Banned drinker numbers on the rise

ADDITIONS to the Banned Drinkers Register are picking up pace, the Chief Minister has revealed.

The list of those banned by NT courts from buying take-away alcohol already contained 500 names when it came into force in the Top End on July 1, requiring bottle shop customers to have their IDs scanned. In mid-August, Paul Henderson said there were 800 names on the register, arguing this was proof the system was working. He told an NT Police conference last week the figure had now risen to 1,150, acknowledging their important role in enforcing the legislation.

TROOPS from Darwin’s 1st Brigade were cheered by crowds of onlookers as they paraded through the city on Saturday morning.

Hundreds of well-wishers watched the march, held to celebrate the return of 1,200 soldiers from duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor. The parade also featured the Australian Army Band, armoured vehicles and Digger the riderless horse, who represented fallen soldiers.

“Those young soldiers have proudly served their nation and now have the opportunity to be recognised by their local community for their personal sacrifice,” Commander of 1st Brigade Brigadier Gus McLachlan said.

“Today we say thank you to the Territorians who support us so well.”

There was sadness following Friday night’s memorial service for 2nd Brigade soldiers, Corporal Richard Atkinson and Sapper Jamie Larcombe, killed in Afghanistan while part of Mentoring Task Force 2.

“Today is a very proud day for our soldiers, but it is also a time they will reflect on those who did not come home,” Brigadier McLachlan said.

“Our thoughts go out to the families of those soldiers today, and to all service families who have been touched by war.”

— FERGUS McEWAN

Children wearing ‘welcome home’ t-shirts and waving flags greet 1200 troops from Darwin’s 1st Brigade as they march through the city to celebrate their return from duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor. Picture: Leading Seaman Andrew Dakin

A city welcome

SENIORS Month this year was the “most successful ever”, Minister for Senior Territorians Rob Knight has said. Mr Knight said a record number of older people attended a raft of special events last month, many sponsored by the NT Government. Activities included outrigger canoeing, clay target shooting, day trips, picnics and walks, woodturning, discussion and research groups and swimming and aqua aerobics.

He encouraged everyone aged 60 or over to sign up for a free Seniors Card, at www.health.nt.gov.au.