

MacNews

MacDonnell Shire Council Staff Newsletter

MAY 2013

volume 5 issue 4



Breaking the shame

Charmaine Patrick qualified as one of six women from across Australia to join the Indigenous Marathon Project and now trains to run in the New York Marathon later this year. To begin team training she will soon join the other runners in Canberra and again throughout the year in the Gold Coast, Sydney and Alice Springs. Currently she has been running up to 8 kilometres a day but is looking forward to the training that will help her run the full marathon distance of 42 kilometres.

Learn about why Charmaine keeps running toward her goals as her story continues on page 3

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G'day,

CEO UPDATE

Into my second MacNews update and I am seeing the CEO recruitment process moving forward with due consideration. Council's selection committee held interviews with suitable applicants earlier this month and their preferred candidate will meet with the full Council. The Councillors will then make their final decision.

Meanwhile we are happy to welcome Chris Kendrick our new Director Corporate Services, who joins us after previous roles of Group Manager Corporate Services with the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Director Finance at Alice Springs Town Council. She is a real team player and sees her new role with us as empowering all areas of the organisation.

The Shire Plan review process is an important part of the MacDonnell Shire calendar and we are glad that Andrea Martin could stay on for a while longer to assist us with this process. Also during this time the Directors will be looking closely at our performance against the goals set in the current Shire Plan. The Shire Plan reviews continue within the Local Board meetings this month.

The Territory government's Local Government Governance Review consultations have been well attended as they continue across the shire. The second round of consultations will then follow and the information from them will be compiled and forwarded to the Minister. The Minister for Local Government will then consider all the feedback from across the Northern Territory shires.

See ya'round, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, our Director Service Delivery Centre, is currently also our Acting CEO until the recruitment process for a replacement Chief Executive Officer is complete.



Updating the Shire Plan – have your say

Every year the Shire Plan is updated. This sets out long term community plans and tells how a service delivery plan will work for the year to come. It is also the time to plan out how the money will go around.

MacDonnell Shire Council will be meeting in May and June to discuss what is needed in the Shire Plan. During this period Local Boards are also being asked what they would like in the Shire Plan to address our three shire goals:



The draft of the Shire Plan will be on our website from 1 July. During July, MacDonnell Shire will be asking residents and interested people to comment on the draft before the Final Shire Plan is presented to your elected councillors at a Special Council Meeting on 26 July 2013.

If you have ideas about your community, talk to your Councillors or Local Board Members. You can also email the MacDonnell Shire Council on info@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

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Breaking the shame (continued from front page)



Meeting with Charmaine about her recently joining the Indigenous Marathon Project (IMP), on the morning of the Boston Marathon bombings, she could have easily talked about fears. Instead she showed herself as a strong and motivated young woman, focussed on her goals, no matter how far off – definitely good things for a future distance runner.

It turns out that running a marathon will be just another challenge for this single mother of two boys. As we spoke, Charmaine's real reasons for taking on this challenge became apparent.

"I'm doing this to make my children proud, to see me do good things" she said with son Micky on her lap. "I want to show other young single mums a way to be – that they can keep trying new things" she spoke ever more quietly as her thoughts became more earnest "I'm doing this for the community. To show the young people to try new things, you know – break the shame".

By day Charmaine works as an Administration Officer in the Ntaria office of the MacDonnell Shire and she acknowledges her managers and fellow workers support that helped her think about and get started in the program, and now to maintain her training.

Charmaine says she has always been active, playing sports like softball and basketball, and having stopped smoking recently, she was looking for something healthy to do. So when she heard about the IMP and that it is supported by Australia's former world champion marathon runner Rob DeCastella, she thought about distance running.

She had never done any distance running before applying to the program, and has never run a marathon. Now Charmaine is training in a gym and running up to 8 kilometres a day around Hermannsburg. Along with a series of team training sessions throughout the year she will gain the knowledge, skills and strength to run the 42 kilometre New York Marathon in November.

Charmaine is calm and considered as she looks forward to the increased training, meeting the other team members, going to places around Australia, and to her main goal of running a marathon in the streets of New York.

"We invite you to join us in congratulating Charmaine for getting out there and giving it a go. Charmaine is a leading example for the Hermannsburg Community as well as the rest of Central Australia!" writes Charmaine's work-mate and friend Cassandra Stuart in a message to the shire.



TOP: Charmaine and son Micky
RIGHT: Charmaine sets off daily to run up to 8 kilometres



Chris arrived on her Harley Davidson, rolled up her sleeves and got to work.

...introducing Chris Kendrick

The MacDonnell Shire is happy to welcome Chris Kendrick into her new position with us as Director Corporate Services. Chris comes to the position with a qualified knowledge and an extensive working experience of administration, indigenous organisations and local government.

“I am excited to work again in local government and to continue working within an organisation that services indigenous communities” Chris said.

Chris grew up in England and after a holiday in Australia returned some years later to live. She adopted Alice Springs as her new home almost twenty years ago and began putting her office management and bookkeeping skills to use working in tourism businesses before joining the Alice Springs Town Council as a Finance Officer.

Around the same time Chris took up study opportunities while still working fulltime. First she began an Associate Diploma in Accounting with Centralian College of TAFE before transferring over to a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) at Northern Territory University. Since then she has completed a Master of Commerce (Accounting) that included qualifications for the Certified Practising Accountants Program and is currently studying for a Master of Enterprise (Executive) through The University of Melbourne.

Alongside her studies, Chris worked in local government roles, as Accountant with Anangu Pitjantjatjara Services (Formerly Pitjantjatjara Council), Manager Finance and then Director Finance with Alice Springs Town Council. Most recently she was Group Manager Corporate Services for the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT).

“The immediate challenge with MacDonnell Shire Council, I see as Director Corporate Services, is to establish a 2013/14 budget that continues to strengthen the MacDonnell Shire financial position”, says Chris considering the challenges of her position, “and in the future, to ensure that the Corporate Services directorate assists in achieving the Shire goals and continues its support of the work undertaken, on the ground, across the MacDonnell Shire”.

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Papunya Childcare Program to be restored

Through great collaboration and cooperation between the Papunya community and a number of key people over the last few weeks, the Papunya childcare program was restored and became operational again on Monday 22 April. We have been fortunate to be able to re-engage the services of our three previous educators. The shire will base a Children Services Coordinator at Papunya to support the team by providing supervision and program development. Once the childcare program is stabilised the Coordinator will be replaced by a Team Leader.

The childcare program will now run under a shared facility arrangement between the MacDonnell Shire the Department of Education and Children Services. The childcare program will operate on week days from 11am to 3pm, with preschool being delivered from 9am to noon).



New Youth and Community Centre for Hermannsburg

Ntaria can look forward to new facilities that bring their football and basketball areas together for more community events. The new facilities will feature shade over the basketball courts and an enclosed hall that will each have a stage for different sized community events. Also included is a kitchen, offices and toilets. The building will also provide a new home for our Ntaria Youth Development team and many of their activities. So youth discos in Ntaria will soon have a flash new home.

The result of a coordinated effort lead by Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service (CAYLUS), with MacDonnell Shire, ideas have been in development for about eighteen months. Now the plans are nearly complete and some building work is happening for the basketball shelter. The coming months will see the full building works will begin on the new Youth and Community Centre which is expected to be complete by February next year.



ABOVE: Artists impression of the Ntaria Youth and Community Centre to be built next to the community oval.

Mobile phone and Broadband services promised

The Northern Territory Government recently announced they had reached an arrangement with Telstra to install mobile phone towers and equipment to provide Papunya with a 3G mobile service and a fixed broadband service in Hermannsburg will enable people there to get broadband services at their homes and businesses. Chief Minister Adam Giles said "This initiative represents a major telecommunications expansion program that will bring vital services to the bush and improve the lives of over 8000 people living and working in these communities".

The services are expected to be available later this year.



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Crew trained for new Loader

Loader operator training was undertaken at Santa Teresa last week to operate the MacDonnell Shire's new John Deere 544K wheel loader. Training was attended by some Santa Teresa and Alice Springs office staff along with the shire's Roads Crew legends Ned Wilson and Donovan Spencer.

The loader will initially be used at Santa Teresa to assist with their land fill rehabilitation project before moving to Docker River and then Kintore for similar rehabilitation projects.



Developing communities
SHIRE GOAL #1

Liveable communities
SHIRE GOAL #2

First ever Kintore Swimming Carnival

our Kintore Community Pool Supervisor and MacNews correspondent, Dianne Crisp reports

The first Kintore Swimming Carnival, organised by the Tanami Group Schools, was held over three days from Wednesday 20 until Friday 22 March. Visiting schools arrived on Tuesday afternoon from Papunya, Mt Liebig, Haasts Bluff and Kiwirkurra (over in Western Australia) to join the Kintore mob.

With over 150 very excited kids, families, carers and teachers, Jasmine and David in the canteen, had their work cut out feeding all the hungry kids, swimming up an appetite.

Events began on the Wednesday and included Peter from Swimming Australia and Mark from NT Swimming taking groups of kids for lessons at the pool, Red Dust Role Models, Mitzi from the Australian Sports Commission, as well, all the teachers ran games with the kids including softball, tug of war and soccer. Then Kerz from the MacDonnell Shire Youth team ran a disco in the evening where the kids burnt off the last of their energy. Palya!

Thursday was the competition day of the carnival. This was enjoyed by all the community as some stellar performances were recorded and all the kids from the preppy's through to high school did their best in the water.

There were some proud faces on Friday when the prizes were given out before everyone headed back to their communities. Already the Kintore kids are asking how long until the next carnival (same time next year) and are still enjoying racing each other. A big kind thankyou to everyone for lots of hard work that went into the event, it was well worth it!



Liveable communities
SHIRE GOAL #2

Engaged communities
SHIRE GOAL #3

Last event was the boat race which got very confusing, but was hilarious to watch boats going in circles.

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SHIRE SPOTLIGHT

You may have seen the Shire Goal Medals in MacNews next to each story –

they show how the different things MacDonnell Shire Council is doing are part of a big Shire Plan.

This issue tells how all the Council talk works to make things happen on the ground, in the MacDonnell Shire. Starting with the elected Local Boards and the Shire Council putting their ideas together, as the right way to go - or strategies - they put them into a book called the Shire Plan. Shire strategies include goals that are talked about as outcomes and actions.

Shire Goals are simple and strong statements that remind everyone of the right way to go. MacDonnell Shire Council goals are for Developing, Liveable and Engaged Communities. This issue looks at the second Shire Goal of Liveable Communities in the:



Winners' guide to Liveable Communities

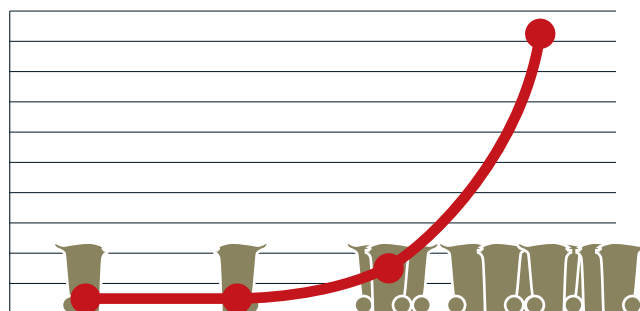
The MacDonnell Shire Council's work is to keep its communities liveable. To do this the MacDonnell Shire strives to achieve the three main outcomes to be sure that:

- communities are clean and attractive;
- communities are healthy; and
- communities are safe.

Each of these outcomes have ways to be measured. Called Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), they show if things are getting better or not. Outcomes also have a list of actions that show ways to keep things getting better. Below, we take a look at each outcome to see how the things Council talks about - like KPIs and actions - makes things better in the MacDonnell Shire.

Making communities cleaner and more attractive

When the MacDonnell Shire was formed most communities did not have regular rubbish collection and some still burned their waste in drums in front of houses. This was not healthy or safe and the community was not clean and attractive. The MacDonnell Shire Council set goals so that over a number of years all communities would have regular rubbish collections twice a week and a managed tip.



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To manage this change, one step at a time, KPIs were set for each year. Every year the number of bins being picked up and how often they were picked up was measured and reported to be sure that the communities were becoming cleaner and more attractive. To help this work KPIs were also given to manage changes at the tip. The MacDonnell Shire waste management now has fences around all community tips. All waste is now sorted and general rubbish is buried in trenches according to national health standards.

Improving the health of our communities

Living around healthy animals keeps a community healthy. The health of a community's dogs can show that a community is healthy. Dogs with no disease make good malpa for people and that's important in every community. The MacDonnell Shire learnt about ways to keep dogs and other animals healthy. They set KPIs and kept records to measure the ways they are improving the health of the community's dogs.

To help look after the animals in communities the MacDonnell Shire contracts Vets to make regular visits to check animal health and to operate to stop dogs having so many puppies. Vets report back to Council about the number of dogs they treat, euthanize, de-sex and the total number of dogs. Companion Animal Welfare is an important part of all local governments and MacDonnell Shire Council can make by-laws about how people have to manage their cheeky dogs. The Shire Councillors decided to wait, before making a cheeky dog law, until all community houses had fences.



Keeping communities safe

The different parts of the MacDonnell Shire work together to make our communities safe. Civil Works teams make sure that there is enough street lighting and that it is all working. They also help with a program to have good fences installed around every home across the shire and for each house to have a street number. Fences make homes safer and for the community they keep cheeky dogs off the streets, while street numbers on houses are helpful for services, like Night Patrol, and others who have to find the house to help people.

Community Safety teams through Night Patrol are another way the MacDonnell Shire works to keep communities safe. Night Patrol supports people by being someone in the community to talk to so that the police do not have to go to every disturbance. KPIs are set to so that Night Patrol reduces the number of people having to deal with the justice system. Other ways Night Patrol assists the community include getting children to school and delivering Age Care services.

Having read about these ideas, the best way to better understand them is to talk about them. Ask your Manager or Coordinator questions about the Shire Goals. It will also be good to talk about the goals with other Shire workers or even your family. In another SHIRE SPOTLIGHT we'll look at the next Shire Goal: Engaged Communities and how it makes your life better.

But we'll look at that another day

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STAFF MOVEMENTS



We extend a big welcome to the following people who have joined MacDonnell Shire during March and congratulation those who have taken up new roles within the Shire:

Alice Springs

Malissa Hodgson – Administration Officer
Technical Services

Christine Kendrick – Director Corporate
Services

Rachel Walsh – Administration Officer
Reception

Tanya White – Finance Officer Quality
Assurance

Amoonguna

Caroline Peters – Aged Care Assistant
Raymond Peters – Night Patrol Officer

Finke (Aputula)

Geoffrey Stuart – Works Assistant

Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Nicole Inkamala – Child Care Assistant

Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Ezeklai Andrew – Works Assistant
Benjamin Bronson – Works Assistant
Albie Farmer – Works Assistant
Tremayne Hartley – Works Assistant

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Henry Farron – Youth Development Officer

Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Ernestine Fly – Child Care Assistant

Amoonguna

Jamie Kitson – Night Patrol Officer

Papunya (Warumpi)

Tina Bennett – Aged Care Assistant
Brogas McDonald – Night Patrol Officer
Lance MacDonald – Works Assistant

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wallace Rockhole

10:00am (closed meeting until 10:30am)
Friday 3 May

Finance Meeting and Special Council Meeting reviewing the Shire Plan

Council Chambers (Alice Springs):
Friday 17 May

Local Board Meetings

*include Shire Plan reviews

Imanpa*: Wednesday 8 May

Finke*: Thursday 9 May

Docker River*: Thursday 23 May

Haasts Bluff: Wednesday 29 May

Papunya: Wednesday 29 May

Mt Liebig: Thursday 30 May

OTHER EVENTS

Ntaria Sports Weekend

Friday 3 to Monday 6 May

AFL big screen in communities

Screening dates for the *Remote Indigenous Community Road Safety Tour 2013* in the following communities:

Wallace Rockhole Friday 3 May
Collingwood v St Kilda

Areyonga Saturday 4 May
Richmond v Geelong

Papunya Friday 10 May
Essendon v Geelong



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Getting Digital TV is coming

Shire Service Coordinators and Housing Officers are working together to visit every house in the 12 remote communities and any outstations that get a TV signal with an antenna and explain to the people there about Digital TV and to help them sign up for an upgrade to their home.

They have already started doing these visits and will continue until May, making sure they speak to every household. In May, they will start planning for the Skybridge technicians to visit each community and install the set-top-box and satellite dishes.



Mechanic's dating service

Team Leaders need to make sure all vehicles are at the workshops prior to the Mechanics arrival and to schedule work around the following dates:

Kev

Finke 29 April – 3 May
Alice Springs 6 – 10 May
Titjaka 13 – 17 May

Tim

Hermannsburg 29 April – 3 May
Alice Springs 6 – 10 May
Santa Teresa 13 – 14 May
Amoonguna 15 – 17 May

Also note the new email address mechanics@macdonnell.nt.gov.au for all non urgent fleet correspondence.

Learn new skills in your community

ESO Traineeships start in June

Talk to your Shire Services Coordinator



new skills = more work = more money

Kurunna Mwarre Summit

"Making my spirit inside me good"

For Aboriginal people of all ages, male and female, to speak up strong to find local solutions to local problems, to heal the past and make our community and culture strong.

Tuesday 14 – Thursday 16 May 2013
(Arrive Monday 13th ready to start Tuesday 14th)
Ross River Resort Campground

casse

STOP THE PRESS!

Deadline for next issue

Stories for the June issue of MacNews need to be submitted before Friday 24 May. Send your stories and ideas as they occur to: media@macdonnell.nt.gov

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