



NPA NEWS

Parents and Community Engagement
Education forums hit the region pg. 7-8.

Education for Everyone
NPA College news pg. 5-6.

A Home Among the Gum Trees
First homes arrive in NPA pg. 15-16

NPA Sports News
Touch, rugby, basketball and judo pg. 3-4

Now We're Job Ready
CDEP participants Certificate Course pg. 12

Language, Culture, Technology
IKC's prepare for a big year of community events pg. 17

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are advised that this issue may contain images or content relating to deceased persons

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Ilario Sabatino

Mayor Bernard Charlie

Portfolios: All.

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 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.

Deputy Mayor Edward Newman

Division 3 Bamaga

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

Councillor Trevor Lifu

Division 4 New Mapoon

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

Councillor Benjamin Gebadi

Division 5 Seisia

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

NPA Phone List

Injinoo

Injinoo Indigenous Knowledge Centre	4069 3761
NPARC/ Apudthama Rangers Base	4069 3875
Injinoo Ready Mix	4069 3258
Injinoo Ferry (Jardine River)	4069 1369
Injinoo Youth Centre	4069 3961
Injinoo Service Station	4083 0011
Injinoo Healing Centre	4069 3811
Injinoo Health Centre	4069 3465

Umagico

Umagico Sporting Library/IKC	4083 0333
NPARC Works Depot Umagico	4069 3419
NPARC Environmental Services	4069 3992
Umagico Budget Lodge (Tony)	0428779100
Alau Supermarket	4069 3273
NPA Tip (Rubbish Dump)	4069 3252
NPA Tip (after hours)	4069 3593
Umagico Health Centre	4069 3306

Bamaga

NPA HACC (Elderly Care)	4069 3305
Bamaga Post Office	4069 3126
Bamaga BP Service Station	4069 3275
NPA Family and Community Services	4069 3555
NPA Women's Shelter (Bamaga)	4069 3020
Bamaga Enterprises	4069 3533
NPA PCYC	4069 3388
IBIS Supermarket	4069 3186
Bamaga Pool	4069 3659
Bamaga Health Centre	4069 3200
Bamaga Hospital	4069 3166
Bamaga Dentist (at Hospital)	4069 3166

New Mapoon

New Mapoon IKC	4069 3444
NPA Arts Centre	4083 0271
NPA Menshed	0417200172
Cape York Ice and Tackle	4069 3695
New Mapoon Store	4069 3013
New Mapoon Health Centre	4069 3454

Seisia

Seisia IKC	4069 3883
Seisia Enterprises	4069 3243
Seisia Meat Works	4083 0201
Top End Motors	4069 3182
Seisia Camp Grounds	4069 3243
Seisia BP Service Station	4069 3897
Seisia Health Centre	4069 3271

Emergency Contacts

In case of life threatening emergency– call 000
(Ambulance/ Fire Brigade)

Bamaga Hospital	4069 3166
Bamaga Police Station	4090 4500
State Emergency Service (SES)	132 500
NPA Ambulance	4069 3344
Airport (Emergencies)	4069 1520

NPARC Offices

	(Phone)	(Fax)
Division 1, Injinoo	4048 6800	4069 3253
Division 2, Umagico	4048 6900	4069 3115
Division 3, Bamaga	4090 4100	4069 3264
Division 4, New Mapoon	4048 6600	4069 3107
Division 4, Seisia	4048 6700	4069 3180

Housing Call Centre	1300 738 616
NPARC Events and Equipment Hire	4069 3388
Red Dust Country 91.9FM	4069 3356
NPARC Media (NPA News)	4048 6612

NPA Childcare Facilities

Bamaga Kazil OSHC	4069 3980
Bamaga Kazil Youth Centre.	4069 3847
Injinoo Day Care Centre.	4069 3510
Injinoo OSHC.	4069 3109
Nai-Beguta Agama Aboriginal Corp	
New Mapoon Daycare	4069 3074
New Mapoon Activity Centre	4069 3353
New Mapoon Resource Centre	4069 3408
Umagico Child Care Centre.	4083 0111
Umagico OSHC.	4083 0440

NPA College

Injinoo Primary Campus	4090 4888
Bamaga Primary Campus (1-5)	4090 4444
Bamaga Senior Campus (6-12)	4090 4333

Loyalty Beach Campgrounds	4069 3372
Punsand Bay Campgrounds	4069 1722

Ergon Energy Contacts

Customer Service	13 10 46
Faults Only (24hrs, 7days)	13 22 96
Life-Threatening Emergencies– call 000 or 13 16 70	

Injinoo Justice Group	4083 0360
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Farewells



This month friends, family and colleges say a very sad farewell to CDEP Mentor Soraya Daniels.

Always willing to lend a hand and promote CDEP, Raya got on well with all staff members and participants. She was known for always making fun and keeping spirits up. Raya loved getting involved in the community, especially in community sports and loved her pie from the bakery too!

Most of all she enjoyed helping and mentoring CDEP participants achieve an outcome whether it be training or getting a fulltime job. She has now taken up a position with CDEP in the Northern Territory. We will miss you Raya, all the best!



We also say farewell to Director of Operations, Geoff Rintoul.

Geoff joined the NPARC team in 2012 and has been an integral part of our recent development and operations, including road developments and housing subdivisions.

Geoff was well known for being a bit of a joker but also a hard worker. He got on well with NPARC team members, and always had time for a yarn.

All the best Geoff.



Another farewell this month goes out to Acting Director of Finance, Janette Harness.

Janette joined the NPARC team in a temporary role for 6 months as acting director of Finance.

Janette made a keen effort to visit each office and meet as many of NPARC team as possible in her short time here.

Remembered as the fiery red-head, but also a hard and dedicated worker, thanks and all the best Janette.



Echidna & Warrior, by Johnny Mark

National Harmony Day

No matter what the colour of your skin, the language you speak, the way you dress or the food you eat, Australia is a multicultural country and everyone is equal.

Each year, on the 21st March, Australians nation-wide celebrate their differences, with cultural respect for all people who call this land home.

With respect to Traditional Owners and to elders past and present, we give thanks that we are a part of this great nation and celebrate the cultural differences of our brothers and sisters, our fellow Australians.

Australia's melting-pot lets us benefit from the convergence of so many cultures within the privileges of Australia.

"The only way we will move forward is together," Mayor Bernard Charlie said, "black, white or yellow, we are the inhabitants of this land."

On World Harmony Day we remember the events of the past and move together as one.

Our national pride resides in our diversity.

Artwork pictured above: Seisia Sunset, by Brett Aniba



NPA Junior Rugby Team, photo provided by Eddie Newman

Junior Rugby

For the first time in two years, NPA Junior Rugby players competed in the Under 12's Cape Torres Strait Rugby League Trials, held this month on Thursday Island.

After only three training sessions, the *NPA Titans* proved their stamina and sportsmanship, playing three games against teams from across the Torres Strait.

"In the first half of the first game they were finding their feet," said Eddie Newman, one of the team's coaches, "but they really improved in both attack and defence in second half."

"Their second and third games they played back to back, but they were still having fun and giving it their all which is a real achievement," Mr Newman said.

The natural talent of NPA players wasn't missed, with two NPA junior players; Agai Savage from Umagico and Jeffrica Pablo from Injinoo, selected to compete on the Torres Strait team in the Peninsula Trials next month.

"We are really proud of the team's attitude," Mr Newman said, "it was a hot day and they played games back to back but they never lost their enthusiasm."

Even on the ferry ride home the team were chatting and making fun, still high from the game's excitement.

Junior's rugby training will continue after the Easter break, with local games to be arranged throughout the school term. "More games and training and we will surely be seeing some quality junior football being played."

A big thank you to the team's coaches Aaron Kerley, Kenny Newman and Eddie Newman for all their support. Another big thank you to the parents and volunteers who have supported training and comps.

Without these dedicated mums, dads and volunteers, Junior Rugby wouldn't be possible. Thank you to Cairns Pitstop, who supplied footballs for each of the players.



Touch Footy

Unfortunately the wet season has been doing it's absolute best to water the grass on the Bamaga Yusia Ginou Oval, meaning many touch games at the start of the season were cancelled.

However, with the return of the sun came the kick off of the NPA Touch Footy Comp with eight men's teams and six women's teams signed on for the season.

On Tuesday 16th April, Men's and Women's East vs West sides will battle it out to be chosen as NPA Rep side. The NPA Rep team will travel to Thursday Island to participate in Battle of the Islands Touch Football Carnival, to be held Sat 4th – Mon 6th May.



NPA Hoops Returns

Following the hype of the recent NPA Hoops comp, PCYC have selected a representative team to compete against Horn Island and Thursday Island teams on April 13th.

Though it seems the season is not over, with the recently formed NPA Basketball Association (NPABA). The NPABA is a community driven group of volunteers who would simply like to see basketball continue in the region.

"We saw the benefits of sport in our communities, especially upon our youths," NPABA President Kaz Sagigi said, "and we saw the need to create a community driven body to back basketball in our region."

The good news is; now every season is basketball season. The NPABA will run community basketball competitions throughout the year, consisting of both a Summer and Winter season.

"We want to encourage community participation, for all skill levels, all ages," Mr Sagigi said. "We also hope to send representative teams to compete at regional and state level, but most of all, we want to see community participation, fitness and enjoyment."

NPABA held a Basketball Clinic this month for youths aged between 12 and 17yo. Committee members taught dribbling, shooting and ball control skills as well as rules and referee basics. Fifteen men's and women's teams signed on for the Summer Comp, starting in April 2nd.



Judo to Japan

Local judo student Alex Idai has been selected by the Australian Judo Association to attend a week training in Osaka, Japan.

Alex took up judo last year with the start up of the NPA Judo Club, to get fit and for a bit of fun. He never thought the sport could take him across the globe.

Selected for his high skill level in his age bracket, Alex will be amongst a small group of Australian students to make the trip this July.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing all the black-belts over there," Alex said of his upcoming trip. "This will be my first time overseas, I still need to get my passport!"

Visiting the country where the sport began, the students will have the opportunity to train with martial arts experts and immerse themselves in the culture.

"I love the culture," Alex said, "both judo and Japanese. I want to learn more about the origins of judo."

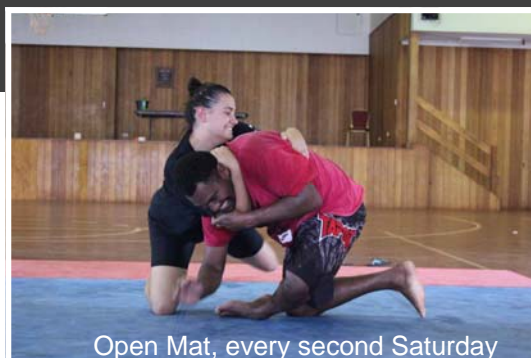
NPA Judo Club would like to acknowledge the support of the Federal Government's ISARP (Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation Program) funding that has assisted in the development of our local club.

"Thanks also to my brothers and to Xavier," Alex said, "without them I couldn't have done it."

NPA Judo Club is held Monday to Thursday and Open Mat classes every second Saturday. Classes are 5-10yo, 11-15yo and seniors (Class times pg 19) Weekday classes cover technique and skill work, while Saturday open mat classes offer a change to try out all grappling techniques.

All skill levels are welcome, Judo coach Xavier breaks down judo techniques according to participant skill and fitness levels.

Participants are graded on knowledge of technique and skill.



“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.” - Malcom X

For Many Years to Come

In a place of learning, it seems only fitting that the lives of community leaders should be honoured and remembered.

Community Engagement Welcomed

Following recent forums and community discussions held as a part of the NPA Ngurpai Ikama Ikya Education Council's Parents and Community Engagement (PaCE) Program, it was discovered many parents and family members felt uncomfortable entering school grounds.

Addressing the community forums. NPA College Principal Ken MacLean extended a welcome to all parents, caregivers and community members to participate in College activities.

“The school welcomes parents to participate in classes and education,” Mr MacLean said, “Please feel welcome to come onto school grounds, sit in on classes and if you'd like to teach cultural lessons, please contact the school.”

Also addressing attendees of the community forums, Bamaga Primary School Principal Venitta McKiernan asked community members to lead the engagement through supporting the school and staff.

“We need to show respect for teachers new to the area so they can learn to respect our children as we do,” Mrs McKiernan said, “that way our children can see we respect them too.”

If you would like to become more actively engaged with NPA College, please contact your local campus, Head of Campus or your child's teacher.



Principal Ken MacLean welcomes parents, caregivers and community members to become engaged in NPA College.

To learn and move forward, we must know where we are coming from. So with the recent opening of two new Buildings, we toast to the future, while reflecting on the past.

The newly opened NPA College Resource Centre is named in honour of Mr Nokai Atu. Better known as Bab Nok, Mr Atu taught at the school for years, incorporating culture into his lessons. Mr Atu took a class covering all primary School levels, from years 1-7.

“As with everything in life, he would take it and make it his own,” said speaker Jesse Sagaukaz, who remembers being taught by his Uncle Bab Nok.

“He helped shape the curriculum of the school, adding traditional dancing to daily classes. He started with the younger children teaching traditional dancing, but as we grew, he taught us culture and tradition too.

Even after retirement, Mr Nokai would continue to help at the school and teach culture for many years. Seen as a cultural man in the community, Bab Nok taught and practiced traditional gardening, hunting and story telling.

The trade center, which has now been operational for 12 months, is named in honour of the late Mr Adikuiam Adidi. Mr Adidi was born on Saibai Island and educated on Mabiliaug Island. Early in his career, he worked as an Assistant Teacher on Saibai, Duaun, Boigu, Mabiliaug and Badu Islands. When the Torres Strait was threatened by war and the European teacher evacuated, Mr Adidi took on the role of Head Teacher on Badu Island.

Mr Adidi travelled to Mutee Head with the second migration from Saibai Island, after World War II. Using a converted army hut, Mr Adidi opened the Mutee Head School mid-year 1946.

After a brief period working as a crew member on a family lugger, Mr Adidi was recalled by the Department of Native Affairs to take on the position of Headmaster at Bamaga. Mr Adidi remained Head Teacher of Bamaga school until 1964 when the school was taken over by the Education Department and moved to the site where the Bamaga Pub now stands.

The first school in the NPA was the Cowal Creek Anglican Church Mission School, based in Injinoo, established in 1920.

In 1936, the late Mr Jomen Tamwoy was appointed by the Department of Native Affairs as the school's first government teacher. Late Mr Tamwoy had taught on Dauan, Mabiliaug, Badu and Yam Islands for over ten years before accepting his post in Injinoo.



No stranger to Queensland Politics, and former chairman of Bamaga Council, Mr Adidi was involved in the successful fight to have the Torres Strait Islands recognised within Australian Borders.

"Mr Adidi committed his life to serve the love of his people," relative John Adidi said, "his past contributions and services will be remembered."

Honorable Senator Mr John Hoggs extended his compliments to teachers, staff and students of NPA College.

"I believe in the delivery of the best facilities to all schools for the benefit of students, teachers and the community," Senator Hoggs said, addressing the assembly for the official naming of the buildings.



The assembly was hosted by NPA College school captains Brayden Mudu and Caleb Ober, held at the Bamaga Primary Campus. Esteemed guests Uncle Meun (Shorty) Lifu, Father Victor Blanco, Councillor Ben Gebadi and Jeffrey Aniba also addressed the assembly, sharing their support for the new state of the art facilities available to our students.

"We would like to extend our appreciation to Senator Hoggs for the investment the government has made to our school," said NPA College Principal Ken MacLean.

Mr MacLean said he is looking forward to seeing the Trade Centre resources not only benefit the students of NPA College, but also be utilized by Bamaga TAFE and for community training purposes.



Bamaga State High School was opened in 1973, under headmaster Mr Frank Young, with students enrolled in grades 8, 9 and 10.

The Bamaga P12 State School became the NPA College in 2000, incorporating all three campuses (Injinoo primary, Bamaga primary and Bamaga Senior).



The Change Starts Here.. *Taking Education to the Communities*

Education and attendance have near become dirty words in our region, raised at each community meeting as issues worth addressing.

This month called for a new kind of change, a change in the way we are thinking.

"This isn't a discussion to place blame," Ikama Ikya Education Committee Project Officer David Ahboo said, "we need to be positive and focus on our strategy to move forward. Our aim is to have everyone involved, everyone acknowledged and that way, everyone will benefit."

This month the NPA Ngurpai Ikama Ikya Education Council brought the education discussion to the people, with a week long education forum stretching across the region, to each community, hearing over 200 unique community voices.

"In previous years we held the forum at the Bamaga TAFE, but the level of community input was much lower," said Education Council Chairperson Jeffrey Aniba, "this time we decided to take the forum to the people, because without community voices, these forums are nothing."

"We will begin each and every day with the view that each and every person is doing their very best to do their part, from service providers to parents, teachers and students," Mr Ahboo said. "When we ask ourselves *what can I do* rather than what can they do for me, we can take ownership of the good and the bad and we can move forward."

Mr Aniba said the aim of the week was to see a shift in community thinking; to see NPA Communities take ownership of the issues and achievements of our students and education system, to understand their own individual roles within the system and to take charge of the changes they wish to see.

As a sign of their support for the Education Council, NPA College and local education, NPA Mayor and Elected Representatives took part in the forums and community round table discussions. Sitting together as equals; community members, service providers and elected representatives discussed the education scene they would like to see for their communities and how to achieve it.

"When we talk about community, we don't talk about colour, we talk about us here today, the occupiers of this land," Mayor Bernard Charlie said. "The shift in our communities must come from inside out."

A clear message defined through the round table discussions was the idea of belonging. The need for a mutual respect between teachers, students and community. The community information gathered will then be taken to the NPA College and Education QLD, by the Ikama Ikya Education Committee.

The need for a relationship built on trust, with each party taking full ownership of their responsibilities, their rights and respecting those of others.

"So often we find ourselves making the excuse of funding— but that's the problem of the world,"

Deputy Mayor Edward Newman said, "we need to look at ourselves and the tools we already have, rather than wait to have it given to us."



Injinoo Primary teacher Ama Mary Eseli highlighted that each community member had their own responsibilities to uphold for the success of education in our region. From parents to service providers, to the students themselves.

“Education starts at home, with respect for self, elders and culture,” Ama Mary said. “Attendance and participation are the responsibilities of the student as well, when our students step onto school grounds, they should be there to learn.”

The overwhelming support for our schools and local education was clearly voiced through the continuous participation of each service provider present, and by each community member who braved the heavy rain to take part.

“We have a range of service providers before us today, our region provides opportunities for us to empower ourselves, our communities and our people,” Mr Ahboo said.

Each service provider attended as a community member also, and each community member was there for one sole reason. To support education and to see a change in our region.

NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie and Elected Councillors have expressed their full support for the NPA Ngurpai Ikama Ikya Education Council, their Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) Program and future forums and career expos.

How can we help?

Homework Assistance

Our IKC's offer access to computers, internet and research material as well as a quiet indoor area perfect for completing assignments and homework.

Getting to and from School

NPARC provides two school busses to service the five communities, with morning and afternoon runs. To register your child to use the bus service, please see Community Services at New Mapoon Office. Busses run to each community bus stop, extending runs to loop each community in heavy downpours.

Work Experience

NPARC offers a wide range of work experience to school students and school leavers from hands on trade experience, to events, media and admin.

We encourage student completing their final years or recently finished, to arrange work experience placement in the field of their choice.

Computer Training

Our IKC's offer regular computer literacy training, open to all members of the community to bridge the digital divide.

NPARC is proud to work closely with the NNII Education Council, NPA College and P&C's to support education in our region.



Wonder-Women of the NPA

NPA Women are strong and capable. Mothers, sisters, aunts; they are the backbones of their family. A confidant for secrets, a fighter for justice, a chef, a teacher and doesn't she just look beautiful in floral!

This month on International Women's Day, we celebrated the magnificent women of our region, and their amazing stories.

At a beautiful lunch hosted by NPAFACS, women of the NPA came together to share stories and show support for women's rights and recognition within the region.

On this day, we celebrate how far we have come to recognizing women's rights in Australia and our individual lives.

Providing a National Voice for Indigenous Australians

'Indigenous Australia' is a broad term used to describe many unique cultures and peoples with one thing in common. They have claim as the descendants of the first people of this land.

The National Congress of Australia's First People's Board held a community meeting on Thursday Island on Friday 15th March to spread awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and how the National Congress is helping Indigenous Australians recognise their rights.

The Congress apply pressure to the Australian Government to change laws and policies that do not align with the rights of Indigenous Australians; including the right to self governance, matters of land and resource usage and recognition as the first peoples.

"The National Congress operates on a National level, aimed at influencing laws, policies and programs," said Co-Chairperson Lez Malezer. "With the correct framework in place at this level, communities can take on ownership and commit change at a grassroots level."

"Restrictions and laws such as the liquor restrictions across QLD do not remedy the situation, they just mask the symptom," Mr Malezer said. "We need to support communities to take ownership, as is their human right to do so."

The National Congress has identified that many Indigenous Australians are unaware of the UN Declaration outlining their rights, and are working to raise awareness.

In the past, there have been other bodies created to represent Indigenous Australians and their rights, acting in an advisory role, however with Government change over each of these have been dissolved. However, The National Congress of Australia's First People has been structured as a company, rather than a government body, so that it cannot be dissolved by a change of Government.

For more information on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, visit humanrights.gov.au

Creating Magic from the Mundane

Have you ever looked at a foam esky and thought to yourself...
I could make a dugong out of that?

Marsat has. Wanting to create large scale carvings that were also light enough to lift or hang, he decided to utilise what light and malleable materials were already on hand.

Collecting polystyrene eskys, he stacked the layers of foam before carving them into the likeness of a mother and baby dugong, using only a garden chainsaw.

By day Marsat is NPARC Carpentry Workshop Supervisor, but in his spare time he follows his passion for art, and these magnificent foam sculptures are not the only project this local carpenter has on the go.

Using the offcuts from last years regional show wood chopping event, Marsat carved a hammer-head shark, dugong and a crocodile, each over a meter long, each taking between 3 and 5 weeks to create.

Marsat said this is the first time he has attempted a carving on such a large scale, but he seems pretty happy with how they have turned out!

"I wanted to try carving on a bigger scale, this is my first try," Marsat said of the beautifully detailed carvings

sitting underneath his family home in the heart of Bamaga.

"I tried using the foam esky's because they are light enough to work with on a really large scale," Marsat explained.

"I'd like to go a bit bigger than this again, and hopefully create some works to be displayed around our communities."

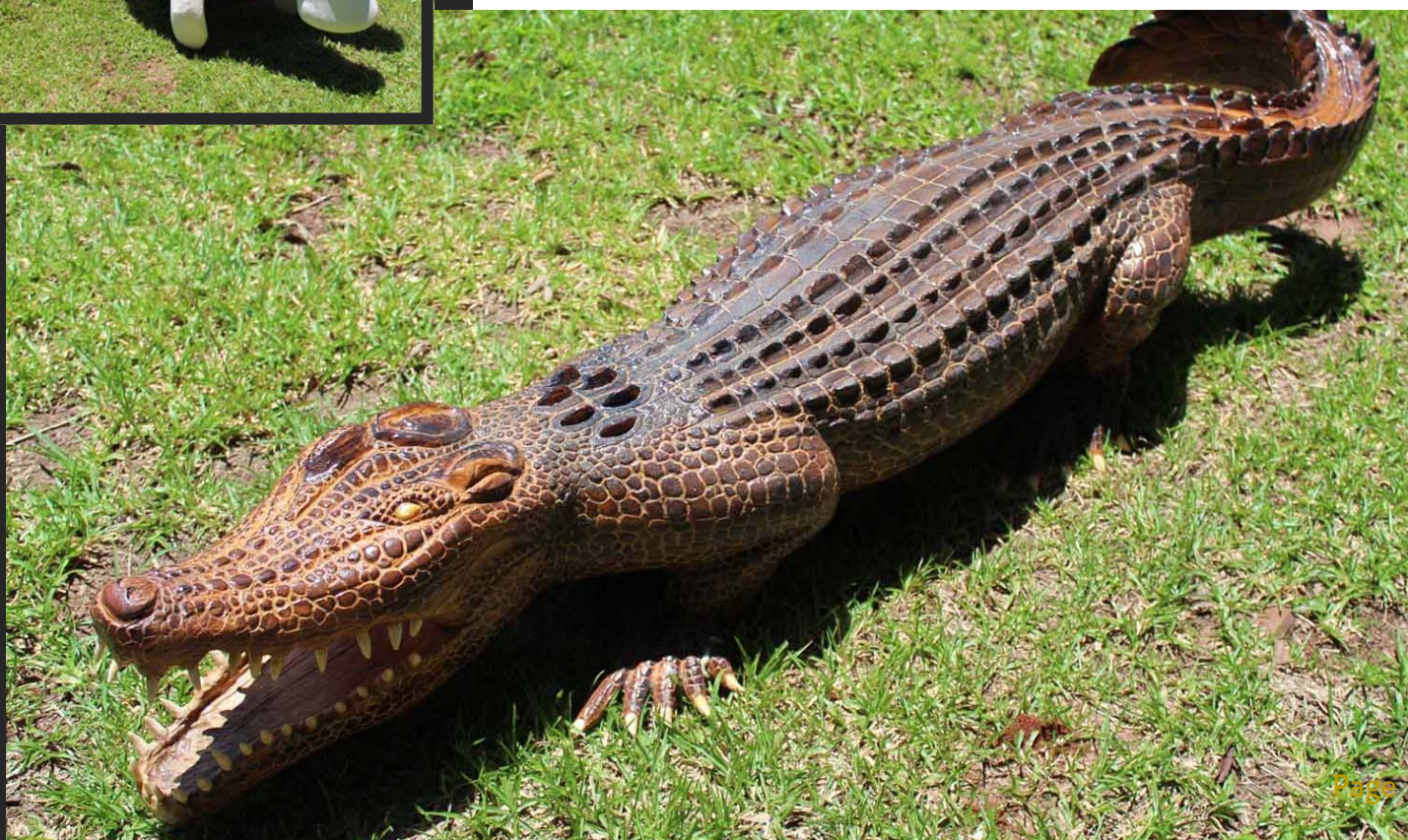
His art has long been influenced by hunting culture and lifestyle. The sculptures are amazingly life-like, perhaps due to Marsat's own familiarity with the animals.

As a traditional saltwater hunter, Marsat hunts both turtle and dugong in the waters of the Torres Strait.

Though the animals are not only a source of food, hunting is a cultural rite and the animals are totems for local tribes, a link to culture and heritage.

"The saltwater crocodile is my wife's totem," Marsat explains, "these are also the animals we hunt, they are a part of our life here."

Last year Marsat was involved in an exhibition of NPA Artists at UMI art gallery in Cairns, showcasing two of his paintings. He now hopes to focus on carving and large scale sculptures.



Bad Behavior Off the Bus

Misbehavior could have you banned from the bus.

Following recent revamps of our school and community buses, NPARC community services will be taking a firm stand against misbehavior on school buses.

Both buses were recently taken off the road for maintenance work due to vandalism caused by students travelling in the bus.

This is unacceptable behavior and will not be tolerated. Seats on both buses had been torn apart, exposing the metal frames, while windows, walls and seats were covered in graffiti and holes had been torn in the upholstery on the walls.

The buses have now been re-upholstered for the safety of all those on board and it is the responsibility of all students travelling on the bus not to vandalize or damage any council property.

When signing on your child to ride the school bus, you are signing on to an agreed code of conduct. This code of conduct covers behavior of students both waiting for and travelling on the bus.

While travelling on the bus you are asked to listen to the driver's instructions. Passengers are to behave in a manner that will not distract the driver; this means remaining seated for the journey, and no yelling, pushing or bullying other students.

Passengers are asked to respect the driver and one another, thanking the driver on exiting the bus.

Misbehavior on the bus will be reported, and the student may receive a warning, suspension from the service or may be banned from the bus.

Parents will be notified and students will be held responsible for their actions.

The consequence of misbehavior either waiting for or travelling on the bus could range from a warning to the student not being allowed back on.

School bus runs are provided as a community service, as a safe and reliable means of travelling to and from school. All students have the right to feel safe on the bus.

If you wish to read the Code Of Conduct produced by the State Government Department of transportation or to sign on your child to catch the school bus, please contact NPARC Community Services at New Mapoon Office.

Buses run on all school days, with pick ups from 7:45am-9am, drop offs from 3pm-4:15pm. Bus services will not run outside of these hours, if you miss the bus service, it becomes parent or care-giver's responsibility to transport their child to school.

Students signed on to catch the bus will be collected and dropped off at community bus stops.

In heavy rain the bus will loop each community, to homes of registered students. In wet weather, we ask that all students be ready on time for pick up, to make sure everyone arrives at school on time.

Your responsibilities on the bus

**No bullying
No eating or drinking
Respect driver
Respect other students
Do not vandalize seats or windows**





Pictured: (L-R) Caron Chiller (Trainer), Soraya (CDEP Mentor), Ashley Ahboo, Richard Gela, Abia Bowie, Peter Magala, Thomas Wigness. (not pictured) Christopher Walker and Colin Misi Gewia Tamwoy

First Steps for NPA's Future Entrepreneurs

This month, two groups of CDEP participants completed their Certificate 1 in Work readiness. During the three week course, participants learnt networking skills, personal organisation, fundraising, liability and brushed up on literacy and numeracy skills.

They also learned the importance of contingency plans, as the first group's initial enterprise had to be postponed and relocated due to an exterior cause. Never the less, participants were able to work with the challenges facing them and their enterprise was a success. Looking at the needs of the communities, the team planned an after school activity to provide entertainment for local youths.

The second group decided to promote the natural beauty of the NPA, creating a gorgeous calendar for local sale.

Group leader Richard Gela Bani said the skills they gained through the course allowed them to plan and run the community event on their own, giving them the base skills needed to pursue other business ventures.

"A few people took this course as a step towards starting their own business, Mr Gela Bani said. "There is certainly a need for grassroots businesses in our region."

Congratulations to Ashley Ahboo, who was successful in her job hunt, getting the call on their graduation day. Best of luck to all participants in their future careers.

For more information on courses, training and career assistance, contact NPA CDEP at Seisia Office.

Pictured: (L-R) Back Row: Aiaba Satrick, Pasia Satrick, Gara Doolah, Front Row: Dorean Ingui, Nemma Solomon, Chentel Solomon, Timena Solomon and Ruby Stephen



A home away from home. Injinoo Youth Center



Injinoo Youth Centre Coordinator Gordon Solomon sees his role as supporting our future leaders.

"As youth workers, we support our youths to take on leadership roles in the community," Mr Solomon said.

Injinoo Youth Centre is a youth hub for the community, giving youth a place to go to relax, take time out and learn new life skills. Though supporting our youth, our communities benefit from their ideas and concepts, creating opportunities unique to their generation.

"I tailor programs that will empower our youths and give them opportunities they wouldn't usually have access to," Mr Solomon said, "Our youths often don't realise the immense talent and knowledge they have, so our programs are aimed at letting them see how capable they really are."

Youths are assisted in a range of areas from applying for future studies or work placement, attaining drivers and boat licenses and looking for accommodation. Gordon also assists youths in transport to sports training and competitions, as well as out of community excursions, never has there been a taxi driver with such an off-road capable car!





HAPPY EASTER from HACC!



NPA Health Farewells Nine

This month NPA health workers farewelled nine fellow staff members, some who have worked in health for over 20 years.

The redundancies came amidst 200 job cuts expected across far North QLD, as a result of federal funding cuts.

At a tearful farewell held at Bamaga Resort this month, community members and health workers acknowledged the dedication and commitment shown to local health by local staff.

"I salute them for their commitment, passion, strength and endurance, their leadership and their care to the community," said District Program Coordinator Maria Tapim. "It is the first time during my employment in Health that I have witnessed and felt such sorrow from the community at staff sendoffs."

Many workers were offered the redundancy packages and accepted, after many years working in the public health sector.

"I have seen the strengthen that each and every one of you have contributed in a positive, collaborative and empowering way," said Patty Yusia, who has worked with QLD for over 26 years.

"I will take with me wonderful memories, that I will always cherish with me including sad memories of those who have passed on."

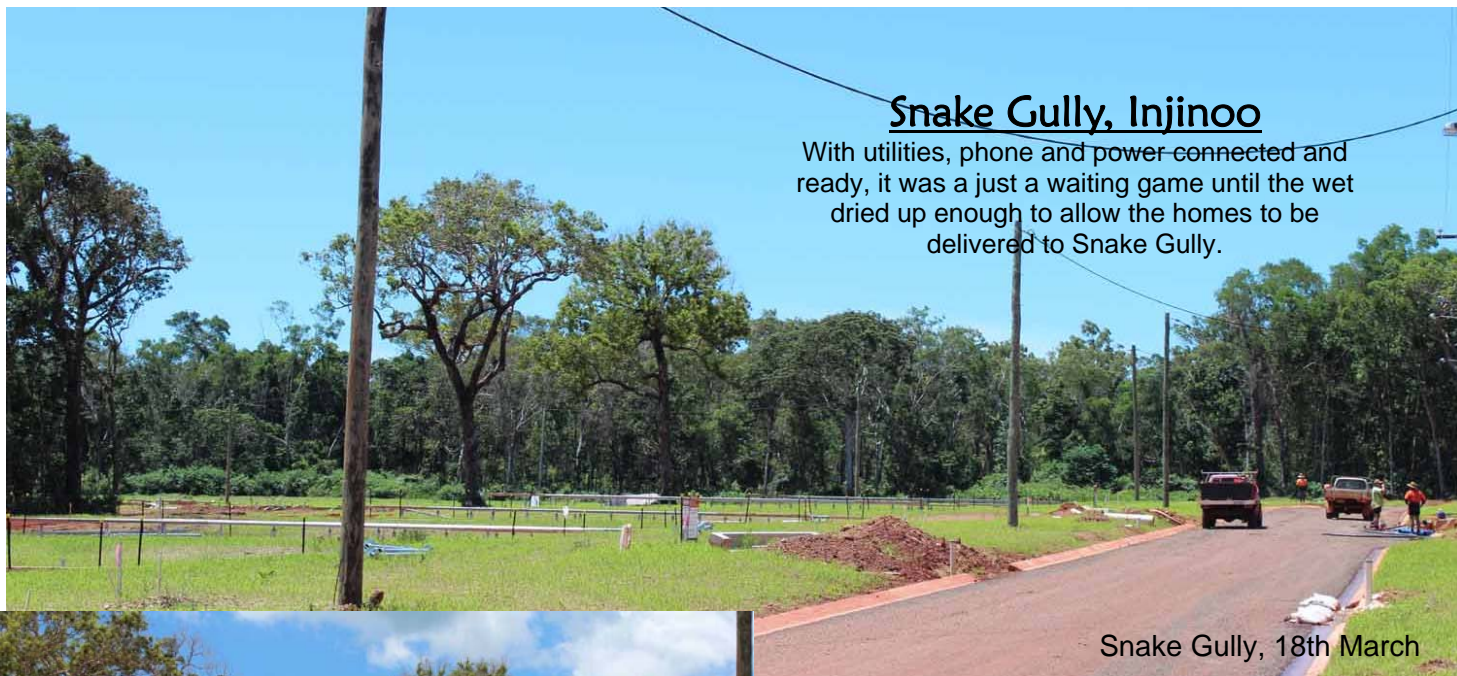
Mrs Yusia summed up the farewells perfectly, saying, "Goodbyes are not forever, goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you until we meet again."

As community members, we thank the staff who have left and those who are still upholding the work of QLD Health in our region.

Esso & Yawo

Snake Gully, Injinoo

With utilities, phone and power connected and ready, it was a just a waiting game until the wet dried up enough to allow the homes to be delivered to Snake Gully.



Snake Gully, 18th March

Social Housing Delivers

The first homes of the 2013 Social Housing Rollout have quite literally rolled into town. You may have chanced to see them lined across the Seisia wharf car park, or cruising through the communities on the back of road trains as they made their way to their final destinations.

The new homes have been built in sections at workshops in Cairns, by Remote Building Solutions. Each section is reinforced at the top and base, to ensure no warping or damage during transport.

Delivered to each site by truck, the sections are seamlessly secured, and amenities installed, with each home completed within hours of delivery.

"We've been talking about the community benefits of development in the area," said NPARC CEO Ilario Sabatino, "here is a great example of benefits to local businesses, training opportunities for residents as well as social housing for local families."

Local workers from the NPA have taken on apprenticeships with RBS in Cairns and others have been employed on site as a result of the housing rollout.

Starting at New Mapoon Quarry Heights and Injinoo Snake Gully, homes have been springing up like the grass in the wet season, despite the rain and dreary weather.

Each community is in store for a number of new homes, expected to be completed and ready to move in by July this year.

Deputy Mayor Edward Newman said housing deliveries are expected to begin in Paii Close, Bamaga Subdivision, during April.

Housing roll out stats, by July 2013:

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



Snake Gully, 20th March



Quarry Heights, New Mapoon

New Mapoon's Quarry Heights was the first estate to see the new homes delivered with new homes springing up daily.



Quarry Heights Estate, 14th March



Quarry Heights Estate, 18th March



Seisia Wharf, 20th March



Best tips and Home Remedies to Keep Your Pet Pest-free

What's working for your pet? Here are some of the best tips already being used on pets in the NPA...

Tea Tree Oil— Add this to your dog's shampoo and your mop bucket to clean the house. It will kill fleas, repel ticks and leave the pet and your home smelling fresh.

Eggs— Give you dog an egg once or twice a week with their meal. It will help improve skin health and leave their coat nice and shiny.

Bones— If your dog is destructive in the yard when you go to work, throw them a raw bone to chew on through the day. It will also help keep their teeth and gums healthy!

Dishwashing Soap— Flea washes can be expensive, but a good lather of lemon dishwashing soap during your dog's bath has been known to work wonders. Make sure you gently scrub your dogs fur, head to toe including the belly) and leave the soapy lather on for five minutes. Rinse thoroughly and repeat when necessary.

Tick check— When you are having a 'time out' moment outside, sit your dog next to you and run your fingers over their skin, through their fur and between the toes. This way you can catch ticks





Spoken Identity

In a culture where knowledge was essentially passed on verbally through generations, it is little wonder why some indigenous cultures now feel as if they are loosing their language.

Centuries ago, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clans practised cultural traditions and used language in daily exchange. With continuous practise it was not necessary to record language and culture in the forms we use today.

Throughout Australian history, we have had a convergence of cultures, and a history of communication attempting to break down these language and cultural barriers.

Within the NPA alone, since the first settlement of warring clans at Injinoo, language and cultural lines have been mixed.

Before settlement of Injinoo, the Northern Peninsula Area was home to many independent clans. From neighbouring Horn island and the Torres Strait to southern clans of Cape York, each clan had their own country, language and culture.

As the first clans of Injinoo came together, they would have faced the same language barriers still faced today between different cultures.

With the arrival of Government influence, the area of the NPA became home to many more cultures; each bringing with them their own customs, beliefs and languages. At that time, under the Department of Native Affairs, English was taught as the mother language of Australia.

“When our parents were at school they were told not to speak in language,” said Injinoo IKC coordinator Sandra Sebasio, “they were only allowed t speak English. So when they went home they would tell their families not to speak language to them either so they wouldn’t get confused.”

Many communities and the Australian Government have now recognised the importance of preserving indigenous language and culture for future generations.

Unfortunately, as the practice of language was in some cases removed to such an extent and for such a period of time, very little now remains to salvage.

NPA Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) are supported by State Library of Queensland (SLQ) and NPARC to protect and preserve language, culture and history within our communities.

It can be hard to know where to start when researching local culture, especially when it seems the language is no longer spoken, but there are records which have been collected for many years, containing verbal and written collections of language and culture. You just need to know where to look.

Through each IKC, you can access SLQ catalogues including recordings of local people speaking language, written accounts of dreaming and historical stories, recent documentation and cultural artefacts.

You can also access AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) catalogues and records through each IKC, perfect for researching language, heritage and culture.

Our IKCs are here for our communities, to help keep culture strong.

Upcoming Events

IKC Coordinators, SLQ and NPARC community Services have been working with community groups to organise this year’s Culture Love, to be held during the Easter School holidays.

Seisia and New Mapoon IKCs will be officially launching their iPad hubs with a scavenger hunt and afternoon tea, held on 22nd April (Seisia) and 23rd April (New Mapoon).

NPA IKC’s will then be hosting a White Glove event in May this year, where SLQ will bring cultural artefacts relevant to the NPA for community display.

On the following Page

*John Adidi has provided a historical photo of a meeting of the NPA Councillors from each Shire and Community Council, believed to be taken in the early 80s.

**In the first edition of the NPA College Newsletter, there is a section describing the “Native Customs of the Old People of Cowal Creek”. With the family’s permission, we have re-published these descriptions here.



Meeting of NPA Councils (early 80's) L-R Back Row: Stephen Mark, Imari Mooka, Charlie Lifu, Dan Ropeyarn, Max Patton (D.A.I.A Manager), Waikai Jawai, Albert Cottis, Front Row: Korea Charlie, Patricia Pascoe, Wilfred Bowie, Adikuiam Adidi, Mabel Bond, Tessie Peter

NATIVE CUSTOMS OF THE OLD PEOPLE OF COWAL CREEK

- 1) When you see three long marks on a man's chest that means he's a chief hunter. One long mark means he's a chief warrior. These have meaning in custom. They are cut deep across thier chest by broken bottle. After the cut they put leaves out of vine to heal the marks.
- 2) The old people had no front teeth. They broke their tooth for this reason. When they are dancing their corotaree they make a buzz sound (z z z).
- 3) If this old bloke had a daughter and she dig the first time for wild yam or bush yam, the relatives can't eat the yam. They have to give them to someone else to eat. The next time the relatives can eat them
- 4) If a woman is pregnant and if there is an old fella with sons and daughters, what he do is sit near this pregnant woman and he rubs her head slowly. that mean to say if this woman has a girl then that is a promise to marry his sons. So this is the promise because he rubs her head. If they break this promise then the two tribes will have a tribal fight and many people will get hurt or killed.

- Silas Snowy Woosup
COWAL CREEK



What's on in the NPA ?

For the Calendar: April 1st NPA Fun Day

April 8th-12th Culture Love Umagico

April 15th- Deadly Ears ENT Clinic- Bamaga Hospital

April 20/21st- Fishing Comp, Seisia Fishing Club

April 25th- ANZAC Day

NPA Judo Club

Classes now held at Bamaga Community Hall.

Mondays

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

Seniors at 5:30-6:45pm

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

Seniors at 7:00-8:30pm

Thursdays

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

Every second Saturday

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

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

16th April- Selection for Men's and Women's rep teams

For more information on Touch Comps, please contact NPA PCYC

Bootcamp

Wednesday and Saturday Mornings 6:30am

Wet weather: Bamaga Hall, Dry: Bamaga Oval

Contact Leandra Newman for more info: 4060 4100

NPA Hoops

NPABA Comp starts April 2nd.

April 13th- Men's and Women's rep teams compete in regional Hoops Competition (PCYC)

For more info on basketball comps, contact the NPA Basketball Association

Basketball Referee Clinics

April 10th-Horn island Clinic

April 11th- Thursday island Clinic

For more info on representative sides or referee clinics, please contact NPA PCYC

Yoga

Mat Yoga Mondays 5:30pm at New Mapoon Hall

Chair Yoga Wednesday 5:30pm Bamaga OSCH

Mat Yoga Thursday 5:30pm Injinoo Hall

Kickboxing

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bamaga OSCH

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

Dancing (Jazz)

Wednesday 6:30 pm Bamaga OSCH

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

IKC iPad Launch

Launching the new IKC iPad hubs in style with scavenger hunt, movie making and afternoon tea.
Seisia- 22nd April, New Mapoon 23rd April, 3:30pm.

Bamaga P & C Meetings

P & C dates for the remainder of 2013 as below.
Held at 7pm at the Bamaga Senior Campus Library.
All parents and community members welcome.

23 April

18 June

20 August

29 October

26 November



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

