Vow to limit council rates

A DARWIN council candidate yesterday vowed to keep rates rises to within the inflation rate.

Charlie Phillips, who is standing in the Chan Ward at the March 24 election, said ratepayers should not be "slugged with excessive" increases.

"Territory families and businesses deserve value for money when paying for council services," he said. Mr Phillips said he would not support any increases in rates above the consumer price index.

Rates will be decided soon after the election.

Darwin council has imposed inflation-busting rates increases every year for the past decade.

Renewing old school ties

TWO Territory lads have been reunited after they lost touch as primary schoolmates.

Arrin Hartshone and Tyrone Van Rongelnooy, both aged 18, graduated from Rostrevor College in Adelaide, where they had boarded for three years on The Smith Family's Indigenous Young Leader scholarship.

They are living together while they attend university under the program, which aims to unlock disadvantage in Aboriginal education.

Northern Territory children wishing to apply for a scholarship can call The Smith Family on 8224 1402 or go online to the organisation’s website at www.thsmithfamily.com.au.

Community Grants now open

The City of Darwin’s Community Grants Program provides funding for projects expected to benefit the Darwin community. Each year $100,000 is allocated for community projects and $50,000 for community based climate change and environment projects.

Submissions are now invited from community organisations for funding of community projects occurring in the second half of 2012 (1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012) and for climate change and environment projects occurring in the 2012/2013 financial year.

Applications for funding of up to $10,000 will be assessed as Council aims to support the greatest number of programs and organisations possible.

Program guidelines and funding application forms are available from the City of Darwin website www.darwin.nt.gov.au.

If you cannot access the guidelines or application form, please telephone 89300645 or email communitygrants@darwin.nt.gov.au to organise an alternative format.

Applications close Friday 13 April 2012.

Only organisations incorporated under the NT Association Incorporation Act or not-for-profit groups sponsored by an organisation incorporated under the NT Associations Incorporation Act are eligible to apply.

Brendan Dowd
Chief Executive Officer

City of Darwin

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TRIBUTES for Tracy reporter

FORMER journalist Dick Muddimer will be deeply missed by family, friends and the media fraternity.

OBITUARY BY NIGEL ADLAM

THIR man often credited with telling the world that Darwin had been flattened by Cyclone Tracy has died.

Retired journalist Dick Muddimer was 83.

Friend, neighbour and former administrator Tom Pauling visited him in Royal Darwin Hospital just hours before he died.

“He was ever the gentleman with a felicitous phrase for just about everything,” he said.

Mr Muddimer was working for the ABC when he realised news of Tracy down south in 1974.

Friend Kerry Sharp said: “He could come across as an eccentric old fellow — and he was in many ways.

“But he was the epitome of a charming English gentleman with pure-English accent and impeccable manners.

“He loved to read good literature and his favourite English newspapers, which he picked up every week from the newsagency in town.

“He loved engaging conversations and he had very strong views on things.

“For example, he refused point blank to ever have a phone in his house, and yearned for the good old days when Darwinites could go out or go to bed at night and not have to lock up their houses.

“He was a very special man in so many ways, and we will miss him.”

Mr Muddimer was the business and local government reporter for the NT News during the 1970s and 1980s.

“He was the scourge of Darwin City Council,” Mr Pauling said.

“In a gentlemanly way, he wrote many things that were embarrassing to the council.”

Mr Muddimer was born in Britain, where his family still live, and was a school friend of actor Richard Attenborough and his naturalist brother David.

He served with the British army in Germany after World War II and spoke later of how distressing it was to see Germans starving.

Mr Muddimer came to Australia as a “10-pound Pom”.

He lived in a troppo house in Fannie Bay for decades and was angry at the number of townhouses being built in the suburb.

His funeral service has not yet been arranged.