Fashion parade

RACE day hats and AFL guernseys were the fashion choice of many Alice Springs residents in May as the annual Cup Carnival and Dreamtime match were staged in the Centre.

For many, the Labour Day long weekend in Alice Springs is synonymous with the Alice XXXX Gold Cup Carnival.

It was lauded as a major tourist drawcard for the town.

At the end of May, the Melbourne Demons clashed with Port Adelaide in the Red Centre.

The match, which was held at Traeger Park Oval, attracted thousands of fans.

In the audience was the mother of road crash victim Kwenteryaye Braedon, a big Port fan.

After losing her son in a tragic motorcycle accident in 2014, Minnie Sultan was present with a Port jumper signed by all the players.

“He was a big fan of Port and I got that guernsey with a message from Gavin Worangane written on it,” Ms Sultan said.

Drivers feel pumped

DRIVERS finally got some relief at the bowser in June.

In January, Centralians were paying as much as $1.61 per litre for fuel. In June, the price fell to $1.38 and stayed there for most of the year.

Automobile Association NT sales and marketing manager Kym McInerney said the drop could be attributed to the transient nature of time tracking people down without paying for fuel.

“Police have had a hard time recouping the money from drivers fleeing petrol stations to recoup the money from the transient nature of time tracking people down without paying for fuel,” Mr McInerney said.

Pine Gap secrets out


The report, published by academics and espionage experts at the Nautilus Institute, found that Pine Gap played a key role in monitoring intercontinental satellite communications as part of a new “collect-it-all” strategy implemented by the “Five Eyes” alliance.

The alliance comprises security agencies from the US, Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

The report said the Five Eyes alliance had installed multiple advanced multi-beam antennae, known as Torus, which can simultaneously intercept up to 35 satellite communications beams from single antenna installations.

Pine Gap is run by both Australia and the US.

Its official name is the Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap.

There was something for everyone in June with the Alice Springs Beanie Festival and the 40th Finke Desert Race.

The thrill and spills from the two-day off-road race included 15 admissions to the Alice Springs Hospital.

A council meeting in May raised safety concerns about the number of tourists camping out in their cars.

Meanwhile, in May, Alice Springs’ female leaders were rallying more women to support the CEO Sleepout in June.

Tourists dodge fines

TOURISTS were sleeping rough in Alice Springs during May and getting away with it, while the town’s homeless were being fined.

Nearly $9000 worth of fines had been issued to people for sleeping rough by Alice Springs town council rangers.

From January to May, 29 people had been fined $298 each for camping but none of them tourists.

NT Shelter Central Australia policy officer David Havercroft said the council was punishing those who had nowhere else to go.

A council meeting in May raised safety concerns about the number of tourists camping out in their cars.

While prison boss Ken Middlebrook rejected the claims of the Alice Springs corrections officer, saying the prisoners were all low risk.

No security breach was reported.

A teenager who escaped from Alice Springs Detention Centre was arrested 18km south of Mataranka in June.

Prisoners take the bus

THIRTY prisoners travelled 1500km from Alice Springs to Darwin on a commercial bus in May.

A corrections officer from Alice Springs said using the charter bus had placed not only the drivers, prison guards and inmates travelling on the bus at risk, but also the public.

“The duty of care to the public was compromised,” he said. “It wasn’t a bus full of prisoners deemed to be low risk, the potential for an incident is always there but it was definitely heightened doing the transfer in this manner.

“This is not a standard thing we do – it’s just come in because the department is trying to save money.”

But prison boss Ken Middlebrook rejected the claims of the Alice Springs corrections officer, saying the prisoners were all low risk.

No security breach was reported.

A teenager who escaped from Alice Springs Detention Centre was arrested 18km south of Mataranka in June.

Beanies, Finke bring fun

“THERE’s been a lot of public scrutiny and that seems to be playing its part.”

At one point in June the pump price in Alice Springs was lower than in other capital cities across Australia.

But that didn’t stop thieves.

Indervon Petroleum retail operations manager Sean Akers said little could be done to recoup the money from drivers fleeing petrol stations without paying for fuel.

“Police have had a hard time tracking people down because of the transient nature of the town,” Mr Akers said.

Alice Springs Beanie Festival organiser Jason Quin shows off some elaborate beanies that were on display in June.

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