



A step in the right direction for women

International Women's Day (IWD) is just around the corner and here at Council staff and elected members are gearing up for a breakfast and a march down the main street.

This year Council wanted to treat the women of Tennant Creek and so a breakfast has been arranged at the Tennant Creek swimming pool on Sunday, 4 March.

The boys from the Clontarf Foundation have been invited to serve breakfast from 8.30am followed by speeches by some extraordinary and inspiring local women.

With the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report findings highlighting that gender parity is over 200 years away, there has never been a more important time for women of all ages to keep motivated and #PressforProgress – the IWD theme for 2018.

While we know that gender parity won't happen overnight, the good news is that across the world women, including those living and working in Tennant Creek and the Barkly, are making positive gains day by day.

Celebrating IWD in Tennant Creek was particularly important to the former Council President and current General Manager of Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation Barb Shaw.

Organising a committee of local women



MARCHING ON: Locals will celebrate two events for International Women's Day.

and Council staff, a photographic exhibition focusing on the importance of mentors in the community as well as a beautiful banner was created for IWD 2015.

This was the year that Tshanka Storey, one of the High School's Stronger Sisters, had the audience in tears as she made a call for local community members to become mentors to younger women.

Since then, the annual event, which this year received funding from the Northern Territory Government's Office of Gender Equity and Diversity, has gone from strength to strength with a growing number of dynamic and talented women of all

ages taking part in Women's Day.

Here, at Council we are committed to continuing with this tradition of celebrating IWD and connecting it with other important movements such as the No More Violence campaign hosted by Catholic Care NT Tennant Creek Branch.

This pledge to No More Violence will be highlighted on International Women's Day itself, on Thursday, 8 March, with a parade down the main street.

Starting at 8.30am, participants are asked to gather outside the Matt Glynn building before walking down the inside lane of Paterson Street to Peko Park

where I will give a welcome address.

We also plan to have members of the Eagles football team, which has drawn up a draft Domestic Violence Action Plan, and the No More Campaign join Council in emphasising the community's ongoing support.

Events like this act as reminders that we are constantly pressing for progress and, in fact, making progress between women and men in Tennant Creek and the Barkly region.

We are a tenacious and resilient lot out here and our womenfolk are even more so.

Amongst them are CEOs, General Managers, Directors, community leaders, women in business and in sport as well as the countless women who work tirelessly behind the scenes, hold down full-time jobs, raise children, join committees, give their time most generously and act as mentors.

We also have a burgeoning population of younger women, some of whom will be speaking at the breakfast, who are proving to be great role models for their peers.

Even if they don't step into the limelight as a leader they are steering the way into a bigger, better and brighter future for women of this town, this region, the Territory, Australia and, indeed, the world.

Service awards for dedication

A councillor and former elected member of Barkly Regional Council recently received high accolades from their colleagues and peers.

Councillor Hal Ruger and former councillor Bog Bagnall were each presented with an award from the Local Government Association Northern Territory (LGANT) in recognition of years of service and commitment to local government and the communities they serve.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting in January this year Cr Ruger received his award for 10 years service while Mr Bagnall, who has been recognised for 25 years service, was presented his award in Elliott earlier this month.

Hal, who represents Patta Ward, has served four terms as



● Mayor Steve Edgington with Cr Hal Ruger, left, and former councillor Bob Bagnall.



a councillor, one with Tennant Creek Town Council, and three since the changeover to the Barkly Shire on 1 July, 2008.

During that time he has served on various committees, including the Christmas Tree, and is keen on growing the Barkly with his dream of installing a town clock nearing completion.

Bob, who is now on the Elliott

Local Authority, represented the Kuwarrangu Ward for two terms with Council.

Previously, he served 17 years on the Elliott District Community Government Council, including three terms as President.

I commend both of them for their huge and invaluable contribution to their respective communities and to the local people they represent.

Meet Councillor Kris Civitarese

Councillor Kris Civitarese joined the Council in September last year after the recent elections and represents the Patta Ward.

A proud Tennant Creek local, he has lived in the area for most of his life, excluding his service with the Australian Army from 2000-2006.

Cr Civitarese is a Senior Manager with one of the Barkly region's largest employers, T&J (NT), and his role within the company has given him a strong understanding of the economic challenges faced by local businesses.

A fully qualified electrician and telecommunications technician, he is currently completing his post-graduate certificate in Project Management (RMIT). Cr



Civitarese is passionate about the town and the region and is committed to lobbying on the issues of economic development, community safety and grassroots community initiatives.

Building a better Barkly



It was great to catch up with the Honourable Nigel Scullion, Senator for the Northern Territory and Minister for Indigenous Affairs, during his visit to Tennant Creek earlier this month.

During our meeting we discussed the Barkly Regional Council's progress to date, including the development of a five-year community infrastructure plan for the Barkly region.

Our Council looks forward to continuing our strong relationship with the Federal Government.

WHAT'S NEW...

● Council conducted a survey about the facilities out at Lake Mary Ann on behalf of Tennant Creek Local Authority (TCLA). With more than 180 responses, Council will work with the TCLA on the data collected to look at ways of improving amenities at the tourist hot spot.

● Work has already started on upgrading the football oval on Staunton Street and extending the Tennant Creek Cemetery as part of Council's



five-year infrastructure plan to improve facilities in towns and communities in the Barkly.

● More than 40 tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish has been removed from around Tennant Creek. Barkly Work Camp, Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation and NT Fire and Rescue have done an incredible job and Council is grateful for all their hard work.

● Council has been working on a draft No More Domestic Violence Action Plan to be incorporated into its suite of policies.

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Working together with local communities
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