



NPA Regional Council News

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council News Letter

LETTER



Turning over a new leaf. First look at the new Bamaga Farm!



"The principle behind long term, sustainable farming is to work *with* the land," Agostinho tells me, "if you have too many snails, then you don't have enough ducks."

"Sustainability is the order of the day when working with [the communities'] land," he continues to explain, "We want it to be as productive as can be, for now and for the future generations of the area."

Agostinho De Sousa has been awarded the task of overseeing the planning and operation of the new Bamaga farm. He expects to begin planting the first of the produce by the end of April.

"We are going to begin with a fruit and veggie stall out the front of the farm, where you can buy chemically free grown local produce. Eventually though, we hope to provide local produce to the supermarkets and for local community events."

As such, he is seeking some community input and advice on what the needs of the locals will be. In time, he especially hopes to provide fresh produce for community Kup-Maurie's.

He is also hoping to include some student from the Bamaga Primary School and NPA's Senior College to participate and learn on the farm.

Stage one will be introducing some chickens for free range farm eggs, as well as growing pumpkin, melons, cassava, tomatoes, corn, papaya and bananas.

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Getting ready for the storm

The water is pelting down in torrents and the wind has turned even the smallest twigs into spears that are hurled into walls and windows. It's storm season and up against nature, we can only be prepared.

Make sure your home and garden are tidy of loose objects that may become dangerous in strong winds.

Avoid the last minute shopping chaos, and the hectic clean up in the rain, get in

while the winds are calm and the ground is relatively dry.

What you will need is food, water and batteries to see you through 72hrs.

Also, make sure if you require specific medication, that you have enough to see you through, should a disaster occur.

EMQ advise having a radio, torch and spare blankets on hand too.



2012 Election Dates

Nominations for local government open Saturday 10 March and close noon Tuesday 27 March 2012

Election day is Saturday 28 April 2012
Polling Booths are open from 8.00am to 6.00pm

Your vote can be cast by pre-polling prior to the day, requesting a postal vote or elector visit vote, or by personal attendance at a polling booth on the day.

NPARC Mailing Address: NPARC, P.O Box 6878, Cairns, QLD 4870**Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council****NPARC Head Office:** NPARC, P.O Box 200, Bamaga, QLD 4876**ABN: 27 853 926 592****NPARC Head Office address:** NPARC, Adidi St, Bamaga, QLD 4876**Entity Type: Local Government Entity**

Offices:	Phone	Fax	NPARC CEO & Councillors	Phone	Bamaga	
NPARC Cairns	4050 1800	4050 1899	CEO Stuart Duncan, Bamaga Office	4090 4106	Garage	4069 3803
NPARC Bamaga	4090 4100	4069 3264	Dep CEO Danny Sebasio, Bamaga Office	4090 4104	Sport & Rec	4069 3675
NPARC Seisia	4048 6700	4069 3180	Mayor Joseph Elu, Bamaga Office	4090 4107	Enterprises	4069 3533
NPARC New Mapoon	4048 6600	4069 3107	Cr Reg Williams, Dept Mayor, Bamaga	4090 4110	Tavern	4069 3260
NPARC Umagico	4048 6900	4069 3115	Cr Jeffrey Aniba, Seisia Office	0407 753528	Bakehouse	4069 3106
NPARC Injinoo	4048 6800	4069 3253	Cr Michaels Bond, New Mapoon Office	4048 6606	Centrelink	4069 3628
Open: Mon-Thur, 9am-5pm, Fridays to 3pm.			Cr Peter Lui, Umagico Office	4048 6700	Electrics	4069 3011
NPARC Newsletter	4048 6802		Cr Gina Nona. Injinoo Office	4048 6804	B&B Electric	4069 3435
Workshops: NPARC Workshop, Bamaga		4069 3962	Miscellaneous		Menshed	0417 200 172
NPARC Engineering, Umagico		4069 3419	Post Office, RTC, Bamaga		4069 3126	Punsand Bay 4069 1722
NPARC Workshop, Injinoo		4069 3903	NPA Airport		4069 3383	C Y Traders 4083 0446
Carpenters' Shed, Injinoo		4069 3367	Ranger Base, Injinoo		4069 3875	Car Detailing 4069 3558
Carpenters' Shed, Seisia		4069 3254	Bamaga Swimming Pool		4069 3659	CY Spares 4069 3803
NPARC Store, Bamaga		4069 3746	Jardine River Ferry (8 to 5pm)		4069 1369	Dreamtime 4069 3222
FM Radio	Radio Station FW91.9	4096 3356	NPA Refuse Tip (Mon-Fri, 8 to 4pm)		4069 3252	NPA PCYC 4069 3388
NPARC Housing: Same as respective council offices.			NPA Refuse Tip, after hours		4069 3593	Resources Center 4069 3555
Indigenous Knowledge Centers		4069 3761	Hospitals/ Health			
Injinoo Library			Bamaga Hospital			4069 3166
RTC, Umagico		4083 0333	Dentist, at Bamaga Hospital			4069 3166
Family Services:			Thursday Island Hospital			4069 0200
NPA Family Resource Center, Bamaga		4069 3555	Health Centers: Mon– Fri, 8 to 5pm			W P H & Safety 4069 3991
NPA Women's Shelter, Bamaga		4069 3020	Bamaga Health Center			4069 3200
Safe House, Bamaga		4069 3223	New Mapoon Health Center			4069 3454
Bamagau Kazil		4069 3475	Umagico Health Center			4069 3306
New Mapoon Childcare		4069 3074	Injinoo Health Center			4069 3465
Umagico Childcare Center		4083 0111	Seisia Health Center			4069 3271
Umagico Outside School Hours Care		4083 0440	Bamaga HACC			4069 3305
NPA Healing Center, Injinoo		4069 3811	Dept. of Child Safety (T.I)			4090 3664
Injinoo Childcare Center		4069 3510	T.I Pharmacy			4069 1548
Injinoo Outside School Hours Care		4069 3109				
Schools / Campuses / TAFE		Service Stations:		Supermarkets / Stores		New Mapoon
Bamaga Primary, 1-5	4090 4444	Bamaga	4069 3275	IBIS, Bamaga	4069 3186	CY Ice & Tackle 4069 3659
Bamaga Primary 6-12	4090 4333	Injinoo	4083 0011	Seisia	4069 3218	Loyalty Beach 4069 3372
Injinoo Primary	4090 4888	Seisia	4069 3897	Alau Supermarket	4069 3273	Nai Beguta 4069 3408
Bamaga TAFE	4069 3214	RACQ, Bamaga	4069 3803	New Map. Store	4069 3013	Arts Center 4083 0271
Seisia				<div>Emergencies Ambulance, Fire Brigade: 000</div> <div>Hospital, Bamaga 4069 3166 (Emergencies)</div> <div>SES 132 500</div> <div>Ambulance 4069 3344</div> <div>Volunteer Marine Rescue 0428 692 004</div> <div>Airport, in Emergency 4069 1520</div>		
Enterprises	4069 3243	Carpentaria Seafaris	4069 3254			
Wharf	4069 3158	Cust Sport Fishing	4069 3301			
Meat Works	4083 0201	Seisia car hire	4069 3368			
Top End Motors	4069 3182	Torres News 1300 867 737				
Seisia/RTC	4069 3884	Nat Ind. Times 1300 786 611				
NPA Electrics	4045 5518	Koori Mail 02 66 222 666				
Camp Ground	4069 3243					

East coast coverage for ghost nets and quarantine

The Rangers have begun funded work on the East Coast, after months of pilot patrols to prove the importance of their work on each side of the cape.

Our local rangers work alongside the Apudthama Lands Trust, Ghost Nets Australia and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to maintain approx 500km of coastline.

For years retrieval of ghost netting, and the monitoring of weeds and pests was focused on the western side of the state, however due to the findings of local rangers, work has begun on the East Coast as well.

“We’ve found evidence of just as many ghost nets along the East as the West, as well as new species of termites and mosquitoes that have never been recorded before,” Ranger Supervisor, Warren Stre-
vens .

“**Ghost net recovery and quarantine work are just as important on the East side.**”

East Coast Ghost nets Camp Photos courtesy of Warren Strevens and the NPA Rang-

“Unfortunately, most of these nets are getting caught up on the reef, before they get to the coast. We are currently completing an eight week monitoring program for the East side, then we will begin a six week program for the West.”

The programs include coastal surveillance to find and remove ghost netting, monitoring of wildlife, trapping and sampling pests such as mosquitoes and termites and maintaining beaches.

“In such a large area, it’s not common that we are in time to save trapped turtles, so we work on prevention,” said Ranger Thomas Serubi.

In two and a half years, they have found between 20-23 turtles, and only been in time to release two.

They are now using a new computer program, I-tracker, to collaboratively monitor ghost netting and wildlife with other ranger programs, across the country.



Rangers identify and record ghost nets, using I-Tracker.



NPA Regional Council meetings will now be held on the **last Tuesday** of every month.
All welcome, hope to see you there!

A Quick Hello!

I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. When I first arrived in the NPA, I felt as if I had let myself into someone's home but not yet told them I was there.

I've now met many of you, and hope to meet many more soon, but for now please allow me to introduce myself to you all.

My name is Jess, I've moved to the NPA from Brisbane, to take up the position of Media Officer with the council.

Though I've travelled extensively around Australia, I have never lived in a community such as this.
So far, I love it.

I've been warmly welcomed within my neighborhood in Injinoo, and throughout the other communities. Please, if you see me around town, don't hesitate to say hello!

I'm very excited to have the opportunity to learn about your land and cultures, I look forward to working with you.

Thanks, Jess.



Farm fresh, and looking to the future.

The Bamaga Farm has burst back to life with the recent rain. A knee high jungle of lush vegetation now carpets the 40 acres of land.

It might seem a little unorthodox, but Agostinho plans to use each and every plant that has sprung up on the site. There will be no tilling of soil and no dredging of water channels in store for this farm.

Instead, the workers will be working with the land, which by the looks of things is doing just fine growing vegetation on it's own.

When left to work the way it's designed, natural forces are the best garden tool there is.

The farm will be designed to collect rain water and gently direct it across the fields, allowing it to soak in, rather than washing away valuable top soil.

The crop plantation will be designed to recharge the soil, as the plants grow. Each plant uses a specific balance of nutrients from the soil and replaces it with others. This way the field can sustain itself, so to speak.

Stage one will be the relocation of the Bamaga Nursery, followed by the preparation of composts, production of mulches and creating slight variations in the land, to catch and sink rain water.

The nursery will be set up to sell a manner of gardening needs and to sell the farm produce.

Agostinho will also this year begin growing *Pongamia Pinnata* trees. The seeds of this native tree have been found to produce large volumes of a unique oil that can be easily milled to produce a sustainable bio diesel fuel.

Ideally the locally grown and harvested fuel could be used within the area, to run pumps and machinery on the farm, council vehicles, generators

and other diesel motors in the area.

"When I use the word organic, I mean that it isn't poisonous. There are no chemicals put into the soil or onto the plants."

future.

Agostinho will be working on and over seeing the farm management, keeping it focused on long term organic sustainability.

Healthy soil grows healthy plants, and that helps make healthy people, but it's not just on the farm. He hopes to help community members to grow their own fresh vegetables at home!

Having completed a Permaculture Design Certificate, Agostinho hopes to be able to instruct the local workers how to sustainably manage the farm for the



Soon you can play in the dark!

Get ready to break out the footy boots and glow sticks, at Umagico Football Field.

The CDEP have begun work to install new flood lighting for night games.

CDEP workers prepare the field.

Disaster planning underway for the NPA

EMQ's Wayne Coutts held a local meeting to discuss the on-going development of the NPA Disaster Management Plan. He says EMQ has recognized the need to invest a new strategy for the area and is looking to work with the communities to deliver the best plan possible. He also stressed the importance of personal safety in storm seasons.

Our new plan is expected to be completed by August 2012.

EMQ's Wayne Coutts hosts a local meeting



Safe Sparks— home fire safety

When I heard that the recent fire in Umagico was thought to have been caused by just a phone charger that had been left on the bed, I began to wonder about the fire safety of my own home.

A drop of rain could easily float through an open window and short circuit one of my appliances. That could be all it takes to come home to a pile of ashes.

You may have heard local fire fighter Pete Kelly on Red Dust Country radio, discussing the fire and what we can do to help keep our homes and communities fire safe.

If you see a fire, call 000 immediately. Be sure to tell them if anyone is trapped or injured, as they may need to send an ambulance as well. After emergency services have been notified, if you feel it is safe to do so, you can attempt to douse or extinguish the fire with a home fire extinguisher or garden hose.

Peter asked that people avoid entering the building. As the walls and paint burn, they give off extremely harmful gasses, so if you're near a blaze, try to avoid the toxic smoke.

"Though you might be trying to help, it can put our fire-fighters at an even bigger risk trying to save you as well, if you enter the building and find yourself trapped."

NPA Rural Fire Brigade urge every household in the NPA to replace the batteries in smoke detectors annually in March. Why not do it now, right after the new year.

Every household should have at least one smoke detector, but two is even better! They should be positioned in the hall, outside of the bedroom, and just



Heinz, thanks for the memories...

A big thank you to Heinz, who was not only well known, but well loved throughout all of the NPA communities.

He is now living on the Gold Coast with Shahla and their 4 goats, 14 geese, 3 local ducks, 6 wild ducks, 14 chickens (who I'm told like to rearrange the strawberry box), a goanna

that unfortunately has developed a taste for chicken eggs and they are eagerly awaiting the arrival of some alpacas!

He will be remembered for the wonderful job he did in his time working in the NPA.



Photos courtesy of Heinz

How can I keep my family safe?

- Don't overload Power points
- Keep the stove area uncluttered
- Never leave cooking flames or candles unattended
- Don't smoke in bed and always butt out cigarettes
- Regularly dust smoke alarms and check batteries

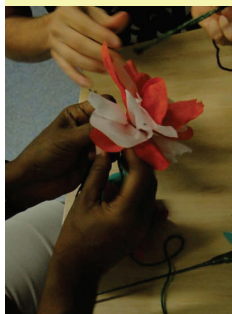
outside of the kitchen, in the dining room.

At the same time of year that you change your smoke detector batteries, you should check the gauge on your fire extinguisher to make sure it reads 'ready'.

For more information, feel free to contact your housing officer, or the NPA Emergency Services Unit. If you'd like to volunteer with the ESU which consists of the Rural Fire Brigade (RFS), the State Emergency Services (SES) and the Volunteer Coast Guard (VMR), come along to one of the meetings, held every second Tuesday evening and every second Saturday morning at the Seisia Shed.

Tuesday: 13th, 27th March, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Saturday: 10th, 24th March, 8am-12 noon

Inspirational Women



March will see the women of Injinoo share their stories of hope and inspiration as they come together to make tissue paper flowers for the International Women's Day Celebrations.

"We give these flowers to each of the women who are a part of the International Women's Day Celebration," said Sandra Sebasio, IKC coordinator.

"The ladies really liked the flowers last year, I think in a way they stand for strength, they help us to feel united" Sandra said.



"We would love to see more young women come down this year and share some stories about the women leaders in their communities, that may have influenced them."

"We have so many women, who support their families, work and maintain our culture, it's good to have a day to appreciate that."

IWD will be celebrated at the Healing Center in Injinoo, 8th March.



The van stopped in at local stores to promote sexual health awareness.
All event photos courtesy of Mark Colletti, Family Resources Center.

Sexual Health Week

Last month, each of the five communities were visited by the Sexual Health Awareness Van and members of the Family Resource Center.

The drive was organised as a part of their Sexual Health Awareness Week, for the NPA.

The Family Resource Center released that nearly three in every five people in the NPA have contracted some form of STI.

Sexual Health Education Team Leader Ruth Bowman said many community members were misinformed when it came to understanding sexual health.

"The idea of the van is to have somewhere where they can

come and feel safe and learn about sexual health," she said.

The van not only promoted the importance of sexual health, and provided information on STI's, but also distributed free condoms to community members.

Sexual Health Unit Program manager, Suzi Wood says they are aiming to reduce STI's in the community by increasing condom usage.

There are several areas within the communities that have been fitted with condom distributors.

"We don't want them to not use one because they are too ashamed to get them. It's better to have the precaution there, than risk spreading STI's," said Ruth, while setting up the van at the New Mapoon Store.

NPA Airwaves online

Red Dust Country Radio announcers will now be saying hello to the world!

Officially named 4NPA, the local council radio station has become available for free streaming online.

The 24hour online streaming of the 4NPA *Bummabipper* station is said to have the clearest signal of any streamed Australian station.

Acting as a voice for the 5 communities of the NPA, the programs cover weather and fishing, news, local events and play a wide range of music.

Local presenters are trained on the job; currently completing a Cert III in broadcasting.

"We train them up so that we can deliver a service that is up to standard," says Nev Reys, NPARC Arts Crafts and Culture.

Contact Amy McKeown or Lenny Gabby at the RIBS Building for more information.

Wild pig management

NPARC Rangers and Apudthama Lands Trust are looking at new methods to manage the number of wild pigs in the NPA.

A real threat to turtle populations in the area, the pigs are known to dig up and eat un-hatched turtle eggs.

The NPA is home to many turtle species, in fact the largest Flat-back turtle rookery is found on our shores.

In the past, wild pig numbers have been managed through aerial culls and through the use of traps. However, these methods prove difficult to moderate effectively and have been raised as a concern by the Apudthama Lands Trust.

"We have traps set to catch wild pigs, but we end up catching the small guys, not the big boars that are causing all the trouble," says Ranger Supervisor, Warren Strevens.

"There has to be a new method created to regulate the numbers more effectively."

A toast to the future.

Who better to be looking after our future than the leaders of tomorrow? The NPA welcomes a new Youth Forum, to be based at the Injinoo Youth Center.

The forum will be run by, and for the youths of the Injinoo community. At their monthly meetings they will discuss present issues and form a united front to represent the youths of the area.

The goal is to establish a Youth Forum to represent each community. Through this body, the voice of our youths can be presented to council and the community.

"I think that their ideas are different to what we adults see, they are more up-to-date," says Gordon Solomon, who will be acting as a council support officer to the Youth Forum.

"They will be using the Injinoo IKC as a base for their meetings, and using [myself and Sandra Sebasio] for support and guidance." "If we can encourage them to start participating and actually *be heard*, at a young age, I think they will have more respect for themselves and for the community," he said.

Please contact Gordon Solomon, at the IKC to join, or for more information.

Local ladies Elsja Mosby and Sarah Sailor showed what they were made of in the Indigenous All Stars Competition, held in January on the Gold Coast.

"We had a few stops on the way, to visit some rural schools and had heaps of training sessions," Sarah said.

"It was hard, but we kept doing what we had to do. I kept telling myself, you are going to go out there and score the first try, and I did!"

"We were nervous before we went on," said Elsja, "but you know, running onto the field knowing that you are out there, representing your people, there's no feeling like it."

Local Champs play Coast to Coast



Sarah Sailor and Elsja Mosby

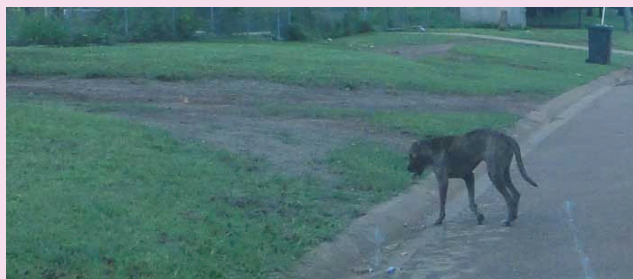
“Running onto the field knowing that you are out there, representing your people, there's no feeling like it.”

Home remedies for healthy hounds!

One of the first things you are told when you touch down in the NPA is look out for dogs. I haven't been here very long, but it's clear that ticks, worms and fleas are an all too common tale for man's best friend here, in the NPA.

As easily as parasites spread between the animals, they can spread to us as well, especially internal worms such as tapeworm and hookworm, or external parasites like fleas and mites. So keeping your pet healthy will help to keep you and your family free of harmful parasites too!

I'm told a tried and tested local remedy for ticks and fleas is to simply add a few drops of citronella oil to the bath water, ensuring you wash the animal at least twice a month.



You can also try adding a few drops of vinegar to their drinking water to help prevent fleas and mange.

Internal worms such as Tapeworm and Hookworm can be shared from dogs or cats, to humans.

Worming for dogs:

Heartworm prevention should begin at 12 weeks of age and must continue the whole of the dog's life. You can buy a chewy tablet to make worming easier.

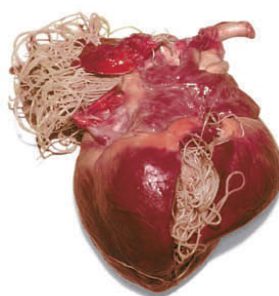
Intestinal Worming prevention should start at 3 months to treat Roundworm, Hookworm, Whipworm and Tapeworm. As pups can be infected before birth, they should be wormed at 2, 3 and 4 weeks of age with puppy worming syrup. If heavy worm burdens exist, more frequent worming may be necessary.

Worming for cats:

Kittens should be wormed from 6 weeks, every 3 weeks until they are 16 weeks old.

From 4 months old, cats should be wormed every three months.

This is Heartworm.



This is preventable.

Heartworm is transmitted from dog to dog through mosquito bites. Fully grown, adult worms can reach a length of 14 inches, inside the heart.

Heartworm causes a restriction on the heart's ability to pump blood, and can be fatal if left untreated.

Prevention is the best method.

Again, citronella can be useful in preventing mozzie bites and in fighting parasites within the body.



Uncle Shorty formally welcomes Trainer Chris Doppler.

Our Leaders of Tomorrow

'A good leader has an open door policy and respects their workers, who in turn will respect them.' Just one of the lessons discussed at the three day leadership seminar held last month. The seminar focused at improving leadership skills through self management, team management and managing time and conflict, through sharing ideas and experiences between the participants.



"Many of us here today, we have the same instinct when dealing with work problems, it helped me to understand more about my fellow workmates and how to deal with certain people and events professionally," participant, Thomas Serubi said.

"We had the solutions in us already, this workshop has helped us to feel confident in what we know. We would like to keep meeting up after this week, maybe once a month, to discuss how we are going, and to give support to one another," he said.



Estelle Gebadi said, "I think this workshop came around at the right time for me. I've just taken on a new leadership role in my department, and the skills I've learnt here will help me a lot to manage my new team. I've already started using it!"

Though it wasn't just the participants who went away with new skills. Leadership trainer, Chris Doppler said, "the group interaction was great, I think I learnt as much from the participants as they did from me."

Council employees Karen Bond, Estelle Gebadi, Louisa West, Roxanne Amey, Moira Aniba, George Mara, Lionel Soloman, Greg Agie, Francis Elu, Tom Phineasa, Christopher Lifu, Thomas Serubi, Ray Sailor, Danny Sebasio and Nick Curnow attended the seminar with Heather Van Dort and Chris Doppler.

"I think the skills we have learnt will really help us in our workplaces, especially with time and conflict management. We will be taking these skill back and teaching them to our workmates, so everyone can benefit," Thomas said with a chuckle.





Through the streets of your town.

CDEP workers like Sam here, have been busy doing dirty deeds around the communities of the NPA..

They've been fencing and fixing gazebos while keeping the grass down – and with this rain that is no small task– and I'll bet that when they kick off their boots at the end of the day, they're sure to be caked in this red dirt.

Though many are training on the job, the work they do is already recognized for it's outstanding professionalism.



Housing on the horizon

The council is employing a multi faceted approach to the local housing developments, to ensure sustainability for future growth.

With the correct utilities installed, the area will be ready for future development.

The current focus is to complete the extensive underground work; including sewerage systems, drainage and water supplies.

The storm water drainage within the new Bamaga subdivision is designed with large capacity storm water pipes to solve current rain water run off problems at the bottom of Elu St experienced after heavy rainfall.



Town planning is thinking ahead, looking at future rain water run-off solutions for the housing development site at the end of Elu St, Bamaga. The first stage is extensive underground work.

On the road again.

Coming out of Injinoo you will see a brave little sign showing the way to Cairns. The road is notoriously rough and long, not the type of journey for a little sedan, no sir.

Well, not yet. Of the 38km road from Injinoo to the Jardine River, 6km has already been upgraded. Still the work for a 4WD, but perhaps not for long. Director of Engineering Services, Jim Foody says the road works are to current engineering standards, and are holding up well under the recent rain.

"Our main concern was to get the pipe work in for the creek crossings, it's a race to get them finished before it gets washed away in the wet. The boys rebuilt the Buster Creek culverts two years ago, which couldn't have turned out better."

" The new road is standing up really well, even under the recent rain. "



Every year there is severe damage to the road during wet season, but this upgrade will save money on road work for the future.

"They have done a really great job, this is the level of professional work that you would expect in any city," Jim said.



At the very heart.

"This artwork is something I want people to look at and feel a sense of belonging. The piece is a part of them too, their colour is up there, they are a part," local artist Agnes Mark explains.

As the final touches are being put on the All Abilities Playground at New Mapoon, local artworks will begin to be installed.

Agnes' contribution, a piece called *The Heart of the Community*, will be placed in the center of the playground.

"A long time ago, our people didn't go to school, they told their stories through pictures. We can still see them now, and we can still understand what they are saying."

"Now we have all nationalities here in Australia, and we have to make them feel welcome. I want people to be able to look at this and think, someone was thinking of me when they made this. Even though they don't know me, they were thinking of me, and I am here, I am a part of this."

Indigenous art is, and always has been, a way for people to express themselves and their culture. Many local artists practice at the NPARC Arts Shed, in New Mapoon.

"We want to encourage people from every community to come along," says manager for the Arts, Neville Rey. "This is a place for all people to come and express themselves through art."



Local artist Johnny Mark said he would like to see more young people become involved.

"We encourage school kids to come down after school and join in. We can teach them about different kinds of art and about our culture."

Johnny works with some children from Bamaga High, who create a lot of hand painting art pieces.

"These kids, I see them do the hand painting, and it makes me think. I believe the hand painting means help. I think, these hands, they can do so much to help our culture today."

The NPARC Arts Shed hold workshops on linoleum printing, painting, pottery and woodcarving

to improve local skills and to encourage artists of any kind to participate.

"I'd like to see the kids here, so they can respect our indigenous culture and we can live knowing who we are," said Agnes.

"You might not be very talkative, but you can't bottle everything up inside. Art is a way to express yourself, what ever you are feeling. You can tell it in a story," she said.

Surely, this piece also tells a story, one of hope, acceptance and unity. One to be carried through generations, at the very heart of the community.



The Heart of The Community will be installed onto this sculpture within the playground, at New Mapoon.

All hands on deck!

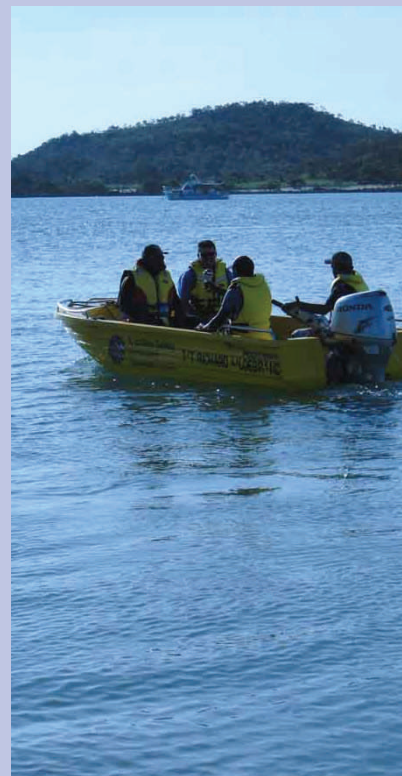
Just one of the simple but lifesaving lessons learnt by participants of the Maritime Safety Queensland Boat Safe course, held in February.

Over two days, two workshops were run at the New Mapoon Council Office, covering Boat Safety and Outboard Motor Maintenance.

The participants of the Boat Safety Course learnt maritime regulations and safe procedures for operating and being aboard a vessel. Participants who attended the second workshop learnt maintenance of an outboard motor, and further boating skills.

"I'm building a boat now," says Neville, participating in the Boat Safe course, "so it will be good to have this knowledge when she's up and running."

" Hold it at an arms length, and open the flare away from your face... "



Participants Tony Ross, Clara Day, Reef Day, Erra Bond, Ron Atu, Tomaseena Willie, Chris Jawai, Dyle Bowie, Scotty Bagiri, Jeffrey Tugai and Kevin Clough with trainers David McIlwain, Adrian Davidson and Frank Thompson at Seisia Wharf.





So what's on in the NPA?

Community News

The NPA Emergency Services Unit is welcoming volunteers. If you'd like to join -covers the Rural Fire Brigade (RFS), State Emergency Services (SES) or Volunteer Coast Guard (VMR)- come along to a meeting.

Every second Tuesday evening and every second Saturday morning at the Seisia Shed.

At the Arts Shed

06-13th March: Guests Lynette Griffiths and Mike Nicholls assist in ghost net design, organised by Menshed

26-30th March: Initial delivery for Exhibition Ready and Introduction for Side by Side Program, with Teho Ropeyard and Arone Meeks, in collaboration with UMI ARTS. Expressions of interest, please contact UMI Arts CEO, Janet Parfenovics on 4041 6152, or eo@uniarts.com.au.

International Women's Day at the Healing Center

International Women's Day 2012 will be celebrated at the Bamaga Healing center, on Wednesday, March 8th.

Starting at 8am, the day will include Ghost-net art, weaving, murals, discussion and dancing.

There will be a parade through Injinoo at 9am, celebrating Australian women.

NPA Regional Council Meetings will now be held on the last Tuesday of every month. We hope to see you there!



Seisia Beach, February 2012

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



Attention: The NPA vet will be visiting again in four months. By de-sexing your animal, we can reduce the number of wild dogs and cats and help build a safer community. Remember to keep pets wormed and vaccinated!

Health and Fitness

For more information contact:
NPARC Events Office on 4069 3388.

*Get active,
Get Healthy,
Have fun!*

Water Aerobics:

Mon 6am
Wed 5:30pm
Thurs 6am
And Sat 7am.

Held at the Bamaga Pool.

Walk 'n' Talk:

Mon 5:30pm— Seisia Boat ramp
Tues 6am— Bamaga Oval
Fri 6am— Bamaga Oval

Boot camp:

Tues 5:30pm
(Boys/Mens only) Bamaga Oval
Wed 6am
(All welcome) Bamaga Oval

Dance Hall Mix:

Fri 5:30pm
New Mapoon Hall