

THE

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# FORUM

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



SEPTEMBER 2006



## Commissioner's message

Recently, I visited several bush stations and took the opportunity to discuss a range of issues with police members and community leaders. My visit to Groote Eylandt gave me the chance to find out more about the *Liquor Management Plan* in operation on the island and the supporting efforts of police and community in making sure the plan succeeded.

One of the first things I learnt was that the *Liquor Management Plan* is based largely upon the restricted area provisions of the *Liquor Act*. Under this provision, liquor restrictions can be applied according to the particular needs of a community, including the introduction of a liquor permit system for anyone wishing to possess or consume alcohol. Permits are issued by a committee comprising community representatives and police, which also has the authority to revoke these permits.

*Liquor Management Plans* require a partnership approach between the community, the Licensing Commission and police. In the case of Groote Eylandt, the introduction of the plan involved significant community consultation and support, and then representation to the Licensing Commission, before the island was declared a restricted area. As we find so often, getting on with the job of making things happen falls to the police and on this occasion to the police on Groote Eylandt, who were required to champion the change and establish an administrative and management structure.

Outcomes from the *Liquor Management Plans* are impressive when measured against the significant reductions in crime on Groote Eylandt, especially disturbances, assaults and anti-social behaviour. Dramatic reductions have also occurred with unlawful entries and while it is tempting to attribute all of these outcomes to the plan, it is clear that intelligence led policing and problem solving approaches have made important contributions. In fact, the police involvement in the Liquor Management Plan on Groote Eylandt is an exemplar of problem solving—of working together with the community to identify, analyse and solve a sizeable problem. I pass on my thanks for a job well done to all those involved.

National Police Remembrance day is held on 29 September each year, to honour and remember police officers killed on duty or who have died as a result of their duties. The date of 29 September 2006 is a particularly special occasion because it marks the dedication of a National Police Memorial on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra. Planning and development of the national memorial was a collaborative effort between the Australian Government, all Australian police forces and police associations. A contingent of 39 Northern Territory Police will proudly take their part in the dedication of the memorial, which will act as a place of inspiration and remembrance for the families, friends and work colleagues of those we have lost.

Northern Territory Police Legacy is also proudly sponsoring the attendance of several family members of those NT police officers whose names will appear on the Memorial.

The National Police Memorial is a powerful symbol of the role and sacrifices too often made in serving and protecting our community. Not only do we need to look to the future of policing, we also need to remember and honour the past.

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

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*The Drum* is the official magazine of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

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#### Next deadline

November 2006

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#### FRONT COVER:

Sergeant Garry Casey with the new NT Police flag

#### BACK COVER:

Jock the fire truck makes his debut at NTFRS headquarters

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# ACPOs go digital!

By Hayley Dwyer

**A squad of 14 Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPOs) will use iPods as part of a push to provide flexible learning pathways.**

This project will enable the use of a variety of e-learning technologies to deliver the traditionally paper-based academic material under the ACPO-Learning at Work (ACPO-L@W) project.

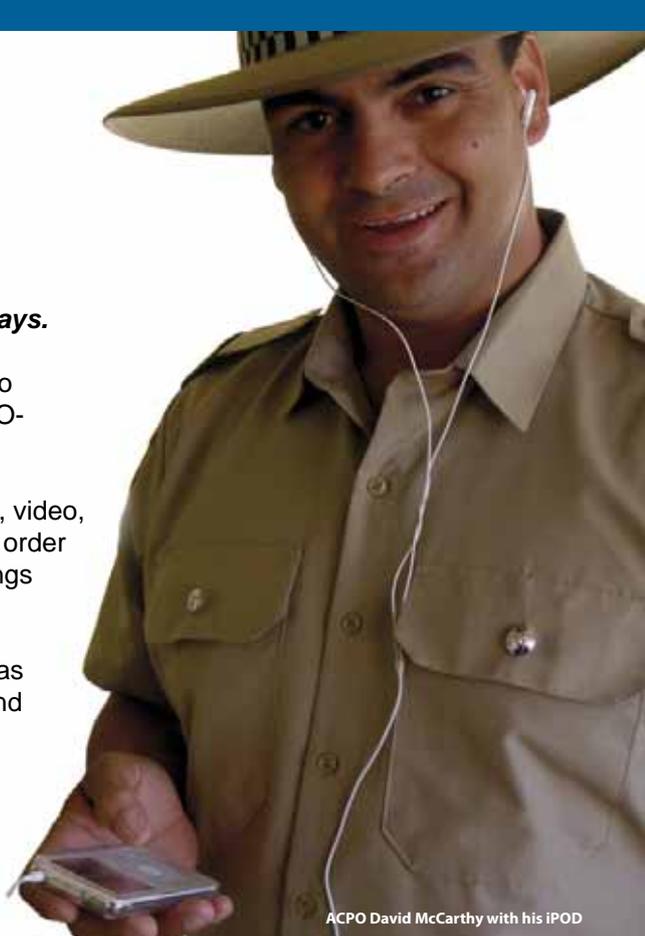
Police trainers will show the Indigenous officers how to use podcasting, video, mobile-learning and online forums to help them learn complex law and order regulations in the workplace. Officers will also make their own recordings and films to help each other with their training.

ACPOs provide vital services to communities in the Territory by acting as law enforcement officers, helping Indigenous people understand law and providing community liaison.

ACPO recruit Carmella Gray, said "This is very beneficial for us as it helps us to revise and review the days' information at home, so it refreshes our memory and there is less pressure. We also film role play scenarios, which we can play back and this makes us more confident."

Mr Kerry Grace, Manager of ACPO-L@W and Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services Assessment and Curriculum, said "ACPOs are already familiar with technologies like personal computers for work-related tasks and communications. The project aims to build on this familiarity by introducing new flexible e-learning options to complement their learning needs.

"We hope to break down the distance, knowledge and learning barriers which have previously restricted the training and development needs of ACPOs working in regional and remote locations that are interested in alternative career options."



ACPO David McCarthy with his iPod

Mentoring, coaching, internal workshops, personal learning plans, journals and online discussions will all be used to support officers' training.

The project will also provide an opportunity for NTPFES to create new e-learning resources in areas of cultural diversity, equity and access for existing and newly recruited ACPOs, ensuring the longevity of flexible learning options.

The ACPO-L@W initiative was made possible through a partnership between national training systems e-learning strategy, LearnScope and the Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services.



ACPO Carmella Gray

# A fire exchange brings Joe from Alaska

By Hayley Dwyer

**Joe Cizek recently joined the NTFRS from Alaska as part of an exchange program. He has been a firefighter for five years and holds the position of a Firefighter III/EMT II and is currently certified as an acting engineer.**

Knowledge of the exchange program to Darwin spread quickly when Rod Harris returned to Alaska and this encouraged Joe to find out more. He and his wife were keen to visit the Northern Territory when on holidays about 10 years ago but they couldn't fit it into their schedule so the opportunity to visit was too good to pass up.

Joe has noticed several differences between NTFRS and the Alaskan Fire Department (AFD).

"An example being a motor vehicle accident rollover and having the authority to tip vehicles back onto wheels to clear the road and

possibly my favourite—no medic calls," explained Joe.

In terms of station equipment Alaskan stations have equipment that does the same job, yet there are several differences. "We have one pumper (engine), one ladder truck (aerial ladder similar to the Bronto), with full extraction equipment as well as pump for firefighting, and last but not least, an ambulance. The most notable difference is that the steering wheel is on the left!" he said.

Joe has been impressed by the NTFRS as an organisation, "I am truly amazed at the amount of work that gets done with a smaller budget and less personnel than AFD. Everybody that I have worked with seems well organised and efficient at their jobs".

In addition to easing Joe into the workplace, members have been



generous with helping the Cizek family settle into their new home. "We've been made feel very welcome and have enjoyed several trips to the beach, picnics, and parks with members. We appreciate all the hospitality."

The family is keen to explore the rest of the Territory and if time permits other parts of Australia but currently it is the local wildlife that is proving most popular. "Our girls think geckos rock," said Joe.

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## Inspector Hook new headstone dedication

**On Friday 16 June the Police Chaplain Peter Wright conducted a service at the McMillans Road Cemetery to dedicate a new headstone on the grave of Inspector Lou Hook, marking 39 years since his death.**

Inspector Hook died in the line of duty in a motor vehicle accident near Pine Creek. He died on the fifth anniversary of his promotion to the rank of Inspector, after serving for 26 years.

Inspector Hook's qualifications of leadership were well recognised, and in 1963 he was appointed Marshall for the NT for the visit of Her Majesty the Queen.

The vast amount of work and organisation he was called on to perform was recognised when he was honoured on the Royal Yacht

*Britannia* in Darwin Harbour after the Royal Tour. "The awarded personal membership of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) for services to Her Majesty was a source of considerable pride not only to my father but the Police Force generally," explained Inspector Hook's son, Alan.

Inspector Hook was also awarded the police long service and good conduct medal in 1965.

"He was an efficient officer whose sound judgement could be relied upon, and the loss of his wide experience and local knowledge would leave a severe gap . . . in the NT Force. His record of service should be an inspiration to younger members and one they should strive to achieve," said Chaplain Peter Wright recalling the comments made by Commissioner

McLaren (Commissioner at the time).

Members joined Inspector Hook's family to pay their respects and participate in the ceremony. Family members included son Alan and his wife Philippa and their daughters Janine Hook and Colleen Cross. Inspector Hook's daughter Elaine Chick was unable to attend. Unfortunately, his widow, Mrs Rosa Drage could not make the trip to Darwin due to ill health.

"I would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of this ceremony, it is greatly appreciated by the family," said Mr Hook.

Alan Hook and his family will be attending the National Police Memorial celebrations in Canberra this month in which Inspector Hook is also honoured.

# Mike passes the NTES baton to Peter

After battling natural disasters for over nine years, Northern Territory Emergency Services Assistant Director Mike Bowman is rolling up his cyclone tracking map for the last time and retiring writes **Katie Woolf**

**Mike Bowman (pictured below) came to Darwin in 1994. Prior to that, he worked in various positions across the globe, including Chief Marine Officer in the Solomon Islands.**

In his role of Chief Marine Officer, Mike was also the chairman of the National Disaster Council and had to cope with cyclones, volcanic eruptions, a tsunami, drought and floods, all of which helped him prepare and cope for the natural disasters he would face in the future in Darwin.



Upon moving to Darwin, Mike began working as the Nautical Superintendent/Assistant Director of Marine with the Department of Transport and Works, but it was three years later when he began with NTES that Mike would face more natural disasters than many people could ever imagine.

At a retirement function held at Parliament House, Mike was described by (former) NTPFES

Minister Paul Henderson as someone who may be called 'disaster prone', facing more natural disasters since his appointment in 1997 than most of us have faced in a life time.

"I have been through 18 cyclones, five of which were category five. In my time there has also been 61 floods, six community evacuations, 43 land searches, five tent cities, and two Timor evacuations," Mike said.

Mike has also seen the infestation of the Black Striped Mussel and a fruit fly out break, not to mention a prisoner escape and a collapsed bridge at Adelaide River.

Through these highly stressful and

often trying times, Mike remained versatile and resourceful, solving a range of problems and requests for assistance, and always remaining in control.

After such a long and eventful reign as NTES Assistant Director Mike says he will miss his colleagues, the emergency service volunteers and friends.

"I've worked with a lot of wonderful people," he said.

Mike is currently on a well earned break in England but will return to Darwin well in time for the wet season; however for the first time in nine years he will not be on-call.

## Peter Davies

**Peter Davies (pictured right) has begun as the Northern Territory Emergency Service's new Assistant Director, replacing the recently retired Mike Bowman.**

Working with the defence force for the past 30 years, he has spent the past two and a half years as the Deputy Commander at Headquarters Northern Command. Whilst in this position Peter spent six months working in Iraq as the Chief of Staff in the Australian National Headquarters.

Peter says he is looking forward to undertaking the role as Assistant Director, and believes his experience in planning and operations will provide solid grounding when



dealing with difficult situations. "In many respects there will be much similarity preparing for emergency response situations with organising operations in my previous positions, and I look forward to building on the solid foundations already in place in NTES," he said.

"My key priorities will be ensuring the Northern Territory is well prepared for the next cyclone season and getting out and about to meet the NTES Volunteers who are the backbone of our organisation."

# Recruit Squad 84 of 2005

***Nineteen recruits from Squad 84 of 2005 graduated recently in a ceremony held at the Police Training College Parade Ground, Peter McAulay Centre.***

The ceremony marked the end of a 33 week induction training course at the Police, Fire and Emergency Services College for the graduates who will assume duties as constables across the NT.

During the 33 weeks of police training, the graduates participated in the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal; nine members conducted Honour Guard at the opening of the Foelsche Exhibition at the Museum and they staffed shelters during Cyclone Monica.

Ages of the graduates range from 21 to 41 and they were enlisted from a variety of vocations including tradesperson, nurses, soldiers (two of which served in Iraq), tour guide, police auxiliary and administrative work.

The Rod Evans Memorial Trophy for the highest academic achievement in Squad 84 was awarded to John Aland, 40.

Timothy Gardiner, 25, received the Commissioner's Trophy as the best overall course performer in academic, practical and physical training.

The Physical Training Trophy for outstanding physical training ability was awarded to Joshua Donovan, 31.

Suzanne Hollingsworth, 31, was presented with the Glen Huitson Trophy for the most consistent application in all areas of the training course.

Police Commissioner Paul White said, "The squad represented the standards expected of all police officers including honesty, integrity and dedication to serving the community."

"It's particularly pleasing to see that 13 of the 19 members of Squad 84 are Northern Territory residents making the change to a career with the NT Police.

"Congratulations to all members of Squad 84 for choosing to serve and protect Territorians and I wish them all the best with the challenges ahead."

The graduates were posted as follows:

- Alice Springs - 7
- Tennant Creek - 3
- Darwin - 5
- Katherine - 3
- Nhulunbuy - 1

Police Squad 86, with 24 recruits, commenced training on 10 April and will graduate in November this year. Squad 87 commenced on 26 June with 24 recruits and will graduate in February 2007.



**ABOVE:** Award winners from Squad 84 (L to R) John Aland, Joshua Donovan, Timothy Gardiner and Suzanne Hollingsworth



# ACPO Squad 12 graduates in Alice Springs

By Theresa Kuilboer

**Fourteen Aboriginal Community Police Officers graduated in Alice Springs on August 25 after a nine week training course.**

The new Aboriginal Community Police Officers were sworn in before Deputy Police Commissioner Bruce Wernham and Deputy Administrator Pat Miller at the Alice Springs Convention Centre.

The Deputy Administrator presented the Gavin Spencer Memorial Trophy awarded for the most outstanding graduate to co-winners ACPO Michelle Masters and ACPO Albert Tilmouth.

Michelle Masters was a Police Auxiliary before training as an Aboriginal Community Police Officer. Married with three children and one grandchild she has been posted to Alice Springs.

Albert Tilmouth worked for Tangentyere Council for 13 years before leaving to become an Aboriginal Community Police

Officer. Albert lives in Alice Springs and is married with four children. He is well known in sporting circles as a member of the Rockets Razorbacks basketball team which is made up of police members. He has also been posted to Alice Springs.

During their nine week core training program, the trainees, for the first time, were able to use iPod technology to assist with their learning. Summaries of lessons

were downloaded onto their personal iPods for future reference and to reinforce learning.

The graduates will be posted across the Territory—three will be stationed in Alice Springs, three in Tennant Creek, two in Mutitjulu, one in Santa Teresa, one at Finke one at Papunya, one at Yuendumu and two at Numbulwar. Squad 12 will bring the number of Aboriginal Community Police Officers to 76.



## Gavin Spencer—the story behind the trophy

**When Aboriginal Police Aide Gavin Spencer died in tragic circumstances in March of 1991 he was mourned by everyone who knew him.**



At his funeral police of every rank mourned him as a “phenomenal and inspiring man” whose untimely death left an irreplaceable gap in the ranks of what was then known as Aboriginal Police Aides – now Aboriginal Community Police Officers.

Gavin was with a group of 12 people travelling from Alice Springs to Kintore when their Toyota broke down about 50 kilometres from Nyirripi.

Gavin was a well-respected traditional Walpiri man from Yuendumu who was famous for his tracking abilities and bush skills. But that was not enough to stop him

perishing in the Gibson Desert along with three young children. It appears Gavin stayed with his three young daughters aged six, eight and four and another young girl aged 10, while the rest of the group walked to get help. In temperatures reaching 50 degrees centigrade and no water, Gavin tried to keep the children alive and protect them from dehydration by digging shallow indentations in the ground and covering them with sand.

When rescuers found them three days later, only the six-year-old remained alive.

Gavin became a Police Aide in 1985 and served with distinction. He was credited with helping to solve some of the most difficult cases in Central Australia by tracking the offenders over barren and rocky ground. He could tell from the tracks whether they belonged to a

man or woman, how tall they were, how old the tracks were and even if they belonged to a ‘whitefella’ or a ‘blackfella’.

His skills were so remarkable that the Assistant Commissioner for Southern Region, the late Andy McNeill, took Gavin to Sydney to be one of the keynote speakers at the 64th World Association of Detectives Conference. He made his speech before 160 detectives from Canada, West Germany and other European countries.

For this strongly-traditional Walpiri man who didn’t drink, and tried to walk a firm line between his two cultures, to have died at just 32-years-old, was, indeed, a tragic loss.

The Gavin Spencer Memorial Trophy awarded to the most outstanding graduate on each Aboriginal Community Police Officer squad is a fitting tribute to a man who was a true inspiration in his community.

# Serving in Timor Leste

Hayley Dwyer talks to Michael Deutrom and Ben Williams on their deployment in the world's newest country

**Senior Constable Ben Williams and Constable Michael Deutrom are the second deployment of Territory members to Timor Leste in July 2006 with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) under the International Deployment Group (IDG).**

After selection to the IDG, Michael and Ben had under a week to pack up their lives and soon found themselves in Canberra for a two week acclimatisation course, also known as the 'pop-top'.

"Without going into details so as not to spoil any future members' participation in the course, the two weeks were rewarding and a lot of fun," said Ben.

"Coming from a normal Darwin dry season to camping in tents in minus seven degree temperatures was interesting. This was just

one day after the pop-top and an 8 am flight via Alice Springs to Dili," he explained.

Dili is a city of approximately 50 000 people crammed into a relatively small area between the sea and a mountain range. The city has seen many different influences due previous countries occupation, such as Portuguese and Indonesian cultures.

There is a large Australian, Malaysian, New Zealand and Portuguese police and military presence in the city which is regularly under the threat from internal unrest.

"The infrastructure is basic, few businesses operate, roads are in poor conditions and open sewerage line most streets. The wildlife that you encounter in the city while conducting foot patrols varies from dogs, cats, goats to

monkeys, pigs, crocodiles and cows," said Michael.

Members' accommodation is at Timor Lodge which provides budget type demountables, consisting of a small room with single bed and sometimes a shower/toilet ensuite.

"Privacy is limited but our meals are well catered for and the inclusion of a pool at the lodge is a highlight in our spare time," said Ben.

The 200 police members at the lodge cover duties 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including everything from cells, communications to CIB and intelligence.

General duties generally means going on patrol with four other members, often from Australia or New Zealand or Malaysia.

The majority of the shift is spent responding to fights between villages within Dili itself. These fights involve rock throwing, sling shots that fire 10 inch steel darts and bows/arrows and members have also seized items such as pistols and grenades.

"The incidents can include hundreds of locals fighting amongst themselves and then directing their grievance at police with little reasoning. Members are occasionally coming under rock or dart attacks, having to wear their ballistic vests and helmets. No one has been sent home yet from injuries received so far," explained Ben.

With the United Nations on the verge of taking command of the operation and up to 1600 police members worldwide to be deployed in the country, the mission to police Timor Leste has really only just begun.



ABOVE: Constable Michael Deutrom (left) and Senior Constable Ben Williams with some of the weapons that have been seized from incidents including swords, spears, steel darts and metal spears

# Letters of recognition

By Katie Woolf

**Constable Nick Kronk and Senior Constable Gary Smallridge recently received a letter of recognition from Commissioner Paul White after arresting an interstate prisoner who had escaped custody of a Queensland correctional centre.**

On 7 June, the members recognised a 26-year-old male in the Nightcliff area as having an outstanding arrest warrant—issued in Queensland on 19 April—for escaping the interstate correctional facility.

Constable Kronk called on the assistance of Senior Constable Smallridge who was off duty in Darwin on police business from Oenpelli.

Both members walked from Nightcliff Police Station to the location where the man was last seen, where he was arrested without incident and conveyed to the Darwin Watch House.

The man was later extradited to Queensland.



ABOVE: Constable Nick Kronk receives his letter of recognition from Commissioner Paul White

## National Drug and Alcohol Awards finalists

By Katie Woolf

NT Remote Community Drug Strategy selected as finalists in the 2006 National Drug and Alcohol Awards

**Northern Territory Police's Remote Community Drug Strategy was selected as one of three finalists in the Excellence in Law Enforcement section of the prestigious National Drug and Alcohol Awards held in Sydney recently.**

The award recognises a program, policy or resource that makes a significant contribution to law enforcement efforts designed to reduce the harmful impact of alcohol and other drug use.

Although the NT strategy did not win the award, there was a great deal of praise from award organisers who described it as “a remarkable example of the critical work being done in the drug and alcohol law enforcement field.”

The nomination covered the work of the strategy and the coordinated policing approach to the impact of drugs on remote communities.

The strategy (which has been in place since early 2004) was established to provide a coordinated and strategic approach to the use of drugs, with a particular aim of reducing supply and minimising harm in remote communities.

It was identified that the purchase of illicit drugs drained funds from the communities that would otherwise be used for purchasing food or other necessities. It also showed that the levels of offences against the person were occurring, either because of the drug use, or in a bid to obtain drugs for use.



PICTURED L to R: Acting Sergeant James O'Brien, Sergeant Peter Bravos and Senior Constable Michael Sharkey

# Investiture ceremonies held in Darwin and Alice Springs

The inaugural NT Fire and Rescue Service investiture was held in Darwin at SkyCity Casino on 30 May. Pictured below are some of the medal recipients.



**ABOVE L to R:** Station Officer Kim Hamilton, Senior Firefighter Qualified Philip Morrissy, Senior Station Officer Rocky Couzens, Firefighter A Class Desi Carolin, Station Officer Peter Gould, Senior Station Officer Jock McLeod, Assistant Director Alan Stephens, Station Officer Ian McLeod, Senior Station Officer Tony Parkinson, Assistant Director Bob Naumann

Meanwhile members of NT Police and Fire and Rescue Service received medals at an investiture ceremony held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre in June.



**ABOVE (Back L to R):** Station Officer Mark William John James, Senior Station Officer John Kleeman, Senior Firefighter Qualified Garry Farrows, Station Officer Robert Taylor, Firefighter Denis Maher, Assistant Director Paul Herrick, Sergeant Ian Kesby, Senior Constable Erin Sattler, Senior Constable Clinton Sims, Sergeant Garnet Alan Dixon, Senior Constable Robert Bruce Hosking  
**(Front L to R):** Commander Mark Coffey, Assistant Director Greg Nettleton, Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie

## Lookrukin Indigenous Women's Leadership Program

**Five female police officers graduated from the Lookrukin Indigenous Women's Leadership Development Program on 23 May this year.**

The participants completed the Diploma of Business (Frontline Management). The program is specifically designed to provide a high level, significant learning experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS).

Members found completing the program an overwhelmingly positive experience. Recently



promoted Sergeant Rosanna Breed explained, "I saw the course as an opportunity to enhance my supervisory skills and for promotion and it proved to have immediate results."

While some found the course challenging, it was ultimately rewarding professionally and personally for the participants. "It was time consuming, which meant other aspects of life were reduced to some degree, but was very rewarding to come away with a diploma," explained Senior Constable Jenny Roe.

"It was hard work, but rewarding. I learned heaps from the program," said ACPO Vanessa Martin.

Fellow ACPO Danielle Carter agreed, "I felt the course was empowering. It provided me with self confidence to progress in my career. It was wonderful to see so many other Indigenous women involved."

The program received praise too. "I think it's really good idea for

remote people and for ACPOs. At first I was nervous but then it was good to see that there were plenty of other Indigenous women. We all supported each other," said ACPO Lorraine Jones.

The intent of the program is to provide an opportunity for Indigenous women to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to win promotions based on merit, and to increase their effectiveness in their current positions.

The word 'Lookrukin', which means 'adult female', has been adopted, with permission, from the Kungarak language.

One objective of the Lookrukin program is to redress the lack of representation of Indigenous women in senior management and executive officer positions in the NTPS.

Another objective is to improve utilisation of government services by the Indigenous community by having a workforce profile that matches the population profile of the Northern Territory.

## Administrator's Medal for Gwen

**As part of the graduation ceremony for Recruit Squad 84, the Administrator's Medal was awarded to Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) Gwen Brown of Ali Curung, for her consistent hard work in the community and making life safer and easier for everyone.**

Gwen was born at Phillip Creek, an area west of Tennant Creek, on 2 April 1954 and is of the Eastern Walpiri Tribe. One of 16 children, Gwen married in her 20s and is the mother of three daughters.

Gwen and her family moved to Ali Curung in 1958 and has extended family scattered through the Barkly and Katherine regions.

She undertook schooling at the local primary school and later became a teaching assistant at that same school.

Whilst teaching in the school, Gwen became an active volunteer member to help the community establish the local Safe House and Night Patrol.

As an active volunteer and leader for the women, Gwen was also on the Law and Justice Committee 'Kurduju Committee' that travelled to Lajamanu, Yuendumu and other areas speaking to the Walpiris and teaching them about the law.

Gwen worked for a period of five years for the Safe House and Night Patrol prior to joining the Northern Territory Police on 8 May 2001. During 2002 and 2003 Gwen held the position as Council President—the first female in Ali Curung to ever hold this position. She is also the Store President.

Gwen was promoted to ACPO 1/C last year and is currently



undertaking the Certificate IV in Public Safety.

"She takes a mean set of fingerprints and is the all-round number one Aboriginal Community Police Officer," said Libby Andrew, Officer in Charge Ali Curung police.

Commissioner Paul White said, "Gwen is an asset to the Northern Territory Police and I congratulate her on this much deserved award."

# Queen's Birthday Honours

An assistant commissioner from the Northern Territory Police, one member from the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and an Emergency Service Officer shared the distinction of being recipients of medals in the 2006 Queen's Birthday Honours writes **Lorraine Hook**

## Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie – Australian Police Medal

Assistant Commissioner McAdie grew up in the Territory, attended high school in Darwin and joined the Northern Territory Police Force in June 1975. He has over 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service to policing as a member of the Northern Territory Police Force.

In 1986 Mr McAdie was promoted to the rank of senior sergeant in charge of Tennant Creek Police Station, a position he held for three years.

In 1992 he was promoted to Superintendent with responsibility for the remote stations of the Northern Division of the Northern Territory. Mr McAdie was promoted to Commander in 1998 and Assistant Commissioner in May 2002.

Assistant Commissioner McAdie was instrumental in the Review of Human Resource Management and



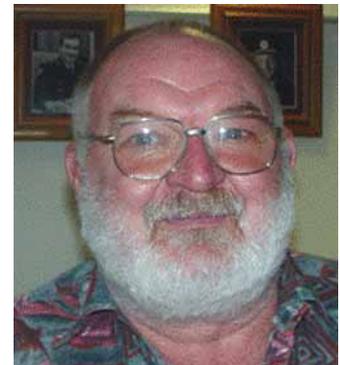
the implementation of a dynamic and strategic Human Resource Service Command.

Mr McAdie has a Bachelor of Economics degree, a Post Graduate Certificate in Applied Management and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration—all obtained by external studies since joining NT Police. He is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and is also President of the Northern Territory Police Museum and Historical Society Inc.

## Senior Fire Officer Peter Johnson – Australian Fire Service Medal

Originally from Melbourne Senior Fire Officer Peter Johnson moved to the Northern Territory around 28 years ago. He spent 13 years with the Northern Territory's Government Transport and Works Department before starting his service with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) in the early 1990s.

Peter is the NTFRS officer responsible for ensuring fire safety requirements in the larger building projects and developments in the NT are adhered to. His knowledge, experience and leadership in building safety have ensured the community will continue to benefit from his involvement in buildings and developments throughout the Northern Territory.



Some months later the woman, who was pregnant at the time of the accident, was reunited with Alison when they met at the recent Katherine Show. Now heavily pregnant the woman and her husband were able to express their thanks and gratitude to Alison for her assistance.

Alison is considered an outstanding member of the Palmerston Volunteer Unit, not only for her professionalism and dedication as Unit Training Officer, but also her infectious sense of humour and outgoing personality. Since February 2006, Alison has been a fulltime member of the Emergency Service.

## Alison Heath – Australian Emergency Service Medal



Alison joined the Emergency Service Cadet Corps in Palmerston back in 1996. While continuing her career in retail she attended several incidents as a volunteer including the Katherine and Daly River floods of 1998, evacuation and support of flood evacuees from Kalkaringi and

Daguragu, and care and support of over 1000 East Timorese refugees at the 'emergency tent city' in Darwin in 1999. She was also involved in the major response and recovery operation at Croker Island and Goulburn Island in the wake of cyclone Ingrid in 2005.

One recent memorable event occurred earlier this year when Alison was making one of her many return trips from Katherine to Darwin. She located a vehicle which had gone off the road near Hayes Creek; a young woman had missed hitting trees as her car careered through the scrub. The woman was seriously shaken by the accident but fortunately physically unharmed. Alison comforted her and ensured she was taken safely to Adelaide River Clinic.

# Terrorism exercise success

A four day anti-terrorism exercise in Katherine was hailed a success writes **Hayley Dwyer**

**Exercise 'Broad Daylight 06' wrapped up on 17 August, after four days of anti-terrorism exercise activities in Katherine. The exercise was conducted as part of the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services 'Securing Our Regional Skies' (SORS) program.**

A total of 31 police including 13 Territory Response Section members, seven NT Fire and Rescue Service members, and five Katherine Volunteer Emergency Services members worked alongside an Australian Federal Police Regional Rapid Deployment Team (RRDT), Katherine Town Council, St John Ambulance Service, and RAAF personnel to deal with a number of scenarios leading up to a simulated terrorist attack on Katherine Airport to test regional aviation security arrangements.

Jointly led by Katherine Police Commander Greg Dowd and Mr Mick Van Heythuysen from the Counter Terrorism Security Coordination Unit from Darwin, an exercise management team consisting of 15 members tested all participating agencies on their ability to adequately assess situations and provide effective responses to a range of issues and events that may need to be dealt with in a real terrorism situation.

Included in the exercise scenarios was the discovery and destruction of explosives in a car, increased security checks at the airport, dealing with unattended baggage, an intoxicated and aggressive passenger and suspicious vehicle activity at the airport.

The response included the call-out and deployment of the RRDT, who service the 17 regional airports across the Northern Territory in the event of an elevated threat or aviation security incident.

"The exercise demonstrated a strong cooperative approach between Territory and national agencies. I feel confident that we are better prepared to face any challenges that may occur in the event of a real terrorist incident, as a result of this exercise" said Commander Dowd.

Mick Van Heythuysen facilitated a 32 member observer program consisting mainly of airport operators and managers from many of the NT's regional airports, who got to see and be involved in the exercise and enhance their knowledge and awareness of security incident response arrangements.

Mr Van Heythuysen complimented all participants on the professionalism and enthusiasm displayed during the course of the exercise.

Mayor of Katherine Anne Shepherd acknowledged the vital importance of the community and all levels of government working together to combat terrorism.

"This exercise tested council's operating procedures at the airport and for the ongoing security of Australia it is excellent to see local, Territory and federal authorities working so well together".

Commander Dowd urged the public to remain alert to any activity they think suspicious or unusual, not just at the airport, but anywhere around where they live.

"People need to be aware that terrorism operates on many levels in many areas and the Territory is not immune. I would like to thank the Katherine community for their cooperation during this exercise and trust it did not cause too much disruption," said Commander Dowd.







45

# 45 years of women in policing

A selection of photos from the 45 years of women in policing celebrations including the march, Parliament House reception and dinner at Pee Wees. Other photos can be viewed from the 45 years of women in policing intranet page.



# An Eylandt of plenty

By Hayley Dwyer

**Located approximately 50 km from the Northern Territory mainland, Groote Eylandt (pronounced Groot-eye-land) has an area of 2260 square kilometres and is wholly owned by the Anindilyakwa Aboriginal people.**

The Dutch gave the name (meaning 'Big Island') to this largest island in the Gulf of Carpentaria and although all of it belongs to the local Anindilyakwa people, it is still called by its Dutch name (but often shortened to 'Groote').

Near the Aboriginal community of Angurugu is a large manganese mine. GEMCO Mining Company mines manganese from a number of leases on the western coastal plain of Groote Eylandt. The ore is shipped from the harbour at Alyangula, a modern town where most employees of the mine live.

A permanent police presence was established when the township of Alyangula was set up in 1968 to service the mine.

On the east coast is the small Aboriginal community of Umbakumba. West of Groote is Bickerton Island with the community of Milyakburra.

Opposite Groote Eylandt, on the mainland, is the Nungubuyu

community of Numbulwar, which has many ties with the Anindilyakwa people. A permanent police post manned by two ACPOs was opened this year.

The 13-member station at Alyangula is headed by a senior sergeant and includes a school based constable, four Aboriginal Community Police Officers, an administrative officer and a physical hand.

The population base within the policing district is about 4000 people. The patrol area covers the town of Alyangula and the communities of Angurugu, Milyakburra, Umbakumba and Numbulwar.

Numerous employment opportunities exist on the island for permanent and part-time work.

Members and their families live in Alyangula, a well serviced and maintained town of about 1000 people. It has all modern facilities including a 25 metre swimming pool, squash/tennis courts, nine hole golf course, BMX and gym—all of which are free to use.

The town has a large supermarket, bank, post office and other speciality shops, good child care facilities and an area school catering

up to Year 10. There are also two licensed premises with restaurants.

Groote was declared a restricted area in 2005 and an alcohol permit system is in place. Police are responsible for the oversight of this system and so far it has been effective in reducing the amount of alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

"My family and I love it here. One of the first things I did was buy a boat and we now camp and fish as often as we can. The island is beautiful and there are plenty of great spots where you can get away to relax. The station and town is friendly and there is plenty to do," said Constable Sean Stanley.

"Groote Eylandt offers a unique opportunity for members to experience remote area policing with most of the conveniences of a larger centre. The environs of Groote Eylandt are unique and you have to see the scenery to believe what a hidden treasure this place really is," said OIC Dean McMaster.



LEFT: Alyangula Police Station

BELOW: Members who work at the station



# Keen anglers have luck of the Irish

Minding Jimeoin and his crew during their visit to Groote Eylandt was a pleasure to be sure writes **Dean McMaster**

***In July this year, Irish comedian Jimeoin performed at the Alyangula Recreation Club to a crowd of about 300.***

After meeting Constable John Atkin in Darwin and being enticed by photos of impressive fish, Jimeoin and his crew, Fergus and Hamish (pictured below) jumped at the chance of visiting Groote. They stayed at the VOQs and partook of some refreshing ales at the police club.

Jimeoin agreed to perform free of charge with all proceeds donated to the Groote Eylandt and Milyakburra Youth Development Unit (GEMYDU). All he wanted was a day's fishing.

I picked up Jimeoin at the airport on Sunday afternoon, straight from his show at Borroloola. I think the outback town was a bit of an eye opener for the trio and Jimeoin did not expect an all in brawl to occur in the first five minutes of his show.

Early Monday morning the boys were up at 4.30 am and appreciated a full breakfast at the mining mess

with takeaway lunch for the fishing day ahead.

I thought having three Irishmen on a boat would be a bit of a disaster but it became evident the boys were not complete novices. Jimeoin and Fergus had grown up around Port Rush and fishing was part of their upbringing in this Northern Irish town.

Jimeoin is a keen fisherman and has had several fishing adventures in the Top End. The first troll past a rocky corner near North Point produced a large skinny and plenty of mirth as Jimeoin struggled and swore to get the fish in.

Throughout the day the boys managed to get in just about every species of fish on offer at Groote. The day finished when Fergus, who all day wanted to catch a Mackerel, hooked onto a big one. After 15 minutes of sledging from his mates the excited Irishman managed to land a decent sized Mack.

The next day the boys had a sleep in after staying up and watching

Australia get ripped off in the world cup by a diving Italy. Jimeoin graced the international standard Royal Groote golf course. Here too the Irishman is no slouch, hitting off 12 he managed to skin a few of us out of our money.

That night the crowd were treated to a top class comedy act. Not even several power failures could deter the master of improvisation, who at one stage ended up on the roof of the Alyangula Recreation Club. His quirky take on everyday life had the crowd in stitches. Five thousand dollars was raised for the GEMYDU and local feedback was very positive.

All three visitors were extremely easy going and down to earth guys mixing and sharing with the police and their families.

Thanks for the show you VIPs (very important paddys) and the GEMYDU unit and youth on Groote appreciated the \$5000 check that was handed over at the last GEMYDU meeting.



# Sam breaks down the barriers

By Hayley Dwyer

**Constable Samantha McNeill is the first female officer in the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section (MFES). After initially completing a couple of temporary transfers to the section as development opportunities, Sam applied for and won a permanent position in the section.**

“Constable McNeill will provide some real positives to the MFES with greater options for undercover operations and dealing with female offenders,” said Superintendent Wayne Harris of the Territory Support Division.

With previous experience as a professional fisher and seafood shop manager Sam (pictured below) has a great working knowledge of size bag limits, mud crabs and boating experience, which is invaluable for the job.



“Not getting seasick and having the ability to live in a confined space is also a great help,” said Sam.

Joining the all male team at MFES has been a positive experience.

“There is a great wealth of knowledge here in the team it's really rewarding to share in that. The guys here have a combined knowledge spanning many years

and they have a great energy and enthusiasm for their job”, she said.

Sam describes the work is physically demanding and can involve difficult weather conditions, camping in remote locations and heavy lifting, but the rewards of having an interesting and varied job are fantastic.

“As with general duties, there is no such thing as a typical day, but as an example I was recently out on patrol at Gunn Point and we had to come back to retrieve a body from the harbour and later we had a yacht rescue, so it's different every day”.

“Probably the most important thing about the job for me is being involved in the commitment to preservation and sustainability of fishery resources for the future”.

The many hats of MFES include search and rescue, naval security, marine safety and fisheries enforcement and this adds to the diversity too.

Working closely with the other agencies like the

navy is an integral part of MFES and Sam recently played a ‘winch patient’ for the Navy Rescue Helicopter pilots are part of their training. They also practice landing on the rear of the *PPV Beagle Gulf*, and then re-deploying back into the chopper.

“I had a fantastic time and we were winched up into the chopper with a rescue member then put back down



into the water by ourselves, great for the heart rate!”

“The funny thing was no one informed the guys in the chopper that Sergeant Glenn McPhee had been replaced by me, they were wondering as I was winched up why the Sergeant had painted purple toenails! They then realised (as I was wearing swim mask and wetsuit) that in fact I was a woman, they just said that they thought, ‘these fisheries boys are a bit funny’”.

Sam was an auxiliary for seven years before becoming a constable and after two years on the job she was keen to explore the options available.

“I'd recommend that people take the challenge. It's hard work but take the opportunity to come out to sections like MFES and have a look around, talk to people to see what it's like, do some relief work to get a feel for it”.

With somewhere like MFES there is a great need for younger officers to come through to learn from the wealth of experience on offer and take advantage of the great training opportunities available – just don't expect to spend your time fishing!

# Barney pulls up the anchor

Senior Constable William Thomas 'Barney' Noonan retired this month after 23 years of service writes **Hayley Dwyer**

**Barney Noonan joined the NT Police on 7 February 1983 and completed his training in Darwin.**

He went on to General Duties in Darwin and then in 1984 moved to Katherine and continued there until a relieving opportunity at Hooker Creek came up on Boxing Day 1984. The job evolved to formal gazetted after Barney applied for the second in charge position. He later did stints as the OIC of the Hooker Creek Police Station. As Barney tells it: "the only member to come through and visit was Glen Lynch – no one came through Hooker in those days."

After a period of undercover work for the Combined Drug Enforcement Unit, he was gazetted to the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section in April 1988.

Commissioner Paul White attended Barney's farewell morning tea on 16 August and heard about a man famous for his quick wit and never ending good sense of humour who is affectionately known as the 'heart and soul of fisheries'.

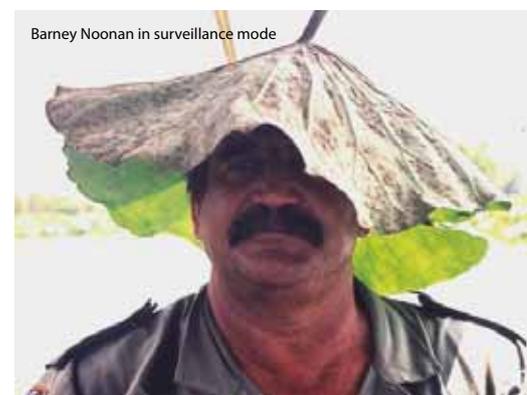
"Despite his unkempt, mean and gruff external appearance, Barney is one of the most caring and perceptive members that I've the had pleasure of serving with," said Senior Constable Richard Cheal, who was the master of ceremonies.

"His care towards fellow members and their respective families continued long after he had

knocked off for the day. Many a courtesy phone call to the families of 'absent-on-patrol' members have been made by Barney over the past 19 years. Sadly, this trait of looking after each other is severely lacking in today's modern police force. Perhaps this is how Polly Russell came to give Barney the title of the section 'social welfare worker', not only to fellow members and families but also to the fishermen he dealt with," he said.

Barney became a valued member of the land-based patrols in MFES, undertaking back-to-back 10-day patrols deep into Arnhem Land during his early days. Rumour has it that Barney's willingness to get the job done came to an abrupt halt when Mrs Noonan fronted the then Officer in Charge, Sgt Henshaw. Barney's forays were temporarily curtailed until some formal workplace agreements were put into place between Mrs Noonan and Sgt Henshaw. Allegedly, the rosters were then faxed to Mrs Noonan for her approval before they were officially posted by the OIC. This practice continued until recent times.

In 1996 there was a changing of the guard, with Barney coming under the care of Roger Ilett and Brian Harrison. This saw Barney back out in the never-never as a 'Toyota Tourist' or land-based fisheries officer. Intelligence-based policing was adopted in MFES at about that time and Barney was involved in



apprehensions and boat seizures as a result of his outstanding surveillance efforts.

He has always been a person willing to go the extra hard yards. Often chest deep in saltwater in amongst a few mangroves with video camera in hand—Barney was a (nervous) specialist—just to 'get the pinch'. A known handyman, as long as Bunnings had pallets of silastic and liquid nails Barney could repair everything from broken esky hinges to rebuilds on boat engines. For many years, he has kept the fisheries fleet refuelled, repaired, and operationally afloat, a fulltime job. "I've enjoyed my time with the NT Police immensely", said Barney.

Sadly for his colleagues they will no longer be entertained by his daily bellowing as he struggled to sign on to his computer. To his credit, he never stopped trying to better his PC skills and tried to keep up with the rapidly changing technology.

Barney is taking leave until his official retirement in April 2007. He will be doing some odd jobs around his house and looking after his three children. He hopes to remain in the Territory for a while and will no doubt be seen loitering at the Casuarina Club from time to time.

Senior Constable Richard Cheal summed up the proceedings nicely: "So long young fella and remember the section motto: *Never Look Back. Pectoris et animaeprocul piscatus* – the heart and soul of fisheries."

(Thanks to Richard Cheal for his contribution to this story)



Commissioner Paul White congratulates Barney on his retirement

# Skip's ferried off in style

By Hayley Dwyer

**Sydney 'Skip' Howard joined the NT Police on 7 February 1977. He worked at Darwin Station and Pirlangimpi before transferring to the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section in 1983.**

Skip gained his Master Five and Marine Engine Driver qualifications and became an integral part of the water police team, driving the *PPV Salloo* and other vessels. Sadly the *Salloo* passed on and Skip was left for several years without a 'proper' boat to drive. He eagerly participated and played a key role in the acquisition of the *PPV Beagle Gulf*.

Skip was given the arduous task of flying to Sydney to test the *Beagle* prior to purchase. His skills in driving larger vessels is second to none, he took great pride in the fact that he was given the task of driving these vessels and ensuring they got to where they were meant to go and back again.

It could be said Skip's a quiet achiever; he didn't say too much

but he got the job done. He commenced leave in June 2006 leading up to his retirement in 2007 which will mean 30 years of service with the NT Police, an achievement in itself.

Skip is retiring to South Australia where he will put his old trade to use restoring engines. The Commissioner, Deputy, Commander Crime and Support and Superintendent Territory Support Division attended a morning tea for Skip at MFES in June which was followed a couple of days later by a farewell lunch.

Skip resided at Mandorah, catching the ferry each day to Cullen Bay. On the morning of his last shift Skip went to board the ferry and was told he could not board. He immediately fronted the skipper of the ferry, "I don't know why but I have been told you're not getting on this ferry". . . A short time later Skip's 'ferry' aka the *PPV Beagle Gulf* arrived and conveyed him for the last time to work across Darwin Harbour.

All the staff at MFES and other members wish him well in his retirement.



## Hard work pays off for Marine and Fisheries members

By Lorraine Hook

**Members from the police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section (MFES) had a busy May.**

First was the retrieval of a number of freshwater pots from the Daly River.

During routine patrols around Banyan Farm, Sinclairs, Wooliana and Brown's Creek members from MFES located and removed a total of 78 pots that were discovered in the water. None of the pots had identification floats attached. Freshwater pots are used to catch cherubin which are popular as bait.

Pots should be marked in the same manner as crab pots thus identifying the holder and verifying the owner's maximum entitlement of five pots per person.

These unmarked pots were seized and taken to the MFES headquarters in Albatross Street, Darwin for disposal.

Secondly and most significantly intelligence work carried out MFES led to the arrest of three people suspected of illegal fishing off the coast of Borroloola.

Borroloola police assisted MFES by apprehending a couple suspected of illegal fishing. The events were that early one Sunday morning at the end of May police located the couple as they were leaving Borroloola and carried out a road side search of their vehicle.

The couple were found in possession of a large quantity of fresh fish from managed and

non-managed species, whole and filleted – the result of three weeks fishing, however, they were not in possession of a commercial fishing licence.

A search of a nearby property revealed more evidence of illegal fishing and a further person was arrested in connection with this offence.

Three people were summonsed for Exceeding Amateur Possession Limits under the Northern Territory of Australia *Fisheries Act*.

Their vehicle, freezers, fish and fishing equipment, as well as two dinghies, were seized in relation to these offences under the Act.

# Elliott Police tackle violence in school

Hayley Dwyer talks to Constable Stuart Winter on bridging the gap between police and Elliott students

***In an effort to curb an increase in student fighting and bullying at the local Community Education Centre teachers invited members Constable Stuart Winter and Senior ACPO Denise Goddard to speak with students.***

The fighting was serious with an average of one fight a day which often resulted in a student needing medical treatment.

On 17 August a group of about 20 students gathered in the school library to hear the presentation by Stuart and Denise.

After a general discussion about police activities there was a focus on the fact that fighting and hitting people was a serious offence, which attracts a variety of punishments, including possible jail time.

There was a detailed discussion on the need to be responsible for their actions and to put themselves in the place of the people that had been wronged. This led to an enormous amount of questions and answers and interaction by police, students and teachers.

The presentation culminated in an exciting visit to the local station and cell inspection.

“At the station things became a little chaotic with all the excitement . . . some students dressed up in police jackets and hats, some were fingerprinted, some were handcuffing one another and some just sat in the car exploring the different siren and light combinations”, said Stuart.

After the station visit it was back to the school again for question time. The previous talk was reinforced and conflict management techniques were discussed by the teachers and the children.

The visit has been a positive experience for all involved, particularly in breaking down the barriers between police and some of the troubled youths, even parents approached members pleased with the police involvement at the school.

“The full extent of the interaction will only be seen in the upcoming weeks and months. The rate of fighting will be closely monitored

but in the week following the talk there were only a couple of minor incidents. It has also been noticed that many of the students are now on a first name basis with the police and are not shy in coming to have a talk”, said Stuart.

The visit has opened the opportunity for regular ‘police days’ to give students an opportunity to interact with police and address any issues in the school.

Since then Senior ACPO Harold Dalywaters has held his first music lesson, members delivered their first road safety lecture and Blue Light Discos are planned for the future.

Members hope the positive interaction will have a roll-on effect to parents and siblings to strengthen the community and possibly increases school attendance.

Members gratefully acknowledge the assistance from the School Based Police Unit and the support of the teachers from the Elliott Community Education Centre.



Constable Stuart Winter and Senior ACPO Denise Goddard with some of the students

# Beat the Heat on track for bigger things

By Hayley Dwyer



***The Heat team, Superintendent Mark Jeffs, Senior Constable Ross Bohlin and John Sorrensen headed off on their annual pilgrimage to Mackay for Beat the Heat Queensland recently.***

The event started in 2005 at the invitation of the Palmyra Drag Club who invited the Beat the Heat team down to help start the initiative in Queensland. The first meeting was attended by over 2000 people and 87 cars.

The visit to Mackay included a shopping centre display in the Canelands Shopping Centre which was a great promotional activity and a wonderful opportunity to do some recruiting.

"It is always a sight to behold watching the shop owners poke their heads out in the early morning to sound of The Heat rumbling through the shopping centre with lights flashing. It is estimated that over 10 000 people saw The Heat on that day but after 13 hours standing talking to people about the initiative and the NT Police, our feet had developed flat spots!" said Superintendent Mark Jeffs.

Rain threatened to call off the event with just enough misty rain to saturate the track that morning. Amazingly the whole committee and members of the Palmyra Drag Club dried the track in under a half an hour. They pulled in an enormous compressor and blew

the water off the track and had members strung out over the 400 metre track pushing squeegees to get rid of the water.

The meet opened with Supt Jeffs pitted against Bluey Pearl in his ELXR8 and whilst the Heat won with a 12.6 seconds, there were some problems with the car. It was discovered that the car was only firing on seven cylinders.

"There was a dead plug lead and we didn't have a spare so our racing was over for the night until a keen bystander raced over to his Monaro in the car park and pulled a lead off his car and came back to us and said 'give this a go'", said Supt Jeffs.

Senior Constable Ross Bohlin went up against a local in a Chevy Bel Air who had previously posted a 12.3 pass. The crowd eagerly anticipated a Queensland win as the cars went into stage. The Heat burst off the line and posted an 11.9 second pass much to the dismay of the driver in the Bel Air.

"In true sporting spirit though he was the first to come over and shake Ross' hand coupled with a 'where on earth did that come from?'" said Supt Jeffs.

Finally things were going the Heat's way and the night continued to get better from there with S/Const Bohlin posting a personal best of 11.830 seconds and Supt Jeffs backing it up with a 11.829 seconds.

Beat the Heat continues to go from strength to strength. There is a second Beat the Heat Chapter now formed in Perth from the old Tango 1 team and Mackay recently incorporated as the third chapter all using the NT model.

Beat the Heat has now been opened up to admit competition members and currently has 42 members. This enables young drivers to join Beat the Heat and be subsidised to race at a much reduced rate in return for adopting the goals and objectives of the program, driving responsibly and agreeing not to be involved in any type of hooning or racing behaviour on public streets.

Australian Drag Racing Champion Brett Stevens now sports Beat the Heat logos on his two top door slammers and tow cars and during a recent trip to Darwin recorded an anti-street racing commercial for Beat the Heat which is regularly broadcast on Hot100 radio.

Beat the Heat is on track for much bigger things and continues to grow in support. Thanks go to Commissioner Paul White, Holden, Glenfords, Darwin North Rotary Club, DS Constructions, Toll, AANT, Hot100, Norsign, AusFuel, All Fast Torque Converters and sponsors and supporters for continuing to support this initiative that provides an enormous amount of positive public relations for the NT Police.

(Thanks to Supt Mark Jeffs for his contribution to this story.)

# Policing goes mobile in Darwin and Alice Springs

By Lorraine Hook and Theresa Kuilboer

**Former Police Minister, Paul Henderson unveiled the first of three planned mobile police stations in June this year. The new Minister Chris Burns said a total four mobile stations, worth \$100 000 each, are scheduled to be fully operational by the end of this year.**

Including air conditioning, external and internal lighting plus highly visible signage these vehicles can be used as forward command posts in emergency and exercise situations. They are fitted with radio and fully encrypted secure voice communications compatible with remote police station communication systems, equipped with laptop computers and direct online access to the Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services network.

Most recently deployed to Northlakes Shopping Centre, the Darwin mobile police unit was used as the focal point to invite public assistance following a brazen armed robbery at the local pharmacy.

The van's presence ensured a comfit of the alleged offender and a detailed description was given high media coverage with local media outlets. Plus after the recent traumatic events of the armed robbery, shoppers and workers

alike were reassured with the prompt action by police.

The high profile vehicle aims to grab the public's attention. Whether performing a targeted campaign as in the one in Northlakes or as a publicity platform for officers to communicate directly with members of the general public in an informal atmosphere.

Dr Burns said he was looking forward to bringing the new vans on line as part of the Government's package of measures to reduce anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related crime. "The first van is already achieving significant results and another three vehicles will only enhance police efforts to target hotspots."

## Alice Springs

Within an hour of the new \$100 000 mobile police station arriving in Alice Springs, police were putting it to good use. A road block was being organised on the North Stuart Highway following information that a large contingent of Willowra community members were coming to town.

Feuding families and the influx of so many people into Alice Springs



The mobile police van is equipped with state of the art communications and laptop computers

had the potential for conflict. Police therefore took the positive step to set up a road block and seize any weapons before they got into town.

As it turned out, the road block was maintained for several hours and utilised a large number of police.

While the interior of the mobile police station had yet to be fully equipped it still provided police with a sample of how useful it would become as a forward command post.

The unit is already serving as a high profile command post in the Alice Springs CBD during the weekends and provides members of the public with the certainty that police are out and about patrolling the town's hotspots to stop anti-social behaviour.

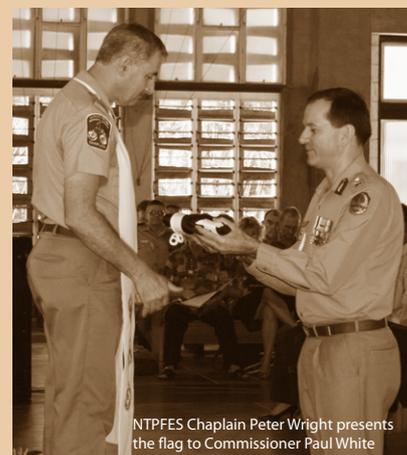


# New NT Police flag is blessed

**The new NT Police flag was blessed at the National Police Remembrance Day service held at St Mary's Cathedral in Darwin on 25 September.**

The flag, which shows the police emblem and Southern Cross on a background of ochre and black, then travelled to Canberra for the Dedication of the new National Police Memorial on 29 September.

"The flag is a symbolic representation of our organisation, our badge and our community, everything that we stand for and represent," said Commissioner Paul White.



## Interested in undertaking short course study?

***Dealing with Difficult People is one of the 25 online courses currently offered by the Assessment and Curriculum Section at the PFES College in partnership with CyberInstitute.***

These short courses, take no more than two to four hours to complete and are a great way for staff to up-skill with minimal effort and inconvenience. Courses are delivered online and can be accessed either at work or from home.

Kym Dixon from ACS who organised the courses says "This really is a great opportunity for tri-service staff to learn new knowledge and skills on everyday issues that affect them in their workplace. With 25 courses, there is something for everyone."

Other courses available include Time Management, Leadership for Women, Risk Assessment and Management, Performance Management Basics and Business Accounting Basics just to name a few.

Enrolments are advertised monthly via an email Broadcast. In the meantime more details can be found on the NTPFES Intranet - Training College\My Learning\College Online\Online short courses. If you require further information on this great learning opportunity, please contact Sandy Watts on 8922 3643.

## It's a dog's life

By Lorraine Hook

***Monte and Scent showed off their good work again recently. They were called to the car compound at Berrimah to search a vehicle that had been seized following the apprehension of a man suspected of selling MDMA (ecstasy) tablets.***

Both dogs reacted positively to certain areas within the car so further investigations will take place to establish if drugs have been secreted within the vehicle.

The dogs have been hard at work at Darwin airport too, detecting drugs concealed within soap powder, moisturiser, talcum powder and even stitched into a toy baby doll.

The dogs have become celebrities in their own right with Leon Compton, ABC's drive time presenter ever keen to let listeners know what work the dogs are doing.



# Child abuse task force – a collaborative approach to protect against child abuse

***The Child Abuse Task Force (CAT) is a joint Northern Territory Police and Northern Territory Family and Children's Services (FACS) initiative designed to strategically investigate incidences of complex and/or systemic child abuse or instances of sexualised behaviour within the Northern Territory.***

Systemic child abuse is the ongoing maltreatment of children that may exhibit itself as physical, social, emotional or sexual abuse.

CAT will provide a joint response capability between police and FACS Territory-wide. The task force is located on the second floor of the Peter McAulay Centre and will initially be comprised of five major crime investigators and five FACS child protection workers. This interagency strategy will be jointly managed by the OIC of Major Crime Unit (MCU) and the team leader of FACS.

"It is not envisaged that any changes will occur at the local level of reporting," said Tactical Commander, Detective Sergeant Michelle Gavin.

"Complaints will still be received at local level of both agencies—police and FACS. Changes are implemented only in regard to the assessment and dissemination of these referrals, thus providing a timely response to all child abuse notifications," Det Sgt Gavin explained.

The task force will assess and investigate all complex child abuse matters. Investigations will primarily focus on, but not necessarily be confined to, matters involving a suggestion of organised, complex or multiple child abuse, i.e. multiple offenders or multiple victims.

CAT will also provide ongoing support to members who have carriage of child abuse

investigations. Depending on the complexity of the investigation, a CAT member may also be deployed to assist in an investigation.

Assessment of the child abuse referrals received by both FACS and police will be undertaken by CAT on a daily basis. A determination will then be made from this assessment as to the level of the response required.

Referrals which are not complex and/or systemic will then be disseminated to the appropriate local region in a timely and prompt manner.



In matters of complex and/or systemic child abuse CAT members will be deployed to a location to undertake the investigation. At times CAT members may initially be required to attend a locality or community to make a preliminary assessment of the situation.

An interagency Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) is now in place. The ISA allows police and FACS to freely share information that in the past has not been possible. The ISA forms part of the collaborative approach and commitment by both agencies in investigating child abuse.

A dedicated website is being developed which will incorporate a list of members currently trained in specialist child interviewing techniques who are available to conduct child interviews upon

request through the OIC of the member's designated station.

Major Crime Unit, in consultation with CIDU, are committed to providing ongoing training of members as Specialist Child Interviewers (SCI). Two courses are being conducted this year with the dates to be advised. Members interested in training as SCIs will be encouraged to apply.

Currently CAT has commissioned the Criminal Intelligence Section to undertake a two-year review of child abuse matters. This review may entail CAT contacting the local member(s) for intelligence purposes or for further investigative work that may be deemed necessary.

Remote communities, language and cultural barriers all contribute to impede the timely assessment and investigation of child abuse.

"Members are asked to encourage their community to speak out about child abuse and to actively promote the need for protection of children within the community," said Det Sgt Gavin.

Communication amongst the community and the agencies involved is one of the primary tools of a successful investigation.

"An external email will be available shortly and we'll be encouraging the general public to utilise this tool," she said.

It must be noted that there will be no change in regard to local level reporting. The change is in the assessment of the referrals and in the response time frame to the community needs.

Members are encouraged to contact either Tactical Commander, Det Sgt Michelle Gavin on 8922 3330 or Constable Chrissy O'Connor on 8922 3428 for advice or queries in any child abuse matters.

# *In the spotlight:* Senior Constable Kaye Pemberton

Lorraine Hook talks to Senior Constable Kaye Pemberton in the first of our 'In the spotlight' segments



***On 1 October Senior Constable Kaye Pemberton will mark her fifth year as the hospital based constable. The post was originally planned as a six month trial; this was extended for another six months and Kaye has been there ever since. Another landmark was her 18th anniversary of being in the service which was celebrated on 26 September.***

Kaye's role as hospital based constable is a varied one. She liaises between many organisations from local welfare departments to federal agencies such as Immigration or the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Most recently, she managed the welfare of the East Timorese police officers recently sent here for medical treatment. Her work received recognition from the East Timorese Consulate General, Mr Abel Guterres who expressed his thanks for all the work she had done on behalf of his officers.

Darwin born and bred, Kaye now lives in Girraween with her husband and three children.

## 12 Questions...

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

As a youngster I did think about being a cop and at an early age I was nicknamed Constable Kate by a close family friend. As I got older I did not apply due to the height restrictions. In my early 20s I was working as a bank teller at National Australia Bank, when I was encouraged by another police officer to apply.

### ***Most significant moment in NT history***

As an eight year old, cyclone Tracy leaves vivid memories. Not all of the memories are sad. My parents worked at Cavanagh Car Sales and I remember riding around on brand new Honda motorbikes, and sleeping out in the new cars in the car lot as our house was inhabitable. We were lucky because the site had a generator so anyone with a fridge or freezer came along and hooked it up. The employees were given a leg of ham as part of their Christmas bonus from the bosses so for days we ate handsomely on ham for breakfast, lunch and tea! The worst thing about cyclone Tracy as a kid was lining up for Tetanus injections at the old Darwin Hospital.

### ***Funniest moment***

Possibly an email I received from a man researching a book, he thought I might be able to add something to

his work. . . He had gotten my email address from a list of interested parties discussing mental health issues. He had read my email address that contains 'msexchange' and mistakenly read it as 'my sex change' and he needed some input on his book on transvestism!

### ***Favourite food***

Barramundi with béarnaise sauce, oh and not forgetting oysters!

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

My husband and kids (a son aged 11, and two daughters nine and six years old).

### ***Favourite place***

The Gold Coast because it's where I spent my honeymoon and it is such a fun place. My husband, the children and I are going on a family trip there in 2007.

### ***Last holiday taken***

It was Sydney without my husband and children—the first time I've gone anywhere without them and I missed them all very much. However, I got lots of shopping and eating done and had a great time with my sister and mother.

### ***Who is your hero***

For most of my childhood it was my father, but then I saw Martin Riggs (Mel Gibson's character in *Lethal Weapon*)... what a man! What an

attitude. I love how he always got the bad guy. It would be great if we always did. But seriously, every Bali victim that came through here as a patient got my vote. Their courage and strength was amazing.

### ***Top three guests to dinner***

- John Howard—I just like him and it would give me an opportunity to voice some of my views directly to the top
- Hillary Clinton—I'd have to ask if she really believed her husband!
- Geoffrey Robertson (from *Hypotheticals*).

### ***Last thing read***

The bill proposing changes to the legislation on the *Mental Health Act*—not exactly bedtime reading but essential to understand for my job.

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

It depends on how much I won, but I love my job so I'd continue working. If I won enough there are a few things I'd like to do and get such as holidays, a car, property and security so that when I decide I've had enough then I can leave.

### ***Best achievement to date***

My job. After 18 years in the force, five of which based at Royal Darwin Hospital . . . I'm still going.

## 2006 Australasian Road Rescue Competition

By Katie Woolf

**Members of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service last month participated in the Australasian Road Rescue Competition held in Adelaide.**

Six members from Palmerston and Alice Springs Fire Stations attended the championship where they placed second in the C Division of the competition and were also awarded the Best Team Spirit Award.

The team consisted of six members - Team leader Jeff Whittaker, Medic Sam Jenner, Safety Officer Craig Slack, Tool Operators Simon Burt, Adam Gould and Gary Branson.

The team was accessed on three different scenarios including an

entrapped rescue—casualty trapped inside vehicle, controlled rescue—casualty not trapped in vehicle, and rapid rescue—casualty not treatable in vehicle.

The first team to represent at the NTFRS at the Australasian Road Rescue Competition finished 14th from a total of 23 teams, not only finishing second in the C Division, but beating half the team in the B division.



### Palmerston family fun day

On Sunday 9 July, Palmerston Police Station held a family fun day at Marlow's Lagoon. The event was held to encourage the building of partnerships within the community.

Palmerston police and Moulden Park Primary School got together for the day along with a number of kids from the Scallywags Child Care Centre.

Activities were organised for the kids and Palmerston police supplied equipment to ensure a fun day was had by all who attended.



## Get fired up about the games – register now!

**The World Police and Fire Games (WPFPG) is a spectacular event which offers 10 days of world class competition and entertainment.**

Every two years more than 10 000 firefighters, law enforcement, correctional services and customs officers from around the world participate in the games.

Whether these competitors return home with a medal or a wealth of good memories, they will all say that the games are about a lot more than just winning or losing.

They are about the spirit of friendly competition and rivalry between countries, between agencies and between individuals. They are about the sense of unity and enduring camaraderie. And they will say that every police, fire, customs and correctional officer should have the chance to participate in the games, at least once.

With the games being held in Adelaide from 16-25 March next year, every officer in Australia will have the opportunity to be a part of the occasion. The 2007WPFPG team have created a sensational games program that will provide a perfect blend of competition that is sure to challenge, and social activities that are sure to entertain.

The sporting program offers 79 events to choose from providing ample opportunity for you to showcase your talents and test your skills from sports offered in the Olympic Games to traditional WPFPG sports such as Tug-of-War, Pistol–Police Combat, Stair Race, the Ultimate Firefighter and the Toughest Competitor Alive event. And join us every night to relive the day's play and share a beer or two at the Games Village, to be known as the Coopers Alehouse on the Torrens.

All you need to do is visit [www.2007wpfg.com](http://www.2007wpfg.com) to start planning how many of the 79 sporting events you want to compete in, and register either online or by requesting a copy of the registration book.

Don't miss out on the experience of a lifetime . . . register now!

