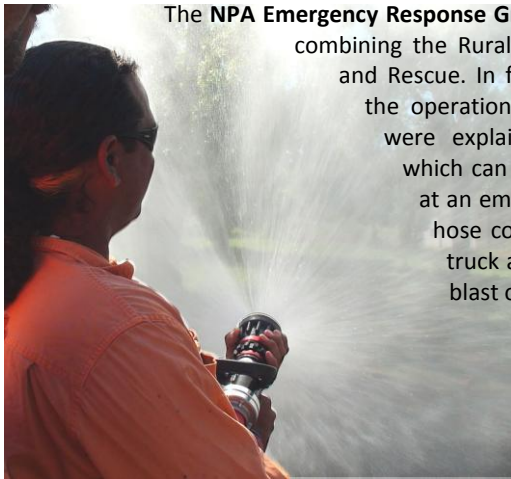


**In this Issue:** Risk Factors, Survival, Health, Mary McKillop, Ranger Base, TAFE, Yumpla Radio, Carers, S. Dan

## NPA Emergency Response Group



The **NPA Emergency Response Group** is going to be a new body, combining the Rural Fire Brigade, SES, and Air Sea and Rescue. In front of Umagico Council Depot the operations of the new firefighting truck were explained. The unit carries a tank which can be used instantly when arriving at an emergency site. In addition, a large hose connects the mains supply to the truck and is used to provide a massive blast of water over a long distance.



The new firefighting truck is based at Umagico Depot. The smaller truck is will be stationed at the NPA Airport.

## Massive NPA Health Screening underway



Queensland Health conducting a massive Health Screening program across all communities, across all ages, seen by many as a big step in the right direction.

Eyes, ears, teeth, height and weight for any given age, all part of the screening. A Health Worker explains the benefits of oral hygiene to a young child (left).



Eye test: "Which way do the fingers point?" Best of all, "It didn't hurt a bit." More on page 5.

## New day brings the new Year, 1389

Caroline Island, a pristine coral atoll in the central Pacific, 1500km south of Hawaii, is the place where each new day begins.

Across the timeline the year 1389 approached on March 21<sup>st</sup>, with 'Nowrüz' (New Day) marking the new day of the New Year for the people of Iran, parts of Northern India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kashmir. 'Nowrüz' is based on a Zoroastrian holiday, having its roots in the ancestors of modern Iran, celebrated for over 3000 years. It is also a holy day for Alawites and believers of the Bahá'í Faith. Bali's New Year's Day was 16<sup>th</sup> March, known as Nyepi, a day celebrated in silence, from 6am to 6am next day, spent indoors. New Year celebrations go as far back as 4000 years, when ancient Babylon celebrated spring and the time of harvest.

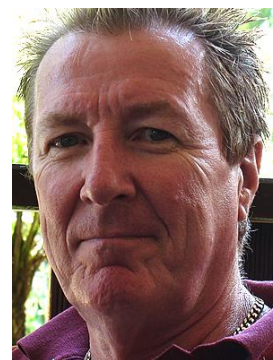
## 'Weed it out'



is a James Cook University/Queensland Police Service project aimed at educating communities of the associated harm caused by cannabis abuse. Detective Senior Sergeant, Mr Kevin Goan (Far Northern Regional Drug Squad), and Mr Garry Hunter (left), Project Manager for 'weed it out' project'. "The 'weed it out' project also works in partnership with Qld Rugby League, especially in the indigenous communities, to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy living, through rugby league," says Mr Hunter. "We will be presenting shirts of the representative side from the NPA area that is going down to play in the Foley Shield matches." Research shows a reduction in cannabis use in the Australian population overall has decreased. "However, in indigenous communities it is increased, it is quite alarming," says Mr Hunter. Continued page 11

## "Crime stoppers"

is not the police", explains Mr John Harris (Project Manager) at his recent visit to the NPA. "Crime stoppers works in partnership with the communities, and the Qld Police Service. It provides the platform for the community to report any criminal activity, whilst remaining anonymous. It was identified early days that fear of reprisals, apathy and reluctance to get involved were the three main barriers that prevented the information being generated. 'Tell what you know, not who you are,' is our catch cry. We walk beside the 'Weed it out' project. It is very successful in relation to drugs. Crime stoppers was introduced in Qld in Aug 1989. In that time \$10.3mill worth of drugs have been ceased by Qld Police, as a result of calls to crime stoppers." Continued page 11



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## Underage drinking, drugs and petrol sniffing (continued from Issue 11)

Mr Mori Klisman is a child psychologist for 35 years, a drug and alcohol counsellor for 5 years, and a resident of the NPA for the past 15 years. He is also a parent, actively involved in bringing up two young children (baby girl at 10 months, boy is nearly 8 years). Mr Klisman explains what various substances can do to the body.

**Petrol sniffing:** "A pig's brain immersed in petrol will shrivel up, with the fat dripping off it. And that's what it does to the brain in humans, from petrol sniffing. It stays in the blood a long time, and dissolves the fat that protects the nerve cells of the brain. The 'high' with petrol is only 30 seconds, not even that. That's why they sniff continuously. It's a very brief high. Apart from any other damage in the body, which is extreme, it will literally shrivel the brain, and the damage is permanent."

**Amphetamines:** "Amphetamines force the release of dopamine, a pleasure chemical in the brain; it's released in a rush. Afterwards the brain cells are empty. Some of them never recover. The drained brain cells are like running a car on empty. There is no more life in that person. All the energy and pleasure has been taken out of their life. They need a very long time to recover. They produce a psychotic state. The user is tied up with violence, with crime, paranoia, delusions, short fuse, and violent temper. This is the long term effect of amphetamines. The release of dopamine, if person is using amphetamines for a few days, it's completely drained the brain, and that is why they become so dependent on amphetamines and keep going, because they don't feel good without it. Amphetamines are very dangerous drugs up here, because people up here love to party, awake, on the go, energetic, full of vitality, and amphetamines produce that in the short term. But the way they produce it is by draining the brain."

**Risk factors: Petrol** sniffing risk factor: "It destroys your brain," says Mr Klisman.

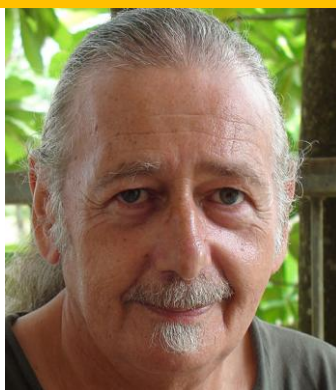
**Amphetamines** risk factor: "It takes away the capacity of pleasure and is highly addictive. They do drain the brain of its natural pleasure chemicals. Although one may think 'I have a bright night at a party, at the end of a day, it causes a lot of damage.'"

**Marijuana:** "People think it's harmless to smoke, but it actually has 3 times as much tar as cigarettes. In terms of lung problems, coughs and colds, it affects the immune system. It is not as benign as people might imagine. It is probably more dangerous than cigarettes, especially the bongs that people smoke. That is a terrible technology. They actually end up getting more gunk in their lungs from that, than they would if they didn't use it. You get less drugs and more tar (when using a bong)."

"Once I was asked to come down to a clinic (not in the NPA) where a whole lot of children had been sniffing petrol, and they haven't done it very well. Some had hurt themselves when breathing it in. I talked to these youngsters, about twenty of them, and I have never forgotten it. In the course of that grandparents came down to get their grandchild, the grandparents had been drinking so heavily that you could hardly stand near them. You'd be worried about lighting a match, they reeked of alcohol. The grandparents asked me, 'Mori, we don't understand it. Why do they sniff?', and I'm looking at them. The reason the kids sniff, is because they see their parents, their grandparents drinking so heavily, (but) they can't afford to buy alcohol, they can afford to sniff petrol. Petrol is free, easily available."

"Part of the problem is the model. When you got so many grown-up people drinking, it's the kids, they get an expectation. They see that as being part of life, as part of the initiation, part of the growing up. Part of it is curiosity. I remember being at a conference, and someone read a really interesting paper, and he said, 'Look, I'm sick of these papers, that any people are taking those drugs because they are unhappy, they are medicating themselves, they've got life problems, they got this, they got that. The truth is they want to have fun. They only take this to have fun, to enjoy themselves.' I think you don't want to lose sight of that."

"Drugs have been with us for thousands of years. There is nothing new in drugs. Other cultures and societies had actually more drugs. But drugs are tied into the 'age' thing, the 'maturity' thing. It is interesting, in America, the alcohol limit is .08, not .05, as in Australia, but on the other hand, you are not allowed to drink until you're 21, in America. Here the drinking age is 18. Those 3 years make a lot of difference. We are inclined to see people of 17 to 19 years of age being grown up. We let them drive cars, they can vote, we let them make a lot of decisions. We are inclined to see 18-year-olds as being responsible, but in actual fact, the frontal lobes of the brain, that is the part of the brain that deals with consequences, planning, foresight ... they are not fully developed until the mid 20s. Really, we are looking at a population that is incapable of understanding the risks." (continue next page)



## Tip trip tip: BYO Tip sign!



BYO Tip-sign? Perhaps not. But a little bit of creative 'decoupage' helps to get the 'been there – done that' picture from the Tip of Cape York, at least for the time being, until the new sign is put in place.

Newcastle medical student, Ms Kate Leahy, during her four week medical training stay at the NPA, and the 'doctored' picture. No, she's not the one who took the original sign.



## Peddells Off Peak schedule



Peddells off peak Ferry schedule between Thursday Island and Seisia:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays:

Depart T.I. 6:30am

Depart Seisia 8:00am

Depart T.I. 3:30pm

Depart Seisia 4:00pm

Board 15min prior. You can now book on-line: [www.peddellsferry.com.au](http://www.peddellsferry.com.au)

Image courtesy Peddells Ferry

"You can talk to them as much as you like, but it's hard for them, it doesn't totally go in, until they got this frontal lobe development to be able to measure up, to think of consequences. What we find is: Drugs reprogram the brain. All drugs reprogram the brain, they change the way the brain works. When people start taking drugs from a very early age, it changes the brain in subtle ways and not so subtle ways, and it alters their life-course. So the person who is smoking a lot, marijuana, it affects their memory, their learning. They go to school, they can't concentrate, go somewhere else, they stay away, they miss a few days... Slowly but surely they get turned off the school path. They wind up hanging around, getting stoned. Now, this might be good fun, but come two or three years down the track, it doesn't help you to get a job. It doesn't help your career, your self-image. It doesn't really help you to move along in life. It's very hard to retrace the steps, to go back to school as an adult. I think there is a risk in drugs coming in too early in the young, and it's because of some of the effects it has on the brain, some of the changes it makes."

**Alcohol:** "Alcohol is another good example, I suppose. People take alcohol because it is dis-inhibiting. It helps them to relax, to feel less embarrassed, more confident. Sometimes they do really stupid things, because they don't know, they are not really aware, so that is the reason they take it. People can develop a dependency on alcohol. Interestingly enough, we find people who can handle alcohol better; the people who cope with it, who don't get such bad hangovers, these people are the ones who can have more problems, because they drink more and more and more. They become so used to it, because it doesn't mess them up so much, they can actually become dependent on it. Alcohol in itself is a fairly poisonous substance. When you take it into the body it causes damage, on the way down, on the way into your stomach, causes ulcers, but the worst part is after it's broken down in the body. When alcohol is broken down in the body, it produces a number of compounds, acetaldehyde, the most important one. These are actually the worst poisons we have. We used to be told, providing we stay beneath a certain limit of drinking, it was safe for us. We were told two drinks in the first hour, one drink every hour after that. Well it turns out that all of these recommendations have now been halved. The reason they've been halved is because it's becoming increasingly clear that there is a strong link between alcohol and cancer. Not cancer of the liver, we all know about alcohol destroys your liver, but cancer anywhere in the body, any kind of cancer, breast cancer and so on, and the reason for that is the acetaldehyde. This stuff floating around in your body is a heavy carcinogen. It causes major problems. The more we look at it, the more we see some of the risk factors."

**Cigarettes:** "I remember, when I was a boy, I went to my doctor, my GP, and he lit up a cigarette, and I said to him, 'I'm, I have one too.' He said, 'You can't have one. You are too young to smoke, it's bad for you.' I said, 'How come it's not bad for you?' He said, 'I'm older....'"

"When the first statistics came, the links between tobacco and cancer were discovered through statistical investigation. Most smokers, including me, I was a smoker, we laughed it off. Oh, it's just numbers, statistics, you can prove anything with statistics, but eventually the numbers mounted up, until there was no more denying that cigarettes are so dangerous. They cause literally hundreds of all kinds of diseases. We are doing the same thing now with alcohol, we're starting to do more research and we find the links that alcohol is causing damage that one never thought to connect with. If somebody gets cancer somewhere in the body, you don't think that's because they have been drinking, but it can be."

"I think we have to strike a balance. Drugs have been around for a long time, and a lot of people use drugs. There are a lot of people who don't (use drugs), and a lot who do, and if they do, they should become informed about what they are doing. They should have the information in such a way, that they can control their intake, but it's a bit difficult with the young, they can't really process the information. In a similar way people become dependent on their fatty foods. It's interesting sitting at 'a major global burger place', and watching the customers, how many of them have significant problems with obesity."

"My point would be with each of these substances, parents should be informed, should try to get the kids informed. I would say, try to put some control on the kids, not let them get too involved with drugs too early, because of that reprogramming the brain."

"There is this wonderful, wonderful quote, and I haven't got it to hand. I give you a parsing of the quote: If you're talking about alcohol, the thing that helps you to relax in the evening, the thing that brings a smile to your face, lightens your labours, that warms you up when out in the chill, I'm all for it. I think it's a wonderful thing. But if you're talking about alcohol, that makes people have domestic violence, and argue, become a slave to the bottle, I'm totally against it!"

"I think that is the dilemma. There are some drugs where it is very hard to see the positives, e.g. amphetamines, tobacco... it's hard to see the positives. But with alcohol, there are plenty of people who use alcohol in a reasonable way."

"I've been working in Cape York for 25 years. The number of people that are professional people that have a drink, after work, or have two or three, I mean you can't class them as alcoholics, as alcohol dependent. I'm not saying they are doing anything bad. It's part of civilized lifestyle. There are positives associated with substances too, for example the latest News is beer contains silicon derivatives, which are very good for your bone growth, good for osteoporosis. I kept a folder once, my anomaly folder. It had in it all the good things. I had this lovely file with all the 'good' things. People have to look at it and say, 'OK, where does the 'good' become 'bad'?' At what point does it stop being fun, does it stop being enjoyable? When does it start being harmful and dangerous? What point are you willing to call it?"

**Self-harm:** "We are getting into the more difficult area when we get into the area of self-harm. That's even trickier. You know, the surgeon now refuses to perform an operation on a cigarette smoker, and he says, 'What's the point? He is poisoning himself anyway,' and also the excessively obese persons. There is the issue of harm to others; there is also the issue of self-harm. What do I do, if I see somebody literally poisoning themselves, with a substance, whether that is alcohol or whatever? Am I allowed to intervene? Is it right for me to intervene? The cigarette is a very good example. The government is in an interesting position. The evidence is in: Cigarettes are destructive. They cause a lot of damage. They cost millions and millions of dollars in the health budget. We should ban them, but they are hooked on the revenue, they get all those taxes. Alcohol is the same. In Victoria some of the gambling money goes towards hospitals charities and things like that. Where does that leave you? Some guy destroys himself on the pokies... Can anyone tell me what to do if I want to harm myself? Perhaps the best that we can do is to have services available to help people understand the potential harms and to help those who want to change their bad habits," concludes Mr Klinsman.

## 78km/h speed sign trials in the NPA



Queensland's Main-Far-North-Roads Department will trial the first of the new signs in the NPA before their introduction in the rest of the country. Mr Yad Sloof Lirpa, departmental sound engineer, explains the reason for the new sign, "Cars travelling at that speed emit a lower sound, which feels uncomfortable to nearby wildlife and other animals." It will be interesting to see how local dogs and horses react to the new frequencies. (see footnote, page 12)

## Interest rate hike

Interest on daylight savings is to get a boost, once the link to the Reserve Bank's official interest rate is confirmed. Expect a good return in the coming months with longer days you can bank on, as interest is paid daily. (see footnote, page 12)

## Doubt doubtful beyond reason

A group of prominent philosophers challenged the long standing practice of basing a verdict on a jury's judgement of 'beyond reasonable doubt,' stating, "Doubt is undoubtedly reasonable and a healthy, necessary mental state." The Highest Court will make a ruling on this, once the new court building is completed on top of original Mt Townsend, which was renamed to Mt Kosciuszko, when found to be 19m taller than the original Mt Kosciusko (then with spelling error), as most Australians believe Mt Kosciuszko is the highest mountain in the land. Soil from the current Mt Townsend will be used in the footings, so as not to lose an inch of height during construction work. (footnote, page 12)



## A remarkable story and the power of Life. "Thank the Lord; we'll be going home, me and my little one."



This article is about life, the will to live, and a champion mother from Umagico, and what it took to save her newborn. In November, 2008, Ms Alison Tamwoy, a single mother of two children is pregnant with her third child. Before birth, doctors already diagnosed several life threatening conditions in her unborn. One is a condition where the heart in the foetus had not fully developed. A healthy heart has 4 chambers. The 'used' blood (oxygen poor) enters the right heart chambers, is then pumped to the lung, filtered and oxygenated, to return to the left chambers for pumping throughout the whole body. The unborn did not have four separate chambers. The 'used' blood and the oxygenated blood mixed up inside the heart, as the walls of the chambers did not exist. The second serious condition was a hole between the wind (air) pipe and the food pipe in the unborn. Food could end up in the lung and breathing could be affected.

"I didn't want an abortion," says Ms Alison Tamwoy. "I just wanted to have this child, because I know he's going to be OK." Ms Tamwoy put her trust in God and followed the advice given by her medical team.

Ms Tamwoy's son, Tornoah Tamwoy, saw the light of day on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008, born at Emergency Department at Mater Mothers Hospital, Brisbane. The first minutes of life are crucial. Medical staff give each newborn a rating. A healthy newborn would be 10, with good skin colour, good breathing, cries strongly and moves. In the first minute of his life, Tornoah's rating was 4 out of 10, severely struggling for life. He was born premature at 33 weeks (40 weeks is a full term), weighing just 2600 grams. Tornoah's skin was blue at birth, due to the incomplete heart. After 5 minutes the rating improved to 7 out of 10. At birth, Tornoah's face and head were deformed, and both testicles located inside the body.

On day one of his life, surgeons repaired the hole between the wind and food pipe. "I prayed, and when he came out, every day and every night I prayed, when I was by myself. We were two weeks in the Emergency Department, then we went to another room. Then his drip came out, and the tube from his nose came out and then I could feed him with my breast. When the doctors came around they said, 'When Tornoah gains weight you can go home.' Thank the Lord, we'll be going home, me and my little one."



"Then they told me the next appointment will be in January, that next year, and in May or June they would do the heart operation. So my other big sister from Bamaga came down (with me), and I left my little girl (eldest daughter) with my other sister."

In Mater Hospital, Jan 09, the left testis is where it should be, the right testis still located in the body, needing further operation. In Royal Children's Hospital (RHD), the facial deformities were reviewed, and a bronchoscopy carried out. In the following months, the heart problems persisted, oxygen rich and oxygen poor blood mixed together in the heart. At age 6 months, a surgical team repaired the tiny heart (Mater Cardiology), creating the structure for four separate chambers, enabling the proper flow of blood through the body.

"They said there is still something with his spine. They said he's going to crawl and walk. We saw them (doctors) last week and they said the bone that was out has

gone back in as he grows. Brisbane was a strange place for me. It was my first time down there, during the pregnancy and the birth. But I got good support. My other two children stayed with my mum, the grandma. My sister came with me to Brisbane. This was the first time I had a problem with a child. Now Tornoah can breathe properly, he eats properly, he plays, he walks, he talks."

### Australian currency keeps up with the times

The Qld Mint has won the tender for minting a 95 cent coin in recyclable materials, aimed to stimulate the economy and assist business in getting customers quicker through the checkout. It is similar to the existing \$1 coin, however, the uppermost joey is missing. A replacement 5 cent coin, known as the 'Joey', will feature the missing youngster. Retailers practice to price items at 95 cents created the need for a 95 cent coin. Calls by traders to also introduce a 98 and 99 cent coin were rejected, as one and two cent coins were withdrawn in 1994. All existing \$1 coins will be recalled to remove its currency (the words '1 DOLLAR'). It will be recirculated as the 'tender-less' coin (image right). The cost to mint the 95 cent coin is \$1.23 each, while the matching Joey costs \$0.87. Both new coins are officially sanctioned for use in 'Two-up' games, as traditional Pennies are hard

to come by, and the current trend of 3 coin 'Two-up' is simply ridiculous. Should both pieces land to form a full circle the spinner takes all bets. The spinner, who is also the tosser, having tossed the Joey back to Jack and Jill, can keep the kip for the rest of the night. It is anticipated the new coins create international interest in the game and the mint will offer both coins and a kip for the export market at US\$5.93 to help offset the minting costs. "The local ones won't cost a mint," says Qld Mint owner Mr Halfpenny, however, to make the current \$1 tender-less is easier said than done.

(more on page 12, see footnote)





## “... we’ll be going home, me and my little one” continued

“I gave my eldest child away,” says Ms Tamwoy, “I gave her to my sister, because I was too young.”

*This is a very common practice and many children grow up with their aunt or close relatives.*

(Image right, Sister Sanora (left), Tornoah and Mum)



“I had so much support down there (Cairns and Brisbane). People helped me, they talked, and there were social workers. I stayed at the Ronald McDonald house. We’ll go down there again, this month (March), for the second testis, it’s still in the body. They are going to organize to do it there,” says mother Alison. “Last year was constant travel. This year it’s for checkups.” Ms Alison Tamwoy had the support of her mum, her sisters, and entire family.



Heartfelt thanks to the Primary Health Nurses and medical team, Bamaga, T.I. and Bamaga Hospitals, Prince Charles, Royal Children’s, Mater, Townsville, and Cairns Base Hospitals, the Specialist Doctors Whight, Masters, Thiele, McPhee, Morwood, Shi, and each member of their teams, as well as many others who helped in one way or another to increase Tornoah’s chance for life.



Senior Health Worker for Bamaga, Mrs Patricia Nona, testing Mr Jordon Solomon’s hearing (left), in particular the middle ear, while senior Health Worker for Injinoo, Ms Bertha Bowie checks Mrs Diana Tamwoy’s blood pressure (below).

All the Health workers across all communities worked hard, getting people to the clinics, with great community co-operation to get as many people as possible screened. Early detection of any illness has the best chance of responding well to subsequent treatment. Health Workers stayed long after normal working hours to ensure anyone is able to be

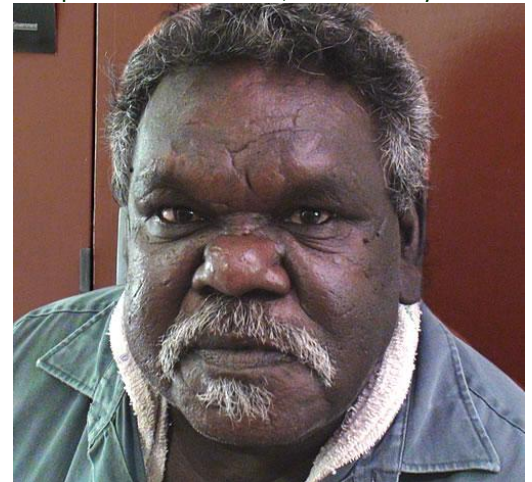
screened. Screenings were also conducted in Childcare Centres and Schools.

**Who to contact for screening:** Mrs Patricia Yusia: 40904200; Mr Stephen Christian: 40693200; Ms Gloria Mau: 40693200; Ms Bertha Bowie: 40693465; Ms Phyllis Wilson: 40693306; Ms V Kennedy: 40693454, Mrs Karen Sam: 40693271.



## NPA Health Screening continued

Throughout March, Queensland Health conducted free NPA Family Health Screenings in all communities. NPA population has a high rate of chronic diseases (High blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, overweight, as well as many others). NPA also has one of the highest middle ear infections in the whole of Queensland. Tests were carried out to identify this, checking sound volumes, looking for fluids, perforations, or rupture of the eardrum. Blood samples were taken for further analysis. Following the assessments and tests, the Medical Officer was then presented with the findings, to review and decide if people need treatment or referral to specialists, or request specific examinations, such as x-rays etc.



Mr Asai Victor Pablo waiting for the health screening.



Health Worker for Injinoo, Mrs Manaima Tamwoy (left), checks the heart, its rhythms and patterns. Last stop is with the Medical Officer, who can advise on further treatment, or refer to a specialist if any medical condition is found. Children and Adult screening is also offered after hours at Primary Health Care Centres, from 5 to 8pm.

### Specialists coming to NPA: Mar / Apr / May

Bamaga Hospital and Bam PHCC



<b>Podiatrist:</b>	24 Mar 2010
<b>Eye specialist (Eyedentity):</b>	29 Mar – 1 Apr 2010
<b>Royal Flying Doctor Service for Women’s Health Clinics, Dr Jane Barry:</b>	12-15 Apr 2010
<b>Deadly Ears:</b>	12-16 Apr 2010
<b>Dr Heazelwood, Dr Marshall &amp; team (Pediatrician, Kids specialist):</b>	21-23 Apr 2010
<b>Chest Clinic:</b>	28 Apr 2010
<b>Physio:</b>	TBA, see notice boards
<b>Dietician:</b>	18 May 2010
<b>Dr Sinha:</b>	18 May 2010

Statistics show that our people are dying at the age of 50. We CAN change this, we CAN tip the balance with healthy foods and regular exercise.

**Should any chronic diseases be found during the screening, Queensland Health will provide the Health Care that is needed.**

## Mother Mary MacKillop to become Australia's first saint

Pope Benedict XVI announced end of February that Mother Mary MacKillop will be canonized\* on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010, thus becoming Australia's first saint.

Mary MacKillop, the eldest of eight children, was born in Melbourne, in 1842. She wanted to be a nun, but had to go to work, to help support her family. At age 24 (in 1866) she became co-founder of Sisters of St Joseph, a religious order of women, with the mission to teach poor children, to educate and care for needy people of all ages. In 1902 she suffered a stroke, which left her confined to a wheelchair. She died in 1909, aged 67.

During her life she established schools for children, shared faith experiences with people, provided Houses of Providence for the aged, homeless and destitute. She visited gaols and the sick. At other times she simply stood with those who were powerless. She saw education as a means of changing the circumstances of people's lives, and worked tirelessly in providing education that was accessible to people in difficult circumstances. By the time she was 44 years of age, she had experienced the deaths of her father, five of her seven brothers and sisters and her mother, who drowned in a ship wreck, experiences which taught great compassion for others experiencing the pain of grief and loss.

"We can lose our way. Worse, we can even presume that we are following God's Will, when in fact, we might be serving our own ambition," said Mary MacKillop. She knew what it was to be poor from her own family story. This experience drew her compassionate heart to see the needs of many people in her time. Mary MacKillop set out to respond to the needs of the poor of her time, using as her motto: Never see a need without trying to remedy it (Original Rule 1867). Described as one who 'travelled the wallaby track,' Mary MacKillop's life touched many: "Those who are most needy in our world come first."

Divine intervention is the attribute required to declare an event a miracle. In the case of Mary MacKillop, Pope John Paul II and the Vatican accepted as miracle the cure of a woman, who in 1961 had leukaemia. Following the praying to Mary MacKillop, the woman was fully cured. In the following ten years, she gave birth to a total of six children.

December 2009, Pope Benedict XVI confirmed the second miracle, relating to the miraculous cure of a NSW woman from Lake Macquarie, who suffered from terminal lung cancer during 1990. Following intercession\*\*\* by Mary MacKillop, the woman recovered in 1993. Pope John Paul II beatified\*\* Mother Mary MacKillop in 1995, thus she became known as the Blessed Mother Mary.

In the final days of her life, Cardinal Moran visited Mary MacKillop in 1909. He gave her his blessing and words of encouragement. As he left he said, "I consider I have this day assisted at the deathbed of a saint."

The process to be declared a saint began in 1925. Documents relating to the cure of a woman were collected, as well as the preparation of a chronological history of the illness and cure. Doctors scrutinized the documents and had access to all X-rays, scans and medical reports from the cured person, as well as other references to the illness from medical literature. They were asked to give an opinion on the question, "Can the cure be explained by scientific or medical means?" When the doctors concluded that the cure could not be explained by medical or scientific means, all the material was further studied and discussed by a Medical Board, whose members were also chosen by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Even if the cure cannot be explained in scientific or medical terms, it does not mean it is a miracle. A miracle requires 'divine' intervention (through the intercession of Mary MacKillop). A team of theologians examined the documentations as well documented evidence of prayers for intercession. If the theologians pronounce that they believe there is evidence of a cure through the intercession of Blessed Mary MacKillop, all the documentation will go to a panel of cardinals and bishops for a further opinion. If this opinion is favourable, the cardinals and bishops will make a recommendation to the Pope, who will decide whether to proclaim a miracle. Pope Benedict XVI announced (Feb 2010) who will be canonized this year.

In 1871, Mary MacKillop was excommunicated from church. Some bishops and priests could not understand the Sisters' way of life and tried to have them change it. Mary MacKillop believed that God was calling her to live according to the rule of life she had adopted when she made her vows and felt she could not change. Consequently Bishop Sheil excommunicated her in 1871 from the Church and tried to disband the sisters. He soon regretted his action and removed the sentence after five months. He allowed the sisters to reassemble and resume their good work.

A minimum of two miracles are needed to declare sainthood. The recovery of Mr Keohane also suggests intercession by the Blessed Mary:

David was bashed and left for dead in a street in Coogee (NSW). He was in a coma for eight months. His parents came from Ireland and visited the tomb of Blessed Mary MacKillop. They and many friends prayed constantly through the intercession of Mary. Doctors had advised them that there was no hope for their son. In March this year, David awoke from the coma and is now making good progress in Ireland. His parents attribute his return to consciousness and better health to the intercession of Mary MacKillop. This cure will be documented but probably will not be required for canonization. Whether it would meet all the roman criteria or not, his family refer to it as their "miracle". There are numerous other cures and favours around the world attributed to Mary MacKillop, and many of them are remarkable.

The Royal Australian mint featured the image of Mary MacKillop with three of her young students on the one dollar Inspirational Australian Series. In 2008. The issue price of this \$1 coin was nearly 13 times its tender value.

\*) canonized: be declared a saint. \*\*) beatified: blessed, the first step of achieving sainthood. \*\*\*) intercession: praying, to intervene.

"Photographs: Mary MacKillop in 1882, aged 40 years old (upper image), Mary MacKillop, 1871, aged 29 years in the year of her excommunication (lower image): Mary MacKillop Place Archive, North Sydney. Used with permission of the Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph. Must not be reproduced without permission of the Trustees." "website reference" © Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph. For information on Mary MacKillop's story please see website [www.sosj.org.au](http://www.sosj.org.au).



Mary MacKillop in 1882.



Mary MacKillop in 1871 aged 29, the year of her excommunication.



## Graceful elegance



## Traditional weapons become works of art



Mr Mark demonstrated how to properly balance and aim the spear, and swing the bambam at the right moment. Why not take a look, at New Mapoon Arts Centre.

Mr John Mark, New Mapoon, shaped these pieces. "This is from a wattle tree, a bambam," says Mr John Mark. It is used to add much force when throwing a spear.

*The town Woomera (SA) got its name from the spear throwing device.*

"This is used to sharpen the tip of a spear, with wax, shaping it along the flat part of the tool. It is very tough wood. "They used to kill people with this," says Mr Mark, who is also a Community Police Officer in the NPA.



## Hip Hop Artists spread message about safe umbug

Eight Hip Hop artists visited the NPA early in March, running workshops at all 3 campuses, as well as evening workshops in each of the communities. The Indigenous Hip Hop Project artists have been working extensively in Indigenous communities around Australia for many years facilitating dance workshops. Through dance and music they are able to engage youth and deliver important positive health and lifestyle messages. Specifically they have been engaged by Queensland Health to promote health messages around safe sex and awareness of sexually transmissible infections, HIV and other blood borne viruses for the older youth. These messages will include "The NPA has high rates of sexually transmissible infections"; "Get tested, get treated"; "Use condoms"; "Respect yourself, respect others"; "You can say no to unwanted sex". The health promotion messages aimed at the youth at the primary campuses are more general and include "Look after yourself, look after each other"; "Look, listen, talk, seek help"; "You can say no" (no to bullying, no to being pressured, no to things that you think are not right). There will also be sessions for adults/parents doing salsa dance. The aim is, in addition to some fun, to get parents thinking about talking to their kids about sex (umbug).

## Working on Country Photography Competition 2010

The Working on Country Photography Competition 2010 is now open to Indigenous rangers and people working on, or involved in a Working on Country project, or an Indigenous Protected Area.

Everyone is encouraged, young and old, to get involved with this exciting competition. There are some great prizes and selected entries will be included in a curated exhibition and colour catalogue.

To enter, please note the conditions and entry and send your photo entries in by the closing date - **Saturday 1 May 2010.**

Entry forms may be downloaded from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/workingoncountry/index.html>

This competition is organized by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Australian Government).

**Prize:** Return travel and accommodation in Canberra for the winner and nominated support person to attend the Working on Country Photographic Competition exhibition opening during NAIDOC week, 4-11 July 2010. Digital camera and accessories up to the value of \$800. Certificate. Display of the winning entry in select exhibitions. Inclusion of winning entry in relevant DEWHA communications resources.

## Ranger Base, Injinoo



From left: Mr Warren Strevens, Mr Richard Woosup, Mr Johnny Tamwoy, Mr Christo Lifu, Mr Doyle Sebasio, Senior Ranger Mr Meun Lifu, Mr John Tabuai and Mr Jimmy Panuel.

It's rare to see all eight Apudthama / NPARC Land and Sea Rangers in one spot together, but getting new uniforms is reason enough. Earlier in the week, rangers were out on their 4wheel bikes spraying the Gamba grass along the roadside. "When the fire gets the Gamba grass, it gets the tree too, because they get so high," says Mr Meun Lifu. "All of us will be going to Crab Island for one week" says Ranger Richard Woosup. "There are no pigs on the island, just crocodiles. We'll look after the Flatback and sometimes the Hawksbill Turtles."

"We did the turtle eggs on the East Coast, now we're going to the West Coast, Crab Island, to do the ghost nets there," adds Chief Ranger Mr Meun Lifu.

**Speed challenged** An 79-year-old man caught doing 85km/h in a 60km zone had the case dismissed, as his lawyer successfully argued that his client needed a road length of 85km and a timeframe of 1 hour. The lawyer engaged a racing driver, using a high performance car capable of doing 349km/hr, travelling the 6km long track for an hour, but barely managed to cover 342m in that time. Following the 300m straight stretch (where the man was clocked), the high performance car hit the third of 7692 potholes dotting the remaining 5.7km of road. The \$1.3mill car needs extensive repairs. The judge, who was invited to witness the speed trial as passenger, needed a neck massage for whiplash. Once out of the harness he ruled, "Case dismissed. It can't be done." The lawyer now plans a group action to have all speeding fines refunded, as each speeding fine is based on 'assumed' distance per hour, and 'assumed' road conditions. No speed gun is capable of measuring this. A laser travels very fast, needing just nanoseconds to bounce off a car and back. The speed is calculated in less than a second. "Since the law nominates speeding fines in km/hr it ought to be measured in likewise units. A few nanoseconds cannot represent an hour," said the lawyer. Trials are underway with millions of speed guns, each capable to detect cars that have been 'zapped' an hour earlier. Just 2% of all cars show an excess of the speed limit. Some show a speed of 13km per month. The system needs hook-up to computers, as the speed limit for many roads vary and only the actual road taken is of interest (for the purpose of speed fines). "Stopping in any given hour will reduce the overall speed for that hour," explains the lawyer, adding, "Drive with rest is best."

(see page 12, see footnote)



## Rangers clearing ghost nets

Most Australians are used to clear, clean beaches. The rangers in the NPA find silent death at the remote and isolated beaches around Cape York Peninsula. Ghost nets, drifting fishing nets, often from far away ships or countries, get washed up by the currents. In the process they claim much wildlife, which becomes hopelessly entangled. These pictures (all courtesy of the Rangers) show some of the many images, at a tiny portion of beach, near Jardine River and Crystal Creek. Five dead turtles are shown, but in reality the numbers go in the thousands.

Clearing the track, near Muttee heads (right). The rangers received quarantine training and are preparing for another camp week in remote areas.



This net (above) claims two turtles.



Turtle shell (above), trapped in a ghost net.

## Ranger Base

becomes new home for the NPARC / Aputdharma Land Trust Rangers at Injinoo. Quad bikes, chainsaws, storage containers and longboat at the ready.



"The five dead turtles, entangled in the ghost nets were discovered at Camp Number 1. We have to go further still," says Mr Warren Strevens. "We put the quad bikes across the river, and they went down to No 1 from there, Crystal Creek. We checked Crab Island as well. We found two nets there, an old one and a new one. There were no turtles in there."

Mr John Tabuai (image right), "We've only done the southern side of Crab Island. We will cut samples from the nets and then burn them."



Mr Strevens (image left), "The majority of our work over the next few weeks will be cleaning up ghost nets, tidy up the beaches. We're trying to talk Alex (Alex Barker, Dir of Employment and Economic Development Unit (EEDU)) into getting us horses, so we can get into the pigs. We're waiting on gun licenses and will take part in the firearms safety courses, we need it. Most of the time, we're going to be out, camping. At the moment we just need more equipment, that's the big thing."



Ranger Doyle Sebasio looking at another carcass.





## Cape York TAFE Campus: "...enrolments up"

Cape York TAFE Centre at Bamaga commenced enrolments for studies on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010. So far there has been a huge response from NPA College since enrolment opened on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb this year, with an intake of 24 students enrolled in Certificate I and II in Horticulture, and NPARC-CDEP with 23 participants, enrolled in Certificate II and III in Horticulture. The Horticulture courses cover anything from Nursery work and Landscaping to Production.

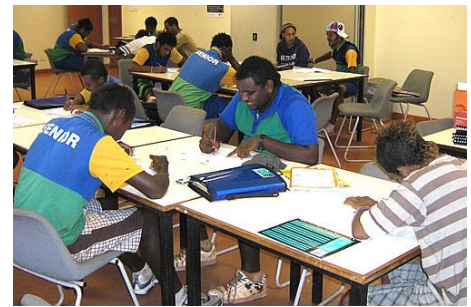
NPARC-CDEP has been working with ITEC and Jobfind on the sign up with the CDEP workers on their Employment Pathway Plans (EPP), and has engaged Tropical North Queensland TAFE (TNQT), Cape York TAFE Campus.

Teachers make regular visits from other colleges to see students who are currently enrolled in Child Care and Business Administration. TAFE has recently conducted a Leadership Course for NPARC works supervisors, which was very successful.

Courses coming up are: First Aid, Small Business Management, and Chainsaw (Level 1 & 2). Some of these courses may have a fee attached.

Interested persons may lodge their expressions for the above courses or if interested in other course of study the Campus has course information booklets now available for 2010.

Further information can be obtained by phoning 4048 6100.



### Thought of the month Restoring Relationships

*Step toward restoring a relationship is to attack the problem, not the person.*

*You cannot fix the problem if you're consumed with fixing the blame. You must choose between the two. A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper-fire.*

*You will never get your point across by being cross, so choose your words wisely. A soft answer is always better than a sarcastic one.*

*In resolving conflict, how you say it is as important as what you say. If you say it offensively, it will be received defensively. "A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is".*

*Nagging never works. You are never persuasive when you're abrasive.*

*During the Cold War, both sides agreed that some weapons were so destructive they should never be used. For the sake of fellowship, you must destroy your arsenal of relational nuclear weapons, including condemning, belittling, comparing, labeling, insulting, condescending, and being sarcastic.*

*"Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you."*

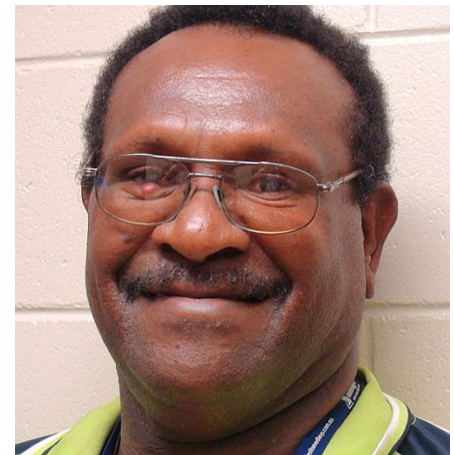
Anton Marinko

### Yumpla Radio Station: On Air (FM 87.6)

Bamaga Senior Campus radio station is now live, pumping out College News and music. The station ran a competition to find its call sign. 'Yumpla Radio Station' is the name. "Year 9 student, Silas Tamwoy, came up with the name (winning a MP3 player). It suits the environment here," says Mr Blanco, music teacher and announcer at the station. The radio station has a range of approximately 3 miles. Last year, Bamaga Senior College opened its recording studio. The radio station operates from the studio control room. Tune in on FM 87.6.

FM 91.9 was launched earlier (see Issue 10). The College radio station is able to link into FM 91.9, and can that way reach T.I., or even broadcast Nationwide. Funding for this project came from Priority Country Area Projects (PCAP).

Mr Blanco, "The station opened early February. We can link to the Bamaga station and that can connect us through to Thursday Island. I am a music teacher and the kids will be doing live recordings, so the parents can hear them singing. Different classes come in and have access to the radio. The environment doesn't offer much employment, so we are looking at media, so they have exposure to this medium, they can go as a journalist, or TV. It is giving kids the opportunity to get exposed to the field of media and journalism. The parents come in as well, they want to talk on radio. The kids like all kinds of music."



**WARNING: The next page contains an article about a recently deceased person from Injinoo. The article was written at the request of members close to the family. It has the approval of the family. Please do not turn the page if you think this could upset you.**



# LAST of the Atambaya

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010: A quiet dawn at Injinoo. The people of Injinoo gather in silence at Ware Street, to pay their respects for the last of the Atambaya, the late Mrs Miriam Crowe, also known as Mama / Aka Nagie. Cars arrive from other communities. The coffin with the remains of Mama Nagie leaves Bamaga Hospital, arrives at Injinoo, and is carried into the house. The funeral service is held by Ama Mary, at St Michael and All Angels Parish, Injinoo. Beautiful voices fill the church in Injinoo traditional language hymns. Reverend Mary blessed the coffin for its last journey south to Atambaya.

Atambaya is a country, a language, a culture, and a tribal people, the Utaga (dingo/dog/Wyinmu (rainbow snake)) its totem. With the death of Mrs Crowe, believed to be the last full blood Aborigine of her tribal clan, much is lost forever. The Atambaya Utaga Clan is also known as the McDonnell people. Following the closure of the McDonnell Telegraph Office in the late 30s, the Atambaya people were relocated to Injinoo. Mama Nagie's dying wish was to be laid to rest at her traditional land Atambaya.



The convoy of cars, spread over several miles, heads south, crossing the Jardine. From there the cloud of dust stretches over tens of miles, snaking its way to the final resting place. At Atambaya, the dug grave is blessed by Ama Mary. Apudthama / NPARC Rangers form a guard of honour. Sheets cover the ground of the grave, as the coffin is lowered. More sheets are wrapped



around the entire coffin. Ms Lydia Toby (close relative), "I thank my mother for everything she did for me. Especially I thank God for my mother's life." Young men fill the grave with soil as children watch. Atambaya stones border the site. Atambaya sand tops the soil and is decorated in a field of colour.



Posts are set in the ground and barricades added to mark this spot as the resting place of the last Atambaya.

Mama Nagie grew up in Cowal Creek (Injinoo), attended the first school ever to be erected in the NPA. Following the death of her parents, she and her siblings grew up with the late Aka Minnie McDonnell and Athe Jacko. In 1945, Mama Nagie

played a motherly role to Cecilia Ropeyarn and Francis Brisbane, after their mother had passed away. In 1950 she worked at the Feeding Centre, as a cook and domestic cleaner, catering for Tuberculosis patients from various Aboriginal communities.

Mama Nagie worked tirelessly to make ends meet to feed her family as a single mother. She married her soul partner, Mr Matthew Crowe, of Cherbourg. Mama Nagie lived part of her life at Atambaya Outstation, but had to move back to Injinoo in early 2000 to be closer to medical facilities. Mama Nagie was a strong and powerful woman when it came down to her traditional land and cultural protocols. She would strongly voice her opinion with dignity and pride in recognition to her tribal land, where sacred sites are situated in the area.



## Aka/Mama Nagie, the Atambaya Undamu



The flag set at half-mast at Injinoo



Ama Mary conducting the service



Leaving Injinoo



Crossing the Jardine



The final resting place, Atambaya





She was an active member of the Atambaya tribal Clan Group, who always had time to pass her knowledge to her loved ones. She had much knowledge and wisdom of the past, which she shared with people looking for their roots.

She was one of the greatest storytellers who'd tell stories from her grandfathers, capturing young and old. She loved to sing and dance and would teach everyone church hymns, traditional songs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancing. She was well known for her cooking skills, buns and mango chutney, her family favourites.



Mama Nagie was mother to Walter Daniel Moses and Peter James Crowe. She was grandmother to Gina Nona, Steven Ropeyarn, Barbara Tamwoy, Kales Ropeyarn, Emma David, Sepoima and Josephine Sagigi, Dana Moses, Strevaanja Bowie, Veronica Jacksonia, Maize Toby, and great-grandmother to Tolowa Nona jun., Eileen Ropeyarn, Josie Nona, Cecilia Ropeyarn jun., Daniella Ropeyarn, Maureen Ropeyarn, Daniel Ropeyarn jun., Daniel Nona, Anthony, Lejoe Maia, Francesca Elsie and Kimasu and 17 great-great-grandchildren. Mr Kevin Saunders was her partner, spending much time together at Atambaya and Injinoo. The family and Atambaya Clan Group thank the NPA communities for the support given in this difficult time. She was a woman of great strength and courage; she was an inspiration to all who knew her as **Aka/Mama Nagie the Atambaya Undamu** (girl). Image (right) by Mrs H. Sebasio.



#### Answers to NPA News, Issue 11, page 16 Crossword:

'Green' was the answer to every question, except one. The national colour of Ireland is 'Blue', despite all the green celebrations on Sydney's 200<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day in March 2010. There were 37 questions, but by answering 23 correctly, all 37 were answered as well. Answering all the horizontals, spelled normal and backwards gave 23 answers. The remaining 14 answers were vertical, as forward and backward spelling, most likely already answered.



#### Kinship and Foster Care Week



A BBQ and get together at Bamaga Pool celebrates and acknowledges the carers in the communities, bringing together the carers from Thursday Island, Horn Island and NPA, giving each a chance to meet one another. The kids had a great time in the pool. Ms Karen Milne (kneeling, right) is a Child Safety Officer, T.I. Branch Office. She supports Kinship and Foster Carers. "A huge thank you, to all the carers in our communities," says Ms Milne, "we really do appreciate it." Foster and Kinship carers look after children between the ages of newborn to 18-year-olds, who may be vulnerable, or at risk of neglect and abuse.

**Help keep our mob together** is the call from Department of Child Safety, as more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are needed as Foster parents in the NPA. Foster carers are committed to make sure Aboriginal and Torres



Strait Islander children are cared for in a way that respects their culture and assists with maintaining their cultural identity. Foster carers play a vital role and are the backbone of child safety. Appreciation for their support and assistance goes to: Mura Kosker Sorority, Thursday Island; Bamaga Family Resource Centre; Bamaga Bakehouse; NPARC; End Time Evangelistic Ministry; Thursday Island Bulk Meats; Rebels Marine, and Child Safety Services, Thursday Island. Please call Foster Carer recruitment line on: 1300 550 877 (local call fee), website: [www.childsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au), or Foster Care Queensland: 07-3268 5955, or 1800 651 341. **NPA Family Resource Centre and Injinoo Healing Centre** are raising awareness of the effects of family violence during May. Activities are planned, such as lantern making and others during the Domestic Violence awareness month.

**'Weed it out'** We have four goals we want to achieve," continues Mr Hunter, "reduce the harms associated with cannabis use in indigenous communities in Cape York and Torres Straits; in collaboration with JCU undertake research into patterns of cannabis use and its harms in selected communities; present the findings to the communities in a culturally appropriate manner; change community attitudes towards cannabis use, and implement crime prevention strategies, for example: crime stoppers. Drugs are predominantly brought in (to the NPA), via boat, aircraft, via mail. It can come from south or Torres Straits, originating from New Guinea."

**Crime stoppers:** "95% of calls to crime stoppers are drug related," says Mr Harris. "It works well with the 'weed it out' project'. Nineteen murders have been solved. Break and enter, burglary, assaults, across the whole spectrum of criminality. The communities can stop drugs dead in their tracks, if they want to," says Mr Harris. "Just take that step forward, make the phone call, and be absolutely guaranteed that they remain anonymous. The calls are not traced, they are not recorded. Over 600,000 calls have been made to crime stoppers."

[www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au), or call **1 800 333 000**.



## Jam Session with uncle Seaman Dan

Mr Seaman Dan, Mr Neuenfeldt and Mr Kepa advised of the purpose of their visit to the NPA (Feb 2010), at an informal meeting chaired by Mr Neville Reys (Manager of Media, Arts and Culture).

Mr Karl Neuenfeldt explains: "We are here on behalf of Arts Queensland, who has funded the bulk of this project, as a pilot project in the NPA. If everything goes to plan, we will be coming up here in June, to do three weeks of recording, and also filming. We'll do the engineering and producing. We'll come up totally self-contained, with the recording equipment, put it on a barge in Cairns and it shows up at the wharf.

Mr Will Kepa: "We'll scout for a good room that will make a good recording environment. At times we hang blankets around the room, to dim the sound, so we can control the amount of reverb. Whatever we record here, whether we record traditional, Christian gospel or any contemporary song, we will then take it down to mix and master in the real studio in Cairns. We also overdub, adding more instruments, real drum kits, to what we recorded up here, to make it more professional. We turn up with a CD at the end of it. We are here to do the pre-production stuff, to find out who can do what, have a yarn with people."

Mr Karl Neuenfeldt: "That's hopefully what we end up with, a CD and a DVD, with five chapters on the DVD, one of each community, and songs from each community. You have the kids, you have the language hymns, church choirs, everybody wants to do something different. There is no expense to anybody to be recorded. Council provides us with accommodation. We have a budget from Arts Queensland, who is paying us as consultants. We have no copyright on anything that is (will be) recorded. We did about 25 of this kind of community CDs in the Torres Strait. When we come back in June, we will record whatever the communities will want to record, within the limits of how much we can get onto a CD. One thing we have done, at Badu, is record some of the traditional



Mr Serubi and Mr Seaman Dan

Mr Neuenfeldt: "We prefer it to be traditional music, or songs people have written, music that's inside the community." Mr Reys suggested a small break for a cup of tea.

Mr Dan tells of his time as a cattle drover, back in 1941, "We had to muster 200 head of scrubbers, 30 miles from Coen, getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning, when it was still dark, getting cattle out of the scrub. The cattle come down in the evening to feed, and before daybreak they go up again, into the hills. When everyone was in position, the manager used to yell, and everybody was yelling, racing forward to the cattle, to get them away from the scrub. We raced them out in the plains, then we walked them slowly into the yard that had been prepared. This way we got 200 scrubbers."

Mr Dan played his 2<sup>nd</sup> song about his little pony followed by another, and each joined in, singing: 'Why are you looking so sad my dear...' (T.I. Blues). Mr Seaman Dan made his first recording at age 70.

Mr Richard Tamwoy: "There are a lot of artists up here, untapped artists. All of us here too, we all sing and play guitar. We have to play something for uncle now." On the guitar's stop-over between musical chairs, Mr Tamwoy played an Elvis song, with voice to match. Mr Timothy Gibuma played one of his songs, and Mr Thomas Serubi added an instrumental rendition, using his own picking style. Mr Dan, so much impressed by the performance, that he reached half-way across the table to shake hands with Mr Serubi.

language hymns from Badu, but they didn't want them on the CD. They wanted to teach the younger people those songs. We did a courtesy recording, recorded them on professional equipment, mixed them, and gave them 25 copies, and they circulated them among themselves."

Mr Neville Reys: "The ladies in New Mapoon, they are planning something similar.



**Tireless, unless...** Driving from Injinoo to Bamaga for an appointment at the college, car gets a flat tire, just past Umagico. Hitched a ride to Bamaga with a friendly couple, reached the college in time. After the meeting made my way to NPARC Bamaga Depot, to report the flat tire (had no spare), when Mr Michael Pablo and Mr McFarlane spotted me, gave me a lift back to the car, the tire already fixed before I had a chance to report it. Thanks a lot to the Tire Bay at Bamaga Depot, Mr Michael Pablo, Mr McFarlane and Mr Collin Bond (supervisor).

**NPARC Boilermaker workshop** (Mr Pat Briden) has relocated from Umagico to the Bamaga Depot. Workshop, small engines, tire bay and now with boiler shop are all located at Bamaga Depot.

**A 'Suicide prevention program'** sponsored by PCYC, delivered via Dr Edward Koch Foundation will conduct monthly workshops in the NA over the next 2 years. They would like to train local residents.



**A new face in the NPA:** Mr Charly Waldorf is an Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Counsellor (AToDs), working out of Bamaga Family Resources Centre. He can be reached on tel. 4069 3555.

**Respect NPA Art competition** is well underway across the NPA. Closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

**Correction:** Issue 11, page 5, the blessing and official opening of Injinoo P7 Campus was on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, not January as stated.

**Mr Seaman Dan:** "I'll sing for my cup of tea," says Mr Dan, and did.

"We say, ... say welcome,  
we say welcome to the Torres Strait.

We're glad to have you,  
we extend our hospitality to you.

You can look at the starts,  
gaze at the moon,  
and my..., I feel so blue,  
I feel this way...  
and dance to a hula tune.

Go home...  
come back to Torres,  
for a happy memory"



**Footnote:** This is April 1<sup>st</sup> edition and perhaps some articles need a grain of salt. All articles with the remark 'see footnote, page 12' are not to be taken serious.