Sheila takes out Cup number six

By GAVIN KING

MORE than 2000 punters beat the odds and the bookies to win big at yesterday’s Alice Springs Cup.

Master trainer Sheila Arnold scored an incredible sixth Cup win with six-year-old gelding Zylvester.

Owners William Mumford, Tim Taylor and Tom Hamilton celebrated with Queensland rugby league legend Allan Langer, a special guest of Lasseters Casino, after the convincing victory.

They joined hundreds of happy racegoers in an unusually successful day for the punters.

Ms Arnold was overwhelmed by Sylvester’s streaking eight-lengths Cup win.

She said: “This is just a wonderful moment because sometimes he doesn’t run the best of races but today he was at his best and he’s realised his potential.”

Alice Springs Turf Club manager Andrew O’Toole said nearly $630,000 in bets were laid in off-course bets through UniTab during the day.

He said crowds were similar in size to last year.

One group of amateur punters jumped in jubilation when their syndicate won big on the Cup.

WINNER’S CIRCLE . . . Owners Tim Taylor, William Mumford and Tom Hamilton celebrate winning the Alice Springs Cup with top trainer Sheila Arnold and, of course, fastest horse on the course, Zylvester. Picture: CHLOE ERLICH

Don’t miss Bangtail Muster pictures: P4

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Missing: Patrick Doolan

Please: Help find my dad

THE daughter of a 75-year-old man who went missing near Amoonguna eight days ago has pleaded for help to find her father.

Patrick Doolan, known as Paddy — went missing last Monday from Amoonguna, an Aboriginal community on the Road Highway about 28km east of Alice Springs.

His 30-year-old daughter Veronica Doolan said: “We think somebody may have given him a lift into town not realising he had a foot problem.”

She said her dad walks with a limp because of an injury to his left foot.

Ms Doolan said he was last seen wearing a black hat, beard. He was last seen with grey hair and a T-shirt he was wearing from the school grounds at Amoonguna last week.

He is of slim build and was last seen wearing a black shirt and black shorts.

Senior Sergeant Michael Potts said another Aboriginal man was also missing. The man is aged between 70 to 75 and last was seen on Flinders.

He is about 170cm tall with grey hair and a beard. He was last seen wearing white shoes, dark coat, drawers and brown boots.

Mr Doolan was last seen walking towards the school grounds at Amoonguna last week.

He is of slim build with a grey beard and was last seen wearing a black shirt and black shorts.

Treasure Syd Stirling will unveil his fourth Budget in parliament at 11am.

It was unclear yesterday what portion of the funding would be allocated to repair a broken-up road in the hospital to cope with the escalating mental health issues in the region.

The mental health service has included new clinical staff.

Budget highlights for the region included:

$1.6 million for the Anzac Hill and Central Senior Secondary College,
$25.4 million for non-government schools and $21 million for primary and early childhood education.
$1 million to tackle alcohol abuse across the Territory, including Alcohol Court and treatment services,

The promise of more cops on the beat and a special traffic unit as part of a $212 million police package.

CLP leader Jodeen Carney said today’s Budget would be full of promises and political spin.

She said: “There are no new ideas coming out of this Budget. There are lots of reannouncements, such as the funding to recruit 260 police, which was announced five years ago.

“It will be obvious that Mr Stirling has made a decision on the models for middle schools if the Budget contains infrastructure spending on middle schools.”
Rising costs mean our price is going up

THE cover price of the Friday edition of the Centralian Advocate will rise 10 cents to $1.20 from and including the issue of Friday, May 5, 2006.

The cover price of the Tuesday edition of the Centralian Advocate will not change.

Centralian Advocate managing editor Greg Thomson said the rise was designed to help counter steep increases in news print and other production costs incurred by the newspaper.

Bike bust

POLICE caught a 27-year-old man riding an unregistered and uninsured trailbike on Bradshaw Drive about 2.30am on Sunday.

He was charged for drink driving and driving an unregistered and uninsured vehicle.

By CHELSEA ROGERS

CARNATION king Mark Holden won’t be sugar coating it for hundreds of young hopefuls expected to turn out for Australian Idol’s Alice Springs auditions tomorrow.

Renowned for his cutting remarks, Holden said he would rather tell it like it is.

He said: “Really at the end of the day, you need a thick hide to cope in the industry.

“I’m not going to get their hopes up if they’re going to better off being a dental nurse or whatever.”

He once labelled pop singer Anthony Calea as “plastic fantastic”. Calea went on to become one of the world’s top earning singers.

Holden said: “As for plastic fantastic, yeah Dicko and I hung a lot of crap on him, but hey at the end of the day he proved us wrong.”

Singers aged 16 to 30 years-old will sing for celebrity panel singer Marcia Hines, Sydney radio personality Kyle Sandilands and Australian Idol judge Mark Holden.

Auditions

Auditions for Australia’s fourth Australian Idol will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre from 8.30am Wednesday.

Once a young Idol himself, 32-year-old judge said he started off his career in an audition for Mountain in 1974.

He said: “I woke up one day and thought ‘bugger that’, got off my arse and went to the audition. I didn’t win. I didn’t even make the through to the Grand Final. I came fifth with an honourable mention, which is much the same as the Australian Idol’s wild card and someone saw me and gave me a record deal.”

Holden made a name for himself handing out carnations to adoring teenage fans. He now considers this Idol runner up Shannon Noll period of his career to have been “daggy”.

But his hits turned platinum in Australia including Never gonna fall in love again, I wanna make you my lady, Reach out for the one who loves you.

He later penned many songs for overseas artists.

Holden said there would be no mercy for anyone joking around on the day.

But there will be a $500 cash prize for the “biggest dickhead”, he said.

Holden said: “If you’re going to come up and be a dickhead then expect a canning from us.”

Winners at the Alice Springs auditions go to Sydney to compete in the top 10 in Australia.

And then it all goes on from there.

Holden said: “After all not every superstar is born in Melbourne.”

But Holden remained upbeat about reports that every superstar is born in Australia.

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Holden said: “After all not every superstar is born in Melbourne.”

But Holden remained upbeat about reports that this was to be the last Australian Idol series.

He said: “I think it will be the same as John Farnham’s last tour, which was six or seven years ago and he is still going.

“It will be the last Australian Idol only if the audience wants it to be, but I hope it’s Farnham-esc.”
The former plane-boarding staircase truck, owned by John Bridgefoot, stood out at yesterday’s Bangtail Muster — even among fire engines, police pursuit cars and prime movers.

It was used in the parade to carry members of the Totem Youth Theatre group and to promote their next production starting on Friday.

Mr Bridgefoot said: “I bought the truck off the Silver Bullet (Cafe) and I’ve done a fair bit of work on it. It’s so much fun.”

But the experience of flying high was a little bit scary for some people travelling on the staircase.

They had to duck for cover when the vehicle went under a tall tree near Anzac Oval.

The tree’s branches missed the vehicle but hit the staircase near the top, ripping one branch from the tree.

Another impressive vehicle in yesterday’s parade was a prime mover that had been dressed up to look like a crocodile.

It was part of Teppa Hill Pre-school’s parade entry that won best overall float.

Mr Bridgefoot said: “I was a fantastic turn out.

I was initially a little concerned but Alice Springs has got behind this parade for so many years and did so again this year.”

He estimated up to 4000 people watched the parade, an increase on last year.

Mr Melky said Teppa Hill Pre-school was a deserving winner for its crocodile-inspired float that featured a prime mover dressed up as a croc.

Children on the Teppa Hill float wore T-shirts that read: “Crikey it’s a croc. I’ll save it if I can!”
Casino told to cork it over under-age drink rap

By LEE STEHBENS

LASSETERS Casino has been ordered to close two of its bars for 24 hours after it was found guilty of serving alcohol to a 17-year-old girl.

The Territory Licensing Commission found that in December 2005, bar attendants served alcohol to a 16-year-old girl.

Casino told to cork it over under-age drink rap

The commission concluded that while the casino has a good record for cracking down on minors, it was still a very serious offence given national statistics on under-age drinking.

Trading at the Limericks Bar and the Beer Garden will be suspended for three days, one to run from 11am on Friday, May 12, to 11am the following day.

The remaining two days were suspended for 12 months.

In a separate matter, the casino was given a suspended sentence for serving alcohol before 11.30am, which is against community-wide restrictions.

The commission found in August 2005, one bar-tender illegally served beer five times. New staff training and monitoring is in place.

Serving suggestion only

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Centralian Advocate, Tuesday, May 2, 2006 — 5
**Police probe smart cards**

**TERRITORY** Police will be able to access data on the Federal Government’s new $1 billion smart card to help solve crimes.

State and Territory police will have restricted access for general crime investigations.

Intelligence agency ASIO and Australian Federal Police will be allowed routine access to the smart card for national security issues.

Prime Minister John Howard said last week the government would proceed with a $1 billion plan to issue Australians with a health and welfare smart card, but ruled out developing a compulsory national ID scheme.

He wants to introduce the card.

The card would have a highly accurate photograph, with detailed information about the person’s face recorded on a computer chip embedded in the card.

The government wants to introduce the smart card from 2006.

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**Search is on for Finke grid girls.**

**BY STEVE MENZIES**

**MOTORS are revving up for this year’s Tath-erall’s Finke Desert Race in more ways than one.**

With 30 years behind it, the race is looking for a fresh start and a new look.

And the search is on for five new grid girls.

Rachel McRae was a grid girl last year and is back to help recruit and manage this year’s girls.

She said: “I love Finke and I love the atmosphere. The Finke fans are definitely true blue Aussie race fans.”

“Being a grid girl is fantastic and the race is a great Central Austral-alian event that’s de-veloped an interna-tional reputation.”

“I strongly encourage all girls who are inter-ested in modelling and promotional work to think about becoming a grid girl as it gives you the chance to get into nationally circulated magazines like Dirt Ac-tion and Ralph.”

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**Framed nods to rock and roll for foot plan**

**BY GAVIN KING**

**MAYOR Fran Kilgariff has backed calls to forcibly set aside a portion of a parent’s welfare payments for food and education.**

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minis-ter Mal Brough will discuss the plan with Ms Kilgariff in Alice Springs today.

Problem parents would be ordered to direct debit up to 30 per cent of their benefits for house-hold essen-tials and their child’s education.

Ms Kilgariff yesterday described the proposal as a “breath of fresh air” and wanted to hear more details of the plan.

Mr Brough told radio yesterday: “This is not a panacea for all of society’s woes, but it is a very important step which we can undertake now, we have the technology to do it, all we need is the will.”

He was also expected to unveil further details of his plan to close out existing town camps to transform them into open rate-paying suburbs.

Ms Kilgariff said she would discuss the possibility of the 50 towns, providing municipal services to town camps.

She said: “I’ve written twice to ask Mr Brough to speak with me and I’m interested in his proposal about the Centrelink decision.”

“I think that’s a breath of fresh air for someone to be thinking along those lines.”

“I also want to talk about employ-ment and education on remote com-munities to make them more attractive to people for whom to live there.”

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**Finger food, tea/coffee supplied.**

Where: Gumtree Room, Alice Resort, Stott Tc.

A seminar funded under AusIndustry’s Home Based Business Seminar Program.

When: 6:00pm-8:00pm Tuesday May 9th 2006.

Where: Guntrree Room, Alice Resort, Stott Tc.

Finger food, tea/coffee supplied.

Presented by Robert Gerrish, this interactive presentation looks at the importance of referrals and how to generate more. The presentation is targeted at those working on their own - including those working from home. Talking powerfully about your work and using networking as an effective tool in your marketing activity is a key to success. This presentation will help you develop these skills and open doors to added opportunities.

Other specific areas covered include:

The value of a statement that talks powerfully about what you do

The importance of recognising who you should really do business with

How to create a referral virus that will lead to potentially endless new business leads

Presented by Robert Gerrish helps solo professionals and small business owners attract more of what they want. He has over 20 years experience in small business management, marketing and promotion and today supports business owners in Australia, Britain and the US. In addi-tion to presenting workshops and talks, Robert works one-on-one by phone and with groups of franchisees and distributors by conference call.

In 2001, he became only the second coach in Australia & New Zealand to attain the Inter-national Coach Federation credential of Professional Certified Coach. He writes regular columns for My Business magazine and News Ltd. titles; presents tips on 2NSB FM’s ‘Business Break’ and has developed Flying Solo (www.flyingsolo.com.au) an online maga-zine with articles, tips and resources. Today over 11,500 Australian business owners receive Flying Solo’s weekly email newsletter. His first book, a motivational masterpiece with co-author Sam Leader, entitled Flying Solo: How to go it alone in business was published by Allen & Unwin and launched in July 2005.

Program coordinated by Bruce Clifford, Small Business Field Officer for Central Australia & Barkly Region - phone 0427970529 or bruce@becnt.com.au

To register phone the Business Enterprise Centre on 1800 229 500

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**Even if you don’t have any modelling ex-perience, give it a go.**

“It’s great fun and can open the door to a whole new career.”

Finke Desert Race Club president Antony Yorke encouraged young women from the Alice Springs area to apply.

He said: “The girls will bring a blend of beauty, charm and el-egance to Australia’s greatest desert race.”

“We’re looking for five active and friendly girls to join Rachel in having a great time promoting this highly recognised event.”

“All you have to do is fill out an application form, which is available from the Finke office, on the menu board of the Alice Plaza Shopp-ing Centre.”

“The applicants will be short listed, with the final 10 taking part in a ‘grand finale’ show, where the five Grid Girls will be chosen and presented with their eye-catching outfits.”

Applications close on Friday.
Valley girls have bush tale to tell

By GAVIN KING

TOWN camp kids at Hidden Valley can now learn bush tucker stories from an intricate 20-metre mosaic footpath.

Aboriginal women joined forces with West Australian artist Sue Codee to produce the striking mosaic at the Hidden Valley community centre.

Agnes Abbott and Jane Young said the bush tucker mosaic took three weeks of intense work to complete.

The path leads to a three-metre meeting circle adorned with images of bush bananas, wild oranges, passionfruits and bush onions.

Agnes said: “Kids come here and want to learn about bush tucker, so this is a good way to teach them. “We’re very excited and proud of the mosaic.”

Ms Codee said the ladies were incredibly committed to the project, working long hours without breaks.

She believes the mosaic is the only one of its kind and scale in the Territory.

Community centre coordinator Cait Ryan said the mosaic was just one example of the positive aspects of life in a town camp.

Ms Ryan said Hidden Valley residents were committed to addressing alcohol and other problems with a range of programs established.

Escort’s cup role in doubt

By GAVIN KING

ONE of the world’s largest community groups has weighed in on the row about an escort agency’s sponsorship of the Camel Cup.

Cup commentator Chris Tangey resigned from the job in protest at Minnie Made’s sponsorship of a camel.

Organisers the Lions Club vowed to allow the sponsorship despite an edict from its international headquarters in the United States.

Now the national body of community group and co-organisers the Kiwanis Club has directed its local branch to spike the sponsorship.

Kiwanis is the world’s third largest community organisation with more than 300,000 members.

An email from Kiwanis International Australia District governor Geoff Holmes warns that sanctions may be placed on the local branch.

Mr Holmes wrote: “The Kiwanis International District of Australia Incorporated considers any such association between one of its member clubs and a brothel as being unacceptable and contrary to the ethos of the Kiwanis organisation.

“As the result of your (Mr Tangey’s) complaint, The Kiwanis Club of Alice Springs has been advised of the attitude of the Kiwanis District of Australia and has been warned that any such association would be considered conduct unbecoming a member of the Kiwanis family from which various sanctions could flow.

“Kiwanis Club Alice Springs secretary Max Breheny said the group’s decision on the Minnie Made sponsorship would be presented to the Camel Cup committee when it meets on Monday.

Mr Breheny said: “The Camel Cup Committee Incorporated is a separate legally constituted body which is supported by the Kiwanis Club and Lion’s Club along with other interested individuals.

“The Kiwanis Club is an autonomous club and will make a decision based on the member’s wishes, which will be presented to the Camel Cup committee when it meets on Monday.”
Sir, The Sydney Morning Herald reports that John Daly, the chairman of the Northern Land Council (NLC), indicated that education and health are the key factors being sought for indigenous communities in return for the NLC supporting a nuclear waste dump in the Territory (SMH, 8/3/06).

Recently, others have indicated that communities in the NLC areas would receive road, housing and infrastructure upgrades if the NLC allowed radiation waste to be dumped in its back yard.

In short, in exchange for the basic human services that every Australian is already entitled to, nine executives within the NTC are selling away the safety and future of the people that it supposedly represents.

No doubt the dilemma the NLC faces is a thorny one: meet people's basic needs now or allow their land and water to be poisoned for thousands of years.

But there is a way out of this dilemma.

Surpass

I call upon Chief Minister Clare Martin to be consistent with her anti-nuke dump policy and pledge to match or surpass any and all benefits offered to the NLC by the Commonwealth so that a dump will not be built anywhere in the Territory.

Last month, NLC executives were supposedly presented with scientific evidence that storing spent nuclear fuel rods, enshrouded in syn-rock, as sites in the Territory would be safe.

This evidence, however, came from representatives of the old nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights — people who have a vested interest in securing a dump site so that the new reactor can go online.

Also, if a dump for medium-level nuclear waste is on the ground, it will be much easier to turn it into a dump for high-level nuclear waste.

Existing waste should be stored at its Lucas Heights source and the new reactor should not go ahead.

Please, Ms Martin, undermine the Commonwealth's bribes by providing all Territorians the services that they are already legally entitled to.

Penny pinching sends aged blind

Sir, I refer to David Alexander (Centralian Advocate, 18/4/06). David, I had attended many public meetings and there is nothing more frustrating than being told that the people are too busy to sit through meetings that are dominated by governmental sermons.

I was determined to ensure that the Save Our Parks Public hearing being held at the Memo Club was just that, an opportunity for as many Joe Publics to have his or her say as possible.

Notwithstanding that I had been lately startled by the manner in which the Parka and Wildlife spokesman seemed to be dealing the public, I went along.

This public and transparent approach enabled pro-parks givers to be delivered by a person who described himself as a CLC lawyer who masqueraded as private citizen.

Certainly, this citizen was attempting to highlight the truth behind the Multijpu gape money and its welfare dependency outcome.

Can I also make you aware that a volunteer security person confided to me that he didn't go to the door, only to draw out those speakers that they had already decided they were opposed to.

Just for the record, my speech lasted for three minutes and 24 seconds. The Parks and Wildlife spokesman replied close to five minutes.

More than fair, don't you think?

(All) Murray Stewart

Time limits applied to all

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Mental health futility

Sir, I'd like to comment on the futility of the mental-health system in isolated regions such as Alice Springs.

Users of the system seem to be long-term locals while the bulk of the health-system professionals seem to be transient.

Professionals of the system should be adequately trained and briefed on aspects such as isolation, services within the community, mental-health trauma associated with consumers and consumer background information.

In order for mental-health consumers to be able to receive adequate and ongoing treatment within the community, professionals should at least, if not already, be on contracts for the maintenance of reliable care.

Albeit Alice Springs is a mecca for transients.

The system must maintain adequate and up-to-date resources for counter this, including progressive treatment and facilities. I have been through the system as a consumer and know of others in Alice Springs.

Fortunately, I chose the lesser of two evils: to help myself.

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Getting the whole picture

Sir, I would like to acknowledge the contribution the Dig-

ners have made to the evolution of this “lucky” country.

But I feel it really is time to bring balance into the scenario.

The question that I would like to bring to your attention is the recognition of the original people of this land.

The stolen generations are still very much alive and part of this country.

Are we going to wait till they demand their apathy and treat its constitu-

ents with apathy and contempt?

Clarrie O’Roie

Alice Springs

Statue has real potential

Sir, When I read some time ago of the native figure erected at Alice, my reaction was the normal Oh yes, he hum.

But there is a way out of this dilemma.

No doubt the dilemma the NLC faces is a thorny one: meet people's basic needs now or allow their land and water to be poisoned for thousands of years.

But there is a way out of this dilemma.

Many can no longer watch TV or read books and newspapers because of partial blindness.

Some have even felt compelled to permanently abandon Alice Springs for capital cities where their surgical needs will be more humanely regarded.

It is indeed ironic that Labor, once highly esteemed for its humane policies, has now degenerated into the ranks of the other political opportunists and treat its constituents with apathy and contempt.

Ian Towns

Alice Springs

Moral support

Sir, I simply wish to lend support to Chris Tangey's stand over the appropriateness of the Camel Cup (Centralian Advocate, 23/4/06).

It's reassuring to know there are people of Mr Tangey's ilk and standing who represent and subscribe to traditional family values in a society seemingly marching on its merry way to moral decay.

A very meaningful decision Chris Tangey, you have my support.

Breda Bleuel

Larapinta Drive

Sydney Morning Herald reports that John Daly, the chairman of the Northern Land Council (NLC), indicated that education and health were the key factors being sought for indigenous communities in return for the NLC supporting a nuclear waste dump in the Territory (SMH, 8/3/06).

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Family day care faces funding cut

By GAVIN KING

ALICE SPRINGS family day care centres face an uncertain future because of a lack of funding, it was claimed yesterday.

The centres were banking on a boost in next month’s Federal Budget to ensure their survival.

But Alice Springs Family Day Care Centre manager Tracey Guerin fears her service would be hit with a $150,000 funding shortfall in the next financial year.

Family and Community Services Minister Delia Lawrie said she continued to raise extreme concern about the inadequate funding of family day and child care places.

Ms Guerin said: “The Federal Government has changed the way they calculate our child places, which has halved the number of children we can cater for.

“The government expects a lot more from us, the workload is heavier, particularly in administration, but the funding is a little bit less than it was five years ago.”

Ms Guerin said more than 500 people would attend the national family day conference in Alice Springs next month – but many delegates had pulled out because of the funding uncertainty.

She criticised the NT Government for ignoring family day centres and focusing only on child care centres.

Ms Lawrie said the services were the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Ms Lawrie said: “I listen to family day care providers in the same way I listen to child care providers and I take their concerns seriously.

“The Territory Government continues to raise extreme concerns over the Federal Government’s inaction on child care and family day care in the Territory.

“The Federal Government is ignoring the needs of the Northern Territory – particularly in regional and remote areas.

“The Territory Government certainly hopes Canberra considers the needs of the NT and doubles the number of places in Alice Springs.

“I’m seeking a meeting with the Federal Minister, Mal Brough, to discuss my concerns.”

The Federal Budget will be released on May 9.
Pioneers together in Alice

By GAVIN KING

NOEL Coulthard closed a chapter in the history of Kulgera Station by burying his mother’s ashes in the grave of her husband at the Memorial Cemetery earlier this month.

Noel’s father Roy first travelled to Kulgera in 1927 on a camel buggy.

After permanent water was established, Roy’s wife Kath joined him to help run sheep at the station, just north of the South Australian-NT border.

The Coulthard family grew to include five children, with Roy building a homestead from local stone in 1939.

Noel, who was born at Adelaide House in 1936, remembers his mum as a strong-willed and independent woman.

A more substantial homestead was built by Roy and a builder in 1939, and is still used as staff accommodation at the Kulgera Roadhouse.

The family first used the property for sheep grazing, and introduced cattle to its sole line of business by 1940. Despite the isolation, Noel fondly recalls growing up in the bush.

In those formative years the family was entirely self-sufficient, growing their own vegetables and fruit, milking cows, and even making their own soap.

He said: “There’s plenty of memories from growing up at Kulgera, and there were always plenty of things to do because you made your own fun.”

“Mum was very independent and strong-willed, and in the early days she was out at Kulgera for months at a time without seeing another white woman.”

The Coulthards sold Kulgera in 1958 and moved to South Australia.

Noel said: “It was her wish to be buried with Dad so it was good to do that for her.

“We had a service for her at the Flynn Church, and then a brief memorial at the cemetery.

“Most of the family was here for the service, and there were lots of grandkids.”

Noel said his mum was born at Port Pirie in 1906, where her father operated the mail run by horse and buggy.

She met Roy at Farina in the Flinders Rangers, and they married there in 1927.

Donkeys

That year Roy and his mate Bert Kitto took up the pastoral lease at Kulgera, using a team of donkeys to cart their belongings.

In February 1928, Kath travelled by train to Oodnadatta, then by camel buggy to the neighbouring Tieyon Station.

She lived with the Smith family at Tieyon for several months while Roy and Bert built a brush shed to house the family.

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The Coulthards sold Kulgera in 1958 and moved to South Australia.
Don't get old early

Every woman aged 40 and older should have her bone density tested to assess the risk of developing fractures due to osteoporosis.

By Lee Steibens

Buffel grass could be mutating in Central Australia, a new study has found. The results of a Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre-funded study into the introduced species were made public last week.

The research has unearthed genetic differences between buffel grass clones and suggested that the grass is hybridising — that is changing into new strains of buffel grass. This raised serious concerns, according to the report.

The study area included sites near the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, Watarrka National Park and Woodgreen Station, about 108km north-east of Alice Springs.

Pastoralist Rod Cramer said he had suspected the species was changing. "If that's happening, alarm bells should be ringing, if it's happening in so-called pasture grass it's a serious problem," he said.

Mr Cramer said the different varieties of buffel — palatable and unpalatable — were acknowledged for the first time at the meeting.

Mr Cramer said he had seen calves and cows die during a birth from eating unpalatable buffel grass because the cows were not strong enough.

Buffel grass has also been blamed for ruining the habitat of the Wilpena skink, found only in Central Australia. The DKKCRC study, which focused on low density buffel areas, found that the grass did not significantly impact on ground layer plants, ants or birds.

The DKKCRC study focused on buffel areas in the Alice Springs region. The results of their research will be meeting in Alice Springs on Wednesday.

Osteoporosis is a disease of the past. In time, with preventative action and early assessment of risk we hope to see osteoporosis become a disease of the past.
Help with new workplace laws

INDEPENDENT advice on the new industrial relation laws will soon be available from a Northern Territory Workplace Advocate.

The new NT Workplace Advocate position will be created by the Northern Territory Government.

Public Employment Minister Dr Chris Burns said the Federal Government’s “work choice” legislation would strip pay and conditions from Territory workers.

Dr Burns said: “The legislation was rushed through the Australian Senate with the support of the CLP.”

“It removes the independent umpire, the Australian Industrial Relations Commission from the process of setting the minimum wage.

“It removes the right of millions of Australians to protection from unfair dismissal.

“It undoubtedly the biggest attack on Australian workers and their families since Federation.”

Dr Burns said he would make Workplace Advocacy available to all Territorians, both employers and employees.

He said: “For example, a worker who was not sure about the changes in the new workplace laws can contact the Workplace Advocate for assistance.

“Under the previous legislation, an employee had a “disadvantage test,” meaning that the worker would be worse off than a comparable worker in another industry.

“The NT Workplace Advocate will be able to provide this free, independent advice and the worker will be able to make an informed decision as to whether to sign the agreement.”

Gold leading recovery

In good news to investors, gold prices jumped to a 25-year high on Friday.

“The market is likely to bounce higher after gold prices jumped to a 25-year high on Friday,” said Chris Burns.

“The NT Workplace Advocate will be able to provide this free, independent advice and the worker will be able to make an informed decision as to whether to sign the agreement.”

Backing NT business

THE Territory Government’s free Upskill Workshops are backing Territory businesses with the latest skills and techniques to help them run smoothly and profitably.

There is a range of workshops being offered in Alice Springs during May and June.

They offer free practical hands-on information for those already in business.

Payroll Training — 11am to 4pm on Thursday, May 11 at the Alice Springs Resort, 34 Stott Terrace.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and presented by Cheryl Devine of the Territory Construction Association.

Many smaller businesses do not have dedicated payroll staff, often resulting in the functions being undertaken by the office administrator.

Difficulties keeping abreast of changing legislation and legal requirements involve leaving businesses exposed to breaching both Federal and Territory legislation and regulations.

The workshop aims to explain some payroll functions including PAYG — what does this mean, tax file declarations, lump sum terminations, payment summaries — the requirements under the law, and subcontractors versus employees. It requires a few functions.

Register online at www.nt.gov.au/business/upskill or for further information call 8981 0284 or email: tony.bonser@nt.gov.au.

Costing/Quoting for Projects — 5.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursday, June 8 at the Coolibah Room, Alice Springs Resort, 34 Stott Terrace.

Presented by Shane Smith of Stanton Partners.

The aim of the workshop is to assist businesses with a conceptual understanding of the basis for determining costs, preparing quotes and implementing costing and quoting within their organisation.

Participants will learn principles of project costing, determining break-even and profit margins and common quoting mistakes among other things.

Register online at www.nt.gov.au/business/upskill or for further information call 8981 0284 or email: tachais.dberd@nt.gov.au.

Registration is essential for all Upskill Workshops as numbers are limited.

What are your intentions?

ARE your shares increasing in value?

Are you a share trader or are you a long-term investor?

Could you halve your tax bill on future gains?

Is it dependent upon your intentions when you hold the shares?

With the recent strength in the stock market, many share traders and investors are sitting on unrealised profits.

The trading stock provisions of the Tax Act allow you to change the manner in which you hold your shares, i.e. from trading shares to capital (long-term) in nature, while you continue to own them.

In general terms trading stock is held for short-term resale, whereas shares that are capital in nature (fewer than those held for long-term benefit such as growth in value and also dividend returns).

Assume you purchased 10,000 shares in a company in December 2005, as trading stock, for $10 per share. At the time of your purchase, your intention to make a quick profit from resale.

Assume then, in April 2006, the shares are worth $18 each but you are considering now holding the shares as a long-term, dividend yielding investment.

If you sold the shares in April 2006 you will have a tax bill of up to $38,800 (ie profit $80,000 x 48.5 per cent).

If you sold the shares in April 2006 you will have a tax bill of up to $38,800 (ie profit $80,000 x 48.5 per cent).

However, if there had been a genuine change in your intentions with respect to this specific shareholding, and you retain those shares for more than 12 months from that time, you would be entitled to claim the CGT discount upon their sale.

When the shares are sold, you will be entitled to claim a 50 per cent discount on the CGT payable on sale of those shares.

If the value remained unchanged from April 2006 then the tax on the sale would be only $19,400 (being $80,000 x 30 per cent CGT discount x 48.5 per cent).

This exercise applies to shares held in the names of individuals and trusts but not to shares held by a company.

Any decision regarding the purchase or sale of shares should be made in consultation with your accountant or qualified financial planner or stockbroker.

This article is of a general nature only and is not intended to be relied upon as specific professional advice.

Tanya Kirker is the principal of Horwath Alice Springs, chartered accountants and business advisors.

HORWATH
Story of an extraordinary life’s journey

“YOU’RE an extraordinary person living an extraordinary life” – a statement that few could argue with when Australian author Bryce Courtenay takes to the stage with Peter Thompson on Talking Heads on Monday night.

Bryce Courtenay, who began life in a South African orphanage, has become a best-selling author.

Unique style in politics

WHETHER they loved him or hated him, British MP Alan Clark’s vibrant unconventional style sent a blast of fresh air through the stuffy corridors of power.

The Alan Clark Diaries adds a dazzling touch of flamboyant humour to politics in a way only Alan could do.

Forever manoeuvring his way to the top, Alan never fulfilled his ambition to be in the Cabinet.

Yet he was an influential figure in the United Kingdom’s political landscape and a man who, more often than the Government’s despairs, was seen as the public eye.

The three-part series, adapted from Clark’s best-selling and controversial diaries, lays bare the personal and political landmarks of the time with unique wit and candour.

It chronicles Clark’s first lowly ministerial appointment in 1983, through the glorious rises and ignominious falls, scandals and alibis, to his death in 1999.

The second episode on British Clark (John Hurt) revives in his new found status as Margaret Thatcher’s Minister of Trade.

As Clark forges on with his precious anti-fur legislation, personal and political pressures begin to escalate.

Clark finally makes it as he is promoted into the coveted role of Minister of Defence. But his triumph is short-lived when he finds himself again opposing an old rival.

All the while, the political temperature is rising – poll tax riots rage, the Gulf War breaks out and Margaret Thatcher’s iron grip on the Tory party appears to be slipping fast.

Australian entertainment icon Noeline Brown took her final bow on Dancing With The Stars last week.

Noeline, 68, is the oldest celebrity on the program.

Brown was eliminated from the tough competition when she performed her final dances, the viennese Waltz and paso doble, with her professional dance partner Carmelo Pizzino to cheers and loud applause from the studio audience.

The public vote, when combined with the judges ranking from last week, resulted in the dance duo polling lowest of the remaining couples and therefore being eliminated.

Brown said it was an honour to participate in the show.

She said: “I want to thank the producers for asking me to be part of the program, my husband for putting up with the separation during the series, my dog who misses me and I want to especially thank Carmelo Pizzino.”

“I wouldn’t have gotten past episode three without him, he is fantastic.”

“I will never be a dancer, but now I’m an actor who can dance because of him.”

Carmelo was equally full of admiration for his dance partner.

He said: “I can’t explain the feeling performing with Noeline, knowing the hard work she puts into a routine.

“I haven’t performed for many years, and to come back with Noeline Brown – what more of a highlight could one wish for.”

Carmelo is now considering returning to dance full-time.

Part proceeds from Noeline’s phone votes will go to her chosen charity “KU Starting Points” which assists underprivileged children and youngsters with learning disabilities.

Noeline may have been eliminated from Dancing With The Stars, but her dancing days are far from over.

She will now tour regional Queensland in July and August with former Kingswood Country co-star Doug Scroope performing their ballroom dancing stage play Wallflowering, a funny and poignant play about the nature of marriage and the elusive pursuit of happiness.

Champion

Vying for top score in tonight’s competition are Human Nature’s Toby Allen and world boxing champion Kostya Tszyu, both with 62 points out of a possible 80.

Swisse weather presenter Grant Denyer was one point behind with 61 out of 80 points.

The final three celebrities battling for the title are Dancing With The Stars series four champion Toby Allen who remains one of the most popular celebrities, Grant Denyer and Kostya Tszyu.

Tonight another couple will be eliminated leaving two couples to go through to the grand final.

Dancing With The Stars semi-final will be broadcast live tonight at 7pm on Seven Central.
TWO best friends find what they’re looking for in Australian comedy Paper-back Hero, Seven Central’s midday movie at 11.30am.

Australia’s Claudia Karvan and Hugh Jackman star in this fabulous romantic comedy of errors. While they love to hate each other, the two become involved in a sticky situation which leaves them hiding their true identities.

A RECURRING nightmare of being chased through an airport by a vicious wolf becomes a key to saving Medium Allison from a cold-blooded killer.

Allison comes face to face with the killer and when she overhears a murder witness giving a false report to a police sketch artist, she tries to persuade D.A. Devolas that they are looking for the wrong man.

Starring Patricia Arquette and Jake Weber, Medium screens on Imparja at 9.30pm.

AUSTRALIA’S favourite medical-drama House sees Dr. House and Chase in serious hot water at 8.30pm on Imparja.

The two find themselves in a desperate situation after a young mother with stomach pains dies. Months later, Stacy counsels Chase prior to his disciplinary hearing, and must determine whether he made a fatal mistake.

House stars Hugh Laurie and Australia’s Jesse Spencer.

HILARIOUS comedy A Fish Called Wanda is about an upright British barrister who becomes involved with a sexy American con artist screens on Seven Central at 11.30am.

Plans for an ambitious bank robbery start to go wrong when the sexy con artist’s stupid boyfriend gets jealous.

A Fish called Wanda stars John Cleese and Jamie Lee Curtis and also features Kevin Kline and Michael Palin.

AT what point in a marriage is it justified to place your partner in a home and not betray the vow to be together until death do you part?

After 57 years of marriage, Maurice and Mariella Ward face the hard decision in Six Feet Under which is back on Imparja on Wednesday.

When Mr Burns’s favourite car the Stutz Bearcat is wrecked, he gets Homer to travel to Italy to get a new one. But while taking in the sites, the Simpson family have an accident and end up stranded in a small village where a rehabilitated Sideshow Bob is the beloved mayor.

The show stars Australia’s Claudia Karvan and Hugh Jackman, Kathy Bates and Patricia Clarkson.

● Six Feet Under screens on Imparja from tomorrow at 11.30pm.

QUESTIONS are asked and boundaries are pushed in Six Feet Under which is on Imparja at 8pm.

The show’s focus is on the extended Fisher family, whose personal trials and tribulations are played out against the solemn backdrop of a funeral parlor in Los Angeles.

The Fishers return for another season in a moving and poignant portrayal of a family business that will never be short of clientele.

Brenda assures Naile that their upcoming wedding will be “different.” Despite Brenda’s reassurance, Naile struggles to reaffirm his relationship with Brenda while raising his daughter.

David is inspired to be more supportive of Keith’s dreams of starting a family. Though David would prefer to adopt children who are looking for a home, he agrees to continue looking for a surrogate mother to bear their child if that’s what Keith wants.

Claire and Billy, who are happily committed to each other and rarely apart, decide to move in together.

After months of dealing with the consequences of George’s depressive psychosis and electric shock therapy, Ruth is on the brink of mental exhaustion.

Ruth finally reaches her breaking point at the wedding when Claire takes a compromising photograph of George.

To everyone’s shock, an enraged Ruth slaps Claire, accusing her of “trying to make a statement” about Ruth’s choice to marry George before she really got to know him.

Federico meets women through an online dating service, but his overly-high standards prevent him from settling on anyone special.

The show stars Australia’s Rachel Griffiths, Michael C.Hall, Lauren Ambrose, Kathy Bates and Patricia Clarkson.

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AT what point in a marriage is it justified to place your partner in a home and not betray the vow to be together until death do you part?

After 57 years of marriage, Maurice and Mariella Ward face the hard decision in Until Death do them part on SBS at 6pm.

Having suffered a stroke and bowel cancer, Maurice is now almost totally reliant on Mariella.

WHEN Mr Burn’s favourite car the Stutz Bearcat is wrecked, he gets Homer Simpson to travel to Italy to get a new one. But while taking in the sites, the Simpson family have an accident and end up stranded in a small village where a rehabilitated Sideshow Bob is the beloved mayor.

Starring the voices of Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright and Yeardley Smith, this all new episode of The Simpsons is on Imparja at 8.10pm.

A string of bad dates has left Susan (Teri Hatcher) disappointed and doubtful she will ever meet Mr Right.

That is until he turns up in tonight’s Desperate Housewives on Seven Central at 8.30pm.

Gabrielle (Eva Longoria) is shocked, but smells a rat when some old pictures of her turn up on the internet.

Things go haywire in the Scavo household when the children get chicken pox.
Adding life with paint

**Smajo at Alice Springs Painting Service does a professional job whether big or small.**

**SPRUCE up any room or area with a quality paint job from Smajo at Alice Springs Painting Services.**

With more than 20 years of experience in the industry, Smajo offers more than a new coat of paint. He can tackle a wide range of painting jobs from simple repaints for doors and walls to a new look for rooms and business premises.

Smajo has extensive knowledge and experience when it comes to choosing colours to rejuvenate a room or area. Exteriors, interiors, kitchens and living areas can be ‘lifted, refreshed or modernised’ with a new coat of paint.

Giving new life to a room or area does not necessarily mean buying the latest in high-tech gadgets and overall can be less expensive and longer lasting.

Smajo can help with people wanting to update their home or business with fresh colour schemes or those looking to make an area more user-friendly.

The locally-owned-and-operated business also does decorative painting, trims and textures to liven up a feature wall with something other than a picture and much more.

People interested in having their home or business painted while they are away on holidays can meet with Smajo beforehand to discuss colours and details as well as access into the home or business.

Smajo can provide character references for a client’s peace of mind if required.

Obligation-free quotes are available by contacting Alice Springs Painting Services on 0417 897 545.

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No-fuss drain unblocking

**Unblocking sewer or storm-water drains, cleaning graffiti covered walls or oil-stained garage floors is all in a day’s work for the Centre Plumbing team.**

For the past 25 years plumbing and gas fitting professionals Centre Plumbing has used the traditional way of cleaning and clearing pipes.

Now equipped with the advanced technology of a high-pressure cleaning unit, cleaning and clearing small domestic sewer and storm-water drains no longer involves the mess and fuss of traditional cleaning.

The unit has a tree-root cutter and a hot water boiler providing hot water up to 250°C at 6000psi.

It is customer friendly – a small high-pressure hose entering the property reduces the risk of damaging gardens.

The unit also incorporates short or long reach lances, a rotary action scrubber and turbo head.

It also takes care of driveway paving or patio or hard-to-remove fat spills.

Centre Plumbing provides a professional reliable service in town and out bush and are the experts when it comes to plumbing and solar hot water systems.

It also offers a 24-hour emergency service when messy plumbing problems arise.

For more information or an obligation-free quote, phone the team at Centre Plumbing on 893 1784.
Be ready to fire up gas

THE barbecue is a staple part of the traditional Australian backyard so why not go to Alice Gas Repairs for a little bit of extra help.

With the cooler days and nights of autumn upon us, cooking dinner on the patio or under cover is great — but a gas barbecue that won’t fire up is not.

Gas is one of the most efficient ways to cook, heat and cool the home or business and, as an added bonus, gas appliances save money.

When problems arise a quick, reliable gas service is needed and Alice Gas Repairs can help.

Alice Gas Repairs has many years of experience and are the professionals when it comes to gas appliances.

If the gas barbecue fails to fire up or another gas appliance is not working, Alice Gas Repairs is here to help.

Specializing in gas repairs, installation and maintenance, Alice Gas Repairs qualified gas fitters are available to provide commercial and domestic gas repairs and installation.

Alice Gas Repairs owner Paul Glynn said that people can get the most out of their gas appliances by checking connections and hoses are working properly.

Alice Gas Repairs can fix water heaters, stoves, boilers and other gas appliances can all be repaired or maintained by the professional team.

There is also a 24-hour call out service for emergencies.

For more information contact Alice Gas Repairs by phoning 8953 1784.

Complete glass service

ENHANCING the appearance of a home or office without the expense of renovations requires imagination and experience.

Improve the look inside the home or office by designing something unique or use the new range of bi-folding doors at Neata Glass & Aluminium.

There is something that allows those wanting to create something with impact — such as a shower door feature wall or window — to add that personal touch.

Glass blocks are also a hit as feature walls or entertainment areas that add extra appeal and light.

Emergency

Neata Glass also has a 24-hour emergency glass replacement service.

It is the only supplier that stocks Crimsafe screens in Alice Springs.

Crimsafe screens are a more attractive option than the old 7mm mesh screen — and they are made of stainless steel mesh for strength and durability.

If the thought of a security door or screen sounds dull and unattractive think again, as there is a wide range of colours and doors, windows and much more can be powder coated.

Neata Glass & Aluminium provides a vast range of services including bi-folding doors, commercial shop fronts, sliding doors, french doors, mirrors, shower screens, display cases, security doors, and window repairs.

They also supply and make sliding windows, louvre windows, wardrobe doors, table tops, security screens, Crimsafe, polycarbonate and more.

For more details on the products available, visit the showroom at 12 Elder Street or phone 8952 5888.

Neata Glass & Aluminium is the only name to remember when it comes to glass products including security screens and doors.
Effective combination of training and work

THE best way to combine training and employment is with New Apprenticeships.

They combine practical work with structured training and lead to nationally recognised qualifications.

In some cases, New Apprenticeships can begin while still at school.

A New Apprenticeship is also an excellent option for people who want to study and work in their local area.

These days, apprenticeships offer a range of enhanced services to the student and the workplaces.

The Northern Territory continues to provide its existing range of quality services as well as building on these through an innovative range of enhanced services to be implemented in the next three years.

From offices in Darwin and Alice Springs and regional information sites across the NT; it operates a Territory wide support service.

An experienced staff can provide useful information, advice and referrals to help identify the right New Apprenticeship option.

The New Apprenticeships Centre can provide contact details of organisations that may be able to help find a new apprentice or a new apprentice position.

It can also provide contact details for registered training organisations.

Once employment has been confirmed, the New Apprenticeship Centre can register a New Apprenticeship Training Contract on behalf of the NT and Australian Government.

For more information call the New Apprenticeships Centre on 1300 711 176. Visit the Alice Springs office at 19 Hartley Street or website www.nacnt.com.au

Right choice for apprentice

LOOKING for or thinking about a career? Thought about a New Apprenticeship?

Group Training Northern Territory does not just find New Apprenticeships for jobseekers, it actually employs them.

As the largest employer of New Apprenticeships in the Territory, GTNT has a wealth of experience in managing the process from start to finish.

So how does Group Training work?

Put simply, Group Training has two client groups it works with.

One group is people looking for an apprenticeship. It does not just find New Apprenticeships for jobseekers, it actually employs them.

As the largest employer of New Apprenticeships in the Territory, GTNT has a wealth of experience in managing the process from start to finish.

So how does Group Training work?

Put simply, Group Training has two client groups it works with. One group is people looking for an apprenticeship while the other is employers looking for apprentices.

For jobseekers looking for an apprenticeship, contact Group Training and provide a resume with a work history and contactable referees.

In the case of school leavers or those still at school, any work experience reports go a long way to helping Group Training match you with the right apprenticeship.

Many employers looking for an apprentice (who are referred to as host employers) now choose Group Training to find the right person.

Group Training will do any advertising required or will match people for its list, carry out interviews, undertake reference checking and then refer the host employer for final interviews.

Should the host employer select an apprentice through Group Training, that apprentice is actually employed by Group Training for the duration of their apprenticeship.

Group Training pays the apprentice weekly, takes care of all entitlements and ensures that insurance and superannuation are covered.

The host employer pays Group Training fortnightly for all costs and a mentoring fee.

It is that easy, so call Group Training Northern Territory on 8952 5122 in Alice Springs or 8941 2112 in Darwin or check out the website www.gtnt.com.au

Nola and Bruce Hunter of Mastertech Automotive were named Group Trainings Host Employer of the Year at the recent awards night.

Healthy salaries in trade

IN today’s society, tradespeople have the opportunity to earn a healthy living equal to many other industries and jobs.

The modern day apprentice is not the kid that does not perform well at school.

With today’s computerised equipment it is imperative they have the learning capabilities for continuous improvement at both the hands-on level and the administration level.

Australian educational facilities are catering for more of these students and their requirements and are realising that not every student is destined for university.

Apprentices are the country’s future and businesses need to ensure they have a structured training program in place to train them.

The work place should be enjoyable and conducive to encourage and praise them on a job well done.

The Peter Kittle Motor Company currently has 12 apprenticeships in place.

Of the current qualified technicians employed in Alice Springs, 6 completed their full apprenticeships with the Peter Kittle Motor Company.

The Peter Kittle Motor Company is always looking for young and enthusiastic people interested in a career as an apprentice automotive technician.

Other traineeships and careers within the organisation are on offer as well.

Anyone interested in learning about the role can contact the Peter Kittle Motor Company’s service manager for an interview on 8942 5566.
Happy Cup Ball patrons included Eve Pattel, Jackie Files, Sam Blaschek, Letitia Baldwin and Jacinta Durham.

Smiles all round for Amanda O’Brien, Rennie Anderson, Karen Butterfield, Robert Brunsman and Cheryl Lalic at the Cup Ball.

Boys on a night out included Patrick Delilt, Terry Browning, Wayne Lonergan, Brian Cooper and Stan Smith.
Richie’s Open cliffhanger

By ANDREW ALOIA

BUDDING South Wales golfer Richie Gallichan claimed a stunning five-shot victory at the Northern Territory Amateur Golf Open in Alice Springs yesterday.

A spectacular first round of 66, Gallichan was taking aim at the course record of 64.

It never eventuated for the 22-year-old who promised to keep his lead over the weekend, shooting rounds of 72, 73 and 97 yesterday.

While falling short of the prized round of 64, Gallichan took pride in maintaining his lead over the four days of play, shooting a gross total of 278.

He said: “One of my main goals this year was to lead from post to post. I’ve done it now and it was a huge achievement for me.

“I had two off rounds, but I hadn’t enough to run it for me.

“It is disappointing not shooting the course record because I knew I could do it.”

Leading fellow NSW Institute of Sport ace Grant Scott by two shots to start play yesterday, Gallichan was desperate to get back to his best to ensure victory.

An eagle on the 14th finally gave Gallichan a sense of victory.

He said: “I was confident that if I stayed composed I could win.

“There was a lot of pressure and I knew I had to turn my game around.

“Not knowing what to expect before the tournament and I thought I had to turn my game around.”

The former Territory representative helped seal the men’s country crown with victory in the singles over Alice Springs Bowls club ace Syd Strangways.

After missing out on selection last year, Reg was proud to make a winning return for an historic third singles title on home turf.

He said: “I’m absolutely rapt with winning the singles, especially after what happened last year.”

“The Territory representative was upset in Alice Springs Bowl so we all wanted to do our best so I just did my part and I’m very happy about that.”

Reg had not hit all his way over the weekend, going down to Alice Springs in the triples event.

Bruce Nystrum and Vaina Ioane got one back against their bitter Centralian rivals Eddie Brown and Peter Wauger in the pairs.

Nystrum and Inane backed up to help teammates Brew Bushell and Barry Lord to win the fours title against Tennant Creek.

Rosemary Packham, Reg’s wife, was unlucky not to win for Mema in the women’s championship.

The Territory representative was upset in Alice Springs Bowl toppling the women’s champion, but she managed to win her semi-final match to set up a final against Tennant Creek.

Carol Nystrom and Ioane backed up to help teammate Dave Harold to win the men’s championship.

“Packingham return a goode moment

LAWN BOWLS

By ANDREW ALOIA

REG Packham marked his return to the Alice Springs Memorial Bowls team with a resounding Country Championship victory yesterday.

The former Territory representative helped seal the men’s country crown with victory in the singles over Alice Springs Bowls club ace Syd Strangways.

After missing out on selection last year, Reg was proud to make a winning return for an historic third singles title on home turf.

He said: “I’m absolutely rapt with winning the singles, especially after what happened last year.”

“But individual glory means nothing because this is a team event. This is the one time that you can represent your club and win the overall honours in the sport of lawn bowls. We all bowled our guts out for this, I just did my part and I’m very happy about that.”

Reg had not hit all his way over the weekend, going down to Alice Springs in the triples event.

Bruce Nystrum and Vaina Ioane got one back against their bitter Centralian rivals Eddie Brown and Peter Wauger in the pairs.

Nystrum and Inane backed up to help teammates Brew Bushell and Barry Lord to win the fours title against Tennant Creek.

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“Packingham return a goode moment

SPORT

Alice in touch with individual glory

TOUCH FOOTBALL

By ANDREW ALOIA

ALICE Springs touch football aces dominated individual honours to make history at the Northern Territory Titles in Darwin at the weekend.

Rachel Curtain took out labouring to keep best player award with Kelvin Caspani delivering a rare double by taking out the Men’s award.

While both Alice Springs teams failed to crack the Grand Final, finishing short at the semi-final stage, the championships were clearly a resounding success.

Caspani, who took over as captain for the championships, won the prestigious Bubbles Packham Memorial award.

While individual honours rarely take precedence, Caspani humbly declined the award dedicated to a long-time mentor.

Caspani said: “I’ve always said this is something I wanted to win, I just never thought I’d get it this quickly.”

Caspani was in fine form, leading Alice Springs to victory by 6-0 in the quarter finals.

Last year the Tigers claimed a heartbreaking win over Darwin in the same stage in a drop off with scores locked players are taken off the field one by one during extra time to result.

Again the two battled out a tight result in a dramatic drop-off rematch.

Alice Springs took a 3-1 lead through Taumololo scored the try on their first set of Reg Nystrom and Ioane backed up to threaten.

In reply the Tigers managed to put their own on the next set, forcing a golden point play-off which was lost.

Caspani zipped through to earn that special award.

The Alice Springs women also managed to battle through to the semi-final only to fall short, finishing fourth overall.
Young bucks come up trumps

By ANDREW ALOIA

THE Alice Springs Football Academy produced their first upset of the season, trampling Glen Scorpions 5-1 at Ross Park on Sunday.

Still smarting after losing their NT Football Southern Zone Premier League debut game 5-2 to Federal the previous week, ASFA were again expected to be overpowered.

Attacking midfielder Joel Goldring said the win was a welcome early boost after the team’s messy debut.

He said: “This win will do wonders for us.

“From there we are running strong and we were running through a lot easier this week.”

ASFA again shocked their opposition in to life when Declan Porter-Gillick took them ahead in the 15th minute.

The youngsters failed to take control of the game with Scorpions stand-in goalkeeper Steve Constable pulling off a series of fingertip saves.

Glen younger Dominic Norton clawed his team back into the game with a goal in the 11th minute.

Instead of retreating, like they did against Federal, ASFA wrestled the game back through Jerry Shadforth eight minutes later.

Busting striker Pablo Dos Santos sealed the win with two minutes remaining.

In their second Premier League start, ASFA has proven that their promotion means much more to them than development.

Goldring said: “We are not just thinking development. We are here to win games.

“Last week we dropped our head after a goal was scored against us, this time we stayed sharp.”

Federal United has maintained their edge, edging off defending premiers Vikings 2-1.

Steely mid-fielder Adrian McArdle marked his return to United with two goals to seal the club’s first triumph over Vikings.

A sublime corner from Dean Goodger to McArdle, tucking on the back post, broke the deadlock in the 48th minute.

Fed’s domination was reaped after the break with Vikings Neube chipping Ben Griffiths in goal to even up the scores.

Just as the All Blacks pushed forward in search of a winner, Feds capitalised on two Richard Farrell howlers in defence to seal the win.

A rash challenge by Farrell on McArdle in the 80th minute gifted United a penalty and their second goal.

Minutes later Farrell was again caught out in defence, funneling a clearance which Neil Roland latched on to and converted into a rebounding 3-1 win.

Feds boss Joe DeMarco was delighted to produce such a convincing result undermanager.

He said: “We were under the pump with no one on the bench so it was a great result.”

Williscroft eats Alice duo’s dust

By ANDREW ALOIA

CENTRALIAN endurance ace Peter Costello and Caleb Auricht teamed up to beat KTM ace Brad Williscroft in the inaugural Mount Ebenzer four-hour enduro at the weekend.

The Pony Express team hitled the field of 80 to finish a lap clear in 4hrs 24min 42sec.

The pair stormed New South Wales favourite Williscroft, in the prologue to take pole position.

From there Auricht was confident of taking the historic win.

He said: “I went as hard as I could in the prologue because we needed to start first if we wanted to win.

“The Yamaha rider set a wicked pace on the final two hours ahead of Williscroft in 26sec.

Daniel Hayes and Victor Stuhlmann finished second in the Pony Express class.

Luke Forrester led on to finish third overall behind Williscroft-pipping Desert Edge teammate Ryan Bradford for top honours in the intermediate class.

Branford, who had been jostling with Williscroft for seven laps, ran out of fuel 40ms from the end and had to park his bike over the finish line.

With so many fellow Centralians pushing hard on the dirt track, Auricht is predicting a big Flinders showdown come June.

He said: “That’s a big lap out race so the good results is a big thumbs up. I have to give all the guys that went iron man (did the race solo) a big rap because I don’t know if I could have done it myself.

“The only major incident was John Collins breaking his leg on the first lap.


Galadile, 69 minutes; Jack McAlister, 94 minutes; Jack Trennesson, 69 minutes; Luke Hayes, Ted Green; Cameron Keightley.”
Old memory unites wayward Eagles

Skipper hurt in West’s big win

**AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL**

**BY ANDREW ALOIA**

**WEST boss Ian Hodges** will buoy himself trying to shuffle the Bloods’ playing staff after another injury in Saturday’s 66-point win over Rovers.

Skipper Michael Gurney limped off Traeger Park in the fourth quarter following a heavy knock to his left knee.

Jason Rosenthall and Aaron Dick were both confined to the bench with corked thighs.

Despite the setbacks the Bloods could not be stopped, downing the resurgent Blues 18.17 (125) to 9.5 (59).

The extent of Gurney’s injury is unclear but it is sure to keep him out this weekend.

Hodges focused on the mounting injury list, Hodges said in the previous week.

The thing we have to do is maintain that for some time more meaningful.

Smith only hopes the win is a box worth just to get the Bloods into the second half.

Rovers fought back in the third quarter as their midfield muscled up against their more fancied rivals.

Blue’s skipper Matthew Tatten. Glen Swan, Mitch Wooding and Clayton Cruise laboured within three goals of the Blues.

A full quarter印象ively undid Rovers, with Trwin King shown a yellow card for dangerous play.

Blues half-back Brendan Smith said the Blues were always bound to run away with the match against a team still struggling to forge a new identity.

Smith said: “The result shows that we are heading in the right direction.

Wests are the No. 1 team and we are an improving club.”

Smith only hopes the glimpse of solid play in the third quarter can be translated into something much more meaningful.

The thing we have to do now is maintain that for four quarters.”

GET OVER HERE: Rovers’ Beverley Fishook’s efforts in the second quarter produced the 20 minute burst was all the more reason to get Feds through the hard times, Ian Jacob Koshy for the champion.

Pioneer dominated with a four-goal lead in the first quarter.

Rovers stand-in coach Darrell Love made a few inspired moves after the first break to spark a revival.

Pioneer was in freakish form kicking seven goals, with a few ranking worthy of goal of the year consideration, to blitz the Demons.

Pioneer dominated with a four-goal lead in the first quarter.

Rovers stand-in coach Darrell Love made a few inspired moves after the first break to spark a revival.

By ANDREW ALOIA

**PICTURE: JUSTIN SANSON**

**RIONER skipper Don Mallard credits the memory of a lost teammate for sparking the Eagles revival on Saturday.**

The Green and Gold won their first game of 2006 against Federal 24.19 (153) to 8.5 (53) and retained the RJ Hendry Memorial Cup at Traeger Park.

After claiming the inaugural challenge last season, Mallard was proud to see his team again band together for the cause.

He said: “The win was all about brotherhood because that is what we have been missing.

You get teammates but at Pioneer it is about brotherhood.

With the different age groups we need to get that again and we did that with the help from a brother boy that we lost.”

Ironically, the face off that honours a former Demons and Eagles star was lit up by Brenton Forrester who left Peds to join Pioneer this season.

Forrester was in freakish form kicking seven goals, with a few ranking worthy of goal of the year consideration, to blitz the Demons.

Pioneer dominated with a four-goal lead in the first quarter.

Rovers stand-in coach Darrell Love made a few inspired moves after the first break to spark a revival.

Patrick AH Kit, youngsters Jamahi Hayes, Peter Rolfe and stalwart Darrell Ryde led the Demons to within a goal of the Eagles in the second period.

The 20 minute burst was all the more reason to get Feds through the hard times, Ian Jacob Koshy for the champion.

Federals through the hard times, is not drop our heads, we tried to fight on.

“With the different age groups we

The thing we have to do now is maintain that for four quarters.”

Statistics for the Month of May

**WEATHER WATCH**

**BY ANDREW ALOIA**

**TOP End raiders Steve Haskard and Kay Collins dominated the Alice Springs Badminton Open at the YMCA on Saturday.**

Haskard reclaimed his crown for the last year, downing Centralian Jacob Koshy for the Open men’s crown.

The Darwin ace went on to dominate the titles, taking out the men’s doubles with David Smith and mixed doubles with Fields.

Koshy had the unlucky tag of bridesmaid in each final, partnering Haris Daud in the men’s doubles and Mahesh Stewart in the mixed.

**SECOND: Adam Probis.**
Tussle: Giants’ Taryn Notte and West’s Thea Tula Dunkley fight for the ball. Picture: Justin Sanson

Central Advocates, Tuesday, May 2, 2006 — 2

Sundowners Mayfields rediscovers their will to win and ended a five-game losing streak in the Kittles Alice Springs Netball Competition on Saturday.

They beat arval Centralian Federal Bonanni 36-29 after scores were 26-26 at half time, and Federal for the third quarter, with a goal for the NT shooter for the NT.

The game marked the latest in a long line of games they had to win to keep their season alive.

Sundowners lifted and prevented Federal from scoring for the final five minutes.

And Sundowners coach Darrell Willett credits the form reversal to an improved goal defence at top-side with the other teams.

Theo Pabst’s in-form goal defence at top-side with the other teams.

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Theo Pabst’s in-form goal defence at top-side with the other teams.
It’s Zylvester the incredible

Arnold’s faith in gelding brings her sixth Alice Cup

By DENNIS BOOTH and ANDREW ALOIA

TRAINER Sheila Arnold repaid the faith Zylvester’s owners showed in her this year with a stunning victory in yesterday’s XXXX Gold Alice Springs Cup.

It was a training triumph for Arnold who last year battled to convince owners Bill Mumford, Tim Taylor, David Pershouse and Walter Lee that she would win the Alice Springs Cup this year. The horse had disappointed them last year at the Darwin Cup carnival.

But with persistent injury dogging the gelding’s preparations during 2005, she was confident that things would turn around for her home meet.

She said: “We treated a lot of muscle soreness last year and he was right to run.

“Brett Prebble, an international jockey, rode her in Darwin and coming around to the home straight he just faded.

“He (Zylvester) was only right for two or three months so there would have been that thought that he was not right to race even if he was.”

There were no such problems yesterday with Zylvester drawing an inside gate and light weight to contest the blue ribbon event.

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