

NPA NEWS

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

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NPARC Chief Executive Officer
Ilario Sabatino



Pictured: (L-R) Cr Trevor Lifu, Cr Dennis Getawan, Mayor Bernard Charlie, Cr Benjamin Gebadi (seated), NPARC CEO Ilario Sabatino, Deputy Mayor Edward Newman and Executive Secretary Esme Newman

Key Dates

Nominations close: 14th June
Enrollment to Vote closes: 7th June

Polling Day Saturday 6th July 2013
Voting Hours: 8am-6pm at Seisia Office

Pre-poll voting Monday 24th June
Friday 5th July at Seisia Office

Remember, voting is compulsory.

Farewell

It is with regret that Councillor Benjamin Gebadi, Member for Seisia, announces his resignation from Council.

Battling with ill health for over a year now, Cr Gebadi has made the decision to put his health first for now and step down from his post.

"Being a Councillor is a position of great responsibility," Cr Gebadi said at his farewell, "We are role models for our communities and spokes persons for our people 24/7. Unfortunately I can't continue to fulfill this role until my health recovers."

NPA Mayor and Councillors, along with NPARC CEO and Executive staff said that Cr Gebadi would continue to be seen as a community leader and role model regardless of his position.

Cr Gebadi said he hoped that his decision would influence younger members of his community.

"You have to make health a priority, so that you can serve your community to your best ability," he said, "you might not realize when you are young, but your lifestyle will eventually catch up with you."

"A sad decision, but one that we support you in, I eso you for your service," Mayor Charlie thanked Cr Gebadi, "as I'm sure Seisia eso's you for your service too."

Election for NPA Division 5 (Seisia)

Residents of Seisia will head to the polling booths on Saturday 6 July 2013, to select a new local representative.

Nominations will be closing Friday 14 June at 12 noon, so all future leaders, get your forms in! Nomination forms are available at the Commission's website www.ecq.qld.gov.au or from Seisia Office.

Nominations need to be lodged with our Returning officer (Dellacia Christian) at the NPARC Seisia Office on or before the closing date (Friday 14th).

You can contact Dellacia on 0417 038 361 or 4048 6702.

Residents are reminded that the close of roll for the by-election is Friday 7 June 2013 at 5pm, all residents over 18 years must be enrolled to vote. Enrollment forms and information regarding enrolment are available through the website www.ecq.qld.gov.au or call 1300 881 665.

If you won't be here to vote, no worries, pre-Poll voting will be held at NPARC Seisia office from Monday 24 June 2013 to Friday (6pm) 5 July 2013.

Stolen Generations, Stolen Land

In the final week of May, years of battling for Indigenous Rights were summed up in three anniversaries.

The 26th May, National Sorry Day, recognizes the anniversary of the first documentation of testimonies taken from members of the Stolen Generations being tabled by Federal Parliament.

The 27th May celebrates the Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, when 90% of Australia voted in support of altering our Constitution to remove clauses that discriminated against Indigenous Australians. (cont. pg 8) The 27th also marks the beginning of Reconciliation Week, a week stretching between two anniversaries of significant Indigenous Australian wins in Parliament.

June 3rd, Mabo Day, celebrates the historical ruling of the High Court of Australia in favour of Eddie Mabo's Native Title Claim and rejecting the doctrine that states Australia was Terra Nullius at the time of European settlement.

National Sorry Day

Sixteen years ago, on 26th May 1997, Federal Parliament tabled a report looking into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

The first of its kind, the *Bringing Them Home* Report uncovered the effects of forced removal policies, which were passed and practiced for over 150 years, telling the stories of members of the stolen generations first hand.

The report was the result of a National Inquiry, launched in 1995, led by then President of Human Rights and Equality Commission, Sir Ronald Wilson. The Inquiry panel documented testimonies taken from members of stolen generations, recording the extent of grief, damage and loss as a result of the policies practiced from the late 1800s well into the 1970s.

The Inquiry panel states in the Report that '*... [the Stolen Generations] removal as children and the abuse they experienced at the hands of the authorities or their delegates have permanently scarred their lives. The harm continues in later generations, affecting their children and grandchildren.*'

The report is recognised as the first true documentation of first hand testimonies of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, who as children were forcibly removed as a result of government policies.

The report also concluded that the violation of human rights conducted against these people "*continue to affect Indigenous people's daily lives. They were an act of genocide, aimed at wiping out Indigenous families, communities and cultures, vital to the precious and inalienable heritage of Australia*".

Now a recognised day of remembrance, May 26th marks National Sorry Day for all Australians, as they remember those who were and still are affected by the policies that led to the Stolen Generations.

Koiki Mabo

In a battle for native title rights that lasted over a decade, Eddie Koiki Mabo of Mer Island, changed the history of a nation, though he did not live to see the courts decision.

In a historic moment in Australian Politics, the High Court Of Australia ruled in favour of Mr Mabo, rejecting the doctrine that stated the Australian continent was '*terra nullius*' at the time of the first European settlers.

European settlement was based upon the statement made by James Cook, that there were no human inhabitants, no custodians of the land and therefore no war or treaty was needed for their settlement.

In 1982 Eddie Mabo and four other Islanders initiated legal action claiming customary ownership of their lands on Murray Island, despite having had no legal background.

After leaving his Island home at the age of 16, Mr Mabo worked across Northern Queensland, finally settling in Townsville with his wife and young family, where he worked as a gardener at James Cook University.

It was during his time here that he first became interested in fighting for his Native Title claim. Mr Mabo would attend lectures and visit the library to read books on anthropology and history of his people. In 1974, during a conversation with University Professor Noel Loos and Henry Reynolds, he realizing that though his family were traditional owners of the land, it was not recognised under Australian Law.

In 1981, Mr Mabo attended a Land Rights Conference held at James Cook University, where he first voiced his claim. A lawyer in the audience suggested that he should take his claim to the courts.

His initial claims were rejected by the state, but Mr Mabo believed in his rights and took his claim to the High Court of Australia. Under Justice Martin Moynihan, the final decision was delivered June 3rd, 1990. Unfortunately, Mr Mabo had passed away a year prior and did not live to see his battle won. However, his landmark case has set the way for hundreds of successful claims to follow.



Eddie Koiki Mabo



Local Education Checks Out

Over the past 3 years, NPA College have gradually adopted a teaching style known as 'explicit learning'. This just means that lesson outcomes and learning objectives are fully revealed, and students are aware of the content they have learned and how.

Since it's initial adoption in NPA classrooms in 2010, this style of teaching has been adopted in classrooms across Far North Queensland, said FNQ Regional Director for Schools, Clive Dixon on his recent visit.

Mr Dixon will be visiting 25 schools across the state this month, to meet with teachers, students and heads of campus, as well as local Education Committees and groups.

Teachers were able to discuss with Mr Dixon, the strategies employed in NPA classrooms; what is working well and what can be improved.



Welcome Jodi

NPARC would like to welcome Jodi Bjorksten to our team as Grants Officer. Though her role is based in Cairns, Jodi will be travelling up to the NPA to visit communities and gather project details for funding applications. Jodi spent a week in the NPA this month, working on site, to lodge five funding applications. Jodi has vast experience working in remote communities, having lived and worked in Arnhem Land and Alice Springs before relocating to Cairns. Welcome aboard Jodi!

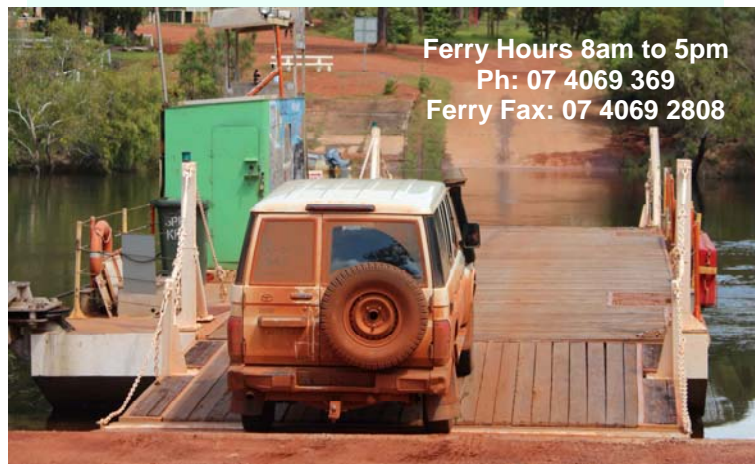


Calling All Quitters

Here in Australia, approximately half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are current smokers and 1 in 5 Indigenous Australians will die from a smoking-related illness.

On June 7th NPA Community members will march through Bamaga to say... "No to Tobacco!"

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River Crossing

For the first time in over 10 years we have seen an increase in fares for the Jardine River Ferry Service. With an increase in revenue made by the enterprise, we will have the ability to employ and train new workers, as well as assist in timely repairs when necessary.

To ease financial strain on locals, a seasonal pass is available to NPA residents, valid for six months from the date of purchase.

Prices effective Wednesday 1st May 2013:

Seasonal Pass	\$200 (valid 6 months)
NPA residents	\$50 one way/ \$100 return

Single Vehicles	\$129 return
Vehicle with Trailer/Van	\$145 return
Motor Bikes	\$67 return
Tour Bus	\$160 return
(Plus \$15 per person in excess of 15)	

Other Commercial (under 10 tonne)	\$160 return
Vehicles greater than 10 tonne	\$185 return



Language Revival

For many of the languages of the NPA, community elders are now the only speakers.

NPA Language Revival Project workers are asking all community members to become involved, recording language to be stored at IKC's for future generations.

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Over a Decade of Environmental Services

Meet the gang: Frank Mau, Greg Agie & Ron Wapau. For over a decade now, these three, along with Environmental Services Manager George Mara (absent), have been keeping our communities running, taking care of rubbish and waste removal, animal control and sewers for over a decade!

Water Management and Sewer:

Greg Agie is responsible for overseeing the operation of NPA sewer and ponds. There are five pump stations, one in each community in the NPA, plenty to keep Mr Agie busy. On top of this, every six months, he collects samples from water reservoirs, pond and creeks to send to Cairns, for testing.

Though all pumps are currently working well, Mr Agie asks that all NPA residents please do not flush foreign objects— especially nappies and clothing, which will clog the pumps and could cause a sewer overflow.

Animal Control:

Frank Mau is the man for animal control. He is currently continuing with a regional cull of sick, stray and vicious animals, as well as collection of deceased animals. Mr Mau asks that NPA residents take care of their pets, keeping horses, dogs and cattle enclosed, fed and well.

Waste Removal and Regional Tip:

Ron Wapau is the Supervisor for the NPA Regional Tip. His team are responsible for waste and rubbish collection as well as maintenance of the tip; including maintenance of grease trap, wash bay and signage.

NPA Garbage Collection Dates:

Monday: Seisia, New Mapoon, Injinoo

Tuesday: Bamaga, Umagico

Wednesday: Commercial

Thursday: Seisia, New Mapoon, Injinoo

Friday: Bamaga, Umagico

*Please have bins ready at the side of the road for waste removal.

Umagico Works Depot: 4069 3419
Environmental Services: 4069 3992



First Homes Handed Over

The first homes of the 2013 Social Housing Rollout have been handed over to tenants this month, with many more soon to follow.

The first homes to be handed over were in New Mapoon's Quarry Heights subdivision.

Cont. Pg 11-12.



Sweets to Save Lives

Residents of the NPA got behind Breast Cancer Research, at this year's Biggest Morning Tea event.

Nai Beguta Agama Aboriginal Corp held a stall at the New Mapoon Store, stocked with sweets and treats baked by local ladies, in support of the good cause.



Laura Festival on Horizon

NPA Dancer troupes have been busy with practices, costume design and choreography taking up most of their spare time.

*Pictured: Roy Solomon makes Pearl shell pendants for the Dancers to wear around their necks.

NPA College

Education for Future Leaders



Image courtesy of Brendan Francis, Cairns Post

NPA Junior Leaders Take Local Issues to Parliament

This month young leaders from Injinoo and Bamaga Primary Campuses travelled to Cairns to stand up on behalf of their communities and peers, debating current issues at the Cairns Youth Parliament 2013.

Injinoo and Bamaga Junior school captains and vice captains took on the role of ministers and opposition as they debated in the 2013 Youth parliament.

The students debated real world issues, covering two topics; a proposed government ban on mobile phone usage in schools, and that teachers should wear uniforms to school. Next, the students were able to debate issues concerning their Ministerial Portfolios, focusing on the impact to their local areas.

Bamaga Vice Captain Elma Yeolu received special mention for her speech, taking on the role of Minister for Environment. Elma appealed to Government to discontinue use of plastic bags, and switch to bio-degradable paper bags.

"It was a very inspirational," Mayor Charlie said, "to see our youths putting their own views forward, debating clear, realistic community views in front of a room full of strangers, including many of the Ministers they were role playing, cameras and other students."

"It was great to see our students getting up and speaking about issues that are important to them," says NPA College Teacher Tim Jordan, who travelled with the students to attend the Youth Parliament.

Tye Morseu called for the construction of a proper undercover area for NPA College, while Francis Newman addressed the issue of travel expenses and the impact on local education and opportunities to remote communities such as ours.

"They spoke really well," Mr Jordan said, "they were there, amongst the best public speakers from all of the other schools, and realized that there was no shame in getting up to speak about what they were passionate about. The only shame would have been to not get up and give it their best effort."

The students prepared for the trip by giving nearly 15 hours outside of school, to practice their public speaking and debating skills.

"After all the effort put in, it was great to see how well our students could stand up and speak, addressing current issues in such a professional way," Mr Jordan said.

"I was lucky enough to see some of our students addressing the Youth parliament," said NPA Mayor Bernard Charlie. "They spoke well, with strong voices— they owned the stage."

Big thank you to the effort put in by each of the students, as well as Mr Jordan and Ms Kepa, of Injinoo Primary.

"On behalf of the Council and Elected Representatives, I'd like to thank Tim, Glenys and NPA College for supporting our students, and thank our Captains and Vice Captains, you did us proud," -Mayor Charlie.



Image courtesy of Brendan Francis, Cairns Post

Photos Courtesy of Tim Jordan



Under 8's Day

Growing up you are told that yes there is mothers day and fathers day– but *everyday* is kids day. Though that's a bit hard to celebrate isn't it? So at this year's Under 8's day, we had the chance for students, teachers and community members to recognise the future of our communities, our kids.

Based in the Injinoo park and Bamaga Junior Campus, there were Emergency services and vehicles, with lights and sirens, face and body painting, games and craft activities for the kids and community to enjoy.

Excellence in Athletics

One thing is for sure, that is NPA students have speed. The NPA Cross Country competed this month at the Regional Cross Country Carnival held at Mareeba State High School.

After competing in the NPA Cross Country, NPA students Jeanette Bryden, Shirley Bond, Louisa Panuel, David Phineasa, Darren Phineasa, Jonathon Phineasa, Corey Toby and Kapua Sebasio trained twice a week at school as well as their own individual training on the weekends to prepare for the competition.

Thankyou to Mr Daswon for his help in coaching the team and travelling to the competition with our athletes.

Students On Track

While sitting in the classroom, it can be difficult to imagine when you will be using the information taught in the 'real world'. With no motivation to learn, taking in difficult lessons can be a real challenge.

This month, ten NPA Students put their hands up to be part of a Cultural Training Course, hosted by One Way Solutions at Bamaga TAFE, to explore the pathways in school they will need to achieve their dream job.

Rather than following the lead, students were invited to create and regulate their own classroom rules and set their own goals for the course.

"We asked each student to identify someone who they thought was a leader in the community, and interview them," said One Way Solutions' Relsie Ahboo.

"The students talked to them about how they had started their career, and found that there was a lot more learning behind the scenes needed to reach these positions they looked up to."

The course focused on linking skills learnt at school, to career pathways of their choice. From finding the right subjects to understanding the importance of schooling in finding a career they enjoy, these students are on track to reaching their career goals.

Students pictured below.





Welcome to the Family

Constable Talina O'Brian has recently been adopted into the NPA family, in her new role as NPA Adopt-A-Cop. Already known to many NPA kids as 'Constable T', our newly adopted cop has been out and about in our communities, attending Under 8's celebrations, teaching kids about road safety, the law and their rights.

"It's a role that I've always wanted to do, but never had the opportunity to do in Cairns," said Constable T, who relocated to the NPA in March.

"I love fishing and camping, so I'm really excited about moving here. It's also great to have a chance to get out in the community and get to know people and build relationships there. Police are here to help, we don't want to be seen as the guys who lock you up."

The Adopt-A-Cop program is run throughout QLD, with many Police Officers like Talina visiting schools, youth centers and community events to educate primary school and high school students on the law, public safety and personal safety.

"It's great fun for us too, when the kids ask to turn on the sirens or the lights," Constable T said, "they love to ask about the job, most of the kids are really interested."

"Quite a few people have said to me they like to see a police presence in the region, around the streets, supermarkets, schools etc," said Constable T, who has already aid a few visits to school grounds at lunch.

"It's not at all about keeping an eye on the students, it's about getting to know them and giving them the chance to get to know me, and to know that we are there to help them, if they ever need."

NPA Police Officers have always been active in our local communities; attending community events, visiting IKCs and assisting with health and public safety awareness messages, and now, as a region we have the opportunity to adopt a cop! Look out for Constable T at the next community event or around the region.

Remember, NPA Police Officers are here to help us build safer communities, if you need help or advice, you can contact any of our deadly NPA Officers.

NPA QLD Police Station contacts:

Ph: 07 4090 4500

Fax: 07 4069 3485

Lui St, Bamaga

Indigenous Leadership

A lot can be achieved in seven days. This month, one week brought together 20 indigenous leaders of all walks of life and from across the country, to gain and develop skills in Indigenous Leadership.

Among these leaders was NPA Youth, Aldene Reuben, who aims to develop leadership skills to improve his region and act as a role model for younger generations.

The course explored networking and media, diplomacy, public speaking, communication skills and leadership styles, graduating with a Certificate II in Indigenous Leadership and a whole range of new skills.

"We [he participants] were from all over Australia," Aldene said, "aged between 18 and 73 years old. Aside from the course itself, we learnt a lot about each others homes and cultures and made some great friendships with like minded people."

The course was based in Cairns, through the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC, est. 2000).





1967 Referendum Anniversary

A living memory is one that is still remembered by generations today. Not the folklore of a bygone era, but recent history. When our elders and grandparents were still of school age, they can remember a time before Indigenous Rights were recognised in Australia.

"There was a school for blacks, and a separate school for whites and half castes," said Injinoo Elder, Richard Tamwoy, "we were schooled on Thursday Island, all of us from the Islands, and the mainland together, so we fought like cats and dogs."

"We were taught Australian History," he said, "even told of how Captain Cook had come to Australia and slaughtered the natives, we were taught that our race were animals."

"There was no equality; the front row of the drive-in [theatre] was reserved for indigenous residents, where they would get rained on in bad weather, blacks weren't allowed in the pub, even the indigenous soldiers were treated second rate – not even given shoes. I remember my uncle telling me that when the inspector came around, the indigenous soldiers would spit on their hands to wipe the dust off their feet."

Meanwhile, in Australian cities during the 1950s and early 60s, Indigenous Rights activist groups had been fighting to keep Indigenous Affairs in the public eye, finally resulting in a referendum held on May 27th, 1967.

Within Aboriginal settlements, such as Injinoo was at that time, the flow of information was only passed onto the community through the Director Of Native Affairs for that region.

Community members knew only what they were told through him, of the rest of the country, or their political campaigning for equality.

"When politicians and ministers visited then, they were carried from their boats upon the shoulders of our community members," Mr Tamwoy said, "so their feet wouldn't get wet. There was a clear racial class separation, and we didn't know any different."

Today we celebrate the anniversary of the day that over 90% of Australians voted Yes to support a step towards racial equality, to put an end to racial superiority and racial discrimination.

The referendum itself was for three things: the removal of two references in the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Aboriginal people, giving Indigenous Australians the right to be recognised as a part of the Commonwealth;

Section . 51. The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to:- ... (xxvi) The people of any race, other than the aboriginal people in any State, for whom it is necessary to make special laws

127. In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth, or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth, aboriginal natives should not be counted.

-and a non-related question attempting to alter the balance of numbers in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

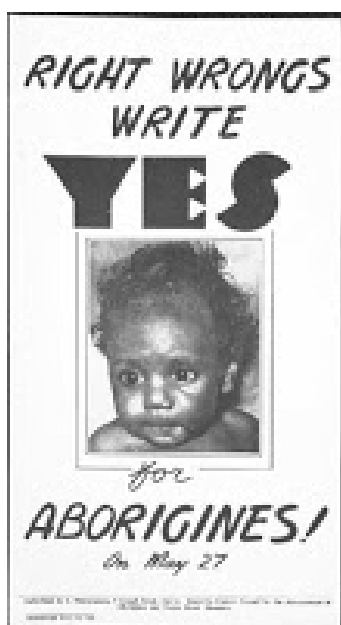
The 1967 Referendum *did not* give Aboriginal people the right to vote (as this was already introduced in 1962), nor grant Indigenous Australians citizenship. The result 1967 Referendum was only to alter the Australian Constitution, a step in the right direction.

"There wasn't really much change directly after the referendum," recalls Injinoo Elder Manny Tamwoy, "we were still under the governance of the Director Of Native Affairs, who controlled our wages, rations, travel and even marriage requests."

Though the change to the constitution didn't have an immediate effect on day to day life, it did provide the footing for future developments, giving Indigenous Australians a basis to seek equal rights. Soon after, the schools were merged and further educational opportunities were opened up to all Australians regardless of race.

"You can see the changes over time," Mr Tamwoy said, "now look at our children and community youths, they can attend school and university, we have aboriginal and islander doctors, lawyers and other professionals. We've a long way to go, but we are on the right track."

1967 Referendum Anniversary
May 27th



NPA Sporting News

An active month for NPA residents, with a selection of regional sporting competitions and a range of exercise classes available.

A quick overview; our mini ninjas have been learning new skills and techniques, while adults have been mastering their throws and holds at NPA Judo Club.

Fitness junkies have braved the wet morning grass to flip tyres at boot camp or head to the pool for a morning wake up at water aerobics.

The tyres are back out in the grass again for circuit training classes in the evening at Bamaga Oval.

Punching bags take a beating at the now combined men's and women's kickboxing class, while NPA Yogi's build strength and flexibility at yoga classes.

All the fitness classes are free to NPA residents and visitors so come along, have fun, learn some new skills and get your body moving!

Touch Grand Final

The NPA Touch Footy Comp 2013 drew to a close this month, with our mens and ladies champions battling it out in the Grand Final, held on Wednesday 15th May.

A big eso and congratulations to all teams who competed throughout the competition, and to all team coaches, refs, volunteers and supporters.

After 12 weeks of competitions, the 8 men's teams and 6 ladies' had narrowed the field to down to just 2 teams each. In the ladies division, *Friendz* took first place, with *Valley Gangsters* runners up. The mens game had to go into over time, with *Alau Eagles* taking first place, closely followed by *Why Not*.

Thanks to NPA PCYC for running this event, NPARC Events for busses and facilities and to all our volunteers and players who made it possible.

Competitions Coming Up in the NPA

NPA Volleyball Regional Comp

NPA Volleyball comps will be held from 17th June.

4th July—Volleyball Cluster

Competition will be hosted by NPA, held at the Reginald Sebasio Community Hall, Bamaga. The competition invites rep teams from Eastern Islands, Western Islands, Central Islands and NPA to compete. NPA PCYC will kick off a local volleyball comp in June to ready our players for the clash.

For more information on Volleyball, contact NPA PCYC.

NPA Hoops

We are now halfway through the NPA Basketball Association's Summer Season, with 8 men's teams and 7 ladies teams participating.

After the success of last years NPA Hoops, the sport increased in popularity, attracting new and old players to the court, with games now rotated over two nights, just to allow for the number of teams wanting to compete.

NPA basketball Association continue to run bi-weekly games, held at the Reginald Sebasio Bamaga Courts on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

NPA Basketball Association's secretary Wendy Phineasa said the competition is running smoothly.

"All teams are participating positively and in accordance with the this season's competition rules," she said, "We would like to thank all the teams, players, supporters and spectators for supporting the newly established association and for your participation in Basketball."

NPA Basketball Association Committee members can be contacted at games on Tuesday or Thursday evenings or via the committee Facebook page.

Remember: all NPA sporting events are drug, alcohol and smoke free events.

NPA Touch Footy Grand Final Night







Meet n Greet Community BBQ, Umagico, img supplied by FKG

Local Jobs On Site

The sight of homes going up in our communities means more than meets the eye to many NPA residents. It means training and job opportunities for locals, it means income for lodging and local businesses, employment for local contractors and homes for local families.

A visit to any site will show an array of local employment opportunities being seized by men and women of the NPA, from the training and labourer positions, to local contractors hired from welding, scaffolding to earthworks, plumbing and more.

Locals Ansen Gebadi, Philomina Fujii, Aaron Bamaga and Tre Riddle have been a part of the project from the beginning, working on the RBS site in Cairns, building the homes to be transported up. Imram Aniba joined the project not long after, all starting their apprenticeships as a result of their placement in the project.

Apprentices with One Way Solutions are offered training in a range of areas, from cementing to carpentry, electrical to fencing.

"We want to make sure our workers get a wide range of experience, and at least basic training in most areas," said One Way Solution's David Ahboo. "From there they can see what they are good at, what they are interested in and can pursue further training and a career in that area."

Other workers, such as George Pablo joined the project as the first homes were rolling into community, and are also being trained in a range of on site trades.

So Who's Doing What?

Local labourers and apprentices are hired and assisted through Remote Staffing Solutions(RSS) , Community Apprenticeships Australia (CAA) (My Pathways) and One Way Solutions, hosted by Remote Building Solutions through the NPARC Social Housing Rollout Project, overseen by FK Gardner & Sons (FKG). One Way Solutions also mentor our local apprentices and trainees on the ground, meeting with each worker each morning and afternoon.



Ladies on the Job

Cecilia Ropeyarn, Agnes Mooka, Marcia Pablo and Florence Kepa (Pictured) are hard at work on the job site, readying homes for tenants to move in.

The final step before the home is handed over comes down to these four ladies, cleaning away the dirt and mud from construction, readying the house to become a home.





First new tenants move into Quarry Heights homes

Handing Over the Keys

As the keys to the first homes of the 2013 Social Housing Roll Out are handed over to the first new tenants, it won't be long before tenants across the NPA are moving into their brand new homes. Residents of Quarry Heights, New Mapoon, were the first to receive their keys and start to settle in.

New Mapoon Councillor Trevor Lifu says, "we've been waiting too long for houses in Quarry Heights, for almost 10 years now, but with the first of our tenants moving in, it won't be long before others on the waiting list have their homes too. We are really happy to finally see these homes built and ready to move in."



Moses Close, Injinoo



Seisia Subdivision



Poi Poi Close, Bamaga



Snake Gully, Injinoo

What's in a Word?

The words and structure of a language are designed specifically by a culture to represent and communicate what is important in their society.

For example, when white settlers first came to Australia, they would have words for trousers, ships, different types of European food, army and social rank and many other things which needed to be acknowledged or communicated within their culture.

They would *not* have a name for kangaroo, or a smoking ceremony as were often conducted in Aboriginal cultures because these things did not exist in their culture.

The clans of Indigenous Australia had their own languages, allowing them to communicate their unique culture and way of life; including cultural practices, rights of passage, animals and hunting and respect. Day to day life shaped the words and language they used, because these were the things they spoke about. It makes sense.

Each language on our planet has been constructed from the cultural information that the speakers needed to communicate; including the words that were important to them and their way of life, and excluding things that did not matter or did not exist in their culture. This is why language revival is such an important part of cultural preservation and self identity, especially in many indigenous cultures.

With colonization, many cultures stopped practicing language and cultural traditions, taking on other cultures and languages instead. With the adoption of foreign languages came the adoption of their social structure, culture and way of life as well. With white settlement, many Indigenous Australians were told to revoke their past and be ashamed of their culture.

By the time the effects of this were realized within indigenous Australian cultures, many had lost culture, land or language almost completely. As Indigenous Australia becomes more celebrated and acknowledged, language revival sits at the fore of cultural support.

Through the preservation and revival of indigenous languages, speakers can begin to better understand their cultural identities. They can understand the way of life of their ancestors, through exploring language and how it was used. That way, through language and cultural revival, descendants can develop pride in their indigenous identity.

During may, State Library of Queensland hosted a three day workshop to assist grassroots language revival within our region.

Community members were invited to share their ideas for language revival, and then assisted by SLQ linguists to learn skills in a range of software and language preservation technologies that they might use to achieve their goals.

If you'd like to learn more or become involved in language revival in your community, you can contact your local IKC.



Revival

Community Help Needed for NPA Language Preservation

What can I do to help?

You can use your phone or camera to record people using language on country—eg, while fishing, teaching, hunting, chuck talk

Or you can contact your local IKC to ask for recording devices, or for someone to come along and record this for you.

If you have records of language, you can bring these to the IKC for copies to be stored there, and the original can remain with you.

You can contact your local IKC coordinator to visit the center and tell stories, teach language or songs.

If your family or church group have songs in language, you can record these or ask IKC coordinators to arrange to come and record these for storage and translation.

Language revival belongs to the entire region, We hope to see each language traditional or historical to this region being preserved and revived for future generations.

...But we need your help.

The last speakers of our language are disappearing, we need to act now to preserve what we can, before we loose these languages altogether.

-Naianga Nona, NPARC Community Services Manager

Community help is needed to record, store and revive local languages in the NPA. Coordinators of our five Indigenous Knowledge Centers have asked for community members to come forward and assist in the preservation of their languages, as many are spoken less and less each day.

The history of the NPA is a number of settlements and re-settlements of many different cultures and clans, each with their own languages, customs and traditions. In order to communicate and live together, and with government intervention, most residents adopted Cape York Creole as a common language.

As creole became more widely spoken, traditional were used less and less, until many were all but forgotten. Now community members and our IKC coordinators are asking for community support in recording all language possible, to build dictionaries and community data bases to be used in language revival here in the NPA.

It is important that all language is recorded, as some language is only used in certain situations; such as between men folk or women folk, at a certain ceremony, when hunting or fishing, in the house, gardening... etc.

Please contact your local IKC to become Involved:

Injinoo— 4069 3761, Umagico—4083 0333,
Bamaga & New Mapoon— 4069 3444, Seisia—4069 3883

Ranger Program Protected

In a recent announcement the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, committed to the continuation of funding for Apudthama Rangers Program.

NPARC was successful in securing the \$7,723,870 funding under the *Working on Country* program, which will cover 14 Indigenous Ranger positions to continue their work on country.



This month NPA Rangers worked with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to discuss local protection of marine resources.

Image provided by GBRMPA.



Saying NO to Tobacco

Nearly half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults smoke cigarettes. These smokers will generally start smoking younger, will smoke more heavily and quit at a later age than most other Australian smokers.

It's not too late to change this statistic, the power lies in the decision you make, next time you reach for a pack of smokes.

Say no.

Choose to improve your health, choose to have more energy, choose to be a good role model for your children, choose to save money and choose to *say no to tobacco* for good.

It's no wonder why most sporting coaches will tell players to Quit and why doctors ask pregnant mothers to do the same.

With each draw of a cigarette, you are filling your lungs with a harmful mix of chemicals, including; Butane (found in Lighter Fluid) Acetone (found in paint stripper), Naphthalene (found in mothballs), Methanol (found in fuel), DDT (found in insecticide), Ammonia (found in floor cleaner) and Toluene (found in nail polish)... think about what that could be doing to your body.

"I think that it is important that we do educate ourselves and our kids of the damage caused by tobacco to not only our lungs but our whole body," said Councillor for Injinoo, Anthony Mara, "as our kids first teachers and role model need to play the part in educating our kids of the outcomes of dealing with tobacco and need to sacrifice this habit for the betterment of your family your community and for future generation to come."

The benefits of quitting can begin as soon as hours after you quit. After just 12 hours your body is nearly free of nicotine, after 2 days your sense of smell and taste begins to improve. After 2 months your circulation begins to improve, you will have more energy and will have halved your chance of having a heart attack as a result of smoking. You will also have saved a lot of money; in the NPA, a person who smokes about 25 cigarettes per day will save around \$8,000 per year by quitting.

Remember, even smoking a few cigarettes a day can be harmful... there is no safe level of smoking.

For information and support quitting, visit NPA ATODS (next to the Bamaga Hospital) or visit www.nosmokes.com.au

DID YOU KNOW?

One in five Indigenous Australians will die from a smoking related illness.

Smoking is responsible for more deaths and ill health in indigenous communities than all other drugs and alcohol combined.

Smoking while pregnant can have devastating health effects on your child; from being born underweight or premature, to having development problems, trouble fighting off illnesses and even a higher chance of SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) or being stillborn.

Smoking can cause Cancer of your mouth, lungs, lips, throat, stomach, liver and kidney. It could also make you infertile.



Breaking a bad habit can be hard.

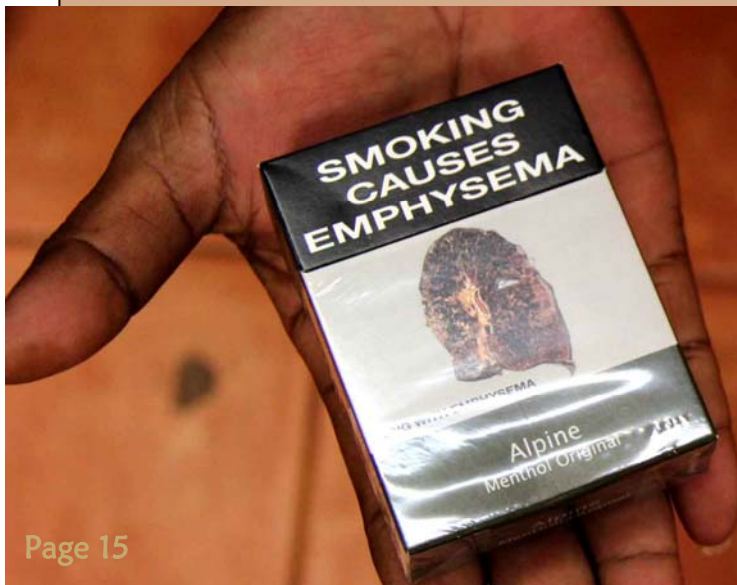
Breaking an addiction to smoking can be even harder— cigarettes contain nicotine, a chemical that is highly addictive- but there is help there for those who need it and in the long run, it is worth it.

You might feel like you need to smoke if all your friends do, especially if your parents or family members also smoke.

It can become a habit in your daily routine, which makes it hard to kick, but remember this is something you can control.

You can talk to an ATODS worker any time, to get information on quitting, help or just a shoulder to lean on.

NPA ATODS are based next door to the Bamaga Hospital, call 4090 4270 or drop in.



**MAKE YOUR
OWN CHOICE**

Smooth Travelling in the NPA

Getting from A to B in the NPA just got a lot smoother! NPARC Road crews have been busy lately, upgrading the road to Loyalty Beach and at Alau Budget Lodge.

The repairs focused on damage caused by heavy rainfall in the wet season; filling in wash outs and erosion and reinstating drainage channels for run off water.

Director Of Operations James Ware says the repairs were necessary to reduce road obstacles for drivers who would often be forced onto the other side of the road to try and avoid steep wash outs.

"Where sight distance is limited, for example on the brow of a hill, this is particularly dangerous," Mr Ware said.

Taking only 3 days, the top layer of road was removed where effected, then used as backfill for areas of deep erosion. Finally, the road was graded and a new layer of road base spread on top and compacted, now looking and driving good as new.



Jimmy Ropeyarn with Tetsuo Nakachi, Ian Elu and AJ Salee (not pictured)



Before



After

Outlines and Underground

NPA Airport has recently undergone a make over, with new lines painted in the car park and runway, and new drainage and guttering installed.

As the only runway to service NPA communities and one of the main gateways in and out of our region, NPARC operations say the maintenance of this asset is of high importance.

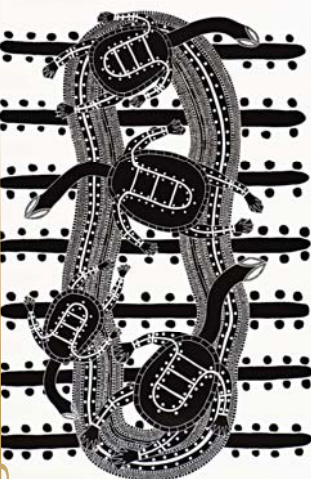
"As soon as the lines dry, we saw patrons using the parking spaces and following the arrows, it made drop offs and bringing out the baggage trailer much easier," said NPA Airport Manger Ben Poulton.

"You can see the runway markings from the surrounding roads," Mr Poulton explained, "some of the numbers are 13 feet long. It's a big improvement."





Ikambala, 2011



Ayuva Ivadha Ava Angkamuthi, 2012



Mandang Ikamba, 2012

Pictured Right: Mandang Ikamba (detail), 2012
(Far right) Upudhi and Ambah (detail)

Culture In Print Makes mark on Art World

Life is moving fast for Injinoo born and bred artist, Teho Ropeyarn. With his first solo print exhibition fast approaching, Teho takes time from the current Side by Side workshop to talk about his new role as UMI Arts Gallery Curator and how it all began.

Since graduating from UNSW College of Fine Arts in 2010, Teho has been giving back to his culture and community in any way he can. Returning home to Injinoo after his graduation, he took up a teacher's aide role at Bamaga Senior Campus, while continuing to create artworks from home.

After being involved in the UMI Arts Exhibition ready program in 2010 and with a baby on the way, Teho decided it was time to take his art and career to the next level.

He joined UMI Arts Gallery in Cairns, as an Indigenous Development Officer, travelling to remote and regional communities across Cape York, including the NPA, to help deliver Exhibition Ready programs, aiding Emerging indigenous artists in developing their careers.

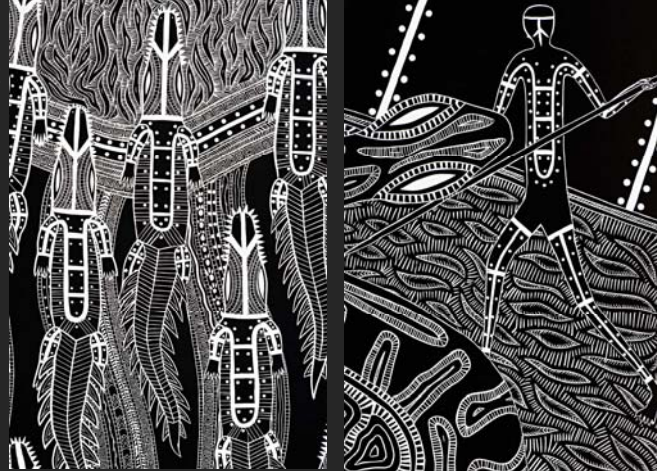
"All indigenous artwork is different, each region have their own language, culture, stories and art style," Teho said, "it's great to be able to travel to country to work with emerging artists and learn about their style. It's such an important step in promoting emerging artists, we help them understand all the business side of exhibitions and galleries."

Teho now moves onto his new role with UMI, as Gallery Curator, continuing to promote culture and support indigenous communities through managing exhibitions for known and emerging indigenous artists.

This year Teho also created the UMI Arts Alumni Artists Group and will be launching the first *Freshwater Saltwater* Exhibition alongside this year's *CIAF Presents* (Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Presents 2013), in July.

Freshwater Saltwater was designed by Teho to be held as an annual event, allowing emerging artists to have their work exhibited during CIAF.

"[UMI Arts] members wanted to do more shows, but we just didn't have the space," Teho explained, "we were successful in receiving a grant which has allowed us to create more exhibition space and will have three new galleries open before the end of June, just in time for this year's CIAF."



"Lifestyles are changing, society is changing, but this is a way that even through these changes we can practice culture and keep it strong..."

While helping to promote emerging artists takes up most of his time, Teho still finds time to spend with this young family and on his own artwork at home, often at the same time.

"My daughter likes to come and help me work," Teho said, "she's only two, but she likes to sit on my lap while I carve lino, usually picking up the tools to try and add her own designs there too."

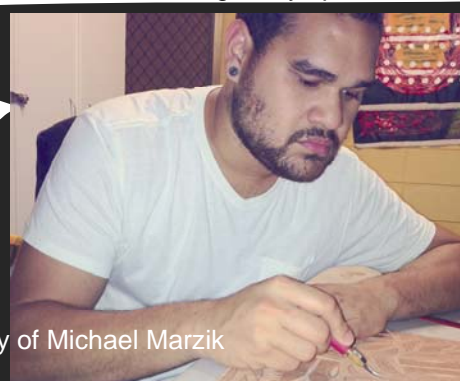
The first time Teho has exhibited just print works, he said he rediscovered the medium while visiting home in Injinoo last year.

"It was too hard to try and travel up with my art supplies," he said, "so I just brought a sheet of lino and my carving tools."

Teho said he sees his work as a way for him to preserve culture and stories told to him while growing up. His solo exhibition, *Mandang Ikamba* (meaning *Strength Of A Crocodile*), is a collection of lino and vinyl carved works reflecting Injinoo culture, dedicated to Injinoo Elders past and Present. The exhibition launches June 14th 2013 at Canopy Artspace Gallery, Cairns.

"Indigenous artwork is a part of this country," he said, "a part of this land and of the first people of this land. Lifestyles are changing, society is changing, but this is a way that even through these changes we can practice culture and keep it strong."

"We know these stories because of our elders, past and those we work with now— that's something really special."



Images provided by Teho Ropeyarn, courtesy of Michael Marzik

New Wave of Visual Artists

NPA students have been completing a Cert II in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Arts this month, exploring photography, video, design and communication. The course, funded by Jobfind and provided through Angus Knight Learning, is aimed at mature job seekers who want to up-skill for the career of their choice, focusing on Indigenous culture and art.

Hosted locally, students have had a strong professional interaction with NPA communities, aided by student mentor Colly Newman. Taking their new skills to the community, students interviewed NPA elders, learning film techniques and skills hands on, while gathering local and cultural knowledge.

Developing skills in photography, digital imaging and video, the students have built a strong foundation to begin working with visual communication. This is the first time a course exploring cultural arts has been held in the NPA, it looks like these students have found their passion with their new skill set, many career pathways will be open to the graduating students.



Visual Arts course students with trainer Peter McCab, and NPA Jobfind's Tanya Poi Poi.

NPA Arts Centre News

NPA created artworks are being sent North and South as demand increases for the work of our talented artists.

NPA Arts Centre Artists this month sent works across to Thursday Island's Gab Titui Cultural Centre and Gallery, entering the Cultural Centre's *Ailan Style Awards*.

Our local artists who were last year involved in the UMI Arts Exhibition Ready Program have been invited to become Alumni members of UMI Art, and submit works to the upcoming Freshwater Saltwater Exhibition, to be held alongside this year's Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

On ground, the center is a buzz of activity, with guests and tourists dropping in to see the amazing artworks and our artists at work.

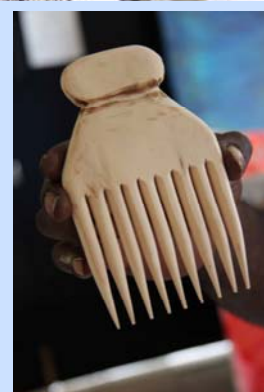
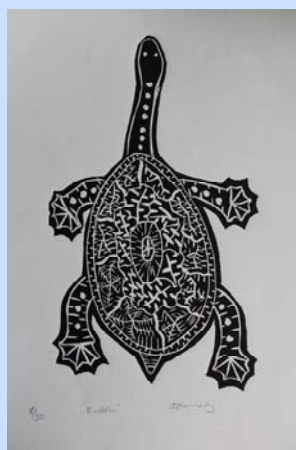
Brett Aniba has been creating a range of 'Burru's' (hair combs), modeled on the style known as Burru Island Combs. When combs were first introduced to the Torres Strait, they were designed for European hair, and would get tangled in the Islander's thick and curly hair.

"They designed their own combs then, with larger teeth further apart," Brett explained.

Inside, there are new prints, paintings and sketches adorning the walls, with so many works, they are near battling for space.

If you would like to be involved in upcoming art workshops, learn some new skills or are just looking for a place to practice your art, head over to the Art Centre.

Opening hours 8am-5pm, Monday—Friday.
All NPA residents welcome.
Contact Agnes Mark on 4083 0271





What's on in the NPA ?

For the Calendar:

June 3rd NPA Mabo Day Festival

June 12th & 13th– Indigenous Drivers Licensing Unit - Bamaga TAFE

July 1st Coming of the Light

NPA Judo Club

Classes 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.

NPA Rugby League 9' a side

Saturday evenings from 4-8pm

at Yusia Ginau Bamaga Oval.

Contact NPA PCYC for more info: 4069 3657

Bootcamp

Wednesday and Friday Mornings 6:30am

Wet weather: Bamaga Hall, Dry: Bamaga Oval

Contact Leandra Newman for more info: 4060 4100

NPA Hoops

Tuesday and Thursday evenings

From 6pm at Reginald Sebasio Hall

Contact NPA Basketball Association for more info

Circuit Training

Wednesday 5:30pm at Bamaga Yusia Ginau Oval

Yoga

Mat Yoga Mondays 5:30pm at New Mapoon Hall

Chair Yoga Wednesday 5:30pm Bamaga Activities centre

Mat Yoga Thursday 5:30pm Injinoo Hall

Kickboxing

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bamaga OSCH

Combined class from 6pm

Water Aerobics

Monday 5:30pm at Bamaga Pool

For information on Water Aerobics, Circuit, Yoga or

Kick boxing, contact NPAFACS on 4069 3555



Seisia Beach, May 18th

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

