

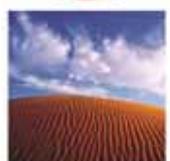


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MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter

MARCH 2017

volume 9 issue 1



The decorations were hung, dinner had been prepared ready to cook the next morning, but heavy tropical rains arrived – instead of enjoying Christmas Day at home with their family, Kintore workers spent the holiday rescuing residents from rooftops and helping families to the school for shelter

Santa never made it into Kintore

A big rain came and rushed through the community – over 200mm of rain fell in less than 2 hours. The rain set water rushing off the two nearby mountains. When a blockage formed in a creek behind the community, the waters overflowed up to one metre deep through resident's houses and yards.

PAGE 3: initial response to the Christmas Day floods
PAGE 5: recovery cleanup continues in Kintore

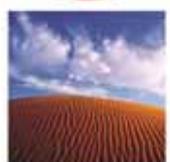
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CEO UPDATE

Welcome to another busy year at MacDonnell Regional Council...

...this one began on Christmas Day when flood waters rushed through the Kintore community!

The emergency saw a great effort by all in Kintore following the drenching 234mm of rain that fell within 2 hours on Christmas Day causing flooding to infrastructure and homes in the community.

My special thanks go to Joe Barham and David Brown for rescuing people from rooftops while still keeping the community's essential services going throughout the entire ordeal. Their great deeds during the Christmas Day and Boxing Day holidays were nothing short of extraordinary.

MacDonnell Regional Council workers showed great character in the crisis and our gratitude for their dedication and hard work is shared and appreciated by other residents living remotely in the Kintore community. The swift actions of Brownie and Joe resulted in people not needing to be evacuated from Kintore. The extra-curricular contributions, from visiting Children's Services staff Peter Martin and Kate Gore who voluntarily cooked meals for stranded residents evacuated to the school, helped the community immensely.

Our Kintore staff equally were supported by our Alice Springs office staff as they sourced and organised for necessary parts and equipment to be delivered, enabling successful cleanup operations. All these endeavours occurred in conjunction with other stakeholders from the NT government and non-government organisations. Our thanks go to them all for their support.

While not being life threatening, Areyonga's issues following the heavy rains put their reputation as a beautiful and tidy town under threat. Their Civil Works team have been busily trimming excess grass, removing fallen tree branches and generally returning the community to its usual splendour ahead of the national judging.

My best wishes also go to the residents of Areyonga when the national Tidy Towns judge visits on Friday 17 March to assess the community against the other national finalists. I am confident that the community's efforts will reflect positively on her judgement and Areyonga will proudly represent the Northern Territory on the national stage next May in Triabunna, Tasmania.

Still ahead of us is a very important issue facing local government that is likely to play out over the coming months: ensuring the federal government sticks to its election promise to un-freeze our grant funding. With the 2017/18 Federal Budget to be handed down in May, and with no iron-clad guarantee that the Government will reintroduce indexation to our vital Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs), it is important our sector come together now to lock in the Government's support and commitment to restoring the indexation as signalled in the last Federal Budget – after three long years without any funding increases.

Finally, as we progress into another year working for our constituents, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding achievements and improved service MacDonnell Regional Council delivers across our region. We look to keep leading the way across all our services and continue to *improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services.*

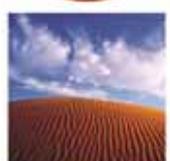
I wish all our Councillors, Local Authority members, management and staff well as we build on our achievements for another year.

Here's to another great year, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.



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A metre of flood waters rushed through the Kintore community damaging bedding, clothes and white goods. It left many homes with a carpet of red sand

Christmas Day, Boxing Day and beyond...

After a tropical downpour in the desert community of Kintore, our Council staff were central to the cleanup efforts on the ground, working without a break on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and for the following weeks.

Some residents in Kintore needed to be rescued from rooftops and car bonnets and many were evacuated to the local school after having flood waters rush through their homes. The Kintore Primary School was established as an emergency evacuation centre and about 80 residents were accommodated – some were only able to return to their homes after a couple of weeks.

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ABOVE: Heavy rains continued during the recovery period BELOW: Council workers assess water damage around Kintore community infrastructure including the Power and Water equipment – keeping essential services running efficiently ment residents didn't need to leave their community

Initially MacDonnell Regional Council's Essential Services Officer at Kintore, David Brown, had to restore the power and ensure all water bores and the sewerage system worked effectively. He ensured the reliable supply of power, clean water and sewerage services for all residents and services. For this reason Kintore residents did not need to be evacuated from their community.

As all road access had been cut off by the downpour, a first task for the our Civil Works team, led by Council Service Coordinator Joe Barham, was to assist the Essential Services Officer in clearing the airstrip so emergency services and personnel could access the remote community.



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ABOVE: The main rubbish trench at the Waste Management Facility had to be pumped out to avoid health risks
BELOW: A temporary trench had to be made to process flood damaged household goods

Before the cleanup could get into full swing the local Civil Works team had to prepare a new emergency waste management site to handle all the flood damaged goods. The crew also had to pump out its main waste management trench so that its usual rubbish handling could return to national standards.

MacDonnell Regional Council staff also restored the local Centrelink operations in Kintore despite having only limited communications technology available.

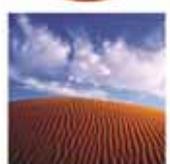
Following the evacuation of residents to the local primary school, MacDonnell Regional Council staff supported NT Housing's cleanup of the water damaged houses by taking flood damaged white goods, mattresses and other household items to the newly established emergency waste management site.



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“ The flood water washed the deep freeze off my porch ”

Councillor Lance Abbott recalled.

Having cleared the airstrip of debris, there were at some stages up to 10 light aircraft parked alongside the Kintore airstrip as emergency supplies were flown in and government and other providers visited the community to assess the situation. Our Civil Works team also assisted at the airstrip with the unloading as well as the transporting of emergency food and bedding back into the community.



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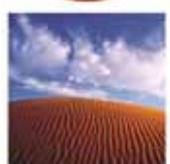
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As the emergency operations moved into the recovery phase the local workforce also got its first chance to have a break and get a good night's sleep. Their rest was well deserved but short lived as the recovery started up again.



After rebalancing the water hygiene levels, the Kintore swimming pool was again open to the public. The Essential Services Officer also continued a reliable supply of power and water for the community. Kintore's Civil Works team soon received some much needed support from Mount Liebig once their Civil Works team was able to safely travel along the Kintore Road. A Civil Contractor also travelled out to check all internal and access roads managed by MacDonnell Regional Council so plans for repairs could begin.



As the Kintore Road further dried out and opened, a small fleet of MacDonnell Regional Council vehicles were able to travel and bring more supplies. Council staff that had been trapped by the rains in Alice Springs were also able to make the journey home. Once our contractors were able to travel with their tools they began assisting our Civil Works teams on the ground to rebuild and repair council infrastructure. Slowly our many services in Kintore have been able to resume.

MacDonnell Regional Council Area Manager, Matt Wharton had been made the Local Recovery Coordinator and based himself in Kintore for many weeks. He said of the local workers in Kintore "the Civil Works team have been the backbone to the emergency operations in Kintore – what this small crew has done is massive".

MacDonnell Regional Council thanks the Northern Territory Government for its support, and particularly the NT Police for their central role on the ground. It was good to see different levels of government working together to restore the quality of life for the residents of Kintore.



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However, Santa *did* make it into Titjikala!



Titjikala lit up the desert again this year with another display of home pride. The difference this year being the Christmas lights decorating local houses were being judged with cash prizes from the Local Authority Discretionary Fund being awarded.

The brightest and the best home of Terry Simmons and Sophie Conway was judged as the winner for the Christmas Light competition in Titjikala

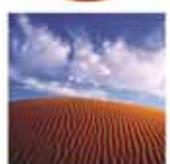


Mental Health First Aid course

Night Patrol members from Hermannsburg were recently presented with Mental Health First Aid certificates after completing a three day course on the topic. The course gives staff the knowledge and skills required to assist mental health patients. Night Patrol members in other communities are encouraged to apply for this course.

MacDonnell Regional Council's Night Patrol Team member Evance (Rex) Paroloutja, at left, receives his Mental Health First Aid certificate

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More storm chasing



Essential Services Coordinator Bill Byers stopped to photograph this approaching storm near Eildunda in late January



Remote Sergeant Michael Kent personally thanks Docker River Night Patrol Team Leader Natasha Robertson and Patrol Officer Florrie Cooper for looking after the community while he is away.

Night Patrol working with cross border Police

Usually based two hours away at the multi-jurisdictional WA / NT Police facility in Warrakurna, Western Australia, Remote Sergeant Michael Kent spoke highly of our Docker River Night Patrol team, saying recently he was “ pleased whenever he attended the Docker River community at night and saw the yellow Night Patrol vehicle stickers and the Night Patrol officers reflective uniforms around the community, flying the flag for community safety ”.

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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:

December Reward and Recognition went to:

Trevor Hurst our Council Service Coordinator in Imanpa for **Sustainability**

Leroy Wilyuka our Youth Development Officer in Titjikala for **Service Excellence**

Wilbur Poulson (below) our Night Patrol Officer in Areyonga for going **Above and Beyond** and for his **Service Excellence**



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

- Dembra Conlon - Coordinator Children's Services
- Paul Dickson - Manager Community Safety
- Malissa Hodgson - Home Care Development Officer
- David Jagger - Manager Governance & Planning
- James Taylor - Home Care Development Officer
- Zsanett Zsinka - AHRI HR Work Experience for the NT

Amoonguna

- Nelina Ellis - Community Night Patrol Officer
- Trevor Nandy - Community Night Patrol Officer
- Natasha Stuart - Senior Youth Development Officer

Areyonga (Utju)

- Eva Hayes - Administration Assistant Centrelink

Finke (Aputula)

- Jolene Doolan - Sports and Recreation Officer
- Samantha Reiss - Sport and Recreation Officer

Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

- Trevor Connor - Essential Services Officer

Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

- Paul Berthon - Team Leader Works
- Beryl Leggat - Team Leader Children's Services
- Emma Malbunka - Educator - Early Learning
- Maxie Pareroutja - Educator - OSHC

Imanpa

- Cynthia King - Home Care Assistant

Kintore (Walungurru)

- Carissa Jackson - Educator - Early Learning
- Mervyn Lillias - Works Assistant
- Jamie McIntyre - Team Leader Works

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Kintore staff movements continued
 Phyllis Rowe - Senior Youth Development Officer
 Vernon Scobie - Works Assistant
 Regina Dixon - Educator
 Aaron Young - Works Assistant

Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)
 Andrew Lyons-Dawson - Youth Services Coordinator
 Tamara Natanni - OSHC Program Support Officer

Papunya (Warumpi)
 Elliot Fleming - Youth Development Relief Team Leader
 Malcolm Karpa - Works Assistant
 Kevin Mulkatana - Works Assistant
 Peter Wilson - Essential Services Officer
 Terrence Wilson - Grader Operator

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
 Jonas Disbray - Pool Team Leader
 Melinda Lechleitner - Early Learning Educator
 Sandra McKenzie - Pool Team Leader
 Reuben Solomon - Youth Development Team Leader
 Ingrid Williams - Early Learning Educator
 Krista Wise - Youth Engagement Officer

Titjikala
 Jillianne Renner - Senior Youth Development Officer
 Collette Wallace - Youth Development Officer
 Cecelia Wilyuka - Youth Development Officer

STOP PRESS

Titjikala salt mine project EIS
 Tellus Holdings Ltd propose to develop and operate the Chandler Facility (the official name for the Titjikala salt mine and waste storage facilities) about 15km from Titjikala.
 Public comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (see link overleaf) needs to be made to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority by Friday 31 March 2017.

Council and Local Authority meetings and planning begins



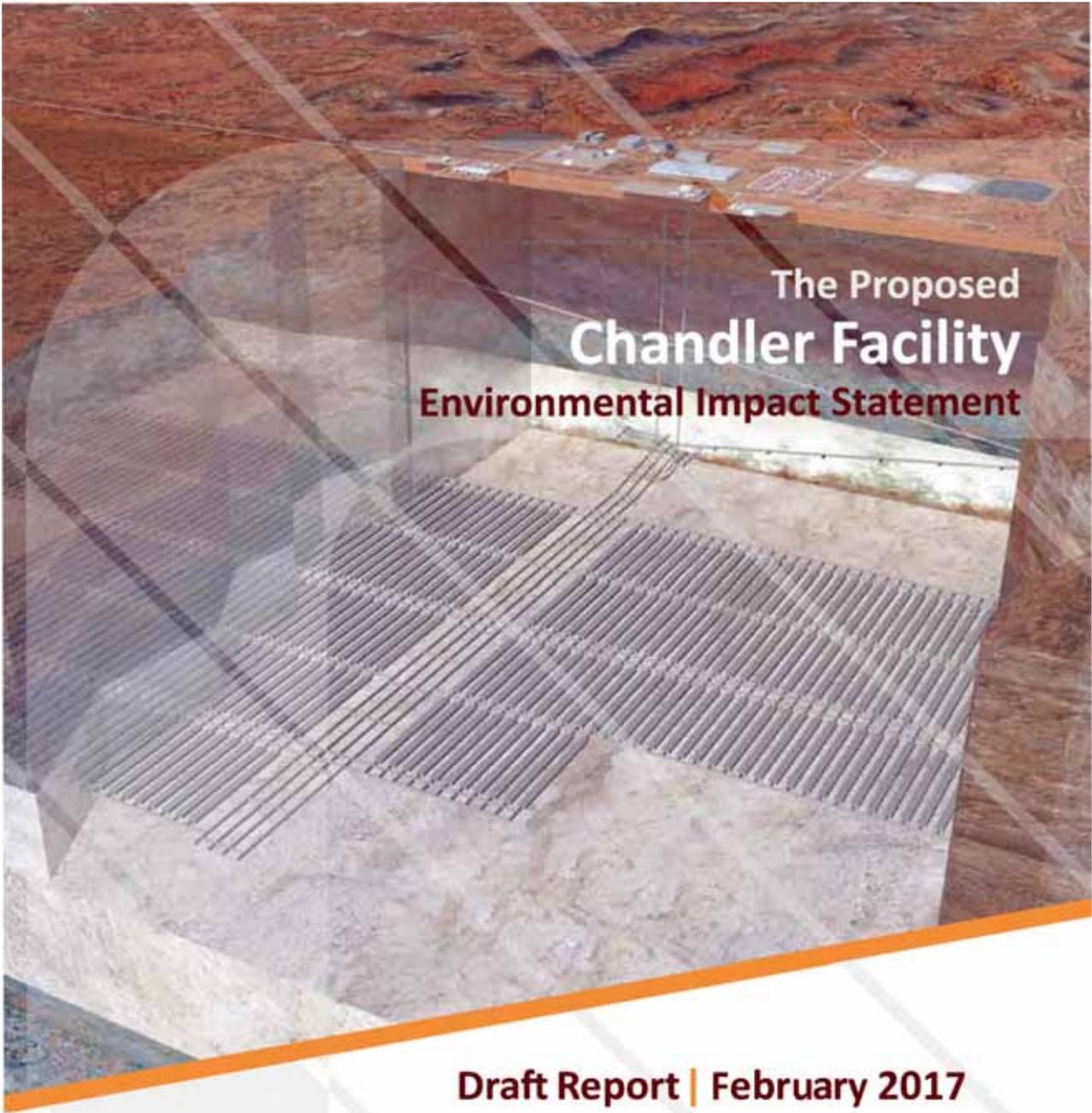
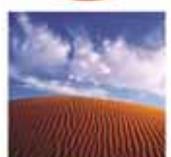
Our new Manager Governance and Planning David Jagger (seen standing at right with Councillor Anderson) delivering a planning session in a recent Council meeting.

For the most accurate dates and information about Council and Local Authority meetings please refer to our website.

www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au



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[CLICK HERE](#)

to read the
**Environmental Impact
Statement Draft Report
online**

or visit: <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/environmental-assessments/register/chandler-facility/draft-eis>



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