

YARNTIME NEWS

Volume I, Issue I

April/May 2005

A COUP FOR ROAD CREW

IN THIS EDITION

- **Yarn Time returns with more stories and photos.**
- **What's on in Mapoon**
- **Profiles on new staff.**
- **Special feature—Susie Madua**
- **Photo special—Around Town**

INSIDE

<i>The Mayor's Moment</i>	2
<i>New Bus goes 4WD</i>	3
<i>CEO's Report</i>	4
<i>Shop Success</i>	6
<i>New C.D.O. starts</i>	8
<i>Around Town</i>	11
<i>Auntie Susie turns 80</i>	12

Hard work and commitment by Mapoon's road crew looks likely to provide a real benefit to the whole Community.

Comalco are set to sign a contract for our workers to do the major work on the Mapoon to Weipa road for the next five years.

That'll mean better driving conditions for everyone who uses the road and more employment.

Road crew Manager, Bill Busch, says Mapoon's workers can take plenty of the credit.

"Before Christmas we worked hard to meet a deadline for grading the road. We did that with Main Roads Department and Comalco checking the quality of the work.

"Because that job was well done and finished on time, we've have the chance to get the five-year contract."

The Council has been talking to Comalco for years to try and have the road dedicated so that it stays in one place and the Council can get money for maintenance from the State Government. Comalco have always refused .

The Council has continued to negotiate with Comalco to try and get them to change its mind. The result has been Comalco's commitment to give Mapoon the contract to maintain the road.

The contract should be signed by the end of May.

"The contract means a lot to this Community. It'll mean grading the road twice a year and re-sheeting sections, starting with the worst bits.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

"That'll give the road crew an extra three months work. We'll have to hire a grader, vibrating roller, water trucks and trucks to carry gravel and it'll allow us to build a partnership with an earthmoving company."

This contract could be the first step towards the building of a road works enterprise, that could see Mapoon tendering for road building and maintenance contracts across the Cape.

YARN TIME IS BORN AGAIN!

Welcome to the first edition of the born again Yarn Time News—the official newsletter of the all new Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council.

Yarn Time News wants to tell the story of Mapoon. We'll be publishing once a month and for the news-

letter to really work, we need your support and interest.

So, if you have some news, something to say, some photos to share or an idea you'd like to tell the Town about, then give Michael Stewart, your

editor, a call at the Council Chambers.

Hope you enjoy this first edition and hope to hear from you soon.

THE MAYOR'S MOMENT

We live in a great place but it's up to us to make the most of it. Government will go on helping for a while but eventually it'll be up to us to make Mapoon a place where our children can grow up properly, get a good education, live and work and raise the next generation.

We've got a better chance than most people around Queensland. Not only is Mapoon one of the most beautiful places in the world – not just Australia but the world – it has the best people you'll meet anywhere and it's also new. Nearly all houses are less than ten years old and the block sizes would



Mapoon Mayor Peter Guivarra

make any townie jealous.

What we have to do is make sure we stick together and put in an effort to keep Mapoon beautiful.

As of 1 January, Mapoon became a Shire. That means we're now the same as any other Town in Queensland. The Council is now a Shire Council, just like all the towns around us... except

Weipa.

Comalco owns Weipa and so it's not a local government. Comalco decides what happens in Weipa, not the people who live there.

In Mapoon you decide. You elect your Councillors and tell them what you want them to do. If you aren't happy you can elect different Councillors at the next election.

You can also turn up at Council meetings and see and listen to what goes on and you can read the minutes from the meetings at the Office or you can get a copy and read them at home.

That's what democracy is all about. It 's about everyone taking an interest in our local government, having a say by telling your Councillors

SUPERVISORS CONGRATULATED

Mapoon's Acting Works Supervisors, Danny Cooktown and Thomas Pitt, deserve a pat on the back.

The pair has taken personal responsibility for organising and motivating their work crews and the results of their efforts are clear for everyone to see in the way Mapoon is looking at the moment.

Danny is an old hand and everyone knows how much he loves Mapoon. Thomas is a young bloke who has shown he is willing to take responsibility. He's a hard worker who wants to get the job done. They are both popular Team Leaders and they're making a difference for the better in our Town.

Mapoon also has a resident welder who has joined the work team. Patrick Burke impresses everyone with his ability. His skills are very much in

demand.



FARM FOCUS FOR WORKFORCE

After a few months of thinking and planning, things are starting to happen at the Farm.

Dennis Fields, Mapoon's CDEP Manager, says a decision to change to a slightly more mature workforce, plus efforts to improve conditions for workers at the Farm, has the project heading in the right direction.

"We're about to build a sit-down area that won't be flash but it will be shaded and will give workers at the farm a place where they can get out of the sun.



We're also going to put in a toilet block and generally try and make it a nicer place to be."

Dennis says the new workers are settling in well and things are getting done, including clearing an area for a bush tucker garden and reducing the vegetable patch to a more realistic size.

NEW ERA IN TRANSPORT

Mapoon has entered a new era in transport with delivery of the Town's new four wheel drive bus.

Gone are the days of rough rides in a troopy. Now it's leather seats and air-conditioned comfort for all residents travelling the new way.

Operations and Maintenance Manager, Silver Blanco, says the bus will carry twenty people in style.

"The bus weighs two point four (2.4) tonnes and was specially designed to meet Mapoon's needs.

"It'll carry eighteen (18) people in the back and two people in the cabin, plus the driver."

Aside from the comfort, the bus has large luggage areas that are separate from the passenger area, so no more having to hang on to your shopping on the trip home.

"This new bus is also very safe. Not only does it have 4 wheel drive but it also has seat belts."

An operational plan is currently being prepared, with the suggestion the bus run from Mapoon to Weipa and return three times a week.

"At the end of the day the number of times the bus does the trip each week will depend on how much it gets used.

"It's not economic for it to travel the 160km round trip unless it is at least half full."

While nothing is definite yet, it is likely the bus will go from the Coun-

cil Chambers to Woolies in Weipa and maybe to the airport.

"It isn't possible for the bus to drive all around Weipa or Mapoon picking people up and dropping them off.

"That would waste a lot of petrol, the bus would cost a lot more to run and then the price of a trip in to Weipa and back would have to go up."

There will be a small charge for travelling on the bus to pay for the petrol, for maintenance and the cost of repairs.

"The bus is a big advantage to our Town and it will be good for everyone, but we can't expect the Council

to pick up all the costs and so there will have to be a fare."

And of course there can be no alcohol carried on the bus.

Just like the old troopy, the bus is a Council vehicle and there can be no alcohol carried on board.

Under the Alcohol Management Plan the bus is also considered a single vehicle and so the same restrictions apply to it that apply to any car.

The bus has been checked over by Paul Wyatt (Sheriff) and the only delay now is in getting the proper license for the driver.

"Ian Naglamata will be the driver but he needs to finalise his license and then we'll be under way.

"Using the bus will be a bit of a learning experience for everyone and there will be teething problems but after a short while and if everybody is patient everything will start going smoothly."

The new bus is being cared for at the mechanics shed.



O&M Manager—Silver Blanco

NEW EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE SKILLS

Some more good news from the Mapoon Fishing Enterprise. The Council is applying for funds to buy a fishing boat and license.

Having the boat means Mapoon's workers will be able to learn the skills needed to fish commercially in the Gulf, adding to their chances of getting jobs in the industry should they ever leave Mapoon.

Peter Tonon says the plan is to split workers into two crews and alternate between fishing on the boat and fishing in the Bay.

"It'll probably be two months on the boat and two months off with the boat operating between Weipa and Karumba.

"Not only will the workers get more and better experience, it will also make the fishing enterprise more efficient overall with less wasted time and effort.

The grant will also allow for the building of a much-needed safe and secure fuel storage area, a covered area for boats and a boat wash-down bay.

NOTES FROM THE CEO

I looked at a calendar the other day and realised that I've been in Mapoon for over eight months. It's been so interesting, fun and busy that I'd lost track of time. Before I get into the good news from Council, I want to thank everyone in Mapoon for being so welcoming and helpful and for really making me feel at home.

We have a great team at Council, most of them working away behind the scenes, doing what has to be done and much more. Most people know our new Housing Officer, Josie Dixon and receptionist, Jenny Sagigi. Jessica Guivarra is doing a great job with her new responsibilities and Linda McLachlan is settling in as our Community Development Officer. They make a great unit, under the leadership of our Office Manager, Aileen Addo.

Mapoon is very lucky to have such hard working, dedicated and capable people to carry out the wishes of Council and to provide professional, high quality services to our Community.

Sometimes its hard for everyone to see what Administration does so here's just a few of their achievements.

Council has just been told that our financial records and performance over the last year has been given the biggest possible tick. The State Government goes over our books with a fine tooth comb, looking for bad management, bad deals and of course any wrongful use of Community money.

For the fifth year in a row, they've found absolutely no problems and so we've been given our fifth unqualified audit.

That's really important because it gives the Government and everyone else confidence that they can trust Mapoon with money and can have confidence to do business with us.

The Councillors and our Finance Manager, Jason Pflugst, should get a big pat on the back because there are lots of places in Queensland that haven't been able to get an unquali-

fied audit, let alone do it five years in a row.

The change to being a Shire Council, from being a Community Council, has meant a lot of work for Council Staff. Lots of things have to be put in place, like a policy and procedures manual, workplace health and safety – all the paperwork, even working out and publishing a remuneration policy that covers how much Councillors get paid.

All that's been done and to complete the picture, we're getting some experts in to fine tune our corporate structure and set up a proper records management system.

In other news your Council has received \$187,000 to upgrade the bores around Town so we'll be able to have a steady and secure supply of water.

Another \$30,000 in grants will allow us to improve facilities for local artists and Council is looking for funds to support an early childhood centre and for sport and recreation traineeships. Hopefully the Government will give positive consideration to our requests.

And we're on the way to getting money for a commercial fishing boat and fishing license.

Council's managers now meet every two weeks to report on their progress with their project plans and we're still pushing the State Government to meet the Community's request for a Police Station at Mapoon.

As you can see, it's been a very busy but also worthwhile time. I'm looking forward to letting you know more about Council's operations in the next edition of Yarn Time.

It costs a lot of money to build a house in Mapoon so it is always a shame when a new home is damaged, even before the building is completed.

But that's what's happened to one of the new homes under construction

out near the point.

The house was left unlocked and some tins of paint were left overnight, outside the house. You can see the result in the photo. The paint was spread throughout the house, staining the floors and ruining internal doors and walls.

Now the Council will have to come up with the money for repairs and it won't be cheap. This sort of damage is both frustrating and heartbreaking.

Mapoon is our place and the houses are for Mapoon people. The money spent on repairing this sort of damage just slows down the building of new homes



Part of the damage caused to one of the new houses. This door and some windows will have to be replaced, the floor and walls repainted.

TIDY TOWN LOOKS GOOD FOR FUTURE

A big effort by Mapoon's workers has left the Town looking better than it has in years.

Endless hours, pushing mowers and swinging whipper snippers in the boiling sun has paid off, giving us all a place pretty to look at and nice to live in.

CDEP Manager, Dennis Fields, says when you see workers around all the time it's easy to forget the important contribution they are making to our lifestyle.



Council Chambers looking good thanks to a big effort by Mapoon's CDEP workers.

"Mapoon's workforce are taking a real pride in their Community and take seriously the important role they play in making Mapoon such a good place to live.

"There's a great team spirit amongst all the workers, they pitch in to help each other and they go the extra

yard to make sure the work gets done.

"Their attitude says they are taking real pride in this Community and working not just for today but for the future of our Town."

Dennis says that while chopping down weeds, trimming trees and tidying the grass may not seem like the most important work, it does make a huge difference to how Mapoon people live and to how visitors view our Community.

"The workers have been labouring hard on behalf of Mapoon and they're doing a great job. If you see

NEW STAFF BRIGHTEN FISHING VENTURE

There's new enthusiasm at Mapoon's fishing enterprise following the appointment of a group of new, mainly young, workers.

Manager Peter Tonon reckons that not only have his new workers have given the enterprise a much-needed energy boost.

"It's great having the young people

fresh eyes, they can see that it has something to offer them and Mapoon into the future and they want to make a real go of it."

The new staff members are John Mallie, Matthew Sagigi, Jermaine Driscoll, Melissa Parry and Mariah Pitt.

Shane Royan, Jason Tilberoo and Josh Caltabiano are continuing with their employment at the Fishing Enterprise.

and the new employees around. They look at the operation with

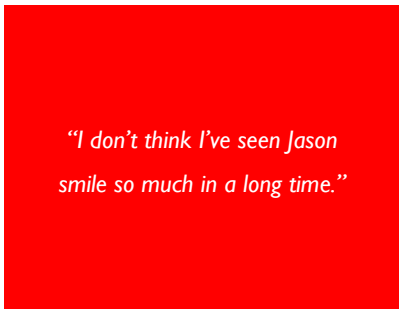
Peter Tonon says the new staff have given the longer-term employees a new lease on life.

"Shane and Jason have taken on the roles of trainer and mentor, particularly for the young fella's

learning the fishing side of the business and they love it. I don't think I've

Tubezy did pull a 23 kilo barra a day or so later so I guess that evens the score."

All the new workers are keen to get their Master



Fishing Enterprise Manager Peter Tonon

LOCALS MAKE SHOP A SUCCESS

Community support has made the Mapoon Shop a success, with profits up on last year.

Manager, Rob Sims, says the shop's profits will be slightly better than last year and will stay ahead of inflation.

That's good news for the whole Community because it means our money stays in Mapoon. Profits from the Shop go to Council and the Council uses that money to pay wages, provide services and keep our Town clean and tidy.

Rob says the shop is working well because of a number of things.

"The Community seems happy with the mix of people working in the Shop and because of that the staff are happier and working hard. Our displays are better, shelves are kept stocked and stock is managed and presented better. We've also been able to respond to requests for certain products. A good example is the Asian foods that we carry. They are very popular and they aren't available at Woolies in Weipa."

Rob says the most important thing for any shop is to look after local and regular customers first.

"We've had a lot of Weipa people coming to Town recently to buy the veggies, milk and meat they



Some of the happy staff at the Mapoon Shop

haven't been able to get from Woolies."

Thanks to Rob's contacts and experience, the Mapoon Shop stocks most things at about the same

price you pay in Cairns.

"Meat is a good example. We've done a deal with Cairns Bulk Meats and now we can sell meat cheaper than you can buy it in Weipa.

"We're hoping to reduce the cost of bread soon too by bringing in about half our bread supplies from Tip Top. We'll still get bread from the Weipa Bakery because it's important to support local business but hopefully we'll be able to bring the price down a bit overall."

Rob says Mapoon people can take credit for the improvements in prices, service and product range at the Shop

"People are really helpful – they are patient and happy even when the queue gets long at the counter, they offer positive suggestions for making the Shop better and they support and help our staff wherever they can."

The new ATM machine in the Mapoon Store is a handy and useful thing but it also costs you money.

If you are just buying groceries and want some extra cash, it is cheaper to use the EFTPOS at the counter than to take cash out of the ATM.

If you want a lot of cash to pay bills, then the ATM machine is the go but for small transactions you'll save money by using your card at the counter.

SLABBER READY TO GO

Mapoon has a new tool and it's going to make a real difference to our Town.

CDEP Manager Dennis Fields has been pushing for a while to get a slabber set up and operating in Town. Now that's done he can't wait to get moving making furniture for our parks and beaches.

A slabber makes it possible to turn an ordinary chainsaw into a sort of mini sawmill. At least it means Mapoon's workers can now cut trees into slabs of timber for park benches and tables.

Two park benches are almost com-

plete with galvanised iron frames and wooden seats and tabletops. The slabber will be used to make rustic style bench seats for around Town and for the new sit-down area at the Farm.

NEW MANAGER TAKES CHARGE

The Council's new Office Manager, Aileen Addo, is making a big difference bringing to the administration years of professional experience, useful and well-developed skills and a positive outlook.

Aileen is a Mapoon person through and through. She was born here and although her life has taken her away from the Community, she has returned regularly and always knew that Mapoon was where she wanted to live when she retired.

And she had retired before deciding she had something worthwhile to offer our Community and applying for the Office Manager role.



Mapoon Council's new Office Manager—Aileen Addo

"Mapoon is a special place. It always has been and it calls you back no matter how far away you go.

"My mother grew up here but lived a lot of her life on Thursday Island. If you asked her where was home, she would always say Mapoon."

Aileen lived on Badu and Thursday Islands, finishing school at T.I. before starting her career, at 16, as a Nurse's Aid at the Thursday Island Hospital.

mother and housewife while her children grew up.

In 1985 she returned to her career in health, working for Queensland Health, in Cairns, for twenty years until she retired in December 2004.

"I was in Mapoon and sitting under an almond tree watching the world go by. It was great to have a rest but I wanted a challenge.

"I always felt I owed something to Mapoon and that if I could find the right job, I had a lot to offer. I tried to transfer to the Cape York Health Service District but now I'm really glad that didn't happen.

"Julie Ling (CEO) gave me the opportunity to be the Office Manager and I really enjoy the work.

The work is hard but it is also worthwhile and very satisfying.

Aileen moved to Cairns in 1967, got married and had four kids and was a

"I hope what I do will make a differ-

NEW SKILLS FOR SHED STAFF

Workers at the Mapoon Fishing Enterprise and our Rangers have been gaining new skills, undertaking an intensive training course in radio communications.

The course, over four days, aimed to qualify all fishing workers and Rangers in the use of ship to ship and ship to shore radios.

The qualification is legally essential and will improve the safety of the Fishing Venture and Ranger operations.

Rob Tremay, from TAFE conducted the course, in Mapoon's Council Chambers.



Training underway for the Radio Communications course in the Council Chambers

NEW C.D.O. HAS MAPOON AT HEART

Mapoon now has its own Community Development Officer.

Linda McLachlan has won the job of helping us to become a closer, more cooperative and more positive community.

Formerly a full-time worker for Comalco and Queensland Health, Linda is now part time with Comalco, so she can contribute her skills and experience to Mapoon.

Linda says she couldn't be happier with this opportunity.

"For many years I've been looking for a way that I could do something, with my professional skills, for Mapoon.

"I'm really pleased that Comalco and the Mapoon Council have made it possible for me to take on this role. They are two separate roles, I work one week out here and the next week in Comalco, on a rotating/continuous basis.

Linda says her job in Mapoon is to make a stronger link between the Council and the Community, to help strengthen community networks,

improve social services and work for the well being of the whole of Mapoon.

Linda first came to Mapoon in 1986 and has strong links, both traditional and historical, through her grandfather Dan Busch, who was brought here to work for the mission as a young boy, and her Granny Charlotte of the Yupungathi people, the parents of Edmund Busch, Linda's Mum, Grace McLachlan, and Moira (deceased).

"I grew up listening to stories about Mapoon and always wanted to come here one day. When we did come, we were lucky enough to have some time with Granny Jean, Auntie Connie, Auntie Rachel, and many others, who are no longer with us, but I'm sure are here in spirit. Our families believed very strongly in the vision of our Old People. They taught me that we all have a responsibility to make sure that we carry on the Mapoon Movement, in whatever way we can, by working together.

"Taking on the Community Development role is one way that I can fulfil that responsibility."

Linda says she'll be doing a lot of listening to individuals and groups in Mapoon, seeking information and



Linda McLachlan—Mapoon's new Community Development Officer

advice.

"Once I truly understand what Mapoon people want and need, I'll be able to use my skills and experience to help plan out the steps or actions that will allow them to achieve their goals.

"A positive way of reaching our goals is to start by listening to what each person has to say, and even if we disagree, we can stay focussed on being one and working together, without getting angry and upset.

"As the old saying goes, "united we stand, divided we fall". When you look back at the Mapoon Movement, it attracted state, national and international attention because Mapoon people worked together as one. That was the key. They set a good exam-

DIY IDEA MAKES SENSE

How would you like to be able to make your own furniture? Dennis Fields is working on an idea that may make it possible for us all to make simple furniture for our homes.

Dennis says it may be possible to set up a workshop with machinery and materials that everyone in Town can use, under supervision, to make

things like chairs, bookcases, tables etc.

"Simple plans and blueprints are readily available for most household items. Tools and machinery can be made safe for everyone to use and we could have some supervisors to trainers on-site to help with the difficult work.

"I've seen this idea operate in other Communities and it can be a great help to people. Not only can we all learn new skills and save a lot of money by making our own, rather than buying from shops in Weipa or Cairns but this sort of workshop can also be a place that brings people together."

SCHOOL KIDS HEALTHY AND HAPPY

Cross Country: Students from years 1-6 went into Weipa last Tuesday to participate in the cross-country. All the children from Mapoon participated really well and had a great day in town.

Years 4-6: Students in years 4-6 have been participating in a unit of work on space. They have enjoyed learning about our place in space as well as interesting facts about rockets, planets and space adventures. They have also begun a



Pre-schoolers enjoying the meals they made.

unit of work on science and have been very excited about the science experiments they have so far performed.

Years 1-3: The students in years 1-3 have been doing some very interesting work on fairy tales. They have re-written goldilocks and the three bears and recorded their play on a tape which included some very scary sound effects. They have also transformed their classroom into a city and have been enjoying doing activities on The Reading Road, The Handwriting

highway, The Word Way and The THRASS Thoroughfare.

Preschool/Kindy: Kindy has been introduced with great success. The children have been involved in many activities so far including painting, drawing, construction and dramatic play.

The preschool children have been learning all about community helpers and have just been to Weipa to meet with the police, ambulance and fire brigade.

The Kindy/Preschool have also introduced a nutrition program where the children participate in making themselves a nutritious lunch one day a week. So far the children have all had a lot of fun making the meals

NEW TEACHER SETTLES IN

As some of you already know, my name is Anneliese McIntyre and I am the year 4/5/6 teacher in Mapoon. I grew up in Townsville and once I finished high school I lived in Thailand for a year as part of a Youth Exchange program. I lived with three different families, went to school and learnt the Thai language and culture.

After that, I then returned home to Townsville and spent the next four years studying to be a primary school teacher at James Cook University. At the end of last year I was lucky enough to be offered a job in Mapoon. My partner was also offered a job with Comalco in Weipa. We both love the laid back lifestyle up here and are finding everyone very friendly. I enjoy teaching in Mapoon as the staff and kids are great to work with and I look forward

to making Mapoon my home for the next few years.



Anneliese McIntyre

UNIQUE SHARK FOUND IN OUR WATERS

Workers at the Mapoon Fishing Enterprise have been taking part in some important scientific study, following the discovery of a very rare shark in our waters.

The Spertooth Shark is an endangered species but there are plenty of them in the waters around Mapoon.



Mathew Driscoll and Melissa Parry with a Spertooth

Fisheries have been conducting a survey into the sharks and their habitats.

Our workers have been helping out by providing their unique knowledge of the local area and assisting in the survey operation.

WATCH OUT FOR CROCS

If you are around and about, keep an eye out! That's the warning from Mapoon's Chief Ranger, Laurie Booth. Laurie says that at this time of the year there is always a rise in the number of crocs.

"We seen some a lot of croc tracks all over the place and saw signs of a pretty big one on the way to Janie Creek. His footprint was twice as long as Jack's hand. They're in the swamps, on the beach, all around. And they're active too so people really need to keep their eyes open."



Trainee Ranger, Jack Pitt. Jack's hand is about half the size of the

Laurie says that while the crocs are an obvious danger, everyone should remember all the other dangers associated with our Bay and the surrounding area. Those dangers include sharks and when the water is warm, jellyfish, wild pigs and of course snakes.

"Everyone knows swimming is dangerous because of the crocs, the sharks and often also the jellyfish. We're seeing big crocs, sharks and some jellies and we're seeing kids swimming. Its not a good combination so watch the kids

and if you see visitors looking like they're about to take a dip – try and tell them not to.

"It's easy to forget when you live here but forgetting can be a very dangerous thing to do."



NEW LIFE FOR OLD TANK

Mapoon's old water tank has been given a new lease on life, as the reservoir for the sport and recreation field's irrigation system.

The tank has been sitting in the Operations and Maintenance area for many years.

O&M Manager, Silver Blanco, says the 120,000-litre fibreglass tank played an important part in the re-

building of Mapoon.

"In the early days the tank was used to store water. We used to fill smaller tanks from it and then truck the water around town.

"The tank went out of service when we installed the bores and for the past few years it has just been sitting around waiting for us to find a use for it."

The 2.4 tonne tank was taken through Town to the new Sport and Recreation Centre.



Work begins on the delicate task of moving the tank

WHO'S WHO IN MAPOON

We're pretty lucky in Mapoon eh? Everyone says is very friendly and welcoming and we live in a beautiful place. But there is something we don't have and that's a directory of Mapoon residents.

The Directory would have photos of every adult and child in Mapoon, along with everyone's name.

It could be a list of individuals or we could do it on a family or clan basis. The Directory could be a public document that would help people in to find relatives and friends or it could be kept as an historical document for the future.

The Directory could be updated every year and then Mapoon would have a complete photographic re-

cord of the Town's residents. We could even make a picture wall somewhere around Town or a board that welcomes visitors.

We could post it on the Mapoon Web-Site or print it out on paper and include addresses and phone numbers.

Let us know what you think of a Mapoon Directory?

AROUND TOWN



The long and the short of Mapoon—Cr. Bill Busch and Danny Cooktown outside the Shop



Linda McLachlan and Cr.. Chrissie Cooktown



Ricki Guivarra and Queensland Health's Eddie Bulli.



Auntie Harriet and Auntie Alma attracting a young audi-



Lawrie Booth, Dennis Fields and Tom Pitt breaking into the CEO's car. Your editor locked the keys in.



Women's Group bar-b-que outside the Shop.



Tom Pitt lends a hand at Women's Group fundraiser.



Men's Group meet on Health Clinic verandah



The Mayor meets the boys from Bush TV



In their spare time— Pete Tonon shows John Mallie a few tricks.



Uncle Silver shows off his skills with a bob-cat.



Tom, Sheree and bub outside Council.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUNTIE SUSIE

The stories of a people live in the memory of those who were there and took part in their making.

Auntie Susie Madua was there when the modern story of Mapoon was made. On 18 August, she will be 80 years old and while she may be weary sometimes, her spirit, her heart and her memory remain strong.

Her house, the house she was born in and the place she grew up, is still there – the only one remaining from the burning of Mapoon. She sees it sometimes as it is, suffering from age and elements, the wooden floor rotting, the corrugated walls peeling away, a structure falling down. More often though her mind blinds her eyes and she looks back down eight decades. She sees a home, a family and a place she loved. She sees her parents, Mapoon friends and the events of another time.

Auntie Susie isn't of Mapoon but she was born here and Mapoon is the home in her heart. Her father was a Weipa man, her mother, Jessica Shadforth, was one of the stolen ones, brought to Mapoon from Lawn Hill, like so many local people. Auntie Susie isn't of Mapoon but she was born here and Mapoon is the home in her heart. Her father was a Weipa man, her mother was one of the stolen ones, brought to Mapoon from Lawn Hill, like so many local people.

Her parents raised two boys and six girls in that tiny tin house. That was in the Mission days and like all the children, Auntie Susie spent a fair bit of time in the Mission dormitories.

She says they were good times, when she learnt to live, learnt to work and really enjoyed herself.

Times change though and in the year Auntie Susie turned 14, the Second World War started and as far away as Mapoon was from the rest of Australia, it was still deeply affected by the War.

The Government effectively closed the Mission but wouldn't allow anyone to leave the area. Food supplies ran short. Children received a ration of one cup of rice and two cups of flour every second day. Adults were left to fend for themselves.

Auntie Susie's brother, James, took ill and was close to death. He was brought back to health thanks to the help of a doctor, Eileen Maud, who came to Mapoon to see Mrs. Cane, arrived just in time. She saw James and told Susie's family to feed him tinned pear juice. The treatment worked and James recovered.

Auntie Susie says War brought exciting times as well as some hard times. People were forced to fall back on traditional skills to survive and she believes that was a good thing because children of her generation gained knowledge of the place and how to live off the land.



She wishes the children today could have the same experience.

By 1963, when Mapoon people were taken from their homes and the community buildings razed, Auntie Susie was married and living on Thursday Island. Peter Neville had come to Mapoon and had taken her back with him to work at his house. It wasn't until 1974 that she was able to return home.

The years since '74 have had their ups and downs. Early on Auntie Susie and her sister, Eileen, used to walk the Country, keeping alive the memories of their childhood and practicing traditional skills.

The years catch up with us all though and even Auntie Susie has had to slow down. Her days of walking Country are over but she's still active, fishing, digging for yams, collecting oysters, speaking her mind and just enjoying being in Mapoon.

She tells a story about years ago when Norman Wheeler paid a visit her house and reported seeing a glow in the sky. Susie went outside to look and saw that the glow came from the area around the old cemetery. Susie asked what it was. Norman Wheeler said it was the Old People - that they glowed because they were happy to see Mapoon people coming home.

Auntie Susie too is happy to be home.

Happy Birthday Auntie Susie!