

NPA NEWS



Volunteer Emergency Services
pg. 2-3

NPA Ten Year Plan into Action
pg. 7

TO Languages on the path to revival
pg. 12

TO's Say Hunters Need to be Held Accountable pg 4.

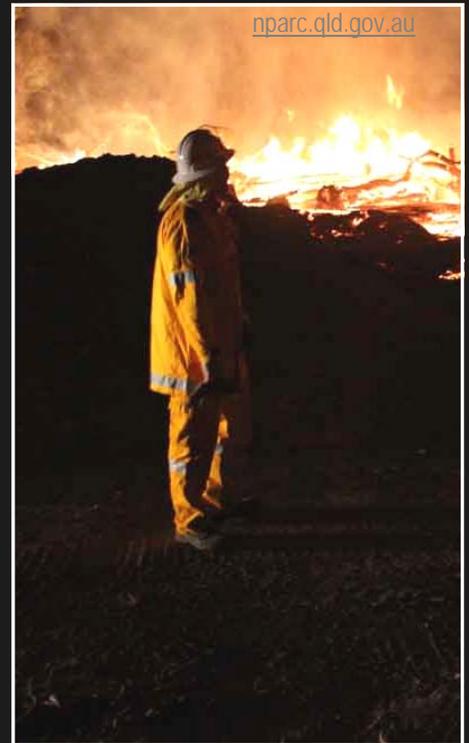
Grandparents Day Celebration
pg.10-11

**NPARC Christmas Closedown—
what you need to know...pg. 18**

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



NPA SES attend a fire near homes in Injinoo



Injinoo subdivision, Snake Gully

This month we extend our best wishes to two of our works team, Uncle Fred Williams and Uncle Francis Elu.

Uncle Fred started work with local council in 1994, almost 20 years ago, working under Alban Yusia (Bab Mau) for Bamaga Island Council.

During his working life as a dozer driver, Fred helped to clear land for development, create house pads in the 'steel building' days and develop roads across the NPA region.

Fred is known for being a reliable workers, always on time and skilled across a range of machinery. Thanks for your hard work Uncle Fred.

Farewells

We also wave farewell to another works team member, Uncle Francis Elu, who has been with local council since 1999.

Francis began working on the roads gang under the guidance of Johnny Yusia and Johnny Bond before rising to the rank of Roads Supervisor.

Here he supervised major road development, construction and maintenance across the NPA, laying the first bitumen in the region.

Francis is known amongst friends as being a role model for his family and community. Thanks for your years of service, all the best.

We also extend best wishes to our Director of Finance Annette King and to Chris Williams, Director of Corporate Services.

Annette was with the NAPRC team for 3 years, and Chris for 3 months. Thank you both for all your hard work and dedication.

NPA VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES

Like the siren of an ambulance or fire truck, the SES orange uniform is instantly recognisable. It's associated with emergency or disaster, but it's also associated with hope.

It is the sign that help is on the way.

During the past year, NPA SES volunteers have responded to emergencies threatening the lives of residents and visitors across the region.

Working with QLD Police and QLD Ambulance, the quick response and action of these volunteers has saved lives.

This year our local SES Unit was recognised for their efforts, being named Northern Region Unit of the Year.

"I'd like to thank each of our volunteers for the service they have provided in keeping our region safe," said Mayor Charlie, presenting the NPA SES Unit with their award.

NPA SES Coordinator Peter Kelly was also named Member of the year for his outstanding work in facilitating unit training, coordinating emergency responses and in assisting the recent development of the NPA Disaster Management Plan.

The NPA SES Unit has this year expanded significantly, growing in both numbers and skills. Unit volunteers have completed training in rural fire fighting, remote helicopter evacuation assistance and road crash training.

"Pete has been the driving force behind this unit," said Deputy Mayor Newman, "as a region we have benefited greatly from his knowledge and expertise in training up our local response unit."

"We have a really great team," NPA SES Unit Coordinator Pete Kelly said, "their dedication is the backbone of our success. Them turning up to training, completing the courses and being on call for emergencies— that's what really makes this unit work."

"It's been quite a year for Queensland, from bushfires to fires and floods," Mr Kelly said, "and at each occasion, SES and Emergency services have responded admirably and saved many lives. To even be nominated for this award within our state is a great honor, and a testimony to our volunteers."

The presentation took place at the NPA Volunteer Emergencies Services Shed in Seisia, with Mayor Charlie and NPA Councillors showing their appreciation by wearing the bright orange of the SES.

During SES Appreciation Week (November 12th-18th), many NPA residents showed their support by wearing the SES Orange.

If you wish to join the NPA SES Unit, just head along to one of their training days— alternating Saturday morning 8am-12noon and Tuesday evenings 6pm-8pm at the Seisia



L-R) Adam Frew, Councillor Dennis Getawan, Trent Kirk, Katie Tatnell, Councillor Anthony Mara, Xavier Barker, NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie, Chinelle Ormsby, Councillor Benjamin Gebadi, NPA SES Coordinator Peter Kelly, Timothy Jordan, NPA Deputy mayor Edward Newman, Aaron Kerley, and Scott Aldred.

“Shameful Practice”

This hunter has gone against the ways of traditional hunting, ”

During a routine training exercise through the back roads of Bamaga, the last thing NPA Rangers expected to find was the rotting body of a juvenile sea turtle.

Rangers stumbled across the carcass which had been dumped the previous night, still with the spear head in the shell.

“You can tell these were not expert hunters,” said Traditional Owner and NPA Ranger Dale Salee, “because when they speared the turtle, they punctured the lung, which is why he died and went to waste. This is wrong from all aspects– they were hunting a juvenile turtle, using the wrong spear and let it go to waste. They should have cut it up straight away to feed their family, not let it spoil.”

“It’s not right,” said Senior Ranger Christopher Lifu, after Rangers had properly disposed of the carcass, “this turtle was too small and should not have been hunted in the first place. This turtle could have benefited future generations for a celebration, but now it has been wasted.”

Traditional hunters in the NPA are hunters of turtle and dugong. Their right to traditional practice is passed on through bloodlines, a tie to ancestors and traditional customs. They are known for their skill, precision and respect for culture.

Unfortunately, due to the actions of a minority of hunters, such as this, NPA hunters are now also becoming known for their slaughter of sacred animals and disrespect for cultural lore.

“It’s a shameful practice to hunt a juvenile,” said Ranger Dale Salee, “this turtle has been speared by local hunters who should know better. This hunter has gone against the ways of traditional hunting.”

Not only have the hunters gone against traditional and cultural lore, but they have hunted an endangered animal purely for sport.

“This is greed and waste. One turtle is enough to feed two households,” Traditional Owner and Elder Meun Lifu said, “too many hunters are getting greedy and taking more than is their fair share. We need to make sure there is turtle and dugong for future generations.”

“It might only be a minority, but their actions are tainting the reputation of all hunters,” said Councillor Edward Newman, “if new restrictions are imposed in response to this, well they only have themselves to blame.”

Following the recent discovery of a mass slaughter of dugong near Escape river, Traditional Owners have instated hunting regulations applying to all hunters in the region. Only weeks after the regulations were imposed, this full carcass of a juvenile turtle was found dumped on the roadside. Traditional Owners have raised their concerns that this behaviour could have serious repercussions for other hunters who are following cultural lore and abiding by the new permit system.

“We all will get the blame for this act,” said Traditional Owner Robert Salee, “even those who are doing the right thing will have to struggle to fight for their traditional rights.”



Rangers record the GPS position of the carcass on iTracker



Carcasses should not be dumped on the roadside, there are facilities available at the regional dump





Bringing A New Edge to Old Yarns

For years Indigenous artists from Mainland Australia and the Torres Strait have been expanding their artistic horizons, exploring new mediums to share the oldest of stories.

Lino Printing is one such technique which has seen the easy transfer of indigenous design and symbol to print.

Printing artists Hannah Parker and Liz Hunter returned to the NPA in November to continue lino and screen printing tutoring with NPA Arts workers and community artists.

On a visit to the Injinoo Youth Centre, our youths let their natural talent shine, creating beautiful designs through what was for most, their first time lino carving.

Many other youths took full advantage of the workshops, visiting the arts centre to take part, under the guidance of NPA Arts workers.

“We are always looking for new ways to tell our cultural stories,” said NPA Arts Worker Brett Aniba, “our fathers and grandfathers traditionally used water colour for their artworks, but we want to find new methods to keep the stories alive and make them proud.”

NPARC would like to extend a heartfelt thankyou to Djumbunji Press, who have recently donated a large press to the NPA Arts Centre, which will be installed and aligned in the coming months.



Pictured: Joshua Sebasio, James Townsend, Ephraim Gebadi, Lui Gebadi and Tanisha Solomon

Red Dust Healing

There is a common belief that the things worth fighting for won't come easy, but this doesn't mean that the people most valuable to you are worth fighting with.

Red Dust Healing is a program founded by Tom Powell, and further developed by partner Randal Ross to bring healing and understanding to indigenous communities.

“We look at our actions and emotions from a root cause level,” said Mr Ross at the NPA White Ribbon Pledge Day, “from our history as indigenous people, to our family life and support and even our own social actions.”

Red Dust Healing teaches men and women to understand where they have come from, and how this may impact on the way they see the world today.

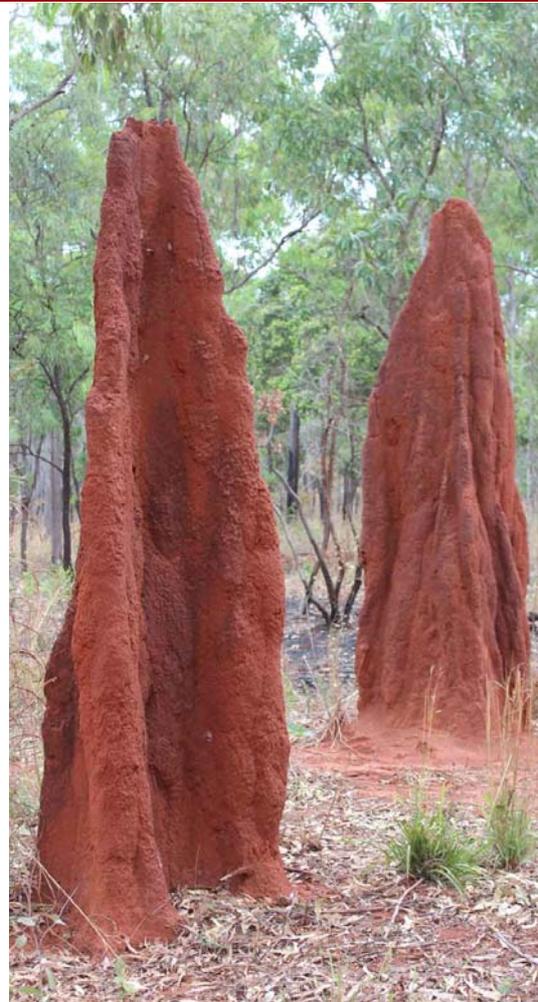
“We go right back to the first white settlers, and look at Indigenous Australia as an identity,” Mr Ross

said. “We look at rejection from the very first rejection of our native title, and throughout history and especially how this has shaped the way that men see themselves in today's society.”

The program seeks to aide health in indigenous communities through exploring mental and physical well being— bringing everything back to the root cause of behaviour— whether it be a cultural cause, historical, family or individual.

With a proper understanding of the cause and effect of emotions, participants can begin to take ownership of their past and their actions. They can start to look at their own role in society or in the family and they can choose to make positive change.

Over the past few months, twelve participants from the NPA and Torres Strait area have participated in the three day program.





L-R) Jeff Hartley, Shirley Nawakie, Eleanor Mara, Leandra Newman, Mary Yoelu, Tahirah Christian, Janette Harness, Annette Tranent, Gina Peter, Roxanne Amey, Gloria Babia, Beau Nawakie—aka the financial gurus

Bamaga Office– Finance and Executive Staff

Fantastic Finance

There are many hats work by the NPARC family, from development and maintenance to environmental services, arts and craft to administration and more... but without our finance team backing us the whole way, we wouldn't make it through a day.

These are the faces behind the finance, processing orders and requisitions to keep us fueled, stocked and ready. So this month we would like to say a big thanks to the fantastic finance team, for all their hard work.

Based in the Bamaga Office, they cover all finance for NPARC activity throughout the NPA. It's a maze of paperwork and inboxes inside the office, each printed requisition making it's way from outer offices, through the labyrinth and back again to allow the NPARC wheels to keep turning.

Excellent Executives

The other behind-the-scenes-wonders of our Bamaga Office are our Executive Staff and Elected Representatives. Deputy CEO Danny Sebasio and Executive Secretary Esme Newman are two Bamaga Office wonder workers with their fingers on the pulse of NPARC activity.

There is little that goes on that these two haven't had a hand in enabling, from council meetings to actions. Through the past months our executive team have stepped up to the challenge of operating in between CEO's and they deserve a pat on the back for their truly fantastic efforts.



“With respect and pride we build a future for our children based on unity, equitable self governance, education and culture.”



It may have looked to passers-by, like a collection of community leaders, elders and traditional owners were standing on the front lawn of the New Mapoon Office, throwing a soft toy at one another. Well they were, but it is the meaning behind this, and other activities and discussions held during a three day workshop this month, that lead to the creation of the region’s Ten Year Plan.

What these activities did was to take away personal barriers, to let their guard down so that they could each put aside their own agendas and work together on one equal level. Al too often within our region we find ourselves juggling hats for work, personal life, and more, loosing sight of ourselves simply as members of the community.

Across the three days of discussion, networking and deliberation, nearly 50 leaders from our region took the data and comments made by community members from the past few months and compiled it into ten succinct priorities. These were then places along a timeline, from those that can be implemented immediately, and those which will require more time.

“I attended every day, arriving early and staying late because I believe that this is a plan that belongs to me and my people, this is ours and we will make it work.” -Uncle Shorty

To all community members who have had a hand in this plan’s creation, thank you for your effort and for donating your time.

“with respect and pride we build a future for our children based on unity, equitable self governance, education and culture”

This vision began at the community grassroots level, capturing the voice of our united region. The detailed plan and report will be submitted to our elected council early December. From there the way forward lies with each of us individually, and as a region.



Classes to Kick it

Qualified kick boxing instructors Drew and Caroline focus on technique, fitness and strength; with a workout sure to leave your muscles burning.

“We have most of our participants graded now,” said Caroline “based on their knowledge of the moves as well as fitness and technique.”

The classes have been a real hit with kids, mens and ladies classes held twice weekly, participants alternating between holding pads and boxing.

Though they aren't only teaching offense, Drew has also began teaching self defense techniques at the end of some sessions.

“There was a lot of interest in how you might use these moves in self defense, so we have ordered some rubber knives, and hope to get into defense next year,” said Drew.

Kickboxing returns early 2013.

Drew Dibden and Caroline Thlang are sponsored by NPAWS to provide bi-weekly kickboxing and self defense classes



A Bit of Cool Air

Every now and again there is someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty to help out a friend, a workmate or just to make someone else's life easier.

This month we'd like to thank Ian Milne from Ingwe Thermal tech, for his tremendous effort in installing working air con's to New Mapoon Hall. Ian literally worked day and night to get the system up and running with just hours to spare before the three day workshop began. No doubt his effort to ensure the comfort of those involved started a wave of good energy that continued on through the workshop.

Thanks mate, excellent work.
You can contact Ian on 0404 809 406.



Bamaga Childcare's new building being delivered



Jacob St, Bamaga

Equal Employment

CDEP opportunities and women in the workforce

Gone are the days when the workers blue and orange uniform was reserved for men. Stereotypical gender roles are no longer a boundary for employment or training, with both men and women filling roles previously allocated to a specific gender.

In other words, the ladies aren't kept in the kitchen and the men aren't kept in the field, it's an equal playing field out there nowadays. Within the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP), both men and women are tapping into a rich resource, helping them to up skill and find employment.

The current training and career path opportunities offered by CDEP, as well as funded positions through local service providers including hospitality training, arts and craft and childcare are already being accessed by many men and women participants.

"We are always open to ideas for people wishing to train through CDEP," said CDEP Coordinator Alex Barker, "there are many business opportunities that still haven't been launched in our region; a hairdresser for example."

"If we aren't currently offering the training that you are interested in, come and see us," said CDEP Mentor Michael Bond, "we'll help you find a way to get the training you need to get the job you want."

"If people are passionate about their job and their position, they will work harder and be happier doing it," Mr Bond said, "so we try to help everyone find a role they enjoy."

Mr Barker also explained CDEP's strong training links with Rio Tinto Alcan, to assist NPA residents to find employment within the QD mining industry.

"We do regular course in heavy machinery, in fact we are currently putting through another round of participants to get their tickets," Mr Barker said. "We encourage women to apply for these courses, because often in mining companies, they prefer to hire women to drive the machinery."

Last year, CDEP ran a Work readiness Program aimed at women participants, designed to discover what roles and training women were seeking in the NPA. This data was used to determine training areas to be included in the current year.

"One thing I've learned," said Mr Barker, "is to never tell a woman what to do!"

If you need a hand in acquiring the skills you need to achieve the role you want, contact one of our CDEP mentors at the NPARC Seisia Office.

The CDEP Department would also like to congratulate Jackson Nawie this month (pictured below), who has shown outstanding work ethic and leadership.

"Jackson was promoted to the position of CDEP Mentor earlier this year," said Mr Bond, "and since then he has excelled through the training courses and has recently been made a CDEP Supervisor. he is now operating with his own gang, on a range of jobs across the region. He has completed his heavy machinery operation training, backhoe and skid steer (bobcat) training as well. It's great to see someone really succeed and take the opportunities we provide, to build their career and future upon."

L-R) Michael Bond, Alan Bond, Marlene Bond, Nancy Paii, Soraya Daniels and Jackson Nawie (not pictured Tom Phineasa)



Here's to our Grandparents, Raising a Community

Each year we celebrate Mothers day, Fathers Day and as we all know, every day is children's day– but this year is the first that residents of the NPA have come together to acknowledge their grandparents.

“Our grandparents play an important role in our communities,” said NPARC Community Services Manager Nandy Nona, “They raise our parents and help to raise us, and our own children.”

On Sunday the 18th, NPARC Community Services provided activities and kai kai for families wishing to spend the afternoon at the Bamaga Pool.



A big thank you to NPARC Community Services Team, and to the day's volunteers.

One lucky aka even got the chance to give a shout out to her grandchildren on Yorke Island, who were unable to celebrate the day with her. Grandmother Susan Kennedy sent her love across the islands, in an interview on 4MW, Torres Radio.

This year is the first time Grandparents Day has been celebrated within the NPA or Torres Strait, the new event attended by families from across the five communities.

“ Our grandparents not only raise us, but our children too, ”

Aka Josephine Lifu (pictured below with her grandchildren and great grandchildren) is a living testimony to the love, dedication and hard work our grandparents give to our families and communities.

Aka Josephine's grandchildren stood with her for the Biggest family portrait of the day, but there were many other grandparents in the spotlight. It's a day to recognise all grandparents and say a big esso.





Grandparents Day 2012



Fighting to revive their language



Their culture and their language unite them, as does their wish to keep it strong. During a workshop held by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) last month, several members of Apudthama clans recognized the need for action to revive their languages, and they formed the *Apudthama Ikyā Language and Culture Committee*.



AIATSIS Linguist, Kazuko Obata, facilitated the meetings, assisting community members in identifying how indigenous languages are used within their communities and what they wish to do with language and culture. As it turned out, the community members who participated in the workshop were members of Apudthama clans, and recognized that though their ancestors were the initial inhabitants of the NPA region, and they are the traditional owners, they are using foreign languages such as creole, English and various Torres Strait Islander Languages more than their own.



“We are the Traditional Owners of this land, yet we don’t even speak our own languages,” said Injinoo IKC Coordinator Sandra Sebasio, “our language is like a stagnant pool, drying in the sun. It is still there for now, but it’s not running. We need to let it flow through our communities.”

“There were some elders who used to speak language fluently,” Mrs Sebasio said, “but we have lost many of them. We need to start learning, teaching and recording our languages to revive them.”

Though there are many languages spoken within the communities of the NPA, the languages of the Apudthama clan groups were recognized as those most in need of support for revival.

Along with AIATSIS’s Kazuko Obata, they created an action plan and began to put it into motion. The committee will initiate language recordings, resource and access existing material, work to bring language and cultural activities back into community life.

During the two day workshop, the committee received confirmation of support from NPARC, AIATSIS, NPA College Injinoo Campus and the Apudthama Land Trust.

They would like to extend an invitation to all Apudthama people to join the committee and help to keep their language strong.

Current Members: Meun Lifu, Roy Solomon, Richard Woosup, Solomon Woosup, Bethina McDonnell, Sandra Sebasio, Cecillia Ropeyarn and George Williams.

Contact Sandra Sebasio at Injinoo IKC for more information.



Our new safety representatives (L-R). Beau Nawakie, Billy Daniel, Thomas Serubi, Tim Tamwoy, Levi Tom and Chris Jawai with NPARC WHSO Glen Murray, Mayor Bernard Charlie and Councillor Edward Newman. (Not Pictured) Ronald Atu, Wagel Tapau and Nandy Nona.

Safety Committee Established

NPARC workers have now stepped up to the role of Health and Safety Representatives for their workplaces, making up the core of the NPARC Health and Safety Committee.

Their role will be to ensure that workplace health and safety standards are met and maintained, report any breaches or concerns to our Health and Safety Officer.

The new committee members completed a five day course in November, covering QLD Workplace Health, Safety Act and Regulations 2011 and Safety Management Systems and were presented with their certificates by Mayor Bernard Charlie and Councillor Edward Newman.

Mayor Charlie thanked our participants, saying they would be supported by Council as well as NPA Elected Representatives in their new roles.



Taipans Train Local Referees

As indoor sports begin to take the lead in the NPA, basketball players take some referee advice. Organised by Skytrans and Cape PCYC, representatives from the Skytrans Taipans travelled to the Region to host a Level 1 Referee Course.

“There is definitely a lot of natural skill here,” said Skytrans Taipans player Kerry Williams after watching some local players, “and we can help with getting the technical side of things.”

The course participants learned techniques from how to manage players on the court to technical fouls to watch for and how to signal to the scoreboard. NPA Hoops just reached a new level.



A centre for knowledge, a centre for creativity **IKC News**

This month our IKC's have been a riot of colour and creativity; with scrapbooking in Injinoo, training in New Mapoon and screen printing at Seisia.

Injinoo youths supported Grandparents Day Celebrations by making their own scrapbook about the grandparents of Injinoo.

They wrote and illustrated stories about the Athes and Aka's, to be bound in a book for display in their community's IKC.

Our local knowledge Centers are a rich source of local knowledge, from both young and old, and one day these stories will be looked back on by younger generations.

Over at New Mapoon IKC NPA residents were taking advantage of free computer training, hosted by our lovely new SLQ Regional representative, Victoria Carless. Through developing even basic computer literacy skills they will have access to many opportunities.

In Seisia IKC, local youths were learning how to screen print, guided by NPA Arts Workers Vincent Babia and Brett Aniba.

The youths created their own designs and in their enthusiasm, printed the shirts right off their backs. Vincent and Brett will be holding weekly art tutorial at the Seisia IKC. So if you're looking for something to do, head down to your IKC and see what's on.



Micro Business Course

Got plans for the business world but don't know where to start? This month several NPA residents were given a taste of the business world, and what it takes to make it.

They completed a three day short course, filling in expressions of interest to study business at TAFE. Rather than jumping into the course without any fore-knowledge, this course allows participants to understand what is in store if they do enrol in a TAFE Course.

Upon completion of the full course, they will have created their own unique business plan and be ready to put it into action!

Thanks to NPA Mensheds and TAFE Nth QLD for organising the micro-course.



Bio-security's Front Line in Northern Australia.

Twice a year Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry workers from across Northern Australia come together to discuss current issues, threats and strategies.

“We have three main areas of work,” said Northern regional Manager Robert Langlands, “to monitor borders and prevent threats crossing between Zones, maintaining integrity of each Zone and finally, public awareness.”

If you've ever travelled outside of Australia, you'll recall being asked upon your return, to declare any food, plant material or soil.

What you may not have realized is the enormous threat to our nation that could potentially be walked into the country on the sole of your shoes.

“Worst case scenario? The soil could carry pests of disease, for example foot and mouth disease. If that was introduced to our environment it could devastate the Australian Beef Industry and you could be jailed,” Mr Langlands explains.

The Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) is a DAFF program covering all of North Australia, from Broome in WA to Townsville, QLD.

There are three quarantine offices based in the Torres Strait and Cape York region, due to the region's likelihood of a Bio-security risk.

The islands within the Torres Strait may act as pathway for exotic weeds, pest or disease to enter mainland Australia. NAQS are

responsible for undertaking surveillance within this region. DAFF scientists regularly sample sites across Northern Australia, and conduct monitoring activities in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and East Timor, to gain early notice of any threats in our surrounding areas.

Their constant vigilance is the front line of defense, protecting Australia from bio-security risks that could devastate our ecosystem if introduced.

Please report any suspicious weeds, exotic pests or diseases to DAFF on 1800 020 504.



Umagico Office Staff: (L-R) Chelsy Gaskel, Laka Hayden, Boney, Keas Blarrey and Blondie Mills (not pictured: Geoff Rintoul)



LDI Intersection upgrade in Bamaga.

LDI Constructions began work in Bamaga in November 2012. They have been carrying out sewer cleaning and CCTV camera work in all NPA communities, including refurbishment of sewer manholes and pump stations and upgrade work to the Lui/ Sagaukas st intersection in Bamaga.

Early December, LDI began kerbing and drainage work in Seisia Community. Thankyou to all NPA Residents for your patience regarding road closures.



They came, they trained, they conquered. NPA sports fans eat your heart out, these courts are on fire.



A big esso to players, volunteers and NPARC Events for making these comps a success.

The Key to Hassle Free Tenancy

What you need to know about social housing

Here's the big picture...

The NPA Regional Council services our five beautiful communities, which since amalgamation come under a regional banner for local government.

These communities are built upon traditionally owned land, meaning NPARC operates upon a DOGIT (or Deed Of Grant In Trust), with the elected Mayor and Councillors acting as spokespersons on behalf of their communities, nominated as the 'Trustees of the Land'.

In return, NPARC have to offer certain community services; including roads, communications, waste removal, housing and more.

So here's where we get to social housing. One of the services NPARC provides on DOGIT land is rental housing. As the homes are built on traditionally owned land, they cannot be sold or 'owned' by the tenant. Therefore, NPARC must rent social housing. In return for utilizing these homes, tenants must pay rent. This pays for the maintenance and general upkeep of the home, which NPARC provides when needed.

This includes electrical or plumbing work, right down to general wear and tear within the residency. Tenants' will be held responsible for all 'tenant damage' other than general wear and tear over time.

There are some changes in the near future for NPARC housing, but we will keep you notified so that we are all on board.

As of January 2013, ALL RESIDENTS of social housing will be required to call the Department of Communities Housing Call Centre directly to report any maintenance requirements.

NPARC Social Housing will continue to assist only those residents without literacy or numeracy skills, who are unable to contact the centre themselves,

When you do call, please have the following information ready:

- Your Community Name
- Name of Head Tennant (the name on the lease)
- Street address of residency requiring maintenance
- What area of maintenance is required (eg electrical/ gas/ carpentry/ plumbing etc)

The call centre will then prioritise your request depending on tenant safety and urgency of the repairs and respond as quickly as possible.

You can contact the call centre any day, any hour on 1300 738 616

NPARC Social Housing request all tenants please try to look after their homes to save time and resources for emergency or urgent repairs.

Tenants and occupants of Social housing are strictly not allowed to carry out DIY home maintenance, please contact Housing Call Centre to submit maintenance requirements.

On Saturday 24th November 2012, Tourism stakeholders of the NPA celebrated the launch of the first Cape York Local Tourism Organisation (LTO).

Until now, tourism operators within the Cape have been acting independently to advertise and apply for funding.

With the creation of the Cape York LTO, registered tourism operators within the Cape have the opportunity to work together with regional operators.

The Cape York LTO will be supported by Regional Councils and Cape York Sustainable Future's. The first goal for the CY LTO is to launch a tourism info website tourismcapeyork.com And build upon existing promotional material.

One of the many benefits of having an established LTO is the region's potential to be involved in tourism events such as camping and fishing exhibitions.

The Cape York LTO hope to increase sustainable tourism within the region to promote the region and it's culture and build local tourism economies.

While the NPA itself does not have a registered Local Tourism Organisation, many local operators are a part of the regional Cape York LTO, benefiting from the region itself as a tourism destination.





Emergency Training Exercise

A big esso to NPA Airport Manager Ben Poulton, NPA SES volunteers, QLD Police, QLD Ambulance and all our deadly actors from NPARC for making this training exercise a success.

On Friday December 7th, NPA Emergency Services responded to a simulated emergency situation at NPA Airport. In a training exercise, Airport Manager Ben Poulton was contacted by the 'aircraft' (a bus) to make an emergency landing at the NPA Airport due to a fire on board. On board were NPA's finest actors, playing the roles of passengers.

The plane was met on the runway by SES, Ambulance and Police, who carried out a joint response procedure, tending to injured passengers and controlling the fire on board.

The training exercise is mandatory to maintain compliance with Civil Aviation Standards, but also allowed emergency response units to work together in a safe environment and identify any areas which can be improved on.

"The exercise went really well," said Constable Brohny Cook of Bamaga Police, "we were able to get everyone off without incident and communicated well."



Counting Paws in our Communities

NPARC Animal Management have been trawling the streets of the NPA over the past weeks, compiling data for an animal census to determine exactly how many cats and dogs are actually living within each community.

The results for 2012 are as follows:

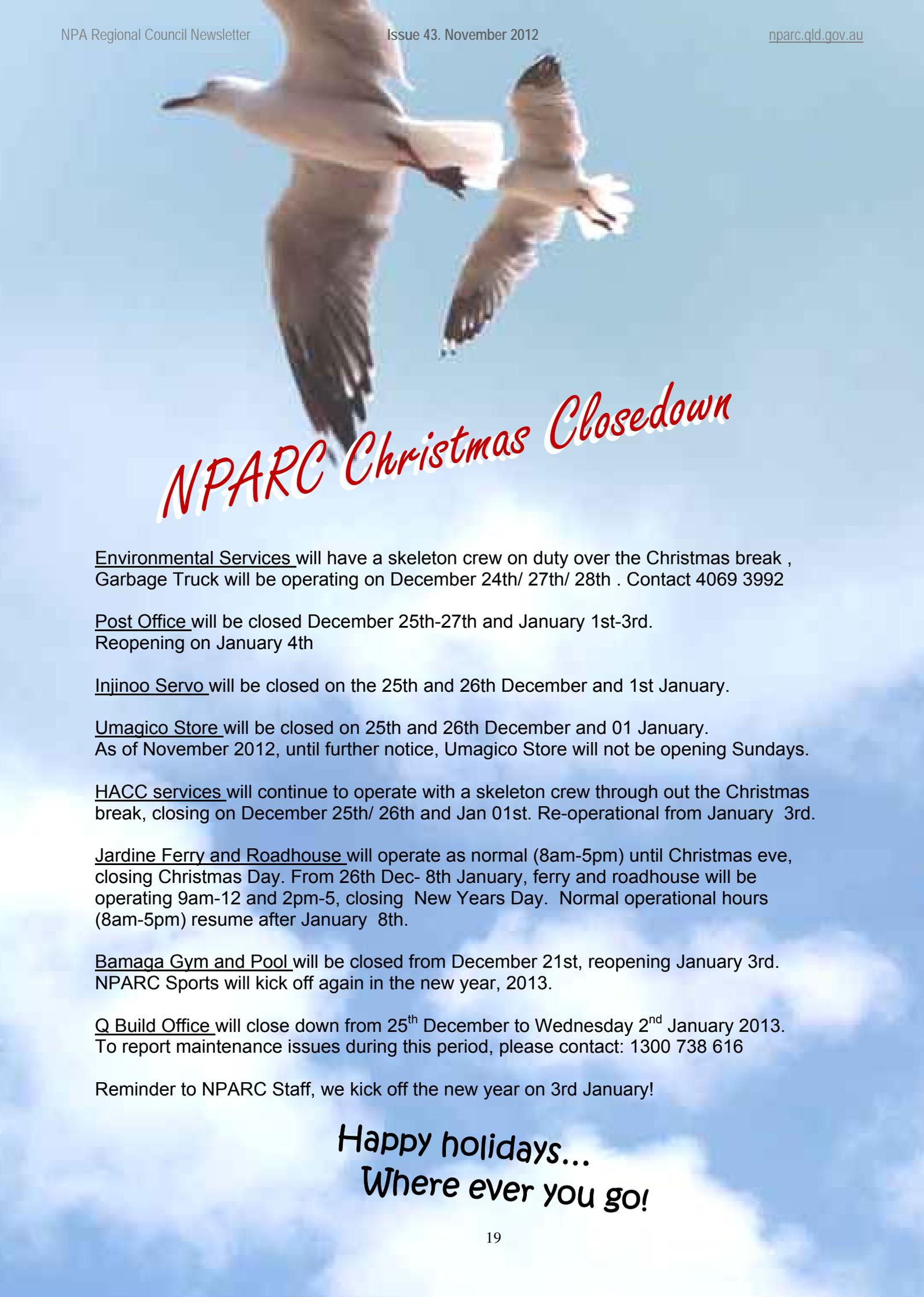
- Injinoo: 119 animals
- Bamaga: 85 animals
- Seisia: 36 animals
- Umagico: 56 animals
- New Mapoon: 68 animals

Animal management will begin an eradication program early next year, running from January to February. They hope to eradicate the majority of sick or stray animals, to increase public health and safety.

They will then implement a community education program, focusing on diseases, parasites and illnesses that can result from stray or unwell animals in communities, as well as proper animal care.

Remember: All animals in the NPA must be registered with the local council and properly cared for.





NPARC Christmas Closedown

Environmental Services will have a skeleton crew on duty over the Christmas break , Garbage Truck will be operating on December 24th/ 27th/ 28th . Contact 4069 3992

Post Office will be closed December 25th-27th and January 1st-3rd.
Reopening on January 4th

Injinoo Servo will be closed on the 25th and 26th December and 1st January.

Umagico Store will be closed on 25th and 26th December and 01 January.
As of November 2012, until further notice, Umagico Store will not be opening Sundays.

HACC services will continue to operate with a skeleton crew through out the Christmas break, closing on December 25th/ 26th and Jan 01st. Re-operational from January 3rd.

Jardine Ferry and Roadhouse will operate as normal (8am-5pm) until Christmas eve, closing Christmas Day. From 26th Dec- 8th January, ferry and roadhouse will be operating 9am-12 and 2pm-5, closing New Years Day. Normal operational hours (8am-5pm) resume after January 8th.

Bamaga Gym and Pool will be closed from December 21st, reopening January 3rd.
NPARC Sports will kick off again in the new year, 2013.

Q Build Office will close down from 25th December to Wednesday 2nd January 2013.
To report maintenance issues during this period, please contact: 1300 738 616

Reminder to NPARC Staff, we kick off the new year on 3rd January!

**Happy holidays...
Where ever you go!**



On behalf of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council and Elected Representatives, I'd like to extend our best wishes over this festive season. As a region we have pulled together this year, moving forward to empower our communities, our selves and our future generations. We have shown our strength in unity and we will continue to build upon this. I look around our communities and I see growth and development, training, employment and celebration of culture and languages. Have a safe and Merry Christmas.

-NPA Mayor, Bernard Charlie



Public Notice Board

From ACEO, Directors and Staffs wishing all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2013

Community Services Equipment

If you have any chairs that belong to NPARC Events, please call the Events team for them to collect. NPARC Community Services supports community events such as ordinations, ceremonies and gatherings, but if our resources aren't returned we cannot continue to do so.

Please if you have any chairs belonging to NPARC around your home, call Events on 4069 3388

Wet Season Road Limits

During the 2012-13 wet season, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will use load limits to manage heavy vehicle movements on unsealed sections of the Peninsula Developmental Road (PDR) and Burke Developmental Road (BDR).

The load limits are necessary for the safety of road users and to prevent damage to Saturated road formation and road infrastructure. Load limits will be reduced according to the condition of the road, most likely: 42 tonne 20 tonne 5 tonne

For up to date travel conditions-
www.131940.qld.gov.au website
Or 13 19 40 telephone hotline

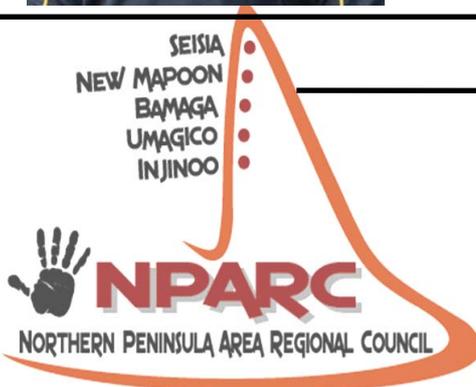
Peddells Ferry Timetable

December 1st-21st ferries will run every Mon/ Wed/ Fri

January 1st-25th ferries will run every Mon/ Wed/ Fri

Special Operational Days

Ferries will also be running Saturday 22nd and Monday December 31st



Bamaga Pool

During these school holidays, the Bamaga pool is a great way to spend the day with friends and family.

NPARC Sports and Rec remind that all children under 12 years of age MUST be supervised by an adult when using pool facilities.

Jardine Ferry Timetable

Normal Operational Hours (8am-5pm) from 19th Dec- Christmas eve
CLOSED Christmas Day

Operating 9am-12, 2pm-5 from 26th Dec- 8th Jan
CLOSED New Years Day

Resume regular operational times (8am-5pm) from the 8th Jan.
Contact Jardine Ferry on 4069 1369

Footy Star Mix-Up

*A correction from NPA News Issue 42, Article *Star on the Rise*, from the young player himself. An avid footy fan, Timothy explained while he admires Jonathon Thurston, he would like to play for the Broncos, like his hero Justin Hodges.