New air service gets a workout

CareFlight called for two air medivacs in one day

A new helicopter patient transfer system got a thorough workout on the Cox Peninsula last month when two patients were airlifted to the Royal Darwin Hospital after separate emergencies.

Wagait Beach clinic staff called for assistance around 6 pm after a woman reported chest pains.

A CareFlight helicopter landed at the sports ground some 400 m from the clinic soon afterwards.

The patient was transferred to the chopper in the care of the flight nurse and flown direct to the Darwin Hospital.

Less than two hours later, the aircraft and its crew were in the air again, this time to an emergency at Belyuen.

A man was transferred from the Belyuen clinic and airlifted to Royal Darwin Hospital.

Emergency cases previously had to be picked up from the Belyuen airstrip by aerial ambulance, transferred by ferry when available or taken by the local ambulance towards the city to meet with a St John ambulance.

CareFlight utilises helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to transfer patients from isolated locations such as Wagait Beach, as well as from accident scenes and between hospitals.

Its helicopter operations are based in Darwin with fixed wing aircraft operating from Darwin, Katherine and Gove.

PowerWater to give more notice about power cuts – see page 7

Mungalo Native Plant Nursery

Still a chance to get plants into the ground before the dry Yellow flame, Pongamia, Terminalia and peanut trees

Phone 8978 5111 or call into 22 Mungalo Road
Wagait Shire councillor Lil Prouse has resigned.

Her resignation took affect on February 20, the day after the monthly council meeting.

She said it was not because she didn’t enjoy being part of the council but having both parents at meetings with a young son being cared for just wasn’t working.

“There can’t be two of us doing it,” Lil said.

“Family comes first – and there’s probably only room for one Prouse on the council.

“It’s been too difficult having us both on there.

“I’m going to continue with the memorial garden (project), I don’t need to be on the council to do that and I’m happy to do it in my own time.”

Lil said she was concerned that a by-election could be expensive but believed there were other people in the community who could take her place.

And with the suggestion that the council numbers could be reduced (see story page 5), a by-election may not be necessary.

Lil was one of two people who put their hands for the council when it appeared there were insufficient nominations to fill all positions at last year’s election.

“It was an interesting time,” she summed up.

A combination of a sick engine and stormy weather last month saw commuters late for work, one traveller almost banned from the ferry and some very damp passengers.

It all began when the ferry’s port engine developed a fault.

New parts were ordered but as the motor continued to provide power, the service operated normally.

Except for a hiccup the following Monday morning when the ferry was 30 minutes late for the 6 am service after being forced to turn back when the port motor died.

The backup Snubfin vessel was pressed into service but the limited seating caused problems for 6.45 am travellers.

Running repairs returned things to normal until Wednesday when the new parts were fitted and the Snubfin again was pressed into service.

Monsoon conditions made things uncomfortable with driving rain and lumpy seas making the trip a fairly damp experience despite the plastic screens and ponchos provided.

One unhappy traveller, Nick Bland, approached ferry owner Steve Morton, resulting in an exchange that saw Nick banned from the ferry for a month, a decision that was later reversed after Nick apologised.

But people who managed to counter the rain before boarding wound up very damp after the boat trip, especially those who had no protection from the wet seats.

And while the Snubfin is a lot of fun in calm conditions, it is not ideal for use as a ferry in wet weather or choppy conditions, especially for the school students and when embarking and disembarking at Mandorah.

The present two year contract with the option of a further two years was put together quickly after the second preferred tender, SeaCat Ferries, and the NT Government failed to reach agreement on the original eight year tender.

The short-term contract reached with Fast Ferries did not specify the back-up equipment.

Steve said he was looking for a suitable second boat until a larger vessel under construction could be completed.

He is keen to exercise his two year option at the end of the year, but said there needed to be more development on the peninsula before the ferry service could reach its full potential.

“That could be 10 years away,” Steve said.

He was surprised there had been no consultation over the new Cullen Bay pontoon due to be installed next month.

What’s inside …

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Weather watch

Monthly rainfall and temperature

Rain for February .................................................................113 mm
Monthly average ...............................................................426 mm
Rain since October 1 (average 1301) .........................639 mm
Annual average (Oct 1 – Sep 30) .............................1787 mm
Average Wagait Beach rainfall for March ...............361 mm
Expect it to rain on ............................................................10 days
Average min/max temp (Darwin) .............................24.5/31.8°C

Angst over ferry back-up boat

Lil Prouse
Despite some good falls north of Katherine and in the Darwin rural area, the wet still hasn’t made it to Wagait Beach.

January was one of the driest on record and February has turned out the same.

In a normal wet season Wagait Beach would have 1307 mm by the end of February. So far only 639 mm has fallen.

And the outlook? Well, the Darwin Bureau of Meteorology is cautious but not altogether pessimistic.

Climate services manager Joel Lisonbee said the factors responsible for the monsoon could still affect the Territory until the end of April.

“There’s still time and we could see one more burst,” he said.

“The wet season is not over until it’s over – it just takes one low pressure system to change the whole game.”

Joel said while the monsoon had become established over the Top End, the low pressure systems heading down the west coast had become cyclones and dragged much of the weather with them.

“It’s just been bad luck,” he added.

“I’m good at forecasting the weather, but not so good at forecasting bad luck. There’s been a lot of different things going on.”

“The MJO (the system responsible for the monsoon) has stalled so there’s a good chance for another week (that) we could see some monsoon activity.”

He said it was difficult to predict when the next monsoon burst could appear, but it would most likely be early to mid-April.

The bureau’s February 26 weekly climate note blamed tropical cyclone Rusty for pulling most of the monsoon activity towards northern WA, leaving the Top End dry once more.

But it too predicted the MJO would stall over the eastern Australia over the next fortnight.

“This will provide an extended opportunity for convective activity to reignite across northern Australia ... and increased chances of a tropical cyclone forming in the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Coral Sea,” the climate note explained.

“From Friday (March 1) onwards, enhanced rain in a westerly flow is expected to return to far northern Australia.

“So far, the 2012-2013 cyclone season has yielded six tropical cyclones in the Australian region, with a possible seventh brewing close to Cocos Islands.

Australia sees an average of 11 tropical cyclones each season, so its on track for average to below average tropical cyclone activity.

A perfect dry season day – in February

Parks and Wildlife rangers have removed nine crocodiles from Cox Peninsula waterways so far this year.

Senior wildlife ranger Tom Nichols said he wasn’t sure whether it was eight or nine but a later recount took the total to nine.

“We got a nice 3.7 m croc in a half trap at Two-Fella (Creek),” he said.

A half trap is 2.5 m long.

“We’ve got four really big ones (around West Arm and Woods Inlet) and a couple of other smaller ones.

“Three or four of those were in Woods Inlet.”

One of the latest was a 4.3 m estuarine crocodile from the West Arm trap.

Tom said a 4.24 m saltie that had about 50 cm of its tail missing was removed from the same trap in January.

“We caught a record 314 salties last year,” he added.

“With lower than average rainfall this year there is an increased risk of crocodiles moving around in search of food and water to cool off.”

Tom said most Cox Peninsula people were very good about reporting crocodile sightings.

The number to call is 0419 822 859.

Some big crocs in local waters

**A perfect dry season day – in February, as seen by the BoM radar**

**A 4.3 m croc found in a trap in West Arm.**

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local … friendly … convenient
Search for new council boss continues

The shortlist of candidates to replace chief executive Geoff Handicott is down to three.

Geoff resigned in January for family reasons.

Late last month an officer from the Local Government Association was still checking referees.

“We’ll have phone interviews then another round table and make a selection,” Geoff said.

An end to the year-long search for a sports and recreation for the Belyuen and Wagait councils could be in sight.

Although only two of the four short-listed applicants turned up for an interview last month, Geoff seemed hopeful one of the remaining two could be suitable.

“They’re both fairly young ladies,” he said.

“I’ve been talking with (Belyuen chief executive) Cathy (Winsley) about how they’ll fit in.

New caretakers have taken up residence at the Forsyth Road sports ground.

Geoff told the councillors Robyn and Mark Presley had moved to Darwin some 15 months ago and had been acting as caretakers at the Darwin North RSL club at Malak.

“They’ve got references ... so hopefully we’ll see an end to the increasing vandalism we’ve had recently,” he said.

Humpty Doo police have asked the Wagait Shire Council to maintain the Charles Point Road police compound.

The former Larrakia Development Corporation office was leased to the police last year and hasn’t seen a lot of mowing or maintenance ever since.

“It’s a paying job so it will mean more income for the council,” Geoff noted.

The weighty issue of getting the council agenda papers to the seven shire councillors in time for the monthly meeting was the topic of quite some debate.

An Australia Post directive not to handle unstamped mail apparently has stymied the old system of leaving envelopes at the supermarket.

“If we post it, it will be another three days before people get them,” Geoff commented.

A suggestion that council staff could do a home delivery service was not supported.

“It’s not the most effective use of employees’ time,” Shenagh Gamble said.

Matt Prouse agreed and came up with another suggestion.

“I know it’s a radical step but maybe we could email (the material) out and have a few hard copies here for those who can’t be stuffed printing it out,” he said.

Information technology specialist Ian Crawshaw nodded.

“Let’s try this new-fangled email,” he commented without a trace of sarcasm.

Geoff praised councillors and council staff for their efforts during the Australia Day celebrations but was disappointed with the turnout.

“It wasn’t 50 per cent or even 30,” he said.

“I don’t know whether it’s the community or the way we’re doing it.”

Ian did not agree.

“I was speaking with one of the navy blokes and he thought it was one of the best days he’d seen in years,” Ian said.

“He wants to come back next year and do it all properly.”

“Compared with other places we’re punching above our weight,” Matt added.

Everyone agreed that most Wagait Beach children turned up at some stage during the day.

Lil Prouse reported that there was movement on the long-running memorial garden project.

A design sketch has been completed and will be brought to the council once the issue of displaying people’s names is resolved.

Councillors line up for their official photograph at the February meeting.

Lisa-Marie Stones, Ian Crawshaw, Lil Prouse, Matt Prouse, Trish McIntyre, Peter Clee, Shenagh Gamble.

Mandorah Beach Hotel

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Council looks at cutting its numbers from 7 to 5

Numbers on the Wagait Shire Council could be reduced from seven to five following Lil Prouse’s resignation last month.

The council has the option of holding a by-election for the vacant position or attempting to change the number of councillors.

The first is expensive, the second a long and involved process.

Shenagh Gamble proposed changing the number of councillors rather than go to an election.

Former shire president and now councillor Peter Clee believes there are good reasons to reduce the numbers to five.

“We’ve got about 450 people here and seven councillors, it’s out of proportion,” he said.

“Litchfield has five councillors for more than 17,000 people in an area of 3100 sq km.

“Coomalie Shire recently went through the same process and reduced the number of councillors from nine to six.

“A smaller team would be more efficient and possibly reduce costs to the ratepayers.

“Reducing the numbers does not mean we need to get rid of another councillor, that would happen at the next election in 2016.”

Changing the number of councillors is not a simple task.

Normally a by-election must be held within three months of a councillor resigning.

Seeking and getting ministerial approval for a change in numbers takes much longer so the minister must first agree to postponing the election.

There then needs to be a full electoral review into the adequacy of the proposed number of councillors and their ability to properly represent the electorate.

This then goes to the minister.

Cross-culture event back at Wagait Beach

Wagait Beach will host the Mawul Rom project again this year.

The project is based on a traditional Aboriginal ceremony belonging to the Dhu-rili people from east Arnhem Land but has evolved to become an accredited Charles Darwin University course.

Mawul Rom is used as a conflict resolution and healing process to restore relationships between individuals, groups and clans.

It is linked to broader ideals related to mediation, conflict resolution, leadership and decision-making processes, and has been adapted to a cross cultural environment bringing together Aboriginal law and western mediation techniques.

The project is held in eastern Arnhem Land, but cultural issues made this impossible last year.

Wagait Beach sports ground was chosen for the 60 students and many family members.

Wagait Shire chief executive Geoff Handicott said it had been judged a huge success.

“This year will be a bigger event and better planned,” he said. “There’ll be ceremonies at night with the public invited to come and view them.

“We were happy with the way the grounds were left last year in a very good state.”

The dates for this year’s Mawul Rom project will be from July 2 – 17.
No plan when Kenbi gets green light

Comment by Jack Ellis

Despite the possible approval of the Kenbi Land Claim before September this year, there is no movement towards a comprehensive land use plan for the Cox Peninsula.

Instead, it seems the peninsula has been lumped in with the proposed new Darwin regional plan.

The Lands Planning and Environment Department was asked:
- is a Cox Peninsula plan being developed?
- how long does it take to develop such a plan?
- will it be ready if Kenbi is approved before the end of the current federal government’s term?
- when can we expect to have local input?
- what is the usual consultation process for the plan’s development?

A department spokeswoman said that the NT Planning Commission was developing “as a priority” a land use plan for the Darwin region.

“That will include Cox Peninsula, amongst other sub-regions,” she said.

“As this work progresses, the plans will be made available to the public for consultation and feedback.”

She also revealed the new NT Planning Commission held its first meeting last month, and that “these plans are being progressed accordingly”.

The statement did not address the questions asked and “progressed accordingly” seems a rather nebulous time frame.

Why Cox Peninsula is part of the Darwin region plan also is a mystery, particularly when Finniss, which includes Dundee and the area south-west of Bynoe Harbour, has a comprehensive planning and land use document.

So does Batchelor, Mataranka, Borroloola, Lajamanu and Umbakumba among many others.

None of them face the potential development that could occur when the Kenbi claim is finalised.

The 35-year-old claim was all but signed off nearly three years ago but has been delayed since by bureaucracy led by Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin.

With the Gillard Labor Government unlikely to retain power after September this year, there is speculation that the Kenbi sign-off will be announced at the last possible opportunity in an attempt to win back Aboriginal voters who deserted the ALP at the last Territory election.

So the unique agreement that will see part of the land ultimately become Territory freehold once it is developed, could come into affect with no land use objectives, no zoning tables, no industrial, commercial, education or recreation areas identified and no conservation zones.

While many Wagait Beach people may be happy for any development to be delayed as long as possible, the last thing the Cox Peninsula needs is a repeat of the ad hoc, knee-jerk approach that has angered so many residents of Darwin and the nearby rural area.
A recent power cut that affected the entire Cox Peninsula left people at Wagait Beach, Mandorah and Belyuen in the dark for some 30 minutes.

Most complaints about the blackout concerned the Power and Water Corporation’s lack of notice.

“They used to ring and let us know,” Mandorah Beach Hotel licensee Nick di Candilo said.

“We didn’t hear a thing, the first thing we knew the power went off.”

“If they tell us we’ve got time to make a decision whether to turn on the generator. This way we’re just left in the dark.”

Belyuen Store and Wagait Beach Supermarket faced similar problems with the fear of produce spoiling as fridges go off and doubts about how long the outage will last.

And with no power meaning no water for most homes, people did not have the opportunity to fill buckets before the power went off.

PowerWater spokesperson Lorraine Hook said the power cut had been advertised on the corporation’s web site.

“We don’t advertise in the paper these days but it’s on our Twitter page,” she said.

“I will investigate and see if it’s possible to notify someone before the power is turned off.”

A search of the web site under both Wagait Beach and Mandorah failed to produce a result but the locality option also had a Cox Peninsula entry that did provide information about the power cut.

Police are investigating vandalism to a marine life information sign located near the entrance to the Mandorah jetty.

Bins on the jetty also were ripped from their stands and dumped into the sea.

The sign had only been repaired recently after an earlier vandal attack.

The attractive artwork on the sign was the work of Belyuen woman Samantha Singh.

OceanWatch Australia’s Lyn Lambeth said it was too expensive to keep repairing the sign.

“This time an entire panel has been ripped off,” she said.

“I’m left with no option but to remove the whole lot—a damaged sign looks worse than none at all.

“I will look at the cost of relocating it somewhere safer, even if it means somewhere in Darwin like Stokes Hill Wharf.”

The vandalism on the jetty happened on the same night a large party of itinerants who had been drinking heavily became upset after police tipped out alcohol.

Some of the group then responded angrily when they were later refused service at the hotel.

Police would appreciate information from anyone who may have seen the incidents on Feb 22.

For more information or phone (08) 8924 4002.

NT EPA Environment Grants

CALLING FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2013-14 round of Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) grants will open for application from 4 March 2013.

These grants fund on-the-ground actions to help reduce impact on the environment and ensure it is protected for future generations to enjoy.

Individual grants and school grants are included in this round.

The categories are:

- Waste
- Energy
- Water
- Ecosystems

Expressions of Interest for individual grants and full applications for school grants are due 1 April 2013.

Full applications for individual grants are due on are due 20 May 2013.


Recent power cuts at Wagait Beach, Belyuen and Mandorah have left residents in the dark.

The damaged sign.

Marine life sign wrecked again

NT News

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

www.ntepa.nt.gov.au
In an emergency …

**Medical** – duty District Medical Officer 000 or 8922 8888

Wagait Beach Clinic Tues/Thurs 5 pm to 8 pm

**NT HealthDirect** (medical advice) 1800 022 222

**Police** 000, 131 444

**Fire** 89 785 176

**Power and Water** 1800 245 090

**NT Emergency Services** Cox Peninsula 000

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**Who does what at Wagait Beach**

**Accommodation**
- Mandorah Beachside Hotel 8978 5044
- Wagait Beach Bush Retreat 8978 5123

**Airconditioner installation/maintenance**
- Michael Vaughan (MJ Electrical) 0427 180 379
- Colin Dunne 8978 5166

**Belly dancing**
- Christhol Swanson (43 Cox Drive) 0413 199 928

**Block and home maintenance**
- Mark 0427 029 966
- Matelot (Phil) 0412 506 999 or 8978 5372
- Warren 0407 546 273 or 8978 5175

**Builders**
- Peninsula Bldg (Paul) 0428 890 108 or 8978 5488
- Michael Collins (sheds, fencing) 0418 638 170

**Boilermaker**
- Mark (Anything Steel) 0411 230 918 or 8978 5466

**Commissioners for Oaths**
- Peter Clee 0418 894 404
- Linda King 8978 5064
- Rhonda Solien 8978 5241

**Concrete**
- Rick Gosper 0404 656 270

**Earthworks & installations**
- Mick & Donna 419 822 320 or 8978 5034

**Eating out**
- Under the Banyan Tree (Cox Club) 0411 748 386

**Electrical contractor**
- Michael Vaughan (MJ Electrical) 0427 180 379

**Flying lessons (gyrocopter)**
- Max 0418 856 143

**Gas fitting**
- Colin Dunne 8978 5166

**Jewellery**
- Michelle 0428 852082

**Marine Services**
- Irvine Marine – Brad Irvine 0417 871 082

**Meat supplies**
- Matt & Lil (Meat Direct) 0416 942 519

**Minibus (Wagait Wagon)**
- Bookings 0417 002 025

**Native plant nursery**
- Chris and Jack 8978 5111

**Pest control**
- Pest Off – Andi Russell 0488 520 029 8978 5141

**Printing and publishing**
- Wagaitear 0417 089 528 or 8978 5111

**Property conveyancing**
- Naomi Irvine 8981 1086
- Trish McIntyre 8981 6733 or 8978 5237

**Supermarket & hardware**
- Chris, Sue and the team 8978 5008

**Taxi truck and garden centre**
- Mark 0427 029 966

**Water deliveries**
- Mick & Donna 0419 822 320 or 8978 5034
- Mark 0427 029 966

**Welding and metalwork**
- Rick 0404 656 270

**Windows, louvres, doors and fly-screens**
- Peter Wolf 0458 362 197

Who does what is a free service to Cox Peninsula businesses.
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• Tractor and operator $90/hr
Ph 0427 029 966 or text if no answer

The Wagaitear, March 2013 – 9
Your stars

Aries: March 20 – April 20
Birthday month coming up for those born under the sign of the ram. Make the most of it and ignore those comments on the jetty about how old you’re looking. Lucky no 24

Taurus April 21 – May 21
Your stars say it’s a good time for making important financial decisions. Spend an evening at the Mindil Beach chip factory or get a Roscoe lottery share. Lucky no 7

Gemini: May 22 – June 21
There’s a very mixed message in the planets for Geminis. This might be a good month to keep the head down and avoid anything controversial. Lucky no 1

Cancer: June 22 – July 22
Your health will improve when you start all those programs you’ve been promising yourself. Walking to the shop regularly would be an excellent start. Lucky no 18

Leo: July 23 – August 23
There are strange people moving into your future. Have you got relatives visiting from overseas or are people with whom you socialise not all that they seem. Lucky no 11

Virgo: August 24 – September 23
You seem to need more balance in your life. Perhaps the coming change of season is the cause of the problem. Relax by planting some fragrant trees in your garden. Lucky no 15

Libra: September 24 – October 23
Something will happen to you this month that can be taken two ways. Choose very carefully. The wrong decision could see a change of in-laws or living address. Lucky no 8

Scorpio: October 24 - November 22
This is not a good time to start burning your bridges, you may need to recross them later. But if you do cast caution to the winds, remember to get a burn permit and warn the neighbours. Lucky no 4

Sagittarius: November 23 – December 22
The all-seeing crystal shows a long sea voyage coming your way. It could be a cruise or it may be the ferry’s port engine seizing half way across the harbour. Lucky no 9

Capricorn: December 23 – January 20
Remember to keep your feet on the ground even when your head is in the clouds. How’s that for an impeccable piece of deep and meaningful astrological dribble? Lucky no 11

Aquarius: January 21 – February 19
The wet is still missing, the tanks are only half full and the garden is dying. Sounds like a good time to chuck it all in and do a spot of fishing. Lucky no. 19

Pisces: February 20 – March 19
Another year older and feeling cranky? Forget about it – you may be only young once but it is possible to be immature forever. Lucky no 16

Answers to last puzzle

AC TIO N

S E N S I T I V I T Y

S O N I C  B R E A K E R

O T O N A

P H O T O E L E C T R I C

T I T H E

B E L C A N U D

O B T U S E  A F T E R S

N C T O N

P U B L I C S E R V A N T

A O R W W M I

P A N A C E A A N O D E

E C L N R U I

R E E V E  A N D I R O N

Across

1 Acquire by one’s efforts or actions (4)
2 Characterised by speed (5)
3 Veto, in a sense (8)
4 A rare soft silvery metallic element (6)
5 Member of the Nahuatl people (5)
6 Where you might find a collection of books (7)
7 Be dressed in (4)
8 Meeting of heads of government (6)
9 Elaborate (7)
10 Human leg bone (5)
11 Device between a computer and a telephone line (5)
12 Unencumbered by clothing (6)
14 Repeat aloud from memory (6)
15 The most electropositive and alkaline metal (7)
16 What a parent may have to do in a teenager’s room (4,2)
17 Naughtily playful (6)
18 Gabled extension built out from a sloping roof to accommodate a window (6)
19 To this writing or document (6)
20 Expel from a place (5)
21 Print media (5)
22 A thermosetting resin (5)
23 A long narrative poem (4)
24 Coolness and composure under strain (5)
25 Shaped like a woman’s breast (7)
26 Necropolis (8)
27 State when things occur at the same time (4)

Down

1 For a limitless time (8)
2 A N G E V I N T I B I A
3 Characterised by speed (5)
4 tin E I E H T U
5 A R E T H N
6 Member of the Nahuatl people (5)
7 Be dressed in (4)
8 Meeting of heads of government (6)
9 Elaborate (7)
10 Human leg bone (5)
11 Device between a computer and a telephone line (5)
12 Unencumbered by clothing (6)
13 Occurring at intervals (8)
14 Repeat aloud from memory (6)
15 The most electropositive and alkaline metal (7)
16 What a parent may have to do in a teenager’s room (4,2)
17 Naughtily playful (6)
18 Gabled extension built out from a sloping roof to accommodate a window (6)
19 To this writing or document (6)
20 Expel from a place (5)
21 Print media (5)
22 A thermosetting resin (5)
23 A long narrative poem (4)
Kate wins Australia Day student award

Darwin Middle School student Kate Hinchliffe was presented with her Australia Day student citizenship award during the February Wagait Shire Council meeting last month.

Kate and her family were away on holidays during the Wagait Beach Australia Day festivities.

Presenting the award, shire president Trish McIntyre said she was amazed by Kate’s ability to cram in the many activities that earned her the award during her time at Stuart Park Primary School.

Trish read out the long list of Kate’s achievements.

These included:

- Stuart Park Primary School student representative council member,
- Moonta team sports captain at Stuart Park school for 2 years (year 5 and 6), representing the school in athletics (800 m) at regional sports day,
- member of the school choir and the recorder band,
- member of the Darwin Music School band playing saxophone,
- assisting classmates with their schoolwork,
- twice winner of the Chief Minister’s literacy award,
- past winner of the lower primary perpetual award,
- athletics award winner in 2012,
- winner of several personal best awards at the school’s end-of-year presentation day,
- Jump Rope for Heart “Pumpa Jumpas” member,
- member of an Irish dancing troupe,
- singing in the annual “Beat” combined school choir,
- accepted into the Darwin Middle School’s “school of excellence” for mathematics,
- regularly assisting at the school tuck shop,
- one of Stuart Park school’s library monitors helping others during lunch hours,
- winner of the 2013 Australia Day citizenship award for Stuart Park Primary School.

Wagait Beach may be a town without a pool but thanks to the Mandorah Beach Hotel owners and coach Pippa Cox, it now has children’s swimming lessons.

Pippa said she taught swimming when she lived in Canberra and has been giving classes in Darwin.

“It’s something I’ve always loved,” she said.

“I’m just running beginners and intermediate but I’m thinking of splitting it into three groups.”

The new group would be for the more advanced swimmers to learn skills such as stroke and kicking correction.

Pippa was lured across the harbour by one of the Wagait Beach playgroup mums.

“I come over when I’m available and help the kids learn how to swim,” she said.

“I just thought it was a nice thing to do.”

Pippa holds classes from 9.30 to 11 am every third Saturday but is willing to start earlier if more children are keen to learn to swim.

Kate Hinchliffe with her student citizen award and medal. (Left) Shire president Trish McIntyre congratulates Kate.

Pippa Cox teaching her small charges what to do if they ever get into trouble in the water. Everyone can float on their backs once they learn how to do it, she told the children. The experienced swimming teacher is at the pub pool every third Saturday morning.

The Wagaitear, March 2013 – 11
The Cox Peninsula “fuel wars” show no sign of abating. Belyuen Store manager Jeremy Bull dropped the price of unleaded petrol to $1.60 earlier this year, well under the bowser price at Wagait Beach.

He also introduced prepaid fuel cards that provided 24-hour access to the pumps.

The supermarket responded by dropping its price to $1.65.

Wholesale price rises saw it back up to $1.75 a litre the weekend before publication while the store was around $1.68.

One of the applicants for the local sports and rec officer’s job who failed to show up for a scheduled interview would have been very handy to have, given the role is shared between Wagait Beach and Belyuen.

With the missing job seeker on a plane to England at the time of the appointment, he or she obviously thought it was possible to be in two places at once.

Melbourne visitor to Wagait Beach was due to catch an early am flight home and was told the 6 am ferry would be OK.

With just carry on baggage and an online boarding pass, nothing could go wrong, go wrong, go wrong …

But this was the morning the ferry lost an engine leaving Cul len Bay and it was 6.30 before the boat arrived at Mandorah.

Across the harbour and into the car by 6.50 brought a glimmer of hope, as did a rather swift trip to the airport.

The gate was still open and a couple of other passengers were even later as the returnee set some records getting through security and up the escalator.

The problem with the port engine that caused all the problems prompted several people to associate the strange tuk-tuk noise with a different type of vessel.

Those who have travelled on a steam powered paddle-steamer would know it right away.

Maureen Newman from the Cox Country Club is taking part in the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave on March 17 from 4 pm.

Volunteers to either shave or colour their hair are welcome. All money raised funds blood cancer research and free support for sufferers.

It’s possible to help without a haircut, simply donate through http://my.leukaemia foundation.org.au/coxcountryclub

Darwin Harbour tide times March – sponsored by

Cost of Tides: The National Tidal Facility Australia – Flinders University of South Australia.

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