

Sweet treats for charity

STAFF at a Winnellie business have used their culinary skills to raise money for charity.
Lianna Georges and Nativity Dunbar of Colliers International whipped up dozens of sweet treats with help from others for a national cake bake fundraiser in aid of the Red Cross on Friday. The pair made more than \$600 as hungry office workers snapped up their cupcakes, muffins, cookies,

biscuits and even gluten-free cake. Ms Georges said she had wanted to raise money for the Red Cross since the charity helped one of her colleagues. "I just wanted to give back to the community and help out," she said.
The girls' initial target was to raise \$250 but they had already beaten that figure before the lunchtime rush. They were supported by other businesses in Winnellie's Terminal One estate

including Commonwealth Bank, Master Builders, Konekt and Pools & Spas, as well as the Leukaemia Foundation. All the money raised from Red Cross cake bakes in the NT goes back to NT branches of the organisation.

Lianna Georges and Nativity Dunbar of Colliers International in Winnellie hold a fundraising cake bake for Red Cross



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Fight for GP clinic

By FERGUS McEWAN

HEALTH chiefs have vowed to fight for Darwin's GP Super Clinic after the federal project was scrapped.
Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon, who announced plans for a \$5 million super clinic in the northern suburbs earlier this year, admitted last week that no operator had been found for the facility.
Territory Health Minister Kon Vatskalis said he had appealed to Ms Roxon to overturn the decision by highlighting the success of the Palmerston GP Super Clinic.
The Palmerston facility has had more than 22,000 visitors since opening in December 2008, which Mr Vatskalis said eased pressure on staff in the Royal Darwin Hospital's emergency department.
"I have called Ms Roxon advising her that we are not happy but that I

am still committed to helping secure this important health service and will work with her to see this happen," he said.
"I am not giving up. We have already seen the success of the Palmerston Super Clinic and I want this service to be delivered to the people of the northern suburbs."
Mr Vatskalis has written to all GPs in Darwin and Palmerston and the Australian Medical Association, encouraging them to back the campaign.
Chief Minister Paul Henderson waded into the debate yesterday by insisting Darwin needed more GPs.
He said the city had 56 GPs per 100,000 people, well below the national average of 81.
"I know we can make this work, as my government has a proven track record of creating solutions and developing successful

partnerships for health services," he said.
A prime example, he said, was the government's involvement in negotiating a partnership between Charles Darwin University and Flinders University to operate the Palmerston GP Super Clinic.
Coalition MP for Solomon Natasha Griggs responded to Ms Roxon's announcement by claiming super clinics were a "waste of money".
She argued the national program's \$650 million budget would have been better spent on grants to allow existing medical practices to expand.
"This is just another example of the Territory missing out," she said.
"Nicola Roxon should come to Darwin and apologise to the people for breaking her election promise.
"I look forward to working with

her to ensure the money originally allocated to the Darwin GP Super Clinic continues to be spent on the healthcare needs of Darwin and Palmerston residents."
However, Mr Vatskalis accused Mrs Griggs of "failing to help Territorians secure this vital GP service".
A spokesman for Ms Roxon said it was "disappointing no operator could be sourced for the Darwin GP Super Clinic".
But he stressed the Federal Government was already investing almost \$200 million in health facilities for Darwin for the area.
This included two new operating theatres and new paediatric staff at the Royal Darwin Hospital, which had already been delivered, and the pledge of a \$110m hospital in Palmerston.

Smart schools claim accolades

SCHOOLS in Darwin and Litchfield were among the winners of the 2011 NT Smart Schools Awards announced on Saturday.
Nightcliff Primary won an award for improving literacy and numeracy and was highly commended for a student inclusion and wellbeing award. Millner won the innovation in indigenous education category. Taminmin College in Humpty Doo won an award for senior secondary outcomes. Casuarina Senior College was highly commended for this. Winners received \$20,000 and highly commended schools got \$5000. Education and Training department chief executive Gary Barnes said the focus on excellence in public education showed NT schools, teachers and programs on a level comparable to other schools nationally.

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Waging a war against weeds

WAR is being waged against an underwater weed found in Darwin River. The NT's only known infestation of cabomba weed "remains on track for eradication", Environment Minister Karl Hampton said. Environment chiefs have released a management plan for the aquatic South American plant, which proposes wiping it out from the Territory. For more details about cabomba and the plan to tackle it, go to www.nt.gov.au/weeds

Booking a win

AUTHORS have been celebrated for developing children's literacy at Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year Awards in Darwin. Carol Goess, author of *Can we lick the spoon now?*, Elizabeth Frankel (*Hairy Nose Itchy Butt*) and Morris Gleitzman (*Now*) each received an accolade. The One Arm Point Remote Community School received the inaugural indigenous children's book award for *Our World: Bardi Jaawi Life at Ardiyooloon*. The awards were presented at Millner Primary School last night. Go to www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

BINGO

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