Bill Cooper, Riley Griffen, Esther Duke and teacher Heather Rosier at Teppa Hill Preschool have been busy getting ready for the Bangtail Muster this week.

The Ronna Glynn float in the 2014 Bangtail Muster in Todd Mall.

COMMUNITY REPORTER

The popular Bangtail Muster on Monday is expected to draw about 3000 people to see 30 floats.

Established in 1959 and now in its 57th year, the parade mobilises the community and showcases its diversity.

Alice Springs Rotary Club spokesman Greg Teakle said the annual event dates back to when cattle were the region’s main industry and stockmen would cut off the ends of tails to record the number of animals mustered.

“Originally, we had horses and cattle wandering down the streets in the parade,” Mr Teakle said.

These days there are floats, bands, vintage cars, community groups and organisations.

Studio B dance teacher Juneta Bowey has organised a dance troupe of about 50 performers to light up the town, with “light up Alice, light up Rotary” being this year’s theme.

“We always enjoy doing it because it’s a lot of fun.”

It’s nice to perform for the community as well.”

Teppa Hill Preschool’s Heather Rosier has been involved with the muster for the past 15 years.

Last year the children chose tigers and dinosaurs as their theme. This year, they were inspired by cicadas when deciding how to adorn their float.

“The children are absolutely fascinated with the bugs and the hatching, and that’s where we got the idea from,” Mrs Rosier said. “It’s a beautiful community parade; it’s got a fantastic feel to it.”

“A lot of our parents were kids here themselves, and were in the parade 30 years ago or more, so it’s a tradition.”

Alice Springs Rotary Club has supported the community event since 1961.

The parade starts Monday from 10am, and will begin from the Memorial Club carpark on Gap Road.

It concludes at the Anzac Oval carpark, Wills Terrace.

Next year, organisers plan to include a jumping castle, catering and egg and spoon races.

Confirmed participants on Monday include:

- Centralian Australian Football League
- Alice Springs Girl Guides
- Alice Springs Scout Group
- Electrical Trades Union
- Ida Stanley Preschool
- Studio B School of Dance
- Ulysses Club Central Desert Branch
- Central Australia Community Toy Library
- Teppa Hill Preschool
- Araluen Christian College
- Robyn Lambley MLA
- Living Waters Lutheran School
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Red Centre BMX Club
- OJSH Bath Street
- Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
- Rona Glynn Preschool
- Gillen Preschool
- Apex Club of Central Australia
- Motor Enthusiast Club of Central Australia
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Australia Indonesian Cultural Centre

The Henley on Todd Vikings boat has been a popular sight in the Bangtail Muster in past years.

David Sibenaler

Joining the Bangtail Muster:

Monday 4th May

Decorating our float at 7:30am at Araluen Christian College.

Students & staff in uniform, welcome on the float or walk behind the ACC float, in the Bangtail Muster Parade which begins at 10am.

Come and celebrate being part of our terrific Alice Springs community!

Dance students Madeleine Luey, Leticia Kisane and Ugo Fredian will perform in the parade.

The Henley-on-Todd Vikings boat has been a popular sight in the Bangtail Muster in past years.