

# YOUR SAY

YOUR VOICE IN THE TERRITORY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013  
**NT News**

## Happier tale for wildlife

PALMERSTON Council is looking at bringing in a system of cat registration. It was discussed last night at their bi-weekly meeting and there will be further deliberations in coming weeks.

While this idea may come as a shock to many cat owners, it will be music to the ears of dog owners and lovers of native wildlife.

After all, why should dogs have to be registered while cats are not?

The reality is that cats – while undisputedly cute and great on the internet – are a destructive force roaming the Territory.

Cats kill an inordinate amount of native wildlife even when domesticated.

Abandoned cats or cats that run away turn feral and are responsible for an even greater death toll.

Feral cat numbers can very quickly get out of control as they breed like rabbits under the right conditions. The right conditions are found in our suburbs and also in the bush where prey is plentiful and not used to marauding moggies.

A registration system just might provide a happy middle ground, where responsible cat owners can continue to enjoy the company of their furry friends at only a small cost, while the negative effects of an exploding cat population can be more easily controlled.

Palmerston Council is to be commended for having the guts to tackle this contentious issue. If implemented sensibly, it will be a good move.

## ... and another thing

OUR thoughts are with Matt Scarff and his family at this difficult time. The Australian man who was king-hit in Bali has strong connections to Darwin through local footy and Territorians have rallied together to help him.

## The Fixer

**WHAT:** Streetlights are out at the top of Vanderlin Drive at Pinelands.

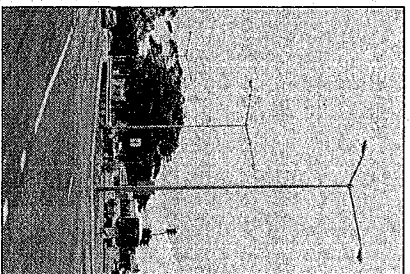
**WHO'S RESPONSIBLE:** PowerWater general

manager for Power

Networks, John Greenwood

**CONTACT:** (08) 8924 5068

**DO YOU know of something in the Territory that needs fixing? Give The Fixer a call on 8944 9724.**



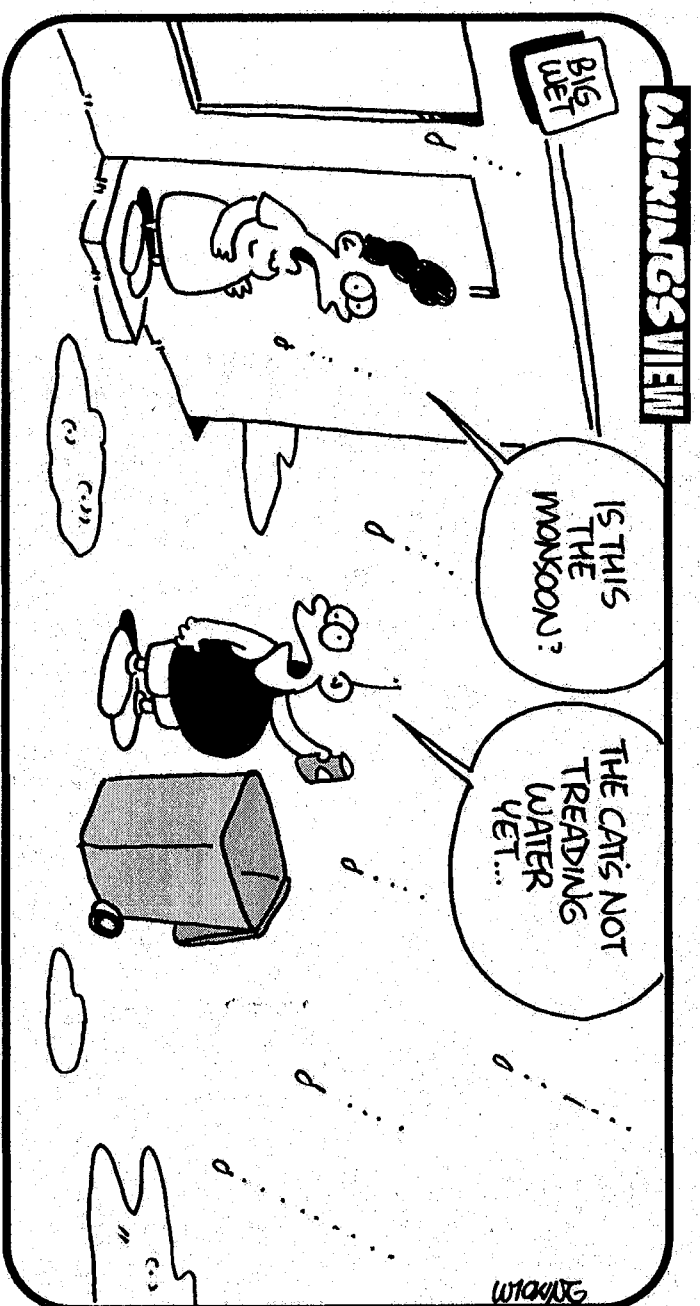
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## On this day IN THE TERRITORY

**10 YEARS AGO:** First-time Territory mums are giving birth at an older age more than at any other time. Almost 40 per cent of the NT's 3724 babies were born to women aged 30 to 44.

**20 YEARS AGO:** The Territory recorded a 41.8 per cent increase in the number of domestic tourists during 1992-93, figures released yesterday show.

**25 YEARS AGO:** Territory Health Minister Don Dale is pushing for the Territory's first needle exchange program in an effort to combat killer disease AIDS.



## Letters

### MOUNT MINMARAMA EXPENSIVE RUBBLE

DAVE Wane (NT News, November 11) seems to know a lot about the dirt stockpile, otherwise known as Mount Minmarama, without having ascended its rugged heights, as I have done.

During my expedition I gathered photographic evidence of broken pipes, reinforced concrete and other "rubble", which may or may not contain asbestos and other unknown substances.

In addition, concrete pours have been dumped over the far face of the rock pile, spilling down into the paperbark trees below.

I would also suggest to Dave that "naturally occurring rock", once transported and dumped as waste in another environment becomes "rubble", particularly when that area is zoned Conservation, as the land was in this case. Similarly, I have photographs of rock-crushing and other heavy machinery parked on site, out of view of the public. This seems to confirm Dave's suggestion that rocks are being crushed and sorted to use as road base.

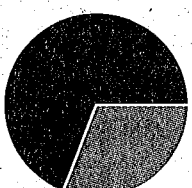
If these activities do not qualify as "quarrying", surely they at least make the area an industrial site. If that is so, where are the plans for access roads and an EIS report which are required for even the most remote locations?

Finally, Dave doesn't sound too worried about the waste of taxpayers' money and the environmental damage caused by the failed prawn and crab farms, blaming "silly governments".

Dave says it is "ridiculous" to suggest that taxpayers pay to restore the

**VOTE**  
 Should drink-drivers be banned from licensed premises?

To cast your vote go to [www.ntnews.com.au](http://www.ntnews.com.au)



**LAST WEEKS VOTE**  
 Would you travel overseas for cosmetic surgery?  
 Yes 31% No 69%

**Twenty-five years in the Territory and never felt unsafe at Casuarina Square car park or bus stop.**  
 —SEE LETTER BELOW

I agree, responsibility lies with the Gwalwa Darrniki Association, and if it sends them broke, so be it.  
 Dr Bill Day, Brinkin

### BDR CERTAINLY DIDN'T WORK FOR ME

REFERR to comments made by A.G. Piper to the NT News on November 14. I went shopping at my local liquor outlet with my friend Mary (an Aboriginal woman from Milin-gimbi). Once we arrived outside the liquor shop Mary gave me \$20 to purchase a bottle of wine. When I entered the liquor store I was refused service, yelled at and security was called. I did not do anything wrong. Mary was not on the banned drinker register.

The banned drinker register did not work for me. I did nothing wrong. I am innocent of any offence.  
 Murray Lion, Milner

### SORT OUT HOUSING, SORT OUT DRUNKS

IN response to "We want to feel safe" Twenty-five years in the Territory and never felt unsafe at Casuarina Square carpark or bus stop. My comment is related to it. Inerants and "drunks that roll in and out past his shop".

Disempowerment and excessive alcohol use due to the fact that there is an appalling lack of public housing, a familiar theme — if I had control over my environment then I would not drink so much.

Fix the homeless situation then less "offensive" drunks in public.  
 Caitlin Barr-Granger, Wanguri

### GET ON TRACK TO BUILD REAL RAILWAYS

IT is very pleasing to note that the planners for the Ord River expansion are casting their ambition wide, to encompass essential railway links. I recall in the not too distant past when ambitious railways were being contemplated.

In Queensland we had John, in WA we had Lang Hancock. One had big mobs of coal. The other was blessed with impressive iron ore resources. The answer was simple. Build steelworks at each end of the line, send coal to the west, iron ore to the east. Politics and perhaps apathy doomed this plan.

How much freight could one expect to be generated in Kununurra, given that the link should commence there? Link the Pilbara to Queensland, watch the freight grow.

Come on! You NT planners. Reach for the sky! If you want to build railways, do a proper job.  
 Howard Young, Twi

### POWERING UP NT ON WASTE — NO BULL

LAST week through this newspaper's columns, I wrote about how unbelievably slack our government is in this land of plenty, in

utilising the natural and renewable energy resources of the sun, the wind and large tidal flows to produce enormous amounts of electricity. This week I am going to open your eyes a little more to another natural source that is being used to great effect in Third World countries to produce a clean and viable source of energy. The material I refer to: cow dung.

Recent research shows that cow dung can produce methane gas in large quantity. Already this gas is being used widely for domestic cooking and in the production of electricity. Other waste products include sewage, municipal waste, green waste, plant material and crops. The waste material is gathered, mixed with water and stored in a "reactor". Pleasant amounts of biogas is produced as the material ferments. In reading with interest about this, it occurred to me that we in Australia and no less in the Northern Territory, have a particular source that could resolve all our energy problems in one hit!

We set up a reactor in Parliament House. In that venue, more bull— is produced in one sitting than would ever be required to run our needs.

Imagine! At night we could light up the whole city like it was the middle of the day. This, one would hope, would curb our government's urge to keep us in the dark and feed us on the stuff.

What other ideas could your readers come up with in the use of this wonderful source of energy? I would be interested to know.  
 Mike F Foley, Nakara