MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter MAY 2017 volume 9 issue 2

Various Areyonga locals, along with supporting Council staff give national Tidy Town judge Jill Grant (third from left) a guided tour of their beautiful community

Areyonga, the beautiful.

Having been named the Territory Tidy Town, the people of Areyonga recently showcased their community to the national Tidy Town judge ahead of attending the national awards in Tasmania this month. The day culminated with a community barbeque on the basketball courts where the local ladies choir gave an impromptu performance for the visiting judge.

PAGE 3: Areyonga showcases its community for the national Tidy Towns judge
PAGE 10: Handy information about to nominate for the Council Elections

INSIDE

MacDonnell Regional Council

Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju

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MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter MAY 2017 volume 9 issue 2 page 2

CEO UPDATE

Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

and all the best to Areyonga as they head off "overseas" to the national Tidy Towns awards at Triabunna in Tasmania. Having impressed visitors with the great community pride it displays, we hope the contributions of residents and Council are well received nationally. Our thoughts and best wishes are with the Areyonga representatives travelling to the awards

The background support that secures awards and accolades is funding. We are currently in our budgeting and planning time of the year.

We have just seen the NT Budget for the next financial year. It is pleasing to see the continuation of both the Remote Economic Development Fund and the Special Purpose Grants Fund. Additionally, we welcome the introduction of the Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund and the Remote Community Sports Infrastructure Program, both worth $5m per annum, along with increased funding for indigenous jobs, housing, remote roads and ongoing funds for outstations and homelands.

We now await the Federal Budget on 15 May, hoping that the promised return of indexation on our Financial Assistance Grants will at last be added to our core funding for 2017/18.

Meanwhile we continue our Council's planning and budgeting process in good faith. Having completed a thorough consultation process with Council, Local Authorities and with staff, we now look to our Council's review and approval of the Draft Regional Plan later this month ahead of a 21 day public consultation period. The completed Regional Plan is scheduled for final approval at our Ordinary Council meeting on Friday 30 June.

Our new Enterprise Agreement has also been under review and is currently being voted on by our staff. Should employees support Council's offer, the new Enterprise Agreement will be in place in July 2017.

We are starting to look ahead to the Local Government Elections that are due on Saturday 26 August when all 12 Council positions will be open for election. More information about this process will become available over the coming months beginning with an introduction to the nomination process on page 10 of this MacNews issue.

Our residents and the MacDonnell Regional Council are pleased to see the NT Government has commenced delivery of its Remote Housing Program. Starting with its initial *Room to Breathe* phase that involves simple ways to increase living spaces in existing housing, such as enclosing verandas, the program commences in Hermannsburg, Kintore, Areyonga and Titjikala. We commend the government for starting to address the appalling living conditions our residents endure and look forward to the rollout of the full program in all our remote communities.

I thank our staff for their outstanding achievements and the improved service MacDonnell Regional Council delivers across our region. We look to keep leading the way across all our services 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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MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter MAY 2017 volume 9 issue 2 page 3

Nestled in the West MacDonnell Ranges, the hidden gem that is Areyonga was recently discovered for her first time by the national Tidy Town judge Jill Grant

Areyonga, the beautiful.

As part of her judging tour of national Tidy Town finalists, Jill Grant spent a day in Areyonga to assess its achievements against the six key categories by which towns across Australia are compared. MacDonnell Regional Council hopes her day was a memorable and rewarding one in her demanding program.

A day would not be long enough for the visiting judge to meet all the locals that help make the community so remarkable and many activities occur independently so they may not be easily seen during a day visit.

To address this, MacDonnell Regional Council made a video for the judge to view while assessing the submission before her visit.

Many thanks go to the team from CAAMA Productions that expressed an inspiring story about the community and its motivation that keeps it being a tidy town.

Through the video, the judge, Jill Grant was introduced to key individuals such as:

Community leader Daphne Puntjina (right), who has been promoting Areyonga through Tidy Towns competitions since they were first named Territory Tidy Town in 1993;

Bi-lingural educator Tarna Andrews (left), who teaches school children in their first language, Pitjantjatjara, about recycling and a better use of resources in Areyonga; and

Local radio presenter and Civil Worker Jonathon Doolan (below left), who enjoys raising his family in a beautiful and caring community.

Once in Areyonga, the Tidy Town judge Jill Grant was introduced to more residents who support and enjoy the great qualities of their community.

On a walk around the community, Jill Grant met with Janet Carol (below) in the Art Centre. Janet decorates old wheelie bins that have been salvaged from the tip and cut down. They become re-purposed as planter boxes that fill with flowers and adorn residents' homes.

Continuing around the community, the hosts and their special guest visited the primary school, church and childcare centre before having a barbeque on the basketball courts.

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CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT: setting off on a showcasing walk around Areyonga; Tidy Towns judge Jill Grant discussing children's learning at the Areyonga School with the principal Jonathon Fernando; visiting the Early Learning Centre; Daphne introduces Jill to her dogs; Daphne shows Jill around the local church where she delivers every service

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MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter MAY 2017 volume 9 issue 2 page 6

CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT: showcasing a shade pavilion built by Council's local Civil Workers and visiting architecture students; national Tidy Towns judge Jill Grant and KAB(NT) CEO Heimo Schober honouring Areyonga community leader Daphne Puntjina with awards; the Areyonga Ladies Choir give Jill Grant their cultural gift; the camera rises in a drone to capture the closing shot of the community's video; the Areyonga residents watch their community's video

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MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter MAY 2017 volume 9 issue 2 page 7

Young people rule!

Youth Boards convened by MacDonnell Council provide young people with voice and a unique opportunity to advocate around issues important to them.

During National Youth Week in early April, Youth Boards from nine communities across the MacDonnell Region held various activities and events to promote young peoples' leadership, expression and opportunities. Funded through the Commonwealth Office of Youth Affairs, activities included bush trips, song writing and music videos, as well as concerts and barbeques.

Some members of Youth Board are also members of their community's Local Authority and already developing into strong and influential community leaders. Throughout the remainder of 2017 and beyond, MacYouth will focus on establishing and continuing Youth Boards in all our communities, as well as promoting their many achievements.

Night Patrol training through the NT Police

Night Patrol recently had a training package delivered by NT Police. The training was attended by nine Hermannsburg and Areyonga Night Patrol Officers as well as the Officer in Charge from the Hermannsburg Police Station and our Community Safety Zone Coordinator.

The training was another strong link between the NT Police and our Night Patrollers and provided valuable job specific knowledge.

The training highlights Night Patrol and the NT Police working in partnership though the MacDonnell Regional Council commitment *to improve the live of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services*.

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter MAY 2017 volume 9 issue 2 page 8

Mobile phone services now in Titjikala

Titjikala recently became the first community to receive mobile phone reception, through an agreement between Telstra and the NT Government. This follows the construction of a mobile base station at the remote community. Titjikala becomes the fourth MacDonnell Regional Council community to have mobile coverage.

Now in its second year of the three-year agreement, the $30 million co-investment program will result in at least eight new mobile base stations being constructed in remote communities across the Northern Territory. Titjikala is the only MacDonnell Regional Council community to get mobile coverage though this program.

" Families can also stay in touch more easily which is important for our communities. In an emergency, mobile phone coverage can make a huge difference for people in the bush " Member for Namatjira Chansey Paech said.

In a separate co-investment arrangement that was also announced in 2015, the Federal Government along with telecommunications providers committed to deliver mobile phone services in Finke, Imanpa, Mount Liebig and Wallace Rockhole communities through the Australian Government's Mobile Black Spot Programme.

In the coming year MacNews looks forward to reporting on the successful completion of this rollout and any others that will increase the number of MacDonnell Regional Council communities with mobile reception.

Member for Namatjira Chansey Paech was on hand with Telstra staff to switch through the mobile service to Titjikala

Old bore gets a new pump

Residents Max and Ruth Emery from the John Holland North Outstation were overjoyed by how easily their new pump draws water from their old bore.

A new solar powered pump has now remedied a problem that had preceded the MacDonnell Regional Council. Following a full assessment of the bore it was decided to replace the old equipment.

After complaining to our Infrastructure Officer Kea Lambert that the bore was 'pumping sand', Max is now delighted with the result after struggling with what was actually the wrong gear for many years.

Pump and Power Centre contractor Richard is dwarfed by his achievement at the John Holland North Outstation bore

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter MAY 2017 volume 9 issue 2 page 9

Life skills learned in Hermannsburg and Kintore

MacKids were recently involved in an Outside School Hours Care program in both Kintore and Hermannsburg that encouraged 5–12 year old children to learn from challenges, risks and gain life skills.

The program uses the established theories of *Loose Parts* and *Risk Benefit*. It encourages children to participate in open ended activities, working with tools and recyclable materials that provide opportunities to be creative while exploring and developing new skills.

Activities encourage exploration and problem solving for children to discover and develop their capacity without direct adult involvement.

Children attending Outside School Hours Care in both Hermannsburg and Kintore for: life skills; use of real tools and equipment; opportunities to develop creativity and lifelong interests; sharing and resilience; problem solving; and sense of safety for self and others

MacNews

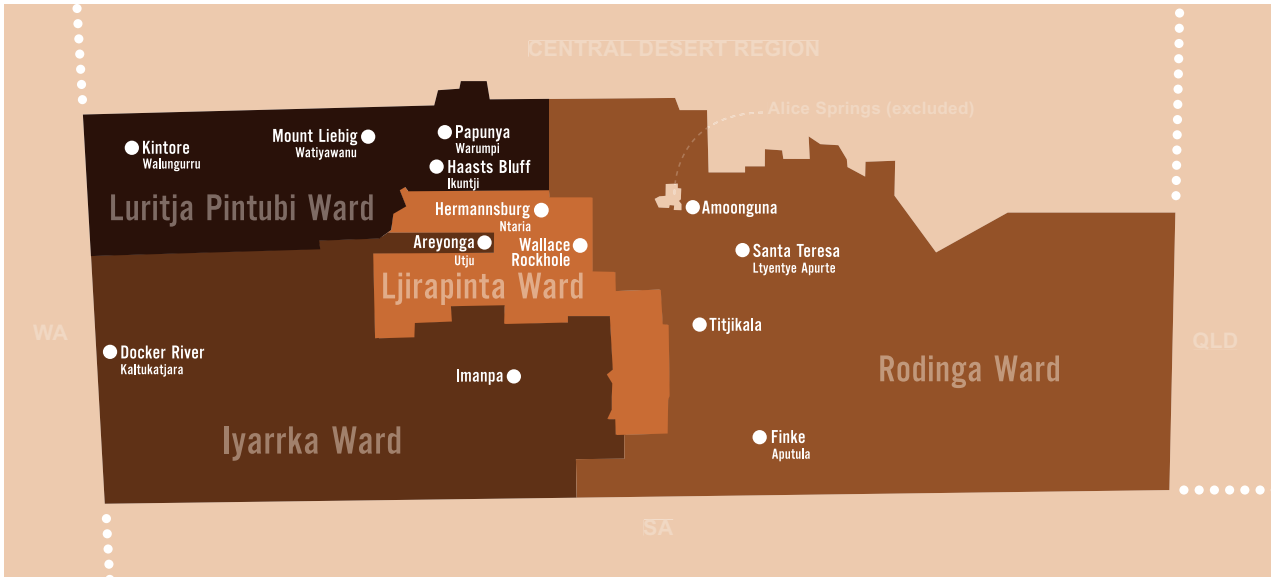
MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter MAY 2017 volume 9 issue 2 page 10

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 direction of the MacDonnell Regional Council.

Every four years we elect a Council to make the big decisions for our 13 communities. The current councillors of the MacDonnell Regional Council have done a great job and some of them may nominate again, along with some new people.

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



The communities of the MacDonnell Regional Council as they fit into the four wards

What to do if you would like to become a councillor of the MacDonnell Regional Council

- To stand for election, you must complete a nomination form and take it, or post it, to the **MyVote Central** office (across the road 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

More information will be made available at coming Local Authority meetings. There will also be a special stand at the Alice Springs Show in July, with people there to answer any questions.

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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:

Felicity Howell shows off her well earned Reward and Recognition Award

January Reward and Recognition went to:

Vanessa Johns our Children Services Coordinator in Santa Teresa for **Service Excellence**

Ian Boko our Works Assistant in Titjikala for **Service Excellence**

Tymara Murnik our Finance Administration Officer in Alice Springs for going **Above and Beyond**

February Reward and Recognition went to:

Natasha Stuart our Youth Services Officer in Amoonguna for going **Above and Beyond** and for her **Service Excellence**

Felicity Howell (pictured) our Senior Governance Officer based in Alice Springs for going **Above and Beyond**.

March Reward and Recognition went to:

Samantha Reiss our Sport and Recreation Officer in Finke for **Service Excellence**

Phyllis Rowe our Senior Youth Development Officer in Kintore for going **Above and Beyond**

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
Sam Ashton - Area Manager
Jacinta Barbour – Customer Service Officer
John Davis – Children's Services IT Support Training Officer
Gavin Judd - Remote Sports Facilitator
Carla Romberg - HR Project Officer
Zsanett Zsinka - Human Resources Officer

Amoonguna
Russell Naismith - Relief Team Leader Store
William Satour - Youth Development Officer

Areyonga (Utju)
Gus Abbott - Works Assistant
William Barnes - Works Assistant
Joshua Broomhall - Essential Services Officer
Sarah Jane Pavihi - Team Leader Children's Services
Jessica Toll - Team Leader Children's Services

Docker River (Kaltukatjara)
Coraline Abbott - Educator - Early Learning
Riccardo Fejo - Works Assistant
Lloyd Taylor - Works Assistant
Robert Tilmouth - Local Authority Member

Finke (Aputula)
Shawn Doolan - Works Assistant
Lance MacDonald - Local Authority Member
Sylvana Marks - Local Authority Member

Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)
Darren Dixon - Works Assistant
Paul Fly - Acting Council Service Coordinator
Douglas Larry - Works Assistant
Billy Pareroultja - Works Assistant
Anthony Peterson - Works Assistant
Renae Stevenson - Administration Assistant Centrelink

Hermannsburg (Ntaria)
Norman Kenny - Works Assistant
Traugott Malbunka - Works Assistant

Imanpa
Maria Coulthard - Local Authority Chair

Kintore (Walungurru)
Mark Davis - Council Service Coordinator

Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)
David Clucas - Educator OSHC
Philip Growden - Essential Services Officer
Theresa Jack - Educator Early Learning

Papunya (Warumpi)
Clint Healey - Acting Council Service Coordinator

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
Larissa Kopp - Educator Early Learning
Nanette McMillan - Educator Early Learning
Marie Mulladad - Local Authority Member
Jeanette Williams - Educator Early Learning
Annalisa Young – Acting Council Service Coordinator
Annie Young - Local Authority Member
John Young - Works Assistant

Titjikala
Christine Argent - Team Leader Home CareLazarus Lionel - Youth Development Officer
Valdwyn Moneymoon - Youth Development Officer

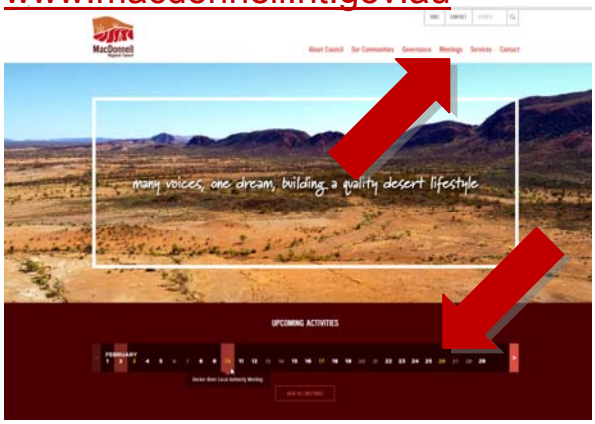
Wallace Rockhole
Max Baliva - Acting Council Service Coordinator
Bobby Abbott - Local Authority Member
Leo Abbott - Local Authority Member

STOP PRESS

Ordinary Council and Local Authority meetings schedule

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 the user to focus in on specific dates, communities or types of meetings.

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter APRIL 2016 volume 8 issue 2 page 13

Member for Stuart likes Kintore

Indigenous Community Television (ICTV) available in Alice Springs

While remote communities have been enjoying ICTV on their screens since 2012, Alice Springs residents are now becoming part of this unique audience. This means there will be a lot of familiar faces and culture popping up in Alice Springs on channel 41.

The connection is even stronger than first anticipated, with reports that people have been able to watch from as far away as Amoonguna and the Alice Springs Prison.

BIG THANKS!

Big thanks go to all staff contributors for this issue.

MacNews thanks the following for their contributions to this publication:
Jessica Kraugh; Andrew Lyons-Dawson; Charlotte Mardling; Peter Stowers; Rick Fleming; Kea Lambert; Carla Romberg; and Rohan Marks

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter APRIL 2016 volume 8 issue 2 page 14

Enterprise Agreement voting underway

Managers and CSCs will be overseeing the vote to decide whether staff accept the Enterprise Agreement being put to us by Council. Secure ballot boxes will travel the length and breadth of the council region as staff decide on their working arrangements for the foreseeable future.

Every employee will sign for the receipt of their ballot paper to ensure all staff have their say.

While Enterprise Agreement voting is underway as this issue of MacNews is published, the following is a checklist of community voting dates:

Alice Springs: 8.30am–4pm Tuesday 2 – Friday 5 May and Monday 8 – Thursday 11 May

Amoonguna: 11am–2pm Monday 8 May

Areyonga: 1pm–3pm Wednesday 3 May

Docker River: 11am–1.30pm Wednesday 10 May (around LA meeting)

Finke: 10am – 1pm Tuesday 9 May

Haasts Bluff: 10am–12pm Friday 5 May

Hermannsburg: 11am–3pm Thursday 4 May

Imanpa: 11am–1pm Monday 8 May

Kintore: 10am–12pm Wednesday 3 May

Mt Liebig: 10am–12pm Thursday 4 May

Papunya: 10am–1pm Tuesday 2 May

Santa Teresa: 10am–1pm Tuesday 9 May

Titjikala: 10am–2pm Tuesday 9 May

Wallace Rockhole: 9.30am–10.30am Wednesday 3 May

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