

In this Issue: Parks & Gardens, Council, Rangers, Police, Year in the mirror, Health and more...



Minister Pitt visits NPA

Minister Curtis Pitt (Qld. Gov., Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership) visits Mandignou Apudthama Apang, the All Abilities Playground, in the NPA, at New Mapoon.

Minister Pitt also visited Menshed at New Mapoon, the Injinoo subdivision, the new IBIS supermarket and had short tour of Bamaga, including the subdivision there.



Above, at New Mapoon, below at Injinoo Subdivision.



NPA Airport siege over



No need to panic. This was a planned Emergency Response exercise to see what would happen if. More details inside...

NPA News Exclusive

A lone gunman, armed to the teeth, held NPA Airport to ransom, leaving 3 victims in his wake and holding one person against his will. The alleged offender has been taken into custody.



Year ends on a sour note

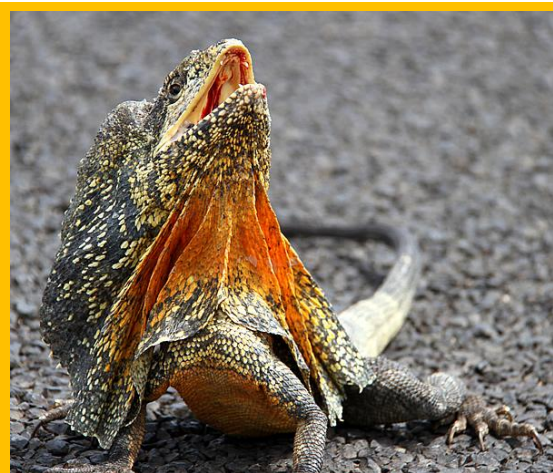


Police are investigating are break-in at the SeaSwift depot, Seisia. A bag of sausages is left behind. Full story page 7: 'They've really done a number on us.'

Yawo Mrs Petelski, and 'Thank you'



Mrs Alison Petelski is returning to Brisbane. Mr Jeffrey Hodgetts becomes Officer in Charge for the Ambulance Services in the NPA. 'Thanks for your great service over the years. Your knowledge and laughter and will be missed.'



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NPARC Mailing address: NPARC, P.O. Box 6878, Cairns, Qld, 4870
NPARC Head Office: NPARC, P.O. Box 200, Bamaga, Qld, 4876
NPARC Head Office address: NPARC, Adidi St., Bamaga, Qld, 4876

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
 ABN: 27 853 926 592
 Entity Type: Local Government Entity



Offices:	Website: nparc.qld.gov.au	Phone	Fax	Location	NPARC CEO & Councillors	Phone
	NPARC Cairns	4050 1800	4050 1899	Bamaga	Stuart Duncan	4090 4106
	NPARC Bamaga	4090 4100	4069 3264	Bamaga	Daniel Sebasio, Dep CEO	4090 4104
	NPARC Seisia	4048 6700	4069 3180	Bamaga	Mayor Joseph Elu	4090 4107
	NPARC New Mapoon	4048 6600	4069 3107	Bamaga	Cr Reg Williams, Dep Mayor	4090 4110
	NPARC Umagico	4048 6900	4069 3115	Seisia	Cr Jeffrey Aniba, 0407 753 528	
	NPARC Injinoo	4048 6800	4069 3253	New Mapoon	Cr Michael Bond	4048 6606
	Opening hours: Mon – Thu, 9am to 5pm, Fridays to 3pm.			Umagico	Cr Peter Lui	40486700
	NPARC Newsletter (NPA News)	4048 6802		Injinoo	Cr Gina Nona	4048 6804
Workshops:	NPARC Workshop, Bamaga	4069 3962		NPARC Housing:	Same as respective council offices.	
	NPARC Engineering, Umagico	4069 3419	or 4069 3012	Various:	Police, Bamaga	4069 3156
	NPARC Workshop, Injinoo	4069 3903			Post Office, RTC, Bamaga	4069 3126
	Carpenters' Shed, Injinoo	4069 3367			NPA Airport	4069 3383
	Carpenters' Shed, Seisia	4069 3254			Ranger Base, Injinoo	4069 3875
	NPARC Store, Bamaga	4069 3746			Swimming Pool, Bamaga	4069 3659
FM Radio	Radio Station FM91.9	4096 3356			Jardine River Ferry (8 to 5pm)	4069 1369
Gov Dep	AQIS 40693142, ATO 132550, Dep Prim Ind	4069 1185		NPA Refuse Tip (Mon-Fri, 8am to 4pm)	4069 3252, a/h	4069 3593



Libraries: Injinoo Library	4069 3761		Hospitals / Health		
RTC, Umagico	4083 0333		Bamaga Hospital	4069 3166	Sagaukaz St, Bamaga
Family Services:			Dentist, at Bamaga Hosp.	4069 3166	Sagaukaz St, Bamaga
NPA Family Resource Centre Bamaga	4069 3555	Lot 10, Adidi St, Bamaga	T.I. Hospital	4069 0200	163 Douglas St, T.I.
NPA Women's Shelter	4069 3020	Lui St, Bamaga	Health Centres:	Mon – Fri	8am to 5pm
Safe House	4069 3223	Bamaga	Bamaga Health Centre	4069 3200	Adidi St, Bamaga
Bamagau Kazil	4069 3475	Bamaga	New Map. Health Centre	4069 3454	
New Mapoon Childcare	4069 3074	New Mapoon	Umagico Health Centre	4069 3306	
Umagico Childcare Centre	4083 0111	Pascoe St, Umagico	Injinoo Health Centre	4069 3465	
Umagico Outside School Hours Care	4083 0440	8 Young St, Umagico	Seisia Health Centre	4069 3271	
NPA Healing Centre – Injinoo	4069 3811	54 Peter St, Injinoo	Bamaga HACC	4069 3305	
Injinoo Childcare Centre	4069 3510	Mc Donnell St, Injinoo	Dep. of Child Safety (T.I.)	4090 3665	Thursday Island
Injinoo Outside School Hours Care	4069 3109	Mc Donnell St, Injinoo	T.I. Pharmacy	4069 1548	Thursday Island

Schools / Campuses / TAFE	Service Stations:	Supermarkets / Stores	
Bamaga, P 6-12	4090 4333	Bamaga	4069 3275
Bamaga, P 1-5	4090 4444	Injinoo	4083 0011
Injinoo Primary	4090 4888	Seisia	4069 3897
TAFE, Bamaga	4069 3214	RACQ, Bamaga	4069 3803
		Bamaga, IBIS Supermarket	4069 3186
		Seisia Supermarket	4069 3218
		Alau Supermarket	4069 3273
		New Mapoon, General Store	4069 3013

Seisia	Umagico	New Mapoon	Injinoo
Seisia Enterprises	4069 3243	WP H & Safety	4069 3991
Wharf	4069 3158	Alau Lodge/Camp	0428779100
Meat Works	4083 0201	RTC	4083 0333
Top End Motors	4069 3182		
Seisia/RTC	4069 3884	Seisia Hire Cars	4069 3368
NPA/Electrics	4045 5518	Carpentaria Seafaris	4069 3254
Cape York Adventure	4069 3302	Cust Sport Fishing	4069 3301
Seisia Camp Ground	4069 3243	Seisia Styles (Hair)	0428660694
		CY Ice & Tackle	4069 3695
		Loyalty Beach	4069 3372
		Nai Beguta	4069 3408
		Arts Centre	4083 0271
		Torres News	1300 867 737
		Nat. Ind. Times	1 300 786 611
		Koori Mail	02 66 222 666
		Many Cape York website links on: CapeYorkinfo.org	

Bamaga		Menshed	0417200172	Accommodation		Air / Sea / Road	
Garage / RACQ	4069 3803	Punsand Bay	4069 1722	Resort Bamaga	4096 3050	SeaSwift	4069 3933
Sports & Recreation	4069 3675	Cape York Traders	4083 0446	Seisia Camp Grnd	4069 3243	Skytrans	4040 6700
Bamaga Enterprises	4069 3533	CY Car Detailing	4069 3558	Alau Lodge/Camp	0428779100	Skytrans	1300 759 872
Bamaga Tavern	4069 3260	Cape York Spares	4069 3803	Bully's Fishing Camp	4069 3695	WestWing Avn	4069 1380
Bamaga Bakehaus	4069 3106	Dreamtime	4069 3222	Loyalty Beach	4069 3372	Peddells Ferry	4069 1551
Centrelink, Bamaga	4069 3628	CAPE PCYC, NPA	4069 3388	Punsand Bay	4069 1722	Aust Helicopter	4069 1256
NPA Electrics	4069 3011	Resources Centre	4069 3555	Carpentaria Seafaris	4091 3254	CY Helicopters	4069 2233
B&B Electrical	4069 3435	Activity Centre	4069 3980			Taxi, Bamaga	4069 3333
Bam Health & Beauty	4083 0224						
Tour Operators		Custom Sports Fishing	4069 3301	Jardine Adventures	4069 3460	Bus to/from Cairns	4069 3368
Cape York Adventures	4069 3302	Carpentaria Seafaris	4091 3254	Peddells	4069 1551		
CY Peninsula Fishing	4069 3919	Tropical Boat Advent.	4069 1395	CY Helicopters	4069 2233	Croc Tent	4069 3210

All Emergencies, Ambulance, Fire Brigade: 000				
Hospital, Bamaga	4069 3166	(Emergencies)		
SES	132 500			
Ambulance	000			
AQIS, Bamaga	4069 3142			
Mobile phones	112	with no coverage		
International add: +61 7, Interstate add: 07				
			Policelink	131 444
			Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000
			Ergon 24hrs Faults & Emergency	13 22 96
			Environmental Health	4069 3992
			Australian Customs Services	1800 061 800
			Coastguard	4069 3030
			Volunteer Marine Rescue	0428 692 004
			Ergon	4069 3164
			Ergon Cust Serv	13 10 46
			SunWater	4069 3409
			8-5, Fri 8-3	
			Airport	4069 3383
			in Emergency: 000 or 4069 1520	



At Mandignou Apudthama Apang, New Mapoon:



Meeting Councillor for New Mapoon, Mr Michael Bond (above) and Councillor for Seisia, Mr Jeffrey Aniba (below).



The topsoil is spread and the plants are going in, whilst the equipment gets a thorough testing.



At Menshed, New Mapoon (below)



Above, with Mr John Mark at the Menshed. NPARC CEO, Mr Stuart Duncan with the men and youths at Menshed (below), in the foreground some of the many ghost nets that wash up on northern shores.



Left (upper), Ms Emma Skyva, Manager at Bamaga IBIS is showing Minister Pitt around the store. Having a laugh with the locals (lower) in front of the store. The size of the IBIS store impressed many.



The park is a credit to the CDEP team and the many whose hard work transformed the site in such a short time. Pallets of turf arrived on the day. Earlier images are in the following pages.



This store was officially opened in
September 2011 by Curtis Pitt MP,
Minister for Disabilities, Mental Health and
Torres Strait Islander Partnership.

At IBIS, Bamaga: Perhaps Mr Jason O'Brien has a good laugh about Minister Pitt's new scrub habitat portfolio (Heath) that he never knew about, or who the 'imposter' was that actually opened the store in Sep, 2011, as it wasn't Minister Pitt, who was unable to attend due to illness at the time.

A sign like this can outlive all living and may create confusion in the future. For the sake of history and truth: the store was officially opened on 30th Sep, 2011. IBIS Chairman, Mr Peter Rice cut the ribbon, as shown in issue 31, NPA News, page 21. Minister Pitt's portfolio is Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership.

At Injinoo subdivision: Getting ready to turn the first sod of soil.



The subdivision before the rain season gives it a good soaking.



Councillor for Injinoo, Mrs Gina Nona, in her first ever TV interview with Journalist Ms Jessica Millward (WIN TV).



A message from NPARC CEO, Mr Start Duncan

This edition of the newsletter, the thirty-third, is the last to be produced by Heinz Ross. Heinz has been with Council since July 2009, and has grown the NPA News into a publication admired by all.

Heinz's success has been the result of building excellent relationships with the NPA community and other stakeholders, and sharing the message of the excellent work happening in the NPA with the readers.

The readership is now over 600 spread far and wide across Australia and overseas. Readers eagerly await each issue to see what the horses and ants have been doing and the pithy humour added as speech bubbles.

Heinz has covered much more than just the work of Council, including stories from traditional owners, local artists and other community organizations. He has embraced the local culture and presented it as something to be proud of.

Away from the NPA News Heinz has spread the good word through his poetry, photography, and general observations on life.

On behalf of the NPA community we wish Heinz well in his new endeavours further south and are sure Heinz will retain his friendship with this region and always be welcome.



Stuart Duncan, NPARC CEO



Farewell to Mr Jarrah and Mrs Boucher (Teachers at Primary Campus, Injinoo). "We wish you all the best and thank you for the time you spent with us," says Ms Annie Bowie. A total of 14 teachers across the NPA are leaving at end of year 2011, to be replaced by 17 new arrivals in the new year.



NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Mr Stuart Duncan

NPARC's Parks and Gardens



Parks and Gardens employ about 6 or 7 people. Mr Lionel Solomon is the supervisor for Parks and Gardens.

"We keep the side of the road clear in the five communities," says Mr Solomon.

"We take away the bulk rubbish, from the front and the back, we mow the grass, we pick the rubbish up, make the place tidy a bit, also around the cemeteries. We keep the place clean before the big wet so the mowers and slashers can work, no rubbish lying around."

Q: Is there a message to the people in the communities? "Just to give a hand Parks and Gardens a bit, pick up in front of the house."

"We take away car bodies, clean them away. Some cars have been around for 5 – 6 years near the houses. We see carcasses lying around them houses. They are supposed to be at the dump."

Call Umagico depot if you want to have car bodies removed from your place.

"Parks and Gardens, well parks and gardens, that's it," says Mr Foody, "they maintain, they mow grass, they do flower-beds and things like that. Probably 30% of their time is picking up rubbish and that takes 30% away from the core task they should be doing. I would appeal to people to be mindful of their rubbish, because with the new council By-Laws soon to become active, there are provision to fine people for littering. The council will in severe cases be looking to impose fines on people. The system is they can be fined. If they can't pay the fine it becomes a SPER's account and they can lose their licence. (SPER = State Penalties and Enforcement Register. SPER collects and enforces unpaid infringement notices and court ordered fines registered with it.

See: <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/justice-services/sper>)



"What they do if you don't pay a fine it goes to SPER's. You do an arrangement with them and you pay \$10 a week or something for your fine. If you don't pay the fine, or you ignore them, they simply take your driver's licence off you. That's the Law as it stands at the moment. It's actually quite a good system. When you get hit with a traffic infringement, it is quite often a big lump you can't pay. Let it go through SPER's and they will write to you, ring you up, and you can make arrangements. We (Queensland) are the only state with it. No other state has it."

Mr Jim Foody, Director of Engineering Services: "Lionel and his crew are doing an excellent job. After the redundancy packages they have a much reduced crew, doing very well. There is talk of the pre-wet clean-up. What most people don't realise is that the pre-wet clean-up has been going on for quite a long time. We are still going to have a specific day somewhere between now and Christmas (days for each community are shown in NPARC's website), which we call 'the pre-wet clean-up', but the pre-wet clean-up has been going on for several months already."

"We have been concentrating on picking up rubbish. Usually a pre-wet clean-up is an advertised community event. We've done it low key in the last couple of years, but I take it onboard to advertise a day to specifically concentrate on that. That's a big involvement with the Parks and Garden boys."

"They will be under the hammer once the first storms and rains start. It's always a battle through the wet season trying to maintain the grass and parks and everything else."

New road-side markers



New road-side markers (left) are replacing the ones which were found sleeping during their working hours or failing to stand upright (as on right). To be fair on the old signs, they were neither tired nor sleeping on the job, but mere victims of repeated, senseless vandalism, which does nothing but take funds and efforts away from constructive works.



How long will the new ones last? (... more on that in the following pages)

Mr Jim Foody, Director of NPARC's Engineering Services, explains on a number of issues (recorded 20th Nov).

Subdivisions (Injinoo / Bamaga):

"The Bamaga and Injinoo subdivisions are now underway. Council got off to a slow start, that's mainly due to the slow supply of materials. We were getting delayed by pipes and concrete supplies from down south, they were having a bit of trouble rounding up the gear for us, but we expect this issue to be resolved and some of the materials are starting to arrive on site now. We are looking to achieve some works on and off throughout the wet season when we can, but primarily the subdivisions will be continuing into 2012, but that's in front of the new housing program roll-out anyway.

About the pegs in the subdivisions: "In a normal subdivision you do a survey set-out of the allotments. You do road centrelines, sewer, and storm-water and then the contractor has to offset his/her measurements from these pegs.



Recently advertised NPARC positions:

Events Officer, Sports and Recreation Division; Communications and Media Officer, Corporate Services; Post Office, casual, Store person, Bamaga, fulltime, permanent, and Art Support Worker, New Mapoon.

Jobs in the subdivisions:

"We had a good number of contractors pricing the housing works and have had some enquiries from CDEP participants, the normal questions are, how does it work, who do I see, who do I contact? I believe there is quite a good opportunity there for CDEP workers to become involved in the housing program. Contacts are Alex Barker and Elaine Wade (NPARC Seisia). "If they find their way to me I just turn them over to Council's Economic and Employment Unit (EEDU). I think there should be a good opportunity for CDEP to get involved with other local contractors to be heavily involved with it."

Sewerage pumps:

"The upgrade to the Injinoo pump station is going to be included in the same works programme as the sub divisional works. We have \$143K to resize and install new pumps. The (existing) pumps are too small for the current sewerage loads; this also brings them into line with the new sewerage infrastructure upgrade that is coming out of a separate funding grant. We had it set aside to do that and now everything is starting to blend into one big project. That's alright because, rather than establish to get that project done we can just do it while we're in the same vicinity for the Injinoo subdivision. Our combined programme (with the sewerage works) will enable us to do both subdivisions at the same time. There will be earthworks going on in one subdivision, while we're doing the sewer on the other.

Jardine water:

Q: Are the issues with Jardine pump sorted out?

A: "I believe so. They had a series of pump failures. From what I understand, our water usage now is starting to taper off a little bit. People were cooperating with us. It was a bit slow to start with, but people did get on-board as there was a real risk of running out of water (a reference to the recent Level 4 water restrictions in the NPA), so 'thank you' to everyone."

"It had nothing whatsoever to do with council. We liaise and assist SunWater when necessary on community problems like water restrictions."

Mr Peter Barnes (SunWater) informs that 2 of the 3 Jardine pumps are now in operation. "We are in the process of doing a business case for replacement of all of the raw water pumps. (note update below)

Road works:

"Out of the road works tenders that we sent out we have now evaluated these offers for general formation grading and other works. They are all fairly similar, and all contractors will get an opportunity to undertake some works for council."

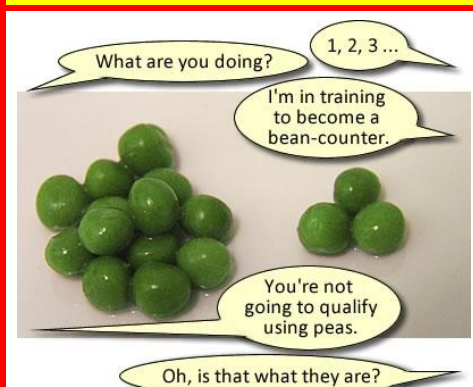
"No-one's tender pricing was excessive with good bids from local contractors and the Cook Shire offered to do a bit of work for us and all prices were very similar, which is pleasing.

"Cook Shire was ready to go, they were in the area. We've engaged them to do some work on the Pajinka road (highlighted in this issue), formation grading. We expect it to take about 3 weeks, 4 weeks, and that's it for them, they'll go back south."



Courtesy Mrs Alison Petelski.

Please Note: Since speaking to Mr Foody SunWater has reintroduced **Level 4** water restrictions until further notice. We are using 400,000 litres/day more than can be treated.



Road grading (south of Injinoo):

"The road was graded some time ago from Injinoo through to the Jardine River, then normal 'traffic wear & tear' quickly undoes our good work but we are starting on the 10km (from Injinoo south), that's underway, the clearing and the road re-alignment to highway standard."

"We hope to achieve 8 to 10km, depending on how the money holds, but it's starting at the bitumen at Injinoo. We are still hopeful we might be able to get that bitumen early in the new year."

Seisia wharf:

Mr Foody: "The Seisia wharf, that's progressing along slowly. There are repairs to be done to the main structure. The last meeting we had with Queensland Transport they announced they had a sum of money to get the repairs underway. They will be looking to call tenders for the work. There will be minor repairs first and major repairs next. There is quite a bit of money and we want to see these projects done or underway before we involve ourselves with it, but we recognise the fact that at some point we probably going to accept responsibility of the wharf."

"It's in a 'legal' situation at the moment. It's (a) pretty complex situation with the wharf. Who has got responsibility? Who hasn't? Queensland Transport seems to own a bit of it, the Maritime own a bit of it, then Foreshore and Harbour-zone have a bit of a say."

"We are trying to establish the legality, what's there, what we actually get, what we don't get. (There is) quite a bit of confusion about it, at the moment."

What of the future?

"We are still getting our 2010/2011 NDRRA (National Disaster Relief) funding still going through the hoops. I feel the State Government has probably over-extended itself, and now they're being very tough on the applications, not just ours, but everybody's."

"Every time we get asked a question we submit the details to the question, and then comes another question."

"There has been a change to the structure of the outfit (referring to NDRRA). The NDRRA was once run through the DLGP. NDRRA funding is now run through RCA (Reconstruction Authority) which is the major authority set up to deal with cyclone Jasi and everything else."

...continue next page.

Garbage disposal:

"The good news is at a recent feasibility study (reported in last issue NPA News) we have got our wishes. We've got the approval for a new landfill."

"We will have a new landfill in the next couple of years. The interesting thing is that the overall waste strategy for the entire region, including Torres Strait Islands and everything else, is that they will probably incinerate the rubbish on the outer islands and then bring it across to us to accept, so our rubbish dump becomes a paying proposition from day one."

'They've really done a number on us'

Year 2011 ends on a sour note following a break in at the SeaSwift Depot in Seisia (night 18th to 19th Dec). A lot of things are missing, boxes and freezer were opened, there is damage to the office door, computer and a cupboard was forcibly opened. "They've really done a number on us," says SeaSwift Depot Manager, Mr Graeme Boydell. "The Mayor's meat is gone. I'd say Christmas presents are gone. There is one there for Veronica Soki, she is in Cairns Base Hospital and she was asking us to keep her gear until she gets back and someone came in and stolen her Hi-Fi system. They removed a sheet on the wall. They came in through there, unscrewed it to get in and used a crowbar to get out. Police got certain items that are very good for fingerprinting. They'll catch them."

NPARC Mayor, Mr Joseph Elu arrived to find 2 of his meat boxes empty. A bag of sausages was left behind. "It's kids being naughty. They know when nobody is watching them, so they come in the middle of the night and some of the stuff they steal they never use. They break into places like the freezer and the cooler to get food."

We will be looking to recycle the items from Thursday Island and the outer islands. There will be a fairly major business spring up out of this. We will be the beneficiary of all that happens. We will not take other people's rubbish or recyclables without some sort of a fee. The rubbish dump here will eventually cost zero (0)."

"That (the existing rubbish dump) has to be closed down. That is the most unpopular rubbish dump. No-one can actually work out who gave authority to put it there. Every traditional owner seems to think, 'I thought you must have approved it. No, no, I didn't, you must have approved it.' How it got there (between Injinoo and Umagico) is beyond me. The new landfill will be in a to-be-discussed location, somewhere along the old Cairns road, towards the airport, It's out of town, and geologically it is a much better location. We can construct it so no leached-out water can get in the ground-water or anything else. It will have a 70 year lifespan."

"Overall we are looking at more and more road freight coming into the area that we pay for one way, and the general idea is that recyclables could go back as back-load on these trucks. They almost get a free ride to Cairns. It makes recycling a proposition, where it never has before. The strategy is if the government wants to promote recycling, well then they have to give us some assistance because of distance. Recycling is a good thing, and we all agree that is has to be done, but recycling has to be cost-neutral. You can't afford to do it otherwise. You have to have a way to minimise the cost of recycling."

"There must have been a whole-night party or something." When asked if Mayor Elu could survive on the bag of leftover sausages, "Oh I hope there are a few more cartons in there yet. They only took two of my cartons out, but I think the sausages are starting to smell a bit."



From left: Mr Boydell (pointing to where they got in) and Mayor Elu.



The office door (above: left), the 2 boxes (top right), left-over sausages. Other goods were found across the floor, a large flat-screen TV was moved but left behind.



Apudthama / NPARC Rangers on crocs and turtles**Crocodile's unique behaviour:**

A film crew is currently on Crab Island. Mr Warren Strevens, Apudthama / NPARC Ranger Coordinator, explains, "They approached the Land Trust to get permission to come and film the unique behaviour of crocodiles because of the flat-back rookery on Crab Island. From this a researcher was employed by the film crew, who is based in Darwin. He was excited because there is unique behaviour of crocodiles here. The main purpose was to capture and put satellite transmitters on a number of crocodiles on Crab Island to see where they went and when they went."

Crocodiles' genetic deviation:

"In a normal saltwater crocodile the osteoderms are just on top of the back; they don't stretch down the flanks. There is only one breed of crocodile that is recognised as having osteoderms that stretch down the sides of its flanks and that is a pygmy crocodile in New Guinea. In New Guinea they have two species of crocodile, the normal Australian saltwater crocodile and this other genetic variation of it. On first appearances it appears that we've got the same thing here happening, genetic deviation."

(A crocodile has raised scales. The distinct blocks between the scales (the fins) along a croc's back act as armour and are made of bone. These are called 'osteoderms')

"Just before the base of the tail they turn into scutes and they join into one at the tail."

Flat back turtle research:

"We've got the largest flat back rookery in Australia. There has been the least research done on it, there has been the least ranger involvement, there has been the least ranger development with turtle management. One idea that I have towards getting some progress along these lines is if we build a research station on Crab Island to make it a desirable place for researchers to come to. Especially if we can control this through the Land Trust and the ranger programme it will go a huge way forward for the development of the ranger programme and also the T.O. (traditional owner) engagement and the knowledge base that can be gained from it. We got to be able to call the shots with the researchers that come."

Ranger Base

The retaining wall at Injinoo's Ranger Base is now completed (awaiting back-fill) and a new fence along the side and rear is under construction.

**Steering Committee**

The first Land and Sea Rangers' Steering Committee meeting was held at the Ranger Base (22 Nov), discussing the rangers' outcomes as per work plan, the year ahead, funding and other business.

What of the future?

... continued.

Mr Foody continues: "There has been a fundamental shift of how the NDRRA grant is managed. DLGP were involved, it was local, the decision was made in Cairns, it was a much better way to work. Now we are dealing with a unit in Brisbane, who is pedantic about how things operate but does not have the same level of understanding."

"It's quite a large bag of money, there is \$5Million for the NPA, and so you just got to keep calm until you come out on the other side. It provides some funding for the roads that have been forgotten about (like to Usher Point), and some of the back-roads that haven't had any money spent on them for years."

"A lot of that \$5Million is to get them up to a trafficable standard. We probably won't see that sort of money again until we have another round of natural disasters to recover from."

"Of the grants funding that is out there, if we don't perform the work we just don't get the money. We are reimbursed for what we do. It's a good way to keep everybody working. It's good to get the community roads up to a reasonable condition. We have fully allocated all the resources here. There are no civil works contractors in the NPA to assist with Council to get through the work and get our roads up to standard, we are looking at bringing in specific people at different times to assist with plant and equipment and labour at times. But we'll always give top preference to our own local contractors and the council itself."

"Our idea is: once we're fully engaged and every local contractor is fully engaged, only then will we draw in outside resources."

Thank you, Mr Foody.



Courtesy Mrs Alison Petelski.





Above: Bamaga subdivision (23 Nov, 2011), Bamaga Pool is left, Bamaga Farm out of view on right. Trucks are supplying sand (centre of image).



Above: Future subdivision area for New Mapoon, Quarry Heights. Image is taken from the Seisia to Bamaga road (23 Nov, 2011).



Above: Injinoo subdivision (360 deg view, 29 Nov, 2011). Truck-loads of sand have arrived.



Serida, 6-yrs old



Ms Michelle Wasiu



Mr Roy Solomon



Mr John Tamwoy

Indigenous All Stars

Local girls Elsjah Mosby, Sarah Sailor and Francis Ropeyarn, were selected from a group of 30 to be in the Feb 2012 Ladies Indigenous Australian All Stars, playing at Skill Stadium, Gold Coast (the home of the Titans).

Mum, I was born on 29th Feb, 2000. When I'm 80 years old I shall celebrate my 20th birthday.

Not to worry, dear, you'll turn 21 in 2084, but there is plenty of time before you'll celebrate your 80th birthday, in 2332.





'No tolerance approach'

"Over the Dan Ropeyarn Cup it was a pretty terrible effort on the part of the community," says Sergeant David Rutherford (Officer in Charge, Bamaga Police Station). Ten **drink-drivers** detected and every one of them was a local person."

"90 unlicensed drivers detected so far this year, some of them would have been the drink-drivers as well."

"With the Christmas period coming up (this interview recorded late Nov with part of it shown in previous issue) we want to encourage people they have a sober bob, they need a licence, a sober driver with them that gets them from party to party in the communities, from A to B. Bamaga Police will be taking a 'no tolerance' approach to drink driving and unlicensed driving." (No tolerance means: Everyone detected will get charged).

"I regularly get complains from community members about drink driving and unlicensed driving. It doesn't matter if you are only going a short distance, any distance is too far."

"The important thing to recognise with drink-driving, you don't even have to be on the road. You can be in your own backyard and you can still be charged with drink driving. You are driving in the bush, in your backyard, driving along the beach, yes, you can be charged. The government legislature has obviously recognised it's a dangerous offence and they want to stamp it out."

"It is important for people to know: If they go over a reading of 0.1, their licence will be suspended until the Court is finalised. You lose your licence straight away."

"Violence, again, that seems to go hand in hand with drinking. **Domestic violence** again, there is a 'no tolerance' approach to domestic violence. We get plenty of complaints about that. People can be charged, they can have protection orders be taken out against them, or get charged if they already got one and breaching this order. It's important for people to know. If they in their relationship are having a problem that is leading, or likely to lead to domestic violence, we have available in the community the council of Family Resource Centre, in both, Bamaga and Injinoo Healing Centre that can help them."

"In regards to the supply of cannabis: "There is no doubt that many, many people in the community know who are supplying cannabis in particular. We are interested in that information. They can give it anonymously. Those people who supply information are protected by the Law that stops even police devolving or saying who supplied them with information. Of course if they don't want to speak to someone at the station, they can ring **crimestoppers** on **1800 333 000**."

"That is a danger to themselves and the community, in particular with the horses wandering around in the community. We also had problems in the last months, twice now, cars have actually ran into the police car, trying to get away from us. Also coupled with that is **unlicensed driving**. We have a lot of problems with unlicensed driving in the communities. So far this year there have been over 50 drink-drivers detected in the community. The message doesn't seem to be getting through."

"The other thing we are getting a lot of complaints about is **noisy parties**. The Christmas /New Year period coming up, people should have respect for others in their community. Only if we get a complaint can we interfere. We don't just turn up for parties to tell them to stop, we need a complaint. If people are in the community and they are getting stirred by noise, the police will not just go there; they have to have a complaint about that noise before they take any action."

Q: What effect did not having a Community Police force have? A: "It has changed things for us but we are currently working to attempt to get a police liaison officer employed at the station, getting the position created. That is still in the pipeline. It's still a little way down the track but we are working on it to try and improve things."

Q: What of next year ahead? A: "Keep working hand in hand with the community to try to address some of these issues of concern. Another big thing that we really want people to start helping us with is the **cannabis use** and supply. We are particularly interested in names and details of people that are supplying cannabis and maybe other drugs in the community. There does appear to be a major problem with cannabis use and the concerns it can lead to domestic violence but also mental health issues."

"Drug produces a problem and problems for just about all families in the community. The thing is people in the community have to remember: It's just not the police who police the community; the **community should take on a responsibility** for reporting."

"We cannot have spirits here (with reference to alcohol). The big issue is we know that people are bringing alcohol from across Thursday Island. That can be an offence as well. You don't actually have to bring it to the NPA. If you are attempting to bring it in you are committing an offence. Of particular concern, you cannot have 4litre wine casks."

The maximum amount of alcohol a person can have in the NPA are: 2 litres of wine (unfortified) and 11.5 litres (1x30 can carton) of any strength beer; or: 2 litres of wine (unfortified) and 9 litres (1x24 can carton) of premixed spirits of up to 5.5% alcohol/volume. One cannot carry a mix of beer and premixed spirits.

This amount is per person on foot, or per vehicle, boat or aircraft regardless of the number of people in it. For more info call alcohol limits information line on: 137468.



New at NPARC

Welcome to new staff at NPARC:



Mr Geoffrey Lindgard is working as Occupational Health & Safety Officer out of NPARC's Umagico depot. Mr Lindgard likes fishing.



Mr John Bingham is working from Bamaga office as a financial accountant. Mr Bingham comes from Brisbane.



Mr Glenn Murray is from Coffs Harbour, working from Bamaga office on creditor accounts.

Class of 2011 graduates



The North Queenslanders.

(all images provided)



Above from left: Mr Cruz Christian-Reys, Queensland Senator Jan McLucas, Mr Jaidyn Yeatman and Mr Stephen Minniecon.



Above from left: Mr Minniecon, Mr Christian-Reys, Minister Peter Garrett and Mr Yeatman. The Year 12 Graduation Ceremony was hosted by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) at Parliament House, Canberra.



Preparation for concreting (Injinoo Day Care Centre).

Work experience



Ms Devlin Tamwoy, "I'm doing two weeks work experience up here at the NPA Regional Council office, Injinoo, and with the rangers also. Yeah, I love being in the office and do work as part of my administration, yeah. I'm doing a course at the moment; it's Certificate II in Workplace Practices."



Mum, where do the left-handed spoons go?
In the drawer, next to the right-handed forks, dear.



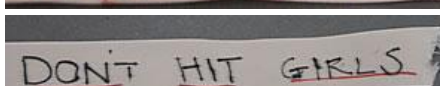
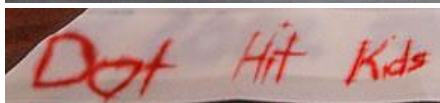
Above: Injinoo Dare Care Centre (left, in blue) is receiving a new concrete drive-way. On right is the Outside School Hours Care Centre where the White Ribbon Day activities took place, covered next page.

No VIOLENCE!!!

White Ribbon Day

Being White Ribbon Day the children came together, some arrived by bus, to leave their messages for the day on white ribbons which were tied to large bamboo chimes to swing in the breeze.

At Injinoo Outside School Hours Care Centre the sounds of drums filled the air, brought in by 'Drum up big' (sponsored by NPA Mensheds). Ms Tara Tucker and her team taught the young ones well in her many visits to the NPA, as tiny hands drummed in unison and even arranged their own build-up of intensity (24 Nov, 2011).



Have a ball and catch the ball.



Drum up big also visited other communities throughout the NPA.

'I swear never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.'**'This is my oath.'**

According to the 'whiteribbondayqueensland.com.au' website 1000 women are violently assaulted across Australia each day. Nine out of ten of these incidents in Queensland will go unreported. White Ribbon Day is a global effort to publicly say 'NO' to violence against women and girls. White Ribbon Queensland asks men and boys of any age to pledge to never commit, excuse or be silent about violence against women.

Mr Jessy Sagaukaz (NPA Menshed) opened the White Ribbon Day gathering held at Umagico's NPARC Works Depot. "There is violence against women, but also violence against men folks and the young folks."

The well-attended meeting saw NPARC workers from many different divisions come together. The councillors, counsellors, rangers, police, staff from Family Resource Centre, ATODS, Austral Aid, Drum-up Big and more attended, all were men. Pastor T-Tom Tamwoy opened the meeting with prayers. All men read the oath (as shown above) and wore a small white ribbon.

A number of men shared with all their thoughts or experiences with violence.

One spoke of how he used violence against his partner caused by jealousy when he was a younger man. Other quotes:

Some of us keep quiet about violence, because of shame. If we knew what love meant, we wouldn't have domestic violence.

Love is a word you use when it comes from your heart.

In love you will sacrifice yourself for the one you love.

Have dedication and devotion to the one you love.

For a victim that has been smacked around their entire outlook changes. They look at the people around them differently.

I feel safe standing amongst this group of men. I now feel safe, but if two of you would have beaten me up I would not feel safe.

The opposite of love is fear. With fear one no longer feels safe, one feels robbed.

In order to feel safe again, a whole lot of things have to happen. It takes a lot of time.

Quite often they (the victims) carry the burden for the rest of their lives and it influences the whole family environment and it teaches a family to be fearful, that it is OK to live in fear.

Inflicting violence is robbing people of safety and love.

Much more was said. What is important, it came out and it was shared.



Men reading the oath in the NPA against violence, as they did in many other places across the country.



The sausage sizzle was, as always is, in high demand with none going to waste. Despite on-going messages of healthy eating, resisting the enticing whiff of oil-soaked onions may be easier said than done. Barbecued chicken was also on offer.

See also 'If we knew' in this issue.

'If we knew what love meant, we wouldn't have domestic violence.'

(Mr Thomas Serubi)



The year in the

INJINOO

This article gives a broad dot-point overview of what happened in the NPA during 2011. NPA News could not cover every event throughout the year, much less so in one article. A summary across the NPA is likely to be much more extensive than is shown here.

NPARC's Annual Report 2010/11 reflects the many improvements in the NPA during the last financial year and we saw a continuation of that in the first half of the current financial year 11/12.

To name a few: Unqualified end of year audit; the road works Seisia to Bamaga; large subdivisions are underway in Injinoo and Bamaga which will do much to ease the overcrowding and may reduce associated health and social issues; the Telstra and Optus 3G mobile coverage is extended across NPA; identification and clearing of thousands of ghost nets over hundreds of kilometres by the Apudthama / NPARC Land and Sea Rangers, as well as weed spraying large areas, conducting cultural heritage, tourism and biodiversity surveys; the culling of pigs, monitoring of turtle populations and working with AQIS and other bodies on termite identification, weed mapping, monitoring of foreign marine debris.

There have been great improvements in the area of ranger training: crocodile handling, safe handling of chemicals, ...

Other businesses or organisations undertook a range of improvements and new investment: additional accommodation for educators and medical staff, the ATODs extension to the hospital, the Bamaga Trade Training Centre, the new library at Primary Campus Bamaga nearing completion. Seisia camp ground extensions, investments by private businesses in plant, newly acquired assets or replacing, repairing or improving existing. There are improvements to many parking facilities, new supermarket with shade-covered parking and a new business in Bamaga. Hopefully it is the end of the 'Mary-go-round' for Dreamtime as it settles in the former IBIS premises. Seisia Fishing Club has a new fence and beautification work was carried out throughout Seisia; the widening of parking areas for the supermarket and plants along its edges, a covered information area in front of the camp ground. In Umagico is a new roof across the front of the supermarket, in Bamaga refurbishment of the Tavern, a covered seating area for the Bakehaus, enlarged premises to accommodate the new oven and beautification works along the road. Many properties have newly erected fences, new roof sheeting or had renovations.

Bamaga Enterprise: Mr Pete Kelly, "The Tavern in Bamaga used to be only a bar, it is now a bar and a bistro, which opened a month ago (located at rear of Tavern), and we are now opening up a beer garden (in December 11). In the Bakehaus is a new \$34k electric oven. The oven is capable of a larger variety of foods, cakes and breads, rather than just bread. At Bamaga Resort 11 new rooms have been added, including landscaping of the grounds."

Emergency Services: "When we go back we had no active Fire Brigade, no active SES and no active Coast Guard. In the last 12 months 40 members in the fire brigade (with 40% Indigenous members), some of them crossing over from the fire brigade (also 40% Indigenous members), SES received a new 4WD, reactivated and recommissioned the new equipment for road-crash rescue, to free people should they be entrapped or rolled-over

on the road," says Mr Kelly. "Also activated Coast Guard with 12 new members (mostly Indigenous members, all volunteers)."

"All comes together under an Emergency Services banner, rather than three individual (groups). We are also now just putting together a Local Disaster Management Plan, which now has a Local Disaster Management Committee and this committee meets monthly to prepare the community of any incident of a major event. The fire brigade has been trained in wildfire suppression, prevention, structural fire-fighting, the felling of dangerous trees, whilst the SES is being trained in road-crash rescue."

"The coastguard boat is coming back refurbished and all the gear is to be housed in a new shed at Seisia."

...continued next page.

weed identification, firearms and marine related courses.

The CDEP team left its mark all over the NPA, BBQs, shade covers, feasting sheds, fencing work (cemeteries, airport, dams and many others), grandstands and covers in sporting areas, whilst training on the job. Many have as a result achieved qualification they did not have at the beginning of the year. Horticulture, community landscaping projects, scissor lift working at heights and so forth.

The water supply to Injinoo cemetery, the Injinoo and New Mapoon sports field water supply and later in the year SunWater's pipeline to Umagico sports field; reconstruction of Seisia car park, the installation of aeration sprinklers at Bamaga sewerage ponds were other projects. At Bamaga's council depot an archive building is completed, including fit-out work, now housing documents in a controlled environment. Drainage works at NPA airport (under the runway), the resealing of surface and subsurface work resulted in a new runway rating (increased from 7.4 PCN to 30 PCN), plus a lengthening of the runway from 1,595m to 1,833m allowing larger and heavier aircraft to land.

Other projects: Road repairs following the floods earlier in the year, road works to Muttee heads, south of Injinoo towards Jardine River, Satellite dishes to receive digital TV signals, opening of Menshed at New Mapoon, NPARC Employee Assistance Programme, improvements in radio and in-the-field reporting, but also an emergency generator for the radio station, improvements to the radio station's access driveway and fencing work.

Ms Amy McKeown took out Best RIBS Broadcaster. The expansion of Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) into communities which previously had none."

Community Internet access in New Mapoon and Injinoo. This growth is likely to continue into 2012.

The goodness is within...



...naturally.

Mum, we have a bit of space left at the bottom of the page. What can we do with it? *Well, dear, you could write something about how good fruit and veggies are for our health.* But mum, everybody knows that already. *In that case you could write about the benefits of good health.* But mum, I don't have enough space left to fit it all in. *Then just say 'It's good for you'.* Page | 14 Thanks mum, 'It's good for us.'

The year
in the

2011

... continued.

Next year at the Bakehouse: A large outdoor chess set with chess pieces being 1metre high; at the Tavern: a children's playground in the beer garden. Saturdays afternoons one can listen to a band. "The idea of the Tavern is to take it away from just a place where people come and used to get drunk. Now it's a family orientated place and the idea is the back-area is segregated from the front area (the bar), so families feel comfortable to come here," says Mr Kelly. "Bingo on a Tuesday for HACC people, Tuesday night for people from the community, on Wednesdays night is trivia, Karaoke is Friday nights. Once a month we're importing an act from down south. Upgrade on **Bamaga Service Station** with a new 20k litre tank for diesel, new contract with BP will see new pumps, new point-of-sale console and the exterior of the building, it all gets a facelift. **Resort Bamaga:** Environ-friendly camping area at the back is planned (for tents, it will include an ablutions block).

Family Resource Centre: Health promotion unit has more staff and thus more capacity to support and promote health and well-being in the community. Throughout 2011 we recall World Condom Day (Feb), International Women's Day, the Inter-organisational Swim-a-thon (both March), working in partnership with other organisations through the development of the CHAT group (Chronic Health Action Team) (April), Heart Week (May), the Biggest Morning Tea, Kidney Week (all in May), Men's Health Week which culminated in Pit Stop Programme (June), National Diabetes Week, NAIDOC Week, Carers Expo, Senior's Week in August, Prostate Cancer (September), raised awareness of Rheumatic Heart Disease on World Heart Day (Sept), healthy eating choices at Yumpla event, where approx 270 children went through, raising awareness of Breast Cancer (Oct), the Women's Health Programme (Oct) and Men's Health Awareness (Nov), World's AIDS Day (Dec) and the development of the Physical Development Programme and Backyard Gardening Programme. In December a Health Education / Health Promotion Van will arrive, designed and manufactured in Victoria (currently on its way to NPA). The van is decked out to provide education facilities with resources and also allows one-on-one chats if needed. It will be taken around the communities to promote health awareness events. (Thanks to Mrs Margie Ware for this information) Q: Has there been any reduction in related diseases? A: "We know that from the young person's check that was conducted last October / November 2010 that the rates are still very high, particularly with Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea and Trichomonas," explains Mrs Ware. "The incidences haven't really changed over the last 10 years, so we now really got to focus on getting those key-messages out. We'll have to re-screen people and perhaps in a year or two, just to see what we are doing is making any difference. We're still AIDS-free in the NPA, and that's the thing, we want to stay AIDS-free."

Family Resources in the 2012 has funds for Sexual Health Teams for an extra three positions to enable an increase of that programme. There are now condom dispensers in the communities. "This has been through the YARN group (Youth and Relationships Network). There are condom dispensers in male and female toilets, at Bamaga Oval, on the outside wall of Bamaga Pool, at Seisia RTC and we are just finalising sites for Injinoo and Umagico." Condoms can be accessed 24hrs/7days a week. The sites have been specifically picked to be user-friendly so that young people don't feel scrutinized or viewed. Condoms are provided at no cost."

A series of manuals for healthy eating for the Childcare Centres and the Out-of-School Hours Centres and tuckshops were produced. The manuals identify the Australian guidelines for healthy eating for children and adolescence and given all sorts of suggestions and healthy hints for each centre. In late November is the Azu Kazil partnership programme between Community Services and Queensland Health to promote women's health whilst they are carrying a baby (pregnant), but also of course to promote the baby's health and to bring out things like food and alcohol syndrome, the damage to the growing baby with alcohol and smoking, and just promoting care.

(Thanks to Mrs Margie Ware for help with this).



Seisia Kiosk and Restaurant is operated by Untap Catering (Untap = On top): Mr Anthony Marek, "Seisia Kiosk and Restaurant has now much healthier products because we prepare it all ourselves. We don't use frozen products, therefore it's much healthier for the community. We got a bigger variety of more salads. It's very popular with the locals and very fast (service). Next year: More improvements in the menu. Prices, we're trying to keep it as low as possible for the local community. The work we have done in the last 12 months is going to benefit us in the next 12 months. There is probability with us starting a food van, with council approval that is, that we can take around the NPA for special events and for the guys who are working. My overall aim is to train the local people in the hospitality industry, because that is one of the go-ahead industries for this area, as this area hasn't got an industry of its own. The school, they are doing it. They do Certificate I and II in Hospitality, but they got to get placements. People have to get encouraged to take on these work-experience people. I am a fully qualified teacher," says Mr Marek.

NPA Menshed: "We had the Armadale Menshed from NSW came up for a visit doing bench-making," says Mr Jessy Sagaukaz. "We had Roy and Chris up, doing park benches and work benches. We had Michael here, looking at furniture making, not only from ghost nets but also using recycled timber." Menshed won the auction for the big crocodile which was then donated to the Tavern in Bamaga (shown in this issue). It is now in the bistro area of the Tavern. "The High School kids made it. Gabi from the Healing Centre in Injinoo was the one putting the project together. I think we went for about \$600. The money went to the High School for the kids (for a tour). At the Arts Festival there was a stall also from the school to do the fundraising for the trip. Menshed coordinated the Arts Festival on behalf of the Bamaga Berlibal Cultural Organisation. We approached the school if they were interested, and yeah. They said they were very interested. We amalgamated the Cultural Festival with the Arts Festival." For White Ribbon Day Menshed brought up the Drum up Big team and organised a BBQ at NPARC's Umagico Works Depot (25th Nov, 2011, both covered in this issue). "White Ribbon Day is more or less the men folks standing up, making a stand against domestic violence. It's against violence, across the board. We are hoping in this particular gathering that men folk will stand up (to speak) from their experience. It is hard, very, very hard to stand in front of your peers and talk." Menshed also organised the community recognition for Bamaga High School students (covered in this issue) and the 100% attendance march early in the year.

NPA Menshed in 2012: "For 1st January we are going to take a traditional dance around the communities of the NPA. We are going to gate-crash and give them happiness. We also have a few programmes lined up (for year 2012). It's a carry-on of some of the programmes we did last year (2011) and also new initiatives."

...continued next page.

Says one raindrop to the others: 'Stop following me.'

The year in the

1000M

... continued.

NPA Menshed in 2012

(continued): "We had the net-makers last year, including using bush-timber and sculpture, part of that



initiative is working together with the rangers." Mr Sagaukaz indicated that Menshed will work together with various groups or organisations throughout the year, such as from health, education, men's and women's groups.

Emotional well-being:

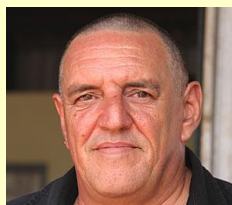
Mr Rob Ware, Team Leader for Emotional well-being, (Family Resource Centre), "We are a small team. This year (2011) there was 3



of us. We have two vacant positions, but we have trouble filling vacant positions because we need to offer accommodation to people and we don't have any extra accommodation, and the other problem, we don't have a lot of office space. It is hard to keep all the positions filled. We had a mental health educator, Latoya. Latoya is a local girl, sadly she and her family moved away, so we lost a local worker, and of course Charlie (Waldorf), the drug and alcohol counsellor is still here and will be staying on. My role has been counselling, helping Charlie doing emotional well-being counselling and coordinating the team. We had some events around Mental Health Week, Schizophrenia Awareness Week, a Non-smoking campaign; we went out for Drug Action Week and got involved in a number of communities at different times in the year. Our focus in the ATODS team is Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs. It's an ongoing problem. 50% of the population are smokers, it's worth focusing on, as in the general population people are smoking at much lower rates, more like 15% and that is going down. Generally Indigenous areas stay about the same."

NPARC Events during the year: "The Australia Day Mud Rally, the Bamaga Show, the Rodeo, MABO Day, Yumpla Festival, NAIDOC and all these other little events that we host," says Ms Estelle Gebadi. The Events team built or organised the commentary boxes, corporate boxes, scaffolding for TV platform tower for the Northern Pride game, also involved in end of Nov community recognition for the High Achievement Awards for Senior Campus students. "We planned the whole Mini Rodeo," says Ms Gebadi. "We delegate the jobs out to the appropriate departments that are trained in erecting the stuff that we needed for the rodeo."

ATODS: Mr Charlie Waldorf, Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol counsellor (Family Resource Centre), "In the beginning of



the year I had referrals from community corrections, probation, parole and the hospital, that is from where I got my clients. As the year went on I got more and more people who self-referred. It must have been a function of people knowing that I'm doing what I'm doing. More and more people asked me for service. That encouraged me greatly. It meant that people knew what I was doing. It meant they trusted me enough to seek help and that way I got really quite busy. Initially I didn't have all that much to do, but this year it has been very busy and I have a steadily increasing amount of client interaction. It's been a successful year. I've been to all the AOD conferences (AOD = Alcohol and Other Drugs), QNADA (Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies Ltd), they all come together once a year. Rob (Ware) and I went there (to Logan). There is a big push, the drug and alcohol sector came closer to the mental health sector. In all the organisations, like hospitals, drug and alcohol, mental health, now work much closer together. It's the biggest news this year in this sector. We get a lot of clients with dual diagnosis (a mental health / and drug and/or alcohol diagnosis). With these sectors coming together, we are hoping to increase the capacity to treat these people more efficiently on both fronts."

NPA Art Centre,

New Mapoon:

During 2011 a range of workshops were held at the Art Centre, workshops



in printing, lino, screen painting, mosaics, carvings and pottery. "We're working closely with Jessy (Sagaukaz, NPA Mensheds) with the screen-printing and lino. The Art Centre was involved in the design of mosaics for the All Abilities Playground." A couple of sewing machines are in the workshop (Dec). The workshop will receive roof insulation in December, 2011.

For 1st of June 2012, an exhibition at UMI Arts, Cairns, is planned.

(The CDEP team played a major part in this) "Basically the community approaches council (NPARC), any of the five communities that wish to have an event held in their community, they need our support or the council's support, that's where we come in. We sit down and plan with the organisation doing the events."

HACC: Ms Moira Aniba informs of what happened at HACC during the year: the training of staff in Aged Care Certificate III, more recently training of a full-time cook and an assistant cook, who both completed Safely Food Handling courses.

"I started my diploma in Community Coordination Services," says Ms Aniba. HACC has two new vehicles and are waiting on a new bus and also a replacement bus for the one that was stolen, "and we're also waiting for a Toyota Kluger to arrive. We have heaps of casual workers. People in the community are putting their hands up to be casual workers. That is also a great help to meet our client's needs, day to day."

The HACC cleaner also took a short course in Workplace Health and Safety. "We had new clients come onboard into our service."

HACC took part in the Yumpla Cultural Festival



(also see 'Migi Kersar').

Many of HACC's other activities were organised by Ms Gabi Peter: ghost nets, clay pots, "and she helps stimulate the brain, remembering things from the past, the clients really enjoy that." Recently HACC organised a very successful Seniors' Week and has started weekend shift work (Sat-Sun 9-6), to do with meals preparation.

HACC is 'hopeful' for funding to arrive for the new aged care facility. Client break-off Christmas party is happening 13th Dec.

What are you so happy about?
Whoever eats me will be so pleased.



Naturally ☺

The year in the



... continued.

CAPE PCYC: Three people have Lifeguard qualifications and a Bronze Swimming Medallion (it allows them to hold any activities around or in the swimming pool). "Cape PCYC has been



involved in a lot of sports (Tennis, AFL), mainly Rugby League," says Ms Sonia Townsend, "I think we made a huge impact. The Northern Pride game was a stepping-stone game for us. It puts us on the map in preparation for another game next year (2012) and the council is quite aware of that now." CAPE PCYC took children to see other places for development in sports. "We rebuilt networks and partnerships with others, like HACC, Family Resource Centre, Queensland Health, NPARC Events. Last year we tried and trialled. I think last year trialled us to look at different exercises and programmes within these organisations we are building our relationships with them," says Ms Townsend. The planning of ANZAC Day ceremonies was also part of CAPE PCYC.

Cape PCYC, planned for 2012 is a continuation of the Vacation Care Programme, Pool Programme (water activities, aqua aerobics), touch football summer competition (6 weeks), a walk-a-thon, volleyball comp. (6 weeks each, summer / winter), Rugby League preseason, Easter Comp 'Red Dust' (volleyball, touch football), in winter: basketball, Austag, board games, ANZAC Community Celebrations, the All Blacks Carnival NPA, Aqua Aerobics (6 weeks) programme, water basketball, NPA Skytrans Christmas Parade, NPA Mitre 10 Christmas Lights competition, Holiday Programme and Cape Youth Adventure Camp. The food-drive to help flood victims earlier in the year (CAPE PCYC, Rural Fire Brigade, NPA Menshed).

Mentoring / Training: Mr David Ahboo runs 'One way solutions', a business that provides training to Indigenous people. "We started the year working with (CAPE) PCYC, we did some volunteer (work) around touch competition that we did. I then continued on to do programmes for NPARC, CDEP. Those are pre-employment programmes, and for the education as well, two pre-employment programmes which were recognised around the education. Construction Cert II for NPARC that is another recognised accreditation. I guess I am a project officer for the Education Council (NPA Ngurpai Ikama Ikya), to monitor and review the education. We have 17 new teachers coming up into this area next year (2012, replacing teachers that are leaving). Seven participants of Work Practice Programmes were acknowledged doing some security work for NPARC over the Dan Ropeyarn weekend."

"Five people did catering for the Education Council Forum. The Education Council brought up the Indigenous Drivers Licensing unit, it came up twice."



Berlibal performed at Yumpla and Laura, "Which was a goal for the young ones for the hard work and determination throughout those years," says Mr Jessy Sagaukaz, "because they don't receive any payment, they do it for joy. We do fundraising as we go. The funds raised go towards the group's trips away. Berlibal has seniors and junior dancers. The senior dancers wanted to do the fundraising gig. The juniors are used for 'ambassadorship', if I may, for NPA, any visitors coming in. If we had various agencies that had special things on who wanted performances, then we get the kiddies to do that." **Yamizal** performed during Seniors Week and we had a number of visiting performers.

Injinoo Dance Group performed at Yumpla Festival, the Rangers Conference, the 19th Laura Aboriginal Festival and many performances for visitors during the tourist season.

2012 could see them perform in Solomon Islands and Mexico. Behind the group are the singers and musicians. Mrs Gloria Solomon was sewing many of the dancer's costumes while Mr Gordon Solomon has been involved with the local youths for many, many years.

During last year, unrelated to the Injinoo Dance Group, Mr Solomon planned a range of activities for the Youth Centre, transporting young people to Jobfind, Centrelink and Bamaga TAFE, meeting with the rangers and NPA employers to find work for the youths, planning and organising camping trips, swimming, fishing, movie nights, meetings with Youth Action Group, excursion to Muttee Heads, Blue Night Disco, BBQs and sausage sizzles and helping many youths to get their drivers licence with the Indigenous Drivers Licence Unit.



Apudthama Land Trust has a new building (near the Ranger Base). "We're negotiating with Cape Alumina, big land management plan," says Mrs Sandra Sebasio.

Arts / Culture: The largest ever contemporary Torres Strait Island Art Show in Brisbane, 'Flash Women', a show about Indigenous women's fashion over the past 80 years (State Library, Brisbane), Heritage Display (at Rangers Conference) as well as the local events mentioned.

Health or in some way health related: Drug Action Week (Dep Fam and Com Serv), First Aid and CPR (Community Education Unit, Qld Ambulance Services), Well Child Health Check, a visit from the Random Drug Detection Unit, 'no tolerance' approach by police (drink driving, unlicensed driving and cannabis use), health training for people from Torres Strait and NPA, Healthy Heart Programme, Backyard Garden Programme, Physical Activity Programmes (NPA Fam and Community Services), Suicide Prevention Workshops, Domestic Violence prevention, AIDS Day, Dementia info session.

Libraries: NPA has three libraries in operation (Injinoo, New Mapoon and Seisia). Umagico library will open in 2012. Bamaga does not yet have a library. "The State Library came; the library had a book exchange and a book audit. We had free computer training courses and the new Work Plan for the new year. Every Thursday the staffs of NPA libraries meet, each time at a different community," says Mrs Sandra Sebasio. A History and Cultural display was shown during the Rangers Conference.

Fun / Entertainment, the Gilmore Tropical Amusement Show, Bamaga, the Doyle's Family Fun Show, Digital TV and Satellite dishes, Mini Rodeo and paddy rides, The Something Better Project brought up Drum up Big, we had Hip Hop dancers, CYCUS circus, New Mapoon Family Fun Day

Business: IBIS opening, new business: Bamaga Health and Beauty, new operators in some existing businesses, Into Business Work-shops (IBA), 2011 Careers Market, Cert III in Business.

Religious events: Church invitation rally at Bamaga (The voice of one crying in the wilderness), St Michael and All Saints Church Day, Injinoo and a number of others events.

Bamagau Kazil in 2011 celebrated 20 in operation. A new access road with parking facilities benefits the Day Care Centre, Bamagau Kazil and the nearby residents.

The year
in the

2011

... continued.

There were Foster & Kinship Day, International Women's Day, Harmony Day, Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day, the Rangers Expo, plant health scientist came to visit, exotic weeds and hitch-hiking termites came under the microscope.

Educational / training or somewhat related: Rural studies, Cert I in Rural Studies (Bamaga Primary), Cert I and II in Horticulture, Horse handling course, the march for the education of children, the School Leaders' Badge presentation, National Day of Action against Bullying, the 100% School Attendance march and the Community Awards for High Achievements. Likely in 2012, LOTE (language other than English) and many new teachers starting in the NPA.

It must be acknowledged that the bulk of the funding for the projects mentioned came ultimately from the State and Federal Governments via the various organisations / departments within, as recognised during the year.

AFL Cape York organised many events with the Kids Living Safer Lives Programme, the Bamaga work-out, the 'No Boundary's Programme' (with Gold Coast Suns Football Club and NPARC), the AFL Kickstart Programme, Gymnastic Skills workshop, Water Gym sports activities, the Leadership Skirmish Programme and many others.

Sports related, 2011 NPA Athletics Carnival (senior and junior), the many tournaments throughout the year, the Dan Ropeyarn Cup, NPA Rugby League Development Programme, 2011 NPA Athletics Carnival to name a few.

Seisia Camp Ground added additional sites to the main ground, has drinking water to the sites across the road, toilet and overall beautification.

The **Vets** had a number of visits to the NPA and so did many specialists in the medical fields and people with technical expertise in other areas.

Seisia Fishing Club, the Peninsula Pirates Regatta, the ball, Seisia Fishing Club fund raisers for Grade 7 students, Big Mama and the Sexy Soul Trio, hosting breakfast, dinner and auction (Northern Pride / Souths Logan teams), fishing competitions, the sunset markets and a full calendar of events during the tourist season.

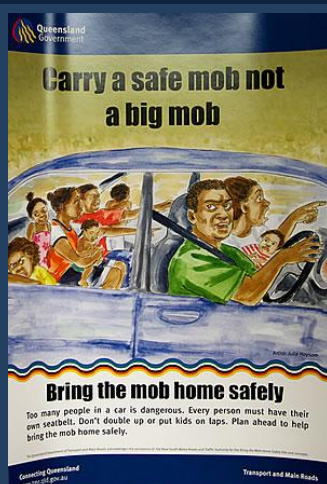
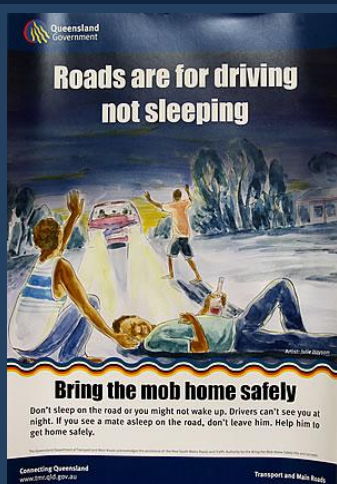
It must also be acknowledged that private businesses, corporations, local enterprises, mining operators, volunteer organisations and volunteers did much to support local endeavours, with dollar, deed or action.

What will 2012 bring? There is no magic crystal ball to see the future, but the cards on the table are the construction of the Injinoo and Bamaga subdivisions, with all the related works of access-roads, sewerage and services. A new dog pound is on the cards and so are new proposed By-Laws (or Local Laws) dealing with animal enclosures, fires and fire hazards, safety hazards and the like, including a criteria for declaring dangerous animals. Both projects (the subdivisions and proposed Local Laws) can do much in improving the health and wellbeing of NPA people and hopefully lead to a reduction of excrement from animals wandering the streets and gardens, a lessening of destroyed vegetable gardens and a reduction to traffic incidences. At New Mapoon the All Abilities Playground and sports field with newly added facilities are well underway. At Injinoo the proposed NPA Cultural Centre may come to fruition and the realisation of Bamaga Farm. Somewhere in the deck are the aged-care facilities near HACC in Bamaga and projects that have been talked about with some at early seedling stage.

Whilst there is much unrest in parts of the world, the NPA can look ahead with a sense of optimism. Those involved in getting things done can take pride in what has been achieved and those involved in breaking things will hopefully grow out of it. Owners of horses and dogs in particular may come to realise the benefits of keeping those animals under control, as it affects the health, sanitation and safety issues of everyone. The NPA's potential is enormous and despite or because of its very remote location is in the process of becoming The Oasis of the very Far North.

Thank you to the many individuals from the organisations mentioned and the directors of NPARC for their help in compiling this article.

Bring the mob home safely ...



... is the message on these posters, issued by Department of Transport and Main Roads early December, before the start of the holiday season.

School starts 23rd Jan, 2012

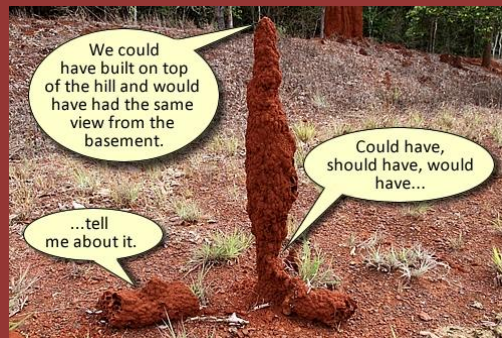
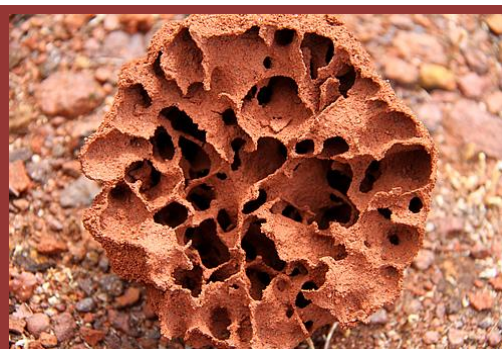




Lone boot is heading north, lone flipper heads south on Pajinka to Bamaga stretch.



The driver realised the horses were restless and had stopped.



In the 'mood'



Underground activities.



Why are elephants so big and strong?
They eat their greens.

Mandignou Apudthama Apang in the making



The first raindrop falling from a cloud starts crying. 'What's up?' asks the second one. 'Look behind us, they're all going to land on top of us in a minute.'

Says one raindrop to the other, 'Hi, what's your name?' and then it went 'splat.'

(Above) All images taken 21st Nov, 2011

Mandignou Apudthama Apang



Safety Inspector testing the equipment.



Mrs Marks and Mr Symons.



Landscaping by



... of health and safety protection from hazards arising from work, so far is reasonably practicable.

The term 'reasonably practicable' means what could reasonably be done at a particular time to ensure health and safety measures were in place.

OHS main obligations for Employees;

- Take reasonable care for their own health and safety;
- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of others; and
- Cooperate with their employers about matters of health and safety.

OHS general duties as an Employer;

- Maintain a safe work place;
- Ensure tools and equipment are safely maintained;
- Maintain safe systems of work; and
- Provide adequate training and supervision to ensure safe work.

OHS = Occupational Health and Safety;

WHS = Workplace Health and Safety.

OHS Legislation

Mr Geoff Lingard, Workplace Health and Safety Officer, NPARC, issued the following:

DUTIES and OBLIGATIONS required in the WORK-PLACE:

Principle of the WHS Act;

The guiding principle of the WHS Act is that all people are given the highest level

Cattle-bleed



"Apudthama / NPARC Rangers did a cattle-bleed at Seisia Meatworks (25th Nov, 2011), monitoring for Foot and Mouth disease and other exotic diseases that threaten Australia, in conjunction with Quarantine," says Mr Warren Strevens.

"The 'head-fellow' for Quarantine was there, Lauren Shipley. Actually he had to justify himself too. We had two auditors there from the Australian Government Auditing Office."

The roof is up...

... at the new change-rooms / toilets at Andrew Archie Memorial Football & Sports Ground, New Mapoon.



The park now has a number of soft rubber surfaces (greenish, above, 28 Nov, right 7th Dec) with gazebo and toilet block being constructed.





The sunshine of New Mapoon.



Specialists coming to NPA, T.I. and outer Islands
Dec/Jan
Bamaga Hospital and Community PHCC

5 Dec	Orthopaedic, Dr William Bryceson, T.I. H. OPD 5-9 th , OT 6-8 th
7-8 Dec	Chest Clinic, Thoracic Team, CBH, Saibai PHC 7 th & Boigu PHC 8 th
21 Dec	Chest Clinic, Nurses Clinic, Saibai PHC 21 st
No dates yet available for year 2012.	



Images below: Injinoo Look-out in centre of upper image where Cowal Creek enters the ocean. Lower image shows continuation towards the right, looking north towards Umagico and Seisia (both not visible).



Migi Kersar

A turtle made of ghost nets was displayed during Yumpla Festival. The turtle was named ‘Migi Kersar’ (it means ‘small river’). Ms Moira Aniba, “Because they did the ghost net turtle down at Injinoo Healing Centre, where one of the spectacular views at Injinoo is the river, Migi Kersar, which is Cowal Creek (it also means ‘small river’).”



Migi Kersar is Western Island language. An image of the turtle was also published in the Queensland TAFE newsletter.



The road to Pajinka ...



... is as smooth as bitumen, at least near Bamaga, where wide channels on both sides of the road help to direct the expected rain season runoff. Anyone enjoying corrugations will not be disappointed a little further north. From Lockerbie turn-off to Pajinka is good, towards Somerset has some corrugations.



All images taken near south of Injinoo. Here also channelling on both sides of the road is part of the construction works.



Teams from Cook Shire Council helped with these works.



The road south ...

... under construction during early December, 2011.



Images below: (top) Sunset at Pajinka (10th Dec). York and Eborac Islands are to the right, out of view. (middle) Somerset Beach, looking towards Albany Is. (bottom) Loyalty Beach, Seisia is on the right.

Dams

One of many dams waiting for the rain season. The water they collect will be used in road repairs.



The choice is ours...

Ms Jasmina Haukka, IBIS Nutritionist, with another excellent display at Bamaga, explaining to shoppers that healthier alternatives can be cheaper and better for us.

What would you get for \$20, \$40 or \$80 going 'healthy' and the not so healthy alternatives for similar amounts. Ms Haukka put together detailed 'value for money' suggestions to make it visible and shows 'going healthy' can cost less.

"Processed food costs more, has more salt and sugar and creates more garbage due to packaging," says Ms Haukka.



"Oh, is this what sugar does?" asked one child when seeing the pictures of teeth.

The choice is ours...

... and so are the rewards and consequences.

CHOOSE TO AVOID SUGAR IN FOODS AND DRINKS

This is tooth decay caused by bacteria attracted to sugar in your mouth.



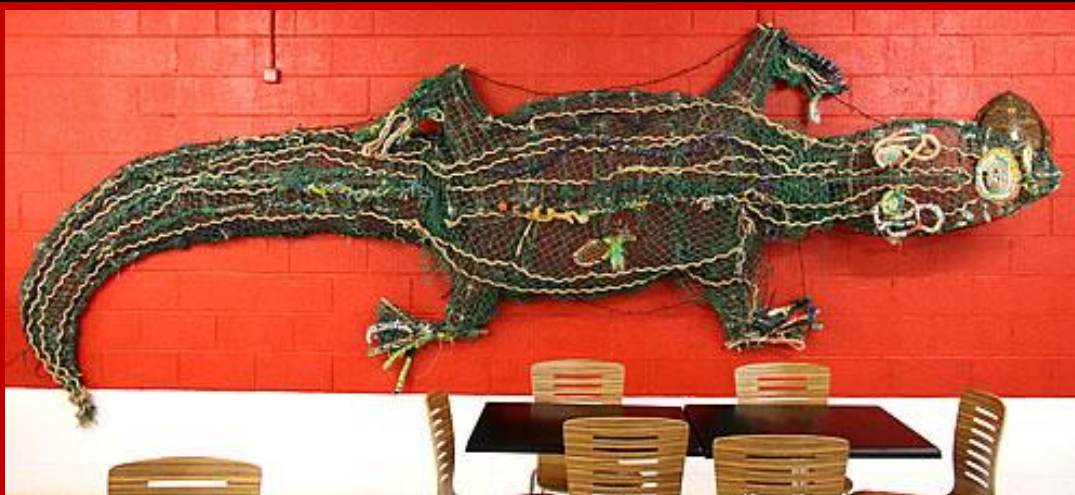
Look after your teeth and body – you only have one body



Avoid sugary food – it's your choice. (It does more harm than this page shows!)

No trouble

"On the Dan Ropeyarn Cup, the Tavern had a large disco on the night, and on the Friday night a band," says Mr Pete Kelly. "We had increased numbers, no trouble, no incidences, no fights. There was a peaceful happy time by everybody, because they enjoyed themselves dancing and wore themselves out that way, basically. Police supported it, they were out the front."

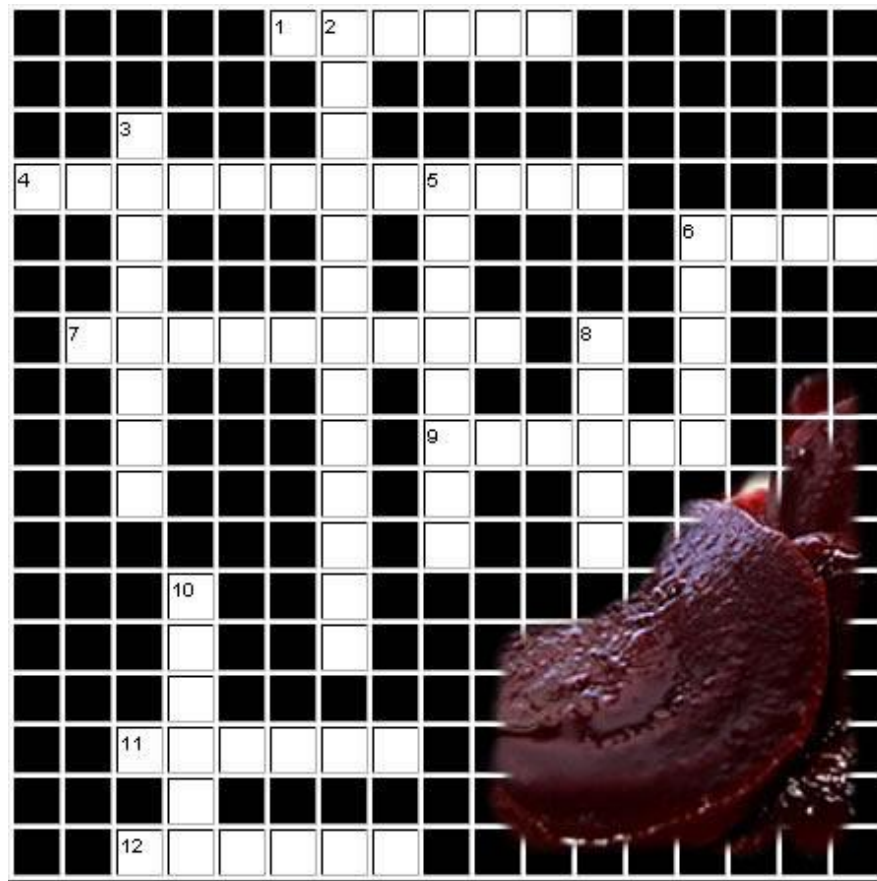


This large croc, made from ghost nets, was put together by senior school students. NPA Menshed was the successful bidder at an auction. The money raised was given to the High School for the student's excursion. The people from HACC and from the Healing Centre in Injinoo also helped. The croc is now located at the new bistro at the Tavern in Bamaga.

The croc is depicted in the process of eating a turtle. The lower jaw of the croc is still to be fitted to the display. The turtle has hand-painted decorations. Image bottom right shows the some of the details. This is the croc Mr Sagaukaz referred to earlier in the NPA Menshed article (The year in the mirror).



Which is what?



Hint: The question '7 across' has **Pink Lady** as answer.

Across:

1



4



6



7



9



11



12



Down:

2



3



5



6



8



10



Please Note: Apple is not an answer. Specify variety name.



This bandicoot (left) lives at Loyalty Beach. It carries young in its pouch.

Mum, can I get ready for school, can I, can I?
But it's still 2 weeks away.
Can I, can I? PLEASE!!!

Library at Bamaga Primary Campus

Inside and out it is a building site on its way to becoming a library, shown here with some of the men who build it.



The concrete path, about to be covered, leads to other school buildings. The campus is fully operational during construction work, with all areas sealed off from students and the public.



Answers for cross-word, see it through a mirror.

Nearing completion



The duplex hospital accommodation opposite HACC in Bamaga is nearing completion.

Mum, when it rains, does it also not rain at the same time, between the raindrops?

Even in a heavy downpour there will be more 'no rain' than rain, but you'll still get wet.

Mum, when the moon reflects the sun will it make the sun look brighter? *I'm so happy you start school in January, dear.*

Demolition in New Mapoon

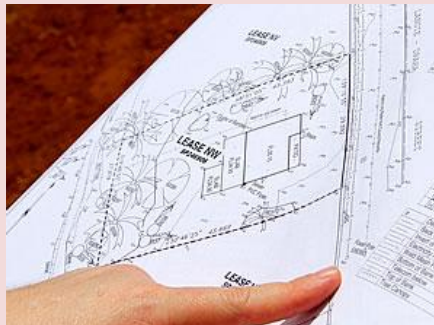


Langie Draha Street, New Mapoon

The wrecked blue house next to the All Abilities Playground is being demolished (Nov, 2011).

Staff from the Programming Office (Department of Communities) visited NPA (28th Nov) looking at land availability for National Partnership Remote Indigenous Housing Programme, here inspecting the now cleared site at Langie Draha Street, New Mapoon.

The RPS drawings show the previous building and the location of underground services (sewerage, water).

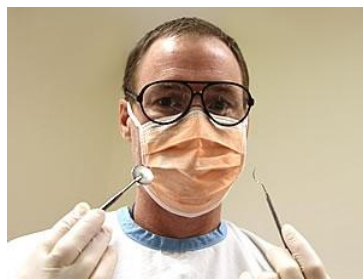


In the afternoon the technical working group met with NPARC's CEO, Mr Stuart Duncan, Mayor Joseph Elu and several NPARC directors at NPARC's Injinoo office.



Dental Health

This won't hurt a bit...



"Dental decay is one of the most costly preventable diseases in the world," says Bamaga dentist, Mr Steven Petelski, working out of the Bamaga Hospital. "The operative word is 'preventable'."

"It is totally preventable. We are not born with bad teeth; we don't get bad teeth because of medicines people give us. The only reason we get dental decay is

because the germs build up on the teeth, and the germs aren't brushed off twice a day."

"It is very important that we brush every morning after breakfast and at night, before bed, and have a healthy diet which includes drinks." "A healthy diet, it's pretty simple. There are only two good drinks for our teeth: plain water and plain milk. Everything else is bad for our teeth and body. You should drink those drinks all day. Once a day choose whatever you like, anything you like, preferably with dinner. But the rest of the day when you're thirsty, don't grab a Coke, or the fruit juice, or the cordial, drink plain water or plain milk, choose."

"Regarding food, the same thing applies. All foods high in sugar, like lollies, chocolate, sweet biscuits, cakes, same as for the drink, have them, but only have them once a day. The rest of the day when you're hungry you want a snack, don't choose the chocolate, the sweet biscuit or cake, eat a piece of fruit or veg, sugarless biscuits like water crackers, brown bread, whole-grain sandwiches, savoury toppings on your sandwiches or biscuits, like ham, cheese, tomatoes, vegemite, peanut butter, salad and sweet things we put on bread and biscuits, like jam, honey, Nutella, only have one toast in the morning, then go and brush your teeth."

Healthy teeth can last a whole life, "easily, your teeth can last 200 years, because what's on the outside of our teeth is totally inorganic, I guess you could say it's like steel."

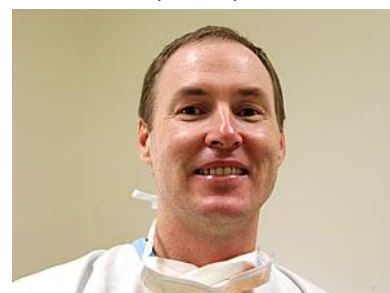
Q: How often should someone with good teeth visit a dentist? A: "Once a year, once every two years. It's not 'what I can do for you,' it's 'what you can do for yourself,'" explains Mr Petelski.

"Brushing every morning after breakfast and at night before bed and proper diet is the most important thing."

"...as I said, it's a preventable disease." Mr Petelski adds, "Parents should brush their kids' teeth until they are 8 years old."

ADA (Australian Dentist Association, Queensland) has prepared an excellent slideshow presentation which can be viewed at the dentist (at Bamaga Hospital) at your own speed. It explains the structure of a healthy tooth, what the various teeth are used for, what plaque is and what happens when one does not brush the teeth for a week. Various dental related issues are shown and how they all can be avoided.

Copyright for the slideshow is held by ADAQ, 2006, which does not object its material being reproduced (with acknowledgement), but prohibits the reproduction of the images.



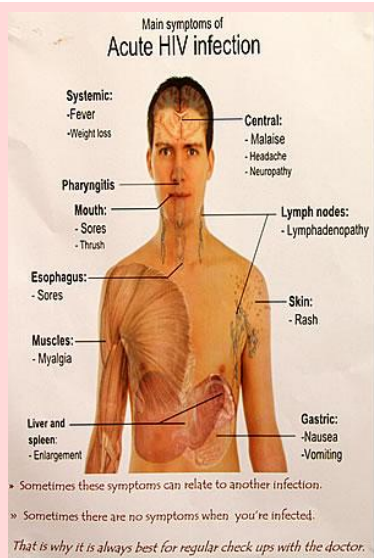
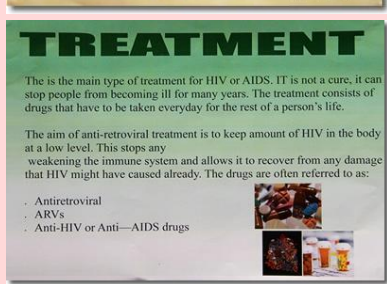
World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day (1st Dec) in the NPA was organised by Family Resource Centre with support from Queensland Health, Community Health Centres and NPA Menshed.

Mr Geoff Bowman, Director of Nursing (Bamaga Hospital), played a key role and was also the guest speaker.

Staff from the Sexual Health Unit (Community Health Centre, Bamaga) came out in support of the event, providing the display and information on AIDS / HIV as well as specific brochures on Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Hepatitis, Herpes, Genital Warts, Trichomonas, Syphilis and Sexual Health.

Mr Bowman blessed the food in song (food provided by the Family Resource Centre). Mr John Mark is the Youth Coordinator which runs the Bamaga Youth Centre.



Mr Bowman blessed the food in song (food provided by the Family Resource Centre). Mr John Mark is the Youth Coordinator which runs the Bamaga Youth Centre.

... an educated and informed choice about health

Mr Anthony Boucher (from Bamaga Hospital), "I'd say to all the parents to sent their kids to school every day, as much as they can, so they can get the education they deserve. They can make an educated and informed choice about their health in the future."

Mum, when did yesterday end? When did it start? Is tomorrow waiting for midnight? Is now 'now' or is it now? When becomes 'now' then? If there was no twilight what would keep day and night apart? Why can't the sun shine on itself?

Mum, what would happen if two torches were pointed at each other and one is switched on a little sooner? Will the light from the other ever get a chance to leave the bulb?

Mum, light and sound travel very fast and in doing so exceed every speed limit sign on earth. How fast would a police car have to be to catch up to the photons to issue them a speeding ticket? Mum, are you listening?

Apu Kazil during November was organised by NPA Family and Community Services, an informal antenatal education as well as opportunity to have antenatal check-up. Healthy afternoon tea was provided.

Dugong and turtle hunting

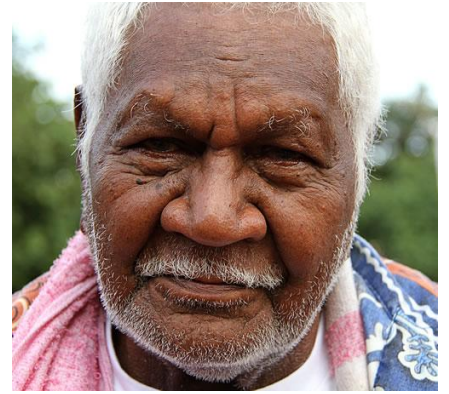
Elder and Traditional Owner, Mr George Williams, "People used to use dugong oil as medicine, drink it cold, or warm. It lines the stomach. It's good for anything, like TB (Tuberculosis), Asthma or anything, that's what they used to use dugong oil before. Not anymore now."

"They want to stop dugong hunting now, only for weddings, tombstone openings, anything big, because the population of dugong has gone down. They want to bring the population up. We have put up to catch only males, but you have to be champion, this one only male dugong."

"This time boys are chasing, they can spear anyone, male or female, before we got big law. When I go out hunting dugong I always (caught) male, because I had been trained. You can tell when they come up for air, the spout, this is male, that is female, and male dugong always follow female (grin)."

"As soon as I catch dugong (speaking of the past), I call all my family, I call every house. When I go down for cutting I call all to bring your basin down for the meat, me and my brother, eldest brother."

"Sometimes my eldest brother go home with a couple of pieces of meat and he always get (words) from his wife, 'You're hunting to feed everybody.' But that's the, what they call that one..., Christian life, you have to share something when you get it. If you (keep) the dugong for yourself all the dugong will go to waste. You only are going to throw it away in the end (referring to a time before houses had fridges)."



Elder, Traditional Owner and retired Senior Ranger, Mr Meun Lifu, "We had a meeting in Cairns, with the Great Barrier Reef mob *, the council and all the rangers from everywhere. We've been there for nearly one week, about dugong and turtle."

*) Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

"When I say to them, 'Look, in the early days all people have been hunting the right way. They don't kill too many. They kill one, because they (had) no outboard (motor), only row, that's all we got.'



"If you kill one dugong, they cut him up, cut in small block and share it out in the community, says Mr Lifu. "When they cut that dugong in half, spread him out, cut all the meat, the pieces, call all the dish from every them house(s) they get everybody a share."

"If only one dugong, we got to share out. The crew (of the boat) got to have the first share, the one that rowed. The hunter always has the last piece. You always have the head (of the dugong) for the last (for the hunter). The head is the best part. You share all them thing out, that middle part, we call it 'the belly part', that is the sweetest meat. (The hunter gets) one string from there (belly) and the head."

"Because he share the meat out (to) all the people, next time he go he catch them again, he catch them quick, because people give him luck. That's how we used to do. Same with the turtle, you share every part out, what's left belongs to (the) hunter and his family, what's left. That's how we been doing before."

"When it becomes after, after the war now, they been start selling, cut the dugong meat and make a string. Five string, before time we had pounds, shillings and pence, they sell it for 10 shilling for one string, but only for 5 piece of meat, they put it 10 shilling. They start selling all the string in T.I., not up here (NPA), only in T.I. (Thursday Island)."

"They start doing them sort of thing. They start bring them here, but we don't like that. In those days, like people been working there for 10 shilling."

"The meeting in Cairns, we like to see every hunter must have a permit. You got to come to the right Traditional Owner to get the permit."

"Not allowed to catch dugong with a boat with the light, it scatters the dugong. If you go slow, you spear one, no noise. You can take two, that's it. But if you after them with a boat you scatter the dugong. Before we've been doing mouth of river, you get 2 or 3 then come back."

"They reckon it's less now (dugong population), but from we been see we got more population dugong in Torres Strait and Mornington Island. Lockhardt a bit, every weekend they go out hunt, here very few."

"In early days we haven't got no fridge. If I spear dugong I got big feast, I just pack him in the fridge, I don't share, well that's wrong."



"Sometime when you pack them in the fridge you might go next day get another more. You pack 'em again. How you're going to finish that? That's sheer waste. That's a waste of dugong."

"That what we're trying to stop them sort of things. We had a report from the boys working at the dump (NPA Refuse Tip). You see dugong on the dump, dead, spoiled, with the calf, well that's a waste. That's why I been go to the meeting, I said, 'Look, that thing got to be stopped.' Dugong hunt, you can go for a wedding, tombstone opening, any festival you can go for it."

...continued next page.

Dugong and turtle hunting

...continued

"If people like hunting meat, instead they have a shop, they go hunt. If they kill pig, we too try stop pig too from kill, we try stop dugong, they stop the dugong, what we gonna eat? We can't go shop and buy meat from shop. Some people can't afford to buy meat. That's what I think about it, and it's very hard. Even down south, you look, they want meat from up here. You can't cut a dugong down there. That was that meeting on."

"Before time they used to sell it, but we don't like that, we stopped that, Don't sell. You sell that, people can't buy meat. Our way, we used to call people out with the dish, bring your dish, come over. Bring your dish we cut it up. Everyone must have their share, like one meat from here, one meat from there, another this (from the various parts of the dugong body). The same strip of meat, we cut them up small, every piece of meat, the tail, you share it out."

"The oil from the dugong is coming from the tail. It's good for health. You drink that oil, makes good health. In those days early the doctor use it for TB, the sickness been coming out. He been coming up from Torres Strait, people come from everywhere, Palm Island, Woorabinda, Cherbourg, from Hopevale and all them they come up this way and they got the TB. They set them up, the TB hospital was on Thursday Island, Tamwoy Town, there is a big hospital there."

"The general hospital only for the people that got no TB, but Waiben Hospital for people with TB go there, from everywhere, Torres Strait, here too. Doctor give them dugong oil and milk. Doctor keep watching them. They pulled through and they sent them back. That's how they been used the dugong oil for."

"They used to buy the green, big yellow, red bottle, just like them cordial bottle, big cordial bottle, pour the dugong oil in that, sell it to hospital."

"Hospital buy it for the people, for the health. They drink glass of oil, then milk or coffee after, keep that thing down. That's how they been survived."

"Now some of them boys with TB* today walk around (* who had, now cured). Some come from Woorabinda, from Cherbourg, from Burketown, Normanton. They been up here, ended up flying back when their sickness finished they sent people back again."

"Some don't want to go back, some want to stay, they reckon here more better than down south. But when the time is up they got to go back."

Unfortunately Mr Lifu's infectious laughter cannot be shown in writing, but in his words are many giggles.

Mr Lifu officially retired from his Senior Ranger position when the Rangers Conference was held at Injinoo.

"In next year I start my own business: 'Indigenous fishing, hunting and walking tours'. I'm taking visitors around. That's what I start. A bloke been coming here a couple of days ago. He said, 'What you going to do with the fishing', well I got a boat."

Q: How would people find you? "They call office, NPARC Injinoo office (tel: 07-4048 6800) or the Ranger's office (Ranger Base, Injinoo (tel: 07-4069 3875) or my mobile: 044 848 1602, ask for Uncle Shorty."

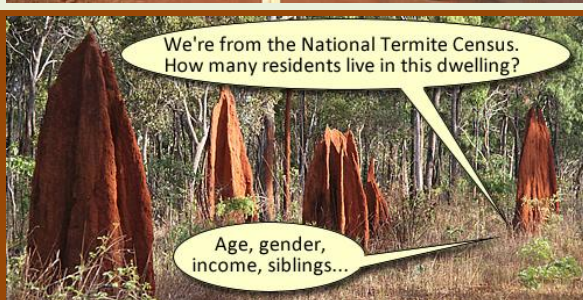


Side by side on so many occasions (near the Injinoo subdivision, welcoming all to the Rangers Conference (right) at Bamaga (top right).



Rangers are heading out ...

...looking for pond apples, from Fly Point to the mouth of the Jacky Jacky, to weed them out. "In the next weeks a camp will be set up at the other side of Escape River to do pond apple works, with Weeds and Ferals, National Parks and us," says Mr Warren Strevens.



... all over the NPA in glorious bloom.

Rangers setting traps

They did crocodiles, they did pigs, this time the Apudthama / NPARC Rangers are set to trap mosquitoes. In each of the five communities a trap will be set to catch mosquito larvae which will then be analysed for Japanese encephalitis, Dengue and others. It's a monitoring programme. The traps are car tires with a mesh around the inside. A hole is cut through the tire to allow collection of the larvae.

**NPARC's Maintenance Crew...**

is repairing the gazebos in the parks and gardens. The roofs are re-sheeted and painted and the railings repaired.

**Community recognises students**

Bamaga community awarded Senior Campus students with High Achievement Awards in a ceremony held at the basketball court, Bamaga (30th Nov, 2011).



Congratulations to Lavinia Williams, Kenita Bamaga, Petta Lui, Kelam Nona, Philzana Bamaga, Anndalasa Sebasio, Stephina Phineasa-Bowie, Nadia Phineasa, Jeanette Bryden, Annie Young, Rowena Tabuai, Mahalia Christian and Te-Elah Bryden.

Ms Lynelle Cavanagh (above, left), Head of Bamaga Senior Campus: "For the Bamaga students it is important to come to school on time. If we have this I know that we will get even greater results. The students that are here tonight getting the award are the students that come to school every day. What I'm asking is, when you go out in the community, you get behind everybody and you encourage all the other parents, all the other community members to send their students to school. In the Primary Campuses, both Bamaga and Injinoo, they're doing excellent work. We need it to start from the foundation and that's in the prep and pre-prep classes that the students need to come to school. If they build those foundations in the lower grades, we'll have them when they reach high school. But we need the support from everybody to enable the students to learn. That support starts at home, starts in the community. I know talking from the people here that we've got that from anybody that's here. You send your sons and daughters to school every day. So that's what I'm asking, and we'll have more people. We got about 15 today, next year I'd expect 30, so the more support we'll get, the better it will be." The ceremony had the support of Bamaga Enterprise, Menshed and the Northern Peninsula Area Ngurpai Ikama Ikya Council (NPA Education Council).



Community recognises students ...continued



"She's a young, intelligent, keen person," says Mr David Ahboo. "She wants to come out here (to the Community Award presentation night), follow me, because she comes to my training and she sees what I do, so she follows me around, she really likes what I do, helping people."

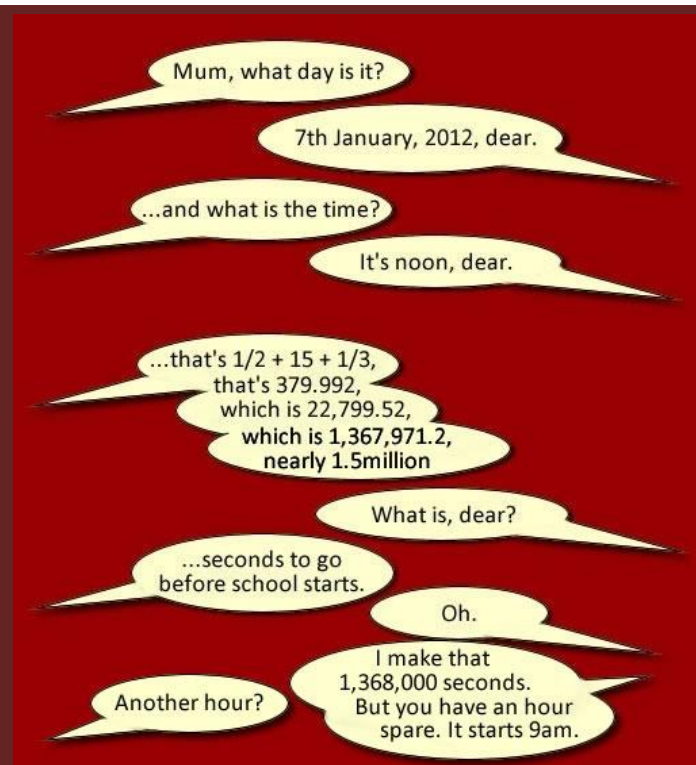
"I feel she has the confidence to go on. One day we'll see that name again somewhere. She's taking photos of this event for me. We are putting them together for a presentation that we take down to Brisbane. She's a local Indigenous, her folks live in Weipa. She's really good."

Jackoda Mandie will return to school in 2012, she's 14 years old.

'One day we'll see that name again'



Jackoda Mandie



Dementia

HACC invited carers, clients and community members to a sausage sizzle at Injinoo Community Hall (5th Dec, 11am to 3pm) to learn about Dementia and how you as a carer can have a break from looking after someone in your family with a disability.

The event was provided by NPA HACC and Commonwealth Carer Respite Care.

Mum, we do have a Heart Day, a Diabetes Day, a School Attendance Day, a Stop Smoking and whatever-else Day. Is there a minute left in the year we can devote to my sore toe?

How about a 'Kiss it Better' Day? ... and start wearing your shoes, dear!

Passport photos

Passport size ID-photos can now be taken at Dreamtime and Bamaga Health and Beauty.



Mum, how long is 'forever and a day'?

That depends on the day. If it's Feb 29th, 2013, it is forever. If it's the same day this year it is a day longer, but either way, there'll be no end to it.

But mum, what happens after?

Mrs Thelma Jacob did it ...



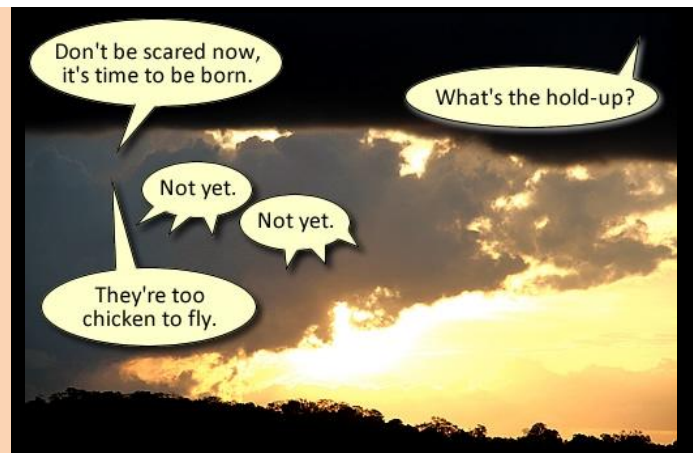
... she's given up the smokes for good. Congratulations.



The paddy rides



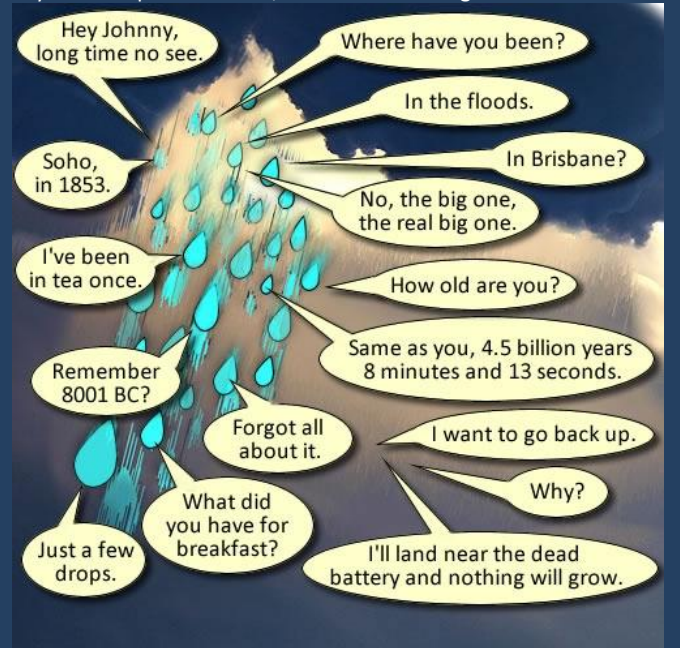
All images courtesy Mrs Alison Petelski.



A sausage on a BBQ looks worried. 'What's eating you?' 'They will.'

'That'll be \$20,' said the taxi driver. 'I'll give you \$5, I only used 1 seat and you used the other,' said the passenger. 'Let's go halves,' suggests the driver. Passenger agrees and counts out \$2.50.

Says one drop to the other, 'I think we're being followed.'



... what if they could just whisper?



The 'short-beak duckling' (centre) is not a new species. It behaves as all its duckling siblings, chasing flies across the grass, under the watchful eye of mum (top right) and Mrs Petelski. Will it learn to quack? Time will tell, but for the moment is just happy living the life of a 'duckling'.

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



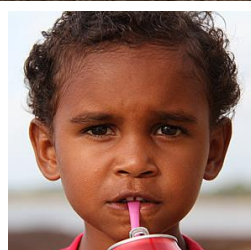
It could be Santa ...
it looks like Santa ...
it is Santa



But Mum, what
about the reindeer?
*It's OK, ...
we're all waiting for
the rain, dear.*



Loyalty Beach is the place
of choice for many end-
of-year festivities, here
welcoming quad-bike
riding Santa bringing gifts
to children. It is also the
venue for many farewells.



It was also time to present Awards and Certificates to
the many that supported the CDEP programmes (9th Dec).



If we knew

Continuing the thought for White Ribbon Day, Mr Serubi explains, "If you truly, deeply knew about love, then domestic violence would not exist. Love is not only a word, it's a feeling, truly deep down inside where love is willing to sacrifice."

"It would always stand behind the curtains, wait tenderly for what is out there. Like in the marriage vows that they say, 'In thickness, in health, rich or poor, until death will do part.' That is said, but after the marriage vows are exchanged, what do you have? You still have domestic violence, because the word love is not understood to its full meaning."

"To sacrifice and that, love is willing to put up with jealousy, anger, discrimination... It's so hard, but that is what love is able to put up with."

"Let's say for our people up here, when a hunter goes out for hunting, he puts his life at risk to the elements of the nature for he can go out in the very dark night, moonless night, he goes out there hunting for dugong."

"The wind is blowing, it's cold, the sea is rough, but he puts up with these conditions, 'cause he knows he got to go out there, bring home meat for the household, for his family. He goes out there proving himself that he is a good hunter."

"But to do that he's got to sacrifice a lot of things: Comfort, leaving his family at home, out there in the darkness risking his life. He sacrifices all of that for his family, and then he comes home with the meat. The wife is so happy to have him back home and she's happy at the same time that he brought home food."

"For the man, he shows his wife that 'I am a man'. I am able to look after you. That is where love is shown, altogether."

"Love can sacrifice itself, waiting patiently and it shows its true meaning by the result it comes out. It's not saying to somebody 'I love you' and later you turn around and you curse them, calling them f___ and b___ and so on. Where is the meaning of love when you say 'I love you'? You are making yourself a liar, and most important of all you are making that word 'love' a liar."

"You shouldn't use the word 'love' if you don't mean to hurt anybody, for love knows no domestic violence. Love only knows love when it sacrifices itself for the contentment and the happiness of the whole family."

Cert II and III in Media

The Certificates II and III in Media will be delivered in 4 one week residential periods by Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media (GRAM) and Tropical North Queensland TAFE, beginning in 2012.

Entry Requirements: The course is aimed at students who are looking to develop skills for radio broadcasting/producing at an introductory level and who may have no experience in media but wish to study towards qualifications in Screen and Media.

Skills to be developed include: Broadcasting, Producing, Editing, Script Writing and Interviewing.

Student Travel: GRAM will arrange travel to and from the training once enrolled in the program. All travel, meals and accommodation will be covered while training.

Recognising your knowledge: The Organisation is committed to recognising and accrediting students' relevant skills and knowledge prior to their enrolment in the organisations courses.

To Apply: To apply for the Certificate 2 & 3 course in Media please call Lacey or Jim on (07) 40 325 022 or email us at manager@gram.com.au & reception@gram.com.au



Mum, I figured out how to stop time.

How, dear?

You start at noon and run as fast as possible eastwards, making sure that there is no shadow from the sun in front or behind you.

And when you get back to this spot again it's still the same time, is that what you mean?

Yes, mum, that's right.

But it'll be a different day, dear?

I figured that. The world is just not big enough.



Sequence is bottom to top.

Health: Primary Health Centres

The NPA has a Primary Health Centre in each of its communities.

The centres at New Mapoon, Seisia and Umagico opened on 2nd June, 1994. The centre at Injinoo opened 30th Nov, 1995, while Bamaga's centre opened 15th Feb, 2000.



The Patha-Nydje Health Centre,
New Mapoon
Patha-Nydje = Good place



The yellow outline indicates the size of New Mapoon's earlier health centre, a single room. The foundations are still in place in front of the present health centre.



The Gaidora Health Centre,
Seisia

The Gaidora Health Centre was named after the late Mrs Gaidora Nawia, the wife of the late Mr Elu Dungalub Nawia and the mother of the late Mr Mugai Elu, who was elected Chairman of Saibai Island.

She was also the grandmother of present day NPARC Mayor, Mr Joseph Elu.

Each of the Primary Health Centres has once a week Doctor's Clinic. Certain days are devoted for Immunisation and Health Check Clinics. See your local centre for dates.

Health: Bamaga Hospital

NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA HOSPITAL (Bamaga)



The Bamaga Community Health Centre,
Bamaga



The Ngaachi Kuungka Health Centre,
Umagico
Ngaachi Kuungka = Place of healing



**The Ambamu Iyrie Ukan
Florence Brisbane Health Centre,**
Injinoo

Ambamu Iyrie Ukan = Our house of sore
The late Florence Brisbane was a relative of Mrs Cecelia Ropeyarn. The brother, the late Patrick Brisbane, was the first Aboriginal Priest, now buried at St Michael and All Saints, Injinoo. A surviving brother is Francis Brisbane.



Shown above is the **Bamaga Hospital**, located at Sagaukaz Street. Viewed from the right it contains: ATODS (the light coloured roof), conference room and admin area, Sexual Health Unit (which is part of the Community Health Programme), Dental unit, X-Ray on other side, emergency bay, doctor's consulting rooms, across is patient preparation area, the open area (main entrance): patient travel, pharmacy, reception, waiting room. Towards the left is the ward: 10 bed, 2 stations are set-up for 'home dialysis', visiting patients use these. In the depth of building are all the support services, such as kitchen, laundry, stores and maintenance.

"We can't do any surgery here," explains Mr Geoff Bowman, Director of Nursing. "Anybody that requires X-Rays or scans beyond what we can do here, and normally we have a technician who comes over from T.I. on Wednesdays, so except for Wednesdays we have a couple of staff that are trained to do basic X-Rays for a simple fracture, but if you require more serious scanning or a more detailed X-Ray then you would have to go either to T.I. or Cairns, depending on what was required."

"Also the same for surgery, minor surgeries can go to T.I., major surgeries would have to go to Cairns. We have an X-Ray machine and we do have an Ultrasound machine here as well."

Doctors: "We have two doctors, Dr Andy Howes, who is our medical superintendent, and we have Dr Rob Reid. They are our two permanent doctors."

"We have been trying for a long period of time to get a third doctor and sometimes we do have a doctor, there is a LOCUM available, but unfortunately sometimes that LOCUM is only covering the other two doctors when they have to go on leave or things like that. So we don't have three doctors. We have sometimes one, mostly two and occasionally three."

Nurses: There are about 24 nurses, including casuals, EEN (enrolled nurses), AIN (assistant in nursing), RN (registered nurses). "We don't have enough permanent staff, part of that is accommodation that is really the main issue. If we had more accommodation we could possibly have more permanent staff." (The duplex nearing completion is part of ATOD's).

...continued next page.

Health: Bamaga Hospital

...cont.



The hospital has a helipad (for helicopters from T.I.), (Royal) Flying Doctors when needed (RFDS) and many medical specialists coming in on a regular bases.

"When you consider the isolation of this community we have an amazing number of very highly experienced and qualified specialists coming here."

"We have two respite beds. We can take people that are cared for in the community, we can take them in for short term to give their carers a rest, and we often do that. That is one thing I find in this community, people are very caring and will often have their relatives at home, much more so than in other communities, so it's great here."

"We are going for **reaccreditation** in March (2012) and that to me is important," says Mr Bowman. "It is looking at the clinical excellence of the hospital and whether we have the documentation to support that clinical excellence. It pushes us at two levels and I think it is important to be pushed like that. In the new year that is going to be our focus for 3 months, making sure we get that up to standard."



"My vision for this hospital is not to be the best in the state, we are this little isolated place way from everywhere, but I want it to be the sort of place whether you are a client from this community, whether you're a tourist, or whether you're a doctor, whatever, when you come in and you come to this place you think 'Wow, for where we are and how isolated we are, this has a really high standard of care.' I think we've already proven it on a number of occasions this year, we've had very serious cases come in and they've been dealt with extremely well. We've saved quite a few lives this year that is not to say that I think we got more we need to do in our clinical excellence within our nursing division to bring ourselves to a level where we can really sort of ..., we can be up there with them, regardless of our size and regardless of our isolation."

Staffing: "One of the biggest issues is definitely staffing, we need to use Agency staff... that is a cost issue for us. It is also a quality issue for us."

"We want certain type of staff. Staffs that actually have remote experience and staff that are highly qualified in emergencies. So to find those staff is not easy."

"Many from our staff are actually from New Zealand, interesting enough, but that's a real issue for us."

"I am always chasing staff, every roster has agency staff on and I got to do a lot of work trying to make sure that staffs are of the standard that we need. Most of the time it works out and sometimes it doesn't."

Tele-health link: "We have a Tele-health link here, which is for emergencies so that if for instance we have an emergency coming and we may not have a doctor on duty, which means we normally are covered from T.I. Hospital, or else the doctor on duty may have some questions, this patient may be extremely serious, we actually have a Tele-health link which has a big TV screen so that we can see them, and it has two cameras set up."

"They (doctors at another location) can focus in on the patient and quite detailed, so we could for instance have a 'burns' patient, we could have a 'burns' specialist in Brisbane looking at the patient and working with our team of doctors and nurses, telling us what we need to do and helping us through the process. We can actually get that kind of specialist's advice in emergency via Tele-con(ference), which is really awesome. They can actually see clearly what's going on and advise us. That has been used on a couple of occasions. That's definitely saved a few lives, that Tele-link on occasions, even when we had doctors here. The information those people have is well beyond what a GP can bring."

The locations of the two cameras are indicated (image above). They can be remotely controlled, allowing a doctor to zoom into the details. This is located next to the nurses' station.



Chronic disease: "We've got a lot of chronic disease and it's frustrating to see those chronic diseases coming back and back through the hospital time and time again, because those chronic patients, we can handle them locally, but it would be... we would hope that we could see over time less people with these chronic diseases."

"It is interesting talking to some of the specialists, for instance the renal unit (kidneys) and I've been talking to the renal specialists here, he says that now with the blood-pressure control, as being one of the key factors, that actually renal disease is much less, like new cases, there is much less than in the past."

In the future: "The expectation for instance here in the future there will be significantly less renal disease than we see now. There is already a decline happening. We are seeing some really positive effects of what is happening in the community, the community health side, in that some of those people that already have the chronic diseases unfortunately keep coming back. They don't seem to be making the lifestyle changes necessary to support what is happening to them."

...continued next page.

NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Mr Stuart Duncan

Health: Bamaga Hospital...cont.



Mr Bowman in the seat.

"When you got a permanent workforce then you can really develop them, develop them clinically, through their relationship, you can develop them with vision of a future and you can get somewhere. When you got agency coming in and out all the time, that's really difficult..."

Housing: "My wish list would be more housing, so that we can have more permanent staff, and not just nursing staff, allied health staff, a whole range of

A real positive: "On the other hand there is a new group coming through that we were able to catch much earlier and with some drug interventions, lifestyle interventions and good community support, we are seeing that they then not develop the more serious stages that develop later on."

"We are certainly seeing that in the community and that's a real positive. That is so important. In a community like this, it's got to be the early interventions that have to be successful so that we don't see them later, and that is happening, and we are seeing some fruits of that."

"Some of the specialists are saying to me, 'Wow, we are seeing a difference', because some of them have been coming here for many years and are starting to see that difference."

"If I had a wish list" my wish list is for stability of staff. As I sit and look at the hospital I can see things that need to be moved forward. But when you only got a small number of permanent staff it makes it really hard to get to that next level, to take people up there."

"You know when 1/3 of your staff come from an agency, the agency are good staff, they work hard, they put in for us, but when talking about long-term improvements, planning, development, they are not there, because they're here 2 months, 3 months, then they're gone. They do a good job, I really respect them a huge amount, but in the area of long-term planning, you need to have that kind of permanent staff."



A number of the new roadside markers were mysteriously 'ejected' from the ground. It takes time to grow roots.

staff, pharmacists, all sorts of staff are needed to build this facility, and many of those staff we have funding for, but we either can't get somebody to work here or else we can't get the housing for them. So that is my wish, to have that permanency of staff and have some more housing to go with it."

"If people are willing to spend 2 or 3 years in a place like this, you can make a lot of progress. Two or 3 months, that keeps us ticking over and they bring a good level of skills and they save many lives, but in the long-term planning and development that doesn't help us."



Pearls and Lace.

Courtesy Mrs Alison Petelski.
NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Mr Stuart Duncan

CDEP team says: 'Thanks'

The NPARC Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) team says thanks to the many that supported the team throughout the year.

Awards were presented to the following host employers that have engaged CDEP participants through the Work Experience Programme: Resort Bamaga, Rob's Earthmoving, Dreamtime Bamaga, Coy's Budget Motors, Surum Services, Apudthama / NPARC Land & Sea Rangers, Positive Concrete & Construction and Aaron Thurgate Plumbing.

An honourable mention goes to all contractors that have assisted the CDEP programme in 2011:

The Learning Workshop, TCA Australia, Smithfield Mitre 10, Aaron Thurgate Plumbing, Cape York Plumbing, Seisia Enterprise Pty Ltd, Bamaga Enterprise Pty Ltd, Positive Concrete, Surum Services, B&B Electrics, Yorkston Construction, Cape York Building and Maintenance Pty Ltd, Community Training and Development, NPA Electrics, Resort Bamaga, Bamaga Dreamtime, Mervyn Bond Bob Cat Hire, Jesse's Lawn mowing Services, Anthony Mara Carpentry, Injinoo Readymix, Jobfind Bamaga, Itec Employment NPA, Apudthama / NPARC Land & Sea Rangers, Coy's Budget Motors, Menshed NPA, Loyalty Beach Resort and Campground and One Way Solutions.

Thanks to the CDEP teams for the fantastic work they did around the communities, the Seisia wharf shelter, the many BBQ's, the gazebo's in Injinoo, Bamaga and other communities, Umagico's feasting hut, the planter boxes next to it, the fencing work around the parks, cemeteries and dams. The work around the public toilet facilities across the NPA, the Injinoo and New Mapoon grandstands, commentary box / kiosk, the storage block, the work around Injinoo central park and at the All Abilities Playground in New Mapoon, the many landscaping jobs. Thanks to the CDEP girls at the Careers Expo, and there are likely many more projects because of the work of the CDEP team. Thanks to the team behind the teams, the mentors, planners, organisers, trainers and managers.

New fence for New Mapoon ...

along the showground area (7th Dec), being erected by the CDEP team.

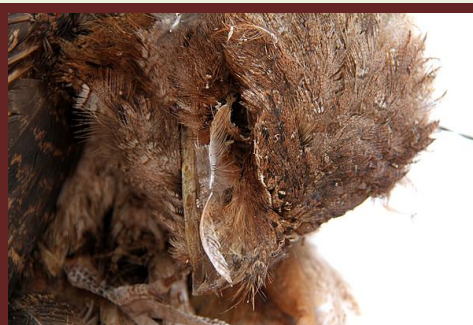


Seisia Camp Ground

The peak tourist season may be over, but work never stops for Mr Rupeni and his team, here preparing a prime site at the main camp ground area.



Seisia Beach is to the right.



I kept my eye on the road...



... and forgot all about the barbed wire.



Mum, how long is 'short'?
How high is 'low'?
How far is 'near'?



The NPA in 2011

The People: In 2011 the people living in the NPA are the Aboriginal tribes of Wuthathi (manta ray), Yadhaykenu (goanna, stingray, croc), Gudang (turtle with frog, goanna), Angkamuthi (Seven Rivers, fresh-water long-neck turtle), Atambaya (Utaga, dingo) peoples, the Kaurareg people (Muralag), Torres Strait Islanders: from the eight clans from Saibai: Saibai Kadal, Aith Kadal (Kadal = crocodile), Dheoybau (yam), Suim (a type of swamp bird), Baidham (shark), Umi (dog), Samu (emu come cassowary), Thabu (snake), their totem groups Keoybuiyai (or Buwai, big totem group) and Migina (small totem group); from Marpuna the children of: the Mparkwithi, Taepithiggi, Thaynhakwith, Warrangku, Yupungathi peoples and traditional owners from that area, the Tjungundji people; the people who carry in their ancestry the Kambarra (crocodile), the Kabi-Kabi (S.E. Qld), Suibaidam clan, Kaanju, Umpila, Lama Lama, Aya Pathu. Wunta (wind), Yintjingga (sea eagle), Koong'Kai (Kukuyau, north clan and Yeepai, south clan on east coast, Lockhart), Uwinthyn (fresh water turtle), bower bird, stingray, Utingu (Simpson Bay); the many tribes, clans and totem groups from the mainland and islands, from Mer (Murray), Kubin (Moa), Mabuiaig, Iama (Yam), Yorke (Masig), Ugar (Stephens), Erub (Darnley), Poruma (Coconut), Narupai (Horn), Dauan (Cornwallis), Boigu and the islands east to west, north to south in the Torres Strait, from Palm Island, Coen, Lockhart, Port Stuart, Normanton, Cairns, from across the state, across the country and far beyond (Papua New Guinea, Rotuma, Fiji and other Melanesian and Polynesian islands, such as Samoa, New Zealand, from Borneo, Malaysia, S.E. Asia to Europe).

This listing is not complete as most carry within a list several times this length. No new villages or townships have been built since, but each community has available lots for future growth or is already in progress of expanding.

The NPA, located in the top end of Cape York*, Far North Queensland, is a place with many issues. It is also a place where people know their neighbours' names, the names of the neighbours' children and where most know all the children in their community, and where people sit and yarn.

It is a place where the loss of a loved one shrouds the whole community in a cloud of sorry time that just like snow takes all the sounds away. It is a place where everything shuts down to farewell one, where the churches are packed beyond capacity and outside the church just as many gather to pay their last respects. It is a place where each child born is welcomed.

Most will have many mothers and each has many siblings (there is no such thing as an 'only child'). It is a place where the concept of 'family' is much wider than just mum, dad and their offspring, but crosses the entire region, links people from the far-off islands, across the state and well beyond.

Not a day goes by without laughter (unless it's sorry time) and where any birthday is a reason to celebrate life and party.

It is a place where all will have to wait, no matter how long or how hot it may be, if an important member of a wedding, funeral or tombstone opening is delayed. It is a place that has its own sense of time and priority. In 2011 there are no traffic lights or traffic jams and no parking meters.

'Esso' to the many readers, supporters and contributors of NPA News. Particular 'thanks' goes to NPARC's CEO, Mr Stuart Duncan, Mayor Elu and all the councillors for the fantastic opportunity that I was given. Thanks also for their patience with the many pictures of horses which did become 'ambassadors' of sorts, carrying many health, environmental and education related messages as well as some light hearted diversions.

Over the last 33 issues NPA News could not tell every story, show every picture or cover every event due to the large and diverse range of activities taking place each week. The uniqueness of the NPA, its peoples and surroundings could easily fill a much larger publication on a regular basis. Esso to the parents and the many children which lit the pages with the shine in their eyes. Thank you to the many who shared part of their lives, their history or images with the many readers. Thanks to other News organisations that carried the stories from the NPA well beyond



The place names: Cowal Creek (small river) was once the name of a place and a creek. It became **Injinoo** (derived from 'Ing hinu' (a place to sit), but both names are still understood today.

The area of Ichirru (in Ikya) is now better known as **Bamaga**.

Alau, **Umagico** (the 'Rainbow Serpent' in one of the Lockhart languages) is still known by both names locally. Alau being derived from Lalau, a Gudang language.

Mandignou (Mandingu), once Charcoal Burner in Hidden Valley, is **New Mapoon**, retaining its original name in 'Mandignou Apudthama Apang' (Gudang language, New Mapoon Family Place), the new All Abilities Playground.

Red Island Point is **Seisia** with Red Island located across from Seisia Jetty, the area was known as Ithunji (in Ikya language).

Each of the original tribal groups from the areas may have had different names for these places.



The NPA in 2011 has children playing on the roads as they have done around the world long before the arrival of the motorcar, where dogs sleep in the middle of the roads and not even blink an eyelid at approaching cars, where horses roam and coucals glide, the scrub turkeys dice their chances, the yellow crested and palm cockatoos screech and the olive-backed sunbirds dance on the twigs.

This is not the case in many other places, but it is here, life in the NPA, and similar across the Torres Strait.

Cape York is also the name of a place in Alaska with no roads (near Chicken) and a place in Greenland (Melville Bay).

its confines and also for the many requests to be added to the email list.

As one of the smallest papers in the country, with a local circulation of 600, a few are nevertheless read in places far from here, from T.I. to Mer, NT, PNG, NZ, Cairns, Europe, China to Canada and perhaps others.

It has been a great honour and privilege to live and work amongst you, to be part of your joy, your happiness, sadness, sorrow and pain. For the last 2 ½ years NPA was home, as it has become to so many others.

All the best for the future.

Yawo, Heinz



NPA Airport siege over

These are the 'it's all over now' pictures from NPA Airport (9th Dec, 2011). Senior Constable, Ms Amy Sherwood, is leading the man from the terminal. He was immediately released after these pictures were taken.



The Emergency Response exercise played out the following scenario: An unknown person arrives at the airport demanding a ticket to Cairns. Skytrans representative, Mr Adam Davies, refuses the demand, with good reason. An argument develops and Mr Davies is taken hostage. The unknown person is equipped with a hand grenade, two handguns, an automatic weapon, a wired box with attached alarm clock and a wired device with a trigger.

Mr Blondie Mills raises the alarm. All the details above are unknown to the arriving police. All they know is that shots have been fired, a fire is in front of the terminal and 'something' is going on there.



The aftermath: Two innocent bystanders are shot and a 3rd person suffered fatal injuries (THIS IS NOT REAL, it is just the scenario played out. None of the weapons were real, all were toys).



Mr A. Davies (left), the 'hostage' in the unfolding drama. The scene at the airport (right).



Observer Mr Keith Tonkin (Aviation Projects) taking notes during the exercise, to be addressed during the final debrief.

The exercise raised a number of questions: How could the injured be taken care of, how would the area be secured, what would it take to free the hostage, which roads would be cut, where would the next incoming flight land, what if there was a plane on the ground, communications issues at the airport, police, ambulance and fire brigade response times and much more.



Police and Ambulance arrive at the airport.

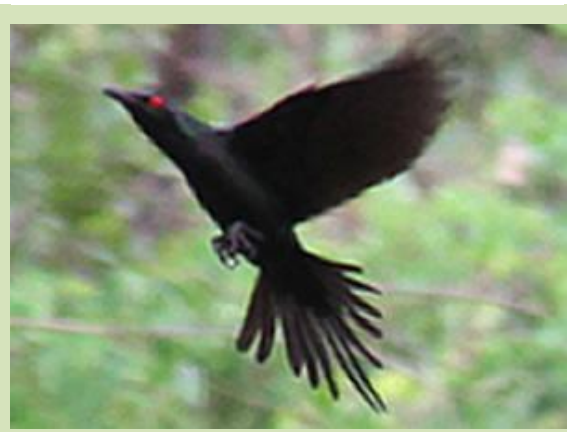
The fire in front of the terminal.



Red Island, viewed from Loyalty Beach.



Above: Alau Beach, Umagico. Below, Birds from Lockerbie.



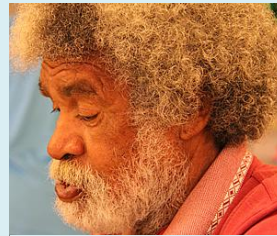
Break-up day at HACC

14th Dec, 2011 is when HACC held its break-up day and Christmas party.

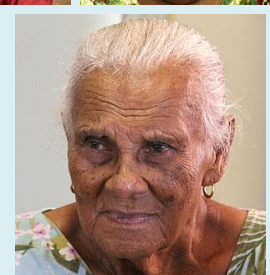
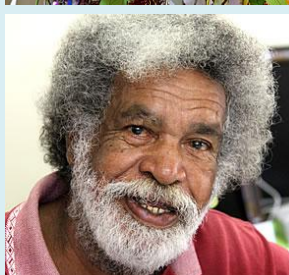
'Who has number 31? A three and a one, 31. Who has 42, a four and a two, no? Number 9, nine on its own, anyone?'



'Number 47, a four and a seven, anyone? Number 3, three on its own, number three.'



Time before lunch is filled with a couple of games of bingo.





at my birth I was given
a body, all my own
and from that day until today
my body is my home
each time I tried to leave it
through drinks and self-abuse,
one look into the mirror
told me, 'it is no use'
now I accept my home as I
it's all I've got that's mine

instead of smashing all its walls
I make its windows shine
I coat the outside thick with paint
the colour's name is health
for it protects the outer shell
and promises me wealth
the inside holds my treasures
that I have come to see
the things I've learned,
the things I know,
the things that make me me

in this, my home, my body,
I'll stay for my whole life
to watch 200 seasons change
before I realise ...

the gift of life so precious
the gift of health so rare
the joy to see another day
the fun to see my children play
the dream I'm living every day
could all have been short lived
had I not changed my ways



Injinoo Service Station gets new facelift, thanks to Mr Richard McLean with the help of local youths.

This project was sponsored by 'Which way? Our Way' and NPA Regional Council.



Wet season traffic management strategy 2011-12 - Peninsula Developmental Road

From 14 December 2011, local residents of Cape York Peninsula will be able to apply for a wet season road use permit from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. This permit, available exclusively to local residents, will allow the holder to continue using the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) throughout the wet season, even after it is closed to through traffic, subject to certain conditions.

Why has the system changed?

The new permit system has been developed in consultation with local road users following a departmental commitment to improve the wet season traffic management strategy on the PDR. The system is designed to offer more flexibility to the people who are most familiar with local conditions.

What is different under the new system?

Previously, when the PDR was closed to through traffic, local motorists needed separate permits for each trip they made. Under the new system, local residents may have access to a longer-term permit, which will allow multiple trips on the road throughout the closure period.

What are the permit conditions?

Safety remains the department's foremost priority, and every applicant will have to comply with strict safety conditions, including vehicle type and weight restrictions, before their application can be considered. The department and Queensland Police Service will also retain the authority to override access permits if the road is deemed unsafe to drive. A full list of conditions is available on the permit application form.

Is the permit valid for all Cape York roads?

The permit is limited to the state-controlled PDR, and is not valid for travel on any roads under the jurisdiction of Cook Shire Council or other local governments.

For more information about the new permit system, or to obtain a permit application form, please contact Mr David Hamilton, Road Operations Manager in Cairns, on 4050 5406. Mr Hamilton will be pleased to assist.

Fax: (07) 4050 5443, **Phone:** (07) 4050 5406

Post: Department of Transport and Main Roads
Att: David Hamilton, PO Box 6185, Cairns 4870

Email: CAID_TMC@tmr.qld.gov.au



What are you doing, dear?

I'm playing with a heap of sand. I have four grains in total.

What can you do with that?

I could try to build a pyramid. I already did the smallest tower in the world with two grains of sand, each on top of each other.

That's impossible.

It's not, I did it. Have a look.

Where is it?

Now you've done it, mum, you put your sandwich on top of my tower.

Sorry, dear, I was just wondering how the grain at the bottom can also be on top of the grain at the top.

Just turn your sandwich over and you'll see the proof.



Between Bamaga and Pajinka.



Are there many termites in this place?

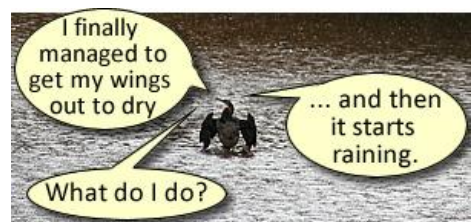
I've never seen one.

Near Seisia, at Loyalty Beach turn-off.



It's raining.

It's OK, we brought umbrellas.



I finally managed to get my wings out to dry

... and then it starts raining.

What do I do?



Many moons ago it felt like this...

...what did we call it?

Wet.



...and we did something, what was it?

We all put new clothing on, green.

Just a few hours of rain and life returns.



Mum, when I grow up I need about a 30 x 24 cm spot to stand on. If I wanted to visit every spot in the country how many spots would I find?

In this kitchen you'd find 166.66 spots. In this house you'd find 1,388.88 spots. All over the country you'd find 177,607,750,400 spots.

...and how many spots all over the world?

About 18 times more.

If I run day and night for the next 80 years I need to cover 820 spots in every second to see it all.

Better have some breakfast, dear, so your feet grow bigger, then it won't take that long, and you'll need some good shoes.



Next total eclipse of the sun: A date to mark in the calendar for 2012 is 13/14th Nov, the next total eclipse of the sun, visible from northern parts of Australia, including Cape York. For more info see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_eclipse_of_November_13,_2012



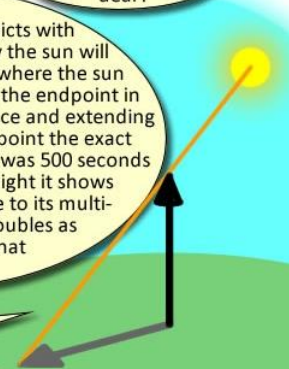
'Happy family' nesting in Lockerbie.

Mum, I'm working on a high-precision, multifunctional, solar-powered sun-path indicator that can predict the future and recall the past.

How does it work, dear?

The shadow it casts on the ground predicts with pinpoint accuracy which way the sun will go. In the afternoon it shows where the sun came from. Drawing a line from the endpoint in the shade over the top of the device and extending it all the way to the sun will pinpoint the exact centre point of the sun, where it was 500 seconds ago. It's fully automatic. At night it shows where the sun is not and due to its multifunctional capabilities doubles as a moon tracker. What shall we call it?

Just call it 'Stick in the Ground'.



Seisia Beach sunset, from near the Fishing Club.