

Central Desert News

EDITION NO. 33 / MARCH 2017

Heavy rains impact entire Council

Many of Council's services were put under strain and/or interrupted as a result of the heavy rain event that occurred in December and January across the entire region.

All of Council's roads were closed at some stage which is unprecedented in Council's eight-year history. Council's Works staff worked long and challenging hours to ensure road safety by assessing and monitoring road damage and closing and reopening roads. Nyirripi, Laramba and Engawala offices were closed briefly with Council staff stuck on the other side of swollen rivers. Similarly, staff and

volunteers across all services were grounded in either Alice Springs or their home communities, unable to visit clients or deliver services.

Some services faced food shortages with the store truck unable to access community. Council staff purchased food in Alice Springs and, with the assistance of a local aviation company, arranged for it to be flown to community. Thankfully, whilst the roads were impassable, most airstrips remained undamaged meaning food was able to get in and stranded staff out.

The demand for Council services post-rain has also increased with a focus on assisting with fire, vermin and snake management by cutting grass and reinstating firebreaks.

Of course, the rains also brought amazing sunsets, flowing rivers, beautiful birdlife and stunning wildflowers.



Streamlined garbage collection in Yuendumu



Thanks to the NT Government's Special Purpose Grants program the Council took delivery of a new garbage compactor for Yuendumu in late 2016.

The new compactor, which replaced an older, smaller and less efficient truck, has already streamlined operations with less trips to landfill, more bins picked up per shift and reduced operating costs.

Depot staff travelled from Alice Springs to hand over the exciting new acquisition and to provide training to local staff on the hydraulic operations.

Field officers are thoroughly enjoying their new, more comfortable and extremely well air conditioned vehicle

and can often be seen showcasing its *mod cons* with pride.

Council has secured funds to purchase an identical vehicle for Lajamanu.



Yuendumu Works crew celebrate the arrival of their new garbage compactor.

INSIDE

Heavy rains impact entire Council	1
Streamlined garbage collection in Yuendumu	1
From the President	2
From the CEO	2
Council working to prevent water shortages affecting communities	3
Christmas floods undo extensive road works	3
Fire season warning	4
Next step to independence	4
Intergenerational service delivery	5
Builder-Trainer program	5
\$15M injection into community housing	6
Atitjere road works	4
Imparja Cup fosters strong skills	7
Make sure your voice is heard	8
Communities farewell three valued men	8
Interested in becoming a Councillor?	9
Bush internet speeds to rival Alice Springs	9
Gambling awareness campaign to improve family wellbeing across the region	10
Asbestos warning to residents and visitors	11
Roads crew member recognised for long service	11
Improving family wellbeing in our communities through training	12



Central Desert News is published by Central Desert Regional Council
PO Box 2257 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph 1300 360 605
www.centraldesert.nt.gov.au
Please send your stories to communications@centraldesert.nt.gov.au