



Robyn LAMBLEY MLA *Member for ARALUEN*

Welcome

Dear Residents,

Christmas is a time of kindness, generosity and joy. But it can also be a time of increased vulnerability, which means we must give extra attention to our security and safety.

Leaving your home unattended over the holiday period is never ideal, and finding a reliable house-sitter—especially at short notice—can be difficult. However, there are many ways to minimise the risk of break-ins.

In this Christmas issue of the *Araluen News*, I have included some practical advice on how to secure your home while you are away, along with a handy checklist.

While sharing our wonderful holiday experiences on Facebook is perfectly understandable, it can inadvertently alert criminals to our absence. One piece of good advice I received a few years ago was to wait until returning home before posting holiday photos. Not as much fun, perhaps—but far safer.

This year has been a positive one for me. In my new role as Speaker of the NT Legislative Assembly, I have experienced a brighter and lighter side of politics that I had not known before. While I continue fighting for Alice Springs, I am enjoying the opportunity to support and guide my Parliamentary colleagues as they represent their electorates in the strongest possible way through effective participation in Parliament.

It still amazes me that I am now the longest serving NT politician. How did that happen?

But it is my work as your representative in the NT Legislative Assembly that continues to occupy my mind from dawn till dusk, everyday.

I wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas.

**The Araluen Electorate Office
will close 25 Dec—1 January.**



**Merry
Christmas**
The Araluen Electorate Office wish you a wonderful Christmas!

Big Changes to Banned Drinkers Register (BDR)

On 27 November 2025, the NT Government passed legislation to increase public drinking bans from 7 days to 28 days, under the Banned Drinkers Register.

Stopping “problem drinkers” on the BDR from purchasing and consuming alcohol for 28 days will make a big difference.

This change was one of four recommendations of a 2025 NT Government Review into the BDR. It is not clear if the Government will implement the other three recommendations.

1. *On-premises scanning for licensees who repeatedly breach conditions of their licence.*
2. *Develop an opt-in system for clubs that*

choose to participate in on-premises scanning.

3. *Broadening data sharing arrangements between key agencies to enhance collaboration and increasing training for Authorised Persons to increase capacity to refer to the BDR.*

The number of people on the BDR across the NT has increased substantially from 3078 in October 2022 to 4626 in October 2025.

The BDR was first introduced in 2011 by the Henderson Labor Government. Its use has been relatively ineffectual over the past 14 years. So, expanding the use of the BDR makes sense.

The plan is to have these 28-day grog bans in effect in time for Christmas.

Changes to Vehicle Roadworthy Inspections

The NT Government is introducing new changes to Vehicle Roadworthy Inspections.

From January 5th, 2026, light vehicles (4.5 tonnes GVM or less) in the NT will no longer require periodic roadworthy inspections in order to register a vehicle. This change is part of the CLP governments “common-sense” cost reductions for Territorians.

Territorians do not need to do anything specific to access these savings. It simply won't be a requirement when you next register your light vehicle.

Vehicle Roadworthy Inspections are still required in certain circumstances. When do I need to get a Roadworthy Inspection?

- When transferring ownership of a vehicle.

- Re-establishing registration after a vehicle has been unregistered for 12 months or more.
- First registering a vehicle in the NT from interstate.

There are no changes to the periodic inspection requirements for heavy vehicles and Commercial Passenger Vehicles.

It is always the responsibility of vehicle owners to ensure their vehicle is roadworthy.

These reforms are designed to save time, money and hassle for Territorians and free up inspectors to perform checks to catch genuinely unsafe vehicles. We will have to wait and see if this leads to an increase in vehicles that are not roadworthy, and what the economic impact is for local automotive businesses.

Hard Rubbish Collection

It has come to my attention that most NT residents are provided an annual hard rubbish collection by their local Council, but not Alice Springs.

A few weeks ago, Tennant Creek had their annual hard rubbish collection.

The City of Darwin's 2025 Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up (PCCU) was completed just before Cyclone Fina hit on 2nd November. A huge 800 tonnes of waste was collected from across the municipality over a 6 week period.

The collection included 214 tonnes of scrap metal, 74 tonnes of white goods, and 2 tonnes of e-waste - all materials that can be recycled

and given a second life.

Prohibited items include all commercial waste and fridges containing food.

The question begs, why don't we have a similar annual collection service in Alice Springs?

The new Alice Springs Town Councillors must consider why Alice Springs residents are denied a service now offered to most Territorians.

It would make a huge difference to the liveability and cleanliness of our town.

Annual hard rubbish collections services are considered the norm throughout Australia.

Denying Alice Springs residents this essential service is not in anyone's best interest.

Best Ways to Secure your Home During the Holidays

1. Make the House Look "Lived In"

Criminals look for signs of an empty house. You can reduce that risk by creating the illusion of activity:

- Use timers on lights (randomised patterns look most natural).
- Leave a car in the driveway if possible.
- Ask a neighbour or friend to:
- Collect mail and parcels
- Put bins out and bring them in
- Check the house semi-regularly
- Keep curtains/blinds in their normal position, not fully closed 24/7.
- Don't leave notes like "deliveries around the back" or obvious absence indicators.

2. Lock and reinforce access points

Simple but powerful:

- Double-check all windows and doors — including bathroom, laundry, and second-storey windows.
- Install deadbolts on external doors.
- Use window locks, especially on sliding windows.
- Put a dowel bar / rod in the track of sliding doors (cheap and effective).
- If you have a security screen, lock both the screen and main door.

3. Secure valuables and make less visible

- Don't leave valuables (laptops, jewellery, car keys, wallets) visible from outside.
- Use a safe if you have one.
- Consider storing expensive items with a trusted friend or in a safe deposit box if away for a long period.

4. Use security systems (even simple ones)

You don't need an expensive setup for basic protection:

- A visible camera or doorbell cam dramatically reduces attempts.
- Motion-activated outdoor lights deter

intruders.

- If you have an alarm, arm it and give a trusted person the code in case of issues.
- Put up security system signs (even if you don't have a full system).

5. Manage your digital footprint

Modern criminals watch social media.

- Avoid posting that you're going on holiday *until after you return*.
- Turn off geotags on photos.
- If multiple people staying use social media, make sure everyone knows this rule.

6. Protect your car

If leaving a vehicle behind:

- Park inside the garage if possible.
- Remove all valuables.
- Hide the keys inside the house — don't leave them near the front door where they can be hooked.
- Consider using a steering wheel lock.

7. Yard and exterior

A tidy exterior reduces risk:

- Trim bushes / hedges near windows so intruders can't hide.
- Lock gates and sheds — tools can be used to break into the house.
- Remove spare keys hidden under pots, mats, etc. (intruders check these first).

8. Tell the right people you're away

But only the *right* people.

- Notify a trusted neighbour or friend.
- Ask them to report suspicious activity.
- If you live in an area with Neighbourhood Watch, let them know too.

9. Consider power and appliance safety

Security isn't only about burglary:

- Turn off unnecessary electrical items.
- Empty rubbish to avoid attracting pests.
- Unplug unneeded appliances.
- Turn off water at the mains if away for weeks (burst pipes happen).

Home Security Checklist

- ☐ All doors locked (front, back, side, garage, balcony)
- ☐ All windows locked, including bathroom/laundry
- ☐ Deadbolts engaged
- ☐ Curtains/blinds in normal position
- ☐ Timers set for lights
- ☐ Outdoor sensor lights working
- ☐ Alarm system armed / cameras on
- ☐ Spare keys removed from outside
- ☐ Tools, ladders, and sheds locked
- ☐ Mail collection arranged
- ☐ Bins put out/in by neighbour
- ☐ Plants/garden watering arranged
- ☐ Car locked and keys hidden in the house
- ☐ Valuables hidden or placed in a safe
- ☐ Social media posting avoided
- ☐ Water, appliances, and unnecessary power turned off
- ☐ Rubbish emptied
- ☐ Pets arranged / house-sitting confirmed
- ☐ Trusted neighbour notified of your absence

Emergency Numbers

Police	131 44
Hospital	8951 7777
Snake Catcher	0407983276
Night Patrol	1800 133 110
Town Council	8950 0500

Crime Statistics

The latest Alice Springs Crime Statistics for September 2025 show improvement across every category of crime compared to September 2024. This is very encouraging. We did not see substantial and sustained de-

creases in crime statistics during the former Labor Government.

I don't know if this trend will continue, but I am very hopeful.

Alice Springs Crime Statistics

September 2024 compared to September 2025

Crime	Sep 2024	Sep 2025	↑/↓
Crime Against the Person			
Homicide & Related Offences	0	0	Nil
Assault - Total	187	137	27%↓
Assault - Sexual	16	10	37.5%↓
Other acts endangering persons	37	24	35%↓
Crime against the person totals	240	171	29%↓
Crime Against Property			
Domestic Break Ins (including attempted)	90	58	35%↓
Commercial Break Ins (including attempted)	39	21	46%↓
Motor Vehicle Theft	24	10	58%↓
Theft other than MV	146	93	36%↓
Property Damage	338	150	56%↓
Crime against property totals	637	332	48%↓

FREE

Community Christmas Lunch

Where: Treat Me Good Café
Desert Knowledge Precinct

Date: 25th December

Time: from 11am

TREAT ME GOOD

Family Friendly New Years Eve!

5:30—9:30 — Disco Night at the Gap Youth & Community Centre

5:00—7:00 — NYE Celebrations 3 Brown St. (ages 10—17)

6:00 —9:00 NYE Party at Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre (FREE BBQ)

Care and Protection of Children Amendment (Worker Screening) Bill Serial 49

The Bill tightens safety checks for people who work or volunteer with children—teachers, carers, sports coaches and contractors—by expanding who must hold a clearance (i.e. an Ochre Card), adding automatic bans for serious sexual or violent offences, and allowing temporary bans while police matters are pending.

It also lets NT agencies share information across states and with police, requires organisations to verify clearances and report concerns, and sets clear steps for refusing, suspending or cancelling a clearance when new risk information arises.

Trade, Business and Asian Relations Legislation Amendment (Streamlining Licensing Schemes and Other Matters) Bill 2025

This Bill makes NT business licences quicker and simpler to get and renew with more online processing, fewer forms, and common rules and timeframes across different licence types, such as real estate, pawn brokers, plumbers and security officers. Regulators must ensure that applicants are suitable and follow the rules, but these new processes are

designed to be streamlined and to cut red tape, especially for small businesses, without weakening consumer protections.

Alcohol Harm Reduction Amendment (Banned Drinker Orders)

See Article on Front Page.

Introduced 27 November 2025

Passed 27 November 2025

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
2026 Parliamentary Calendar
as at September 2025

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

Public Holidays: Easter, School Holidays
Assembly meetings: Estimates hearings, Show Days



A new Administrator of the Northern Territory will be sworn in at Parliament House in early 2026.

The Administrator serves as the Crown's representative in the NT for a 3 year term and is broadly comparable to a state Governor. Key functions include granting Royal Assent to legislation passed by the Legislative Assembly, appointing the Chief Minister and Ministers following the formation of government, opening and proroguing the Assembly as required, and undertaking ceremonial and community duties.

I would like to extend my thanks to Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM for his service to the Northern Territory over the past 3 years. The Chief Minister will announce the new appointee in due course.

Out and About in 2025



School Holiday Program Highlights

The Alice Springs Town Council in conjunction with the Northern Territory and Federal governments have put together an extensive School Holiday program to help keep kids occupied over the long summer. For full details, please scan the QR Code below. Here are some highlights!

Ten Pin Bowling	14, 21 December 11, 18, 25 January	The Dust Bowl
Rock Climbing	14 December 5, 12, 17, 19, 20, 24 January	The Y Alice Springs
Free Movie	5 Jan (The Lion King) 12 Jan (Minecraft Movie) 19 Jan (How to Train Your Dragon)	Araluen Arts Centre
Stadium Sports	16 December 6, 13, 20 January	The Y Alice Springs

FREE ENTRY TO THE POOL!

Free entry to Alice Springs Aquatic & Leisure Centre (ASALC) all summer holidays thanks to Northern Territory Government.

Open hours:

Weekdays: 6am-7pm
Saturdays: 8am-7pm
Sundays: 9am-7pm

*Closed Christmas Day & Boxing Day, 25-26 December.

WATERSLIDE wednesdays

Slide on over! Every Wednesday of the Summer School Holidays the ASALC Waterslides will be open! Cool off, enjoy the thrills and spills

Wednesdays 11am-2pm

See you at Alice Springs Aquatic & Leisure Centre, 10 Speed St

...Yes, it's free!

ICE SKATING!

It's back! Ice Skating at the Alice Springs Convention Centre!

Tuesdays-Saturdays: 12-7pm

You can hire skates for free - just bring your socks! Starting 6 January

Make sure you book your session via the QR Code below

Start Planning for 2026!

Imparja Cup—Indigenous Cricket Festival **20—24 February 2026**

The Imparja Cup, Australia's premier Indigenous cricket festival, is a vibrant gathering of First Nations cricketers, families, and communities from across the Northern Territory and beyond. Founded in 1994 as a friendly match between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek teams, the tournament has evolved into a cornerstone of Indigenous cricket, fostering talent, cultural exchange, and grassroots participation.

FabAlice Festival

26—29 March 2026

A unique showcase of drag, family and cabaret events, celebrating the inclusivity and diversity of the Red Centre. Including disco, film nights, bingo, street parades and so much more.

Aileron Bush Weekend

3—6 April 2026 at Aileron

A celebration of the bush events of a bygone era. Gymkhana, rodeo, Mexican donkey race, dance and kids events. A great Central Australian weekend.

Parrtjima—a Festival of Light

10—19 April 2026 at the Desert Park

A light show across the MacDonnell Ranges designed to illuminate the world's oldest living culture. Running each year in Alice Springs since 2017, Parrtjima is a unique mix of art installations, desert scenery and interactive displays. The 2026 theme is "Language" and will feature light and interactive installations that celebrate language.

Alice Springs Cup Carnival

11 April—4 May 2026 at Pioneer Park

Spanning four action-packed weeks, this coming year's Cup Carnival promises something for everyone: from dazzling fashion events and enjoyable luncheons to an unforgettable all-round experience. The 2026 Ladbroke's Alice Springs Cup Carnival will kick off on April 11th, with Ladies Day on April 18th and concludes on Monday, May 4th, with the grand finale being the highly anticipated \$110,000 Ladbroke's Alice Springs Cup.

Top Half Folk Festival

1—4 May 2026 at the Ross River Resort

A festival of all things Folk Music including kids events, workshops, general sessions and plenty of amazing music.

The Bangtail Muster

4 May 2026

The Bangtail Muster is a parade along the Todd Mall that celebrates the schools and community groups of Alice Springs each year on the May Day Public Holiday. This free event is hosted by the Rotary Club.

The Eisteddfod Alice Springs

May 2026—TBC

Encouraging talent across many platforms, the Eisteddfod events provide many opportunities for showcasing local talent.

West Macs Monster—Trail Running Festival **15—17 May 2026**

The West Macs Monster allows you to race the amazing Larapinta Trail at varying dis-

tances from 5km to 231km. This festival of trail running is the largest event held on the Larapinta Trail and is gaining popularity each year.

Finke Desert Race—Celebrating 50 Years

5—8 June 2026

The Tatts Finke Desert Race is an off-road, multi-terrain, two day race for motorbikes and buggies from Alice Springs to the small Aputula (Finke) community. Organisers are pulling out all the stops for the 50th Finke Celebrations and this promises to be the biggest year ever!

Alice Springs Beanie Festival

19-22 June 2026 at the Araluen Art Centre

The very last Beanie Festival (in its current format) is scheduled for 2026. Featuring classes, demonstrations, and thousands of beanies for sale, this is a unique must-see event in Alice Springs

Territory Day

1 July 2026 at ANZAC Oval

An annual celebration of the day in 1978 when Territorians achieved self-governance. This day is enthusiastically celebrated in Alice Springs with fireworks, concerts and community gatherings.

NAIDOC Week

5—12 July 2026

This is a national celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Including cultural activities, school holiday programs, educational initiatives and community gatherings, this is a well-celebrated festival in Alice Springs.

Melbourne International Comedy Road Show

17 June 2026 at the Araluen Art Centre

Delivering hot and tasty comic treats to audiences near and far. With a curated line-up of comedy legends and fresh faces from Australia and beyond, the Roadshow has a few laughs for everyone.

Alice Springs Show

3—4 July 2026 at Blatherskite Park

A regional agricultural Show that celebrates and showcases the best agricultural and pastoral traditions of Central Australia while providing a great family-fun day filled with rides, traders, entertainment, and educational opportunities.

The Desert Festival

July 2026—TBC

Held annually in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Desert Festival (DesFest) is Central Australia's iconic multi-arts event. Showcasing an unforgettable mix of music, theatre, dance, visual arts, and workshops.

Harts Range Races

31 July —3 August 2026 at Harts Range

Central Australia's premier bush sports weekend. Complete with rodeo and mortkhana, stockhorse racing, damper competitions and bush dances, Harts Range is a great weekend for the whole family.

Old Timers Fete

8 August 2026 (TBC)

A fun-filled family day with amazing bargains

on crafts, books, cakes, plants, and more, plus a thrilling auction, yummy food, and great entertainment. Proceeds from this event support projects at the Old Timers aged care facility.

Run Larapinta

14—17 August 26

A 4-day trail running experience through the heart of Australia's Red Centre. A race to challenge the body in one of the most breathtaking landscapes on earth.

Henley On Todd Regatta

15 August 2026

One of Central Australia's more unique events. A boat race in the dry Todd River. Featuring family events, food, entertainment and a battle of the boats, Henley on Todd is a great afternoon.

Red CentreNATS

3—6 September 2026

Motor enthusiasts premier outback car fest in Alice Springs. Featuring parades, burnouts, racing, show 'n' shine, as well as concerts and free community entertainment, the Red CentreNats weekend is a local favourite.

Desert Mob

September 2026

Desert Mob brings together hundreds of artists to celebrate desert culture in the heart of Australia. One of the nation's oldest Aboriginal art festivals, Desert Mob features an Exhibition, Artist Talks and Marketplace as well as public programs throughout Alice Springs.

The Alice Springs Masters Games

10—17 October 2026

The Alice Springs Masters Games was the first and is the longest running Masters Games in Australia. "The Friendly Games" are a collection of more than 20 sporting categories for Masters and Weekend Warriors alike. 2026 sees the return of the very popular swimming competition. With free community events and plenty of ways to get involved, the Alice Springs Masters Games is always a great week.

The Alice Springs Christmas Show

21 November 2026 at Blatherskite Park

The Alice Springs Show with a Christmas twist! Competitions, traders, entertainment and photos with Santa! A great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping.

