Watering Alyuen

The Alyuen outstation is now able to receive reliable clean drinking water thanks to a project delivered by the Central Desert Regional Council and funded through the Northern Territory Department of Community Services. The new bore and pipeline will deliver a consistent water supply to the Alyuen outstation, Aileron Roadhouse and Aileron Station homestead.

For the past few years, Alyuen has been receiving water from a rock aquifer; however, supply was limited and supplemented with water trucked in from Ti Tree, which was not sustainable in the long term. Thanks to this project, the dream of reliable water has finally been realised.

Minister for Community Services Bess Price attended the official launch on Friday 19 October 2014 along with Council President Adrian Dixon and Councillor James Glenn. Continued on page 5.

Big win for RJCP!

Central Desert Regional Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) recently celebrated the highest number of 26-week-employment outcomes in Central Australia!

This was no easy task and a huge and heartfelt thank you should go out to the employers and staff who have worked so hard in supporting the RJCP team to achieve this milestone.

Congratulations to all of the RJCP participants on their employment milestones and for the great service they are now helping to provide in their communities.
From the President

Alyuen has water! It has been such a long wait for the outstation at Alyuen, but finally, after an 18-month wait, the project has been finished with Minister Bess Price even attending to open officially.

These are the great things happening for people in our community that I love to hear about throughout the year, and it makes me to proud to be able to say that our Council, Central Desert, is really striving to make community life better for people living in the Northern Territory.

Recently, in November, the Council conducted a Local Authority Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson training workshop at Aileron Roadhouse. It was so great to see the effort from the Chairs and Deputy Chairs to attend from their respective communities, even all the way from Lajamanu! It was a great day, and the Local Authority members that attended said that they got a lot out of it, and it provided them a chance to relate to other Local Authority members from other communities and see how they fit into the Regional Council plan.

I would like to encourage everyone to reflect on the year that has been by reading our Annual Report – some of report’s stories have been shared in this newsletter.

It is coming up to Christmas and with that the hot temperatures, so I do wish everybody a safe and happy holiday season!

Adrian Dixon
President

From the CEO

It gives me immense pleasure to see the hard work of the Council being recognised both within the Territory and across the country. In this newsletter we are celebrating a number of significant awards and achievements. The Yuendumu Justice and Mediation Committee received national recognition in a recent 2014 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards and Lajamanu was named ‘Tip Top Tip’ for 2015. Both awards demonstrate the quality of work being undertaken by our communities and community staff. Within community, Eddie Robertson has been named NT Senior of the Year which is both a credit to Eddie and the Yuendumu community. Our RJCP team is also to be congratulated for its 26-week-employment outcomes which were amongst the highest in Central Australia. There is little wonder that the program is successful with some fantastic projects and programs being offered and showcased in this edition.

This edition of the newsletter once again provides a wonderful snapshot of the variety and diversity of the programs delivered by the Council. I am proud to present a newsletter that demonstrates our commitment to our community and our values.

Cathryn Hutton
Chief Executive Officer
Eddie Robertson, an Elder from Yuendumu, was named a National Finalist Senior Australian of the Year 2015 in an award ceremony held in Darwin in October. Eddie’s biography reads:

‘A peacemaker, statesman and strong family man, Eddie Jampijinpa Robertson has been an inspirational and dedicated member of the Yuendumu community and the wider Warlpiri and Central Australian communities throughout his long lifetime. A respected Elder, Eddie holds positions on many boards and is currently Chairperson of the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation. Eddie’s critical role addressing chronic petrol sniffing in Yuendumu continues to help save the lives of a generation of young people. In his challenging role as Indigenous Engagement Officer for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Eddie moves easily between two cultures. Yuendumu’s longest serving Mayor and a founding member of the Yuendumu Baptist Church, Eddie inspires his community, convening sporting events, supporting youth at risk and providing cultural mentoring. A leader willing to work with everyone, renowned for his ability to broker sound compromises, mediate conflict and lead by example, Eddie has an enduring commitment to improve the lives of the members of his community.’

Local Authorities

Recently Central Desert held a training workshop for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of our Local Authorities.

The feedback from people on the day was great, and we hope to be able to provide similar training on a regular basis to our Local Authorities.

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Laramba Celebration Day

On 17 July 2014, Laramba Childcare celebrated their journey as a long day care service. Laramba Childcare began this journey in 2005 with a number of local staff who are still involved in the service today. During 2013 the service received a $400,000 establishment grant to upgrade the building. After a lot of planning and work, the right way to tell the Laramba Childcare story was found. The day dawned and we began our celebrations!

In the photo at right, you can see Elders Amy and Launce, and young girls ready to dance. It was exciting to share with the Elders as they represent those who worked towards establishing our building back in 2004/5. Today these young girls attend or have attended our service . . . A wonderful span of old and young celebrating together.

The ribbon was cut by Launce and Early Childhood Team Leader Susie. Helium balloons were enjoyed and staff gave lessons on how to cut roo tails. Then everybody enjoyed sweet potato, roo tails, soup, sandwiches and fruit followed by a giant celebration cake! Thanks to Laramba RJCP team for supporting with the catering.

The Vegie Man came to give good news about healthy eating and Youth, Sports & Recreation helped with the games and activities on the oval. Childcare staff had put together a DVD of photos from the past which were enjoyed by all, lots of laughter and great memories! A fantastic day was had by all thanks to the support of the community, external and internal visitors, the Council’s Children’s Services team from Alice Springs office.

Also recognised was the hard work of Maree Axford, Donna Bradley, Sue Gregory and the childcare team and their families.

Laramba Youth Sports & Recreation

Have you seen the new mural at the Laramba recreation hall? The mural painting project led by our extremely talented YSR officer Elwin Daniels is transforming the space. It is an ongoing project and we aim to take it to the next level by painting outside murals, public toilets and car bonnets. Elwin has done some great art work and also helped other young men and kids to improve their painting skills. We have designated a room in our recreation hall as an art room where some great mural painting has been done. The whole community is really happy and proud to see young people doing some great work.

The Laramba Youth, Sport & Recreation team has been busy with many other projects and activities including the community basketball competition which kicked off last month and has excellent participation from community. Other popular activities, such as discos, bush trips (goanna hunting, swimming and fishing), concerts, soccer, dodge ball, internet and computer games, are included in our weekly fixture.
Delivering water to the Alyuen Outstation posed some challenges to the Council with the nearest reliable water supply being more than 18 km away. The project was only possible by a number of government and local organisations working together. The Council provided significant resources to the project, including labour, equipment and project management skills. The works team from Ti Tree demonstrated their commitment and professionalism in delivering on such a significant and challenging project. The Aileron Station has provided ongoing access to the pipeline and has assisted in the clearing of the pipeline as well as providing ongoing support for the solar bore. Aileron Roadhouse has also assisted with accommodation and support of the works crews.

Central Desert Regional Council President Adrian Dixon said it was wonderful to have so many organisations working together for the benefit of the community. ‘The Alyuen water pipeline provides significant benefits for Alyuen outstation,’ Mr Dixon said.

‘As the project manager, the Council was proud to be part of such a collaborative initiative that brought together government and private enterprise. The project demonstrates the benefits that can be achieved by working in collaboration with your neighbours.’

James Spiers, Outstations Manager, enlightened us on a few of the challenges the team experienced whilst completing the project:

- negotiating access to Pastoral Land with a cattle station owner in exchange for clearing thick bush on the cattle property for drilling rigs access and installation of pipes
- working with a company in New South Wales to determine a pump that would provide the calculated amount of water required given the complex issues around friction loss over 20 km of pipe and a 60 m incline over a hill!
- sourcing a pump without a complex and costly battery storage but that runs on solar power with a generator for back-up use
- working together with local Works Crews with the Anmatjere grader and gaining the advice of local contractors to trench and install a 110 mm polyethylene pipe 600 mm in the ground – 150 mm deeper than originally planned.
- training local Works Crews to operate Electro Fusion Couplings to ensure a fail-safe method of connecting the pipes
- engaging a local manufacturer to design and build a custom-built roll dispenser that could carry 700 kg rolls of polyethylene
- ensuring that the Alyuen Outstation tank gets priority to available water
Engawala Aged Care Coordinator Jenny Stanley joined forces with the School Nutrition ladies Joy Turner and Rachel Tilmouth to prepare a special lunch for school children and aged care clients. Roast chickens were cut up and put on to fresh bread rolls and then filled with lots of healthy salads.

Jenny, who delivers lunches to the older people in Engawala every day, said the aged care clients loved the hamburgers and especially the extra chicken legs which were included in their lunches.

The School Nutrition ladies took the children’s meals over to the school and were pleased to see those hungry kids eat two hamburgers each for lunch.

Engawala youth focus

This school holiday season in Engawala is shaping up to be extra special with a new Team Leader joining the Engawala Youth, Sport & Recreation Program. Engawala is normally without a full-time Team Leader but with the assistance of an ADSCA RAAS Seed Grant, Engawala has seen a Team Leader running the Youth Wellbeing Holiday Program over the school holidays last Christmas and also over the most recent winter holidays.

Amongst the milieu of educational and recreational activities, a number of projects were facilitated that incorporated preventing Volatile Substance Abuse (VSA) and education around alcohol misuse, and providing a whole lot of fun for the Engawala Youth.

Some of the projects completed included a number of funky video clips featuring young people working together, and a number of murals that you can now see brightening the halls and spaces of Engawala. Engawala was represented at the Central Desert Regional Softball Competition by the young women who travelled to Atitjere, and it was represented at the inter-community football matches by the young men who travelled to Ti Tree.

The Youth Wellbeing program was also energised by two Linkz Volunteers who generously provided their services in the community in both holiday periods. The volunteers not only supported the delivery of a rich program, but they also developed other Youth Development activities such as the cultural excursions with young women and Elders, and healthy cooking classes. The program was a great success!
Milpirri Festival

Set against a backdrop of dramatic and damaging change for Warlpiri people in the Tanami Desert, the success of this ever-evolving event is testament to its ongoing importance to this remote community and the ongoing relationship between Tracks Dance Company and the community. Started in 2005, the Milpirri project success story is marked by themes of continuity and adaptability with a focus on fitness, learning, and cultural identity.

This year’s Milpirri performance draws on themes and values from the Jarda-Warnpa ceremony. This Warlpiri ‘Fire’ ceremony is associated with atonement and reconciliation.

The Milpirri performance is created by the creative team, through a six-week residency in Lajamanu, involving the entire community and an external production team. This leads to a one-night performance involving approximately 200 community members performing (from primary school children, young men and women, to the male and female elders). The Milpirri Festival, of which the performance is the showcase, includes visual arts exhibitions, community forums, and a DVD recording of the event.
The Council is proud of its achievements in 2013–14. Here are a few of the highlights taken from this year’s Annual Report.

- All 9 community rubbish dumps upgraded in 2013–14, with Yuendumu Waste Facility winning ‘Most Improved Tip’.
- 1,240 kilometres of unsealed roads graded.
- Over 49,125 meals prepared and delivered to aged and disability clients.
- A reduction in employee lost-time injury rate, from 0.58% to 0.00% in final quarter.
- 43 Local Board Meetings held.
- Awarded the Heart Foundation Healthy Communities Rising Heart award.
- Delivered live music concerts to 4 communities as the Youth Tunes Roadshow.
- 1,204 activities delivered by the Youth, Sport and Recreation program.
- 156 participants competed in annual CDRC Softball Championship.
- 152 participants competed in the Anmatjere region Men’s and Women’s Basketball competition.
- 1,898 hours of live radio broadcasted by the CDRC Media Officers.
- 310 referrals made by the Yuendumu Mediation and Family Safety service.
- 139 frail aged residents received Aged Care services and were provided with meals.
- 2,940 Night Patrol Service patrols provided across region.
- 6,121 people assisted to ensure community safety.
- 4,889 children assisted to return home between 3 March 2014 (when the Night Patrol School Attendance Strategy commenced) and 30 June 2014.

School Nutrition services provided 4,290 breakfasts, 28,033 morning tea and 28,033 school lunches across the 6 sites throughout the year, totalling 60,356 meals provided.

- 6,624 water samples gathered to ensure quality water supplies at 8 communities.
- 6,240 power generator reads to ensure power supply to 8 communities.
- Over 1,280 dogs treated as part of the Animal Management program.
- 1,840 hours of Library services available in Ti Tree and Lajamanu.
Our achievements 2013–14

Our major highlights for 2013–14, as listed in this year’s Annual Report, include:

Successful continuation of the Yuendumu Justice and Mediation program, with over 500 days of peace celebrated. Highlights include:

- training of local Elders in mediation techniques
- commencement of prison visits (Alice Springs)
- launch of the Walpuri mediation manual Jinta-jarrirlpa ngurrju nyinanju rarralypa.

Continue to provide high quality children’s services across the region, including 92% of current early childhood programs across the region. Early childhood programs include:

- long day care childcare centres in Yuendumu and Laramba
- crèche services in Nyirripi, Yuelamu and Atitjere
- playgroup Service in Yuendumu
- school nutrition programs in Willowra, Wilora, Engawala, Yuelamu, Nyirripi and Laramba. The programs provided lunch for every child every day that the school was open across all six locations.

Established the Administration and Management of the RJCP Program based in Alice Springs, as well as the systems to manage up to 800 Regional Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) participants.

- Established five RJCP activity centres in Yuendumu, Laramba, Yuelamu, Ti Tree and Willowra, and established a full-time RJCP presence in each community.
- In the first year of its contract, signed up 582 participants and provided ongoing services to these people.
- Completed the Community Action Planning process to establish community and employer priorities and intentions for the next 12 months.

The Night Patrol Program continues its commitment to improving community safety, with a stronger focus on child safety and improving school attendance:

- 2,940 Night Patrols delivered across all communities in the Central Desert Region, with 6,121 individual events of assistance or intervention provided.
- Supporting Council’s School Attendance Policy, Night Patrol crews worked closely with youth service providers to get school-aged kids home at a reasonable hour at night ready for school the next day.
- Since the project started on 3 March 2014, Night Patrol Officers have sent 4,889 children home after 8:30 pm between Sunday and Thursday nights. There is still a lot more to be done, as 4,367 children refused to go home when requested during that period.
- A vehicle satellite monitoring system is now installed in all 17 Night Patrol vehicles. This is especially valuable as an operational and WHS tool enabling us to locate Night Patrol vehicles wherever they are.

Successful rollout of sport and recreation programs to support healthy living in communities, including:

- annual Women’s Softball Competition – awarded Rising Heart Award by Heart Foundation NT
- Youth Tunes Roadshow
- continued training and development of Community Sport and Recreation Officers
- development of strong partnerships with other non-government organisations and service providers, including ‘Thumbs Up Engawala’, school celebrations in Willowra, vacation programs through Linkz volunteers and Parramatta Eels visits to communities
- establishment of Anmatjere Cup regional basketball competition.

Established the Administration and Management of the RJCP Program based in Alice Springs, as well as the systems to manage up to 800 Regional Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) participants.

- Established five RJCP activity centres in Yuendumu, Laramba, Yuelamu, Ti Tree and Willowra, and established a full-time RJCP presence in each community.
- In the first year of its contract, signed up 582 participants and provided ongoing services to these people.
- Completed the Community Action Planning process to establish community and employer priorities and intentions for the next 12 months.

Continued investment and improvements in regional and remote waste facilities, with improved fencing and waste separation bays. Highlights include:

- winning ‘Best Waste Facility Initiative’ by Keep Australia Beautiful NT for the work undertaken by the Council on the Central Australian Waste project
- NT’s Most Improved Landfill (Tip Top Tip) by Keep Australia Beautiful NT for Yuendumu waste facility.

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Ti Tree sport
During September, Maree from Axford Remote Training visited Nyirripi and Yuelamu to provide training to the School Nutrition and Aged Care staff.

The Nyirripi staff have always enjoyed Maree’s training visits which include a strong focus on workplace safety issues and food/kitchen hygiene. Creating new menu plans and cooking different types of meals is also part of the training and one which everyone really enjoys. The Nyirripi staff had a special day where they prepared roast chickens and vegetables for the school children and aged care clients. Yuelamu’s special meal was learning how to cook lots of big healthy rissoles as you will see in the photo.

October was safety month across Australia, although in the NT Safety Week is incorporated with Business Week, at the end of October.

October 2014 was also the 44th Anniversary of the West Gate Bridge Disaster where 35 workers lost their lives. A 20,000 ton span of the bridge, which was under construction, collapsed, killing those on it, in it and under it.

Those who were working during that era may remember how work was often a dangerous place and it was normal to work with colleagues who had suffered from serious work-related accidents. Fortunately there are now strong work health and safety laws to protect workers and the workplace is generally a safer place to be.

It is far more pleasant to work towards ensuring that Work Health and Safety has a strong focus, than it is to work on reports of serious injuries and deaths in the workplace.

To acknowledge Safety Week a series of meetings were held in the Central Desert Service Centres where safety messages were delivered followed by either a morning tea, an afternoon tea or a meal.
Lajamanu ‘Tip Top Tip’ winner 2014

The Central Desert Regional Council were the proud recipients of its second ‘Tip Top Tip’ Award at the Territory Tidy Towns Awards in November. The Lajamanu waste management facility is the second of Council’s remote waste facilities to win the award after Yuendumu won in 2013.

‘The Lajamanu waste management facility is a perfect example of how regional waste facilities can be managed,’ President Adrian Dixon explained. ‘Our Council is a key partner in the Central Australian regional waste management program which is implementing best-practice methods for remote waste facilities.’

‘The local civil works team in Lajamanu has implemented Council’s best-practice model to a tee, through hard work and good planning. Council is very proud of the team, as are the residents of Lajamanu.’

The Lajamanu waste facility has had a major upgrade over the past 18 months. The whole complex has been fenced, a new disposal pit excavated, old rubbish cleaned up, public drop-off bays established and recycling areas set up. All waste is sorted prior to disposal in the pits, minimising the risk of environmental contamination and extending the life of the pits.

A special area has been established for the storage of car bodies, which allows for those vehicles to be stored safely while still being accessible to the owners for parts recycling. The entire site is now clean and safe for Council staff and the general public to use.

‘Lajamanu genuinely now has a Tip Top Tip,’ said CEO Cathryn Hutton, ‘and we are very proud of our local Works Crew for what they have achieved. Congratulations.’
**Willowra fencing**

Noisy donkeys have been a problem in Willowra of late and have caused havoc in residents’ yards.

Under the guidance and supervision of Hardy Fencing, Regional Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) participants have built a fence around the Aged Care accommodation. Providing contextualised training and activity opportunities for RJCP is really important and builds capacity among participants. As you can see, the participants gained great skills for future employment opportunities!

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**Willowra street vacuum**

Willowra has taken delivery of a new 16 hp rubbish vacuum unit that has been mounted on one of the rubbish trailers by the Works Team.

The powerful litter vacuum has already made a difference in removing wind-blown rubbish against fences. It is a valuable addition to Willowra’s capacity to keep the community clean.

The trailer still needs some modifications, including a longer hose to keep the Field Officers at a safer distance from the slowly moving trailer (a modification identified after a thorough Risk Assessment was undertaken in the use and operation of the trailer).

The trailer is towed behind a vehicle and the team have named the trailer the ‘Lidder Ridder’.
Laramba Sports Weekend

Laramba was humming during the most recent Sports Weekend which commenced on Friday 10 October 2014. Teams from all over the region joined locals in a range of activities and sports held at the Laramba sports fields.

The Laramba Night Patrol was joined by crews from Yuendumu and Ti Tree who established a temporary base in the Laramba RJCP activity centre.

Police have praised the Council’s Night Patrol crews – the Regional Police Superintendent that attended Laramba on Saturday stated that Night Patrol appeared to be ‘everywhere’ – this was also echoed by the community and visitors to Laramba.

In summary, the Laramba Sports Weekend was a resounding success for the community and Night Patrol. Feedback received from police, visitors and community members was positive and demonstrated the ability of our Night Patrol to provide early intervention with a proactive and professional approach.
Central Desert had the pleasure of having the Wok Man, Roy Price, in Willowra and what a great day it was. Roy was visiting on behalf of the School Nutrition Program and prepared a nutritious lunch made of chicken and lots of colourful vegetables cooked in a huge wok.

The community had never seen a wok so big before and were impressed with the set up that included a gas bottle attached for cooking and a massive lid. Tables were set up and a group of school girls participated in cutting up the large amount of vegies; they did an amazing job. Well done!

With the students helping Roy, the two Willowra School Nutrition Program staff members Kirsten Kitson and Jennifer Fishook, who prepare nutritious lunches for the school children each school day, were able to take a break from their normal duties and enjoy the activities.

A number of grandparents also visited to be part of the special day and enjoyed watching the school boys playing a game of football to burn some energy before the feast from the wok.

As you can see from the pictures the food looked (and smelled) delicious and there was no hesitation in forming a queue to taste the wok experience. The Wok Man also made a special visit to Engawala.

Willowra Aged Care

The Willowra Aged Care staff and clients are taking their exercise on the road. Last newsletter we showed Wayne Porter and the folks at Willowra exercising at the Aged Care facility. Since then Wayne and the aged care folks have taken exercise to a whole new level.

The gang went out to the river early in the morning for their session and what an amazing morning it turned out to be.

The Aged Care clients picked the spot, told some stories, and did the morning exercise in the sand. Along the way the gang picked some bush berries and medicine.

The outing was fun, stimulating and very popular. So popular that more are planned very soon.
**Yuelamu Mural Project**

A local artist was engaged to work closely with Regional Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) participants and interested community members to complete a mural outside the early childhood building. A number of participants were involved in the design and local community members were employed through RJCP for the project. There are now discussions about other local mural opportunities within the Yuelamu community that could be undertaken by this group to further develop their skills.

Local artist Ben Compton and Kieran Campbell from Yuelamu painted the early childhood building. The mural is based on local dreaming and was designed and authorised by local Traditional Owners and community members.

**Yuendumu Mediation gets national recognition**

The Yuendumu Mediation and Justice Committee was recognised for their great work building peace within the Yuendumu community at the 2014 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards at Canberra in November 2014.

The Council and the Mediation Committee were one of only 10 recipients nationwide who were awarded merit certificates that put them in the running for the overall winner of the National Community Crime and Violence Prevention Award. Griffith Youth Forensic Service from Queensland was named the overall winner.

Valerie Napaltjarri Martin, Deputy Chairperson of the Yuendumu Mediation and Justice Committee, was at Canberra to accept the honour. ‘I am very proud to represent Yuendumu and I’m very proud to accept this award on behalf of the Central Desert Regional Council and the Committee. We work really hard to act quickly to stop conflict before it gets out of hand. It’s working: Yuendumu is a much happier place now. Government knows, that’s why we’ve got this award,’ Ms Martin said.
Athol Wark

Regional Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) participants in Yuendumu have had the privilege of having high profile chef Athol Wark facilitating Safe Food Handling and Nutrition. Athol spent two weeks in Yuendumu with RJCP, cooking up a storm of healthy, nutritious meals. Participants learnt valuable skills that support them in gaining future employment in other areas such as aged care and school nutrition.

RJCP have been busy welding in Yuendumu!

The Remote Jobs and Communities Program are all about capacity-building. In Yuendumu, participants have been introduced to welding by making foldable barbeque plates!

RJCP are working closely with training providers to introduce interested participants to the basics of welding so that RJCP can focus on activities that are adding value to the communities it operates in. One of the key activities identified across all communities within RJCP’s region is the need for cemetery crosses. Stay tuned, these will be produced by RJCP soon!

What’s on around the Council

Local Authority meeting dates:
- Atitjere: 8 December 2014
- Engawala: 9 December 2014
- Anmatjere: 16 December 2014
- Willowra: 17 December 2014
- Laramba: 13 January 2015
- Yuelamu: 14 January 2015
- Lajamanu: 22 January 2015
- Nyirripi: 27 January 2015
- Yuendumu: 28 January 2015

Next Council meeting:
- Alice Springs: 6 February 2015

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Central Desert Regional 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 Wednesday 24 December and reopen on Monday 5 January 2015.

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