



PAW Media animation team members Simon Fisher, Jonathan Daw and Jason Woods with clay models

Picture: PHIL WILLIAMS

Lack of carers a concern

Sasha Petrova

THE increasing number of children living in residential care in Central Australia is putting pressure on a system already struggling to keep up with foster and kinships carers.

The Department of Children and Families has revealed 324 children were living in out-of-home care in Central Australia as at 30 June 2014 with 54 of these in residential care.

This number had risen from 282 in out-of-home care in the previous year when 43 children were in residential homes.

The Northern Territory's Acting Children's Commissioner Hillary Berry said it was "always the same concern".

"There are too many children, as opposed to having enough care options available," she said.

The Northern Territory's Child Protection Inquiry in 2010 stated that "residential care should be used selectively for children and young people

with high support needs, sibling groups, young people moving on to independent living, and children and young people following a foster placement breakdown."

Executive Director of the Foster Carers Association NT Anne Owen said there was an increasing demand on carers in Alice Springs.

"We have a lack of carers full stop," she said.

"The Aboriginal Child Placement principle stipulates children should go to kinship care first," she said, adding that placing them with a foster carer was the second step.

"We don't have enough of either," she said.

Alice Springs carer Jade Kudrenko said her foster son had lived in residential care for a year which clearly had a "big impact on him".

"There are so many children in Alice Springs who just need somewhere safe and loving to live and it just makes all the difference," she said.

An animated look back at mechanic mates

FANS of the hit 2001 Central Australian television show *The Bush Mechanics* can soon get their fix, with a brand new version in the pipeline.

A team from remote media organisation PAW, based in Yuendumu, have spent the last year and a half painstakingly

creating an animated episode of the classic series.

The original *Bush Mechanics* was also filmed in Yuendumu, and was a comical glimpse of an Indigenous community's take on motor mechanics.

This new version was shot using stop-motion techniques

with handmade plasticine characters, and as one of the directors Jonathan Daw said it was no easy task.

"You have to think in seconds - every day we'd make about eight to 10 seconds worth of footage," said Mr Daw.

Bush mechanic from the original show, Francis Jupurrula Kelly, helped the new directors with their initial plans.

It is believed that the new *Bush Mechanics* will be screened on national television in the near future.

Long road ahead begins now for SkankMC after mentoring award

Monika O'Hanlon
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

THE red dirt of Central Australia will always flow through their veins, but this hip-hop duo is about to step into the national scene.

Alice Springs artist SkankMC has been selected to receive a tailored music mentoring experience with Footstomp Music after an impressive showcase performance at the intune alike music conference on the weekend.

SkankMC (aka Hugh Winterflood) and his music partner, producer Babashake, blew the panellists away with their unique Central Australian sound and energetic live performance at the Epilogue Lounge on the opening night of intune alike.

"We weren't expecting it, it's a welcomed surprise," Winterflood said.

"The conference inspired us. We can't wait to get on the road and play shows, get our music heard by more people and have fun on the way."

Footstomp Music partners with MusicNT annually to offer a mentorship to an artist.

Footstomp music director, Graham Ashton, said SkankMC was the clear choice.

"SkankMC only just missed out last year and absolutely deserves selection this time. He is poised to connect with a national audience and we can't wait to help him take that step," Ashton said.



Award winner SkankMC and James Shakeshaft. Picture: BARRY SKIPSEY

The mentorship adds to an impressive year for SkankMC. He performed at Bassinthe-grass and the NT song of the year awards and also is aiming to complete his debut album *The Long Road Ahead*.

"I'm bloody cheering to be given this opportunity to take my music career a step forward. Asho (Graham Ashton) has been super-supportive to me already and had some extremely positive things to say about our music," Winterflood said.

"We're looking forward to

reaching the next destination on the long road ahead."

The intune alike music conference was held on July 25-27 in Alice Springs and featured music industry workshops and panels.

In addition to Ashton, prominent attendees included Mick Harvey, Matt Tanner, Scott Fitzsimmons and Anna Laverty.

The conference also provided a nurturing platform for 20 artists and bands from across the NT to showcase their music.



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