

Getting Good Stuff Done



Valuing our volunteers

CHARLES GEARY

A podcast for Alice, by Alice

A desire to highlight just some of the many incredible people living in Alice Springs and remind people what makes Central Australia amazing drove David Thomas to the microphone, where his podcast, The ASP with DT, has become a fan favourite in the town.

The podcast has showcased people from a variety of backgrounds, professions and talents who all play a part in making Alice Springs what it is.

A born and bred Centralian, Mr Thomas said frustration about negative media and a desire to try something new, was the spark he needed to give the podcast a go.

"I listen to podcasts a lot, and I thought that it would be a good thing for the town and a good thing for myself...to try something really a bit rogue and start a podcast about people from Alice Springs," he said.

Riding for a good cause

The Alice Springs Toy Run brought joy to children at the Alice Springs Hospital at Christmas, with local bikers swapping the one-horse open sleigh for the one-seat roaring Harley to help raise funds.

Motorcyclists took to the streets for the Toy Run to raise money for The Butterfly Connection and the children's ward of the Alice Springs Hospital.

The All For One Motorcycle Group continued the legacy of the event, which was started about 30 years ago by the Northern Territory Motorcycle Association. All For One vice-president, Brad 'Hammer' Watts, said the importance of the cause was a uniting factor for motorcyclists.

"It means a lot to all of us, and that's why we always get a big turnout," Mr Watts said.

"I know things are tight around Christmas, and people haven't got much money, but it's for the kids."

Drovers of the wards

An extended stay in the hospital can be a daunting experience, particularly in Central Australia where family members may be thousands of kilometres away.

That's where the Drovers Volunteer Service at the Alice Springs Hospital comes in.

Founded in 2007, the Drovers have been helping make stays a little more comfortable for almost two decades, with volunteers bringing essentials and support to patients staying in wards across the hospital.

Jeanne Lindsey was one of the service's first volunteers in 2007, having returned to volunteering after a break caring for her late husband.

"I think it's good to give that to the community that's supported me for 38 years," Mrs Lindsey said.



DT: David Thomas' podcast, The ASP with DT, has proven to be a hit locally. (Charles Geary: 444123)



SUPPORT: Jeanne Lindsey is one of many Drovers who have supported those staying at the hospital over the years. (Charles Geary: 447042)



TOYS: Brad 'Hammer' Watts and Damian 'Omad' Simms are hoping for as many donations as possible. (445502)



CHANGE: U Right Sis? lead facilitator Kayla Glynn-Braun hopes to empower women and communities to address tech facilitated abuse. (448583)

Turning up the respect

As access to the internet improves across the Red Centre, U Right Sis? is aiming to improve digital literacy and raise awareness around technology-facilitated abuse (TFA) to help improve online safety for Aboriginal women.

Working with the Women's Safety Services of Central Australia (WoSSCA) and the Kun-

gas Stopping Violence Program, lead facilitator Kayla Glynn-Braun and her colleagues have travelled across Central Australia to help identify what TFA is, and how to respond.

"What our job is, is to go into these communities, and to empower the women (with) the right language to identify (TFA) and to respond to... frontline services...," she said.

"We don't live in a world anymore of 'just turn off your social media,' but what we've lacked in society is the education to support the usage and how to respond to it."

The Getting Good Stuff Done #ggsd page promotes those encouraging, supporting, and amplifying positive initiatives to foster a stronger local community.



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