Wake up to the Territory's following areas today:

**Girraween Rd; Howard Springs**

**RURAL:**

**Temple Tce; Driver Ave; Stuart Highway; PALMERSTON:**

**Dripstone Rd; McMillans Rd;**

**NORTHERN SUBURBS:**

**Brennan Drive. Bagot Rd; McMinn**

---

**GET YOURS DELIVERED!**

Wake up to the Territory’s favourite newspapers

GET YOURS HOME DELIVERED

Call 8944 9901

### Tattslotto

Wednesday 26/5/10

DRAW № 2933

18 40 41 23 12 45

SUPPS 3 35

Total Prize Pool: Not available

For NT News fans that enjoy online content, Geordie’s weekly Top 5 ‘Hot Topics’ are available at www.ntnews.com.au

---

**GET YOURS DELIVERED!**

Wake up to the Territory’s favourite newspapers

GET YOURS HOME DELIVERED

Call 8944 9901

---

**DCC budgets for 5.5pc rate rise**

By BEN LANGFORD

DARWIN homeowners are set for another rate hike after Darwin City Council released its draft budget yesterday. Rates on houses in the suburbs will rise by 5.5 per cent, with the minimum rate up $44 to $844.

The news is worse for people in suburban units and townhouses, with their rates up by 11 per cent, with a minimum of $808.

Most hunters in the CBD will have escaped a hike, and their rates will remain the same at $1070. But homeowners in Lyons and Tipperary Waters will see their rates go up by 22.9 per cent, with a minimum of $896, putting them ahead of other areas outside the CBD.

CBD business properties will see a 9.7 per cent rise. Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer said the rates were needed to reflect the value of different properties and provide services.

“We did a lot of work on trying to minimise the rate rise,” he said.

“We are a financially sustainable council and we’re going to stay that way.”

The rate increases will earn the council an additional $3 million.

It will also have an extra $3 million in its coffers because its reserves, including car parking and waste management reserves, are up from $18.6 million to $21.2 million.

Mr Sawyer said this money could not be used to keep rates down.

“We need to make sure we’ve got reserves,” he said.

The 5.5 per cent rise for homes is more than 2 per cent above the Consumer Price Index and followed a 6.9 per cent hike last year.

Mr Sawyer said council’s expenses were not so much affected by the CPI but by the Tender Price Increase, which is an extra rate, still less than the rate rises.

The budget has a small surplus of $466,000 down from $4.8 million last year.

Mr Sawyer said he would prefer a fairer system that measured rates by the value of a property, but this would take two years to bring in.

The council’s budget is out for public comment.

---

### EXTRA READS ALL ABOUT IT!

**ARE YOU ON THE SPOT?**

Do you have a news photo or story tip?

If so, we want to hear from you!

---

**NEWS HOTLINE: 8944 9724**

SEND YOUR NEWS PHOTOS TO:

news@ntnews.com.au

Include your contact details and a brief description.

All emails should not be more than 5 megabytes

---

**Two crocs sighted at NT rural swim spot**

TWO crocs have been sighted at a rural area spot used for quick dips and fishing.

Darwin River resident Patricia Bynnes, 56, said she spotted the crocs also in the very early hours of Sunday morning at Fly Creek crossing on Old Bynoe Rd.

She said she was driving into Darwin Airport about 1am when she came across the first, lying in the middle of the crossing. She estimated it was 2.5m long.

“I just waddled across and had a bit of a jump at the end when it went into the deep part of the water,” she said.

On the way back from the airport she came across a second, about 1.5m long, at the same crossing.

Parks and Wildlife ranger Tom Nicholas (39) said a spotlighting session had been carried out there, but no crocs had been found.

Last night he said there were three wet season traps in the area, and that they were heading out to check the surroundings again this morning.

“We’re still monitoring the situation,” he said.

Mr Bynnes said there should be signs up at the spot warning people not to swim.

But Mr Nicholas said it wasn’t possible to put signs up along every watercourse.

He warned people never to swim unless there were signs that said it was safe to.

“If there’s no sign, then don’t swim,” he said.

— ALYSSA BETTS

---

**Top End link spices up TV chef favourite**

A FORMER Territorian is tipped to win the second series of MasterChef after defeating a professional chef in a celebrity challenge.

Marion Grasby has been tipped as winner for the latest series of MasterChef.

Human resources worker Carrie Johnston was evicted on Monday night and, in her exit interview, dished out praise for Grasby, describing her as a cooking ‘‘inspiration’’.

INSPIRING CREATIONS: Former Territorian Marion Grasby is seen as the hot favourite to win the latest series of MasterChef.