Get ready to rock your socks off

Be prepared to be rocked in fine style with Games stalwarts Dr Elephant and Melbourne pop sensation Kayne Taylor at the Games traditional Midweek Party this evening.

The three-man outfit Dr Elephant have been popular performers at the past two Alice Springs Masters Games and will work well with former Australia Popstars Live series winner Kayne Taylor.

Partygoers can expect a mix of old and new covers that are sure to get the party started.

Dr Elephant, now based in Cairns, has been touring the Territory for 14 years and have gained new fans from every show. And who can forget Taylor’s rendition of Roxy Music’s Jealous Guy, the iconic INXS hit Never Tear Us Apart and his unique rendition of It’s Raining Men on the hit show.

"Championed as the Friendly Games, the competition nurtures camaraderie and good spirits which is spread throughout the Games village atmosphere of Alice Springs. "As part of our Brand CARE Culture, it’s important for us to celebrate community engagement and we’re proud to be delivering a fantastic line up of entertainment at the Midweek party," Mr Farley said.

The theme for the Midweek Party is the colour blue and partygoers are encouraged to get into the spirit and wear something blue. The Midweek Party is being held on the helipad area looking out on to the beautiful MacDonnell Ranges at DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs.

"DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs is delighted to support the Alice Springs Masters Games as it fosters our local community spirit," general manager Clinton Farley said.

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The Midweek Party is a free, licensed event with food and beverages, including non-alcoholic drinks, available for purchase. No BYO please.

To get to the Party, head to DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs on Barrett Drive. Access to the helipad is on the right side of the hotel. Gates will open at 6pm with a DJ until 7pm. Dr Elephant and Kayne Taylor will play until 10pm.

This is a family-friendly party but children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

After the Party, head to DoubleTree’s SGB Bar in the Spinifex Room to keep the buzz going as local DJ Blake Mitchell will be pumping out the music until midnight.

Get ready to rock your socks off

Warning: With the Temperatures soaring and an Extreme UV Index don’t forget to hydrate regularly and cover up to avoid heat distress.
**SPORTS HOROSCOPE**

In the first half of October 15, 2014 it is important that you avoid making hasty decisions, when trying to solve important issues. It is recommended that you listen to your gut feeling - it may prove very way on point. Also use your imagination and fantasy. The evening may be marked with laziness and indulgence.

**ARIES**

It is becoming crucial for Aries to change its tactics. It is time for them to transition from demonstrating your creative potential to hard work, diligence and meticulousness. Time has come for you to start supporting your loud words with actions.

**TAURUS**

Taurus’ overall tonus and self-confidence level will increase. It is time for you to get back to your usual tempi and work methods, to what you love to do. This will let you use your energy in a more constructive way. A favourite hobby or playing with your kids will help you divert your mind from household troubles.

**GEMINI**

Gemini is going through a stressful period. Be prepared to be more actively involved into the household issues, property-related problems and family relations. If you have fallen really in love, your relationship will be quite likely ready to transition to a new level marked by your decision to move in together.

**CANCER**

Cancer should be ready for an energetic rhythm of life, entrepreneurship and achievements. Even today new contacts and exciting plan notes may appear in your agenda. Don’t just rely on it - be sure to have everything documented properly.

**LEO**

Today Leo will see its expenses grow. When handling money, use your common sense and don’t try to hide away from checking every little detail. Such fuss about dreaminess, trust, emotionally and impressionability should be left outside when financial matters are in question.

**VIRGO**

Previously passive Virgins will find it hard to stay away from new initiatives in business, household and love. Your ability to professionally calculate your chances, including your risks is your strength right now. Your sensitivity will prove your weakness.

**LIBRA**

Libra’s internal motifs are becoming more important than the superficial side of things. You may have to change your work place to a more isolated and romantic or less stable environment.

**SCORPIO**

Scorpio should move toward implementing another step of its plan. Perhaps, you will need new people, methods and equipment. Those of you who want to continue their business should forget about stubbornness, slow pace and acting by instinct.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Sagittarius should try to find a proper balance between your work, family and time for yourself. Your new employment may be connected with business trips, intrigues, private services, etc.

**CAPRICORN**

Capricorn may once again go back to old tactics after trying risky moves. However, on October 15, 2014 you should still keep a vigilant eye and act according to a plan as the true Goat would. Be sure to take nothing (tools, equipment, contacts, methods, etc) to a rigorous check.

**AQUARIUS**

The situation is far from being stable, but some interesting opportunities are lurking in there. Aquarius will find that they will inevitably be connected with confusion and uncertainty. Consider relying only if you can justify it somehow.

**PISCES**

Neither Fishes nor their partners can fully understand their worldviews on October 15, 2014. In both business and personal interaction there should be a more opposite relation of ideas, arguments and an overall interpersonal imbalance. Your sound logic and rock-solid system of beliefs are your only really reliable light house in the sea of passions and expectations.

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**A new sport has joined the Alice Springs Masters Games with raquetball being introduced to the squash program this year. Squash has attracted 49 players this year - seven more than in 2012. Competitors are playing in individual, doubles and teams event. The program has been “squeezed” so there are more players at the squash court than Gap Road at the same time. This is to enhance the camaraderie that has built up among squash players over the year,” spokesman Brad Gadgedes said.

“There’s a good feeling down at the courts with people getting together and mixing while others play.”

Squash has attracted international player Robin Layusaria from Malaysia. The 72-year-old is a cunning player who uses lobs and deft placements to catch his opponents off guard. He will feature in a great clash with regular Games squash participant John Scully, who at 73 is the oldest player in the field.

There are eight players, six men and two women, playing raquetball alongside the squash competition. Three are also playing squash. The individual and teams competitions take a break today to enable the doubles competition to be completed. There are 20 pairs in the doubles. The individual and teams competitions resume tomorrow with the finals on Friday.

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**Sharp Shooters praise the Games Range**

The sporting shooting range being used for the Alice Springs Masters Games has been praised by visiting participants.

Gold medalist Tony Steer said the Victorian contingent believed the range was better than any in their home state. The event has attracted about 40 shooters. Participants have a number of different guns but don’t shoot in every discipline. While not a spectacular sport to watch, people who fancy shooting will be interested in the different styles of guns.

The variety includes pistols and rimfire, centrefire and black powder rifles.

Sporting shooting is more active than other forms of shooting as it involves moving in and out from behind various barriers to shoot at targets.

To get to the Alice Springs Sporting Shooters Club, on Boulter Road, head south from town. Once you have past Blatherskite Park and the Alice Springs Showgrounds, turn right down Iparpa Road for about 5km, then turn left onto Boulter Road. Follow the Masters Games signs to the Club.

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**Racquetball joins in first time**

In the first half of October 15, 2014 it is important that spectators attending sporting events are in question.

The number of competitors and spectators attending sporting events has put pressure on drivers to find parking spots. But that’s no excuse to park in non-parking places.

Yellow lines along the side of the road mean no parking - including near sporting venues. Yet cars have been seen parked over yellow lines.

One soccer fan was caught out the other day when they parked in the driveway beside the soccer ground. When the driver came to leave, the boom gate at the end of the driveway had been locked. It took a little while until a key was found, courtesy of officials at the nearby netball venue.

While on netball, it’s good to see there are preparations for the future in Australia’s leading women’s sport.

Lowering the minimum age to 30 has been well received and a number of new potential players, born in the year of the inaugural Alice Springs Masters Games, are looking forward to the 2016 Games.

But there is a longer wait for some of the youngsters who were seen proudly wearing T-shirts proclaiming they were a POTATO in Training. POTATO is one of the 20 teams in the competition, playing in the 35+ division.

There is a lot for “Games virgins” to take in as they enjoy the partying of these Friendly Games.

One was watching one of the 32 sports that had catering at its venue and saw a participant with a tasty looking meal.

When the new chum asked where the meal came from, there was a general wave in the direction of the catering area.

“Go and get your dinner,” he was told.

But the line is so long,” the first-timer said.

“No,” was the reply from a more experienced Gamer “that’s the line to the bar - the food line with only one person in it, next to it.”

A Games’ organiser led her colleagues in stitches the other day. She loudly declared that her phone had fallen out of her front jeans pocket. A frantic search of the nearby area resulted in nothing. An innocent bystander was bailed up and asked in a slightly accusatory tone if he’d picked up her phone. The poor bloke said no but wasn’t really believed. The organiser spoke to a nearby police officer who asked for a description of the missing item. As the organiser finished describing the type of mobile phone and the cover, the officer looked down at the woman’s back pocket and asked: “You mean a phone that looks like the one in your back pocket?” Needless to say, her colleagues won’t let her live it down.

Seems the Sports Medicine staff have been kept busy at these Games attending to a few injuries. But the irony has not escaped The Sleuth that some of the injuries are to the Sports Med staff themselves who have been spotted with the odd sling and pair of crutches after competing in various sporting events.
Equestrian field puts on a spectacular show

Leading Australian dressage judge Peter Shaw and hacking judge Frank Bawden have been on hand to ensure the equestrian events at the 2014 Alice Springs Masters Games are of the highest order.

Their presence has been made possible by the Alice Springs Equestrian Management Group, which was formed to raise funds for and run the Games’ equestrian events.

This year 65 riders and 94 horses are taking part in the dressage, hacking, show jumping, novelties, western and stockman’s challenge events.

While 35 of the riders are from Alice Springs the others have come from far and wide including South Australia and Queensland.

Sixty three-year-old Maree Edwards, drove more than 2300km from Charleville in Queensland to Alice Springs with two horses in tow. It took her four days to get here.

Equestrian co-ordinator Louisa Spicer said it was a tremendous opportunity for the local riders to compete against visitors who come to the Games.

“We encourage everyone to come along,” she said.

“It doesn’t matter if they’re a a jumper, a hacker or in dressage. We want everyone to have a go.”

The oldest rider in the equestrian events is Robina Plume-Fowler-Dreon, 74, from Katherine, 1200km north of Alice Springs.

Other competitors include Alice Springs racing trainers Kath North and Gary Lefoe, who is also a former jockey.

The western disciplines, which began yesterday, continue from 3pm today.

This is the first year the stockman’s challenge has been included in the Games, and will be held tomorrow morning.

The always popular show jumping and novelties events are scheduled for Friday.

Spectators are welcome to head to Blatherskite Park and sit in the grandstand to watch the events on the oval.

There are limited non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase. There is also a BYO licence.

Spectators are only asked to make sure they don’t walk through the clearly marked warm-up area.

As a long term major sponsor of the Alice Springs Masters Games, Imparja Television has always enjoyed the ambience of the town during this special week of October.

“It’s great to have so many people from all parts of Australia here experiencing the Outback and bringing a real vibrancy to the Alice,” Imparja CEO Alistair Feehan said.

“Personally I am participating in the golf, which has brought over 300 golfers to our desert course.

“I’ve met some wonderful people and made some great contacts from other parts of the country.

“But participating is not the only great thing about the Masters Games, as a community broadcaster we have been able to get some excellent footage of the town with lots of different people.”

Moni Quan, editor and camera operator and born and bred Alice Springs girl said: “Thriving communities are built from connections and social interactions. The Masters Games rolls all of this into one - the ability to get out and makes friends while being active and enjoying yourself, connecting with your community and creating shared memories that last a lifetime.”

“From a news perspective, we get to tell some great stories about the competitors and their lives,” news journalist Tamara Giles said.

“There’s a girl from Ballarat in my netball team and her 86 year old grandmother won a gold medal in the 200 metres. How wonderful is that.”

Imparja Television is looking forward to future Masters Games and seeing the town come alive as competitors come back and explore the town with their families.

Local knowledge helps dominate 5K

Alice Springs running star Emma Kraft has begun her Alice Springs Masters Games career in glittering style.

She won a gold medal in yesterday’s 5km cross country event at the Old Telegraph Station.

Alice Springs runners used their local knowledge to dominate the race.

Emma blitzed the women’s 30 to 34 year old age group with an impressive time of 21:36 seconds to sound warning bells for tomorrow’s Masters Mile event.

Fellow Territorians Jess Harries (22:0) and Chelsea Rogers (25.57) finished second and third respectively.

The competition is seven-a-side being played in seven teams - five men’s and two women’s.

There are about 80 players registered in seven teams - five men’s and two women’s.

The competition is seven-a-side being played across the usual pitch.

The lead up to tonight’s match has resulted in most games being close affairs with little more than a goal between the sides.

Fourth sting could bring them a win

The People’s Game is coming to the Alice Springs Masters Games with a mixed football (soccer) competition tonight.

Players will be selected from teams playing in the Masters Games.

There are about 70 players registered in seven teams - five men’s and two women’s.

The competition is seven-a-side being played across the usual pitch.

The lead up to tonight’s match has resulted in most games being close affairs with little more than a goal between the sides.

Former Fiji top grade player Atesh Maharaj has been the top scorer in the Alice Springs A-League competition and has certainly learnt his weight to the Games competition, scoring five goals on Monday - three in one game and two in the second.

He’s helped his Games team, the Scorpions, head the competition table with two wins and a draw from their three games.

“The pitch has been playing pretty good this week,” Atesh said.

“The Town Council has done a lot of work after the football season to get the pitch to this standard.”

Scorpions play their final round robin game tomorrow and a win will cement their place in the gold medal play-off.

The minor placings are still up for grabs depending on the outcome of tomorrow’s games. The third and fourth sides after the round robin will play off for the bronze medal.

Football is being played at Ross Park off Undoolya Road. Parking is in the large carpark on Winnecke Avenue.

Games begin at 6pm today and will continue until 8.30pm.