

MacNews

SPECIAL EDITION DECEMBER NOVEMBER AND OCTOBER 2022

SIMPLY THE BEST

BEST TIDY TOWN-MOUNT LIEBIG

BEST REGIONAL COUNCIL-MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL

MRC cleans up at the 2022 Territory Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards



MacDonnell Regional Council council representatives celebrate at the November Territory Sustainable Communities Tidy Town Awards Darwin 2022.

MacDonnell Regional Council have triumphed once again at this year's Territory Sustainable Communities Tidy Town Awards awards held in Darwin. Acting Chief Executive Officer of MRC and Service Centre Delivery Director Belinda Urquhart said "This was an outstanding achievement for individuals, the team and Mount Liebig community in particular who truly deserved their award. Everyone has worked very hard for the results and it's wonderful to see the recognition and acknowledgement for all their efforts."

Council Service Coordinators, Team Leaders, Area Managers, Essential Service Officers and a Counsellor all celebrated the successful achievement. Awards for sustainability, environmental, initiatives and improved liveability were recognised with MacDonnell Regional Council leading by example.

The efforts and hard work of MRC's Service Delivery Centre staff, has once again been highlighted and recognised with Best Regional Council.

KABNT(Keep Australia Beautiful NT) promotes, supports and recognises the efforts of Territorians and their communities through projects that improve the living condition and sustainability by encouraging key community stakeholders to work collaboratively. KABNT places emphasis on litter reduction and waste management in remote communities .



Jeff McLeod
CEO

As we prepare to welcome the new year, both the President and I would like to acknowledge the achievements of colleagues from the recent Tidy Town Awards and Council Awards held in December. Like many local governments, the year provided challenges which we faced head on. Our communities are our priority and we look forward to working with counsellors and all MRC staff in the new year. I would like to finish off by reminding all staff that Covid 19 is still with us. As we head into the holidays and travel interstate, please be safe, test and isolate if you have any Covid 19 symptoms.



ROXANNE KENNY
PRESIDENT



MERRY CHRISTMAS

**TO ALL MRC STAFF ,
THEIR FAMILIES AND ALL
COMMUNITIES.**

**STAY SAFE AND HAVE A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2023**

**ROXANE KENNY-PRESIDENT
JEFF MCLEOD-CEO**

OCTOBER MRC ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 2022



Back row above: MRC Councillors Mark Inkamala, Abraham Poulson, Patrick Allen, Jason Minor, Lisa Sharman, Lynette Ellis, Marlene Abbott, Bobby Abbott. Front row seated: Chief Executive Officer Jeff McLeod, President Roxanne Kenny, Deputy President Dalton McDonald



Executive Leadership Team Back Row- Aaron Blacker, Sabine Wedemeyer, Chris Kendrick, Belinda Urquhart. Front Row-CEO Jeff MacLeod, President Roxanne Kenny and Deputy President Dalton McDonald



Councillors convene for the October meeting

To submit content, please send an email to the Communications Coordinator at

justin.brierty@macdonnell.nt.gov.au



Councillor Lynette Ellis from Amoonguna, proudly displays her Community Legend Award for her outstanding contribution to her community



2022 Territory Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards



Counsellor Lisa Sharman, Service Delivery Director Belinda Urquhart
Team Leader for Mount Liebig Tristan Robertson.



Council Service Coordinator for Docker River and Team and
Stephen Trindle, celebrates the award.



Team Leader from Santa Teresa, Darren Young, and CR
Lisa Sharman, celebrate the Citizen Awards.



Shae Thompson(CSC MT Liebig, SDC Director
Belinda Urquhart, Kathleen Abbott(Area Manager)
and Kelly Ryan (ESO Areyonga), celebrate the awards



Kathleen Abbott(Area Manager) celebrates the
award



CSC for Areyonga Mark O'Bryan celebrates the award



Shae Thompson(CSC Mt Liebig and Tristan Robertson(TL Mt Liebig)
pose for pictures with the recent awards.

Hon Ngaree Ah Kit(Pink Dress)
Minister for Corporate and Digital Develment,
Minister for International Education,
Minister for Disabilities
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
and
Shadow Minister Mr Steven Edgington(Chequered
shirt) Shadow Minister for Local Government were
on hand for presentations of the awards night which
were celebrated with numerous MRC wins

SDC Staff Development



To coincide with the November Territory Sustainable Communities Tidy Town Awards, SCD held staff development which was attended by Council Service Coordinators(CSC), Essential Service Officers, Team Leaders, Fleet Manager, Director of Technical Services, and Area Managers. Chosen industry training solutions provider, Kullaru, provided quality and informative presentations on training programs available for civil teams in the community. Staff from Kullaru opened up the conversation on how individuals and teams can improve on their current circumstances.

Local Government peak body, LGANT (Local Government Authority of the Northern Territory) added guidance and valuable insight into expectations and directions for local governments. LGANT outlined their role in NT Local Government through the provision of leadership, support and influential representation on issues impacting the local government sector in the NT. MRC staff members collaborated to create strategies for the first 100 days in their community in 2023, concentrating on increased liveability and fortifying ties with stakeholders, during a session led by Darren Smith (Coaching and Development Aust). Upon completion of the training, employees gained further confidence and empowerment to return to their to community and put their learnings into actions.

SOUTHERN REGION

Imanpa Community



Roshana Mumu(14), Dannika Wongway(11), Rochelle Mumu(17) and Chloe Luckey(13) enjoy a laugh during food preparations.



In October and November, MacDonnell Regional Council held fun days in collaboration with multiple stakeholders taking part (NT Health, Congress, school, clinics, shop, Trachoma mob, oral health mob, sexual health mob, AMRRIC, Keep Australia Beautiful, etc) to provide Healthy Community events at four communities of Finke, Imanpa, Kintore and Mount Liebig.

Production company Get Grubby with representatives DirtGirl and Scrap-Boy along with Costa the Garden gnome characters provided an education program for the day with Cooking demonstrations from Bush Wok and face painting.

The goal of these events, is to work collaboratively with the community and stakeholders (internal and external) to improve health and social outcomes in remote indigenous communities.





IMANPA Community celebrate the Healthy Communities event which also included the unveiling of the J Mumu and D Mick park



Opening of the new J Mumu and D Mick park



Shrub planting and watering



Cooking up a feast. Imanpa residents prepare the food and fire for the cook off competition



Chief Executive Officer Jeff McLeod (left) participates with Imanpa residents for the Healthy Communities Program

MOUNT LIEBIG

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES





NT MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

8 - 16 October, 2022



Manoj Syam (SAM)-Work Health & Safety Coordinator AND Tammy Shields-Health and Safety Officer Work Health & Safety take time out during their busy schedules for organising the event.

GOVERNANCE

Corporate Services Team Development



Director of Corporate Services Chris Kendrick led a team meeting in November to provide key insights and improvements on staff development

MRC'S vision, mission, values and strategic direction were reinforced to staff with the understanding that our ultimate goals and values are to strengthen MRC's commitment to communities

Key Performance Indicators (KPI'S) of vision, goals, objectives, strategy, performance indicators, measures and target dates were discussed to drive growth and provide solution focus exercises which allowed participants to assess situations of Above and Below the line to change the narrative of inclusive language.

Examples included changes of wording from “but” with “and” which provided staff with the opportunity to explore their own performances and interactions with fellow staff and the community.

An overview of being open, accountable, respectful, inclusive and innovative provided staff with thoughts on ways to improve their work flow and personal development

Staff were tasked with several exercises of measuring their current situations and how they can improve on it through words and thoughts.

MAC YOUTH

MacYouth held their annual training for 65 dedicated, passionate and incredible staff at Ross River in November. Staff were tasked with a variety of challenges to improve their engagement and future development. Thank you to everyone who came and to all of the stakeholders. MacYouth provide successful youth led and community supported programs thanks to these people.



SOUTHERN REGION

FINKE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Finke community celebrate the Healthy communities program with Keep Australia Beautiful, Tree planting, cooking and much more.

SLR

TALES FROM KINTORE

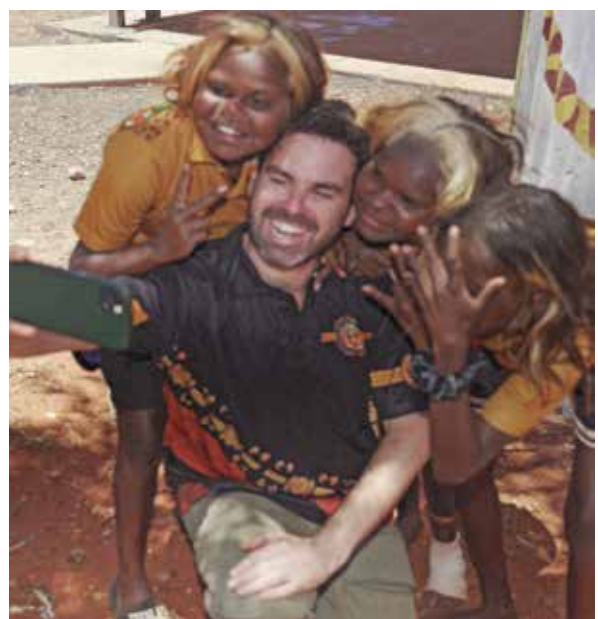
For Council Service Coordinator Simon Walmby, working in Kintore has provided him with a change of pace from his previous location of Haasts Bluff. 3 months in Haasts Bluff and now 3 months in Kintore has allowed him to experience and explore different cultures, communities and landscapes. "I've been with MRC for 8 years now and really enjoy the people I work with. There is always something different in each community and its great to work with other departments too. Originally from Townsville, Simon says the challenges of being located remotely doesn't compare to working and living in remote locations many would never experience.



Member for Gwoja and Minister of Local Government, (The Hon Chansey Paech), his visit to remote communities like Kintore, offers him valuable insight into the inner workings of communities so he can help them thrive. "Local Government is the peoples government. Its so important out bush because we have local councillors who represent their communities and regions. They're always talking about local issues, addressing them and making sure local voices are heard at council meetings and when councillors talk to government ministers, they always talk about community and country and we must not forget them."



From the gold fields of Ballarat to the sun burnt scenes of Kintore, Essential Services Officer Bella Kofoed says the move was not that hard. "The community here is great to get along with and very welcoming. I came up with my parents straight from Ballarat to Kintore and now look after Power, Water and Sewerage of the town. We have been here for one year already and its an easy lifestyle although its good to visit Alice Springs or friends in town if they are here. Although living here is far away, its still a breath of fesh air. Our main priority at the moment is working with the clean up crew collecting rubbish and recycling so the money goes back into community."



NORTH WEST REGION KINTORE



Laughter and smiles were the call of the day at the Kinotre Healthy Communities held in November 2022.

MacSafe and MacYouth Southern Region



Softball game
Docker River(left).

Ashley Lee In
new MacSafe
shirt(right).
ground.



Selwyn with
Car and
Range in
Background.
Thaddeus
new Sport &
rec Worker
in uniform



MACCARE



MacCare Maccare staff from Amoonguna & Titjikala attended a training session with Katelyn Paterson from Desert Dietitians on 05/10/22, Wednesday. Topics covered were Nutrition requirements in the Ageing population, Activity on creating a healthy meal which match the requirements for our aging population, brief introduction to textures, effect of nutrition on Chronic disease- what to avoid and what to include for everyone, how to make a healthy lunch for school aged children





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, Australians will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.

The new Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:



- The AFDRS will also introduce 'off' for those days where no proactive action is required by the community. On these days, you will still need to abide by local seasonal laws and regulations, but there is little or no risk of a fire that starts spreading in a dangerous or life-threatening way.
- The AFDRS is informed by 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.
- 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.

✉ afdr@afdr.com.au
 🌐 www.afdr.com.au/initiatives/AFDRS

www.centrecorpfoundation.com.au



**Are you an Aboriginal person
and live in Central Australia?**

You can get funding to help with school fees.

Call us today on 8952 5827

**Every kid deserves
a good education.**



DOCKER RIVER



Local Authority members gather for their meeting in November.



Team Leader at Docker Rivers Cody Hutchinson and Community Service Officer Ivy Trindle take a break from their hectic schedules.

For Team Leader of the civil crew at Docker River, Cody Hutchinson, the transition from the glittering lights of the Gold Coast to the serenity of the desert was an easy one.

"I really enjoy the community and work here. You get to learn a lot about the people, culture and we have a good community."

Cody blames his wife for dragging him from the coast. "My wife works as a nutritionist at NPY and read about spiders at a museum on the Coast and the bush medicine from this area and decided she wanted that lifestyle.

I'm glad we moved. I like the food including goannas."

For Community Services Officer Ivy Trindle, the move to Docker River 3 years ago was an easy transition from her previous location of Mount Liebig.

Having been in the NT for 42 years from her original location of Toowoomba, Ivy says her favorite part of the day is "Knock off time" with a laugh and smile.

Ivy says one of her strongest skills is patience. "I've always had patience" However I need to kidnap Praful(IT) as we are always needing him here to help out."

Ivy says Docker River is a good community and is happy to have the opportunity and experience to be living there..

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER AWARDS

MacKids



ACECQA training - (ACECQA – Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority) provided support and training for all Early Childhood employees held at Convention Centre Alice Springs 19/20th Oct.



MacKids Team -

1st row right Iryna – MacKids Manager, Patty – Mt Liebig TL, Ainsley – MacKids Coordinator, Helen - MacKids Coordinator and Sue Ware - MacKids Coordinator

2nd row from right Agnes – Santa Teresa Team Leader, Temika – Santa Teresa Educator, Susan Hermannsburg TL, Pavithra Titjikala TL, Thersa - MacKids Coordinator

Lisa – Titjikala Educator . Christine Allen – Finke Educator and Ann – Anna - MacKids Administration Officer



Left to right: Temika Bloomfield (Educator Santa Teresa-Non MRC), Invited guest(standing), Agnes Alice (Team Leader Santa Teresa), Helen Meredith (Coordinator Children's Services), Pattie O'Neill (Team Leader Mt Liebig), Ainsley Roscrow (Coordi-

TEAM WELCOME

MacDonnell Regional Council		New Hires		Report run by POMERYR at 10:15:34 on 05-Dec-2022		
<i>Id No.</i>	<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Given Name</i>	<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Date Hired</i>	<i>Employee Type</i>	<i>Work Location</i>
2809	Blacker	Aaron	Director Technical Services	10-Oct-22	Full Time	Alice Springs HQ
2822	Fleming	Penelope	Coordinator Quality Aged and Disability Services	17-Oct-22	Full Time	Alice Springs HQ
3639	Sherry	Sheree	Manager Finance	24-Oct-22	Full Time	Alice Springs HQ
2685	Miller	Nicholas	Essential Services Officer - Casual	31-Oct-22	Casual	Alice Springs HQ
2831	Baarda	Jennifer	Customer Engagement Officer	07-Nov-22	Part Time	Alice Springs HQ
2832	Kalu	Anyia	Team Leader Youth Services	07-Nov-22	Casual	Alice Springs HQ
2671	Morgan	Victor	Essential Services Officer - Casual	14-Nov-22	Casual	Alice Springs HQ
2834	Gartaula	Nisha	Administration Officer - Aged & Disability Service	21-Nov-22	Full Time	Alice Springs HQ
2829	Goodwin	Kammie	Customer Service Officer (Amoonguna)	17-Oct-22	Part Time	Amoonguna
1091	Bob	Gaetana	Home Care Assistant (Areyonga) Casual	24-Oct-22	Casual	Areyonga
3088	Campbell-Conway	Ansara	Customer Service Officer (Areyonga)	24-Oct-22	Part Time	Areyonga
4122	Brady	Thaddeus	Senior Community Safety Officer (Docker River)	03-Oct-22	Part Time	Docker River
4122	Brady	Thaddeus	Senior Community Safety Officer (Docker River)	03-Oct-22	Part Time	Docker River
4286	De Rose	Selinda	Community Safety Officer (Docker River) Casual	31-Oct-22	Casual	Docker River
4286	De Rose	Selinda	Community Safety Officer (Docker River) Casual	31-Oct-22	Casual	Docker River
1453	Dixon	Darren	Community Safety Officer (Haasts Bluff) Casual	17-Oct-22	Casual	Haasts Bluff
2836	Armstrong	Jacinta	Home Care Assistant (Haasts Bluff) Casual	31-Oct-22	Casual	Haasts Bluff
2819	Leggat	Beryl	Team Leader Children's Services (Haasts Bluff)	31-Oct-22	Full Time	Haasts Bluff
9026	Multa	Douglas	Local Authority Member - Haasts Bluff	17-Nov-22	Full Time	Haasts Bluff
2828	Mckenzie	William	Youth Engagement Officer (Hermannsburg)	24-Oct-22	Full Time	Hermannsburg
2596	Campbell	Christopher	Home Care Assistant (Imanpa) Casual	10-Oct-22	Casual	Imanpa
2048	Edwards	James	Works Assistant (Imanpa) Casual	10-Oct-22	Casual	Imanpa
2835	Lee	Ashley	Community Safety Officer (Imanpa) Casual	21-Nov-22	Casual	Imanpa
2826	Dempsey	Julie	Community Safety Officer (Kintore) Casual	17-Oct-22	Casual	Kintore
2825	Gibson	Lucinda	Community Safety Officer (Kintore) Casual	17-Oct-22	Casual	Kintore
2830	Van den Berg	Lisa	Team Leader Youth Services (Kintore)	07-Nov-22	Full Time	Kintore
2833	Ryan	Damien	Coordinator Service Centre Delivery (Kintore)	21-Nov-22	Full Time	Kintore
3053	Jugadai	Rosita	Home Care Assistant (Papunya) Casual	03-Oct-22	Casual	Papunya
2820	Minor	Philip	Works Assistant (Papunya)	10-Oct-22	Part Time	Papunya
2824	Van Eyk	Danielle	Home Care Assistant (Papunya) Casual	17-Oct-22	Casual	Papunya
2827	Brook	Kimberley	Team Leader Youth Services (Papunya)	24-Oct-22	Full Time	Papunya
3812	McCormack	Rosanna	Team Leader Home Care (Papunya)	28-Nov-22	Full Time	Papunya
2821	Bowman	Ethan	Youth Engagement Officer (Santa Teresa)	24-Oct-22	Full Time	Santa Teresa
3917	Conway	Barney	Youth Services Officer (Santa Teresa) Cas	25-Oct-22	Casual	Santa Teresa
2491	Simmons	Alannah	Home Care Assistant (Titjikala) Casual	05-Oct-22	Casual	Titjikala
2823	Inkamala	Cecilia	Educator - Early Learning (Titjikala) Casual	19-Oct-22	Casual	Titjikala

TECHNICAL SERVICES

HELPING HAND

Technical Services Manager Aaron Blacker swung into action with Transport Infrastructure and Fleet Manager Jake Potter to offer the Alice Springs Town Council a helping hand at cleaning up fallen trees from recent storms around Alice Springs. “MRC is pleased to provide in-kind support to the Alice Springs Town Council in assisting with storm damage clean up, in and around Alice Springs. Through assisting the Alice Springs Town Council, MacDonnell Regional Council is meeting our strategic and regional goals through; creating employment opportunities, increasing Aboriginal employment opportunities, •supporting the development and advancement of our staff. Providing support between our councils builds strategic alliances and relationships that will benefit both MRC and ASTC.”



SIMON SAYS...

IT'S TIME FOR A BIG BREAK

Former Director of Technical Services Simon Murphy says he's looking forward to spending time with his family for amove back to Victoria as he speaks with Mac News about his time at MRC

It has been long time coming for former Director of Technical Services, Simon Murphy. "I started with council on the 21st of July 2008 when council was just three weeks old. Prior to that I was working in project management and prior to that I was a self employed builder." Originally from Victoria, Simon's story is one which is very familiar to many in Alice Springs. "We came here for my wife's work of a three month contract. She ended up working for Batchelor Institute for 20 years whilst I've worked here since 2008." Working at MRC has provided a lot of opportunities for Simon "there's always something different going around. My role does have a lot of autonomy and whilst I'm able to use my skills and also able to build skills through my work. I have enjoyed working for council as such. it's not like working for a private company where you do whatever the boss says, I do have a boss but we all work for council in the end and we've got strategic plans and regional plans and so on. So we'll work towards those goals."

The initial phases and start-up of any organisation has challenges, yet such challenges were meet head on during the early stages of council development. "We were really a very new organisation and really finding our feet. We had a shared finance section, for instance. The governance section struggled at the start but found their feet soon enough and developed a solid grounding to where it is today. Initially there was an act and we had our council meetings but the local board meetings as they were called then, were a new thing and so we were really finding our way with those. We probably had 20 people in the office back then."

There has been many changes and improvements to council and the delivery of services from those early days. "the classic kind of thing we look at was the waste management where there used to be 44 gallon drums on the street in communities that were burned. We now have wheelie bins compactor trucks, proper landfill sites that we kind of have specific designs for and we dig trenches and so on and we have separation areas so that communities are getting on board with that. It's fantastic to see active community involvement and they feel more inclusive for positive results which affect their surroundings and livelihood. Whilst rubbish is seen as a public health issue, there are other classic ones such as animal management where no vet service existed. Nowadays most of our communities host vets and that's been a real success story. The quality of dogs has improved and there's fewer of them because they've been de-sexed and there are fewer dogs that are starving. Everyone's got dogs that are well looked after which is fantastic." "One of our biggest success has been our CEO Jeff McLeod. We've had a lot of support from the CEO. He was the he was the fleet manager way back



so he kind of brought on board the idea that we are we should get rid of all the old gear that we inherited. All the old fleet and start a proper fleet program where we buy new vehicles and depreciate them over five years. Jeff also instituted a mobile mechanical service, which has been going ever since. The mechanics get out and service vehicles in communities so there's no downtime with plant equipment or vehicles that don't have to come back and forth to town for service. Having a Council on board with a proper fleet plan has been really important."

The relatively new MRC building in Alice Springs has provided staff with a modern and proficient work space of which Simon contributed a significant part for the redevelopment. "The previous building was an old building that wasn't big enough for us. We did make the choice to stay put rather than moving further out of town. It is a very, very good location. So we collaboratively put through an application together and we received sufficient funds to upgrade the building. We own the site with Central Desert Regional Council who each put in support funding for the additional floor on the building."

When asked about his most memorable occasion whilst working at MRC, Mr Murphy says "there are too many to mention although there are some of the bigger infrastructure projects including sealing the road at Kintore and putting Papunya lights on at the oval was particularly significant. They were the first remote lights in Central Australia they're all pretty memorable. Yeah." Simon says working with different indigenous cultures has been a positive learning curve. "I've lived here for a fair while and already it is a very formal system, our council kind of, you know, set up at our local authorities their formal meetings, but I'm quite used to having business conducted in other languages. So a lot of people find that quite different, but it's always been a thing with our counsellors, it's pretty normal. Yeah, I didn't find the difference in working in culture different I guess, if you like, so I know other people probably do, but I suppose I've been doing that for some time now."

Mr Murphy says he's looking forward to working less and relaxing. "I've been in the workforce since I was 17 starting off as a as a builder and carpenter for 40 plus years. So I do want to keep completing some sort of work and keep doing bits and pieces for council as a consultant if possible. I'm really looking for a change to coastal Victoria. I would also like to send out a big thank you to all my former work colleagues whom I've worked with over the years. They know who they are. They have been a big part in MRC's progress over the years too."

A stylized red signature, likely of Simon Murphy, written in a cursive script.

PICTURE PERFECT

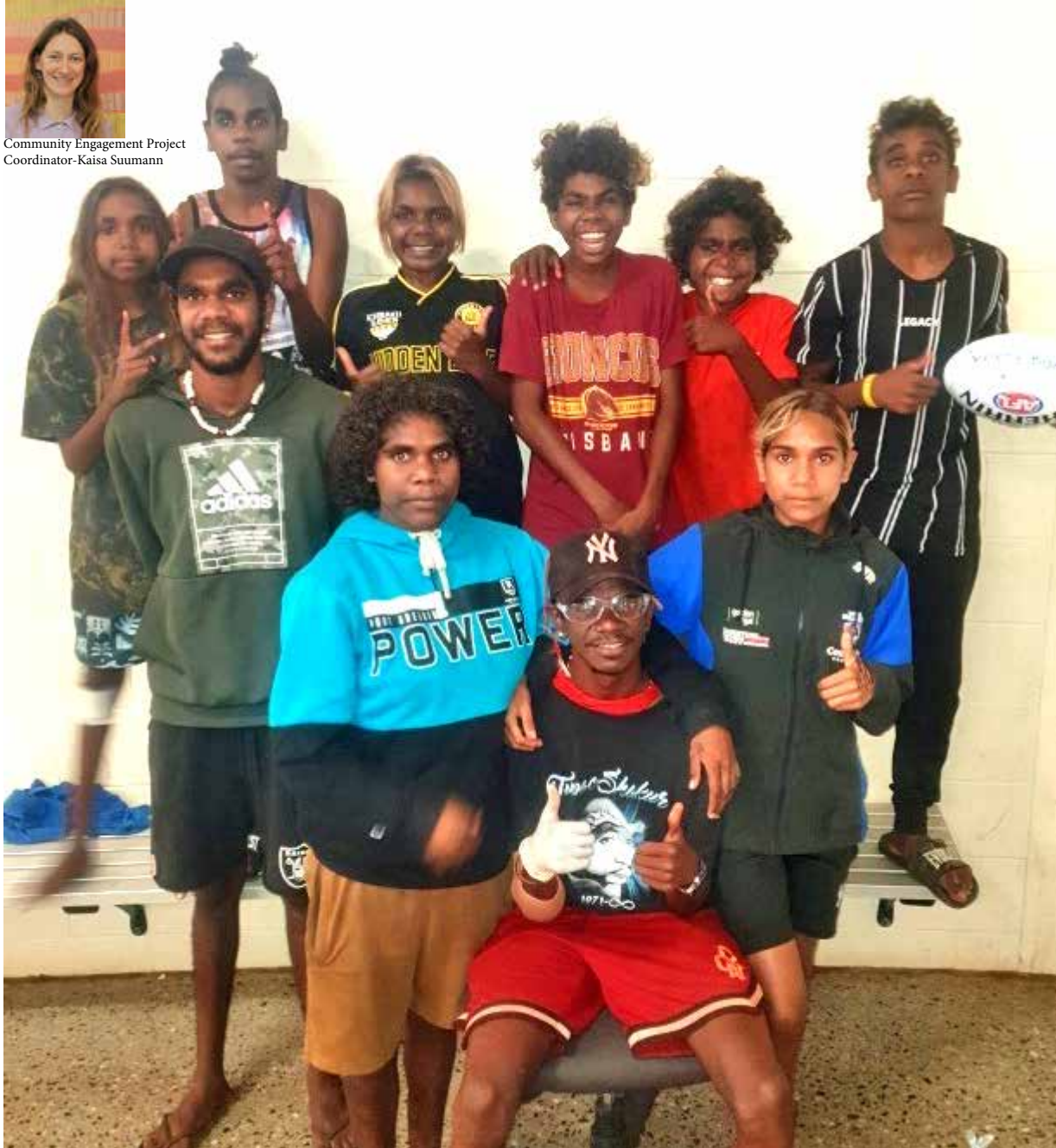
KABNT CEO Heimo Schober and Keith Hassett Manager Contracts & Projects take a break to read MacNews and test out an abandoned ATM on their way to Finke Healthy Communities



YOUTH BOARD HERMANSBURG



Community Engagement Project
Coordinator-Kaisa Suumann



The Youth Board members of Hermansburg and were treated to an informative and enlightening presentation by Youth Board Community Engagement Project Coordinator Kaisa Suumann about the basics of good governance . Members were given a presentation about the council’s plan to apply for a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal for a project “Empowering Indigenous Youth Leaders to be tomorrow’s communities’ leaders” which is about developing a link in the MacYouth App for Youth Boards’ Action Register and meeting agenda and minutes. Hermansburg and Amoonguna Youth Board members were asked to support the project by writing a letter of support. The letter of support got signed by both Youth Boards.

OUR COMMUNITY



IMANPA

OUR COMMUNITY



KINTORE

many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle

OUR COMMUNITY



MOUNT LIEBIG

**DESERT
FUNERALS
LTD**


**A new, Aboriginal community owned,
provider for funeral services in Central Australia**






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