackle, one moment at a time. Each scored try a cause of jubilation or frustration, depending on which side

you're on. Regional Pacific Argan Warrior, Mr Billo Mosby kicked the decider in extra time, giving his team a 2 point lead.



\$20,000 for the winner, \$10,000 for runner up, Injinoo Crocs.



All images courtesy of Mr Roger Bartlett.