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DRUM

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

Liquor Management Plans
Discipline Review
Ground Breaking Ceremony
Australian Institute of Police
Management

MARCH 2006



Commissioner's message

International Women's Day on Wednesday 8 March 2006 presented a good chance to reinforce with all sections of the community, the valuable work effort of police officers occurring across the Territory as part of the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy.

Violence committed upon anyone is a crime and far too often the victims are women and children. Our own research revealed that 60 per cent of victims were female with many subjected to violent behaviour repeatedly.

And not surprisingly, almost one third of all offenders were repeat offenders.

We launched the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy in November 2004 following this research, and it has led to a number of significant outcomes.

On the front line, general duty police are seeking DV orders from the Courts, arresting offenders for aggravated assaults and for breaching DV orders. Police attached to Domestic Violence and Personal Violence Protection Units are dealing with the more complex cases and targeting repeat DV offenders. At another level, we are coordinating inter-agency responses and using quality assurance techniques to ensure the best outcome for victims.

I acknowledge that our pro-active strategy has led to increased workloads across the board including reports of assault and aggravated assault. In the current financial year to 28 February the police force has responded to 3065 reports of assault, including aggravated assault. We believe that almost half are related to domestic violence. We know that an important part of the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy is keeping an eye on offending behaviour and it is therefore no surprise to see the increase in reported assaults, as well as a 96 per cent increase in breaches of DV orders this financial year. Neither is it too bold to suggest that in many of these cases, intervention by police has prevented more serious crime from occurring.

I would therefore like to thank all police officers, especially those on the front line for your professionalism and commitment to the strategy. We know that domestic violence is a criminal offence and we know that everybody should be entitled to live their life without the threat of violence. And we know that we have an obligation to protect women and children from such violence. In fact, freedom from violence must surely be central to a civil society.

We expect that these reports will eventually plateau and decline, once those who commit violence realise they will be held to account for their actions and decide to change their attitude and behaviour. I hope that all police officers and support staff involved in the strategy realise they are demonstrating clear and decisive leadership in dealing with the spectre of violence, especially domestic violence.

On an entirely separate matter, I wish Detective Senior Constable Carmen Butcher a speedy recovery from the debilitating injuries she suffered while rescuing a passenger following a tragic bus crash in Egypt in January. Along with Superintendents Helen Braam and Jeanette Kerr, Carmen had just started on a holiday in Egypt as part of an Australian study tour, when one of the buses overturned, killing six passengers, including two Victorian police officers and seriously injuring several others. Carmen acted bravely by going to the aid of an injured and trapped passenger in the immediate aftermath of the crash, only to suffer a fractured pelvis when the roof of the bus collapsed on her. Carmen, Helen and Jeanette performed courageously in their response to the crash, however, the seriousness of Carmen's injuries has meant a prolonged stay in hospital. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well.

Paul White APM

Commissioner of Police and
CEO of Fire and Emergency Services

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FRONT COVER:

Alice Springs Police Officer, Constable Brad Fox, on patrol with tourists on a camel tour in the Todd River.

BACK COVER:

Nhulunbuy Police Officer, Sgt Charles Rue puts local youngsters through their paces at Surf Life Saving training.

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Liquor Management Plans

By Sandra Mitchell

Over 473,129 square kilometres in the Katherine and Northern Regional Command the implementation of Liquor Management Plans are proving valuable in dealing with anti-social and criminal behaviour.

The Command represents 35 per cent of the land mass of the Northern Territory and – as with other areas of the Territory – faces issues relating to substance abuse, in particular, alcohol.

The *Liquor Act* has provisions for allowing individualised liquor plans to suit communities, with Part VIII of the Act containing provisions for restricted areas. The development of the plans result from hearings and consultation involving stakeholders.

Individual plans have been implemented in a range of communities, from Alyangula and Nhulunbuy in the east, Maningrida and Elcho Island to the north, Wadeye in the west and Lajamanu in the south.

Each community has a different set of circumstances and the individual nature of the management plans, along with the consultation and ownership with stakeholders in each community adds to the acceptance and levels of success of each plan.

In some cases, the communities are declared “dry” areas and restricted from alcohol possession and consumption to perimeters that vary from community to community. In others, the plans are about management of liquor within restricted areas, rather than prohibition. In every case the aim of the plans is to reduce the wide-ranging impacts of alcohol – from school and work attendance and health of community members to the reduction of anti-social

and criminal behaviour, including domestic violence and traffic offences.

Reports from officers in charge of police stations throughout the Command consistently reflect the effort and strategies required to manage and maintain the conditions of each plan ... and the benefits that come from doing so.

The management of such plans requires commitment from the whole community and much of the task of that management relates to policing issues. With strong commitment from the community, policing is made easier with assistance in identifying breaches of the plans, including trafficking of alcohol into restricted communities.

In brief, some of the benefits consistently reported from communities that have implemented plans include:

- Reduction in alcohol-fuelled crime, such as disturbances, assaults and other crimes
- Higher employment levels (at Kalkaringi people must be “workers” to be allowed to join and drink at the club, resulting in all CDEP places being filled)
- More disposable income being spent in stores and supermarkets.
- Improved school attendance by children not affected by noise/arguing at night
- Better health of some community residents.

On Groote Eylandt, incorporating Bickerton Island, the plan was only implemented in July last year, after lengthy and complex consultation with stakeholders in the community.

Since that time, there has been more than a 50 per cent reduction in disturbances, assaults and unlawful entries on Groote Eylandt (*OPR Showcase, November 2005).

Officer in Charge at Alyangula Police Station, Senior Sergeant Dean McMaster, said the plan required all residents who wished to be considered for a liquor permit, apply to the Groote Eylandt Liquor Permit Assessment Committee. The Committee is a representative of all stakeholders on the island and it makes recommendations about permit applications to the Licensing Commission.

Permits are assessed on an individual basis, with consideration given to prior criminal history, wishes of the community where the applicant resides and the need to have some individuals on conditional permits. The focus is on liquor management not liquor prohibition.

Snr Sgt McMaster said the introduction of the plan had seen a dramatic decrease in the amount of anti-social behaviour and alcohol related offences associated with poor liquor management, while a large local employment firm had reported significant drops in sick leave by indigenous employees.

He said there were early teething problems with the introduction of the liquor management plan and further community consultation and education was required during the first few months - but the results and clear parameters of the plan was having an impact on alcohol related issues.

At Maningrida, police play a very active role in the Liquor Management Plan, heading the Maningrida Alcohol and Substance Committee, made up of health, council and other organisation representatives as well as elders from the indigenous community. Alcohol is distributed through a quota system once a fortnight in what is affectionately known as "the beer ceremony".

The Maningrida plan focuses on both sides of the equation – for the drinkers and for those who don't wish to deal with the outcomes of such drinking. Officer-in-charge of Maningrida Police Station, Sgt Ray Musgrave, describes the plan as providing some protection for people living in the community. And in case there are any doubts about how seriously breaches of the plan will be treated, the Liquor Management Committee has installed a sign above the official Liquor Restricted Area sign at the perimeter of the area – it has a Toyota troop carrier vehicle with a red line through it and the words "Bring grog past here and you lose your car and go to court".

The resounding opinion from stakeholders involved is that the plans are working for their respective communities, but there are indications that they have caused some "urban drift" or transfer of some of the problems to other unrestricted communities or major centres, including Katherine, Timber Creek and Mataranka.

In Katherine there are clear displacement issues with many of the hard core itinerant population from Ngukurr, Lajamanu and Kalkaringi. They choose to live in the 'long grass' and consume alcohol on a daily basis, not being able to do so within the restricted areas of their home communities.

This presents further issues for stakeholders in the community, including police, who must assess ways of dealing with issues presented from this 'drift'.

One method being considered through the Harmony Group at Katherine is the introduction of a Liquor Management Plan, involving community stakeholders.

It is envisaged the introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act and Alcohol Court legislation through parliament in February will also allow better management through greater access to alcohol dependence treatment models.



Discipline Review

Submitted by Supt Rob Farmer

The recommendations of an extensive review of the Professional Responsibility Command and the Northern Territory Police discipline system are to be implemented in a project overseen by Strategic Planning Command.

In 2004 the Strategic Planning Command began the review, examining existing police discipline systems in other jurisdictions and consulting extensively with stakeholders throughout Australia and the Northern Territory (including the Ombudsman, the Police Association and police members).

This research and consultation revealed that historically discipline systems have tended to lead to managers and supervisors awaiting a negative incident rather than addressing behavioural problems when they are first identified.

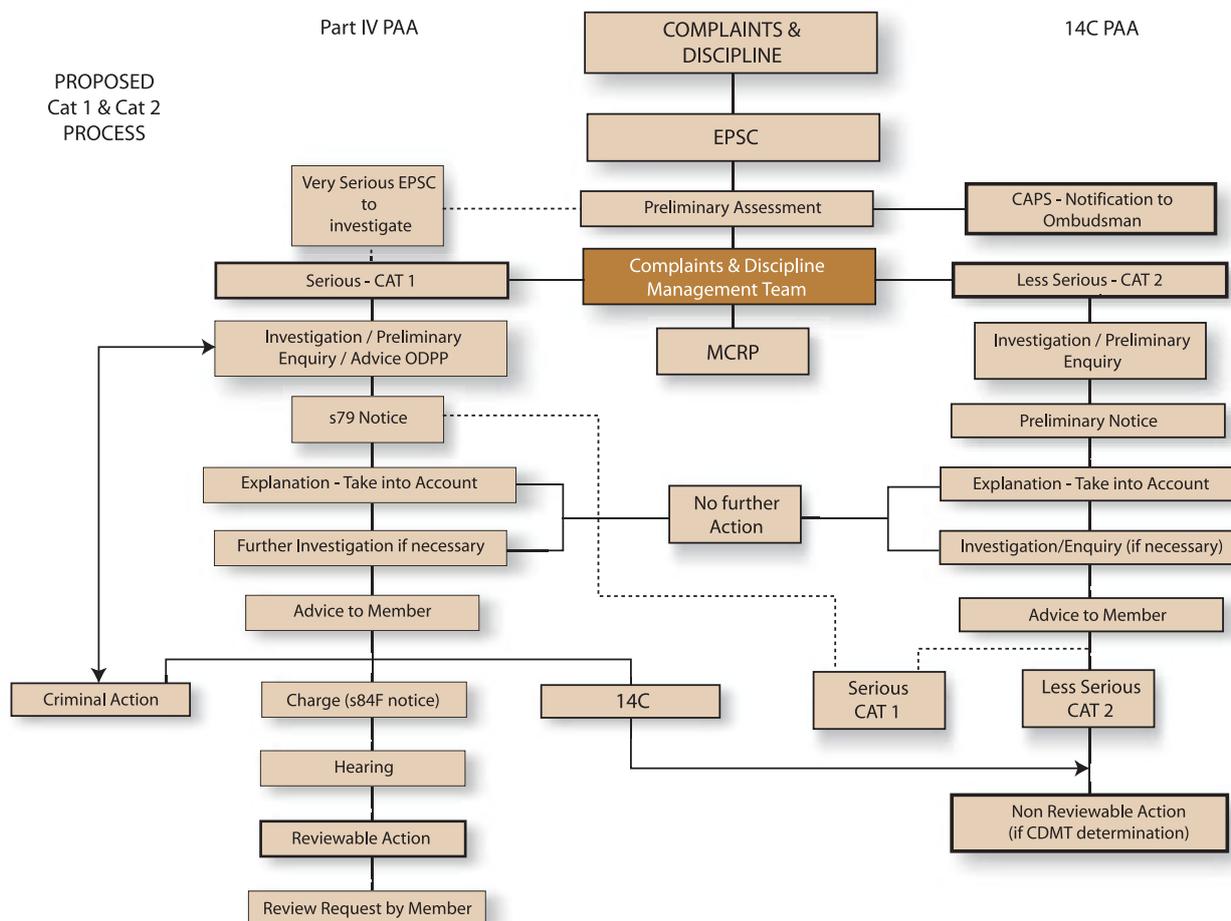
It showed that modern police discipline systems endeavoured to move from the formal adversarial model to a more managerial or remedial model that placed the responsibility on supervisors at patrol or equivalent level to deal with complaints and matters of discipline.

The review was completed in late 2005 and resulted in a total of thirty six recommendations that included:

- ◆ Development of a new discipline system that recognises that only serious breaches of discipline should be dealt with under the present adversarial approach. Less serious breaches of discipline should be dealt with under a managerial and remedial model.
- ◆ The creation of a Performance Management System with an emphasis on correcting behaviour at the earliest opportunity and supervisors taking responsibility for their staff.
- ◆ Complaint and Discipline Management Teams created in each Division to oversee and manage complaint and discipline investigations.
- ◆ Redrafting of Part IV (Discipline provisions) of the *Police Administration Act* to provide clearer and less complex procedures.
- ◆ A training package to support the new discipline system.
- ◆ Restructure Professional Responsibility Command with additional staff and the creation of an Internal Audit Section.

Superintendent Rob Farmer has been seconded to work on the implementation of the 36 recommendations and is presently developing the policy to support the proposed changes.

Part of the review of the Professional Responsibility Command has led to a name change for the unit. It is now known as the Ethical and Professional Standards Command, or EPSC.



Carol Skultety Farewell

NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services farewelled a dedicated and respected member of staff with the retirement of Carol Skultety last month.

Carol's retirement ends a 25 year association with executive and policy areas of the Northern Territory Government, including work with the Department of Chief Minister, Jabiru Town Development Authority, the Administrator, Office of Local Government, Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, NTETA and Correctional Services, before joining Police Fire and Emergency Services in 1997.

In presenting Carol with a farewell gift on her last day, Commissioner of Police and CEO of Fire and Emergency Services, Paul White, paid tribute to her work ethic, dedication and loyalty and her unstinting efforts on behalf of the Tri-Service. He paid tribute to her service and unflinching good humour in a stressful and demanding role.

Carol was also the subject of an adjournment speech by the

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency, the Hon Paul Henderson MLA, at the last sittings.

Minister Henderson described Carol as "a rock of support for both the tri-service and my ministerial office."

"As anyone who has worked in a government ministerial office or a department can attest, the role of Director of Secretariat is something of a jack of all trades - a diplomat, an organiser, an information peddler and a tactician. During her time with the NTPFES Carol has progressed new and amended legislation, provided briefings for four budgets, delivered replies to ministerials and progress reports on election commitments and cabinet decisions and responded to urgent requests for assistance, all with a minimum of fuss," Minister Henderson said.

At a farewell lunch on her final day, Carol paid tribute to her



ABOVE: Commissioner White presents Carol with an NT Government plaque in recognition of her service.

colleagues in NTPFES. Carol cited the dedication and loyalty of staff members in the Tri-Service, saying the willingness of staff to go beyond the standard requirements of their roles as something the agency should be proud of.

One of the first things planned for retirement is a holiday for Carol and her husband, Stephen.



A recent beautification program by the ground staff has given a new lease of life to the grounds at Peter McAulay Centre, including the Glen Huitson Memorial Walk.

Snapshots of the Glen Huitson Memorial Walk situated in the grounds of the Peter McAulay Centre



Commendation for passionate young couple

A Darwin firefighter and his girlfriend have been presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Commissioner after they provided first aid and assistance at the scene of a collision last year.

Paul Horsington, 32, and his partner Samantha Lee King, 27, last September were the first on the scene of a motor vehicle accident involving a number of international tourists.

One man had serious head injuries and his back was broken in three places while one of the women suffered a broken arm and needed 50 staples to her head for her injuries. It was a very traumatic scene but the young pair went to work assisting the injured and comforting the uninjured.

The actions of the young couple came to the Commissioner's notice when he received a letter from both Rotary and Supt Dowd praising the professionalism and compassion of the pair.

RIGHT: Pictured at the presentation from left to right: Bruce Mouatt, NTFRS Director, Samantha Lee King, Paul Horsington and Commissioner White.

The Commissioner commended Paul and Sam for the Territorian spirit of camaraderie and friendship that they extended to the international visitors not only in their immediate assistance at the accident scene, but also the post-accident support they offered.

The pair accompanied the injured to hospital, accommodated the uninjured and the injured once released and housed family arriving

from overseas to visit those still in hospital. Paul and Sam have kept in touch with their European visitors and are sure to have the welcome rug rolled out for them if they ever travel to that part of the world.

Sam, who is currently employed as a truck driver with the Army, is due to finish soon and intends applying for a position with the NT Fire and Rescue Service.



National Indigenous Police Officer Forum

Alice Springs was the venue for a National Indigenous Police Officer Forum in December last year.

Delegates from all over the country attended the two-day conference which was held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre.

Commissioner Paul White said the purpose of the forum was to begin a national dialogue with interstate police jurisdictions on the topic of Indigenous policing.

The delegates were invited to listen to guest speakers, workshop a number of key issues and share ideas and showcase current strategies being developed across the nation.

On the first day of the Forum delegates were welcomed to country

by traditional owners, the Lhere Artepe people.

Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie then addressed the delegates before a number of presentations were given by police representatives from Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

Each day a number of key issues of general interest to all jurisdictions were addressed in a workshop-style session.

Commander (South Region) Mark Coffey said the forum had proved a valuable way of sharing information



and indigenous policing strategies across jurisdictions.

"This is especially helpful now, in this current climate of cross border patrolling and multi-jurisdictional policing. The forum enabled participants from all policing jurisdictions to share their knowledge and experiences and come up with directions for improved service and strategies in the area of indigenous policing."

Juanita Harris resigns

By Sharon Hutton

After 20 years with the NT Police, Juanita Harris has moved to greener pastures.

There wouldn't be too many officers in the Territory who don't know Senior Constable Harris who worked throughout the NT in her 20 years. In fact, she probably trained many of them.

Juanita first became interested in a career as a police officer while working for the organisation as a public servant in a variety of areas including forensic services during the mid 1980s. Juanita's brother (now Superintendent) Wayne Harris was in TRG at the time.

As a member of Squad 46 she graduated in December 1987 and was gazetted to Alice Springs and then later to Yulara as a general duties officer.

A career in CIB in Alice Springs followed before Juanita transferred back to Darwin and general duties policing.

Juanita moved into special operation areas serving in the Sex Crimes Unit, Missing Persons and the Drug Enforcement Section before finding her niche with the training college.

As a Detective Acting Sergeant in the Crime and Intelligence Development Unit, Juanita honed her already significant negotiator skills and was heavily involved in both domestic and counter terrorism related deployments, as well as attending a number of interstate exercises.

Juanita was a driving force on ASSIST, a suicide intervention program on which she delivered external courses at Charles Darwin University.

While with the NTPFES College, she was heavily involved in the development and facilitation of many



TOP: Juanita accepting her farewell gift

in-service crime and intelligence training courses, including the eight week Detective Training Course and the Operational Investigators Course.

Despite such a varied and challenging career, the decision was finally made to invest in a lifestyle change, with Juanita moving to Monto in Central Queensland where she is now working part-time and spending a great deal of time perfecting her golf and 'crackerjack' lawn bowling skills.

Following is a verse written in honour of former police officer, John "Pastry" Wilson, who passed away recently. It was written by Waldo & Sue, from Humpty Doo.

Pastry

John Wilson was a gentleman, a mate who you could trust,
These qualities stood out in him each day from dawn till dusk.

While serving in our police force, out bush or on the beat,
John had a smile from ear to ear, as he helped patrol our streets.

A dedicated journalist while at the Litchfield Times,
With stories yarns and poetry, and some just seemed to rhyme.

John later moved to Palmerston, and became old Santa Claus,
For years-n-years mesmerising kids, while mums-n-dads applaud.
John spun the wheel for meat trays, helped Rotary, and Lions club as well;
Sold raffle tickets for the senior cit's around the local hotels.

Then in the year two thousand and one was voted citizen of the year,
He humbly accepted the accolades with Val, that's when we shed some tears.

Let's pray for John's fine family, relations, mates and friends;
We love you John for the life you've lived which has sadly come to an end

So three big cheers for you old Pastry mate, let's raise our glasses high,
We'll meet around the old green ute in God's great outback in the sky.

A/C Payne presents to Auxiliary

An off-duty Police Auxiliary who was the first on the scene at a single-vehicle motorbike accident at Palmerston in November was recently acknowledged for her efforts.

The 29-year-old female passenger had fallen from the bike and was lying unconscious in a ditch.

Chrissie Frampton witnessed the incident, immediately called for assistance and began first aid on the injured woman.

By the time Palmerston Police, Fire and Rescue Services and St John Ambulance arrived, she had stabilised the passenger.

Assistant Commissioner, Mark Payne, awarded Chrissie a letter of appreciation for her selfless efforts at the scene.

"She controlled the situation at the crash scene and remained level-headed throughout, even when her young baby was crying in the background," he said.

"Those of us with kids know just how hard it is to focus on anything when our young are distressed, so Chrissie did well to focus and really must be commended for a job well done."



45 years of Women in Policing

This year marks the celebration of 45 years of women in policing in the Northern Territory.

Celebrations are set for 7 to 9 June and a small group of people is working on organising celebratory functions.

The celebrations of the 35th anniversary of women in policing were well attended and it is hoped that this year's celebrations will draw present and past women police from around the Territory and interstate.

Anyone who is interested in being a part of the group should contact Snr Sgt Jo Foley. All offers of assistance and involvement will be greatly appreciated.

Award for WAC

The NTPFES Women's Advisory Committee nominated for the Equity and Diversity Awards conducted by the Office of the Commissioner of Public Employment late last year.

At the awards dinner in November the Committee was Highly Commended in the open section – a great achievement for a small committee of volunteers.

A significant factor for showcasing the WAC was its business plan, which was the result of input from members of the committee, but in particular a lot of hard work by Sue Reaburn and Del Jones.

The Women's Advisory Committee was established to provide a mechanism for women employed by Police, Fire and Emergency Services to promote the role of women in the Tri-Service and ensure their skills and talents are recognised and developed.

The role of the committee is to:

- ◆ Maximise the contribution of women in the NTPFES

- ◆ Identify and report to the Commissioner of Police and CEO Fire & Emergency Services and the Executive Leadership Group on current and emerging issues that impact on women of the NTPFES
- ◆ Provide advice to CAWIPAC delegates on behalf of NTPFES women
- ◆ Establish and maintain a support network for women of the NTPFES

The recognition through the award has led to queries from other agencies in relation to women's leadership in the NTPFES - in particular they are very interested in the Plan and what is being done to increase women's in leadership positions.

Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee, Snr Sgt Jo Foley, said she believed the award and the Committee's on-going work would raise the agency's profile within the community and hopefully encourage women to join NTPFES.

Ground breaking ceremony

By Sandra Mitchell

Members of NT Police were among those from around the nation represented at the ground breaking ceremony in Canberra to mark the official start of work on the National Police Memorial.

The ceremony was conducted at the site of the memorial, at Kings Park on the northern shores of Lake Burley Griffin near the Carillon, by the Governor-General, the Honorable Michael Jeffery.

The memorial will be the result of years of planning, and a design competition by the National Capital Authority that was conducted in March of 2005.

A record number of 77 entries were submitted from around Australia and overseas, with entry by Brisbane based Fairweather Proberts Architects and Urban Art Projects unanimously selected as the winning design.

Deputy Commissioner of Northern Territory Police, Mr Bruce Wernham APM, who is a member of the Steering Committee for the memorial, Vince Kelly of the NT Police Association, Superintendent David Pryce (Dedication Planning Committee), Sgt Garry Casey (Commander for the Catafalque

Party) and Sandra Mitchell (Communications Working Group) were in Canberra for the service.

The memorial will be dedicated with a national ceremony on Police Remembrance day on 29 September this year. It will include more than 700 names of Australian police who have been killed on duty or died as a result of their duties since the advent of policing in Australia.

Commissioner of Northern Territory Police, Mr Paul White APM, said the memorial would commemorate the ultimate sacrifice of police officers, including those from the Northern Territory.

"Northern Territory Police will be a part of the September dedication ceremony in a variety of roles," he said.

"It will be fitting for NT Police to be represented at such a significant national event for policing and to honour the memory of those Northern Territory Police and other police who have died in the line of their duty," he said.

"So many of these officers died in the prime of their lives in the line of serving and protecting the



community of which they were an integral part," Commissioner White said.

The names from Northern Territory Police that will feature on the memorial are:

Mounted Constable John Charles Shirley (Died 7 November 1883, aged 27 years)

Died of dehydration while leading a party from Attack Creek (between Renner Springs and Elliott) searching for the offenders who had murdered a man at Lawson Creek.

Mounted Constable Albert Stewart McColl (Died 1 August 1933, aged 30 years)

Spared to death Woodah Island in Arnhem Land while guarding five women at who witnessed the murder of several fishermen.

Constable Maxwell Clifford Gilbert (Died 17 August 1948, aged 27 years)

Died when the vehicle he was driving overturned just north of Wauchope whilst escorting a prisoner to Alice Springs

Constable William Bryan Condon (Died 9 June 1952, aged 29 years)

Was shot twice after confronting an armed gunman in the street in Katherine.





NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL



**Inspector Louis Clandon Hook
(Died 16 June 1967, aged 50
years)**

Inspector Hook died from extensive injuries received in a motor vehicle rollover near Pine Creek.

**Sergeant Colin John Eckert
(Died 9 June 1970, aged 31
years)**

The newly promoted Sergeant was killed in a head-on collision south of Katherine, returning from a prisoner escort to Darwin.

**Senior Constable Allen David
Price (Died 11 December 1981,
aged 44 years)**

Died of a heart attack while attempting to quell a disturbance in the main street of Mataranka.

**Detective Sergeant Ian Graham
Bradford (Died 29 January
1984, aged 37 years)**

Died on patrol when the police vehicle he was a passenger in went over the edge of the wharf in Darwin.

**Brevet Sergeant Glen Anthony
Huitson (Died 3 August 1999,
aged 37 years)**

Died in a gun battle with an armed gunman on the Stuart Highway at the intersection of Old Bynoe Road at Livingstone.



TOP: Police Association Presidents with the Governor General and Mrs Jeffery.

FAREWELL SENIOR SERGEANT GARY TURNBULL

January 5 this year marked the resignation of Senior Sergeant Gary Turnbull from NT Police, after almost 24 years of service, a Valour Award and a Commissioner's Commendation.

Gary has resigned to take up a position in AFP's International Deployment Group, based in Canberra. At a farewell morning tea for Gary, Acting Commissioner of Police, Bruce Wernham said Gary's farewell was almost indicative of policing in the future, with more and more strategic partnerships being developed between jurisdictions and forces.

He paid tribute to Gary's service, saying he could understand why someone with Gary's background and talent would want to make the most of it.

Gary's career has been marked with several significant events, including what has become known as the Palmerston shootings in 1996, where he received a Valour Award for exceptional bravery. Gary was himself wounded by the gunman and hospitalised as a result.

He described that year as a "big time for me and my family."

"I was always going to be looked after by the department because I was injured at work. The incident put a great deal of strain on my wife and kids. When things began to look really bad for the family, the organization and the police association banded together and left us wanting nothing," Gary said.

In 2002 while off duty he assisted in the apprehension of an armed person at the Casuarina Pharmacy and received a Commissioner's Commendation for his efforts.

At his farewell that he described as his "mid-life crisis", Gary remarked on the change in his life since 1981. "I was a 16 year old walking around Katherine with a half-yearly Year 11 report and an expulsion order," he said.

"I was invited to an interview with John Henry Chute who obviously saw something worthwhile in me and gave me a job as a police cadet. Over the next couple of years despite a number of youthful antics I was nurtured and protected (from myself) by the likes of Bob Bradford and Jock MacPherson. After 24 years you could say the gamble they took paid off," Gary said ... and the rest, as they say, is history.

Gary spent most of his career with the Tactical Response Group (TRG) but also served in Alice Springs and Groote Eylandt.

In more recent times he has worked in the police college and as the OIC of Darwin Station and a watch commander in the Darwin Region. In January 2005 he was temporarily transferred to the Counter Terrorism Security Coordination Unit, making a significant contribution to the development and management of the NT's role in Exercise "Outer Edge 2005".

At the time of his resignation, he was responsible for the Property Office Project, which included a full audit of exhibits and items and a review of handling of property.

Gary told the colleagues gathered at the morning tea that he had much to be grateful for from his time with NT Police.

"I've developed good tactical, incident management and general policing and administrative skills – for this I am grateful," he said.



"I have been in the Northern Territory Police all of my adult life and have made many long lasting friendships both professional and personal – I will always be grateful for that"

"It doesn't feel like I have left the job. It feels like I have transferred interstate to another unit," he said.

He will work between Canberra and postings in the Asia Pacific in his role with the Operational Response Team (ORT) and he will not be totally lost to the NT – his family will remain here, so he will potentially be seen roaming the streets or catching up with colleagues from time to time.

LEFT: Deputy Commissioner Wernham pays tribute to Gary's service at his farewell.

The Australian Institute of Police Management

By Katie Woolf

For the past 50 years the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) has been conducting management and leadership programs for senior officers at its picturesque North Head site and NT Police have been well represented on the programs.

Dubbed “The Manly Experience” the program is considered a career changing step for police officers looking to move into the more senior ranks of their organisation.

At present the course offers the annual Police Executive Leadership Program (PELP) for officers who are typically at the rank of Superintendent, as well as a Police Management development Program (PMDP), conducted four times a year, targeting officers who are at inspector rank or equivalent.

All AIPM programs are residential, providing an environment for intensive study away from the pressures of the regular workplace, and giving course participants the opportunity to network with their peers in other jurisdictions.

Both of the residential courses offered are modules of fully accredited post graduate programs: the Graduate Diploma in Executive Leadership (PELP) and the Graduate Certificate in Applied Management (PMDP).

Lecturers and guest speakers on the programs include senior officers from the jurisdictions, CEOs of large and diverse organisations, politicians and senior public servants, high profile individuals, specialist practitioners, teaching staff and Visiting Fellows.

A highlight of the PELP program is the one day Commissioner’s forum, which provides an opportunity for

course members to discuss issues with their most senior leaders in their jurisdictions, also allowing participants the chance to hear the perspectives and opinions of leaders of other police jurisdictions.

Senior officers from all police services in Australia and New Zealand attend AIPM programs, and most programs now also include several officers from overseas.

The AIPM teaching team includes Visiting Police Fellows, who are seconded from jurisdictions to the AIPM for 12 month periods, and Visiting International Police Fellows from overseas agencies such as the Metropolitan Police, Centrex, FBI, DEA, Scottish Police College at Tulliallan, Hong Kong Police and the FBI.

Previous course participants praise Institute programs citing a renewed vigour upon returning to work, along with a reignited passion for learning, a greater understanding of management processes and better appreciation of the challenges facing their leaders.

Participants agree that the programs make them better prepared for the job they do now, and for the next phase in their career.

But it is not just the learning outcomes of the programs that continue to receive accolades. The supportive learning environment, with syndicate leaders and mentors from Australasian and International policing jurisdictions; the location in the midst of the Sydney Harbour National Park; the Library facility and helpful staff; and the food prepared in the Institute’s fully equipped commercial kitchen by the in-house chefs all rate strongly in participant evaluations. These are all contributing factors to what is well known as “The Manly Experience”.



Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID)

By Theresa Kuilboer

A Tri-State strategy to combat the supply of illegal substances and reduce substance abuse was launched in Alice Springs in January.

This was a combined initiative of Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australian Police who developed the strategy in response to petrol sniffing and other substance abuse problems in remote communities of all three jurisdictions.

Part of the strategy was the establishment of a Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID) which is based on the same principles as the Remote Community Drug Desk (RCDD) which operates in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

The desk is now staffed by an intelligence officer and an investigations officer who are based in Alice Springs. The role of the SAID is to collate intelligence and coordinate policing activities in the cross-border region, specifically in relation to petrol trafficking as well as trafficking of illicit drugs and/or alcohol.

The principal focus of the desk is on educating and developing the capacity of local police and the communities to be alert to and report suspicious behaviour.

Funding for the Desk in the form of \$500,000 has been provided by the Commonwealth Government.

Commander Mark Coffey said he welcomed the funding which would enable police from all three jurisdictions to gain a specific focus on substance abuse.

"If we can reduce the amount of petrol, alcohol and drugs in those communities, the other associated behaviours such as domestic violence, assaults and those sorts of activities will decrease," Commander Coffey said.



As part of the launch of the Desk, a press conference was held with police from all three jurisdictions. Following the press conference the media was invited to attend a campaign on the south Stuart Highway to highlight the launch. Traffic was pulled over and vehicles inspected for drugs using one of the drug detector dogs.

The event received national media attention and highlighted the work of police in cross-border law enforcement.

In the first week of the Desk being launched, Northern Territory and South Australia police launched a joint operation which resulted in a number of offenders being apprehended in possession of drugs near the border of the NT & SA.

During the course of the operation three drug search warrants were executed at the community of Mutitjulu near Ayers Rock where one summons for drug and alcohol offences and two Drug Infringement Notices for possession of cannabis were issued.

Four persons were also arrested near Kulgera on the NT/SA border for drug offences including a 59-year-old male who was arrested after a drug detector dog assisted in locating a commercial quantity of cannabis, a trafficable amount of methylamphetamine and a quantity of Lysergic Acid (LSD).

The potential combined value of the illicit substances seized from the 59-year-old male is estimated at \$60,000.00. A vehicle used in the commission of the offences was also seized as property used in the commission of a crime.



LEFT: As part of the launch, a tourist bus was pulled over and searched.

Remote Station Profile - Wadeye

By Katie Woolf

Situated approximately 320 kilometres south-west of Darwin, Wadeye has a population of around 2800 people.

A young community with over half the population under the age of 15, Wadeye consists of people from approximately 20 different clans, rendering it extremely culturally diverse.

In 1979 Wadeye was separated from the Daly River police district when a new police station opened to deal with law and order issues.

The station now has five police officers, and an ACPO to cover around 35 000 sq km of land including the Peppimenarti and Palumpa Communities.

Police officers stationed at Wadeye range in age from 25-years-old and up and according to Wadeye's officer in Charge, Sergeant Shane Taylor, it is a great experience for young police officers to gain exposure to incidents which they may not have the opportunity to cover if they worked in the city or bigger towns.

"There is always variety and it is challenging work in Wadeye. Officers get the opportunity to do a variety of different jobs and also have the opportunity to see tasks through to completion. It is a great place for the young officers to gain experience," he said.

Shane has been stationed at Wadeye for approximately 12 months and says that while Wadeye is a dry community, police are kept busy working with elders to

keep alcohol and other drugs out, in an effort to avoid violence against women and between rival clan groups. "Rival groups which are aligned to different clan groups have always been an issue in Wadeye due to the fact that around 20 different clan groups live in Wadeye - a community which was traditionally occupied by only three or four different clans."

"We are however lucky to have an enormous amount of support from the community, who want to work through different problems," Sergeant Taylor said.

Though Wadeye is a community not without its problems, it is easy to see police have the support of locals, who take the opportunity to discuss problems with police, as well as get involved in fishing and hunting when members are not on the beat.

The Wadeye community itself has a primary school, take away food store, health clinic, swimming pool and council building shed.

The police compound offers three elevated homes, a duplex consisting of two two-bedroom units and it has been proposed that another duplex be built.

Police officers stationed at Wadeye are also actively involved with the community outside work and enjoy the outdoor lifestyle with locals.

"The lifestyle here is great if you enjoy the outdoors. When we are not working we have the opportunity to fish and hunt and just enjoy the bush lifestyle."



ABOVE L to R: Commissioner Paul White, Superintendent Anne-Marie Murphy, Constable Tyron Bellman, Constable Ainsley Phipps, Sergeant Shane Taylor, Constable Matt Ridolfi and Superintendent Matt Hollamby.

Part-time success story

As workplaces continue to change and flexible work practices are becoming a more important part of work choices for people, we profile the experience of one member of NT Police who has chosen part time work after the birth of her children. Dani Mattiuzzo began her association with NT Police as a cadet and has been a police officer for 20 years, with postings to Darwin and Katherine. Below is her experiences relating to returning to work part-time.

I have four children and have been working part time for about ten years – all at the same station. When I had my first child, I took the “six year” maternity leave. I knew I would be back at work well before the six years but wanted to keep my options open.

Part time policing had not been introduced and I didn’t want to be locked into returning to work after one year.

Heather Donald, another Police Officer in the same Command, but at another station wanted part time work so we shared a position. Half the position was in Katherine and she made up the other half at Borroloola. Although we shared the position we obviously worked very independently of each other. This worked very well for several years.

If I could not have come back to work part time, I don’t think that I would have come back at all.

I have worked part time between each of my children. I have come back to work at different stages depending on the child’s temperament and child care availability.

After having my first child, I returned to work in GD’s, after being away for about 14 months. I spent the first few weeks catching up with changes, then it felt like I hadn’t been away at all. I was used as an extra resource, as a bit of roster supplement. This meant I could help with staff shortages or special operations. I was an experienced Senior Constable and I was prepared to do anything. I did that for a couple of years.

When I became pregnant again, I was restricted to indoor work like Prosecutions, Front Counter and Domestic Violence follow up

When I had my second child, I came back part time again.

The third time I went into Prosecutions. I job shared a day shift position as a prosecutor three days and two days alternatively. I worked with another female police officer, Katie Hatzimalis.

We organised our own roster and it was flexible in relation to our children. We effectively made a whole person, and our OIC didn’t mind which of us was working, provided the duties were carried out. This arrangement worked really well. We both had high skill levels in the section and could step into each others shoes anytime.

The fourth time I came back, I originally job shared with a School-Based Police Officer who had a young child. She was not enjoying full time work with a young child and approached me.



We discussed the possibility of the two of us job sharing the position of School Based Police Officer. We approached the OIC with our suggestion. The OIC approved a trial of the job share arrangement. We worked three days each week with both of us working together on Wednesdays as a cross-over liaison day.

We tended not to claim overtime because it meant we can have some flexibility if we had activities or childcare issues with our children. This officer was transferred out of the area and another Police Officer in GD’s who

had three children and was studying full time wanted to work part time. We did that for over a year and it worked very successfully.

I’m still working part time. I have never had any problems or issues with management at the station. They have always been helpful and supportive as possible.

My colleagues have never seemed to have an issue with my choice to work part time. I have worked as a supervisor. Sometimes I come to work on my days off to do follow ups and make phone calls. If you are working part time and there are gaps where jobs are not quite finalised, I feel that sometimes I can’t leave them until the next time I am working. This same issue has arisen from 12 hour shift rosters where you can have six days off duty in a row.

In relation to ongoing training I don’t feel that I am discriminated against. Most of the courses are full time and in Darwin. Training is an issue for anyone who lives outside a major centre, as most of it is conducted in Darwin or Alice Springs. My life is fairly challenging so I can’t just up and leave four kids for any length of time. I have continued to participate in training when I can juggle my family to accommodate.

I absolutely love my job and I would have hated to choose between family and job. For me my family would have to win. I believe the key is to find a balance. It is difficult to juggle family and work but I believe that part time work allows for that balance for any parent of small children. I believe it is also a valuable option for those people who are studying.

I will go the extra mile to make sure I am competent, proficient, and professional because I accept that there is a downside to the organisation with me working part time. I am as flexible as my family allows. I appreciate that the department allows me to work part time. Had part time not been available to me, I would have taken the full six years maternity leave and not returned to work for many years.

Triple graduation

By Sharon Hutton

For the first time ever, Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services have hosted the graduation of Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPOs), Firefighters and Police officers in one combined ceremony.

Twenty-five police recruits from Squad 83, nine fire and rescue officers and 13 ACPOs graduated on December 15, 2005 in a momentous ceremony at the Darwin Basketball Stadium at Marrara.

For the three graduating squads, the ceremony marked the end of many months in the introductory stage of training at the Police, Fire and Emergency Services College with the police recruits spending 30 weeks in initial training, the fire and rescue officers 16 weeks and the ACPOs 10 weeks.

Across the squads, the awards were dominated by former members of the defence force with three of the four police awards and both of the fire service acknowledgements given to men formerly employed by the Airforce, Army or Navy.

Jamie Lauder, 36, formerly of Mildura in Victoria, was presented

with the *Rod Evans Memorial Trophy* for the highest academic achievement as well as the *Commissioner's Trophy* as the best overall course performer in academic, practical and physical training. Jamie recorded the highest academic average in the last two years and the fourth highest since training has taken on this format. Before joining as a recruit, Jamie was a member of the Airforce Security Police. His brother who is a member of the Victorian Police was on hand to see Jamie graduate, with the two brothers posing for a photo with Commissioner Paul White. Jamie will be stationed in Katherine.

Previously employed in the landscape and irrigation industry, Mark Derksen, 32, formerly of Parramatta in NSW, was presented with the *Physical Training Trophy* for outstanding physical training ability.

The *Glen Huitson Trophy* for the most consistent application in all areas of the training course was awarded to Dion Bowdern, 34, formerly of Kerang in Victoria, who was previously a member of the Australian Army.

Mark and Dion are now both stationed in Darwin.

Amongst the Fire and Rescue Officers who graduated, former Australian Air Force man Rohan Banks, 26 of Darwin received the *Silver Axe* for exemplary achievements in all facets of fire service activities.

Former electronics technician with the Royal Australian Navy, Joseph Mettam, 28 of Darwin received the *Most Dedicated Student Award*, in recognition of his continual dedication to personal excellence throughout course.

ACPO Labi Lanyipi Gumbula, 30, formerly of Gove, was awarded the Gavin Spencer Memorial Trophy as most improved student during the recruit course, including academic, practical and physical applications. Prior to joining the NT Police, Lanyipi worked for Mission Australia.

Thirteen of the police recruits are now stationed in Darwin; six in Alice Springs, four at Katherine and two at Tennant Creek.

The fire and rescue officers have been split between Darwin and Alice Springs with six staying in the Top End and three heading to the Centre.

The Aboriginal Community Police Officers are mostly based in Darwin to increase police patrols of public places, with only one ACPO sent to bolster numbers in Alice Springs and one to Katherine.



LEFT: Jamie Lauder and his brother, Senior Constable Scott Lauder of Victoria Police pose for a photo at the graduation with Commissioner White.

Australia Day/Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Regatta

By Commander Greg Dowd

As part of the Australia Day celebrations in Darwin, on Sunday, 29 January, Dragon Boat Northern Territory held an Australia Day and Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Regatta at Cullen Bay Beach opposite Kahlin Oval.

NT Police members from various Units/Stations (Palmerston, Darwin, Humpty Doo, Major Crime, Prosecutions), public servants, family and friends represented COPZ in the Corporate Dragon Boat Regatta. The races were held differently this time, with the distance shortened from 250m to 200m and the starting line being at the beach due to the strong wind conditions which made the races even more challenging.

COPZ had two mixed teams - though only with eight paddlers in each compared to all other corporate teams that had the usual 10 paddlers. Despite this handicap and keeping in line with the tradition of winning, COPZ won all the events. Participants from NTPFES included: Greg Dowd (stroke maker), Anne-Marie Murphy, Gavin Kennedy (stroke maker/paddler), Michelle Gavin, Tanya Holliday, Sean Byrnes

(stroke maker), Merv Kazem, Alice Henderson and her daughter Neta (as a drummer) and Ken Dwyer (former NT Police member).

Surprisingly, the Minister for Police, Fire & Emergency Services, the Hon Paul Henderson, paddled for COPZ in two races despite not having any paddling experience or training in dragon boat racing. COPZ won both these races by half a boat length. The Minister's Office and Commissioner for Police, Mr Paul White, also contributed to the event by equally sharing the expenses for COPZ T-Shirts and caps.

The final race was between COPZ and the Dept Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE) in strong wind conditions which COPZ won by a couple of seconds.

Greg Dowd, the Team Manager for COPZ, would like to thank all those members, their families and volunteers who participated and supported COPZ in this community event and looks forward to competing in the next dragon boat regatta planned for Harmony Day. He said it was an enjoyable day and he hoped to see more members at the next Regatta on Sunday, 26 March.



RIGHT: After their hard-won victory



LEFT: Members of the Copz team in action

Steve Abala Sporting Role Models

Commander George Owen and Vicki Lew Fatt, Coordinator Rehabilitation and Compensation, were presented Steve Abala Sporting Role Model Annual Awards in February, in recognition of their sporting achievements and exemplary lifestyles.

The pair were presented the awards at a ceremony which was held on February 14, the 50th anniversary of the death of Steve Abala, one of Darwin's greatest sporting citizens.

The award was presented to outstanding sporting achievers who have had a lasting impact on Top End sport as well as displaying exemplary conduct on and off the sporting field.

Vicki was presented the award for the year 1990 for her efforts in horse riding.

In total, Vicki has contested 33 supreme titles on the Northern Territory Show Circuit, winning a massive 32 titles over the years.

George received his award for the year 2005 in recognition of his early sailing success, including winning an Australian Championship in 1992 and placing 3rd in the 1993 World Championship. George also won Darwin Sailing Club "Sailor of the Year" a number of years. His son Luke won this award in 2005, making them the first father and son to have done so.

George has also competed in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, winning the division F handicap and line honours.

The Awards Ceremony was held at Darwin's Government House.



TOP: Vicki Lew Fatt receiving the award from The Administrator, His Honour Mr Ted Egan AO



TOP: Commander George Owen receiving the award from The Administrator, His Honour Mr Ted Egan AO

Boy speared in arm

Nhulunbuy Fire and Rescue Service recently attended a job where a nine-year-old Yirrkala boy had been speared in the arm.

Whilst playing with his seven-year-old brother the boy was accidentally injured.

The boy required transportation to hospital, but it was first necessary to reduce the length of the spear in his arm so that he could fit in the ambulance.

Firies cut the pine spear with a pair of bolt cutters rather than a saw to limit disturbance to the boy and his wound.

Senior Station Officer Graham Johnson delivered a 'Trauma Teddy' to the boy in hospital the next day.



Crime Stoppers NT Celebrate 10 Years

By Sharon Hutton

Crime Stoppers NT is celebrating ten years in the Northern Territory with a Youth Challenge for all schools.

The competition is aimed at all ages with a colouring in competition for Years 1-4, a poster design competition for Years 5-7 and a multi-media project for high school students.

The theme of the one-off competition is drugs and the effects of illegal drug use on our community.

Students are asked to consider not only the effects of illegal drugs on individual users, but also the crimes that drug-use leads to and the effects this has on modern society.

The forum for delivering their thoughts and ideas is varied, with students encouraged to submit a multi-media project in the form of a poem, story, script, newspaper article, song, dance or game.

Group work is encouraged together and to provide feedback to organisers about how they feel drug problems in the community can be limited or resolved,

with these comments compiled and forwarded to Ministers, the Commissioner and law-makers for consideration in future decisions.

The prizes are substantial with each student receiving a voucher from one of many stores (or a bike with helmet for the smaller kids) and the winning school receiving a computer system.

The competition will be launched across the Territory in March to all schools, with the competition due to close on 1 June and winning entries to be displayed across the Territory at all regional shows.

More information about Crime Stoppers and the Youth Challenge are available by visiting the website at www.crimestoppers.com.au



Darwin's Liquefied Natural Gas Plant keeps NT fire fighters busy

Darwin's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Plant has been commissioned, which will see the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) kept on their toes, with almost 85 fire fighters undertaking training to become familiar with the plant as well as ships carrying natural gas.

While both the LNG plant and LNG ships have emergency crews trained specifically to deal with incidents such as fires and gas leaks, the NTFRS has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to assist in its operational training and in preparedness for any operations that may be encountered at the plant.

According to Watch Commander Ian Buckland, all crews from Darwin and Palmerston Fire Stations have undertaken SOP training, which included LNG plant and ship familiarisation in case an emergency arises. Joint training exercises between ConocoPhillips emergency crews and NTFRS officers will commence soon.

"Though any emergency is first dealt with by emergency crews based at the plant or on LNG

carrying ships, NT fire fighters have had to become familiar with plant and ship layouts as well as actions to be undertaken upon arriving at an emergency."

"Training has been conducted and procedures have been put in place so we are on the same page as emergency crews based on the ships and at the plant. Our equipment is compatible which helps when our crews are undertaking training and in instances when we may have to deal with an emergency," he said.

The LNG plant and LNG carrying ships have the ability to isolate any fires or gas leaks both manually or through computer technology, and while it is not expected that the NTFRS will need to attend emergencies very often, Mr Buckland says work loads will increase as officers undertake further training and extra exercises.

"Our job is ever changing and always challenging, and while this is a big development for the Territory, if a major incident does occur we will be well equipped and trained to deal with it," Mr Buckland said.

Australia Day Awards

Two Territory police officers were awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) in the Australia Day awards announced in January.

Senior Constables Lynette Balchin of Katherine Prosecutions and Martin James of the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section received the national recognition for their many years of distinguished police service.

In her 27 years on the job, Sen Const Balchin has established herself as a pioneer in policing. She was the first female officer to serve in Katherine and at Alyangula on Groote Eylandt where she served as the first and only female officer at the time. She also spent time on secondment to the NT Police Association.

Lynette said she's humbled to be receiving the award but doesn't feel like she's done anything amazing.

"I've been in the one career for many years but have had such a diversity of jobs that the 27 years have been very rewarding."

"The remote community work was a particular highlight for me, as was the Pine Gap protest in 1983."

In 2004 Lyn received an Excellence in Policing Award for her remote community policing at Alyangula and she is also a volunteer for the Northern Territory Police Legacy.

The career of Senior Constable Martin James spans 31 years of distinguished and dedicated service with NT Police, which has seen him work in remote areas such as Wollongorang, Lajamanu, Roper Bar, Maranboy and Pine Creek.

Sen Const James spent 20 years attached to the Northern Territory Police Criminal Investigation Division, in particular the Stock Squad, Special Crime Unit, Drug Enforcement Unit, the Fraud Squad and the Serious Crime Squad.

As a Detective and Fire Scene Investigator, Marty used his training and experience to mentor junior members and in late 2000 he was selected to join the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor. Upon his return from East Timor he was attached to the Gold Squad, a specialist investigative team and later transferred to the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section in 2003.

"I've enjoyed every one of my 31 years in the force and rank amongst the highlights so far the investigation of the Hungry Jacks explosion, the JR Lighting fire and of course my time in East Timor."

Emergency Services Volunteers Recognised

The Northern Territory's Emergency Service (NTES) volunteers were recognised for their hard work in protecting Territorians and building a safer community at a function at Parliament House in December as part of International Volunteers Day.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Hon Paul Henderson, MLA, hosted the volunteers as a mark of appreciation for their efforts.

"There are 455 Emergency Service volunteers across the Northern Territory who give up hours of their own time for training, planning and preparation so they are ready to help fellow Territorians during times of crisis and emergency," Minister Henderson said.

"2005 has certainly been an eventful year for the NTES.

"A new \$210,000 NTES facility was opened in Watarrka National Park and a permanent officer is now stationed in the Park for the first time, providing vital training for local Volunteer Units and front-line support response in emergencies.

"In March of 2005, NTES volunteers were on the ground just 12 hours after Cyclone Ingrid lashed remote communities off the Top End coastline, helping in the recovery effort at Croker Island, Goulburn Island, and the Tiwi Islands.

"The volunteers gave more than 3000 hours of service over 12 days, clearing fallen trees and roadways and making temporary roof repairs to damaged building.

"Volunteers have also this year responded to calls for assistance during bush fires, in land searches and after road accidents.

"On behalf of Territorians, I thank all of the Territory's Emergency Service volunteers for their commitment to protecting our community."



Members join the International Deployment Group

Three members of NT Police have joined the International Deployment Group on secondment to the Australian Federal Police.

Brevet Sergeant Carl O'Donnell Senior Constable Heath Eaves and Constable Brendan O'Hara undertook training in Canberra and flew out of Brisbane last month with the group to serve in the Solomon Islands.

Members of NT Police are readily able to adapt and make a worthwhile contribution to the IDG because of the situations NT Police must deal with, often taking into account geographic isolation and limited support services in many of the Territory's smaller centres.

BELOW: NT Police members with the deployment group before their departure – Senior Constable Heath Eaves (third from left), Constable Brendan O'Hara (fourth from right) and Brevet Sergeant Carl O'Donnell (second from right).



MONTY ON PATROL

Members of the Drug Detector Dog Unit and Remote Community Drug Desk regularly visit remote communities in their efforts to reduce and prevent supply of illicit drugs.

On a recent patrol to Nhulunbuy, Drug Dog Monty and his handler, Senior Constable Dave Young, took time out from a community awareness session on drugs to have a photo with members of the Nhulunbuy Community Patrol.

Aye Aye Captain!

Following a successful recruitment drive in the Borroloola area, NT Emergency Services recently held a Small Craft Handling course for the nine new members of the local Fire Emergency Response Group.

The new recruits ranged in age from their early-20s to mid-50s and hail from a variety of careers from plumbers and shop assistants to school teachers.

Gary James from NTES travelled to Borroloola to conduct the intensive 25-hour course over two and a half days in February.

Participants were taught vessel handling skills, rope work, rules of the sea and the responsibilities of a captain.

Volunteers took it in turns to captain the Borroloola II - the community's twin-engined seven metre flood boat.



ABOVE: Gary James instructs the group on board the Borroloola II in vessel handling.

Firies keep crowds entertained

Alice Springs fire crews kept the crowds entertained at this year's Central Australian Expo which was held in Alice Springs on March 10 and 11.

The crew set up their fire unit in the courtyard in front of the Alice Springs Convention Centre and set about showing an enthusiastic crowd how to demolish a car in a matter of minutes using hydraulic cutting equipment.

The simulation involved a victim being trapped inside a car which had been involved in a motor vehicle accident. Within minutes of the start of the exercise two of the fire crew had cut out the front and back windscreens of the Holden Commodore to enable another crew member

to shear away the pillars of the car with the Jaws of Life. The rest of the crew then lifted the entire roof from the vehicle enabling the victim to be assisted.

Station Commander John Kleeman said such demonstrations gave the public a good insight into the training and expertise of the firies as well as the value of equipment like the Jaws of Life.

"It's not often the public have an opportunity to see just how it all works, and these demonstrations are always popular at events like these. It's also an opportunity to demonstrate the skills of the crews and raises awareness of road safety."



Stalwart Supporters honoured

Over the years NT Fire and Rescue Service in Central Australia have given countless demonstrations such as the one at the Convention Centre.

Last week (March 09, 2006) two stalwart supporters of the firies were honoured by a presentation of a placque to thank them for their years of support and assistance.

Russ and Liz Driver own a salvage and towing company in Alice Springs. For more than 20 years they have donated car wrecks to the NT Fire and Rescue Service for training and demonstration purposes.

At the recent presentation, Assistant Director Southern Region Paul Herrick paid tribute to the pair who have always been willing to donate their time and resources, free of charge, to ensure the firies

have what they need at any given time.

Then after they have dropped off the crashed vehicle and the firies have cut it up, they dutifully come along and pick up all the scrap and cart it off again.

Ass Director Herrick also paid tribute to the invaluable assistance given by Russ Driver at the scene of Motor Vehicle accidents over the years.

"It just makes the job easier, working with someone as experienced as Russ," Mr Herrick said.

"He becomes part of the rescue team, and can contribute greatly to the effectiveness of working at an accident scene.



GLLO COURSE

Twenty sworn and non sworn members from Alice Springs, Yulara, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Darwin have become NT Police's first Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLO).

The scheme aims to reduce violence and the fear of violence in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual community.

Each GLLO will assist with issues such as anti gay/lesbian violence, sexual assaults, domestic violence and stalking, with their primary role being for referral, victim support and advice.

The scheme has been set-up in direct response to acts of violence targeted at the gay and lesbian community in recent times.

The true success of the project will ultimately be if the liaison positions become redundant, meaning a level of tolerance and acceptance overrides intolerance and hatred.

The course was put together by Supt Del Jones with support from police jurisdictions nationally who provided resource material and advice. Inspector Tess Walsh from the Victoria Police Service was also on hand for the two-day course. The officers were presented with certificates and badges by Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie, with the badges kindly donated by Victoria Police.

2007 World Police & Fire Games - 16 - 25 March Adelaide Australia Competitors wanted

Competitors are needed for the following sports:

Netball, Basketball, Touch, Rugby 7's, Dragon Boating, Track & Field, Tennis, Squash & Shooting events. There are also other sports available for teams and individuals. It is hoped that we will be able to beat our previous years' team numbers and having the World games on home soil should make it more affordable.

For more information please contact Kate Eadie on ext. 10230 or email: kate.eadie@pfes.nt.gov.au before the 30 June or Mobile: 0407 035 407 and email: pfes4worlds07@hotmail.com after that.

www.2007wpfg.com

Obituary for Andy McNeill



PHOTO: Courtesy of the NT Police Museum and Historical Society

A memorial service was held in Alice Springs in January for one of NT Police's most colourful characters.

Andy McNeill reached the rank of Assistant Commissioner before retiring from the force in 1992. He joined NT Police in 1959 when there were just 80 police in the Territory, and throughout his long career was involved in many eventful incidents.

Certainly one of the most intense and high-profile was when he and his troops faced Australia's first hijacker at Alice Springs Airport in 1972.

Andy trained in Darwin, but served in Alice Springs three times. He was essentially a bush copper, and had an exceptional wit and presence of mind which served him well over the years as a police officer.

When he retired, he went straight into local politics, serving as Alice Springs Mayor until 2000. Andy was a congenial bloke who would always do you a good turn before a bad one, however, he didn't suffer fools gladly. That was one of the reasons he entered local politics – because he thought it was time the council had an injection of common sense.

While at the helm of the town council he introduced rate-paying by instalments and early-bird discounts – a legacy of which he was most proud.

He was also a Rotarian and Lions Club member and served the community in that capacity for many years.

For all these interests, however, Andy was most widely-known for his passion for golf.

For years he was associated with the Alice Springs Golf Club and that is why it was so appropriate having his memorial service held there in January.

More than 200 family, friends and associates attended the service which culminated in his ashes being buried under a ghost gum which was specially planted on the first tee for the occasion.

Andy is survived by his wife of 44 years, Marlene, his children Adam, Michelle and Lee and six grandchildren.



ABOVE: NT Administrator Ted Egan offers condolences to Andy McNeill's widow, Marlene, at his memorial service at the Alice Springs Golf Club in January. His ashes were planted under a ghost gum on the first tee.

NT Emergency Service – 'training our tri-service members and community stakeholders in Emergency Management'.

The Northern Territory Emergency Service in partnership with the Emergency Management Australia Institute (EMAI) recently conducted a week long training session in Alice Springs, for members of the Tri-Service and Government agencies in 'ECC Management - Co-Ordinate Resources to a Multi-Agency Emergency Response'.

The course added to the participants' knowledge in the do's and don'ts of coordinating resources for our personnel on the frontline during any given emergency response within the Northern Territory. It was extremely well received by all participants and the debriefing session recognised that training in this field must be broadened to enable a wider cross section of personnel to be able to work in these centres, be it at a Local or Territory level.

Education & Development Officer, Southern Region – Rob Romaldi added that NTES were keen to facilitate further courses in Emergency Management in Alice Springs and Darwin, and as a result EMAI had agreed to conduct an additional ECC course in Alice Springs from the 2nd – 6th October 2006. He urged all members who are interested, particularly from the Southern Region, to contact NTES SRHQ for further information.

Tri-Service Medals – Investiture Ceremony

NTPFES staff with more than 1000 years' combined service were honoured at an investiture ceremony in November.

The ceremony incorporated the inaugural presentation of service medals for civilian members of the Tri-Service as well as the presentation of NT Police Medals and bars and National Medals and clasps.

Commissioner of Police and CEO of Fire and Emergency Services, Mr Paul White, said the investiture ceremony had been organised for the presentation of the awards in recognition of the long and distinguished service of the employees.

"Seventy staff members were recognised at the Darwin investiture in Darwin and in December staff members in Alice Springs were recognised.

"This speaks volumes about the dedication and loyalty of so many members of our staff, including the public sector staff," Commissioner White said.

"Our people are our most important asset, so it is important for us to recognise their dedication and one small way we can thank and reward our loyal employees is by presenting these awards."

Among the staff members who will be presented are:

David Cunnington – Manager, Fleet Management

Dave joined the NT Fire Service in 1974 as a Senior Motor Mechanic before transferring to the NTPFES in 1987 as a Technical Officer, Mechanical Workshop. Dave is currently the Workshop Manager, Fleet Management for NTPFES and has been in this position for over five years.

He has won a number of research and development awards for his

work within the Tri-Service. He is also involved with the 'Beat the Heat' police drag team, designed to promote safety messages to young drivers, and in building a purpose-built trailer for the vehicle. He has also been involved with Life Education for about 15 years.

Sergeant Annette Mary Cooper

Annette joined NT Police in September 1984 and has served in General Duties in Darwin and Tennant Creek, School Based policing in Darwin and Nhulunbuy, prosecutions for the Barkly Region and Neighbourhood Watch. Annette then moved to Sexual Crimes Unit and the criminal investigation area in Darwin and Palmerston before taking up her current position in Major Crime. Among the cases she has been involved in are the double murder of two Thai women whose bodies were found in the Adelaide River in 2004 and the Marshall Haritos murder case. She was also one of the team members responsible for a conviction that resulted in an indefinite sentence for the offender involved in the three day abduction of a young girl in 2003.

Senior Auxiliary Brigid Gregory (nee Young)

For Brigid the Police Force was something she was probably predestined for, as both her parents - Rita and Peter Young – were police officers. In fact, her mother (then Lockett) was in the second squad with women officers in 1962. Her sister, Katie Young is an ACPO in Katherine and she recently married another Police Officer, John Gregory, whose son John Jnr is an Auxiliary serving in Tennant Creek. (Her husband John is also receiving a service medal at the ceremony). Brigid commenced with NTPFES in 1993 as a Recruit Auxiliary and since her graduation has worked in the Darwin Watch House, Junior Police Rangers, Summary Prosecutions and front counter positions at Peter McAulay Centre and now Humpty Doo Police Station.



Sergeant Garry Raymond Casey

Garry joined NT Police in 1975. Since that time he has served in general duties and Criminal Investigation Branch, remote communities, the Police College, School Based Policing and Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section. Among the major cases he has been involved in were the murder of two girls at Berry Springs in the 1980s and the recapture of convicted murderer Daniel Heiss who escaped from Royal Darwin Hospital in 1991. Garry also carried out relief duties as OIC Pularumpi and at Maningrida. While at Maningrida he headed up a ten day search for a young girl that went for around 10 days and involved ACPOs, TRG and helicopters. He was the OIC of Marine & Fisheries for almost 10 years and was responsible for many major scale search and rescue operations during that time, including the search for Brett Mann, who was taken by a crocodile in the Finnis River.

A further Tri-Service investiture ceremony is planned for May.

Thanks and Praise

The work of members of the NTPFES is often stressful and difficult, which comes as no surprise to those at the coal face delivering the services. In previous months the members of the NTPFES have been recognised and praised by members of the public and the Commissioner for their work and efforts on behalf of members of the public.

In short, the praise includes, but is not limited to:

21 November 2005 – Praise from Shaun O’Sullivan, Director of Protocol, to members who provided assistance and support with the Royal visit by His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden and Her Majesty Queen Silvia on their recent state visit to Ayers Rock. The effort and dedication of members was instrumental in making the visit run smoothly whilst ensuring the safety and dignity of their Majesties.

29 November 2005 – Barbara McCarthy, Member for Arnhem, spoke in parliament of a recent trip to Alyangula and Bickerton Island, expressing gratitude to Sgt Ben Hammond for his work with youth on the island and to S/Sgt Dean McMaster for his successful implementation of the Alcohol Permit Strategy. Comment was also made of the new full-time school-based constable position for Groote Eylandt.

29 November 2005 – Chris Natt, Member for Drysdale, in a recent adjournment speech acknowledged the good work being done by Supt Greg Dowd and S/Sgt Andrew Heath in the Palmerston area. It is great to see the crime rates within that area are dropping through their hard work.

Queen’s Baton Relay



Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services was well represented in the recent Queen’s Baton Relay across the Territory in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Some were selected for their work in their roles with the agency and others for sporting and community involvement, showing the impact the agency’s members have across many facets of the community.

Among the first of the staff members to run with the baton were Brevet Sergeant Libby Andrew, in Alice Springs, who was nominated for her outstanding work while posted at Kintore. Libby is now the officer-in-charge at Ali Curung Police Station.

Constable Justin (Syd) Harbour’s outstanding contribution and work with the children at Hermannsburg was the reason he was nominated as a runner by a community member.

Pictured running with the baton above are Libby Andrew (left) and Justin (Syd) Harbour (right).

Senior ACPO Bernie Devine – who ran with the baton in Palmerston - was nominated by his children for his outstanding sporting achievements, while Constable Ben Martin, also of Darwin, ran with the baton in Katherine.

Assistant Director Capability with NTFRS, Bob Naumann and Senior Firefighter Peter Wright were also selected to run with the baton at Palmerston, along with Bob’s wife – who is also Peter’s sister, making it a family affair.

Congratulations to all members of NTPFES who participated, including the many officers involved in escorting the baton convey around the Territory, led by Superintendent Bob Rennie, of Road Safety.



Northern Territory Government