

I would like to first acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land, both past and present, acknowledge the Historical Owners past and present, the Custodians of the Land and the occupants here today.

I hope you have all enjoyed a safe and relaxing break over the festive season, as we welcome you back to work, back to school and most importantly, back home. Bringing in the 2013 new year, we welcome new challenges, new celebrations and new opportunities, while reflecting all that we have achieved in the years before.

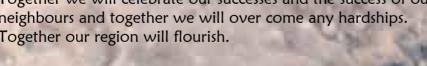
As we move forward in this new year, we will help our communities grow through supporting emerging businesses, new education and further development. However, we must also continue to support the established facilities, education and businesses in our region. These are our foundations, and like a house, you cannot continue to build unless the foundations are strong. In the same way, we must support our foundations as they help our communities grow.

My fellow councillors and I are looking forward to seeing community ownership continue to grow across the region. We are committed to supporting local business, education and cultural growth, celebrating both our region's uniqueness and our unity.

This year we will see an increase in social housing rollouts, creating job and training opportunities across the region. My fellow councillors and I have committed ourselves to assisting residents in land leasing to aide both new and established enterprises and businesses. We are continuing to strive for resource equity across our communities, through upgrading and improving existing facilities as well as planning and creation of new facilities.

As we strive to return ownership to our communities, we ask that each and every resident take on ownership in their own lives as well. From care of their family and friends, to their home and community. We are a region of five unique communities and many more equally unique cultures. We will face many challenges this year, but we will rise to these, and make the most of every opportunity.

Together we will celebrate our successes and the success of our neighbours and together we will over come any hardships. Together our region will flourish.



Mayor Bernard Charlie

Image: High tides experienced during Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

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"I would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome you to our land, the land of my ancestors," Mayor Bernard Charlie said, conducting the citizen-

ship ceremony, held at Bamaga Council Chambers.

Supported by her friends and NPA family, Nicole took the citizenship pledge, her final step to becoming an Australian Citizen. It's been a long wait, says Nicole, who completed her Citizenship test over a year ago.

"I was in Cairns for a few months last year, where I took the test, but I missed the lifestyle here so I came back, and I missed the Citizenship Ceremony there by a few days!"

"I've been living in Australia for almost 7 years, and in the NPA for 6 [years[," said Nicole, who travelled to Australia from the freezing, snowy mountains of Canada, though she says she prefers our tropical climate much better.

To cap off the ceremony, Nicole was presented with a jar of Vegemite, a box of Weetbix and an Aussie shirt.

Congratulations Nikki!



Stray Dog Eradication Program

Keeping Your Dog Healthy

NPARC Environmental services are currently in the process of n eradication program, to remove all sick, stray and vicious dogs from the region.

Late last year NPARC Environmental Services Dog Catchers conducted a census survey of all dogs in the NPA. From here they can compare the number of dogs registered within the region and the number on our streets. (Injinoo 119, Umagico 56, Bamaga 85 New Mapoon 68, Seisia 36)

Beginning early this month, NPARC Dog Catchers began their NPA eradication program, removing stray, sick and vicious animals, allowing owners a grace period to register dogs with the local council.

By law, all dogs and cats within QLD MUST be registered with the local council, and all must be cared for and properly enclosed with access to fresh water. As a further precaution, you can have your animal micro-chipped, so if they do get out or get lost and are picked up by the pound, they can easily be returned home to you.

It's also a good idea to have your animal de-sexed. For male dogs this will aid in temperament issues and training, and for females you can avoid the hassle of having unwanted puppies which may become strays.

It is also hard to feed a pack of dogs and without proper feeding, your dog may begin to upturn bins and trash to find scraps. This presents another health issue to your family and your pet.

You can have your dog de-sexed by booking in during one of the vet's regular visits. Please contact Environmental Services to inquire about vet visits and to book. You can also ask the vet about getting vaccinations and distemper shots, to protect your dog from a young age.

NPARC Environmental Services Contact:
Umagico Base—4069 3419
Dog Catchers—4069 3992

Certain parasites and illnesses can be passed from dogs to humans or to other animals.

Common illnesses include intestinal worms such hookworm and tapeworm, parasites such as ticks and fleas or fungal infections such as ringworm.

These illnesses are often transmitted through contact with the animal or a shared living space. Due to the warm, humid conditions of tropical areas such as this, many bacteria and larvae are able to survive for long periods of time without a host— which means you might pick up a parasite such as hookworm from walking around with no shoes on.

It can be easy to rid your pet (and yourself) of these illnesses, minimizing risk to your family and others.

Internal worms (hookworm, tapeworm and heartworm) can be treated with worming tablets—but these will only work if taken in regular doses, check packaging for details. You can also control heartworm (in dogs) with a yearly vaccination, administered by a vet.

External parasites (living on the skin) can also be managed, some with surprisingly simple home remedies. Try putting some drops of tea tree oil or lavender oil in your dog's shampoo. Lather the shampoo onto wet fur and leave for a few minutes, as you rinse thoroughly, you should be able to see the dead parasites (ticks and fleas) falling away. Fleas and ticks can also be managed with monthly treatments or targeted shampoos and washes.

Be sure to also treat yourself and hour home for fleas, to kill eggs and larvae as well as adult specimens. Wash all sheets and material (including carpet) the dog has come in contact with. Again, you can add a few drops of eucalypt oil or tea tree oil to your moping suds to kill eggs and repel parasites from your home.

It's important to clean up after your animal's waste in the yard, as most parasitic fungi live in the soil, many maturing by moving through the body, through waste and onto a new host.



Small Beginnings Hit the Big Time

Did she just ask me to be on an album? Colina asked Herself after speaking with Arts QLD Development Officer Janice Irvine amidst the crowd of CIAF 2011.

Only months before, the young mother from Ithangee (Seisia) had only ever sang her songs for local church services and the school *Yumpla* festival. Yet there she was with one song already recorded on the *NPA Indigenous Music* CD, attending a CIAF music workshop alongside other emerging artists and with the possibility of another recording on the way.

Less than two years on, the second installment of Indigenous Music from Far North QLD, *Listen Up 2!* has just dropped across Cape York, already getting airplay on local stations.

Recorded in Cairns, and produced by Karl Neuenfeldt, Will Kepa and Nigel Pegrum [Pegasus Studios], Colina remembers the stark contrast to her usual practice at home on her verandah. Working closely with her brother Nicholas, the duo wrote and recorded three original tracks.

"We had control of the music, but it was great to see what they could do with it. Things I'd have never imagined with my own music, like adding a saxophone. It was a real eye-opener, to be in the professional recording studio, with Karl, Will and Nigel," she says, "lucky they didn't tell me I was singing into a \$10,000 mic until afterwards or I'd have been scared that I would break it!"

"I hope that this album will be a symbol of hope to other aspiring musicians, to believe in themselves and to take a leap to get funding or make their own recording—to get their music out there too."

Distributed by the artists themselves, Colina says the first copies out will be given to those who supported her to follow her dream.

"I wanted to thank everyone who helped me find the strength to take this opportunity, the people who said if this is what you want to do, then do it," Colina says, on her way to visit friends and family. "I've also got some for those who thought we'd never make it, well— here we are and we aren't stopping now!"

Her song *Call Us*, recorded with brother Nicholas Wymarra and featured on *Listen Up 2!*, is a testimony to her strength of will, to pursue her love of music, even in the face of diversity.

"There were some who said don't do it— they didn't want me top get my hopes up, then come back with a bad recording and be down heartened," Colina says, "but if I hadn't taken the chance to follow my dreams I'd never have had this experience and I wouldn't have my songs on two CDs! Sure, it could have gone badly, but that wouldn't have stopped me either!"



Building upon an idea hatched by Nicholas, the duo created *Freedom Papers*, a track featured on the new CD, in recognition of the journey of Indigenous Australians to date.

"It's about the journey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, from a time when they were forced to ask permission to use their own money or to marry the person they loved," she said, "well no longer. We are a free people now, we are strong and we will celebrate that."

When asked where to now?, Colina says she wants to help others to pursue music.

"I want to help musicians who have a gift, but aren't quite sure how to share it with the world," she says. "I would love to work with local artists, to help them with making industry contacts, applying for funding, even just giving them the support to make the leap themselves. An album like this can be our calling cards, a step to bigger things"

With local talent already performing in our churches, at Talent Quests, festivals and more; it's clear we can expect to see many more familiar names acing the covers of more albums in the near future.

Listen out for songs from *Listen Up 2!* on Red Dust Country 91.9FM radio.

ALBUM FEAT<mark>URING....</mark>

DANNY BANI

IVANA GIBSON

PHOENIX RISING

COLD WATER BAND

COLINA & NICK WYMARRA

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TC Oswald's reign from the Cape to the Strait

As Tropical Cyclone Oswald developed off the East Coast of the Cape, NPA residents received warnings for strong winds, abnormally high tides, rough seas and monsoonal downpours.

The tropical storm did not disappoint, with strong winds whipping across the region, instant swamps appearing due to rain run off and power outages as storms brought lines down. High tides almost engulfed the Seisia Wharf and Injinoo Lookout (pictured above), washing murky storm water into estuaries and storm debris onto the shores.

Across the Strait, island sea walls were breached, spilling rushing sea water into communities and back yards. TSRA called for better storm infrastructure on Boigu, Iama, Warraber, Poruma, Masig and Saibai Islands fearing a salt water breach to fresh water supplies.

Further south, as TC Oswald crossed the coast between Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama, residents had a sleepless night; with battering winds, torrential downpours and rising waters.

Heavy rainfall in Kowanyama lifted the surface of their runway, cutting off the remote community. Kowanyama Mayor Robert Holness says the airport will have to remain closed for the remainder of the wet season and the council is seeking funding for the repairs and helicopter drops.

Weeks after the storm crossed the coast, being downgraded to an ex-tropical cyclone, the effects are still being felt across the South East parts of the state and New South Wales.

Torrential rains caused flooding in southern areas of QLD, including Grafton, areas of the Lockyer Valley and Brisbane and devastating country town Bundaberg. By January 30th, the rising waters across the state had already claimed five lives.

Areas of South East QLD were asked to conserve water as supplies were affected by the flooding. Many homes and businesses were damaged, though officials say the waters were significantly lower than that of the SE QLD floods two years ago.

"Our thoughts are with families and communities who have been impacted by Tropical Cyclone Oswald," said Mayor Bernard Charlie.

Bamaga Police would like to express their appreciation for the consideration and behaviour of the residents of the NPA. During the recent wild weather there were no reports of people risking their lives or behaving inappropriately. The Police would also like to remind everyone to continue to 'buckle up' when they drive, even for short distances.

You can donate to the QLD Flood Appeal by calling 1800 811 700 or visiting redcross.org.au

Wet Season Safety

Mother nature can throw a lot at us during the wet season, so NPA SES have provided some tips to help prepare for the worst.

Before the storm

can find it.

It's important to secure loose outdoor items so they do not blow away (or float away) during storms. As well as animals so they do not scare and run away. As an added security, you can fill garbage bins and dinghies with water to help hold them down.

In severe wet weather, ensure that windows fitted with shutters are closed securely and other windows are taped in a criss-cross fashion using strong packing tape. Check if your neighbors or elderly family embers need a hand with this.

In cases of severe weather, you may find yourself cut off from town water or power. You can take the precaution of filling buckets and baths with fresh water before the weather hit, in case supplies become restricted.

If you are in a storm surge area, organise with a relative or friend living on higher ground to stay with them until after the storm surge has passed

Make sure you have an emergency medical kit with first aid and any medication supplies you may need, keep this in an easy to reach place the whole family

During the storm

Take shelter in the strongest part of the house. This is usually a basement, bathroom or archway.

If the building you are sheltering in starts to break up, immediately seek shelter under a strong table, bench or heavy mattress.

If you are driving and are caught in a heavy storm, park clear of powerlines, trees and water courses and remain inside the car.

Beware of the calm eye of the cyclone. Stay inside until you've received official advice that it is safe to go outside and heed all advice given by authorities. If you have access to a battery operated radio, keep this with you to receive radio updates.

Remember 'If it's flooded, forget it.'

Under no circumstance should people enter floodwaters by road or on foot .

Emergency Contacts

State Emergency Service (SES) 132 500
Emergency Number (Life Threatening) 000
Bamaga Police Station 4069 3156
Bamaga Hospital 4069 3166
Red Dust Country 91.9FM 4069 3356
(for traffic alerts/ community updates)





"The placement of the cameras is most important," says Senior Ranger Wilfred Namai, "the cameras work via a senor, so they will take a snapshot when set of by motion. We need to make sure the camera is in a place where the animals will come, and that it won't be set off by something like the wind moving a branch."

Several scrub cameras have been installed in areas of Atambaya bush land, and the first round of data has been collected. From the photos retrieved from this and future rounds, rangers will be able to identify what species are present in the area, when they are active and how they interact with each other and their environment.

"We've never had access to this kind of raw data before," says Senior Ranger Christo Lifu, "it will give us a much better understanding of the bush and the species present."

"We have already collected data proving the extent of pig damage on swampland," says NPA Rangers Coordinator Warren Strevens, "in a series of shots, you can see the swampland, see the pig enter and watch the destruction caused in a matter of minutes, right before your eyes."

NPA Rangers currently have several cameras deployed in which will be retrieved after the wet season, when the swamp is accessible again.

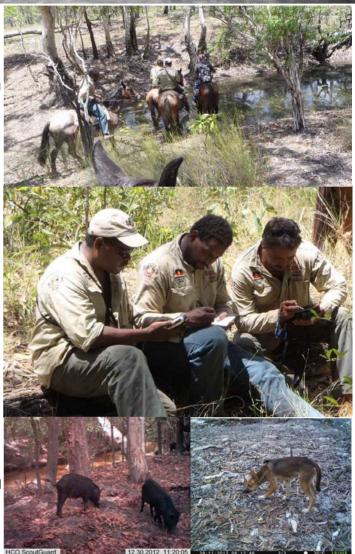
The data collection program, designed and implemented independently by NPA Rangers, will provide a structure for other ranger groups to follow, as well as providing the initial base data for the area, entered into iTracker records.

Traditional Land Management

This year, Rangers will be exploring the roots of land management, to determine traditional land management used within the region.

"We are looking at bio-management that gets back to the roots of traditional land management," NPA Ranger Coordinator Warren Strevens explains, "Some methods that are used now as traditional management were actually introduced by early graziers and adapted by locals, so we are trying to work out what's what."

One method NPA Rangers hope to begin implementing is to conduct regular low-key burn offs all year round. With smaller, more frequent burn offs, the heat of fire is less intense, which gives the plants a better chance to rejuvenate, while also providing animals have a safe passage to escape.



It also ties into the long term work of NPA Rangers in combating the pest Gamba Grass in the region. Rangers have been combating the spread of the exotic grass through regular spraying and small burn offs, though as the grass burns 15x hotter than other road grass, it damages the dormant seeds and new shoots, stopping them from regrowing after a burn off.

"Be good if we can fight the spread of Gamba with native grasses, but for now we will try to burn it off in smaller fires, with less heat, and continue to spray the regrowth," Mr Strevens says.

Due to great work done by NPA Rangers in managing Gamba Grass across the region, Mr Strevens has been inducted into the National Gamba Grass Taskforce to share the management techniques employed by our rangers.



Mpakwithi Pride Too Deadly

Pictured above, sisters Vikki, Agnes and Susan have fought for years to have not only their rights to their land recognised, but also the very existence of their clan group.

Since their parents journey in the Mapoon relocation, the sisters have learned about their history, their land and their people.

Making a new home in New Mapoon community of NPA, the sisters, along with many other New Mapoon residents, did not forget their home.

"We are lucky in a way," says Anges Mark, "we have two homes now."

After their grandfather father passed, the sisters continued his fight to have the Mpakwithi clan recognised, and the rights to their land restored.

"As children we spent a lot of time with our grandfather who taught to us about our ancestors and culture of Old Mapoon," says Susan. "When he passed away we three sisters fought for recognition of our clan [Mpakwithi people] and to be recognised as the Traditional Owners of our land."

The sisters recently won their fight, proving the existence of the Mpakwithi people and being recognised by the Western Cape Communities Co-existence Agreement (WCCCA) and Rio Tinto Eli agreements as the Traditional Owners of the land.

Their success has helped others to also claim their rightful titles. In light of their journey, they will be featured in the Australian Government's *Deadly Stories* book, featuring outstanding indigenous Australians.

Congratulations ladies.

This year will mark the 50th Anniversary of the removal from Mapoon. Five decades since the residents of Mapoon were forced to leave their homes and their land. Half a century since the establishment of the New Mapoon community here in Hidden Valley.

This year we remember the hurt and the wrongs of the past, but we also see a proud and vibrant community, the re-establishment of the old community, and a cultural growth that has made a people stronger.

Other Significant dates for this year....
February 13th—National Apology Day
March 21st—National Close the Gap Day
April 25th—ANZAC Day
May 26th—National Sorry Day
May 27th—Anniversary of 1967 Referendum
June 3rd—Mabo Day
July 1st—Coming of the Light
July 7th-14th—NAIDOC Week



We Love Language

Over the school holidays, Injinoo IKC was alive with kids eager to spend some time in the aircon and participate in some holiday activities!

Injinoo IKC Operator Sandra Sebasio said the kids really enjoyed learning language names for body parts, drawing a life size person to stick on the names they'd learnt.

The language tutorials are one of the first steps taken by the recently formed Injinoo Ikya Language and Culture Committee.

"There are many languages that are traditional and historical to our home Injinoo, so we have decided to teach Injinoo Ikya to begin with, while recording and preserving the other languages," Sandra explains.

For now, the language and culture committee is based from the Injinoo IKC.

Vocab Test

These girls know it... Do you?

face - yapi nose - iyi eye - aungwa mouth - anngang head - apun hair - umbinhambi ear - achawi cheek - wula lip - annggka - inbirri tooth - umbu nape of neck - wukan

shoulder - agah underarm - wadhu arm - windha elbow - yutu hand - mata leg - ithin knee - wunggu foot - ukah belly - lutpi navel - ugarra

It was back to school for everyone on February 1st, as NPA College invited all grades, families and friends to celebrate the first week of the school year for 2013.

With school attendance named a priority by our communities, it was great to see the grounds packed with students, teachers and parents alike, showing their support for our kids education. Without consistent high attendance records, our schools could suffer, loosing funding and teaching staff.

At this month's Yumpla, we welcomed new students, new teaching staff and general duties school staff. A big welcome to all our Year 1 students, new students and new teachers and to all returning students. We hope that after this long break you are well rested and ready to get stuck into the school year.

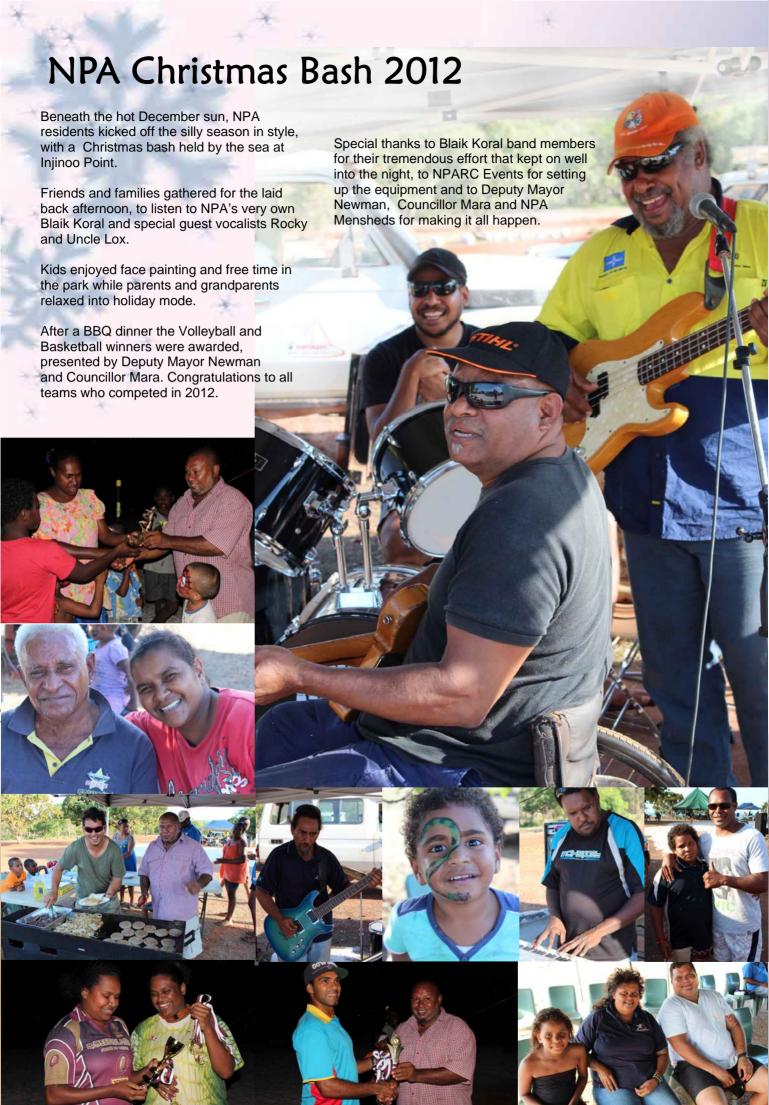
Remember, it's not too late to enroll for 2013, see the school admin for details.

Pictured: Students show their skills in a coconut scraping competition.

See Issue 45 for more pictures from 2013 Yumpla Day.







NPA Phone List

Injinoo	Emergency Contacts			
Injinoo Indigenous Knowledge Centre 4069 3761				
NPARC/ Apudthama Rangers Base				
Injinoo Ready Mix	4069 3258	(Ambulance/ Fire Brigade		
Injinoo Ferry (Jardine River)	4069 1369	(Fill all all all all all all all all all		-,
Injinoo Youth Centre	4069 3961	Bamaga Hospital		4069 3166
Injinoo Service Station	4083 0011			4090 4500
Injinoo Healing Centre	4069 3811			132 500
Injinoo Health Centre	4069 3465			4069 3344
Injinoo Health Centre	4009 0400	Airport (Emergencies)		4069 1520
		Allport (Emergencies)		4009 1520
<u>Umagico</u>	4000 0000			
Umagico Sporting Library/IKC	4083 0333			
NPARC Works Depot Umagico	4069 3419			
NPARC Environmental Services	4069 3992	NPARC Offices	(Phone)	(Fax)
Umagico Budget Lodge (Tony)	0428779100	Division 1, Injinoo	4048 6800	4069 3253
Alau Supermarket	4069 3273	Division 2, Umagico	4048 6900	4069 3115
NPA Tip (Rubbish Dump)	4069 3252	Division 3, Bamaga	4090 4100	4069 3264
NPA Tip (after hours)	4069 3593	Division 4, New Mapoon	4048 6600	4069 3107
Umagico Health Centre	4069 3306	Division 4, Seisia	4048 6700	4069 3180
Damaga				
Bamaga NBAHAOO (Filada Octa)	4000 0005			300 738 616
NPA HACC (Elderly Care)	4069 3305			4069 3388
Bamaga Post Office	4069 3126	Red Dust Country 91.9FM		4069 3356
Bamaga BP Service Station	4069 3275	NPARC Media (NPA News) 4048 6612		4048 6612
NPA Family and Community Service				
NPA Women's Shelter (Bamaga)	4069 3020	NPA Childcare Facilities		
Bamaga Enterprises	4069 3533	Bamaga Kazil OSHC		4069 3980
NPA PCYC	4069 3388	Bamaga Kazil Youth Centre.		4069 3847
IBIS Supermarket	4069 3186			4069 3510
Bamaga Pool	4069 3659			4069 3109
Bamaga Health Centre	4069 3200	Nai-Beguta Agama Aboriginal Corp		
Bamaga Hospital	4069 3166			4069 3074
Bamaga Dentist (at Hospital)	4069 3166			4069 3353
AND RESIDENCE AN		New Mapoon Resource Centre 4069 3408		
New Mapoon		Umagico Child Care Centre.		4083 0111
New Mapoon IKC	4069 3444	Umagico OSHC.		4083 0440
NPA Arts Centre	4083 0271	1000 0440		4000 0440
NPA Menshed	0417200172	NPA College		
Cape York Ice and Tackle	4069 3695			4090 4888
New Mapoon Store	4069 3013			4090 4444
New Mapoon Health Centre	4069 3454			4090 4333
How mapoon reason control	1000 0 10 1	Bamaga Semor Campus	(0-12)	4090 4333
<u>Seisia</u>				
Seisia IKC	4069 3883	Loyalty Beach Campgrounds		4069 3372
Seisia Enterprises	4069 3243	Punsand Bay Campgrounds		4069 1722
Seisia Meat Works	4083 0201	Tansana bay Campgiounus		1000 1722
Top End Motors	4069 3182			
Seisia Camp Grounds	4069 3243	Ergon Energy Contacts		
Seisia BP Service Station	4069 3897			
Seisia Health Centre	4069 3271			13 10 46
	E 17 2 57	Faults Only (24hrs, 7day		13 22 96
		Life-Threatening Emergencies – call 000 or 13 16 70		

What's on in the NPA in February?



Active Bodies

Basketball

Monday evenings at Bamaga Hall Wednesday Evenings at Alau Hall

For more information on Basketball, Volley Ball, Judo or the Hunters Gym, please contact NPA Events or 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

For information on Water Aerobics, Yoga or Kick boxing, please contact NPAFACS on 4069 3555

National Apology Day

February 13th marks the anniversary of the Prime Minister's official apology to Indigenous people of Australia, especially those of the Stolen Generations.

Backing Indigenous Arts Funding

Arts QLD are now accepting funding applications for programs involving Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts or artists, focusing on building skill s and opportunities.

Open to individuals, groups and organisations, visit www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/building-skills for more information.

Eradication Program Continues

NPARC Environmental Services will continue to implement the NPA eradication program, removing sick, stray or vicious dogs.

If you would like to have unwanted or sick animals removed, or if your animal is impounded and you would like to retrieve it, please contact Environmental Services on 4069 3992.

NPA SES Training

SES, Rural Fire Brigade and Volunteer Coastguard training is held every second Tuesday and Saturday. New members please come along to a training session to join.



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

