

THE DRUM

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE

BEHIND THE PATCH
MELISSA SANDERSON
& NATHAN NUNN

**WOMEN OF THE
TRI-SERVICES**

THE TIMORESE 'BOMBEIROS'
HELPING STRENGTHEN
INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

FAREWELL
STEVE ROTHWELL

DALY RIVER FLOOD
THE NTES COVERAGE

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF
NT FIRE & RESCUE

APRIL 2016



NT POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Our Values

The NTPFES is a values-led organisation. The values represent the organisation's principles and standards. Our values drive the way we act with our colleagues, our external partners and our stakeholders.

Our values guide our decision making on a daily basis and ensure the NTPFES reputation is one of professionalism and integrity.

TRUST

We are committed, loyal and trustworthy to each other, the organisation and our community

RESPECT

We will show respect for each other and recognise the value and significance of all those we interact with, especially victims

RESPONSIBILITY

We consistently work to a high standard and show strong leadership

INTEGRITY

We act ethically, professionally and honestly in all of our interactions

COURAGE

We uphold and act consistently with our values at all times

COMMUNITY

We are invested in ensuring consultation and collaboration with our people, our community and our stakeholders, which drives our actions and decisions

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are transparent, open and accountable for our actions and disciplined in our responses

**VISION
2020**

A message from the Commissioner & CEO



I am pleased to re-launch our internal magazine - The Drum, and invite you all to read the stories being shared.

Our People are one of our three key areas of focus under our Vision 2020 strategic direction and it is important we reflect on your stories and challenges and acknowledge the great achievements that are occurring across our Agency every day.

I am committed to ensuring we drive a values-led agency; one in which our people are aware, act and make decisions based on our common values.

As part of this I am committed to a focus on diversity and inclusion, and recently released the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2016-2020. This magazine is providing an important platform to support that message of diversity and inclusion by sharing our different stories and experiences.

In this edition you will read about the extraordinary work of our NT Emergency Service and NT Fire and Rescue Service members at Daly River during the flooding at Christmas. There is a story about the fantastic work in the communities tackling domestic violence, and another about the fantastic contribution women have made to the tri-services.

We also highlight the history of the NT Fire and Rescue Service as they celebrate 75 years. From the humble beginnings of one old and worn fire truck and one brigade in 1941, to the contemporary, modern establishment of today, the NT Fire Service is still the only capital city Australian Fire Service to serve under enemy fire when Darwin was bombed on 19 February 1942. On behalf of PFES and all Territorians, I extend my sincere appreciation for the service of all past and present members of NT Fire and Rescue Service.

This first edition coincides with a period of extraordinary change within our organisation. We are embarking on a journey to ensure a values-led approach, reducing restrictive processes and focussing on a more responsive, confident and agile agency.

The community has seen firsthand the work of NT Police with Territory Cops watching our every move the past few months. I would like to congratulate all of the members involved for highlighting the commitment and strong relationships we have with communities across the Territory.

I hope you will enjoy reading the stories about our extraordinary people highlighted in the pages of what I hope will be the start of a long run for The Drum.

Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner of Police and
CEO of the Fire & Emergency Services

CONTENTS



- 21** **CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF NTFRS**
From one appliance and one crew, take a look back at the evolution of the NTFRS.



- 19** **PADDY'S TRAVELS**
How on earth did a great big platypus find himself in orange, and then in the NT?



- 15** **DALY RIVER FLOODS**
After a tropical low dumped hundreds of millimetres of rain in the Daly River catchment, flooding was inevitable. An insight into the response from an NTES volunteer.



- 03** **NO MORE DV — RAMINGINING**
Football is a shared passion in communities across the Territory. Ramingining is using it to combat family violence.

- 02** **PATRICIA ANNE BRENNAN AWARD**
Francine 'Frankie' Elsegood becomes the first Indigenous winner.

- 25** **THE TIMORESE 'BOMBEIROS'**
NTFRS have signed an MoU that will greatly improve the facilities of their East Timorese counterparts.

- 13** **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CEPO**
Community Engagement Policing 101.

- 27** **FAREWELL STEVE ROTHWELL**
Retired Chief Fire Officer Steve Rothwell bids farewell.

ISSUE CREDITS

Editors

Damien McCartney
Scott Howard

Contributors

Rebecca Forrest
Nicole Ogilvie
Jason Gates
Andrew Warton
Jamie Chalker
Di Cumberland
Heidi Farnden
Jo Stephan
John Pini
Mick Ryan
Marlaina Herbert
Luke Hoolihan

Graphic Design

Stephanie Stotler

Photography

Jason Gates
Mathew Phillips

All images printed in this magazine have been sourced internally or from the NTPFES archive, unless stated otherwise.

pfes.media@pfes.nt.gov.au
4th Floor NAB Building,
71 Smith Street, Darwin

PO Box 39764,
Winnellie NT 0821

www.pfes.nt.gov.au

© THE DRUM is the official magazine of the NT Police, Fire & Emergency Services.

Copyright: Contents of The Drum must not be copied without NTPFES Media permission.



05 WOMEN OF THE TRI-SERVICES

Without women, NTPFES would not be what it is today. Meet three influential women in three powerful roles.

NTPFES staff input into the Drum is always appreciated. Please send your ideas for articles, profiles and news for the next edition to PFES.media@pfes.nt.gov.au along with high quality photos to accompany your story.

The next edition is expected in the last quarter of this year.



09 BEHIND THE PATCH

A sit-down chat with two interesting characters around the NT Police Force – Nathan Nunn and Melissa Sanderson

SENDING THE RIGHT MESSAGE

THE 'BE DEADLY' CROC WISE CAMPAIGN

ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICER (ALO) BILLY WILLIAMS AND CEPO PAUL KEIGHTLEY FROM MANINGRIDA HAVE TEAMED UP WITH RANGERS AND SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR A CROC WISE CAMPAIGN.

The 'Be Deadly' Croc Wise campaign has used real crocodile skulls and skins to reinforce the 'deadly' message about the dangers of the reptiles.

They worked with Katherine Parks and Wildlife Ranger Clare Pearce, local Djelk Rangers, teachers and students from Maningrida College.

Billy also reinforced the message in Burarra – their native language.

Indigenous Initiatives Manager Marlaina Herbert said Billy had been working as an ALO for about a year and his knowledge of the community was invaluable.

"The positive messages Billy translates about community safety and explaining Police methods is of immeasurable benefit to Maningrida," she said.

"He regularly accompanies Community Engagement Police Officer Keightley to meetings and assists by speaking Burarra to Traditional Owners, local elders, football coaches and community members.

"Billy has been integral in the planning and explanation of the 'No More' domestic violence campaign launched in Maningrida by ABC Sports Broadcaster and anti-domestic violence activist, Charlie King in March.

"Both of them have been getting the message out regarding community safety – in particular the need for Elders to discourage alcohol runners whose actions have a devastating effect on family and general violence in the region," she said.



PATRICIA ANNE BRENNAN AWARD



"I ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES AND PEERS. I APPLAUD YOU FOR YOUR TIRELESS WORK AND DEDICATION TO THE JOB."



ACPO Francine Elsegood with Patricia Anne Brennan's mother Mim (left) and Auntie Kathy Mills (right)



THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN INDIGENOUS WOMAN HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS PATRICIA ANNE BRENNAN AWARD.

Aboriginal Community Police Officer, Francine 'Frankie' Elsegood, received the award in front of family, friends and media representatives on International Women's Day, recognising the significant contribution she has made to women in the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Francine's mother is from the Tiwis and her father an Arrernte man. She has seven sisters, two brothers and three children of her own – two boys and a girl.

"Without the support of my children and family, I would not have been able to pursue this career that I love so much," she said.

"Throughout my years of policing, I have worked in the major centres of Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and forged great friendships and experience with both my colleagues and the wonderful communities that I serve."

Frankie's compassion, genuine care and commitment to do more for her community saw her acknowledged with this award. The work she does both as a Police woman but, also supporting community groups outside of her policing role, is commendable.

She is a role model for the whole community.

Accepting the Patricia Anne Brennan Award, Frankie stated, that "I accept this award on behalf of my colleagues and peers. I applaud you for your tireless work and dedication to the job.

"As an Indigenous woman, I hope that this inspires more young Indigenous women to join the NT Police Force and make a difference in your community," she said.

**ABORIGINAL
COMMUNITY
POLICE
OFFICER
FRANCINE
'FRANKIE'
ELSEGOOD**

REMOTE COMMUNITIES AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



“NO MORE” DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Remote communities across the Territory are using their football teams to strengthen the No More message against family violence.

*For more information visit:
www.nomore.org.au*

The Ramingining community is using the rapidly-expanding football league to drive the No More message against family violence.

The Ramingining Football Committee — which includes representatives from East Arnhem Regional Council, community elders and a manager or coach from each team — was formed off the back of the successful No More campaign launch in the community last year.

In a small community like Ramingining, it is incredible to imagine 200 players across four men's and four women's teams draw crowds of up to 1000 people each weekend.

Before each game, the teams line up and link arms to represent that they are standing together to say No More to family violence.

A meeting in Ramingining with East Arnhem Regional Council youth engagement officer Will Gee, CEPO Constable First Class Paul Keightley, players and a local elder who also runs night patrol, reinforced the No More commitment.

Will said the players are role models in the community.

“Together we are working to maintain a safe and welcoming environment through community football,” he said.

“We have elders umpiring games, and volunteers across the whole community running water, operating scoreboards, and boundary and goal umpiring.”

“The skill level of the footy is great, and people obviously love the sport. But it's about what the football represents – community, pride and acceptance.”



NTPFES CADETS

THE FIRST NTPFES CADET PROGRAM IN MORE THAN 30 YEARS COMMENCED AT THE START OF 2015 WITH A GROUP OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS FROM PALMERSTON SENIOR COLLEGE.

The program is a partnership between the Department of Education and the PFES College. It offers cadets their Certificate II in Public Safety (Community Engagement) and their Certificate III in Business, while also studying at school three days a week.

Cadets attend the NTPFES College one day a week and cover subjects such as leadership, community engagement, small boat handling, road crash rescue and fire-fighting. They also touch on emergency care management, search and rescue, verbal and non-verbal communication skills, the effects of drugs and alcohol and road safety.

Wynona Barlow, 17, and Coen Hutt, 16, two students in the program, both joined for similar reasons.

Wynona, now enjoying her second year in the program as part of Squad One, said

the experience has given her more self-confidence.

"I never used to like presenting or speaking in front of a classroom," she said.

"Now I can just get up and do it."

Wynona said the three girls in Squad One, who returned for the program this year were a tight group.

"I knew a couple of the boys before we started the course, and we're all close now, but us girls are always looking out for each other."

Students make applications to get into the course during Year 10, before starting the program in Year 11.

Where the first squad was made entirely of students from Palmerston Senior College, the second squad includes students from 11 schools across Darwin and the rural area.

St John's Catholic College student, Coen Hutt said he joined the program thanks to a childhood interest in the Police Force – specifically the dog squad.

"It seems like the right spot for me – I love working with animals and helping people. It's a win-win and fits well," he said.

He sees the program as a stepping-stone towards his goal, but also as an opportunity to broaden his horizons.

His friends and family were all highly supportive of him joining the program.

"They thought it was a great idea. So far we've learned First Aid, and we've started learning about how to detect lies – which I'm trying to show off a lot.

"Instead of just listening to people in a conversation, I look at them and watch their body language. It also means I'm a bit more conscious of my own body language."

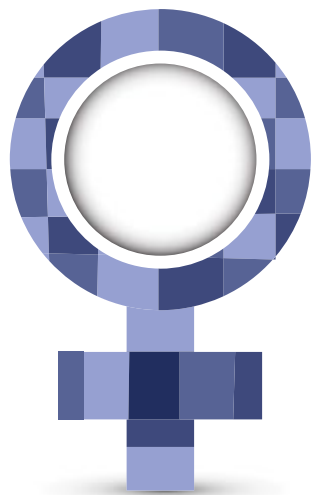


Wynona Barlow
17 years old



Coen Hutt
16 years old

WOMEN IN THE TRI-SERVICES



Diversity and inclusion are at the forefront of the national agenda. Following Commissioner Reece Kershaw's announcement in October to implement a 50/50 gender target for all future recruit courses, four other police and emergency jurisdictions announced similar initiatives.



Our first female Police Officers joined in 1961. This pioneering group of women faced a tough time dealing with a public accustomed to an all-male Police Force. In spite of many challenges these women started a trend that would spread far and wide – that women make good Police Officers.

Female Fire and Emergency Service volunteers have assisted since Cyclone Tracy struck 41 years ago. Many of our female public servants have committed decades to supporting the operations of the Police, Fire and Emergency Services, right across the Northern Territory.

Here are a few stories from the incredible and dedicated women across our tri service. Some of them are brave, some funny and others just 'true Territory'.



WOMEN IN THE TRI-SERVICES

**I'M NOT
ASHAMED
TO SAY THAT
SEEING THE
MACDONNELL
RANGES ON FIRE
WAS SCARY.**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
A CAREER WITH NTES
OR TO BECOME A
VOLUNTEER, VISIT
WWW.NTES.NT.GOV.AU**

CLARE BARKER

NTES, SOUTHERN REGIONAL MANAGER

From vertical rescue to flood evacuations, a front row seat to the MacDonnell Ranges bushfire, riding segways around Alice and enjoying social time with a Platypus, you couldn't say that Clare Barker's role with NTES is dull.

There's no such thing as an average day for Clare.

Office work turns into driving or flying to Emergency Management Meetings, visiting volunteer units out bush, or representing the NT at national working group meetings.

Clare said one of the memorable operations from her time at NTES was the 2011-12 bushfires and floods.

"I'm not ashamed to say that seeing the MacDonnell Ranges on fire was scary. The fires were there working hard to protect the communication towers on the town's boundaries – the danger was right on our doorstep," she said.

A less scary but no less serious operation was a land search north of Alice, where volunteers were deployed to find an elderly indigenous woman who had wandered off from her community.

"She was found by air observers who instantly went to her aid, only to be reprimanded! The rescuers were told by the woman she knew exactly where she was and was extremely annoyed that they had scared off the perentie (large goanna) she was hunting.

"That certainly wasn't the response we usually receive when we think we've rescued someone, but of course we were happy she was ok."

Clare said it is the people that make the role with NTES such a great place to work.

"The real heroes are my staff and the volunteers who respond to everything from floods, sand bagging, land searches, air observing, storm damage, getting trees off roofs, chain sawing up trees, to assisting police and doing body retrievals, and engaging with the community and providing information and education."

MAXINE WAY

CAPTAIN, HOWARD SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

When your own block goes up in flames a number of times, it's handy to know how to respond. This was her original motivation when Maxine Way signed up to the Howard Springs Volunteer Fire Unit in 1998.

"My son had started school, I was a university student and the fires were short of day crew members so I thought I'd help out," she said.

"We went through training, which back then was pretty much just learning on the job. We wanted to do something for the community but let's be honest – it also looked like a lot of fun," she said.

But there is a serious side to the role. Maxine and her husband – who had joined in 1996 – were deployed to assist with serious fires in Alice Springs in 2011.

"We were handed an appliance, a crew, and given a map, and drove down that road until we found the the fire. We found it alright. It looked like the entire MacDonnell Ranges were alight."

Maxine has had some memorable times in the Service, and one she'll never forget was when a gentleman approached her and asked if she could burn his house down as a training exercise.

"I thought he was joking but on inspection the house was derelict and on a pile of bricks and gallon

drums. It would have cost him more to dismantle.

"We got the approval for the job, I grabbed a video camera and the house was completely flattened in seven minutes."

In 2008 Maxine was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal – but she almost missed the ceremony.

"I received this letter in October about the award asking me to keep it a secret. I thought it was a hoax and sent to the wrong person so I just put the letter aside and didn't think anything more of it.

"No one at the fire station or friends and family mentioned anything and I plain forgot about it. Just before Australia Day, local media started calling me for interviews and that's when I realised it was legitimate.

"Just before I was leaving to attend the ceremony, we got a call and I had to go fight a fire. I had about five minutes to get all of the dirt and ash off me before I headed to the Administrator's house. It was another memorable day!"



WOMEN IN THE TRI-SERVICES

**IN 2008
MAXINE WAS
AWARDED THE
AUSTRALIAN
FIRE SERVICE
MEDAL, BUT SHE
ALMOST MISSED
THE CEREMONY.**

**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED
IN JOINING MAXINE AND
HER TEAM, OR ANOTHER
VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE,
VISIT WWW.FIRE.NT.GOV.AU**



WOMEN IN THE TRI-SERVICES

**I THINK I AM
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
AND COULDN'T
IMAGINE HAVING
ANY OTHER
CAREER.**

**YOU CAN APPLY TO JOIN
THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
POLICE FORCE AT ANY TIME.
CONTACT RECRUITMENT
ON 1800 005 099 OR VISIT
WWW.PFES.NT.GOV.AU**

DANIELA MATTIUZZO

SENIOR CONSTABLE 1ST CLASS

A born and bred Territorian, Senior Constable First Class Daniela Mattiuzzo has just celebrated 30 years in the NT Police Force. Daniela was also the youngest NT Police Officer to ever graduate to Constable at the age of 17.

This feat is made even more impressive when you consider she was allowed to carry a gun, but she could not legally drink at a licensed premises.

"My dad told me to 'go and get a girlie job,' but I've wanted to be a Police Officer since I was 12 and nothing was going to stop me – I'm stubborn that way," she said.

Dani has committed 28 years to policing the Katherine region.

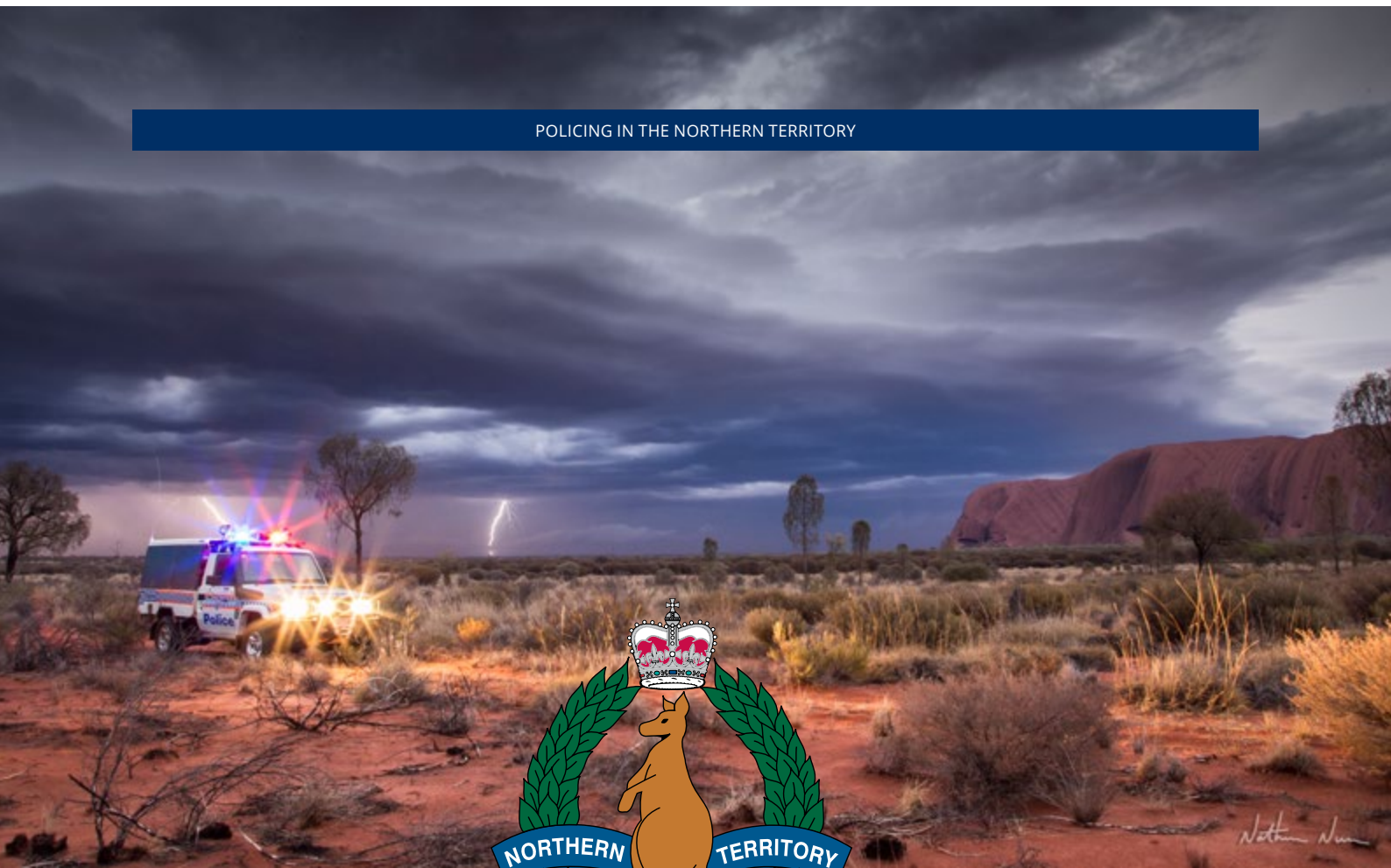
"I was there for the floods of 1998. My husband and I lost three businesses. It was a very sad time, but the Katherine community is a resilient bunch and managed well.

In 2007, Dani was off duty when she intervened in a violent domestic incident in the median strip of the Katherine CBD. The offender had already stabbed his wife five times and when Dani tried to intervene, she became the target.

Dani overpowered him and arrested him before the cavalry arrived with lights and sirens. Tragically the woman died from her injuries but Dani prevented further incident and incapacitated the offender.

She was awarded an Australian Bravery Medal by the Governor General for her efforts.

"All we can do is try to be better individuals. I speak to young girls regularly, encouraging them to be strong and become leaders in their community. I think I am making a difference and couldn't imagine having any other career," she said.



Nathan Nunn

BEHIND THE PATCH:

GETTING TO KNOW OUR
REMOTE POLICE OFFICERS

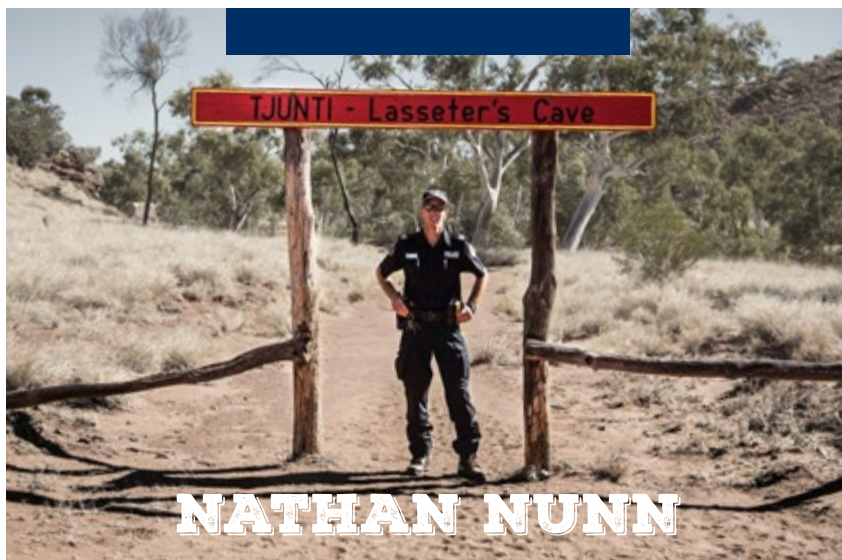
"I often find myself sitting down in the community listening while the older men and women tell me how their culture works and their beliefs. I find it interesting in itself and they enjoy having a fresh set of ears that's willing to listen."

Nathan Nunn
Remote Sergeant - Mutitjulu Station

It is far more than a piece of intricately-woven fabric sewn onto the sleeve of a shirt. The badge is a symbol of safety, dedication, community, calmness and heroism.

The patches worn on the shoulder of our Police, Fire and Emergency Service workers are a source of pride for every member of the organisation.

Our people are diverse, as are their stories. Meet two of our Remote Officers.



There aren't many remote postings where a good coffee is a short drive away.

But then again, Mutitjulu isn't quite like other stations. Remote Sergeant Nathan Nunn has been the Officer in Charge out there since October 2014. He said the coffee helps.

"There's a resort 20km down the road for a latte. You don't get that at many remote communities," he said.

Nathan started with the NT Police in February 2007. His first post was to Nhulunbuy. After five years, he moved into computer crime until he was posted to Mutitjulu, where he now lives with his wife and three kids aged 4, 6 and 8.

He said there are many positives with living in remote communities.

"I have the opportunity to engage with community members daily and build strong relationships with them over time," he said.

"This leads to feeling more comfortable with you when attending jobs as they know

how you work and what to expect from you.

"I am also able to manage the rosters according to the needs of the community."

Nathan said he enjoyed learning about the local Indigenous culture.

"I worked with local Indigenous communities when I was in Nhulunbuy, but every region is different. In any community I think it's best to take your time with the people, build relationships and strengthen that level of trust.

"I often find myself sitting down in the community listening while the older men and women tell me how their culture works and their beliefs. I find it interesting in itself and they enjoy having a fresh set of ears that's willing to listen," he said.

As with many officers, he has hobbies to alleviate some of the stresses the job and isolation of remote living. Nathan's hobby is photography. He said he was inspired by a fairly major milestone in his life.

"I've always enjoyed photography, but it started to take off after the birth of our first daughter in 2007. I was able to convince my wife that buying a DSLR camera was an investment in our child's memories.

"We were stationed out at Nhulunbuy, which afforded some great landscapes and beachscapes to practice and learn photography."

Just before Christmas, Nathan took an amazing photo of a storm over Uluru (*main image*). He said the perfect shot required patience.

"The photo was taken on 8 December when we had a storm come in. It's good when photos like this turn out – you always take a heap of shots that you think are good but it's only when you get home and put them on the computer and view them, that you really know how they turned out."



It was a busy four years at Hermannsburg Police Station for Sergeant Melissa Sanderson.

She arrived in the town in December 2011, and during her time as Officer in Charge, Melissa worked with the Women Rangers, women's safe house, traditional owners and the Palm Valley Rangers.

She worked on White Ribbon Day events, sports carnivals, and the Kwala Race Weekend.

But after four years in the role, Melissa has taken on a role at Borroloola.

"It is with a heavy heart that I am leaving Hermannsburg, but life goes on and I won't forget the people here," she said.

The community put on a barbecue in her honour shortly before her

departure. Many came down to say goodbye to a Police Officer they had all come to know and respect during her posting.

Melissa said the time she spent in Hermannsburg was "unforgettable".

"You form strong relationships with people in remote communities and they, in turn, gain respect for what you do," she said.

"A relationship does not happen overnight and it is a lot of hard work to gain trust and respect within the community.

"I have had the opportunity to work with elders in relation to the discussion of violence and other matters that come to hand."

Melissa's time at Hermannsburg can be summed up in a text message from Women Rangers manager Gerard Lessels:

"I would just like to say a big thank you for all your time and effort that you put into the community. Thank you also for your involvement in the school kids our NTES unit and especially the Women Rangers.

At times it is very hard to put a quantifiable value on some things but the benefit that the women in community gained in self-confidence and strength through your involvement with the Women Rangers is second-to-none and an absolute credit to you."

VALE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER ANDREW JABALTJARI SPENCER OBITUARY

By Acting Deputy Commissioner
Jamie Chalker



I met my good friend in 1995 when I moved to Alice Springs. He and Frankie Curtis were Aboriginal Community Police Officers there at the time and were very welcoming to me. They both clearly enjoyed their work.

The opportunity to chat with them, to understand some of the cultures that operated around the Central Desert area, was not to be missed and they were two of the best teachers for a fresh faced constable starting out in that magical part of our country.

My friendship with both men continued throughout my policing career and when I moved to Papunya, my friend was starting to spend more time out in the Central Desert. He was a Senior ACPO and provided support not only to Jabarula at Yuendumu but also working out at Kintore.

Through many trips to Yuendumu, Kintore and numerous places in between, I would catch up with my old friend, his wife Marlene and his family. I was always fascinated by his stories, highlighting the distinctions between his

culture, and the law I was trained to enforce.

It was clear he was a man of great wisdom and had the amazing ability to walk comfortably in both worlds, which was something I respected deeply about him and tried to always replicate.

I was fortunate to maintain our friendship long after his policing career concluded. It was clear to me that he still identified as a law man, but more noticeably as a peace maker. His efforts and contributions to a whole range of other people and service areas, supported strongly by Marlene's advocacy abilities and skills, made them a joint force to be reckoned with.

Quite simply, they were change agents and have made great contributions to many lives. They have certainly had an impact on mine.

In later years, my friend would ask for me to come and see him. The officers at Kintore would often touch base and let me know he was thinking or talking about me and that I should visit.

Whenever I would arrive, a huge smile would come across his face and we

would talk as if no time had passed since we last spoke. I deeply treasure those times with him and the respect he showed for me. He knows how much I respected him.

A legacy is not what he set out to establish, however he left a great one and his footprint has been strongly etched in history.

His paintings, stories, and passion for not only his people but for all, leave us with reminders about how we should be breaking down barriers and working together in a respectful, peaceful and caring way.

Treat people how you would like to be treated is a mantra I well know and my time spent with my old friend has entrenched that belief in me even more so. He was an incredible person.

My heartfelt condolences to Marlene, Winki and the rest of his big family.

To my friend, you were my brother. I love you and miss you.





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A: CEPO

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICE OFFICER

LEFT: CEPOs across the Territory work closely with the community's football teams to reinforce the 'No More' domestic violence campaign.

MID: CEPOs with Acting Deputy Commissioner Jamie Chalker.

RIGHT: Jenny with the Annamurra Class from Papanya School, during an intergenerational culture lesson.

Community Engagement Police Officers (CEPOs) have arguably one of the most diverse roles in the entire NT Police Force.

What started as a trial program in 2011 has grown into a vital part of policing in remote Northern Territory communities.

Eight CEPOs service 54 remote indigenous communities and their outstations across the NT.

They provide crime prevention and community engagement support and advice to local Police through the Officer in Charge of each district.

CEPOs develop and sustain a number of crime prevention and community engagement initiatives in their communities. Their aim is to increase ownership, leadership and participation rates from traditional owners, elders, youth and community members through local initiatives.

They work in partnership with local Police, community members, night patrols, Fire & Rescue and Emergency Services units, government agencies (both Commonwealth and Territory), service providers and other organisations to reduce crime, reduce fear of crime and improve relationships.

These dedicated officers are continually travelling between their allocated communities – spending up to six months or more of the year away from their homes and loved ones.



JENNY HAMILTON

We spent a day with Jenny Hamilton, then-Central CEPO covering Santa Teresa, Ntaria, Willowra, Ti Tree, Laramba, Harts Range and Utju.

CEPOs can drive six hours from community to community and cover more than 1000 km in a day.

In a typical day, CEPO Hamilton visited many remote community stakeholders to address issues of concern within the community.

7:30AM – WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Working in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government funded Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) officers, Jenny knocks on every door of every house, every day, encouraging kids to come to school.

"We help empower parents to support their child to make the right choices and get a good education," she said.

8:30AM – JUNIOR SCHOOL

Implementing the 'safe4kids' training program, Jenny works with the young kids identifying who can be their safety team during the school holidays if their usual 'safe adults' are away.

They need to know in advance who they will go to if something happens and they need help.

10:30AM – MUMS & BUBS

CEPO Hamilton sits down with the young mums and talks to them about domestic violence. This week, Jenny is working on explaining what 'mandatory' reporting means as there is no translatable word in the local language.

The message is clear and reinforced – domestic violence and the abuse of women and children won't be tolerated.

MIDDAY – LUNCHTIME LICENCES

After meeting the mums, CEPO Hamilton catches up with young people keen to get their driver's licences. The group meet at the recreational hall where she delivers road safety lessons to enable people to get a driver's licence. Today they talk about road signs.

1:30PM – COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

One of the most valued engagements of her day, CEPO Hamilton meets with the traditional owners, elders, and other strong men and women who are determined to work as a collective to make their community safer.

The broader committee comprises local council and local authority members, service providers, education, health and the night patrol. The meeting is chaired by Police.

She helps local Police explain the law and listens to what the community safety needs are.

The outcome is the Community Safety Action Plan for that community for 2016, which is agreed to and signed by all members of the committee.

The plan is made by the community for the community in order to strengthen mutual respect and working partnerships, reduce domestic and personal violence, reduce drug and alcohol abuse and improve the overall health and wellbeing of the community.

The committee and the plan are popular with the people because they have a say in their own future and improvements for their own safety.

3:30PM – ART CENTRE – CHEEKY DOGS CHAT

CEPO Hamilton discusses the need for dog owners to report 'cheeky dogs' that are in their area, biting people or running wild through the community.

4:30PM – FOOTY TRAINING

She's now with the local football team at training near the oval about their ongoing commitment to the 'No More' campaign. She reinforces how proud the community is of the strength these fellas are showing to stand together and link up to say No More to family and domestic violence.

NIGHT PATROL

After footy, CEPO Hamilton meets with the community safety night patrol team to exchange information and identify hot spots to reduce crime on the streets.

The Night Patrollers tell her not only who's causing the trouble, but what lies behind it and why.

ABOUT 9PM – DAY'S END

The day is at an end and Jenny winds down at the community centre listening to the local Gospel choir.



THE DALY RIVER FLOOD

ON CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER 2015,
THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY ISSUED A FLOOD
WARNING FOR THE DALY RIVER COMMUNITY.

Early predictions were the community would experience minor flooding on Christmas Day, and the very real possibility waters would rise to major flood levels late on Boxing Day.

These predictions become a reality early Saturday evening, when the Daly River reached major flood level and the evacuation of the community began. Over the next 24 hours, all the people that required evacuation from the 400 strong community had been transported first by airlift to Batchelor, then by bus to Darwin.

Over the following days and weeks, the men and women of NTPFES worked diligently and tirelessly to enact the Daly River Emergency Plan.



ONE DAY

As the management authority for flood events, the Northern Territory Emergency Services (NTES) was tasked to assist with the response. Below is a short account of one day during the emergency by Mick Ryan, Training Officer – Emergency Management Training Unit NTES Volunteer – Darwin Unit.

We travelled from Darwin to Daly River to join the NTES volunteer flood boat crews already deployed to the region.

We were there to assist with transport of essential personnel and supplies into and out of the inundated community.

NT Police – who were already on the water with crucial support in their own vessels – also provided additional crews for the NTES vessels, specifically designed for flood conditions.

At that stage there were no roads above the flood water levels to allow vehicles into the township.

Our primary task was to aid in the transportation of Survey Teams and various media agencies from the road access point at Five Mile Camp, to the Daly River community by boat. Five Mile Camp was also the site of the temporary animal shelter constructed to house pets evacuated from the flooded community.

THE DALY RIVER FLOOD



ONE DAY

For more information on storm and flood safety, call:

**NTES Public
Education Officer**

8922 3630

Kids can also visit the Kids and Schools section on our website:
www.emergency.nt.gov.au

To get into town, we had to take the boat through what is normally wood land, following markers hung on trees to guide us to the safest track through the trees and other obstacles.

High voltage power lines – which were in places only a metre off the water – were a serious hazard, but also gave reference to our location along the way.

When we eventually got out of the trees, we crossed the Daly River airstrip, over the football field, and between the goal posts, which happened to be the closest high ground to residential properties, and all adjoining public facilities were then accessible on foot from our landing point.

Warnings were given about sightings of crocodiles, usually confined to the local waterways that were suddenly free to roam at leisure, presenting an

obvious danger to the efforts of emergency personnel and other essential services.

Navigating powered vessels in flood waters is generally hazardous. There are always hidden obstacles in the murky water such as submerged roads, fences, rails, and public utilities. This problem was compounded by unpredictable depths as flood waters recede.

A different route than usual had to be taken to the Daly River Police Station, which was setup as a local Emergency Operations Centre.

The trees and foliage in this area were denser with the route resembling that of a maze requiring all the skills of our flood boat training to trim the vessel for shallow draft, manoeuvre to avoid tree branches and safely navigate to our destination.



There was a temporary mooring, tethering vessels to trees, located at the intersection near the Police station where the sign posts rose out of the flood water to identify the roads submerged below.

All personnel ferried to the town were met at the conclusion of the day's tasks and returned to their vehicles waiting at Five Mile Camp.

We returned to Darwin and a road opened the next day allowing limited essential transport into town.

It was a unique and rewarding day.

"During the recent flood event here at the Daly, the acting OIC Adrian James did an excellent job working very long hours. He kept everyone informed with regular updates via phone as well as help coordinate the evac. A job very well done."

*Peter Hollowood
Mount Nancar Wilderness Retreat - Daly River, NT*

THE ADVENTURES OF PADDY THE PLATYPUS



For more information on storm and flood safety, call:

**NTES Public
Education Officer**

8922 3630

Kids can also visit the Kids and Schools section on our website:
www.emergency.nt.gov.au

Paddy was hatched a few years ago in one of the coastal rivers in New South Wales. By the time he turned one, Paddy was on his own and doing what platypuses do – foraging for food and digging tunnels and burrows.

Not too long after his first birthday Paddy was caught in a flood. As his home river continued to rise, and the water ran more swiftly, he managed to fight his way into a billabong. Hungry and exhausted, he sheltered there and waited for the flood to subside.

During this time, Paddy noticed there were boats being driven by people wearing orange overalls and serious expressions. He watched the people in orange overalls rescue other people who, like him, were stranded by the flood. He even watched them save someone who had tried to cross a nearby creek in a four wheel drive. It was then that Paddy decided he wanted to help, so once the floodwaters had gone down, he contacted the SES and asked if he could volunteer.

Paddy found he was a natural as an SES volunteer. He was keen and reliable. He knew lots about his own river, and about how floods can behave. Soon, he found he had another talent – he was great at getting people to learn and remember the things they could do to stay safe in floods and storms. Kids loved him, and so did their parents. Paddy's career as the SES mascot had begun.

Not too long after, Paddy realised that there were people in other places around Australia that also experienced dangerous weather conditions. Paddy soon found his way to South Australia and, after hearing about the flooding in the Todd River, Alice Springs, Paddy boarded The Ghan and travelled to the Northern Territory.

Hopping off in Darwin, Paddy approached NTES and asked if he could help spread the message on how to stay safe in storms and floods to the people in the Northern Territory.

The Director of NTES agreed that Paddy would be the perfect volunteer for the job and gave permission for Paddy to visit schools, community events and shows.

Today, Paddy travels around the Northern Territory, helping NTES volunteers spread the message that there are simple things everyone can do to stay safe in severe weather.

ANDY WARTON MESSAGE

**IT'S BEEN A BUSY FEW MONTHS FOR THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY EMERGENCY SERVICE.**

**THE FLOODS IN DALY RIVER OVER
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DISPLAYED OUR
ORGANISATION'S PROFESSIONALISM WHEN
RESPONDING TO MAJOR INCIDENTS SUCH AS
SEVERE FLOODS.**



In support of other NTG agencies, NTES crews travelled to the Daly River community – which peaked at over 14m – on a rotating roster. Volunteers and staff assisted with a range of duties from moving essential service crews around the community to working with police and managing a range of logistical challenges.

This response clearly demonstrated the capability of the new flood rescue vessels officially launched late last year.

The vessels performed as expected and their flat hulls made navigating floodwater, with all its unknowns, remarkably easy.

Crews worked tirelessly for the duration of their deployments in close partnership with Police and other agencies and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive.

The Daly River flooding event was a strong demonstration of the capabilities of the Tri-Service to collaborate in operations, with both career and volunteer members from the NT Fire and Rescue service also providing support.

The capabilities of the NTFRS was later demonstrated on an international scale when Station Officer Aaron Perry was deployed with the Australian Medical Team through the National Critical Care and Trauma Response centre, to Fiji after Cyclone Winston swept through the area in early March.

NTFRS Volunteers at Howard Springs have also undertaken training covering CareFlight's operations and capabilities, and how this may assist NTFRS members especially in rural and remote centres.

The signing of the MoU between the NTFRS and the East Timorese Bombeiros has seen our international relationships strengthened.

Since the signing in East Timor, a crew of Bombeiros have travelled to the Top End to participate in training exercises with our own crews.

We look forward to continuing to work with them over the coming years.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'A. Warton'.

*Andrew Warton GAICD
A/Director,
Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service
and Northern Territory Emergency Service*





NT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

CELEBRATING

75 YEARS



**FROM THE
HUMBLE
BEGINNINGS
WITH ONE OLD
AND WORN FIRE
ENGINE AND ONE
BRIGADE, NTFRS
NOW BOASTS 25
FIRE STATIONS,
MANNED BY
180 FULL TIME
MEMBERS
AND 300
VOLUNTEERS.**





1941 — 2016

For more information about the history of NT Fire & Rescue Service, visit:

www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Fire-and-Rescue/Our-history

In 1923, the destruction of the workmen's quarters at the Vestey's Meatworks (now Darwin High School), as a result of a serious fire, caused damage in the order of £40,000. Contemporary newspaper reports refer to 'strenuous efforts of the firemen' however, who these firemen were remains a mystery – most likely staff at the meatworks.

In 1926 one 'chemical fire engine,' containing 30 gallons of water, was issued to the police and this remained Darwin's only fire protection for the next 15 years.

In the midst of war in 1941, senior officers of the military services stationed at Darwin lobbied for the establishment of a fire service in the town. A single, civil brigade and Sub-Station Officer Pye, from New South Wales Fire Brigades Board, was sent to Darwin, along with a fire appliance, to establish the NT Brigade and train local people.

Pye managed with his limited resources, gaining approval for a second appliance to be released to Darwin and put on a ship from Sydney in early February 1942 — but it was too late!

On 19 February 1942, the Japanese launched the first of many air raids against Darwin.

TO THIS DAY, THE NT FIRE SERVICE IS STILL THE ONLY CAPITAL CITY AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE TO SERVE UNDER ENEMY FIRE.



THE EARLY YEARS



Following the Bombing of Darwin, part time firemen were absorbed into military authorities and it was four years before the civilian fire service was reinstated.

A major fire broke out in Alice Springs in 1949, leading to the establishment of a fire service there.

By the 1950s an extensive review of firefighting in the NT commenced, making sweeping recommendations for change by way of staffing, safety and response to incidents not fire related, thus, informing a more modern response agency that we still see today.

In the late 90s the Southern Fire station on Telegraph Terrace had an official opening and expanded capabilities, allowing it to cover Tennant Creek and Yulara with six appliances, including search and research operations – a monumental achievement for the service to support a wider NT landscape.

Today's Fire and Rescue service is extensive. Our fire fighters respond to a wide range of fires, road crashes and hazardous spills, assist with industrial accidents, fire investigations, building and plan inspections, alarm monitoring and fire safety education.

NTFRS has certainly evolved over the years and looks forward to celebrating its 75 year achievement with a range of community activities and events planned for 2016.

1923

No established fire service in the NT despite a number of serious fires

1926

Mounting concern about the lack of fire protection as most buildings contained flammable material. A chemical fire engine is issued to the police.

1941

Darwin Brigade is formed and led by Sub-Station Officer Pye

1942

The NT Fire Service is the only Australian fire service to serve under enemy fire when Darwin was bombed 19 February 1942.

1949

Following a fire in Alice Springs, a fire service is established in the region.

1950s

A review of the NT Fire Service is undertaken leading to an increase in staff and expansion of response to other incidents, not fire related i.e. road crash rescue.

THE TIMORESE 'BOMBEIROS'

NT FIREFIGHTERS HELPING STRENGTHEN EAST TIMOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Northern Territory Government and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between their respective fire and emergency management departments.

The MoU will develop a long-term sustainable relationship with the aim of increasing the capability and capacity of both agencies.

Now retired Chief Fire Officer Steve Rothwell worked on this project for several years and lists the signing as one of the highlights of his time in the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service.

"The fact that we could get this signed and in motion just days before I retired was an extremely satisfying way to end my time with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service," he said.

"The team members involved in this project are some of our best people, who understand the importance of having a strong and functional Fire and Rescue Service for the communities in Timor-Leste.

"There is a bond between firefighters the world over and this is an opportunity to share our knowledge and skills with a fire service that is still very much in its infancy."

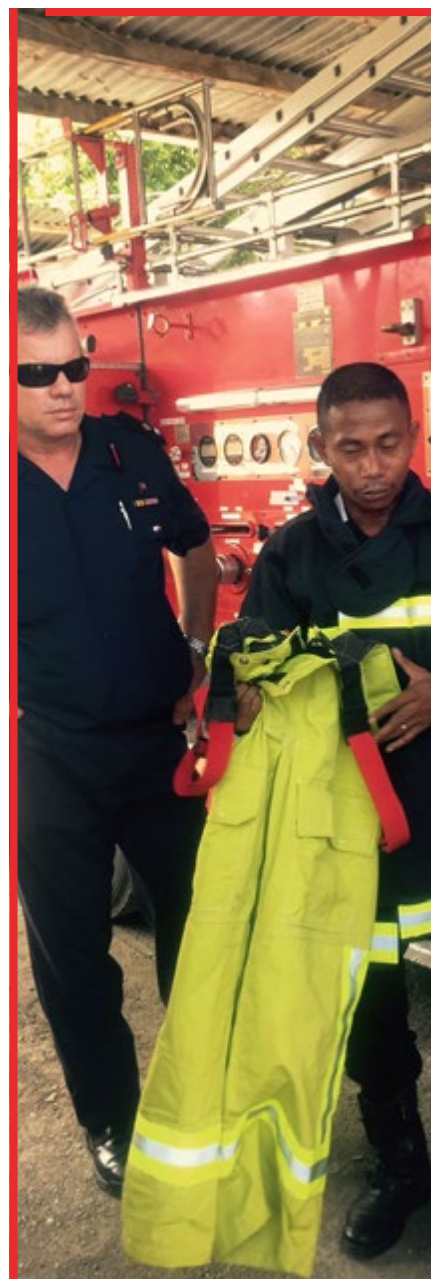
The concept of state fire services entering into an agreement with neighbouring countries is not new.

All Australian fire and rescue agencies have similar arrangements with various Pacific Island fire services. The Victorian Country Fire Authority was the first to enter into a partnership when they signed with Fiji about 20 years ago – a partnership so successful Fiji now mentors another Pacific Island emergency response team.

The benefits of the scheme were displayed in the response to Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016. After the monster storm rolled through the region, emergency teams from around the region were deployed to assist. These crews slotted seamlessly into operations started by Fiji's own emergency responders.

CFO Rothwell said he hoped Timor-Leste would eventually be able to provide the same mentoring role to other nations.

"Ultimately, the arrangement with Timor-Leste will reach the level required to provide support to neighbouring countries when there is an incident or natural disaster. Joint planning and exercises will ensure all responders are familiar with each other's capabilities and operational planning."





District Officer (DO) Terry Trewin is one of the team members that will carry the program forward and has spent some time in Timor-Leste conducting an analysis of both training and equipment required to develop a longer term strategic plan.

"The Timorese 'Bombeiros', as they are known, are very excited with these developments and are extremely keen to partner with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service," DO Trewin said.

"The men and women firefighters of the Bombeiros are very proud, energetic and want to do the best for their community.

"Timor-Leste Fire and Rescue units currently operate from eight fire stations around the country and do a lot with very little.

"They have one 10-year-old set of cutters and spreaders (jaws of life) for the entire country and most vehicle crashes

involve winding roads and steep cliffs."

District Officer Trewin said initial analysis had identified six areas where resources and training would benefit the Bombeiros and provide a safer community for the Timorese.

"Road crash rescue, vertical rescue, hazardous material incidents, support for airport fire services, community education and personal protective equipment will be a priority."

The NTFRS will provide the linkage to the broader network of the Australian fire service sector. A donation from the NSW Fire Service of 400 sets of protective clothing is being prepared for shipment to Timor-Leste.

"We expect the level of donations of surplus or excess equipment from other jurisdictions will increase when they realise just how little the Timorese Bombeiros have.

"When training kicks off both in Darwin and Timor-Leste, we can better assess what is needed and what we can do to benefit the firefighters and the community."

Stakeholders in this project are wide and varied and include the governments of the Northern Territory and Timor-Leste, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the United Nations, European Union and the Red Cross.

But the real story is the firefighters themselves.

"This is a great development opportunity for our personnel – they will learn so much. We anticipate having our firefighters take ownership of specialist areas and provide leadership and advocacy for their Bombeiros brothers and sisters," DO Trewin said.

TOP L: DO Trewin hands over some personal protection gear to Timorese firefighters – even the most basic of equipment is in short supply and is hugely appreciated.

TOP M: MoU signing in Dili, Timor-Leste. CFO Steve Rothwell, Nathan Barrett MLA and Ministry of the Interior's Director General of Operational Affairs, Domingos Pinto with members of the Timorese Bombeiros.

TOP R: Steve Rothwell meets some of the Timorese firefighters who will benefit from the MoU.

BOT: Terry Trewin, Rothwell and Commander Anibal Paulo O.Maia inspect equipment at Maliana Fire Station near the town of Balibo.

FAREWELL STEVE ROTHWELL

Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Steve Rothwell has finally hung up the helmet after nearly four decades of service to Fire and Rescue Services around Australia.

IN 1977

Elvis died and Star Wars was the hottest movie ticket in the world.

Malcolm Fraser was Prime Minister and Peter Allen was on top of the charts with 'I Go To Rio'.

It was also the year a young Steve Rothwell signed up with the Australian Capital Territory Fire Service.

Steve moved on to Queensland where he had a distinguished career with Queensland Fire Rescue Service, highlighted by receiving the QFRS Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership as State Fire Controller during the floods and Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

He was also awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2005.

Steve took up his position with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service almost 34 years to the day after he first joined up in the ACT.

Under his leadership, the NTFRS expanded to meet the demands of a modern Fire Service and the needs of a growing population.

Listing every recruit graduation as a highlight of his time, he inspired the ethos of working better with less into every squad member and was particularly proud of every member who has been awarded recognition for their work, especially in the field of innovation.

"I believe the NT is the most innovative jurisdiction in Australia in the way we work closely with other agencies to overcome the tyranny of distance, tight resources, two different seasons running concurrently and the associated hazards they bring.

"Fires in Alice Springs and cyclones in the top end; our response to these events have taught me that Territorians work together in times of need and every community



seems to have a resilience that is amazing to see," he said.

Steve has a special mention for two programs he has overseen and promoted during his time in the Territory.

"Our volunteers are exceptional. I am very proud of the Volunteer Community Education Program and everyone who worked to bring it to reality. Awareness of the dangers of fire cannot be underestimated as a lifesaving tool.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed recently with Timor-Leste has also been a personal mission undertaken by the outgoing CFO.

"The MoU will ensure Timor-Leste receives the training and knowledge to bring their Fire Rescue teams up to an international standard. I am very proud of our members that continue to work this partnership."

Steve will continue to offer his services to the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation, a body he has been actively involved in since 2002.

In 2015 the annual Australasian Rescue Challenge was held in Alice Springs for the first time thanks in large part to the efforts of the CFO.

"The organisation seeks to develop an exchange of information, knowledge and skills in road rescue. The town of Alice Springs welcomed all competitors and every person there swapped stories and information that will benefit their future careers and ultimately save lives."

Steve said he and his wife Jennie will never forget the friendship shown to them during their time in the NT.

"There is a strong bond between firefighters across the world and this is certainly true in the NT. But we have been most impressed with the mateship that prevails across all arms of the tri-service.

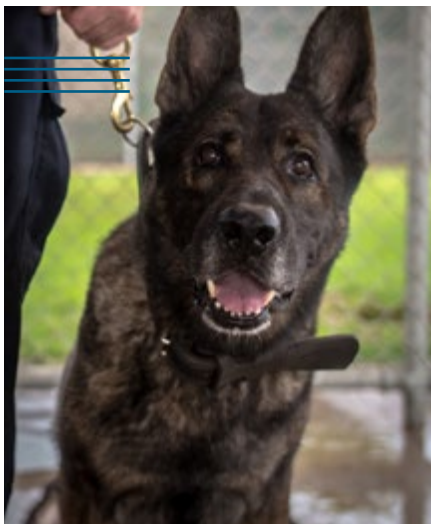
"It just seems the NT attitude is the harder things become the more we help our mates. It is a wonderful thing to experience."

Steve and Jennie will head off to the Whitsundays in Queensland to enjoy some time sailing and pursuing other aquatic exploits.

TOP R: Retiring Chief Fire Officer Steve Rothwell is presented a certificate by Commissioner Reece Kershaw.

IT'S A DOGS LIFE

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF POLICE DOG PAX



was born on a sunny Saturday in December, 2007. My granddad was the famous 'Ike' who basically reformed the Queensland Dog unit breeding program. Just about every pup he had turned out to be strong, loyal and extremely intelligent – I sure had big paws to fill.

When I was just a puppy I used to hang out with some officers who desperately wanted to be dog handlers. They used to take me everywhere – to the shops, to the beach – anywhere I might need to go when I was grown up. I'm sure they did this so I wouldn't be scared when the time came to do the job for real.

It was a tough training course. The instructor was a hard task master – he never let up on us. But all my hard work paid off and I passed.

Finally, I was given the title we all dreamed of as pups: 'Police Dog'.

I was given my registration number – 273 – and was determined to do my unit proud. I had a couple of different handlers in Queensland and ended up in Townsville for a few years.

In March 2013, I started to get itchy feet and thought it was time to see other parts of the country. I heard there was an opening up in Darwin to take on a 'green' handler.

Just so everyone knows, green handlers are the hardest to train. They're usually super keen, but not real bright, if you know what I mean. I was excited to take on the challenge. He came down to Brisbane in June 2013 and from our first meeting I knew he was going to be hard to train.

I have to admit though, I grew to love him pretty fast and we got through. After the training course,

Being a pup was awesome! If I wasn't being taken to all these new places, I used to play with tugs, chew shoes, you know, all the great stuff puppies get to do!

I was lucky enough to be drafted into the Queensland Police Force as a Recruit Police Dog.



With the passing of PD Pax, an overwhelming number of our NTPFES Facebook friends showed their support for our amazing Police Dog Officers and their handlers.

8,188 likes, 2,815 shares, 895 comments and 600,000+ reach as at 31 March.

DID YOU KNOW...

PAX IS LATIN FOR PEACE

off I went to the most humid place in the world – Darwin!

It's a funny thing being teamed up with a new handler. Not only did I have to train him and tolerate his new ways, I also had to meet all his family and get used to all the things that come with new people.

I was pretty lucky we got on as well as we did. His wife comes out to pat me, but I keep a watchful eye on the last place I saw my handler.

It was funny to watch my handler's wife try to avoid coming too close doing what she used to call the "slobber shuffle". I have to admit, I was pretty well-known for my slobber. I got pretty good at wiping it all over my handler's pants.

My handler's wife used to come and talk to me softly some mornings, thanking me for looking after him. I wish she could've understood me when I told her how happy I was to have this job.

We became so close, my handler quickly became my Dad.

All the blokes in my new unit were great, and welcomed me into the family with open arms.

I was a bit surprised at how busy it was up here – there are bad guys everywhere. When Dad calls out to the bad guys and says I'm coming, you would think these people would do the smart thing and give up and let us know where they are. But oh no, they always try and evade me.

We do get to do some pretty amazing stuff up here. I have been to places most humans will never get to see. I have flown

to Groote Eylandt, hopped on a boat to Bickerton Island, headed out to Port Keats, been to Alice Springs, Katherine, Oenpelli and Tennant Creek, just to name a few.

When we went to jobs, I only had to let out a few barks to convince the bad guys it wasn't a good idea to run, or to fight. Unfortunately, there was the odd one who wanted to go toe to toe no matter what. Let's just say those who chose that path definitely came off second best. Dad would always step in to give me a hand, just as I was there to do the same for him if it got a bit hairy.

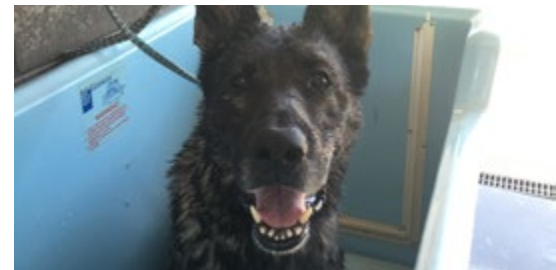
That's the greatest thing about being a Police Dog I think, the bond I get to have with my handler is one not many other people in the Police Force understand, or get to experience.

When I first came up here, we always knew I only had a few years left before I retired. The plan was to teach Dad everything I knew and hang on for as long as possible to see him through to his next dog. Then I could live the quiet life in the backyard, sunning myself in the morning rays and eating all the scraps I was never really allowed to touch before retirement.

But as life sometimes does, it threw me a curve ball.

I've had a few little problems with old dog disease over the past few years. On Valentine's Day this year, about 3am, I felt a sharp pain in my hips and that was it – I couldn't move. Dad tried to help me but, all he could do was watch and worry.

I hate seeing him worry about me, because I think of myself as pretty tough, and I reckon it's my job to look after him, not the other way round. We took a trip to the vet as soon as we could and they had me on the x-ray table to see what was wrong. Unfortunately, they couldn't see much so they



sent me to the local specialist who said I had old dog disease and probably wouldn't recover.

It seems us German Shepherds are prone to a bit of exactly what I've got. So as I sit here contemplating the future, I hope in my heart the boss finds another me.

Well, we are off to the vet again. I'm hoping to finally get to know what has been giving me all this trouble. But this time Dad looks different, I haven't seen this look in his eyes before, sadder for some reason.

I have to go, because we are at the vets now. So, to the next pup that takes my place, take care of my Dad for me, because you can rest assured he will do the same for you, just as he has done for me.



NT POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SUPPORT SERVICES

For all Australians, life is a balancing act between the demands of work, family, finances, health and friends. For NTPFES personnel (members, employees and volunteers), there are added demands. Over their careers a substantial proportion of NTPFES personnel are exposed to multiple traumatic events, or 'critical incidents'.

NTPFES provides a range of services to ensure all their employees receive the support they need.

CONNECT

Connect with the people around you: your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. Spend time developing these relationships.

BE ACTIVE

You don't have to go to the gym. Take a walk, go cycling or have a kick of the footy. Find the activity that you enjoy and make it a part of your life. Exercise can reduce your body's stress reaction.

KEEP LEARNING

Learning new skills can give you a sense of achievement and a renewed confidence.

STEPS TO

MAINTAIN & ENHANCE

WELLBEING & MENTAL HEALTH

NTPFES MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In late 2015 NTPFES formed an executive level committee to focus on the development of the Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy and services across the organisation. The committee is chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Police and includes senior level representation from the NTFRS, NTES and Corporate Services divisions.

The committee reports to the NTPFES Executive and is currently progressing projects regarding the development and implementation of a PFES Mental Health Framework, an organisational Suicide Prevention Strategy, and PFES Health Promotion Strategy.



EMPLOYEE SUPPORT

STEPPED CARE MODEL

FOCUSED HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

Allied health interventions (Rehabilitation Consultant; Occupational Therapist; Exercise Physiologist; Dietician; Psychologist; Counsellor)

SPECIALISED CLINICAL TREATMENT

Psychiatric and Medical Interventions
Clinical Level Psychological Treatments

ACCESSIBLE WELLBEING SUPPORT

Peer Support Wellbeing and Health Officers
Chaplaincy Support from Managers/ Supervisors

GIVE TO OTHERS

Even the smallest act can count, whether it's a smile, a thank you or a kind word. Larger acts, such as coaching a sports team, can improve your wellbeing and help build new social networks.

TAKE NOTICE

Be more aware of the present moment, including your feelings and thoughts, your body and the world around you. Some people call this awareness "mindfulness", and it can positively change the way you feel about life and how you approach challenges.

NTPFES Peer Supporters

Personnel who are trained to offer assistance and support to colleagues experiencing challenges in their work or home lives. Peer Supporters are volunteers whose main role is to listen.

NTPFES Wellbeing & Health Officers

Police Members whose full-time role is to provide peer support (as discussed above), facilitate initiatives to promote personnel's wellbeing and health and to help coordinate the Peer Support Program.

NTPFES Psychologists

Offer a range of services to support the wellbeing and mental health of personnel, which includes: counselling & psychological treatment, wellchecks, post-critical incident support, crisis support, education and training.

External Counselling Program

Alongside the internal network of support services NTPFES has a panel of external counselling/ psychology providers. Personnel and immediate family can access six sessions of counselling/ psychological treatment, with the potential of service extensions for personnel.

Chaplaincy

Chaplains provide pastoral care support, spiritual care and ceremonial services.

For more information,

NTPFES staff can contact

PeerSupport.PFES@pfes.nt.gov.au or
EmployeeSupport.PFES@pfes.nt.gov.au

A MURDER AT HUMBERT RIVER

In March of 1909, Mounted Constable Holland, based at Timber Creek, heard rumours about the murder of 'Brigalow Bill' Ward who was living at the abandoned Humbert River Station.

The man hunt that followed covered more than 800 miles on horseback and on foot and took more than three months.

Holland left Timber Creek on 13 March 1909 accompanied by Indigenous Trackers. It took three days to travel to Humbert River Station. On his return he filed a report which stated:

Sir,
I have the honour to report for your information that Ward's station was abandoned when I arrived there on the 16th instant. I found bloodstains on the partly-opened back door, which confirms a report I have just received as to the circumstances of the murder and torture of poor Ward...

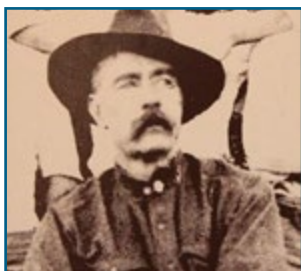
OPPOSITE PAGE

LEFT: Mounted Constable Holland at Brigalow Bill's hut, 1910.

MID L: The 1908 Timber Creek Police Station mentioned in this article and which is now a museum for the Victoria River Region

MID R: Trooper Dempsey

RIGHT: Mounted Constable Holland



After enquiries, Holland and Mounted Trooper Dempsey arrived at Victoria River Downs at dawn on 25 May where they arrested George Abaduk, an Aboriginal stockman who had been employed by Ward. According to information, he was one of the men who took horses and cattle from Humbert River Station after Ward's death.

Another stockman, named Possum, was arrested that afternoon at a nearby outstation. Another suspect, 'Murphy', wasn't there but would later hand himself in, saying suspected murderer Gordon had tried to kill him for wanting to go to the police.

All three suspects were chained together to a solid tree, as was the practice for prisoners in those times.

During the night, Gordon crept close to the camp and threw a spear at Murphy but missed. Gordon evaded capture by swimming across the river.

In the morning the troopers and trackers crossed the river and followed Gordon's tracks all day to a place called Whitewater.

There were tracks from several people that headed into immense sandstone outcrops.

The hunt continued on foot and after 12 miles the tracks led into a stony creek and soon dogs could be heard barking, indicating a camp nearby.

One of the trackers went forward and saw Gordon and Lu-Lu (a female employee of Ward's implicated in his murder) with the rest of the suspects.

The police party surrounded the camp in positions of advantage. Holland and a tracker named Jimmy stood up holding rifles.

Jimmy spoke to Gordon in his language and told him to stay seated and he would not be harmed.

As Jimmy said at the trial of the co-offenders, Gordon ignored this and attacked him with a spear.

The first spear grazed Jimmy's shoulder as he ducked and Gordon was shot dead by Jimmy as he started to throw another.

As this conflict played out, the rest of Gordon's men escaped, leaving Lu-Lu behind.

After returning to Timber Creek – following another two weeks of searching – five additional suspects were arrested and put before the Palmerston Police Court.

In a jury trial, they were all convicted. Lu-Lu was sentenced to life imprisonment and the remainder were sentenced to death although this was later down graded to life sentences.

The NT Police Force will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2020, and with the support of Commissioner Reece Kershaw and the NT Police Association, the NT Police Museum and Historical Society are working towards a year of celebrations.

The society is calling on members past and present to collect, record, research and write stories and prepare exhibits in preparations for the anniversary.

If you're interested, please contact Sergeant John Pini john.pini@pfes.nt.gov.au

AIR WING

PILOT MAL WALSHE RECKONS POLICE AIR WING “BEST JOB IN THE AIR”

THE NT POLICE AIR WING WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1979. IN THE EARLY YEARS, THE AIR WING OPERATED TWO PIPER NAVAHO AIRCRAFT, ONE IN ALICE SPRINGS AND ONE IN DARWIN.

In 1999, NT Police purchased a new Pilatus PC-12 aircraft to replace the Navaho for the Darwin operation. A second was purchased for Alice Springs in 2004.

Air Wing pilots were originally sworn members, but this was phased out in the early 2000s.

Mal Walshe has been a pilot for 43 years, and for the past seven, he's been flying the glorious Pilatus PC-12s for the NT Police Air Section.

Mal flew his way around the country in a number of roles before turning his focus to Police.

“One job I loved was chasing drug dealers and meth factories in Melbourne,” he said.

“I was in an air-support role for ground-based Victorian Police Drug squad officers in rental cars. We were in a fixed wing aircraft watching drug dealers doing their stuff from 3000-4000ft in among all the air traffic around Melbourne – that was fun.”

His story of his arrival in Darwin is an all-too-familiar one.

“I was only meant to be in Darwin for two weeks and I've stayed for 10 years.

After a short stint flying in the Tiwi Islands, Mal applied for a gig with the NT Police Air Section.

“This opened the most rewarding door in my aviation career,” he said.







PFES.NT.GOV.AU

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK - NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES