Give ‘em a break

Bushfires NT has begun fire inspections of all blocks at Wagait Beach.

Regional fire control officer Sue Whatley said while the estate had improved in recent years, there were still too many blocks that were fire hazards.

“It’s been getting better – 12 years ago it was a nightmare,” she said.

“What we’re trying do is educate people about managing their firebreaks and that there’s assistance available.”

Sue said introduced grasses such as gamba and mission grass presented a huge risk because they burned so intensely, producing radiant heat that could start fires in structures before the fire-front arrived.

There are increasing amounts of both grasses being found on and near the estate with the gamba in particular posing a huge threat – potentially more than 20 tonnes of fuel per hectare compared with 3-5 tonnes from spear grass.

Landowners or occupiers whose blocks don’t comply will get a warning from the fireies.

“They’ve got 72 hours then to tell us what they’re going to do,” Sue explained.

“If nothing happens they get a notice telling them what they have to do.

“If still nothing happens we’ll come in with machines and do it ourselves and the bill goes against their property.

“We also have on-the-spot fines – it depends on the condition of the block and the way they’re tackling the problem.

Continued page 2.
Dry season on the doorstep: bureau

Forecasters at Darwin’s Bureau of Meteorology are sticking out their necks with confident predictions of a “proper” dry season from the first week of June.

Tuesday June 1’s forecast is for fine, sunny, drier conditions with a minimum of 20 degrees and a maximum of 31 – far different from the 25 to 33 and humid experienced for most of May.

By next weekend the big easterlies are expected to be back, bringing night time temperatures of less than 20.

The bureau’s normal measuring stick, a weather phenomena known as the Madden-Julian Oscillation that usually moves around the globe on a 4-6 week cycle, has been inconsistent and is still causing confusion.

It is usually associated with wetter conditions but the bureau says: “…timing for the return of the MJO into Australian longitudes is middle to late-June, however it is unlikely to increase rainfall across northern Australia, due to the time of year.”

Meanwhile, it is time to break out the winter woollies at last.

May proved to be one of the wettest on record with 64 mm recorded over seven days compared with the norm of 15 mm over three days.

It also looks like being one of the warmest, with overnight temperatures rarely dropping below 25 degrees.

Bushfires NT Vernon fire control officer Adam Redpath, Cox Peninsula fire captain Ray Nichols and regional fire control officer Sue Whatley inspect a stand of mission grass at Wagait Beach and (right) check a well prepared fire break.

Fire permits a must

“People should remember that they must have a permit for any fire, even in an incinerator – and it has to be fitted with a lid or mesh.”

Fire permits are available free of charge from the local brigade by telephoning 8978 5176.

Call for dog attack review

“A New South Wales man injured in a dog attack at Wagait Beach last year has called on the Territory police commissioner to review the incident.

Derek Hancock was dragged to the ground and savaged by two dogs that ran out through an open gate to initially attack his small dog.

Derek told the commissioner he believed the police handled the case poorly because the magistrate claimed he had been on the dog owner’s property.

“This could happen again with possibly a child involved,” he said in the letter.

Derek confirmed he had received a reply and had responded as part of the ongoing investigation.

What’s inside …

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Weather watch

Rainfall and Temperature
Rain for May.............................................. 75 mm
Monthly average...................................... 15 mm
Rain since October 1 (+ or - average)............. 2140 (+406) mm
Annual average (Oct 1 – Sep 30).................. 1756 mm
Average rainfall for June............................. 3 mm
Expect it to rain on ..................................... >1 day
Average min/max temp (Darwin).................... 20.0/30.6 °C
Croc fright: ‘I bolted up the hill’

Kaylene Hinchliffe didn’t wait around to smile at a crocodile – she bolted.

The Cox Drive woman’s brush with the 3.5 metre scaly saurian began when she started her regular early-morning walk along the normally peaceful beach.

“It was just after 7 am after the school bus left,” Kaylene said.

“The tide was pretty high and as I came through the casuarina trees, there 20 m out in the water was this big croc.

“I reckon it was three and a half metres and that’s not exaggerating.

“The croc and I look at each other for a while and then I thought he’s not interested (so) I started to walk down the beach (towards the city).

“I turned to have another look and he was swimming straight at me.

“You know about the fright and flight thing – I just bolted straight up the hill into (Dave Arratta’s) place. Dave’s dog was with me so I called him up.

“When I stopped at the top of the hill I turned around and he was only 5 m out, very close to the shore.”

Kaylene raced home and called the croc spotter hotline to report that she’d been chased by a crocodile.

Her son Isaac, a keen fisherman, previously had spotted the reptile or a similar animal while fishing at the beach.

“I went back down (to the beach) and it was swimming towards the creek. It turned and looked at me but must have decided I was too fast and swam off,” Kaylene said.

“I can’t believe how fast I ran. It must be the belly dancing classes or the aerobics with Jackie Edwards.

“I was pretty nervous for a couple of weeks but I haven’t seen him since then.”

Kaylene said she had seen five crocodiles in the three years the family had lived on the beach but this one was the biggest.

Warnings on the NT Natural Resources Department web site highlight the dangers from salt-water crocodiles.

Rangers say if a waterway is not shown as safe for swimming it may be inhabited by crocodiles.

If people do not see a safe swimming sign, do not take the risk of entering the water.

All fatal crocodile attacks in the NT in the past 20 years have occurred when people have entered the water outside of designated swimming areas.

Visitors to the Cox Peninsula frequently swim in the sea near the Mandorah Hotel or further south near Woods Inlet.

Crocodiles are common in these areas and several large animals have been trapped.

The hotel pool is a guaranteed crocodile-free zone.

Young Paddy Hinchliffe is looking after his mum at the beach these days after Kaylene and the neighbour’s dog Jack had a close encounter with a 3.5 m crocodile.
Sports ground contract only gets a survey

The long-delayed sports ground master plan finally has produced a result – a five page survey to consult the residents to complete.

This result did not impress anyone at last month’s Wagait Shire Council meeting.

Chief executive John Keenan said he was unhappy with the way the project was going.

“After pushing (contractors) BTO the only thing I have got is a community survey form they want us to send out,” he said.

“It’s a very slow exercise. BTO still hasn’t done anything and they want us to do the community survey.”

Matt Prouse was unimpressed, saying: “this is a time waster.”

Rocky Magnoli also thought the project was off the rails.

“We’ve invoiced the $280 000 and (and) a draft budget will be out before then.”

Karen Duncan was not sure this was necessary.

Part of the work will be to replace the large open storm drain with pipes.

The memorial garden is not quite as advanced.

“The council’s financial statements are up to date again following some hard work from the chief executive.”

Karen also queried why she was left out of a memorial garden meeting in early May.

“Others were invited but didn’t get an invite.”

Shire president Peter Clec wanted to know who was going to do the work.

Rocky said contractors should do it so it was done.

“If you have everything in place just do it,” he said.

There was further discussion about the plan to work with Belyuen to extend the local government boundary to include the entire Cox Peninsula.

“Darryl (Withnall’s) map was best option for the community, how about we make an effort to communicate with (Belyuen),”

Karen argued that a majority of people don’t want reticulation.

“We need a definitive cost and then we can go back to the community about reticulation,” he said. “Kenbi won’t resolve the water reticulation problem.”

The works report highlighted three reports of problem dogs in the estate.

“There seems to have been lot of people don’t want reticulation,” said.

Karen argued that a majority of people don’t want reticulation.

“We need to remind people to take a photo and the cops need to get the reports,” Karen said.

“Our own staff need to refer issues to the cops.”

The council’s financial statements are up to date again following some hard work from the chief executive.

But Trish wanted to know how the council had spent $4000 on animal control.

“No, we only paid for their accommodation for a night,” Peter responded.

John said the computer program was a program-based cash accounting system so a proportion of salaries and expenses were allocated to things like animal control.

Peter was not sympathetic

“Get used to it – that’s what you’ve got to work with,” he said.

“Next meeting can you tell me what we spent the $4000 on.”

Darryl again raised the water supply issue, saying that nothing had been done about an earlier resolution to conduct a study about future water services.

He also asked councillors to support a motion to change Wagait Beach’s status from restricted service to a minor town licence.

“This will force PowerWater to supply the infrastructure (for a future water supply),” he claimed.

Peter agreed there should be a study.

“We need a definitive cost and then we can go back to the community about reticulation,” he said. “Kenbi won’t resolve the water reticulation problem.”

Karen argued that a majority of people don’t want reticulation.

“If people don’t want it they can just go and cart water for another 10 years,” Darryl replied.

The motion to approach the minister to change the licence was supported by Darryl, Rocky, Trish, Peter and Vera.

Karen and Matt opposed any change.

Mandorah Beach Hotel

‘Your community hotel’

Live entertainment Sunday session

Every weekend from 1 pm to 5 pm with our great barbecue lunch between 11.30 am and 2 pm

Icey-cold refreshments, fine food, great service, friendly local staff

Ph: 8978 5044 Fax: 8978 5060
Statehood meetings for peninsula folk

People at Wagait Beach and Belyuen get the opportunity this month to have their say whether the Northern Territory should become a state.

Statehood forums will be held in both places on June 17 for people to think about what they might want from a future Northern Territory State Constitution and to raise awareness ahead of the 2011 constitutional convention.

A report from each forum will be considered by the Statehood Steering Committee. In turn, the committee will provide a report of all the forums to the constitutional convention delegates.

The 22 member Statehood Steering Committee is from people across the Territory representing organisations such as cattlemen, Aboriginal land councils and business groups.

Statehood forums are looking specifically at what might want from a future state constitution and what might go into it.

The ‘musts’ include:

- Will funding from the Commonwealth cease or change?
- Where does the Land Rights Act go?
- What happens to the Intervention including welfare quarantining?
- Does the name need to change?
- What are the real benefits?
- What are people being promised?

Some of the things people have said so far:

- The key thing the committee wants people to think about is whether there is an opportunity with statehood to improve the way the Territory is governed.
- Some of the things people have said so far:
  - Will funding from the Commonwealth cease or change?
  - Where does the Land Rights Act go?
  - What happens to the Intervention including welfare quarantining?
  - Does the name need to change?
  - What are the real benefits?
  - What are people being promised?

$8.8 million for police, fire and emergency services in the Top End rural region, including nine police stations plus three established under the NT Emergency Response at Minjilang, Peppimenarti and Warrruwi – but no sign of a permanent police presence at Belyuen.

Under infrastructure:
- $3 million for the Litchfield Road, stage 3 – upgrade and seal a further 6 kilometres, $2.5 million for further upgrading and sealing of Fog Bay Road, $2 million to upgrade the Arnhem Highway, $1 million for local tourist roads at Wooliamna and Marrakai Station – but nothing for the Mandorah jetty car park project or boat ramp improvement.

The working futures and education allocations for the rural area do not mention the Cox Peninsula while the health highlights simply refer to the region’s $44.6 million for non-acute health and community services.

Health

This means a no to the Wagait Shire Council’s request for an upgrade to the services and times at the Wagait Beach clinic.

Big ticket rural items in the community development are: $2.54 million for power, water and sewerage operations in indigenous communities, $1.24 million for investment in municipal, essential and housing services for outstations, $0.52 million to manage Crown land including buildings and weeds and $240 000 for the Marine Ranger Program.

There is no indication that the Wagait Beach water supply will be upgraded or changed to the minor urban classification that could pave the way for a future reticulated system.

Hopefully, some of the $1.7 million set aside for weed, biodiversity, feral animal, fire, visitor and cultural management on parks and reserves may be spent on removing weeds such as gamba and mission grass from the foreshore protection zone.

Your budget at a quick blink

WAGAITEAR COUNCIL
Library/book exchange

Don’t forget our excellent and growing LIBRARY AND BOOK EXCHANGE at the council offices manned by community volunteers.

Open: Thursday 6 pm to 7 pm Saturday 9 am to 11 am

We have even had to buy an extra book cabinet.

If you have not been before or have not been for a while, come on down NOW!

(And remember, we have a computer and printer for your internet library!)
Firebreaks

Save lives, Save assets

Firebreaks provide vehicles with access during fires, stop fires under mild conditions and are essential for creating control lines for back burning.

Firebreaks are required on all rural blocks and must be:

- A minimum of 4m wide and graded or slashed to a maximum height of 50mm, with all slashed material removed; or
- Lawn or cultivated garden

It’s an offence under the Bushfires Act if you do not install a firebreak.

Bushfires NT: 8976 0098
NT Fire and Rescue Service: 8988 0298
www.nt.gov.au/bushfires

Lil Prouse displays her skills with the playdough to an admiring audience.

Duck wars

The Cox Country Club’s two families of Burdekin ducks are not getting on too well.

Jealousy flared between the older family (left) and another pair with newly hatched ducklings.

One of the parents from the first group has taken to attacking the youngsters, earning him or her the nickname “paedophile” from club regulars.

Don’t miss the fun bus

Wagait Beach’s playgroup has risen from the ashes with anklebiters and their carers gathering at the sportsground every Tuesday for playgroup sessions.

Visits from the Smile-a-Mile fun bus have added to the mornings with the next one due on Tuesday June 29.

This visit will cater for all children up to 12 years of age.

Farewell Mick

A large group of well-wishers farewelled Mick Flaherty last month, scattering his ashes at Imaluk Creek.
Are books really better than barra?
According to the results of the great debate that was part of the Wordstorm writers’ festival, absolutely.

Held in the cerebral surrounds of the Mandorah pub, some 200 people packed in to hear the six speakers put their points of view while putting down their opponents.

Despite Robert Smith from the ABC’s Tales from the Tinnies program making some telling points about the futility of attempting to bribe a wallower with a book when an esky full of barra would probably do the trick, it was to no avail.

With the fishos battling a constant stream of sexual innuendo and some language to match, it was a no contest.

Many audience members changed their vote at the conclusion of the debate, with an overwhelming majority going to the pro-book team.

A member of the winning team, and a last minute ring-in, was one of the Wordstorm organisers, Wagait Beach’s Sandra Thibodeaux, who more than held her own in the debate.

Her comments about local identity Bubba Tye, alluding to why women were put off men, especially those who fished, brought the house down.

Chief judge and author Wendy Harm-er provided an entertaining and colourful commentary on the debate and her own sex life before declaring the book team the winner.
End of the line for transmitting station

The building phase – the transmitters take shape

Damage caused by Cyclone Tracy in 1974.

An antenna mast is winched into place.

Testing starts at the new facility.

With the antennas coming down and a final cleanup underway, this month sees the final pages for the former Radio Australia transmitting station at Charles Point.

The facility was built in the 1960s as part of a program to improve the national broadcaster’s coverage into Asia with the transmitting site and a receiving station near Woods Inlet, some 5 km south of Mandorah.

It was a big boost for the Cox Peninsula which until then was home only to the Delissaville mission – now Belyuen, a couple of struggling tourist enterprises, a small number of beachfront residents and the odd squatter.

The project saw the building of the Mandorah jetty, power lines under the harbour and a ferry services between Stokes Hill and the peninsula.

Stem Edwards was one of the boat skippers in those days while Jack Davis, took the opportunity to turn his beachfront block into the Golden Sands resort.

The transmitting station and the jetty were badly damaged in Cyclone Tracy and it was sometime before Radio Australia services were restored.

Budget cutbacks in the early 1990s saw Charles Point put into mothballs only months after the Federal Government had spent millions of dollars refurbishing it.

Christian Voice took over the transmitters and installed new equipment, including modern digital control facilities that allowed Charles Point to operate with a fraction of the staff previously needed.

Despite long-term plans to further upgrade the station, uncertainty over the status of the land and future lease arrangements once the Kenbi land claim was settled saw Voice International decide not to renew the lease after June 30 this year.

Many thanks to all those who provided photographs and information about this significant part of the peninsula’s history.

Cox Country Club
May events

• BINGO – Wednesday 17th June – 7.30 pm start. Jackpot $600

• DARTS – Presentation night Saturday 19th June.

• QUIZ NIGHT – Saturday 26th June – 7.30 pm start - Why not get a table of ‘know it all friends’ together and have some fun

• Member Badge draw every Saturday

Don’t forget to get your tickets in the new bigger and better meat raffle for a $100 voucher – tickets $2 – drawn every Saturday.

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8985 5233 Fax: 8948 0634
Across
1 Informal name for Fremantle (AFL) (7)
5 A disorderly outburst or tumult (3-2)
8 British 1990s popular music (7)
9 Take into account (5)
10 Scores between the tall posts (AFL) (5)
11 Bring into servitude (7)
12 Esteem (6)
14 Clothing (6)
17 Someone who makes mistakes because of incompetence (7)
19 The sound elements of television (5)
22 Latin-American dance (5)
23 Scores less than 10 across (AFL) (7)
24 Adelaide (AFL) (5)
25 The time between 1BC and 1AD (coll) (4,3)

Down
1 Correct errors in a computer program code (5)
2 Dishware made of high quality porcelain (5)
3 Elaborate (7)
4 The cardinal number that is the sum of six and one (6)

Answers to last puzzle

Across
1 Tiff WORDS
5 OMC RCEO
8 UOMRCEO
9 K NUGD
10 TIEGET
11 NL
12 AN
13 L
14 A
15 B
16 E
17 D
18 E
19 S
20 L
21 A
22 O
23 L
24 N
25 S

Down
1 OFFGOUACHES
2 UOMRCEO
3 CORDOBAQUILL
4 TIEGET
5 L
6 NL
7 BINOGRAPGH
8 OMC RCEO
9 NL
10 A
11 R
12 NL
13 S
14 L
15 N
16 O
17 M
18 L
19 A
20 G
21 S
22 M
23 D
24 N
25 T

In an emergency …

Medical – ask for duty District Medical Officer 000 or 8922 8888
Wagait Beach Clinic Tuesday and Thursday 5 pm to 8 pm
NT HealthDirect (medical advice) 1800 022 222
Police 000, 131 444, 8988 0200 (Humpty Doo)
Fire 89 785 176
Power and Water 1800 245 090
NT Emergency Services Cox Peninsula via 000

Your stars

Cancer: June 22 – July 22
Your stars are in perfect alignment to make that very tough decision. Both choices have their advantages but the Coopers Green looks like the best buy. Lucky No 8.

Leo: July 23 – August 23
You will find your way to a distant shore this month and it will be a perilous journey. The far-siders are strange people and either want your money or your body. Beware! Lucky No 9.

Virgo: August 24 – September 23
You’re the one who chooses to be a grumpy boots. Take a day off, make peace with your friends and smile. Happy No 6.

Libra: September 24 – October 23
Good grief, what did you say to Peter Clee on the ferry? It could be time to take a long overseas holiday. Lucky No 7

Scorpio: October 24 - November 22
Sceptical about the stars, huh? Such cynicism at your tender age and shame on you for casting scorn on such wisdom. Your lucky number this month is 13.

Sagittarius: November 23 – December 22
Lately your punctuality has been slipping. The ferry crew is getting cranky and the boat will go without you. Lucky No 17.

Capricorn: December 23 – January 20
Ignore advances from strange people strolling along the beach. If it’s Stem Edwards, Crisis Line is having a special on counselling this month. Lucky No 18.

Aquarius: January 21 – February 19
Time to cut off those flowing locks. Make an appointment with Helen at Hair on Cullen before you need to call G1 and G2 with the slasher. Lucky No. 31.

Pisces: February 20 – March 19
Some people work hard to achieve legendary status while some people are born with it. Drinking the club bar dry will do it either way. Lucky No 17.

Aries: March 20 – April 20
Time for rams to commune with the stars. Take an esky, some fishing gear and a quick trip to Two Fella Creek. Lucky No 5.

Taurus April 21 – May 21
This could be your lucky month. Check out the grog specials at the shop; your favourite brew could be cheaper than you expected. Lucky No 28.

Gemini: May 22 – June 21
Time to commune with nature and shed the burden of modern day living. That doesn’t mean getting Molly Monk and sleeping in the garden. Lucky No 20.
**Who does what locally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accommodation</strong></td>
<td>Lure Inn Bed and Breakfast</td>
<td>89 785 484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandorah Beachside Hotel</td>
<td></td>
<td>89 785 044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wagait Beach Bush Retreat</td>
<td></td>
<td>89 785 123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Builder</strong></td>
<td>Peninsular Building (Paul)</td>
<td>0428 890 108 or 89 785 488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boilermaker</strong></td>
<td>Mark (Anything Steel)</td>
<td>0411 230 918 or 89785466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissioners for Oaths</strong></td>
<td>Linda King</td>
<td>89 785 064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Solien</td>
<td></td>
<td>89 785 241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concreting plant</strong></td>
<td>Dave</td>
<td>89 785 066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical appliance testing</strong></td>
<td>Gary</td>
<td>0418 673 536 or 89 785 234</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical contractor</strong></td>
<td>Michael Vaughan</td>
<td>0427 180 379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresh fruit &amp; vegetables home delivery</strong></td>
<td>Becky &amp; Mark</td>
<td>0437 322 755 or 89785466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flying lessons (gyrocopter)</strong></td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>0418 856 143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Garden and home maintenance</strong></td>
<td>Matelot (Phil)</td>
<td>0412 506 999 or 89 785 372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td></td>
<td>0407 546 275 or 89 785 175</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jewellery</strong></td>
<td>Kat</td>
<td>89 785 232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td></td>
<td>0428 852 082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meat supplies (Meat Direct)</strong></td>
<td>Matt &amp; Lil</td>
<td>0416 942 519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minibus (Mandorah Transport)</strong></td>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>0407 325 957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native plant nursery</strong></td>
<td>Chris and Jack</td>
<td>89 785 111</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plastering</strong></td>
<td>Michael Milton</td>
<td>89 785 126</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Printing and publishing</strong></td>
<td>Wagaitear</td>
<td>0417 089 528 or 89 785 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property conveyancing</strong></td>
<td>Trish McIntyre</td>
<td>8981 6733 or 89 785 237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Real estate</strong></td>
<td>Steve Cannizzaro</td>
<td>0407 587 046 or 8978 5003</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supermarket &amp; hardware</strong></td>
<td>Chris, Sue and the ladies</td>
<td>89 785 008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vision planning and time management</strong></td>
<td>Kiara Garrard</td>
<td>0438 610 563 or 8978 5003</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td>Mick &amp; Donna</td>
<td>0419 822 320 or 89 785 034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welding</strong></td>
<td>Rick Gosper</td>
<td>0404 656 270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Wagaitear trades and services

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The Wagaitear, May 2010 – 11
He only just made it to the mounds when he became very, very bogged.

Father Chris was called to do the search and rescue bit and the Admiral hears was very lucky not to make it two of a kind.

The Joshmobile was finally retrieved after several locals with all the necessary gear went to the rescue, but the track has some very deep new ruts as a reminder to wait for the wet to end.

Community nurse Leanne Vincent of Cox Drive almost become a legend in her own lunchtime.

Leanne was nominated in the categories of living legend and community health and midwifery at the 2010 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards last month.

She made it through to the final five but just missed one of the big awards.

Keen gardeners should take note of a warning about the nasty bugs that live in the surface water and mud during the wet season.

The late rains mean the potentially-fatal disease melioidosis is still about.

While unhealthy people are most at risk, the bacteria can get in through cuts, scratches or just by inhaling.

There have been 77 confirmed cases of melioidosis in the Northern Territory since October and 15 to 30 per cent don’t make it.

Was someone’s clock a bit askew?

There were complaints on May 30 after several people missed the 12.20 early Sunday morning ferry back to the far side.

Did it really leave at 12.14 as some claimed or were people a bit later than they thought?