























MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter

**AUGUST 2016** 

volume 8 issue 3



This dramatic photo of sunlight breaking through a rain shower at Docker River was too striking to look away from. The photo was taken by our WHS Coordinator Donelle (CT) Fraser as she delivers training in our communities.

# Special look around our communities

It has been two years since our thirteen Local Boards were replaced as Local Authorities. The new Local Authorities have been funded annually to support projects that bring much needed improvements in their communities. Having settled into their roles and with two years of consulting, assessing and prioritising projects, we look around our communities at the progress.

PAGE 6 community by community profile of completed Local Authority projects
PAGE 10 a look forward at the status of future Local Authority projects

INSIDE



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### Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

CEO UPDATE



We look forward to a new financial year of achievements that improve the lives of our residents.

Following a strategic planning phase involving Councillors, Local Authority members and staff, Council has approval of Our Regional Plan for the financial year 2016/17. This brings a renewed focus on our organisational goals for delivering valued and relevant services.



This year our planning features a continued focus on improving service standards and as we look to contribute to regional economic development. Our elected members are looking for ways to engage residents more in their processes and the administrative arm of council is looking to better support its staff and the communities while advocating for better financial opportunities and employment.



In short we are all working together to build a quality desert lifestyle for the next generation. As we continue to work in a dynamic environment, I look forward to a year that concentrates our efforts with the Councillors and Local Authority members to continue to improve the lives of our current and future residents.



As we redrafted the *MacDonnell Regional Council Enterprise Agreement* (EA), we have been addressing improved employee entitlements. I thank staff for supporting the one year transitional EA. We will commence negotiations for a longer term EA towards the end of this year.



The next event that helps us to deliver valued and relevant services is the Australian Census on Tuesday 9 August. What gets learned from the Census gives us, and other levels of government, accurate information about things like how many people are in each community or how many people live in each house. The information from the Census helps inform government how to better fund and support important services such as schools, public housing and clinics. For this reason I emphasise the importance of providing accurate census data as this data is used to calculate funding and assess the levels of need in communities.



At this moment we also find ourselves between a newly elected Federal Government and the Northern Territory Government going into caretaker mode ahead of the territory election on Saturday 27 August. MacDonnell Regional Council looks forward to working with all incumbents and successful candidates to bring improvements to services in the region.



Remote polling for the NT Election will run in our communities from Wednesday 17 to Tuesday 23 August. The full list of dates and communities is published in this issue on page 14.



As a final observation, I have recently returned from travelling around the council area with the NT Grants Commission representatives as they assessed the results of their funding support and observed the improvements MacDonnell Regional Council has been making to the lives of our residents. They were highly complementary of the great efforts being made by our staff in all of our communities.



Once again I thank my staff for their commitment to building a quality desert lifestyle.



Thank you for the great work, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.













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# **Don't feel shy** — be counted, and help the Census, to help the government, to help you.

It is good for you to complete the Census on Tuesday 9 August, so that governments have real information to help them bring better services where they are needed.

**Don't feel shy**. In the past some communities have missed out on housing projects because they worried too much about giving real information when doing the Census. They were worried that if they told how many people were *really* living in their house, they might miss out on important government services like Centrelink. This was wrong and they ended up missing out on new housing and refurbishments.

The information you provide in the Census not only helps estimate Australia's population. It is also used to distribute government money and plan services for your community. Funding for housing, education, health and the environment among others, are informed by what is learned from the Census. Census information gets used to make better decisions on policy and planning issues that impact all our lives.

TOP and RIGHT: Some communities missed out on housing upgrades because they worried too much about telling the government how many people *really* lived in their house



Help the Census to help you. For more information visit: http://abs.gov.au/census





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ABOVE: Minister Bess Price with the future of Mt Liebig during her visit to the community to plant the first of 4000 Trees.

BELOW: Minister Price plants the first of 4000 Trees and MacDonnell Regional Council CEO Jeff MacLeod waits to water it while our Director of Service Delivery Graham Murnik supervises their work.

### 3999 more trees to go

Minister for Local Government and Community Services, and Parks and Wildlife, Bess Price visited Mt Liebig recently to turn the first sod and plant the first trees after having provided the MacDonnell Regional Council with a \$100,000 grant for our *4000 Trees project*.

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 the next two years. Minister Price's support revived the opportunity to establish this revegetation project, after we missed out last year on the Federal government's National Landcare Program grant round.



The trees and shrubs will bring 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 received from the Territory Government, MacDonnell Regional Council will contribute a mix of budgeted and in-kind support toward the project. The project will engage our local Civil Works teams in each community to do the initial planting and then

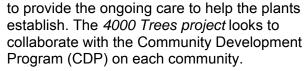




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Later in her visit, Minister Price inspected the NPARIH housing upgrades as they neared completion. She praised the hard work and dedication of local Indigenous workers and stated her confidence in having them maintain high standards of community housing. Later she visited other Council services before presenting certificates acknowledging various

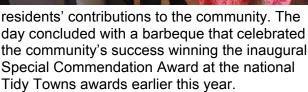




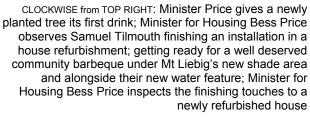










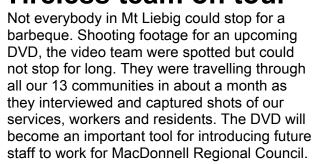






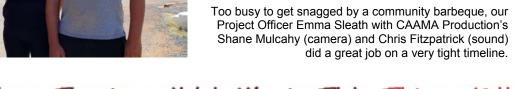
### Tireless team on tour















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Two years ago, our thirteen Local Authorities were formed to follow on from the Local Boards. The Local Authorities are funded annually to assess and decide on projects that bring much needed improvements, after having engaged with their communities about their ideas.

Their chosen projects are in various stages of development with many having reached completion. On the coming pages, completed Local Authority projects are showcased per community with their current proposed projects outlined on following pages.

The process requires members to prioritise their projects by importance. Projects are then costed and assessed against their budget. Sometimes the priorities may need to be adjusted once costs are realised. Knowing that they have an annual allocation, some communities have managed their budgets and postponed investing in larger projects until more money is available.

### Local Authority completed projects

In **Amoonguna**, the Local Authority has had a focus on their sports grounds and parks. Their decisions have seen the purchase of six new grandstands with shade shelters at the sports grounds. A clever purchase was an electronic scoreboard that can be wheeled about so it can be used for different sports. Their other achievements included improvements to the Local Authority meeting room and installing play equipment at Ross Park. Members also approved a project to work with University of Melbourne architecture students to build a new shade pavilion for people waiting for a lift.





Areyonga Local Authority has established more shaded stops around their community. This includes a big shade shelter across from the Recreation Hall with tables and bench seats, bollards for safety and a car park. A shade shelter with tyre changing equipment has also been built outside the Council Depot. Both shelters were built by the local Civil Works team, who also worked on a joint project with architecture students from the University of Melbourne to build a shade pavilion across from the store, following the university's discussions with the Local Authority.



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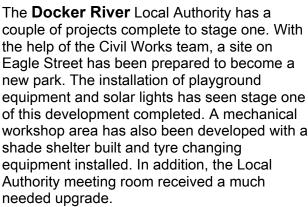




The Local Authority at **Finke** has addressed a long term matter. Observing Council's plans for standardising its cemeteries, they decided to purchase 100 headstones. The headstones are on-site at the Council Depot and once installed can have personal details applied at a families' expense. Meanwhile, the Finke Cemetery has had a major clean up in preparation for the Civil Works team installing a headstone for each gravesite. In addition, six grandstands and two shade shelters have been constructed by the Civil Works team at the sporting grounds.



The fun happens in **Hermannsburg** after their Local Authority decided to provide two new playgrounds for each of their main residential areas – Eastside and Sandhill. With the assistance of a mentor, both playgrounds were installed by the Civil Works team. Other funding was invested in seating and shade for the football and softball grounds. The balance of funds was then provided for sporting equipment and trophies for the Hermannsburg Sports Weekend.





The **Haasts Bluff** Local Authority worked through ranging priorities before resolving to purchase a new playground. A mentor worked with the Civil Works team as they installed the play equipment. The team then developed the surrounding area. The Local Authority also purchased a large shade shelter which has been installed by the contractors.





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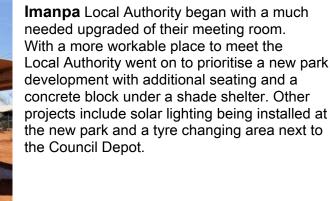








After working through their priorities, the **Kintore** Local Authority decided to purchase a new playground for the community. Working with a mentor, the local Civil Works team installed the play equipment. The football oval has also been upgraded with an uplift of new soil across the entire surface.





The **Mount Liebig** Local Authority chose to develop a public area behind the Council Office and the Civil Works team constructed a large shade shelter and paved it. The completed project incorporates park furniture and landscaping – including an artificial creek. The Local Authority looks forward to holding their future meetings in this new public area.



In **Papunya** the Local Authority looked at ways to develop their sorry camp areas. When addressing the rubbish problem in their community, the Local Authority approved the facilitation of a Papunya Cleanup Week. This followed a successful clean up day earlier this year. Following the Papunya Cleanup Week some staff travelled to a Community Health Conference at Coffs Harbour in NSW to report on the achievements of the cleanup week.







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The **Titjikala** Local Authority purchased a new playground for the south side of the community. Assisted by a mentor, the Civil Works team installed the equipment. Other projects had been put on hold during the disruption Titjikala experienced while the new sewerage system was constructed.







Concerned about residents not being able to pump petrol during the hot months of the year, the **Wallace Rockhole** Local Authority decided to put a cantilevered shade over the fuel pumps. Once purchased, the shade shelter was installed by the Civil Works team. The project has been a resounding success with fuel pouring never losing a day since the shade was installed. The Local Authority allocated their remaining funds to create a car park at the cemetery.



Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle





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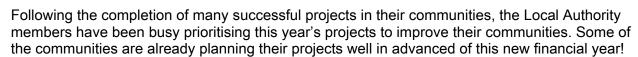




Every year Local Authorities receive an allocation of funds based on the population and size of their community. During Local Authority meetings, discussions are held to prioritise how their allocated money should be invested in their community.

The decision making processes of the Local Authorities provides good learning opportunities for members to become future community leaders. Projects resulting from Local Authority meetings build better communities as the outcomes are decided by the community members themselves.

### Local Authority current projects





as a young kids playground ~ **Priority 2**: Cracker dust to the surface of the softball field ~ **Priority 3**: Grandstand seating at the basketball courts

#### Areyonga Local Authority

football grounds ~ Priority 2: Solar streets lights

**Priority 1**: Timekeeper/commentator box at

#### **Docker River** Local Authority

Priority 1: Concrete floor under tyre changing shelter ~ Priority 2: Install shade shelter, solar light, park furniture, water bubbler and rubbish bin stands at the park on Eagle Street ~ Priority 3: Upgrades to football oval, softball field and landscaping at cemetery.

#### Finke Local Authority

Priority 1: Shade shelter and solar lights at sorry camp ~ Priority 2: Ongoing upgrades to sporting facilities

#### Haasts Bluff Local Authority

at football oval and softball field ~ **Priority 2**: Relocate the stage from behind Home Care building to the announcer's box at the football oval



















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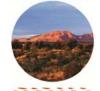
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### Her

#### Hermannsburg Local Authority

Priority 1: Horse-proof fencing and solar lights

at the two new parks ~ Priority 2: Provide fence around the football oval



#### **Imanpa** Local Authority

Priority 1: Street lights and shade shelter for

the bottom camp ~ Priority 2: Seating and shade shelters for the sports grounds



#### Kintore Local Authority

Priority 1: Fencing, water bubblers, shade

shelter, stands and seating for sports ground upgrade ~ **Priority 2**: Campground for tourists and improved signage



#### Mount Liebig Local Authority

Priority 1: Finish new playground ~ Priority 2:

shade shelter at cemetery ~ **Priority 3**: shade shelter at the sorry camp ~ **Priority 4**: Scoreboard at the football oval ~ **Priority 5**: Upgrade to softball field



#### Papunya Local Authority

**Priority 1**: New building for community laundry

~ **Priority 2**: Improvement to infrastructure, new shade shelters and water bubblers for sorry camp



### Santa Teresa Local Authority

Priority 1: Upgrade cemetery with lights, shade

shelter and coffin lowering device ~ **Priority 2**: Solar lights for the park ~ **Priority 3**: Shade shelter for the football oval, softball field and swimming pool



#### Titjikala Local Authority

Priority 1: Announcer's box for the football oval

~ Priority 2: Visitor park with solar lights, water tank and bubbler at entrance to community



#### Wallace Rockhole Local Authority

Priority 1: Create a welcoming public space

with tables and bench seating across from the Council office



Meanwhile, in our 13 communities, the Local Authorities continue their schedule of meetings throughout the year assessing and prioritising projects to best improve the lives of residents.



For the most accurate dates and details about Local Authority meetings please refer to the Upcoming Activities calendar on our website:

www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au







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#### 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:



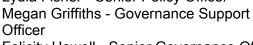


Gemma Atanacio - Reception/Administration Michael Davis - Regional Waste Coordinator Peter Devine - Coordinator Remote Sport Program

Luke Everingham - Home Care Development

Helen Fitzgerald - Coordinator Children's Services





Felicity Howell - Senior Governance Officer Troy Liddle - Mobile Mechanic Jo-Anne Maguigan - Coordinator Children's

Services Sarah Murnik - Administration Officer -

**Community Services** 

Bianca Rayner - Coordinator Youth Development

Elizabeth Richards - Project Coordinator -Monitoring and Evaluation

Emma Sleath - Corporate Services Project

Daniel Teudt - Manager Governance and **Planning** 

#### Amoonguna



Daniel Buckskin Youth Development Officer Thomas Burdett - Works Assistant Glenn Dixon - Works Assistant Michael Ellis - Works Assistant Stuart Natasha - Senior Youth Development

Henry Oliver - Works Assistant Anya Riley - Youth Development Officer Samantha Stuart - Youth Development Officer

#### Areyonga (Utju)



Nathalia Armstrong - Home Care Assistant Lynette Coulthard - Administration Assistant Centrelink

Garnet Djana - Night Patrol Officer Denise Ebataringa - Educator OHSC Tanya Ebatarinja - Educator Early Learning Mikaela Gallagher - Home Care Assistant Natasha Glen - Nutrition Assistant Alexandra Millar - Program Support Officer Lucinda Nipper - Educator OSHC Mervyn Peipei - Night Patrol Officer Stephanie Ratara - Nutrition Assistant Naphtali Scobie - Works Assistant Helen Tjukintja - Night Patrol Officer

#### **Docker River** (Kaltukatjara)

Thaddeus Brady - Works Assistant Sheryth Bronson - Educator Early Learning Florrie Cooper - Night Patrol Officer Rueben Kunia - Works Assitant Gerald Mitchell (Jr) - Works Assistant Janette Newberry - Administration Assistant Centrelink

Hazel Peipei - Educator Early Learning

#### Finke (Aputula)

Christine Allen - Educator Early Learning Virginia Doolan - Educator Early Learning Denise Ferguson - Educator Early Learning Joanne Santo - Team leader Children's Services

Nicky Yai Yai - Works Assistant

#### Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Marcia Curtis - Community Safety Officer Roseranna Larry - Night Patrol Officer Valmai Minor - Youth Development Officer Katherine Richards - Program Support Officer

#### **Hermannsburg** (Ntaria)

Sherlene Brogus - Educator Early Learning Granville Inkamala - Works Assistant James (Nahum) Malbunka - Works Assistant Selina Malbunka - Educator OSHC Jack Milner - Program Support Officer Jennifer Moketarintja - Administration Assistant

Francis Oliver - Works Assistant Renathan Patrick - Youth Development Officer

Evance Pareroultja - Night Patrol Officer Roslyn Raberaba - Team Leader Community Night Patrol

Menam Ryder - Youth Development Officer Naomi Spratt - Administration Assistant

Bronwyn Stuart - Home Care Assistant Joella Williams - Educator Early Learning























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#### lmanpa

Michelle Matasia - Home Care Assistant Warren Murphy - Home Care Assistant Timothy Sheehan - Essential Services Operator

#### Kintore (Walungurru)

Kristin Burgess - Team Leader Children Services

Johnny Corby - Works Assistant Rex Eddie - Team Leader Community Safety Timothy Giles - Works Assistant Robert Jeffries - Relief Council Service Coordinator

Julie Kremser - Program Support Officer Rochelle Major - Educator Early Learning Meagan Macauley - Youth Engagement Officer

Jason Minor - Works Assistant
Warren Nolan - Works Assistant - NPARIH
Joshua Poulson - Works Assistant
Lorraine Renkaraka - Educator Early
Learning

John Rowe - Works Assistant – NPARIH Jake Sellers - Program Support Officer Ashley Spencer - Works Assistant Aaron Young - Works Assistant



Catherine Clucas - Team Leader Children's Services

Jessie Daniels - Educator OSHC Anisha Gorey - Youth Development Officer Eliza Jane Jugadai - Youth Development Officer

Stuart Millar - Administration Assistant Centrelink

Rhonda Namatjira - Educator OSHC Dilan Ozdemir - Program Support Officer Samuel Tilmouth - Works Assistant Sarah Wheeler - Educator Early Learning

#### Papunya (Warumpi)

Lance Armstrong - Administration Assistant Centrelink

Semmena Brogus - Educator Early Learning James Cooney - Program Support Officer Sabie Inkamala - Works Assistant Brogas McDonald - Home Care Assistant Dalton McDonald - Works Assistant

Karen McDonald - Night Patrol Officer Joseph Rawson - Senior Outstation

Donald McDonald - Works Assistant

Assistant

Tobias Roberts - Youth Development Officer Daniel Ryan - Youth Engagement Officer Sarah Stockman - Administration Officer Centrelink

Sandrine Tilmouth - Administration Officer Courtney Ward - Educator OSHC Presley Ward - Works Assistant Terrence Wilson - Works Assistant

#### Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Lenard Kenny - ESO

Shaneil Kopp - Educator Early Learning Roberta Pollard - Team Leader Children's Services

Gina Williams - Educator Early Learning

#### Titjikala

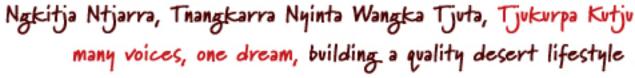
John Bennett - Council Service Coordinator Ian Boko - Outstation Works Assistant Stephanie Campbell - Educator Early Learning

Sarah Doolan - Educator Early Learning Thelma Doolan - Educator Early Learning Julie Meruntju - Educator Early Learning Roger Wilyuka - Youth Development Officer

#### **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



























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#### LATE BREAKING NEWS



Thank You to Imanpa, Areyonga and Titjikala SDCs for recycling your Printer Cartridges!

Keep up the good work! Don't forget MacDonnell Regional Council is a member of the 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' program!

This program collects and returns inkjet, toner cartridges, toner bottles and other imaging consumables from printers, fax machines and photocopiers for reprocessing and recycling.

If you remove any of these items from a printer, fax or copier, remember to drop them into one of the three boxes located in the Alice Springs office.



# Mobile Voting dates for the Territory election

Remote poling for the forthcoming Northern Territory Election will run in our communities from Wednesday 17 to Tuesday 23 August. The following list shows dates and times for voting in our communities:

#### **Amoonguna**

2.15pm-4.15pm Wednesday 17 August

#### Areyonga

8.45am-11.45am Thursday 18 August

#### **Docker River**

10.15am-1.45pm Tuesday 23 August

#### **Finke**

8.15am–10.45am Friday 19 August

#### Haasts Bluff

2.30pm-4.00pm Tuesday 23 August

#### Hermannsburg

10.00am-3.00pm Wednesday 17 August

#### **Imanpa**

11.30am-1.30pm Monday 22 August

#### Kintore

10.15am–2.15pm Friday 19 August

#### **Mount Liebig**

12.30pm–3pm Monday 22 August

#### **Papunya**

8.15am-12.15pm Tuesday 23 August

#### Santa Teresa

45am-11.45am Wednesday 17 August

#### Titiikala

10.00am-12.00pm Thursday 18 August

#### **Wallace Rockhole**

2.45am-4.15pm Thursday 18 August









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50TH ANNIVERSARY

# FREEDOM DAY

### FESTIVAL

COMMEMORATING THE WAVE HILL WALK OFF AND BIRTH OF ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS

AUGUST 19 - 21 2016

KALKARINGI & DAGURAGU, NT, AUSTRALIA

ngumpin, kartiya karru-la jintaku-la · blackfella, whitefella unite as one



Tickets available online at WWW.FREEDOMDAY50.COM.AU

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