



DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND PLANNING

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND PLANNING RELOCATION FROM CBD

The Department's business units located at Cavenagh House will be moving to Arnhemica House, Parap in early 2012. Business units included are Building Advisory Services, Development Assessment Services, Land Administration and Strategic Lands and Planning. There will be customer and staff car parking available at Arnhemica House and off-site. The exact date of the move will be communicated broadly once finalised.

In conjunction with the move the Department has reviewed current practices, and will be implementing a new building file access procedure from **28 November 2011**. The new procedure will change the way files are ordered and collected and will ensure a sustainable service.

Please visit [www.nt.gov.au/lands](http://www.nt.gov.au/lands) to familiarise yourself with the changes to the procedures. For more information email [basfiles.dlp@nt.gov.au](mailto:basfiles.dlp@nt.gov.au) or phone **8999 6435**.

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Storms strike new warning for fishos

Around the traps with THE MAD MULLET

LAST Sunday we saw the first decent storm of the 2011-2012 wet season roll through and for those of us who were on Darwin Harbour mid afternoon, it was on one hand spectacular and on the other hand an experience of the sheer terror kind.

Your scruffy scribe and the Black Dog crew were doing the rounds of Pioneer Creek and had a terrific morning, scoring two nice barra on the flats over the drop and then two more reasonable barra over the low. The plan was to sneak back on to a small rock bar inside a feeder creek and work the first of the incoming tide. Low tide fell at 2.20pm, so the first of the run up was due to arrive about 3.15pm.

Everything was looking good except for the sky. Now your scruffy scribe has experienced quite a few storms on Darwin Harbour over the years and while they can be frightening, they usually only last a short time and the flash and bang component usually passes fairly quickly. I have to admit if there's one thing that scares



Mrs Mullet Vicki Davies with a nice 58cm barra caught at the weekend

the living bejeezus out of the Mullet, and that is lightning and that storm last Sunday had some very serious sparks associated with it.

And those sparks were quite simply too close for comfort with three massive bolts smacking the deck only a matter of a couple of hundred metres from the boat. Now there are some serious physics involved with lightning and the fact that a boat is the highest metal object, particularly in an exposed situation.

While we were inside a creek, the low stage of the tide dictated we still remained very exposed and very vulnerable to a lightning strike. As the storm intensified it became apparent this was not going to be one of those 15-minute flash, bang-and-fizzle jobs but instead one of those fairly rare big super cells. It didn't

disappoint. As it intensified, I almost made the decision to beach the boat on the mud and have us all get out and lie down in the mud. From where I was sitting there was a far greater chance of getting fried by a big heaven sent spark than by being taken by a crocodile. Thankfully it backed off and we were able to make a quick but rather scary run back to Channel Island. A timely reminder that while the build up and associated light shows that nature puts on can be spectacular to say the least, the element of risk remains for those of us who like to ply our piscatorial trade in the many nooks and crannies of the northern estuaries. But then again, if I have to leave the planet early, I'd much rather do it being fried by a god spark than being hit by a bus.

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DARWIN HARBOUR TIDES

WED OCT 19	THU OCT 20	FRI OCT 21	SAT OCT 22	SUN OCT 23	MON OCT 24	TUES OCT 25	WED OCT 26
0334 3.23	0432 3.58	0601 3.76	0059 5.54	0225 5.74	0329 6.12	0418 6.53	0458 6.88
0855 5.53	0936 5.09	1101 4.67	0755 3.53	0917 2.94	1009 2.21	1055 1.48	1136 0.82
1604 2.28	1700 2.70	1819 3.00	1335 4.69	1514 5.32	1614 6.08	1706 6.79	1755 7.37
2238 5.95	2339 5.65		1959 3.01	2124 2.74	2223 2.40	2313 2.11	2355 1.93

Full Moon Last Quarter New Moon First Quarter

Mozzie Alert High warning this week

Midge Alert High warning this week



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