New mural comes up to bat

COMMMUNITY REPORTER
Sarah Rohweder

THE vibrancy of Alice Springs is continuing to evolve with an abundance of community artwork lining the town’s streets, including a recent piece by local artist Matty Day.

The Alice Springs Town Council commissioned the sports mural, which wraps around the walls of TIO Traeger Park, to be completed in the lead-up of the Chairman’s XI cricket match last weekend.

“The individual figures are a dynamic reflection of the sports played within the precinct,” Mr Day said.

Mr Day said the artwork was designed to reflect the sporting events held within the precinct while being visually appealing to the public.

“It was important for me to enliven the wall to make it easily viewed from the street because that is where it will be visible for most onlookers, but at the same time it needed to be visually appealing for walkers and riders passing by for a detailed experience,” he said.

“The individual figures are a dynamic reflection of the sports played within the precinct, and it’s designed to beautify the area in for the cricket event,”

I gave council a brief that presented dynamic sporting images that I wanted to create and they were happy with it, but they also contributed the garden and sand around the mural.

Logged in to fight crime

POLICE REPORTER
Jessica Brown

ELECTRONIC monitoring technology will be introduced in the Northern Territory to track offenders’ movements and help reduce crime.

The monitoring device, which is about the size of a wristwatch, can be attached to an offender and swiftly alert correctional services via an alarm system when they are in an unauthorised location.

NT Department of Correctional Services Commissioner Ken Middelfield said most offenders conform to given orders while they are wearing EM technology but it is not for everyone.

“A generally useful tool (but) I have to stress EM is only a tool that allows a great level of supervision and monitoring,” Mr Middelfield said.

“This is not a solution for everyone, there will always be people that need to be incarcerated.”

Mr Middelfield said EM technology is effective for a range of offences including disregarding curfews and domestic violence orders, and each offender has their own specific identifier, eliminating confusion.

He said the challenge is keeping up with rapidly changing technology despite other states and countries already utilising EM systems.

“This is not something that’s new, it’s been around for a number of years,” he said.

“We will be rolling out the use of the technology (in the NT) over the next few months.”

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said the technology also reduces imprisonment costs by getting offenders out of prison beds and back into the community under constant surveillance.

“Tracking technology can cost as little as $45 per person per day compared to more than $200 to keep an offender in a Northern Territory prison,” he said. “Prisoners requiring additional surveillance may no longer be confined to a prison cell and instead work and contribute to the community.”

Poor planning said to derail jobs plan

THE Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) is in a “disaster” according to Indigenous Affairs Minister Senator Nigel Scullion.

He said the RJCP was poorly designed and badly implemented by the former government.

“People aren’t turning up for work and are returning to alcohol,” Mr Scullion said.

“That’s why I’m acting quickly to remove people before it is too late.”

He said the design and implementation of RJCP was “a bunching of Labor” with the late announcement of providers, confusion over the funding model, and a “one-size fits all” approach that did not consider the differences between regions.

The Government will immediately re-open access to the Indigenous Employment Programme and using the Community Development Fund to assist providers in running rewarding activities.

The $1.5 billion RJCP started on July 1 in 60 remote regions across Australia.

Sacred sites board sack threat denied

COMMUNITY Services Minister Bess Price denied the NT Government wanted to dismantle the organisation responsible for the management of Aboriginal sacred sites, after telling Parliament a review has “got nothing to do with me.”

Several sources told the Northern News that Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority board members were told about proposals to remove them from office on Wednesday.

Ms Price said in a statement yesterday the board had been briefed by chief executive Benedict Scambray on proposed changes from a review, but the Government had no plans to sack the board.

“I have no role in the review and am waiting on the report to be provided to me,” she said. “I want to ensure the sacred sites Act places an emphasis on achieving a balance between preservation and enhancement of Aboriginal cultural tradition and the aspirations of all Territorians for their individual economic, cultural and social advancement.”

Discussion Paper and Exposure Draft

Public and Environmental Health Regulations 2014

The Northern Territory Government has released a Discussion Paper and the exposure draft Public and Environmental Health Regulations 2014 which will replace the current, outdated, Public Health Regulations. A copy of these documents may be viewed at: www.nt.gov.au/health

Public Forums will be held in both Darwin and Alice Springs

Alice Springs

Monday 9 December 2013, 2:00pm and 6:30pm
Gumtree Room
Chiffe Alice Springs Resort

Darwin

Wednesday 11 December 2013, 6:30pm
Red Building Room 6.1.03
Charles Darwin University
Ellengowan Drive, Brinkin

For further information and to register your interest in attending a public forum, please call 1800 095 646 or email: envirohealth@nt.gov.au

www.nt.gov.au/health