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Tony Wins NT Chamber of Commerce Award

I would like to congratulate Araluen resident Tony Boal on being nominated for the 2011 NT Chamber of Commerce Southern Region Customer Service Award in the Public Sector Individual category, which was also announced as part of the opening of the new Peppermint Grove Eatery on Saturday 14 May. It is wonderful to see Tony’s willingness to help other people recognised in this way and it is also encouraging to see focus on the good people of Alice Springs.

Congratulations Jack!

Araluen resident, 14 year old Jack Thomson recently raised more than $4000 in the World’s Greatest Shave. Jack shaved the back of his head and arm to raise money for the Cancer Council. Jack’s goal was to raise $1500, but the final tally was $4058.77. Jack related that he shaved to help his grandparents, his hairdresser and his great aunt. Jack’s mum Robyn said she is “incredibly proud of him. He is so mature and kind.”

Tony Abbott Calls In

A few weeks ago Tony Abbott, the Federal Opposition Leader, made a discreet visit to Alice Springs. His main aim was to talk to people about what needs to be done in terms of a possible “second intervention”. We all acknowledge that some things about the Northern Territory Emergency Response (or intervention) were successful and others were not so successful. One thing we all agree on is the need to improve the lives of Indigenous people through respected elders, their confidence and self respect restored through work and access to services.

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In early May 2011 the Northern Territory Government handed down the Budget for 2011/12.

- Labor’s deficit will be $387 million.
- The Territory currently owes $1.07 billion in debt, but by 2014/15 Labor will have borrowed $2.2 billion.
- The interest bill for the current year is around $70 million, almost $200,000 per day.
- On top of its debt, Labor will need to find almost $4 billion to pay for public servant entitlements that are unfunded.
- The Territory’s debt is comparable to some of Europe’s “basket case” economies, such as Portugal.

The Economy

The Territory’s economy has flat lined. Major construction projects have dried up, housing has slumped and the high cost of living is driving families out of the Territory. Labor has “maxed out the credit card” to pay its bills, and at the same time plunged us further into debt with no plan to pay the money back. The $5.3 billion lifestyle, hurting tourism and killing off business. Offences against people have been rising steadily under Labor, but they seem unable to control the problem.

Despite enormous law and order issues in Alice Springs, the budget contained no new police for the region and their actual budget allocation has decreased. There was extra money for a police beat in Karama, which coincidently is in the Treasurer’s electorate, but nothing for Alice Springs.

The Country Liberals will locate an extra 20 officers in Alice Springs and will reinstate the police communications unit that was axed under Labor.

Law and order

Law and order is the biggest issue facing Alice Springs residents. Crime is out of control and the budget does little to address the problem. Violence, theft, vandalism and drunken anti-social behaviour is damaging our lifestyle, hurting tourism and killing off business. Offences against people have been rising steadily under Labor, but they seem unable to control the problem.

Law and order was out of the way, the Government turned its back on the town. Alice Springs has been ignored in the Territory budget.

- NO additional police
- NO action on Accident and Emergency Unit upgrade
- NO new land release
- NO funding for the mobile police van
- NO roundabout for Lovegrove Drive and Larapinta Drive
- NO upgrade for ANZAC Oval
- NO childcare centre at Larapinta

The Country Liberals will release their policies between now and next year’s election so you can see how the Country Liberals will create a better Territory.