

Graffiti motion rejected

Erin Jones

A move by Alderman Eli Melky to abolish a graffiti bylaw was met with scepticism from some elected members at Monday night's Alice Springs Town Council committee meeting.

Mr Melky tried to introduce a motion that would see council take on the responsibility of removing graffiti from private property.

Members challenged his reasoning for the bylaw to be abolished.

Mr Melky said, in his view it "infringes on one or more principles of the Local Government Act".

Council CEO Rex Mooney said: "There are many cases where we administer unsavoury laws, but there is always a reason for that law to be in existence."

A handful of aldermen agreed that it was too early to review the bylaws. Among these was Alderman Jane Clark.

Ms Clark said: "I did have reservations about this particular bylaw being put in place – a similar view to Eli Melky that it further victimises someone."

"I've taken on board the majority view of council and I do accept

it is a strategic position to take. I don't think now is the time to completely remove it. If we just ignore graffiti, or don't work in partnership with the community, it will increase.

"I believe this needs to be given time to work."

Mr Melky had originally suggested that council could find money within its budget to take

over control of graffiti removal.

However, a report presented to council showed that a one-off spray paint of main-road fences, including the railway corridor, would cost the council \$281,868.

Most aldermen did not support Mr Melky's motion, but he can raise the issue again at the February 27 ordinary council meeting.

When Noodles met Shawn

WALKING from Katherine to Alice Springs might sound like a long way, but Shawn McCulloch and Noodles the camel were up to the challenge.



Cameron Boon

They travelled more than 1000km so far and they're just about to start the second leg of their journey to Charleville in Queensland – this time more than 1500km.

Shawn came across the 15-year-old camel in Katherine about two-and-a-half months ago.

He said: "I found him in a paddock and he was fly-blown, had ticks all over him, mud was on his belly and he had very sore feet."

"I said I wanted to take him to a more arid environment and the farmer he belonged to said I could have him."

"It took me a couple of weeks to get myself organised – drive back to Queensland, get the blankets, saddle, leather straps and all that sort of thing."

"Then I had to get him ready, which included putting a hole in his nose for the peg."

"He had another name originally, but I can't remember it."

"I had a packet of chicken noodles – I took the flavouring and gave

him the dry noodles and he scoffed them all down.

"He's just Noodles to me now."

"He didn't like me originally, but we've gotten very close."

On the trip down to Alice, the pair battled rain, shine, broken glass and cans.

"We've done saline, bettadine, rubber tubing and even superglue to get his feet in the right condition."

"I was walking around the industrial area of Alice Springs hoping to find somebody to take him to Charleville. I offered truckies \$1000 to take him, but I couldn't find anybody."

"I've got three other camels in Charleville, where there has been flooding. So I need to make sure they haven't floated down the river."

Shawn said he was inspired by the freedom of being a cameleer, but said it isn't always a lark and a lot of planning goes into his trips.

He plans to leave Alice Springs in the next few days.



Shawn McCulloch strolls through Alice Springs with Noodles the camel. Picture: JUSTIN BRIERTY

Enrol to vote now

TO have a say in who you want to have on your governing council, you must enrol to vote before the March 24 municipal and shire elections.

It is compulsory for all eligible people to enrol and vote if they are over 18 years of age, an Australian citizen and have lived at their address for at least one month. Eligible persons can

enrol for the first time, or change their address or personal details on the roll by completing an enrolment form.

Forms are available from post offices, council offices, commission offices or the Northern Territory Electoral Commission website.

NTEC enrolment stalls are operating at major shopping centres until February 21.

Anti-discrimination training

AN Anti-Discrimination Contact Officers: Roles and Responsibilities training course will be held in Alice Springs on Wednesday, March 21.

To register for this course, which costs \$220 including materials and lunch, visit www.adc.nt.gov.au or call the Anti-Discrimination Commission on 8999 1444

healthy Territory
A Territory Government initiative

2012 Nursing and Midwifery Studies Assistance Grants Scheme

The Department of Health (DoH) supports nursing and midwifery students, nurses and midwives to develop skills and qualifications relevant to the Northern Territory's current and future workforce needs. Grant preferences are given to students currently enrolled in the Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled Nursing), Bachelor of Nursing and or Midwifery and or postgraduate nursing and or midwifery courses offered in the NT.

Applicants are considered on merit. Enrolled Nurses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are encouraged to apply. There is only one round of studies assistance per year.

For further information and application kits:

Email: lesley.brown@nt.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8922 7539

Visit: www.nursing.nt.gov.au

Applications close Monday 27 February 2012.

www.healthynt.nt.gov.au



COMMUNITY NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - SCOPING STUDY

The Alice Springs Town Council is seeking an Expression of Interest from a suitably qualified individual or organisation to undertake a Scoping Study into the Early Childhood Child Care supply and demand needs for Alice Springs. The contracted amount to complete this study is \$50,000 ex GST with a Final Report due on 15 May 2012.

For more information and a Brief of Works associated to the Scoping Study please contact the Community & Cultural Development Manager Leon Tripp on 8950 0530 or ltripp@astc.nt.gov.au

The closing date for the EOI is 5pm Friday 24 February 2012 with the successful applicant notified by Friday 2 March 2012.

Rex Mooney
Chief Executive Officer
"A town like Alice"

Phone: (08) 8950 0500 Web: www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au



Solar Spot

Save 10% of power with a new pool pump

Do you have a swimming pool? An estimated 35% of Alice Springs households do. And most are using a single speed pool pump that is costing \$300 or more per year to run.

A **variable speed pump** can help make big savings on your pool running costs with different pump speeds available for different functions, such as daily filtration, backwashing and vacuuming. Like driving your car slowly for economy, a slower pump speed will save you money.

Pool owners can typically save over \$200 per annum on electricity bills by switching to a variable speed pump - a saving of over 10% of the average electricity bill.

Alice Solar City offers an incentive of up to \$400 for installation and with the ongoing savings per annum it makes a whole lot of sense. Visit our website to use our handy pool pump calculator to see how much you could save, or **contact us to find out more.**



Australian Government
Solar Cities

Smart Living Centre
2/82 Todd St • Ph 8950 4350
www.alicesolarcity.com.au