



# Namatjira News

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**Member for Namatjira**

**Edition 5**



## International Women's Day

It was such a pleasure to be able to celebrate International Women's Day with the people of Tennant Creek. IWD is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not country, group or organization specific and is celebrated worldwide by all people.

My heartfelt congratulations to the Women of the Barkly Region for putting on a wonderful celebration today. It was also absolutely great to catch up with some old friends in Tennant Creek. I send my best wishes to all women celebrating International Women's Day.



## Bill Yan

After a long hot summer we are starting to move into our cooler months of the year with some of our iconic events taking place. People I speak too are very much looking forward to the Finke Desert Race and hopefully our first Alice Springs Show in a few years. Over the first few months of 2022 we saw an increase in positive COVID 19 cases in our region and thankfully very low rates of serious illness. We saw very little in the way of restrictions in Central Australia and most of us were able to go about our daily lives with little hindrance.

In saying that, everyone in Central Australia rallied to help each other when the highway and rail line was cut for a number of weeks right in the middle of the COVID outbreak and it was pleasing to see the way people helped each other out during this difficult time. It certainly was an extraordinary few weeks with empty supermarket shelves and some shops were forced to close business. Thank you to everyone who went above and beyond to support our community.

The coming months are exciting with the increase in tourism predicted for our area. We have a steady increase in interstate people driving into town plus those coming in by air and on the Ghan. Our region is well placed to make the most of the opportunities when visitors return and for the first time in the last few years, many businesses are optimistic about the coming season.

There are a number of events coming up again now that the weather is cooling off and I'll keep everyone up to date on these as we get closer.

*Bill Y.*



## Sealing the Outback Way

A wonderful announcement recently which will be a game changer for the Namatjira Electorate, particularly for the people out on the Plenty Highway region. Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce announced the Federal Government has committed over 140 million dollars to finish sealing the Outback Way. This will mean better access for pastoralists moving cattle to Queensland and better roads to access the major town hubs for communities and outstations in the region. Contractors are out on the Plenty now completing some pre-approved works and I look forward to the tenders coming out which will determine more kilometres are sealed.



## Congratulations new Australian Citizens

Congratulations to the 100 new Australian Citizens who were conferred on Australia Day by Mayor Matt Patterson. A special shout out to my friend Giselle Bateup who was included amongst the lucky 100. A very special day indeed.

Well done to the Alice Springs Town Council for again putting on a wonderful ceremony and Australia Day celebration.

## Tyler Gridley—Central Australian Athlete

I was very proud to be able to assist Tyler Gridley with his preparation and travel to NSW to compete in the Australian Athletics Championships held between the 26th of March and 3rd of April. Tyler is a very talented Central Australian athlete who has been putting in so much work to get to the levels he's currently competing at. Whilst Tyler didn't end up in the medals at the National Championships he did post some personal best times which is a huge achievement when competing at this level. Good luck for the future Tyler and I'm sure that he will continue to improve and put Central Australia at the top of the leader boards one day.



## Catch up with Scruffy



While up in Darwin for Parliament recently I stopped by Hidden Valley one evening to check out Round 2 of the Top End Motorkhana Championships. Lo and behold, who do I find officiating at the event but a legend of Central Australia, Scruffy, aka "Ray Henry". For those who have ever competed in Finke or travelled up and down the track you will of course know of "Henry's Hill" south of Rodinga, this is where you will find Scruffy helping out fans and competitors over the weekend. Looking forward to seeing Scruffy back in town for Finke 2022.



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## Endometriosis awareness



I was fortunate to be able to attend the Endometriosis awareness function at the Administrators Residence recently. I heard some very powerful stories from some of the ladies who support others who are affected by Endometriosis which is an all too common disease affecting many women across the Territory.

There was a common theme and that was we need to be doing more in the Territories health sector to support women who suffer from this horrible disease. I was informed that there is no support group in Central Australia, but women can apply to join the NT support group on Facebook, which can be found at *Endometriosis Closed Support Group Darwin*. Thanks to the Administrator for hosting this important event and assisting in awareness of Endometriosis.



## Music NT

Congratulations to MusicNT Central Australia on their new home at the Old Courthouse.

I'm looking forward to music breathing a new life into the old building. A bright future lies ahead for artists in town and out in the bush with this new space and venue. I can't wait to get to some of the gigs that will be on offer to the community.

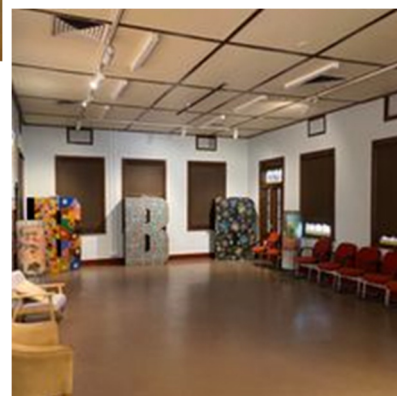
## 2022 Alice Prize

Congratulations to Adrian Robertson for his piece titled "Family in Yalpirakinu" that took out the 2022 Alice Prize. Adrian has been a regular entrant of the Alice Prize. The South Australian judge spoke highly of the work and how Adrian has transitioned from landscapes to portraiture. There are so many beautiful works on exhibition at Araluen and it is certainly worth getting down for a look at the magnificent artworks produced by the talented artists from all over the country.



## NT Off-road Championship

An absolutely perfect day for Round 1 of the NT Off-road Championship. A great field of competitors lined up on the starting line for a fun filled weekend. The Off Road Club have a full calendar of events on for the season so if you're looking for a fun day out for the family get down to the club and check out the racing. Canteen facilities are second to none.



## RAISEducation

An unsung hero out in the bush is Kylie from RAISEducation. Kylie is doing wonderful things to help families and students out in the bush. She will be hitting the road again over the coming months and will be out to conduct some more home visits! Her program provides a great opportunity to work face to face with students as well as provide support to parents and bush kids learning journeys. RAISEducations Programs are completely individualised and work around the needs of the child and family. Keep up the great work Kylie.

Please get in contact with Kylie if you'd like to know more: 0428 356 545 or [Kylie@RAISEducation.org.au](mailto:Kylie@RAISEducation.org.au)

## RDA Easter BBQ

Such a fun morning at Riding for the Disabled (RDA) helping out with their Easter BBQ. There were plenty of families enjoying a perfect autumn morning out at Blatherskite Park.

There is such great work being done by the RDA team and the success of their efforts can be seen in the smiles of the riders. RDA caters for our entire community and additionally they provide lessons for able bodied riders as well. I am proud to be able to support RDA and the dedicated team, keep up the wonderful work.

