MacDonnell Shire Council Staff Newsletter  NOVEMBER 2013  volume 5 issue 9

Titjikala awarded Territory’s Tidiest Town  •  MacDonnell Shire cleans up at Territory Tidy Town awards  •  First ESO Trainee indigenous graduate  •  Charmaine’s New York Marathon goal

INSIDE

Titjikala awarded Territory’s Tidiest Town  •  MacDonnell Shire cleans up at Territory Tidy Town awards  •  First ESO Trainee indigenous graduate  •  Charmaine’s New York Marathon goal

Ngkítja Ntjarra, Thangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutjú, many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle
G’day, and congratulations across the MacDonnell Shire!

Firstly, to Titjikala community for being named the Territory’s Tidiest Town after being awarded ‘Best Medium Tidy Town’, and also to Wallace Rockhole School and to Mr and Mrs Rubuntja for their categories. Finally we are pleased that the hard work that has been done in developing our Waste Management Facilities was recognised through the ‘Waste Management Award’ we shared with the Central Desert and Barkly Shires.

Councillors signed off on our Annual Report at the last Ordinary Council Meeting. It showcases our outstanding achievements across the shire under our 2012/13 financial year goals of developing liveable and engaged communities, we delivered:

- Growth in indigenous employment to 78.5%, community supervisory positions at 49%, and ongoing training for formal qualifications of indigenous staff.
- Services Delivery Standards providing high standards of Public Spaces, Waste Management, and Cemeteries
- Companion Animal Management programs reduced the number of dogs in communities and brought considerable health improvements
- Input of our Local Boards into the Shire Plan processing strengthened the voice of our communities

Copies of the report can be found at: [www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au](http://www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au)

See ya’round, Jeff

Jeff MacLeod, is currently also our Acting Chief Executive Officer
Titjikala named the Territory’s Tidiest Town

At the recent Territory Tidy Town awards night, Titjikala was named the winner of the major prize, the ‘Geoff Finch Memorial Cup’ – recognising the community as the tidiest town in the Northern Territory.

As well as Titjikala being named the Territory Tidy Town 2013 winner, MacDonnell Shire was represented on stage and presented awards by NT Minister for Community Services, Bess Price, in many other categories. First to be acknowledged for showing great pride in their home were Wallace Rockhole residents, Matthew and Bronwyn Rubuntja, when they were awarded the ‘Best Home and Yard’. Endorsements for the community continued with Wallace Rockhole School winning the ‘Best School in the Southern District’.

Titjikala Civil Works team (from left to right) Dennis Douglas, Darren Wilyuka, Kevin Moneymoon, Malcolm Moneymoon, Desmond Jack and Dougie Wells, along with Heimo Schober, CEO Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT (third from left) and Dave MacGregor, Titjikala Shire Service Coordinator (fifth from left) stand proudly in front of the children’s park and shaded family seating the Civil Works team installed.
Titjikala the Territory’s Tidiest Town continued…

Our Central Australian Waste Management Program was awarded the ‘Best Waste Management’ award in conjunction with Central Desert and Barkly Shire Councils. Coordinated by Geof Taylor, it recognised the work the three southern Shires have done upgrading landfill and recognises the value of a collaborative regional partnership.

Titjikala was initially awarded ‘Best Medium Tidy Towns Community’ which qualified it as a finalist and ultimately to be awarded the ‘Geoff Finch Memorial Cup’ with the title of Territory Tidy Town 2013. Along with the title, Titjikala is now representing the Northern Territory in the national Tidy Towns competition, with Australia’s Tidy Town 2013 to be announced in February.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NT) CEO, Heimo Schober, said, “It’s great to see that the MacDonnell Shire Council had taken 5 of the total 15 Territory Tidy Towns category awards this year. The MacDonnell Shire community of Titjikala was also the deserving recipients of the Tidy Towns Shire ‘Geoff Finch Memorial Cup’. There has been some very healthy competition between communities for the Tidy Towns Awards this year”.

Later in the week after the award ceremony, MacDonnell Shire management staff delivered and presented the ‘Geoff Finch Memorial Cup’ and the associated Territory Tidy Town awards to the residents in Titjikala at a community celebration barbeque. Now the cup sits proudly in the Titjikala office for all to see as the community prepares to compete with the winning towns from all states and territories for the title of Australia’s Tidy Town 2013.
Ngkitja Ntjarra, Thangkarra Nyinta Wangka Tjuta, Tjukurpa Kutju

many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle
MacDonnell Shire’s first graduate ESO

Having completed his assessments months ago, our ESO Trainee from Titjikala, Alex Palmer had to wait until recently to graduate as the first indigenous trainee from MacDonnell Shire to complete the Remote Essential Service Operator (ESO) Traineeship. Proudest of all the people attending the ESO Graduation Ceremony at the Alice Springs campus of the Charles Darwin University were his partner Jo-Marie along with his father, brother and auntie.

The event was also attended by various managers from MacDonnell Shire Council who had helped facilitate the training opportunity, as well as representatives from Power and Water Corporation and Charles Darwin University who had developed and presented the training and Central Desert Shire staff who were equally proud of their two graduates.

As MacNews reported in June, Alex’s training had included much hands-on work in his community with the assistance of the local ESO. Over time his knowledge grew as he kept a close watch on the power station and water supply for Titjikala. While Alex’s training had him visit Alice Springs to also attend courses. He thinks that anybody starting an ESO Traineeship today is lucky, because they will do most of those courses in their communities.

Doing the ESO Traineeship had also helped Alex see opportunities ahead of him and he now knows they are achievable. He also recognises that more training means he becomes qualified for more jobs. And that of course means more money and better chances in his life.

Hard rubbish clean-up starts at Kintore

MacDonnell Shire Council has organised a contractor to remove old car bodies from out of the bush surrounding communities. Using their loader, our Civil Works teams are locating and lifting the wrecks into a central location where the contractor is first salvaging engines, gear boxes and other cast metals for recycling before crushing flat the old car bodies and stacking them on a low-loader. Once loaded the wrecks will be transported from the communities to a distant city where they too will be recycled.
Charmaine wins her New York goal!

Charmaine kept focussed on her goal while she did the training to help her run the full marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres – on Monday morning (Central Australian time) 4 November she completed the New York Marathon.

On her way, Charmaine made new friends, completed a Certificate 4 in Health and Leisure, and along with the ten other Indigenous Marathon Project athletes, ran the race of her life to do her family, friends, community and most of all, herself proud as she crossed the finish line of the world famous New York City Marathon.

The eleven inspirational athletes stood tall alongside 48,000 other competitors at the start line of the world’s biggest marathon and showed that if you put your mind to it, you can achieve anything. Despite cold and windy conditions on the day and an old foot injury flaring up during the race she managed to overcome the pain and put her hard work and training into practice crossing over the finish line 6 hours, 20 minutes and 12 seconds after starting the gruelling race.

“It was very hard for me because I ended up feeling real pain in my foot and I was really struggling and... at 30ks I just wanted it to... finish, another 12ks and just get it over with and yes... I did and I’m really happy and I’m proud of myself.” she told ABC Radio Alice Springs shortly after finishing.

Charmaine was working as an Administration Officer in the Ntaria office of the MacDonnell Shire and acknowledges her managers and fellow workers support that helped her think about and get started in the program. She has since inspired many staff across the MacDonnell Shire as she trained and achieved her goal of running a marathon in the streets of New York.

Initially motivated “…to make my children proud, to see me do good things... to show other young single mums... that they can keep trying new things... to show the young people to try new things, you know – break the shame”, Charmaine also put a two-packet-a-day smoking habit behind her on her journey to New York.

Charmaine’s success was supported by former world champion marathon runner Robert de Castella’s Indigenous Marathon Project training program, but de Castella himself says, “It’s an attitude to just hang in there... not give up”.

After the marathon, the Indigenous Marathon Project athletes spent a couple of days taking in the sights and sounds of New York City, before returning home to proud family and community members. Charmaine returns to her family and the Ntaria community this weekend.
A stitch in time, saves nine – new Apprentice Mechanic, William Foster prepares the mobile mechanics truck for a visit to our remote communities to keep MacDonnell Shire Council fleet moving

**Fleet staff keep us moving**

With great distances between our 13 remote communities it is very important to have all our vehicles and equipment in the best working condition. In its first five years, MacDonnell Shire Council has refreshed most of its vehicles and plant. This has proved to be an important way to save money and keep everything working safely.

When vehicles and plant are working properly they are cheaper to run and people can get their jobs done safely. If you fix your car when it first has a problem, the car keeps working properly and you get on with your job. But, if you keep driving too long with a problem, the part wears out and ends up breaking other parts. This costs a lot more to fix and it may even mean the car is off the road for quite a while, and that’s no good if it stops you doing your job.
MacDonnell Shire Council saves money by selling its vehicles, plant and equipment before they get too old and worth nothing. This keeps everything working better and safer for staff to use. Another way we keep everything working better is by regularly checking things and getting them fixed as soon as possible.

To keep us moving across our 13 communities MacDonnell Shire Council’s Fleet Management has employed a staff of three mechanics who work in two teams from two mobile mechanics trucks. Recently we increased our fleet staff to make a new job for an indigenous mechanic to be trained as an Apprentice Mechanic. William Foster joins the team to become our fourth mechanic and will gain valuable experience as he joins in with the two rotating teams of mechanics along with his apprenticeship training.

The two teams of mechanics routinely visit all the communities across the shire based on the Mechanical Schedule that is developed many months in advance. The Mechanical Schedule can be found in Outlook Calendars and MacNews also lists visits for the coming month. Everybody on our communities using vehicles needs to keep an eye on the Mechanical Schedule and be sure they book in early for servicing. They need to advise of any specific problems before the mechanics come to their community so the right spare parts can be brought out with them. Otherwise it may be months later before they can get back with the right parts.

In each community the Team Leader Works has a weekly checklist for all vehicles and equipment and fills it out in a similar way to how an Essential Services Operator does regular checks to make sure the community’s power and water keeps working. The Team Leader Works checks the fleet and reports any problems to Fleet Management so that parts can be bought and repairs can be booked for the next Mechanical Schedule visit.

Based on the Mechanical Schedule, our mechanics travel to communities with enough equipment in each mobile mechanics truck to do servicing according to warranties and repairs according to the Team Leader Works’ reports. For anything too specialised or for any major repairs the mechanics organise vehicles to be taken into our workshop in Alice Springs. This usually involves our larger plant and equipment.

When our vehicles and plant are working properly they are cheaper to run and people can get their jobs done safely.

If in doubt about the condition of the vehicle you are driving, MacDonnell Shire staff should treat any problem as urgent and report it to the Team Leader Works or Shire Services Coordinator in their community. They will contact Fleet Management who will book the necessary service or repairs into the Mechanical Schedule. For non-urgent matters Fleet Management can be contacted by email: mechanics@macdonnell.nt.gov.au
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:

**Alice Springs**
- Helen Smith – Manager Governance and Planning

**Amoonguna**
- Rosina Dixon – Youth Development Officer
- Michael Ellis – Works Assistant
- Bowen Webb – Community Sport and Recreation Officer
- Travis Williams – Works Assistant

**Areyonga (Utju)**
- Perry Johnson – Night Patrol Officer

**Docker River (Kaltukatjara)**
- Maureen Watson – Early Childhood Educator

**Finke (Aputula)**
- Patrick Allen – Works Assistant
- Colin Doolan – Works Assistant
- Kenneth Hayes – Works Assistant

**Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)**
- John Eather – Essential Services Operator

**Hermannsburg (Ntaria)**
- Jackson Kopp – Community Sport and Recreation Officer
- Adeline Malbunka – Community Sport and Recreation Officer
- Clifffy Raggett – Youth Development Officer

**Kintore (Walungurru)**
- Angelina Marks – Night Patrol Officer

**Papunya (Warumpi)**
- Lance MacDonald – Works Assistant
- Presley Ward – Works Assistant

**Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)**
- Farren Gorey – Youth Development Officer
- Maxwell Meneri – Community Sport and Recreation Officer
- Terrance Mulladad – Community Sport and Recreation Officer

**Titjikala (Tapatjatjaka)**
- Dennis Douglas – Works Assistant
- Barry Douglas-Campbell – Community Sport and Recreation Officer
- Lional Golder – Night Patrol Officer
- Darryl Jack – Works Assistant
- Jillian Renner – Community Sport and Recreation Officer

**Finance Committee Meeting**
**Council Chambers** (Alice Springs): Friday 22 November

**Local Board Meetings**
- **Kintore**: Tuesday 5 November
- **Imanpa**: Thursday 7 November
- **Docker River**: Tuesday 12 November
- **Amoonguna**: Thursday 14 November
- **Santa Teresa**: Friday 15 November
- **Titjikala**: Thursday 21 November
- **Mt Liebig**: Wednesday 27 November
- **Papunya**: Thursday 28 November

**Youth Advisory Meetings**

---

**macyouth**

*Are you aged 16 – 32? Keen to have a say on what happens in your community? Want to have your voice heard? Live in the communities of: Titjikala, Santa Teresa, Ntaria or Papunya. Then we want you!*

Proudly supported by MacDonnell Shire
Christmas closure dates

Our Christmas closedown period this year will start from the close of business on Tuesday 24 December until the morning of Thursday 2 January 2014. Key services on communities will continue to be delivered during this time.

Thanks all staff for another year developing liveable and engaged communities across the MacDonnell Shire Council.

Mechanical Schedule

For non-urgent fleet matters please phone Eddie Ross on 8958 9617. Otherwise, Mechanical Schedule dates are continually updated in Outlook Calendars. The following lists the visits for the coming month:

Kevin and Ben
Kintore 4 – 6 November
Mt Liebig 7 – 8 November
Finke 25 – 28 November

Darren and Will
Titjikala 6 – 8 November
Papunya 11 – 13 November
Hassts Bluff 14 – 15 November
Amoonguna 25 – 27 November
Docker River 2 – 6 December
Imanpa 5 – 6 December

Deadline for next issue

Stories for next issue of MacNews need to be submitted before Friday 22 November. Send your stories and ideas as they occur to: media@macdonnell.nt.gov.au
congratulates

Charmaine

on completing the New York Marathon 2013