Welcome to Victoria Daly’s regional newsletter. In this edition we recap and look forward on recent news, events and festivals that have occurred throughout our region. Safe and happy Easter holidays to all.

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Victoria Daly

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“GUDARNI YNARGA DANA LARGLAN GOR DAGOMAN MULAU” come you mob, welcome to Dagoman Country
Message from the Acting Mayor

Hello everyone,

With the wet season almost behind us, it’s time to look forward to all the sporting carnivals, festivals and cultural events that are coming up in the next few months. Communities in the Shire can look forward to the Merrepen Arts Festival, the Timber Creek Festival and NAIDOC week to name just a few.

Shire reform from the old Victoria Daly Shire Council to the new local government entity is well under way. The Wadeye, Peppimenarti and Palumpa communities will join to become a new regional council on July 1st 2014. The interim name of the new council is the West Daly Council, however this may change after consultation with the communities. The remaining communities of Nauiyu, Timber Creek, Pine Creek, Yarralin and Kalkarindji / Daguragu will remain as the Victoria Daly Regional Council.

The upcoming deamalgamation will present several new challenges for both the newly created West Daly Council as well as the existing Victoria Daly Regional Council. I am confident that both Councils will work co-operatively to produce positive outcomes for all communities.

Steven Hennessy
Acting Mayor

Message from CEO

Welcome to the second edition of the Victoria Daly Regional Council newsletter.

As you may know by now, the Northern Territory Government changed all ‘Shire’ councils to ‘Regional’ councils on January 1st of this year. The name change reflects the governments commitment to creating new Local Authorities which will give a greater voice to regional communities.

The deamalgamation of the present shire into two regional Councils has presented a series of challenges for both the Victoria Daly Regional Council and the soon-to-be West Daly Regional Council. Both staff and Councillors have been working hard to ensure the process leading up to the 1 July deadline has been as positive and constructive as possible. There are still some questions remaining about budgets which Council is waiting for clarification on, however, Council staff are getting on with the business of providing services to our communities.

Council has recently completed and submitted the 2013 / 14 Shire Plan to the Minister for Local Government and Regions. This document outlines Council’s commitment to the communities via the inclusion of services delivery strategies for coming years. I highly recommend the document to community members and welcome any feedback regarding Councils vision for the future.

I look forward to the new challenges presented by the deamalgamation process and am confident both Councillors and Council staff will continue to deliver the best possible outcome for our communities post 1 July.

Stuart Duncan
Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Daly’s 2013/14 Shire Plan was successfully completed following second-round community consultation.

The Shire Plan is a document that is underpinned by extensive initial community consultation and planning not previously undertaken since the inception of the Victoria Daly Shire Council in 2008.

Governance team members conducted the second-round community consultation, holding informal meetings and community barbecues in Pine Creek, Nauiyu, Timber Creek Yarralin, Kalkarindji and Daguragu. Due to flooding and road conditions not all communities were able to be reached.

Consultation with various stakeholders were integral to reflecting the aspirations of the Shire’s communities, residents and businesses.

Several key features are:
- the technical SLAP maps that provide a pictorial representation of community infrastructure and assets
- comprehensive Service Delivery Shire assets and Core Functions
- community specific budgets and
- distinct presentation that allows ease of reading.

Council considers that the 2013/14 Shire Plan will have a positive long-term impact upon the communities within the Shire. The level of information and breadth of information included is designed to provide a document that is accurate, has measurable outcomes, is culturally appropriate and community specific.

Vic Daly has received a positive response regarding the new establishment of Local Authorities and now have nominations in Peppimenarti, Kalkarindji/Dagaragu, Nauiyu, Palumpa, Timber Creek, Wadeye and Yarralin. Nominations are now closed for these communities. Nominations remain open for Pine Creek as we require more nominations to establish a Local Authority. Let’s go Pine Creek! Please find attached a nomination form.

Local Authorities in these areas will be officially established once Council holds their next meeting on April 15th 2014. All members are required to attend the inaugural Local Authority meeting to be scheduled in May with future meetings to be calendared for every 2 months.

Governance Coordinator (Local Authorities) Jenna Walker said, “It is great to see so many people nominating to be the voice of their community”. Vic Daly looks forward to bringing about positive change for communities throughout the region.

For further information, please contact Jenna Walker (Governance Coordinator, Local Authorities) at jenna.walker@vicdaly.nt.gov.au or 08 8972 0713.
Did you know...

We have a new name! On 18th December 2013 the Northern Territory Government Gazette announced changes to the Local Government areas and councils.

On January 1st 2014, David Tollner, Minister for Local Government and Regions bought into effect the change to the Local Government Act whereby each local government area specified in the Schedule was renamed from a shire to a region. This meant that under section 9 (1)(d) of the Act Council needed to change the name of the local government area to Victoria Daly Region and also change the name of council to Victoria Daly Regional Council.
Animal Welfare

Community Dog Programs recently undertaken by the Aboriginal Community Veterinary Services (ACVS) have reported a significant improvement in the condition of dogs in the communities of Kalkarindji and Daguragu.

The program undertaken treated a large proportion of the dog population over four and a half days. Due to severe flooding only Kalkarindji could be completed to its entirety, whilst Daguragu was only partially completed. Dr Alex Burleigh (Vet) said, “it was a pleasure to service the people of Kalkarindji and their dogs...We had a huge increase in compliance compared to previous visits, which has represented a higher number of dogs treated”.

Workers within the community reported to veterinarians that at this time, it is the best they have ever seen their dogs. Services carried out by ACVS included:
- Desexing
- Mange treatment and prevention
- Parasite treatment and prevention

It was noted by the health workers that there has been a drastic decline in the number of people being treated for dog bites. Dr Burleigh said the dog population’s health is expected to see continued improvements, particularly due to communities willingness to have their female dogs desexed lowering the pup population.
Community News in Kalkarindji

The communities of Kalkarindji and Daguragu received a brand new 12-seater bus in December which was officially handed over to Sport and Rec/Aged Care Coordinators as well as Traditional Owners at the Aged Care Christmas Function.

Vic Daly’s Sport and Recreation Coordinator, David Ferguson, presented the community bus on behalf of CEO Stuart Duncan, to Gurindji Traditional Owner Violet Wadril at Kalkarindji’s Aged Care Christmas party. Kalkarindji and Daguragu Community Service programs including, Sport and Recreation and Creche, will be the main beneficiaries of the vehicle.

The community bus will enable remote community members, including children, to travel to other regional communities for sporting events. Indigenous crèche team-leader, Rosemary Bernard, is looking forward to transporting children from the community to Daguragu Creche for early learning education.

Croc Safety in Nauiyu

Floodwaters were on the rise in the community of Nauiyu over the month of February, with croc safety of high priority.

Local police and Parks and Wildlife sent children into overdrive with a 3.3 metre salty pulled from the communities flooded oval. A 4.4 metre salty was later caught from waters near resident’s houses.

Vic Daly’s Council Service Manager, Len Waldon, alerted community members to the dangers of swimming in flooded waters on Local ABC Radio. He said “youth frequently jump into waters without realising the danger lurking beneath. Its a warning to us all”.

Nauiyu was evacuated when flood levels reached 13.9 meters and was cut off for approximately two weeks.
The community of Pine Creek took ownership of a new mini bus, dedicated towards Vic Daly’s Aged Care Program and community services.

Pine Creek’s newly appointed bus driver, Nick Borell, was thrilled to receive the keys from VDRC’s Acting Mayor Steven Hennessy. Nick is looking forward to many more excursions with Aged-Care clients from both Pine Creek and Kybrook Farm.

Councillor Veronica Birrell was pleased to upgrade the existing aged care bus to ensure the safety of its passengers and enable greater mobility throughout the Katherine region. “We have up to 16 seniors that use the bus on a number of occasions. Whether it is going to Katherine to shop for groceries, Emerald Springs for a lunch outing or to Katherine Gorge for a tour, our elderly need mobility for positive health and wellbeing”.

A number of seniors and community members attended the handover event, including local Jane Woolley who had previously not used the community bus. Ms Woolley, now excited to hop on board, is delighted to take advantage of the travel opportunities, particularly Frances Creek excursions and Katherine for her weekly shopping.

Acting Mayor Hennessy hopes the community bus will bring new opportunities, efficiency and flexibility to more of Pine Creek’s Aged-Care clients and community service program.

The regional bus art competition was a great success with a number of entries, however there could only be one winner.

Acting Mayor Hennessy congratulates Roz Frith on her stunning Indigenous art design, completed in dot and line painting. Roz’s design represents two ways of painting art, incorporating Indigenous culture and bush tucker.

Thank you to all artists who submitted their entries including:
- Anna Mullumbuk
- Joanne Rose Mullumbuk
- Isobel Ngarri
- Lisa Campbell (Yarralin)
- Chantel (Palumpa)
- Angline Ngarri
- Debbie Tunmuck
- Deanna Tunmuck

Look out for Roz’s Indigenous design on the Regional Community bus coming to a community near you.
Victoria Daly Regional Council (VDRC) combined with Tiwi Islands Regional Council and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to host a week-long Sport & Recreation Workshop at the Batchelor Institute campus from the 17th-21st of March 2014.

The workshop was delivered to 16 VDRC Sport & Recreation Staff from Timber Creek, Nauiyu, Kalkarindji, Palumpa, Yarralin and Peppimenarti. Two Sport & Recreation Officers from the Tiwi Islands and two from Batchelor Institute also attended.

David Ferguson (VDRC Community Services Regional Manager) organised the workshop to develop and upskill participant’s knowledge and training in a wide range of subjects. Integral to the workshop was the involvement of partnering organisations who delivered individualised coaching and training to ultimately provide support for sport and recreation staff in remote communities throughout the Top-End.

Participants received certified accreditation in various sports from a number of presenters including Damian Alldritt from Football Federation of the Northern Territory (FFNT) who introduced the 7 a-side Soccer Grassroots Course, foundation coaching and education and introductory level Officiating course. Anne Knight from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) delivered Active After School Care (AASC) incorporating Community Coaching Training Program, that provided Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants with pathways and structure into facilitating Sport & Recreation programs in their communities.

Fred Murphy, Sport and Recreation Coordinator for the Northern Territory Government Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing (DSRR), said the workshop this week was about “delivering structure back into the program and to build relationships with Schools and other organisation’s so we can then provide a pathway for kids to express their talent”.

Mark Noonan, Umpiring Manager, and Adam Moedt, Development Manager AFLNT guided participants through a number of skill sets in umpiring and AFL coaching and training methodology. Adam’s central message to students was to develop activities that were safe and fun within their Sport & Rec program.

Victoria Daly Regional Council CEO, Stuart Duncan visited the workshop to congratulate and encourage Sport & Rec staff on their commitment towards youth engagement in communities. He said, “Our Sport and Rec programs are the driving force to improving school retention, social inclusion and cohesion, mental health, crime reduction, healthy living, validation of and connection to culture...” Mr Duncan encouraged Coordinators to use Sport & Rec as a vehicle for building positive relationships with community, culture and tradition.

VDRC Mentor Program Coordinator, Nicholas Scrymgour, delivered an overview of the program that included the sharing of knowledge and ideas, promotion of cross cultural awareness and supporting staff in employment and training.

The workshop concluded with internal training provided by VDRC in Information Technology, reporting and good governance provided by Fiona Kelly (Training & Development Coordinator) and Michael Tomlinson (Manager of Governance).
The Timber Creek Dingos made the 3200 km round trip from Timber Creek to Alice Springs and back last week to compete in the 2014 Imparja Cup Cricket Competition.

The teams travel plans were hampered from the start with the Victoria Highway having been cut off by the NT Police due to flooding. Eventually, the team managed to cross late Saturday night after the road had reopened and after leaving Katherine at 6:00 am on Sunday morning, arrived in Alice 8:00 pm that night. The competition kicked off on the Tuesday and the Dingos were successful in all their round games going through to the finals undefeated. After winning their qualifying final, they came up against the Allsorts in the Semi-final. The Dingos managed to keep their opponents to 105 runs from their 14 overs.

The Dingos started their batting innings well making 0/35 from the first 5 overs when their opening batsman was run out in a close one. From there they continued to lose wickets regularly and found themselves 15 runs short at the end of the match. The Allsorts went on to beat Brothers in Arms in a repeat of last year’s grand finale.

A highlight of the tour was Travis Motlap receiving the Most Valuable Player award and receiving a cheque for $500 in the process. He was also named in the All Stars team of the tournament.

The Timber Creek Dingos wish to acknowledge that this venture has only been possible through the valuable and generous support that we have received from the Victoria Daly Regional Council in the form of a $5000 community grant and a personal contribution from Mayor Steven Hennessy. The flow on effects that a sporting event such as this has on community is very positive and is not only felt by the participants, but also taken back and shared with all of community which creates harmony and a happier community atmosphere.
Training and Development throughout the Vic Daly region is being delivered in a number of ways.

Vic Daly conducted a four day pilot workshop with Toyota Katherine, to develop two of Kalkarindji’s Mechanics, Sonny Smiler and Barney Darkie, skill and knowledge in servicing vehicles. Toyota Katherine Manager David Abbs and Mentors Ric Alimboyong and Michael Keough, took on the Kalkarindji duo, assisting them with training in balancing tyres, diagnostics, replacement of parts, etc. Sonny and Barney were also looking at ways to improve their workshop setup in Kalkarindji and servicing of vehicles. Vic Daly is looking forward to continuing the partnership with Toyota Katherine for future training workshops.

Other training and development conducted throughout Vic Daly include:

- 4WD training in Timber Creek
- Chainsaw training in Timber Creek
- Chemical Awareness training in Timber Creek
- Civil Construction training (Whitecard) in Kalkarindji
- Test and Tag training in Kalkarindji
- First Aid training in Timber Creek
- First Aid training (Regional Office) in Katherine
- Suicide Intervention and Awareness training in Timber Creek

Training and Development Coordinator, Fiona Kelly, is extremely pleased with training programs reaching participation levels of up to 90%. Training is being developed to increase community specific training, which is going to support community members and sustainability.
Artists Malcolm Wilson, Regina Wilson and Rosina Tirak from the community of Peppimenarti will be exhibiting their art across Australia in the coming months. Exhibition dates are as follows:

- May 23rd open until 10th June 2014 - Durrmu Arts exhibition at Outstation Gallery in Parap, Darwin
- May 28th open until 21st June 2014 - Regina Wilson solo exhibition at Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi in Fitzroy, Victoria
- March 15th open until 4th April 2014 - Malcolm Wilson & Rosina Tirak are in Tunbridge Gallery’s exhibition ‘emerging artists’, Margaret River, Western Australia

The annual Daly River Merrepen Arts Festival held in the community of Nauiyu will feature and exhibit visual arts of the region. The festival focuses on a combination of events including art sales and auctions, traditional music and dance, bush tucker displays and tastings and a football and sporting carnival. Held on the 31st May until 2nd June 2014, tickets $35, Concession $20, kids under 15yrs are free.

Tickets can be booked through the Darwin Entertainment Centre Box Office on 8980 33 33 or visit www.merrepenfestival.com.au
Regional Photo Gallery
## Calendar of Events 2014

### April
- 19–13th: National Youth Week
- 18th: Good Friday
- 20th: Easter Sunday
- 21st: Easter Monday
- 25th: Anzac Day
- 26th: Elliot, Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras

### May
- 3rd: Pine Creek Cup
- 3rd: Daly Waters Campdraft & Rodeo
- 4–5th: Big Horse Fishing Classic (Timber Creek)
- 9–11th: We of the Never Never Festival
- 17th: Katherine Races
- 30–1st: Mkerpen Arts Festival

### June
- 6–9th: Barunga Festival
- 13–15th: Bathulha Webs Artist Camp
- 14th: Timber Creek Festival
- 14th: Katherine Country Music Muster
- 20–22nd: Salvage Katherine Festival
- 26–29th: Burnette Downs Races
- 27–28th: Borroloola Show
- 27–29th: Pine Creek Annual Goldrush Festival

### July
- 1st: Territory Day
- 6th: Top End Folk Festival Mary River
- 6–13th: NAIDOC Week
- 18–19th: Katherine Show
- 18–19th: DanceSite Borroloola Festival
- 26th: Walking with Spirits Festival

### August
- 15–17th: Borroloola Rodeo
- 16–24th: National Science Week
- 20–24th: Nixons Crossing Campdraft
- 22–24th: Gurindji Festival
- 22nd: Freedom Day
- 30th: Triple O Concert Fundraising Ball

### September
- 12–14th: Women of the World Conference
- 19th: Secret Womens Business Fishing Comp
- 30th: Family & Community Day

### October
- TBC: Dingo Cup Timber Creek
- TBC: Pine Creek Rodeo
- TBC: Barra Bash Roper River

### November
- 4th: Stone Country Festival Gunbalanyu
- 4th: Melbourne Cup
- 7th: Walk to Work Day
- TBC: Toy Run
- TBC: Top Springs Ladies Day & End of Year Breakup

### December
- 6th: Carols by Candlelight
- 25th: Christmas Day
- 31st: New Years Eve Celebrations
Local Authorities Nomination Form

Community: ____________________________  Date: ______________
Name of Nominee: ____________________

**Contact Information:**
Landline: ____________________________
Mobile: ______________________________
Email: ______________________________

Postal Address: ______________________
______________________________

Please explain why you would be a good candidate for your Local Authority: ______________________
______________________________
______________________________

Other information relevant to my nomination:
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Signature of Nominee: ____________________________
Councillors

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