Central Desert Shire won two major awards at the Territory Tidy Towns Awards in October: the Best Waste Management Initiative award, in conjunction with Macdonnell and Barkly Shires, for our regional partnership; and the Yuendumu landfill won the NT’s Most Improved Landfill (Tip Top Tip) award.

‘This is a great achievement for the Council, and we all enjoyed a great evening celebrating the award,’ said Council’s President, Adrian Dixon. More on page 3.

Young artists from Yuelamu and Atitjere have shown their talents producing some amazing murals that send strong messages about drugs and alcohol.

The Mural Project was run by the Central Desert Shire Youth, Sport and Recreation Program. More on page 7.
From the President

It is difficult to believe that another year is coming to an end. The Christmas season is nearly here and many staff and community members are getting ready for their holidays. Whatever your plans are over Christmas, I hope that everyone has a happy Christmas and drives safely on the roads. Please also remember that Council offices shut down between Christmas and New Year.

I am excited to see the wonderful news stories reported in the Council’s newsletter. It is great to see the work of the Council being recognised and we have recently received two excellent awards: one for our Tip Top Tip as part of Territory Tidy Towns; and also for our work in community health through the National Heart Foundation. Congratulations also to our graduating ESOS.

It is also great to reflect on our successful year by reading our annual report. Some of the highlights are included in this newsletter and they, once again, show the hard work and achievements of the Council and staff. It is good to see that the Council continues to improve its financial position. The annual report is available from Council’s Alice Springs Office and also for download or viewing on our website.

I hope you all enjoy our latest newsletter and a big thank you to all those who have contributed to the long list of achievements made by Council in 2013.

Adrian Dixon
President

From the CEO

After many months of speculation the changes to the Local Government Act that introduce Local Authorities has been read in Parliament. These changes are an opportunity for the Council to strengthen the voice of our communities and better engage our communities in decision making.

The Council has already been out talking to the current Local Boards about the changes that will be taking place and I look forward to more discussions in the new year.

The Central Desert Shire Council will also be changing its name. Once the legislation has passed, the Council will be a Regional Council. Over the next few months the Council will be considering a new logo and image. So watch out for a new look and a new logo coming soon.

Merry Christmas from all the staff at Council. Be safe.

Cathryn Hutton
Chief Executive Officer
Central Desert Shire won two major awards at the Territory Tidy Towns Awards in October.

Our Central Australian Waste Management Program took out the Best Waste Management Initiative award, in conjunction with Macdonnell Shire and Barkly Shire, for our regional partnership. This recognised the great work all three Shires have done with landfill upgrades, and demonstrates the value of a collaborative regional partnership. This initiative was funded by the NT Department of Health, assisted by the LGANT, hosted by Central Desert, coordinated by Geoff Taylor (using Department of Health funds) and enacted by our hard-working Core Services staff in each community. Congratulations to all parties involved.

The Yuendumu landfill won the NT’s Most Improved Landfill (Tip Top Tip) award. This is a great achievement for a landfill that was looking rather sad at the start of this year.

The Council developed a master plan at the start of 2013 which was mastered by the Yuendumu works crew, led ably by the RSM and the Yuendumu field staff with significant assistance from our Landfill Upgrade Manager. The team filled and covered several open (full) rubbish pits, set up a recycling drop-off area, locked the fenced compound, set up a cardboard disposal pit for the store’s cardboard, set up a new car body area, set up a scrap metal area and are on the verge of opening an asbestos disposal pit. This will be the very first asbestos disposal pit for any Regional Council in the NT. All up, it has been an exceptional effort by all and the landfill is now ‘best practice’.

Well done Central Desert.
Shane White:

Maxwell Tasman and myself did an animation training course at the Lajamanu Learning Centre with trainers from PAW Media coming, and we were glad to be part of an award-winning animation team. It was a story of Jerry Jangala’s first contact with a white person. These are the awards we got from the annual National Remote Indigenous Festival held this year in Hermannsburg Community, October 2013:

- The new NITV Spirit Award went to PAW Media for First Contact, a short, animated oral history film by Maxwell Tasman, Shane White and Jason Woods.
- Lajamanu Central Desert Shire radio station employee and film-maker Shane White won the craft award for Best Visual Recording (sponsored by ProAV Solutions) for The Hunter’s Story (supported by WYDAC).
- Best Oral History Video went to Meet Jakamarra (PAW Media & Communications).

Alyuen gets water

After years of planning we have finally been able to drill two bores on Aileron Station for supply of water to Alyuen Outstation. Water supply has been an ongoing issue at Alyuen; however, with determination and patience the Council was successful in obtaining funds from the NTG in July 2013, which allowed our project to go ahead!

Many hurdles needed to be jumped before we could even think about drilling, but once all the ‘t’s were crossed and the ‘i’s were dotted, then came the fun part . . . the drilling!

By the time we completed the drilling, we had 4 litres of good clean water — YIPPEE! Samples were then sent off for testing and the results came back (as we expected), not too bad. So we are now moving forward in determining the best way of getting the water to Alyuen. Stay tuned for progress reports and more photos to come. What a great and positive start to such a big project!
The Council is very proud to announce the graduation of three ESO staff at the recent graduation ceremony in Alice Springs. The ceremony was held at the Desert Lantern Restaurant on Friday 18 October.

Leston Spencer, Gibson Long and Marcus Briscoe were presented with their Certificate II in Remote Area Essential Services and enjoyed a lunch with their classmates and representatives from Charles Darwin University, Power Water and Central Desert Shire.

These men have been working for 18 months attending four blocks of training in Alice Springs and on-site training and assessment on their communities.

Significant assistance was provided by a range of people and organisations (including CDU, PWC and Group Training Northern Territory), along with Council staff continuously supporting the training and development of the trainees.

This qualification has enabled Gibson and Marcus to be appointed as the ESOs at Yuelamu where they look after the recently commissioned water treatment plant in addition to their routine ESO duties, which includes looking after the airstrip.

The Council is committed to training and the development of skills that enable local people to perform jobs in their community that are well paying and fulfilling at both vocational and emotional levels.

Please contact your RJCP provider if you are interested in working with the ESO in your community. Alternatively you can contact Trevor Twyman, our Essential Services Supervisor, on 0458 447 746.
Warnayaka goes global

The Warnayaka Art Centre has developed as a strong player in the national and global art scene, and its artists show no sign of slowing down. Recently, Warnayaka mob all went up to Darwin to present numerous pieces for a Public Collection Exhibition where they were successful in selling a lot of work, including to a renowned Sydney gallery. At the same fair, Sharon Anderson (see photo) received her graduation certificate for her Art Worker Scholarship. Congratulations, Sharon! Warnayaka also did an international art exhibition tour recently, including visits to Switzerland and France.

Willowra Works Crew keeping the roads safe!

Mark Kennedy is one of our newest Works Supervisors and he and his crew are doing a great job at Willowra! Here are a few fortunate happy snaps that was captured whilst they were hard at work filling various potholes throughout the community.

Ti Tree Library: More than just a good read

The Ti Tree Library is a hive of activity once again since our new Library Officer, Katrina Woods, started running the ship. Katrina has undergone some training with NT Libraries in the past and is already busy making it a fun and welcoming place.

With computers, DVDs and kids activities on offer, the Ti Tree Library is more than just a place to borrow books. Welcome aboard, Katrina.
Mural madness!

A fantastic mural project has brightened up the communities of Yuelamu and Atijere and exhibited the amazing talents of young artists.

The project was aimed to raise awareness about drugs and alcohol and how to make healthy choices. The Council’s Youth Sport and Recreation teams in Yuelamu and Atijere worked with Drug and Alcohol Educators from NT Health’s Alcohol and Other Drug Services Central Australia (ADSCA) to run workshops along with helping with the mural painting.

Young people of Yuelamu and Atijere got on board and made the project a great success. Some brilliant and colourful murals, designed and jointly painted, now brighten the communities and send strong messages.

Thanks to all the team members and young people who created the murals, and to the ADSCA for delivering important messages to the community.

Ben Compton finished his role in the first week of November 2013, and the Shire wishes him the best in his future. Thanks for a job well done!
Six Elders from the Yuendumu Family Violence and Mediation Program, run by the Central Desert Shire, recently travelled with the co-ordinator to undertake visiting and mentoring sessions with Warlpiri inmates at Alice Spring Prison as part of the NT Government Correctional Services Elders Visiting Program.

Conducted four times a year, the program’s main objective is to build and maintain cultural and community contact, encourage the prisoners to change behaviour, convey any issues the inmates may be facing, and to keep family and community informed on prisoners’ progress and release plans.

‘Many of us haven’t seen our family since we have been locked up. If you wouldn’t have come to see us we would have been kept behind from everything.’ This was the message conveyed by one prisoner of the Alice Springs Centre to Warlpiri Elders during the visit.

Yuendumu Elders build bridge to home

Lajamanu’s Youth, Sport and Recreation Officer Tracie Patrick has been with the Shire for many years. In November 2013, Tracie took the professional development opportunity to attend a Women’s Leadership Workshop held in Darwin by the Australian Women Sport and Recreation Association. Throughout the workshop, Tracie and other attendees learnt more about areas such as true leadership that is appropriate and culturally safe in community, how to teach, mentoring and role modeling for younger people, and having a strengths-based approach.

Lajamanu: Women’s Leadership Workshop in Darwin

The guys are now onto the mesh fence running parallel to the pit area (north side) heading to the boundary fence. The mesh fence running parallel to the access road is completed. Still plenty of work to be done!

Lajamanu landfill

Recycled tyres highlight Yuelamu

The Yuelamu Local Board made the decision to create a new park area to replace the derelict laundry at Yuelamu. The Council’s Works team got to it and used variously sized tyres to enclose the area, creating a colourful and interesting display. Their work continues with plans to establish a new toilet and shower block within the park to add to the utility of the area.

Keep your eyes peeled for further developments to come!

Around Aged and Disability Care

Central Desert Shire provides an Aged Care and Disability Service program that meets the needs of the aged and disabled people in the communities of Lajamanu, Nyirripi, Yuelamu, Laramba, Ti Tree and Wilora.

This program continues to be successful as it meets the ever-changing needs and demands of the individual communities. The co-ordinator’s role is to ensure services are provided to enable their clients to remain in their home and on their communities with their families.

Lajamanu Aged Care Centre is one of the Shire’s largest centres, providing a meal service on a daily basis to approximately 30 aged care and disabled recipients. The centre provides showers, laundry services, case management, financial assistance, social support and much more.

The work is hard but it is also a very rewarding role as staff know they are a big part of taking care of the most vulnerable in society.

The third week in October saw Engawala play host to the Thumbs Up! team from the Jimmy Little Foundation.

The children of Alcoota School took part in a Thumbs Up! music workshop with Indigenous musician Kevin Bennett (*The Flood & Chasin the Train*) and wrote a great song about healthy eating, drinking water and the positive aspects of living in their community.

The team was assisted by NT Health, who gave the children health classes and a healthy food ‘cookup’, where the students cooked ‘Uncle Jimmy’s Chicken Casserole’ one of several Thumbs Up! healthy recipes produced in partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Part of the Thumbs Up! team visit included a special outdoor community concert performance by Kevin Bennett, accompanied by local musician Karl Inkamala on bass and Phil Evans on drums. The kids and the adults loved the music and the local Engawala Band gave their first public performance, which was well received.

The team also assisted the Engawala community by liaising with Alice Springs music shop Rock City Music and Central Desert Shire staff to help purchase a new drum kit for use by young community musicians.

The Thumbs Up! team would like to thank acting principal Carly Bannon and teacher Tim Fegan, as well as all the teachers, staff and students of Alcoota School, for making their visit so much fun and they hope to be able to follow up with another visit to do a full-scale community cookup and concert in the near future. The video *Engawala – Under the Sun* will be available for viewing on YouTube within the next few weeks.

Special thanks also to Central Desert’s involved staff, Jennifer Neale (ABOR Health Worker), the ladies at the Women’s Centre, and Aboriginal and Traditional Owner/Elder Auntie Joy Turner for their help in making the trip such a great success.

For more information please visit [www.jlf.org.au](http://www.jlf.org.au).

*Pictures courtesy of Jimmy Little Foundation*
Council staff and families once again visited the annual Alcoota fossil dig site near Engawala in mid July. About 15 people took the chance to see the amazing eight-million-year-old bones being dug out of the ground by NT Museum staff, led by Adam Yates and Jared Archibald.

This included giant extinct geese (2.5 metres high and weighing half a tonne!), diprotodons (giant wombats) and crocodiles.

The Council donated our Atitjere excavator for the dig, so they could explore some new ground. On the first scoop bones of a marsupial lion were revealed – they haven’t found one of those for 40 years.

The Museum blokes were very happy with our donation, and sent us a lovely letter of thanks.

Sadly, due to NT Government cut-backs there may not be a dig next year. Keep your fingers crossed that there is (lobby for it if you can!), and get yourself along to our next annual tour.

Digging for marsupial lions

A partial skull of a very big extinct marsupial, with Neville Unicomb (SSM Engawala) and Jared Archibald (NT Museum) in the background.
In partnership with the Council’s Youth, Sport and Recreation program, Ti Tree School once again put on a great community event: the annual athletics carnival. This time it was under the stars in the cool of the night!

There was a great turn out from Ti Tree and Stirling school and most of Ti Tree community who cheered on the excited students who competed in running, hurdles, high jump and javelin-throwing events to name a few.

Teachers and staff at Ti Tree School put on a great healthy dinner and also held a lawn sale selling everything from plants to books to $5 furniture. There was a great festival atmosphere as the sun went down and the lights shone onto the field, music was playing and kids – and adults – were full of laughter!

There were plenty of ribbons and trophies awarded over for each category, and a big thanks to Jasper Haines for helping give out the awards to the proud winners.

The night was a great success and extremely well organised. Well done to everyone involved.

In August and September this year the Council had its second veterinarian visit for the year, which was a great success. The visit was for the de-sexing and treatments of the community’s dogs, including dealing with mange, ticks, lice and worms. The Council will be continuing to treat the dogs in between veterinarian visits to help maintain the health of the dogs in communities.

Council’s Animal Management Coordinator, Karen Lightowler, would like to welcome any ideas that our communities may have in regards to their dogs (and other animals), so we can work together to create a happy, safe and healthy environment for all!
2012–13 Annual Report highlights

The Council is proud of its achievements in 2012–13. Here are a few of the highlights.

69% of Indigenous employees as of 30 June 2013.

Over 85,200 bins collected.

All 9 community rubbish dumps upgraded in 2012–13.

1240 km unsealed roads graded.

36,914 meals prepared and delivered to aged and disability clients.

Over 25% increase in Local Board Meetings held (61.3% in 2012–13 from 46% in 2011–12).

2012 housing maintenance and repairs completed.

2,591 activities delivered by the Youth, Sport and Recreation program.

118 females participated in annual CDS Softball Championship.

2,463 hours of live radio broadcasted by the CDS Media Officers.

126 frail aged residents received Aged Care services.

Over 3,000 night patrols provided to ensure community safety.

41,172 meals prepared and delivered by School Nutrition program for children.

6,936 water samples gathered to ensure quality water supplies at 8 communities.

6,024 power generator reads to ensure power supply to eight communities.

Over 1,280 dogs treated as part of the Animal Management program.
Central Desert Shire has been recognised for its contribution to tackling heart disease at the 2013 Heart Foundation Healthy Community Awards.

The Council received a Rising Heart Encouragement Award in the Healthy Community Awards populations of 15,000 or less category.

‘This shows that the Council has a long-term commitment to improving the health of our communities. Activities such as the Council’s Women’s Softball Competition are great ways of involving women in sport and promoting fun, healthy activities and I am very proud of the Council’s achievements’ said Council President Adrian Dixon.

The awards are important because they recognise the outstanding achievements of local governments in the continuing fight against heart disease – the number-one killer of Australian men and women.

Aged and Disability Services have been partaking in a Service Development Workshop held over two days at the Ti Tree Council Office. Over the course of the workshop participants gained greater knowledge and skills in developing quality client files. This will enable the service to meet quality review standards as required by the Department of Social Services.

The workshop was well attended by co-ordinators and supervisors employed within the Council’s Aged and Disability Program.

**Train up**

**Heart Foundation**

**Healthy hearts are healthy communities**
Central Desert took part in the Employment Expo organised by the NT Government on 29 August 2013 at the Alice Springs Convention Centre. It forms part of the government’s Indigenous Employment Strategy.

It was a wonderful day for showcasing opportunities that the Council has for its current and prospective employees. The stand was busy with people showing a keen interest in working for the Council.

School celebrations at Willowra

The Willowra School held a special Family and Community Celebration day on 31 October. The day was an opportunity for family members to visit the school and help celebrate education and the students’ participation in school life.

Central Desert supported the school celebration day and provided a healthy lunch for the families and students, which was cooked in a large wok over a drum. The wok cooking was supervised by Roy Price, who is a nutritionist and well known in Central Australia for his flour-drum cooking competitions. The Council’s School Nutrition staff members from Willowra, Kirsten Kitson and Jennifer Fishook, helped the senior students cut and chop a large variety of vegetables and served lunch to 120 people.

Willowra school principal Jane Rookes declared the day a success and commented that it was great to see a number of younger people from the Willowra community helping to celebrate the special school day.
Once again we have liaised closely with the Linkz volunteer organisation to arrange two volunteers for each of the six communities we deliver Youth, Sport & Recreation programs to. This is a total of 12 people volunteering for the entire month of January 2014! The summer and winter youth programs are the most crucial times of year for our team, as young people are most vulnerable in these times and many other services have long closure periods. The days are also incredibly hot and long, with most activities facilitated outside and over split shift periods throughout the day... so thanks Youth Teams and supporters! Hence, the support the Linkz volunteers offer is highly regarded and greatly valued.

This summer we are lucky to have two passionate volunteers returning, after assisting over this year’s winter holidays in June and July 2013. Kate Gover returns to Ti Tree, and Peter Francis to Laramba for the month of January, 2014.

One of our newest Youth, Sport and Recreation Community leaders in Yuelamu, Lucy Hart, started out as a Linkz volunteer for four months over the past year. She started as a full-time employee at the beginning of November 2013 and we wish her a very warm welcome from the entire team.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Central Desert Shire Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and advise that the Council offices in Alice Springs and the various communities will be closed from COB Tuesday 24 December and reopen on Thursday 2 January 2014.

On behalf of President, Councillors and staff, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.