

## Day 15 Activity

### Tales of the Todd Role Profiles Leisure Recreation

---

---

#### Role #11 Leisure Recreation - Walking Club

As a member of the Walking Club, you like to find interesting and attractive places to walk, both for pleasure and for competitions. The land along the banks of the Todd offers you lots of opportunities for this.

#### Background

Recreation is important for mental and physical health, as well as helping the economy. It requires buying equipment and supplies.

#### Effects on the River system

Walking tracks which are made by repeated tramping rather than by design can cause erosion problems, but the limited numbers of walkers in Alice Springs means that this is not a real problem at the moment. Other effects such as rubbish and pets out of control are also very limited due to the low population.

#### Concerns

As with many people who like the central Australian lifestyle, walkers don't want to be regulated in what they do. However, this lifestyle can be ruined by careless walkers who degrade the land as well as behave badly, for example by dropping rubbish or walking with pets out of control. Too many people using the same sites could end up as a problem.

Illegal campers can also make it less pleasant for walkers if their camps are a mess and they behave in anti-social ways.



## Role #12 Leisure Recreation - 4WD Enthusiasts

You have lived in Alice Springs for 5 years and will probably be here for one or two more years. One of the attractions of living here is that you are keen on off-road driving in your 4WD and spend many weekends 'going bush'. This is also something that allows you to spend time with your family.

### Background

Dry river beds make interesting and challenging 'tracks' for off-road drivers to practise their driving as well as to find out of the way places to picnic or camp.

Recreation is important for mental and physical health, as well as helping the economy. It requires buying equipment and supplies.

### Effects on the River system

Driving off-road along a sandy creek bed once or twice doesn't usually cause too many bad effects. However, it is often things like too much driving in the same area, 'bush bashing' to get into the river bed in the first place and the consequent erosion that occurs after heavy rain, and timber burnt or rubbish left after camping that cause problems for the river system.

Some off-road drivers think that they are the only users, or else only feel comfortable going where they have seen others go, both of which can be detrimental.

People often don't think about the way in which car tyres can spread seeds, especially prickles, from place to place. These can lie dormant for years before they germinate in the right conditions and overtake natural vegetation.

### Concerns

As with many people who like the central Australian lifestyle, off-road drivers don't want to be regulated in what they do. However, this lifestyle can be ruined by careless drivers who degrade the land as well as behave badly, for example by creating noise pollution. Too many people using the same sites could end up as a problem.

Off-road drivers also don't always realise that the land they are travelling on is either leased or owned by pastoralists or other farmers and they sometimes trespass or damage property. This gives all 4WD drivers a bad name.





## Role #13 Leisure Recreation - Kids

You have lived in Alice Springs all your life and have always enjoyed playing in the dry river bed. Your father, who also lived here as a child, often tells you stories of how he used to spend much of his spare time down at the river, as well as how families used to have picnics in the river bed.

### Background

The Todd River provides an ideal spot for kids who enjoy things like looking for lizards and climbing trees and making cubbies. It's also a bit of a challenge to make bike tracks along the banks and through the sand. When it rains kids like to play in the waterholes and sometimes try to float down the river when it is full flood.

Recreation is important for mental and physical health, and kids need safe and interesting places to spend their spare time.

### Effects on the River system

Playing in the river causes few problems unless kids start to do silly things like breaking down trees or carving their names in the trunks or leaving rubbish or other pollutants around.

### Concerns

The main concern is for the safety of the kids themselves rather than for the river. Because more and more rubbish finds its way into the river bed these days, parents can't be sure what their kids will find there. Also some of the anti-social behaviour of itinerant campers can reduce the feeling a safety and enjoyment.



## Role #14 Leisure Recreation - Bikers

You have been involved with the Finke Desert Race for a long time, first as a spectator and now as a participant. You like to keep up your skills so you usually go out bush with your mates most weekends to find areas to practise. Just before the race you ride on the actual track, but at other times you just go where you feel like it.

### Background

Motor bike riding is a popular sport in central Australia and as with 4WD recreation, it can have little impact if you keep to tracks or take care when riding off-road. Some bikers look for safe but interesting areas to practise their skills. There are very few designated areas for bikers which are managed to reduce the risk of land degradation.

Recreation is important for mental and physical health, as well as helping the economy. It requires buying equipment and supplies.

### Effects on the River system

Bikers can have similar effects to 4W Drivers - for example things like the amount of driving in the same area, 'bush bashing' to get into the river bed in the first place and the consequent erosion that occurs after heavy rain, and timber burnt or rubbish left after camping that cause problems for the river system.

Another thing is the use of areas like claypans as race tracks. While these can look to some people like areas of 'waste land', claypans play an important role in river systems and are often the home for specialised plant and animal species.

### Concerns

As with many people who like the central Australian lifestyle, bikers don't want to be regulated in what they do. However, this lifestyle can be ruined by careless bikers who degrade the land as well as behave badly, for example by creating noise pollution. Too many people using the same sites could end up as a problem.

Bikers also don't always realise (or care) that the land they are travelling on is either leased or owned by pastoralists or other farmers and they sometimes trespass or damage property. This gives all bikers a bad name.

Drawing of  
"Todd River"  
By: Anthony  
Age: 8