Firefighters acknowledged

SENIOR Firefighter Bill Gleeson has been awarded the 2015 Rotary Club of Darwin North Eric Simmons Career Firefighter of the Year.

Bill, who is based at the Beterrabah Fire Station, graduated into the Northern Territory Fire Rescue Service (NTRFS) in 2007 as the Silver Axe recipient as dux of the training squad.

He joined the Training and Development Command in 2011 and was a recruit instructor until 2014. Bill has also been instrumental in designing and developing online management systems for the NTRFS that has attracted interstate interest.

Considered a technical expert Bill is currently undertaking a Masters in Fire Engineering studying pumps and hydraulics. Volunteer Captain Damien Shaw from the Humpty Doo Volunteer Fire Brigade was named the Eric Simmons Volunteer Firefighter of the Year.

Damien joined the Koolpinyah Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1995 before moving to Humpty Doo in 1998. His dedication to keeping his community safe from wildfires saw him advance to the position of team leader in 2000, Vice-Captain in 2004 and Captain in 2008.

Katherine Hospital welcomes Andrea

ANDREA Andrews started work at Top End Health Service (TEHS) as a cleaner a decade ago, but thanks to her enthusiasm and determination, she has promoted to new role as Aboriginal Health Practitioner at Katherine Hospital.

Andrea moved into the role in April and has joined the Katherine Hospital team with a wealth of knowledge and background in community health. She began working with TEHS in 2005 at the Bulman Community Health Centre. Starting at the clinic as a cleaner, Andrea quickly showed a willingness to learn and, working with the clinic managers, she soon took on the position as a trainee health worker.

After 18 months Andrea returned to her family in Manyallaluk community (Eva Valley) where she completed a Certificate III in ATSI Health through the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and worked at the local clinic for more than seven years.

Now at Katherine Hospital, Andrea has had the opportunity to work with other Aboriginal Health Practitioners, Allied Health staff, nurses and doctors.

Andrea said she intends to make health work a lifelong career.

Darwin Harbour under the spotlight

AIMS coastal oceanographer David Williams, Department of Land Resource Management marine scientist Neil Smillie, Minister Willem Westra van Holthe and Geoscience Australia marine sonar systems engineer Ian Atkinson.

THE Department of Land Resource Management marine scientist Neil Smit is one of the team working with Geoscience Australia and the Australian Institute of Marine Science to survey the seafloor of the outer Darwin Harbour.

The project is being funded through the Ichthys LNG Project’s environmental and social offsets package. The total funding for this specific project is $2.64 million over four years.

Scientists will map around 621 km2 of the harbour, where they’ll measure depth and take sediment samples for analysis. The research is important and will improve understanding about the vital seafloor. AIMS vessel RV Solander will operate 24 hours a day, collecting more than 100 sediment samples to be taken during the course of the project.

Survey works will be undertaken through until 23 June 2015. A draft survey report will be available by the end of January 2016, with data layers to be finalised by April 2016.

Prince Harry hangs out with croc catchers

THE Parks and Wildlife Commission NT crocodile management team had the privilege of taking Prince Harry on a crocodile adventure during his recent visit to the Territory.

Prince Harry went out on the croc boat and helped Parks and Wildlife rangers remove a 3.1 m saltwater crocodile from a trap in Darwin Harbour. He was very appreciative to the croc team for the opportunity to do something a bit different.

Croc catcher Erin Britton said Prince Harry had no issues getting hands-on with the large crocodile and that he’d make a great croc catcher. Prince Harry has aspirations for a career in land management and is taking the first step towards it with the Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM).

Gregory Williams out in the field as part of his Indigenous Apprenticeship Program

GREGORY Williams has aspirations for a career in land management and is taking the first step towards it with the Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM).

Gregory recently started at DLRM as part of the Indigenous Apprenticeship Program. He is doing his Certificate 3 in Conservation and Land Management through Taminmin College at Humpty Doo.

His inspiration comes from his family, many of whom work as rangers for the Parks and Wildlife Commission NT. As part of his apprenticeship, Gregory will rotate between branches of DLRM’s Rangelands Division to familiarise himself with all aspects of natural resource management.