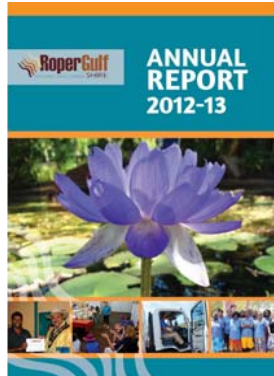


ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

For your wet season reading pleasure, and don't we all love a good read over the holiday period, the Roper Gulf Shire Annual Report 2012-13 is now available.

So for over a hundred pages of reports, graphs, great photos and of course lots of good news stories go to www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Who could ask for more on a wet day!



Upcoming Local Board Meeting

The next Local Board Meeting dates are as follows:

Borrooloola— Thursday 30th January 2014

Please note that these dates may change at short notice. 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 Keely 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 56 December, 2013

Message from the Chief Executive Officer *Michael Berto*



Hello everyone

What a wet month November has been. The recent cyclone we had bearing down on the NT seems to have triggered the full onset of our wet season and much to our relief the cyclone did not occur, although as the warnings became more serious it was great to see that we had begun preparations for an emergency response in all of our towns that potentially could have been affected.

This month I travelled to Alice Springs to attend the local government association's AGM and General meeting. With the NT Government's announcements on local government reforms to Shires, it was timely that the Minister for local government, the Honourable Dave Tollner, addressed the meeting to provide details on those particular communities and Shires who will experience changes to their local government structures. We have been assured that Roper Gulf Shire will not experience any structural changes, however there will be a name change.

Whilst in Alice Springs I also attended the Australian Local Government Association's Roads and Transport Congress and this was well attended by local government councils from all over Australia. Some important issues were highlighted in regards to how funding can be sourced for roads and transport infrastructure and I was particularly interested in how funding models are used in Canada following a presentation from a Canadian expert on the topic.

Leadership is becoming an important issue in our Shire and I was fortunate enough to be invited to the graduation ceremony of Youths who completed a Youth Leadership and Communication Course at the CDU Rural Campus in Katherine. This Course was conducted by the Toastmasters Club.

The participants came from our larger Communities of Borrooloola, Ngukurr and Numbulwar, and I was very proud to be amongst this group of young talent. In fact I met a young lady who announced she would like to be Mayor of the Shire one day. How good is that!

Well, time is flying and as we turn our thoughts to the upcoming festive season I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Xmas and a Happy and very safe New Year. If you happen to be travelling please take extra care.

Till next time
Stay Safe

RGSC WELCOMES TWO NEW COUNCILLORS

Two new Councillors were sworn in as members of the Council at the November Ordinary Meeting held in Borrooloola.

New Councillors Eric Roberts and Donald Gardner were sworn in at a ceremony conducted by Deputy Mayor Macfarlane deputising for the Mayor who was away at the LGANT Roads Conference in Alice Springs.

Cr. Eric Roberts joins the Council representing Yugil Mangi Ward and Cr. Donald Garner joins Council representing the South West Gulf Ward. Both were elected unopposed at recent by-elections to fill vacant positions.

Cr. Roberts has lived all his life in Ngukurr and is strongly connected with the community through a number of community organisations and was a member of the Ngukurr Local Board. Cr. Gardner has lived in Borrooloola for more than 11 years and runs a local fuel supply and mixed business in Borrooloola. Cr. Garner is an active community member and has been a member of the Borrooloola Local Board.

The new Councillors join a strong team and are looking forward to the challenges of the role.



...AND IN AFL NEWS

The fat lady has sung out, the finals are over, but the caravan just keeps rolling on. As all AFL tragics and true believers know the season never ends, there is just a bit of time to regroup.

For a brief moment last week Roper Gulf Shire basked in the glow of the holy grail of AFL football, the Premiership Cup.

The Cup has been touring the NT as part of a post premiership tour ably guarded by a group of the recent Hawthorn premiership team including Cyril Ryoli who began his stellar football career on the Tiwi Islands and at the legendary St Mary's in Darwin. The cup and entourage has visited schools and communities across the Shire frilling young and old devotees.

Roper Gulf Shire substantially supports the local U18 Hawks AFL team who play in the Big River Competition. The local Hawks play in same colours as Hawthorn and the Hawk's "caravan" thought a visit to the Katherine office was a good way to acknowledge the Shire's Support of local AFL. The Hawthorn Hawks also have been a big supporter of local NT AFL football and the Katherine Big River region.

The players unfortunately were unable to come to the Shire office due to commitments at the local schools but never the less a small committed group of supporters were at the office to see and hold the cup. All returned to work afterwards wrapped in a warm glow after exposure to the sacred cup. Miracle cures and lotto wins are expected!

The Cup was accompanied by AFL development officer for the Katherine Region, Denis Coburn a Hawks man on the ground developing AFL in the bush and scouting new potential. And with the move to more big games going to region centres wouldn't we just love a pre season game in Katherine? We must have some hope, we have touched the cup!

...AND IN AFL NEWS



AFL Development Officer, Denis Coburn along with CEO Michael Berto, Bobbi Hynes, Catherine Proctor, Binayak Adhikari and Keely Wallace.

WAY TO GO!

Congratulations go to the RGSC employees who graduated on 21st November from Charles Darwin University Vocational Education and Training program.

The ceremony was held at the Godinymayin Cultural Centre in Katherine and was attended by family and friends of the graduates.

The graduates achieved qualifications in Sport and Recreation, Business and Community Services and were presented with these by the Vice Chancellor of CDU, Professor Barney Glover.

Deputy Mayor of Katherine Town Council, Rob Phillips, talked about well-known people who had been schooled in Katherine and had met their vocational aspirations through study and self-motivation and he encouraged today's graduates to apply themselves in the same manner.



Employee of the Month October

Nominations and Winners for the month of October 2013

Head Quarters – Nominations— Hilary Sinfield

Winner— Hilary Sinfield

Barunga– Winner – Max AhFat

Beswick – Winner – Ezariah Wesan

Borroloola –Winner – Derek Noble

Bulman – Winner – Shantelle Miller

Eva Valley – Winner – Isaac Dai

Jilkminggan – Winner – Gerald Sambo

Mataranka—Winner – Eric Dodd

Ngukurr – Winner – Marcia Wilfred

Numbulwar – Winner – Earnest Numamurdiridi

Congratulations to all Employee of the Month Winners!

Employee of the Month November

Nominations and Winners for the month of November 2013

Head Quarters – Nominations— Stephen Roper— Communications Officer and Nyrelle Robinson— Human Resources Officer

Winner— Nyrelle Robinson

Barunga– Winner – Patricia Lee

Beswick – Winner – Don Blitner

Borroloola –Winner – Chantelle Johns

Bulman – Winner – Iris Camfoo

Eva Valley – Winner – Simone Watson

Jilkminggan – Winner – Gerald Sambo

Mataranka—Winner – Josephine Carew

Ngukurr – Winner – Wilton Huddleston

Numbulwar – Winner – Jeff Nunggargalu

Congratulations to all Employee of the Month Winners!

Employee of the Month December

Nominations and Winners for the month of December 2013

Head Quarters – Nominations— Michelle Buzza

Winner— Michelle Buzza

Barunga– Winner – Max AhFat

Beswick – Winner – Jonathon Jackson

Borroloola –Winner – Val Roegrs

Bulman – Winner – Anton Plumber

Eva Valley – Winner – Isaac Dai

Jilkminggan – Winner – Gerald Sambo

Mataranka—Winner – Leanne Spencer

Ngukurr – Winner – Jacqueline Joshua

Numbulwar – Winner – Cyrus Nglami

Congratulations to all Employee of the Month Winners!

STOP THE PRESS! EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED!

And the winner is..... [Gerald Sambo!](#)

Congratulations to Gerald Sambo—Municipal Officer from Jilkminggan on winning Employee of the Year! Well done Gerald, keep up the good work!



QUICK RESPONSE CAMP

Quick response camp was held on the 28/10/2013. We had total of 15 participants 10 Girls & 5 Boys.

The Camp was held at Waigiba Outstation three hours from Numbulwar Community.

Our main focus was to give knowledge and awareness to youth about suicide prevention.

We did a lot of recreational activities such as collecting of local produce turtle egg gathering, collecting of mud crabs, spearing sting ray, fish and fresh (Killer Meat) also known as wild cattle which was provided by the family of Ernest, team leader of Night Patrol Numbulwar.

This gave the kids good knowledge about healthy lifestyle choices.

Ernest (Night Patrol Team Leader), Russel (Youth Worker) and Don did a fantastic job about getting the word out that there are services, family and other local members to talk to about "No Good Thoughts" and "Sad Feelings" or other issues that take place on a regular basis.



TOASTMASTERS TRAINING

25 youth from Borroloola, Ngukurr and Numbulwar attend Toastmasters Training. 'Toastmasters' is a leadership and communication course. Over the two days the Youth had to work in groups to create a 'memorable speech in ten minutes'.

On the first day many of the youth were shy and too "shame" to stand in front of their peers to present the speeches they created, but on the second day we saw everyone participating and having a go.

Staff assisting the Youth were from Night Patrol, RJCP, Sport & Rec and Youth Services. In the afternoons we had taken the Youth to Edith falls for a swim and had a movie night.

This training was very beneficial to the Youth who attended, it gave them the skills and confidence to become public speakers. These Youth have the potential to become our future leaders and one of the Youth workers voiced that she will be the future mayor!



DALY WATERS HERTIAGE CLEAN UP AND OPEN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

The end of Christmas usually brings a change of pace and a preparation for a summer of Tennis and other sports. At Daly Waters the locals have got in for an early and perhaps the first of the seasons tennis when the inaugural Daly Waters Tennis Championship was held in early November.

Held the day before "the Race that stops a nation" about 25 people played tennis and had a party at the newly refurbished Daly Waters Tennis Court.

Daly Waters is a small town of approximately 10 people but an important stopping point of significant historic interest for tourists and travellers on the Stuart Highway. The Daly Waters pub is an iconic watering hole first established in the 1930's.

The Daly Waters tennis court has been in need of love and care for some time. A group of residents from the town and surrounding stations with some financial support from Roper Gulf Shire Community Grants got together to fence, line marked, fit lights and organise the inaugural Daly waters Open Tennis Cup on the refurbished court.

The RGSC Daly Waters Tennis Open was combined with a major cleanup of the heritage listed former Post Office and Police Station which had become weed choked and in serious need of general cleanup. Municipal and Outstations staff from Roper Gulf Shire, the Mayor Tony Jack and the Deputy Mayor long time local Judy Macfarlane, supported a team of locals from nearby stations in the all day clean up.

At the end over 60 cubic metres of rubbish, tree pruning and weeds were removed and the old building was re emerged again. The day was also marked by the first significant rain storm as the wet approached with 27mm falling in less than 30 minutes.

The results of the Tennis were ... well everyone had a great time, the junior tennis clinic started the growth of a great pool of future player, the spectators loved the action and the catering was brilliant!

However someone forget to keep a running score so no final was held. It's going to be willing next year!

The trophy provided by Roper Gulf Shire Council will have to wait till next year for its first presentation. This year's fashion on the court included high vis work shirts, work boots and broad brimmed hats. Reports of a scout from the Tennis Australia being in the area cannot be confirmed.

DALY WATERS HERTIAGE CLEAN UP AND OPEN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP



NIGHT PATROL ASSIST POLICE IN MARITIME CALLOUT

A recent rescue of a stranded party in a boat off Numbulwar shows cooperation and professionalism between the Police and the RGSC Night Patrol is alive and well. Jeremiah Morrungun from the Numbulwar Night Patrol, received high praise from the Numbulwar Police for his help as a crew member on the Community Police boat in the search for a stranded boat and it's occupants. The search that went late into the night had a successful ending with the missing boat being located and towed back to Numbulwar where all arrived safe and well.



Photo: L to R. Numbulwar Night Patrol Acting Team Leader Earnest Numamurdidi, Numbulwar Police officers, Night Patrol Officer Jeremiah Morrungun.

SPORT & REC AND YOUTH SERVICES

Sport & Rec and Youth Service staff have been involved in a lot of training over the last few months, this is just a quick overview of what they have been doing.

Roper Gulf Shire had 11 Sport & Rec/ Youth Services staffs attend a training trip with Vic Daly Staff in timber creek. We completed training with the Heart Foundation. NT Basketball trained us in Level 0 Community Basketball coaching. We met Tara Liddy, from Softball NT taught us all the rules an umpire needs to know in baseball, she gave us pamphlets on softball rules and discussed the possibility of sitting the level 1 coaching exam in the future. We plan on doing this again next year in Mataranka with other sports training.

Sport & Rec staff went out to Ngukurr to complete their Bronze Medallion; the course was run by Royal Life Saving. The course was run over two days, the morning of the first day all staff completed their CPR training, that afternoon everyone tried their time for the swimming, in under 13 minutes they needed to complete 4 laps of freestyle, 4 laps of breast stroke, 4 laps survival back stroke and 4 laps of side stroke. With the pool only being 25 meters long it gave the staff advantage. On the second day staff completed different types of rescues and had to act out scenarios on how they were to save people in different situations.

Sport & Rec staff came into Katherine to attend the training in level 2 or 3 in the Sport and Recreation certificate. This was the second lot of training completed for this subject this year, with many of the staff who attended the first lot completing their certificates. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday staff completed assignments, Thursday & Friday they completed there first aid, staff that had already gained their first aid stayed to assist other staff.

SPORT & REC AND YOUTH SERVICES



YOUTH SERVICES SMALL ENGINES COURSE

RGSC Youth Services is currently working in collaboration with RJCP and ICV (Indigenous Community Volunteers) to hold a Small Engines Course at Ngukurr over the coming 4 weeks. The course will aim to equip young job seekers with basic knowledge in motor maintenance and assembly and will bring at all participants one step closer to being job ready. You now know who to call if you are experiencing problems with your lawn mower or vacuum cleaner!!

YOUTH SERVICES BOAT SAFETY COURSE

At the start of the month Youth Services team successfully held a Young Skippers Course on the mighty Roper River. Over a period of two days, close to 30 young RJCP job seekers became experts on all there is to know in boat safety while out on the water. Unfortunately the course did not include any tips on how to catch a barramundi and the entire group went home hungry.

Sustainable, Viable, Vibrant

YOUTH SERVICES YOUTH AT RISK CAMP

In response to community concerns surrounding the increase in volatile substance abuse in the Roper region, RGSC Youth Services from Numbulwar and Ngukurr in collaboration with Night Patrol came together last week to host a 5 day Substance Abuse Awareness Camp at Lake Bennet.

With the support of the community elders and parents, ten young males were selected from the two communities and several surrounding outstations to participate in the quick response camp which included various workshops that highlighted the effects of gunja abuse, sniffing fuel and anti-social behaviour.

Throughout the trip the young men also learnt first hand about the important role physical activity and a healthy diet play in maintaining a positive lifestyle and overall wellbeing.

The camp was an incredible success and we would like to thank Stephen Charles and the rest of the team at Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Katherine for their support in the project and look forward to running similar camps in the future. Also a big thank you to our Night Patrol teams who played a crucial role in the selection of participants and mentoring the boys throughout the camp.



BORROLOOLA YOUTH SERVICES

Roper gulf Shire Youth Services Hosted a Celebrate Kids Event organised by the Smith Family (Playgroup) which was held at the Youth Centre on Wednesday 6th November. This was a huge community event where stakeholders in Borroloola got involved, it was targeted for Youth and Parents (families) to attend. We had a person counting people attended and we stopped counting once the clicker got to 300 attendees, people were still arriving.

With 2 bouncy castles , slippery slides, local bands for entertainment, free family photos, pancakes and BBQ going all day with fruit and water stations stacked to the brim. It was a fantastic afternoon. Borroloola School closed early for the event and assisted the Smith Family and RGS with manning the stalls. RGS also collected bus loads of families across the river so that they could attend the festivities.

Overall, it was a positive event for a family fun day. Stakeholders involved were: Borroloola School, Mabunji, Cairns Industries, Child Abuse Task Force, Art Centre and the Police.

NEW MANYALLALUK CRECHE

Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Roper Gulf Shire Council are proud to announce the opening of the new crèche facility at Manyallaluk.

Roper Gulf Shire received the letter of occupancy on 9th November 2013. Roper Gulf Shire Staff from Manyallaluk and Family & Community Services Staff from HQ worked collaboratively to transfer all furniture and equipment from the Women's Centre to the new crèche site.

The crèche built to National Standard has 15 children currently enrolled and two part time contract staff employed.

