Lorna says bye after 27 years

CHARLES Darwin University farewelled one of its seasoned staff Lorna Walker on Wednesday, who decided it was time to embark on a new adventure.

Walker has served the university for 27 years—her latest position a cashier and exam officer.

Her work at the university’s student central required her to assist hundreds of students over the years, and her dedication earned her the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Exceptional Performance by General Staff in 2009.

However, her active participation in organising social events such as birthdays and farewells is just as appreciated by her colleagues.

Walker describes her working environment as one that allows her to have a balance of work and play. “It allows for a sense of good will among staff and a good spirit in the workplace,” the mother of four said.

The farewell was held in the Desert Lantern restaurant.

Fostering the NT’s future

“OPEN your hearts, open your homes,” is the mantra of Foster Carers Association NT in the lead up to 2016’s National Foster and Kinship Conference.

The national conference is scheduled for Darwin from June 9-11 and will bring together researchers and leaders in the field of child protection and out-of-home care to share their knowledge, training and experience.

Alice Springs foster carer Marianna Hammond currently fosters two children who both have disabilities, and she is eager to learn from leaders in the sector.

“I attended the conference a couple of years ago in Sydney and I’m signing up to be sponsored again at the first one in Darwin,” Ms Hammond said.

Executive director of Foster Carers Association NT Ann Owen said the conference was a chance to bring together foster and kinship carers and workers in the sector to help them learn new skills to support children in care.

“An alarming number of children enter the out-of-home care system each year, Australia-wide,” Ms Owen said.

“We’re appealing to local businesses to help our Sponsor-A-Carer program enabling carers to make the most of the training and support offered at the conference.

“Centralians and local businesses will have the opportunity to show their support for foster and kinship carers in the NT by sponsoring them to attend the conference.” Ms Owen said.

Foster Carers Association NT has offices in Alice Springs and Darwin.

To find out more info on the conference go to www.fostercare2016.com, or to sponsor a carer contact 8945 3364.

A HARDY group of Central Australian foster carer Marianna Hammond is looking forward to learn at the 2016 National Foster and Kinship Conference.

Scrubbing up well to help out Fiji cyclone victims

“IHARDY group of Central Australian firefighters have splashed out to aid families affected by Cyclone Winston in Fiji.

More than $1400 was raised on Saturday, March 5, after a pop-up car wash was held at the Yulara Fire Station for Fijian victims of the natural disaster.

Around 50 vehicles received a solid top-to-bottom scrubbing and vacuum from the volunteers.

A breakfast of champions was also on offer including bacon and egg rolls, a sausage sizzle, vegetarian curry rolls, fried rice and coconut steamed buns.

In attendance was Luisa Schutt and her daughters Maddison and Bella who still had uncontactable family members on some of the smaller Fijian islands.

Crew from the Yulara Fire Station donated their efforts for a car wash to raise funds for Fiji.

Yulara firey David Quan hands the money raised to Luisa Schutt.