

## Upcoming Local Board Meeting

The next Local Board Meeting dates are as follows:

Jilkminggan/Mataranka—1st October  
 Mataranka—3rd October  
 Larrimah—4th October  
 Numbulwar—8th October  
 Ngukurr—9th October  
 Borroloola—10th October  
 Manyallaluk—14th October  
 Beswick—14th October  
 Barunga—15th October  
 Bulman—23rd October

Please note that these dates may change at short notice. Please call 8972 9000 for further information.

## Finance & Audit Committee meetings dates

Date	Where
Wednesday 30th October	Katherine

For an up to date copy of our vacancies, position description and selection criteria please email: [recruitment@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)  
 Or visit our website: [www.ropergulf.net.au](http://www.ropergulf.net.au)

## Do You Have a Story ?

Anyone can send in items for the newsletter, you don't need to work for the Shire, although it has to be related to the Shire in some way. If unsure how to get an article in the newsletter ask your Shire Service Manager or email Keely [keely-rae.wallace@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:keely-rae.wallace@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)  
 We welcome all feedback so please feel free to email us at the above email address.

Do you want to know what's going on with Roper Gulf Youth Services and look at deadly photos of Roper Gulf Shire's Youth in action?

Visit their brand new website:

[www.ropergulf4youth.com.au](http://www.ropergulf4youth.com.au)

## Shire Contact List

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# Newsletter

Issue 53 August, 2013



## Message from the Chief Executive Officer Michael Berto

Hello everyone.

The month of August brings the last period of our dry season as we wait for the dreaded build-up to become the wet season. For the Shire, this means we begin to review our counter-disaster procedures which helps us to ensure we are as ready as we can be for the oncoming wet.

Mayor Jack and his Council continue to be busy having now approved their Strategic and Operational Plans in July for the coming years. Due to the departure of a Councillor in the Yugul Mangi Ward, Council is now arranging for a Bi-election to take place for this Ward in October.

RoperGulf Shire is now the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) Provider having commenced this on 1 July this year. Since July all managers and staff in area, along with assistance given by other Shire staff when needed have been very busy across the region signing up Jobseekers so we can then tailor assistance to meet their needs.

At the end of August we made considerable progress towards achieving the target of Jobseekers given to us. My thanks and appreciation goes to all of you involved for this tremendous effort shown.

Till next month, stay safe.

Regards,

## R U OK ? Suicide Awareness Day

On Friday 13 September the CEO Michael Berto and other staff attended the inaugural R U OK? – Suicide awareness march in Katherine.

Organised to raise awareness around Suicide, particularly the social costs, the march drew over 500 people who marched along Katherine Terrace from the Bridge to the Tick Market.

The incidence of suicide in the region is much higher than elsewhere in Australia and is the biggest single cause of premature preventable death amongst young people in the region.

Indigenous people are also four times more likely to suicide or attempt suicide than that of other Australians.

The march has lead to calling for a coalition of people and organisations to form to tackle issues.



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## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Mr Berto was very pleased with the march on Friday and was encouraged by the turn out.

"Next year will be even larger as this effects everyone in our communities and a public awareness event like this is really important."

He added,

"...many people in the Shire have been personally affected by suicide, including my family, and the social costs are enormous.

In response Roper Gulf Shire has organised training for staff across the organisation around suicide prevention and first aid.

There are very good services to support people in the region and we need to raise awareness of these services and tackle the stigma that is still attached to suicide and mental health.

If you are having suicidal thoughts I strongly encourage you to speak with friends and family or use a service like Lifeline. You can also speak with youth services workers and other council staff."

Lifeline can be rung 24hrs a day all year round on 13 11 14

## Employee of the Month July

**Nominations and Winners for the month of July 2013**

**Head Quarters** – Nominations—Richelle Hutchinson-Finance Officer and Linda Stirling-RJCP Senior Employment Officer. Winner—Linda Stirling

**Barunga**– Winner – Patricia Lee

**Beswick** – Winner – Rivien Ashley

**Borrooloola** –Winner – Raymond Mawson

**Bulman** – Winner – Stuart Martin

**Eva Valley** – Winner – Mark Runyu

**Jilkminggan** –Winner – Holly Godsen

**Mataranka**—Winner – Mandy Devereux

**Ngukurr** – Winner – Wilton Campbell

**Numbulwar** – Winner – Ella Geia

**Congratulations to all Employee of the Month Winners!**

## WHERE'S THE TRAINER?

This was the question on everyone's lips recently when Bob Piper from CDU conducted a 2-day four wheel drive course for staff at Ngukurr.

All had gone well during the theory section and vehicle inspections so the trainer decided that it was time to get in the vehicles and do some "REAL" four wheel driving. The vehicles departed in convoy and drove 10-15 minutes out of the community. Upon arrival at the gathering spot everyone exited their vehicles in excitement to survey the landscape. It was at this point that one of the drivers asked "Where's the trainer?" Everyone looked at one another wide eyed and sure enough, he wasn't there!

Another 15-minute trip back to Ngukurr found a bemused and disgruntled Bob waiting alone on the side of the road outside of the Youth Centre.

The rest of the course ran smoothly resulting in all 10 students being awarded a Statement of Attainment in *Perform Complex 4x4 Operations* and *Drive a 4x4 on Unsealed Roads*.

The learning from the course will stay with the students for a long time but they can probably dine out on this story for even longer.



## REMOTE JOBS AND COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Australian Government has introduced significant reforms to employment, participation and community development services in remote Australia to help more people get into jobs and participate in their communities and to better meet the labour needs of employers.

The Remote Jobs and Communities Program builds on the strengths of Job Services Australia, the Disability Employment Service, the Community Development Employment Projects ( CDEP ) program and the Indigenous Employment Program ( IEP) to provide a more streamlined and flexible employment and participation service in remote Australia.

Roper Gulf Shire Council are pleased to announce Council has accepted RJCP contracts

for the Ngukurr/Numbulwar and Central Arnhem Regions. RJCP will be delivered by Roper Gulf Shire Staff at the following locations:

Ngukurr/Numbulwar:

- Ngukurr
- Numbulwar
- Jilkminggan
- Mataranka
- Kewulyi & Minyerri ( Subcontracted to Alawa Aboriginal Corporation )

Central Arnhem:

- Beswick
- Barunga
- Manyallaluk
- Bulman
- Binjari & Manballoo ( Subcontracted to Binjari Community Aboriginal Corporation )

## REMOTE JOBS AND COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Roper Gulf Shire Council and the RJCP unit look forward to assisting employers and job seekers with their recruitment needs, professional development to assist with job seeker employment pathways and community engagement and development. Our central office can be contacted directly on ( 0 8 ) 8972 8300 or [rjcp.claims@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:rjcp.claims@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)



## ARE YOU A JOB SEEKER OR EMPLOYER?

Then we'd like to meet you!

For personalised assistance with your employment requirements please visit our employment Officers at each Shire Service Centre ( offices are in the old CDEP offices) .

Alternatively, you can contact our central office directly on ( 08 ) 8972 8300 or

[rjcp.claims@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:rjcp.claims@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Date	Where
Wednesday 25th September	Katherine
Wednesday 13th November	Borrooloola
Wednesday 18th December	Katherine