



## Council keen to give local youth a voice

Here, at Barkly Regional Council, we recognise the significant value of young people and their contributions to the community.

Already, a number of initiatives have been implemented with the Youth Links holiday program in Tennant Creek over December and January a huge success.

Youngsters, of all ages, took part in sporting activities, arts and craft and cooking classes with demonstrations and talks by the local fire brigade and police.

Sport and recreation programs are an important aspect of community life. They promote healthy choices and activities, develop life skills and leadership abilities, provide a sense of belonging and engagement and help make the community safer.

Recently, Council received a \$3m funding boost to deliver sport and recreation across the remote communities of Ali Curung, Arparra, Alpururulam, Ampilatwatja, Elliott

and Wutunugurra (Epenarra) until January 2021.

The two-year agreement, under the Australian Government's Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, was a great victory for Council which had been lobbying the Federal and Northern Territory governments for extra funding, especially for Wutunugurra which initially was left out.

Developing infrastructure so youngsters have good equipment to use and facilities that are modern and clean is also important.

Last month we officially opened the upgraded Elliott Sport and Recreation building which has become a real community hub for locals. Young people now have a safe place to relax, socialise and take part in community programs.

This upgrade, which received \$136,505 from the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund along with a \$93,136 contribution from Council, provides a lively meeting place for local residents to come together to have fun, cook, hang out and participate in sports such as bas-



**COMMUNITY HUB:** Elliott resident Mona Rennie (left), Mayor Steve Edgington and Councillor Jane Evans at the official opening of the upgraded Sport and Recreation building in Elliott.

ketball, netball and hockey.

Installing a cover over the basketball courts in Ali Curung is near completion with Harvey Development winning the tender to carry out the works. Funding has also been secured to install a cover over the basketball courts at Wutunugurra.

Plans to apply for funding to upgrade sport and recreation facilities in Ali Curung and Tennant Creek are in the pipeline.

We also made a resolution at the last Ordinary Council meeting instructing the CEO to investigate establishing a youth council

to give youngsters a voice.

The role of a youth council is to represent young people, as well as establish and support a channel of communication for youth from a broad range of life experience to provide feedback, communication, information and innovation to Council, and the community.

We see establishing a youth council as a way of identifying key issues relating to young people in the region and actively participating in strategies to address these.

Other benefits include

raising the profile of young people as well as providing them with the opportunity to experience civic decision making processes and supporting their own active participation in these processes.

Young people are our future and the formation of a youth council will provide them with the opportunity to learn about local government, build their leadership skills and develop the knowledge and abilities to create change.

The youngsters who get involved will also have the chance to develop knowledge in team work, meeting processes, organising projects, public speaking, and consulting with their peers.

One young member of the community who already is a strong advocate for youth is Tshanka Storey. An Aboriginal Health Worker for Primary Health Care Barkly, Tshanka is on the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians.

She has also been appointed as a youth representative on the leadership table as part of the Barkly

Regional Deal negotiations.

A male representative is yet to be confirmed.

This is an amazing opportunity for these two young ambassadors of the Barkly to target support and development activities for youth.

Tshanka is a strong, courageous young woman and a perfect example of the dynamic, talented youth we have in this region.

She has already put up her hand to organise the International Women's Day parade on 8 March, along with a committed group of local women of all ages, as our PR and Events Officer Ktima Heathcote resigned this month. Ktima will be sorely missed but there is now an opportunity for other locals and youth to promote their contribution to community life.

Council is committed to working with young people, the community and other levels of government to ensure all young people who live, work, study and play in Tennant Creek and the Barkly region are engaged, empowered, included and celebrated.



**GRASS ROOTS:** LA members discuss projects and goals with Council representatives to further develop the township of Elliott.

### Meet the Elliott Local Authority

Council has seven local authorities and this month the focus is on the Elliott Local Authority.

With Christopher Neade as the Chair and Jodie Nish as Deputy Chair, all the members - Mona Rennie, Bob Bagnall, Gordon Jackson, Kevin Gaskin - represent a wide range of interests from the community.

There is also a vacancy on the Elliott Local Authority, providing an opportunity for another local resident to help achieve goals and projects the current members have identified as part of a five-year infrastructure plan.

These projects include the football oval, extending the waterpark, speed signage and

pedestrian crossings, shade structures by the ANZAC memorial and improvements to access roads and footpaths. Members are also keen to develop a master plan for the Jim Rennie Reserve.

The importance of voices at a local level being heard cannot be stressed enough with Council continually encouraging a grass-roots approach.

For further information, including downloading a nomination form for a position on the Elliott Local Authority, click on the Frequently Asked Questions section on the Council website <https://www.barkly.nt.gov.au/communities/frequently-asked-questions-and-answers>



**DELEGATION:** CEO Steve Moore, Deputy Mayor Kris Civitarese, Mayor Steve Edgington and Tennant Creek Regional Economic Development Committee Chair Greg Marlow.

### Cross Border Commission Canberra visit

A delegation from Council was in Canberra at the beginning of the month to meet with Federal politicians to discuss the issues impacting on the Barkly region.

The Deputy Mayor Kris Civitarese, CEO Steve

Moore, Chair of the Tennant Creek Regional Economic Development Committee Greg Marlow and I met with various Senators and Ministers during the three-day visit.

We briefed them about the important work of the Tennant Creek Mt Isa Cross Border Commission, the Barkly Regional Deal and other issues, including community safety and the condition of roads across the region.

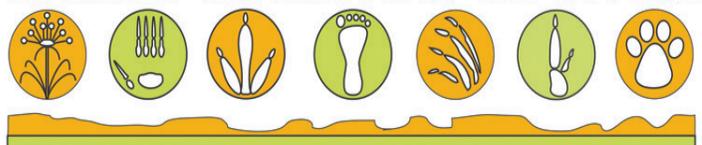
Our delegation also shared concerns about the high levels of property crime in Tennant Creek and the need for crime reduction strategies to be implemented by the Northern Territory Government.

It was a productive trip and we at Council will continue to represent and advocate for all people in the Barkly to ensure we receive the very best social, cultural and economic outcomes for our region.

### WHAT'S NEW...

- Tenders to erect a fence around the perimeter of Purkiss Reserve in Tennant Creek have now closed. Design work for the fence has been awarded to Bennet Design Architect of Darwin.
- Development of the park at Hilda Street, Tennant Creek, is well underway.
- Fencing work on Karguru Oval, ANZAC Hill and at Council Chambers is due to commence.

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Working together with local communities  
Ali Curung, Alpururulam, Arparra, Ampilatwatja, Elliott, Tennant Creek, Wutunugurra

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