Another busy year is nearly over and with Christmas fast approaching Rhonda and I wish everyone across the electorate a safe and happy holiday season.

We’ve said goodbye to many loved ones in our communities and celebrated milestones for others. Since the last newsletter we have mourned the loss of some well known community members including Adelaide River long time identity Rita Kear and Coomalie’s Bruce Jones. We commemorated the 100th Remembrance Day on 11 November with another poignant service at Adelaide River War Cemetery, special thanks to the National Servicemen’s Association, Coomalie Council and COTA Coomalie for their efforts again.

On a brighter note we celebrated 50 years of marriage between Chris and George Mitchell from Dundee and Marg Melville recently celebrated her 70th Birthday. Congratulations and Happy Birthday!

If you or someone you know is celebrating a special birthday or anniversary, my office can help you in requesting a letter from the Prime Minister, Governor-General or Her Majesty The Queen to mark the occasion. Contact my office for further information.

Rhonda and I were delighted to attend Chris and George’s 50th Anniversary celebrations out at Dundee

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Remembrance Day at Adelaide River War Cemetery

2019 Daly Electorate Calendar is now out!

The Annual Daly Electorate Calendar is now complete, copies are available from my office if you would like one.

This year I was honoured to feature our Volunteer Bushfire Brigades in recognition of the selfless volunteers who had another horror fire season in 2018.

I particularly wish our brigade members and families a well deserved break this festive season, your commitment to our community is appreciated.

Gary
Residents from right across the electorate, from Emu Point to Daly River, Adelaide River and Douglas Daly, Belyuen, Darwin River and Dundee - all have one thing in common - lack of adequate mobile or internet coverage.

Hopes were high earlier this year when we all thought the new tower at Dundee (Bnoye) would improve communications for those living at Dundee Downs and Dundee Forest. Reports of full mobile coverage during the testing phase brought excitement before the actual 'switch-on' proved a complete failure in the eyes of those living nearby.

I have been working with Telstra to address this issue and final tweaking of the tower doesn’t appear to have improved the service for many living in the area.

I wrote to the Federal Government to make sure Dundee Downs, Woodycupaldiya and Emu Point are included in the National Mobile Black Spot database and look forward to hearing of the outcome of Round 4. Along with mobile coverage in Dundee, I have heard of the unreliability of the landline service throughout Dundee. I sought a response from Telstra on this issue and will continue to work with this service provider (who is the only provider with infrastructure in Dundee) to address the problem.

If you are having problems with your phones, please ensure you report it and obtain the reference number. Please then send the details to my office so we can ensure the matter is resolved.

In helping to address the mobile issues faced by many in our community, Telstra have provided some tips to help improve mobile coverage in regional areas.

**Top Tips to help improve mobile coverage in regional areas**

*Tips extracted from Telstra Media Release 28 September 2018*

“..even if there is a mobile base station within reasonable proximity to your property, obstructions such as buildings, vehicles, trees, hills and building materials can all reduce the signal level available for your mobile phones and devices” (Nic Danks - Telstra Area General Manager for Northern Territory).

**BLUE TICK HANDSET**

Different phones and devices have different capabilities. Devices sold by Telstra with a blue tick are laboratory and field tested to provide the best possible coverage for regional areas.

**WiFi CALLING**

If you have internet connected at your home and a Wi-Fi connection, you can make mobile phone calls through a setting called Wi-Fi Calling. Wi-Fi Calling doesn’t allow for SMS or video calling, only voice calling and you must have a compatible device such as:

- Apple iPhone 6 and up
- Apple Watch 3
- Samsung Galaxy S6 and up
- Samsung Galaxy Note 5 and up
- LG G6 and up
- Telstra Signature 2
- Google Pixel 2 and XL 2

**LEGAL REPEATERS**

The Telstra Go is a mobile phone repeater that complies with Australian conditions and is available in two variants; a stationary version designed for in-building coverage and a portable version designed for improved coverage in your vehicle.

The Telstra Mobile Smart Antenna is a repeater device suitable for residential premises where coverage is poor indoors.

**EXTERNAL ANTENNAS** (Home and mobile)

There are a range of legal external antennas that can amplify the network signal where coverage is patchy for your mobile phone or home broadband device.

External antennas can dramatically improve coverage.
Mandorah Jetty Update

The ongoing concerns regarding the existing Mandorah Jetty and lack of urgency on the part of the Northern Territory Government has accumulated in the closure of the jetty to vehicles due to structural integrity issues. I wrote again to the Minister in September raising the safety concerns of passengers and lack of access for disabled persons. I also called for the new project to be brought forward. The Minister advised the existing jetty was never designed with the disabled in mind and to upgrade the facility would be too difficult. She again said that safety works had been undertaken and any concerns for the safety of passengers disembarking or boarding vessels onto the jetty was the responsibility of the operators. The community didn’t agree with this and staged a protest at the jetty on 13 October 2018. In addition, the newly formed Wagait Beach Progress Association met with the Minister late last month along with the Shire President to voice their concerns.

I will continue to fight for the residents of the Cox Peninsula region and am happy to work with the community to progress this much needed infrastructure upgrade.

Dundee Health Needs Update

The NTPHN Needs Assessment was finally released and I hope many residents in the Dundee region have had a chance to have a read of it. The report in its findings indicated:

"The Needs Assessment has clarified a number of demographic and community characteristics which lend support to the strongly expressed community desire for a formal health service to replace the now defunct volunteer first aid service which operated in the region for many years".

“At the Community Forum there was a level of frustration expressed by some regarding the planning process. While there was frustration over lack of previous action by the Territory Government, there was also a general lack of community awareness about the funding process or planning required to implement a sustainable, long-term solution. The Forum provided an opportunity to explain this process to the community, but there was need for further education around this process”

So the issue is - the need has been established but what is the Government going to do next? The Minister is reviewing the report and I eagerly await her early response.

Dundee Beach Boat Ramp

Regardless of which side of politics you bat for, the Dundee Beach Boat Ramp has been a saga since it was completed 2 years ago. The ongoing maintenance contract was cancelled earlier this year resulting in a dangerous situation for users of the ramp (as pictured). Not only is it dangerous, it is seriously impacting the livelihood of business operators who are unable to safely launch and retrieve their boats at the scheduled times costing additional wages and impacting on customer satisfaction.

I urge Government to consult with the community to find a workable solution; many long term residents have a lot of insight and some sound solutions that should be listened to.
Southport Update

The Southport Progress Association residents have been pushing for reticulated water for many years. For twenty years residents have relied on rainwater tanks and a community bore. Each year since I was elected the representative for Southport, I too have lobbied the Government for reticulated water to this historic township.

The latest response from Minister Wakefield to both myself and the Southport Progress Association states:

“I can confirm that there are currently no plans for the introduction of reticulated water supply in Southport.”

When asked earlier this year what the plans were for the future development of Southport, in particular the 150 vacant crown land blocks, government again responded with, “there are no specific plans for the future of Southport”.

More frustrations for the community with road block after road block regarding the proposed community space at Mira Square. In 2002 the Association expressed an interest in this site and after a Native Title claim was finally resolved in 2011, the Association received advice that they could apply for a land grant (through Litchfield Shire Council).

Southport in the 1870s supporting the goldfields

Seven years later and still no resolution, its time both the council and government worked together to assist this small but important township in their efforts to provide a community meeting place. In 2020 Southport will celebrate 150 years - surely this is good enough reason to push through the bureaucracy and provide some certainty to the long suffering Southport community!
These beautiful little finches with their bright red plumage are just the birds to see in the Festive Season. The male is mostly a dark crimson with white spots on the flanks and the female is brown with a red face and tail. The call is a musical tinkling that I’m sure the more imaginative among us might liken to those little round Christmas bells.

Crimson finches are found in the wetter parts of the Top End. In the Dry Season they inhabit vegetation near ponds, waterholes and rivers, for example pandanus and long grasses. In the rural area they inhabit people’s gardens. At our property at Darwin River they spend much time in the long grasses and sedges around our pond. Following the first rains, they disperse into other habitats.

These colourful little birds hang around in small family groups, and breed throughout the Wet, nesting in pandanus, tree hollows and even on verandahs. Like other finches this species mainly feeds on grass seed, but when breeding insects become a large part of their diet.

Do you want a real Christmas Tree this festive season?
Support the Darwin River Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and purchase a Christmas Tree!

For further information contact Denise at goodfellow@bigpond.com.au or call 0438 650 835

Darwin River, NT, 0841

It was great to be able to deliver the Territory Housing Lions Christmas Cakes to seniors Territorians living in public housing across the electorate recently.

This has been a long standing tradition by Territory Housing but until this year, those living in remote communities missed out. Congratulations to the NT Government for including our remote seniors this year and a thank you for the opportunity to deliver them. I hope this new tradition continues well in to the future as they were warmly welcomed!

Members of the old NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme have been automatically transferred over to the NT Concession Scheme and NT Seniors Recognition Scheme but you must confirm your details annually.

If you fail to confirm your details you will be removed from the scheme and you will need to re-apply.

If you haven’t confirmed your details by completing a form online or manually, make sure you do before 31 December 2018.

Renewal Confirmation Forms are available from my office or visit www.ntconcessions.nt.gov.au
Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the 2018 Health Professional of the Year Awards. These awards recognise outstanding health professionals making a difference in NT primary health care. Particular congratulations to Nola Jimarin from Nauiyu Health Clinic who was awarded the Primary Health Care Support Person of the Year!

I was delighted to hear that Betty Sullivan has been selected as a finalist in the Chief Executive Everyday Hero Award for her work as Nauiyu’s Aboriginal Mental Health Worker. Betty runs regular “Yarning Circles” for the community and every year organises a Mental Health Expo in Mental Health Week for the Nauiyu Community.

Nauiyu has also recently been successful in a One Disease Grant (elimination of scabies) through Merrepen Arts and Philip Wilson, Nauiyu’s male Aboriginal Health Practitioner and Jack Daly, their Aboriginal AOD worker through Green River to hold a community alcohol free Christmas party.

Well done to the whole team, what an achievement!

I was honoured to present as a co-contribution with Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation, a specially crafted table featuring a map of the Daly River to the Malak Malak Rangers in memory of a special elder.
Barramundi Adventures Darwin

If you haven't had the chance to visit Barramundi Adventures Darwin you should do yourself a favour and take a drive to Berry Springs and check out what Tommy and Dorian have done with the old barramundi farm on William Road, Berry Springs. It's a great family friendly venue where you are guaranteed to land a barramundi! Even I managed to catch one recently - maybe with a little encouragement from Tommy...

Barramundi Adventures Darwin is a land-based fishing venture that caters for families, large groups, schools, functions including weddings and staff functions.

Congratulations to the boys, you have done an outstanding job in creating another great tourism venture in the Daly electorate.

For further information visit their facebook page or call 0436 007 111.

Pine Creek School Bike Winner!

Another enjoyable part of my role is donating bikes to our schools to encourage attendance.

Pictured is Pine Creek School award winner Tia with her family - well done Tia!

2018 Gamba Action Program Open

The Gamba Action Program means landholders can collect free herbicide and loan equipment to manage Gamba on their property.

Landholders can contact the Weed Management Branch for spray equipment loans, and can obtain free limited herbicide at:

- Freds Pass Sport & Rec Reserve, Bees Creek 0427 272 586
- Katherine Weed Management Depot 8973 8857
- Bushfires NT, Batchelor 8976 0098
- Territory Wildlife Park, Berry Springs 0401 114 912
- Dundee Beach 8978 2107
- Wagait Shire Council 8978 5185
- Milne Volunteer Fire Brigade 8977 9041

For further information contact Weed Management on 8999 4567 or visit www.nt.gov.au/gamba
Above: Wadeye Grand Final another fantastic day

Above: Dundee Social & Rec Club Annual Fishing Competition

Above: Berry Springs School students on World Teacher’s Day and Day for Daniel

Above: Melbourne Cup celebrations at Dundee is always a great way to spend the afternoon

Above: Barry Burrows paying his respects at Adelaide River War Cemetery on Remembrance Day

Above: Preston with his winnings from the Dundee Social & Rec Club Fishing Competition