

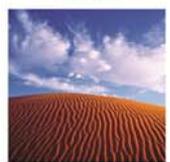


# MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter

APRIL 2016

volume 8 issue 2



MacDonnell Regional Council



NITV News reporter Kris Flanders interviews Jeffrey Wheeler and Neil Peterson for a story about Mt Liebbig making the finals of the national Tidy Towns competition that aired on the new Stan Grant current affairs show *The Point*.

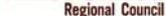
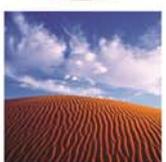
## One of the best in Australia

Keep Australia Beautiful's annual Tidy Town awards ceremony last month saw Mount Liebbig community receive its inaugural Special Commendation award. Eight years after Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory became full members of the local government community of Australia, the Keep Australia Beautiful awards recognised the remote MacDonnell Regional Council community's achievements as "coming a close second" from among the best of the nation's towns.

PAGE 3: Council elects a new President and Deputy  
PAGE 5: Mount Liebbig cleans up at the national Tidy Town awards  
PAGE 9: Stan Grant's *The Point* reports on Mount Liebbig

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## CEO UPDATE

### Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

And welcome to my new CEO Update: *MacFacts* which I will be using from time to time to distribute special or urgent updates for our staff and community members. In the first issue I was keen to share news about Mt Liebig's success at the national Tidy Towns competition.

It was a wonderful result and my congratulations go to the Mt Liebig community for their great efforts at the national Tidy Towns awards. Mt Liebig receiving the Special Commendation Award shows the community is strong on waste management and reducing litter.

National recognition is something everyone in the MacDonnell Regional Council can share. All our staff and residents have been increasing efforts to make their community healthy.

Our special congratulations also belong to our newly elected President Roxanne Kenny and her newly elected Deputy Braydon Williams. It is pleasing to see the ease with which our councillors organise themselves over their leadership and we all look forward to supporting them through the transition and toward the local government elections in August next year.

We also thank Minister Bess Price for funding the gap that was keeping our *4000 Trees project* out of reach. Her assistance through a \$100,000 grant shows she recognises the importance of shade and dust suppression around remote communities that the vegetation project will provide.

Currently preparations of our budgets are well underway and our Regional Plan processes have begun through consultations with Council, Local Authorities and staff to revise and set out goals for the next financial year operations.

We are now entering our third year without CPI indexation on our Financial Assistance Grants. To keep offsetting this reduction MacDonnell Regional Council continues to seek opportunities to source additional income by accessing other territory and federal government funding to maintain our scheduled community works and infrastructure development.

In keeping innovative and agile as we address the national deficit we keep looking for joint project initiatives with other stakeholders in the region that will both improve the fiscal situation and continue to create real job opportunities for community members.

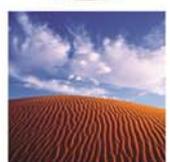
Once again I thank my staff for their ongoing efforts that overcome adversities as we work together *to improve the lives of residents by delivering valued and relevant services.*

Thank you for the great work, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.



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## Roxanne Kenny elected as new President



Following the resignation of Sid Anderson as President, at the February Ordinary meeting, Council elected Roxanne Kenny as their new President.

Roxanne Kenny's election to the role of President followed her eight year commitment to Council in the role of Deputy President. Her succession to the prime leadership role followed an internal secret ballot.

Ms Kenny's promotion left the Deputy President position open for election and following another secret ballot, Braydon Williams was elected to undertake the role.

"I am keen to see Council continue in its business, as usual" the newly elected President Roxanne Kenny said.

The newly elected President and Deputy President will lead MacDonnell Regional Council to the next general council elections that are scheduled to be held in August 2017.

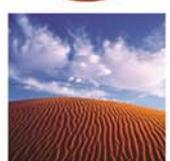
ABOVE: Roxanne Kenny talks to the local media after being elected President of MacDonnell Regional Council  
RIGHT: Councillor Anderson enjoys a moment to himself following his resignation from the prime leadership role and the election of a new President and Deputy



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## Public reception honours Sid Anderson

The evening before Sid Anderson's planned resignation from his role of President, the MacDonnell Regional Council organised a reception to honour his many years of public service to Central Australian communities.

The reception was held in Alice Springs at the Hilton and was attended by civic leaders from across the Territory with letters of apology read out from the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion and the NT Government Chief Minister Adam Giles.

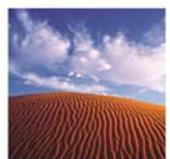
Following a presentation showing the scale of changes in Council's communities under Sid's Presidency, the Member for Namatjira Alison Anderson and then the Member for Lingiari Warren Snowden spoke. LGANT President Damian Ryan then read a message (see PAGE 12) from the territory's long serving public servant Bob Beadman before Mr Anderson was presented with a LGANT Certificate of Recognition for his 30 years of service to local government.



MacDonnell Council's Deputy President and CEO then spoke and presented gifts. The final word belonged to Sid Anderson who gave insights into his legacy through recognition of his sister's encouragement of him to become involved in local government and his thoughts about what makes a good community leader.

CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT: An evening of many group and individual photo opportunities including with Central Desert Council's President Adrian Dixon (ABOVE). LEFT: The winners award of the evening was from Blair MacFarland and the CAYLUS team for their trophy acknowledging Sid's good work for communities.

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ABOVE: The inaugural Special Commendation award presented to Mt Liebig for coming “a close second” in the national Tidy Towns competition was gratefully received by Area Manager Matt Wharton, Director Service Delivery Graham Murnik, Civil Team Leader and Local Authority Chair Melvin Malbunka, Council Services Coordinator Tammy Reiss, Essential Services Operator Jeffrey Wheeler and Chief Executive Officer Jeff MacLeod at the gala awards ceremony

## Mount Liebig judged to be one of the best in Australia

The hard work of the Mount Liebig community was honoured when they were named the inaugural Special Commendation Award winners at the recent Keep Australia Beautiful national Tidy Town Awards ceremony.



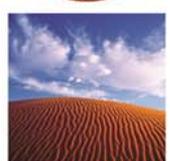
While Mount Liebig did not take out a category win, they were recognised by an impressive four Highly Commended certificates for their efforts across a number of areas.

“The Northern Territory finalist Mount Liebig was awarded a Special Commendation for coming in at a close second to the overall Australian Tidy Towns winner Triabunna, Tasmania” the Keep Australia Beautiful media release states.

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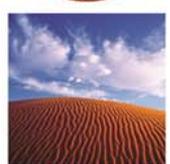
CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT: Mount Liebig staff take their place at the centre table among the beautiful people at the gala Tidy Towns Awards; Mt Liebig's Melvin Malbunka and Council's Chief Executive Officer Jeff MacLeod are overjoyed as Mt Liebig is named Special Commendation winner; Keep Australia Beautiful Chief Executive Officer Philip Robinson joins Jeffrey Wheeler and Melvin Malbunka as they celebrate Mt Liebig's acknowledgement; Jeffrey Wheeler, Tammy Reiss and Melvin Malbunka receive the Special Commendation award from national Tidy Towns judge Jill Grant.



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“This is a highly cohesive community with strong recognition of caring for country and each other” Tidy Town national judge Jill Grant said.

The national awards ceremony in Western Australia was attended by a contingent of Mt Liebig and MacDonnell Regional Council staff who expressed surprise and emotion as the special award winner was announced. The good news was quickly shared families back in Mt Liebig.

The Mt Liebig community were overjoyed to learn that their efforts in so many categories were highly regarded by their peers and professionals around the country.

In his acceptance speech the MacDonnell Regional Council CEO Jeff MacLeod said

“This is really important recognition for a community walking with a foot in two worlds yet achieving its improvements through innovation and without great funding”.



## Why Mount Liebig was commended so highly



Regular emu-bobs with children and families picking up litter along with upcycling projects that have doubled the play equipment in the family park and show colour and happiness in the community, contributed to Mount Liebig being Highly Commended in the category of *Litter Prevention and Resource Recovery*.

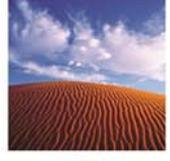
Active engagement through the local primary school teaching children about composting, growing and caring for plants was central to being Highly Commended in the category of *Environment Education*.

The community’s successful maintenance of tradition cultural practice in conjunction with a modernising western lifestyle was recognised when named Highly Commended in the category of *Heritage and Culture*.



The small community of Mt Liebig, at the western end of the MacDonnell Ranges, has 100% community participation in its sustainability activities and partnerships with government and non-government service providers in the community. This was acknowledged when named Highly Commended in the *Community Action and Wellbeing* category of the awards.

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## 4000 trees for our communities

Minister for Local Government and Community Services, and Parks and Wildlife, Bess Price provided the MacDonnell Regional Council with a \$100,000 grant for our *4000 Trees project*.

Minister Price's support revived the opportunities of the MacDonnell Regional Council's project following the Federal government's snub during its National Landcare Program grant round. In total our *4000 Trees project* will plant and establish about 150 trees and 150 under-storey plants (shrubs) in each of our 13 communities over a two year period.

The trees and shrubs will provide long term benefits for community members providing privacy, shade, wind breaks and dust suppression as well as screening off cultural areas from the wider community at some of the locations.

In addition to the funding, Council's contribution toward the project will be a mix of budgeted and in-kind support. The project will engage local our Civil Works teams in each community to provide the ongoing care of the plantings and will look to collaborate with the Community Development Program (CDP) on each community.

Sourcing pot sized seedlings has begun and we will start planting the first of the 4000 trees soon.



## Special delivery

Minister Bess Price recently visited Santa Teresa to perform a couple of special tasks.

As Minister for Local Government and Community Services she first meet with our Civil Works team before cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Eastside Park that includes play equipment, a barbeque and shade area. This improvement was a funded initiative of their Local Authority.

Later she officially performed Santa Teresa's first letterbox delivery. The installation of letterboxes at all family homes and associated mail delivery is a relatively new service that MacDonnell Regional Council is looking to rollout to all its communities.



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RIGHT: Jeffrey Wheeler sees himself on TV for the first time...on Melvin Malbunka's phone while on the road to the national Tidy Towns finals BELOW: Still image of Mount Liebig Traditional Owners Jeffrey Wheeler and Neil Peterson from their NITV News interview. BELOW: Ambrose Katakarinja being interviewed by Kris Flanders about his pride in Mount Liebig being finalists in the national Tidy Towns competition



## Mt Liebig story on national TV



National Indigenous Television (NITV) continues its interest in the progress of Northern Territory communities in the Tidy Towns competitions.

Last year they visited our national finalist Titjikala on the edge of the Simpson Desert and reported on the work being done by the community. This year they ventured out west along the MacDonnell Ranges to Mount Liebig.



While in Mount Liebig they interviewed staff and residents for a news report for NITV News. They also produced a longer report about the community for their new current affairs show, *The Point* that is hosted by Stan Grant. Both stories aired the night before Mount Liebig was awarded their Special Commendation at the national Tidy Towns ceremony in Toodyay, Western Australia.

The full report, as aired on *The Point*, can be found at: <http://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/the-point-with-stan-grant/article/2016/03/17/desert-town-leaves-competitors-dust-tidy-town-awards>

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## REWARD + RECOGNITION

Each month an email goes out to all staff asking them to nominate a fellow worker or a team that has been doing a great job in any of the 4 categories:



**Service Excellence** – for sustaining a high level of service and receiving consistent positive feedback from clients

**Innovation and Creativity** – for using skills, resourcefulness and creativity to implement changes to improve service, productivity or standards of work

**Above and Beyond** – for performing above what is normally required by achieving additional goals and objectives on a daily basis

**Sustainability** – for making ongoing efforts to increase Council income, decrease costs, maximise efficiency or minimise impacts on the environment.

Managers then vote to decide who will be awarded the *Employee of the Month*. For previous months we Reward and Recognise:

### December 2015

*Employee of the Month*: **Tanya White** from Corporate Services: Finance in Alice Springs for Above and Beyond

### January 2016

*Employee of the Month*: **Joe Barham** from Service Delivery: Team Leader Works in Kintore for Above and Beyond

### February 2016

*Employee of the Month*: **Richard McWaters** from Community Services: Team Leader Youth Development in Kintore for Above and Beyond

## STAFF MOVEMENTS

We extend a big welcome to the following people who have joined MacDonnell Regional Council since our last issue.

We also congratulate those who have taken up new roles within the Council:

### Alice Springs

- Joanne Evans - Manager Human Resources
- Helen Fitzgerald - Coordinator Children's Services
- Brigid Hussey - Project Officer
- Ryan Lucas - Manager Youth Development
- Louise Lysaght - Project Officer
- Alois Mugadza - Home Care Development Officer
- Heather Traeger - HR Project Officer

### Amoonguna

- Tony Palmer - Senior Civil Works Assistant
- Natasha Stuart - Youth Development Officer

### Areyonga (Utju)

- Daniel Austin - Works Assistant NPARIH
- William Barnes - Works Assistant
- Rhonda Bob - Youth Development Officer
- Carmelina Brumby-Dunn - School Nutrition Assistant
- Dianne Crisp - Team Leader Pool
- Kelly Djana - Works Assistant
- Tanya Ebatarinja - Educator Early Learning
- Chantelle Gallagher - Educator OSHC
- Gordon Long - Works Assistant
- Stefan Poulson - Youth Development Officer

### Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

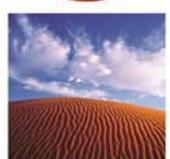
- Travis Brown - Works Assistant
- Lee Cooper - Works Assistant

### Finke (Aputula)

- Wayne Doolan - Works Assistant

### Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

- Joshua Dawes - Essential Services Operator
- Nicole Inkamala - Youth Development Officer
- Sabin Jackson - Community Safety Officer
- Julie Parker - Team Leader Children's Services
- Rena Stevenson - Administration Assistant



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## Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Que Kenny - OSHC  
Adeline Malbunka - Educator Early Learning  
Galvin Malbunka - Youth Development Officer

## Imanpa

Katie Kitson - School Nutrition Assistant  
Brian May - Essential Services Operator

## Kintore (Walungurru)

Sylvia Sharpe - Youth Development Officer  
Christopher Tolson - Youth Development Officer

## Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Roderick Kantamara - Community Safety Officer  
Andrew Lyons-Dawson - Team Leader Youth Development  
Evelyn Morgan - Educator OSHC  
Jeffrey Wheeler - Community Safety Officer

## Papunya (Warumpi)

Nebo Giles - Civil Works Assistant  
Sarah Jane Pavihi - Program Support Officer  
Lesley Nutter - Team Leader Children's Services  
Peter Raftos - Youth Engagement Officer

## Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

David Marshall - Pool Assistant

## Titjikala (Tapatjatjaka)

Karen Inkamala - Educator Early Learning

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

For the most accurate meeting dates and information about all future Council and Local Authority meetings please refer to our website. [www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au](http://www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au)



## LATE BREAKING NEWS

### \$15,000 Vincent Lingiari Art Award on offer from Desart and CLC



Desart and the Central Land Council will award a lucrative new Aboriginal art prize celebrating this year's twin land rights anniversaries. The new *Vincent Lingiari Art Award* marks 40 years since the passage of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA) and 50 years since the Wave Hill Walk Off.

Entries close 30 June 2016 so contact Desart on 8953 4736 to get all the details.



### Hawks appear around Titjikala

Dave McGregor has moved on from his role as Council Services Coordinator in Titjikala, but his legacy lives on...now in the form of a couple of Titjikala Hawks signs he helped erect in the community as a way to share the love before he departed. Best wishes Dave!

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## To the gathering at the reception for Sid Anderson...

...from about 1980 onwards I have travelled extensively in the area of the MacDonnell Regional (formerly Shire) Council, so I guess I am one of the few outsiders that have an appreciation of the corrugations, distances, dust, extremes of temperatures, and the flies. And I know there is not an air-conditioned motel at the end of a days' travel. 'Out beyond the fences' I have called that country in papers I have written.

I also know the different tribal and language groups, and the strength of their traditional beliefs and ceremony. I know of the effect of the advancing frontier, and of the terrible impacts that had on the old ways. I know how people have grappled with finding their place in this new world, not always successfully. And I know how dependent people who have so little have become on bodies like the MacDonnell Regional Council.

I also know how difficult it was for some who had become attached to the old Community Government Councils to adjust to the new Shires in 2008.

So it was a brave person indeed who put their hand up in 2008 to contest the ballot for election as a councillor in those difficult times, and soon after that to enter another election for President when that position became vacant. Any person who puts themselves forward for election to any public office is brave. But for this hugely divergent council, for the first elections after the massive changes, and again to take on the role of President in very difficult circumstances, it took a special effort.

A special man stepped up. And he wasn't just a flash in the pan. He has stayed this hard course for nearly 8 years. Local government councils in the bush have never had sufficient funds to address their backlog of needs, and no doubt Sid has copped a lot of flak (you know what I mean – I'm being polite here) over the years from all corners, but he has obviously, and patiently, dealt with those concerns.

Turning to the bigger picture, the Northern Territory has been uniquely successful in opening the way for Aboriginal communities to become full members of the local government community of Australia, and for Aboriginal people to take on the responsibilities of elected office in much greater numbers than anywhere else. It has provided the way for people like Sid to step up to the next level, and shoulder that massive responsibility. Now he steps down at the time of his own choosing, further testimony of his worth.

## And to Sid Anderson himself...

...on behalf of the Northern Territory Grants Commission can I compliment you on your wonderful contribution. You have earned your shady tree.

Regards, Bob Beadman

Speech note from Bob Beadman, Chairman, Northern Territory Grants Commissioner (and long term Northern Territory public servant) given to LGANT President Damian Ryan to read out at MacDonnell Regional Council's reception to honour the public service to Central Australia of its retiring President Sid Anderson, 25 February 2016.

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