

# Napranum community celebrates



By MATT NICHOLLS

THE life of respected Napranum elder Mary Ann Coconut was honoured in her community last Wednesday, kicking off celebrations for DOGIT Day and a belated NAIDOC Week.

Cr Coconut was the centre of attention for the opening of the new library in the community, named in her honour.

More than 100 people gathered on the grass area behind the new council building for the opening of the library.

There, speakers spoke glowingly of Cr Coconut's contribution to the Napranum community and Cape York life in general.

Richard Barkly performed a traditional dance to open proceedings, before historian Geoff Wharton gave an abbreviated, but detailed history of Napranum to remind people what DOGIT (Deed of Grant in Trust) Day meant to the community.

He was followed by Ross Duncan,

a director of the State Library of Queensland, who has supported the opening of a library in Napranum.

But the talking point was the speech by Annalise Jennings, who has spent the last few years working with the Napranum community.

Ms Jennings spoke of the friendship she had formed with Cr Coconut and how she felt like part of her family.

She praised the elder for her leadership in the community.

Cr Coconut said she was humbled to have the library named after her.

"It gives me great joy to share this day with my brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren," she said.

"Many people in Napranum don't have a computer, so (the library) will allow them to come in and use the internet."

Cr Coconut, *far left*, was surrounded by friends and family as she cut the opening "ribbon" for the Mary Ann Coconut (nee Hall) Library.



ABOVE - Annalise Jennings gave a glowing endorsement.

RIGHT - Mary Ann Coconut also led a song at the opening of the library named in her honour.

BELOW - Queensland State Library director Ross Duncan said he was proud to offer support for the Napranum Library.



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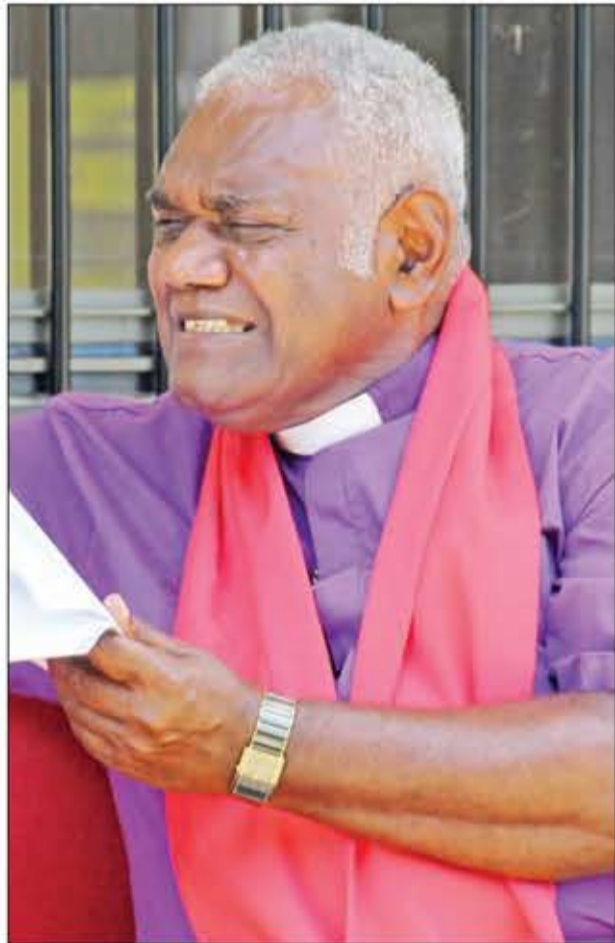
**Saturday 7th November**  
**9am - 12 noon**  
**Weipa Hibberd Library**

- Art Activities
- Science Experiments
- JT the Robot
- Ages 0 - 99 welcome

Refreshments available at Weipa Community Centre

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# with fun, festivities and fireworks



Richard Barkly performed a traditional dance on DOGIT Day.

Cape historian Geoff Wharton at Napranum on Wednesday.

