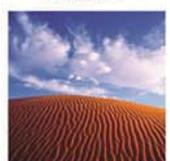




# MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter FEBRUARY 2015 volume 7 issue 1



MacDonnell Regional Council



Having collected many sporting trophies over the years, our President, Sid Anderson has a special pride while sitting alongside the large suite of Territory Tidy Towns awards won by MacDonnell Regional Council and its communities.

## Our proud boss

Territory Tidy Towns awards presentation night consolidated for our leaders, the level of staff achievement they had seen grow steadily over the years. Among the winners from our communities were Titjikala, awarded Overall Winner/National Finalist and Best Medium Community; Haasts Bluff, awarded Most Improved: Finke, jointly awarded Community Participation; and Wallace Rockhole, awarded the inaugural Tidy Towns 4 Gold Star Rating.

Perhaps the award that best acknowledged the progress made by MacDonnell Regional Council since incorporating came when it was named Best Regional Council. While these awards don't measure all the services available remotely in the Territory through the Regional Councils, our results speak for themselves. We acknowledge our staff's diligent efforts in all our service delivery as we build a quality desert lifestyle for our constituents.

Find out more about all areas of our service delivery from page 3

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# MacNews



## Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council...

CEO UPDATE



...and welcome back from your well earned break after a very busy 2014. My thanks also go to all our staff working over the Christmas break for ensuring services continued without disruption. Your dedication and hard work is appreciated by Council and its residents.



Our cracking pace in the last year is summarised through some fantastic achievements across MacDonnell Regional Council and showcased in this issue. These include exciting sporting achievements by our MacYouth teams, Titjikala being named *Territory Tidy Town* for a second consecutive year and MacDonnell Regional Council being recognised through the same awards as the *Best Regional Council* !



Congratulations also to Minister Bess Price on her new role as the Minister for Local Government and Community Services. We are proud that she got to spend her first day on the job in one of our communities and anticipate the opportunity to host her again.



MacDonnell Regional Council appreciates her first hand knowledge and experience of issues effecting Territorians living in remote communities and looks forward to working closely with the new Minister to assist in the delivery of our vision across the region.



The voice of our people has become louder over the past six months as we earnestly engaged the extra requirements of the amended Local Government Act. In each community Local Authorities are meeting more regularly. They continue to work closely with Council to identify key areas for future development within our 13 communities.



We look forward to the new opportunities the Indigenous Advancement Strategy will bring to for our Community Services of Children's Services, Youth Development, Community Safety and Home Care to improve the lives of our constituents. We anticipate knowing the future of these services by the end of March.



Enterprise Agreement negotiations are underway ensuring we maintain the best possible working conditions for our staff at MacDonnell Regional Council. We will keep staff informed while the negotiations are progressing, or you can talk about them with your representative, supervisor or someone from HR. Our HR staff will also be visiting each community to explain the new Enterprise Agreement before all staff are encouraged to vote on the new conditions.



On behalf of Councillors, management and staff in the MacDonnell Regional Council, I congratulate Titjikala on their second straight *Territory Tidy Town* award and wish them good luck at the National Tidy Towns finals in Sheffield, Tasmania on Friday 27 February.



Finally, I look forward to working with you all throughout the coming year as we work together *to improve the lives of residents by delivering valued and relevant services.*



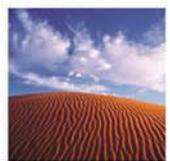
Keep up the good work, Jeff



Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council.



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## Santa Teresa Youth Board Swimming Carnival

Over the last year the MacDonnell Regional Council has been increasingly engaging its young people in the business of Council. Supported by MacYouth, Council has created Youth Boards in various communities to gain advice and feedback from young people about the issues that concern them.

More than just having a yarn, the Youth Boards also like to see results and recently the Santa Teresa Youth Board organised and ran its first Swimming Carnival.

The event was the culmination of a superb effort from the ten member board who felt a Swimming Carnival would be a great way to involve the community. The team worked on a budget, designed posters, purchased the food, decorations and prizes, as well as organising volunteers to help the event to run smoothly on the day.

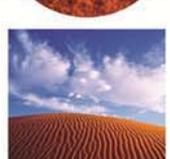
When the young people arrived at the Swimming Carnival they were put into teams. Then the races began! Once in the water, everyone showed off their freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and underwater racing skills and even took part in some fun noodle races. At the end of the day the Santa Teresa Youth Board put on a BBQ feast and there was even a sneaky visit from Santa.

Thanks to the Youth Board and everyone who helped them make the day a great success. Also a big thanks to the MacYouth team and the Council lifeguards that stood by ready, but were not called upon. The Swimming Carnival was well supported by the community with over 150 people in attendance.

Making a splash! MacYouth young women take to the water (at right) while young men race to touch the wall first in a freestyle race (above).



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## Bargaining for your future

Enterprise Agreements cover things like, what you get paid, what leave you can take, and how you can take it – as well as other conditions that form a legal protection for the boss and the workers.

Every three to four years our Enterprise Agreement is re-negotiated so that we have the best possible working conditions at MacDonnell Regional Council. The process of negotiating – done by bosses, HR, workers, and their representatives – is called Enterprise Agreement bargaining.

The first bargaining meeting was held on Monday 2 February to start the bosses and workers talking about things to be in the agreement. They talked about most things, but in mid February another meeting will be held to work out the harder topics.

### What next?

MacDonnell Regional Council will continue to tell you how the bargaining is going – or you can ask your representative, supervisor or someone from HR. Staff from HR will also be visiting each community to explain the new Enterprise Agreement to all Council staff.

All staff will then be able to vote to say if they are okay with the new Enterprise Agreement.

### How long will this take?

MacDonnell Regional Council plans to have the new Enterprise Agreement finalised and working by 1 July this year.

## Council admin workshop

Our friendly Council Coordination Centre office administration staff came into Alice Springs at the end of November for two days to carry out training in computer skills, customer service, complaints and governance. This supports the Council's aims to develop our community staff and build good understanding of governance in the community. Everyone involved had a great time and said they felt more confident to do their job, and we hope to offer more training in the future to keep building the strength of community staff. Thankyou to all the women involved for making it such a great experience and helping each other out.



## Community Engagement training

Two of our Councillors and two of our staff went to Darwin recently to complete training in *Engagement Essentials*, run by the International Association of Public Participation. This training helped them learn some finer points and get new ideas about how to engage and work better with the communities of MacDonnell Regional Council. This will help us to build our capacity to deliver valued and relevant services.



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## 2014 Central Australian Basketball Challenge

The MacYouth Girls Regional Basketball Competition was a resounding **SUCCESS**. An exciting and close finishing grand final was played between Ntaria and Santa Teresa in late November, with Ntaria becoming back to back champions winning their second title.

A combined team was then selected from the MacYouth competition consisting of two players from each community team. Called the MacYouth Regional Rep Team, they travelled to Tennant Creek in mid December to compete in the Central Australian Remote Community Basketball Challenge.

continued on page 6



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## 2014 Central Australian Basketball Challenge continued



The young women filled two MacYouth troopies for a 5-hour trip into the Barkly. Once in Tennant Creek the girls preparation included dinner at Tex's Schnitzel House followed by a good night's sleep at the Eldorado Inn.



The next day the tournament began at 9:30am and after playing four games through the day our MacYouth Regional Rep Team finished on top of the table with 3 wins and 1 loss. The girls then began the final day of the competition with a three point loss, but after a stirring talk by Ntaria Youth Worker, Jackson Kopp, the entire MacYouth staff joined in encouraging every player on the team to play like the all-stars they are. At that point, fire flared up in the teams' eyes igniting their passion to complete the mission they had come so far to achieve.



## But to get there, they just had to overcome the two teams that had previously beaten them.



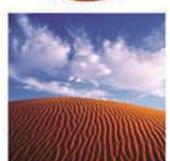
Their first final was against Barkley Regional Council 2, who didn't go away easily. After a tight competition our girls secured the victory by 1 point. Now it was time to finish their mission. From the start of the grand final the MacYouth team jumped out to an eight point lead. The second half was similar with our team dominating and not looking back as they kept scoring baskets. As the clock ticked down you could see relief on the faces of the supporting staff, while joy began spreading over the faces of the team as they anticipated the approaching victory. At the final buzzer the MacYouth Regional Rep Team could rest easy having completed their mission by becoming champions of the 2014 Central Australian Basketball Challenge.



ABOVE: Winners are grinner! Our champion MacYouth Regional Rep Team with supporting MacYouth staff after winning the 2014 Central Australian Basketball Challenge. PREVIOUS PAGE: (clockwise from top left) MacYouth Girls Regional Basketball Competition poster; Ntaria await the winning goal to drop through the basket; combined team consisting of two players from each community team; players from all community teams.



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## Territory Tidy Towns awards presentation night

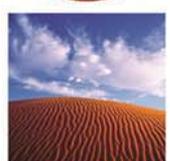
So Titjikala won the Territory Tidy Town again. But when Haasts Bluff, Wallace Rockhole and Finke all won significant awards, people began thinking the future competition is opening up for all MacDonnell Regional Council communities. With eyes turning to next awards night we can look to see communities engage their families to come together across MacDonnell Regional Council for a big **Clean up your community day** starting in March (see page 13 for details).



ABOVE: Haasts Bluff Civil Works Assistant Francis Marshall shows off his community's Most Improved Community award while MacDonnell Regional Council President, Sid Anderson proudly shows of the Best Regional Council award. BELOW LEFT: Finke Home Care Team Leader Rosemary Matasia with their Community Participation award. BELOW RIGHT: MacDonnell Regional Council representatives at the Territroy Tidy Towns presentation with all our awards.



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## A big day out in Titjikala



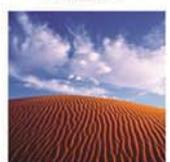
ABOVE: It was all happening in Titjikala with Council staff Ken Newman, Douglas Wells and David McGregor showing Jill Grant, National Tidy Town Judge around the community as the rubbish collection goes on through the streets.



ABOVE LEFT: Civil Works Leader Douglas Wells explains the finer points of maintaining a tidy town with Chief Minister Adam Giles. ABOVE RIGHT: On her first day in her new job, Local Government Minister Bess Price and Chief Minister Adam Giles have, the benefits of compacting rubbish before taking it to the ground fill, demonstrated by Civil Works Assistant Darren Wilyuka. BELOW LEFT: Chief Minister Adam Giles and Local Government Minister Bess Price visit other MacDonnell Regional Council services. BELOW RIGHT: The visiting politicians hand over a great big cheque to Councillor Greg Sharman and Local Authority Chair Philip Wilyuka funding two new rubbish compactors for Council.



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## A big day out in Titjikala continued



ABOVE LEFT: Meanwhile the Desert Oak Band warmed up the crowd to about 45 degrees celsius.  
ABOVE RIGHT: Douglas Wells and Chief Minister Adam Giles warmed up with a bit of cultural gift giving.  
BELOW LEFT: Local Government Minister Price also received a painting by artist Marie Shilling, joined by Nita Ferguson (creator of the painting gifted to Adam Giles) and Tapatjatjaka Art Centre Manager Jane Easton.  
BELOW RIGHT: National Tidy Town Judge Jill Grant is gifted a kangaroo made by Johnny Young from recycled wire.



BELOW: Titjikala show their trophies and their community pride, along with their special guests.



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# MacNews



## A SHOUT – OUT **where its deserved!**



Take a moment to check out the efforts of fellow workers in the MacDonnell Regional Council and our outside supporters, by giving a shout-out and saying *thank you and well done!*



## A SHOUT – OUT to our Regional Rep Team and the MacYouth staff...



Departing Manager Youth Development, Jake Quinlivan would like to congratulate the MacYouth Regional Rep Team for there outstanding effort taking out the 2014 Remote Community Basketball Championships held in Tennant Creek recently.

He also thanks staff that supported the event and particularly the staff that gave up there weekend to travel with the Regional Rep Team.

Full story and results from page 5.



## ...also a SHOUT – OUT to the Chandler salt mine nearby to Titjikala...



The proposed Chandler salt mine project, near Titjikala has been awarded Major Project Status by the Northern Territory Government. The agreement provides whole-of-government facilitation and support as Tellus Holdings moves through the regulatory stages of the project.

Tellus Holdings were also happy to attend the celebration in Titjikala. So happy were they – they brought a great big cheque to support our community staff travelling to Tasmania to attend the national Tidy Towns awards.

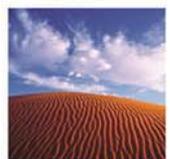


We wish Tellus Holdings well as their enterprise moves through its formative stages and we look forward to the opportunities it could bring Titjikala residents for training and work at the mine.



## ...and a SHOUT – OUT to the Chief Minister

During his visit to Titjikala to learn about the great job our staff do there, the Chief Minister heard of the workers Christmas lunch planned for later that week and gave a donation to the Community Store toward the catering. His kind support of the staff party went toward a well earned feast of roast pork, orange glazed ham and prawns. Mmmmmm it was a great meal!



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## STAFF MOVEMENTS



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



### Alice Springs

Kevin Angove - Coordinator Fleet and Mechanical  
Anusha Niroshani Banagala - Finance Officer  
Bill Byers - ESO Coordinator  
Robert Davies - Mobile Mechanic  
Ferdinand Montoya - Mobile Mechanic



### Amoonguna

Lynette Ellis - Youth Assistant  
Natasha Stuart - Youth Assistant  
Stanley Wallace - Home Care Assistant



### Areyonga (Utju)

Anthea Coulthard - Administration Assistant  
Garnet Djana - Early Childhood Educator  
Stephen Hollis - Team Leader Pool  
Sonia Jugadai - Early Childhood Educator  
Jamie Kitson - Works Assistant  
Gordon Long - Works Assistant  
Frankie Marks - Works Assistant  
Alexandra Millar - OSHC Program Support Officer  
Naphtali Scobie - OSHC  
Clinton Stacey - ESO  
Lyndon Williams - Youth Development Support Officer



### Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Ronald Kirkman - Works Assistant  
Winsome Newberry - Early Childhood Educator



### Finke (Aputula)

Marlene Boko - Nutrition Assistant  
Roseanne Daniels - Early Childhood Educator  
Jill Doolan - Administration Officer



### Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

David Corby - Youth Assistant  
Nicole Inkamala - Youth Assistant  
Tutama Jack - Team Leader Night Patrol  
Douglas Larry - Works Assistant  
Roseranna Larry - Administration Officer  
Centrelink



### Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Ivan Emitja - Senior Works Assistant  
Benjamin Hopkins - ESO  
Henry Impu - Works Assistant

### Imanpa

Robert - Senior Works Assistant

### Kintore (Walungurru)

Dylan Anthony - Team Leader Pool  
Rowan Baldock - Works Assistant  
Ryan Chapman - Team Leader Pool  
Dianne Crisp - Team Leader Pool  
Rex Eddie - Night Patrol Officer  
Amy Gordon - Youth Engagement Officer  
Carissa Jackson - Administration Assistant  
David Lans-Mudjedell - Works Assistant  
Andrew Lyons-Dawson - Youth Engagement Officer  
Larry Major - Night Patrol Officer  
Alexander Negrine-Jones - OSHC Support Officer  
Michael Pollard - Works Assistant  
Rixon Pollard - Works Assistant  
Lorraine Scobie - Administration Assistant  
Jessica Tavassoli - OSHC Support Officer

### Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Betty Inkamala - Administration Officer  
Selina Malbunka - Administration Officer  
Sarah Jane Pavihi - OSHC Program Support Officer  
Joe Rawson - ESO Relief

### Papunya (Warumpi)

Erin Butcher - Youth Assistant  
Anne Coppelstone - OSHC Program Support Officer  
Roslyn Dixon - Child Care  
Jules Galliers - Team Leader Youth Development  
Aaron Kinsgley - Works Assistant  
Douglas Lane - Works Assistant  
Taralyn Major - OSHC Facilitator  
Graham Malbunka - Works Assistant  
Sylvana Marks - Youth Assistant  
Rosanna McCormack - Administration Officer  
Centrelink  
Claydon Minor - Youth Assistant  
Jamie Miller - Relief Council Service Coordinator  
Norm Raggett - Works Assistant





# MacNews



**Papunya** (Warumpi) continued  
Billal Soubjaki - OSHC Support Officer  
Sarah Stockman - Administration Officer  
Centrelink  
Presley Ward - Works Assistant



**Santa Teresa** (Ltyentye Apurte)  
Gavin Hayes - Pool Assistant  
Malanie Hayes - Youth Assistant  
Justina Williams - OSHC and Early  
Childhood Educator



**Titjikala**  
Ian Boko - Works Assistant  
Barry Douglas-Campbell - Works Assistant  
Melvin Malbunka - Works Assistant  
Laurel May - OSHC Program Support Officer  
Amber Thompson - Program Support Officer  
OSHC



**Wallace Rockhole**  
Ethan McCormack - Works Assistant  
Barry Abbott - Works Assistant



## Tracey moves on

After almost two years with the MacDonnell Regional Council, Tracey Brand has taken an opportunity to move onto the challenges of the Aboriginal health sector.

Tracey gained the respect of her colleagues as she lead the Community Services team. Working with individuals and families she enjoyed bringing improvements and opportunities to the lives of people across the region through MacDonnell Regional Council's Childcare and Home Care Services, Youth Development and Community Safety programs.



Rohan Marks has been appointed to the position of Acting Director of Community Services. Having started as a Youth Team Leader in 2008 Rohan has brought his skills to positions throughout Council including Shire Services Manager, Project Co-ordinator and most recently as Manager, Infrastructure and Projects. Please refer all Community Service leadership matters to Rohan who will do an outstanding job leading the directorate.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

The following dates are correct at the time of publishing – for accurate and up to the minute dates and information please check our **Upcoming Activities** calendar at: [www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au](http://www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au)

### Finance Committee Meeting

10:00am Friday 30 January 2015  
Council Chambers, Alice Springs

### Ordinary Council Meeting

10:00am Friday 20 February 2015  
Council Chambers, Alice Springs

### Local Authority Meetings

10:30am in the Council Office Meeting Room of each respective community:

**Hermannsburg** Tuesday 10 February

**Wallace Rockhole** Wednesday 11 February

**Areyonga** Thursday 12 February

**Amoonguna** Tuesday 24 February

**Kintore** Tuesday 3 March

**Mount Liebig** Wednesday 4 March

**Papunya** Thursday 5 March

**Haasts Bluff** Wednesday 11 March

**Docker River** Thursday 12 March

**Titjikala** 10:30am Thursday 12 March

**Imanpa** Wednesday 18 March

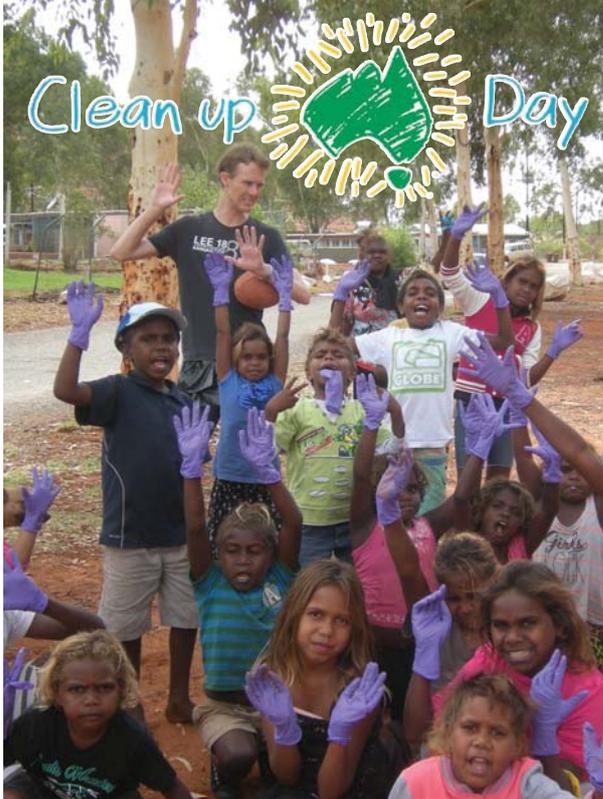
**Finke** Thursday 19 March

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## OTHER EVENTS

### Clean up your community day...



### ...coming to a community near you from March

Once our Tidy Town heroes return home from their trip to Tasmania for the national awards, all communities will once again get working for the chance to be the next year's Tidy Town winners.

Keep looking out for information coming to your community soon when MacDonnell Regional Council families can come together for a big **Clean up your community day**.

### Get inspired to do the right thing



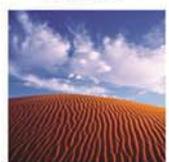
Alice Springs office Customer Service Officer, Kura Waugh has started a Printer Cartridge Recycling Program and has invited all our community offices to join in – simply by sending their used cartridges to her in head office!

So far, Titjikala has taken up the challenge and is recycling their printer cartridges. Had they kept sending their printer cartridges to their community tip, they would be taking up to 1000 years to break down!

Kura is keen to receive printer cartridges from all communities for recycling with Planet Ark. To find out more, visit: [www.cartridges.planetark.org](http://www.cartridges.planetark.org)



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# Staying Sharp In 2015!

To encourage our people to become the best they can be, MacYouth introduces a new round of training for 2015!

Selected members of our staff will be enrolled in a Certificate III Course in Sport and Recreation through Charles Darwin University. Training will be conducted in Alice Springs and the Ross River Resort with competency assessments carried out in the participants own community.

This training initiative is designed to support the promotion of sport and physical activity within MacYouth communities, a desire of the NT Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing to see increased structured sport delivered on remote communities.

## Are you up for the challenge?

COURSE DATES >>

March 30th – April 4th  
May 4th – May 9th  
June 8th – June 13th  
July 13th – July 18th  
August 17th – August 22nd



**MacYouth**

- SPORTS & RECREATION
- LEADERSHIP & CULTURE
- SAFETY & DIVERSION
- JOBS, EDUCATION & TRAINING
- STAFF DEVELOPMENT



Northern Territory Government



CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY



This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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