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Christmas around the Shire



The Atitjere Childcare party went off with a "bang".

It was a festive time around the Central Desert Shire over the Christmas break with parties happening all over! Ti Tree staff celebrated with a BBQ, Childcare centres throughout the Shire held parties with fun exciting healthy food options, and even the teams at Aged Care joined the festivities at their Christmas parties. Please see page 4 and 5 for more pictures.

CDEP Concert in the Car Park



Performers from around Atitjere, Irreverlirre and Engawala performed for staff and visitors at the Council head office.

The sound of soul, hip hop, country and rock, echoed across the carpark at the Council Head Office in Alice Springs on December 13th. The concert featured emerging indigenous artists from Atitjere, Irreverlirre and Engawala and was the culmination of the CDEP Music Extension Project. Please see page 8 and 9 for more information.

From the President



Shire President Norbert Patrick with Mr Mick Gooda, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.

As the President of Central Desert Shire Council, I am honoured and want to extend my sincere gratitude to all the Councillors and all Shire staff, and friends of Shire for the opportunity given me to serve as the Shire President. The Central Desert Shire Council has grown steadily over the years despite the many challenges faced and the limited

resources available for serving the community in the region.

Central Desert Shire is proud to have successfully achieved many milestones in the field of community development, skill development and infrastructure development in the region within the four years of its establishment. However, we realize that it needs to continue with lots of ongoing work that needs to be done to ensure long term sustainability of our activities and programs in this region.

I want to thank Mr. Roydon Robertson the CEO of Central Desert Shire Council for his constructive leadership and for working closely with me as the Shire President. Central Desert Shire Council will assure all its well wishers and friends that we will try our best to continue the momentum of CDSC's success as one of most influential Local government Organizations in the Northern Territory.

Norbert Patrick, Shire President.

From the CEO

On 3 February 2012 the last Ordinary Meeting for the current Council's electoral term was held. I would like to place on record sincere congratulations on the extraordinary progress made by Central Desert Shire's first Council since the original election in 2008. Council has confronted many challenges and very successfully led the Shire in its formative years. Council's staff have been proud to serve such a professional group dedicated to successfully assisting the people they represent.

It is pleasing to report that in the next couple of months nine building projects will be constructed costing about \$3 million. The works are erection of basketball roof structure and activity space

buildings at Yuelamu, fabrication and construction of CDEP Activity Centres at Atitjere, Engawala, Ti Tree, Willowra, Laramba, Yuelamu, Nyirripi and Yuendumu, renovation of existing shed and conversion into CDEP Activity Centre at Lajamanu and the construction of two verandahs to Aged Care at Lajamanu.

Funding of \$58,850 has also been received to carry out Local Area Traffic Management works eg traffic signs and speed humps at Willowra, Yuelamu, Nyirripi, Lajamanu and Yuendumu. Work will commence once the planning phase is complete and materials purchased.

Council has previously identified the need to develop a Shire Sport and Recreation Facilities and Development Plan and the plan was adopted by Council at its February Meeting. This plan



Shire CEO Roydon Robertson

will now be used to support and assist with seeking further funding for Sport and Recreation activities and facilities in the Shire.

I hope all enjoy our latest newsletter and thanks go to all those who contributed – Well done again.

Roydon Robertson,
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the New Councillors



Cr Liz Bird

The Central Desert Shire welcomes its new and returning Councillors. The nominations for council were announced on Friday 2nd March. In several wards the existing Councillors have been re-elected unopposed. The Councillors that were elected for a second term are below:

Councillor Liz Bird is representing the Akityarre Ward. Cr Bird has been on Council since March 2011. She lives on Indiana Station with her husband and two children. Cr Bird is involved in a number of community organisations including Isolated Children's Parents Association.



Cr Louis Schaber

Councillor Louis Schaber represents the Akityarre Ward. Cr Schaber is a leader and well respected elder in the Atitjere region and lives at Mount Eaglebeak outstation. Cr Schaber was a founding Councillor and will bring a wealth of experience to the role.



Cr Norbert Patrick

Councillor Norbert Patrick represents the Northern Tanami Ward. Cr Patrick has been the Shire President since October 2009 and represents the Council on the Local Government Association (NT) executive. Cr Patrick was a member of the previous Lajamanu Community Council and is also a previous member of the Katherine West Health Board.



Cr Adrian Dixon

Councillor Adrian Dixon represents the Anmatjere Ward. Cr Dixon was a founding member of the Council and has been the Deputy Shire President since May 2010. Cr Dixon lives in Laramba where he was the chair of the previous Community Council.



Cr William Johnson

Councillor William Johnson represents the Northern Tanami Ward. Cr Johnson lives in Lajamanu, he was a founding Councillor with the Shire. Cr Johnson was the chair of the Lajamanu Community Council prior to joining the new Shire.

In the Southern Tanami Ward there were 6 nominations for 4 positions so that Ward will be the only one with an election this month. The nominations are (in ballot paper order):

- Georgina Wilson
- Dianne Martin
- April Nangala Martin
- Christopher Paulson
- Jacob Spencer
- Robert Robertson

The Council wishes all candidates the best of luck with the elections.

Christmas Around the Shire



Even Santa attended the Ti Tree Christmas party.

Ti Tree

Thanks to the Ti Tree Roadhouse the Ti Tree staff were able to utilise the pool area to hold their Christmas BBQ. All staff's children under the age of 12 received a present from Father Christmas, compliments of the Ti Tree Social Club and the lolly bags were donated by Barry James. Father Christmas flew in from the North Pole to the Ti Tree airstrip and was picked up by the Ti Tree police car and delivered to the party to hand out the presents with the help of the Shire Manager. As it was a very hot day the children ended up in the pool after receiving their gifts.



Yuendumu

Yuendumu Playgroup joined Yuendumu childcare and preschool children to have a shared Christmas Party at the Yuendumu Childcare Centre. The morning began early with staff busily preparing salads and cake; to add to the already overflowing fridge full of food. Mid morning 'Clowns without borders' (funded through World Vision) came to childcare to do a show for all the families. Laughter and smiles filled the room as the clowns performance focused on the fun of reading, sharing with your friends and the importance of washing your hands. There was even a surprise visit from Milpa the



Photos: Childcare Christmas party at Atitjere.

Trachoma goanna who taught the clowns his dance about strong healthy eyes. After the show was over the childcare and playgroup staff brought out an amazing spread of delicious healthy food for all the families to enjoy. We finished the morning with fresh fruit platters, cake, helium balloons and face painting.

We had adults and children from all family groups within Yuendumu come and join in the fun. Many new faces that have been hesitant to come in to childcare or playgroup popped in to see what all the noise was about. It also gave both programs a chance to talk to families about early childhood education and the services they have available in Yuendumu. It was fantastic to see the whole community come together to enjoy such a fun filled day. We look forward to seeing some of those families visit childcare or playgroup in the New Year.



Head Office

Head office staff and Councillors were invited to a Christmas party held in town at the Chifley Resort. We had a spread of food, the pool was well used and Santa even came and delivered presents to the kiddies.



Tigers Visit to Atitjere



A great thanks is due to AFL Central Australia, the Richmond Tigers and their players; Alex Rance, Gibson Turner and Tyson Vickery (Pictured) for visiting Atitjere and Engawala. The visit, which was facilitated by the Shire's Sport and Recreation program, saw the players talking with the community's children about the importance of participation in school before running some football drills.



Richmond has identified Central Australia as an area of great importance. Players and officials were keen to visit the communities to see how the area is different to suburban Melbourne and to help motivate school children and encourage future champions.



Gibson 'Gibo' Turner was made especially welcome by his relatives in both communities and was asked to sign jerseys, shirts and Richmond posters and pose for photos. Gibson was drafted from Alice Springs local by the Tigers in the 2011 rookie draft after playing for the Federals and the NT Thunder. The Shire wishes Gibson the best of luck in his upcoming debut season and as part of what will hopefully be a successful Tigers team.



It was an interesting sight to see professional footballers Tyson Vickery, who is 200cm tall and Alex Rance, 194cm tall, standing much taller than most people in the communities.

The Richmond players and officials met with a wide variety of people in both communities. Alex Rance, who is studying to be a carpenter, talked to CDEP participants about the buildings they had worked on in the communities. Benny Pope, an elder from Atitjere, was also invited by Richmond officials to offer suggestions for future programs. Every one involved be they boys, girls, adults or children, Tigers fans or not, enjoyed the visit.

The Richmond Tigers, who finished 12th in 2011, are expected to push into the eight this year. They have already had success in 2012 beating Hawthorn in round one of the NAB cup. The team now have a lot more support from Engawala and Harts Range with both communities wishing them good luck.

Photos: The Richmond Tigers were a great hit at Atitjere and Engawala.

Yuendumu Court support



The respected elders of Yuendumu Community supported the Magistrate Court sitting in Yuendumu on 13 and 14th of December 2011. Prior to the court sitting, the elders from Mediation and Justice Committee met at the Mediation Centre for 3 hours, discussed the court list and made recommendations to the Magistrate. Eleven members including five women from the mediation committee were present at the meeting.

There were 42 cases with 36 people on the list for Yuendumu Court. The members discussed each case in Warlpiri language and put forward their concerns to the Magistrate. The elders were very worried about their young fellas not doing things in the right way and ending up in jail.



Elders from the Mediation and Justice Committee.

The meeting decided to recommend to the Magistrate that a second chance be given for minor offenses and to give the offenders an opportunity to change his/her behaviour through community work orders, home detention or fines rather than jail time. "We want to see the young fellas doing good work in the community rather than staying in prison for minor offences," the members expressed their worries in the meeting.

Before the court session on the 13th, the elders from the Mediation and Justice Committee submitted recommendations to the Magistrate. During two days of court sessions the elders discussed with lawyers, defendants and the people involved about their concerns. Thirteen highly respected elders from the committee sat alongside the Magistrate and supported the decision making process. Enid Gallagher, Nellie Wayne, Coral Gallagher, Walter Lechleitner, Harry Dixon, Riley Oldfield, Angeline Tasman, Cecil Johnson, Gracie Johnson, Bessie Simms, Lucy Dixon, Thomas Rice and Rex Granites were the representatives from the committee who attended the Yuendumu court session.

On the last day of court session, elders had lunch together with the Magistrate, judicial support officers, lawyers, representatives from community correction section and prosecutors which helped to build a good relationship.

On this occasion, none of the people from the community were sent to jail, this is a positive outcome and is a credit to the elder's active involvement in the process. The Central Desert Shire has been supporting the mediation and justice committee for the last four years.

CDEP Concert in the Carpark



An awesome concert was staged at Alice Springs head office car park in December, showcasing some of the musical talent of the people of Atitjere, Irrerlirre and Engawala. Those performing at the concert had been a part of the new CDEP extension project creative arts and media program.

The concert was staged on a beautiful sunny afternoon mid December and ran for four hours, during which time the audience was treated to original songs, poems and rap numbers. The quality of the performances was very high and even more impressive was the fact that many of those on stage had never performed before. A free BBQ kept everyone happy during the afternoon.

The creative media and arts program inspired many people from the communities of Atitjere, Irrerlirre and Engawala to write lyrics and music, to play instruments and to record, mix and produce songs. In the 8 weeks the program was present in these three communities a staggering total of 12 original songs were recorded. Not a bad effort considering the recording 'studio' consisted of a microphone hanging from a ceiling fan in a demountable kitchen!

The concert attracted around 100 audience members including many from local media organisations and other CDEP providers keen to see the musical talent of those who took part in the program.

Lots of hours of hard work were required to stage an event like this. The community musicians rehearsed for hours, the CDSC staff and team of artists spent many many hours mentoring and organising to create a great event, local organisations including Apmere Mwerre Visitor Park, Centre Bush Bus, Alice Springs Community Bank and Robert from Alice Party Hire and the combined staff of McDonnell and Central Desert Shires, all assisted greatly with the success of the day.

The creative media and arts program is about to kick off again in 2012 and we can't wait to see the next creative talent unearthed.





Glenn Marshall

Welcome to our new Director Works

Glenn Marshall has been appointed to the position of Director Works and started in January.

Glenn has lived in Central Australia for 20 years and has accumulated a wealth of knowledge of the area and developed many sound working relationships with business people, contractors, remote aboriginal people, pastoralists, miners, politicians and bureaucrats. He gained Honours in his Bachelor Degree of Applied Science (Urban Resource Management), has a Bachelor of Science (Geology, Chemistry) and is currently studying a Graduate Certificate in Arts (Archaeology). He has considerable experience in varied roles such as geologist, water consultant, business operator, environmental manager and infrastructure/project manager. He has been the Coordinator (Managing Director) of the Arid Lands Environment Centre, Created and ran the Centre for Sustainable Arid Towns, Sustainability Manager of Goulburn Valley Water, Outstations Manager for Central Desert Shire Council as well as many jobs as a business owner/consultant.

In 2006 Glenn was the recipient of the Desert Knowledge Research & Innovation Award - "recognising the Northern Territory's outstanding thinkers and problem solvers". Glenn also founded Bowerbird Enterprises P/L, a recycling company and was the original driver for Alice Springs to become a Solar City. He is a member of the Alice Solar City consortium. Glenn was highly regarded as Council's Outstations Manager 2008-2010.

People of Australia Ambassadors

On January 18th the Prime Minister Julia Gillard congratulated 40 Australians who have been recognised for their outstanding work in building strong and cohesive local communities. Sascha McKell a Councillor and staff member in Yuendumu, was one of the 40 celebrated.

The ambassador program is a key initiative of the Gillard Labor Government's multicultural policy, The People of Australia, announced last year.

The new ambassadors will be providing advice to government and the Australian Multicultural Council if they wish. Their contributions will help assist and strengthen the government's multicultural policy.

The ambassadors have been recognised for the real impact they are having on the lives of many Australians – from bringing kids together through sport, to helping small business owners from diverse backgrounds get up and running.

Raised since birth at Yuendumu Community, 300km North West of Alice Springs, Ms McKell has returned with her two sons to live at Yuendumu. Ms McKell has spent most of her adult life working with Warlpiri people and is currently a Central Desert Shire Councillor, representing the Southern Tanami Ward. "I am passionate about and committed to helping the communities maintain a strong voice in cultural matters" said Ms McKell. Ensuring communities are heard will help them to remain strong amid the constant social changes they are experiencing.



Sascha McKell

Yard Proud in Engawala

In the month leading up to Christmas, Sport & Recreation Officer, Shelley Jackson, organised a "Yard Pride" Competition for the Engawala Community. The 1st prize was a huge hamper of groceries, a Christmas ham and other goodies. There were also 10 runners up who won kangaroo tails donated by Shelley.

The competition was a great success with yards raked and tidied, flower beds planted, walls washed down and a huge rubbish collection took place. Engawala became very "Yard Proud" even putting up festive Christmas lights on the front of the homes. "Judging the competition was very hard as all entrants had put into a huge effort", said one of the judges Stephen Shaw. "The Competition was tough which made it very hard to choose a winner."

The Winner of the Competition was Mrs Joy Turner and her daughters, Nancy, Barbara and Rachel Tilmouth. There were also 10 very happy runners up who well earned their kangaroo tails.

The community have asked if they can have this Competition every month and have such prizes as rakes, wheelbarrows, fruit trees and



Joy Turner, winner of the "Yard Proud" competition, in her yard.

the like. The Community is now looking into fundraising opportunities so that this competition can become a regular event.

Looking at the Essential Service Training Program

Leston Spencer is employed under the Indigenous Employment Program in Essential Service Operations. The program aims to provide nationally recognised traineeships to indigenous people in Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Remote Area Essential Service) for various locations across the Northern Territory. The training project is a partnership between GTNT (Group Training Northern Territory), Group Training Australia, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Power & Water Corporation, NT Shires and Charles Darwin University (CDU).

GTNT's aim for this project is to provide trainees with an opportunity to have a nationally recognised qualification in Essential Service that enables participants to secure either permanent or part time employment on their community or within other communities.

Leston Spencer has grown up in Nyirripi (Waite Creek). Leston plays for the local Football and Basketball team. Leston is very family orientated and passionate about protecting and looking after his family and community. Leston commenced as a local ESO worker in April 2011 and his supervisors and Power & Water Corporation have stated that Leston has demonstrated in the workplace that he is hard working, committed, passionate, caring towards co-workers, positive but most of all Leston is a great inspiration and role model to other indigenous people within and around the community.

The delivery of the training will be a combination of on and off the job training and the skills sets will cover all water, sewage, electrical, essential service equipment and related maintenance in the local community. Essential Service Trainees will also complete a Power & Water Corporation ESO Familiarisation Training in 2012.



Leston Spencer

Lajamanu Market Garden

The Lajamanu CDEP participants constructed a community market garden in 2011. Since its establishment the garden has been used to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables, including a bumper tomato crop, carrots, pumpkins, zucchinis, melons and peas. The garden also had as its mascot a life size scarecrow to protect the precious yield.

When CDEP re-started after the Christmas break, the garden received some TLC and a proper clean up. After clearing away the long grass a giant sweet potato was discovered by Zedric Fraser and CDEP Training Coordinator Owen Coco. The surprised men found a set of scales, and found the sweet potato weighed in at an amazing 4.23kgs. Good soil, plentiful sunshine and regular watering is the secret of this gardening groups 'sweet' success.

This year the group are installing a new automatic irrigation system, controlling grass and weeds by laying weed matting, planting trees and protecting the crops by erecting more shade. "Can't wait to see which giant variety will grow next!" says Owen Coco, CDEP Training Coordinator.



The Lajamanu market garden's mascot obviously worked wonders as the garden produced a 4 kg sweet potato.

Vet Visits

The Shire's vets will be visiting communities over the next couple of months. The following dates have been booked:

- March 5-19 Willowra, Laramba, Yuendumu, Yuelamu and Nyirripi
- April 19-30 Atitjere, Engawala, Irrerlirre (outstation) and Ti Tree
- April 30- May 4 Lajamanu



By-Election in Anmatjere

Do you live in the Anmatjere Ward?

Do you want to make a difference to your community, represent your Ward at Council and speak up about important matters?

The Anmatjere Ward needs you!

The Anmatjere Ward is represented on Council by four Councillors. Cr Adrian Dixon was the only nomination for this Ward and has been elected to Council. However, there are still three vacancies. If you have ever thought being on Council, there has never been a better time to step up. **For more information please enquire at your Council office or phone the Northern Territory Electoral Commission on 1800 MYVOTE.**