



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**6 March 2018**

## **IWD breakfast a toast to local women**

More than 70 people enjoyed a breakfast on Sunday as part of the 2018 International Women's Day celebrations.

Barkly Regional Council held the special breakfast at the Tennant Creek Swimming Pool, which was transformed into a haven of purple and white decorations with banners from previous years, one made by Joie Boulter, proudly on display.

The crowd of women, men and children heard inspirational stories from two of our region's strong leaders - Jennifer Kitching (Australia Day - Citizen of the Year) and Helen Kempe (Australia Day - Senior Citizen of the Year) - with a Welcome to Country by Traditional Owner Rosemary Plummer who also read out a wonderful poem.

Mayor Steve Edgington delivered a short speech focused on celebrating local women and encouraging them to #PressforProgress, the theme for 2018.

"The breakfast was a demonstration of what the good people of Tennant Creek and the Barkly do best, which is, rallying together when times are tough, providing support and being there for each other," said Mayor Edgington. "We are a tenacious and resilient lot out here and our womenfolk are even more so."

"International Women's Day is a great reminder of the fantastic contribution that women make to our community, their families, volunteering and in the workplace."

Mayor Edgington added that the region also had a burgeoning population of younger women who are proving to be great role models for their peers. "Even if they don't step into the limelight as leaders they are steering the way into a bigger, better and brighter future for this community."

Boys from the Clontarf Academy (Tennant Creek), supervised by Randall Gould and Kym Bracken, and girls from the Stars Foundation, supervised by Olivia Fry and Jemma Paterson, were there to serve breakfast and help out on the morning as were a swathe of volunteers from around the community.

With funding from the Northern Territory Government's Office of Gender Equity and Diversity, Council organised two events in Tennant Creek – a breakfast on the Sunday and a march down the main street on International Women's Day itself, 8 March, starting outside the Matt Glynn Building on Paterson Street at 8.30am.



The parade finished at Peko Park at 9am followed by speeches by the Mayor and two strong women in the community, Kathy Burns, Artistic Director of Barkly Regional Arts and Sharen Lake, Regional Manager Tennant Creek, CatholicCare NT, as well as a community BBQ, organised and provided by the Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU).