

THE

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DRUM

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



DECEMBER 2007



Commissioner's message

The December edition of *The Drum* presents an opportunity to reflect on the 2007 calendar year and the activities and events that make the Tri-Service a unique and vital community service. Against this background, it is often the case that we take our work for granted probably because of a 'can do' attitude and a strong work ethic based on solving community problems.

In reflecting on some of the tasks and challenges we undertake, it is therefore worth remembering that the overwhelming majority of the community holds the Tri-Service in high regard. This is an important fact and one we should not underestimate.

Earlier this year, the Tri-Service responded to a 40 tonne cyanide spill on the Stuart Highway south of Elliott. All arms of the Tri-Service, including volunteers, worked around the clock over several days to manage the emergency. Other Tri-Service responses involved significant flooding in the Top-End, with the Oenpelli community being the worst effected.

The Fire & Rescue Service demonstrated its commitment to supporting operations interstate by deploying 57 firefighters (full time and auxiliaries) to Victoria over a four week period to assist with a series of disastrous bush fires.

In many other cases, the Tri-Service responded to fatal and serious motor vehicle collisions, and land and sea searches for missing persons.

Many Tri-Service personnel were involved in the detailed planning, preparation and response to the APEC Energy Ministers' Conference in Darwin during May.

From a policing perspective, members were fully occupied throughout the year responding to a variety of community policing problems and to criminal investigations. Repeat offenders and outlaw motor cycle gangs in Darwin and Alice Springs were successfully prosecuted. Other work involved responses to domestic violence, child sex abuse, aggravated assaults, suspicious deaths, robberies, drug dealing, drink driving, unlawful entries and anti-social behaviour.

In so many of these instances, members of the Tri-Service have gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' and continue to demonstrate a strong orientation to serving and protecting the community. We should never take for granted the many traumatic situations our members are faced with, whether it be death, serious injury, violent and abusive behaviours, angry and frustrated victims, or the 'down and outs' in society. Nor should we forget the immense pride in seeing many of these situations through to a successful conclusion.

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

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

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FRONT COVER:

Crossing the East Alligator River near Oenpelli

CENTREFOLD:

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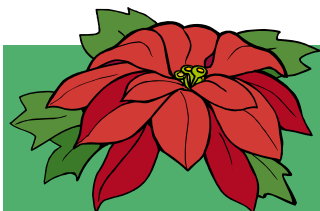
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*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

Taskforce Themis

by Sarah Combe

It is impossible to put a measure on the hard work and dedication of police officers living and working in some of the most remote communities across the Territory, including those stations set up as part of Taskforce Themis.

The taskforce was established by NT Police in response to the intervention announced by the Federal Government in June this year. Since that time, numerous facets of work required to establish policing presences has been undertaken by a team of police and administrative support staff. Because of that, NT Police members, supported by colleagues from other jurisdictions are breaking new ground in a range of communities.

Police stationed at Arlparra, commonly known as Utopia, cover an area of approximately 1800 square kilometres, including 16 homelands and one community. The station is situated within the Council Office, in the administration area of the region and the police accommodation units sit close by. Despite the distance they have to cover and the fact they have been functioning with limited communications resources, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Senior Constables Wendy-Anne McHale and Scott Hardman are positive about their deployment and their work. Wendy-Anne says they have formed good relationships with the local elders and are increasingly getting informed about local issues. Officer in Charge, Sergeant Mark Nash is similarly positive.

“We have been well received by the people, which is encouraging,” he said.

On a tour of the Willowra community, Officer in Charge Acting Sergeant Peter Stowers points out his ‘pet project’, the footy field. The goal posts they recently dug into the ground with a few of the local boys have fallen a bit wonky but he says they’ll fix them soon.

“I am enjoying the change from major crime. ... I love community policing,” said Peter Stowers.

Pete, Senior Constable First Class Luke Read and Sergeant Scott Corcoran all either played or trained with the local team. Willowra police are also involved with the school and the local Youth Club where they regularly hold sausage sizzles. Luke and Scott recently finished their deployment period as NT Police Special Constables from the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

The Themis Police Station at Galiwinku on Elcho Island was finished on Monday, 12 November. For the seven weeks prior, Sergeant Margaret Cassidy and Senior Constable Rob Colthorpe, who joined the NT Police as Special Constables from Queensland and Officer in Charge George Hatzismalis worked remotely from Nhulunbuy. They jammed as much community work as possible into the two days a week they stayed overnight at Galiwinku, while the stations infrastructure was put in place. Rob, Margaret and George are happier to be now totally based at the community.

“The challenge of this will be trying to bring policing where it hasn’t been permanently done before,” said OIC George Hatzismalis.

AFP Senior Constable First Class, Catherine Cowling and Officer in Charge, Acting Sergeant Ian Grey are enjoying their work at Numbulwar.

“I hope that by the end of this experience I will have helped in some small way to improving the safety and wellbeing of the community,” said Senior Constable Cowling.

The Numbulwar Police Station, built in 2005 and officially opened in 2006, is situated on the main street next to the Council Office and across the road from the shop and take away. Aboriginal Community Police Officer Samson Ngalmi says that the permanent police presence in Numbulwar has been a positive thing for community.

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Taskforce Themis continued

"It's good to have more police here," he said. Numbulwar Police Station recently welcomed Senior Constable First Class Peter McMahon to their team from the AFP.

Police stationed at Haasts Bluff, have been making significant progress with local issues such as grog running since the station came online. Officer in Charge, Sergeant Ray Musgrave said that Haasts Bluff is used as a back road to a lot of places and having the constant policing presence there had made a dent in this sort of activity and taken a load off nearby permanent stations.

"Our presence on the road has had a positive effect on the community," he said.

At the Mutitjulu Police Station there is a photo board of people's faces from around the community and cut outs of newspaper articles that talk about their stories. Officer in Charge, Acting Sergeant Micheal Deutrom said that the station at Mutitjulu has been consistently busy however the instances of criminal behaviour are declining in part due to the constant police presence. In the September sitting of the Mutitjulu Court there were 45 matters and this number was halved by the November court date.

"It is going really well... it has been a positive experience," said Sergeant Micheal Deutrom.

In Santa Teresa, Constable First Class John Hose said that after his deployment period ends he plans to apply to come back. Officer in Charge, Sergeant Rob James said that he would rather be in Santa Teresa than dealing with the regular work of Darwin after just two weeks.

Rob and John have worked closely with Aboriginal Community Police Officer Phillip Alice, also based at the station. Both say that having the permanent police presence is functioning well. Hans Kupper, Acting Sergeant and Officer in Charge of the Imanpa Police Station attributes the positive attitude of police in remote stations to living in the community, because members begin to take ownership of what happens.

"In a community you get to know 90 per cent of the people or more... in a lot of ways it makes the job easier and safer."

In his experience, after building relationships with people in the community they begin to help you out with information that they wouldn't normally tell police if they had to ring through to the nearest station.

"I've seen at Imanpa that once you are in there, people don't want you to leave."

In Nyirripi, Officer in Charge, Sergeant Sandy Nash and AFP Constables First Class, Andrew Jones and Micheal Lawrence recently drove 16 local children, six adults and two teachers, to a School Arts Festival in Kintore by bus.

"The bus went through the sand hills; over some and around some... the kids absolutely loved it," said Sergeant Sandy Nash.

In addition to regular police work Nyirripi police have tried to get involved with the community. "We generally try and encourage the children to go to school, we have tried various methods, including playing music really loudly and knocking on their doors," said Constable First Class, Andrew Jones.

Andrew also commended the Northern Territory Police for all the support they had received during their deployment. "NT Police has really looked after us," he said.

At headquarters, Taskforce Themis has made significant headway – working tirelessly to establish infrastructure and coordinate officers to make a strong police presence felt in prescribed communities. The building of the next nine stations in remote communities in the northern and central parts of the Top End remains a race with the wet season. These new sites are using innovative station and accommodation units built from shipping containers specifically designed and modified into self-contained individual units with bathrooms, living space, offices and cell blocks. The stations at Bulman, Yarralin and Peppimenarti were finished in November, while the rest are set to be finished in December and early January.



Police Officer of the Year

Northern Territory Police in conjunction with the Darwin Rotary Club recently announced Sergeant Rob Jordan from Darwin as the winner of the 2006 Rotary Police Officer of the Year.

Police Commissioner Paul White said that the prestigious award was highly contested and Rob was chosen from a selection of highly commendable members.

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

Rob joined the Northern Territory Police Force in January 1998 and will celebrate his 20th anniversary in January of next year.

During his career he has worked across the Territory in rural and remote postings and main centres and has continuously been recognised for his hard work and good humoured attitude that drives his peers and also makes him a pleasure to work with.

Detective Sergeant Jordan is currently in his own words “putting the brakes on breaks” as head of the Commander’s Tactical Team.



Rob with his wife, Wendy and daughters Caitlyn and Jessica

Rob was humbled when he received a nomination for Rotary and Community Police Officer of the Year, and was surprised when he was selected.

“I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Darwin for the honour and am really proud to be receiving the award in front of my family and dignitaries,” said Detective Sergeant Jordan.

Nhulunbuy Awards Investiture

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) acknowledged the significant achievements and careers of Nhulunbuy members during an investiture ceremony on 22 August.

The Commissioner of Police and Chief Executive Officer Fire and Emergency Services, Paul White, Assistant Commissioner Operations Service, Grahame Kelly, Assistant Director Northern Territory Emergency Services, Mr Peter Davies and Assistant Director Strategy and Community Safety, Mr Alan Stephens attended the ceremony to honour recipients.

Mr White said the awards recognise the exemplary work of the Tri-Service and the deep respect the community has for the dedicated service of its members.

“Whether it is keeping the peace, preventing crime, upholding the law, or responding to emergencies and disasters, the Tri-Service is made up of people committed to serving and protecting the community,” he said.

The Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Medal was awarded to Annette Marie Lear, Paul Mastin, Gregory Robert Milne, Scott Kenneth Morris and Howard David Smith. The medal recognises volunteers who have completed five years of distinguished service with the Northern Territory Emergency Service. The Unit Officer, Bruce Mc Norton proudly accepted the awards on behalf of recipients unable to attend the ceremony.

The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Medal was awarded to Senior Auxiliary (retired) Steven John Chandler, Senior Auxiliary Garry David Lynch, Senior Auxiliary Peter Patrick Monteiro, Senior Firefighter Gary Osborne, Auxiliary

Captain John O’Shea and Senior Auxiliary Milan (Milo) Percic.

Senior Station Officer Graham Johnson received the NT Fire and Rescue Service 20 Year Bar. Graham has worked as the Officer in Charge at Nhulunbuy since 2002 and was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in this year’s Queens Birthday Honours.

The Northern Territory Police Service Medal was awarded to Senior Constable Ryan Chinner in recognition of his steady work rate and reliability which has made him one of the valued senior members of the Nhulunbuy Police Station.

Senior Constable Roger Bernard D’Souza and Constable Sarah Jane O’Connell were recognised for their bravery during a dangerous domestic incident on 25 March 2006.



Some of the recipients in Nhulunbuy

IAWP Training Conference

by Sandra Mitchell

Northern Territory Police was strongly represented at this year's International Association of Women Police training conference in Denver, Colorado.

Six members of the organising committee for next year's conference in Darwin, plus five ACPOs and a



mentor (sponsored through grants from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment) attended the conference, drawing much from the training as well as significant interest in next year's conference.

The NT contingent had an exhibition booth, which was used to market next year's conference and some of the unique experiences of the Northern Territory. The ACPOs were involved through demonstrations of dot painting and didgeridoo making, as well as attending the training sessions.

One of the coordinators for next year's conference in Darwin, Superintendent Jo Foley, said the interest shown by



Emergency Response Taskforce

Anyone who wants further information on the conference, or wishes to register should visit www.iawp2008.org

Members of the Northern Territory contingent in Denver, USA at the all Nations Parade

the delegates for next year's conference was pleasing.

"We received around 40 registrations from delegates for our conference and many expressions of interest, so we're on track for a well-attended and very successful conference," she said.

The NT delegation hosted a hospitality night for delegates, which attracted more than 300 people and provided an opportunity to showcase the Territory.

Support for the delegation was provided by Crocodylus Park owners, Grahame and Giovanna Webb, who provided staff shirts from the park for the NT delegates to wear, as well as crocodile teeth hat bands, which added to the 'outback' flavour of the night.

Those who attended were given an opportunity to test their Australian geography (by pinning icons, such as Uluru and the Sydney Opera House on a map), crack whips, play two-up, taste Australian wine and try thong throwing.

The delegation was joined by Steve Goddard (wife of ACPO Denise Goddard) who participated in many of the events during the week, including the hospitality night. Steve, with ACPO Jeffrey Simon, played guitar for a short bracket of entertainment for delegates, joined by the rest of the NT contingent (and several in the crowd) for a heartfelt (if off-key) rendition of Waltzing Matilda.

The Denver conference provided a great training opportunity for members of the delegation and focused the minds of delegates on attendance at next year's Darwin conference.

"The IAWP is committed to professional development and training and it's really exciting that the Northern Territory has an opportunity to showcase some of the great work and unique challenges we face in policing," Supt Foley said.

Next year's conference will offer the opportunity to attend unique workshops on the Tiwi Islands, while several high profile keynote speakers have been secured, including:

- Dr Tim Turner, of the FBI
- Professor Emeritus Eli Silverman, John Jay College
- Dr Sue Gordon OAM, Chair of the Northern Territory

Director retires - NT Fire & Rescue Service



Bruce Mouatt, the Director of NT Fire & Rescue Service retired on 12 October after three and a half years with the agency.

Mr Mouatt was appointed in February 2004 after the Metis review of NT Fire and Rescue Service. He was responsible for implementing a range of recommendations from that review and also had responsibility for NT Emergency Service during that time.

He oversaw the development of the NT Fire Service specialist capabilities relating to Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) and also Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).

As Director NTES he coordinated the NT response to cyclones and floods.

Mr Mouatt said joining the agency was a significant career change, after around 14 years in Darwin prior to his appointment – he was here with the RAAF in early 90s and then moved to Telstra before working in private industry for a time.

He said it had been rewarding to be able to implement the changes from the Metis review, which had changed the face of NTFRS.

“Ours is a fire service that is nationally very well regarded. That can be seen through the role our firefighters have played in major fires interstate in recent times and emergencies such as the Ghan derailment and cyanide spill in Central Australia last year.

“And we should not underestimate the day-to-day services they provide to Territorians across a range of areas, from firefighting and motor vehicle crashes to school education and building safety,” Mr Mouatt said.

Mr Mouatt joined his wife Alison in Adelaide at a home they have acquired in the Adelaide Hills and is looking forward to spending time with his family.

Alaskan Fire samples Territory Lifestyle

By Katie Fowden

Bryan and Kim Majeske of Alaska arrived in Darwin last July, to sample a year of Territory lifestyle as part of a 1 year Sister Cities Firefighter Exchange with NT Fire and Rescue Service.

So, from the snow and a log cabin in Alaska to an elevated, louvred home in the Northern Suburbs, one might ask, “How’s life in the Territory?”

The couple’s response, “beach walks, fishing in flip flops and pool parties, but we miss our dog Leroy”.

From an average day where Bryan worked 24 hour shifts, fighting home fires and providing emergency medical treatment, he is now focusing efforts attending road accidents, automatic fire alarms and occasional bush fires based at Stuart Park Fire Station.

He praised the station saying, “the sense of belonging and the welcome we have both received is extremely comforting and certainly assists in both getting on with the job at hand and enjoying what the territory has to offer.”

Kim, a teacher of 16 years, is enjoying a year off, and unfortunately, cannot be tempted into our education system. Kim did however volunteer a session at Wanguri primary school where pupils marvelled at stories of snowshoeing, snow machining and ski flying.

Bryan is known as “juice” by his mates because of his lasting energy on the Ice Hockey pitch (although Kim says this was more relevant in Bryan’s youth). Regardless, there is plenty of energy with this couple who didn’t come here to simply kick back, drink beer and throw another shrimp on the ‘barby’.

Enjoying morning cycles down the foreshore and trips around the territory, they are certainly making the most of their limited time.

The debate continues as to whether they will have a Christmas tree this year as “Christmas in this heat is simply not the same”.



Bryan and Kim in Alaska with their dog Leroy



Bryan and Kim here in the Territory

NTES competes in National Disaster Rescue Competition

Six Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteers recently competed in the 2007 National Disaster Rescue Competition held in Bunbury, Western Australia.

The event attracted Emergency Service teams from every State and Territory in Australia and was designed to allow competing State and Territory Emergency Service rescue teams to come together and show their skills (or learn new ones) in Disaster Rescue.

This year's Team was led by Keith Hutton, Unit officer of the Darwin Volunteer Unit. He was supported by Phil Walker from Alice Springs Volunteer Unit, and team members Sharon Overend from the Ti Tree Volunteer Unit, Selwyn Kloeden from the Hermannsburg Volunteer Unit, Seth Duggell from the Palmerston Volunteer Unit and Damian Clifton from the Alice Springs Volunteer unit. Senior Education and Development Officer, NTES Mark Cunnington was Team manager and NTES Manager of the Southern Region, Rob Romaldi was one of the national judges.

The group got together in Alice Springs for one week's training before flying to Perth and travelling to Bunbury for the two-day competition held on November 3 and 4.

NTES Manager, Southern Region Rob Romaldi said NTES members were highly skilled and their technical expertise was up there with Services from other jurisdictions.

"It's extremely satisfying to see that our commitment to training is recognised and applauded on an Australia-wide level," Mr Romaldi said.

Some of the aspects included risk management, planning and decision making, extraction techniques, casualty removal strategies and tools and equipment usage. While the NT team did not place high in the final overall

standings, scoring was such that teams were within a few points of each other. The Northern Territory was awarded the inaugural Brian "Horrie" Howard (Chairman of the Australian Council of State Emergency Services) Spirit of



Competition award, which is awarded to the team that showed the most spirit, comradeship and willingness to learn from and impart skills and knowledge to other competitors. This award is voted on by their peers, other teams and judges, and demonstrates the high regard in which the NTES is held.

Director NT Emergency Service, Peter Davies stated the result was a credit to the team.

"This shows that although we might be small in comparison to other Services, the NT Volunteers do have the level of expertise and commitment required and are second to none," Mr Davies said.

"I am extremely proud of our members".

Wet season preparedness

The Northern Territory is a great place to live, but all Territorians need to prepare for cyclone season. Last year was a comparatively quiet year for cyclones, yet the tropical low which later became Cyclone George caused storm damage to Darwin and extensive flooding across the Top End. As a new cyclone season approaches, it is time to prepare so that we keep our families safe.

The Northern Territory Emergency Service is at the forefront of getting the Territory ready for cyclone season. Community safety planning has been in full swing throughout the dry season with Emergency Service officers travelling to all parts of the Territory to work with remote communities to update local counter disaster plans and conduct training courses.

New flood and storm surge brochures have been produced the Emergency Service web site has been updated and now contains a lot more advice on how to prepare for emergencies such as cyclones and floods.

Emergency Service volunteers have also been very active, preparing for the wet season, honing their skills and maintaining their equipment. Recruiting drives have been run and training courses are in full swing. Notably, six enthusiastic volunteers represented the Territory in a National General Rescue competition – an important event because it allowed the teams to learn the latest techniques and skills from their fellow volunteers around Australia. (see story above).

NTES Vertical Rescue Team - Ready to respond

by Jane Kearney

The Darwin Region now has an enhanced response capability with the NTES Vertical Rescue Rapid Response Team fully trained and on standby. The nine members of the team are NTES volunteers from the Darwin and Palmerston Units. These dedicated individuals recently completed a comprehensive Vertical Rescue training course which encompassed training in vertical rescue techniques, roping systems and casualty management.

NTES has a first responder role within the Tri-Service for incidents involving heights or depths. This made it necessary for all members on the NTES Vertical Rescue team to be confident in every aspect of vertical rescue, including abseil techniques, load line systems, belay systems and casualty escort techniques. The voluntary members rotate through various roles, ensuring that everyone is now comfortable in filling any role, as required.

Seth Dugdell from Palmerston Volunteer Unit and Mark Cunningham from the NT Emergency Service Training Unit put a heavy emphasis on realistic training. Most of the training scenarios used are based upon events which have occurred in the



past, and where possible members are trained on location. This on location, hands on training is the only way to properly learn and appreciate the subtle differences that will be encountered on the job.

Vertical Rescue is a very technical rescue and is potentially very hazardous. The amount of checks and balances put in place, redundant safety measures and high degree of training means the NTES team will be able to operate in a safe environment.

The current team has a core of trained and experienced members which will be expanded over the next 12 months. Team members go on a 24/7 standby roster, effectively committing themselves to being in a fit and responsible state of mind and available to move at moment's notice. This may not sound like much to most, but it is a significant commitment as team members will be expected to respond regardless of the time of day. This team of highly trained individuals means the Darwin region now has a rapid response team which is able to be on the road within 30 minutes to respond to an incident.

The level of enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by the team has been exceptional.

New chaplain for Southern Region

New Chaplain for NT Police, Fire and Emergency Service Denis Von Blanckensee has a unique understanding of his role, having spent 35 years as a police officer.

Denis retired from the Queensland Police with the rank of Superintendent and was officer-in-charge of the Gold Coast Police District for the last four years of service.

His father was also a police officer serving 42 years before his retirement.

He was 20-year-old when he completed his three months' police training and his first shift was working night shift foot patrol – on his own – in one of the sleazy pub districts of Brisbane. "We didn't have a partner in those days," Denis said. "Our foot patrols just intersected with each other. You just had to learn very quickly."

During his long career he was stationed at various places in Queensland and also spent 10 years on secondment to the State Transport Police (now defunct) where he kept bus, cab and truck drivers "honest".

Since retiring Denis and his wife Daphne have done a lot of travelling around the country, but moved to Alice Springs after a position became vacant for a Chaplain for the Tri-service. For many years his three sons had been involved in pastoral work in the Pentecostal churches, and Denis and

Daphne had also become heavily involved.

Their son Mark was appointed pastor of the Assemblies of God Church in Alice Springs four years ago, and when the Chaplaincy became available he suggested to his father that this job was perfect for him – especially given his long policing career.



"I had already been doing pastoral work through the church for a number of years and felt this was where I was meant to be. The work has involved supporting people who are not well, or who are struggling. That's pastoral care and that's also the Chaplaincy role.

Denis is currently studying Chaplaincy as part of the Certificate 4 Ministry Course.

"I feel I've been accepted extremely well and people are glad to see me, but like any new job, they're looking, they're gauging, they're sizing you up. I see my role as supporting people with needs. That's not just Police, the Furies and Emergency Service guys. It's also supporting members of the public who are involved in traumatic events. My role is simply to be there and to listen. As is often said about chaplains, we loiter with intent."

A Valour medal for Roger D'Souza

Recent award presentations at Nhulunbuy saw the presentation of a valour medal to Senior Constable Roger D'Souza. The story below outlines the incident that led to the award.

On Saturday evening 25 March 2006 Senior Constable Roger D'Souza and Constable Sarah O'Connell were on duty when at about 9.08pm they responded to a report of an offender on premises at a unit in Chippis Street Nhulunbuy.

They were later to find out that Jason Joseph Braun had gone to his former girlfriend's unit at about 8.45pm. She and her daughter were not home and Braun unlawfully entered her unit and commenced smashing items and then used furniture to barricade the doorways. He also armed himself with a number of knives and an axe.

During this time Jason Braun made a number of phone calls and contacted 000 reporting an intruder at his location.

Upon arrival Senior Constable D'Souza and Constable O'Connell noticed smashed glass however the doors were locked and no lights were on – shortly after they got a response from the offender. They then spent the next two hours talking to him through the kitchen window. The members' priority was to ascertain that the occupant and her daughter were safe and that Jason Braun did not harm himself.

It was clear from his behaviour that he was intent on harming himself and he wanted police to do that. He said

things like "Come in you guys. You've got guns, I've only got knives. Come on in."

Senior Constable D'Souza continued to talk to the offender and Constable O'Connell radioed for assistance advising that the situation was escalating and additional resources were required.

Waiting for 'back up'

Senior Constable D'Souza continued to engage the offender who without warning exited through the laundry door only 1½ metres away - he had a knife in his mouth, was carrying a large knife in his right hand and a long handled axe in his left hand and another knife tucked in the rear of his shorts.

Jason Braun advanced upon Roger D'Souza threatening him striking out with the knife in his hand. Senior Constable D'Souza retreated drew his Glock, telling Jason to stop and fired a shot into the air, he continued to approach still swinging the knife towards Roger's left arm and upper body area.

He continued the pursuit into Sava Street until Senior



Roger receiving his Valour medal from the Commissioner

Continued on next page

Constable D'Souza faced him again telling him to stop and firing another shot into the air. This did not dissuade the offender who continued to advance into the intersection striking out with the knife and telling Senior Constable D'Souza to shoot him.

At about this time Jason Braun noticed Constable O'Connell who also had her firearm drawn and aimed at him. He was advancing on Senior Constable D'Souza and stated that he had to shoot him - not the policewoman.

Acting Senior Sergeant Tony Deutrom arrived at this time and saw the offender armed and advancing. He acted quickly and positioned his police vehicle between the offender and Senior Constable D'Souza. Jason Braun was arrested and on the 16 October 2006 entered a plea of guilty in the Supreme Court to Threats to Kill, Assaulting Police and the Unlawful Entry and Criminal Damage.

Senior Constable Roger D'Souza has been awarded the NT Police Valour Medal and Constable O'Connell a Commissioner's Commendation.



Sergeant Tony Deutrom receiving a certificate of Appreciation from the Commissioner, Paul White

Fire & Rescue Graduation – Squad 1/2007

Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service's newest firefighters graduated from their training at a ceremony at the Darwin Fire Station on 15 August.

Ten members from Squad 1 graduated in front of Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Honourable Clare Martin MLA.

The ten members completed their 15-week training course and promptly received their first postings to Darwin (6) and Alice Springs (4).

The majority of the recruits have come from the Territory; two others have come from Melbourne and Perth.

Their diverse backgrounds include careers with tourism, mechanical repairs, personal training, mental health, logistics management, policing, electronics and IT; the graduate from Melbourne is an experienced firefighter who has made the move to the Top End.

Former Director Bruce Mouatt said the value that the community places on the NT Fire and Rescue Service related to the quality of its firefighters and the valuable service they provided.

"It's about recruiting the best people for the job to provide the best possible service to the community," he said. "I wish them every success in their careers with the NT Fire and Rescue Service."





Outside the Nyirripi Police Station and Council Office



Larry from the Galiwinku Night Patrol



Accommodation units getting loaded onto HMAS Betano



Officer in Charge, Acting Sergeant Micheal Deutrom and AFP Constable Danielle Leske at the Mutijulu Police Station



Aboriginal Community Police Officer Samson Ngalmi



Bulman Police Station



Constable First Class John Hose, Officer in Charge, Sergeant Rob James and Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham at the Santa Teresa Police Station



Willowra Police Station



Willowra Police provide a safe place for local children in their pool, with supervised swimming hours between 4.00pm and 6.00pm



Senior Constable Rob Colthorpe, Sergeant Margaret Cassidy, Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham and Officer in Charge, Sergeant George Hatzimalis in the Galiwinku Police Complex

TASKFORCE THEMIS



Children at Imanpa



Vehicle inspection at Willowra



Construction under construction



Galiwinku Police Complex



Mutjulu Police park up at Ayers Rock

Graduation -Squad 91/2007

Members of Squad 91 graduated at a ceremony held recently at the NTPFES College Parade Ground at the Peter McAulay Centre.

This ceremony marked the end of a 28-week induction training course at the College for the 26 members.

The 19 men and seven women come from a range of backgrounds, with 12 recruited from the Northern Territory. The remainder are from Queensland (6), New South Wales (5), South Australia (2) and Victoria (1).

Their ages range from 20 to 44 and previous vocations include defence forces, teacher, painter, tour guide, accountant, security guard, station hand and self employed.

Graduates of Squad 91 were posted as follows: Alice Springs (14), Katherine (6), Darwin Police Station (2) and one each to Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy, Palmerston and Casuarina.

Police Commissioner Paul White said, "The squad represents the standards expected of all police officers

including honesty, integrity and dedication to serving the community."

"It's particularly pleasing to see that 12 of the 26 graduates are Northern Territory residents making the change to a career with the NT Police.

"Congratulations to all graduates for choosing to serve and protect Territorians and I wish them all the best with the challenges ahead."

Award winners

Rod Evans Memorial Trophy (highest academic achievement): Katie McKean, 20.

Commissioner's Trophy (best overall course performer in academic, practical and physical training): Adam Donaldson, 23.

Physical Training Trophy (outstanding physical training ability): John Tickner, 25.

Glen Huitson Trophy (most consistent application in all areas of training): Nathan Nunn, 31.



Auxiliary Graduation – Squad 29

The third auxiliary squad to be entirely trained by the Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre (JESCC) graduated recently at the Peter McAulay Centre.

Police Auxiliaries perform critically important roles in support of our corporate goals, in three specialised service

areas, namely Communications, Front Counter and Watch House duties.

Part of the training is the commencement of Certificate 3 in Customer Contact in line with our continuous improvement philosophy to develop the Northern Territory Police Force and provide excellent service to the community.



A first for the squad is the recruitment of Police Auxiliaries (Communicators) specifically for the Alice Springs Police Station. Alice Springs is establishing a Communications Section incorporating the same technology as that currently utilised in the JESCC in Darwin.

Of the 10 women and one man in the group, two were posted to Alice Springs and the remaining nine to Darwin.

Compartment Fire Behaviour Training - Alice Springs

Firefighters in Southern Region will now be able to fight fires more safely and efficiently following recent training in improved methods of fighting “compartmentalised” fires.

Firefighter Garry Branson and Senior Firefighter Trent Johnston co-ordinated the Compartment Fire Behaviour Training course which has now been delivered to 31 firefighters in Southern Region including Airport firefighters as well as Auxiliaries from Yulara.

The technique was developed in Sweden after a number of firefighters had died in “flash-overs”. Research into why flash-overs occurred in confined structural fires discovered that the gases in such fires super-heated and exploded, so it was vital to cool the gases rather than simply flood the seat of a fire.

“Before this new technique was introduced we’d go in under all the smoke and stuff thinking it was a harmless by-product of the fire, however studies have shown that the fire gases are highly flammable and potentially explosive. The gases are also radiating heat down on other fuels, creating



more vapour-type fuel and bringing the combustible gases to their automatic ignition temperature.

“The new method involves sending small “pulses” of water into the smoke to keep it from heating up and igniting. Each pulse of water is roughly a cup- full compared with the thousands of litres previously used to extinguish the seat of the fire.

“This has the potential to save lives and reduce damage – especially water damage. And fire investigators love it because we don’t displace evidence.”

NT Fire & Rescue Service Fire Investigation Level 2 Course

The NT Fire and Rescue Service recently facilitated a Level 2 Fire Investigation Course at the PFES College for 12 members. The course was attended by six firefighters and six police officers. This course finalises a unit in the Public Safety Training Package, Conduct Fire Investigation and Analysis Activities and will allow the participants to become Fire Scene Investigators.

The “Burn House” at the rear of Darwin Fire Station is divided into several rooms and was utilised for the practical component of the course. Four scenarios were decided

upon and the resultant rooms were constructed. A child’s bedroom, a lounge room, an office and a clandestine drug lab were prepared with furniture and fittings to resemble, as closely as possible, the actual rooms that may be found at a fire scene. The donated furniture and goods were collected from members of the PFES College, St Vincent De Paul and the Salvation Army and the NTFRS would like to thank those that assisted with furniture.

The rooms were burnt on the first day of the course.

The participants were teamed into four syndicates and arrived the following day to conduct a fire scene investigation on one of the four scenarios. Teams were made up of members from each service and this proved to be an ideal way to recognise the strengths and depth of experience that the participants could contribute to each of their teams.

The assessment process included correctly determining the origin and cause of fire as well as their presentation of evidence under scrutiny in a moot court at Charles Darwin University.



TOP: The “burn” house

Day Patrol to Daly River

Below is a short story from ex-member Tony McEvoy who along with Peter Wilson and Terry Boxall, also retired, travelled to Daly River (where they both previously served in the 1960s) after Police Remembrance Day this year.

I am Tony McEvoy, an ex-member of the NT Police. I joined on 26 June 1956 and resigned on 24 August 1966. All I shall say about the reason for leaving is, if the wives don't like the living conditions they don't want to stay.

During the 10 years I served I was stationed at Darwin, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Daly River, Adelaide River, Alice Springs and fatefully Tennant Creek again. I enjoyed the work at the various places. Daly River was a bit unique at that time because nothing ever happened there until the Wet season set in. My normal day was to get the trackers to water the garden. It was quite extensive at that time, probably because some of my predecessors had green thumbs. We had pineapples, bananas, custard apples, rosellas, five huge mango trees and a few other things such as taro.

The local cattle station was Tipperary, owned at that time by Stan and Leo Byrne. One bullock per week was allotted to the police station and Catholic Mission. The river was full of fish and the trackers, Brandy and Frog, were expert fishermen using fish spears and a lot of patience. Fresh fish and fresh beef was a good diet. I had 21 horses on strength so a lot of the time I learned to handle horses.

There was no need for horses at this time because a Land Rover was the transport provided. Neither could be used during the Wet. The river broke its banks to the east and to the west during the rainy season; this caused the low land away from the levee to be flooded leaving the police station and the Mission stranded on an island, about five kilometres long by one kilometre wide. This included the airstrip thank goodness.

We kept a few small pigs for a change of diet and fed them on mangoes in the Wet Season, and wallaby (boiled) in the dry. With wise use of the freezer in the kerosene fridge we always had either fish or meat in the Wet. There was of course salt beef and salt pork always on hand.

Well that gives you a bit of an idea why they moved me from Daly River and replaced me with Gordon Stott who was near retiring. The reason for the peace and quiet at Daly River was the road in from the highway was rather rough and did not get graded every time it needed it. Aborigines were not allowed to drink and there were no licensed premises. I had to get my grog out by MacRobinson Miller, the airway at the time.

I just thought I would let you know what a resort Daly River was at that time, hence I loved the place but I was only there for 15 months. There was of course the other side of life in an isolated area where there was a shortage of medical expertise and that was the sicknesses combined with ignorance. In the Wet Season 1958/59, there were a number of deaths of young children in the area. I notified the Coroner of each death and requested permission to bury. At the time we could neither get out nor could anyone come into Daly River due to the saturated country. I was instructed

to investigate each death. This resulted in eight inquests being held.

Getting back to the present time and my recent patrol to the Daly in company with Peter Wilson and a much older ex-member Terry Boxall aged 87. We were pleased to find that when it became known the three of us wished to visit the Daly, Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham agreed to allow Neil Joyce to drive us. It took about three hours from Darwin and on arrival met up with some of the locals. Peter Wilson was anxious to see Miriam Rose Ungun who was the niece of his tracker when he was at Adelaide River. Atawomba Joe, as the tracker was known, was the faithful tracker of the renowned Tas Fitzler. When Tas retired he asked Peter to look after Joe because Joe had served faithfully for many years but was now old.



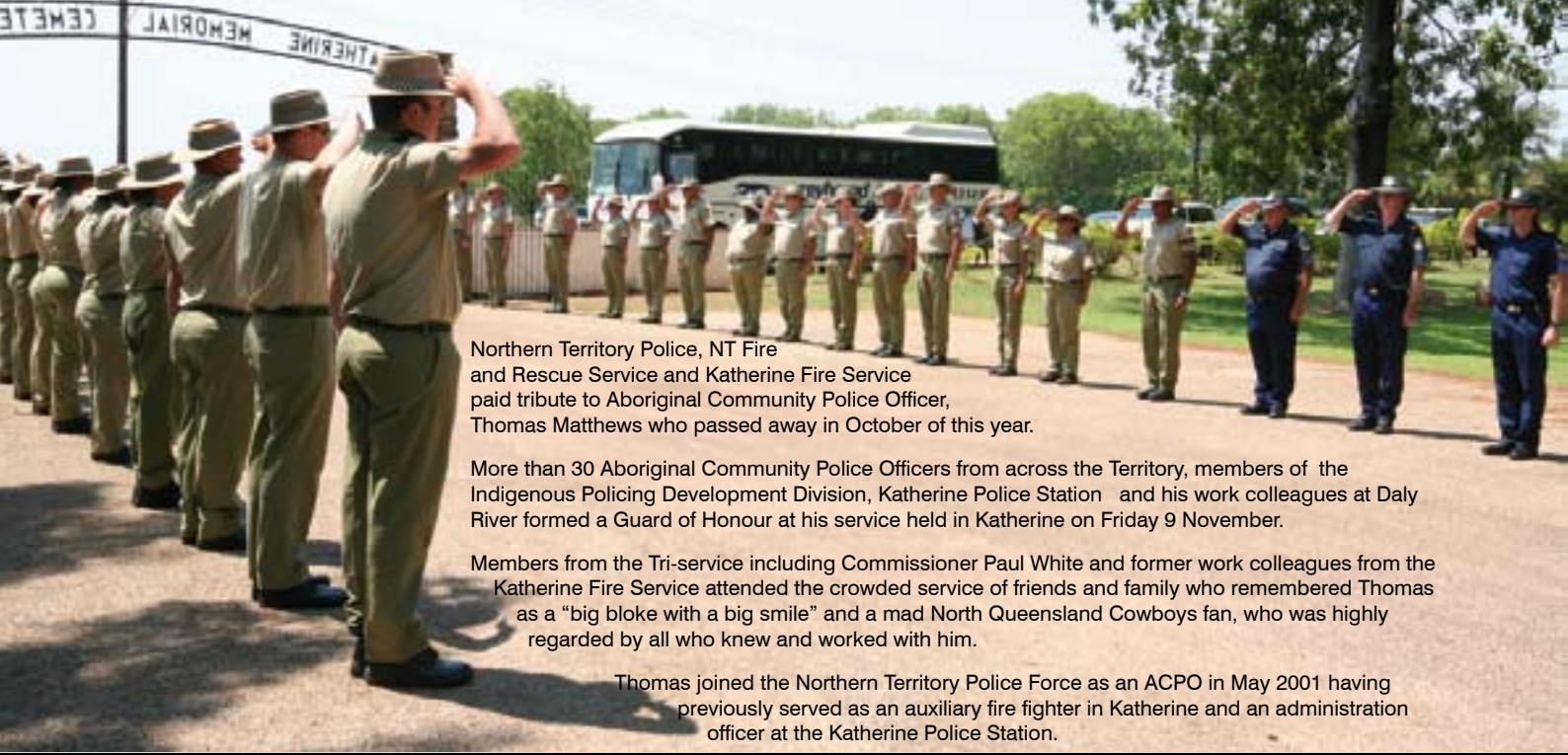
Tony McEvoy, Peter Joyce, Terry Boxall and Peter Wilson. Tony telling another great story

Peter undertook to do this and so met Miriam. He encouraged her to go to school and now she is a well educated woman who is doing some work for her own people. Among others we met were Bernard, son of Bill Parry and Jim, son of Joe Parry, brothers who were identities there when I was stationed there fifty years ago.

The place has changed. An inspection of the river revealed that a considerable number of vehicles are using the sand bar and have hardened the surface. The old ford is now a road making access to the other side of the river easy. We drove to the old Mission and saw the church which John Darcy built and which I assisted in a minor degree. It is obvious that the licensed premises have changed the whole atmosphere of the area. More people about. More motor vehicles around. The whole ambience has changed from the peaceful idyllic rural area I knew in the past to a hotch potch of civilization.

Present day members probably cannot understand how it could be so quiet at that time but due to the lack of grog even those who were allowed to drink did not drink much because they had so far to bring it. During the whole 15 months I was stationed there I had only one assault which I put before a court. The assailant belted a woman. The matter was heard in Darwin and the famous Tiger Lyons represented the defendant. It was considered a minor offence.

Guard of Honour



Northern Territory Police, NT Fire and Rescue Service and Katherine Fire Service paid tribute to Aboriginal Community Police Officer, Thomas Matthews who passed away in October of this year.

More than 30 Aboriginal Community Police Officers from across the Territory, members of the Indigenous Policing Development Division, Katherine Police Station and his work colleagues at Daly River formed a Guard of Honour at his service held in Katherine on Friday 9 November.

Members from the Tri-service including Commissioner Paul White and former work colleagues from the Katherine Fire Service attended the crowded service of friends and family who remembered Thomas as a "big bloke with a big smile" and a mad North Queensland Cowboys fan, who was highly regarded by all who knew and worked with him.

Thomas joined the Northern Territory Police Force as an ACPO in May 2001 having previously served as an auxiliary fire fighter in Katherine and an administration officer at the Katherine Police Station.

Ti-Tree School kids get special escort to school

Police at Ti Tree have come up with an innovative way to encourage children to go to school.

Through a combined effort between local police, school staff and the Anmatjere Community Council several strategies were developed to tackle the problem surrounding school attendance.

One of the strategies involved school staff travelling on the school bus to identify children who should be attending school but were not on the bus.

Another strategy involved police randomly attending Ti Tree and the neighbouring Six Mile Community in the mornings to help rouse the children. The police car travels in front of the bus with lights and sirens activated. Officer in Charge Justin (Syd) Harbour then gets one of the young people in the community to speak in language through the police loudspeakers advising everyone the school bus has arrived and it is time to go to school.

"We came up with this idea after there was general concern about low school attendance," Syd said.

"As a bush police officer I try to get involved in every aspect of the community I'm working in and I was happy to be allowed to help with the solution.

"The school principal and I talked to the council and the council were happy to support our plans to get

the attendance levels up. We sent a letter out to each of the parents reminding them they had to send their kids to school on a regular basis, and to encourage that we decided to use the police car to attract their attention in the morning. "The kids actually think it's great fun to be escorted to school by a police car with all the lights and sirens."

Another of Syd's initiatives was the Blue Light Venture as a reward at the end of the term if attendances stay up.

"It's all working very well and has given the community a real sense of achievement as they all try to support the strategies."



ACPO Phillip Alice coaches Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) football team to victory



The Santa Teresa Football team that wowed the Top Enders when they took out the pre-season competition with team coach ACPO Phillip Alice (standing front right).

Discipline, training and a hunger to win – these are the qualities that saw the Ltyentye Apurte football team blitz the competition and win the Darwin country football carnival in October, according to their coach Aboriginal Community Police Officer Phillip Alice.

Phillip has been coaching football teams at Santa Teresa for the past 20 years. While at school in Darwin he played for St Mary's and was their leading goal kicker in the 80s. He also represented the NT in the schoolboy Rugby Union competition in Canberra.

Through Phillip's coaching skills the Santa Teresa team has become one of the best-regarded in the local community football competition played in Alice Springs. However, despite their reputation, no-one was prepared for their incredible success against the Top End teams in October.

They played nine games in three days in hot and humid conditions, yet they remained undefeated and won the grand final against the Tiwi Islanders.

Because they won the competition they've been invited to play in Melbourne at the MCG in the curtain-raiser for the start of the AFL season between Richmond and Essendon next year. They'll be playing another all-Aboriginal team from either Western Australia or the Northern Territory's Top End.

And the secret of their success?

"They listened." Phillip said.

"Also I got them acclimatised by having our training sessions at 3pm to get them used to the heat. Also they had very strict rules. No drinking, no going out before a game, no stepping out of line. They were very well-disciplined and were hungry to win the title in Darwin and put Santa Teresa on the map."

Scouts from country Victorian football clubs were in Darwin to watch the competition and offered four Santa Teresa players an opportunity to play professionally.

"I'm not sure they'll go. It's hard for them when they leave here, but I'm still glad they got recognised by outside clubs, in some ways I really hope they take up the offer because it could be a dream come true." Phillip said.

"I think this is the best team I've ever coached. If they listen and put their mind to it, they can achieve anything"

Frank Curtis is back

One of the Territory's most experienced and longest-serving Aboriginal Community Police Officers was re-sworn this month (October) after he returned to the Territory from Western Australia where he served for five years as a Police Liaison Officer.

Frank first joined NT Police as a "tracker" in 1983 in Alice Springs.

In those days "trackers" did the work of today's "physicals" – as well as the odd bit of real "tracking" when people got lost.

Frank said he joined because he wanted a challenge and wanted to use his tracking skills.

A few years earlier, Frank had won himself a fair bit of fame when Sixty Minutes came to Alice Springs to report on a remarkable young man who had initiated a program called Night Patrol. (Night Patrol was later to win a TIO Northern Territory Community Achievement award.)

Frank was a drug and alcohol co-ordinator for Tangentjere Council at the time and saw a need to assist police and the

Aboriginal community in stopping anti-social behaviour. The first Night Patrol was born.

The program was such a success, he was eventually sent to Papua New Guinea to explain the concept to police there.

"That's when I got really interested in becoming a police officer. I saw a lot of indigenous people there in police uniform and I just started to think I would like to do that."

In 1992 Frank was sworn in as a Police Aide and after completing his own training was asked back to Batchelor to mentor other Aboriginal people trying to complete the course. (The name Aboriginal Community Police Officer was adopted in the late 90s.)

He continued working in Tennant Creek for four years before transferring to Alice Springs and then later to Maranboy. During his career he also played an important role in the winning of two Northern Territory Road Safety Awards. The NT Road Safety Council and NT Police developed education programs and strategies which was attributed as assisting to bring down the Territory road toll.

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The group also won a National Road Safety Award.

"I love the job and it means you're a role model to the community and others look up to you, you also get the respect from the Aboriginal people in the wider community." Frank said.

Frank's twin brother Danny also served as an Aboriginal Community Police officer for a number of years. He is now working in South Australia.

And in keeping with tradition, Frank's daughter Ann joined up in August last year.

"Ever since I was little I always knew I wanted to be a police officer like my dad".

Ann was involved in Night Patrol in Kununurra and also started a traineeship in Business Administration. She also studied to be a teacher at Murdoch University in Perth for six months. "But I knew I didn't want to be a teacher. So I decided to come back to the Territory and train to be an Aboriginal Community Police officer like dad."

Ann was recently selected as part of a group of 12 people from the Territory who attended the International Association of Women In Policing Conference in Denver, Colorado, USA.

"I was so excited when they told me I was going to go, but at the same time I was quite scared as I didn't know what to expect over there," Ann said.

"I expected it to be a whole different world over there, but it turned out to be alright. The seminars in particular were good and it opened my eyes to a different view of policing. It also made me realise that here in the Territory I think we're a lot more involved with the community."



Frank with his daughter Ann

NT Blue Light Bush Tour June – July 2007

By Constable Ward Tucker

The Darwin Branch of Blue Light NT recently completed a very successful tour of discos at remote communities. The tour party consisted of Darwin DJ Kevin Jacobbson, Constable Ward Tucker and his 13 year old son Geordie. More than 4,600 kilometres were travelled in the two weeks.

Nine discos of the scheduled 11 events went ahead as planned and received excellent support and participation from the communities involved. The events were attended by around 1500 children and almost 700 adults.

All of the discos were enjoyed immensely by the communities with the Blue Light theme of smoke, drug and alcohol-free entertainment for the youth of the community respected entirely at every location.

The tour was made possible through the support of Honeycombes Motor group who provided Blue Light NT with a Hyundai Tucson for the tour and the following six months. The fully finished vehicle was delivered only a day before departure and ran like a dream for the entire trip.

Discos were held at the communities of Barunga (sport and rec hall), Numbulwar (cyclone shelter), Hodgson Downs – Minyerri (council shed), Jilkminggan - Duck Creek (School), Bulman (sport and rec hall), Lajamanu (rec hall), Yarralin (Council Carpark), Timber Creek (basketball court)



NT Blue Light Vehicle in front of Solar Power array at Lajamanu Community

and Pine Creek (community centre). Thanks again to all the members who attended the discos in their regions. Amazingly the numbers of people attending at most of these discos was greater than the population of the communities themselves. A lot of the older kids we already knew from doing discos at their boarding schools in Darwin and they were eager to show the little ones how to get a groove on. The biggest disco was at Lajamanu (approx

continued on next page

600 people) where we arrived to discover a Royalties meeting for the Walpiri people taking place, so all of Yuendumu community were there as well.

Overall it was a very successful tour. The people at every location were supportive of discos in their communities on a regular and much more frequent basis. At the end of the day for all the efforts we put in, from the planning stages which began in February right through to conducting the tour, we were rewarded with another couple of thousand smiling faces and the encouragement to do the "Tour" bigger and better next year.

The boys at Lajamanu



National Police Remembrance Day

National Police Remembrance Day was celebrated across the Northern Territory in September, to pay tribute to those men and women throughout Australia and the South West Pacific Region who lost their lives while carrying out their duties as police officers.

Prior to the Darwin service, a parade consisting of the Police Colours, the Police contingent and the Retired Police Association members marched from Darwin Police Station to the St Mary's Cathedral.

This year marching down Mitchell Street brought crowds out of the shops to get a view of the parade. One lady was overheard saying 'That was so great, next year I'll bring the kids into town to watch that.'

St Mary's Cathedral provided a beautiful setting for the ecumenical service. This year's singers included Sand Williams, Doug Loft, Senior Constable Dave Skelton, Sergeant Angela Stringer and the Darwin Chorale. Of course they are always looking for more singers, so start practising for next year and join the team. Services were also held at Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine.

All officers and their families know that policing can sometimes be a dangerous job but when a life is taken, the 'police family' pulls together to support and care for one another.

Eleven officers died while performing their duties throughout Australasia and the South West Pacific Region in 2006-07.



TRS Infield Assessment Program

An assessment centre was recently held as part of the recruitment for new members of the Territory Response Section (TRS).

For the first time two female assessors joined the regular TRS team as new applicants were put through their paces. Sergeant Diana Brown, a trainer from the Police College and Constable Juanita Day of the Drug Enforcement Section helped assess the nine members who participated.

Female officers were included in the assessment team to assist female members in making an informed decision, create an awareness of the recruitment process and provide an insight into the activities undertaken by TRS on a regular basis.

Sgt Diana Brown said that assisting in the assessment was a fantastic experience and believed it was not impossible for women to be successful in the process.

“It is a very uncomfortable three days for the participants but definitely not an impossible task. It will require a lot of hard work and training.”

Diana suggests that any female considering having a go should train with the TRS members beforehand.

“There is no point doing it alone and I’m sure you will achieve better results training with the members.”

“You need to prepare your feet for the walking, your shoulders for the stretcher carry, your stomach for the food (rat packs) and your head for the sleep deprivation” she said.

Constable Juanita Day believes anyone seriously interested in joining needs to prepare mentally, not only physically for



An applicant on a recent TRS Assessment during a roping exercise at the Marrara Sports Stadium.

the assessment program and be prepared for all that the three days entails.

“I really enjoyed being involved” Constable Day said.

“The guys in TRS were excellent and it was great to see the camaraderie in the section. I am sure it would be a great unit to be a part of. To participate in and pass the assessment would be a fantastic achievement for anyone - male or female” Sgt Brown said.

Anyone interested in a career in TRS is encouraged to apply for a position in the twice-yearly assessments which are advertised in the Gazette.

Officer Marlu turns up in the UK By Katie Fowden



As the International Association of Women Police Conference 2008 draws closer, the part of the marketing strategy known as ‘CUTE’ (Cuddly Uniformed Teddy Expedition) has commenced.

The CUTE itinerary kicked off when Marlu arrived at Lancashire Constabulary, UK (pictured).

Despite the NTPFES media unit’s continued efforts to contact Officer Marlu, it is unclear at this stage where the CUTE itinerary will take him to next.

Last known contact was two days ago when Officer Marlu requested a raincoat and thermal underwear.

Photo courtesy of Lancashire Constabulary, United Kingdom.

Katherine Careers Expo

By Dani Mattiuzzo

This year's Careers Expo held at the Katherine High School in August was a huge success with 650 potential recruits visiting the NT Police stand. There was much interest and lots of giveaways compliments of Neighbourhood Watch and the Crime Prevention Unit.

The most popular part of the display was Senior Constable Tanya Holliday's Crime Scene Kit with many of the students lining up to have their fingerprints taken and wanting to know how to become a crime scene investigator (like the ones on TV) – if only we could solve all crimes within an hour.

With the age of recruitment being brought down to 18 years, many of the senior students showed interest in joining.



Dani with some of the Katherine High students

Katherine Crash

On August 29 Katherine police arrived at the scene of a crash on the Victoria Highway to find the mangled wreck of the vehicle sliced in half. Officer in Charge Steve Heyworth said that since there was no one in the vehicle, police immediately contacted Emergency Service volunteers to assist in a grid search of the area, strongly suspecting to find seriously injured or dead people in the bush.

Mary-Anne Browell and Les and Megan Smale from the Katherine Emergency Service unit responded and conducted a search of the surrounding area.



One of the passengers was subsequently found around 300 metres away from the wreckage, walking around in the scrub in a confused state. About six hours later the driver was found safe, walking in the Katherine city centre, and another passenger was located in a safe condition in East Katherine.

It is understood that the silver Mitsubishi Lancer was travelling at speed near the Katherine Showgrounds when it veered off the road and hit a light pole at around 5.30 am. The front section of the car came to rest 700 metres from the mangled back section, where one of the passengers was sitting.

“How anyone managed to walk away from that is an absolute miracle,” said S/Sgt Heyworth.

Beat the Heat Community Event – Katherine

Katherine Police in conjunction with Beat the Heat (NT) Inc hosted the Katherine 'Off Street' Drags on 3 November at the Manbulloo Airstrip, approximately 25 kilometres from the town on the Victoria Highway. The event was coordinated by Constable Aaron Milligan of the Katherine Police Station.

The Beat the Heat initiative is designed to encourage young drivers to race their cars at organised 'off street' events instead of engaging in illegal racing on public streets and break down barriers between authority figures (police) and young drivers through the common interest of motor sport.

The inaugural 'Katherine Off Street Drags' event held in 2006 attracted approximately 20 competitors. Entrants to the 2007 event, which takes drag racing back to its grass roots, travelled from all over the Territory and a total of 46 vehicles (including motorcycles) competed. Spectators were treated to four class winners (including The Heat and two supercharged purpose built drag cars) from this year's Hidden Valley Drag Racing Association competition rounds.

A number of activities were held on the day including a 1/8 mile drag racing competition, burnouts, show and shine and a drift/burnout circuit.

The occasion attracted approximately 200 spectators and was hailed a tremendous success by the organisers and the community. The event was coordinated with the support of local businesses and other NT Government sectors, including Fire and Rescue, NT Emergency Service, Rural Bush Fire Brigade and St John Ambulance.



Insurance was provided by the Territory Insurance Office at \$605 and was covered by entrance fees which totalled \$870 – the remaining money was donated to the Accident and Emergency area at Katherine Hospital.

Officer in Charge of Katherine Police Station, Senior Sergeant Steve Heyworth praised the hard work and initiative of Constable Aaron "Spike" Milligan who spent long hours in his own time organising various aspects of the event.

"Aaron has set high standards for probationary Constables for their community involvement competencies – his dedication and hard work really paid off."

NT Library Literary Awards By Ellen Pocock

In May this year I entered the NT Library Literary Awards in the category Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers Award, which allowed for any sort of composition from a 3000 word short story to poetry. I chose to write an abridged version of my Mum's life as she had passed away on my birthday in April this year.

I entered and didn't think anything else of it until I was contacted in late August and told that I was a finalist in the category. I only told a couple of people at work that I was a finalist and that I was going along to the Awards night in October, however Jeannie Secrett spied me all dolled up and

wanted to know where I was going. On the night I attended with my daughter as my husband had to work overtime and was absolutely blown away when they read my name.

When I got to work the following Tuesday when Jeannie was on, she promptly told everyone. It is an achievement I'm proud of because now it means that with the story published in the NT Literary Awards Book, my Mum's story is part of the NT's written history.

As the winner I received my certificate in a frame, a copy of the publication and a cheque. So now that this has settled into my bones I'm pleased to share it with others.

Thank you.....

To the Northern Territory Police Community,

Please accept this letter as a symbol of our appreciation of the support that you have shown us over the previous three weeks as we have dealt with the death of our baby daughter Emily Jane.

To the Northern Territory Police Association, thank you both for your compassion and the monetary support.

To the NT Police and the AFP, the compassion and support that you have extended to us has been phenomenal.

To the Southern Region Police Chaplain thank you for your guidance and understanding. The kindness and generosity of these organisations and individuals has made this challenging time all the more easier.

Once again thank you.

Jason and Rachel Sipple

Police Remembrance Day 2007

