

NPA NEWS

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Bumper Issue with double page pull-outs of
the main NPA Events of 2014!

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NPARC A/g Chief Executive Officer
David Worsnop

NPA News Issue 56 covers news and events for the months of August to November 2014.

Staff Thankyou!



NPARC says big Esso to the many staff who volunteered their time and services to prepare for the Inaugural NPA Cultural Festival 2014. The staff assisted with cleaning, painting, construction and any other tasks that they were asked to take on. What great community spirit!

FareWell



age 2

NPARC sadly bids farewell to the bright and talented Ms Tahirah Christian who is taking on new opportunities in Cairns. Council would like to acknowledge Tahirah's excellent administrative support during her time at NPARC and know that she will be missed by many as a very popular staff member with a kind and generous personality. Best of luck, Tahirah!

Council Update



WELCOME TO STEPHEN BOOKER

NPARC welcomes Stephen Booker to the position of Manager, Workforce Development & Employee Relations, Stephen started his working career completing an apprenticeship in fitting and machining. After various jobs in the construction industry, he secured a traineeship as a policy analyst with Sydney Water Corporation, at which time he studied industrial relations and management at the University of Wollongong.

Stephen brings a wealth of experience in various management, project and industrial relations roles. He moved to Cairns in 2004 to take up the position of Special Precincts Manager looking after the City area, regulated parking, esplanade, botanic gardens, sporting complexes, leases etc. He then transferred to the role of Council's Industrial Relations Consultant and worked in this role for 7 years providing IR services to management and employees, putting in place industrial relations and HR management systems, representing Council in the industrial court and negotiating the current EBA.

Stephen is very much enjoying his role at NPARC and believes he can offer NPARC a lot in supporting managers, supervisors and employees to implement good management practices due to his experience in operations and management, policy work and industrial relations consulting. Welcome Stephen!

Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council

Seasons Greetings to the NPA Community

It is at this time of year, as the festive season begins, that we, as a community, reflect on and take stock of what we have achieved in the year that was and with thoughts and aspirations for the coming year.

I am privileged as Mayor of the Northern Peninsula Area to have borne witness to many achievements this year, not least the strength of economic development in all five communities, extending from increased construction and housing, enterprise development and expansion, to the positive result of employing local community members and engaging employees on training programs to enhance their skill base as a 'give back' to community.

A fine example of this has been Council's funding of local residents and NPARC employees, Robert Tamwoy and Rodney Luff, to travel, stay and study at TAFE Brackenridge Training Centre in Brisbane. Whilst this can be simply quantified by Council's costs outlaid in the short term, there is no price that can be put upon bringing specialised skills back to the NPA community with the view to creating businesses, jobs and ongoing incentives for generations to come. This is part of Council's long term plan for the NPA community.

Excellence in education was a strong Council focus throughout the 2014 year, ranging from ten (10) very accomplished NPARC staff members/Sejumi Institute graduates attaining their Cert IV in Frontline Management; three (3) IKC Co-ordinators who completed their Cert III in Information and Cultural Services with the State Library of Queensland, opening up many job progression opportunities such as administration officers, assistants or customer service officers; to culturally focussed and much needed training in the field of funeral services, courtesy of TSRA funding, to ensure that that one of most important aspect of local families' needs are met, retained and respected within community.

Another significant accomplishment by Council this year was the Jardine ferry upgrade, not only receiving a well needed refurbishment but also achieving its maritime safety certification to ensure that there is ongoing, safe and continuous access to the NPA, which has a direct impact on tourism dollars flowing into local businesses; ensures freight companies have the option of road access for deliveries of construction materials and consumables and, of course, provides essential community access in and out of the NPA for local families.

The NPA has also had a busy events year in 2014, hosting the 16th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival, holding its inaugural NPA Cultural Festival with much success, promoting art, culture and language through local artists' exhibitions such as 'Red Dust People' at the NPA Art Centre, New Mapoon and, of course, attending to its usual calendar of events, all to exceptional standards and excellent turnouts from local community members and those of the TSI and Cape communities. I thank everyone involved with these vitally important cultural events that continue to promote, enhance and educate on the magnificent traditions that we hold true in our region.

Overall, 2014 has been an immensely progressive year under this Council's tenure, and whilst we have had some changes in our administration, Council has never lost focus on its commitment to community and continues to strive to meet its economic goals. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Councillors, CEO, Deputy CEO and staff for maintaining such a positive outlook, even in challenging circumstances, and continuing to push ahead for the best interests of the NPA community. I am very proud of what we have achieved to date and look forward to taking those goals and aspirations to the next level in 2015 and I ask all of you to take that journey to prosperity with us.

I wish all the NPA Community, families and loved ones a very safe and Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mayor Bernard Charlie



Rightful Owners Recognised in Native Title Determination at Injinoo



On Thursday, 30 October, 2014, at a historically significant ceremony at the local Injinoo Community Hall, in the Northern Peninsula Area, the Atambaya, Gudang/Yadhaykenu and Angkamuthi peoples were granted exclusive Native Title rights to 368,600ha of land and non-exclusive rights to approximately 317,000ha of land, totalling more than 680,000ha of Northern Cape York.

A fully-fledged Federal Court was set up at the Injinoo Community Hall, presided over by the Honourable Justice Greenwood of the Federal Court of Australia, and attended upon by the respective parties' legal teams, the applicants in the case - Mr Bernard Charlie, Mr Meun Lifu, Mr Charles Woosup, Mr Larry Woosup, Mr Francis Brisbane, Mr Anzac McDonnell, Mr Asai Pablo and Mr George Pausa - guests and local community members, all present to bear witness to the handing down of one of the quickest determinations in Australia's Native Title history, a period of three years and four months.

It was an emotional and momentous occasion with applicants and fellow community members addressing the crowd, proudly speaking of the long fight for recognition of rights in the Cape York region yet holding close the memory of their ancestors and loved ones that have gone before yet who were integral to the instigation of the original fight for recognition.

Traditional owner and NPA Mayor, Bernard Charlie, passionately referred to the immense importance of the Native Title determination, crafted out of agreement with the State government rather than taking the path of litigation. He spoke of its significance in terms of working towards self determination though a 'hand up, not a hand out' approach and that this determination was now the springboard to move away from welfare dependency for the betterment of all in the community. He further commented on the 'economic benefits for the local indigenous and non-indigenous communities', thus enabling land tenure issues to be resolved quickly and paving a way forward for all.

Similar sentiments were expressed by other speakers who referred to the need for further indigenous solidarity, to share amongst each other and work towards a more collaborative community engagement. Cape York Land Council Chairman, Richie Ahmat, confirmed the significance of the determination in terms of potential commercial and tourism opportunities and commended the applicants on their 'massive win'.

The northern Cape York land includes the Jardine National Park and the northernmost tip of Australia – which Gudang clan member, Nick Wymarra, suggests should now be reverted back to its indigenous name of Pajinka - a proposition that pleased the attending crowd.

The ceremony was a joyous occasion for all in attendance and a worthy cause for celebration, not only for the applicants but for all members of the five NPA communities.



NPA Markets a Bumper Harvest

BAMAGA FARM COMMUNITY UPDATE

Sales of local produce from the Bamaga farm have really taken off this year!

The farm has been growing 20 varieties of produce, including watermelon (4 varieties), passion fruit, pumpkin (2 varieties), rock melon, okra, squash, cassava, bananas, tomatoes, cosmos (natural pollinators/windbreak), cucumbers, rosella (used for jams/sauce), zucchini, sweet potato, taro, chilies and cucumber.

Cassava is by far the most popular staple item being bought with corn also very popular.

The plastic mulch/irrigation layer funded by TSRA has been very successful, with the construction of consistent mounds along with irrigation pipe and weed reduction plastic. This has resulted in a significant reduction in water use, evaporation and weeds with higher quality and faster growing produce.

Management of Bamaga Farm is being supported by the Torres Strait Island Regional Authority and NPARC. Valuable assistance is also being provided by NPA Secondary College with contribution from My Pathway.

PRODUCE SALES – DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC

An initiative of the Bamaga Farm Supervisor, Harrison Atu where produce harvested from the farm is sold 'same day' to Bamaga Resort, Alau Supermarket and a temporary market stall has been trialled outside NPARC's Bamaga Office.

Regular sales in the various communities are planned along with visiting local retail outlets and tourism spots.

Cassava (peeled, cut and bagged in 1kg lots and also whole), squash, watermelons, pumpkins, zucchini, cucumbers have been sold.

The market stall concept proved very popular, particularly with locals but also with tourists, who were delighted to hear the produce was grown in the NPA, harvested the same day and sold direct at very affordable prices

Approximately \$800 in produce was sold over two days in September alone. Cassava sold out very quickly on both days with more having to be harvested along with more watermelons and pumpkins to keep up with demand.

Farm produce is continuously available for sale at the farm gate and Alau Supermarket.

The Bamaga farm is currently focussed on:-

- Continuing to plant, maintain and harvest a diverse range of staple and specialist produce for sale and increase cassava crops in particular;
- Continuing to engage with community stakeholders to increase participation in farm activities and knowledge of the importance of growing and eating healthy produce;
- Diversifying the range of produce planted and subsequently available for sale; and
- Continuing to companion plant to promote growth, utilise space and organically reduce pests.

A big Esso to Harrison Atu and the farm staff for their passion and drive in making the Bamaga farm a community success.





Photos: Bamaga Farm Supervisor, Harrison Atu and RJCP workers with tourists at the market stall on Adidi Street, Bamaga.



NPA Steals the Show!

The NPA Show 2014 weekend brought the crowds for 3 days of community activities organised by the NPA Events team. There was a good turnout to watch fun events such as the mud rally which was a clear crowd pleaser. Horse riding skills were also on display as our local community members showed their agility on horseback. Overall, it was an excellent weekend and big Esso to the Events team for their hard work in getting Show Day 2014 organised.



Photos:
courtesy
of Rowela
Mills



NPA proudly hosts the 16th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival



Photos: courtesy of Roger Bartlett





Photos: courtesy of
IRCA

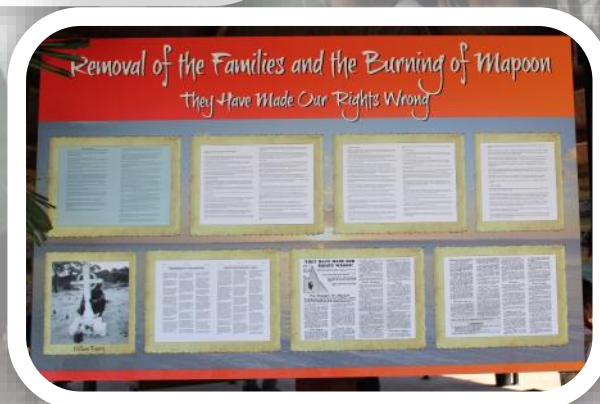
Resilience Celebrated

New Mapoon 50th Anniversary Historical Centre Opening

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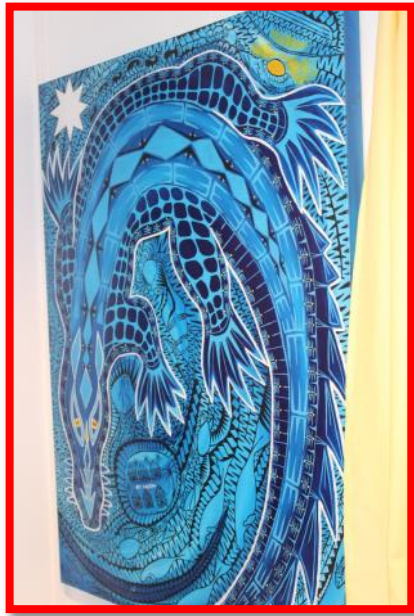
4 Page Print Out

Red Dust People

...a celebration of local NPA artists

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4 Page
Pull Out

Inaugural PA Cultural Festival 2014 ...too deadly!



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...a cultural explosion

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on Red Dust country



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...with traditional dance, song!





Vincent Babia

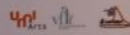
Born: Thursday Island, Queensland, 1978
 Art
 Lives in Seisia

Girbar 2014
 acrylic on canvas

Late one afternoon, a woman named Girbar set out from her home at Jiri to fetch water from the well (mag). Because the water was low at this time, she had to climb down the bank to the bottom to fill her kusul (coconut shell water containers). By the time she had completed her task the sun had set, and, in a hurry to cross the swamp and reach Jiri before dark, she quickly slung the kusul over her shoulders and prepared to climb out of the well. Only to find herself surrounded by Madubal who were standing on the top of the bank. "Girbar", said the madubal, "we have come to take you with us to the sky". Now the woman had no wish at all to go with the madubal, but she had no choice in the matter, for she was by herself and they were many. So Girbar went up to the sky with her madubal. The people in Saibai Village waited and watched for Girbar for many days and at last they saw her climbing down a very tall coconut palm at Bagunangulaiga.

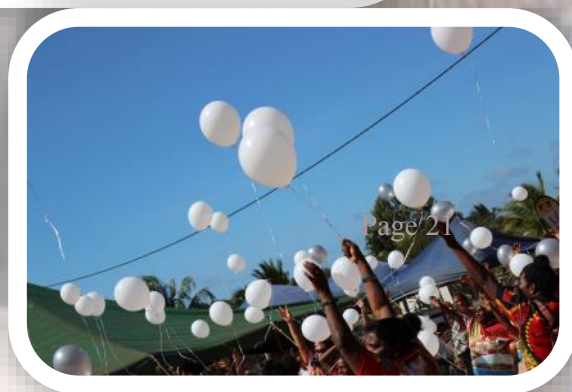
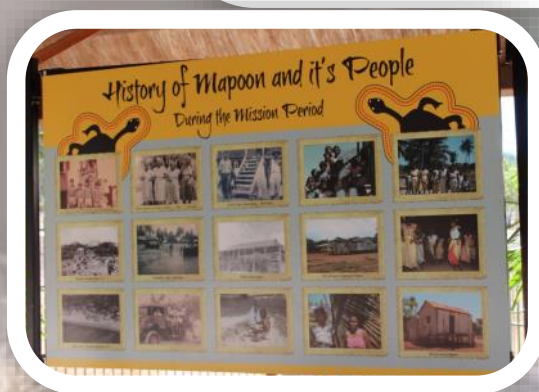
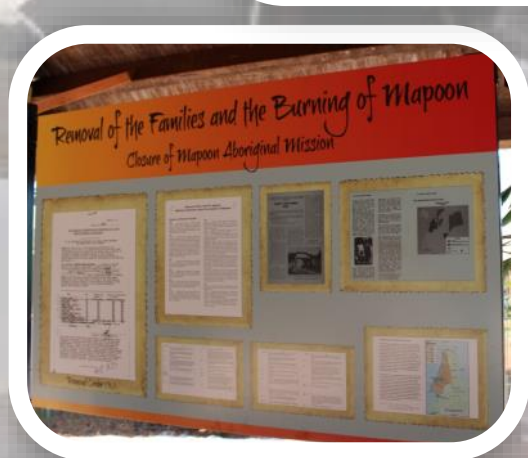
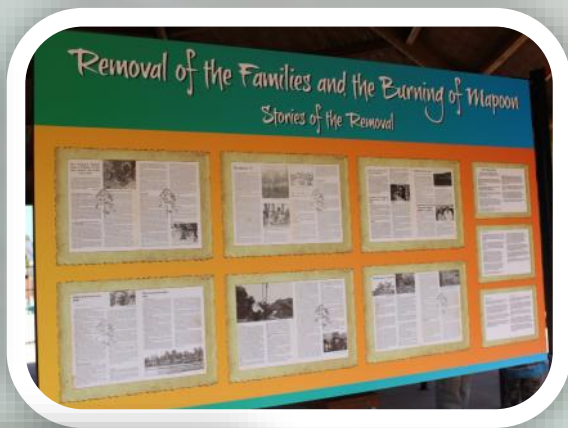
Girbar brought with her three plant: the banana, taro and sugarcane each a variety which had never previously grown in Saibai. The people planted them and they flourished for many years. During a thunderstorm, the coconut palm, by means of which Girbar had completed her journey back from the sky, was struck by lightning and its trunk split. After that the trunk developed two branches, one pointing towards the south, the other pointing north, so that the palm had the form of a cross. It had already been the tallest coconut palm by far at Saibai but the centre part of the trunk still kept on growing upwards and it continued to bear coconuts.

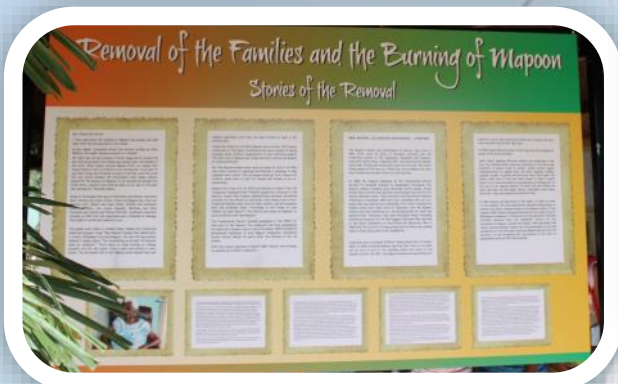
\$800.00



Victoria Kennedy
 Born: Thursday Island
 Representing Torres Strait Islander, Torres Strait Islander, Torres Strait Islander
 Sing to Fire 2014
 acrylic on canvas











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Jog For Jugs!

for a very worthy cause...

What a fantastic turnout for the recent inaugural 'Jog For Jugs' fun run at the tip of Cape York in support of breast cancer research. It was a glorious Sunday morning in late October when community members and supporters took to the sand to walk, jog or run in the spirit of fundraising for such a worthy cause. Organised by the lovely Lea from the Croc Tent, the group raised \$1,025, the first of many future events, no doubt. Charity founder, Peta Burton, reported a total of almost \$12,000 being raised across the country.

What a fantastic result!

All in all, a wonderful NPA Community response and a truly enjoyable morning was had by all.

A big Esso to NPA Mayor, Bernard Charlie, for his attendance and support on the day.



Photos: courtesy of
Nicki Zieth



Seniors' Week

...celebrating the elderly in our community

Culture



Storytelling



Wisdom



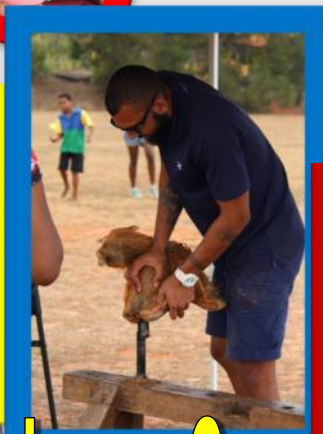
traditions





Sport - Education - Food - Awareness

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...at Bamaga Primary Campus August 2014

Queensland Police Service 150 Year Celebration Tour Comes to the NPA

Queensland Police Service 150 Year Celebration Tour Comes to the NPA

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NPA Carnival Kicks off

*..and is a spectacular success.
Well done to the NPA Events Team on a fabulous weekend
of sporting activities.
Congratulations also to all the participants, volunteers
and, of course, the winners!*



Additional
Photos:
Courtesy of
Roger Bartlett

Well done NPARC Staff!



Congratulations to the following IKC Co-ordinators who successfully completed Certificate III in Information and Cultural Services—

*Pauline Lifu, New Mapoon IKC,
Mabalene Whap, Seisia IKC; and
Lorraine Solomon, Umagico IKC.*

This Certificate III opens up work progression opportunities as administration officers, assistants or customer service officers.

Great result!

Education is the Key...

NPARC staff recently had the opportunity to attend FREE Computer training as part of ongoing education projects being facilitated by Council in the NPA.

NPA Community Services, via the Umagico IKC, and with the great assistance of Lorraine Solomon, undertook this much needed training from the State Library of Queensland.

The program ran over five days and included all aspects of computer literacy including MS Word training, email safety and security, to downloading and managing files.

A big esso to all staff who attended and the wonderful members of SLQ and Jodi Bjorksten from our Cairns office who co-ordinated the event.

Bush Tech IT training a success!

November also heralded more IT Training brought to the NPA by State Library of Queensland. The Bush Tech IT Training was attended by several staff members who were taught the following skills:-

- What are the different parts of a computer and what do they do;
 - What cables go with what and why;
- How to make sure you order the right parts for your PC;
 - What you should do to maintain your PC.

NPARC staff were also taught how to recognise a virus and prevent destructive software and how to use some great Outlook email features to organise their inbox.

All very valuable skills indeed!

Congratulations to all who attended and received their Certificates. More information and photos can be found at <http://ripia.ikc.org.au/bushtechnpa>





The Mayor, Councillors, A/g CEO, Deputy CEO and staff of NPARC would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



**NPARC Offices will
officially close at
12 noon on Wednesday, 24
December, 2014
and re-open for normal
business on Monday, 5
January, 2015.**



COUNCIL WISHES TO ADVISE...

*The Jardine Ferry will operate at normal ferry hours over the Xmas break—
9am to 5pm (closed for lunch 12-2pm)
until further notice. Please note that the ferry will be closed
Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.*

GARBAGE COLLECTION

*Garbage Collection
over the Xmas Period will
take place from -
Monday 29th —Wed 31st
December, 2014
&
Friday 2nd January, 2015.*

INJINOO SERVICE STATION

*Closed Xmas Day, Boxing
Day & New Years Day.
Open on the 27th and
28th December 7:30pm to
12 pm only.
Normal trading hours
from 2nd January, 2015.*

BAMAGA POST OFFICE

*Closed Xmas Day, Boxing
Day and New Years Day.

Open usual business hours
9am—5pm
all other days.*