

THE

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# DRUM



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

**MARCH 2007**



## Commissioner's message

Here we are in 2007 and another busy year ahead for the Tri-Service no doubt: 2006 was a challenging year with many of the initiatives developed over the last 12 months coming into effect.

Traffic policing was launched last December in Darwin and Alice Springs and consolidated its role over the Christmas-New Year period. Their visible presence on the roads and highways was well received by the community and anecdotal evidence of improved driver behaviour is being received already. Other initiatives due for implementation include several reviews: discipline and complaints against police, police auxiliaries, indigenous policing, customer service, selection policy, intelligence structures and last, and perhaps most important—attracting members to remote locations.

Apart from consolidating all of these reviews, I see 2007 as a year where opportunities exist to build on our leadership and supervision, and on our crime reduction and problem solving techniques. Work is underway to develop frontline supervision workshops with a focus on the day-to-day challenges of leading teams.

The beginning of the year is a good time to talk about other positive things, so I would like to mention two in particular. The first is that many files relating to outstanding work by Tri-Service members reach my desk and in the last 12 months, I have read many reports involving displays of courage, commitment and presence of mind. In almost every case, however, it requires a report from a supervisor or manager to identify the fine work and thus lead to a nomination for recognition. Recognition can take the form of a Tri-Service award or in some cases, a referral to Government House for a bravery medal. I urge all members to make the effort and ensure that outstanding work and endeavour is properly recognised—after all, recognition is something we all value and appreciate.

Secondly, we recently received the 2007 Report on Government Services and I was pleased to see the positive results. From surveys of satisfaction with police services, to community safety and fear of crime, the Northern Territory Police Force rated highly and often better than the national average. While the report did not receive much external coverage, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the excellent outcomes.

I would also like to thank the full time firefighters, auxiliary and volunteer firefighters who so willingly travelled to Victoria to help the mammoth effort of fighting bushfires across the State. Many have said it was the worst series of bushfires in Victoria's history, so a big thank you to all who ventured south in January to assist in the overall effort to contain these terrible fires.

The inaugural Northern Territory Emergency Service medal presentation took place in early February and recognised the vital role of volunteers. We deeply appreciate the work of NTES volunteers and the contribution they make in our capacity to effectively respond to emergencies and disasters. All NTES volunteers with five years service will receive the NTES Volunteer medal during 2007.

**PAUL WHITE, APM**  
Commissioner of Police and  
CEO of Fire and Emergency Services

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#### FRONT COVER:

Traffic Operations Unit vehicle

#### CENTREFOLD:

Photos from the NTFRS contingent that travelled to Victoria to assist with the bushfire effort

#### BACK COVER:

A Grass Fire Unit on Mt Hotham

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Southern Traffic Operations members  
Constables Cameron Higgins and  
Justin Firth

# Traffic units go mobile

By Sandra Mitchell and Theresa Kuilboer

***The new Darwin and Alice Springs traffic units were launched in December last year by the Minister for Police and Police Commissioner.***

The units, known as Northern and Southern Traffic Operations respectively, fulfil a recommendation of the review into policing services to re-establish traffic units within NT Police.

The Darwin unit incorporates the existing Major Crash Investigation Unit, Traffic Camera Unit and Traffic Infringement Notice Adjudicators and consists of 12 police officers and five police auxiliaries. The Alice Springs unit consists of five police officers.

The Holden VE SS sedans have been fitted out with the National Police Pack Module which includes heavy duty brakes, wiring looms, traffic speedos, oil coolers and heavy duty suspension. The cars have also been fitted with low profile light bars, rear seat barriers, radars, CB radios, digital speedo readers and satellite phone

capability. They will also have in-car video capability soon.

Commissioner White said the units were launched as projected in the implementation of the review's recommendations.

"All members of Northern Territory Police have a responsibility to carry out enforcement in relation to traffic, but these units will supply us with a dedicated resource that will add greatly to our capability," Commissioner White said.

"NT Police are serious about improving the safety of our roads, through a combination of education and enforcement. This commitment will continue with the introduction of the recommendations from the Road Safety Taskforce as we continue through 2007, so these units will have a major role to play in our major centres and on the highways leading to them."



# Recycled bicycles better lives

Donations from the Tri-Service help those less fortunate writes **Sharon Hutton**

**The Northern Territory Police Force, through the Property Office, has been able to make a difference to the lives of people here and around the world.**

NT Police has been responsible for the donation of a number of unclaimed bikes and other property to many worthwhile community and school projects from places as diverse as Alice Springs and Zimbabwe.



One of the donated bikes put to good use by Agrippa (left)

As part of a national charitable organisation Aid for Africa Down Under, a Territory woman with a background in nursing is part of a team assisting a small community and orphanage in Zimbabwe to promote self establishment, education, hygiene, medical stability and an awareness of AIDS.

NTPFES has and continues to donate bikes, old uniforms, boots and other unclaimed property for use by these villagers.

Part of these donations has assisted a musical drama group coordinated by a young man called Agrippa who is writing and producing plays which the group then performs throughout the region in an attempt to spread the AIDS message.

One of the main obstacles to the group's success was a lack of transport and this is where NT Police became involved. The picture of Agrippa with his bike speaks volumes of his happiness and gratitude at receiving such a small gift.

Other worthwhile projects have been the Deadly Treadly campaign, a government coordinated program based in Alice Springs where young Indigenous men are trained in repairing and servicing bikes, receiving a certificate at the completion of the course. These bikes are then donated to the remote communities for use at the schools.

Bikes are also donated to about 10 other primary and high schools where they are used in repair courses, road safety training, as rewards for attendance and other worthwhile causes.

NTPFES also donate bikes to the Melaleuca Refugee Centre to enable our newly settled residents the mobility to get around Darwin.

"These small but positive donations to outlying and less fortunate help communities reap their own rewards and make great changes in people's outlooks on life and within themselves," said Superintendent Bob Rennie of the Property Office.

## Dog Operations Unit launch in Alice Springs

By Theresa Kuilboer

**Alice Springs' new Dog Operations Unit was launched in December last year by Police Commissioner Paul White.**

Two dog handlers, Senior Constable Alistair Taylor and Constable Deana Horwood spent 11 weeks, with their dogs Nugget and Misty training in Canberra and Brisbane before taking up their posts in Alice Springs.

The initiative was jointly funded by NT Police and the Commonwealth Government.

The dogs and their handlers work closely with the Drug Intelligence

Unit and the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk based in Alice Springs.

Commissioner Paul White said the dogs would greatly increase the effectiveness and capacity of the Drug Intelligence Unit and the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk.

"Since the launch of the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk earlier this year we have, from time to time, used drug detector dogs from Darwin to assist members," Commissioner White said at the launch.

"The intelligence gathered by the



Senior Constable Alistair Taylor with Misty

Desk clearly indicates the use of drug detector dogs stationed in the Southern Region would greatly add to the capacity of police to counter the supply and trafficking of drugs across borders.

"The establishment of the unit is evidence of the NT Police's continuing commitment to the fight against illicit drugs in the community."

# Squad 90 Appointment and Swearing in Ceremony

By Sarah Combe

**Police Commissioner Paul White welcomed 20 new members from interstate to the Northern Territory, in an Appointment and Swearing in Ceremony that begins their Transitional Entry Program to join the Northern Territory Police Force.**

The members of Squad 90, who have come from every state except Tasmania, will now embark on an eight week, self based learning program; with a focus on local legislative policy and procedural requirements.

This knowledge will prepare them for the challenges and diversity of policing in the Northern Territory.

During the ceremony Commissioner White told the Transitional Entry members that he was very pleased they made the big decision to move to the Territory and join the NT Police, having made the same decision himself five years ago.

As part of their training Squad 90 will be assessed on their demonstrated leadership skills and also on their practical qualifications such as firearms, driver training and defensive tactics.

Following their graduation from the course, the Squad 90 members

will head out to pre-determined postings across the Territory.

Ten graduating members will commence in Darwin, two in Katherine, one in Tennant Creek and seven in Alice Springs.



ABOVE: Graduates are sworn in by Commissioner Paul White

## Auxiliary Squad 27 graduates

Sue Bradley meets the newest Auxiliaries from Squad 27

**Auxiliary Squad 27 graduated recently at a ceremony held at the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services College.**

The five graduates come from a diverse range of backgrounds with three to be based in Darwin and two in Alice Springs.

Judy Tipper was previously employed as a beauty therapist and nail technician. She is married to firefighter Matthew Tipper and they have two children aged 12 and six.

Kristi Wenck was born and raised in Darwin and comes from a policing family – she is the daughter of Senior Constable Gary Wenck and has an older sister in the Western Australia Police Force. She has a background in hospitality and

enjoys seasonal and recreational shooting and outdoor activities.

Susan Crisp is originally from Adelaide and is married with two children. She resided in Alice Springs for three years where she worked for TIO and moved to Darwin four months ago.

All three are based in Darwin.

Jade Evans was born and raised in Mt Beauty, Victoria. She has spent several years in the Northern Territory working at the Tennant Creek Hotel and Tennant Creek Primary School as a teacher's aide.

She has also resided in Alice Springs for the past four years, most recently as a Senior Reservation Officer for an aviation company. Jade enjoys fishing, walking and day trips.

Danielle Stumbles was born in Darwin and moved to Alice Springs in 1999 and was previously employed in General Duties' Administration at the Alice Springs Police Station.

Jade and Danielle are based in Alice Springs.



ABOVE: Auxiliary Squad 27 graduates with Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie (centre) and Senior Auxiliary Bill Hawker (right)



## Breakfast with Bish and friends

**Senior Firefighter Bish Peter Hyke passed away on 18 January this year after a long battle with cancer.**

Bish had a long and distinguished career, culminating in receiving his 30 year service medal at the NT Fire and Rescue Service Investiture ceremony in October 2006. It was a particularly poignant honour, since Bish had made a courageous trip from hospital to be able to accept the award.



Bish Hyke (right) with NTFRS Director Bruce Mouatt

Ever gracious, Bish cited his colleagues' bravery and dedication, as part of a team, rather than focus on his own achievements.

He described each colleague as a 'unique and beautiful' person and appreciated that the troops often understood the pressures of the job best.

A Polish migrant, Bish brought his family to Australia in 1949. He made the Territory his home after visiting his wife's hometown in 1967.

He joined the Fire Service in 1974 after completing his military service and enjoyed the work, describing every day as a unique opportunity to help others.

Bish was renowned for his friendship, generosity and

willingness to lend a hand to anyone in need. As a way to celebrate his life and career and thank him for his kindness, Bish's mates got together to host a breakfast in his honour, before he was due to go back into hospital and was unlikely to return to work.

The 'Breakfast with Bish' event held on 11 December was attended by the Commissioner Paul White and Fire Service Director, Bruce Mouatt and highlighted Bish's distinguished career and generous spirit.

Over 100 firefighters and fire service members attended the breakfast, an absolute testament to the high esteem in which he was held by the people of the NTFRS.

## Helen Ramsay was one of a kind

**Auxiliary Helen Ramsay passed away on 6 December 2006 after a brief but tenacious battle with cancer.**

Helen Ramsay joined the NT Police Force as an Auxiliary as she sincerely did want to change people's lives, but without even realising it Helen was someone who changed people's lives in the first meeting.

Known simply as someone with a beautiful soul and quick wit, you took Helen as she was and she afforded others the same generosity. As someone who didn't take any rubbish, she worked hard to overcome personal difficulty to achieve her dream of becoming an Auxiliary.

"Our graduation was so exciting, we'd worked so hard and supported each other through our training – Helen described it as her proudest moment – while our colleagues

went out partying, we went for a coffee and quiet reflection," recalls Helen's closest friend, fellow recruit Lyn McGrath.

Even potential embarrassment didn't faze Helen. With the excitement of a uniform fitting tempered by no place to change, Helen shrugged it off.

"The uniform fitting was a big day for both of us, but there was only one change room. Helen simply pulled all the clothes racks around us in a circle for us to get changed. We didn't realise it was a problem at all until we realised other members were much taller than us!"

"Helen's attitude was 'oh well, like me as I am or not at all'.

Helen, or 'Pebbles' to her friends, was someone used to overcoming difficulties and gave strength to those around her, a quality that



commanded respect in a calm, quiet way.

A passionate breeder of Maine Coon cats, she had 15 cats in her home at one time and worked tirelessly as a volunteer for the Darwin Cat Club. Her favourite cat, a 15 kg ginger called 'Bix' kept her going throughout her illness.

"Helen never said a bad word about anyone and helped anyone in need without question – she's certainly left a hole in our lives," said Ms McGrath.

*(Thanks to Auxiliary Lyn McGrath for her contribution to this story.)*

# Garry's work recognised with Police Service Medal

**Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham recently presented ACPO (Aboriginal Community Police Officer) Garry Doonga Munungurritj with the Northern Territory Police Service Medal, awarded to police who have 10 years' meritorious service.**

Garry commenced with NT Police in March 1994 as a Police Aide (Aboriginal Community Police Officer) for the Yirrkala Community and has served in Nhulunbuy for the past 12 years.

"Garry is a respected elder of the region and although he had a recent health scare, he was determined to return to work and

has done so on restricted duties," said Senior Sergeant Tony Fuller, Officer in Charge, Nhulunbuy Police Station.

"He continues to assist Nhulunbuy members in their understanding of Aboriginal culture and performs a valuable liaison role with the community, as well as assisting members when required."

Garry is an accomplished Yidaki (Didjeridoo) player and represented the Northern Territory Police in September 2001 when he attended Adelaide for the Police Tattoo. He is also one of the longest serving members of the ACPO/Police Aide Program.



## First Emergency Service Volunteer Medal Investiture

By Hayley Dwyer

**The inaugural investiture ceremony to recognise the significant contributions of Emergency Service volunteers was held on 6 February.**

The nature of voluntary work is often not properly accorded and this is why the Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Medal was introduced.

The medal publicly recognises the selflessness, dedication and commitment to service and provides a tangible reward to each volunteer.

Twenty volunteers, with over 150 years experience between them, were presented with the Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Medal by the Chief Executive Officer, Police Commissioner Paul White.

"We place a high value on the role and responsibilities of our volunteers – they are vital to our capacity to deal with emergencies and disasters. Volunteers are highly committed people with a strong



community service ethos, who respond when called upon without hesitation," Mr White said.

"Our volunteer members provide a vital service to the community."

Geoff Cook (pictured above right) is a member of the Darwin Volunteer Unit.

He's been a volunteer throughout the Territory for 24 years and has 'seen it all' over the years – with experiences ranging from a foot and mouth disease scare, several cyclones, searches for missing people, the 1998 Katherine Flood and chemical spills, including one involving 70 tonnes of sodium cyanide north of Wycliffe Well.

"I'm proud to be a volunteer – there is always a tremendous response to any emergency from volunteers, no matter what the situation is," said Geoff.

Chris Castine has been a member of the Palmerston Volunteer Unit since 2001. In her first year she took on the important role of Welfare

Officer, providing valuable support to her colleagues and to those involved in police operations.

A trained observer, Chris' more memorable experiences include land searches for missing people at Beswick Community, Casuarina Beach and the recent air, sea and land search for five missing boaters from Nguuiu where she sighted their overturned boat.

Chris (pictured below right) has also been deployed several times to attend cyclone devastated areas to assist communities with their clean up, including Croker Island after tropical cyclone Ingrid and last year to Maningrida after tropical cyclone Monica.

"My only regret is that I did not join NTES years ago," she said.



# New fire tender for remote communities

**Remote communities throughout Australia could be safer following an initiative developed by the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service.**

Assistant Director Southern Region Paul Herrick (pictured below) was the instigator of a unique project to develop fire tenders which specifically address the needs of remote communities.

The fire trailer has been designed as a sturdy yet portable unit which can be towed behind a four wheel drive vehicle. The unique design has a modular tray housing the tank and pump which is attached to a dual axle frame. The dual wheels allow weight distribution and reduce the effect of punctures and tyre neglect. Lighting has been kept to a minimum and the wiring is led through the chassis.

"The unique design allows the modular platform to be removed and placed on a new chassis if necessary," Mr Herrick said.

"This is an inexpensive and efficient method of replacing the section of the trailer most likely to be neglected or damaged."

The need for such a fire trailer was identified through local Counter Disaster Committee meetings conducted at Papunya and Yuendumu – both remote communities. The lack of fire fighting equipment was highlighted following a spate of structure fires, so Mr Herrick set out to come up with a suitable design to address the problem.

"I approached the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) in Alice Springs with a proposal to design and construct a suitable fire trailer that remote communities could purchase direct from the manufacturers."

The Centre for Appropriate Technology is an Indigenous owned and operated organisation and is a member of the Desert Knowledge Co-operative Research Centre.

"CAT initiated the design work in conjunction with a manufacturer based in Hawker, South Australia and with assistance from the Desert Knowledge Co-operative Research Centre will manufacture a prototype.

"The resulting design offers several advantages over anything else on the market, and we have already had enquiries from a number of Northern Territory communities, as well as the Western Australian Fire Service and Bushfires NT.

"I can also see it being purchased by pastoralists and other remote organisations".

Mr Herrick said another unique feature of the unit was the 800 litre polypropylene tank which had proved to be far more robust than previous materials used in such tanks.

"Darwin Acrylics and Plastics has committed to building the water tanks and Independent Motor Mart has supplied the pump and motor for the prototype. Altogether private enterprise, the NT Fire and rescue Service and CAT have contributed about

\$14 000 worth of equipment, plans and expertise."

Mr Herrick said the prototype would be exhibited at rural shows, exhibitions and field days and it was expected the unit would become the standard throughout the Territory.

"Desert Knowledge now has carriage of the project and the exciting thing is it could well lead to increased employment opportunities for Indigenous people once the manufacturing process gets underway.

"This has been a very exciting project especially as it's been designed by an Indigenous organisation for Indigenous people."



## Unified Police Model at airports

By Hayley Dwyer

**Thirty-eight Territory Police members will be seconded to the Australian Federal Police to undertake uniformed police roles at Darwin and Alice Springs airport from April and May.**

This is the result of negotiations between the AFP with all jurisdictions since the decision of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in September 2005.

Deployment will be for a period of two years with 27

members based at Darwin Airport and 11 at Alice Springs Airport.

Members will be wearing the AFP uniform.

"We're pleased to be able to provide a significant contribution to the Unified Police Model. Our members will ensure an enhanced uniform policing presence and response to incidents at Territory airports," said Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne.



# Rocky hits the retirement road

**Rocky Couzens has called it a day after over 31 years of exceptional service in the NTFRS.**

Rocky joined the Fire Service on 17 June 1975. He served at the Daly Street Fire Station for 13 years before moving on to serve for shorter periods at every station in the Territory.



Rocky was also named Territorian of the Year in 2004 for his endless contribution to the community.

He'll be missed by his extended Fire Service family and the close-knit community of Jabiru. So the town turned on a true Top End style farewell in early December last year.

As his close friend and fellow recruit firefighter (now Assistant Director) Alan Stephens said, "The Fire Service is not just losing a firefighter and officer, it is losing an ambassador and 31 years of outstanding service and experience that will not easily be replaced."

Rocky will be missed for his generous nature, gregarious personality and infectious sense of humour.

*(Thanks to Brooke Kendall for her contribution to this story.)*

**PICTURED L to R:** Senior Fire Fighter Ken Bonson, Rocky Couzens and Station Commander Dave Pettit

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## Public Safety Expo on again

**It's on again! Following the success of the Public Safety Expo in 2004, Police, Fire and Emergency Services will again host the event in 2007.**

Families with kids of all ages will converge on the Peter McAulay Centre at Berrimah on Saturday 21 July when the doors are thrown open to show the public what the Tri-Service does.

The free family fun day was a huge success in 2004, with more than 8000 people attending.

With showbags full of freebies, competitions with great prizes and lots of free activities for the kids, the day is sure to lure families out on the last weekend of the school holidays.

In 2004, the most popular activity was the TRS Abseiling Wall, with the guys kept busy entertaining the masses throughout the day, whilst wives and partners were roped in to deal with the paperwork of indemnity forms.

The best exhibit as voted by the public went to Forensic Services who received a \$50 Palmerston Shopping Centre voucher. Their extensive display of a murder scene challenged people to solve the crime whilst educating about the importance of forensic procedures in policing today.

Other very popular displays included the NT Emergency Service's disaster zone with scaffolding and tunnels and the Drug Enforcement Section's clandestine laboratory set-up.

The static displays set-up on the basketball court gave police units and community organisations involved in public safety the opportunity to educate and communicate face-to-face.



Feedback received through surveys and comments after the event showed this worked well. Perhaps surprisingly one of the most mentioned exhibits was that of the Coroner's Office, with people comforted to learn and understand the role of the

Coroner and the processes involved once a death occurs.

All units across the organisation are urged to start planning their display for the event early. Aim for something interactive and engaging to all age groups. If you need assistance with ideas and where to start, call the Expo Coordinator on 8922 3185.

Meantime, set the date in your calendar and start counting down to the biggest and best Expo yet.

# Australian Police Medal recipients

Sergeant Gert Johnsson and Brevet Sergeant Anne Lade receive the Australian Police Medal in this year's Australia Day Honours by **Theresa Kuilboer** and **Sandra Mitchell**



Sergeant Gert Johnsson

***For a man who has, in his own words, "been in uniform since the age of 15", Sergeant Gert Johnsson's nomination for the Australian Police Medal should have come as no surprise.***

However, for Gert, 59, the honour was not only surprising, but humbling as well.

Gert came to Australia from Denmark in 1968 after having been in the Danish army since he was 15. A few months after his arrival he joined the Australian army as an infantryman.

Shortly after he joined up he was posted to Vietnam for 12 months, and upon his return to Australia he became a military policeman. In January 1975 he left the Defence Force and joined the Northern Territory Police.

It was the year after cyclone Tracy, so the training was done in Adelaide. Upon completion of his training he was posted to Tennant Creek, which had been his first preference.

After he had been in Tennant Creek for almost five years, Gert's superiors suggested it might be time for him to move on, so reluctantly he chose a position in the Traffic Section in Alice Springs.

He remained in Alice Springs until

1988 when he was posted to Darwin to become one of the first members of the now-defunct Gold Squad.

While in Alice Springs he spent time in CIB and successfully completed his detective training course in 1987.

In May 1988, Gert and the then Sergeant Graeme Kelly (now Assistant Commissioner Kelly) started intensive training for what was to be a highly specialised field in the Gold Squad.

The training took place at gold mines in Western Australia and the Territory and included metallurgy studies. One of the highlights of his eleven and a half years in the Gold Squad was the apprehension of a pair of thieves who almost managed to get away with the theft of more than \$497,000 worth of gold from a mine in Tennant Creek.

But all good things must come to an end and Gert felt it was time to move on, so he put his hand up for the OIC's job at Ali Curung.

"When I was first in Tennant Creek I had a fair bit to do with Ali Curung and really enjoyed it, so I'd promised myself that I was going there until I retired, which I did in March 2002," Gert said.

But retirement came at a price, and Gert soon found there was only so much satisfaction to be had from renovating houses. So, inevitably he started to miss the work, his mates and the job.

"At the end of the day a copper is a copper, and I missed the work so much I decided to rejoin."

By April 2004 Gert was back where he belonged. He spent some months working at the NTPFES College in Darwin, then eight months in Tennant Creek, then a stint in Major Crime before seeing

an opportunity to become the OIC of Hermannsburg.

He was promoted to sergeant and sent down to head the three-member station at Ntaria.

After more than 30 years in the job Gert has certainly seen some changes among today's Members.

"They're a different breed altogether nowadays. They're much better educated for a start. If I had to apply today they wouldn't let me in!"

But, despite all that, Gert was chosen as the recipient of one of the highest honours in policing.

"When I was told about it I couldn't understand why. All I've ever done is what I signed up for and there hasn't been a single day when I've thought I didn't want to go to work. I live, breathe and love the job."



Brevet Sergeant Anne Lade

Brevet Sergeant Anne Lade (pictured above with husband Greg), of Darwin was recognised for distinguished police service when the Australia Day Honours were announced in January.

Anne joined the NT Police in 1981 – fulfilling a childhood ambition to be a police officer.

"I grew up in Victoria and always wanted to be a police officer," Anne said.

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"At the time, females had to be 21 to join Victoria Police, but I saw an ad for NT Police who were accepting 19-year-olds, so I applied, was accepted and haven't looked back."

During her career Anne has served in Katherine and Darwin and pursued a career in investigations, spending 13 years with the Criminal Investigation Branch in Darwin.

In 1998 she transferred to the Coronial Investigation Unit as an investigator assisting the Coroner for the Northern Territory – a position she holds today.

In this role, she has responsibility as Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Coordinator for the Northern Territory. Her work within the Territory and her representation nationally as the DVI coordinator has also been recognized internationally.

Following the 2005 Boxing Day Tsunami Anne was deployed to undertake the role of a Reconciliation Coordinator and twice deployed as the DVI Commander in the Disaster Victim Identification Information Management Centre (DVIIMC) in Phuket Thailand. She was last year awarded a Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for her role.

Anne said the assistance she was able to provide in the wake of the tsunami was a highlight of her career.

"I find my day-to-day role in the Coroner's office very rewarding. Knowing that if I do my job well I can help people in what is probably the most traumatic time of their lives gives me a great sense of achievement," she said.

"I see it as recognition of my time in the job. I appreciate the award, but more than that I appreciate that someone took the time and felt me worthy of nomination."

She joins her husband Sgt Greg Lade, who is a previous recipient of the APM.



## Peter Davies receives Commendation for Distinguished Service

**Assistant Director Emergency Services Peter Davies was recently awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service on operations as the Chief of Staff within Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 during Operation Catalyst in this year's Australia Day honours.**

"The commendation is a great honour, but the award also reflects the dedicated team with which I served," explained Peter.

A former colonel with the Army, Peter's performance as Chief of Staff of Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 was described as outstanding. His calm, strong leadership and exceptional professional and selfless

dedication won the respect and admiration of all who served with him.

Peter achieved excellent results in a difficult, extremely dangerous and dynamic environment in Baghdad. His performance was in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

"My experience in the Defence Force has given me a good foundation for dealing with emergency response situations and I'm enjoying applying that to the Emergency Service."

Peter commenced as Assistant Director of Emergency Services in August 2006.

## NTES Investiture profile

**Providing a needed service for their community was the reason Mark and Shelley Speechley became involved in their local NT Emergency Service Volunteer Unit.**



The couple, from Cox Peninsula, moved to the area 1997 and a year later, joined the Cox Peninsula Emergency Service Volunteer Unit to add to the small response unit, which had been formed after the drowning death of a father and son on New Year's Eve in 1996.

The two were among around 19 volunteers honoured at the inaugural investiture ceremony for the Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Service Medal at the Tri-Service College in early February.

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# Firies help out in Victoria

With much of southern Australia facing a severe fire season after years of drought NTFRS personnel were only too ready to lend a hand writes **Hayley Dwyer**



***In total four contingents, made up of personnel from the NTFRS and Bushfires NT, were deployed to Victoria during December and January. NTFRS Firefighters came from across the Territory including Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Batchelor.***

Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) acted quickly and facilitated a national first by coordinating resources from Australian and New Zealand fire agencies during operations.

The first request for interstate assistance came to the Territory on 19 December and within three days there were 10 Grassfire Units and two command vehicles loaded into roadtrains and on the road to Victoria, with 25 personnel from Darwin and Alice Springs following close behind by air.

The contingent consisted of NTFRS permanent officers, auxiliary and volunteer firefighters along with Bushfires NT staff and volunteers and one Emergency Service officer.

After induction training and safety briefs in Melbourne, which set the standard for other incoming firefighters from interstate, the contingent was deployed to Swifts Creek in eastern Victoria.

“Over the following month the NTFRS and Bushfires NT contributed four contingents of firefighters totalling 107 personnel,” said Greg Nettleton, NTFRS Chief Fire Officer.

Contingents 2, 3 and 4 were assigned to Erica where their important task was to prevent the fire burning into the Thompson Dam’s water catchment area, the principle supply of water for Melbourne.

Throughout the Victorian campaign NTFRS had a senior officer located at the State Emergency Control Centre (SECC) which coordinated resources across numerous campaign fires in Victoria. The International/Interstate Liaison Unit at the SECC consisted of officers from most Australian states as well as New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

This structure presented unique opportunities for the

Territory officers to gain valuable experience alongside international colleagues in a large scale Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Likewise those working in incident management teams or in the field, gained experience not readily available in the NT due to the relative small size of the Territory’s fire agencies.

“There were many new experiences – the fires at Erica and Swifts Creek were in steep mountainous alpine regions requiring different firefighting techniques and strategies.

“Our personnel are familiar with backburning, but the rugged terrain and steep, winding roads added a new dimension. Drivers experienced four-wheel-driving like they have never encountered before,” explained Mr Nettleton.

Sound planning using the principles of AIFMS ICS, the importance of an advance party and the placing of liaison officers quickly into the EOC were noted as important success factors.

The operation highlighted the ability for our local fire agencies to work together interstate and within the NT. Should the NT require assistance in an emergency situation the same procedures could be used.

While firefighters worked tirelessly in Victoria, support staff in Darwin continued planning for the return and departure of each contingent. Requests for assistance often came in at short notice, resulting in many extra hours of work.

The Territory’s six-week commitment ended on 25 January with the return of Contingent 4.

In recognition of the NT contribution to the fighting the Victorian fires each contingent member received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Victorian Premier.

The NT Government honoured the members of both NT firefighting agencies at a formal reception at Parliament House on 13 February.

“NT Firefighters worked hard and tirelessly throughout the duration of the extended incident and represented the NT and our tri-service admirably,” said Mr Nettleton.





# A place of many names

No matter what name you call it, Gunbalanya or Oenpelli, this community is picturesque with a colourful history writes Hayley Dwyer



**Gunbalanya is surrounded by coastal black soil plains, swamps and escarpment country. Three tall rocky hills: Arrguluk, Injalak and Banyan overlook the community which lies adjacent to a large billabong.**

Located in Arnhem Land 320 km east of Darwin, this is the traditional country of the Kunwinjku, or freshwater people. Their land extends from the community to the Mann and Liverpool Rivers in the east, and just short of the coastline to the north.

The original Gunbalanya group, the Mengerr, lived in the Injalak area. These groups spoke their own language within their tribal lands and related to one another through the common Kunwinjku language.

Around 1900, European buffalo shooters arrived in the area, bringing with them western goods such as tobacco, sugar and alcohol to trade for access and buffalo hides. One of the early buffalo shooters was the legendary Paddy Cahill who settled in the area and in 1906 took out a dairy lease on the present site of Gunbalanya. In 1916 the Northern Territory Government took over Cahill's property and established an experimental dairy farm with Cahill as manager.

After World War I, industrial disputes in Darwin ended the dairy experiment and the Federal Government invited the Church Missionary Society to take over. The mission established gardening, livestock management, a community centre shop, health and education.

After the introduction of self determination policies in the 1970s and the subsequent withdrawal of the missionaries, the Gunbalanya Council Incorporated was registered in 1976 and the Kunbarllanjja Community Government Council established in 1995.

The variety of names requires some explanation:

- **Unbalange** was a name given to the original inhabitants but the buffalo shooters and other English speakers mispronounced the word, giving rise to the place name, **Oenpelli**.
- **Gunbalanya** is the Kunwinjku name for the area although the more traditional spelling of **Kunbarllanjja** is the legal trading name for the community council. Gunbalanya is not a community of one clan, but is made up of a number of clans.

The community and the surrounding district has two police officers and one Aboriginal Community Police Officer who patrol a total area of 15 000 sq km including the communities of Warruwi, Murgenella and Nabarlek along with 16 outstations, including Goulburn and

Croker Islands in the Gurig National Park. Members carry out other general duties and enforce regional liquor restrictions as the community is an Alcohol Restricted Zone under the *Liquor Act*.

During the dry season police work closely with Jabiru police, attending events and checking entry permits. Gunbalanya's location at the edge of Kakadu means that the area is popular with tourists visiting the Park or taking part in tours.

During the wet season, Gunbalanya can be cut off by flooding for several weeks and this can create its own set of challenges, including crocodile control. The most recent crocodile was 14.7 ft, affectionately known as 'Eric', which was removed from Cahills Crossing and relocated to Crocodylus Park.

"Sometimes we have to control crocodiles that come close to the community from the nearby billabong, so that can make life interesting!" said Officer in Charge Gary Smallridge.



ACPO First Class Andy Garnarradj on Warruwi (Goulburn Island)

Constable Ed Hayden likes the relative autonomy that comes with a remote posting. "You can make your own decisions and see places most people wouldn't get to," he explained.

"We work hard at maintaining a good relationship with the community through positive day-to-day interaction, meetings, youth discos and the sports and social club."

ACPO Andy Garnarradj has worked at the Oenpelli police station for six years and cites his first drug bust as a highlight.

"I like working to keep my community safe," he explained. "I am also the Chairperson of the Community Government Council and so I have that good friendship with the community."

Home to about 1400 people the community has a primary school, health centre, community store and service station. There is also a local sport and recreation club, barramundi fishing and outdoor pursuits. Other local attractions include Kakadu National Park, the Injalak Art and Craft Centre and walking tours around Injalak Hill, a site rich in ancient Aboriginal rock art paintings.



# Blue Light Disco brings community together

**A recent Blue Light Disco at the Umbakumba community on Groote Eylandt attracted around 500 people.**

The event was held in conjunction with the opening of the Umbakumba Community Sport and Recreation Hall and drew around 200 children from the communities of Umbakumba and Angurugu.

There was also a strong representation from within the community which consisted of teachers, parents, council employees and youth development staff.

“Their assistance and local community support assured the disco ran smoothly and that everyone had an enjoyable time,” said Constable Benjamin Hamann (pictured below with children from the disco).



“It was extremely pleasing to see the children able to mix with community elders and socialising with other government department employees from education, health and police in a safe, supervised and fun environment.

“The Alyangula community and local businesses got right behind the disco and gave us immense support,” he said.

Constable Hamann made mention of Carol Burston from the ANZ Bank, Alyangula, who organised a grant of \$4000 from the Seeds of Renewal Program.

The money was used to purchase electrical equipment and a specialised trailer to help transport equipment such as scaffolding for the lighting systems, bass speakers and projector screen between communities. Perkins Shipping also helped out by transporting the trailer to Groote Eylandt through their sponsorship.

Alyangula Police hold Blue Light Discos at the end of every school term at each of the schools and also assists with school formals, community Christmas parties, school plays and musicals by providing the equipment at no charge to the schools.

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# Police flag returns from Canberra

**The new police flag first flown at the National Police Memorial in Canberra has been returned to the NT Police as an historical item.**

The new flag was blessed at the Darwin National Police Remembrance commemorations on 25 September 2006 and later transported to Canberra by hand for the dedication of the National Police Memorial on 29 September.

The Catafalque Party officially presented the new flag to the Commissioner before it was hoisted above the national memorial site. This original flag flew above the site for a couple of months before being retrieved. Flags representing each Australian police jurisdiction continue to fly above the memorial site.

“It important was for us to recover the police flag not only for its historical significance, but also because it was the first of the new design. I understand that the Northern Territory was the only jurisdiction to do this,” said Superintendent David Pryce.

The new NT Police Flag is instantly recognisable from other jurisdictional flags as belonging to the Northern Territory through its unique colours. Its design is also symbolic of the fact that the Northern Territory Police Force is inherently linked to, and forms an integral part of, the Northern Territory community.

Superintendent David Pryce said, “It is hoped that when members look at the new flag they will reflect not only about our organisation and its goals and values, but also about the community we represent and serve and the names of all those police officers who have given their lives in the execution of their duty.”

“The original police flag provides a tangible connection to a special moment in history for the Northern Territory Police Force and the National Police Memorial itself. We are fortunate that we could secure this important piece of history for the Northern Territory,” he said.

This flag is to be mounted in a frame along with other significant memorabilia and prominently and proudly displayed.



**ABOVE:** Senior Constable Mal Stewart with the Police flag outside Old Parliament House

# Ciao! A fire in Venice

A chance encounter in Venice bridges the firefighting gap writes Station Officer Tom Lawler

*I thought I might share my recent experience with the Venice Fire Department whilst on holidays with my family in northern Italy over the Christmas holidays.*

One day we arrived to take a ferry to do the tourist thing and lo and behold the fire service was doing some salvage work on a boat that had sunk at the water's edge.

As soon as my relatives saw the situation they struck up a rapid conversation with the local fires with a lot of hand gestures and pointing in my direction – I soon realised they were informing them that we shared the same job!

Their fire boat was hard against the wharf's edge and two members stepped off and greeted me like a long lost friend.



ABOVE: Tom outside the Venice Fire Station

Randy Bonini ripped off his shoulder patch from his bunker coat (attached by Velcro) and handed it over.

He explained that he had recently visited San Francisco and had seen their large display board with different shoulder patches from around the world and he wanted me to have his so I could then send one of ours to him.

Just then my wife said 'give him your fire service t-shirt', which was keeping me warm under my five layers of clothing! So after a quick strip in the freezing cold weather my t-shirt was gone. He told me to visit the fire station after our sight seeing trip so he could give me a shirt too.

So later that day we visited the Venice Fire Station and Randy was there to meet us.

He showed me the large board hanging on the main wall he'd made for his intended patch collection, but there was not a single patch to be seen – I promised I would find some others to send him as well.

The building is hundreds of years old and is slowly sinking – a problem throughout the city. The front of the station was similar to any other station with four engine bays, except these engine bays housed boats, after all it was Venice.

I asked how they managed when it was not possible to get the boat close to a building; he answered 'we run a lot of hose'.



A Venetian fire boat

They pump straight from the canals but also have a portable device they made up for rapid knock down which was a trolley with a fifty pound cylinder containing water under pressure with an additional breathing apparatus cylinder on the back to increase pressure when required. This had a 10 metre connection line to a bazooka style branch.

After an hour and a great tour of the station we were on our way. If anyone would like to contact Randy Bonini, please contact me for his email address – remember you might need to brush up on your Italian!



ABOVE: Tom (centre) with his Venetian counterparts

# Urban Search and Rescue Exercise

By Sharon Hutton

**Northern Territory Emergency Services and Fire and Rescue members were recently involved in an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) exercise at the new Darwin City Waterfront Development.**

Coordinated by Macmahon, the emergency response exercise scenario involved rescuing a worker who had climbed into a six metre deep pit and been overcome by fumes.

Following a risk assessment, and a blower being set up to replace the air in the pit an NTES volunteer was suited up and lowered down the into the hole. Within minutes the 'casualty' was lifted free of the pit.

The exercise was filmed and a video will be produced for the training of all Macmahon and contractor staff.



Photo courtesy Digi Film

## Opening of Gan Gan Memorial

**Nhulunbuy Police members Tony Fuller and Wade Marshall recently attended a ceremony at Gan Gan to open the Gan Gan Memorial.**

The story goes that around 1911 a geologist went missing in the area and was never found. Unsubstantiated reports claimed that he had been killed by local Indigenous people.

In reprisal or fear, local pastoralists are alleged to have killed six Indigenous people at Gan Gan billabong.

Their bodies were located some time later in various states of decomposition and were identified by other Indigenous people by the armbands that were found.



The memorial (above) was the brainchild of Gawirrin Gumana, an elder of the area who relayed the story to invited guests including Syd Stirling and Warren Snowden at the opening.



PICTURED L to R: Senior Sergeant Tony Fuller, Terry Djumbuwa Marrawili and Senior Constable Wade Marshall

## Keeping it in the force

**Meet the Carter family ... if you haven't already.**

Deb Carter is an Auxiliary who has been based in the JESCC for nearly three years. She's a happy, outgoing woman who loves her job and helping people in need over the phone.

Daughter Danielle, 26 is an ACPO. She joined shortly after Deb and was based in Tennant Creek until recently. After spending a short time at Casuarina Station, Danielle has joined the new Indigenous Policing Development Division based at Berrimah.

Son Michael, 21 is also an ACPO. Recruited and trained just over six months ago, he's new, keen and eager.

Based in Tennant Creek, he was stationed with his sister for only a few weeks, until Danielle made the move to Darwin. Michael enjoys working in the regional township and is keen to stay in the area and experience all it has to offer.



ABOVE L to R: Danielle, Michael and Deb Carter

Deb's husband, Michael Snr, also has a connection to the area of emergency response, through his employment with the Bush Fire Brigade.

Deb and Michael Snr have two other children. Jaclyn works in Police Payroll at DCIS - which is where Deb worked before making the career move to the JESCC - while Kaitlin 15, at this point in time has no connection to the Tri-Service. With a family history like this, that's no doubt bound to change!

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## Apprentices graduate

**Four NTPFES apprentices graduated with a Certificate III in Business on 2 February at an awards ceremony at the SkyCity Casino.**

The certificates were presented by Acting Chief Minister, Syd Stirling MLA.

The graduates have worked throughout the corporate services and human resources areas of the agency and attended structured training blocks whilst completing their Certificate III in Business. This is a nationally accredited certificate and the program is drawn from the Commonwealth Government's New Apprenticeship initiatives.

Mary-Kathleen (Mary-K) Taylor, 22 is currently working as a Finance Officer with Corporate Services Division, after starting out in other sections. "I worked in Registry for about four months, then went to Fleet and did a couple of months and then came to Finance and got given the opportunity to do higher duties as an AO2 for the last four months of my apprenticeship.

"I've enjoyed working in the NTPFES as I've met lots of interesting people throughout my apprenticeship," she explained.

Mary-K offers some valuable words of encouragement for anyone considering embarking on an apprenticeship.

"Keep at it and don't give up because it is worth it in the end. You will receive a qualification and gain a lot of new skills and knowledge that you will be able to use in the future.

"The apprenticeship has helped me gain confidence and learn new skills. It has given me the opportunity to get into the government and help kick start my career."

Abigail Dacanay, 18 is currently working in the Human Resource Management section. Abigail is based in the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Unit and enjoys working for NTPFES.

"The people that I worked with are fantastic and it's good to learn how the agency works as a whole. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone as this is a big agency. As long as you are willing to learn and have good work ethics you can go far."

Simone Boase, 21 is another member of the Human Resources Management team. Currently working as an administration assistant she has also spent time in the Records Management and Occupational Health and Safety as part of her training rotation.

"There are a whole lot of opportunities for me now that I've completed my apprenticeship - maybe even a police or fire recruit now that I have a better understanding of how things work," Simone explained.

"It's been a great experience and what helped me a lot was to always have a positive attitude," said Simone.

Peter Kelly, 18 also works in the Human Resource Management section as the filing clerk. "Initially at the start of the apprenticeship I started off in the Assessment and Curriculum Section and as part of the apprenticeship I was rotated to the College midway through the apprenticeship and then rotated again in January to where I am now," Peter explained.

"The best advice I could give to anyone thinking about an apprenticeship is to listen to your field officer when she tells you to not fall behind on the assignments!"

# Spam, phishing, worms, trojans and viruses.....

**The IT world has an uncanny knack of re-using common words in the English language to create its own little 'techie' language. So what do terms like spam, phishing, worms, trojans and viruses mean, and why is it important for you to know them?**

## Spam

The IT term *spam* refers to unsolicited or undesired bulk e-mail messages. The term was actually derived from the Monty Python sketch where two customers are trying to order breakfast from a menu that includes spam in almost every dish. The repetitive and unwanted presence of spam in this sketch is reflective of the repetitive and unwanted presence of spam e-mails.

The best way to minimise the amount of spam you receive is to not let spammers get hold of your e-mail address. You can do this by:

- not listing your e-mail address on a web page—use Google to check if your email address appears on the web
- not providing your e-mail address to web sites offering free products, software, or services such as electronic greeting cards—these are frequently used by spammers to compile lists of addresses to spam
- never replying to or using an 'unsubscribe' link within a spam message—all you are doing is confirming that your email address exists.

If you receive spam, just delete it. Do not open it, or click on any links within the message, as this may direct you to malicious websites containing viruses.

## Phishing

The term *phishing* is a variant of fishing, and refers to the use of increasingly sophisticated lures to 'fish' for users' financial information and passwords. Phishing is similar to spam, however phishing is a form of Internet fraud that aims to steal valuable information such as credit cards, user IDs and passwords.

A fake website is created that is similar to that of a legitimate organisation, typically a financial institution such as a bank or insurance company. An e-mail is sent requesting that the recipient access the fake website (which will usually be a replica of a trusted site) and enter their personal details, including security access codes.



If you receive an e-mail claiming to be from a bank or other financial institution that asks you to enter your details—delete it! A legitimate bank or financial institution will NEVER send an e-mail like this.

## Worms, trojans and viruses

A computer virus is a general term for a computer program written to alter the way a computer works or to harm a computer network. Worms and trojans are particular types of viruses. A worm is a self-replicating computer program, whereas a trojan is a program that contains or installs a malicious program on to your computer. Both worms and trojans can spread via e-mail, the internet or file servers.

The NTG and PFES have a number

of preventative measures in place to protect against worms, trojans and viruses. These measures include:

- anti-virus software installed on all PCs and servers
- firewalls between the PFES and the NT Government networks and the Internet
- scanning all e-mails for virus files and spam
- preventing certain attachments' delivery to users.

Despite the fact that all these preventative measures have been put in place, YOU still have a role to play in protecting the PFES network from viruses. There can be a number of days, or even weeks, between when a new virus is released and when anti-virus software can detect and cure the virus. Simple steps that you can follow to prevent virus infections include:

- do not open e-mail messages from senders that you do not recognise—simply delete these messages
- report any messages displayed on your computer regarding virus detection to the NT Government Service Desk – 1800 000 254.

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## COMFIT training

**Members of the Tri-Service continue to increase their skills levels through training at the NTPFES College, with six more operators completing training in the preparation of COMFITs and photo boards late last year.**

Constables Cortney McCartney, Corey Brown and Mark Berry from Alice Springs and Constables Nathan Wilson, Danny Hughes and Senior Auxiliary Julieanne Hurley from Darwin completed their training recently.

The course is conducted over five days and the operators learn about identification evidence, processes and

procedures related to the COMFIT program and the capabilities of Photoshop CS2 in order to provide a COMFIT or photoboard acceptable for court purposes.

Chris Knight of DigiFilm provided the participants with professional guidance in the use of photographs and Photoshop CS2.

The course was facilitated by Sergeants Paul Tudor-Stack, Cathie Bennett, Lauren Hill and Senior Constable Pauline Setter.



Sgt Tudor-Stack said all the course participants had already been called upon to utilise their new skills in the workplace.

# Warakurna multi-jurisdictional police station opens in Western Australia

Theresa Kuilboer talks to Warakurna's NT Police Officer, Senior Constable First Class Owen Auricht

**The unique concept of staffing police stations near state and Territory borders with police from both jurisdictions was first trialled in 2003 at Kintore in the Northern Territory.**

Two NT Police and an Aboriginal Community Police Officer were supported by a Western Australian police sergeant based at Kintore.

The reverse will occur in Warakurna, with two Western Australian police officers being supported by a Senior Constable First Class from the Northern Territory, Owen Auricht.

Owen is a born and bred Territory lad having spent 18 years living in Hermannsburg and then Alice Springs. In fact he is so Territorian, he was named after Owen Springs cattle station where his mother

almost gave birth to him as she travelled in from Hermannsburg to Alice Springs.

Owen, 30, joined NT Police three years ago and has served most of that time in the Tactical Unit and bush patrols riding motor cycles. Before becoming a police officer Owen was a qualified diesel mechanic, qualified plumber and a road train driver. He said he had always intended to become a police officer but felt he needed some life experience before taking on the challenge.

"If I'd joined when I was younger I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do everything else I've done," Owen said.

"Back then I was younger and I didn't have a family so it was much

easier to move around but now with a family I want to settle down. Policing to me is a career, and it's something you'll have for the rest of your life."

"I've always lived in Central Australia and that's why I jumped at the chance to go to Warakurna – I love this sort of area and the country around Warakurna is really beautiful."

Owen will also bring his family – wife Gail and son Jake, six and daughter Georgia, four.

"Gail is a qualified veterinary nurse, but when we go to Warakurna she'll spend her time teaching the children through School of the Air.

"I know it's a big move, but the kids don't fully understand what's going on, and everything's what you make it. A lot of the friends we have are planning to come over on trips to see us anyway.

"For me I'm excited because it's a brand new police station and it's an opportunity to make a difference straight up. I do not have to follow someone else and I'm also looking forward to working with Western Australian police to see how they operate."



Senior Constable First Class Owen Auricht with his wife Gail and children Jake and Georgia

## Alice Springs Investiture

Pictured are recipients from the Investiture held in Alice Springs in January.

**Back row L to R:** Station Officer Tony Ettridge, Senior Constable Phil Clapin, Senior Sergeant Kym Davies, Senior Constable Alistair Taylor, Senior Firefighter Anthony Van Haaren

**Front row L to R:** Detective Sergeant Michael Ordelman, Constable First Class Fiona Sutherland, NTFRS Assistant Director (Southern) Paul Herrick, Commissioner Paul White, Commander Mark Coffey



# Chemical Biological Radiological Incident and Emergency (CBRIE) course

**Representatives of government agencies across the Territory took part in the first Chemical Biological Radiological Incident and Emergency (CBRIE) course at the College in November.**

The Counter Terrorism Security Coordination Division conducted the course over four days at the College and included an afternoon of activity at Robertson Barracks.

Course content incorporated displays, practical drills and a wide range of theory sessions.

The course aims to outline to participants the complexity of a CBR incident and the need to have robust whole of government plans and arrangements in place.



It took 18 different subject matter experts to cover the range of topics including security briefings, personal protective equipment (PPE), patient care, incident management and dealing with mass casualty scenarios.

Twenty-eight participants from NT Government agencies, Australian Federal Police and Australian Defence Force participated in the course.

Many participants nominated the practical exercise of 'confidence testing' as being the highlight of the course.

The exercise involved participants donning PPE and completing a series of tasks in the equipment



highlighting the difficulties associated with operating in a simulated CBR contaminated environment.

One participant stated "this was the best course I have been on in 20 years . . . and I want to come back next time to complete the challenge test."

Many other participants expressed how the course "had challenged them to think outside of their own agencies and how important it was to learn to work together cooperatively . . . we are all working to protect the community in which we live."

The next course is to be conducted over five days and is scheduled to occur at the college from 16 to 20 April 2007.

Course details and any matters relating to CBR development in the Northern Territory can be obtained by contacting District Officer Geoff Barnes on 8922 3388 or Sgt Steve Martin 8922 3425 at the Counter Terrorism Security Coordination Division.

*(Thanks to Geoff Barnes for his contribution to this story.)*



# Thanks and praise

Members of the Tri-Service are a vital part of the communities they serve and often provide outstanding service, going beyond the normal range of expectations. *The Drum* provides an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the thanks received from outside the agency and to note the recognition provided internally. Following is a selection of thanks and praise received in recent months.

A letter was written to the Commissioner of Police by a man who had cause to call on police services. He highly praised **Senior Constable Peter Lindfield** and **Constable Lucas McAuley** for their actions after his wife had cause to lodge a complaint over a matter that “caused us severe stress, pain of mind and fear due to the actions of two individuals against whom my wife lodged a complaint.”

The man praised the members’ actions: “The manner in which they got about doing their duty was most remarkable as speed and efficiency was a key factor in this particular matter. Since Peter’s intervention, we are happy to state that we have been totally relieved of the nuisance and worry my wife was subjected to almost on a daily basis.

“I consider the actions of Snr Constable Lindfield and (Const McAuley) as an outstanding example of efficiency and devotion to duty without fear or favour resulting in solving a crime and prevent (*sic.*) a breach of the peace.”

A letter was received from an employee of the Department of Health and Community Services, also praising the efforts of police.

“I would like to commend the Police Officers who played a vital role in managing a situation ... involving an agitated young man in need of medical and mental health assistance. In particular, I would like to thank the two officers who played an integral role in ensuring the young man was treated for these matters, namely **Mr Dion Bowdern** and **Kristian Whitbread**. Through their vigilance, a potentially serious threatening situation was handled with the utmost professionalism and care, in turn ensuring the safety of the young man, his family members and myself.”

A woman from Gippsland in Victoria took time to email the **Humpty Doo Volunteer Fire Brigade**, after she saw volunteers from there taking part in the response to the fire emergency early in January.

She wrote: “... I live in Traralgon Victoria. I just happen to be going to McDonalds to get my boys some lunch when I saw your 4x4 fire vehicle leaving there with a heap of other NT fire vehicles.

“I would just like to thank everyone from Humpty Doo and all the others from NT who came down and gave up their valuable time and effort to help our community in a time of need.

“It is much appreciated and I would also like to thank their families for letting them go at this time of the year. It is a huge commitment. Thanks again.”

St John Ambulance also wrote to thank the **Territory Response Section** for taking the time to participate in a Rescue and Disaster Management Course.

The Paramedic Education Officer wrote: “Without the assistance received on this course, the student’s knowledge and practical skills would have been limited, thus possibly affecting their ability to perform should they be placed in a rescue or disaster situation.

“I would appreciate it if you would convey our sincerest appreciation and thanks to the OIC and members of the TRS that assisted us in such a professional manner in particular **Paul (Sgt), Simon, Shane and Vic.**”

Police members were also mentioned in court sentencing for restraint shown in a dangerous situation. The Justice, in his sentencing remarks, said that **Senior Constable Roger D’Souza**

– who was the subject of a serious assault – had exercised tremendous restraint and that both officers (**D’Souza** and **Probationary Constable Sarah O’Connell**) deserved both praise and the fullest appreciation for the manner in which they conducted themselves during the incident, from the offender and the wider community.

## Letters of Recognition

The Commissioner has also had cause to write several Letters of Recognition for the actions of members.

**Detective Sergeant Len Turner, Senior Constable Michael Ward and Constable Justin McWatt**, all of Casuarina Investigations Team, received letters from the Commissioner in recognition of their work following a robbery at the BP Malak Service Station.

The Commissioner wrote: “Acting with a sense of urgency, you and your team coordinated forensic support and carried out local enquiries ...

“You and your team quickly obtained and executed a warrant on the suspect location and within 16 hours of the offence the offender was arrested. Your quick actions also allowed for the recovery of the money stolen and the seizure of the weapon used.

“Your actions on this day demonstrated a high level of professionalism and commitment which reflects positively upon you and increases confidence within our community.”

**Constables Nicholas Kronk and Mark Bland** also received letters of recognition from the Commissioner in relation to their investigations into an armed robbery at the BP Service Station in Darwin city, when



they obtained detailed descriptions of the offenders including accents and direction of travel, before locating the men and having a conversation with them.

"You monitored and followed both men to their residence ... where you observed suspicious activity. You then made enquiries at that residence and as a priority arranged to view the CCTV footage. This confirmed the identity of the suspects as those to whom you had previously spoken.

"As a result of your diligent enquiries and observations you then re-attended the residence where the offenders were arrested, valuable evidence secured and the proceeds of the crime recovered.

"Your actions on this day demonstrated a high level of

professionalism and commitment to duty. Your alert and intuitive actions led to the successful clear up of a serious crime within a relatively short time frame."

**Ms Lorelle Pappalardo** was recognised for her contribution to developing and improving essential administrative arrangements within the agency.

The Commissioner wrote: "Your diligent effort in project managing the centralisation of our motor traffic accident information was a significant achievement.

"Your contribution has improved the provision of and access to motor traffic accident information and as a consequence has improved the efficiency of policing in the Northern Territory."

## Carmen receives Commissioner's Commendation

By Theresa Kuilboer

**Detective Senior Constable Carmen Butcher returned to work in October last year following almost 10 months recovering from injuries received as a result of an horrific bus crash in Egypt in January 2006.**

While her physical recovery has been long and painful, the emotional scars of the trauma will probably last even longer. Carmen won international acclaim last year for her heroic actions in Egypt. Her selfless actions in rescuing one of the survivors of the horror crash resulted in serious injuries to herself when the bus crashed down on her.

Carmen received a Commissioner's Commendation for bravery in November last year and in January this year was nominated for Australian of the Year.

In January Carmen called several of the survivors of the Egyptian crash, as they all tried to cope with the memories the first anniversary brought back.



"I rang the lady whose life I saved, just to let her know we are all thinking of each other," Carmen said.

"It was an emotional day. You have to remember six people were killed, and we all lost friends and partners. We're hanging in there but it is an emotional day."

Early in February Carmen again went to Adelaide to have a second round of major surgery to repair significant nerve damage to her leg as a result of her crushed pelvis.

"It's extremely frustrating, but I hope this last round of surgery will give me back full use of my leg."

As for the Commissioner's Commendation and the more recent nomination for Australian of the Year, Carmen's response is typical.

"It's nice to be recognised for something like that, but honestly, the best result is that the lady survived."



## Memorial service for Inspector Paul Foelsche

By Sandra Mitchell

**A memorial service, marking the anniversary of the death of the NT Police Force's first police chief, Paul Foelsche was held in January.**

Inspector Foelsche died on 31 January 1914 having served as the head of what was then the NT Mounted Police, for over 30 years.

Commissioner Paul White 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 6 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, named in his honour, was held in the Pioneer Cemetery, Goyder Rd, Darwin.

Wreaths were laid by Lodge Foelsche and the Commissioner of Police. Twenty-three recruits currently in training formed a guard of honour.

# Dragon boaters prepare for World Police and Fire Games

'COPZ' compete at club level at Australia Day Dragon Boat Regatta

**Many NT Police members have been training hard in dragon boat racing for a couple of months now in preparation for the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) and had the opportunity to compete at club level in the Australia Day Dragon Boat Regatta at Cullen Bay Beach over the Australia Day weekend.**

While the COPZ mixed and open teams did not win any of the races, their skills, paddling technique and timing were put to the test and gave the almighty Arafura Dragons NT and Dragons Abreast a run for the title improving after each race.

All COPZ women had to double up and many men, often racing in events back to back.

Special thanks to the team consisting of:

- Tanya Holliday
- Wayne Bayliss
- Scott Manley
- Jennifer Roe
- Col Goodsell
- Al Millner
- Linda Sayers
- Rob Farmer
- Joe Linco
- Lynette Balchin
- Geoff Pickering
- Rory MacCarthy
- Alice Henderson
- Gavin Kennedy
- Ken Davidson
- Sinead Done
- Shane Conway

Coach (retired Detective S/Sergeant) Ken Dwyer said the training is paying off in preparation for the World Games, with the Australia Day Regatta being the first test of competition at club level.

He said the performance of COPZ was good and improved at each race, but much more training is required to compete at the World Games and at the national level.

Members seriously thinking of competing at the WPFG are asked to attend training sessions to train as a team, focus on technique and timing and increase their dragon boat fitness which is quite different to most other sports.

Training is held at Cullen Bay Marina at the lock at 5.15 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

All dragon boat WPFG members are encouraged to attend training sessions to increase their dragon boat fitness levels, practice paddling techniques and race starts in anticipation for the games in March and national dragon boat titles in May.

Relief Team Manager Alice Henderson thanked all members, their family and friends for participating and supporting COPZ at the Australia Day Dragon Boat Regatta.

## NTES Investiture profile (continued from page 11)

Mark and Shelley – who have a son, Kaleb, seven, and a daughter, Jordan, five – are involved in all facets of the unit's work, from cyclone shelter preparation, to road accident rescue and marine and land search and rescue.

Following the investiture, Mark said he'd been involved in a range of responses, including to rollovers on the Cox Peninsula Road before it was sealed and in assisting the TRS in a search following the discovery of a murdered man in the area.

Shelley said they had also been

involved in medical evacuations and worked with the Belyuen clinic on many occasions.

But perhaps Mark summed up their commitment to helping others best:

"We've got a young family and it would be nice to think there's someone there to help us."

Neither Mark nor Shelley were sure of the response the medals would receive from their children, but hoped it might lessen the cries of "Why do you have to go to Emergency Services again?"

# In the spotlight: **Mary Walshe**

**Sharon Hutton** talks to Mary Walshe, a larger-than-life character who is also Mayor of the Litchfield Shire Council in her spare time



**You all know her and if you don't, you should—she's part of the glue that holds together the very small but strong Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) team. This year Mary Walshe celebrates 30 years with NTES.**

Mary has spent her entire life in the Top End and has seen more than her fair share of cyclones and emergency situations. You name an event or disaster and chances are Mary has a funny story she can relate about it. Nothing daunts her and she faces all challenges head on and with humour.

## 12 Questions...

### **Career highlight so far?**

To pick just one, I would have to say the '98 Katherine/Daly flood operation and the experience of working alongside amazing colleagues within the PFES family and also the NTES Volunteers.

### **Funniest moment with NTES?**

For my 40th birthday my work colleagues went to extreme lengths in the middle of the night, to place a mobile sign on the Arnhem Highway outside my home which advised the public I had joined the club and to honk for Mary. Of course they did just that commencing around 5.30 am in the morning. They were all so tickled they had successfully pulled off such a covert operation.

### **What made you decide on a career with NTES?**

I think it chose me. I commenced as the receptionist in December 1977 and from Humpty Doo to Winnellie there were only two sets of traffic lights. Changes in the organisation over the years, many operations, emergencies and disasters, having a family and the many wonderful colleagues (mentors) I have worked with, has kept my dedication and commitment to the organisation strong.

### **Where did you grow up?**

- aged one and two years: McMinn Street

- aged two to seven years: Rapid Creek
- aged seven to .... now, out in the sticks at Humpty Doo.

### **What did you want to be when you grew up?**

Cowgirl, truck driver, country and western singer.

### **Favourite food?**

Reef 'n' beef with chips, plum pudding at Christmas.

### **What can't you live without?**

Family

### **Favourite place?**

Home sweet home

### **Your hero?**

Steve Waugh for his strength, both mentally and physically.

### **Last holiday?**

A week in Sydney for the National

Polocrosse Titles - terrible drought conditions but the highlight was being with and watching youngest daughter playing the game we love at the national level.

### **Three people you'd invite to dinner?**

Steve Waugh, the Australian Prime Minister and Bart Cummings

### **Last thing read?**

Steve Waugh's autobiography *Out of my comfort zone*

### **What would you do if you won lotto?**

If it were the big one I would invest the major portion for 12 months, look at all my family and friends and see how best to spread my windfall wisely.

### **Greatest achievement to date?**

My husband and three wonderful daughters.

## Remote and Regional Attraction Project

During the latter part of 2006 research was conducted on attracting members to regional and remote locations. The project was well supported with over 300 members responding to the online survey, 22 individual contacts and over 80 members participated in focus groups, together with contributions to the research from spouses and the NT Police Association.

Assistant Commissioner McAdie and Consultant Gail Humble met with Commissioner White in December to present the research findings. The recommendations are scheduled to be discussed with the ELG and once endorsed, an implementation plan will be developed.

