The Central Desert Shire Council has recently strengthened its ongoing relationship with the NT Police by signing an MOU between Night Patrol and the Ti Tree Police. “Building a strong relationship with the police is important for Night Patrol”, Shire President Adrian Dixon told gathered staff. “I am pleased to see that the work of the community Night Patrol is valued by the police and through this MOU we will improve the way we work together.”

Traditional owners joined the Shire President, CEO and staff at the official opening of the Nyirripi Road sacred site by-pass. Lynnette Langton, a Traditional Owner of the site, shared the story of the soakage and highlighted the importance of keeping the stories alive. “This project has been a great success from many perspectives” CEO Cathryn Hutton told the assembled audience, “It is good to see that a sacred area has been restored and the stories of the area protected. It is also good to see that our local roads crew have done such a great job on this by-pass and that the Nyirripi community has improved wet weather access.”

The Nyirripi soakage by-pass was a Roads to Recovery funded project.
Over the past months it has been my pleasure to visit many of the Central Desert Shire Council communities. While visiting these communities I have been impressed with the hard work and dedication of the staff on the ground. I have also been really pleased to see so many improvements being made.

At a recent Local Government Association meeting, the new Minister, the Hon. Adam Giles talked about his plans for the future of local government. I am pleased to advise that the Deputy Shire President Cr Norbert Patrick will be working with the Minister to develop options for making local government strong and representative. The Council and I are looking forward to working together with the Minister and his department on this issue. Together we can ensure that Central Desert Shire Council continues to be a success and continues to deliver on the services that are important to our communities.

Cathryn Hutton
CEO
Atitjere’s playground has moved! The Local Board decided that the playground was too close to the road and was dangerous for kids. So the Shire’s Core Services team moved the playground equipment to near the basketball court, safe from cars.

“The local guys really enjoyed working on the playground”, Regional Service Manager Stephen Shaw said. “It was great doing something for the kids and also a good change from our normal work. Installing the playground equipment was like constructing a giant lego set and the hardest part was keeping the kids off the play gear before the concrete had set!”

The workers added some new playground equipment and 40 tonnes of sand as soft-fall. Night-time lighting will be installed soon, at the request of the community.

The community and the Local Board are very happy that they are being listened to by the Shire and it is really good to see the Council staff working with the community to make the community safer.
Building the Remote Early Childhood Workforce (BRECW) project is proving a success. The project is showing how strong partnerships are producing positive outcomes in community. The BRECW Project has teamed up with the Central Desert Shire and World Vision through the (WETT) Warlpiri Early Childhood Care and Development Project to support the shared goals of training early childcare workers in remote Indigenous communities. “The best outcomes are achieved when we work together,” says Adriana Beltrame, the World Vision Project Manager for the WETT Early Childhood Care and Development project.

As one childcare worker recently documented, “It is through friendships with other staff that I have learnt so much”. These friendships, and the partnerships from which they arise, form the basis of Building the Remote Early Childhood Workforce project success. The project provides an excellent standard of training. (As Anna highlights), the training they receive is not just increasing their understanding but it is changing the way they are working.

Training has been full on at Laramba Aged Care over the past year. Jamealie Stafford and Elizabeth Stockman have now gained their Certificate II in Community Services, Valda George, a more recent employee, is working steadily on her Certificate II in Community Services, and along with the other service staff, gained her Apply First Aid Certificate.

Renewal of First Aid plus gaining first aid qualifications saw Laramba Childcare staff-Susie Stafford, Irene Floyd & Tasha Stafford, Aged Care staff- Elizabeth Stockman, Jamesie Stafford and Valda George along with the School Nutrition staff- Sandra Leo and Selrina Dixon meet over a few afternoons to learn and practice bandaging, snake bites, burns and of course resuscitation and what to do in emergencies. The staff all thoroughly enjoyed and had lots of laughs during this workshop. Congratulations to all staff on their achievements.
Yuendumu Youth Program is a Super Site

Walpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) run an outstanding and diverse range of youth, sport and recreation programs across the Walpiri communities of Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra and Nyirripi in the Central Desert Shire region.

The Yuendumu Youth Program was recently named as the ‘Super Site of the Year’ by the Australian Sports Commission’s Active After-School Communities (AASC) Program. The Super Site Award recognises the outstanding contribution made by Outside of School Hours Care Services (OSHCS) in the coordination and delivery of the Active After-school Communities (AASC) program.

The AASC program is a national initiative that provides primary school children with access to free sport and other structured physical activity programs after-school, and Yuendumu Youth Program was recognised for their outstanding contribution in the coordination and delivery of the AASC program.

Named as the Super Site across the whole Northern Territory is a huge achievement and the WYDAC chairperson, Lottie Robertson, proudly accepted the award from the AASC representative, Greg Matthews.

Congratulations to WYDAC and the Yuendumu Youth Program on their great achievement and Central Desert Shire are very proud to be partners of such a strong program.

Management Excellence Award

The Council is very proud to announce that its very own HR Manager Innocent Ndhlovu was a finalist in this year’s Professional Manager of the Year (Public Sector). This award is testament to Innocent’s commitment and hard work. It is also pleasing that the expertise and skills of the Central Desert Shire staff are recognised at a Territory and National level.
Major Achievements for the last few months include:

- upgrade of 6 Mile and Ti Tree town landfill,
- preparation of fire breaks and delivery of fire trucks/trailers/training is complete in all communities, preparing us for a potentially serious fire season,
- the completion of the sealing of the internal Yuelamu hill road,
- the Nyirripi Access Road upgrade and successful completion of the soakage by-pass,
- the completion of the intersection of Yuendumu and Coniston Road in Yuendumu,
- completion of CDEP activity centres at Harts Range, Engawala, Willowra and Ti Tree. Progress occurring at Nyirripi, Yuendumu, Yuelamu, Laramba and Lajamanu.
- Yuelamu Eagles competing in and winning the NT Softball Championships in Darwin,
- securing successful three year funding for the Sport and Recreation program from the Federal Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation program.

Images from top left to right:
Elected members continued their professional development in Alice Springs; The completed Engawala CDEP Activity Centre; Coniston Road upgrade; CDEP Participants made tables in the new CDEP Training Centre; After five years at Laramba, David Stokes is moving to Ti Tree to take up the position of Regional Services Manager – Anmatjere Region; Attjere grader fire break.
Asian republic of the oil kingdom at war with the soviet union

Images from top left to right: The completed Engawala CDEP Activity Centre; The Roads Crew undertaking training on Nyirripi Road; Jeremy Scrutton kicks a goal for Ti Tree Roosters in the Tenant Creek AFL grand final win; Kathryn Cook pitching for Yuelumu Eagles in the final of the Central Desert Shire Softball Championships; Laramba Cowboys celebrating their win at the winning the division two competition in Alice Springs; Opening of the Yuelamu internal hill road; The Council’s landfills are being progressively upgraded. This photo shows the newly constructed 6 Mile landfill site; The Yuelamu Eagles triumphed at the Central Desert Shire Softball Tournament in a thrilling final held at Six Mile, Ti Tree.
Local Crew on the Road to Success

A local road contracting company has partnered with the Central Desert Shire to train and reinstate the Council’s all indigenous roads team. As part of a recent road works contract in the Yuelamu and Nyirripi area, the contractor agreed to mentor the Council’s local staff and provide training on skills that they lacked or needed improvement on. The existing skills and expertise of the Council’s road crew soon became apparent as the contractor realised the crew knew almost every bit of what was being talked about.

The introduction of some new methods and a refresher on proper technique soon had the Council crew opening table drains and cutting spoons and drains on the Yuelamu access road.

The roads crew soon moved on to the Council’s next Roads to Recovery (R2R) project and the continued grading the Nyirripi access road right through to Nyirripi and then back via New Haven through a short cut looping back into the Nyirripi access road.

These sections of road posed many challenges as the road had not been maintenance graded for a while and clearing vegetation was a huge problem. Also after years of flat bladed grading, which only cleared corrugations, the formation of the road had slowly vanished and the road had become a dish drain in many sections. The crew tackled all the challenges with gusto and completed the task in a timely and professional manner.
The early summer heat wasn’t enough to deter any kids as Ti Tree School hosted a community athletics carnival in mid-October. The carnival was a partnership between Ti Tree School, the Central Desert Shire Sport and Recreation team and Community Development Employment Program volunteers. The carnival featured over sixty kids competing in a wide range of athletics disciplines, including javelin, high jump and 70 metre hurdles.

Spurred on by the London Olympics, the kids were eager to run, jump and throw their way to glory and Majad Kahn, Sport and Recreation Community Leader for Ti Tree, was keen to point out, ‘It’s great to see all the kids getting in there and having a go.’

With ribbons awarded for place and age groups, all kids were proudly sporting an array of winning colours on their chests as the day was capped off with a huge tug-of-war. A big thanks goes to all the Ti Tree School staff and the Council’s Sport and Recreation team for an athletic day of fun.

From top: Community Sport and Rec Officer, Wayne Scrutton, runs an Auskick session in 6 mile; Going for gold in the U11s 70 metre sprint at the Ti Tree athletics carnival; Javelin was a popular event at the Ti Tree athletics carnival.
Di Does Centrelink Proud

The Laramba community is home to approximately 309 people and a very special quiet achiever. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Centrelink Agent Dianne (Di) Brooks, 184 (59%) of the community’s residents are now using Centrelink Self Service.

The majority of customers living in Laramba initially struggled with the new system as their limited literacy and numeracy skills made navigating the system a challenge. However, this hasn’t stopped Di from following her passion and goal of educating community residents about the benefits of using Self Service.

Local Stars Shine in ALF Finals

Jeremy Scrutton kicks a goal for Ti Tree Roosters in the Tennant Creek AFL grand final win. Congratulations to the Ti Tree Roosters on their successful season in the Tennant Creek Football League. The Roosters capped a successful season by taking out the premiership in Tennant creek on the 15th of August.

Fellow Central Desert Team, the Laramba Cowboys also tasted success this season winning the division two competitions in Alice Springs. The Grand Final was a see-sawing game with the Cowboys scoring several goals in quick succession before pulling out to the fast finishing Mulga Bore Magpies. However at the time of the final siren the Cowboys were two points ahead and their officials and fans converged on the field.
Engawala Gets a Clean Up

The Engawala community ladies got together for a community clean up day.

Everyone got involved, including the kids, to transform the community.

The handy helpers all celebrated their hard work with a community BBQ held at the Shire Office.
Wanted - ESO Trainees

The Council is looking for enthusiastic people to help provide power and water supplies to their communities. Essential Service staff are required to operate and maintain the machinery and equipment that provides services across our remote communities. Trainees work along side experienced Essential Service Operators with support from Power Water Corporation and a range of training and employment service providers.

The Council currently employs seven Indigenous Trainee Essential Service Operators (ESO’s) in locations throughout the Shire. Trainees develop their skills and experience and are fast tracked to real jobs in their communities as they become available. Two of our Trainees are now the ESO’s in their communities.

The Council welcomes enquiries about employment in the Essential Services Program. Talk to your local CDEP Supervisor or Glenn Irvine, Regional Essential Services Manager, on 0427 024 162.

Left: Peter Mellors and Louie Watson performing water sampling at Yuendumu.

Below: ESO Training.