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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.





Business Hardship Package

The Northern Territory Government's Business Hardship Package is being continued until 1 July 2021 for businesses that have experienced a 30 percent loss in turnover due to COVID-19.

Register online in minutes for your Business Hardship Certificate that can then be used to access relevant concessions such as payroll tax, power and water bills, rents and rates.

For more information and to apply, visit:

<https://businessnt.smartygrants.com.au/businesshardshipregister>

COUNCIL UPDATES

FROM THE COMMUNITY RECREATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

It has been a busy month on the Recreation front, with planning for the Australia Day, Bombing of Darwin and ANZAC Day Commemorations.

Council Run After School Sports will recommence for Term 1 on Tuesday 2nd February for Adelaide River and Monday 8th February for Batchelor, please obtain a copy of your enrolment form from your school office or from Council's website [here](#). It is a requirement that all participants have completed this form. This is to ensure we have emergency contact details, as well as any allergy information.

Seniors Mystery Bus Tour The next bus tour will be held on Monday 8th February 2021.

Days

Australia Day was celebrated in style at Batchelor Area School this year. Attendees were entertained by Therese B on her guitar and Miss Wills and some local students singing the National Anthem, as well as recognising the valuable contribution of our volunteers with the Coomalie Region. Please see further in this newsletter for further details!

Andrew Roberts
Community Recreation Development Officer

FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council's first meeting for the year was held on Tuesday 19th January 2021. The meeting commenced with a briefing with Mr Ian Sloan MLA, Member for Daly on key strategic issues in the Shire. Mr Sloan met with the Elected Members for an hour and discussed the following items;

- the challenges residents face regarding poor connectivity and telecommunications,
- improving the Batchelor Road turn-off at the Stuart Highway and additional duplication of lanes;
- additional financial support from the NTG re tackling Gamba Grass infestation;
- increasing resourcing to local Police to assist with community policing and safety;
- the challenges Council will face in implementing requirements when the new *Local Government Act* takes effect from 1st July 2021; and
- support for boundary reform and the expansion of the Shire, and the likelihood of a future amalgamation with Belyuen Community Government Council and inclusion of adjacent unincorporated areas.

The Elected Members also received a one hour briefing from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, Local Government and Community development Division, regarding the new *Local Government (General) and (Electoral) Regulations 2021 and the Guidelines*.

The Ordinary General Meeting then followed with Council endorsing a number of funding proposals including one to develop a strategy for the Preservation and Maintenance of the Batchelor Township Canopy, improved cycling infrastructure and investment in Risk Reduction and Disaster Recovery equipment.

Council also approved a further application to the Public benefits Concessions Program. The Northern Territory Government has extended the program until 1st July 2021. All businesses are eligible to apply to the Northern Territory Government for assistance and Council has agreed to provide rates waivers to eligible businesses.

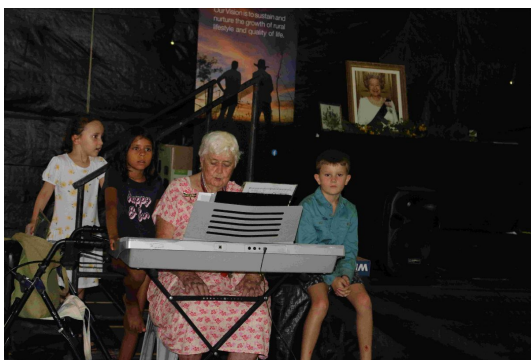
Council also discussed the next steps in rates arrears recovery. This is a reminder to all rate payers who are facing hardship and challenges in meeting their rates obligation to speak with the team at the Council office who can arrange Payment Plans for those who are experiencing difficulty in paying their rates.

The next meeting of Council is Tuesday 16th February 2021.

Need to know more?

Each month the Council meeting agenda and minutes can be accessed from the Council website and a regular link will be provided on Council's Facebook page. Visit www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/index.php/meetings-agendas-and-minutes to access the very latest information.

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS



Australia Day celebrations for 2021 were held on a much cooler morning than normal, but this didn't stop the crowds from attending to celebrate everything that makes Australia great - diversity, inclusion and mate-ship!

The morning started at 6:00am for the volunteers to set up for the day, with breakfast being served from 8:00am. Official celebrations kicked off at 9:15am.

This year we welcomed 3 new Australian Citizens - Sheila Sanchez, Fatima McKay and Martyn Jones - congratulations for taking this fantastic step!

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Steven Deveraux - Nominated for always lending assistance to those less fortunate. Steve just arrives on your door step to lend a helping hand or assists with yard clean up after a storm without being asked. Steve also helps young and old for little or no reward.

YOUTH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

William Clayton-Ingles - Nominated for being a caring young individual that had noticed that significant residents within the Adelaide River township could no longer look after their yards, so stepped up to assist these people with free and sometimes reasonably priced garden care. William started out with a push mower and eventually upgraded to a second hand ride-on. He then taught himself how to maintain his equipment to ensure he could service his clients when required.

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR

Rum Jungle Bowls Club Hallowe'en Night - Nominated for hosting a Halloween Family Fun Night. Members of the club all brought a plate(s) of food to share and lollies and treats for the kids. By being inclusive, the Bowls Club allowed all children to come and enjoy the food and lollies throughout the late afternoon and evening.

have been such a success!!!



COUNCIL EVENTS



Bombing of Darwin Day

A National Day of Observance

Commemorate the Bombing of Darwin with Coomalie Council.

On 19 February 1942 Darwin was bombed by two separate Japanese air raids becoming the largest single attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australia. The attack left hundreds of servicemen and civilians dead, and countless others injured.

Each year we come together as a community and a nation, to pay tribute to the men and women who were there.



AFTER SCHOOL SPORT

TERM 1, 2021

MONDAYS 2:45 - 3:45
FROM 8/2/2021
BATCHELOR AREA SCHOOL
(NEW DAY FOR BAS)

TUESDAYS 2:45 - 3:45
FROM 2/2/2021
ADELAIDE RIVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Collection of Information

Due to recent Chief Health Officer Directives to enable efficient Contact Tracing, Council is now required to collect personal information from anyone that utilises its facilities.

These facilities include the Batchelor Pool, Bruce Jones Community Centre, Adelaide River Access Shed as well as Council run activities like After School Sports and School Holiday Programs.

This information will be kept securely at Council offices for 28 days and destroyed as per CHO directives. The information can only be accessed by the CHO or one of their legal representatives.



Seniors Mystery Bus Tour

Council is providing a free bus service for a mystery lunch trip and experience to somewhere in the outer Darwin area.

Plan a day out from around 9am - 3pm.

Bus service is free.

Meals and drinks at own expense!

Save the date:

Monday 8th February 2021
Bus leaves Batchelor Store 8:30am
Adelaide River Store 9:30am

Contact Council on 8976-0058 to save your seat!



COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

ADELAIDE RIVER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Community Opening Hours

Thursday and Friday Afternoons 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Saturdays 9:00am to 2:00pm

After some quiet times over the school holidays, Library is back in full swing for the New year.

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

We maintain a Covid-19 contact tracing register for every visitor, and have all the required social distancing, cleaning and hygiene measures in place to keep everyone using the facility safe. Council keeps a dynamic and interesting collection of Fiction, Non-fiction books, DVD and Audiobooks for patrons to borrow.

Children over 8 years old may visit Library unaccompanied but must be signed in by a parent or caregiver to make sure we are not over our maximum visitor capacity. This is particularly important on Saturdays which are very popular sessions especially with our young engineers and gamers.

community, Council has prepared a survey to gain feedback and suggestions about our service and opening hours from patrons and community members.

This short questionnaire will be available at the Library or from Council from Friday the 29th of January 2021 and can of course be anonymous if you wish. All community ideas and comments are welcome. Please phone Coomalie Council on 89760058 or see Miss Hilary if you have any questions about this.

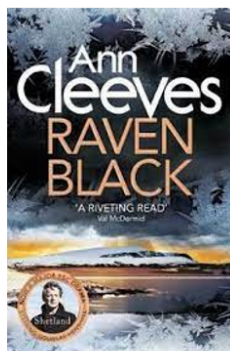
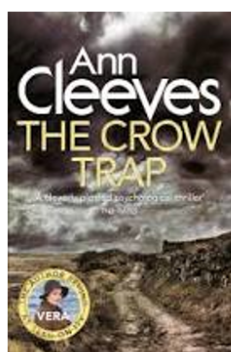
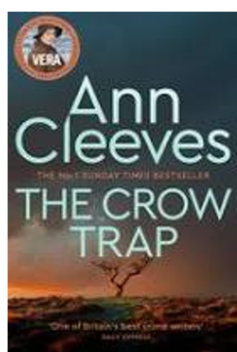
The Be Connected Network free IT and computer training sessions for Seniors are starting up again. We have two highly qualified experienced Tutors available who understand the challenges of adult learning. Lessons can be one on one, or in small groups, and are suitable for absolutely anyone no matter what level of experience learners have. Please phone Council to make a booking.

We are looking forward to seeing all our regular Library family and seeing some new faces as well this month.

BATCHELOR COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Welcome to the Library in 2021. Come along and choose from our large range of books, DVD's and magazines.

Do you enjoy reading a detective story? Ann Cleeves, a British author, has written several exciting police dramas including the Shetland series and the Vera series. These have been made into television series shown on the ABC. The library has several of her novels available for borrowing.



Kids' Time in the Library

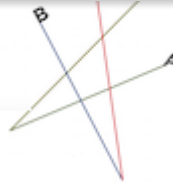
Friday 3.00 – 5.30 pm

Sunday 1.00 – 4.30 pm

HEADPHONES IN LIBRARIES

Just a reminder that library staff, at both Batchelor and Adelaide River, cannot issue headphones to people, this is due to current COVID-19 restrictions, you are however allowed to bring your own and use in our devices.

Please respect this decision when advised.



Despite the Museum being closed, we have had many calls requesting that the person or persons visit. Most of these requests are made on-site. Most of them have resulted in Sean or Sue opening the Museum especially for them. The visitor requests are unprecedented for this time of year, and must be because of “COVID Travel” and possibly more Darwin people knowing that the Museum exists!

Meantime we have been working on presentation for the year.

After the main logs from the mahogany were removed, Lucinda and I loaded out the massive amount of bark and small limbs to the dump. Carol sprayed around the edges of the driveway and paths which has made a massive difference to the appearance. We intend to remove some more logs and mulch, and endeavour to level out the grassed area.

Over the past few weeks there has been the annual spring clean, mostly managed by a few volunteers - we thank Sean and Sue, who also brought Gunter along to help; then to complete Lucinda asked Kirsten to assist.

Meantime we are looking for a caretaker couple and have placed an advert with Grey Nomads.

One opening on January 21 was certainly requested in advance. Camp Australia had previously brought international adult visitors to the Museum but this visit was for 183 primary school children. The children travelled from Darwin in buses and were obviously glad to get out and move around. They were accompanied by a number of caring supervisors, and were very well behaved.

There were some very different questions and often their attention was taken by some older items on display. Thus a side-opening toaster is not easily recognised by youngsters used to pop-ups!

The children also had a good inspection of the Castle and visited the Butterfly Farm before returning to Darwin. Seemed a big trip for some of the smaller children.

Lucinda and I will be back to developing new exhibits on Tuesdays after attending the Australia Day function on last Tuesday. It was an excellent event.

Jan Hills

DONATIONS

Whilst the Batchelor Museum is primarily an interpretive one, we have been given some wonderful display items. When you visit you will see the name on the object and the person who has donated it- some of the notices are yet to be done.

Items must be given permanently to the Museum and there is a form which we will have available- the format given to us from the Military Museum in Darwin, please be aware this is a common policy of museums.

Be proud of the Museum – it will showcase the unique town of Batchelor and will be a valuable resource to bring visitors from all over.



Morning Tea

Where: VENUE TO BE ADVISED

When: 26th February 2021 9:30am start

Contact: Jan Jewell on 8976 0255 for further details

Coomalie Community Shed

Where: Cutler Place, Batchelor

When: Every Tuesday 8:30am - 2:00pm

Contact: Jan Jewell on 8976 0255

Age Moves

Where: Adelaide River Primary School

When: Every Wednesday 3:30pm - 4:45pm

Contact: Darryl Butler on 0428 983 098

or

Where: Batchelor - TBA - contact Prue

When: Every Wednesday 5:00pm - 6:15pm (Please note change of day)

Contact: Prue King 0427 332 803

Monthly Bus Trip

Where: Coolalinga and Gateway Shopping Centres

Pick up Batchelor and Adelaide River Stores

When: Monday 22nd February 2021 at 8:00am

SPECIAL BUS TRIP TO CASUARINA SQUARE

SMALL BUS AND LIMITED PASSENGER NUMBERS

Also limited shopping room, only parcels on laps allowed.

Booking essential – Numbers limited

Contact: Jan Jewell on 8976 0255

IS YOUR CHILD PREPARING TO TRAVEL INDEPENDENTLY IN THE COMMUNITY?

Neighbourhood Watch NT believes that everybody has the right to feel safe at all times.

Neighbourhood Watch 4 Kids is an e-learning portal that supports caregivers in preparing their children to travel safely in the community.

NHW4Kids has been created with best-practice advice and interactive elements to take you and your child on a learning journey to...



Neighbourhood Watch NT (NHWNT) are committed to increasing the safety of all Territorians and believe that everyone has the right to feel safe at all times. NHWNT previously managed the Safety House program, which provided a network of safe places for children when travelling to and from school. In 2018, NHWNT conducted an independent review of the Safety House program, and as a result the program was disbanded.

We recognise that the transition to travelling independently within the community may be a time of apprehension for both children and caregivers. In response to this, we have developed *Neighbourhood Watch 4 Kids*; an e-learning portal to support caregivers in preparing their children to travel independently, particularly to and from school. The portal uses easily accessible and interactive information and resources to provide a safe and

- Support caregivers in determining if their child is ready to travel independently.
- Provide caregivers with the knowledge and tools to help safeguard their child's personal safety.
- Provide caregivers with an opportunity to start a safety conversation with their children.
- Improve the safety knowledge of Territory children.
- Increase the sense of safety and confidence of Territory children, by empowering them to trust their instincts and react appropriately to unsafe situations.

Neighbourhood Watch 4 Kids is now live and can be accessed at: <https://nhw4kids.org.au/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

<p>Adelaide River Police Station Northern Territory Police C/o Post Office, Adelaide River, NT 0845, 08 8976 7042</p> <p>Officer in Charge: Remote Sergeant Peter Birch</p>	<p>Batchelor Police Station Northern Territory Police PO Box 21, Batchelor, NT 0845, 08 8976 0015</p> <p>Front Counter open: Mon–Thurs 8am–4pm Officer in Charge: Remote Sergeant Paul Parkanyi</p>
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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





SAVE THE DATE

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
Aged Moves	Adelaide River School	Wednesdays 3:30pm - 4:45pm Call Darryl on 0428 983 098
Aged Moves	TBA	Mondays 5:00pm - 6:15pm Call Prue King 0427 332 803
Batchelor Playgroup	Preschool Grounds Batchelor Area School	Every Friday (during school terms) 9:00am - 11:00am
Gardening Group monthly meeting	Contact Mary Ashley for this months location 8976-0379	11am, Sunday 15 November Denmar Downs
Council Run After School Sports	Batchelor Area School	Every Monday from 8th February 2021 2.45pm - 3.45pm
Council Run After School Sports	Adelaide River School	Every Tuesday from 2nd February 2021 2.45pm - 3.45pm
Grey Panthers Dance Classes	Litchfield Motel	Tuesdays 10.30 am Call Darryl on 0428 983 098
Bombing of Darwin Commemoration	Adelaide River War Cemetery	Saturday 20th February 2021 10:00am

COUNCIL INFORMATION



WHAT TO DO DURING A NATURAL DISASTER

1

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Familiarise yourself with the risks that could occur in your community

2

PREPARE YOUR HOME

Coordinate with your family on your protocol during an emergency. Keep important numbers on hand.

3

PACK AN EMERGENCY KIT

They should all contain food, water and supplies for a minimum of 72 hours.

4

STAY INFORMED

Contact your local government to find out how it will share alerts and instructions during an emergency

FOR MORE SAFETY TIPS VISIT

[SECURENT.NT.GOV.AU](https://securent.nt.gov.au)

BE PREPARED FOR THE

CYCLONE SEASON

PLAN • LISTEN • GET HELP

PLAN BE READY WITH BACK UP PLANS IN CASE THINGS GO WRONG.

LISTEN TO THE RADIO FOR NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET HELP GO TO [HTTPS://SECURE.NT.GOV.AU/PREPARE-FOR-AN-EMERGENCY/CYCLONES](https://secure.nt.gov.au/prepare-for-an-emergency/cyclones)

BASIC SAFETY TIPS: FLOODS

- Turn Around, Don't Drown
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Just 60cms of moving water can knock you down, and 30cms of water can sweep your vehicle away
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground. Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.



Cyclones

The Top End of the Northern Territory is prone to cyclones from November to May.

Cyclones usually affect coastal areas up to 50km inland from the sea.

Cyclones are dangerous and can produce destructive winds, heavy rainfall, flooding and storm surges.

They affect essential services and disrupt your ability to travel and communicate.

Your responsibility

The protection of your family, your home and your possessions is your responsibility.

You need a [cyclone emergency plan](#) and an [emergency kit](#).

You must also make sure your house is safe if you choose to stay at home during a cyclone.



WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT AS OF 1 OCTOBER 2020

Council will have weight restrictions in place on all Council owned roads, sealed and unsealed.

- 20 Tonne on sealed roads (bitumen)
- 10 Tonne on unsealed roads (gravel)

Any heavy vehicles wishing to access these roads will need to apply to Council for a permit, subject to change depending on weather with limited notice.

It is at Council's discretion to approve permits.

Permits must be applied for **at least 2 business days prior** to planned movement.

A copy of the form can be downloaded from Council's website [here](#).

All enquiries please contact the Coomalie Council on ph 8976 0058 or mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Gamba grass

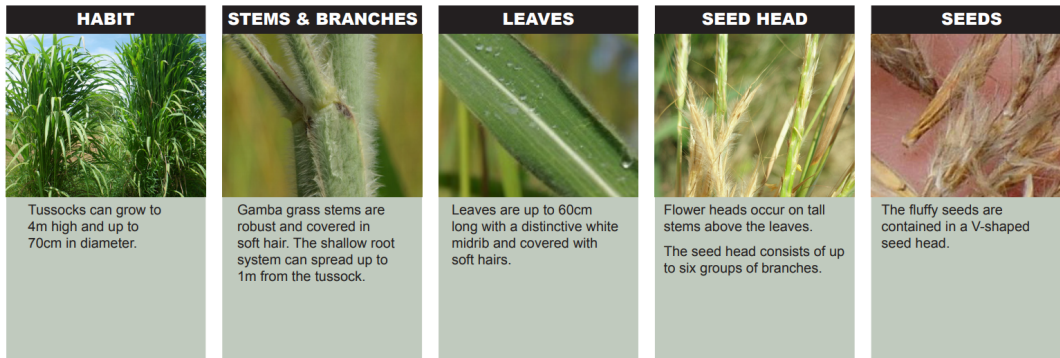
Andropogon gayanus

Gamba grass is declared a Class A (to be eradicated), Class B (Growth and spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory and is a Weed of National Significance in Australia.

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

Gamba grass was introduced into the Northern Territory as a pasture grass in the 1930s. Ensuing research and trials showed gamba grass to be a highly productive and palatable fodder. Subsequently, plantings occurred throughout pastoral and agricultural areas of the Top End.

Since this time gamba grass has proved to be highly invasive, establishing itself in savanna woodlands, along creek lines, on floodplain fringes and in disturbed vine thickets. A combination of impacts on fire regimes, soil nutrient and soil water cycles are dramatically changing these native plant communities.



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

W: www.nt.gov.au/weeds



Scientific name: *Andropogon gayanus*

Declaration status: Class A except in areas where it is classified as Class B

If you own, manage or live on land, you are legally responsible for controlling gamba grass on your property.

Gamba grass has a [statutory weed management plan \(2.3 mb\)](#) which outlines the legal requirements for control and a [weed management guide \(1.8 mb\)](#) with more information. It is also a [Weed of National Significance](#).

Gamba grass is originally from Africa. It was introduced to the Northern Territory (NT) as a pasture species in the 1930s. Research and trials resulted in widespread plantings in pastoral and agricultural areas of the Top End.

It needs at least 600mm of rain each year. Gamba grass generally flowers in April, with seed production and fall from May to August. A second seeding may occur in November in response to an early wet season.

Gamba grass is tolerant of drought, fire and low nutrient soils found in north Australian savannas.

Gamba grass is suited to most Top End soil types, except for heavy clays.

Get free herbicide and loan of spray equipment from the [Gamba Action Program](#).

Gamba is a highly invasive weed that creates high fuel loads.

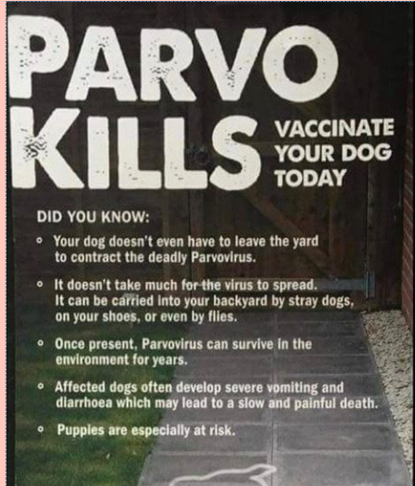
DOGS IN THE COOMALIE SHIRE

All dogs within the Coomalie Region over 3 months of age must be registered. You can register your dog at the Coomalie Council Office in Batchelor or Adelaide River or via email.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times in any public area otherwise they will be impounded.

Fees apply if your dog has been put in the pound.

Impoundment fees are initially **\$90.00** for registered dogs and **\$165.00** for unregistered dogs, then **\$60.00** per day kept in Pound. Registered dogs are kept for 3 days and unregistered dogs kept for 2 days. Unregistered dogs must be registered before being released from the pound.



Registration Fees

Town Dogs - A limit of 2 dogs per household applies

Registered **Sept-August** (1 year)

\$30.00

Registered **March—August** (6 months) **\$20.00**

Concessions

1/2 price

Rural Dogs - Registration is free and no limits apply

Click the image above to download a dog registration form.

OPENING HOURS

Adelaide River Waste Station

Monday	7.00 am to 5.00 pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	Closed
Friday	7.00 am to 5.00 pm
Saturday	7.00 am to 5.00 pm
Sunday	7.00 am to 5.00 pm

Batchelor Land Fill

Monday	6.00 am to 6.00 pm
Tuesday	6.00 am to 6.00 pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	Closed
Friday	6.00 am to 6.00 pm
Saturday	6.00 am to 6.00 pm
Sunday	6.00 am to 6.00 pm

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

 ❌	White goods	 ❌	Tyres
 ❌	Batteries	 ❌	Waste oil
 ❌	E- Waste	 ❌	Paint
 ❌	Car bodies	 ❌	Chemicals
 ❌	Medical Waste	 ❌	Asbestos



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 general complaints.

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the public,

Adelaide River Council Office

The Adelaide River Council Office operates from the Adelaide River Library at the below times.

Thursday 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Friday 3:30pm - 6:30pm

* Only when Hilary Brett is on duty

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 EDITIONS

To view the Dec-2020 & Jan-2021 Newsletter, click [here](#).

To view the Nov 2020 Newsletter, click [here](#).

To view the Oct 2020 Newsletter, click [here](#).

To view the Sep 2020 Newsletter, click [here](#).

To view the Aug 2020 Newsletter, click [here](#).

To view the Jul 2020 Newsletter, click [here](#).

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22 Cameron Road, Batchelor NT 0845 or
mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au

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