

The Western Cape *Bulletin*



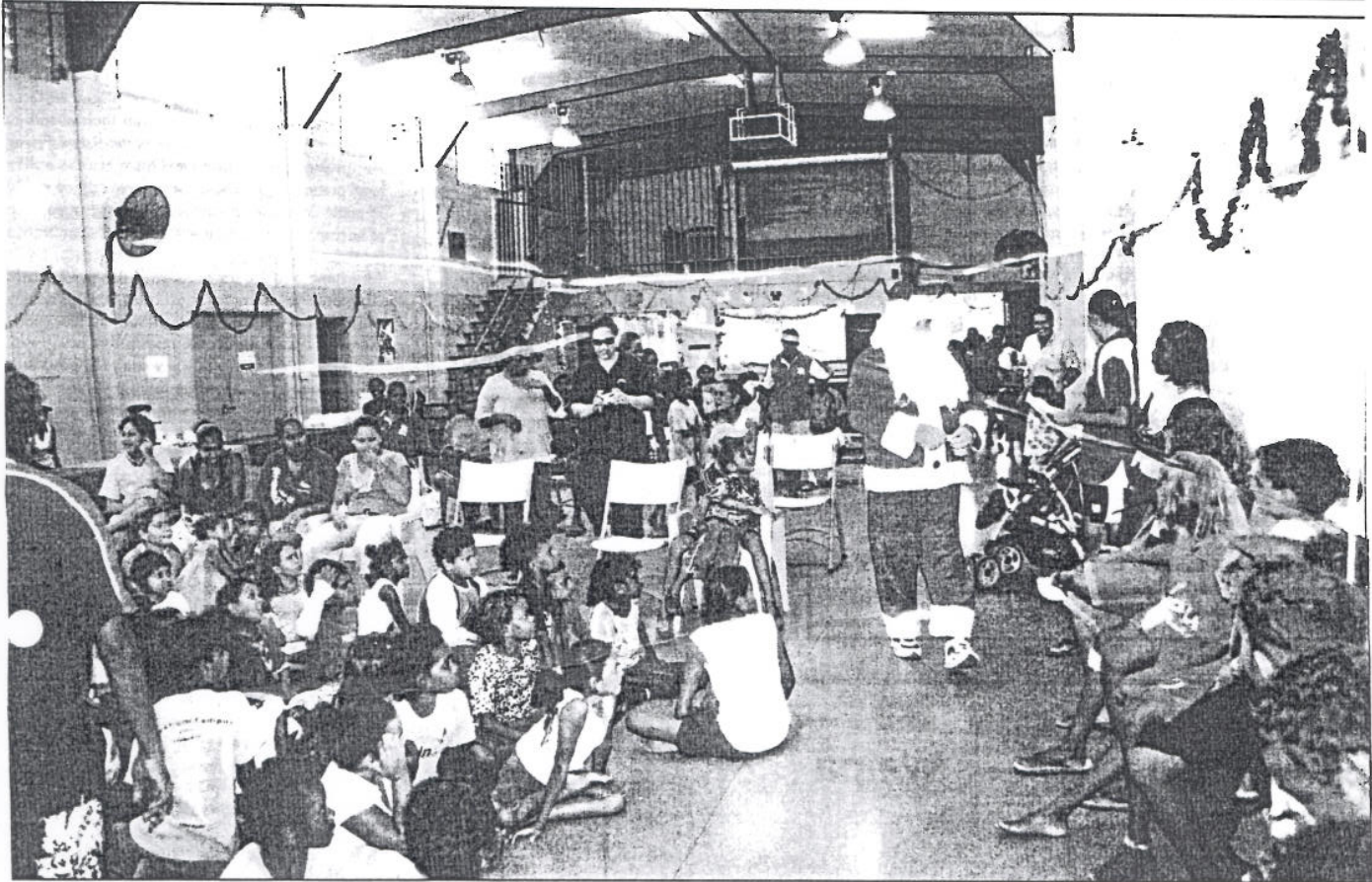
News - Phone 07 4069 7722 Advertising - Phone 07 4069 7788 Fax 07 4069 7022 Email - bulletin@bigpond.net.au

Edition 68

Thursday, December 21st 2006

Price: \$2.50 inc GST

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Last Friday the Napranum PCYC CAPE project held their Christmas party and Santa dropped in. Napranum Champion Bob McCarthy, the Director General of the Department of State Development, brought along presents that Santa handed out to all the children.

The CAPE program is an initiative of Senior Sergeant David Bird who has devoted most of his careers to helping the youth of Cape York.

The PCYC CAPE Program aims to reduce juvenile crime and suicide by introducing community activities in Napranum.

It was developed after similar activities were successful in other north Queensland communities.

Since 1996, Senior Sergeant Bird, the Crime Prevention Coordinator for Far Northern Police Region, and PLO Lively have been working closely with locals to introduce activities that lower the incidence of crime by reducing boredom.

Youth clubs were established in the larger towns such as Yarrabah, Morningson Island and Palm Island, and after seeing their positive impact on local youth, Dave approached then Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Minister Judy Spence for help to

extend the initiative to smaller communities in the region.

Senior Sergeant Bird said it was at this point, late in 2000, that they began to develop the CAPE model.

"The program is about developing community capacity through the Police-Citizens Youth Club so local people have the skills and knowledge to run the activities themselves. We train sport and recreation officers to be able to manage the activities, supervise youth and maintain buildings," he said.

"The program not only benefits youth, but also the wider community. We are working on all aspects of the community including helping the elderly, better childcare and domestic violence issues."

The program has been very successful both at local and national levels.