MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1

The voices of our communities

Our Local Boards in each community have worked very well. This new year, however, brings some improvements to them and now they are going to be called Local Authorities. Along with the name change we are looking for people to nominate to represent their communities as Local Authority members.

For an outline of the changes see page 3
Also some Questions and Answers about the changes start on page 8

MacDonnell Regional Council

Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju

many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle

CEO UPDATE

Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council

This year begins with a series of changes being rolled out across the region.

Most notable of the changes introduced by the Northern Territory Government's amendments to the Local Government Act is the name change from MacDonnell Shire Council that now makes us the MacDonnell Regional Council.

While many residents appreciate the benefits the past five and a half years have brought to their communities, the rebadged MacDonnell Regional Council will continue its established reputation of excellent local government and broader community service delivery to the remote communities of the world's most beautiful jurisdiction.

Another element of the Northern Territory Government changes to the Local Government Act, to be rolled out, is through the legislated obligations to establish Local Authorities. Previously our Local Boards were an example to other Shires – of community's having a voice and being heard.

My thanks go to our Local Board members for their valuable contribution over the years and we certainly hope to see them involved further in the new Local Authorities. Key among the changes is the intention for Local Authority members to have an increased role in community planning.

Throughout our history, the pride we demonstrate though our service delivery is grounded in our Vision: *many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*, and reinforced in our Mission: *to improve the lives of residents by delivering valued and relevant services*.

I look forward to a continued focus on our Goals as we keep improving lives and delivering services in 2014.

Keep up the good work, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.

What's in a name?

We have all worked hard to have MacDonnell Shire Council become identified through our efforts of improving residents' lives and delivering valued and relevant services. Therefore the changes introduced by the Northern Territory Government's amendments to the Local Government Act impact us in name only. To help us continue to be recognised by our standards we will be maintaining the essence of our established logo to ensure we continue to be identified for our innovation and quality service delivery.

MacDonnell Regional Council

MacDonnell Regional Council

Ngkitja Ntjarra, Tnangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju

many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle

The new Local Authority members

will be a link between their community and the MacDonnell Regional Council.

Community members and anyone living in or identifying with the community can nominate to be a Local Authority member. The current members of our Local Boards and our Youth Boards are also encouraged to nominate to be new Local Authority members.

The introduction of new Local Authorities is an opportunity to build on the great efforts of our Local Boards and establish a good group of people to speak up for their community. Local Authorities need to be representative of key groups within their area by including people who are committed to attend and participate in meetings for the benefit of residents giving feedback between their community members and the MacDonnell Regional Council.

The table below shows the changes at a glance:

old Local Boards	new Local Authorities
Not mandated under legislation	Required under legislation with guidelines on their functions
Quorum achieved by having 3 members present, regardless of number	Need to have 50% plus One in order to achieve a quorum
Do not receive payment	Receive a member's allowance for meetings attended (unless Council staff)
No minimum number of meetings per year	Minimum of 6 meetings per year
Do not input into budget or other financial decisions (unless delegated to do so).	Will make recommendations to Council on spending in their community. Council will need to consider this and provide written feedback on how they have responded.
Receive basic financial information	Need to be able to interpret and comment on financial reports (with training)

Nominations for new Local Authority members for each community opened on Friday 31 January and will close on Friday 28 February. Our Councillors will then assess the nominees and once approved, the Local Authorities will begin meeting from 1 July 2014. Until then the Local Boards will continue to represent their communities.

Find out more through some Questions and Answers about the changes starting on page 8

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1 page 4

PLAN AHEAD

Melbourne Demons & Geelong Cats play their AFL NAB Cup match on Friday 28 February – remember to plan ahead and enjoy your stay in Alice Springs. It is anticipated that many people from communities across the MacDonnell Council will travel to Alice Springs for the game. Here are a few things to keep in mind, before travelling: "Plan Ahead – you must know where you are staying and how you will get home".

Know where you are staying – let family in Alice Springs know if you want to stay with them before you travel. With many people travelling into Alice from all around Central Australia for the game, town camps and relatives' homes will be full up. Family in Alice will have to let their Housing Tenancy Manager know before you arrive if they plan to have visitors. Don't get your family in trouble with Territory Housing.

Book accommodation – before you leave home book somewhere to stay in Alice Springs. Many places like hostels and the visitor park will be full up. You must phone ahead and book into Stuart Lodge, the Aboriginal Housing hostels and Visitor Park before you leave home. If they are full up you will need to book into a hotel or caravan park before you leave home.

Know how you are getting back home – book a seat on a bus before you leave home to know how you are getting back to your community. If travelling in a car make sure you know when that car is returning to your community so that you don't get stuck in Alice Springs.

Make sure your car is legal – before you leave home make sure the car you are travelling in is registered, roadworthy and everyone is using seatbelts. Police will be stopping and checking cars to make sure that everyone is thinking about the safety of all people in the car.

Your children must go to school – remember school went back on Tuesday 28 January this year. You must make sure your children get to school every day. You must 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.

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1 page 5

We Like MacYouth

Developing communities SHIRE GOAL #1 | Engaged communities SHIRE GOAL #3 | A supportive organisation SHIRE GOAL #4

The MacYouth team's Facebook page has become a vital information tool for informing our young people about coming programs and development opportunities and to share some of the great activities other youth teams are doing.

While staff are aware that social media sites are unavailable on the Council computers, MacYouth ask that if you use Facebook in your personal time and on your own device you may wish to check out the *MacDonnell Youth Services* page.

Give it a 'Poke' – take a look at some of the exciting programs and great photos from our youth programs – you never know, you may even 'Like' it.

For all of those that are on Facebook, see what a great forum it is for us to talk about the different activities the teams are doing. Plans are for the Facebook page to include safety messages for the young people as well as let them know when we have special guests visiting.

Rats invade our communities

Liveable communities SHIRE GOAL #2 | Engaged communities SHIRE GOAL #3

Players from the Warringah Rats rugby league club in Sydney recently completed a charity tour of Central Australia. Besides spreading the rugby gospel by playing games against two local teams in Alice Springs, the squad had delivered some rugby clinics at Santa Teresa and Amoonguna.

"This is right up my alley," said Sarah Oxley a winger from the women's premiership team Warringah Ratettes, "I enjoy going out and learning from the people about their ways of life and what they do."

The squad visited the MacDonnell Council communities of Santa Teresa and Amoonguna. While on the communities they distributed a pallet of books and loads of sports equipment including, rugby balls, cricket gear, frisbees. caps, touch football gear and sports clothes.

President of Warringah, Phil Parsons said the trip was a chance for the club to link rugby with the broader community.

Warringah rugby players Kate Davis, Ed Doyle, Sarah Oxley and Brian O'Toole before their visit. Photo: News Limited

Real football coming to Central Australian communities

Liveable communities SHIRE GOAL #2 | Engaged communities SHIRE GOAL #3

World Cup footballers may one day come from the communities of MacDonnell Regional Council. Adelaide United FC and Northern Territory Government are working with our MacYouth on an 8–10 week program to introduce soccer skills to our young people.

There are a few exciting initiatives been offered to MacYouth with the communities and young people embracing the opportunities.

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1 page 6

Docker River Child Care has filled to the brim

The new year at Docker River Childcare has seen a lot of children consistently attending the centre. They have been getting numbers of 17 children and in addition the mothers have also been regularly attending. This is a massive increase from the 3 – 4 children that were attending last year.

The Childcare centre staff, Raelene Kunoth, Maureen Watson and Christine Bennett are doing a fantastic job to keep up with the demand. They have been doing their regular group times of singing and reading stories and are always making sure the children have washed hands, clean faces and noses blown before eating.

Graham Murnik is the real deal

Since our profile of him in the September issue of *MacNews* Graham Murnik has been appointed to Director Service Centre Delivery, the role in which he was acting. His contribution to the MacDonnell Council over the last five and a half years has been outstanding as he has played an integral role in developing and implementing Core Service Delivery across the Council.

As a result of Graham's appointment, we are currently recruiting to the vacant Area Managers position.

6pm Friday 28 February at Traeger Park Alice Springs

GEELONG

CATSvDEES

enjoy the game & get home safely

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1 page 7

A fine example of working together in Santa Teresa: Night Patrol Team Leader, John Wallace and his crew of Lauren Bloomfield and Terry Alice with local Police Officers, Shane Blanchard. Photo courtesy NT Police

Working together to make the community safer

A partnership between MacDonnell Council's Night Patrol and the NT Police is important to the success of both organisations in the community. Working together with a direction of shared understanding, clear objectives, and consultation with stakeholders, the organisations tackle many of the same challenges of the community and have formed a shared vision.

The best example of this partnership can be seen in Santa Teresa where a conscious and visible effort by Night Patrol Team Leader, John Wallace and his crew of Terry Alice and Lauren Bloomfield along with local Police officers, Mike Marsh and Shane Blanchard are earnestly making this partnership work well.

The cohesion of the joint working arrangements at Santa Teresa was observed by visiting Senior Constable Jennifer Hamilton, who wrote in the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services online newsletter *eDrum*, "The respect from each member of the teams was clearly evident. Joint reassurance patrols portrayed the positive working relationship to the community members who appeared to take pride in ownership of the organisations".

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1 page 8

INSIDEOUT

The Local Boards in the MacDonnell Shire Council communities worked very well. In fact they were an example to other Shires of a community's voice being heard. So the NT Government made them a part of the new Regional Council law so all communities can a good voice, and they gave them the new name of Local Authorities.

What you will need to know about new Local Authority members.

New groups of representatives will need to become their community's Local Authority members. The questions and answers that follow are to help inform people considering nominating themself or supporting others to become a Local Authority member.
For more information please talk to the Council Service Coordinator in your local community.

Local Authority members will be committed and speak up for their community.

How can Local Authorities be a good voice for their people?

By working together with respect for everybody and talking on behalf of their community, Local Authority members will be a good voice to represent their people.

By electing a good group of community members each community will be well represented by their Local Authority.

How many meetings will the new Local Authority members have to attend?

Local Authorities will need to meet six times a year. This is set as a guideline to start things off, so it may become necessary for the new Local Authority members to have more meetings or less to get their work done.

Will Local Authority members be able to sit on employment panels for management staff in their communities?

Local Authority members can have a say in who is working on Council activities in their community. The Chair of the Local Authority will be able to help choose the Council Service Coordinator and Managers who live and work in their community.

Local Authority members represent a link between their community and the MacDonnell Regional Council.

What makes a good Local Authority?

A good group of people will help the Local Authority to represent all parts of your community. This way the decisions they make will be fair for everybody and nobody misses out on having a say or being heard.

Who can become a Local Authority member?

Anybody living in the MacDonnell Regional Council in proximity to a Local Authority community.

How will residents be represented by the Local Authority members?

A Local Authority member will be a voice for the people living in their area by listening to them and talking on their behalf at Local Authority meetings.

How will Council get advice from Local Authority members?

Council members will also attend Local Authority meetings in their Ward so they can hear comments and recommendations on issues from the Local Authority members.

How many Local Authority members will there be for each community?

Each community in the MacDonnell Regional Council will have a Local Authority to be the voice for that area. All Local Authorities will have a minimum of 6 members for each community.

How do residents become Local Authority members?

- A resident nominates themself to become a Local Authority member by completing a Nomination Form during the Nomination Period.
- Friday 31 January is the start of the Nomination Period. You can complete a Nomination Form (from over the page or pick one up from a Shire Service Office) and give it to the Council Service Coordinator who will sign and date it as the Returning Officer.
- The Nomination Period finishes on Friday 28 February 2014.
- After the Nomination Period the new Local Authority nominees will be announced at a community meeting to be endorsed.
- If too many nominees are endorsed, an election will be organised.
- Council will approve all Local Authority members.

MacNews
MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1 page 10

What makes a good group of people for a Local Authority?

All MacDonnell Regional Council services will be best represented by a good group of people.

A balance of people with experiences of the various MacDonnell Regional Council services is ideal for the Local Authority.

A good group of people will represent all families.

All families on a communtiy need to have their voices heard by the members of the Local Authority. If the different Local Authority members are from different families the communtiy will be represented by a good group of people.

A good group of people will work well together.

It is important for Local Authority members to listen to the people in the community and speak up for them when they are talking with other Local Authority members or raising issues with the Councillors.

The better the Local Authority members are at talking and working together, the better off the community will be because they are working out important issues and getting good things done for their community.

Local Authority members will be paid an allowance.

Will Local Authority members be paid for attending meetings?

A Local Authority members allowance is available for attending Local Authority meetings. The allowance per meeting for the Chair will be $152 and for all other members it will be $114 per meeting. There are some situations where people will not be eligible to be paid the allowance.

When would Local Authority members not be paid the allowance for attending meeting?

MacDonnell Regional Council staff working full-time will not be paid the Local Authority member's allowance because they are paid a salary as employees by the Council. Part-time staff will be paid their normal hourly rate for their attendance as Local Authority members.

Will the Local Authority member's allowance effect any other income?

If you receive Centrelink payments under the Newstart allowance these may be affected by the Local Authority member's allowance. You should talk to Centrelink about how it could affect your Newstart allowance.

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1 page 11

STAFF PLACEMENTS

We extend a big welcome to the following people who have joined MacDonnell Council during the last month and congratulate those who have taken up new roles within MacDonnell Regional Council:

Alice Springs
Alison Gosper – Administration Officer Technical Services

Amoonguna
Marlene Doolan – Aged Care Assistant
Ryan Lucas – Team Leader Youth Development
Audrey Miller – Aged Care Assistant

Areyonga (Utju)
Damien Driffen – Works Assistant
Benjamin Oren – Pool Supervisor
Matthew Vergona – Children's Services Program Support Officer

Docker River (Kaltukatjara)
Murphy De Rose – Works Assistant
Beryl Edimintja – Administration Officer

Hermannsburg (Ntaria)
Cyndrella Uzzell – Administration Assistant

Kintore (Walungurru)
David Brown – Essential Services Officer
Soloman Daniels – Works Assistant
Stephen Hollis – Pool Supervisor
Cheryle Ryan – Administration Officer Housing
Don Ryan – Team Leader Works
Peter Slee – Children's Services Program Support Officer
Jess Tavassoli – Children's Services Program Support Officer
Christopher Tolson – Works Assistant

Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)
Amber Thompson –Support Officer OSHC Program

Papunya (Warumpi)
Daniel Broadbent – Team Leader Youth Development
Laurie May – Children's Services Program Support Officer
Lionel Minor – Works Assistant
Lizzie Nangala – Aged Care Assistant
Daniel Pollard – Works Assistant
Owen Sandy – Works Assistant
Roslyn Turner – Aged Care Assistant

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
Barry Gory (Cavanagh) – Pool Supervisor
Janice McMillan – OSHC Facilitator
Ernestine Williams – OSHC Facilitator

Titjikala (Tapatjatjaka)
Matthew Briscoe – Lisa Mulda
Hasliza Nasir – Children's Services Program Support Officer
Lisa Mulda – Early Childhood Educator

UPCOMING MEETINGS

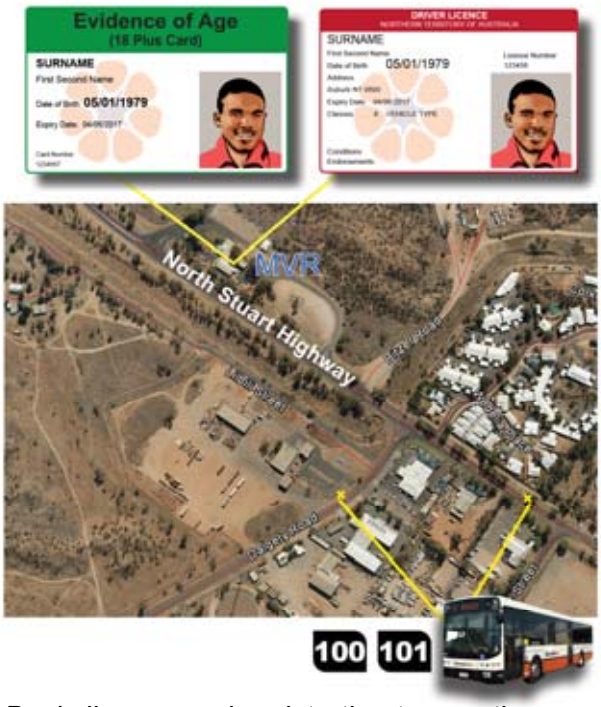
Ordinary Council Meeting

Council Chambers (Alice Springs):
Friday 28 February

OTHER EVENTS

Hartley Street MVR office closed

To sort out paperwork or get an ID card you will have to go to the MVR branch on the North Stuart Highway. Public transport is available on the 100 and 101 buses.



Basic licence and registration transactions may also be processed at Australia Post.

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2014 volume 6 issue 1 page 12

STOP THE PRESS!

Deadline for next issue:

Stories for next issue of *MacNews* need to be submitted before Friday 21 February. Send your stories and ideas as they occur to: media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

DO YOU WANT TO RUN THE 2014 NEW YORK MARATHON?

Do you know an Indigenous person aged 18-30 who:

Would like to **RUN** the New York Marathon

Has the determination to **SWEAT** out six months of training under the guidance of Rob de Castella

Can **INSPIRE** Indigenous people to live a healthy and active lifestyle

APPLY FOR IMP 2014

WWW.IMP.ORG.AU

INDIGENOUS MARATHON PROJECT