



## Making the Barkly a better place to live and work in

**W**elcome to the first of the Mayoral columns for the third Barkly Regional Council.

It really is an honour for me to have this opportunity once a month to share highlights and provide residents of this vast region a snapshot of the work Council is doing.

At this festive season, as vacations and leisure time approach, it is good to contemplate what has been achieved in the past year and to be thankful for the great privilege of living and working in the Barkly.

Since myself and the other 12 elected members of the third Barkly Regional Council were sworn in at a special ceremony in September we have been incredibly busy.

Aside from attending Ordinary Council and Local Authority meetings, councillors and staff members have been working tirelessly with residents and local businesses to ensure the Barkly is a better place to live and work in.

We're building partnerships with more organisations in town and around the region, and are proud to be part of events like the NO MORE Violence Campaign march, pictured, held in November.

A significant milestone achieved this



● NO MORE Domestic Violence march in Tennant Creek.

year was the strengthening of communication and coordination between Barkly Regional Council and the Mount Isa City Council for the Tennant Creek to Mount Isa Cross Border Commission.

Terms of reference and governance arrangements between the two councils were drawn up earlier this month.

It's a big step forward for the region and I am excited that we have formally stepped up our levels of collaboration and coop-

eration. We've already seen substantial developments along the corridor between Tennant Creek and Mount Isa, including the Northern Gas Pipeline and further work on the proposed Mount Isa to Tennant Creek Rail Link.

Council also plans to support more community-led initiatives in the future as they reap a range of benefits for local residents and businesses and drive tourism opportunities for the broader region.

At Council we look forward to building a strong team that listens to and is a strong voice for residents and to start planning for the future of the Barkly region over the next four years.

Our aim is to work collaboratively with communities to provide open, responsive and accountable government across the region to improve services and facilities for the benefit of all residents and visitors.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors and all the staff at Barkly Regional Council, I would like to wish everyone in the Barkly all the peace, joy and happiness of the season. Take a moment to consider those who are less fortunate and be sure to embrace the spirit of Christmas within your local community.

While you are going about your celebrations, I also urge you all to take make sure we have a safe one. Don't drink and drive. Don't drive tired.

And don't be in a hurry. Give the gift of courtesy on the road – it's simple to do, it's free, and it's something we'd all like to receive when we're driving.

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year. Whatever Christmas means to you, I hope yours is everything you want it to be.



### Meet the Deputy Mayor

Noel Hayes was elected as Deputy Mayor on 14 September at the first Ordinary Council meeting of the third Barkly Regional Council.

A Kaytetye man living in Ali Curung, Cr Hayes has held numerous governance positions in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal structures and is an active advocate for his community.

He believes in giving people in the bush a voice and sees his role on Council as a chance to represent his community.

Noel, who is in his second term on Council and will serve as Deputy Mayor for 12 months, is also keen on supporting other communities in the Barkly region.

### Strengthening the role of Local Authorities

One particular focus of Council is strengthening the role of Local Authorities (LAs) in all the communities and for us to work with LA members as a team.

The importance of voices at a local level being heard cannot be stressed enough with changes to Local Authority Policy introduced to reflect this grass-roots approach.

Members of LAs in each community now meet monthly, as opposed to four times a year, and seven members from each community have been appointed.

This was initiated to ensure the timely exchange of information between Council and LAs and encourage timely responses to recommendations.

As with any change there are teething problems, with some LAs not yet appointing a Chair or Deputy Chair and some LAs not being able to achieve a quorum.

However, Council is committed to working closely alongside each LA to achieve goals and projects they have identified as part of a five-year infrastructure plan.

Rather than a top-down approach, we aim to encourage community ownership and assist locals to shape and build the places in which they live from the ground up.



● Busting a few moves at a Youth Links dance workshop.

### Keeping kids off the street

Council is committed to helping young people during the festive season with a school holiday program at Youth Links.

Christmas can be a difficult time for youngsters when boredom sets in and crime can escalate.

Having a drop-in centre like Youth Links helps keep youngsters off the streets, and we are doing everything we can with the \$242,000 yearly funding received to focus on supporting young people.

Staff members are providing a range of activities, including discos, workshops, bush camps, pool

parties, movie nights and food, throughout the day and evening until 5 February 2018.

A partnership with Barkly Regional Arts has also been set up offering youth the opportunity to attend three-week music sessions from 8 to 25 January 2018.

Called Rock with the Doc, aka Dr Fluoride, kids can learn to build instruments, create a band, record a track to rock out on Australia Day and have fun. For full details of all Youth Links activities please visit the Council website <http://barkly.nt.gov.au>

### WHAT'S NEW...

● The following councillors have been appointed to the following committees: **Audit Committee** - Mayor Steve Edgington, Cr. Kris Civitarese, Cr. Sid Vashist, Cr. Ronald Plummer and Cr. Jeffrey McLaughlin; **Cultural Competency Advisory Committee** - Mayor Steve Edgington, Deputy Mayor Noel Hayes, Cr. Ricky Holmes, Cr. Lucy Jackson, Cr. Jack Clubb, Cr. Jennifer Mahoney and Cr. Ronald Plummer; **Friends of the Cemetery** - Cr. Hal

Ruger, Cr. Sid Vashist and Cr. Ronald Plummer; **Animal Management Working Group** - Cr. Ray Aylett and Cr. Ronald Plummer; **Local Tourism Advisory Committee** - Cr. Jeffrey McLaughlin; **Development Consent Authority Committee** - Mayor Steve Edgington and Cr. Hal Ruger; **Purkiss Reserve Consultative Committee** - Cr. Kris Civitarese and Cr. Ronald Plummer.

● Copies of the Council's Annual Report 2016-17 are available from reception, 41 Peko Road, or can be downloaded from the website: [https://www.barkly.nt.gov.au/uploads/pdfs/6547-BarklyRegionalCouncil-](https://www.barkly.nt.gov.au/uploads/pdfs/6547-BarklyRegionalCouncil-AnnualReport-ClientProof.pdf)

[AnnualReport-ClientProof.pdf](https://www.barkly.nt.gov.au/uploads/pdfs/6547-BarklyRegionalCouncil-AnnualReport-ClientProof.pdf)

● Mayor Steve Edgington was appointed as a member of the Executive Committee of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) at the AGM held in Alice Springs on 3 November.

● Plans to erect NO MORE signage at Purkiss Reserve and in seven regional communities that declare their intention to eradicate family violence from the Barkly are underway.

● Council is investigating alternatives to the roundabout at the intersection of Peko and Ambrose Streets in Tennant Creek.



### BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



### Working together with local communities

Ali Curung, Alpuurrulam, Arlparra, Ampilatwatja, Elliott, Tennant Creek, Wutunugurra

### BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL

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