

WEIPA INFORMATION

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Willem Jansz, Captain of the Duyfken made the first recorded sighting of the Australian coast at the Pennefather River, some 40 kilometres north-east of Weipa, in 1606. The earliest English visitor to the area was Captain Matthew Flinders, R.N., who sailed the Investigator into Albatross Bay noting the Bay and named Duyfken Point in the ship's log also the sighting of 'some reddish cliffs' south of the Bay at Pera Head.

Remoteness from markets, poor soils and the rough terrain of Northern Cape York Peninsula discouraged overlanders and settlers for most of the nineteenth century. The ill-fated Edmund Kennedy (1848) and pastoralists Frank and Alex Jardine (1864-65) were the only explorers on the northern Cape York until the 1870's. In 1863 a Queensland Government Residency was established by John Jardine at Somerset on Cape York's north-eastern extremity, to provide a port for passing shipping, and a strategic defence post.

The first European settlement in Weipa area was by James Burne who took up Batavia Downs in 1882. This was followed by the Sudley cattle property, by Cox and Lakeland in 1884. An official Government survey of these runs was conducted by J.T. Embley in 1885-86.

For years after Weipa's establishment C.F.V. Jackson, assistant Queensland Government Geologist, referred to the presence of 'brown pisolitic ironstone' between Mission and Embley Rivers, but follow-up investigations were not carried out. Prophetically, Jackson wrote:
But I think it probable that if these deposits were systematically examined and sampled they would be found to include masses of higher-grade ores: and if such were the case, they might ultimately prove of some value, especially on account of their ready accessibility from the sea.

Substantial deposits of gold were discovered on the Batavia (Wenlock) River, 140 kilometres south-east of Weipa in 1910. By 1940 the field had yielded 40,700 fine ounces of gold.

In 1947, Dr. F.W. Whitehouse collected samples of good grade bauxite at the mouth of the Archer River, to the south of Weipa. As a result, a geological survey was again considered but this was abandoned when samples requested from the three mission stations happened to be low grade.

It was not until 1955 that the significance of Weipa's reddish cliffs was recognised by geologist H.J. Evans. While leading a party on a reconnaissance of possible oil-bearing structures, he skirted the west coast towards the end of his expedition 'just to see what the country looked like'.

Mr. M.A. Mawby (later Sir Maurice) of Consolidated Zinc Pty. Limited had suggested to Evans that bauxite and phosphate be looked for as they are minerals which concentrate in a lateritic environment, such as at Weipa.

On July 16th, that year, Evans discovered a large outcrop of bauxite near Weipa. He continued to collect ore samples over a widespread area before returning to Melbourne. When analysis revealed the ore to be high grade, he returned to continue exploration, guided by a local Aboriginal elder, Matthew. He examined 84 kilometres in a three-metre dinghy.

Realising the significance of the deposit he noted in his diary:
As the journey down the coast revealed miles of bauxite cliffs, I kept thinking that, if all this was bauxite, then there must be something the matter with it, otherwise it would have been discovered and appreciated long ago.

Enterprise Exploration Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Consolidated Zinc, was responsible for the subsequent proving operations. In June 1956, the first Enterprise employees arrived on board the coastal vessel, Wewak. By August, development of a base known as Top Camp had begun east of today's Napranum Township on the banks of the Embley River. At the end

of the year, Consolidated Zinc formed a new company called Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Limited to develop the Weipa deposits. The Comalco is derived from the initial letters of the company.

Exploration and planning activities to confirm the viability of the Weipa deposit were largely complete by 1961. The first trial shipment of 9,849 tons of bauxite was sent to Japan on the Chusenu Maru in April. Within five years, a new town was built at Rocky Point while bauxite processing and shipping facilities were constructed at Lorim Point. The first shipment of 10,000 tons of Weipa bauxite to the Gladstone Alumina refinery in December 1966 marked the second significant step towards establishing fully integrated aluminium in Queensland. The final step was achieved in 1984 when Comalco, with partners, commenced aluminium production at its smelter near Gladstone. All of this enterprise is linked with Harry Evan's great discovery in 1955.

ROCKY POINT

The township development began in 1965 at Rocky Point. The original single persons quarters, married quarters, two pre-schools, school and police station are still located here as is the courthouse. Rocky Point has one of Weipa's boat ramps.

At Rocky Point you will also find the Town Office, Community Centre which serves a fantastic coffee and the Hibberd Library the home of the Cape York Collection.

TRUNDING

Trunding is the site of the second neighbourhood development for Weipa and where the newer Comalco housing can be seen. Also at Trunding is the Albatross Hotel and two of Weipa's excellent sporting facilities – the Golf Club and the Weipa Bowls Club.

GOLF LINKS ESTATE

The latest neighbourhood development catering for Weipa's expansion as new mining areas come into production.

NANUM

Weipa's Heritage Shopping Centre, McNamara Shopping Centre, Heritage Resort, sporting complex and camping ground are all located at Nanum. Across Central Avenue from Nanum is the Weipa's medical precinct and hospital.

West from Nanum, an unsurfaced road provides a scenic route to Evans Landing via the western end of the Weipa Peninsula and passes the man-made lakes, Lake Patricia and Lake McLeod. These are fresh water lakes formed from a shallow sub-aquifer water table, which rose to flood a mined area. During the following dry seasons, deepening of the lakes was carried out and today these provide a pleasant recreational area. Please note, camping is not permitted in this area and on occasions during wet seasons crocodiles are sighted, so check signage before swimming.

EVANS LANDING

Evans Landing was the site of the pilot Beneficiation Plant and the original Shiploader, which were in use from 1962 to 1967. At the same time, and later, Evans Landing was home to the contractors working on building and expanding the operation. Recently Evans Landing is being redeveloped as Single Accommodation for employees of the NeWeipa Project.

Today, Evans Landing is a light industrial/retail area and the location of the soon to be reopened Western Cape Cultural Centre which overlooks the Embley River near the fishing wharves and boat ramps, here visitors will again be able have an insight into the history of Cape York and its Indigenous people. Currently Weipa Art and Information Centre offers tourist information and an outlet for local artists also a display on ghost nets, customs and fisheries programs.

LORIM POINT

Originally Comalco now Rio Tinto Alcan administration offices, supply warehouse, workshop and processing area, powerhouse, shiploading facility and import wharf can all be found at Lorim Point. The majority of this area is closed to unauthorised traffic with the exception being John Evans Drive.

NAPRANUM

Napranum, formally Weipa South Mission is a community of people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island origins. Aborigines and Islanders make up about 25% of Weipa's population.

Mining Areas

The mining operation is clearly evident before you reach the first haul road crossing, please take care around mining operations and comply with all signage. Private vehicles are not permitted to enter mining or plant areas. Do not drive (or walk) on the haul roads or the walls of tailings dams. Please note there is no public access to Lorim Point Export Wharf or Humbug Point Import Wharf.

On no account should you attempt to cross the railway line. The ore trains that use this line travel at speeds of up to 80kph, the locomotive weights 150 tonnes and pulls 33 cars with 100 tonnes of bauxite in each when they are fully loaded. A fatal accident occurred in 1977 when a traveller attempted to cross the line. We do not want another fatal accident.

Fire Arms

No firearms are to be discharged within 50 kilometres of the Weipa township.

Fires

Open fires are not permitted except in fireplaces provided. Always ensure that your fire is fully extinguished before you leave it.

Please do not throw lighted cigarettes or matches out of your vehicle. Remember, fire can be fatal to humans as well as native animal life, and can cause extensive damage to the bush and regenerated areas.

Swimming

Estuarine crocodiles, marine stingers, venomous sea snakes and sharks inhabit the waters around Weipa – for your own safety, do not swim in the rivers or the sea. The town swimming pool at Rocky Point is available to visitors during normal opening hours. Lake Patricia and Lake Mcleod are used for swimming and sailing but not power boats. Please check signage as there have been sighting of crocodiles in the lakes during the wet season.

Be Crocodile Wise

Crocodiles inhabit all the waterways around Weipa. In areas where estuarine crocodiles may be present you should:

- Be aware of crocodiles – keep your eyes open
- Do not feed or otherwise interfere with crocodiles, small or large
- Avoid areas where large crocodiles or their nest have been seen
- Camp at least 50m from the water's edge
- Stand a few meters back from the water's edge when fishing and don't stand on logs overhanging deep pools
- Do not clean fish, prepare food or engage in other activities on the water's edge and adjacent banks
- Dispose of food scraps and animal carcasses (including fish) away from areas where people gather
- Swim only in areas of shallow rapids well away from deep water
- Swim in groups rather than alone
- Keep arms and legs inside boat hulls

Mining

The Weipa mining operation by Rio Tinto Alcan is conducted on a mining lease of around 2,590 square kilometres (1000 square miles).

The larger part of the operation mines bauxite, using an open-cut method, washes and grades the bauxite, pumps fine material in a slurry to large settling dams and loads the washed bauxite into bulk ore carriers (around 70,000 tonnes capacity) for shipment to Gladstone and overseas ports. Bauxite is mined on the Weipa Peninsula and at Andoom, which is connected to the Peninsula by road and railway line, running north over the Mission River Bridge. The Andoom mining area accessed via the road to Mapoon is closed to unauthorised traffic.



ANIMALS

Registration

All dogs are to be registered at the Weipa Town Office with a yearly registration, and your dog is to carry the identification tag at all times. When walking your dog within the town, it is to be on a leash at all times. Registration for a full dog is \$30.00 per year and a Desexed dog is \$15.00 per year. Certificate from the Vet will have to be supplied in order to get the Discounted amount.

Allowable number of dogs

Flat or Duplex you can only have 1 dog with a extra dog application for a second dog if applicable. House you can have 2 dogs. All dogs are to be restrained in your yard and an adequate enclosure is to be provided. If your dog is found wandering at large you will receive a fine of \$200.00 for each offence.

Nuisance Dogs

If your dog is barking or howling continuously and disturbing the neighbors you will be sent a warning letter and given a number of days to fix the problem.

WATERING TIMES/GREENBELTS/YARDS

Watering times for the town are from 6:00am—9:00am and 6:00pm—9:00pm everyday. If you are caught watering out of these times you may receive a fine.

With Weipa's good climate and watering times this allows us to grow gardens and keep green lawns. If complaints are received about unsightly/messy yards, Weipa town authority will advise the tenant to clean up the yard, if this is not done a contractor will be hired to do this work and the costs will be back charged to the tenant.

Weipa Town Authority maintains and waters all greenbelts around town. Greenbelts are not to be driven on at any time. Anyone seen driving on any greenbelts around town will be charged for the rehabilitation of the greenbelt.

No personal belongings (cars/boats/motorbikes etc) are to be kept outside your yard or on the greenbelts. Town Authority carry out clean ups of greenbelts and if anything is left outside your yard it will be removed and labor to do so will be back charged to the tenant.

NUISANCE LAWS

If you have any complaints regarding loud music etc you are to report the problem to the Weipa Police. Please keep in mind that you have neighbors that may do shift work Loud noises such as boat motors, motor bikes, chainsaws etc can not be started before 7:00am or after 10:00pm on any day.

GARBAGE/FIRES

Garbage collections are **Monday and Thursday Trunding and Nanum and Tuesday and Friday Rocky Point and Golf Links**. Do not throw fish scraps/prawn shells etc in bins. Freeze them prior and put in the bin on the rubbish collection day. Place your bin at the front of your yard with the bin lid facing to the road. If your bin is not placed out on time or the wrong way it will not be picked up. If your bin is damaged or stolen you can call Town Authority and order a new one. No fires are permitted in town. Any questions regarding fires around Weipa are to be raised with Emergency Services.

GYM

The Weipa Fitness Center is located at the SPQ Rocky Point Mess for times please call 40697868. Gym Memberships can be purchased at the Town Office.

Day pass	\$7.00
1 Month	\$45.00
3 Month	\$120.00
6 Month	\$230.00
12 Month	\$450.00

SPORTS

Touch Football is played every Wednesday night at the Footy oval.
Contact James Mathews Ph: 40698131

Junior Rugby League is played Friday nights at the Footy oval.
Contact Western Cape College Ph: 40906444

Junior Cricket is played Saturday mornings at the Cricket oval.
Contact Angela Third ph: 40699562

Junior Soccer is played Saturday afternoon at the High school oval.
Contact Jenny Aspinall Ph: 40699473

Junior Swimming Club is held Sunday afternoons at the swimming pool.
Contact Rosa Murray Ph: 40699884

Tennis is played Thursday nights at the Rocky Point Tennis Courts and Nanum Tennis Courts. Contact Robyn Flemming Ph: 40699284

Squash is played every Tuesday night at the Nanum Squash Courts.
Contact Jay Murray Ph: 40699210

Lawn Bowls social day is on Sundays at the Bowls Club.
Contact Ph: 40697304

Golf Contact Ph: 40697332

Motor X is held once a month at the speedway on the outside track.

Contact Karon Penton Ph: 40699960

Social Aerobics is held at the Assembly Hall,
Contact Kim Prentice Ph: 40697109

Weipa Dance Academy.

Contact Michelle Reynolds Ph: 40697895

Albatross Bay Dance Studio.

Contact Amanda Seawright Ph: 40698145

Gymnastics is held at the old picture theatre.
Contact Carroll Brooks Ph: 40699413

CHURCHES

Anglican/Uniting—St Lukes Ph: 40697228

Catholic—St Joseph's Ph: 40699442

Diocese of Carpentaria Ph 40697228

Jehovah's Witnesses Ph: 40699791

Uniting Church—St Barnabas Ph: 40698106

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Weipa Community Care Ph: 40699877 and Second Hand Shop Ph: 40697046. are both open 9:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday. Drop in and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Weipa Library Ph: 40309408. Open Monday 2pm to 4:30pm, Thursdays 9am to 7:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 9am to 4:30pm and Saturday 9am to 12:30pm. Closed each day for lunch between 1pm and 2pm.

Weipa Court House Ph: 40699999

Weipa Police Station Ph: 40699119 OR 000

Weipa Dentist Ph: 40697459

Weipa Private Doctor Surgery Ph: 40823700

Weipa Hospital Ph: 40823900

Centerlink Ph: 40697260

Napranum Health Clinic Ph: 40697459

Weipa Ambulance Ph: 40699196 OR 000

Family Day Care Ph: 40699272

Qld Country Credit Union Ph: 40697555

Weipa Post Office (which services Commonwealth Bank) Ph: 40697110

Weipa Town Office Ph: 40309401 Open 8:30am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday

ATM's are located at Weipa Bowls Club, Service Centre on Boundary Road and Evans

Landing and the Albatross Hotel Drive through, Golf Club, QCCU.

EDUCATION

SCHOOL HOURS 8:00am—2:30pm Monday to

Friday

Cape Kids Childcare Centre Ph: 40699911

Weipa Kindy Preschool Ph: 40697395
Western Cape College Preschool Ph: 40697395
Western Cape College Junior Ph: 40906444
Western Cape College Senior Ph: 40906444

Aurukun Campus Ph: 40606127
Napranum Kindergarten Ph: 40697336
Napranum Campus: 40697126
RATEP: 40697659
Mapoon Campus: 40909129
Weipa Multi Purpose Facility Ph: 40906800

TRANSPORT

Qantas Weipa Travel Centre Ph: 40697266
Weipa Rent A Car Ph: 40697311
Thrifty Link Ph: 40699977
Gulf Freight Ph: 40697309
Tuxworths Ph: 40697183
Bowyers Transport Ph: 40921033
Endeavor Shipping Ph: 0428321661
Sea Swift

TOWN SERVICES

Chief Executive Officer

Ian Pressley Ph: 40309402

Director/Corporate & Financial Serv.

Joanne Jacobson Ph.40309406

Building and Town Planning

Phone:40309410

Animal Control

Weipa town authority

Ph: 40309410

Accounts Payables/Receivables

Andrea Cardenzana Ph: 40309407

Administration Officer

Maria Wehlow Ph: 40309401

Library

Trish Bassett Ph: 40309408

Commercial Infrastructure

Narelle Dealy ph: 40698952

Weipa Community Care

Ph: 40699877

Swimming Pool

Ph: 40309401

Town Office email

weipatown@bigpond.com

AFTER HOURS CONTACTS EMERGENCIES ONLY

Busted Water or Sewer Pipes

0429406998

Wandering/Problem Dogs

0429406998

Note:

Town Office only look after infrastructure outside the property boundary, if you have problems with anything within your yard/house, you need to call Spotless House Maintenance, if in a Rio Tinto owned house).

THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The Aboriginal people have inhabited the Australian continent for a period estimated to be at least 40,000 years. Apart from occasional contacts with Dutch and English seafarers, the Cape York Aborigines' traditional hunting and gathering existence continued until the late nineteenth century. A 1900 report by W.E. Roth, Northern Protector of Aborigines, on the tribes occupying the country between the Batavia (Wenlock) and Embley Rivers indicates that the Aborigines skilfully utilised the products of their environment. Birds, kangaroos, turtles, fish and shellfish were animal food sources, while plant genera such as Acacia, Bombax, Dioscorea, Eucalyptus, Livistona, Macaranga, Melaleuca and Parinari not only provided food but also medicines, shelter, weapons, clothing and water-craft.

A remarkable feature of the Weipa area is the mounds of cockie shells (*anadara granosa*) which are located adjacent to the Pine, Mission, Hey and Embley Rivers. Archaeological research indicates that these shell mounds are amongst the largest in the world and were formed between 2,000 and 400 years ago by successive generations of Aborigines. The mounds are protected as archaeological relics under the Queensland Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1967-1976 and have been entered in the Register of the National Estate.

In the 1870's and 1880's the development of the beche-de-mer, pearling and pastoral industries greatly increased contact between Weipa Aborigines and Europeans. The fishing industries actively recruited Aboriginal Labour, with little government supervision. Aborigines were sometimes kidnapped, often misunderstood the nature of their future employment and were unable to communicate effectively with either their English speaking employers or government officials. Friction and violence arose on the fishing vessels due to callous treatment by European and 'Malay' fisherman.

Eventually, after deaths on both sides, officials such as the Honourable John Douglas, Thursday Island Government Resident (1885-1904) endeavoured to protect the Western Peninsular Aborigines by encouraging the Presbyterian Church to establish a chain of mission stations. The first of these was opened by Moravian missionaries Reverend J.N. Hey (pronounced Hi) and Reverend J.G. Ward at Mapoon in 1891, to be followed by Weipa and Aurukun.

Rev. Hey sought to extend the influence of the mission farther down the coast, so he set out in September 1895 with a Mapoon Aborigine and a Thursday Island prospector to find a suitable station site. He rode via York Downs, and was accompanied from there by surveyor J.T. Embley. The party came upon what is now known as the Embley River near Brownstone Creek and followed up the south side in an unsuccessful search for a site... Retracing their steps, the group finally found a good locality where Spring Creek enters the Embley River, about 20 miles (32kms) inland from the coast.

History does not relate whether the area was named Weipa by the Mapoon Aboriginal guide or if Hey's informant was a member of the local tribe. Hey wrote later that Weipa (pronounced Waypa) meant hunting ground.

A few years elapsed until the necessary finance was obtained to create a new Weipa Mission Station. Construction began on 10th June, 1898 with the arrival of Reverend Edwin Brown and seven Mapoon men. Rev. E. and Mrs Thekla Brown had served as assistant missionaries at Mapoon from April 1896. They ministered at Weipa from 1898 until 1918 when they returned to England.

Weipa Mission grew as tribes' people from as far away as Mein Telegraph Station and Pine River gradually came into the community. The mission was regularly visited by people from Mein, York Downs, Merluna and later, Batavia Goldfields as it was their nearest point to off-load supplies brought in by boat from Thursday Island. The missionaries attempted agricultural development, handcrafts such as crochet and leather work and after 1910, a small sandalwood industry.

Difficulties with infertile soils, intermittent water supplies, termites, malaria and the tortuous shipping channel forced missionary Reverend S.E. McKay to seek an alternative location at Jessica Point (Napranum) on the Embley River. The move was effected in 1932 and the name of Weipa Mission Station was carried to the new site. Four years before the transfer, Weipa people had witnessed the arrival of the motor car. Although their missionary had driven a car from Laura to Weipa, the first tourist car to call in on its way to the tip of Cape York was an Austin Seven driven by Hector MacQuarrie and Dick Matthews.

The next twenty-three years saw the consolidation of Weipa, largely under the guiding hand of Superintendent J. Winn. The Second World War introduced new experiences to the mission people. Sixteen men volunteered for active service. Twice during the war, men from the mission travelled many kilometres by canoe and dinghy across crocodile and shark infested waters to rescue stranded United States Army Force bomber and fighter crews. A propeller from one of these aircraft, a Republic P-47D Thunderbolt, may be seen at the Weipa airport. The first airstrip at Jessica Point was constructed by hand in 1942, under the direction of James Winn.

This became an important link with the outside world, particularly aerial medical services. Until the 1950's, the main means of transport of people and goods continued to be by coastal steamer from Cairns to Thursday Island then by sailing lugger to the Gulf mission stations.

Winn's annual reports indicated that he strived to develop small-scale agricultural and pastoral industries, but they did not supply much more than the consumption needs of the mission itself. In spite of the missionaries' efforts, there was little capital available for development works and the lack of skilled staff for training inhibited the availability of permanent work and industrial experience for the Weipa Aborigines.

WESTERN CAPE HISTORY

The land of the Western Cape belongs to local Traditional Owner groups. Waypundun or Waypa is the original name of this area and is home of the AIngith people. The surrounding areas belong to a number of different groups including the

_ Thanikiwithi people, Traditional Owners of the Andoom area.

_ Peppan group who leased their land to the Royal Australian Airforce to establish the Scherger RAAF Base.

_ Anagthanighth people, traditional inhabitants of Myall Creek

Other local landownership groups include the Araithingwum, Liningith, Mbiywom, Mamngaith, Ndrra'ngith, Nggoth, Trotj and Ndrrava'Ngaith.

Weipa has close ties to numerous Aboriginal Communities on the Western Cape.

- Napranum (situated approx. 10kms from Weipa)
- Aurukun
- Mapoon
- Injinoo
- New Mapoon

Key Dates in History

10th June 1898 – Christian missionaries established the Embly River Mission at Spring Creek or what is now commonly known as Twenty Mile Creek.

July 1899 – Mrs JFG Foxtan wife of the Home Secretary, officially named the area 'Weipa'.

1955 – Wakmatha (Old Matthew) and George Wilson showed Harry Evans the bauxite country.

1956 – Enterprise Exploration and the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation (Comalco) established the 'Top Camp' at what is now Napranum.

1957 – Comalco was awarded a mining lease from the Queensland Government.

1958 – Mining began with the issue of a Special Bauxite Mining Lease to the company.

1963 – The mine's first shipment of bauxite leaves the Weipa port.

1965 – A new village at Weipa Mission was opened.

1966 – The Presbyterian Church handed management of the mission over to the Queensland Department of Native Affairs who subsequently re-named it Weipa South.

1967 – The new township of Weipa North was officially opened at Kumrumja (Rocky Point)

1990 – Weipa South became officially known as Napranum.

14th March 2001 – Western Cape Communities Co-Existence Agreement (WCCCA) was signed.