Sometimes life really stinks

Residents forced to bail sewage from lounge rooms

By MEGAN PALIN

Residents of the block of eight units had their water turned off while the problem was being rectified on August 17.

The property’s owner and former councilor, Samih Habib Bitar, said it was a problem the Government (Power-Water) had to fix.

“There was (also) a similar issue a while ago and I got a plumber to clean it up and he said the fault was not on my property so it was a government matter,” Mr Habib Bitar said.

“The Government said they would fix it — but they haven’t yet. I believe the problem is the old pipes in the centre of town and that Power-Water have to pull their socks up in this whole area — it is not good enough for this to happen.”

Director of Vac-Mop Cleaning Services Peter Comber, who attended the incident, said it appeared the water was “really contaminated”.

“It was black water coming out of their toilet,” said Mr Comber.

“There are three grades of water — white water, grey water and black water — and several different stages of contamination. Black water is either when the grey water has sat for more than 24 hours and it becomes really contaminated, or from sewerage.”

A Power and Water Corporation spokesman said they had not received any reports about sewage coming into any one’s home.

“Power-Water have to pull their socks up in this whole area — it is not good enough for this to happen”

Extra-special day for Alice as big-screen drama comes calling

By MEGAN PALIN

Resident Nicole Kidman, sporting a brunette wig, filming a scene for Strangerland.

ALICE Springs locals will step into the spotlight to film an indie movie starring Nicole Kidman, Joseph Fiennes and Hugo Weaving today.

Up to 50 locals will appear as extras in the film, Strangerland, directed by Kim Farrant.

The mystery drama follows Catherine (Kidman) and Matthew Parker (Fiennes) whose relationship is pushed to the brink when their two teenagers disappear in the remote Australian desert.

Producer Naomi Wenck said some key sequences — including the Special Emergency Services Volunteer Unit assisting with the search for the missing children — will be shot in Alice Springs today.

“We will be filming a crucial sequence in the film where the Special Emergency Services Volunteer unit help to solve the mystery of the missing children’s fate,” Ms Wenck said.

“Fifty extras will be depicting the essential service that Special Emergency Services groups provide to the community in times of crisis.”

Ms Wenck said Screen Territory, Alice Springs Film and TV, Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Traditional owners of NT Parks had also supported the film.

She said the first unit — made up of the main film crew and lead cast members — will not be in the NT to film any scenes for Strangerland.

“This is a second unit shoot with key scenes for the drama however we have already shot the sequences involving major cast (Nicole Kidman, Joseph Fiennes and Hugo Weaving),” Ms Wenck said.

Strangerland is expected to be released mid-2015.

Abuse hearing on way

THE Royal Commission into institutional child sex abuse will hold a public hearing in Darwin next week.

The hearing will aim to expose the crimes against men and women who were sexually abused as children at the Retta Dixon Home between 1946 and 1980.

It will investigate the response of Australian Indigenous and Commonwealth governments to the allegations of child sexual abuse against workers employed at the mission. There will be an inquiry into the response of the director of public prosecution and NT Police to allegations raised against Donald Henderson in 1975 and 2002.

Anyone with a direct interest can lodge a written application for leave to appear at the hearing before September 8. Email solicitor@childabuse royalcommission.gov.au or mail GPO Box 5283, Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Drink-driver off road

A young woman had almost made it home from the pub when she crashed into a neighbour’s parked car — and was arrested with an alcohol reading more than five times the legal limit.

Stacey Leyce, 23, admitted the wrongdoing at court in Darwin.

She was en route from The Hub, in Palmerston, to her home at Driver when the Nissan Navara she was driving ploughed into the back of a Mitsubishi Magna on August 4.

She made full admissions when police knocked on her door before she was arrested and blew 254.

Defence lawyer Michael Burrows said Leyce had organised to pay $2500 for the damaged vehicle.

Magistrate Michael Carey said she had “started her criminal history in a significant way”.

Levye was fined $1400 and disqualified for the minimum 12 months.

Waters Ward poll near

POTENTIAL candidates for Darwin council’s Waters Ward by-election best keep their eyes and ears open within the next three months.

By November 5, a successful candidate will join Aldermen Gary Haslett and Allan Mitchell on the Darwin council.

The position became vacant after long-serving alderman Robyn Lesley died on August 1, aged 60.

Darwin council is awaiting the go-ahead for the poll from the Northern Territory Electoral Commission.

It must be held within three months of a casual vacancy notice being received.


The by-election will cost council $52,263, to be taken from the “election reserve.”