



# NPA News

Regional  
Council

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council News Letter

LETTER

**Development and Conservation**

New regional management policy underway, with discussion for World Heritage Listing. Pg 2

**Torres Strait Cultural Festival Thursday Island**

Celebration of cultures as island and mainland tribes converge upon Thursday Island. Pp 8-9

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NPARC Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Mr Jeff Brown







## TSRA Elected Representatives

Voting for the 2012 Torres Strait Regional Authority Board were held on the 15th September. In previous years, board members consisted of elected councillors from Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Bamaga, Seisia, Port Kennedy, Horn Island or Prince of Wales. This year is the first year where members are directly elected to the board. The board is made up of 20 members who are Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal, and currently living within a ward in the region.

Elected members for NPA wards are:

**Bamaga**  
Reg Williams

**Seisia**  
Joseph Elu

The TSRA Chairman will be voted in by TSRA Board members, with voting held on November 13th 2012.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority aim to improve economic, cultural and social development within the Torres Strait/NPA region, for all indigenous persons.

For more information, visit  
[www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au)

## Building a united future

Community consultations have begun, forming the first steps of what is to be the community-driven NPA 10 Year Plan.

On Mayor Charlie's invitation, independent contractor Annalise Jennings visited the region to conduct three days of community workshops to lay the plan's foundations.

"This plan will be built to reflect the core personal and community values," Ms Jennings said, "which is why I believe this is a plan that will work, that you will get behind and support."

Ms Jennings has recently spent 12 months working with community members of Napranum, to build their own 10 year plan, and she says that they have already begun to achieve goals set.

"They didn't wait for government funding or for outside assistance to make their plan a success," Ms Jennings said, "the drive comes from within when you base your future goals on your core beliefs and values, when it comes from the people, not from outside."

During the three days of workshops, Ms Jennings spoke to many community members from elders to police, to health workers, admin and more.

"I'd have liked to meet each and every person within these unique communities," Ms Jennings said, "and look forward to meeting many more on my next visit."

**Next Workshop held Nov 20th/21st/22nd**



Sandra Sebasio and Kasia Gabrys (QLD Gov Heritage) discuss ecological mapping of the Cape

## Country Planning and World Heritage Listing

Last year, the Apudthama Land Trust and QLD Government began discussing applications to enter areas of Cape York into World Heritage Listing.

This month Kasia Gabrys, QLD Government Heritage, addressed the Land Trust and residents of the NPA, announcing the QLD Government will support an application for World heritage Listing only if the traditional owners and community members approve. So far, there are 8 contracts signed with traditional owners, from communities across the Cape in support of the nomination.

"It's very hard to achieve World Heritage Listing," said Ms Gabrys, "you have to prove there is significant ecological, cultural or historical value that needs protecting."

## Bio-regional Management Plan

As QLD Government rescind the Wild Rivers Program, a Cape York Bioregional Management Plan will be introduced. The aim is to acknowledge all cultural/ historical/ natural areas within the region and protect these, while allowing for economic growth and development.

Residents were given a two week period this month to submit information/ opinions to the plan, during the scoping phase this month. Though some residents and the Apudthama Land Trust did submit their input to the plan, the Land Trust worry that the submission phase was too short and as a result, much knowledge will be overlooked.

Many residents at the meeting said they were in support of creating a management plan, but one created by the traditional owners, one time, to be carried out unanimously, rather than creating many plans and many renewals upon these.



## Freehold backed for home ownership

During a recent visit to the area, Queensland Local Government Minister, Hon David Crisafulli MP, Member for Cook Mr David Kempton and Acting Deputy Director-General for Department of Local Government, Bill Gillmore met with NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie, Deputy mayor Edward Newman, Elected Councillors Anthony Mara, Trevor Lifu and Benjamin Gebadi, NPARC CEO Jeff Brown and Deputy CEO Daniel Sebasio to discuss future growth to our region, and government support.

Welcoming them to the region, Mayor Charlie initiated discussions regarding land leasing and ownership. "It can be difficult for residents to make land investments with our current leasing strategies," he said, "we'd like to look at areas of freehold land in the region, to see our people have the ability to own their own house, as they would be able to in other areas of Australia."

Mr Crisafulli expressed his support for change, "You are the traditional owners here, and supporting you means so much."

"If you let us know what support you need to manage your own land and finance, we will help where ever we can." He acknowledged that as Mayor and Elected Councillors, our elected members will be "in a better position to deliver change" and should be the driving force of change in the region. "You are living here, and you are the traditional owners of the land here, you know better than I what you need to support the region."

At this stage, NPARC is relying upon government grants to stay afloat, although soon all government grants will be reduced, meaning local government will need to begin to manage their own investments, divestments and finances to support themselves.

Mayor Charlie and present elected members expressed their determination to assist residents to establish their own businesses, and to have the ability to own their own homes. Through local business and investment, the local economy will become more sustainable, rather than relying on Government grants and funding.

Mr Crisafulli said councils who are seen to be managing themselves economically will be rewarded over those who are not pursuing change and growth. The first obstacle will be the Sunwater hand over to NPARC management in July 2013. Mr Crisafulli and Mr Kempton have offered their support in any means necessary to make it a smooth transition.



### White Balloon Day

Walking through the streets of Bamaga, the parade chanted *Care, Protect Respect* and held aloft white balloons to symbolise innocence.

White Balloon Day is a day where the unspeakable is voiced, where we stand against child sexual abuse and make a change for generations to come.

The support for our children was overwhelming, with many organizations and businesses tying the white balloons outside their buildings, and many more joining the march along Adidi St, saying *-no more-* to child abuse.

### Child Protection Week

It takes a community to raise a child, and at every place in their community and out, our children have the right to feel safe and be treated with respect. A child raised with respect for themselves and for others will pass this onto their own children and so on.

This month Nia-Beguta Agama Aboriginal Organisation organised free face painting, activities and BBQs within community to provide a safe place for children to go after school.



L-R) Cllr Dennis Getawan, Dep Mayor Edward Newman, Cllr Benjamin Gebadi, Cllr Anthony Mara, (front) Local Member for Cook David Kempton, NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie and Minister for Local Government, David Crisafulli MP







Congratulations Ashley Bond, on receiving the Alan Sarago Award at the recent Apprentice and Trainee Awards. The award recognizes the Trainee who has demonstrated resilience, motivation and perseverance throughout their training.

Ashley was a participant in the September 2011 Indigenous Pathway Solution Work Start Program, where he developed outstanding work ethic, set personal and professional goals and gained a better understanding of the expectations set for Rio Tinto Alcan Workers.

He has been recognised for his outstanding achievements and determination. Well done Ashley!



A big welcome on board to Louisa Bowie, who has recently begun editing an Injinoo based community Newsletter. Louisa is the first youth to come on board with the *Deadly News* Team to write, edit and publish a monthly publication for her community.

She will be working alongside Injinoo IKC Coordinator Sandra Sebasio, NPARC Media Officer Jess Saxton to gather news and public interest stories, editing her own newsletter, to be distributed through the local IKC.

IKC Coordinators are now looking for volunteers to begin their own *Deadly News* Editions, contact your local IKC for details.



We'd like to say a big eso to sissy Deb Stacey as we wish her and her family farewell on their next adventure.

Though Deb has only been with us for a few months, she became quickly known for her bubbly nature and fighting spirit. You'd always know when Deb was in the building, you could hear her laugh a mile off.

Thanks for your hard work, your dedication to helping CDEP workers find their feet and their place, and your tireless patience for your friends. All the best sissy.



Congratulations to Erris Eseli, who was this month ordained as a Minister of the Anglican Church.







## Standing on sacred ground

Listen. Many voices of the past can be heard, carried on the wind through the trees and scrub on Somerset hill. On entering this land it's advised that you avoid loud or raucous behavior, so as to not disturb the spirits of the bush; advice that has been passed from elders and ancestors.

"Our culture is based on story telling," said Injinoo Elder Meun Lifu, "we pass on knowledge of the land and the spirits to younger generations, as it was passed to us by our elders."

Nowadays, the bush has reclaimed the land where once stood an army barracks and naval hospital where the wounds and ailments of many sailors, travelers and residents were treated from tropical infection to introduced diseases such as outbreaks of tuberculosis and leprosy.

The hospital was built atop the hill in the 1860s, so as to capture the sea breeze to keep the patients comfortable. Though what they did not know is that the same breeze would then snake through the bush and scrub, to the waiting ears of the scrub devils and mischievous *kaphri* (little people).

Below the hill where now only ruins of the hospital are visible, still stands a cave, with rock paintings over hundreds of years old. These ancient artworks stood against the test of time, with tides and winds battering the cave walls, while the hospital and barracks have succumb to the land and the spirits.

The paintings within the cave depict animals hunted for food, *Bulla Bulla* (the people of the area), and also what is thought to be a drawing of the first tall ships to pass the coast. The presence of the white settlers was not unnoticed by the local tribes, or by the spirits of the land.

"For centuries, the area had been regarded by locals as a place where the little people and scrub devils lived, a place not to be disturbed." Uncle Shorty tells, saying many stories still float through the communities, warning others to be careful in those areas.

Following many unexplained mis-haps and due to the strong currents in the channel making the area unsuitable, the shipping port was re-located to Thursday Island in 1877.

Now Somerset Bay is home to only campgrounds and the remnants of a once thriving settlement. Given the tumultuous history of the area, from indigenous use to white settlement and the disputes and relationships that resulted, the area has earned it's peace. Now the quiet is only disturbed by the winds through the trees.



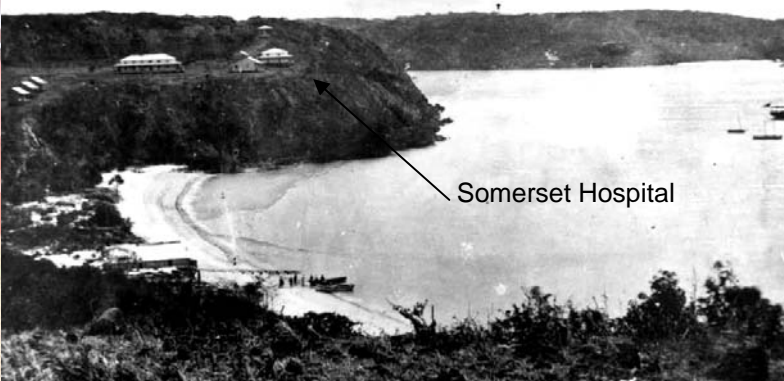
(Above) Somerset Hospital, photo taken 1869

Image retrieved from website *A history of Colonial Occupation and Culture Contact 1864-1897*, supplied by Jane Restore 2012.

(Below) British Marine Camp on Somerset Hill, Cape York, Queensland, ca.1869

Image retrieved from John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland : ca.1869, Accessed: 10 September 2012.

Three small married men's cottages are visible on the left, the barracks in the centre and the hospital far right. A sailing ship is moored in the bay, with two small boats landing on the beach.







## Fire Season

Throughout the southern areas of Australia, bushfires burn fast and hot, consuming homes and even towns in their blaze. To members of these communities, even the dropped butt of a cigarette will be stomped out furiously, for fear of igniting a bushfire.

However, in areas such as Cape York, where rangers and residents conduct regular burn-offs, the fires smolder through the scrub at comparatively low temperatures, causing far less damage upon the bush land and making way for new growth.

Due to the regularity of the burn offs, the threat of a bushfire in the region is much lower, as most of the fuel is burnt off in small quantities.

Many species of native flora thrive with regular burning off. Some require the heat to drop their seeds while others benefit by allowing dead limbs to burn, and growing new shoots after the fires.

The burn offs also help to maintain invading species such as gar grass, which can be effectively poisoned after the burn offs.

This month, NPA Rangers underwent safe fire-management training with Mick from Friendly Fires.

"They already know where to burn, and how to do so safely," Mick said, "I'm just going through the formalities with them so all bases are covered and they have the piece of paper to go ahead and manage their land with fire."

The training also covered new techniques of fire management, including the use of incendiary balls; small ping-pong sized balls that will ignite exactly 30 seconds after being injected with ethylene glycol. They are commonly used in areal back-burning operations, allowing land management workers to access and burn dense areas of scrub not easily accessed by foot or vehicle.

The new technique makes back-burning operations more efficient, as the incendiary balls can be released into specific areas of scrub from a moving vehicle, rather than use of traditional methods, where the bush would be set alight with matches.

"We look for large areas of dead or dry grass and scrub, and will burn that section. We have naturally occurring fire breaks which we can work with, like rainforest, roads and creeks," said Senior Ranger Christo Lifu.

Each area is carefully monitored to ensure no damage is caused to residents or local infrastructure. Water tanks are fitted to a high pressure hose, to douse infrastructure before burning, or to control flames where needed.

"We have to look at the direction of the wind, and surrounding landscape, so we can anticipate which way it will burn and make sure that it is going to burn safely."

In these dry months, it's important to get the dry and dead scrub burnt off in low intensity, manageable fires, so the fuel and kindling does not build up and create an unmanageable bushfire that could tear through communities and homes.





## Stray Dogs Impounded

It's an issue regularly on the lips of NPA residents—stray dogs around communities.

NAPRC Environmental Services have had dog catchers active in each community, trapping and impounding stray dogs.

The aim is to reduce the number of strays and feral dogs, though if domestic animals are out on the roads or in the bush, they might be mistaken for a stray.

It's important to have your dog registered with the council so that it can be identified if it's picked up. It's also important to try to keep animals restrained or in the yard.

Council advises that all animals be de-sexed during a vet visit, to avoid animals breeding with other pets or strays. De-sexed dogs are also free to register in the NPA. Registration not only will allow your dog to be identified if impounded, but can help to settle ownership disputes as well.

If a stray dog is not claimed and collected, they will be destroyed. If your dog is missing, please call NPARC Environmental Services on 4069 3419.

If there are stray animals bothering you home, or community, you can also contact NPARC Environmental Services to try to catch the animals.

### Registration fees

**Full Registration.....\$45**

**Registration for Hunting Dog/  
Working Dog.....\$50**

**De-sexed Dog..... free to register**

**Retrieval of impounded dog .....\$100**

## Welcome back, to the radio show...

*Kasa Por Yarn*, is back! The only radio show that talks about the issues that are too often kept behind closed doors.

As Mayor Charlie welcomed both visitors and residents to the opening night, he spoke of the importance of the show, in bringing these issues into light and helping to educate younger generations.

The night's celebrations kicked off with live music provided by Blaik Koral, guest starring *Kasa Por Yarn*'s very own Dani Bani (Jason). Injinoo Dancers performed the story of how their ancestors used to follow smoke to hunt and to move camp sites, with a team of dancers from every age.

Seisia's Zugubal Thithui Dancers also performed, capturing the precision and timing known to Saibai Island Dance.

Those who attended the night might find themselves as the newest stars of the NPA, as footage taken from the opening night is being used in the creation of a video clip for their new track *Living in the NPA*. Check it out on YouTube—you might be there too!

Series 2 is currently being aired throughout the Torres Strait and NPA Region, on Radio 4MW and Red Dust Country Radio (91.9FM).

If you can relate to any of the issues talked about in the series, you can always contact your local doctor or health worker.

No shame in seeking help.

Listen to Season 2 on 91.9 FM  
or free stream on YouTube.





## Winds of Change

There is no individual owner of traditional lands, no one leader of indigenous people. The nation we call Australia is home to many individual clan groups and, within these, there are many who can identify through blood ties to more than one. Our cultures are uniting. This does not mean they are being lost, culture and tradition will remain strong, though with each generation will come change and growth, and with this, a new ownership and management of our new society.

At the Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival 2012, in the midst of a celebration of tradition, a convergence of Torres Strait and mainland Aboriginal culture- a unity of the past and the present- came a very strong political message.

As Mayor Pedro Stephens welcomed residents, visitors, family and friends to the festival grounds, he invited all to take part in this peaceful unity of culture and reflect on the true meaning of sovereignty.

"Now is a time where the oldest nations of the land come together in an exchange of culture and knowledge," Mayor Stephens said, "and we can be a part of the true meaning of sovereignty."

His message was a belief in self, belief in culture and traditional land rights. A belief that true sovereignty is not accomplished by the acquisition of a piece of paper, but through belief, tradition and respect.

Many years have been dedicated to the return of land to traditional owners, and to certify indigenous land rights across mainland Australia and the Torres Straits. These battles are still being fought, and although recent generations have made tremendous steps forward in rectifying the wrongs of the past, there is still work to do.

Perhaps a truer realisation of the week's festivities would be to say that the cultural festival brought together the many nations joined together by their neighboring homelands in this beautiful corner of the earth.

Unity, perhaps, was the real message. Maybe one that was not spoken as loud in words and speeches, but certainly one that was spoken in actions, one that does not rely upon politics.

A physical convergence of people from different backgrounds and bloodlines brought our cultures closer, as families, performers and visitors came together as one, sitting in one circle, feeling the same drum beat and breathing the same sea air, enamored with the same dances and music from each tribe.

Kurareg Tribe Dancer





Thursday Island residents opened their homes, their streets and their school to the visitors from both far and near, welcoming them as one family, to celebrate this peaceful gathering between cultures.

Within this unity of cultures, of generations, of bloodlines and traditions, perhaps we found our one unique answer to sovereignty.

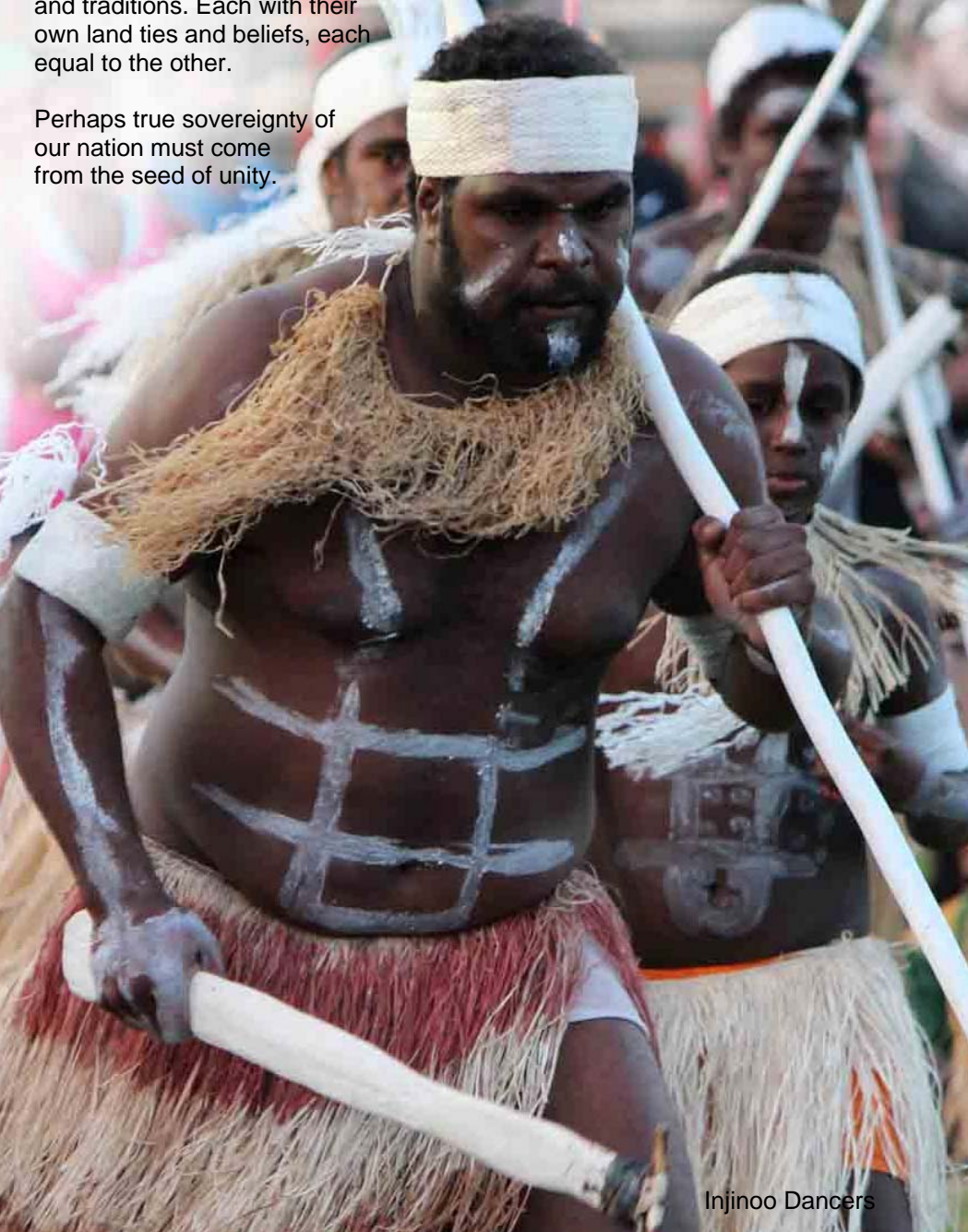
Australia and the Torres Strait Islands are not a whole, but a collection of many- each with their own distinct past, culture and traditions. Each with their own land ties and beliefs, each equal to the other.

Perhaps true sovereignty of our nation must come from the seed of unity.

*kasa por interest....*

Sovereignty Definition

*Power or authority over a sovereign land. The independent power or authority in government as possessed or claimed by a state or community.*



Injinoo Dancers







Injinoo, Snake Gully

## Services Installed

Injinoo's Snake Gully Subdivision has undergone an extreme makeover in the last few months, changing from a flattened field to an estate; now complete with housing pads, roads, streetlights and phone lines.

This month the focus has been on installing services to each block, including water, electricity and phone lines, ready for construction to begin on homes next year.

Bamaga Subdivision has also seen the leveling of 38 house pads (of the 50 proposed), complete with street-light installation, electricity, water and Telstra phone lines.

"Drainage has been a big part of this subdivision," said NPARC Director of Operations, Geoff Rintoul, "we are creating new solutions to ease the current strain resulting in damage to Elu Street in wet seasons."

Construction of homes is not expected to begin until after the next wet season, giving time for NPARC housing and Q Build to work with future tenants to understand their specific home needs and requirements.

Following the inspection and housing handovers last month, Mayor Charlie and Elected Councilors have ensured that as part of the housing program improvements underway, tenants will be better included in the design of homes to be constructed. Variables such as family size, ages, disabilities and more will be considered in the specific designs of each future home.

Mayor Charlie and Elected Councillors also said they'd like to see development of the region giving back to the community, through employment and utilization of local businesses such as carpentry, scaffolding and earthworks.



It is expected that areas of the Injinoo Council Office will be re-designated to Q-Build, allowing Q-Build representatives and housing officers to work with tenants face to face, rather than over the phone. The transition is planned to begin early next year.

NPARC Director of Operations, Geoff Rintoul has asked that social housing residents in need of maintenance work such as leaking faucets or taps, should contact Q Build immediately.

**Q Build Contact: 1300 738 616**

## Getting the ferry back in action

Within only a matter of days this thirsty truck had been pulled from the waters of the Jardine, and within a week the ferry was fixed and back in action, getting many tired tourists and residents finally to the other side.

Though initially load restrictions were enforced, the Jardine Ferry is now once again fully operational, providing the only link between North and South stretches of the Peninsula Development Road.

NPARC would like to thank travelers for their patience in dealing with this event. We'd also like to extend a congratulations to tourism companies who worked together, swapping travelers to busses stranded on either bank, so their holidays could continue!

*Thanks to the quick action and hard work of head boiler maker Pat Bryden, and boiler makers Edward Newman, Jamal Christian, George Adidi, Richard Sunai, Chales Woosup, Aaron Sebasio, Nelson Steven, and Nick Curnow, who worked tirelessly on the ferry repairs to get travelers back on track.*





## Community Meeting Minutes

—Housing, leasing, stray animals and noise control, community planning and development—

*Complete Minutes available on NPARC Website, under Community Meetings.*

### Housing

NPARC Director Of Operations Geoff Rintoul spoke about housing programs and social housing maintenance. He asked that for any maintenance required, council is contacted. (see pg. 10 for more information)

### Leasing

NPARC Director of Corporate Services, Chris Williams spoke about land leasing and implications for new local businesses. (see pg. 14)

### Noise Control

QLD Poilce Constable Adam Frew discussed noise control in communities. If there is a noise disturbance, you can contact police to make a complaint. If no complaint is made, police cannot act. When a complaint is made, police will investigate source of noise and determine if it is excessive for the activity. They can ask to have the noise turned down and if it is not, they may confiscate the equipment making the noise.

Residents can avoid issues by alerting neighbors to upcoming activities where they may be excessive noise— eg a birthday party, and by being respectful of noise late at night or early mornings.

### Local History

New Mapoon IKC coordinator Pauline Lifu spoke about the importance of local IKCs in cataloguing local history and culture, to preserve for future generations. She asked for community members to submit old photographs and documents to IKC operators to be scanned and kept on file.

### Community Planning

Annalise Jennings spoke about creation of a *Ten Year Plan* for the NPA Region, working in depth with communities and council. Mayor Charlie and Elected Councillors have begun discussions and invited Ms Jennings to return to continue her work... (see pg 2.)

### School Attendance

NPA Senior College Campus Principal Ken McLean again spoke about the outstanding improvements made in the recent year's work by NPA Students, as well as the lowering attendance rates. Given that some students may miss around 2/3 days a week, these students will graduate on average with 2 years less schooling than those who have full attendance. Mayor Charlie asked that all parents try to attend P & C meetings, to be a part of their child's education. Councillors suggested that parents and community members encourage youths to attend school, if they see them at home or on the street during school hours.

### Youth Drinking

It was suggested that a possible cause of low student attendance may be teen drinking, as youths who are up most of the night on the streets and in parks will not have adequate sleep for the following school day. Parents attending the New Mapoon Meeting suggested that parents give their children a curfew so they are home and can get ample rest for school. They also suggested that parents try to invest time in providing home and family time with their children so they learn values and respect. Constable Frew said that any youths found in possession of alcohol will be picked up by police.

### Community Development

Councillor Getawan spoke about the Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) work completed on the New Mapoon All Abilities Playground and future work to be completed on the bush tucker garden adjacent. He asked that the community respect the area, has been a target for vandalism. Councillor Mara introduced the design concept for the Bush Tucker Garden, soon to begin development. The garden will be in the design of two long necked turtles, with their 'shells' as raised garden beds for native bush tucker plants and their necks and limbs as paths between. The garden was designed by Michael Bond to reinforce local bush knowledge and create community beautification.

Councillor Lifu encouraged community members to be the change they wanted to see in the community; teach their children respect, keep their own pets in the yard, keep excessive noise to a minimum and pursue their own business.

### Holiday Programs

NPARC Director of Community Services, Russell Symons said that although funding has been cut for the Kids Living Safer Lives Holiday Program, which usually runs through school holidays in the NPA, NPARC will be holding fitness and community programs in replacement. He also said that funding had been improved to cover re-surfacing of the New Mapoon basketball courts and installation of lights.

*\*Notes taken from New Mapoon  
Community Meeting  
held on 5th September*

### Shame Job to fire starters

Though burning off is common at this time of the year, and bush-fires burn slow and steady through the scrub between communities, some fires are getting a little too close for comfort.

The Injinoo Healing Centre this month had a fire race through the backyard and into the staff housing next door. Luckily, flames were controlled before reaching the buildings.

### Deadly Job to our magnificent courier

This month NPARC staff would like to acknowledge the consistently wonderful work of Bryan Wise. Though known throughout the office for his impeccable timing, always showing up just in time for cake and coffee, Bryan is better known for his great sense of humor and reliability.

He's been with NPARC for nearly a year now, brightening our offices with his dry wit and cheek. Thanks!



## Not yourself when you drink? ATODS gets the message out

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATODS) health workers have this month placed Tollowa (Tex) Nona in the director's seat, to create a range of posters as part of a safe-drinking campaign for the NPA.

"We want to show people what can - and does- happen when they abuse alcohol," Tex said, "sometimes you just don't think about the consequences."

Though many residents in the area are non-drinkers and many do drink responsibly, some drinkers may not understand the implications of drinking to excess, or may not realize that they do.

"There are many forms of anti-social behavior that can occur as a result of excessive drinking," Tex said, as he arranged volunteers in a photo shoot for the campaign. "Some people can get violent, taking a situation out of hand or responding differently to how they would if they were sober, others find themselves in a dangerous situation without a way out."

They are the worst case scenarios though, a warning system. On speaking to Constable Tyson Brock at the shoot, he said police rarely have to get violent when responding to alcohol fueled situations in the NPA.

"It rarely gets to the stage where we have to use force," said Constable Brock, QLD Police, "we prefer to use words when possible, to dispel a situation."

Not every drink leads to a problem, and not everyone will drink to excess. The campaign is not designed to offend non-drinkers, but to warn against alcohol fueled situations that can and do occur.



Helping to drive the message home; QLD Police Senior Sergeant Darren Mears, Constable Tyson Brock, QLD Ambulance Service Geoff Shaw and local stars Desley Williams, Abia Bowie, Lilian Solomon, Cody Sailor and Josita Daniel work with NPARC Media Jess Saxton, NPAWS Media Mark Colletti and ATODS Jade De Bruyn. Aaron Gibuma, Donna Saunders and Tolowa Nona.

## Feral Animal Management

Walk like a pig, think like a pig, smell like a pi... well not really. Though community development trainer Shaun Seymour *does* advise having a working understanding of pig habits before choosing placement of a trap to manage the feral animals.

NPA Rangers explored swamp areas and other known habitats of the feral pigs, looking for areas close to feed, water and shelter where they can begin to set traps. camping/ culling/ turtle nest protection

Pigs pose a threat to delicate ecosystems as they root for the tubers at the base of reeds which not only reduces availability of seeds— which is a common food source for geese, but also stops the plant from reproducing.



The rooting activity also can create acidic build up in the mud, which smothers mangrove roots and pneumatophores (the breathing roots which help to reduce salinity and oxygenate the waters) .

Sadly, with such devastating effects to delicate swamp ecosystems, species such as long necked turtle, *Rindi*, are becoming scarce.

NPA Rangers also conducted an aerial cull this month, working with Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program (CYWAFAP). The cull was conducted over the beach and bordering scrub areas surrounding the turtle nesting sites off of Crab Island, on the West Coast.







New Mapoon Bush Tucker Garden, September



### Bush Tucker Garden

With just a concept design and a few sheets of garden framing timber, the New Mapoon Bush Tucker Garden is beginning to take shape.

Actually, it's the shape of the garden that has most people talking— with walkways and garden beds designed to form two Rindi facing opposite ends of the park. (see plans above). Designed by Michael Bond, the bush Tucker Garden is designed to bring culture to the centre of New Mapoon, with bush tucker trees and mosaic seasonal calendars in the centre of each 'shell'.

Each plant selected for the garden has special cultural ties to the area, known as a source of food or medicine. The plant will have a plaque detailing it's language name and bush tucker/ medicine use.

Though work only began on the park late September, by the end of the month there was already one turtle outline on the ground, ready to be filled in.

### Bringing the Council to the Community....

Since amalgamation, community attendance at council meetings has been extremely low. The meetings, formerly held in Bamaga Council Chambers, will now be rotated to each community meeting chamber, to encourage community members to come along and view meetings.

These cover legislation amendments, land and community development, community support and more.

If you would like to see what revisions are being put forward and what decisions are being made, please feel free to come along.

Australian government operates under a transparent government regime, meaning that meetings, finance and records are to be made available to the public.

For information on the next meeting, please contact your local council office.

Pictured: NPA Mayor, Councillors, CEO, Executive Secretary and Directors meet at New Mapoon Community Hall, and (insets) Councillors Getawan, Newman and Mara are welcomed as members to the Local Disaster Management Group by Mayor Charlie.





## Land Leasing in the NPA– what you need to know.

If you are looking to start your own business or enterprise in the NPA, you may be interested in leasing some land. Leases can be made for either residential or commercial use on DOGIT land.

Given that the NPA region stands on what is mostly traditionally owned land, the leasing process can be quite in depth. The main points you need to know are:

Areas of the NPA Region is 'land held in trust' by NPARC, called DOGIT land. In return, the council provides certain services such as roads, sewerage, rubbish removal etc.

Management of this land is guided by the elected representatives (Mayor Charlie, Councillors Mara, Getawan, Newman, Lifu and Gebadi) who are the 'trustees of the land'.

Mayor Charlie and Elected Councillors are available to provide community members with assistance in lease application processes.

### To apply for a lease:

First, you have to submit an expression of interest to Council (contact Chris Williams), which will then be considered by Trustees of the land (Mayor and Elected Representatives) at the next meeting of the Trustees.

Land in the NPA may be leased to both indigenous or non-indigenous persons, for a period of time agreed on by the applicant and Trustees of the Land.

**To apply for a lease– either residential or commercial– please contact  
Chris Williams, NPARC Corporate  
Services on 4090 4102  
or 0437 264 717.**

## New lease makes way for Injinoo Development

They say change begets change, and it seems the times are certainly a' changin' here in the NPA.

Pastor Titom Tamwoy has secured a land lease in Injinoo, to be the first of its kind due to the size and scope of development plans.

Pastor Titom and Project Officer Jeffrey Aniba have developed an extraordinary vision for the land, stretching far beyond the construction of a new church. They hope to utilize all of the land under the lease, right down to the conservational 'green zone' in the centre, where they plan to create a garden catalogue of local plants and species and walkways between.

"We've had so much support from the council in securing this lease," says Pastor Tamwoy, "especially from [Injinoo Councillor] Tony Mara, who not only supported us, but fought for this lease the whole way through."

Pastor Tamwoy says he wants to see the community benefit from the development.

"We have plans to build a childcare centre, elderly service centre and Bible College. I'd like to begin taking people from Indonesia and Asia Pacific and teaching them bible studies here, that they can then take back to their own communities."



Injinoo Pastor Titom Tamwoy, Jeffrey Aniba (project officer) and Gabriel Sebasio, Titom Tamwoy Jnr, Robert Neville and Alfred Tamwoy clear the bush to make way for machinery

Project Officer Jeffrey Aniba says they hope to empower local people, through boosting their capacity and ownership of the project.

The development will utilize local businesses and trades, creating employment, training and educational opportunities on site.

"We hope that in the development of the space," Mr Aniba said, "we help to create local ownership, so that people are empowered to follow their own dreams."

The lease approval has begun to spread waves within the community, with other leases now granted and development proposals beginning to take form.

"We were raised with a lot of respect for the traditional owners of the land, the people of Injinoo," Pastor Titom said, "we went to members for the community and asked for their support in our application, and they really got behind it."

The development proposal includes the newly designed church, able to hold mass congregations, childcare, elderly care, bible school, farm and donga housing within the rainforest garden area.

It will be a place for community, created by the community, from a vision for the community... that's their vision.



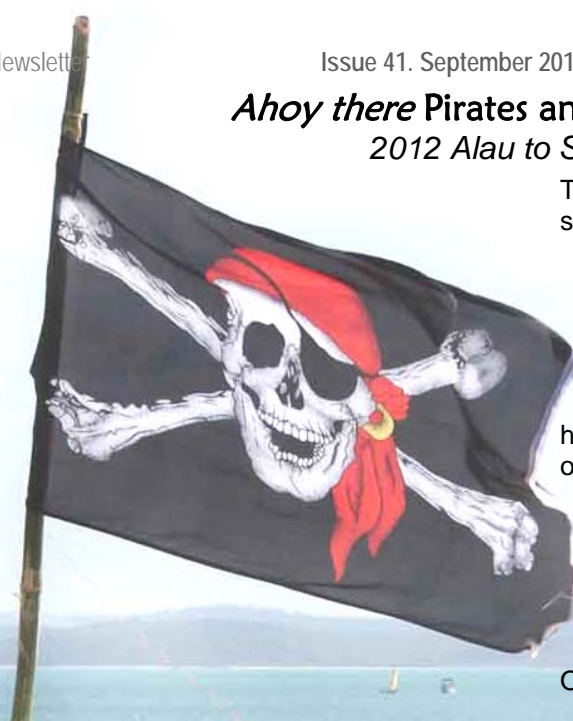
## Ahoy there Pirates and Scallywags of the NPA

### 2012 Alau to Seisia Raft Regatta

The sea breeze was strong and the sun hot, as six rafts were launched into the water at Alau Beach. The hand build rafts creaked against the wind and waves, as each vessel and crew were blown further and further off course, drifting out toward Red island.

Support boats cruised beside, ready to lend a hand to fallen masts, or tow to safety. After hours of battling against the wind, three rafts made it to shore, with only minutes to spare between first and third and mere seconds between first and second.

Mitch and Bully just scraped in to claim first place, seconds ahead of Caleb and Edmond Ober (thanks to a lengthy sprint down the beach), followed closely by Toby and Justin.



## What does your hearing mean to you....

Much of Indigenous culture is based upon yarning and story telling.. Cultural knowledge, dream time stories, education and ethics are all learned through song, conversation and stories. Many Islander and Aboriginal cultures say that no matter where they go, the drum beat will carry on the wind, and bring them home.

What if you couldn't hear these? Of course it would not change who you are, or where you belong, but without proper treatment of ear infection and disease, it's possible that you could loose your hearing or have trouble hearing.

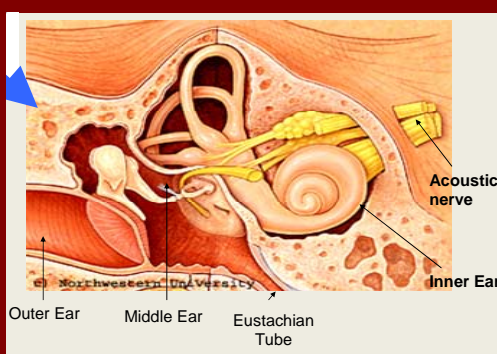
Your ear has three parts:

**Outer ear:** is the tunnel that the doctor looks into with a torch down the ear drum, which is a very thin piece of skin.  
**Middle ear:** is behind the ear drum and is filled with air. It is the part that pops when you go up in a plane. It has three tiny bones (ossicles), the smallest bones in your body, and a tube ( that connects the ear to the back of the nose and throat and lets fresh air in. When sound moves the ear drum it make the bones move as well.  
**Inner ear:** the tiny bones connect to the cochlea, which is the shell or snail shape. This has tiny hairs inside that move to turn the sound into electricity or electrical waves that send a message to the brain through the *acoustic nerve*.

A build-up of fluid behind the ear drum can muffle the sound passed from the drum to the bones, and makes hearing difficult. In many cases, the fluid build-up will not cause pain and could go unnoticed for years. Surgery can be required to remove the fluid buildup from behind the ear drum.

Our ears are very delicate, and can be damaged by diving in deep water, as the pressure builds, by exposure to loud noises such as gun fire or workshop machinery or even by an ear bud pushed in too far.

If little kids have ear disease they might have a temperature (fever), a runny nose, be upset and might pull at their ears. Take them to the health centre to check their ears because they might need medicine. It is also important to get them to blow their nose to get all of the fluid out.







## NPA Ninjas Unite

Have you noticed a change in the youths of NPA? Lightning quick reflexes, hulk strength and staggering endurance? These are just some of the side effects of their new training regime with Judo coach Xavier Barker.

Well perhaps they haven't quite changed that much, but there has definitely been an enthusiastic response, with community-wide participation in the Judo holiday program provided Monday-Friday at Hunters Gym.

Judo teaches physical combat techniques in both standing and floor positions, allowing you to throw your opponent to the ground and hold them until they submit. It requires physical strength and endurance, but above all, respect.



NPARC Events have been providing bus services during the school holidays to enable kids, youths and families to make the most of the school holidays— making it a truly refreshing break!

## October Programs

NPA Hoops and Volleyball games have had a great turn out over the past month, and now competition games are about to kick off!

### **NPA Hoops**

Games: Monday nights, 5:30-6:30pm  
@ Bamaga Courts  
Comps start 12th Nov

### **Volleyball**

Games: Wednesday nights, 5:50-7pm  
@ Bamaga courts  
Comps start 14th Nov

Due to popular demand, Judo classes will continue into the school term, with classes on Monday and Wednesday nights 5:30– 8:30.

### **Judo**

Under 15's 5:45- 6:45pm  
Cadets and Seniors 7:00– 8:30pm  
(15 years and over)



**Coming Soon....**  
**NPA Dance Contest**  
Whether you shake-a-leg or shake  
your tail feathers, we want YOU!



## Active Inclusion

No excuse to be bored these school holidays, with a range of sporting, fitness and summer-time fun activities yours for the taking!

"Council is partnering with community service organisations and private individuals to help and encourage all of us to stay active," said NPARC Director of Community Services, Russell Symons, "We've just completed an Active Inclusion program funded through Queensland Government's Sport and Recreation Services, providing activities that encourage greater participation, education and training, and volunteer development and recruitment."

The sports and rec team have completed a course training them to teach people to swim (including infants and toddlers), as well as water safety training through the Bronze Medallion.

On top of that, our team also completed pool lifeguard training which has enabled sports and rec workers to provide safe and entertaining school holiday programs at the pool.

NPARC is also partnering with Hockey Queensland's Remote and Indigenous Hockey Program to run a hockey camp in the second week of the holidays.

Each activity will be supported by Council busses running between each community and to the Bamaga pool, if you are keen for a swim!

The importance of training our community members was highlighted when we were told that these school holidays, *Kids Living Safer Lives* holiday programs will not be run in the NPA. Over the past two years, school holiday activities have been held across the NPA communities encouraging kids to get out, get active and get involved.

Council would like to express its thanks to AFL Cape York who ran these activities, funded by the Federal Government's initiative *Kids Living Safer Lives*.

"These activities really did have an impact on the youths in these communities," said NPARC Events, Sports and Recreation Coordinator, Estelle Gebadi, "the kids responded well to the activities and it got them involved."

To help fill the gap, these school holidays NPARC supported Xavier Barker in running Judo classes held Monday – Friday, NPA Hoops every Monday night, and volley ball games every Wednesday night.



## RL Committee and NPA Carnival

Take Pride's Chey Bird visited the region this month to discuss the future involvement of QLD Rugby League and the Take Pride Program in NPA communities.

Queensland Rugby League are working with *Take Pride* not only to bring rugby training to communities, but also to provide educational support, promote health and wellbeing, employment opportunities and to promote sporting pathways.

"There are a million different career pathways surrounding Rugby League, if that is your passion," Chey said, "it doesn't have to only be on the field."

During his visit, Chey met with the NPA RL Board to discuss the upcoming NPA Carnival.

"I will be working closely with the committee to help run training for coaches and water runners," Chey said, "we want to help get a better level of professionalism, and have everyone qualified by 2013."

NPA RL Committee Members: Edward Newman, Aldene Reuben, Lawrence Hobson, Talisa Yusia, Estelle Gebadi



## Stick it to the Sport!

Grab a stick, grab your mates and you are half way there! NPARC Sports and Rec staff are getting trained up and ready to bring Hockey training and competitions to the NPA, with the potential for NPA Teams to compete throughout the Torres Strait and Nth QLD! Skill building and training will be held through the upcoming wet season, with competitions starting 2013.





## Living and Loving Life!

### Senior-Style!

*Wrinkles become a mark of beauty when they are made by the many smiles of a happy life.*

With all the vigor and passion of the youths they are at heart, elders and seniors of the NPA celebrated life and love during senior's week this month.

You may have seen or heard this rowdy crowd as they marched through the streets of Bamaga, with drums beating and voices singing loud and proud.

Atop their heads perched hats of such style and character as to make any mad-hatter envious. Each decked to the brim with flowers, felt and feathers, below which was a face with bright eyes and huge smile, something our elders never forget to wear.

"Our elders have raised us and our families, have looked after us and taught us the right way," said HACC worker Sonya Sagaukaz, "they taught us respect and taught us responsibility. They took care of us and now it is our time to take care of them, to say eso and to give back the love they gave to us all."

Speaking to elder Pauline Cebeolla, you begin to get an idea of what the NPA communities and areas of Cape York were many years ago.

Since travelling across from Thursday island at the age of 15, Pauline has worked on cattle stations, living in a home where the walls were made of tin sheets! She found love and was married by 25, following her husband's work and travelling to Germany to meet his family.

She remembers fishing with her family, shooing snakes from the house and walking stretches of dirt road to find help after being bogged.



Aunty Pauline

"One day when my husband and I were living on the station, we went fishing and accidentally caught a little crocodile in the nets just as the police arrived! They asked us what it was and my husband Fred told them it was a goanna... and they believed him!"





"Within the NPA HACC group, we have a war veteran, ex-tradesmen who built our communities with their own hands and mothers who raised today's community leaders," said HACC Centre Coordinator Moira Aniba.

So with the lessons and values learned from our elders, we took this chance to not only thank, but to celebrate the lives of our elders.

The week kicked off with a special performance of Cook Island dancing, live music and activities, followed by their colourful march through the streets of Bamaga and came to a close with the beautiful Seniors ball, held at Seisia hall.

There were no glass slippers left behind, but the night was magical none-the less. Dressed to impress, elders, friends and families came together for feasting, games and dancing, as Blaik Koral and George Motlop provided some golden oldie favourites... for our favourite golden oldies!

To take a look at our own lives now, with cars, bitumen roads and running water— it's a far cry from the days of horses, walking miles to retrieve water and lighting kerosene lamps after dark. Through it all one thing has remained, that special glint in their eyes. The one that cannot be diminished with age or the darkening sky.

That spark, that love of life— that cheeky grin and laugh... that is what we are celebrating this year, not only for seniors week, but every week, every day.



**On the Cover:**  
Helen Daniels beads a necklace for the Seniors Ball.







## So what's on in October in the NPA?

### Water aerobics Classes

Keep your cool while you exercise, with water aerobics. Classes are held Monday and Wednesday evenings at Bamaga Pool, starting 5:30pm.

Contact Family resource centre on 4069 3555 or NPARC Events on 4069 3388

### 2013 Garden Competition

Community pride starts in each and every backyard, so next year we will be running a gardening competition. If you think you've got a green thumb, then start getting your garden ready!

### Yoga Classes are back!

5:15 Monday and Thursday evenings @ New Mapoon Hall

### Position vacant:

NPARC is currently accepting applications for position of Chief Executive Officer. Indigenous Australians encouraged to apply. Applications close 5pm, Monday 15th October.

For more information contact Allie Maclure or Jan Thorne at LGAQ on 3000 2265 or apply@lgaq.asn.au

**\*\*Please quote Ref # NPA4020**

### Deck the Halls! -NPA Christmas Lights Competition

The streets of the NPA will soon be lit up in Christmas splendour for the NPA Christmas Lights Competition. Be sure to register and dress your home in lights to be in the running to win a prize! Judging will commence 1st of November, we ask that lights be displayed between 7pm-9pm to save electricity and so your neighbours can get some rest!

Each community winner and an overall NPA Champion will be named December 1st. Please contact Dept Mayor Eddie Newman or Injinoo Councillor Tony Mara for more information.

### Judo Program

Judo classes will continue into the school term held on Monday and Wednesday Evenings from 5:30-8:30 pm.

Under 15 years 5:45-6:45

Cadets and Seniors (over 15 years) 5:30-8:30

For more information please contact NPARC Events on 4069 3388

### NPA College P & C Meetings

The final P & C meetings for 2012 will be held on the following dates, at the Senior Campus Library, starting at 7pm.

Tuesday 16th October

Tuesday 20th November .

### Free Susu Screening

Breastscreen QLD will be visiting the NPA, conducting free breast screenings from Bamaga Hospital **9th-12th October**. Free Shuttle Bus service is available for session times— contact NPAWS for more information on 4069 3555.

It's important for all women over 40 to have regular (every 2 years) checkups.

### NPA Carnival 1st/2nd/3rd November

Events: RL Football Competition, Darts and Volley Ball

Volley ball and Basketball training is on now, held on Monday and Wednesday Nights at Bamaga Basketball Courts (next to the gym).

**Contact NPARC Events for more information 4069 3388**



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