

**In this Issue:** Warraber, Yam, oportunET, CDEP 2011, Crocs, Straits, Airport, **Qld Flood Appeal**, and much more



*Happy New Year, 2011*

## Torres Strait Major Infrastructure Program

Currently on the table is a project named 'MIP4B Injinoo Subdivision'. This is a 6 stage program aimed at putting more housing into the Injinoo community. (There are also efforts underway to put housing into all other communities, covered in part on page 19, unrelated to this.) The MIP (Major Infrastructure Program) project is in the early stages. The scope of the works is for a 42 lots subdivision with an individual block size of approx 1000m<sup>2</sup>.

- Stage 1: Work Scope Confirmation
- Stage 2: Design Report
- Stage 3: Documentation
- Stage 4: Procurement
- Stage 5: Construction
- Stage 6: Defects Liability Period

The project's inception meeting was held at 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2010, at Injinoo. The work will require some road works. Below is a timeline for the project and a glimpse at the year ahead:

- Oct 2010** Work scope (4 weeks).
- Nov 2010** Design Report (6 weeks), SPA Application to NPARC, Referral to DERM, and Application to NNTT to register ILUA.
- Dec-Jan 10/11** Documents (4 weeks), DERM and Agency Information Request (4 weeks), Check by NNTT, Advertising, Finalisation (7 weeks), and Applicant Response (4 weeks).
- Feb-Mar 2011** Amend Documents if required by Planning or ILUA process (6 weeks), DERM & Agency Conditions (8 weeks), Advertising Agency (4 weeks), ILUA notification (3 months).
- Apr-May 2011** Tender (8 weeks), NPARC approval (4 weeks).
- Jun 2011** Assess, Post Tender, MIP Adopt, MIP Award, ILUA: If no objections Registration (1 week).
- Jul 2011** Mobilize.
- Aug-Dec 2011** Construction (16 weeks), Handover, Wet Season.

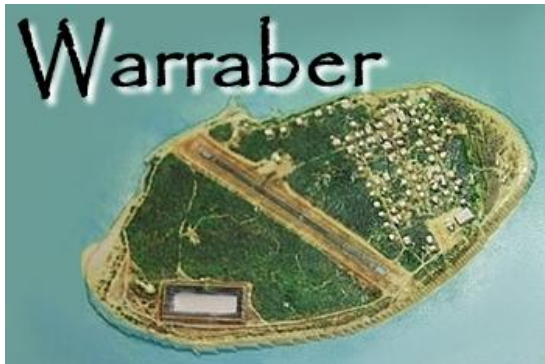
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George and Natalie



Postcard from



Anyone landing on Warraber Island will realise within 5 minutes that this place is very different. The short walk from the airfield to the community only reinforces that first impression. The roads are paved, or made of crushed shell, the edges clean, the gardens a pride and joy.



Warraber is neat and tidy, with a population of approx. 250 people. Fifty or so students attend the primary school; across

the road is a Childcare Centre. The island has three churches, a Council Works Depot, Council Office, and a community hall. The IBIS store is next to the Health Clinic. Coconut leaf covered gazebos provide shade. The island has



a Guest House for visitor accommodation and Salomakai Kai House, which serves food. The large sports hall can accommodate the entire population, with room to spare.



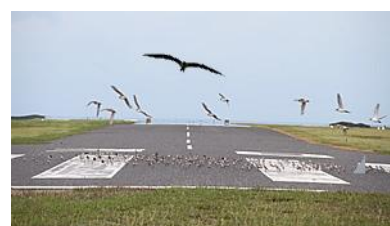
Harbour view. A well marked narrow channel cut into the reef allows access of larger supply vessels.



Parents and children enjoy a swim off the esplanade. Crocs up to 1m can come when the winds come from the north.



Many of the gardens are decorated with shells and clams.



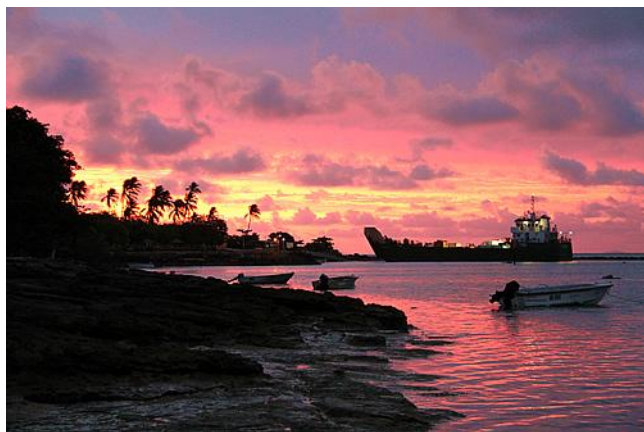
Air traffic is very high, occasionally planes land too. NPA Airport to Warraber is approx. 30 minutes by plane.







Warraber Island is a small coral cay island located North East of Thursday Island, 30min by plane from NPA airport. It is situated between two other islands, together known as The Three Sisters (Yam (Iama), Warraber (Sue) and Coconut (Poruma) Islands). All are part of the Central Islands in the Torres Strait.



Seaswift supplies the island, ready to unload in the morning.



In Phillemon Community Hall, women sew dresses, artists carve or paint. Some of the work is on display at the council.



"There are two reasons why the island is so clean," says Councillor for Warraber, Mr Willie Lui. "You hardly find rubbish on the roads, and you see a lot of bins standing on the island. For every house there are 3 different bins. We have an end of month clean-up, where not only the workers, council staff, workers, CDEP workers, and the whole community gets out and walks around the island and picks up any bit of rubbish you can find, including a coke bottle top, anything. With Warraber, it's only small, it will only take half a day for the whole community to clean the island."



"Secondly, we are the only island in the Torres Strait that actually has a Waste Pilot Project. We have a bin with the red lid, for your normal rubbish, like al-foil cans, diapers, glass bottles. The bin with the yellow lid is for your papers, cardboards, soft-drink cans, or any tin cans, plastic bottles or any plastics. The bin with the green lids is for your



garden waste, weeds, grass, from the garden out the back. Also we have a 20l flour bucket, that's for

your food scraps. The red lid, the normal waste goes twice a week to the tip. The other bins go to the shed near the wharf, there is a big crusher in there, actually crushes and puts them into a bale. It goes through AQIS, through a special quarantine zone, to be shipped off the island. The food waste and the garden waste we use in bio bins, at the back of the community, where shredded boxes, mulch and food scraps are added, until the bio box is full. It will take about 3 months for it to cook and then gets tipped out. We have four bio bins, so it's an ongoing thing, and that becomes a garden fertiliser. That gets put into our community garden, which is purely run by the council, no funding from the TSRA, so it's just a community project."



"I believe the island can only work if the community stands together, be proud of their home."

"My dad used to be the Deputy Chair for the Bamaga Island Council."



"Crocodiles... only when the northerly blows you get the little ones on the tide, between Yam and Warraber, only about 1m long, 1.5m, that's about it. Here is one of the hotspots of the Central Islands for crayfish."

"With the reform (of CDEP) there has to be an outcome at the end of the day, like a certificate. You got to go through training and all of that, and then, where am I going to employ you? That is the true question, where are they going to work? Basically once they get their certificates, or their ticket or whatever they achieved, next thing you'll show 'em the pavement out the front, 'We'll mate, take that road, that's the airstrip up there, hop on a plane and find a job, cause I haven't got a job for you. That is the only sad thing about the reform. The other good thing about the reform, it skills people up. Ergon, along here, on the other side of the airstrip, there used to be electric posts all the way, and then they pulled the posts out and put underground wire. What are we going to do with the posts, ah, we keep them. The CDEP supervisor said, 'Why don't we chop 'em up, start making gazebo's out of them.' The gazebo's were a good little project, especially for the young girls. The older ladies sit and teach them how to sew the leaves. So most of the gazebo leaves are sewn by girls aged 18 to 25," explains Mr Lui.



Mr Mika David is the Health and Environment Supervisor Officer, working for council, "The first thing we did is educate people."

**Drink water:** The island has a desalination plant and also a very large water reservoir.



**Power:** Electricity is generated from diesel powered generators.



**Radio:** Warraber has a radio station transmitting local News, to let people know when Medical Specialists arrive at the clinic, for example.



White sand beaches are all around the island. Nearby are several uninhabited islands, the twin sisters.



**Recycling:** Each house has a number of wheelie bins, including a bucket with lid for kai kai food scraps. Paper and cardboard, milk and juice cartons, are sorted, then shredded and recycled. Aluminium cans, steel cans and plastic bottles are pressed into bales, to be shipped off the island. Green waste and garden refuse are mulched and layered with food scraps and shredded cardboard remains, for composting. The product is used in the community gardens.



The bin lifter. Content of a bin is tipped into a tray for sorting, if needed items can be rinsed.



Cardboard is shredded and becomes part of the compost.



A trailer mounted hydraulic press, compacts cans and bottles into bales, which are stored until the container is filled, to be shipped off the island.



Green waste is mulched and mixed with food scraps and shredded cartons, composted for later reuse.



"Once a month is clean-up day, where everyone picks up around the island. It's so small it only takes half a day," says Councillor Willie Lui.



Many houses have the graves of their passed away loved ones in the front yard.



*Mrs Daisy Harry is the Senior Health Worker at Warraber Clinic. Mrs Harry has a passion and love for her people, and for her work. She is at the Health Centre usually around 7:30am. She'll leave around 6, perhaps 7pm.*



Mrs Harry started in T.I. Hospital (1984) as a student nurse, completed Enrolled Nurses training in 1985. Mrs Harry has been a nurse in T.I. Hospital since 1985 to 1989. "In Adelaide I did Bachelor of Nursing, but came back after 6 months, I was homesick. I regret it now. Now I should be a Registered Nurse, but I decided to come back home. My stepfather was pretty sick, so I came back, to help my mum and my stepdad. After 1989 / 1990 I worked in the outer islands. By coming to the islands, like feasting and that, and then seeing that there was need for the health out in the islands, to work as a qualified EN (Enrolled Nurse)."

"I did all my training in TAFE, I did my certificates in Primary Health studies, and I now have an Associate Diploma, and study for my Isolated Practice. Coming out here I felt the need. I was transferred to many of the islands, transferred to work out here."

We make sure the mothers bring their kids along, make sure they are up to date with immunisations, make sure the chronic diseases are up to date with blood-pressure check.



Warraber Health Clinic opened in 2008 and is staffed by a health worker, a nurse, and administration staff. Doctors and specialists

come in via plane. The building has duplex accommodation upstairs, used by visiting medical staff.



Treatment room is clean and ordered.

A local BRACS radio station operates on the island. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays they collect News for broadcasting, including health related News.



Decorated trees: Frangipani becomes a 'Yellow thong tree' (left).

There are only 2 health workers out here, and our nurse comes in. 30% of my Centre Manager's work is clinical, and 70% is admin, but when it gets busy he comes down, and we both share the workload. When he's out, I'm manning the clinic. We are looking after Specialists Clinic; we are looking after Child's Health. We have a Child Health worker, but she is on leave. We look after the visiting team that comes in, and we work along with the team. We have Family Support Team, the Mental Health team comes out, the Renal Team comes out, and people come from every island here. Family violence is probably a minor issue. We had two tombstone openings in the last 2 months, we had 7 tombstone openings and we had no trouble, like no violence. This is a Dry community (Dry refers to no alcohol). It's a council thing that you get the approval from council, and when you get it in, it's only for you to drink, not to be shared around. It's a community decision. It's working. There are 250 / 260 people on the island. My manager, my nephew, is going to Adelaide. He's studying his Registered Nurse training next year. He set his goal on that. I have family on the mainland (Bamaga), my brother Jackson (Sailor), and Ray at the Canteen is my younger brother.



Children:  
Francis-Billy (2yrs)  
and sister Flora (1yr).



Drawers, shelves and containers are well stocked and clearly marked.





Warraber Artist: **Mr Tony Harry**

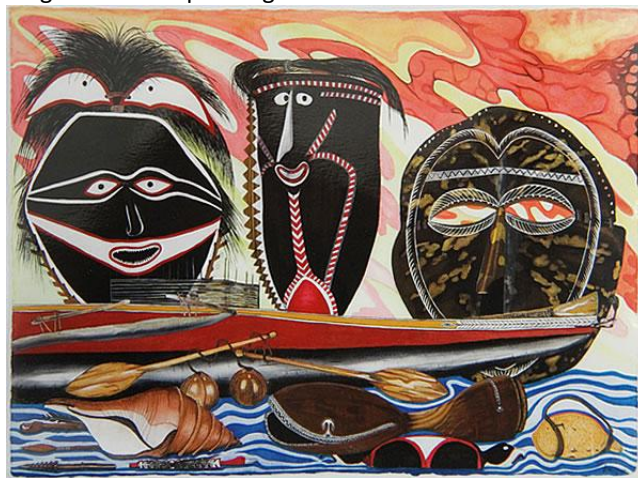
Design of a stone sculpture (above) which is meant to bring the rain.



Lino carving of turtles, a great medium for detail.



Large Canvas oil painting.



Watercolour on paper: Yawar Lak Kuniya Gagaith-ka-Zenadh Kes, Gouache on paper, Best Work on Paper/Canvas, 2010.



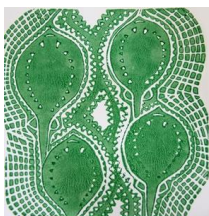
"I do lino carvings, and also do water-colour paintings and canvas. I sell to locals and at Gab Titui on T.I. I've got work in there and they sell them for us."

Mr Harry also painted the mural at the IBIS store front.



Stingrays as lino cut (left) and resulting lino print (below, in green).

Mr Harry is related to the Sebasio families.



Oil on canvas.



Watercolour on paper, this work is now in Canberra. It depicts the tools of trade for 'decapitation'. Top left an armband and knife. Centre: The neck breaker with long handle. Right: To the left of the paddle, the item with string was used to carry the skulls when travelling.







Francis-Billy (2yrs)

Councillor Lui continues, "The last few years of the shifting of the sand, when the sand shifts around on the northerly winds, and the south-east blow, the island comes back. Not all of it comes back. We are gradually losing the western part of the island. (The tractor tires are at the western



side). The Federal Government wants more data. More data means more research. We've had enough. We can't sit back and wait for more research. The more we sit back, the more we are losing sand. We're going to take matters into our own hands. We are looking at whatever

materials we have on the island, concrete blocks (from cement slabs), when we demolish a house. When we have a pile of them, we'll use that to extend the seawall, to make a better seawall. I'm in the middle of trying to contact our engineering manager officer, to see if there is funding available to see if there is an excavator."



"If we haven't got the dollars to start a seawall, that will become a community project, where as a council I have to turn around to the community and say: 'Let's fix, let's safe our island'."

"You're not going to get paid for it, but the benefit is saving your home."



Mr Harry (husband of Mrs Daisy Harry) works for State Emergency Services (SES). "If I share my drinks with you, and you are causing trouble, then I will be responsible for that. If a person is seen to cause trouble, or cause damage to property, that person is reported to police. Once the person is sober, a supervisor ensures that any damage is repaired by the person who caused it."

Councillor Willie Lui, "The problem we face here in the Torres Strait is the lack of funding. We actually need to start fixing the issue. It's not only Warraber, six communities within the Torres Strait. December, January, February, that's when the king tides come. We have bad erosions where the sand shifts. When the sand shifts, the island twists. As years go by the island grows in a different direction."



Flora (1yr)

There are only a few jobs on the island. Mr Mika David explains that people start work at 8am. "Eight to 5 is a full day; 8 to 10, then smoko time at 10:30, work to 12:30, then 3 o'clock smoko, 5pm we knock off."

About the clean-up day, "We'll, you got kids on the island, health; it's for your own good. The majority of the community they know, you know, the rubbish. We got tourists coming in, the outsiders coming. We got council workers there, but we have people to help, because we're living in this community."

There are no horses on Warraber. Vets from Katherine Vet Clinic (N.T.) visit the island regularly.

"We had 64 dogs before, it was a mess. There are now 10 dogs on the island," says Mr David.



# Yam Island



Yam Island is part of the Central Islands in the Torres Strait, 100km North-East of Thursday Island. It is also known as Yama, Iama or Turtle-backed Island. Language spoken is Kulkalgau Ya. The village is located between the bay and one end of the airfield.



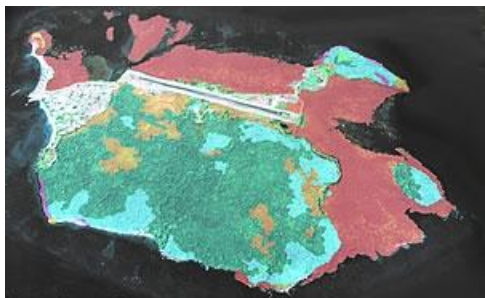
Mr Ned David is the Senior Ranger at Yam Island. A group of scientists met with the rangers to explain about vegetation that has changed since islanders had stopped their past practices of burning the ground, due to arrival of the store and the resulting change to grow food on the island.



The scientists produced a vegetation map, which the rangers can use to add their local knowledge about special sites, tracks and local names of plants. It was also suggested to use the map



One end of the runway, village, and bay in the background.



On this vegetation map the village is shown in the upper left area. Different shading indicates various types of vegetation.



The road from airfield to the wharf.



spiders hitching a ride on the barge.



This family knows the Kepa and Sebasio families in the NPA.



Yam Island Council building.



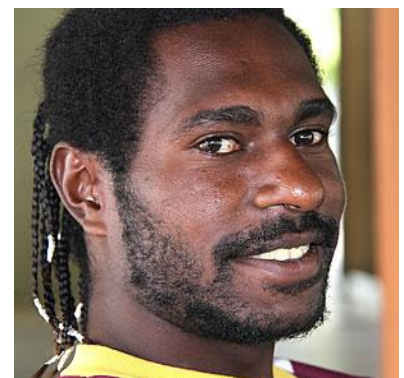
Kodakai Lodge, near Mangrove Rd.



IBIS near the wharf and pier.



Relaxing near the pier.





Ms Elizabeth Songoro is a Librarian at Yam Island, working in the Dawita Cultural Centre (Knowledge Centre).



The Dawita Cultural Centre was opened in 2007.

Local dog out fishing.



## Yam Island



Mr Sam Baragud Senior is cleaning up the bamboo. It will be straightened over fire. Once complete they will be used as spears in hunting.



At Yam Island, Minister Robertson explained about the cost of electricity in the NPA, with reference to the current powersavvy campaign. "Queensland Government pays Ergon what is called a Community Services Obligation, \$400 million, so no matter where you are in Queensland as a domestic consumer, your household, you pay the same electricity price as we do in Brisbane. That has been a long-term commitment by the Queensland Government."

"It is obviously in our interest to see people save power, because that saves the Queensland Government money, that we can put into other things, like schools, police, and better services. There are a number of advantages to this program apart from just being more efficient with community use, which in itself is the right thing to do."



Image left: Minister Stephen Robertson (left (Natural Resources, Miners, Energy and Trade, Qld Gov.)), and MP for Cook, Mr Jason O'Brien, at Yam Island airfield.

Mr Grant Behrendorff, manager of powersavvy, who was also with the group, said, "It's a win/win for everybody. We help people save money. It's good for the residents and businesses, and reduces our costs, which is good for Ergon and the Queensland Government. The thing I like most with powersavvy that everybody wins."



Pier at Yam Island (left).

The blue building with white roof is the IBIS store.



## Romantic Night for two

This is the winner's photo for the NPA Rural Fire Brigade's Romantic night for two raffle. The prize was drawn by Mr Roger (Bolly) Williams, at BP Bamaga servo (Dec 2010).

In the photo is raffle winner, Ms Francini Mundi (Pandu) from Bamaga and Mr Pete Kelly, NPA Rural Fire Brigade Captain, handing over the prize of a night for two with breakfast at Bamaga Resort kindly donated by Bamaga Enterprises.

Bamaga Resort manager, Mr Justin Wade, signed the certificate.

Article and image supplied courtesy Mr Pete Kelly.



## Skytrans-PCYC NPA Christmas Parade Competition

The inaugural Skytrans-PCYC NPA Christmas Parade Competition was held on 17th December in Bamaga. Judging was performed by Skytrans Representatives who flew up for the occasion.

The winning prizes were 4 return flights to Cairns, plus 2 nights' accommodation, and 4 tickets to corporate box for the Taipan's Basketball game. Mr Jessie Sagaukaz (top image) from Menshed was the overall winner of the parade and has generously given away the tickets to the other entrants Mr Pete Kelly (left image), Mr Fabs and Ms Melissa Paz-Moran (below, right), who represented Bamaga Enterprises and NPA Rural Fire Service. Mr Sagaukaz gave his ticket to his sister, Ms Estelle Gebadi, for all the effort she has put into organizing events for the community this year. Skytrans were so touched by his generosity they issued another



return ticket to Mr Jessie Sagaukaz for Cairns.



Article and image supplied courtesy Mr Pete Kelly.

## Late News:

**Mud Rally & Pig Hunting Competition**, Australia Day, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, Prizes and trophies to give away.  
Call Ms Estelle Gebadi, tel. **4069 3388**

Our hearts go out to the families who lost loved ones in the massive floods that are devastating large areas of Australia. There is tragic loss of life. There is loss to livestock, crops, and property devastation as never before in the country's history. Due to the unprecedented scale of the disaster the destruction to infrastructure, business and industry will take years to rebuild. There is also no doubt in anyone's mind that we can recover from this. It is in times like these that the Australian spirit shines at its brightest.

**Day follows the darkest night.**

## Late News:

### Queensland Floods

### HELP out!

More info:  
<http://www.qld.gov.au/floods/>

Donations to **Premier's Flood Relief Appeal** can be made at: <http://www.qld.gov.au/floods/donate.html>

**Donate by phone:** 1800 219 028

**Donate by mail:** Make cheques payable to: The Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal (ABN: 69 689 161 916) and post to:  
**Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal, C/O Department of the Premier and Cabinet, PO Box 15185, City East, QLD, 4002, Australia, ABN: 69 689 161 916**

**Donate by Internet banking:**

Account Name: **Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal**, BSB: **064 013**, Account No.: **1000 6800**

SWIFT Code for international donations: **CTBAU25**

**Donate in person:** CommBank, NAB, Westpac, ANZ, BOQ, Suncorp, St George Bank, Bank SA, Austr Central Credit Union, Savings and Loans Credit Union, Bank West, Coles Supermarkets.

NPA residents can donate at any NPARC Office, all communities.



**w@d** (what the...)

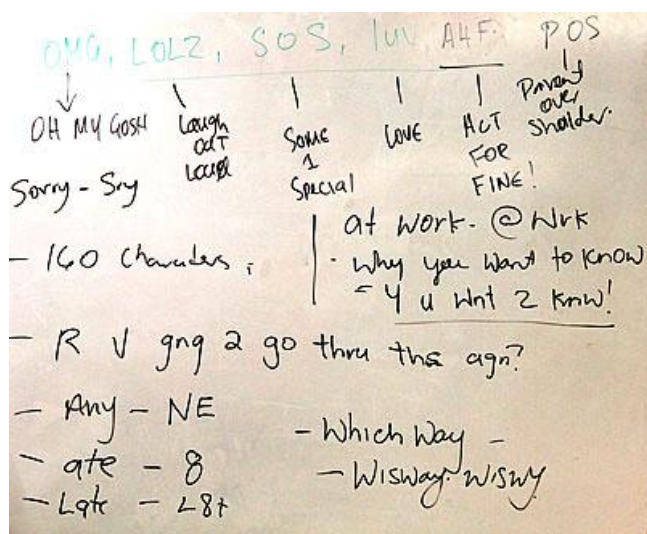
You could be thinking 'what the...' when looking at the right column. It is 'text speak' or SMS language (Short Message Service), most commonly used on mobile phones and in on-line chat rooms. The idea is to abbreviate words down to the bone, yet can still be understood. SMS speeds up the process of communications. It also saves money by cramming as much information as possible into a text message, the limit of which is 160 characters, in a similar way as the telegraph used to charge by the word years ago.

During a presentation at TAFE / School Library, Bamaga, in Cert IV in Training and Assessment. Ms Leonie Ishmail explained the inner secrets of SMS. Each of the participants gave a 15 minute presentation (on other subjects).



Some English to SMS abbreviations Ms Ishmail explained to the amusement of many are shown below. The article on the right has nothing to do with the Cert IV presentation but

gives a good example of how much space can be saved, when compared to the English version text on the following page. It is also fun to read.



Many abbreviations have various meanings. The key is the context in which they are used. Single letters and digits can replace entire words. A combination of letters and digits is also possible. Communic8N cn B heaps of fun.

**itsa orsum oprtunET**

4 ppl hu r on CDEP or income suprt involvd n trainin or comunity projex, d CDEP Team wl av Certificate II lyt construction cmng ^ n Feb, cll 4069 3133 2 spk 2 d CDEP Team. "We r also runN Cert II n Cert III n Plant n Plant ops," sA Mr Alex Barker, "for ppl n machinry licenses n fings lk dat," +ing: "Also cll us on 4069 3133! We're opn 5 days per wk, 9am 'til 5pm."

"Mr Peter Lui w%d b a1 prsn 2 spk 2, n ms Joyce Soki, or ne1 of d CDEP Team cn hlp u ot. Sum of d comunity dvlopmnt projex w'r doin wl b @ d bamaga farm. W'r guna put a hous ot der, reloc8 d 2 nurseries 2 d farm, n bgin farming ops by Jun 2011. Der wl b heaps of fings arnd horticulture Cert II as wel. Ppl nterstd n doze typz of construction projex shd gt n tuch w d CDEP Team.

W'r also doin d Nu Mapoon prk, d \$1.3mill @ Nu Mapoon, redevelopment of d prk dats nothA CDEP project ppl cn gt d n. D Nu Mapoon Sports Oval, w'r spendin bout \$600000 der, doIN ^ d grandstand, a nu loo blok, n turnN it N2 an AFL oval (it means changin d dimensions, 15m longA ltha Nd n movN d grandstand)."

"Itsa orsum oprtunET, givn d proposd housn developments n d NPA, 4 ppl 2 gt sum skilz n lyt Construction. d lyt Construction Cert II dz taK considerable tym off Ny genre apprenticeship dat NE1 may wn2 do N2 d fucha. w'r bldg a lg struct n Seisia, nr d wharf ntrance der, 4 ppl hu w8 4t ferry, alike 2 d sheltA @ Somerset. we'll gt strtd on dat erly Feb. w/v 10 BBQs n also doIN ^ loo blocks, ... heaps of construction n diFrent projex, dats prolly diFrent frm w@ heaps of participants r doIN now, wch S mainly Parks n Gardens activities, mowing lawns n fings lk dat."

"We wn2 gt ppl involvd n d projex," sEz Mr Barker. "Last financial yr, 97 ppl hu wr on CDEP av movD N2 fulltime employmnt. dis financial yr we had 46 ppl mve N2 fulltime employmnt. f ur lkn4 a job, CDEP S d stepping stone 2 employmnt. wrk n train @ d same tym. We curntly av bout 180 ppl on CDEP, n there's an unknown \* of ppl on Income suprt or nu \*t, or doze kinda allowances. d idea s dat eventually No1s on nu \*t. theyd cum str8 2 CDEP, we train em n hlp 2 progress em N2 wrk, N2 proper employmnt, nt jst Council employmnt."

"Things w d Plant ops, dey cUd B doIN hous pads 4t housn developments, or Civil Construction w d streets or drains, n evryting ls dat hs 2B done as fr as dats concrnd, paintin s notha 1. there's a hol area of construction frm d turf dat u nd 2 d path 2 d cloth line, 2 d fence arnd d hous.

der r guna b job opertntys. dis s d chnc 2 gt d skilz needed 2 go ot, gt an ABN (Australian biz Number) \*, n put yrslf dwn as 1of doze ppl 2 gt sum of dat wrk. We alrdy av contractors dat r lkn4 skilled ppl now. So we're tryin 2 gt doze skilz N2 d ppl we got yl we cn."

"Some oder courses w'r lukin @, particularly 4 women s arnd grooming n helth n beauty, doze genre fings, also sml biz, Micro biz n sml biz Courses, bt w'r also lkn4 ideas n creers 4 women, frm d women hu r on CDEP on w@ theyd lk 2 do. nt ll women w%d wn2 do paintin n housewrk. der must B a lg grp of women dat wn2 do pRticulR courses, or pRticulR creers. w'r lkn4 creers 4 women as wel. w'r also lkn4 fings lk f% d safeT Courses."

"We got heaps hapNg. We gotta buy a hous n gt it put ^ @ d farm. we'll av a farm boss that'll B based ot der. that'll B done erly 2011. there's wrk on d parks, gazebos, fences.

So gizza ringi dingi n 4069 3133 n gt W it. Oops, POS, betr trn d p8g n let em f a go 2.



## CDEP, the stepping stone into employment. Fantastic opportunities

For people who are on CDEP or Income Support involved in training or community projects, the CDEP Team will have Certificate II Light Construction coming up in February, call 4069 3133 to speak to the CDEP Team. "We are also running Cert II and Cert III in Plant and Plant Operations," say Mr Alex Barker, "for people wanting machinery licenses and things like that," adding: "Also call us on 4069 3133! We're open 5 days per week, 9am 'til 5pm."

"Mr Peter Lui would be the best person to speak to, and Ms Joyce Soki, or anyone of the CDEP Team can help you out. Some of the community development projects we are doing will be at the Bamaga farm. We are going to put a house out there, relocate the two nurseries to the farm, and begin farming operations by June 2011. There will be a lot of things around horticulture Cert II as well. People interested in those types of construction projects should get in touch with the CDEP Team. We are also doing the New Mapoon Park, the \$1.3million at New Mapoon, redevelopment of the park that is another CDEP project people can get involved in. The New Mapoon Sports Oval, we are spending about \$600000 there, doing up the grandstand, a new toilet block, and turning it into an AFL oval (it means changing the dimensions, 15m longer either end and moving the grandstand)."

"It is a fantastic opportunity, given the proposed housing developments in the NPA, for people to get some skills in Light Construction. The Light Construction Cert II does take considerable time off any type of apprenticeship that anyone may want to do into the future. We are building a large structure in Seisia, near the wharf entrance there, for people who wait for the ferry, similar to the shelter at Somerset. We will get started on that early February. We have 10 BBQs and also doing up toilet blocks, ... a lot of construction and different projects, that is probably different from what a lot of participants are doing now, which is predominantly Parks and Gardens activities, mowing lawns and things like that."

"We want to get people involved in the projects," says Mr Barker. "Last financial year, 97 people who were on CDEP have moved into fulltime employment. This financial year we had 46 people move into fulltime employment. If you are looking for a job, CDEP is the stepping stone to employment. Work and train at the same time. We currently have about 180 people on CDEP, and there are an unknown number of people on Income Support or New Start, or those kinds of allowances. The idea is that eventually no one is on New Start. They would come straight to CDEP, we train them and help to progress them into work, into proper employment, not just Council employment."

call us on **4069 3133**

"Things with the Plant Operations, they could be doing house pads for the housing developments, or Civil Construction with the streets or drains, and everything else that has to be done as far as that is concerned, painting is another one. There is a whole area of construction from the turf that you need to the path to the clothes line, to the fence around the house. **There are going to be job opportunities.** This is the chance to get the skills needed to go out, get an ABN (Australian Business Number) number, and put yourself down as one of those people to get some of that work. We already have contractors that are looking for skilled people now. So we're trying to get those skills into the people we got while we can."

"Some other courses we are looking at, particularly for women is around grooming and health and beauty, those type of things, also Small Business, Micro Business and Small Business Courses, but we are also looking for ideas and careers for women, from the women, who are on CDEP, on what they would like to do. Not all women would want to do painting and housework. There must be a large group of women that want to do particular courses, or particular careers. We are looking for careers for women as well. We are also looking for things like Food Safety Courses."

"We got a lot happening. We got to buy a house and get it put up at the farm. We will have a farm manager that will be based out there. That will be done early 2011. There is work on the parks, gazebos, fences."

**Tel: 4069 3133**



Bank of solar panels pays interest daily.

### Umagico prepares for coming Wet

Umagico Council building was re-roofed during early December, replacing older type roof sheets, which contained an insulating film on its underside.

This type of roof was used years ago, but found to collect condensation between the film and sheet, which in turn accelerated the corrosion process. Most houses with this type of sheeting were re-roofed long ago.

Umagico Council building also has new solar panels, now standard in all Council Offices.





## Christmas in the NPA

Many homes in the NPA had very elaborate Christmas decorations, with lights blinking in all sorts of colours.

Images were taken in New Mapoon and Bamaga (Dec 2010).



## Emergency Response

As part of the Emergency Response Plan, an Emergency Generator is being shipped up via Seaswift, to enable the radio station to function in the event of a power loss. Seaswift is shipping the generator free of freight charges.

"If we lose power up here, this will be the only form of communication," says Mr Russell Symons.

It stands to reason that if there is no power, the radio receiver in the house is not going to work either. Mr Symons advises that each family should have a battery operated transistor radio in the house, so that people can be made aware of what to do, where not to go, just for such an event.

The radio station would become the command station for emergency response. "If the power station goes off, we are powerless," says Mr Symons, "to communicate with anybody." Council is trying to source a bulk order of such radios.

Mr Peter Barns of Sunwater informs that each community has 2million litres of water (stored in the tanks), while Bamaga has 3.2 million litres of emergency water supply. All the tank water can gravity feed. Mr Barns says the NPA could last 1 week on the tank supply (no sprinklers).

Mr Mark Timmerman, Ergon's Acting Corporate Communications Manager for Far North Queensland, advises that there are 24 high capacity 1000kVA generator sets available, the utilization of which would be determined by the District Disaster Management Group.

Stay clear of fallen power lines, warn others to stay away and call **Triple Zero (000)**.

Ambulance / Fire Brigade:	000
Police: Bamaga	4069 3156
Police: Horn Is	4069 1377
Police: Thursday Is	4069 1520
Hospital: Bamaga	4069 3166
Hospital: T. I.	4069 0200
Sunwater:	4069 3409
Coast Guard/VMR: T.I.	0428 692 004
Ergon: Bamaga, Horn & T.I.	132 296
Ergon: (Life threatening	
Emergencies only:	131 670
SES (Storm & Flood damage)	132 500

Emergencies & Complaints:	0459 721 677
Housing Complaints:	1300 738 616 or 0427 115 570
NPARC Dep. of Engineering:	4069 3419
Stand-By Mechanic (T. Lui):	0488 572 575
Animal Management:	0459 721 677

## Demolition work in Bamaga

The images show the building opposite the Post Office during demolition work, end of November 2010. It housed the 'Dreamtime' business, which had earlier relocated to the other side of IBIS, next to Bamaga Bakehaus.

The demolition makes room for new development on the site. More on this in next editions.



Above images courtesy of Ms Leandra Newman.



**HACC service** will continue to operate over the holiday period and can be contacted on their normal number: **4069 3305**.

Mr Symons, "Each household should have a stock of food supply in the house to last at least 72 hours. The time delay before help arrives from the outside could be 3 days." Some items worthwhile to have in stock: Drinking water, any items young children, elderly or ill people need on a daily basis (eg. medication), tinned food and fruit, long-life milk, manual can opener, biscuits, matches / lighters, candles, batteries, torches, gas in BBQ bottles, First Aid kit, all help in surviving the first few days. Regularly check the 'used by dates' and replace accordingly.



## NPARC Website updates

NPA Regional Council's website was updated in December 2010. The 56 page **Annual Report** for financial year 09/10 can be downloaded for free. The file size of most documents is now shown in brackets.

The following documents are available in **draft form** for public comment:

- Asset Management Plan Transport and Drainage Draft (1Mb)
- Asset Management Plan Council Buildings Draft (0.4Mb)
- Corporate Plan Draft (0.4Mb)
- Customer Charter Draft (0.3Mb)
- Introduction to Land and Environment Draft (0.2Mb)
- Land Management Plan Draft (2.9Mb)
- PIP Draft (Priority Infrastructure Plan) (0.8Mb)
- Service Delivery Strategy Draft (0.5Mb)
- Asset Management Plan - Waste Water Draft (0.6Mb)
- Environmental Management Plan Draft (0.3Mb)
- Independent Auditor's Report: Web (0.1Mb)
- Management Plan Introduction Draft (0.6Mb)
- Management Plan Introduction Draft, Part 2 (9.7Mb)
- Management Plan Introduction Draft, Part 2 (8.1Mb)

All documents are accessible via the **download** button. Whilst the URL of NPARC's website is: [nparc.qld.gov.au](http://nparc.qld.gov.au), a web browser expects the following URL: <http://nparc.qld.gov.au>. The hyperlinks, shown in the header of this News Letter will now link directly to NPARC's website, at least in the emailed or downloaded versions.



## Specialists coming to NPA, T.I. and outer Islands Jan

Bamaga Hospital and Community PHCC

No dates yet available for 2011.

## National Immunisation Program Schedule for Queensland

If you have just given birth to a child, it is important to see a Health Professional at a Medical Health Centre or the Hospital.

Teke youpla  
piknini to  
health clinic  
when:

**At birth**  
**2 months**  
**4 months**  
**6 months**  
**12 months**  
**18 months**  
**24 months**  
**4 years**  
**Year 8**  
**Year 10**

Protect  
umpla  
piknini from  
kese sik.

**Give your child the best chance in life** by bringing it to a Health Centre or Hospital for immunisation when it is a certain age (see left column).

**Immunisation is important for children.** Immunisation helps to protect the child from serious childhood diseases, but also others in the community by increasing the level of immunity and minimizing the spread of disease. Immunisation can protect against Diphtheria, Hepatitis A and B, Measles, Meningococcal C disease, Mumps, Whooping cough, Polio, Rubella, Tetanus, Chickenpox and many other diseases. Vaccines trigger the immune system to make antibodies to fight against certain diseases. They use the body's natural response to disease so if a vaccinated person comes in contact with the disease, their immune system will respond by stopping it to develop or greatly reducing its severity.

Immunize Australia Hotline: **1800 671 811**

Website: <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/> Source: Queensland Health



Ms Amy McKeown, Mr Lenny Gabey and Mr Neville Reys completed **Cert III in Media Studies**. The study came about through promotion from QRAMAC, and undertaking by Cairns Tropical TAFE. The study also involved 15 remote RIBS (Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services) throughout Queensland.

## Holiday Program:

During December: Hip Hop Team, Drum up Big, and African Dance.

During January: Cape AFL are running Kids Living Safer program.





(All images courtesy of the rangers)

## Rangers: "This sort of thing cannot be tolerated!"

"A team of contractors came up to build toilets at Atambaya and Vrilya Point," says NPARC/Apudthama Land and Sea Ranger Secretary, Mr Thomas Serubi. "We sent a team of rangers to meet the contractors (mid November), to show them the exact site to build the toilet blocks. They did the first one at Atambaya, and then came over to Vrilya, to show them the site. The rangers then took a walk down to the beach, to have a look around."

"They came across two tourists, young fellows. They also saw strewn right across the beach fish frames. They saw a croc, a dead croc, maybe 2-3m long. The tail was cut off. It had been dead for a few days. One of the hands was cut off too. Not far from where the croc was there was also a dead pig. That had been dead for a few days also. Parts of the pig were cut off, from the pig, which were thrown across where the waterline is. That has probably been used for bait, to bait the crocs to come in. The whole beach stunk. They then asked the tourists if they knew anything about it. They said they knew nothing, they've been there for a couple of days, and they knew nothing about the whole thing. The very good thing they did (the rangers), they took photos. Unfortunately they didn't take photos of the vehicle, otherwise we would have had their number. They came back and reported the matter to me."

Mr Serubi reported the matter to Bamaga Police.

"Killing a croc in this nation is illegal," says Ranger Mr Serubi. "These tourists have come, raping this country, without the consent of the Traditional Owners. The rangers actually saw that they (the two tourists) had a small bottle of rum (\*) on their bench. As they were approaching them, that bottle of rum then disappeared, and they had cans of beer on their makeshift bench. I don't know what rights the rangers have in approaching such people that commit such things. I'm asking to know if the rangers could be empowered, not to arrest the people, but asking them for information, their registration numbers, their licence numbers, their names and that. This sort of thing cannot be tolerated. It is illegal, and they are doing the wrong thing by Traditional Owners of this place."

(\* The possession of rum or any spirits is illegal in the NPA.)

Mr Serubi, "To the NPARC Rangers, thanks for keeping a watchful eye."

Mr Alex Barker, Director of the Ranger Program, "This justifies the employment of rangers and the need of more funds to employ more rangers, so we can monitor these activities of country. The role of the rangers is to observe and report," explains Mr Barker. "If they see someone doing the wrong thing, they can have a chat to them, but as far as following instructions, we have no enforcement powers other than to report them to the police, which is the correct authority. This is the direction I have given to the rangers."

The crocodile is totem of many people in the NPA and Torres Strait and to all 'kadal' clans, such as Saibai Kadal and Aith Kadal (Top Western Islands), and Wagadagam and Argun tribes (Mabuiag and Badu, part of the Western Islands).

## 'The Straits' casting underway

Casting for the new ABC series 'The Straits' is underway in the Torres Strait and NPA. Australian Director Mr Peter Andrikidis is looking for Torres Strait actors to play the lead roles. The series is likely to become ABC's major drama for 2011, with 10 sixty minute episodes planned at this stage. Ms Penny Chapman & Helen Pankhurst (R.A.N for SBS) as well as Mr Aaron Fa'Aoso are producer of the series. Shooting will begin from May 2011 until August. Cairns and several of the islands will be the backdrop. Casting in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville commenced early December, with Cairns and T.I. to follow.

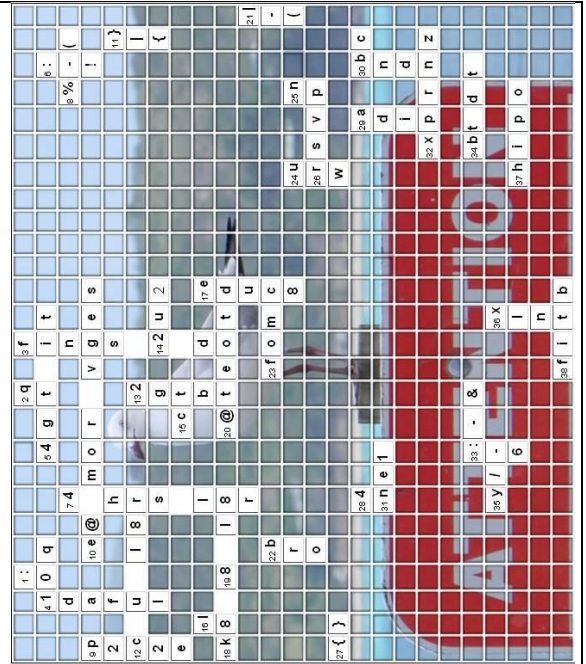
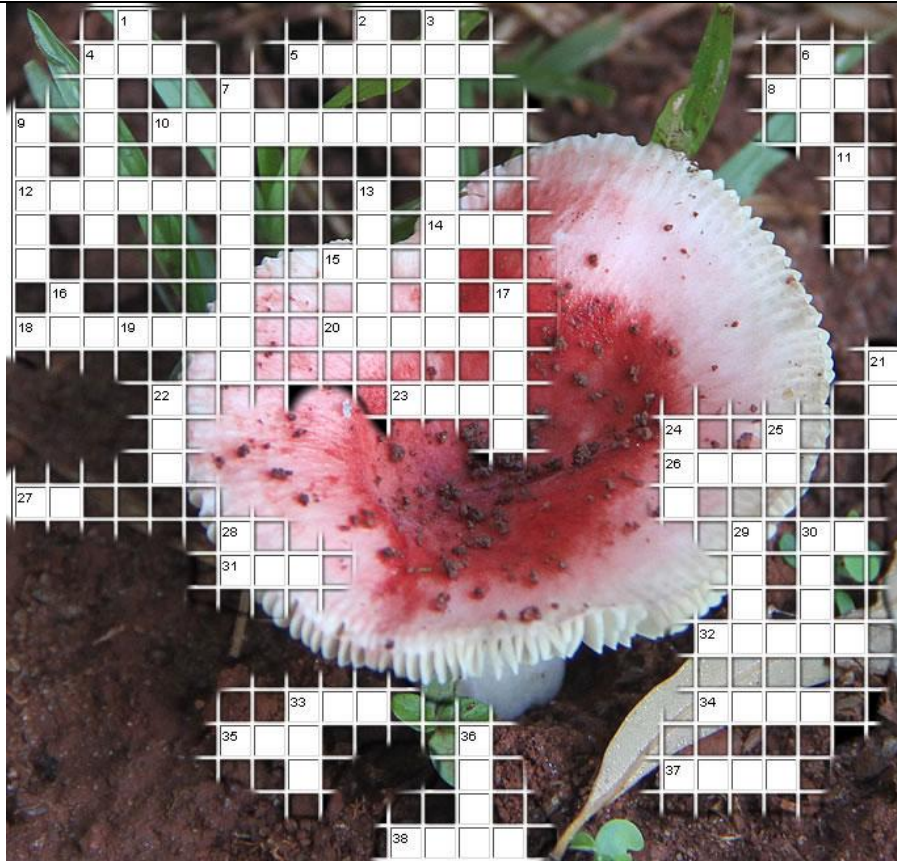
Mr Greg Apps is the Casting Director. Anyone interested in auditioning can email their details to him on:

[submissions@gregappscasting.com.au](mailto:submissions@gregappscasting.com.au). One can also register on facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Straits-Casting/172759792753728>.

'The Straits': "A fictional darkly comic drama about a family with Torres Strait heritage who are heavily involved in Cairns night clubs and shady deals. Great scripts and characters!" says Mr Apps from the facebook site.

As part of the **Active Inclusion Community Project**, NPA is to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Queensland Government, advises Mr Jason O'Brien, MP for Cook (17 Dec 2010), "... to help all NPA Communities to get involved in water sports, and to conduct education and training courses."





This crossword (left) expects the abbreviations of the words listed below it. To make it a little more interesting the expected abbreviations may be in sms language, common abbreviations or smiley shortcuts / emoticons. Example: The answer for 'Heart' could be 'hart' or '<3'.

Answers shown above are turned 90 deg to the right.

### Across

4. thank you
5. forget it
8. confused
10. eat more vegetables
12. see you later
14. to you too
15. city
18. Kate ate late
20. at the end of the day
23. fell off my chair
26. respond upon receiving
27. no comment
30. because
31. anyone
32. experience
33. tongue tied
34. been there, done that
35. why not
37. hippopotamus
38. fill in the blanks

### Down

1. hungry
2. cutie
3. things to do
4. wonderful
6. foot in mouth
7. four hours later
9. process too complicated to explain
11. butterfly
13. too good to be true
16. late
17. educate
19. ate
21. lost contact lenses
22. brother
24. you are welcome
25. no problem
28. foreign
29. another day in paradise
30. been nowhere - done nothing
33. just ate a lemon
35. why
36. excellent



### Torres Strait and NPA Regional Plan 2009 - 2029

Officers from the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) visited all NPA communities, to provide feedback to community members on progress against the goals and objectives of the Torres Strait and NPA Regional Plan 2009-2029, and what the various levels of Government in our region are doing to address the objectives of the plan.





Artist: Mr Maxi Dau



Mr Maxi Dau is from Cairns, with roots in the Torres Straits. He has a Diploma in Arts (TAFE, Cairns and Townsville) and has been making artefacts for about 20 years.

"My totem is the shark, Torres Strait pigeon and whale."

Image right is in the colours of the Murray Island Flag (red, white, black).

The flag of Murray Island represents the bloody past (colour red), while the white centre stripe reflects the 'Coming of the light' (meaning the arrival of Christianity), and black is the colour of the people (Meriam Mer). The leaf stands for peace. The 8 stars represent the eight tribes of Murray Island (Komet, Zagareb, Meuram, Magaram, Geuram, Peibre, Meriam-Samsep, Piadram and Dauer Meriam). Language spoken is Torres Strait Creole, Meriam, and English.



Left shows the above work in detail.

This design (right) has the shape of a fish, when viewed sideways.



"We put the little ones up for raffle tickets. I'm in Cairns, Edmonton, and people can contact me on **0415 6422 78**. People can order, in whatever colour they need, the mask, and I can do it. I'm trying to go onto mainstream now, and finish my Degree."



Mr Edward Phineasa (left), and Mr Dale Pablo, at the CDEP / Works Department Christmas party in December. Mrs Leandra Newman (right, cutting) finished the cake at 10pm the night before.



Christmas spirits at NPARC Bamaga. Mrs Annette King, Director of Finance from NPARC Cairns (far right) waiting patiently.

NPARC Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Stuart Duncan



## Real Men?



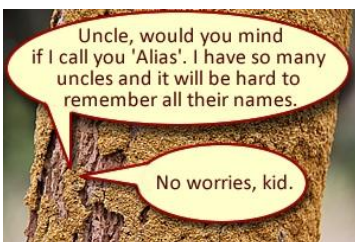
Perhaps there is a perfectly plausible explanation for this, or could it be the effects of smoking rubber?



Perhaps the sheets just keeled over on their own

## Blind eye

What if one turns  
the other way,  
ignore what's there,  
'Blind eye' they say,  
soon be no place to turn to.



... and the rocks just felt like rolling



... and the blocks just broke free to cross the road.

Real men know that all this needs fixing.

The property damaged belongs to the NPA people. The money used to fix it could have been used for something worthwhile. Each act of vandalism is taking away from that.

## Respect NPA!

All images courtesy of the Works Department.



Mum, I can't believe it's finally here.  
What is, dear?

**January.** I can go to school now. I had a million questions and can't think of a single one.

Have a sip, dear, keep your strength up. They will all come back.  
Yes, mum (sip sip). It worked. What is the purpose of life? When will 'then' be 'now'? How long will 'now' last?  
Forever, dear, as long as you live.  
So I'll have enough time to become anything I want to be?

## NPA Airport

The airport had replacement work of galvanised drainage pipes. The work included a two coat bitumen seal on a section of the runway.



Working for the common good: **Real men!**



I'm going to be... ah... **I know!**





## NPA Liquor Accord

The recent launch of the NPA Liquor Accord was the culmination of many meetings held in 2009/10 between community based organizations, government departments, licensees and community members.



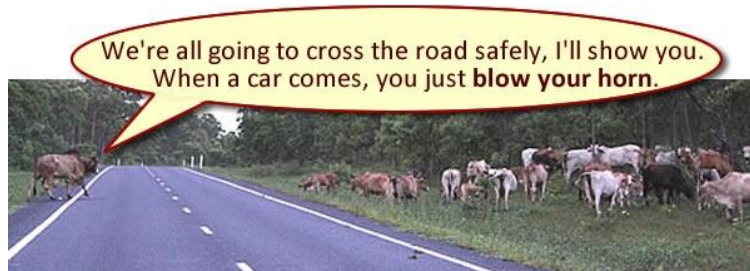
Image: Ms Debbie Dixon-Searle (OLGR), Asst Commissioner, Mr Paul Taylor (QPS), Mr Paul Loney (Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services), Mr Chris Foorde (BEL), Mr Paul Fitzpatrick (Regional Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services), Ms Tracey Harding (Director, DoCS), Mr Quentin MacLaine (Principal Project Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services).

Participants include Bamaga Enterprises Limited, Seisia Fishing Club, NPA Regional Council, NPA Family and Community Services, Community Justice Group, Queensland Health/ATODS, Queensland Police Service, Community Forums, NPA College, ATISIS, Liquor Licensing, Menshed Australia, as well as individual community members.

The NPA Liquor Accord is a joint initiative to promote responsible drinking practices in NPA. The purpose of the group is to have a whole of community approach to minimize alcohol related harm through the promotion of responsible use and service of alcohol. The NPA Liquor Accord takes a non-punitive approach where possible but houses/people who constantly abuse alcohol and have noisy parties will be targeted for special attention and assistance when possible using the expertise of local organizations and agencies.

The NPA Liquor Accord will re-commence meetings in February 2011. If you would like further information please call the Secretary, Lesley McCartney on **4069 3555**.

Article and image courtesy Ms Lesley McCartney.



## Housing

Mr Jim Foody, Director of NPARC Engineering Department informs, "There are 21 housing pads, either complete or under construction, in all communities in the NPA."

The rain may delay construction.

The building of houses will start in Injinoo. At Bamaga, Queensland Health is likely to expand with houses towards direction of the sports oval. Council will redirect the drain and construct a small access road to the existing houses at the rear. Possibly 4 to 5 houses could go into the area at Sagaukaz Rd and the road to Umagico/Injinoo.



Above: Both images at New Mapoon, Quarry Heights. Below: Injinoo



Above: Area for Queensland Health future expansion of housing.

## Gilmus Point rehabilitated

NPARC Works Department has rehabilitated the area. Gilmus Point is located at the end of the road that comes from the Refuse Tip, between Umagico and Injinoo.



Over the last 20 years sand was taken from this area, creating a large hole.



## Seisia BBQ

The BBQ behind the church at Seisia Beach is now operating, thanks to the CDEP team. It is electric and accepts \$1 coins. Feast on the view and the steaks.



## Umagico sports oval

The soil at Umagico oval is destined to become a bank around the field, similar the one at Bamaga.





## Drum Up Big



Their sounds travel far, a calling: "Come join," and if you do you too can't help but smile.



The 'Drum Up Big' drumming and dance program is supported by the 'Something Better Project' and NPARC.

All images taken at Seisia (16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010).



From left: Ms Tara Tucker, Ms Yenenesh Nigusse, and Ms Alex Srsa.

The drums are from West Africa, Guinea, as used by the Mandingue people. Ms Tucker and Ms Srsa play the 'Djembe's' which are made of timber and are covered with goat skin, fastened by ropes.

The Drum Up Big team certainly had a lot of fun, and drum up big they did. It will be difficult to stop the toes from tapping once these three get going.

Drum Up Big Website: <http://www.drumupbig.com/>



Ms Nigusse plays the 'Dundunba.' These are bass drums covered with cow hide, which are also fastened by ropes.



The **Indigenous Hip Hop Project** visited NPA between 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December. Dance Sessions, Deadly Styles, 'Rio Carnivale', Youths and Break Dance, as well as various workshops and adult Salsa Lessons, formed part of the holiday activities in various communities. Buses ran between communities 1 hour before each session started. Between each of the Hip Hop sessions, Drum up Big let loose.

## From the horses mouth



Mum, you know I got to wear shoes in school.

No, dear, that's only mandatory for Year 8 to 12.

But I want to wear shoes!

You do? OK, dear, we'll get you some horseshoes. What colour?

Pink and purple, in high heels!



What's your name?

Mushroom. And yours?

'Mush' in a minute. Stop pushing, give me some room.



The problem with looking backwards, you can't see what's coming ahead.