

YOUTH FUNDING

ALMOST \$200,000 has been given to YMCA Top End to introduce a series of indigenous mentoring and counselling programs. NT Senator Trish Crossin said that the funding would help to prevent family violence in Palmerston. She said the program – run from the Palmerston drop-in centre – would provide “diversionary” programs for youth in the area.

PARKER WELCOME

PHILANTHROPIC adventurer Morgan Parker will arrive in Darwin on Monday on the last leg of his Australasian Wheel2Wheel expedition. Darwin City Council will host a reception to welcome members who have been raising awareness and providing financial assistance to charities. Afternoon tea and a personal presentation by Mr Parker will be held at 3.30pm in the Darwin Civic Centre courtyard.

BUSINESS SEMINAR

DARWIN-BASED Supertrac Solutions will hold a free seminar on business exit strategies on Wednesday. The seminar will address the key issues for selling a business, how to best prepare for the sale process and avoiding common pitfalls. It will be held at the Mantra Pandanas, in Knuckey St. Attendance is free but registration is vital. Supertrac Solutions can be contacted on 8981 2233.



Halikos Group construction manager Chris Giannikouris and DHA chief operations officer Peter Howman look over the plans

Picture: FIONA MORRISON

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Sod turned at barracks

By CONOR BYRNE

WORK has started on 97 new houses at Larrakeyah barracks, replacing 63 that were removed.

And in Winnellie, 73 houses at RAAF Base Darwin are going to be replaced by 130 houses some time after 2013, with the removed houses to be sold.

The \$63.8 million Larrakeyah houses are going to be bigger, but on smaller lots, and are expected to be built by April 2013.

Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon defended the decommissioning of 30-year-old Defence houses.

“They were beyond their use-by date for Defence purposes,” he said.

“We maintain a community standard for community purposes for Defence ... they were quite old houses,” he said.

“Australian Defence personnel ... deserve the best; we will give them the best.

“And that is why we have taken that decision to relocate those houses — as we will do in the future with RAAF Base Darwin — and provide them with new housing infrastructure.

“I haven’t seen the design (of Larrakeyah houses), but I’m sure

it’s appropriate to the needs of this community; and I’m sure it’ll be very aware of the energy needs and requirements of this community.”

Solomon MP Natasha Griggs said moving the houses at RAAF Base Darwin and recertifying them for insurance would be expensive for homebuyers.

“Where are they going to move them to? That’s not going to help Territorians — they’ve already been sitting around for eight months,” she said.

“The houses are already there. That’s the whole point of having that community there.”



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