Clinic hooks kids up with true Territory skills

WETTING A LINE: Ray Colley gives Charlotte Reiter, 6, a few casting tips yesterday. Picture: PATRINA MALONE

MORR than 100 children gathered to learn some true Territory skills yesterday as part of the Junior Anglers Education Clinic.

Kids aged six to 14 lined the banks of Sanctuary Lakes at Gunn, Palmerston, yesterday to learn how to tie knots, cast a fishing line and reel in a big fish.

Isabell Luck, 9, said she had also learned safety issues on boats and the best tricks to jig her rod to attract “the real big fish” — skills she was going to pass on to her dad on Father’s Day next Sunday.

“He can learn something from his fisher kids now,” she said. “And instead of having mum spending time with him on Father’s Day, we can give her a day off — she gets sick out on the water anyway — and we take Dad fishing.”

Her brother, Connor, 11, said the day at the lakes had made him “more confident” with reeling and casting.

Palmerston Game and Fishing Club president Lynne Fry said introducing Territory youth to fishing would give them “skills for their future”.

“And hopefully we get some fishing champions for the Territory from it.”

– ANNIE SANSON

Just who is running Mutitjulu?

By ALYSSA BETIS

NEVER mind who’s running the country — there’s still the matter of who’s running Mutitjulu to figure out.

MacDonnell Shire resolved to stick to its guns and pull its services to Mutitjulu, a community near Uluru, on Tuesday.

The Federal Indigenous Affairs Department last week said it could not comment but directed inquiries to the NT Government.

NT Local Government Minister Malarrndirri McCarthy’s office didn’t call back Friday.

Local Government Department said temporary arrangements had been worked out, but was light on detail.

MacDonnell Shire warned in July it would pull out, after claiming Federal Government was responsible for services under a special 99-year lease. It agreed, after discussions, to extend its original July deadline to August 31.

Councillors voted to keep the course at their meeting on August 19. “Council considered its position and identified nothing had been done by Government over the past two months,” minutes read.

Local Government Department’s Pran Kilgarriff, senior executive director of local government and regional services, said a long-term solution had not yet been found.

But she said local residents would not be left bereft of essential services. “(Alternative) arrangements are in place to ensure service provision continues.”

Digger on way home

AUSTRALIAN soldier Lance Corporal Jared MacKinney, killed in Afghanistan last week, has begun his final journey home.

The 28-year-old was shot dead during a three-hour battle with insurgents in the Oruzgan province on Tuesday, denying him the chance to see his unborn son.

Australia soldiers from the 1st Mentoring Task Force have farewelled the fallen soldier with a ramp ceremony at the Tarin Kot base, paying tribute to the fourth trooper killed in a fortnight.

“The Last Post was played as Lance Corporal MacKinney’s casket was taken to the Tarin Kot airport.”