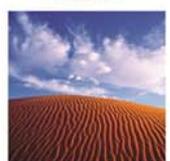




MacNews

MacDonnell Regional Council Staff Newsletter SEPTEMBER 2017 volume 9 issue 4



LEFT to RIGHT: CEO Jeff MacLeod with members of the third MacDonnell Regional Council; Sid Anderson, Barry Abbott, Lynette Ellis, Member for Stuart Scott McConnell MLA, Marlene Abbott, Deputy President Greg Sharman, Selina Kulitja, Phillip Wilyuka, President Roxanne Kenny, Braydon Williams, Tommy Conway and LGANT President Damien Ryan,

Council begins again

Following the 2017 NT local government elections MacDonnell Regional Council held its first meeting on Friday 15 September. Newly elected councillors joined with re-elected councillors to nominate and vote for their principal members, the President and Deputy President.

Council elections had previously been conducted in Luritja Pintubi Ward and Rodinga Ward while Lyarra Ward and Ljirapinta Ward had each received the same number of nominations as their required number of councillor positions so no vote was required in those wards.

PAGE 3: Meet the President, Deputy and councillors of our third Council
PAGE 6: A look at our Local Authority project progress in each community
PAGE 11: News of other projects in our communities

INSIDE



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Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council...

CEO Update



...welcome to our newly elected councillors; Tommy Conway for Luritja Pintubi Ward, as well as Susan Doolan, Lynette Ellis and Phillip Wilyuka for Rodinga Ward. I also welcome back all our returning councillors and congratulate them on their continuing contribution to the region.



I further take this opportunity to thank our non-returned councillors for many years of service to their communities and to the region. I also thank all the candidates that stood in the recent elections. We respectfully acknowledge the importance of individuals nominating and asking people to vote for them to represent the communities of their ward.



At the first meeting of our third Council the leading items of business were for the appointment of the principal members. Following the decisions of the MacDonnell Regional Council, I welcome back Roxanne Kenny in her re-appointment as President and I congratulate Greg Sharman on his appointment as Deputy President and welcome him to the role.



With Council positions formalised, I look forward to working with all councillors over the coming four year term.



Since the Council meeting, this thought has been challenged with sad news. It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of our much loved and respected, long serving Councillor L Abbott. The loss of Cr L Abbott's contribution cannot be understated. He has passionately represented his community and ward since Council's inception in 2008. His good humour and leadership will be sadly missed.



On behalf of MacDonnell Regional Council I send sincere condolences to the Abbott family.



While we await the necessary by-election, it is a period of continuing business. We have returned from the caretaker period of the local government elections and are resuming all Local Authority and Council meetings.



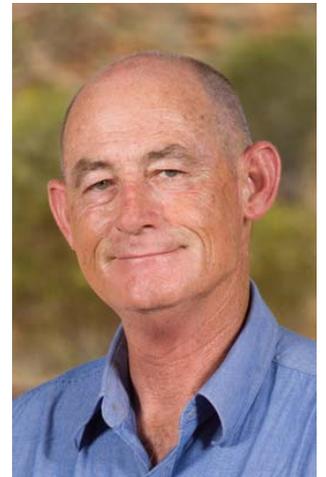
I thank our elected and appointed representatives, and our staff for their diligence, patience and dedication to our constituents as we continue in our mission *to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services* and work toward the outcomes described in our Regional Plan.



Thank you for the great work, Jeff



Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council



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Council appoints its President and Deputy



Following the 2017 NT local government elections MacDonnell Regional Council held its first meeting of its third Council on Friday 15 September. Newly elected councillors joined with re-elected councillors to nominate and vote for their principal members, the President and Deputy President.



The decision of Council was that Roxanne Kenny be returned as President having previously been elevated to the position early last year. She had initially served as Deputy President since 2009 and as an elected councillor representing Ljirapinta Ward since Council's inception in 2008. Roxanne lives on an outstation near Hermannsburg. Read her acceptance speech on page 12.



Greg Sharman was appointed to the role of Deputy President by his fellow councillors. He lives in Titjikala and has served in the MacDonnell Regional Council since 2012 as an elected councillor representing Rodinga Ward. In that time Greg also served as an Executive Board Member of LGANT representing Regional and Shire Councils.



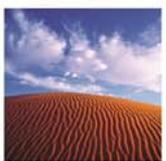
“ Let’s talk, listen and walk together; try and solve the problems together as a strong Council and work with our constituents as well – the people in the shops, clinics, station owners and schools – they are the people who voted for us ” Roxanne said in accepting her return as President of MacDonnell Regional Council.



RIGHT: President of LGANT Damien Ryan joins MacDonnell Regional Council's Deputy President Greg Sharman, President Roxanne Kenny and CEO Jeff MacLeod following the principal members' appointment to the third Council
TOP: Councillors cast their vote to decide the President of the MacDonnell Regional Council



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Watched on by newly elected Councillor Lynette Ellis (front row second left) with returning councillors Roxanne Kenny, Sid Anderson and Barry Abbott as well as Central Desert Regional Council candidates and staff from both Councils, the NT Electoral Commission Returning Officer Blake Hartman declares the election results

Our third Council

Residents of MacDonnell Regional Council joined the national community of local governments in 2008 when it became known as a shire. Since our first Council's inception we have had our name changed (officially the term 'shire' was changed to 'regional') and have democratically participated in two more general elections (usually every four years).

Now, as we begin our third Council, we can see changes this level of government has brought to the region. Notably we have provided stable and ongoing employment for residents in our 13 communities, improved environmental health from increasing waste management practices to national standards and surety of funding and delivery for many community services.

Underpinning such improvements is an investment in the people appointed to Council and its 13 Local Authorities. When community leaders understand how governments work they can get better results for residents. Before the third Council met, its newly elected councillors started some training to prepare for aspects of their new roles.

New councillors attended an induction day to start understanding specific details the NT Local Government Act and MacDonnell Regional Council governance roles and responsibilities. The following day they joined re-elected councillors for a look through the agenda before their first Council meeting.

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The newly elected Council

Successful candidates elected to each ward of the MacDonnell Regional Council are:



Iyarrka Ward:



Marlene Abbott



Selina Kulitja



Ljirapinta Ward:



Barry Abbott



Roxanne Kenny



Braydon Williams



Luritja Pintubi Ward:



L Abbott *



Sid Anderson



Tommy Conway



Rodinga Ward:



Susan Doolan



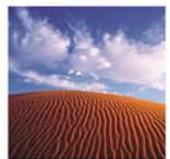
Lynette Ellis



Greg Sharman



Phillip Wilyuka



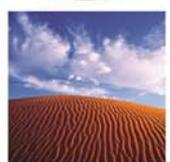
* It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of Councillor L Abbott.

MacDonnell Regional Council sends its sincere condolences to the Abbott family. Cr L Abbott was well known and highly regarded throughout the West Macs and Western Desert. He has been a tireless advocate and servant to his community of Kintore, the Luritja Pintubi Ward and the MacDonnell Regional Council. His candour, humour and compassion will be sadly missed.

MacNews will reflect on his life in a future issue. We ask all services and agencies to join us in respecting the family's privacy during the mourning period. As is the cultural practice, please refrain from mentioning his personal name or showing any images of him.



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Local Authority project progress

The decision making processes of our Local Authorities in each community provide good learning opportunities for members to become future community leaders. Recently in the Northern Territory local government elections three of our Local Authority members were elected to the MacDonnell Regional Council.

Projects resulting from Local Authority meetings build better communities as the outcomes are decided by the community members themselves. Every year Local Authorities are allocated funds based on the population and size of their community. After engaging with residents about their ideas Local Authority meet to discussion and decide how to prioritise their funds to best invest in their community.

The process requires members to prioritise their projects by importance. Projects are then costed and assessed against their budget. Sometimes the priorities may need to be adjusted once costs are realised. Knowing that they have an annual allocation, some communities have managed their budgets by postponing investment in larger projects until more money is available.

Projects are in various stages of development from having been budgeted and approved at Local Authority meetings and having resources committed, to being completed. Community by community, the following pages identify **approved** projects and showcase projects that were **completed** during the past financial year. The **remaining balance** was the funds available at the end of the financial year.

Amoonguna Local Authority

Completed: The Amoonguna Local Authority had budgeted for three main projects. They decided to continue bringing improvements to Ross Park in the form of picnic tables and bench seating. This and another project to purchase a gas barbeque installed on a trailer have been delivered.

Approved: Their decision for improvements at the basketball courts has commenced. The new grandstands have been installed while new shade shelters are yet to be completed.

Remaining balance: \$9,313.16



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Areyonga Local Authority

Completed: In Areyonga the Local Authority has funded a chainmesh fencing around their football oval and concrete footings have been installed in the community for new solar lights.
Approved: Funds have been allocated and materials have started to arrive for the installation of a water tank and shaded area at the Sorry Camp. They are also awaiting delivery of a commentary box for the football oval.
Remaining balance: \$38,934.26

Docker River Local Authority

Completed: Upgrades to the sports ground has begun including new chain mesh fencing at the football oval and softball pitch.
Remaining balance: \$35,208.32



Finke Local Authority

Completed: The three projects approved by the Local Authority in Finke have been completed. One project was for an upgrade to a public ablution block. Another was to purchase a gas barbeque installed on a trailer and the third was for the decommissioning of the BMX track in the community.
Remaining balance: \$9,785.44



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Haasts Bluff Local Authority

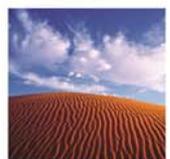
Approved: Haasts Bluff Local Authority had been unable to meet during the past financial year so projects have not been approved or completed.
Remaining balance: \$25,867.98



Hermannsburg Local Authority

Completed: Hermannsburg has been a hive of activity in the past year with the Local Authority budgeting and approving projects and the Civil Works team completing them. These include repairs to the playground at Sandhill Park, some drainage works near the main cemetery, installing a pedestrian walkway bridge and purchasing a gas barbeque installed on a trailer.

Approved: Installing a commentary box at the football oval and making upgrades at Racetrack that include purchasing and installing shade structures and solar lights have also commenced during the year.
Remaining balance: \$71,430.82



Imanpa Local Authority

Completed: In Imanpa the Local Authority has seen their designated repairs carried out on an ablution block completed.
Approved: Work has begun on the proposed upgrade to their Sorry Camp
Remaining balance: \$40,861.97





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Kintore Local Authority



Completed: Fencing has been installed around the football oval and a backstop screen has been installed at the softball field.

Approved: Kintore Local Authority has many projects underway. These include preparing concrete bases for solar lights and shade structures. Solar lights and shade structures at both their Business Camp and Sorry Camp, as well as a solar light at the church are all awaiting installation. Work has begun to relocate a playground to be near the basketball court.

Remaining balance: \$59,957.83

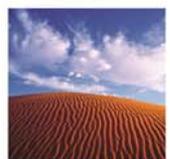


Mount Liebig Local Authority

Completed: The Local Authority in Mount Liebig decided to invest some of its project funds into a trailer equipped with a water tank for watering trees and plants around the community. They also purchased a gas barbeque installed on a trailer.

Approved: In addition they have budgeted for upgrades to their basketball courts.

Remaining balance: \$21,098.85



Papunya Local Authority

Approved: In addition to an upgrade at the cemetery the Papunya Local Authority has committed to improvements at the sport precinct. This includes installing a concert stage, a scoreboard for each the football and softball as well as fencing, shade and a second playing diamond for the softball field.

Remaining balance: \$55,120.06



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Santa Teresa Local Authority

Completed: Santa Teresa recently purchased a coffin lowering device for their cemetery.
Approved: The Local Authority has committed to provide trees and an information booth at the entrance to Santa Teresa as well as signage advising tourists of restricted areas around the community. They have also begun providing fencing and additional playground equipment for their parks, solar lighting to lighten black spots around the community
Remaining balance: \$67,883.29



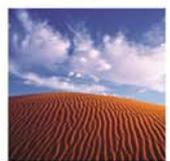
Titjikala Local Authority

Completed: In Titjikala the Local Authority has had bollards and chains installed to control traffic around the community store.
Approved: A commentary box at the football oval and a rest area at the entrance to the community has been approved but work has not yet commenced.
Remaining balance: \$33,327.43



Wallace Rockhole Local Authority

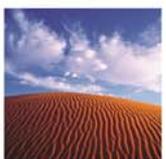
Completed: All projects proposed by the Wallace Rockhole Local Authority have been completed. They include installing shade and seating, and upgrading the public toilets at the visitor rest area across the road from the Council Office.
Remaining balance: \$11,693.11



Local Authority funding

All 13 Local Authorities are awaiting the release of NT Government project funding for this financial year.





ABOVE: Civil Works team in Finke install signage for their new Public Drop-off Area BELOW: Whitegoods are separated

Clean living in Finke

MacDonnell Regional Council and the Central Australia Remote Waste Management Program (CARWMP) are reaching new standards in waste management for central Australian remote communities following recent landfill upgrades and the creation of new recycling opportunities.

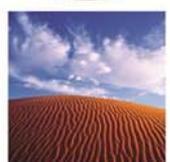
Finke is one of the first communities to implement these changes. Council Service Coordinator Gareth Lea and the Civil Works team recently upgraded their landfill facility to include a Public Drop-off Area. The area offers segregated and organised stockpiles for different waste items and new waste pits for general rubbish. They have developed signage for both the community and Council staff to easily identify the different waste streams and improve separation for recycling.

Waste is sorted into different elements such as scrap and non ferrous metals, white goods, tyres, motor oil, gas bottles and fire extinguishers, hazardous waste, paints and chemicals, building rubble, batteries and e-waste.



By taking this step, the communities' waste is being diverted from landfill. This extends the life of general waste pits, saving council money and providing environmental improvements for communities. When a sustainable volume of waste is collected it will be transported to the nearest market for recycling. Any financial return from the sale of these materials will be used to support further improvements in waste management activities throughout Central Australia.

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Working with fire

MacYouth in Mount Liebig recently teamed up with the CLC Rangers to learn and perform fire management techniques on country. Five young men got the opportunity to work alongside Indigenous Rangers and learn how to identify areas that will respond well to fire and areas that won't.

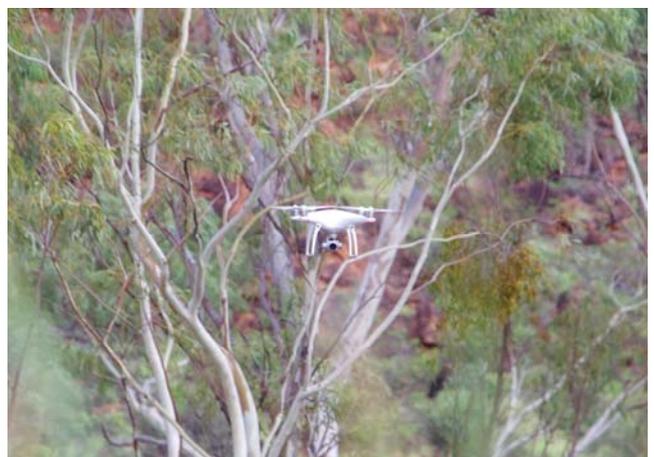
The young men also learned to read different landscape features on both topographic and satellite maps. Upon completion of the training the young men assisted the CLC Rangers with lighting controlled fires and were also taught about the plant growth, change in animal movement and seed propagation that happens as the fire subsides.

Watch this space

Technical Services recently acquired a drone to assist them when documenting their work. It has quickly become an important tool for their project planning and reporting.

Its aerial views have proved ideal for observing the condition of assets, detecting water leaks and issues, and tracking available space in waste management facilities and cemeteries.

The drone will also be used for the inspection of assets such as roads and parks, inspection of elevated water tanks and rooftop surveys of buildings, as well as land and terrain surveys and natural disaster evaluations.



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STAFF MOVEMENTS



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



Alice Springs

Naomi Brennan - Accounts Receivable and Rates Finance Officer

John Davis - Community Services Project Officer

Catherine McCarthy - Children's Services Coordinator

Whitney Parsons - Customer Service and Records Officer

Jessica Toll - Children's Services Team Leader



Areyonga (Utju)

Alice White - Youth Development Officer

Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

George Achike - Sport and Recreation Officer

Justina Okafor - Children's Services Team Leader



Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)

Eunice Jack - OSHC Educator

Marlene Jack - Early Learning Educator

Francis Marshall - Works Assistant Henry Multa - Works Assistant



Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Jasmine Ngalkin - OSHC Educator

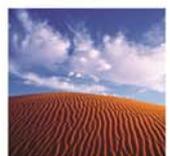
Kintore (Walungurru)

Michael Gallagher - HMESP Works Assistant

Kerry-Anne Major - OSHC Educator

Ashley Spencer - HMESP Works Assistant

Simon Yungut - HMESP Works Assistant



Papunya (Warumpi)

Waylon Healey - Works Assistant

Max Inkamala - Works Assistant

Esau Lewis - Works Assistant

Shemena Roger - OSHC Educator



Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
Ursula Hoosan - OSHC Educator
Maria Oliver - OSHC Educator

Titjikala

Janie Campbell - Home Care Assistant

Peter Doolan - Home Care Assistant

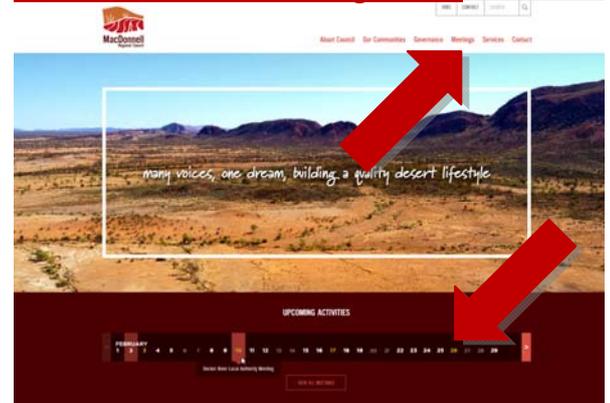
Ricky Doolan - Works Assistant

STOP PRESS

Council and Local Authority meetings can be easily found online

For the most accurate dates and information about Council and Local Authority meetings please refer to our website:

www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au



The Meetings page of the website also offers a search function that allows you to select specific dates, communities or types of meetings quickly.

BIG THANKS!

Big thanks go to all staff contributors for this issue.

MacNews thanks the following for their contributions to this publication:

Michael Davis, Peter Devine, Belinda Henderson, Kea Lambert, and Billy Manjangani.

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The following is from the acceptance speech of President Roxanne Kenny when she was re-appointed as the principal member of the MacDonnell Regional Council:

Welcome to the three new Councillors that are here and welcome back to the old Councillors.

I have been here since the Shires started. I have been the Deputy since the start and only last year I was voted into the President's position when Uncle Sid stepped down.

I love travelling to all communities to meet with the Local Authorities; listening to them and trying to get things done together, getting to know them and learning about them and what they want to achieve on their communities.

I am not here to promise anyone, but I will try my best to listen and support as I go along and to be strong for all of us.

I am here for us and not for myself, so let's work together as leaders and role models for our next generation and next councillors.

Let's talk, listen and walk together; try and solve the problems together as a strong Council, work with our constituents as well – the people in the shops, clinics, station owners and schools – they are the people who voted for us.

I tell you now I am very proud to be in this Council with you Councillors and the Council staff and I would really want to know you new Councillors and work along side you mob better.

Let's work together as leaders.

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