

Gone but never forgotten

Centralian Advocate journalist Corey Sinclair compiled a list of some of the obituaries featured throughout 2012.

■ Kwementjaye Briscoe
1985 - January 4, 2012

Anmatjere man Kwementjaye Briscoe was only 27 when his life was tragically cut short after being detained at the police watchhouse. Since his untimely passing, more than 30,000 signatures have been collected from supporters around the world that want to see charges laid against the police officers involved in his death.

■ Dr Anne Urban OAM

September 23, 1940 - January 23, 2012

A pioneering Centralian, Anne Urban moved to Alice Springs from New South Wales in 1966 and worked for 15 years as a doctor. She was the first female residential doctor in Alice Springs and played a leading role in developing programs and services for the health of children, their families and community. Anne was also an active member of the Alice Springs Writers Group and the Alice Springs Plant Society as well as being an Honorary Life Member of The Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

■ Leslie Oldfield

April 10, 1941 - April 17, 2012

Alice Springs's first female mayor, Leslie Oldfield (Huggins) had her fair share of challenges and triumphs in the nine years she spent as mayor.

After being deposed as deputy mayor in 1981, Leslie was elected as mayor with five times the votes of any other candidate at a by-election in April 1983, and served as mayor until 1992.

Leslie had the honour of meeting Pope John Paul II and Prince Charles and Princess Diana — not to mention writing a weekly Mayoral column in this newspaper.

■ Brenton Leonard Hissey

September 29, 1958 - April 29, 2012

Brenton Hissey was an Eyre Peninsula wheat and sheep pastoralist before becoming a respected pilot, and always played an active part in his community wherever he found himself.

He was a volunteer for St John Ambulance, a keen member of Yaninee and Wudinna-United Football Clubs, and studied to attain his commercial pilot's licence.

After being employed by Whyalla Airlines, his nickname became "Farmer" and, in 1996, he joined the Royal Flying Doctor Service



Leslie Oldfield



Brenton Hissey



Pamela Lofts



Russell "Bear" Ward



Simon Partington



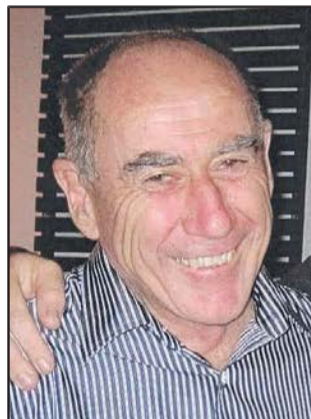
Molly Clark



Desmond Vida



Billy Benn



Greg Crowe



Herbert Laughton

(RFDS) beginning flying operations from the Alice Springs Base.

■ Pamela Lofts

August 9, 1949 - July 4, 2012

An established and well-respected artist, but, first and foremost, a beautiful and caring human being. Pamela played an integral part in the establishment of Watch This Space in 1993, provided beautiful illustration work on Mem Fox's books like *Koala Lou* and *Sail Away*, and wrote her own indigenous story books *How The Birds Got Their Colours* and *Warnayarra the Rainbow Snake*.

Pamela's lasting impact will be remembered and celebrated by the annual Lofty Awards.

■ Russell "Bear" Ward

July 17, 1942 - August 4, 2012

A big part of life in Alice Springs for more than 20 years, Bear was a rugby fanatic, a passionate carer, a jolly Santa, Centralian of the Year in 2003 and an enthusiastic town crier from 2008 to 2011.

Bear had a passion for rugby and was the president of both the Rugby League and Rugby Union in Alice Springs from 1993 to 1997, and was also known for his work with people with special needs.

■ Simon Partington

August 1, 1967 - August 24, 2012

A devoted father of five and sporting enthusiast, Simon Partington made an impact on Central Australia, but was a proud South Australian and family man. Close friend Matt Strawbridge called Simon a real genuine, good bloke.

"Nothing was ever too hard for Simon and he'd bend over backwards for people. Simon loved his family and his kids — a real family man," he said.

Sporting teams across Alice Springs wore black armbands out of respect, and there was a minute's silence before the under-17s football match.

■ Molly Clark

December 28, 1922 - September 22, 2012

Remembered for her feistiness, for calling a spade a spade, her outright stubbornness and no-nonsense talk, Molly Clark was born before her time.

Raised in South Australia, it was not until Molly accepted work as a governess at the remote Mungarranie Station and World War II was drawing to a close that she met a

young stockman named Mac Clark whom she married in 1946.

Moving to Central Australia in 1950, the couple managed Alcoota and Brunchilly Stations before moving to Andado Station. By 1972, all three children had grown up and Molly decided to turn the old Andado homestead into a tourist venture.

■ Desmond Vida

April 9, 1961 - October 1, 2012

An Alice Springs resident since 2003, Desmond Vida was a committed educator who loved to reach out to his students as a friend and mentor during his time teaching mathematics and English at St Philip's College.

Endowed with a delectable sense of humour, and with a mischievous twinkle in his eye, Des epitomised the right blend of fun and work. He will be sorely missed not only by the St Philip's community but also the wider community of Alice Springs.

■ Billy Benn

1943 - October 15, 2012

Born to an Alyawarr father and Akarre mother in the Atitjere (Harts Range) area, Billy Benn worked as a miner, stockman and a tracker before his older sisters encouraged his interest in painting.

In 1981, he was moved to the Hetti Perkins nursing home and in 1983 was taken on by Bindi, where his artistic skills were developed.

His unique landscape paintings earned him a place among the top 50 Australian artists and in 2006 he won the Alice Prize and the Telstra Art Award.

■ Greg Crowe

November 1, 1940 - November 8, 2012

The tragic loss of a leader who dedicated his life to educating the Territory's remote indigenous children gripped the community of Santa Teresa.

Greg Crowe was the principal at Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in Santa Teresa, about 85km from Alice Springs.

The 72-year-old from the south coast of New South Wales had been a fixture in Central Australia for 20 years.

Herbert Patrick Laughton

February 7, 1927 - December 2, 2012

Herbert Patrick Laughton was born in the Todd River of Alice Springs. He was recognised nationally as the grandfather of country music in the Northern Territory, and leaves be-

hind four generations of family and friends to mourn his passing.

The descendant of Arrernte and Eastern Arrernte people, Herbie, as he was known to his friends and family, was always fiercely proud of his Aboriginal blood and ancestral Arrernte lineage.

He was active in educating mainstream Australia about the Stolen Generations and Aboriginal history. An outspoken activist for Aboriginal affairs and an active founding member of the Stolen Generations and Arrernte Council.

Paton "Pat" Forster

1921 - 2012

The Perth-born artist joined the Navy as a teenager and graduated as a signalman from Flinders Naval Base in Melbourne before transferring to Darwin.

After his wife died in the early '90s, Mr Forster moved to Alice Springs. He was heavily involved in the Gallery Society of Victoria, and loved ballet and any form of theatre or classical music.

"He could paint beautifully, he used to do woodwork at times and he could turn his hand to many crafts and wrote several books," his friend Bev Ellis said.

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