



Hold your heads up, we are list-toppers



“ At the risk of being called a moron by the Chief Minister, it would seem this is bad policy

VINCE KELLY
The boss of the NT Police Association on the CLP's controversial open speed limit trial from about 35km south of Barrow Creek to 10km north of Alice Springs



“ Traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge need to be combined

GRAHAME WEBB
The crocodile expert wants more education in remote communities warning of the dangers of crocs in Territory waterways



“ I am devastated – they killed my dog

TONY ROHL
The Leanyer man on his beloved pet dog Sally being put down by Darwin council just four days after she escaped from his front yard while he was overseas



“ When you think about it, it really makes sense

LACEY BARRATT
The Darwin-based photographer on being invited into birthing rooms to capture childbirth



Darwinites would definitely be No. 1 in the country when it comes to a bit of cheeky public nudity

PEOPLE love lists. Not shopping lists or to-do lists. Interesting lists. The Best 26 Pizza-Related Crimes. 47 Reasons Bacon is Awesome. 12 Ways To Wear A Tutu. 15 Uses For Felt You've Never Thought Of.

Listicles, short-form writing that uses lists, have taken over the internet.

And occasionally, Darwin gets a mention on them.

Not the tutu-type ones, but the sort that consistently rank us as not good enough.

This week Suncorp Bank put us at eighth place in its Family Friendly City Index, with education, housing and health bringing us down.

In 2011, the Property Council of Australia put us in last place in its survey of the best cities in Australia, labelling the Territory capital unaffordable, unsafe and a bad place to be if you're unhealthy.

The fact we never seem to reach the top of such lists isn't a reflection of the city – which I would argue is the best place to live in the country – but rather, a problem with the judging criteria.

If these rankings took into account other factors, we would certainly find ourselves on top, and that's not just geographically.

There are many things



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Darwin does well. Here is a list of the Ten Things Darwin Does Better Than Any Other City In Australia.

WEIRDOS. To be kinder, we like to refer to them as "characters". The Territory has no shortage of these, and as the capital, Darwin is doing the whole region proud. If there's not some bloke sticking a cracker up his clacker, then there's a guy in a mankini riding up the main street on a scooter. Sometimes it feels like every peculiar person in the country has kept heading north until they ran out of land. And adding a bit of heat only enhances eccentricities.

FRIENDLINESS. While in other Australian cities people tend to keep their heads down, here strangers in the street are always open to

conversation. Sure, they might be drunk and asking for \$2 for a bus, but at least you don't feel unloved.

MOULD. No one grows fungus like Darwin in the wet season. We are second in the world only to the Amazon for production of mould. Bathroom mushrooms are a phenomenon that exists in no other city in Australia. No need to go a doctor to have your bacterial infection treated, just lick your wall and you will be cured.

WEATHER. Sure, right now it's a little less like Paradise, but you have to admit, we even do rain well. None of this cold, miserable drizzle they put up with down south. If we're going to do it, we do it properly with a decent deluge. And in a few months' time when the rest

of the country is breaking out their Snuggies and living in a world of grey, we'll be singled up in the sun, boasting about our endless summer and spectacular sunsets.

NUDITY. The weather is conducive to a lack of clothing, so it makes sense that we have the highest number of crimes conducted in the buff. There's also a lot of good-natured nudity, like planned mass-mooning to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the first passenger train from Adelaide to Darwin and aforementioned mankini man.

LAX LAWS. Whether or not it's good or bad, we definitely lead the pack in lenient legislation. In no other state could you drive on the highway at any speed you wish, blow sh** up once a year, skipper a boat (drunk) without a licence and ride your bicycle free of the fear of developing helmet hair.

MARKETS. Almost every town in Australia likes to boast some sort of iconic market selling crappy craft and overpriced artisan bread. But here they mostly offer locals an opportunity to eat a wide variety of meat on a stick. And there's plenty of markets to choose

from. If you plan your weekend properly, it's possible to consume six mango smoothies from six separate outdoor locations.

TOLERANCE. We put up with a lot to live here. Mother Nature is basically dead set against us: humidity, midges, ants, loud frogs that keep us up all night. We're blinded every time we exit a cool building as our glasses fog up. Our houses are full of geckoes and their excrement. But we soldier on. We're tough.

SWEATING. We are good at this not only in terms of volume, but also in the vital area of concealment. Every Darwinite knows grey is out, light-coloured pants are a bad idea and sleeves should be avoided.

PREPAREDNESS. Every Top Ender carries with them provisions including a stinnie holder, bottle opener, insect repellent, water and cable ties. The items will pretty much cover any emergency situation that could be encountered here. The lack of such a survival kit is why so many interstate and international visitors die in Darwin. Or at the very least, go thirsty and get bitten.

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