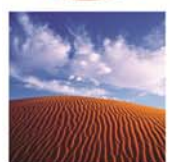




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MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter NOVEMBER 2017 volume 9 issue 5



Finke's Civil Works Assistant Nicky Yai Yai, CSC Gareth Lea and Area Manager Sam Ashton display their awards when named the Territory's Best Medium Community while watched on by LGANT President Damien Ryan, Deputy to the Administrator Pat Miller AO and MLA Member for Stuart Scott McConnell (LEFT to RIGHT in BACKGROUND)

Finke wins big

After coming a close second many times before, Finke was finally named Best Medium Community at the 2017 Territory Tidy Town awards ceremony. Previously commended or named winners of different award categories, yet overlooked for the big prize, at last the tireless efforts of the Finke community were comprehensively recognised by the Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) Council when it was named Territory Tidy Town.

PAGE 3: Finke named 2017 Territory Tidy Town winner

PAGE 6: MacDonnell Regional Council goes another round with the best

PAGE 11: Which community had no trachoma showing up during recent routine testing?

INSIDE



MacDonnell Regional Council

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Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council...

CEO Update



...and congratulations to our Territory Tidy Town winners. It was good to see Imanpa joining our communities onstage receiving commendation for their work, along with Wallace Rockhole and Areyonga. Santa Teresa's Community Participation award was well supported on the night with the Best School and Citizen awards going to their community members.



And of course we are so proud of Finke's persistence over the year's to literally clean up a bunch of categories and be named the Territory Tidy Town.



It was also good to see Regional Waste Coordinator Michael Davis recognised for his tireless work across the three desert councils. I'm sure all CEOs join me in thanking him and the NT Government's Department of Health and Department of Housing and Community Development for their ongoing commitment to the development of our waste management systems. It certainly has been an important component to our success in Tidy Town awards.



I am pleased to announce MacDonnell Regional Council has received notification that it's tender application for the Period Contract (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2020) to deliver day to day operations of power, water and sewerage systems in remote communities has been accepted. We look forward to continuing the delivery of services to our 13 communities under the new Period Contract and providing training and real jobs for our residents.



Following the sad passing of Councillor L Abbott, a by-election is now underway in the Luritja Pintubi ward. Once nominations close on Friday 17 November the ballot will be drawn if multiple people nominate. Ward residents in Kintore, Mt Liebig, Papunya and Haasts Bluff will be able to cast their vote in their community from Monday 27 November.



Following the low voter turn out across the Territory in the recent local government elections (notably so in remote communities), we are hosting a trial in this by-election to achieve a higher turnout. Working from the high rate of early voters in municipals during the elections we are hosting a Voting Week for the by-election to see if the trend can be replicated by our residents.



Rather than having mobile voting officials visit a community for a couple hours and then move on, we are providing the electoral service from our council offices for the whole working week leading to the Election Day of Friday 1 December. The final declaration of the poll will be made on Friday 8 December leaving just enough time to induct the new councillor ahead of this year's final Council meeting the following Friday.



And then it is Christmas, and then it is 2018.



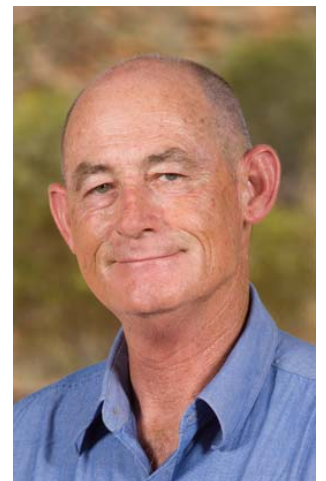
As we look forward to another year working for our constituents, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding achievements and improved service delivery across our region this year. While we face many challenges, they *have* been turned around through our leadership, teamwork and hard work. We have continued to lead the way across all our services. Together we are achieving our mission *to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services.*



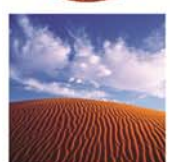
To our staff working through the break, I thank them for their commitment to our residents. To all our staff and stakeholders – I wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Thank you for the great work, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council



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LEFT to RIGHT: Observed by LGANT President Damien Ryan, Area Manager Sam Ashton, Civil Works Assistant Nicky Yai Yai, MLA Member for Stuart Scott McConnell, Deputy to the Administrator Pat Miller AO and a room full of people, CSC Gareth Lea thanks the good people of Finke for their tireless efforts

Finke cleans up...

Becoming a finalist when named the winner of the Best Medium Community award, Finke was then awarded the main 2017 Territory Tidy Town award. The title qualifies the desert community to represent the Northern Territory at the national Tidy Town awards in Barmera, South Australia next year.

The community's big awards were well supported when earlier in the evening they were recognised in many other categories of the 2017 Territory Tidy Town awards:

- commendation in the Community Participation award
- winner of the Waste Management award
- winner of the Resource Recovery award
- winner of the Litter Management (Southern Region) award

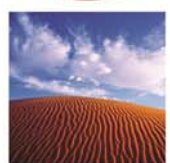
Since the community's formative times alongside the old Ghan railway line, residents of Finke have a long standing relationship with visitors. Today it welcomes travellers on the Oodnadatta track, four wheel drive enthusiasts traversing the Simpson Desert and once a year it is the challenging half way point of the Finke Desert Race.

Throughout all these encounters it is a close knit community that has developed great civic pride. Locals encourage visitors for the Finke Desert Race to share in their community pride by using the rubbish and recycling bays they have established.

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Residents of Finke are driven to promote various clean and sustainable initiatives that keep their community tidy and welcoming. They have embraced Council's development of their waste management processing and integrate it where possible, with their own initiatives like curbside recycling – not bad for a town with roads that don't have curbs!

The whole community embraces the responsibility to keep their community clean. While the local Civil Works team of the MacDonnell Regional Council provides the backbone for getting things done, they are well supported by the efforts of the residents.



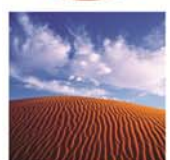
“Finke has been awarded in different categories over the years – its great it is now named the Territory Tidy Town” said Council President, Roxanne Kenny.



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Finke is one of our first communities to integrate recycling with their waste management system. The Civil Works team upgraded their landfill facility to include Public Drop-off Bays. They have developed signage for community and staff to easily identify the different waste streams and improve separation for recycling. Waste is sorted into different elements such as scrap and non ferrous metals, white goods, tyres, motor oil, gas bottles and fire extinguishers, hazardous waste, paints and chemicals, building rubble, batteries, and e-waste.

When a sustainable volume of waste is collected it gets transported to the nearest market for recycling. Any financial return from the sale of these materials gets used to support further improvements in waste management activities throughout Central Australia. By taking this step, the community's waste is being diverted from landfill. This extends the life of their general waste pits – saving Council money and providing environmental improvements for communities.



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MacDonnell Regional Council staff and stakeholders shy from all the attention at the Territory Tidy Towns awards

...and the rest of Council did alright too.

Territory Tidy Town awards recognise the efforts of council staff and residents from communities across the Northern Territory. Workers representing MacDonnell Regional Council communities came into Alice Springs to attend this year's awards ceremony at the Convention Centre.

MacDonnell Regional Council has gone from strength to strength through its communities' achievements. This is regularly recognised through the Territory Tidy Town awards. In addition to Finke's main prize at this year's awards, MacDonnell Regional Council once again emerged as the collective winner of the evening:

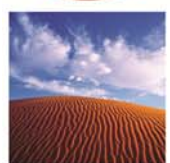
- Imanpa and Santa Teresa both received a commendation in regard to the Litter Management (Southern Region) award that was won by Finke
- Santa Teresa won the Community Participation (Southern Region) award while Areyonga and Finke received commendations in the category
- Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre in Santa Teresa won the Territory Tidy Towns Best School award while Wallace Rockhole received a commendation in the category
- and the MacDonnell Regional Council won the Best Regional Council award for the fourth consecutive year

"I knew our communities were doing great work – but to be told, four years running, that we are the Best Regional Council suggests we are doing something right!" said MacDonnell Regional Council CEO, Jeff MacLeod.

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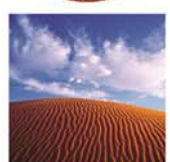
CLOCKWISE from MAIN PHOTO: after winning the Citizen award, Justin Colley joins his students from the Tyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre in Santa Teresa when it won the Best School award; from the same category Wallace Rockhole School was highly commended; Areyonga Local Authority members Sarah Gallagher and Jonathon Doolan; Haasts Bluff CSC Paul Fly with his daughter Shaylee; Santa Teresa was highly commended for the Litter Management award and won the Community Participation (Southern Region) award

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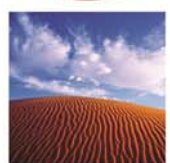
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CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT: Imanpa was highly commended for the Litter Management award; Areyonga was highly commended for the Community Participation and the Litter Management awards; CEO Jeff MacLeod shows off the silverware; MacDonnell Regional Council staff and stakeholders get on stage to show off their awards; Cr Greg Sharman poses for this year's 'proud councillor representing MacDonnell Regional Council' photograph; the man behind so many of our Tidy Town successes Michael Davis receives the Waste Management Champion award; Finke community is named Territory Tidy Town 2017



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The quiet achiever

Much of Michael Davis' work happens quietly behind the key changes in waste management across Central Australian remote communities. At the recent Territory Tidy Towns ceremony his contribution was acknowledged when he receive the Waste Management Champion award.

Michael is the Regional Waste Coordinator for the Central Australia Remote Waste Management Program (CARWMP). Occasionally based at a desk in the Alice Springs office of MacDonnell Regional Council, his work regularly involves travelling to the remote communities across the jurisdictions of the three regional councils partnered through CARWMP.

The combined areas of the Barkly Regional Council, Central Desert Regional Council and MacDonnell Regional Council approaches one million square kilometres and includes 28 remote communities. When travelling to these remote locations Michael joins with local Civil Works staff to help educate and train their waste management processes.

With Michael's support landfill sites have become more effective by being better planned and managed. Through his continuing efforts, CARWMP is reaching new standards in waste management and becoming a benchmark for other remote locations to achieve.

Central Australia Remote Waste Management Program is a joint program of the Barkly, Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional Councils and is funded through the Environmental Health Central Australia unit of the NT Government's Department of Health and Department of Housing and Community Development

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Connected!

Nearby to Wallace Rockhole, the West Waterhouse outstation is now connected to Power and Water's main power grid from Alice Springs.

In 2013 a power line was installed connecting Wallace Rockhole and Hermannsburg to the main gridline from Alice Springs. Located approximately 500m from the main gridline West Waterhouse outstation did not get connected. Following concerns from residents of the outstation and negotiations between MacDonnell Regional Council and Power and Water some good results have flowed through to West Waterhouse.



Previously only two of the houses at the outstation received power from a local diesel generator. Following the recent main gridline connection all four residences at West Waterhouse receive mains power operated by power cards. Also at the outstation, a hand started bore pump has been replaced by a solar bore pump to further reduce financial and environmental costs.

From the sandpit

Papunya Early Learning Centre and After School Care Program have been flat-out and fun-filled with lots of learning and rich play. Rain at the start of last month woke sleeping sand frogs so the children became very engaged in the sandpit searching for them and making them new homes.

As the skies cleared and the sun seared, the frogs went back into the ground to sleep and the children turned to new activities with water. A group of boys working together made a large lake in the sandpit and then created a bridge over the water – so it seems a future Civil Works team along with some sleeping frogs emerged from the sandpit at the Papunya Early Learning Centre after the last rain.

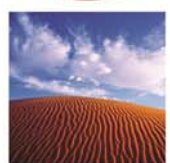
Lifeguards at the ready

Our swimming pools in Areyonga, Kintore and Santa Teresa opened in early October. Lead staff have also been employed to ensure the pool operations are run smoothly as well as the necessary lifeguards from each community.

Council recently arranged five days of Pool Lifeguard Bronze Medallion and First Aid training at the Alice Springs pool for the full compliment of 18 staff from the three community pools.



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Clean eyes are happy eyes

A recent Local Authority meeting in Areyonga (Utju) broke into rousing applause – the sound giving some explanation of the joy that showed on their faces – when advised that after 2.5 years of regular antibiotic distribution and with a focus on hygiene and environmental improvements no trachoma was found during a recent eye check.

While this is certainly good news for the health of any remote desert community, the same levels of hygiene need to be maintained to ensure the problem does not come back. This was made very clear by Paula Wines, Northern Territory Trachoma Program Coordinator from the NT Government’s Department of Health.

“ 5 to 9 year old children were screened again in August and no trachoma was found. This is fantastic news – but trachoma is a tricky disease and it is possible for the trachoma germ to spread quickly. So, to be sure trachoma stays away from Utju, it is very important to get kids and toddlers to blow their noses and wash their faces when they are dirty!” Paula said.

Trachoma nurses will continue visiting Areyonga over the next five years to check that trachoma has not come back to the community. Regular visits will also continue to other remote desert communities as the trachoma team works with residents to screen for and treat trachoma and improve facial cleanliness and environments in order to eliminate trachoma.

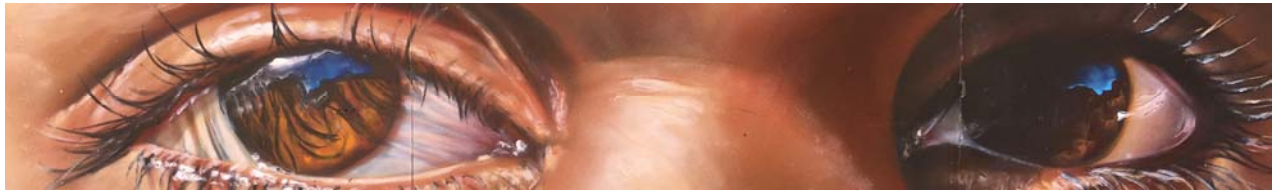
BELOW: Detail of the new trachoma mural in Areyonga reminding people of the importance of clean eyes and noses



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TOP to BOTTOM: Featuring important landmarks, animals and trachoma messages, murals were prepared by famous Australian graffiti artist Adnate working with local youth and community members in Areyonga, Titjikala and Papunya



Three stunning art murals depicting dreaming stories, local landscapes and important cultural imagery have been created in Papunya, Areyonga and Titjikala. The murals followed community consultations where icons were discussed and prominent walls were selected.



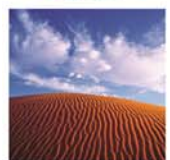
Indigenous Eye Health staff worked with Indigenous Hip Hop Projects, MacDonnell Regional Council and other government and community groups to create the murals. The mural projects engaged Melbourne graffiti artist Andrew J Bourke working with local youth and community members, while hip-hop dance workshops were used to engage children and youth.



The hip-hop workshops were run with MacYouth and in schools with the main purpose of incorporating trachoma messaging about hygiene routines. Milpa the trachoma lizard and the 'Clean Faces, Strong Eyes' message were also painted on or near the mural to reinforce the key health message.



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A great night was had by all

Before starting their national tour, the Oils were found playing a warm-up show in Kintore under the verandah of the Walungurru School. With their equipment protected from the forecast rain, Midnight Oil (the Oils) played hit after hit for about two hours. The crowd's greatest response however, came from the famous visitors' rendition of the classic guitar song 'Wipe Out'.

After Midnight Oil had warmed up the crowd, local band Running Water played on until the early morning hours. The show was well attended by over 500 people who also enjoyed a barbeque by the community store.

Kintore first saw the Oils perform in 1986 when they joined with Papunya's Warumpi Band on an epic tour of remote Aboriginal communities across Central Australia and the Top End. From that experience the band established a strong connection with the people of Kintore.

Two days after the Kintore performance they played to 4000 people in Alice Springs. The next morning they dropped into the Purple House to meet some dialysis patients and give a donation to the renal health service.



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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:



April Reward and Recognition went to:

Clint Healey our Council Services Coordinator in Papunya for **Service Excellence**



Lorraine Scobie our Centrelink Administration Assistant in Kintore for **Service Excellence**



May Reward and Recognition went to:

Jacinta Miller our Youth Services Officer in Mount Liebig for her **Service Excellence**



Civil Works Team in Santa Teresa for their **Innovation and Creativity**.



June Reward and Recognition went to:

Selina Bob our Early Learning Educator in Areyonga for going **Above and Beyond**

Belinda Andrew our OSHC Educator in Areyonga for going **Above and Beyond**

Home Care Team in Amoonguna for their **Service Excellence**

July Reward and Recognition went to:

Gareth Lea our Council Services Coordinator in Finke for going **Above and Beyond**

Wilbur Poulson our Community Safety Officer in Areyonga for going **Above and Beyond**

Marsha Ware our Home Care Assistant in Hermannsburg for **Service Excellence**



August Reward and Recognition went to:

Sandrine Tilmouth our Home Care Assistant in Papunya for her **Service Excellence**

Tina Malbunka (pictured) our Early Learning Educator in Hermannsburg for going **Above and Beyond**

October Reward and Recognition went to:

Paul Rigney our Pool Team Leader in Kintore for going **Above and Beyond**





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STAFF MOVEMENTS



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



Alice Springs

Jacinta Barbour - Governance Officer
Erich Brown - Governance and Planning Manager
Billy Manjangani - HR Manager
Bhan Pratap - Director Corporate Services
Carla Romberg - Acting HR Advisor
Gregory Saunders - Coordinator Youth Development



Amoonguna

William Tilmouth - Community Safety Team Leader



Areyonga (Utju)

Howard Abbott - OSHC Educator
Vivienne Andrew - Pool Assistant
Kristyn Burns - Pool Assistant
Joshua Ebatarinja - Pool Assistant
Tom Howard - Pool Team Leader
Chantelle Gallagher - Pool Assistant
Andrew Jackatee - Works Assistant
Caleb Nipper - Educator
Arron Tiger - OSHC Educator
Terrence Tucker - Works Assistant



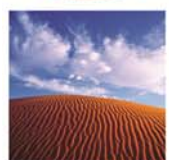
Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Peter Bennett - Works Assistant
Thaddeus Mitchell Brady - Works Assistant
Selina De Rose - Early Learning Educator
Nigel Smith - Works Assistant
Roselda Teamey - Early Learning Educator



Finke (Aputula)

Phillip Doolan - Sport and Recreation Officer
Jubilee Dougherty - Early Learning Educator



Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

George Impu - Works Assistant
Liza Multa - Centrelink Administration Assistant
Virillia Multa - Home Care Assistant

Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Janelle Abbott - Educator - Early Learning
Angela Ebatarintja - Early Learning Educator
Rachel Kantawara - Administration Assistant
Dora Malbunka - Early Learning Educator
Kazmin Mocketarinja - Works Assistant
Kym Stuart - Centrelink Administration Assistant

Imanpa

Ashley Kunoth - Community Safety Officer
Gracie Kunoth - Community Safety Officer
Tanya Lucky - Acting CSC

Kintore (Walungurru)

Olivia Elder - Pool Assistant
Rowena Gibson - Pool Assistant
Alexander Lopinski - Council Service Co-Ordinator
Norbet Marks - Pool Assistant
Erin Michael - Pool Assistant
Paul Rigney - Team Leader Pool
Olivia Tupou - Senior Community Safety Officer

Papunya (Warumpi)

Robert Baldry - Works Team Leader
Matthew Brown - Home Care Assistant
Levi Hampson - Essential Services Officer
Denise Johnson - Home Care Assistant
Ethan McDonald - Youth Development Officer
Nikitangali Renganathan - Children's Services Team Leader

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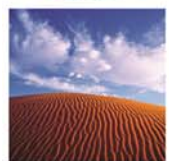


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Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

- Malcolm Hayes - Pool Assistant
- Melanie Hayes - Early Learning Educator
- Charlie Lynch - Pool Assistant
- Edwina Lynch - Early Learning Educator
- Sandra McKenzie - Pool Team Leader
- Francesca McMillan - Early Learning Educator
- Terrence Mulladad - Pool Assistant
- Patricia Oliver - Pool Assistant
- Eva Smith - Early Learning Educator
- Reuben Solomon - Youth Development Team Leader
- Shania Williams - Pool Assistant
- Annalisa Young - CSC
- Jocelyn Young - Pool Assistant

Titjikala

- Alex Palmer - Acting ESO
- Shane Stirling - Community Safety Officer
- Brian Wells - Community Safety Officer

BIG THANKS!

Big thanks go to all contributors for this issue.

MacNews thanks the following for their contributions to this publication: Kea Lambert, Ken Newman, Carla Romberg, Heimo Schober, Peter Stowers, Jessica Toll, and the University of Melbourne's Indigenous Health Equity Unit.

STOP PRESS

Council and Local Authority meetings can be easily found online

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

www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au



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

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Council by-election



Luritja Pintubi ward of the MacDonnell Regional Council is having a by-election to elect another Councillor. The Luritja Pintubi ward includes the Haasts Bluff, Papunya, Mt Liebig and Kintore communities and their outstations.



Voting Week will be in Haasts Bluff, Papunya, Mt Liebig and Kintore from Monday 27 November until Friday 1 December at the Council Office

If you are from Haasts Bluff, Papunya, Mt Liebig or Kintore but visiting in Alice Springs or another community you may be able to vote by:

- visiting the **MyVote Central** office (across from the Post Office) in Alice Springs
- having the **CSC** in the community you are visiting help you get a **Postal Voting**, if you do it before Wednesday 29 November

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