Third time unlucky for Alyangula Golf Club

The Alyangula Golf Club has been broken into for the second consecutive night, making it three break-ins in just one month. Police have arrested a 21 year old male in connection with two latest incidents which occurred on the 8th and 9th of February and expect to make further arrests.

“The offenders were seeking to gain access to alcohol,” said Alyangula Officer in Charge Antony Deutrom. “We are working closely with Alyangula Golf Club management with a view to reviewing security arrangements at the Club.”

The spate of break-ins has almost become a ‘joke’ according to Golf Club employee, Cheryl Wilmott. “It’s becoming ridiculous,” Ms Wilmott said. “It’s such an inconvenience, not just because of the clean-up but because everything for repairs has to be ordered from off Eylandt.” “It just seems to have gone a bit wild in the past month.” Ms Wilmott said The offenders took approximately $400-500 worth of alcohol on the 15th January and about $500 worth of spirits on the 8th February.

“They didn’t manage to get any alcohol or cigarettes the last time, but damaged our computer.”

We ask the public to continue to report any suspicious behaviour to Police on 89876122 (Local number, directs to Darwin for assessment when off duty), 131444 (General Response), 000 (Urgent Response) or 1800 333 000 (Crime Stoppers).

Special fares ‘fall off’ Eylandt

Groote Eylandt residents flying off Eylandt have been paying full-fare prices to fly to Darwin because Vincent Aviation ‘forgot’ to add specials to their system.

Telephone sales staff at Vincent Aviation staff were initially unable to explain why neither Value Fly or Early Fly fares were available, saying that specials had apparently ‘fallen off’ the system, or had just been ‘forgotten’.

The mistake has seen Eylandters paying Flexi Fly fares of $373.40 per person one-way to Darwin.

After approximately two weeks of full price fares, the sale fares were reinstated last week with Vincent Aviation stating that it had been an “honest mistake and an innocent oversight”.

Based upon the cheapest available flight online with Vincent Aviation during the two week timeframe, it was more expensive to fly the 1260kms from Groote Eylandt to Darwin return than to fly 7490kms from Darwin to Hobart return with other airlines.

Groote Eylandt routes are serviced most frequently by Vincent Aviation and Airnorth, a Qantas affiliated airline.

News Alert

The Island Imagination Photography Competition has just been announced. Photos selected for the final pick will be judged by Australian Photography Magazine editor, Robert Keeley. A digital camera is up for grabs and the chance to have your photos published in the Eylandt Echo. For more information turn to page eight.
From the editor

Greetings Eylandters,

Welcome back to the Echo, your community newspaper. I am very excited to announce our new competition, Island Imagination Photography Competition and am looking forward to publishing your photographs as they come in each week. See page eight for more details.

There’s lots of momentum building with health and fitness on Eylandt with some exciting events coming up in the near future. We will keep you up to date and informed so stay tuned for more details.

Happy reading
Sarah Dixon

Contact us: Eylandt Echo
Phone: (08) 8987 4137
Postal: Eylandt Echo, Alyangula NT 0885

The Eylandt Echo newsletter is produced each fortnight for the benefit of everyone on Groote Eylandt. The Eylandt Echo is sponsored by GEMCO as a community service. The contributions and advertisements contained within the Eylandt Echo are not necessarily the views and opinions shared by either the Editor or GEMCO, but are presented for the community's interest at large.

NEXT DEADLINE: 23 February 2012

Quote of the week: “Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run him over.” ~ Dwight Eisenhower

Township Eisenhower

Residential Electricity Invoices

We have received a number of queries from tenants regarding their electricity invoices. For those tenants who have completed the forms to have their electricity invoices paid by payroll deduction, there is no need to do anything with the invoices you receive from us; they are purely for your information, to show you your consumption calculations. The following information is printed on the back of the invoices:

GEMCO Employees on Payroll Deductions

This invoice is supplied for information purposes only. You do not have to pay it as the deductions should be automatically taken from your pay. Please check on your payslip to see if the deductions being taken are correct.

If they are not correct or you are having payroll deductions taken in error, please contact Payroll:
Phone: 1800 663 729
Email: Onepay@BHPBilliton.com

Entering Into, Parking Vehicles & Boats and Removal of Items from Vacant Houses

We are writing to remind all tenants that the removal of items from vacant properties is prohibited. This includes, plants, TV Antennas and any other items on the property. All items on and in vacant properties are the property of GEMCO and their removal without GEMCO’s written consent constitutes theft and trespass. Please do not park vehicles, boats or trailers in vacant properties, as this can delay maintenance and grounds works. Please avoid the possibility of legal action being taken by not entering into vacant properties or their grounds. We’d greatly appreciate it if parents could remind their younger children of the need to stay out of vacant properties.

Reminder - Cyclone Preparations!!

We are now entering what has historically been the highest risk period of the Cyclone Season. The recent cyclones effecting Queensland and WA are a heads-up for what we could soon face and it’s important that we remain vigilant to the possibility of cyclones impacting us. GEMCO have requested that we issue another reminder to all residents about the requirement for tenants to conduct pre-cyclone clean ups around their homes. The main cause of damage and injury during cyclonic winds is from loose objects being blown by the wind. All tenants have an obligation to assist in reducing the risk. GEMCO and LJ Hooker are committed to reducing the risk of damage and injury. If you have any trees that are of concern to you please let us know.

Our sincere thanks to the many tenants who have already addressed these issues.

Don’t forget to make sure your cyclone shelter has nothing stored in it and is clean and ready for use.

Melioidosis (Nightcliff Gardeners Disease)

The risk of contracting this disease increases greatly during the wet season. Please see the attached article from the NT Centre for Disease Control and make sure that your kids are aware of the risks.

Thank You

A big thank you to all tenants for their efforts in maintaining their lawns and gardens.

Police Beat: Groote Eylandt

Alyangula Police Station welcomes new Officer In Charge, Snr Sergeant Antony Deutrom.

Angurugu: 17th January 2012 staff from Territory Alliance were threatened with a sword and a car was stolen. A 20 year old male has been arrested for weapons, property & traffic offences. He has been charged & bailed to appear at Alyangula Magistrates Court on 15 Feb 12.

Alyangula: 15 Jan 2012 - Unlawful Entry, Criminal Damage & Stealing from the Alyangula Golf Club - Police investigations led to the arrest of two males (28 & 23 years of age), both were charged & bailed to appear at Alyangula Magistrates Court on 15 February 2012.

8 Feb 12 - Unlawful Entry, Criminal Damage & Stealing from the Alyangula Golf Club - A 21 year old male has been arrested in connection with this matter (10:00hrs 9 Feb 12) + Police investigations are continuing, further arrests are expected.

9 Feb 12 - Attempt Unlawful Entry, Criminal Damage from the Alyangula Golf Club - Police investigations are continuing. A 21 year old male has been arrested in connection with this matter (10:00hrs 9 Feb 12) + Police investigations are continuing, further arrests are expected.

Talking plants captured on film

For the first time ever, scientists at Exeter University in the United Kingdom have captured on film communication between plants.

The footage shows the biological activity of a plant, which has been infused with a firefly gene, releasing gas to warn neighbouring plants to protect themselves from attack.

As the gas is sensed by the neighbouring plants, their biological activity increases in recognition of a potential threat. According to BBC reports, while scientists are yet to fully understand this communication, they increasingly believe there is a continuous chatter happening in the plant world around us.

(Source: BBC News)
Indigenous employment opportunity knocks

A group of nine indigenous residents of Groote Eylandt are looking to the future this week and it looks, well, orange.

GEMCO, in conjunction with the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) and The Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE), held an information session on the 3rd of February on a mining industry pre-employment program which guarantees employment with GEMCO at the completion of the course.

The nine participants were given a mine tour, BBQ lunch and had a chance to chat one-on-one with GEMCO, BIITE and MCA representatives about their future opportunities.

“I want to get these skills,” said Ezekiel Manggurr of East Arnhemland, “and take them back into my community.”

“I want to be able to bring in new ideas and talk with leaders. I want to become a role model for the youth.”

The course runs for six months and is divided up into one week in Bachelor, one week at GEMCO and one week off.

The course addresses literacy and numeracy, leadership and personal development skills, vocational training and team building exercise like paintball.

The program differs from previous ones according to Robert Fencon from the BIITE, who said the course was more holistic in its approach.

“We are looking long-term to establish a pattern of work and related behaviour to stimulate the real work environment.”

“We offer more lifestyle training in conjunction with vocational skills,” Mr Fencon said.

“It’s more of a shift towards sustaining employment rather than just learning a trade.”

“These are life-time skills we will teach. We want these men to be leaders in their community.”

The course is offered at a variety of mine sites across the Northern Territory and aims to enable mines to recruit from the local labour pool.

The program is part of GEMCO’s responsibilities outlined in the Regional Partnership Agreement to provide a training and Mentoring Program totalling $1.5 million for Indigenous Groote.

GEMCO Mentor Network Supervisor, Steve Cullen said there is recognition within the mining industry that there is a need to adapt training to address the needs of indigenous personnel.

“This pre employment programme has been developed with this in mind,” he said.

“We’re not just tossing this group of people in the deep end unprepared.”

“We will be with them every step of the way and once they finish the course, we will provide mentors for them within GEMCO while they work.”

The course commences the 21st February and places are still available. Please contact Steve Cullen at GEMCO on 08 8987 4296 for further information.

Artists Corner with Alfred Lalara

I’ve been painting for a long time. My family taught me how to paint, my Grandmother and Grandfather. It’s inside us. My wife Alice paints too. We’ve been married too long to remember how long. I paint my totems mainly. If I want to paint anything else, I have to get permission from the elders. And if I paint anything I’m not supposed to, there could be serious consequences. That’s our tradition and that’s our custom. Sometimes I paint animals from the land, sometimes from the sea. Swordfish, dugong, red-belly black snake, stingray, magpie goose. The lines, raak, in the painting represent song lines. It feels good to paint, peaceful. Makes me happy when someone buys one of my paintings.

Alfred Lalara and his wife, Alice Durrilla’s paintings are on display at the Dugong Beach Resort.
Angurugu School celebrates day one

Angurugu School kicked off the new school year on Tuesday the 31st January with a speech from ALC chairman Tony Wurrmarra.

Mr Wurrmarra congratulated the students on returning to school, stressing the importance of education for the youth.

School principal, Kristina Lloyd, said she was happy with the turnout of 95 students at the school, which has struggled with low attendance rates in the past. “It’s great considering this is day one,” Ms Lloyd said. “It’s also wonderful to see how happy everyone is to be here.”

Students cheered on community members who participated in a basketball match and enjoyed lunch together afterwards.

Rubbish Talk: Where to put your waste on Eylandt

It is important to differentiate between types of waste because if effects where it goes and what happens to it after you throw it away.

Dry waste is also called inert waste, meaning it does not readily react with the environment. Building waste, packaging materials, and used furniture are good examples. This waste requires little management and should be placed at the dry tip.

Putrescibles or wet waste, such as food scraps and household garbage, are items that will break down. This process of breaking down is accompanied with bacterial and fungal growth and attracts flies. These can be harmful to human health which is why wet waste needs to be strictly managed by frequent burial at the wet tip located between Alyangula and the mine site.

Other waste you may encounter is green waste and weeds. Green waste is dealt with at the green tip, located just west of the wet tip. This waste is best recycled through the process of mulching. Weeds need to be separated from native green waste otherwise weed seed can be spread in prepared mulch. In the future, weeds will therefore be placed in two concrete bays located at the green tip. A full list of weeds on Groote Eylandt can be obtained from the GEMCO Environment team on (08) 89 874 172.

Some waste streams are hazardous to humans or the environment and need special management. Hazardous waste includes batteries, aerosol cans, used white goods, computer, electronic parts, rubber, paints and other flammable liquids, other chemicals including toxins and corrosives, and hydrocarbons such as oils, fuels, or grease. These substances are managed at the hobby shed which is located near port, behind the fire station. Some waste is worth money because they can be recycled. These include metals such as aluminium cans, copper wire, and stainless steal, etc. Plastic bottles, computers and computer parts are other examples. All of these items can be brought to the hobby shed as well.

LAND & SEA RANGERS

The Groote archipelago supports a diverse range of native fauna. The area is home to more than 40 mammals, 70 reptiles, 15 amphibians and over 200 bird species. Included in this group are some endangered animals such as the northern quoll, brush-tailed rabbit rat, northern hopping mouse and several species of marine turtle. Traditional owners have spiritual and cultural links to many animals and this is demonstrated in local song-lines, dances, rituals, art and customs. Consequently resident aboriginal people have cultural obligations to protect and conserve these animals.

Many domestic animals pose a significant risk to the islands wildlife and as such, the traditional owners ask you to please respect our requests and only transport desexed dogs onto our property. (A maximum of two per household with written proof of desexing).

For more information for Alyangula residents contact LJ Hooker 07-89876400
Community residents contact the Anindilyakwa Rangers 89876703.
All other animals (reptiles, fish, birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc.) will require written permission from the Anindilyakwa Land Council – Land Management section. NO CATS are to be transported.

Any enquiries: - Anindilyakwa Rangers 08-89876703 or 0428436506

Significant negative impacts on native wildlife can originate from introduced fauna. Currently, the Groote archipelago is free of feral animals such as cane toads, pigs, buffalo and many others.

We appreciate your ongoing support and value your contribution in helping us keep Groote Eylandt a unique wildlife refuge. Many threatened species on the mainland face extinction due to feral animals like cane toads and these threatened species may need to be relocated into wildlife refuges such as Groote Eylandt to protect them for the future.

NO Wildlife may leave the island without a Permit from Parks & Wildlife and a letter of permission from the Anindilyakwa Land Council – Land Management Unit. (89876703 or 0428436506)

CULTURAL TOURS AVAILABLE ON GROOTE EYALANDT VISIT
WWW.ANUWARANGKATOURS.COM.AU OR DROP INTO THE NGARNINDILYAKWA LANGWA SHOPS, SHOP 5 ALYANGULA ARCADE.
Interview of the week:

Echo: How did you first become interested in sports?
Nick: I can remember going along on weekends watching my Dad play country football and remember the excitement of being there to watch. I couldn’t wait to be old enough to start playing myself.

Echo: As I understand, you played rugby for some time. What team/position/how many years?
Nick: I played football throughout my whole childhood and was lucky enough to end up spending nine years playing at the Brisbane Broncos (my childhood team) as a Front Rower.

Echo: What was your training schedule like?
Nick: We trained five days a week from 7am till 3pm - usually three hours on the field in the mornings and two hours in the gym in the afternoons. It wasn’t all hard work though, there were video sessions, massages and promotional work in there as well.

Echo: Any secret or strange training tips for our readers?
Nick: Banana and honey sandwiches were my go to exercise boost food. I’d eat it for brekky, lunch and afternoon tea on game day. Other superstitions were listening to ACDC in the bus on the way to the ground and wearing the same red pair of lucky DT’s for every game (they are pretty worn out now!).

Echo: What was the most challenging thing about playing professional footy?
Nick: The physical toll on your body. The pressure you are under to perform at your best each week and not having weekends free for a beer with mates.

Echo: What’s the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?
Nick: One bloke asked me to sign his new born baby’s forehead with black permanent marker and to make out with his wife - I politely declined!

Echo: What’s the hardest hit you’ve ever taken and who was it?
Nick: Ha ha I’ve taken a few! Probably the hardest was one from Tonie Carroll at training one day in a tackling drill. It was hard to keep a straight face getting up after that one. I’m sure he still has some of my rib cartilage stuck deep inside his right shoulder!

Echo: Why the move to Groote Eylandt?
Nick: The job, the lifestyle, the fishing and a long way away from the NRL - so I hopefully don’t miss it too much.

Echo: Thoughts on it here so far?
Nick: Loving life on Eylandt - Friday arvo Chook Runs, weekend fishing trips and the Mudchook’s rugby 7’s are highlights so far! Plus watching Mick Zovko and Ben Moore perform on the dance floor after a few drinks.

Echo: Thanks for taking the time to chat with us and a very warm welcome from everyone here on Groote Eylandt.

From strength to strength

Nick Kenny lands on Groote Eylandt

Ex-NRL Broncos star, Nick Kenny, has recently given away the fame and fortune of professional football to join the GEMCO team on Groote Eylandt. Nick took up residence on Eylandt last month to become a physiotherapist and healthy lifestyle coordinator. Nick played 78 games for the Broncos over his nine year career in Brisbane and has already converted to Eylandt colour, playing with the Groote Eylandt Mudchooks in Darwin in January. The Eylandt Echo caught up with Nick to find out more…

If you find injured wildlife...
call Chris Love
0428436506
Parks and Wildlife Carer Permit No. 28737

BE CROCWISE
Meliodosis risk continues in the wet

As the wet season’s regular rains continue, cases of the serious soil-borne disease melioidosis are still being diagnosed.

Given the severity of the disease, which results in hospitalisation and is potentially fatal, Top Enders are being strongly warned to protect themselves from contact with mud, ground water and soil, even aerosolized soil, which could be inhaled into the lungs.

"Already in the current wet season, some 37 cases of this bacterial infection have been diagnosed," said the Centre for Disease Control’s Director, Dr Vicki Krause. The majority of the 37 cases have been from the greater Darwin area, with others from Katherine, East Arnhem and Top End remote communities. Melioidosis has been diagnosed previously on Groote Eyland.

"The melioidosis bacteria live deep in the soil during the dry season, but heavy rains bring the bacteria to surface level. The bacteria can then enter the body via cuts and sores and can also be inhaled if stirred up by the wind during a storm."

"Symptoms of melioidosis can vary greatly, but most commonly we see indications of pneumonia such as fever, cough and breathing difficulties, weight loss or sores that do not heal," Dr Krause said.

"People with risk factors such as diabetes, hazardous alcohol intake, kidney disease, lung disease, cancer and treatment for cancer, and those on steroid therapy should stay indoors during heavy wind or rain," she advised.

To reduce the risk of contracting melioidosis it is highly advisable to wear waterproof footwear around mud, soil and areas of pooled water and to wear gloves when handling soil or mud soaked items.

"Healthy people can get the diseases when exposed to mud, pooled water or aerosolized soil. Those who work outdoors, such as gardeners and building tradespeople, should always wear protective clothing," Dr Krause said.

"Anyone using high pressure hoses around soil should ensure their mouth and nose are properly covered to prevent them from inhaling the bacteria."

Anyone concerned about melioidosis should contact their local GP or hospital and for further information please refer to the NT Govt Health website at www.health.nt.gov.au

Yoga Pose of the Week

Warrior 1

1. Start with your feet together and as you exhale step your left foot back 3x1/2 to 4ft.
2. Inhale your arms up palms facing each other.
3. Check your heels are in alignment and turn your left foot 45deg to the left and square your hips to the front.
4. Exhale, sink your hips and bend your right knee over the right ankle so the shin is perpendicular to the floor. If you are flexible, align your right thigh parallel to the floor.
5. Reach strongly through your arms, lifting the ribcage away from the pelvis, opening through the chest.
6. Ground down through the feet and lift the arch of the left foot, making sure you are not twisting into the knee.
7. Stay in the pose 30seconds to 3 minutes breathing deeply and repeat on the opposite leg.

Warrior 1 is one of three warrior poses which all strengthen the legs, back and arms. You will feel a beautiful stretch through the hip and also openness through the chest. It is a great pose to improve poise and balance.

Put Yourself First

Weekly health and fitness with Rachel Van Oosten

As fathers, mothers and carers of our families it is easy to constantly put the needs of others before our own. After doing so for months or even years, you may start to forget what it is that you enjoy, need or want. You may find yourself going with the flow or just getting by. Eventually you may get to a point where you say enough – you are at your fork in the road and it’s time to make a decision which way you’ll go.

What if you could make a decision today to prioritise you and what if that decision was also going to benefit all of those around you. This is the power we have within each of us. Yet if it is that simple, what is it that holds you back from doing what you know is going to make you feel better, give you more energy, and enable you to feel healthier and more vibrant?

"The key to change is to let go of fear."

There are two common fears that may be holding you back from taking action right now. One is the fear of failure the other is the fear of success. The fear of failure is probably something you have heard about before... not wanting to set a goal for yourself that you may not achieve - you don’t want to set yourself up for another disappointment. Even if you set goals, you may do it in a way that is constantly keeping you in your comfort zone, keeping you safe rather than embracing uncertainty. The fear of success on the other hand is also similar to uncertainty. What if you succeed and it changes everything around you? What will it mean for your relationship, for your friendships, for how you see yourself and your identity?

This “fear” keeps you safe, in your comfort zone – what you know. Yet it is by exploring what you don’t know, embracing uncertainty that you will discover where the joy is. Can you imagine what it will mean to you to know that you have committed yourself to action, you have taken the steps and made the changes to achieve your ideal version of the healthy, fit and happy you?

So now that you are ready to open yourself up to the possibilities, it’s time to explore what will work for you and what action you can take. Do you know what you need to do to improve your health and wellbeing, or do you need to find out how? You could start by looking at who already has what you want. Who do you see around you that has a level of health and vitality that you want? Then you could find out how they have done it.

Here are some tips to get you going:

- Plan your day by scheduling in when you will exercise & relax.
- Plan & ideally prepare your meals and snacks in advance to keep you on track with healthy eating.
- Surround yourself with a support network who will keep you accountable to you and your goals.
- Identify “busy behaviours” (or people) that drain your time and energy but aren’t really important, then dump ‘em, or at least minimise their hold on you.
- See problems as opportunities to find another way.
- Start acknowledging yourself and notice your small wins and achievements on a daily basis.

Until next week,
Rachel Van Oosten
Active Symmetry
Save our movies!

One of the most relaxing and enjoyable events on Groote Eylandt, our under-the-stars outdoor movies is under review due to low attendance numbers.

“It doesn’t make it viable to screen movies each weekend when we are getting either one or two people, or none at all,” said GEMCO township employee, Sandra Bourke.

The movies have been held in the ASEC hall during the rainy season, screen on both a Friday and Saturday night from 6.30pm and have been running for 20 years.

“It would be such a shame to loose it here on Eylandt,” Ms Bourke said.

“It can be such a lovely night out.”

“From March onwards, movies will be held outdoors again, unless it is raining,” she said.

“We would love to have some community feedback in regards to the outdoor movies continuing. We are also thinking about changing to fortnightly movie sessions showing 2 movies either G and PG rated at 5pm and 6.30pm,” Ms Bourke said.

In an effort to inspire better attendance rates, organisers are looking for special interest groups who would be interested in themed movie nights. If you have a group who would like to watch a film on a certain topic, or hold an event with a movie included, contact Sandra Bourke on (08) 8987 4150 or email Sandra.bourke@bhpbilliton.com.
A big thank you to all who signed up for our Barra competition. It’s set to be the biggest ever with a record breaking 73 competitors taking up the challenge. We look forward to publishing some pictures in the next edition of the Echo.

There will be a meeting at the ARC on Tuesday the 21st January at 7.30pm for parents and interested people who are keen to assist with the Junior Fishing Clinic. Call Bomber on 0414 903 109 for further information.

**FISHING CLUB NEWS AND NOTICES**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ISLAND IMAGINATION PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION:

COMPETITION COMMENCES ON THE 15TH FEBRUARY AND PHOTOS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 23RD FEBRUARY AND FORTNIGHTLY THEREAFTER TO MEET DEADLINES (8th March, 22nd March etc). PHOTOGRAPHS CANNOT BE ENTERED MORE THAN ONCE BUT COMPETITORS ARE WELCOME TO ENTER ONE PHOTOGRAPH EACH FORTNIGHT. QUALITY MATTERS SO PLEASE SEND IN HIGH RESOLUTION PICTURES (BIG FILE SIZES). ANY SUBJECT MATTER IS FINE SO LONG AS IT IS FAMILY FRIENDLY. ANY PERSON ON GROOTE EYLANDT IS WELCOME TO ENTER THE COMPETITION. THIS COMPETITION IS ORGANISED AND RUN TO FOSTER A SENCE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE LIVE. THE JUDGE’S DECISION IS FINAL. PLEASE SEND ANY QUESTIONS OR QUERIES AND ALL SUMISSIONS TO SARAH AT:

Eylandtecho.gemco@bhpbilliton.com
CLASSIFIEDS

LOST/STOLEN
Last week two cat traps were removed from 107 Smith street – these belong to the rangers and NEED to be returned to the rangers at Pole 13 or phone 0428436506 and we will collect.
The Naked Pools sign has been stolen, these cost the rangers a lot of money to help residents find recreational areas and some thoughtless people are removing them. This also can be returned to Pole 13 or collected, no questions asked.

GUESS WHO? VALENTINES DAY MESSAGES

“Happy Valentine’s Day Tosser, Love from Loser xoxoxo”

“8:17am, 22nd January 2007 I first saw you. You are the most important person in my life. I love so very much” ~Gregory McGowan

ATTENTION READERS
We are now taking submissions for classifieds advertisements. It is free to post an advertisement, so send in your text and pictures to: eylandtecho.gemco@bhpbilliton.com

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CWA Shop is having a $2 February Sale
Every day that we are opened in February is $2 bag day - fill a bag for $2 from selected areas
Tuesday 9-11.30
Thursday 9-11.30
Thursday 18.30-20.30
Saturday 9-12noon

All GEMCO Employees & Current Contracting Partners
Cecilia Gilders (Assure Programs EAP Counsellor) will be visiting Groote Eylandt on the following dates:
Consultation Venue – Alyangula Health Clinic
+ Monday 13th February 2012
+ Monday 27th February 2012
+ Monday 12th March 2012
Monday 26th March 2012
All calls to make appointments for phone or face to face counselling must be made directly to Assure via the contact details below.

FOR SALE

- 3 Pce Lounge Suite $500
  (2 x Recliner Chairs + 2 Seater Lounge)
- Kenwood Chef Major Machine KM007 $600
  SS 6.7l bowl, K-beater, Dough hook, & Whisk, 1200 Motor
- Gaggia Automatic Coffee Machine $600
Contact Pam on 0417062403
When our lovely neighbour comes over to visit, she brings lots of love to share with our three dogs in the form of excited pats and cuddles. The dogs love this and get very excited to say hello to her and start to compete for her love, jumping up and yapping. I shake my head and turn a blind eye as my dogs get out of control. It’s so bad, I am considering banning my neighbour from seeing my dogs!

Today we will talk about who’s there to meet you when you get home; a happy dog? An excited dog? A happy, excited, and possibly jumping dog?

What do most of us tend to do when we see our dog like this? Yes that’s right, reward the happy excited jumping dog. So right then and there in your dog’s eyes you are rewarding them for being excited and unknowingly establishing them as the pack leader.

Think about it. What does a mother dog or calm, balanced dog do to a puppy when it’s excited? It shows signs using its body language and sets up rules and boundaries by curling its lip, growling, nipping or snapping at the puppy. You will notice it by its excited? It shows signs using its body or calm, balanced dog do to a puppy when

So next time when you get home, practice not rewarding your dog when it’s happy and excited. Instead, challenge it by saying “no get back, go to your bed” and say hello to your family first. When the dog is calm, invite it over and then you can give it love and rewards on your terms. If you reward your dog when he or she is excited and asking for attention you are reinforcing in their minds that they are the pack leader. We knowingly or unknowingly tend to reward excited behaviour numerous times each day and what we are teaching the dog is bad manners and establishing a pack-structure which doesn’t put you at top. This makes it a lot more difficult for us to fix any issues with our dog such as barking, jumping, anxiety, pulling on the lead and aggression etc.

Your mission: As cute as it is you’re your dog excitedly greets you at the door, remember to reward your dog ONLY when it’s calm and submissive. It will take practise, but let’s begin to change your packs’ structure.

Until next week,

Chris de Aboitiz
The surfing dog man
www.naturalbalancedog.com.au

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**Dogs Tale**

**By Chris de Aboitiz**

The surfing dog man

Hello dog owners of Groote Eylandt! I am Chris de Aboitiz, aka the surfing dog man. I am a dog whisperer and train dogs across Australia. I am passionate about showing people how to really understand their dogs and how to get the very best relationship they can with them. I have met and am inspired by the concepts of Cesar Milan, the famous dog whisperer from America. We have a pack of our own consisting of three dogs, Lani, Mert and Ramu. I shall share our adventures together with you all in the coming weeks to help you better understand your own pack...

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**Katherine Vet Care Centre**

Call the Katherine Clinic on
08 8972 2752
for appointment times.
e-mail: kathvetcare@bigpond.com
(Nurses are available on Eylandt to help your pet in case of emergency)

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**Partylite Candle Consultant**

**Renee Schremmer**

0400 295 435
Sudoku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contain all of the digits 1-9. Good luck! Answers next week

Across
1. Prank (5)
4. Small community (7)
8. Everlasting (7)
9. Accolade (5)
10. Wear away (5)
12. Voter (7)
13. Alter or regulate (6)
14. Refuge (6)
17. Repossess (7)
19. Travel lodge (5)
21. Mound of stones used as a marker (5)
22. Sincere (7)
24. Latticework (7)
25. Herd or flock of animals (5)

Down
1. Subject (5)
2. Frozen water (3)
3. Dog houses (7)
4. Smooth fabric (6)
5. Letting contract (5)
6. Flat (9)
7. Senior (7)
11. Target (9)
13. Fruit (7)
15. Stuck (7)
16. Hot fragments from a fire (6)
18. Declare invalid (5)
20. Supple (5)
23. Self (3)

Trivia Time ... test your knowledge

1. What is a group of cats called?
2. In ancient Rome, what was a gladiator armed with, in addition to a spear and a dagger?
3. In which year was Australia Day first celebrated?
4. Which country has Dong as its currency?
5. In which ocean did Titanic sink?
6. Which river flows both north and south of the equator? No peeking! Answers below

Trivia answers:
1) Clowder 2) A net 3) Atlantic 4) The Congo
5) Vietnam 6) The Congo

Crossword

No peeking! Answers below

Submissions for the Crossword puzzle should be sent to: Submissions@PuzzlePage.com
News from the Chook-Pen

The Groote Eylandt Mudchooks competed in the annual Heineken Hottest 7s in the World in Darwin last month from the 21st and 22nd of January.

The Mudchooks took home the Gecko division shield and prize money, which according to Silas XXX is a “tremendous effort, considering the Mudchooks only get together and play once a year.”

The Mudchooks, famous for their pre-start dance, known as the chooka, played a total of five games in the two day competition.

The first day saw the team scramble to find their feet and get accustomed to playing together.

Day two saw them undefeated, winning the semi-final match against the Arnhem Barbarians of Gove and earning a spot in the final against the Potteroos of QLD.

Ben Moore opened the final with an early try and Kenny Ahovelo finished it off with two late tries to beat the Potteroos 17-7.

“Tremendous effort,” said Silas XXX, “...considering the Mudchooks only get together and play once a year.”

The Groote Eylandt Mudchooks have been attending the competition since 1989 and have come away with the trophies twice and a share in the prize money three times.

Sports on Groote

- Ultimate frisbee at the ASEC HALL OVAL in Alyangula. Wednesday nights 6-7pm.
- BMX, youth club and BBQ on Fridays at 6.30-9pm BMX club members only.
- Jujitsu Monday & Thursday 6.30-8pm ASEC Hall
- Aerobics Wednesday 6pm ASEC Hall
- Yoga Mon/Thurs 5.30pm, Tues 7pm ASEC Hall
- AFL training, Alyangula oval Tuesday 6.30pm

Please let us know your sports event and we will list it here. Send it in to eylandtecho.gemco@bhpbilliton.com

In a drop Weather Report

Temperatures in Alyangula have been scorching so far in February with an average minimum of 28.5 and average maximum of 33.5. Humidity has also been high as the UV Index often reaching extreme levels (11+) during midday hours between 11am and 2pm. It has been a slow start to the wet season with Alyangula receiving 21.2mm of rainfall last month which is well below the average of 213.2mm.

AFL NT mixes it up

A mix of teams playing AFL in the Northern Territory is better than a monopoly of just one or two clubs, according to AFLNT CEO, Tony Frawley.

Frawley told AFL.com.au it was ‘pleasing for the NT to have six different brands this year.’

This year will see the Brisbane Lions and Port Adelaide clash in Alice Springs for a NAB Cup match, the Bulldogs take on Gold Coast Suns in Darwin in round 8 and the Power playing Melbourne in round 17.

The AFL season of 198 matches, kicks off on the 24th March with the first ever NSW derby between new club Greater Western Sydney and the Swans at ANZ stadium. (Source afl.com.au)