



MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter OCTOBER 2014 volume 6 issue 6



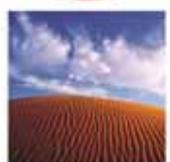
Having installed the new play equipment and shade structure in the park opposite the recently built Child Care Centre, Darren Young, Lawrence Webb and Mervyn Young (left to right) from our Civil Works team in Santa Teresa prepare to complete the family park by installing tables and chairs under the shade shelter.

As we continue to improve the standards of our services across the MacDonnell Regional Council, some recent activities have seen a single theme emerge:

MacDonnell is a great place for children and families

While we wait to see if any of our 3 finalist communities in this year's *Territory Tidy Town* competition win in their categories – or indeed take out the big award – this issue looks around our communities at playgrounds and family parks in different stages of development (on page 3). There are already various awards recognising the great work of our Community Services (on page 5), while throughout this issue we see some Children's Services activities, more staff training courses and we give a shout-out to some great MacDonnell Regional Council staff.

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Tjitjis everywhere around Titjikala

from our Titjikala Children's Services correspondent, Jenny Smith, Team Leader

Children's Services at Titjikala recently had a trip to Maryvale Station to see the animals. Soon before their visit to the station a couple of baby camels were born and the children (tjitjis) were able to see the mothers (ngunytyu) and their new tjitji camels.

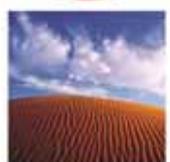
On another day, children from our Outside School Hours program were able to enjoy cooking and eating kangaroo tails after going for a walk to look for bush tucker and wild flowers.



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Developing communities
COUNCIL GOAL # 3

Liveable communities
COUNCIL GOAL # 2

A supportive organisation
COUNCIL GOAL # 4

MacDonnell is a great place for children and families continued

Installing family parks provide training for our Civil Works teams that provide in a comfortable place for families to gather and a safe place for children to play.



ABOVE: Santa Teresa Civil Works team during and after installation of their family park



ABOVE: Imanpa before and after their Civil Works team finished installing their family park which now has fruit trees

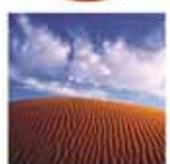


ABOVE: Wallace Rockhole Civil Works team re-purposed some old play equipment to create their new family park

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ABOVE: Civil Works teams at Finke (left) and Papunya (right) included Auskick areas nearby to their family parks



ABOVE: Civil Works team at Titjikala in front of their family park (left) and (right) celebrating the Titjikala 2013 Territory Tidy Town win with their community

It helps to have a well kept family park in a community, but it takes more to become a finalist in the Territory Tidy Towns competition. Hiemo Schober, CEO of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT recently visited all MacDonnell Council communities, as he travelled around the NT to judge for this year's Territory Tidy Towns competition. On his return he remarked that "MacDonnell Regional Council communities just keep looking better!"

"I was pleased to see how much each of the communities had improved – it is exciting to see, but it makes my job so much harder when I have to decide which has done the best" he said.

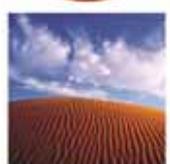
Hiemo's final decision will be announced at a special award dinner in Darwin on Friday 24 October. Three of our communities – Finke, Haasts Bluff and Titjikala – have been named as finalists. Workers from each of those communities will travel to Darwin for the award ceremony while people across the MacDonnell Regional Council will be asking the question:

Who will be the winner of the 2014 Territory Tidy Town?

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Our Community Services get recognised through various awards:



Utju a finalist in Education and Care Awards

The Early Childhood Program in Areyonga (Utju) under the leadership of Team Leader, Patty O'Neil, was recently shortlisted for the *Outstanding Education and Care Service – Budget Based Funded Services' Award* in the 2014 Northern Territory Education and Care Awards.

The Awards recognise outstanding and innovative approaches in Education and Care services that have been developed and implemented in the Northern Territory. While Utju didn't win the major award at the special event in Darwin, the Children's Services Program of MacDonnell Council received strong recognition, being the only remote Early Childhood program in the finals.

Big thanks to Patty and her team for their committed efforts and achievements and to their fearless and inspiring Manager, Margaret Harrison.

Marg a national finalist for her hard work...

Having been named the Northern Territory finalist, our Manager Children's Services, Margaret Harrison (at right) was recently one of five national finalists heading to Melbourne for the 2014 HESTA Australian Early Childhood Education and Care Awards.



Nominated in the *Excellence in Building Inclusion* category of the Awards, Margaret Harrison said with humility "It's wonderful to see our children so well supported with all the generations in the communities embracing our early childhood centres and learnings".

Early Childhood learning is delivered in ten of our thirteen MacDonnell Council communities with over 250 indigenous children and their families currently accessing these centres. Generations are now embracing our Early Childhood centres and learnings –our staff retention is stable and there have been significantly increases in children and families accessing our centres.

Margaret has also been invited by the Australian Government Department of Education to join their National Stakeholder Reference Group for Childcare and Early Learning. The reference group meets three times a year and informs the Ministerial Advisory Council for Childcare and Early Learning.

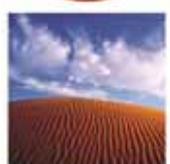
...but wait, there could be more ...

Earlier this year MacDonnell Regional Council was nominated for the Heart Foundation 2014 Local Government Awards. The awards recognise and showcase councils who are working to improve heart health through building a sense of community, encouraging people to be physically active, be smoke free and make healthy food choices.

Winners will be announced in late October.



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Finke Childcare 'rock up' for training



LEFT to RIGHT: Staff from Finke attending training at Uluru – Tanya Gilligan, Kerryanne Lennon, Heather Doolan, Raylene Fergusson (back) and Noeline Kenny take in the majestic view

MacDonnell Council Child Care team from Finke recently travelled to Uluru for training. Along with the sightseeing, they did Remote Indigenous Professional Development (RIPD) training for the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

Two-way learning at Amoonguna!

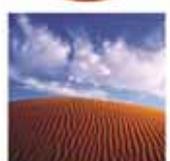


At the first Certificate 2 Rural Operations training at Amoonguna the participating Civil Works teams from Amoonguna and Titjikala were able to "train the trainer" as well as learn new skills. MacDonnell Council provides the training with qualifications to support future staff promotion opportunities.

Having never eaten bushtucker, the CAT Trainer Hayden Welsh got a hands-on lesson from our Civil Works staff in cooking and eating kangaroo tails at their final day lunch.

LEFT: Dennis Douglas supervised Hayden Welsh's training in the preparation and cooking of the roo tails.

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Two-way learning at Amoonguna! continued



The training package is designed to incorporate the five main areas of Council's Civil Works operations: parks, machine maintenance, waste, construction and roads. It is an accredited training program that provides graduates with a Certificate 2 in Rural Operations.

Through the training, our Civil Works Assistants cover topics ranging through: participating in environmentally sustainable work practices and Occupational Health and Safety processes; operating small plant and equipment; maintaining and undertaking operational maintenance of machinery and equipment; as well as treating weeds; repairing pot holes; preparing grave sites; though to planning and organising workloads.

As with previous communities where the course has been available, full attendance was maintained throughout the training. Our Civil Works teams take great pride in their work and enjoyed the opportunity to learn how to better look after their communities.

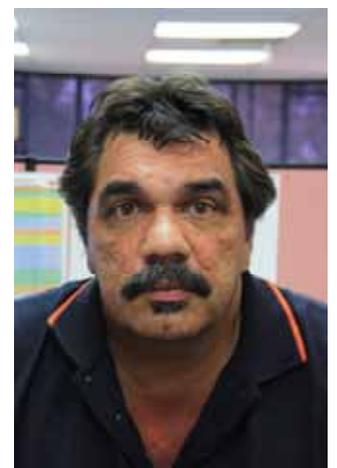


Fleet Services



It has been rather busy for the MacDonnell Regional Council Fleet over the past months. We have introduced new fleet management software called *Fleetio* which is now up and running. Also a couple of changes within the team were made. Both of these will enable us to provide a more efficient service.

Following a review of the staffing structure we have created the newly titled *Fleet Services* team by merging the previous *Fleet* and *Workshop* teams. The new position of Fleet and Mechanic Coordinator has been taken up by Kevin Angove (at left). He will still be working on the tools and you will continue to see him on community visits. Eddie Ross (at right), our Fleet Officer, has made the move from the Head Office to the Workshop Office on Elder Street to bring greater efficiencies within the team. Our Apprentice Mechanic starts trade school in Darwin later this month and we are currently recruiting a new Mobile Mechanic. So keep an eye out and welcome the guys to a community near you!



Please email Mechanics.MacDonnell@macdonnell.nt.gov.au in the first instance about fleet matters. Eddie's new office number is 8953 2319 while his mobile 0427 181 518 is unchanged.

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A SHOUT- OUT to our workers!



Following a few requests from staff to acknowledge some great work being done by their fellow workers, we can now take a moment to check out the efforts of our fellow workers in the MacDonnell Regional Council and give a shout-out to our staff by saying thank you and *well done!*



A SHOUT- OUT to the Kintore Civil Works team



Don Ryan, our Council Services Coordinator at Kintore says, "We have been getting great feedback from all that are visiting Kintore for work or to see their families. They are all saying it's the best they have seen the community for quite some time now".

Don puts it down to a great effort from all the eight Civil Works Assistants and Jason Minor, who has stepped up to try out for the local Team Leader position – along with some help from the ESO in additional to his usual duties. thank you and *well done!*



A SHOUT- OUT to the Papunya RJCP team

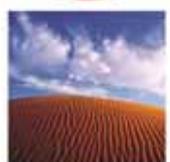
Area Manager, Matt Wharton says "I would like to thank Richard Kopp, Les Jago, Joe Rawson, Elli Matthews and the RJCP team for all their extra time and effort they put in for the Papunya community".

"They all worked extra hours and sometimes into the evening, cleaning up Papunya ahead of the Territory Tidy Town judging as well as the Papunya sports weekend. At no time did anyone complain and everyone worked as a team. It is a pleasure to work this team on common goals." thank you and *well done!*



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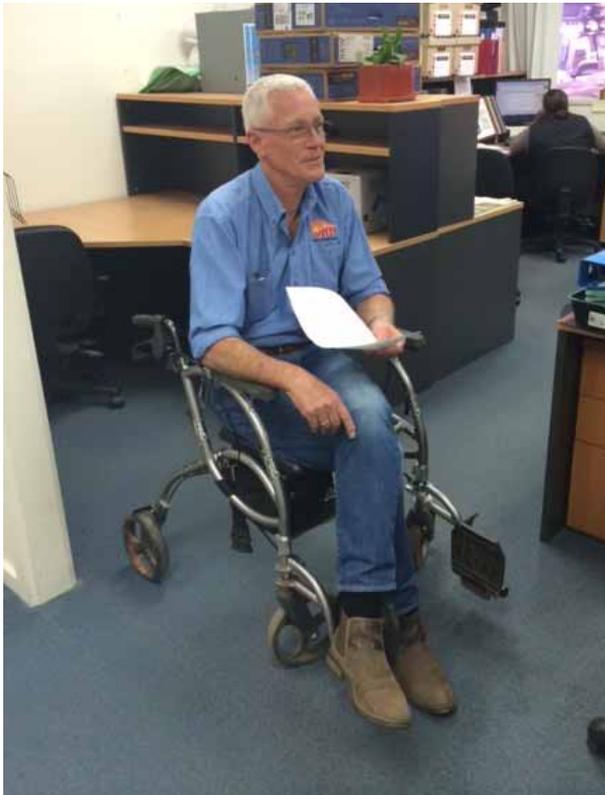




A SHOUT- OUT to some retiring and quiet achievers

Ron Cole will retire on 30 October after having played an integral role in the effective delivery of our Remote Essential Service contract with the PowerWater Corporation. He has gained great respect from his staff having provided outstanding support to Essential Service Officers working on our communities.

Ron had previously worked on a few remote communities before joining MacDonnell Council as an ESO at Papunya and in more recent times as the Essential Service Coordinator based in Alice Springs. He has done an exceptional job and has been a quiet achiever for MacDonnell Council.



Leigh Dunlevy retired last month from his role as Purchasing and Warehouse Manager. Leigh had worked for MacDonnell Council since 2009 in a variety of roles both remotely and in Alice Springs. From our head office Leigh was instrumental in setting up our centralised purchasing system that has been key to the savings Council has made in past years. Up to his retirement he continued to achieve improvements within his area and we're sure his experience and knowledge will be missed.

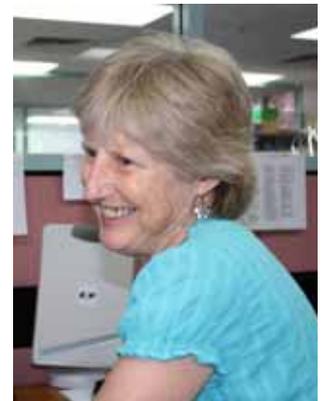
Through his work Leigh was another of Council's quiet achievers, however his colleagues will know him as a cheeky prankster who brought a high work ethic and support to his colleagues. We can expect to keep thinking of him as his amazing landscapes photography of the region begins to populate our new website.

Our Finance Officer Accounts Receivable, Sandra Jones, also

retired and returned to live in South Australia in August. Sandra started with MacDonnell Council in 2012 and held her important position within the Finance team for all of that time.

Sandra was a very quiet and private person and her greatest and perhaps quietest achievement was with the Council's Rates. Sometimes a thankless task, she persisted in an incredible job of recording and subsequently charging all known properties the appropriate charges.

thank you all and *well done!*



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STAFF MOVEMENTS



We extend a big welcome to the following people who have joined MacDonnell Regional Council since the last newsletter. Also congratulations to those who have taken up new roles within the MacDonnell Council:



Amoonguna

Thomas Burdett – Works Assistant
Glenn Dixon – Works Assistant



Areyonga (Utju)

Dennis Nipper – Night Patrol Officer
Terrance Tucker – Works Assistant
Gerald Windy – Night Patrol Officer



Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Benjamin Bronson – Works Assistant
Travis Brown – Works Assistant
Bernard Pound – Council Service Coordinator



Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Sherelle Armstrong – OSHC Facilitator
Sherlene Brogus – OSHC Facilitator
Heinrich Katakarinja – Works Assistant
Jennifer Mokertarintja – Administration Assistant Centrelink
Voight Ratara – Night Patrol Officer



Kintore (Walungurru)

Patricia Jackson – Night Patrol Officer
Gary Marshall – Night Patrol Officer



Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Cedric Dixon – Works Assistant
Tristan Robinson – Works Assistant



Papunya (Warumpi)

Barry Anderson – Home Care Assistant
Christie Burn – PSO Youth Development
Sabie Inkamala – Works Assistant
Leslie Jago – Team Leader Works
Rosanna McCormack – Administration Assistant Centrelink
Loretta Morton – Youth Development Officer
Emily Puntungka – Home Care Assistant
Joseph Rawson – Essential Services Officer
Elkin Wilson – Works Assistant



Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Phillip Alice – Team Leader Youth Development
Josephine Cavanagh – Library Officer



Titjikala (Tapatjatjaka)

Janie Campbell – Nutrition Assistant
Michael Seven – Aged Care Assistant
Dianne Matasia – OSHC Facilitator

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ordinary Council Meeting

Glen Helen (Resort Conference Room)
Friday 31 October

Audit Committee Meeting

Council Chambers (Alice Springs):
Friday 21 November

Finance Committee Meeting

Council Chambers (Alice Springs):
Friday 21 November

Local Authority Meetings

Amoonguna: Tuesday 7 October

Docker River: Wednesday 8 October

Mt Liebig: Wednesday 15 October

Papunya: Thursday 16 October

Imanpa: Wednesday 22 October

Kintore: Thursday 23 October

Finke: Thursday 31 October

Titjikala: Wednesday 5 November

Santa Teresa: Thursday 6 November

Haasts Bluff: Wednesday 12 November

Areyonga: Thursday 13 November

Hermannsburg: Tuesday 18 November

Wallace Rockhole: Wednesday 19 November

Send stories and ideas as they occur to:

NEXT ISSUE

media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

Deadline for the next issue of MacNews is on or before Friday 31 October.

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OTHER EVENTS



Deadly Adventures



Outdoor Education Program



MacDonnell Regional Council Youth Development



In partnership with our community's schools and the NT Police, this program aims to promote the benefits of school attendance to disengaged young people.

With a strong focus on outdoor adventures, these structured activities will challenge young people to better equip them to overcome the barriers they face in seeking to continue their education.

These experiences will allow young people time to reflect on the importance of education, its place in their lives, and ways they might commit to further their education.

It's a good thing for youth.



- ▶ 28th Oct – 1st Nov 2014
Community – Santa Teresa
- ▶ 20th – 24th Jan 2015
Community - Hermannsburg
- ▶ 24th – 28th Mar 2015
Community – Papunya

For more information please call Ryan Lucas
Coordinator Youth Development

Phone - 08 8958 9636 | mobile - 0423 711 655 |
email - ryan.lucas@macdonnell.nt.gov.au



Proudly supported by



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