

**LITCHFIELD  
COUNCIL**



Nov 2021 – Feb 2022  
**NEWSLETTER 5**

# CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Works update**

**Going Green rebate**

**Multi-purpose Community  
Building**

**Australia Day**

**Litchfield 2022 Art  
Exhibition**

**Staff profile**



# Mayor's Message



Hello and welcome to the newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Litchfield community who voted in our new Council at the election in August. The last two months have been full of introductions and getting our heads around Council's plans and policies. We are all very committed to our community and looking forward to future planning for Litchfield.

We have had some big works projects taking place over the last few months with more to come in the months ahead. The Mango Strategic Roads project is getting closer to being finalised with three of the four roads complete. Kentish Road works have commenced, and it is anticipated that these will be finalised mid-2022.

Virginia Road is now complete with a new reseal on a section of the pavement that was failing. The road was closed for a period of approximately three weeks which allowed the works to be completed quickly and efficiently.

The Federally funded Black Spot project on Power Road is continuing, with completion expected early December 2021, weather permitting. The widening of the floodway will provide a safer drive for commuters and residents on this road.

Building plans are underway for the new multi-purpose community building to be erected on the Council office land at 7 Bees Creek, Freds Pass. This building will provide a meeting, events, conference, and activities space, available to community organisations, businesses, and individuals, as well as being the new Council Chambers. The multi-purpose community building is expected to be complete mid-2022.

There are some great Council activities in the new year, our annual Australia Day Event. This is a free, fun day packed full of exciting things for the whole family, including free bacon and egg breakfast, cooked by the Rotary Club of Litchfield/Palmerston, jumping castles, face painting, fun run and of course the awarding of the 2022 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year. Of course we will have our famous Australia shaped lamington constructed by the Lions Club of Litchfield.

Be sure to pencil this into your diary. Then there is the Litchfield Art Exhibition 2022. We are calling for nominations now for artists. The Exhibition is held on the first weekend in March, and it is a great way of showcasing our talented, local artists. Check out the website for details on how to enter the Exhibition.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to wish you all a very safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to keeping in touch in the new year and reporting on many more projects that we are working on as part of this year's Municipal Plan.

Stay safe.

**Doug Barden**  
Mayor





# Introducing you to your new Elected Members

## Mayor **Doug Barden**

I grew up in Fannie Bay before kerbs and guttering, with some roads still being dirt. East Point military museum and surrounds was my playground like what most of Litchfield is now.

Born in the old Darwin hospital on Myilly Point, I lived mostly in Berry Springs since the early 1980s before there was electricity in the rural area. My family have owned and inherited property within the Territory which has been purchased since before the 1920s.

I went to boarding school in Sydney, then returned to Darwin to complete my trade as a Diesel Mechanic and Fitter for Komatsu earthmoving equipment. I operated an earthmoving business until the 1990s when I built and operated the "Lakes Resort &

Caravan Park". I was first elected as the South Ward Councillor in late 2015.

As Mayor, I feel it is very important for the Councillors, community and staff to work as a team. To achieve this, I feel strongly about listening and providing direction, while keeping in mind good governance, respect, integrity, and accountability. It is important for Council to keep within budget and continue to successfully apply for grants in order to improve our services and facilities. I am very proud of what I have achieved as a Councillor and am envious of what all previous Councils have achieved in its short 35-year history in order to make Litchfield the best place to live in the Top End.



## Deputy Mayor and North Ward Councillor **Mathew Salter**

In 1999, my wife and I moved to Howard Springs for the relaxed rural lifestyle, and because our family was growing.

I was a teacher at Kormilda College, and I am passionate about indigenous education. My love of English led me to reciting poetry at the Friends of Taminmin Library, poetry lunch which I have attended for many years.

I am a keen sportsman, coaching both my son's soccer and cricket teams, with the focus on sportsmanship and participation. I was soon playing Sunday afternoon cricket which I still enjoy today.

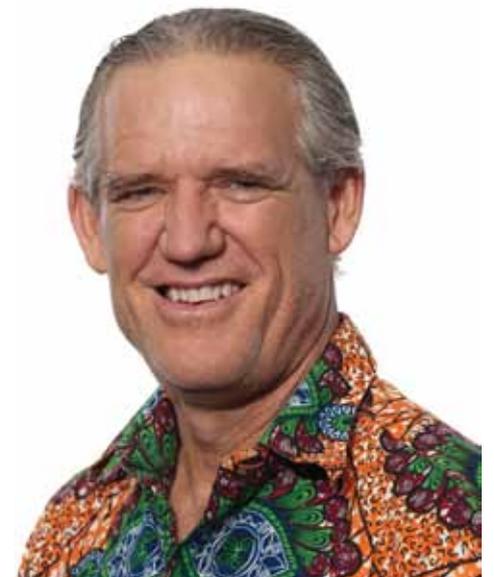
Gerry Wood has been a big influence and

encouraged me to run for council in when the Inpex Workers Village was being built at the end of my street.

I joined the Freds Pass Board in 2012, and I am proud to have helped with the Freds Pass Masterplan.

I believe in maintaining our rural lifestyle, which means living within our means, getting good value for money, but importantly, listening to our community.

Five acres gives you room for chooks, a horse, a couple of dogs and a vegie patch. I am passionate about retaining our unique lifestyle and want to keep rural, rural.





## Central Ward Councillor **Kevin Harlan**

I have lived in the Northern Territory most of my life, Palmerston, Darwin, and remote Northern Territory before settling in Humpty Doo with my wife and two boys 15 years ago.

We live in Humpty Doo and enjoy the beauty of our native plants and animals as well as the extra space which gives us our privacy, whilst retaining the convenience of shops and services 15/20 mins up the road.

I am a Plant Mechanic by trade, completing my apprenticeship early 1985 with an international earthmoving manufacture on Goyder Rd, Parap. Since then, I spent 20 years in the mining industry, worked over a year straight in Antarctica running a workshop for the Australian Antarctic Division. I also have a background in safety/training (taught trade school at both CDU and Taminmin College).

And just to keep things interesting, growing up I did fencing on NT cattle stations, bull catching on the Barkley Tablelands, cook/barmaid at Heartbreak Hotel and eight years at boarding school.

I put my hand up for Central Ward as the first step for me to try and change how and what our council does for us. I want our Elected Members to be more open, transparent, and accountable.

I want to find efficiencies to reduce costs and minimise rate increases where possible.

Our rural community can continue to an active, supportive, and vibrant place to live, if we are all willing to contribute to and participate in maintaining it.

Keep rural, rural.



## Central Ward Councillor **Andrew Mackay**

Ever since I first moved to Litchfield, I have loved everything about living rural. I attended both Girraween Primary School and Taminmin College and grew up fishing, camping and motorbike riding, all of which I still love (although getting weary of the time taken to heal after every crash!)

After heading down south to study a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in mathematics, I returned to the rural area and currently work full time as the Data Analyst (numbers guy) for a large primary producer in the Aquaculture industry located within

Litchfield. I have previously worked in the forestry industry as a FIFO laboratory technician on the Tiwi Islands. I also sit in a volunteer role on the Executive Board for a not-for-profit youth organisation.

My primary focus for Council is ensuring good decisions are made to keep Litchfield and the rural areas a great place to live with a focus on the community. I also have a strong interest in roaming dog management, empowering community groups, keeping spending in line with revenue and I'm committed to being approachable, transparent, and honest.





## North Ward Councillor **Rachael Wright**

I have lived in Litchfield for over 20 years as a rate payer but have been in the Northern Territory much longer. I am part of the family that owns Lorella Springs cattle station, which today is a favourite out- back getaway for all Territorians and interstate visitors.

I am financially conservative, socially progressive, and environmentally responsible. With over 25 years' experience as a Human Resources professional, in the private and public sector, I have strong ethical values and I

genuinely care for the community and its best interests.

I have elderly parents and young children that live in Litchfield, so I'm keen to see all demographics of our communities' best interests represented. My commitment to the rural area is genuine and passionate. I am willing to be a strong voice for us all.

I look forward to being a great asset to Council and our community.



## South Ward Councillor **Emma Sharp**

I arrived in the Top End eight years ago for what was supposed to be a short-term visit. However, I met my now husband after a few weeks in Darwin, decided to stay on a bit longer, and I'm happy to say I have no intention of leaving this place.

We started planning our lives together; got hitched, picked a rural block in Litchfield to build on, and by 2017, two became three with the birth of our son - very much a 'bush kid'.

Since 2005, I have worked predominantly in the health sector, both in the UK NHS, and

NT Health. I progressed 'up the chain' from administration and secretarial roles, and took a jump into the ICT world, where I have been managing ICT projects in the public health sector now, for over 10 years.

I believe a Councillor should act as a strong advocate, which is a passion I have developed over the past five years in my personal projects. My main focus for my tenure on Council is to be the conduit between local government and the rural people to help promote, sustain, and enjoy the rural lifestyle.



## South Ward Councillor **Mark Sidey**

I first visited Litchfield Municipality in 2011 and relocated permanently to Darwin River in 2016 where I now live with my wife. We have two adult daughters who, after growing up in Darwin River are now following their own dreams.

I have over 10 years-experience working in senior local government roles in Queensland and the Northern Territory including Chief Executive Officer and Council Service Manager. I have a proven track record of stakeholder engagement, relationship development and advocacy over many years and have developed positive relationships with Territory and Federal MLAs, NTG

departments and other councils. In addition to my local government roles, I have a degree in Business and have worked as an Insurance Loss Adjuster since 1999. I currently own my own business, working as a contractor to a number of Insurers.

I was elected to Litchfield Council as a Councillor for South Ward in 2021 on a platform of greater transparency, more consultation with constituents and re-focusing Council's direction back to providing core services at the lowest possible cost. I am passionate about the community and am a great believer in "keeping rural rural".





# Municipal Plan 2021-2022

LITCHFIELD  
COUNCIL

The Municipal Plan and Budget 2021-22 is a 12-month road map of Council's projects, new initiatives and budget.

**\$200K**  
New  
Initiatives

**\$130K**  
Grants and  
Community  
Support

**\$150K**  
Mira Square  
Recreation  
Reserve

**\$45**  
Rates  
increase

Second  
lowest  
rates in  
the NT

Up to  
**\$150**  
rebate per  
household

First Council in the NT  
to offer sanitary and  
cloth nappy rebate

**\$1.18M**  
Recreation  
Reserves

**\$200K**  
Bike Paths

**\$500K**  
Drainage

**\$1M**  
Road Safety  
Upgrades

**\$2.6M**  
Roads



# Going Green Rebate

Litchfield Council has identified a great new initiative to reduce waste to landfill through a 'going green' rebate program. This project aims to provide a reusable cloth nappy and sanitary items rebate scheme to reduce landfill.

**3.75 million disposable nappies are used each day in Australia and New Zealand.**

Disposable nappies take up to 150 years to break down in landfill.

Cloth nappies and reusable sanitary products are environmentally friendly alternatives; washed in full loads and dried on the line can help minimize water and energy costs.

Litchfield Council is pioneering the Going Green Rebate for cloth nappies and sanitary items, in the Northern Territory.

**Residents living in Litchfield can apply for either or both of the rebates available up to \$150.**

Terms and conditions apply.

Reducing waste to landfill is high on Council's agenda with a number of programs in place to incentivize the community to recycle. One program is the successful cash for container scheme where all funds are distributed through a grant program benefiting the community.

The Going Green Rebate is an incentive that is beneficial to individual residents as well as providing great benefits environmentally.

This rebate program will end when the funds are fully spent, currently there are funds of \$2400 remaining.

For more details or to apply for this rebate, visit Council's website

[www.litchfield.nt.gov.au](http://www.litchfield.nt.gov.au)

# Dog De-Sexing Vouchers

Council is offering de-sexing vouchers to provide residents with financial assistance to de-sex their dogs.

If you are a resident of the Litchfield Municipality and your dog is currently microchipped and registered, you can apply now for a \$100 voucher off the cost of your dogs de-sexing.

De-sexing your dog is important and can provide many benefits such as:

- De-sexed dogs may be much less likely to escape from your property, become lost or fight with other dogs
- Various forms of antisocial and nuisance dog behaviour may be eliminated
- De-sexing stops the 'heat' cycles in females
- Your dog may become more content and settled, and less likely to display anxious or aggressive behaviour
- By de-sexing your dog you may reduce the risk of cancer or other diseases of its reproductive organs
- The community is not burdened with the cost of dealing with dumped litters of puppies and unwanted dogs

**De-sexing Initiative**

**Application for Litchfield Council \$100 De-Sexing Voucher**

**Application**

**Dog owner's details**

Name: ..... Phone: .....

Address where dog is kept: .....

Postal address: .....

Email: .....

**Dog's details**

Name: ..... Breed: .....

Sex: ..... Age: ..... Colour: .....

Microchip No.: ..... Animal No.: .....

**Declaration:**

- I am a resident of the Litchfield Municipality
- My dog is microchipped and registered with Litchfield Council
- The information contained in this application form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**Please submit the completed application form by**

Email	council@litchfield.nt.gov.au
In person	Council office, 7 Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass
By mail	PO Box 446 Humpty Doo NT 0836

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Voucher # ..... Issued By: .....

Animal # ..... Date Issued: .....

Voucher valid for 3 months. Exp Date: .....

**LITCHFIELD COUNCIL**

Litchfield Council is committed to encouraging responsible dog ownership within the community. For more information please contact Council's Animal Management team on 8983 0641

**Your dog. Your responsibility.**

**Did you know, 80% of dogs that are lost or wandering which are picked up by Council Rangers are NOT de-sexed?**

If they are lost and wandering and not de-sexed they could be unknowingly contributing to unwanted litters of puppies.

For more details, eligibility or to fill out an application form, visit Council's website [www.litchfield.nt.gov.au](http://www.litchfield.nt.gov.au)



# Community Building

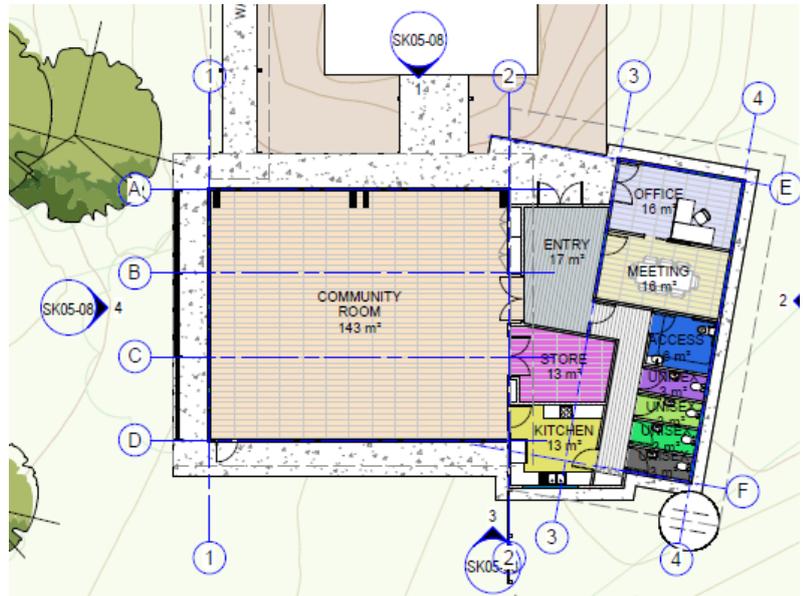
A multi-purpose standalone community building fully funded by the Australian Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program is under development.

The community building will be built on Council land at the existing office location, 7 Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass. It will be separate from the Council administration building and designed to be available for community use within and after business hours. This means community groups, organisations, businesses, and individuals will have an indoor, airconditioned venue available that will be suitable for a variety of different purposes.

Council will also utilise the building for meetings, events, ceremonies, and activities.

Council is currently working through the design and tender documents in preparation of the next stage of the project.

**It is anticipated that construction of the multi-purpose community building commences early 2022 with completion due June 2022.**



## 2022 Australia Day

Come and celebrate all that is Australia Day with Litchfield Council.

On **Wednesday 26 January**, Litchfield Council will be hosting an Australia Day event at **Lake View Hall**, Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve.

All the action begins at **7am** with a **Fun run** and a **FREE community BBQ breakfast**. This will be followed by **FREE kids entertainment** (water slide, temporary tattoos and face painting).

The Australia Day official proceedings will commence at **8.30am** and will include the **Australian Citizenship Ceremony**, **Student and Australia Day awards** and various presentations by **special guests**.

At the completion of the formalities there will be a **FREE community morning tea**.

**Come along and join in the fun.**





# Works Updates



## Whitewood Road Footpath Renewal Stage Three

Whitewood Road Footpath Renewal was a commitment from Council in 2019 to conduct the renewal works in three stages over three years. Stage three of the project will see this project completed.

The **\$180,000 final stage of renewal works** to the Whitewood Road footpath includes works to resurface from Stow Road to Kundook Place. Works are expected to be completed by end of January 2022.

## Phase One of Council Reseal Program for 2021-2022

The **\$760,000 Council Reseal Program** include the following roads or sections of:

**Wheewall Road**  
**Bees Creek Road**  
**Carabao Road**

**Elizabeth Valley Road**  
**Farrar Road**  
**Lapwing Road**

**Therese Road**  
**Zill Road**  
**Mcgrellis Roads**

Works are expected to commence in November 2021 and be completed late December 2021 weather permitting. Phase two of the program will commence after the wet season in late April 2022.

## Mira Square

Council has received a **\$300,000 Federal funding grant** for the construction of a new Community Hall and facilities at Southport.

Works are expected to be complete by the end of March 2022.

The Community Hall will consist of a large open undercover area and a closed area, including kitchen facility.

Thank you to the Federally funded Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant.



## Road Safety Upgrades

Council's Municipal Plan 2021-22 has committed \$50,000 to road safety which will see audits of all roads adjacent to schools in the municipality.

These audits will be used to inform any required safety upgrades and future major upgrades to improve safety around schools.

All audits are expected to be completed by the of February 2022.

## Streetlighting

A Council wide streetlight audit will be undertaken as well as investigations into improving intersection lighting to various major intersections within the municipality.

A prioritisation of these upgrades will be formed as part of the investigation to inform future years capital programs and funding applications.



# 2022 Litchfield Art Exhibition

Entries are now open, and we are calling for local artists to submit pieces for the 2022 Litchfield Council Art Exhibition to be held in March 2022 at Council's Howard Park Recreation Reserve.

The Art Exhibition has been a great success over the past three years, and it just continues to grow and showcase even more artwork from our talented local artists.

The 2022 theme is 'elements' and with such diverse elements in the Litchfield region, the 2022 Art Exhibition is sure to produce some beautiful pieces.

The 2022 Art Exhibition will see lots of prize categories and approximately \$3,000 in prize money.

Eligibility criteria and entry details can be found on Litchfield Council's website <https://www.litchfield.nt.gov.au/community/2022-art-exhibition>

Council has engaged Darwin Community Arts again to run the very popular kids' workshops and markets over the weekend of the Art Exhibition and assist with the coordination of the event.

The 2022 Art Exhibition will be open to the public with free entry on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 March 2022 at Howard Park Recreation Reserve, Howard Springs.



## Staff Profile

Working for the Community



### Nicky McMaster – Manager Communications and Engagement



Favourite Food:	<i>Creamy Chicken Carbonara</i>
Favourite Superhero:	<i>Spiderman</i>
Hobbies:	<i>Horses, polocrosse, kids</i>
Cats or Dogs:	<i>Dogs</i>
Beach or Bush:	<i>Bush</i>
Coffee or Tea:	<i>Tea</i>
Best or most unique place you have visited:	<i>Any of the castles in Wales, truly amazing!</i>
What do you like the most about Litchfield:	<i>The variety of living and facilities available at our fingertips.</i>



**COOLALINGA CENTRAL**  
COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTRE

**TIMINGS**  
 Mon, Tue & Thu: 7:30am - 6:30pm  
 Wed: 9am - 6:30pm  
 Fri: 7:30am - 3:30pm  
 Sat: 9am - 1:45pm

*Walk-ins Welcome*

**LOCATION**  
Coolalinga Central,  
Next to Mad Harry's

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[CORONAVIRUS.NT.GOV.AU](http://CORONAVIRUS.NT.GOV.AU)

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Let's tell the community what you have been doing.  
 email: [newsletter@litchfield.nt.gov.au](mailto:newsletter@litchfield.nt.gov.au)  
 to have your news and photos in the newsletter

Have you got something to share with the community?

We want to hear from you!

Send your articles and photos to [newsletter@litchfield.nt.gov.au](mailto:newsletter@litchfield.nt.gov.au)



There are numerous ways you are able to contact Council or keep up to date with Council projects, events and activities that are taking place.

Visit the Council website: [www.litchfield.nt.gov.au](http://www.litchfield.nt.gov.au)

Follow our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/litchfield.council](http://www.facebook.com/litchfield.council)

Email us: [council@litchfield.nt.gov.au](mailto:council@litchfield.nt.gov.au)

Call us: 8983 0600

Visit us: 7 Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass