

The Kimberley Echo

www.kimberleyecho.com

Thursday, February 12, 2009

\$1.00 (incl GST)

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St John Ambulance rural paramedic manager John Layton and office manager Bonnie Rugendyke are asking Kununurra people to dig deep for people affected by the Victorian bushfires.

Call for fire help

THE Kununurra sub-branch of St John Ambulance has launched an appeal to support people affected by the Victorian bushfires.

"It's terrible to see what's happened in Victoria and we want to recognise the suffering those people are going through," St John Ambulance Kununurra sub-branch office manager Bonnie Rugendyke said. "It may be 4000 kilometres away, but that doesn't matter, we can still help."

She said St John volunteers would be out and about during the week asking for donations from local businesses and residents, with all proceeds to

go to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

"The St John Ambulance Kununurra social club and volunteers have kicked off this appeal with a donation of \$500," Ms Rugendyke said.

Ms Rugendyke said donations to the St John Kununurra Victorian Bushfire Appeal can be made to one of the volunteers who will be on the street collecting; by cheque or money order to St John Ambulance Kununurra Victorian Bushfire Appeal (PO Box 895, Kununurra, WA, 6743); or by direct bank transfer to a bank account set-up specifically for the appeal: BSB: 066-530 Account No: 1027 4521.

Greens wrong, says Grylls

By Nathan Dyer

A KIMBERLEY-based conservation group has raised concerns over the expansion of the Ord River Irrigation Area.

Environs Kimberley has written to Premier Colin Barnett calling for a full environmental assessment by the Commonwealth before any earthworks begin.

However, it appears the group may be preaching to the converted, with Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls saying Common-

wealth approval has always been part of the deal.

Environs Kimberley freshwater campaigner Dr Gary Scott told *The Kimberley Echo* he was concerned the Government may take short cuts in its haste to begin the Ord expansion project.

He said it was not yet confirmed the Government would obtain Commonwealth environmental approval.

"We've had indication that it probably will, but as I understand from speaking with someone in the De-

partment of State Development last Friday, a final decision hasn't been made yet," he said.

Mr Scott said any environmental short-cuts would be to the detriment of the Kimberley environment.

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls told *The Kimberley Echo* concerns raised by Environs Kimberley had no basis and were nothing more than a fishing exercise.

"I'm not sure how they think that is going to happen given the Commonwealth's intricate involvement

in the project," Mr Grylls said.

"I can categorically say all State and Federal environmental assessments will be done to the highest degree given we are developing a world class agricultural expansion and the fact other Australian examples of irrigation projects have proven to be unsustainable."

Mr Grylls said Environs Kimberley had an important part to play in the Ord expansion project and he urged the organisation to engage proactively with the project and raise real concerns.

"However, if this is the level of engagement we're to have with Environs Kimberley it doesn't seem like a very positive relationship from the outset," he said.

In a separate development, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia Gary Gray has appointed the former head of the WA and Commonwealth environmental protection authorities, Barry Carbon, as environmental advisor for the Government's \$195m East Kimberley development package.

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POLICE NEWS

Kununurra

POLICE have charged a man with assault of a public officer after an attack on an Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service nurse.

Police say the 41-year-old man was receiving treatment from the female nurse when he became aggravated and struck the nurse in the face.

POLICE attended a disturbance in Boomba Street and located a 15-year-old male walking up and down the street with an ornamental sword

and behaving in a manner which made a number of residents feel threatened.

Police have arrest the juvenile for possessing a controlled weapon in a manner likely to cause fear.

POLICE say the number of burglaries in Kununurra declined last week, however there were still instances of people failing to properly secure their property.

Wyndham

IN relation to continued family feud-

ing over the weekend, police arrested a 16-year-old male and his 18-year-old brother.

The younger man was charged with assault and possession of a weapon. The older man was charged with breaching a violence restraining order.

POLICE attending a disturbance at Warriu Park had their vehicle pelted with rocks. Officers arrested a 27-year-old woman and a 37-year-old woman in relation to the incident. Both women were charged for damage to a police vehicle.

Halls Creek

POLICE say restrictions on trading hours will remain in force under the local liquor accord until the end of March. Under the Halls Creek liquor accord takeaway alcohol sales are only permitted between the hours of 2pm and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

POLICE say wet weather and closed roads have impeded travel between outlying communities and this had reduced the numbers of transient visitors to the town and had a positive affect on police tasking.

Janric sudoku solution

2	4	5	8	9	7	1	3	6
6	8	3	1	2	4	5	7	9
9	1	7	5	6	3	8	2	4
5	6	2	4	7	1	9	8	3
4	3	1	9	8	5	7	6	2
8	7	9	6	3	2	4	1	5
1	9	6	2	4	8	3	5	7
3	5	4	7	1	6	2	9	8
7	2	8	3	5	9	6	4	1



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ECHOhistory

One year ago



February 14, 2008

THE Federal Government formally said sorry to members of the Stolen Generations at functions in Kununurra, Wyndham and Oombulgurri yesterday morning.

KUNUNURRA could be facing alcohol restrictions following a report showing the success of the six-month ban in Fitzroy Crossing.

Five years ago



February 12, 2004

THE Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley is threatening to sell properties where owners have made no effort to pay rates for more than three years.

The shire is owed more than half a million dollars.

A NOTORIOUS Kununurra business has finally closed its doors, but not

without continuing controversy. S. Parker Mechanical and Autoelectrical Repairs was recently the target of a Consumer Affairs investigation.

Twenty years ago



February 13, 1989

PREFABRICATION work is well underway in Alice Springs on the framework for Kununurra's new multi-million dollar shopping centre.

THE proposed motel and caravan park for Kona Park has been shelved for at least another two years, according to a spokesperson for the Lord McAlpine company planning the development.

AFTER a meeting with the South Australian Premier John Bannon, the WA Water Resources Minister Ernie Bridge will be making a joint approach to the Commonwealth to outline the billion dollar proposal to pipe water from the Kimberley to both the South West of WA and South Australia.

ROAD CONDITION REPORT

Great Northern Highway

Halls Creek to Fitzroy Crossing - OPEN

Wyndham to Halls Creek - OPEN

Victoria Highway

Victoria River Bridge - OPEN

WA/NT border to Timber Creek - OPEN (high clearance vehicles only)

Gibb River Road

Wyndham turn-off to Meda Station turn-off - CLOSED

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley Roads

All unsealed roads within the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley are CLOSED

Lake Argyle Road - OPEN

For information regarding access roads to stations, contact stations directly.

For further information: SWEK roads (08) 9168 4100 or www.thelastfrontier.com.au. Main Roads WA 138 138. Northern Territory Road Condition report 1800 246 199 or http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/roadreport.

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* Tide times now available on the fishing page

Kununurra

Date	Min	Max	Rain (mm)	Humidity
4 February				80
5 February		33.1		82
6 February	23.7	34.4	5.8	81
7 February	25.7	34.7	0.0	73
8 February	24.8	35.8	0.0	76
9 February	24.4	31.7	0.0	80
10 February	22.5		39.2	88

Halls Creek

Date	Min	Max	Rain (mm)	Humidity
4 February	23.4	34.1	12.6	83
5 February	24.6	36.2	1.4	63
6 February	22.9	36.4	0.0	66
7 February	23.8	37.1	0.0	64
8 February	23.2	34.7	5.4	62
9 February	22.3	36.1	1.6	68
10 February	23.8		0.2	62

Wyndham

Date	Min	Max	Rain (mm)	Humidity
4 February	25.5	34.5	21.0	84
5 February	25.5	34.7	10.0	84
6 February	24.5	35.5	18.0	84
7 February	27.0	35.5	0.0	71
8 February	26.0	35.8	0.0	73
9 February	25.2	30.1	17.0	81
10 February	24.0		39.0	87

Information brought to you by
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility



WA/NT Border
Quarantine
Checkpoint

Date	Confiscations KG Fruit & Veg	Vehicles	Passengers
2 February	0	17	42
3 February	0	14	38
4 February	0	18	52
5 February	0	33	95
6 February	0	30	92
7 February	0	31	132
8 February	24.25	88	231



Pan evaporation

Recorded daily at the Frank Wise Institute
Information supplied courtesy of
Department of Agriculture - Kununurra

Date	Rain	Evap(ml)	Date	Rain	Evap(ml)
3 February	6.0	2.0	6 February	32.2	8.2
4 February	42.0	10.6	7-8 February		
5 February	23.0	7.0	9 February	11.0	21.60

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Local councils unlikely to be affected by shire merges

By Nathan Dyer

THE Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley is unlikely to be affected by plans announced by the Barnett Government last week to merge Local Governments across the State.

Local Government Minister John Castrilli announced the Government's plan to merge local councils at a meeting of Local Government representatives in Exmouth last week.

Mr Castrilli said the strategy was aimed at achieving greater efficiency in the Local Government sector.

"I am inviting each of the 139 councils within Western Australia to embrace this opportunity to voluntarily amalgamate and to voluntarily reduce the total number of elected members for each council," he said.

Mr Castrilli said there were 85 local councils in WA serving populations of less than 2,000 people.

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley chief executive Peter Stubbs said it was unlikely the Government had any plans to merge Kimberley shires.

"I think we're probably furthest from their minds," Mr Stubbs said.

He said the issue of shire amalgamations had been around for some time and was more relevant to the high numbers of local shires in the south of the State.

"There are a lot of councils in the Wheatbelt, South West and metropolitan area particularly, so they're probably the highest on the reform agenda.

"To amalgamate for example the East Kimberley with Broome and the West Kimberley would be similar to amalgamating Geraldton and Esperance. That's what it means in geographical terms."

Mr Stubbs said there were no clear benefits of amalgamating Kimberley shires and shires in the East Kimberley already cooperated as much as possible.

"In recent years we've shared a town planner, for example, so there's already some track record of resource sharing and cooperation.

"Where we think there's an opportunity to cooperate we do so."

He said the issue would be debated at next week's council meeting.

Western Australia has 139 Local Governments compared to 152 in NSW and 78 in Victoria. Both NSW and Victoria have significantly larger populations than WA.

HAVE YOUR SAY: Send a letter to us. Letters to the editor must contain the author's full name, address and daytime contact phone number. Letters may be edited for space, clarity or legal reasons. Email news@kimberleyecho.com or post to PO Box 1105, Kununurra, 6743.

Croc attack: Kununurra man left with bite marks on leg



Kununurra locals Hamish Munro and Lon Croot got the shock of their lives last week when a two-metre 'salty' leapt from the water and took a bite at Mr Munro. Picture: Kym Croot

A KUNUNURRA man got one hell of a shock last week when a two-metre estuarine crocodile leapt from the water while he was fishing near the mouth of the Ord River.

Hamish Munro told *The Echo* he and mate Lon Croot were fishing on the Cambridge Gulf in Mr Croot's 5.3 metre boat when the surprise attack occurred.

"Lon and I had seen a croc there, and he'd just said to me, 'don't fall in, there's a croc there'," Mr Munro said.

"So we were aware it was there, but I guess we just presumed we'd be safe in the boat."

The pair had been walking around in the muddy water up to their knees trying to catch bait in the same area, less than an hour before the attack.

Mr Munro said he was standing on the front of the boat casting his rod and estimates he was at least 1.5 metres above the water when the croc attacked.

"I was just standing up the front of the boat and I turned around to grab another fishing rod and just as I've cast, 'bang, crash'."

He said he felt a force knock his feet out from underneath him and catapult him back into the boat.

"It just came straight up, its bottom jaw hit my shin, and the top of its jaw hit me on the calf."

Mr Croot said it all happened very

quickly and initially he wasn't aware his friend had been bitten.

"I saw the croc come out of the water and hit the side of the boat and then fall back into the water," Mr Croot said.

"Then I saw blood on Hamish's leg and I realised it had bitten him."

Mr Munro said it happened so quickly he did not see the crocodile when it launched, but caught sight of it soon after when it circled back and waited at the front of the boat.

"It came back and sat there with its mouth on the boat, waiting for another go," he said.

"It would have been over two metres."

He said the attack was a wake up call for the pair who have fished in the area many times before.

"It can happen anywhere, and obviously I thought I was safe," he said.

Mr Croot agreed.

"I always thought you would have time to move if a croc came at you, but this was just very very quick."

Mr Munro managed to escape the incident with a swollen and bruised shin, and six small, but distinctive teeth marks in his right calf and says he's not sure what all the fuss is about.

"I feel it's not much of a story," he said.

"But I guess not many people have teeth marks from a croc on them."

Outage leaves thousands without communications

MOBILE phone and internet services in the East Kimberley were again interrupted last week following more damage to Telstra cables near Derby.

The communication glitch resulted in a loss of mobile phone and internet services across the East Kimberley last Friday, less than five days after a similar outage affected more than 4000

land lines and 2000 internet services across the Kimberley.

Telstra Corporate Affairs State manager Tony Hancox told *The Kimberley Echo* the latest communication outage was once again caused by damage to optic fibre cables near the Logue River, south of Derby.

"There was some damage [to

the cable] about a kilometre from the previous repair site," Mr Hancox said.

However, he said the impact of last Friday's damage had been minor, with all land line services maintained.

He said technicians had been sent to the damage site immediately and had repaired the cable, while many services

had been re-routed through NT cables to reduce the impact of the problem.

Mr Hancox said technicians had been inspecting 17 kilometres of temporary cable daily since last week's major disruptions and would continue to do so until flood waters in the area receded and a more permanent fix could be carried out.

Watch out for cane toads...
and information coming your way.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is distributing information to Kununurra, Wyndham and Halls Creek residents about:

- **Safety and cane toads:** Handling toads
- **Protecting your children and pets:** What you can do
- **Is it a toad?:** Identifying toads
- **Keeping toads out of your backyard:** Arming the community against cane toads

Brochures will be delivered to households and are available from DEC's Kununurra office on 9168 4200.

www.dec.wa.gov.au/canetoads

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LETTERS to the editor

Police set the example

IT has been great to see police cracking down on street drinking and similar anti-social behaviour in and around Kununurra during both day and night time hours.

Now if other responsible agencies would get their acts together we might start to see similar problems

being tackled (e.g. young children and school-age juveniles roaming the streets all hours of the day and night).

DON SCOTT
KUNUNURRA

Thanks Kununurra for caring

I JUST moved to Kununurra and have been overwhelmed by the generosity and caring shown to me by so many local people.

I lost my beautiful 12-year-old cocker spaniel Daisy on the day I moved here. I have had so much help in looking for her.

Thank you to Lisa, Arlene, Trish and families, Kristy-Lee and Mel, Les, Mark, Matt, Carol, Mary and Matt, Sandy and family - and all the others whose names I don't yet know - who have been out looking for Daisy, phoning to check if she's found and offering support.

Thank you to all the staff in local businesses who put up signs and the many who remember me, probably the tears, and ask about her. Also thanks to ABC Radio and Waringarri Radio.

These actions of so many speak volumes about the people of Kununurra. What a supporting and caring community. I hope I can pay this forward.

Daisy was last seen on Wednesday, January 21 near the BP depot on the Darwin Road.

Thank you Kununurra.

JANE SHEILS
KUNUNURRA



Bob drives into the Hall of Fame

I WOULD like to congratulate my husband Bob on his acceptance into the Alice Springs National Road Transport Hall of Fame. We will hopefully travel to the Red Centre in August for the Induction Ceremony.

At 80 years of age he will be recognised for his lifetime of involvement in transport, which has included haulage of goods to outlying areas in the Kimberley, cattle carting to the Wyndham meatworks, as well as many years

in the 4WD tour industry and currently travelling into the NT as a toad buster.

His proud wife Norma.

NORMA WAINRIGHT
KUNUNURRA

Community cannot tolerate arsonists

WHY?

The Kimberley Echo's opinion column - local comments on local issues

By Keith Wright



Keith Wright has been an active member of the East Kimberley community for 40 years.

WHY do we tolerate the behaviour of those imbecilic, criminally-minded persons who intentionally light fires?

Tonight as I write this, the whole Australian population is trying to come to terms with the dramatic loss of life and property in the fires in south-eastern Australia.

At last count up to 760 houses have been lost to the terrific flames and at least 108 people have lost their life.

Intermingled with all the reports emanating from this horrific event, are fairly substantial indications from the authorities that some of the fires have been intentionally lit.

We are all aware in WA of the signage about arson and the very substantial penalties that may be brought down after a successful conviction and one must assume that such penalties are in place in other states, but still we must

endure the senseless actions of this criminal minority.

The penalties handed down by the courts are, in general, not acting as a sufficient deterrent to the act of arson.

This loss of life as a result of this criminal action involves someone's parents, someone's sister or brother - whole families are no more. Whole communities as well as individuals are suffering these losses and we, as a community, must demand that much more substantial penalties are involved.

Perhaps the authorities should also look at their attitude towards those assisting in providing in-

formation leading to a conviction of these arsonists.

Recently in WA we learned of a case reported in the media of a reward of \$500 paid to a person who supplied information leading to a conviction.

From a maximum reward available of \$50,000, is rewarding the person involved in the supply of this information with \$500 really an incentive to make reporting arsonists realistic?

As well as realistic rewards for information leading to a conviction we must demand a dramatic ramping up of the penalties for people who light fires which cause loss of life or property.

Even Kevin Rudd has been heard to say recently that "it's murder" when talking about the fires.

I hope my article strikes at the hearts of thinking people and together we can place pressure on the politicians to realistically alter the penalties.

My thoughts go to all those who have suffered so tragically in the last few days in the horrible series of events leading to one of the worst bushfire events in the Nation's history.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher.



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* Calls from mobile phones are charged at applicable rates

Carelink Jan 2009

EDITORIAL

WHERE are the parents of the children who have been vandalising Kununurra this week? It shouldn't be too hard to find them, after all, their children's names are plastered all over town.

It will be interesting to see if any of those parents are recipients of parenting payments under

this country's welfare system, and if so, what will be done to ensure those payments are restricted, as much as possible, under new income quarantining measures rolled out across the Kimberley recently.

The children, in many cases, can hardly be blamed. The fact is those who desecrated the war memorial probably didn't even know what it was. They've probably never had parents who have valued their education enough to send them to school regularly.

While the authorities can apprehend the children responsible for this damage, nothing long-term will be achieved if their parents aren't made responsible for them.

Linking welfare payments to education and responsible parenting is said to be, by some, a breach of people's civil rights.

What about the right of these children to have a future which does not involve a room with barred windows?

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Dam failure fears panic the Ranch

By Nathan Dyer

FEARS of the Lake Argyle dam bursting had residents of the Ranch area in Kununurra heading for higher ground last Wednesday night.

About 10.30pm last Wednesday, a woman in the Ngahliwah Community – also known as the Ranch – just off Speargrass Road in Kununurra, raised fears of an imminent collapse of the dam wall.

The false alarm triggered panic in the community and there were reports of fully-laden vehicles dashing for Wyndham and others making their way up Kelly's Knob to avoid deadly flood waters expected to arrive at any moment.

One Ngahliwah resident, who asked not to be named, said a woman had run around the community shouting: "The dam wall is breaking."

He said people had reacted in fear and began evacuating to higher ground.

The Echo understands the false alarm may have been a result of the unknown woman viewing pictures of the Queensland floods on Foxtel and believing the news reports related to the Lake Argyle dam.

Kununurra police officer-in-charge senior sergeant Graham Sears said police were informed of the fears at about 11pm.

"The actual fears appear to have come about after a report

on Foxtel and the rumour mill then got very active and before we knew it we had people all over the place worried about the dam wall," Snr Sgt Sears said.

Officers were dispatched to the community soon after to deal with the situation.

Snr Sgt Sears said police drove around the area telling people it was a false alarm and there was nothing to fear.

"Officers used the loud speaker in their vehicle to tell people: 'The dam wall is not breaking. Please go back to your homes,'" he said.

A Ngahliwah resident said false alarm or not, it was still a frightening situation.

"It scared the living daylights out of me," he said.

Vandals anger Diggers

MEMBERS of the Returned and Services League have expressed their outrage after vandals desecrated the war memorial in front of the Kununurra Shire offices earlier this week.

An inspection of the shire office cenotaph revealed felt pen graffiti covering the memorial from top to bottom spelling out names and explicit language.

RSL Kununurra sub-branch president Lex Johns told *The Kimberley Echo* he had been informed of the damage and was disgusted by it.

"I haven't seen the mess but I know a few of the diggers have expressed their concern," Mr Johns said.

"The Diggers feel they have had their noses rubbed in the dirt.

"They have done their bit for this country and to be treated like this is very hurtful."

Mr Johns called for a concerted community effort to tackle the continuing problem of vandals in Kununurra.

He said those responsible should be made aware of the hurt they have caused.

"The culprits should be made to come to the dawn service and understand the significance of the sacrifice these men and women have made for our country," he said.

Kununurra officer-in-charge Senior Sergeant Graham Sears said police were taking the



RSL Kununurra sub-branch member Bevan Spackman inspects the vandalised war memorial in front of the Kununurra Shire offices.

matter very seriously.

"The attack has incensed a lot of people around town and we are making every endeavour to identify the culprits," he said. "Whoever did this should be ashamed of themselves."

At the time of going to print police were questioning a 13-year-old boy in relation to the vandalism and expected to lay charges on up to six juveniles in connection with the war memorial damage.

Lake Argyle reaches capacity

THE Water Corporation says the Lake Argyle dam has reached its full capacity and is currently flowing over the spillway at a rate of more than 100,000 litres a second.

Water Corporation north-west regional business manager Evan Hambleton said steady rains in the Lake Argyle catchment area had filled the dam to its capacity of about 11,000 gigalitres and water was now flowing over the wall at the top of the spillway.

"Currently [the water level] is 0.65 metres above the spillway and at the moment the flow is just over 100,000 litres a second," Mr Hambleton said.

One hundred thousand litres a second equates to 8.6 billion litres a day, or more than eight times

Perth's average daily water use.

Mr Hambleton said the spillway overflow was an annual occurrence and there was no cause for concern.

"I think last year it peaked about one metre over the spillway. But it's still only quite a small overflow in the scheme of Lake Argyle. I think the biggest overflow we've ever had was 7.2m above the spillway. That was in 2001," he said.

"So there is absolutely no issue with the dam wall itself."

Mr Hambleton said it was important for Ord River users to be aware of floating weed, debris and muddy water which may present navigation hazards.

He said key areas of concern included the area where the spillway

flows into the Ord River and areas immediately upstream and downstream of the Kununurra diversion dam.

Mr Hambleton reminded the public access or fishing in the area 100 metres upstream and 200 metres downstream of the diversion dam bridge was not permitted for safety reasons.

He said increased flows from the Dunham River meant the lower Ord River was also flowing very fast.

"Any farmers along the lower Ord who have assets and infrastructure at a low level should be aware of it."

Current flow through the diversion dam gates is 660,000 litres per second.

Please be advised that Argyle Machinery (Argyle Motors) have purchased Rogers Machinery Service.

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State-run pubs urged to control Kimberley

THE WA Police Union has called for the State Government to take over hotels and bottleshops in the Kimberley to fix endemic alcohol problems.

Union president Mike Dean said it made sense for the Government to buy liquor licences in trouble spots if it imposed further alcohol bans.

As the publican, the Government could directly enforce reduced trading hours and restrict the types of alcohol sold.

In extreme cases, it could buy a hotel and shut it.

The proposal was rejected immediately by Racing and Gaming Minister Terry Waldron, who said the Government was not in the business of being a publican or licensee.

He said it was up to the director of liquor licensing Barry Sargeant to make licensing decisions.

“(Mr Sargeant) has shown his ability to act in the best interests of communities and regions

as evidenced by recent proposals regulating licence conditions and liquor availability,” Mr Waldron said.

Mr Waldron was in Alice Springs last week investigating a card system under which problem drinkers are banned from buying alcohol, an alternative to blanket bans which has the backing of the WA branch of the Australian Hotels Association.

AHA State chief executive Brad-

ley Woods said many regional hotel owners would gladly sell their licences to the State for a reasonable price but he doubted that would happen.

He rejected the insinuation Kimberley licensees were not behaving responsibly, pointing out that they had entered into voluntary agreements with police to restrict trading hours and some products in a bid to curb alcohol abuse.

Halls Creek licensee Peter Tier-

ney said all of the indications were that the wider community would be served best by government action supporting voluntary restrictions, along with welfare quarantine measures and an identification card system.

Mr Dean said his plan was just one element of a possible solution.

He said the Kimberley also needed better government services.

DAWN GIBSON

New base for support services in Halls Creek

By Mark Sewell

NUMBER 88 Thomas Street, Halls Creek, locally known as ‘the house of the hands’ because of its colourful handprint exterior decoration, has changed its name – and its function.

Formerly a youth services office, the shire-owned building has been leased to the Department of Housing (DOH) to be run as the Thomas Street Support House. Its new function is to house various agencies which provide community support.

The joint project between the Shire of Halls Creek and DOH will provide a base for community services and better accessibility to services such as Anglicare WA’s Supported Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) and the Department for Child Protec-

tion’s Parent Support program.

It is understood Legal Aid Kununurra is likely to use the Thomas Street centre when an officer begins regular visits to Halls Creek later this year.

Another likely use of the multi-roomed building will be to provide space for a community ‘healing centre’. In doing so, DOH will fulfill a request made at the Community Reference Group by a number of community members last year.

The Thomas Street Support House was officially opened by Housing Minister Troy Buswell during a visit to Halls Creek last week.

In opening the facility, Mr Buswell said he was pleased DOH could be involved.

“Coming here [to Halls Creek] it is very plain to see – it is very blunt for

me – the challenges you face in providing quality housing are great,” Mr Buswell told those present at the opening.

“It’s good to know we are constructing social housing here, but if we are going to build houses for families, then we must also do our bit to help build the capacity of those families to live well in their homes,” he said.

“That’s why I’m proud to open the Thomas Street Support House today.”

Late last year the Thomas Street property underwent a major upgrade by trainees and apprentices from Wunan Construction and Maintenance.

The Shire of Halls Creek has relocated its youth services to the recreation and aquatic centre.



Halls Creek’s ‘house of the hands’ has a new name: the Thomas Street Support House.

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It's unusual for him to be receiving deliveries like that, especially at that time of night.

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The name on his credit card didn't match the one on his passport.

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Housing Minister Troy Buswell with Wunan Construction and Maintenance apprentices Adrian Iles and Lee Gerrard.

Buswell visits Halls Creek

HOUSING Minister Troy Buswell travelled to the Kimberley last week to assess concerns in the region.

The minister was accompanied by Member for Mining and Pastoral Ken Baston and Department of Housing director general Grahame Searle.

In Halls Creek Mr Buswell met with shire councillors and representatives of the community, commercial and government sectors to hear about the challenges of delivering services in the remote town.

During his visit the minister inspected social housing construction and refurbishment projects, including a recently refurbished Hazlett Place property where Mr Buswell accepted the keys to the house from Wunan Construction and Maintenance apprentices Lee Gerrard and Adrian Iles, who have spent the past few months working on a major renovation of the property.

In passing the keys on to tenant Alana Stretch, Mr Buswell praised the

apprentices for the excellent standard of their work.

Ms Stretch was previously the tenant in the house but, after the Department of Housing judged the house to be below acceptable standard, was relocated to another property while the refurbishment took place.

Ms Stretch told Mr Buswell she was very happy to be back in her home.

As Mr Buswell later put it: “to politely paraphrase Alana, she said the house was ‘bloody awful’ but she’s absolutely delighted with it now”.

Mr Buswell’s Halls Creek visit also involved the opening of the Thomas Street Support House, a visit to the Better Life Project office and an inspection of Burks Park Station, just east of the town, where a new workers hostel is due to be built this year.

Mr Buswell’s Kimberley itinerary included Balgo, Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and Kalumburu.

MARK SEWELL



The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley says the Kununurra Youth Centre is being utilised, despite difficulties to recruit a regional youth development coordinator.

Setback for Kununurra youth

THE roll-out of a comprehensive program for youth services in Kununurra has received another setback with the preferred candidate for the regional youth development coordinator position declining an employment offer from the Shire.

The *Kimberley Echo* previously reported the position had been filled with hopes the new regional youth development coordinator would begin work as early as February 24.

Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley executive manager of community services Karyn Apperley told *The Kimberley Echo* the preferred candidate for the position had unfortunately decided not to proceed.

She said the Shire was now running a national recruitment campaign in an attempt to fill the vacancy.

"We're advertising in this week's West, Saturday's West, next Saturday's Australian and it's also out on a couple

of websites – essentially because the last recruitment pool yielded very few applicants," Ms Apperley said.

Ms Apperley said it was hoped the national recruitment push would attract a larger pool of qualified people for the position.

"The Shire recognises how important it is to get the right person for the role," she said.

Ms Apperley pointed out despite the unfilled manager position, the youth centre was being used to provide programs for young people.

"It is important to realise the youth centre is actually being well utilised at the moment," she said.

"We've got a number of groups there with regular weekly activities occurring, and one of those is a music program, the other is around young mums and bubs." Ms Apperley said the Shire was supporting those programs by discounting hire fees for the centre.



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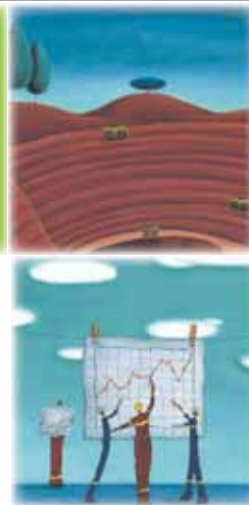
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XC Shotfirer Bulga Coal, Hunter Valley (Ref: 4376)

Reporting to the Drill & Blast Co-ordinator, the primary purpose of this role is utilising your shotfiring skills to contribute to safe and efficient blasting operation at Bulga.

You will preferably hold a NSW Explosive Handlers Licence and/or a NSW Shotfirers Ticket or the ability to attain one.

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\$40million boost for regional telecentres

TELECENTRES across WA are set to receive \$40million over the next four years as part of the Government's Royalties for Regions program.

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls last week announced the new funding for the WA Telecentre Network.

Mr Grylls said \$5million would be allocated this financial year in the first phase of funding, including an immediate boost of \$10,000 for each facility.

There are more than 100 not-for-profit facilities in the WA Telecentre Network in regional Western Australia.

"These are important centres

"These are important centres that are community-owned and operated and provide access to some core services for people living and working in regional communities throughout the State."

that are community-owned and operated and provide access to some core services for people living and working in regional communities throughout the State," Mr Grylls said.

"Their services include providing access to computers and

high-speed internet; two-way video conferencing; education and training; as well as government information and referral services."

He said telecentres would be renamed Community Resource Centres to reflect their increased role, and they would

form part of the WA Community Resource Network.

Mr Grylls said in addition to the \$10,000 immediate increase to the operational support grant for each centre, the new funding would also include a one-off grant of up to \$10,000 for minor refurbishment work and equipment upgrades.

"Another \$1.3million of the money this financial year will enable the network to upgrade videoconferencing capabilities, he said.

"This will make the network the largest community-owned video conferencing network in Australia."



Unsuitable: A new \$6m public jetty has been proposed for Wyndham. Residents say the current jetty (pictured here: showing recent damage caused by floating Gulf debris) is not safe for cruise ship passengers wanting to alight in the town.

Picture: Ken Watson

Bid to revamp Wyndham foreshore

By Nathan Dyer

A GROUP of Wyndham residents have lodged a bid to secure some of the \$195 million committed by the Federal Government to the development of the East Kimberley.

Spokesperson for the group, Wyndham resident Allan Pardoe-Bell, said a \$6 million application had been lodged with the Commonwealth for a new public access wharf, part of a planned redevelopment of the Wyndham Port area which would include a new museum building and an Aboriginal cultural interpretation centre.

Drawings of the proposed wharf show a 123m rigid walkway to be located at Anton's Landing.

Mr Pardoe-Bell said the new wharf would form an integral part of a planned Wyndham Port 'tourism precinct' and would attract greater numbers of visitors from cruise ships which ply the Kimberley coast.

Numbers of cruising tourists alighting in Wyndham have dropped considerably in the past year, according to Mr Pardoe-Bell.

"The boats just don't bother stopping here any more. When they get to Wyndham they simply refuel and then move on to Darwin."

He said the main problem was the absence of a safe wharf.

"The cruise ships can no longer dock in Wyndham safely because of concerns around public use of the commercial wharf," he said.

"The only other option to land tourists from the ships is to have them unloaded half a dozen at a time on the floating pontoon wharf, and that's just not practical given some of these boats have a hundred people on them."

Mr Pardoe-Bell said a new wharf had the potential to create significant benefits for local businesses and tourism operators.

"We're talking about very wealthy people, they're paying big money to be on these boats and they've got money to spend," he said.

"So we need to make it easy for them to alight here and spend time in Kununurra and Wyndham.

The Rudd Government announced in December it would match the WA Government's commitment of \$195 million to the expansion of the East Kimberley and Ord Stage Two.

Parliamentary secretary for regional development and Northern Australia Gary Gray said in a visit to the East Kimberley last month the focus of the Commonwealth funds would be on social and shared-use infrastructure.

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- > live in the home for a continuous period of at least 6 months, commencing within 12 months after completion or settlement.

For more information about the First Home Owners Boost, call 1800 222 282 for an information booklet or visit the website.

The First Home Owners Boost is part of the Australian Government's Economic Security Strategy.

www.australia.gov.au/boost

Economic Security Strategy
First Home Owners Boost



Supply line: Police unloading supplies and mail at Oombulgurri last week. The community has been accessible by water only for most of the past three weeks.

Water taxi only option for Oombi cops during wet

By Nathan Dyer

IT'S high tide and East Kimberley Volunteer Marine Rescue Commodore Alan Pardoe-Bell is getting ready for a quick dash from Wyndham up the Forrest River to Oombulgurri, to off-load police officers and supplies.

It's not a trip for the faint hearted: with the wet season in full swing the Cambridge Gulf is full of flotsam, making the hour-long trip to Oombulgurri a case of dodge ball – not to mention the seven-metre tides.

The airstrip at the remote community has been closed for most of the past three weeks meaning police and residents have only one way in and out – by boat.

Onboard is Kimberley police superintendent Murray Smalpage, inspector Jim Cave, and first-class constable Scott Pickering – travelling to Wyndham to begin a two-week shift.

Const. Pickering said he was looking forward to his stint at the remote police station.

"It's a good change of pace," Const. Pickering said.

He said work at the remote station involves a hands-on approach to policing.

"You actually get a chance to go around and talk with people in the

community – it's a lot more community focused," he said.

"The kids out here are good, they're generally interested in what's going on and they make the most of what they've got."

Const. Pickering said although he never worked at Oombulgurri before the imposition of alcohol bans, he gets the feeling it is a very different place now.

"I wasn't here when alcohol was still in the community but from talking to the guys that were, it's one hundred per cent different."

Oombulgurri police last week attended their first alcohol-related incident since Racing and Gaming Minister Terry Waldron imposed grog bans on the community in November last year. The isolation of Oombulgurri is an annual event during the wet, with poor road access and an unsealed airstrip meaning the community can be cut off for weeks at a time.

Oombulgurri store manager Barry Smith told *The Echo* last week the airstrip had been closed for most of the last three weeks.

"We've just managed to get one flight in of fresh fruit, vegetables and meat. But prior to that we haven't been able to get fresh food in for two weeks," Mr Smith said.

Argyle processing shut over safety

PROCESSING at the Argyle Diamond Mine was temporarily shut down last week due to safety concerns.

Although the mine's owner Rio Tinto would not confirm reports of a specific safety incident occurring on the mine site last week, the company did confirm processing was shut down for a short time.

A spokesperson for Argyle Diamonds told *The Kimberley Echo* there was a planned safety 'inter-

vention' at the Argyle Diamond Mine last week.

"The process plant was initially closed for approximately two days and this continued for shorter periods as new panels have come back on roster," the spokesperson said.

"This approach is normal procedure across the Rio Tinto group in times of change."

The spokesperson said the production break was simply an effective way of re-focusing the

mine's workforce on key safety aspects.

"It is important to emphasise that the safety of our people is our priority whatever the circumstances," the spokesperson said.

The Kimberley Echo understands there are fears among some mine workers the safety concerns may relate to employees feeling increased pressure following recently announced job cuts.

The company would not comment on those specific concerns.



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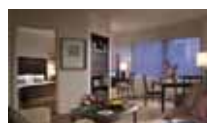
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Kiwis mark Waitangi Day

Kiwi feast: Members of the Kimberley Aotearoa Club Kurt Badrick and Grant White preparing a traditional hangi to mark Waitangi Day last Saturday.



KUNUNURRA'S Kiwi population celebrated their cricket team's thrashing of the Aussies last week with a traditional hangi to mark Waitangi Day.

Kimberley Aotearoa Club president Grant White said more than 100 people attended Saturday night's festivities to mark the NZ equivalent of Australia Day.

The event, held at the Ord River Sports Club, included a traditional hangi which Mr White said was an

integral part of New Zealand Maori tradition. Mr White said traditionally a hangi involved an earth oven where food was cooked over heated rocks which were buried in the ground. The food is then covered with sacks and leaves and finally dirt and cooks very slowly.

He said nowadays a hangi was often cooked above ground in a pressure cooker like Saturday's meal which took four hours to prepare and more than five hours to cook.

Mr White said the wait was more than worth it though. This year is the 169th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi which gave the British sovereignty over the New Zealand while maintaining Maori land rights and giving the country's indigenous people the same rights as British citizens.

Mr White encouraged other local clubs to support the Ord River Sports club by using the club's facilities for their functions.

Get involved...
with our community club listings

Kununurra Agricultural Society

Ph: 9168 2885, meets every 2nd Tuesday of month at Showgrounds, at 7pm

Kununurra Water Ski Club

Contact secretary on 0404 695 599 for meeting confirmation

Kununurra Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services

Meets every Thursday night at the Fire Station at 6.30pm. For more info call Captain Andrew Ogilvie on 0410 146 276

East Kimberley Volunteer Marine Rescue

Ph: 9161 1747. Meeting times will be announced. ekvmr@bigpond.com P.O. Box 191 Wyndham WA 6740

State Emergency Services - Kununurra

Ph: 9169 1006. Meets every Wednesday at SES shed (behind Fire Station) at 6.30pm

St John Ambulance - Kununurra

Coolibah Drive, contact Bonny 9168 2844

Ord River Masonic Lodge

Ph: 9168 2532. Meets every 2nd Saturday of month at Lodge Hall (at Kununurra Showgrounds) at 5pm

Ord River Lions Club

Ph: 9168 2532. Meet 2nd Tuesday of month at Farmers Fruit and Veg at 7pm

Razorbacks Motocross Club

Phone president: 0427 541 035

Kununurra Picture Gardens

Ph: 9169 3320, for next meeting

Kununurra Hash House Harriers

Sunday afternoons at various places, call Technicolour Yawn on 9169 2772 for details

Kununurra Historical Society

Meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Historical Society on Coolibah Avenue

Rotary Club of Kununurra

Meets every Monday at the Lakeside Resort, 6pm for a 6.30 start. Ph: 0418 778 366

Australian Red Cross

To volunteer please phone Phyl Donnellan on 9169 2450

Kimberley Aotearoa Club

Contact Grant White on 0429 087 824

Kununurra Kimberley Girl Guides

Meet every Thursday during school terms at the Anglican Church Ph Nicole on 0438 681 614

Kununurra Amateur Theatre Society (KATS)

Ph: 0427 683 262 for information.

Kununurra Cycle Club

Social rides every Sunday @ Post Office 6.30am Please call Marian for further details on 9168 1614

Apex Club of Kununurra

Meets first and third Monday of each month, at Ord River Sports Club, 7pm Ph: 0400 508 023

Hidden Valley Cricket Club

Contact Kris on Ph 0410 808 787

Lake Kununurra Golf Club (Inc.)

Meets 1st Wednesday of every month @ Clubhouse 6pm President: Alf Duncan 0418 919 744 Email: lkgc@bigpond.com

Save Endangered East Kimberley Species (SEKS)

Meet every 3rd Wednesday at Historical Society, Coolibah Dr at 7pm

Kununurra Speedway Club

President - 0429 681 603 Secretary - 0420 473 567

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Tinkling the ivories: Music specialist Ed MacNeill says the Ord Muster Community Choir is looking for anyone interested in joining who thinks they can hold a tune.

Community choir set to sing again

"You'll find there are lots of really good singers and just standing between two good singers sometimes helps people listen, and learn."

THE search is on for talented and not so talented singers to perform in a Community Choir at this year's Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster.

Music specialist Ed MacNeill says the Ord Muster Community Choir is looking for anyone interested in joining who thinks they can hold a tune.

He said the choir was started five years ago for Kununurra District High School staff and parents and has been extended into a community choir which performs annually at the Argyle Diamonds Ord Muster.

"They'll sing at the Kimberley Moon Experience and they'll perform in Hidden Valley, that's the big night of singing for the choir," Mr MacNeill said.

He said last year's choir numbered about 35 people and included a wide range of people.

"It's always a mix of people, from semi-professional sing-

ers to people who have always wanted to sing in choir, to people who haven't sang in a choir since school," he said.

"For lots of people it's a chance to do something they've always wanted to do but haven't got around to it."

He said it didn't matter if you weren't a classically trained tenor, as long as you can hold a tune you'll be welcome.

"We have a huge range of people from across the community come to the choir, from mums to tradies.

It's open to everyone and it's lots of fun," Mr MacNeill said.

"You'll find there are lots of really good singers and just standing between two good singers sometimes helps people listen, and learn."

Ord Muster Community Choir practise begins next Tuesday, February 17, at 7pm in the music room at Kununurra District High School. Entry to the music room building is via the gates on Coolibah Drive. For more information call Ed MacNeill on 9168 4400.



INDIGENOUS BUSINESS IN FOCUS

Proudly supported by MG Corporation



MG Corporation economic update

Indigenous Business in Focus is a monthly feature of *The Echo* focused on highlighting successful indigenous business initiatives throughout the East Kimberley. Indigenous Business in Focus is brought to you by the MG Corporation.

By John Gault

AFTER a (welcome) break over Christmas and the New Year, MG Corporation is back at the coalface, looking for opportunities to improve the economic and social situation of the Miriuwung Gaejerrong people in Kununurra.

Already this month we've had a briefing with architects on a possible commercial development in the centre of Kununurra, meetings with a developer regarding possible use of some irrigable land, and discussions with the Shire and Wunan about the severe shortage of affordable housing in the town and what can be done, jointly and severally, to address the problem.

At the same time we've met with the parliamentary secretary for Northern Australia and subsequently with the Director of the Office of Northern Australia to reiterate the problems facing indigenous people in the Kimberley and the Corporation's willingness to work with both the State and Federal Governments to achieve positive outcomes in terms of housing, training and jobs.

The Weeds and Waterways projects, which MG Corporation jointly manages with several Government Departments and private bodies, continues

to progress with extensive weed mapping, planning and community consultation being undertaken in the last six weeks.

Given favourable weather conditions, always a consideration in the wet season, the project officer and his team of six trainees, all indigenous employees, will commence weed control on numerous areas of Aboriginal-owned land during February.

Meanwhile, the bulk of February will be given over by MG Corporation staff to finalising the constitutional and structural changes prescribed for the MG Corporation and its associated bodies by the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (CATSI) Act, a process which was commenced prior to Christmas.

A time consuming and costly exercise, compliance with the Act is however, mandatory for the Corporation to meet the stringent governance requirements required by the Commonwealth.

With that out of the way, however, the rest of the year can be spent in establishing partnerships to achieve significant positive economic and social outcomes for the Miriuwung Gaejerrong people.

John Gault is the economic development officer for MG Corporation.



Dallas Purdie of D & H Contracting – making the most of his opportunities.

Business dreams come to life

By Nathan Dyer

DALLAS Purdie says seeking advice was the first step in his successful bid to build his own business.

He says you've also got to take opportunities as, and when, they present themselves.

That's exactly what he did when the people from Team Savannah approached the Warmun community in 2007 looking for local people interested in working on the Great Northern Highway upgrade between Halls Creek and Kununurra.

"Before they actually won the tender, Team Savannah came and spoke to the community and said they were putting in for the job and asked if any local people had any machines, or would want to be involved," Dallas said.

He thought about the opportunity Team Savannah presented and identified an idle water truck which he could lease – a business idea was born.

Dallas' company D & H Contracting Pty Ltd now contracts to BGC Contracting on the Team Savannah project, based at Mabel Downs, near Warmun.

He says the road to establishing his own business wasn't easy and he relied on advice from friends who had done it all before.

"I've got a few non-indigenous friends who have got businesses and they gave me support," he says.

"Then someone told me Indig-

enous Business Australia (IBA) was in Kununurra and they were there to help indigenous businesses."

Dallas got in contact with IBA's Kununurra office and discussed his business idea with them.

They agreed it was worth pursuing and began working with him to take the first steps toward business.

"There's a lot of paper work. It seemed real hard at the start, but IBA was very helpful," he said.

"And I had a lot of support from the Warmun Community office."

While Dallas was waiting to hear back from IBA he travelled south to take up work in the Pilbara.

"I had the truck ready to be signed off for the lease and I was waiting on IBA to give me the nod, so I went down to Karratha and found work down there and while I was down there I got a letter from IBA saying they were happy to support me."

On a pay phone in the red Pilbara dirt Dallas contacted the different business consultants IBA recommended and started the process of developing a feasibility study and a business plan.

He says the IBA people and the Broome based consultant were very helpful in guiding him through the process.

"And while I was still in Karratha I spoke to my accountant and we did up a tender and submitted it to Team Savannah, and I got the go ahead."

He says running your own business is not as easy as some people might think and he has learnt the importance of keeping good records. He has also learnt the importance of reliability.

"I've always tried to be reliable, and with a big contract you've got to be reliable, especially when you've got a written contract – you've got to provide the service.

"I'm the only operator, so that's the hardest part, I suppose. You've got to be out there from 6am to 6pm, 13 days straight."

Despite the hardships, Dallas says the benefits make it worth while. "The good side is having a business that is yours," he says.

"Ever since I finished school I started working for different people and doing different sorts of jobs, and it's just different working for yourself, you know."

He says it's also important to him to set an example for other indigenous people in his home community of Warmun.

"I have been speaking to a couple of guys, trying to get their HC licence and trying to teach them how to operate the truck.

"The plan, hopefully in the next 12 months, is to get another piece of machinery and get someone working on it."

Dallas had this advice for anyone who might have a business idea but didn't know where to start. "Ask for advice and if you've got a plan, stick to it, and Indigenous Business Australia is a very good place to start."



Do you enjoy dealing with people?

Do you like the variety that working in retail can provide?

Kimberley Group Training, your apprentice and trainee specialists in the Kimberley in partnership with the Coles Kununurra are about to commence a recruitment program in the retail sector.

If you would like to join a short course in retail, which could lead to further employment in a retail traineeship, please call Peter on 9168 3808 to register your interest. Call 9168 3808 for further details or visit our website at www.kgt.org.au.



Buddy Tyson – a ringer from the Top End

By Nathan Dyer

BUDDY Tyson takes his tea black, and cold – always has.

“Ever since I was a young fella helping dad on the droving teams,” Buddy says.

“One old fella rode in and said: you got a lotta tea there boy’, I said ‘yeah’ – I had a quart pot, see – and he said ‘well tip half that hot tea out otherwise you’ll be sitting here for three hours waiting for it to cool, put some water in out of that canteen pack and drink it quick and get on your bloody horse and go out and watch them bullocks,’” Buddy recalls.

“And that’s how I still drink it today.”

Born in Springsure, near Emerald in Queensland, Buddy grew up one of four boys and remembers his father being away most of the time.

“If he wasn’t away shearing, well he’d be away droving,” he says.

Buddy recalls getting on his first horse not long after he could walk.

“Gawd strewth, I would’ve been seven or eight when I started helping dad. I’d bring the horses along and dad and the other old fella would poke along with the bullocks,” he says.

He left home at 14 and travelled down to Brisbane to live with his grandmother and look for work.

He got his first job sewing bags at Bothwicks Meatworks on the banks of the Brisbane River, and was soon promoted to the slaughtering floor.

At 15 Buddy had his mind set on working in the Top End and bought a train ticket for Townsville. He left Brisbane with a suitcase and swag and arrived in Townsville with “bugger all”.

From there he planned to catch a train to Mt Isa.

With five pounds in his pocket from the Townsville police – a payment to a bonafide traveller looking for work in those days – he jumped a train to Charters Towers.

“I went and seen the fireman and the old fella driving the train,” he says.

“I just told em’ I was down and out and baggin’ about, and carrying me swag. They laughed like hell and said jump on.”

In Charters Towers he repeated the same trick, less smoothly.

“I set my bloody suitcase up and me swag and was running alongside – cause it was going real slow, see – and when I jumped on me bloody suitcase slipped off the other side,” he says.

“I couldn’t jump off and grab it, so I just left it.”

With the clothes he was wearing, a pair of RM Williams strap-side boots, his swag and 15 bob in his pocket Buddy rolled that train all the way to Cloncurry. In Cloncurry he secured himself a job as a grave digger with the local council.

“And that ground is as hard as this concrete here,” Buddy laughs.

He worked digging graves for two months before the rains came and he moved on.

His next stop was Mt Isa.

Buddy caught the mail truck from there to Camooweal, and from Camooweal he hitched a ride to Three-ways and then on to Larrimah, where he picked up work with the Fordham brothers as a ringer on their property, Gory Station.

“Jack Scanlon was there, too. ‘Territory Jack’ they used to call him,” Buddy remembers.

That was the beginning of Buddy’s long affair with the stations of the Northern Territory and WA.

Over the next 30 years he worked all across the Top End living the life of a ringer, moving from station to station and meeting many of the famous old stockmen and station managers of the era.

I ask if it was a hard life. “You know I don’t think it was, because it was just the way it was,” he says.

“People say it must have been hard. I say ‘how could it be hard?’ We had nothing to compare it with.

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KIMBERLEY CHARACTER

Buddy Tyson says the greatest gift in life is life itself – he should know, he’s lived one hell of a life since jumping a train for The Isa as a 15-year-old.

ENTERTAINMENT

TUES \$10 Schnitzel & Chips
No Members discount.

WED Karaoke is back with
DJ Scotty 9pm start

FRI DJ Scotty 9pm start

SAT VALENTINE'S DAY
SPECIAL -
See ad Page 5

SUN Sunday Session with
Chris Matthews 5pm.
Free Bar snacks from
5.00-5.30



BOTTLESHOP SPECIALS

CORONA STUBBIES
\$55.99



CARLTON MID BLOCK \$35.99

JIM BEAM 700ML \$31.99



CARLTON DRY STUBBS
\$39.99



BALLANTINES SCOTCH
700ML \$32.99



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Caring for your pets

BIGGER, BETTER

After extensive renovations, The Kimberley Vet Centre is now bigger and better, and Dr Sarah Brett and her friendly team are looking forward to welcoming you and your furry friends to the new, improved clinic.

TICKS

Now's the perfect time to visit, as the onset of the dry season means ticks can be a real problem, and you'll get all the advice you need to control your tick plague at the Kimberley Vet Centre.

Open 8am – 5pm Mon-Fri Cnr Leichardt St & Riverfig Ave
Call 9169 1229 for all appointments and emergencies

NEW TO TOWN?

The Kimberley environment and climate can be tough on pets, so if you're new to town, make sure you get the right, local advice from Sarah and her team.

ALTERNATIVES

As well as traditional medicines and surgery, The Kimberley Vet Centre offers a range of alternative medicines and complimentary therapies including acupuncture to help keep pets in top condition.



Church Notices

ANGLICAN CHURCH KUNUNURRA

Sunday 9:30am
Family Service & Sunday School
Cnr Leichardt St & Konkerberry Drive.
1st Sunday each month combined
Church service 9:30am

UNITING CHURCH KUNUNURRA

Worship every Sunday 9.30am.
Anglican Church, Leichardt St
1st Sunday each Month combined
Church service 9.30am

KING'S CHURCH KUNUNURRA

Christian Outreach Centre
Sundays:
9.30am Family Service
6.30pm Healing Service
Cnr Pruniosa & Victoria Hwy
Pastors Bruce & Terri Connell
Ph 9169 2111

CATHOLIC CHURCH KUNUNURRA

Sat 6.00pm and Sunday 8.30am.
Cnr Leichardt St & Konkerberry Dr.

BAPTIST CHURCH KUNUNURRA

Sunday service 10am, Sunday School
10.30am Acacia House
Lot 2/430 Coolibah Drive
Opp Picture Gardens. Ph 9169 1800

PEOPLES CHURCH

9am & 7pm Sunday, Biblestudy 7pm
Thursday Speargrass Road 1st Sunday
each Month Combined Church Service
9.30am Ph 9169 1410

WYNDHAM ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday 6pm Family Service.
St Pauls Way Ph: 9161 1328

WYNDHAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 6.00pm
St Peters Way

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

8.30am & 6.30pm Sunday
Coolibah Drive
Ph 9168 1809

THE SALVATION ARMY

Sunday 4.30pm, 106 Coolibah Dr. Knx
BY Omeal Ph 9169 2344
Transport provided

KUNUNURRA FREEDOM CHURCH

(Australian Christian Churches)
Sunday 9am Neighbourhood House
34 Leichardt St.
Rogers & Megan Garland
Ph 9169 3938