

Upcoming Local Board Meeting

The next Local Board Meeting dates are as follows:

Numbulwar—8th October
 Ngukurr—9th October
 Borroloola—10th October
 Beswick—14th October
 Manyallaluk—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.

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
 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 Keely 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

Shire Contact List

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Newsletter

Issue 54 September, 2013



Message from the Chief Executive Officer Michael Berto

Hello everyone.

The month of September has brought the build-up and temperatures are soaring. We all need to keep our cool as the heat has a way of trying us all in different ways. We need to be prepared for any disaster and especially familiarise ourselves with Cyclone procedure for our communities that are vulnerable.

The first quarter of Remote Jobs in Communities Program (RJCP) has had its challenges and the staff continue to learn, grow and improve in meeting the targets that have been set. With the Federal Election seeing a change in the Government we wait to see if there will be any significant policy shift from the Australian Government impacting upon the shire.

I attended the Tobacco Free Initiative Forum where I gave a presentation on Smoking in the Workplace. This was a very informative forum and I brought back a wealth of knowledge that I wish to share with the Shire and hopefully encourage lots of our people to free themselves from the addiction to Nicotine. Roper Gulf Shire is leading the way to a Non Smoking work environment and other Shires are keen to follow our policy and procedures.

With great sadness we bid Thomas Michel farewell. He joined the Shire as Finance Manager in July 2010 and progressed to Director of Contracts and Economic Development – we wish him and his loved ones all the best in the next exciting chapter of his life in Austria!

We welcome Marc Gardner into the above position and are confident he will have a significant impact on the Shire.

Until next time, stay safe.

Regards,

YUGUL MUNGI WARD BY ELECTION – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS.

The Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) advises nominations are invited to stand as a Councillor in the Yugul Mungi Ward of Roper Gulf Shire Council

Nominees must be enrolled electors living in the relevant council area and be nominated by at least three other persons who are eligible to vote at the respective elections. Qualification and disqualification provisions apply.

Nomination forms must be received by the Returning Officer at the NTEC no later than **12 noon SHARP Thursday 10 October 2013.**

Candidate information packs, including the nomination form and candidate handbook with detailed

instructions, are available from council offices, NTEC offices and the NTEC website (www.ntec.nt.gov.au)

If a poll is required, polling services will be advertised in the press and on posters in the communities. Key dates and services related to the holding of the by-elections are shown on the election timetables attached.

It is important for electors to keep their enrolment details up to date and any application for changes for this election, must be lodged by roll close **5pm Tuesday 1 October 2013.**

Enrolment forms are available from council offices, post offices, NTEC offices and the NTEC website (www.ntec.nt.gov.au).

For further information call **1800 MYVOTE** or visit www.ntec.nt.gov.au

ARE THESE MEN THE TERRITORY'S OLDEST GARBOS?

Robbie Collins and Jerry Anderson have a combined age of 138 years and are still doing the weekly garbage runs at Borroloola, a Roper Gulf Shire town of around 1000 people.

In a job usually done by fit young men, Robbie and Jerry, known as "Tom and Jerry" by their work mates, pick up more than 800 bins weekly as part of Borroloola's twice weekly garbage run.

As a team they have been working together for more than seven years.

Like the famous cartoon characters they seem to have that great working relationship that has come of years of working together, Robbie on the truck and Jerry heaving the bins. Like the cartoon characters they are always busy, always on the move.

Watching them at work, in what even now with a new state of the art compactor truck, is sustained heavy work, would put many much young men to shame.

Shire Services Manager Bob Pahl says the men are some of his best workers, reliable, hard working and respected by the local community. Both men have received employees of the Month award from the Shire following nominations from the community.

These men have seen some considerable changes in the town and how rubbish is managed.

"When we started rubbish was stored in heavy 44 gallon drums, then bins and now wheelie bins... and there are a lot more bins now. We now have a bridge across the MacArthur River and a pool. We also have the new compactor truck. It makes some things better but it is still a hard job." they said,

"... and we think the town is cleaner than when we started."

Dogs are not a problem, "We just talk to them" Jerry said and the odd live snake in the rubbish, "not a problem... we see all kinds of unusual things in the rubbish."

ARE THESE MEN THE TERRITORY'S OLDEST GARBOS?

When asked about retirement, neither had any plans and expected to work till they drop".

Their hint for the younger mob on staying fit and healthy like them is, "Sleep at night instead of drinking and partying"

When asked how residents can help them in their job they asked people to put their bins out on time, don't overfill, and don't put metal objects in the bin.

So next time you see the Garbos on their run around Borroloola give them a wave, without them the place would be lot less tidy and healthy.



CHANGE TO OCM MEETING

Our Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for the 25th of September was unfortunately postponed as various Councillors's had unforeseen personal issues - our thoughts & prayers are with them. This meeting will now be held on the 10 October 2013 at 8.30am at the Pine Tree Motel Third Street Katherine. Enquiries to Bobbi Hynes: 8972 9054

FIGHTING FAIR TRAINING

Are you into Fighting Fair?!

Recently 23 RGSC employees took advantage of the opportunity to learn about Fighting Fair!

The facilitator for these training sessions was Scott Dutton, who hails from Byron Bay in NSW. Scott's qualifications include a BSW and BSc. (Psych. major). He has also completed a Masters level in Conflict Coaching, a Certificate IV in Assessment & Workplace Training, is a member of Victorian Association of Dispute Resolution and the Australian Association of Social Workers, and presented at the National Mediation Conference in Sydney 2012. Scott is also a committee member of the Byron Bay Youth House.

The four day training covered several topics.

Mediation and Conflict Resolution - providing skills that can be applied in many different areas of conflict e.g. workplace disputes and interpersonal conflict. It is an interactive and stimulating 2 day course exploring conflict and sharing the essential principles and processes of mediation.

Difficult but Necessary Conversations is something that most of us have from time to time whether with colleagues, staff or friends. The issue is often how to start sensitive conversations because emotions escalate and communication can break down. This 1-day workshop assists in developing and demonstrating skills and techniques in having difficult but necessary conversations.

Conflict Coaching can be utilised in a number of contexts such as where a staff member or colleague is struggling to deal with a current conflict or a recently resolved conflict has left the individual still feeling an impact. This is a one-on-one process enabling the coach to assist the 'coachee' develop and practice constructive strategies and skills to manage conflict and its impact.

Those who attended the training provided the following comments -

"This training will assist me as a manager to deal with issues / concerns that are raised"

FIGHTING FAIR TRAINING

"I found all aspects of this training were very valuable".

"From this training I need to put into practice how to be fair, impartial and neutral in dealing with conflict"

"I intend to apply this learning to my work by being more aware of body language, the way people speak and being mindful of others".



Employee of the Month August

Nominations and Winners for the month of May 2013

Head Quarters - Nominations—Jo Nicol - Local Board Support Officer and Keely-Rae Wallace - Customer Service Officer. Winner—Jo Nicol

Barunga - Winner - Gloria Browne

Beswick - Winner - Kelvin Jolly

Borroloola -Winner - Alesha Edmonds

Bulman - Winner - Jill Curtis

Eva Valley - Winner - Mark Runyu

Jilkminggan -Winner - Lewis Daylight-Roy

Mataranka—Winner - Richard Moore

Ngukurr - Winner - Margaret George

Numbulwar - Winner - Emery Joshua

Congratulations to all Employee of the Month Winners!