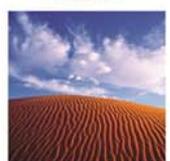




MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter JANUARY 2018 volume 10 issue 1



Ten years on...

...and we continue bringing improvements to remote Aboriginal communities in Central Australia. Later this year marks the ten year anniversary since our residents were introduced into the national community of local governments as the MacDonnell Regional Council.

Before the introduction of the Shires, remote living Territorians were not engaged in the third level of government. Following initial stabilising steps MacDonnell Regional Council is demonstrating the benefits of inclusive governance despite its limited resources and the tyranny of distance.

PAGE 3: We look back to see how far we have come in our first ten years
PAGE 8: A look around the region to see what we have been doing in the past few months

INSIDE



MacDonnell
Regional Council

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



BY ELECTION UPDATE



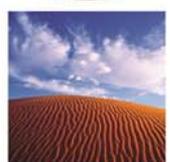
Welcome Councillor Dalton McDonald

Following the recent by-election in Luritja Pintubi ward, we welcome our newest councillor, Dalton McDonald, to the MacDonnell Regional Council.

Dalton is a long time resident of Papunya who said he was “ surprised, but very happy and very proud to be representing his people ”. After an induction to council processes, Dalton attended his first Council meeting in December where he showed himself as a considerate representative of his ward.



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...we are very proud...

1 July this year will mark ten years of local government for residents of the MacDonnell Regional Council. The following pages are a look back to see how far we have come in that time.

To begin, it is worth noting that along with its neighbouring regional councils, MacDonnell Regional Council is among the largest local government jurisdictions in the country. It is a land mass of about a quarter-of-a-million-square-kilometres – making it about the same size as the state of Victoria!

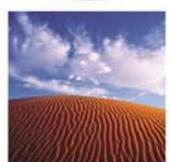
Following significant changes to the NT *Local Government Act* in 2008, the new council jurisdiction was formed and MacDonnell Council began providing services on its 13 communities that had previous been serviced by individual Community Councils at each location.

Despite the size it is sparsely populated with approximately 7,000 residents; mostly in remote Aboriginal communities and with some on pastoral stations or on mining leases. Unlike other local governments that derive most of their expenditure from the land tax (rates), MacDonnell Regional Council only earns approximately 3% of its total income from rates.

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Before MacDonnell Council some communities burnt their rubbish in old fuel drums in the street producing toxic fumes and other community health risks. Camp dogs would also tip over bins to scavenge through the rubbish - this was very dangerous to children playing in and around their community.



Today MacDonnell Council community residents have their rubbish collected twice weekly to best suit their households that run without good refrigeration. Stands for the wheelie bin have also been installed to prevent dogs from tipping the bins and spreading the rubbish around the community.

Before MacDonnell Council some communities ran regular rubbish collections but the equipment they used was not built for purpose and dangerous for staff to use. Staff needed to climb over the equipment and in some cases they needed to manually lift the bins.

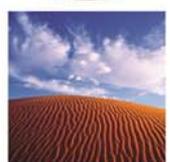


Today MacDonnell Council, with NT Government assistance, is acquiring a fleet of compactor rubbish trucks that improve the work health and safety for our staff. With built for purpose hydraulics that lift bins and compact the rubbish it uses less space in our rubbish trenches.

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Before MacDonnell Council single trenches were dug for community members to put their general rubbish directly into. The trenches were not managed or secured, causing community safety risks. Animals would also scavenge through the rubbish or it was blown away across the country.



Before MacDonnell Council tips were not planned or managed and different kinds of rubbish like waste building supplies, discarded car parts and old household items would become one continuous area of sprawling junk.



Today MacDonnell Council, through the NT Government's support, and in combination with our neighbouring regional councils, have developed their Waste Management Facilities to meet national health standards. This means having better trenches dug that improve how staff manage the facility and lessen long term impacts on the environment.

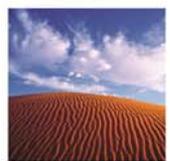


Today MacDonnell Council has developed Waste Management Facilities with improved practices that include sorting and holding various waste materials for recycling opportunities. By reducing the trench space required this lowers the impact on the environment.

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Before MacDonnell Council vehicles were not well maintained and not only driven by staff. Council inherited its fleet from the various communities, who operated on limited funds, ran them in a state of disrepair and with many vehicles unregistered.



Today MacDonnell Council fleet consists of around 300 vehicles and includes mechanical staff and workshop. The fleet also includes grader operators (our equivalent of the Sydney Harbour Bridge painters) who work throughout the year across the region to keep our 1700 km of roads in good condition.

Before MacDonnell Council service buildings and staff houses were in poor condition requiring many repairs. This affected the efficient delivery of services and made it difficult to attract and keep good staff.



Today MacDonnell Council has trained its Civil Works teams in each community through systematic repairs to our assets. As a result we have also won contracts to provide upgrades, repairs and maintenance to the territory government's Territory Housing assets.

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Before MacDonnell Council family friendly public spaces on communities often did not exist. Where there were parks they had limited equipment and were not well maintained.



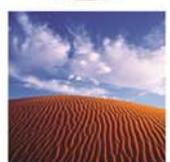
Today MacDonnell Council responds to request by its residents to create and improve its public spaces. This includes developing and maintaining sporting grounds, parks, playgrounds and cemeteries for the benefit and pride of its residents.

Today MacDonnell Council residents have become familiar with the processes of local government. Through their councillors and Local Authority members, communities request projects and receive services and facilities that are of direct benefit in their lives.



Today MacDonnell Council delivers core municipal services across its thirteen communities as well as early childhood education services, youth services, aged and disability support, community safety and various commercial contracts that engage with residents and support their happy and healthy family lives.

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CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT: preparing to spray a layer of bitumen; spreading a layer of gravel; spraying another layer of bitumen; making the finishing touches; the finished job at the intersection of Walawaru Road and Itatara Road

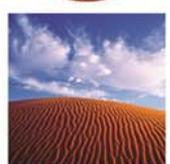
...and we're still improving.

A road sealing project in Titjikala was recently completed. It brings improvements through the reforming and then sealing with bitumen of three internal roads in the community. The completed roadworks will reduce dust pollution for the residents and also improve access to the Titjikala football oval and softball field.

424 metres of road were sealed and included a road extension to residences in Kiparra Street, completing the sealing of the full length of Walawaru Road and then continuing the sealed roadworks along Itatara Road to the sports grounds.

Our thanks to the contractors RoadTech Construction for the earthworks and Boral Asphalt for the sealing works. Funding was provided by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development through the Roads to Recovery Program.

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Remote training completed

The first set of plant (equipment) and civil operations training was provided to our Civil Works teams on their communities through a partnership MacDonnell Regional Council has established with CAT Ltd to deliver the much needed skill sets in plant operations.

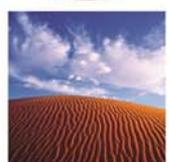
Staff attending achieved a Cert3 in Civil Construction Plant Operations after having learned to conduct civil construction operations in a skid steer loader, backhoe/loader, tip truck and tractor. The training added to staff's hands-on experience with plant and also reinforced the general day-to-day duties of looking after the machines they were operating.

While care and maintenance was not the main part of the training, it was important and is seen as a huge part of this training. This means workers on the ground in all communities benefited from understanding the importance of maintaining machinery as vital to the longevity of the asset.

Delivery of the training had initially commenced in August 2016 in three communities and by its conclusion in late 2017 had scoped in staff from all 13 communities.



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Indigenous leadership training

When Home Care Development Officer Malissa Hodgson approached her manager seeking MacDonnell Regional Council's support for her to complete a Cert4 in Business Governance he found that processes were readily available to assist developing an Aboriginal member of staff.

Malissa's business governance training was delivered in Darwin over three separate week-long-blocks during last year and was attended by other aspiring leaders from locations across the country. The training was provided by the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre, a not-for-profit organisation offering courses to unlock potential and support opportunities for Aboriginal people of all ages to develop their careers and expand the ways they contribute to the community.

Malissa Hodgson (MIDDLE ROW, SECOND from LEFT) graduates with other future Aboriginal leaders



Hermannsburg residents awarded

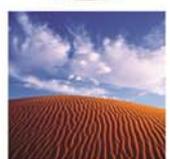
Hermannsburg CSC Kathleen Abbott recently caught up with people in the community to give them a BIG thank you from the Local Authority and hand out their Territory Tidy Town certificates. The awards for a Best Garden Competition was supported by the Hermannsburg Local Authority from their discretionary fund and provided four Bunnings Vouchers worth \$250 each. Competition winners included:

Colin and Donna (pictured), Ellen Malbunka, Que Kenny, and Colin and Rosa.

Kathleen also handed out Certificates of Appreciation Awards to locals for their contributions toward Hermannsburg one day becoming a Territory Tidy Town. They included:

Edward Rontji (pictured), Jeffery Inkamala, Clair Pareroulja (picture showing Roxanne Kenny collecting certificate on her behalf), Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre, as well as Tima and Faye from the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre.





All hands to the wheelie bins



CEO Jeff MacLeod and other staff mucking-in and distributing a supply of new wheelie bins for communities

Christmas lunches on communities

As another year came to an end community staff gathered to round out their year of outstanding achievements. Stopping work for an afternoon community staff from different services got together in their respective council meeting rooms to enjoy a Christmas lunch.

CLOCKWISE from RIGHT: Enjoying Christmas lunch in Imanpa; Kintore; and Wallace Rockhole



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STAFF MOVEMENTS



We congratulate those who have taken up new roles within the MacDonnell Regional Council and extend a big welcome to those who have joined Council since our last issue.



Alice Springs

Christina Ales - Corporate Services Administration Officer

Peter Devine - Acting Manager Community Safety

Helen Fitzgerald - Children's Services Coordinator

Christopher Paine - Mobile Mechanic
Daniel Ryan - Acting Coordinator Youth Services



Amoonguna

Russell Naismith - Relief Store Team Leader

Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Vanessa Calma - Early Learning Educator

Lena Campbell - Customer Service Officer

Selina De Rose - Early Learning Educator



Finke (Aputula)

Graham Hoosan - Community Safety Team Leader

Lorraine Stuart - Community Safety Officer

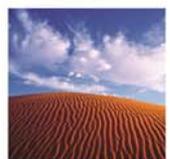
Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Stephen Wadley - Essential Services Officer



Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Betty Inkamala - OSHC Educator



Imanpa

Ashley Kunoth - Community Safety Officer

Gracie Kunoth - Community Night Patrol Officer

Cecily Luckey - Centrelink Administration Assistant



Kintore (Walungurru)

Christopher Horsburgh - Youth Services Team Leader

Helen Lopinski - Centrelink Customer Service Officer

William Ewing - OSHC Program Support Officer

Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Catherine (Kate) Alder - Children's Services Team Leader

Tamara-Lee Collins - OSHC Educator

Dillon Daniels - SNP Youth Services Officer

Cedrick Dixon - Youth Development Officer

Veronica Dixon - Early Learning Educator

Kitana Kelly - Youth Development Officer

Thelma Peterson - SNP Youth Services Officer

Papunya (Warumpi)

Erling Ala - Home Care Assistant

Mikaela Atallah - OSHC Program Support Officer

Dennis Minor - Local Authority Member – Papunya

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Sarah Butcher - Early Learning Educator

Krystal King - Early Learning Educator

Edwina Lynch - Early Learning Educator

Jacinta Richards - OSHC Program Support Officer

Trina Wallace - Early Learning Educator

Titjikala

Keith Daniels - Senior Community Safety Officer

Cynthia Palmer - Youth Services Officer

Shane Stirling - Community Night Patrol Officer

Derek Summerfield - Youth Services Officer



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STOP PRESS

Council and Local Authority meetings can be easily found online

For the most accurate dates and information about Council and Local Authority meetings please refer to our website:

www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au



The search function on the Meetings page of the website also allows you to select specific dates, communities or types of meetings quickly.

Titjikala Home Care Christmas party



The celebrity vet and the community pig

Just before the Christmas break celebrity vet and television presenter Chris Brown dropped into Titjikala and Finke. With a small crew they shot segments for a forthcoming subscription television show Animal Planet. One segment featured Finke's resident pig.



Enjoying his time in our communities, Mr Brown *never* needed to say: "I'm a celebrity, get me out of here".

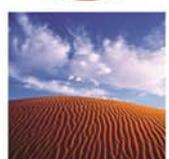


BIG THANKS!

Big thanks go to all staff contributors for this issue.

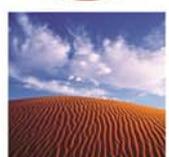
MacNews thanks the following for their contributions to this publication: Benny Dugay, Graham Murnik, Malissa Hodgson, Kathleen Abbott and Carla Romberg.

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*Government House
Northern Territory*

Mr Michael Davis
PO Box 5267
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Dear Mr Davis

I write to acknowledge the recent achievement from the Keep Australia Beautiful Northern Territory Awards.

I send to you my congratulation on receiving the Waste Management Award.

Wishing you a safe and joyful festive season.

Yours sincerely

Vicki O'Halloran AM
Administrator of the Northern Territory

18 December 2017

At the recent Territory Tidy Towns ceremony Michael Davis' contribution was acknowledged when he receive the Waste Management Champion award. Above is further acknowledged from the Administrator of the Northern Territory.

As reported in the last *MacNews* issue, Michael's work happens quietly behind the key changes in waste management across Central Australian remote communities. As the Regional Waste Coordinator for the Central Australia Remote Waste Management Program his work covers the Barkly Regional Council, Central Desert Regional Council and MacDonnell Regional Council (approaching one million square kilometres) and includes 28 remote communities.

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