Firefighter recruits sweat it out for Mitchell Street Mile

Territorians’ strong sense of community spirit will be out in force for the inaugural Mitchell Street Mile, with members of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) to sweat it out in full turn-out gear.

The CBD foot race will be no easy task for the recruit group of 11 men and one woman as they’ll run the route dressed in full firefighter yellows competing in the defence/services
division of Sunday’s mile-long running contest.

October Business Month offers opportunities

October Business Month (OBM) will this year offer more than 130 events right across the Northern Territory.

Barkly educator recognised for early childhood work

Barkly Mobile Preschool Service manager, Doris Johnson, has won an Excellence in Building Inclusion Award at the 2014 HESTA Early Childhood Education and Care Awards.

30,000 milestone reached in effort to stop Banana disease

Banana Freckle Surveillance Inspectors have visited their 30,000th property since they began the surveillance effort in August 2013.

NT Police welcome international counterparts

The Northern Territory Police Force recently welcomed six officers from the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) to Darwin to take part in a co-operative policing program.
Scholarship win for Tourism NT staff member

It's a case of if at first you don't succeed, then try, try, try again.

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Indigenous Marine Ranger training boosts NT Fisheries research

Indigenous Marine Rangers are putting new training to use and assisting scientists by collecting fisheries data in remote and urban NT communities.

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Territory's IT service management champion recognised nationally

Ken Conway, the Director of Information and Technology Service Management for the Department of Corporate Services, has been recognised for outstanding achievement at a national awards ceremony.

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Traineeships create career pathways

In 2013/2014, the Department of Transport employed two business trainees as part of the workforce development strategy to fill Executive Information Coordinator positions in the future.

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Emergency shelter volunteers needed

The Department of Education is seeking volunteers to assist with the management of emergency shelters during cyclones, floods, fires and other natural disasters.

Read more
**Case managers appointed for Remote Home Ownership program**

The Northern Territory Government through its Remote Home Ownership program is offering public housing tenants living in remote communities the option of purchasing the house they live in.

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**Indigenous trainee success**

Nine local Indigenous technical trainees have been welcomed into the Department of Infrastructure.

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**Oi, Oi, Oi for DLPE graduate**

The future is looking bright for Department of Lands, Planning and Environment’s (DLPE) graduate Gordon Yoon after securing his Australian Citizenship today.

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**Social club hits out to build team work**

The Department of Infrastructure (DOI) has a very active Social Club in the Darwin office who work hard towards building morale and encouraging team work across the agency.

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**Red Tape Targeted**

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National Child Protection Week breakfast launch

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Pop-Up Zoo success at Darwin Waterfront

Hundreds of people visited the Darwin Waterfront Pop-up Zoo on 7 September, marking National Threatened Species Day.

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White Ribbon Run

All NTPS staff, families and friends are invited to participate in the inaugural White Ribbon Run.

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Discussing excellence quality and research: NT Renal

Menzies School of Research recently hosted the NT Renal Service Excellence, Quality and Research Session at Royal Darwin Hospital.

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Mines Unit maintaining close watch on old sites

The Department of Mines and Energy’s Legacy Mines Unit continues to reach milestones since its inception last year.

Read more
Night Stalks underway

The first of the annual Parks Night Stalks began in Alice Springs last Friday with many more still to come across the NT.

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eNewsletter Archive
Firefighter recruits Matthew Ryder, Harry Perkins, Steven Eardley, Clayton Bowles, Jay Leeder, and Jenna Clarke in the pump will be running in full kit at this weekend’s Mitchell Street Mile.

Territorians’ strong sense of community spirit will be out in force for the inaugural Mitchell Street Mile, with members of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) to sweat it out in full turn-out gear.

The CBD foot race will be no easy task for the recruit group of 11 men and one woman as they’ll run the route dressed in full firefighter yellows competing in the defence/services division of Sunday’s mile-long running contest.

The recruits decided to run the race dressed in their full gear to showcase the results of 10 weeks of training they have been doing since starting their firefighter careers in July, and also to draw attention to their efforts to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

The Mitchell Street Mile is part of the Festivals NT program of events and will celebrate the energy and vibrancy of Darwin’s entertainment precinct. It’s expected the event will attract hundreds of runners and spectators to the Darwin CBD.
Recruit firefighter Jay Leeder said the firefighters were in a good position to complete the 1.6km (one mile) run in a respectable time, even with the added burden of their turn-out gear.

“Most of our training of late has been with breathing apparatus and full yellows, so we’re used to it, and you need to be very fit to get through the tests and training we do to become firefighters,” he said.

“We’re really keen to be a part of this event so we can show the community another side of the service, and to boost our fundraising efforts.”

Donations to the firefighters’ efforts to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation can be made on the day of the Mitchell Street Mile, where the recruits will be rattling tins.

Races will be run from 3pm to 7pm. For more information and to register, go to www.mitchellstreetmile.com.au.
Business Support Team members Chantelle Salandanan, Renee Yuen, Evey Temple-Bree, Greg Beach, Craig O’Halloran, Sarah Lillecrapp, Mary Watson, and Jade Ritchie have led the way in ensuring the 20th anniversary of October Business Month will be a success.

October Business Month (OBM) will this year offer more than 130 events right across the Northern Territory.

The event, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, continues to provide free and low-cost events throughout October.

The calendar is full of professional development and networking opportunities to help Territorians to grow and prosper.

Events include financial and marketing workshops, public speaking and leadership skills, as well as many inspirational keynote speakers.

This year’s keynotes include Mark Bouris, Michelle Bridges and Peter Blasina.

The Business Support team at the Department of Business have steadily grown OBM from its humble beginnings in 1994
The Pulse - October Business Month offers opportunities with just 12 events to a 130-event Territory-wide business festival.

To view the OBM calendar or to book go to: www.obm.nt.gov.au
Barkly educator recognised for early childhood work

Barkly Mobile Preschool Service manager, Doris Johnson, has won an Excellence in Building Inclusion Award at the 2014 HESTA Early Childhood Education and Care Awards.

Doris was recognised for her leadership, community consultation and continuous support of remote educators, and for boosting inclusion and preschool attendance at the communities of Epenarra, Canteen Creek, Corella Creek and Murray Downs.

She regularly tours Barkly communities to help assistant teachers deliver a daily preschool program for four-year-old children.

“My work is an opportunity to support young children in the region by encouraging their families to become more involved in their child's education,” she said.

“Attendance data shows early signs that our attempts to build inclusion are successful, and feedback from school staff is that our preschool children are more familiar with what's expected of them at school, and that they arrive ready to learn.”

Doris received her award at the Early Childhood Australia National Conference in Melbourne on 6 September.
The Pulse > 30,000 milestone reached in effort to stop Banana disease

30,000 milestone reached in effort to stop Banana disease

Stephanie Boubaris, Olivia Delamere, Caroline McCarthy, Darrel Treanor, Clint Dwyer, Sirri Lane and Robyn Stuart celebrate the 30 000th visit to Top End properties by Banana Freckle Surveillance Inspectors with a BBQ and, appropriately, a banana-themed cake.

Banana Freckle Surveillance Inspectors have visited their 30,000th property since they began the surveillance effort in August 2013.

The Banana Freckle Eradication Program is run from a Control Centre located at DPIF’s Berrimah Research Farm.

Each day teams of Banana Freckle Surveillance Inspectors visit properties in the Top End checking banana plants to determine whether any are infected with banana freckle.

If infected banana plants are detected, the plants are destroyed and the remains deep buried.

Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries' Director of Biosecurity and Product Integrity Dr Andrew Tomkins says while the 30,000 milestone is impressive, there is still a long way to go.

“The response will continue until we are certain that all banana freckle infected plants have been destroyed and the
Territory is free of the fungal disease. However, to sustain the effort requires a lot of trained, dedicated people and we are lucky that staff from interstate primary industry departments have been able to assist us by spending a fortnight working in Darwin as part of the response.

“The Banana Freckle Eradication Project is funded by all states and Territories, the Australian Banana Growers’ Council, Plant Health Australia and the Commonwealth Government. At any time we have workers hired through local employment agencies, The NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and a variety of other interstate agencies.

“Apart from assisting us in getting the job done, working in the response gives them the opportunity to test their emergency response skills in a real setting, so it is valuable in keeping a unique set of skills current,” Andrew said.
Scholarship win for Tourism NT staff member

It's a case of if at first you don't succeed, then try, try, try again.

Tourism NT’s public relations and media executive at the NT Convention Bureau, Becky Hargrove, has won a scholarship from the Association of Australian Convention Bureaux.

Becky has been runner-up for the last two years and another Convention Bureau colleague won it two years ago, demonstrating the calibre of the staff.
Indigenous Marine Ranger training boosts NT Fisheries research

Indigenous Marine Rangers are putting new training to use and assisting scientists by collecting fisheries data in remote and urban NT communities.

Eighteen Rangers from Groote Eylandt, Elcho Island, Nhulunbuy, Borroloola, Maningrida and Darwin recently completed a Certificate II in Sampling and Measurement.

The course is backed by the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and the Department of Business.

“We need to collect samples in remote areas where Indigenous Rangers are placed and they’re sending that data to us in accordance with the training they’ve received,” said DPIF Principal Research Scientist Dr Thor Saunders.
Nhulunbuy Senior Ranger Daryl Lacey said: “We’ll get a better idea of the fish stocks in our communities and ensure that we have the right amount of stocks and that we don’t deplete it, so it’s really good for everyone”.

The program is a facet of the Northern Research Partnership, and includes collaboration with Charles Darwin University, Murdoch University, and the University of Queensland.

It is anticipated Certificate training will be offered to more Rangers.
Ken Conway, the Director of Information and Technology Service Management for the Department of Corporate Services, has been recognised for outstanding achievement at a national awards ceremony.

Ken won the Service Management Champion of the Year award at the IT Service Management Forum Industry Awards held in Melbourne last month.

The national award recognises an individual service management professional who, in the judges’ view, has made a distinguished, outstanding contribution within the Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Service Management industry.

Ken has worked in the NT Government for 35 years and has specialised in the delivery of ICT services and ICT Service Management for 24 years.

He brings with him a Bachelor in Business and Computing.

His inspirational leadership has not only increased the use of IT methodologies and frameworks across the Northern Territory, but has also resulted in significant improvements to the delivery of services within the Territory Government.
In 2013/2014, the Department of Transport employed two business trainees as part of the workforce development strategy to fill Executive Information Coordinator positions in the future.

The business traineeships combine practical, paid employment with structured training that provides nationally recognised qualifications in business administration.

As a retention strategy, human resource services addressed the low trainee salary rates by implementing a procedure of reviewing progression quarterly and based on job performance, study achievements and potential, increasing their salaries by predetermined increments paid as higher duties as percentage of the A01 level salary.
The Department of Education is seeking volunteers to assist with the management of emergency shelters during cyclones, floods, fires and other natural disasters.

Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and learn new skills. Volunteers will be offered free training to help tackle their duties required at the emergency shelter and gain experience in managing people and facilities in different emergency situations.

Volunteer candidates will:

- Have qualities of leadership and resilience, enjoy good health and fitness, and have a strong sense of giving back to the community and helping others, especially in an emergency situation.
- Must be prepared to be on standby during the cyclone season.
- May have first aid qualifications, other volunteering experience and knowledge of emergency management.
- Must be prepared to leave home or accommodation for up to 48 hours (which may include taking partner/family to emergency shelter).
- Have a working with children clearance (Ochre card) or be willing to obtain a clearance. Please note that the clearance will be paid for by the Department of Education.

Submit an Expression of Interest to infrastructure.DET@nt.gov.au by 26 September
Case managers appointed for Remote Home Ownership program

Daniel Baker and Derek Taylor the new Case Managers for the Remote Home Ownership program.

The Northern Territory Government through its Remote Home Ownership program is offering public housing tenants living in remote communities the option of purchasing the house they live in.

This program creates home ownership pathways in remote locations that previously only existed in urban areas.

The first stage of the program will involve communities with long term township leases which currently includes Wurrumiyanga on Bathurst Island, Milikapiti on Melville Island, and Angurugu and Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra on Bickerton Island.

As part of the program, two Case Managers, Daniel Baker and Derek Taylor, were appointed by the Department of Housing in August to assist applicants through the process of entering into the private housing market.
Oi, Oi, Oi for DLPE graduate

New Australian Citizen Gordon Yoon is dedicated to developing his career in the Northern Territory.

The future is looking bright for Department of Lands, Planning and Environment's (DLPE) graduate Gordon Yoon after securing his Australian Citizenship today.

Gordon, a New Zealander (naturalised in 2005), arrived in Australia in 2006 to study a degree in Economics and Finance at the University of New South Wales.

He came to Darwin in 2012 when he was offered a DLPE graduate position.

Having shown himself to be a model staff member and dedicated student completing the graduate program, the department offered to sponsor Gordon towards attaining permanent residency in Australia.
The Federal Department of Immigration and Border Protection approved the sponsorship nomination from DLPE in support of Gordon’s application for residency.

As a part of the sponsorship, the agency last year offered Gordon a permanent position within the Land and Economic Development Unit.

“I cannot describe how happy I was when the Department offered to sponsor me to become an Australian,” Gordon says.

“It was a no-brainer and I had to accept the generous offer. The Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment is a great place to work.

“My experience has been that everyone is approachable; there are heaps of opportunities for everyone; we have a great work environment here with management always looking out for staff.”
Social club hits out to build team work

The Department of Infrastructure (DOI) has a very active Social Club in the Darwin office who work hard towards building morale and encouraging team work across the agency.

At last year’s Staff Recognition Awards, the DOI Social Club was recognised for the effort they’ve put into fostering a healthy social environment and bringing staff together.

Made up of volunteers from Highway House, the group has organised a range of successful social events for staff and their families throughout the year.

This has included a Family Fun Day at Flight Path Golf and Recreation Centre, monthly nachos and drinks on pay day, an end of financial year celebration at Palmerston Golf Club and other regular activities.

Most recently, a cricket match between DOI and their client, Department of Transport (DOT), was held at Dinah Beach oval.

Teams got into the spirit of competition and Transport and Infrastructure Minister Peter Styles faced up to a ball or two.

DOI chief executiver Dave McHugh took to the oval to field for the DOI Knight Riders and Transport chief executive Clare Gardiner-Barnes led the DOT Royal Kings on the field.
In the end it was DOI who took out the coveted trophy, with 11 runs required off 12 balls.
Red tape targeted

The Department of Business has welcomed Katrina Martin to lead the challenge in tackling red tape across government.

Katrina was responsible for developing and implementing the Queensland Government's red tape reduction strategy. She worked closely with government agencies and their stakeholders to streamline regulatory and administrative processes, and remove unnecessary regulatory requirements.

“I want to assist NT Government agencies in their efforts to reduce red tape to make NT business environment more agile and competitive,” Katrina said.

“I will be making contact with agencies over the next weeks and months.”
Department of the Chief Minister
The Pulse

The hardworking staff in the Professional Development Unit of the Department of Children and Families organised another successful breakfast launch of National Child Protection Week in Darwin recently.

More than 200 attended the breakfast which included a keynote address by National Children’s Commissioner Megan Mitchell.

The launch is a key event in the Child Protection Week calendar and provides the opportunity for stakeholders, workers and leaders to network as well as celebrate the achievements in child protection strategies.
Pop-Up Zoo Success At Darwin Waterfront

Territory Wildlife Park guides Nicholas Pond and Michael Sikyr with blue-tongue lizards Larry and Curly at the Darwin Waterfront Pop-up Zoo.

Hundreds of people visited the Darwin Waterfront Pop-up Zoo on 7 September, marking National Threatened Species Day.

The Territory Wildlife Park (TWP) was one of several organisations that brought along some of their animals to create a mini Pop-up Zoo.

TWP director Shael Martin said family favourites such as blue-tongue lizards, baby crocodiles, a barking owl and pool with a marine flatback turtle were very popular once again.

"Darwin Waterfront is a great place to host a Pop-up Zoo and bring people together who want to find out how to better protect our much loved and threatened species," Ms Martin said.

"National Threatened Species Day is held on September 7 to mark the anniversary of the death of the last Thylacine, more commonly known as the Tasmanian Tiger and the day is about providing an opportunity for different organisations to
band together to highlight the vulnerability of our own species here in the Territory.

"It's also a great opportunity for our staff to do what they love doing and sharing their knowledge with the public in the beautiful surrounds of the Darwin Waterfront."

The Pulse - September 2014
White Ribbon Run

All NT Police staff, families and friends are invited to participate in the inaugural White Ribbon Run.

The 2km/4km White Ribbon Run will take place on Sunday 28 September.

Where: Darwin Sailing Club

Registrations: From 7:30am

Run Starts: 8:30am

Cost: Gold Coin Donation

A community barbeque, White Ribbon merchandise and information stalls will also be available at this event.

Make a show and say NO to domestic violence.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, contact Rebecca Forrest on 0499 444 029 or email: Rebecca.forrest@pfes.nt.gov.au

NT Police Assistant Commissioner Reece Kershaw and Superintendent James O’Brien are encouraging community members to join in the White Ribbon Run in a strong show of saying no to domestic violence.
Menzies School of Research recently hosted the NT Renal Service Excellence, Quality and Research Session at Royal Darwin Hospital.

It was well attended by health staff and Flinders Medical School and renal consumers.

The session reflected 12 months collaboration with the Renal Research Team at Menzies.

Previously the session focussed on research, but this year the scope was broadened, to reflect excellence in service and quality whilst keeping client needs and outcomes in the forefront.
The Department of Mines and Energy’s Legacy Mines Unit continues to reach milestones since its inception last year.

A groundwater drilling program has recently been completed at Redbank Mine and a program of environmental investigations began earlier this year with the first goal being to develop a comprehensive understanding of the hydrological conditions at the site.

“We know that mine impacted water is leaving the site through the groundwater however, the mechanisms for this are not yet fully understood,” Department of Mines and Energy chief executive Scott Perkins says.

“Monitoring equipment will now be installed in these bores to monitor the groundwater levels and quality at the site and identify preferred flow pathways for mine impacted water.”
The first of the annual Parks Night Stalks began in Alice Springs last Friday with many more still to come across the NT.

Parks and Wildlife Commission NT (PWCNT) acting community education manager Michael Barritt said the after dark adventures provided the public with a great opportunity to explore Territory parks at night.

"More than 300 people attend the Northern Territory Night Stalks annually, which is a program coordinated by Perth Zoo, inviting the public to participate in a national fauna survey, with different groups holding Night Stalks and recording vital information around Australia," Michael said.

"PWCNT community educators hold Night Stalks in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs region parks and reserves and some of the rare finds have included Stimson's Pythons ambushing frogs at Simpsons Gap, dingoes hunting euros at Ormiston Gorge and spectacular Carpet Pythons at Howard Springs."

The program is an opportunity for families to experience Parks at night and perhaps plan their own family spotlight walk.

“Much of our wildlife is nocturnal so it makes sense that a night time visit to a Park can mean the best wildlife experiences," Michael said.

"Some of the more common finds include snakes, butterflies, insects and spiders and the experience provides participants with often stunning photo opportunities."

More information about upcoming Night Stalks is available at www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au and anyone interested is urged to book their spot in advance.