

THE

DRUM

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2010



THIS ISSUE:

- Are you Fit-For-Task?
- Joint Training Exercise
- Disaster Victim Identification Training
- Finke Desert Race

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The **Drum** is the official magazine of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

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Front Cover

The cover photo for this edition shows NTES Volunteer Ryan Zerbo in action during a vertical rescue exercise.

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Commissioner and CEO's Welcome Message



2010 has certainly been a big year so far and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to meet so many of you across the Territory. I have almost completed my quest to get to every station across the Territory by the end of the year, however I plan on these trips continuing on a regular basis.

I would like to make special mention to those of you who have been recognised for your efforts over the past few months. Congratulations to Ken Williams, recipient of the prestigious Auxiliary of the Year Award and Gary Doonga Mununggurritj, recipient of the Aboriginal Community Police Officer of the Year Award – Administrators Medal. I was fortunate enough to present Senior Auxiliary Ken Williams with his award in Tennant Creek earlier in the year and was there to see Senior ACPO Gary Doonga Mununggurritj receive his award from His Honour The Administrator Tom Pauling, AO QC, at the graduation of Squad 104.

In this issue of the DRUM, I would again like to commend the efforts of our members of the Tri-service working together to respond to some extreme and trying incidents. June 13 was a black day - the day little Nicholas Middis' life was claimed and his mother, Debbie Middis, was seriously injured. Although a sombre scene, I was impressed with the professional response from our Police and Fire colleagues. Many of you have worked tirelessly to identify the person responsible and I thank every one of you for your efforts.

Our Tri-service response capability was again highlighted in a recent mock USAR exercise conducted with the support of the National Counter Terrorism Committee. It is great to see the continued cooperation and success of all arms of the Tri-service working together.

With over 70 years policing experience between them, Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham and Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie have retired. We celebrate their distinguished careers and wish them every success in their new lives beyond the Northern Territory Police Force.

I also hope you will all join me in welcoming our new Deputy Commissioner, Shayne Maines, as he embarks on the latest stage of his career.

With the Barunga Festival, Desert Leadership, the Marathon Project and other ongoing community engagement events, it is no surprise that our remote communities continue to thrive. Thank you to all members currently facilitating community engagement activities and those who are working on strategies to actively engage with your community members in order to reduce crime and keep people safe.

I'm sure you will all enjoy reading about the many Tri-service initiatives taking place across the Territory and I look forward to more site visits over the coming months.

Are you Fit-For-Task?

NTES, Fire and Ambulance volunteers preparing to join a General Rescue Course recently undertook a live trial of a new Barrier Test as part of a new NTES Fit-For-Task program.

Right Ryan Zerbe, NTES Volunteer.

Below Right The cover photo for this edition of the Drum shows Ryan in action during a vertical rescue exercise.

The Fit-For-Task program is intended to keep NTES staff and volunteers safe by ensuring those members performing tasks have the physical capacity to do so without causing injury to themselves or their team mates. The Barrier tests, which will form the backbone of the program, are work capacity tests that simulate conditions that may present themselves during operations. The bulk of the testing is centred on strength and endurance, covering most of the physical requirements of the range of tasks performed by NTES. Some of the testing is also specific to a particular task.

The tests are based on those being used by other emergency and related services. After an initial consultation with NTES volunteers and staff, appropriate tests were devised that would best assess a specific range of work tasks within NTES requirements.

NTES Senior Education and Development Officer Mark Cunnington said: "The tests and their requirements are

designed to ensure a member's safety by testing they have the physical capacity to perform the roles expected of them. Much of the work performed by our members can be physically and mentally demanding and these tests will give benchmarks for our members to keep in peak condition to perform the roles required safely."

All members who were tested passed the Barrier Test, which involved a confined space anxiety assessment, chain cutting, hydraulic tool carry, load lift & carry and dragging a rescue dummy over a set distance. The first group to be tested included male and female members, ranging in age from 18 years to a sprightly 70-year-old!

It is intended that members not attaining the standards required will be advised and coached to be able to achieve the benchmarks set by the tests.

The Fit-For-Task program is set to be finalised and implemented by the end of August 2010.

NTES volunteer profile



Ryan Zerbe

Hi, my name is Ryan and I've been an NTES volunteer for about 18 months. I'm 24 years old and have spent most of my life in Darwin. I've worked for the Department of Construction and Infrastructure for the past two years. I first became involved with NTES through the Palmerston Volunteer Unit.

I was spending a lot of evenings watching TV and feeling pretty bored. I was particularly interested in learning some new skills so I decided to get involved with NTES. Since then I've had the opportunity to try things that have, at times, been completely new and challenging. So far, I've undertaken first-aid training, learnt specific skills such as how to remove a casualty from a motor vehicle, as well as everyday functional skills like how to tie knots and reverse a trailer.

The highlight for me has definitely been getting involved in the Vertical Rescue Rapid Response Team through the Emergency Service Training Unit. There are a lot of skills you need to practice but it's given me the chance to abseil down a 20-story building as well as meet some pretty cool people.

I encourage anyone who's looking for some new challenges to contact their local NTES unit and give it a go.

To find out more about becoming an NTES volunteer visit www.emergency.nt.gov.au or call 08 8922 3630.



NTES staff and volunteers take part in the Barrier Test.



Crawling blind within the Urban Search and Rescue rubble.

Joint training exercise

The NT Water Police, along with volunteers from NTES, recently participated in a joint training exercise with AeroRescue and the Australian Marine Safety Authority (AMSA) aircraft 'Dornier' for five days of intensive training dropping Search and Rescue (SAR) stores as part of a number of simulated exercises.



The exercise ran from 24-29 May and took place in seas to the north of Darwin.

The AMSA aircraft is permanently based in Darwin and is a dedicated 24/7 search and rescue aircraft.

The operational purpose of the training was to provide vessel support to assist AeroRescue in its In-Flight Open Door (IFOD) SAR Dropping Transition. The training involved:

- simulated night deployment of stores during the day from lowest safe altitude – 1500ft VMC;
- signal flare firing operations (green & white flares);
- homing to training beacons on frequency VHF 121.4mhz;

- dropping of marine pyrotechnic markers (Mk8 orange smoke and green sea dye);
- precision marine dropping operations using the IFOD Stores Delivery System at an altitude of 200ft AGL/1500ft VMC; and
- additional low level target identification operations at 100ft AGL.

Water Police Senior Sergeant Stephen Martin said: "The exercise was of great value to the NTPFES and working together with the AMSA rescue aircraft only further strengthened our working relationship and our interoperability in the search and rescue environment."

Left AeroRescue crew members prepare to launch a Self-Locating Datum Marker Buoy (SLDMB). SLDMB are an air launched buoy that provides Rescue Coordination Centre - Australia with water movement (drift) data via a satellite.

Below Left AMSA Dornier - an air droppable survival kit being deployed from an AMSA Dornier 328 aircraft.

Below A green dye marker and white smoke flare mark the drop target.

Photos courtesy of Australian Maritime Safety Authority.



Major Crash's new equipment

The Major Crash Investigation Unit provides an effective policing service that enhances the organisation's capacity to conduct criminal investigations and coronial reporting on serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes in the Northern Territory.

The unit was established in 2009 to enhance public safety and effective criminal reporting on crashes and to reduce road trauma in the NT. The unit consists of a team of six investigators in Darwin and a team of three in Alice Springs.

Major Crash uses specialist survey equipment - Nikon cameras, lap top computers and specific computer programming to assist in the reconstruction of an accident scene. The equipment plays a big role in the accuracy of the reconstruction.

The latest piece of equipment is the Top Con Total Station Imaging Station 203 used to survey and map the accident scene similar to a road surveyor. The members can actually plot and record the raw evidence into the equipment allowing for a detailed and accurate map to be drawn of

the crash scene. This machine is also a 360 degree imaging station. It has the ability, if selected, to take a panoramic picture of the crash/crime scene that shows the scene from the investigator's perspective when taking measurements.

This equipment is the latest state-of-the-art model. It allows crash investigators to survey crash scenes via robotic control and conduct photo rectification of crashed vehicles and objects.

All members of the Major Crash Investigation Unit have been trained to use the new equipment and have received certificates in Crime Scene Data Collection.

The Major Crash Investigation Unit also has two modified vehicles to attend crash scenes - one in Darwin, the other in Alice Springs.

These vehicles are Toyota Hilux utilities and both vehicles have been specifically designed with the task in mind. They are equipped with the Total Station, cameras, GPS unit, tapes, paints, specific lighting and generators. These vehicles allow the members to attend and gather all the relevant evidence in the first instance.

The Major Crash Investigation Unit is a uniformed investigation unit with investigators being dually trained in scene investigation and criminal investigation, giving it the capacity to investigate serious crashes involving serious criminal offences.

Below The Major Crash team testing out new equipment.



Marathon Project update

By Superintendent
Andy Warton

From 18-21 June, myself, coach John Bell, Sgt Naomi Beale, Charlie Maher, Joseph Davies and Caleb Hart travelled to Dili, Timor Leste, and ran in the 10km race as part of the first ever Dili Peace Marathon. The purpose of the trip was to expose our athletes to overseas travel, overseas conditions and running in competitive crowds.

Essentially the trip involved arriving early on the Friday morning and undertaking a brief tour of the city. We were supported by a group of AFP officers on the ground who are part of the Timor Leste Police Development Program. The AFP officers provided us with an initial briefing as to the conditions (health/hygiene etc.) experienced in Timor Leste.

The actual run took place on Sunday morning at 6:40am. The run involved the three boys and myself lining up at sunrise to commence the suburban 10km run, which was aided by the presence of Timor Leste Police and UN Police at each intersection. Interestingly, 4km into the 10km race the entire race crowd realised that the wrong track had been marked out. As such, the race had to be re-started. So, in actual fact, we all ended up running 14km for the day. The boys all did well with Charlie Maher finishing in the top 10 runners for the 10km race.

The marathon was won by Kenyan runner, Philimon Rotich. The women's marathon was won by Darwin local Lucie Hardiman, who recently won the City to Surf as well. Both winners were introduced to the Indigenous marathon team from Australia.

At the pre-registration location a day before the race, we were invited to meet the President, Jose Ramos Horta. He arrived at the registration tents and spent time

talking with us individually and collectively about the project and the journey to New York - he seemed particularly interested in the whole concept. We also received an invite to eat at the Presidential Palace in Dili with the President following the final medal presentation, which we did. The whole experience was of high interest to the guys, all of whom had not travelled overseas before.

With that race run, the focus now for all of us (as we head towards New York) is real distance running and putting kilometres on our legs in preparation for November. This means at least a 16km run most weeks and regular running 5-6 days a week. Another NT athletics/running day is likely around October as a final preparation for New York. In the interim, both Rob de Castella and coach John Bell will be making regular visits to the NT to continue coaching the boys.

As far as the Dili trip went, you will notice that one of the runners Juan Darwin was absent. Juan is the lad that I'm mentoring the most. We run together once a week and do regular pool sessions. Juan had to stay back in his community at Maningrida for family reasons and missed out on Dili. Yesterday, I flew out to Maningrida and met him, presented him with a gift from the President of Timor Leste and accompanied him back to Darwin to resume his training. The gift was a material shawl (known as a tais) with the words "Good luck in New York" embroidered. All the boys had received one. He was particularly grateful for it and said: "I might wear this when I run in New York".

At this stage of the project we have been to the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) for nine days, run in Dili, had an athletics day in Santa Teresa and a training camp in Darwin. The focus now is on New York, noting that we have lost two of the six boys so far (Reuben Brown from Croker Island and Daniel Gurupa from Ramingining). There's no guarantee the four will make it and there were a couple of injuries (a knee and an ankle) as a result of Dili.

The Goodoil documentary crew followed us around Dili and the documentary continues to build. I am advised that ABC Television has now picked it up and will screen it next year.

Left Supt. Andy Warton, Sgt Naomi Beale, Caleb Hart, Charlie Maher, Joseph Davies and coach John Bell meeting President Jose Ramos Horta.

Middle Left The team and their driver (left) had a little bit of time to see the picturesque sights of Dili.

Below Left Supt Andy Warton approaches the last 2km of the 10km race.

Background These flags marked out each kilometre of the marathon.



Aboriginal Community Police Officer of the Year

The Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) of the Year for 2009 has been announced – and congratulations go to Senior ACPO Gary Donga Mununggurritj of Nhulunbuy.

Gary with his ACPO of the Year award.

A total of seven nominations were received for the prestigious award.

The panel, consisting of two superintendents and a commander, convened on Monday 12 April concluding that Senior ACPO Mununggurritj was the most meritorious.

The decision was determined on the following selection criteria:

- proven continuous length of service of at least 12 months as an ACPO;
- active participation in Council matters and resolving community problems by applying initiative and common sense;
- working with youth and motivated to solve youth related issues;
- behaves in a professional manner under all circumstances;
- has sought community involvement and consultation in relation to service delivery;
- looked on as a community role model; and
- demonstrates strong community leadership.

Gary has been a member of the NT Police Force for 16 years and is planning to retire later this year.

In his nomination, ACPO Mununggurritj has been described as an invaluable member of the Nhulunbuy Police Station, with exceptional knowledge of the district.

His cultural and language knowledge, coupled with his willingness to impart this knowledge to the operational police members of Nhulunbuy, is invaluable for members stationed there.

Also a member of the Yirrkala Council, Gary often assists with matters outside of his working hours assisting in community projects. The Yirrkala Community is proud to have Gary as “their” ACPO and as a Senior Elder, he is held in high regard by the people of that community. His position as ACPO and Senior Elder has helped foster a better relationship between the Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land and the police.

His wife, Lynette, his children and extended family are all very proud of Gary for his achievements both within the Police Force and his various roles within the greater community.



The medal was presented by His Honour, the Administrator Tom Pauling, AO QC, at the Graduation Ceremony of Squad 104 in April, after which the Commissioner of Police presented the Perpetual Plaque (which records recipients of the award and is on permanent display at the Police College).

The following nominees will also receive a letter of congratulations from the Commissioner of Police: ACPO Bettina Dangabarr and Senior ACPO's Mark Casey, Frank Curtis and Joseph Russell.

Boxing Proves a Hit in Warruwi

The Warruwi community on South Goulburn Island is home to approximately 400 people and has three Northern Territory Police members currently stationed there.

In January 2010, former Officer in Charge Csaba Boja was approached by members of the community to commence a boxing club for the youth of Warruwi. Csaba sought and received \$2000 funding through the West Arnhem Shire Youth Services co-ordinator. This funding was spent on equipment such as punching bags, focus mitts and pads, medicine balls and skipping ropes.

Csaba commenced classes on the basketball court of Warruwi Primary school in mid-April. The classes consisted of running, skipping, stretching, development of technique and sparring. The classes were an immediate hit with an average 25 community members attending each evening they were run.

The classes run three nights a week and are broken into two sessions - the first hour

is spent with younger children and the second hour with the teenagers and young men of the community. A lot of promise, skill and commitment has been shown by each of the participants, particularly those looking to build on fitness ahead of the upcoming AFL season.

With Csaba having finished at Warruwi, the classes are now run by Const Cameron Vivian, ably assisted by B/Sgt Greg Jarvis. Conducting the classes affords police an excellent opportunity to interact and develop strong relationships with the younger members of the community.



Police Vessel 'Glyde River' in capable hands

With the roll out of the Police Vessel 'Glyde River' to Ramingining, OIC Jack Harrington, Marianne Irwin and Alistair Gall were more than keen to undertake the Small Boat Handlers' Course. Enter Bill Buckley from Charles Darwin University.

The training was delivered on station from 28 June until 2 July and covered the necessary skills required to handle and navigate a small boat in river systems and inshore waters.

B/Sgt Jack Harrington said that the course was set out and delivered in an easy to understand fashion.

"The boat course was great for all of us. We all gained a lot more confidence in using our boat. Bill was a good presenter and easy to speak to. Nothing was too much trouble," he said.

Subjects covered included the planning of a sea voyage, map reading, reading a compass, safety, terms used in boating, basic knot tying, launching and retrieving a small boat and basic boat maintenance.

The concept of delivering the course at the station worked well. Unfortunately, the course was interrupted with normal everyday station issues that had to be attended to. This was to be expected and Bill was able to work around the interruptions without too many difficulties. It just meant that members had to do some more work

in the evening to ensure all learning outcomes were met.

Numbulwar members can expect to board the PV Rose River on 26 July to undertake the same training. Other coastal Themis stations will follow.



STARS sing for road safety

By Sergeant Steve Nalder

The Barunga Festival was held this year from Friday 11 to Monday 14 June. Also at Barunga this year, singing for Yidiyu, was 'The Age' comprising Senior ACPO Bernie Devine on bass guitar, Chris Devine on rhythm guitar, Chris Gorrington on lead guitar and Harry Hazelbane on drums. The road safety song "Let's Stop Territory Aboriginal Road Sadness" was written by Chris Devine and won the runner up prize in this year's competition.



Yidiyu members Sergeant Steve Nalder and Sarah Gotch also travelled to Barunga to engage community members with road safety messages as part of the STARS project – Stop Territory Aboriginal Road Sadness. Assisted by ACPO's Megan Kingsley and Kathleen Lane, community kids were quizzed on their understanding of road safety, being rewarded with a prize for correct answers.

Left (Left to right) Chris Devine, Harry Hazelbane, Chris Gorrington and Bernie Devine.

Below Left (Left to right) Steve Nalder, Megan Kingsley, Kathleen Lane and Sarah Gotch.



Just another day at the office

By S/C
Mark Pettitt

Recently, Daly River members were notified by several community members that there was a 'medium' sized crocodile on the front veranda of one of the houses within the Nauiyu community.

So, S/C Mark Pettitt, B/Sgt Steve Bott and Senior ACPO Mark Casey attended. On arrival the croc was very angry as it was being harassed by the local dog population.

"As Steve and I were looking around for some rope to make some form of noose, Mark Casey (who's nearly 60) ran and jumped onto the crocodile's back, wrestling its jaws closed and holding it relatively still while we used the rope to tie its jaws closed. I think that even Steve Irwin would have been proud of Mark's effort," Mark Pettitt said.

The crocodile – which measured around 2.5m in length, was then taken to another part of the Daly River, away from the community, and released unharmed.

Another fun day out of the office for our team.



Ken Williams takes out Auxiliary of the Year

There must be something about the name Williams that just makes them winners. Serena took out Wimbledon, Prince William can have the throne and the NT Police Force's most loved couple have each been awarded the Auxiliary of the Year Award.



Above Ken, Pauline and the Commissioner.

Right Ken and Pauline Williams.



After joining the NT Police Force at the age of 54 as an Auxiliary Communicator, Ken Williams has devoted many years to the Northern Territory Police. His commitment and passion for the role make him a much valued and respected member of the NT Police family.

The Commissioner of Police, John McRoberts, travelled to Tennant Creek to present Ken with his award.

Ken was overjoyed to receive the award from the Commissioner and hold his plaque which he says is "going straight to the pool room".

"I'm really overwhelmed with receiving this award. With all the great work Auxiliaries do across the Territory I never in my wildest dreams thought that this award would go to me,"

Ken said.

Ken was nominated for his ongoing support of colleagues, his energy to get the job done and his compassion for the wider community that he serves.

Ken commenced with the NT Police Force in 2001 and has served in Darwin at the JESCC, Watch House, Court Cells and

Summary Prosecutions Section. Ken is presently serving in Tennant Creek.

The Commissioner congratulated Ken on his commitment to the NT Police Force and formally presented Ken with his Award on Wednesday 14 April.

"I'm really overwhelmed with receiving this award. With all the great work Auxiliaries do across the Territory I never in my wildest dreams thought that this award would go to me."

Auxiliary of the Year, Ken Williams.

Congratulations to Ken and all of the Police Auxiliaries who were nominated for the award, which recognises the valuable contribution that all Police Auxiliaries make to the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Chief Minister visits Territory Response Section

On Monday 8 March Chief Minister Paul Henderson and the Member for Fannie Bay, Michael Gunner, visited the Territory Response Section (TRS) facility at PMC for a routine inspection.

During his visit the Chief Minister was able to inspect specialist weapons and kit utilised within the section, including the Bomb Response Unit robots and marksman equipment.

Mr. Gunner kindly volunteered to don a full tactical operator kit that included ballistic vest and method of entry (MOE) tools. He was able to

experience the difficulty of maintaining mobility whilst carrying 40+ kilograms of kit.

The Chief Minister kindly volunteered to role play as a hostage during a high risk apprehension scenario that was resolved using distraction devices and Taser deployment.

Officer in Charge of TRS, Senior Sergeant Peter Schiller, said that members of the TRS were honoured to host the visit and hoped that the Chief Minister gained a better appreciation of the role of the section.

Photo Member for Fannie Bay, Mr Michael Gunner, donning a full tactical operator kit alongside Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Senior Sergeant Peter Schiller.



Commissioner McRoberts opens new Police Training Facility

The new 785sqm Police Training Facility was officially opened on Friday 18 June by Commissioner of Police John McRoberts. The new facility includes three classrooms, a teacher's office and an amenities block, as well as extra parking.

Mr McRoberts said that the Police Training Facility provides an elite learning resource for members, with a particular focus on increased pre-deployment training for our police posted to remote communities.

"There will be a particular focus on community engagement education and training for our police going into remote communities," he said.

"Community engagement continues to play a vital role in remote policing.

"Task Force Themis members work

hard to develop and initiate community engagement programs to build rapport and acceptance of police in the community.

"Good community engagement programs ensure police are seen as part of the community and not just a reactive law enforcement body," Mr. McRoberts said.

The new facility is a Commonwealth funded project through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, under the joint operation Task Force Themis.

In June 2007 the Australian Government declared a national emergency in the Northern Territory following the release of the 'Little Children are Sacred' report. The Northern Territory Emergency Response Task Force was formed to coordinate the Australian Government intervention in the Northern Territory.

Task Force Themis is the NT Police response to the Australian Government intervention and has been working with the NT Emergency Response Taskforce

and FaHCSIA State and Federal offices to provide additional policing resources into prescribed communities.

Task Force Themis has added an additional 18 temporary police stations and four overnight stations throughout remote communities and an additional 66 police serving at these locations.

The initial multijurisdictional response saw police members from all over Australia posted at Themis locations as part of the Federal intervention. Currently, there are 19 Australian Federal Police still serving at Themis locations, however by June next year these members will be replaced by NT Police.

The new training facility will enable NT Police to continue to recruit and grow its force in line with a rapidly expanding population. The college will allow for extended pre-deployment training courses, which will have a particular focus on cultural awareness training and community engagement education.

The Commissioner thanked Donna Moody and her team at FaHCSIA for their assistance in facilitating the funding arrangements for the new college and also thanked Les Martin and his team from the Themis office for coordinating the project at a local level.



Finke Desert Race – Alice Springs

More than 2800 drivers were breath tested during the three day Finke Desert Race south of Alice Springs in June.

Of these, only three tested positive for alcohol, so, according to Sergeant Conan Robertson, the public seemed to be getting the message.

“We have a very high profile police presence at Finke every year and this is extremely important with thousands of people camping out along the track for the three days.”

“While three drink drivers is three too many, we were relatively pleased with the behaviour of most people at the event. Each year there are always some who will behave badly and this year the idiot award went to the driver of a sedan with two females roof-surfing.

“The driver was travelling at more than 50 kilometres per hour on the rough dirt track while two teenage girls clung to the roof by a piece of rope strung between the front doors.”

Sgt Robertson and seven other police camped out at Deep Well, 60 kilometres south of the start line.

“Each year we camp out among the rest of the spectators to ensure we maintain that high profile police presence. This not only makes us accessible should anything go wrong, but it also acts as a deterrent to those who would otherwise behave badly,” Sgt Robertson said.

Background During the weekend police found time to use a speed gun on the motor cycles as they hurtled along the track.

Right Police camped out among the spectators and endured the year's coldest night to date.

Below Right Police kept the campfire burning during the cold Finke weekend.



Farewell to our *Longest Serving Members*



Earlier this year, Deputy Commissioner Wernham announced his retirement and last month, Assistant Commissioner McAdie informed the Commissioner of Police that he, too, would be leaving the Police Force.

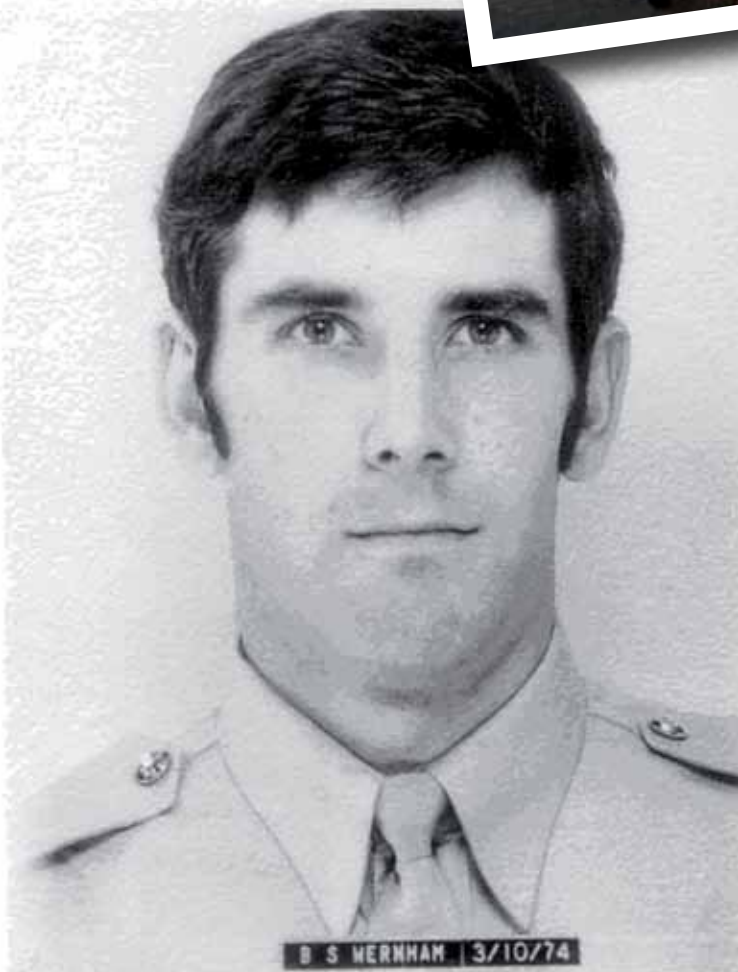
Both Bruce and Mark have committed a total of 70 years to the NT Police Force and have made a strong and positive contribution to our Tri-service and the wider Territory community.



At times like this it is traditional to reflect on the past and Deputy Commissioner Wernham has certainly had a long and distinguished career with the Northern Territory Police Force.

His first day was three months prior to Cyclone Tracy and he was the only remaining member of the Police Force to have been employed prior to the cyclone.

He has been a member of the National Counter Terrorism Committee since its inception in November 2002, the same year he won the Australian Police Medal. He has made significant contributions towards the establishment of Domestic Violence units across the Northern Territory, Social Order patrols, the Counter Terrorism Division, managed the rolling out of the Police Beats and the Youth Hub at Alice Springs and personally managed the introduction of Mutual Respect Community Agreements at Galiwinku and Ngukurr.



After 35 years as members of the Northern Territory Police Force, it is time to farewell our longest serving members Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham and Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie.

A Territorian before he joined the Police Force, Mark McAdie joined NT Police in June 1975 and has led an extensive and diverse career serving in General Duties in many remote, regional and rural stations, the CIB, Forensics and Professional Responsibility Division.

In 1998 he became Commander of the Darwin Region and was appointed Assistant Commissioner, Corporate Services in 2002.

You'll be hard pressed to find a member that has not engaged in a conversation with Mark McAdie. While he plans on enjoying some time off in semi-retirement, he will continue to live in the Territory and remain close to police through his involvement with the Police Historical Society, the Police Monument, the Police Supplementary Benefit Scheme and Police Legacy.

Deputy Commissioner Wernham officially ceased duty on 19 July 2010 and Western Australian Assistant Commissioner Shayne Maines took up the position on 26 July. Assistant Commissioner McAdie ceased duty officially on 4 August 2010.

We would like to thank Bruce Wernham and Mark McAdie for their commitment to the Northern Territory Police Force and the Tri-service over the past four decades and wish them both all the best for their futures.



Farewell Damon

On 28 April 2010, staff at the Peter McAulay Centre said farewell to long-time courier Damon Neilson, who has left Darwin for sunny Queensland. Damon commenced with the Tri-service in November 1995 and has provided a courier service to staff at PMC for the last 15 years. Damon made a significant contribution to the agency during his time with us by ensuring that the processing of freight and mail sorting and delivery was always done in a timely and efficient manner.

A lunch was held for Damon on 27 April at Records Management where Damon was

presented with a Tri-service plaque and a Commissioner's Letter of Recognition from Executive Officer, Garry Lambert. The response to the request for contributions towards a farewell gift for Damon was overwhelming and Damon was presented with a Wii plus game and a NSW jersey.

We wish Damon nothing but the best and hope that he enjoys his new life in Queensland. We're certain he'll be a regular at the State of Origin games at Suncorp Stadium!

Fridays will never be the same without the Man in Black!



Left Damon was wrapped with his farewell presents from the Tri-service.

Below After 15 years with PFES, Damon's always smiling face will certainly be missed.



NTES Alice Springs farewell Phil Walker

By Raechel Molloy

Phillip (Phil) Walker has been an active volunteer member with the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit of the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) since July 1997 where he became involved in various sections and activities of the unit, including attending many operational call-outs in support of the Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

His attributes were very soon realised and he was appointed to the position of Unit Officer in 1999. Since that time he has held the position of Unit Officer with the Alice Springs unit and has achieved many goals that had been set by himself, the Volunteer Unit or the Manager, Southern Region.

Phil has always responded admirably and immediately when called upon by the regional staff or police to provide operational assistance no matter the time of day and always with a positive and professional attitude. His leadership style, patience and ability to communicate have ensured that his team functioned safely and effectively and for the overall benefit of the community.

Phil has the full support and respect of the volunteers within his own unit, as well as the volunteers and unit officers across the region. He also has the utmost respect and support of all NTES Southern Region staff.

Besides being fully qualified in all disciplines undertaken by Emergency Service volunteers, such as vertical rescue, Phil has achieved the following:

- represented volunteers and the NTES at the National Volunteer Managers' Summit in Canberra;
- developed National Training Resource kits for a number of public safety units;
- team leader in the National Disaster Rescue competition held in Brisbane in 2009;
- unit representative at volunteer conferences conducted throughout the Northern Territory;
- initiated programs and applications to several funding bodies to acquire funds for the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit, which has allowed them to purchase equipment or to further their skills training to the benefit of the community; and

- awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by Chief Minister Paul Henderson in 2008 for completing 10 years as a voluntary member of the Northern Territory Emergency Service.

Phil must be congratulated for his tireless efforts and leadership towards the overall advancement of the volunteers, the organisation and the wider community in which he served as an NTES volunteer. His resignation as the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit Officer and his move interstate with his family will see him missed by all.

Retirement of Sergeant Bob Allen and Senior Constable Tom Parker

Two police officers, who have almost 60 years service between them, recently celebrated their retirement in Alice Springs.

Sergeant Bob Allen and Senior Constable Tom Parker have remained firm friends since joining the Northern Territory Police Force within a year of each other. Tom joined in March 1980 as a member of Squad 32 with Bob joining in May 1981 in Squad 34.

When Bob finished recruit training he spent six months in Darwin and was then posted to Katherine and Wave Hill where he spent the next two and a half years. He then moved to Mataranka for three years before being posted to Jabiru for the next six years. He was then transferred to Alice Springs where he spent eight years as a General Duties police officer. In August 2003 Bob was posted to Papunya where he served as the Officer in Charge of the station until December last year. He then returned to Alice Springs for his last few months before retiring.

During his years with NT Police he married his wife Michelle and they had three children - Kerry, James and Eliza.

"The thing I've enjoyed most about my time with NT Police has most definitely been the bush work, especially the positive effect you can have on the community," Bob said.

"I've enjoyed working in most places. Mataranka I liked, but some of that got a bit annoying with some of the stupid things the tourists would do.

"I've made a lot of good friends in police and I guess I'll miss the camaraderie," he said.

Bob and his wife will remain in Alice Springs.

Tom, too, spent most of his police life as a 'bush copper' with postings to Katherine and Yulara after a short stint in Darwin. In 1987, Tom was posted to Alice Springs where he served in General Duties and Traffic.

While Tom was in Yulara he became famous for being one of the police officers who found the matinee jacket believed to have belonged to Azaria Chamberlain – the baby who went missing from Ayers Rock in 1980.

Despite the notoriety, Tom remained a down-to-earth, level-headed cop who loved the companionship the job gave him.

"That's certainly one of the things I'll miss. We've made a lot of friends over the last 30 years, both in the job and with civilians," he said.

Tom and wife Jacqui have two children – daughter Kelly and son Daniel.

He and Jacqui will retire to South Australia near the water where, as Tom puts it, he'll be fishing, sailing and cabinet-making, which was his trade prior to becoming a police officer.

"And then we'll become grey nomads and come back and see our grandchildren."



Right top to bottom

It was an emotional night all round as Bob Allen was presented with his collage by David Chalker on behalf of the NT Police Association.

Superintendent Kym Davies made the presentation to Tom Parker at the farewell.

A night of good memories and good company was capped off with the presentations of NT Police Association collages made by David Chalker to Bob Allen (left) and Tom Parker (right).

Welcome Deputy Commissioner Maines

On 26 July 2010, our new Deputy Commissioner of Police, Shayne Maines, took up his post on the 6th Floor of the NAB Building, 71 Smith Street.



Having joined WAPOL as a Police Cadet in 1981, Deputy Commissioner Maines' career before joining us here in the Territory has been diverse. He has worked operationally throughout both remote and urban Western Australia and prior to being promoted to Assistant Commissioner in November 2008 (Specialist Enforcement and Operations Portfolio and the South Metropolitan Region), was Detective Superintendent of the Sex Crime Division, Specialist Crime and District Superintendent.

With extensive experience in the Standards Development Unit, Royal Commission Investigation Team and as

Principal Review Officer of the Management Audit Unit, Commissioner McRoberts said Mr Maines was the standout applicant from a high calibre field contesting the position.

"Shayne's exceptional leadership, management and policing skills will be put to good use in the NT Police Force," Mr McRoberts said.

In 2008 Mr Maines undertook two deployments to Samoa as Police Advisor with the AusAID Samoa Police Project.

"I think there are some fantastic opportunities in moving to the Territory," Mr Maines said.

"I enjoy the challenges of policing and this is a great honour for me."

26 tonnes of lift

Weighing in at 26 tonnes, the Bronto Skylift is the most impressive appliance in the NT Fire and Rescue Service fleet.

The Bronto, or 'Brontosaurus', as it is affectionately known, has a boom reach of 37 metres and can shoot out 3800 litres of water per minute through its monitor, which is quite an impressive stream. It can also work 10 metres below ground level, if required, which has come in handy to lift injured fishermen from their boat and get them safely onto the wharf.

The Bronto has been used to rescue people from balconies when it is too difficult to bring a stretcher down stairs or elevators and with the amount of high rises springing up all over Darwin the Bronto will always be needed for its aerial capabilities.

The big 12-wheeled Scania recently saved the day at a motel fire in Nightcliff where access to the blaze was difficult but due to the Bronto's height and ability to put so much water onto a fully involved building - saved the day.



Work Experience with NTES



NTES recently had the pleasure of hosting Tim Maxwell for a school approved work experience week in NTES Territory Headquarters. Tim is a Year 12 student from the Community Education Centre at Maningrida and has participated as an NTES Cadet for around 12 months.

Like all NTES volunteers, Tim was appointed only once he had completed his Volunteer Member Induction Course, which introduces new volunteer members to the NTES and a range of basic skills, including team work, radio communications, safety, basic rope work & knots and basic rescue techniques. As part of Tim's cadetship, he has also successfully completed his first aid and communications training.

Area Manager Arnhem, Don Hutley, was responsible for Tim during his week with NTES and successfully coordinated Tim's time with NTES. During Tim's visit, he underwent vertical rescue (rope rappelling) practice with the NTES Training Unit and assisted Public Education Officer Megan Warry with assembling show bags for the NTES Tri-service tent during this year's show circuit. Tim commented that driving with Don and shopping for NTES equipment will be his favourite memories of his time here with NTES.



Left Tim practicing communications.

Above Tim Maxwell and Don Hutley, Area Manager Arnhem.

Disaster Victim Identification Training

By Superintendent
Tony Fuller

Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) is the internationally accepted Interpol process of identifying the deceased in a mass fatality incident. Last year, the NT Police dispatched members to the Victorian bushfire response to assist with the identification process of the victims of that disaster. Shortly after, in April 2009, we were faced with our own DVI incident with the death of five persons aboard the SIEV-36 asylum seeker vessel that exploded near Ashmore Reef. The Northern Territory Police does not have a full-time commitment to DVI but maintains a cadre of trained personnel that it calls upon in cases that are declared DVI incidents.

In the wake of these disasters, this year the Northern Territory Police greatly enhanced its capability to respond to DVI incidents by conducting two DVI training courses held in Darwin during March and May.

In March, the NT Police hosted the first DVI Coordinator's Course to be held in Australia using a recently released Australasian Disaster Victim Identification Committee (ADVIC) endorsed training package. Seventeen NT Police and six members drawn from South Australia Police, Western Australia Police, Victoria Police and the Australian Federal Police took part in the two-week training course. The training was greatly assisted by lecturers from Victoria, Queensland and the AFP presenting on a variety of topics, including case studies on the Victorian bushfires, the Kokoda plane crash, various Indonesian bombings and disasters from around the world. The participants studied all phases of the DVI process using a scenario centred on the Kerang train crash in Victoria but based it in the Northern Territory.

Guest speakers on the course included representatives from the NT Fire and Rescue Service, the Coroner, Greg Cavanagh SM, Employee Services, Odontologist Mark Leedham and a number of others.

In May 2010, 18 NT Police members from across the Territory took part in a one-week DVI Practitioner's Course. These members were trained in survey, examination and recording and retrieval of human remains at a disaster scene. They were also trained in dealing with victim's families and recording and collecting Ante-Mortem information. During the course they took part in a NCTC-funded drill style exercise where they processed a simulated bombing scene involving five victims at a bombing range near Robertson Barracks. Members of the Territory Response Section detonated a device at the scene giving the students a realistic appreciation of what to expect when recovering human remains at such a site.



Left and Right DVI members surveying the scene.

DVI response – Air North crash Darwin

On Monday 22 March 2010, an Air North E120 twin turbo prop plane, callsign VH-ANB, crashed after take off at Darwin Airport killing both pilots on board. As fate would have it, 16 Northern Territory police and five interstate police members were undergoing the second week of Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) coordinator's training in Darwin. Members on the course were utilised to assist with the DVI process.

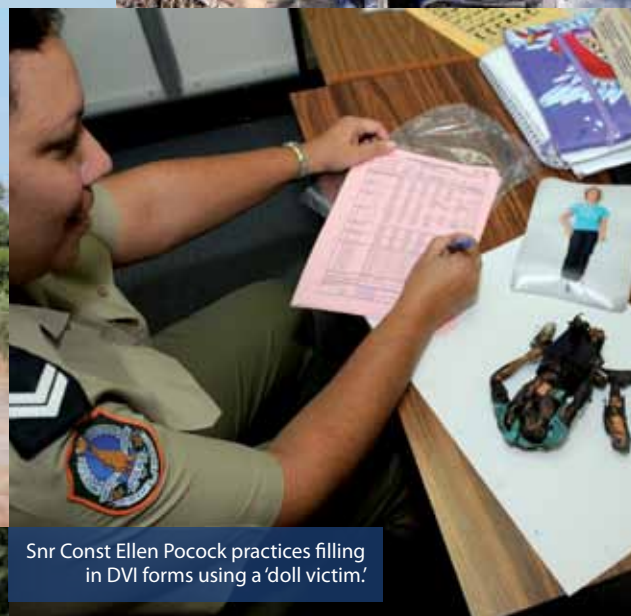
Darwin General Duties members initially attended and secured the scene. Major Crime members were deployed to investigate the deaths of the pilots along with the Coroner's Constable and Crime Scene members. DVI teams were also dispatched to the scene to assist with the investigation and identification of the deceased. The scene was particularly hazardous given the extent of impact and fire damage to the plane, coupled with the numerous hazards that can be normally expected at an aircraft crash.

It was quickly established that there were only two persons on board at the time of the crash, those being Air North pilots Shane Whitbread and Greg Seymon.

DVI Ante-Mortem/Family Liaison teams were assigned to each family and they maintained contact with the families to ensure that each was kept up to date with the identification process. Both victims were later removed by the DVI scene team and an Identification Board was held and identifications accepted by the Deputy Coroner on Thursday 25 March.

This was truly a team effort between various specialities, where all members worked together professionally to get the job done as quickly and safely as possible. Their actions have reflected positively on the image of the NT Police Force with personal acknowledgements received from the CEO of the airline and the families.

Whilst a relatively small DVI job, a number of issues arose that were cause for concern and these presented the NTPFES the opportunity to better plan and prepare for potential mass fatality incidents in the future. *Source: NT News 23 March 2010*



NT Policewoman visits the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Cortney McCartney from the NT Mounted Police Unit has recently returned from an amazing trip to Canada to visit the Musical Ride Branch of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Cortney was the only Australian to take part in the two week long seminar that took place in Ottawa commencing on 15 March.

Along with 12 other participants from the United States and Canada, Cortney spent the two weeks learning basic dressage movements and jumping techniques. The Musical Ride has been performing for Canadians since 1887 and over the years its popularity has grown and is now seen at up to 50 locations each year.

Cortney said it was an awesome experience and it's something that all mounted police members should do.

"Not only do you have access to the RCMP members but also mounted members from the USA and other countries. They were invaluable with their knowledge and information," she said.

All of the participants got to be in the arena together with some of the RCMP Musical Ride members and had a go at performing the

ride by executing a series of drill movements to make it look like a dance.

According to Cortney, the horses were so well trained they knew what to do, which helped avoid lots of 'rookie' crashes and mistakes.

"The Musical Ride members make it look so easy and graceful but there is a whole lot of skill involved," she said.

While Cortney was on the trip she was lucky enough to see the RCMP preparing for the Queen's visit involving some horses that were in training to pull the carriage she would be sitting in.

"The members of the RCMP took me under their wings as I was the only 'Aussie' and they were very hospitable," she said.

"They even organised a curling session (think lawn bowls only on ice!!) for everyone and after gaining some tips from the regulars I was able to put on a half decent game, complete with thrills and plenty of spills."

Most of the participants stayed in the

one hotel about three kilometres from the headquarters and everyone was social and didn't see many early nights.

Cortney took away some great advice from the trip and even taught a few of the Canadians some Aussie lingo.

"I would like to thank the NTPA for their donations. The other police members were thrilled to receive their little trinkets from the Territory," Cortney said.

Far Left Top to Bottom
Me and 'Ossie' outside
the log cabin.

Lining up the curling stone
for the perfect throw.

Meeting the RCMP mascot
at the open day.

Below RCMP Musical Ride
members practicing their
drill movements. This
move is called 'The Star'.



Fire regulations for caravan parks

No doubt about it, the Dry season is a beautiful time to be outdoors – and what better way to enjoy a break than to pack up the caravan and see everything the Territory has to offer. Whilst enjoying the experience, the NTFRS would like to remind campers that there are strict regulations when it comes to fire safety in caravan parks.

Top Right to Bottom
Caravan fires involve
rapid and intense
fire spread.

36 metre fire hose reels
strategically located
around the park
provide for personal
and asset protection.

In November 2005, the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory passed into law regulations in relation to fire safety in caravan parks in the NT. Significant consultation with industry and owners occurred over a period of two years prior to the introduction of these regulations.

Regulation 12 of the Fire and Emergency Regulations cover six key fire safety areas, namely:

Separation – caravans must be separated from each other by a minimum of three metres.

Vehicular Access – vehicular access within the park is sufficient to enable fire-fighting equipment to enter and access all areas of the park.

Fire Hose Reels – 36 metre fire hose reels complying with Australian Standards 2441 are installed and connected to a permanent water supply to cover all caravan areas of the park.

Smoke Alarms – all rental and permanently sited caravans that are controlled by the owner or occupier of the land are fitted with a smoke alarm that is either hard wired to mains electricity or a sealed long life lithium battery smoke alarm.

Flammable/combustible material – the owners of the park must ensure that flammable or combustible material (leaf litter etc) is not permitted to accumulate on the land in a way that constitutes a danger by fire.

Emergency Management Plan – the owner of the caravan park must prepare and display an emergency management plan and ensure that all staff of the park are trained in the procedures contained in that plan.

The NTFRS has produced pamphlets relating to fire safety in caravan parks. These pamphlets are available at all fire stations and at the Community Safety office

on Level 4 of the NAB building in Smith Street, Darwin. Any further enquiries can be made by contacting Senior Station Officer Graham Johnson at Community Safety on 8995 8961.



Lack of separation between caravans
is a disaster waiting to happen.

Desert Leadership Program – Alice Springs

An Alice Springs police officer and a fireman have been selected to participate in the first Desert Leadership Program.

Constable James Nolan and Firefighter David Quan are among 19 young people to be selected to take part in the two-year program.

The aim of the Alice Springs Desert Leadership Program is to increase the leadership capacity of the Alice Springs community, both indigenous and non-indigenous, for the next generation of leaders.

The program is guided by a Reference Group comprising former Administrator of the Northern Territory, Ted Egan AO, former Alice Springs Mayor, Fran Kilgariff, Desert Knowledge Australia Board Director, Des Rogers, Desert Knowledge Australia CEO, John Huigen, interpreter and Bi-Cultural Consultant, Kenny Lechleitner, Deputy Administrator Pat Miller and His Worship the Mayor, Damien Ryan.

James Nolan said he decided to participate in the program because as a long-term Alice Springs resident he was keen to contribute to the community.

"I decided to take part in the program because I believe I have something to contribute to the broader Central Australian community in the interest of moving forward as a multi-cultural community," James said.

"Also, in participating in the program I hope to achieve a greater understanding of the qualities required for leadership and also tackle some of the challenges currently facing the Alice Springs community."

Firefighter David Quan said he was interested in taking part in the program because it gave him the opportunity to forge strong ties with other members of the program and with senior leaders in Central Australia.

"I am looking forward to having a mentor who I am able to touch base with and use as a sounding board."

"I hope to learn and develop my leadership skills and then be able to put those skills into practice in my workplace and the community."

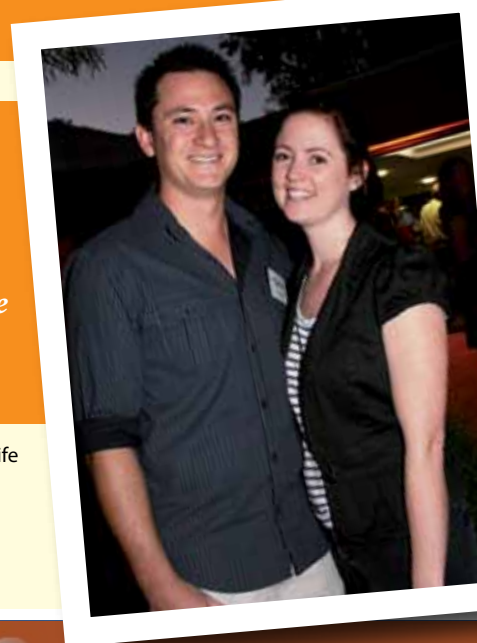
"We will be spending a significant amount of time over the next two years working through a range of extremely complex issues that we will have to confront. However, we will have a lot of opportunities to spend time together in our group and build strong ties and friendships, which will assist our roles," David said.

"I decided to take part in the program because I believe I have something to contribute to the broader Central Australian community in the interest of moving forward as a multi-cultural community," James said.

"I hope to learn and develop my leadership skills and then be able to put those skills into practice in my workplace and the community," David said.

Above Constable James Nolan with his wife Leah, sons Cormac, 2, and Declan, 11, and daughters Ailis, 7, and Grace, 8.

Right Firefighter David Quan with new bride Monica.



Retired Police Association
of the Northern Territory



Joining RPANT

Many members who retire from the Northern Territory Police Force often suffer from trauma and depression - they miss the job and their mates.

The Retired Police Association of the Northern Territory (RPANT) is a way of keeping in touch with former colleagues.

The Association is not only open to retired members but also those who have been honourably discharged.

Whether members end their service through resignation, ill-health or early retirement they are eligible to join. Officers about to leave the NT Police who wish to join should contact the Association for an application form.

Membership costs \$25.00 per year and members receive quarterly newsletters by post.

For more information about RPANT contact Secretary Graham Rees on 0409 726 906 or (08) 8922 3374 Visit www.rpant.asn.au or email rpant@bigpond.com

A 'No Borders' approach

The 2010 Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID) and Dog Operations Unit (DOU) management meeting was held on Thursday 20 May. The meeting was an informal information sharing session between the three police forces represented (NT, SA and WA) and FaHCSIA.

SAID is a Tri-State initiative funded by the Commonwealth to combat the supply of illegal substances and reduce substance abuse. SAID was launched in Alice Springs in January 2006 and in Katherine in February 2009. It is a combined initiative to develop a strategy in response to petrol sniffing, alcohol and illicit drug abuse problems in remote Aboriginal communities within the cross-border region of the three jurisdictions.

Since the inception of the SAID in Alice Springs, FaHCSIA has invested approximately \$12m in the SAIDs and DOUs and has been very pleased with the results.

Speaking at the conference, A/Deputy Commissioner Grahame Kelly emphasised the importance of a 'no borders' approach to tackling the supply of illegal substances.

"There must be a freedom to gather information and develop relationships in communities," A/DC Kelly said.

"There must be a continued strong emphasis on disruption and interdiction activities and there has to be a strong emphasis on a 'no borders' approach.

"These initiatives allow for information and intelligence sharing and cooperative operational activities that make our communities safer places.

"It is vitally important to take stock, to look back over time and see the achievements, and more importantly than that, to think about the future, reset our focus and tune up our approach," he said.

A/DC Kelly also thanked FaHCSIA for the significant funding and for supporting and driving the SAID and DOU initiatives.

"The reality for the NT and other jurisdictions is that if it had not been for the financial support and commitment of the people involved, these very successful units simply would not exist.

"These sorts of gatherings are a very important part of our business, especially as we improve our cross border operations," he said.

Bogus bang brings out the best

Our Tri-service response capability was again highlighted in a recent mock Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) exercise conducted under the auspices of the National Counter Terrorism Committee (NCTC). NTPFES along with National Critical Care, Royal Darwin Hospital's Trauma Response Centre and St John Ambulance conducted the 'drill style' exercise at the NTFRS USAR site at Yarrowonga.

Initially, NTFRS appliances were turned out to a "possible explosion" at a mock shopping mall. This initial response to the incident was a standard response and NTFRS attendance would be to control fires and commence rescue operations.

Once the extent of the incident had been ascertained, the USAR team responded and the exercise kicked into overdrive. For the purposes of this exercise, the incident involved a man driving his vehicle into a shopping centre area and an explosive device being detonated.

The USAR team, consisting of members from NTFRS, NTES and St John, then organised a line and hail search of the collapsed building. As they search they identify and mark areas where people may be trapped under rubble.

The Category Two operators then take over on the incident site using specialised equipment, such as search cameras, to locate victims. This is followed up by the use of heavy cutting tools and shoring to remove trapped persons.

NTES responded with a general rescue crew to assist in the operation. St John Ambulance Service responded for first aid through triage and provided transport of casualties.

During this drill, RDH were able to trial a patient tracking system for casualties involved in the exercise.

NT police assumed the role of control and set up a command structure to assist in the initial management of the incident, along with road blocks to cordon off the area.

Incident Controller, District Officer Rob Trewartha, said that the exercise was a pre-planned response and all teams worked very well together. Along with District Officer Dave Ellis and Leading Firefighter (Qualified) Dave Lines, DO Trewartha was happy with the response.

"We achieved a lot of our objectives in this exercise. We were also able to identify areas we need to improve upon," he said.

Numerous members of the Tri-service staff (including public servants) participated in this exercise, both operationally and in casualty role playing capacities.



Hazard Reduction 2010

By Firefighter Patrick Skewes

The NTFRS Hazard Reduction program was delayed this year due to the unexpected wet season rains. The rain hung on for so long the dead spear grass had begun to mulch. The burn program usually commences around the beginning of May, however as it was still raining at the time, the commencement date was put back until 10 May. Even then things were a little damp and burns had to be cancelled due to boggy conditions. There is nothing quite as disconcerting as a fire that you have lit bearing down on you while bogged!

The first burn for the year was also the official launch of the Fire Season.

Leading Firefighter Mark Harbeck and his crew provided a smoky backdrop for the media, perfectly framing the presentation of the new style fire indicator panels featuring the 'catastrophic' section, which was added after the Black Saturday fires in Victoria last year.

It also presented Mick Ayre to the Territory public as our new Assistant Director in charge of Development and Strategy.

The new developments around Darwin created their own problems this year. With large machines breaking holes in the virgin bush at Johnston, Bellamac, Zuccoli, Tiger Brennan and Wishart Road, grass was disappearing fast.

Despite the late wet, and the subsequent delays, the firefighters rose to the occasion and the urban burn program was completed by 18 June.

Prescribed burning is an essential tool in the overall preparation for wild fire. Without the neutral zones created by burning against residential areas, combating wild fires becomes far more difficult. The time spent at wild fires by firefighters is also greatly reduced due to the work carried out by firefighters in the early dry season.

The Northern Territory is blessed due to the cooperative approach from all land management agencies. The acceptance by the Territory public is also crucial in allowing the Fire Service unprecedented freedom to carry out the strategic work so essential to public and firefighter safety.



Graduation Accelerated Recruitment Program (ARP) Squad 106



Above Constable 1/C Rosemary MacDonald with the Commissioner's Trophy.

Seventeen experienced police officers from jurisdictions outside the Northern Territory were sworn into the NT Police Force in June after successfully completing the 10 week intensive Accelerated Recruitment Program.

The ARP is designed to encourage experienced constables from other states and territories to join the NTPFES in order to bring a broad base of skills and experience to the Territory. The new officers from ARP Squad 106 completed studies in the areas of legislation, policy and procedure, IT systems, police safety and practice, investigation procedures, intelligence and information, traffic enforcement, drug and property offences, welfare in the community, domestic and family violence, skills blocks and cultural training.

Constable 1/C Rosemary MacDonald, who received the Commissioner's Trophy,

said: "The last 10 weeks have been really full on - learning the different legislation was challenging but the firearms training was fantastic.

"I am looking forward to working in Alice Springs and experiencing a unique part of the Territory. Camping, bike riding and bush walking are a must do," she said.

Fifteen members of the squad graduated to the rank of 1/C Constable and two members to the rank of Constable.

The 17 graduates will take up duties across the Northern Territory. Greater Darwin Region (5), Katherine (5), Tennant Creek (3), Alice Springs (2) and JESCC (2).

"I am looking forward to working in Alice Springs and experiencing a unique part of the Territory. Camping, bike riding and bush walking are a must do." Constable 1/C Rosemary MacDonald.

Below Squad 106 with NT Police dignitaries and the Chief Minister.



It's an Honour

By Senior Sergeant Craig Ryan

Like almost every other country in the world, Australia has a system of honours and awards so its citizens can be recognised for excellence, achievement and meritorious service. The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Service also honours its members with service medals, valour awards, commendations and letters of recognition.



In 2009, the Commissioner appointed a dedicated member, Auxiliary Leanne Atherton, to coordinate the medals and awards process. Leanne has the very big responsibility of receiving applications and nominations through the chain-of-command, scheduling meetings of the Integrity Committee to approve applications, ordering medals and planning and organising investiture ceremonies throughout the Territory for the Tri-service.

Currently, two separate General Orders govern awards and recognition across the Tri-service. These General Orders are under review and will be consolidated into a single General Order expected to be circulated in August 2010.

The Commissioner has directed that all medals and awards across the Tri-service be presented at investiture ceremonies. These are held twice yearly in Darwin and Alice Springs and regionally as volume dictates. Investitures are family-oriented and members are encouraged to bring along family and friends to celebrate and say thank you for dedicated service to the Northern Territory.

A member of the Tri-service may apply for an award in two ways:

- Self-Nomination – service medals are awarded for statutory periods of meritorious service and as a member reaches a milestone they may apply by filling out the nomination form and forwarding it through their chain-of-command.
- Management Nomination – a member's manager may nominate a member for a service medal, valour award or letter of recognition by filling out the nomination form and forwarding it through the chain-of-command.

Detailed instructions on nominations for medals and awards can be found on the intranet – Honours and Awards or by emailing pfes.medalsandawards@pfes.nt.gov.au

In late 2010, presentations of the new Australian National Police Service Medal (NPSM) will commence. The NPSM will recognise the ethical service, significant commitment and unique contribution to the nation demonstrated by sworn members of Australian police services. Police officers serving on or after 30 October 2008 and who have completed at least 15 years police service will be eligible for the NPSM. The NPSM is awarded in addition to the National Medal which will continue to recognise the long service of Australian police officers.



The Australian National Police Service Medal (NPSM).

Farewell Detective Superintendent David Pryce

Detective Superintendent David Pryce joined the Northern Territory Police Force as a Cadet on 9 February 1987. He had only just turned 17.

David has had a wide and varied career in the Northern Territory Police Force, commencing in Darwin General Duties and moving soon after to the Traffic Section. In 1991, David transferred to Alice Springs where he first went to General Duties but then made a name for himself when he moved to the CIB. There he was involved in many significant investigations, including a highly controversial death in custody.

David was promoted to Detective Sergeant in May 1997 and spent a short period at Ntaria.

His move to a bush station rather than stay in CIB was a testament to his commitment to personal development. In September 2000 David was promoted to Senior Sergeant and took up the position of OIC Jabiru.

David then moved to Darwin and later transferred to Katherine as OIC. This was probably unique in itself as David was in fact born in Katherine.

In February 2004, David was promoted to Superintendent and held positions as Staff Officer, Crime and Support, Drugs and Intelligence, Staff Officer to the Deputy Commissioner, Divisional Officer in Major Crime and Chief of Staff.

Whilst in Major Crime, David was heavily involved in the strategic case management of Operation Carnation, the investigation into the murder of James O'Connell. Under David's leadership, and in difficult circumstances, the offender was identified.

A commissioned officer since 2004, David has spent the last few years as Chief of Staff, working with three different Commissioners over the last six years.

Throughout David's distinguished 23 year career with NT Police, he has worked all over the Territory, in many different sections and made lots of friends along the way – he will be sorely missed by his NT Police comrades.

David Pryce has now taken up his new role as Commander, Policy and Planning with the AFP in Canberra.

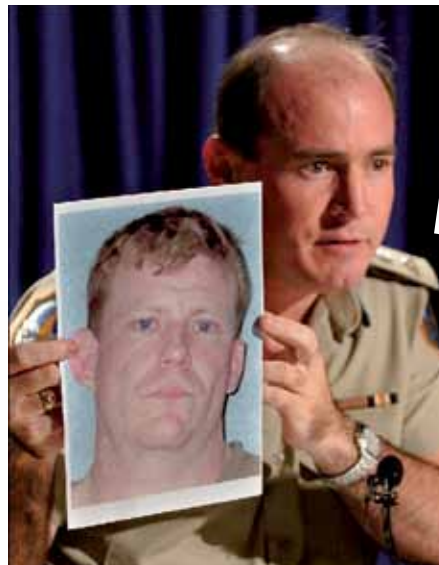
"I was at the College when David joined and I recall his antics tackling the obstacle course with reckless abandon while racing the equally mischievous Danny Bacon," said A/Assistant Commissioner Kate Vanderlaan.

"As someone watching from the sidelines, this youthful recklessness caused me great concern. But his commitment to improving his obstacle course times was indicative of the dedication he was to demonstrate throughout his career."

Right O'Connell case – David was the lead investigator.

Far Right David as a cadet. David Pryce (centre).

Below David as a police cadet at just 17 years old.



Squad photo – David graduated at just 17 years old in 1987.



Debbie and Daniel Middis Family Appeal Fund

Sunday 13 June was a black day in the Territory. A series of suspicious fires had been lit in the Leanyer area. Tragically, a young eight-year-old boy, Nicholas Middis, died in one of the fires and his mother, Debbie Middis, was seriously injured.

The Northern Territory Government has launched the Debbie and Daniel Middis Family Appeal Fund in partnership with the Australian Nursing Federation. The fund will support the Middis family following the devastating fire that claimed the life of their eight-year-old son Nicholas and destroyed the family home at Leanyer.

The Northern Territory Government is encouraging NT Public Sector employees to support the appeal. In support of this fund, arrangements have been made to allow public sector employees to contribute donations through the Department of Business and Employment's Payroll Services.

It is confirmed that 100% of all donations made to the Debbie and Daniel Middis Family Appeal Fund will go to the Middis family.

NT Public Sector employees wishing to donate have two options:

Option 1:

Use the Pay Deductions facility within my HR **<http://myhr.nt.gov.au/>**

You will need to use the Westpac details supplied below to commence the payment and please note, you will need to STOP the payment when you no longer wish to donate using the 'Cease Deduction' option in myHR.

Option 2:

Make a direct electronic transfer via your personal bank account

Direct payments can be made to the Debbie and Daniel Middis Family Appeal Fund via the following account details:

Westpac
BSB: 035 306
A/C: 105 972

The Australian Nursing Federation is seeking endorsement from the Australian Tax Office for the 'Debbie and Daniel Middis Family Appeal Fund' to become a registered charity for tax deductible purposes. Employee's pay slips will be accepted as proof of donation.

NT Public Sector employees making donations should retain their pay slip(s) for tax purposes.

Thank you for your support.

A kind gesture is long remembered

Back in 1982 I was travelling around Australia with my wife and young family - then two young daughters aged four and two (and today, we have three adult daughters). We were towing a Jayco Campervan and on our way back from Kakadu heading towards Darwin. Unfortunately, we had an 'incident' with a road train! Our campervan was clipped by the last trailer of a road train that was fishtailing and this sent our vehicle and campervan off the road, with the campervan breaking apart and throwing all our possessions over the roadway and into the bush on the side of the road.

When we came to a stop we were in a state of shock but were amazed that there were no injuries to any of us. The car was severely damaged (nearly written off) and the campervan was now just a flat tray with wheels and the remains of some kitchen cupboards. Our girls looked back at the road to see all their clothes and toys strewn for 100s of metres. Fortunately, the shocked driver of the road train stopped and suggested that he could give me a lift to Humpty Doo where the nearest available phone was to ring Darwin for a tow truck.

The first vehicle that came along stopped and offered us immediate assistance - it was Greg Nutt-Foster. He explained that he was a policeman but off duty and was on his way for a long weekend of fishing. After ensuring that everyone was safe and well, he helped us collect our possessions and tied them onto the frame of the campervan so we could salvage most of our stuff. He offered to stay with my wife and kids for a while as the nearest available phone was at least 40 minutes away at Humpty Doo. Just before I left with the road train driver to phone for a tow truck, Greg emphasised that it would be a major problem getting accommodation in Darwin due to the

Darwin Show. He said we were welcome to stay in a small flat under his house while he was away for the weekend. We were clueless and thanked him very much for all his help, assuring him that we would be OK. We certainly had no understanding of the situation in Darwin. Later, indeed Greg proved to be right - there would be no accommodation available for the four of us. Fortunately, Greg had insisted that we take his card with his home address and his neighbour's details.

We had waited hours and hours on the side of the road, being eaten alive by mosquitoes and relying on the generosity of fellow travellers who would stop to offer us a drink or a sandwich or some gentle, comforting support. Well, of course by the time the tow truck reached us and hooked up our car and the remains of the campervan, we were very weary and emotionally drained from the shock of the unexpected accident. We arrived in Darwin late into the night. At about midnight we decided we needed to take up the offer of this kind, generous and trusting policeman, Greg Nutt-Foster. We went to his neighbours in Malak who had their lights on and were waiting for us. Greg had apparently contacted them earlier in the day to tell them to expect this young family who had been involved in a road accident. My wife, my then two daughters and I were very happy to be able to 'call it a day'. We collected the keys and settled into the flat under Greg's house.

A couple of days later Greg returned from his holiday and told us that he expected to see us again on his return. He offered to let us stay for a few days longer while we sorted out what we were doing with the car and all our belongings. A few days become a few weeks with all the insurance claims etc, when eventually my wife and girls ended up returning by plane to Sydney - the trip was over! However, I had to stay in Darwin as the parts for my car were going to take a couple of weeks coming from Adelaide. Greg, of course, told me I was most welcome to stay on. I got to know the man a little better over the period of my stay and met a few of his NT Police colleagues. I even went on a fishing trip with Greg and his mates one weekend which was a great experience for a young businessman from suburban Sydney.

When it was time for me to depart Darwin and take all our belongings back to Sydney, I thanked Greg, told him that he was very special and really made a difference and a lasting impact on myself and my wife. I told him I hoped my then two daughters would always remember how a kind person made such a difference to all of us. However, it was never really enough of a 'thank you' so that's why I was anxious to contact him. I was going to tell him that I often think of him and recall his kindness and generosity.

"...he changed my attitude towards the police and it restores my faith in human nature (when quite often this needs restoring). I think Greg was a true gentleman and a really decent human being. Our lives are much the richer for having had this experience."

Greg was a great ambassador for Darwin and the NT Police. There are numerous people in Sydney who have heard the story about Greg Nutt-Foster. I know he just thought this was normal behaviour responding to a family in need and that 'anyone else would do it' but I don't think this is the case - he changed my attitude towards the police and it restores my faith in human nature (when quite often this needs restoring). I think Greg was a true gentleman and a really decent human being. Our lives are much the richer for having had this experience.

I am sure his family knew what a wonderful guy he was and that there are many more stories like ours about this 'great bloke'. May he rest in peace and may he be remembered with great fondness and respect.

Sergeant 3rd Class Greg Nutt-Foster served with the Northern Territory Police Force for 14 years from 17 Feb 1973 – 1 July 1987. Sadly, Greg passed away last year on 27 of December, aged 61.



In the spotlight Rob Jordan

Detective Senior Sergeant Rob Jordan was recently acknowledged for his outstanding leadership skills and was the recipient of the NT Police Leadership Medal. Rob was nominated for the award for his positive outcomes in several operations and for inspiring and encouraging other members. Joining the NT Police in 1988, Rob set out for an adventure and has never looked back.

Recipient of the NT Police Leadership Medal – what do you think this was for?

Not quite sure really ...I tried to listen when they were reading the information about me when I received the award but couldn't hear very well. I think that I received the award because of my work in managing the Commander's Tactical Team and being part of a team that has achieved some really good results in the fight against property crime. I am lucky to be working with a group of men and women who have a thirst for locking up crooks and are easy to manage (most of the time).

Funniest moment with NT Police?

There are no funny moments in the Police Force. Police don't have sense of humour - just ask the public.

But I guess one of the funniest things I can remember is when I was working at Lajamanu and I was called out to a disturbance at the basketball courts. When my partner and I arrived at the scene, we discovered a drunken angry woman who I had to try and lock up. She was screaming and yelling at me and it was the days when you would go to a call out in a police shirt and pair of shorts. When I went to grab her to lock her up she started to fight and we both fell to the ground. There was a crowd watching on and she shouted out "F*** off skinny legs". We both started laughing and so did everyone else. I finally got her into the back of the van and drove to the police station and backed up to the cells. She was still screaming and yelling. I remember that she happened to find an old apple in the van and she started to throw it against the side. As she threw it, it would break up a little bit each time. I had to peak around the corner of the van to tempt her to keep throwing the apple until it completely broke up and then it was safe to get her out. As I opened the back of the van the woman had removed her knickers and threw them at me. Seeing a pair of dirty knickers heading straight for your face is one of the most frightening things you could ever encounter! Anyway, I managed to duck out of the way and the knickers only just missed me. I managed to get her into the cells and eventually charge her.

I didn't think much of it after that, until it came to court day. I was prosecuting the woman and standing before the magistrate. I had to read out the précis, which took a few minutes in between the laughter of the defence lawyer, myself and the defendant.

I looked over at the magistrate who I could tell was fighting hard not to giggle himself.

What made you decide on a career with NT Police? I have always wanted to be a policeman from a very early age. I applied to the South Australian police when I was 18, however I was knocked back because I was under weight. A couple of years later I decided I would try the NT Police. The first time I got invited to do the testing but never made it as the night before was a bit too big and I was a bit 'wounded'.

I then tried when I was 22 and was successful. This was way back in 1988. The NT was still the final frontier in Australia and seemed like a great place. It was to be an adventure and it hasn't let me down.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Elizabeth and Gawler in South Australia. I went to the Gawler High School until I was kicked out at 17. I worked in a couple of pubs, GMH and a hardware store before joining the NT Police.

What did you want to be when you grew up? I have always wanted to be a policeman, even when I was a young child and I still maintain it's the second best job in the world.

The first you ask? ...A fighter pilot ...and I was never going to be one of them.

Career highlight so far? I have had a number of career highlights in every area I have worked in.

I worked for four years in the Drug Enforcement Unit as it was called then and worked with some really great detectives and terrific mentors. I ran an operation jointly with the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) where we had a couple of American undercover agents trying to purchase drugs throughout the nightclub scene. Thinking the operation was going to be a bit of a fizzer, I was ecstatic to get heaps of arrests and seize a heap of drugs. The operation ended up being the most successful of its type in the whole Asia Pacific region. I even managed to get a trip to the USA courtesy of the US Government to accept an award on behalf of the Drug Enforcement Unit.

Serving six months as part of the UN mission in East Timor was also a great highlight of my career. Just to see and live in a developing country makes you appreciate what you have back home. I was part of the NT Police contingent of two, stationed at a small village of about 2000 people called Uato Carbau (interpreted as Water Buffalo).

The village was about six hours out of Dili, a couple of hundred kilometres by car (the road was pretty bad). My partner (Graeme Marshall of AFP) and my job was to try and train new East Timorese police. I had about 11 police recruits, none of whom could speak English. I did have an interpreter for some of the time, however at one stage I was the only English speaking person in the village for about six weeks as my partner had gone on leave and my interpreter had vanished, so for six weeks I did it a bit tough. No television, telephone, internet or working computers - not that they were of any use, we only had power for four hours a day.

What is your Favourite food?

Lamb neck stew.

What can't you live without?

My kidneys.

Where is your favourite place?

The mighty MCG - whether it be football or cricket you can't beat the atmosphere.

Who is your hero? Steve Waugh - he is a great leader in my view.

Where was your last holiday? I travelled to Adelaide to relocate my daughter who started university. Yes, she takes after her mother. "Hi Jess".

Three people you'd invite to dinner?

The three people I would invite to dinner would have to be:

- Noel Pearson - he has a great passion to resolve Aboriginal issues and has a commonsense approach to solving them.
- Steve Waugh - to gain some of his insight and learn from him.
- Clive Robertson - he is just a really interesting bloke.

Scariest moment in NT Police?

Would have to be flying to Goulburn Island to evacuate the community before a cyclone hit. After evacuating everyone the police were the last to fly out. As we were flying out you could see the storm clouds rolling in and we flew out within minutes of the storm hitting. I really hate flying at the best of times.

What would you do if you won lotto?

I dream of this. I would pay off my bills, invest and retire in North Adelaide near the café strip. I would start my day at 11:00am after I have wandered around to get the paper, coffee and breakfast. Maybe do a bit of shopping, nanna nap in the afternoon before deciding which restaurant to eat at for dinner.



Top to bottom A young constable first class, Lajamanu 1994. East Timor with school kids, 2002. Shift sergeant at Casuarina. Trying out a new role. NT Police Leadership Award 2010.



