



# MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter DECEMBER 2016 volume 8 issue 5



LEFT to RIGHT: Cleaning up at the Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) Awards, Areyonga workmates Martin Carroll, Jerry Pena and Jacob Carroll celebrate having their community named this year's Territory Tidy Town

## the Territory's tidiest town is....

Areyonga won the major award of the Territory's Tidy Town competition at the 2016 Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) Awards and will go on to represent the Northern Territory at the national awards next year. Meanwhile, MacDonnell Regional Council was well represented in the winner's circle on the night receiving awards across many categories.

PAGE 3: MacDonnell Regional Council again awarded *Best Regional Council*  
PAGE 4: Many of our communities receive commendations and awards

INSIDE

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## Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

## CEO UPDATE

Every year I am impressed all over again, as I see our communities rising to the challenge of presenting their community with great pride. This is reflected every year in the growing number of communities that are winning and being commended for the different categories in the Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) competition.

This year saw five of our communities being nominated for awards. This surely supports the MacDonnell Regional Council winning the *Best Regional Council* award three times in a row.

My congratulations also go to Areyonga on being named this year's Territory Tidy Town!

It was also good to see some of our long servicing councillors recognised at the recent Local Government Association of NT (LGANT) conference in Alice Springs. Great work councillors Marlene Abbott, Irene Nangala and Lance Abbott, your communities thank you.

Also at the LGANT conference, it was pleasing to have the Minister for Housing and Community Services, Gerry McCarthy, attend and announce that the government is increasing the Northern Territory Operations Funding program for regional councils and will also be providing extra funds to the Special Purpose Grants program.

Council present at the LGANT conference were very pleased to hear that the new Northern Territory Government has committed to a \$1.1b investment to redress the remote housing deficit, ongoing tenancy management and housing maintenance issues in our communities. MacDonnell Regional Council is keen to work in partnership with the government to improve community housing and achieve our vision of *building a quality desert lifestyle* for our constituents.

Through our mission *to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services* we stand ready, and open for business, to promptly assist the Northern Territory Government to redress remote housing issues.

In the early new year we start of our annual planning process for the calendar year 2016/17. Following the Territory Government's lead to reset funding to include CPI increases, we are looking for similar increases to be reinstated into the Federal Assistance Grants program.

As we look forward to another year working for our constituents, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding achievements and improved service delivery across our region this year. While we face many challenges, they have been turned around through our leadership, teamwork and hard work. We have continued to lead the way across all our services. We all share in the task of improving the quality of life for our constituents living in our remote communities.

To our staff working through the break, I thank them for their commitment to our residents. To all our staff and stakeholders – I wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Thank you for the great work, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.



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Member for Namatjira Chansey Paech presents the *Best Regional Council* trophy to MacDonnell Regional Council Director Service Delivery Graham Murnik, with the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Lauren Moss (left) and Member for Karama Ngaree Ah Kit (right) watching on

## Best Regional Council, again...

For the third year in a row, MacDonnell Regional Council was named the *Best Regional Council* at the annual Territory Tidy Towns awards.



"I knew our communities were doing great work, but to be told we are the *Best Regional Council* for three years straight suggests we are doing something right" she said.

Director of Service Delivery, Graham Murnik accepted the award on behalf of the council at the Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) gala award ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in Darwin.

Council president Roxanne Kenny said the award was very encouraging.



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## Best Regional Council, again... continued

Communities in the MacDonnell Council region were the most highly awarded on the night, picking up eight commendations and six awards in categories including Community Participation, Tidiest School and Litter Control. Following are our community's full achievements:

### Wallace Rockhole

Commendation: *Best Territory Tidy Town School*

### Finke

Commendation: *Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Control and Prevention Award*

Commendation: *Community Participation*

Commendation: *Best Territory Tidy Town School*



### Areyonga

Commendation: *Community Participation Award*

Award winner: *Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Control and Prevention Award*

Award winner: *Best Medium Community*

Award winner: *Territory Tidy Town Award*



### Imanpa

Commendation: *Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Control and Prevention Award*

Commendation: *Community Participation Award*

### Santa Teresa

Commendation: *Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Control and Prevention Award*

Award winner: *The Geoff Finch Memorial Cup (for Community Encouragement)*

Award winner: *Community Participation Award*

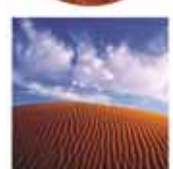
Award winner: *Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre – Best Territory Tidy Town School Award*

Award winner: *Justin Colley – Community Citizen Award*



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## the Territory's tidiest town is.... Areyonga

The picturesque community of Areyonga was the big winner at this year's Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) awards. Winning the major Territory Tidy Town award, Areyonga will go on to represent the Northern Territory next year at the national awards in Triabunna in Tasmania.

The Keep Australia Beautiful awards recognise the hard work done by remote and regional communities to reduce rubbish and encourage sustainability. The Territory Tidy Town trophies were presented by the Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy to father and son Civil Works Assistants Jacob and Martin Carrol, who accepted the silverware on behalf of Areyonga at the gala award ceremony at the Darwin Hilton.

"MacDonnell Regional Council staff, traditional owners and residents of Areyonga all deserve this win for their dedication and hard work over the past 12 months" Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) CEO Heimo Schober said.



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"In particular, the township of Areyonga demonstrated great community pride and leadership in local sustainability practices and education, and set a wonderful example for other remote townships to follow" Mr Schober said.



Following the gala awards ceremony in Darwin, the residents of Areyonga couldn't wait to get together and cheer for their great achievement.

A community celebration barbeque was held early in December that saw young and old Areyonga folk gather on their basketball court to hand out individual awards and to hold their Territory Tidy Town awards proudly in the air.



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"We just pick up rubbish and clean up the community, we use the rubbish truck and take the rubbish to the dump. I was happy and lots of people were around" Jacob Carrol from Areyonga said in a radio interview shortly after accepting the award.



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## ABC's *Back Roads* comes to Hermannsburg

Residents of Hermannsburg will feature in the second series of ABC TV's *Back Roads*. Their crew recently spent a week in Hermannsburg with children from the school's horse program and singer Warren H Williams filming some of the community's stories.

Presented by former political reporter Heather Ewart, *Back Roads* introduces viewers to the many small country towns across Australia that you might otherwise never know about.

It's the first time Northern Territory has featured in the *Back Roads* series, and while Ntaria lacks a CWA or Horticultural Show, its inherent character might just be the standout that keeps the crew coming along our back roads to feature more communities in future series.

The episode featuring Hermannsburg will air on ABC1 at 8pm on Monday 9 January and will also become available on iView.



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## Making a back road better

A much needed upgrade to the back road between Mount Liebig and Haasts Bluff was recently completed by our Technical Services grader operators Ned Wilson and Donovan Spencer. Members of Haasts Bluff Local Authority requested the work on the 100km road, which has been graded and had its original width reinstated.

The road is important because it provides a shorter route between the two communities of Mount Liebig and Haasts Bluff as well as providing access to a number of outstations. It also means that people can still travel between the two communities, even when business is occurring in the Papunya region.

The work cost \$90,000 and was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development under the Local Roads Financial Assistance Grant program.



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## Making cruising around Imanpa, smoother

Driving in and around Imanpa is a little smoother these days after a road grading project finished there recently.

The work included grading of unsealed internal roads, rubbish dump roads and the cemetery access roads. Grading was also completed on the softball oval and football oval, as well as community firebreaks.

The work was project managed by MacDonnell Regional Council, carried out by Western Grader Hire Pty Ltd and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's Roads to Recovery program.



## Our pools are open and safe

Cool times ahead in Kintore, Areyonga and Santa Teresa with their pools open and operating for the summer.

The pools will be open on Wednesdays through to Sundays until March next, so jump in, cool off and enjoy!

On a community, pools are not only a great way to cool off and have fun, they also have an important role in ear and skin health, general fitness and school attendance.

MacDonnell Regional Council employs and trains local staff to keep an eye on operations. Six Pool Assistants from Santa Teresa and Areyonga recently completing their Bronze Medallion training at the Alice Springs Swimming Pool.

The Royal Life Saving Bronze Medallion is the minimum standard for a qualified lifesaver and involves survival and rescue skills and a range of swimming exercises.

RIGHT: Santa Teresa Pool Assistant Charlie Lynch completing his Bronze Medallion timed tow



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The minister responsible for local government the Hon Gerry McCarthy MLA presents Long Service Awards to MacDonnell Regional Council elected members Marlene Abbott (top) and Irene Nangala (below)

## Long service in local government recognised

Long Service Awards were recently presented to three councillors from MacDonnell Regional Council for their years of work in local government

At the Local Government Association of NT (LGANT) conference in Alice Springs, our councillors Lance Abbott (Kintore), Marlene Abbott (Docker River) and Irene Nangala (Kintore) were presented with awards recognising that their service to local government started before the shires.

Organised by LGANT, nominations were open to past and present elected members who have served as councillors for over ten years.

The awards recognise service in local government, acknowledging our councillors eight years service since the shires began and including previous experience serving on their community councils.

Thanks to Marlene Abbott, Irene Nangala and Lance Abbott for all your hard work supporting your communities!

**Marlene Abbott** (Iyarrka Ward) was recognised for over 10 years in local government and has been a member of MacDonnell Regional Council since it began in 2008. Before that, she served her community as an elected member of the Docker River Council Aboriginal Corporation and a Director of the Docker River Store.

**Irene Nangala** (Luritja / Pintupi Ward) was recognised for over 10 years of service in local government and has served as a Councillor with MacDonnell Regional Council since it began. She previously served her community as the Chair of the Walungurru Community Council Aboriginal Corporation (soon after it formed in the 1980s) and has worked as an ATSIC Regional Councillor.

**Lance Abbott** (Luritja / Pintupi Ward) was recognised for 10 years service in local government. He has been twice elected by the Luritja / Pintupi Ward to serve as their representative. Before the formation of the MacDonnell Regional Council, Lance was a councillor for the Walungurru Community Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Earlier this year, at a special reception for our retiring President **Sid Anderson**, LGANT President Damian Ryan presented him with a LGANT Certificate of Recognition for his 25 years of service to local government.







Graduating staff with a proud manager and coordinators (left to right) Nina Bullock, Gloria Doolan, Rosemary Matasia, Audrey Miller, Peter Matasia, Kayme Matasia, Marlene Boko, Kay Smith, Caroline Peters, Doreen Lane, Susie Lane and Luke Everingham

## Home Care staff graduate from CDU

MacDonnell Regional Council recently had 20 of its Home Care staff complete their Certificate 2 in Community Services from Charles Darwin University (CDU). Complete with their graduation robes, attending family and supporting staff, nine of the graduates were able to attend the ceremony at the Desert Lantern restaurant on the CDU campus.

MacDonnell Regional Council employs and trains community staff to look after elderly residents by delivering services including home care and day respite. As part of their studies, the group were trained in aspects of client care, personal care, safety, administration, transport and meal delivery.

### **Congratulations to all graduates from the Certificate 2 in Community Services:**

Marlene Boko, Kayme Matasia, Peter Matasia, Rosemary Matasia, Audrey Miller, Caroline Peters, Gloria Doolan, Doreen Lane, Susie Lane, Sarah Lynch, Janie Diane Campbell, Michael Seven, Donna Palmer, Marcie Alice, Roxeanne Ungwanaka, Jo Marie Rawson, Serena Williams, Debbie Williams, Shane Wongaway and Katie Kitson.

After donning their official graduation robes and receiving their certificates, the nine graduates from Finke, Amoonguna and Haasts Bluff and



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their family and friends went off to dinner to celebrate. Their Manager Home Care Nina Bullock said she "really admired the efforts of all the graduates".

## Now sadly, Nina has since decided it is time to say goodbye to everyone in Central Australia

Nina began working with MacDonnell Council as the Team Leader Families in Hermannsburg in 2012 before moving into the Manager Home Care role. Nina has worked tirelessly to develop a culturally sensitive Home Care service that empowers our clients and local staff.



Over recent years and with extremely limited resources, Nina has been required to implement significant Aged Care sector reforms that were not designed with remote Aboriginal service delivery in mind. Under her care MacDonnell Regional Council became one of the first remote providers in the Northern Territory to be compliant with these reforms, which was no small feat.

We wish her all the best in the future as she returns to the Pacific Islands / Asia seeking to further her experience in international development.

## Milpa and Yamba hit the road for trachoma

Milpa the Trachoma Goanna has visited nine communities in the MacDonnell Council region over the past two years. Milpa was joined by friends Yamba the Honeyant and co-host Jacinta Price in roadshows teaching children how to keep clean and avoid the infectious eye disease, Trachoma.

Australia is the only developed country in the world to still have trachoma, which is found in the dry, dusty remote Aboriginal communities of central Australia. Trachoma can be prevented by blowing noses with a tissue and washing children's faces whenever they are dirty. Otherwise trachoma is spread by infected eye and nose secretions (snot) being passed from child to child.



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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:

October Reward and Recognition went to:

**Sheryth Bronson** our Early Learning Educator in Docker River for going **Above and Beyond**

November Reward and Recognition went to:

**Sam Ashton** our Council Service Coordinator in Santa Teresa for going **Above and Beyond**

**Anisha Gorey** our Youth Development Officer in Mount Liebig for going **Above and Beyond**

**Papunya Civil Works Team** for going **Above and Beyond**

**Haasts Bluff Child Care Team** for **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

Daniel Wellington - Mobile Mechanic  
Richard Fleming - Coordinator Children's Services  
Kea Lambert-Burrell - Technical Services Administration Officer  
Gracie-Rose Matteucci - Governance Administration Officer  
Winston MiMi - Home Care Development Officer  
Ronnie Parcon - Mobile Mechanic  
Emma Sleath - Corporate Services Project Officer  
Peter Stowers - Coordinator Community Safety  
Munyaradzi Timire - Home Care Development Officer

### Amoonguna

Richard Dixon - Youth Development Officer  
Tereesha Stuart - Home Care Assistant

### Areyonga (Utju)

Kristyn Burns - Pool Assistant  
Janice Carroll - Home Care Assistant  
Chantelle Gallagher - OSHC Educator  
Tom Howard - Team Leader Pool  
Shirell James - Educator - Early Learning  
Sabrina Lewis Gordon - Early Learning Educator  
Nisha Chandran Parameswara Vilasam - Team Leader Children's Services  
Frank Tzoukos - Team Leader Works

### Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Coraline Abbott - Early Learning Educator  
Claudia De Rose - Early Learning Educator  
Roy Jugadai - Works Assistant  
Rueben Kunia - Works Assistant  
Warren Marshall - Works Assistant  
Natasha Robinson - Community Night Patrol Officer



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## Finke (Aputula)

Samuel Doolan - Works Assistant  
Kenneth Hayes - Works Assistant  
Leigh Iselin-Blumberg - Works Assistant  
Danuel Stewart - Works Assistant

## Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

David Corby (Stockman) - Youth Development Officer  
Griselda Giles - Educator – OSHC  
Devina Luxton - Administration Assistant  
Centrelink  
Kane Luxton - Essential Services Officer

## Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Angela Ebatarintja - Early Learning Educator  
Luke Elliot - Team Leader Works  
Emslie Lankin - Early Learning Educator

## Imanpa

Tanya Luckey - Administration Officer

## Kintore (Walungurru)

Wala Cora - Pool Assistant  
Lester Jack - Works Assistant  
Lorna Jackson - Pool Assistant  
Lucy Maxwell - Early Learning Educator  
Cheryl Raggett - Youth Development Officer  
Katherine Richards - Youth Engagement Officer  
Errol Wako - Youth Development Officer  
Melissa Warren - Team Leader Pool  
Billy Willy - Works Assistant

## Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Lazarus Abbott - Youth Development Officer  
Rachel Corby (Stockman) - Early Learning Educator  
Jacinta Miller - Youth Development Officer  
Maxwell Rawlings - School Nutrition Assistant

## Papunya (Warumpi)

Paul Berthon - Essential Services Officer  
Talbot Corby (Stockman) - Youth Development Officer  
Bronte Roper - Youth Engagement Officer

## Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Selwyn Anderson - Pool Assistant  
Tracey Furber - Youth Development Officer  
Gavin Hayes - Senior Pool Assistant  
Charlie Lynch - Pool Assistant  
David Marshall - Senior Pool Assistant  
Maxwell Meneri - Youth Development Officer

Gordon Mulladad - OSHC Educator  
Bianca Ronson - Early Learning Educator  
Theresa Ronson - Early Learning Educator  
Reuben Solomon - Team Leader Youth Development  
Robert Wallace - Pool Assistant  
Jocelyn Young - Pool Assistant

## Titjikala

Gerard Lessels - Council Service Coordinator

## FAREWELL

Farewell to husband and wife team **Rhonda (Ronnie) and Colin (Luigi) Wilcomes** who have recently resigned from their respective positions in Papunya as Council Service Coordinator and Essential Service Officer.



They've become grey nomads and were last seen heading off down the road on a trip around Australia. We wish them all the very best and safe travels on their journey.



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## Nigel Scullion **SCANNED**

Minister for Indigenous Affairs  
Country Liberals Senator for the Northern Territory

Mr Jeff MacLeod  
Chief Executive Officer  
MacDonnell Regional Council  
PO Box 5267  
Alice Springs NT 0871

Dear Jeff

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate MacDonnell Regional Council on receiving the Best Regional Council award for a third consecutive year.

Well done to all of council's staff for their initiative and hard work, this is a well-deserved award of the council's collective efforts that you all can be proud of.

I commend MacDonnell Regional Council on its leadership and ongoing work with communities.

Once again congratulations, and I look forward in hearing about your future endeavours.

Kindest Regards

NIGEL SCULLION

27 October 2016

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