

NPA NEWS

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Media Liaison: Jessica.Saxton@nparc.qld.gov.au
tel: +61-7-4048 6612 m: 0432 621 426

NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Ilario Sabatino



Mayor Bernard Charlie

Portfolios: All.

Deputy Mayor Edward Newman

Division 3 Bamaga

Portfolios: Education, Sports and Recreation, Events and the Arts, Industrial Relations, Employment and Community Safety.

Councillor Anthony Mara

Division 1 Injinoo

Portfolios: Land Tenure, Social Housing, Land Leases, Town Planning, Economic Development, Business, Enterprise Divestments, Council Operations, Capital Projects, Environmental Health.

Councillor Trevor Lifu

Division 4 New Mapoon

Portfolios: Land Tenure, Social Housing, Land Leases, Town Planning.

Councillor Dennis Getawan

Division 2 Umagico

Portfolios: Land Tenure, Social Housing, Land Leases, Town Planning, Council Operations, Capital Projects, Environmental Health, Economic Development, Business Enterprise Divestment, Finance, Budget Review and Internal Audit.

Councillor Benjamin Gebadi

Division 5 Seisia

Portfolios: Economic Development, Business, Enterprise Divestments. Sports and Recreation, Events & Art

Welcome

NPARC would like to extend a warm welcome our new Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ilario Sabatino.



Mr Sabatino has over 15 years experience in both public and private sector management, as well as having represented on various Regional, State and National committees and holding positions with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Queensland Police Service, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs & Partnership, Department of Education, Science & Training and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

"The exceptionally strong field of applicants for this position reflects the great standing that our organisation has within the community and the local government sector," Mayor Charlie says.

"I'm impressed by the positive energy, commitment and passion expressed by NPARC Councillors.

I am looking forward to getting up to speed on the priorities of the Council and its community and working collaboratively to achieve them."

- NPARC CEO, Mr Ilario Sabatino.

"Ilario is passionate about our organisation and our community, and the Council is confident that he will add tremendous value to all that we have already achieved and do for our residents.

It is Council's belief that Ilario will strengthen the core competencies of NPARC and will build further on our strong organisation and help us progress into the next new and exciting phase," Mayor Charlie said, welcoming Ilario to the role.

Farewell

This month NPARC waves farewell to Mr Jeff Hartley, who took on the role of Director of Finance October 2012.

As well as his way with numbers, Jeff was known for his keen ability to spin a yarn. Thank you Jeff for your great work and best of luck.

Public Notice

NPARC wishes to inform that Councillor Gebadi is currently on extended leave.

Linda Wapau can be contacted at Seisia Office on his behalf.
Esso.

Funding for NPA Dancers

NPARC has successfully sourced funding from TSRA to support dancers from the NPA in attending the Laura Dance Festival, 2013.

"We hope to see a diverse range of participants and styles entered, to reflect the diversity of cultures within our region," said Director of Community Services, Russell Symons.

Apology Anniversary

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Australian Government's formal apology to the Indigenous people of Australia.

To mark the celebration, NPAFACS held a celebratory luncheon, showing Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology and welcoming discussion from community members present.

Mayor Bernard Charlie asked those present to let go of being the victims and continue to move on from the hurts of the past. He said that with each generation, the Indigenous people of Australia will grow stronger, learning from the past.

NPAFACS councilors Charly Waldorf and Libby Carney offered their support to anyone who may need someone to talk to.

NPA Hoops

Grand Final 2013



Men's Winners: Webz



Women's Winners: Balipudthis



Men's Runners Up: Alley Oops



Women's Runners Up: Hornets



For access to NPA News Events Photo Albums, ask your local IKC coordinator.



NPA Hoops Volunteer Referees, photo provided by Lynda Symons



Dump Maintenance Gives Four More Years

Recent maintenance work to the NPA Regional Tip has improved waste management efficiency and increased the estimated usage timeline by four to five years says NPARC Director of Operations, Geoff Rintoul.

The dump has undergone significant remodelling to increase capacity and separate green waste from regular waste.

"It will be many years before we have a recycling system established in our region," says Environmental Services Manager George Mara, "but we can now separate our green and regular waste, and also have a separate pit for carcass dumping."

The dumping of dugong and turtle remains on regional back roads has caused a stir within NPA communities, with Traditional Owners, hunters and other community members pointing shame at those who do not use proper dumping areas.

The newly created carcass pit at the NPA Regional Tip is clearly signed, please follow the directions to dump animal remains.

"We'd like to remind everyone that if they need bulk waste removed, they can contact NPARC Works on 4069 3419, and we will come and pick it up," Mr Mara said. "If you are planning an event like a feast, party or celebration, and know you will be expecting a lot of waste, you can call us on the same number and ask for a skip to be delivered, you can fill it up without having to go to the dump, and we will remove it later."

NPA Communities are serviced by weekly to bi-weekly rubbish collections. Make sure your bins are road side to be emptied.

If you have waste you are unsure of how to dispose of; a dead animal, bulky garden waste, harmful waste, etc- please contact Environmental Services.

NPARC Environmental Services: 4069 3419

NPA Regional Tip (Mon- Fri 8am-4pm): 4069 3252

NPA Regional Tip (after hours) :4069 3593

On the lookout for Mozzies

Mosquitoes— It's mozzie breeding season again, and though we can't help the filling up of swamps and creeks, we can try to keep our own backyards free from breeding insects. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water, so check your yard for anything that might collect rainwater and attract mozzies. If you and your family are getting bitten outside, try planting some lemongrass as a natural repellent.

Sewer Pumps Struggling with Foreign Objects Flushed

"The pump room was making a terrible noise," described Environmental Services Manager George Mara, "They shut it off and checked inside, and found the bottom cuff of a pair of jeans caught in the rotor."

Not the first time clothing and foreign objects have been found in the sewer, NPARC Environmental Staff again ask residents *not* to flush anything that might clog the system.

Clothing, toys, chux and other objects flushed will put a strain on the pumps and in worst case scenario this could cause the pumps to fail. With the pumps broken, sewerage would back up through the system and spill out into communities, the surrounding environment and possibly reach creeks or the water table.

The resulting health implications are obvious.

NPARC Environmental Services ask that all residents please be careful with what they commit to the sewer, remembering that in this case out of sight is not out of mind. Please do not flush clothing, tea towels or cloths.

Rubbish Dumping

The areas surrounding our communities are no longer healthy bush land teeming with wildlife, but dirt tracks lined with household refuse piled into the receding bush, attracting stray dogs and cats and damaging our natural environment.

With the dump only a few kilometers away, there is no reason to dump refuse on our back roads. The roads behind Injinoo and Bamaga are renowned for the careless dumping, where on many occasions residents have dumped their waste underneath the 'No Dumping' signs.

Our bush land is not a rubbish dump and should not be treated as one. There is no excuse for dumping cans, food waste and even used nappies on the back roads.

NPARC ask that you use the dump provided and if you are unable to transport your rubbish, please call NPARC environmental services to assist with skip hire.



Dumped rubbish a shanme to communities.



Yumpla,

Education for everyone

School attendance records for Day 4 will impact Queensland school's in their capacity for funding and support. With low attendance our schools may loose funding for teacher positions and facilities.

This year NPA College celebrated Day 4 with a Yumpla Celebration Day, encouraging all students, family and community members to attend and show their support for our school.

The day went off without a hitch, with celebrations continuing into the night. The evening celebrations allowed families to welcome new staff before the feasting, entertainment and welcome speeches by heads of campuses and P & C representatives.

"It was a great day to promote our school to the public," said Head of Bamaga Senior Campus Lynelle Canavan, "a big success thanks to all the hard work of all the people involved. From our school staff to the P&C, NPARC, NPAFACS, Centerlink, Jobfind, Health and to the Sagaukaz and Newman families."



The P&C Committees would like to thank all parents & carers for their support of the 'Yumpla Day Out' on Friday 1 February. It was good to see so many people and students walking around with smiles on their faces, enjoying the food and activities.

Special thanks to all the non Government Organisations for their contributions and Participation, it went a long way to making the whole event a HUGE success.

This month both Injinoo and Bamaga Campus P & C committees met to discuss the new year.

February's Injinoo Campus P & C meeting doubled up as a parent information night, allowing parents to meet their children's teachers, look around the classrooms and discuss classroom activities.

"I don't think I've ever seen so many people in that one classroom," said Head of Injinoo Campus Trish Blackman.

Ms Blackman said the info night was a great opportunity for parents to really feel involved in the school. They were able to have one on one time with the teachers, and discuss classroom activities and learning structures.

NPA College P & C committees would like to extend an invitation to all parents and community members who would like to attend P & C meetings.

If you have any concerns, any ideas or simply would like to take a more active role in your child's education, please feel free to attend. Notices of dates will be advertised on community noticeboards.

Next meeting for Bamaga is on Tuesday 23 April. Contact Injinoo Campus for date of next meeting.

To get copies of minutes from any of the P&C meetings, just contact your local P&C.

Bamaga P&C Executive: Wayne Christian (President), Nancy Stephen-Paii (Vice President), Joe Ransfield (Treasurer), Glenda Christian (Secretary).

Injinoo P&C Executive: Tony Mara (President), Erris Eseli (Vice President), Rosabel Woosup (Treasurer), Elaine Nawia (Secretary).

NPARC is proud to be working closely with our schools and local community groups to support education in our region.





Disabilities Services Up Skill

There have been some new faces about at NPA HACC recently as participants of TAFE Cert III in Disability Services gain some on the job work experience.

HACC Coordinator, Moria Aniba said the course had sparked the enthusiasm of some students who had never thought of disability services work before.

“We have some students already asking about coming in voluntary basis, and I think it is such a blessing to know how many people out there are not only interested, but are gifted in the Aged Care area.”

The 12 months course covers a range of areas, from infection control to healthy eating, manual handling, workplace health and safety as well as acting as a refresher course for Aged Care Cert III.

“They learn essential skills for aged care and disability work,” Moira said, “in their volunteer roles here they learn how to individually respond to clients, rather than apply a blanket treatment to all.”

Participants learn to observe their clients and choose the best activity for their personality and abilities.

“You have to be open minded to do this course,” Moira explains.

“Many of the participants we are seeing already have great communication and caring skills, it’s amazing to see how they interact with the clients,” Moira said. “There are any people in our communities who have had a caring role put upon them, and have learned through experience. They might not realize that the skills they use everyday could be used in a career position as well.”

Successful participants will complete the course by October 2013, becoming eligible for Enrolled Nursing, aged care, indigenous health worker positions and more.

“ITEC students are looking forward to have job opportunities not only at NPA HACC, but else where in the QLD Health Sector,” Moira said.

With the added assistance provided by volunteers, HACC is able to operate more efficiently; with extra hands to assist in outings and events, as well as respite.

“We are really grateful that council has allowed for volunteers to work here at HACC, it’s been such a benefit to the clients, the staff and the course participants,” Moira said.

A big thankyou to volunteers Delma Magala, Roberta Muka, Angela Nawie and Kim Gaga, and also to NPA Disabilities Services Manager Teilisa Yusia.





Laying the Foundations

CDEP mentors and participants have been busy this month, working on a number of projects; Bamaga Farm, New Mapoon Bush Tucker and regional tree lopping.

Harrison's team has been working on the farm, completing infrastructure construction, allowing for the move of the Bamaga Nursery to the farm.

Jackson's team (pictured below) have picked up from last year's work on the Bush Tucker Garden in New Mapoon. Tom and his crew have been active across the region, with tree lopping and wood chipping at various sites.

Alan and his crew have been marking out a perimeter around the AFL oval, to begin fencing the oval and Bush Tucker Garden soon.

As our CDEP participants gain skill sand training on the job site, our communities gain better facilities.

Off-site, the first round of CDEP Participants have completed a Cert I in Work Readiness.

CDEP mentors and workers would like to recognise the 'Worker of the Month' for January: Mr Levi Pablo. Congratulations to Levi, nominated for his work ethics, punctuality and on site behavior.



CDEP Mentor Jackson Nawie and his team Bruce Sailor, Lewis Bond and Billy Ishmail secure the wooden edging for the path





NPA PCYC Team (L-R) Nick Thompson, Mavis Kapa and Stanley Dai. Absent: Nola Lewin



NPA Volleyball rep teams, competing Moa Island 2013

Pictured Left: NPA Gunners (blue) and Masig Island (red) volleyball teams before playing off for Bronze medallion. Photos thanks to Nick Thompson, NPAPCYC

Sporting Comps Coming Up

NPA Touch Competition
Feb 19th– May 14th

Rugby League 9 a'side
Starts May 17th

Battle of The Islands Touch Carnival (TI)
4th & 5th May

For more info, contact NPA PCYC
at Yusia Ginau Bamaga Oval Office

Sporting Talent

This year NPA Sports and Sporting competitions will be run by NPA PCYC, with support from NPARC and other community organisations and volunteers.

NPA PCYC Coordinator Nick Thompson says the new structure will deliver stronger sport competitions and training, rather than having double ups of sporting programs.

"We are working in partnership with each other now," Nick says, working closely with NPARC Events and NPA FACS Activities Officer.

"There is better communication between staff and organisations and we'd like to see it continue. It's all about working together,"

Nick says their aim is not only to engage in sport locally, but to then take NPA rep teams to compete at regional and state level. Now, with local funds and resources pooled together, Nick says they have the right foundations to support local sporting talent.

Over the Australia Day Long Weekend, two Volley Ball teams from the NPA, a men's and Women's, travelled to St Paul Community, on Moa Island to compete.

The NPA representative teams were chosen as a result of the local 2012 competitions.

"After selection it as pretty short notice to get everything finalized but they pulled it together and went really well," Nick said.

"We really appreciate the constant support of the NPARC Events team; from venues to transport and volunteering, they've been amazing"

Big thanks also to all supporters and volunteers, especially to volunteer refs Aaron Tamwoy, Sarah Lui and Stanley Elu.

"Last year our refs completed training, with the Cairns Taipans, becoming fully qualified referees. Even though they are volunteers, they are there every game, every week without fail," Nick says.

With NPA Basketball comps drawing to a close this month, players are invited to sign up for touch and league competitions.



Recognising the first Australians

Referendum on the Horizon

Calls for recognition of Indigenous Australians as the first Australians date back as far as the founding constitutional debates. Since then, there has been increasing pressure, from both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, to allow Australians to vote on a referendum to change the constitution of Australia, acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first Australians.

This month saw a great step forward in the fight for recognition. On the fifth anniversary of the Australian Government's official apology to the Indigenous People's of Australia, the Australian Parliament passed an Act of Recognition.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard acknowledge the significance of the date as she introduced the act.

"We are only able to consider this Act of Recognition and constitutional change because the apology came first."

The Act, called the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012*, acknowledges in law that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were the first inhabitants of this nation, and that they occupied this land from time immemorial.

The Act also outlines the 'readiness' of the Australian public to support a referendum giving constitutional recognition to Indigenous Australians, and describes the 'preferred form' of these constitutional changes.

The Australian Constitution was brought into effect in 1901 without any consultation with Indigenous Australians. In 1967 a referendum was held, the result of which gave Indigenous Australians the right to vote.

However, today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still not recognized in the Australian Constitution as the first people of this land.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard addressed the Australian Parliament, expressing her support for the Bill and a future referendum.

"In the decade of deliberation that created our Constitution there were conventions and debates across the land. But there is no record of any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person taking part. No mention of their dispossession, their proud and ancient cultures, their profound connection to the land or the unhealed wound that even now lies open at the heart of our national story."

In 2010, Prime Minister Gillard's Government appointed an Expert Panel to investigate potential options for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The panel undertook wide public consultations and made its report to the Government in January 2012. The panel's report, *Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution*, looks at what forms of recognition have taken place in other contexts, and examines the early calls for a prohibition against racial discrimination.

The Expert Panel recommended a special referendum to seek approval to amend the *Constitution* by removing racist sections (both section 2512, on excluding people from voting on the basis of race, and the race power in section 51(xxvi)13), and creating a section to legislate for the 'advancement' of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and the protection of their language and culture.

The progress of the Recognition Act will be revised within two years, the results of which will be used in the selection of an appropriate date for a referendum.

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012*, was first heard in Australian Parliament on 28th November, 2012.

The purpose of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012 is to articulate the Parliament's recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the original inhabitants of Australia, and also their ongoing connection with their traditional land and waters, cultures, languages and heritage. The Bill also provides for the establishment of a review of the readiness of the Australian public to support a referendum giving constitutional recognition to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the preferred form of these proposed constitutional changes.

Excerpt from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012:
Purpose of the Bill , Pg 3.

Housing Design on the Table

As NPA homes near completion, tenants were this month invited to choose their own lot and interior design for their new home. Tenants were able to choose between a high set or low set design, from a selection of lots in Mosby Close or Snake Gully, before selecting their own interior design colour scheme.

This month, 13 new homes were chosen by Injinoo residents awaiting social housing placement. Some tenants at the top of the list decided to wait for the next round, as family conditions may have changed since they first signed up.

"There was a slight delay in the first month," Councillor for Injinoo Tony Mara said, "because we had to fight for what we wanted. But now they can have a design to suit their families."

As part of NPARC's social housing rollout for 2013, 73 new homes are expected to be built and ready for families to move in by July 2013.

The 13 appointed Injinoo homes are nearing completion, along with homes for Umagico, Bamaga, New Mapoon and Seisia, in the Remote Building Solutions' (RBS) workshops in Cairns. RBS have been contracted by FK Gardner & Sons for construction of the homes.

"Injinoo was the first cab off the rank, so to speak," said Project Coordinator Slav Sostarko, "when these homes are up and ready, the next round of homes will be built and will be ready for the other communities."

Each home has been designed specifically for remote indigenous families, and approved by our NPA Councillors. The homes exterior façade differs with varied colour schemes and high set or low set designs.

"We were considering the look and feel of entire housing estate, as well as each individual home," said FK Gardner architect Chloe Upton.

As part of their ongoing community education and employment program, RBS has offered several carpentry apprenticeships to local job-seekers, to be selected late February. The apprentices will have the opportunity to work on both on site and off site construction of the homes, learning sustainable construction and manual carpentry skills.



2013 Social Housing Roll Out Round One

Injinoo: 13 homes
Umagico: 10 homes
Bamaga: 19 homes
New Mapoon: 14 homes
Seisia: 13 homes

Exterior design offered for RBS homes in Injinoo

A home away from home. New Mapoon Youth Center



Margo Cottis

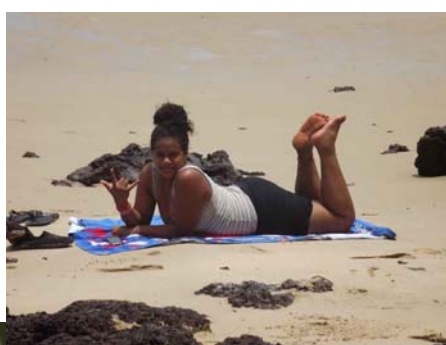
Margo Cottis filled the role of New Mapoon Youth Centre Coordinator early last year, and since then, the centre has been full of life, laughter and music.

"I love my job," Margo says, "I feel like I can communicate well with the youths, and since I've taken on the school bus run as part of my role, my communication with youths from other communities has strengthened too. I would like to see more youths from New Mapoon community come and join us."

The centre is open to all youths between 12-25yrs, offering indoor and outdoor activities and sports, movie nights and food. Often described as a home away from home for both the youths and Margo, they all help to cook and clean up, and the youths even have their own system worked out to rotate use of the games and facilities.

"They love playing pool and darts," Margo says, "but no one gets as excited to watch the tennis, like I do!"

Prior to her current role, Margo worked with CDEP and New Mapoon Council as a Sports and Rec worker, before leaving full time work to care for her mother. She hopes to complete her Cert II and III in Sports and Recreation soon, and expand the sports and rec offered at the centre.



Photos of New Mapoon Youth Group East Coast Trip, provided by NPARC Events.

Bill Passed to Assist Indigenous Home and Land Ownership

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Bill* was passed by Parliament this month. The Bill is expected to primarily addresses a number of longstanding issues arising from the operation of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (Land Holding) Act 1985*.

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Hon. MP Andrew Cripps said the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Bill* (the Bill) aims to resolve a range of anomalies under the existing laws and provide the tools to resolve them.

“By addressing these issues,” Hon. MP Cripps said, “the government is delivering on our election commitment to work with all trustees, individual community members and stakeholders to remove barriers to sustainable home ownership on Indigenous land in Queensland.”

The Act in question, the *Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (Land Holding) Act 1985* was introduced on 24th April, 1985 with the principal policy objective of to assist residents of Indigenous Deeds of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) and Indigenous Reserve Land to be able to apply for perpetual leases for private home ownership and special leases for commercial purposes.

Hon. MP Cripps described the *Land Holding Act 1985* as ‘outdated’ and ‘inflexible’, saying it’s inability to provide tools to resolve important issues has reduced it’s usefulness as a mechanism for delivering home ownership to Indigenous Queenslanders.

Hon. MP Cripps said that as Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, he has inherited “a legacy of inconsistency and neglect”.

In a recent media release, Hon. MP Cripps highlighted the inefficiency of the Act to aid Indigenous home ownership.

“The Act was intended to allow for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain perpetual leases for residential purposes, and leases for other purposes over land in Indigenous Communities. Many people applied for leases. Unfortunately, while 223 leases were granted, I am sorry to say that many other applicants who were found to be eligible never received their leases. More than 200 eligible Queenslanders were denied their rights to secure leasehold property in their home community.”

“[The Bill] addresses issues arising from the implementation and operation of the *Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (Land Holding) Act 1985* and the *Land Act 1994* to remove barriers to sustainable home ownership on certain Indigenous land in Queensland affected by the operation of those Acts; and the Bill amends the *Land Act 1994* to facilitate certainty for rural leaseholders and Indigenous people in relation to access and use of State rural leasehold land and assist in more timely resolution of native title claims over this land.”

Indeed, the Bill’s Policy Objectives outline that searches conducted by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines have identified (as at 30 July 2012) 697 applications for leases made under the *Land Holding Act 1985*.

Of these, 214 perpetual leases and 9 special leases were granted and 474 are unresolved applications; of which 222 are entitled to be granted a lease (lease entitlements) and 252 applications are invalid.

The Bill objectives outline that where an application was properly made and approved under the *Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (Land Holding) Act 1985* prior to 21 December 1991, the State is obliged to grant a lease over the area covered by the application.

The Bill aims to aid development in Indigenous communities through providing the power to subdivide DOGIT land, under the *Land Act 1994*.

The current development of DOGIT Land is managed by the Trustees of the Land (our elected Mayor and Councillors) through land leasing; though this does not have the effect of permanently subdividing the land.

Furthermore, the amendments outlined in the Bill will provide the statutory framework for rural leasehold land lessees and Indigenous parties to enter into agreements supporting Indigenous access to State rural leasehold land for traditional purposes.

Inclusion of these amendments is designed to provide certainty for Indigenous Queenslanders in relation to access and use of rural leasehold land for traditional purposes, and to assist in the more timely resolution of native title claims.

The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Bill* was passed by Parliament on the 13th February, 2012.

You can access the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Bill 2012* at the following site:

www.legislation.qld.gov.au



Parks and Gardens: Charlie Sagigi, Jeffrey Ara and Timothy Pablo keep the place looking great!

Green Season

Despite only a few downpours in an otherwise dry wet season, the grass has been growing and that's keeping Parks and Gardens mowing.

With crews across the region, each community is in for a haircut pretty soon.

"Our guys are working on a few projects," says NPARC Depot Manager Nick Curnow, "but the main one for the wet is always to keep on top of that grass growth."



New roads for Housing Estates

Residents beside the Bamaga and Injinoo housing estates came home this month to find the dusty roads had been replaced with freshly laid bitumen.

Road works have also been completed on Tumema st (Seisia) and Adidi/ Sagaukaz St (Bamaga).

Laying the bitumen through the housing division roads is the final step before the housing slabs are poured and the homes are erected.



Bamaga Subdivision February 2013



Injinoo Snake Gully Subdivision February 2013



Jackson Sailor and Jimmy Bond receive their awards from DAFF Secretary Andrew Metcalf

Nation Recognises NPA Biosecurity

Jackson Sailor and Jimmy Bond were recently awarded the Australia Day Achievement Award for their outstanding work in providing biosecurity services in the Northern Peninsula Area and Torres Strait.

Since becoming the first Indigenous quarantine officers in the NPA, Jackson in 1989 and Jimmy in 1997, they have maintained our area's biosecurity, benefiting not only Cape York but all of Australia.

NPA Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Services Area Coordinator, Jimmy Bond says the award was unexpected.

"It was a surprise, but a good surprise," Mr Bond says, "it's good to see that far north bio-security work is being recognised by the country, especially the work of Jackson and myself."

NPA DAFF a team of three, who manage Cape York and areas of the Torres Strait, and who also assist a larger DAFF team in biosecurity work across Northern Australia.

"Our team run monitoring along the coastline and islands, checking for exotic material or species washed up on the beach, check cargo of people travelling between the Torres Strait and mainland and more," Mr Bond explains, "we work hard to keep exotic pests out of Australia."

While in Canberra for the acceptance of his award, Jimmy was also able to take some time to see the National Museum, where his own photo has hung in the gallery for over ten years. The Gallery features photos of many indigenous Australians who have contributed significantly to their field.

"A year after I joined DAFF here, the National Museum asked if they could use my photo, for my work in North Queensland biosecurity," he said, "it was a bit emotional to finally see it after all these years, but it was good."

NPA and Torres Strait DAFF act as the front line of detection and defense for Northern QLD, monitoring the spread and threat of exotic species to protect Australia from harmful disease and pests.

At this time of year NPA DAFF are at their busiest, monitoring coastlines, cattle bleeding, mosquito traps and light traps, replacing pig monitoring program. Jimmy says at the moment they are in "full swing", focusing on livestock biosecurity.



NPA Indigenous Knowledge Centers

From old photos and letters archiving local history to movies and recordings captured only moments ago, NPA Indigenous Knowledge Centers are a place for sharing knowledge.

This month, Victoria Carless from the State Library of QLD (SLQ) visited each of our local IKCs to see for herself what wonderful community projects were underway, and to help plan what's in store for 2013.

iPad hubs...

With her on her visit, Victoria also bought some brand new iPads for two newly created iPad hubs; one at New Mapoon IKC, and one at Seisia IKC.

"The iPad hubs will be launching around April," Ms Carless said, "and will act like an internet café. They can be used to play learning games, access the internet and create their own movies."

In the span of one week, each IKC created their own movie, starring our local Coordinators and kids. With iPads in hand, our coordinators learned how to record, edit and arrange movie files to make a short film, then how to upload their films to the SLQ blog.

The kids picked up how to use the new technology in a heartbeat, often showing new tips to Victoria and our Coordinators. They made recordings and took photos, instantly harnessing the capacity of this technology to capture and store knowledge.

NPARC would like to thank Telstra for their support through the *Everyone Connected* funding, allowing the iPad hub program to go ahead.

The program will assist in providing NPA Communities with access to new technology, helping to enhance computer and media literacy, and reduce the digital divide.

Culture love

Umagico IKC will host this year's Culture Love, celebrating NPA history, language and culture.

Following the success of previous year's Culture Love programs, State Library of QLD and NPARC Community Services have committed funding to the project.

"Umagico is a truly multicultural community," said Umagico IKC Coordinator, Lorraine Solomon. "We have residents from across Cape York and the Torres Strait. We have so much culture and diversity to celebrate."

The 2013 Culture Love Program will be based out of the Umagico IKC, run as a school holiday activity, engaging kids, youths, elders, artists and cultural mentors.

"Each Culture Love is specific to the community and the region hosting it," said Ms Carless, from SLQ, "we are working with our IKC coordinators and community members to determine what the program will include and what form it will take."

Untangled Tales

Want to join a summer reading club and win cool prizes? Each of our local IKCs have received a huge stack of new books and prizes for the most improved readers.

All ages and all reading levels are encouraged to join, simply have a go and you're already a winner.



History Project

The State Library of QLD is working with NPA IKC Coordinators Sandra Sebasio, Lorraine Solomon, Janelle Lifu, Pauline Lifu and Mabelene Whap to plan a local History exhibition to be held right here, in the NPA.

SLQ have collected a range of cultural and historical artifacts with ties to the NPA, and would like to share them with our communities.

"SLQ believe in helping to preserve local knowledge, keeping it in communities where ever possible," Ms Carless explained. "We will assist in the preservation of materials and/or knowledge where needed, but first and foremost, we believe that knowledge belongs in the communities."

The exhibition is to be held in May 2013, with a 'White Glove Event' open day, inviting all community members to view the artifacts and archived documents on display.

SLQ will continue to prioritise preservation of cultural and historical material, with only archived documents and artifacts that can be safely brought up to be included in the 'White Glove Event'.

Injinoo Ikya

The Injinoo Ikya Language and Culture Committee have been hard at work behind the scenes, planning a range of culture and language programs to be based out of Injinoo IKC throughout the year.

The Committee are working to preserve the languages and cultural customs of Injinoo through recording, teaching and promotion.

Head down to your local IKC to try your hand at filmmaking!





What's on in the NPA ?

NPA Judo Club

NPA Judo club is back, with 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

*Open Mat is a time to focus on specific techniques, to focus on no-gi judo/ grappling or concentrate on competition techniques and kata routines. All students are to wear shoes to class and have nails kept clean and short. For more information, contact Xavier at Judo class.

NPA College News

March 6th— Opening of Library, Trade Training Centre and Science Lab, 10:30am Bamaga Junior

March 25th—Crazy hat Day, Bamaga Junior

March 26th—Cross Country (pp- Yr 3)

March 27th—Cross Country (Yr4- Yr7)

For the Calendar:

March 21st— Harmony Day

March 21st— National Close the Gap Day

April 25th— ANZAC Day

Basketball

Tuesday and Thursday Evenings
For more information on Touch Comps, please contact NPA PCYC

Water Aerobics

Wednesdays 5:30pm at Bamaga Pool

Yoga

Mondays 5:30pm at Injinoo Hall
Thursdays 5:30pm at New Mapoon Hall

Kickboxing

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bamaga OSCH
Women's class at 5:30pm— Men's at 6:30pm

Dancing (Jazz)

Monday and Wednesday 6-7pm
at Injinoo Healing Centre
For information on Water Aerobics, Yoga, Kick boxing or Jazz, please contact NPAFACS on 4069 3555

Healthy Hearing

The Deadly Ears Team visited the NPA this month and will be returning mid March. The Ears, Nose and Throat crew will be up in April, so stay tuned!



This issue is printed in Cairns. As a service to the communities, Skytrans kindly offered to freight the newsletters to the NPA free of charge. For the quickest way to the NPA call 1300 759 872, or visit: www.skytrans.com.au

