

## Upcoming Meetings

### Finance and Audit Committee Meetings:

30th April 2014

### Ordinary Council Meetings:

26 March 2014

28th May 2014

### Local Authority Meetings:

Numbulwar—4th March 2014

Ngukurr—5th March 2014

Jilkminggan/Mataranka—1st April 2014

Borrooloola—3rd April 2014

Manyallaluk—7th April 2014

Numbulwar—8th April 2014

Ngukurr—9th April 2014

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

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Vibrant*

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.

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# Newsletter

Issue 58 February 2014



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

Hello Everyone,

Once again the year is getting off to a flying start and already we are coming into March. The wet season has given us a good drenching in February with Borrooloola in particular being on flood watch on several occasions. Thankfully, so far this has not eventuated into a full scale flood situation for those residents there and as I write this message the Township is getting back into normality.

The Roper Gulf Regional Council had their meeting in the Barunga Community on 28-29 January and this also coincided with the launch of the new Commonwealth Government School Attendance Strategy which the Council will be delivering in this Community for the next two years. The Council meeting was well received by locals and it was great to see the Community looking well maintained.

I would like to draw attention to the newly updated Roper Gulf Council Website which has just been re-launched with a number of new features. I hope that this upgrade will provide viewers with all the key information they need about the Council and its communities, certainly from a local government perspective anyway.

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

This year we will be putting a lot more focus and effort into Work Health and Safety (WH&S) for the organisation. We now have an experienced WH&S Officer, Matthew Galloway who will be leading the charge and ensuring we all come on board with the new legislation on WH&S and how this translates into practice for an organisation like ours.

It will be the Leadership Team's responsibility to ensure all employees fully understand what work health and safety means in their jobs on an everyday basis. We can all expect a lot of changes that will make improvements to our everyday practices. The overall aim of this is to make our organisation a safe place to work, which I know everyone will really appreciate, as nobody likes to see accidents occurring that could have been prevented.

Let's all stay safe

Till next time, 

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

## NEW YEAR, NEW NAME AND NEW ERA FOR ROPER GULF

On 19th December 2013 the Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, David Tollner MLA, announced that Shire Councils will be transformed to Regional Councils from 1st January 2014.

From 1st January 2014 Roper Gulf Shire Council will be known as Roper Gulf Regional Council. This is a change from "Shire", an old English word, for a rural administrative unit to Regional Council as is in use in South Australia. This also reflects and acknowledges the increasingly diverse and regional roles of the Roper Gulf Regional Council.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18th December 2013 Council agreed to a new logo which will replace the current design from 1st January 2014.

Apart from the name change Roper Gulf Regional Council will also make changes to the governance structures to incorporate the changes made by the Northern Territory Government. Local authorities will replace the current local board models. The local authorities will be involved in all planning, service delivery and expenditure matters involving their local community in a similar way to how local boards presently operate. As an integral part of local government in the communities, local authority members will be paid, and it is envisaged that each local authority will meet at least 6 times a year. There will be a transition period from January to June for existing local board members, who wish to continue representing their communities, into the new local authorities. This will also allow for new members to be recruited to the local authorities where required. New local authorities will replace local boards in Barunga, Borroloola, Bulman, Jilkminggan, Manyallaluk, Mataranka, Minyerri, Ngukurr, Numbulwar and Wugularr towns and communities. Roper Gulf is already well under way in implementing these changes.

## NEW YEAR, NEW NAME AND NEW ERA FOR ROPER GULF

Roper Gulf Regional Council Mayor Tony Jack welcomed the new changes by saying,

"Roper Gulf Shire Council is already a leading local Government in regional Northern Territory and seen by many as a benchmark in good practice and service. The name change reflects our continuing progress away from small and insular local government administration to that of a regional authority. People can be confident that the high service standards will continue and we will continue to be sustainable, viable and vibrant as Roper Gulf Regional Council.

It is five years since the Roper Gulf Shire was established amalgamating a number of small community councils and previously unincorporated land and now a new era begins as a regional council. It will be business as usual under a changed name reflecting our regional responsibilities and aspirations. Changes to Local Boards will also further engage and empower our communities in local decision making. Thinking regionally and acting locally."

## NUMBURINDI ARTS

Numburindi Arts from Numbulwar are selling great pieces of artwork available at reasonable prices. Items include; necklaces, baskets, dillybags, placemats, coasters and tea towels.

The Senior class at Numbulwar school will be building a new website for Numburindi Arts this term and will showcase all the artwork once it is up and running. For more information or for the latest catalogue, please email [selena.uibo@ntschoools.net](mailto:selena.uibo@ntschoools.net)



## THE HUNGRY CATERPILLAR MUNCHES IT'S WAY THROUGH THE BORROLOOLA CRECHE

Borroloola library is now doing Monday and Friday afternoon at the crèche. Our first visit for 2014 had a turn out of around 8-9 kids. We organised our visit around the 'Hungry Caterpillar' book. Library staff had made a Hungry Caterpillar cake and caterpillar sock puppets. It was a lovely afternoon with all the kids enjoying reading, dancing, singing and eating some cake.

The Borroloola Library is also doing playgroup for three days at the end of each month. The library staff will be doing reading activities, art and craft, games and lots more. We also have the Aged Care Centre coming to the library on Monday mornings from 10am to 11am to watch old movies, look through the 'My Community Stories' program we have with Borroloola history on it, reading and plenty more.

Library staff are very excited to be running these program and we are looking forward to planning more new and exiting activities / events.

For more information on these or other library events ring Valda on 89758802 or call by during library hours 8.00am -4.30pm Monday to Fridays.



## NIGHT PATROL BESWICK

A new Night Patrol Team has started patrolling in the community of Beswick. The team includes two ex ACPO's, Kathleen Lane (Team Leader) and Gordon Narwundilpi.

The experience and professionalism of Kathleen and Gordon will undoubtedly enhance and support Community Safety in Beswick as well as offer continued mentoring and on the job training for the three other Night Patrol Officers.

To coincide with the new team members employment, Beswick also received their new Night Patrol vehicle on the 13 January 2014.

Fitted with a Satellite tracking system, the vehicles movements and position at any given time can be monitored and will not only ensure a quick and efficient response by other units to any safety concerns that may arise but also offer's the flexibility to meet the expectations of the community and the policing requirements of the region.



The new Beswick Night Patrol vehicle.

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

## SEWING THE SEEDS IN BULMAN

There are a lot of talented ladies in the Bulman community. We have weavers, screen printers, lino printers and sewers. We wanted to practice our sewing and learn new things to help with the Walaman Festival. Rose Too and Ruth Neave (Indigenous Community Volunteers) spent two weeks in Bulman working with us to get ready for the 2014 Walaman Festival which is happening 11-13 July 2014.

Rose has been working with us for four years. This is Ruth's first visit and she helped the Bulman ladies to practice our sewing. The Walaman Festival Women's Group has set up a sewing room at the Women's Centre. We have two machines, fabric and some patterns for ladies' and children's clothes. We would pick out what we wanted and depending on our experience, Ruth would help us cut the material, or pin it together and we would do the sewing.

We have made clothes for our children, skirts and shorts for ourselves and pillow slips. The sewing room was very busy for the two weeks, with ladies at the machines and pinning and cutting going on all around. Often, there were little people watching and learning as well. We were all very proud and happy of our new clothes.

We plan on working with the other ladies to bring together the printers, weavers and sewers to make clothes, pillow slips and curtains to sell.

By Jill Curtis and Ruth Neave



## VET DATES 2014

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  
 Borroloola—23rd-30th June



## JILKMINGGAN CRECHE OPENING DAY

**Jilkminggan Crèche Opening Day**



*We welcome you to celebrate with us*

**Venue:** Jilkminggan Crèche  
**Date:** 28/03/2014 FRIDAY  
**Time:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**BBQ Lunch Provided** ☺



Roper Gulf Regional Council

Jilkminggan Crèche  
 Lot #62  
 Phone: 08 8975 4044  
 Supervisor: Shirley McDonald  
 Email: [jilkminggan@ropergulf.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jilkminggan@ropergulf.nsw.gov.au)

The printer provided by the AAT 8000  
 Colours are at Supermarket/Espresso  
 Bring in a Right Hand Fresh (887)  
 Daily Menu

## AGED CARE DINNER

In December, clients and staff from Mataranka, Jilkminggan and Beswick travelled up to Katherine to enjoy a Roper Gulf Regional Council Aged Care Dinner and socialising at the Katherine Club.

It was a great opportunity for everybody to catch up with family and friends from the other communities and exchange news and stories.

Lara Brennan, Manager Community Services, presented Certificates of appreciation to the staff members and expressed her gratitude for all their hard work during the year.

After the big day of gathering in the morning, travelling up to town, having a big dinner (which was delicious), catching up with everybody else then loading into the buses again, nearly all the older people (and quite a few of the staff!) slept all the way home.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable outing and a great way to end the year for us all.



## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH JANUARY

**Nominations and Winners for the month of January 2014**

**Head Quarters** - Nominations— Barbara Maddern, Rita Duncan, Chris Cookson and Brooke Margetts. Winner— Barbara Maddern

**Barunga**- Winner - Gloria Browne

**Beswick** - Nominations—Don Blitner and Tiffany Vivian. Winner - Don Blitner

**Borroloola** - Nominations—Chantelle Johns and Kirsten Carrington. Winner—Chantelle Johns

**Bulman** - Winner - Robert Daylight

**Eva Valley** - Winner - Simone Watson

**Jilkminggan** - Winner - Holly Gosden

**Mataranka**—Winner - Margaret Minnett

**Ngukurr** - Nominations—Ray Thackray and Melissa Taylor. Winner—Ray Thackray

**Numbulwar** - Nominations—Michaela Naare and Ella Gaia. Winner—Michaela Naare

Congratulations to all Employee of the Month Winners.. ☺

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY

**Nominations and Winners for the month of January 2014**

**Head Quarters** - Nominations— Jill Hardiman and Brooke Margetts. Winner— Brooke Margetts

**Barunga**- Winner - Peter Patterson

**Beswick** - Winner - Caroline Wurrben

**Borroloola** - Winner—Kirsten Carrington

**Bulman** - Winner - Esau Martin

**Eva Valley** - Winner - Mark Runyu

**Jilkminggan** - Winner - Cecelia Lake

**Mataranka**—Winner - Darcie Boon

**Ngukurr** - Winner—Yvette Robertson

**Numbulwar** - Winner—Malcolm Murrungun

Congratulations to all Employee of the Month Winners.. ☺

## DIRECTOR PROFILES

Starting with this edition of the Roper Gulf Regional Council Newsletter and over the next few months, we are profiling our four Directors and CEO. We start this series with Mr Greg Arnott, Director of Corporate Governance.



### Director of Corporate Governance

Name: Greg Arnott

### Which Departments do you look after?

Human Resources  
Finance  
Governance  
Information Technology

### What does your job as a director require you to do?

My job requires me to ensure the good governance and management of the council and its corporate functions. I am tasked with ensuring all the things that people just expect to happen actually happen. The big one for most people is that they get paid and then that they have the tools to do their job, like a telephone, computer and access to the internet. I have responsibility for things such as recruitment, industrial relations, learning and development, payroll, making sure that our bills are paid and that we are paid for the work that we do. I also make sure that council carries out its function, complies with the law and plans for the future.

**A bit about you:** I was born in Sydney, lived in Newcastle for awhile and have been in the NT for about 10 years. When I moved to the NT, I first lived in Angurugu on Groote Eylandt and then moved to Katherine in 2008 where I joined Victoria Daly Shire as the Director of Corporate and Community Services. I joined Roper Gulf Regional Council in November last year. Last year I married Claire in her home country of Wales in the UK. I have been lucky enough to travel to most of Australia and look forward to seeing more of Roper Gulf.

## NEW ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL WEBSITE GOES ONLINE

Want to know when the next Council meeting is? What's the population of Barunga? How much is dog registration? When is the Never Never Festival? How much is Roper Gulf Regional Council spending in Numbulwar? When is the garbage picked up in Borroloola? Can we drive across the Wilton River crossing? Like the hundreds of enquiries Roper Gulf Regional Council customer services receive every year these are all good questions and now even easier to find answers to...

Roper Gulf Regional Council has recently renewed its website with new looks with more information.

The new website replaces the five year old format and is much easier to use. It incorporates new graphics and has lots more local news and photographs. The website includes all council minutes, agendas, policies, rates, media releases, annual reports, strategic plans and current job vacancies.

A highlight of the new web site are the community pages; dedicated pages of information on Roper Gulf's thirteen communities and towns. Community newsletters and coming events including festivals information can also be easily found here. Another new feature is quick links to NT Road Reports, weather warnings and emergency management advice and alerts.

Roper Gulf Regional Councils Mayor, Tony Jack is proud of the new website saying,

"This is a big step forward from our previous website which had not substantially changed since it was set up by the Shire five years ago. The new website, which is much more user friendly and accessible, reflects our change of name from Roper Gulf Shire Council to Roper Gulf Regional Council. It demonstrates our transition from an insular shire to a Regional Council and showcases our viable and vibrant culture and communities."

And if you cannot find an answer, feedback and comments can also be left on the website for a quick response. The website can be accessed at [www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au](http://www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au) and if you don't have internet access or don't want to use it, ring the friendly reception staff and they will get you the information ... from the website.

## NEW DUTCH PHOTO EXHIBITION CELEBRATES NUMBULWAR LIFE IN THE MID 1960'S

Memories of a time long past came flying back to Numbulwar with last weeks arrival of a collection of 450 unique black and white photos taken 50 years ago and held by the Netherlands Museum. Numbulwar a small gulf town of 700 people located 400 kilometres east of Katherine has welcomed the return of a collection of 450 photographs taken in 1964 -1965.

The photographs were returned by the Oceania Curator of the Museum of the Netherlands, Dr. Fanny Wonu Veys who visited beautiful Numbulwar in late February. The historic black and white photographs were taken by Dutch anthropologist Alex van der Leeden and recorded everyday life in and around the then newly established town. A small sample of thirty black and white photos will be publically displayed at the School and with the assistance of language workers Janga Numdhiribala and Mamuna Murrungan, these will be documented into clan and kin groupings and named where possible. These photos will be kept in the digital archives of the language centre at the Numbulwar School.

Photographic history from this time is very rare and the exhibition has caused quite a stir in the small town as people recognise themselves as very young people and see family and places long gone. Community elders have reviewed all the photos and where culturally sensitive these have been placed in a restricted file but most will be available for public viewing.

This valuable and enduring link between the new town and the traditional life style of the old people will enhance the growing archive and heritage collection at the Numbulwar School and become a permanent record of a time of significant transition. The return of the collection has also been assisted by Professor Jane Lydon of the University of Western Australia. A travelling exhibition is being planned for later in the year possibly to go to this years Barunga Festival and Katherine.

## NEW DUTCH PHOTO EXHIBITION CELEBRATES NUMBULWAR LIFE IN THE MID 1960'S



Numbulwar community members looking at the photo exhibit.

## AGED CARE REFORM LOGO COMPETITION



### LOGO COMPETITION

**Theme: Living Longer Living Better**

**Design a logo which defines the concept of Aged Care Reform -**

a flexible and seamless system that provides older Australians with more choice, control and easier access to a full range of services, where they want it and when they need it.

All ideas and media considered -drawings, photographs, paintings

Submit your design to:  
Roper Gulf Regional Council  
PO Box 1321  
29 Crawford St  
Katherine NT 0851  
P: 8972 9000  
E: info@ropergulf.nt.gov.au  
Close date :14.03.14  
Roper Gulf Regional Council will hold the design rights of the winning logo

