Alex secures a sought after scholarship

After only moving to the Territory last year, Alex Henery has already begun to make her mark, winning the Meetings and Events Association (MEA) Young Professional Scholarship for the NT.

Alex, 27, relocated to Darwin from Sydney and works in the Tourism NT Convention Bureau as a Business Events Officer. She was part of the team that secured Telstra’s annual retail conference in Darwin, which will be held in September this year and will be attended by 700 Telstra employees. The conference is worth an estimated $3.2 million to the Territory economy. Although she was new to town, Alex said it wasn’t difficult to promote her adopted city.

“Darwin is such a beautiful place, it was an easy sell,” she said.

As part of the scholarship, she will attend the MEA Annual National Conference on Bathurst Island in late May.

“It will be good for professional development, building contacts and bringing back quality information for the Northern Territory.”

 Putting words on the web

Northern Territory Library digital repository and capture unit manager Beverley Lee has worked with her team to refresh the design and layout of the Territory Stories website.

The new layout will make it easier to find and access historic NT materials, which includes books, newspapers, photos, letters and manuscripts.

In its digitisation program, the Library recently digitised one of the oldest Territory-published documents held in the collection, the Northern Territory Times Almanac & Directory, printed originally in 1886. The edition is the earliest in the Library’s holdings and later editions will also be digitised.

Online access to information such as the Almanac is valuable to researchers, genealogists and history students as well as giving Territorians an intriguing glimpse into what life was like here nearly 130 years ago.

Indigenous women given opportunity to grow

A GROUP of 20 Indigenous Northern Territory Public Sector women are taking part in professional development at the new Charles Darwin University campus at Darwin Waterfront.

The Lookrukin program, which runs for nine months, is a personal and professional program that is held every two years with the Kigarlu Indigenous Men’s Leadership Development Program.

This year, agencies include: the Department of Local Government and Community Services, Corrections, Treasury and Finance, Transport, Housing, Health, Education, Corporate and Information Services, Children and Families, Attorney-General and Justice as well as the Department of the Chief Minister.

The Commissioner for Public Employment Craig Allen has highlighted key objectives of the newly endowed NTP Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy 2015-20 which has a strong focus on increasing Indigenous employment and career succession in the Northern Territory Public Sector.

The Lookrukin program will conclude in November 2015, with successful participants graduating with a Diploma of Management from Charles Darwin University in May 2016.

For more information about the Lookrukin and Kigarlu programs, please contact the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment at swpd.cope@nt.gov.au.

Angling for personal growth

Taminmin College Year 9 coordinator Casey Veentjer has founded the Taminmin Fishos program.

A FISHING group has been established at Taminmin College to break down barriers between teachers and students.

The Taminmin Fishos is the branch of Year 9 coordinator Casey Veentjer, who is keen to re-engage children “losing ground in their education” and build positive attitudes.

“Middle years schooling is a very trying time for a lot of kids and I am always open to trialling new methods of engagement and nurturing their growth,” Casey said.

“I started going fishing with some of my senior students after school, and a few students started talking to me about where they fished and what they had caught.

“I found students were more likely to listen to me than before because we’d built a respectful relationship outside the classroom through talking about fishing and the Taminmin Fishos.

“I’m confident that the group will make it easier for the students to build relationships with many of their teachers and school staff, which should result in increased engagement in the classroom.”

Of the 80 members of the group – staff and students – 46 are students from years 7 to 12. Casey is now in his sixth year at Taminmin College.

Ryan recognised at Sports Awards

RyAN Coppel rode 100km on his push bike six days a week in the 12 months leading up to the Amateur World Cycling Championships in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Ryan, who works at the Department of Infrastructure in Alice Springs, not only qualified for the event but was the second fastest rider in the Australian team.

He placed 33 overall out of 362 competitors in the 20km time trial and 189 overall out of 749 competitors in the 156km road race.

In late March, the 32-year-old’s efforts were acknowledged at the NT Sports Awards where he won NT Masters Sportsperson of the Year.

The awards ceremony was held on 27 March at the Darwin Convention Centre.

Ryan said he owed all his success to his family.

“While I was the one doing the training, I had equal commitment from my wife and children. Every hour I was on the bike was an hour my wife took care of the children alone.

“Without their full support, I would never have been able to reach my goal to represent Australia.”

Nothing but net for NT Police

NT POLICE officer Tanith Blair won’t be drafted to the NBA anytime soon, but she has bagging rights at the Palmerston YMCA Drop-in Centre.

Officers who took part in the annual Kids v Cops basketball game against children from the centre were feeling the pressure to win, mainly because their competition was half their age.

“If we didn’t the kids would never have let us live it down,” Constable First Class Tanith Blair said jokingly.

While her team won 42 to 24, Tanith said that everyone was a winner because the game helped improve relationships between youth and police.

“It helps us interact with the kids on a different level than usual.”

The competition was held as part of National Youth Week.

The kids will have a chance to try again with a rematch scheduled for next year.

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