

Territory's leading ladies



Mother, policewoman and advocate for children with autism, Bindi Burnell, has been recognised with a Tribute to Territory Women honour

AN advocate for children with autism, Darwin's first Lord Mayor, and a former Chief Minister are among 11 prominent women honoured in this year's Tribute to Territory Women.

Minister for Women's Policy Malarndirri McCarthy yesterday announced the 11 recipients – past and present – at a function in Darwin Convention Centre.

Nine of the women were presented with their awards at the function being held at the Darwin Convention Centre yesterday and a further two women will be honoured with a tribute in Alice Springs today.

Policewoman Bindi Burnell is usually found working in forensics as a crime scene investigator, but it was her leadership in educating young people about Autism that was recognised at the awards ceremony.

Ms Burnell, whose son was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, has previously been the Autism NT president and has lobbied for increased grant money to educate about

autism across the Territory.

Also recognised was Dr Ella Stack, who was elected Darwin Mayor in 1975 and was instrumental in the reconstruction of the city following the devastation of Cyclone Tracey. She remained as Lord Mayor until 1980.

The NT's first female Chief Minister Clare Martin was also mentioned for her work in leading the Territory from 2001 to 2007.

It was a fitting tribute to the former politician as the Tribute to Northern Territory Women was initiated when Ms Martin led the Northern Territory Government in 2002.

"Clare Martin and Dr Stack are two extraordinary women who have made significant contributions to the Northern Territory community, both politically and socially," Minister McCarthy said.

"I congratulate and pay tribute to all of these wonderful women who come from all walks of life and from different parts of the Territory.

"2011 is a special year for all women as it

also marks the 100th birthday of International Women's Day with the theme of *Celebrating our Past and Planning for our Future*."

To date more than fifty Territory women have been honoured by the tributes.

Other recipients for 2011 include:

- Dr Christine Connors for her dedication and commitment to improving health outcomes for Territorians.
- Margaret Clinch who is a researcher, historian, and long time advocate and activist for local planning and the environment.
- Audrey Gorrington for more than 50 years contribution to the Arts and Theatre in the Northern Territory and her long term dedication to volunteering.
- Lesley King in recognition of 33 years service as a volunteer and inspirational leader for St John Ambulance Australia.
- Ellen Ryan for her contribution as a Territory pioneer, founding entrepreneur and community activist.



BRIEFLY

Time to be inspired

The Business and Professional Women Darwin (BPW Darwin) association is hosting a conference at Darwin Airport Resort on Saturday to mark the centenary anniversary of International Women's Day.

BPW Darwin president Lia Finocchiaro said the conference's key focus is on learning and professional development.

"The conference will provide a platform to engage with women from government, academic and business arenas. Participants will be informed and inspired by interactive key note presentations from local, national and international speakers," Ms Finocchiaro said.

For information and registration call Lia on 8946 2934 or email darwin@bpw.com.au

Excellent senior students

TOP End students in senior school can now access specialised courses in science and health sciences through new Centres for Excellence at Darwin High School and Casuarina Senior College.

Students at both Centres will have extended opportunities to specialise in innovative courses that lead to a range of university options including engineering, medicine, bio-mechanics and physiotherapy.

Forty-two students are enrolled at the Darwin High School Centre for Excellence.

And another 29 students at Casuarina Senior College are studying specialised health sciences

All students are in Years 10 and 11 and had to qualify to gain selection in the Centre for Excellence.

Courses at both centres will also be available to year 12s next year, and a new Centre for Excellence will also open in 2012 at Palmerston Senior College specialising in the Arts.

Students interested in attending the Centres of Excellence should contact the schools involved.

Exit art entries

THE annual Exit Art exhibition that features the work of year 12 Northern Territory Certificate of Education visual arts students from 2010 has opened.

The Exit Art exhibition is in its seventeenth year and this exhibition will be the seventh year Exit Art has been displayed in the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

There are 38 works including paintings, drawings, digital images, design, sculpture and film production.

Former Palmerston Senior College student Jessica Butler won the Minister's Choice Award for an oil painting of a grevillea in the dry season.

The Territory Craft Award was won by Emma Saunders formerly of Kormilda College for her mixed media piece titled *Don't judge a book by its cover*.

A People's Choice Award will also be determined by the end of the exhibition based on votes by the public that attend Exit Art.

Exit Art is free and open to the public until July 3.

Airport's smokey changes

DARWIN International Airport is to ban smoking from passenger walkways between the terminal and carpark.

Smoking inside the terminal, including the balconies, was banned at the start of the year to comply with new government anti-smoking laws.

The airport then established two temporary smoking areas on the walkways between the terminal and the public car park.

However, chief executive Ian Kew said the airport later received feedback from people wanting smoke-free access to the terminal prompting a move to build a designated smoking area in a different location.

"As a temporary measure, the airport will now make one of the walkways a smoking area and the other a non-smoking area while a dedicated smoking area is created," Mr Kew said.

The new smoking area is due to be finished in April and in the interim a 'no smoking' area will be on the walkway closest to the check in and departure counters and the walkway closest to the baggage carousel/arrivals will remain as a designated smoking area.



WE WROTE THIS FOR YOU

The Royal Wedding invites have gone out and on behalf of our readers we've written to Prince William of Wales, asking for an extra two.

We are producing a book filled with the well-wishes of Australians - a wedding card from all of us. We'd like the book to be delivered by two Australian representatives.

Our letter to the Prince has been written, sealed and posted.

Now we just need to fill the book with comments and find someone to deliver it.

Can you help?

Post a message to William and Kate for your chance to join the Aussie Envoy to London this April courtesy of Emirates. For details, visit news.com.au/aussieenvoy



SUN NEWSPAPERS

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