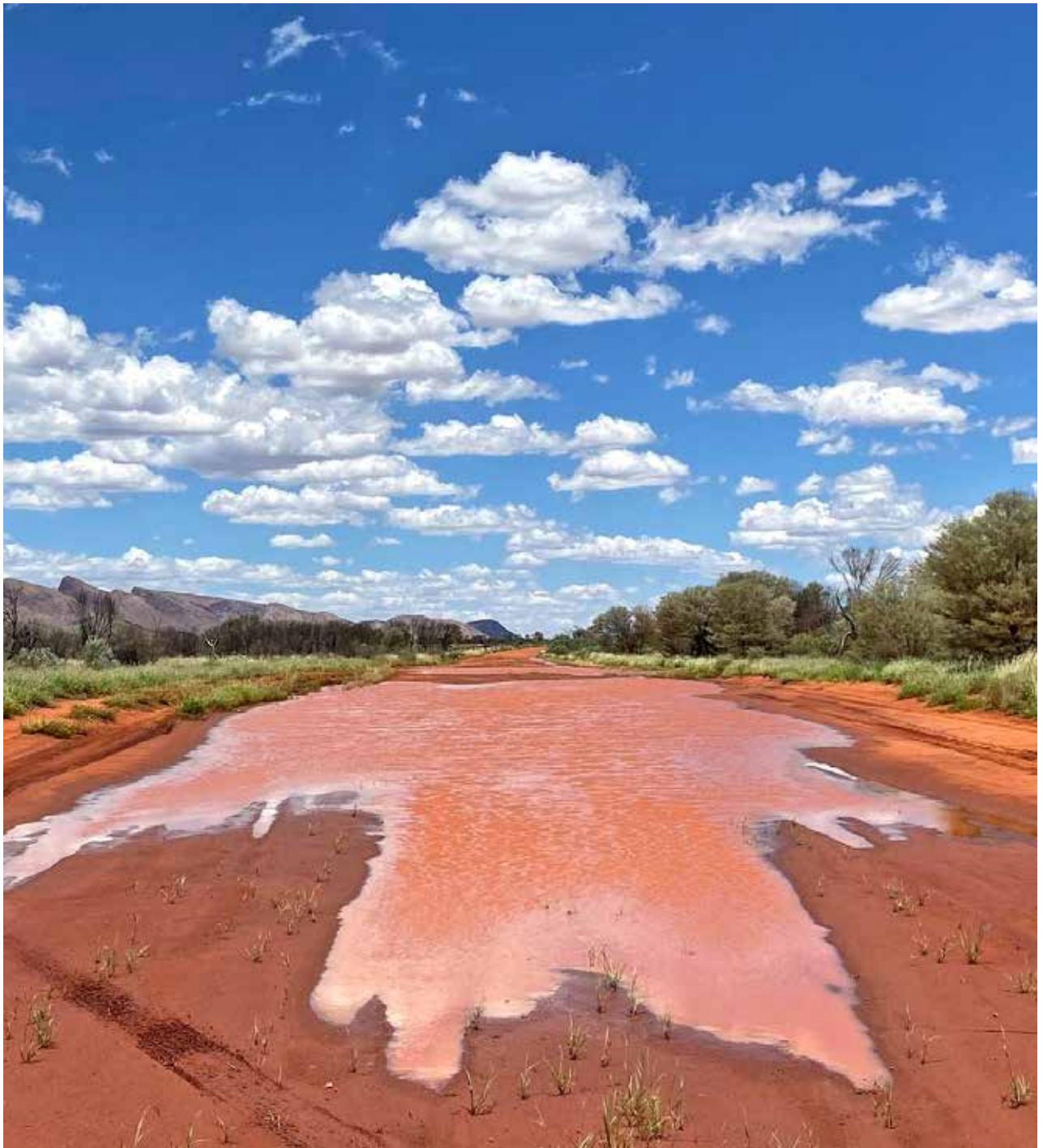


# MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter January 2023

## DESERT FLOODS



Sun rays and floods from Kintore and beyond. The north west region as well as Central Australia and beyond received a welcome relief from the heat during the Christmas and New Year period which also affected outlying communities being temporarily cut off from supplies and services.



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## **Jeff McLeod** **Chief Executive Officer**

**Welcome to the new year for 2023.**

The start of each new year always brings in hope and a sense of optimism for many organisations which also includes MRC.

Both the President and I have the confidence that this coming year will see positive changes and benefits for many in our communities and we are looking forward to working with all of councillors and staff to achieve productive results for the benefit of those who live and work remotely.

We do expect challenges throughout the year, however, we will face what is presented to us and move forward with our usual professional approach that is backed up by a strong MRC team.

MRC Councillors and staff will continue to work hard with all levels of government and stakeholders to help alleviate current social issues and to improve the lives of those living in Central Australia

I would also like to acknowledge the sad news and passing of Councillor Ellis who provided quality leadership for her community and was a valued, productive and well liked member of the MRC council. Her loss is sorely missed.

I would also like to thank all staff involved as well as those who worked over the Christmas and New Year holiday period to ensure our services to communities continued as normal. The youth school holidays program had a wonderful participation rate with a total of 667 activities, 1466.25 hours, 8494 participant engagements since December 16-January 31 2023. MacYouth delivered a variety of activities including music, bush trips, sports, swimming and cooking programs.

Recent flooding of roads has provided challenges when travelling to communities and would like to remind staff to check all road conditions and warnings prior to driving to any community.

Our communities are always our priority and we look forward to working with councillors and all MRC staff in the new year.





# LEGEND OF THE ELLIS

The Ellis family have graciously allowed Mac News to publish the name and photo of Councillor Lynette Ellis who passed away on January 5 2023



Councillor Ellis was a dedicated, respected and highly regarded leader of Amoonguna, community and a Councillor of MacDonnell Regional Council, Rodinga Ward, A well known person throughout the East Macs, Councillor Ellis worked tirelessly to advocate and serve her community and beyond.

The President, CEO, Councillors and staff of MacDonnell Regional Council sends it's sincere condolences to the Ellis family and is grateful for all her hard work and effort. Councillor Ellis had gone beyond the normal to contribute to her community and exceeded expectations of whatever she was tasked with doing.



# HAASTS BLUFF, PAPUNYA SANTA TERESA

## MAC YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



High jump a popular activity in Santa Teresa over the school holidays



MacYouth Papunya got the score board out during the school holidays and everyone was taking it very seriously. Lots of fun to see staff getting involved and the youth being very engaged



MacYouth Haasts Bluff organised a day trip with the youths and elders tailored to engage the youths in their cultural practices, collecting honey ants and cooking Kangaroo tail.



MacYouth provided a variety of school holiday activities throughout the region for young people aged 5-25 years including; breakfast programs, sporting competitions, arts and crafts, cultural



# HAASTS BLUFF

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



Cutting the trees at the creek for drumsticks is Kirsty, Lionel, Michelle, Julie, and Naina,



The boy painting the drumsets at the Rec Hall is Louie with our new orange Mac Youth shirt.



Mac Youth Worker Lorretta Penhall from Haasts Bluff sent these pics through Ikuntji kids making their own drumsets from anything they find from outside and making their own drumsticks and then painting it with any colours they like.



# MACCARE TRAINING



Barbara Clifford from the Hindwood Institute, conducted a two day training session for the MacCare staff which involved team performance skills and management.





# MAC SAFE



The MacSafe team worked collaboratively with the Hermannsburg Civil Works team to build a shade structure over the Yarning Circle space, to create a relaxed and comfortable environment to hold meetings in the future with other stakeholders and the MacSafe team.

After discussion between the MacSafe team and the Ntaria CSC Max Baliva in early Oct it was decided to include the construction of the shade sails as a practical component of the training in civil construction that was being undertaken in Ntaria in early December.

The Civil works trainers showed the civil team workers how to erect the shade sails across the front verandah of the MacSafe office verandah and cement in three poles to stretch the shade cloth across. While the MacSafe team built tables and benches to put under the shade structure for future Yarning Circle use.





# COUNCIL CLEAN UP



MRC-Director Service Centre Delivery-Belinda Urquhart, Director Corporate Services-Chris Kendrick. Councillor Lisa Sharman,(Titjikala), Director Community Services Sabine Wedemeyer, MRC CEO Jeff McLeod, Councillor Abraham Poulson(Areyonga), Councillor Patrick Allen(Finke)Councillor Marlene Abbott(Docker River), MRC Deputy President Councillor Dalton McDonald(Papunya), MRC President Roxanne kenny (Hermannsburg), Councillor Mark Inkamala(Hermannsburg),MRC Director Technical Services Aaron Blacker and Minister for Local Government Hon-Chanston Paech pictured with several individual and Tidy Town Awards





# TALES FROM THE BUSH



MRC Civil worker Tristan Robertson from Mount Liebig says he is proud to be helping out the community and keeping it clean everyday.

"I started working from a young age and now work with a really good team leader. I grew up here in Mount Liebig and have a family here. We have a good team here to work with and cleaning the streets and rubbish out from areas."

Tristan says that the outdoor work suits him and is happy to see the results of the community developing day by day.

"I have seen a great improvement here since I was a young boy and it is a good community which will always continue to grow and develop from one generation to the next."

Whether it be removing old rusty cars and taking them to the tip or helping with the general civil improvements, Tristan says each day is different and there is no time to be bored. "I just enjoy helping the community and they enjoy a clean area."

Council Service Coordinator Shae Thompson says she does not regret making the move from being a teacher for two years then leaving to work for MRC in Mount

Liebig. "I've been here for 6 years and originally I came here as a teacher and moved across to work for the council and haven't looked back."

"I really like working with my team and it's a fantastic community here."

Shae says it's the people in the community who are amazing. "It's a relatively peaceful place and everyone gets along well with each other."

Everything runs really well and it's great to see progress. We have upskilled the ladies in the office and this provides a lot of assistance to everyone who needs their help."

Originally from Victoria, Shae says it's a big change from her original home town and doesn't regret the change to the desert. "It was a big change but well worth it."





# LOUD SHIRT MONDAYS



Participating in Loud Shirt Mondays to brighten up Monday Mornings for January are Brian Robinson, Nitesh Thapa, Jessica Kragh, Jenny Murnik, Praful Gautam, Rajan Khadka, Dan Broadbent, Holly Van Vliet and Maddison Young

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# CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

Marie	Young	Educator - Early Learning (Santa Teresa)	2 years
Damien	Cooper	Works Assistant (Docker River)	2 years
Rosalyn	McCormack	Home Care Assistant (Imanpa)	2 years
Naomi	Rowe	Youth Services Officer (Kintore)	2 years
Cedric	Dixon	Works Assistant (Mt Liebig)	2 years
Thersa	Peeke	Coordinator Children's Services	2 years
Francis	Wallace	Community Safety Officer (Titjikala)	2 years
Jeanetta	Eggley	Customer Service Officer (Mt Liebig)	2 years
Rosina	Dixon	Senior Community Safety Officer (Amoonguna)	2 years
Sharon	Napurrula	Senior Community Safety Officer (Kintore)	7 years
Melanie	Hayes	Youth Services Officer (Santa Teresa)	2 years
Helen	Meredith	Coordinator Children's Services	10 years
Shinae	Sullivan	Administration Officer - Technical Services	2 years
Naphtali	Scobie	Senior Youth Services Officer (Areyonga)	2 years
Hayley	Dodd	Home Care Assistant (Haasts Bluff)	2 years
Luke	Wallace	Team Leader Youth Services (Mt Liebig)	2 years
Kitana	Kelly	Senior Youth Services Officer (Mt Liebig)	5 years
Aben	Sandy	Youth Services Officer (Papunya)	2 years
Morris	Roberts	Youth Services Officer (Papunya)	2 years
Thelma	Peterson	Youth Services Officer (Mt Liebig)	5 years



Long standing MacYouth Areyonga Engagement Officer Kathleen Windy has recently been awarded a 12 Years of Service by the Local Government Association of The Northern Territory.

Her previous roles have included those of a team leader and mentor to youth in her community.

Kathleen takes pride in her work and actively engages with youth and will often have mini meetings with them prior to more senior ones.

There have been times when Kathleen has been the sole "Go To" person for youth in the area and is respected by them to offer sound advice and direction.

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# Australian Fire Danger Rating System



Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.

From September 1, Australia will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.



- 1 The AFDRS will also introduce 'off' for those days where no proactive action is required by the community. On those days, you will still need to abide by local seasonal laws and regulations, but there is little or no risk of a fire threat spreading in a dangerous or life-threatening way.
- 2 The AFDRS is inherently one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system, and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of fire danger ratings.
- 3 The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are across the country, you will be able to understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.



MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
<b>Plan And Prepare.</b> Bushfire can be controlled.	<b>Be Ready To Act.</b> Fires can be dangerous.	<b>Take Action Now.</b> To protect your life and property.	<b>For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.</b> If a fire starts and takes hold, fires are likely to be lost.
Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.	There is a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.  Decide what you will do if a fire starts.  If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.	There are dangerous fire conditions.  Check your bushfire plan and ensure that your property is fire-ready.  If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire reaches.  Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas.	There are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.  Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.  Your safety for going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.  A smoke cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to return, and help may not be available.

Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings. Adhere to local regulations governing fire activity. Discuss any industrial or agricultural activities against relevant industry guidelines. If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life. Do not wait for a warning.

# PICTURE

*MRC's Damien Ryan has captured some stunning images from recent flooding in Kintore and beyond, including the front cover image for this edition of the January Mac News*



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# *PERFECT*



# SANTA TERESA

Coordinator, Learning and Development John Chisholm managed to capture wild horses and native wildlife during a recent trip to Sanat Teresa





# SANTA TERESA







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