Masters Games to result in key road closures

Steve Menzie

MOTORISTS are warned there could be delays and changes to their normal routes due to the 15th Alice Springs Masters Games from tomorrow.

The Anzac Oval carpark on Wills Tce will be closed from 5am to 8am for the opening ceremony.

Wills Tce, from Hartley St to Leichhardt Tce, will be closed from 4.30pm to 5.30pm for the athletes’ march into Anzac Oval.

This will also affect the northern section of Todd Mall that has been opened to traffic.

Motorists are asked to take care and expect delays, on Ilparpa Rd, Bollen Rd and Lara-pinta Drive (west from Mem- orial Ave) from 5am and 9am tomorrow due to the athletes half-marathon being staged.

In it for the long haul

ONE of the signature events of the Olympic Games is the marathon – the half marathon has a similar aura in the Alice Springs Desert Park.

There will also be cyclists on Larapinta Drive west of the Twin Ghost Gums from 8am to 10.30am for the time trial.

The block around the civic centre (Todd St, Gregory Tce, Stott Tce and Leichhardt Tce) will be closed from 6am to 12.30pm on Sunday for the cycling criterium.

There could also be delays along the road into the Alice Springs Desert Park due to the athletes 5km walk from 5am to 8am.

Cyclists will again be on Larapinta Drive from Flynn’s Grave to 10km west on Tues- day from 5am to noon due to the road race.

The other major road closures will be along Todd St and Gap Rd on Thursday for the Masters Mile and the cycling criterium.

Then Speed St will be closed on Saturday for the triathlon events.

Brandit has proven to be great fit

THERE is a variety of memorabilia and merchandise available to keep lasting memorials of the this year’s 15th Alice Springs Masters Games.

Territory business Brandit NT has been contracted to provide this service for Games participants since 2008.

It is respected across NT for the merchandise for events such as the annual Finke Des- ert Race (12 times) and V8s in Darwin – plus many others.

Sales manger Red Tremlett said all the items were de- signed to tie in with the Games branding.

“We have tried to get a consistency with the colour scheme throughout”, he said.

“We have brought five pal- letts of apparel and couple of the novelties for the Games.

“A apparel is by far the most popular item and in 2012 we sold out of the ladies sleeveless polos so we have made more this year.

“The whole range has been customised for this event so you will not see any of these garments anywhere else.

“Apart from the sleeveless polos, there are polos, hoodies, reversible vests, athletic sing- lets, shirts, socks and bucket hats available. Among the nov- elty lines are stubby coolers, bar mats, cooler bags, coffee mugs, pens and lapel pins.

“But the Brandit NT associ- ation with the Alice Springs Games goes back a lot further than the years it has been providing the merchandise.

“Chris Sargent is one of the remaining original partici- pants and will be playing basket- ball in the 15th Alice Springs Masters Games next week.

“The merchandise stand is in the Games Centre next to Alice Plaza between Priceline Pharmacy and Hourglass Jewellers.

“Mr Tremlett expected the return to Alice Plaza was a positive initiative for Games participants, the general pub- lic, the centre’s traders and the Expo exhibitors.”

BMX stars with ages of practice

WHILE often considered a young person’s sport, the senior BMX riders will be intent to show how it is done in the Alice Springs Masters Games this evening and Sunday.

Now in the Games for the third time, BMX co-ordinator Gavin Cohen is expecting some hot competition in the various age divisions.

This is especially the case as a number of riders will be backing up from the NT titles last weekend.

A contest to watch will be Des Kelly, Michael Smith and Tony Prow as they continue their titles’ battle into the Mas- ters.

Cohen said they were the senior riders in the club and all rode well at the titles with Mi- chael winning the NT No.1 in the 24-inch cruiser class for his 50+ age.

“His son Chris is also look- ing for gold after doing well in the NT titles,” Gavin said.

“Chris was an extremely strong rider and I expect his form to continue.”

Dee Wang, from Gawler, is another interesting rider who has stayed in Alice Springs after the titles to com- pete in the Masters.

“He loves it here and the track is good and held up after eight days of racing.

“There are two women rid- ers, with Rhonda Pijanger leading the way.”

There are two events in the BMX – the 30-inch Challenger Class and the 24-inch Cruiser Class.

Ages begin at 25 for both men and women.

Catch action on big screen

ONE of the innovations for the 2014 Alice Springs Masters Games will be a big screen in Todd Mall.

Highlights and previews of coming attractions will be up- dated each day. Entertainment venues will also be featured.

Social media will also play a part, with the Alice Springs Masters Games Facebook page and Department of Sport, Rec- reation and Racing Twitter.