



### **FACES: SOME OLD, SOME NEW.**

A very big welcome to our new Finance Officer Allen McIntosh and his wife Dianne. We hope they will enjoy working and living here amongst us. Allen and Dianne have been hard at work in their garden and you can expect to see big improvements to the overgrown block we are used to looking at.

We see Ricky Guivarra has returned to his old haunts and has been helping out in the Council Office. Ricky was managing the Cairns Men's Group and the Idinji Cairns Youth Centre before his return to Mapoon.

Congratulations go to the new babies and their mums (and dads too):- Dianne Pitt (girl), Debra Madua (boy), Margo Guivarra (girl), Tani Ling (girl). Mapoon's population growth is definitely on the increase with more births still to come.

The swamps are filling from the latest rains and the wild-life is now very active. Be mindful of the many venomous snakes that are crawling about and use a torch at night so that you don't walk into them. There is no anti-venene out at Mapoon and all snake-bite victims have to be ferried into town, which is a long way to go to seek the proper attention. **Remember, some snakes can kill.**

A large crocodile has been seen hanging around Cullen Point and a number of small ones were also seen just around the point. We remind all residents of Mapoon and visitors not to leave fish scraps lying about near the beaches as this only helps to attract the creature closer to the community. Watch out in and near the water always.

The pigs are ripping into areas of Cullen Point also and maybe it is time to consider placing the pig trap near there.

Some geese are still about Mapoon area, and they could be looking to laying their eggs here. Can we give them a flying chance???

Watch out for all those Rindi running around on the road too, trying not to run over them as they are for eating by we locals.

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## **MAPOON ABORIGINAL COUNCIL**

**DATE**  
10th March, 2003.

**ISSUE NO 3**

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**NEXT COUNCIL  
MEETING  
IS ON  
TUESDAY**

**11TH MARCH, 2003.**

### **MEN'S ISSUES**

It is good to see the Mapoon men who are looking at forming themselves into a strong group of responsible men and doing activities to improve their lives and the lives of their families. Next meeting is on **Monday 10th March, 2003 at 10am** at the Mapoon Clinic.

Strong support for their attempts should come from all the Mapoon women too and we hope that good things will come from their gathering and discussions.

Mapoon Council can also be thanked for their support in the forming of this group, through work and sponsoring of the BBQ etc.

# Mapoon Campus News

## Clean Up Australia Day at Mapoon



The Mapoon kids went down to Red Beach to clean up rubbish on Monday 3 March 2003. We wanted to keep Mapoon clean ,healthy and safe. The rubbish filled three big bags, two wheelie bins and twelve small bags. There was all kinds of rubbish - glass, plastic, cans, fishing gear and packets. The Council picked up the big pieces of rubbish - .story by Mapoon students.

P.S. Many students followed this up by writing stories of their own about the clean-up at home that night. We will be publishing examples of their work in the following weeks.

A combined P&C and Rangers barbecue was held after the clean-up to thank those who participated.

The A.G.M for the P&C group will be held next Tuesday 11 March at 4pm. All parents and community members are most welcome to attend. Phone the school on 40909129 if you require transport.

### Teacher Aide wanted.

A teacher aide position is available at the Mapoon School from 23 March 2003 until at least 27 June 2003.

The successful applicant/s will be required to work with 4 yr to 12 yr old students in an education setting that aims to give Mapoon students excellent academic outcomes.

Applicants must be able to obtain a Suitability Card which can be arranged.

A resume with references would be desirable.

For more information please contact Rod Kettle at the school(40909129) or come to the school to arrange an interview.



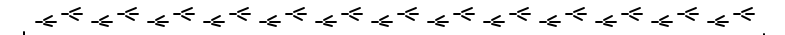
### MAPOON HORSES

Finally we see something being done about the horses running about Mapoon. Danny Cooktown has been appointed to oversee the taming of our wild horses. Once done, these may be distributed about the community to whomever may like to receive one.

Maybe the Rangers could do with some for their work too, and the State Police could be interested if we get them stationed here.

Some people have made all sorts of suggestions as to what to do with the excess of horses, from selling them to the meatworks, or to Bamaga and communities or the Torres Strait Islands.

Many of us can't wait to receive a horse, so that we can have our own transport and go to places in Mapoon where no vehicle has ever been. To have a horse is a great responsibility, so we hope that all the hard work to tame them will be worth the effort.



### BAD LANGUAGE

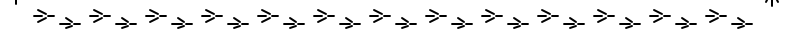
We should always be aware that children are learning from the adults, and what they hear they tend to repeat. It is sad to hear the way we sometimes come to address each other, even in soberness. We're sure that with some of the words used, that people would never do such a thing to those that they hold so dear, so let us try to be more civil and tolerant of each other and stop using such bad language that our children may never know how to talk english and live and communicate peacefully with each other out at Mapoon.

### MARIJUANA SMOKING

The community is more than aware of the smoking of marijuana out at Mapoon. We ask all offenders to have mercy on the children and do not allow them to smoke this substance or sell it to them. We don't want to see them waste their lives to go up in smoke. If they choose to, then they can make this choice as an adult, with the lasting disadvantages of having no money, bad health and little to show for their hard work.

Supplying an unlawful or illicit drug to a minor can result in a serious and lengthy jail term for the offender.

The department of Family Services would also have some serious concerns about minors accessing these drugs, especially with the full knowledge of their parents. LET US GIVE THE KIDS A CHANCE AT LIFE.



### RUBBISH

The community now has a new dump between Nalngi and Tharng. Our CDEP crew regularly empty our household rubbish. However, it is a shame to see all the bottles, cans and plastics building up on the highway to Weipa and around our favorite camping and picnic spots at Cullen, Janie Creek, Turtle Yard, the Mapoon Store & Offices, and other areas. Many adults are seen to be setting bad examples and throwing rubbish freely out of cars or never using any of the bins provided. Many thanks to those who have voluntarily cleaned up areas at Tharng Creek, Janie Creek and Cullen Point and the highway.

The build up of old car bodies throughout the bush and around our homes is unhealthy and attracts snakes and other vermin to shelter in them. These should be dropped off at the dump rather than let them rot and rust in the yards and in the bush. It may look like we are a graveyard for old cars, but it is really ruining our community.

Would everyone please consider to keep all rubbish in the vehicle and throw them out at the dump at Mapoon or in at Weipa or Napranum.



### MAPOON HOUSING NEWS



Happy to say that the four houses under construction are progressing and these should be ready to be occupied throughout the coming months.



Five more homes are set to be built soon and these to be allocated out to Mapoon families.



There is concern that we should be looking to cater to many of the single people living at Mapoon and there is a plan to construct some duplex units in the near future.



Tenants of houses are requested not to interfere with the power boxes as they can cause damage and fatal injury. Ergon will now regularly check the power boxes and unlawful interference could lead to charges being laid.



# Project Officer Report

## Training

Congratulations to Dennis Hall on receiving the Alcan Bursary. With a bit of luck, and continued pressure on the department, we'll be able to get more people into construction training.

We also hope to get Bonnie's Store Management course up and running very soon, as well as 2 trainees, Ron Guivarra and Pattie Ryan who have worked with the shop. Just waiting on department red tape.

The Council has been successful in getting four (4) Traineeships for people at Mapoon. Interested persons should attend the office and put their names down for these Traineeships.

## Apprenticeships

The Council is also fortunate to have received placements for two (2) apprenticeships. Again, interested persons should attend the office and put their names down for these apprenticeships.

## Horticulture

The boys have done a great job cleaning up the plot to get ready for planting. Still a lot of work to do before the trainer returns at the end of February/March. The boys are going to be really busy.

## Sawmill/Chainsaws

Dick Burns is keen to return after the wet to cut more timber for the Land and Sea Centre and the Youth Centre. This will be a major project with lots of training, including chainsaws.

## PROJECTS

### Youth Centre/Youth Worker

We've got a few applications for the Youth Worker, with interviews to be in about a week. A notice will go up to let the applicants know. The Youth Worker will be heavily involved in working with Mapoon young people as well as helping to building the Youth Centre together. Looking forward to seeing it all happen.

### Sport and Rec

There's been a disappointing response to the Sports & Recreation Officer position. This is a great opportunity to work with the community and others to build some exciting programs with sport and recreation for everybody – men, women, children, youth, and elders.

### Internet

We have some money to start up a (very) small Internet service for public use. Finding the space has been difficult, and we're looking for the right trainer, so watch this space.

### Fishing/Crabbing

The processing facility is close to completion, and soon we'll be able hit the muddies at peak time. Those involved will receive training over two (2) years to get a Master Fishers qualification that will then allow us to operate the business for ourselves out at Mapoon.

### Environmental Health

Funds are also received for the the appointment of an Environmental Health Worker within the Mapoon community. This position is full-time and ongoing funding. Again, any persons in the Mapoon community interested in this field of work should attend the Council offices and register their interests. Formal advertising for the position will be published soon.




**OFFICIAL OPENINGS.**

The Mapoon Council is looking to co-ordinate the official openings of the Mapoon Council Offices, the Mapoon School, the Mapoon Clinic, the Store and the HACC Office. It is expected that the Premier of Queensland, Mr Peter Beattie will be invited to attend as well as various Ministers in his Cabinet and our local member, Mr Steve Bredhauer.

A community committee has been appointed to oversee the celebrations and we expect the openings to occur before the end of the financial year, June 2003.

The Council also is encouraging Mapoon people to consider appropriate names for the Clinic and the School and submit these for consideration within the next few weeks.



**FENCING & IMPROVEMENTS**


The Council has received particular funds to undertake fencing on the community houses. Construction will commence soon on various houses that have been identified within the community.

The Rangers are installing new fencing posts and rails near the Mission House area also to stop vehicles and horses damaging the area.

Up to 240 trees have been planted at the back beach area. A variety of trees from wattles to almonds and she-oaks have been planted with the help of the Mapoon school children. Many thanks kids for your help and may you grow to enjoy the shaded areas.

600 Sandalwood trees have been planted towards Alligator Creek which could well bring in a cash crop in future years.

Janie Creek has also been fenced and cocoanut and she-oak trees have also been planted about. Hopefully we will all enjoy the efforts of the Rangers when the tree mature in the future.



**RANGER NEWS**

The Mapoon Rangers have been undertaking a number of tasks within the community, aside from the fencing and tree-planting. The three (3) Rangers, Senior Ranger Lawry Booth, Rangers Cecil Woodley and part-time Ranger Teddy Barkley regularly are finding wild-life, mostly sea turtles, caught up in fishing nets on the beach. To date, four (4) turtles in two weeks have been released back to the water. Large fish were also tangled up dead in the nets.

Persons with hardy vehicles are requested to assist the rangers by removing large nets from the water up to the high-tide mark where they can be destroyed by the Rangers. Some of the nets are too big to handle with the Ranger vehicle.

Further training for the Rangers program is expected to be undertaken throughout the year.

H.A.C.C. NEWS.

Feed back from the Napranum HACC visit on the 19th February was very positive. Morning Tea and Lunch were provided, with a game of bingo and other activities. There is now a fierce competition between who are the BINGO CHAMPS, Mapoon or Napranum.

On Tuesday 25th March, 2003, the Mapoon HACC will be going to Napranum to spend the day, so any Elders who are interested in going, please let Lou and the HACC team know before then.

Lou is attending the HACC Forum in Weipa on Thursday 13th March, 2003 where she will be bringing up the subject of the services being provided to the clients out here at Mapoon, so there might be a few changes made, (hopefully not too much) but she will inform you all of this as soon as she can.

It is hoped that all the elders have gone to the Clinic and got their Flu Vaccinations done, as this will help you when the cold weather hits us. If you haven't yet, please do so as soon as possible.

The next HACC Meeting date for the Elders meeting will be held at the HACC building on **Thursday, 20th March, 2003** starting at **10.00am**.

Many thanks from the Mapoon HACC Staff.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE GROUP & ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

A COMMUNITY MEETING WILL BE CALLED SOON TO DISCUSS THE FORMING OF A MAPOON COMMUNITY JUSTICE GROUP AND ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR OUR COMMUNITY. THE JUSTICE GROUP CAN BE MADE UP OF MANY MAPOON INTEREST GROUPS, NOT JUST THE ELDERS GROUP.

DATSIPAD WILL BE COMING SOON TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN MANAGE ALCOHOL AT MAPOON.

PERSONS WITH AN INTEREST IN THESE ISSUES SHOULD MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AS IT WILL AFFECT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. ISSUES WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERED FOR DISCUSSION CAN BE: -

- A. DRY AREAS (SCHOOL/CLINIC/COUNCIL CHAMBERS/SHOP)
- B. TYPES OF ALCOHOL PERMITTED (WINE/BEER/SPIRITS)
- C. HOURS AND DAYS FOR ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION
- D. SLY GROGGING

MANY MORE RELATED ISSUES CAN COME OUT IN THE DAYS DISCUSSIONS.

DNA / DCS WAGES & SAVINGS

Two DATSIPAD officers recently came and helped some of the people apply through forms for lost wages and savings in the old DCS Wages and Savings Trust. If there are any further inquiries or assistance needed, please see Daisy Caltabiano at the Council Offices.

POSITION VACANT

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORKER**

**12 MONTH FULLTIME TRAINEESHIP & FULLTIME EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS.**

**SPORTS & RECREATION OFFICER**

**PART-TIME 4 DAYS PER WEEK.**

**FISHING/CRABBING**

**MORE NAMES NEEDED FOR THREE (3) TRAINEES.**

Persons interested in the above-mentioned positions vacant should register their interests with Ian Rossbridge at the Mapoon Council Office.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT.

Congratulations to **Alwyn Peter** and **Tony Mara** who have worked with the plumber for a few years. These two have been given the opportunity through an Operations and Maintenance Traineeship to better themselves in the maintenance of water and sewerage. The Government through the Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council, will supply a dual-cab vehicle, a fully fitted-out work-shed and will give full-time training for a year.

After completing the Traineeship, Council hopes to employ at least one of these men full-time. This will go some ways to improving our health standards within the community.

Council and the community should be proud of the number of traineeships that have been created in recent times which have allowed our people in Mapoon to improve their working standards.

**THE MAPOON VEHICLES**

Council is very concerned about the number of persons who look to drive Council vehicles who do not have vehicle licenses. Mapoon Council cannot and will not allow persons to drive any Council vehicle or machinery without the proper licensing. So don't even ask for the privilege if you know you are not licensed as you will not receive any such authority to do so. Council vehicles are for the work of the Council.

The Sheriff (Paul Wyatt) requests that drivers of vehicles take notice of the expiry dates for all vehicle servicing, which is written on the sticker applied to the inside side of the vehicle. When the time is due for the service, the vehicle must be given to the mechanic to undertake the proper servicing.

Passengers and Drivers alike are not happy with the amount of rubbish left in the vehicles after a town run. We are especially concerned about beer bottles and cans and the horrible stench of grog in the vehicles. Alcohol is not allowed to be consumed in Council vehicles and the vehicles are banned from attending the Albatross Hotel or the privilege of the town runs for staff may be withdrawn and cancelled. Remember, **SPEED KILLS**.

Council is investigating the alleged theft of fuel from vehicles. Any persons found to be siphoning fuel out of the Council vehicles for private cars or generators etc, will be laid off work and reported to the Police and charged to the fullest extent of the law. Theft from the Mapoon Community and the Mapoon people will not be tolerated.

## MAPOON COMMUNITY FARM.

The Mapoon Farm is progressing slowly but surely. Steve the Trainer will arrive today Monday with an assistant. They will be looking at the fencing and irrigation.

2 & 1/2 Hectares have been cleared and ripped and the men have picked up sticks and rubbish etc and are about to start the fencing. The Horticulture crew have grown many seedlings which are ready to be planted as soon as the fencing will be completed.

The men have built a few sheds and a Barbecue area for their lunches and will soon be constructing a Greenhouse.

The Tractor has been overworked and is now broken down. Hopefully, soon the farm will get their own tractor with attachments to work the farm full-time.

If the community members are interested in the farm growing any particular crops or fruit and vegetables, would they please contact Ganesy, Ian Ngallametta or Les Hall.

The Uniforms will be supplied and will be arriving soon as ordered. The Horticulture crew should look pretty deadly in their new gear.



## NEWS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Council is interviewing persons who have applied for the Youth Workers position out here at Mapoon. We hope that someone with the youth and vitality will be taken on to work hard to get something good for all our young people here. The position is for one (1) year at this stage.

Limited funds have been received to help construct a YOUTH CENTRE. The Mapoon young people will have a major hand in the building of the Centre.

Computers will be installed through grants received by Council in excess of \$150,000.00. These will be able to be accessed by young and old Mapoon people alike. Video-conferencing will also be a part of the program and a 12 month Traineeship also comes with this.



## COMMUNITY MEETING OF 4TH MARCH, 2003.

Council is extremely happy with the roll-up and contribution by the Mapoon people into the community meeting held on the verandah of the Clinic on Tuesday 4th March.

The issues discussed were many and varied and the lively debate at times made for interesting feed-back. It never went un-noticed that there was across the board support for the stationing of State Police out at Mapoon to help combat the lawlessness and keep the peace in the community. Council intends to continue taking up the challenge to have them based out here.

Discussions at the meeting were on the Housing & Fencing, locating of two (2) new Public Toilet Blocks, the Horses, Community Sports and Recreation Hall, Land & Sea Centre and the Crabbing and Fishing Venture.

