

# COMMUNITY BUILDER OF THE WEEK

**CELEBRATING THOSE WHO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY**

Photography by: FIONA WALSH

**How do you contribute to your community group, activity, or action?**

I'm a member of the Heritage Alice Springs committee, via my role as resident caretaker of Pitchi Richi Sanctuary. My role is to provide basic maintenance of the sanctuary, but especially to assist with its restoration as a valued public asset.

**What significance does your community group, activity, or action hold?**

Preservation and restoration of heritage and history tell our community's story. It helps to explain how we got to the point we're all at now, and provides guideposts for the future. In all its facets, heritage is in some way of interest to virtually everybody, not least to visitors to our region, so it adds value to their experiences.

**Why do you volunteer?**

I think it's important to tell our story as accurately as possible; and Pitchi Richi Sanctuary has an extraordinarily complex story that forms an integral part of local history, especially post-WW2. It's a place that is fondly remembered in its heyday as a prominent local tourist attraction, and I'm keen to do my part to return this special place to something of its former glory.

**What achievements are you most proud of?**

Over two decades ago I began as a volunteer at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden to control buffel grass that smothered the grounds. This effort formed a significant part of turning the fortunes of OPBG around so that it has now become a highly valued public asset and attraction. OPBG is now a standout example of what can be achieved and provides an excellent model for other similar places.

**Anything else you would like to say?**

I'm pleased my work at Pitchi Richi is attracting attention and providing momentum for others to come forward with ideas and involvement. There is ample scope for more people to become involved in its story!

**How many years have you called Alice Springs home?**

Sixty Years (60) — my whole life.



**ALEX NELSON**

**What are your favourite sports teams, bands, or movies, and why?**

No real favourites. Always support Australia in international competitions, of course! I listen to good music from anyone but tend to favour the period of the 1970s/early '80s.

Check out the Heritage Alice Springs website for more information and details about historical places in the area.



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE AS THE COMMUNITY BUILDER OF THE WEEK, PLEASE SEND YOUR NOMINATION VIA EMAIL TO: INFO@MASCF.ORG**



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