

YARNTIME NEWS

Issue 6

May 2006

BIG CHANGES TO CDEP

- *Full-time work to be a goal.*
- *Two Years for Mapoon to consider and implement the proposals.*

FEATURES

- Regular Events Advertised
- Child Protection Issues
- Noise Control
- Possum Scrub Photograph
- School News

LARGE CROC SIGHTED.

A very large crocodile had been spotted at Cullen Point. Local residents and tourists alike should be wary of this beast and warn others about the dangers involved. Little children should be limited from playing on the beach or walking on the beach during the night as it is suspected that the creature has taken up residence for a time, influenced by the big wet we have been experiencing.

A crocodile has also been spotted at Nallingi dam swamp and persons should be aware to stay away from the edges or avoid the dam altogether.

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IS THE GOAL REALISTIC FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

ABORIGINES will be given only a year on the indigenous work-for-the-dole program under a new system to be unveiled by the federal Government.

The new regime will apply only to new entrants to Community Development Employment Projects, the biggest employer of indigenous people since it was established in 1977, in regional and metropolitan areas. Those in remote areas will be given up to two years.

Under CDEP, a community creates a common fund from combined unemployment benefits, which pays the jobless to do community work and activities.

The Government believes the new system is critical to a range of measures it has introduced to force indigenous people off welfare and into real jobs.

The Government has called the new arrangements "community participation agreements" and is drawing up plans to get people into real jobs or meaningful community work in return for welfare.

Until now, communities have been exempt from mutual obligation programs when they are in areas where there is little

Minister for Emergency Services the Honorable Pat Purcell MP, retired General Peter Cosgrove and Member for Cook Jason O'Brien MP made a special trip to Cooktown on Monday 15/05/06 to liaise with Cyclone Monica-affected landholders, agencies and business operators.

General Cosgrove is currently heading the Cyclone Larry Recovery Taskforce travels to Cooktown at the behest of the State Government who is attempting to further mobilise similar Federal Government assistance to the residents of the Cape. Officers from the Department of Main Roads and SES will also be accompanying the party. The trip will include briefings from the Cook Shire Council, and co-ordination of the next steps of the Cyclone recovery.

employment or few accessible education and training facilities.

The move follows calls by Cape York indigenous leader Noel Pearson for Aboriginal welfare to be reformed and for an end to sit-down money.

Under the changes that were unveiled by Minister Kevin Andrews, every new entrant to CDEP will also be forced to sign up to the local Job Network provider, which will have to find them work. Where a job is available locally, the indigenous person will have to quit CDEP and take the local job.

Fourteen communities - including Aurukun, Coen and Yarrabah in Queensland and Halls Creek

and Jigalong in Western Australia - have been given until June to look for real jobs or face the same penalties as the rest of the community: loss of dole payments.

The Government has called the new arrangements "community participation agreements" and is drawing up plans to get people into real jobs or meaningful community work in return for welfare.

Concern is held for what this means for the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council however, council is working with DEWR and the Government to ensure that our community is not disadvantaged.

THE MAYOR'S MOMENT

There has been a big gap between issues of Yarntime and a great deal has happened in the community over the last few months. At the end of March we have had a visit from the Director-General of EPA who is our new joint Government Champion, James Purtill.

Council underwent Training with Georgina from the Department of Local Government and Planning on Local Government issues and Policy development.

In April, I met with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, John Mickel in Brisbane.

A visit of the Comalco General Manager Rob Atkinson and Matt Wrigley was received on 24/04/06 out at Mapoon. It was fortunate that a number of the community and in particular our elders had the opportunity to meeting and discussing community issues and history with the General Manager.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough and Kim Beasley, leader of the Federal opposition have been invited to Mapoon at some stage in the future.

NEW CEO COMMENCES

New CEO Stuart Wright commenced work with the Mapoon Council. The community welcomes Stuart on board and look to working closely with him to advance the Mapoon community. Stuart's had 10 years working with Aboriginal communities in WA before coming to Queensland in 2000 where he managed Queensland Transports Indigenous Road safety Unit and was Deputy Regional Manager for ATSI Housing in Cairns.

NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER

Mapoon has a newly appointed Operations Manager, Warren Tierney. The Mapoon community welcomes Warren and wishes him every success in his new position. Warren's wife Di Tierney is working assisting with administration in the Council office. Please make them welcome into the community and offer them every assistance.



Mapoon Mayor Peter Guivarra at his desk.

SMOKING.

Under new State Laws, smoking of cigarettes in public doorways is not permitted. Persons who smoke need to be at least four (4) metres away from doorways and entrances. Please take note of this and move away from the front entrance of the office and smoke under the trees and in the yard if you wish to smoke.

BREAK & ENTER AT STORE.

Recent attempts by person/s at Mapoon to gain entry into the Mapoon store will not go unpunished. The store is an enterprise owned and operated by the Mapoon Council on behalf of the people of Mapoon, and all profits go back to the Mapoon Community. Persons who attempt to rob the store are stealing from themselves. The Police have been called and a culprit identified. We don't have to put up with the nonsense and the community has every right to be angry with the offender/s and seek justice. Does the offender think the community owes them something and they can do what they like.

ALCOHOL IN COUNCIL VEHICLES

A stern reminder to those persons who are given charge of Council vehicles, that the Council cars are not permitted to carry alcohol to Mapoon. The registration numbers of all Council vehicles will be given to the Albatross Hotel requesting that persons driving or riding within these vehicles not be supplied with alcohol to transport. All other purchases must be monitored by the driver of the vehicle. Mapoon will not allow our cars to be confiscated by the Liquor Licensing because individuals fail to follow simple rules.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Council is arranging a workshop to be held by Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and First Australian Business (FAB) in July to help Mapoon community members to learn about what is involved in setting up their own business, and how to get money to help with the costs. Also the West Cape Communities Coalition Agreement (WCCCA) has some funding available from time to time. Some promising enterprises identified for Mapoon could be: -

Laundromat - for washing and drying and ironing during wet season. This could include providing Washing Detergents or a complete laundry service and be available to locals and tourists and visitors alike.

Take-away Food Shop - for locals and tourists and visitors, especially workers who look for nutritious meals. A cappuccino machine would be great and the fish and chips and burgers would be a welcome relief for us.

Bait & Tackle Shop - Selling lines and rods, hooks and sinkers, nets and cast nets, bait (catch it yourself and sell it), anchors and ropes, boating gear and equipment and maybe the odd camping equipment such as tents and camp ovens, lamps, sleeping bags, hammocks etc.

Bakery - Selling fresh bread and scones, and even dampers, and cakes and fresh pies.

Arts & Crafts Shop - Selling spears, woomeras, boomerangs, paintings, feather flowers, shell beads, carvings as well as craft materials etc.

Swimming Pool - A paying venue for locals, visitors & tourists alike.

MAPOON MEN'S GROUP

The Mapoon Men's Group Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 21st March at the Sports and Recreation Centre. The new committee is made up of **Willie (Lee) Ase as Chairman, Thomas Pitt as Deputy Chairman, Cameron Hudson as Treasurer and Ricky Guivarra as the Secretary**. The meeting was well attended by 36 men in the community. This was a very positive showing for our small community. Congratulations to all the young men and youth also who made the effort. The men enjoyed a supper after the meeting. Thanks to Peter Tonin and Sheree Jia for their contribution, and their apologies to the Aerobics Class for having the extended meeting.

Issues discussed at the meeting included fundraising, the future incorporation of the Men's Group, men's volunteers assisting with the development of the Sports Fields and future programs and project possibilities.

Membership to the Mapoon Men's Group is **\$10.00** and many are fast becoming a financial member of the group. Membership entitles you access to the assets of the organisation, including the Men's Group car and boat that is available to the members living at Mapoon only and many other benefits in the future.

The Vehicle requires to be booked in advance to save confusion, and those persons using the vehicle are expected to pay all fees up front first and take care of the vehicle, putting in their own fuel and oil and always checking for the water etc. This would be the same for the future boat. A set of rules and regulations apply to the use of the Vehicle and Boat and should be read and understood by anyone choosing to hire them. All damages that may occur also need to be reported for either insurance purposes or other claims. Formal forms require to be filled out when hiring.

With any luck, the Men's Group can look forward to having their own complex one day into the future and eventually journey to other centres or even overseas for business of the Mapoon Men's Group.

A MURRI JOKE

Dezi & Myrtle were having breakfast the night after, and both got the biggest hangovers. Myrtle looks at Dezi and starts cooing real sensually and says "Dez, 'as anyone ever told you that you are really 'andsome and gorgeous, and that you're God's gift to us women?". Dez looked really puzzled and nearly choked on his food, and he reckon "No!!!" Then Myrtle looks at him again, her elbows on the table and says, "Well Dez, 'as anyone ever told you that you're attractive and that us women just find you so irresistible and we just can't 'elp starin' at ya?" Well Dez feeling really good now and all pumped up, unable to believe that this Myrtle talking hot and deadly to him like this, and puzzled again he reckons "No?".

Possum Scrub Cultural Heritage Ceremony, Friday 16 December 2005



Back row, left to right: Mark Annandale, John Graham, Adie Mamoose, Ricky Guivarra, Simon Cupper, Greg Maher.

Middle row, left to right: Louisa Hall, Norman Toeboy, Alec Ling, Zara Fisher, Maurie Goldier, Scott Philpott, Calvin Snodgrass, Balaji Bindinganavile, Michael Hall, Matt Wrigley, Rob Atkinson, David Sutherland, Richard Yank.

Front row, left to right: Harriet Flinders, Steven Parry, Donald Callope, Rhonda Parry, Florence Hector, Ivy Gordon, Thelma Coconut, Audrey Motton, Gloria Madua, Bella Hall, Mary Ann Coconut, Dr Thancoupie Fletcher-James AO, Mervyn Wales, Geoff Wharton.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child care and protection in the Mapoon community should be the most important issue to us all and it should be the most relevant matter in our workplace and our homes. The future of the Mapoon children is directly the future of Mapoon itself and every consideration must be given to their welfare. Child protection at Mapoon is fast becoming an active interest of many child protection authorities and Mapoon is as much targeted as other Queensland communities are becoming.

Our children deserve better than sleepless nights and household domestic and community violence, or to be spoken to and treated like some sort of animal. It is a shame that our children have picked up some of the words and habits of adults and elders in the Mapoon community. Do people know what is happening to your children when the household is drunk and delirious? What is it that is helping to drive some children to petrol sniffing and drug abuse? Are our children eating properly or getting proper parental care and affection they should be entitled to?

Many government agencies play a role in child protection such as the Police, Health Centre and Schools, and they in turn have an obligation to report abuse and neglect of children. If the Police are called to a domestic dispute at a drunken party, they are now obligated to notify the Child Protection Authorities and advise that children were in the household at the time of their visit. An investigation by the Office of Child Safety could occur soon-after. Other agencies are interested in providing funding to have Child Protection and Domestic Violence workers placed in our community to protect the rights of the children, as Weipa now has. Others are looking at creating safe houses in the community for our children to escape to, and some are considering the total removal of children from households and a community that continually places their children at risk.

EXTENDED WET SEASON SLOWS DOWN WORKS.

The wet season has seriously disrupted a lot of progress in the Mapoon area, including our building construction (homes and Land & Sea centre) and the road-works. The state of the road to Weipa had become quite serious.

All dams and swamps at Mapoon are full and people need to be wary of crocodiles. Access to Janie Creek is still difficult as the Jack Pond area is overflowed and Cattle Creek is still washed out.

Thanks to William Busch and his road crew, road works have recommenced and the journey to town is a lot easier.

KEEPING PLACE.

Mapoon could do well with a keeping place to store and maintain all the traditional and historical information available to us. If such a place was had, many of the Museums and Libraries in Australia would be only too willing to allow for many of the arts and crafts and other information to return to the community. Some of these materials include language information, spears and woomeras, old dugout canoes, basketwork, grass skirts, bead work and shell ornaments, photographs and anthropological reports, tapes and discs.

It could also include all recent materials gathered such as the Community Histories material gathered with Dr Frank McKeown in 1991 along with his reports and those of the mining companies. It could account for all our current ongoing historical information, including our newsletters, Marpuna Corporation material and more recent information such as the town planning which could prove very valuable to our future generations. We could have a humidifier and storage cabinets, air conditioning, safe, photographic display units etc.

Such a complex could in turn add to strengthen our tourist industry & economy.

WELCOME

A big welcome to Janet, Tiahni and India who have joined our new CEO, Stuart in Mapoon. Janet is Stuart's wife and she will be working in Weipa but will be a regular visitor to Mapoon along with their two children.

Also, a big welcome from Mapoon to Dianne Tierney, wife of Operations Manager Warren. Dianne will be helping out in the office.

POSITIONS VACANT

Council currently has the following positions vacant and would welcome applications from suitably qualified people. More details can be obtained from the front desk at Council

- Office Manager
- Bus Driver
- Office Traineeship
- Housing Officer
- HACC Coordinator
- Justice Group Coordinator

Applications close Monday 12th June 2006 and applications need to be lodged with the CEO.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
CONGRATULATIONS TO
STAN AND ZOE DE JERSEY
FOR THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY
ON 30TH APRIL, 2006.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
MARIA GUIVARRA
50TH BIRTHDAY
ON 24TH MARCH, 2006.**

THANKS.

Many thanks going out to Eddie Wheelan, the Painter from Badu who donated \$500 in Cash and a toy gift to the School P & C Raffle. The P & C Raffle is located in the store and any persons wishing to donate items can purchase them and deposit them into the basket there. The raffle had been won by Jason Jia.

LOTUS GLEN PRISON

The thought of going to the Lotus Glen Prison as if this is some right of passage into manhood is not a sane thought. Prison is meant for the bad people to make them pay for their crimes against the people and the nation, and is no place for our fellow indigenous brothers and sisters.

Prison is a place where the 'screws' could tell you when to go to sleep and when to wake up, when to eat and when to bath and when to get out of the place or where to go and what to do. The independence of individuals is not a consideration in this respect in the jailhouse. So think twice before you consider the prison as your right of passage because it isn't and it only gives you a bad name and a criminal record for the rest of your life, further limiting your own potential such as the armed services, overseas traveling and particular permits. People who go to prison also often miss out on their children's maturing years and do not play an active part in their growing years.

COUNCIL POSITIONS

FARM WORKERS

The Mapoon Farm is progressing along nicely with a good supply of fresh fruit and vegetables set to come our way. Workers advise that the farm is currently growing Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Cassava and Bananas. The trees are also growing well, with Breadfruit and Mangoes to become part of the produce into the future. Seeds have been received for planting also.

Workers at the farm include Teddy Barkley, Geraldine and Donnie Mamoose, Terrance Jerry, Trevor John, Michael Davidson, and (Ponkey) Rodney Ase.

OFFICE & GENERAL CLEANERS

Office and general community cleaners keep the offices and dongas of the Council clean and tidy for your health and enjoyment. Workers include Ethel Pitt, Linda Toeboy, Cynthia Jingle, Daphne Barkley, Jennifer Woodley and Susan Reid. Please

respect their work and avoid making a mess and assist them when possible.

SUPERVISORS

Mapoon Supervisors assist to make the CDEP workforce function. They are Dennis Field (CDEP Coordinator) and Dan Cooktown. William Busch is the road-works Supervisor.

Without the support of these men, many projects in Mapoon would not occur.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS

WEIPA

From 3rd October, 2005

New license conditions are in force on all Licensed Premises in Weipa.

Some of these conditions are:

1. Takeaway sales are prohibited before 10am:
2. Takeaway sales of fortified wine (such as port, muscat and sherry) is prohibited:
3. Takeaway sales of wine in containers larger than two litres is prohibited:
4. All bulk sales to a person, or group of persons, must be recorded on a Bulk Sales Register.

Staff will require details such as the purchaser's proof of identification and address for any bulk sales.

Further details are available at the premises. These conditions have been imposed on the liquor licence of all Weipa licensed premises by order of The Chief Executive Officer, Department of Fair Trading

DISTRICT HEALTH VISITS.

27/04	Drs Hadfield/Marshall	Nap
28/04	Drs Hadfield/Marshall	Mapoon
01/05	Dr Hadfield/Marshall	Weipa
23/05	Drs Hadfield/Marshall	Nap
26-29/06	Dentist	Nap
27/06	Dr Hadfield/Marshall	Weipa
13/07	Diabetes Outreach	Weipa
25/07	Drs Hadfield/Marshall	Nap
08/08	Dr Hadfield/Marshall	Weipa
26/09	Dr Hadfield/Marshall	Weipa
05/10	Diabetes Outreach	Weipa
30/10 - 03/11	Dentist	Nap
28/11	Dr Hadfield/Marshall	Weipa
4 -7/12	Dentist	Nap
12/12	Dr Hadfield/Marshall	Weipa

Dr Chicka will be leaving the district.

The Mapoon Health Action Group is encouraged to continue meeting to discuss health agenda items that impact on our community. The Health Action Group can look to giving themselves a new name and can expect further help and other assistance from workers such as Robert Corrie (jnr) of the Cape York Health Service (Apunipima) in Cairns.

The Physio visits Mapoon fortnightly.

CHURCH SERVICES

For all those interested in regular Church services, these are held out at Mapoon generally every Sunday & also on Monday Nights.

These services are operated by the Uniting and the Presbyterian Churches.

The Assembly of God Pentecostal Church also visits the community, generally on a Sunday.

A Catholic Church minister also visits the community at times as do some members of the Jehovah Witness group.

For further information on Church services and home visiting, please contact your local Church ministers or members of these church congregations.

Transport is sometimes available to attend these services. Sunday School inquiries and Hymnal practices are also on offer.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

FAILING TO BURY THE DEAD.

Particular households within the Mapoon community are failing to bury the dead (cars) as the skeletons and bodies of 'old friends & family' can be seen rotting in the front yards from the start of the community to the end. And while some like the idea of decorating the front yards and district with the bodies, so do the rats and snakes who make homes and breed up in the rotting bodies, and the grass grows high around the skeletons. Sometimes, wayward youth are seen smelling the fumes of the dead bodies and looking for a real morbid high.

If transplanted, some of the body parts to go over and given to other bodies, something might just work and run around the community, and the body could move. It is obvious that a lot of money is wasted on trying to get new bodies to move around in where a spare part could just do the trick.

To those who insist in leaving the dead out on the lawn, we give our condolences to the household and the owners. Perhaps in time, the Council could charge heaps of money to deliver the bodies to the local graveyard where they can be given a decent burial and also pass community by-laws to outlaw these practices and impose large fines on offenders.

So please give a thought to taking your old car bodies to the dump or get some assistance to either tow them to the vehicle car dump or fix them as soon as possible and remove them from your yards and around the bush. Do we really have to look like many of the other communities and copy this habit?

NOISE ABATEMENT & CONTROL.

It has been noted the amount of noise coming from regular parties being held in the main township district of Red Beach in Mapoon. Unfortunately, this noise is a result of not only loud music stereos and sound systems, but by persons screaming out at the top of their voices. These persons have no respect for others living in the area or for themselves and seem to like to hear themselves only. The Council has a responsibility to limit noise in the community, and the Red Beach area, which was originally designated for Elders and the sickly to live in peace close to amenities such as the Health Clinic and the Shop and HACC Service etc, away from such bad behaviour.

Future Council By-Laws will take into account the need to limit noisiness and such problems could be regulated through the Environmental Health Workers and future Police presence. Council will give their support towards Police action and also encourage those community members who are affected by noise to make formal complaints. This could mean the issuing of fines and penalties to those found to be offending and the confiscating of the music and sound systems that play loudly around the district. So please give a thought to the needs of others and totally limit such bad behaviour. Our children have a right to a good's night sleep to attend school and the sick and elderly are entitled to their peace and quiet also.

Any persons who do not take notice of and respect these warnings could pay a big price, especially when the stereo systems are confiscated and a large fine given for not respecting the noise levels. Home owners should warn party-goers and outsiders of these intentions of the Council and some community members. Those persons offending deserve no respect or consideration themselves and it often appears that offenders have at times deliberately and intentionally played the music loudly to annoy those households close by or let the world know about what is their favourite song. Would offenders be happy about the continual playing of Mozart or Beethoven music all day? This behaviour could also lead to further support towards the limiting of carriage and access to alcohol in our community. It could also lead to serious future problems such as deafness and sleeping problems such as insomnia and sleep apnoea.

NATIONAL ABORIGINES & ISLANDERS DAY OBSERVANCE CELEBRATIONS (NAIDOC)

The National Theme for the forthcoming NAIDOC Day celebrations is "**Respect the Past, Believe in the Future**". The NAIDOC Day is a gazetted Public Holiday for the Mapoon Community and NAIDOC week will be celebrated from 2nd to 9th July, 2006. The National NAIDOC Ball is to be held in Cairns on 8th July at the Cairns Convention Centre. Those wishing to assist organize any activities for NAIDOC week are invited to approach the Council and set up an organizing committee. If any funds can be found to organize events, every attempt shall be made to secure these for our community. NAIDOC came about through the hard fought battles of our forefathers to recognize indigenous Australians and our rights and privileges.

Aiden Ridgeway, previously a Democratic Senator in the Australian Parliament, is the National Chairperson of the NAIDOC organizing committee.

MAPOON COMMUNITY JUSTICE GROUP

The Justice Group is awaiting the filling of the position of Justice Group Coordinator. The Service Agreement has been signed between the DATSIP department and the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council who auspice the funds. The position of the Coordinator will assist the community with the following matters: - Probation and Parole Monitoring, Community Service Hours, State Penalties and Enforcement Register (SPER), Court Attendances, Fine Option submissions and Pre-sentencing Reporting to the Courts. Other possibilities are Victims Of Crime Compensation Unit (VOCCU), Child Protection matters and ATODS counseling. This includes assisting community members to make contact with Departmental Officers, the Courts and the Legal system and their representatives and Lawyers or Field Officers. The Justice Group also vies for programs and project funding and have had discussions with particular Government Departments and other service groups to develop these up for the Mapoon people.

Our apologies for omitting Sharon Booth from the membership of the Justice Group in the last edition of Yarntime News. Sharon is a member representing the Mapoon Health Centre (Clinic). Representatives on the Justice Group include the members from the following Groups: - Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council (1)., Mapoon HACC (2)., School P & C (1)., Mapoon Men's Group (4)., Mapoon Women's Group (4)., Mapoon Health Clinic (1)., Tjungundji Tribe (4)., Yupunguthi Tribe (4)., Taepathiggi Tribe (4)., Warrangku Tribe (4)., Thanikwith Tribe (4)., Historical association (4).

Not all the members have shown an interest in attending the Justice Group meetings and many of the positions that have been allocated for these groups have not been filled. Interested persons should approach the Justice Group and register their interest in joining the Group. This would assist the Justice Group in having a formal quorum to stage meetings. The Justice Group is seeking to lower the quorum at this stage so that meetings can be had. A quorum for a meeting is eleven (11) persons, and the Coordinator requires to be present to have a formal meeting.

The Justice Group is still awaiting a written response from the Queensland Government over a new carriage limit for our community. This was given in an undertaking by the Premier, Peter Beattie at a meeting held in August, 2004 where we agreed to await the outcome of a number of reviews that were being undertaken. It appears that Government has been dragging the chain over this issue, as our people continue to be fined and appearing in court over carriage of alcohol into the Mapoon community and surrounding some outlandish rules that are difficult to abide to or by. The situation of the liquor outlets only selling cartons by 30 Cans has been outlined to the government and the delays in approving our improved plan only endangers our community further and sets us at odds with local liquor policies.

Some of the possibilities are that the Justice Group could consider various options such as:-

- A. Talking with other communities to take a class action against the government over the issue.
- B. Take our own legal action on the basis of our own needs.
- C. Accepting or lowering of the current restrictions.
- D. Requesting changes to the declarations of "Dry Areas".
- E. Declaring Mapoon a "Dry Area", just like the Napranum community.

Many persons such as tourists and other Councils in Cape York have also given funds towards battling the government over this issue, and are asking for an outcome to the Alcohol Management Plan. Until such time as the changes are approved, the following current restrictions still apply to the **Mapoon Alcohol Management Plan**: -

1. **1 x Carton (24 Cans only) of Light to Mid-strength beer.**
2. **1 x 2 Litre Unfortified Wine.**

BASKETBALL FUN GAMES

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

5.00PM — 6.30PM

SPORTS & RECREATION HALL

SOFT DRINKS ON SALE \$2 EACH

**ALL MEN AND WOMEN IN THE
MAPOON COMMUNITY ARE WEL-
COME TO COME ALONG AND HAVE
A FUN TIME EVERY WEDNESDAY
WEEK DAY**

AEROBICS CLASSES

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

5.00PM — 6.15PM

SPORTS & RECREATION HALL

**COSTS: \$2.50 PER PERSON PER
SESSION.**

**(Funds goes towards equipment)
Children & Others who do not par-
ticipate or are not of any participant
are not allowed.**

**For transport assistance would you
please contact Jessica 40 909 124**

POSITION VACANT

**MAPOON JUSTICE GROUP
CO-ORDINATOR**

Details of job description and wage structure can be obtained from the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council Office.

Please place all your inquiries with Stuart Wright CEO and if need be, discuss with your Justice Group member what this position may involve.

MAPOON COMMUNITY NEWS

JANIE CREEK REFUGEES

The West Papuan refugees who came in at Janie Creek were given temporary asylum in Australia. The refugees were in Perth in Western Australia and have now made their way to Melbourne in Victoria. The granting of asylum by the Government has created a diplomatic furore with Indonesia.

OFFICE PLANTS AND TREES

Persons and children who are swinging on branches of trees and breaking the plants in front of the office are asked to leave them alone. Some of the trees are not so strong and people could also damage themselves while they are swinging in the trees. Leave this sort of behaviour to the monkeys.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Maria Guivarra was given a big birthday party at the Sports and Recreation Hall for her 50th on Saturday 8th April, 2006. Many of her family and friends came from down south to wish her many happy returns.

COMES A BIRTHDAY ONCE AGAIN

Willy Hudson turned 60 years of age this 13th May, 2006 and planned his big day too. We wish him all the best for hitting this milestone in his life.

CENTRELINK HOURS OF OPERATION

General hours of service for the Centrelink Office are **9.00am to 12.00pm** every morning due to the unavailability of staff to manage the Centrelink Office and also to confine these works to this period to allow our workers to perform other duties. So please be mindful of the hours and come and tend to your Centrelink business during these hours as only emergencies will be handled outside of hours.

COMALCO GRANT GIVEN TO SPORTS AND RECREATION

Comalco has approved a grant of \$2,000 to assist in purchasing the Rugby League Football jerseys, socks and shorts for the Mapoon Rugby League Seniors. If anyone is interested in doing a design for the jerseys and shorts, please sketch it out and hand it to Jessica Guivarra at the Mapoon Council Office.

Mapoon Sports and Recreation will be doing future fundraising until we get sufficient funds needed for these uniforms, which is estimated between \$2,500.00 - \$3,500.00.

SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

If any persons are interested in joining the Mapoon Sports and Recreation Committee, please notify Kara Oastler or put your name on the list on the billboard at the front of the office.

CDEP TRAINING

Mapoon CDEP will be holding three (3) Training Courses. These include:-

1. Chain Saw Maintenance and Tree Felling
2. Blue Card Induction
3. Traffic Controllers

All CDEP workers interested in enrolling for any of these courses, please contact Denis Field for details.

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS CENSUS

A census will be conducted on the 8th August, 2006 to count the number of people living in Australia. It is very important that the community numbers living out at Mapoon are counted. Concise numbers will assist the community get it's fair share of all Housing, Education and Health funds from the Government.

The census will allow a period of time for the statistics in our indigenous communities to be collected. So be sure to participate correctly in this important exercise. Field Workers will also be sought to carry out the Census Survey, so a bit of work will become available for those interested in this type of work. For further information on the census, please contact Ray Sambo on telephone 0420 104 843.

MAY IS FAMILY & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

The month of May is the Family and Domestic violence month. It is a good time to reflect on our actions and treatment of each other, our children, elders and loved ones. Let us make every attempt to correct unsavory acts and behavior towards those we love and care about.

JUSTICE GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

Little interest was shown in the position of Mapoon Justice Group Coordinator. The Justice Group have requested Ricky Guivarra to resume the role in the interim and the position is expected to be re-advertised soon.

Please refer all inquiries on legal and court matters to Ricky at the Mapoon Council Office.

IT'S A BOY

Congratulations to David Grego and Lily Miller for their new family addition - a baby boy.

SHERIFF ON LEAVE

The Sheriff is currently on leave, so please be careful with all of the vehicles during this time and be mindful of the capabilities of the mechanics workshop whilst he is away.

WEIPA COURT DAY

All those seeking assistance to attend please contact the Interim Justice Group Coordinator, Ricky Guivarra to arrange transport and meeting court commitments.

General News Items

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board of the Australia Council has announced that Indigenous arts will receive \$300 000. The funding will be used over three years to protect and promote Indigenous intellectual and cultural property.

The Other Side of the Coin, as the strategy is known, will promote advocacy, the development of consumer information, and educational resources for Indigenous artists. It is designed to help artists better understand their rights and the arts marketplace, and comes at a time when there is a renewed focus on abuse and corruption in the Indigenous arts market in Australia. It is also hoped that the strategy will improve the social, cultural and economic positions of Indigenous artists and their communities.

Consultations will occur over the next two years, as well as the development and provision of intellectual property toolkits, consumer awareness materials, arts advocacy, legal assistance, and documents on cultural procedures.

Dr Chris Sarra, Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board, said: "*The Other Side of the Coin* aims to build significant government and industry partnerships to ensure that all stakeholders are informed of the situations of Indigenous artists and the 'best practice' possibilities that can be developed within the three-year strategy...Ultimately, *The Other Side of the Coin* will ensure Indigenous artists have greater control over their artwork – and that they share in the income their work generates."

Australia Council CEO Jennifer Bott described *The Other Side of the Coin* "an outstanding example of our new 'arts catalyst' strategy in action – a focus on the big picture and making a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the Australia arts community".

FUNDS GIVE NEW LIFE TO COMMUNITY ICONS

Member for Cook, Jason O'Brien, today urged Far North Queensland community groups to apply for a state government grant to restore local public monuments and memorials. Mr O'Brien said grants of up to \$25,000 were available through the third round of the Community Memorial Restoration Program administered by the Department of Public Works. He said it was a re-election commitment of the Beattie Government to introduce the \$1.5 million program to preserve Queensland's memorials.

"Since it began in late 2004, grants totalling more than \$730,000 have been allocated to 80 memorial restoration projects across Queensland," Mr O'Brien said. "I'm sure there are many other local memorials that would benefit with this support. **Applications for the third round of grants close on Wednesday 31 May.**"

Mr O'Brien said community organisations enter a partnership with the state government for restoration projects and are given dollar-for-dollar funding to match community-generated funds. "By maintaining our community memorials and monuments we can ensure local history is retained for the benefit of future generations," he said.

"Local government authorities, incorporated or formally constituted community organisations can apply for grants to repair and restore icons such as monuments, memorials, honour rolls, halls, gates, obelisks, plaques, fountains, statues, gardens or clocks. All expressions of interest that meet the guidelines will be evaluated and assessed."

"If successful applicants will be asked to submit fully costed, detailed project plans to support their application." Mr O'Brien said expressions of interest forms were available from his electorate office or downloaded from the following website <http://www.publicworks.qld.gov.au/services/CommunityMemorials.cfm>

Member for Cook Jason O'Brien has announced that Department of Main Roads crews have swung into full action mode to restore road access to residents on the cyclone-ravaged Cape York Peninsula. "Our top priority will be to get the Peninsula Development Road open and trafficable to Coen as soon as possible to allow fuel and supplies to be brought in. Grader crews are already on standby at Lakeland, Laura, Fairview, Coen and four in Weipa, and the next few days will see their first movements in returning the PDR to 4-WD access", Mr O'Brien said.

Repair efforts are scheduled to commence simultaneously on Monday from Lakeland north, Laura north, and Coen south to get a 4-WD track through to Coen from Musgrave as soon as possible. Once the road has dried sufficiently to withstand the heavy construction equipment loads Main Roads will mobilize construction crews to repair the culvert damage between Musgrave and Coen, and to prepare estimates and finalize planning for the repair effort. Residents, particularly those around Coen, have been extremely hard-hit by Cyclone Monica and the resultant flooding, and the main focus is to assist these people in getting their lives and businesses back on track.

Main Roads reports that the road will remain closed to all but local and emergency traffic for at least the next two weeks, and warning signs will be erected on all the damaged sections while repairs are underway.

INDIGENOUS ALCOHOL ABUSE

RATES of alcohol abuse in indigenous communities are no worse than in the rest of Australia, new figures show. The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004-05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey released yesterday showed about 15 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders reported drinking at risky or high risk levels.

This compared to 14 per cent in non-indigenous communities. However, the survey of nearly 10,500 people found that risky drinking by Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders had increased slightly since the last study in 2001. It found that Aboriginal people were more than twice as likely to be daily smokers, with smoking being more prevalent among men and women in every age group.

Crunching the results of the largest health and socio-economic survey targeting indigenous people ever conducted, the report said around one in four indigenous people lived in remote areas compared with only one in 50 non-indigenous people. With Queensland accounting for the second highest indigenous population – about 126,000 people – the report said the indigenous population was relatively young, with a median age of 21 compared to 36 for the non-indigenous population. Aborigines were more likely to suffer from a range of health problems than the rest of the population, however, those living in rural and remote communities appeared to fare better than their urban counterparts.

The report showed that fewer people living in remote communities said they suffered from long-term poor health conditions and a greater percentage of indigenous people in remote communities reported an excellent to very good health status, compared to those in non-remote areas – 43 per cent compared to 32 per cent.

Fewer people in remote communities reported alcohol abuse. However, overall those reporting their health as "fair or poor" was nearly double the rate of non-indigenous Australians. Eye and sight problems were the most commonly reported conditions, followed by asthma, back problems, heart diseases and ear and hearing problems. Indigenous people were three times more likely to have diabetes than non-indigenous people, with nearly one third of those 55 years and older having the disease. One in 10 indigenous children under 15 had ear and/or hearing problems, about three times the rate of non-indigenous.

MAPOON SCHOOL NEWS

Mapoon campus held a fun run to help prepare the students for the Cross Country event. The P&C put on a great BBQ lunch and frozen cups etc that was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the P&C, Mapoon Council Staff and families of West Cape College for their assistance in organizing this day.



Photo Above: Year 1, 2, 3 Boys.
Photo Below: Year 1, 2, 3 Girls (with Royston Sagigi.)



Photo Left: School Children wearing their new shoes ordered by the Mapoon P & C. They are Tariq, Jessica, Moesha, Peter and Brian.
Photo Below: Some of the Mapoon schoolboys Class of 2006.
School Fun Run: Winners: Preschool: 1 & 2 Lilah Jia and Nasonah Ase. 1 & 2 & 3: Olivia Nawaki and Brian Davidson. 4 & 5 & 6: Elizabeth Day and Peter Guivarra (jnr).

