

He's marked for success

Satria Dyer-Darmawan

Local innovator's eyes on product selling well in US

LOCAL Alice Springs plasterer Graham Brewster, has been applauded by the Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation thanks to the design of his golf markers, puttovr.

Mr Brewster said his invention came about when he was playing golf at the Alice Springs Golf Club when he realised he didn't have a golf ball marker.

"I thought to myself, 'I'm

going to go home and I'm going to invent something,'" Mr Brewster said.

"That afternoon in my garden shed, grinder in one hand, construction bolt in the other, my first unlosable prototype ball marker was taking form.

"It's never been done before ever in the world and I made a golf ball marker when you hold your putt you have a golf ball marker as well, you can't help

it because your putter is with your golf ball marker."

Mr Brewster said it took him a couple of months to create his product, and since the inception of his invention, he has been selling his markers online for the past couple of years, but hasn't really done anything with his products.

However, when he won an Alice Springs Shark Tank competition in 2017 for his

marker invention, he received prize money and was urged by his wife to continue to sell his products.

"We applied for a grant with the government, the NT Government gave me \$24,000 which we matched with another \$24,000 dollars."

Mr Brewster said he is hoping his product will be a major success in America, and has just partnered with a media/

marketing agency in the States to improve the sales of his products.

"My plan would be to have one in every golf club in the world. Every time I give one away, or someone buys them from me, they love it. Everybody gives me really positive feedback," he said.

"People don't know the products are there, this is why we are launching a campaign."



Graham Brewster with his marker
Picture: SUPPLIED



Member for Barkly Gerry McCarthy with Barkly Regional Arts CEO Alan Murn (centre back) and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics' Glen Jones and Terri Duff with a 3D printed model of the goanna. INSET: A 3D printed model of the nyinkka.
Picture: BARKLY REGIONAL ARTS

Monitor this as you'll likely goanna see it

TRAVELLERS to Tennant Creek will soon be greeted by a giant spiky-tailed goanna as part of a revamp of the town's entry statements.

The north and south gateways to the town will also feature rammed-earth walls, steel indigenous art towers, footpaths and connections to existing pathways and new information booths.

Local arts organisation, Barkly Regional Arts won the tender to build the two, eight metre steel sculptures of the

spiky-tailed goanna, or nyinkka, as it is known locally.

Junk-to-funk artist, Steve Langton, and Tennant Creek locals — Reggie O'Riley, Waylon Ward, Dirk Dickenson and Shirley Lewis — have already set to work.

The nyinkka is native to the Tennant Creek area and was selected as the preferred design following a public consultation last year.

The \$2 million entry statement project, funded by the Territory Labor Government,

is part of a multimillion-dollar plan to revitalise and improve the visitor experience to Tennant Creek.

Member for Barkly Gerry McCarthy said a \$5.5 million Turbocharging Tourism boost and \$10 million to upgrade the Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre would help foster a sense of pride in the community and promote the town's cultural significance and heritage.

"Tennant Creek has an incredibly rich cultural and mining history," he said.

"And we want to ensure that visitors have an enjoyable and informative visit to the region.

"The entry statements will be regional showpieces, offering visitors and travellers the opportunity to learn more about our town, our heritage and our community.

"The completed works will add a new dimension to Tennant Creek, the golden heart of the Territory."

Tourism Minister Lauren Moss said the Turbocharging

Tourism stimulus boost would upgrade facilities, signage and improve the visitor experience in Tennant Creek.

"This investment includes upgrades to the visitor centre that will create a central hub to feed into interpretative and interactive experiences and will improve facilities for tourist vehicle and van arrivals, including new parking and amenities," she said.

The successful tenderer for other works on the entry statements will be announced soon.

Win for remote Aboriginal education

THE Central Land Council has celebrated its first Indigenous Governance Award winner — the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust.

The WETT advisory committee won the non-incorporated organisations category of the award for its outstanding bilingual and bicultural education and lifelong learning programs in the Northern Territory's Tanami Desert.

The committee advises the WETT about how to invest gold mining royalties in community driven initiatives supporting the education and training priorities of four remote communities.

Fiona Gibson, a retired teacher from Nyirripi community and a founding member of the committee, has helped to plan and monitor some of the CLC's most successful community development programs since 2005.

Ms Gibson accepted the award on behalf of her colleagues.

"We are very proud of what we have achieved working together and of our young people who are now working with us on the WETT advisory committee," she said. "They are keeping education strong in our communities."

Accepting the award with Ms Gibson was Cynthia Wheeler, the new chair of the WETT advisory committee who works at the Yuendumu school.

"Our message for everyone is that education is the key," Ms Wheeler said at the award night in Melbourne.

"Our vision is for Yapa [Warlpiri speakers] to be strong in their knowledge of culture, country and language and to stand up for our communities.

"Our voices will be heard. We will have the same opportunities as everyone else.

"Our children will be confident, knowledgeable, disciplined, healthy and respected.

"They will have good roles and jobs, as will the generations to come."