

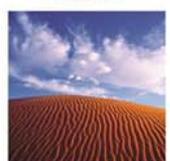


MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter

JULY 2017

volume 9 issue 3



MacDonnell Regional Council



Rout Flowers and Temisha Young work the cameras with Yamba and Jacinta after the launch of the Tidy Towns Roadshow in Santa Teresa that featured a "Recycle Rap" song

Yamba says bin it

Yamba recently dropped into Santa Teresa to launch a Tidy Towns Roadshow featuring songs to teach children and their parents about recycling and the health benefits of a tidy town.

The famous honeyant Yamba is visiting each of our 13 remote communities with some new songs about recycling and using the rubbish bin for children to learn to help make their community a healthier place to live and play.

PAGE 3: Yamba launches Tidy Towns Roadshow in Santa Teresa

PAGE 6: Four Aboriginal staff members take on leadership jobs in their communities

PAGE 11: Areyonga community members at the national Tidy Towns awards in Tasmania

INSIDE

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many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*



Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

CEO Update



Congratulations to Areyonga for achieving commendations in four categories at this year's national Tidy Towns awards. I have travelled several times to these awards with our community representatives and we are regularly acknowledged by councils and people from other Australian communities for the great changes we are bringing in our remote communities. It makes me proud to see our residents and staff standing tall among their peers in these national gatherings.



Having completed a thorough consultation and review process, the 2017-21 Regional Plan was approved by Council at their final meeting before the forthcoming local government elections. We now enter our tenth year with a good track record of achievements, sound financial planning and a Regional Plan that will maintain our vision and direction.



The Northern Territory local government elections mean our administrative services enter a Caretaker Period at the close nominations on Friday 14 July and continue until the results are declared after the close of polls on Saturday 26 August. I wish all candidates standing for election to represent our residents the very best and look forward to working with elected councillors in the third term of the MacDonnell Regional Council.



We can however, look forward to repairing the roads that were damaged from high rains and flooding over the summer. Federal Government funding through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements provides us with \$2.8m for repairs to internal and access roads in Kintore, Papunya, Haasts Bluff, Areyonga and Hermannsburg. The funding is provided by the Federal Government and administered through to Northern Territory Government's Department of Housing and Community Development.



Following a clear majority of our staff voting to adopt the MacDonnell Regional Council Enterprise Agreement 2017 it now awaits final approval by the Fair Work Commissioner. We hope for a timely resolution to the process.



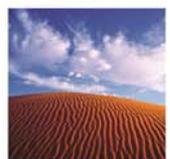
We continue to methodically work through the democratic processes of both the local government elections and the enterprise agreement as we maintain business as usual for our delivery of services.



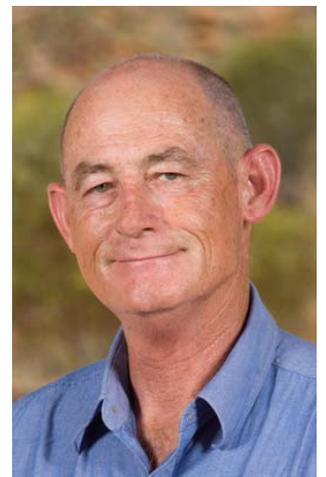
I thank our staff for their diligence, patience and dedication to our constituents as we continue *to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services.*



Thank you for the great work, Jeff



Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council



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Yamba's launch in Santa Teresa

The idea of engaging Yamba to help people learn ways to keep their community clean and healthy came from Santa Teresa, so it was the obvious community to start the Council-wide roadshow.

The Family Day launch of the Tidy Towns Roadshow had a carnival-like atmosphere. People working for organisations in the community held stalls showcasing their work and chatted with the many residents attending. The entertainment for the day got underway with performers from the local BaBoom drumming workshops warming up the crowd while a jumping castle entertained the children. Then the main act stepped on stage inside the Recreation Hall.



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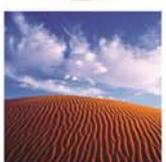


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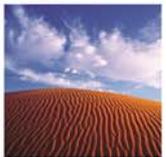
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Yamba's popular show had some new songs for children to learn about a healthier place to live and play. One song reminds them that their country, animals and everyone is healthier by asking:

So what do we do to do the right thing?

We put our rubbish, our rubbish, our rubbish in the bin

In another part of the show the "Recycle Rap" was a funky way to help everyone identify and use the yellow recycling bins. After the show children were assisted to help everyone reduce their risk of eye infection by washing their eyes, hands and faces.

After the performance, everyone came together for a community barbeque lunch and the Eastern Reggae Band provided some laid back bush reggae beats with a dirty electric guitar sound. Our councillors joined in with the event as they took a break from preparing for a Council meeting the following day.



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Acting Council Services Coordinator Paul Fly describes some of the improvements he is delivering to the Haasts Bluff waste management centre

Working outside the comfort zone

When someone works in their boss' job or a higher position for a while, it is called acting in the role. MacDonnell Regional Council recently encouraged four workers in separate communities to act in vacated Council Service Coordinator (CSC) positions, our most senior positions in communities.

MacDonnell Regional Council works hard at its goal to increase Aboriginal employment. Over the years Council has maintained its Aboriginal employment rate at around 80%. Through our experience we understand that promoting suitable Aboriginal staff is as important as employing them and supporting them. This is our best way to maintain and increase the high number of Aboriginal staff working for Council.

Recently, when a number of CSC positions become vacant, MacDonnell Regional Council offered promotions to Aboriginal staff already working in those or neighbouring communities and is training and supporting them while they are initially employed as Acting CSCs. Should these promotions be successful, almost half of our 13 community Council offices will have Aboriginal staff in the leading position. Having begun with only one person working in such a role, there are now 6 Aboriginal CSCs.

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MacNews recently met with our Acting CSCs who talked about a good work/life balance, school, fears, taking on challenges and making the most of opportunities. While each of the Acting CSCs are enjoying the reward of being paid a higher salary, they are also comfortable with their leadership responsibilities and look forward to doing more training to be better at their job.



Some would be prepared to work at a higher level in the future and discussed the possibility of being an Area Manager or Council's Chief Executive Officer one day.

Paul Fly Acting CSC Haasts Bluff
Paul moved from Mt Liebig three months ago to act in the CSC position in Haasts Bluff. He had previously been our Essential Services Officer (ESO) in Mt Liebig but now leaves his family there each week to take up this new opportunity working 120km away.

“When I was a young fella, I did not even want to ask a question,” Paul said.

Feeling that he didn't learn much at school, Paul started to really learn things when he began working. He grew up in Hermannsburg and started work there as a grader operator and operating other machinery. Later he joined MacDonnell Regional Council and become the Team Leader Civil Works in Hermannsburg.

After moving to Mt Liebig with his family he became the ESO, from where he was asked to consider the CSC position in that community. He told his manager at the time that he was “not ready yet”. Having since got on top of the paperwork and documenting challenges of the ESO role, he knew that he was ready to take on the position when it was offered.

An even larger amount of paperwork is still a big challenge for him learning the duties of the CSC position. However, he is confident of success as he feels the training provided has been good and he is learning the new duties by persisting. Paul is confident of overcoming the challenges of a new role and holds great hope for the improvements he and the Haasts Bluff staff can bring to that community.

Max Baliva Acting CSC Wallace Rockhole
Max grew up in Hermannsburg. Later he moved from Alice Springs to live in Wallace Rockhole more than 20 years ago. He has been the Team Leader Civil Works and the ESO in Wallace Rockhole since Council began and had earlier worked as a diesel mechanic with the old community council.



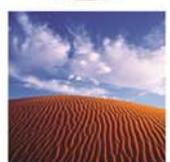
He admits that he hated school for all its classroom based activities but recognises their importance to taking on leadership roles. Today he still sees paperwork, answering emails and writing things down as his greatest challenge as a CSC but he is not fazed and knows he needs to “just do it and learn it”. More importantly he feels supported to take on challenges and enjoys the focussed training sessions Council provides.

Max would like to see more employment for fellas in the community through on the job type traineeships. He encourages anyone thinking of exploring new opportunities and advises them to “go for it – if you don't try you won't know”.

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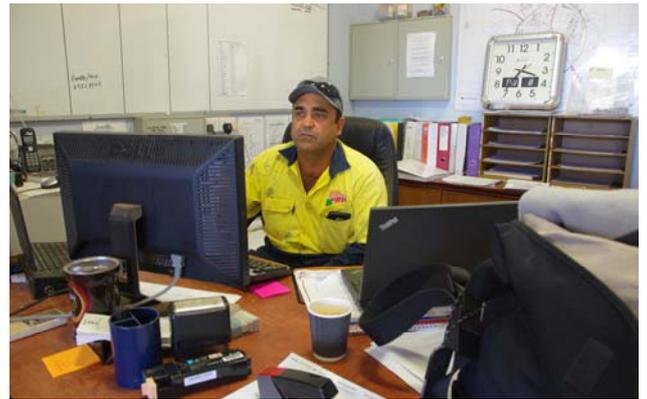
Clint Healy Acting CSC Papunya

Clint grew up in Alice Springs before going to boarding school in Melbourne, where he acknowledges he learned to socialise. He has family ties with Alcoota and Santa Teresa and recognises that he has received greater life opportunities than have his cousins and other Aboriginal people around Alice, because his father is a whitefella.

Clint started his working life making bricks in Alice Springs. Before joining MacDonnell Regional Council two and a half years ago, he was diamond drilling at the Granites mine for 16 years. He enjoys being in Papunya (where he moved from the mines to be the Team Leader Civil Works) because he can spend more time with his family.

Along with improving his work/life balance in Papunya he sees the personal growth opportunity that came from stepping out of his comfort zone and taking on this higher position. Currently the computers, paperwork and budgets are his challenge, but he is keen to work things through and is ready to take on the extra responsibilities.

Now he enjoys seeing projects finished and seeing the happiness this can bring to residents. "I actually love it" Clint said. He also loves showing others in the community that Aboriginal men can do these jobs and suggests that with Council's level of support this is the place to try.



Annalisa Young Acting CSC Santa Teresa Born in Alice Springs, Annalisa grew up and enjoyed school there before attending boarding school in Darwin. She is Eastern Arrernte and later moved to Santa Teresa where has lived for around 15 years.

She once worked in a sports and recreation role but has preferred her administration roles with the community council, in a bank agency, with the women's centre. Since MacDonnell Regional Council formed, she has been the Administration Assistant in Santa Teresa.

While feeling at ease with the paperwork side of the CSC position, Annalisa sees managing staff and meeting with stakeholders as her main challenges in the acting role. However she does not think of these challenges as a problem. Instead she knows she can always ask for help and that she will get support from management within Council.

Annalisa enjoys the training she is receiving and would look forward to further training for bigger leadership roles as she progresses along her career path. She also gets rewards from the role through the respect and local involvement she is experiencing from her community. She looks forward to greater community engagement as she works through the ongoing projects.

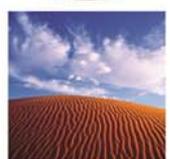
"You are supported to break barriers," Annalisa advises to people thinking about employment opportunities with the MacDonnell Regional Council. "Just stick to the job, put your mind to it and build a career pathway" she said.

At the time of publishing Paul, Max and Clint had just completed their three month reviews and have all been promoted to become permanent Council Services Coordinators. Having begun acting in her CSC role in April, a month later than the three guys, Annalisa will have her three month review later this month. We wish them all well in their career paths.

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Connecting through football



Glen Iris Football Club in Melbourne and Papunya junior footballers have teamed up with the assistance of our MacYouth program. The partnership has run sporting and cultural exchange trips between the Glen Iris and young Central Australian footballers for the past four years.

Last year Glen Iris Football Club fundraised for a group of boys from Kintore, Mount Liebig and Haasts Bluff to afford the travel to Melbourne for the first time. This year the local participants are boys from Papunya who have strong high school attendance or are actively involved within the community. Some are members of the Council's Papunya Youth Board and are passionate advocates for youth affairs in Papunya.

While in Melbourne the visitors from Papunya attended an AFL game at the MCG before playing in local football games for Glen Iris Football Club. They also explored the possibility of boarding school options in Melbourne.

The two groups will connect again when their new Melbournian friends from Glen Iris go to Papunya later this July.

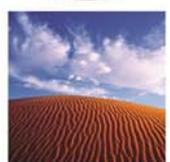
Playgrounds in outstations

A new playground was recently installed at 5 Mile Bore, offering new activities for children living and visiting the outstation located about 8 kilometres from Papunya.

MacDonnell Regional Council thanks the Territory Government's Department of Housing and Community Development for funding the project through its Municipal and Essential Services Special Purpose Grant program



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Map showing the 13 communities of the MacDonnell Regional Council as they fit into the four wards

Council Elections are coming soon

On Saturday 26 August everyone enrolled to vote and living in this council region will get to vote for 12 councillors to lead the MacDonnell Regional Council.

- To stand for election, you must complete a nomination form and take it, fax it, post it, or email it to the **MyVote Central** office (across from the Post Office) in Alice Springs
- To nominate, or to vote, you will need to be on the electoral roll
- The nominations period will open on Friday 14 July and close on Thursday 3 August
- Mobile voting commences on Monday 14 August
- All voting closes at 6pm on Saturday 26 August

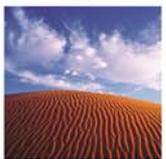
The elections will be run like other government elections – the NT Electoral Commission will have ballot boxes in all 13 of our communities. Twelve councillors will be elected to represent the four wards of MacDonnell Regional Council for the next four year term.

VOTE



COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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Patron of Tidy Towns Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia was guest of honour at this year's national Tidy Towns awards gala ceremony at the Triabunna Bowls Club, Tasmania.

Areyonga commended at national Tidy Towns awards

Proud residents of Areyonga flew “overseas” from the Northern Territory to Tasmania in May to attend the national Tidy Towns awards ceremony. Areyonga was recognised with commendations in four of the six judged categories.

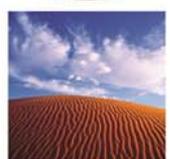
Despite Barmera in South Australia winning the overall Australian Tidy Town Award, the small remote community of Areyonga was highly commended in the categories of Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention, Waste Management and Resource Recovery; Community Action and Wellbeing; Heritage and Culture; and Environmental Education.

LEFT to RIGHT: Areyonga was represented at the gala awards by Local Authority Chair and Council Civil Worker Jonathon Doolan, Local Authority member Joy Kunia, Local Authority member Daphne Puntjina, and Council Civil Worker Jacob Carol.





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Before the awards night, finalists were shown projects that helped Triabunna to win last year.

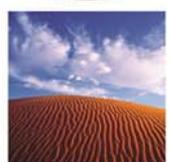
CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT: Inside the apple storage sheds on the historic farm Rostrevor Estate; Jacob finds the food while Jonathon chats with other state finalists; Areyonga's volunteer surf lifesavers Daphne and Joy admire the school equipment at the Triabunna school; children enjoy some pretty good sports equipment at the Triabunna school; Triabunna school children learn how to grow vegetables and some find its a good job when they finish school



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CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT: visiting finalists inspect the former Gunn's wood chipping facility; a representative from the developers explains that one day people will pay good money to stay in eco-friendly luxury accommodation that will be built into the old Gunn's wood chipping facility; Areyonga residents Jonathon, Joy and Daphne inspect a replica of a local Aboriginal canoe at the Spring Bay Maritime and Discovery Centre; on the drive back to the airport Daphne and Joy stopped to feed some raw and extinct animals after Matt rescued the girls from what was possibly a Ceratosaurus



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STAFF MOVEMENTS



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



Alice Springs

John Davis - IT Support and Training - Children Services

Joshua Dawes - Mobile Mechanic

Praveen Gopal - Manager Home Care

Belinda Henderson - Administration Officer - Technical Services

Jack Killingbeck - Mobile Mechanic

Jeffrey Leggat - Coordinator Community Safety

Gracie Matteucci - Senior Governance Officer

Maryam Moradi - IT Support and Training Officer - Community Safety



Amoonguna

Russell Naismith - Relief Team Leader Store

Areyonga (Utju)

David Byrne - Senior Youth Engagement Officer

Mary Ebatarinja - Educator - Early Learning

Theresa Nantjina - Home Care Assistant

Natasha Watson - Home Care Assistant



Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Murphy Derosé - Works Assistant

Steven Martinovic - Team Leader Works



Finke (Aputula)

Raylene Ferguson - Home Care Assistant

Mary Matasia - Home Care Assistant

Charmaine Stuart - Local Authority Member



Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Kim Evans - Program Support Officer - OSHC

Paul Fly - Council Services Coordinator

Megan Stern - Team Leader Children's Services



Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Yolanda Bell - Program Support Officer - OSHC

Hilda Inkamala - Administration Assistant

Marsha Ware - Home Care Assistant

Kintore (Walungurru)

Brian Abbott - Works Assistant

Lorna Jackson - Educator - Early Learning

Elodie Pieper - Program Support Officer - OSHC

Winnie Reid - Community Night Patrol Officer

Trevor Willy - Works Assistant

Sherelle Wirrie - Educator - Early Learning

Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Catherine (Kate) Alder - Team Leader Children's Services

Daniel Ryan - Team Leader Youth Development

Papunya (Warumpi)

Gwynneth Clifton - Program Support Officer - OSHC

Watson Corby - Home Care Assistant

Deannie Egan - Youth Development Officer

Anisha Gorey - Youth Development Officer

Aurora Hape - Administration Assistant Centrelink

Clint Healy - Council Services Coordinator

Monica Jugadai - Home Care Assistant

Druscella Kantawarra - Educator - Early Learning

Faye Minor - Educator - Early Learning

Sandrine Tilmouth - Home Care Assistant

Valerie Twobob - Educator - Early Learning

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Heather Hayes - Educator - Early Learning

Nicholas Hayes - Youth Development Officer

Gordon Mulladad - Youth Development Officer

Jessica Toll - Team Leader Children's Services

Krista Wise - Team Leader Youth Services

Wallace Rockhole

Max Baliva - Council Services Coordinator





STOP PRESS



A team player to the very end



Chris Kendrick pitched in to help clean up for the staff she would leave behind after they threw her a farewell lunch. Chris moves on from her role as Director Corporate Services with MacDonnell Regional Council after four years to apply her many skills with the NT Government's Central Australia Health Service.

And congratulations to our former CEO

Welcome back Diane Hood to local government in Central Australia. Diane has been formally appointed as the CEO of our neighbours, the Central Desert Regional Council. She has been working in local government in the Northern Territory and New South Wales since joining MacDonnell Regional Council as our Director Corporate Services. Diane then became our CEO until she finished in March 2013.



Council elections will put local governance meetings on hold until September

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

www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au



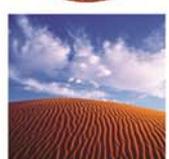
The Meetings page of the website also offers a search function that allows you to select specific dates, communities or types of meetings quickly.

BIG THANKS!

Big thanks go to all staff contributors for this issue.

MacNews thanks the following for their contributions to this publication: Sam Ashton; Jessica Kraugh; Kea Lambert; Carla Romberg; and Rohan Marks

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Got an opinion?
Make it count.

Enrol and vote!



Update **your enrolment** at ntec.nt.gov.au
or on an **enrolment form** available at your council office

Do this by **5pm Tuesday 25 July** so you can vote in the
2017 NT Council elections

MORE INFORMATION



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Authorised by Iain Loganathan, Northern Territory Electoral Commission, 80 Mitchell St Darwin NT 0800

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