

NPA NEWS

Sports News
Rep teams and
local comps pg 12-14

ANZAC Day 2013
Servicemen and Women from
the NPA honoured pg 3

NPA Easter Fun Day
Photo album pg 2

NPA Rangers
Data tracking and
land management pg 8

Origins of a Community
NPA Culture Love Week
stories and journeys.
Pg 9-11

School News
Captains, Crazy Hats and
Cross Country pg. 7-8

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NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Ilario Sabatino

Director of Finance

Welcome to New Staff



David Petrina

Previously working as Financial Manager of an Indigenous Welfare Reform org, based in Cairns, David gained a keen understanding of local indigenous issues. With over 25 yrs of stakeholder management, both within Australia and internationally, David

looks forward to helping build Council-community relationships in his role.

Director of Corporate Services



David Worsnop

Returning to live and work in a remote community is the fulfillment of a life goal for David, who remembers growing up in Laverton Community, WA. David brings extensive experience to his role, having worked for over a decade as Senior Executive in both Government and Non-government sectors. He looks forward to meeting community members and learning about the area.

Operations Accountant



Elzebie Groenewald

Originally from Zimbabwe, Elzebie moved to Australia 10 years ago. With over 20 years experience in the accounting field, she now joins the NPARC team in a temporary position, where she will be training a local worker to take over her position. Elzebie and her fiancé are happy

to return to the NPA, looking forward to some fishing and learn about local cultures.

Director of Operations



James Ware

James joins us from Brisbane to fill the role of Director of Operations, with nearly a decade experience in Civil Engineering, Project Management and Construction Supervision. Through his role in the NPA, James hopes to support local involvement in NPARC Operations, building local skills and see funding used effectively and locally.



Farewell

This month we also say farewell to Laurence Hobson, from the NPARC Events team.

Laurence joined the Events Team in 2012, showing a passion for supporting and participating in local sports and events.

Thank you for your hard work and cheerful attitude, all the best.



Easter Monday Fun Day

NPA families enjoyed the sunshine over the Easter long weekend with a dip in the pool, BBQ lunch and relax on the grass on Monday public holiday.

A big eso to Kulasum Newman who volunteered to run this year's event. Thanks also to NPARC Community Services, all the volunteers, Assembly of God Church Dancers and to all families who brought along smiles, fun and laughter.

(NPA News photo albums available at your local IKC)



Past Not Forgotten

Upcoming in May are two very special dates, back to back. May 26th is National Sorry Day; an annual acknowledgment of the Stolen Generations and the impact of over 150 years of forced removal of Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginals in Australia.

May 27th will recognise the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, where 90% Australians voted in favour of giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders the right to vote.



Skiing the Strait

Five Jet skiers this month safely rode from the tip of mainland Australia to Daru Island, PNG, making them the first to cross outside Australian waters and return on jet skis.

The Jet trekkers completed the journey, adding an extra leg onto the 2013 Cooktown & Down Yamaha Variety Jet Trek.

Stopping off at Seisia Wharf, the trekkers took a few NPA kids out for a spin around the bay.

NPA Easter Fun Day
April 1st 2013



Taking Community Pride Nation-wide

With Royal Australian Naval training and qualifications under their belts, FNQ boys Liam Gebadi and Tristian Yusia are looking forward to the adventures to come.

Having recently graduated from the RAN Boatswains Mate Course in Melbourne, Liam and Tristian are currently completing their final weeks of training before being stationed on one of the Royal Australian Naval Fleet Ships.

Throughout their early days and training, right up to graduation day, the boys say there is one thing that has stayed true for them. That is, to be proud of culture and history, and to strive to make yourself, family and community proud of you in return.

"Always strive to be a role model to your people," Liam said, "stay in school, learn like there is no end to it and most of all, keep the words from your elders -as they want you to have a bright and awesome future."

It was with support from friends and family members that these local boys, out of school and looking for something to do, choose to put their physical and mental fitness to the test, pursuing a career in the Australian Defence Force.

On January 14th 2013, the cousins enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy ; Liam through the Defence Force Indigenous Development Program (DIDP 2012) and Tristian through the Indigenous Pre-Recruitment Course (IPRC 2012). This month, along with fellow recruits, Tristian and Liam graduated their Boatswains Mates Course.

"You have to ask yourself," Tristian said, "am I able to really *commit* to this? Am I mentally and physically able? It's hard work, but it's rewarding too."



(L-R) Seaman Yusia and Seaman Gebadi in front of the Boatswains Faculty at HMAS Cerberus, Victoria,

*Image courtesy of ABIS Dove Smithett, Australian Defence

Coming from small, close-knit communities on Thursday Island and NPA, Tristian and Liam said it was difficult to say goodbye to their families and make the move to the cold climate of Victoria, but they know they are making their families and friends back home proud.

Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) Don Bowie, Australian Defence Force Senior Indigenous Recruitment Adviser said the boys have made them proud, both excelling in their training.

"I am proud of what we have achieved and where we are going," Tristian said of their new careers.

Looking forward to mastering the skills learnt in their new roles and seeking out adventures, one day they will return home, eager to support the next generation in choosing a career path that they too will be proud of.

We Will Remember Them

At eighty-five years of age this year, Awathie Mau says he remembers little detail of his days in the Army.

Working as a cook for D Company, on Thursday Island, Bab Mau does remember one thing vividly– the number of potatoes needed to feed the troops, and the weight of that potato sack!

As current and ex-servicemen and women joined NPA Emergency Services, NPA College staff and students and community members for this year's ANZAC Day Ceremony, we remembered all men and women who have served our country.

Thankyou to NPARC Events staff, Corporal Jae-ho Lee, community MCs Leanne Young and Sonia Townsen, Father Victor Blanco, NPA HACC Services and all community members who came along to pay their respects.



IKC iPad Hubs



Logging onto the Information Age

A busy month for NPA IKC's, with the official launch of the two most Northern iPad Hubs in mainland Australia.

Seisia & New Mapoon IKCS are the first of the NPA IKC's to incorporate iPad Hubs to their range of services available to the communities.

The hubs are funded by Telstra's 'Everyone Connected' Grant, as a step in bridging the Digital Divide between Australian cities and remote communities.

Supported by State Library of QLD, the hubs will allow community members to access internet and apps at their finger tips, learning digital literacy and leaving their mark upon the online community.



Seisia & New Mapoon IKCS

NPA White Glove Event

14th / 15th / 16th May

State Library of Queensland will be hosting 3 Culture and Language Forums in May, inviting community members to attend to discuss local languages and focus on building skill for communities to research, access and manage their own language storage and revival. Contact IKCs for more information, and to attend forum.

The beauty of using modern digital technology such as iPads is the ease of use in accessing, creating, storing and sharing information.

We are all familiar with using our phones to take photos (creating/ storing information) access the internet (seeking information), use Facebook (sharing) and many other apps, where we are contributing to cultural, historical and modern knowledge and content online, often without even Realising that we are doing it!

Through encouraging use of these hubs, community members are not only accessing information from sources around the globe— but they are also able to upload their own content, leaving their own unique digital footprint, to be accessed by communities world wide!

Uniting Artists and Opportunities Across the Torres Strait

It seems that Torres Strait Regional Authority's Culture, Art and Heritage Program and Gab Titui Cultural Centre staff have their eye on NPA.

With the nearly completed renovations to the Cultural Centre, they have created a *Cultural Maintenance Exhibition*, where not-for-sale items of cultural value will be displayed, representing cultures of the Torres Strait, including each of the five NPA communities.

In a recent visit to the region, Gab Titui staff met with NPA Arts Centre workers to discuss local art work promotion and cultural preservation.

Gab Titui staff encouraged NPA Artists to enter in this year's annual art awards competition, themed *Ailan Style*. Artworks and cultural artifacts of all styles are welcome, entries must reflect the culture or daily life of your community.

The visiting staff also encouraged all NPA Artists to register as artists under the Cultural Centre, to receive news on upcoming events, competitions and art fairs as well as receive discounts on art materials.

NPA Arts Centre invites all artists from NPA to use the Centre, and work with our experienced artists. If you have questions about artwork, selling art, upcoming exhibitions etc, please feel free to talk to one of our team members at the Arts Centre, New Mapoon.

**Ailan Style* Gab Titui Art Awards close 17th May 2013
Contact Gab Titui Cultural Centre on 4069 0888



Pictured: (Back row L-R) Agnes Mark, George Gabey (GTCC Visitor Services Officer), Elsie Passi (Visitor Services Officer), Vincent Babia & Kailu George (Assistant Retail & Gallery Officer)

(Front Row L-R) Susan Kennedy, Geraldine Yorke, Leitha Assan (Cultural Development Officer) & Frank David (Gallery Officer)



Bamaga Crazy Hat Day 25th March



Injinoo Crazy Hat Day, 28th March



NPA College

Leaders of tomorrow,
the journey starts here.

The people who inspire us, who challenge us to better ourselves and to strive for excellency... these are our leaders of today.

Leadership can be anything from inspiring the best in your peers, standing up for what is right or representing a community. We have leaders in our family, in brief encounters with strangers; world leaders, community leaders and school leaders.

Our schools are full of exceptional young people; educated, talented and passionate, they are the leaders of tomorrow, and today we recognise them in the important roles they already play.

Our NPA College School Captains, Vice Captains and Sports Captains this month took an oath to act as role models. They vowed to demonstrate proper behavior, to respect staff and students and to act as a voice for their student peers.

Though the power for positive change is in the hands of each student, as Mayor Charlie reflected.

"Our school leaders have taken on a great responsibility which we, as Council and as community members, will support, but it's important to recognise that each and every student, badge or not, has the responsibility to strive for a better education, and for a positive future."

This month, six students from Bamaga Senior Campus took another oath for the future. Signing on as Beacon Ambassadors, they vowed to continue their education to completion of year 12, and pursue a positive career path afterwards. Whether they choose to find a job, undertake further education at university or TAFE or an apprenticeship, these students promised that their future would be a bright one.

Caitlyn Zeith, Shani Mapes, Simikah Amey, Franklin Bigie, Jonothan Yusia and Mervyn Bond each vowed to act as a beacon for other students, to support their peers in pursuing a positive career path also.



"You can really find any career pathway in something you are passionate about," said Beacon Partnerships Ambassador Georgina Breeuwer, "careers are so varied and different nowadays."

The Beacon Ambassadors will be encouraged to contact community members, local business and professionals to visit the school to discuss how they achieved their career goals. Through this preliminary networking, Ambassadors are encouraged to seek work experience in the field of their choice and to start pursuing their passions.

"Without community support, we really don't have a program," Ms Breeuwer said, "We need to invite the community to become involved in the school and in aiding our students to positive career pathways."

As a sign of support, many community members, family members and representatives of local organisations attended the signing on ceremony, some leaving words of advice.

"It's not just about coming to school and then playing with your phones" said NPA Ngurpai Ikama Ikya Education Council Chairperson Jeffrey Aniba, "these days are to prepare you for what's out there. This place is to learn. These teachers are to inspire you. We rely on you students; your choices and behaviour, for the future of this place."

He called upon the six Beacon Ambassadors to act as lighthouses for their fellow students and College staff, steering them away from reefs and rocks.

Senior Campus Head of Department Vee McKiernan explained that while the opportunities are there it is the decision of each student how they will utilize them, simply asking "how will *you* value your learning?"

It's been quite a busy month at NPA College Campuses; with Crazy Hat Days, Cross Country events and leadership ceremonies— and all that with a nice two weeks break off in the middle!



Injinoo School Captains Agai Savage, Racheam Bond, Jefrica Pablo, Lillymaud Bowie



Bamaga Junior Campus School Captains Nicky Bond (Also Gelam Sports Captain) and Francis Newman Vice Captains Tye Morseu (Also Baidam sports captain) and Elma Yoelu
Sports Captains Gelam: Leanna Bamaga, Baidam: Allanah Phineasa
Bowie Encemo: Sailor and De Rikka Wasiu.



College Captains: Braydon Mudu and Yanessa Woosup
Campus Captains: Caleb Ober and Lavinia Williams



Supporting Child Safety in Our Communities

It is the responsibility of parents, your school and the community as a whole to provide kids with a safe and caring environment.

- Child Safety Handbook 2013

This month Bamaga Police Officers Senior Sergeant Antoni Lesic and Senior Constable Darren Mears visited the kids at Seisia IKC to support child safety in our Communities through the roll out of the QLD Police Child Safety Handbooks.

The Handbooks are distributed to school aged children across the state. Each area handbook contains emergency phone numbers specific to the local area, for children to use if they are home alone, feel threatened, hurt themselves or are in danger etc.

The Handbook also covers general health, from healthy eating to the effects of drugs and alcohol, bullying in the school, community or online, family and home safety, fire safety and first aid.

In a foreword, Minister for Police and Community Safety Jack Dempsey expresses the importance of parents and children familiarizing themselves with safety information.

"As a former Police Officer, and a parent, I know how important it is to protect our children from dangers," Mr Dempsey said. "We all know accidents can happen but it is essential for parents to educate children on how to avoid risks and seek help in communities."

In every community there is always the risk of unforeseen danger. The Child Safety Handbook can be used as a tool to educate your child and family, to prevent or deal with dangerous situations.

"QLD Police aim to reduce crime on the streets, but families need to work together to reduce harmful situations within the home," Mr Dempsey said.

Far North QLD Child Safety Handbook distribution is proudly supported by QLD Police, and funded by NPARC, Nai Beguta Agama Aboriginal Corp, Bamaga Enterprises and Seisia Enterprises.

2013 'Cook town & Down' Yamaha Variety Jet Trekkers visit Seisia on their way back from PNG, 21/04/13





Fencing at Muttee Heads & Somerset Campgrounds, imgs provided by NPA Rangers

No-Go Zones

For NPA Rangers, the wet season means a time for summer clean ups. Though, amidst the removal of fallen logs blocking roads and storm clean ups, the lull in tourist traffic also gives rangers a chance to work on some hands on cultural heritage protection.

Campgrounds at Somerset and Muttee Heads have been targeted this month, with fences constructed to protect cultural heritage sites and beach fronts.

“The fences make it simple for tourists to know where they are and aren’t allowed to drive,” said Ranger Erra Bond.

The direction in heavy traffic will also alleviate some stress put onto various slopes and valleys, eroded in the wet.

Building Land Knowledge Base

Away from the swollen creeks and green bush land, the rain runoff isn’t the only water under ranger scrutiny. Behind the scenes at the ranger base, land management has taken a turn towards the scientific.

Focusing on tidal creeks, estuaries, waterholes and swamps, NPA Rangers will begin recording water quality data this month. This data will then form the first water quality database focusing on Apudthama land.

“A big one for us is to keep an eye on swamps,” said Ranger Dale Motlop, “as a habitat for turtles, geese, fish and many species of birds, we need to keep track of the water health and any changes to water quality.”

The first time this data will be regularly recorded, Ranger Motlop is creating a unique data entry sequence specific to the area and water tests.

Water temperature, acidity and turbidity (clarity) are just a few indicators of water health within a certain ecosystem that rangers will be recording.

The data will be collected over regular patrols spread across the wet and dry seasons, and recorded into the new database on iTracker. Though it may be a few years before trends may be recognised, this marks the beginning of a new era of land management .

Ranger Motlop has also created another Apudthama specific data sequence for recording turtle monitoring data in more detail.

Having recently completed training, NPA Rangers will now be able to begin tagging nesting turtles, recording specific data on *individual* animals, rather than blanket data across the nesting season.

“Tagging is the key to gathering specific data for individual animals,” said NPA Ranger Coordinator Warren Strevens.

“Once we start tagging, we will begin to recover our own turtles and we can compare the data for the individual animal,” said NPARC Director of EEDU Alex Barker.

Rangers from across the Cape will engage in nesting turtle monitoring in order to maintain a consistency in data across the Cape nesting grounds, increasing the likelihood of rangers recovering tagged turtles each year. From here, data on individual animals can be compiled across each nesting season.

“We are trying to keep it simple,” said Ranger Motlop.

Ideally, this new system will provide a useful database containing for each year; the number of nests, returning mothers and the specific details for each mother. From her size, to the number of eggs laid, her weight, health and more.





Settling Umagico

Three homes stood silhouetted against the darkening sky, marking the settlement that would later be known as Umagico Community. There were already over five families living between the three buildings, but they opened their doors to the new arrivals as more families were relocated from their homes in Lockhart River.

Amongst those to join life in the new community was a young lady, heavily pregnant, with feet toughened by days spent walking, named Abigail Wilson.

Now fifty-one years later, as an elder of Umagico community, Aunty Abigail shared her amazing story.

"It was not an easy life at first when we came here," Aunty Abigail spoke softly to those gathered at the community hall for the week's Culture Love, "we had to walk to find bush food like taro, wild yam and sugar bag."

Community members would rarely visit the hospital when bush medicine could suffice.

"We would boil the leaves of the yam vine for belly run and use the root of the Oak tree for tooth aches."

Roots and bush fruits were carried in woven baskets, fish was wrapped in a paper bark dillybag and bound to be brought home.

"When we had enough, we would share with the whole community," Aunty Abigail said. "When we needed other supplies, we would walk the back roads between Umagico, Bamaga and Injinoo communities, which had stores."

There was only one tap, in a park in the centre of the community, and each individual would carry their own 44 gallon drum to fill up and take back home.

These themes; the three homes in the village, gathering of bush tucker and walking long distances to find food and supplies, shaped the activities of the Umagico Culture Love Week.

Held during the second week of the Easter school break, the Umagico Community Hall came alive each day with music, stories and artwork.

Kids and youths from across NPA listened to the stories told by Umagico Elders and community members, learning culture and local history.

Under the guidance of local artists and renowned Indigenous artist Arone Meeks, the stories were transformed into visual artworks, displayed in a colourful gallery adorning the surrounding walls. Participants learned a range of visual art skills, from charcoal sketches to rainbow canvases, each work celebrated the unique history and culture of Umagico Community.





Uncle Ron Kelly-Peter demonstrated how to make spears for hunting and fishing, as Uncle Shorty and Uncle Seriat Young demonstrated weaving and braiding bush materials for clothes and rope (pg 12).

Elders and community members taught traditional dances specific to the area, and formed language circles, creating language lists in Umagico Ikya.

The week's activities were also captured on film by visiting documentary maker Peter Keelan, along with interviews with elders, volunteers and community members, for a Umagico Culture Love Movie.

In the five decades that have passed since the removal of Lockhart River people, Umagico has grown to the community we now know, but the community has not forgotten their past.

Thanks to State Library of Queensland, funding from Queensland Government and Northern Peninsula Area Council, this week was made possible.

Thankyou to staff and community volunteers who gave their time and expertise, to Noah and Gordon Solomon for their ever entertaining commentary and to all kids, youths and parents who supported Culture Love Week 2013.





Stripping the bark of the rope tree



Braiding bark into rope



Grass used for skirts



Uncle Seriat used his pocket knife to nick the bark at the base of the branch, peeling back a thin layer of bark. As he stripped away the underside of the bark, small droplets of sap bubbled on the green flesh of the wood, releasing a sweet smell, like crushed leaves.

Placing the rest of the branch aside, he rolled the bark strip along his thigh, making sure it was completely supple. The soft bark was then divided length-ways into smaller pieces which could be braided to create rope.

"It's very strong," Uncle Seriat said, "in the old days they would use this for building houses, for clothing or anything."

This length of rope was to be used as a skirt. In these areas, grass skirts were traditionally worn as everyday wear, for hunting, gathering and gardening, as well as for special occasions and ceremonies.

"I always tell my dancers to make their costumes true to the old days," Uncle Seriat said of his Kaurareg Dance Troupe on Horn island, "these skirts were used for every day use, not to look pretty, so that is how we make them."

The skirt can be made by tying on bark strips of the rope tree as individual strands, or using grass or strips of long leaves (as pictured).

Uncle Seriat advised hanging grass skirts between use, rather than storing in a bag, to keep them fresh and smelling nice.

With the skirts complete, Uncle Shorty and Uncle Seriat taught how to weave bands from Pandanus Palm leaves, to be used as headbands, belts or jewelry.

The spiky outer edge is removed from the leaf, and the leaf split lengthways. The strips can then be soaked in water over night to make them more supple, or they can be used straight away.

Using two strips, folded in half to make four, they are woven back upon themselves, into a straight band. The same principle is used to weave floor mats, though on a much larger scale.

Each of the materials used were found within walking distance of the Umagico Community, hiding in plain sight in the dense bush land. Thank you to our elders for sharing these skills.



Weaving Pandanas Palm leaves





NPA Rep Teams Undefeated

Competing in the 3 Way Meet Basketball Challenge, a one day round robin competition held on Horn Island, *NPA Warriors* (men's) and *NPA Sistas* (women's) teams turned heads both on and off the courts with outstanding skill, fitness and sportsmanship.

"We were really impressed with the rep players," said NPA PCYC Coordinator Nick Thompson, "there were no rough games, and the players were strong, fast and game ready. It was a great competition."

NPA PCYC's Stanley Dai said the results of the competition showed the improvement of players over the last two seasons of regional competitions, with both men's and women's teams remaining undefeated throughout the day.

The women's finals was a close game that had spectators on the edge of their seats, NPA finishing just one point in front.

"They really stepped up to the standard," Mr Thompson said, "We'd like to also acknowledge the outstanding professionalism shown by our two local refs Jason and Josh Symons, who travelled over with the teams and refereed each game of the comp. Our players, refs and support team really brought a top level of professionalism, that NPA can be proud of."

This month's Basketball Challenge is the first competition held between Horn Island, Thursday Island and NPA rep teams.

Big thanks to coaches Aaron Tamwoy and Sarah Lui, referees Jason and Josh Symons, Horn Island Youth Group and Committee, NPA PCYC Staff, Sports and Rec Officer Stanley Dai, and PCYC FNQ Regional Office Indigenous Programs Development Unit, Cairns.



NPA Warriors: Peter Lui, Aaron Tamwoy, Albert Bowie, Richard Bani, Stan Elu, Laurence Hobson, Andrew Lui and Aaron Kerley.
Coach Aaron Tamwoy

NPA Sistas: Jasmine Bond, Biddy Sebasio, Estee Poipoi, Ellen Baira, Petta Elu, Ashleigh Ahboo, Sonya Panuel and Trish Kilgour.
Coach Sarah Lui

*Photos courtesy of Trisha Kilgour.

NPARC Social Housing Problems With Your TV?

If you are experiencing issues with your television set in NPARC Social Housing, please use the Blue Phones at Council Office to call Q Build Hotline.

Make sure when describing the issue you say "*The TV isn't working*" as this may be due to a range of things and wording is important so they can deal with the issue promptly.

Q Build will arrange for an electrician to visit the home and diagnose the problem.

Some problems can be fixed on the spot, however some issues may require further work, for this please contact one of our NPARC Housing Officers.





NPA Sisters & Gunners at final training session before the Battle of the Islands Carnival

B Ball Team Backs Education

Quite literally, slapped across the backs of one local basketball team, is one word that signifies a push for a nation-wide education funding revival.

"It's a great way to get the message out," says GONSKI player James Matysek, "people will come up to us at training or a game and ask what GONSKI is, and when they find out, most people are keen to get behind the cause."

'Gonski' refers to a review calling for an urgent change in funding for Australian schools. The review, commissioned by the Federal Government and released 2012, found that Australia is investing far too little in education, in particular, public schools.

The review started the *I Give A Gonski* movement named after senior businessman David Gonski, who headed the expert panel conducting the review.

This month saw a would-be pivotal COAG meeting held, challenging the current education funding delivered by State Governments, but as such, there has been no agreement formed between QLD Gov and GONSKI supporter, Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

Pictured below (18/04/13)
Gonski vs Underdogs (men)
West End Gulz vs Hidden
Valley Gummas (women)
NPA BA Season Round 3.



Touch Footy

It's no secret that NPA is the home to some of the biggest footy talent around. So when it came to choosing rep teams for the region, to compete in the Battle of the Islands Carnival next month, it's no surprise the selection was a difficult one to make.

"There is a lot of talent," NPA PCYC's Stanley Dai said, "it came down to the decision of 4 selectors and we made the teams work from the shortlists."

With the first few training sessions down this month, the teams are beginning to bond and work together, reflecting the skill, speed and sportsmanship of the region.

NPA Players

NPA Gunners (Mens) Aaron Bin Awel, Kevin Tamwoy, Ephriam Gebadi, Geno Bond, Arthur Wailu, Jim Baira, George Mairu, Peter Lui (Jnr), Rex Pablo, Ramsley Woosup, Windsor Bowie and Patterson Wasui

NPA Sisters (Womens) Katie Daniels, Yuriko Ah Boo, Katie Mark, Val Williams, Janet Bryden, Rhian Phineasa, Tamara Getawan, Ivy Baira, Tamika Lui, Sarah Tamwoy, Rowena Tabui, Bonnie Peter, and Tessie Mooka

Sports and Comps Coming Up

1st May—Touch Quarter Finals

13th May—NPA Touch Grand Finals

17th May— 9'a Side RL

To kick off the RL season in the NPA, PCYC will be hosting a pre-season lightning round of 9'a side. Nominations open from 6th-10th May.

2nd-5th May—Battle of The Islands Touch Carnival

4th July—Volleyball Cluster

Competition will be hosted by NPA, held at the Reginald Sebasio Community Hall, Bamaga.

The competition invites rep teams from Eastern Islands, Western Islands, Central Islands and NPA to compete.

NPA PCYC will kick off a local volleyball comp in June to ready our players for the clash.

Thank you to Cairns Brothers Junior Rugby League Club for donating jerseys for our junior players.

Through supporting our younger players we are ensuring the future of RL in our communities.

Pictured: Cairns Brothers Junior Rugby league Secretary presents NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie and Deputy mayor Edward Newman with the donated jerseys.

NPA Judo Club

Combine strength, fitness, balance, quick thinking and respect with the ability to throw someone bigger and taller than yourself and the skill to break your fall without injury.

NPA Judo Club offers self defence and judo combat training to a range of skill levels and age groups.

Classes with coach Xavier Barker are held Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and every second Saturday morning, with classes for ages 5-10yrs, 11-15yrs and seniors.

Pool Renovations

With renovations complete, Bamaga Pool is now back in action, with new pumps, repaired floor and shade cloths installed.

A reminder that all children under 12 years old must be accompanied by a supervising adult.

Be safe, and enjoy the water.

Bootcamp!

Looking for a reason to get out of bed in the morning? Well these fitness fanatics have found one, attending Bootcamp fitness sessions held bi-weekly at Bamaga Oval.

Come along and challenge yourself, Wednesday and Saturdays 6:30 am, coached by Leandra Newman.

Bootcamp held Wednesdays and Saturday mornings, 6:30am at Bamaga Yusia Ginou Oval.

Asking For More Than Words

Seventeen year old Barry Newman is one of several students taking a marker to the founding document of Governance in this great nation, the Australian Constitution.

A document forged over a century ago, the Constitution of Australia is a relic of it's time, still maintaining racist and discriminatory sections, with no mention of Indigenous Australians as being the first inhabitants of the land at the time of European settlement.

As the source of power to the Australian Government to pass laws and regulation for the Commonwealth's use of such power, the Constitution is the base of Australian and Commonwealth Governance.

"For me, to see Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders recognised is a stepping stone," Barry said, "what we really need is action. We need people to make a change in their own lives, to stand up and say I'm proud of my culture and my heritage, no shame."

Though, in many ways this action can only begin to come to fruition when the structural barriers hindering racial equality and Indigenous wellbeing are removed from the foundation of our Government, the Australian Constitution.

Last month, Barry participated alongside 124 students in a four day forum held in Canberra, the importance of recognizing Indigenous Australians in the Constitution. This month the debate continued, as Barry joined — Queensland students for a forum held in Brisbane.

"At the Convention in Canberra, we looked at the issues facing Australia's Indigenous population and on the final day we debated the importance of recognition in the constitution and the effect— if any— it would have upon day to day life for Indigenous people," Barry said.

It was through asking this same question that Barry initially became involved in the youth forums.

"It's a long story," he explained, "one of our staff teachers [of St Teresa's College, Abergowrie] asked me if I would do a speech for a competition, which ended up being the same one I went to Canberra for."

From this initial competition Barry entered another in Townsville where his speech, given before community members, students and elders present, took second place.

Barry said he thought that the question of the *day to day* effect was what really caught the crowd's attention. A call for more than just words on paper, but a national action of respect and recognition for Australia's first people.

He was selected to travel to Australia's capital city to take part in the Convention, arguing the importance of recognition in the Constitution.

The students heard a panel of experts discuss the advantages, disadvantages and issues surrounding the proposed changes to the Constitution.

On the final day, students were invited to share their opinions in a debate. Barry and team mates argued that ATSI's were the initial inhabitants of Australia at the time of European Settlement, something that is not yet recognised in our constitution and so cannot be fully recognised in day to day life.

"We want to be recognised. You know, in a lot of the big cities we still feel that we are being separated, but I want us to be together, united.

I'd like to think it's a step towards the end of racial hatred," Barry said, recalling a recent incident involving a family member, where a friend was discriminated against while entering a fast food restaurant in Sydney.

"To some people, [Constitutional Recognition] will make no difference, but to the people who really care, this will make them stop and say, that really touched my heart, and we can make a change."

The change needs to come from individuals, to create a shift in our national attitude and actions. On the first day of the Canberra forum, as he entered the room, Barry realized there were only ten or twelve indigenous students there, the rest a mix of races.

An expert panel reported to Prime Minister Julia Gillard on January 1st 2012, suggesting the following changes to the Australian Constitution.

The removal of Section 25, which allows voting to be discriminated by race

The removal of Section 51 (xxvi), outlining legislative powers of the parliament, stating the Parliament may make laws for the benefit of people of any race, excluding the aboriginal race

Inclusion of a Section 116A, banning racial discrimination.

The inclusion of a Section 51A, recognizing Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander persons and preserving the Government's ability to pass laws benefiting these people.

Inclusion of a Section 127A, recognizing Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander languages were this country's first tongues, while confirming English as our national language.

"It was a shock to me, to see so many non-indigenous people there to discuss a topic that concerned indigenous Australians. We were having non-indigenous people coming in and saying their words, their thoughts on what should be done, where instead we should have indigenous people there discussing what should be really done."

Barry said at first he felt although they were there to fight for ownership and recognition, it seemed they weren't even given ownership over the fight. As the days went on, he realized that even at the base of his own beliefs, the only way forward was through unity, rather than exclusion.

"That was my first impression," he said, "but afterwards I found that many non-indigenous people were truly passionate about our culture and about our rights and equality, they really wanted to see a change in our constitution. It gave us a lot of information on their beliefs and ideas that we didn't know before. I went and thanked most of them after, saying thank you for your inspirational speech and support."

As this Bamaga youth continues to speak on behalf of Indigenous Australians, debating the importance of recognition and what— if any at all— effect this will have upon day to day life, to him, the answer is seeming more and more clear.

"There needs to be an official recognition of our place, in Australian history, so we can move forward, but after that, the change then needs to come from us."

"Most indigenous people, they are shame, most probably because there is a history there that is embarrassing and they are shame to stand up for their culture but they should be strong and say, well, this is my culture and I'm proud of it."

"I want to see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders taking charge and making changes. I'd like to see an indigenous representative in Parliament."

A dream not too far from his own heart, Barry hopes to take his fight for equality within the walls of parliament.



The Convention, funded by the Australian Government, is a mark of the Government's ongoing commitment to civics and citizenship education, supporting Australian youth leaders.

"Many of us have grown up listening to the stories of our elders, we've learnt the traditional way of our culture. I guess most importantly, we not only understand where we have come from but also where we need to go."

"I am proud to have this opportunity to represent my people, and to have the support of my school, my community, family and friends," Barry said.

"I feel really proud to be one of the people involved in this discussion. I've had such support from my family, my school, friends and community, they are all behind me."

"I just hope that our views, the topics that we brought up in debate, are heard," he said.

Barry is planning to continue his education, studying law. He hopes he will be studying law in a Country who's Constitution acknowledges this land's first peoples and outlines racial equality for all Australians.



Thankyou to Abergowrie College, NPA Elected Representatives and the NPA Ngurpai Ikama Ikya Education Council for their work in supporting Indigenous Youths to become leaders for their communities.

Pictured: Education Council Chairman Jeffrey Aniba, NPA Deputy Mayor Edward Newman, Barry Newman and NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie.

Improving Social Housing Delivery



Pictured (L-R) Minister Tim Mander, Member for Cook David Kempton, NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie, Director general of Social Housing Neil Castles, NPA Deputy Mayor Edward Newman (Bamaga), Councillor Dennis Getawan (Umagico), Councillor Ben Gebadi (Seisia), NPARC CEO Ilario Sabatino, Councillor Trevor Lifu (New Mapoon) and Councillor Tony Mara (Injinoo).

NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie, Elected Councillors and NPARC CEO this month met with Minister for Social Housing Tim Mander, Member for Cook David Kempton and Director General for Social Housing Neil Castles, to discuss future social housing rollouts in the region.

Mayor Charlie called the meeting in an aim to receive a commitment from both Mr Kempton and Mr Mander to hand over social housing delivery strategies to the Regional Council and the Trustees of the Land.

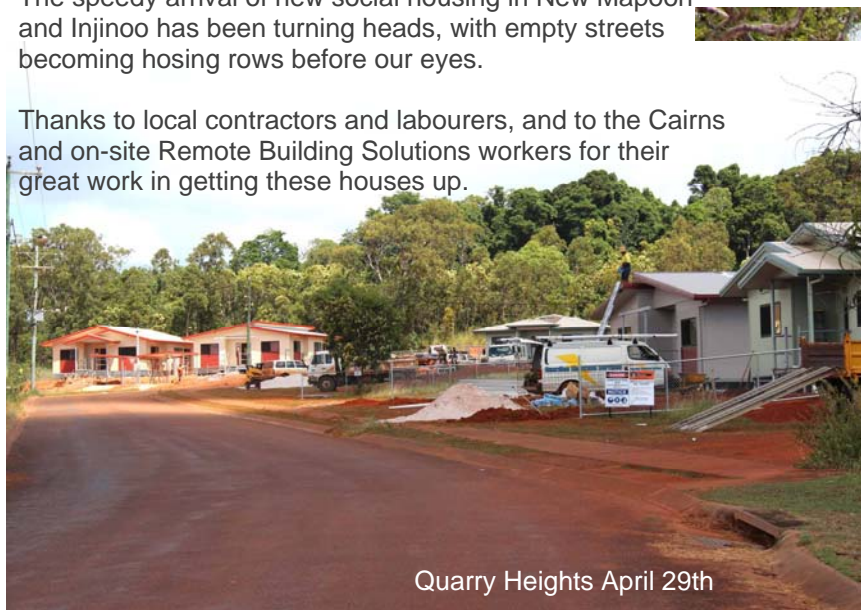
Since their induction, NPA Mayor and Councillors have been working towards seeing community housing under local control, from design to on site work and local contracts.

“We want to see our people building our own homes in our communities,” mayor Charlie said.

The outcome of this meeting was a commitment by the Minister of Social Housing and Member for Cook, to see the future of NPA social housing in the hands of the council and the Trustees of the Land.

The speedy arrival of new social housing in New Mapoon and Injinoo has been turning heads, with empty streets becoming housing rows before our eyes.

Thanks to local contractors and labourers, and to the Cairns and on-site Remote Building Solutions workers for their great work in getting these houses up.



Quarry Heights April 29th



Injinoo Snake Gully, April 16th



Deadly Job

This month we would like to recognise two of our valued long time Council workers Jacky Bond and Benjamin Da.

Over their many years of service, since the days of individual community councils, both Jack and Benjamin have become known for their outstanding work ethic and hard work.

Workers like these men are our local heroes, leading by example, keeping our communities together quite literally at the grass roots. Thank you for your deadly work!



Healthy Habits for Life and League

Even footy players need good math and English, retired Cowboys Player Aaron Payne told NPA College Students.

"We need math for the scoring and understanding the plays and times, and we need English because after each game we have to write a report on the game and how we think it went," said Mr Payne.

Of course they need great fitness and a healthy lifestyle too, so NPA College students helped QLD RL visitors Ryan and Aaron choose some healthy habits; from eating fruit , vegies and lean meat to the big one, drinking enough water.

Aaron and Ryan were visiting NPA and Thursday island schools as a part of the QLD Rugby League *Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well* program.

With the classroom visit over, NPA students showed off a few of their skills outside of the classroom, with some ball drills at the junior campus and a kick around game at Bamaga Senior.



Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well





What's on in the NPA ?

For the Calendar: May 26th National Sorry Day

May 27th 1967 Referendum Anniversary

May 27th– June 3rd Reconciliation Week

June 3rd NPA Mabo Day Festival

June 21st-23rd Laura Dance Festival

NPA Judo Club

Classes now held at Bamaga Community Hall.

Mondays

11-15 year olds at 4:30-5:30pm

Seniors at 5:30-6:45pm

Tuesdays

5-10 year olds at 4:00-4:50pm

Wednesdays

11-15 year olds at 5:45--6:50pm

Seniors at 7:00-8:30pm

Thursdays

5-10 year olds at 4:00-4:50pm

Every second Saturday

Open Mat from 11:00am-1:00pm

Touch Footy

1st may—Quarter Finals

13th May– Grand Finals

2nd-5th May– Battle of the Islands Touch Carnival

For more information contact NPA PCYC 4069 3657

NPA RL 9 a' Side

Starts 17th May

Nominations open from 6th-10th May

NPA Hoops (NPA BA)

Monday and Thursday Nights at
Reginald Sebasio Community Hall, Bamaga

Yoga

Mat Yoga Mondays 5:30pm at New Mapoon Hall

Chair Yoga Wednesday 5:30pm Bamaga OSCH

Mat Yoga Thursday 5:30pm Injinoo Hall

Kickboxing

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bamaga OSCH

Women's class at 5:30pm– Men's at 6:30pm

Water Aerobics

Monday 5:30pm at Bamaga Pool

Circuit Training

Wednesday 5:30pm Yusia Ginau Bamaga Oval

For information on Water Aerobics, Yoga, Kickboxing
or Circuit, contact NPAFACS on 4069 3555

Bootcamp

Wednesday and Saturday Mornings 6:30am

Wet weather: Bamaga Hall, Dry: Bamaga Oval



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