

Come have a gay old time

Corey Sinclair

TOURISM operators have called the international gay and lesbian market an untapped resource for Central Australia.

Australia's largest tour operator for the international gay and lesbian market, Planetdwellers, offers a range of escorted tours around some of Australia's most beautiful locations.

Plan to boost Alice tourism

One of these tours is a five-day trip to Central Australia, visiting sites like Uluru, Kings Canyon and Alice Springs.

Co-founder of Sydney-based Planetdwellers Mario Paez said there was a huge boost in international inter-

est in Central Australia after Oprah's visit in 2010.

"The LGBTIQ market is still very untapped," Mr Paez said. "They add a great deal of value – they are big spenders and are generally long-stayers when holidaying.

"And we can see that spending is more carefree than it has been in the past two years so we are super excited," he said.

Ian Johnson, from American consultancy firm *Out Now Consulting*, estimated the international gay travel

market in 2012 was worth \$135 billion.

"(But) there is often a misconception that gay tourists are all richer than other tourists," he said.

"What is a critical difference in this market is the

relatively lower prevalence of children.

"In Australia, more than one in five lesbians are already mothers, whereas only one in 20 gay men is currently a parent.

"It is this comparatively lower number of children in gay and lesbian households that renders this such an attractive target market to a broad range of industries – including tourism."



True Territory pioneer Molly Clark passed away on the weekend in Alice Springs. She was 89.

Farewell Molly, a true NT pioneer

Sally Brooks

MOLLY Clark, described by those who knew her as a "true pioneer" and a "feisty Territorian", died on the weekend aged 89.

Born in 1922 in South Australia, Mrs Clark was set to celebrate her 90th birthday in December, but passed away in her Alice Springs home on Saturday night.

Mrs Clark was lauded for her work on Old Andado Station in the Simpson Desert, where she lived alone for many years.

Initially a cattle station, Mrs Clark renovated the old homestead and ran a successful tourism business from the heritage-listed property.

In 1995 she was presented with a Brolga Award from the then NT Tourism Commission.

Mrs Clarke also founded Alice Springs's National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame in 1993, and was awarded the NT Chief Minister's Women's Achievements Award in 1998.

Mrs Clark is survived by her eldest son, Philip Clark, who lives in Western Australia.

CLP plans statehood referendum

THE CLP will hold a referendum on statehood in its first term of government.

The legislation would give the party, which has remained in opposition for 11 years, more political power.

Former Alice Springs mayor Fran Kilgariff welcomed the new NT Government's commitment to a statehood convention to address the issue.

"It's about time that we actually got a high level of political independence," Ms Kilgariff said.

Ms Kilgariff is a former chairwoman of the Statehood Steering Committee, which dissolved early last year.

But Alice Springs history enthusiast Alex Nelson said statehood was an unlikely pipedream for the Territory.

Mr Nelson said the NT would never gain the same representation in Parliament as other states, with just 1 per cent of the country's population.

Teach police to deal with dogs

DOG rescuer Jackie Scott says police should have lessons in "animal behaviour" and carry dog treats to stop them hurting pets.

Ms Scott was shocked at the *Centralian Advocate's* front page story on Friday, which reported a police officer shooting dead an American bulldog-pitbull cross.

"In the past year there have been a few pets hurt by police officers because they don't know animal behaviour," she said. "They should have lessons," she said.

"There is a difference between a ferocious animal and an animal that is boisterous," she added.

Police declined to comment on Ms Scott's suggestion, and say

they attended the Bloomfield property "for the purpose of conducting a police standby to keep the peace... at the request of the occupants," police said.

Ms Scott also says police who shoot at dogs should not be carrying a gun.

"There were so many things that could have gone wrong with shooting a dog.

"The first thing to do is to turn around and walk away, not to stand there and stare at the dog. Eye contact is the worst thing you should do," she said.

"If it was me, I carry I treats. Maybe the police should carry around dog treats," says Ms Scott.

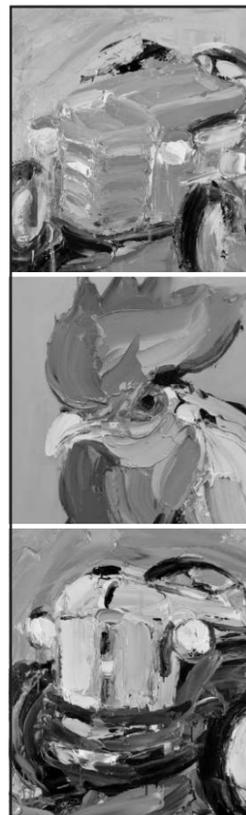
Teens on rape charge

TWO teenagers charged with the rape of two European tourists in Alice Springs in May appeared in court yesterday.

The pair, both 17, also face other

charges including aggravated robbery and depriving a person of liberty.

The matter was adjourned until mid-October.



www.mukmuk.com

MUK MUK FINE ART PRESENTS
CRAIG WADDELL
"HEART LAND"

27TH SEPT – 6TH OCT
OPENING THURSDAY AT 6PM
Muk Muk Fine Art, 14 Lindsay Ave

MUK MUK
FINE ART

P: 08 8953 6333
E: admin@mukmuk.com
like us on facebook

ALICE SPRINGS
14 Lindsay Ave,
Alice Springs
DARWIN
51 Smith Street,
Darwin