Recognise the great people in our community

Mayoral Matters
Palmerston Mayor
ROBERT MACLEOD

HI folks,

As I have mentioned in previous columns, we are currently seeking nominations for our 2012 Australia Day Awards for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

Citizens of the Year Awards are presented in recognition of outstanding achievement and contribution to our community by citizens and groups.

The awards are a major feature of our Australia Day celebrations and take pride of place as part of our flag raising and citizenship ceremony. Information and nominations for the awards can be found on our website www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

As I won't get a chance again to wish you a Merry Christmas in this forum before it is upon us, may I extend to you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please do not drink and drive and ensure you watch the kids in the pool and keep them out of the drains. I know it's inviting with all the big rains at this time of year but there really are serious dangers lurking.

Also a big thank you to our police, fire, ambulance and emergency service officers on duty over the holiday period, who are looking after our welfare.

While I have your attention, there are some special events over the Christmas and school holidays, brought to you by Palmerston library.

A special Christmas story time is planned for Thursday, December 15, from 10am in the library.

Art classes for all, specialising in silk painting will be held on December 21 and mosaic art on December 22.

Those interested, please book early with the library to avoid disappointment.

Finally, to keep the kids active and amused these January school holidays, why not join them into the Mad Science School Holiday program running from Tuesday, January 3, to Friday, January 27?

Our June school holiday program, The Wicked World Tour, was so popular it booked out early, so call now and book your kids' place in the Mad Science School Holiday Program on 8935 9999.

There has been a lot of rubbish fall off trailers and trucks on the way to the waste transfer site, making the Palmerston area very untidy. Please remember to keep your rubbish covered as you drive to the waste transfer site to help us keep Palmerston clean, green and serene.

Water plants such as lillies add interest to features like ponds

For focal point just add water

Let's Garden
with
JENNY WARD

WATER features are an important part of garden design and is by no means a new concept.

They have been around for many years, in different forms from small shallow containers to large ponds with complementary marginal plants.

Not only are water features an interesting focal point, they also add a sense of tranquillity and coolness especially in tropical gardens.

Even the smallest of gardens will have room to include a water feature that will give years of enjoyment and adding water plants to your container is an added bonus of overall gardening fun.

Waterlilies are one of the most popular choices and fortunately there is a wide range of plants to choose from.

The tiny *nymphoides indica* is one of the smallest varieties and will suit small-to-medium water holders.

In larger garden ponds they can be used as marginal plantings nearer to the water's edge where their delicate form can be viewed up close.

The decorative yellow lotus, *nelumbo lutea* and the equally gorgeous pink variety *nelumbo nucifera* grow on tall stalks well above the water's level adding special interest.

The choice of your water plants will be determined by the size of your water feature and some will grow more vigorously than other varieties, potentially covering your water surface quickly. Thin out by placing in other water containers or give away to friends.

This will also be necessary if you have fish sharing the same environment.

Almost all water plants will multiply, therefore it is necessary to only obtain one pot.

While lilies are synonymous with water gardens, other types of water plants can be included in your design, e.g., water cannas, papyrus, colocasias (Taro), bulrush, sedge, mangrove ferns, floating ferns and a selection of other aquatic ferns, all adding height and colour. Suitable lower growing species include water lettuce, water cress, duck weed and iris.

Water plants require full sun to fully thrive, however, filtered shade will also produce a healthy plant.

Plant either in direct soil at the bottom of your container or pond, or submerge separately in a potted container.

Ensure the potted soil is heavy enough to stop floating or use gravel to hold it in place.

To find out your options for a selection of available water plants, visit local nurseries, specialist suppliers, go on-line for mail order or source from other avid gardeners.

Slow down and take extra care when driving in Territory's wet conditions

on the beat

With Darwin Traffic Operations Senior Sergeant ANDREW HEATH

THE Territory's road toll continues to climb and if we don't take a minute to slow down, we may add to it ourselves.

Part of what is great about living in the Territory is the long stretches of road that lead out into the great unknown, allowing for adventures.

We also experience hot weather and spectacular thunderstorms. While we are very lucky to have this at our fingertips, there is also a responsibility that comes along with it. When planning a get-away, or even a trip to the shops, you must always remember to drive to the road conditions. Although many of us are long-term residents, there are also a lot of newcomers to the Top End that need to become familiar with driving in wet conditions.

Driving during a Territory storm is an experience unlike almost any other; the skies darken, the wind howls and the clouds begin to rumble before opening up and unleashing.

While these storms can literally come out of the blue, we can all take steps to ensure our own safety.

Before hitting the road, make sure your tyres have adequate tread and that your wiper blades are in working order. Police urge drivers to obey all speed limits on a daily basis; however, in wet weather these limits can become unreliable. Slow down, increase the distance between you and other vehicles, turn your lights on and be patient.

By following these few steps, you can reduce the chance of being involved in a wet weather crash.

Better Health Mitchell Centre and Clinique would like to congratulate Jenny on winning ***Consultant of the Year!***

Jennifer Butterworth has over 30 years experience with Clinique and is extremely passionate about the brand's philosophies regarding its unique allergy tested and 100% fragrance free attributes.

Her role at Better Health Pharmacy Mitchell Centre has given her the ability to reach out to a market of men and women within Darwin and surrounding regional areas, and develop long lasting professional and personal relationships with Clinique clients and customers.

Better Health Mitchell Centre would like to congratulate Jenny on her latest accolade at the 2011 State of Excellence awards, where she was awarded the Clinique Consultant of the Year for the states of Queensland and Northern Territory.

Better Health Pharmacies and the staff at our Mitchell Centre store consider it an honour to work with Jenny and hope she will utilise her knowledge and skills at the pharmacy's Clinique counter for many years to come.

Mitchell Centre Better Health Pharmacy

pharmacy better health

The Golf. The desire is in the detail.

With an impressive list of standard features, sophisticated design and German engineering, it's no wonder that from just $25,800* driveaway, the desirable Golf is now even more desirable.

Your Volkswagen Partner
Barramundi Volkswagen
354 Stuart Highway, Winnellie LMVD289
Tel. 08 8946 4752 www.barramundigroup.com.au

1046604

*Driveaway price for Golf 77TSI 6-speed manual. Available at participating dealers while stocks last. Private buyers only

VGR3722/DTEMP