**Tunes crank out over Youth Week**

Thanks to the support of the NT Government’s Office of Youth Affairs, National Youth Week was alive and bopping over four Central Desert communities as the Youth Tunes Roadshow was once again in full swing.

Tying in with the school holidays, Yuelamu, Laramba, Pmara Jutunta and Atiṭjerre Youth, Sport and Rec teams brought back the boogie and put on live music, disco and barbeques, which were well attended by all ages.

A big thanks to all the Youth, Sport and Rec Team Leaders for their hard work to help provide a platform to celebrate the theme of Youth Week, ‘Our Time, Our Voice’.

**Driver training with Remote Jobs Community Program**

The RJCP team is excited about its latest training opportunity – driver training. The program kicked off in Yuendumu with about 20 people attending to determine if they were eligible to secure learner’s permits. Several were advised they must take actions to address outstanding issues, such as unpaid fines, before they can gain a licence. Case Coordinator Sarina assisted these clients to make arrangements by fine repayment schemes or pre-payment of Drink Driving courses so they can obtain their L’s in the future.

Among those who sat the ‘L’ tests were two who had previously held driving licences and after a driving test were issued with Provisional licences on the spot. Others who secured their L’s will be able to secure their P licence in about three months after a period of driver training either with accredited instructors or with fully licensed drivers.

Drive Safe NT can also assist with vehicle registration issues and testing for higher licences such as for truck driving. They are effectively a mobile MVR.

Currently RJCP is making arrangements for driver instruction to be provided in this region.

Drive Safe NT expects to return in about a month and then at approximately three monthly intervals.
From the President

It’s always a good point in the year to get to these newsletters as it lets us as Councillors take time and think back on all that we have seen happen within the Central Desert Region for the past few months. Some great things have happened with the introduction of the new Local Authorities within communities, community meetings were held to make sure that a good representation of each community was elected onto the Local Authorities. I attended as many of these meetings as possible and have been very pleased to see so many people were involved.

There has been much happening around our region, with upcoming sport carnivals, Youth Week, and the launch of the Council’s book *Our Council, Our Community* which is a collection of our Councillors’ aspirations for our communities.

I hope you all enjoy our latest newsletter.

Adrian Dixon
President

From the CEO

It has been an incredibly busy few months and this newsletter once again celebrates the great things happening in our region. I would like to mention of the efforts our Works area is performing in delivering basic municipal services. While this area of the Council does not always make headlines these activities form the backbone of our service delivery and without them we could not deliver on so many fantastic initiatives.

As a Council we are now turning our attention towards the next year with significant work being done to ensure that the plans and budgets for 2014/2015 meet our communities’ needs and place the Council on a financially sustainable footing. I would like to thank all the staff who participated in the planning process – it would not happen without your involvement and commitment.

The Council’s Regional Plan is out for advertising at the moment and will be considered by the Council at the end of June. I would encourage you all to have a look at this plan which outlines the Council’s priorities for 2014/2015. It is shaping up to be another great year.

Cathryn Hutton
Chief Executive Officer
Ten Yuendumu Elders (seven women and three men) along with Yuendumu Family Violence Mediation Program Coordinator Madhu Panthee went to Alice Springs to participate in a Central Australian Elders Forum organised by the NT Department of Correctional Services.


The forum was focused on issues faced by Aboriginal inmates. Correctional Services facilitated a number of presentations and discussions where Elders were encouraged to share ideas about reducing the number of Aboriginal inmates and stopping them from re-offending. Yuendumu Elders actively participated during all of the sessions.

Yuendumu Elders meeting with NTDCS at the Yuendumu Elders Forum, Alice Springs.

Bringing welcome news to Warlpiri inmates

What’s happening in the community? What’s happening to my family? These are the most common queries asked of Yuendumu Elders by Warlpiri inmates in Alice Springs Prison during the Elders Visiting Program.

Seven Yuendumu Elders, who are also members of Yuendumu Mediation and Justice Committee, visited Alice Springs Prison in the second week of March 2014. Robert Robertson, Nellie Wayne, Walter Lechleitner, Georgina Wilson, Riley Oldfield, Massie Wayne and Enid Gallagher, along with Yuendumu Family Violence Mediation Program Coordinator Madhu Panthee, spent three days with the inmates.

During the three-day visit, the Elders had several open and closed consultations with the Warlpiri inmates and the inmates grabbed those opportunities to receive any messages from their family and the community and to pass messages back to their family.

In those three days, the Elders met 70 Warlpiri inmates and spent time with them. Since the visit, the Elders have been passing the inmates’ messages back to their family members in the communities.

The objectives of this visit were to maintain and build cultural and community contact; to encourage the prisoners to change their behaviours; to keep the family and community informed on prisoners’ progress and releasing plan; and to know the situation and issues of inmates.

The Yuendumu Family Violence Mediation Program is a community-driven project which is run by Yuendumu Mediation and Justice Committee through Central Desert Regional Council. The Mediation Program is proudly supported by the Australian Government’s Indigenous Family Safety Program. The Mediation Program has been working in a partnership with NT Correctional Services to support the Elders Visiting Program. Every three months, Yuendumu Elders visit the Alice Springs Prison and once a year they attend the NT Elders Forum in Darwin. The Elders who have been involved in the Elders Visiting Program are proud of their involvement.

Engawala Lifts for Life

Pumping iron is the new craze in Engawala thanks to a partnership between YMCA, NT Health, the Youth Sport and Rec team and willing community members.

Twice a week the Engawala Women’s Centre is buzzing with male and female Lift for Life exercise sessions. Lift for Life is a resistance-training program for people with, or at risk of developing, type 2 diabetes and other chronic conditions.

YMCA have provided the training to staff and community members to deliver the program and results are monitored to find the biggest loser. Go the Crows!

Training paves the way for Works Team

Six Council employees from the Works team took part in Road Maintenance training from 13 to 15 May 2014. This included Rodney Baird and Bernard Alice from Ti Tree, Brad Hutchings and Brian Wilson from Yuendumu, and Glenn Marshall and James Spiers from Alice Springs.

Experts from the Australian Rural Roads Board ran the training for 20 participants and provided knowledge on how to design and maintain sealed and unsealed roads.

Our Works Team already does a great job grading and maintaining 2000 km of roads across the Council region, and picked up extra ideas on how to do an even better job.

The training was conducted at our Council office after being initiated by Glenn Marshall, Director Works, who had met the Australia Road Research Board (ARRB) NT boss in Darwin in March. Carla Di Donato, Works Administration Officer, organised the logistics of the workshop.

Central Desert is connected to Facebook!

Central Desert is now connected to social media! Many thanks to Daniel Gardiner in our Human Resources team who compiled many of Central Desert’s accomplishments in and around our remote communities and spent countless hours uploading these to the “social media cloud”.

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-Desert-Regional-Council/450737318360108

Karl Inkamala and Tristan James

Brad Hutchings, Bernard Alice, Rodney Baird, James Spiers, Glenn Marshall, Kym Neaylon (ARRB), Brian Wilson, Jon Roberts
The Works team in Willowra have put in a huge effort renovating the Council Office over the last two months. ‘The renovation has made a real difference and has almost transformed the old building,’ reported a very proud Shane Vels, Council Services Manager.

The team engineered, fabricated and installed the flagpoles, and erected a brand new panel fence surrounding the office front, complete with three gates. The gates were fabricated from scratch and the team believe they are better then any you could buy. They then fertilised and aerated the lawn which is now super green. And to finish it all off, the team painted the building and did an amazing job.

Best of all, because all the work was undertaken locally the only expense to the Council was the cost of paint, six heavy duty hinges, some fertiliser and one flag!

Safety focus pays off

The Council is delighted with its most recent Work Health and Safety statistics. Since 2012 the Council has seen a steady decline in lost time injury with the most recent quarter effectively zero.

Our Council staff should be congratulated for their continued focus on safety in the workplace. Remember ‘Accidents hurt, safety doesn’t’.

Hamilton Downs Annual Pow Wow

The entire CDRC’s Youth, Sport and Rec team gathered for their annual Pow Wow in March at Hamilton Downs.

Terence Dixon, Wayne Scrutton, Karl Inkamala and Dave Dillon.
On the right path

The Community Services Directorate came together in May for a planning day in Alice Springs.

Representatives from every community across the Council region representing Youth, Sport & Recreation, Childcare, Aged Care, RJCP, and Night Patrol joined up with staff based in Alice Springs to decide on our priorities for next year.

'We were able to review what we’ve achieved over the past 12 months, what we did well, what we want to continue and what priorities communities have already identified through Community Planning. We also looked at the things that the government wants us to do over the next 12 months. All this information was written into the Council’s Corporate Plan,’ John Gaynor, Director Community Services, advised.

It was a great day with about 55 staff members attending and having their say about what is important to communities and to themselves.

Community Service Teams now have a road map to follow over the next year to make sure they’re moving in the right direction and delivering to communities what they said they would.

Working together to make community life safer

A new agreement signed between the Central Desert Regional Council and the NT Police has cleared the path for a closer working relationship. The Agreement, signed by Acting Assistant Commissioner Kate Vanderlaan and Central Desert Regional Council President Adrian Dixon, provides a road map for Night Patrol and Police to coordinate their efforts to build safer communities.

Central Desert Regional Council President Adrian Dixon emphasised the importance of the two organisations working together. ‘Both the Night Patrol and Police aim to keep the community safe and trouble free. Sometimes our Night Patrol can intervene before trouble starts. Sometimes they can help Police sort problems out by helping them understand relationships and what’s going on. When this happens it’s really good for the community,’ Cr Dixon said.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Vanderlaan said that it is vital for the community, Police and Night Patrolers to understand their respective responsibilities. ‘Night Patrol is important for the community and plays a key role in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour. We are looking forward to having a closer working relationship with the Patrolers in the Central Desert Region,’ Acting Assistant Commissioner Vanderlaan said.
Our Council, Our Community

Central Desert Regional Council held a launch for our new book titled *Our Council, Our Community*. This book aims to highlight and reflect the top ten challenges and priorities for improved community life in the Central Desert Region.

The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is at its widest in the Northern Territory, and this book represents our Councillors aspirations for Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

It was great to see so many familiar faces attend the launch of this book. Central Desert staff have worked tirelessly with our Council Members to put together this publication. The books will be available at all of our Council offices in the Central Desert Region and at our Alice Springs office.

Women’s regional softball competition gets underway

The Council’s annual Women’s Softball Competition got underway on 24 May 2014. The Softball Competition brings teams from all over the Council’s nine communities with the winners of the competition participating in the NT Softball Championships.

In addition to the communities of Mt Allen, Lajamanu, Laramba, Ti Tree, Engawala and Atitjere, this year the Youth, Sport and Rec team is working in partnership with WYDAC YSR programs in the communities of Nyirripi, Willowra and Yuendumu.

The competition will run through until July with the finals being held between the 18–24 July 2014.

Thanks to the NT Sport & Recreation Department for partnering with the Council to fund this project.
Local Authority elections

The Governance department has had a very busy few months travelling out into each of our communities to hold community meetings about the recent changes from Local Boards to Local Authorities, and also to hold community elections to decide on the best representatives for the communities.

Whilst there was no specific way that each community voted for their Local Authority representatives, each community had overwhelming support to get the right community members involved to ensure the best representation across their community.

Nyrripi had their Local Authority ratified by Council in March, the Local Authorities for the remaining communities in the Central Desert Region will be ratified by Council on 6 June 2014. Local Authority members are the link between their community and the Council.

Welcome to the new Local Authorities:

Akityarre Ward
WARD COUNCILLORS: Cr Louis Japanangka Schaber, Cr Elizabeth Bird
Atitjere Local Authority (7 ordinary members)
Peppi Drover, Barbara Petrick, Edward Duffill, Benjamin Aj Pope, Anthony Petrick, Joseph Webb, Raymond Webb

Anmatjere Ward
WARD COUNCILLORS: Cr Adrian Dixon, Cr James Glenn, Cr Benery Bird, Cr Marlene Tilmouth
Engawala (7 ordinary members)
Clifford Tilmouth, Nancy Tilmouth, Mary-Lisa Robertson, Danny Yovanovic, Dianne Neil, Steven Kunoth, Joy Turner

Laramba (7 ordinary members)
Ron Hagan, Clayton Martin, Deb Williams, Peter Stafford, Irene Floyd, Huckitta Lynch, Elwin Daniels

Anmatjere (10 ordinary members)
Graham Woods, Jarvis Downs, Rodney Baird, Jimmy Haines, Dean Pepperill, Harry More, Mark Pepperill, Robert Janima, Cindy Presley, Jasper Haines
Anmatjere Ward continued

Yuelamu (7 members)

Raymond Daniels, David Stafford, Mack Murphy, Billy Stafford, David McCormack, Christopher Hagan, Veronica Stafford

Northern Tanami Ward

WARD COUNCILLORS: Cr William Japanangka Johnson, Cr Norbert Jampijinpa Patrick

Lajamanu (10 ordinary members)
Andrew Johnson, Joe Marshall, Doris Lewis, Robert Japaljarri, Geoffrey Barnes, Sheree Anderson, Elizabeth Ross, Tracie Patrick, Shane White, Nita Patrick

Southern Tanami Ward

WARD COUNCILLORS: Cr Robert Robertson, Cr April Martin, Cr Jacob Spencer, Cr Georgina Wilson

Nyirripi (7 ordinary members)

Desmond Williams, Valerie Morris, Ben Gallagher, Lance Turner, Alice Henwood, Ambrose Wilson, Micky Singleton

Willowra (7 ordinary members)
Elwyn Jurrah, Justin Forrest, Julie Kitson, Jeannie Presley, Lillian Long, Harold Ross, Kathy Walker

Yuendumu (10 ordinary members)

Otto Sims, Ormay Gallagher, Jimmy Langdon, Dianne Martin, Francis Kelly, Lindsay Williams, Warren Williams, Cecilia Alfonso, Gabriel Wilson, Brian Wilson
In the last few years the community of Wilora has been subject to flooding. During the most recent flood, many houses had water flowing two feet (600 mm) deep through them, and septic tanks overflowed as sewage made for lower ground, causing a health scare due to sewage-born pathogens.

Flooding is not surprising because the community lies within the boundaries of the Stirling Swamp. Stirling Swamp is a large ephemeral wetland and conservation area, and having a community within its boundary has caused quite a bit of head scratching on the part of the Department of Environmental Health, the Central Land Council, the Central Desert Regional Council and, of course, residents.

The CLC completed a sacred sites survey late in 2014 which allowed the Council to identify possible flood alleviation works. This was followed up by careful consultation by the Council with residents, and finally the corridor for a diversion drain, which satisfied all concerned, was identified. A final survey to ‘shoot’ levels and confirm boundaries of the works area was conducted the week commencing 23 May 2014.

The survey was completed on 29 May 2014, and the Works Team from Ti Tree led by Rodney Baird has since commenced building a diversion drain to ensure floodwaters reach the centre of Stirling Swamp without causing further inconvenience to the residents of Wilora.

Congratulations to Edna Snape

Edna Snape is our Aged Care Coordinator in Ti Tree and is now celebrating her 10th year with Central Desert Regional Council!

Born and raised in Darwin and Katherine, Edna started volunteering with the Red Cross when she was a young girl.

She says ‘I love looking after old people and I always have. All our grandmothers and mothers looked after us when we were young, fed us, clothed us, sent us to school. Now we can help them.’

Edna is well loved by all the Aged Care clients as well as CDRC staff. We all join together now to say Congratulations!

Edna Snape pictured with the retired Governor-General, Dame Quentin Bryce.
Central Desert Regional Council Media Officers Shane White (Lajamanu) and Dennis Charles (Yuelamu) recently spent a week editing a radio documentary with PAW Media at the ABC studios in Adelaide.

The documentary is being broadcast by PAW Radio and ABC Radio National’s Awaye! program.

During the week in Adelaide, Dennis and Shane learnt new skills in how to record narration, structure a documentary and edit using Pro Tools software.

The documentary is called *When We Walked: Irritilatju Tjina Anangi*. It was recorded by PAW Media over a ten-day walk through Pintupi/Luritja country. It tells the stories of the 60 or so people from Haasts Bluff and surrounding communities, who walked over 70 kilometres from Haasts Bluff to Mt Liebig. The walk was facilitated by Waltja.

The documentary captures the experiences and feelings of the walkers; many are following the footsteps of their grandparents and ancestors.

They talk about old stories, dreaming stories and bush living. They also discuss some of the physical and mental health issues they are struggling with nowadays.

You can listen to the documentary and find out more on the PAW website: [www.pawmedia.com.au](http://www.pawmedia.com.au).

This project was made possible thanks to Commonwealth Government’s Indigenous Radio Broadcasting program and PAW Media.
In January 2013 work began on excavation of a new pit at the Lajamanu landfill site, which was completed by mid 2013. Since then CDRC Works Crews have worked hard transforming the site into an effective and legally conforming site.

Prior to the upgrade the site was completely unfenced, allowing litter and rubbish to be blown far into the bush. There were no facilities for rubbish separation or recycling, apart from piles designated for car bodies and scrap metal. Household rubbish was treated in an illegal and unsafe manner with no provision for sustainable waste management. Household rubbish from both Council collections and sundry waste was burned, contributing to both fire risk and air pollution. Access to the pit was a health and safety risk to both staff and public.

Scope of upgrade works includes:
- four-string cattle fence around the perimeter of landfill site (total length 1.8 kilometres)
- approximately 400 metres of chained fencing within main dumping area
- installation of cattle grid
- installation of vehicle ramp
- creation of separate areas for tyre, aluminium, green waste, and other recyclable items
- formation of general dumping area with skip bins for casual, out-of-hours dumping
- installation of signage relating to proper usage, fees etc.
- excavation of burning pit for cardboard etc.
- excavation of pit for euthanised dogs
- formation of designated area for builders’ rubbish
- creation of asbestos pit (work in progress)
- fencing off of dumping area to prevent access by general public
- removal of illegal scrap metal dump in bush outside the main area
- general clean up of scattered litter

As required by NT Government legislation, household rubbish must be compacted and covered, not burned.

The new pit allows Council staff access to deposit rubbish at the end of the pit and for a bulldozer to compact the waste down and cover with a layer of soil. Access to the burning pit is given to staff from relevant agencies in the community who require it.

With proper management the new pit should deliver a life of approximately five years of use.

Yuelamu Women’s Nutrition and Cooking Skills Program

The Yuelamu Women’s Nutrition and Cooking Skills Program was created in response to conversations with the women of Yuelamu who expressed a desire to learn healthy recipes for their families and to improve the knowledge and practices of nutrition in the community. The program is coming along in leaps and bounds with the continued support of the Council’s community services team.

On 20 March 2014, the Nutrition and Cooking Skills Program took part in Oxfam’s National Close the Gap Day by organising and running its own cooking event. On the day we cooked a delicious spaghetti bolognese with salad, and talked about the importance of Indigenous health. By joining thousands of other Close the Gap Day events across Australia, Yuelamu showed its support and commitment to promoting health equality for all Australians.

What’s on around the Council

➡ Local Authority meeting dates:
  - Anmatjere: 17 June
  - Engawala: 24 June
  - Atitjere: 25 June
  - Willowra: 26 June
  - Laramba: 1 July
  - Yuelamu: 2 July
  - Nyirripi: 15 July
  - Lajamanu: 16 July
  - Yuendumu: 29 July

➡ Next Council meeting:
  - Lajamanu: 15 August