

MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter

MAY 2014

volume 6 issue 4



Despite their lesser size Mount Liebig (seen defending the Titjikala goal) demonstrated great foot skills and courage to match it with their bigger competitors.

This does end well...

Many great outcomes flow from the recent MacYouth Regional Indoor Soccer Carnival. The Carnival included two sporting events involving young people from communities across the MacDonnell Regional Council coming together at the Traeger Park Basketball Stadium in Alice Springs. Heats among our Youth Development communities kicked off a program to introduce soccer skills to our young people. At 12noon the soccer competition stepped aside as the MacYouth Women's Regional Basketball Grand Final was played. After more soccer heats and finals everybody returned to their camp-over at Amoonguna.

Find out about the flow-on benefits of a game of soccer from page 5

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Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

CEO UPDATE

At their annual Regional Planning session, our Councillors recently discussed and gave feedback to staff on their priorities for the coming years. Their ideas for MacDonnell Regional Council's future cover our Vision, Mission and the Goals we are committed to achieving throughout our region and will form the basis of our Regional Plan. This comes after our sessions with Local Boards and the new Local Authority nominees to discuss priorities for their communities.

As well as feeding into our Regional Plan the sessions will also identify actions for the various Local Authority Plans. Consultations with Local Boards and the new Local Authority nominees to inform the Local Authority Plans have been held in most communities. Remaining consultations have been held at Haasts Bluff and with Amoonguna due to occur in the coming weeks.

If you have any comments or questions about the Regional Plan or Local Authority Plans in your community or the entire region, please contact Helen Smith, our Manager of Governance and Planning, by phone on 8956 9627 or email at helen.smith@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

At their recent meeting, Council approved seven of our thirteen Local Authorities based on the nominees that had been endorsed by each community. We anticipate the remaining communities will be put up for approval to Council at their Special Council Meeting late in May. Successful nominees will be notified by letter in coming weeks.

We have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation (Ngurratjuta), who deliver the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) to work together on projects that will provide employment in a number of our Western communities including Ikuntji, Papunya, Mt Liebig and Kintore. The MoU sets out protocols for communication and a commitment for work collaboratively to support local employment and community development opportunities that contribute to building sustainable local jobs and liveable communities in the MacDonnell Council region.

The overriding objective will be achieved through collaborative efforts that build the capacity of local people and communities through the areas of: Relevant Training (including work readiness); Employment in the MacDonnell Regional Council; and Community Development Activities.

The development of this MoU is an example of MacDonnell Regional Council's commitment to working with other service providers in our communities to reduce duplication, improve cooperation and respond to the needs and wishes of our community members.

In continuing our tradition of developing real employment opportunities in MacDonnell Regional Council communities, we thank Ngurratjuta for its undertaking and look forward to a strong partnership as we work together *to improve the lives of residents by delivering valued and relevant services.*

Keep up the good work, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.





Ntaria MacYouth Team Leader, Reggie Lankin receives the keys to the Ntaria Youth Centre from CAYLUS General Manager, Blair McFarlane so the MacYouth team can begin relocating their offices to the new facility.

Ntaria MacYouth have a flash new home

Our MacYouth Team were very happy to take occupancy of their new recreation and work space – the Ntaria Youth Centre. The building will be the new home for our Ntaria Youth Development team and more than 300 young people who access their many activities each week. The local MacYouth team and the many young people in Ntaria are excited and optimistic about the tremendous opportunities the facility will provide in the ongoing development and leadership of Ntaria youth.

The new multipurpose building includes a hall with a stage, youth worker offices, a multipurpose room for computers, meetings, music, arts and craft. Outside there are two covered basketball courts, the football oval, an outdoor stage with an ablutions block that includes change rooms.

The facility is owned by Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS) and will be managed day to day by the MacDonnell Regional Council through the Ntaria MacYouth team. This arrangement comes from a collaboration that goes back to 2004, when community members of Ntaria approached CAYLUS for a youth centre. After a number of years trying to secure funds, CAYLUS was successful in their bid with the former Australian Government department of Families, Housing, Community services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and the Aboriginal Benefit Account (ABA).

MacYouth and CAYLUS have developed a strong and productive partnership over the years with a shared mandate to improve youth programs in the region. Under the partnership arrangement

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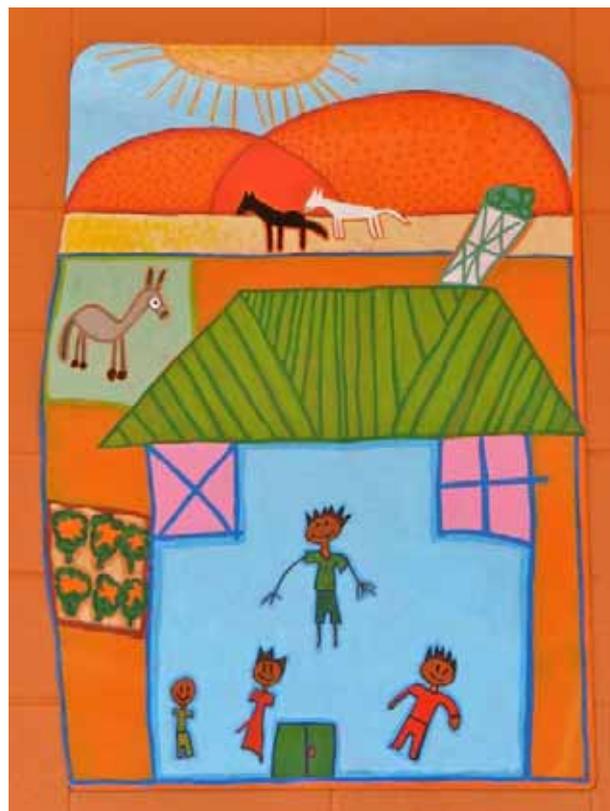
Developing communities
SHIRE GOAL # 1

Engaged communities
SHIRE GOAL # 3

Ntaria MacYouth have a flash new home (continued)

and through collaborative efforts, five youth worker houses have been built for MacYouth communities in MacDonnell Regional Council with six youth centres/halls upgraded excluding the Ntaria Youth Centre.

MacYouth is committed to providing meaningful and positive futures for young people in our contracted youth communities by helping them develop a strong sense of pride, identity and well being and by helping to establish pathways for our future leaders. The MacDonnell Regional Council wishes to particularly acknowledge the dedicated efforts of Tristan Ray and Blair McFarland from the CAYLUS team.



CLOCKWISE from top left: Ntaria MacYouth team (left-right) Megan Emitja; Nicholas Williams, Reggie Lankin, Jackson Kopp, Adeline Malbunka (with Basketball) on the outside stage; Alice Springs based artist, Alison Hittmann worked for CAYLUS with teachers and students at Ntaria School to develop some colourful artworks that have been put up around the centre; change room facilities for basketball courts; the new community hall.

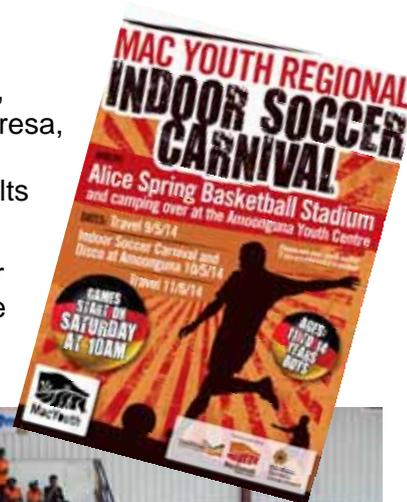
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Soccer Carnival kicks off

The MacYouth Regional Indoor Soccer Carnival kicked off early on Saturday bringing together over 100 young people from Amoonguna, Areyonga, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Kintore, Papunya, Santa Teresa, and Titjikala. Throughout the day it brought all community teams together in a friendly competition. Later in the day the semi final results drew Amoonguna against Santa Teresa to decide the Grand Final.

The soccer carnival saw young men aged 11 to 14 come together for a day to compete in their local teams against other communities. The carnival was a great recreational opportunity that provided a time to discover or display interest and ability in the game of soccer and followed recent community engagement from the national A-League team Adelaide United FC. The weekend also proved a great opportunity to engage young men with the broader MacYouth program as a way to build ongoing relationships.

Sport is a fantastic way to engage young people and the MacYouth Regional Indoor Soccer Carnival took that engagement a step further – provided a unique opportunity to bring young people from all of the communities together in one place to engage through sport and through more general activities throughout the weekend.



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PREVIOUS: Legends and action from the MacYouth Regional Indoor Soccer Carnival
ABOVE: Players from the nine competing communities show off their new team colours.
BELOW: possibly the winning goal being scored by Santa Teresa in the Grand Final (left) and the winning Santa Teresa team with their medals (right)





Adelaide United FC promoting soccer with our youth

The MacYouth Regional Soccer Carnival is part of a larger introductory program aimed to invigorate and support interest around the Northern Territory to engage young people with the skills and excitement of 'the beautiful game'.

Adelaide United Football Club in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government are working in our region to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) youth program with our MacYouth that focuses on males and females aged 11 to 20. The Five Main Pillars the ATSI youth program are: School Attendance; Culture; Employment; Gender Equality; and Participation.



The MacYouth Regional Soccer Carnival was a preliminary local stage of this program and focused on our youth in Years 5 to Years 9. Indeed, one day World Cup footballers may come from the communities of MacDonnell Regional Council. Until then, the ATSI youth program will introduce the skills and excitement of the world game, culminating later this year with 15 males and 15 females being selected to undertake a camp in Alice Springs in August. This will run in conjunction with a match between A-League teams Adelaide United FC and Melbourne Heart FC in Alice Springs.

Adelaide United FC's first Central Australian Ambassador, Ruth Wallace (pictured at Santa Teresa) is a very talented sportsperson having represented Australia, playing for the Matilda's in their under-age team. Ruth will be a great mentor spending much of her time in Central Australia to ensure the ATSI youth program's success.



Hermannsburg win the Women's Basketball final

In the middle of the MacYouth Regional Soccer Carnival – players stopped using their feet and started using their hands – as the soccer competition had a break and the MacYouth Women's Regional Basketball Grand Final took over the court. The competition begun on the Amoonguna courts in February with Amoonguna, Hermannsburg, and Santa Teresa teams playing in good spirits as they enjoyed the chance to get together with young people from other communities.



Now at the 'business end of the season' the Grand Final saw Santa Teresa playing against Hermannsburg to decide who would be the first MacYouth Women's Regional Basketball Champions. The game began at a steady pace as each team exchanged goals, however it became clear after half time that Hermannsburg had the winning formula as they defeated Santa Teresa by 3 points..

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Amoonguna hosts visitors to the MacYouth Regional Indoor Sports Carnival

With two sporting events in Alice Springs involving young people from MacDonnell Regional Council communities on the one program, the Amoonguna MacYouth team busily prepared their community to host over 100 visiting young people. All of the visiting young people camped out in the Amoonguna Recreation Centre for the weekend, where they also had meals provided. The weekend proved to be one of the most exciting events this year on the Amoonguna calendar as it brought young people together from across MacDonnell Council for a range of exciting activities.

Among the many activities organised by Amoonguna MacYouth, along with BushMob and Catholic Care there was a Rock-Climbing Wall and a Leap-of-Faith Tower for the young people to challenge fears and learn more about themselves. Other activities included live bands, movies, a disco, and a bonfire. The Amoonguna MacYouth team had also been very busy leading up to the weekend, finalising their newly renovated youth space so that was also available for activities engaging the visitors.

AFL round in Alice – so Plan Ahead before you visit

Melbourne Demons and Port Power meet for the round 11 clash at Traeger Park in Alice Springs on Saturday 31 May. It is anticipated that people from communities across 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
- Book accommodation
- Know how you are getting back home
- Make sure your car is legal
- Your children must go to school
- Bring ID cards



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STAFF MOVEMENTS

We extend a big welcome to the following people who have joined MacDonnell Shire during the last month. Also congratulations to those who have taken up new roles within MacDonnell Shire:

Amoonguna

David Fatt – Works Assistant
Derek Hayes – Works Assistant
Henry Oliver – Works Assistant

Areyonga (Utju)

Terrence Tucker – Works

Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Conrad Abbott – Works Assistant
Warren Marshall – Works Assistant

Finke (Aputula)

Jonathan McCormack – Works Assistant
Sarah Lynch – Home Care Assistant
Kayme Matasia – Home Care Assistant
Nicky Yaiyai – Home Care Assistant
Thomas Stewart – Works Assistant

Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Francis Marshall – Works Assistant
Renaee Stevenson – Administration Assistant

Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Yvonne Lankin – OSHC Facilitator
Joella Williams – Early Childhood Educator
Emma Malbunka – OSHC Facilitator

Imanpa

Lesley Luckey – Team Leader Home Care

Kintore (Walungurru)

Emma Davis – Team Leader Children's Services
Christopher Kassman – Team Leader Works
Benjamin Oren – Pool Supervisor

Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Kylie Monty – Children's Services Program Support Officer

Papunya (Warumpi)

Cedric Dann – Works Assistant
Deirdre Lechleitner – Administration Officer
Centrelink

Titjikala (Tapatjatjaka)

Tanya Gilligan – OSHC Facilitator
Dianne Matasia – Early Childhood Educator

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance Meeting and Special Council Meeting review of the Regional Plan

Council Chambers (Alice Springs):
Friday 23 May

Local Board Meetings

Haasts Bluff: Friday 9 May

Amoonguna: Wheneverday ?? May

STOP THE PRESS!

Deadline for next issue

Stories for next issue of MacNews need to be submitted before Monday 23 June. Send your stories and ideas as they occur to:
media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au



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Mr David McGregor
Shire Manager
MacDonnell Regional Council
PMB 149 Titjikala
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 0872

Dear Mr McGregor

Congratulations to all members of the Titjikala community for your outstanding success in the 2014 Australian Tidy Town national awards recently presented at Victor Harbor, South Australia.

I was very pleased to hear that Titjikala was the winner of the Heritage and Culture Award and shared first-place with Wangaratta for the Water Conservation Award; achievements for which the people of Titjikala can be very proud.

These achievements at the national level clearly demonstrate that Titjikala has not "rested on its laurels" after being named as the Territory Tidy Town for 2013. Your community continues to set a fine example for other Territory towns to follow.

Very best wishes to everyone at Titjikala; I look forward your further achievements as a "Tidy Town".

Yours sincerely

ADAM GILES

10 APR 2014