

THE DRUM

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2009



THIS ISSUE

- Talisman Sabre 2009
- Retired fires remember station's beginnings
- Farewell Commissioner Paul White
- 2009 National SES Week

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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

NT Police Tactical Response Section had a unique opportunity to participate in joint training with an American Special Forces unit from Okinawa, Japan, in the bi-annual joint military exercise Talisman Sabre.

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★ A/Commissioner's Christmas Message



★ **2009** has been a big year for the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services, full of major successes, announcements, events and achievements.

★ As the December edition of the Drum demonstrates, it has been a year of change and growth across many areas of the Tri Service. However, I am proud to highlight that one thing has remained constant through out, and that is the dedication and strong work ethic displayed by our members who continue to go above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to serving and protecting our community.

I take this opportunity to commend the efforts and achievements of Commissioner Paul White and wish him

★ and all the best in his new role as the Liquor and Gaming Commissioner for South Australia. Paul resigned in September after eight years of dedication to our organisation and over 40 years in Policing. We wish Paul and Cynthia all the best and consider them to be members of our extended police family.

★ There are many proud moments to reflect upon from this year including; the announcement of this year's Rotary Police Officer of the Year, Mr Anthony Clarke, the graduation of another TACPO Squad, the implementation of many diverse community engagement programs, increased police on the street and the announcement of a new Fire Station. These are only a few examples of the achievements and success which continue to place the Tri-service on a national and international stage.

★ It's now two years since the Australian Government announcement of the Northern Territory Emergency Response into remote communities and under Task Force Themis, 18 additional Police Stations are now fully operational.

★ With around 1800 employees and 500 fire and emergency service volunteers, the Tri-service continues to grow its capacity to operate and serve in the Territory. Earlier this year, the NT Police demonstrated its ability to crisis manage the Ashmore Reef incident, being the lead agency in charge of the investigation with members worked around the clock for several days to manage the incident. In February this year, Tri service personnel were deployed to Victoria to assist following the tragic Victorian bushfires.

★ We should never take for granted the many traumatic situations our members are faced with, whether it be death, serious injury, violent and abusive behaviours or emotional and angry victims. Nor should we forget the immense pride in seeing many of these situations through to a successful resolution or conclusion.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to all Tri-Service personnel, including civilian support staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts throughout the year and trust you and your families have a joyous Christmas and a happy, safe New Year.



2009 National SES Week 7–15 November

By Annika Woerle, Public Education Officer



Glenn Hunter and Chris Castine kick off National SES week at Crocosaurus Cove.

This year's National State Emergency Service (SES) Week motto is; 'Take just a moment to thank our SES'. It's a timely reminder to recognise the contribution and the tireless activities of the wonderful men and women of the Northern Territory Emergency Service.

As a way to mark SES week and embrace the unique and often unforgiving nature of the Territory that our volunteers tirelessly protect, two NTES Volunteers swam with crocodiles at Crocosaurus Cove on Wednesday 11 November. The volunteers had an awesome time coming face to face with one of nature's scariest beasts.

Chris Castine, one of NTES' long term serving members, and grandmother of seven said that it was a great way to mark the occasion.

"I've seen some scary things in my time as a volunteer, but that takes the cake!" she exclaimed. When not wearing orange and responding to emergencies, Chris is working for Serco Sodexo who has supported her volunteering with NTES through the many years that she has been a part of the Service.

NTES newbie Glenn Hunter has been with NTES for 9 months and was the second volunteer in the 'Cage of Death'.

"That was unreal!" exclaimed Glenn, "I've never experienced anything like it!" He went on to say that the adrenaline rush he got from the dive came pretty close to the experience of responding to a vertical rescue call out. Glenn's day job finds him working for the Department of Treasury, where he is very well supported by his management when required to respond to emergencies. Since joining in April, Glenn has become a member of the Rapid Response Vertical Rescue Team, responding to a recent rescue of two members of the public who fell from the Darwin Esplanade.

NTES extend our thanks to Crocosaurus Cove for kindly supporting the NTES Volunteers through their donation of the dive.

NTES would also like to thank all our volunteers for their efforts, support and commitment to keeping our Territory community safe!

Living in a diverse and unique part of the country, our NT Emergency Service (NTES) volunteers are men and women just like yourselves who give their time and support to the Territory community.

Ranging in ages from as young as 18 through to those in their 70s, NTES boast a great team of people from all walks of life with a common thread running through them; to help their fellow community members in times of need and disaster.

Born out of a need for a civil defence capability during the Second World War, NTES officially formed later in January 1975. The intervention of Cyclone Tracy on 25 December 1974 gave the new service a baptism of fire that would have a major bearing on the subsequent development of both the Service and the broader counter disaster organisation throughout the Northern Territory.

NTES today boasts more than 300 volunteers Territory wide. Members receive national accredited training in a wide variety of rescue skills such as, Road Accident Rescue, Urban Search and Rescue Cat 2, Flood Boat handling, Chainsaw and Storm Damage response, and Vertical Rescue response.

At short notice members give up time with family, special occasions and social time to respond to emergencies and disasters that have affected the community.

Working hand in hand with the NT Police and Fire and Rescue service, NTES volunteers have responded to numerous high profile operations such as helping the victims of the January 25 Katherine floods, storm damage response for Tropical Cyclones Monica, Ingrid and Helen in January 2008, as well as storm damage response of a different nature with the recent dust storm in Alice Springs.

Our volunteers regularly answer the call to local emergencies, with our remote units often being the only rescue team available to respond, meaning the difference between life and death.

Often the men and women wearing the NTES orange are faced with difficult tasks, all conducted with dignity, professionalism and strength born out of the desire to simply help. These are people who the NT community could not do without and we thank each and every one of you!

'Take just a moment
to thank our SES.'

ACPO of the Year

By: Senior ACPO
Lisa Burkenhagen

On the 19th August, Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) Noel Dixon was named the 2008 ACPO of the Year, in front of approximately two hundred local residents, in his home Community of Borroloola.

The Administrator of the NT Mr Tom Pauling AO QC and former Commissioner of Police Paul White, flew to the community to present the Award.

Noel was 30-years-old when he joined NT Police in 1989, as an Aboriginal Police Aide. He had previously worked on cattle stations and just prior to joining the police worked as an "all-rounder" with Mabungia Resource Centre in Borroloola.

Noel was born at Anthony Lagoon Station, located on the Barkly Stock route, but his family ties belong to Robinson River, where his family are the traditional owners. He did all of his schooling in Borroloola and has lived there most of his life.

Noel is one of our longer serving ACPOs having just recently reached his 20 years with NT Police. He has served most of his time at Borroloola, however he has also helped out in Tennant Creek and Elliott.

In 1999, Noel was awarded a Commissioner's Commendation for "rescuing a young fella who thought it would be fun to try and swim across a crocodile infested river around the Borroloola region." From Noel's account, the river was rising fast and this silly bloke was stuck in the middle of the river and no-one else was going to go in there and try and help him get out. So, being the kind of bloke Noel is, he jumped in without fear of being taken by a croc himself and saved this young bloke. On top of all of that it was night time!! What a legend.

The Hon Malarndirri McCarthy MLA, was one of many to congratulate Noel on his award. "You were not only Dad to your own children, but to us all; my brothers and sisters. We are all so very proud of your achievement. Congratulations Dad on being the 2008 recipient of the Administrators Medal for Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) of the Year," said Mrs McCarthy.

Noel is married with three daughters and five grandchildren and is at his happiest when he is out hunting and fishing with his family.



Noel Dixon proudly receives his award from former Commissioner Paul White.

Previous winners of the ACPO of the Year Award are:

Year	Rank	Name	Station
2002	ACPO 1 st Class	Don ST CLAIR	Alice Springs
2003	ACPO	Trish GROTH	Nhulunbuy
2004	Senior ACPO	Bernie DEVINE	Darwin
2005	ACPO 1 st Class	Gwen BROWN	Ali Curung
2006	Senior ACPO	Denise GODDARD	Tennant Creek
2007	ACPO	Lisa BURKENHAGEN	Palmerston

Wollongong Hawks swoop into Ramingining



Above Everyone wanted their picture taken with the team.

Below left to right Kids of all ages came down to participate in the clinic. Police finished the day with a BBQ for everyone. There were lots of drills to help kids practice their technique. There were smiles all round as kids got rulers and other Hawk's merchandise.

The remote Territory community of Ramingining was thrilled to receive a visit from the popular Wollongong Hawks, who ran a basketball clinic in early September.

The NT Police driven community engagement initiative gave the local children the opportunity to meet the iconic players and learn basic ball skills in a three hour clinic.

With the NBL preseason taking place in Darwin this year, Ramingining Police Sergeant Glen Tankard saw a great opportunity for the Hawks to visit the community and run a clinic with the youth.

"The children here have a great love of sport, and as one of the only remote communities that has a covered court, basketball runs a very close second to Aussie Rules as the sport of choice amongst the young people," he said.

Sergeant Tankard said the basketball clinic offered the youth a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the game and develop their skills, but also provided them with some inspiring role models.

"Playing professional basketball is not out of reach if they are dedicated, educated and work hard. I'm hoping that the clinic will not only improve the basketball skills but

also promote healthy lifestyles and help us improve school attendance"

"We've told the children that the clinic will be a reward for those that have attended school for the previous fortnight, without an unexplained absence," Sergeant Tankard said.

The National Basketball League generously came on board to support the initiative and donated over 50 basketballs, shirts, caps and other merchandise.

Sergeant Tankard, who organised the Hawks' visit to the community, said the clinic was a real success.

"The children out here don't get these opportunities that often, so it was great to see the whole community get behind the event and get involved," he said.

The benefits that will come out of today will stay in the community for a long time said Sergeant Tankard.

"Meeting and interacting with the players provides the kids with motivation to practice their skills and hopefully, encourage them to work hard at following their goals," he said.

Wollongong Hawks Community Development Officer Matt Flinn said that the team had a big week of competition in Darwin, winning the Top End Challenge Tournament, so it was great to finish the week off by getting out and promoting basketball in the more remote regions.

"As a not for profit organisation, it's great for the club to be able to give back to the community. Basketball is a fantastic sport and our players are positive role models for children about the importance of working hard and leading a healthy life," said Mr Flinn.



Credit where it's due

Earlier this year the Commissioner of Police approved an initiative to trial a dedicated staff member to streamline and coordinate the medals and awards processes within the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Previously, the issue of National and NTPFES medals was a 'reactive' process, whereby those becoming eligible would seek to have their service recognised and apply to be awarded the appropriate medal.

The long-term goal of the NTPFES is to pro-actively identify those employees (both paid and volunteer) who may be eligible for formal recognition under the Australian Honour System and present them with due medals at a formal Investiture.

The first medals to be awarded to NTPFES employees were National Service Medals. These were first issued in 1975, when the Queen of the Commonwealth approved the institution of the Order of Australia – 'an Australian society of honour for according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or meritorious service'.

Since that time, the NTPFES recognition medals have been approved via the Governor-General as the Queens representative.

Medals of recognition were introduced and remain to be an honour bestowed by the Queen's representative, rather than an entitlement based simply on time employed. The recognition of such meritorious service is significant, hence the requirement for people receiving medals to be presented at an official ceremony by high-ranking officials, such as the Commissioner.

Every State and Territory in Australia now has their own Investiture process

and offers Service Medals, specific to their location, as well as the National Service Medal.

The Medals and Investiture coordinator, Auxiliary Lea Atherton, has taken on the role of identifying those employees who may be eligible for a variety of medals, then progressing the formal approvals to present any awards at Investiture ceremonies.

Her focus has been to facilitate family orientated Investiture ceremonies in both urban and remote centres. Investitures have recently been held in Katherine, Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

The process for receiving medals requires employees to complete an initial notification/application form, and then forward it through to their supervisors. The application is then approved by the Divisional Officers and then reviewed by the Medals Eligibility Committee.

With the advent of the new National Police Service Medal, police personnel may be eligible to apply for this recognition of service as a police officer for 15 years service.

Regulations are still being drafted to determine the eligibility criteria to receive this Service Medal, and it is expected to take several months to complete. Once the regulations and procedures have been finalised, members will be notified by a tribune notice outlining what the eligibility criteria is and how they can apply for the medal.

For any further queries or clarifications please contact the Medals and Investiture Coordinator on pfes.medalsandawards@pfes.nt.gov.au

By Aux. Lea Atherton and S/Sgt Peter Brown



Above The four main medals, Police, Fire, Emergency and Tri-Service.

Left There were a large number of award recipients at the Darwin Investiture ceremony.

Auxiliary's under fire



Auxiliary's learn how to safely and quickly extinguish building fires.

During October, the NTFRS delivered a Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT) weekend at Hidden Valley Racing Complex for Auxiliary Firefighters as part of their annual training program.

The purpose of the training was to give them the knowledge required to apply fire fighting techniques within a burning structure.

This training allows Firefighters to extinguish fires in a safe manner while limiting excessive water damage, which assists fire investigators in determining the location and possible cause of the fire.

The training cells are converted 40 foot shipping containers fitted with vents and door entry to national standards. The flame and smoke levels are controlled by the instructors during the burning phase and particle board is used as the fuel source.

The training weekend was attended by Firefighters from Nhulunbuy, Katherine and Jabiru and involved both theory and practical applications. This type of training arms the Firefighter with the knowledge required to read fire growth and the dangers associated when entering structures involved in fire.

They cover door entry techniques, correct application of applying water for the cooling of super heated gas clouds (smoke) that present in front, above and behind rescue teams using hose lines and the tell tale signs of potential back draught and flash over.

The training cells have now been relocated to the southern region to allow training in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Yulara.

Farewell Lane Crews

Left Lane Crews starts his career with NT Police in 1975. Lane recounts that at the time of this photo being taken they didn't have enough uniforms so all the recruits had to swap the Police shirt around to have their photos taken.

Bottom Lane Crews, retired in 2009 after 30 years with NT Police.

After over 30 years of service to the Northern Territory Police Force, it was a sad day when the final farewells were said to Superintendent Lane Crews.

Lane commenced his career with the NT Police in October 1975 in General Duties in Darwin. He was transferred in 1977 to Forensic Services, specializing in photography and crime scene investigation, until resigning in 1978 due to family commitments.

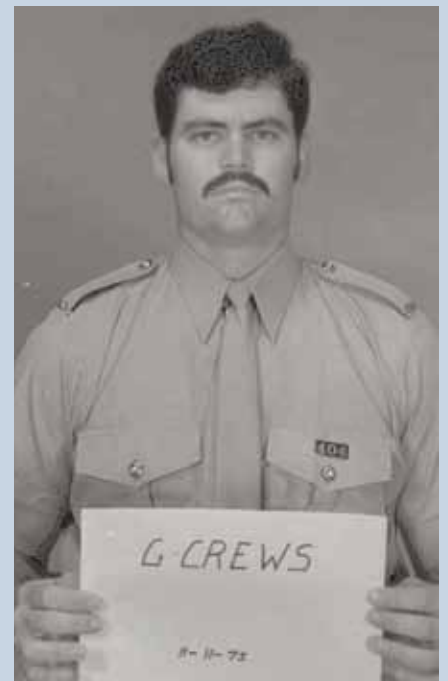
Lane rejoined in February 1982 and again worked in General Duties Darwin before transferring back to Forensic Services as a

crime scene technician in 1983 where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1989.

In 1991 he transferred to the Territory Response Group, specialising as a team leader and qualifying as a Senior Bomb Technician and Post Blast Examiner. Lane also trained in close personal protection and was recognised nationally when awarded Dux on the SACPAV Close Quarters Battle Course.

In 1994 he transferred back to Forensic Services Branch to assist as the administration Sergeant and then as acting Officer in Charge, subsequently being promoted to the position in 2002. During this time he also had responsibility for Disaster Victim Identification when it was encompassed by Forensics in 1995.

In 2004 Lane was promoted to the rank of Superintendent and had responsibility for the Operations Support Division, which encompassed Summary Prosecutions, Coronial Investigation Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, Firearms Police and Recording Unit and the Joint Emergency Services Communication Centre.



In 2005 he returned to Forensic Services as Acting Director, before being transferred to Katherine in 2006, responsible for Northern Operational Services.

In 2007 Lane took long service leave pending retirement however he was asked to return in 2008 to assist with Taskforce Themis, the Northern Territory Police response to the Australian Government's Northern Territory Emergency Response Taskforce, where he has remained until his retirement.

Lane retired from the Northern Territory Police Force on 18 September 2009 moving to Bonnie Hills in NSW with his wife Ruth.

All the best Lane, you will be missed.



Road crash rescue training



Personal Training (PT) Rescue training officers Garry Muldoon and Rod Wells recently conducted a three day road crash rescue workshop for a number of firefighters of the NTFRS.

PT Rescue have conducted several training workshops in recent years for both NTFRS and NTES members, focusing on the latest extraction techniques.

These workshops take into consideration the advancing technologies of vehicle manufacturing and the hazards associated with vehicle safety systems, hybrid systems and vehicle construction.

Before extraction of casualties can occur from vehicles involved in road crashes, vehicle stabilisation is the priority and 'Stabfast' comes to the rescue. This is a quick and easy system to set up and has been in use across the Northern Territory for a couple of years as a direct result of these workshops.

Prior to cutting any of the pillars to remove the roof, power supplies must be isolated and glass management must be considered as a priority. It is essential that respiratory protection is worn, in the form of P2 masks, as well as eye protection for both the rescuer and the casualty. Prior to cutting the pillars they must be exposed to reveal if there are any supplementary restraint systems (SRS), explosive charges or power supplies, to ensure that they are not cut by the 'jaws of life' during the disentanglement phase.

NTFRS members are taught to 'remove the vehicle from the casualty' rather than the casualty from the vehicle. With the pillars cut and the roof folded back, rescue workers are able to use the roof fold as a platform to stabilise the casualty prior to extraction.

In recent years contemporary training has been provided to the NTFRS Career Firefighters and Auxiliary Firefighters across the Northern Territory with a view to expand the program to Fire and Emergency Response Groups (FERG) units in 2010.

By District Officer Fire Service
Mark Spain.

From the top Glass is removed from the back window. The boot is removed to allow the roof to be lowered. The roof can be bent back once the Jaws of Life have cut away the pillars. The roof fold can also be used to stabilise the casualty.



Dedicated Dave takes home national award



Left Dave Cunningham receiving his award from Life Education CEO Jay Bacik.

Local volunteer Dave Cunningham was awarded 'The Bruce Gyngel Volunteer Award', recognising his 20 years of tireless volunteering and dedication to Life Education Top End, at the 2009 Gold Harold Awards dinner.

Life Education is the largest charity provider of drug and health education programs to children, families and communities Australia wide.

Life Education Australia (LEA) celebrated its 30th Anniversary as the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of preventative drug education in schools at a gala dinner in Sydney.

The dinner was attended by over 400 guests including high profile Australians such as media personalities Ita Buttrose and Melissa Doyle, country singer John Williamson and sporting icon Louise Sauvage. Guests were also entertained by Australia's Got Talent Winner Mark Vincent and runner up Jal Joshua.

CEO of Life Education Australia, Jay Bacik said the night marked 30 years of Life Education's commitment to the protection and education of Australian children.

"The evening helps us to recognise the wonderful individuals, corporations and institutions that do amazing things to encourage and facilitate the growth and wellbeing of children. These people never get an

Oscar, but they could get a 'Harold', Mr Bacik said.

On receiving the award, Mr Cunningham was noticeably moved, "It's a total surprise, thank you so much, I've always felt really proud to be involved with an organisation such as Life Education Top End," said Mr Cunningham.

It was a fantastic evening which not only recognised the important contributions of many individuals and organisations but also raised around \$100,000 for Life Education Australia.

Hole in one!

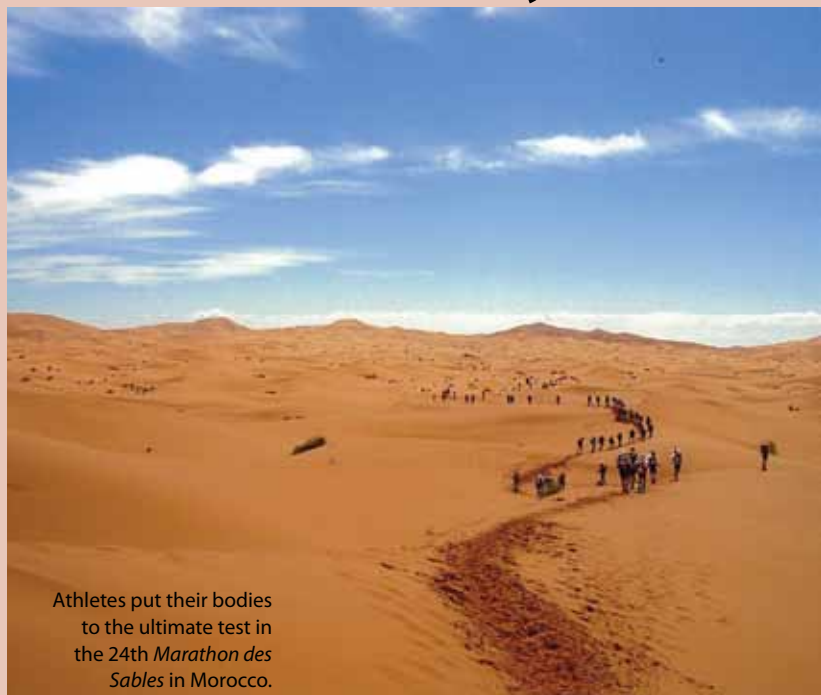
A large contingent of dedicated golfing amateurs from across Australia descended on the Nhulunbuy Golf Course, located on the Northeast coast of Arnhem Land, for the 2009 Gove Golf Open Championship. The 54 hole event was held over three consecutive days during the Queen's birthday long weekend.

During the second day of competition, Senior Constable Matt Allen from the remote station of Alyangula on Groote Eylandt managed a 'hole in one' on the 8th hole, being a 146 metre par 3. Thanks to this shot, his \$500 cash winnings contributed significantly to all competitors and spectators enjoying free beverages for a significant portion of the evening.

Back in Groote Eylandt, when the rare opportunity presents itself, S/C Allen and a number of other members from Alyangula Police Station play the odd game of golf on their picturesque tropical island golf course. In the past two years they have also managed to compete against Alice Springs and Darwin members during the annual Northern Territory Police Golf Championships.



Richard Bryson—marathon man



Athletes put their bodies to the ultimate test in the 24th *Marathon des Sables* in Morocco.

Superintendent Richard Bryson swapped his uniform for his runners to take on one of the world's toughest marathons' – 250km across an African desert.

Superintendent Bryson, who turned 41 this year, said it was a race of survival after returning to Darwin with very swollen feet. He lost 7 toenails as a result of the experience.

"I probably lost about four kilos. It's pretty brutal on your body," he said, "I was certainly physically fit enough for the distance. But you have to be mentally strong too because you have some pretty dark moments when you're tired and exhausted."

More than 800 people from around the world took part in the 24th Marathon des Sables, or Marathon of the Sands, a gruelling six-day run across the Moroccan Sahara. Many participants gave up before reaching the finishing line with the terrain ranging from sandy to rocky and temperatures averaging around 30°C.

Daily distances are as long as 90km and racers have to carry their own food and water supplies, while sleeping on hard ground at night. But Supt Bryson said he never thought of throwing in the towel. The longer the race goes on the harder it becomes because you cannot carry enough calories to replace the amount you are burning each day. As fatigue takes hold it can be a challenge to continue to push the body to those limits.

"The terrain is so inhospitable," he said, "I have lived in Alice Springs and you would think the terrain would be pretty similar but it was just really different – I can only describe it as pretty tough."

Superintendent Bryson came in 438th and was one of the 16 Australians to finish the race.

Station Profile

If you fancy a spot of fishing or enjoy social barbeques then a posting to Timber Creek near the picturesque Victoria River shouldn't fail to impress.

Timber Creek

Timber Creek is a small roadside town situated approximately 280 kilometres west of Katherine on the Victoria Highway near the Western Australia border.

It is the traditional land of the Ngaliwurra people who provided early European settlers with valuable bush knowledge and acted as guides for police.

Prior to the Federal Intervention, the patrol area covered 86,000 square kilometres and included the district of Yarralin. However, following the implementation of Task Force Themis, the patrol area is now reduced, although it still includes around 15 Aboriginal communities and outstations, 13 cattle stations, the Gregory and Keep River National Parks and the Bradshaw Defence Training Ground. With a widely scattered population, patrols often involve long distances of travel into very isolated locations.

Timber Creek Police work closely with police in Kununurra, Western Australia, and the surrounding NT stations of Yarralin and Kalkaringi which are situated on the Buchanan and Buntine Highways.

There is also a Fire and Emergency Response Group (FERG) which is an all volunteer group who are trained in bushfire fighting, road crash rescue, search and rescue procedures and flood boat operations. The station is also equipped with an NTES 4WD box trailer for those times when an off-road response is required.

Housing for members consists of two split-level homes situated near the police station and the station complex incorporates a Visiting Officers Quarters and attached courthouse.

With a population of 600 in the township

and approximately 1800 in the surrounding area, the town boasts an indoor sports centre at the community hall which has facilities for volleyball, basketball, badminton and indoor cricket.

There is also a cricket and football field, tennis court and the use of the swimming pool at one of the caravan parks is free for locals. For the keen fishermen, the Victoria River and other rivers in the district are noted for excellent barramundi fishing with a number of tournaments held in the district during the year.

The local primary school is approximately 500 metres from the Police Station and the Health Centre is staffed by a doctor and three nurses five days a week.

Nearby attractions include the old National Trust Timber Creek Police Station built in 1908, the Keep River National Park and the Gregory National Park, which is the Territory's second largest national park.

Brevet Sergeant Michael Lunney has just notched up six months as the current Officer in Charge at Timber Creek.

"Timber Creek is a beautiful setting to work in as a police officer. During the wet season you can sit at your desk, look out the window and watch massive waterfalls cascading off the escarpment directly in front of the station," said Brevet Sergeant Lunney.

"The large area that is policed by Timber Creek members means there is rural patrolling into very isolated and picturesque locations, some of which can only be entered after first driving into WA, then cutting back into the Territory.

"Timber Creek is currently looking for a keen Aboriginal Community Police Officer to work in the region, and with this

addition it will enable the current members and the successful applicant to get out and visit the isolated communities on a more regular basis, and still leave Timber Creek with a police presence.

"The Victoria River region has an abundance of everything you could possibly want in an area to live and work," said Brevet Sergeant Lunney.

Top Road safety is serious business in Timber Creek.
Middle The picturesque Dingo Springs.

Bottom The old 1908 Timber Creek Police Station, now a Museum and managed under the national trust
Bottom left Timber Creek Police Station as it is today.



Retired firies remember station's beginnings

From top left to right Retired members and current crew gathered out the front of Palmerston Fire Station.

Fred Settele and Adrian Cogghill.

Marty Van Haaren & 'Uncle' Ray Tandy. Paddy Peckover & Hakkie Tammo.

Bottom Garry Quin, Charlie Caden, Greg Nettleton, Allen 'Bluedog' Smith.

By Firefighter Jimmy Dalton.

Past and present firies from Palmerston's Number 3 station recently gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary since the station opened in 1984. The informal reunion was held at the Palmerston Firefighters social club, affectionately named Chongy's, after past Senior Station Officer, Brian Chong Wee. Master of Ceremonies, Station Officer Tom Lawler, welcomed the retired firefighters and their wives to celebrate what was a milestone in the history of Palmerston.

Senior Firefighter, Marty van Haaren was one of the members at the first official opening 25 years ago, when it was opened by the then Chief Minister of the NT, the Hon Paul Everingham.

"At the time, the station was a dust bowl, surrounded only by a few houses and none of the shopping centres that exist today. Even sewerage had to be pumped over the road from the station," said Martin.

He vividly remembers his first day on the job at Palmerston when he first came out of recruits 25 years ago. "It was just a two man station back then. I remember attending one of our first major jobs, a vehicle fire at the service station. TJ Smith was station officer and I was fresh out of the recruit squad and not overly familiar with the Dennis Pumper we were using to extinguish the fire. But we managed it," he said.

"Palmerston station was opened following the closure of the Winnellie station. A couple of years after the opening, we got rescue facilities from the Police; a 6x4 trailer and equipment like the 'jaws of life'. This got towed around to jobs. Sometimes if we were already out, we'd have to come back to the station for the trailer before we could attend another job," said Martin.

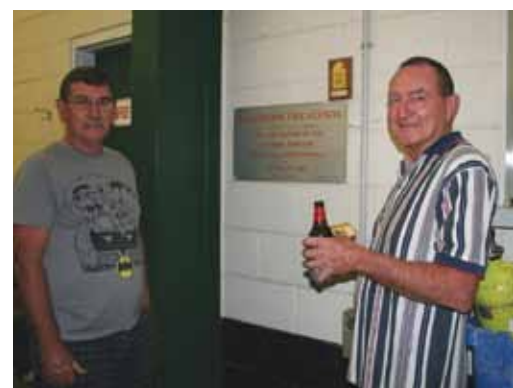


Palmerston Station is now staffed by six persons and as stated by Greg Nettleton, Chief Fire Officer in his speech, is part of a rapidly growing Fire and Rescue Service; 11 recruits recently graduated and another 12 have commenced training with more squads planned and a new station to be built at Berrimah.

Barbecue and finger food flowed freely at the event, as did the beer and wine, as many old stories and fond memories were recounted. The kids enjoyed a kick of the footy and a soft drink on the lush lawn grounds at the rear of the station, recently re-landscaped by members of the social club.

Eventually it is hoped a Fire Service Museum will be established at one of the fire stations so that school groups and members of the public can learn about the history and the work of the NT Fire and Rescue Service.

A lot of members put in hard work, their own time and effort to make the station



as it appears today; retired member Aiden Cogghill planted all the garden and, the rear social area 'Chongy's' was built and named after a member who has now sadly passed away.

NTFRS is moving towards the 100th year and with around 200 Fire and Rescue personnel, plus volunteers and auxiliaries, it equals a service of almost 500 people working together to protect the community.



603 years of service

That is the combined total of hours that our nineteen longest serving Police members have dedicated to the NT Police Force – having all served for 30 years or more

The women and men listed in this table represent the 19 longest serving members of the NT Police Force, having all served for 30 years or more.

Commencing their recruit training at a young age (a quarter of the group joining at just 18 years old), these members have each made a significant contribution to the NT Police force and have served throughout the Territory, as well as nationally in a many diverse fields.

Of notable mention is that seven out of the longest serving 19 members are women. Of these women, Lynette Balchin, Anne Marie Murphey and Sue Carter have all been recipients of the prestigious Australian Police Medal.

The Northern Territory Police force has grown and changed enormously in the last 30 years, as have our 19 longest serving members. Below are some early pictures of these members when they first started their career with NT Police, see if you can guess who they are.

Given Names	Last Name	Rank	Appointed	Reg No*	Age at Appointment	Years of service Completed
Bruce Stewart	WERNHAM	Deputy Commissioner	23/09/1974	727	24	35
Mark Alexander Charles	MCADIE	Assistant Commissioner	30/06/1975	795	18	34
Michael Alfred	STEVENS	Superintendent	30/06/1975	798	18	34
Frederick William Theodore	HUYSE	Sergeant	13/09/1976	840	18	33
Maxwell Colin	POPE	Commander	13/09/1976	848	19	33
Christopher John	MILNER	Sergeant	07/02/1977	877	21	32
John Lakeland	NIXON	Senior Sergeant	07/02/1977	879	19	32
David Stan	GILMOUR	Senior Constable	14/11/1977	915	22	31
Deborah Joy	HORROCKS	Senior Constable	14/11/1977	916	19	31
Vivien Lynette	BALCHIN	Sergeant	15/05/1978	923	21	31
Keith Richards	CURRIE	Senior Constable	15/05/1978	937	19	31
Edwin Scott	MITCHELL	Senior Constable	15/05/1978	961	21	31
Suzanne Lee	CARTER	Sergeant	15/05/1978	964	20	31
Wendy	SCHULTZ	Sergeant	02/10/1978	992	18	31
Anne Marie	MURPHY	Commander	02/10/1978	1020	18	31
Gordon James	MCDONAGH	Senior Constable	02/10/1978	1022	19	31
Lorraine Joy	CARLON	Superintendent	26/02/1979	1051	21	30
Grahame David	KELLY	Assistant Commissioner	26/02/1979	1063	19	30
Katherina Laura	VANDERLAAN	Commander	26/02/1979	1089	20	30

*It is interesting to note that there are now only 14 people remaining in the NT Police force which have a three digit registration number.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

1. Lyn Balchin Lady by day, 'Balchinegger' by night. After 31 years with the NT Police this lady still has a good sense of humour. Following a popular segment on radio, she is also commonly referred to as the 'Voice of the North.' 2. Wendy Shultz Joining at just 18 years old as a part of Squad 29, this lady's position in asset forfeiture has earned her the nickname of Frau Shultz. She was also the first woman to receive the Police Leadership medal. 3. Keith and Sue These two joined in 1978 as a part of Squad 28. He is renowned for his baby face and growth spurt during recruitment. Has spent most of his career in Tennant Creek and Katherine. She was the dux of her Squad and is also the longest serving detective. Worthy of note, she has never worn the modern day police uniform (shirt and pants) – her police issue cardigan is still in its plastic bag. She also received the Australian Police Medal in 2000. 4. Bruce Wernham The young man pictured here has now been with NT Police for 35 years, coming from NSW Police originally in 1974. He is the longest serving member in the Police force. He won the Australian Police Medal for distinguished police service in 2000. 5. Lorraine Carlon This quietly spoken tennis star has a tan to envy and was apart of Squad 30. She is also allergic to cats. Famously nicknamed "Killer". 6. Kate Vanderlaan This lady is a Territory girl who grew up in Nhulunbuy. She was promoted to Commander in 2008 and she also has the prestigious title of the first female Police Motorcyclist in Australia. 7. Deb Horrocks This lady is the longest serving female Police officer. She was nominated for The Pride of Australia Medal and recently received a medal for outstanding bravery. 8. Grahame Kelly Once a detective well known for his moustache, he has been with Police for 30 years. He has five sons and has also been a recipient of the Australian Police Medal. 9. Scott Mitchell Also, still attached to his moustache and with a deep love of fly fishing, this man can also be credited for starting up school based policing. He still mourns the loss of his hair. 10. Gordon McDonough Joined as a part of Squad 29; in his time with NT Police he has had significant experience in the Watch House, however he now works in Drug Enforcement. Has a rampant fear of spiders. 11. Anne Marie Murphey This Squad 30 recruit joined at just 18 years old and was president of the Police Association for several years. Recently promoted to Commander, this lady was also awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2008 and was also the first recipient for the Women in Policing award. 12. Max Pope Joining at just 19 years old as a recruit in Squad 29, this gentleman had a strong family connection to policing with his father an NT Police Assistant Commissioner. He spent many years serving at remote stations, with CIB and Drug squad however he is now Commander at the NTPFES College.

Squad Photos from the top:

Squad 22

Mark McAdie Current Assistant Commissioner, Crime and Support, Mr McAdie grew up in the Territory and attended school in Darwin. At one stage was the only resident at the Police barracks and he was one of the last to work at "The Rock".

Mick Stevens A Darwin boy, one of the first to join at 18, he is now amongst the longest serving. He was also one of the last to work at "The Bar".

The award for the least photographed of our 19 longest serving goes to **Sergeant Frederick Huisse**, who despite our best efforts, seems to have bribed away, hidden and destroyed all his photos from record.

Squad 27

Deb Horrocks As mentioned above, this lady has many proud career achievements up her sleeve, including being the longest serving woman in the NT Police force.

David Gilmour Began his career with NT Police at 22 years old and has spent most of his Policing career in Traffic. He is one of the longest serving Police Motorcyclist's and was an inaugural member of the accident investigation unit. David has also served in Timor.

Squad 25

Chris Milner Now based in Alice Springs, Chris spent a lot of time in General Duties but also spent sometime in TRS. He has now been with NT Police for 31 years and is well known for his straight talking charm.

John Nixon On graduation from his recruit course, he was posted to Alice and has spent much of his career there. He is well remembered for always being a fitness fanatic and for being a tenacious investigator.



Firey start for recruits

Eleven more firefighters have joined the Fire and Rescue Service team following their Graduation in September, but it hasn't been an easy run for them.

All agreed that the 16 week training course was tougher than they expected. After tackling crash and wildlife, urban rescue, first aid, hazard materials and fire training the recruits also tackled a run up the 27 storey Evolution building not once, not twice but three times.

Alice Springs new Firefighter, Blayne Cornford said that was definitely a difficult day to be a trainee firefighter.

"The training was very difficult, physically and mentally but the Evolution run was a killer. By the end of it blokes were collapsing all over," he said.

Just to throw more fuel on the fire, the overnight training session in Humpty Doo was another situation in which our newest Firefighters had to rise to the occasion.

Split into two groups, each team had to attend a simulated motor vehicle accident and use the jaws of life to free a trapped casualty.

The idea was for the car to be set alight by an instructor prior to the crews arrival so the trainees had to put out the fire before

commencing with the jaws of life.

When the instructor arrived on the scene to set the car on fire he was quite surprised to see that the car was not where it should be.

In fact an unknown had moved the car down the street and set it alight. Much to the disappointment of the offender who tampered with the vehicle, the car was always destined to be set alight; our trainee simulation turned out to be a real response to fire arson.

Of the 11 graduates, eight have taken up postings in Darwin and three in Alice Springs. The Fire and Rescue Service has recently recruited another squad of 12 firefighters, who commenced their training in November, and will be recruiting another squad for commencement in April next year.

Daniel Roach confidently shows his skills on graduation day. Below Leon peacock was one of the eleven happy recruits glad to have graduated from the gruelling recruit course.



Australia's police receive bigger, better National Police Reference System

The multi-award-winning National Police Reference System (NPRS) is being rolled out across the country to all of Australia's 50,000 police officers.

Designed to assist police with their day-to-day duties, the NPRS provides a national electronic crime fighting information sharing capability, consolidating policing information held on nine disparate jurisdictional systems.

By providing police and law enforcement agencies with a nationwide view of information, the NPRS allows its users to exchange information about people in various jurisdictions to identify whether individuals are a threat to the public, of interest to police, or wanted by police.

The system already holds information

on people relating to warnings, warrants, offence history, orders, firearms, and bail information, and whether the person is wanted, missing, or an escapee. It also reveals whether they are on the Australian National Child Offender Register.

With a national focus on information sharing through NPRS, police are also able to see details on persons of interest from jurisdictions outside their own.

CrimTrac's NPRS Program Manager, Mark Riffel said new information for NPRS, such as detailed firearms and vehicle information, and additional persons information such as known associates and associations, is also being considered.

"Based on its success and the acceptance of NPRS nationwide, CrimTrac is looking at

options to enhance that capability to further assist police in their law enforcement activities," Mr Riffel said.

"Police across the country rely on accurate, timely information. By rolling out NPRS nationally, we are providing a capability for police to make better informed, critical decisions when dealing with persons of interest. Because NPRS is built on a flexible platform, timely improvements can be made to the system to meet emerging operational policing demands," he said.

For further information, contact Kirsten MacCarthy 8985 7322, the NT Representative for the NPRS Expert User Group.

Article courtesy of CrimTrac.

NTES competes in national disaster rescue competition

By Keith Lewis, NTES Area Manager Alice Springs.



In this scenario, a concrete slab was being placed for a film shoot, the crane fails and the slab has pinned the legs of the rigger in the tank. Michele Thomas, the team medic is cradling the casualty, Tim Fitzpatrick and Selwyn Kloeden in the tank, are giving a sitrep to Phil Walker the Team Leader, while Ian Smith and Max Baliva look on.

Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteers recently competed in the 2009 National Disaster Rescue Competition held in Brisbane.

The event attracted Emergency Service teams from each jurisdiction in Australia and was designed to allow competing Emergency Service Volunteers to come together and showcase their skills in Disaster Rescue techniques.

The team was led by Phil Walker, Unit Officer of the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit. Other team members were Selwyn Kloeden and Max Baliva from the Hermannsburg Volunteer Unit and Michelle Thomas, Ian Smith and Tim Fitzpatrick from the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit. Alice Springs Area Manager for NTES, Keith Lewis was the Team Manager and the Regional Manager – Southern NTES, Rob Romaldi was one of the national judges.

The team trained together in Alice Springs before flying to Brisbane for the two day competition held on 19–20 September.

Keith Lewis stated “Our NT Emergency Service Volunteers were very highly skilled

and their technical expertise was on comparison with other jurisdictions”.

“It’s extremely gratifying to see that our Volunteers commitment to training is recognised but commended on a national level,” Mr Lewis said.

The aspects of the National Disaster Rescue Competition included risk management, planning and decision making, extrication techniques, casualty removal strategies and tools and equipment usage.

While the NT team did not place high in the overall standings, they were awarded the “Horrie” Howard Spirit of Competition award, (Chairman of the Australian Council of State Emergency Services), given to the team that facilitated the most spirit, comradeship and willingness to learn and impart skills and knowledge to other competitors.

This award is voted on by their peers, other teams and judges and demonstrates the high regard in which the NT Emergency Service is held. This is the second time the NT Team has received this award at the National level, with NTES being presented with the award in Bunbury, WA in 2007.

2009 NTES Unit Officers Conference – Alice Springs

Between 14–16 August, the NT Emergency Service conducted its annual conference in Alice Springs.

Volunteer Unit Officers from around the NT and staff from Territory Headquarters and the Southern Region attended the two day event. Topics discussed ranged from the newly adapted Unit Certification process, resource allocation and Volunteer recruitment and retention.

A/Commander Alice Springs and Southern Region Command, Kym Davies was a keynote speaker and discussed the relationships between the NT Police and volunteer members.

An outcome of the conference was the newly adapted slogan “One NTES”, which signifies the positive approach with NTES staff and Volunteers working together as one united team.

The Conference was facilitated by the Southern Region members and concluded with a Formal dinner on the Saturday night with Mr Hori Howard AO, MC, ESM, Chairman of the Australian Council State Emergency Services as the after dinner speaker.

The Director of NTES, Mr Peter Davies was pleased with the outcomes of the conference.

“The conference assists in shaping the future of the NT Emergency Service,” said Mr Davies.

At the conclusion of the conference, a handful of Unit Officers from Northern Region were treated to a bush tour and taken on a whirlwind 2 day trek down to Kings Canyon and Uluru.

2009 NTES Unit Officers Conference was attended by staff and Volunteers from all over the Territory.



Working together to tackle road safety

Lajamanu police have been working closely with the local school and community elders to raise awareness about road safety and licensing education.

Police have recently been involved in the Road Safety Adopt-a-School project with the local senior school classes.

The project involved the senior students sharing their knowledge about road safety with the community by producing a play for the Milpirri Festival in October.

Following on from the play, with the assistance of the Mt Theo Youth Program, a road safety ad is now being made using local children which will be aired on NITV.

Police have been actively working with the Lajamanu School inviting classes to come to the Police Station to see how it operates and to have a talk about driver education. Police have also been visiting the school and talking to individual classes about the importance of road safety.

With Lajamanu police working closely with the community on this education program, there has been a dramatic decrease in unlicensed driving and driving of unregistered vehicles.

There has also been a corresponding increase in community members coming to the Police station to apply for their licence with the majority of people successfully obtaining their licence.



The school children really enjoy their excursions through the Police Station.

ACPO's sing for safety



At the recent Barunga Festival, our very own 'Yidiyu Singers' comprising of Senior ACPO Bernie Devine, ACPO Allen Gebadi and Bernie's brother Chris Devine entered the 2009 Barunga Festival Road Safety Song Competition.

The song was written by Chris, and the trio travelled to Barunga during the festival to perform.

Whilst the song didn't win the competition it is now being used as background music for twenty different road safety radio advertisements recorded by ACPOs.

This new NT Police Indigenous Road Safety Initiative is a part of the STARS project – Stop Territory Aboriginal Road Sadness.

At the festival the Yidiyu trio caught up with Jessica Mauboy, who Chris used to babysit as a young child.



Mr Chris Devine, Ms Jessica Mauboy, Senior ACPO Bernie Devine, Probationary Constable Allen Gebadi.

NT Fire Brigade Cadet Unit 1978–1979

Source: Unpublished research notes of the History of the Fire Service in the Northern Territory of Australia compiled by Lou Cowan – Oct 2009.

Early in 1978 the Cadet Training Scheme commenced when six young men between the ages of sixteen and eighteen were recruited to undertake a two year training program.

While the NT Fire Brigade Training Section was responsible for training the cadets in firefighting practices, additional learning at the Darwin Community College was also scheduled in order to undertake study in subjects such as English, mathematics, physics, hydraulics and building design and construction.

There was also an expectation that following their two year training period, the cadets would sit for an examination of the Institute of Fire Engineers.

During this time, former British Army – 42nd Commando Regiment – member Dennis Baker was attached to the NT Fire Brigade Training Section as Sub-Officer, and was partly responsible for their daily program, drill-ground procedures, theoretical firemanship, and physical training.

Dennis said: “In those days, I had the Cadets at the Scout Hall near the University and they were doing training there. My idea of PT for them was with a knapsack sprayer on their back and if I was nice that morning it would be empty, or it would be full with the cap on, and if I was getting nasty I would get them to take the cap off and run backwards around the oval. Then they got soaking bloody wet!”



The uniform supplied to the cadets was the same as issued to the regular firemen, including a peaked cap and a helmet. Baker suggested that the cadets needed to be more readily identifiable in a large group, so they were subsequently issued with an Akubra-style hat with a British Army Grenadier cap badge fixed on the front. A red stripe was also sewn down the side of the leg of the trousers. No other distinguishing features were added.

It was later agreed that the Akubra was a poor choice of hat, for when the cadets were undertaking firefighting duties they exchanged their hats for their helmets,

stuffing the hats wherever they could find a place for safekeeping. The hats soon looked extremely worn and battered, and were ultimately replaced with a black beret.

In the first year of operation, the cadets were directly responsible for undertaking one hundred and thirty six separate hazard reduction operations, ranging in size from two to sixteen hectares at a time and effectively reducing the risk of fire in the rural area.

The NTFB cadet program proved to be a great success ... so much so that authorisation was granted to allow an annual intake of six cadets. Late in 1979 in the second training year of the first intake two cadets, David Goff and Grant Ashford, successfully applied to enter the Fire Brigade as regular firefighters. The remaining four, Sagol Limprateep, Peter Luke, Ian Lockley and Doug Whatley continued with their training and completed the two year program. All six cadets graduated as firefighters.

At the beginning of 1979 the second wave of six cadets were enlisted. This intake consisted of Cadets Rodney Nagas, Grant Hamon, Michael Lew Fatt, Glen Berryman, Murray Pascoe and Rodney Fraser. All six continued their two-year training program, finally graduating as firefighters at the end of 1980.

Following the furnishing of the Williamson Report in November 1979 and a subsequent restructure of the Fire Brigade, the Cadet Division was discontinued. The NT Police attempted to continue a cadet intake but this too was a short term venture, being abandoned after the first year.



TALISMAN SABRE

Earlier this year, the Territory Response Section (TRS) had a unique opportunity to participate in joint training with an American Special Forces unit from Okinawa, Japan in the bi-annual joint military exercise, 'Talisman Sabre 09', between the Australian and American military.



The fast rope training was definitely a highlight of the exercise.

Two weeks of training started on Wednesday 8 July when American Defence Force members from Charlie One One (C11) arrived in Darwin. On arrival, it was good to learn that C11 members were all acclimatised to working in the tropics, with local temperatures and climate almost identical to Okinawa.

A short induction advised of local traffic and anti-social laws and, where not to go swimming (pretty much anywhere other than a pool or a bathtub); considering the recent Briony Goodsell attack where TRS members played an integral role.

The talk was followed by a snakes demonstration by Chris Peberton from the AFP which definitely got their attention. After that it was down to business, venues were discussed, training was scheduled and dates were set.

First a quick trip down to the range for weapons to be sighted in and kit to be looked at. There were many TRS members envious of the equipment their American counterparts had, but

it was to be expected since the funding available for the American military is almost on par with Australia's entire national budget.

Joint training in explosive breaching was the first exercise and the TRS breachers didn't hesitate to share their knowledge and tactics with the group. This proved invaluable as it demonstrated to the members of C11 that we were willing to work together and share information.

The next few days involved joint counter terrorism exercises with the extensive use of stun grenades and simmunition. At first, there were separate C11 and TRS teams but it wasn't long before all the members were working closely together.

The lead members of C11 were impressed with the room combat skills and tactics used by TRS team leaders and members, especially since elements of this unit had been doing



2009

By Sgt Meacham King

counter terrorism and hostage rescue operations in the Middle East.

In the second week, C11 had the use of two Seahawk helicopters from the USS George Washington to utilise for training and the final exercises.

Practice runs were done from the TRS climbing wall followed by a full day and some night training of members fast roping from the helicopters.

It was an exceptional experience especially since a majority of the TRS members had not conducted any training of this type before, as there is no aerial platform in Darwin that can be affordably utilised.

The final exercise consisted of three separate scenarios at three different locations. The final major exercise saw an official invite from C11 commanders for TRS to supply members to assist in the assault on the terrorist's location

ADF elements attached to the C11

and TRS joint training stated they had never seen this opportunity given to a local law enforcement body, to work purely with an American Special Forces unit with no ADF elements participating, so it was a rather proud moment for TRS members.

Once the exercise was completed, it all came to a close with a refreshing debrief at the Deck Bar where TRS members were presented with T-shirts and an outstanding photo Plaque in appreciation for the assistance and participation in the joint training and exercises of Talisman Sabre 09.

TRS members would like to thank the members from the ADF, elements of C11 exercise control, the C11 commanding officer and members from C11 themselves for their professionalism, humor and ability to drink copious amounts of Australian Beer at the cave.

Preparations are now underway for Talisman Sabre '11.



Members from TRS and C11 on patrol.



Participants of Talisman Sabre 09 included NT Police Territory Response Section, American Defence Force Charlie One One and Australian Defence Force Personnel.



A new era in digital communications

The NTPFES employs a number of communication networks and systems to manage and monitor the deployment of their staff and provide community safety and protection in an efficient and effective way. These communication systems include digital and analogue radio networks, microwave backbone links, HF radio, satellite, and public cellular mobile linked via call taking and dispatch facilities.

In 2008, NTPFES was awarded approx \$13m by the NT Government to replace its existing Motorola 3.0 digital radio network which is approaching its end-of-life. The three year digital Radio Upgrade Project commenced in July 2008 and aims to implement the latest Motorola Digital Trunking P25 (v7.6) communication system across NTPFES operations in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

Construction of the new network has commenced and is progressing as planned across Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. Clear evidence of the project can be seen on the PMC rooftop which now holds six dishes for the new network.

When constructed, the Digital Trunking P25 network will be deployed in parallel with the existing NTPFES digital communications network, eventually replacing the old network in late 2010.

While many of the benefits of the new network will not be evident to every day users, the new digital network will deliver the following benefits to NTPFES:

- Digital radio penetration and coverage into the Katherine Town area.
- Enhanced digital radio coverage across Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.
- Provides for end-to-end encryption allowing for secure communications of all traffic on the network.
- Increases in the volume of channels and talk groups available to NTPFES and other public safety stakeholders.
- Superior logging and auditing of voice communications.
- Lays the foundations for future expansion for mobile data deployment.
- Enable Tech Support Staff to program handheld radios over-the-air without the need to manually inspect each radio.

Project updates will feature in the coming issues of DRUM.

Interested to find out more? Contact Tony Chivell (Manager, Communication and Electronic Support Services) or George Koulakis (Project Manager) on (08) 8922 3520.



Main Aligning the dishes. Left Mounting one of the six dishes on the roof at PMC.

IAWP conference in Seattle



By Senior Sergeant
Kerry Legg.

Above Australian
Representatives.
Top right Pauline Williams
and Kerry Legg proudly
represented Australia
and the NT.
Bottom right Pauline Williams
'can canning'.

Following on from the memorable International Association of Women Police (IAWP) conference hosted by the Northern Territory Police Force in 2008, the IAWP conference was this year held in Seattle, USA.

Auxiliary Pauline Williams, Sergeant Christine Goodger, Sergeant Melinda Edwards and I attended 47th Annual IAWP conference from 20–25 September 2009.

More than 500 women from 33 nations were represented at the conference and all looked splendid in their colourful and varied uniforms. As always the RCMP looked outstanding in their Red Serge dress uniforms. Australia was represented by four members from the NT, three from Victoria, two from the AFP, including a member seconded to the United Nations and one from Queensland.

The training program kicked off on the Monday with Keynote Speaker Anne Rule who is one of Seattle's foremost crime authors and a former policewoman with the Seattle Police Department. She has written several books including one about Gary Wrigdeway the Green River serial killer.

The conference training program was diverse and interesting and I attended a number of valuable training sessions, including a case study of the Green River serial murders presented by two of the key investigators on that case.

The presentation included footage of the crime scenes and records of interviews with Gary Wrigdeway. It offered an insight into the mind of Wrigdeway who was convicted of 48 murders, though it is believed he may have committed in excess of 90 murders of women in and around Washington State in the 1980's and 1990's.

Another training session of interest was

a presentation by FBI Special Agent and Profiler Mark Safarik. He is one of the FBI's foremost authorities on Elder Abuse and Homicide. He provided an insight into the phenomena of the rape and murder of elderly women and the victim and offender profile most often associated with such murders.

Special Agent Safarik was able to provide profile characteristics in relation to homicides of elderly females in the USA. Victim profiles included; likely to be Caucasian, widowed and live alone and likely to have lived in the neighbourhood for 10+ years. Offender profile characteristics were most likely non-caucasian, never married, live with family/relative, have criminal records with burglary the most frequent offence. Notably, around 80% of offenders *don't* have a prior criminal history for sexual offences.

Another interesting training session was on an emerging crime of the 21st century being identity theft and fraud. This is proving to be a profitable criminal exploit as there is a tendency amongst financial institutions to write off losses rather than encourage victims to pursue prosecution which can tie up the organisations resources when assisting police.

The conference included a number of social functions, the highlights being the 'Wizard of Oz' theme gala dinner and 'Gangster' theme hospitality night, to promote the 2010 IAWP Conference in Minneapolis.

I presented the IAWP Board with the conference report for the 2008 IAWP conference held in Darwin and received positive feedback from a number of delegates who attended the conference.

The board acknowledged the success of

the conference and applauded the profit the conference committee were able to pass on to the IAWP resulting from the Darwin conference.

The Seattle conference provided an excellent networking opportunity and chance to see how other countries and jurisdictions go about their law enforcement activities.

The AGM held at the end of the conference saw the election of a new regional coordinator for Region 14 which encompasses Australia and New Zealand. The function of Region 14 will be shared by Sergeant Melinda Edwards of NT Police and Sergeant Karen Salisbury of Queensland Police.

The next IAWP conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 26–30 September 2010. Registrations are currently being taken so if you're interested log onto www.iawp2010.org

Whilst the Seattle conference was a great experience, without doubt the highlight for me was the post conference tour I did to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon. Las Vegas is akin to a theme park for adults and I highly recommend it as an addition to your bucket load of things to do.



Commissioner's farewell



Most of you will know the Commissioner is someone who does not know the meaning of impossible task, who does not know the meaning of lunch break, who does not understand the term 'work-life balance' and who certainly does not understand the meaning of the word no.





After 8 years with NT Police, and a Policing career which spanned over 40 years, it's difficult to succinctly sum up the contribution and influence that Mr. Paul White had to the Police Force. Upon announcing his retirement in September this year, Assistant Commissioner Mr Mark McAdie prepared the following words to farewell the NT Police Commissioner.

When I told people I was going to make a retirement speech today they got quite excited . . . until I explained that it wasn't me who was retiring.

"I know, as pretty well all of you will know, that the Commissioner is not retiring in the sense that he is giving up earning money by the sweat of his brow, it is a retirement in that it is a retirement from Policing, after a career spanning more than forty years.

"I guess it says something about Paul White – that after a 41 year career in the Police Force – he will be retiring from Policing – he will not be retiring from work. He is moving on from us to work in the equally challenging area of Racing, Gaming and Licensing in South Australia. Clearly it will be our loss and the crowd eater's gain.

"I don't know Commissioner whether your first few days here had that sense of 'what have I gotten myself into?' – I don't know whether you examined the contract for an escape clause. But if you did, escape obviously eluded you for some time.

"At events such as this, it is traditional to reflect on the past and I certainly think it is worthwhile just thinking back to 17 December 2001, when the Commissioner arrived in Darwin.

"On that day we did not have; Dog Operations Unit, Strategic Planning Command, Traffic Operations

Section, Child Abuse Taskforce, Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk, Specialised Intelligence Division, Themis stations, Special Operations Section, telephone intercept capability, Violent Crime Reduction Strategy, Remote Community Drug Desk, Graded Response Policy, Property Crime Reduction Strategy, Counter Terrorism and Security Division, Indigenous Policing Development Division and full time Duty Officers.

"In the time since December 2001 we have conducted a number of reviews to modernise policy, practice and procedure in a wide range of areas. The Commissioner for the last eight years has also been a strong advocate and supporter of front line policing, women in policing (especially through the unforgettable IAWP 2008 Conference), Aboriginal Territorians in Policing and remote service. All of those areas have seen considerable change during the last eight years and without Paul White these things may not have happened at all.

"We have had a period of remarkable growth both in terms of personnel, equipment, budget and stature as an organization. There is not any one of the things I have mentioned, and many others I have not, in which the Commissioner was not directly involved as an agitator, advisor, innovator or mentor.

"Most of you will know the Commissioner is someone who does not know the meaning of impossible task, who does not know the meaning of lunch break, who does not understand the term 'work-life balance' and who certainly does not understand the meaning of the word no.

"So we recommend that the staff at Racing, Gaming and Liquor in SA buy him a dictionary, it could be a worthwhile investment in making their life easier.

"But everything was not perfect, there have been debates, discussion and, on rare occasions, arguments. A few of us have had the knack of generating the infamous 'thousand mile stare'.

"Commissioner, one way or another, you've had an impact on this place and you'll leave quite a gap here.

But we won't have any shortage of memories. We'll remember you for being principled. We'll remember you for being enterprising and entrepreneurial. Above all else we will remember you as a more enthusiastic fisherman than a successful one. Does the phrase 'no fish commish' mean anything to anyone? I have utilized my contacts in DPFIM or Fisheries whatever they happened to be called this week and they tell me you are welcome back anytime to fish, apparently you have been assessed as being only a minor threat to fish stocks.

"The Commissioner is also a legendary supporter of the Adelaide Crows – I looked up jokes about the Adelaide Crows and almost all of them appear to be offensive, so I think I will stick to the fact that being a supporter of the Adelaide Crows is like the fellow who is getting married for the seventh time – it represents the triumph of optimism over experience.

"Perhaps that football game with you in full uniform with the kids at Elcho was a means to cover up some of the inevitable disappointment . . .

"It is also traditional at these gatherings to reflect upon and value the place that family plays in all of our lives. Without the willing support of our families none of us would be able to do the valuable work that we do. In this case, we must recognise the part that Cynthia has played. They say that behind every great man is a great woman, and this is certainly the case here.

"Cynthia has taken an interest in the lives and troubles of the families of members serving in remote and regional locations and for a short time at least put up with some of their privations and limitations.

"So this is goodbye, Commissioner.

"I can think of no higher honour we can bestow except to say that you arrived here an experienced and respected South Australian Police Officer but you leave an NT Cop.

"We'll miss you.

How the *times* have **changed** . . .

The Northern Territory has a permanent police history dating from 1870, when Inspector Paul Foelsche and six other police officers arrived in the Territory. A small rural constabulary (part time force) had existed earlier but was disbanded.

Since 1955 the size of the Northern Territory Police Force has increased significantly, in line with the population. In 1955 there were 80 police officers however, today the establishment numbers 1030 sworn Police, Auxiliaries and Aboriginal Community Police Officers.

The NT Police Force has a proud history of serving the Northern Territory community, often under difficult conditions associated with distance, isolation and severe climatic conditions.

In June, 1979, the NT Police force looked something like this . . .

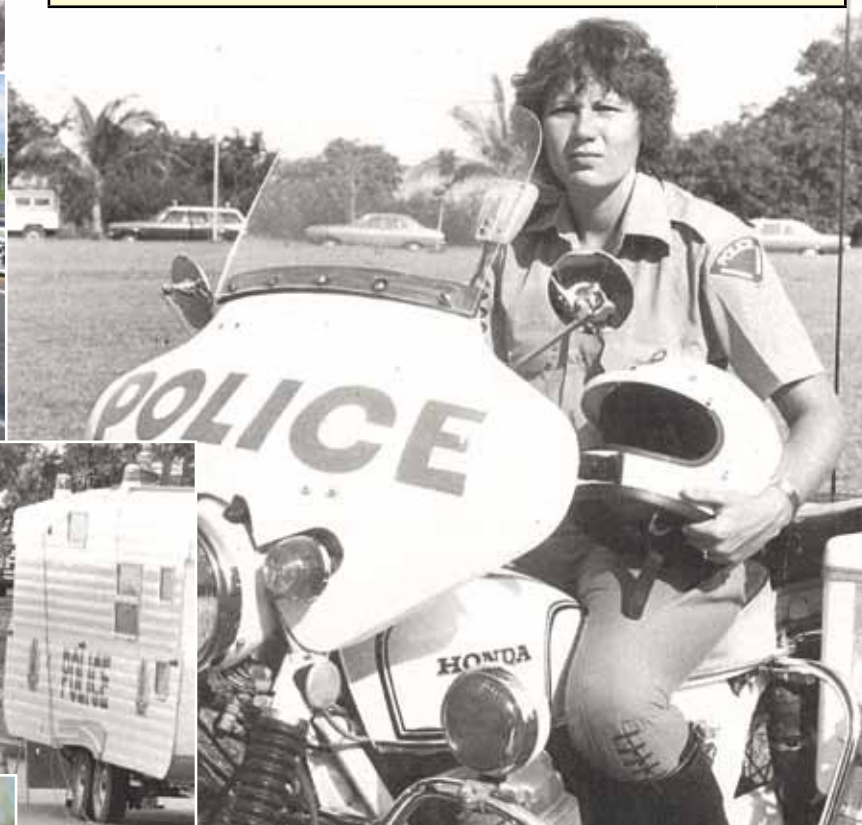
Members	Number
Constables and above	538
Police Trackers	40
Aboriginal Liaison Assistants	7
Female Officers (as at 1961)	5
TOTAL	590

Some 30 years later in 2009, the Police force has grown tremendously . . .

Members	Number
Constables and Above	1000+
ACPO's	81
Indigenous Officers Constable and Above (30 Sept)	34
Auxiliaries (30 Sept)	159
Female Sworn Police	369
* Female Constables & above = 214	
* Female Superintendents & above = 13	
TOTAL	1343+



The new fleet of patrol cars certainly stand in stark contrast to the 'International 4WD Scout'. The Traffic Unit forms a part of today's Road Safety Division which also includes, Major Crash Investigation Unit, Speed Camera Van Unit and the Adjudicators Unit. The division coordinates Territory-wide and regional road safety campaigns and traffic control including major public events. Random Breath testing stations have, and still continue to be an important responsibility of the Road Safety Division.

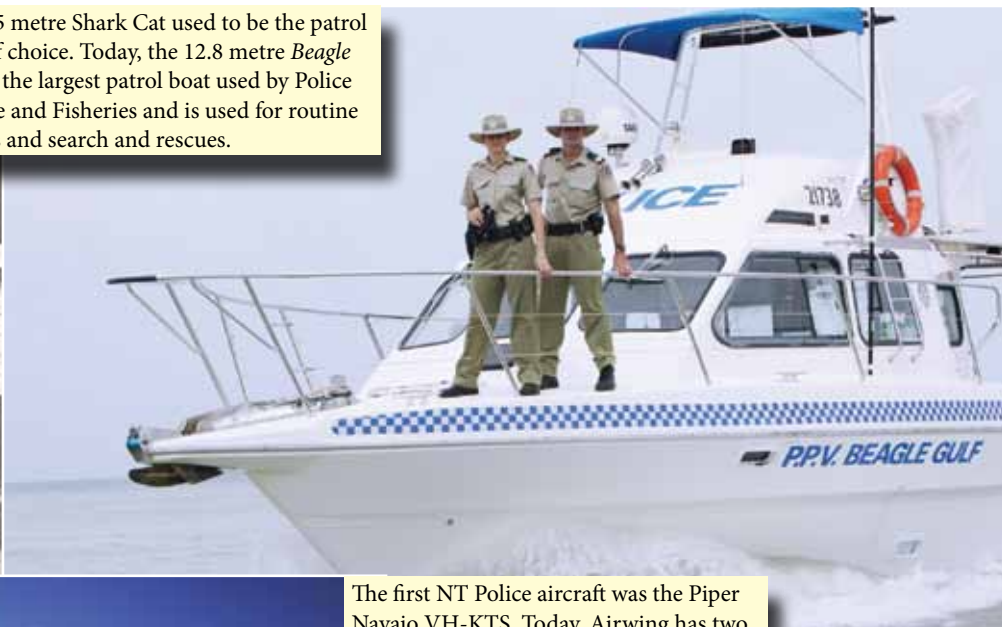


Constable Kate Vanderlaan was the first Policewoman motorcyclist in Australia in April 1980. Nowadays, motorcycle patrols are a regular part of everyday policing for S/C Constable Jodie Kitchen and Sergeant Rosanna Breed.

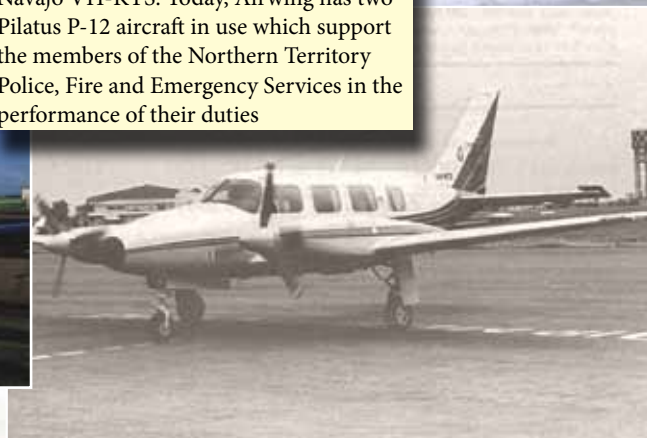




The 5.5 metre Shark Cat used to be the patrol boat of choice. Today, the 12.8 metre *Beagle Gulf* is the largest patrol boat used by Police Marine and Fisheries and is used for routine patrols and search and rescues.



The first NT Police aircraft was the Piper Navajo VH-KTS. Today, Airwing has two Pilatus P-12 aircraft in use which support the members of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services in the performance of their duties



Men and single women A CAREER WITH A DIFFERENCE in the Northern Territory Police force



If you enjoy a challenge, seek a varied and exciting career and meet these requirements—

British Subject; Males ages 21-30 (35 with previous Police Service),
Females 25-35; Male Minimum Height 5'9", Females 5'4";
Satisfactory Health, Education and Character

our offer includes—

Free Accommodation
Family Air Fares every 2 years
Seven Weeks Leave
Rapid Promotion
Tax Concessions

Specialisation or Remote Outpost
Service Opportunities
Paid Overtime
Police Pay Uplift Expenses
Full Pay During Training

Minimum Salary \$220 Fortnight

ENQUIRIES TO THE COMMISSIONER

The Northern Territory Police

receipt at the...
of the Police Gazette, as
paragraph, make an entry



Recruitment Advertising has certainly had a facelift since 1979.

15.—(1) Whenever the Minister makes an alteration to the establishment of the Force, the Commissioner shall cause particulars of the alteration to be published in the Police Gazette as soon thereafter as is practicable after the date of commencement of the alteration.

month of January in each year thereafter, the Commissioner shall cause particulars of the alteration to be published in the Police Gazette as soon thereafter as is practicable after the date of commencement of the alteration.

2.—Appointments. The Commissioner shall not be appointed unless he is a naturalized British subject; and he shall not be appointed unless he has submitted satisfactory evidence to the Commissioner of—

(a) the date and place of his birth; and
(b) his health and physical fitness; and
(c) having attained a satisfactory standard of education;

Evidence to just how much the times really have changed. Back in 1967 there were strict regulations around the employment of women such as being between 25–35 years old. Today, the Northern Territory Police Force has one of Australia's highest proportion of women officers with a ratio of 1:4 women to men.

(d) is not less than twenty-five years of age except where she has previously served in a Police Force; and
(e) at the time of her appointment, is unmarried or a widow with no young children dependant upon her.

(2.) A candidate for appointment as a Policewoman shall not be appointed unless she—
(a) is a natural born or naturalized British subject;
(b) has submitted satisfactory evidence to the Commissioner of—
(i) the date and place of her birth;
(ii) her good character;
(iii) her health and physical fitness; and
(iv) having attained a satisfactory standard of education;
(c) is at least 5 feet 4 inches in height;
(d) is not less than twenty-five nor more than thirty-five years of age except where she has previously served in a Police Force; and
(e) at the time of her appointment, is unmarried or a widow with no young children dependant upon her.

**READY
TO MOVE
TO THE
TOP?**



Hi Paul,
MY CAREER WITH A CAUSE!
I can't believe I got in so soon
and I'm in the Territory.
7 WEEKS ANNUAL LEAVE, PAID
TRAINING and FREE HOUSING
I'm loving every minute of it. Going
camping at Litchfield swimming under the
waterfalls. Then I'll enjoy a long shower
- no water problems up here.
YOU should join the NT Police.
See you at the Top!!
xxx Tanya

POST CARD

RECRUITING NOW
Applications Close:
22 May 2009

Assessment Centre Interstate
and Alice Springs:
13 June, 2009
Parwin: 14 June, 2009
Commence Training:
5 October 2009



NT Police



The NT Police Force. A Career With a Cause.

Call 1800 005 099 or visit www.police.nt.gov.au

Farewell Alan Stephens



Perth born Alan Robert Stephens, moved to Darwin in 1970 to play football for the Buffalos ...



A short time after moving here, he met his wife Maria and got a job at the NT News as a lino-typewriter. A few years later at just 25 years old, Alan joined the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue service and hasn't looked back since.

What made you decide to be a firefighter?

I was looking for a job that offered me and my family security. Sounds funny in hindsight but at the time there was rumours that the future of the NT News wasn't looking that stable. A couple of mates had joined the fire service and were really enjoying it; so I expressed some interest in finding out more about it. I got a call on a Friday afternoon saying that the next intake was going to be on the following Monday; I gave the paper two hours notice and I've been with NTFRS ever since. It's the best choice I ever made.

What have been some of the biggest changes over the last 30 years?

There have been many, but most visibly, the uniform. When I first joined, the NTFRS had plastic helmets and cotton shirts and trousers. And the trucks; they didn't even have doors on them, let alone seatbelts when we started. Now everything is state of the art; the uniforms are based on the same technology used by the NASA space program, and all our trucks and equipment utilise the latest technologies.

What makes being in the fire service such a good career option?

The people. And the diversity and scope of the work. Being a Firie is not just about pulling people out of fires – you can move into all different areas and sections. I've also been lucky enough to go overseas and interstate with the Furies on numerous occasions, representing the NT for a number of associations.

What's been the hardest thing about your career with the Fire Service?

When people leave, or friends pass away. The NTFRS is like a big family, so when someone leaves, it's always sad.

Highlights in your career?

Implementation of the Smart Sparx program. The program was initially started to decrease the number of children hospitalised each year from burns, with a particular focus on indigenous communities. The program has been accepted and attracted sponsors and is now being implemented in many Territory communities.

Also, designing the NTFRS flag in 1991 – it's the legacy that I'll leave behind.

Disappointments?

That the NT doesn't have retrospective fire alarm legislation – any house built after 1997 needs to have a fire alarm but houses built before that aren't required to have one by law – we are the only state/Territory in Australia to not have it.

At 58, you're still fairly young to retire. Are you sure you're ready?

After 34 years, out of the 12 of us from the 1975 recruit squad, only 2 of us are still here with the NTFRS. Retirement is definitely going to be a shock to the system. But, it's rewarding to know that I've done the best I can do and I'm proud to know I've made a difference.

What are you going to miss the most?

The people and the work. It's such a diverse job – my mind is going all the time and I'm never bored. I think it will be hard to slow down at first.

What's next?

Take it easy for a while; spend time at the block in Dundee, camping and fishing. Catch up with friends and family. And, Maria and I have plans to travel overseas; I think Europe is definitely on the cards.

From the top, left to right Alan Stephens dedicated 34 years to NTFRS and says it's the best decision he ever made.

Alan, with his wife Maria, received a big farewell from across the Tri-service. Firefighter Alan, in the early days.

One of his proudest achievements, The Smart Sparx program, was launched at Parliament house last year.

Party time!

By B/SGT Nick Byrne

Top left S/C Josh Lloyd (aka DJ Josh) had a great time picking songs and getting the crowd excited.

Top right Pigeon Hole community school added bubbles to their Blue Light Disco.

Bottom Blue Light Disco arrives at Yarralin. The police vehicles were used to add some special lighting effects.

The team at Yarralin Themis Station, B/SGT Nick Byrne, Senior Constables Grant Smith and Josh Lloyd have been busy bringing bright lights and good times to Yarralin. The team recently ran a Blue Light Disco at Pigeon Hole Community School and another one the following night at Yarralin School, with help from Katherine ACPO's Sarel Wallace and Trudy Tilly.

The community was thrilled to have the Blue Light Disco coming to town and both events were really well received. The children at Pigeon Hole Community School were particularly excited, having never experienced a Blue Light Disco before.

Approximately thirty students attended the Pigeon Hole event and about forty kids attended at Yarralin. Josh took centre stage as the DJ and his enthusiasm radiated which made both nights a great success.

The Yarralin Blue Light Disco was held in conjunction with the Yarralin School's 10th Birthday celebrations. At the intermission there were refreshments and snacks, as well as a slide show to entertain everyone. This was followed up by live performances from the students before a cake cutting ceremony by three community elders.

A special thank you to Senior Constables Grant Smith, Josh Lloyd and to ACPO's Sarel Wallace and Trudi Tilly whose efforts were much appreciated by all who attended.



Smart Sparx at Middle Point Primary



Middle Point Primary School, located on the outskirts of Humpty Doo, recently received a visit from Firefighter's Bradley Fong and Andrew Brennan to talk to the students about the Smart Sparx program.

The program is aimed at children between the ages of 5 to 7, however children of all ages can benefit, gaining a better understanding of what to do in an emergency.

As a part of the program, the older children focused on trying to make the school and its surrounds a safer place from bush fires whilst the younger children worked on building their home evacuation plans.

The final stage of the program was a visit to the Darwin Fire Station on the last day of the school term. The students were excited to see their Firefighter friends Bradley and Andrew and were eager to get a behind the scenes tour of the fire station.

In a revision session at the station all students showed how well they had learnt the material. Ms Heidi Withers, teacher at Middle Point Primary School, said the children really enjoyed meeting the firefighters and got a lot out of the program. "It is an excellent program. I would definitely have the firefighters visit the school again," she said.



Top The students enjoyed water play with Firefighter Brad Fong.

Bottom Paul Rubie and Andrew Brennan talk about the tools of the trade.

National Police Remembrance Day 2009

A large crowd gathered for the 2009 National Police Remembrance Day to watch the colourful parade in Darwin, from Knuckey Street to St Mary's Cathedral in Smith Street.

Former Police Commissioner Paul White said that National Police Remembrance Day is a very special day for Police and their families and is recognised throughout Australasia.

"The processions and marches are to honour Police officers who have died while serving the community, either on or off duty," he said.

In keeping with tradition, the Katherine community gathered at the grave of Constable Bill Condon who was shot on duty in the main street of Katherine in 1952.

Memorial services were also held at the

Tennant Creek Cemetery and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alice Springs.

Members and the public were encouraged to wear the Remembrance Day ribbons to show their support for all the officers who have died while serving.

All proceeds go to Police Legacy who supports families and relatives who have lost loved ones.

More than 700 Police officers have died on duty since the first recorded death of an officer in Sydney in 1803.

The Police Legacy luncheon was held again this year following the service at St Mary's Cathedral. At the luncheon a new Police legacy DVD was launched.

The DVD shows how legacy can help surviving spouses and dependants



if anything should happen to a Police member. It depicts family members talking about how Legacy has helped, supported and been there for them when needed.

The DVD aims to lift the profile of Police Legacy and the role it plays. It will be viewed by new recruits, members and other interested parties.

Remembrance Day is commemorated on 29 September each year, the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel and Patron Saint of Police.

For more information on Police Legacy call the Legacy Secretariat on 8999 5511 or email police.legacy@pfes.nt.gov.au

Tiwi cop hits the top

When asked how he felt after being awarded the 2009 Rotary Police Officer of the Year, all Senior Constable Anthony Clarke said was "I'm shocked. Who is this? Is this a prank call?"

After 10 years on the Force, S/C Clarke couldn't wipe the smile off his face when he was announced this year's top cop.

He was presented with his well deserved award by the Administrator of the Northern Territory Mr Tom Paulling, President of the Rotary Club Darwin Mr John Palamountain

and Acting Commissioner, Bruce Wernham at the Administrators Office on Thursday 17 September.

S/C Clarke is the 19th winner of this prestigious annual award and he has been recognised for his work with the Pirlangimpi Community on Melville Island however he has also served at Alice Springs, Kulgera, Yulara and in Darwin. S/C Clark was also seconded to the Australian Federal Police for two years, serving in the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste

with the International Deployment Group in the Operations Response Team.

S/C Clarke was humbled when he received a nomination for the award, and was surprised when he was selected.

"I look up to a lot of officers who have won this award in the past. It really is an honour with all the good work being done by police officers out there.

"I believe that my policing at grass roots level and engaging with

the community has been the contributing factor for my selection. I do spend a lot of time with primary schools and the CDEP (Community Development Employment Projects) program.

"I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Darwin for the honour and am really proud to be receiving the 2009 award," said S/C Clarke.

Assistant Commissioner Bruce Wernham acknowledged Anthony's achievements at a private function held at Government House following the official presentation.

"I congratulate Anthony on this significant achievement that recognises his outstanding career with NT Police. As always, the NT Police is honoured to be a part of the prestigious Rotary Police Officer of the Year award," he said.

Rotary Club of Darwin President John Palamountain was impressed by the community response to this year's award. "51 nominations were submitted by people from a number of areas throughout the Territory, some by interstate visitors, and the nominees were from a range of ranks and postings. I congratulate Constable Clarke on his success."

When asked how he planned to celebrate receiving the award, Anthony honestly replied, "a few cold beers with some police mates sounds like a good plan," he said.

Senior Constable Clark felt honoured to be named the 2009 Police Officer of the Year.



Port Power visits Galiwinku

By Constable
Daniel Seden.

The local community of Galiwinku (Elcho Island) received a surprise visit in September from two of Port Adelaide's high profile players, Daniel Motlop and Alipate Carlile. The players volunteered their time, while on an end of season break to Darwin, to make the visit to the community and meet some of their biggest fans.

The visit was organised and facilitated by members of NT Police Task Force Themis as a community engagement initiative, which coincided with the annual 'Healthy Lifestyle Festival', which ran from the 21–25 September.

Daniel is Darwin born and a popular identity amongst avid football fans across the Territory. Known for his extraordinary goal kicking ability, the forward started his AFL career with the North Melbourne Kangaroos playing with the Victorian based team between 2001 and 2005. Daniel moved to Port Power in 2005 and has been an instrumental part of the Adelaide team since.

The Fijian born Alipate, affectionately known as "Bobby" by his team mates, debuted for Port Adelaide in 2006 and is a rising star in the AFL. The solidly built fullback came to notice with his tenacious defensive style, and ability to continually frustrate the oppositions attack.

The players started with a visit to Sheperdson School going to a number of junior and senior classrooms to meet the kids. Daniel and Alipate spoke briefly to each class about their backgrounds and experiences as AFL players at the top level and importantly what steps and personal sacrifices they took to achieve this goal.

Daniel stressed that the most important part of becoming a successful AFL player is commitment, being on time to training and having a good diet. After speaking with



the senior classes, the players mingled with the students and teachers, posing for photos and signing footballs and posters for the students.

Daniel and Alipate also spent a short time with some of the local senior football players at the community football ground, where Daniel gave an impromptu display of his goal kicking skills, amongst the many shouts and whistles of the locals. They then spoke to the senior players and re-enforced what is involved in making it as an elite AFL footballer; attitude, discipline, a healthy lifestyle free from drugs and excessive alcohol usage were the main talking points.

Before leaving Daniel commented, "this is the sort of thing that most of our blokes never get to see, and I think that we should do these visits more often".

Alipate added, "I really enjoyed it; it gave me a chance to experience the lifestyle of an NT indigenous community. The kids were great" he said.

Overall the visit was well received and it provided local community members a chance to meet some of their AFL heros.

A special thanks to those members of the Galiwinku Police, Const 1/C Kellie Logan, ACPO Bettina Danganbarr and Sergeant Joe Hart for hosting the visit, and importantly, thanks to former Themis Superintendent Lane Crews for supporting the event, and being instrumental in making this possible with only short notice.

Also, special mention should go to the Galiwinku AFLNT Football Development Manager, Tavis Perry for his help and assistance with the visit.

Right Alipate signed plenty of posters and merchandise for all his fans.

Below from left Daniel and Alipate had some time for fishing and crabbing, with a few tips from the local kids. Daniel and Alipate spoke to local senior football players about the importance of living a healthy life and a good education.



Engaging with the community – Minjilang Police

Minjilang Police members Sergeant Chris Board, Sergeant Mark Gilpin and Senior Constable Donna Edelman have been busy introducing several community engagement strategies to build positive rapport and relationships within the community.

Sergeant Gilpin stressed the importance of being actively involved so that police are seen as part of the community and not just a reactive law enforcement body. "Thinking outside the square to develop local solutions in small communities such as Minjilang is what this is all about," he said.

Members have recently introduced bicycle patrols in the afternoon. Senior Constable Edelman said that members regularly ride their pushbikes around the community during the late afternoon and after work. "It's a great opportunity for the community to engage with us in a social setting and at the same time we are maintaining our fitness," she said.

Minjilang Police have also introduced a 'Be a Legal Driver' campaign, which aims to help unlicensed drivers understand the process of obtaining a drivers licence through the local police.

Sergeant Board noticed a high level of unlicensed drivers in the community and



hoped that this campaign would help tackle the problem.

"Due to the isolation from the mainland and most people not knowing that the police can issue licences, we developed a campaign to educate the community about how to get their license," said Sergeant Board.

"We placed posters around the community encouraging anyone who was going to be driving a vehicle to obtain their drivers licence. This resulted in dozens of enquires from community members. In

the last month we have issued 7 learners licences, 2 provisional licences and renewed 5 licences. In a small community such as this, that is a significant number," he said.

Police also got involved with the careers expo organised by the local council for the school students. Sergeant Board said that overall the whole day was a huge success. "The feedback from the day was really positive. We were happy to hear that the police station tour and fingerprinting demonstration were the highlights of the day," he said.



Above left Sergeant Mark Gilpin and Senior Constable Donna Edelman get ready for an afternoon bike patrol.

Above The children really enjoyed learning about fingerprinting and other police work at the Minjilang Careers Expo.

AFAC heading to Darwin in 2010



Left to right Steven Sutton, Greg Nettleton, Jennifer Morris and Peter Davies.

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) annual conference has grown over the years to become the premier event for the Fire and Emergency service industry in Australasia.

This year's conference was hosted by the Queensland jurisdiction at the Gold Coast Convention Centre and attracted over 1200 delegates and over 100 trade exhibitors.

The conference drew together emergency management practitioners, fire researchers, key suppliers, and senior officers from across Australian and overseas jurisdictions.

The ever increasing profile attracted quality speakers from a broad range of disciplines that contribute to Australia's emergency management capabilities.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation by the Secretary of the Australian Government's Attorney General's Department on the contribution State and Territory emergency management agencies make to the nation's resilience against natural and man-made disasters.

The Northern Territory is proud to host this prestigious event in 2010. It will be an opportunity for the Territory's Fire and Emergency service agencies to expose other jurisdictions emergency management delegates to the unique nature of emergency management in our harsh and unforgiving environment and expose them to something that is "Same Same, But Different" – next year's theme.

The NT Fire and Emergency Service had a booth at this year's conference to promote the 2010 conference in Darwin. It was very well received with many enquiries and positive feedback.

The 2010 Darwin conference is shaping up to be the biggest AFAC trade expo ever with over 80% of the expo space for Darwin already booked.

Up up and away!

By Wolfgang Langeneck.

When the first NT Police members left for secondments with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to airports in Alice Springs and Darwin some colleagues couldn't hide a smile, "So you're about to retire!" The comment referred to the four days on, four days off roster at Darwin Airport and the fact that overtime is usually not required.

However, those who signed up for the two year secondment soon learnt something different: Airport Uniform Policing (AUP) training is conducted interstate and the training program can very much take members out of their comfort zone. The AFP encourages decision making by team consent and it can be a long process to develop the necessary skills.

Seconded members soon realise that becoming a uniformed police officer at the airport taps into a well resourced stream of the AFP and a much larger organisation of which to be involved.

The Aviation portfolio allows for considerable individual training and development including promotional or civil studies. To achieve their goals members have to be self-motivated and active; as with everywhere, rewards don't come without effort.

AUP is a model which is continuously being improved and it wasn't until recently that temporary work opportunities arose for seconded members with AFP units in the Canberra headquarters. For those who have the opportunity to experience such a 'secondment within the secondment' it is fascinating to see how this large organisation can operate rapidly and in the right way when it comes to its core business.

The combination of AUP training and NT Policing experience is a real advantage for both organisations. The AFP greatly profits from operational experience which NT members have gained in a variety of incidents prior to coming to the airports.

For the NT Police, seconded members learn valuable skills and knowledge and can provide useful assistance, especially when it comes to intelligence gathering.

The experience of working with the broader AFP is also invaluable for State and Territory police services.

To find out more about secondments with the AFP, contact Police Selections on 8985 8944.

Since 2007 there's been a bird's eye view on policing in the Northern Territory: Airport Uniform Policing in Alice Springs and Darwin.

"I wanted a minimum of overtime to allow me to complete both police and civilian study.

Whilst in the AUP I had exposure to other organisations including Customs and the US military. I have also been offered training and development courses by the AFP, some of which included the opportunity to travel. During my time I worked with members from other jurisdictions and gained further insight into policing practices throughout Australia."

Senior Constable Dan Smith.

"I wanted to travel Australia; I saw Mount Kosciuszko. I enjoyed working with members from different jurisdictions and intelligence sections. I very much appreciated the development opportunities. Best jobs: Drunk driver on the runway, sitting in an interview with DIAC when a suspected people smuggler was denied entry into Australia, being able to refresh old skills and develop new approaches with AFP National Media in Canberra."

Senior Constable 1/C Wolfgang Langeneck

"I was looking for a new experience so I decided to try out airport policing. The work is diverse and applying a commonwealth aspect and legislation is a new and different challenge. Work/life diversity is attractive, working 12 hours – four on, four off shifts.

My secondment to the AFP afforded me with opportunities to travel interstate and participate in AFP courses and activities. I've found the experience overall rewarding and satisfying."

Sergeant Fred Huysse.

"After working 13 years in Alice and Arnhem Land I was looking for a change. I enjoyed training in Brisbane with NSW Police members. At the airport you have the occasional unusual job you wouldn't see in State or Territory Policing: New Year's Eve 2008 Alice Springs AUP members dealt with two international heroin couriers. If you're interested in doing something different and access a range of development opportunities the AUP may be for you."

Sergeant Norm Skennar.

NT Constable Tim Fraser on secondment with AFP, and Protective Services Officer Rob Dahlstrom on the main runway as a plane comes into land.



More indigenous officers for the Northern Territory

Northern Territory Police welcomed an additional nine Indigenous Constables to the force, following their graduation in September.

Squad 102 represents the second Transitional Aboriginal Community Police Officer (TACPO) Program for the Northern Territory Police Force with seven men and two women graduating.

The nine members have commenced duties as Probationary Constables at their respective stations in the Darwin Region (5), Tennant Creek (1) and Katherine (3).

TACPO, Constable Dannielle Carter received the Rod Evans Memorial Trophy for the highest academic achievement as well as the Glen Huitson Trophy for the most consistent application in all areas of the training course.

Constable Carter said she has always been interested in a career with Police and is committed to supporting community members.

"Being an ACPO for the past 4 years has been a great experience and I am very pleased that I have now graduated as a Constable.

"Growing up when we were asked what we wanted to do for a career, policing has always appealed to me. I'm not keen to be chained to a desk.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience working in IPDD as an ACPO and so far am loving being out on the road working with community members in the role of Constable. This is the job for me," she said.

Currently, there are 34 Indigenous Officers with the rank of Constable and above. There are also 81 Aboriginal Community Police Officers following the Graduation of ACPO Squad 16 in November.

The Northern Territory Police Force is proud to engage the highest number of Indigenous Officers per capita than any other Police Force across Australia.

Right S/ACPO Gary (Doonga) Munungurritj and ACPO Michael Cussens at the graduation ceremony.

Below ACPO Lisa Burkenhagen, TACPO Danielle Carter and Katrina Skene



Northern Territory Emergency Service Vertical Rescue Team

In early September this year, NTES was approached by the Occupational Health and Safety Officer of Sunbuild NT, to conduct a tower crane rescue training exercise.

Nine NTES Vertical Rescue members attended the Sunbuild worksite on Woods Street to participate in the simulated training exercise.

The scenario that the Vertical Rescue Rapid Response (VRRR) Team was presented with was a casualty on the top floor of the crane who would require extraction. The team would be required to gain access to the crane, stabilise the casualty and lower them safely to the ground 60 meters below (14 stories).

Upon arriving at the Sunbuild site, the VRRR Team made an initial assessment to establish the best course of action. The Team then gained access to the upper levels of the crane and stabilised the casualty, who was for the purpose of the exercise, Mr Keith Hutton, Area Manager for Arnhem.

Due to the nature of the work site being active, the Team had to improvise with some of the anchor and hauling systems which all helped in the training process.

NTES Volunteer Catherine Ria escorted the 'casualty', who was secured in a Rescue Mate stretcher, down the 60 meters to the ground from the crane cab.

"The most difficult, scary bit," says Mr Hutton, "is the initial lowering of the casualty over the edge."

The exercise was a great success for all involved, with Sunbuild satisfying the Work Health requirement with the rescue being conducted in an active worksite, whilst the VRRR Team gained invaluable experience and training.

The Sunbuild representative was very grateful for the NTES conducting the exercise and they are already in negotiations for a follow up exercise, with the same scenario but this time at 21 stories high.

NTES is very appreciative for being provided this opportunity, and extends their thanks to the Sunbuild team and look forward to conducting further training with them in the near future.



What is the Vertical Rescue Team?

The VR team is a group of specialist Emergency Service volunteers trained to respond to situations that require rescue from height or depth.

When was the VR Team formed?

In October 2007, the Director of NTES nominated the NT Emergency Service as The Hazard Management Authority for Vertical Rescue, identified within the NT All Hazards Emergency Management Arrangements. From this nomination came the NTES Vertical Rescue Response Team.

How many people are currently on the team?

Across the Northern Territory there are 30 Vertical Rescue trained NTES Members, with 22 of them in Darwin, and the remaining eight in Alice Springs, with more volunteers currently undergoing training in Alice Springs.

How many call outs on average does the team receive?

This year the Vertical Rescue Team has received and attended to nine call outs – most being during the evening / early morning hours, generally due to alcohol and 'poor planning'.

Prior to 2009 the average was around two call outs a year.

Are there any special requirements for becoming an NTES Vertical Rescue Team member?

One must be a registered NTES Volunteer, they need to be fit and healthy and have completed training to Certificate II in SES Rescue. They go through rigorous training throughout the Introductory Course and then must maintain the training and fitness required to attend call outs. Members must also be available and ready to respond 24/7 for call outs that could come at any time.



Above The VRRR team practised lowering the casualty 60m to ground from the top of the Sunbuild site.

Top left Emergency Service Volunteers Matt Aistrop and Catherine Ria assess the situation.

Left Alice Springs Vertical Rescue team training at the MacDonnell Ranges.



In the spotlight *vale* Dale Scharf

29/11/1967–15/10/2009

Dale became a volunteer member with the Northern Territory Emergency Service in 1982, where he first joined the original Alligator Rivers Region Volunteer Unit, which later became the Jabiru Volunteer Unit.

Dale was a consistent and dedicated volunteer, with a strong community spirit.

Dale continued his voluntary service with the Katherine Volunteer Unit as the Unit Officer, on to Elcho Island again as the Unit Officer. He had a brief stint with the Palmerston Volunteer Unit before continuing on to the Maningrida Volunteer Unit.

During his time with NTES, Dale became an experienced member of the team, gaining skills in Urban Search and Rescue, Storm Damage Operations, Flood Boat Operations and Marine Search and Rescue.

Dale was a cheeky soul who was always ready with a smile and some wit to lighten any situation.

He had a passion for the remote communities of the Territory and was of great assistance in the original establishment of the Elcho Island NTES Volunteer Unit, which through his efforts now boasts a response trailer and boat.

He was so well respected by the local community on Elcho Island that he was even adopted by the Yolngu people of Galiwinku.

Dale was always first to raise his hand to volunteer his assistance and services to any situation. He was involved in countless exercises, operations and training over his 27 years of service, including assisting the community in 2006 after severe tropical Cyclone Ingrid passed Elcho Island.

He is survived by his 5 children and his loving wife Jan.

NTES would like to pay tribute to a valued member, a great person and a dearly missed friend.

Dale was always willing to help out and volunteer his time.



thanks and praise

The Commissioner officially recognised the following extraordinary people for their hard work and dedication over recent months.

A Commissioner's Letter of Recognition was awarded to;

Karl Roth, Captain of the Larrimah Volunteer Fire Brigade and Captain of the Mataranka Fire & Emergency Response Group **Warren Minnett**, for their prompt response and assistance at a serious motor vehicle crash on the Stuart highway.

Peter Mayo, Indigenous Liaison Officer within NTPFES Indigenous Policing Development Division for his contribution to the School based Apprenticeship Program.

Senior Constable Martin Ramage for his diligent efforts which led to the arrest of a well-known habitual criminal.

Paul Vries, Chubb Security Patrol Officer, for his selfless actions which helped prevent a person from causing serious injury or death to himself.

Christine Lee for her diligent and conscientious work as the contract cleaner for NAB house.

A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to;

Senior Sergeant Steve Wood and **Senior Sergeant Andy Ryan** for their professional support in the development and delivery of the 'Introduction to Intelligence' and 'Advance Intelligence' training courses.

Alison Warnop for her commitment and service as the Director or the Legal branch over the last nine years. Congratulations to Alison in her new role as Director, Executive Projects within the Strategic Services Command.

NTPRS Assistant Director Alan Stevens, in recognition of his dedication and commitment in the development and implementation of the Smart Sparx Remote Community Children's Education Program.

Senior Constable Janelle Snigg, **Constable Steven Haig**, **Acting Sergeant Michael Hickey**, **Constable Adrian Keogh** and **Constable Alex Noonan** who displayed outstanding self-discipline and personal courage when responding to a structure fire at a block of units in Alice Springs.

Brevet Sergeant Justin (Syd) Harbour in recognition of his dedication to community based policing through the leadership he displayed in supporting the Ti Tree Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Unit.

Superintendent Lane Crews in appreciation for his outstanding contribution and support of Task Force Themis.

Senior Sergeant Stefan Herold for his professional project management skills in support of the Northern Territory Police Monument Steering Committee.

Brian Stacey, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for his outstanding support and contribution of Task Force Themis.

The Executive and Staff from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for their contribution and support of Task Force Themis.

Constable First Class Troy Cramp and **Constable Walter Todd** for their swift response and decisive action in dangerous circumstances which undoubtedly prevented a potential catastrophic conflagration and major loss of property.

Thank You!

Mr and Mrs Grime from Victoria wrote in to commend **Sergeant Cameron Higgins** and the **Members at Avon Downs Police Station** for their help when their car ran out of petrol on their way to Camooweal.

Sergeant Sandra Nash, **Constables Christopher Ericksen** and **Lawrence Devanney** received a sincere thank you from Carolyn and Ed James for assisting them when they were locked out of their accommodation in Tennant Creek.

The NT Australian Trucking Association expressed their appreciation and thanks to **Superintendent Bob Rennie** and **The Traffic Police Officers** for the incredible job they did assisting with the NT Kids Convoy.

Hans and Elizabeth Fikkers were very grateful to **Constable Jack Harrington** and **Constable Amy Poiner** from **Ramingining Police Station** for their assistance, when they were off duty, in rescuing them and their vehicle when it stopped mid stream and then escorting them to the remote station so they did not get lost.

Driver Early Links Preschool expressed their thanks to **Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement** for supporting their annual 'Bike-athon and sausage sizzle'.

Ms Catie Kirke and **Recruit Constables Dean Becker**, **Steven Flynn**, **Chris Warfield**, **Clint Bailey**, **Seamus Christie-Johnston** and **Jarrad Williams** received a special thanks from TRACKS Dance Theatre Performance for donating their time to assist with 'Endurance'.

Prompt action saves the day

ON SATURDAY afternoon, my parents' block was engulfed in flames.

It took less than five minutes to burn a portion of the block.

Our family would like to sincerely thank the Northern Territory Fire Department and the Howard Springs Volunteer Brigade. We also would like to thank the man who assisted our family with holding back the flames until the fire department arrived. Without your help, this could have been a lot worse.

It was a very busy day for these people attending to various accidents and fires.

Once again, thank you for your help and assistance.
Chantel Canning



Rescuers tops, says survivor

JUST writing to say a massive thank you to the fantastic team at the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Commissioner Paul White should be very proud to lead such an amazing group of people.

Having recently gotten lost in the wilderness outside of Annaburroo, I know first-hand what it feels like to think that at 29 I am going to die.

What was intended to be a night of fun and laughs with friends turned into my worst nightmare as I foolishly wandered off in the middle of the night and found myself disoriented.

When I was lying on the ground in the heat of the day thinking I was going to die, I didn't think anyone was looking for me.

I couldn't have been more wrong — I later found out that police from Humpty Doo, Palmerston and surrounding areas, Acting Sergeant Neil Mellon and the Tactical Response Section, Dog Squad and specialist crews, helicopter rescue teams, officers on bikes, NTES and volunteers were all on the hunt to find me.

I am forever grateful for all of their efforts.

I realise many of them had to forego time with their families to come and find me.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the search. The Northern Territory should be very proud to have such an astounding team of people.

Romy Bottrill

