Mount Johns Valley: race starts to create 800 homes

By ERWIN CHILANDA

Alderman Samih Habib says the town council should be the developer of residential land in the Mt Johns Valley, up to 800 blocks, between the golf course and the MacDonnell Ranges.

Meanwhile the native title body, Lhere Artepe, is saying it also wants to develop the land, and seeking the NT Government for the opportunity to do so.

CEO Darcy Pearce says to relinquish native title rights over Mt Johns Valley, Lhere Artepe would seek a deed similar to the one struck at Stirling Heights, on the western edge of the town. That deal – half of the value of the undeveloped land as determined by the Valuer General – would be “a starting point”, says Mr Pearce.

And Planning and Lands Minister Delia Lawrie says: “The NT Government and Lhere Artepe have been in positive negotiations regarding the release of land at Mt Johns.”

Ald Habib says the council should enter into an agreement with Lhere Artepe about the extinguishment of native title, acquire the land from the government, and release it to developers.

That would enable the council to acquire an appropriate supply of land over the next 10 years.

“We cannot afford to wait every six or seven years for 70 blocks to be released,” says Ald Habib.

“We have the town at heart. We are not subject to the political process in Darwin.”

Ald Habib says council development of the land would be an opportunity to make a profit, reducing the need for future rate rises, while ensuring the public gets access to cheaper land after several years of price increases to levels rivaling the private sector.

The proposal came as a surprise to Mayor Daniele Ryan: “I look forward to Ald Habib bringing a solid business plan before the council,” he says.

Mr Pearce says its own ambitions notwithstanding, Lhere Artepe would consider other offers: “We’re always happy to listen,” he says.

Stirling Heights has about 80 blocks.

Half the land was transferred to Lhere Artepe as compensation for the extinguishment of native title over the entire area. Lhere Artepe sold that land, on which subsequently 40 blocks were developed, for $1m.

If that formula is applied to Mt Johns Valley, Lhere Artepe’s demand would be $10m for the extinguishment of native title there.

Mr Pearce says Ald Habib’s proposal seems to be “in conflict with the council’s hopes of gaining town planning powers, or having developers who are appointed to the Development Consent Authority to represent the council”.

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Hire of dog cages must be paid prior to departure. This will take effect from July 1st 2008.

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Please call 8952 4729 for more information.

Alice is sweet but off-beat. Alice on track, but whack.

Alice youth rated their town as mid-way between a functional and dysfunctional community at the Youth Forum organised by Mayor Damien Ryan on Tuesday.

A functional community is characterised by hope, fun, unity, interaction, open access to information, while a dysfunctional community is characterised by fear, uncertainty, isolation, suspicion and problems.

Feedback of the forum, Cordie Boyd of YouthTrax, a division of NT Group Training, says discussion on all topics looked at “the good, the bad and the ugly”.

Some of the things that came up under “good” were big events like the Finke Desert Race, rodeos and BassintheDust.

Crec Fest would have made it onto the list if it were still being held in Alice: the young people wanted to know what had happened to it.

Crime, vandalism, lack of personal safety came up under “ugly”.

Mr Boyd emphasised that these issues came from the young people. She says she threw away the program at the start of the day and even showed Mt Ryan the door after his introduction: “I told them, ‘It’s up to you’.

Did many of them say they felt personally unsafe?

“No, but broadly they felt safety was an issue.” Employment crunched up under all headings.

There’s an assumption that Alice is a good place for young people to get a job, but not all the young people themselves felt that.

Forty seven attended the forum, from St Philip’s, Anzac, ASHS, the Council Football Academy, Congress, Yipirinya School, Centralian College and some representatives from the Chief Minister’s Round Table.

Mr Boyd will now write a report on the day’s discussions; it will be endorsed by group leaders identified at the forum before it is presented to council.

One early recommendation from the day is that young people have an ongoing advisory capacity for council.

Mr Boyd has already taken this to Mr Ryan.

Mr Ryan hopes the event will be the first of many. He said he was buoyed by the young people’s enthusiasm and sincerity.

“Alice is still a youthful town, one of the best sorts of life,” he said.

“If this could not in any way be construed as a cynical exercise”, he said.

“Any young person thanked me personally for the opportunity to participate.”

Intervention review is rally target

Aerrante woman Janice Turner is putting a new spin on anti-intervention protests: she’s promoting a rally against the review of the Intervention.

Ms Turner says Central and Eastern Arrente people are not represented on the panel. She says it should not include non-indigenous people, but it should include black health workers.

Ms Turner says under the spotlight should come the positives – “more blackfellers going food shopping” – and the negatives – “only the dole paid to drunks and junkies should be quarantined”.

The rally will be opposite the courthouse on Saturday morning.

OLSH students help East Timor

Bats about tats

Sir,- I am a year eleven student at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College. Later this year I find six other fellow members of my grade will be visiting East Timor for our yearly East Timor Immersion.

During our stay in East Timor our task is to complete a certain amount of money to fundraise enough funds to send off. We are attending Colleges in Bacau and painting schools as well as assisting in other projects in order to help them.

During our stay we will also be immersed ourselves into another culture and way of life.

Mr Jones, if we actually had rain in Alice Springs, then our Town Plan will become a water tank.

In their isn't said as rainwater tanks here, they are sold as "fill up your grey water tanks.

Mr Jones, it seems that in the 15 years, you may have noticed that none of the time they are around for about 70km in any direction have any water irreflexive for this reason, the Timor residents don't bother with rainwater tanks.

Mick Gallagher
Alice Springs

Sir,- The complex delination process for the 2008 Alice Springs Town Council budget is complete and the proposals now open for public comment.

Money has been set aside for Public Art, for a period of 15 years, for football.

Following my election as the lone mayoral candidate for the 2006 Town Council elections, a decision was made to have an extension that, although the financial cost of the extension will be far more than the renumeration received.

Over the town council, we have a small number of ratpayers, that are concerned about the area we maintain, along with the pressures of being a ratepayer in the region and this is why the work continues to lobbying the federal government to help us.

As the budget is now available for public comment, I urge residents to look at the budget as a whole and comment on the proposals now open for public comment.

Jane Clark
Alice Springs

Sir,- In response to your article (June 5) "National stamina beyond regional issues." I would like to say a little something about the article.

There is a significant amount of resilience throughout the world. The Alice, Central Australia, Mount Isa, the Regional areas and all combinations on that theme. Of course due to some of the media coverage of the past few years we are either the "rural capital" or more affectionately the "stabling capital" of the Alice Springs.

There are others too, but the beauty of a sparsely populated slogan is that none of them are gospel. We can change them when we want.

The example, last year I swear Alice Springs is going to be the "camel Capital of Australia." Sure, there is a local camel problem but not enough going on a local restaurant last year! Every time I play the "camel" note played with the Alice Springs "Deathbell".

As a consequence of a "boom" in those earnings, the "deathbell" was held in the town square on the days leading up to the "camel" festival. Of course it couldn't be considered a festival without the "deathbell".

With the popularity of camel on the menu, may be we should be putting some undeveloped supermarkets and the making the "deathbell" into the "camel" festival. There may be a profit for our community.

Howard Evans
Opposition Leader

Planning Minister Delia Lawrie was at the June 5 planning forum to announce that the Town Council's request that its nominated representative on the Development Consent Authority be a full-time appointment had been rejected.

She said the council had a "right to express their concerns with the DCA, through their nominated representative on the DCA. But the participation of their nominated representative is advice provided to council on how applications.

I'm saying, let the council have a view on what their nominated representative is advice provided to council on how applications.

Pressure from local government and the community saw the government's proposed powers boosted council's nominated representative on the DCA from one to two (with one alternative), still reduction from the former three.

The other two seats on the authority are already allocated to the council, members who responded to a call for expressions of interest in appointment of alternative are approved by the Planning Minister.

The chairman of the DCA, a person appointed by the government to all divisions. The current chairperson is Peter plumbing, who has been at the planning forum.

President Mal Crowley later in the day told Ms Lawrie that giving Alice Springs a "nominated representative on the DCA will serve us for the next 20 years" would fix all our problems.

"I'm hearing you," said Ms Lawrie, "that's why I'm here."

But at a press conference following the meeting, Ms Lawrie made it clear that the council has no say in the matter.

Alice Springs goes by many monickers. The get names and tags. Many have been used to try and say a little something about the place.

There is The Alice, Central Australia, Mount Isa, the Regional areas and all combinations on that theme. Of course due to some of the media coverage of the past few years we are either the "rural capital" or more affectionately the "stabling capital" of the Alice Springs.

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Howard Evans
Opposition Leader

Alice Springs holds one that cannot be refuted. The "camel Capital of Australia." How many millions of these transactions do it? There's more tattoos in Alice Springs than on a Maori on a tattoo parlour.

If you are one of the unlucky readers this reading column, you are in the minority. From hard working people to tattooed, Alice is full to the brim with people with tattoos.

I know a quite demure and very deceased young woman. A woman of impeccable class. She has it. And I am sure she is an executive of a successful tattoo parlour.

Under the siege of his Zakia suit is an arm full of tattoos.

I'm not about to go on a rant about tattoos. In fact, when done right, tattoos can really be into the mix. On your face you can make comment. And it's not going to be a hassle of me holding me back.

Yet another in the endless

We are the tattoo capital of the world.

And most of you are still

I know people get marked with significant symbols of the world. It could be a beach, an ink. Not even tattooists want to go into the world. Melbourne is whining that they have that claim sewn up. And I'm saying something about the Olympics. Adelaide still who knows what Adelaide says? They generally have their own bowl of frittered coffee. And some people in other parts of the country might be a bit miffed that we can't have more than one capital of Australia or the desert racing capital or the whatever capital.

There is "more than a few places in Australia that call themselves the best capital. A few places that claim the pineapple capital tag. But Alice Springs does hold one that cannot be refuted. The "camel Capital of Australia." How many millions of these transactions do it? There's more tattoos in Alice Springs than on a Maori on a tattoo parlour.

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Yet another in the endless
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Cousin of Desert Park

Are West Macas a poor head turn?
Indigenous contact ‘rich experience’

FROM PAGE 3. (Overleaf) Carl Fry (left).

“A lot of people find the Indigenous contact one of their richest experiences at the park. It’s a need people have and we try to meet it,” he says.

Apart from their own programs the park also hosts programs offered by the NPY Women’s Council: a one-hour experience with Tiŋがあり basket weavers or a richer, four-to-five-hour experience of sitting down with the women over billy tea.

Desert in the Park — displaying and selling work from Aboriginal centres — is now a twice yearly feature, the last one drew a crowd of more than 900 and returned $50,000 to the art centres (that’s $5 per visitor).

Nature observation experiences have also been expanded, with the introduction of early morning bird tours and evening mammal/bush tours.

The intention is to have a rich palette of activities celebrating Central Australia’s biodiversity, history and contemporary life.

“The region can be interpreted at different levels,” says Mr Fry.

“We can’t doll it up and do what we do and who we are to a couple of snapshot or a few links made to commercial tourist attractions.

Mr Fry compares the presence of a lot of competing attractions in Alice Springs and the presence of the Desert Park is one, competing car yards that cater to have a place in certain areas of the city.

Alice Springs is enhanced by a large number of tourist attractions and the interactions enhance one another.

“We work with each other through Tourism NT and TCA,” he says.

“Likewise with parks and reserves, which are a separate division of the same department (NRETA) that oversees the Desert Park.

“The Desert Park is funded separately and managed separately from parks.”

Yet nobody seems to know if or how consistently these links are made.

In some displays at the Park, people are given a “fieldbook” of the various birds — visitors are pointed to where they can see things in the wild, but this advice doesn’t jump out at you.

And, not unexpectedly given that the park is a government-funded and operated entity, there don’t seem to be any links made to commercial tourist attractions.

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Northern Territory Redistribution

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA Election Act

REGISTRATION DECLARATION NOTICE

The Augmented Redistribution Committee, under section 147 of the Electoral Act 2004, declares:

(a) the Territory is redistributed into Divisions;

(b) the name of each division is specified in the table below;

(c) the boundaries of each division are shown on the compiled plan maps as detailed in the table below.

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Maps showing the redistribution and the accompanying report are available at www.ntec.nt.gov.au or for inspection, without fee, at the following locations:

NT Electoral Commission
Level 2, AJNT Building
79 - 81 Smith Street
DARWIN 800

NT Electoral Commission
Suite 4, Leichhardt Building
Leichhardt Building
ALICE SPRINGS 870

Office of the Surveyor-General
3 Floor, NHAB House
71 Smith Street
DARWIN 800

Complimentary copies of the report of the Augmented Redistribution Committee are also available from Northern Territory Electoral Commission offices.

Further information is available at www.ntec.nt.gov.au or contact the Redistribution Secretariat on telephone 8999 5617.

Adelaide Digital Hearing

On behalf of Adelaide Digital Hearing Solutions, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

My name is Jackie Yarrow and I am a fully qualified and government accredited audiologist. I carry out hearing tests and evaluations, selection, fitting and maintenance of hearing instruments as well as hearing reports.

In 1997 I undertook a Post Graduate Diploma in Audiology from the University of Queensland. Following graduation I relocated from Brisbane to Darwin to complete my Audiology career. The position involved the provision of Audiological services to rural and remote aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory and Northern Western Australia.

I moved to Adelaide in 2000 to undertake a Paediatric Audiology position which involved the assessment and rehabilitation of children and babies. I remained in this position for three years and following this I shifted focus to work primarily with adult clients. I joined Adelaide Digital Hearing Solutions in April, 2007 and have since been employed with them and service Alice Springs on a regular basis.

Knowing the local district well, I am looking forward to providing our clients with more accessible Audiological services by being available on a regular and permanent basis in the heart of Australia.
U-mine under looking glass

By KIERAN FINNANE

Alice residents urged the Town Council to "listen to both sides of the argument" on the issue of a uranium mine opening up 25 kms south of the town, 25 kms south of the town, 25 kms south of the town, 25 kms south of the town, 25 kms south of the town, 25 kms south of the town.

The council was scheduled to receive a delegation from Cameco, who together with Paddle, have been given the go-ahead by the Northern Territory Government to apply for a mining lease over the Angela-Pamela deposit.

Resident Donna Cross, "born and bred" local, said it was "cutting for council to be receiving the Cameco delegation when they had refused to discuss a motion from Greens alderman Jane Clark to support the recomendations of a recent public meeting on the issue.

Aid John Rankey, chairing the Technical Services committee meeting, said all aldermen are gathering information as individuals. The issue has not yet to be discussed and debated by the council as a whole.

Ms Cross suggested that the Cameco-deputation would put a "positive spin" on the issue, and that people "on both sides of the argument," she said.

Aid Murray Stewart said he had received hundreds of pages from the "environmental side", which he is endeavouring to read.

He said council has also had a private break-fast meeting with a geologist (perhaps he meant Dr Gavin Mudd, a civil engineering lecturer at Monash University in Melbourne, see Alice News, May 8), presenting environmental concerns.

He said council was endeavouring to meet with people "on both sides of the issue.

He applauded Cameco for "their transparency" in attending a private meeting of council.

Mayor Gavin Mudd said council will be meeting with a delegation from the Central Land Council later this week. "We're still learning," he said.

Aid Rankey asked aldermen if they were aware that there was no legal requirement for companies carrying out minerals exploration to "abide by land management issues on pastoral leases".

Aid Clark added that exploration "is not just about mining", it involves drilling and is "quite invasive".

Cameco's "positive spin" on the incident had been carried out, said Ms Parks.

U-mine under looking glass

The Alice Springs News would like to appologise for the print quality on page 7 in last week's edition. It was due to a printing error.

Every piece of information that we receive from members of the public today could prove to be invaluable in keeping Australia safe from terrorism tomorrow. It is often the details that make the biggest difference. So if you see or hear something that just doesn't feel right, please call the National Security Hotline and keep the information flowing.

National Security. Every detail helps.
australia.gov.au/nationalsecurity

Advertisement
US wide open for Centre art

By KIERAN FINNANE

Mainstream North America represents an "amazing untapped market" for Australian Aboriginal art.

So says Peter Molloy, whose gallery in La Jolla, California, specialising in Central and Western Desert Aboriginal art, opened three years ago.

In the first year it sold 400 paintings and has grown by about 50% each year since, yet still only some 80% of the business effort goes into education, he says.

There are a few important collections of Aboriginal art in the US—including that of the Kelton Foundation in Santa Monica, California, and the Kluge-Ruhe at the University of Virginia—but the mainstream North American market "has yet to actively embrace this art".

His gallery has participated in all the major North American art shows—the New York and Toronto Art Expos, Art Chicago and its satellite shows, Art Basel in Miami, the Armory Show in New York.

It was the only gallery specialising in Central and Western Desert art to do so.

The sales justified the investment of time and money, says Mr Molloy, but more importantly his participation contributed to a greater exposure of these markets to Australian Aboriginal art.

He says many people who come into his California gallery "love the art", but making a significant investment in it is difficult when the art is so unfamiliar to them.

However, broadly there is a growing interest in "cultural-based" art—African, African-American and Australian Aboriginal—and his gallery manager, Katie Helfinger, says the narrative content of much Australian Aboriginal art gives it an advantage.

Molloy Gallery's range goes from small $200 paintings up to collectable works at $30,000, but Mr Molloy says increasingly their focus will be at the higher end—investment and museum quality work.

"It takes the same effort to sell one $20,000 painting as to sell many $200 paintings," he says.

He positions the Aboriginal art he sells as "contemporary fine art".

He describes art from Arnhemland and the Tiwi Islands as tending to be "much more ethnographic": "I can't build a sustainable business on that in the US, where the demand is for contemporary fine art."

Mr Molloy and Ms Helfinger took part in a recent tour of 20 art centres, in the desert and the Top End, organised by Austrade and the NT Government.

The sixth of its kind but only the second to involve US collectors, academics and dealers, the tour was designed to help the local art industry increase profile and sales in the multi-billion dollar US art market.

Australia's Ted Newman, based in Los Angeles, says "the simple maths" made the tour a success: his guestimates sales at between $250,000 and $300,000.

"That vastly clears the investment of $40,000 to $50,000." And he expects further sales to be made, worth tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, as a result of relationships developed during the tour.

A similar tour last year returned $50,000 in sales—"an eleven-fold return on investment".

Mr Molloy describes his own purchases as "modest" but he has taken home images to reflect on and he is likely to buy more.

Previously he has made visits to nearly all his purchases through dealers in Alice Springs.

"The value of this trip is in being able to build relationships with art centres beyond Alice, so they will be of benefit to Aboriginal artists." Mr Newman says the tour was designed to take buyers to the source—the art centres, mostly on remote communities.

In Alice Springs the tour also visited Tangentyere Artists and Papunya Tula and there was free time for people "to connect with relationships they already had".

Mr Molloy visited the Aboriginal Desert Art, Mbuyuau and Gondwana Galleries.

Mr Newman says there was no pressure that he observed for tour members to not visit private dealers, but the ethics of the market was a constant subject of discussion.

"Says Mr Newman: "I don't believe in a 'binary world'—everything is not black or white, good or bad."

"The art trade are certainly some rotten dealers, and some are wonderful, with the vast majority of relationships they already had." Mr Newman says there was no pressure that he observed for tour members to not visit private dealers, but the ethics of the market was a constant subject of discussion.

"Says Mr Newman: "I don't believe in a 'binary world'—everything is not black or white, good or bad."

"The art trade are certainly some rotten dealers, and some are wonderful, with the vast majority of relationships they already had."
Batchelor’s plans under a mantle of ‘cultural safety’

By ERWIN CHILANDA

As the Batchelor Institute prepares to move to the Desert Peoples’ Centre — part of the Desert Knowledge complex south of Alice Springs — it is also taking steps to turn itself into a university.

This expanded role will see a change to its policy of taking enrolments on the basis of race — possibly the only university in the western world to do so.

The 34-year-old, $40m a year educational facility, operating in more than 100 locations, will maintain a policy of not bringing non-Indigenous students into programs that are running off-campus, if a community wants to have a mixed group studying with us, then that’s fine, with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together.

University status would apparently position Batchelor well for getting non-government funding for research, and some projects are already underway.

Prof Herbert says the relocation of the facility to outside the country will be a disadvantage.

She says the $30m Desert Peoples’ Centre, a joint venture with the Centre for Appropriate Technology, will be “custom built, custom designed”.

“I’m talking now as an Aboriginal person — there is a sense of place, of belonging, simply because of the location. “People look out into the country. "That gives a very strong sense of reassurance of identity for Indigenous people. "In terms of cultural safety I think that those aspects of engaging in education will be very strong in that particular location,” says Prof Herbert whose title indicates “positioning ourselves in terms of our academic structures, including titles from the university structure”.

The institute went through a major shake-up three years ago. On March 23, 2005 the Alice News reported chairwoman Rosalie Kunoth Munks as saying the institute would place greater demands on its students, emphasising English and maths, and become a bridge to the “dominant culture.”

She said the institute needs to become more “efficient and get closer to our [Indigenous] core client group.”

“As the Batchelor Institute prepares to move to the Desert Peoples’ Centre — part of the Desert Knowledge complex south of Alice Springs — it is also taking steps to turn itself into a university. This expanded role will see a change to its policy of taking enrolments on the basis of race — possibly the only university in the western world to do so. The 34-year-old, $40m a year educational facility, operating in more than 100 locations, will maintain a policy of not bringing non-Indigenous students into programs that are running off-campus, if a community wants to have a mixed group studying with us, then that’s fine, with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together. University status would apparently position Batchelor well for getting non-government funding for research, and some projects are already underway. Prof Herbert says the relocation of the facility to outside the country will be a disadvantage. She says the $30m Desert Peoples’ Centre, a joint venture with the Centre for Appropriate Technology, will be “custom built, custom designed.” “I’m talking now as an Aboriginal person — there is a sense of place, of belonging, simply because of the location. “People look out into the country. "That gives a very strong sense of reassurance of identity for Indigenous people. "In terms of cultural safety I think that those aspects of engaging in education will be very strong in that particular location,” says Prof Herbert whose title indicates “positioning ourselves in terms of our academic structures, including titles from the university structure”.

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After Melbourne gigs, The Moxie launch EP

The Moxie sing about a tough world — the Alice Springs kind of tough, rather than their experience of young men and women losing their innocence.

Their debut CD to be launched Friday at The Lane is titled Behave Yourself, but instead of an admission that how you behave is not obvious...

"People aren't who you think they are all the time — everybody is supposed to conform but no one really does," says drummer Jack Talbot, reflecting on the lyrics of "Red Heads", penned by the band's singer, Tom Snowdon.

"It's about a girl whose father is a cross-dresser by night. It's a crowd favourite, says Talbot, one that a lot of listeners in Alice will remember, but he's been "under the knife" in production, together with the three other familiar songs on the EP.

A new song, "Guess in the Sky", is about "people standing over you, putting a gun to your head, forcing you to act the way society wants you to."

Production was done in town at Huge Sound Studios — "the place where we all go", who used to work as a drum technician.

"He got the best from all our riffs, stuff that they didn't need to by distribution companies to appear at the Alice Desert Festival, the Darwin Festival and at the closing ceremony of the Masters Games.

At the launch The Moxie is supported by Leon Spurling and his band and old friend Eddie Alexander, who lives now in Melbourne where he performs in an acoustic duo known as Southerly (but on Friday he'll be going solo)." - R. Finnan

Like a ride on a decommissioned see-saw

Pop Virtuoso with CAMERON BUCKLEY

Everybody's favourite split personality disorder is having a conversation with himself about The Incredible Hulk.

Dr Jeffy: It's great how this film kicks off at a concert. We had protagonist Bruce Banner (Ed Norton, Fight Club, American History X) in exile following a laboratory mishap. He quests to find a cure for the raging beast that resides within him, threatening to surface if his heart beat reaches a certain level.

Mr Hyde: This movie was a spectacular, over-budgeted disappointment. How can director Louis Leterrier of the Transporter franchise fail to utilize the casting skills at his disposal. Tim Roth spends the bulk of the film acting as though he was entirely in a different movie.

Liv Tyler looks like a extra walking about the set with a Liv mask on. Sad.

Dr Jeffy: I have to agree with myself. Although I did appreciate the cameo appearance from Robert Downey Jr.

Mr Hyde: Ahb, yes... The Avengers. Will this be the next instalment in the Marvel avalanche of late? Occasionally filmmakers get right the recreation of superheroes on the silver screen, but it is a dramatic miss here.

Dr Jeffy: The CGI and action sequences are directed and choreographed well and most scenes involving the green man become engrossing.

Mr Hyde: Yes, I rather buy your give a lemon a new paint job, and that still doesn't make it a Rolls Royce.

Dr Jeffy: What? Mr Hyde: Forget it. Dr Jeffy: I do appreciate these conversations with myself. I'm assured of intelligent conversation and witty banter. What's your final verdict?

Mr Hyde: With no real soundtrack to mention, a plot that rides like a decommissioned see-saw, and acting talent squandered on effortless dialogue? And the picturesque scenes found in the favellas of Brazil do little to make me want to sit through this again.

Dr Jeffy: 43/1000.
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**Fix**

By KIERAN FINNANE

"Don't worry about audiograms, assume every­body has an issue." That's the message to teachers going to work in remote community schools in the Territory — assuming that your students will have some hearing loss, says hearing advisory teacher, Dick Sheehan, member of the Hearing Team in Student Services in Alice Springs.

In the past three years staff on the team have gone from four to nine, respond­ ing to the Education Department's "new resolve to combat the "debilitating issue of conductive hearing loss", says Mr Sheehan.

Even without recent technology that is now be­ ing trialled, there is a lot that teachers can do to improve their students' capacity to hear, he says.

The department ac­ cepts 2004 research by the Menzies School of Health which shows that in remote communities in 2001 91% of children (0-14 years) and in 2003, 86% did not have "normal" ears. But this is a deafness life sentence.

Conductive hearing loss (resulting from Otis Media or middle ear infections) is a fluctuating condition. Audiograms of the same child taken at three month intervals are likely to show different levels of hearing each time.

Building into the school program an intensive routine of "breath-blow-cough" and treatment with "ear ii's" can significantly reduce hearing levels.

A class at Ntaria (Her­ mansburg) School, in which students needed hearing aids, has recently trialled a routine over three months: at the end of that time the students had achieved normal hearing.

The "breath" part means doing some physical ac­ tivity to get respiration and body temperatures up. This causes mucous to flow in the Eustachian tubes (the canals between the middle ear and the pharynx), which is where the "blow" and "cough" come in.

But mucous can also clear through the ears, mak­ ing them infection-pro­ ove, and infections can result in burst eardrums. This is why the ears need to be cleaned with the "cups" — cones of tissue — and then hands washed and tables cleaned.

If this is done regu­ larly enough, keeping the ear dry and infection prove, performances in the con­ cussion can heal quite well, says Mr Sheehan.

The problem then di­ minishes at around the ages of 11 and 15, when the Ei­ stachian tubes, which then have been flat, grow down, giving better drainage.

"Teachers in all schools have long been aware of this and have practised "breath­ blow-cough" but has there's a case study that says yes, if it's intensive, it really works, says Mr Sheehan.

For simple classroom strategies involve decreasing ambient noise, for in­ stance by putting stoppers on the legs of tables and chairs and carpets on floor, and avoiding the through movement of rugs in re­ set-up.

Students with conduc­ tive hearing loss need to be within 1.2 metres of the teacher and the teacher needs to be at their level. Many of the affected students get through every­ day life using sign.

Mr Sheehan say­ ing should be used as a training tool. "You can quickly use the signed alphabet for language learning." And "multi-sensory ap­ proaches, using vocal, choral, rhythm and rhyme— can't be under-estimated.

"Don't you need to be a trained music teacher to do this — $50 spent at the ABC Shop will give you three weeks' worth of learning.

There are great exam­ ples of teachers in school doing these things." But there is no research developed technology to boost students' chances even further and it's being trialled in four Central Aus­ tralian schools.

This is infra-red am­ plification in sound field systems.

Formerly FM sound field systems amplified all sounds in the room, so stu­ dents were really no bet­ ter off.

The infra-red system, costing around $2500, am­ plifies only the human voice.

"It is more expensive for the systems need to be installed in "advantageous classroom en­ vironment", explains Mr Sheehan.

"A number of acoustic treatments works, six systems were installed — four at Ntaria School, one at Watiyawanu (Mt Liebig) and one at Haasts Bluff — plus a further two in the Top End. The acoustic treatment involves reducing ambient noise, for exam­ ple, replacing evaporative air condi­ tioning with split system air conditioners (at a cost of $25 decibels)."

"Non-education noise" from students also needs to be eliminated.

And critically, reverberation needs to be elimi­ nated.

Carpets and curtains are a starting point, but it has been discovered that the area in the room above the back of the music instru­ mental, says Mr Sheehan, draw­ ing the work done by Australian colleagues.

"Two thirds of the ceil­ ing working out from the centre needs to be covered with acoustic broad-band il­ ling, and a band around the wall of 1.5 metres from the ceiling also needs to be treated."

Two classrooms, one at AliKatjartjarra and one at Watiyawanu (Mt Liebig) were entirely covered in the tile. But the acoustic did not help, says Mr Sheehan. "It was like stepping into a sound booth."

The acoustic treatment is expensive — about $20,000 for one classroom — and is not necessary.

"It is going to give an acceptable result."

The department allocat­ ed $3.5 million last financial year and again this year to begin treating classrooms in existing schools, with priority being given to 15 schools which have been identified into community partner­ ship agreements with the department.

And the Department of Planning says it has agreed to build new classrooms with new acoustic — "where poss­ ible and subject to budget and tender considerations, constructing new modu­ lar classroom units which are sleek as slabs as opposed to brick and mortar, says Mr Sheehan.

"If we aren't linking children to language by the age of seven or eight, it becomes increasingly difficult for teachers to help back."
By DARCY DAVIS

I went hop scotching through town to find the top notch crop of op shops.

Straight to the Saltbush where I found Claire Bastin.

"Kmart is way more disorganized than any of the op shops," said Claire, nonchalantly.

"They sell really cheap items, why they wanna unify us entirely? No fashion... one fit, that's it.

"I tried to find one thing to buy me a size and nearly cracked the shit, they just didn't have it. "So I bolted down to the Saltbush, got active and interacted with racks quick and found this most nega of style: Tjita Arts kick ass rhin." The two hour show features nine artists of both Spanish and non-Spanish backgrounds – three singers, three dancers, three guitarists – and a double bassist, and musical director Andrew Veivers, recent winner of the Queensland Recording Association's Sunnie Award for Best Album (Folk, Ethnic & Other) and one of Australia's best-known and accomplished Spanish Guitarists.

Combining traditional and contemporary styles, aimed at adults, the show ranges from contemporary dance and heart wrenching traditional songs aimed at adults, the show ranges from contemporary

Two day NAIDOC party at Titjikala

Aboriginal people living in remote communities are invited to Titjikala next week to celebrate NAIDOC week.

Organisers say it will be an opportunity to come together, have fun, discuss and share concerns and also the good news stories.

It's also a great opportunity for young people to showcase their skills and to learn new ones.

Aboriginal people in remote regions have rarely had opportunities to celebrate NAIDOC, organisers say.

People are invited to arrive Monday and leave Thursday.

Celebrations will climax with a battle of the bands on Wednesday night.
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7:00 ABC News / 7:30 ABC News / 8:00 Spanish News / 8:30 Home Shopping / 9:00 ABC News / 9:30 ABC News / 10:00 ABC News

SBS

12:00 Mornings With Kerri-Anne (PG) / 1:30 Days Of Our Lives (PG) / 2:30 Infomercial (PG) / 3:00 New McDonald’s Farm / 6:00 Travel Oz / 6:30 Two And A Half Men (PG s,l)

SEVEN CENTRAL

5:00 Children’s Programs: A Town Called Panic / Storm Futz! / Planet Sketch 7:00 Iggy Arbuckle / Old Tom / Bucket Full Of Dinosaurs 8:00 Seven News At 8:00 

**ABC**

6:00 Children’s Programs: ‘The New Inventors’ / 6:30 Talking Heads: Jeffrey Smart / 12:00 Midday Report / 12:30 Wife Swap USA: Downs / Bailey (PG) - The Downs / 1:30 Movie: ‘The Last Remake Of Beau Geste” (PG) (77) / 2:30 Food Safari: Spanish Safari (PG) [s] / 5:00 Creflo A Dollar / 8:30 Today (s) / 9:00 Air Crash Investigation: Behind Closed Doors (PG) [s]

**NATIONAL**

9:00 Behind The News / Our House / 10:00 At The Movies [s] / 10:30 National Morning News [s] / 11:00 Home Shopping [s]

**SBS**

4:50 WorldWatch - Japanese News (From Japan) / 5:00 Food Safari: Turkish Safari [s] / 6:00 German News / 6:30 Four Corners [s] / 7:00 Hidden Tattoos / 7:30 Search & Rescue (PG) [s] / 8:00 South Park: Death Camp of Tolerance (M) / 8:30 The Unit: Inside Out (M) [s] / 9:00 World News Australia [s] / 9:30 Weatherwatch

**OLSH East Timor Fundraising Lawn Sale**

This Saturday OLSH College, Sadadeen Road, will be holding a Lawn sale.

It will run from 7am till 10am with a BBQ, cake stall, and an assortment of goodies being sold, eg. fridge, couches, kitchen appliances, clothes and sporting goods.

It would be great if people could support this lawn sale and also if people have any donations they can drop off.
Art dealers somewhere between wonderful and rotten

FROM PAGE 7.

by being somewhere in the middle.

"But for us, as government instrumentalities, to choose one dealer over another would be to be making a statement about them and we could find ourselves in murky waters."

There is also the issue of price: buying from source should allow a better margin for re-sellers in the US. Of the desert art centres Mr. Newman says Warlukurlangu Artists at Yuendumu and Kayli Artists at Patjarr were favourites for the group; this was based on the quality of the work available. Making a statement about other would be seen to be a middle.

"Dealers were asking, will markets would like. And work of a kind that their were still make a profit, for re-sellers in the US. should allow a better margin of 15, after dancing her Christmas and New Year's Day, I beg to differ.

"Life isn't that interesting." For an interview about her life, she said, "Why? My life isn't that interesting." I beg to differ.

Mere Rumbal with great granddaughter Charlotte Grace Jeffries.

Mere Rumbal still has the moves

‘With luck my talented students will carry on my legacy and continue to teach dance to people of all ages.’

By EMMA HURLEY

When I first approached Mere Rumbal for an interview about her life, she asked, "Why? My life isn’t that interesting." I beg to differ.

Mere has been teaching dance for 59 years, starting in New Zealand at the age of 15, after dancing herself; she was two and a half.

She studied ballet, tap, character and modern jazz as well as acrobatics and dance acrobatics.

She went on to choreograph various shows in New Zealand and Australia and has served as a dance adjudicator all over New Zealand.

She has taught thousands of students and intends to keep teaching for as long as she can.

"I cannot imagine my life without dance," she said.

A well known identity in Alice Springs, Mere originally came to town because her son, Darran Rumbal, told her of a job vacancy.

She had taught at Central Dance Theatre in New Zealand which she says was "one of the top schools." She had been a few successful students over the years including Gayle-Anne Jones who danced with the Danish Ballet Company and Frankie Snowden who is in her second year with the Victorian College of the Arts.

Mere has also been awarded Life Membership to the British Ballet Organisation.

Performance obviously runs in the Rumbal blood as Mere's four sons have also found success in the entertainment industry.

Darran, who owns Rock City Music, has been an international adjudicator as well as a disc jockey.

Darran's son, Zanerin, who is only nine years of age, was awarded a jazz and ballet scholarship whilst he was on school holidays in Sydney.

Mere observes that dancing has changed over the years, noting new forms such as hip hop and break dancing.

She believes television shows such as ‘Dancing with the Stars’ and ‘So, you think you can dance’ have increased the popularity of dance.

As for Central Dance Theatre, Mere says with luck her talented students will carry on her legacy and continue to teach dance to people of all ages.

She says the ‘tusky stop dancing when she "drops dead".

"Hope that when I'm her age I’ll still be dancing and showing such an amazing outlook on life."

Emma Hurley was a year 10 student from OLSH College, doing work experience with the Alice News last year.

PICTURED at right: Mere Rumbal with great granddaughter Charlotte Grace Jeffries.
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**Special Education Support Officer**

Executive Officer [AEO] 2 ($54,916 - $64,586)

Acacia Hill School - Alice Springs

Quote vacancy number: 29096

Implement instructional programs set by teachers and/or therapists for students with multiple dysfunctional disabilities and provide feedback to enable program evaluation and modification. This vacancy is based on school conditions and remuneration will be 92% of the ACO salary.

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Tennant Creek Primary School - Barkly Region

Quote vacancy number: 18269

Temporary vacancy from 21/07/2009 to 19/08/2009. Provide as part of the school management team, appropriate leadership, planning and development of programs in the area of student support, behaviour management and pastoral care.

**Education Advisor Hearing**

Executive Officer 2 ($57,854)

Student Services - Alice Springs

Quote vacancy number: 18265

Temporary vacancy to 12/12/2009. Provide educational support and assistance to families and school communities, catering for young children and students with a conductional hearing impairment.

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