

## Upcoming Local Board Meeting

The next Local Board Meeting dates are as follows:

Ngukurr—10.00am, 28th August

Jilkminggan/Mataranka— 3rd September

Borroloola—10.00am, 10th October

Please note that these dates may change at short notice due to climatic change or other circumstances beyond our control. Please call 8972 9000 for further information.

## Finance & Audit Committee meetings dates

Date	Where
Wednesday 28th August	Katherine
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)

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# Newsletter

Issue 52 July, 2013



## Message from the Chief Executive Officer Michael Berto

Hello everyone.

Here we are now at the middle of the year and it is the busiest time of the year. It is also the time of year when most Festivals in our region are held and many get to enjoy these wonderful occasions. Just in June we have had three Festivals held consecutively in Barunga, Ngukurr and Borroloola. All these festivals were successful and recognition for this must go to all the staff who worked hard in their respective communities to make it happen. Of course, the Festival organisers are fully appreciated by Council for their efforts. Council is looking forward to yet another Festival, which will be held in Bulman called the Walaman Festival in mid-July.

The Shire Council had its June meeting in Katherine and worked through the draft 2013 – 2016 Shire Plan, and Budget for 2013/14. The next step for Council is to have the draft Shire Plan released to the public for 21 days in July which will then allow Council to consider any further issues raised at its meeting in late July where they are expected to approve the final version of the Shire Plan ready for implementation in 2013/14.

Mayor Jack also conducted a swearing in ceremony for newly elected Councillor, Anne-Maree Lee representing the Nyirringgulong Ward and community of Barunga. Council is delighted to have Councillor Lee on board.

CEO message continued

In their June meeting Council was fortunate to have a coinciding Youth Conference with more than 30 Youth coming in mainly from the larger towns of Borroloola, Ngukurr and Numbulwar. These Youth were invited to spend the morning session with Council to watch the proceedings and were also given the opportunity to put a motion to Council for their consideration. Many of these Youth participate in the Council's Youth Voice Committees which are set up in each of the larger communities to raise Youth issues and present them to Council regularly. I am sure all the Youth enjoyed this experience and can take away a lot from it.

Till next month, stay safe.

Regards,

## COUNCILLOR ANNE MARIE LEE



Congratulations  
Anne Marie Lee

Councillor:  
Nyirringgulong Ward

Elected June, 2013



## MAYOR AND CEO VISIT WUGULARR

Mal Fox and staff of Wugularr Community hosted a BBQ for our Mayor Jack and CEO who visited Wugularr to congratulate the community for two awards that they won for 2013 in the National Tiny Towns award. This is a big achievement for Wugularr Community. Congratulations!

The Wugularr students also came down to the Women Centre to welcome Mayor and CEO. Well done to Nina Bush and her students for their great efforts.

It was great to see the Mayor and CEO take time out of their busy schedules to visit Wugularr and everyone in the community appreciates it and thanks you both.

Congratulations to all Wugularr staff and the Shire Manager for their big achievement on receiving these two awards. Well done team!



Wugularr staff with Mayor Tony Jack and CEO Michael Berto.



## NEW RUBBISH COMPACTORS ARRIVE

Roper Gulf Shire Council has taken delivery of the first two of four new state of the art Rubbish compactor trucks.

The trucks costing around \$145,000 each are part of a \$ 600,000 replacement program for older waste pick up vehicles and come with new state of the art operating and safety features. This will increase the efficiency of rubbish removal and safe operating conditions for municipal staff.

The compactors have hydraulic operations, wheelie bin lifting hoists, 8 cubic metre bins, auto wash out and a range of new operator safety devices.

Municipal staff are particularly looking forward to no longer having to physically lift and empty heavy bins into truck trays. The new compactor trucks will make rubbish removal a lot safer and efficient.

The compactors were designed by North Queensland Engineering and Fabrications Company and are designed specifically for the Top End's tough environmental working conditions. The compactors are mounted on Isuzu Trucks.

The compactor trucks will go to Borrooloola, Bulman, Beswick /Barunga and Mataranka/ Jilkminggan and are expected to be in operations in towns as soon as Municipal staff have received vehicle operation training.

The growing towns of the Roper Gulf Shire receive weekly and twice weekly bin service, an important part of maintaining cleaner and healthier communities.

*Working as one towards a better future through effect use of all resources*

## WHO, WHAT, WHERE WE ARE IN ROPER GULF SHIRE pt3

- On average our weekly personal income (over 15 years of age) is quite low at \$279 compared to the NT average of \$745 pw and Australian average of \$577. This reflects the significant number of people who are in receipt of welfare benefits due to limited employment opportunities.

Next month we will look at what we work at, our levels of education, and how we travel within the Shire and some of the implications for Shire planning.

Information for these articles is largely sourced from Census Quick Stats (LGA736) [http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat)

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM Round One 2013-14

Applications are now being sought for Community projects within the Roper Gulf Shire that will benefit:

- Local community events and activities
- Economic development
- The physical or natural environment

Applicants may apply for:

- Up to \$1,000 for minor projects
- Up to \$3,000 for major projects

Applications for Round One open 1st August 2013. Closing date for all applications will be COB 4th September 2013.

Please contact Amanda Haigh—Grants Coordinator on (08) 8972 9038 or email [grants.ropergulf@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:grants.ropergulf@ropergulf.nt.gov.au) for an application package.

*Sustainable, Viable, Vibrant*

## MATARANKA CDEP TRAINING

All 15 CDEP participants who commenced their Cert 2 in Construction have completed it successfully. A presentation was held on 4th June where everyone received their certificates



Well done to the three participants who received a special award along with their certificates.

Thomas Anderson & Harry Newman – Leadership

Jason Henderson – Best Attendance

Congratulations to all of you!



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Date	Where
Wednesday 25th September	Numbulwar (To be confirmed)
Wednesday 13th November	Borrooloola
Wednesday 18th December	Katherine

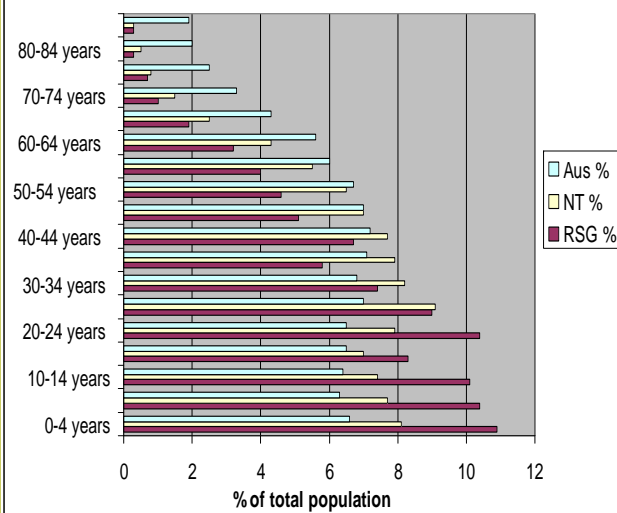


## WHO, WHAT, WHERE WE ARE IN ROPER GULF SHIRE pt3

In the last edition of the Newsletter we explored how our population compared with the rest of Australia and the Northern Territory. This showed that Roper Gulf is a relatively young population compared to most of Australia. This can be seen in Graph 1 which compares Australia, Northern Territory and Roper Gulf populations by percentage of age groups. The number of young residents compared with the rest of Australia shows almost an inverse relation. This also indicates the potential growth of our communities. Where much of Australia is now planning for an ageing population and the increased special needs of this group we can see a quite different set of needs for our population.

Education, child and young family health and related services, sport and recreation and activities to support and encourage the participation of young people in community and meaningful employment are some areas to be planned for.

Comparison of % of age groups between Australia, Northern Territory and Roper Gulf Shire



## WHO, WHAT, WHERE WE ARE IN ROPER GULF SHIRE pt3

### Other interesting facts about Roper Gulf Shire.

- In Roper Gulf Shire 95.7% of us were born in Australia compared to the NT, 74.6% and Australia wide, 69.8%.
- Of the remaining 4.3% born overseas, England, New Zealand, Germany Ireland Netherlands were the main Country of birth but these only represent a real number of only 81 persons.
- 68% of us come from an indigenous background. In the NT it is about 15% and Australia wide the indigenous population is 0.5% of the total population.

Projections indicate that by 2040 more than 50% of the Northern Territory's population could be from an indigenous background.

- 30 % of us speak English only at home and 50% speak Kriol. That leaves around 15 -20% who speak an indigenous language as their primary language. A small number of people (<.0.5%), speak a range of languages other than English at home. These people are predominantly newly arrived migrants to Australia.

There are around 5-7 uniquely different indigenous languages spoken in the Shire area.

- We get married at about the rate as the rest of Australia (47.6%) and are about 4% more likely to marry than the rest of the Northern territory.
- We are also less likely to get divorced or separate (9.1% compared with 11.4 for the NT and 11.9% Australia wide).
- We tend to marry younger and are more likely to have a defacto marriage than registered marriage compared to the NT or Australian percentage.
- We are about the same as the rest of Australia in our religious affiliation and in the proportion of those who indicate a religion and those who have no religion.
- We do have a have a larger percentage of Anglicans and a much smaller percentage of Catholics than the rest of Australia and the NT (4.9, 25.3 and 21.6%). This probably reflects the historical impact the Anglican Church missions in the region.

## NUMBURINDI ARTS

Numburindi Arts from Numbulwar are selling great pieces of artwork available at reasonable prices. Items include; necklaces, baskets, dillybags and tea towels. For the latest catalogue please email [keely-rae.wallace@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:keely-rae.wallace@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)



## HR BBQ

HR Support and Mentors held a Staff BBQ while visiting Ngukurr recently. It was a great turn out and very much enjoyed by the staff that were able to attend

Thank you to Nyrelle who's action on the BBQ kept staff well fed, Lee-Anne the bread and butter lady and Tara who kept everyone entertained.



## YUGUL MANGI NGUKURR FESTIVAL

The Yugul Mangi Ngukurr Festival was held Friday 14th June - Sunday 16th June 2013

The Human Resources department in conjunction with Gary Hillen, Regional Landcare Manager and Sharon Hillen, Director of Infrastructure & Technical Services attended the Ngukurr Festival. We displayed general information on Roper Gulf Shire Council, recruitment positions for Ngukurr and an informational display on the Animal Welfare program.

The Roper Gulf Shire Council wrist bands, balloons and re-useable bags were a big hit with the children and it was great to see them wear Shire gear. The days were filled with sporting activities like football and women's basketball there was also billy cart racing, tug of war and spear throwing competition as well as the much loved jumping castle for the younger kids which was managed by Katrina Bushby, Ngukurr Community Safety Manager and the Sport and Recreation team.

Ngukurr then danced into the early hours of the morning with a fantastic turn out of fourteen talented local bands playing and a great display of fire works.

It was a great pleasure to be involved in the Yugul Mangi Ngukurr Festival and we look forward to attending next year's festival.





## BANDS PROVIDED WITH RECORDING OPPORTUNITIES

A two week accredited Batchelor Institute course lead up to the Yugul Mangi festival and provided a chance for young people to expand their skills and knowledge of media the creative industries.

Roy Smith from Youth Services facilitated the course and was supported in Ngukurr by Trevor Henselwood from BRACS radio and Salome Harris from the Language Centre who are both looking to fill media positions. Participants were also taught basic computer skills though a daily class offered by Peter Stork from Youth Services. Lyn Hope, a Batchelor lecturer who flew especially from NSW for the second week of the course held film making and editing classes for the ladies and greatly helped with the administration. All the participants studied together in the youth centre and later broke down into smaller teams to work on projects.

Although close to 60 people signed up to the course in both Ngukurr and Numbulwar, due to sorry business and many other factors participants were not able to complete the course and will be rolled over. Youth services is hoping to further utilise the recording studio and stage equipment with partners such as CAAMA Music and skinnyfish records to allow participants to graduate in the future. they are also looking to mentor musicians, media creators and bands - providing promotion and income opportunities such as performances and music royalties.

The newly built Youth Services Recording Studio was managed by CAAMA's Tim Cole - one of Australia's best sound engineers who was impressed with the local talent and hopes to build long term mentoring opportunities through CAAMA music in Alice springs.

There are more than 10 bands in Ngukurr alone, some going back to the 60s who were never given an opportunity to record or promote their music.

## BANDS PROVIDED WITH RECORDING OPPORTUNITIES Continued...

Four promising bands got a first chance to record their songs in the studio including 'Yugal Voice' who won \$3000 at the battle of the bands competition at the Burunga festival for their song Don't Drink and Drive. The other recorded bands were NT express and Tribal Visions and the Young Guns from Bagot. The Demos recorded remain the property of the bands and will be promoted on local radio.

Youth Services also provided a rehearsal stage in the Sports and Recreation hall using Youth Services PA and band equipment brought in the events shipping container. Many young people were empowered by the professional equipment and there was always a cue to practice on the professional digital drum kit. Youth Services can hold different media activities in the future using our facilities according to the activities requested by young people through Youth Voice committees.

In addition to the media course, during the Yugul Mangi festival Youth services also successfully held a disco on Friday night for around 400 people, a movie night on Sunday for around 200 people as well as a Jumping Castle. The best photos taken by participants during the first week of the course were printed and distributed to community members. Most are already available online though the youth services website [www.ropergulf4youth.com.au](http://www.ropergulf4youth.com.au).



## Employee of the Month May

### Nominations and Winners for the month of May 2013

**Head Quarters** - Nominations—Elvisen Soundron—Finance Officer, Jill Hardiman—Assets Administration. Winner - Elvisen Soundron

**Barunga**— Winner - Patricia Lee

**Beswick** - Winner - Rebecca Wesan

**Borroloola** -Winner - Jerry Anderson

**Bulman** - Winner - Yasmine Murphy

**Eva Valley** - Winner - Darryl Watson

**Jilkminggan** -Winner - Shirley MacDonald

**Mataranka**—Winner - Raelene Logan

**Ngukurr** - Winner - Roger Thompson

**Numbulwar** - Winner - Kristine Mulholland

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

## Employee of the Month June

Nominations and Winners for the month of June 2013.

**Head Quarters**—Nominations—Jo Nicol-Local Board Support Officer, Alex Macpherson-IT Tech Support, Tony Moss-CDEP Logistic Officer  
Winner—Alex Macpherson

**Barunga**—Winner—Peter Patterson

**Beswick**—Winner—Adam Bostock

**Borroloola**—Winner—Kenny Lansen

**Bulman**—Winner—Robby Dalywater

**Eva Valley**—Winner—Robert Williri

**Jilkminggan**—Winner—Marlene Collins

**Mataranka**—Winner—David Daniels

**Ngukurr**—Winner—Desley Murrungun

**Numbulwar**—Winner—Phillip Huddleston

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

## KATHERINE SHOW 2013 RGSC STALL

Roper Gulf Shire Council was lucky enough to secure a stall at this years Katherine Show.

The stall, organised by the Human Resource Department, showcased the Shire and its communities along with the many services we provide to our shire residents. Services such as Animal Management, Recruitment, Youth, RJCP and Shire communities in general were among the most popular topics of discussion and friendly RGSC staff members were there to answer all of the questions thrown at them.

We did things a little bit differently this year, we were inside the Norforce Pavilion rather than outside like we were last year and we had a lot more freebies!

One of the highlights of the stall this year was the competition we were running, patrons were invited to complete a RGSC questionnaire to go in to the draw to win a digital camera and leather broad brimmed hat. The competition drew a lot of attention to our stall and allowed us to educate the public about who we are and what we do.

We would like to thank all the RGSC staff members who volunteered their time to man the stall over the two days and the RGSC Departments who donated freebies for us to give away, in particular we would like to thank Community Services for donating the leather hat for us to give away as part of our prize.



Congratulations to Fiona MacFarlane who was the winner of our competition.

