Yuendumu works crew delivers

Over the last three months, Council Works crews, with considerable help from RJCP participants, Youth Sport and Recreation, and APH landscaping, have been working hard to upgrade the Yuendumu Oval for the annual sports weekend. RJCP participants helped with grandstands, score boards, seating, goal posts and back-stop fencing, as well as resurfacing the oval. The redevelopment also extended to the soft ball diamond.
From the President

The Yuendumu Sports Weekend has come, and gone! What an exciting weekend it was for all of the communities that travelled to Yuendumu to come and be involved! I even hear that there were 2,000 people there! Camping, staying at the homes of friends and family etc. Congratulations to the team at Yuendumu who worked extremely hard to finish the new buildings and facilities in time for the weekend.

The Harts Range Weekend was also a great success and it was great to see the Central Desert ‘Tom Cleary Stakes’ race on the schedule. I look forward to more entrants next year. Thanks to our Night Patrol Officers for their involvement in these events. Your assistance helps make these events successful and I know the local police are always grateful for your considerable presence.

I recently celebrated my birthday with family and friends at our Council office in Laramba. As you can see from the photo I was looked after like royalty by my family and friends.

Happy Birthday Mr President! The Council President, Adrian Dixon celebrating his birthday with family and friends at the council office in Laramba.

My sincerest condolences go out to the family, friends and community members who are dealing with the loss of the missing man at Laramba. Recently I was a part of the search around Laramba for the man, and would like to personally thank the efforts of community members, council staff, and the Police that attended from Ti Tree.

Adrian Dixon
President

From the CEO

What a month! July has been a very busy month for our Council with an exceptional effort made by the Works team at Yuendumu with the completion of over $750,000 worth of upgrades to the sporting facilities. Congratulations to all of the team – a great result and something that you should all be very proud of. It was a great pleasure to see the teams using the facilities during the Sports Weekend – what a sight! Please turn to pages 8 and 9 for photos of the event. Staff are also liaising with the community in Lajamanu about the best way to utilise an $820,000 Special Purpose Grant from the DLGR for the upgrading of their sporting facilities. I look forward to sharing photos of this project as it unfolds over the next few months.

A special mention to the team at Yuelamu who are in the final stages of the Yuelamu office upgrade. It is very exciting to see a project that has had been on the books of the Council close to finished and with such good results. A big thank you to the Department for their financial support over the years. Check out the photos on page 13.

I am looking forward to presenting the Annual Report to you soon. This report is an opportunity to tell the world about our great successes and achievements. Look out for this important document and keep spreading the word about how great our region is.

Cathryn Hutton
Chief Executive Officer
Max Tilmouth, Night Patrol officer at Laramba, has been heaped with praise and appreciation for his efforts in the search for a missing man at Laramba.

Max Tilmouth assisted in searching for several hours with Ti Tree Police approximately 25 km from Laramba through rugged bushland on Wednesday 23 July and again searched for several hours on Thursday 24 July when a body was located, believed to be that of the missing person.

President Adrian Dixon also should receive a mention for his efforts as he initially coordinated everything.

Central Desert would like to thank all those who were involved and assisted with the search and offer condolences to the Laramba community and family.

Stephen Briscoe also should receive a mention for his assistance in getting to the scene on 24 July and assisting the police, helping to get people to make statements and acting as interpreter for police.

Council employee Billy Briscoe assisted in attending the search area and supplied search personnel with fuel and water on Wednesday 23 July.

Ti Tree Police sergeants Jared Porch and Adam Davey also should be commended for their professionalism, cultural sensitivity, and dedicated approach in responding to the situation and following up with the Laramba community.

Aged and Disability News

Aged and Disability Service Coordinator Wayne Porter is enjoying his exercise class with Willowra ladies.

‘Nurses told me today that some of the locals have been coming into the clinic saying, we have been jumping around, ha ha – at my exercise class! This is what we are all after, a positive result, good interaction and everybody enjoying themselves,’ Wayne was pleased to report.

Wayne is now conducting sessions on Tuesday and Friday mornings and each session has good numbers attending. Clients, carers and locals are all looking forward to this and, apart from the exercise/activities and relaxation, many a laugh is being had.

Have a try on your next visit to Willowra.

The Laramba search

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What a great day out at the Harts Range Races! The racing kicked off with the third annual CDRC Tom Cleary Stakes. This Indigenous communities race saw local community members competing to see who has the fastest horse. The winner was Gwennedy Bird, riding Silver Triton, who won first prize of $300, a sash and a trophy.

There were Tug-O-War competitions between the men’s teams and the women’s teams, with the Atitjere Swans winning the rope and the glory of the women’s competition and the Atitjere Mob winning in the men’s competition.

Sally Perkins threw her hat in the ring for the Rolling of the Swags and was beaten by just a scrape at only one second, finishing in at two minutes and eleven seconds! Narelle Bloomfield won the Throwing of the Tails, and what a feat it was!

There were bullriding events for the adults to join in on, and plenty of events for children including 100 m and 50 m races. Jumping castles were rotated in turns for the younger kids, and then for the older kids. To top it all off, there was even a lolly scramble!

Another successful Harts Range Races Day went off without a hitch and a good time was had by all.
Cr Schaber congratulates Gwennedy Bird, winner of the Tom Cleary Stakes.

Mathew Mulladad, Sebastian Webb, Sylvester Webb, Malcom Reiff and Kerry Bird

Lolly Scramble
Gearing up to take out our second Tip Top Tip Award for Central Desert, Lajamanu has recently had its tip completed and officially opened! This has been an extraordinary achievement by the Council staff on the ground at Lajamanu who have worked tirelessly to get this result.

The Regional Council held the Ordinary Council meeting in Lajamanu in August and had the opportunity to attend the official opening of the Lajamanu Tip and have a look first hand at some of the great work that is being done by our excellent council staff in community.

Central Desert is quickly making a name for itself with the quality of its tips in our communities, and soon we may have other Councils knocking on our door asking us for help in their own regions!
Eyes on the basket

The Central Desert Regional Softball Competition is a Youth, Sport and Recreation initiative that isn’t only a great deal of fun, it provides opportunities for professional pathways to sport for women in the region. In 2014 it involved every community within our region, including Yuelamu, Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyirripi, Lajamanu, Engawala, Atitjere, Ti Tree, and two teams from Laramba. The competition ran from May to July and local matches were brilliantly made possible by some of our supportive partnerships with WYDAC, NT Softball, The NT Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing, Linkz Volunteers and of course through the hard work of our own Youth, Sport and Recreation teams.

The Regional Grand Finals were held in Laramba on 12 and 13 July, and the teams who made it through included the Laramba Roos, Ti Tree Roosters, Plenty Highway and Nyirripi. Everyone played hard and battled it out, but it came down to a final match between Ti Tree and Nyirripi, who couldn’t play due to being washed out by rain!

Alas, the match was merely postponed to be played at the NT Softball Championships 2014 in Darwin. As arranged, the top two teams of the region qualified to be sponsored by CDRC to attend the championships in Darwin. Ti Tree and the defending champions left Ti Tree on 30 July and reached Darwin by the morning of Friday 1 August. The Central Desert Regional Grand Final game was played at 3:00 pm that afternoon. NT Softball helped us arrange umpires, officials and equipment.

Despite it being a postponed match it was a seat-gripping grand final as both teams fought hard for the crown, but once again it was Nyirripi who were triumphant. The score was level after the first two innings but battle-hardened Nyirripi took the decisive lead in the final innings which they maintained till end. The final score was Nyirripi five home and Ti Tree four home!

Other teams had gathered in Darwin from across the Territory for the NT Softball Championships. Two of our finalists from the Central Desert Region, Nyirripi and Ti Tree, participated in the state championships. Both teams performed well. Distinct highlights of the trip include the Ti Tree Roosters topping their group and playing in the state finals for the first time ever, demonstrating a marked improvement. Ti Tree finished third in Division Two NT Softball Championships and that is a big boost for our regional CDRC softball competition.

Both teams had their chances and they troubled even the best teams and got appreciation from the crowd for their hard work.

Some of our players received individual recognition, like Denise Leo from Ti Tree who was selected in the All-Star team in the Community Division, and was awarded a prize the best player on the ground! The Pitcher from Nyirripi was also awarded the prize for Most Valuable Player.

As a whole, it was a great tournament for us as we have learnt many things and hope it inspires greater competition next year in 2015!
Yuendumu community held its 51st Yuendumu Sports Weekend this Picnic Day long weekend. People travelled for hundreds of miles to be part of the competition. Several ongoing events and programs were scheduled for the long weekend, these included football, softball, basketball, battle of the bands, kids’ athletics, a dance competition, disco and gospel reading. About 20 communities and more than 10 teams from Central Australia to Western Australia came across and participated. It was another memorable event for everyone who came along. The event started on the evening of 1 August and finished on 5 August.

On Saturday, the Minister for Community Services the Honourable Bess Price officially opened the 51st Yuendumu Sports Weekend after tossing the coin at the first footy match of the event.

Due to the overflow of the teams and windy, dusty weather the football, softball and basketball games couldn’t finish in the scheduled time. An additional half day was added to search the best teams. It was said that there were 2,000 people in and around the community during the events, they were camping everywhere. The community again worked hard to hold the event and to celebrate such a significant 51st anniversary was a grand success.

Yuendumu Sports Weekend, 51 years: Another Grand Success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title / Game</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Runner up</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Total teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Football Grand Final</td>
<td>Yuendumu</td>
<td>8.5 = 53</td>
<td>Papunya</td>
<td>4.5 = 29</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Grand Final</td>
<td>Papunya</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Laramba</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Womens Grand Final</td>
<td>Lajamanu</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Yuendumu</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Mens Grand Final</td>
<td>Yuendumu Redtails</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Lajamanu Knights</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each morning during the sports weekend, the community leaders and the sports conveners sat together to make a plan for the day and everyone made a joint commitment to run the sports weekend peacefully, fairly, making it a grand success.

On Monday evening there was dance, song and speeches at the footy oval to recognise, acknowledge and respect a retiring community mental health worker Cecil ‘Croc’ Johnson who is also an active member of Yuendumu Mediation and Justice Committee. The ceremony was a well-deserved public recognition of his life’s work.

The weekend was proudly supported by community members, all local community organisations and service providers and individuals who all contributed and worked together with the Sports Committee to make it a success. The Yuendumu Sports Committee Convenors and members performed an absolutely brilliant job at leading each of the events and creating such a wonderful time for everyone.

The Yuendumu Sports Weekend, also known as Yuendumu Olympics, is such a big and important event for remote Central Australian communities. Yuendumu is a proud community to keep this historical record.

The Council was excited to be able to deliver on a range of facility upgrades in time for the Yuendumu Sports Weekend. Grants allowed for the construction of a new change room, including power, water and sewer, and refurbishment of the existing change rooms, repair of the oval boundary fence, installation of grandstands and shade structures, new goal posts and scoreboard and floodlights. The project was made possible through the generous support of the Northern Territory Government’s Special Purpose Grants program. As you can see from the photos the facilities were put to good use and provide great assets for the community of Yuendumu.
Willowra pathway

Central Desert Regional Council

Willowra has begun work on laying a footpath that joins the Community Store with the CDRC Office. This project was undertaken to provide wheelchair and stroller access to our office from the store and also provide a dry area out of the mud during periods of rain.

After completion of the path there are plans to include some landscaping along either side of the path.

Mark Kennedy and Eric Williams at work on Willowra’s new path.

RJCP active on community

The RJCP activity centre in Yuelamu has been transformed into a social hub with the launch of an arts program on NAIDOC Day.

Separate men’s and women’s spaces have been created as part of an RJCP activity seeing some gallery-quality work being produced. Thierry Thivisol has been working closely with RJCP participants and activity supervisor Paul Rilstone to clean up the old Op Shop which will host this activity, as well as resurrect the old Op Shop. Participants are gaining valuable work skills and contributing to the community.

One of the outstanding works created so far at the centre is Honey Ant Dreaming by Daisy Nabanardi which is being donated to the new council building (another project supported by RJCP participants).
Council and Council staff were delighted with some recent deliveries. Over the past few months, the Council has purchased a range of new plant and equipment for communities. A loader was delivered to Yuendumu and skid steers with trailers were delivered to Willowra and Ti Tree. The skid steers are the way forward with superior comfort and safety for the operator with side entry – no more climbing over the bucket or attachments – and an enclosed cab with air-conditioning and heater for those cold mornings.

Gary the Goat does Lajamanu

Do you know of ‘Gary the Goat’ and his comedian master Jim? They arrived in Lajamanu (can you find that town on your NT map?) and came to the aged care centre to talk to, and entertain, the clients. Everyone enjoyed watching Gary, telling their stories, talking about their life and, after much deliberation, gave Gary a skin name. Lots of laughs were had as Gary got into lots of places and found things that he should not have (a box of tissues amongst others). Gary was on a lead during this visit (just in case you were wondering if he was wandering!).

Gary travels the Australian outback tasting the flora and getting into lots of mischief, as a goat does.

Gary joined Jim as a baby goat and has traveled with Jim for three years and is now a rather larger well-travelled goat.

Check out the ‘Gary the Goat’ Facebook page or visit www.jimbo.com.au to see what he has been doing this trip. They have over 21,000 followers and 1,000,000 likes on Facebook!

Amazing, they called into our little centre to spend time with us. Special things do happen in the remote parts of Australia and we enjoy them!
**Yuelamu north park**

The barbecue and shelter (pictured) is located on the north side of Yuelamu on what was once a house site until it burnt to the ground. Council thought it was appropriate to have a barbecue constructed on the site.

It was agreed by the local authority for two barbecues to be established – one also on the south side – using materials that were available at Yuelamu.

By placing besser blocks to the desired size and shape, then filling the blocks’ core, removed the need for mortar joints or block-laying skills.

The internal cavity was filled with river sand then topped with concrete to an acceptable height to allow wood to be placed for heating the 12 mm mild steel plate.

Two pieces of 75 mm x 75 mm RHS were inserted as a chimney which extends up through the roof.

The steel structure was fabricated and erected by the talented staff that are the field crew here at Yuelamu.

**Awareness to Restricted Areas**

CLC Rangers have marked the locations where about 20 new ‘Restricted Areas’ signs will be installed around Lajamanu. CDRC workers will drill holes and cement the poles on site. Hopefully the rangers will help install the actual signs on the poles, as a collaborative effort. The new signs will help to enforce and create awareness of the Restricted Areas around Lajamanu.
Ti Tree and RJCP delivering water to Alyuen

Ti Tree works crew and RJCP participants helping to lay 18 kilometres of pipework that will help to deliver drinking water to Alyuen community.

Yuelamu Office upgrade

On 21 April 2014, demolition commenced of the Yuelamu office. This office has been a long time feature at Yuelamu, hosting the business of Australia Post, Centrelink, PAW Media, Sports and Rec, ESO and CDEP, so there were up to 10 Central Desert employees working from within these walls at any given time. Only half of this building is being replaced at this time, leaving what was the meeting room and will now be the Local Authority Board room.

It was agreed that this demolition project would be a great activity to involve RJCP participants, along with the five field crew. The activity provided an opportunity for all involved to obtain Working at Heights training and certification, also White Card training required for any works being conducted.

A systematic and methodical approach to remove this building was prudent in educating participants to understand the process of building, albeit in reverse.

An electrician was engaged firstly to have all power to the area disconnected, along with phone and internet services removed. These services were re-established in a temporary office 7.5 m x 4 m, the size of two average-sized bedrooms with no windows – that was and is the local authority meeting room.

We are now approaching completion with only wet seal in bathroom, repairs to plaster, painting touch-ups, external ramps, paving, external flashings and floor coverings to be completed.

This project has been made possible through funding from the Northern Territory Department of Local Government and Regions.
Working in Engawala

The Engawala works team have been busy around community recently, fixing up some local projects.

Yuendumu Elders leading Yuendumu Peace Park Project

Yuendumu Mediation and Justice Committee (YM&JC) has been the driving force for Yuendumu Peace Park (YPP) Project in partnership with RJCP (CDRC). A public meeting held on 29 January at Yuendumu RJCP Activity Centre asked the mediation committee to lead and drive the Yuendumu Peace Park Project. Since then, the mediation committee has been working hard to make it happen in the proper way. Three community meetings were held as the Peace Park consultations in Yuendumu. Most community leaders and Elders were consulted during these meetings, with round 50 community members attending. A great meeting of Yuendumu leaders and Elders held at RJCP Activity Centre formed a YPP Advisory Committee. Almost a whole community, leaders and Elders, attended the meeting.

A big group of 16 people went to Alice Springs to look at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden, Alice Springs Desert Park and East Side Community Garden to get some ideas. The community has also picked the site for the peace park. The community leaders and Elders want the park in the centre of the community, where people from every corner can have easy access. The community is waiting for a celebration for the opening of the park.

The idea for the peace park was suggested by one of the YM&JC members in 2012 during a challenging time of conflict. At a public meeting held in June 2012, Yuendumu Elders and YM&JC members identified that ‘a Peace Park / Place, where everyone can come and talk’ was needed. The community of Yuendumu has identified the achievement of peace and as such this peace park will physically represent both the achievements of the community, but also will act as a shared space which will facilitate ongoing peace and celebration in Yuendumu.

‘The peace park will provide a neutral, safer and peaceful space for the public and community meetings and gatherings and also a space for the people to spend the time with family and children. This is a yapa [traditional] way to bring the community together,’ says Walter Lechleitner, chairman of YPP Advisory Group and one of the directors of YM&JC.
Yuendumu Elders attend NT Elders Forum in Darwin, meet Minister for Correctional Services

Yuendumu community leaders along with the Mediation Program Coordinator attended a two-day NT Elders Forum organised by the NT Department of Correctional Services in Darwin.

Five Yuendumu leaders, who are also the members of Yuendumu Mediation and Justice Committee, Robert Robertson, Eddie Robertson, Walter Lechleitner, Enid Gallagher and Georgina Wilson went to Darwin with Program Coordinator Madhu Panthee to attend the forum in the last week of May 2014.

There were about 40 participants from all across the Northern Territory (from the Top End to Central Australia). During the forum Yuendumu leaders also met Minister John Elferink (Minister for Correctional Services) and shared their ideas about reducing the number of Aboriginal inmates and to stop them from re-offending after their release.

Responsible animal management in Lajamanu

The Animal Management Program across the Council region is starting to really show dividends. Since April this year, 273 dogs (and 23 cats) have been desexed in Council’s various communities.

This is a fantastic result.

The vets are due for the next round of visits in August and September, so please keep a look out for them and help Karen Lightowler and the vets make their visits productive.

A great result from some responsible owners in Lajamanu: seven pups plus mum and dad dogs all de-sexed from the same house and owners! This is a great example of community members actively taking part in Council services and looking after their community.
This October will see the retirement of long-term Council employee David Stokes, who has been with us since 2008. David has been a strong presence for Council in the Anmatjere region, most lately as Regional Services Manager since 2012. As we all know, he is a passionate advocate for his region and constituents, and is always prepared to argue his case. He is highly respected by his fellow Council Services Manager and by his Works team at Ti Tree, showing his strong loyalty to those around him. David has always provided solid mentoring and leadership to the CSM team and is affectionately referred to as ‘Papa Bear’ by Sascha! David – thanks for your valued input to our team.

Many may not know David’s long and successful career in Central Australia. He arrived in Alice Springs in 1983 as Business Manager for Finke River Mission, then entered the Department of Local Government in 1993 as a Community Development Officer. He became CEO of Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) Community Government Council in 1994 and then had his first stint at Anmatjere Community Government Council in 1995 as Deputy Town Clerk. He then went to Western Mining Corporation (Olympic Dam) as Community Development Officer before coming back as Town Clerk of Wallace Rockhole community in 2003. He then became HR Manager with AP Services, before finally seeing the light and joining our Council in August 2008, firstly at Lajamanu as relief SSM, then to Laramba as SSM, then Ti Tree as Regional Services Manager.

David has brought strong leadership to the Ti Tree region and has led the Works team in steady, consistent service delivery.

Whilst David is retiring from the bureaucracy, he is likely to pop up in other roles around the region – I doubt David would be able to settle into gentle retirement!

We wish you all the best David, and thanks again for your major input to Council and our residents.

Greener pastures

Local Government National Standards update

The Central Desert Regional Council motion to support development of national standards for Local Government has been approved by Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) at the National General Assembly of Local Government held 15–18 June. This will now be considered by the ALGA board to determine the next steps.

What’s on around the Council

Local Authority meeting dates:
- Laramba: 2 September
- Yuelamu: 3 September
- Yuendumu: 15 September
- Nyirripi: 16 September
- Lajamanu: 17 September
- Anmatjere: 14 October
- Willowra: 15 October
- Atitjere: 20 October
- Engawala: 21 October

Next Council meeting:
- Alice Springs: 3 October