

# THE DRUM

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE



APRIL 2017



**NT POLICE,  
FIRE & EMERGENCY  
SERVICES**

**VISION  
2020**



**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

## OUR VALUES

### BEING VALUES-LED TO SERVE AND PROTECT

The NTPFES is a values-led agency. 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.



# *A message from the Commissioner & CEO*



*What will Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services look like in say five or 10 years' time? My hope as Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer is that we will more closely reflect the community we protect and serve.*

*That ambition won't happen by accident, which is why those of us who are now part of the PFES family have a vital role to play on our journey of cultural transformation.*

*We are already leading the way. NT Police have the highest proportion of women and indigenous officers of any force in Australia. We were the first to establish the target of equality in recruiting for our fire fighters, police and emergency workers. As a team, we are daily becoming more and more respectful of each other's contribution to our collective success.*

*There is still a lot more to do.*

*Our shared commitment to the values of PFES – Trust, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Courage, Community and Accountability – remains at the core of stronger, more inclusive, more productive and more effective agency.*

*In this edition of The Drum we see how our colleagues across the Territory are reflecting those values. Members such as the NTES volunteer unit based in a remote community who raised more than \$30,000 for Shave for a Cure; those who participated in major events including the 50th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-Off and the Finke Desert Race; and our colleagues who took to the court for a basketball game with members of the Bagot Community. There are literally scores of examples to choose from.*

*Our individual strengths, differences and achievements make us stronger as a team, and I recognise your efforts to build a better agency and a safer Territory. Across PFES, you have demonstrated continuous commitment, innovation and insight.*

*I welcome all new members of the PFES family, from the freshest recruits to our recently appointed new executive leader. Each of you brings a wealth of experience, which I acknowledge and value. At the same time, I want to honour some of our longest-serving members who have retired, leaving a legacy we can all be proud of.*

*We are leaders on the national stage when it comes to innovations in technology and problem solving, a reputation recognised by our peers here in Australia and across the globe. Our innovative Facial Recognition technology has won national awards, while a range of other initiatives being rolled out including Body Worn Video will help us work smarter and more efficiently.*

*Not only are our Police recognised as being among the best of the best. The NT Fire and Rescue Service were invited to contribute to a major counter-terrorism exercise with the US Marines and Australian Defence Force. Our firefighters are also key members of the world-leading National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre that was set up in the wake of the Bali Bombings in 2012.*

*All Territorians rely on the professionalism of the NT Emergency Service teams, and this Wet Season has not found either our full-time or hard working volunteers wanting. No matter what the conditions, no matter when or where, our NTES crews will be there when needed.*

*I acknowledge the incredible achievements that you and every member of the PFES family deliver day in, day out. Your enthusiasm, willingness to embrace change and aspire to new goals make a real difference.*

*I am proud to make the journey with you all.*

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

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## 35 SHOOTING HOOPS, GROWING ROOTS IN COMMUNITY

The recruits spent time at Bagot Community as a way to bridge relations.

*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](mailto:PFES.media@pfes.nt.gov.au) along with high quality photos to accompany your story.*

*The next edition is expected mid 2017.*



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### MAKING HIS MARK ON THE NTPFES

Chief Fire Officer Mark Spain's biography

# NT POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**Cherie Gaffney only arrived in the Northern Territory in June 2015, and her first 12 months were a whirlwind.**

It was her first day relieving at Lajamanu station when Sergeant Gaffney's impact at the community was first felt, during a search for a missing woman.

"The community out here is very segregated – the male officers who were on the ground had a tough time in their enquiries with female community members," she said.

"But when I got there, the female members of the community were far more comfortable speaking to another woman and we were able to find her quickly."

This result ensured Cherie's initial exposure to the Lajamanu community was positive.





## REMOTE SERGEANT CHERIE GAFFNEY

### ROTARY NT POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



## IT'S CHERIE'S YEAR

Since then, she has become a valued member and an influential figure who exemplifies all that is right about policing and the importance of strong community relationships.

Cherie first joined Victoria Police in 2010, aged 20. She spent four years there based at stations in Melbourne (Greensborough) and Shepparton.

"Growing up there were two things I knew – I loved the Northern Territory and I wanted to become a police officer," she said.

"I thought it would be a bit much to do both at the same time, so I did four years in Victoria before moving up to the Territory."

Cherie joined the Accelerated Recruitment Program in June 2015 and was based in Katherine after graduating.

In December 2015 she took a relief position at Lajamanu.

At 26, she obtained the role permanently in April 2016.

She said growing up in Warrandyte – an area just outside Melbourne with a strong community focus – was one of the reasons she wanted to give bush policing a go.

Lajamanu is a two-man station. Cherie said the balance a male-female combination provides the community is invaluable.

"The women didn't feel like they had a voice in the community before I got here," she said.

"Because we have that personal relationship, the community has more accountability. If they break the law they feel like they're disappointing us."

When she's not working, Cherie enjoys studying. She is well into a law degree, which provides a different angle to the way she looks at the way she polices.

**Main image:** Police Officer of the Year 2016, Sergeant Cherie Gaffney.

**Above image:** Mr Rob Trenerry, Mr Paul Simon, Mrs Marie Hardy, Ms Cherie Gaffney, Mrs Carolyn Gaffney, Mr John Hardy, Mr John Gaffney and Mr Jamie Chaulker at Government House.

# FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Station Officer Darrin Weetra and Fire Auxiliary Captain Justin Gould have been awarded the Rotary Club of Darwin North, Eric Simmons Firefighter and Volunteer Firefighter of the Year for 2016.



**This page:** 2016 Firefighter of the Year winners Justin Gould and Station Officer Darrin Weetra

**Opposite page:** Then - assistant Chief Fire Officer Justin Justin, Director of Fire and Emergency Services, Jenny Reilly, Auxiliary Fire Captain Justin Gould, President of Rotary Club Darwin North Ms Ada Hosein, Station Officer Darrin Weetra and Acting Chief Operations Officer NTES Andrew Warton.







# THE BEST OF THE BEST

**In a glittering ceremony at Darwin Fire Station in May, the pair was presented their awards by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, His Honour the Honourable John Hardy.**

Darrin Weetra commenced with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service in July 1988. After completing his recruit course, Darrin was assigned to Operations Darwin Command where he proved to be a reliable and conscientious firefighter.

Darrin moved to Community Fire Safety Command in June 2008 and was promoted to the rank of Station Officer in September the same year.

Darrin performed many extra hours of work within this Command to meet the necessary timelines and expectations of the building industry.

In June 2015 Darrin transferred to Capability and Development Command and was instrumental behind the scenes during Cyclones Lam and Nathan and the Daly River Floods over the Christmas period of 2015.

Many of Darrin's colleagues couldn't speak highly enough of this continued commitment and work ethic and although he

likes to work behind the scenes without expectations of reward or recognition, he is a well deserving winner of this award.

Fire Auxiliary Captain Justin Gould has been part of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service since he was old enough to remember.

His father Peter was a firefighter and that is what Justin grew up with in Darwin.

Justin supported the community of Jabiru for the nine years he lived there, being committed and engaged in every aspect of the fire station and the community.

Justin's 'have a go' and 'give it your best' attitude transformed the Jabiru Fire Station into a community focussed and engaged station in all aspects.

Justin was a huge supporter of local events such as the Christmas runs, Kakadu Triathlon, the firefighter games, you could always find him behind the barbeque at community events.

Justin worked hard across the West Arnhem region to bring awareness to community fire safety.

He also included his family in everything he did and that meant that the community always had three, sometimes four, volunteers to assist.

Justin has now moved to Nhulunbuy, where he is the Fire Auxiliary Captain and he is an excellent choice for the award.

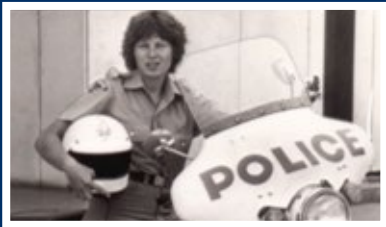
The Rotary Club of Darwin North also recognised the achievement by donating the sum of \$1000 each, on behalf Darrin and Justin, to Australian Rotary Health to a new scholarship which is being created in conjunction with Rotary Clubs in New South Wales. The scholarship is specifically investigating post-traumatic stress disorder in the emergency services.

The Eric Simmons Award recognises the skills, dedication and professionalism of both career and volunteer firefighters alike.

# MEET THE NEW DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS







# KATE VANDERLAAN

**Kate Vanderlaan is well-known across the Northern Territory as our senior female police officer.**

The new Deputy Commissioner grew up in Nhulunbuy. She joined the NT Police in February 1979 and was attached to the Darwin Traffic Section, where in April 1980 she became Australia's first female motorcycle police officer.

After stints in General Duties, Prosecutions and the College, Ms Vanderlaan transferred to Katherine and Alice Springs before returning to Darwin in 1993. She served in the positions of Recruitment, Watch Commander and as the Commissioner's Support Officer.

She did another tour of duty in Alice Springs in the Southern Crime Division before a transfer to Katherine to take up the Divisional Officer position.

In August 2003, Ms Vanderlaan formally took over as Commander, Central Region. In April 2006 she was transferred to Darwin, responsible for the Greater Darwin Region. She would later take up roles in the Professional Standards Command, Traffic and Operational Services Command.

Ms Vanderlaan was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2008. In 2010 she was awarded the Patricia Brennan Award in recognition of her contribution to women in policing.

Ms Vanderlaan said she looked back on her days on two wheels as some of her favourites – "as far as pure fun goes".

"More recently, my promotion to Deputy Commissioner – something that I only dreamt of, but it actually came true."



# GRANT NICHOLLS

**Grant Nicholls is the new Deputy Commissioner for Capability and Specialist Services.**

He holds Masters degrees in both Public Policy and Administration and in Management, as well as a Graduate Diploma in Emergency Services Management, a Diploma in Business Studies and an Advanced Certificate in Terrorism Studies.

He holds the honorary rank of Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Military Police.

Mr Nicholls commenced with the NTPFES in June last year to oversee the agency's Capability Audit.

Before moving across the ditch, Mr Nicholls was the Acting Deputy Commissioner for District Operations, with oversight of all 12 NZ police districts. He had also

acted as the Deputy Commissioner for Resource Management, National Operations and Deputy Commissioner Operations.

Mr Nicholls joined the police in 1985 and held operational, investigative, policy and administrative posts including District Commander of Eastern District, based in Napier. He has led several serious crime investigations to successful conclusions.

He has held the City and Rural Area Commander and CIB posts around the lower North Island, as well as Assistant Commissioner posts covering Strategy, Policy and Performance, and Specialist Operations.

Mr Nicholls' other experience includes a deployment to Thailand as a Contingent Commander after the 2004 tsunami, for which he was awarded a Special Services Medal. He has served secondments to Strathclyde Police in Glasgow, served in Timor Leste and visited police services in Australia, the USA and Canada.

He was appointed response coordinator to the Pike River Mine disaster and was involved in the police response to the Christchurch earthquake.

He also underwent command training at the Police Staff College, Bramshill, near London.

# MEET TWO OF THE NTFRES EXECUTIVES



## NT Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services







# JENNIFER REILLY

**While Jennifer Reilly might be a new name and face to some, she's not a new face to the agency.**

Before taking the role of NT Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Executive Director in July 2016, she was director of the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services College.

Ms Reilly was based in Queensland before joining PFES, working in government agencies including the departments of Housing, Health, Public Works, QBuild Corporate Services, Public Service Commission and Police.

She is no stranger to the NT, having lived in Tennant Creek for 13 years between 1968 and 1981.

She has a passion for leading large teams and delivering government services across vast geographical locations.

Ms Reilly holds an Executive Masters in Public Administration and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Her passion is leading organisations and leading others to reach their potential and has been a Dale Carnegie Instructor since 1999.

Ms Reilly was awarded the Most Outstanding Female Administrator

award at the 15th Annual Excellence in Policing Awards from Australasia Council of Women and Policing. She received Queensland Police Service Award for Excellence in Corporate and Support Services for 2013 Firearms and Weapons Amnesty, Police Commissioner's Award for Meritorious Service 2013, New Zealand Certificate of Appreciation in response to earthquake recovery, Queensland Police Service State Silver Award 2010 for Excellence in Corporate and Support Services and QBuild Management Excellence Award.



# JENNY WILLIS

**Jenny Willis was appointed Director, Chief Officer Strategy and Capability on 1 November 2016, having worked with NTES for 10 months.**

But it's her time before moving to the Territory that makes Ms Willis stand out – her 15 years with the NSW Ambulance Service, where she was the Chief Superintendent and Director of the NSW Ambulance Special Operations Unit for four years.

Responsibilities of this position included delivery of NSW Ambulance special operations paramedic training and recertification. These specialist paramedics include Special Casualty Access Team (SCAT), Special Operations Teams and Rescue. The training delivered included all aspects of rescue (vertical, road crash, confined space, domestic animal), swift water rescue, urban search and rescue,

chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence (CBRNE) and HAZMAT, counter-terrorism, emergency management, and special operations.

During her career with NSW Ambulance, Ms Willis was involved in major deployments including during the Victorian bushfires, Indonesian tsunami, and earthquakes in Christchurch and Japan.

Ms Willis lists her career highlights as working within the NSW Police Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command for five years and maintaining her clinical certificate to practice during her ambulance career. She has also been an Ambulance Commander for a

number of large and high profile events including the Lindt Café Siege.

During her years of service, Ms Willis has been awarded the Canberra Bushfire Medal, the NSW State Government Medal for the Hunter and Central Coast Storms, a NSW Ambulance Unit Citation for her role in the Quakers Hill Nursing Home Fire and a NSW Ambulance Commissioners Unit Citation for her role in the Lindt Café Siege.

Prior to relocating to the Northern Territory, Ms Willis volunteered as an Advanced Firefighter, Driver and Aviation Base Operator within the NSW Rural Fire Service. She also volunteered as a NSW Justice of the Peace.



# FREEDOM FESTIVAL

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE WAVE HILL WALK-OFF

**Above:** Thousands join the 50th anniversary of the Wave Hill walk-off at Kalkaringji.

*On Thursday 18 August 2016, Community Engagement Police Officers (CEPOs) Senior Constable First Class Mat Cram, Constables First Class Paul Keightley, Robert Cartmill and Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) Damian Guyula arrived at Kalkarindji.*

*They had travelled down from Darwin to take part in the **50th anniversary of the Wave Hill walk-off.***

*In their roles, CEPOs meet and work with community representatives, schools and youth, government and non-government organisations to enhance community engagement in remote localities.*

*At the Walk-Off event, the **CEPOs were in the region to help assist in the recruitment of an ALO for the neighbouring community of Lajamanu**, which involved speaking with the community about the role and potential candidates. The CEPOs were also at Kalkarindji to support the No More anti-domestic violence campaign being run by Catholic Care and Charlie King.*





*By Constables First Class  
Paul Keightly and Robert Cartmill*

While there, the CEPOs held meetings with community legal educators about developing community legal education suitable for residents of communities living along the Northern Territory and Western Australia border as part of the Blurred Borders Project.

On the Friday morning, the CEPOs spoke to many families and indigenous people from all over Australia and participated in the Freedom March – a retracing of the original walk off – from the station to the riverbanks, a distance of about two kilometres.

On the Saturday, they chatted to many locals and visitors, also handing out kindly donated NT Athletics water bottles and caps to players and children at some of the excellent football games including the Billy Bunter Cup. They also had the opportunity to listen to some of the many music groups that came to Kalkarindji for the festival.

ALO Damien Guyula's presence and engagement with locals during and after the march was exceptional. His and all ALOs cultural knowledge, variety of skills and the ability to effectively bridge both worlds is invaluable.

It was a pleasure to have Damien attend the 50th Wave Hill walk off festival.

Marching next to Charlie King reaffirmed the clear messaging around the No More campaign.







# ONE BIG FAMILY

## ALL IN IT TOGETHER

### Recruit Squad 129 is the latest success story for the NTPFES Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

Graduating last December, the Squad had the highest percentage of both women and Indigenous recruits in the 146-year history of policing in the Territory.

Of the 30 members, 43 per cent were women – an increase of 16 per cent on the average for the previous three years. Indigenous recruits made up 17 per cent of the squad.

Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee Chair, Deputy Commissioner Kate Vanderlaan said the marketing for the squad intake focussed firmly on dispelling the idea of who is suited to becoming a police officer, and encouraging people who in previous years had thought they 'weren't what we're looking for' to apply.

The squad is the latest in a string of diversity and inclusion success stories across the NTPFES.

NTES has four volunteers with physical disabilities. Steps were taken to adjust training where possible, and where these volunteers are unable to demonstrate competencies due to their disability,

NTES provides opportunities to ensure they contribute to and are a valuable part of the organisation and the community.

A study by the Health and Community Services departments identified Indigenous people – especially children – were over-represented in hospitalisations with burns. Core elements of the NTFRS Fire Safety Program were quickly inserted into the curriculum in remote schools. The program places particular emphasis on campfire safety and fire lighting in bush areas.

In 2015, NT Police assisted development of the Police Cautions in Language app. The app provides police cautions in 18 different languages to ensure Indigenous people are not disadvantaged in their interactions with police and are able to understand their rights. This app mitigates the significant barrier language posed to both police and the community.

Stories like these are an important part of diversity – the perspective that comes from different life experiences, while inclusion is ensuring that this perspective is recognised and valued.

**Above:** Recruit Squad 129





## ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICER **DAMIEN GUYULA**

There are few people as passionate for their community as Damien Guyula. Damien grew up in the Arafura swamp area, before moving into Gapuwiyak for school. He's lived in the community ever since.

After graduating high school with the NT Open Education Centre, he worked in a variety of positions, including as an administration officer at the school.

In May 2016 he took the plunge and applied for an Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) position with NT Police. He was ultimately successful and hasn't looked back.

"I was looking for something that would challenge me. I had built a relationship with the police and when I heard this position had opened I applied straight away," he said.

"I love talking to people – I feel I'm doing my community a service."

Damien's childhood is a story shared by many. His father was an alcoholic, and domestic and family violence commonplace.

"I thought if I do something different, I will change the thinking in my family and their attitudes to alcohol," he said.

Damien said his role had reduced tensions between officers and community members, particularly during arrests where a language barrier often hinders communication.

"Sometimes they ask why someone is being arrested – I can come in and explain it. It's all about working in partnership with the community.

"People in the community also contact me if they want to speak to someone in the Police – they come to me and I point them in the right direction."

Damien, 31, said he hoped he could inspire his 6-year-old daughter to grow up and make the right choices.

"I want to try to become an Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) and then a constable – I think that would be a good path for me to take.

"It's good for me to work with the police. It's fantastic to see Indigenous and non-Indigenous working together in the community."

Wurrumiyanga Police have also welcomed their own ALO. Gilbert Alimankinni, a former ACPO, was formally inducted into his Liaison Officer role in early November. He said it was looking forward to working on strategies to help his community, particularly keeping children safe.

He had already commenced work on a Kids Safety felt board which encourages children to identify areas in the community they feel unsafe and what steps they might take to get to a safe place.

As well as Damien and Gilbert, NTPFES has Aboriginal Liaison Officers at Galiwink, Maningrida, Kintore and Alyangula, with vacancies at Wadeye, Yuendumu and Maranboy.

**Above:** ALO Damien Guyula at the Wave Hill walk-off, 2016

**Below:** ALO Gilbert Alimankinni of the Wurrumiyanga Police





# HAIRLESS, BUT NEVER CARELESS

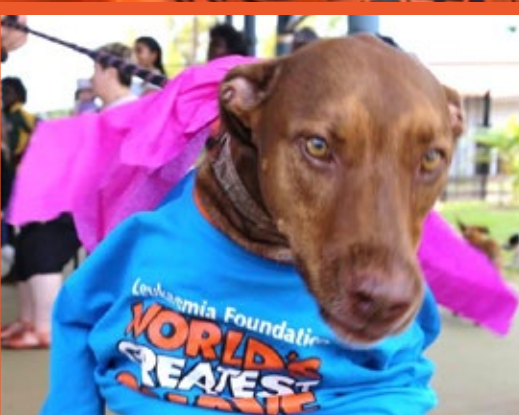
**Every day, 35 Australians are diagnosed with a blood-related cancers. These include leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.**

Statistics are one thing, but it's not until someone you know is diagnosed the full impact of the disease can be understood.

**Above (from top left):** Mitch Ezzy at the World's Greatest Shave; NTES Volunteers after their shave; Robert Schoenner (left) and Kevin Stiffe (right); Jo Killmister gets the chop; Jo Killmister (left) and James Stephens (right); NTES Volunteer puppy; Sandi Cutler shaves it all off; Alice Eather's dread cut.

**Bottom:** Raia Carey gets her hair coloured to fight Hodgkin's Lymphoma.





**Last year, 15 NTES volunteers from Maningrida raised more than \$30,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation in support of a 7-year-old local girl.**

When little Raia Carey was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, the whole community was hit hard.

After diagnosis, the family had to move to Brisbane for treatment, so a trio of friends decided it would be a great idea to shave their heads so Raia wouldn't feel alone when inevitably lost hers.

Others quickly joined the shave, and three quickly became 15; 13 who shaved and two who coloured.

A modest \$2000 was the initial target, but through word of mouth and the power of the internet, donations quickly came flooding in from around the country.

On the day of the shave, most of the community turned out to see the team lose their locks. Many kids also sprayed their hair different colours for a \$2 donation.

During the shave the Leukaemia Foundation notified them they were the top NT fundraisers, and ranked 16th nationally.

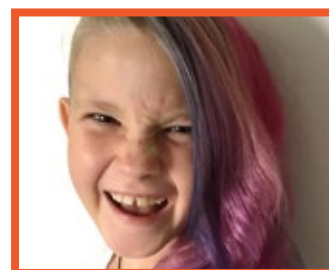
The team consisted of James Stephens, Jo Killmister, Raia Carey, Sandi Cutler, Bernie Price, Robert Schoenner (NTES), Kevin Stiffe (NTES), BJ Gay,

Matt Lotherington, Mitch Ezzy, Alice Eather, Roley Sykes, Harvey Turnell, Adam Pascoe and Noeletta McKenzie.

Raia meanwhile has taken it all in her stride, showing strength and determination, inspiring those around her.

In March, hundreds of thousands of Aussies shave or colour their heads to raise funds for the Leukaemia foundation.

To register to host your own 'World's Greatest Shave', visit [leukaemia.org.au](http://leukaemia.org.au)



# MAKING HIS MARK ON THE NTFRS

**HE WAS BORN IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND IS A FOUNDATION PLAYER FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS FOOTBALL CLUB, AND NOW HE'S THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER FOR THE NT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE.**

Mark Spain became a fire in 1986. He's served in stations across the Territory as well as stints in Canberra and rural Victoria.

The father of three said applying for the role was the "next logical step" in his career.

Mr Spain said he initially applied to become a police officer, but was knocked back.

"I didn't get past the first stage – I wasn't strong at school," he said.

"But after that I spoke to a fire who gave me some insight, so I applied, got in and I haven't looked back."

Away from the job, Mr Spain, is known for his passion for a wide range of sport.

While not playing as often nowadays, his passion for the outdoors has not faded.

"I love fishing and bush walking and get out as often as I can," he said.

"I just finished the Katherine Gorge walk – we went to eighth gorge and back over two nights. I would like to do the southern region a bit more. There's a lot down there I have never seen."

He said the time spent in Jabiru, as well as an exchange period in rural Victoria and then a stint with the CFA in Canberra were all rewarding experiences.

But on the other side of the coin, his experiences in Canberra reminded him of the dangers of fire and the importance of the job.

"I was there for the 2001 and 2002 bushfires – I was on leave but I reported for duty in the 24 hours after the main storm.

"My role was to mop up operations with the crews. It was a super fire – and there was very little that could be done to prevent what happened."

Mr Spain brings to the role a wealth of experience and a bucket load of support from family.

"I've been married 25 years to my lovely wife Bronwyn, and I've got three daughters – Louise, Erin and Tegan. Their support is what convinced me this was the right decision."





**Main photo:** Chief Fire Officer Mark Spain poses with a training appliance at Darwin Fire Station.

## JOCK MCLEOD RETIREMENT

20 MARCH 1967 - 8 JULY 2016

# SPORTING

# JOCK LOOKS BACK

**JOHN 'JOCK' MCLEOD WAS TOLD HE HAD A JOB WITH THE FIRIES ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON AFTER A GAME OF BASKETBALL.**

He started the following Monday – 20 March, 1967. Forty-nine years later, on Friday 8 July 2016, Jock walked out of Darwin Fire Station for the final time after a battle with cancer.

"The saddest thing for me is I can't put my uniform on again – I was so proud of it.

"All through my cancer I always thought I would get better and go back to work, but there is no way in the world I would pass a medical to go back to work."

In 1967, firefighting was a Commonwealth Public Service job. On his first day of training, he swore allegiance to God and the Queen, was given a pair of overalls, before "they started teaching us how to do fire stuff".

His first fire was that same day: a grass fire at in Stuart Park.

"We all roared up, I just grabbed (the hose) and went shooting down the hill at a hundred miles an hour. I still remember it clearly."

It was the start of a long and illustrious career served mostly in Darwin, with stints in Katherine and Jabiru.

Jock, now 71, looks back on his five decades of service with great fondness.

**Above:** Jock McLeod portrait, photo courtesy of NT News.

**Opposite page (from top left):** Jock with son Andrew, photo courtesy of NT News; Commissioner Kershaw thanks Jock for his many years of service; Jock McLeod after retirement, photo courtesy of NT News.





"The fire service provided a great living. It provided me finance to buy a house, it educated my kids, bought me nice cars ... it gave me a great lifestyle".

Jock said it often felt like his shift mates were more like family than colleagues.

"We spent a lot of time together, especially in the early days. Obviously we were all on shift together, but we were also on days off together – all the kids knew each other, all our wives knew each other. I still see some of the kids around and they call me 'uncle'."

Throughout his time in the service, Jock was known for his sporting prowess. He played for the Darwin Buffaloes in the NTFL, and was known before he even joined the fire service.

"The bosses would drag me into the office and tell me

about all the things I did wrong on the weekend."

Jock first realised all was not well with his health when he was struck down with "excruciating" pain while at work in December 2012.

"I was making a cuppa when it got me – it was such excruciating pain I went to my knees," he said.

"The doctor said I had stage three cancer that was growing at an alarming rate.

"He said to me 'Jock, if I don't go in and get this out now, you're cactus'. Everybody knows what that means. I didn't need him to paint me a picture."

It was a dark time. Jock's wife Marie was fighting her own battle with cancer, a battle she would eventually lose in 2013 – the same week Jock had his final round of chemo.

"It was a horrendous time at home. My daughter had come up from Perth to look after us, my granddaughter was staying with us as my personal carer, we had hospital people coming twice per day ... but we pulled together. My family rallied around me and we got through it all," Jock said.

"The sad part was we lost my wife, and I'm lucky to survive."

Now in remission, Jock said he's going to leave Darwin to be closer to his grandkids. He said he would buy a house with a large shed in Adelaide.

**FAREWELL, JOCK,  
AND THANK YOU  
FROM EVERYONE IN  
POLICE, FIRE AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES.**

## SENIOR SERGEANT RYAN

# HANGS UP HIS BOOTS

**Craig Ryan was still a recruit in Alice Springs when he found himself part of a large operation searching the base of Ayers Rock (now Uluru) during the investigation into the disappearance of Azaria Chamberlain.**

**Craig joined the NT Police Force after four years of service with the Australian Army. He applied to join in several states but as fate would have it, the Northern Territory replied first and Craig packed his bags for Darwin.**

"I had a link to the Territory. My father, Regimental Sergeant Major Kevin Ryan, was part of Z Special Force and was in Darwin on the morning of 19 February 1942 when it was bombed," Craig said.

Craig settled in to his policing duties seamlessly and his army experience singled him out for higher duties within a few short years.

Before the Territory Response Group took over close personal protection duties in 2000, Police would draw officers from the ranks of the closest station. With his military background and large physical presence Craig was often chosen to undertake this role.

"The Pope, Margaret Thatcher, two US presidents and Prince Phillip, I worked close protection for them all, but the highlight was when I was looking after Princess Diana and Prince Charles, and I got to hold young Prince William in Alice Springs.

"It's not every day you get to hold the future king," he said.

The relaxed Senior Sergeant, looking back on a distinguished and highly-decorated career, quickly nominated his time in Alice Springs and Central Australia, beginning in early 1982, as the most rewarding.

Craig urged the younger generation to embrace and use the advantage that new technology brings to policing.

"I was in Papanya in 1992 when they got their first telephone. Before that we had to book a call through the Royal Flying Doctor radio phone. The closest help was five hours away. If we required forensic assistance, then three days was the normal response time."

As difficult as that was, Craig saw the positive.

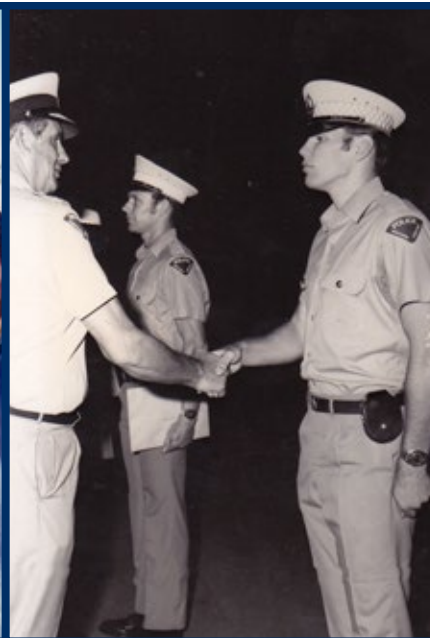
**"It does make you imagine what it was like for the Police who came before us. Not only did they live and work in mud brick cabins, they had to build the things themselves."**

In 1996 Craig accepted a position at the Police Fire and Emergency Services College as an instructor. In 1997 he was appointed the Chief Drill Instructor, a position he held until his retirement.

Craig attended 131 parades as Drill Instructor. Many graduates would have to toe the line but every one of them benefited from his experience and training.







Two events, several decades apart, would place Craig firmly in the middle of Northern Territory history.

"When Azaria disappeared the media interest was massive. It was a crush out at the search site and during the inquest, where my job was court security.

"Years later the media was again out in full force. I was the Officer in Charge of the Alice Springs Police Station when Peter Falconio disappeared.

"Interest in Joanne Lees was just crazy. We had an endless amount of journalists who tried to sneak into the Police Station to get a photo of Joanne. One got stuck on the court house roof next door – we were alerted to him by his cries for help – he had got his leg stuck between two pipes."

For Craig, policing highlights were tempered by the low-lights.

**"Police work in the Territory is long, hard, hot, filthy work that very few people understand or appreciate."**

Craig attended both the 1983 Inland Motel incident when Douglas Crabbe drove a road

train into a crowded bar, killing five people, and the 1989 Alice Springs hot air balloon crash where 13 people died.

A proud achievement was the 2006 establishment of the National Police Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra, for which he is now a Guard of Honour.

"There were some who suggested only soldiers, sailors or airmen should be honoured in that area but for me it was very important that we should also remember the victims on the domestic front."

Craig was awarded the National Medal in 1995, the Northern Territory Police Service Medal in 1997, the Australian Defence Service Medal in 2007, the Remote Service Citation in 2009, the National Police Service Medal in 2012 and the Commissioner's Policing Excellence Medal in 2016.

Senior Sergeant Craig Ryan leaves the NT Police Force with no regrets.

"My long-suffering wife June and I are looking forward to spending some time together doing all the things we just didn't have time for before. We have two children and we hope to be able to spend some time with them as well."

**ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT CRAIG. NTPFES THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.**



**This page (from left):** Craig and family in Yuendumu 1996; Commissioner McAulay presents Craig with his ID – Graduation Parade 1981; Craig on his bike; Commissioner Kershaw presents Craig with the Commissioner's Excellence Medal 2016.

**Opposite page:** Craig officiating in one of his 131 parades

# NTES VOLUNTEERS FLARE UP

LAST SEPTEMBER, NTES VOLUNTEERS GOT TOGETHER WITH NT WATER POLICE AND THE AUSTRALIAN COAST GUARD TO DISPOSE OF NUMEROUS EXPIRED FLARES.

*The flares were only recently expired and suitable for use in training exercises.*

*Water Police Sergeant John Pini said the exercise was "good experience" for the volunteers.*

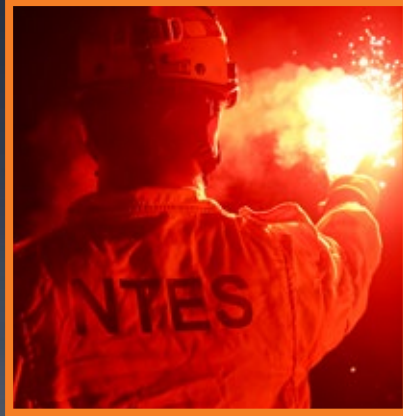
*"They're now familiar with flares and can pass on that knowledge to the boating public," he said.*

*"It's really important that people understand what to do with flares and that they are kept clear of their boat so they're not a fire hazard.*

*"It's also important to only use the flares when within sight of another vessel or air craft to ensure their use is effective."*







**Above:** *Dozens of expired flares were activated in a training exercise at East Arm boat ramp at the end of September.*

**Main image:** *In front of a September sunset, NTES volunteers are instructed in the use of a hand-held flare.*





# EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

**NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE CONTINUE TO EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY AS ONE SOLUTION TO A RELATIVELY SMALL FORCE AND A VERY LARGE COVERAGE AREA.**

*The roll-out of equipment has firmly placed the NT as the nation's most technologically advanced police force in many fields.*

*Sergeant Chris Brand is blazing new trails with innovation and practical solutions to communication, evidence gathering, tactical responses and monitoring areas of concern.*

*A police officer working in the NT now has access to a wide variety of tools to assist daily duties and future advancements in technology will ensure police officers across the Territory will be some of the best equipped in the world.*

**Photos:** Sergeant Brand gives Chief Minister Michael Gunner a demonstration of PFES' technological capabilities, before showing off his shiny collection of awards trophies.





Automatic Number Plate Recognition capability in vehicles can detect plates and recover data faster than one can blink. The technology has assisted traffic and crime operations immensely and will continue to develop as strategies around the use of ANPR improve.

Body Worn Video evidence has shortened trial times and assisted officers with reports. The roll-out of BWV has moved swiftly and remote locations should be equipped and on-line within the next few months.

The trial of drones for response assistance by Fire and Rescue officers, search and rescue, crime scene imagery, hazard abatement checks and wildfire monitoring is nearing completion. The two drones are capable of flying now and will become a useful tool for front line responders.

CCTV cameras have proved their worth in both the evidence and prevention fields. The network is growing steadily and the operators ability to recognise

criminal activity has resulted in a rapid response and many non-contested court appearances.

In the use of Facial Recognition, NT Police are leading all jurisdictions and have received recognition for the developments and use of this technology. The National Office of the Australian Computer Society (ACS) invited NT Police and NEC to nominate our Facial Recognition project for their National Digital Disruptor Awards.

The ACS had learned of our facial recognition project through positive press we have received on the national stage throughout 2016 for the Northern Territory Police win in the AIIA awards.

Of 48 submissions in the category of 'Service Transformation for the Digital Consumer – Government', our joint project was again honoured to receive another award on the national stage. NT Police and NEC are now the proud recipients of a Gold Digital Disruptor award. This marks the third set of awards the NT Police have received

in 2016, all in the area of facial recognition technology.

Sergeant Brand said 2017 will bring even more advancements in technology and that the NT Police will be at the cutting edge of these advancements.

"All of these tools are aimed at improving community safety, allowing a coordinated response and reducing the tyranny of distance.

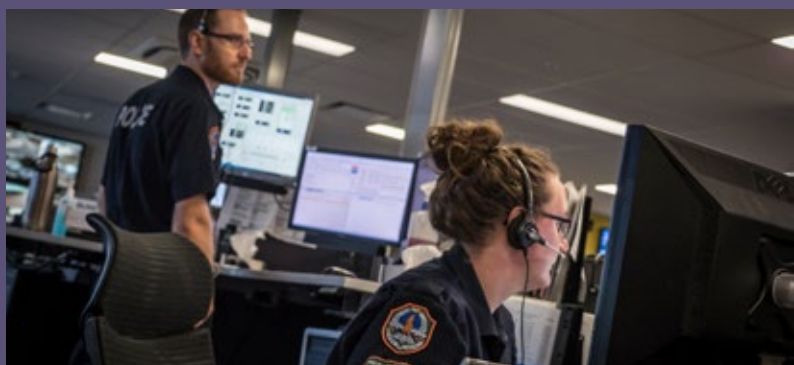
"Many of these tools are designed to be used across the tri-service and will be fully integrated for maximum interoperability and efficiency.

"We have been able to achieve these amazing outcomes through good leadership, focused goals and hard work. NT Police can be very proud of its improved capability by embracing this new technology and in the knowledge that we are leaders on both the national and international stage with regards to facial recognition," Sergeant Brand said.



# JESSC: REBORN

THE JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES CALL CENTRE (JESSC) HAS UNDERGONE REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADES TO THEIR PREMISES AND NOW BOASTS ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SECTIONS IN AUSTRALIA.



**The beating heart of the Police, Fire and Emergency Services consists of approximately 120 staff who work on a 24/7 roster.**

The call centre is the first contact the vast majority of the communities across the Northern Territory will have when they require assistance. The centre receives more than 1000 calls each day for Police, Fire and Rescue, Emergency Service, St John Ambulance, Public Housing Safety Officers and Transit Officers.

The centre also handles email inquiries, radio communications and maintains watch around 200 closed circuit television cameras (CCTV), soon be expanded to include many more.

Territory Duty Superintendents and the Northern Watch Commander and also operate out of the facility, providing oversight to all major incidents.

The JESSC is a constant hive of activity and all units based inside the facility maintain a close, professional working relationship to ensure a fast, efficient and coordinated response to any situation.

Future expansion will place a Senior Fire Fighter and Police Intelligence assets into the section to assist communication and command response to critical incidents.

JESSC will continue to grow and strengthen the communications and response capabilities across the agency.

**Above:** The JESSC Team; the call centre and team on duty.





# FIRIES PREPARED

## FOR MASS-CASUALTY RESPONSE

**EVERY YEAR ON 12 OCTOBER, AUSTRALIANS PAUSE TO REMEMBER  
THE PEOPLE KILLED IN THE 2012 BALI BOMBINGS.**

**Above:** NT Fire and Rescue Service were involved in setting up the temporary hospital, which can treat more than 200 patients.

That tragedy gave rise to the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC).

The surgical field hospital, which is Australia's only such facility, has the capacity to provide treatment for more than 200 outpatients, 30 inpatients and 21 surgical procedures a day.

Totally self-sustainable in disasters wherever they may occur, the mobile hospital is one of only a few World Health Organisation (WHO) verified surgical field hospitals in the world.

It was set up during a training exercise at the Darwin Showgrounds last year.

NT firefighters have been embedded with Australian Medical Assistance Teams (AUSMAT) and NCCTRC teams since inception, providing vital technical logistics support when an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) is deployed.

The team is recognised as one of the best in the world, receiving high praise from the WHO, Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells the Federal Minister for International Development and the Pacific and representatives from 13 countries that participated in training throughout the week.

The NCCTRC continues to train and develop AUSMAT personnel, who are drawn from state and territory resources, and maintains Australia's only EMT verified surgical field hospital.

While no one wants to see a repeat of the tragedy of Bali bombings, nor a natural disaster such as Tropical Cyclone Winston, it is of some comfort to know that assistance is only hours away in the form of a highly-trained and equipped medical team that can be deployed anywhere at a moment's notice.



# FINKE-ING HARD

## FINKE RIVER RACE WEEKEND

**By Sergeant Conan Robertson**

The Finke Desert Race is an iconic event held in Alice Springs every June, attracting thousands of people from all over the world.

The nature of the event provides challenges for police. There is an extensive amount of planning required each year. 14 police officers kept people safe at the event, with six camping at the Deep Well checkpoint, patrolling the primary dirt roads and up to eight engaged in duties at the start finish line and the sealed roads into Alice Springs.

Officers on duty filled broad roles, conducting foot patrols of spectator and licensed areas, running Random Breath Testing Stations, conducting vehicle patrols, monitoring for antisocial behaviour and detecting traffic offences. There were also media interactions to share safety messages.

All of these tactics combined to give police a successful outcome from the operation conducted at the event.

The 2016 event proved to be largely uneventful whilst there were some people arrested, summonsed and issued infringement notices, there were no serious injuries reported, which allowed the police members to see some of the race and engage productively with the public to make it an enjoyable event for all.





**Main Image:** A remote traffic vehicle watches as a buggy competing in the 2016 Finke Desert race flashes past.

**Opposite page (from top):** Sergeant Conan Robertson and former Finke and Dakar race champion Toby Price; Bikes are an easy way to get around while staying off the track.

**This page:** Commander Danny Bacon reunites with members of the Wolf Pack, from Guangzhou, China.



## ONE OF THE WOLF PACK

**ACTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DANNY BACON WAS RETURNING LATE FROM A STATION INSPECTION AT BORROLOOLA IN EARLY JUNE 2014. HE WAS ABOUT 30KM NORTH OF MATARANKA WHEN HE CAME ACROSS SOME MOTORHOMES THAT APPEARED TO HAVE BROKEN DOWN ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. HE STOPPED TO SEE IF HE COULD HELP. THIS IS WHEN HE FIRST MET THE 'WOLF PACK' FROM GUANGZHOU, CHINA.**

"They were heading to Alice Springs to join in the Finke Desert Race; there were about eight in the party, with Manon Mao the only person who spoke English," he said.

"They had run out of petrol, so we went to Mataranka to get some fuel. We returned to the vehicles, refuelled them and they went on their way to Alice Springs. This began the friendship with the Wolf Pack and they have visited me every year since!

"This year I promised them an Aussie BBQ experience. They had two award-winning chefs travel with the Wolf Pack and they attended for the night all dressed up in their chef whites with medals pinned proudly on their uniforms. We hosted a BBQ with nine of the Wolf Pack – swapping BBQ secrets and Chinese

recipes. A wonderful night and great experience, with Manon swept off her feet interpreting all night."

The Wolf Pack drove a Micklefab Toyota Tunda Chev 6000cc in the Finke Desert Race this year and came 22nd.

Danny plans to visit the Wolf Pack in Guangzhou this year.

"It has been a great experience to meet the Wolf Pack and in particular the drivers, Hero and Laird Wolf. They are all so passionate about their club racing, but also just experiencing Australia and the outback. It has been great to watch them improve their Finke Desert Race outcomes and I look forward to catching up with them each year when they visit," Danny said.





**Above (from left):**

National Police Remembrance Day wreaths; Senior Sergeant Faustmann pays Michael Read his respects; NT Police march in Alice Springs; Tennant Creek service; NT Police march in Darwin; Sergeant Robin Kidney plays the bugle in Darwin.

**Below (from left):**

National Police Remembrance Day wreaths; Tennant Creek service; Officer salute at Alice Springs service; NT Police pay their respects in Katherine; NT Police march in Darwin.



A MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HONOUR ALL AUSTRALIAN POLICE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY





# National Police Remembrance Day

THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2016

**NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY IS A CHANCE FOR OFFICERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER THEIR FALLEN PEERS.**

Senior Constable First Class Michael Read, 55, died of a heart attack while serving with the Northern Territory's Water Police in December 2014.

In 2016, his name was one of seven added to the Wall of Remembrance at the National Police Memorial on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra.

A contingent of motorcyclists rode from Darwin to Canberra to be at the memorial.

The 2016 Wall to Wall Ride was named 'Ready's Ride' in memory of Michael Read.

As is tradition, Sergeant Owen Blackwell carried the Commissioner's Baton containing the names of all NT police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting and serving the community.

Commissioner Reece Kershaw rode a short part of the ride from Darwin to Adelaide River.

2016 marked the 10th anniversary of the memorial, which honours the more than 750 members of Australian police forces who have died in the line of duty since 1803.

Senior Sergeant Paul Faustmann stood in driving rain to remember a mate whom he may have outranked, but always looked up to.

"I knew Michael for about five years and in that time, our bond, we became exceptionally good friends both off-duty and through work. Despite him being a junior rank to myself he was a mentor, he was a man of many years' experience and a very wise man and somewhat of a father figure," he said.

The Read family was present to see Senior Sergeant Faustmann deliver Michael's touchstone.

"It's been a massive journey for everyone," he said.

As well as the Wall to Wall riders, Senior Sergeant Faustmann was joined at the event by Superintendent Dean Moloney, Senior Constable Jennifer Roe and Senior Constable Richard Cheal.

*NTPFES acknowledges the contribution of Canberra Times in this article.*



# SO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE TERRITORY RESPONSE GROUP

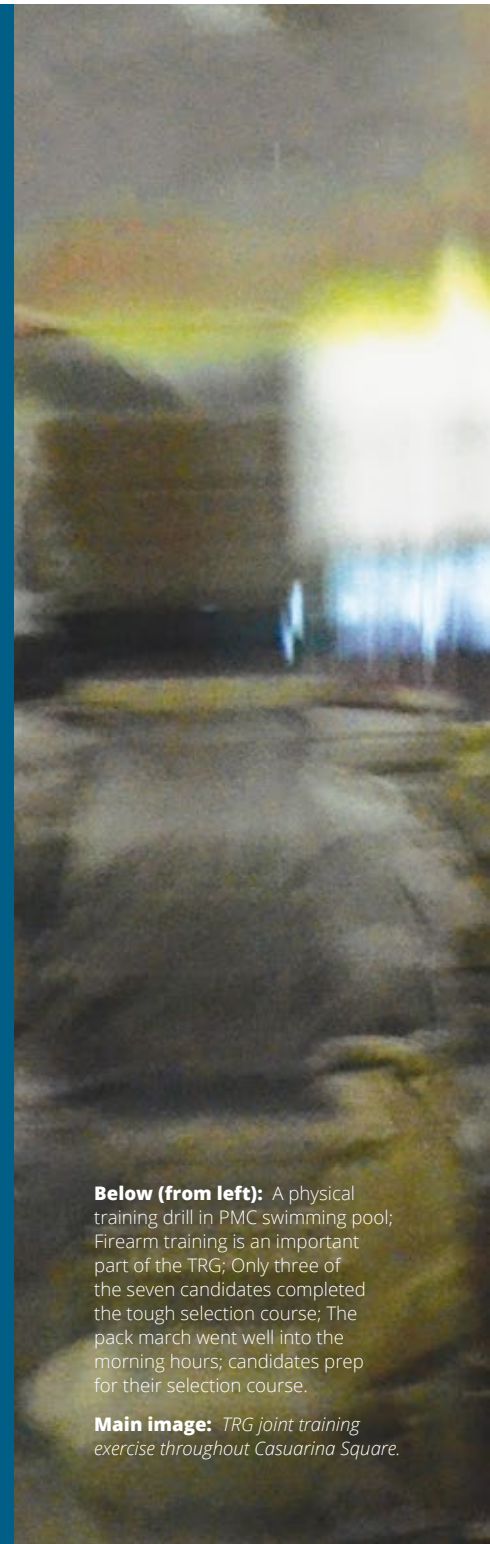
EVERY YEAR THE TERRITORY RESPONSE GROUP (TRG) CONDUCTS  
A SELECTION COURSE TO ENSURE THERE ARE PEOPLE SUITABLE  
TO BE TRAINED IN THE MANY ROLES AND CAPABILITIES THE  
TRG PROVIDES TO POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY.

Candidates undertake several activities structured to determine fitness, teamwork, preparedness, attitude, aptitude and logical thinking.

TRG members need to be resourceful, determined, mission focused, fit, have good common sense and 'outside the box' thinking in situations where they have had little or no sleep, in adverse weather conditions and in a tense operational environment.

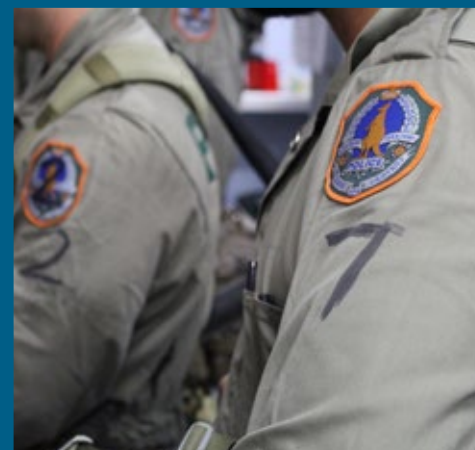
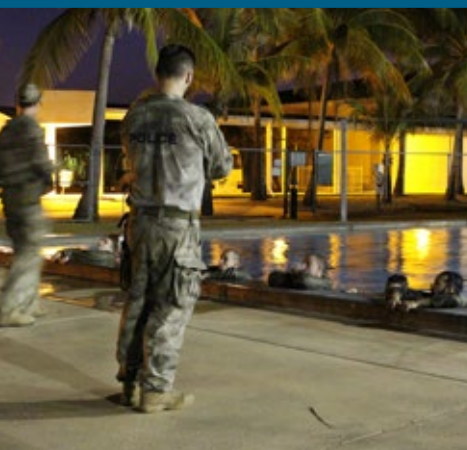
The selection course is designed to see if the candidates have these attributes. Seven members from across the NT had been training and preparing themselves for the challenge.

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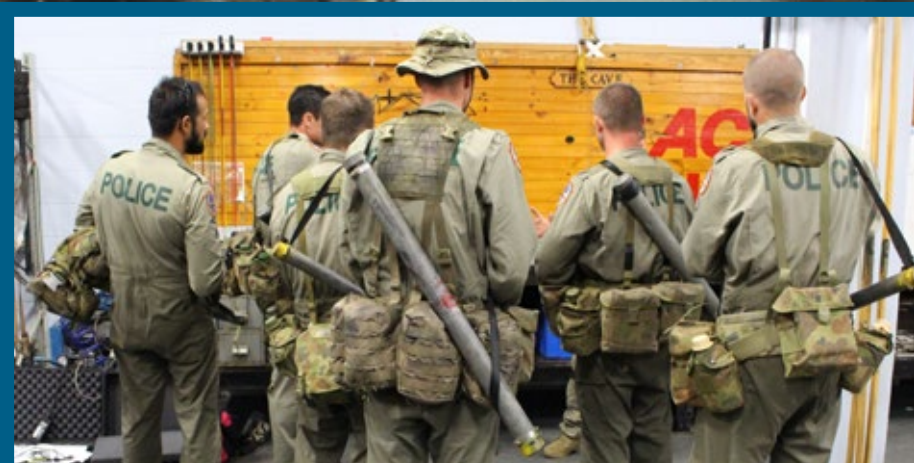
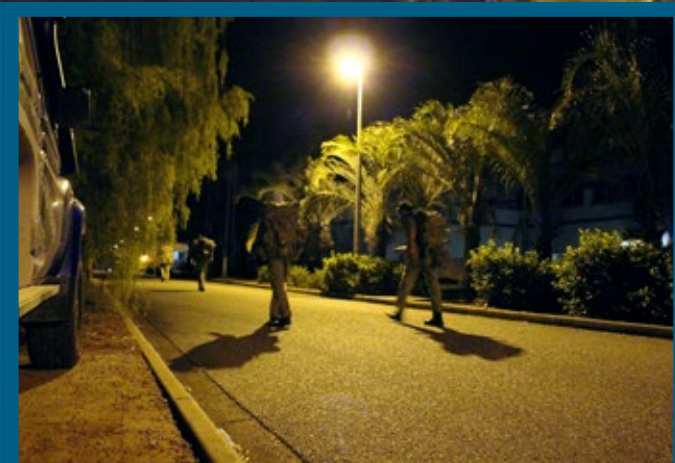


**Below (from left):** A physical training drill in PMC swimming pool; Firearm training is an important part of the TRG; Only three of the seven candidates completed the tough selection course; The pack march went well into the morning hours; candidates prep for their selection course.

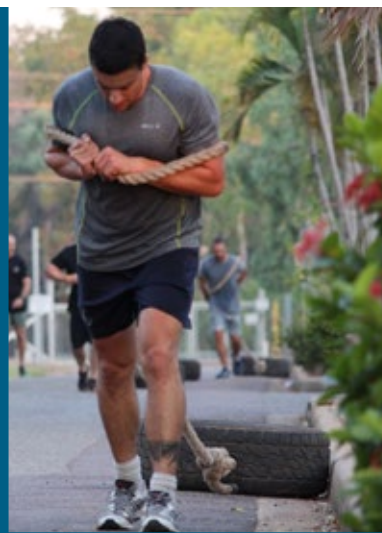
**Main image:** TRG joint training exercise throughout Casuarina Square.











# TRG SELECTION COURSE

PUSHING CANDIDATES TO THE  
POINT OF EXHAUSTION

**This page:** Physical training drills are designed to take candidates to the point of exhaustion. TRG members need to be able to respond to wide and diverse situations.

**Opposite:** TRG joint training exercise throughout Casuarina Square.

*The two-day barrier component pushed the candidates to the point of exhaustion with navigation exercises, stretcher carry and pack-march making up the first 20 hours.*

*At the 30-hour mark the component was completed and the candidates were allowed a two-day break.*





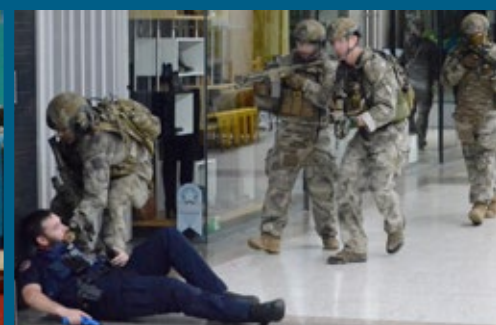
## SEVERAL POLICE AND MORE THAN A DOZEN GUNMEN ARE DEAD AFTER A FAILED HOSTAGE SITUATION AT A DARWIN SHOPPING CENTRE.

Heavily-armed gunmen stormed Casuarina Square taking dozens of shoppers hostage. The gunmen had stormed the Government Printing Office in Parap, earlier that day.

It sounds like the scene from an action movie, but this was the scenario in May 2016 of a major joint exercise involving the Territory Response Group, Darwin General Duties members, the Junior Police Rangers and members of the Australian Defence Force.

The scenario centred on a group of gunmen taking hostages at the office, and then a second hostage group at the shopping centre, later in the day.

The gunmen, played by members of the Australian Defence Force, opened fire with blanks at the responding officers (Darwin General Duties and the TRG), while hundreds of terrified civilians (Junior Police Rangers and their families) took cover.



*For more information on the TRG selection course, contact:  
OIC Territory Response Group - A/Senior Sergeant James Gray-Spence  
(08) 8922 3656  
[james.gray-spence@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:james.gray-spence@pfes.nt.gov.au)*

The TRG provides police specialist skills in high risk, bomb response, close personal protection, search and rescue, roping, civil disorder and additional support for front line police at major events and operations.

TRG members need to be able to be trained quickly and also be able to retain those skills and knowledge and contribute to the operations of a small dedicated team.

The use of a wide variety of firearms is also a requirement for the TRG and the next five days were spent identifying the candidates who could listen to instruction, pick up the skills and drills and demonstrate them effectively and safely.

The week also included some basic room combat drills. By Friday three had passed and become eligible to apply for a position in TRG.

The selection course runs every year in July. Candidate information packages are available and advice on training and preparing for the selection course can be obtained by contacting the Officer in Charge Territory Response Group, A/Senior Sergeant James Gray-Spence

# SHOOTING HOOPS, GROWING ROOTS IN COMMUNITY



**Thirty of NT Police's newest recruits spent time at a Darwin community as a way to bridge relations.**

The recruits headed to Bagot Community where they met with community leaders before a sausage sizzle and a basketball game. The event was supported by Charlie King and the No More campaign, with the teams linking arms before the game.

The women lost in their game, while the men won theirs.



Sergeant Mick Hansen said the meeting provided a cross-cultural experience for the recruits.

"The basketball gave another dimension to that," he said.

"They sat around and heard about their issues with police and how we can work to alleviate that, but this interaction with the community is priceless – it's something they wouldn't normally get."



The squad – made up of 17 men and 13 women – graduated on December 7 2016.





**This page:** NT Police Basketball Association Team

**Opposite (from top):** NT Police Force Recruits playing basketball at Bagot Community.



## NT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!

**THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO ALL PFES PERSONNEL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2017 AUSTRALASIAN POLICE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

Last October, 13 female and male members travelled to Perth to participate in the competition, which saw our men's team taking out their first championships in their division.

The men's team were Division 3 Champions, making it through the tournament undefeated, winning the grand final 35-28 against South Australia.

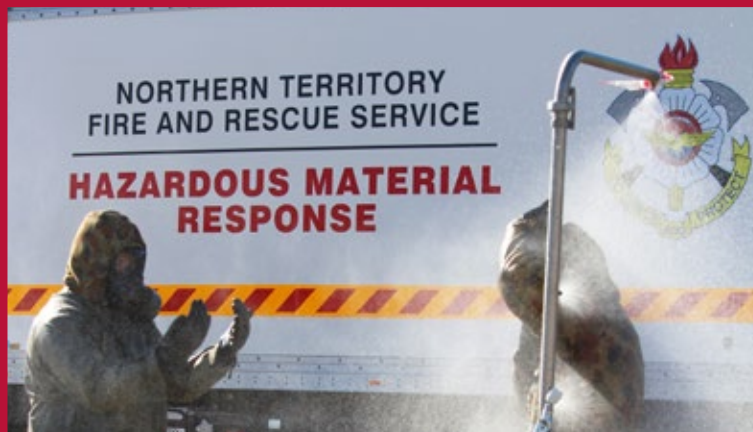
In a pool of 10 teams, the women finished eighth in Division 2.

This year New South Wales Police are hosting the games for the first time in Sydney.

The formalities commence with the opening ceremony on Sunday 8 October 2017, followed by a week-long tournament. The event wraps up on Friday 13 October with a formal closing ceremony.

The competition is open to players of all ages and ability, including civilian employees. There are multiple divisions within the competition to accommodate everyone's skill levels.

This is a great social event that provides members an excellent opportunity to extend their working networks whilst enjoying the company of our fellow policing families, including those from New Zealand Police.



# JOINT EXERCISE LIFTS RESPONSE CAPABILITIES IN THE NT

IN AUGUST 2017, THE NORTHERN TERRITORY FIRE RESCUE SERVICE PARTICIPATED IN A COUNTER TERRORISM EXERCISE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE AND UNITED STATES MARINES AT LARGE SPORTING FACILITIES AROUND DARWIN.

Key objectives were improving interoperability between services in such environments and providing a high level of support in chemical detection, rapid decontamination and equipment functionality.

NTFRS chemical specialists in their charcoal suits and armed with an array of detection equipment worked predominantly in and around the hot zones during the exercise.

The NTFRS team was established to provide detection and a high level of expertise in home-made explosives and chemical neutralisation.

The specialised equipment can also be used for the detection and neutralisation of clandestine drug labs.







**Above (from left):** ADF soldier being decontaminated; ADF personnel go through the decontamination process; The NTFRS Bronto appliance set up as a decontamination shower in a mass-casualty situation; Some NTFRS detection and decontamination team during the exercise.

**Main image:** NTFRS chemical response specialists worked closely with ADF personnel to identify and neutralise threats during the exercise.

## NTPFES SUPPORT SERVICES

### RESILIENCE, WELLBEING AND RECOVERY



# MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

NTPFES personnel are inevitably exposed to multiple critical incidents, which can be powerful and upsetting events that can intrude into a person's daily life and impact mental health.

In addition, NTPFES personnel can also be subject to a range of 'other' operational, organisational, personal and other stressors, which can also impact mental health.

One approach that can be taken to improving mental health amongst NTPFES personnel is Mental Health First Aid (MHFA).



MHFA is offered to a person developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis resolves.

The two-day course is suitable for all NTPFES personnel. Course participants learn about the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, how to provide initial help, where and how to get professional help, what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective, and how to provide mental health first aid in a crisis situation.

Each of the courses is facilitated by a NTPFES Wellbeing and Health Officer and a NTPFES Psychologist. To date, over 120 NTPFES personnel have completed the course facilitated by NTPFES Support Services in Alice Springs, Darwin and Katherine.

NTPFES Support Services intends to continue to offer this course in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek into the future, but also continue introducing it into other regional centres.

We also hope to explore options to extend this course to NTES/NTFRS volunteers and auxiliaries, retired personnel and family members in the future.

If you want to apply to undertake the course all you need to do is to go to myADAPT and apply for the course via the 'Online Booking' tab.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS ABOUT  
THE MENTAL HEALTH  
FIRST AID TRAINING  
PLEASE CONTACT THE  
NTPFES SUPPORT SERVICES  
ON 08 8985 8971.**



## **ESS TEAM MOVED OFFICES**

**AS OF MARCH, THE DARWIN BASED SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM – WHICH INCLUDE NTPFES PSYCHOLOGISTS, WELLBEING AND HEALTH OFFICERS, A CHAPLAIN AND A REHABILITATION AND INJURY MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT –HAVE ALL RELOCATED TOGETHER INTO THE SAME OFFICE AT NAB HOUSE.**

“Having all NTPFES Support Services’ staff collocated will help facilitate a greater level of collaboration to support personnel and their families,” NTPFES Support Services Assistant Director Bruce Van Haeften said.

“As a more coordinated response involving all Support Services Staff becomes possible, we expect support following critical incidents will be enhanced.

“With everyone now working under the same roof, staff will be able to continue to develop health promotion campaigns, mental health training and the peer support network.”

The new NTPFES Support Services office has a separate, external entrance on the ground floor at the rear right hand side of NAB House. NTPFES personnel and family can connect with NTPFES Support Services by contacting either 08 8995 5422 or [EmployeeSupport.PFES@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:EmployeeSupport.PFES@pfes.nt.gov.au).

## NSW POLICE FORCE COMMISSIONER'S UNIT CITATION

# LUKE KINGSBURY PART OF THE TEAM

**IN JUNE 2016, NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE OFFICER SENIOR CONSTABLE FIRST CLASS LUKE KINGSBURY RECEIVED A NSW POLICE COMMISSIONER'S UNIT CITATION FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF A DANGEROUS OFFENDER IN MARCH 2012.**

Luke was invited to join Strike Force Durkin where his skills were put to the test tracking and understanding the mindset of a person accused of two murders and the shooting of a NSW police officer in December 2011.

The offender had been avoiding capture by hiding and surviving in rugged and inaccessible country in the mountains for more than six years.

"When the invite came to join the Task Force there was no hesitation," Luke said.

"I had worked with the officer who was shot and it was good to be part of the operation just for him."

Luke had served in the army before joining the NT Police Force where he honed his skills in the Territory Response Group.

"It was like everything, all my experience came together – to be part of the team that finally captured him was very special. The people I worked with were really good. They have some outstanding police officers in NSW."



Luke was surprised and honoured to receive the award and was quick to point out he was just a small part of a dedicated team.

"From my time in the military I knew you had to get to know your target so you could put all that information into something useful.

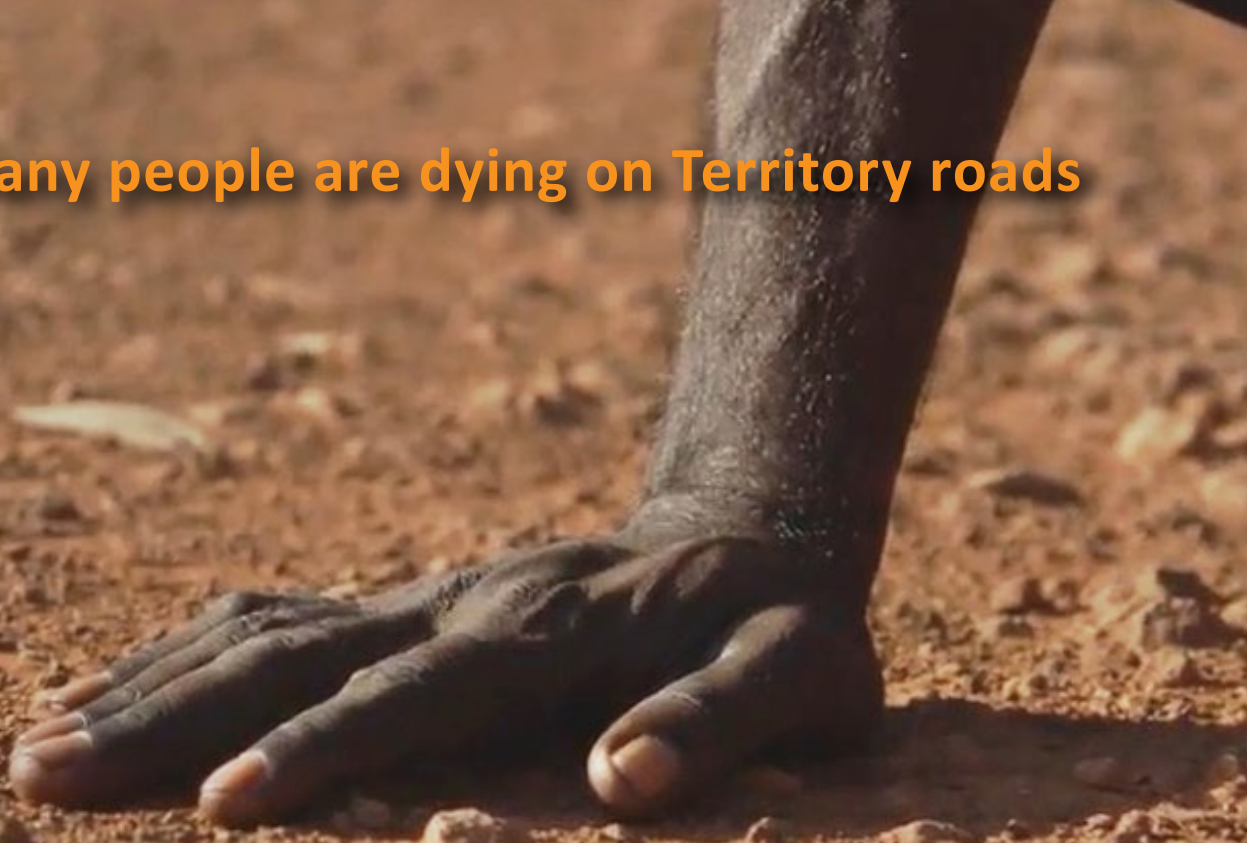
"The team was doing an awesome job, I went through every document they could give me so I could get a better understanding of who this person was.

"All the information we gathered suggested this bloke was certainly capable of killing again. It wasn't luck that we got him. It was the culmination of some very good police work."

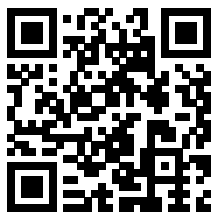
The offender was sentenced to life in prison with no parole in June 2013.



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