

THE

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DRUM

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

2002 Police Officer of the Year

Gary fought the good fight

World's Greatest Shave

Seven discos in seven days

McHappy Day

New recruits

Dragon Boat Challenge



JUNE 2003



Commissioner's Message

The Terms of Reference established by the government for the O'Sullivan Assessment represents a significant milestone for the police force and one that will provide a template for our immediate future resource requirements. I have submitted a detailed report on behalf of the police force and look forward to the

outcome of Mr O'Sullivan's report to government.

Many members have expressed a keen desire for vocational training as part of their ongoing development. The development of all members is vital for the overall health and well-being of the organisation and I will ensure a commitment to ongoing vocational training.

Good things are already happening at the College with the second eight week detective training course under way, along with a number of frontline management workshops. The second half of the year will see the roll-out of the new Promotional Qualification Framework and, while our commitment to practitioner-based training will place some pressure on the workforce and the College, I ask for your

continued cooperation to ensure the success of these vitally important initiatives.

While I continually read and hear about examples of good operational police work, I would like to acknowledge the commitment to targeted policing operations across the Territory. There is no doubt that targeted policing of hot spots and active criminals plays a major part in our crime reduction efforts.

Being a tri-service, it would be remiss of me not to mention the valuable contribution by Emergency Service volunteers to recent road safety campaigns and their participation and assistance at the recent Fred's Pass Show.

Finally, I welcome our new Director Media and Corporate Communications, Mr John McCourt to the position and, among other things, look forward to his plans for improving corporate communications.

PAUL WHITE
Commissioner of Police and
CEO Fire and Emergency Services

FIRST JOINT POLICE/FIRE GRADUATION

Forty-three police and NT Fire Service recruits marched out in a combined graduation ceremony at Peter McAulay Centre early in May.

NT Police squad 72 proudly boasted 27 members who had successfully completed the training course, while 16 firies marched out to begin their new careers at various postings throughout the Territory.

The Training College has had a busy time of it lately with police squads 72 and 73 (whose 35 members are due to graduate in August) as well as the firies all training at the same time.

Dux of police squad 72 was recruit Alan Green (pictured above right with His Honour the Administrator John Anictomatis) who has been posted to Katherine.

Top recruit for the firies was Simon Hill (pictured below right with His Honour the Administrator John Anictomatis) who took out the Silver Axe award. Simon will work out of Darwin Station.

The college also trained four new police communications auxiliaries in April and another five auxiliaries will begin training in Alice Springs at the end of July.

Police squad 74 began training on 10 June with 34 new recruits. They are expected to graduate in December making a total of 101 new police officers out in the field this calendar year, including four former police who have rejoined the force.



Front cover: Driving past Katajuta. Back cover: NTES volunteers during an abseiling exercise. Photos by Barry Skipsey and Karl Herzog.

Craig is Police Officer of the Year

By Rory Presnell

A police constable from Hermannsburg has been announced as this year's winner of the Rotary Police Officer of the Year Award. Constable Craig Dunlop received the award in Darwin from the NT Administrator John Anictomatis after being nominated by the Ntaria Council for his work at the Hermannsburg community.

The nomination described him as a policeman with unconditional compassion for his community.

Constable Dunlop and his wife Kathy arrived in Darwin in 1995 from Victoria where he had been a bank employee. The couple now have two daughters, three-year-old Laura and one-year-old Amy.

In July 1999, Craig decided to become a police officer and after training, was posted to Alice Springs. From Alice he was posted to Hermannsburg (Ntaria) where he has spent almost two years working with the community.

Craig's nomination described him as a man who sees potential in absolutely everyone. He proved that attitude by helping the members of the community in every way, even outside of his regular duties as a police officer.

From helping young people get their driver's licences to encouraging youth participation in football, Craig Dunlop has had an enormous impact on the quality of life at Hermannsburg, according to community members.

Football has been a great form of entertainment at the community and Craig Dunlop has helped foster a continuing interest in the sport.

According to Craig's nomination, he has shown he is prepared to take on a variety of roles to help the Hermannsburg community. Among the responsibilities he has taken on is to regularly attend the school to talk to young people in their classrooms about anything they want to talk about. If anyone has a problem or an issue he will help them sort it out.

It is not just the young ones he cares about and guides. Craig also visits the Cultural Centre to talk to women about domestic violence and the rights of victims. He unselfishly and unconditionally does whatever he can to educate the people so they can improve their lives.

According to the community, the thoughtful way in which Constable Dunlop approaches and treats everyone in the community makes him one in a million and a most deserving winner of this year's Rotary Police Officer of the Year award.



From the Editor's desk....

After last year's major upheavals in the Media Unit we are happy to report that there is now (almost) a full complement of permanent staff.

The new Director, Media and Corporate Communications is John McCourt who hails from Broome in Western Australia. John has extensive media experience, having worked in both print and broadcasting media in that State. His broadcasting experience includes reporting and directing a news and current affairs program. In the past he has held the position of media adviser for the Western Australian Government as well as consulting in the areas of media, public relations and marketing. He comes to NTPFES from the University of Notre Dame, Australia, where he was a senior lecturer in business and marketing.

Assisting him as Acting Media Manager is Sandra Mitchell who comes most recently from Royal Darwin Hospital where she has been the Public Relations Officer for more than five years. Sandra comes to us with a history in print media where her roles included police rounds and court reporting over a seven year period in New South Wales.

Next to join the team is James Pratt as a Media Liaison Officer on 30 June. James comes most recently from Griffith in NSW where he has been working as a journalist in print media. He is returning home and looking forward to joining the team.

And those who have been around for a while will be pleased to see former Media Liaison Officer Sue Bradley back in the Media Unit after about a year and a half in Registry at Peter McAulay Centre. Welcome to everyone.

Theresa Kuilboer
Editor

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Stories and photos by Theresa Kuilboer, Rory Presnell, Bev Warnest, Chantal Fischer and Bob Materna.

Design and artwork by Kris Lee.

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(08) 8951 8825 • pfes.media@pfes.nt.gov.au •

PO Box 39764, Winnellie NT 0821

"Face" of southern policing retires

By Theresa Kuilboer

NT Police lost one of its most high-profile police officers with the retirement earlier this year of Sergeant Garth Macpherson.

For the last seven of his 25 years in the NT Police Force Garth Macpherson has been the face and voice of community policing in Central Australia. With his regular stints on radio as well as his high-profile role in staging policing exhibitions and displays for the show circuit, there would be few people in Central Australia who failed to recognise him.

This was a big change for this bushie who only joined the police force "when the bottom fell out of wool and beef didn't look much better".

Garth had been on the land in Western Australia for most of his life before he joined the army to do his tour of Vietnam. When he returned to Australia he'd had enough and left the army to return to the land. He married Kerry and they eventually had three children, Scott, now 26, Tammi, 23 and David 20.

He joined the NT Police in May 1978 and was initially posted to Darwin before an 18 month posting to Gove. From Gove he went on to do a two year stint in Timber Creek ("when there was a population of 13 people and 75 dogs") before becoming officer in charge at Maranboy.

Garth loved his four year stay at Maranboy, even though it was there he almost came to grief after he was attacked by a felon Garth was trying to arrest. The offender was



Sergeant Garth Macpherson is farwelled by Police Commissioner Paul White

eventually arrested but not before assaulting Garth with a heavy timber shield. Garth was unarmed at the time ("I didn't have a gun with me - I hated handguns so never carried one".)

Garth was promoted to Sergeant and posted to Katherine where he remained until 1991 when he was transferred to General Duties in Alice Springs.

When Garth left operational policing in 1996 to take on the demanding role as head of community policing, he had no idea of the challenges that lay ahead. Neighbourhood Watch was in its infancy in Alice Springs and was non-existent in Tennant Creek. Through sheer hard work and determination Garth plugged away to increase the number of zones in Alice Springs from four to seven and to start up Neighbourhood Watch in Tennant Creek.

To achieve these results required hard work and a high profile, so Garth found himself having to do media interviews and develop a regular radio spot to highlight the work of Neighbourhood Watch. His was usually the first face of policing members of the public would see at the various shows in the Centre, as he faithfully manned the police stand and chatted to people about the joys of policing.

Not bad for a person who, by his own admission, is "certainly not a people person - never have been."

Well, he may not have been born with natural people skills, but he has proved over the years he certainly has what it takes to do the job anyway.

He is everything you would expect a bush copper to be - blunt, outspoken, impatient, practical - and painfully honest. From a public profile perspective Garth Macpherson will certainly be a hard act to follow.



Garth receiving his presentation on behalf of the NT Police Association from Senior Sergeant Geoff Sullivan

Chris looks forward to pensioner life

By Theresa Kuilboer



After almost 25 years with NT Fire and Rescue Service, Senior Firefighter Chris Lake has retired to “enjoy being a pensioner”, as he puts it.

Chris was born in Alice Springs 55-years ago into a family of 10 – the grandson of the late Hetty Perkins and nephew of the late Charlie Perkins. His first job was working at the Gap Store for two hours a day after school and each weekend.

After leaving school, his first full-time job was with Rumble and Jury as an apprentice diesel mechanic. He stayed there for two years before moving to Centralian Bricks as a brick maker, where he remained for three years. He then moved on to work with his brother Ian, who was a foreman with what was then known as the Commonwealth Department of Works building roads. There he remained for 18 months until he went to the Electricity Commission where he remained for eight and a half years.

“I did drift from one job to another a bit, but my dad Percy gave me a great work ethic and I was never without a job,” Chris said.

At the Electricity Commission he trained as an A-grade electrician and before eventually leaving to join the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, he was promoted to line foreman.

Alice Springs’ first Fire Chief Lloyd Allen eventually headhunted Chris for the job, having met him through their association with sports.

“There were 17 permanent members in those days with Lloyd as chief. Now there are 29. The atmosphere was terrific in those days because you knew everyone and it helped you settle in. We had great respect for the senior officers as well, and we learnt a lot from them.”

Among the most memorable fires Chris was involved with was the day Ly Underdown’s “Uncles” Hotel burnt down.

“It was about 1984, and the fire started in what was known as the Jet Bar. Alarms went off and everyone attended, including off-duty airport fires. We used almost 10 million litres of water to put the fire out, and it’s a matter of pride that we managed to contain it to the top floor which was where the fire started.

“It’s not surprising either because we discovered that that’s where they’d stored all their excess building materials – all of which were highly flammable.”

That fire was the biggest Alice Springs had ever seen, and the day after the blaze old Ly Underdown died.

There have been many other memorable moments in Chris’s long career, but despite the fact he admits he will miss all the excitement, he is nonetheless looking forward to travelling and doing all the things he and his wife Heather have always looked forward to doing.

“But more than anything, I’m simply going to enjoy retirement.”

FAREWELL FINGERS FARNCOMB

By Rory Presnell

He’s dusted off his last crime scene, hung up the gloves for the final time. Geoffrey Farncomb, the resident Fingerprint Expert has retired to the life of leisure.

Geoffrey Farncomb first joined the NT police as a trainee police officer in 1981, where he worked for 10 years. In 1991, he joined the Australian Federal Police in Canberra where he trained in the Fingerprint Section, gaining qualifications to provide fingerprint identification as evidence in a court of law.

His love for the Territory gradually enticed him back onto home soil as a civilian fingerprint specialist with the NTPFES. He was the proud graduate of an Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Fingerprints), one of the first such diplomas granted through the NTPFES training college. During this time he displayed his expertise in high profile investigations such as an arson investigation at the MGM Grand in December 2001, but showed equal dedication to even the small incidents.

Geoff says he always appreciated recognition for his efforts.

“The highlight of my career was attending the 2001 International Conference on Identification in London, and being awarded a scholarship from the Australian – New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) in 2002.

“I was also elected as Regional Vice-President of the Fingerprint Society (UK) 2002.”

He also wrote training modules in fingerprints for trainee constables, auxiliaries and ACPO’s.

Geoff’s proactive attitude expands outside of his profession, having been a Safety House Coordinator and a committee member of both Karama Primary School council and the Sanderson Scout Group.

He may have stopped laying the dust, but this guy will never stop being as effective as he can possibly be.

Gary fought the good fight

By Theresa Kuilboer

Police officers throughout the Territory turned out to mourn the death of one of their most respected colleagues earlier this year.

Superintendent Gary Smith passed away in Darwin on April 7 following an incredibly brave fight with cancer. He was just 53.

Gary joined the Northern Territory Police in February 1, 1971 as part of Squad 7. He had already served as a police officer with the South Australia Police Force for six years prior to coming to the Territory.

During his time with NT Police he served in many capacities and in many locations including Groote Eylandt, Nhulunbuy, Alice Springs,

Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin and Daly River. He spent periods working in CIB, forensics, Marine and Fisheries and TRG and was universally loved by all who met him. He retired in February 15 last year after he was diagnosed with cancer.

One of his best friends, Commander Bob Fields, joined the NT Police Force in the same squad as Gary. Commander Fields described him as "a bloke who absolutely enjoyed life."

He said Gary was one of those rare individuals who could communicate at all levels.

"He could inspire confidence and affection from all people who dealt with him. The community, his friends



and family will be the poorer for him going out, but certainly the richer from the experience of knowing him."

Gary is survived by his wife Jennifer and children Tania and Patrick.



Alice loses family member "Joycie"

By Chantal Fischer

When Joyce Giles passed away earlier this year many members of the NT Police must have felt they had lost a family member and not just a friend.

Joycie, as she was fondly known, was for years the contract worker supplying meals to the prisoners at the Alice Springs Police Station. Three times a day, come rain, hail or shine, she would drive up to the police station in her old jalopy loaded up with steaming pots of food.

All the detainees, even the most hardened would approach Joyce and politely ask if there was any supper for them too, or upon leaving, would give her a friendly pat on the shoulder and say "good supper, missus." Not one was ever rude. If an expletive ever escaped their lips they were quick to apologise.

Joycie and her beloved late husband Jack were never able to have children, so the young Police members became her family.

She always had a particularly soft spot for the young bachelors in uniform, and many police officers today remember when they were single and Joycie would always make sure they were well-fed. She always went to special efforts at Christmas time, and the long-faced staff who had drawn the Christmas shift would cheer up immediately as a tray of treats were brought in.

The wonderful hospitality this woman provided extended well beyond her duties as caterer at the Watchhouse.

Many of the senior members remember their days of bachelorhood when several of Joycie's 'boys' would visit her home and sit round the big table laden with food. She regarded the

members as her extended family and she was regarded as the force's "longest-serving unsworn member".

When one of the members had a welcome addition to their family, there was Joycie with a little gift as she proudly accepted another member into her ever-growing extended family.

Just as importantly, Joycie never missed a member's funeral and felt the pain and loss as keenly as anyone else.

She proudly held the contract at the Watchhouse for a total of 29 and a half years until illness forced her to stop work. She received a letter of recognition from (then) Commissioner Brian Bates for her dedication to her job.

Joycie's passing has left a void which residents of Alice Springs, the NT Police and her family and friends know will never quite be filled.

World's Greatest Shave (or colour) for a cure

By Rory Presnell

SIC Arthur Egleston shows off his new hairstyle

They flocked from far and wide to queue up for the stylish (very) short back and sides all-over shave with the clippers. Those who didn't want the chop opted for creative colouring, choosing any number of combinations of green, orange, red or purple all-purpose canned semi-permanent (on the head, if not in the hair) hair spray.

The really brave took to doing both! What on earth were they thinking? That they wanted to participate in the Leukaemia Foundation's annual "Shave for a Cure", aimed at raising funds to aid in the search for the elusive cure for cancer, was what they were thinking.

Members of the Police, Fire and Emergency Services crowded the Mall on Friday 14 March or rocked up to Casuarina on Saturday 15 March to beautify themselves in the name of Leukaemia research.

In the Mall we had the boys from the college (below), the lads from Darwin station and the guys from Berrimah (and one gal) all accompanied by Commander of the Darwin Region, Greg Dowd. Assistant Commissioner Doug Smith kept up our reputation on the Saturday at Casuarina to show just how dedicated the force is to getting

out there and supporting organisations such as this one.

The Leukaemia Foundation is expecting to collect close to \$100 000 in total from Territorians this year. Last year the Territory raised \$32 000 and the biggest year to date was around two years ago when \$55 000 was collected.

The NTPFES is contributing around \$7300 to that total, with Assistant Commissioner Doug Smith blazing a trail of glory, having raised around \$6000 all on his lonesome.

A social night out with friends who have a son with Leukaemia convinced the Assistant Commissioner to participate. He agreed to take part on the Thursday, on Friday morning started to make phone calls for pledges, and by Friday afternoon had around \$6000 worth of sponsors. That is a record that will need breaking next year!

Keep an ear out for a repeat performance, multiplied several times over, next year. The search goes on... that cure is out there somewhere, and members of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services are going to continue in the quest to help find it.

Jason flies high

By Bev Warnest

Jason Ellis of Durack was the winner of the Northern Territory Police and Northern Territory News Spot-a-Cop Competition which was held over the Christmas school holidays.

Jason, a 13-year-old Marrara Christian School student won a 30-minute flight on the Police Airwing's Pilatus plane. Jason chose to take his parents on his winning flight.

The objective of the Spot-a-Cop competition was to promote road safety awareness in children. Six different road safety messages appeared on police cars in the Darwin, Palmerston and Casuarina areas between Saturday 14 December 2002 and Wednesday 29 January 2003. Children completed an entry form listing the six-road safety message displayed on the police vehicles over the six-week period.

Jason was congratulated on his win by Assistant Commissioner Doug Smith before accompanying his parents, NT Police Airwing Chief Pilot Greg Imlay and police pilot Scott Macfarlane on his prize flight.







The McConstables cook up a storm in Palmerston

By Theresa Kuilboer

Palmerston Police exchanged their batons and guns for eggflips and tongs as they took part in this year's McHappy Day charity fundraiser.

Fourteen members from the Palmerston Police Station took turns at flipping patties, pouring shakes and cooking fries as they helped raise money for Ronald McDonald Charities.

Palmerston Police were invited to be VIP crew members for McHappy Day on 10 May, so, being the community-spirited folks they are they all readily agreed to help out at Palmerston McDonalds.

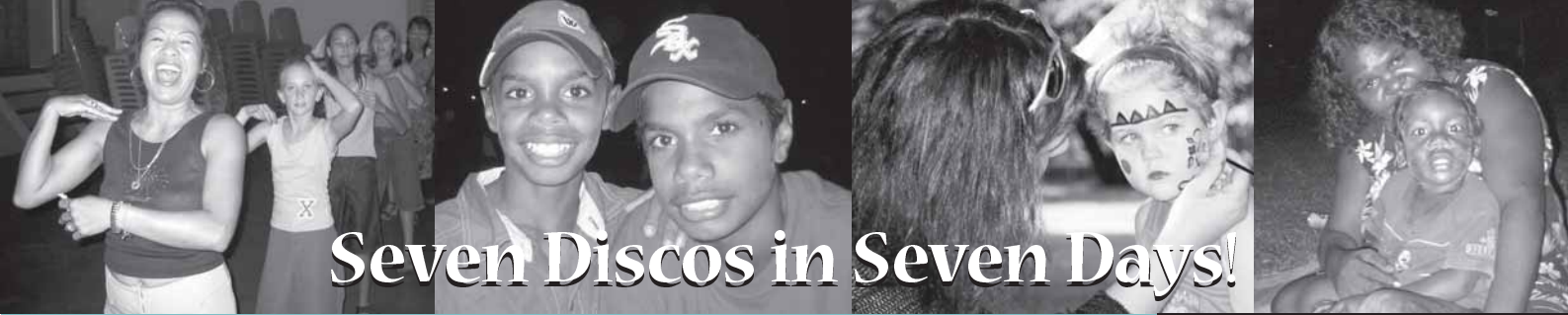
The morning shift started at 10am (after a hearty breakfast of egg and bacon muffins, no doubt). There was Steve Hazell on chips, Deb Fisher on drive-through, Rebecca Rapper on register, Paul Carmody on the hot plate and Mark Kime as floater.

When the afternoon shift rocked up at 3.30pm they were all keen to have a go and prove their burgers were better than the morning shift's. So with Paul Maccioni on the front counter, Matt Cryton on drive-through, Brad Currie and John Connor on burgers, Kim Bell on chips and John Connor's daughter making sundaes, the PM crew cooked up a storm.



One big McHappy family





Seven Discos in Seven Days!

National Youth Week in April gave the Northern Territory Police an opportunity to show their social side when they toured with the Blue Light Disco. The team coordinating the event travelled more than 3500 kilometres over seven days and visited seven communities and towns.

Organiser of the event, retired police officer Allan Mitchell was again geared up for a huge trip.

"Following the success of the venture last year, we just had to do it again. Every community we contacted this year was more than happy to have us back", said Mr Mitchell.

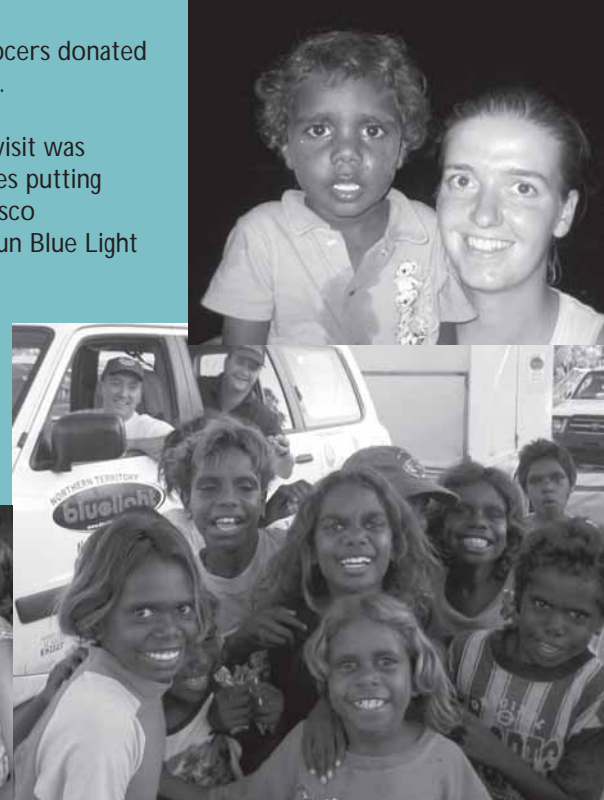
Mr Mitchell, accompanied by Constable David Taylor and Darwin DJ Kevin Jacobsson left Darwin on Sunday 6 April for a week of rock 'n' roll. The Blue Light Disco visited Pine Creek, Mataranka, Beswick, Yarralin, Timber Creek Lajamanu and Kalkaringi on the seven-day tour.

The project received partial funding from the NT Office of Youth Affairs and some of the communities made a financial contribution to make the

week a possibility. Independent Grocers donated some of the giveaways for the week.

"A positive spin-off from last years visit was Kalkaringi and Lajamanu communities putting some funds together to purchase disco equipment, so the local Police can run Blue Light Discos on a more regular basis," said Mr Mitchell.

The Blue Light Disco has been running in the Northern Territory since 1981, with branches in every major centre and has held hundreds of discos over that time.



Greg returns to Darwin

Members of the Retired Police Association in Darwin welcomed home an old colleague last month, when Greg Nutt-Foster returned to Darwin to live.

Greg joined the force in February 1973 and moved to the Water Police in 1975.

He retired in 1987 after attending the America's Cup in Fremantle with an NT police boat that he described as the best boat in the Australian Government at that time.

"We had the boat and two full crews and had the job of carrying VIP observers.

"We had a privilege flag that

allowed us to get up on the yachts, which was pretty special," said Greg during the welcome home barbecue.

When he retired, Greg moved to the Gold Coast, but a deterioration in his health due to MS has seen him make the move back to Darwin to be near his son.



Well done Don!

By Theresa Kuilboer

Alice Springs-based Aboriginal Community Police Officer Donald St Clair has become the first recipient of the Northern Territory Administrator's medal.

ACPO St Clair was presented with his award by the NT Administrator John Anictomatis at the recent Police and Fire Service graduation parade.

The award was introduced as a means of recognising the valuable contribution made to the community by individual ACPOs.

ACPO St Clair, 35, began his employment with the Northern Territory Police Force in December 1997. He is attached to the Bush Patrols Unit in Alice Springs, and is also a member of the Road Safety Council and is involved in the Central Australian Football League.

His work in Alice Springs has seen him actively involved in the Night Patrol and the Todd River Warden program. He is also well-known for his work in communicating with young people regarding substance abuse and general life skills.

Commander, Southern Region, Gary Manison, said the award was recognition of ACPO St Clair's professionalism and commitment to the NT Police and the community.

"Being an ACPO is not an easy job for Don with the pressure placed on him by many in the Aboriginal community," Commander Manison said.

"He has used his strong family and community ties in Alice Springs as a strength and he has maintained a high level of professionalism while still maintaining close ties to the community."

ACPO St Clair said he was



honoured to be the first recipient of the Administrator's medal and hoped it would highlight the work of all ACPOs in the NT Police force.

"It was an absolute privilege to receive the award, especially as there

are 47 ACPOs in the Territory and many of them do outstanding work," ACPO St Clair said.

"I just hope this award becomes an incentive and a goal for other ACPOs."

Gordon Jackson

A young man who is described as a role model for young people has been awarded the Territory Administrator's Volunteer of the Year Award for 2003.

Gordon Jackson, 26, has been a volunteer in the Fire and Emergency Response Group at Elliott for almost two years. For the last 12 months he has been Deputy Captain and according to Group Captain Ron Squires is "the best deputy" he's ever had.

Gordon has consistently attended training sessions and unit meetings and has demonstrated a high level of professionalism and has gained the respect of the community.

He has also been a team leader in the local AFL football club, the Elliott Hawks, for nine years, during which time as a star team member his role has influenced young boys to take up football and a healthier way of life.



Gordon has also worked on the Elliott District Government Council as a plant operator and as a supervisor at the local gym and youth centre. He has also been a councillor on the Gurungu Council Aboriginal Corporation where he worked to support improvements to the facilities and infrastructure in his community. He is presently the president of the Gurungu Council.

The youth of the town look up to Gordon as an exceptional role model. As such he is a most deserving winner of this year's Administrator's Medal for the Volunteer of the Year.

NSW bravery award for Phil

NT Emergency Service volunteer Phil Walker has received a bravery award for his part in rescuing three people trapped during a fire in New South Wales.

Phil was a member of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service in 1994 when the incident occurred. In May this year he received the NSW Commissioner's Citation for Bravery.

The citation, states: "On January 8, 1994, the southern Sydney suburb of Jannali was impacted by wild fire of such intensity that even property protection was impossible. While assisting with the evacuation of civilians, Captain Kiellor and Deputy Captain Walker were alerted to the plight of three persons trapped in a

house in the immediate path of the fire front.

"Despite a direct threat to their own lives, the two officers attended the scene on foot and carrying breathing apparatus, the fire being too intense to allow approach by vehicle. The badly burnt victims were located in a backyard swimming pool and were protected and assisted by the two officers until medical assistance could safely be deployed.

"Despite placing their own lives in direct danger, these two officers succeeded in saving the lives of two of the victims. Their courage and self-sacrifice are an outstanding example and have brought great honour to themselves and to their brigade."



Phil (pictured above) is employed as an aviation rescue officer at the Alice Springs Airport and is currently the officer in charge of the Alice Springs NTES Volunteer Unit.

Night Patrol project a first

In a national first, NT Police and 78 communities around the Territory have come together over the past 10 months to formulate guidelines and protocols for Night Patrols.

The process began in June last year with funding provided through the National Crime Prevention Program. Workshops were held in Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Timber Creek, Darwin, and Tennant Creek, with the final one held in April this year in Alice Springs.

The Alice Springs workshop involved 140 people from across the Territory and interstate, including Night Patrol workers, community councils and representatives of government and non-government organisations and interstate police forces.

From these workshops a national, fully accredited set of competencies was developed for Night Patrol workers.

Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham was on hand to officially open the Alice Springs workshop. He praised the efforts of Night Patrol workers, communities and facilitators of the program.

"The project officer Senior Constable Scott Mitchell has worked well with the many people involved to identify issues and problems that face Night Patrols within the Territory," Deputy Commissioner Wernham said.

"The main focus of the whole process has been to utilise the expertise of the people directly involved with the services provided by Night Patrols. It was about us listening to them rather than the other way around."

The guidelines and protocols are expected to be completed within two months along with a report to Government.



Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham congratulates ACPO Andrew Spencer on his painting which represents the goals of the Night Patrol workshops



TEENS RACING FOR SAFETY

By Rory Presnell

Look out – juveniles are being placed behind the driving wheel and instructed to scream recklessly around the racetrack at the Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex! But don't worry, the police are there every minute to ensure these kids are misbehaving appropriately.

In February, School Based Senior Constable Peter Anderson took a group of six Dripstone High School students aged between 12 and 16 out to participate in the SMART NT road/ race craft education program encouraging safe driving methods and improving attitudes towards education and life.

Senior Constable Anderson, a member of the North Australian Motor Sports Club, has been coordinating the event since its inception in 2000. Dripstone High, Nightcliff High, St Johns and Kormilda College have been involved in the program for the last three years. Taminmin High this year joins the motley crew to bring the number of participating schools to five.

Gary Pendlebury (ex NT Police driver training instructor and sponsor of the driving program) trains the students to identify hazardous surface conditions and prevent and manage loss of vehicle control in such situations.

Senior Constable Anderson says the idea is to develop the kids' life skills. It teaches them about safety, teamwork, ambition and responsibility.

"It is not about racing, it is about encouraging team participation, safety and furthering opportunities," said he said.

Senior Constable Anderson also paid tribute to the program's sponsors.

"If it wasn't for the continued support from the main sponsors, Group Training NT, Australia Field Distributors, SMART NT, Supercheap Autos and Gary Pendlebury, it would be much harder to keep the program running."

NT bowls over Qld in annual Avon Downs clash

By Bob Materna

The Northern Territory took out this year's annual social cricket match at Avon Downs. More than \$3000 was raised for the RFDS this year, which is double the amount raised last year.

The event has become an annual challenge with the Northern Territory Police versus Queensland Police.

This year police members again travelled in from Mt Isa, Richmond, Burketown, Cloncurry, Camooweal and Julia Creek police stations in Queensland and Avon Downs, Tennant Creek and Darwin police stations in the Northern Territory.

Numbers were boosted with the attendance of workers from many surrounding stations in the Territory and Queensland and a great day was

had by all. The NT narrowly took the match from last year's winners, Queensland. Medallions were handed out during the evening as follows:

Best Batter: Tim Napadowski, Walhollow Station

Best Bowler: Dave Parnel, Mt Isa Police

Classic Catch: Lee Fortune, Mt Isa Police

Biggest F*up:** Lynden Smith, Alexandria Station

Best Supporter: Katie Wilson, Mt Isa

Best Streaker: "Robbie", Mt Isa

Biggest Dummy Spit: 'Tex' Willetts, Camooweal Police



L to R: Inspector Dave Pringle (Mt Isa Police), Senior Doctor Steve Griffiths (RFDS) and Sergeant Bob Materna

As well as raising \$3000 for the RFDS, a cheque for \$150 was also handed over for the Mt Isa Police Youth & Citizen Club and the balance of \$500 will be split between Camooweal Rodeo and the Brunette Downs Rodeo.

DRAGON BOAT CHALLENGE

By Rory Presnell

COPZ once again blitzed the field on the Dragon Boat Challenge at Cullen Bay on Sunday 16 February, celebrating the grand finale to the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Senior Sergeant Ken Dwyer, heading the team, took NTPFES employees to win the trophy for the second year running, which is no small feat.

"Chinese New Year is actually one of the biggest events of the year for Dragon Boat Racing in the NT" said Snr Sgt Dwyer.

"There are 25 teams participating, from government departments, clubs and businesses all around Darwin."

The event took off with Buddhist monks blessing the boats (below). Six dignitaries from around Darwin, including our own Commissioner, participated in the exclusive Dragon Boat Eye Dotting Ceremony, where the eyes of the dragons on the heads of the boats are touched with water to help guide them on their way.



Snr Sgt Dwyer first participated in the sport in June 2000 on Corporate Race Day. He had been interested in racing for quite a time so organised and trained a team to participate. They were successful from the beginning.

"The first time we raced in 2000 we won the Perpetual Trophy. From that day we have gone from strength to strength."

So stay tuned for the next exciting instalment!



