



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 device to scan 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 office on 8976-0058 and we will be more than happy to help!



# From The Chambers

## From The President



Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year as we move rapidly into 2026.

Since the last Stop Press in November 2025, Council has held two Ordinary General Meetings. Notably, the Council appointed its new independent member to the Risk Management and Audit Committee, Mr Karl Hell. Council looks forward to working with Mr Hell and the full Risk Management and Audit Committee over the term of Council.

Council also resolved to change the starting time of the Ordinary General Meetings from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. The meeting day remains as the third Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Throughout the December and January period, Council hosted several events and programs for the community. The annual Seniors Christmas lunch was a well-attended and successful end of year celebration that showcased the local dance group and singing from students at Batchelor Area School.

Over the school holidays, the two-week School Holiday Program was run with various activities planned for local children to enjoy. The regular high attendance of this program is fantastic to see, and I encourage families to continue to engage with the sport and recreation programs that are being planned throughout the year.

Most recently, the Coomalie community gathered on Australia Day for a relaxing brunch and the Coomalie Australia Day Award ceremony. I extend my congratulations again to the Award recipients for this year: Joanne Atkins, Jan Jewell, Emma Douglas and the Adelaide River Show Society Christmas Market for their ongoing contributions to the Coomalie community.

I look forward to seeing you at Council or out and about in the community throughout 2026.

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## FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council has held two Ordinary General Meetings since the last Stop Press. The business considered at the meetings are detailed below.

### December 2025 Ordinary General Meeting:

- The first review of the 2025/26 budget resulted in an amended budget and long-term financial plan 2025 – 2029 being adopted.
- The Waste and Resource Management Grant 2025/26 project nomination was endorsed. The endorsed project is the commencement of the rehabilitation works required at the Adelaide River Waste Management Facility.
- Review of Council Policy 1.07 Council Meetings Policy. The review reflected the change of Ordinary General Meeting starting time from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Meeting day remains as the third Tuesday of each month.
- Australia Day Award recipients were endorsed ready for the 2026 Australia Day event.

### January 2026 Ordinary General Meeting:

- The Elected Member Professional Development Plan 2025-26 was endorsed.
- A development application for clearing of native vegetation for hay production was considered with a submission requested by Council.
- A nomination was made for a member to be appointed to the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs.

- Council raised a motion to seek community input and suggestions regarding how the township of Batchelor can be promoted as a day trip destination – more details and opportunity to provide suggestions to come!
- Two tenders were considered and awarded for the supply and delivery of a dual cab utility and bulk hook bins.

## 2025/26 Property Rate Notices

*Instalment Dates:*

- ~~1<sup>st</sup> Instalment - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - finished~~
- ~~2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment due Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025~~
- ~~3<sup>rd</sup> Instalment due Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026~~
- 4<sup>th</sup> & Final Instalment - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

*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](#).*

## *Free to Residents*

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

***Commercial quantities are available at \$33 a cubic metre.***

***Be sure to pre-book a collection time if machinery assistance is required.***

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 17<sup>th</sup> February at 5:00pm** in Chambers, 22 Cameron Road, Batchelor. Council meetings are open to the public.

# From The Council Services Team

Major works include:

- Myrtle Fawcett Park future works include landscaping, irrigation, vehicle barriers and footpaths- in planning
- Batchelor waste management weigh bridge - staff training and systems development in progress.

Ongoing works include:

- General road maintenance
- Grade, Water, Roll in progress
- Streetlight audits
- General facility maintenance in both Adelaide River and Batchelor townships
- Mowing of both townships
- Regular work activities at Adelaide River and Batchelor waste facilities
- Tree audit & pruning works in Adelaide River and Batchelor
- Wet season maintenance including pothole repairs.

## Wet Season Weight Restrictions

Effective from 1st October to 30th April

Restriction Period	Compliance Required	Contact Information
Weight restrictions are in effect during the wet season to protect road infrastructure and ensure safety for all users.	All vehicles must adhere to weight limits during this period to avoid penalties and road damage.	Contact Council on 8976-0058 or mail@coomalie.nt.gov.au for further information



For further information and to download a permit application, please see Council's website [www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/forms-and-documents](http://www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/forms-and-documents) or scan the QR Code below!



# Weeds in Coomalie

## Gamba Grass

Scientific name: *Andropogon gayanus*

Declaration status: [class A](#) except in areas where it's classified as class B

Gamba grass is a Weed of National Significance. For more information on weeds in Australia, go to the [Weeds Australia website](#).

### Impact

Gamba is a highly invasive weed that creates high fuel loads. It can cause uncontrollable, hot and intense fires that affect people, properties and communities. Read about gamba's [origin, habitat and distribution](#).

### Legal Requirements

If you're a landholder with gamba grass on your land, find out your legal [responsibilities](#). For annual reporting against the plan, go to the [Department of Lands, Planning and Environment website](#).

### Identification

Use the below characteristics as a guide to help you identify gamba grass. There may be other plants or weeds that look similar. Tussocks can grow to 4m high and up to 70cm in diameter. Stem and branches are robust and covered in dense, soft white hairs.

Leaves are broad and can grow up to 1m, have a distinctive white midrib and fine soft hairs, stay green after native annual grasses have died off.

Seed heads are v-shaped and fluffy, develop above the leaves on thick stems.

To find out more, read the [guide to identifying gamba grass and other Top End tussock grasses PDF \(2.1 MB\)](#) and the gamba grass fact sheet on the [Territory Stories website](#).



# From the Ranger

## WET SEASON REMINDERS

Council would like to remind the community of the following responsibilities:

- **Yard Maintenance:** Yards need to be mowed regularly.
- **Vegetation:** Remove overgrown vegetation to maintain safety and appearance.
- **Gamba Grass:** Manage Gamba Grass in accordance with regulations.
- **Loose Items:** Secure any objects that could become projectiles in strong winds.
- **Road Verges:** Do **not** park vehicles on Council's grassed road verges.

Council will be conducting roadside **weekly inspections** of both townships. Notices will be issued for overgrown properties and waste on road reserves as required.

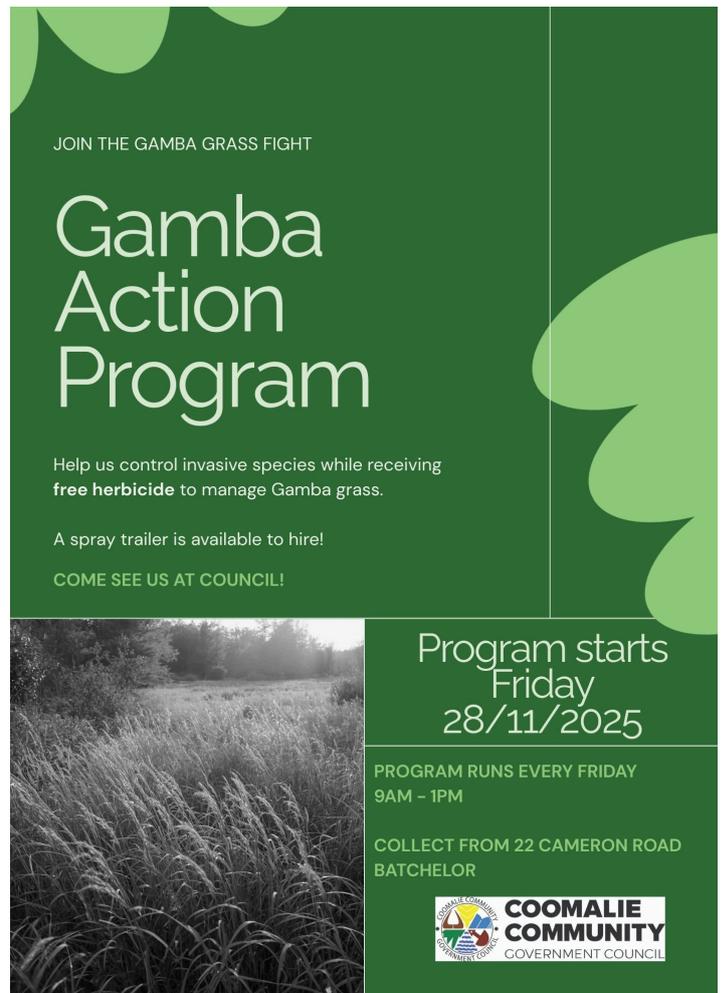
## GAMBA ACTION PROGRAM

Coomalie Council is a **distribution centre** for the NTG Gamba Action Program (GAP).

- **Program Schedule:** Fridays, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- **Location:** Coomalie Council Office

As part of the program, NTG has also provided a **spray trailer**, which can be hired by community members.

Please contact Council if you are interested in using this equipment.



JOIN THE GAMBA GRASS FIGHT

# Gamba Action Program

Help us control invasive species while receiving **free herbicide** to manage Gamba grass.

A spray trailer is available to hire!

COME SEE US AT COUNCIL!

Program starts  
Friday  
28/11/2025

PROGRAM RUNS EVERY FRIDAY  
9AM – 1PM

COLLECT FROM 22 CAMERON ROAD  
BATCHELOR



**COOMALIE COMMUNITY**  
GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

## **ANIMAL SAFETY IS A MUST!**

Keeping all animals safe from cats to dogs, cattle to goats and everything in between is Council Rangers number one priority.

We work closely with Animal Welfare and the Police to ensure all animals within the Coomalie region are cared for, safe and loved.

Rangers would like to remind the community of some key responsibilities:

### **Basic Animal Care:**

- **Shelter:** Protect animals from all weather by providing ample shade and secure shelters.
- **Water:** Ensure animals have access to plenty of clean, fresh water.
- **Food:** Feed animals daily. As we approach the wet season, keep enough animal feed at home in case of power outages or flooding.
- **Identification:** All animals should have identification tags so they can be returned quickly if lost.
- **Fencing:** Ensure yards are secure or animals are caged to prevent them from escaping during wet season storms.

### **Health During Wet Season:**

Wet season increases the activity of parasites and viruses, making animals more susceptible to illnesses like Parvovirus, Itchy Skin, and Ehrlichiosis. To help reduce these risks:

- Keep vaccinations up to date.
- Use flea and tick prevention.
- Treat itchy skin with medicated washes.
- Worm dogs monthly during the wet season and every 3 months in the dry season.

If you have any concerns about your animal's health, please contact your local veterinary practice.

## **DOG REGISTRATIONS**

Dog registrations with Council run annually from **1 September to 31 August**.

If you have **not renewed your dog's registration since 1 September 2025**, your dog is currently **unregistered** with Council.

You can register or renew your dogs registration at the Council office, over the phone or via Council's website.

*50% discount applies to concession card holders.*

*50% discount applies to desexed animals.*

*Only one discount can be used at one time.*

*Desexing certificates or concession cards need to be provided to enable a discount.*

If your dog is caught roaming in the public realm including being unleashed while walking, Council Rangers have the right to impound your animal.

**Keeping Dogs Safe During The Wet Season**

Coomalie, NT

100% chance of Thunderstorms

- Contained within your yard
- Provide a safe space
- Registered for easy reunion
- Kept out of the weather

Humidity	Wind	Temp
100%	65km/h	35°C

COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

# From Community Services Team

## Seniors Mystery Bus Tour

After a small hiatus for December & January, the next tour will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Please contact Council on 8976-0058 to secure your spot!

## Active Remote Sport Program

Numbers for the 2025 program were fantastic with lots of people trying out some new sports that Council was able to facilitate with support from NTG Sport & Recreation funding. Schools also benefited with some targeted programming designed around their curriculum.

Council has been working hard to finalise a program for the 2026 year. Keep an eye on Council's social page for details as they come to hand!

## Bombing of Darwin Commemoration

Council will be holding its annual ecumenical service to commemorate the Bombing of Darwin on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February from 10:00am.

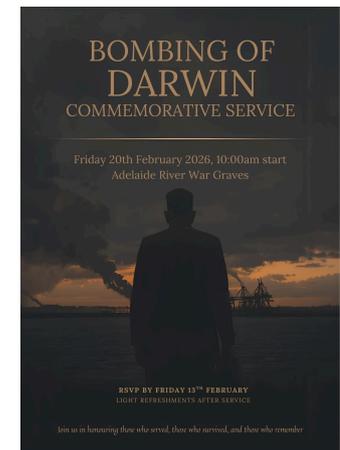
It will again be held in the Civilian Section of the Adelaide River War Graves.

A light morning tea will follow the event.

## Coomalie Landcare Days

Special tree planting days occurred at the Adelaide River Oval on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and the park between Kirra & Flynn Crescents, Batchelor on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

A total of 25 news trees have been planted between the 2 sites, and they all appear to be growing nicely with this weather we are having!



## Australia Day Awards Ceremony

Council held its Annual Australia Day Celebration and Awards ceremony on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January at the Batchelor School hall.

Approx. 120 people attended and were treated to a traditional Australian brunch, with lots of conversation happening between the people in attendance.

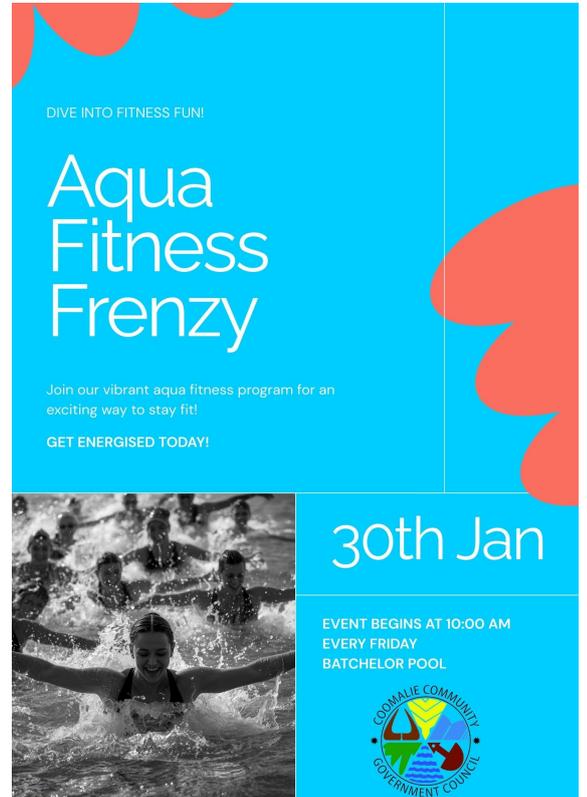
Our 2026 Award winners are:

- Citizen of the Year - Joanne Atkins,
- Senior Citizen of the Year - Jan Jewell,
- Young Citizen of the Year - Emma Douglas
- Community Event of the Year - Adelaide River Show Society Christmas Market

## Clean Up Australia Day

The next activity in Council's Event Calendar is Clean Up Australia Day. These will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

We will be having 2 events again this year. One at Adelaide River, based at Adelaide River Oval and the second at Batchelor, based at Batchelor Oval.



DIVE INTO FITNESS FUN!

# Aqua Fitness Frenzy

Join our vibrant aqua fitness program for an exciting way to stay fit!  
GET ENERGISED TODAY!

30th Jan

EVENT BEGINS AT 10:00 AM  
EVERY FRIDAY  
BATCHELOR POOL



Aqua Fitness Frenzy poster with a blue background and red abstract shapes. It features a photo of people swimming in a pool. The text promotes a weekly aqua fitness program starting on January 30th at 10:00 AM at Batchelor Pool. The Coomalie Community Government Council logo is in the bottom right corner.



# CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Join your community.  
Protect our land. Make a difference.

Sunday, March 1st

Adelaide River & Batchelor Ovals from 8:00am  
See [www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/clean-up-26](http://www.coomalie.nt.gov.au/clean-up-26)  
for more details!



Clean Up Australia Day poster with a green background and a photo of people participating in a clean-up activity. The text encourages community participation to protect the land. It specifies the date as Sunday, March 1st, and provides details for events at Adelaide River and Batchelor Ovals starting at 8:00 AM. The Clean Up Australia Day logo and the Coomalie Community Government Council logo are included.



Ensure your child remains safe at the pool!

Remember **Parents Supervise, Lifeguards Save Lives**

**PARENTAL SUPERVISION POLICY**  
**LIFEGUARDS ARE NOT BABYSITTERS!**

**0-5 YEAR OLDS & NON-SWIMMERS:**  
 Parents must stay within arms' reach

**6-10 YEAR OLDS & WEAK SWIMMERS:**  
 Parents must be close, be prepared & maintain constant visual contact

**11-14 YEAR OLDS:**  
 Parents must maintain visual contact

**DISTRACTIONS ARE DANGEROUS:**  
 Avoid mobile phones & other distractions that interrupt supervision

**KEEP WATCH AT PUBLIC POOLS**

**ROYAL LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA**  
 RoyalLifeSaving | RoyalLifeSaving  
 RoyalLifeSavingJust | KeepWatch.com.au

Groups attending the pool will not be permitted entry where the number of adults supervising a group of children under ten (10) years exceeds the ratio of 1 adult or guardian to 4 children.

The Pool Supervisor will have the authority to remove a child from the water until a suitably aged Parent / Guardian is present.

# From the Community Libraries Team

Our Community Libraries are both air conditioned, and can act as a safe space to cool off during this very humid 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 these times.

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

We are currently investigating with NT Libraries and BorrowBox as to when the next *“Evening with an Author”* virtual session is going to be held, watch this space for further details as they come to hand!

## **Adelaide River Community Library**

The Community Library at Adelaide River has resumed operations starting Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Thank you for your patience whilst the library was cleaned and restored to a suitable level.

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## Morning Tea

**Where:** Litchfield Outback Resort

**When:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 9.30am

**Speaker** – subject to be advised.

**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 and Pilates are available on alternative weeks.

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

## ELDER ABUSE ACTION AUSTRALIA

EAAA is a specialist organisation acting to eliminate elder abuse. Our work positively impacts the lives of older Australians, their families, communities and broader society.

### What we do

Elder Abuse Action Australia—EAAA—was established to confront the often hidden problem of discrimination, neglect and mistreatment of older Australians.

As the national voice for action, EAAA campaigns for a society that respects and values older Australians and is free from elder abuse.

### Why we do it

Older people are among the most vulnerable of all Australians. As people age, they rely on family, friends and carers for additional support. But, for many, the experience of ageing is soured by discrimination, ageism, exclusion and abuse.

The fact is, older people have the same rights as everyone else. They have the right to be treated fairly, feel safe in their home and live with dignity and self-determination.

EAAA exists to give voice to the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

***"EAAA is committed to producing powerful and lasting change through mechanisms for advocacy and support"***

### Elder Abuse Helpline

**1800 ELDERHelp (1800 353 374)**

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



**Are you 65 years or older and concerned about your memory or thinking?**

Researchers from UNSW are leading a study exploring how lifestyle changes can improve cognitive function and lower the risk of dementia.

The free lifestyle intervention will run for 12 weeks. Participants will have access to an online educational course about dementia risk factors, and may also receive brain-training activities, consultations with health professionals, and behaviour change support.

**THIS WILL BE SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE WHO:**

- ☑ Are 65 years or older
- ☑ Have memory/thinking concerns OR have been diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)
- ☑ Can use a computer, tablet, or smartphone
- ☑ Are willing to complete an online course and phone interviews

**We are currently recruiting participants, you can access more information via our website or by scanning the QR code.**



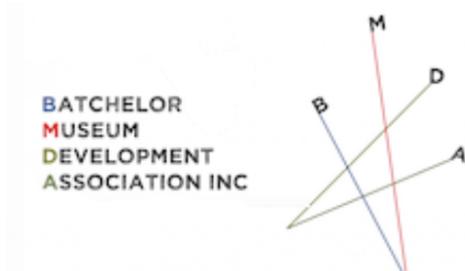
**CogCoach** <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/cogcoach-health>

**Email us:** [cogcoach.health@unsw.edu.au](mailto:cogcoach.health@unsw.edu.au)

**call us:** +61 2 9348 3111

UNSW | Older Ageing | Health Research | **NeuRA**

# Community Groups



No article from the museum this month!

## Batchelor Area School

**Join Batchelor Preschool Playgroup!**

Fun and engaging activities for children aged 0- 4 years.

**Every Second Thursday of school term**  
8:40am - 10:40am

**Activities include:**

- Storytime and singing
- Arts and crafts
- Outdoor play

**Dates:**  
February: 5, 19  
March: 5, 19  
April: 2

**Come Play, Learn, and Grow Together!**

**Contact Us:**  
bas.preschool@education.nt.gov.au  
Preschool Mobile: 0439420418

**Batchelor Preschool Enrolments 2026**

Children 4 years old and those turning 4 by June 30<sup>th</sup> are eligible to start preschool term 1 of 2026.

Enrolment packs are available at the Batchelor Area School office.

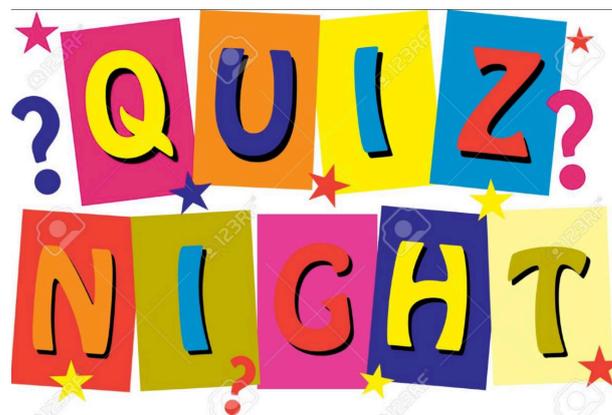
**Contact us:**  
Email: bas.preschool@education.nt.gov.au  
BAS: 89760077  
Preschool Mobile: 0439420418



## 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.



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

ALL WELCOME!

The next quiz nights will be held Friday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February from 7.00PM.



### Meet 'n Greet Op Shop

The first op shop and Meet 'n' Greet event for 2026 will held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.



### St Francis Church

Every Sunday

Mardango Cres, Batchelor

9:00am service start with morning tea at 10:30am



### Church of the Resurrection

Memorial Terrace, Adelaide River

2nd & Last Sunday of the month

9am start

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# Save The Date



WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
Agemoves	Old Rum Jungle Tavern	Tuesdays 10:00am - 11:30am  Call Darryl 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
Active Remote Sport Program  Term 1, 2026	Adelaide River School  Batchelor School	Fridays 3:00pm - 5:30pm  Fridays 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Grey Panthers Dance Classes	Old Rum Jungle Tavern	Wednesdays 10:30am call Darryl on 0428 983 098
Church of the Resurrection	Memorial Terrace, Adelaide River	2 <sup>nd</sup> & Last Sunday of every month. 9:00am start
Seventh Day Adventist Church	Mardango Cres, Batchelor	Every Saturday 11:00am
St Francis Church	Mardango Cres, Batchelor	Every Sunday 9:00am start, 10:30am Morning Tea
St Francis Op Shop	Mardango Cres, Batchelor	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 9:30am - 11:30am
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church	Bruce Jones Community Centre, Pinaroo 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 [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: 5:00pm Tuesday 17th February 2026.**

## **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 [1.06 Community Communication Policy](#) 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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