

THE

DRUM

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE

JULY 2008



40 Years of Policing

Commissioner celebrates a distinguished career.

This issue

Exercise Vapour Mate

Footy – Ramingining Style

'Tracks are for Trains' training

Gapuwiyak Police Station
Grand Opening



Commissioner's Message

Over the past few months, the Tri-Service has taken part in an array of training exercises conducted to test our capabilities and generally professionally develop personnel to deal with tragic, terrorist and biological incidents.

The 'Tracks are for Trains' exercise was a large scale multi agency exercise coordinated by our Emergency Service branch whereby even the attending 'real time' media were surprised at the number of people and agencies involved in dealing with a tragic accident between a train and mini bus.

'Vapour Mate' was a Chemical Biological Radiological (CBR) training exercise designed around a large scale public event. It tested the use of robotic technology, the ability of members to perform duties in splash suits and self contained breathing apparatus.

The Counter Terrorism Tactical Response Exercise was months in the planning but paid off on the 20 May with an overnight exercise at a couple of key locations. This again tested multi agency communication in a time of crisis, communication, negotiation, tactical response and the use of a variety of equipment in a hostage situation.

This is just to name a few examples and I'm pleased to note, that all the training was a success. It is generally hoped that a few aspects go a little wrong in the training scenario as at least then, it can be clearly identified what can be done better and any aspects of our own plans which need to be refined, can be identified prior to a genuine disaster.

I also note, a highly significant event to go down in Territory History, the official opening of the new Themis police station at Gapuwiyak, which signified all Themis police stations across the Territory. I welcome the opportunity for our Taskforce Themis police to work closely with the community and believe the welcome that our police have received by the community themselves is heart warming.

Thirteen Transitional Aboriginal Community Police Officers graduated as fully sworn Constables on 5 June in what is believed to be the first graduation of its kind in Australian history. This was a proud moment for all the graduates and a proud moment for Northern Territory Police. Congratulations to all those involved especially members of the Indigenous Policing Development Division.

Unfortunately, an extremely sad day for the Northern Territory Police and the community as a whole, was 9 April when our ACPO, Alberto Cubillo passed away. Despite bravely battling cancer for four years, Alberto was an outstanding member of our police force and even rostered his shifts around treatment in order to not disrupt his work. On behalf of Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, I offer our deepest sympathy to Alberto's family. With sincere condolences, our thoughts are with you.

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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

Scaling the heights at the International Urban Search and Rescue course.

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Exercise Vapour Mate

On the 6th of March 2008 a group taking part in a Chemical Biological Radiological (CBR) exercise "Vapour Mate" responded to a simulated terrorist attack on the United States Ambassador to Australia, during a scheduled speech at the Police College Auditorium.

The exercise was a part of the Counter Terrorism Drill Style Exercise program, funded by the Federal Government through the National Counter Terrorism Committee (NCTC).

In the scenario two general duties members providing venue security prior to the speech, noticed a male wearing a back pack acting suspiciously. On approaching the suspect, the offender drew a pistol and fired a shot at the members narrowly missing one of them.

Police returned fire killing the offender

however when they approached the body they immediately started to have trouble breathing and experienced runny noses. They evacuated the auditorium and cordoned off the area before being transported to hospital. The Fire service attended and began to monitor the air surrounding the venue while a robot searched the backpack for an Improvised Explosive Devise (IED).

Forensics personnel were tasked with processing the crime scene prior to it being decontaminated. Their main

priority was to identify a suspected CBR agent.

Ten Darwin Forensic personnel including a Scene of Crime Officer and a Crime Scene Examiner from Alice Springs and ten NT Fire and Rescue Service personnel with a portable decontamination trailer were involved in the exercise.

Two members from St Johns Ambulance were also on the scene to monitor heat stress and blood pressure and the Police Technical workshop assisted by setting up a wireless video camera to supply encrypted video to a networked laptop.

The group was split into four main teams who entered the scene separately.

They were faced with a dummy equipped with a backpack containing a pressure sprayer bottle, a firearm and other items of interest to investigators.

The exercise aimed to test standard operating procedures, collection procedures, the ability of members to perform duties in splash suits and self contained breathing apparatus (BA), technology utilised at the scene and the interoperability of Forensic members with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service.

Senior Constable Gino Rob who co-ordinated the training said that the exercise was a success and demonstrated cohesive working relationships between the services.



Santa Teresa footy team touches the stars



Aboriginal Community Police Officer Phillip Alice and Victorian Police Senior Constable Barry Randall of the Santa Teresa Police Station manage to fit many hats beneath the bush green – including Manager and Coach of the Santa Teresa football team.



The recent success of the Santa Teresa team made national news when they tore up the turf in a curtain raiser against the Fitzroy Stars at the MCG on Saturday 24 May.

Their game kicked off the annual ‘Dreamtime at the G’ match between Richmond and Essendon, recognising the enormous contribution of Indigenous communities to Australian football.

“It was a dream come true for most of these fellas, because they worked really hard to get there and I am very proud of them” said ACPO Phillip Alice.

Santa Teresa won the opportunity to play at the MCG after beating 25 other teams to take out the Army Community Division of the Defence Jobs AFL Carnival last year.

They were one of 14 communities competing in the carnival from around the Territory, for the chance to play at the MCG in the Indigenous Round and \$10,000 in prize money.

“I’ve been involved in footy for nearly all my life up here and I’ve been helping the young people try to get them on the straight road you know, and if they fall off, go along and talk to them and say “look here, football is good,” because then

they can achieve what they can achieve...

“We like to encourage young people and young girls out there too, just to play sports and be involved in the communities,” he said.

Senior Constable Randall said that although on the day Fitzroy came out on top, the opportunity for the players was awesome and they got a lot out of the experience.

“It was a chance to play somewhere amazing like the MCG. A chance to be seen by AFL scouts and perhaps make it into the big league and also the opportunity to represent their home community and the NT,” he said.

The atmosphere around the

community surrounding the recent footy success has been one of excitement.

“People realised that Santa Teresa was becoming known all over the country for something good and positive which is a pleasant change for a community that is part of the Intervention.”

Barry’s main objective working in the Themis Stations over the past four months has been getting involved with the community and setting up meaningful programs.

Santa Teresa Police have a number of other fun projects underway including a local basketball competition, softball, soccer and rugby for juniors and BMX riding on a newly cleared track.





Tracks are for trains exercise

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services recently conducted an exercise to train staff from a number of Government agencies and rail companies who would normally be involved in a multi-agency response to a railway crash.

Northern Territory Emergency Services Director said the exercise was a great success, testing response capabilities and crisis management.

“A training exercise of this scale is the only way to really test our agencies capabilities, ensure we have timely and effective methods of communication with other key agencies and identify any issues.

“I hope we never have to put such training to the real test but at least we can feel confident in our preparations should a real tragedy occur,” Mr Davies said.

The exercise involved a scenario where multiple fatalities occurred at a remote location. A train, kindly loaned by Freightlink, reportedly slammed into a vehicle broken down on the tracks, killing and injuring occupants as well as a number of people on the passenger train.

All emergency services worked together to respond to the incident, rescue injured passengers and retrieve the bodies of the fatalities.

Local media were extended an invitation to see the event and they were provided an opportunity to go behind the scenes where they would normally not be permitted to venture.

Mr Davies said this caused real time problems.

“The exclusion zones were guarded so well that the media invited to go behind

the scenes were not permitted access by the exercise participants. Permission had to be sought by the exercise control to override the training.”

The next exercise is planned for September/October to prepare for the next Cyclone season.



Commissioner's Outstanding Leadership Medal

Senior Auxiliary Gerry Oliver and Sergeants Megan Blackwell and Rosanna Breed are the latest recipients of the Commissioner's Outstanding Leadership Medal after their successful nominations were approved by Commissioner Paul White.

The medal is awarded annually to a nominee who is deemed to have met the criteria for selection in accordance with the Leadership Charter – the criteria being – Lead by Example, Courage, Honesty, Respect and Inspire.

Gerry's previous employment was as a Station Officer with the South Australian Ambulance Service, where he was responsible for overseeing the operation of their Communications Centre which covered 40 Ambulance Stations (approximately 90% geographical coverage of SA). The existing knowledge, training and experience that Gerry brought to the NT Police is called upon daily in his position as JESCC (Joint Emergency Service Communications Centre) Support Officer, to improve efficiencies within the JESCC.

He joined NT Police as a JESCC communicator on 20 July 1988 and his skills were immediately recognised by the incumbent Officer in Charge and Gerry was elevated to the position of JESCC Support Officer in his first year. In his subsequent years of service, Gerry has become the local-area-expert in the vast array of technical equipment housed within the JESCC and is the first point-

of-call for technical problems relating to the phone system, ICAD computer systems and any of the recording systems which represents a very real cost saving to the section.

In respect of leadership abilities this point is best illustrated by the fact that there was at a time five OIC's managing the section within 18 months and with Gerry's guidance the section was able to function efficiently and effectively.

Gerry has always been a person and police auxiliary who 'walks the talk' and 'leads by example' when it comes to promoting honesty, fairness, equity, loyalty and integrity. He has the ability to communicate at all levels and is open and honest.

When Gerry received official notification of his successful nomination he said, "I feel quite humbled by this on one hand and extremely proud on the other."

Sergeant Rosanna Breed commenced with NT Police in February 1988 and has served in Darwin, Alice Springs, Alyangula, Nhulunbuy, Tiwi Islands and has undertaken School Based Constable duties, General Duties and is now an instructor at the Police College. She has

also relieved in Daly River and Adelaide River.

Whilst Rosanna was policing the Tiwi Islands she undertook capacity building initiatives at both Nguuu and Pirlangimpi. These initiatives were to build stronger relationships with the people in the community but for Rosanna this wasn't difficult. Her love of the bush/remote work and being related to 'practically the whole Islands' made it relatively easy for her to have the communities respect.

Rosanna has performed duties in special operations such as Special Policing Unit targeting cannabis use, underage drinking and street offences, and the successful 2003-2004 'Tigris Operation' attached to the Casuarina Police Investigations Unit 'Mosquito'.

She was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in August 2006 and is now attached to the College as an instructor overseeing the Indigenous Development Policing Unit and is a mentor to many of the Indigenous members at all ranks.

Rosanna has enhanced the quality, accountability and outcomes of the various units that she has been in over her career. More importantly she directs, manages and encourages members to go 'the extra yard' and strive for career and personal 'continuous improvements' to achieve the organisation's corporate vision to deliver 'excellent policing services to the community'.

As a role model to many Aboriginal Community Police Officers she has provided her time selflessly to give guidance and mentor those who seek her advice. Her expertise, work ethic and commitment have always been undertaken with professionalism, ethically and with integrity.

"This award is a significant personal achievement. I am appreciative to the one who felt me worthy of such a nomination", said Rosanna.

Commissioner White congratulated all three members on their professionalism and personal ability as a leader in the Northern Territory Police.



Gapuwiyak Police Station Grand Opening

In April, the Themis Station at Gapuwiyak was officially opened in a vibrant dancing, singing and banner waving celebration, in front of more than half of the community.

A group of local men danced towards the police station gates, waving their spears, while women and school children joined behind the procession.

Deputy Commissioner, Bruce Wernham and the Northern Territory Chief Minister and Minister for Police, Paul Henderson then pushed the gates open and everyone poured inside.

Gapuwiyak is one of 18 Taskforce Themis temporary police stations that were constructed in remote communities following the Federal Government announcement of the Emergency Intervention in June 2007.

The last of the Taskforce Themis Stations built at Warruwi became operational on 22 February 2008, while police at Gapuwiyak have been permanently based at the community since 11 January.

In between official welcomes, the school children performed songs and two young girls read a story as their class acted out the words.

A women's dancing group waved large colourful banners during their dance, in the final performance on the day.

Council Chairperson Micky Wunungmurra said that the community was really happy about having police based at the community during his speech.

"We want to work with police officers, learning both ways of law and culture," he said.

Former Officer in Charge, Sergeant Tamara Randall and Australian Federal Police Senior Constable First Class Steve Kent and Constable Luke Stockwell put on a barbeque for the community after the proceedings.

Commander of Taskforce Themis, Wayne Harris said that both the positive atmosphere and the huge turn out at the welcome ceremony were heartening.

"It was fantastic to see so many people come down and show their support for their new station, their excitement and



exuberance was contagious and it made for a tremendous day," he said.

The opening was attended by a host of dignitaries and important invitees including, The Administrator of the Northern Territory, his Honour Mr Tom Pauling and his wife Tessa, Syd Stirling, Member for Nhulunbuy, Jenny Harrison, Chief of Staff, Northern Territory Emergency Response Operations Centre, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Rozolli, JDF641 and Commander David Bachi, AFP.



Fred's Pass Show

Members of the tri-service made the most of the Fred's Pass Rural Show celebrating its 30th year over the weekend of 14 May.

The Police, Fire and Emergency Services site was set up between the front gate and the sideshow which proved to be a good spot to catch the crowd.

As always, excited children were drawn to the fire truck and siren and this year they also had the opportunity to pose for a photo with the new NTES rescue boat from Palmerston – which turned out to be a hit.

Meanwhile their parents had the chance to have a proper look around the stand and speak to members and volunteers about the services.

Neighbourhood Watch were particularly impressed with the amount of parents and members of the public who signed up on the spot to be a part of neighbourhood watch.



Bravery Awards



Five Northern Territory Police officers were honoured with bravery awards by the Governor General.

Katherine officer, Senior Constable Dani Mattiuzzo was recognised for her brave efforts in apprehending an armed offender whilst off-duty in May last year.

Dani walked out of the Katherine Shopping Centre on May 18 to be confronted by a man holding two knives, standing over a female victim who was bleeding from the face and neck. The Senior Constable tried to appease the man and convince him to drop his weapons. One knife was discarded, but the offender became agitated by a bystander and stabbed the victim in the chest. When another bystander distracted the

offender, Dani leapt forward and knocked him to the ground, holding him until police arrived. Sadly, the victim died as a result of her injuries. Sen Const Mattiuzzo said the incident had been traumatic for all involved.

Four officers based at Casuarina Station also received a bravery award for their valiant efforts to save two young men from a burning vehicle in August 2006. Detective Sergeant Lenny Turner, Detective Senior Constable Alan Hodge, Senior Constable Andrew Magrath and Constable Louie Sayson worked frantically to free the occupants of a burning vehicle just seconds before it exploded. Tragically, both occupants died at the scene from the extensive injuries suffered when the vehicle crashed.

In March, Ramingining Police and a committee of Community Elders tackled the wild grasses and shrubs running riot on the local footy field in preparation for a highly successful eight week AFL competition.

Over 100 eager players were randomly divided into four teams and a number of people from the community put their hands up to coach.

From the first whistle, Officer in Charge Sergeant Paul Willmington's innovative idea to engage local males in the highly popular game, served as a diversion to property crime and other minor offences.

"The theory behind the competition started because there were so many break and enters and property crime offences happening in Ramingining.

"We were actively dealing with them but the fact that police were now permanently based in the community didn't seem to get the message across to offenders."

The footy committee made up of police and Elders, imposed bans and conditions in relation to player misdemeanours.

In one case two players who were caught and put before the courts for breaking into the local store, sat before the footy committee and were banned for three weeks.

"The very next day they were helping out at the store and stacking shelves and ended up being offered jobs because they worked so hard".

As in any sport, there was more to this game than just a game, and a lot of time, sweat and cheers went into organising the competition.

Sergeant Willmington wrote to AFL Australia and AFL NT who donated umpire uniforms, goal umpire flags, and a whistle and he also raised money for balls, line marking chalk and a blackboard.

Together with a sponsorship deal he organised with Arnhemland Progress Association, they raised \$2000 for 100 footy jumpers in four much loved team colours, Magpies, Crows, Bombers and Tigers.

To get the game onto the ground Paul also donated \$3000 of his own money that he was able to get back in soft-drink sales each Saturday game.

Footy, Ramingining Style

The profit went towards medallions for the competition winners and runners up, a perpetual shield, official match balls, cones and more umpire uniforms.

They also purchased 100 junior jumpers for girls and boys starting up AFL little league as part of a competition in conjunction with the school sports program, in June.

On 24 May Ramingining hosted the grand final with pre-game entertainment including the now world famous Chookie Dancers and a 15 minute muck about match between local men.

Each team was welcomed onto the field by their own cheerleading group and the game was an exciting and close one, with Tigers winning over Crows, 71 points to 58.

In a speech congratulating the two teams, local Elders praised the efforts of



the police and the community response in setting up and supporting the competition, the first in 7 years.

All eyes are now on the 30 players selected over the course of the competition, to play in the all new "Ramingining Kangaroos", complete with a unique uniform designed by the team.



Peter and Sue Wright first met on a golf course in Gove 10 years ago after Sue (who was very much into sport) spotted Peter on the fairway and decided the best way to capture his attention would be to take part in the sport that he was clearly passionate about.

A Wright pair

They have now been happily married for 8 years and have two children, six-year-old Sam and four-year-old Chloe.

Peter is a Senior Fire fighter at the Darwin Fire Station. He has been a member of the NT Fire & Rescue Service for 10 years. Prior to that, he worked in Nhulunbuy as an Auxiliary Fire fighter for 5 years.

Sue is a long term Territory resident and has worked as an Auxiliary with the NT police for 10 years.

Recently they won their first golf tournament together, the Palmerston Open. The competition was held over two days on the 19th and 20th of April and made up of a staggering 36 holes.

Among other's, Peter also had to defeat his brother-in-law Craig Game to take out the Men's title, despite being handicapped by an injured wrist.

Sue beat a very strong field by 10 strokes to take out the women's title.

The pair were absolutely ecstatic with their combination win. As individual participants they have both won the tournament 3 times and were over the moon with their dual win. They made their way into the Palmerston Golf and



Photo courtesy NT News

Country Club records as the only married couple to take out the title in recent times.

It seems that their six-year-old son, Sam, has certainly acquired the sporting gene having recently taken up Auskick. He is also a mad keen Western Bulldogs supporter having met all of the players and getting their signatures. This makes the family Friday night football viewing quite interesting with Pete going for Hawthorn and Sue being a Brisbane Lions fan.

Sam and Chloe initially wanted to follow in the parents footsteps with Sam becoming a fire fighter like his dad and

Chloe joining the police force like her mum. Sam has since changed his mind and now wants to become a great AFL star like his Bulldog idols.

To play sport at such a high level requires dedication, persistence and many hours of practice. It's only through the support of their extended families (made up of both sets of parents and a long list of siblings) that they are able to find the time to play the sport that brought them together.

It seems Sue and Peter have, for the time being, found the perfect life-love-work-sport balance.

Auxiliary Squad 30 Graduation

The graduation ceremony was held at 10am on Monday 26 May with the new members commencing work on Tuesday 27.

There are eight graduates in total made up of seven women and one man.

They have been posted around the Darwin and regional area.

Yvonne Fiddes, Brian Jeffery, Kelly Kemp, Carol Richards are the team now located at the Peter McAulay Centre.

Ester Mardicas and Belinda Wicks make up the team at the Darwin Police Station with Theresa Foster and Heidi-Marie Marshall making up the Katherine Police Station contingent.

The latest Auxiliary graduates have completed their six weeks training and are now off to a Police station near you.



The Northern Territory Mounted Police in Central Australia

The Northern Territory has a permanent police history dating from 1870 when Inspector Paul Foelsche and six other police officers arrived in the Territory.

The police force was known as the Northern Territory Mounted Police until the early 20th century when it became the Northern Territory Police Force.

In the early years police in Central Australia not only used horses but also camels to get around in this harsh environment.

But with the advent of the motor car, horses and camels were phased out, and with that came the end of an era.

However, the value of the horse for police work was not forgotten, and in the early 1970s a dedicated Mounted Unit was again established in the Centre before being disbanded some years later.

A six month trial in 2003 saw horse patrols once more on the streets of Alice Springs. They proved so popular and effective it was decided to re-establish the unit.

After much planning and co-operative efforts between all the stakeholders, the Alice Springs Mounted Police now has its home at the Arid Zone Research Institute. The five horses and their riders have once again become a familiar sight around Alice Springs.

Commissioner White with the Chief Minister Paul Henderson officially launched the Mounted Unit in February 2008 and has been enthusiastically supported by government agencies and private businesses.

“Not only have the preliminary trials of the mounted patrols been widely

appreciated by the general public, but the degree to which businesses and other government agencies have supported the move has been very impressive,” Commissioner White said.

“For instance when AZRI was approached about the availability of the disused camel yards, that was the start of a great partnership.

“The yards were made available along with the disused offices and the Mounted Unit was on its way.

“Support was also forthcoming from Charles Darwin University whose staff trained prisoners from the Alice Springs Corrections Centre in various skills such as welding in modifying and upgrading the yards.

“Private individuals and businesses also supported the scheme, some in the form of providing workshop facilities while others provided horses.”

“And then there was the hard work and

vision of the police officers and other staff involved. It is a credit to their persistence and expertise that the mounted unit has come so far and the facilities are of the high calibre they are”.

Commissioner White said he has no doubt the mounted unit will provide a valuable service to the people of Alice Springs.

In a letter from the Police Commissioner to Senior Constable Steward, OIC of the Mounted Unit, the Commissioner sates: “Having toured the AZRI facility prior to any decision to establish the unit and to now see the changes and work carried out upon my return for the opening is a credit to you and your team. The inter-agency cooperation and partnerships you developed with the personnel at AZRI, Charles Darwin University and Alice Springs Prison have resulted in a facility that we can all be proud of.”



40 Years with a col

Whoever said that a group of whispering women must be up to something?

Well, that was certainly the case when Mrs Cynthia White, Chief of Staff Anne-Marie Murphy and the Commissioners Personal Assistant Pauline Benaim were secretly arranging the surprise celebration for the Commissioner's 40 years in Policing.

On no other than April Fools Day 2008, the Commissioner believed he was going for a quick look at a staff member's art work on the 4th floor of the NAB building when he was ushered into the OPR Room to a cheering reception of friends and colleagues.

A few witnesses may also tell you, there was perhaps a tear or two from the Commissioner when an emotional realisation set in.

Mrs White presented her husband, the Commissioner with an engraved, crystal decanter while delivering a moving speech which certainly features a theme of either being the first and/or the youngest to achieve.

Mrs White spoke of "how very proud our children, our mums and family are of you Paul and all that you have achieved.

"You were the youngest police officer accepted in Criminal Investigation



Branch. Chosen to partner the first squad of uniform police women for patrols. Chosen by the UN to head a team of 4 to report on the militia in Kyrgyzstan.

"The first police officer to go to Kent in England on exchange program and of course the six years as a mature age student where you achieved a double major in politics and sociology, followed by a first class honour's degree in Sociology.

"You have, on and off duty, achieved and given it your all with integrity, loyalty and dedication."

Mrs White concluded with, "40 years of policing and still chasing crooks" referring to the Commissioner's recent apprehension of an offender in Adelaide.

Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham presented Commissioner White with the Northern Territory Police Service Medal while pointing out that "it is not everyday the Deputy Commissioner gets to present a medal to the boss.

"40 years is certainly a milestone in policing and I'm sure the agency will join me in congratulating the Commissioner on his achievements, in particular, taking the helm at Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services over six and a half years ago.

"It was my pleasure to present the Northern Territory Police Service Medal to him, not only as a mark of distinguished service but also as recognition that over his period as Commissioner he has become a true Territorian."

The 40 Years

Paul White commenced his career as a cadet for the South Australia Police on 1 April 1968 at the young age of 17, including three years of disciplined, outward bound, equestrian and drill training.



This was followed by 5 years uniform general duties including 'The Watch' in Adelaide city as a Probationary Constable. Armed with a pistol clipped in his pocket and a small, rubber baton but no portable radio, he spent the majority of his shifts dealing with street crime, disturbances, accidents and people with no respect for the law. Typing up reports could mean a tedious end to the shift especially if there were any mistakes and the report had to be started again.

During the 1970s, Mr White passed all promotional examinations and successfully completed the Detective training course. He spent 12 years as a Detective, working with the South Australia Major Crime Squad and Armed Hold-Up Squad.

A highlight of this period was the successful investigation of an arson whereby a home owner had spread petrol throughout the home to destroy it for insurance purposes. However, the petrol vaporised causing the whole place to explode when the arsonist struck the match. It was a circumstantial case and arson being an offence with intent to defraud, several key witnesses were called to show how the accused had duped

uple of tears

them. Other investigations included negotiating with an offender armed with a knife who was wanted for murder and the resulting Supreme Court trial. Several investigations involved bank robberies and the arrest and prosecution of offenders, including one case where a shotgun was fired inside the bank. On one occasion Mr White and his detective colleagues were tipped-off about a planned bank robbery and were able to catch the offenders in the act.

Mr White completed the Inspectors Development Course and was promoted to the rank of Inspector in April 1988.

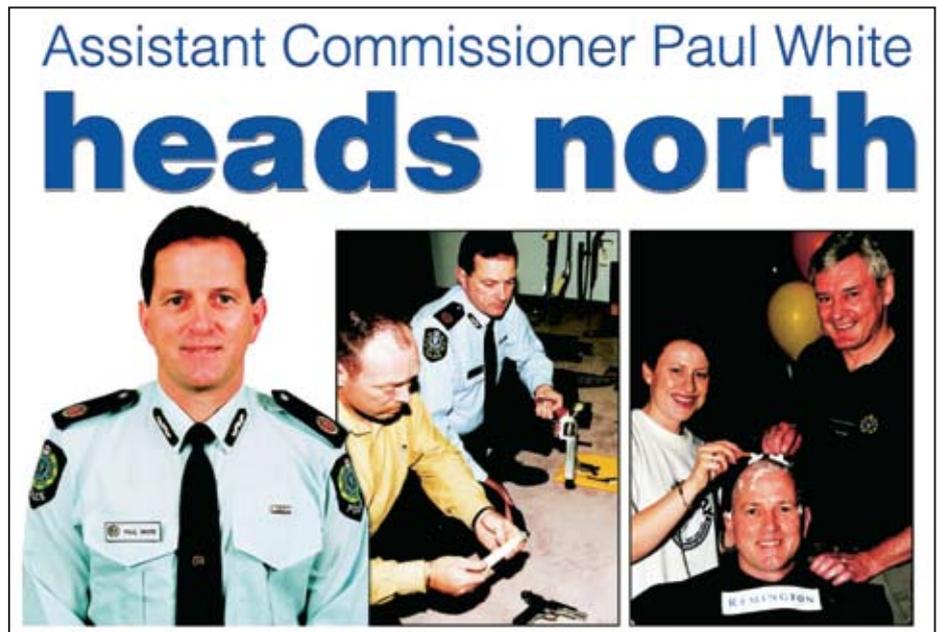
In 1989, he was seconded to the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence in Canberra for two years working on national intelligence with other states and territories including the establishment of the Strategic Intelligence Arm and a national computerised database.

In 1991, on returning to Port Adelaide CIB, Mr White was promoted to Chief Inspector before being further promoted to Superintendent, spending two years in charge of professional development at the Police Academy where he had commenced his career as a cadet.

In 1997, he took on the new challenge as Assistant Commissioner, South Australia Police and headed Crime and Support Services for 3 years. This also included a three month exchange to Kent Constabulary in the UK, an area known as the 'Garden of England' for its beauty. Here, he was also joined by his wife and daughter.

This exchange provided an insight to UK police practice, education, training and investigative interviewing techniques. The experience also reinforced confidence in existing, high standard practices in Australian policing.

Paul White successfully applied for the role as Commissioner for Northern Territory Police and CEO of Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and Northern Territory Emergency Service, a



SAPOL Newsletter 2001.

diverse portfolio with new challenges and unique opportunities.

The position commenced on 17 December 2001 meaning Commissioner White has led our tri-service for over six and a half years and described the journey as fascinating.

"Not only has it has been a fascinating journey for me, it is a huge privilege to lead an organisation as the Commissioner. There are only eight police forces in Australia so it is a great honour.

"This is certainly the highlight of my 40 years in the job, being at the helm of the Tri-Service.

"Policing is a tough job. Most outside observers don't see, or fully appreciate some of the pressures police work under and the accountability we each hold. All actions are carefully scrutinised and in many cases, evidence has to be presented in Court. The process is exacting and police officers' individual credibility is continually tested.

"We can all make mistakes, working busy shifts with little time to reflect. The important thing is, we all look back on how things could be done better, learn, and move on. Hindsight is a wonderful thing especially when police

officers often have to make split decisions.

"Policing is all about forever learning. Everyday is different and brings new and unexpected challenges including responding to change – whether cultural, legislative, technology or improved work practices.

"You can never assume everything is right, take a step back and relax. Good police are never satisfied with the status quo.

"Northern Territory Police should rightly be recognised as a leader in Australian policing and I thank each and every one of our officers for the contribution they make, both to our police force, and as members of our police force to the community", Commissioner White concluded.



Ride A Mile For A Smile 2008 results

In the 2008 contest Ride a Mile for a Smile (RAMFAS), members from five community services in Alice Springs raised a speedy \$24,000 for Camp Quality.

This fun event grew from a 2004 charity fun ride organised by a team of NT Correctional Officers, to involving a friendly head to head with a team from Furies in 2006.

This year four separate teams from Fire and Rescue, Northern Territory Police, Australian Federal Police and Correctional Services and Saint Johns together, raised the significant sum before hitting the road on May 10.

For the first time the 460 kilometer race was held in the reverse direction, starting in Yulara and finishing in Alice Springs.

Each team was made up of experienced and inexperienced riders, with all competitors putting in an amazing effort.

Riding in the Furies team were fire fighters Trent Johnston, Adrain Sgarbossa, Andrew Koop, Anthony Blackley, Brent Rowley (all the way from Darwin), and three ring-ins, Ben Gardner, David Thornton and Craig King.

Kane Penley and David Quan, the RAMFAS organiser for 2008, were close-by in their support vehicle.

The NT Police team had Officers Darren Cox, Mark Clemmens, Kodi Adcock, Ben Streeter, David Witham, George Ciolka, Daniel Roberts and Ronald Guascoine.



The race began at 5.00 am with Australian Federal Police off first, followed by Furies, then NT Police and finally St Johns Ambulance and NT Corrections at 15 minute intervals.

The Furies made it to the front of the pack, and in predictable service spirit, cleared the road of debris for all riders still to come, including saving a baby joey from its dead mothers pouch from the road.

They still managed to blitz the course finishing in eight hours and 23 minutes at an average of 54.8 kilometers an hour.

The AFP team was not far behind, finishing in eight hours and 46 minutes.

In third place was NT Police with a credible nine hours and 55 minutes and the St Johns and Prison Officers team, who had a more relaxed approach to the race, came in at around the 11 hours and 30 minutes.

As well as coming first, the NT Furies took out the highest fund raiser award, after raising approximately \$10 000. NT Police also put in a good effort, raising over \$3000 for Camp Quality.



TACREX Ochre Baru



Hostages, terrorists, a shot police officer and over 200 tri-service employees. That set the scene of the recent tactical response training exercise, Ochre Baru which tested capabilities in ensuring National security.

The scenario involved a terrorist hostage situation in both Charles Darwin National Park and Wildman River. These locations were selected to be an outdoor, unfamiliar ground, yet causing minimum impact on local residents.

Officers were tested on a number of fronts including appropriate liaison with relevant agencies, incident control from the Peter McAulay Emergency Operations Centre, negotiation, intelligence gathering, tactical response and the release of public information.

The hostage situation occurred overnight on the 20 May 2008 and ended in the early hours of the morning.

Assistant Commissioner, Mark Payne said Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services were well rehearsed and competent in emergency management such as cyclones and floods.

“The key training component here was the major crime and National multi agency coordination required to manage such a situation.

“From my observations throughout the evening itself, the training went well, good decisions were made and information flowed.

“There will always be areas which perhaps could be improved so it is important to conduct such extensive training exercises to find those gaps and fill them.

“The sensitivities involved in such situations, the delicacy with every piece of information which comes to hand, the way in which it is managed and actions which result are all considered and tested as part of such training operations.

“In addition, there were the hours of behind the scenes organising and coordination to ensure the training was a success and I congratulate Superintendent Tony Fuller and his team in their tireless efforts in achieving this.

“I’m particularly impressed that the exact locations remained a secret until the exercise was underway. With a town this small and an agency this large, this is a huge achievement,” Ass Com Payne concluded.

Northern Territory Police, the Department of the Chief Minister, the Australian Defence Force, Northern Territory Emergency Services, the Australian Federal Police and the Commonwealth Attorney-Generals Department were all involved in the multi agency training.



International Urban Search and Rescue Course

From 28th February through until 7th March this year, Training Officer Seth Dugdell represented the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) at the Singapore Civil Defence Academy (SCDA) in Singapore for an International Urban Search and Rescue Course.

By Annika Woerle

the camaraderie and team work were a highlight for Seth, and as a result he has built important networks as well as friendships.

“The instructors and the aides at the Academy were excellent, often going above and beyond to help and teach the participants, all in a very professional manner.”

Along with great teachers, the Academy boasted a number of facilities to help in the educating of Emergency Management and Response, including:

Individualised training grounds/sheds for:

- Breathing apparatus
- Rubble piles for building collapse rescue experience
- Hazardous chemicals facility
- High-rise structure fire training
- Road Accident Rescue training and many more

• Offices, lecture rooms/halls, accommodation, pools, tennis courts, running track, mess hall, and equipment storage areas.

All in all, other than growing a little weary of rice, Seth recounts a very rewarding and educational trip that equipped him with valuable experience and knowledge that he will bring to his position within NTES, as well as great memories and new friends.



One of 21 participants from 5 different countries, Seth spent a week in the classroom followed by a week of practical experience and exposure to urban search and rescue (USAR) techniques.

Notably, the course emphasised the many different ways that USAR problems could be tackled. This was achieved because only the basic tools and equipment were used (much less than that used in Australia) and Seth found the challenge of working through new and creative, yet safe, ways to resolve a situation, very worthwhile. This approach stressed the need for a lot of ‘outside the box’ thinking.

“Should I ever find myself in an emergency situation where I have limited equipment, I now have more of an understanding of how to make the most of any tool available – which ultimately could mean the difference between life and death.”

Other than honing skills already learnt in Australia and gaining new and innovative ways to approach the use of

equipment, Seth found that working with his international counterparts was very important for learning different approaches to USAR. The training facilities that were utilised allowed for a number of different emergency scenarios and different ways to deal with those situations.

Despite the challenges of language barriers and differing levels of experience,



One Gould Day,

Like clockwork, at 6.00 pm on Thursday May 15, the C and D Watch changed over shifts and two Station Officers sat down for briefings.

However unlike any other changeover in the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service history, these two Station Officers were a father and son.

Peter Gould, a 34 year veteran of the Fire Service and Station Officer for 24 years, said on that night, he couldn't help but feel a sense of occasion.

"I kept thinking, do you realise we've made history? To my knowledge this has never happened before. It was a proud moment, very special" he said

His son, SFFQ Adam Gould joined the Fire Service seven years ago, after serving in the police force for four years and recently qualified to act as a Station Officer.

"We've had a few laughs with 'Comms' not knowing which Gould they were talking to", Adam said.

Adam has found the position very challenging and rewarding so far, but found the changeover with his father a little nerve-racking.

"I just made sure I had done all of the station duties required, so that he could not say anything. Apart from that, as dad said, it was a proud moment.

"I did not think I would ever get the

opportunity to do a shift hand over with him" he said. Before cheekily adding, "He's getting on a bit."

Now Adam has qualified, this unique occurrence could happen again more regularly and both father and son are eagerly looking forward to it.

"It felt good. I didn't think it would ever happen but all of sudden, he's done all the tests, passed all the courses. It's good to see him advancing up the ranks," Peter said.



In Memory of Aboriginal Community Police Officer

Alberto Cubillo

On the 9th of April ACPO Alberto Cubillo passed away in Darwin after battling cancer for four years. Members of Transitional ACPO Squad 95 were joined by other ACPO's and Police members, to form a guard of honour at St Mary's Cathedral on the 15th of April, ensuring that the dedicated officer and family man was given a solemn and dignified funeral.

Despite his ongoing battle with cancer and his initial diagnosis giving him between three and six months to live, Alberto lived for his work and family and continued with his duties until two weeks before his death. He suffered his illness in silence and with a quiet courage that inspired those who knew him. He would arrange his roster so that he could attend chemotherapy sessions on days off, rather than incur sick leave.

Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne attended the church and cemetery and presented Alberto's eldest daughter Demi his bush hat and the Police flag. Sergeant Andy Smith presented his framed badge and cuffs to the family on behalf of the Police Association.

The family have kindly allowed us to reproduce his eulogy that was presented

during his funeral service and it gives an insight into this brave and determined member. In it, it says:

"Bert as we all know was a very private, very proud man with a wonderful sense of humour and a beautiful smile. He would have been humbled with this overwhelming amount of support given to his family..."

"Bert was an immensely brave man, truly dignified in his final chapter and an inspiration to many."



NT Police in box seat for training opportunity

By Sandra Mitchell

For any police officer who has ever wanted the chance to gain international perspectives on local policing issues – here's the opportunity of a lifetime.

Northern Territory Police, as hosts of the 46th annual training conference for the International Association of Women Police, have the box seat for that opportunity this September.

The conference, 'Policing New Territory', is set to put Australia and the Northern Territory on the world policing stage. It also provides a once-in-a-lifetime chance for NTPFES staff to hear from internationally-renowned speakers on a range of issues faced by police and administrators every day of their careers.

Commissioner Paul White said the conference presented a fantastic opportunity for anyone who had a chance to attend, whether it was for one day, one networking event or the whole conference.

"The exposure and networking opportunity is there for all PFES staff, and I am actively encouraging managers and

supervisors to support staff who wish to take advantage of that," he said.

NT Police employees who have had the opportunity to attend these conferences previously have gained many benefits and a much broader perspective and knowledge on policing issues, as well as meeting some amazing people.

"Staff attending this conference will learn a great deal, but will also realise the wealth of knowledge and range of skills they possess through their training and experience in the Northern Territory," Commissioner White said.

Those wishing to attend should visit the web site www.iawp2008.org to obtain a registration form and find out more.

With an influx of international and national delegates set to attend the conference at the Darwin Convention Centre and a range of events and areas of responsibility to take care of, volunteers are still required for a range of tasks. Please contact the conference secretariat to find out how to get involved.

Assistant Director (Bob) Naumann retires

Assistant Director RJ (Bob) Naumann, the last recruit still in the service from the 1973 squad, retired after 37 years in the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service on Friday 9 May.

Bob was one of those well-intentioned travellers, who set off in a caravan from hometown Mount Isa on a trip around Australia, but only made it 1000 kilometres to Tennant Creek.

He worked as a motor mechanic and travelled the Territory briefly, before falling in love with the "Eden-like", Katherine River and calling the Territory home in 1968.

At 24 he began working as a Fire Auxiliary in Katherine and after two years he decided to join the Fire Service for good, after he saw that their work conditions were improving.

From early on, Bob knew that this was going to be his lifelong career, and

he worked hard and passionately across every command division, starting out in Katherine and then Darwin.

In 1986 he spent an exchange year with the Metro Fire Brigade in Melbourne

and was involved in the fire protection planning of Rialto Towers, one of the tallest buildings in the southern hemisphere.

He later worked as part of the Capability

Development Division set up following the publication of the Metis Report in 2004.

Throughout his time in the service, he most enjoyed working in operations, education and training and focussing on community safety and fire protection.

For Bob, it is the colourful and

"I think there is something common that drives all of us, a deep seeded desire to serve the community in an emergency situation... that is what kept me in this job."



interesting members of the fire service that he met along the way, that stand out most importantly for him, during his career in the service.

"These people will stay with me forever. The camaraderie in the fire service is really second to none."

Another highlight of his career was winning the Australian Fire Service Medal for introducing competency training.

He has worked as the Assistant Director of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service since 1984.

Looking back on his successful career he said the sole advice he would give to aspiring fire fighters in the Territory is modest and simple.

"A fair day's work for a fair day's pay and treat others as they would treat you."



In the spotlight

Commander

Kate Vanderlaan

Commander Kate Vanderlaan celebrated her 50th birthday recently, notches up 30 years of policing in the Northern Territory next year and her latest achievement is receiving the Australian Police Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Kate has a string of qualifications behind her including a Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts (History and English), Master of Public Policy and Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Management. She has also attended the Management of Serious Crime Course and completed the Police Management Development Program.

During her service Kate has served mainly in the operations areas in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. She also served at the College, in the crime area in Alice Springs as the Superintendent Southern Crime, as the Commissioner's Staff Officer and Divisional Officer in Katherine.

Kate was promoted to Superintendent in 1997 and Commander in August 2003 and is currently the Commander of Ethical and Professional Standards Command.

She completed a five-year stint in the Traffic Section and had the distinction of being the first female motorcycle patrol officer in Australia. Other highlights include a very busy time as shift sergeant and OIC at Katherine and three years in the crime area in Alice Springs.

Kate was the first Commissioned Officer for the organisation who progressed through the ranks and continued on to Commander. Kate achieved medal awards and recognition from competition 'body building' and more recently completed her Bachelor

of Laws while undertaking Divisional Officers' duties in Crime Command Alice Springs and Commander, Central & Northern Region Command.

7 Questions ...

Career highlight so far?

There have been many highlights so far, including planning the APEC meeting for May 2007, but one of the most memorable was being invited to the Return to Australia Ceremony at RAAF Base Tindal following the RAAF Iraq deployment. The Prime Minister and a number of other dignitaries were there and the FA18's flying back in formation was a sight and sound to behold. I felt extremely privileged to be there.

Funniest moment with NT Police?

We were called to a report of someone in the roof of a building. We got there and the person who reported the matter was beside herself because all she could see was a leg hanging from the ceiling. At first we thought someone had got into the building via the roof and then got stuck trying to get out.

Anyway, we called to him with no answer and then resorted to prodding him for some sort of reaction. My partner then got on top of a box to try and pull him free and by this time I was thinking maybe this guy is dead. You can imagine our shock and surprise when the leg fell from the ceiling hitting me on the arm and forcing me to jump out of the way into the arms of my partner who himself had jumped off the box he was standing on.

Once we realised the leg wasn't real and the whole thing was a staged practical joke we couldn't stop laughing.

The complainant didn't see the funny side though and was quite inconsolable and I did my best to calm her down but had to tell my partner to get out so I could at least control my laughter.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

It was always a police officer.

Your hero?

I have a friend who wishes to remain nameless. This person has been a positive influence on my life by being able to say the right thing at the right time – everyone needs someone like that.

Three people you'd invite to dinner?

Stephen King – because I love his books and he has a great imagination. Robin Williams and Paul McCartney.

What would you do if you won Lotto?

Share it with my family and spend some time in New York.

Greatest achievement to date?

Obtaining my law degree entirely through external study and while stationed at Katherine. The isolation sometimes got me down but I managed to work through it and the day I walked out of the final examination (moot court) was such a relief.



Memorandum of Understanding

Regarding legal assistance for members

Being sued by disgruntled members of the public and even facing criminal charges, pose a risk to effective, contemporary operational policing.

Offenders are well aware of their legal rights and there are a number of government funded organisations which assist them in their complaints about Police. The government, as the employer of police also has a duty to accept legal responsibility

On 14 April Acting Commissioner Bruce Wernham and the NTPA President Vince Kelly signed a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the arrangements for providing legal assistance to members of NT Police who face court action. The MOU crystallises arrangements which have developed over the years and will not result in major changes in the legal assistance which members currently enjoy. It sets the arrangements on a formal basis and more accountable basis and recognises the role that the Department of Justice (Solicitor for the NT) has in managing legal costs paid by the government.

The basic criteria to be eligible for legal assistance remain the same – the

Commissioner must be satisfied that the member:

- has made full and accurate disclosure of all relevant facts and circumstances as are within the member's knowledge;
- acted in good faith; and
- acted in the course of duty as a member of the Police Force.

These conditions are based on an employer's legal liability for the actions of its employees in the course of their employment.

Legal assistance may be provided for defence of civil claims and criminal charges, for representation in the Coroner's court and Commission's of inquiry and other legal proceedings on a discretionary basis. It is not 'open ended' and will continue to be granted subject to limitations – such as covering a certain stage in the court process and a certain level of legal representation. These limitations will be recorded in a Deed for Legal Assistance, signed by the member. Members and their legal representatives

will be expected to co-operate with PFES Legal Branch and the Solicitor for the NT.

The Commissioner still decides whether or not to provide legal assistance. However in difficult cases, for instance where a member is facing serious criminal charges, the Commissioner may call for a recommendation from a new committee. This committee will comprise nominees of the NTPA, the Commissioner and the SFNT. Its involvement addresses concerns that there was a potential conflict of interest in the lead law enforcement agency funding the defence of its members. It is based on models from Victoria and Tasmania but unlike most inter-state systems, it does not require the member or the NTPA to pay legal fees 'up front' and then seek reimbursement, which is a definite advantage to both members and the NTPA.

The MOU will be implemented by an updated and more user-friendly General Order "L2" containing the procedure for making an application and a Policy giving examples of the type of legal representation which are likely to be granted for different types of legal proceedings.

Minjilang Police are on a roll

Children will soon be riding bicycles for the first time through Minjilang as part of a community road safety program organised by Minjilang Police.

Police together with the Local Business Manager Debra Sullivan and representatives from the Sports and Recreation Council, have secured \$100 000 in funding for a variety of projects around the community

Some of the exciting things that are already underway include a revamp of the local basketball courts and renovations to the sports and recreation hall including a new shed to store equipment and activities.

Officer in Charge, Acting Sergeant Ian Young said they got the wheels turning for the road safety program after appealing to the Property Office to donate 20 bikes.

They then approached Perkins who agreed to transport the bikes over to Crocker Island by barge, free of charge.



CDEP and sports and rec employees are currently repairing the donated bikes and the community recently secured money to purchase a further 30 brand new bicycles to use in the program.

“Once the bikes are fixed and we receive the new ones we plan to donate

the bikes to the school and get the road safety program underway.

“We are looking forward to taking a group of students out on the bikes and teaching them about wearing helmets and general road safety,” he said.

Ian says that since the station opened four months ago, at least one of the Minjilang members attend the school each day to help out where they can.

“We are very proactive. From the beginning we have tried to work in with the community aiming to show the children and the community that police are good.

“Working out here, the community and the station...it’s terrific, far better than what I expected.

“The relationships we have made here have been very good, hence we are able to achieve so much, but we are still in the early stages and can’t wait for things to really pick up.”



TACPO Squad 95

In February 2008, 14 current serving ACPO's commenced at the Police College on a 17 week ACPO to Constable, Transitional Program (TACPO).

The course was designed to bring the members up to Constable level. To ensure that this occurred, applicants were advised that they would become part of a shadow course to ACPO Squad 14. The applicants had to complete on-line examinations in line with the study undertaken by ACPO Squad 14.

The members were also required to meet a minimum of 50 points in the physical assessment. Of the 29 original applicants 14 successfully achieved this result. This included two members of ACPO Squad 14 who were included in Squad 95.

The Course commenced on the 11th February 2008 in Darwin. Participants came from Darwin (10), Alice Springs (2), and one each from Mutijulu and Tennant Creek.

This Squad was historical on a number of fronts. The first is that it is understood to be the first Squad of Indigenous Constables to Graduate in the whole of Australia. It also took the number of Indigenous Constables and above from 10 to 23.

It was very much a family affair with two brothers graduating together, which was another first. John and Eric Morrison both formerly of Katherine overcame their low physical fitness results to gain entry and then graduate together.

Betty Herbert who is an ACPO on Groote Eylandt is no doubt very proud of her daughter Nicolette Krepapas, who not only graduated, but was also awarded the Commissioner's Trophy as well as the Rod Evans Memorial Trophy.

This mother and daughter duo are breaking new ground for the people of Groote Eylandt.

The TACPO's graduation ceremony was a much anticipated event with quite a few of the graduates family members attending.

Both squad and audience members alike, were treated to a visual display with an Indigenous dancer kicking off the ceremony.

The haunting sounds of a lone didgeridoo encompassed the parade ground as everyone in attendance paused to reflect on the momentous occasion.

The Darwin City Brass Band then played whilst Squad 94, 96 and graduating squad 95 marched out shortly after, onto the Parade Ground.

Commissioner White said that the graduation represented a historical milestone in the development of policing in the Northern Territory and in fact Australia.

"It is believed that the Transitional Aboriginal Community Police Officers as fully sworn constables is a first in the history of policing in Australia and demonstrates the Northern Territory Police Force's commitment to building the representation of Indigenous people within the police force."

Commissioner White congratulated each and every member of the graduating squad for their unswerving dedication and commitment to the rigorous training which has led to their graduation as fully sworn constables.

The following members received awards for their outstanding achievements.

Nicolette Krepapas was awarded the **Commissioner's Trophy** for the best overall course performer in academic, practical and physical training. Nicolette also took out the **Rod Evans Memorial Trophy** for the highest academic achievement in Squad 95.

The **Physical Training Trophy** for outstanding physical training ability was awarded to Albert Tilmouth.

Kerin Souey was presented with the **Glen Huitson Medal** for the most consistent application in all areas of the training course.

The **Administrator's ACPO of the Year Award** was this year awarded to ACPO Lisa Burkenhagen of Palmerston Police Station.

She has been an ACPO for two and half years and has worked both at Palmerston and at the Indigenous Policing Development Division.

Last year, Lisa spent several months mentoring new ACPO's and training them in the finer points of social order conduct and how to go about treating people to gain their respect.

Upon finding out that she was the recipient of the award she was "shocked, surprised and extremely proud." She stated "I love my job. I would never do anything else," continuing on that she enjoyed the fact that she was able to help out indigenous people in the community and that she was able to build up a rapport with a majority of them, making her job a lot easier.

Her husband Adrian, two children 5-year-old Jack Henry and Wade, 13, as well as her other family members were all very proud of her achievement.



thanks and praise

Stephen Berriman, Acting General Manager of the Specialist Services Group, Australian Crime Commission, has thanked the Northern Territory Police for their support during covert operational activity in the Alice Springs area.

In particular they praised the efforts of **Senior Constable Leith Phillips** and **Constable Brendan Linder** for their outstanding support of the Covert Human Source Unit during their time in the centre.

He said the pair went well beyond the "call of duty" and their contribution was invaluable to the overall success of the operation between May 2007 and February 2008.

Major General Dave Chalmers of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Operation Centre, has officially recognised the achievements of the Northern Territory Police and **Taskforce Themis** following the completion of the eighteenth Taskforce Themis Station at Waruwi.

In a letter to the Police Commissioner Paul White, Major Chalmers said that the completion of the eighteen stations was a significant achievement which should justifiably make the Commissioner proud of his members.

"The challenges which have been faced and overcome in deploying such a substantially increased police presence in remote communities are little understood and easily underestimated outside the professional police community" he said.

He particularly praised the spirit of determination and co operation from Taskforce Themis members that made this outcome possible.

The **Australian Federal Police K9 Unit** passed on their thanks and appreciation to the Northern Territory Police in January this year.

In an email, Craig Kearney praised the professionalism and attention to detail from attending NT members after an unmarked AFP vehicle was interfered with.

In particular he said that **Constables Hentzschel** and **Whalley** showed a great deal of respect to this matter

"Both members attended promptly from the time the complaint was made and organised for the NT Police Forensic unit, (SOCO) Constable McBain to attend. McBain did an excellent job and may have extracted evidence in relation to this matter and conducted this in an efficient and effective manner.

On behalf of the AFP K9 unit we wish to express our gratitude to the NT Police who attended and dealt with this matter," he said.

A letter was written to the Commissioner of Police by a woman expressing her gratitude after she had called on the services of the **Northern Territory Police** to locate her missing daughter.

Nicolee Elizabeth Moss had been missing for eight years and five months when the police located her safe and well.

In particular she praised the efforts of **Detectives Kerry Harris** and **Dan Kowalewycz** and thanked everyone involved in the case.

Alaskan Fire Fighters on exchange with the **Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service** put together a farewell message in a poem as part of a heart felt thank you for the recent time they spent in the NT. Some of the poem is printed below.

A brolga's head is red

Darwin's waters are blue

We're heading back to Alaska

Fair dinkum, it's true

*Our time spent here we'll cherish, for all the years to come
Our memories are many ... so here we'll share just some
Bug cans and strat burns and Mitchell Street cruises
Hottest 7's Rugby producing blood and a collection of bruises
Cyclone Helen blew in a yelling*

*Sending the surf pounding and swelling
Palm fronds flew and trees were battered
But Darwinians were all safe, thus nothing else mattered*

*At Sandic's Ranch we spent our Christmas Down Under
Instead of snow, we had torrential rains and loud thunder
Where the Hell is Noonamah ?*

*Mud crabs, prawns, and red duck curry on rice
When Gouldie invited us for tea, we'd never think twice*

*Our experience was sublime
Tasting fine Aussie wine
Green tree frogs in pot plants and possums in a tree
The temperature never changes – it's always fine and 33*

*Where the Hell is Noonamah?
The pink Gallah, little Corella and black necked stork or Jabiru
The Kookooburra, masked lapwing, and sulfur crested cockatoo
Our post on a motorbike – aboriginal paintings on rock
Don't enter the water – for there might be a box jellyfish-and
maybe even a croc!*

*Sea turtles laying eggs at Bare Sand Island – baby turtles on
the hatch
Tropical saltwater fishing – jewies and snapper Juice would catch
Dips at Mataranka and Berry Springs, Buley Rock Holes and
Surprise Creek*

*Dressed in our sunscreen and swimmers, we admit that we looked
mighty sleek!*

*In a helicopter over raging waterfalls and escarpment in Kakadu
Soaring low above a floodplain of water buffalo, this was but a
dream come true*

*The autumn tundra turns red
Alaska's flag is mainly blue
We're heading back to Alaska
Where we'll be eating moose stew and honing our skills on
the didgeridoo*

Cheers Mates !

Where the Hell is Noonamah?

The Commissioner of Police, Paul White has officially recognised **Sergeant Megan Blackwell** for her efforts during the implementation and operation of the Child Abuse Task Force. In a letter of recognition he said that her commitment to this most important initiative is recognised and greatly appreciated.

From December 2006 until October 2007 Megan undertook the extremely demanding task of managing the operations of the Task Force.

"Over this time [she] displayed a high degree of leadership and professionalism not only to [her] immediate team, but also other agency personnel forming part of the overall Task Force. It was noted that [she] managed the integration between NT Police, FACS and the AFP in an almost seamless manner dealing both with individual concerns and a range of serious issues associated with the work of the Task Force."



We need your photos and editorial contributions!
Our September issue will be a Special Edition of **The Drum**.
It is all about you, the members of the Tri-service, your lifestyle and experiences in remote areas and centres. If you have captured some enjoyable moments, like this one, out and about after hours in the Territory, please share your stories.
You can submit stories and photos via email to the media PFES inbox. Deadline for submissions is Friday 8 August.

