

City design captures spirit of NT

By CONOR BYRNE

HOUSE designs for the planned city of Weddell have emerged.

Tropo Architects won first prize and \$50,000 in the urban design competition to design five neighbourhoods and a community centre.

They also won joint-first prize in the tropical design category — with Build Up Design. They won \$25,000 each.

The city will be designed to house 50,000 people.

Two members of the Tropo team — Greg McNamara and Lena Yali — were killed when an airport fire truck travelling to a Wishart Rd fire collided with them.

Mate Kevin Taylor also died in the crash. They were inspecting the Weddell site as part of the competition when the accident happened.

Architect Phil Harris was the only survivor and accepted the award on Monday.

“Greg and Lena very much had the spirit of the place — so they’re a constant reminder in our decision making along the way,” he told *NT News*.

Planning Minister Gerry McCarthy said the designs are based on what Territorians said they want in the new city.

“The judging panel determined there was one standout entry for the urban design competition from Tropo Architects with an entry that has captured the spirit of Darwin’s landscape and culture,” he said.



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“The winners of the tropical housing design competition have also given us a series of housing design options that deliver energy and water efficiency, and affordable housing styles.”

Kart Projects with MORQ won third place and \$12,000.

The judges included developer June D’Rozario — who is involved in building a controversial abattoir in Livingstone.

Urban design entrants developed a design concept for a new town based on “sustainability principles” around five neighbourhoods.

It included many housing types including affordable housing with transport links, parklands and a central activity district or community centre.

In the tropical design category, entrants developed housing designs for energy and water efficiency in appropriate and affordable housing styles.



Dance duo Sneaky Sound System — back for the Hookers Ball — have visited Darwin a lot in recent times.

Leave inhibitions at the door

By CONOR BYRNE

NUTTALL St in Darwin looks set to be the scene of some serious debauchery this weekend, with dance duo Sneaky Sound System performing at the 25th Hookers Ball.

Organiser Monsoons Bar is erecting an airconditioned bar tent in the side lane off Mitchell St they say will double the 400-person

capacity of the venue — so there will be more room to swing some swingers.

The silver anniversary Hookers Ball on Sunday will be hosted by stars of the cult SBS TV show *Housos* Elle “Shazza” Dawe and Paul “Franky” Fenech. Zoo magazine model Rachel Burr is also rumoured to be a guest.

The R-rated ball starts at 7pm and entry is \$30 for those in costume — and “lots more” for those who are not.

The best dressed will win \$1000. Sneaky Sound System plays on Saturday night.

“It’s always lovely to visit your town,” they say on their website. They’ve already been to Darwin for Bassinthe Grass 2011 and the V8 Supercars in 2010.

Sneaky will be supported by DJ Adrian Zac, Nicko and Tazz from 7pm. Tickets are also \$30 from Monsoons.

Deadline to link seniors with telecom technology

TERRITORY businesses have just days left to sign up for grants to fund workshops in 2012 to help older people grasp the

latest telecoms technology. Telstra’s “connected seniors” grants, of up to \$5000 for community groups and \$50,000 for NT-based groups, are available until Friday. Not-for-profit groups with a primary membership of people

aged over 60 are eligible to apply now at: www.telstraseniors.com.au

Small businesses are also being targeted by Telstra in a drive to increase membership of its cloud-based computing services

which enable data to be stored on Telstra’s network. NT general manager Brian O’Keefe said the technology allowed small businesses to store data in Telstra’s network and lease software to avoid big upfront IT costs.

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