

Mparntwe Alice Springs Community Foundation Community Builder of the Week



Nimble Thimbles share love

ENCOURAGING, supporting and amplifying positive community action.

Name: VICKI MCDONALD - For Nimble Thimbles - Alice Springs Quilting club.

How long have you lived in Alice Springs?

50 years. Representing the charity arm of the Alice Springs Quilting Club, known as "Nimble Thimbles". Alice Springs Quilting Club has been established for 42 years.

What role do you play in your community group/activity/action?

Coordinator of "Nimble Thimbles"

Why do you volunteer? (or why did you initiate the activity/response)?

The Alice Springs Quilting Club is for the enjoyment of those who like to sew quilts and learn from each other and to share skills

What achievements are you most proud of?

The Alice Springs Quilting Club has had an Annual Exhibition open to the community since 1982 and has supported community events and charities since it was established in 1981.

Anything else you would like to say?

Nimble Thimbles commenced as a friendship group over 20 years ago, as the Charity branch of the Alice Springs Quilting Club, established in 1981. It is a group of quilters who like to use their spare time to sew, share techniques and information whilst contributing to the community and enjoy the companionship.

The "Nimbles" group with much help from Alice Springs Quilting Club members have completed many quilts to be donated to charities or to raffle etc for fundraising.

Quilters and families leaving town have donated unwanted fabrics from their stash, or their Works in Progress, notions and equipment.

The group have focused much of their efforts these past years supporting the annual Old Timers

Fete. Meeting regularly for sewing days to make quilts ready to sell and raffle on their own stall at The Fete. Usually averaging a cash donation to Old Timers of \$6,000 - \$10,000 each year.

The Club has also donated quilts to comfort patients in Palliative Care and those having cancer treatment.

Using donated fabrics Nimble Thimbles



SALE: Quilts For Sale 2023 Alice Springs Show with Cathy Bridges, Vicki McDonald and Apples Kemp. 382335

Picture: SUPPLIED

and ASQC members also sew small baby quilts which the club gives to the maternity ward of the Alice Springs Hospital.

The "Blankets of Love" are for families of the newborns who have not survived. They give great comfort to the families to have their last cuddles/photos etc and the family can keep the quilt if they wish. Sadly the hospital uses many of the little blankets. This year we were able to present the midwives with more

than 60 "Blankets of Love".

As the Old Timers Fete has been cancelled these past few Covid years, the ASQC had a stall at the Alice Springs Show in 2023 and sold \$3,500 of their quilts with the funds being distributed to Local Charities.

Anyone is welcome to join Nimble Thimbles. Please contact Vicki McDonald, 0413 675 064, for details to join the Alice Springs Quilting Club and for when and where the Nimble

Thimbles are meeting.

You will be very welcome.

If you would like to nominate someone to be the Mparntwe Alice Springs Community Foundation Community Builder of the Week, email editorial@centraliantoday.com.au and let us know who, why you think it would be great for the community to know about what they are doing and how to contact them.

Faces of Australia Ted Egan



Sing with me: Say G'day you Aussie kids ...

FOR some time now I have proposed that Pitjantjara be recognised as the traditional Australian language classified for official purposes as "Australian" and that it be taught to every Australian child from Day One of Preschool.

I know the purists will insist that the word be presented as Pitjantjara, but usage prevails sometimes. Let the traditional owners adjudicate, I say.

There is certainly no attempt to demean other existing Australian languages; the hope is that as many as possible be retained, indeed strengthened by such implementation. New Zealand has shown us how to do this. You go to Google Translate and you will find that Ao Tearoa has two official languages.

Pitjantjara is certainly the widest-known Australian language, as demonstrated by eminent American linguist Dr Ken Hale in the 1950s.

It is capable of being presented on a standard word processor using the same alphabet as English, the officially declared language at the moment - no accents, no umlauts, no tailed "N"s. So many traditional Australian languages have been disembowelled by orthographers.

Many years ago I was at a barbecue, where many of the people present had been born in countries other than Australia. Their children began a competition, to establish greetings in different languages.

What a good idea for a song, I thought. This is what I finally put together:

Say G'Day You Aussie Kids

An old man came back from The Dreamtime, he'd lived there for thousands of years, He'd learned every language, he knew every thing..... But he wanted most of all to hear some children laugh and sing So off he went to Ernabella, where he met a funny little fella

He knew just what that little boy would say, When the boy said: "Nyuntu balya?" the man said: "What did I tell ya?"

"That's how the First Australians say 'G'day'".

On that first occasion, here are some of the greetings established. How many can you identify?

Comme stai? Tikanis? Jak sie masz? Hola? Nasilsin? Comment va? Konichuwa?

Kako si? Wie geht es dir? Shalom? Marhaba? Geradiena? Hodj vodj? Apakaba?

Of course, if we had a wide range of First Australian families together, we might get these responses;

Ewnte mwarre? Nyuntu ngutiju? Ngintang-wirri? Namirri nhe?.....to try a few. Help me with more please.

Then we all join in a robust song:

Say G'Day you Aussie children, say G'Day you

Aussie kids

G'Day, G'Day, G'Day, G'Day, G'Day, G'Day

Say G'Day you Aussie children, say G'Day you Aussie kids

G'Day, G'Day, G'Day, G'Day, G'Day, G'Day.

The old man finally addresses the children:

You've come from different places, but you've all got lovely faces There's really not much more for me to say You're welcome in this country, but keep it looking good And don't forget to smile and say G'Day!

Hey kids! We hope to present a musical during 2024, right here in Alice Springs, titled SAY G'DAY.

We'll be looking for dozens of happy performers. We'll keep you posted here. In the meantime, you can download my Urupunga Frog album on iTunes/Spotify. This song is there for you to learn. TE .