

**FLOOD  
REPAIRS**  
**P13**



**MRC  
BABIES**  
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**HARD  
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APRIL EDITION

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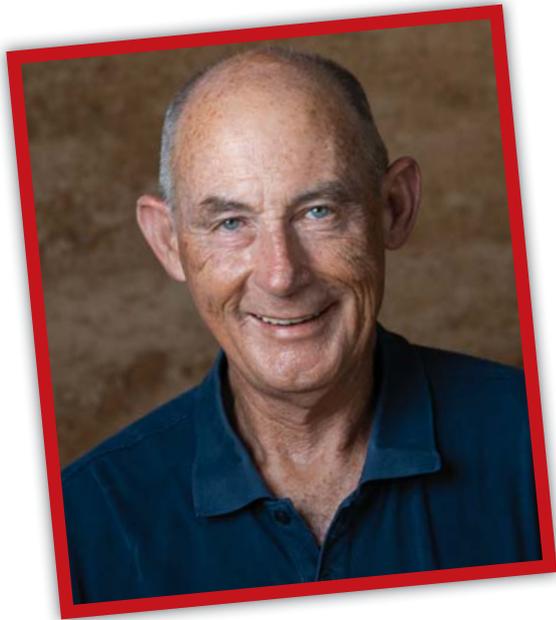
# MacNews



# MEETING TRIUMPH

**COUNCIL EMBRACES NEW COVID NORMAL P4**

*many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It has been a tough start to the year for our 13 communities, with COVID-19 and heavy rain wreaking havoc close to home.

But as always, our resilient residents and hard-working team members have risen to the occasion. We continue to follow all the latest health advice from authorities to ensure we keep our most vulnerable safe from harm.

Our MacYouth team has been hard at work making sure our young people are not forgotten. They have been making special deliveries of food and activity packs to keep their stomachs and minds nourished when they have been forced to isolate due to COVID.

We also made the executive decision to move the February ordinary meeting to Erldunda Roadhouse, to limit travel in and out of communities. We used the opportunity to conduct professional development training for the Councillors. Those who were unable to attend were able to participate using Zoom.

I would like to extend my gratitude and say thank you to all the Councillors for their ongoing dedication to the job and I look forward to the next meeting to see what new ideas and suggestions they bring to the table.

One of the key concerns raised at the meeting was the lack of police officers in our communities, despite having stations.

We will take this to the next Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) meeting, to ensure the voice of our constituents are heard.

Our Governance team has commenced the consultation process for the 2022-23 Regional Plan, and have started the redesign process. They have also recently started an official MacDonnell Regional Council Facebook page to maximise engagement with our community.

Make sure you like the page to get the latest updates from us about what is happening on the ground.

**Jeff MacLeod**

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To submit content, please send an email to the Communications Coordinator at [corey.sinclair@macdonnell.nt.gov.au](mailto:corey.sinclair@macdonnell.nt.gov.au)

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CEO Jeff MacLeod speaks to councillors who were unable to attend the meeting ,over Zoom



Acting Director of Technical Services Kitty Comerford and MacDonnell Regional Council President Roxanne Kenny



Councillors Patrick Allen and Jason Minor



Councillors Peter Turner and Abraham Poulson



Abraham Poulson with Deputy President Dalton McDonald



Councillors Mark Inkamala and Bobby Abbott



Councillors Marlene Abbott and Lynette Ellis



Directors Kitty Comerfield and Sabine Wedemeyer



# COUNCIL MEETING STAYS COVID SAFE



*New Councillors: Peter Turner, Bobby Abbott, Jason Minor, Patrick Allen and Abraham Poulson.*

ELECTED members gathered at Erldunda Roadhouse in February for the first ordinary MacDonnell Regional Council meeting of the year.

The venue was changed at the last minute in response to the reluctance of councillors to travel in these difficult times and to help control the spread of COVID-19 in our remote communities.

It was an important three-day get together as there were several important matters that needed to be addressed, including:

- The delivery of mandatory professional development training for all members
- Workshopping of the 2022-23 Regional Plan
- The actual Council meeting

Governance and Compliance Manager Barbara Newland and Governance Officer June Crabb attended to conduct the professional development workshop for councillors. Those surveyed after the course rated it very highly and said they got a lot out of it.

There was much animated conversation at times, and members actively contributed to the training.

The workshopping of Goals, Objectives, Strategies and KPIs for next year's Regional Plan generated a lot of discussion.

CEO Jeff MacLeod spoke at length about the problems and issues that have been encountered over the past 2 years. He asked members to consider the development of staff, themselves and the Local Authorities as key focus areas in next year's plan.

# MEET THE NEW

## ARRENTE MAN'S BIG MISSION IN BUSINESS

BOBBY ABBOTT is a western Arrernte man on a mission.

The owner and manager of a welding and metal fabrication company Bobby is passionate about building economic development to create employment opportunities in remote communities.

Bobby worked for an Alice Springs company and completed a series of workshops with Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), before going it alone.

He has recently taken on the operation of the kiosk at Ormiston Gorge and is developing 116 hectares in a magnificent valley in the West MacDonnell's to become a tourism resort.



His objective is to provide a future for the young people in his extended family.

Bobby gets his drive and ambition from his family, including his dad Leo, and from the determination they showed in setting up Wallace Rockhole, where he grew up.

"Wallace Rockhole was a very strong little community when we were kids. Our parents and family were involved with building the place

### BOBBY ABBOTT



### WALLACE ROCKHOLE

"I work really hard to provide a good role model for the next generation"

so we respected it," Bobby said.

Bobby believes Aboriginal people in central Australia are ready to work in their communities given the right chance. He has been a champion of community-based skills for ten years.

Bobby was elected as a Councillor of MacDonnell Regional Council at the most recent elections and has been a member of the Wallace Rockhole Local Authority for the last six years.



# COUNCILLORS

## SECURING WOMEN'S VOICE ON COUNCIL

LISA Sharman has returned to council a new woman. The 51-year-old Titikala local has been on a "learning journey" over the past few years.

"I've matured a bit - I'm older and wiser," she said. "Before if someone said something, I'd always have an answer. Now I sit and listen to people."

Lisa comes from a long line of councillors, with her father, brothers and uncle all serving their community before.

She started out taking minutes at meetings before realising her true potential.

"I used to just sit there and I'd think it's not that hard," she said. "It came easy to me."

The naturally-shy Lisa says she found her voice on council.

"What we (women) talked about and what we said was respected and we were given a voice," she said.

Lisa believes the biggest barrier for Aboriginal people is the lack of education. She credits the NT Government's former First Circles program for helping build confidence with public speaking. The program identified emerging Indigenous leaders to take their issues to then-Chief Minister Adam Giles and his cabinet. Her main goal was to bring back the CDEP, which was scrapped and returned as CDP.

"Indigenous people in the community get tired of just having one job," she said. "With

### LISA SHARMAN



### TITJIKALA

CDEP they could do more than one job and it was always a stepping stone for a real job."

Lisa also went to Canberra while employed as a youth worker to put a stop to petrol sniffing in remote communities.

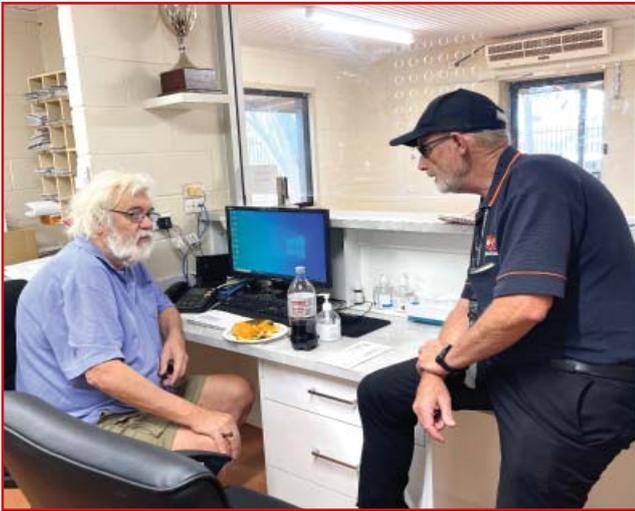
"That's one of the things I'm most proud of," she said. "I spoke to everyone about changing petrol in communities to

opal fuel."

Lisa currently lives with her husband, former MRC councillor Greg Sharman - and their three dogs. But when asked about kids, Lisa laughs.

"I've been a youth worker - I've worked with so many kids," she adds.

**"...what we talked about and what we said was respected and we were given a voice."**



Former councillor Greg Sharman speaks to Chief Executive Officer Jeff MacLeod at Titjikala.



Councillor Lisa Sharman talks to Governance Officer June Crabb about important business at Titjikala.



The Mt Liebig Local Authority discuss important issues



Keith Hassett speaks to the Amoonguna Local Authority.



Corporate Services Director Bhan Pratap reads finances.



June Crabb takes notes at Amoonguna



# WATER HOT TOPIC AT LA MEETINGS



Local Authority members Lynette Ellis and Caroline Peters welcomed Jimmy Cocking, who spoke about water conservation.

WATER security was a hot topic at recent Local Authority meetings across the MacDonnell Regional Council electorate.

Jimmy Cocking from Northern Possibilities spoke about how communities could potentially use the precious resource for projects like agriculture and water parks.

Directors and members of the Governance and Engagement team travelled out to Amoonguna, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg and Papunya for their Local Authority meetings.

But due to COVID restrictions, meetings were held remotely over Zoom for Mt Liebig,

Kintore, Wallace Rockhole, Finke and Imanpa.

Areyonga's meeting had to be postponed due to 'sorry' business'.

Santa Teresa and Titjikala were deferred in response to the number of COVID cases in the community.

Some of the major issues raised at the meetings included the lack of police officers in communities, despite having stations.

They also made some major decisions on projects, including a new sing-a-long stage in Mount Liebig and fencing for a basketball court in Amoonguna.

# Do you want to work at the next Federal Election?

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# NO RAT PROBLEM IN COMMUNITIES



Councillor Lisa Sharman, Elaine Churchill and President Roxanne Kenny with the donated Rapid Antigen Tests.

MACDONNELL Regional Council is well-prepared for potential COVID outbreaks, thanks to a generous gift from Purple House.

The Indigenous-owned and run health service has donated 20,000 Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) to council, which have been distributed across our 13 remote communities.

Purple House CEO Sarah Brown AM said they were delighted to share the RAT love with other organisations supporting communities across the region.

“We don’t hope for many things in plague-like proportions but when it comes to

RATs, we wanted them and got them,” she said.

“COVID has certainly reminded everyone how much better we do for remote communities when we work collaboratively and we’re really pleased to help MacDonnell Regional Council in this way.”

MRC Chief Executive Officer Jeff MacLeod thanked Purple House for the charitable contribution.

“We really appreciate everything Purple House does, but we were stoked with the 20,000 RAT tests,” he said. “We are well-prepared for the threat of new variants.”

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**work in an election?**



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Australian Electoral Commission

# FLOOD CLEAN-UP BEGINS OUT BUSH



DOCKER RIVER



HAASTS BLUFF



FINKE BACK ROAD

MACDONNELL Regional Council residents and crews have been picking up the pieces after remnants of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Tiffany drenched Central Australia in late January.

The heavy rain caused flooding and major road damage, leaving a number of communities cut off - disrupting delivery of food and other services.

The local store at Santa Teresa (Ltyente Apurte) was forced to introduce purchase limits to stretch resources around the 700 residents.

Remediation works at Docker River are now complete, with grader and plant crews repairing Cemetery Access, Bore Access and Waste Management Facility/Power Station/Sewer Pond Access Roads.



A fresh coat of paint and artistry from YSO Waylon and Rhekita has transformed the Amoonguna media room. The civil team assisted by clearing rubbish and broken equipment, while the YSO created a new gym space.



The Amoonguna crew enjoyed a day trip to Orminston for some team building and leadership development, as well as a nutritious BBQ lunch and walks.



# MACYOUTH KEEPS YOUNG MINDS BUSY



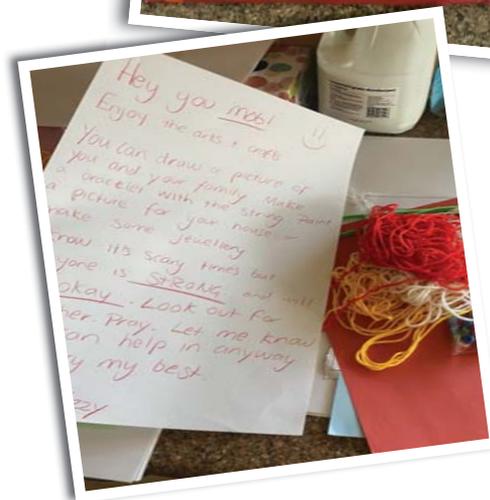
THE MacYouth team has been hard at work preparing and distributing snack, activity and hygiene packs for young people isolating due to COVID.

Community members in Amoonguna and Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte) were grateful for the deliveries and support, after hundreds of locals were exposed or tested positive to the virus in February and early March.

The snack packs contained delicious and nutritious treats, including muesli bars, popcorn, cheese, biscuits, fruit bars and pots.

More than 100 snack packs were handed out in the first week, much to the excitement of local families.

The Youth team had to quickly modify its program due to COVID-19.



# NEW FOCUS FOR NEXT GENERATION



*Titjikala Youth Board members Arthur Wilyuka, Cleon Wilyuka, Dallas Moneymoon, Sharyah Gilligan, Nathaniel Aeborn, Lucas Jones, Mora James.*

A NEW shaded volleyball court was one of the key projects decided on by the Titjikala youth board at the final meeting of 2021.

The large sand area at the youth space will be converted to make the new sporting arena this year.

The board also made new Guernsey designs for youth representing Titjikala at sporting competitions.

Manager of Youth Services Jessica Kragh said it was inspiring to see the next generation of leaders take a hands-on approach to their communities.

“The Titjikala Youth board is made up of engaged participants who are working hard on a



*The new Guernsey design that the Youth Board approved.*

variety of projects that matter to them,” she said.

“MacYouth is invested in supporting in any way we can and will facilitate project plans with the Local Authorities.”





# ADVOCATING FOR YOUTH FUNDING

MACYOUTH manager Jessica Kragh led a delegation of youth team leaders to Darwin, to meet with Senator Lidia Thorpe and Senator Corinda Cox.

Nicholas Williams, Justine Stockman and Samantha Stuart all talked about their work and the issues impacting local youths and families.

“Thank you for listening to our stories and supporting our program,” Jessica said.

“Youth workers from across our region work hard to support young people - this meeting is for you.”

The meeting was made possible with support from Central Australian Youth Link Up Service.



*Nicholas Williams, Justine Stockman and Samantha Stuart all meet (above) Senator Lidia Thorpe and Senator Corinda Cox.*

# CELEBRATE LADIES



Female workers celebrated International Women's Day in the Titjikala office, enjoying cakes and cookies.



The Papunya office also got into the festivities, with a tasty morning tea celebration.



# FOR WOMEN'S DAY



*Iryna Mustiats, Amandeep Kaur, Amabelle Labastida, Annaliza Rivera and Mary Jane Dugay in Alice Springs.*



*June Crabb, Shanley Marsden, Kathy Abbott, Sabine Wedemeyer and Tammy Shields*

# CELEBRATE LADIES



*Kaisa Suumann, Lou Blom, Helen Meredith and Barbara Newland*



*Liz Scott, Jenny Murnik, Shinae Sullivan, Zoe Lang, Sarah and Tymara Murnik*



# FOR WOMEN'S DAY



Council staff enjoyed a tasty morning tea (left) and speeches from inspiration women including Zoe Lang (right), who worked her way up from receptionist to Acting Manager Property & Tenancy





The carpet python got a little too close for comfort for Procurement Officer Tammy Shields



Annie Young, Simran Behl and Belinda Urquhart all kept their distance from the snakes.



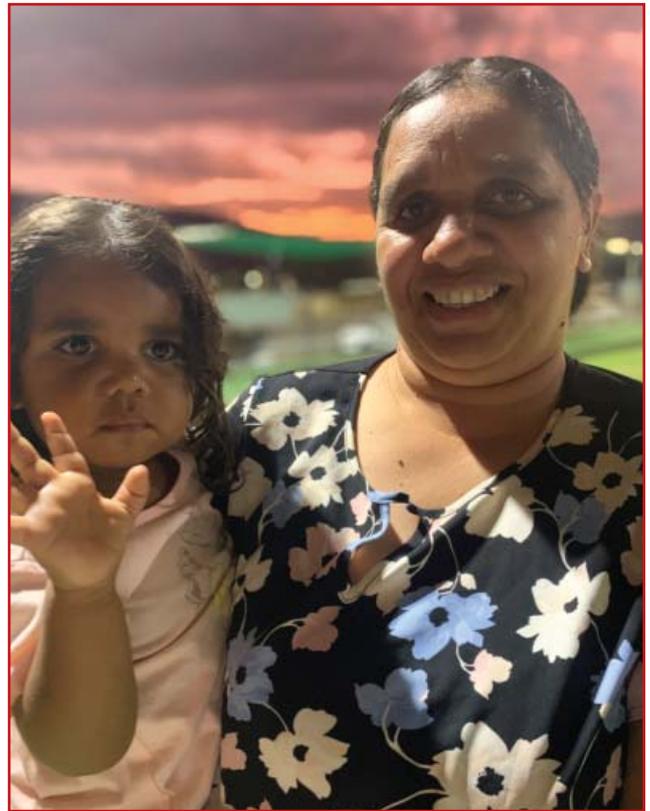
CEO Jeff MacLeod enjoys a drink with Keith Hassett.



Areyonga CSC Dan Rees enjoys a cold beverage.



Training the next generation of council workers: Belinda Urquhart with Libby Taylor's baby Michael; and Council Service Coordinator Annalisa Young and her child Zinne



# TEAM BONDING OVER SNAKES AND SNACKS



TOP: Mark OBryan, Tammy Shields, Stephen Trindle, Max Balivar and Que Kenny pose with a carpet python.

LEFT: Rex Neindorf from Alice Springs Reptile Centre.



COUNCIL Service Coordinators from across the MacDonnell region got up close and personal with some of the area's snakes.

They were in Alice Springs for a two-day workshop held at the convention centre.

Service Centre Delivery Director Belinda Urquhart congratulated the staff on their hard work.

Rex Neindorf from Alice Springs Reptile Centre was on hand to teach the CSCs about first aid when treating a snake or spider bite.

He also brought along some of his friends, including some juvenile brown snakes and a carpet python.



## RECOGNITION

*MacYouth's Hermannsburg Engagement Officer Nicholas Williams accepting his November Employee of the Month award. He's been unable to accept it until now due to COVID restrictions.*

## JOINING THE TEAM

*Iryna Mustiats and Helen Meredith welcome Annie Press to the MacKids team in Hermannsburg*



# HIGH ACHIEVERS

JANUARY



**ISABELLA GRIFFITHS**

**above and beyond**

Izzy Griffiths has become a vital member of the Kintore Youth team since joining in December 2021. She has shown passion to support not only the children but the entire community. Kintore has been experiencing challenging times with the COVID outbreak shutting down most services and the passing of an important Traditional Owner. Despite this, Izzy has continued to take on additional duties to support the community while still fulfilling her normal duties to an extremely high standard.

Many community residents have expressed how much they appreciate Izzy's support, and Kintore Youth feels very lucky to have her.



**KATHLEEN WINDY**

**service excellence**

Kathleen Windy and the local youth team in Areyonga have been working closely with MacCare to ensure food hampers and services are delivered to the aged and disability clients in Areyonga.

It has been tough times with much uncertainty however Kathleen is always willing to help and be proactive for her community. Kathleen has been employed with us for over 11 years and probably doesn't get enough recognition when she goes above and beyond or provides excellent services.

MacYouth is very lucky to have her and wish to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate her.

You can find the nomination form (HR04-F1) on the front page of Magic Docs under 'FORMS – Human Resources'. Nomination forms are to be completed and returned to [human.resources@macdonnell.nt.gov.au](mailto:human.resources@macdonnell.nt.gov.au)



## BIG BREKKY

*Council Service Delivery in Titjikala enjoyed a celebratory bacon and egg sandwich breakfast for all their hard work after recent heavy rain.*



## VERY TASTY

*Kath Abbott introduces Service Centre Delivery Director Belinda Urquhart to the tasty bush beans and bananas.*



# LOU'S GREAT AUSSIE DREAM COMES TRUE



Lou Blom with Alice Springs mayor Matt Paterson.

THE Chief Executive Officer's right-hand assistant has celebrated this year's Harmony Day with a major accomplishment.

Lourdes 'Lou' Blom was one of 58 new Australian citizens conferred at Alice Springs Town Council's ceremony.

Lou made the massive move from the Philippines to Australia six years ago.

"I was choosing between New York, South Korea and Australia to become my new destination," she said.

"I chose Australia because I wanted to adopt the Australian laidback attitude."

Lou quickly fell in love with the little town of Alice Springs.

"I love the simple lifestyle here - you can

go shopping barefoot, there's no need or expectation to wear make up and fancy clothes, work is five minutes away and there is no traffic.

"Alice has everything that I need without the unnecessary distraction. But what I love most about this region is the incredible opportunities. This is a great place to reinvent and grow."

When asked her favourite part of working at MRC, Lou jokingly said the morning teas and curries.

"My actual favourite part is the feeling of belongingness and being valued," she said.

CEO Jeff MacLeod was in attendance for the event, honouring his Executive Assistant's contributions to MacDonnell Regional Council.



# SAFETY MEETING



Alice Springs staff were treated to a morning tea at the first Fire Safety Meeting of 2022.

FIRE evacuations were top of the agenda at the first official Safety Meeting of 2022.

Human Resources Manager Thomas Coelli-Donaghy led the discussion about what Alice Springs staff should do in the case of a blaze, including a quiz with chocolate prizes.

“It is important that we are familiar with fire safety and what to do in an emergency,” he said.

“The WHS team will work closely with both Alice Springs and community-based staff to ensure everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency and who they can contact.”

Director of Community Services Sabine Wedemeyer also reminded staff about the importance of staying COVID-safe in the kitchen.

She has asked everyone to place all used cutlery and plates into the dishwasher to ensure they are properly disinfected.

“The Coronavirus and other bacteria can survive a long time in a moist environment like a dish brush, and can easily be transferred to other dishes and cutlery,” she said.

“It is much safer to put all eating utensils in the dishwasher - so please use it!”

All staff are urged to be on alert for any fire alarms, as even a test should be treated as a real. Ignoring the siren can result in a fine.

# STAFF PUT TO THE TEST WITH ALARM



## FIRST AID OFFICERS:

Jahnavi Gupta (First floor)  
Lakshman Perera (First floor)  
Lou Blom (Ground floor)

## FIRE WARDENS

Kaisa Suumann (Chief)  
Annaliza Rivera (Zone 1)  
Praful Gautam (Zone 2)  
Shinae Sullivan (Zone 3)  
Tammy Shields (Zone 4)

STAFF leapt into action for the first fire alarm test of 2022, quickly making their way to the muster point on South Terrace.

It was an efficient exercise, proving our workers are always prepared for the worst case scenario.

Fire Warden Chief Kaisa Suumann congratulated all staff on their response to the alarm.

“Great participation and well done everybody,” she said.

# BIG TEAM WELCOME

## ALICE SPRINGS

- Keshav Keerthi Chandrasekaran - Coordinator Quality Aged and Disability Services
- Shanley Marsden - Human Resources Officer
- Rhiannon Pomery - Coordinator Human Resources Operations
- Zane Watts - Case Manager
- Sam Manoj - Finance Officer Accounts Payable
- Tammy Shields - Administration Officer (Service Delivery)
- Ranjita Gautam - Administration Officer (Technical Services)
- Corey Sinclair - Coordinator Communications, Engagement and Planning
- Richard McWaters - Team Leader Youth Services
- Rahul Meda - Human Resources Officer

## AMOONGUNA

- Miranda Doolan - Youth Services Officer
- Audrey Miller - Home Care Assistant
- David Fatt - Home Care Assistant

## FINKE

- Amos Egan - Senior Community Safety Officer
- Kerryanne Lennon - Home Care Assistant
- Ronald Morton - Home Care Assistant
- Kiara Lambourne - Community Safety Officer
- Mary Matasia - Community Safety Officer
- Heather Doolan - Early Learning Educator

## HAASTS BLUFF

- Adeyinka Adegbosin - Coordinator Community Home Care
- Joseph Carter - Works Assistant
- Keiran Multa - Local Authority Member

## HERMANSBURG

- Kumaran Puliyana - Coordinator Community Home Care
- Irama Inkamala - Youth Services Officer
- Bradley Namatjira (Williams) - Youth Services Officer
- Anne Press - Early Learning Educator
- Katrina Andrews - Home Care Assistant
- Emma Malbunka - Home Care Assistant



# TO NEW STARTERS

## IMANPA

- Erica Campbell - Customer Service Officer
- Tanya Luckey - Local Authority Member
- Abraham Paddy - Community Safety Officer

## KINTORE

- Bella Kofoed - Essential Services Officer
- Lindsay Rowe - Youth Services Officer
- Larry Major - Works Assistant
- Francis Marshall - Works Assistant
- Trevor Willy - Works Assistant
- John Booling - Community Safety Officer
- Sampson West - Youth Services Officer
- Antonio Nolan - Youth Services Officer
- Jordan Pollard - Youth Services Officer

## MOUNT LIEBIG

- Lucinda Eggley - Early Learning Educator
- Merelissa Wheeler - Early Learning Educator
- Trepina Tilmouth - Early Learning Educator
- Ronald Nosepeg - Works Assistant

## PAPUNYA

- Matthew Brown - Home Care Assistant
- Jillian Kantawara - Home Care Assistant
- Claydon Minor - Community Service Officer

## SANTA TERESA

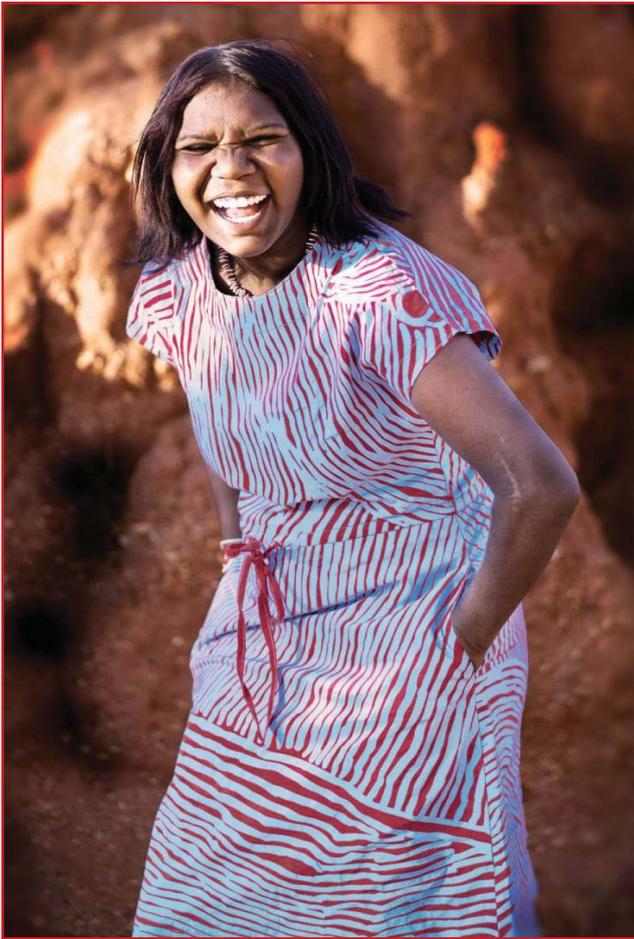
- Bronwyn Marshall - Customer Service Officer
- Jayden Campbell - Senior Youth Service Officer
- Camille Young - Customer Service Officer

## TITJIKALA

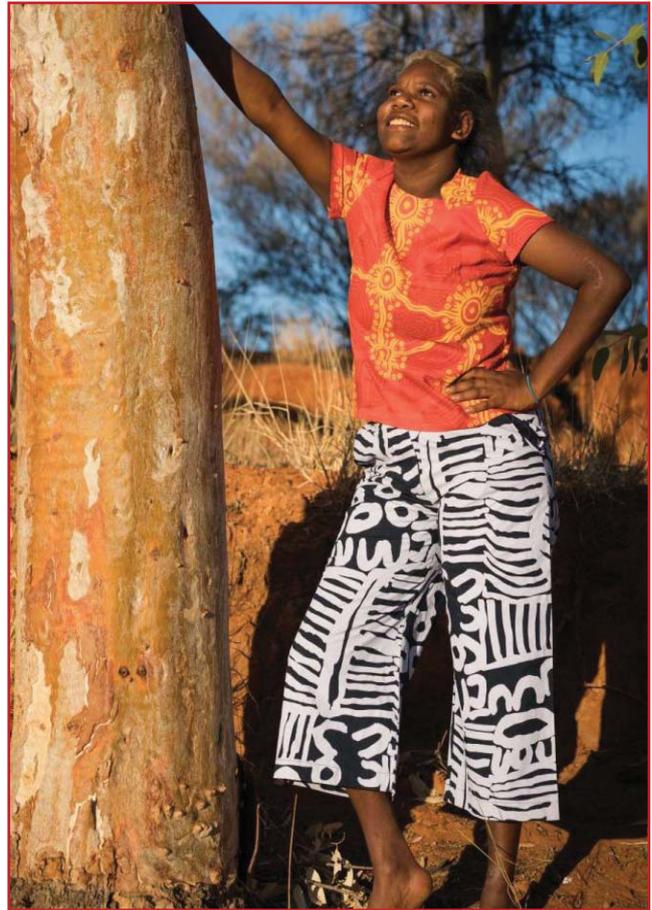
- Lekara Campbell - Youth Services Officer
- Moses Mulda (Daniels) - Works Assistant
- Alannah Simmons - Customer Service Officer



AUSTRALIAN  
BUSINESS  
AWARDS



Sheraldeen Apati Marshall wearing Kuruyultu Vanessa Dress.  
PHOTOS: Christian Koch.



Sheraldeen Apati Marshall wearing Tali Audrey top and Womens Business Marsha pants.



Keturah Zimran painting in the Ikuntji Artists Studio.  
PHOTO: Tobias Titz



'Kurpulungu' Ngapa Tjukurpa - Water Snake Dreaming by Joseph Lane.



# ART CENTRE TAKES OUT STATE AWARD



Elder Eunice Napanangka Jack painting in the Ikuntji Artists Studio.

PHOTO: Tobias Titz

IKUNTJI Artists has taken out two categories at the 2022 NT Telstra Best of Business Awards.

Manager Dr Chrischona Schmidt said it was great to have their work recognised after COVID took a toll on the business.

“We used to be really busy in the tourism season but that has completely dropped away as an income source,” she said. “So we have changed the way we do business and become much more efficient with online sales.”

The business has become so popular, it received 300 orders in just one week in 2021 - customers from across the globe are desperate to get their hands on the art centre’s beautiful designs.

“People know if they buy from us, the money goes directly back to the artist,” Dr Schmidt said.

But it wasn’t a case of overnight success. Dr Schmit has been managing the art centre for almost a decade and only noticed it start to take off over the past 3 years. The ongoing success has allowed them to branch out into new avenues, like textiles and design.

“Our chair person said in the last meeting that she feels incredibly proud to see Ikuntji everywhere,” Dr Schmidt said. “We went to Mindil Beach in Darwin and saw multiple people wearing our designs and fabrics.”

Minister for Arts Chansey Paech said the win was a testament to the artistic talent in Central Australia.

“The Northern Territory’s creative industries sector empowers our people to share their unique stories and cultural practices, as well as supporting jobs and economic opportunities,” he said.



# ROCKING OUT FOR U18 FOOTY

ONE of Central Australia's most popular bands stole the show at the Under 18s football presentation in Ltyentye Apurte in January.

Eastern Arrernte Band performed some of their well-known desert reggae songs, much to the enjoyment of community members who attended the event.

Engagement officer Tiffany Davis said the community loves when the band performs concerts at the rec hall.

"Everyone has the best time," she said.

"The young fella's U18 footy presentation was hosted at the rec hall, so the MacYouth supported with a barbeque and set up lights and a space for Eastern Arrernte Band to play."

The Ltyentye Apurte youth program has also recently started utilising the football oval to facilitate night activities.

"The young people are really enjoying using this space and everyone else also gets to enjoy some pretty epic sunsets," Tiffany said.

## DON'T MISS END OF TERM FUN DAY

PAPUNYA will come to life with the sound of music and cheers for a special fun day to celebrate the end of term one.

MacDonnell Regional Council's remote sports coordinator Adam Bell has organised an event full of fun activities to engage the whole community.

Stakeholders will be able to enjoy games of football, band performances and a barbeque.

There will also be a fun disco for the youths to get their grooves on.

- **The Fun Day will be held at Papunya's football oval on Friday the 8th of April, 4pm to 10pm.**



# JUGGLING ACT FOR YOUTHS



ONE of Australia's top travelling circus troupes recently spent three days in Amooonguna, teaching the local youths everything from juggling to acrobatics.

Former Youth Services Team Leader Kaylee Mitchison said the young people were excited to participate and learn from the amazing skilled crew.

"On day two, the young people were waiting patiently outside the rec hall for the crew

to arrive," she said. "The difficulty of skills needed to complete the activities increased and gave the young people a challenge.

"Some worked really hard to conquer the challenges and some found the tasks easy."

Day three started off with hand and eye coordination activities with juggling to warm up.

"The young people then continued to practice their new skills in acrobatics to create a show for the community."



# NETBALLERS SHINE LIKE A DIAMOND

FORMER Australian Diamonds captain Sharni Layton (Norder) is inspiring the next generation of netballers to pick up the ball.

She paid a special visit to Amoonguna on the 16th of March with the crew from NetFit, to encourage the youth to play netball and enhance their fitness.

Remote Sports coordinator Adam Bell said the participants quickly picked up the art of the game.

“Basketball is very popular in our region and there are many shared skills between it and netball so the Moongie crew had few issues picking it up,” he said.

“Although some of them forgot to stop running with the ball!”

NetFit founder Sarah Wall and team mates Claire and Mel were also on hand to impart some important skills.

“We were all thankful when the NetFit girls utilised water bombs to help with hand eye coordination,” Adam said.

“The temperatures were still in the mid 30s so no one cared about getting wet when they dropped a catch.

“MacYouth is super grateful for the chance to interact with the NetFit crew and hope they come back to Alice and our communities soon.”

To find out more informaton about NetFit clinics, you can visit the official website at:

<http://www.netfitnetball.com>

