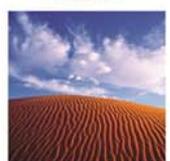




MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter OCTOBER 2016 volume 8 issue 4



Huge congratulations to our NT State Championship Division 2 Women's Softball winners from the Western Desert: LEFT to RIGHT (BACK ROW): Phyllis Rowe (coach), Tenisha Gallagher, Jacinta Miller, Felicia Inkamala, Nikasha Michaels and Rosemary Poulson (FRONT ROW): Rita Djana, Sylvia Sharpe, Karey Major and Nereda Roberts and Anisha Gorey,

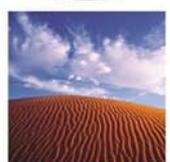
Territory champions

MacYouth Women's Softball team returns from the 2016 NT State Championships in Darwin with the Division 2 Women's Softball title. Being only the second year MacYouth supported a softball team to travel and compete in the NT State Championships, our young women have gone from strength to strength.

PAGE 3 MacYouth Women's Softball winning adventures in Darwin
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*Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju
many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*



CEO UPDATE

Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

We welcome the new 13th Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory and greatly value all opportunities to meet and work together on a combined vision that supports the remote people of Central Australia to *build a quality desert lifestyle*.

Together with our councillors, I congratulate and look forward to meeting with the recently elected members of our two representative electorates – Mr Chansey Paech MLA for Namatjira and Mr Scott McConnell MLA for Stuart – and with the Minister for Housing and Community Development the Hon Gerry McCarthy MLA, representing local government.

It becomes necessary sometimes within your work, to stop and look at the things that have been achieved. I was proud to find we are currently in one of those moments for a few reasons. Recent visits by external reviewers and our annual reporting period have reminded me it is important to take a moment and take notice of the changes we have all worked so hard to achieve. Some of our achievements coming to light include:

- 77% Indigenous employment and increased support for indigenous leadership training
- 100% of our community access roads will be repaired and rebuilt by early 2016/17
- 17 Local Authority projects have reached final completion

Our current annual reporting process is an opportunity to look around and reflect on the past 12 months. The Annual Report will be published in early November and we will share more details in our next issue.

I recently toured around our region with the NT Grants Commission representatives as they assessed results of their funding support and observed improvements MacDonnell Regional Council has made to the lives of our residents.

We have also recently enjoyed another round of visits to our communities by the Territory Tidy Towns judge, Heimo Schober. Following his visits he assures me that the high standards around our communities have been maintained. We now await his final assessments from across the Territory that will be announced at the Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) awards ceremony in Darwin on Friday 21 October.

Despite which councils or communities take out the awards, we know it has been our staff and residents that have been the real winners, as the Tidy Towns teaching and judging process has been a great vehicle for assisting and motivating MacDonnell Regional Council's development over the years. We have enjoyed promoting competition among our staff and residents to achieve our Service Levels on the way to making their communities better places to live, work and play.

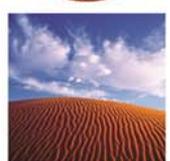
Thanks again to the Council staff, I look forward to working with you all as we keep delivering great outcomes for our constituents – working together *to improve the lives of residents by delivering valued and relevant services*.

Thank you for the great work, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.



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Territory champions



Being only the second year MacYouth has been able to support a softball team to travel and compete in the NT State Championships, our girls have gone from strength to strength. In September the MacYouth team returned from the Northern Territory capital with the Division 2 Women's Softball title in their luggage.

MacYouth first competed in the NT State Championships in 2014 with a team from Kintore. Following our regional league earlier this year, a team was selected of the best players from our four Western Desert communities: Kintore, Papunya, Mount Liebig and Haasts Bluff.

Players selected were from: Kintore – Sylvia Sharpe, Kare Major and Tenisha Gallagher; Mount Liebig – Jacinta Miller and Anisha Gorey; Papunya – Rosemary Poulson, Nereda Roberts and Felicia Inkamala; and Haasts Bluff – Nikasha Michaels and Rita Djana. Supporting and coaching them the whole way, were MacYouth staff Jess Kragh, Amy Gordon and Phyllis Rowe.

As a mixed team representing four remote communities, the players were more accustomed to playing against each other than on the same team. They also had never played professional softball as a team before and the girls were nervous about having to learn new competitive rules. The rules included playing to fixed one hour games and not their usual set number of innings.

Despite this, the MacYouth team was the only undefeated team in Division 2. They played their way to the Grand Final, recording wins against Central Desert, Daly West, Nyirripi and Darwin Red before meeting their neighbouring council team Central Desert in the Grand Final. The teams that travelled from the Territory's 'bottom end' became the winners in the top end with MacYouth finishing first and Central Desert in second place.

As well as winning their division, individuals from the MacYouth team were awarded for their stand-out performances in the competition. Rita Djana from Haasts Bluff was presented with the *Best Catcher Award*, Jacinta Miller from Mount Liebig received the *Best Batter Award* and the *Best All-Rounder Award* went to Sylvia Sharpe from Kintore.

While in Darwin the girls also enjoyed going to the local water parks, visiting the Mindil Beach Market, the Darwin Waterfront as well as some retail therapy at Casuarina Shopping Centre.

TOP: *Best Batter Award* winner Jacinta Miller hits another ball during the NT State Championships
RIGHT: *Best All-Rounder Award* winner Sylvia Sharpe was ready for action anytime of the day or night



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Road projects completed

Upgrades to the main access roads into Kintore and Docker River, with some local roads and facilities have recently been completed.



Like brand new, the nine kilometre access road offers a much smoother ride into Kintore after a major upgrade

Kintore community have recently had their main access road from the main highway and their cemetery road upgraded. The projects have included a surface reconstruction raising the road above the natural surface level in some sections.

Upgrades also include construction of three new floodways, blocks and levy banks, reinstating of existing offlet drains and blocks as well as the construction of 20 new offlet drains and blocks. The roads have been finished with a 150mm gravel sheeting layer that improves drainage and safety.

Also around the Kintore community: the Pinpirnga access road, 18km of the Kalimpmbut access road, six kilometres of the Sandy Blight Road and one kilometre of the Waste Management Facility access road have been dry graded; while Miyarrpa Street has been water graded and rolled.

Costing \$700,000, the road upgrades around Kintore were project managed by MacDonnell Regional Council, works carried out by D & C Dehne Constructions and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development under the Roads to Recovery program.

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Road projects completed continued



Meanwhile in Docker River, the community has seen the reforming and sealing of the Lungkata Road and Airstrip access road. This has included formation works, subgrade lift and a gravel base (all totalling a 450mm lift) that is topped with a two coat seal of bitumen. The upgrades address previous poor accessibility issues and will provide all weather access to the community for stores, fuel and medical treatment and to the airstrip for regular use by government and service providers, as well as emergency services.



Council has project managed the upgrades that have also provided employment opportunities for two locals to work alongside the contractor Suffren Contracting and Plant Hire Pty Ltd. The work around Docker River also includes: resealing along Eagle Street and sealing the Council Office carpark, reconstructing road shoulders on Lungkata Road, Tjala Place, Eagle Street, Kuniya Street and Liru Street as well as constructing a 50 metres of unsealed road extension and cul-de-sac on Liru Street.

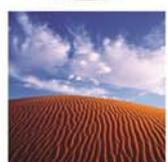


All the upgrades around Docker River cost \$1m and were funded by the Northern Territory Department of Transport under the Improving Strategic Local Road Infrastructure Grant Program (ISLRIP). The ISLRIP strategic objective is to create opportunities to deliver infrastructure works with a regional strategic benefit and provide economic benefits to the local community.



New bituman recently laid around Docker River can be seen (CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT): along Eagle Street; on the Airstrip access road; on the Docker River community access road; and at the MacDonnell Regional Council carpark.





Night Patrol were winners for the Papunya Sports Carnival

Night Patrol teams from Haasts Bluff and Kintore travelled to assist their fellow Papunya staff and the Police during the recent Papunya Sports Carnival. They were deployed to provide additional support over the sports weekend.

By all accounts they were excellent, even receiving praise from the regional Police commander, who commented on our Night Patrol teams at the time:



“They have been an absolute asset out there and the guys are extremely grateful for the assistance” NT Police Superintendent Central Desert Region Neil Hayes.

Remote Sports Vouchers Scheme

Participants will have a greater say in the programs they would like run in their communities now that the NT Department of Sports and Recreation has undertaken to provide the Remote Sports Voucher Scheme in conjunction with regional councils and other activity providers.

MacYouth will be coordinating the delivery of the Remote Sports Voucher Scheme across 12 of our communities, delivering four separate activities per year. Most popular among requests coming from our communities were football, softball, basketball and hip-hop dancing.

Home Care scores 100%

Every three years, the National Aged Care Quality Agency reviews the community-based aged care services of MacDonnell Regional Council’s Home Care service.

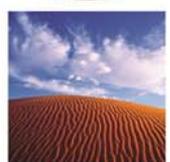
Recently the National Aged Care Quality Agency visited Papunya, Haasts Bluff, Titjikala, Amoonguna and Finke, and interviewed our Home Care staff from each team as well as our clients. After we made some changes, they were so pleased with our services that they rated us as:



“100% met the National Community Care Standards”.

The National Aged Care Quality Agency recognise that we can’t do everything we aspire to for our clients, but they recognise that we do a lot with the limited resources we have. They also understand that our Home Care services have good support from across the MacDonnell Regional Council. We thank all our clients for participating in the reviews and Council staff for the tremendous work they do in the community.

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MacYouth services in three more communities

MacYouth has started delivering new Sport and Recreation programs in Finke, Imanpa and Docker River. At the invitation of the Northern Territory Government earlier this year, MacYouth has been preparing the new program to roll out this financial year.

This is an exciting opportunity for MacYouth to deliver programs for young people in three more communities while developing relationships with new youth, community stakeholders and newly inducted local team members. It also brings significant recognition to the quality and reputation of program delivery by MacYouth over the years. Programs are now delivered by MacYouth in 12 of our 13 communities.

The expansion of services means MacYouth has several new team members to rollout the Sport and Recreation program in Finke, Imanpa, and Docker River.



Sylvana Marks and Phillip Doolan (left) both live in **Finke** with their families and have shown dedication from their first day of training. Phillip has previously run aussie rules, soccer and basketball training sessions while Sylvana has taken young people for walks, she has also facilitated basketball and soccer games. They have begun their training and developed their own style of program delivery for Finke that includes the introduction of Desert Volleyball. Following a request from Sylvana, MacYouth has provided volleyball equipment and a training session on volleyball skills and rules.

Thanks to our new MacYouth staff, we are now looking forward to Desert Volleyball becoming the next big thing among young people in Finke, Desert Disc Golf to take off in Imanpa, and something else will keep the kids interested in Docker River.

Having previously moved to **Imanpa** with her family, Renie Matasia (right) is now learning to provide Sports and Recreation activities, including a new game called Desert Disc Golf.



Rodney Kunothe (left) is from **Docker River** and has recently stepped up to learn how to train young people in Sports and Recreation activities, including training young fellas some footy skills.



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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 each month to decide who we Reward and Recognise:



September Reward and Recognition went to:

Kathleen Windy our Youth Development Team Leader from Community Services, Youth Development in Areyonga for her **Innovation and Creativity**

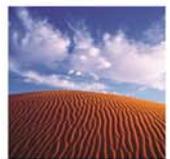


Emeline Daniels our Payroll Finance Officer from Corporate Services, Finance in Alice Springs for her **Service Excellence**



August Reward and Recognition went to:

Carla Romberg our Human Resources Officer from Corporate Services, Human Resources in Alice Springs for her **Innovation and Creativity** and for her **Sustainability** actions



July Reward and Recognition went to:

Meagan Macauley our Youth Engagement Officer from Community Services, Youth Development in Kintore for going **Above and Beyond**




Employee of the month

Presented to

Tjilpi MacDonnell

Service Excellence
September 2015



Chief Executive Officer
MacDonnell Regional Council



June Reward and Recognition went to:

Sheree Kane our Grants Coordinator from Corporate Services, Finance in Alice Springs for going **Above and Beyond**

Peter Devine our Remote Sport Program Coordinator from Community Services, Youth Development in Alice Springs for his **Service Excellence**

May Reward and Recognition went to:

Jeffrey Wheeler our Works Assistant from Service Delivery, Council Services in Mount Liebig for going **Above and Beyond**

Peter Blythman our Manager Information Services from Corporate Services in Alice Springs for going **Above and Beyond** and for his **Service Excellence**

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STAFF MOVEMENTS



We congratulate those who have taken up new roles within the Council and extend a big welcome to the following people who have joined MacDonnell Regional Council since our last issue.



Alice Springs

Robert Brown - Plant Operator
Lydia Fisher - Project Coordinator



Amoonguna

Marilyn Dixon - Home Care Assistant
Ernestine Williams - Home Care Assistant



Areyonga (Utju)

Selina Bob - Early Learning Educator
Charmaine Bronson - OSHC Educator
Angela Edimintja - Early Learning Educator
Kirsten Joseph - Youth Development Officer
Christopher Mayman – Educator
Terrence Tucker - Works Assistant
Jessica Williams - Early Learning Educator



Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Rodney Kunoth - Sport and Recreation Officer



Finke (Aputula)

Lorraine Stuart - Sport and Recreation Officer



Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Hazel Butler - Early Learning Educator
Katie Marshall - Youth Development Officer
Deon Nolan - Youth Development Officer



Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Sonia Kenny - Early Learning Educator
Michelle Malbunka - Early Learning Educator
Michelle Rubuntja - Early Learning Educator
Helen Walls - Children's Services Team Leader



Imanpa

Sharon Doolan - Sport and Recreation Officer
Renie Matasia - Sport and Recreation Officer
Adrian Smith - Sport and Recreation Officer



Kintore (Walungurru)

Rowan Baldock - Works Assistant
Jerry Campbell - Works Assistant
Simon Jurrah - Works Assistant
Vronita Nolan - OSHC Educator



Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Gilbert Granites - School Nutrition Assistant
Shae Thompson - Centrelink Administration Assistant

Papunya (Warumpi)

Priscilla Brown - Early Learning Educator
Kaylene Lillias - Home Care Assistant
Cassandra Minor - Early Learning Educator
Martha Namatjira - OSHC Educator
Tracey Raggett - OSHC Educator
Sabrina Rowe - OSHC Educator
Jonathon Youngut - Works Assistant

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Terrence Mulladad - OSHC Educator
Theresa Ronson - Early Learning Educator

Titjikala

Chantelle Campbell - OSHC Educator
Sydney Campbell - Works Assistant

Wallace Rockhole

Henry Abbott - Works Assistant
Theo Lankin - Works Assistant

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

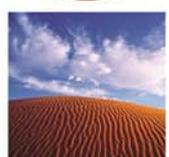


LATE BREAKING NEWS

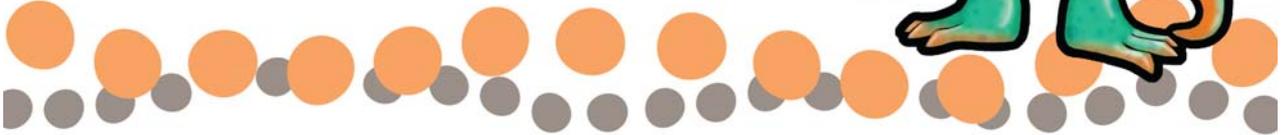
AFL win an omen for CAFL

Bulldogs' win in the AFL Grand Final is being seen by some keen supporters around Hermannsburg as a sign of things to come, next year in the local Central Australian Football League!

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Thank You Docker River



CLEAN FACES, STRONG EYES



Thank you to Docker River community for participating in workshops with Indigenous Hip Hop Projects and Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne in April 2016. Hip hop workshops were held for community members to create a song and music video about trachoma and the importance of Clean Faces, Strong Eyes.

Check out the Docker River and other community music videos on our Facebook page or visit our website for more resources:
www.facebook.com/cleanfacesstrongeyes
www.ieu.unimelb.edu.au

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