



NPA Regional Council News

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council News Letter

LETTER



'That's when you know you are - on Cape York Peninsula'

John Williamson and John Paul Young visit the NPA for Variety Bash. pp 16-17

Nesting mums welcomed ashore

NPA Rangers camp out for a month of turtle monitoring. Pp 10-11

Windy Seas take the Record

Kite surfing record to cross the Strait. Pg 9

Rodeo Legend sets down his hat

Dusty's last ride. Pg 7

Close call for fire safety

A car fire in Bamaga raises concerns. Pg 15

Give it up for the region...

A spectacular weekend of dance, competition and celebrations in the NPA Show pp 5-7

Leading the way

Bamaga Junior Campus decorates School Captains Pg.14

Bamaga and Seisia Community Meetings

Agenda and discussion. pg 19

"All care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication however NPARC, its officers, employees, agents and consultants make no warranties or representations about the quality, accuracy, completeness, merchantability or fitness to purpose of any of the material in this publication. Subject to any law of the contrary which cannot be excluded, any liability howsoever arising (including in tort or for any incidental, special or consequential damages) is hereby excluded. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the NPARC and the inclusion of material in this publication does not represent an endorsement of that material by NPARC."

Media Liaison: Jessica.Saxton@nparc.qld.gov.au
tel: +61-7-4090 6612 fax: +61-7-4069 3253

NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Mr Jeff Brown

Namaste

Namaste

There is a new trend sweeping through the NPA, with yoga classes being integrated into workplaces and leisure time...

and it's all about feeling good!

"Yoga teaches you to breathe properly, and get your body moving," said NPA yoga instructor Christine, "It's not a hard workout, you just go along at your own pace and step up at your own pace."

With a focus on proper breathing and posture, yoga exercises can transfer healthy habits into your daily routines. There's no need to roll out a yoga mat and start stretching on the floor either, with chair yoga classes available too!

While still focusing on breathing, these classes also help to achieve a low level of meditation which can help to alleviate stress, and improve oxygen flow through the blood stream.

Regular meditation or meditative activities can help to gain control over emotions and actions. It can also lead to better physical health and wellbeing.

They say you should learn from your elders, and here's just one more reason why. Our HACC clients make the breathing and meditative workout look like a whole lot of fun.

They said after a few weeks of Yoga on Tuesdays, they were finding it easier to do, and feeling even better afterwards.

"We've started taking the midday classes to offices and workplaces, just to break the daily routine," said Christine. "The people who do participate look noticeably happier afterwards, having had a good stretch and always a laugh!"

The aim is to give everyone a level of yoga class that they can feel happy and confident about. Each class usually ends with a laugh and always with blissful faces— even if there are a few sore muscles the next day.

Namaste is a gesture that reflects the acknowledgment of one being's soul by another. It is based on the belief that there is a divine spark in each of us, located at the centre of our *Chakra*. Literally translated, *nama* means bow, *as* means I and *te* means you— *I bow to you*. The gesture is completed by placing the hands together in front of the heart of your Chakra, and bowing the head softly.



Elected Members Portfolios

NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie will cover all portfolios

Division 1: Anthony Mara

Land Tenure, Social Housing, Land Leases, Town Planning
Economic Development, Business, Enterprise Divestments,
Council Operations, Capital Projects, Environmental Health

Division 2: Dennis Getawan

Land Tenure, Social Housing, Land Leases, Town Planning
Council operations, Capital Projects, Environmental Health
Economic Development, Business Enterprise Divestment
Finance, Budget Review & Internal Audit

Division 3: Deputy Mayor Edward Newman

Sports & Recreation, Events and the Arts
Industrial relations, Employment and Community Safety

Division 4: Trevor Lifu

Land Tenure, Social Housing, Land Leases, Town Planning

Division 5: Benjamin Gebadi

Economic Development, Business, Enterprise Divestments



Farewell Bash

On the day of his 65th Birthday, Tom Phineasa waved a fond farewell to the NPARC Environmental Services, and to his blue and orange uniform. Better known as Bash, he started work with Environmental Services under the Department of Community Services in the 1980s and has seen the council through amalgamation, to 2012.

He says he was given the nickname Bash in his younger days, while living in Brisbane— for his ruthless football tactics.

Community Elder, Mrs Ober spoke at Tom's farewell, inviting his workmates to stand up as well, and tell Uncle Bash why they loved him. Each man stood up and thanked Bash for his leadership and friendship.

He has no immediate plans for his new-found retirement, but is looking forward to spending many relaxing days fishing.

Esso for your wonderful work Bash, over 46 years and still smiling.

Happy Birthday, and Yawo!



Independence Celebrations

This month, NPA and Torres Strait Islander residents alike came together on Masig (Yorke) Island to celebrate 75 years since local councillors and businesses went on strike to protest for their right to local government.

The first official gathering of the Torres Strait Island Councillors was on 23rd August, 1937, meeting on Masig Island. There they set a series of demands for the Queensland Government to improve services and update the then improper regulations, transferring power to the individual local councils.

Two years later, the QLD Government passed the *Torres Strait Islanders Act*, recognizing Torres Strait Islanders as Indigenous Australians separate to Australian Aboriginal people, for the first time in Australian history.

Pictured: Seisia Dancer, performs Saibai Island Dance



Pathways 3

Only weeks after their debut exhibition, our NPA artists are back in the spotlight. Local artists Geraldine Yorke, Agnes Mark, Ron Kelly Peter, Susan Kennedy, Roy Solomon, Marsat Newman, Anzac Newman and Vincent Babia will have a second collection of their unique artworks exhibited in UMI Art's *Pathways 3* Group Exhibition.

The exhibition is on now— running from 15th August to 26th September at UMI Art Gallery, 333 Sheridan St Cairns.

Pictured: Sageraw Mawa 2011, by Vincent Babia

NPA Regional Show 2012



Closing Ceremony Fireworks

Walking into the NPA show grounds on Thursday night, you could feel the excitement thick in the air. Tomorrow would be the NPA Show Holiday, the only day of the year dedicated entirely to rides, events and entertainment.

For those who attended the 2012 NPA show, there will be a thousand different tales of fun, falls and festivities— but one thing remains the same— those that went, went all out.

One of the most stand out talents has to have been the Purple Jaguars, a group of young self taught gymnasts, who put together their stunning routine in their lunch breaks at school! Deadly job girls, wouldn't want to face you in a limbo competition, that's for sure.

Each event was filled with eager and talented competitors, from the Mud rally to the Rodeo, Talent Quest evenings to the events on horseback.



Bull riders Margaret Gebadi and Sarah Phineasa

A few new talents were discovered; Emma (better known as Ibis Manager) pulled out some deadly fire twirling skills, Ansen showed us all he could chatter his way through any situation— even after the microphone broke, and a lovely traveler from NSW took home the title of fastest woman through the Mud Rally— in the same car she drove up in!

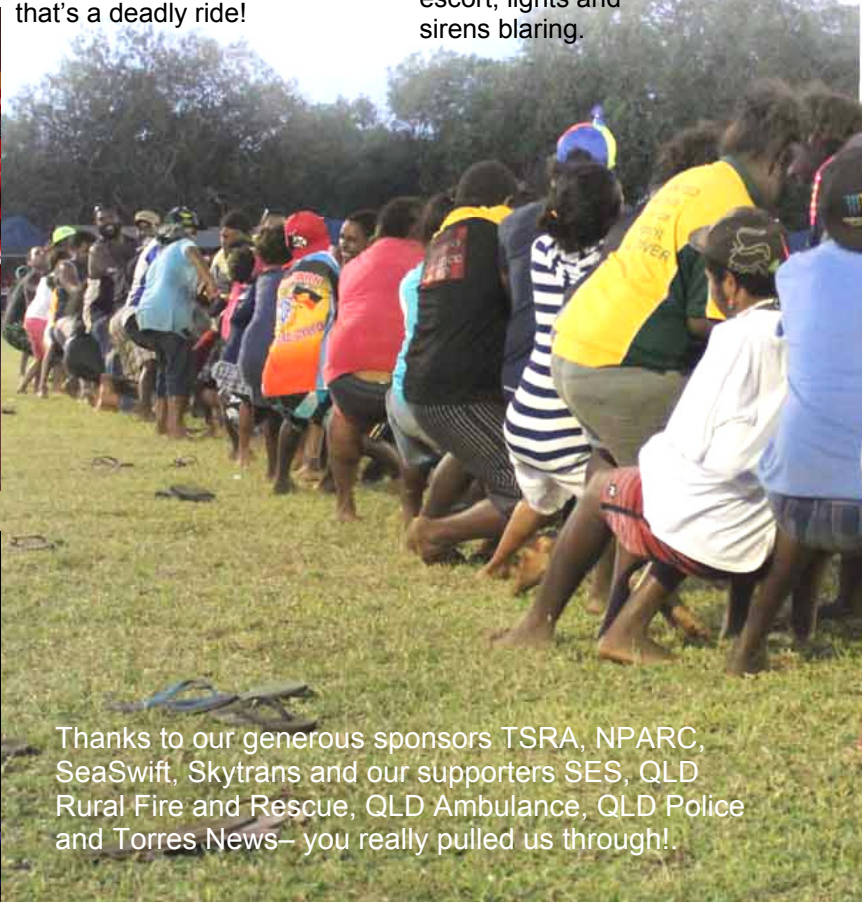
As she drove off the track, she was even spotted slipping her baby seat into the back, now that's a deadly ride!

That's just it though, it was the NPA region on show. The best riders, the most fearless drivers, the singers and dancers and everything in between.

Even our SES crew took their turn in the spotlight on Saturday evening. They put on a daring display, showing their skills and speed as they saved young Branden from a smashed car, using the jaws of life to cut away the doors and roof, before he was rushed away in the Ambulance, with a Police escort, lights and sirens blaring.



Dodge'em Cars in Side Show Alley



Thanks to our generous sponsors TSRA, NPARC, SeaSwift, Skytrans and our supporters SES, QLD Rural Fire and Rescue, QLD Ambulance, QLD Police and Torres News— you really pulled us through!



Blaik Koral Band



Australian Government



The NPA's very own stars of Blaik Koral were also hard at work both on the stage and off- providing light and sound tech services as well as live entertainment for the entire show.

Hard to believe the guys hadn't had a jam for over a month before they picked up their instruments for the show! They pulled it off without even a hiccup of trouble, navigating the maze of cords and wires with professional ease!

A Big Esso

To everyone who entered in the events and competitions, to everyone that cheered them along and to everyone who held a stall- thank you.

Also to our events team who worked tirelessly in the month leading up to the show, to our Environmental workers who provided facilities and to CDEP workers who set up arenas and hitching rails- thank you.



The biggest thank you goes to all you kids who picked up bags and bags of rubbish through out the show- the place looked great thanks to you!

Also thanks to our emergency services; NPA SES, QLD Police and QLD Ambulance. You turned up at each event, waiting with baited breath, to lend your services should something go awry.



Another big esso to our generous sponsors and supporters- who donated prizes, funding and supplied transport for the side show.

This weekend was a chance for our region to go on show, and it's clear that what we really showed was our unity, love and respect.

Thank you NPA, for a beautiful show.





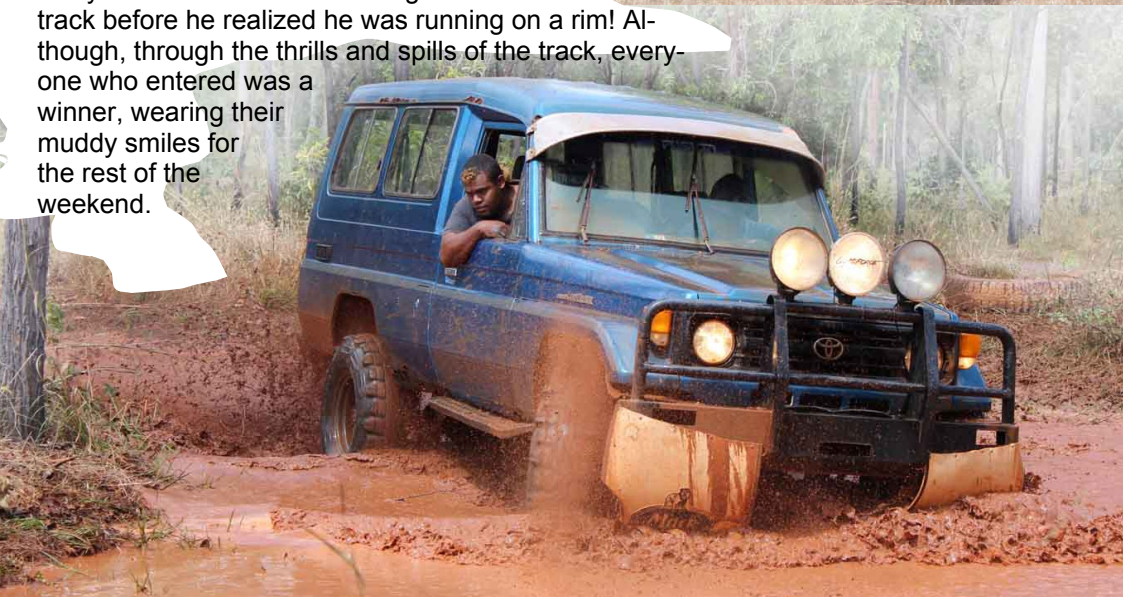
It seems there are two ways of getting around the NPA— in a car or on horseback... both methods were put to the test in this year's show.

The horses were caught from the roadside and NPA scrub, tacked and ridden in to compete in the novelty horse events. Those that wore boots were invited to take them off for the boots and saddle race, seeing how quickly you can tack up— and if you can stay on when you're saddle is slipping!

Horses with only one rider were quickly given another in the Indian Pickup, but the biggest challenge seemed to be bending around the barrels! Even still, our riders showed the true grit of NPA horsemen, and their horses earned their break afterwards.

It should be said that most of the cars stood up to the test of the Mud Rally Track.. mostly. There were a few though that did not. Yellow Marn followed it's debut round with many more, swapping drivers like dirty hats. It was only a matter of time before one decided to paint the interior with mud, rolling the car on it's side— don't worry, no one was hurt.

In another heat, one ute went straight on one way and his tyre went another— it was a good 3/4s down the track before he realized he was running on a rim! Although, through the thrills and spills of the track, everyone who entered was a winner, wearing their muddy smiles for the rest of the weekend.





Margaret Gebadi



Scotty Bagiri



Danny Sebasio Jr



Look for your photo
on computers at
you local IKC!

For some in the NPA, the action on the field and rally track wasn't enough ... they wanted horns.

Strapped up in their safety vests, helmets tight and ropes tighter, the bull riders of the NPA burst from the chutes to the cheers of their friends and families.

Local men and ladies climbed atop the beasts showing no fear, even as the audience jumped back from the ring.

Sand flew from the beast's feet as they twisted and turned, trying to un-stick each rider.

Ambulance and Police stood by with first aid kits at the ready but apart from a few bruises and limps, our fearless riders were unscathed.

Dusty's Last Ride



Alex 'Dusty' Bond prepares for his last ride

As Alex Bond left the stage at the 2012 NPA Show presentation, he threw his battered hat into the watching crowd, and with that, he retired from the ring, competing in his last rodeo in the NPA.

Always ready for the ride, Dusty was known for his pre-ride warm up and with many rides under his belt, became a local legend for the sport.

"I can remember watching Uncle Alex ride when I was just a small boy," said Ansen Gebadi, commenting at the Show Rodeo event.

He's travelled the length of the cape to compete in bull riding, becoming well known not just in the NPA but throughout the Cape.

"He taught our young ones how to ride," remembers Agnes Mark, who's son competed alongside Alex at the NPA and Weipa rodeos this month.

A rodeo legend from the community of New Mapoon, Dusty says he will still cheer on fellow bull-riders from the side lines at the next rodeo.



Housing Handovers

As we settle into the dry season the grass has stopped growing, but the housing sites have not. In just a few short months these sites have gone from dusty hopes to homes.

This month Q Build handed over the keys to five homes built in the NPA, now ready for tenants to move in.

Here are the homes now, ready to move in, compared to the newly started buildings, as they stood in April this year.

The homes were inspected by Elected Council members, Q Build representatives and NPARC Director of Operations, Geoff Rintoul, as each key was turned over.

"There were a few minor changes that needed to be made before the tenants could move in," Mr Rintoul said.

The homes are the first to be handed over in 2012, as a part of the NPARC Social Housing Program.

Our elected members have discussed upcoming changes to the Housing Program, to be implemented during the course of the next four years.

"Housing is something that needs to be driven from the ground," said Councillor Lifu, "we need to have the tenants involved in the design of the homes before building starts."

"We want to utilise skills that are already in our communities, to train more local workers, and provide local jobs" he said.

"We want to see our communities go back to the old ways," said Councillor Mara, "where we built our own homes."

NPARC's Social housing program will soon undergo a change, transferring to Q Build, who will operate from the Injinoo Council Office. To apply for housing maintenance, you can still contact your local council office, or alternatively, you can contact Q Build directly.

The transition is designed to improve maintenance services and increase local employment. There will be increased on-site training for apprentices, allowing them to earn while they learn.

The new system will allow for stronger communications with future tenants to ensure the design of their new home is suitable for their needs.



32 Tamwoy st, Injinoo



7a Brown St, New Mapoon



5 Mara St, Umagico



3a Charlie St, Umagico



7a Charlie st, Umagico





View of the Tip from the water and (L-R) Simon Goodburn, Geoff Wilson and Lachlan Jones (inset)-Images courtesy of Geoff Wilson-

History in the making...

(above right) State Library of QLD workers and IKC workers from across the cape gather for a convention, August 2012



Nandy Nona presents systems in NPA IKC's

Surfing the Strait

According to Geoff Wilson, it is 96.6km from Tip of Cape York to the shores of Daru Island. How does he know? Geoff and six others are the first to kite across the Torres Strait, completing the trip on the 28th July.

"By the time we reached the shore, it was pandemonium," Geoff said, "with over 2000 people standing screaming on the mud flats!"

"The arrival on Daru is something I'll never forget," he said, "the last 5km we had to jibe dead downwind so it gave lots of prior warning to our arrival."

This is Geoff's second attempt to kite across the Strait, the first attempt ending 44km across.

Of the 10 who set out, only 6 made it across the Strait, to take the record for the first kite crossing. Though it's not just the record, the adventurers were also raising money for a charity called *Elevation Care*, a food bank for the poor, based on the Gold Coast. The charity hopes to expand to PNG as well.

"We loved the communities—Coconut and Yorke Islands are paradise on Earth, with local peoples to match the haven," he said, "we can't wait to return!"

Already mapping out the details for their next adventure, they said next time they'd like to slow it down and explore the area, "We love it up here!"

The journey took only 3 days, through rough seas and heavy winds.



Cultural Records in Safe Hands

"I never thought to save the clothes my children wore as babies, or the letters we received, but these are all a part of our continuing history— one day we will look back at these things with awe and say, *can you believe how it used to be?*" NPARC Community Services Manager Nandy Nona said on her return from the IKC Convention earlier this month.

The convention, *Dreamtime, Bipotaim, Our Time*, was a gathering of IKC operators from across the Cape and workers from State Library of QLD (SLQ). They discussed the gathering and recording of indigenous culture and history for future generations, in local IKC's as well as State Library data bases.

The information can be made available to the population, or can have security measures to only allow certain access for culturally sensitive information.

Rangers on camp for monitoring month

Following a research program in 2006, it was forecast that three species of sea turtle native to the Cape would be extinct by 2030.

The main threats to Flatback, Olive Ridley and Hawksbill turtles are man and feral animals. Entrapment in fishing nets, injury or death from boat accidents, hunting and feral animal predators such as feral pigs, have decreased turtle numbers drastically over the years.

Over this past month, groups of NPA Rangers camped off Crab Island on the West Coast of the Cape to monitor numbers of nesting Flatback turtles. The area is recorded to have the largest Flatback turtle rookery in Australia, and August is the height of their nesting season.

"The female will always try to come back to the same beach, laying her eggs where she was hatched," said Senior Ranger, Christopher Lifu.

The pregnant female turtle makes her way up the beach, to the dry sand and first digs herself into the sand. She then uses her back flippers to delicately dig a perfect bulb-shaped nest before laying her eggs. The shape of the nest allows pockets of air to be encapsulated after she covers the eggs over with sand, so the hatchlings can breathe when they emerge.

It is important even after hatching, that threats to the turtles are reduced, as it can take decades to grow from hatchlings to breeding adults.

Females will often lay 2 or 3 times each nesting season, returning to the ocean for a few weeks before laying her second clutch of eggs. She will lay from 60-80 eggs each time, though on average only 5 will survive from each nest.

As such, they are carefully monitored to understand their breeding activity, and any possible threats. There are several programs designed to monitor the species and record numbers. Some females are tagged as they come onto land to nest. A unique identification tag is clipped to the edge of their front wing, and as each nesting turtle is checked, those with tags are recorded so their whereabouts can be mapped.

"We have just received permission to tag and are now in the process of recruiting necessary equipment" Ranger Co Ordinator, Mr Strevens said.

The tags allow individual turtles to be tracked throughout their life, shedding some light on the mysterious habits of these sea animals. Some tagged turtles have been picked up by foreign offshore fishermen after they are caught in their nets.

"They check the caught turtles for tags and report the ones that are," said Ranger Erra Bond.

Boat strike is another major cause of injury and death to sea turtles. NPA Rangers have found turtles with teeth marks and boat strike marks visible on their shells, a narrow miss from what could have been a fatal accident.

Each day a bike track is laid across the beach, and each night the monitoring group scans the beach to see any new turtle tracks crossing the bike track.

The turtles are checked for tags and injury or marks and the data is recorded in a system called I-tracker; short for Indigenous Tracker. The database is used to record the GPS location of each nest and the time of patrol.

There was even a few hungry crocs spotted at the edge of the water, waiting for an easy feed.



These opportunistic hunters would have no shortage of meals either, with over 300 nests were recorded during the monitoring month, more than 100 recorded in just one night during the first week.

Flatback turtles are known to nest across Eastern QLD, Torres Strait and Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory and Western Australia, though are still listed as a vulnerable species in QLD. The conservation work carried out by our NPA Rangers is essential, as this region is so valuable to the breeding habits of this vulnerable species and many others.

Despite working through the night to record each new nest, during the day, NPA Rangers on camp collect ghostnets, data and samples for quarantine as well as monitor predators and pests, including culling of feral pigs—a threat to turtle populations.

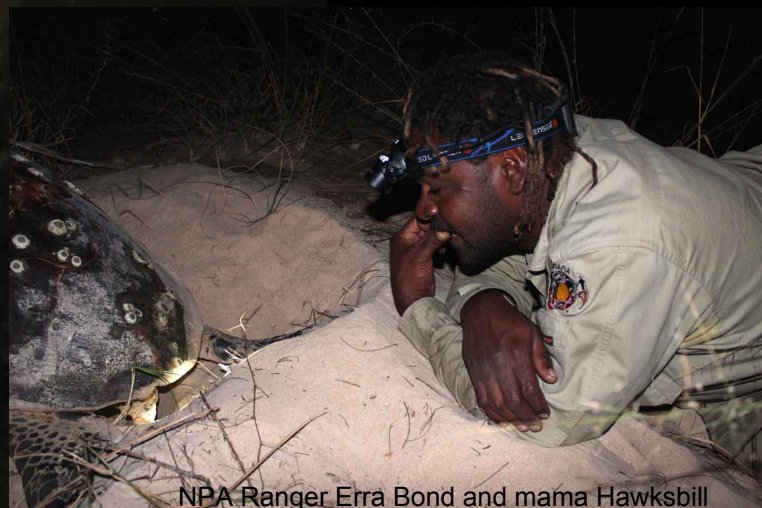
(continued pg 12-13...)



Inside a Flatback Turtle nest



NPA Ranger Dale Motlop records GPS location of nest



NPA Ranger Erra Bond and mama Hawksbill

Tracking in the Twenty First Century

After blazing a new trail through the dense scrubland, the NPA Rangers climb off their quads and set off on foot across the dried mud of the swamp. Their dogs duck and weave through the muddy bush, balancing on the rough ground— a result of the damage caused by digging of feral pigs.

Feral pigs feed on roots, vegetation and native animals, digging in rainforests, swampland and beaches. Research has suggested digging activity could drastically decrease seedling survival rates in swamp and rainforest habitats as well as contribute to the spread of noxious weeds and exotic fungi.

When feral pig culling was first introduced to the area, many NPA residents were against the idea, as hunting wild pig is a main food source for many families. It also can play an important role in cultural traditions, providing strong links to country and traditional hunting. It was agreed that the culling would still allow recreational hunting for food, but was a necessary action to protect the area's wildlife.

"The pigs and goannas come out at night and root up all the eggs, that's what damages most of the nests," said NPA Ranger Dale Motlop.

Since the beginning of the NPA Rangers feral pig management in 2010, there has been a decrease in predation of turtle nests, but no increase in nesting activity.

"Olive Ridley turtles would be still on high alert," said Ranger Co Ordinator, Warren Strevens, "but there would definitely be a drastic change in the impact of feral pigs towards turtle extinction [since ranger culling programs commenced]"

In the dry season, when the rangers and their quads can enter the swamp area, they hunt on foot. Other times of the year they set traps and conduct supervised aerial shoots. Senior Ranger Christopher Lifu said the pig traps set as part of their feral animal program have caught hardly anything in the past year, but the culls work, especially the aerial shoots.

It's an issue that affects not just the tip, but the whole of Cape York, with wild pigs also being culled further south to protect the endangered Golden Shouldered Parrot and other native ground nesting birds.

During the month long turtle monitoring program conducted by NPA Rangers in August, seven feral pigs were culled from the area surrounding the turtle nesting grounds.

As each cull is completed, the rangers will record the data in I-Tracker, which is then shared with rangers, Traditional Owners and Land Councils across Northern Australia.

The I-Tracker network was developed by the Nth Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) in association with GhostNets Australia and Djelk Rangers to collate ranger patrol data, to assist Government, Traditional Owner and Land Council decisions regarding land management. [you can view recent I-Tracker reports here: www.nailsma.org.au]

I-Tracker is also used to record data on retrieved ghost nets, allowing the net's originating country to be identified by the type of material and knots used. They also record quarantine information, regarding exotic species.

It's common for canoes and other foreign objects to wash onto the shores of Cape York, which could bring with it the threat of exotic species.

"It would take around 10 years for an exotic termite species to travel from a washed up wooden canoe to a mainland tree only 15m away," said Senior Ranger Lifu.

Though it may sound like a long time, given the area our rangers are patrolling, and the frequency in which foreign objects wash onto our shores, it's a serious threat.





NPA Ranger Lawrence Pablo



Community Leaders of today and tomorrow

Having already demonstrated fine leadership qualities, eight young leaders from the NPA College Junior Campus were presented with their school leader badges at a special assembly this month.

The ceremony was attended by family and friends of the students, as well as our elected council members.

The student leaders took an oath to demonstrate good behaviour and assist their peers, teachers and communities throughout the school year and into the future.

They will lead their peers through school events, sports carnivals, assemblies and extra-curricular events.

The assembly also acknowledged students who has demonstrated outstanding behaviour in safety and respect. Through their own good behaviour, these students have become leaders too, showing the proper way to their peers.

Our future leaders are learning the skills they will need when the reins are passed to them, whether they lead their families, community or even the country, they will be leading it to greatness.

Mayor Charlie addressed the assembly, congratulating our leaders and their peers on their great achievements, and presented parents with the student leadership badges.

Beaming parents pinned the badges to their child's uniform, which they will wear proudly as a mark of their achievements, responsibility and leadership status.

Pictured: Junior Campus Leader, Eric Williams leads student leaders in leadership oath

Inset Pictures: (Top-Bottom) Roxanne Neville, Ujuaney Amey (campus leader), Mayor Charlie, College Principal Ken Maclean, Eric Williams (campus leader) and Jean Williams;
 -Eric Williams, Yona Sam, Mary Bond-Cottis and Tishka Lifu;
 -Mayor Charlie and Tishka Lifu;
 -Margaret Bond pins on her son's badge Nicky Bond (vice leader);
 -Councillors Getawan, Newman, Lifu, Mara, Gebadi and Mayor Charlie;
 -Councillors Gebadi, Mara and Lifu and Mayor Charlie with NPA College Senior Campus students Caleb Ober (Senior Campus Captain), Lynese Jacob (College Captain), Braydon Mudu (Senior Campus Captain)



Many thanks, from afar....

This is a letter sent to the Umagico Council Office, addressed To the Umagico Community..

Please convey our sincere thanks to the wonderful people of the Umagico Community, we spent a fantastic two weeks with Toni at Alau beach and explored and visited every corner of the top end.

The thing that stood out most of all was how friendly and helpful everyone was, from the kids to the elders there was always, a look, a nod, a wave of a hand or a friendly chat, right from the start we felt welcome and a part of your wonderful community.

It was great to see all the kids out on there bikes and playing in the streets, took us back to our own childhood, not much of that goes on any more down south, what a shame!

You have something very special in Umagico and the surrounding communities, thanks again for sharing it with us.

Bernie and Denise Heuser

Deadly job Shame job

There has been an overwhelming number of nominations for our NPARC Events team for this month's deadly job.

Thanks to Estelle Gebadi, Aldene Reuben and Stanley Elu who really put in 110% to make our show a success, but also to the environmental workers and CDEP crew for their outstanding efforts.

A few nights after the communities of the NPA pulled together for one of the best Regional shows on record, showing our strength as a region; a minority of the community showed what else they were capable of, pulling down the panels from the Ginau Oval fence.

Flames spark need for Fire Safety

Late last month, there was an accident in Bamaga that nearly became fatal. On the 30th July, a car caught alight on a residential lawn in Anu Street, in the heart of Bamaga community.

Two children, aged 5 and six years, had been playing in the stationary vehicle and are believed to have caused a fire to catch alight inside the vehicle. Luckily, they were able to escape the area before the car caught fully alight.

Neighbours took quick action, calling emergency services and using garden hoses to try and quench the flames.

When SES volunteers and Police officers arrived, a nearby telephone pole had also caught alight, despite the neighbours best efforts. As the Rural Fire Brigade arrived, they were able to put out the spreading flame as Police kept residents and onlookers at a safe distance.

This near miss has prompted emergency services to ask parents to teach children about fire safety and ensure that children are kept a safe distance from flammable objects.



Scene of the fire, Anu St, Bamaga

The Children's Charity brings some Variety to the NPA

They've come from the far reaches of Australia, to take part in an annual migration of vintage cars, this year travelling from Balmain to Bamaga, NPA in the name of *the children's charity*.

Each car, covered in red dust, slogans and stickers is packed with travelers just as flamboyantly dressed; dusty strangers making it their mission to help out a group of children who they have never met before.

In making the journey, these '*bashers*' have been raising money for NPA College and Primary School and many others along the way. They donated a huge \$8, 000 worth of equipment to the NPA College, to install sound boards.

This equipment will assist our students in hearing in the classroom, making it easier for them to learn.

Each year the Variety Bash brings together travelers looking for more than a road trip, but also a way to give back to the children of their country.

The colourful convoy rolled into the NPA in a cacophony of lights and sounds to kick off their top of the tip arrival celebrations. Dressed to impress in their crazy get-up, the bashers brought a bit more variety to the region with a free family concert, headlining John Paul Young and John Williamson!

"I don't know how they do it," said Stephen, from the Toshiba team, though he wasn't talking about the old cars on our dirt roads, "they are up each night partying, then early in the morning to drive to the next place!"

So in true Variety style, as the sun set over the Torres Strait, Seisia oval came alive with local stalls of food, artifacts and artwork. Then the night truly kicked off with a spectacular fireworks display that may be one of the best the region has seen.

Even as eardrums were still ringing, from the other end of the oval came the jangly guitar notes of John Williamson's guitar, as he serenaded the NPA with a song written in memory of the Cape itself, followed by many more Australian favorites.

Despite actually forgetting the name of the community he was in, John Paul Young sent couples swaying to their feet, opening with his golden oldie, *Love is in the Air*.

The night kept on with the Variety band taking the stage, as most of the crowd tried to fit everyone into the grounds of the Seisia Fishing club.

The next morning the Variety bashers were up with the sun, being treated to a hot breakfast prepared by the NPA College hospitality students, and traditional dances performed by Injinoo dancers.

They presented the college with their generous donation, and other souvenirs, thrilling the year 2 students with their glamorous costumes. The students were especially excited to see life-size MnM's walking towards them.

After nine days travelling, these colourful bashers have spread good will the length of the East Coast, from Sydney to the Torres Strait.

Though their visit was brief, they've left a lasting impression on our communities, thanks to their generosity and celebratory attitudes.



John Williamson performs

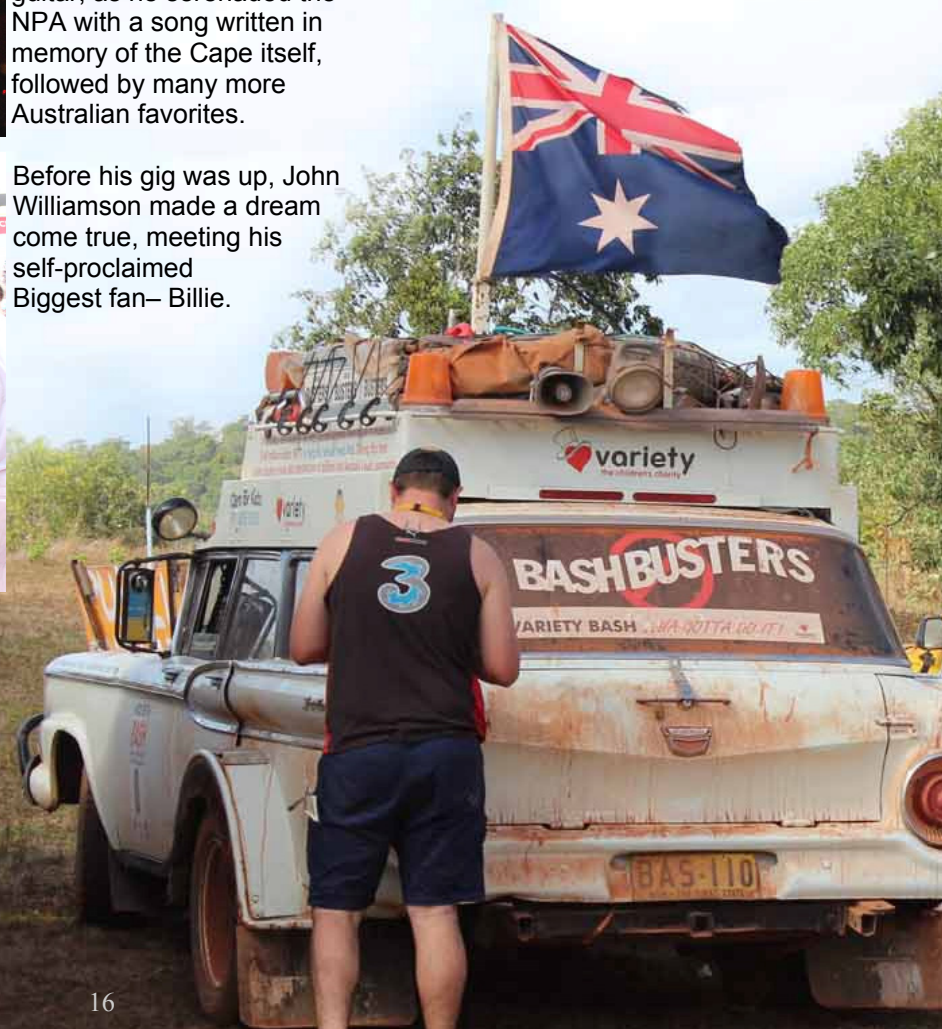


NPA College Hospitality Students



SES volunteers man the BBQ

Before his gig was up, John Williamson made a dream come true, meeting his self-proclaimed Biggest fan- Billie.





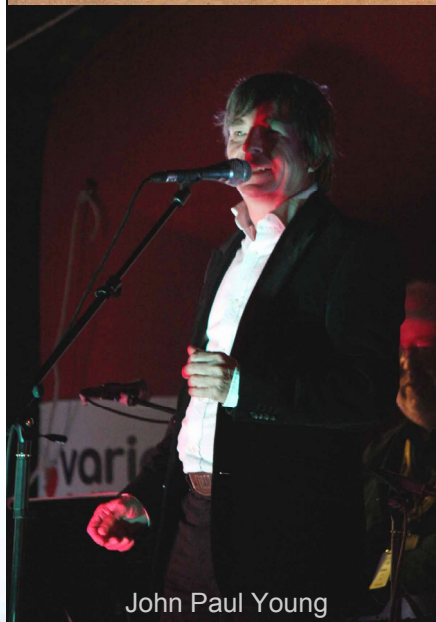
The Variety Mermaids



Chie Elu and Azleah Williams



Injinoo Dancers perform



John Paul Young



Women's Injinoo Dancers



Students admire the Bash cars



Year 2 students with MnMs



Nicky Bond wins best drawing



Erris and Ama Mary Eseli sing

Serving up new skills

Bamaga Resort's housekeeping staff have not only up-skilled themselves through completing a recent training course, but have also upheld a great name for the NPA communities and left yet another guest asking, *when can I come back?*

In partnership with Angus Knight Learning and Jobfind, Bamaga Resort hosted a training course that not only resulted in higher WHS levels and improved hospitality skills, but also in the employment of new staff members.

Trainer Keith Davies said not only were the Bamaga Resort staff a pleasure to work with, referring to them as his 'adopted family', he also congratulated Jobfind's Joyrah and Tanya commitment in assisting people, business and community to aid employment.



Airport refueling training

Under the watchful eye of NPA Aviation Trainer Keith Davies, NPARC Director of Operations Geoff Rintoul, Adam Davies and Bindi Nadredre participated in an Aviation Refueling Training Program, training to fill up the waiting aircraft.

They learned to drive the fuel truck, check and sample the fuel and safely attach the bonding wires and fuel hose to fill up the waiting aircraft.

NPA Airport is an essential service to the area, allowing access for freight, passenger and charter flights as well as Royal Flying Doctor aircraft.

Safe and efficient refueling training will allow greater flexibility in the working roster for the NPA Airport and improve the airport's services.



Bindi Nadredre attaches the fuel line



Housing Update

Bamaga's new housing subdivision lots now have water and electricity services. "There is a lot of work laying the foundations for the subdivision," said Deputy mayor Eddie Newman, "to make

sure it's a functioning block well on into the future, we have to plan for storm water drainage, electricity, plumbing and water supply and road access."

NPARC Director of Operations Geoff Rintoul says the water and electrical

services can be expected to be completed in other subdivisions by November this year.

Building of homes should commence late this year and is expected to be completed by May 2013.



Seisia and Bamaga Community Meetings

Is there something happening in your community that you'd like to know more about or something you'd like people to know about? Come along to your local community meeting to discuss what's happening in our communities.

This month our Councillors and community members attended the Seisia and Bamaga community meetings, discussing...

housing **beautification** **vandalism**
men's groups **grades** **school attendance**

Cr Getawan discussed the current community beautification programs; including gardens and maintenance, rubbish disposal and new water restrictions.

NPA College Senior Campus Principal Ken Maclean applauded our students for their outstanding grade improvements, as recognized earlier in the year with the NAPLANS comparison. He also stressed the importance of school attendance, saying that if their improvements have been that good with such poor attendance, there's no stopping our students when they have full attendance.

QLD Police Sgt Jason Chetham spoke about vandalism and safe streets for our communities and horses/ livestock on the roads. He said there is a QLD by-law that says horses and livestock have right of way on QLD roads, so there is nothing they can do to stop horses being on the roads. Proper care of these animals is the owner's responsibility. He also spoke about vandalism in the area, specifically incidents related to teenage drinking. He urged parents to talk to their children about proper behaviour and respect for their communities so they don't find themselves in a situation where police have to intervene.

At Bamaga's community meeting, it was brought up in discussion that if youths are urged to stay at home, or given a curfew, they will also be able to have a better sleeping pattern, which could also help with school attendance.

The Councillors also spoke about improving the frequency and involvement of mens groups activities with in the communities, looking at working closely with Mens Shed to reach each community.

Upcoming changes to social housing developments and maintenance were discussed at each meeting (as covered pg 8 this issue).

Contact your local council office for more information.



Emu calico bag, by Agnes Mark

Notorious in the NPA

"We've been so busy this month," said NPA Arts Centre Coordinator Agnes Mark, "We have tourists coming in everyday, saying they have been looking for us, asking where the centre is!"

It's no wonder their work is fast becoming sought after, with eight of our talented local artists exhibiting their second collection of work in another exhibition this month, *Pathways 3*.

Once again, our NPA Art Centre Artists have shown their artistic diversity, in the recent weeks they've switched from giant canvas exhibition pieces, to small scale canvas bags and wall hangings for sale as souvenirs.

They've even dusted off the centre's sewing machines to hand sew each hanging.

"We'd love for someone who's really interested in sewing to come join us some afternoons," Agnes said, "it's very exciting for us to come in and see all the new methods we are using, it would be great to see what someone else might make with the sewing machines too!"

Youpla Listen Up!

Middle ear disease is a condition that starts with a fluid build up behind the ear drum and in serious cases, can lead to hearing loss.

In cases affecting indigenous children, the condition can often go untreated because they often don't feel the pain associated with middle ear infection and disease, so regular checkups are advised.

If you or your child has been experiencing ear pain, fever or difficulty hearing, it might be time to have your or their ears checked.

The Deadly Ears team provide regular visits to the region, teaching children how to blow their nose as to not damage their ear drums, and checking children's ears for early signs of infection or disease.

This month the Deadly Ears team provided training to the New Mapoon Child care workers. Recognising and treating the early signs of ear disease could save your child's hearing.

Earlier this year, Athena Tamwoy was appointed as our NPA Acting Hearing Health Worker. During this time, Athena has been working with Deadly Ears conducting ear screening at schools and childcare centres and to promote proper ear health.



Blow youpla nos, no youpla thalinga!



So what's on in September in the NPA?

Community News

Scholarship Applications Open– RMIT

Indigenous Assistance Scholarship applications open in September for Melbourne– based IT university RMIT. Courses in technology, design, global business, communication, global communities, health solutions and urban sustainable futures. A range of RMIT and externally-funded scholarships available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants to assist in study fees. If you are thinking about attending university next year and would like to apply, visit www.rmit.edu.au for more information.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Conference– Getting There

Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders Annual Conference will be held in Cairns in September. Focusing on the progress being made in the fields of Aboriginal and TSI Health.

Where: Shangri-La Hotel, Cairns

When: 19-21 September 2012

Full registration: \$450/day registration:\$200
register online at www.nahrls.com.au

Free Kickboxing Classes

Tuesday – Bamaga Hall

Women's class 5:30-6:30pm

Men's class 6:40-7:40pm

Wednesday – Injinoo healing Centre

Women's class– 5:30-6:30pm

Men's Class– 6:40-7:40pm

Thursday–Bamaga Hall

Women's class– 5:30-6:30pm

Men's class– 6:40-7:40pm

Free Yoga Classes

Yoga classes are still being held across the NPA– call Sue at Family Resource Centre to ask about classes at your workplace or attend the community classes held each week.

Mondays:

Chair Yoga—10:15am Injinoo Healing Centre

Mat Yoga—5:15pm Injinoo Healing Centre

Tuesdays:

Antenatal Yoga—10:15am Bamaga OSHC

Wednesdays:

Chair Yoga—10:15am Umagico OSCH

Thursday:

Chair Yoga—10:15am Bamaga OSHC

Mat Yoga—5:15pm New Mapoon Hall

For more information contact Sue Aldred at NPA Family and Community Services on 4069 3555.

White Balloon Day

As part of Child Protection Week, white balloons will be released across the NPA to raise awareness, so we can put a stop to child sexual abuse.

On Friday, **7th of September**, white balloons will be released to raise awareness about child sexual abuse. Break the silence. Protect our kids.

Senior's week

Let's celebrate the amazing lives of our elders this Seniors Week!

Monday 3rd- Thursday 6th Sept

The week will showcase local arts and craft, dancing and cooking. Celebrating the amazing adventures had by our community elders.

Pathways 3 Exhibition

The final stage in the Side By Side Exhibition ready program, a group exhibition displaying work from each community who completed the program, in one group exhibition. UMI Art's *Pathways 3 Exhibition* will run from 15th August to 26th September at UMI Art Gallery, 333 Sheridan St Cairns.

Deadlys– Awards Ceremony

Celebrating excellence in music, sport, entertainment and communities, the 2012 *Deadlys* award ceremony will be held at the Sydney Opera House on **25th September**. Recognizing contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to their community and to Australian People. Catch the awards broadcast on SBS, 30th September!



This issue is printed in Cairns. As a service to the communities, Skytrans kindly offered to freight the newsletters to the NPA free of charge. For the quickest way to the NPA call 1300 759 872, or visit: www.skytrans.com.au

