From: Coomalie Community Government Council

Subject: Another bumper issue of activities from the Coomalie Region

Date: 3 September 2025 at 11:36
To:



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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 <u>link</u>, 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!

COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

22 Cameron Road Batchelor NT 0845

27th August

MEDIA RELEASE

End of Administration at Coomalie Community Government Council—A New Chapter Begins

The Coomalie Community Government Council formally acknowledges the conclusion of its period under administration, marking both the end of a unique and challenging chapter and the beginning of a renewed era for local government in our community.



The past period, during which Council operated under administration, was distinctive in both its structure and timing. Guided by legislative requirements and the need for decisive, impartial oversight, Council benefited from the stewardship of renowned administrator, Mr. Mark Blackburn. His extensive experience and wisdom have been invaluable, steering the organisation through an era of necessary reform and modernisation.

With Mark Blackburn presiding over Council's business, Coomalie Community Government Council was able to stay the course through a demanding and sometimes uncertain period. His leadership, together with the work of the CEO, helped ensure operational stability and business continuity—factors critical to supporting the ongoing delivery of services to the Coomalie community.

Significant achievements under Mark's administration include:

- Frequent and direct engagement with community members, fostering transparency and open dialogue.
- Introduction of new opportunities for public participation, including an official Acknowledgement to Council at meetings and the new 'Questions with Notice' provision for the community.
- Comprehensive review and approval of Council's Governance, Financial, and Human Resources policies to align operations with the Local Government Act.
- Implementation and delivery of the 2024–2025 Shire Plan and Budget.
- Adoption and approval of the 2025–2026 Shire Plan and Budget, providing a clear vision for the future.
- Introduction of Council Reserves in accordance with Asset Management Plan recommendations, strengthening Council's long-term financial sustainability.
- Maintaining a high level of expectation and operational performance to ensure continued service excellence for our community.

Mr. Mark Blackburn's tenure as Official Manager will officially conclude on the 8th of September 2025, when the new Council is declared. As we prepare for this transition, we acknowledge the strong foundation laid throughout his administration—modernising operations, embedding best practice governance, and recalibrating the organisation in line with contemporary standards. The CEO expresses deep gratitude for Mark's counsel, which has been central to maintaining stability and progress during this complex stage.

As Council returns to standard governance arrangements, the foundations laid during administration will serve the community well. The commitment to transparency, strong governance, sound financial management, and community engagement will continue as guiding principles.

On behalf of Council staff and the Coomalie community, we extend our sincere thanks to Mark Blackburn for his exceptional contributions and leadership during this pivotal time.

For further information, please contact: Sharon Hillen, Chief Executive Officer Coomalie Community Government Council Phone: 08 8976 0058

From The Chambers



Council held its Ordinary General Meeting on 19th August 2025.

At the Ordinary General Meeting, Council considered the following business:

• The Official Manager of Council, Mr. Mark Blackburn extended condolences to the

also declared at the meeting. A memorial plaque was approved for installation at the Batchelor Memorial Gardens pending the family's acceptance in recognition of her 21 years of service at Coomalie Council.

- TEAM Health (Batchelor) seeking support from the Council so the Northern Territory Government will consider continuing to fund the activities that are currently held in Batchelor.
- The Official Manager of Council, Mr. Mark Blackburn thanked the CEO and all Council staff for their dedication, support and assistance in the conduct of Council business over the last 12 months.
- Discussion on the actions required for the recovery of major unpaid property rates and the timeframe for the process.



2025/26 Property Rate Notices

Rate Notices are underway and being prepared for the mail out. Keep an eye out towards the end of August for your notice.

Instalment Dates:

1st Instalment – Friday 26th September 2025 2nd Instalment – Friday 28th November 2025 3rd Instalment – Friday 30th January 2026 4th & Final Instalment – Tuesday 7th April 2026

If you are experiencing financial difficulties honouring your property rate obligations, please contact the Council Office and arrange an appointment to discuss financial hardship options. Council's Rates Concession Policy is available on the website.

What's in a Name?

TORTILLA FLATS

The Tortilla Flats locality is named after the former Government Experimental Farm of

tnat name.

The origin is derived from John Steinbecks book Tortilla Flats, 1963, as it was thought at the time Steinbecks characters were matched by those working on the farm.

The Experimental Farm commenced in 1958 with the view to cattle rotation, rice and pasture growing experiments. The farm was sold at auction in 1990.

Source: NT Place Names

Free to Residents

Domestic quantities of mulch can be collected from the Batchelor Waste Management Facility.

Commercial quantities are available at \$33.00/cubic metre.

Need to know more?

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

Council's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 16th September 2025** at 3:00pm in Chambers, 22 Cameron Road, Batchelor. Council meetings are open to the public.

From The Council Services Team

Major works include:

- Cemetery Precinct carpark, pathways and mains power NEAR COMPLETION mains power tender awarded and work has commenced.
- Myrtle Fawcett Park ablution block NEAR COMPLETION plumbing installed, slab completed, building work has commenced.
- Batchelor waste management weighbridge IN PROGRESS weighbridge on site, civils works have commenced.
- Sargeant Road new seal PARTIALLY COMPLETED

Ongoing works include:

General road maintenance

- General facility maintenance in both Adelaide Hiver and Batchelor townships
- Mowing of both townships
- Regular activities at Adelaide River and Batchelor waste facilities
- Tree audit & pruning works in Adelaide River and Batchelor
- Dry season maintenance

Verge Clean Ups

Council staff will begin to undertake necessary road verge tidy up's in Adelaide River and Batchelor townships. This will allow for better access for the verge management including mowing and other services.

To help Council in this clean up - please remove any items off the verge, including trailers and vehicles. Vegetation will be cut back or removed to better improve access.

Please do not put green waste on the verge from inside the properties as this will not be collected.

If you would like to discuss certain plants on your road verge that you would like to remain or care for, please contact the Council office on 8976 0058 or mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au.

Waste Collection Service

Firstly, Council would like to thank commercial operators for the patience and understanding during the waste collection service changes.

Council have been working with our contractors to provide the most practical waste collection service to Coomalie Shire.

After a lot of consultation, we are happy to confirm from the week of the 4th August 2025, the commercial waste service run will be on a Tuesday and Friday. This will give commercial operators 3 days between each collection.

Please remember, the contactors will only collect the paid number of bins that are assigned to your business, any other bins will not be collected.

Once again, Council would like to thank you for all the relevant feedback we have been receiving for the waste service collection.

Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

Council will be undertaking the annual pre-cyclone clean up in both Adelaide River and Batchelor on the dates listed in the poster below.

Please ensure your rubbish is placed on the road verge the weekend prior to the scheduled collection period to ensure it is removed in a timely fashion. Any waste put out after this period will not be collected.



- Furniture
- Small items which may become a projectile
- Items able to be picked up by a single person
- Tyres & Car batteries
- Paint / aerosol cans
- Chemicals
- Medical waste
- Car bodies



T: (08) 8976-0058 W: coomalie.nt.gov.au/pre-cyclone-clean-up-2025 E: mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au

Weighbridge - Batchelor Waste Management Facility.

Council is currently installing a weighbridge at Batchelor Waste Management Facility.

Once installed, Council will be charging commercial operators/non-residents a fee for use of the facility. Council will send further correspondence regarding the weighbridge in due course.

Batchelor Waste Management Facility

WEIGHBRIDGE

CONSTRUCTION

Construction works have commenced for the weighbridge install.

Please abide by all traffic management signage.
Thank you for your patience during this time.
For any questions please contact the Council







Thanks to the NTG Sport and Rec Quick Response Grant for \$14,695 for night lights at the Rum Jungle Bowls Club. Council needs to replace the wiring in the grounds to service the lighting towers. The Club can now look forward to playing at night time as the build-up starts to heat up during the day.

Weeds in Coomalie

Rubber vine

Scientific name: Cryptostegia grandiflora

Declaration status: Class A

Rubber vine is a Weed of National Significance. For more information go to the Australian Government's <u>Department of Environment website</u>.

Rubber vine can be confused with ornamental rubber vine (*Cryptostegia madagascariensis*), which is also a Class A weed in the Northern Territory (NT) – to be eradicated.

Rubber vine is native to south-western Madagascar.

It has become weedy in other countries throughout East Africa, South-East Asia, the United States and Central and South America.

Rubber vine is widespread in Queensland. There are currently infestations within 5km of the NT/Queensland border. Read more about the current infestation below.

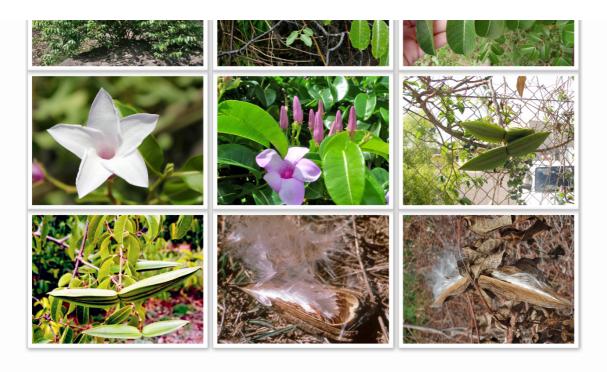
There are isolated infestations in Western Australia.

For more information get the <u>rubber vine identification fact sheet PDF (1.0 MB)</u>.









From the Ranger

Council Rangers are working extensively with the community to ensure pet owners are being responsible, this involves conducting daily unscheduled dog patrols and investigating any complaints that are received.

Council is receiving a high number of dog complaints; all complaints are investigated in line with Coomalie Dog Management By-laws 2002.

All feedback is appreciated and does help Council manage concerns and complaints.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding an open complaint that you have submitted, please contact Council directly.

Rangers work closely with several government departments to control domestic pet populations, antisocial behaviour and vehicle issues.

APPROVAL FOR SECOND ROUND VET CLINIC DAY

Council have approved for Authorised Officers to hold a second round 2025 vet clinic day.

Two vet clinics per year will now be run annually with the aim for round 1 to be held in September/October 2025 and round 2 to be held May/June 2026.

Dates will be announced to the community once finalised

Dates will be altitionated to the community office infanced

PLease note services provided by the vets are resticted to the items listed in Council's Fees & Charges schedule.



2025-26 dog registrations are now due for the 1st September 2025 – 31 August 2026 year.

50% discount applies to concession card holders.
50% discount applies to desexed animals.
Only one discount can be used at a time.

Desexing certificates or concession cards need to be provided to enable the discount to be applied.



Should your dog no longer reside in Coomalie, please contact Council on the below details...

COOMALIE (DOG MANAGEMENT) BY-LAWS 2002 state:

Township properties have a limit of two (2) dogs per property and must be registered.

Rural properties do not have a limit but must be registered.



(08) 8976-0058 (mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au >



Pre-Cyclone Clean Up

XXXXXX

From Community Services Team



Seniors Month 2025

Council held 3 active recreation activities for Seniors Month 2025, with activities including: Barefoot Bowls, Aqua Aerobics and a nursery visit. A great turn out was had to these events, see photos below! Thanks to the NTG for providing funding to make these activities occur!













Seniors Mystery Bus Tour

The next Seniors Mystery Tour will be held on Thursday September 18th. Pickups are available in Adelaide River, Batchelor and the Lake Bennett bus stop.





Active Remote Sport Program

For term 3 Council has engaged Softball NT to run a 6 week program at Adelaide River and Football NT (Soccer) to run Batchelor's program.

Adelaide River - Thursday from August 14, 2:45pm - 5:00pm Batchelor - Friday from August 8, 2:45pm - 5:00pm

Join Our Fun Softball Clinics This Dry Season!



Learn Softball Skills and Make Friends

Starts: August 14, 2025 Time: 2:45 PM Location: Adelaide River Oval Contact: 8976-0058 for details.

Registration forms available at school office or Council website.





Join Our Fun Football Clinics This Dry Season!



Learn Football Skills and Make Friends

Starts: August 8, 2025 2 sessions Time: 2:45PM & 4:15PM Location: Batchelor Oval Contact: 8976-0058 for details.

Registration forms available at school office or Council website.





Art Show

Coomalie's 4th Annual Art Show is fast approaching on the 12th - 14th September 2025.

Entries are now open, with details and entry form available from Council's website - www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/art-show.

The theme for 2025 is "Urban & Rural Life".

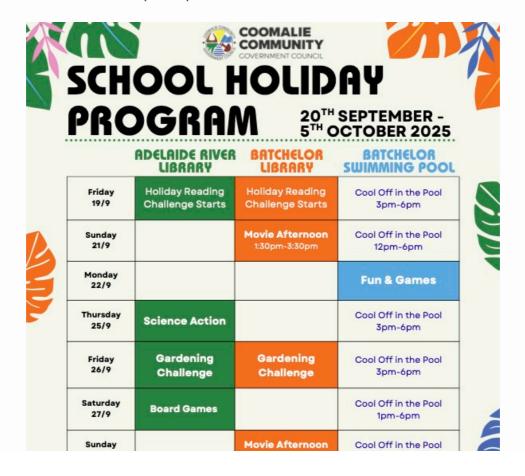




September School Holiday Activities

Council has put together a range of activities over the school holidays utilising our beautiful parks, gardens and amenities, please see below for details!

All activities are no cost to participate!





From the Community Libraries Team

Our Community Libraries have been very busy places of late with people trying to get away from the cooler weather.

Community Library Opening Hours

Adelaide River

Thursdays 3:00pm to 6:30pm Fridays 3:00pm 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.

Some exciting activities will be happening over the school holidays, please see the flyer above for details!

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

Batchelor Community Library



COTA

Morning Tea

Where: Litchfield Outback Resort

When: 9:30am Thursday 25th September 2025

Flyer will be distributed later

Contact: Jan Jewell on 0408 762 257

Grey Panthers in Coomalie Dance Group

Where: Batchelor Tavern

When: Every Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00pm

Contact: Daryl Butler 0428 983 098

Agemoves

Where: Old Rum Jungle Tavern, Batchelor When: Every Tuesday 10:00am - 11:30am

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

Combined session for people of Coomalie.

Yoga/Pilates and Tai Chi are available on alternative weeks.

All Coomalie people are encouraged to attend both or either sessions.



Community Groups



Adelaide River Markets New stallholders welcome!









The SEE Program is an Australian Government program that delivers free language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills training to eligible Australians.

Batchelor Institute has been providing SEE training in the Top End since 1st July 2024.

To find out more about the SEE program, eligibility and progress, please join us for an information session with Institute's SEE Program team.

Thursday 4 Sept

LOCATION: Batchelor Library







Financial Literacy and Governance for **Sporting and Not-for-Profit Organisations**

Register

Add to favourites 🌣





When

Hosted by: Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations

9am - 1pm, Wed, Oct 22

2025

Event description

growth on and off the field.

Region

Top End

Location

Darwin

Whether you're a board member, coach, or administrator, this workshop equips you with the tools to lead your organisation with confidence and integrity.

Empower your sports club or organisation with the essential skills to manage finances

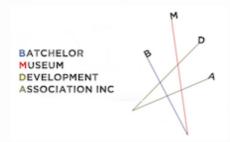
reporting, compliance, and transparent decision-making. Learn how to strengthen your organization's financial health, build trust with stakeholders, and ensure sustainable

effectively and uphold strong governance standards. This interactive workshop is designed specifically for sporting organisations, providing practical guidance on budgeting, financial

Ticket price

\$0.00

Register at this link - https://obm.nt.gov.au/calendar?page=2#event259



Terry and Julie, our very active nomad helpers have left so we have had to reduce our opening hours at the Museum. The season will wind down now as the hotter weather comes on, but yet there are still many tourists around.

When Lucinda and I were there last Tuesday (19th) we had a great number of visitors right through until mid- afternoon, so that was great.

Wednesday and Thursday is not covered currently. So, if you are reading this and could help it would be great for the Museum and the community.

Just now Lucinda and I are working towards hanging photographs we have been given into the Aboriginal area in the first building. This will take some weeks to complete. There will also be a panel re the wonderful lady, Kathy Mills.

Last Thursday Lucinda and I, along with many community people from Batchelor and Adelaide River attended the funeral for Sue Bulmer. Sue was involved with the Museum from the very early days when we were renovating the old buildings. Later she gave a day each weekend to open the Museum and welcome visitors.

Sue also encouraged Sean to volunteer at the Museum and he then covered a weekend day each week as well. They both attended committee meetings and were committed and keen Museum volunteers. We have lost those two dedicated people within a few months

Wonderful commitment to the Batchelor Museum from Sue and Sean over many years.

Gaye continues to respond to phone enquiries from people coming by on days when we are not able to open, and it is great to have someone close to respond. Gaye is there Sundays, Prue on Saturday, Carol on Monday and Marjan on Friday.

As well Darryl runs the Museum Facebook page which is great to get any news and requests for Grey Nomads out there.

Few- but dedicated for your community!



Rum Jungle Project Update

The latest newsletter from the Rum Jungle Mine Project can be downloaded from Council's website here and scroll to the section on Rum Jungle Mine Project Newsletter.

You can also view the latest Quarterly Stakeholder report on our website as well.



Meet & Greet Op Shop

The Meet n Greet continues to meet each fortnight, together with the Op shop.

The area where the Meet n Greet takes place is being extended, thanks to a Coomalie Council grant.

Volunteers are doing some of the ground work of clearing the area and removing

.

weeds and other plants etc.

Work will commence soon.

This month there was free fruit given out, e.g apples and bananas. So if anyone has any excess fruit or vegetables please feel free to bring along to our Meet n Greet.

We offer each fortnight sausage rolls, or similar, cakes and biscuits and tea and coffee and hot chocolate. There is no charge for this service.

The next Meet n Greet will be held at 25 Mardango Crescent, Batchelor, at 10 am on 12th & 26th September.

Every fouth week the NILS (No interest loans) ladies attend our Meet n Greet.

Their next visit will be on September 26th.

The op shop has much to offer including brand new items of clothing.

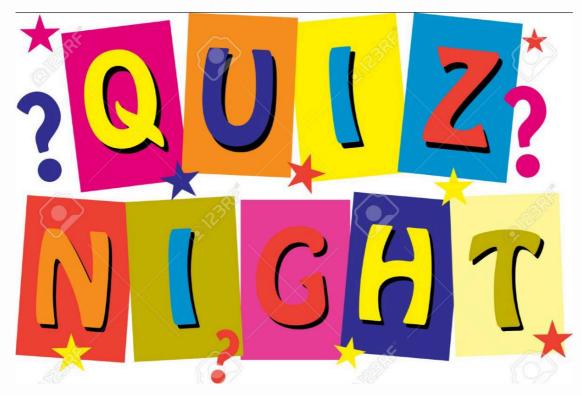
We have books, shoes, knick knacks, clothes, kitchen utensils, toys etc.

St Francis Church

Every Sunday
Mardango Cres, Batchelor
9:00am service start with morning tea at 10:30am







Community quiz night at the Batchelor Litchfield Outback Resort every second Friday evening.

ALL WELCOME!

The next quiz nights will be held Friday 12th & 26th September at 7.00PM.





Belong in a community, have a yarn, a decent feed and meet other blokes.

Healthy men, healthy masculinities, healthy communities.

Men's Tables are self-organising local groups that meet once a month for dinner, in a safe friendly environment, sharing the highs and lows of life.

Get food in your belly and stuff off your chest, as men listen, talk and share.

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The Darwin Table meets on the Third Tuesday of each month.

For further information:

Local Host (Darwin) - Steve Dobbie - stevedobbie1@gmail.com - 0419 235 698

Regional Host - Tyson Cherrie tyson.cherrie@themenstable.org

National Host - hello@themenstable.org - 1800 636 782 - www.themenstable.org



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
Council Run After School Sports	Adelaide River School	Mondays 2:45pm - 3:45pm During School Terms
Grey Panthers Dance Classes	Old Rum Jungle Tavern	Wednesdays 10.30am Call Darryl on 0428 983 098
Seventh Day Adventist Church	Mardango Cres, Batchelor	Every Saturday 11:00am
St Francis Church Service	Mardango Cres, Batchelor	Every Sunday 9:00am start 10:30am Morning tea
St Francis Op Shop	St Francis Church Mardango Cres, Batchelor	Every 2nd Friday 9:30am - 11:30am
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church	Bruce Jones Community Centre, Plnaroo Cres, Batchelor	First Sunday of every month

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 <u>complaints about dogs</u> and the other is for <u>feedback</u>.

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 19th August 2025

Stop Press

rolled over.

Should you know of someone that still wishes to receive a paper-based version of the Stop Press, please email <u>Stop Press</u> to be added to the printed mailing list.

Just a reminder, if you would like an article published, please email it to <u>Stop Press</u> by the 20th of each month. Each month we start with a clean canvas without articles being

Please ensure you have read Council's policy <u>1.06 Community Communication Policy</u> 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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22 Cameron Rd
RATCHELOR NT 0845

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