

Upcoming Local Board Meeting

The next Local Board Meeting dates are as follows:

Barunga: 10.00am, Tuesday 16th July
Beswick: 10:00am, Wednesday 12th June
Borroloola: 10:00am Thursday 11th July
Bulman: 10.00am, Wednesday 19th June
Jilkminggan: 10:00am, Tuesday 2nd July
Larrimah: 10.00am, Wednesday 14th August
Manyallaluk: 5.30pm, Tuesday 16th July
Mataranka: 10.00, Tuesday 2nd July
Ngukurr: 10.00am Wednesday 19th June
Numbulwar: 10.00am, Tuesday 11th June

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

Or visit our website:

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
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

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Vibrant*

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Newsletter

Issue 51 May, 2013



Message from the Chief Executive Officer *Michael Berto*

Hello everyone.

It was great to head to Bulman and have the Council Meeting in April. The community was very welcoming and looked forward to the occasion.

The Review of Regional Governance consultations by the NT government in respect of Shires, continues and the review team were able to provide an update presentation to Council at their Bulman meeting where many questions were raised and the review team provided responses. The Shire has demonstrated its keenness to be involved in this process and will look forward to the NT government's response to the review, which we expect to be announced in late June or early July 2013. The Community of Wugularr (Beswick) represented by their Shire Service Manager, staff and elected members attended the National Tidy Towns Awards held in Caloundra in Queensland in May and although not winning the major award, picked up two awards for recycling and commendation for effort. Congratulations go to all the staff and community who work hard to make their community a better place to live. They are indeed a proud mob.

Preparations have been underway for the Barunga Festival and the Shire is doing all it can to ensure Barunga Community is ready for the June Queen's Birthday long weekend. This year's Festival is expected to be a big one with some well known entertainers partaking in the event.

CEO message continued

Some great news was received in late May where the Australian Government finally announced the successful tenders for the Remote Jobs and Communities Program known as RJCP. This is the new program that will absorb the CDEP program amongst other employment related services and our successful bid includes two regions: Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Minyerri, Jilkminggan, Mataranka and the other region which includes Manyallaluk, Barunga, Beswick, Bulman and Binjarri. The RJCP will represent the biggest service program for the Shire and we are all excited, and busy with preparing for its commencement on 1 July. This new program will mean an additional 27 jobs will be created in the Shire, with most of them in communities.

Regards

**COUNCILLOR
MR. TIMOTHY BAKER JNR**



Congratulations
Timothy Baker Jnr

Councillor:
Never Never Ward

Elected May, 2013

BESWICK SOLAR STREET LIGHTS

An innovation for a stronger community future

Beswick's newly set up solar street lights shone like beacons during the recent flood despite being inundated and mains power being switched off. Shire Services Manager at Beswick Mal Fox said,

"The lights illuminate what was a very dark and potentially dangerous part of the road linking the old and new subdivisions and shone on through the floods when all else had been switched off for safety." He added "That the bright warm light lit the edge of the flooded area at night and became a community gathering point during the flood."

The nineteen light poles fitted with low voltage LED lights are powered by independent solar panels and do not use mains power. The lights which give out a strong natural colour are brighter than standard street lights, have no operational costs and require minimal maintenance. Costing around \$11,000 per unit to install they are expected to pay for themselves in only a few years.

It is planned to roll out more solar lights in the Beswick community and other Roper Gulf Shire Towns and communities in the coming year. Improved street lighting is a high priority in many Roper Gulf Shire communities. Better street lighting leads to improved vehicle and pedestrian safety, and has an important role in reducing anti social street behaviour and contributes to communities feeling safer at night.

Beswick like many of the Shires Towns is a "walking town" and good quality low cost street lighting encourages safe community social interaction and pedestrian movement around the town.

The Beswick solar street lighting project arose from a priority identified by the Beswick Local Board and was included as a township priority in 2012 -2013, funding was gained through the NT Government Department of Lands and Planning. It is hoped that further funding will be made available to increase the number of solar units within the Roper Gulf Shire.

NYIRRANGULUNG BY ELECTION RESULT

The NT Electoral Commission has released the declaration of the results of the recent By Election held in the Nyirunggulung Ward.

The Candidate with the majority of votes is new Councillor elect Anne Marie Lee, who comes from Barunga.

New elected Councillor Lee joins Cr Selina Ashley and Cr John Dalywater in representing Nyirunggulung Ward which includes the Towns of Barunga, Beswick, Bulman/Weemol, Manyallaluk, Jodetluk, and Werebun.



Ballot box At Jodetluk

BESWICK SOLAR STREET LIGHTS



Solar lights at Beswick linking old and new subdivisions

MATARANKA NEVER NEVER FESTIVAL

The Mataranka Never Never Festival was held on the 24th, 25th 26th May with a range of activities on offer over the three days.

Activities included

- Artist's in residence Thomas Croft, Angelo Burgoyne and Marie Napurrulla
- Camp oven, art & entertainment evening
- Bush Church Service
- Movie viewing
- Family Fun Day in the park
- Mini Rodeo



Family Fun Day Can you spot the RGSC stall?



RGSC employees Ansuya Sobha and Liz Norman

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Date	Where
Wednesday 26th June	Beswick
Wednesday 24th July	Katherine
Wednesday 25th September	Numbulwar
Wednesday 20th November	Borroloola
Wednesday 18th December	Katherine

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FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS DATES

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Where
7,8,9th June	Barunga Cultural & Sports Festival	Barunga
14,15,16th June	Ngukurr Festival	Ngukurr
13, 14 July	Bulman Festival	Bulman
28,29,30 June	Borrooloola Show	Borrooloola
19,20,21 July	Katherine Show	Katherine

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY VET VISITS

Date	Where
Ngukurr	17th-23rd June
Mulgan	4th June
Mataranka	5th June
Jodetluk & Werenbun	13th June
Jilkminggan	11th—12th June
Beswick	4th-5th July
Manyallaluk	12th July

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER IN ROPER GULF AREA

Digital Switchover installation dates in your area!!

What is the switch?

In parts of Australia, TV is broadcast in both analogue and digital. The 'switch' refers to the analogue signals being phased out (or switched off) across the country from now until the end of 2013. Why is Australia switching?

Here are a few reasons why we're making the switch.

Improved viewing

- There are a number of ways in which digital TV will improve your viewing, including: more free-to-air channels, plus the current ones
- access to an electronic program guide, so you can see program schedules on your TV

The ability to watch TV in high definition quality. Keeping up-to-date internationally

Overseas programs are increasingly being made in digital format only. Digital TV means you'll still be able to watch these shows.

Location	Duration	Start	Finish
Borrooloola	30 days	2/09/2013	5/09/2013
Robinson River	4 days	17/10/2013	22/10/2013
Werenbun	3 days	2/09/2013	5/09/2013
Barunga	11 days	9/09/2013	24/09/2013
Beswick	18 days	26/09/2013	22/10/2013
Jilkminggan	10 days	24/10/2013	6/11/2013
Mulggan	2 days	14/11/2013	15/11/2013
Bulman	6 days	9/09/2013	17/09/2013
Numbulwar	13 days	19/09/2013	8/10/2013
Ngukurr	16 days	10/10/2013	31/10/2013
Urapunga	3 days	4/11/2013	6/11/2013
Hodgson Downs	7 days	8/11/2013	18/11/2013
Mataranka Town Camp dates to be advised.			

If you would like more information please ask your Local Community Contact.

BESWICK APRIL FLOODS

Beswick, a community built on resilience, floods once again

The waters of the Waterhouse River rose on the weekend. Twelve properties in the "old suburb" in Beswick were evacuated to the designated emergency shelter ("new school") over the weekend. A few of these houses were inundated with low levels of water and residents of these properties remain housed elsewhere.

The river level has since started receding slowly. The river remains at over a metre on the road making the community inaccessible from the Katherine side of the Central Arnhem Road.



Solar lights at Beswick linking old and new subdivisions during the April flood

BESWICK TIDY TOWNS TRIUMPH

Roper Gulf Shire Town Beswick/Wugularr has won the National Tidy Towns Award for Culture and Heritage and a commendation for 'Energy Innovation' at the recent National Awards presentation in Caloundra in Queensland.

This the second year in a row for the National Award and follows wins in the Territory competition for the last two years.

Neighbouring town Barunga has also been a previous winner on two occasions in the Territory awards.

A number of other Roper Gulf Towns will be competing in this year's awards. This reflects well on the new sense of pride in place across the Shire.

Congratulations to Mal Fox and the staff and community at Beswick.



Pictured receiving the award are Mayor Tony Jack, Beswick Shire Service Manager Mal Fox and Gordon Jackson CDEP Supervisor



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH MARCH

Employee of the Month

Nominations and Winners for the Month of March 2013

Head Quarters – Nominations

Mary Cunningham Community Safety Administration Support Officer, Jo-Ann Lenord HR Officer
Winner – Mary Cunningham

Barunga – Nomination – Max AhFat

Winner – Max AhFat

Beswick – NominationS

Joshua Moore Muns Worker,
Kaffie Rickson FCS Officer,
Gordon Nawundulpi Night Patrol,

Dwayne Billy Night Patrol,

Sam Ashley Night Patrol

Chester Hood Night Patrol

Winner – Joshua Moore

Borroloola – Nomination - Chantelle Johns

Winner – Chantelle Johns

Bulman – Nomination – Jerry Martin

Winner – Jerry Martin

Eva Valley – Nomination – Esther Bulumbara

Winner – Esther Bulumbara

Jilkminggan – Nomination – Holly Gosden

Winner – Holly Gosden

Mataranka – Nominations

Di Collins Night Patrol,

Veronica Russo CDEP Coordinator Winner – Di Collins

Ngukurr – Nomination – Dalas Thompson Youth Services and Johnny Daniels Municipal

Winner – Johnny Daniels

Numbulwar – Nomination – Janette Murrungun

Winner – Janette Murrungun

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

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH APRIL

Employee of the Month

Nominations and Winners for the Month of April 2013

Head Quarters – Nominations

Luke MacFarlane – Heavy Duty Diesel Mechanic,
Nyrelle Robinson - Human Resource Officer

Winner – Luke MacFarlane

Barunga – Nomination – Patricia Lee - Tenancy Officer and Finicole Coleman - Centrelink Agent

Winner – Finicole Coleman

Beswick – Nomination – Kelvin Jolly

Winner – Kelvin Jolly

Borroloola – Nomination – Robbie Collins

Winner – Robbie Collins

Bulman – Nomination – Bianca Tukumba

Winner – Bianca Tukumba

Eva Valley – Nomination – Kelvin Bamaga

Winner – Kelvin Bamaga

Jilkminggan – Nomination – Scott Henderson

Winner – Scott Henderson

Mataranka – Nomination – Richard Moore

Winner – Richard Moore

Ngukurr – Nomination – Tom Farrell

Winner – Tom Farrell

Numbulwar – Nomination – Chris(Kenny) Spicer

Winner – Chris(Kenny) Spicer

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

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

WHO, WHAT, WHERE WE ARE IN ROPER GULF SHIRE pt2

Last issue we looked at the physical size of the Roper Gulf Shire, big eh! This issue we will look at who lives in this huge place.

At the last census there were 6121 people living in the Roper Gulf Shire, roughly even numbers of males and females.

A quick calculation will tell you this is about one person for every 30 square kilometres, not that we are evenly spread with most of us (61%) living in the 12 main townships. You can travel a long way with out seeing anyone at all in some parts of the Roper Gulf.

The population varies a bit during the year with people going to school, work and extended travel outside the Shire and with an influx of people visiting the region during the dry season but it is still one of the most sparsely populated local government areas in Australia. (All together we are only 0.000025% of the Australian Population!)

However our population is steadily growing overall at about 4% over he last five years and this looks are though it will continue into the future.

As work opportunities continue to develop this will encourage people to live in the area and reduce the need for people to move out for work.

Inversely it will also mean extra strains on housing, other infrastructure and services.

Roper Gulf is a very young community, the median age (age at which half the population is older and half is younger) is 24 with 31% of the population under 15 years of age. This is a much younger median age than the Northern Territory (31.5) and the Australia population (37.0).

People over 65 years represent only 4.2 % of the total which compares with the Australian wide 13.5%.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE WE ARE IN ROPER GULF SHIRE pt2

In many ways we are going through a baby boom very similar to the Post Second World War Australian experience, unlike current Australia which is ageing rapidly, with the average age being 37 years of age.

With the exception of Mataranka and the Stuart Highway towns which have a medium age of 40, the rest of the Shire's median age is in the teens or low twenties with Jilkminggan the youngest at 16.

Women give birth at a younger age on average than the Australian wide population and families have on average 2.7 children per family compared with the Australian average of 1.9.

Most of the information in this issue is sourced from Census 2011 and details can be seen on the Census QuickStats (LGA 73600)

http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat

FREE LIVE SCREENING AFL



Barunga - Saturday 29th June 2013

Bulman - Saturday 13th July 2013 (will be included as part of the Bulman festival)

Jilkminggan - Saturday 27th July 2013

All events are open to everyone and are drug and alcohol free.

These are sponsored by TIO and Outbush Pitches.