



NIPA Regional Council News

LETTER

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council News Letter



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"We've been working towards this for a long time, some of us for almost ten years," said Agnes Mark as she welcomed friends, family and visitors to UMI Gallery. Hers was one of the many speeches to open *Ngalpa Mura Tjar'a Tjera Apudthama*, the very first Exhibition to solely showcase art-work from the Northern Peninsula Area.

The name is a combination of Saibai Islander, Mapoon and Injinoo languages which translates to *Our Journey Together*. Over the past few months UMI arts and NPARC Arts Center have been working together to deliver UMI's *Side by Side* project taking remote indigenous artists from the workshop to the gallery wall, and it has been quite a journey.

The eight artists who participated in the program are locally known artists but had not before been recognized on such a large scale.

It certainly has been a long road, but as their artworks were hung side by side on the gallery wall and the room slowly filled with people mesmerized by the stunning pieces before them, it was all worth it.

"I walked into the room and was just like...wow!" said artist Arone Meeks who had been mentoring the NPA artists throughout the program.

"It's been such an honour to work along side these great artists," he said, "in what has truly been, our journey together."

Attending the exhibition were many familiar faces including guest artists to the NPA Arts Centre Kel Williams (carving), Dominic Johns (mosaic), Liz Hunter and Hannah Parker (lino print).



NPARC would like to acknowledge the use of any likenesses or artworks remains the property of the artist.



Each artist displayed two unique pieces, with 15 acrylic on canvas artworks and one two-piece sculpture. There were stories from Saibai, Mapoon and Injinoo, stories of dreaming, of family and of everyday life. Together the artworks made a collage of life and culture of the NPA.

“We are so proud to see our unique and varying cultures of the NPA region so beautifully displayed, as they are here tonight,” said Mayor Bernard Charlie.

It was a long road but if anything our artists are even more inspired than ever. Heading down to the NPA Arts Centre in New Mapoon, you will see they’ve already started on new works, experimenting with colour, line and texture.

There’s even talk of the next exhibition to come and the artists would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the NPA who has artistic talents and who is interested in getting their work out there.

“We want other artists from the area to see this and say *hey, I can do it too,*” said artist Geraldine Yorke, “there are many more artists in each of our communities who might be afraid or not know how to show their work, but we want them to see that it can be done and they can do it too.”

Ngalpa Mura Tjar’a Tjera Apudthama will run at UMI Arts Gallery, 335 Sheridan St, North Cairns from June 14th– July 25th.

Big esso to UMI Arts and to Arone Meeks and Teho Ropeyam for all their hard work and support. We’d also like to extend a big thank you to Skytrans for providing discounted airfares for our artists and freight for their artworks.



(L-R) Vincent Babia, Ron Kelly Peter, Anzac Newman, Roy Solomon, Geraldine Yorke, Agnes Mark, Susan Kennedy and Marsat Newman.



NGALPA MURA TJARA TJERA APUDTHAMA
 (Our Journey Together) - Thursday 14th of June 2012

Hidden talents take the stage

There's nothing wrong with a little showing off... especially when you are as talented as this mob! The NPA Mini Talent Quest ran on Monday the 11th June, on the Queen's Jubilee Holiday and with the amazing acts that performed on the day, it near rivaled the Queen's own celebrations.

The Lil Diva's took first place over all with their original dance routine that really showed how to shake it. Though they were up against hard competition to match the shake and shimmer of the New Mapoon and Alau Hula dancers, not to mention Jamal's unbelievable original hip hop routine.

A huge congratulations to all the contestants, without whom the day would have been impossible and a big esso to everyone who helped out behind the scenes, from the cooks on the BBQ to the parents and drivers to get everyone there. NPARC would also like to thanks the events team for another brilliant event and our generous sponsors Bamaga Enterprises, Seisia Car Hire, Cape York Traders and Peddell's Ferry.

The secret's out guys, NPA's got talent. Enough for many more talent quests, in fact, NPARC Events are already in planning for the next. So start sewing on your costume sequins and limber up for the next NPA Talent Quest.

See the Events Facebook Page for more photos!



Lil Diva's bust a move



New Mapoon Hula Girls



Eddie and Kenny Newman man the barbie



New Girls on The Block sing Halo



Sk_KidD and Mariah show Britney how it's done



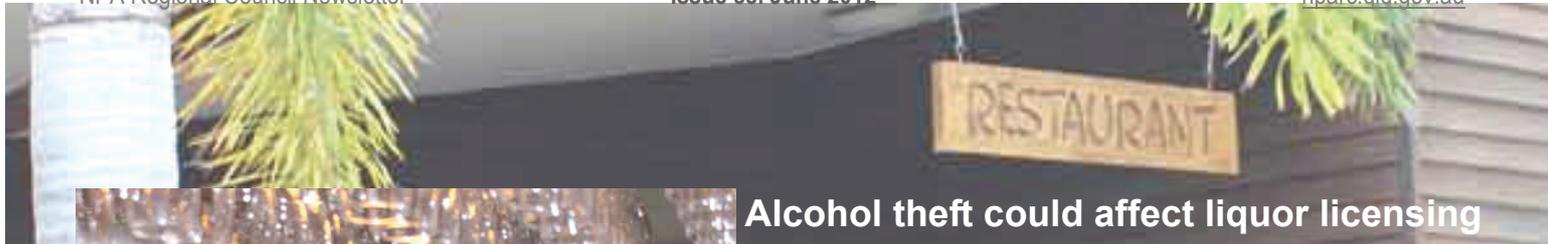
New Mapoon Hula Girls



Jamal



Alau Hula Girl



Alcohol theft could affect liquor licensing



Constable Tyson Brock and Bamaga Resort Manager Brett Tait survey the extent of the stolen goods.

Another licensed venue has been hit this month, thieves targeting tills and liquor stock. On Tuesday 20th June 2012, in the early hours of the morning several men broke into the Bamaga Resort restaurant, stealing cash from the till and a large quantity of hard liquor. Police said incidents like this could push Liquor Licensing to be re-assessed in the area.

Acting Senior Sergeant Darren Meares, who was on the scene, said a number of perpetrators had been caught by midday. "Some of the perpetrators were caught on security cameras and have been able to be identified. At this point, some remain unidentified and there is still a large quantity of cash and hard liquor unaccounted for," Acting Senior Sergeant Meares said. "If anyone has any information on the incident, they should contact Bamaga Police or Crime Stoppers."

Bamaga Resort manager Brett Tait said the early morning break in was witnessed by some of the resort's guests. "There were a few guests who were really shaken by the whole thing. From their room windows they could see the thieves stashing the alcohol in wheelie bins and running across the grounds. It's bad for business and it's bad for tourism in the area, they said they wouldn't have stayed even another night because of that."

The region is already under alcohol restrictions, regulating the types of alcohol available in the area and who can sell it. Incidents such as this could mean the entire region restrictions are updated. Community members are disappointed, some saying the reputation of the area is beginning to reflect the actions of thieves like these.

If you have any information, please contact Bamaga Police on 4090 4500 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000

Voice of a generation

Bringing the issues of today to our country's leaders of today, as a leader of tomorrow.

In late May, 2012, NPA local Aldene Rueben travelled to the capital of Australia to be the voice of NPA Youths as he attended the 2012 Youth Parliament. There he was awarded the QLD Award for Leadership Skills.

"It's a week where youths from all over Australia come together to discuss and debate issues from their regions," Aldene explained.

"The debates are attended by all of the Ministers in Canberra too, so they get to hear what we have to say, and what we think are the main issues in each of our regions," he said.

As each of the attending youths expressed their region's issues, the ministers were allowed an insight into their region, through the eyes of the local youths. Youth Parliament meetings are essential so the voices of youths can be heard in the parliament of Australia.

The QLD Award for Leadership Skills is awarded to an individual who demonstrates exceptional leadership

during the Youth Parliament Week.

"I think I took on a strong leadership role during the week, acting as a spokesperson for our group and helping everyone with their own work," Aldene said. "It's important that younger generations feel comfortable stepping up and taking on a leadership role because one day we will be the leaders, the future will be in our hands."

“ We are the future, it's our say... ”



Oh Pari!

Australian Indigenous artwork is adored worldwide, though it's also widely mis-understood. Many people believe that indigenous Australian art is only dot-painting styles, though there are of course many other styles of indigenous art. In answer to this, a Parisian curator has begun collecting various forms of Indigenous Australian Art to be displayed in a gallery in Paris.

Recently, our NPA HACC group created a beautiful Turtle, made entirely of ghostnets found washed up on the coasts of Cape York. The turtle is now being displayed in a gallery in Cairns and it is this magnificent piece that has sparked interest in creating a new piece to be displayed in the exhibition in Paris.

So with the artwork in hot demand, Ghostnet Australia this month sent sculptor Lynette Griffiths and basket weaver Marion Graemers to the communities of the NPA to coordinate the next unique creation. They held workshops throughout the NPA, where communities members sewed, wove and stitched their way to creating a Ghostnet Gecko.

"It was a great turnout," said NPAWS worker and NPA creative Gabbi Peters, "after one day the ladies said to me how wonderful it was to spend a day out of their own community, working together."

"It's good to develop different artistic skills," said NPA Artist Susan Kennedy, "you might use it somewhere else one day."

Ghostnet programs work closely with local rangers who collect the discarded nets. The artwork not only recycles the nets which can be harmful to the environment, but also raises awareness. A big thanks to all the volunteers from NPAWS, Menshed, HACC and to everyone who contributed in making the gecko, thanks to you he belongs to everyone and every part of the NPA.



(L-R) Marion Greemers, Gabbi Peters and Lynette Griffiths



The Gecko is made entirely of ghostnets washed up on the Cape York Coastlines, brought in by our local rangers. His eyes are made of floats and his body is stuffed with more nets.



Disrespect shames park vandals

Not even a month after our stunning, locally produced mosaics were fitted into the New Mapoon All Abilities Playground, the artworks have been damaged.

The stones used for the large crocodile bench and for the unique Heart of the Community artwork have been smashed and chipped, pieces have been stolen from the welcome wall and works have been spray painted over.

These artworks were unique to the community of New Mapoon, to the NPA region itself, and belong to everyone. They were created by our local artist with the assistance of mosaic artist Dom Johns. Mr Johns has made well known artworks across the countryside— you have probably seen his eye-catching Shell mosaic on the Cairns Esplanade.

Though these pieces for our park were more than a tourist attraction, more than community beautification— they were an expression of the culture and the people of the area.

Unfortunately now, the expression is of a culture that is destructive and crude. One that does not respect each other or their public property.

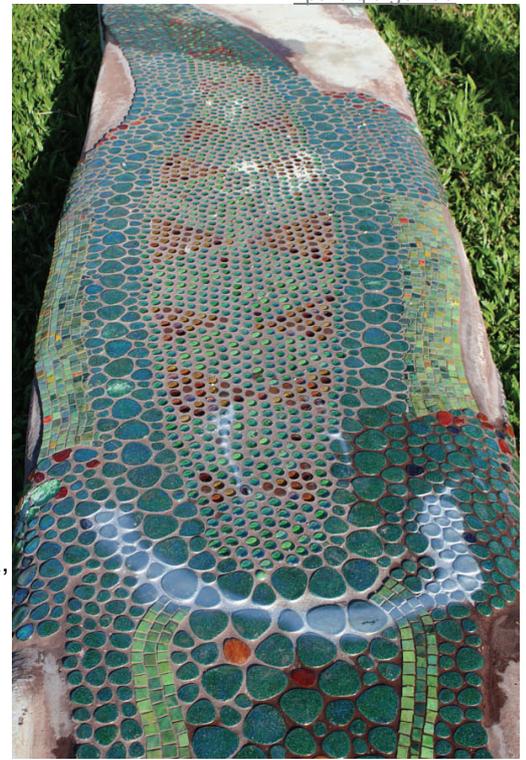
This is *not* our community. Our community is one of families, of love and understanding and one to be proud of.

Who ever has destroyed these artworks have shamed their community and themselves. They, as people of the NPA, should be proud of the artwork done by their aunts and uncles, because it is artwork of the highest quality, of exceptional design and craftsmanship.

“Workers from all across the NPA have worked on this playground,” said Injinoo Councilor Anthony Mara, “we’ve worked together to build it and we will work together to protect it. As a community we have to stand up for what is right and we need to value what has been built for the community.”

Mr Johns has said the works are able to be fixed, though it is a waste of resources to be fixing things that have been willfully destroyed, rather than putting new pieces into the community.

Right: Susan Kennedy’s crocodile with chipped stones and paint and (below) Councilor Mara inspects the damage to the toilet blocks.



Deadly Job to Beau and Deborah for your hard work and reliability

It’s been a long journey to find a reliable and hard working receptionist/ finance office at the Bamaga Office, but Beau Nawakie has certainly stepped up to the challenge.

He was nominated by his office this month for his outstanding commitment to his work and his helpful attitude. He’s the smiling face of Bamaga reception, always happy to help and going above and beyond his role to help others. Thanks Beau, deadly job!

We’d also like to award a deadly job to the ever lovely Deborah Stacey, one of our dedicated CDEP mentors. She’s also been nominated by her office who have seen her inspired work first hand.

One pay day morning this month, she was found in the office, having stayed up all night working to get everyone’s pays through on time, red eyed but still smiling. Thanks Deborah, deadly job.

Shame Job to vandals

It seems every month we are speaking of the shame of vandals in our communities, Again this month the Bamaga Basketball court was broken into and fire extinguishers were sprayed around the facility. It’s a waste of money and resources, but worse, it’s a bad reflection on the community.

Talk of the New Mapoon playground vandalism has shown that community members are ashamed of the actions of the people who have been destroying it.

The playground artwork is something to be proud of, something to be respected. We need to start respecting our communities *and* each others. We need to work together to keep improving them and we need to recognise the hard work that has been put in by our friends and community members to make these places the beautiful public areas that they are now.

Cultural ties woven together

*Aunty I didn't know you could weave baskets!
Neither did I until today....*

"Basketry is traditional to all cultures, in fact, there are only two techniques used in basketry which have been seen in many different cultures throughout history," explained renowned basket weaver Marion Graemers.

Marion had accompanied sculptor Lynette Griffiths in a week long visit to the region to complete a ghostnet project, and also help teach weaving techniques.

"As a medium, ghostnets really lends itself to basket weaving because the long, sturdy fibers are so easy to use," Marion said. "It's great to teach in this environment because I just give them an initial instruction and then they can interpret that in their own way. I'd have never come up with some of the designs that we are seeing created here, but they are just beautiful."

Historically in this region, women would use coconut palm leaves to weave into mats and baskets. The techniques used are still the same as then, only with a more contemporary medium.



CDEP are on the job



Photos courtesy of Agostinho



This month many CDEP workers have been completing their training in heavy machinery operation, a qualification that will open many doors for them as they continue through the program, to pursue full time work.

For those who didn't enroll in the training, work was found at the Bamaga farm where they assisted Farm Coordinator Agostinho De Sousa to build a pump house.

The farm's pump irrigates the crops on the entire farm, drawing water from a nearby dam. Unfortunately, without a housing unit, the pump was being trashed and work on the farm pushed back.

"I was able to utilize some CDEP participants who didn't enroll in the heavy machinery course and we have gotten some pressing jobs underway and nearly completed," said Agostinho.

CDEP Mentor Deborah Stacey says it's been a busy month for CDEP participants, many working regular shifts at Punsand Bay restaurant, training in hospitality.



Thanks for the fair go...

Marsat Jnr Newman has returned to his former workplace to say thank you for the opportunity to work. When he finished his schooling in Bamaga, Marsat began working at Bamaga Dreamtime.

It was the foot in the door to the workforce that he needed, he now works for Ergon Energy on Thursday Island. It's wonderful to see our youths given a go, and even better to see them take that opportunity, work hard and make the most of it. Well done Marsat.

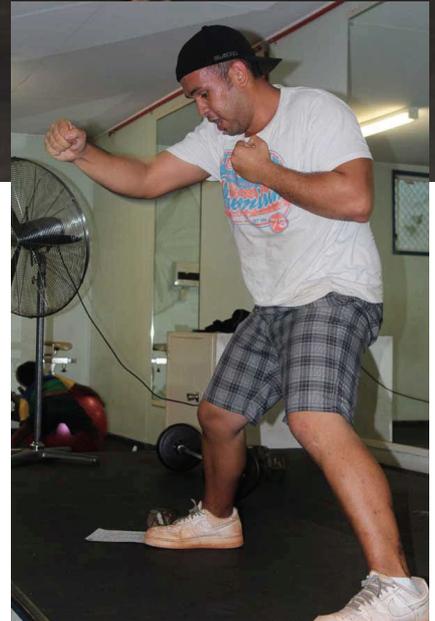


Events Team Training Up

In between holding the NPA Talent Quest day and planning for the upcoming Mud Rally, the NPARC Events Team have found the time to improve their fitness training skills in a week long training program covering kick boxing, gentle fitness for elderly, children's activities and more.

They also worked closely with the HACC group to train in gentle exercise classes to suit every ability level and often work in partnership with other community health organisations. This month's training ranged from the oval to the gym, the pool to the courts.

It's important to keep a healthy active lifestyle, but even more important to enjoy doing it! Group exercise classes are currently running at the gym, pool and various community ovals. Contact NPARC Events for more information on 4069 3388



Red Rover, Red Rover

This month saw another visit by the NPA Vet. Without constant access to a vet, it's hard to always keep pets healthy but there are a few things you can do to make sure your pet is as healthy as can be.

Firstly, make sure you keep your pet clean. You wash your own face and body to keep infection at bay, so you should wash your pet as well. Be sure to add a few drops of citronella oil to your pets shampoo, scrubbing until you make a foamy lather on their fur and rinse thoroughly.

If your Rover has red skin, he might have an irritation caused by dirt, mange or fleas. Citronella oil in the shampoo will help to keep away fleas and ticks and help the skin's natural defense against infection.— It's also pretty cheap and leaves your dog smelling wonderful and feeling great.

If your pet has dry, flaky skin you might need to rub a small amount of Alpha Keri oil on their coat after a bath.

Remember that many parasites such as intestinal worms, hook worms and heart worm can be picked up from the dirt, so regular washing is essential to keep your pet healthy.

These parasites can also be passed onto family members from the ground or the animal, so keeping your pet healthy also helps to protect your family against harmful parasites.

Many hands make light work, if each pet owner takes care of their own animals the community as a whole will benefit.

Remember to register you dogs and have your animals de-sexed if they aren't registered breeders or used for hunting.

You can register your animal at your local council office or download the form from our website. pet ownership is a big responsibility, make sure you are caring for your pet properly!



Jaws of Life in Safe Hands

In a car graveyard in Seisia this June our SES crew saved the life of Susan. They secured a nearby car that was rolled on its side, covered her in a plastic sheet to protect her from glass shards and with extreme caution, cut away the metal cage of her wrecked car, gently bringing her to safety on a med stretcher.

Luckily for Susan she is just a dummy and this was not a real accident. Over a four day course held in late June, our SES crew underwent an intensive road-crash recovery course, mentored by instructors from Far North QLD SES.

“We’ve recently received some new equipment, thanks to funding from QLD SES,” said NPA SES coordinator Peter Kelly. “We’ve been able to get a range of equipment to use in road crash recoveries, including the jaws of life.”

As impressive as it sounds, the ‘jaws of life’ is a high powered machine that can cut through the strong metal of a car or truck body and prize open the gap, allowing the injured person to be safely removed.

Participants: Peter Kelly, Trent Kirk, Adam Frew, Xavier Barker, Mel Griffins, Katie Tatnell, Mathew Middleton-Gill
Trainers: Daryl Camp, Rod Jacobs, Scott Mahaffey
Far North QLD Radio and Comm’s: Craig Doyle, Robert Bennett

The SES crew practiced using the tools in real-life situations, rescuing Susan the dummy and other crew members from wrecks donated by Top End Motors, kindly delivered by SeaSwift.

“There are quite a lot of road accidents up here, so it’s great that the SES now have the tools to provide a proper recovery,” said Constable Adam Frew, who was participating in the training. “We’ve had three in the past year where this training and equipment would have been useful.”

“The training covered day work and also a night exercise where we had to set up flood lights and work in semi darkness,” Mr Kelly said, “we also worked with Jeff from QLD Ambulance which was really beneficial, we all know how to work together to get this person safely from their car for medical attention.”

On the final day of the course, NPA Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade and SES coordinated their radio and communication systems, which will allow faster and more efficient action in the case of an emergency.

Though they are proud of their new skills, SES members still stress the best protection is always prevention— so please drive safely, don’t drink and drive and remember to always wear a seatbelt.

Photos (Clockwise): Katie Tatnell uses a saw to cut the roof from the car, working with Jeff Shaw from QLD Ambulance, lifting the lid off, instructing how to use the Jaws of Life cutters and (below) Trent and Katie cut Xavier out of the car wreck.



Keeping with the family business

Joseph Bagiri is only eleven years old but already he's decided what he wants to be. Like his dad, Joseph has a love for painting and even now it's clear that he has the knack.

Joseph and his friend Simeon Mark hope to share their work in the upcoming Bamaga Show.

"We want to encourage the youths of the area to express their talents," said Joseph's dad Roy Solomon, "they need to know that they can come down to the Arts centre whenever, and make art or even make it from school or from home. We want to celebrate their talents too."

In only a few days, Joseph was able to knock up two stunning art works, following a technique taught to him by his father Roy Solomon. Roy had only recently returned from opening his own premier group exhibition in Cairns when Joseph and he began to work at home together.

"I painted this one, *Bulla Bulla* first," said a shy Joseph as he revealed his two works.

"The idea just came to him after his dad had told him the story of the scrub people," said his mother Naila Bagiri, "he just starts to paint and then doesn't stop. These only took him a few days to finish completely."



Joseph and his painting *Bulla Bulla*



(L-R) Roy Solomon, Billy Baira, Frank Solomon, Joseph Bagiri and Naila Bagiri

Which way after school?

Who knew in their teenage years exactly what they wanted to do with their life?

Many people might not have even known what their options were.

On Thursday 14th June the NPA Careers Market was held at Sebasio Hall, Bamaga. Organizations from across the NPA came together with pamphlets and stalls to try and help the future members of our workforce find a way.

It's at this time of the year our school leavers will be deciding if they are going to university or TAFE, getting a trade or even taking a gap year. There are many opportunities for our NPA youths, who are bright, unique and exceptional individuals.

"It's good to have an event to show them what's on offer straight from school," said NPARC Recruitment and Training Officer Louisa West, "but also to show them what training is available for other positions. They might like to tap into the CDEP training and mentor system or explore options at TAFE or university and bring their skills back here. We want to support them in any decision they make for their futures."

For more information on NPARC Careers, visit our website www.nparc.qld.gov.au or contact your local office. Position vacancies are displayed online as well as on council office notice boards.

NPA Youth Council has begun!

Five community youth councils will soon be up and running, with each electing a representative who will present their communities views in the NPA Youth Council.

The youth council will be present at monthly NPARC Council meetings to gather information and, when necessary, raise topics for consideration before the council.

They will have the opportunity to work closely with elected council members to address issues within their communities.

"Sometimes youths might not feel comfortable talking to an elected member or another adult, but through the youth council, they will have a safe environment to be heard and to begin to take a leadership role within the community," said Bamaga representative Aldene Rueben.

"Adults cannot see the world through the eyes of a youth, we can't see what issues are facing them and we can't see how to help them unless they tell us," said Injinoo youth worker Gordon Solomon.

As our youths begin to feel more comfortable in identifying issues in their communities and talking about them, they will begin to develop ways to fix these and increase their sense of ownership in their own community.

They will work with members of other communities to share resources and make plans for the entire region. These are our leaders of tomorrow, so they should start leading themselves today.

Out with the Outdated...

...and in with the new. Gone are the days of individual BRACS (Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme) radios for each community. For the time, these remote broadcasting centers provided the region with a patchwork system of communication for local, national and international news, conversation and entertainment. They made this remote area a little less cut off from the world.

These stations were manned by a single dedicated presenter, with only a small room, cluttered with bulky cassette systems and broadcasting machinery. The individual BRACS radio coverage operated from late 1880's to 2010, when the local councils amalgamated under a common region title and combined their resources. A new RIBS (Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Service) building was built in Bamaga to service the entire region.

Since then we have been brought our daily news, community affairs and entertainment by Amy McKeown and Lenny Gabey. They've recently begun using filler programs by Black Star Radio, an organization designed to create radio content to cater for the remoter communities of the top of Australia.

Red Dust Country 91.9FM has been the first remote community to begin using news, weather and music content from Blackstar, though they hope to cater for every community in the Cape by the end of 2012.

"Blackstar Radio has recognized that in the past, when news and weather that was provided by cities such as Townsville or Cairns, to remote indigenous communities such as this, it wasn't actually relevant to the communities," said QRAM (Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media) manager Jim Remedio, "so the idea of Blackstar is to provide relevant news content, as well as up to date features and day to day music updates. In fact, we are often getting the newest chart-topping music to our stations before some of the bigger commercial stations do."

QRAM Manager Jim Remedio and technician consultant Gerry Pyne visited the RIBS Station in Bamaga along with Radio Adelaide General Manager Deborah Welch to catch up with our presenters, explain the Blackstar system and collect the outdated equipment from the individual BRACS stations.

"You can see how dedicated the BRACS presenters must have been when you see the inside of these tiny buildings they operated out of," said Ms Welch who has been documenting their journey between communities, and their discoveries of the area's broadcasting history. "It's amazing what we can do now, with the new technologies available and the fact that we can send news, weather and music via the internet each night, to be presented the next day, it's very exciting."

Ms Welch has also been assisting in training the presenters in news writing and presenting.

"We will be able to reassess our time management and program outline to improve our broadcast quality," said 91.9FM presenter Amy McKeown. "We hope to get more community stories and feedback in the programs. Hopefully more topics open for debate so we can get more people involved and on the air."

You can contact 91.9FM for more information on 4069 3356



(L-R) Gerry Pyne, Amy McKeown, Jim Remedio, Lenny Gabey and Deborah Welch in the NPA RIBS Radio 91.9 FM broadcast studio.



Jim teaches Lenny some tricks of the trade.



Now closed, the Seisia BRACS Station provided Seisia community with news, current affairs and entertainment for many years



Make sure you do the right thing
and put your rubbish in the bin!

Elp kip umi erea cleen un butipul tha prapa way un kip im cleen!

What's wrong with this picture?

Mid June this year, a scattering of needles was found dumped on a well used back road in Injinoo. A road that is frequented by people walking and children playing.

The needles are the same used by diabetics to check blood sugar levels. It's unknown if they were used or not, but they still pose a very dangerous health threat.

Birds or other wildlife could have picked up the discarded needles and injured themselves— or worse, our local children could have.

Many serious diseases can be passed on through the sharing of body fluids. It could be as simple as a child picking up one of these needles out of curiosity and accidentally pricking their finger. Their life could be changed forever.

“It's unacceptable behaviour,” said Mayor Bernard Charlie, “We have facilities to dispose of these objects safely, and it is essential that these be used.”

Dumping of rubbish on back roads and in parklands not only creates an ugly and depressing environment to live in, but also an unsafe environment to live in.

If you see someone dumping rubbish in a public area, do the right thing and ask them to stop.
If you have rubbish or refuse to dump, use the community dump provided.
If you cannot transport your refuse to the dump, call NPARC Environmental services and arrange for a skip to be delivered and removed from our home.

Proper waste management is everyone's business so please dispose of waste thoughtfully.

It's unimaginable that dangerous medical waste such as needles could end up on a public road, possibly in the hands of children. It's up to us all to make our communities a safe place for us all.

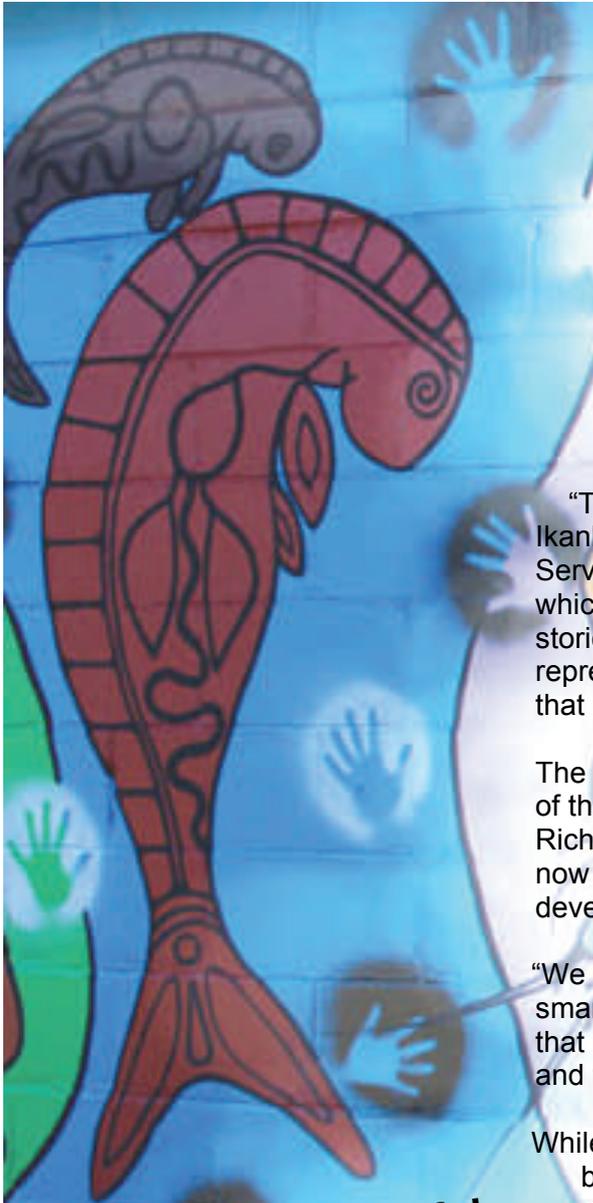
The few minutes longer to drive your waste to the dump could save someone's life.

The phone call to arrange a skip could make all the difference.

It's time we started taking pride in our communities, in our country and ourselves. Let's keep the natural beauty of this wonderful land we live in beautiful. Let's keep our streets clean and our children safe.



Lets keep it beautiful, keep it clean, keep it safe.



Beautification that's not just skin deep

"This side of the mural I wanted to represent the youths of the area," Ikanbala (Richard) McLean said regarding his new addition to the Injinoo Service Station mural, "The other wall tells the stories of our ancestors, which are passed on from our grandparents and parents. These are the stories we have to remember and take with us, but the new wall represents the stories of our youth going out on their own, the stories that are yet to come."

The mural uses much brighter colours and depicts the offspring of some of the totem animas of the area. Having grown up in Injinoo himself, Richard set out to pursue a career in professional football. He returns now with a message, putting aside his footy boots to work in community development.

"We have to let our youth know that it's okay to be themselves. They are smart, talented and unique and they should believe in themselves. Also that it's okay to leave. You can go and get new skills, learn new things and then you can bring them back here to enrich our own communities."

While in the NPA this month, Richard also painted a mural on the RIBS building in Bamaga, with the help of some very talented youths. The mural represents both traditional Islander and Aboriginal communication techniques, from the drum to the coch shell, clap sticks and more.

"It's an honour to be able to come back and bring skills that will help the community. It's also been an honour to work with some of the youths here. I'm sure I've learnt as much from them as they have from me. It's really important we recognize what brilliantly unique individuals they are, and not simply group them under an age... when our youth are given an opportunity in a positive way, they really shine."

The murals have not only caught the eyes of the local though, Injinoo Service station reported lines of cars out the driveway, of tourists who had stopped to take photos of the beautiful artwork. NPARC CEO Stuart Duncan said these works are something for everyone to be proud of.

"The art work done under the direction of Richard McLean on the Injinoo Service Station and the RIBS building has transformed non-noticeable buildings into an urban canvas that reflects the history and culture of the NPA."

“We have a beautiful culture, a beautiful country and beautiful land... we should reflect that in what we do, because we are a beautiful people.”



Ikanbala works on the RIBS mural

Honey, is that a horse on the road?



Once again, dog and horse owners are being asked to keep their animals contained in a securely fenced area, as we see a drastic increase in traffic flow through our region. As the tourist season gets into full swing, the roads are becoming much busier and with an increase in drivers unfamiliar with the area, the risk of a road accident caused by domestic animals increases.

Though we might be used to looking out for horses and dogs as we navigate the roads between communities, visitors to our region might not. It's important for our own, our visitors and our animals safety that we keep them off the roads.

By law all domestic animals should be kept in a secure place with access to food and water. As mentioned in last month's issue of NPA News, animals that are allowed to roam the streets are at higher risk of injury from road accidents, snake bites or other animals.

Stray dogs are likely to be caught by the region's dog catchers and impounded. Stray dogs can carry diseases, infection, worms and parasites which we would like to keep clear of our communities. The animals could also become aggressive and attack another animal or person.



NPA Youths Rock on!

Our kids are the life of our communities, so full of energy and excitement– but what's to happen with all that energy when school's out?

Over the mid-year break school holidays there were activities held across the NPA by Cape York AFL's Kids Living Safer Lives.

They had sports and rec, pool activities and this time even mosaics. These little gems are members of the Injinoo out of school care class and it turns out they are quite the little mosaic artists!

Given a board each and some colorful stones they each created a most beautiful design to take home.

"They are very imaginative and very good at art," said childcare coordinator Theresa Woosup, "they really enjoyed it."

(Left) Willaim, Kurtrina, Laquisha, Florence, Dominic and Kusam



Xeroxia Poi Poi



Wanakai



Joseph Billy





So what's on in the NPA in July?

NPA Show– Expressions of Interest Open

The NPA Show is on it's way and planning has begun!
 Dates are: Thursday 2nd August 2012 (Opening Night)
 Friday 3rd August 2012 (NPA Show Holiday)
 Saturday 4th August 2012 (Closing Night)

If you'd like to hold a stall or present an act, please contact Aldene Reuben at NPARC Events Admin on 07 40 693 657, 0407 802 188 or email at aldene.reuben@nparc.qld.au

Invitation to all artists

All local artists are invited to expand their skills at the NPA Arts Centre. Our resident artists have recently learned many new techniques and are happy to teach any one who would like to learn. Learn the steps of how to become exhibition ready and work alongside other passionate artists.

Open Monday –Friday 9am-5pm.

Contact Agnes Mark on 4083 0271

Seisia Sunset Markets

The Sunset markets are being held every Saturday afternoon at the Seisia Fishing Club, from 4pm-6pm.

There are stalls selling locally made jewelry and art, natural honey, snacks and more.

If you'd like to set up a stall, contact Pam Barnes on 0408457928.

Radio Contact

To raise alarm or call for help while travelling, please use channel 40.

Sponsors Needed

If you'd like to sponsor the upcoming NPA Fishing Competition, please contact Colleen Shepherd at the Seisia Meatworks. 4083 0201

IKC Activities

A variety of activities were held at Injinoo, Umagico, New Mapoon and Seisia IKCs over the school holidays including beading and jewelry making, beach excursions, craft and language workshops and will continue into the school semester. Be sure to sign up with the Umagico Sporting Library to be able to borrow sporting equipment.

Contact your local IKC for more information.

Injinoo: 4069 3761

New Mapoon: 4069 3444

Umagico: 4083 0333

Seisia: 4069 3883

NAIDOC Week

The first week of July we celebrate NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) week– a week to reflect on the achievements of Indigenous Australians, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

This year celebrates 40 years on since the establishment of the tent embassy outside of Parliament house, Canberra.



New Mapoon Hula Girls at the NPA Talent Quest show talent comes in every size and colour.

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

