

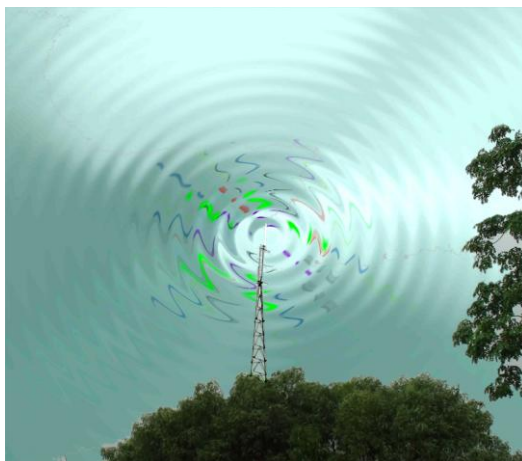
In this Issue: FM 91.9, Rangers, Wild Rivers, Churches Conf, Mensheds, Excavator Art, RHD, PCYC, WH&S, Injinoo Campus + more

FM 91.9 on Air

FM 91.9 is the new radio station of the NPA. From Seisia to Injinoo the airwaves carry crystal clear sound, from the only stereo station in the NPA.

Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media Association, based in Cairns, represents and assists remote aboriginal communities in broadcasting and media issues. Broadsoft Systems works on the technical side, providing new services and is setting up and testing the new equipment, which is installed at Bamaga.

"Each of the existing (broadcast) services, the five (communities) were transmitting on just 10 watts, each from a low antenna within the community," explains Mr Gerry Pyne of Broadsoft System.



"If they could reach between 2 or 3km they were doing well."

The new antenna is on top of the existing tower in Bamaga, geographically high and strategically placed at the centre of all communities. The new transmitter broadcasts at 500 watts. Transmission range depends on the thickness of vegetation and terrain. "In some directions we may reach 50 km, but in other directions we may not, there might be hills or thick rainforest, but it could reach T.I.," says Mr Pyne. "For the first time one can drive from Seisia to Injinoo and listen to the one (local) radio station."

(more next page)

The life of a Ranger

NPA Regional Council has employed another four rangers, bringing the total number of rangers to eight. Mr Meun Lifu is the senior ranger, and Mr Warren Strevens is ranger coordinator. Mr Richard Woosup and Mr Doyle Sebasio have been working with Mr Brett Leis (Turtle Project Officer, Cape York Sea Turtle Project) on the ghost net program, as well as turtle research on Crab Island in the past months. Four of NPARC's rangers will be working on Milman Island between January and February. This project researches the Hawksbill Turtles on the Barrier Reef, but is also accredited training for the rangers, to track turtles, monitor them, study their biology and work out the animals' migratory patterns as well as assessments.

Research on Milman Island has been ongoing for the last 15 years, representing the longest continuous Hawksbill study ever undertaken. Scientists study the effects of climatic change and the nesting habits of the turtles. 2010 will see Traditional Owners and rangers from Injinoo take part in the studies. Students from Thursday Island will also attend, all focusing their efforts in an area classified as 'Preservation Zone' by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Funding for this project comes in part from the Project AWARE Foundation, the Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund, Cape York Sustainable Futures and Sea Swift Shipping.

Full story on Milman Island: <http://www.seaturtlefoundation.org/stf-current-projects/research/milman-island/>

Mr Brett Leis's new blogspot: <http://capeyorkseaturtles.blogspot.com/>

Apart from turtle management, NPARC rangers are also involved in fire management and pig control. Three ranger programs are underway in the NPA: Working on Country, Wild Rivers, and the Cape York Marine Turtle Recovery / Ghost nets program.



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FM 91.9 (continued)

Due to the limited range of the old systems that was impossible, as the signal would drop out the further one drives away from the transmitter. The new services will use one building, near Bamaga Primary School, which houses Studio A and Studio B, as well as the transmission equipment.

"We will utilize the studios for the set-up of staffing and the local content to come in," says Mr Neville Reys (Manager of Media, Arts and Culture). "We do have the advantage of modern recorders and can interview anywhere in the communities, and bring that content to the studios. We can also do live outside broadcasts from anywhere," says Mr Reys.



"It's a box with a microphone, which plugs into a telephone cable," adds Mr Pyne,

"through the telephone to the studio, then live to air. The service also allows to link into Townsville or Cairns, or the National Service in Brisbane. It gives the NPA community the opportunities to link live nationally. For the local community, on a football day, or a fishing competition, or any big event, it's simply a matter of getting the equipment down there, be on the spot in the street, and broadcasting back live into the community. So there are a lot of opportunities for listeners or participants, or people on training."

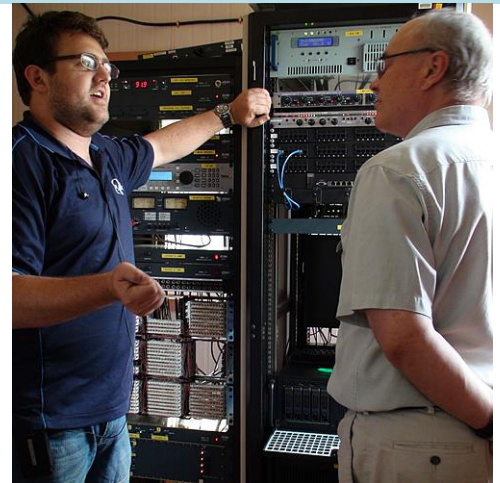
"The Federal Government ultimately paid for the funding, the upgrade. There was an allocation of \$3.3mill made available nationally, 2½ years ago. The original goal was to upgrade 79 small BRACS or RIBS communities about the country. Sixteen of them were located in the Cape York region. Five of the sixteen were in the NPA."

Mr Gerry Pyne, "We had a good opportunity. Why are we going to potentially waste the money on re-equipping all 5 smaller stations, or pool the funding resources and get a decent one? The other thing that was happening at the same time was amalgamation (of the 5 communities into NPARC). It seemed to make sense."

"New Mapoon Council was the main player at that stage in reference to the whole concept. It goes back a few years. We were the first people to run the tie line operation here, the New Mapoon football carnival, the big day out," says Mr Reys. "We turned on the system on 13 January 2010, and we're still working on it at the moment," say Mr Gerry Pyne. We're playing a selection of random songs from the computers. It will be ready for full time operation later today (mid January), and will then be handed over to Neville Reys and the rest of the people in charge of that area."

Mr N Reys, "The parties, the stakeholders now come to Bamaga. Mostly Amy (Ms Amy McKeown (Media Officer, Bamaga, senior announcer and broadcaster)) and the other staff will be going out and providing the flow of information to all those organisations. Previously, all those stakeholders would come to Seisia, New Mapoon, Injinoo, Alau, and provide that service. They are now invited to come to Bamaga and it is transmitted from there."

"There are all sorts of possibilities with the IT industry these days," says Mr Pyne. "The station will be equipped with equipment that will allow sending and receiving via the internet to any other facility that has similar equipment at their end, to be able to interface together, for high quality audio. There are boundless possibilities."



Broadsoft technician explaining the new technology to Council staff.



Senior broadcaster, Ms Amy McKeown, moving from the old studio (above) to the new one (below).



Signal strength indication (above). The system is fitted with a limiter which adjusts the volume and tone qualities and ensures consistent volume levels.

"The facilities to provide 'talk back' radio are in place. Through Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media Association we gained the RTO status (Registered Training Organization)," says Mr Reys, "that allows us to bring community broadcasters to Cairns and provide hands on training." (NPA News, Issue 4 covered part of that in Aug 09)

Because the new system transmits in FM, residents are advised to use the antenna, to ensure the best possible reception.



Studio A at Bamaga



Output selector determines what goes to air.

Position 1: Radio Station 4K1G

Position 2: unassigned

Position 3: Studio A

Position 4: Studio B

Position 5: Program (the computer supplies pre-programmed content)

Position 6: Off Air

The heart of the system (left image) is equipped with a Server with multiple hard-drives and back up, able to serve internet pages. Each of the Studios has their own computer. The logger records everything that goes to air.

Happy
birthday



infectious enthusiasm.

Contact: 0417 200 172,

Email : rrtwy@hotmail.com



NPA Mensheds Australia is one year old. Much of the success of this organization in the NPA goes to Mr Richard Tamwoy, the Coordinator for the Northern Peninsula Area, who approaches his work with



Mensheds had organized numerous activities and outings during 2009, including fishing trips and a number of camps in joint activity with the NPA Regional College. (more on page 11)

Some images courtesy of Mr Russell Symons.

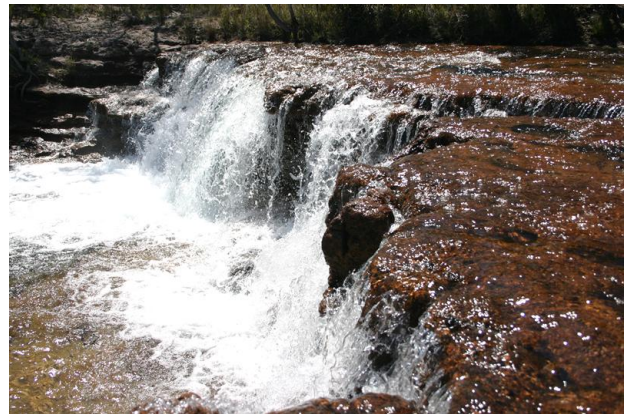
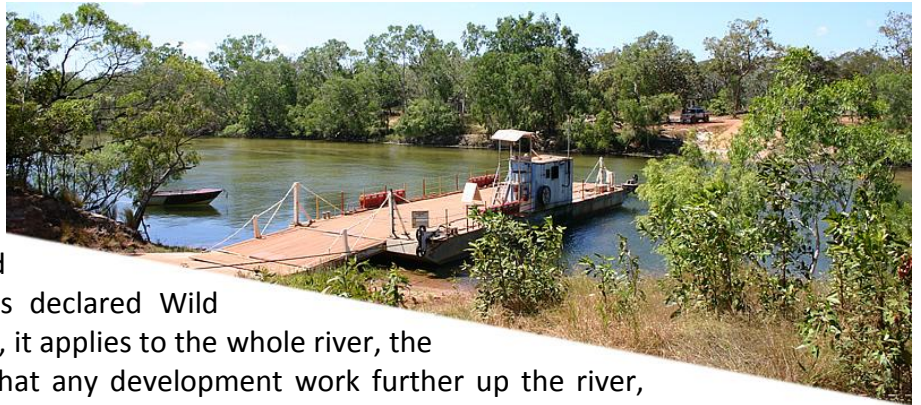
“Wild Rivers, ...very odd consulting”

The Archer, Lockhart and Stewart rivers are declared ‘Wild Rivers,’ April 09. The Jardine and Jackey Jackey rivers are to be nominated for gazettal as ‘Wild Rivers.’ The traditional owners of the Jardine River catchment area are the Angkamuthi, Wuthathi and Yadhaykenu peoples, while the Yadhaykenu and Wuthathi are also traditional owners of the Jackey Jackey basin.

“The eastern part of the Jardine River, up from the old Telegraph Crossing, is already a National Park and therefore protected,” says NPARC Mayor, Mr Joseph Elu. “The Jackey Jackey has a fish habitat. It is a Green zone, so nobody can fish in there, it is protected. Declaring these as Wild Rivers means protection of the catchment areas.”

“Our airport is in the catchment area of the Jackey Jackey, so we can’t do much there. It means that anything we do on the airport, we need to go through the Department of Environment. It is very hard to push development through when it is declared Wild River. If the Jardine is declared a Wild River, it applies to the whole river, the entire basin area of that river. It means that any development work further up the river, where the road goes around the bypass, past where all the little creeks come in, like Elliot creek, which runs into the Jardine, all of that catchment would be protected. One can’t do much development there. No one from Wild Rivers has come to talk to us. Any changes must go through the Department of Environment and Resources Management, costing a lot of money.”

“National Parks have a boundary, but the problem is with wild pigs. We’re putting a fence around it, but we’re not protecting it. I said to the minister for DERM (Department of Environment and Resource Management), Kathy Jones, ‘You lock up a block of land, put a fence around it, the animals will quickly find out that nobody goes there and they won’t be shot when they’re in there. That is where they go to hide.’ All of these National Parks on the Cape are all overrun with wild horses, wild pigs, wild dogs, and nobody can do anything, because it’s a National Park. You can’t go in there and shoot them. They are doing terrible



damage to the land, especially the pigs. They disturb the soil and the root systems and when the rains come it closes up the river system.”

“The government said they did consult, regarding Wild Rivers. I don’t know who they consult with, they said they did consultation. I didn’t talk to

anybody. They did consultations with the Land Council. They are consulting, but they are not listening. I don’t know what the purpose of consulting is then. We can consult with you, but we’re still doing, no matter what you say ...very odd consulting.”



Thought of the month

Don't Give Temptation Power

"Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace."

Have you ever watched a food advertisement on television and suddenly felt you were hungry? Have you ever heard someone cough and immediately felt the need to clear your throat? Ever watched someone release a big yawn and felt the urge to yawn yourself?

This is the power of suggestion working within your mind. We naturally move toward whatever our attention is focused on. The more you think about something, the stronger it takes hold of you. "Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace".

That is why repeating, "I must stop eating too much . . . or stop smoking . . . or stop lusting" is a self-defeating strategy. It keeps you focused on what you don't want. It's like announcing, "I'm never going to do what my mom did." You are setting yourself up to repeat it.

Temptation begins by capturing your attention. What gets your attention arouses your emotions. Then your emotions activate your behavior, and you act on what you feel. The more you focus on "I don't want to do this," the stronger temptation draws you into its web.

Ignoring a temptation is far more effective than fighting it. Once your mind is on something else, the temptation loses its power. So when temptation calls you on the phone, don't argue with it, just hang up!

Sometimes this means physically leaving a tempting situation. This is one time it is okay to run away. Get up and turn off the television set. Walk away from a group that is gossiping. Leave the theater in the middle of the movie.

To avoid being stung, stay away from the bees!

Anton Marinki



wanting designs such as Spiderman and the Incredible Hulk, with the older youths being active playing a heads and tails game."

Story and images courtesy Ms Sonia Townson.

CAPE PCYC

"We are an exciting but new organization in the NPA area," says Ms Sonia Townson, Area Manager for CAPE PCYC. "We look forward to meeting and greeting other past and present organizations, who have made an enormous contribution to this region."

"CAPE supports Indigenous peoples' enjoyment of sporting and recreational activities, encouraging and motivating young people to enhance their skills and ability to make decisions and enjoy life."

"The proposed concept of agencies or departments working together to achieve a common goal of reducing youth boredom through sport and recreation activities was previously trialed through the implementation of the Yarrabah PCYC Community Centre model. This innovative, successful partnership between the Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association, Yarrabah Aboriginal Council, Yarrabah Community and Queensland Police Service has resulted in practical/effective solutions to youth problems in the Yarrabah Aboriginal Community."

"The aim of the CAPE Indigenous PCYC is to provide highly skilled staff who can develop sustainable youth activity platforms, enabling other sporting and recreation groups (such as Scouts, SES cadets, AFL, Soccer QLD etc) a support platform towards consistency in youth activity attendance. This would subsequently increase youth self esteem through healthily structured, consistent youth activity management, with the view towards breaking the potential crime cycle, truancy and suicide rates on the relevant communities."

"The strategic vision of CAPE Indigenous PCYC is to roll out another thirteen communities in the next five years," adds Ms Townson.

The NPA group started operation in Oct 09 and has now a staff of five. Image from left: Mr Johannes Gebadi, Sports & Recreation Officer, Ms Sonia Townson, Area Manager, Ms Shaleah Tatipata, Ms Joyce Sebasio and Ms Nola Lewin Cabsent (no image), all Sports and Recreational Officers.



Ms Sonia Townson, "In December PCYC was busy getting to know what kind of sports our youths were interested in. Face Painting was a big hit with a lot of our younger kids

(more on page 7)



Let Down Your Nets



The Australian Christian Churches Conference took place at Injinoo, 17-20th Dec 09. Pastor Peceli Qarikau, a missionary from Fiji, working in Far North Queensland explains, "I am excited to be part of this, where all churches coming together and focus on how we can equip and prepare (church) leaders to go out and win souls for Jesus. Pentecostal churches, Assemblies of God, Seven Day Adventist, and Mainline churches are all here."

"Hope Fellowship hosts this meeting, bringing all the religious leaders from the coastal areas of Papua New Guinea, Daru, Port Moresby, Saibai, the Islands of Torres Straits, all the way down to Cairns. The theme of the seminar is: Let down your Nets."

Pastor Titom Tamwoy (Hope Fellowship, Injinoo, image right) is organizer of the Mission Conference, "We came out of Bamaga, Assemblies of God, three years ago, January 2006. This is when I felt the call of God to come to Injinoo, to minister the people here."

"Three long boats came from Daru, with 24 people. It took them 2 days, as they were waiting for customs clearance at Thursday Island. Pastor Allan Mosby (the former District Superintendent for the Assemblies of God) is here, from Thursday Island. When he retired, he handed the work over to me. Also here are Pastor Phillip Henry from Daru, and Pastor Eric Sebasio (T.I., Senior Minister), and Pastor Kevin Dyson (Guest speaker, Sunshine Coast) and Pastor Alfred Haggai, from Papua New Guinea"

"Connection is important. With the connections of pastors, we encourage one another, in our faith, in our movement. This is a district meeting. Each year we have three meetings. We start off with Easter, the second is the 50th day after Easter, Pentecost (7th Sunday after Easter, Whitsunday, it commemorates the radiation of the Holy Spirit to the apostles), the third meeting is Christmas."



"I am Superintendent for Assembly of God in the Torres Strait," said Ps Tamwoy. "I look after 14 islands, from Saibai to Murray and two in the NPA, as well as Injinoo. Over the last 3 years, we've seen violence decreased, the respect to God has increased, and I can see there is a change in people. We have been asked to help in the communities by the Health organizations in Bamaga. The Injinoo traditional owners have agreed to give us a block of land. We are waiting for clearance, and then we'll build on that, a church and accommodation for the minister. Gina Nona was very supportive of us. Before that George Ropeyarn (former Chairman) was helping us. Also Tolowa Nona (former Mayor), he helped us a lot. I would also like to thank Uncle Shorty, and Mrs Celia Ropeyarn and Mrs Bethema McDonnell and others. I believe I am an Injinoo boy; I grew up in this place, lived most of my life here. My father is from Badu and my mother from Darnley Island."

Pastor Titom Tamwoy, "I want to thank the traditional owners. I really want to thank them for what they have done, and their support. I grew up here. I came here in 1969 as a young boy. My father moved from Badu to here (Injinoo), and the people accepted us. My uncle, Jomen Tamwoy, his grave is in the middle of the park, we came here because of him. I thank the traditional owners for accepting our faith in this area as well. I believe, and I know, that they have seen changes. I thank the people of Injinoo. When we started services all the noise stopped and they respected others' belief." Music was provided by the Daru Team, who filled the hall with songs of praise.



Pastor Alfred Haggai (PNG)



"In 2010, we try to impact, help the communities, that is what church is all about. Churches are supposed to help the needy, the poor. We go in the Prison ministry; we give people free food on their day in court, in the Magistrates Court. God is our helper. We have permission to go into the prison, before the boys fly out. On funerals, weddings, birthdays, we lend our chairs and tables, at no charge; we have 100 chairs and four tables, to help the families. I'm here to help the people who are in need. We called it 'Hope Fellowship', the word from the bible, to give hope and bless others, that's why we use the word 'hope' in the name."

Rheumatic Heart Disease... vaccine development

Australia records the highest rates of rheumatic heart disease in the world, especially in Indigenous communities living in remote areas. Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) is a condition that permanently damages the valves in the heart. It is caused by rheumatic fever, started by the streptococcus bacteria. It causes inflammation and affects the skin, joints, brain and heart. Rheumatic fever usually occurs in children aged 5 to 15, but can occur at any age. The symptoms of rheumatic fever are: Fever, painful joints, rash, uncontrolled movements of muscles (arm, legs, facial), shortness of breath and weakness (Do consult Medical Professionals for a proper diagnosis). People diagnosed with rheumatic fever often receive continuous antibiotic treatment (possibly for life), to stop attacks from rheumatic fever reoccurring and reduce the risk of heart damage.

Poverty and overcrowding are known risk factors that make streptococcal infection more likely. If the infection is untreated, it can develop to rheumatic fever. The bacteria can enter the body through the throat and cuts in the skin. Keeping your body strong is the best defence against infection. Proper hygiene is important, like washing hands after being in contact with animals, before preparing food, after going to the toilet or changing nappies. A healthy diet will strengthen the body. Lots of fruits and vegetables are good, as is regular exercise, like walking, swimming, riding a bike. All helps to keep the body in good condition. Good hygiene practices, a shower or bath each day, help in reducing the risk of infections. Keep scratches or sores on the skin clean, and get a Medical Health Worker to check them. If you have a sore throat, see the health clinic so that they give antibiotic medicine to kill the streptococcal germs. If you are diagnosed with rheumatic fever or rheumatic heart disease, remember to get your needle every month, and finish each course of medication, as re-infection can occur.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) is now in the final stages of developing a vaccine aimed at the Group A Streptococcus (GAS) bacteria. The team is led by Professor Michael Good and Dr Michael Batzloff. Professor M. Good: "QIMR has been working on a vaccine to combat the bacteria for over a decade." (source: www.qimr.edu.au/news/2009/articles/strepvacc.html)

Professor Michael Good (AO Chair, National Health and Medical Research Council, and Director, QIMR, The Bancroft Centre, Brisbane), informs NPARC News: "We are now preparing a 'clinical grade' batch of vaccine for final tests prior to testing in human volunteers late in 2010."

"Such a vaccine, if added to the roster of early childhood immunisations in Australia, could not only prevent rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, but also end severe throat infections in children," says Dr Batzloff.

The fight against RHD brings together researchers from QIMR, Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRAH), the Menzies School of Health Research (MSHR) and Melbourne University. Development work is focused on a broad scale: Better methods of diagnosis, prevention, education, and access to care, as well as the vaccine development. CRAH is funding part of the project.

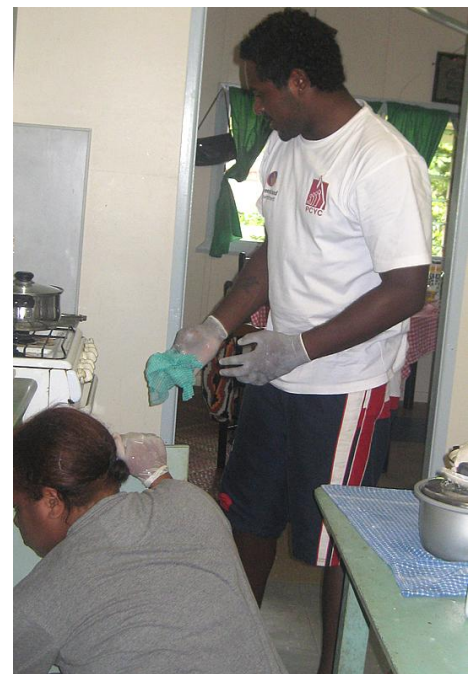
Once the trials are completed, Professor Good is likely to visit the NPA to update local communities, as the reason for developing the vaccine is primarily due to the impact RHD has on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's health.

NEWS UPDATE: Late January, 2010, Federal Government announced it will spend \$2.5mill trying to coordinate efforts to eradicate RHD, by forming a new organisation. 'RHD Australia' will be based at Darwin, at the Menzies School of Health Research.

CAPE PCYC (continued)



"In January, we worked alongside the elders in a cleanup day, and having our youths involved in assisting the elders to do household chores around the neighbourhood."



"CAPE PCYC NPA is looking forward to working and networking with all local government and non-government organizations in 2010. We strive to help build a healthier lifestyle for our NPA communities through positive sports and recreational activities. We cater for all age groups, especially targeting our young people," says Ms Townson. CAPE PCYC is located next to St George Anglican Church in Bamaga. The group is active in all five communities. Unrelated to CAPE PCYC, Ms Sonia Townson's huge smile is well known from here to Cairns as the face of skytrans. Contact: sonia.townson@pcyc.org.au or mob 0408 206 178



What has happened in February?

Two years ago, 13th Feb 2008, the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd, delivers a national apology to the 'Stolen Generation' in the Australian Parliament on behalf of all Australians. Between 1910 and 1970, up to 50,000 children were forcibly taken from their parents and families to grow up in unfamiliar surroundings. The following are quotes from that speech:

The uncomfortable truth for us all is that the parliaments of the nation, individually and collectively, enacted statutes and delegated authority under those statutes that made the forced removal of children on racial grounds fully lawful.

There is a further reason for an apology as well: it is that reconciliation is in fact an expression of a core value of our nation - and that value is a fair go for all. There is a deep and abiding belief in the Australian community that, for the stolen generations, there was no fair go at all.

It is time to reconcile. It is time to recognise the injustices of the past. It is time to say sorry. It is time to move forward together.

To the stolen generations, I say the following: as Prime Minister of Australia, I am sorry. On behalf of the government of Australia, I am sorry. On behalf of the parliament of Australia, I am sorry. I offer you this apology without qualification.

We apologise for the hurt, the pain and suffering that we, the parliament, have caused you by the laws that previous parliaments have enacted.

We apologise for the indignity, the degradation and the humiliation these laws embodied.

We offer this apology to the mothers, the fathers, the brothers, the sisters, the families and the communities whose lives were ripped apart by the actions of successive governments under successive parliaments.

Today's apology, however inadequate, is aimed at righting past wrongs. It is also aimed at building a bridge between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians - a bridge based on a real respect rather than a thinly veiled contempt.

Our challenge for the future is to cross that bridge and, in so doing, to embrace a new partnership between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians - to embrace, as part of that partnership, expanded Link-up and other critical services to help the stolen generations to trace their families if at all possible and to provide dignity to their lives.

But the core of this partnership for the future is to close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians on life expectancy, educational achievement and employment opportunities.

This new partnership on closing the gap will set concrete targets for the future: within a decade to halve the widening gap in literacy, numeracy and employment outcomes and opportunities for indigenous Australians, within a decade to halve the appalling gap in infant mortality rates between indigenous and non-indigenous children and, within a generation, to close the equally appalling 17-year life gap between indigenous and non-indigenous in overall life expectancy.

Let us resolve today to begin with the little children, a fitting place to start on this day of apology for the stolen generations.

Let us resolve over the next five years to have every indigenous four-year-old in a remote Aboriginal community enrolled in and attending a proper early childhood education centre or opportunity and engaged in proper pre literacy and pre numeracy programs.

Let us resolve to build new educational opportunities for these little ones, year by year, step by step, following the completion of their crucial preschool year.

Let us resolve to use this systematic approach to build future educational opportunities for indigenous children to provide proper primary and preventive health care for the same children, to begin the task of rolling back the obscenity that we find today in infant mortality rates in remote indigenous communities up to four times higher than in other communities. (End of Quote)

The Prime Minister's speech was transmitted through radio and broadcast through television stations. Newspapers printed special 'Sorry editions.' The then opposition leader, Mr Brendan Nelson, also delivered a 'Sorry speech' on the same day (Part Quote):

Alcohol, welfare without responsibilities, isolation from the economic mainstream, corrupt management of resources, nepotism, political buck-passing between governments with divided responsibilities, lack of home ownership, under-policing and tolerance by authorities of neglect and abuse of children that violates all we stand for, all combine to still see too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living lives of existential aimlessness. (End Quote)

What is happening in March?

Indigenous HIP HOP:

Based at Bamaga Campus but throughout all communities will be the Indigenous Hip Hop Project, 1 – 5 March 2010.

This week long, 4 to 5 hours/day workshop is organized, planned and coordinated by NPA Resource Centre. Evenings: Salsa for adults and elders. Friday night: Big community dance where kids perform what they have learned throughout the week. The event promotes health messages and NPA health services. The project is funded by Tropical Population Health Services Qld Health.

The event was planned as far back as Nov 09, when Mr Dion Brownfield, who is co-director and founding member of Indigenous Hip Hop Project, met up with Mrs Bev Jacobs (Senior Educator, NPA Resource Centre). It promises to be a week of inspiration for NPA youths.

NPA PCYC Calendar: Mar 22: Touch football, Injinoo; Mar 23: Volleyball, Umagico; Mar 24: Novelty Games, Bamaga; Mar 25: Softball, New Mapoon; Mar 26: Basketball, Seisia.

Chief Bamaga Ginau

Bamaga remembers the death of Saibai Chief, the late Bamaga Ginau, who died on 4th March 1949 at the Thursday Island Hospital, following a short illness. The people from Saibai sailed mid 1947 on the 'Millard' and 'Mascoy' luggers to Muttee Heads. Chief Bamaga selected the location of the land, which in May 1949 was named 'Bamaga.' Bamaga is today the largest town at Cape York. The Saibai Chief is buried at Cowal Creek, Injinoo.

Clean Up Australia Day:

March 7th is Clean Up Australia Day in the NPA, as well as in the rest of the country.

Birthday in New Mapoon:

New Mapoon and Mrs Ellen Daniel will celebrate her 83rd birthday on 24th March. Congratulations, Mrs Daniel.

Art Work and hard work

An excavator is a machine that moves the earth. Remote Area Civil Earthmoving's excavator moves a little more than just the earth. It is a work of Art, as well as a fully functional excavator.

Mr Craig Bethune, who owns and operates Remote Area Civil Earthmoving out of Seisia, explains, "This is the only digger with full mural themes of the Torres Strait and NPA area. I got the idea from another digger that Pro Hart did. The Pro Hart digger is multi coloured, with barnyards."

"Three guys in Cairns, they're called 'Octane Art', they used to be 'Newton Signs and Octane Art', it took them 17 days to paint it. It's all hand painted, airbrush and pencil. There are no stickers on it. They worked like 10-hour-days on it. There are other machines that might have a grasshopper on them, a dragon, or whatever, but this is the only one in Australia that is fully, 100% airbrushed art. It is a working machine. I couldn't have done it without sponsorship from Seaswift," says Mr Bethune.

The 25 tonne excavator was painted in September, 2004. Considering that this is a working machine, most of the time exposed to tropical weather and extended Rain seasons, located close to the ocean, much credit goes to the artists, not only for artistic excellence. The condition of the Art work speaks for itself. (image right from Mr Blondie Mills)



Artists from Octane Art, Cairns (above). The excavator leaving Cairns (below, in Dec 2004) via Seaswift to its final location at Seisia. These 3 images are courtesy of Octane Art.



the base for the business, but we work out on the outer islands as well." Wherever it goes, this excavator works hard, even when the engine is switched off, advertising 24/7.

Rear of the excavator depicts its journey from Cairns to Seisia via Seaswift and detailed marine life and underwater scenery.

Remote Area Civil Earthmoving: tel/fax 4034 2403
Octane Art: <http://www.octaneart.com.au>

"At that time, I was a one person operator, just starting the company as owner operator. There is a sunken pearling lugger on it. The Torres News did an article when it was brand new. Seisia is



Future set on Law

Voice of the young: **Ms Tanay Ropeyarn, Injinoo**



Miss Tanay Ropeyarn has just finished Year 12, following a two year HEP (High Expectations Program) Scholarship, where she was going to boarding school whilst studying in Townsville. She also went to the Law faculty of the Indigenous Winter School in Sydney. Her future is now set on Law.

Ms Tanay is the youngest in the family and hopes to become a lawyer, perhaps even a magistrate or judge. "It could take 4 years to become a lawyer, at Cairns, James Cook University (JCU)," says Ms Tanay Ropeyarn, "but I have no ambition to go into politics, maybe family law, not sure yet."

"I want to help the Indigenous people, help my people, encourage them, help them to succeed, to set bigger goals, outside of the community, to have more people in good jobs. My sister and brother have been in Sydney, studying. Yanti (Tanay's sister) studied Business Commerce and Law, while my brother, Teho, has finished his Arts degree. He'll come back for a year to work on Arts projects. My other brother is finishing his apprenticeship as Diesel Fitter Mechanic, at Rio Tinto, in Weipa."

Mr Teho Ropeyarn will finish the mural at Injinoo Campus, which was started during the Yumpla Festival. Ms Tanay Ropeyarn is now 17 ½ years old. Her background is Angkamuthi/Torres Strait Islander.

What advice would she give to the young ones? "Set your mind to it, follow it, and don't get distracted. It doesn't go by how smart you are, it goes by determination. It's not easy, it is hard work," says Ms Tanay.

"We didn't push our children to go in that direction," says Mrs Jenny Ropeyarn (mother of Tanay). "They are all very lively ones and wanted to do something. They told us they wanted to do something and we helped. I was very lucky. I got to stay home with them, full time, for 8 to 10 years of their lives, giving them some stability."

"I have goals, I like to be a lawyer," says Miss Tanay, "to get the education you have to go to school. It is a good thing to have Year 12 graduation and certificate, to get you further." Injinoo primary school is currently expanding to virtually twice the size.

"Boarding in Cairns, first week of February, not sure yet, currently looking for places, is on our 'To Do list.' At the moment my thoughts are on Family Law, but it might change when I get to UNI, to see which opportunities I get, and from there I can specialise. I don't know anything about politics or corporate law," says Ms Tanay with a grin. "Going down to school opened up wide opportunities for me. I was lucky to go to England for three weeks, on a Netball and Rugby tour. I've been to Wales, Scotland and Ireland. In Nov 09, I had attended the Indigenous Education Conference in Tasmania. There were different speakers, all about Indigenous education. I might decide to go over to Oxford to study for a year, in London, because they have scholarships for Indigenous students to study at Oxford."

"There are many differences between Indigenous and white societies. In order to change things, go to school to get educated and then you'll know what issues there are with Indigenous Australians, and then you go from there to target them, whether it's UNI or TAFE, you target them."

"In Townsville I was in a boarding house. In Cairns I may have my own flat. We're currently applying to WCCCA (Western Cape Community Coexistence Agreement) for a scholarship and from JCU, to help with costs in Cairns. My interests are travel, to see Europe, to own a car and a house. I would also like to do part time modelling in Cairns."

"The most important thing," says Mrs Jenny Ropeyarn, "is trying to get kids to finish school, to finish senior school, Year 11 and 12. I'll be running a program in school called 'Engagement to Employment.' In 2010, I will be getting the kids that have disengaged (no longer attending high school, but should be), to get them involved in education, trying to get them involved in programs, to get them reengaged in schooling. Either going somewhere, or full time employment, or skilling them up. I'll have an interesting job in 2010." (cont next page)

Future set on Law (continued)

"In 2009 we had a pilot program and I managed to get five of the disengaged young back into school again, to finish their whole Year 12 and pass. Some of them got jobs now. It's going to take a lot of work. They are going to invest more money in that program. It will have two teachers, a teacher aide, a vehicle, and hopefully they are doing up another building. It will be a challenge. See how we go. I did my degree (teaching) over 5 years, part time, long distance, and then they employed me here," says Mrs Jenny Ropeyarn. "I didn't know I wanted to be a teacher. I fell into that, but it worked out well."

"When my other two children went to Sydney, I couldn't sleep for 3 months, I was worried. Cairns is not too far away, I'll be able to see her and get there a lot and support her. I am attending workshops in Cairns and will get to see her a few times a year, and in the holidays."



"My mum is my role model," says Miss Tanay Ropeyarn, "and my dad and sister, and Michelle Obama."

Mrs Jenny Ropeyarn: "I always told them not to be in a hurry for relationships. As to sexually transmitted diseases, what is the issue? The condoms are free, they just need to pick them up, and that's not a hard thing to do, they don't need a vehicle. It's this mentality of not caring, being slack. People who leave the NPA take the diseases with them and on returning bring back others."

"Tanay is just starting a relationship," says mother Jenny. "She found a nice person who is a lot like her. He doesn't drink or smoke, he is a local boy. I taught him at school too, he is a good boy. I was very

happy when I found out it was him, because I was really worried. But I know Tanay very well and knew that she would pick someone that was suitable for her. It gives you a lot of peace when you can trust them."

"She (Tanay) is the baby of the family," says mother Jenny, "and when it comes to the last one, it's even harder, especially for dad it is. That boy had to come down and see him and George (the father of Tanay) had a talk to him. That was very brave of him. You know, George can be a bit of a scary fellow."

Workplace Health and Safety in the workplace

Mr Billy Daniel (image right), Workplace Health and Safety Electorate, is currently checking workplace administration areas to ensure the 3 dot point systems are in place everywhere he goes.

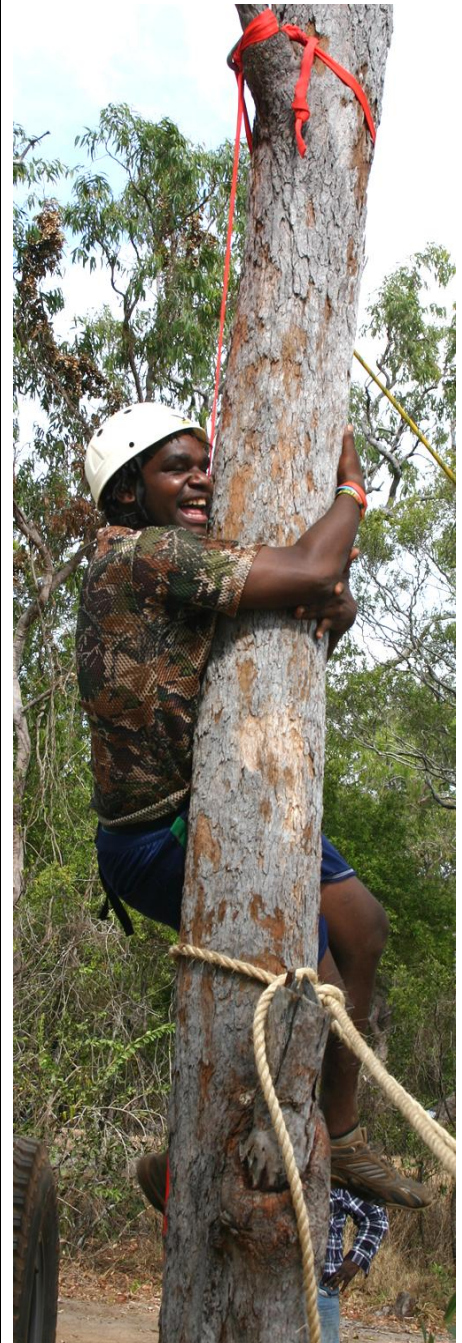
"I check that evacuation procedures and plans are in place, ensure information is visible to all staff and visitors," says Mr Daniel. "In case of fire, can fire extinguishers be located? Is signage in place, how many staff is working in the administration areas that have fire extinguisher training? Those who haven't, we can put their names down, and we'll have a cluster group training."

Mr Daniel explains his new role, "The main Queensland Workplace Health and Safety inspector is located at Thursday Island. The islands and the mainland (NPA) have WH&S electorates. I cover any workplace in the NPA, inspecting Council organizations and check with the directors of Enterprises that they comply with the WH&S regulations in their area. That is my role. I'm training a person in this WH&S role for 6 to 8 months, or however long it takes. When this is done I'll go back to Environmental Health. For the moment I collect names to find out how many people would need fire extinguisher and first aid training. I'll ask the divisional officers to see that we could get once a year evacuation drill practices, with siren, involving police, ambulance, similar to the airport drill recently, but on a smaller scale."

Happy Birthday



(cont.)



No, it's not a 'hug a tree' competition, but one of the many events supported by Mensheds in its first year, abseiling.



NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Mr Stuart Duncan

A new era dawning for education

The first school in the Cape York Peninsula opened around 1915, at Cowal Creek, known then as the Anglican Church Mission School. The once single room school building has grown, now 95 years on, into a modern spacious campus. Following the ILUA* authorization (covered in NPARC News, issue 6), time for action arrived. Funded by the Department of Education, new buildings shipped up on barges, then travelled overland from Seisia to Injinoo. During the Christmas holiday break construction on all sides of the school grounds was in full swing. 27th Jan 2010, the sun breaks through cyclone Olga's skies, to shine on this moment, the first day of school, the first steps into new classrooms.

*) ILUA: Indigenous Land Use Agreement

Ms Trish Blackman, who is Head of Injinoo Campus, "We've been working to this end for a couple of years now, and it's very exciting to have all the new buildings. The kids are excited and the teachers are excited to have a library, staff rooms, two new class rooms and a pre-prep. We're all looking forward to a great year."



"... it feels like a relief"



Reverend Mary Eseli, "It is very exciting to see the buildings are in place. We started with only one building. My dream was to have other class rooms in place. Now they are in place. To see we've come a long way, from one building to two buildings, then three buildings, then all over sudden this... It's a very good feeling. The day when it actually will be blessed is on 15th of February. There is a lot more space now, no need to squash into small classrooms. When we look back, it was a struggle, but now we've reached what we wanted to achieve, it's there... it feels like a relief."

Four new teachers

"It's now a matter of setting it all up. We have two new female teachers, Miss Jess for grades 1, 2 and 3s, and Miss Melanie teaching grades 5, 6 and 7s," says Rev Mary. "We also have two new male teachers, Mr Mack (Prep) and Mr Virgil (grades 5, 6 and 7s). It is good to have male teachers. Before we had only female teachers, there is a better balance now."

"My role changes a little bit. We have three days for pre prep, and on Thursdays and Fridays I'll be doing classroom resources, making books, so kids can have access to their own books in the library. I'll continue doing the charts with the many different languages. We are going to have 'RI' in the school, Religious Instructions, this year."



small steps can become big strides



Kangaroo, skippy roo,
dozing in the midday sun,
come a hunter run, run, run,
guess who caught you just for fun?

"We also have cultural teaching, the making of artifacts; Mr Eseli will be working with the students on them, carvings and cultural works. Another area is set aside to display historical photos and the work from the students. This year will be a lot of changes happening in the school. Teaching cultural dancing will also be part of this, it is so exciting."

... they really want to know

"When you look at the kid's expression in their faces during a lesson, they really want to know. I'll be doing more on families, who is related to whom. All the kids in this campus are very closely related to each other. They will know if they have an argument, or are fighting with each other, they are all family. That is what I'm looking into."



"In the campus, we also want to put into place that we go by the by-laws and use that in the school. These

are the community by-laws, what one can and cannot do, the community put that in. On the parent night

meeting, which is very soon, we'll inform the parents and make them aware of what is going to be happening. When kids are not in school, we'll have a projects officer, Mr Robby Salee, who will be visiting homes in Injinoo, and Ms Polly Mooka will be doing Umagico.

(More on Injinoo Campus in next issue)