

# NPA NEWS

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Showcased in Freshwater  
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NPARC Chief Executive Officer  
Ilario Sabatino



## NPA Elected Representatives



Pictured: (Back row L-R) Clr Joseph Elu, Clr Trevor Lifu, Clr Dennis Getawan,  
(Front row L-R) Clr Anthony Mara , NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie, Deputy mayor Edward Newman



### Yamba's Roadshow

Yamba the Honey Ant and best friend Jacinta travelled up from Cairns to visit Badu Island, Thursday Island and Bamaga, on their QLD Healthy Living Roadshow.

For their live show this month, Bamaga hall was packed to the walls with kids, parents, childcare staff and teachers who were invited to join in singing songs about healthy eating, living and lifestyles.

Thanks to Torres News and Imparja Television for supporting the Road Show event and to NPA Family and Community Services for hosting their show in NPA.



### Community Health Notice

This month Health Centers announced that Injinoo, Umagico, Seisia, and New Mapoon Primary Health Centers will be open for half days from either 8:00am to 12:30pm, or 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

They ask that when these centers are closed, patrons please contact Bamaga Primary Health Centre on 4069 3200 for further assistance.

In an emergency, please call 000 or proceed directly to Bamaga Hospital.



### NPA Dental Clinic

As of Wednesday 21st August, the NPA Dental Clinic will be open each Wednesday, at the Bamaga Hospital.

You don't need to phone in or book, just walk in and put your name down on the list and you'll be seen.

Contact the Dental Clinic on 40904233 or 40904218 for more information.



## Bamaga Farm: From the Roots Up

Over the last month, the NPA community farm has seen a change in heart that certainly has come from the roots up.

"After the start of the new financial year, we were given the green light from [NPA Regional] Council, and we've been able to start making some real progress," Mr Atu said. "I've been working with the guys out here, teaching them the basics in each step, then letting them take it on."

"It's great to see their self esteem growing as the farm takes off," Mr Atu said, "I'm always amazed with these guys, with the amount of effort they continue to put into their work each day."

"It's about how you are going to work with the people," Mr Atu said, "I could try to do all this work myself, but I wouldn't get very far. The more responsibility I give to the workers, the more pride they take in their work, and the more they want to do."

Through building skills, and investing in the workers out on the field, Mr Atu says they are ensuring the sustainability of the farm.

"I want it to be an asset and resource to the NPA communities," he said, "from a source of training and employment, to providing fresh produce and gardening materials. It should be a source of pride for our region."

**Big Esso to farm workers:**  
Anna Agie, Sam Baira, Emselon Bamaga, Gibson Gowa Snr, Gibson Gowa Jnr, Kaiwai Guligo, Alfred Mara, Laura Pablo, Levi Pablo, Eddie Phineasa, Michael Reid, Nathan Aniba, Vincent Aniba, Timothy Ropeyarn, Christine Gowa and Fred Williams

Mr Atu has taken long service leave from his prior role at the NPA College School farm, to take on coordination of the NPA Community Farm.

He hopes to see an increase in local community involvement, from the CDEP workers, to volunteers as well as school excursions.

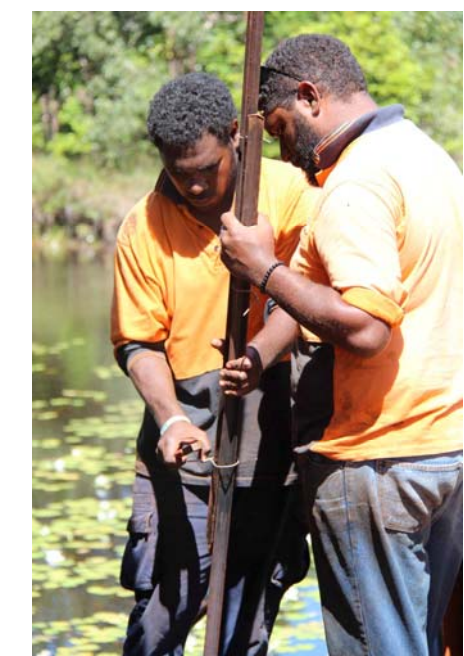
"We want to see more community members becoming involved in the farm," he said, "we want to see people getting back to gardening and fresh produce."

With first harvest due to start in September, Harrison has eyes set on the future, hoping to see the farm providing community garden plots, which can be bought and tended to by community members.

"We can provide seedlings, mulch and seeds, so that we can promote gardening across the region again," Mr Atu said. "Our people have a strong culture in gardening, it's not only about physical health, it's about community and cultural healing too."

The farm now offers eggs and garden mulch (coconut husk, manure and woodchip) for sale from the farm gate.

Egg Carton (one dozen): \$3  
Bag of Mulch: \$3





# fun in the sun

- Basketball—Touch Footy—Volleyball—
- FIREWORKS— Skills and Novelty Games—
- Traditional Dancing -Kids Face painting—

Each year we take a weekend off to put our region on show. We take the skills, culture and strengths of our communities and invite friends, families and guests to join us in celebration.

This year we saw the sporting fever that has gripped our region, with special games arranged between All Star players, sport skills novelty games and competitions.

We also saw the diversity of our region's cultures with demonstration of traditional dancing by Injinoo (Badu Island style) dancers, New Mapoon (Aboriginal) and Nesian (Polynesian Island style) dancers performing live for the closing ceremony.

A big thanks to our proud sponsors NPARC, IBIS, Cape York Traders, Peddells Ferry Service, Seisia Enterprises Ltd, Sea Swift and Skytrans. Another thank you to event organizers NPARC Community Services, hosts Aldene Reuben and Stanley Elu and local sporting organisations and community groups for their support.



2013 NPA Mini Show Fun in the Sun was held August 8th-9th at Umagico Community hall.











## Old Timer Still Paving the Way

"You can't teach someone to drive a grader," Reggie Williams explains, "there simply isn't enough room to have more than one person in the cab at a time."

So it was in 1974, with Reggie in his late teens, that he was selected by the General Overseer at the time, to drive a piece of heavy machinery with only a few words of advice and a brief explanation of the buttons and levers inside.

"[Graders] used manual, gear driven controls back then," Mr Williams said, "not hydraulic like today's."



Working for the Department of Indigenous Affairs, Mr Williams was a part of the road gang that created roads from Bamaga to the Higgins Field Airport, the Bramwell bypass road, NPA to Wenlock, Injinoo to Jardine River Ferry and more.

"The only other way to travel up the Cape was to use the Old Telegraph Track," Mr Williams said, "we were making our way through thick bush, felling trees that were marked only with an axe cut or a paper plate nailed to the trunk."

During his time working for the Department of Indigenous Affairs, Mr Williams noticed that the Department were hiring trucks from down south and bringing them up for the work.

He asked the general Overseer of the time why they were hiring those trucks, and they told him if he had a truck, they would hire his too. So with that piece of information, Mr Williams got his own truck, took it to the Overseer and said *Go on, hire mine then*.

From there, he started his own business hiring trucks, while continuing to drive his grader creating the roads of the Northern Peninsula Area.

Many years later, Mr Williams ran into the Overseer from way back when he was with the Department. He asked him why they weren't taught to run their own businesses, to take leadership and run their own projects. He said that at the time, the overseers weren't allowed to give them the tools to do that, but he was so happy to see that people like Mr Williams had stood up and started their own businesses despite the ways of the early days.

Last year Mr Williams started his earthmoving business *Ichirru*, the language name for the area of Bamaga community, with three men now hired under him, working on NPA roads.

Asking how to find Mr Williams to have a chat about the current road works, the answer was to *'bang on the door of the grader'*. For this month, Mr Williams can be found either in the cab of his grader or at their makeshift camp near Laradinya swimming hole, where they will be camping for the duration of the project.

"How can I contact Reggie?"  
"Best bet is to bang on the door of the grader..."



When Reggie Williams first took the controls of the grader, the roads through NPA communities were dirt, the only road up the cape was the Telegraph track and the road to the Jardine Ferry didn't exist... and he is still out there today, with his grader, maintaining the old and making the new roads of our region.





## Smoothest Trip From Here to the Tip

Tourists and travelers this season are in for a real treat, with NPA road crews working hard on the road to Pajinka and Punsand border.

NPARC road gang, Yusia Earthmoving, RACE, Ichirru and Poi Poi (REM) Earthmoving have been targeting rough areas, filling in corrugations, leveling and compacting the new road surface.

While work on the road itself started last month on the 25th, the actual work began almost a week earlier, with REM stockpiling gravel pits, ready to be loaded into trucks and dumped in the designated areas.

Areas of heavy corrugation have been nominated for repair by the Queensland reconstruction Authority under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery arrangements as a result of the damage caused by cyclone Oswald June 2013.

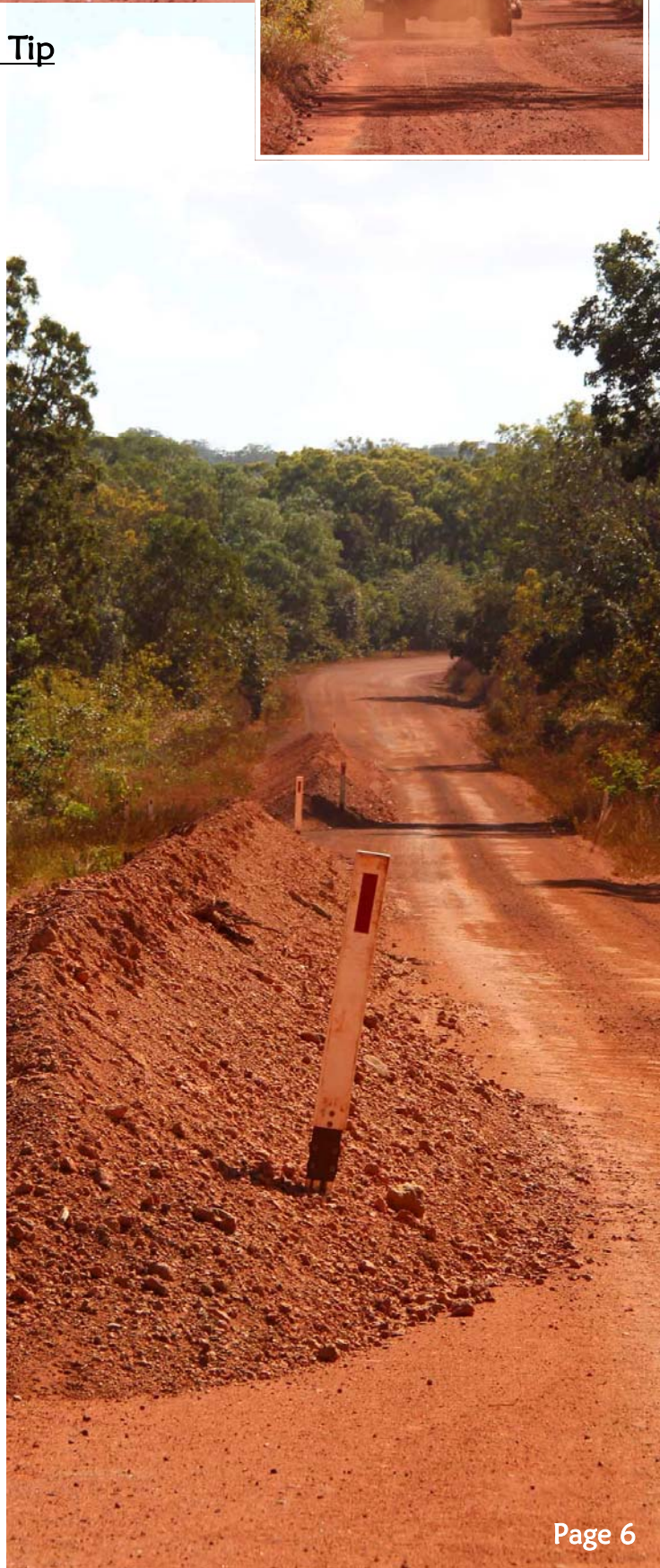
Though it's usual for our roads to stand up under heavy rainfall each year in the wet season, the damage caused by rains brought on by Cyclone Oswald needed further repairs.

We also experienced a rather late wet season this year, so by the time tourist season arrived, and the traffic on roads like this one increased, they were well in need of repair.

Local business, the Croc Tent, says the speed of the repairs was amazing, and thanks tourists and travelers for their courtesy in making way for the heavy machinery operating this month.

NPARC Operations would like to thank all earthmoving and civil works workers for their speed and high quality of work on our roads this season.

Pictured: (Opposite page) Graders at work, water truck dampens ground and grader operator Reggie Williams (Clockwise from the top) Scotty Bagiri, A finished section of road, graders at work and earth piles waiting to be smoothed.





# NPA College

## Education for everyone



Senior Students work on Civil Construction Program. Image courtesy of NPA College.

### Senior School Training

This term NPA College Senior Students have had the opportunity to engage in Civil Construction Course, as part of the Vocational Education and training (VET).

"Each year, senior students at Northern Peninsula Area State College study a number of VET subjects which help them prepare for employment after school," said Head of Senior Campus, Lynelle Canavan.

These subjects include Engineering, Construction, Business, Tourism, Agriculture, Hospitality, Children's Services and Work Education.

"To maximise training of the students in these we have intensive training weeks we refer to as VET week, said Ms Canavan. "Students complete a lot of work during these weeks which help them gain their certificates."

This is the first year Civil Construction training has been offered, a joint project though Doorways to Construction and Tropical North Queensland TAFE.

Eight students have taken the opportunity to complete the training for the course. Caleb Ober, Braydon Mudu, Wilton Williams, Jeffery Tamwoy, Tanu Tamwoy, Tyler Wasiu, Rodney Fisher and Winston Williams will complete the theoretical aspect of the course over four weeks of training during the year, and then will complete two weeks of work placement out in the community to complete the course.

This month at the Senior Campus, with year 11 and 12 students also completed training in First Aid and CPR.

### NPA College Welcomes New Principal

This term NPA College will say farewell to College Principal Ken Maclean, after five years of leadership at our College.

As we say farewell to Ken, we welcome Gordon Herbertson as our new College Principal, who will begin his new role in Term 4.

"Gordon comes with a wealth of principal experience and a really good understanding of the essential ingredients necessary to provide a good education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students," Mr Maclean said.

Gordon will join us now from Acacia Ridge State School in Brisbane, but he is no stranger to the Cape, having worked at Pormpuraaw State School before there. Welcome Mr Herbertson.



Isabeau Jacob (Yr 11) demonstrates CPR





### Farewell to NPA College Leaders

This year NPA College will farewell three heads of Campus and NPA College Principal Ken Maclean. Lynelle Canavan, Alyson Covey and Trish Blackman will be leaving the NPA, moving onto new schools and new challenges.

They said they have thoroughly enjoyed their time here in the NPA, and will miss the region and people. Ms Canavan, Ms Covey and Ms Blackman will be moving on at the end of the year, and Mr Maclean at the end of next term.



### Aged Care Ready to relax

This month Sea Swift NPA Depot donated two massage tables to the NPA Home and Aged Care Centre in Bamaga.

Sea Swift's Graeme Boydell says he hopes to see the tables used by community members.

"Many of our clients would benefit from light massage," said NPA HACC Coordinator Moira Aniba, "so the tables will be well used!"



NRL's one community Ambassador David Peachey visiting Tenant Creek Community, Image courtesy of *NRL One Community*

### NRL for Indigenous Health

This month, the National Rugby League (NRL) will dedicate Round 23 (16-19 August) of its premiership competition to help Close the Gap.

Their decision comes after the urging of Indigenous players to support the cause. NRL said that although Indigenous Australians make up less than 3% of the population, they make up more than 12% of current NRL players.

Though it's not just on the sports field Indigenous Australians have excelled, we have many artists, singers and actors who have soared to success, and it's also a little known fact that there are more than 100 Indigenous doctors practicing around Australia.

Within NPA communities alone we have Biosecurity experts, Healthcare Professionals, Teachers, Educators, Entrepreneurs, Business Owners, Sportsmen and women, healthcare professionals, students and more. Why shouldn't their life expectancy be equal to that of other Australians?

You can show your support by signing the Oxfam Pledge to Close the Gap (see link below) or by making changes in your own families and communities to improve your own health and others.

For more information visit: [www.oxfam.org.au/nrl](http://www.oxfam.org.au/nrl)  
Let's close the gap with this generation.

**Did you know** there is still over a decade's gap between the national life expectancy of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians? This year, statistics show that Aboriginal babies are up to three times more likely to die before the age of 1 than other Australian babies, and are expected to die up to 10 years younger, while facing much higher risks of diabetes, heart disease, cancer and kidney failure in their lives.

Many communities across Australia are already working to try and close this gap, and help improve health opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders.



## Saibai Takes on New Style

Artistic representation of ancient stories are continuously adapting, as new generations take on new styles and techniques to tell old tales.

"It's the first time that our ancestors stories have been represented in this way, no one on the island had used lino printing before," NPA Artist Vincent Babia said, returning from a week's visit to Saibai Island where he hosted a range of Art Workshops alongside his cousin Brett Aniba.

The cousins travelled over for the August Celebrations recognising the anniversary of Saibai Island becoming recognised as a part of the state of QLD, where they held lino print workshops for community members.

Both Vincent and Brett are employed as Art Support workers at the NPA Arts Centre in New Mapoon, where they work alongside other community artists to promote art and culture within the NPA region.

"The elders were very proud when we showed them what we have been making over here," Vincent said.

"They were happy to see our culture and stories represented in a new way."

"With no art centre on the Island, artists have to work from their own homes," the cousins explained, "and they don't often have access to workshops like we do, where we can learn new skills or techniques from other areas and artists."

"We showed some of our work at the school and the kids could recognise the stories they were about instantly!" Vincent said. "They were freaking out for the designs."

Community artists, kids and youths were encouraged to have a go at carving lino, under the guidance of Brett and Vincent.

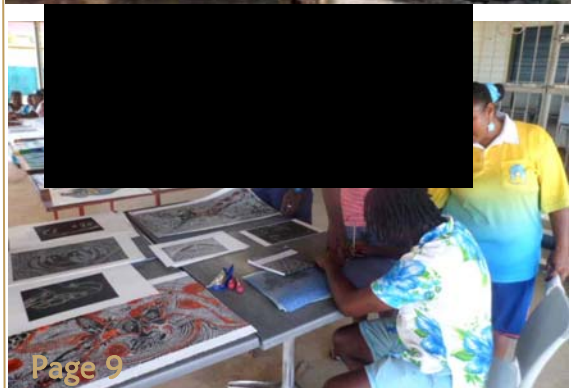
"The youth were really inspired when they saw what we were doing with our art," Vincent said, "I think it really opened their eyes."

Brett and Vincent returned home with some of the completed lino carvings made by youths on Saibai, to print here and send back over.

"Before we left, we asked permission from the elders there to continue to tell our stories through our artwork," Vincent said, "they were very happy to see the stories carried on here in our communities, and to hear that language and culture was strong here too."

The cousins have already been asked to return later in the year to hold more art workshops and continue to teach new styles.

"It was good to be back on the motherland, to see our families and our friends again," Vincent said. "We are looking forward to our next visit already!"







Just another day  
Busting Cars and Saving Lives

In an emergency, there is seldom time for mistakes. This month, new members of the NPA SES volunteer service learned some new skills in road crash rescue first response, training with SES Volunteers Trent, Katie and Xavier.

“Our job is first response, we make it possible for the paramedics to do their job,” said NPA SES member Xavier Barker. “We make the crash scene safe, provide first aid if necessary and allow access to the casualties, assist paramedics and police where necessary and clean up after,”

The training covered scenario assessment, protocol and use of equipment. Using an old van generously donated for training purposes, the new volunteer learned to use a range of tools from the hydraulic powered *jaws of life*, used to cut through metal, to the simple *hooligan tool*, a metal bar with a blunt and sharpened end, used to smash windows, cut through metal sheets and more.

Unfortunately, two cars set aside for training we not returned, and the van had been badly vandalized, so the volunteers weren't able to learn how to safely



remove or cut glass, and were only able to use the other tools a few times before the van was completely destroyed.

Later in the month, the NPA SES volunteer crew will be training with QLD Ambulance to run through some scenarios, exercising their new skills and training.

Thank you to Mark at Top End Motors and Sea Swift for assisting in arranging cars for the training.

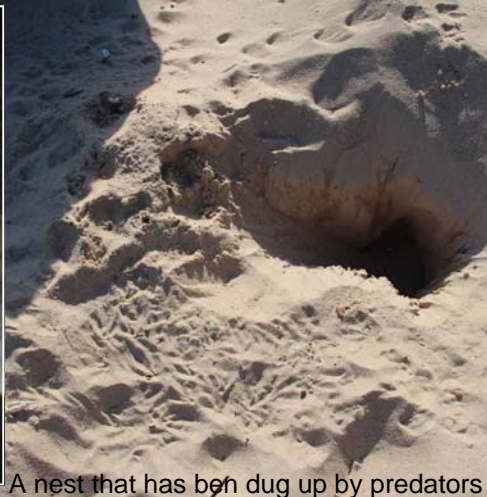
If you would like to join the NPA SES, Coast Guard or Rural Fire Service, just come along to any training session, you can contact NPARC Community Services on 4048 6600 for next training times and locations.

We need dedicated volunteers for these services to continue to serve our region.





A clutch of eggs



A nest that has been dug up by predators



Rangers record data on site

## Sea Turtle Conservation

Just kilometers from the most Northern tip of mainland Australia, on the white sandy beaches bordering the crystal waters of the Torres Strait, for the first time ever, nesting turtles are being tagged as part of an annual Turtle Monitoring Camp conducted by Apudthama Land and Sea Rangers.

Under the watchful gaze of a team of indigenous rangers, each nesting mother works slowly to scrape aside the sand with her rear flipper, digging away the damp sand to build her nest.

It has to be the just right distance up the beach, the right depth in the sand and the right shape to properly incubate her eggs and provide enough air for them to breath when they hatch months from now.

Laying bellies down on the sand next to her, the team of rangers watch as she begins to drop her eggs into the hole in runs, 2 or 3 soft shelled, white orbs at a time.

With her eggs safe in the ground, the nesting mother once more works the sand with the precision of a sculptor, piling light layers across the top of the nest and packing down the sides to stabilise.

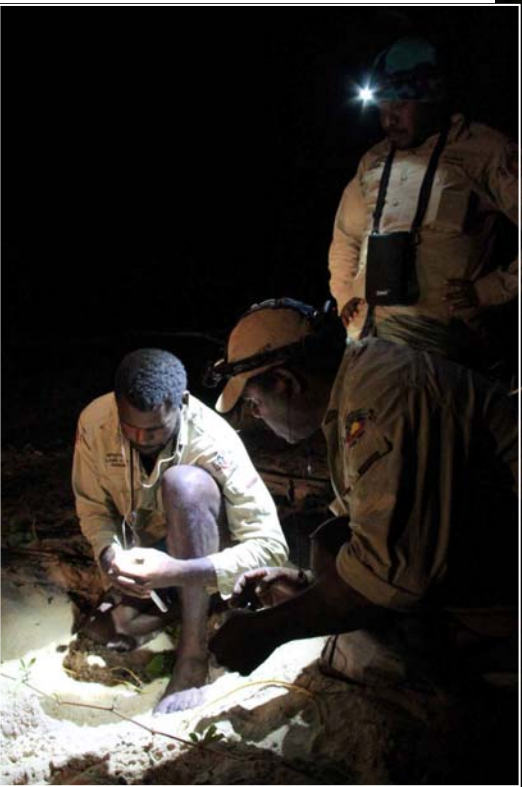
The entire nest is created and covered by feel, utilizing the dexterity of her back flippers, relying on her front wings for support. She then drags herself forward a few strides and makes another pile of sand to disguise the location of her clutch before turning her head back to the sea.

Exhausted, she pulls herself down the beach again, where she is met by the waiting team of rangers. Gently, they secure her in a ghost net and hoist her into the cool night air to be weighed, measured and tagged with a unique ID tag, before sending her on her way.

Continued pg 13.







Weighing the nesting mother





Each tag, attached to the animal's right wing, carries a unique registration number that can be used to track the activities of that particular animal should they be collected by fishermen, conservation workers, hunters or rangers.

"For us, this means we will have the opportunity to keep track of the females that nest in this area," said Senior Ranger Richard Woosup, "because nesting turtles will always return to the beach they hatched from."

"Once we have most of the nesting turtles tagged, ideally, we will be able to record how often they return to nest, how many eggs they're laying, their state of health and location they return to," explained Senior Ranger Christopher Lifu.

"It also means that if she is picked up by a fishing boat, or hunters out at sea, they can send her details to us, and where she was found, so we can keep track of mortality rates and at sea activity."

This month, Apudthama Rangers focused on getting as many turtles tagged as they can each night, while also monitoring nests for predation and recording GPS locations of nests. They were joined by Community Development Trainer Shaun Seymour, who has experience tagging green sea turtles and assisting other Indigenous Ranger Programs. Shaun worked with ranger teams to assist in tagging and data collection, and continue training.

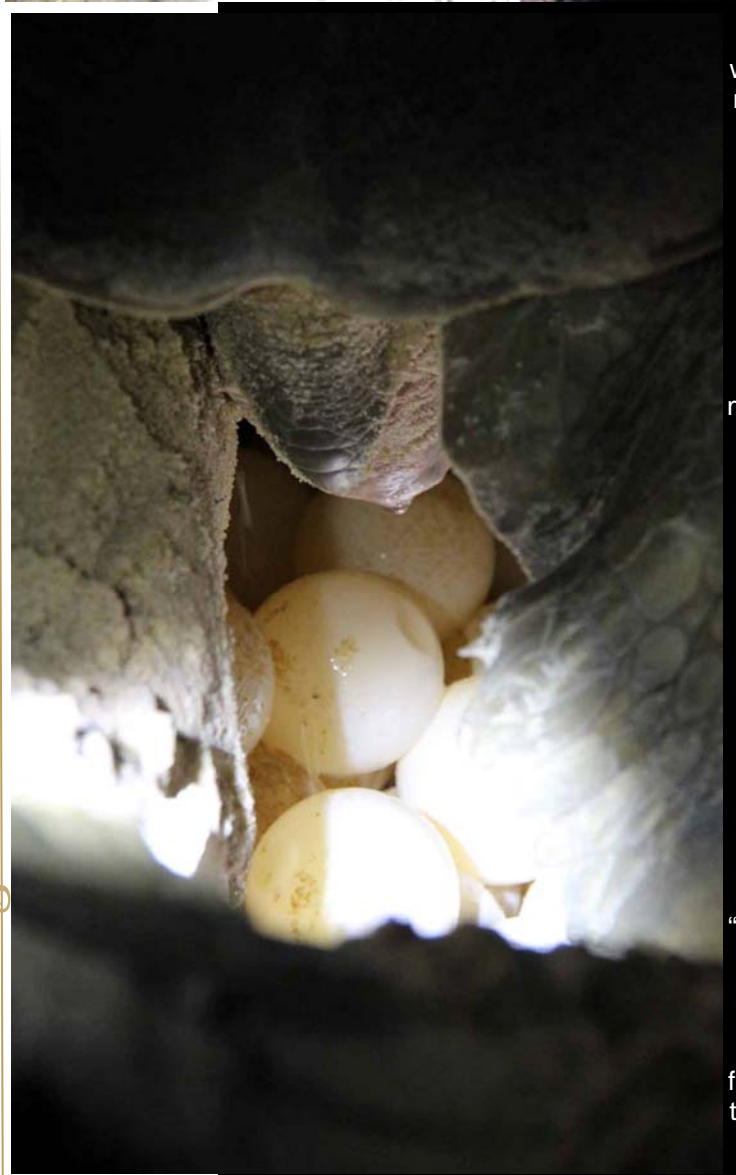
"During nesting season, there can be hundreds of turtles up on the beach each night," said Ranger Francis Salee, "with most returning two or more times to lay."

"It's a big job for the guys to try and tag the majority of mums who come up each night," said Apudthama Ranger Coordinator Warren Strevens, "as well as record nest and predation data, but within a few years, we can expect to start seeing some patterns emerging in the data."

"We are looking at the long term here," Ranger Coordinator Strevens said, "we don't expect to see any really strong data for many years, but this is where it starts."

Apudthama Land and Sea Rangers are camping in teams for the length of August, monitoring 10km of beaches along the East Coast from the mouth of the Jardine River to Crab Island each night. All data recorded during the month is entered into an iTracker database specifically designed and built by Apudthama Rangers to manage local data.

Now in its third consecutive year, the Apudthama Ranger's Program is the most comprehensive turtle monitoring program conducted in our region. From tagging and data collection to management of known feral predators and protection of habitat, their work will help to sustainably manage sea turtles in our region.







## Red Dust Natives Bring the Heat

Crouching Tigers of the NPA will be travelling south to compete at the Cairns Regional Judo Competition this month, against some of the national's best judoka\*. Twenty-four NPA Judoka will travel to the Cairns regional Judo Competition this month, seven adults and seventeen children, with Sensei Xavier Barker and a rally of supporters.

"This will be the first shiai (tournament) for most of our judoka," said Sensei Barker. "Judo is supposed to be practiced in three modes: Kata (form), Randori (free practice) and Shiai (competition)."

"Exposure to the Shiai element in a less-competitive environment will, I hope, complete the students' judo experience and allow them to gauge their development."

Mr Barker said that while sometimes large shiai meets can be discouraging for kids, as they might be competing out of their league, but this shiai will be a friendly environment and the kids will be coached through by Mr Barker himself before receiving a Friday evening training session with the Yorkeys Knob's Sensei Karl Michaelis.

"They will be supported by all the clubs down there," Sensei Barker said.

All competitors are divided into weight categories to compete. This means that our junior judoka will be competing with kids within 10% of their own weight.

"Our juniors, having only studied judo for a year, will be on par with the majority of junior judoka in the Cairns clubs," Sensei Barker said. "I'm expecting our juniors to perform at least at the same level as the Cairns club juniors."

Sensei barker said the NPA senior judoka will be competing against players likely to have many years of experience training behind them.

"In the Over 100kgs class, Alfie Nona and Sampson Jawai can expect to do battle with George Brendecke, a long-time member of the Australian Judo Team and multiple Australian Champion in the super-heavyweight division," said Sensei Barker, who will also be competing in the tournament. "In the Under 90kgs, Coral Coast Judo Club is the training ground for Sebastian Temesi, who unfortunately for us, will be away representing Australia at the World Judo Championships in Rio de Janeiro."

"Considering the Cairns region is home to two National Champions, there should be a high quality of judoka in this tournament so our results have to be looked at in that light."

This story really wouldn't have been possible without the overwhelming support given by families, club members and community. Parents and members have been fundraising for several months leading up to the competition, raising money for the club to travel down. Thankyou to all families and supporters for their generous donations.

Another thank you to Club Sponsors: NPARC, Bamaga Enterprises Limited, Cape York Ice and Tackle, NPA Earthmoving Yusia Pty Ltd, New Mapoon General Store, Seisia Holiday Park, Seisia Fishing Club, Katalyst Concepts and Design, Cape York Peninsula Fishing and Cape York Hire Boats.

*\*'Judoka'—someone who practices the martial art of Judo.*







## What's on in the NPA ?

**For the Calendar:** 1st September—Father's Day  
7th September—White Balloon Day  
8th September -International Literacy Day  
12th September—R U OK? Day  
29th September—National Police Remembrance Day  
All September: National Biodiversity Month & Save the Koala month

**Listen up for news on upcoming NPA's Got Talent! -coming soon**

### **NPA Judo Club**

Monday and Wednesdays  
Under 10s 3:30-4:30  
Over 10 years 6-7:30pm  
at Bamaga Community Hall.

### **Every second Saturday**

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

All students are to wear shoes to class and have nails kept clean and short. For more information, contact Xavier at Judo class.

### **Touch Footy**

Monday and Wednesday Evenings  
7-9:30pm at Yusia Bamaga Oval  
Contact CY PCYC for more information

### **Volleyball**

6:30pm at Reginald Sebasio Hall, Bamaga  
Contact CY PCYC for more information

### **NPA Hoops**

Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm  
At Reginald Sebasio hall, Bamaga  
Contact NPA BA for more information

### **South Pacific Dancing**

Wednesday 5:30pm at Bamaga Activities Centre

### **Circuit**

Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm  
at Bamaga Yusia Ginou Oval

### **Kickboxing**

Tuesdays 5:30pm at Bamaga Activities Centre  
Thursdays 5:30pm at Injinoo OSCH  
Contact NPA FACS on 4212 2000 for more information on Circuit, kickboxing or dancing.



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[www.skytrans.com.au](http://www.skytrans.com.au)

