**Katherine in trial for grog shop cop beat**

A SIX-month trial of intensive temporary beat locations outside Katherine takeaway liquor outlets has begun following success in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said it was introduced to help reduce alcohol-fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour. “TBLs have proven hugely successful in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek where levels of alcohol-related crime have plummeted since the beginning of the year,” he said.

“Assaults are down 27 per cent in Alice Springs and have been halved in Tennant Creek as a result of our alcohol policies. We want to protect the Katherine community in the same way by employing a similar high visibility, preventative approach at the town’s main takeaway grog outlets.

“In the year to October, assaults in Katherine were down 17 per cent and house break-ins dropped 19 per cent compared to the previous year.

“These are impressive results being delivered by our hardworking police.

“Temporary Beat Locations should help police tackle the cause of the trouble instead of just dealing with the aftermath.”

Michael Gorey

AN innovative program to prevent Aboriginal women prisoners from reoffending has been commended in the inaugural NT human rights awards.

The Kunja Project is an initiative of the Central Australian Women’s Legal Service, which aims to support women in making positive changes to their lives.

Project manager Adèle Gibson said the Kunja Project worked on an empowerment model, giving women the skills, knowledge and confidence to make better decisions for themselves.

Ms Gibson said female violence was a rapidly increasing trend.

National data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows the rate of assault by women increased 49 per cent between 1997 and 2010.

Along with the high representation of indigenous people in the NT prison system (86 per cent in 2013) there has been a huge increase in the number of women incarcerated.

In 2013, the NT female prison population increased by 34 per cent.

In partnership with NT Corrections and other community services, the Kunja Project provides pre-release training and post-release case management for a year.

“When women are imprisoned their children, families and communities also suffer,” Ms Gibson said.

“A large proportion of the women are long-term recidivist offenders, all with complex and high needs.

“They suffer multiple layers of disadvantage and inequality.”

“Women who are imprisoned lose everything – children, housing, employment, hope and dignity,” she said.

The Kunja Project restores these things by first educating the women of their rights and responsibilities, then walking alongside them on their post-release journeys, assisting with advocacy and support where necessary, but also nurturing their own strengths and confidence for the future.”

The project has so far assisted 20 prisoners and ex-prisoners, none of whom have reoffended.

Ms Gibson said the project was funded by the Commonwealth Government for an initial two years and she hoped this would be extended in 2015 with recurrent funding.

**Prisoners’ friend**

**Fond farewell to kids’ advocate**

THE Territory’s first Children’s Commissioner has been farewelled following his departure from the role earlier this week.

Shadow Minister for Child Protection Lauren Moss said Dr Howard Bath had worked tirelessly over six years for the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children in the Territory.

“Dr Bath, who trained as a clinical psychologist, has extensive experience which has included consultancy and training to address the needs of children and young people at risk prior to taking on this important role,” Ms Moss said.

“He co-chaired the Board of Inquiry into the Child Protection System in 2009 and has been an exceptionally strong advocate during his time as Children’s Commissioner.”

It is not known who will occupy the role in future.

**Draft alcohol plan is applauded**

CHIEF Minister Adam Giles says a draft Tennant Creek Alcohol Management Plan shows strong support to continue voluntary sale restrictions and temporary beat locations.

Mr Giles, who received the draft on Wednesday, said the town had made “leaps and bounds” since the introduction of alcohol management measures at the start of this year.

“A combination of voluntary grog restrictions and tough new measures by police targeting problem drinkers has made Tennant Creek a safer place to live,” he said.

House break-ins have dropped 60 per cent over the year to September, the lowest 12-month period since current records began.

**Book lovers snap up Croc!**

THE NT News’ book What a Croc! has been selling out across the Northern Territory.

Publisher Hachette said the book, which looks at the newspaper’s classic front pages, was the highest-selling new release in the market last week.

The 20,000 copies that were on sale since last Wednesday have sold out. The good news is you can still order online.

Online retailer, Booktopia said “We are recommended this book in stock.”

The Paper Shop in the Yerapenye Shopping Centre is currently out of stock, but said more would be ordered.