

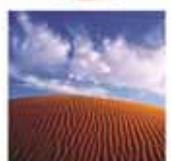


MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter

JULY 2014

volume 6 issue 5



MacDonnell Regional Council



ABOVE: Susie Lane and Doreen Lane doing a great job looking after the older people at Haasts Bluff

Listening to our staff

Ensuring our employee's voices are heard and staff are given an opportunity to raise issues and have input into the way we can all work together, our Human Resources team have travelled to all corners of the MacDonnell Regional Council and met with all of our wonderful workers.

Over a six week period, our HR team went to each community and met with all of our dedicated staff to talk about what its like to work for MacDonnell Regional Council. The thoughts of our staff were recorded in a workplace survey that will help inform MacDonnell Regional Council's decisions in the future.

Find out more about how MacDonnell Regional Council is working with its staff, from page 3

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Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council,

CEO UPDATE



July is always a good time to reflect on our achievements of the past twelve months and identify some important goals for the coming financial year.



We have continued to meet the targets in our Service Delivery Standards and have kept showing sustained improvements in our Waste Management Services, our Cemeteries, Sports Grounds, Parks and Open Spaces, as well as our Home Care and Children's Services. Other areas of Council's services are developing standards as relevant and appropriate.



The development and installation of four new parks and playgrounds are visible examples of the continued improvements the Services Delivery Standards bring in our communities. The breadth of improvements across our Council services was officially acknowledged when the title of the Territory's Tidiest Town was given to Titjikala – an achievement in which all communities take pride and find inspiration.



Keen interest and high attendance at Certificate 2 training in Rural Operations on communities and also MacYouth staff coming in regularly from their communities to gain qualifications at Charles Darwin University is another important achievement for MacDonnell Regional Council. There was once a time when our goals to provide opportunities for staff to gain accreditation for their skills and to support them into management and leadership roles appeared difficult, today this achievement is well underway.



In times of tougher financial opportunities, I am pleased that we have been able to maintain funding in most areas, most notably by achieving and exceeding targets we have secured ongoing funds for all our Community Services. Generally where contracts have been lost or budgets cut, we are proud to have maintained full community employment rates while still achieving the best outcomes for children, families, young people, the elderly and the disabled across all our communities.



Indeed our long developed strength in community engagement has underpinned our progress as we addressed the effects of the changes to the Local Government Act. We have seen high turn out at community meetings, solid discussions about local issues and full nominations for Local Authority members.



At our recent Council meeting, the 2014–2018 Regional Plan and our thirteen Local Authorities were all approved, preparing us for a progressive year of community engagement and achievement.



As we start to see the first Local Authority meetings taking place in each community from this month we will continue to support the growth of future leaders and their decisions. We look forward to hearing the voice of the people strengthened through the new processes, as we all work together *to improve the lives of residents by delivering valued and relevant services.*



I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year to deliver the best possible outcomes for the residents of MacDonnell Regional Council.



Keep up the good work, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.



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Listening to our staff continued from page 1

Our Human Resources team met with staff to complete the survey and have conversations around work related issues. The aim was to find out what is working for staff on each of our communities and at our head office. The HR team is now collating all of the survey responses to draw together the issues staff told them are important to them.

By bringing everyone's thoughts together, we can see if there are any common problems our workers are experiencing that need to be addressed as well as identify any areas MacDonnell Council needs to improve. An action plan will also be set out, based on staff input and survey responses, to improve the way we all work together at MacDonnell Regional Council.

Our HR team thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get out of the head office, saying "it had been a great experience and pleasure to meet with the workers and to see all the wonderful work our teams do in each community". The HR team met with so many staff who work hard to provide valuable and essential services to their communities and who are committed to improving community life for everyone.

Brigid, Ashlee, Amanda, Sam and Linley from the HR team send out a huge thank you to everyone for welcoming them and spending time talking about how we can all work together and make MacDonnell Regional Council an even better place to work.

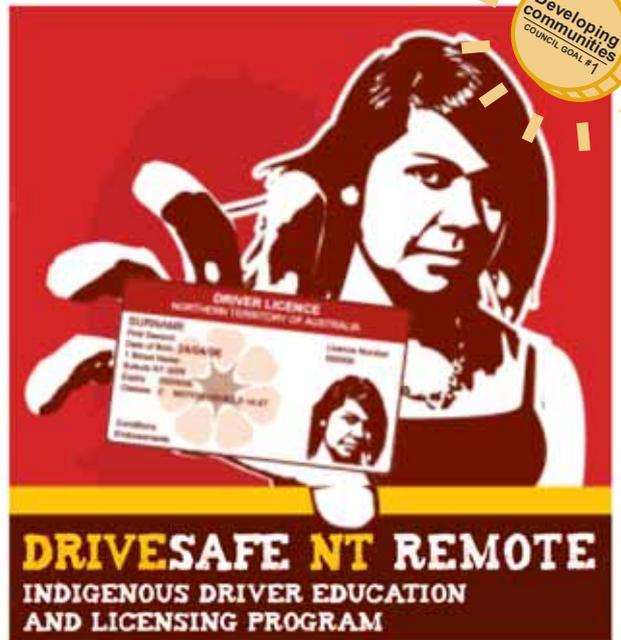
LEFT to RIGHT: Ursula Doolan, KerryAnne Lennon, Jane Houston and Heather Doolan – some of the team from Children's Services, show our HR team the fabulous work they are doing with kids in Finke.



Learning and driving the right way

Learner's driving licences were recently obtained by ten young people from Kintore and ten young people from Santa Teresa through a MacYouth partnership with the DriveSafe NT Remote program. The program not only guided participants in responsible driving and road rules, but also followed up their ID requirements by helping them obtain a copy of their original birth certificates.

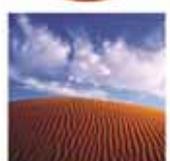
Any Council staff interested in obtaining their L's thought this partnership are encouraged to contact, Youth Services Manager, Jake Quinlivan on 0457 598 834.



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MacYouth, MacTraining

All MacYouth staff are well underway in their accredited training with Charles Darwin University. MacYouth teams attend CDU once a month for a block to work toward a Certificate 2, 3 or 4 in Community Services, according to their experience and training needs. Training provides them with the knowledge to maintain sustainable programs while building their skills, confidence and leadership abilities.

Special congratulations

While attending their respective Certificate training in Community Services, Kevin Stuart and Lynnette Ellis from our Amoonguna MacYouth team both received awards this year from their outstanding efforts during training. Kevin was awarded the *School of VET, Community Services and Health Encouragement Award* and Lynnette was awarded the *School of VET, Community Services and Health Learner Support Student Award*. We congratulate Kevin and Lynnette for their extra special efforts.

RIGHT: Amoonguna MacYouth workers, Kevin Stuart and Lynnette Ellis with their Charles Darwin University Awards.



Santa Teresa MacYouth visit the Barunga Festival

The youth program at Santa Teresa tirelessly raised funds for their young women's basketball team to compete at the 2014 Barunga Festival. This enabled the team to make the six day return journey to the Barunga community near Katherine. The young women got to play against teams from communities across the top end and give their best effort in each game.



Camping along the way and enjoying the sights, the trip itself was a great opportunity to, not only, experience the many aspects of the Barunga Festival, but to work together as a group and make their journey a success. The skills and confidence the young women developed from formalising a plan and following it through was their greatest success. Congratulations and well done to the Santa Teresa young women's basketball team.

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2014 NAIDOC week: *Serving Country – Centenary and Beyond*



Each year, the first Sunday in July marks the beginning of NAIDOC week. This year NAIDOC week ran from Sunday 6 July to Sunday 13 July with the theme: *Serving Country – Centenary and Beyond*. As well as being an opportunity to participate in a range of activities NAIDOC week this year provided a time to recall and show respect for the great contribution Aboriginal and Islander people have made to this country through our armed forces.

Holiday Programs in full swing

Over 500 children have been accessing the MacDonnell Regional Council School Holiday Programs across our eight communities with a variety of stimulating activities on offer.

At Santa Teresa, children along with our Children's Services team made a scarecrow to enter it in the recent Alice Springs Show, while at Papunya, children enjoyed a wide variety of activities on offer in their School Holiday Program.



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Papunya makes better community football from its Waste Management Facility



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Cleaning up around the Council

Civil Works teams from Hermannsburg and Titjikala recently took delivery of their rubbish compactor trucks. Following an overview and orientation at our Alice Springs workshop where Team Leaders were taken through the basic maintenance, the trucks went straight to work keeping Hermannsburg and Titjikala communities tidy.



LEFT: Titjikala legends, Dougie Wells and Alex Palmer getting orientated in the operation of their community's compactor RIGHT: Civil Works team put their new compactor to work to keep the streets of Hermannsburg tidy

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STAFF MOVEMENTS



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



Alice Springs

Rana Mitra – Project Administration Officer
Sheree Kane – Grants Coordinator
Alex Burgess – Coordinator Youth Development
Ryan Lucas – Coordinator Youth Development
Kura Waugh – Administration Officer Reception
Luke Higgins – Road Maintenance
Rachel Walsh – Governance Support Officer



Amoonguna

Daniel Buckskin – Home Care Assistant



Areyonga (Utju)

Cecilia Wilyuka – Administration Officer Centrelink
Wilbur Poulson – Night Patrol Officer
Gus Abbott – Night Patrol Officer
Gerald Windy – Team Leader Night Patrol / Night Patrol Officer
Francis Ebatarinja – Youth Development Officer
Clinton Stacey – Works Assistant
Selissa Gallagher – Night Patrol Officer
Vanessa Summerfield – Night Patrol Officer
Steven Tiger – Night Patrol Officer
Stephanie Donald – Home Care Assistant
Kane Abbott – Program Support Officer Children Services



Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Janette (Leanne) Newberry – Administration Officer Centrelink



Finke (Aputula)

Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Gideon Jack – Works Assistant
Eli Kantawarra – Works Assistant
Tutama Jack – Works Assistant



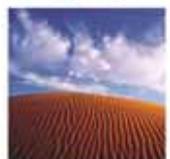
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Michelle Butcher – OSHC Facilitator



Kintore (Walungurru)

Camilla Young – Administration Assistant / Administration Officer



Gerrard Giles – OSHC Facilitator
Thomas Slee – Program Support Officer Children Services

Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Serina Wheeler – OSHC Facilitator
Williams Barnes – Works Assistant
Gayden Malbunka – Works Assistant
Tara-Lee Abbott – OSHC Facilitator
Veronica Dixon – OSHC Facilitator
Lucinda Eggle – Administration Officer
Cedric Dixon – Works Assistant

Papunya (Warumpi)

Sebastian Allen – Team Leader Night Patrol

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Nahasson Douglas – Pool Assistant
Lauren Bloomfield – Night Patrol Officer

Titjikala (Tapatjatjaka)

Alecia Scheil – Program Support Officer Children Services

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Local Authority Meetings

The new Local Authority meetings begin this month in each community:

Kintore: Wednesday 9 July

Haasts Bluff: Wednesday 16 July

Amoonguna: Wednesday 16 July

Areyonga: Thursday 17 July

Hermannsburg: Tuesday 22 July

Wallace Rockhole: Wednesday 23 July

Imanpa: Wednesday 30 July

Finke: Thursday 31 July

Titjikala: Wednesday 6 August

Santa Teresa: Thursday 7 August

Docker River: Wednesday 13 August

Mt Liebig: Wednesday 20 August

Papunya: Thursday 21 August

Kintore: Wednesday 27 August

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance Committee Meeting

Council Chambers (Alice Springs):
Friday 25 July

Ordinary Council Meeting

Kintore (Council Office)
Friday 29 August



OTHER EVENTS

Kintore Coffee Club



On any Sunday morning in Kintore the smell of coffee brings people from the Council Office, Purple House, School, Police (both NT & WA), Clinic and Pool together.

I guess if you want to join in the chin wag, ask around those service providers and then be prepared to bring along a plate to share or a \$2 donation for the coffee. (psst! ask about the "Pot Luck Dinners" if you are new in Kintore!)

STOP THE PRESS!

Deadline for next issue

Stories for next issue of MacNews need to be submitted before Friday 25 July. Send your stories and ideas as they occur to: media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au



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Professional Development for

Youth staff

Developing communities
since 1974

A supportive organisation
since 1974

We're investing time to assist local staff in becoming better youth workers and greater role models within community.

One of our council goals is 'Developing Communities' so we feel that it is important to give local youth workers the right training and tools to be able to perform to their best in your community.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR YOUTH STAFF OVER THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

JULY

- Tues 22 – Sat 26 July Certificate II, III & IV in Community Services

AUGUST

- Wed 6 – Fri 8 Aug Computer training
- Mon 11 – Sun 17 Aug TAE Training
- Tues 19 – Sat 23 Aug Certificate II, III & IV in Community Services

SEPTEMBER

- Tues 2 – Wed 3 Sept VSA Training
- Thur 4 – Fri 5 Sept First aid Training
- Tues 23 – Saturday 27 Sept Certificate II, III & IV in Community Services

OCTOBER

- Tues 14 – Sat 18 Oct Certificate II, III & IV in Community Services

NOVEMBER

- Tues 11 – Sat 15 Nov Certificate II, III & IV in Community Services

DECEMBER

- Tues 2 – Sat 6 Dec Certificate II, III & IV in Community Services

MacYouth

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