



Long wait over for Ti Tree

Community celebrates opening of new store

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It's been a long time coming but Ti Tree residents will celebrate the opening of their very own community store on Thursday (26 February).

The store will provide a reliable supply of fresh and affordable fruit and vegetables, as well as other healthy foods.

"People have been talking about this store for over a decade, but nothing ever came of it," said Central Desert Shire President, James Glenn, a long-time Ti Tree resident.

"Once the Central Desert Shire got involved, it took my CEO Rowan Foley and Outback Stores just six months to get it off the ground.

"My home town is a growing community and needs a store with good food at reasonable prices.

"I'm really proud of this outcome and how quickly we have achieved for our residents."

The store is located in the former Red Sands Gallery in Spencer St, Ti Tree, and began operating in December with a limited range of goods.

Creating healthier communities

Outback Stores 49 Woods Street, Darwin NT 0801 **P:** (08) 8982 1900 **F:** (08) 8982 1901 **E:** info@outbackstores.com.au

Outback Stores has refurbished the building with shelving, refrigeration and retail hardware. It is now stocked to serve the needs of Ti Tree and other communities in the region.

“We are very proud to have been able to help make this happen,” Chief Executive Officer of Outback Stores, John Kop, said.

“The community will no longer have to order groceries in from Alice Springs and can enjoy the benefits of a fully-stocked store, just like people who live in towns and cities.”

Mr Kop says Outback Stores is committed to local employment and will seek the support of the Central Desert Shire to recruit and train local Indigenous people to work in the store.

The opening of the Ti Tree store will be marked with a community celebration and barbecue that will get under way at 11.30 am tomorrow (Thursday, February 26).

A welcome to country ceremony performed by Anmatjere Traditional Owners will be followed by an official opening by the Hon Karl Hampton MLA, Member for Stuart and Minister for Regional Development.

Ends

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Outback Stores is a company that manages remote stores on behalf of remote Indigenous communities.

It was set up in 2006 in response to a growing need for functional and viable shops that were able to meet the health and nutritional requirements of Indigenous populations. It has been successful because it builds strong relationships with the communities it works with, resulting in stores that people can take pride in and feel part of.

Outback Stores is a non-government enterprise with an independent board. Profits from the stores are returned to the community.

www.outbackstores.com.au

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