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Welcome to Coomalie Community Government Council's latest edition of Stop Press newsletter.

Please feel free to share this email with family, friends, and fellow community members. If you wish to sign up for your own copy, follow this [link](#), or use your smartphone camera to take a picture of the QR Code below.



Have you subscribed to the Stop Press Newsletter and not receiving it? Please check your Junk Mail folder and mark the email as "Not Junk", should you require assistance with this, please call Council offices on 8976-0058 and we will be more than happy to help!

**From The Chambers**



The meeting scheduled for 16th January 2024 was postponed due to severe weather and flood warnings. The postponed meeting was scheduled for:

Date: 22nd January 2024

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Council Chambers

22 Cameron Road, Batchelor NT 0845

At 2:30pm, a quorum was not present. In accordance with section 100(3) of the *Local Government Act 2019*, the meeting was postponed.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on the 20th February 2024 in line with Council's regular meeting schedule.

**The 3rd Instalment date for property rates were due on the  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> and final instalment date for property rates is the  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

**Instalment Dates:**

~~1<sup>st</sup> Instalment – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023~~ - finished.

~~2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023~~ - finished.

~~3<sup>rd</sup> Instalment – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024~~ – finished.

**4<sup>th</sup> & Final Instalment - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

## **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

### **Rum Jungle**

This locality derived its name from the jungle and adjoining land which gained its name from an incident around March 1873. When John Lewiss teamsters, whilst carting stores from Southport, a small port town across the harbour from Palmerston (now Darwin), to the mining fields around Pine Creek, tapped a cask of rum and delayed the team for several days. The jungle, 38 kilometres south of Southport, was used as a teamsters camp because of the availability of good spring water and grass. The name Rum Jungle has been used since 1873 with the reporting of the death of Patrick Flynn

at Rum Jungle. David Lithgow built and opened a hotel on a rise overlooking the creek and jungle in 1874 and with the construction of the railway from Palmerston (Port Darwin) to Pine Creek in the late 1880s, a gangers camp was established nearby. By 1890 the hotel ceased to be licensed and by the early 1900s all that existed to remind travellers of the existence of the hotel were footings and the rubbish dump.

In 1948, the Federal Government offered a reward for the discovery of uranium in Australia. Mr Jack White, a local Batchelor prospector and farmer, having viewed a BMR brochure on radioactive minerals reported the occurrence of uraniferous minerals in August 1949. The mining of uranium ore commenced in the Rum Jungle area in 1950 and continued until 1969, mostly by the open-cut mining method.

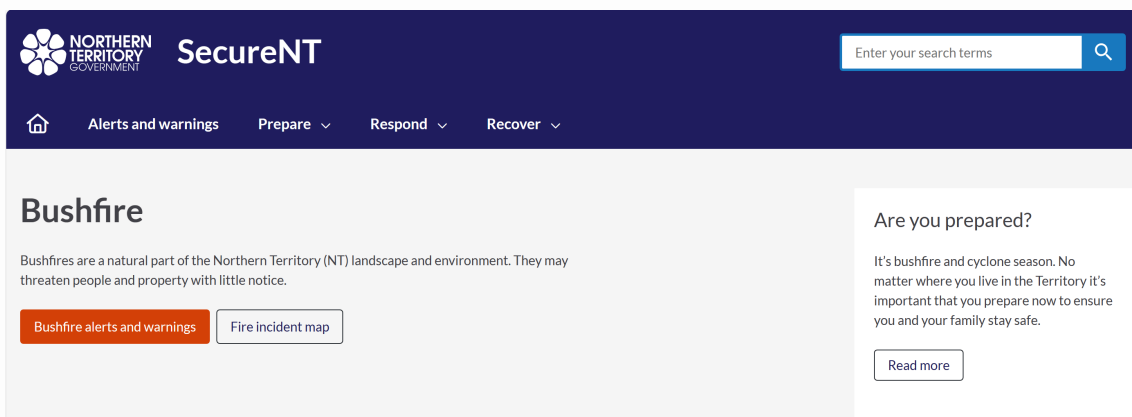
*Free to Residents*  
**Small quantities of mulch can be collected from the Batchelor Waste Management Facility.**

### ***Need to know more?***

Visit Council Meetings page on our website, [www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/council-meetings](http://www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/council-meetings) to access the very latest information.

Council's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 20th February 2024** at 3:00pm in Chambers, 22 Cameron Road, Batchelor. Council meetings are open to the public.

## Natural Disaster Preparedness



The screenshot shows the Northern Territory Government's SecureNT website. The header includes the Northern Territory Government logo and the text 'SecureNT'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with 'Alerts and warnings', 'Prepare', 'Respond', and 'Recover'. The main content area features a 'Bushfire' section with a sub-heading 'Bushfire' and a brief description: 'Bushfires are a natural part of the Northern Territory (NT) landscape and environment. They may threaten people and property with little notice.' Below this text are two buttons: 'Bushfire alerts and warnings' and 'Fire incident map'. To the right of the main content, there is a 'Are you prepared?' section with a sub-heading 'Are you prepared?' and a paragraph: 'It's bushfire and cyclone season. No matter where you live in the Territory it's important that you prepare now to ensure you and your family stay safe.' Below this paragraph is a 'Read more' button.

Secure NT is the place to go for all your warnings and information regarding natural disasters and preparedness. You can visit the list from [Secure NT](#).

Some handy shortcuts to bookmark are:

Cyclones - [Cyclones | Secure NT](#)

Flooding - [Flooding | Secure NT](#)

Severe Storms - [Severe storms | Secure NT](#)

Heatwaves - [Heatwave | Secure NT](#)

These pages have details on your and your family's preparedness for natural disasters.

Additional information can be gained from the Bureau of Meteorology at their website - [BOM](#).

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## From The Council Services Team

Council's works team continuing wet season maintenance along with our regular duties.

On going works include:

- Slashing and weeds maintenance on Council roads.
- Pot hole maintenance.
- Tree maintenance. There is a number of trees that have fallen during the wet conditions to date. Many of which will not be accessible until the ground condition dry's this will be address as soon as practical.
- There are a number of necessary road repairs and these will be undertaken in due course.
- General maintenance in both Adelaide River and Batchelor townships.
- Mowing of both townships.
- Regular activities at Adelaide River and Batchelor waste facilities.





With recent incidents of people driving through flooded creeks, it is timely to remind everyone:

**IF IT'S FLOODED - FORGET IT**


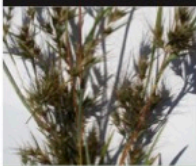
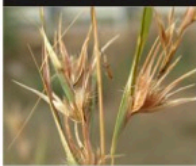

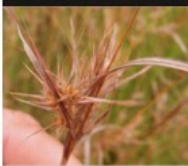
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

# Grader grass

## *Themeda quadrivalvis*

Grader grass is declared a Class B (growth and spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory.

Grader grass is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

HABIT	STEMS & BRANCHES	SEED HEADS	SEED	SIMILAR SPECIES
 <p>Erect, tufted annual grass growing to 2m high, often in dense patches. Tufts range from having only a few stems up to 10 or more.</p>	 <p>Robust, cane-like stems with long branched seed heads.  Mature stands become a golden red or orange in colour.</p>	 <p>Seed heads generally appear between February and June. Spikelets in the seed head are 4 - 7mm long, with distinct, bulbous-based bristles.</p>	 <p>Produces up to 1000 seeds in one seed head, although seeds are short lived at the soil surface. Seeds can germinate throughout the year in the right conditions.</p>	 <p>Grader grass appears similar to the native perennial kangaroo grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>). Kangaroo grass is generally smaller (about 1m) and brown rather than golden when mature.</p>

Weed Management Officers from the Weed Management Branch can provide advice on all aspects of weed management including control techniques, biological control, legislative responsibilities, policy advice, monitoring and reporting and regional planning. For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the [NT Weed Management Handbook](#).

T: 08 8999 4567

E: [weedinfo@nt.gov.au](mailto:weedinfo@nt.gov.au)

W: [www.nt.gov.au/weeds](http://www.nt.gov.au/weeds)



## **Coomalie Community Government Council Position Vacant**



### **Council Services Coordinator Full Time Level 7/8**

Working within the Council Services unit, the Council Services Coordinator will coordinate and implement Councils core business of roads, waste management, cemeteries, parks and gardens, animal control and other land management activities throughout the region. This position also coordinates resources to support Corporate and Community Services in events and asset, contracts, and project management.

The Position Description is available on Council's website [www.coomalie.nt.gov.au](http://www.coomalie.nt.gov.au)

Applications that address the Selection Criteria, outline work history and relevant experience and referees should be sent to [human.resources@coomalie.nt.gov.au](mailto:human.resources@coomalie.nt.gov.au) by 4:00pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Postal Address:** PO Box 20, Batchelor NT 0845

**Email:** [human.resources@coomalie.nt.gov.au](mailto:human.resources@coomalie.nt.gov.au)

Council reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Sharon Hillen  
Chief Executive Officer

# Attention: Road Weight Restrictions

*Road Weight Restrictions will be in force within the  
Coomalie Shire.*

*1 October until 30 April\*\**

*\*\* Maybe extended due to weather or road conditions*

*Permits available from Council 8976-0058*

- 48 business hours notice required*
- 10 tonne max on unsealed roads*
- 20 tonne max on sealed roads*



## From Community Services Team

### **Council Run After School Sports**

After School Sports will be returning the week starting 5th February 2024 with Adelaide River sessions on a Monday from 2:45pm - 3:45pm and Batchelor sessions Tuesday's 2:45pm - 3:45pm, please see Council's website for details on enrolling your child!

### **School Holiday Program**

The January 2024 program has just completed with activities ranging from Movies, Ice Skating and Water Parks. Please see later in this issue some photos of different sessions!

### **Seniors Mystery Bus Tour**

The first tour for the year will be held on Thursday 15th February 2024. Pickups are scheduled as: Batchelor 8:30am and Adelaide River 9:00am.

Contact Council on 8976-0058 to secure your spot as places are limited!





Council is working in partnership with the NT Police to improve Road Safety. Through the Road Safety Council . Coomalie Shire has received several car seats to distribute to our most vulnerable people and with the number of deaths relating to seat belts and unrestrained kids in the last 12 months the new year brings about a need to get this message across to people.

If you know of someone in need of a child's car seat please contact the Council on 8976-0058.



# Australia Day 2024

A very wet night led to a lot of water lying around the Shire which restricted the number of attendees at our event. It is estimated that 80 - 100 people attended over the course of the morning.

The level of water also stopped the Waler Horses from attending and delivering our flags as has become the tradition.

Coomalie's Citizen of the Year recipients are:

Citizen of the Year - Darryl Butler

Young Citizen of the Year - Bonita Penhaligon

Senior Citizen of the Year - Maureen Fox

Community Event of the Year - Batchelor Town & Country Markets

Council would like to thank the volunteers that assisted us putting on the day, as without these volunteers, the event would not run to the level it does!

Should you have any feedback on the event, or suggestions for 2025, please email Council on [mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au](mailto:mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au).



Images from top left:

- The Breakfast Crew doing their thing!
- Some revelers enjoying their morning!

- Coomalie's new citizens with President Beswick.
- Coomalie's Honouree's for 2024.

# School Holiday Program January 2024



## From the Community Libraries Team

Our Community Libraries have been very busy places of late with people trying to get away from the heat we have been experiencing!



Community Libraries re-opened on Monday 8th January with some good numbers coming through to all sessions.

### **Community Library Opening Hours**

#### **Adelaide River**

Thursdays 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Fridays 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Saturdays 9:00am to 2:00pm

#### **Batchelor**

Fridays 3:00pm to 5:30pm

Sundays 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Community members and visitors are all welcome at the library during the times above.

Should libraries be closed on short notice, or late opening for any reason Council will publish this information to its Facebook page.

#### **Batchelor Music & Craft Sessions**

These fantastic free programs have again commenced at Batchelor Library on a Sunday between 2 - 4pm.

## **2024 Community Directory**



Advertising for the 2024 Coomalie Community Directory is now open, to have your business



appear please follow this [link to download](#) the advertising form.

## What's On

# Mystery Bus Tour



Thursday 15th February 2024  
Pickup: Batchelor 8:30am  
Adelaide River 9:00am

**Contact Council on 8976-0058 to secure your seat!**



## Bombing of Darwin Commemoration

Coomalie Council cordially invites you to an ecumenical service to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin.

**When:** Tuesday 20th February 2024

**Where:** Civilian Section, Adelaide River War Cemetery, Memorial Tce, Adelaide River

**Time:** 10:00am - 11:00am

Light morning tea follows the service



JOIN THE FUN!

## GET ACTIVE WITH OUR AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM!



Unleash your inner athlete and join us for a fun-filled afternoon of sports and games! Our after school sports program is perfect for kids who love to stay active and meet new friends.

See your school office for an enrolment form!

Adelaide River: Monday's 2:45pm - 3:45pm  
Batchelor: Tuesday's 2:45pm - 3:45pm



Laps for Life is back this March!

Sign up to swim 2 or 20km (or a goal that suits you) throughout the month of March, for the 1 young person in Australia who takes their own life each day.

You can swim anywhere, and any time you like, and you can join individually, or sign up as a team to smash your swimming goals together. Once you sign up, you will be set up with your very own fundraising page to raise funds for youth mental health and research-backed programs through ReachOut.

For every lap you swim and every dollar you raise, you'll be helping to save young lives from suicide.

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## COTA

### **Morning Tea**

Where: Rum Jungle Bowls Club

When: 9:30am 29th February 2024

*Gold coin donation please!*

Contact: Jan Jewell on 0408 762 257 for further details

### **Special Morning Tea**

Where: Litchfield Outback Resort

When: 8th February 2024

*See Flyer below*

Contact: Jan Jewell on 0408 762 257 for further details

### **Agemoves**

Where: Old Rum Jungle Tavern, Batchelor

When: Every Tuesday 10:00am - 11:30am

Contact: Daryl Butler 0428 983 098 or Prue King 0427 332 803

Combined session for people of Coomalie.

### **Monthly Bus Trip**

Where: Coolalinga and Gateway Shopping Centres

Pick up Batchelor 8am and Adelaide River 8:30am

When: Monday 26th February 2024

Booking essential – Numbers limited due to small bus

Contact: Jan Jewell on 0408 762 25



COTA NT | Coomalie  
The voice of senior Territorians  
since 1969

# Community FIRE SAFETY TALK

Come along for this FREE community talk and access basic home fire safety information to enhance your safety, and the safety of people you provide care for.

The presentation covers:

- Smoke alarms - legislation, types of smoke alarms, placement, maintenance
- Risk reduction - in the kitchen, laundry, electrical, general and outdoors
- Evacuation - being prepared, evacuation in an emergency, guidance if you are unable to get out
- Rural environments and more.

**BOOKINGS REQUIRED  
FOR CATERING  
(BOOKINGS CLOSE 5 FEBRUARY)**

**THE DATE, TIME AND VENUE**  
Litchfield Outback Resort  
49 Rum Jungle Road, Batchelor  
Thursday 8 February 2024, 10am

**SPECIAL BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR  
ADELAIDE RIVER RESIDENTS**  
CALL SHARON BESWICK  
TO BOOK 8976 7020



**Bookings and info**  
Jan Jewell  
0408 760 257

[www.cotant.org.au](http://www.cotant.org.au)

**All Welcome  
FREE EVENT**

## Community Groups

### Batchelor Museum

It is a quiet time for the Museum, but

### Rum Jungle Project Update

The latest newsletter from the Rum

we do have caretakers there who are staying for some time. Barbara and Peter have had some visitors call by to look through the Museum, and will open on request during this quiet period. Peter has been tidying the garden areas which is great to have that happening so that Lucinda and Jan can work on their respective projects for the Museum displays. We certainly need the table and chairs (and hose) from outside the office replaced to effectively function so would appreciate their return--no questions asked.

With the uncertainty with road flooding in the NT and Queensland currently, and further rain forecast in other districts there may well be a while before we see many travellers to the Territory.

Some of you would be aware of Ros Jones' passing last Wednesday. Ros made a huge contribution to the continuing history of Batchelor in arranging the well-regarded reunion attended by so many former residents in 2003. Many people who attended were delighted to know there would a record of that time when they so enjoyed their lives in the specially-built town of Batchelor. So they sent stories, photographs, memorabilia, and still keep in touch with the Museum through the website and direct communication. Also we see children and grandchildren visiting from time to time, checking out the stories and pictures.

Jungle Mine Project can be downloaded from Council's website [here](#) and scroll to the section on Rum Jungle Mine Project Newsletter.

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### **Coomalie Gardening Group**

Would normally have met on the third Sunday but due to some members having to deal with a deluge, this has been postponed so the next meeting will be at 11.30 on the third Sunday in March at Denmar Downs.

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### **Batchelor Op Shop / Food For Life**

Food for Life/Foodbank is no longer operating in Batchelor.

Food Bank has opened premises in Yarrawonga, see photo.

Meet and Greet will still operate each fortnight on Friday, commencing Feb 9th 2024, from 9.30 to 11.30 am, at the carport next to St Francis Church.

Sausage rolls and mini meat pies will be served together with tea and coffee. This will be followed by cake and biscuits. Everyone is welcome and food and drinks are free of charge.

The Op shop will be operating at the same time. For this month only all clothing items will be charged out at \$1 (one dollar).

The anglicare ladies will, also, be there for anyone wanting to know

Those contributions have provided a great resource for Batchelor Museum historical records and is a unique collection for the Northern Territory.

Ros made other contributions to the district, such as with St Johns service and her active Church work. She leaves behind a great deal of memory in a lot of places. Vale, Ros.

Lucinda and myself plan to be at the Museum on Tuesdays if you want to be in touch .

Cheers,

**Jan Hills**

about or apply for a No Interest Loan (NILs).

Everyone is welcome so come along and have a chat!

## Save The Date



WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
Agemoves	Old Rum Jungle Tavern	Tuesdays 10:00am - 11:30am Call Daryl Butler 0428 983 098 or Prue King 0427 332 803
Coomalie Gardening Group	Denmar Downs	11:30am start Third Sunday in March
Council Run After School Sports	Adelaide River & Batchelor Schools	Mondays & Tuesdays 2:45pm - 3:45pm (during school terms) Returns week starting 5th February 2024
Grey Panthers Dance Classes	Old Rum Jungle Tavern	Wednesdays 10.30am Call Darryl on 0428 983 098
St Francis Op Shop	St Francis Church Mardango Cres, Batchelor	Every 2nd Friday 9th February 2024

## From Emergency Services

**Adelaide River Police Station  
Northern Territory Police**

**C/- Post Office,  
Adelaide River 0845  
(08) 8976-7042**



**Batchelor Police Station  
Northern Territory Police**

**PO Box 21,  
Batchelor NT 0845  
(08) 8976-0015**



**Adelaide River Health  
Centre**

Becker St, Adelaide River 0846  
(08) 8976-7027



**Batchelor Primary Health  
Care Centre**

27 Pinaroo Cres, Batchelor 0845  
(08) 8976-0011



## The Boring But Necessary Stuff

### **Council's Feedback Process**

If you choose to raise concerns (or compliments) to Council you are requested to write to the Chief Executive Officer outlining the details. There are two (2) forms on the Coomalie Council website; one is for [complaints about dogs](#) and the other is for [feedback](#).

You can also fill out one of the two forms on [Council's website](#).



## Council Meetings

Council Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public but are closed for any confidential sessions.

**Next Meeting: 3:00pm Tuesday 20th February 2024**

## Stop Press

Should you know of someone that still wishes to receive a paper-based version of the Stop Press, please email [Stop Press](#) to be added to the printed mailing list.

Just a reminder, if you would like an article published, please email it to [Stop Press](#) by the 20th of each month. Each month we start with a clean canvas without articles being rolled over.

Please ensure you have read Council's policy [1.1 Community Communication](#) before submitting an article.

## PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

To see the previous editions of Stop Press please follow this link to [Councils website](#).

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