

In this Issue: Audit, G. Murray, Leadership training, Injinoo P7, Pre Prep, Tip sign, Underage drinking, Art Comp

A crystallised vision emerges:

"The NPA Regional Council's inaugural Financial Audit goes unqualified"



From left: Mr Danny Sebasio (Deputy CEO), Cr Peter Lui (Umagico), Mayor Elu, Cr Reg Williams (Deputy Mayor, Bamaga), Cr Gina Nona (Injinoo), Mr Stuart Duncan (NPARC CEO), Cr Jeffery Aniba (Seisia), Cr Michael Bond (New Mapoon), backdrop: Barn Island off Seisia.

"We are striving towards the vision of 'Prosperity for our community and our people,'" says NPARC Mayor, Mr Joseph Elu. Mayor Elu's comments follow a Council amalgamation process that forged the five local community councils into one NPA Regional Council. "At times that process was difficult," said Mr Elu, "but we have turned the corner and look forward with confidence."

"Listening to the needs of the communities, and working hard with council staff and councillors, we've identified a range of opportunities for future economic growth that will be of benefit to the communities and the region," says Mayor Elu. "We've created the Employment and Economic Development department within council, and council is currently providing Leadership Training for all council directors, managers and supervisors. Already in place and 'operational' are regular monthly Safety Training sessions in the workplace, a Uniform Employment Certified Agreement, and Code of Conduct for our staff. We have improved and are continuing to better the conditions necessary for future economic growth, such as needed infrastructure and improved education. Injinoo Campus opens the year with two additional class rooms, a library, staff rooms, pre prep, and an administration block, as well as four additional teachers. The NPA FM91.9 is now on Air, the first NPA radio station in high quality stereo, bringing communities closer together."

NPARC CEO, Mr Stuart Duncan, "We've overcome many hurdles related to the amalgamation, in the process of becoming a leading council. We have been dealing with compliance with legislative requirements, satisfying the reporting needs of various grant providers, submitting reporting and planning documents as required by State and Commonwealth Governments, and many other issues. Council has spent a large part of the first two years getting into a position to enable it to assess, monitor and report on its current and likely future activities."

Mr Duncan, "Prudent financial planning allows us to provide the highest levels of service we are capable of. The NPA Regional Council has now had its 'inaugural' 2008 to 2009 Financial Statements signed off 'unqualified' by the Queensland Audit Office. We have just published our Annual Report for 2008-09, released a Service Delivery Strategy, and released the Council's Corporate Plan for the next 4 years. In the 2010 year we will really get down to business. With many of the amalgamation issues out of the way we can renew the communities' vision for the NPA to ensure the aspirations of the people of the NPA are achieved."

Seaman Dan in NPA

Mr Seaman Dan visits all communities in the NPA, encouraging indigenous talents to have their music and video professionally recorded.



More on page 8.

Firearms Training

Queensland Police conducts Weapons Safety Course in Bamaga.



The Firearm Training course is compulsory when applying for a Firearms Licence.

Oooops, ouch,
at the outskirts of Bamaga



Respect NPA Art Competition launch



More on page 15

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Coach legend coaching NPA coaches

Mr Graham Murray, former head coach for the Townsville Cowboys (QRL), who inspired many young lives throughout his career, is on tour to the very Far North, visiting the NPA and Thursday Island.

"Now I work for Queensland Rugby League and coach the coaches," says Mr Murray. "Last night we did a coaching course in Bamaga for 13 different people from various clubs in the NPA. We met with the councils today, and other people, saying 'Hello' to the workers. Tomorrow night we'll have a training session out in the field, where we put them through a few things we talked about last night."

Mr Murray is in the NPA with Mr Dominique Carter, Queensland Rugby League Representative and QRL development officer for the NPA and Torres Strait, meeting with Mr Eddie Newman, NPA Rugby League president, of Bamaga, and many other coaches from the communities.

"We put the team through a few exercises. The coaches I talked to last night will watch what I'll do tonight. We're trying to update the coaches, maybe teach a bit more, or reinforce what they've been doing," says Mr Murray. "I hope to come back during the year to watch a whole round of football."

Mr Murray coached Fiji in the 1995 World Cup in England, coached NSW in the State of Origin for 2 years, and coached the Cowboys (Townsville) for 7 years.

"The Cowboys are the closest NRL team to the NPA. We do have a lot of people here who support the Cowboys, or one day would like to play for the Cowboys," says Mr Murray. "Rugby League is a great game. Number 1, team sport is a good game, Number 2, Rugby League is what I grew up with. It's good for learning skills, team spirit, listening to the coach, staying fit, being healthy, having a good lifestyle and to have a bit of fun and make good friends."

"North Queenslanders are very big in their sport, particularly small communities, and Rugby League is the main one. They do encourage everyone to play their Rugby League. Dominic is a QRL representative; he is a development officer, living in Bamaga. Eddie is a president of the League, and a local Policeman. We're all trying to get awareness of Rugby League. It's starting to come along. We're probably six weeks away from starting footy, it's getting close." Mr Dominic Carter is involved with junior football and senior league. He has refereed a few games and is active on Thursday Island, Badu and the NPA.



The Legend:

A teacher by profession, Mr Graham Murray began his illustrious Rugby League career as an aspiring young teenager, playing 3rd grade for Parramatta in the 1970s. He became captain of the Eels' reserve grade in 1977, leading the team to a premiership. In the same year Mr Murray also spent some time as coach in first grade. In 1978, Mr Murray became first grade halfback. From 1981 to 83 he played first grade for Souths. As reserve grade coach for Penrith, the team wins the premiership in 1987. He helped develop many of the players who became the first grade premiership team in 1991, and was also active in Balmain.

Mr Murray became coach of Illawarra, 1991, bringing the team to its first finals in 92. He became coach of Super League's Newcastle based Hunter Mariners team, which made the finals in their first season for the World Cup Challenge. Mr Murray joined Leeds Rhinos (English Super League), leading the team to a Challenge Cup victory and a Super League grand final placing.

Returning to Australia, Mr Murray coached the North Sydney Bears, National Rugby League, in 2000, and coached the Sydney Roosters to their first Grand Final since 1975. Mr Graham Murray coached the Fijian team in the 2000 Rugby League World Cup.

For 7 years Mr Murray was head coach for the North Queensland Cowboys, starting in April of 2002. The team made their first finals in 2004, just short of the grand final. The Cowboys made it to the Grand Final the following year. Mr Murray became coach for the Illawarra Steelers, known as the 'Team of Steel' in 2006, the team's 25th Anniversary. In the same year, Mr Murray coached the New South Wales State of Origin team, and was re-appointed to coach NSW the following year.



Mr Dominic Carter, QRL Development Officer for the NPA and Torres Strait.



Mr Eddie Newman, Bamaga, is the NPA Rugby League president.



Mr Kenny Newman, Bamaga, is going to the coaching clinic to become a coach.

Accident in Toowoomba affects NPA

A traffic accident in far away Toowoomba affected NPA internet services, when a car slammed into a power pole, interrupting the connection to the NPA Regional Council service provider. The connection was restored some hours later.

Dengue Mosquito – Pest Control

Properties in the NPA had inspections by Queensland Health's Dengue Action Response Team, helping to stop the mosquito breeding cycle.

Injinoo Pre Prep open

Pre Prep is for children aged 3½ to 4½ years old. It is an early learning program specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities. If your child was born between 1st July 05 and 30th June 06, come and join us at Pre Prep 2010, and enroll as soon as possible.

Injinoo Pre Prep days: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, drop off 8:45am, pick up: 3.00pm

What to bring: Please bring a bag to hold belongings, some sandwiches, fruit, fresh vegetables, dried fruit, cheese, muesli bar, fruit juice or cordial. NO soft drinks, lollies or chips. A hat for outside and a water bottle or drinking cup, to be kept at school. Also a change of clothing, including underwear, a hand towel with a loop, a pillow and bed sheets. Please write your child's name on all the items.

Why not come in for a yarn if you have any questions, or call Ms Trish Blackman (Injinoo), on 4069 3131.

NPA Regional Council leadership training



A number of Council employees took part in a Leadership Program, conducted by Tropical North Queensland TAFE, Bamaga. The training topics covered: Team building, capacity building, risk management strategies, relationship

management, and dealing with difficult situations in a management/supervisory setting. The number of participants is limited to 15 people per session. Over a period of 3 months, several groups of 15 employees will take part in this two day duration Leadership Program.

Accredited trainer, Mr Phil Harrison, will provide face to face instructions in simulated work situations and activity based training in outdoor locations, as well as class room sessions.



TAFE facilitator, Mr Phil Harrison



The final assessment will centre around the individual's current work experiences, specifically related to their role in the workplace. A range of practical activities form part of the test. Recognition of prior learning is taken into account.

"...disappointing start for the year"

Since January 2010, ten cases of drink driving offences are recorded in the NPA. A total of twelve people were found to be driving whilst unlicensed (some may be the ones reported as driving under the influence).

"It's all a disappointing start for the year," says Sergeant David Rutherford, Police Officer in Charge, Bamaga Station. "Drink driving is one of the major causes of fatal traffic accidents. Just because we haven't had a serious accident here, doesn't mean another one is not going to happen. If people keep drink driving, it's likely to happen. There are choices, challenges and consequences," says Sergeant Rutherford.

Vet in NPA

Dr Lauren Porter and Dr Peter Trembath (the visiting Vets from Katherine Veterinary Care Centre, N.T.) de-sexed a total of 25 dogs, disposed of 15 dogs and 45 of the yet unborn, during their early February stay. Their next visit is planned for April this year.

Year of the Tiger

14th February 2010, Valentine's Day, as well as the start of the Year of the Tiger. Chinese New Year festivities stretch over 15 days (also celebrated in Vietnam and Korea), and red is the colour of celebration. According to the Chinese Calendar, the year is now 4707, or Geng Yin (庚寅). Unfortunately, over the last 100 years the number of tigers in the wild has reduced by 95%. Several tiger species are now extinct, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), who has a Tiger Adoption program, aimed to raise money to restore tiger habitat and strengthen anti poaching efforts. The next 'Year of the Tiger' will be in 2022.

NPARC releases Corporate Plan and Annual Report

NPA Regional Council has now released its **Corporate Plan 2009 – 2013**. The 19 page document sets the direction for the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council. The Corporate Plan is a high level strategic document containing key priorities and strategies. The plan is supported by the Annual Operational Plan, which provides the details of what will be achieved each year and the annual budget. The **Corporate Plan** and the **Service Delivery Strategy** (released earlier) are available from any Council office. Cost: \$10 per set (both are in full colour).

The **Annual Report**, Financial year 2008 – 2009 is also released and available from any Council office. This 44 page document contains Council's financial balance sheets, financial assets and liabilities. It details NPARC's expenses and revenue flow, as well as what Council owns and owes. The cost of this document is \$10 (below cost price).

All documents are based on NPA Regional Council's vision: "Prosperity for our community and our people." All documents will be available as free download once the Council's website is live.

A fun way to dance and exercise in Seisia

What is a fun way to dance and exercise? Why not find out? Seisia Fishing Club is the place, every Wednesday night, 7pm to 9pm. Anyone is welcome, members and non members. Admission is free! Wear comfortable shoes and clothing, bring a hand-towel and water bottle and dance at your own pace. Sit down when you're tired and leave whenever you want to, the fun way of exercising.

Correction:

In Issue 10, page 9, this image was credited as coming from Mr Blondie Mills. This was incorrect. The image was courtesy of Mr Kori Mason. Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused.



Injinoo Campus in major expansion (continued from last issue)



These new classrooms are at the rear of the old school. Some images taken during construction.



Each of the new buildings has concrete pathways leading to the wheelchair access ramps, and secure railings around the decks.



The classrooms are spacious, bright and fresh, air-conditioned and with ceiling fans, with cooking, washing and toilet facilities.



At the front of the old school are the library and administration buildings.

Rear fence during construction (above), and completed before the school re-opened. Cyclone Olga's high tides are getting pretty close.



Young picinnies on their first day at school taking a guided tour through the new buildings (left).

Young students help to set-up their new classrooms (images right).



All images on this page: First day at school, 27th Jan 2010

Blessing and official opening of Injinoo P7-Campus: 15th February 2010



Long gone are the days of writing in the sand. Today, the whiteboard will move Injinoo forward, with students able to access modern, bright, and air-conditioned buildings, with twice as much space as in 2009. Writing in the sand was how education started at Cowal Creek. The four new buildings are named to remember and respect the work many notable teachers, who did much to advance, and had an impact, added valuable contributions in the field of education at Cowal Creek. Rev Mary Eseli started the opening ceremony with prayers, while Elder and Traditional Owner, Mrs Cecelia Ropeyarn, conducted the 'welcome to country.'



Mr Jim Turnour, MP for Leichhardt, thanked the Gudang, Angkamuthi, and Atambaya people for providing the land for those buildings, and the traditional owners, for the contribution they made. "The Australian Government is funding the Admin Centre and the Library Centre," explains Mr Turnour, and paid respects to the people whose names will identify the buildings. "I think it is important that we all recognize the important role, and their dedication, and pay tribute to them, as we utilize those buildings."

The Administration building will bear the name of community teacher, the late Ms Elaine Sagigi. The Library bears the late Ms Onice Tugai's name, who was once a kindergarten teacher in the area. The State Government funded buildings (at the rear of the school) are named after assistant teacher and kindergarten teacher, the late Ms Wain Whap (for the teaching block), while the other building is now the Rev Canon Francis Bowie Early Learning Centre.

Mr Jason O'Brien, Member for Cook, spoke of Jonathan Thurston, NRL player, citing a newspaper. "Learn, earn, legend, that's what is written on Jonathan Thurston's jersey. Learn, earn, legend... what does it mean? It means you got to come to school. You got to be here every day to learn. Because if you want to earn, you want to be a legend, if you want respect, then you start right here, right now. Every day you got to be here," said Mr O'Brien, addressing the young students. "If you want to be a big strong man like Jonathan Thurston, have the respect of the entire Australian community, it starts here, every day. Learning in new facilities, listening to your teachers, working together. That's how you earn money, that's how you grow strong, that's how you become a legend in your community. That's the challenge today. Today we open the new buildings, but every day you got to walk in the footsteps of people like this fellow, make sure that your life is a good life, and a strong one. I wish you well today."

('Learn, earn, legend' is an Australian Government funded campaign with the NRL Indigenous All Stars (\$825,000 over 3 years), with the aim of encouraging Indigenous children to stay in school and aspire to good jobs.)



Mr Reg Williams, Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Bamaga: "It is a great pleasure to be here at Injinoo, at the opening ceremony of the new building assets. It is an occasion of great significance. In many ways this is significant, because of the cooperation of many organizations and individuals, who have made the movement to the Injinoo Campus a reality. Buildings don't make the community, buildings don't provide the learning environment, and buildings certainly don't ensure a high quality education for our youths. That of course is provided by leadership from the community to the household, by the principal, Mr Ken MacLean, and his team of educators and supporting staff. The NPA Regional Council will continue to work closely with Ken and his team, to improve the learning outcomes of our children," says Mr Reg Williams.

Mr Ken MacLean, NPA State College Principal, spoke of the true partnership, which from Nov 2009 to Jan 2010 changed Injinoo, adding four new buildings and the infrastructure that goes with it. Mr MacLean praised the good cooperation between the various levels of government to overcome the many issues that cropped up during the construction phase. "It was that co-operation between the levels of government that allowed us to be able to resolve many of those. Thank you very sincerely for this support." Mr MacLean thanked the

traditional owners, who made the land available to Education Queensland, thus opening the way for construction. "Education Queensland has never done an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) before. That says an awful lot for the traditional owners of this land, and I would sincerely like to thank the generosity in passing of that land, as without that, these facilities would not have been built."



Mr Richard Tamwoy, for the Apudthama Land Trust: "Today is a historic moment for all of us, young and old. From this day forward it will always be remembered. On behalf of Apudthama Land Trust, I would like to reflect on the importance of education. Education starts the day you're born into this world," says Mr Tamwoy, "We're reared by our fathers and mothers, grandparent, uncles, aunties. We learn all the time, skills of life, for our future prosperity! It is important that all of us grasp that. Education is the key to our future... it is important that we remember this, and this day signifies that. Our dream for better life, more money, better jobs, today gives me great pleasure and honour to be here, and be part of you, both old and young, and those yet to come, remember this day... because today is a momentous time for us all. On behalf of Apudthama Land Trust,

because we are the representative body for the land and representing various tribal groups, consistent of the Apudthama Land Trust, it gives me great please to be here today and talk a little bit about it, and to allocate this land here to our future generations, our education. Once again, thank you very much, it gives me great pleasure. Esso," says Mr Tamwoy. Reverend Mary Eseli explained about the contributions of the late Ms Sagigi, Ms Tugai and Ms Whap, and the late Rev Canon Francis Bowie. Traditional dancing by the Injinoo Dance Group and Injinoo Storm Dance Group was followed by the unveiling of plaques and the blessing of each building.



Underage drinking, drugs, and petrol sniffing

A number of people raised the issue of underage drinking in the communities. Of particular concern is the illegal supply of alcohol and drugs to young children, who are unsupervised and in a very vulnerable position. There are reports of marijuana and cannabis use, the use of amphetamines (speed and ice), and petrol sniffing in the communities. The intake of any one of these substances can have a devastating effect. Our children's lives and their future... are in serious danger.

Ambulance Services: "Fortunately, we are not going out too often," says Mrs Alison Petelski (Officer in Charge, NPA Ambulance Station, Bamaga, Qld Ambulance Service), "but when we do, there can be a bunch of teenaged children, and we get called to an incidence where maybe someone is unconscious, or someone is so ill, that they're nearly unconscious, or vomiting. They are underage, the youngest down to 14." *No premises anywhere is allowed to sell liquor to minors. They are well aware of the fines involved if caught selling alcohol to underage children.* People in the communities suggest that older people supply these drinks to the minors. Histories of other towns in Queensland suggest that the drinking behaviour could become a problem in the NPA, reducing the children's potential, ending up not going to school, suffering the other consequences of sexual abuse, followed by mental health issues. "Drinking occurs in all communities, in all cultures," explains Mrs Petelski, "Schoolies week is a big example."

Assault can be a consequence associated with drinking, fights breaking out at parties, people being knocked unconscious, property damage from uncontrolled youngsters inflicted on their neighbour's fences, etc. "They become difficult to manage when they are drunk," says another NPA Paramedic, "We've got our best intentions for their health to manage them appropriately." "It does become difficult," adds Mrs Petelski, "if there is a vehicle accident, or any other history that relates to a potential head injury, because drunkenness masks any signs of head injury... that can be the same. If an underage child is drinking, it becomes also a matter of child protection. Someone is supplying the drinks." "Often people call and they don't know where they live," says the other paramedic, "they know the street, but don't know which number they are in." *NPA Regional Council will address this issue this year, so that each house has a number clearly identifying the property, to assist emergency crews in finding it quickly.*

Community Police: Community Police, Mr John Mark, "When we are patrolling in the various communities, there is a lot of underage drinking, drugs and alcohol. We talk to young kids about drugs and alcohol. The youngest are roundabout 13 to 14. Maybe grown-up people buy for them. We are starting up a men's group and are looking for young people, teaching them about culture."

Family and Community Services: Mr Andrew Chappell, Child Youth Therapist at NPA Family and Community Services, "The youths talk about underage drinking and alcohol abuse in NPA. It is an unacceptable amount (of kids) and any amount of underage drinking is unacceptable." Mr Chappell is also youth coordinator at Bamaga Youth Centre. "We have just drafted a new smoking policy. Smoking cigarettes is a huge problem for youths and under 18's. There is apathy towards smoking, which is underage and illegal."

Program Manager for Clients Support Services, Mrs Lesley McCartney, "Having something like the Youth Centre, a sport activity, anything that can be opened at night, to keep the kids off the streets is really good. Many young people are bored. Having the Youth Centre gives teenagers a place to go where there are activities to get involved in, under adult supervision. Also, young people as well as adults need to have sense of purpose and identity, of knowing who they are. Teenage years can be difficult." Mr Chappell, "I definitely say parental supervision and setting boundaries for children can be difficult, but needs to happen."

Mrs McCartney, "There are many reasons why people abuse alcohol as well as other substances. Often it is to hide, distract or escape from unwanted feelings and memories. Sometimes it is boredom, peer pressure. There are many reasons and also many ways to help. Children, young people, families and community all have to say this is not OK. It is not OK - whether that be the alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, or sexual abuse - any forms of abuse. It is not OK."

"There are a lot of people around here who drink sensibly," says Mr Chappell, "that needs to be noted as well. As to underage drinking, the first step is to seek help. Talk to someone you trust. People like teachers, youth workers, counsellors and therapists, all of those people are trained to know what to do when someone approaches. They will then guide in the right direction."

"A lot of the drinking happens really late at night," says Mr Chappell, "In the early hours of the morning. If the kids are in the streets at that hour, why are they in the streets? At 1 to 2am, it's in those hours when it really happens."

Mrs Eugenie Ball: "As to drugs and alcohol, I think it's just wasting a lot of time, a lot of money, and it is creating a lot of family disputes. Arguing, that's where all of the problems come, with the drugs, the alcohol, with the parties. That's where you find a lot of problems. If you want to get rid of the problems in the NPA, you get rid of those things, or introduce something else that they can look forward to. That's another thing in the NPA, there is nothing for the kids to actually do, on a regular basis. Down south you got football clubs, volleyball clubs and incentive programs in schools. I believe in incentive programs. We had the Education March on Wednesday (early Feb) here in Seisia. That was organised by Shirley, Narelle and Jeffery, with the Seisia youths. Down here in Seisia, we are trying to discourage our youths from drinking and target all of those things. There was a reduction in partying last year. We had a camp. They went out hunting and my dad came down and talked to them on the spiritual side (Mrs Ball's father is Superintendent for Assembly of God in the Torres Strait, Pastor Titom Tamwoy). So we had spiritual, physical and cultural, and they targeted those things. If the community stops worrying about 'who is the boss,' and try to target the problem, then things are going to get solved."

Ms Jane Aagaard, MLA Chair of the Select Committee on Substance Abuse in the Community (Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory), states as far back as Oct 2004: "Child abuse, social dysfunction, low levels of educational attainment, health issues, particularly mental health issues and the acceptance of high levels of alcohol and cannabis use all contribute to the culture of petrol sniffing."

Youth Centre: Mr Bernard Charlie, Youth Centre, Injinoo, "PCYC, Queensland Health, Women's Shelter and I did a workshop on drug and alcohol with the youths in the NPA. After the workshop, the boys that turned up, I just start them off with a small conversation and they open up. One boy stopped for three weeks, no more drinking. What we did there, 'Food for thought.' We can't force the horse to drink water, all you can do is to educate. We can show them the door out, but how they get there is up to them. We need to give them food for thought. Eventually they will be adults anyway. All we can do is educating as to how much they consume."

The Law: Police Officer in Charge, Bamaga Station, Sergeant David Rutherford explains the law in regards to liquor supply to a minor. The Queensland Liquor Act 1992 (division 2, part 156A, page 203):

156A Irresponsible supply of liquor to a minor at a private place etc.

- (1) An adult must not supply liquor to a minor at a private place, unless the adult is a responsible adult for the minor. Maximum penalty—80 penalty units.
- (2) A responsible adult for a minor must not supply liquor to the minor at a private place, is consistent with the responsible supervision of the minor. Maximum penalty—80 penalty units.
- (3) For subsection (2), in considering whether the supply is consistent with the responsible supervision of the minor, relevant factors include the following—
 - (a) whether the adult is unduly intoxicated;
 - (b) whether the minor is unduly intoxicated;
 - (c) the age of the minor;
 - (d) whether the minor is consuming the liquor supplied with food;
 - (e) whether the adult is responsibly supervising the minor's consumption of the liquor supplied;
 - (f) the quantity of liquor supplied and the period over which it was supplied.

Sections 155A and 156 relate to the sale of liquor. Section 5 makes it clear who a 'responsible' adult for a minor is, a parent, step-parent or guardian, or an adult who has parental rights and responsibilities for the minor. The Qld Liquor Act 1992 covers 358 pages.

Sergeant David Rutherford, "The best way to describe what petrol sniffing does to the body: Imagine you are peeling a potato. Each time you sniff petrol it is like running the potato peeler over the top of it. It is gradually destroying your brain. There is a \$750 on the spot fine for anyone supplying liquor to a minor in a public place. I have reports of kids as young as 10 (years old), although I have not seen it firsthand."

Mr Thomas Rueben, "Everybody is talking about discipline. It's not working out. Things have changed, technology changed, fashion changed, health decreased and kids have no place to go. Of course, may council supply resources to cater for the need of the youths, sports and recreation activities, also cultural activities, youths are not involved to their potential of engaging the traditional laws and respect elders, abide by parents rules. Their focus and values are elsewhere, where they should be at the home, with the family."

"Council should provide more resources that capture their attention, that they will take pride and value in it. But there is nothing, I mean there is no BMX track. Kids got bicycles everywhere, no helmets. They don't have knowledge of safety; they are not utilizing it, or comply by the rules. If we had a central place, safety rules at sports and rec activities with the kids, at the track. They love swimming. We have swimming pool, fine. We got community halls, Bamaga, Seisia and Injinoo. What is happening with these resources? Not many activities to improve self image for kids. What values do they have? What goals are they setting? It's all for nothing... because there is no mentor. Should there be a mentor? If yes, then all parents should be mentor to a sense where they develop the skills to their capacity, to lead in the community."

"What about a horse ride, a bush track? Kids have no aims and values. What is their contribution to the public, or the community? There should be some values where the kids look forward to, have something for the kids willing to get up in the morning and do their chores at home, and attend these activities, after school activities, language, stories. No one is coming forward and telling the whole story of Bamaga, of NPA, of Injinoo. No traditional law is laid out. That incentive is gone. How can you value the initiation process?"

"There should be a role model set in place, where teaching is continual, imprinted in their heart that they can move forward, put food for their home. One day they will come out of school, they will pay rent, they will have their own car, they will have their own boat ... there is no mentor. There should be something in place. Menshed is positive. What are their goals? What methods will they set to develop a youth to a young man? Are there components in the program where the leadership role is actually achieved by different levels, or different degree of skill development? And if that is so, what will they achieve after, when they come off season?"

"Our youths are dying, because of lack of resources and information. Information is a tool. All the trend now is money, money, money. There is not much of an opportunity to earn some money. They don't know budgeted plan. Budget is crucial in the youths. There is a lack of numeracy and literacy in the youths. Should internal, elders, role models, or an outside person mentor? Money is also a tool to achieve the goals. Youths doesn't know about value, about how important it is to have a budget plan for their future. If they had, they could set their goals, develop their self-esteem into achieving these goals, by using money as a resource. There are great achievers in the community. Health got a big role in the community for the youths. Health is doing a really good job. Getting back to community health, community garden, community lifestyle, community housing and so forth, there should be something there for developing the youths."

"The health department is developing these programs for youths, safe sex, healthy lifestyle, healthy eating, dietary and all that, but in general in the community, it does not target the youths. What happened to the dramas? They did a role play, with kids at Easter, Christmas, all that, July 1, doing the stuff like we used to do. They don't do it anymore. The chairman was part of the development and youth plan in the past, kids do the acting and drama, and every community comes on board. Youths and church youths run entertainment for the communities, with the support of council, and it worked and the health improved. Big great benefits... the youths leading... have some initiative or contribution in the development of the community. I'm sure leaders want to develop leaders, but they are not given the opportunity for the youths. There are born leaders out there. With or without them, they will come forward, and there is potential with the youths, our future leaders. Each group in the community, they'll see their kids in 20 years from now."

"Should our focus be with the youths now? Could it make a difference in another 20 years? Should we give them opportunities, a sense of direction, some values, so they can have self-pride, and know what they want and what they want to be? Without that, they will still be chasing their tail. We will still be in the same predicament in 10 years time, 20 years time, if we not focus on the youths. They need a break-through program to give themselves value, if not, we will watch our kids go to court, crime, lack of health, nutrients. There will not be much opportunity or confidence to find jobs, lack of budgeting. They will not have that. There should be a program where we develop future leaders."

More on this subject in next issue. How to get help, see next page.

Underage drinking, drugs, and petrol sniffing (continued) How to get help:**Emergency / Ambulance Help:**

Call '000' if you need emergency services. Do not rush the operator or hang up the phone, as the operators will dispatch an ambulance whilst they speak with you. They are already on their way whilst you are still on the phone. Ask the operator when to hang up, so that they have all the details and can best assist.

All Emergencies: **000**
 Bamaga Hospital: **4069 3166**
 Bamaga Police Station: **4069 3156**
 crime stoppers: **1800 333 000**

NPA Family and Community Services:

NPA Women's Shelter, Bamaga: 4069 3020
 NPA Family Resource Centre, Bamaga: 4069 3555
 NPA Healing Centre, Injinoo: 4069 3811
 Injinoo Child Care Centre: 4069 3510
 Injinoo Outside School Hours Care: 4069 3109
 Umagico Child Care Centre: 4083 0111
 Umagico Outside School Hours Care: 4083 0440

Cape York sign

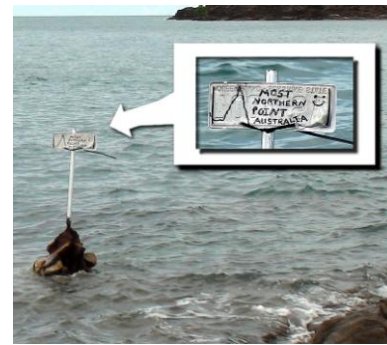
End of July, 2009, the original sign at Cape York.



Mid October, 2009, a sheet of cardboard asking: 'Where is the bloody sign?', while a number plate offered to be as informative as possible.

Mr Jason O'Brien, Member for Cook, presenting the new tip sign to NPARC Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Mr Reg Williams, at Bamaga. Skytrans donated free transportation to Bamaga, while the Cape Yorker magazine and Mr O'Brien shared the manufacturing costs of the new sign. NPA Regional Council will re-erect the replacement sign at the Cape York location.

Whoever is in possession of the original sign should realise that there is no place on earth where that sign could be of any use, but at Cape York.

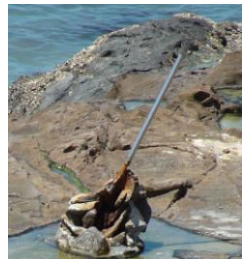


had long blown away (image left, while the number plate held firm. Early February (image right) saw the remains of the old post dislodged, not quite as northernmost as it once was.



Mr Reg Williams (above, left), and Mr O'Brien with the new sign handed over at Bamaga.

By January the cardboard sign

**Seaman Dan in the NPA: "I'll sing for my cup of tea"**

Thursday Island musician, singer and songwriter, Mr Seaman Dan, arrives in the NPA with band, and producer, Mr Karl Neuenfeldt, for a series of workshops and meetings, to pave the way for recording sessions planned for June, 2010, with local talents.

When offered a cuppa, in one of his many meetings, Mr Dan said, "I'll sing for my cup of tea," and sing he did, accompanied by Mr

Neuenfeldt (guitar) and Mr Will Kepa (ukulele). Many watched, some with a tear in their eye, as Uncle Seaman sang 'TI Blues,' his first song, composed in 1983. Mr Dan is twice an Aria winner (20004 and 2009), idolized by many, who remember Uncle Seaman since their childhood days.



Mr Dan (81) released the albums: Follow the Sun, Steady Steady, Perfect Pearl, Island Way, and Sailing Home. Mr Dan performed at countless festivals throughout Australia, as well as in Japan. The group is here to prepare the way for June recording sessions in the NPA, giving local singers, musicians, bands and choirs a chance to have their own sound recorded on CD. A film crew will also be here at that time.

This project is supported by Indigenous Knowledge Centres, NPARC, and receives funding from Qld Government via Arts Queensland's Backing Indigenous Arts program, and Culture Love, delivered by State Library Queensland. The group visited all communities.



News on oval, rents and housing

Umagico Oval: "Numerous Tenders are out to get the infrastructure in place for irrigation to the Umagico Oval," says Mr Jim Foody, Dir of Engineering Services. "Construction of the electrical set-up of the pumps should occur within the next 3 to 4 weeks. The tender is for design and supply of conduit work, fit electric pump at the dam site, and relating connecting work." *Umagico Oval will be supplied using the existing dam, located some distance in the bush off Umagico.*

Housing: "What we're seeing is not much action in the Government department yet. They are only just starting to become active. I think they must have all had a month or 6 weeks off over Christmas, by the look of it. We are just starting to see a few people to hop up now."

Property Rents: "Kelly Flood on the ATSIC housing, 25% of the household income is going to be the major event happening here in the next couple of weeks," says Mr Foody. "She has contacted me and wants to come here as soon as possible. I've said 'You come as soon as possible and explain it to me what's going on, because nobody here understands what you are trying to do,' (the new changes to the rent)."

"The policy they put forward is unenforceable in some areas. We've pointed that out to them, and they just laughed and said, 'Ah, well, we were not going to enforce those ones.' My question is: Why have a policy and write it down, if you're not going to enforce it? One of the things was, anyone that stays longer than 3 days in your house, their income becomes assessable. In our culture here, with feasts and funerals and various family events... What you're looking at is someone that potentially works down in Weipa, 4 days on, 4 days off. One day of his 4 days off would be assessable. How would you ever police that? It's a nightmare. When we pointed this out to them, they went, 'Ah, we were not going to enforce that anyway.' If you're not going to enforce that, what other parts of the policy are you not going to enforce? What does this policy really mean? It's a bit of a laugh, really. Well it would be, if it wasn't serious. Unfortunately, that rental increase is tied to all our capital works money. If we don't accept the change to the rental policy, we'll miss out on five, ten, twenty..., we'll miss out on the lot."

Overdue Rents: "We seek people with long overdue rents. We negotiate with them, trying to work it out, cut it down, ...

and a majority of them do actually work on it. Their rent got behind for a number of reasons, sometimes legitimate and sometimes not so legitimate. Our policy was to look at the genuine case, but if there was someone who was living on the 'high life' and not paying his rent, well those people don't have a house. Ms Flood is coming here to explain it to us all (the new policy), hopefully make some sense out of what we've got sitting in front of us."

Vacant Houses: "We also have the situation where some people have left the house, working away somewhere, still renting the house here, because they want to come back. We've got vacant houses, under rent, and people here are looking at them, asking, 'Why can't I move in there?' It is still under lease to someone else. The previous councils used to be fairly lenient on that. With ATSIC Housing it will be 3 months and the house will be taken off the (non-residing) tenant, even if your rents are right. Use it or lose it. This is one we were going to bring in ourselves. We weren't happy with some of the issues."



ATSIC Housing Policy: "All the work that myself and the housing managers did since the day of amalgamation has amounted to nothing. We put considerable efforts into developing policies, procedures, developing the NPARC Housing Policy, only to have it all wiped off the face of the earth, and ATSIC Housing come in and establish their policy in the very near future. The councillors had to agree to do this, or you don't get your \$66 mill (as covered in last issue). Government will deny it immediately, but at a meeting last August, in Injinoo, at the Council meeting I attended, we were told quite bluntly by a senior ATSIC housing official, that you either sign or agree to the 25% of household income rental policy, or all the money is gone... they will not build one single house in the community. One of the Councillors said, 'We need houses for our people,' and that opened the floodgates and eventually all agreed to it. It is a unified Queensland policy. There are no special policies for the Indigenous communities. We now operate on the same as Brisbane, as everywhere. It was a directive from the Minister that that was the way it was going to happen. We knew for some months that that was the policy that was going to land on us," says Mr Foody.

Oooooops



Despite what the sign says, you won't find Locherbie anywhere in the NPA, but just off Pakjinka Road you will find Lockerbie. The scrub and rainforest habitat is famous for its wide variety of butterflies, many of which are unique to the area.

Funding for the new signage came from the Cape York Peninsula Economic Development Group.



Road conditions from Bamaga towards the Tip, and Somerset, were excellent in February, so much so, that this Papuan Frogmouth, disguised as a broken off branch, enjoys sitting in the middle the road.



“There is no place on earth like the NPA”

Voice of the young: Mrs Eugenie Ball, Seisia

“I’ve been working at the Holiday Park for 3 years. I started when I was 18. I was given the job by chance. I was organizing things for my wedding, looking at the prices, and the lady offered me a job over the counter. I said, ‘I have a job at the moment, but what are you offering?’ She said, ‘A receptionist job.’ I used to work at the school as a teacher aide, at Injinoo, and I said, ‘OK, I’ll do this.’ I thought I take the chance; I come down (to Seisia). It was less pay. I stayed here, worked in reception for two years, and last year in May, Jane asked me to be an assistant manager, for the admin office. So I did that duty for one year. This year I wasn’t sure of what was happening. My boss was away for 6 weeks. She said, ‘Me and Peter are going.’ (Jane and Peter, were the previous managers of Seisia Holiday Park).”

“I was a bit scarred, but I got a lot of support from leaders in the community, which made all the difference to me, because I know I’ve got people supporting me rather than just me trying to do it. Then came all the factors, ‘Oh, you’re so young, you haven’t any experience,’ stuff like that. Fiona Jose from Skytrans, she had a really good chat with me. We were talking about work stuff and she said, ‘I was the same, like you, I was put up when I was young. I had all of those factors, I’m too young, I can’t do this,’ and she said, ‘just go ahead and do it. If they put you up, they must see something in you.’ I’m just trying to get it into my head. First I didn’t want people to find out, and my mum announced it at church. She told everyone...”

“I’m here to do the job, and I’ll do it to the best of my abilities,” says Mrs Ball, who is at 22 years manager of Seisia Holiday Park. “Rupeni and Brett are the supervisors for the grounds, they help me out on that side, but overall, I oversee everything.”

“There have been a few nightmares. The first thing, every time I go on Holiday, since I started, someone has resigned or quit, but the worst thing was last year, when the Endeavour Foundation came through, all our (computer) systems crashed and we didn’t have any records. We did have some, we had a couple of files, but we didn’t have everything ready by the time everyone came. Computer systems crashed and the phones, we didn’t have anything, and we had the people coming in. We managed to place everybody in where they were supposed to be, except for one couple, and they went off (verbally). That was a good learning experience. There was only me and Jane here that day. I started this role (as manager) a week ago (end of January).”

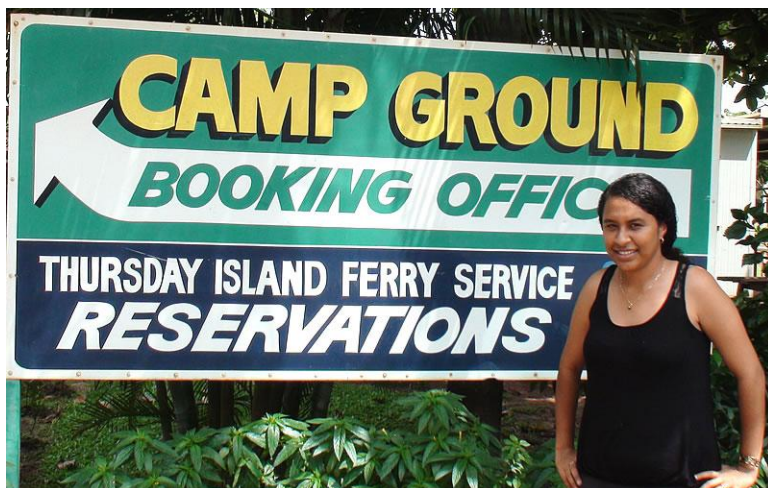
“When I was in school, my dream was to run a tourism place, whether that is a motel or information centre, or something like that. I think it’s going to be good, as a young person to be a leader to other young, and a role model to other young people. By doing this and showing that I can do it, I don’t want to talk myself up, I want to humble myself and work as hard as I can, and improve my skills along the way. I like helping people, I like helping my own people, especially in training, because a lot of people here don’t like to work.”

“Jomen Tamwoy is my dad’s uncle. My dad (Pastor Titom Tamwoy) is originally from Badu Island. They came over when they were young kids. My father’s mother is from Eastern Islands. I grew up in Injinoo, so I say, ‘I’m from Injinoo.’ That’s where I grew up, but not just Injinoo, I claim all the people from the NPA as my people. My mother is half European, a quarter South Pacific Islander, a quarter Aboriginal. My mum grew up down south, she is from Cairns, she grew up in a white family. I call that my white side, and my dad’s side is my black side, but I grew up mostly here.”

“There are so many different things (relating to the job) that I have to get my head around, and am slowly trying to figure it out. It’s good, because when Jane left, she told me, you know how some managers just up and go, Jane left a couple of days after she got back. She showed me the majority of the things she was doing. Last year she also started to show me things. I think she might have known, ‘Ah, we leave at the end of the year.’ They are now in Perth. I also have to thank Jane and Peter for what they did for me, because when I first started here, my boss didn’t let me do any studies, my old boss. You just work because it’s the season. In the next year, Jane and Peter came, and I told them I would like to study, and they said, ‘Yep, that’s fine, we can do it.’”

“I graduated here in Bamaga, from grade 1 to grade 12. Then I did Tourism Management at UNI, but then I didn’t like it, so I came back up (from Cairns). Then I was doing a TAFE course and did Cert IV in Small Business Management. I still want to study as I go. I wanted to do a diploma, but in HR (Human Resources), but this is all changed. I didn’t expect any of this (suddenly becoming manager). I have to get used to it pretty quick, because the season starts in May. I got at least a couple of months to sort it out, but I’m doing the departments one at a time, I don’t want to put too much on my plate. The restaurant (within the Holiday Park grounds) is a separate entity. It is run by Anna. Last year we used to do the bookings for meals, but I put a stop to that, because we also do a lot of ticketing (skytrans, ferries etc), there is so much that we think about out there. I think that’s another good thing, having me here. I worked my way up from being a receptionist, so I know what affects the girls out there on a daily basis.”

“Is it still the ‘Gateway to the Torres Strait?’ I reckon it is, yep. Because you step out of here and go to the Torres Strait. They say Gateway Motel on Thursday Island is the gateway to the Torres Strait, but I reckon this is the Gateway to the NPA and the Torres Strait. Where we’re positioned, I reckon is a jackpot, good location. I think the only thing on the downside is no signals for (mobile) phones.”



"We have two seasons, Wet and Dry season. Mostly in the Wet season it is usually corporate people, or locals. We try to put on local's specials over the wet period, but this season, since November, we've been pretty busy when compared to the other years. I think it's because we had those packages for the local people as well. Over Christmas and New Year, we had all our beach front full of them. Rupeni, one of our staff, he booked down there. He had a tarpaulin up, they all enjoyed a bonfire each night, it was really good. I'm looking at doing more tours as well, more local tours, the communities, and up to the Tip and Somerset. We've been doing the Tip tour for years with SeaSwift, but lately we've been doing a lot for the nurses on T.I., more advertising, but first I need to get more reliable drivers. In the Dry season we are open from 7am to 7pm, every day, in the off season, which starts from November to April, we're open from 7am 'til 5pm, and closed on the weekends. It's pretty much six months of hard, hard work, with the campers as well, and the other six months is catch up and organise for the next season, as well as doing our daily routines."

"Last year we had to use the area across the road (the extension of the camp grounds), but there was no shade there, but we couldn't help it. It's doing real well now (the plants at the new site)."

"We are looking into getting a small radar, to get phone signals. There are two spots where we know we have Telstra (mobile) reception, one under the almond tree, just out the front, and one at the back here, so we just tell customers you can go there, but you have to look around for it."

"My husband moved over to T.I. this year, he has an apprenticeship with Ergon. I was planning on doing my normal job and then move over on the weekends, so that's changed a bit, but I haven't got my head fully around this one yet. We have no kids yet, which is good."



"What would be my message to the young? Life is more than play and horses. I would say, try and get a job and stay in a job. There is more to life than living in the communities."

"My parents are my role models, and Fiona Jose, after what she said to me. It's funny, my dad made a choice when he was younger. He came from a time where people were heavily involved in that cycle of spending money, drinking, that type of lifecycle, and he made the choice that he didn't want his kids to grow up like that. So we grew up really sheltered and get education, you have to work for what you get, and that is why I really thank them for what they have done, because if you have parent who lead the way, the kids will succeed behind them. It's good. Also for me, as a young person, my friends are all in that party (age). Like I used to do partying as well, then I realized I'm wasting a lot of money, I'm not getting anywhere, other than just... yeah. Having a look at other people my age, and the lifestyle they have, I don't want that lifestyle. I'm not saying it's a bad lifestyle, but I don't want that lifestyle. You know, people can choose between work, or career orientated or family orientated, or you can even say party orientated, you could even have that one up here. I decided to look after my family and my work, because if I want to succeed anywhere in life, that is the right way for me to go. I'm slowly working towards my goal; things are starting to fall into place."

"I just need to keep my head above water and make sure that I'm doing the right thing. It's all about learning. If I got questions everybody is willing to help me, which is good. The Cape York Institute, Noel Pearson, he is the director of this Institute, they have been doing leadership stuff, things like that since when I came out of school. I was nominated from up here to go, me and Tailisha Yusia. Both of us have been in that program since we came out of school. They put me through the courses, confidence building, I must give them credit, if they weren't there, I wouldn't be here as well. I used to be really shy. I would talk, but only when spoken to. I asked some people, 'What did you think of me when I was at school?' I thought I was a strong and naughty type, a naughty student, but they said, 'No, you were the good girl, you were the girl who would always listen in class, stuff like that,' but to me, I wasn't. I thought I was shy, but I was school captain. I had leadership positions right throughout school."

"When I was in grade 7, I wanted to be an accountant. The dream of working in the tourism industry started when I was in year 10, because I started to work in the Resort the year after, as a waiter when I was in year 11. I would like to meet and welcome all locals and businesses, 4WD and fishing enthusiasts, skippers, campers, birdwatchers, nature lovers and visitors to Seisia. There is no place on earth like the NPA."

Umagico oval gets turf



Umagico Oval gets a layer of topsoil spread before the arrival of turf via SeaSwift. The Alau patch gets ready for the Eagles to soar.

Umagico ablutions block is nearing completion, whilst the hall is in construction phase 3. A stage is being added inside the hall.



The turf arrived in good condition, with many eager to give a hand to spread it out. The following morning a good downpour helped to give it a good soaking.



NPARC appreciates the very generous freight assistance by SeaSwift, reducing its discounted freight costs by over 40% to get the turf up here, thus saving Council \$21,393. Thank you, SeaSwift.



Artist: Mrs Agnes Mark

Mrs Agnes Mark lives in New Mapoon. She is the Art Coordinator for the NPA and well known throughout all communities.



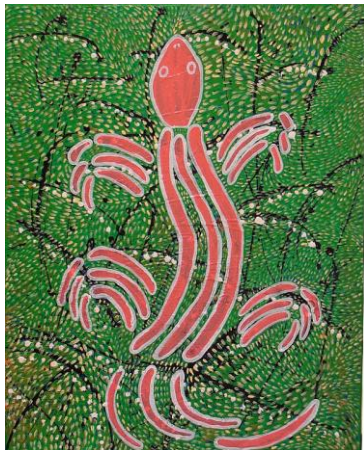
"I was born at T.I., then went to old Mapoon and came here (to the NPA) in 1963. I was a baby then. We stayed a little while at Cowal Creek, then we moved to New Mapoon. My father is from one of the clan groups from Injinoo. As a child I didn't know, I used to wonder, why we keep going down there. Only when I grew up, my dad told us that my father is from that side, that I have blood-ties that way, Atambaya. I grew up here (New Mapoon) knowing more of my mother's side of the family, from Mapoon, the Mparkwithi. We grew up having more knowledge of her father's side. My grandmother has blood ties to Atambaya too."

"Our time was different from today, not like this... Our childhood, we were growing up outside, going out, lots of camping, lots of fishing, bushwalking. Go to the back-flat, out there, get bandicoots and goanna, and cook them up there, as a family, with mum and dad and all them younger ones. I don't see it now, here. People go out, because of the cars, they travel, a picnic with the family, but not like before. Today people take pack-lunch when they go for picnic. When we grew up, we didn't have all that. I miss that part."

"Maybe everything stopped. We had cars, we had electricity, maybe no encouragement too, from our families here, now, today. We think about them days... they're gone. We still like to do them, but it's very busy now, with everyone works fulltime, my husband, myself, my two sisters, we all work fulltime."

"Some of the young respect the older generation, but deep inside of them they know they have to respect the older people, and the people around them. It's just they got this pressure, peer pressure from other people... Once you get them and sit them down, have a talk to them, they know that what they're doing is wrong, but because everyone else is robbing everywhere... But otherwise they are good kids. Sometimes I have a few juveniles here, doing their community service. They are OK, even though they are trying to go their own way, but once I pull them in line, they know what they are doing. And they respect, they say aunty, or uncle, or whatever, they know."

"My message to the young: Try to be proud of yourself, of your identity. Bring all that out, and they will get the respect and learn more. But the more they hide their identity and withdraw, they lose their cultural respect. That's why I'm trying to get them kids to come in here (the New Mapoon Art and Craft Centre), so they can express themselves through their painting. But they can't. There is TV there. There are TV and Video games, things like that out there, but there are respectable kids."



"They only need to find themselves, get older people to help them find who they are. It is good that we have the men's group (Mensheds), Richard Tamwoy. I think he is doing well. They are working together, all the men there, that is a good thing."

"This generation, people like to sit back and point fingers, or make fun, make fun and mock people who try to go forward. It happens in Indigenous communities. They look at a group, trying to go ahead, another sitting back, saying, 'Oh, what they trying to prove? What they think they doing? They not gonna go far.' They bring people down. But we need people like Richard there, they encourage them to come."

"I know only a little bit of my grandfather. My grandmother, she was all fishing. She talked a bit where she came from. She knew who she was and where she came from. The wisdom knowledge that we have got now is from my grandfather's brother, my other grandfather Donald... Fletcher. We spent most of the time with him, growing up. He taught us a lot."

"We didn't think much of them things these days, but now, as we grew older, the mining company started to recognize the Western Cape people, then we knew. There was a reason that we stayed with that grandfather, Donald. He taught us our clan group from grandfather's side, he told us about our language and our country. He talked about the country, about our totem. Our totem is the crocodile; we call it 'Kambara'. He taught us everything about our country, ourselves, our identity. Today, when we sit together, me and my sisters, we are proud to know that. He lived a very long time. He was over 100 when he died, in 1986, the same year my last boy was born."

"It's amazing... to know... that we were blessed by this old fellow. When the mining company started, they didn't recognize our clan group, Mparkwithi, but me and my sisters went back to the mining company, talk to them. They said you have to speak to Land Council. We went to Land Council, wrote so many letters, we got solicitors and everybody involved there, then we got our clan group recognized. That is something that we're really proud of, and it goes right back to grandfather."

"We feel that we've been blessed by him. He was a real cultural man. Some of the stories he told us when we were growing up, I don't hear anybody talk of these old stories and people anymore."

"Schooling is good. Children should go and get education. I think they should speak more English in school. When they come and say, 'Sometimes we can understand English, but then with the teacher there to break it down (the language, the words).' Yeah, but then, shouldn't we go to learn English at school? Little ones should be growing up, that's how we grew up. When you find out today, most parents are much smarter than them children. They might be smart with computer and games and things like that, but not with other things, simple things, like reading or writing, adding and taking away, simple things."



"My little boy, he is 8-years old, he goes to Bamaga (School). He works well with the Torres Strait island kids." (Reference to Torres Strait island kids, because Bamaga population is predominantly settled by Torres Islanders) "He works well with them, have no complaints, which is good."

"Drinking is a concern. It is a concern when they drink too much, especially if... it's not their money, and they're not working. I don't know how they manage to get money and get drunk. That is what makes me really angry. They are taking the money away from family."



"This is a goanna (left). It represents this part of the Cape, because we have this red ochre, this is the ground. These patches here, streaks of blue, and green and white, because we are surrounded by the sea. We got to see both sides, but also this is our country. The footprints are leading out of a small waterhole. Goannas do have dots."



"This is a porcupine (image left), and what porcupine likes to eat is ants. We are trying to have Aboriginal and Torres Straits influence in all our paintings. Now we are multicultural people, all our kids are..."

intermarriage and all that happening up on this end. Well, it's all over the place."



"The white figures are probably spirits representing people. The reason I did this is because... you know us, as Aboriginal people, when we grew up, our people used to have boundaries. In the past, you don't cross the boundary, because you are going into somebody else's territory, and what will happen then, you'll get speared. But today's people, maybe this is your land, but then they come and they push you, 'No, our land goes back a bit more.' That bit more. They get greedy. They are not satisfied with the boundaries that our ancestors set. I did that painting during them times, my-age people they come and say, 'No, you're wrong, our boundary go way back there, your boundary is a bit closer.' They greedy, that is why on the painting they got long fingers, grabbing. Also if there is mining involved, they like to put themselves into a situation, like they put themselves in as a Traditional Owner, and they like to grab, grab, grab... only there for the money. They have no feelings for the land. You'll know if you're a Traditional Owner, you'll know that is your land. You rather have it like that without any mining. It hurts when you see mining, especially in your land. The big, big holes everywhere, soil being carted in big trucks... it hurts."

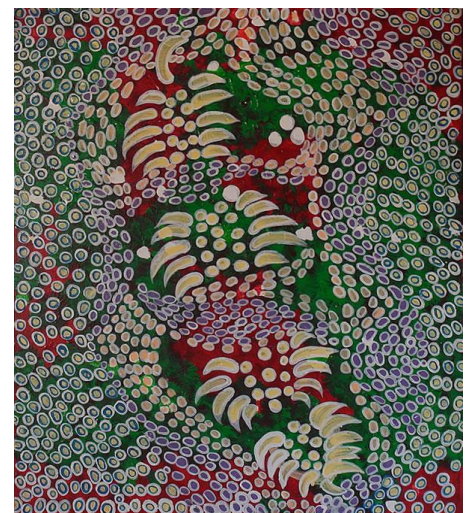


"The footprints, they are going walk-about somewhere, hopefully to a good place. Just to show, it's not only us here. There are animals, we, the animals... all live together, and this is our country. It's about unity. The paintings have no names yet, until I tidy up a bit and give them a name."



"It is a source of income. Now we get payment. Back then, that is why we were removed. What I know of Mapoon is what we learned from our elders, by yarning. We asked them, 'Why are we here (New Mapoon) (see footnote 1)?' They said, 'We're not from here, we're from 'old' Mapoon.' As kids we asked, 'Why didn't we stay there, why did we come here?' Then we heard things like: 'Oh, there was so much illness there, hook worm...' all them sort of lame excuses. We didn't know that it was mining behind it. Our country was rich. Until now, now we realize that there is not only bauxite there. In my husband's country there is clay (see footnote 2). We come from a very rich country and most of the clan groups from Mapoon."

"I've just seen Archie Roach, singing the other night; I just sat there, tears are rolling down my eye. He was singing that one song about... I can't remember the name*... one of the songs of children from the stolen generation."



*) Possibly: Charcoal Lane. Archie Roach, born at Mooroopna, Victoria, was taken from his family as a child. He grew up in institutions and fostered out to a non-Indigenous family in Melbourne.

Continued next page

Artist: Mrs Agnes Mark (continued)

"The New Mapoon Art and Craft Centre is not officially open yet, but people can come in. We are just waiting for our gallery area, for displaying. We are trying to get Torres Strait artifacts and paintings too. There are many cultures here, multi-cultural now. What we are doing is paintings that identify NPA, north of Jardine River. That is not only things like goannas and porcupines, but it's also fish, reef too. Dot painting is not our style. We used to have artists here before, they did dot paintings. Some of the people from NT make dot paintings. I have been painting here for 11½ years now, but I used to do art in school. We planned something (exhibition), with UMI Arts, in Cairns. They are coming up to see us here, that is with the Resource Centre. But through NPA Regional Council we are getting one artist in residence here, that is Cheryl Howell. She works with or for Arts Queensland. She's coming up in March to prepare us for an exhibition. We almost did it last year, but this year we'll definitely go into it."



Mrs Agnes Mark



All clay works by Mrs Agnes Mark

Footnote 1: Mapoon, once known as Mapoon Mission (Batavia River Mission), also known as Marpuna, had many traditional owner groups living in the area, such as the Mparkwithi, Taepithiggi, Thaynhakwith, Warrangku, Wimarangga and Yupungathi peoples. The traditional land owners are the Tjungundji people. History in brief:

1802: Matthew Flinders charts the coast of the West Cape.

1882: Pastoral settlements along Batavia River (later renamed 'Wenlock River').

1891: Moravian Missionaries establish Batavia River Mission at Cullen Point (Port Musgrave). First missionaries: Rev Ward and Rev Hey.

1899: Estimated inhabitants at the mission: 400 people.

1901: Mission's dormitories used to raise 'mixed-descent' children, taken from their parents at Croydon, Normanton and Burketown (stolen generation). Many of the local traditional landowners 'adopted' the children, offering them a safe home in traditional country.

1903: Australian Handbook reports on the mission 'The natives are paid in food and only if they work.' Mr Meston, a visitor to the mission reports: ... the site as in many respects very unfavourable, being unhealthy, the land of the most worthless character, heat oppressive, and swarming with millions of mosquitoes and flies.

1908: Industrial school at the mission, with an estimated 1500 Aboriginal at the reserve (stolen generation).

1930: Fruits and vegetable crops grown, 500 head of cattle at the Reserve. Area covered by the Mission reached 3345 miles² at one time.

1945: Following WWII: Geological discovery of good quality bauxite deposits.

1954: Decision to close Mapoon brought forth excuses as to why Mapoon was no longer viable, citing lack of alternative sites, water supplies, poor soil condition, low potential for other industries and the perceived need to assimilate Aboriginal people into white Australian society. Eventually the reasons were reduced to poor access to port facilities, poor land communications, and poor soil quality. Population was 285. The peoples request to keep the Mission operating, or allow relocation to a place of their choice, were ignored.

1957: Act of Qld Parliament assigns 5,780 km² of Reserve land to mining companies (100 year leases), bauxite.

1958: Bauxite mining leases granted over large areas of the Mapoon Reserve. It became one of the world's largest bauxite mines.

1961: Government starts building replacement community at Hidden Valley, near Bamaga. It was later named 'New Mapoon'.

1962: About 100 people settled at New Mapoon, while many others did not wish to leave Mapoon.

1963: Police received specific instructions to remove the people from Mapoon. Leaders of the traditional owners were taken to Red Island Point for resettlement at New Mapoon, others resettled at Normanton, Weipa and other places. Under orders, the vacated buildings were demolished with some set on fire. The Mapoon people never knew about the massive bauxite discoveries leading to their eviction.

1964: Mission buildings and church are destroyed, ordered by Director of Native Affairs. Former residents lobby for a return to Mapoon.

1965: Additional mining leases granted of other areas in the region (1388 km²).

1973: People started to return to the Mapoon site, aided by Commonwealth grant, re-establishing Marpuna.

1984: Marpuna Community Aboriginal Corporation established.

1989: The Queensland Government handed 1,839 km² back to the people of Mapoon, in a Deed of Grant of Land in Trust (DOGIT).

2000: Mapoon Aboriginal Council formed, moves to its new premises in 2002, administers an area of 530km².

Footnote 2: The clay mineral 'Kaolinite' is a layered silicate mineral, one sheet linked through oxygen atoms to another of alumina. This is known as china clay, white clay or kaolin. The word 'Kaolin' is derived from 'Gaoling' or 'Kao-Ling,' from the Chinese language.

Footnote 3: Bauxite is a clay-like mineral, the ore of aluminium (alumina).

(Data sourced from: mapoon.com, queenslandplaces.com.au, capeyorkturtlerescue.com, with historical facts based on Geoff Wharton's BA Honours thesis: "The Day they burned Mapoon: a study of the closure of a Queensland Presbyterian Mission", University of Queensland, 1996).

Other articles of interest: thepunch.com.au/articles/queenslands-shameful-denial-of-black-enterprise/

NPARC launches Art Competition

Art Competition for NPA Show Logo

1st prize: \$1000
2nd prize: \$700
3rd prize: \$400

Food for thought: Noise pollution, wildlife, rubbish illegally dumped, self-respect, self-esteem, respect your body, your health, respect for the young, the elders, the family, for property, laws, for cultural totems, heritage, being responsible, respect for partnerships, equality, respect for the rights of others, being courteous, giving encouragement, being truthful...

Artwork should be no more than A4 in size, on paper or canvas, such as charcoal, pencil, oil, acrylic, watercolour or lino print. It must be an original work.

"Self-respect is a question of recognizing that anything worth having has a price." (Joan Didion)

"There's only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self." (Aldous Huxley)

The competition has 3 levels: Open to School Students, members of the Communities and Professional Artists from the NPA, with three prizes per category (**Total prize money: \$6300**).

Entries close on: 30th of April, 2010, at 2pm

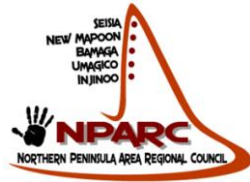
Submit entries to any NPA Regional Council Office.
Entry size should not be larger than A4 size.

All entries will become the property of NPA Regional Council upon submission.

For further enquiries call: Heinz Ross,
tel: 4090 4605, fax: 4069 3253
Email: heinz.ross@nparc.qld.gov.au

re Spect **NPA**

NPA Regional Council invites local Artists to take part in an Art Competition to find the logo for this year's NPA Show.



The theme is 'RESPECT,' respect for our health, our country, our environment, our animals, our wildlife, our heritage, our neighbours, our future, our people, our children, and self-respect. The winning entry will be used as the logo for the NPA Show, 2010, and printed on T-shirts.

How to submit your work:

Members of the **Communities** and **Professional Artists**: Please see any Council Office in your community.

Students at Bamaga P7-Campus:

Please see Mr Rob Templeton, tel. 4090 4444

Students at Bamaga NPASC:

Please see Ms Lynelle Canavan, tel. 4090 4330

Students at Injinoo P7-Campus:

Please see Rev Mary Eseli or Ms Trish Blackman, tel. 4069 3131

don't look the other way!

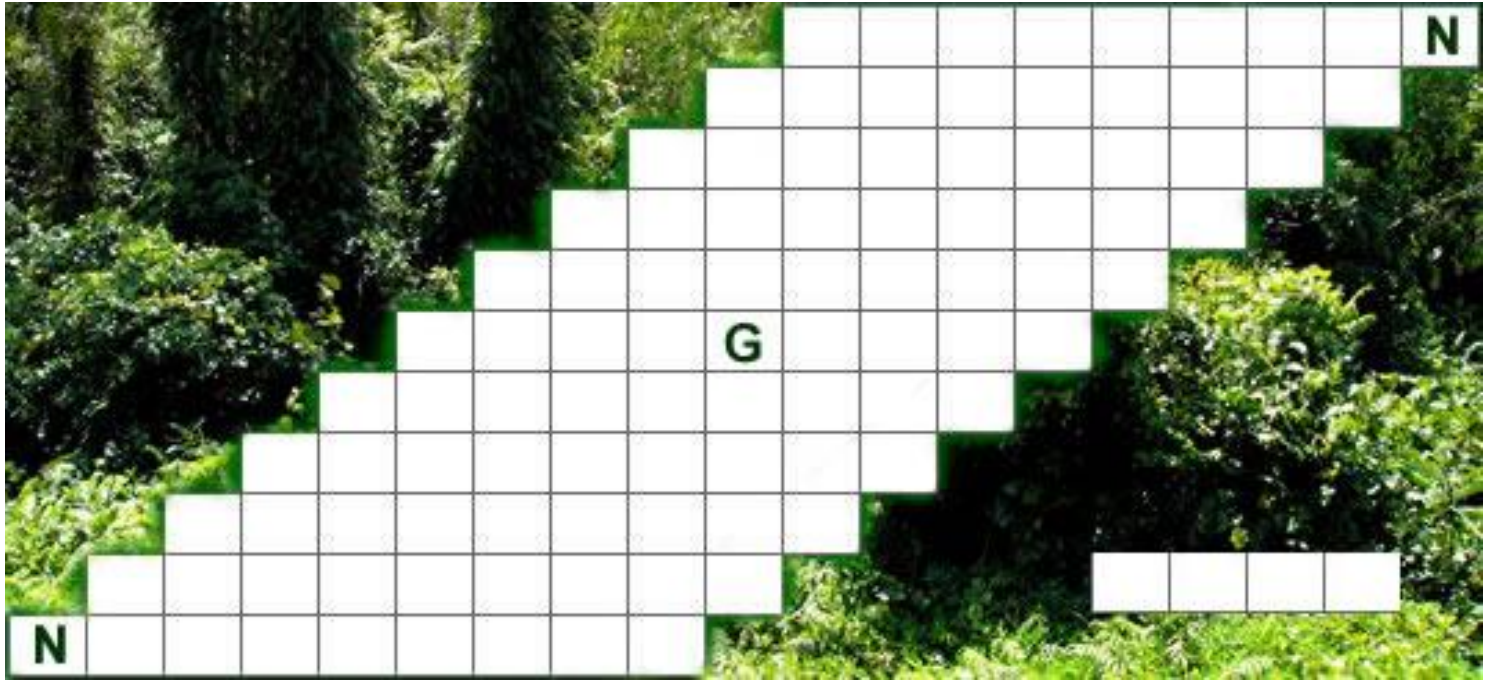
Have you seen the following?

People supplying alcohol to underage children;
Know of sexual abuse of underage children;
People selling drugs in the communities.

If so, call crime stoppers: 1 800 333 000

This competition has the support of Traditional Owners, the Elders, Apudthama Land Trust, NPA churches, NPA schools and college, State and Community Police, NPA Family and Community Services, NPA Women's Shelters, PCYC, Mensheds, Nai Beguta Agama, NPA Rugby League, Queensland Health, Bamaga Hospital, Primary Health Centres, Bamaga Enterprises Ltd., Cape York Ice and Tackle, Dep. of Communities, NPA Youth Centres, Arts Queensland, Torres News, Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Ltd, Peddells Thursday Island Tours, The Jetty Shop, Skytrans, Local Government Association of Queensland Inc, New Mapoon General Store and Take Away, Seisia Holiday Park, Seisia Youths, Seaswift, NPA Electrics, Bamaga Bakehaus, Bamaga Ibis Supermarket, Bamaga Dreamtime, Resort Bamaga, Bamaga and District Taxi, Cape York Traders, Cape York Car Detailers, Umagico Supermarket, ...(expecting more).

Please add your support by emailing: heinz.ross@nparc.qld.gov.au, say 'Yes to Respect NPA' and add your name. Thank you.



Using the letter 'G' as a starting point, write the answer in the right, left, up or down direction. The word may be spelled backwards or in the correct way, horizontal or vertical. Give only one answer per question. As example, if the answer is "Gold", use the existing 'G' and write your answer in any direction, except diagonal. You could write DLOG or GOLD as shown on right, each would be correct. Use the letters of your existing answers to continue answering all other questions. Use all white boxes to answer the 37 questions. You only need to get 23 correct to answer all. Pick any of the questions to start, except the one which does not contain a 'G' in its answer. Results in next issue.

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One of the colours in the Torres Islander flag is _____.
 An equal amount of yellow and blue paint will become _____ in colour.
 Emerald eyes are which colour?
 What is the national colour of Ireland?
 Broccoli is _____. It helps with the digestion.
 Eating fruits and _____ leafy vegetables lowers the risk of diabetes.
 Brazil, Italy and India have which colour of their National flags in common?
 Which vegetable group contains Vitamin C, Vitamin A, calcium and iron?
 Common term to describe gases that absorb and emit radiation: _____ house gas.
 The colour of a _____ turtle's fat is _____, caused by its diet of sea grass.
 Mental exercises and _____ vegetables can lower the risk of getting Alzheimer's.
 Spinach and _____ apples have the same colour.
 Fruits and _____ vegetables can stop the cravings for junk foods.
 Tomatoes, mint leaves and _____ salad can burn excessive fats in the body.
 Overcome cravings for sugars and sweets with fruits, _____ apples for example.
 A female _____ turtle takes 30 to 40 years to mature.
 Cover crop to add nutrients to the soil, known as _____ manure.
 Some species of the blue-_____ algae can release toxins.
 _____peace is a global campaign organization promoting conservation and peace.

Common ant in the NPA, _____ ant.
 Global movement, _____ movement.
 Muppets song: It's not easy being _____.
 _____ vegetables have antioxidants.
 Renewable energy is known as _____ energy.
 Oxidisation turns copper _____.
 Cabbage, lime and cucumbers are _____.
 Jade comes in various shades of _____.
 Wind generated power is _____ power.
 Colour of unripe tomato and its vine.
 Name of a pepper: _____ pepper.
 Known as a raw prawn, _____ prawn.
 A raw prawn is not _____ in colour.
 A cooked prawn is not _____ either.
 Predominant colour of US paper currency.
 Text colour of the word SeaSwift in its logo.
 Leafy _____s are good for your eyes.
 _____ vegetables help protect the skin.

Ranger Base turns green

NPARC Rangers make the best use of good conditions, planting many trees at their Ranger Base at Injinoo. Initially a fruit tree was planned for each of the 8 rangers, but not all 8 trees could be sourced.

Instead of eight trees, they planted many more, all around the building. Perhaps the idea catches on, a tree for every happy moment in your life, as the earth is losing massive numbers every second, so every little bit helps. No matter how magnificent they may become, no tree will take your breath away. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. The rising oxygen creates ozone.

