

# MacNews

MacDonnell Shire Council Staff Newsletter

APRIL 2013

volume 5 issue 3



Titjikala community members gather as Jeff MacLeod introduces Len Griffiths who opened the park, and Roxanne Kelly who helped officiate proceedings

## Tjitji tjutaku Park opened for families

Like a giant puzzle being solved, the final pieces of the Titjikala park came together in the last few weeks. After the main play equipment was installed in December last year, the slab was poured in early March and the associated seating, shade structure and sign were installed.

The sign was covered with a Northern Territory flag for Len Griffiths, Acting Regional Executive Director from the Territory's Department of Local Government (the park development was made possible through their Special Purposes Grant) to remove and reveal the name chosen for the park by the Titjikala Local Board: *Tjitji tjutaku Park* (Children's Park) and declared the park open.

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## G'day,

CEO UPDATE

Let me begin my first newsletter as Acting CEO by thanking Diane Hood for a great contribution to the MacDonnell Shire during her time as CEO and previously as Director Corporate Services. Diane arrived in her roles at a time when MacDonnell Shire needed someone to take control of the organisation and provide courage, strength and direction. She provided that while working closely with elected councillors, management, staff and the community. We wish Diane all the best in her new position with the Department of Local Government.

My role in the MacDonnell Shire over the coming months is to maintain the momentum and high standards that all staff can be proud of. The MacDonnell Shire now has stability in its finances and focus to its direction that underpins the current phase of recruiting a new CEO. Applications to the position have closed and an executive of councillors have shortlisted candidates ahead of interviewing. It is expected that the incumbent will be announced later next month.

In other executive recruitment, Chris Kendrick will begin as our new Director Corporate Services on Monday 22 April. 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.

The MacDonnell Shire is also pleased to have secured the services of Andrea Martin as Acting Manager Governance and Planning for a two month contract. Andrea has previously been the Regional Executive Director at the Northern Territory Government's Department of Local Government. Her wealth of knowledge in governance and planning specifically for local government and her short-term availability will be a timely contribution to the forthcoming Shire Plan review schedule.

The Shire Plan review process is an important part of the MacDonnell Shire calendar. It is a time for staff, elected Councillors and Local Boards to provide input into the key areas where the Shire should direct its resources. Directors are looking closely at where we have met, exceeded or missed the goals set in this year's Shire Plan. The first Shire Plan reviews will begin in Local Board meetings this month.

See ya'round, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, our Director Service Delivery Centre, is currently also our Acting CEO until the recruitment process for a replacement Chief Executive Officer is complete.



## Diane's farewell



LEFT to RIGHT: Diane Hood prepares to say 'goodbye'; Graham Murnik our Area Manager, Andrea Martin our new Acting Manager Governance and Planning, Bruce Fyfe NTG Manager Local Government and Laurie Berryman NTG Regional Operations Centre Area Manager - Southern; and some of Diane's Bridge Club friends Denise McEwan, Bev Keegan and Val Robinson.

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## Tjitji tjutaku Park opened for families (continued from front page)

Following the official speeches and the unveiling of the sign a community lunch followed.

The people of Titjikala are proud of their community and the Civil Works team who constructed and installed the facilities at the new park. Over the months as they worked on the park, they recorded all the steps it took to prepare the site, and then to build and install the equipment. The record they now have of the work they did will be a good record of the standards to be followed by any other community putting a playground into a community park.

Titjikala Civil Works team stand proudly, with Len Griffiths, in front of the community park they have developed



## Updating IT

With a range of Information Technology (IT) factors being addressed across MacDonnell Shire, our Manager Information Services, Peter Blythman advise the following progress of service changes and upgrades.

### Shire office internet connections

Titjikala, Finke, Mount Liebig, Haasts Bluff, Areyonga, Imanpa and Wallace Rockhole have all been requested for upgrades through the NBN Co. These requests are currently with CouncilBIZ for action as all these connections need to be routed back to Darwin for connectivity. When this is finalised, all Shire offices will have better connectivity, and most of the current issues should be resolved.

Amoonguna, Hermannsburg and Santa Teresa remain on Next G networks. Docker River has been converted to BDSL Services (4mb landline) which removes most of the services from the satellite as we look into future options. Papunya will be upgraded to ADSL Services once the configuration of the Network is approved and installed.

### Shire staff house internet connections

All NBN Co requests have been approved and all staff accommodation in approved locations are being installed. This is expected to be completed by the end of April. Papunya staff houses have been fitted with ADSL modems for internet access.

### Community residential internet connections

All residents of communities are entitled to apply for an NBN Co installation for their residence. When/if approved NBN Co will pay for the installation however the individual (household) will have to pay for the monthly fees to a company to connect their internet. It is a good service to help your children with their schooling, knowledge base and use of computer systems.

NBN Co can be contacted on business days between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm (Northern Territory Time) on Freecall 1800 687 626.

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## Ned and Donovan do it again!

Keep working hard like legend Grader Team duo, Ned Wilson and Donovan Spencer and you might get new equipment like they did. They have just taken delivery of a Landcruiser ute that has been set up as a fully equipped grader support vehicle. It will enable the Grader Team to carry out grader re-fuelling and basic maintenance and repairs no matter where they are in the Shire.

Now that they are better equipped, they will be working their way around the MacDonnell Shire. So wave 'hello' to them as their work on a road near you!



## Aged Care Team Leader training

our Titjikala Aged Care correspondent, Jo-Marie Rawson reports on the first quarterly Aged Care Team Leader meeting for 2013 and creating the Aged Care vision

I found that the training went very well and that I got to meet some other people from other communities. I only knew Rosemary from Finke community so it was good to meet the others and share stories about our own Aged Care Centres. I enjoyed it a lot.

I think about the session, where we designed our dream Aged Care Service was great – where all our clients and workers are happy and there's lots of laughing and lots of money to spend.

It would be good if our dreams could come true.

## Office computer virus outbreak

Over the next few months the Shire will be conducting audits of all IT equipment and all internet usage from MacDonnell Shire computer assets. This will include all USB and external devices that are being connected to the Shire network (this may even include your own computer) as all connecting devices need to be virus scanned prior to opening any files every time they are used.

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## Clean Up Australia in Areyonga

After reading about Clean Up Australia happening all over the country, Areyonga community decided they could be a part of this and clean up their streets. Service Coordinator Cheryl Kleinig talked to the school principal, who was keen for the school to join in, and they made some plans for the day. Cheryl got the office ladies to make up a sign to advertise the day and certificates to thank everyone for a job well done after participating. The community decided to meet at the school where gloves were handed out with garbage bags to the school children and various people from around Areyonga. The store stayed closed until the clean up was finished, which worked out well.

The children were very excited and the result achieved was outstanding – everyone was surprised at the amount of rubbish we filled in just one hour.

MacDonnell Shire gave out certificates to everyone participating in the Clean Up and also gave out three prizes of \$10 vouchers to spend at the store that were awarded to those who collected the most rubbish. Cheryl says, "It was a great success, but we can always improve if we do it again. The idea is to have everyone proud of their community and if we can show the children what can be achieved by putting rubbish in the bin, we have succeeded".

Areyonga community has now decided to enter into this year's Tidy Towns competition.

## Sandra's walk

Sandra Jones, our trusty Finance Officer from Accounts Receivable, has set off on 7 weeks extended leave for a significant and personal undertaking. She is joining her sister and a friend in a 765km walk on the Camino De Santiago in northern Spain to raise funds for the Melanoma Institute Australia in memory of her late husband.

Sandra has a travel blog set for anyone to keep up with their walk and promises to update it every now and again:

<http://journals.worldnomads.com/walkers>



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## Santa Teresa sports weekend – spot a legend!



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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

## International Women's Day Bush Trip 2013

our Titjikala Aged Care correspondent, Jo-Marie Rawson reports:

We started driving around Titjikala Community looking for our clients and making sure that they all had their blankets and pillows with them. Most of the clients were well prepared with their cups and billy cans and making sure that they didn't forget the hand axe and burning wires to carve patterns on their clap sticks.

Then as we were getting ready to leave, there were some other cars still driving around the community asking if some of the other women wanted to come on the bush trip with their kids. We started driving to the camp site and some of the other women were driving behind. Then we made our way to Robertsons Dam where we found shade under all the big trees because we couldn't go to Chambers Pillar as there was no shade to sit under for the clients. When we arrived at the dam everyone was provided with fresh salad sandwiches made by the Waltja staff and all the women started making their swags and setting up their little camp sites ready for where they were going to sleep. They were provided with swags from Waltja, to use just for the camping trip then we returned them when they were finished using them the next day.

ABOVE: The Aged Care convoy departs Titjikala for their International Women's Day Bush Trip 2013

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After everyone was finished eating lunch the Waltja staff asked if any of the clients wanted to go to Chambers Pillar for site seeing and to walk up the hill. So most of the women went and I stayed with the Aged Care clients that didn't want to go. Then Lisa from Youth took all the kids and women to the Finke River on the back way to go swimming, but there was no water when they got there, so they came back and went swimming in the dam.

The clients came back to the camp site and made their fire to start their carving to make clap sticks and other wood creatures that they do by carving them out of wood. Some of the women from the Chronic Disease Unit and CEA started cooking for everyone that wanted kangaroo tails while Waltja staff cooked spaghetti bolognese for those that didn't want kangaroo tails. Everyone sat down and started eating their dinner and getting ready for bed while the older women and younger ones were laying down telling stories.

As the night went on, there was this big cow hanging around the camp mooing all night. It got so annoying, but after a while everyone just fell asleep and in the morning Waltja made a big pot of tea and provided breakfast. They had a choice of bread and cereals with tea. Then everyone started to pack their stuff up and put them back into the car that they had come in. Waltja was taking some other the clients out hunting and I came back to Titjikala community with some of our clients that wanted to go home. Lisa took the younger women to Chambers Pillar and that was the end of a great camping trip.



ABOVE: Nora Campbell decorating clap sticks, and BELOW: Marie Shilling, Jo-Marie Rawson and Nora Campbell



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## STAFF MOVEMENTS

We extend a big welcome to the following people who have joined MacDonnell Shire during March and congratulation those who have taken up new roles within the Shire:

### Alice Springs

Margaret Harrison – Manager Children's Services  
Andrea Martin – Acting Manager Governance and Planning  
Alana Murphy – Finance Officer  
Cherrylynn Williams – Coordinator Children's Services

### Amoonguna

Bowen Webb – Youth Sport and Recreation Officer

### Areyonga (Utju)

Carelina Brumby-Dunn – Aged Care Assistant

### Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Arnold Butler – Works Assistant  
Anita Kingsley – Administration Assistant Centrelink  
Trevor Sampi – Works Assistant  
Matthew Vergona – Youth Development Support Officer

### Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Barry Abbott – Works Assistant  
Huey Doolan – Community Sport and Recreation Officer  
Cleveland Kantawara – Night Patrol Officer  
Carol Raggett – Night Patrol Officer  
Cliffy Raggett – Youth Development Officer  
Marsha Riley – Team Leader Night Patrol  
Rebecca Rontji – Aged Care Assistant  
David Williams – Youth Development Support Officer

### Kintore (Walungurru)

Jacqueline Reid – Early Childhood Educator  
Matthew Woodham – Youth Development Officer

### Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Jacinta Miller – OSHC Facilitator

### Papunya (Warumpi)

Matthew Brown – Works Assistant  
Kelvin Lewis – Works Assistant

### Titjikala (Tapatjatjaka)

Jillian Renner – Community Sports and Recreation Officer  
Collette Wallace – Early Childhood Educator

### Wallace Rockhole

Gordon Abbott – Works Assistant  
Howard Abbott – Works Assistant  
Matthew Rabuntja – Works Assistant

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Local Board Meetings** will include Shire Plan reviews

**Areyonga:** Thursday 4 April

**Haasts Bluff:** Wednesday 10 April

**Papunya:** Wednesday 10 April

**Mt Liebig:** Thursday 11 April

**Titjikala:** Wednesday 24 April

**Hermannsburg:** Tuesday 30 April

**Wallace Rockhole:** Tuesday 30 April

## OTHER EVENTS

### Mechanic's dating service

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:

#### Key

Alice Springs 25 – 28 March

Papunya 2 – 5 April

Alice Springs 8 – 12 April

Haasts Bluff 15 – 19 April

Alice Springs 22 – 26 April

Finke 29 April – 3 May

Alice Springs 6 – 10 May

Titjikala 13 – 17 May

**STOP THE PRESS!**

## Deadline for next issue

Stories for next issue of MacNews need to be submitted before Friday 19 April. Send your stories and ideas as they occur to: [media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au](mailto:media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au)

### Tim

Alice Springs 25 – 28 March  
Wallace Rockhole 2 – 5 April  
Alice Springs 8 – 12 April  
Areyonga 15 – 19 April  
Alice Springs 22 – 26 April  
Hermannsburg 29 April – 3 May  
Alice Springs 6 – 10 May  
Santa Teresa 13 – 14 May  
Amoonguna 15 – 17 May

## AFL big screen in communities

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

**Santa Teresa** Friday 5 April  
St Kilda v Richmond

**Titjikala** Saturday 6 April  
Essendon v Melbourne

**Finke** Friday 19 April  
Sydney v Geelong

**Hermannsburg** Saturday 20 April  
Gold Coast v Port Adelaide

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

**Areyonga** Saturday 4 May  
Richmond v Geelong

**Papunya** Friday 10 May  
Essendon v Geelong



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