



# MacNews

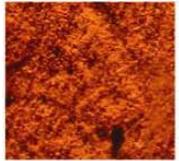
MacDonnell Shire Council Staff Newsletter

MARCH 2013

volume 5 issue 2



## Leaving us in good shape



MacDonnell Shire CEO, Diane Hood resigned to take up a leadership position with the Northern Territory Government Department of Local Government. Diane leaves the MacDonnell Shire Council's service after close to two years as Chief Executive Officer.

Sid Anderson said "We are happy with Diane, she has done wonderful things for the MacDonnell Shire".

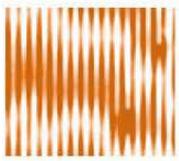
During her time with the MacDonnell Shire, Diane had overseen significant governance and planning initiatives and witnessed the positive results brought by these improvements.

"I am confident that the Shire will continue on its stable footing, it has great Councillors and fantastic staff" Diane Hood said.

In the last financial year the MacDonnell Shire returned a modest surplus, turning around a \$3.5m deficit over the preceding two years. Improvements have also been seen generally throughout the Shire's municipal services. The MacDonnell Shire has also developed a consistently high indigenous employment record. A growing number of service areas in the MacDonnell Shire have achieved and maintained 100% indigenous employment, taking in an increasing amount of management roles.

Many of the improvements in the MacDonnell Shire Council can be attributed to the governance model that it has developed. Strong management and good governance underpins the MacDonnell Shire's operational and financial record.

As MacDonnell Shire Council President, Sid Anderson says "Diane has worked closely with the Councillors and we are sad to see her go. But we look forward to employing and working with a new CEO to satisfy our constituents". Diane's last day will be Friday 14 March.



MacDonnell Shire

*Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju  
many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*

Hi All,

This is my last newsletter to you all, which is a sad moment for me.

Never forget that the success of MacDonnell Shire springs from it's people – you genuinely care about achieving results for our residents. The teamwork demonstrated here is definitely best practice!

On a happy note, we say welcome to Tracey Brand our new Director of Community Services, who joins us from the Northern Territory Government Department of the Chief Minister and an extensive career in the executive leadership at Tangentyere Council. Tracey has dived straight in the deep end and brings great experience across agency services.

Some breaking news, we have also secured the services of Chris Kendrick as our new Director Corporate Services. Chris has previously been the Finance Director at Alice Springs Town Council and headed up Corporate Services at the Centre for Appropriate Technology. She is a real team player and sees her new role with us as empowering all areas of the organisation.

Finally, thank you to all for making my time here so enjoyable and fulfilling. Although it's not goodbye, because in my new role as Deputy Chief Executive with the Northern Territory Government Department of Local Government I hope to be visiting soon and continuing to work with MacDonnell Shire as I'll need to with all Councils.

Bye for now, Diane

## Skateboarding in Santa Teresa

A series of workshops in Santa Teresa taught the children skateboarding skills and tricks but also included building and painting skate ramps. It provided exciting activities and challenging experiences that saw the children and young adults gain new skills and accomplish worthwhile projects together and involved working through processes with people in the community.

The workshops finished up with a trip to the Alice Springs skate park to try out their tricks.



## Getting Digital TV this year

Houses in each community are going to have their free-to-air-television upgraded to receive Digital TV with a widescreen format, DVD-quality pictures and CD-quality sound. The government is now ready to get Digital TV to remote parts of Australia. People in Amooonguna have already been getting Digital TV because they are close to Alice Springs so they don't need this upgrade.

To help with this our Shire Service Coordinators and Housing Officers are working together to visit every house in the 12 remote communities and any outstations that get a TV signal with an antenna and explain to the people there about Digital TV and to help them sign up for an upgrade to their home.

They have already started doing these visits and will continue until May, making sure they speak to every household. In May, they will start planning for the Skybridge technicians to visit each community and install the set-top-box and satellite dishes.



It will be free to have the technician install a set-top-box and satellite dish at your home if you sign up before May. When the Shire Service Coordinator and Housing Officer visit they will explain everything you will want to know about how Digital TV will work. The installation should be done before the AFL Finals. Later this year, on 10 December, the old analogue will be switched off and only Digital TV will work.

When you get Digital TV there will be many more channels to watch. There is a channel called National Indigenous Television Service (NITV) and in the near future there will be another one called Indigenous Community Television (ICTV). As well there will be channels with more news, sport, old TV shows, cartoons and old movies.

## Run Charmaine, run!

The whole of the MacDonnell Shire is proud of Charmaine Patrick who wants to be a marathon runner. She has been working in the Ntaria MacDonnell Shire office as an Office Assistant for the past month, but when the call came out for people to try out – Charmaine jumped at the chance! The Indigenous Marathon Project is supported by former world champion marathon runner Rob DeCastella, Charmaine will have a 3km trial later this month with other Aboriginal runners in Alice Springs to get into the program and be trained to become a marathon runner by a champion.



## ...introducing Tracey Brand



The MacDonnell Shire is happy to welcome Tracey Brand into her new position with us as Director Community Services. Tracey comes to the position with a good knowledge of working with all levels of government, the social support sector, Aboriginal residents and remote visitors.

Tracey grew up in Alice Springs and is a descendant of the Arrernte people. Her grandfather was that old man (W Rubuntja) that started Central Land Council and Tangentyere Council. Tracey started working as a Receptionist at Tangentyere Council and kept taking on bigger jobs. She then went away to university and got qualified to be a manager and a leader. She now holds a Bachelor of Business in Administrative Management, a Masters of Business Administration, and a Masters in Aboriginal Administration.

She returned and has used her university training at Tangentyere Council in management positions and for over ten years as the Deputy CEO. Most recently Tracey was the Executive Director of the Northern Territory Government project that worked with the Australian Government to fix up the Alice Springs town camps. She works hard to make people's lives better and enjoys helping people get results in their lives.

Tracey's wants to help bring improvements and opportunities to the lives of people across the MacDonnell Shire. She says "I want to strengthen service and program delivery to meet the social and safety needs of our communities making sure people are involved in program design."

Tracey is looking forward to leading the Community Services team and working with individuals and families in the MacDonnell Shire to help make a difference to people's lives through Childcare and Aged Care Services, Youth Development and Community Safety programs.

"I am deeply inspired by the work of the MacDonnell Shire, its direction, services and am humbled by the commitment and dedication of the community services team and excited to be appointed as the new Director Community Services " Tracey Brand said.

*Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju*  
*many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*





## Keep on Planning Ahead

It was a busy time for our Night Patrol staff as they helped out in Alice Springs over the weekend of the Indigenous Allstars game against Richmond. And they will be doing it again – this weekend is the NAB Cup match between AFL teams Port Power and West Coast Eagles, and over the Easter Weekend, the Lightning Carnival will also see many communities in Alice Springs to compete and supports their teams.

MacDonnell Shire's Manager Night Patrol, Andrew Lockyer was proud of how people behaved during the Allstars weekend but still worries for people coming into Alice Springs for other football matches:

“Night Patrols and Police were pleased with visitors at the Allstars game, but people visiting Alice Springs for football should always – Plan Ahead”.

- Know where you are staying – if you want to stay with family in Alice Springs let them know before you travel.
- Book accommodation – before you leave home book somewhere to stay in Alice Springs.
- Know how you are getting back home – before you leave home book the bush bus or know how you are returning to your community so that you don't get stuck in Alice Springs.
- Make sure your car is legal – make sure the car is registered, roadworthy and think about the safety of all people in the car.
- Your children must go to school – know how you are getting home so your children will get to school every day.
- Bring ID cards – travel with your ID card, Drivers' License, BasicsCard and keycard.
- Buy your tickets early – before you go to the game and avoid humbug at the gate.
- Don't miss the game – getting in early means not missing any of the game.

If visiting Alice Springs for any of these football weekends, don't forget to look out for the MacDonnell Shire Night Patrol staff because they will surely be looking out for you!

6-8pm Saturday 9 March at Traeger Park Alice Springs  
**PORTvWEST**  
enjoy the game and get home safely

*Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju*  
*many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*

## Dare to dream!

Last month a MacNews story acknowledged the fine effort of MacDonnell Shire Youth Development Officer, Music Industry Ranger and budding musician, Donovan Mulladad in organising the band night for the Amoonguna Sport Weekend. This week we get a closer look at the Santa Teresa music program and the young man who pushed to make it happen.

Donovan saw that Santa Teresa had some really deadly musicians, but nowhere to play. He noticed an empty space that was being used for storage in the Rec Hall that was the perfect size for setting up a band rehearsal space. He told the Youth Development Team Leader at the time, Zak Davidson that they should have a band room in that space because it will be really good for young people. It will change their lives.

Donovan recalls “My dream was to create a space where young people can feel free to learn music and create their own music.”



With Zak's help to find funding they were soon helped by older community musicians and budding young musicians to unpack equipment and set up the band room. The experienced musicians then played as the young fellas watched.

Donovan remembers: “Now, over 50 young fellas (which means almost all of the teenage men) and about 20 young ladies in Santa Teresa have been involved in the Band Room. For the fellas this has also meant performing live in Santa Teresa and other communities including Amoonguna and Harts Range. The young ladies too have made some of their own songs and have added back up vocals over some of the fella's songs. The young ladies have also had Sista Sound workshops in the Band Room where they learnt to write and record music”.

A Youth Plan is currently being made to program activities for the next two years and the Youth Workers have been asking the young fellas what they want from the Youth Program and their answer is often related to music.

As Donovan says “Some of these fellas have never played an instrument before. I know it is really challenging for them and I know it makes them very proud and you can see they are growing in confidence all the time, not just as musicians, but as people...they deserve to be very proud.”

*Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju  
many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*

## New backhoes delivered to Santa Teresa and Titjikala

Two new John Deere backhoes purchased by MacDonnell Shire have each been delivered to the Works teams at Santa Teresa and Titjikala depots. John Deere representative, Gordon McAndrew came from Darwin to the MacDonnell Shire communities to do the formalisation training and officially handover the keys.

John Deere rep Gordon McAndrew (at left) handing over a new backhoe to the Works team at Santa Teresa



## Child Care and Aged Care get together in Docker River

The children at Docker River Childcare do singing every day and thought it would be a nice thing to share this with the old people. At the Aged Care Centre the old people gathered in their day room and the children sat in the middle to perform their favourite songs. It showed in the old people's eyes that they really loved having the children visit and perform.

Afterwards they all had lunch together. It was good to see the children and old people together.



## See the AFL live in MacDonnell Shire communities

Some communities will get to sit outside at night and watch the AFL on the big screen. Colin and Tammy Richards have travelled around top end communities in previous years putting on their Outbush Pitches shows. This year they are also coming to communities around the centre and showing live AFL games. Their touring is called the *Remote Indigenous Community Road Safety Tour 2013* and in some communities AFLNT will organise some skills sessions or scratch matches before screening the game.

All screenings are free and they will be starting in Papunya then going on to Titjikala, Santa Teresa, Finke, Ntaria, Wallace Rockhole and Areyonga over the coming months – dates and games will be listed in the Other Events section at the back of MacNews.



Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju  
many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle

You may have seen the Shire Goal Medals recently in MacNews next to each story – they show how the different things MacDonnell Shire is doing are part of a big Shire Plan.

This story tells how all the Council talk works to make things happen on the ground, in the MacDonnell Shire. It starts with the elected Local Boards and the Shire Council putting their ideas together as the right way to go. They put this into a document called the Shire Plan. Shire strategies include goals that are talked about as outcomes and actions.

Shire Goals are simple and strong statements that remind everyone of the right way to go. MacDonnell Shire Council goals are for Developing, Liveable and Engaged Communities. Today we look at the first Shire Goal of Developing Communities as we read the:

## SHIRE SPOTLIGHT



Developing  
communities  
SHIRE GOAL #1

# Winners' guide to Developing Communities

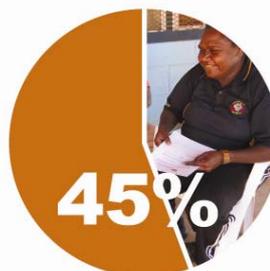
Part of the MacDonnell Shire Council's work is to develop its communities. The MacDonnell Shire does this by striving to achieve the three main outcomes of:

- increasing employment opportunities for residents;
- improving its infrastructure; and
- achieving sustainability.

Each of these outcomes have ways to be measured. Called Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), they show if things are getting better or not. Outcomes also have a list of actions that show ways to keep things getting better. Following, we take a look at each outcome to see how the things Council talk about like KPIs and actions makes things better in the MacDonnell Shire.

## Increasing employment opportunities

Ways to measure the employment of people from Shire communities is by counting the number of indigenous staff working at the MacDonnell Shire. This is talked about as percentages because it is easier to see when things change. The two diagrams show that in 2008 about half the Aged Care Team Leaders were indigenous and four years later all Aged Care Team Leaders are indigenous.



2008



2012

Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju  
many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle

Reducing the number of staff coming and going from jobs is another way MacDonnell Shire measures to see if its employment opportunities are getting better. When people stay in their job they get better at that job and they are happy in their job. Shire managers see when people stay and work hard at their job and may think they will also be future leaders and managers. The Shire works with other governments to make new jobs or fund training to help indigenous people get qualifications and become leaders and managers.

## Improved infrastructure

Not all buildings in a community are owned by the Shire, so from the start the MacDonnell Shire had to claim its buildings and land. Sometimes this has taken a while because the title has had to be worked out with the Central Land Council and the Territory Government. When it is known that a building belongs to the MacDonnell Shire it has been fixed and maintained.

Cemeteries are important to every community so the MacDonnell Shire plans and records ways to improve them. The Shire Council described the things in cemeteries needed to be done and the Shire worked out when to do them. This way the Shire didn't get worried because it was a lot of work, but instead it could look at all the smaller jobs to get the work done. This is how KPIs work. One KPI might be to mark out the grave sites, another to put a cross or names on them. Local Boards might then ask about getting seating, shade and water at their cemetery. The Shire Council might say "lets put water in first, then we can put up some shade and then put in some seating". By measuring the work through KPIs the Council can see if things are getting better and if the work is done in time.



## Sustainability

Financial sustainability is when you can leave more money in your pocket than what you need to spend. The KPIs and actions suggest ways to get more money coming in the MacDonnell Shire and better ways to look after the money that is here. MacDonnell Shire promotes the region to tourism and business operators to bring new wealth into the communities. The Shire saves money by selling its car fleet, plant and equipment before they get too old and worth nothing – this way it keeps everything working better too.

Another KPI has been to return the MacDonnell Shire budget to surplus. It is important for the Shire to have some money behind, because it always has something that needs fixing. The Shire returned to surplus last year when it had a little bit of money left after paying off a \$3.5m debt for two years. With this book up all paid off the Shire Council will have to write a new KPI about financial sustainability when it meets in May to look at the next Shire Strategic Plan.

Having read about these ideas, the best way to better understand them is to talk about them. Ask your Manager or Coordinator questions about the Shire Goals. It will also be good to talk about the goals with other Shire workers or even your family. In another SHIRE SPOTLIGHT we'll look at the next Shire Goal: Liveable Communities and how it makes your life better.

## STAFF MOVEMENTS

We extend a big welcome to the following people who have joined MacDonnell Shire during February. Also congratulations to those who have taken up new roles within the Shire:

### Alice Springs

Tracey Brand – Director Community Services

Zoe Lang – Administration Officer Technical Services

### Amoonguna

Amie Lou Smith – Youth Development Support Officer

### Areyonga (Utju)

Dorothy Multa – Aged Care Assistant

Lucinda Nipper – Youth Development Officer

### Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Jason Mitchell – Works Assistant

Maria Edimintja – Administration Officer Centrelink

### Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Melissa Lankin – Early Childhood Educator

Jackson Kopp – Community Sports and Recreation Officer

### Kintore (Walungurru)

Walter Brown – Works Assistant

Quintin Millier – Shire Service Coordinator

Michael Wheeler – Team Leader Night Patrol

### Papunya (Warumpi)

Alice Poulson – Early Childhood Educator

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Finance Meeting

**Council Chambers** (Alice Springs):  
Friday 22 March

### Local Board Meetings

**Finke:** Thursday 7 March

**Kintore:** Thursday 14 March

**Amoonguna:** Wednesday 20 March

**Santa Teresa:** Thursday 21 March

**Docker River:** Thursday 28 March

## OTHER EVENTS

### Playground naming ceremony

MacDonnell Shire Council will be officially launching its newest playground at Titjikala on Monday 25 March. The park includes play equipment with a shaded area and seating making it great for families to use.



The community has signed off on a name and the signage is being prepared. Keep reading MacNews to find out how it went, otherwise we'll see you there!

### Make a date with a Mechanic

The Mobile Mechanics are looking to cover two communities per week. The first trip will be a trial to get it worked out. For this to work they encourage Team Leaders to make sure all vehicles are at the workshops prior to their arrival and to schedule work around the following dates:

Jason

Docker River 18 – 20 March

Imanpa 21 – 22 March

Finke 25 – 27 March

Santa Teresa 28 March

Titjikala 2 – 3 April

Amoonguna 4 – 5 April

Kev

Kintore 18 – 20 March

Mt Liebig 21 – 22 March

Papunya 25 – 27 March

Hassts Bluff 27 – 28 March

Wallace Rockhole 2 April

Areyonga 3 April

Hermannsburg 4 – 5 April

## Management Challenge

MacDonnell Shire Council is teaming up with Central Desert Shire Council and Alice Springs Town Council to enter two combined teams to compete against our top end counterparts in the NT Local Government Management Challenge. The two teams are the *Deadly Dingoes* comprising Shire staff Kitty Comerford, Graham Murnik, and *Majestic Crew* comprising Darren Pfitzner and Julie Sauerwald.

On Wednesday 20 March *the challenge* will be revealed to them so they have been busily preparing their team skills and local government knowledge. More news to follow.

## AFL big screen in communities

Screening dates for the *Remote Indigenous Community Road Safety Tour 2013* in the following communities:

**Papunya** Friday 22 March  
Adelaide v Essendon

**Titjikala** Thursday 28 March  
Carlton v Richmond

**Santa Teresa** Saturday 30 March  
Gold Coast v St Kilda

**Finke** Friday 19 April  
Sydney v Geelong

**Hermannsburg** Saturday 20 April  
West Coast v Carlton

**Wallace Rockhole** Friday 3 May  
Collingwood v St Kilda

**Areyonga** Saturday 4 May  
Richmond v Geelong



## STOP THE PRESS!

### Clean Up Australia

Following a late invite to the MacDonnell Shire to join in on the Clean Up Australia weekend, a message went out to the communities. Cheryl Kleinig and the Areyonga community embraced the small lead time and along with the school will be doing their bit around the community. MacNews looks forward to bringing the results from Areyonga and any other clean-ups in a future story about this year's Territory Tidy Town competition.

### Deadline for next issue

Stories for next issue of MacNews need to be submitted before Friday 22 March. Send your stories and ideas as they occur to: [media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au](mailto:media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au)

Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju  
many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle