

## Upcoming Local Board Meeting

The next Local Board Meeting dates are as follows:

**Barunga:** 10.00am, Tuesday 16th April  
**Beswick:** 10:00am, Wednesday 15th May  
**Borroloola:** 10:00am Thursday 18th April  
**Bulman:** 10.00am, Wednesday 22nd May  
**Jilkminggan:** 10:00am, Tuesday 7th May  
**Larrimah:** 10.00am, Wednesday 17th April  
**Manyallaluk:** 5.30pm, Tuesday 21st May  
**Mataranka:** 10.00, Tuesday 7th May  
**Ngukurr:** To be announced  
**Numbulwar:** 10.00am, Tuesday 14th May

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.

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 Jenny [jenny.venning@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:jenny.venning@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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Vibrant*

## Shire Contact List

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# Newsletter

Issue 50 March, 2013



## Message from the Chief Executive Officer *Michael Berto*

Hello everyone.

The wet season is coming to an end and so far we have had a relatively dry wet. This can be a good thing for those of us involved in service delivery to remote communities as the challenges of access to and from communities due to flooding is lessened and this also reduces the risk of cyclones occurring.

The Shire Council had its February meeting in both Jilkminggan and Mataranka over two days and this was an excellent opportunity for local people to be involved and rub shoulders with Councillors and to raise their important issues. The Council shared a morning breakfast with community members in Jilkminggan, before beginning the first day of their Council meeting and that evening they shared a barbeque with community members in Mataranka, which was followed by a community meeting in the hall. I must say both communities are to be congratulated as they are looking great for this time of year with the challenges of wet season growth of grass, weeds, etc.

The Shire Council is looking forward to the NT Government's upcoming local government reforms and we eagerly await the release of the discussion paper which will form the basis for the government's community consultations throughout the NT. The Shire Council intends to provide its own submission to government for their consideration.

CEO message continued

It appears the consultations will run for 3 months and from there the government will deliberate over their findings and we can expect some decisions regarding the reforms to be announced thereafter.

In regards to these proposed local government reforms, I would like to say to all staff of Roper Gulf Shire, using the words of the local government Minister, "its business as usual", whilst they work through the whole process of these reforms.

I will also say the Shire is committed to ensuring all staff are informed as much as possible about these proposed reforms and what it will mean to you and us as an organisation.

Thank you and regards

## ROPER RIVER CROSSING



Although it has been a dry wet road conditions can still be treacherous as in the above photo of the Roper River taken on January 21st 2013 at 1pm. So take care on the roads and stay safe.

## BY-ELECTION FOR NEVER NEVER AND NYIRRANGGULUNG WARDS

As the number of nominations received was equal to the number of vacancy, candidate Timothy Baker Jnr was elected unopposed for Never Never Ward.

Roper Gulf Shire would like to congratulate and welcome Mr. Timothy Baker Jnr. in his new role as Councillor to the Shire

No nomination were received for the Nyirranggulung Ward and as a consequence, the Electoral Commissioner will now set a date for a supplementary election to fill that vacancy and will advise RGSC of those details in due course.

For further information call

RGSC Governance Unit at (08) 8972 9000 or call NT Election **1800 MYVOTE** or visit **NTEC** website.

## MAYOR MEETS LOCALS AT MATARANKA



Mayor Tony Jack with Tom Youngusband

The Mayor, Tony Jack met with students from the Mataranka School at the recent Council meeting and talked about local issues that concerned them. The students raised issues ranging from the need for a safe crossing on the Stuart Highway to the condition of the school oval.

"Its great to see local young people taking an interest in their community and learning how promote their concerns as well," said Mayor Jack.

Mayor Tony Jack will also be attending the next Mataranka Local Board to be held in the community Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, at 5.30 p.m.

## CDEP CERTIFICATE 11 TRAINING

TRADES TRAINING  
+ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
= CDEP

Trades training and community development go hand in hand for CDEP participants in Roper Gulf Shire Council. The RGSC, CDEP and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education are working together to train 16 CDEP participants from Jilkminggan and Mataranka in construction.

All 16 are half way through obtaining their Certificate 11 in construction which started with all participants successfully obtaining their white cards.

The hands on practical aspects of the training have been incorporated into a Roper Gulf Shire outstations project which involves building a shed at Mulgan Camp for the community to use.



CDEP Participant Audrey Farrell and trainer Richard Schmidt.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Where
24,25th May	Never Never Festival	Mataranka
7,8,9th June	Barunga Cultural & Sports Festival	Barunga
14,15,16th June	Ngukurr Festival	Ngukurr
21,22,23 June	Bulman Festival	Bulman

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

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY VET VISITS

Date	Where
Ngukurr	15th-21st April
Numbulwar	13th-18th May
Mulgan	4th June
Mataranka	5th June
Jodetluk & Werenbun	17th June
Jilkminggan	18th—19th June
Beswick	4th-5th July
Manyallaluk	12th July

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Date	Where
Wednesday 1st May	Bulman
Wednesday 26th June	Beswick
Wednesday 24th July	Katherine
Wednesday 25th September	Numbulwar
Wednesday 20th November	Borrooloola
Wednesday 18th December	Katherine

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## FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS DATES

Date	Where
Wednesday 29th May	Katherine
Wednesday 28th August	Katherine
Wednesday 30th October	Katherine



## KESAB TIDY TOWNS AWARDS



**territory tidy towns**  
Sustainable communities

**ARE YOU KEEPING YOUR COMMUNITY TIDY?  
(Enter your community)**

**2013 TIDY TOWNS ENTRY FORM ENTER NOW!**

Name of Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Pop: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Managed by Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT)  
 Send (email or fax 8981 9719) images and text (one paragraph/category) relevant to one or more of the following category areas (tick any/all boxes):

- Litter Control (clean, tidy community grounds)
- Resource Recovery (reduce, reuse and recycle)
- Suburb/Community participation (agencies and businesses)
- Environmental Care (action / activities)
- Water Conservation (action / activities)
- Energy Waste Reduction (action / activities)
- Heritage and Culture (action / activities)
- Youth (action / activities)
- Best Houses / Street (action / activities)

Call us direct anytime if you have any queries ph: 8981 5535 or mb: 0407 186 461  
 Tidy Towns Forum & Awards presentation at SKYCITY Darwin on Fri 19th Oct 2013  
 Please register your planned attendance with KAB Office now

Return entry forms to the following: Email: [ent@kabnt.org.au](mailto:ent@kabnt.org.au)  
 Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT Inc Fax: 8981 9719 Ph: 8981 5535 Mb: 0407 186 461  
 GPO Box 348, Darwin NT 0801 OR you can Register on Line: [www.kabnt.org.au](http://www.kabnt.org.au)

**Northern Territory Government** **PACKAGING STEWARDSHIP FORUM**  
 TERRITORY'S TIDDIEST TOWN AWARD 2013  
 (and REPRESENT N.T. AT AUSTRALIAN AWARDS)

## FAREWELL FOR BORROLOOLA SSM



Borroloola Staff with departing SSM Candice Seidler Twine

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

### This month is all about size

Anybody who has driven or flown across the Roper Gulf Shire knows how big it is. Horizon to horizon, from the Gulf of Carpentaria to west of the Stuart Highway, from just north of Elliott to the southern edge of Kakadu, from the Queensland border to 100 kms from the East Arnhem coast, which ever way you view it Roper Gulf covers a huge area.

Here is a couple of measures to demonstrate how large.

- Roper Gulf Shire has a land area of 186000 square kilometres. As a comparison this is 2.7 times larger than Tasmania (68401 sq. kms) and 80% of the total land mass of Victoria. (227416 sq. kms.)
- On a world scale, Roper Gulf Shire has a larger land mass than 160 of the worlds 249 nation states. Roper Gulf shire is larger than Greece, Nepal, Ireland, Sri Lanka and Norway and the two Koreas, to mention a just a few.
- Four main roads cross the Shire, the Stuart Highway in the west, and three highways, east west, the Central Arnhem, Roper and Carpentaria with a combined length of over 1500 kms.
- Other main roads within the Shire cover over 1100 kms.
- There is well over 700 kms of coast line on the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- Five major river systems cross the Shire, the Limmen, Macarthur, Roper, Rose and Robinson Rivers. The combined annual flow of these rivers is in excess of 11750 gig litres or about 23 Sydney Harbours of water.

The Katherine and Edith, Fergusson, East Alligator, Mann and King Rivers also have their headwaters in the Shire.

The size of Roper Gulf Shire produces its own unique problems with communication and logistics but in turn has produced some unique solutions which will be featured in coming editions.

And where else in Australia or world can you find the beauty and serenity of wide savannah plains, big rivers, coastlines and tropical forests and escarpments, a rich human history going back 60,000 years and a vibrant future.

By Stephen Roper

## TINDAL EXPO 2013

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February three HR officers, Jess Francisco, Nyrelle Robinson and Brooke

Margetts, represented Roper Gulf Shire Council at the Tindal Expo

There were many people who took a lot of interest in the Shire and approached us with questions about how much land we cover, how many communities are in the Shire and what services we provide. There was also high interest in our vacancy bulletin, some people even requested to have the vacancy bulletin emailed to them each week.

Our photo was taken by the Katherine Times.

There was also a computer screen and Ipad displaying videos from around the Shire however these were not set up at the time of the photo being taken.

We received positive feedback from the neighbouring stall holders and expo goers about how our display using videos and slide shows were a great talking point and provided a really good visual insight into the shire.

The expo started at 10am and finished at 3pm, overall it was a busy day with around 50 stalls on display. The expo is a great way to reach out to people and show them what Roper Gulf Shire is all about.



As you can see by the photo the table was full of interesting photos, newsletters, stories, maps and freebies!

## WEED CONTROL WORKSHOPS

Gary Hillen, the Regional Manager for Environment & Animal Management recently held a number of weed control workshops for municipal staff and CDEP participants in some of the Roper Gulf communities

This workshop covered a number of ways to manage weeds and the safe handling and storage of chemicals.

The workshop is designed to show that the chemical is just one tool that can be used to help control weeds and also gives participants some basic training to build on when they do further courses in managing chemicals.



Gary Hillen



Workshop Participants





## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH JANUARY

Employee of the Month  
Nominations and Winners for the  
Month of January 2013

**Head Quarters** - Nominations  
David Gaston CDEP Builder Trainer  
Brooke Margetts HR Officer Trainee  
Winner – Brooke Margetts

**Barunga** – Nomination – Margret Tiati  
Winner – Margret Tiati

**Beswick** – Nomination – Neil Manning  
Winner – Neil Manning

**Borroloola** – Nomination – Anthony Baker  
Winner – Anthony Baker

**Bulman** – Nomination – Jill Curtis  
Winner – Jill Curtis

**Eva Valley** – Nomination – Mark Runyu  
Winner – Mark Runyu

**Jilkminggan** – Nomination – Gerald Sambo  
Winner – Gerald Sambo

**Mataranka** – Nomination – Harold Albert  
Winner – Harold Albert

**Ngukurr** – Nomination – Jonathon Farrell  
Winner – Jonathon Farrell

**Numbulwar** – Nomination – Davian Budden  
Winner – Davian Budden

Congratulations to all Employee of the Month  
Winners....



## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY

Employee of the Month  
Nominations and Winners for the  
Month of February 2013

**Head Quarters** – Nominations  
David Gaston CDEP Builder Trainer  
Chris Coulson Family and Community Services  
Winner – David Gaston

**Barunga** – Nomination – Finicole Coleman  
Winner – Finicole Coleman

**Beswick** – Nomination – Caroline Wurrben  
Kelvin Jolly  
Winner – Kelvin Jolly

**Borroloola** – Nomination – Warnita Parkyn  
Winner – Warnita Parkyn

**Bulman** – Nomination – Anton Plummer  
Winner – Anton Plummer

**Eva Valley** – Nomination – Kelvin Bamaga  
Winner – Kelvin Bamaga

**Jilkminggan** – Nomination – Cecelia Lake  
Winner – Cecelia Lake

**Mataranka** – Nomination – Veronica Russo  
Winner – Veronica Russo

**Ngukurr** – Nomination – Colleen Johnston  
Winner – Colleen Johnston

**Numbulwar** – Nomination – Russell Numamurdirdi  
Winner – Russell Numamurdirdi

### Ngukurr Employee of the Month Winner

Pictured Left

(Mr. January!!!).

Congratulations to **JOHNATHON FARRELL**  
Works Supervisor Ngukurr.

Johnathon has shown to be a great role model in  
his employment organizing staff and at times  
working back late to get tasks finished.

## NGUKURR WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Round 1 of the Ngukurr Women's Basketball  
commenced on Friday 8th February, 2013 with  
2 games played on Friday and Saturday night.

All the games were very close and evenly  
matched. The women play a skilful and  
exciting brand of basketball. There were young  
girls, sisters, mothers, aunts, grandmothers and  
young children/babies everywhere. Although  
the younger ones were more interested in  
playing tag and getting in the players way.

It has been 2 years since the last women's  
competition and the attendance at the games  
showed how important these games are in the  
Community of Ngukurr. Even the men came  
down to watch after their day AFL match to  
cheer and lend a hand with babysitting.

A big thanks to the Sport & Rec staff Edwina  
Thompson and Derek Wurrumurra for their  
support in organizing and controlling the  
games.

Huge thanks to all the referees who have a big  
job controlling the games amidst the emotions of  
supporters screaming and yelling for their team.

Not to mention the young kids running around  
and the dogs that seem to like the centre of the  
court.

The basketball and the AFL held over the  
weekend is set to continue over the coming  
months this will provide much needed  
entertainment that will lead to a happier and  
improved lifestyle in the Ngukurr Community.



Spectators enjoying the women's basketball

## 102 CELEBRATIONS FOR MAJOR TAYLOR



Pictured here  
with his official  
letters from  
left :  
Fiona Manfong  
Joan Williams  
Major Taylor  
Betty Taylor

In this newsletter he celebrated his 102nd  
Birthday at Beswick Age Care.

He is my googedy that means grand father.

Major has lived a life time, he tells me stories  
from the old times when he was young and  
how he worked with my dad George  
Manfong(dec), his cousin Fred Taylor(dec)  
and more old fellas that was with him long  
time ago, he will be the only one left amongst  
those that passed on.

Major told me that my dad was a hard man  
back in his younger days, Major said,  
"George was very striking and strong like old  
Major."

I asked Major how he became blind, he said  
he wasn't born like that, he was mustering  
cattle, and he brushed up on a tree that was  
poisons that got into his eyes and that's how  
he became blind.

I was looking at old photo when Major was  
very handsome and very fit, he was a short  
man but very solid built.

I am proud for my grandfather Major, he is a  
true gentleman and still going strong, he has  
got no illness just old age.

Written by Fiona Manfong