NINE MONTHS OF WORK BUT THIS BABY DELIVERS

Sarah Rohwedder
COMMUNITY REPORTER

ALICE Springs’ erupted with a “boom” as more than 1600 crackers were set off at the Territory Day fireworks display on Anzac Oval earlier this week.

The show, along with other locations around the NT including Darwin, took Sydney-based company Howard and Sons Pyrotechnics approximately nine months to prepare.

Director Andrew Howard said it was important to get the overall co-ordination of the display exactly right as there was only one shot to fire safely.

“There are 3000kg of fireworks being used in the professional fireworks displays across the Territory,” he said.

“The Alice Springs event uses probably around 1600 items, which weigh around 500kgs.

“It takes a crew of 14 pyrotechnicians seven days to set up the displays and two days to pack up.

“We have crew staff working on the project for about nine months of the year.”

A huge amount of work goes into all the fireworks displays and we only have one shot to get it right on the night.”

Prior to preparations, the NT Government moved to introduce a ban on sale of fireworks – which create an extremely loud bang – and other items that produced sounds above 115 decibels to reduce the prevalence of noise complaints during the celebrations.

But despite the ban Mr Howard said there was much excitement around the spectacular display.

“We have been doing Territory Day Celebrations for over 15 years and I have loved each and every year,” he said.

“It’s a huge adrenaline rush in the final moments and lead up to hitting the all-important fire button.”

Scheme aims to help kids swim

ALICE Springs Town Council is advising parents to enrol their children in subsidised swimming lessons.

The Northern Territory Government scheme offers toddlers aged up to five the chance to take swimming lessons through a $200 assistance package issued in $50 instalments, twice per year.

Mayor Damien Ryan said it was imperative for parents to enrol their children to help safeguard them.

“The Northern Territory Government is giving mums and dads the ability to use it, and so we are saying to people to become a part of it,” he said.

To be eligible for the scheme, the child must complete the Water Safety Awareness Program with Royal Life Saving Australia NT.

For further details, visit sportvoucher.nt.gov.au

Cracker of a way to display pride

Jessica Brown

As a rainbow of colours exploded into the night sky in a spectacular skyshow, thousands of faces across Alice Springs lit up in excitement.

Whether there’s a special place in your heart for the day the Northern Territory was granted self-government in 1978 or you’re simply a pyromaniac, Territory Day is a time to celebrate.

Matt Wyatt, who has celebrated Territory Day since he was a child, embraces the event as a proud Territorian.

“It’s an opportunity for us to recognise the things we can achieve even without the benefit of full statehood...”

“While the temptation to say yes (to it becoming a public holiday) is incredibly strong, the reality is that there is no consistent application of a state-by-state holiday that recognises self-government so it wouldn’t really be fair.”

He also enjoys the opportunity to set off fireworks, which are banned throughout the rest of the country.

“I’m more of a fan of the technically complex ones – colour-changing, geometric patterns et cetera more so than the mortar-shell-in-disguise ones that leave you with bleeding ears,” he said.

Nick Hill of All Fired Up Centralian Wholesale Fireworks said the Peace Keepers were the most popular fireworks as a huge adrenalin rush in the final moments and lead up to hitting the all-important fire button.

Hallucinated

Rex Mooney

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