

ISSUE 16

SEPTEMBER 2022

Council Connects



Alice Springs Town Council's eNewsletter

alicesprings.nt.gov.au

(08) 8950 0500



John Bermingham a world champion, from the World Masters Athletics Championships in Tampere, Finland.

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Alice Springs Town Council
acknowledges the
Central Arrernte people
who are the Traditional Owners
and Custodians
of Alice Springs-Mparntwe.



Minutes from the latest Council meeting

Families in Alice Springs are set to benefit from an exciting new Adventure Park that will be built at the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

During August's Council Meeting, Elected Members approved the project that will be funded from the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Stage 3 program and Alice Springs Town Council.

The \$1.1M project will include a range of family-friendly features such as mini golf, play equipment, barbecue facilities and shade.

"As a Council, we are proud to invest in improving amenities for our residents and increasing the liveability of our great town," Alice Springs Mayor Matt Paterson said.

"We have such an amazing facility in ASLAC for our population and

this investment will only make this site better. It really puts the Leisure into the Aquatic and Leisure Centre!

"This is great news for families who are looking for improved amenities and increased liveability in their community. The Adventure Park will provide a much-needed space for children to explore and play, and I'm sure it will become a firm favourite with locals.

"I would like to thank the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government for their contributions to make this project possible, as well as the vision of both the 13th and 14th Councils."

Council also endorsed upgrades to two local parks with \$123,000 to upgrade Walmulla Park and \$39,000 to upgrade Gilbert Park.

Upcoming Council Meetings...

Commence 11.00am
in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, 93 Todd Street.
Public welcome to attend.

Tuesday 27 September

Tuesday 25 October

Councillor's Column



Welcome to the September Council Connects

We're coming into a time of change at Council. There is a by-election coming soon and I look forward to seeing who is inspired to throw their hat in the ring.

It's a great opportunity to effect change in our community and I encourage anyone that is interested or has questions about running to reach-out and ask Elected Members about the role.

It would be great to see more women, or anyone who feels under-represented put their hand up this election. I know the Chamber may appear to be an intimidating space from the outside but from the Elected Member seat, it's a supportive environment where equal opportunity is given for Councillors to participate in the democratic local-government process.

A recent change at Council is that most committees have now been disbanded and a new form of

community consultation is being formulated. I'm looking forward to seeing how the new approach to engagement unfolds and hope it won't be long before you see a village consultation happening in your area. This approach will aim to bring more community input into Council business/operations in your area.

As we come into the middle of spring and the promise of a wet summer, there's much talk about our tree planting program at Council. This month sees us getting stuck into our Greening Strategy development, and with Council having a focus on utilising more reclaimed water as soon as possible, the future looks bright for street trees.

Enjoy this month's Council Connects!

Councillor Kim Hopper



1st RATES INSTALMENT 2022/23 due Friday, 2 September 2022

For all payment options, visit... alicesprings.nt.gov.au

With an online EzyBill account, you can receive Rate Notices and Reminders by email! Set up is EZY in just three simple steps:

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- 3. Register your property, and you're done – EZY as!**

Your Council



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 @ASPLibrary



Celebrating ALW @ the Library

Alice Springs Public Library will be a hub of activity this Adult Learners Week with activities to assist adult learners of all abilities.

Held from 1-8 September, Adult Learners Week is a celebration of lifelong learning, encouraging Australians to take opportunities to take the next step and upskill in a range of areas.

Alice Springs Public Library are getting into the spirit of the week with a jam-packed schedule for people with a range of interests.

"One of our focuses is to connect the community and look after our community," Manager Library Services Dunja Ganama said.

"Adult Learners Week is a great chance to deliver lifelong learning in a fun way for the community.

"During the recent school holidays, we ran leather craft workshops. We often had the parents dropping off their kids and we were asked so many times when we would be running one for adults. Now we're running two!

"We're also running a drumming workshop with King Marong, that helps to teach counting and concentration in a really fun way.

"We'll be running a West African dance workshop too in our courtyard. That's a really great way to deliver something positive to the community and connect on a multicultural level."

To book your spot in a workshop, you can contact the Library staff on 8950 0555. All activities for Adult Learners Week are free with full details below:

Leather Craft with Aka Jacks:

Thursday 1 September
Wednesday 7 September
11.00am - 1.00pm

Drumming with King Marong:

Friday 2 September
11.00 am - 12.00

West African Dancing:

Thursday 8 September
11.00 am - 1.00pm

8950 0555

library@astc.nt.gov.au

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

1-8 SEPT 2022

Connect
with
Learning

Leather Craft with Aka Jacks

11am - 1pm

Thur 1st & Wed 7th, Sept

*Explore & Discover Leather
Craft @ your Library.*

Bookings required
via Eventbrite

https://Leathercraft_workshop.eventbrite.com.au
or ring the Library for assistance 8950 0555

Drumming with King Marong

11am - 12pm

Frid 2nd, Sept

*Explore African Drumming
Rhythms with King Marong.*

Bookings required
via Eventbrite

https://drumming_KingMaron.eventbrite.com.au
or ring the Library for assistance 8950 0555

West African Dancing

11am - 12pm

Thur 8th, Sept

*Explore moving to West
African drum rhythms
and learn from local
African dancers.*

No Bookings required

All events are FREE | Beginners welcome!

library@astc.nt.gov.au
8950 0555 | alicesprings.nt.gov.au



Supported by the Australian Government



1300ILEARN

adultlearnersweek.org

[@adultlearnerswk](https://www.facebook.com/adultlearnerswk)

[#ALW2022](https://www.instagram.com/ALW2022)



John Bermingham on his ride from Melbourne to Darwin.

John Bermingham's gold medal in record time!

Alice Springs has always punched above its weight. Whether it's in the arts and culture scene, in the sporting arena or the entertainment sphere, the Red Centre is home to some extremely talented individuals.

It's not often, though, that we can celebrate a world champion. But that's exactly the case with John Bermingham.

John has recently returned from the World Masters Athletics Championships in Tampere, Finland, and brought home some shiny silverware as a memento to boot...

Born in regional Victoria, John was always drawn to running.

"I grew up in a small town and sport was a big part of that town, even more so in those days for kids," John said.

"I wasn't much good at anything other than running! I was a skinny little kid, I wasn't very good at football,

but running I could do well so I was attracted to it. I joined a running club at 17 and immediately I was quite successful. One thing led to another and running became my sport."

John quickly fell in love with competitive running and the promise he showed as a young athlete continued to shine through.

After competing full time for a while, John began tapering off to focus on other passions. His days of competitive running stopped, for the time being.

"I finished (competitive running) in 1976/77 and that was probably when I should have been in my prime. I had other things to do," John said.

"To be a serious runner, it's a year-round commitment. At the time, I had other things I wanted to do so basically, I stopped being a serious runner. I did other things, like cycled from Melbourne to Darwin and some things like that. I never lost interest in running though. All through that time, I still kept running but I wasn't running in races or competitions at this point."

Riding from Melbourne to Darwin would be the crown jewel in most people's accomplishments, but John mentions it almost as if it were just another mundane task.

Ready for a new challenge, John along with wife Susie decided to move abroad and settled in Canada. Little did he know this would be where he fell back into competitive running, more so than ever.

"In 1990 we went to Canada and that was nice. When we went to Canada we finished up in Edmonton and running was a really big sport there," John said.

"I started talking to people, got invited to join a relay team and one thing led to another. I was running all across America, Masters running over there is really big."

"I would get my airfares paid, accommodation paid and won some prize money. That was a really nice couple of years!"

A desire to move back to Australia landed John and Susie in Tasmania for a short stint before Alice Springs became their new home.

"We came back to Australia in 1996 and in 1997 we moved down to Hobart. Once down there, I drifted in and out of running a bit," John said.

"We came to Alice in 2007. I had been to Alice quite a few times in the 70's and 80's. We came up in 2005 for a holiday for a couple of weeks because Susie hadn't been here. I hadn't been here for 20 years. When we went home, I said 'I want to move to Alice Springs'."

The Berminghams and Alice Springs were a match made in heaven and it did not take John long to become ingrained in the running community.

John quickly joined the Alice Springs Running and Walking Club while continuing his own running, albeit in a reduced capacity.

"For most of my time here I'd say (running) has been a part time thing for me. I get Achilles and calf injuries a bit now, that's one reason it's a bit tricky to run full time," he said.

"The other main reason is every summer we love to go away. I've still kept fit though and occasionally I've competed."

Despite not competing at a high level while living in Alice Springs, the town provided the platform for John's biggest achievement in the sport when he travelled to Finland for the World Masters Athletics Championships.

"Because of COVID I couldn't go anywhere, and that's where going to Finland really came about," he said.

"Because I couldn't go anywhere I was running more and managed to stay injury free. I got fit and had some friends going (to Finland for the Games) so I thought I may as well go with them!"

Arriving in Finland, John competed in a gruelling array of events including the 1500m, 10km Road Race and, his pet event, the 5000m.

John faced a packed schedule of four races in six days, beginning with what he thought was his best chance of a gold medal in the 5000m.

"(In the 5000m) I was probably the favourite. My best time was over 30 seconds better than anyone else in the last 12 months," John said.



John competing at the World Masters Athletics Championships in Finland.

"I guess I thought I would win but in the final straight the guy from the Netherlands passed me with about 20m to go. I must have been daydreaming! That was the most frustrating, beforehand I thought the 5000m was my best event and I thought I was going to be too tired after that for the other events. After I didn't win that, I thought I had blown my chance."

What John didn't know though was his best chance was still to come. Competing just days later in the 1500m final, John faced the same competitor from the Netherlands and wasn't going to be caught daydreaming again.

"(In the 1500m) the Dutch guy again turned out to be my main rival but there was also an American runner who had a much faster time than me."

"In the end it came down to the Dutch guy and myself to fight out the finish. To me it was a dream run. I felt great all the way and had no tiredness in my legs which was a surprise. I had a lot of speed at the end and finished not feeling tired at all!"

John's surprisingly fresh legs powered him through the finish line, finishing well ahead of the field in what is believed to be a Games Record time. After

just missing out two days before, John claimed that elusive gold medal!

"To win a competitive race when you go in with strategy is a terrific feeling," he said.

"At the same time, I was aware that friends back in Australia and also in America and France were watching. It was really nice to win with everyone watching."

"Certainly, I was really pleased with the achievement and ultimately it was an experience I was chasing."

With a gold medal at the World Masters Athletics Championships now in the bag, you could be forgiven for thinking John would take it easy. That's certainly not the case however.

"I came home with a sore Achilles so I'm hoping after two or three weeks I'll be over that," he said.

"Assuming I am, in November I want to go to Melbourne. My plan is to go there and break a couple of records. The Masters Mile record I'm pretty confident I can break that, maybe the 1500m and 5000m. I'm not quite sure how that will play out."



John was a popular guest speaker at the Mayoral Morning Tea





Clontarf students had a blast at the annual Billy Cart Derby.

Clontarf- Billy carts

The Clontarf Foundation exists to improve the lives of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men through education, life skills and employment prospects. There's also a whole lot of fun along the way!

The Alice Springs Clontarf Billy Cart Derby is proof of exactly that, and the 2022 edition of the famous race was no exception. Traditionally held at the Yirara raceway, this year's edition of the race found a new home in the Bunnings carpark as a lead in to the Tatts Finke Desert Race.

The team decked out the carpark ready for Clontarf academies from Yirara College (Brum-Brum Brumbies), Centralian Senior College (Brown Snake) and Centralian Middle School (Team BBBC) to tear up the track.

The academies spent the week leading up to the event fitting and decorating their vehicles, with CMS a clear winner thanks to their dynamic double-duo team of Teddy the Bunnings Bear and Rodney the sausage dog.

Despite their flashy looks, the Yirara and CMS carts were no match for the mighty CSC Brown Snake on the track who slithered their way to a commanding victory! The fellas were sure to celebrate on the podium with a special brown snake salute.

There was plenty of other on-track excitement on the day however with the celebrity races entertaining the whole crowd.

Alice Springs Mayor Matt Paterson showed his wares on the track, winning a closely fought race against Team Bunnings.

Bunnings didn't leave the day empty handed however with the Bunnings Bandits team taking out the first celebrity race against Team Clontarf.

Even with all the on-track excitement, the best part of the day was seeing everyone work together and have a great time. Clontarf extends a special thank you to the whole Bunnings Team, Mayor Matt Paterson, Nicole Walsh from the Chamber of Commerce and former Mayor Damien Ryan for their contributions and involvement in the day!

www.napcan.org.au

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
4 - 10 September 2022



Creating Hope Through Action

World Suicide Prevention Day 2022

Mparntwe - Alice Springs

11am-1pm Friday 9 September

Council Chamber Lawns

Music by
Kirra Voller
Billy Black



With a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, speakers, health promotion stalls, photo booth, craft activities and a free healthy BBQ. All welcome.

For more information contact MHACA:
healthpromotion@mhaca.org.au or 0455135309



MHACA
Mental Health
Association of
Central Australia





Youth Summit

Alice Springs Town Council are giving young people from across the town the opportunity to shape their own future in September.

Council will host its first Youth Summit on Friday 23 September, bringing up to 150 young people together to share ideas and help create change for the better.

“We’ve been planning for something like this since (2021),” Manager Youth Services Jay Fiso said.

“Council did some research and got some information from the previous people to run a Youth Summit, the Alice Springs Youth and Community Centre. They ran something similar a while ago.

“Our vision is to help shape what the young ones can give to us. This is about helping young people and their future, not about helping us.

“It’s really about giving young people a voice. I would love to give them an opportunity to voice what they want and help them see their path.

“We are going to hear from young people, identifying their needs and empowering them to make change.”

The 2022 Youth Summit will be held at the Alice Springs Youth and Community Centre, with IMAGINE being the theme of the day.

IMAGINE stands for ‘Integrity & Mindset Achieves Goals, Ideas, Needs & Education’.

They day will see young people from different backgrounds interact and speak about issues that are important to them with Minister for Youth Lauren Moss to be in attendance, along with members of the NT’s Youth Roundtable.

The event will also feature stalls from youth services and organisations across Alice Springs, as well as inspiring young guest speakers including NT Young Australian of the Year Sizol Fuyana and Indigenous rapper Lil Mase.

“It’s about understanding. If we’re really about making change, these are the kids that need to be listened to and celebrated,” Jay said.

“We are going to sit down and listen. If we really want this community to change in the next 5-10 years, this is the day to get started.

“I’m really looking forward to this day because it will help me as a youth worker adjust what I’m doing, learning what young people need from us.”

Following the event, Council will take the Summit on the Road to hear from other young people not in attendance – including young people with lived experience of disability and young people not engaged in education.





Spring is finally upon us which can only mean one thing – it's festival season!

Desert Festival is finally here, bringing an exciting program of local and visiting artists to come together for an eleven day showcase of arts, culture, and community.

This year our theme is BLOOM and the program spans a diverse bouquet of artforms and genres—from circus to visual arts, physical theatre, music and dance, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

The Gap View Hotel will host the 2022 Desert Festival Hub. With a bespoke container bar, community courtyard and food and drink for purchase, our Festival Hub is the perfect place to enjoy a show or some live music.

Powerhouse musical collaborations feature across both weeks of Desert Festival. On Friday 23rd September, WeSing: KINDRED will take to the stage at our Festival Hub, featuring Bambadino, Ceenah, Fan Fatale, Gleny Rae, Jessie May, Kirra Voller, Kodivine, Velia and XAVIA. Be delighted as this supergroup of women and gender diverse performers share their light and insight into our shared humanity.

There's fun for the whole family too, with two interactive theatre shows that are sure to get the creative juices flowing and inspire and delight young audiences. Catch Kardboard Kingdom on Saturday 24th September and Friday 30th September, and FIX IT — THE HERO on Saturday 1st October.

Desert Festival is also excited to curate the entertainment at two Alice Springs Town Council favourite events –Night Markets on Thursday 22nd September which will celebrate the Festival's opening night and Pop Up Parks at Ross Park on Friday 30th September.



So, what are you waiting for? Book your tickets now and come be part of our eleven day celebration of arts and culture in bloom!

Desert Festival is proudly supported by the Northern Territory Government, Regional Arts Australia and the Alice Springs Town Council.



Alice Springs Town Council will again take part in Clean Up Australia's annual Great Northern Clean Up, aiming to reduce litter and rubbish across the country.

"This is something we participate in every year and our focus is the Todd River," ASTC Environment Officer Nathan Blight said.

"The Todd River is the centre of our town and always has a large volume of rubbish through it so it's where we can really make a big difference."

The Great Northern Clean Up has been running since 2009 and comes at a vital time of the year, before summer rains wash rubbish downstream.

"The idea is to get in and get as much rubbish out (of the river) that we can. Coming into summer where we see more rain, that's when this rubbish gets flowing and transported elsewhere," Nathan said.

"It's great to get it while it's here in town rather than waiting for it to be someone else's problem downstream.

"Rubbish also degrades the ecosystem and visually it looks really poor, especially given how dominant a feature the Todd River is in Alice Springs. It's such an iconic place so it's good for us to be able to clean it up and try right some wrongs."

Council will be hosting a Great Northern Clean Up event on Sunday 18 September from 9-11am. The group will meet in the Alice Springs Public Library car park. Gloves, tongs and rubbish bags will be provided on the day.

For more information, or to register to participate, visit

<https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/fundraisers/ASTC/todd-river---lhere-mparntwe>



STEP TO CLEAN UP

TODD RIVER - LHERE MPARNTWE
- SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER FROM 9 TO 11 AM -

Come and help keep our river clean and looking magnificent. Gloves, tongs, rubbish bags and good times guaranteed!

Meeting at the carpark opposite the Alice Springs Public Library (Leichardt Terrace) and cleaning up the adjacent areas.



REGISTER or DONATE
[cleanup.org.au](https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au)

What's on in September

THURSDAY 1



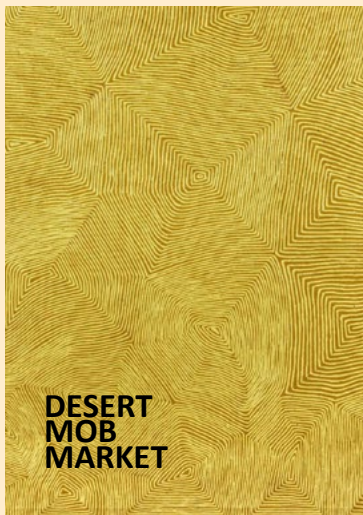
FRIDAY 2



FRIDAY 9



SATURDAY 10



THURSDAY 22



THURSDAY 22



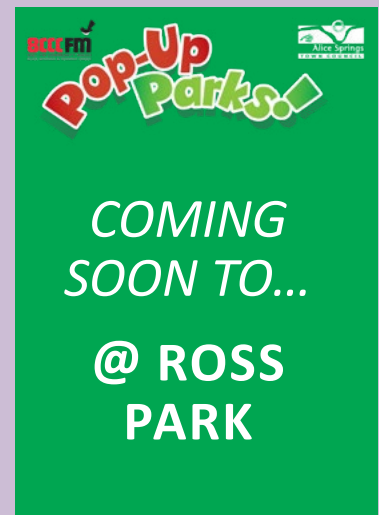
FRIDAY 23

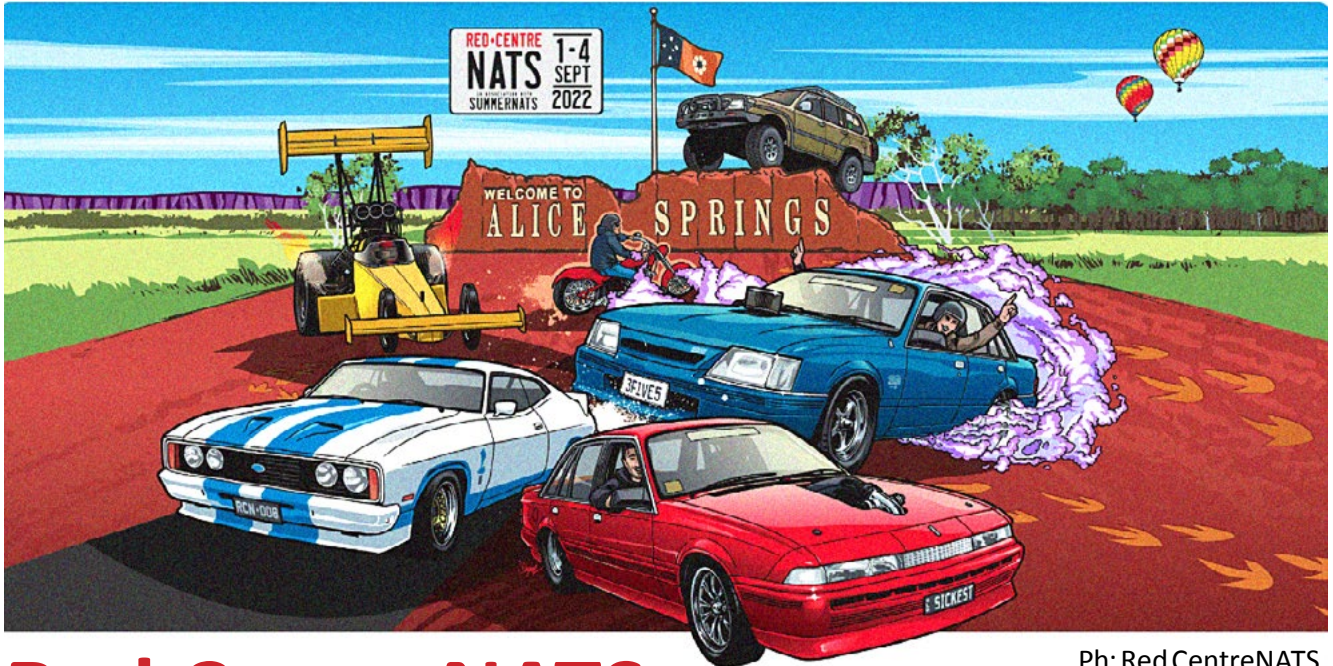


FRIDAY 23



FRIDAY 30





Ph: Red CentreNATS

Red CentreNATS

Revheads across Alice Springs are hearing up for a big weekend of action as the Red CentreNATS returns to town this September.

From 1-4 September, people from across the country will flock to the Red Centre everyone's favourite four-wheel festival to show off their unique cars and bikes.

The 2022 edition of the Red CentreNATS sees the return of the famous Street Parade where Alice Springs locals will get the chance to see some of Australia's most iconic cars drive past.

The free Podium Party will also return on Sunday 4 September. This year the fun will take place on the lawns at Lasseters Centre of Entertainment, and crowds will get to celebrate the weekend's winners and enjoy live music from high-energy AC/DC tribute band High Voltage.

For Alice Springs locals, road closures will be in effect for the Street Parade on Saturday 3 September. For more information visit the Red CentreNATS website [here](https://www.redcentrenats.com.au).





Council's Rangers would like to remind the dog walking public that in all public areas, dogs must remain under effective control at all times in the allocated areas provided by ASTC.

Any dog deemed by Rangers to be not under the control of its owner in these allocated areas may be required to be put on-leash. This includes in leash-free zones.

If you are exercising your animal in public other than the leash free zones, your animal must remain on the lead. ASTC has implemented this regulation to keep pets and the public safe and comfortable when out and about.

There are many areas around Alice Springs where dog owners are encouraged to exercise their pooches off-leash, including Rotaract Park Dog Park.

Rotaract Park has been designated as a 24-hour dog park with pets able to be off leash at all times of the day.

Excluding Anzac Oval and TIO Traeger Park, dogs may be exercised on most Council parks between 5am and 8am and for some, 5pm to 8pm. A full list of Council parks can be [found here](#). Make sure to read the signs, as some parks have time restrictions. Owners should also be mindful of any sports that are taking place at these parks, and pick a different park if there is a game or training going on.

Most of these facilities also supply 'doggy do' bags and bins for owners to pick up after their pets, but it is recommended that owners carry their own bags in the event the dispensers are empty.

It is important to remember that some pooches don't do well off-leash, or with other dogs. Owners should be mindful of how their dog handles these situations, and make alternative arrangements for doggy exercise if they're not sure. Owners are responsible for their dogs at all times.

If you've got any questions, contact your friendly Ranger team.





NIGHT MARKETS & DESERT FESTIVAL

Council have collaborated with the Desert Festival for the event, bringing fun and festivities to the heart of Alice Springs.

Held on Thursday 22 September from 5-9pm, The Desert Festival Night Markets will help kick off the 2022 Desert Festival in grand fashion with entertainment from: *Pop Up Cabaret (Dan Milne)*, *Kumalie Riley doing Acknowledgement of Country*, *Midnight Rangers*, *Mulga Bore Hardrock Band*.

With live, local entertainment for the whole family, you can bop while you browse the markets for authentic indigenous art, handmade crafts, up-cycled treasures, books, handmade clothing and jewellery, plus a huge range of tasty treats from our many food vendors.

Council's Night Markets are family friendly, smoke-free events.

Council actively encourages BYO reusable cutlery and take-away food containers to reduce the volume of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) going into landfill.

SUMMER HOURS

From 1 September to 30 April

Weekdays 6am - 7pm
Weekends 9am - 7pm



8950 4360 | info@asalc.com.au | 10 Speed Street, The Gap

Mayoral Morning Tea



Selfdefence Workshop

Tall Tales (watch them on FB @ ASPL Library)



Since & Book Week @ your Library



Punjabi Multilingual Storytime



Where to find...



FREE

online listing
for your Alice Springs
Community Event*

alicesprings.nt.gov.au

*Conditions apply

Work

Careers @ Council
Alice Springs Town Council
current vacancies

alicesprings.nt.gov.au

Click 'Jobs'

News

from your Community
and
Alice Springs Town Council

alicesprings.nt.gov.au

Click 'News'

Contact Council...

Alice Springs Town Council

ABN 45 863 481 471

Civic Centre & Administration

93 Todd Street, Alice Springs

PO Box 1071 NT 0870

(08) 8950 0500

astc@astc.nt.gov.au

Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm

(ex. Public Holidays)

Alice Springs Aquatic & Leisure Centre

10 Speed St, Alice Springs

(08) 8950 4360

info@asalc.com.au | asalc.com.au

*SUMMER HOURS (1 September to 30 April)

Weekdays, 6am – 7pm

Weekends & Public Holidays, 9am – 7pm

*WINTER HOURS (1 May to 31 August)

Weekdays, 6am – 6.30pm

Weekends & Public Holidays, 9am – 3pm

*Outdoor 50m pool closed for a time in August
for annual maintenance. Hours exclude Good Friday,
Alice Springs Show Day, Christmas Day

Alice Springs Public Library

cnr Gregory & Leichhardt Tces, Alice Springs

(08) 8950 0555

library@astc.nt.gov.au

alicesprings.nt.gov.au/library

Monday to Friday, 10am – 6pm

Weekends, 10am – 1pm (ex. Public Holidays)

Regional Waste Management Facility

Commonage Rd, Alice Springs

(08) 8950 4340

astc@astc.nt.gov.au | alicesprings.nt.gov.au

Open 7 days, 8am – 4pm

(ex. Good Friday, Christmas Day, New Year's Day)

Rediscovery Centre

Commonage Rd, Alice Springs

(08) 8950 4340

astc@astc.nt.gov.au | alicesprings.nt.gov.au

Monday to Friday, 8am – 4pm

Weekends, 9.30am – 2.30pm

(ex. Good Friday, Christmas Day, New Year's Day)

Alice Springs Animal Shelter

Len Kittle Dr, Alice Springs

(08) 8953 4430

alicesprings.nt.gov.au