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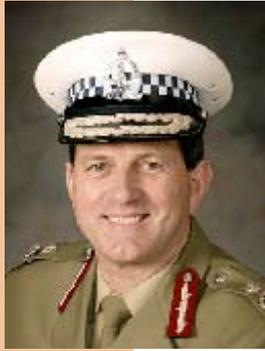
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DRUM

The official publication of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services



MARCH 2008



Commissioner's message

A couple of themes come to mind as the March 2008 edition of The Drum goes to print, one being tropical cyclone activity and the other being youth crime over the Christmas-New Year holiday period.

The Top End always expects monsoonal rainfall during the wet season and 2007-08 has to date been no exception. In early January, Tropical Cyclone Helen developed over the Timor Sea west of Darwin and moved eastwards as a Category 2 cyclone. It reduced to a Category 1 cyclone as it moved over land between Darwin and Wadeye, with the impact being felt across the region including Darwin. Gale force winds brought down over 700 trees in Darwin alone with some falling on houses and powerlines. Thankfully, nobody was killed or injured.

TC Helen served as a timely reminder of the dangers inherent in such extreme weather conditions and fully tested the tri-service's role in planning, preparing and responding to disasters and emergencies. Due credit must go to all members of the tri-service, including NTES volunteers, for their commitment and professional approach during all stages of TC Helen.

Crime and anti-social behaviour by youth, especially in the northern suburbs of Darwin, was high on the agenda in the lead up to Christmas. Unfortunately the reckless actions of a small number of young offenders causes much community angst and consternation, which leads to robust debates on law and order. Over the Christmas-New Year period, NT Police ran a special policing operation to counter youth crime resulting in numerous arrests and summonses for a range of offences. Once again, NT Police dealt with young repeat offenders who continually show little respect for others and a blatant disregard for the law. And it should be recognised that youth crime is topical across all Australian States and Territories at the moment, with several incidents gaining significant national media attention.

NT Police recognises the impact on communities of the audacious and often highly public nature of youth offending. The behaviour of a small minority, as is so often the case, causes general discomfort to the law abiding majority and particular discomfort to victims. We in NT Police certainly feel the pressure and are relentless in pursuit of these young law breakers. To this end, policing of known trouble spots and close monitoring of repeat offenders will continue to be a priority for NT Police, however, breaking the culture and the cycle of offending is a whole of community issue.

Lastly, I wish the 14 members of the transitional Aboriginal Community Police Officer course currently undergoing Constable recruit training all the very best and look forward to their graduation in June. The transitional course is a first and is being conducted under the guidance of the Indigenous Policing Development Division. It is an historic occasion and a significant step forward by the participants and the NT Police Force.

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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:

NTES Members during the clean up after Cyclone Helen

CENTREFOLD:

Survey Team and clean up after Cyclone Helen

BACK COVER:

Photo taken by Senior Constable Cameron Bellis, recently stationed at Utopia as part of Taskforce Themis

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Memorial service – Inspector Foelsche

The NT Police Force's first police chief, Inspector Paul Foelsche died on 31 January 1914 having served as the head of what was then the NT Mounted Police, for over 30 years.

Acting Commissioner Bruce Wernham attended the annual memorial service - marking the anniversary of Inspector Foelsche's death - at the Pioneer Cemetery on Goyder Road.

Acting Commissioner Wernham said the annual service provided an opportunity to honour the memory of the Territory's first police chief and the fine history of the NT Police Force.

In December 1869, the Governor of South Australia granted Paul Foelsche - a Corporal in the South Australian Mounted Police - a commission to head to the Northern Territory. Foelsche was then appointed as the first Sub-Inspector of Police. Six South Australian Police joined him to establish what is now the Northern Territory Police Force.

Inspector Foelsche took up his post in January 1870 in a police station constructed of poles and plaster and measuring only six by 3.6 metres. He lived nearby in a three-room house, while prisoners were housed in a small two cell stone building. Inspector Foelsche died in 1914, after 34 years service to the fledgling NT community.

The service, conducted by Lodge Foelsche included the laying of wreaths by Lodge Foelsche and the Acting Commissioner of Police.

CSI versus Reality – the Fingerprint Unit turns 50

At the Fingerprint Unit's 50th birthday, the topic chosen to mark the occasion was 'CSI Versus Reality'.

As American TV dramas fill our heads with dramatic investigative, yet fictitious processes, the NT Fingerprint Unit is the real deal, able to find matches in the Territory, nationally and internationally thanks to latest technology and networks.

From the days of fingerprints inked onto paper forms and manually searching for matches, NT Police can now determine when a false name is given within two minutes through electronic fingerprint technology.

Assistant Commissioner Crime and Support Command, Mark McAdie reflects back on the 50 years and the changes stating:

"Much of the fingerprint process hasn't changed and brushes with black and white powder are still used today.

"The most significant change is by far the use and capabilities of our technology that can find matches from systems all over the world," he said.

From identification of Cyclone Tracy victims to identification of a human arm found in a crocodile in 1986, the NT Fingerprint Unit has not been without its unique and

typically Territory experiences that even CSI can't compare with.

However, the reality is much of the daily work of the Fingerprint Unit is taking and assessing prints from unlawful entries and stolen vehicles.

Maintaining the NT fingerprint database is also a full time job for three employees.



Katherine's longest serving Fire retiree

Senior Firefighter Peter Bentley has decided that it is time to hang up his fire helmet following over 30 years of dedicated service with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS).

The well known firefighter originally joined the NTFRS as an Auxiliary in Katherine in the late 1960s and went on to join as a full time firefighter in 1977, returning to Katherine after completing his recruit course.

During his service with the NTFRS in Katherine he was involved in many varied incidents and disasters. To name a few, the Katherine Floods in 1998 and 2006, the many bushfires, road crash rescues, hazardous material incidents and structure fires that have occurred in the Katherine district during Mr Bentley's years of service.

Director of Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Greg Nettleton said: "Peter has been a terrific asset for the fire service over the many years and has been a stabilising influence and mentor for many of our younger fire officers"

"His knowledge of the district and experience has served the community well in dealing with the many emergencies and disasters in the Katherine Region over the years," he said.

"Senior Firefighter Bentley will be long remembered for his good humour, community spirit and dedication and will be missed by all members of the fire and rescue service as he enters this new phase in his life. In Peter's retirement, we wish him all the very best," Director Nettleton said.



CFO Nettleton, Helen and Peter



Former Katherine OIC's - Brent Betts, Tom K, Tony Parkinson, Dave Pettit, Adrian Creighton, Peter Bentley, Ian Buckland & Bob Naumann

NTFRS's Newly Promoted Assistant Director Operations – Paul Herrick

by Theresa Kuilboer

Paul Herrick is looking forward to the challenges his promotion to NT Fire and Rescue Service's Assistant Director Operations will offer, but after 17 years in Alice Springs he admits he and his wife Rhonda will miss their friends and colleagues.

The couple have always been heavily involved in community life in Alice Springs and the town is certain to miss their input and commitment.

Paul joined the NTFRS in January 1974 and spent 17 years working in Darwin before taking up the post of Station Officer in Alice Springs. He was then promoted to Station Commander in 1995.

"One of the highlights of my time in Alice Springs was overseeing the building of the new Fire Station. When the new station was built we moved from the old station in Bath Street into our current building which also included a major upgrade in equipment."

Paul is also proud of his involvement in the increase to shift numbers following a staffing review.

"We all worked very well as a team to make the submission to the manning review, with the result being that our shift numbers changed from three-man shifts to six man shifts," Paul said.

Over the years he has overseen numerous major incidents, the most recent being the ten-day Hazmat incident near Tennant Creek when a truck lost its load of cyanide.

"That was a challenging and long-drawn-out incident which tested our resources and skills," Paul said.

"However, the outcome was excellent, and the experience and lessons learned will, no doubt, provide valuable information for any future major incident."

Paul also served in various capacities over the years in community organisations in the town. His community involvement saw him winning the Centralian of the Year Award in 2002.

The same year he was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Paul hopes his new position will advantage Fire and Rescue Service members throughout the Territory.

"I'll be looking after the whole of the Northern Territory in my new role and I intend to travel frequently to ensure all stations through the Territory are treated equally.

"One of the advantages I see with my many years in Alice is I understand the needs of the area and I can assure people, Alice Springs – or indeed any other station in the Territory – won't be forgotten."



Calling for volunteers

It's only a matter of months before Northern Territory Police hosts the 46th annual International Association of Women Police training conference.

The planning is well under way and the committee is on track to deliver a memorable and educational programme, with some stunning social events and opportunities for delegates from around the world.

The conference also provides a great opportunity for members of NT Police to be involved, as delegates, volunteers ... or both.

As the conference draws closer, there is much work to be done and the Committee is seeking expressions of interest from volunteers.

Those who volunteer will not only assist in enhancing the image and reputation of NT Police with delegates from around the world, but will have the opportunity to meet a range of people from varying policing and related fields.

The conference will be staged from 6-11 September at the Darwin Convention Centre.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Jo Foley, Conference Coordinator in relation to the range of assistance being sought and the opportunities available.



Police Leaders Visit Themis Stations

In January Commissioner Paul White, South Australian Commissioner, Mal Hyde and AFP Deputy Commissioner, John Lawler spent three days touring stations established under Taskforce Themis.

The interstate police executives spoke with members on the ground at Peppimenarti, Yarralin, Minyerri, Bulman, Numbulwar, Gapuwiyak and Galiwinku, including some members from their own jurisdictions, who were seconded to NT Police as part of the Taskforce set up under the federal intervention last year.

Commissioner White said that the trip provided the opportunity to look at some of the work that is under way and show support for the members who often do a tough job under challenging circumstances in remote areas of the Northern Territory.

“The Northern Territory Police officers and those members seconded from other jurisdictions are doing a great job in the communities within which they are deployed. They are establishing strong community relationships and providing valuable services.

“I’d also like to acknowledge the support of the other policing organisations involved. It’s been a wonderful cooperative policing effort,” Mr White said.

Eighteen new or augmented police presences have been established by Taskforce Themis since the start of the intervention in June last year, an achievement, unprecedented in Australian policing and potentially world policing.

Speaking at Police Airwing just prior to taking off, both visiting Commissioners commented on the involvement of their jurisdictions in Taskforce Themis.



Deputy Commissioner John Lawler said that the AFP Officers deployed to Taskforce Themis have come from a background involved in international policing particularly in East Timor, the Solomon Islands and Sudan, bringing with them a wide array of skills.

“Whilst they will obviously learn a lot in the Northern Territory, working closely with the Northern Territory Police and indeed the other state and Territory police represented, I am very confident that they have the skills to really add value here to what is a terrific example of collegiate policing” Mr Lawler said.

Commissioner Mal Hyde said that it was only early days for the five South Australian members who joined the effort in November last year. However, he highlighted the strong history of cooperation and support between South Australian Police and Northern Territory Police. Commissioner White said that it was important not to understate the physical presence of police in these communities and the way in which that is changing these communities for the better.

“We are starting to see some really good outcomes, just as you would see in a permanent police posting in a remote community in the Northern Territory,” he said.



Greg Lade Retires after 32 years of service

Northern Territory Police have said a farewell to a long serving Senior Police Investigator as he retires following 32 years of service to the Territory.

Detective Sergeant Greg Lade, APM, had an event filled and successful career serving areas all over the Territory from Hermannsburg to Darwin.

Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham said: "Detective Sergeant Lade has made an outstanding contribution to the Territory Police Force and his retirement will be felt by both police and the broader community.

"Greg was a great friend, exceptional colleague and his contribution to the Territory through his service as a police officer is acknowledged.

"Greg has successfully investigated many major crimes in the Territory over the years, resulting in the conviction of serious criminals. More recent cases include the murder investigation following the discovery of two women's bodies under the Adelaide River Bridge in 2004 and the investigation into the murder of Stuart Rhodes in Alice Springs in 2001," Deputy Commissioner Wernham said.

Detective Sergeant Lade commenced his career in 1976 and in addition to many years of service in Criminal Investigations, he has worked in various remote locations, the then Fisheries Enforcement Unit, Police Prosecutions, the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services Training College and the then Professional Responsibility Division.

In January 2004, Detective Sergeant Lade was awarded the Australian Police Medal in recognition of exceptional duty as a primary senior investigator for serious and major crimes across the Territory.

Det Sgt Lade claims investigating serious crimes and solving homicides was a high in his 32 year service and



Deputy Commissioner Wernham with Greg and his wife, Anne

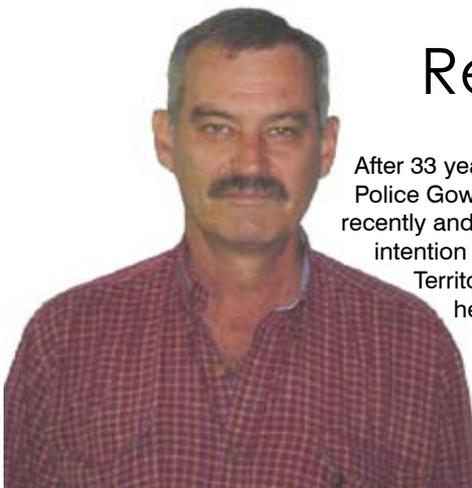
even now, in his retirement, knows those serious criminals remain behind bars.

Deputy Commissioner Wernham said that Detective Sergeant Lade retired with a great deal of policing knowledge and experience stating:

"Detective Sergeant Lade is an extremely experienced investigator and has throughout his career served as a great ambassador to policing and as a mentor to those police officers following in his footsteps. I would like to wish him all the best in his retirement."

All those who know Detective Sergeant Lade, APM will be pleased to know he is already enjoying his retirement.

"I'm enjoying doing nothing except occasionally working on my yacht. I'm going away later in the year to the Kimberleys, relaxing, walking and having a great time."



After 33 years with NT Police Gowan retired recently and has no intention of leaving the Territory. "I was born here and guess I'll die here."

Gowan, 55, was born and bred in Tennant Creek and joined the NT Police in April 1975. The father of two has worked in general duties, the CIB, Counter Terrorism and spent 10 years in the Drug Enforcement Section helping to uncover many drug rings.

His most memorable case was the Thai vessel Bahari 314

Retirement – Gowan Carter

off Bathurst Island containing 90 kilograms of pure heroin which is said to be the largest detected importation of heroin to date in Australia.

Gowan says he will miss the camaraderie of the force – "It's a good job with good people who are trying to make a difference."

Gowan became the Vice President of the Police Association in 1981, President in 1982 and served as the General Secretary between 1985 and 1991.

"He has been heavily involved with the Police Association throughout his policing career and was instrumental in moving the Association to the sound financial position it is in now", said Vince Kelly, President of the Police Association.

"Gowan has always had the interests of members of the Police Force and their families at heart."

A Tennant Creek unit officer wins Citizen of the year award

By Philip Merry (Deputy Officer, NTES TCVU)

Karl Herzog, the unit officer of Northern Territory Emergency Service (Tennant Creek Volunteer Unit) was the recipient of the Australia Day citizen of the year award in Tennant Creek.

Karl joined the NT Emergency Service (Tennant Creek Volunteer Unit) in 1996 and served as training and equipment officer. He later became unit officer prior to taking up a staff position in Alice Springs with NTES.

Karl returned to the unit in Tennant Creek in 2004 when he served as rescue and training officer. He later became unit officer, the role which he currently holds.

Karl has played a pivotal role in the unit and is highly regarded by both local volunteer members and permanent NTES staff alike. He has enormous abilities in terms of training, practical operational skills and leadership. He is a quiet achiever who puts in countless hours of work for the unit. As a result, the community has a well-trained and well-equipped NTES unit which works extremely well under his leadership. Karl's efforts have greatly enhanced the ability of the town's emergency services to provide assistance when required.

Projects initiated and led by Karl include the design and setting up of two rescue trailers, the computerisation of searches for missing people (a technique which has been so successful that it is being introduced elsewhere in the NT), the setting up of a decent radio communication system, training for members and other emergency response personnel and the successful application for extra equipment through a government grant process.

In addition, he has led the unit on many jobs such as providing assistance at the recent Elliott plane crash, numerous searches for missing people over the years, storm damage and help at various community events.



Karl receiving his award from Elliot MacAdam
- Photo courtesy Barkly Telegraph

The award was presented by local member and government minister Elliot McAdam at a well attended Australia Day breakfast at the Battery.

At the breakfast, the unit displayed its rescue trailer and received expressions of interest from a couple of people wishing to join up. The unit then moved up to the Mary Ann dam for the Australia Day events held there. The role was to provide the unit boat to give safety coverage for swimmers and the raft race. The kids also enjoyed having rides around the dam.

In all, it was a very successful day. The unit is delighted that Karl's work has been acknowledged by the town and the feedback from the community was encouraging, especially in terms of promoting community awareness of NTES.

Neil Berry retires

Sergeant and OIC of Humpty Doo Police Station, Neil Berry retired from the Territory Police Force in November.

Neil Berry moved to Darwin in 1982 specifically to join the NT Police and has never looked back!

His 25 years of service (not including his prior service with WA Police) have spanned Darwin, Casuarina, Palmerston and Nhulunbuy.

The day after passing his Sergeant exams, Neil became Acting Sergeant for the 'Stolen Motor Vehicle Squad', a period in his career he describes as a highlight claiming:

"Busting a stolen motor vehicle racket extending over to Queensland and leading onto another racket with seven

arrests was certainly very interesting and a highlight in my career."

However, despite this major success, Neil has a few true Territory stories to tell from his years in Nhulunbuy. The winner must certainly be the time he was assisting the Conservation Officer catch a croc before it "death rolled and ran between my legs". I don't think Neil needed a coffee that day!

Neil spent his last few years as Sergeant and Officer In Charge of Humpty Doo Police Station.

Neil is looking forward to returning to Western Australia where he and his wife will build their retirement house on the coast.

Commander Coffey resigns

by Theresa Kuilboer

After a career with Northern Territory Police spanning almost 25 years Commander Mark Coffey has resigned to take up a new challenge.

For the past three years, Mark has been the Commander of the Southern Region, however, as the newly appointed Regional Manager of the Indigenous Co-ordination Centre he is now one of the Commonwealth Government's most senior public servants in the Territory.

The Indigenous Co-ordination Centre was set up by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). As head of the ICC, Mark now has the crucial role of co-ordinating the activities of numerous Australian Government departments that provide services to indigenous communities.

Despite looking forward to all the challenges the new position offers, Mark readily admits he will probably always miss policing.

"I left for a number of reasons," Mark said.

"Firstly, this opportunity came up, and it was an opportunity I couldn't resist. Certainly there was some increase in employment conditions, which suited me, and then it also suited my personal circumstances. I wanted to stay in Alice Springs and I wasn't keen to go back to Darwin, which I would have had to have done at some stage. I just thought I'd have a look at something else, while I can.

"Alice Springs has been challenging, but I had a good time here. I had a good group of people to work with, but it's also very challenging because the community have certain expectations here.

"Also, what's important to police is crime and domestic violence and assaults, but they're not necessarily important to the general public in Alice Springs, so it's always a bit of challenge to balance those requirements from the public."

Of his time in Alice Springs, Mark says there are a number of projects of which he is very proud.

"I'm particularly pleased with the establishment of the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk. That's something I helped put together and managed to get funding from the Commonwealth Government through FaHCSIA, and they've done a great job and got some great results. And that funding's on-going so I'm pretty happy with that."

During his time as Commander, Mark also implemented a program of goal-setting and target prioritisation between all the different units under his command.

"I think we've moved a long way in terms of co-ordinating activities in the Police Station, between investigations, general duties and crime prevention. The Commander's Objectives that I put out just before I left is part of that.

"I was setting the priorities that I wanted, and then all the units set up their own priorities to ensure we were all working towards a common goal."

Inter-agency TCG meetings was also something Mark established in Alice Springs. Since their establishment in Central Australia, Mark also played a part in their establishment in Katherine and Darwin as well.

Mark said while he was settling into his new role, he would always miss the camaraderie of policing.

"It wasn't an easy decision to make, because I've really enjoyed my time with police. But I didn't leave for the conditions alone. You don't often get an opportunity at this level in an Australian Government agency.

"But, I miss the type of work you do in Police, and I'll probably always miss that. But I won't miss some of the other stuff. It's always stressful at that level, and being in Alice Springs, the public are always happy to give their opinions and you get that 24 hours a day, it doesn't matter whether you're working or not. So I don't miss that.

"And certainly neither my family nor I miss the constant after-hours phone calls."



New Commander for Southern Region



Southern Region's newly appointed Commander Bert Hofer is pleased to be back in Central Australia after spending the past ten years in Darwin.

Most recently he served as Commander of the Ethical and Professional Standards Command, but in his earlier years with NT Police he served as a "bush copper" in Central Australia and also in what was then CIB both in Alice Springs and Darwin.

Commander Hofer was posted to Yuendumu in 1982 and still has fond memories of his time there. In fact, he met his wife Sharyn at Yuendumu when she was the sister-in-charge of the Health Clinic.

In his early years he served in Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine before returning to Alice Springs as the Superintendent of bush stations.

Commander Hofer said he was looking forward to the unique challenges offered in the Southern region.

Despite the obvious community perception that anti-social behaviour is a major on-going problem in Alice Springs, Commander Hofer thinks the problem has improved in the past ten years.

"I still think the town is much neater and tidier than it was ten years ago," he said.

"There aren't anywhere near the number of itinerants camping in the Todd River, and there aren't near the number of drunks around compared to when I was last here.

"The ambience of the town is much nicer, but I accept and acknowledge that there are a number of people who have approached me since I've been here and expressed their concern about on-going issues with drunks. I accept that Aboriginal people by and large continue to drink at places like Billygoat Hill and a number of places around town.

"We've identified those hot spots. We are policing them rigorously, and the Social Order Task Force is out there every day of the week. City Safe patrols are also out regularly.

"With the introduction of our Mounted Patrol we will have another method by which to tackle anti-social behaviour, as well as providing a highly visible police presence in the town. Additionally the mounted patrols will offer a significant degree of reassurance policing.

"Perhaps the biggest thing I've seen in my time here, or the focus that I'd like to have, is on the reduction of anti-social behaviour and the drinking issue.

"But, having said that, it's not a police function alone," Commander Hofer said.

"I think there needs to be considerably more community engagement on that issue than there is, from what I've been able to discern so far." Commander Hofer said that while anti-social behaviour appeared to be the prime concern in Alice Springs, it was by no means the only issue.

"We have major issues with domestic violence, unlawful entries, drink drivers, and we are keenly focused on those areas as well."

Commander Hofer said one of the most positive moves towards engaging the community has been the introduction of inter-agency TCGs.

"I think the inter-agency TCG process is just wonderful. It is sharply focused at the pointy end of problem-solving. It brings together all of the players in town to go through the issue of problem identification, making sure that sufficient assets, linkages and resources are made available to tackle that problem."

Commander Hofer said he intended to continue to engage the community by regularly meeting with community organisations like Tangentjere Council, Territory Housing, Alice Springs Town Council and others.

"I think that the inter-agency TCG model is particularly productive for two specific reasons," Commander Hofer said.

"The first is that you get other Government agencies and non-Government service providers seeing things from our perspective, and being quite narrowly focused on the problems at hand and how we fix them. And the other thing is that it allows our police to tap into the resources available from those other agencies. I believe it is really that holistic approach that's going to get us somewhere in the long run."

Commander Hofer believes in being accessible to both the community and his staff.

"I believe in being accessible, not only that my staff have access to me but that the community at large has that same level of accessibility. If people aren't speaking to me, both internally and externally, then I can't get a good grasp of what the issues are."

Commander Hofer paid tribute to the quality of the members working in what are sometimes very difficult situations.

He also paid tribute to his senior management group.

"The knowledge of my senior managers is phenomenal. They engage with the community and have a real understanding of the issues. This has been enormously helpful to me in my first few weeks here."

Commander Hofer said he also encouraged innovative ideas from his troops.

"Some of my staff have come up with really good ideas, and we're going to try some of those out. I'm a great believer in encouraging innovation and initiative and I'm looking forward to a very rewarding time here."

Denver IAWP Conference

Several Aboriginal Community Police Officers were able to attend the International Association of Women Police training conference in Denver in September last year, through OCEPE Remote Workforce grants. Two of those ACPOs were David McCarthy and Shaun Hill, who describe their experiences below.

David McCarthy

This opportunity was given to me as a cultural exchange and to learn about policing as well as assisting in promoting the next IAWP conference in Darwin

I must say being selected was overwhelming knowing the quality of Aboriginal Community Police Officers that applied for this training opportunity and this being my first training conference.

Denver was a beautiful city and the hospitality shown to us was second to none - we were treated very well and enjoyed our time spent in this wonderful part of the world.

It must also be said that the Northern Territory Police Department had done a great job in looking after us and the ladies that looked after the group treated us like family.

I will take the knowledge, experience and wisdom shared by my peers and bosses as this changed my life and career for the better.

These women of our profession are incredible people - inspirational and focused on the job that is to serve and protect.

I think the most important thing I learnt at this conference is that we are a unique breed of people (police, law enforcement) that believes in camaraderie, brotherhood and job satisfaction.

The classes I went to included school shootings and responses, regional policing and a mobile digital shooting range that plays scenarios and situations to the shooter for training - this was an incredible tool.

The learning was intense but entertaining and enjoyable. I found out that I am not a good shot with a pistol and that you don't mess with the ladies from Texas as they were born with a gun in their hand and shoot with 98% accuracy.

The women that are in our job are truly incredible people and hard working and ethical.

I learnt that as an Aboriginal Police Community Officer this industry is acceptable to change as these women are the ones that brought change to our industry and have paved the way.

That has now become the ground work to the growing diversity in the law enforcement and police departments all over the world.

Shaun Hill

When I saw the position advertised to attend the International Women's Policing Conference my first impression was that it would be a great opportunity to see how policing is conducted internationally and that it would be a greater opportunity to show case my Aboriginality and the role of an Aboriginal Community Police Officer within the Northern Territory Police Force.

Once at the conference, I realised what I had actually put myself into was daunting. This was not just a great opportunity to see policing on an international level; it also showed me the great progress that female officers have made in the police force world wide. This was shown by the recipients of the awards, ladies who have made great achievement through education and not to mention that this was all achieved in countries that are dominated by a male society and culture.

Throughout the seminars that I attended I was amazed by the dealing and handling of situations that were spoken of by several lecturers. One that sticks out in my head was the suggestion of training and arming school teachers to handle the attempts of mass murders within schools and how open the Americans are with the firearm laws, which kind of made me appreciate the laws within Australia on the handling of firearms.

Apart from the training opportunity, my role within the group that travelled over to Denver was to help promote the Northern Territory Police Force for the next conference which is being held in Darwin next year. My roles included playing the Didgeridoo and interacting with officers who were representatives of many different Police Departments from around the world. This meant that I was able to promote Darwin and the Northern Territory Police and have general discussions with people about their fascination of Australia and not to forget to persuade people registering for the conference held in Darwin.

At the end of the Conference my respect for female police grew greater than what I had first had., This is not to say that I didn't have a high respect for women in the Police Force. The best way for me to understand things is to compare a situation to something that I can relate to, so what I am trying to saying is that the progression of females in the Police Force is somewhat the same progression the Aboriginal Trackers had when they first started in the Police Force and to what they are now. This is reflected in the now growing numbers of women in the Police force, it is also a progression forward for recognition and fairness within a male dominated work force and in some circumstances breaking down cultural barriers.

I appreciated being involved with the conference and I know that my knowledge of Policing is much broader. I look forward to seeing the future of policing and the progress of females within police forces and once again I am very grateful that I had this opportunity.

In the Spotlight: Garry Casey

With a family history spanning a number of generations in the police force, Sergeant Garry Casey was born to the job. Both of his great grandfathers were mounted police troopers in Queensland in the 1890s and his son Mark Casey has continued in the family footsteps and is currently a Senior Constable with the Northern Traffic Branch. Policing is definitely in the blood for the Casey family.

Garry has served at Pirlingimpi and Maningrida, in general duties, CIB, the Training College, Marine and Fisheries and Community Relations. Garry's been involved in everything from the seizure of \$10 million worth of cannabis and \$1 million cash at King River Valley Station to the re-capture of convicted murderer Daniel Heiss after he escaped from the Royal Darwin Hospital in 1991.

With 33 years in the force, it's been an exciting time, but Sgt Casey still quotes Marine and Fisheries as being the most enjoyable part of his career to date.

12 Questions....

Career highlight so far?

I would have to say being the Catafalque Party Commander for the National Police Memorial Dedication in 2007 followed very closely by the Finniss River rescue in December 2003 where I was the Search and Rescue Coordinator. The other big highlights were being the Commander of the Honour Guard for the new Parliament House with Recruit Squad 55 in 1994 and the re-capture of Daniel Heiss after he escaped from Royal Darwin Hospital in 1991.

Funniest moment with NT Police?

Can't think of the funniest moment – lots of good times though. The re-capture of Heiss was pretty humorous. First Heiss didn't believe there was a police officer behind him (Bruce Grant) and then the Commander didn't believe that we had him and just the two of us had brought him in.

What made you decide on a career with NT Police?

Having to leave Darwin after Cyclone Tracy. I joined the Police to get back home to Darwin in 1975. I had played Rugby League with the then Police team – South Darwin and they had been pressing me to join since 1972. Mick Palmer is to blame!!

Where did you grow up?

In Eagle Farm/Hendra, Brisbane until I drove up to Darwin with my Dad in the FJ in 1959 – I was 10 years old.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A soldier, a Police Officer or a Fireman. Scored two and a half – Honorary Fireman in 1999 for the Bike Ride from Hobart to Darwin with Police, Fire and Emergency Services. We raised funds (\$27,000) for the Royal Darwin Hospital Burns Service.

Favourite food?

Spaghetti and Chilli Prawns



What can't you live without?

My lady and my family

Favourite place?

Home

Your hero?

My late dad

Last holiday?

Bairnsdale in Victoria in October 2007 with stepson and family.

Three people you'd invite to dinner?

Normie Rowe, General (Ret) Peter Cosgrove and Commissioner (Ret) Brian Bates.

Last thing read?

A Pogo's Perspective by Greg Smith – a mate I served in Vietnam with in 1970-71. The book details the author's call-up for National Service (Nasho), the rigours of military training and discipline and explains his posting to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and his subsequent transfer to B Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment in Nui Dat, South Vietnam.

What would you do if you won lotto?

Invest some and have an overseas holiday to Ireland, UK and the battlefields of France.

Greatest achievement to date?

Writing and having my own story published about my Vietnam experience along with four other veterans – Rice Paddies & Rocket Fire – The book grew from a VVCS group project that encouraged Darwin Vietnam veterans to meet regularly to talk about their post-war experiences and the impact of the war on their lives. With funding from the VVCS, the five veterans worked with local journalist Kerry Sharp to write and publish their stories.

PS. I now have more books for sale @ \$22.50 ea.





en clean up





NSW Coppers hang up their NT hats

For the first contingent of NSW Police who have worked in remote communities as part of Taskforce Themis, the time has come to hang up their Northern Territory Police bush hats and return home.

NSW Chief Inspector Kim Sorenson arrived with 10 NSW members to join Taskforce Themis in October last year and worked at Themis Headquarters.

Kim, an ex-NT member, described the past few months as a happy homecoming but at the same time very challenging for everyone involved.

“There was a lot of pressure to get things to happen in a coordinated way in little to no time...”

“I am particularly impressed with how Northern Territory Police was able to bring together such a massive task in such a short time,” he said.

NSW members were spread across Themis Stations at Willowra, Bulman, Minyerri Nyirripi, Haast Bluff and Arlparra.

Senior Constable Scott Kellahan who lived and worked out at Bulman said that he really enjoyed his time in the Territory.

“I would recommend it for anybody, because they would have a fantastic experience policing-wise, community-wise... what we’re taking away with us, the memories, it is absolutely

fantastic,” said Sergeant Scott Kellahan.

Scott, Senior Constable Ray Merritt, also from NSW and Officer in Charge Acting Sergeant Ryan Watkinson were the first police to move into the Bulman Station.

They said that they enjoyed a positive relationship with local elders and were getting informed regularly of possible illegal activity.

“We were learning off them too... I enjoyed going out getting bush food, tucker, taking photos... it was good... collecting bush plums, going fishing...”

“We got bogged once and we had half the community out there helping us,” said Senior Constable Ray Merritt.

At Arlparra, Senior Constable Cameron Bellis is excited to see his family again, but at the same time sorry to leave.

“The experience of being a police officer up here, it’s obviously different. In terms of the travelling you do and speaking to people...” he said.

There have been many experiences on duty and off over the past months that Cameron says he won’t be able to forget.

NSW members met in Alice Springs for a debriefing on their deployment before heading home.

Business Apprentices graduate

Three NTPFES apprentices, Rickie Scoot, Melissa Harris and James Prince, have graduated with a Certificate III in Business.

Assistant Commissioner Payne and Helen Campbell, HRM Director, joined agency representatives and family and friends at a graduation ceremony.

The graduates have worked hard throughout the past 12 months in human resources development and management as well as corporate services. The nationally accredited certificate included on the job learning and attendance on structured training blocks.

The key to the success of the apprenticeship program is the cooperation and commitment of all contributors including the apprentices, their supervisors, unit managers, the training

providers’ lecturers and field officers. Many thanks to those staff involved.

Our graduating apprentices:

Rickie Scoot worked in the HRM Branch in general administration, police housing and workers compensation units before moving to the Executive area where she’ll continue for the next few months.

Melissa Harris and James Prince both worked at the training college, assessment and curriculum services and in the finance group in corporate services. Melissa is continuing as the travel officer for the next months and James is going to take up full-time study.

Congratulations Rickie, Melissa and James and good luck in your future endeavours.



(L-R) Kathy Bochow (HRM), Rickie Scoot, James Prince, ASCOM Mark Payne (HRS) & Melissa Harris

Timber Creek – Launch of the FERG Complex and BART the new Fire and Rescue Truck



Captain Steve HENNESSY introduces BART.

On Monday the 4th of February 2008, the Timber Creek community held the official opening of the Fire Emergency Response Group (FERG) shed and the launch of a new purpose built fire and rescue truck.

Materials for the Timber Creek FERG complex were purchased with a grant of \$55, 000 by Emergency Management of Australia (EMA). The hard work of building commenced in October – the hottest time of the year and was largely carried out by FERG volunteers in particular Brad RAKE, Sander, Jason, Julian and Chrissy. The NT Government spent \$250, 000 to supply a fully equipped fire truck – affectionately known as BART (Big A.. Rescue Truck).

The local FERG members were sad to see “Old Betsy” replaced. On Betsy’s retiring voyage to Darwin, the first leg from Timber Creek to Pine Creek was slow (due to a maximum speed of 80 kilometres per hour) but passed without too many hitches. However, after it took members nine and a half hours to drive just over 200 kilometres from Pine Creek to Darwin the volunteers were somewhat relieved to say goodbye to “Betsy.”

The official event was opened by local dancers from the Myatt Community who had day’s earlier, finished initiation ceremony for a lot of young men of the community. Both women and men took turns to dance in separate groups while one of the elders played the didgeridoo. At the end of the dance, the men and women came together to represent harmony within the community. They were then joined by the children from the community to demonstrate how the harmony spreads throughout the community.

After the dances the local children sang a song thoughtfully named “Timber Creek School is the best”.

The FERG complex was officially opened by the Minister for Local Government Hon. Elliott McAdam. He was joined by local MLA for the Daly River Region, Mr. Robert Knight. Mr. McAdam paid tribute to the local FERG Volunteers – in particular the Captain Steve “Homer” Hennessy and Officer in Charge of Timber Creek Police Station Tyron “Xenu” Bellman and their families.



With the help of some local children, MLA Rob KNIGHT, Hon Elliott McADAM, Captain Steve HENNESSY officially open the FERG complex.

Elliott FERG also gets a new Fire Truck

The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) have taken delivery of a new specialist firefighting and rescue vehicle for Elliott Volunteer Fire Brigade as part of its Fire Appliance Replacement Program.

This new multi-purpose fire tanker is equipped with rescue equipment to enable greater response to road crashes in the region along with standard firefighting equipment providing greater capacity and versatility in dealing with fires and other emergencies.

The new vehicle was delivered to Elliott in mid December after which required training has taken place. The Hon Elliot McAdam MLA officiated at the hand over which took place in January.



Elliott FERG members with NTFRS Officers and Minister McAdam

Out and about in Yarralin

By Queensland Police Senior Constable First Class Renee Dempsey

Christmas came early to the Themis Police Station at Yarralin, which officially opened on 26 November last year.

On Saturday 15 December, Yarralin members Acting Sergeant Paul Lawson, Senior Constable First Class Renee Dempsey and Senior Constable First Class Nevan Dargan held a fun afternoon for the local children.

Festivities started with a ride in the police car to find the perfect Christmas tree. Once the children had made their choice, they closely monitored the chopping down and transport of the tree back to the station. The afternoon was then spent doing Christmas crafts and colouring in. The group of children grew from 13 to 42 as the day wore on and everyone enjoyed a sausage sizzle. During the night many parents attended the station compound for a tour and to meet their new police members.

On Thursday, 20 December, Yarralin Police and the Walangeri Ngumpinku Community Council hosted a disco. It was a fantastic success with over 80 children participating

in the night, ranging from toddlers to teenagers. Everyone joined in and had a dance.

Even visiting Themis members Senior Constable First Class Kate Black and Constable Neil Lynch who travelled from Katherine danced the night away with the kids. It was fantastic to see many of the older community members come down to watch the disco and join in the fun.

Themis members Kate Black and Renee Dempsey delivered a workshop to 35 children at the local school the following day. The "Protective Behaviours" activities aimed to educate the children in "Feeling Safe" and being able to recognise a network of people who they can turn to in times of feeling unsafe - "Network Hand".

Ages ranged from 3 -16 years and it was encouraging to hear many answers from the children - especially when they nominated their new local police as someone they could tell if they felt unsafe. This workshop was followed by an afternoon of craft activities and games.

Peppimenarti Police Station Grand Opening

Dancers and singers vibrantly welcomed the new Themis Police members at the official opening of the Peppimenarti Police Station on Wednesday 19 December.

Regina Wilson and Margaret Kundu, Senior Traditional Elders from the community, declared the station officially opened by pushing open the station gates.

Over 60 people came to watch the Lirrga and Wanga dancers and singers from the nearby community of Wadeye perform inside the station compound.

Some of the local Peppimenarti women and children also joined in the ceremony which was followed by a barbecue and the opportunity to have a look around the station and meet the new members.

Officer in Charge, Sergeant Scott Rose said that the dancers and singers were fantastic and they really appreciated the efforts the community went to, to make them feel welcome.

"So far things have been very positive and going really well, with the community welcoming the Police presence," he said.

Scott is stationed at Peppimenarti with Senior Constables Jon Discombe and Marya Groen-Int-Woud who are serving as NT Police Special Constables from Queensland.

"The opening was probably one of the best experiences I have ever had... something I'll remember for the rest of my life," said Senior Constable Jon Discombe.

His deployment to the Territory is Jon's first time working in an Aboriginal community and he says that because Peppimenarti has been a great community to work at, he is now inspired to continue community policing.

"I would really recommend bush policing. Bush policing is different to city policing. It's a whole new world and teaches you a lot of new skills," he said.

Peppimenarti Police have kept themselves busy since they opened with continual community liaison and interaction within the district. Members take every opportunity to conduct rural patrols to numerous outstations in the surrounding area and to offer regular support to nearby Wadeye Police Station.

"I would like to thank the following people for making the day an outstanding success, Senior Elders Regina Wilson and Margaret Kundu, members of the Peppimenarti community, Local Government Business Manager Michael Rotumah, the Peppimenarti Social Club for providing a venue for the barbecue and the Lirrga and

Wanga Dancers including Desmond Longmair, Captain Wodidj, Matthew Pultchen, Gerald Longmair, Charles Kungiu, Virgil Warnir, Columbanus Warnir, Peter Mardigan, Alfred Thardim, Robert Dumoo, Gilbert Namala, Joachim Kurawul and Mary Kungiu.

"We are looking forward to continued good working and social relations with the local communities and stakeholders," said Sergeant Scott Rose.



Retirement of Beres Chandler

One of the longest serving public servants with NTPFES and a well-known figure in the Tri-Service – Beres Chandler, has retired.

Beres was first appointed to the Northern Territory Police Force on a limited tenure on 20 November 1978 as an Administrative Officer (A01) with the introduction of Traffic Infringement Fines. Her office was located in the old Vogliotti Building on the corner of Mitchell and Knuckey Streets. With no computers all data was manually entered.

Enjoying her new employment, an opportunity became available six months later in the traffic section to do Stolen Motor Vehicle data entry. Sgt Kevin Smith provided this opportunity, which she gratefully accepted. All recording of Stolen Motor Vehicles was done in a “Big Black Book” which was required to be typed. Having no typing skills at the time, Beres took herself off to night classes where this skill was quickly obtained.

From this time on (1979) Beres remained in a Stolen Motor Vehicles role until her retirement this year - a total of 29 years service. The role has never changed in respect of her day to day duties, although constant changes within the organisation and through technology saw Beres move around quite frequently.

Beres moved consistently during her earlier SMV role, initially working within the old Mitchell Street Police Station working in the administrative department, and soon thereafter operated within the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence Section before moving into Communications in 1983.

Communications was SMV’s first “office”, with an office being made out of an old disused store room. Analysing SMVs also became more advanced with the implementation of a computer system and an SMV screen being developed. This was an advancement from a strip index utilised to record SMVs which was indexed using the last digit of the registration number.

Even at this early stage of Beres’s career, she was becoming the Northern Territory Police guru in respect of Stolen Motor Vehicles. John Horswell, who was then in Forensics, gave her some books on stolen vehicles which she savoured and treated as bibles. Like most small specialist units at the time, Beres then moved her SMV role out to the Peter McAulay Centre (formally the Berrimah Police Complex) in 1985. Continuing her gypsy role, she was positioned within the Information Bureau under Denzel McManus until a separate Stolen Motor Vehicle Unit was created several years later.

The initial SMV Unit or Squad as it was known was formed with Beres and two police officers, Constables Nola

Dickinson and Peter Pitereno. As with all units, police members come and go and these members were followed by Neil Berry, in 1988, who became ‘Guru Number 2’ and Tony Fuller in 1989. Other members to follow included Dean Barrett and David Pryce, with many others having relieving periods within the unit over its life.

The SMV Squad later amalgamated with the Traffic Section, with the SMV Squad at one end of the office and Traffic at the other end. Beres was the only female in the office work area and affectionately became known as “Mum” to all who worked within the unit. Peter (Boots) Guinane was the OIC at the time with Keith Van Rangelroy as the commissioned officer or ‘Big Boss Man’ as he was referred to.

During this time David Proctor and David Gilmour were known as the Evel Knievels - many a story could be told about them, but Beres is sworn to secrecy. This period was

the heyday of the SMV Squad and the most enjoyable time for Beres. In the mid 1990s the SMV Squad and Traffic Section were disbanded in a restructure of the organisation. This restructure saw Beres, affectionately know as “the SMV Unit”, as she was one person, amalgamated within the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB). Beres moved around various units within the CIB, which included the Special Operations Section, before moving to the Operational Intelligence Section in June 2007.

Beres’s last day was on Friday 11 January 2008 and her effective retirement from the Northern Territory Police being on 4 July 2008. Beres retires as an

Administrative A03 with over 29 years loyal service to the Northern Territory Police.

During her service she represented the Northern Territory Police and attended Sydney in 1999 and 2000,

with the introduction of the National Vehicles of Interest being implemented Australian wide. Her work also took her outdoors with the SMV Squad members taking her out in their vehicles to show her the dumping grounds, for stripped or burnt out vehicles.

Beres has had a close working relationship with S/Const Kym Chilton in Forensic, where she has observed damaged vehicles, repaired and re birthed vehicles. Beres was like a “fox terrier” when it came to investigating and analysing vehicle theft and relished any opportunity to get out of the office and look at “crime scenes” or seized vehicles. She enjoyed a healthy liaison with Pickles Auctions, Darwin City Council, Motor Vehicle Registry Vehicle Inspectors, DPI, interstate police, and interstate Motor Vehicle Inspectors.

Beres will be missed by the organisation and our external partners for her loyalty, her dedication to Stolen Motor Vehicles and for being “Mum” to many of the young policemen and women she took under her wing in dealing with stolen and recovered motor vehicles.



Beres at her farewell with Danny Bacon

International Training Opportunity

NT Police men and women are perfectly positioned to take advantage of high level training later this year ... right on their doorstep.

The 46th International Association of Women Police training conference is being hosted in Darwin and is expected to attract hundreds of delegates from throughout Australia and around the world.

A range of high profile speakers have been secured across a range of topics that are highly relevant to policing in general and to the Northern Territory Police Force.

The theme of the conference 'Policing New Territory' fits perfectly with the innovative policing approaches developed and refined in the Northern Territory and across Australia, as well as the rapid changes being faced by those involved in policing around the world.

The International Association of Women Police was formed in 1915 and now has more than 2 500 members from 45 countries.

Through annual training conferences, the Association provides the opportunity for police men and women and those in associated professions to undertake training sessions and lectures in a formal setting, but just as importantly to informally exchange knowledge and ideas through the general interaction with speakers and other delegates.

This year's conference in Darwin will be held between 6 and 11 September at the new Darwin Convention Centre.

Supervisors and managers are being encouraged to support nominations for the conference, which is a once in a lifetime opportunity for members to experience this level of training in their home jurisdiction.

Information to support members in their applications to attend the conference is available on the website – www.iawp2008.org

High profile speakers have already been engaged for the conference and include:



- Professor Eli Silverman - Emeritus Professor, Department of Law, Police Studies and Criminal Justice Administration, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)



- Timothy W Turner, Ed.D - Federal Bureau of Investigation – retired



- Dr Sue Gordon AM - Magistrate in the Perth Children's Court, Western Australia and Chair of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Taskforce



- Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon - Victoria Police, Australia

International Association Auto Thefts Investigator's 56th Annual International Training Seminar 2008

Sydney, Australia is the venue for International Association Auto Thefts Investigator's 56th Annual International Training Seminar 2008. This four day seminar is expected to attract over 350 delegates from all parts of the world to discuss current vehicle theft issues and trends, prevention initiatives, the latest technological and policy solutions, and practical training in vehicle theft detection and investigation.

This seminar will focus on three streams, being police, insurance and strategic and as such will be of particular interest to law enforcement, vehicle manufacturers, insurers, transport and registration authorities, customs, private investigators, motor trades, forensic locksmiths, crime prevention practitioners, academics and researchers, manufacturers of vehicle security products.

This training seminar will provide a great opportunity for personnel to obtain the latest up to date information on the many facets of vehicle theft that can be utilised in the future.

To register for the conference, please visit www.iaatiaus.org. You can either complete the online registration form or download a hard copy version of the registration form. Completed forms can be faxed or posted to the seminar secretariat, contact details are below. Early bird registration will close Friday 9 May 2008 - after this date the registration fees increase!

For any further enquiries on the training seminar please contact:

IAATI Training Seminar Secretariat
ICMS Australasia
GPO Box 3270
Sydney NSW 2001
Phone: +61 2 9254 5000
Fax: +61 2 9251 3552
Email: info@iaatiaus.org

Commissioner's Outstanding Leadership Medal recipient

Sergeant Taylor, Officer in Charge of the Wadeye Police Station, was nominated for the Commissioner's Outstanding Leadership Medal by all the members of the station.

They said that, not only does he lead with courage, honesty and inspiration he is well respected by the members he serves with and the community in which he lives and works.

Sergeant Taylor's courage is without fault. Wadeye is a volatile community within which exist long-standing feuds between rival family clans. When fighting occurs in Wadeye it is not only the Police members who look to Sergeant Taylor for leadership and direction - so do the elders of the community. They look to Sergeant Taylor for answers to the



Sergeant Taylor receives his medal from the Commissioner, Paul White.

problems and follow the advice given willingly.

Additionally the patience and calmness he portrays to members and his conduct towards victims, witnesses and offenders has the effect of ceasing further fighting in the community.

He has established a high degree of trust and respect between himself, the Police Station, the Northern Territory Police and the Wadeye community, the Elders and individual residents.

Sergeant Taylor leads by example in dealing with the gang violence issues and has implemented positive change in the community. He epitomises the qualities and attributes of an outstanding leader.

New Pilot for NT Police - Southern Region

Southern Region's new police pilot, Rod Tomic, says he is "living the dream" now he and his family are in Central Australia.

He was appointed as the new Police Airwing pilot for Southern Region late last year, but Alice Springs is a long way from South America where Rod was born.

He migrated to Australia with his parents and younger sister in 1983 from Chile. The family had originally planned to go to Spain, but due to a quirk of fate, and his father's friendship with the then Chilean Consul to Australia, they immigrated to Australia instead.

Rod was 16 when he arrived in Australia and went to school in Sydney where he was selected for the State swimming squad. He was also a keen basketball and track and field athlete. He initially went to university to study chemical engineering, but decided his heart wasn't in it and left to go flying.

"Dad owned an aircraft charter company in Chile and flying was his passion. I guess I inherited his love of flying because I was around planes since the age of two," Rod said.

After gaining his pilot's licence Rod worked in air charter, flying for various companies including security express flights for TNT and med-evac runs retrieving donated organs.

After gaining his Airline Transport Pilot's Licence he joined Hazelton airlines (a subsidiary of Ansett Airlines at the time)

flying mostly passenger routes along the east coast from Sydney.

"I spent nine years with Hazelton's - five of them as a captain."

The demise of Ansett saw Rod take a two-year break to review his life. In the meantime he met his wife Mimi and they moved to Port Lincoln in South Australia where he took a position as a spotter pilot for the tuna fishing industry.

The couple had a son Jacob, now three-years-old, and it was when his wife began studying for a psychology degree in Adelaide that Rod stayed home to look after his son.

While in Adelaide, Rod successfully applied for a position with Japan Airlines and was all set to take the family to Japan when he saw an advertisement for NT Police Airwing.

"I just knew this was the job I wanted, so I applied. When I was accepted I then had to tell Japan Airlines I'd changed my mind. They weren't happy."

Rod did his training with Airwing in Darwin and then moved his family to Alice Springs last year.

"This has been a fantastic move and I have found that my excitement for life is back again.

"Mimi and I have already been welcomed in the Territory so much, it's been wonderful. We plan to stay a long time."



New pilot Rod Tomic receives his wings from the then Southern Region Commander Mark Coffey.

Northern Territory Police introduce TASER

NT Police have introduced the use of TASER for general duties police to improve options for safe resolution of incidents.

The move follows the studying of extensive research, interstate and international experience, as well as the evaluation of TASER use by specialist Northern Territory Police since 2003.

Assistant Commissioner Operations, Grahame Kelly said the use of TASER would increase community safety including protection of the police officers tasked with keeping the community safe.

"Having closely monitored the effective use of TASER, there are circumstances Northern Territory Police deal with where TASER would be a preferred option to manage the situation in the safest way for all involved including the offender.

"TASER is a non-lethal force option, providing an additional option before having to resort to using a gun.

"All 'use of force' options pose some risk, however this risk is considerably lower than allowing a dangerous situation to continue. The device itself is considered safe with no lasting effects. Only highly trained front line police will be using them as appropriate," Assistant Commissioner Kelly said.

Police may use TASER to defend themselves or others, to disarm and/or restrain violent offenders, prevent self harm or to control an animal. They can be used when the actions of the person against whom they are used give rise to a fear that physical injury to any person will result.

Assistant Commissioner Kelly said it was not expected that TASER would be required to be frequently or widely use.

"This doesn't replace our standard way of doing business in a range of situations – it simply provides another option for

police to resolve dangerous situations and prevent harm or injury that might otherwise be caused," he said.

TASER was deployed for the first time by a General Duties Officer on Tuesday 12 February 2008.

Police received a report from security staff at Palmerston Shopping Centre that a man armed with the knife was at the centre. The TASER was used to successfully defuse the dangerous situation.

Despite verbal commands from police, the man continued to aggressively approach them. Capsicum spray was used in an effort to halt the man, but he continued to approach and the TASER was used to enable police to safely take him into custody.

The TASER is a small, hand-held device that produces an electric current, causing temporary loss of muscle control in an individual. This results in an inability to perform coordinated action for the duration of the impulse (a few seconds).

The TASER can be used in two ways; by pressing it into the person's body directly, or from a distance away.

The TASER contains a cartridge that uses compressed nitrogen which projects two small darts when a person is a distance away. These stick into the clothing or skin of the person they are fired at.

These darts are connected to the TASER by insulated wire. A high voltage but very low amperage electrical current is transmitted through the wires to where the darts make contact with the person.

NTPOL CAT gets Federal claws

The Northern Territory Police Child Abuse Team (CAT), comprising NTPOL investigators, and Family and Children's Services (FACS) case workers, has been supplemented by Agents of the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

Commencing in November 2006, CAT was bolstered by two Federal Agents from AFP Darwin Office, Bevan MORONEY and Sinead DONE in April 2007.

In September 2007, a further two Federal Agents, Donna HOFMEIER and Bob ROSE joined the team and now in 2008, Federal Agents Robert BALL, Susie BALL, Mark WHITFIELD, Danielle LESKE and Adele MULCASTER will boost team members to nine. Over half the AFP members have prior experience in the ACT Policing Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team.

AFP members contributed to two significant matters in recent weeks, with the arrests of a senior Federal Public Servant on both Federal and Territory charges involving children before Christmas, and a member of the Royal Australian Navy in early January 2008.

Acting Sergeants Donna CAYLEY and Vanessa GODDARD, in the absence of Detective Acting Sergeant Rob "Flash" GORDON, oversight two NTPOL teams within CAT with Senior Constable Nathan POWELL and Senior Constable Andrew CRAVEN the "boys" in the office. CAT is ably assisted by Ms Carolyn DAVIS in transcribing Child Forensic Interviews and general office administration.

"The whole of CAT, including NTPOL and FACS have been very welcoming, and made us feel right at home." AFP Team Leader Bob ROSE said recently.

"The AFP members have been great - their previous experience has made their transition into the team easy and they've worked well with NTPOL members and FACS," Detective Acting Senior Sergeant Annette COOPER said.

The CAT is based at the Peter McAulay Centre, Berrimah and has recently moved into new office accommodation, where the members were visited by AFP Deputy Commissioner National Security John Lawler, performing the duties of Commissioner, along with Commissioner Paul WHITE.



From back L-R: Robert Rose (AFP), Casey Eyden (FACS), Vanessa Goddard (NTPol) Annette Cooper (NTPol) Susie Ball (AFP) Carolyn Davis (Administration), Donna Hofmeier (AFP), Aloha Richards (FACS), Adele Mulcaster (AFP), Mark Whitfield (AFP), Andrew Craven (NTPol) **Missing team members:** Donna Cayley (NTPol) Bevan Moroney (AFP) Nathan Powell (NTPol) Nick Hedstrom (FACS) Jenny Letchford (FACS) Kerry Thomas (FACS) Robert Ball (AFP)

Working from home.....

The following item was submitted by Kym Dixon, who – after working with NTPFES for some time - moved to Canberra and continued her role under a flexible working arrangement.

I have just completed a six month Working from Home Agreement with the NTPFES. My family moved to Canberra in May, 2007 and I was able to continue my role as Manager, Program Initiatives within Indigenous Policing Development Division where I continued the many projects I was involved in. These projects included writing funding submissions, managing funding within the Division, project managing the new recruit Constable's program and offering training and development expertise with the Transitional Constable's Program – just to name a few.

I have enjoyed working from home however, it does get lonely and I really had to work at keeping the

communication flowing with all external and internal stakeholders. There would be some days where I would be on the telephone nearly all day and other days where the telephone would not ring at all (a dream for most of us).

I attended meetings through teleconferencing which was always good to keep in contact with my colleagues. I also was able to travel back to Darwin once throughout the Agreement which enabled me to finalise and address issues that needed face to face contact – it was also good to get away from the cold for a week!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NTPFES for their forward thinking in terms of work/life balance and flexible working arrangements. To those who I have had the pleasure of working with over my four years at the Training College, I wish you all well in the future and hopefully some day we will meet again.

SAID – Two years on

The Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk based in Alice Springs has just celebrated its second anniversary.

Since its establishment in January 2006 the Desk has been instrumental in seizing more than \$1 million worth of drugs which police believe were mostly destined for sale in remote Aboriginal communities.

Constable Sachin Sharma has been with the SAID almost since its inception. He believes the concept of shared intelligence between all three jurisdictions in the cross-border area has led to continuing and effective disruption of drug supply to the NPY lands.

“In the first year we seized more than \$170,000 worth of cannabis, almost \$45,000 worth of amphetamines and a small quantity of MDMA,” Const Sharma said.

“During the following year, our intelligence continued to improve as people in communities began to understand the impact the SAID was having. They were then more willing to give us information as they saw the information lead to arrests.

“This improvement in intelligence is reflected in last year's seizure results. In the 12 months to the end of December 2007 we seized more than \$700,000 worth of cannabis, more than \$100,000 worth of amphetamines and \$9000 worth of MDMA.

“While these results are satisfying, it would be naive to assume there isn't still much work to be done, but police in all three jurisdictions –Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory – have all reported the cross-border shared intelligence approach is continuing to have a significant impact on the supply of licit and illicit substances into remote communities.”



Police from the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia regularly take part in joint operations in remote areas of the cross-border region to disrupt the supply of licit and illicit substances to Aboriginal Communities.



From the Archives.....

Katherine Hotel Motel
JIM BEAN
750 ml
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Katherine's first newspaper
Est. 1972

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Read it in the Advertiser — Katherine's award-winning newspaper.

MULTI MILLION DRUG BUST

Words by ROSS IRBY.
Photos by ROSS IRBY and ROBERT BUZZO



The crop under intense police guard.

A station property south of Katherine has been the scene of the biggest cannabis haul in the Territory with the seizure this week of about 15,000 mature cannabis plants, including three thousand plants already harvested, with a total street value estimated at \$10 million.

The Saturday raid at 11am on a very remote part of the property by the Territory Task Force, senior police and drug squad officers from Katherine and Darwin took the drug cultivators by surprise.

The raid resulted in the arrests of four men, including the station owner, engaged in harvesting the crop.

The men have been charged with producing cannabis, possessing cannabis for supply, and possession and use of cannabis and will appear today in the Katherine court.

The arrests included a 74-year-old man, his 42-year-old son and two other men, aged 53 and 35.

In further developments police have since arrested a fifth man, believed to be the owner of two other Territory stations, who has been charged with separate drug offences.

Officer in charge of the operation superintendent John Woodcock, of the Drug Enforcement unit, said surveillance had taken place over two weeks before the plantation was raided by more than 30 police.

He said some 3,500 cannabis plants had already been harvested and were laid out drying.

Spt Woodcock estimated that in its bulk form the crop would be worth \$1.5 million but, when broken down for street sale this escalated to between \$8 and \$10 million.

The plantation was located in a small, steep-sided rocky gorge, well hidden by the bush with access only by motorbike, some distance from the main station homestead.

The discovery of the cannabis was the result of an investigation of the property by task force officers who went in on foot.

The raid was organised at 3am but no action was taken until 11.30am when the heavily armed officers swooped on the gorge.

At the homestead, officers seized a container of cannabis with an estimated value of \$50,000.

Spt Woodcock described the business as well planned, very professional and with interstate connections.

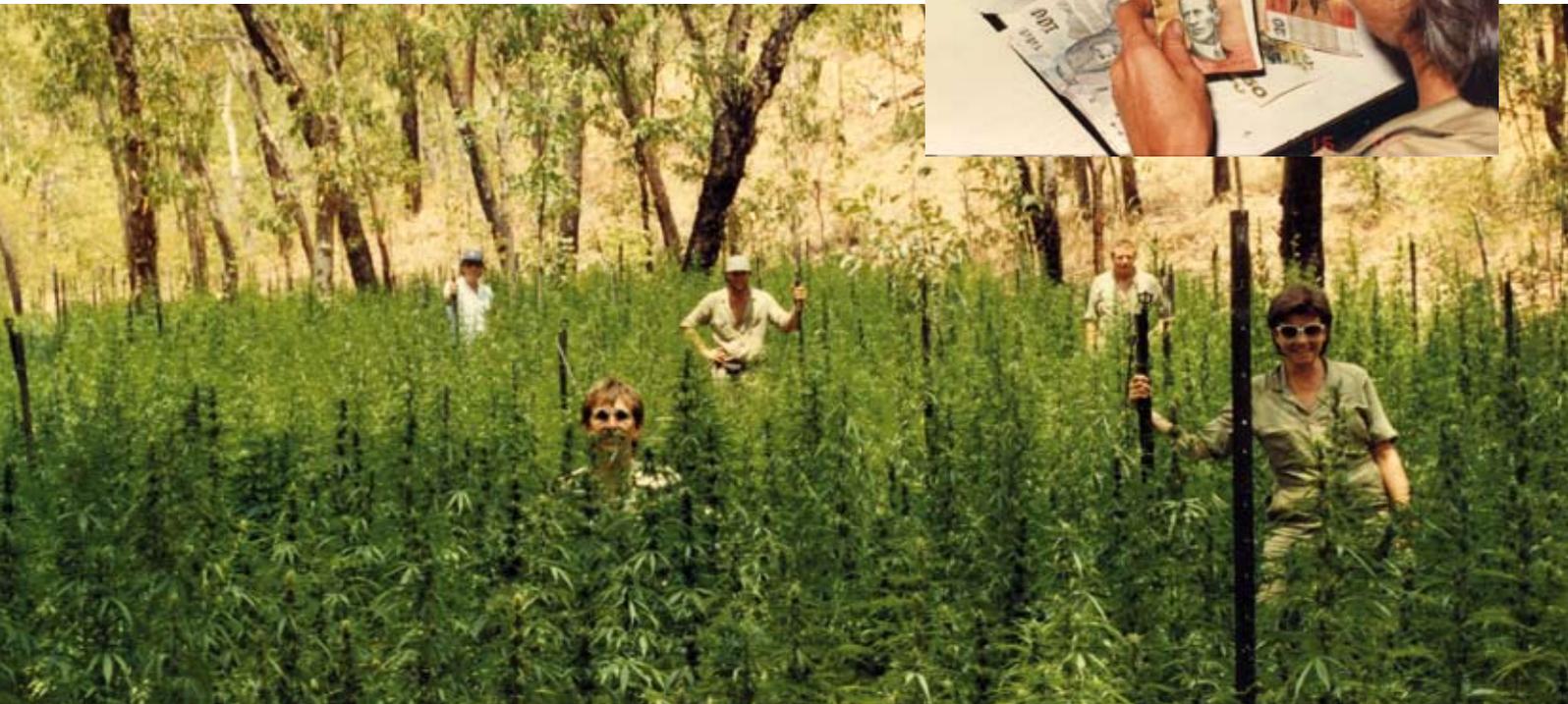
Police investigations have moved to Sydney where a number of people have been targeted to help with inquiries.



Senior Sergeant Dennis Hart with a bundle of the seized cannabis.



It was heads and bottoms down as these police officers picked the crop for this week's burn — the crop was too wet to burn while still standing.



Thanks and Praise

On 27 September 2007, Graham Willoughby expressed sincere gratitude to **Detective Sergeant Rob Jordan** and **Aboriginal Community Police Officer Lex Holt** after they returned his wallet in Tennant Creek in July.

“Both Mr Jordan and Mr Holt at all times were very professional and polite in their manner and to have such dedicated and honest members of the force would make anyone proud,” he said.

The **Humpty Doo Police Station** staff have been praised twice over recent months. On 2 August 2007, a member of the public wrote to commend the counter staff and Sergeant Neil Berry for going ‘above and beyond the call of duty’ to solve a problem that previously other jurisdictions were unable to help. “My grateful thanks to this special man and the professional young woman,” the letter said.

A woman also wrote to pass on her compliments “for the excellent attention I received from each of the officers with whom I came in contact” following an incident in December. She particularly commended **Constable Hogan** of Humpty Doo Police Station for his phone call. “He was most reassuring and also made sure I was aware of the options available to me,” she said.

In September, a motorcyclist formally acknowledged **Senior Constable First Class Macalistar McLean** of the Adelaide River Police Station for his “invaluable assistance” after his motorcycle crashed south of Adelaide River in August. “Mac went above and beyond the call of duty with his help and set an example that most police officers from other states (that I’ve come across) would do well to emulate,” he said.

In November Stipendiary Magistrate Sue Oliver expressed her appreciation for the efforts of **Sergeant Jamie Cairncross** and members from **Kalkaringi and Timber Creek** in the organisation and conduct of proceedings during an inquiry into a death of a man from that area. “The assistance provided by the officers was outstanding... I thought it was a fine example of outback community policing...” she said.

The Commissioner has written a number of Letters of Recognition to members and staff for their outstanding efforts in recent months.

On 12 September 2007 **Detective Senior Sergeant Scott Pollock** was commended for his leadership of the Commander’s Tactical Team in its initial stages and for showing true professionalism and commitment to getting the job done.

Senior Constable Michael Korenstra was recognised for the pivotal role he played in providing assistance

to the New South Wales Police and Queensland Police during a combined illicit drug operation. The operation was a resounding success resulting in the seizure of 27 000 MDMA tablets and the incarceration of a major drug distributor.

Detective Senior Sergeant Louise Jorgenson, Sergeant Lenora Giles and the Drug Enforcement Section were commended on 11 January this year for their roles in the seizure of 36 kilograms of cannabis, \$36 000 in cash and the arrest of the offender in July last year. The result was an indication of both members’ “hard work and professionalism”.

In February last year the Oenpelli Community came under threat of severe flooding and various members of the Tri-Service and community members contributed to and coordinated the necessary relief efforts and the emergency response. In August 2007 the Commissioner personally praised police members **Senior Constable First Class Gary Smallridge, Constable Edgar Hayden** and **Aboriginal Community Police Officer Andy Garnarradj** for their hard work during this time. He also extended a special thanks to community members who greatly assisted relief efforts including **Gabby Gumurdal** of the Demed Association, **Cliff Riddle** of the Gunbalanya Council, **Joan Tuppack** of the Gunbulunya Health Clinic, Roads Officer **Kerry Cox, Marvin Makin** of the Gunbalanya Night Patrol, Essential Service Officer **Peter Plevins** and **Tracy Buck** from the Gunbalanya Council Store.

Across the agency, sections have greatly assisted Taskforce Themis by providing urgent support and equipment during its establishment. In November the Commissioner especially thanked the Managers and Staff of the **Fleet Management Section, Communications and Electronic Services Section, Procurement and Supply Section**, along with the **Director of Facilities Branch Paul Kelly**, for their efforts to meet all the requirements of Themis above the work and services they already provide to other sections of the organisation.

On 7 December 2007 the **NTPFES Legal Branch** received a certificate to recognise the dedicated and exceptional work they have done over several years. The significant issues the branch covers extend from subpoenas, court appearances and the development of legislation and amendments to developing multi jurisdictional Memorandums of Understanding. Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham commended members of the Legal Branch for their outstanding contributions.

A Certificate of Appreciation was also extended to **Lisa Edwards** in September of last year for developing a financial report to allow managers to easily and quickly track their monthly expenditure, during her role as Business Support Advisor for Operations Service.

