



Namatjira News

BILL YAN MLA

| **Member for Namatjira** |

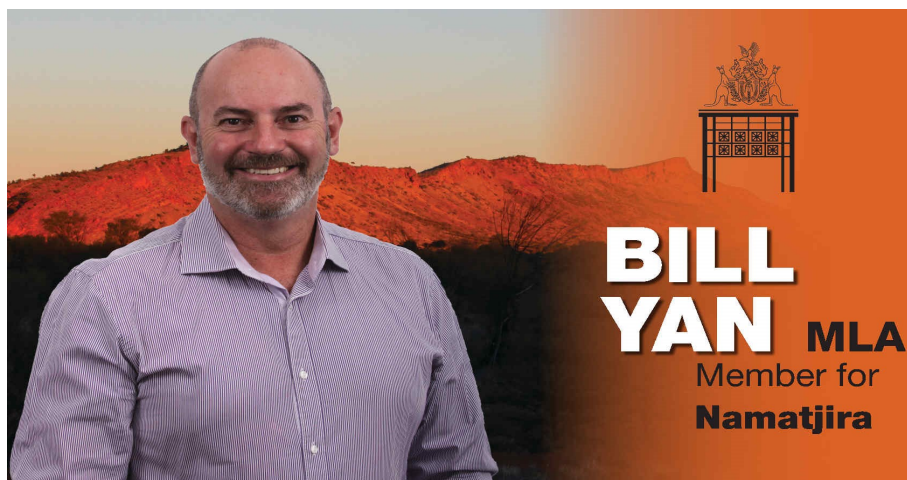


Community Mental Health hits the Park

Excellence Recognised

During the Australia Day awards a very important event was recognised for its contribution to our community. Stress Less in the Park was the recipient of the Centralian Event of the Year Award and is a credit to its organisers, the Mental Health Association of Central Australia. MHACA have a vision of Central Australia being a safe and inclusive community that fosters and supports good mental health.

The work MHACA does in supporting this vision is on show during the many events and seminars on offer during Mental Health Week which culminates in the Stress Less in the Park event. Additionally, MHACA offer many other valuable services and have been a significant community supporter during the COVID-19 lockdowns and restriction during 2020. Congratulation's to the team at MHACA



WELCOME TO 2021 AND A PROSPEROUS YEAR

Greetings for March 2021

Wow, how the first part of the year has flown by. It only seems like last week it was New Years and kids were getting ready to go back to school and now we are not far away from Easter.

Much has happened in the last 3 months with COVID-19 restrictions starting to ease. Our ability to travel across the country with some degree of certainty is very welcome.

I hope all those who have been able to travel and catch up with friends and family or have had visitors to Alice Springs have enjoyed themselves. I took the opportunity to "holiday at home" and spent some time in the Eastern Macs and at Uluru which was wonderful after our recent rains.

The COVID-19 Vaccine roll out is underway in our region so please make sure to get in for the "jab" when you're eligible for it.

Have a safe and happy Easter everyone, enjoy the wonderful weather and take the opportunity to see what our local region has to offer. Of course please take care if you are travelling on our roads

Yours Truly



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

It was a perfect start to the day with breakfast organised by the Working Women's Centre for International Women's Day 2021. It was a very well attended event with the guest panel made up of Julie Ross, Sarah Landers and Mona Ulak who spoke passionately about their professional journeys and how they have worked to forge their own careers. It was inspirational to listen to these remarkable women and their journey's



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Back to school at Bonya

The Bonya school may only be small but they are certainly up there with the best of them. I was lucky enough to spend a few hours with them one morning and take part in some of their lessons. Such commitment from the community as well in teaching and helping their kids. WELL DONE BONYA



Titjikala Local Council Meeting



I met a pair of characters at the Titjikala Local Council Meeting in January., Dennis and Douglas both work for the Council and have done so for ever, or so it seems. There were a number of things on the Council's agenda and I was able to follow up on some of the things raised with the relevant Ministers. Like most remote communities the lack of housing and overcrowding is a serious issue.

Isolated Children's Parents Association State Council

The Isolated Children's Parents Association of the Northern Territory held their State Council meeting here in Alice Springs just recently. The stories told by some of the members about how difficult it is to provide an education to kids out in the bush was quite an eye opener. Sometimes we in town forget how easy it is for our kids to get their education. Out in the bush Mum also becomes the school teacher in many ways, or families have to provide a tutor or "Govvie" at their own cost to help their kids with school. Congratulations to the Alice Springs Branch of ICPA for putting on a great conference and working towards providing better education and support solutions for our kids in the bush. Keep up the great work.



For all the history buffs out there and of course all the Finke devotees I managed to get the opportunity to visit the actual "Deep Well" which the Finke Checkpoint is named after on one of my trips through the electorate. It's all fenced off now because it is starting to cave in and is not that stable. A true piece of history.



Happy Birthday to the ARMY

I was fortunate enough to attend the celebration of the Army's 120th birthday in February at Robertson Barracks in Darwin. It was a wonderful evening with much ceremony which was quite befitting of the event. On March 31 this year our Air Force is also going to celebrate its 100th birthday which is a significant milestone.

Alice Springs has always had a strong connection with our Military since the 1940's when we were a staging point for our forces as they travelled North.

My congratulations to the Army and thanks to them and all our other Service personnel for the work they do here in the Territory. A special mention and thanks to my hosts, the 8/12 Royal Australian Artillery Regiment.

