

RESIDENT WHERE ARE THEY NOW

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW

WORDS BY NANNETTE HOLLIDAY

Over the last 12 years Resident has featured many inspiring people who've gone on to make themselves and the Territory proud. From the Australian outback, cities, coast and sea they represent the arts, community services, tourism, horticulture, cooking, medicine and more. Many are taking on the world, but still call Australia and the Territory home. Shy schoolgirls to superstars, cattleman to chef, lawyer to film producer whatever their achievements their stories will capture your heart.

RESIDENT WHERE ARE THEY NOW

You can take the girl out of Darwin, but you can't take Darwin out of the girl, or more rightly she can't find stuffed chicken wings anywhere else in Australia as good as those in Darwin.

## CERTAINLY NOT WINGING IT

Apart from my family, I really miss the Asian food in Darwin, there's something about the spices they use,' says Miranda Tapsell. 'I'm really particular about what Asian food I eat in Sydney and Melbourne where I'm mostly based these days, it's just not the same.' Featured as a Rising Star in Resident's 13th Issue in 2011, Miranda has certainly shone brightly since. From an early age, she knew she wanted to act. 'Growing up I loved Disney and I remember doing a performance from Aladdin for my Pop's birthday when I didn't have a present for him. It was probably my very first. At 16 when I saw a stage performance of The Sapphires the idea was firmly cemented. And being an only child I had the full support of my parents to go to NIDA when I won the Bell Shakespeare Company regional performance scholarship.' Her first major film role in 2012 was Cynthia in The Sapphires, one of the four main characters. 'I'm not like her at all. I could never walk up to a guy and say those things,' she adds. 'But on stage I'm strong and brave, I get behind the character. I've been so lucky to have had some amazing roles. Humanised roles that drive the story. I don't have to force it. Acting is meant to be spontaneous and effortless anyway.' In 2014, she landed the role of Martha in Channel 9's drama series 'Love Child'. Now in its fourth season, her performance earned her two Logies, Best New Talent and the Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding Newcomer in 2015. Her get-up-and-go attitude, sparkling eyes and bright smile shines through in whatever role she plays from Shakespeare to comedy, drama or children's television. 'I love all forms of acting. I'm currently presenting Play School. It's a real honour as you have to be formally invited to audition,' she explains. 'I grew up with it and lost my mind when I first saw Humpty Dumpty on Play School, I had to remind myself he's not real. But I love seeing all the wonderful photos and videos people are posting on social media, it's great seeing how kids are reacting to what we do.' Her parents always instilled the importance of education and reading, something she's thankful for now with all the scripts she has to read. 'It's really helped me. In the future I'd like to get into to writing, particularly like the wonderful and varied series Shona Rhimes is producing. I love her stuff. I really look up to people like her and what they are doing.' Most of all Miranda misses the laidback pace of Darwin life and the community she grew up in and of course her family. 'I get back at least once a year. I always like to make sure I can spend plenty of time when I'm back, not just a few days. Plenty of time to slow down, relax and catch up with everyone, and of course eat plenty of those stuffed chicken wings.'



Resident Issue 13, 2011.

# MIRANDA TAPSELL

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHNNY DIAS NICOLAIDIS

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At just 14 Jessica Mauboy was slated as the 'next generation' to watch in Resident's 2006 third issue, long before she'd auditioned and taken out runner-up on the fourth season of Australian Idol. Consequent Resident features have shown her develop into an incredibly talented, reigning superstar as sparkling as the awards she's collected along the way, especially the gold cover and her 'superstar' pages in 2011's Issue 13. 'Wow, that seems so long ago now,' she laughs. 'So much has happened since then.' And it certainly has. She's now one of Australia's most successful female artists achieving four top-ten albums (including a number-one), 16 top-twenty singles (including nine top-ten hits) and four ARIA Music Awards from 18 nominations with another seven more nominations for 2017. In 2012, she received both an AACTA Award and AFCA Award for Best Supporting Actress for her outstanding portrayal of Julie in the multi-award-winning film 'The Sapphires'. Then she was the Northern Territory Young Australian of the Year 2013 winner. In 2014, she became the first solo artist from outside Europe to perform as a guest at the Eurovision Song Contest. She's been ranked 16th on the Herald Sun's list of '100 Greatest Australian Singers of All Time' and also featured on the cover of 'Who' magazine's Sexiest People twice (2012 and 2016). In 2016, she created ARIA Chart history as the first indigenous woman to achieve three consecutive weeks at number one for her release of 'Songs from the Original TV Series - 'The Secret Daughter' album along with her TV series acting debut in Seven Network's drama of the same name. 'That was my first major TV role. It was written especially for me. We've just finished season two,' said Jess. 'I love playing Billie, but I'm not like her. She's stronger, more out-there than me. Acting doesn't come naturally for me yet. It takes a lot of guts and bravery. I'm more confident singing, it's much more fluid. It's my language.' Recently released 'The Secret Daughter Season Two: Songs from the Original 7 Series' incorporates the

songs that have attracted all the new ARIA nominations. The lead single 'Fallin' is her own creation and is already platinum. 'The last three years working with Seven, Sony and others to bring all the Secret Daughter stuff together have been amazing. It's a highlight. A dream. The songs have really impacted on me and I want to do more collaborations.' She admits she wrote 'Fallin' about Themeli Magripilis her boyfriend of 10 years, also from Darwin and now with her in Sydney. He'll now have to share it with her new romantic interest in 'The Secret Daughter'. Although rumours about a wedding have been circulating for months she wouldn't admit anything to Resident except: 'We're really happy with life at the moment. Just enjoying living together, waking up next to each other. It's different but good. Something I've been longing for. After the lengthy long-distance, it's good to really get to know each other. I love what we've been able to create so far.' When not singing or filming she likes writing songs. 'I'd also like to make a country album one day. Country is who I really am. Although Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey probably influenced me the most when I was growing up, especially my vocal style and songwriting.' And Jess loves getting involved with charities. She's a key role model to the Indigenous community in Australia through mentoring, performing and education. She's even featured on Sesame Street filming Five Kangaroos in Alice Springs with students from the Yipirinya School. While she's clearly a superstar now, she's remained genuinely down-to-earth, gracious, engaging and passionate about her work and others. She admits to missing the Territory but comes back as much as possible. 'Yeah, any excuse. My family and community are number one. They've always been supportive and keep me real,' she adds. 'I never forget who I am or where I come from. The support from everyone in Darwin and the NT is overwhelming. It means so much to me and it's why I strive to do what I do. I can't thank everyone enough.'

**Vivacious, sexy and brilliant, we've all watched this shy school girl from Darwin's northern suburbs grow and blossom into a confident diva and worldwide star.**

# EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE DAUGHTER



Resident Issue 13, 2011. Jessica's second cover with Resident launched the first edition onto the digital platform. It was the first of a kind to have a singing front cover which was performed by Jess surrounded by dazzling stars as the cover loaded.



Resident Issue 5, 2007. Jessica's very first cover.



Resident Issue 3, 2006. The Next Generation feature.



# JESSICA MAUBOY

PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED BY SONY SECRET DAUGHTER 2



HAVING THE COURAGE TO BE



Resident Issue 20, 2015.

'Never in a million years did I envisage this,' said Vicki. 'It is so incredibly humbling and an amazing opportunity. I am saddened about leaving my wonderful staff and friends at Somerville. It's been a huge part of my life so it's taking some adjustment.' Vicki has been a notable figure since arriving in Darwin from Tasmania in 1989 after her parents decided to settle here while travelling around Australia. 'My only regret is that my parents are no longer here. They would have been extremely pleased. But I know they are watching over me. Their encouragement and support throughout my life was unwavering at every turn.' In 2014, she was awarded a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM). In 2015 she was a state finalist for the Australian of the Year and was one of 10 prominent Territorians asked to comment about a decade of development in Resident's 20th issue. While Somerville has been her prime focus, leading a team of 260 and developing it into an agency of high regard, she's also devoted many volunteer hours to a number of organisations locally and nationally doing great things for the Territory. Vicki's been a board member of National Disability Services for 10 years and chaired it for three, the Chair of NT Government Ministerial Advisory Committee on Disability Reform, Red Tape Reduction Strategy, a long-term board member of the NT Council of Social Services and Housing Innovation Working group. Being busy never distracted her from her commitment to get involved with people, community events and fundraisers. Building an inclusive society is her passion and Vicki's 'can do' attitude is infectious. 'The deep voice of Chaplain Ron Brandt's words – 'Having the courage to...' has had an effect on my thinking too,' she recalls. 'On his retirement, we adopted these words for the rebranding of Somerville and I'm sure he will be happy for me to use them as a guide in my new role. 'I'm looking forward to connecting with Territorians, sharing their ambitions and listening to their stories, their concerns, their ideas — it's very important to me.' Her family is very important too. Married to her long term partner and best friend, Craig, their daughter Coco is now completing Year 12. "Their constant support and encouragement keeps me strong. They are fantastic. It's their encouragement that I pass on to others. Believe in yourself, be positive, enjoy each day and take each day in your stride.' Unafraid of making the big decisions and creating value in people's lives, there's no doubt that Vicki will be a strong, compassionate, dedicated and loyal Administrator for all Territorians.

**Retiring from Somerville Community Services after 25 years of service, including 20 years as Chief Executive Officer, on 31 October 2017 Vicki O'Halloran was sworn in as the Northern Territory's 22nd Administrator by the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove at a ceremony held in Parliament House. The second female NT Administrator, she's still coming to terms with the magnitude of her two-year appointment.**

RESIDENT WHERE ARE THEY NOW

# VICKI O'HALLORAN

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK AND TIM

## RESIDENT WHERE ARE THEY NOW

**I**'d always wanted to be a journalist and was lucky enough to join Channel Nine straight after completing my degree,' says Ally. 'I interned at CBS in New York and returned to Australia in 2001 doing various Channel Nine newsroom programs.' Wanting more on-the-road experience, they sent her to Nine News Darwin in 2002 where she won the David Marchbank Award for best new journalist. 'I'd never been to the Territory before, but it made a huge impression on me and I did some amazing stories from there for news and the Sunday program.' Her first taste of international journalism was covering the 2004 Australian Embassy bombing in Jakarta. 'At the press conference with then foreign minister Alexander Downer I remember looking around, seeing all these big names from all these big international networks and thinking, "Oh shit, don't stuff it up."' Later in 2004 she returned to Sydney, but a piece of her has always remained in Darwin. In 2008 when marrying fellow journalist Mike Willesee Jr at a private ceremony at his mother's home in Noosa, Resident Magazine was the only media permitted and the story and photo appeared in Issue 8. 'I loved having Tim and Mark there and it's so good having those photos now,' adds Ally. Since then she's written a book *The Child Who Never Was: Looking for Tegan Lane*, which examines the murder of newborn infant Tegan Lane by her mother Keli Lane. And in 2011, Ally joined Nine's 60 Minutes. With her natural fitness and agility, she's become the program's go-to adventurer, swimming with manta rays in the Maldives, trekking across the Patagonian glaciers, climbing Mt Kilimanjaro for charity, covering drug cartels in Mexico and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. 'My goal was always 60 Minutes. I love it. It pushes me to do better all the time. In fact when Mack was just two weeks old I took him into the studio to finish editing a story I'd been working on just prior to his birth.' Named Mack James Willesee, Mike and Ally welcomed their first child into the world on 5 January 2017. While he had a traumatic entrance, he's going strong now and even has his own passport so he can travel with mum. 'Besides wanting a little more sleep, he's great. I started back at work when he was three months old and have taken him on several assignments. He's swum with the whales on the Great Barrier Reef with me and met the Foo Fighters. 'Of course I couldn't do it without the assistance of his wonderful nanny who also travels with me. We'll get back to the Territory one day. I miss the dry and the people. Some of my best mates are people I met in Darwin. It's unique. I love it.'



Originally from Wauchope near Port Macquarie Allison Langdon is both beautiful and smart. The lofty blonde is now one of Channel Nine's most recognised 60 Minutes reporters, as well as mum to new son Mack.

## NEVER ENDING ADVENTURERS

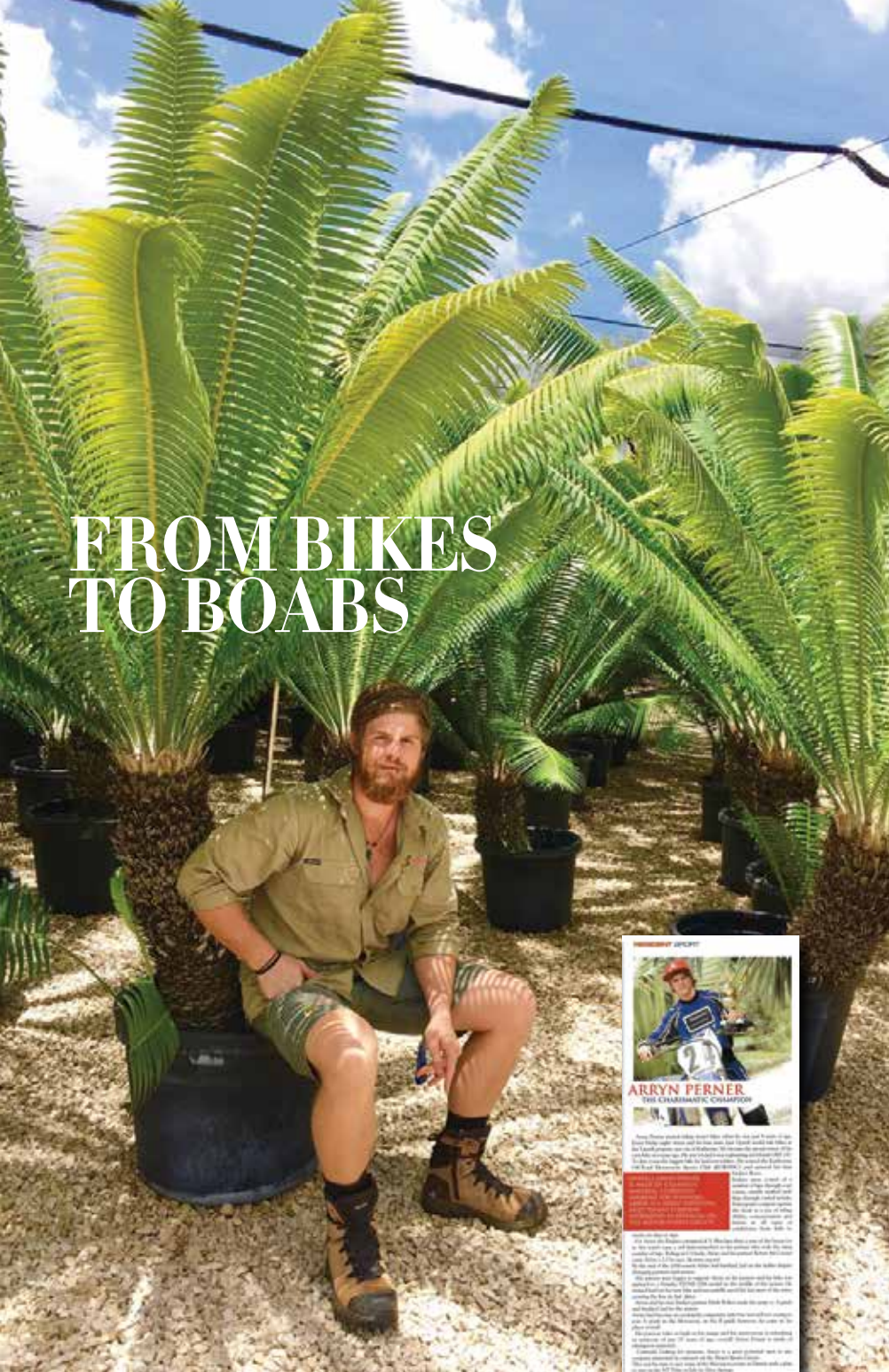


Resident Issue 8, 2009.

# ALLISON LANGDON



PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY NINE NETWORK AND ALLY



## FROM BIKES TO BOABS



Resident Issue 2, 2006.

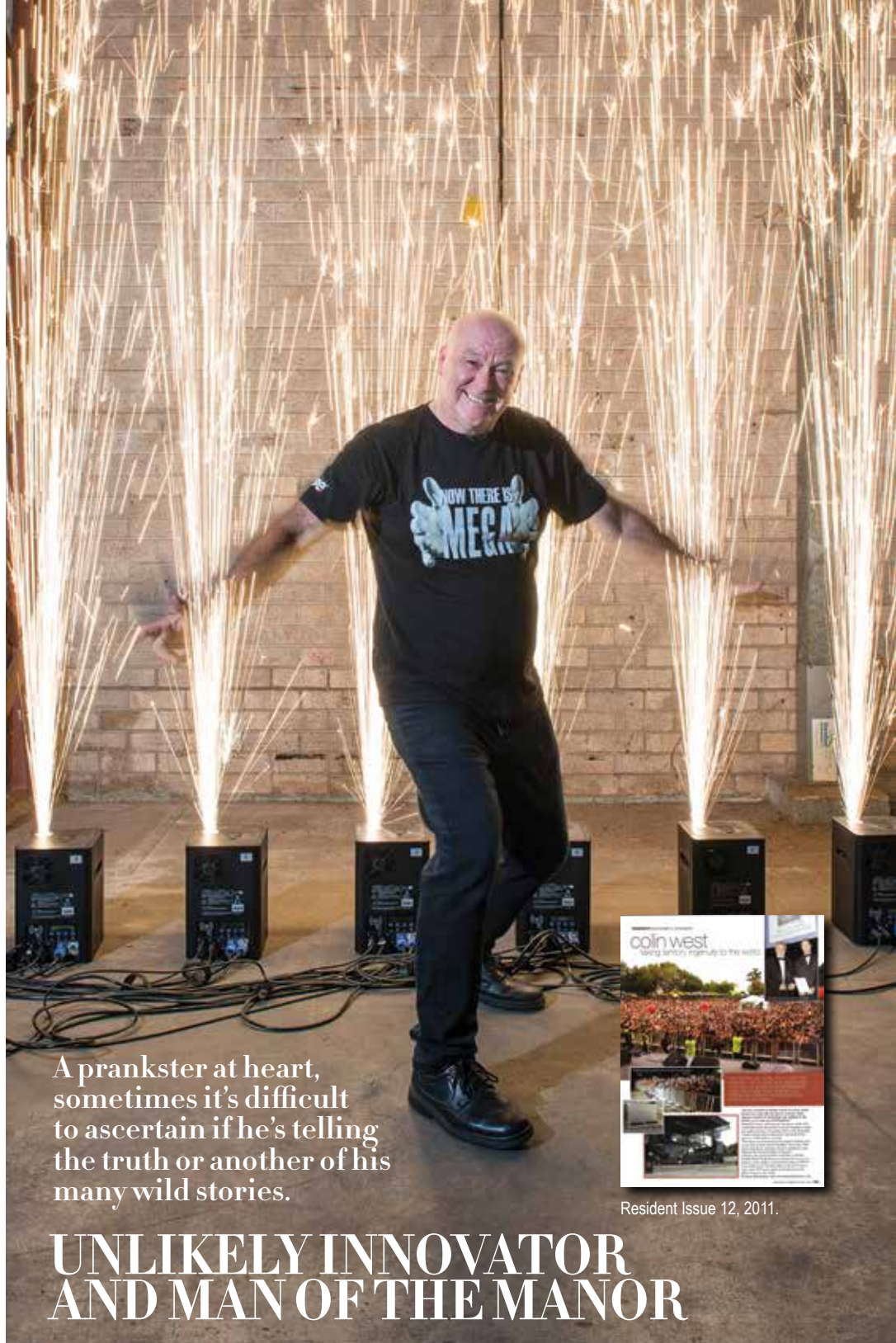
### RESIDENT WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Riding since he was 8 years old, no fear were words that described up and coming Motocross champion Arryn Perner to the letter. But at 16, just after his story appeared in Issue 5 of Resident, a serious accident during an A Grade competition in 2007 virtually ended his budding career.

I had special permission to race above my age level and was chasing the leader who was on a larger bike when I just pushed it too hard,' recalls Arryn. 'Dad who was a track marshall was standing directly in line with the main tabletop that I'd just tried to clear and he saw the whole thing. I just remember thinking, I hope mum doesn't get upset as she was always worrying about me.' And understandably so, Arryn is the only son of both Josef and Karen Perner. Even though both have three other children each, Arryn is their youngest. He doesn't remember his Yamaha 250cc landing on him, his heart stopping, the severe bruising to his frontal lobe and brainstem, being airlifted to Darwin and being placed in a drug-induced coma for 10 days and then not responding when taken off the medication until his dog Ash was brought into his room. 'My short-term memory wasn't good and I spent another three weeks in hospital working with speech therapists,' Arryn continues. 'Naturally Mum wasn't happy about me getting back on my bike, which by the way hardly had a scratch, so I didn't race again.' Two weeks before turning 18 in 2008, Arryn took the bike for a quick ride to run the oil in after servicing it. He got stuck in a wheel rut at full speed and was thrown over the handlebars. Temporarily unconscious, he fortunately had a helmet and chest plate on. 'When I woke I felt my mobile still in my pocket. I called Mum and told her where I was. I didn't realise I'd broken my femur just above my knee until I tried to get up. Much to Mum's delight I sold the bike shortly afterwards and bought a car with airbags.' Now 26, Arryn is heavily into cars, has a Certificate III in Horticulture and is the Nursery Manager in the family's international award-winning business, Cycad International and Boab International in Katherine. 'There's Mum, Dad, myself and brother Joey in the business. We're the only Australian company fully licensed to remove and export Boab trees and Cycads. They go all over the world. Japan, Dubai, Doha, Vietnam, the Sultan of Brunei, Singapore Gardens by the Bay and even Georgia in Russia, it's on the Black Sea coast,' explains Arryn. 'We recently relocated up to 35 Boab trees in Western Australia because of road widening works. It's really interesting and challenging.' Other than Cycads and Boabs in his life, Arryn has been seeing a special lady for almost a year. 'Lucky for me she loves being in Katherine and even camps. I'm gradually teaching her how to spot nocturnal animals. We recently saw a two-metre freshie (freshwater crocodile) and it didn't scare her, so who knows what might happen in the future,' he smiles mischievously.

# ARRYN PERNER

He's been a stuntman, a stagehand, DJ, designer and an NT Administrator Award winner, but since 1981 Colin West has been known as the very hands-on owner of Total Event Services / Top End Sounds (TES) in Darwin and more recently as the award-winning innovator of world-renowned major event Framelock crowd barriers and shade structure systems. When originally interviewed by Resident in 2011, he'd just received his first engineering, research and innovation awards for his Framelock barriers and shade systems. Since then he's won so many awards for his growing businesses we'd need another book to list them all. 'I didn't set out to create a world first, just something light and robust for our needs. All the research and development is done here in Darwin,' said Colin. 'Now they're used Australia-wide and around the world. In fact I'm launching a new barrier specifically for the USA. It'll be a real time and money-saver.' His portable shade structure system without the use of ropes or pickets also became a world-first and was originally rolled out at the 2010 Darwin Cup offering SPF 43 protection. 'I'm about to unveil our latest shade protection that not only protects humans, it will allow enough light for the grass to still thrive when the structure is up for long periods.' Another award-winning structure he designed and built is the SKYCITY Beachside Pavilion. The world's strongest temporary public structure, the large air-conditioned marquee is built to national codes and to withstand 250km per hour cyclonic winds (Category 4). 'I also designed and patented a unique internal vent system so the marquee can cope with varying internal pressures during a cyclone.' While Colin's gone from strength to strength in business, three years ago his health deteriorated significantly. 'I suffered three heart attacks and was also diagnosed with Type Two Diabetes. It shocked me into realisation and I had a serious talk with myself.' He lost 40kgs, stopped smoking and had a stent inserted in his heart. 'I also sold off properties and some of the businesses to reduce my debt,' he adds. 'If things went south I didn't want anyone else having to worry about them. Thankfully it's all worked out for the best and while I still work too many hours, I love what I do and could never stop completely.' In May 2016 he bought a little B&B in Tasmania. 'Battery Point Manor now operates as a B&B without the second B (breakfast),' he laughs. 'It's a beautiful heritage-listed building with gorgeous stained-glass chapel like windows, that's why it's taken ages to get it cleaned up and ready for guests.' Overlooking the Derwent River a block away, there's currently 10 large rooms and a cottage available. 'I kept all the staff and my brother is now Guest Relations Manager. Technology allows me to keep tabs on what's happening as well. I had a lot to learn about hospitality but since listing online we've been full or almost full every week and have an 8.7 rating. Because of the large number of classy vehicles in the parking lot we now use the tagline: Your secret is safe with us!' While the manor may be his next chapter he won't use the word retirement. 'It's not in my vocabulary. Besides, Darwin is my home. While I may travel a lot (for work mostly), Darwin and the people have been wonderful to me and I don't really want to live full-time anywhere else. Plus I've got many more event production innovations in the pipeline.'



A prankster at heart, sometimes it's difficult to ascertain if he's telling the truth or another of his many wild stories.

## UNLIKELY INNOVATOR AND MAN OF THE MANOR



Resident Issue 12, 2011.

### RESIDENT WHERE ARE THEY NOW

# COLIN WEST

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK AND TIM



Growing up in the Roper River Region of the Northern Territory and the only boy in his family, Lynton Tapp had always thought he'd either become a vet or take over the running of the family cattle station. All that changed when his mother filled in an application for him to try out for Network Ten's 2013 MasterChef Australia.

**I** was in the US looking after my sister at the time. I knew nothing. Over two months mum snuck in these questions so she could fill in the form,' recalls Lynton. 'By the time I returned home the executives were chasing me for interviews. At one stage they even wanted me for 'Farmer Wants a Wife'. I'm glad I chose MasterChef.' Lynton was runner-up but the cyclone of food and travel-related activities haven't stopped since. In fact it was his recipes that featured in Resident in Issue 21 in 2015. His love of cooking and using native Australian produce was inspired by his outback upbringing. 'I loved doing the stock camp cooking when we were mustering. It was always over a campfire and I used lots of native foods. I was inventive. It's how I learnt about bush tucker. It was more than normal camp cooking,' he laughs. After his success on MasterChef he packed his bags and moved to Melbourne to pursue a career as a professional chef. He crafted his skills in a number of restaurants and attributes a lot of what he's learnt to his mentor and good mate Matt Germanchis. This culinary journey from camp cook to a classically-trained chef has inspired his decadent Australasian flavour palate. Currently, Lynton is working on his second cookbook. Focussing on markets of the world it will be paired with a TV show. His first cookbook, Outback Pantry, combines a unique range of recipes from classic home cooking to smoky outback barbeque with a mix of exotic South-East Asian and everything in between plus stories from farmers of North Australia. 'I love creating dishes with a technical edge and a focus on quality Australian produce. His passion for local, fresh and seasonal produce is reflective of his recognition and respect for the agricultural industry of Australia. Now in its third season, Lynton features Australia's best produce on Network Ten's 'My Market Kitchen' with his best friend Emma Dean. 'We tour all around the country. Alice, Katherine, Kakadu and Darwin were my favourites this last season. I love it, It's brought a lot of opportunities for me to both represent the NT and Australia. In 2016 I was a guest chef at the inaugural Territory Taste in Darwin. In September next year I'm looking forward to representing Australia and the Northern Territory and our infusion of bush tucker at the inaugural international Cooking Media Shows in Epernay, France.' His website featuring his cookbook, recipes and show segments has already qualified for the Hesty Awards in France next year too. In the meantime Cyclone Lynton is still ramping up with 'Markets of the World' and 'Farmers of Australia' in the pipeline. And to all those who may think he's currently available, think again, he's now very happy with his lawyer girlfriend and they are planning their future – so look out for Territory nuptials in March 2019.

# LYNTON TAPP

## CYCLONE CHEF BRINGS BUSH TUCKER TO THE WORLD



Resident Issue 21, 2015.



Resident Issue 1, 2005.

'Keep an eye out for Lizzie Moore' was the headline in issue one of Resident in 2005. Little did we know that within weeks of that headline she'd be living and working in New York City!

**M**y plan had always been to move to London and keep performing there — but life took me on a bit of a detour to NYC instead,' she said. 'It was hard work living there but an amazing experience and I learnt so much.' Lizzie met her husband-to-be Kris Stewart around that time and they spent the next few years together in NYC, following their career dreams. 'I was lucky enough to perform in Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway musicals and plays, and premiere my solo cabaret show downtown at The Duplex. Then, one day Kris proposed to me in the rain on the Upper East Side, and although it was a hard decision to leave, it has been wonderful to return to Australia and be closer to family. Both our careers have continued to expand here as well.' Having moved to Darwin at the age of two (until leaving after high school), Lizzie graduated from the Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Arts (Music Theatre), and now also teaches singing and coaches other performers in between her various stage and cabaret engagements. 'Brisbane is currently home for Kris' work and I'm the one who travels for my commitments.' Since returning to Australia, Lizzie has seen more cabaret and performing success. She's currently touring around Australia with 'Coal Miner's Daughter', performing in cabaret shows 'Cool Britannia' and 'On A Night Like This: The Erin Minogue Experience' (which, finally, took her to London to perform in a UK season), and two-person show 'The Last Five Years' with Kurt Phelan (of Dirty Dancing fame). In 'Coal Miner's Daughter', which pays homage to legendary singer Loretta Lynn (played by look-alike songstress, Amber Joy Poulton), Lizzie plays the iconic singer Patsy Cline with Denis Surmon as Conway Twitty and Willie Nelson. 'We've just completed the Adelaide season and next will be Tasmania and Western Australia. It's a fabulous show and I love performing with Amber, Denis and our band The Holy Men. We have so much fun.' 'My mum and Sue Camilleri are strategising on getting Coal Miner's Daughter' to Darwin, hopefully next year, which I'd love.' Lizzie says. 'I really miss Darwin. I dream of Parap Markets, Mary's laksa and paw-paw salad. There really is nothing quite like it anywhere else around Australia or the world!'



LIVING THE MUSICAL LIFE

# LIZZIE MOORE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOEL DEVEREUX AND DAVID VAGG



Resident Issue 17, 2013.



Resident Issue 7, 2008.

RESIDENT WHERE ARE THEY NOW

# CROCODILES, CHOPPERS, CAMERAS = ADVENTURE PLUS

A larger-than-life character, the tousled dark locks, devilish grin, electric blue eyes, ruggedly handsome Aussie larrikin exterior, guts and determination are the real deal, not just a television persona. However, (and I know this will disappoint many) he's no longer Australia's most eligible bachelor.

# MATT WRIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK AND TIM

**M**att Wright married Kaia Hammond at Margaret River in November. 'We'll still be living in the Territory,' confirmed Matt. 'It's my home. My parents moved around a lot, but I can proudly say that I've lived in the Territory longer than anywhere else. I fit right in here. I have the best backyard in the world.' From South Australia, he's lived in Papua New Guinea and North Queensland, but rightfully Matt was born to be wild and share his life with wild animals. At age 10 he had King Brown snakes living in his bedroom and openly admits to being comfortable around creatures most of us fear. Matt first featured on the cover of Issue 17 of Resident in 2013 after the National Geographic series 'Outback Wrangler' was broadcast to more than 85 countries and propelled him and the Northern Territory into the spotlight. With the third season airing in Australia in December and globally in January 2018, the planning and preparations are now underway for the fourth that will be filmed May to June 2018. 'People now ring in to let us know where rogue animals are. We build the shows around this,' he explains. 'Next season may not be in Australia yet, it could be overseas.' Following off the back of Outback Wrangler's success, Matt's first book was published last year adding author to his already long list of accomplishments. He's previously worked in the Victorian snowfields, Kings Canyon, the Army Reserve, as a plumber, in cattle mustering and on drilling rigs in Arnhem Land. It's here at 20 he caught his first crocodile. 'It was close to our camp, so I made a trap, caught it and relocated it. That's mostly what I'm doing now, rescuing animals not killing them,' he adds. 'One of the best jobs I've done and still do is collecting croc eggs. It's the most sustainable way to manage the population. It's exhilarating and challenging. The heat, mosquitoes, rain, mud, the stinking maggot-infested carcasses we have for bait. Working hard and having

a beer at the end of the day — it's so satisfying.' Not just a crocodile man, Matt's also worked in Canada capturing and tagging bears and wolves and is the proud ambassador of the Worldwide Veterinary Service. His objective is the preservation of wildlife and to remove and relocate problem animals rather than kill them. More recently he's become the face of Australian tourism, promoting our shores overseas and running his own half-day and overnight tours for about 4000 visitors a year from his NT property. 'Getting my commercial chopper pilot's licence has given me freedom and a much greater appreciation of just how beautiful the outback is. I reckon I've flown to every corner and love capturing the different perspectives. My camera's always at the ready.' Flying single-handedly he snaps photos with the other. These bird's-eye view photos are featured in Canon's latest 'Down Under From Above' series. He also wants to use his photos to encourage people to explore more of Australia. 'This is how Outback Floatplane Adventures and Heli-fishing came about. I come up with these hair-brained ideas while flying around. Outback Wrangler originally stemmed from this back in 2005 when I created a showreel of images. Then Channel 7 featured me.' Matt believes in sharing the adventure and excitement of his life. His unique Top End tours include airboats, choppers, floatplanes, breakfast or lunch while enjoying a billabong cruise down the pristine waters of Sweets Lagoon, the lagoon where famed Sweetheart the crocodile in Darwin Museum was taken from in the 70s, and more. 'My latest venture is Wetland Safari Camp, an all-inclusive authentic outback experience and accommodation package. It's no ordinary camp. It's got real beds and good tucker in a great wilderness setting. People will also get adventure, plenty of it like they do with Outback Floatplanes.' He's not looking at expanding anymore at the moment, just consolidating his businesses. 'I'm lucky to have a great team behind me too. The Territory is really the land of opportunity for anyone who's not afraid of a bit of hard work. I'm very grateful.'

When Resident last spoke to Warwick Thornton in 2008 (Issue 7) he'd just commenced filming his debut feature 'Samson and Delilah' that earned him a Caméra d'Or at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival. It collected many other awards including best film at the Asia-Pacific Screen Awards, the AFI Awards, and the Film Critics Circle Awards.



# WARWICK THORNTON

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DYLAN RIVER TRANSMISSION FILMS AND MATT DAY

## LIGHTING UP THE DESERT STORIES

No professional actors were cast in the film, but one, Gonzo, was actually his brother. 'I wrote the part for him. He's an alcoholic,' says Warwick. 'He'd always wanted to be in a film, so I wrote that part to match his persona. That's him in real-life.' Other ground-breaking work since has included 'The Sapphires', 'Bran Nue Dae', 'The First Australians', 'Redfern Now', 'Black Comedy' and 'We Don't Need A Map'. Warwick's latest film 'Sweet Country' is now doing the Film Festival rounds and scooping up awards, nabbing a Platform Prize in Toronto and a Special Jury Prize in Venice. They're even touting an Oscar nomination. Due for Australian release in January 2018, 'Sweet Country' was inspired by real events. It's a period western set in the 1929 Northern Territory frontier — where justice itself is put on trial. It's a tale of brutality and injustice in an indifferent country and has all the elements of the genre - the frontier, confiscation of land, subordination and conquest of a people with epic sweeping landscapes of the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs and Central Australian desert, which have almost become Warwick's trademark. 'It's important to tell Indigenous stories like this just to remind us of who we are, where we came from, and how the foundation of Australia was created,' Warwick adds. 'The landscape becomes another character in the film, especially in the scenes with the posse chasing Sam and Lizzie across the countryside. It's mesmerizing country, it's where I grew up. The film has no music because I wanted to create a soundscape of the desert, inviting audiences to feel and hear the desert wind, the birds and insects. 'The issues raised rarely find

their way into mainstream consciousness,' he continues. 'David Tranter and Steven McGregor have written a story of a world which is as brutal as it is heartfelt. My aim has been to use the accessibility of the western genre for audiences to enter the story and be drawn into this world and experience the issues faced by an occupied people. This immersive approach is designed to break down the cultural boundaries between us and bring us together.' Warwick and his son, Dylan River, shot 'Sweet Country' together. 'He also shot the feature documentary "We Don't Need A Map", exploring Australia's relationship to the Southern Cross with me,' adds Warwick. 'It premiered as the Opening Night film at the Sydney Film Festival in June 2017.' 'Sweet Country' has a marquee of actors including Sam Neill, Bryan Brown and Matt Day and local first-time actors from Alice Springs Arrernte tribe giving it a powerful sense of authenticity. Warwick's films always say a lot about our society and identity each sending a powerful personal vision. 'This one is no different. It's a story of black and white frontier conflict, yet turns the central theme of justice on its head, to both surprise and ultimately move audiences.' Warwick is now an award-winning internationally recognised director, screenwriter and cinematographer. Born and raised in Alice Springs, he's an important voice in Australian cinema. 'Central Australia is and always will be my home and while we can tell our stories and showcase the region we will all have a voice. Having access to film or television is like a new kind of dreaming, a new idea of storytelling,' he says. 'We've created a new library for ourselves.'

# DALLAS GOLD

CELEBRATING  
INDIGENOUS  
CONTEMPORARY  
ART



Resident Issue 4, 2007.



Trading cooking utensils for paints and brushes, former chef Dallas Gold became a visual artist holding his first solo exhibition in 1993 at Lindsay Street Café/Gallery, Darwin.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK AND TIM

**H**owever, his vision was wider than his own art. In 2001 he opened RAFT Artspace in Darwin. Showcasing Indigenous contemporary art, it was featured in Issue 4 of Resident magazine in 2007. 'A new visual language for contemporary Indigenous expression was happening,' he explains. 'RAFT assisted in capturing this. I wanted to show it in the context of other contemporary art. That meant also showing art from South East Asia as well as non-Indigenous Australian contemporary art.' After more than 150 successful exhibitions and building a solid reputation there, in 2010 he relocated to Alice Springs. Now at Hele Cres, Alice Springs with a framer and art supplier next door the Hele Arts Precinct is well and truly cemented. 'Amazing art is being produced all over. You can't put boundaries on it, RAFT in Alice Springs celebrates the movement with an extended focus into the desert,' he continues. 'More recently the APY Lands have been producing large-scale paintings about their tjukurpa. I've been showing this work in a program that includes work from different regions along with other contemporary art. It's been the toughest gig, but we're gaining recognition.' APY is the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara people and their tjukurpa is a complex concept involving law, country and ancestral creation stories that touches everything in Anangu spiritual and social life. This year alone they earned 25 nominations in the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards. Two artists were also named as finalists in the Archibald Portrait Prize. Tjungkara Ken's work, Seven Sisters Dreaming is only the second abstract Indigenous painting to make the Archibald shortlist. RAFT proudly celebrates the diversity of the work from art centres across the region as well as from the Kimberley to North East Arnhem Land — huge canvasses, works on bark, sculpture to ceramic works are being exhibited. 'My market is mostly national or international collectors but it is still important to have a gallery. You need people to experience the work. The shows aren't just about selling. It's a juggle, trying to do something with integrity and selling enough to be viable. 'Some shows don't sell well but are just as important. Locals now appreciate what RAFT is doing. When collectors fly over more sales happen, particularly around Desert Mob, (the annual Alice Springs exhibition). All the shows I've done are on our website. I still get many enquiries from that.' His RAFT pop-up exhibitions in Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart have done well. The Hobart exhibition coincided with the Mona Foma Festival in 2015-2016 and remained at the Core Collective Architects' studio space above Franklin Restaurant, in the heart of Hobart's inner-city cultural hub for a year. Adelaide is next on the agenda with an exhibition celebrating art from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands in Western Australia. Renowned nationally and internationally, RAFT is innovative and a survivor just like its namesake, Ian Fairweather.

# SIANNE TATE

Resident Issue 11, 2010.



Warm, caring and still sultry and sexy without all the makeup, it's difficult to imagine legendary diva and former showgirl Sianne Tate was ever anything other than a beautiful woman.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK AND TIM

**T**he leading lady in a variety of Darwin cabaret shows appeared in Issue 11 of Resident in 2010 for her hit comedy 'The Thirty Wives Club'. Over the years she's mentored many young people, many who have developed careers as performers in the Northern Territory and Australia. 'That's my past. I'm not interested in that or the partying anymore. It was a means to an end, to create the female I really am,' said Sianne. Laughing, 'I'm now a happy nanna cat woman and love every minute of my boring life.' Since having gender reassignment surgery in Thailand in 2013 she hasn't looked back, but it's been a long and hard road to gain acceptance. The youngest of four boys Sianne never felt like she fitted in. 'It was hard growing up surrounded by Motocross, BMX racing and fast cars when all I craved was a Barbie doll, bright colours, Boy George and Madonna,' she said. 'My mother died when I was six, but I knew even before that, after I woke from a dream, that I was meant to be a girl.' In the mid-1980s aged 15, she ran away to Perth where she began a life as a sex worker to pay for the female hormones she desperately required. Three years later when she returned to Darwin there wasn't an endocrinologist who would see her so she could get a prescription. It was the decade of HIV/AIDS and there was a lack of resources, support and medication for transgender people in the NT. As Executive Assistant at NT AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC), Sianne has been instrumental in leading reforms of anti-discrimination and creating medical pathways and access for transgender and sex/gender diverse people in the Territory. Sianne has also openly shared her experiences and opinions as part of the first study on the health and wellbeing of the Territory's transgender community. 'While Darwin is one of the most accepting cities for us to live, with lots of support from friends, there's not nearly enough funding for counselling or enough doctors with expertise in the area,' she adds. 'We need more endocrinologists who are willing to treat transgender people. 'All transgender Australians still face issues of social isolation, mental illness, suicidal ideation, unemployment, violence, substance abuse and ongoing reports of marginalisation. Just being gay in itself is still a battle for many. However, it's fantastic to see Aussie icons like Ian Thorpe and Sia come out without facing the same backlash they'd have experienced twenty years ago. 'I don't have as much fight left in me these days, but I'm still passionate about helping support others wherever I can. I don't even let the fact that one of my brothers still calls me Sean and can't accept me as Sianne worry me anymore either. I'm content and happy in my correct body.'



SHOWING  
OTHERS  
THE WAY



Resident Issue 9, 2009.

**ALICE SPRINGS HEART AND SOUL**

**DR. JACOB OLLAPALLIL**

Passionate about raising awareness of the trauma load carried by surgeons working in remote locations, in 2007 Dr Jacob Ollapallil published a study to improve the health and welfare of the region's indigenous communities.

Not only did he and his health colleagues have to deal with illness and disease such as blindness, diabetes, trauma and alcoholism, injuries and associated infections were copious because of lack of follow-up care. Featured as a 'silent hero' in Resident's 9th issue in 2009 he admits, 'The study helped pave the way for sweeping alcohol reform that's now made Alice Springs a healthier town.' Since then and again through his work, Dr Jacob (as he's affectionately known) has advocated for other specialities to be engaged to achieve significant outcomes for the wider community. 'Although we're remote our ICU, trauma specialists and surgeons are now well established,' says the likeable and cheery Head of Surgery at Alice Springs Hospital. 'We're making significant progress.' Behind the smile, his relentless work for Alice Springs and surrounding communities over the past 18 years is definitely helping to shape government policy. In 2015 Dr Jacob was awarded the inaugural Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Medal for recognition of his work to improve the health and welfare of the region's indigenous communities. 'Alice Springs is a unique hospital, with a large number of end-stage renal failure patients, acute pancreatitis, gallbladder disease and trauma patients. We're thousands of kilometres away from other tertiary centres and cover a huge area and a population as big as most other major cities.' From Kerala in southern India, he travels back most years to see family and friends. Family is important to Dr Jacob and as a father of three children, he's very proud that they have all followed in his footsteps in helping people. Abraham is a surgeon in

Perth, Matthew is in surgical training at Alice Springs hospital with his father and Indu is a speech therapist in Perth. 'While I'm super proud of my family, the credit really has to go to my wife Jessy. She's the backbone. The silent strength or glue that holds us all together.' Dr Jacob arrived in Alice Springs to take up a consultant surgeon position at Alice Springs Hospital in 2000. For the previous 15 years he'd been a general surgeon and senior lecturer in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. 'Having dealt with a lot of trauma and surgical illness there it helped me in Alice Springs,' he explains. 'Injuries, personal violence and alcohol-related harm like acute pancreatitis have definitely decreased here now, our data substantiates that. We've also found in the last 10 years there's been no mortality from acute pancreatitis.' His surgical interests and expertise include vascular access for dialysis and diabetic soft tissue infections — two areas of great need in his work with indigenous Central Australia people. While he's humble about the difference he's made, he prefers to praise the police and hospital staff for their work in the community too. 'This work needs a good team, it can't be done alone or with just one or two surgeons, it takes a lot of people,' he says. 'At Alice Springs Hospital I have the opportunity to make a difference in the medical journey of indigenous patients and I'm blessed to work with a team that is committed to improving these health outcomes too. I'm very privileged.' At 67 Dr Jacob isn't looking at retirement either, 'Not until I can leave the department in good hands,' he says. 'I love being here and even if I do retire I think I'd like to stay on teaching.'



Main picture and above: Dr Jacob Ollapallil and his son Matthew.



**SYDNEY**

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

GROWING CONVENTION CENTRES



Resident Issue 4, 2007.



**MALU BARRIOS**

The moment the aeroplane doors opened and the Territory's magical allure enveloped her, Malu Barrios knew she'd make a home in Darwin.

Featured in Issue 4 of Resident in 2007, Malu came to Darwin as the General Manager and to oversee the opening of the Darwin Convention Centre at the Waterfront. Ten years later, she's still working for the same company, AEG Ogden, but is now Director of Event Services at the new ICC Sydney after her role of General Manager of Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island while the ICC Sydney was being built. In the heart of Darling Harbour, ICC Sydney on Cockle Bay features a striking contemporary design, leading technology and multipurpose spaces. It's a beacon of innovation, learning and entertainment, connecting and celebrating leaders of invention, business, governance and the arts and hosts a calendar of world-class events. At the recent Oz Comic-Con Sydney over 25,000 people attended over two days. 'This is my fourth opening of a venue since joining the company 20 years ago,' says this vivacious dynamo originally from the Philippines. 'But it's the largest so far. ICC Sydney covers more than three city blocks and each day I do at least 15,000 steps. I no longer need to go to the gym thankfully, as my work keeps me fit. 'I still paddle board when I can though. I started doing that in Darwin. Now I go to Avoca Lake or Pearl Bay the water there is almost as flat as Darwin.' Malu has to adapt to the various destinations she's assigned to. And while living in Sydney is very

different to Darwin, but she believes each city has its own strengths. 'I felt at home immediately in Darwin. I loved it — the dry season, the warmth of the people many who will be lifetime friends, the indigenous landscape and eating mangoes straight off the trees or at the markets.' She doesn't get to escape as much these days either. 'What I miss most about living in Darwin was being able to fly to Asia for a weekend break, the Darwin sunsets and swimming in Buley Rockhole,' she reminisces. 'But having said that, from here I've ventured to New Zealand and also explored Leura in the Blue Mountains, the Snowies and the New South Wales south coast during the last two years. My job certainly allows me to see and learn lots more about Australia.' Overall, Malu has no real regrets and loves the opportunities she's experienced with AEG Ogden, perhaps there's one more move before any retirement. Perhaps if an opportunity arises, she hopes it would be in the south island of New Zealand or in Hawaii. 'In the meantime, I see Darwin on Facebook every time I open it. I loved my eight years there. I came in a stranger but with typical Territory warmth and hospitality, I was embraced by everyone I came across. I left with a profound respect for colleagues and the local business community, a genuine love of the laidback lifestyle and enriched by the many wonderful relationships I forged during this chapter of my life. And I'm so looking forward to coming back next year to catch up and enjoy the Darwin Festival for my holidays.'



# ALICIA SHERWOOD

MORE THAN JUST RESOURCEFUL



Resident Issue 12, 2011.



# WOOD

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK AND TIM

**In 2010 Alicia Sherwood was an up and coming woman in mining; today she's the External Relations Manager, Northern Australia for Rio Tinto as well as a mother of two.**

**O**n the eve of her return to full-time work, she reveals what life's been like since featuring in Resident's Issue 12 'Women in Mining'. 'While it's been wonderful having maternity leave I am looking forward to returning to work,' says Alicia. 'There's much ahead and I'm grateful that Rio Tinto is a very supportive and extremely flexible company, making my return to work manageable with two small children.' Colt was born in May 2017 and is a brother to big sister Harper who was born in June 2015. 'I've been fortunate enough to have six months paid maternity leave for both children. And with technology these days it allows me to still keep in touch with what's happening which makes the transition back to work easier too.' Alicia's work involves extensive travel, interacting and working closely with a range of stakeholders including the community, government and traditional owners. 'When I have to travel or spend time in Gove, I'm thankful that my husband Robert, an Aviation Firefighter, is able to look after the children, due to his rotating roster. 'My next challenge will be working on stimulating development within the region after mining,' adds Alicia. 'My nine years in the mining industry has been rewarding, especially to see women not only thriving but also advancing in major roles. Diversity and inclusion is a major consideration in society now.' 'We enjoy living in Darwin and consider ourselves lucky to be able to experience what the Territory has to offer. It provides many opportunities in a variety of industries and I have seen a few people come and go over the years but something seems to draw people back here, it is a place where you can create your own path.'



Resident Issue 2, 2006.

**It was late 2006. A year after featuring in Issue 2 of Resident magazine, David Vadiveloo met his wife Rachel Naninaaq Edwardson. He was speaking at the Native American Film Festival in New York about producing a US version of 'Us Mob', the first Indigenous children's television series he directed and co-produced in 2005 in Alice Springs.**

**N**aninaaq, an Inuit social impact film producer from the Arctic, had work screening there. Today they have two beautiful children, a daughter Qilaavsuk Katpagam 7, and son Saggana Kandiah 3, and live between Australia and her village, Utqiagvik, about 650 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle. 'It's a long way from the wondrous heat of Central Australia, but notwithstanding the minus 60°C winds and 24 hour dark winter days, I've managed to produce two of her documentary films in the US and also had some success with my own films in Australia,' says David. A man of many talented hats, David is an Australian human rights lawyer, facilitator, screen producer and educator and still works across all areas, often blending them to create amazing and award-winning outcomes. He's also the founder and director of media entertainment and social justice company Community Prophets, that produces film and television and delivers digital media training programs for marginalised youth. Between 2006 and 2011 David facilitated curriculum reform and social justice media programs in Aboriginal communities throughout Australia, including Yirrkala and Cape York community of Aurukun. They became the two-part ABC television documentary 'Voices From the Cape'. He also devised and facilitated the Burn Project with at-risk youth from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds in inner-city Sydney. This production led to the crime drama 'Burn'. Both these films earned him Best Director nominations in the 2010 AFI Awards. 'My wife and I have a firm commitment to social justice and education reform and have worked as consultants to several communities in the NT including for the Mulka Media Centre in Yirrkala. In 2013 I took a one-year contract based in Jabiru as CEO of the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation that represents the Mirarr people who own the land where the Ranger Uranium Mine and Jabiluka sit.' Following this, David returned to legal and social justice work, focussing on modelling and facilitating culturally responsive practice for educators in Victoria's youth justice centres. 'I haven't left film though,' he quickly adds. 'For the past five years, we've been documenting the internationally famous Madjedbebe archaeology site in Kakadu. This was declared the oldest site of continual modern human occupation on the planet in July. Next year we'll launch a new project based on this dig and its findings. I'm really excited because it will place a vitally important NT story into the heart of the Australian curriculum where it should be taught. 'I'll also be co-producing a really ambitious online interactive cultural hub that my wife is creating for her community, the Inupiaq people of the Arctic, and I'll continue to consult for the youth justice sector here in Australia. 'I was incredibly fortunate to meet my wife and am eternally grateful for her wisdom, creativity and love. We often call our children the most spectacular and joyful international co-production that either of us could imagine! 'I'm also lucky to maintain my connection to the NT through the work I still do but mostly through the Eastern Arnernte people of Central Australia. Since I was a young boy these people and their families have treated me like a son. I always feel connected to them and owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. Werde! Urreke Areyenenghe! (Hey there! I'll see you soon!)



## CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TO THE ARCTIC

# DAVID VADIVELLOO