

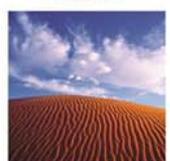


MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter

MARCH 2018

volume 10 issue 2



Council CEO Jeff MacLeod introduces the Finke community to the national Tidy Town judge Gail Langley

Finke's day in the sun

The first two attempts to fly the national Tidy Town judge to Finke didn't get off the ground due to low rain clouds. So residents at Finke waited an extra week to show their community in its best light – good old desert sunshine!

Tidy Town judge Gail Langley was so keen to visit Finke as part of her national judging process she waited patiently in Alice Springs for the charter flight company to get approval to fly. Sadly the clouds did not lift and the flight was cancelled, twice. Once on the Friday and again on the Saturday. It was not until the judge returned from regional New South Wales a week later that she was able to land in the small remote community of Finke.

Every cloud has a silver lining and this wait was worth her while.

PAGE 3: Finke community turns out for a day of national Tidy Town judging

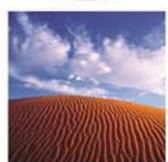
PAGE 6: More road projects completed

INSIDE



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Regional Council

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CEO UPDATE

Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

My best wishes go to Finke ahead of the national Tidy Town finals.

It was a pleasure to visit Finke with national Tidy Town judge Gail Langley and present to her the many community achievements. I now look forward to travelling with our staff and community representative's from Finke to the national Tidy Town awards ceremony in South Australia on Friday 6 April 2018.

This year Finke has returned to the national final after having first represented the Territory in 1998. I expect their appearance this year will again do them proud.

Another triumph in waste management sees Michael Davis being invited to the Australasian Waste 2018 Conference to present his paper titled Effective Waste Management in the Northern Territory.

Michael Davis is the Regional Waste Coordinator for the Central Australia Remote Waste Management Program (CARWMP) and works from a desk in our Alice Springs office. His work covers the Barkly Regional Council, Central Desert Regional Council and MacDonnell Regional Council. The combined area is nearly one million square kilometres and includes 28 remote communities.

We have recently completed some important road projects. Both have been supported by Federal Government funding and we are grateful for their assistance to deliver the much need repairs. One of the projects allowed us to bring some improvements to the road networks we inherited while the other brought repairs to roads damaged during the 2016 Christmas flooding.

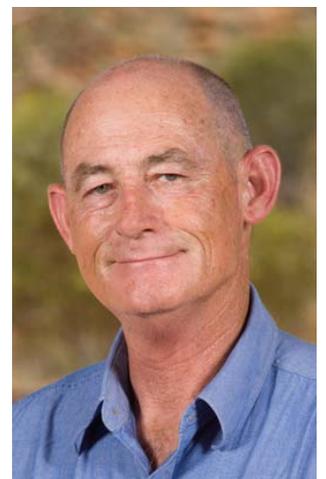
Our thanks also go to the Northern Territory Government for approving our applications to both the Strategic Infrastructure Grants and the Special Purpose Grants. We look forward to the new backhoe and to improving our swimming pools and other council assets. We value this funding as it allows council to better meet our services deliverables in our communities.

At this time of year we are looking forward to completing projects and targets for the end of financial year while we prepare the next Regional Plan cycle. Our annual planning process for the 2018/19 budget and strategic plan are well underway and scheduled for public review in late May.

I trust staff that had the Easter weekend off enjoyed a good four day break. Over holiday breaks we also continually provide important service delivery on the ground in our communities. This means remaining responsible to our constituents and to the delivery of those services. To the staff who worked through the break, I thank you for your commitment to our residents.

This is just another way we continue in our mission *to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services.*

Thank you for the great work, Jeff



Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council

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Finke shines during its day in the sun continued



Following an extra week of waiting to be judged in the national competition, residents and Council workers were able to finish off their finishing touches. The storm clouds that had drifted through from Queensland had brought enough rain to wash the past year's dust off everything and even allowed fresh green shoots of grass to show through the red sands. Now Finke was ready for its day in the sun – to show its self to the nation, at its best.

The national Tidy Town judge Gail Langley was visiting the small remote Aboriginal community of Finke to assess its effort in the categories of: Waste Management and Resource Recovery; Environmental Sustainability; Environmental Education; Culture and Heritage; Community Action and Wellbeing; and Litter Prevention.

While in Finke, Gail was shown around the community by council workers and introduced to various locals along the way. She toured our home care and children's services before visiting the health clinic, school, community store, art centre and heritage buildings.

She also visited the community's waste management facility to see for herself the rubbish sorting bays and resource recovery work the Civil Works team have introduced.

CLOCKWISE from TOP: Finke residents wave their awards in the air and give out a yell as they show their pride at being named the Territory Tidy Town; national Tidy Town judge Gail Langley remembering her days as a school teacher while observing a class of children at the Aputula Community School; Gail learning the finer points of Finke's resource recovery operations from the Director Service Delivery Graham Murnik



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“The place is looking absolutely fantastic” national Tidy Town judge Gail Langley said as she presented corrected versions of Finke’s Territory Tidy Town awards. Residents were also acknowledged with community awards and the judge was presented with some cultural gifts from community members. Following the formalities of having a Territory Tidy Town group photo of residents and workers everybody came together for a community barbeque.

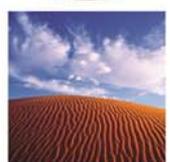


In all their encounters Finke is a close knit community that has developed great civic pride. Residents of Finke are driven to promote various clean and sustainable initiatives that keep their community tidy and welcoming. They have embraced MacDonnell Regional Council’s development of their waste management processing and engage where possible with their own initiative like curbside recycling – not bad for a town with roads that don’t have curbs!

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Workers from Finke community will travel to the national Tidy Town awards ceremony that will be hosted this year in the reigning Tidy Town, Barmera, in South Australia from 5 to 7 April.

PREVIOUS PAGE: national Tidy Town judge Gail Langley presents residents and workers with acknowledgement awards before joining Shantelle Stewart for a photo with Finke's Territory Tidy Town plaque

THIS PAGE: Finke residents gathered in a park to meet the national Tidy Town judge Gail Langley; residents were acknowledged with community awards and the judge was presented with some cultural gifts; later, everybody tucked into a community barbeque

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Two large road projects completed



Projects each addressing wear-and-tear of our inherited road assets and damage caused by heavy rain and flooding in the Western Desert region were recently completed. Both projects were made possible through Federal Government funding for addressing road safety issues and improving community access through better road conditions.



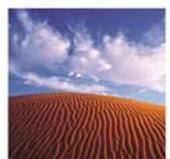
Roads to Recovery



Ten years ago when MacDonnell Regional Council inherited the sealed road networks asset in communities they were deteriorating and about to reach the end of their useful life. As per our transport asset management plan, the sealed road networks in Titjikala, Santa Teresa, Mount Liebig, Kintore and Papunya were due to be resealed.



Work included seal repairs (potholes and edgebreaks) and about 22km of resealing works to the internal sealed road network in those communities.



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Funding of \$1.5m for the asset repairs was provided by the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development through the Roads to Recovery Program.



Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement

In late December 2016 and early January 2017 several communities in the Western Desert suffered a severe series of weather events that caused substantial damage to our civil assets. Scouring to surfaces, along with damage to earthworks and drainage structures of our internal roads in Kintore and Haasts Bluff required major repairs.

A range of works carried out include the reconstruction of: damaged table drains, off-road catch drain and levee bank system; cement stabilised gravel base for one floodway (including upstream and downstream rock protection) and gravel base for another floodway; and dry grading to reform the our sections of the Sandy Blight Junction Road and the access road between Pinpirgna and the Kintore Road.

Funding of \$1.8m was provided by the Federal Department of Housing and Community Development under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement and administered by the Northern Territory Government.

THIS REPORT: Following from the story reported in the January 2018 issue of MacNews



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Councils are about people

Bhan Pratap has hit the ground running in his position as our new Director Corporate Services. His first day in the role was one week after the declaration of our newly elected council last year. Since then he has been working across his remit of Council's finance, governance and planning, information technology and human resource departments over the past six months.

Since migrating from Fiji in 2000, Bhan has applied his depth of knowledge in finance and administration in local government roles in regional Australia and with Aboriginal organisations in Queensland. His extensive study in these fields has culminated in a Masters in Business Administration and he has applied his knowledge in previous Chief Executive Officer and Director of Corporate and Financial Services roles.

Currently reviewing our strategic plan and budget, Bhan is looking forward to getting more familiar with all of council's service areas. In the meanwhile he is focussed on improvements to our record keeping and policy review process before moving his attention to Council's workforce development plan.

Bhan certainly enjoys being busy, but his greatest pleasure comes from working with others. He is a people-person and recognises the opportunities an organisation has in its human resources. He looks to improving the workforce by promoting training opportunities and supporting staff development and career progression.

Having grown up on a farm, Bhan seeks a regional lifestyle. He cherishes the feeling of having a community and his family around him. He knows that in a small place you can get to know everyone. He is also looking forward to his time in Central Australia travelling to communities and meeting people, making friends and seeing more of our iconic landscapes.

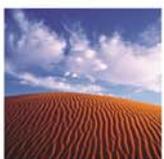
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REWARD + RECOGNITION



Each month an email goes out to all staff asking them to nominate a fellow worker or a team that has been doing a great job in any of the 4 categories:



Service Excellence – for sustaining a high level of service and receiving consistent positive feedback from clients

Innovation and Creativity – for using skills, resourcefulness and creativity to implement changes to improve service, productivity or standards of work

Above and Beyond – for performing above what is normally required by achieving additional goals and objectives on a daily basis

Sustainability – for making ongoing efforts to increase Council income, decrease costs, maximise efficiency or minimise impacts on the environment.

Managers then vote each month to decide who we Reward and Recognise:

February Reward and Recognition went to: Community Safety team in Finke for going **Above and Beyond**

March Reward and Recognition went to:

Izaak Baldock our Youth Engagement Officer in Mount Liebig for going **Service Excellence**

STAFF MOVEMENTS

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

Alice Springs

- Jacinta Barbour - Policy and Governance Officer
- Bruce Kemp - Plant Operator
- Julie Kornaat - Community Safety Coordinator
- Louise Lysaght - Finance Officer
- Brandon Patterson - Mobile Mechanic
- Carla Romberg - Human Resources Advisor
- James Smith - Mobile Mechanic

Amoonguna

- Michael Breaden - Community Safety Officer
- Daniel Buckskin - Community Safety Team Leader
- Roselene Rankin - Community Safety Officer
- Anthony Stuart - Community Safety Officer
- Shania Stuart - Community Safety Officer

Areyonga (Utju)

- Sammy Abbott - Works Assistant
- Francis Ebatarinja - Pool Assistant
- Sarah Gallagher - Home Care Team Leader
- Veronica Long - Pool Assistant
- Amber Thompson - OSHC Program Support Officer
- Elle Wilson - Centrelink Customer Service Officer

Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

- Travis Brown - Works Assistant
- Keith (Bill) Dalton - Works Team Leader
- Leanne Dalton - Centrelink Customer Service Officer

Finke (Aputula)

- Ronald Tickner - Works Assistant

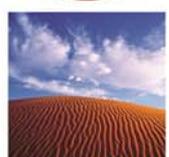
Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

- Colin Craig - Works Assistant
- Suparkra Jugadai - Local Authority Chair
- Roseranna Larry - Community Safety Team Leader
- Lenna Maynard - Home Care Assistant
- Billy Pareroultja - Local Authority Member

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Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Marilyn Blue - Home Care Assistant
Bradley Jugadai - Works Assistant
Daryl Kantawara - Works Assistant
Que Kenny - Senior Home Care Assistant
Yvonne Lankin - Home Care Assistant
Garnette Pareroultja - Home Care Assistant
Peter Scudds - Works Team Leader
Derryn Williams - Works Assistant

Imanpa

James Edwards - Works Assistant
Jackie Pearce - Home Care Assistant

Kintore (Walungurru)

Halie Halloran - Children's Services Team Leader
Ewin Maxwell - Works Assistant
Tyron Sampson - Works Assistant
Christopher Tolson - Works Assistant
Ian Underwood - Works Team Leader

Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Izaak Baldock - Youth Engagement Officer
Gabrielle Bennett - OSHC Educator
Wayne Ledwidge - Essential Services Officer

Papunya (Warumpi)

Griselda Giles - Early Learning Educator
Jason McKissock - Essential Services Officer

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Natasha Clarke (Hayes) - Pool Assistant
Gavin Hayes - Pool Assistant

Titjikala

Marlene Boko - OSHC Educator
Dianne Campbell - Home Care Assistant
Janie Campbell - Home Care Team Leader
Geoffrey Campbell - Home Care Assistant
William Gibson - Home Care Assistant
Alex Palmer - Essential Services Officer
Gregory Saunders - Coordinator Service Centre Delivery
Lisa Sharman - Customer Service Officer

Wallace Rockhole

Billy Wayne Porter - Works Assistant

BIG THANKS!

Big thanks go to all staff contributors for this issue.

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STOP PRESS

We keep rising to the challenge

Our team of 'Desert Perenties' travelled to Jabiru to compete against other Northern Territory local governments in the LGPA Australasian Management Challenge.

The Perenties rose to the challenge representing regional Central Australia strongly against the larger municipal councils and finishing within a few points of the winning City of Darwin team.



Desert Perenties prepare to enter the Big Crocodile Resort and challenge the municipal councils' rein.

And congratulations to a former Director...



We'll be seeing more of Chris Kendrick and her Harley around the Alice Springs office carpark since she was recently appointed as Director Corporate Services with Central Desert Regional Council. Chris had moved on to the NT Government's Central Australia Health Service after four years as our Director Corporate Services.