

Upcoming Meetings

Finance and Audit Committee Meetings:

26th February 2014

Ordinary Council Meetings:

26 March 2014

The next Local Authority Meeting dates are as follows:

Manyallaluk/Beswick—17th February 2014

Bulman—19th February 2014

Numbulwar—4th March 2014

Ngukurr—3rd March—2014

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

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

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 RGRC although it has to be related to the Shire in some way. If unsure how to get an article in the newsletter ask your Council 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.

RGRC Contact List

RoperGulf Shire Mayor

Tony Jack

Mobile: 0428 793 132

Email: tony.jack@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Roper Gulf Shire Deputy Mayor

Judy MacFarlane

Phone: 08 89759 929

Email: judy.macfarlane@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Chief Executive Officer

Michael Berto

Phone: 08 8972 9008

Email: michael.berito@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Director Community Services

Catherine Proctor

Phone: 08 8972 8312

Email: catherine.proctor@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Director Infrastructure & Technical Services

Sharon Hillen

Phone: 08 8972 0409

Email: Sharon.hillen@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Director of Corporate Governance

Greg Arnott

Phone: 08 8972 9020

Email: greg.arnott@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Director Contracts & Economic Development

Marc Gardner

Phone: 08 8972 0405

Email: marc.gardner@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Manager Governance & Corporate Planning (Acting)

Jyoti Pudasaini

Phone: 08 8972 9005

Email: jyoti.pudasaini@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Manager Human Resources

Julie Cook

Phone: 08 8972 9012

Email: julie.cook@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Manager Finance

Lokesh Anand

Phone: 08 8972 9009

Email: lokesh.anand@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Headquarters General Number: 08 8972 9000

Headquarters Fax number: 08 8971 2607

Website: www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au



Newsletter

Issue 57 January 2014



Message from the Chief Executive Officer *Michael Berto*

Hello everyone

I hope everyone has enjoyed the festive season and for those of you who made their new year's resolutions, I wish you all the best. The new year brings in a new era for Roper Gulf with the changes to Shires in the NT I referred to in my message late last year.

On the 1 January 2014 we became Roper Gulf Regional Council and we now have the task of ensuring this is reflected on all our signage, documentation, paraphernalia, etc throughout our organisation. An important part of the changes is the establishment of local authorities in each community. They will replace the local boards as we have come to know them and are to be formally in place by 1st July 2014. The main aim of these local authorities is for the communities to gain a stronger voice on all matters concerning them.

Roper Gulf Regional Council have agreed to take on a new program in 2014. This program is tied to the RJCP program. With the start of the School year we will be delivering the School Attendance Strategy on behalf of the Australian Government in the communities of Barunga, Beswick and Bulman. Basically, this means we will have local people in these communities whose jobs will be to assist school aged children attend school each day. We hope we can make a real difference to improving attendance rates which leads to better education outcomes for our children.

Wishing you all a great 2014 and stay safe

Till next time

Regards,

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2013

Huge congratulations go to Gerald Sambo, Employee of the Year for 2013.

Gerald Sambo, a worker from Jilkminggan has been awarded Employee of the Year for his honesty, consistency, attendance, reliability, good attitude and good work ethics.

Alan Mole, CSM for Jilkminggan, commended Gerald on his great work around the community saying " Gerald constantly works hard and takes a lot of pride in what he does and in the community. He is well liked by his fellow employees and very well respected within the community."

Gerald won Employee of the Month 5 times last year and is definitely very well deserving of Employee of the Year.

Congratulations Gerald and keep up the great work!



Mayor Jack and CEO Michael Berto with Employee of the Year Gerald Sambo.

NIGHT PATROL NUMBULWAR

On the 3rd of January, Police and Roper Gulf Regional Council Staff were notified that an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons) had been activated in the vicinity of Numbulwar.

Care Flight were dispatched to give aerial support as a full scale search was launched.

Night Patrol were seconded to check local boats to see if it had been an accidental activation whilst the Police boat was launched to check the waterways.

4 hours later our legendary Night Patrol located the EPIRB on the beach and promptly returned it to the Police where it was verified with AMSA (Australian Maritime Safety Authority) in Canberra as being the device that activated, saving a costly search from being continued. It is suspected that the EPIRB was acquired by young kids.

A very big well done to Ernest, Cyrus and Don of Numbulwar Night Patrol. Police hierarchy from Darwin are also very complimentary of the Night Patrol's needle in a haystack find.



*Sustainable, Viable,
Vibrant*

AUSTRALIA DAY 2014 MANYALLALUK

Australia Day 2014 for Manyallaluk community was a celebration of all the positive things about living in this community – having fun together, sharing food, supporting education and caring for our environment.

Manyallaluk community in conjunction with Roper Gulf Regional Council employees celebrated Australia Day 2014 on Wednesday 29 to coincide with the children returning to school for Term 1.

We wanted to celebrate and support the education of the children in this community. Wednesday afternoon between 5.00pm and 7.00pm we conducted the following activities on the basketball court with approximately fifty people including children, teenagers and adults all joining in the fun and games.

- Sausage Sizzle
- Tug-O-War
- Basketball game
- Disco music

Also in conjunction with the above activities, the children are in the process of painting a canvas highlighting the importance of trees in this community. When completed this canvas will be framed and hung at the Roper Gulf Regional Council office at Manyallaluk.

We will be planting a flowering tree, Banaba [*Lagerstroemia speciosa*] near the basketball court to provide shade and colour, and also habitat for animals and insects. We are waiting for the Sport & Rec. donger to be relocated before planting the tree, to ensure we don't block access for the crane and truck.

And to finish off the Australia Day 2014 activities, we will be having a movie night this Friday 31 January. Movie goers will be treated to popcorn and ice-cream cones.

BACK TO SCHOOL—REMOTE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STRATEGY

Roper Gulf Regional Council Mayor Tony Jack has announced that the Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS), a new federally funded program to support families to encourage children to attend school regularly and on time, and reduce truancy, will start in local schools at Barunga, Beswick and Bulman early in the first term. This program will be staffed through the Roper Gulf Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP), an Australian Government initiative.

The Commonwealth Government has offered over \$800,000 for Roper Gulf RJCP to supervise the school attendance strategy in three towns. Mayor Jack explained that the school attendance supervisors will work from early morning with families to get their kids ready and on time for school, and assist families to overcome barriers to participation in the education system.

"They will not have any coercive powers and they are there to encourage and support families so their kids attend school on time. This is an unusual role for local government but the Councillors and I know how important school attendance is in giving our kids a strong start in life and we are happy to support this program through our RJCP contract.

School attendance in some of our schools is unacceptably low and having local people, known to families, to help them to encourage their kids to attend will hopefully build a more positive attitude to school attendance. This is just part of the story. It is also about encouraging more stable home lives especially normal sleeping patterns and simple things like providing appropriate breakfast nutrition so kids are ready and able to deal with school. It is also often about families having the opportunity to find work and purpose and providing positive role models.

BACK TO SCHOOL—REMOTE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STRATEGY

Kids who miss school quickly fall behind, often missing keystone learning and those who do not attend school regularly can be disruptive to other students and often fall into anti social behaviour.

We are very young communities here in Roper Gulf and residents often come from very disadvantaged backgrounds. We can't afford a significant number of our children to fall into a hopeless state by avoiding school. It is also a challenge to our Government and educators to ensure that schools respect culture and support our at-risk kids through appropriate staffing levels and teaching resources"

People interested in the RSAS roles are encouraged to contact their local RJCP office.

VET DATES 2014

Bulman/Weemol—10th -13th February

Numbulwar—24th -29th March

Ngukurr/Urapunga—7th-13th April

Mulgan (AM) / Mataranka (PM)-28th April

Jilkminggan—29th-30th April

Werenbun (AM) / Jodetluk (PM) - 1 May

Barunga—12th-15th May

Manyallaluk—20th May

Beswick—26th-30th May

Borrooloola—23rd-30th June

