Farewell to a genuine leader

IT IS with great sadness that we say goodbye to Alderman Robyn Lesley.

Robyn brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the City of Darwin and her commitment to developing a community that embraces diversity, innovation and change was evident during her time at council.

She will be greatly missed. Robyn was passionate about seniors and once again we have a great program underway for Seniors Month, which is celebrated in the NT every August.

It aims to promote active ageing and getting involved in a range of activities to develop a positive understanding of ageing in the community. This year highlights from council’s program include e-dating, computers, social media, understanding smart devices and printing tips, watercolour and pen and ink art, lawn bowls, drama classes, swing dance lessons, laughter yoga and a night at the Deckchair Cinema.

Booking are essential for all activities. Visit www.darwin.nt.gov.au for the full program and call Elizabeth on 8930 0434 or Morgan on 8930 0216 to book a place.

The City Library is extending its opening hours during the Darwin Festival.

From Tuesday to Thursday it will stay open until 6.30pm. Included in this year’s festival program are face painting, hula hooping, bedtime stories, mosaic making and magic shows. All activities will take place between 5.30-6.30pm.

Check out our website for more details on activities and events happening at your local library.

I am happy to support COTA NT’s No Limits Fashion Parade on Friday, August 29, from 10am-2pm.

There will be mini-makeovers, haircuts and mini-facials, as well as bargain buys, raffle and door prizes and the fashion parade, featuring yours truly.

It is on at the Stokes Hill Wharf Function Centre. Get your tickets from COTA NT – call 8941 1004 or email events@cotant.org.au

There is one week left to have your say about the reviewing of the council’s constitutional arrangements. This project is about making sure we have the most effective electoral representation, so if you are interested and have an opinion, find out more at one of our libraries or on our website, and get in touch.

Our new activeLife@The Top program is now underway. Make sure you take advantage of all the great ways to stay connected and active in our beautiful city. You can find out more and download a program at www.darwin.nt.gov.au/activetife

Next week we have Arinbon Night, an Indonesian cultural event that celebrates 25 years of our sister city relationship. There will be music, dance and food for sale on Thursday, August 21, from 6-9pm at the Indonesian Consulate.

Sweet way to help the RSPCA

INDULGE in a tasty treat and help animals in need next Monday as part of the RSPCA’s Cupcake Day.

The annual event was created to raise money for RSPCA shelters nationwide. RSPCA Darwin general manager Dani Walter said the shelter, at 80 Boulter Road, Berrimah, would be selling cupcakes and baking special treats for their furry residents.

“We will have a variety of different flavoured cupcakes for the humans from $2 while our cats will get tuna and cheese cupcakes and our dogs will get chicken liver cupcakes,” Ms Walter said.

“People can come down from 1pm on Monday and we’ll be selling cupcakes throughout the week.”

Ms Walter said she hoped the public would give in to temptation.

“All the proceeds will go back to the shelter,” she said. “I hope people get behind the day because we’re a not-for-profit organisation and we rely heavily on donations and fundraising events.”

Ms Walter said animal lovers could register with the RSPCA and host their own cupcake day or donate online.

Darwin council will have a cupcake stall in the Smith Street Mall on August 22. Visit rpscacupcakeday.com.au or phone RSPCA Darwin on 8984 3795.

A NEW mile-long running event will take place on Mitchell Street on September 21.

The inaugural Mitchell Street Mile will see elite athletes and amateur runners take on the 1.6km (one mile) challenge in the heart of the CBD.

The event is part of the NT government’s FestivalNT program and will run in conjunction with Athletics NT.

The race will begin at the Mitchell Street/Bennet Street junction outside the Deck Bar.

The route will then travel south along Mitchell Street through to the Daly Street intersection before the field turns around and runs back along Mitchell Street, finishing where they started.

The event will cater to a wide spectrum of runners, encouraging participation at all levels in a program of separate mile-long races throughout the afternoon. From elite athletes to masters, celebrities and an “all comers” category.

Top End schools can enter special primary and secondary categories.

Entries open online at mitchellstreetmile.com.au. Entry fee $20 for adults and $10 for primary and secondary students.

It’s time to run a mile

George enjoys a treat in the lead-up to RSPCA’s Cupcake Day next Monday. Picture: HELEN ORR