

## Upcoming Local Board Meeting

The next Local Board Meeting dates are as follows:

Barunga—19th November  
 Beswick—18th November  
 Borroloola— 7th November  
 Bulman—21st November  
 Jilkminggan—3rd December  
 Larrimah—4th December  
 Mataranka—3rd December  
 Ngukurr-- 20th November  
 Numbulwar—6th November

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

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Date	Where
Wednesday 13th November	Borroloola
Wednesday 18th December	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

### RoperGulf Shire Mayor

**Tony Jack**  
 Mobile: 0428 793 132  
 Email: [tony.jack@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:tony.jack@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Roper Gulf Shire Deputy Mayor

**Judy MacFarlane**  
 Phone: 08 89759 929  
 Email: [judy.macfarlane@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:judy.macfarlane@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Chief Executive Officer

**Michael Berto**  
 Phone: 08 8972 9008  
 Email: [michael.berito@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:michael.berito@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Director Community Services

**Catherine Proctor**  
 Phone: 08 8972 8312  
 Email: [catherine.proctor@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:catherine.proctor@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Director Infrastructure & Technical Services

**Sharon Hillen**  
 Phone: 08 8972 0409  
 Email: [Sharon.hillen@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.hillen@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Director of Corporate Governance

**Greg Arnott**  
 Phone: 08 8972 9020  
 Email: [greg.arnott@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:greg.arnott@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Director Contracts & Economic Development

**Marc Gardner**  
 Phone: 08 8972 0405  
 Email: [marc.gardner@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:marc.gardner@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Manager Governance & Corporate Planning (Acting)

**Jyoti Pudasaini**  
 Phone: 08 8972 9005  
 Email: [jyoti.pudasaini@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:jyoti.pudasaini@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Manager Human Resources

**Julie Cook**  
 Phone: 08 8972 9012  
 Email: [julie.cook@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:julie.cook@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

### Manager Finance

**Lokesh Anand**  
 Phone: 08 8972 9009  
 Email: [lokesh.anand@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:lokesh.anand@ropergulf.nt.gov.au)

Headquarters General Number: 08 8972 9000  
 Headquarters Fax number: 08 8971 2607

Website: [www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au](http://www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au)



# Newsletter

Issue 55 October, 2013



## Message from the Chief Executive Officer Michael Berto

Hello everyone.

Well October is here and this puts us in the middle of the dreaded "build-up" to our wet season. Let's hope rainfall is on its way soon to give us some relief. Council have been busy and were able to complete their meeting on 10 October successfully after a slight delay. Following the bi-election for the Yugul Mangi Ward we now look forward to welcoming Eric Roberts from Ngukurr into Council at the November meeting.

It was great to receive a visit by the NT Grants Commission to our Shire and they visited most of our communities with expert host, Sharon Hillen, our Director of Infrastructure and Technical Services. The visit coincided with Council's Meeting and we had the pleasure of Bob Beadman (Chairman) and his team attend this meeting to discuss important issues.

This month I was delighted to be involved in making history for the Shire when the Mayor conducted our inaugural Citizenship Ceremony in Mataranka on 17 October. It was made even more special as the very first and the only one candidate on the day was our long-serving Director of Community Services, Catherine Proctor. Congratulations and well done Catherine. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this special event the success that it was.

The Community of Bulman also had a great event with the Bulman Barrel of Laughs. Well known Aboriginal Comedian from Queensland, Sean Choolburra was the special guest at this event which was to promote the issue of problem gambling using comedy to spread important messages about this issue. I'm told he had everyone there in fits of laughter and a great night was enjoyed by all who attended.

Til next time,

Stay safe

## BARUNGA WINS MAJOR TIDY TOWNS AWARD

The Roper Gulf Shire Town of Barunga has recently been announced as the winner of the 2013 Northern Territory Tidy Towns "Large Community" Award.

The town located seventy kilometres south east of Katherine has been a previous winner in the Tidy Towns Awards. Nestled in a valley just off the Central Arnhem Highway the picturesque little town home to around 300 people is renowned for its annual Barunga Festival that this year attracted more than 3000 visitors to the music, sport and cultural offerings.

The award again acknowledges the strong ongoing commitment to maintaining a clean, safe and tidy community shown by the community, Council and Council staff.

Roper Gulf Shire Mayor Tony Jack on hearing of the award said,  
 "We are proud that our community has received this recognition, not because there was a special effort to win the award but as an acknowledgement of what our everyday practice is in Barunga. We are justifiably proud that this is a town where the residents and municipal staff care about where they live and work"



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## BARUNGA WINS MAJOR TIDY TOWNS AWARD Continued..

Mayor Tony Jack in congratulating Barunga on its win added,

"There is a history of wins in the Tidy Town awards by Barunga and other Roper Gulf Shire Towns over recent years. We work hard at making our towns liveable places but this can only be achieved by having a shared vision between residents, the Roper Gulf Shire Council and other town users. Well done again Barunga"

The award will be presented to the community and displayed with a number of other high profile awards won by this well known Top End town.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND TWO 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 Two Open 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

**Closing date for all applications will be COB 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

Please contact Amanda Haigh - Grants Coordinator on (08) 8972 9038 or

[grants.ropergulf@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:grants.ropergulf@ropergulf.nt.gov.au) for an application package.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2013-14

Roper Gulf Shire Council is pleased to advise the following organisations were successful in their Round One applications:

### Major Grants

- Mataranka Fishing, Sporting and Recreation Club Inc.—Assist with costs for start up expenses of MFSRC and Magic Netball fuel and player shirts.
- RGSC on behalf of Jilkminggan Blues Football Club—Assist with costs for transport for team to travel to Katherine for 2014 Big Rivers Football League Season.
- RGSC on behalf of Arnhem Crows Football Club—Assist with costs for transport support for team to travel to Katherine for 2014 Big Rivers Football League Season.
- RGSC on behalf of Beswick Bears Football Club—Assist with costs for transport support for team to travel to Katherine for 2014 Big Rivers Football League Season
- RGSC on behalf of Ngukurr Bulldogs Football Club—Assist with costs for transport for team to travel to Katherine for 2014 Big Rivers Football League Season
- Borrooloola Amateur Pace Club—Assist with costs for purchase of seating for Rodeo Ground made by Borrooloola VET students
- Katherine Regional Arts—Assist with costs for Ngukurr artists participation in the Katherine Junk Festival 2014
- Numbulwar School—Assist with costs for Numbulwar Sand2Snow Trip
- AFL Big River Region Inc—Assist with costs for travel and accommodation for boys of the Shire participating in Big River Hawks Program
- AFL Big River Region Inc—Assist with costs for u16 boys competition
- St Josephs Catholic College—Assist with costs for "US MOB BIG DAY OUT" attendance of Indigenous Students yr 6 to 11 from Barunga, Borrooloola and Bulman

Please contact Amanda Haigh -Grants Coordinator on (08) 8972 9038 or [grants.ropergulf@ropergulf.nt.gov.au](mailto:grants.ropergulf@ropergulf.nt.gov.au) for more information on future RGSC Community Grants Program Rounds.

*Sustainable, Viable, Vibrant*

## FIRST AUSTRALIANS WELCOME NEW AUSTRALIANS

For the first time in the five years since formation, the Roper Gulf Shire Council formally welcomed a new Australian by hosting its first Citizenship ceremony.

Twenty five relatives and friends attended the ceremony held in Mataranka, in the heart of the "Never Never," to witness long term Katherine resident Catherine Proctor become an Australian Citizen. Catherine who was born in the United Kingdom and has now lived in Katherine for years is the first new citizen sworn in by the Mayor of Roper Gulf Shire Council Mr Tony Jack.

Mayor Tony Jack said, "Catherine has worked with the Roper Gulf Shire since 2008 and has become an important member of our organisation and community, and I am very pleased to formally welcome her as an Australian Citizen,... and what a beautiful and iconic location Mataranka is to become an Australian Citizen.

Roper Gulf Shire is twice the size of Tasmania with a population of around 7000 people, most of whom are Indigenous but like much of Australia we have people from of all over the world making their homes here. "

Mayor Jack, a Garawa man from Robinson River near Borrooloola added,

"... we Aboriginal people have been welcoming migrants to our country for hundreds of years and I am very excited as the Mayor of Roper Gulf Shire Council to be welcoming new Australians and witnessing their oath of allegiance on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Aboriginal people of Australia have a living culture going back at least 40,000 years. Recent Australian history is one of migration with most families having a history of arrival as migrants. In many ways these two streams are the basis and strength of our shared modern Australia. We welcome you all.

We plan to host more of these ceremonies and welcome people to join us as Australians in this special place. We have a shared future."

Mayor Jack invited people who were planning to become Australian Citizens and would like to take their oath in Roper Gulf Shire to contact the Department of Immigration.

## FIRST AUSTRALIANS WELCOME NEW AUSTRALIANS



Proud Australian Citizen, Catherine Proctor with Mayor Tony Jack and CEO Michael Berto.

## Employee of the Month September

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

**Head Quarters** – Nominations— Anthony Moss-RJCP Logistics Officer, Keely-Rae Wallace-Customer Service Officer and Ansuya Sobha- EA to DITS

**Winner—Ansuya Sobha**

**Barunga**– Winner – Patricia Lee

**Beswick** – Winner – Caroline Wurrben

**Borrooloola** –Winner – Kirsten Carrington

**Bulman** – Winner – Michael Stevens

**Eva Valley** – Winner – Isaac Dai

**Jilkminggan** – Nominations—Gerald Sambo—Municipal Officer and Fiona Hayes—RJCP Officer

**Winner** – Gerald Sambo

**Mataranka**—Winner – Doug Logan

**Ngukurr** – Winner – Peter Farrell

**Numbulwar** – Winner – Malcolm Murrungun

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