

THE DRUM

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2011



THIS ISSUE:

- Call to arms - NZ
- E-DRUM
- How times have changed
- NTES Assists Queensland Floods
- Easter
- Bringing home the BEARCAT

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

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Commissioner and CEO's Message



The September edition of the DRUM highlights our achievement and events over the last nine months both as a Tri-service, and to recognise outstanding individual accomplishments.

In April, a brand-new permanent Police Station was opened in Yarralin, as part of the National Partnership Agreement with the Federal Government. This is the first of five permanent stations to be built under this agreement, and is now servicing the small community of Yarralin and neighbouring Pigeon Hole.

Our Tri-service response capability was highlighted again this year, as our teams were deployed to assist with the devastating effects of the Queensland floods and the Christchurch earthquake. We showcase the exemplary work in these regions, with NTES Team Victor being the largest contingent deployed outside of the Northern Territory to date.

June marked the end of the four-year partnership between the AFP and NT Police. An additional 60 Police members and 18 regional community police stations will be part of the legacy of this partnership; one that is unprecedented in Australian policing history.

This edition features a moving and emotional story from NTFRS Watch Commander Nick Bell. A work of fiction; it is based on the culmination of many years attending accident scenes. It has since been picked up by Fire and Emergency Service magazines across the world and Australia, as a message to all to take more care on our roads.

We also feature a pictorial celebrating 50 Years of Women in the Police Force. From just five female Police Officers in 1961 to 405 sworn Officers today, we have certainly come a long way.

One of the latest additions to our arsenal is the nine-tonne BEARCAT, which is used to help combat dangerous situations. Sergeant Meacham King recounts his sojourn to the United States, through the ice and snow, to escort the rescue vehicle safely to Darwin.

Congratulations must go to our very own Chaplain, Major Peter Wright, who received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) this Queen's Birthday. Major Wright has served both our organisation and the wider community for over 30 years. His sense of humility and generosity of spirit is a shining example of a true Australian deserving of such an accolade.

Community Engagement Initiatives are integral in strengthening relationships between Police and the community. In this edition we highlight National Youth Week events at Peppimenarti, the fourth instalment of Off the Hook fishing competition in Top End communities, NTES spreading cyclone awareness through talking posters, and the Early Intervention Pilot Program which addresses under-age binge drinking.

After more than 20 years in a printed magazine format, this is our first full online edition. As we have recently upgraded our internet site, there is now a dedicated E-Drum page for online viewing at www.pfes.nt.gov.au. Not only does the new online E-Drum enable interactive stories such as links to related video footage and social media accounts, but provides more timely and regular updates on the Tri-service and the great work of our many volunteers. You no longer have to wait for the magazine to be printed; online stories will be available as they are written.

As the build-up approaches and we head towards the hectic Christmas period, I would like to thank all Tri-service personnel, including public sector support staff and volunteers for their continued excellence and commitment to providing exceptional service to our community this year.

Warm regards,
John McRoberts APM
Commissioner of Police, CEO, Fire and Emergency Services.

Farewell Greg

In January, after six years with the NT Fire and Rescue Service and four years as the Director/Chief Fire Officer, Greg Nettleton was appointed the new head of the South Australian Country Fire Service.



As Director, Greg frequently represented the NTFRS both territory-wide and nationally, identifying and working to mitigate shortfalls across the agency.

While there are many areas that Greg has amended, he notes that he is leaving just as his greatest achievements are coming to fruition.

"I have had a vast and rewarding experience in the Northern Territory.

I certainly identify my greatest achievements as funding for additional fire fighters and lobbying for the recent Government announcement for a new fire station to be built and staffed at Berrimah.

"Now that those things are happening, I'm heading off to fight new battles in South Australia. That said, I will always have fond memories of my time here in the NT. If you're ever travelling to or through Adelaide, make sure you look me up and I'll meet you for a coffee or something stronger in the airport lounge. All the best."

Commissioner John McRoberts thanked Greg for his support and contribution to the NT Fire and Rescue Service.

"I would like to thank Greg for his huge support for me personally since my arrival to the NT, and also for his

contribution that will inevitably grow and improve our great Fire and Rescue Service.

"Congratulations Greg on your appointment and I wish you all the best with your new life in South Australia. I'll definitely touch base when I'm next in Adelaide," Commissioner McRoberts said.

Greg officially finished with the Fire and Rescue Service on Friday 28 January, 2011.

"I have had a vast and rewarding experience in the Northern Territory. I certainly identify my greatest achievements as funding for additional fire fighters and lobbying for the recent Government announcement for a new fire station to be built and staffed at Berrimah." Greg Nettleton



Below Commissioner John McRoberts and Director Greg Nettleton
Right Director Greg Nettleton Senior Fire Fighter Rob Crowell and Chief Minister Paul Henderson



DRUM

PFES have recently upgraded the internet site, so all Tri-service stories and news is now online at www.pfes.nt.gov.au.

Not only does the online DRUM enable interactive stories such as links to related video footage and social media accounts, but provides more timely and regular updates on the Tri-service and the great work of our many volunteers.

The first edition of DRUM Magazine was produced by the PFES Media Unit over 20 years ago. There have been hundreds of articles promoting the great work of the Tri-service, and the online version of DRUM will continue to do so.

Don't forget – if you have a story for inclusion, please forward to pfes.media@pfes.nt.gov.au (and don't forget to attach the photos!)



The Northern Territory Police Force is now on Facebook

It's new, it's official but it's anything other than 'hot off the press' because it's online, on Facebook!

The Northern Territory Police Force page is up and running and already attracting likes, comments and feedback.

Log onto www.facebook.com and search 'Northern Territory Police Force' for our official account.

Police information which traditionally has been disseminated to registered media organisations is now going straight out to the public via this medium.

It also provides the capacity for comments to be posted, generating discussion among interested members of the community, and enables responses from Police where appropriate.

The only thing we ask is that all comments are clean and respectful, in compliance with our general information contained on the page itself. We encourage active involvement and value constructive feedback but it is important everyone feels comfortable engaging in this space.

Anyone with information in regards to a crime that has been committed, is still asked to call Police on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Our Facebook page is not a medium for reporting crime or providing Police with details to assist with an investigation.

Our page is new and evolving by the day. It is information for you, so if you have suggestions on how we can utilise our Facebook page better, why not let us know? You can submit suggestions either on the page itself as a comment, or email the media team at media.pfes@nt.gov.au.

All requests will be gratefully received and considered, and where feasible, implemented.

If you select to 'like' the Northern Territory Police Force on Facebook, this does not enable the Police to view your own Facebook profile (assuming you have personal security settings in place on your own account). That's the difference between being a 'friend' on Facebook, versus 'liking' an organisation's official page. It just means you can receive updates from us and post comments if you choose to.

So, log into Facebook and check us out. If there is nothing there of interest to you but you have suggestions, let us know!



Welcome Assistant Commissioner Kershaw

The Commissioner of Police, Mr John McRoberts, is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Assistant Commissioner. In February, Mr Reece Kershaw was selected for the position of Assistant Commissioner Crime and Specialist Services.



Mr Kershaw has a wide range of experience in law enforcement at a national and international level. He joined the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in 1988.

Prior to his appointment, he was the Commander for Serious and Organised Crime within the AFP Crime Program, where he was responsible for implementing a new Crime Program operating model. He also managed national and international serious and organised crime Joint Task Forces, as well as establishing the Organised Crime Investigation Innovation Centre.

"Internationally, Mr Kershaw's service includes an appointment with the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, and holding down the AFP Senior Liaison Officer role at The Hague in the Netherlands, and the United Nations in East Timor," said Commissioner McRoberts.

As well as his career experience, Mr Kershaw holds a Master of Business Administration, Graduate Certificate in Business and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the FBI Law Enforcement Development Program.

"Internationally, Mr Kershaw's service includes an appointment with the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, and holding down the AFP Senior Liaison Officer role at The Hague in the Netherlands, and the United Nations in East Timor," Commissioner McRoberts.

Opening Yarralin Police Station

Under the National Partnership Agreement with the Federal Government, five new permanent police stations will be built in the Northern Territory.

Clockwise from right:
Assistant Commissioner
Grahame Kelly with the kids.
Men of the BBQ.
The Opening of Yarralin
Police Station.

The small community of Yarralin and neighbouring Pigeon Hole turned out in droves to witness the opening of their new Police Station on 14th April, 2011.

Traditional Owner and Elder Barry Young, sang an emotional song of hope for his community to open the ceremony, with Traditional Owner George Campbell offering a heart warming welcome to country, and leading the community in a prayer.

Commander Northern Command, David Proctor performed the task of Master of Ceremonies, Padre Peter Wright offered a blessing, and Assistant Commissioner Regional Operations, Mark Payne officially opened the station to community applause.

Dignitaries from FaHCSIA attended, children from Yarralin School performed a showcase of songs and the community enjoyed a barbeque lunch prepared by Yarralin members and members from Timber Creek, who drove two hours to attend the opening.

The first of five permanent police stations to be built under the Northern Territory Emergency Response, Yarralin Police Complex is a state of the art facility boasting 4 x four bedroom homes, 4 x fully equipped Visiting Officers Quarters, custodial facilities and a multi-purpose room with the capability to be stood up as an operational command centre should the need arise.

Located approximately 280km south-west of Katherine in the Victoria River region, Yarralin community was policed by Timber Creek prior to the intervention in 2007. By December 2007, a temporary facility became operational in Yarralin, with a number of NT Police and AFP members rotating through the three man temporary station.

Sergeant Matt Ridolfi is the first OIC of Yarralin Police Station, joined by two gazetted members. Another position is currently being advertised.



Call to Arms

by Michael Holland

Not since the ANZACS have Australia and New Zealand come together under such trying circumstances.

The earthquake in Christchurch in February 2011 not only rocked the Kiwi city to its foundations; it rocked the emotions of Australians too.

Four Territorians didn't hesitate to answer the call of duty. Fire Fighters Matthew Brookhouse, Joseph Mettam and John Pyper were joined by Emergency Services volunteer Damian Clifton; and headed for the crumbling city.

All four are highly trained in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).

Station Officer Brookhouse commented on his experience:

"We had all seen the pictures on television, but when we first arrived the devastation was overwhelming. From the ocean to the mountains were damaged; Christchurch seemed to be a pile of rubble. Sometimes I found myself looking around, thinking 'it will take years to clean up this place'. We stayed in tents and were well looked after by the New Zealand Army.

Our job was to search buildings for the bodies of victims and stabilise structures weakened by the earthquake.

The outpouring of gratitude towards us from the New Zealanders was indescribable.

I just considered we were doing our job and lending a hand; something I'm sure they would do for us.

Sometimes though it's the smallest things you remember the most. At one stage we helped a man stabilise his boat shed. Not a huge job, but he couldn't thank us enough; it was certainly humbling.

Our 10 days on the ground was an unbelievable experience, both good and bad, and working alongside interstate and international USAR teams gave me confidence that our skills can match it with the best.

My heart goes out to the Japanese team, who left Christchurch the day before the tragic earthquake and tsunami in their homeland. One minute they're helping the people of New Zealand, and the next they're flying back into a natural disaster on a much larger scale that affected their own families.

Our time came to an end with the Australian contingent presenting a monument and a cross to the people of Christchurch; a very moving experience, and one that I hope doesn't come to Australian shores any time soon."

Condolence Notice

Prior to the publication of this edition, NTES Volunteer Damian Clifton lost his battle with cancer. Mr Clifton was born and raised in Alice Springs and served with the Australian Army before commencing his employment with the Department of Correctional Services. Mr Clifton was selfless in his dedication to the wider community, typifying the quintessential Australian spirit. PFES would like to extend its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Damian Clifton.

"We had all seen the pictures on television, but when we first arrived the devastation was overwhelming. From the ocean to the mountains were damaged; Christchurch seemed to be a pile of rubble. Sometimes I found myself looking around, thinking 'it will take years to clean up this place'." Station Officer Matthew Brookhouse

Top Left
USAR Team - Matthew Brookhouse, John Pyper and Joseph Mettam at Christchurch Red Zone.
Left and below
Pictures taken through Christchurch Red Zone.



Disaster Victim Identification Team

Armed with arguably one of the more gruesome tasks, four Territory Police Officers volunteered their time and skills as part of the Disaster Victim Identification team.



The team, led by Detective Sergeant Brad Currie, included Detective Sergeant Kieran Wells, Senior Constable Jeannie Secrett and Senior Constable Kellie Loughman.

They were the first Territorians on the ground in Christchurch, arriving just days after the February 22nd disaster.

Detective Sergeant Currie spoke of his experience:

"At that early stage, the death toll was rising with each building that authorities were able to search. Scores of people were missing, with family and friends not knowing the fate of loved ones; that was tough. It was a delicate exercise to ensure positive identification of a victim in a timely manner; to either help relatives

with the grieving process, or allow them to continue to hope their loved one had somehow survived.

The devastation the earthquake caused was almost overwhelming, but the poise and professionalism of the team took over and got the job done. Each of us was only too happy to help and to put our training and expertise to the test, but it was good to get home and not endure anymore aftershocks."

"At that early stage, the death toll was rising with each building that authorities were able to search. Scores of people were missing, with family and friends not knowing the fate of loved ones; that was tough."
Detective Sergeant Brad Currie.



Special Constables

After the initial response by the USAR and DVI teams, another seven Territory Police Officers were deployed to Christchurch, as part of the second wave of 140 Australian Police Officers.

"The damage to Christchurch and immediate surrounding suburbs was far more extensive than was conveyed in the media."

Senior Sergeant Stephen Martin

Sworn in as 'Special Constables', Territory officers hit the ground running, immediately taking up general duties and reassurance patrols, conducting low-risk searches of rubble.

Senior Sergeant Stephen Martin was the delegated team leader:

"The damage to Christchurch and immediate surrounding suburbs was far more extensive than was conveyed in the media.

Homes and businesses were damaged and those still habitable were without power, water and sewerage.

Pipes and drains were ruptured as liquefaction caused by the seismic activity forced its way to the surface. Roads and footpaths were either warped or sinking into the liquefied mud; the place certainly was a mess.

Of concern was the number of aftershocks, fortunately no further significant damage was caused. Thankfully no injuries were sustained to our team. The experience was life changing for the whole team, not just professionally, but personally.

One event that sticks in my mind was while we were conducting reassurance patrols in Sumner. We came across a group of kids selling cordial and home-made crafts to help their parents pay for repairs to their house. I got slugged 20 cents for a homemade 'smiley face' I picked up for my son... a price I was more than willing to pay."



Every Kid Loves A Hero

Authorities were keen to get children back to school as soon as possible to give them some normality among the chaos. A visit to one school turned out to be a moving experience for Constable Simone Anderson:

Towards the end of our stay, I joined an officer from Victoria and two from Queensland.

We went to the Our Lady of Victories School in Christchurch to explain our role in New Zealand, and talk to the students about policing in general.

We spent about two hours there, which was just as important for us as it was for the kids to escape what had happened in Christchurch. At the end of the visit the students presented us with thankyou cards. The feedback was very positive and overwhelming. It really put into perspective what we were doing in Christchurch and that our help was very much appreciated.

In all, the 6.3 magnitude earthquake claimed the lives of 181 people – a further four are being investigated by the coroner which could take the official death toll to 185. Nine victims remain unidentified and the largest number of people killed in one location was the 116 victims killed in the CTV building.

Right and below
Thank you cards
presented to Constable
Simon Anderson and
Members from Victoria
and Queensland
Police after a school
visit to Our Lady
of Victory School
in Christchurch.

Thank you for all your help & care to all of us in Canterbury in our hour of need.
We are so grateful & our children note heroes like you. Thank you too for taking the time to visit us.
God bless you & your family.
Emily
Our Lady of Victories staff

Thank You
Australian
OFFICERS



NTES Assists Queensland Flood Operations

By Megan Warry, NTES

In January, NTES deployed 13 volunteers to assist with the Queensland flood disaster. 'Team Victor' was the largest contingent NTES has deployed outside of the Northern Territory to date.

I don't need to tell you how serious the Queensland floods were in January. You've already heard about them through television, radio, newspaper, magazines, friends, family, work... the list is endless. So what I will give you are some fast facts:

- Queensland was hit by flood waters at the beginning of December 2010 with some parts still in flooded conditions in February 2011
- At least 86 towns and cities across Queensland have been affected by flooded waters
- 75% of Queensland was declared a disaster zone
- 35 persons were confirmed deceased
- Damage costs have been estimated at least \$10 billion and up to \$30 billion including loss of GDP
- More than 62,000 volunteers were registered to assist in clean-up operations as at 16 January 2011
- Aid efforts have raised over \$10 million irrespective of the Premier's Disaster Relief Fund contributions.

State and Territory Emergency Services across Australia were each approached by Queensland SES for assistance. The Northern Territory was approached just shy of midday on 13 January 2011. Within a couple of hours, the request for standby had been changed to a request for deployment.

NTES volunteers with combined training in search and rescue, storm damage

operations and flood boat operations, were able to negotiate work commitments so they could assist Queensland by the next day. Thirteen volunteers from Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs and Hermannsburg led by a permanent NTES staff member, were sent out to areas around Ipswich and Brisbane for a five day deployment. 'Team Victor' was the largest contingent NTES has deployed outside of the Northern Territory to date.

There were many stories told by the volunteers upon their return. Tracy Rowe, NTES Training Officer and team leader of the deployed contingent, recounted one instance where the volunteers had noticed an elderly couple at their flood-damaged home.

NTES offered assistance to the couple and were set to work in recovering their possessions, particularly the muddy Christmas and Birthday cards, which each held cash gifts from their grandchildren and some of the only items that they had left. Every home after that had their own story and every family had their own loss. One woman remarked "I don't let the children touch the furniture in case they mark it," as the volunteers carried the destroyed possession to the curb.

However, even with all the devastation, Chris Fishlock, Darwin Volunteer Unit noted, "I was amazed at the community spirit that was shown by the Queenslander's and that no matter what the job was, there were people helping with the clean up. If they,

themselves, were unable to do the lifting or cleaning, then they were handing out food and drinks, or cooking for the community volunteers".

One of the nicer memories that came from the deployment was when the contingent had returned to their accommodation from dinner one evening, and they found their uniforms which they had left in the washing machines. The uniforms were now sitting in the dryers with a note. The note had read "Thank you guys for all your help. As a sign of appreciation, I've done the dryer for you". This then sparked one of the funnier moments when one volunteer questioned "but how did they know it was us?"

With all of the accounts that came from this five day experience, there was one notion that was common throughout. Our vollies are proud. Proud to be able to use their training in an area that really required some assistance. Proud to be able to help. When I asked one team member if they would do it again, the response was "Absolutely, that's why we train".

"I was amazed at the community spirit that was shown by the Queenslander's and that no matter what the job was, there were people helping with the clean up. If they, themselves, were unable to do the lifting or cleaning, then they were handing out food and drinks, or cooking for the community volunteers." Chris Fishlock, Darwin Volunteer Unit



Clockwise from top:

Commissioner McRoberts, Peter Davies, Hon. Delia Lawrie MP (who was Acting CM at the time) were present to greet them upon their arrival back home at Darwin airport. Streets of prized possessions. Taskforce Victor.

NTES Volunteer makes USAR National Taskforce

By Megan Warry, NTES

On the afternoon of 12 January 2011, an official request from Emergency Management Australia came through to NTES appealing for a four person task force with medium (category two) Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) qualifications.

These four NT specialists were tasked to be a part of a national taskforce consisting of 34 representatives from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. Leading Firefighter Dave Lines, Senior Firefighter Ben Johnson and Station Officer Aaron Perry from NTFRS, and Sharon Kearney from NTES made up the NT contingent.

Sharon Kearney wrote, "Our role was to complete Rapid Damage Assessments on premises inundated with water. I spent my time in [the] Brisbane suburbs of Oxley, Rocklea and Jindalee; very hard hit areas with a large number of houses totally inundated. It was well documented the amount of volunteers that came out to help clean up once the water started to recede, and it definitely was a sight to be seen. It showed the best of Australians and was probably the highlight for me".

Top: Sharon and the NT USAR team leaving from Darwin Airport. L-R SO Aaron Perry, NTES Volunteer Sharon Kearney, SFF Ben Johnson and LFF Dave Lines made up the NT contingent.



Right:
Commissioner McRoberts welcomes
home Taskforce Victor

More Officers for the Territory

Whilst representing the standards expected of all Police Officers including honesty, integrity and dedication to serving the community, the 21 Graduates from Squad 108 also enjoyed their recruit training.



Twenty one Constable recruits from Squad 108, consisting of 5 females and 16 males, graduated on Monday 18 April.

Police Commissioner John McRoberts said, "This squad represented the standards expected of all police officers including honesty, integrity and dedication to serving the community."

"Congratulations to all members of Squad 108 for choosing to serve and protect Territorians. I wish all graduates the best with the challenges ahead".

New Constable Alain Diamond said the recruit course has been a very memorable experience.

"The training course is extremely varied and certainly challenging. Our Squad all got along very well and the experience has been one I'll always remember.

"I'll be moving to Alice Springs with my wife and two children and look forward to being on the ground and experiencing life as an NT Police Constable," he said.

From Sydney to Cyclone

By Commander
Jamie Chalker

While no one ever wants a natural disaster to occur, it certainly has brought out the best in all Australians. Thousands of Queenslanders have assisted each other following floods and cyclones. In Western Australia, neighbours came to the rescue to battle homes from raging fires.

Here in the Top End, thousands of Territorians banded together for the wrath of tropical cyclone Carlos.

It's been great to see so many people come to the aid of their friends, families and neighbours and help support the community in the clean up.

Recruit Squad 110 commenced their training on Monday 14 February.

By their third day they were out in the middle of tropical cyclone Carlos, door-knocking residents from the possible flood affected region of Millner and assisting residents sand bag their homes, before later packing up cyclone shelters.

Some of our recruits are from interstate, so it was interesting to hear stories about working in an office block in Sydney last week, and now out helping to keep people safe from a cyclone.

Our recruits were certainly thrown in the 'deep end' and rose to the occasion to help Territorians get through 'Carlos'.

In the NT we never know what we'll be doing tomorrow. I commend these recruits and recruits from Squad 108, for their enthusiasm and genuine concern for the public. They along with other NT Police Officers, NTES staff and volunteers, and Fire and Rescue Service personnel have



worked tirelessly to ensure the public is kept safe, with minimal disturbance to their homes and community.

The 23 recruits from Squad 110 graduated on Thursday 18 August, after a 26 week training course at

the Peter McAulay Centre.

If you'd like to pursue a career with the NT Police Force contact the Recruitment Department on 1800 005 099 or visit www.police.nt.gov.au

AFP and NT Police complete regional communities operation

On June 16, AFP officers withdrew from the Northern Territory Emergency Response after four years' partnership with NT Police in remote communities.

An additional 60 Northern Territory (NT) Police members and 18 regional community police stations will be part of the legacy of a four-year partnership between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and NT Police.

The AFP and NT Police have worked together since 2007 to provide security and safety to Indigenous regional communities as part of the NT Emergency Response Taskforce (NTERT); known as Taskforce Themis.

On June 16, the withdrawal of AFP officers brought an end to a gradual transition plan which will maintain police service levels in remote indigenous communities.

While the AFP has withdrawn members from the taskforce, it will maintain a presence in the Northern Territory's regional communities as part of the multi-agency Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT); a collaboration with NT Police and the NT Department of Families and Children. The AFP's ongoing contribution to the CAT is funded for six members until the end of the 2011-2012 financial year.

Taskforce Themis was established in June 2007 in response to an NT Government-commissioned report (Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle - Little Children are Sacred) into the alleged sexual abuse of indigenous children.

At its peak in 2009, the operation comprised 64 AFP personnel seconded to NT Police to conduct community policing duties in remote communities, investigate alleged child sexual abuse and undertake mission support and management duties in Darwin.

Since 2007, Taskforce Themis has responded to 4,451 reported crimes, resulting in 2,310 arrests.

NT Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne said the operation had established 18 temporary police stations in remote communities that will remain fully resourced.

Five stations are now permanent facilities. "To establish 18 extra stations and add 60 police members on the ground in those communities, is an extraordinary effort and it provides much-needed support and

services," Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne said.

"I thank the AFP for their assistance. We've worked together to provide a positive presence in these communities."

The AFP, which deployed 242 officers over the four-year partnership, staged a gradual drawdown of members since 2009 to ensure a smooth transition.

AFP Deputy Commissioner Michael Phelan said the AFP's involvement in the NTER was unprecedented in Australian policing history.

"This operation has provided a successful model for cooperative policing through the high level of operability between the AFP and NT Police.

"Our members have been able to make a significant contribution to community engagement with local indigenous communities, especially the interaction with indigenous youth.

"The AFP's commitment to this operation was always finite, but we're pleased to provide an extended presence in the Northern Territory as part of the Child Abuse Taskforce."

Taskforce Themis has since disbanded, with the reins taken over by the Remote Policing Command.

On Wednesday 15th June, an AFP Recognition Ceremony was held at Crocosaurus Cove, Darwin.

The ceremony was held on behalf of the Northern Territory Police Force, recognising the outstanding contribution of the AFP to the Northern Territory Emergency Response from 2007 - 2011.

Dignitaries from both the AFP and NT Police Executive attended, as did past and present Commanders, AFP contingent members and other NT Police staff.

Left to right:

AFP Withdrawal dinner-
NT Police Assistant
Commissioner Reece
Kershaw, Deputy
Commissioner Shayne
Maines, Commissioner John
McRoberts, AFP Deputy
Michael Phelan, Assistant
Commissioner Grahame
Kelly, AFP Assistant
Commissioner Frank
Prendergast, Assistant
Commissioner Mark Payne.



Australia Day Awards

With more than 100 years combined experience, it's no wonder four members of our organisation were honoured as part of the 2011 Australia Day awards.

Detective Senior Constable Alan Hodge and Detective Sergeant Mark Stringer have both been awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM).

Fire fighter Patrick Skewes has received the Australian Fire Service Medal, and Karl Herzog from Tennant Creek has been recognised with an Emergency Services Medal for his dedication to the Northern Territory Emergency Services.

Detective Sergeant Stringer has been a Police Officer since 1986. Notably he volunteered as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping mission in East Timor in 2002. His experience from serving in Major Crime, the Sexual Crimes Unit and Drug Enforcement Section put him in a strong position to help East Timorese police develop their investigative skills. His dedication has already seen him earn a Commissioner's Commendation and he now has an Australia Day award to add to his collection.

Detective Senior Constable Hodge joined the Police Force in 1980. In 31 years of service he has worked in areas including Major Crime, the Fraud Squad and the Criminal Investigation Branch. The APM adds to Detective Senior Constable Hodge's awards which include the Medal of Valour and a Commendation for Brave Conduct.

"A Class" Fire Fighter Patrick Skewes is the longest serving of our four award winners, joining the then Northern Territory Fire Brigade back in 1975. He was instrumental in developing rural volunteer fire brigades and continues his long association with them. Over the years he's turned his attention to saving rural properties through hazard reduction programs; reducing the build up of 'fuel loads' to prevent wildfires spreading rapidly and threatening townships. His knowledge and professionalism has helped to reduce the number and severity of bushfires in rural areas for decades.



Mr. Karl Herzog is a valued member of the Emergency Services in Tennant Creek. Since 1996 he has been either a volunteer or permanent staff member. He symbolises everything that is wanted in a volunteer. Through his professionalism and commitment he has been pivotal in maintaining the Tennant Creek Emergency Services Volunteer Unit as a viable organisation.

Congratulations to our award winners.

Left to right:

Australian Fire Service Medal recipient Fire fighter Patrick Skewes. Australian Police Medal (APM) recipients - Detective Senior Constable Alan Hodge and Detective Sergeant Mark Stringer.

Tennant Creek volunteer honoured for fifteen years of service to the community



Northern Territory Emergency Services Tennant Creek Unit Officer, Karl Herzog has been awarded the Emergency Services Medal for fifteen years of service to the organisation and to the community.

The award was announced earlier this year on Australia Day with the formal presentation taking place in Darwin on the 12th of May.

Karl Herzog has been responsible for sourcing equipment for the local NTES unit, as well as training and leading numerous operations in Tennant Creek and the surrounding region.

Karl has been instrumental in enabling the unit's capacity to work in remote locations. He has led the way in computerised analysis of land and

air searches in the Northern Territory, ensuring efficient area coverage and resource usage. He is also a brilliant trainer who has freely given his time to train not just the local unit, but others as well.

This has all been an unpaid, voluntary effort. Recently the local unit sprang a surprise party on Karl; much to his embarrassment, not just to congratulate him on the award of the Emergency Services Medal, but also to show their gratitude and acknowledgement of

all that he has done for the NTES volunteers in the Barkly.

The Emergency Services Medal recognises distinguished service by members of Emergency Services across Australia, and people who are involved in emergency management, training or education. The Governor-General awards the Emergency Services Medal on the recommendation of the responsible Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers.

Bindi a Top Cop

A police woman, mother, NTES volunteer and chef - it's no wonder Bindi Burnell was acknowledged with a Tribute to NT Women Award this year.

"It's always challenging to deal with cases that involve children, particularly when you have your own. I just have to act professionally and get the job done. Knowing that what I do will bring the perpetrators to justice is how I get by." Bindi Burnell

The Tribute was awarded in conjunction with 100 Years of International Women's Day on Tuesday 8 March 2011. Bindi was announced as an awardee with 10 other women that have assisted to shape the Territory, including Professor Clare Martin, the first female Chief Minister for the Northern Territory.

After 16 years as an NT Police Officer, Bindi still loves the job and is currently working as a Crime Scene Examiner in Forensics, after spending many years in Alice Springs. She finds the work endlessly fascinating, and is constantly challenged with new things to learn daily, while being paid to travel across the Territory.

A key player in a number of disastrous cases in the Northern Territory, often with children involved, Bindi is asked how she deals with these incidents.

"It's always challenging to deal with cases that involve children, particularly when you have your own. I just have to act professionally and get the job done. Knowing that what I do will bring the perpetrators to justice is how I get by," she said.

Challenge is the key word. After marrying her husband David in 2001, her youngest son Reilly was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in 2006.

Her drive and positive attitude has seen her previously made the President of Autism NT and Bindi has lobbied for grant money to come to the Territory. She has been part of the driving force to enhance the degree of support and knowledge of Autism across the Territory.

So how does she do it?

"I find time for all my children and don't let my youngest son's disability overwhelm our lives. It is an ongoing challenge coupled with work commitments and a heavy on-call and overtime commitment, but in spite of the balancing act - somehow it's all working. I wouldn't change any of it," she said.

Ms Bindi Burnell - undoubtedly a "Top NT Cop!"

Top to bottom:

Bindi and the Deputy Commissioner
Shayne Maines.

Bindi and Hon. Malarndirri McCarthy MLA.



How the times have changed...

The Northern Territory has a permanent police history dating from 1870, when Inspector Paul Foelsche and six other Police Officers arrived in the Territory. A small rural constabulary (part-time force) had existed earlier, but was disbanded. Since 1955 the size of the Northern Territory Police Force has increased significantly, in line with the population. In 1955, there were 80 Police Officers. Today, the establishment numbers are 1359 sworn Police, Auxiliaries and Aboriginal Community Police Officers.



The NT Police Force has a proud history of serving the Northern Territory community, often under difficult conditions associated with distance, isolation and severe climatic conditions.

In June, 1979, the NT Police force looked something like this...

Members	Number
Constables and above	538
Police Trackers	40
Aboriginal Liaison Assistants	7
Female Officers (as at 1961)	5
TOTAL	590

Some 32 years later in 2011, NT Police has grown tremendously and now looks something like this...

Members	Number
Constables and above	1129
ACPOs	74
Indigenous Officers Constable and above	36
Auxiliaries	156
Female Sworn Police	405
* Female Constables and above	245
* Female Superintendents and above	10
TOTAL	1359

2011 marks 50 years of women in the NT Police Force. Evidence to just how much the times really have changed. Back in 1967 there were strict regulations around the employment of women, such as being between 25–35 years old. Today, the Northern Territory Police Force has one of Australia's highest proportion of women officers, with a ratio of 1:4 (women : men).

Your Life. Your Community. Your Career.



NT Police are recruiting Aboriginal Community Police Officers now.

If you want to help people in community model and have a rewarding career, become an Aboriginal Community Police Officer.

- Great wage • Paid training
- FREE housing • 7 weeks annual leave
- Overtime and night shift allowance

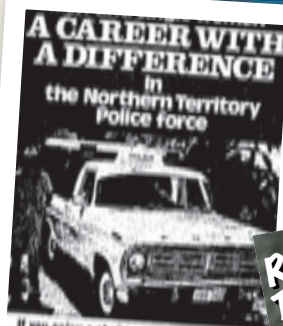
Applications close 14 October 2011
Commencement 6 February 2012

NT Police

visit www.police.nt.gov.au

Recruitment:

Recruitment Advertising has certainly had a facelift since 1979.



A CAREER WITH A DIFFERENCE
In the Northern Territory Police Force

If you enjoy a challenge, seek a varied and exciting career and meet these requirements:

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• FREE HOUSING
• 7 WEEKS ANNUAL LEAVE
• PAID TRAINING
• FREE HOUSING
• OVERTIME AND NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCE

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POWERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory Police

READY TO MOVE TO THE TOP?



The NT Police Force. A Career With a Cause.



Hi Paul,
MY CAREER WITH A CAUSE!
I can't believe I got in so soon and I'm in the Territory.
7 WEEKS ANNUAL LEAVE, PAID TRAINING AND FREE HOUSING!
I'm loving every minute of it. Going camping at Litchfield swimming under the waterfalls. Then I'll enjoy a long shower - no water problems up here.
YOU should join the NT Police.
See you at the Top!!
xxx Tanya

RECRUITING NOW
Applications Close: 22 May, 2009
Assessment Centre Interstate and Alice Springs: 19 June, 2009
Darwin: 14 June, 2009
Commence Training: 5 October 2009

NT Police
Call 1800 005 099 or visit www.police.nt.gov.au



Boats: The 5.5metre Shark Cat used to be the patrol boat of choice. Today, the 47 foot Beagle Gulf is the largest patrol boat used by Police Marine and Fisheries and is used for routine patrols and search and rescues.

Motorbikes: Constable Kate Vanderlaan was the first Policewoman motorcyclist in Australia in April 1980. Nowadays, motorcycle patrols are a regular part of everyday policing for Senior Constable First Class Joedy Kitchen and Sergeant Rosanna Breed.



Cars: The new fleet of patrol cars certainly stand in stark contrast to the 'International 4WD scout'. The Traffic Unit forms apart of today's Road Safety Division which also includes Major Crash Investigation Unit, Speed Camera Van Unit and the Adjudicators Unit. The division coordinates Territory-wide and regional road safety campaigns and traffic control including major public events. Random Breath testing stations have, and still continue to be an important responsibility of the Road Safety Division.



Aircraft: The first NT Police aircraft was the Piper Navajo VH-KTS. Today, Airwing has one Pilatus P-12 aircraft in Alice Springs, and two Pilatus P-12 Next Generation aircraft in Darwin; one is leased on behalf of Operation Themis.

The aircraft support the members of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (PFES) in the performance of their duties.



KAVA

The Alice Springs SAID was initiated in 2006 and has made significant inroads into prevention and disruption of substance abuse within that command. Its success has been recognized by FaHCSIA, resulting in their commitment to fund a second SAID and DOU in December 2008, located in Katherine. Katherine was an obvious choice to locate a SAID and DOU unit, having been recognized as a hub where residents of remote communities access Darwin and other major centres.

Katherine SAID and DOU have obtained similar results in the northern region of the NT, particularly Arnhem Land and surrounding communities, basing their activities around the SAID / FaHCSIA charter:

- gathering intelligence on suppliers and criminal networks
- coordinating policing operations in the tri-state region of NT, SA, WA and the Top End targeting traffickers of drugs, alcohol, petrol, kava and other illicit substances
- conducting covert and overt enforcement and disruption activities
- educating communities and leaders on the role of the SAID, especially through youth initiatives about the dangers of alcohol, petrol and substance abuse
- supporting and promoting our Indigenous Family Safety Agenda, and
- pursuing traffickers under proceeds of crime legislation to strip them of their money and assets.

Katherine and Alice Springs SAID have the same priorities, except for that of kava trafficking, which is unique to remote Arnhem Land. Cannabis is the predominant drug seized by Katherine SAID.

Katherine SAID and DOU consist of one intelligence officer, two investigators, two drug dog handlers and two drug detector dogs.

Katherine SAID and DOU have identified numerous low to mid-level drug and kava traffickers. This has resulted in the seizure of large amounts of cannabis, approximately 2,000 kilograms of kava, and large amounts of other drugs and alcohol.

These seizures are a result of targeted covert operations, and random, overt operations, such as checkpoints in remote locations along known drug and kava routes.

There is considerable focus upon kava abuse and trafficking by the Katherine SAID, which is a unique problem within Australia; specifically affecting remote Arnhem communities in the Northern Territory.

Kava entered Arnhem Land via Yirrkala community, following a visit to Fiji in 1981, by a group of Yolngu men in the company of a Fijian community worker employed at the time by the Uniting Church Aboriginal Advisory and Development Services (AADS). The kava was seen as an alternative to alcohol consumption, which had caused in violence within Aboriginal communities.

In 1994, legislative conflict began to surface in reference to kava, initiated from a decision by the National Food Standards Council to list kava as a 'prohibited botanical'. As such, it was banned under the National Foods Standards Code from being offered as food.

This change in Commonwealth kava legislation contradicted the kava legislation in the Northern Territory, and subsequently led to the demise of the local licensing system operating in the Territory.

Without the local licensing system, the Northern Territory Government no longer had the authority to control kava trade. This situation provided optimal grounds for a profitable black market trade to emerge, as unlicensed kava importers could import kava with minimal threat of prosecution. The kava trade soon prospered to the extent that it became ingrained in Arnhem Land communities. Consequently, kava consumption significantly increased, to the detriment of the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people in these communities.

The *Northern Territory Kava Management Act* was introduced in 1998, and the kava was managed by six licensed dealers in and around Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala. In 2007, the Commonwealth intervention was initiated and these licenses were revoked. Due to minimal policing in remote localities, it is believed the Tongan black market continued fairly undetected during these years.

As part of the Commonwealth intervention, Police Stations were erected in and around Arnhem Land. The creation of the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID) based in Katherine allowed for a more proactive approach to the collation of intelligence, resulting in many kava arrests and seizures. This has enabled NT Police to identify and target the main offenders, plus the many Indigenous kava runners from Arnhem Land.

The *Northern Territory Kava Management Act* penalties are:

- Possession of a Trafficable Quantity of Kava (2 to 25kg) carries a penalty of 2 years imprisonment.
- Possession of a Commercial Quantity of Kava (25kg or more) carries a penalty of 8 years imprisonment.
- Supply of a Trafficable Quantity carries 2 years imprisonment
- Supply of a Commercial Quantity carries 8 years imprisonment

In the nearly three years Katherine SAID and DOU has been in operation, it has identified a considerable criminal network of kava traffickers operating out of the Eastern Seaboard. The kava is generally transported to Darwin where it's clearly the hub for distribution.

The majority of kava seizures have been in commercial quantities of between 50kgs to 300kgs. Kava is often cut with flour or milk powder and is generally sold in deals consisting of between 15 to 30 grams.

Most seizures consist of literally thousands of small freezer bags of kava, which sell on the street in remote

communities for \$20 to \$30 each.

Katherine SAID and DOU has the only two known kava trained dogs in the world, Archie and Nugget. They have proven to be extremely useful in detecting kava in the mail and within freight.

Volume kava trafficking through Australia Post mail has been a recent trend, with over 160kgs being seized since 1 January 2011. However, due to proactive policing, such seizures via mail have slowed since April.

Alas, traffickers will always find an avenue for distribution, as Police have seized approximately 230kg of kava between April and July via airport and vehicle searches.



Trek across the Tanami

Most people would be completely daunted by the prospect of walking more than 700 kilometres through the desert in the middle of winter when the temperatures at night fall well below zero.

Constable Luke Bevan admits he was also daunted, but not enough to let his wheelchair-bound friend Rob Cook travel the route on his own.

Rob became a quadriplegic when his helicopter crashed on his family's remote station, Supplejack Downs, three years ago. When he returned from extensive rehabilitation in Adelaide he set about making his own massive adjustments to being a disabled farmer. He had a wife and two small boys and was determined to stay on the property and contribute to the family business.

He was awarded the Nuffield Scholarship - a prestigious Primary Industry scholarship - and he set about researching prospects for other injured farmers to remain productive members of their rural communities. To enable him to travel overseas for his research, Rob had to raise enough money to pay for three carers to accompany him wherever he went. Thus the idea for a wheelchair trek across the Tanami to Alice Springs was born.

Luke and Rob had known each other since going to the same school in Miles, Queensland. When Luke became a Northern Territory Police Officer in 2007, his first posting was to Alice Springs and there he again made contact with his boyhood friend.

Luke was one of the many friends and family who supported Rob after his accident and when he became aware of Rob's plan to raise money for the research by travelling the Tanami in a

wheelchair, he couldn't let him do it alone.

"The aim of the challenge was to travel 735 kilometres from Supplejack Station to Alice Springs in 24 days," Luke said.

"Rob planned on travelling at 6 kilometres per hour and I planned on walking with him."

On most nights Luke slept in a swag in the bitterly cold winter desert. Rob slept on a special air mattress which aided in his circulation in a converted horse float towed by one of the support vehicles.

Two battery-powered wheelchairs were used in the trek.

"In the beginning Rob used the fast chair and we did 16 kilometres in under two hours, so I had to run to catch up, however it burnt the batteries out too quick, so we experimented a bit and discovered that if we used one chair and ran it at top speed while the other was being charged, we could travel at around 9 kilometres per hour which is a pretty good jogging pace."

However, despite this being the most efficient way for the wheelchair to cover the distance, it took a toll on Luke's body.

"In the end because my muscles were so fatigued, I'd have to start out ahead of Rob while he was changing chairs and he'd have to catch up to me."

Day after gruelling day of this punishing routine took its toll on Luke. Despite having trained extensively prior to the challenge by carrying weights in a backpack and walking at speeds of up to six kilometres per hour, he was not prepared

for the punishing routine of the new fast pace.

"I also had a problem after one day wearing hiking boots while I was jogging. Normally while I was walking I'd wear hiking boots, and joggers at other times, but for whatever reason this day I jogged in the hiking boots and got really severe blisters. A medic from the Granites Mine finally strapped them after they'd burst, but it was like walking barefoot on sharp rocks. Basically it got to a stage the kilometres were getting away from us so the decision we came up with was that I'd provide him support from a vehicle for a day if need be."

Another time Rob tipped his wheelchair and he also suffered frost bite.

"Despite that, we both had a goal which was to get Rob to the end. When Rob was travelling in the slow chair we walked together and talked about everything - from life to religion to music. We also talked about politics. For instance the ban on beef exports happened about half way through the trip. This was something which obviously affects Rob's family directly, and we talked a lot about that."

Twenty four days after leaving Supplejack Downs Station they made their triumphant entry into Alice Springs. Spectators lined the route as Rob and Luke were accompanied by a police car and three horse riders.

"The best part of the trip was helping a friend out basically. I think it brought us closer. Rob was very motivational because every day when it was hard for me to start off knowing you were just going to walk for hours and hours, I'd look at Rob and think, here was a

guy who only had his brain, his mouth and a couple of muscles in his shoulders and he was so determined. It was very motivational really."

The trip raised more than \$50,000.



New RBT Van

You can't miss this Random Breath Test Van - driving the message home to would-be drivers contemplating getting behind the wheel under the influence of alcohol.

April, the Traffic Operations Division unveiled a new high profile RBT van to assist in combating the amount of drink drivers in and around Darwin.

The van will be used as a Random Breath Test station, kitted out with Breath Analysis devices to allow police to test more motorists and spend less time off the road.

The new set up will not only increase efficiency, it will also provide better conditions members conducting the RBTs.

It is hoped that the high visibility of the van will remind motorists that police are out there on the roads, anywhere and anytime.



Check out our new ride - CAS 45

Stationed at Marrara Fire Station, CAS 45 replaces the current Pump, CAS 42. The capabilities remain similar to CAS 42, but included on the vehicle is an upgrade to the Road Cash Rescue equipment. Trauma teddies are also on board as part of the vehicle inventory.

For those interested in the technical side of things - the truck is a Scania P320, 9 Litre, 5 cylinder Diesel with a Darley high speed pump.

The vehicle was put together with NTFRS members' input through a Project Design Group. This group consisted of 6 members including a member from PFES mechanical workshops.

The group gathered information from operational crews to ascertain the needs of the NTFRS. The results from the group's recommendations included the required vehicle and pump capabilities, design and layout of equipment; resulting in the manufacture of this next generation appliance.

The new appliance is one of two vehicles planned for the Darwin Emergency Response Area.



Initiative off to a firing start with 'Rescue Me'

While Queensland was tackling cyclones and Western Australia was battling bush fires, it seemed an unlikely time to launch a fundraising effort for our Territory Fire fighters. After months of planning the 'Rescue Me' launch at Deck Bar, supporters turned up in droves to show how much they appreciate and love our local heroes.

Rescue Me saw 16 local Fire fighters run up and down the 14 stories of NT House, in full fire fighting uniform with breathing apparatus engaged, rescuing a 'damsel in distress' along the way. The event was organised to launch the nt2ny initiative to send 25 of the NT's finest Fire fighters to New York to participate in the 2011 World Police and Fire Games.

They were also in New York to commemorate ten years since the devastating September 11 World Trade Centre attacks that claimed the lives of more than 2,000 people, including 400 emergency service personnel.

Hundreds of locals showed up to the Deck Bar to show their support of the event, as well as a bevy of local women calling into Hot 100 to be chosen as a 'damsel in distress'.

Megan Palin, NT News Confidential journalist, won a night at the fire station for her and 5 girlfriends, enjoying the cuisine our furies cooked up.

Her Fire fighter, Drew Innes from the NTFRS, won the Rescue Me Stair Climb with a time of 4 minutes and 7 seconds.

He was closely followed by Jarred Illet and Ben Schmidt who both had the times of 4 mins 19 seconds.

Brad Saunders (Airport Fire fighter) followed with 4 min 20 seconds.

Event Coordinators, Leading Fire fighters, Manny Koulakis and Peter Simon said it was a great night, not only to promote the nt2ny initiative but also to showcase the strength, speed, fitness and finesse of our local fire fighters.

"It was great to see our Fire fighters come and support the event, even if they were not travelling to New York. So many people that came to the Deck Bar said it was great to watch our fire fighters in action and they really enjoyed the experience - and they donated money.

"While he was nowhere near the fastest, he's obviously one of the prettiest, as Leon Peacock had notes hanging out of his shirt and his bucket full from his five minutes of bucket shaking. On reflection, we should have auctioned him off and our entire fundraising would have been covered."

For more information or to make a donation visit the nt2ny website -

www.nt2ny.com.au

The nt2ny initiative was proudly supported by Sprout and Hot 100.



Museum Historical Society Committee Update

The Northern Territory Police Museum and Historical Society Incorporated wish to advise the following persons make up the Committee:

Chairperson: Mark McAdie
Deputy Chairperson: Sean Parnell
Public Officer: Daniel Bacon
Secretary: David Watters
Treasurer: John Wolthers
Committee Members: Deirdri Hurwood, Denzil McManus, Kym Chilton, John Pini

For more information please visit <http://sites.google.com/site/ntpmhsociety>

Congratulations Senior Station Officer Jim Bateman



Senior Station Officer Jim Bateman is congratulated by District Officer Southern Region Tom Konieczny, after completing the Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management.

The national qualification takes 18 months to complete and is offered to those in the public sector who wish to develop their management skills. Jim has been a fire officer for 14 years and is presently the officer in charge of the Yulara Fire Station.

EASTER

By Watch Commander Nick Bell NT Fire and Rescue Service - Operations

This heart wrenching story was written by Watch Commander Nick Bell and published in the NT News on Saturday 23 April, 2011. It has since been picked up by Fire and Emergency Service magazines across the world and Australia as a message to all to take more care on our roads.

'It's OK, I'm a good driver. I know what I'm doing!'

The pain is enormous. My chest is heaving, I'm fighting for breath and I feel weak.

I can see twisted, distorted, crumpled metal and smashed glass everywhere.

My girlfriend sitting next to me is silent; her head bent forward, blood running fast from her nostrils onto her lap, running out of her head as if a tap has been turned on full. But that's not water. It's thick, rich, crimson blood and I can smell it. It comes from a place deep within her brutally broken body and it tells of damaged organs that cannot be fixed.

I feel sick and I vomit all over myself, old food and stomach fluid leak out of my smashed mouth and onto my chest. I look down at the mess, the vile stench fills my nostrils and my stomach tightens. I vomit again.

My girlfriend's forehead is resting on what's left of the dashboard of my car. I can see she's felt the full force of the violent impact but she's trapped so badly that I think the firewall of my car is crushing her to death, squeezing the life out of her body.

Her face is so terribly disfigured from the injuries that I think her beautiful face will be ugly and un-kissable for the rest of her life if she lives. I know it's her but I really don't recognise her. I see parts of her scalp embedded into the smashed windscreen from the massive impact, long strands of her once beautiful hair still attached.

She is twitching but I know she is not with me; it's her body fighting for life and losing. What have I done to her? I think I've killed her! Oh God, NO...

Where is everybody to help us? I can barely move my head to see around me, I think my neck is broken. Oh God, please don't let me be paralysed and never walk again, please, oh please! I can't feel a thing below my waist and deep down I know something is terribly wrong. The steering wheel is pushing hard into my chest, starving me of air. Why won't anyone come and help us? I can't keep this up much longer. Everything is getting dark.

I try to move my arms but they are pinned fast and won't obey my commands.

My body has been compressed into a small crushing space, jammed hard between the dash and the seat.

My body is useless, nothing is working and I know it never will again. I have done this to myself; I have done this to my girl.

I feel disgust and self-loathing like never before.

I strain to see out the window, as a face appears that I do not recognise and she looks at me. Her look of horror, her wide frightened eyes, her hand over her mouth tells me of the nightmare that has just begun. I see her on the phone talking frantically to someone. She turns her back and leaves me moving quickly away from my car.

I look through what is left of the windscreen and I see a power pole. It is deeply wedged into the front of my car pushing everything back onto my girl and me.

I am conscious of a presence behind me and it is now that I realise I had two friends in the backseat of my car before all this happened. Oh, God, will this ever end!

I strain harder to turn my head to try to see my friends, but it refuses to obey me.

If I am so badly crushed here, my friends must be torn apart in the back because there is no room anywhere.

I keep smelling blood. I had no idea it smelled so bad, but I can't escape my prison and I am forced to inhale the horrible odour. The regret for what I have done and what I now feel is irrelevant. The moment of impact has swept that away, and now I am left with the consequence. 'My mates will look after me if there's any trouble.'

I remember drag racing but not much after that. The drugs and beer at the party were great and flowed like water. I can't understand how this has happened because I've done it heaps of times before and got away with it. My mates were in the car next to me, racing too, laughing as we were speeding. Where are they now?

Why have they taken off? Why didn't they stop? Why have they left us here to die? Aren't they supposed to be my mates? I feel rage but this is quickly replaced by deep sorrow. I feel sorry for myself and the tears fall from my smashed eyes.



"My body is useless, nothing is working and I know it never will again. I have done this to myself; I have done this to my girl."

I don't need anyone to tell me what to do. What the hell would they know?

I hear sirens now. They are way off and it scares me. They come for my girl and me and my friends, but what can they do when I have damaged us so much?

The vomiting starts again.

I see uniforms. I can make out the different colours and badges but they are moving quickly around me and my head is swirling. I can't make sense of it all. A fire fighter and an ambulance officer's face appear in the window next to me. They are talking to me but I can't understand a word they are saying. I hear an engine start and a huge pair of what looks like scissors starts to cut my mangled car from around me.

The fire fighters working frantically to get me out are sweating in their big jackets, wrestling with the gear they are using. Why aren't they trying to get my girl out first? What's wrong? What's going on? I try to talk and a paramedic puts her ear close to my mouth but nothing comes out. I want to tell her how much I am hurting all over but no sound comes from me. I am cold and I am lonely and no one can hear me.

I have done this to myself.

The car shudders and jerks. The door next to me comes off and the firefighters toss it aside. I see one squat on the ground and look down at my trapped legs.

He looks worried and talks quietly and quickly with another. I am terrified by the look on everyone's faces. The fire fighters get back to work and as the pain shoots through my body; I scream but no-one notices. Not a sound has come from me, just more frothy blood at

my lips. I can't stand the pain now, but my rescuers are oblivious to this as they cut away at my car. My screaming goes on and on as the pain builds but I make no noise. The paramedic is working on me but struggles to find a spot on my arm to plunge a needle in.

I try to look to my side. The police are there and they are helping the fire fighters.

I am seeing these people in a different way. They are my saviours but will also witness my death. I can see the stress and strain etched on their faces. A look of horror controlled for me as a victim but I see clearly now the price they are paying.

I want to reach for them and say sorry, but my body is giving up and won't respond.

I start to negotiate with God. I beg for my life. I ask him for a second chance to make this right. A second chance to live and love again. Another moment in time to say no, when all I did was say yes. As the pain rips through me, I know that God is not listening and is calling me.

'It will never happen to me.'

I now know I am dying. My car is now my coffin. The Grim Reaper has pointed me out for execution and I cannot do a thing about it. I have given him all the tools he needs to kill me – drugs, alcohol, speed and my own stupidity. I have thrown away every good thing in my life to end up like this – a bloody, smashed, vomit covered mess trapped in my car with my dying girlfriend, waiting my turn to die. A few minutes ago I was a big, strong man, but now I am human wreckage, brutally torn apart and beyond repair and I am frightened. I am shaking

with fear and I want my Mum and Dad, but they are not here and I will never see them again. Ever.

I did this to myself and the searing pain that wracks my body presses home this fact.

The cost

Never again will I feel the embrace of a beautiful woman, make love and know what it's like to be a father or kiss a child goodnight. I know I will never again go fishing, play footy, run with my friends or swim in the ocean. I will never again laugh with my family, taste a BBQ sausage, see another family meal, argue with my brother, debate politics with my father and watch my little sister win another trophy for netball.

I will never again feel the tropical sun on my face, the dry season breeze in my hair, the monsoonal rain on my shoulders. I will not live to see a sunset or a sunrise, a full moon or an eclipse.

I have taken all of this away from myself and I have snatched it away from my girl and my two friends in the backseat too. In killing me, I have killed my family because they will never recover from this. I will not be around to explain to them why or help and hold them as they weep for years to come. My life that is so precious has been tossed away and I have done this.

I am responsible and as I sit here bleeding out, I am paying the ultimate price. The price I have paid is enormous with no payoff, no reason, and nothing in return – just pointless and meaningless death before my time.

I am a Territorian just like you.

Bringing home the BEARCAT

By Sergeant Meacham King

In late 2010, TRG were informed that the Territory would be one of the first regions to receive a Lenco BEARCAT armoured vehicle, courtesy of funding provided by the Federal Government's National Counter Terrorism Committee (NCTC). South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory would also be receiving one with us in 2011.

If that wasn't some of the best news we had received, we were then informed that one lucky individual from each state would be required to fly to the USA and inspect their Bearcat. This was to ensure it had been configured per request and we were happy with the product. Once it had been shipped to Australia it would be very difficult to get changes made if required.

On Sunday 30 January, I flew to Sydney, where I met up with Inspector Craig Wall from South Australia, Sgt Mark Usback from ACT and Gary Barkley from the Attorney General's Department; who would be funding the vehicles. Also present was Sgt. Leon Marshall from Queensland; they had also purchased one through funding from the Queensland Government, in addition to the vehicle bought by NCTC.

We left Sydney at about 4pm on Sunday, and given the time difference, we arrived in San Francisco at 10am on Sunday! We then departed for Boston, and arrived at nine o'clock at night, in the middle of some of the worst winter weather they had experienced in 20 years.

Leon and I teamed up to find our allocated car, which happened to be a small front wheel drive sedan which would struggle to fit our suitcases.

We eagerly jumped in to get out of the cold and braced ourselves for the drive to the hotel. Besides a few minor incidents such as driving down the wrong side of the road and sliding across the ice, we arrived and checked in.

The next day we drove into Boston and had a few hours to look around before meeting up with the Boston SWAT team. We attended the famous Cheers bar and walked around the CBD. I was thankful that I brought thermals, jumper, jacket, beanie and gloves, as it was still -3 degrees.

At the Boston SWAT office, we met the members and had the grand tour of their office and equipment, as well as the opportunity to look at their Bearcat (which was only 1 year old), and the larger BEAR armoured vehicles. The vehicle was fitted out with airtanks for a CBR incident, and also had radiation detection equipment installed. We jumped in the Bearcat for a drive around Boston and were shown the manoeuvrability and capability of the vehicle. We were impressed by its performance.

From Boston we drove to Pittsfield to the Lenco factory. This was normally a 2-3 hour drive on a 4 lane highway, however due to the blizzard conditions, it took us 6 and a half hours.

The Lenco factory was impressive, and we got to see how the armoured vehicles were made from the ground up. Ours was quite different from previous models, as the working group had determined that a 5-door version would be a better configuration, allowing for better access. The Company Director informed there had been a lot of interest from other Police Forces after seeing the Australian model.

From Pittsfield we drove to New York City, and thankfully the worst of the weather had passed, so we got to see some of the countryside on our journey. We were off to see the sights; the World Trade Centre site, Wall St, Rockefeller Centre and Times Square. The World Trade Centre is definitely a sombre sight, and one can only imagine being on the streets surrounded by the tall buildings when the Twin Towers collapsed.

The following day was spent with NYPD Emergency Services Unit, again looking at their Bearcat and tactical training surrounding it. There are 350 members attached to ESU out of a police force of 36,000. ESU also conduct road accident rescue, diving and are trained in a number of other rescue support skills. Leon and I attended the NYPD Bomb Squad office, having an informative discussion about their equipment and training.

We were then off to Los Angeles, which was a bit of a culture shock travelling from the east to the west coast. Besides the much warmer weather in LA, you could easily be mistaken to think you were in another country. We got to see downtown L.A. as well as Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Universal Studios.

Monday was spent all day with LAPD SWAT and was extremely advantageous, as we picked up a lot of valuable training packages and tactics. LAPD have a BEAR, 2 Bearcats and MEDCAT; which is a Bearcat fitted out like an ambulance. They have 50 members from a police force of 10,000. We then visited the LAPD Bomb Squad to look at their 1 million dollar remote control Manatua 4WD forklift.

Leon then headed to the airport to return to Australia and I continued my tour visiting the LA County Sheriff SEB (SWAT) team and Bomb Squad. The SEB is probably one of the busiest SWAT teams in the US, with 50 members out of a force of 11,000. They have a BEAR, two Bearcats and four MEDCATs and are always out and about. The LA County Sheriff also has 25 helicopters, 6 of which are used for medical support and transport.

I then headed up to Orange County where I spent 4 days working with their Bomb Squad.

In 2010, I instructed on a NCTC Bomb Team Leader Course and met the Orange County Bomb Squad Commander. He offered that if I was ever in the US, to come and spend some time training with his squad. So as soon I heard I was going to pick up the Bearcat, I made arrangements to take him up on his offer. I participated in some excellent bomb training and also spent time with Anaheim and Orange County SWAT.

My last day being a Sunday, I managed to get to spend some time at Disneyland and pick up some things for the kids, before heading to LAX for the flight home.

It was without a doubt the trip of a lifetime, not only for the personal experience, but to spend time with total professionals in the tactical and bomb community. I was provided with a lot of outstanding training material and have implemented some of this with TRG.

Upon my return began the onerous task of developing a training package for TRG members. The Bearcat finally arrived on the 12th May, and was driven from the East Arm rail yard to PFES workshops, causing many a stare from passing motorists.

Thanks to the outstanding assistance from Peter Hill and Aaron Scott from PFES workshops, the Bearcat was customised for TRG equipment and registered.

During my position in TRG, I have been to every state in Australia for Tactical and Bomb Training participating in a number of national exercises and courses. Through this exposure, I have a very good understanding of the national capability in these areas.

This trip to the USA has confirmed to me that our capability nationally is at a good level and our skills, equipment and especially our training in TRG, are right up there. The Bearcat is a further tool to assist the TRG in responding to high risk incidents.



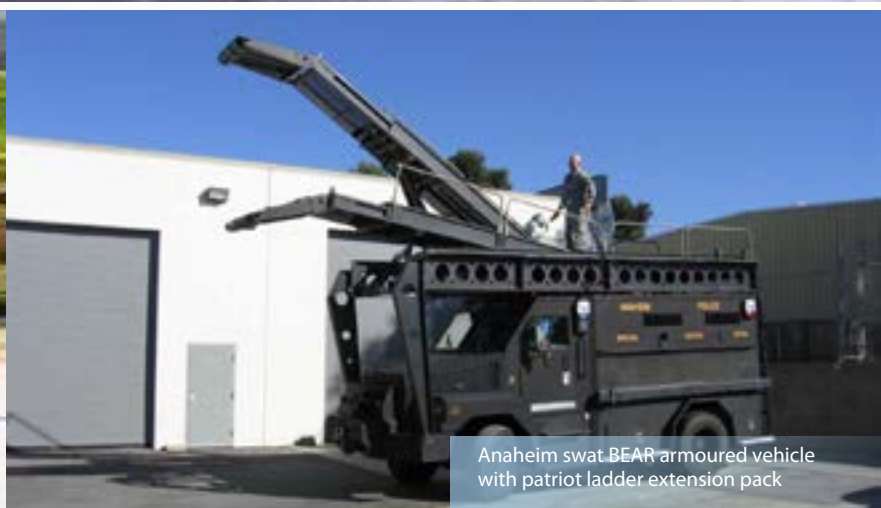
Four Bearcats



Meacham King and the Bearcat armoured vehicle.



The Bearcat is welcome to it's new home in the Territory.



Anaheim swat BEAR armoured vehicle with patriot ladder extension pack

Spreading Cyclone Awareness into our Communities

By Kerrie McMahon, NTES

In an effort to promote cyclone awareness within remote coastal communities, NTES produced tropical cyclone community messages and translated them into nine Indigenous languages ready to broadcast around the Top End.

Sixty tropical cyclone talking posters were also developed in eight Indigenous languages and distributed to 20 remote communities in the Top End.

The Indigenous interpreters were sourced through Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) translating scripts into the following languages:

- Anindilyakwa
- Barrara
- Djambarrpuyngu
- Kriol
- Kunwinjku
- Maung
- Modern Tiwi
- Murrinh-Patha
- Ngangikurrungurr

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) recorded and edited both the community message and talking poster scripts. The community messages will be broadcast during this cyclone season on ABC Radio throughout the Top End. This initiative has also spiked interest from other radio stations such as TEABBA.

This project was funded by the Northern Territory Natural Disaster Resilience Program.



SES Li'l Larrikins Natural Hazards Children's Program

As part of National SES Week in November 2010, an awareness and education program targeting children aged 5-12 was launched. The program focused on natural hazards including storms, floods and cyclones.

This campaign was based on characters from the Li'l Larrikins 3D animation series, screened on Network TEN.

The program consists of ten 30 second commercials, which has been running on national television and is funded through the Attorney General's Department 2010-2011 National Emergency Management Program. As well as a national TV advertisement program, a curriculum/student resources kit was sent to each primary school across Australia during March 2011.

NTES formed part of the national SES committee, which participated in formulating this campaign. I'm sure many of you early birds may have already seen them during prime children's viewing times (particularly early Saturday mornings). There has also been a website setup with games and activities for children to view – be sure to bookmark

www.lilclub.com/lilsafetyclub/home.html

Some Trivia For You:

- There are more than 30,000 volunteers in SES organisations around Australia.
- SES respond to more than 500,000 incidents per year nationally.
- The influence of children as household advocates is well known.

You can expect more from Li'l Larrikins in the future, with Jimmy and Tucka already the starring in their own bushfire safety campaigns.



National Youth Week 2011

Peppimenarti Community

By Suzanne Hollingsworth,
OIC Peppimenarti Police Station

The largest celebration of young people in Australia every year has to be National Youth Week (NYW). This year it was held from April 1-10, and the youth of Peppimenarti Community were no exception.

NYW is a joint Federal, State, Territory and Local Government initiative.

In recognition of NYW, the Peppimenarti Police organised several youth initiatives in the community. To launch NYW, a community disco was jointly organised and hosted by Police and Peppimenarti School. Youths of all ages attended the disco, enthusiastically showcasing their enviable talents on the dance floor. Zumba and the "Chooky" dance were popular dances during the event as were games; including musical chairs, limbo and freeze. The disco was generously supported by the Peppimenarti Social Club and Peppimenarti Store, for the venue and catering respectively.

On Friday 1 April, a Youth Activities Day was held at the Peppimenarti School. Police and teachers worked in partnership to organise and facilitate the event. The students, ranging in ages from 5 to 14 years, were split into seven groups and each group rotated around seven separate activities.

A 'Protective Behaviour Session' was delivered by Brevet Sergeant Hollingsworth, focusing on the 'Magic Hand Network'. A group discussion was held in which the students nominated what makes them feel safe and unsafe. The feelings of safe and unsafe were displayed on the whiteboard and discussed further. Students then traced their own hand and labelled each finger with the name of a person, who they would go to, if they were feeling unsafe.

It was emphasised to the students that when they feel unsafe, there is always someone they can talk to.

They were encouraged to remember their Magic Hand Network people when they don't feel safe. At the end of the day students proudly displayed their magic hand network and this was appropriately captured in a group photo. It was rewarding to see that the majority of students selected 'Police' as a person on their Magic Hand Network. A Road Safety Session was delivered by Constables Pennell and McIntosh, using road safety

education resources and the book, "Jay's Story"; written by Libby Andrew, a former NT Police Officer. Other activities conducted by the teaching staff included health and nutrition (cooking lesson), culture (weaving lesson), physical education (Zumba and Skipping) and team building (parachute games).

Youth Activities Day created an excellent platform for students to learn about personal safety and well-being and to have fun! The success of the event was underpinned by the positive relationship that exists among Police, the school and students.

Later in the week, an AFL clinic was held, which was commendably organised by Constable Pennell, who worked tirelessly with male youths in the community to upgrade and prepare the football oval in readiness for this youth initiative. Constable Pennell successfully negotiated with AFLNT to send a representative to help run the football clinic. Nyaburu Kelly, a Tiwi Bombers and NT Thunder player, arrived in Peppimenarti Community full of energy and gusto.

Together with Constables Pennell and McIntosh, he provided the youths with an excellent opportunity to play footy, develop their skills and talents, whilst actively participating in a team environment. The main feature of the football clinic was the match held between the Peppi Bulldogs and Peppi Tigers; both teams comprising youths and adults. The players wore their jerseys with great pride - the match was fast and furious!

The players were competitive and the entire community was spectator to the event.

NYW in Peppimenarti Community proved yet again, that no matter where you live or what you're interested in, there are plenty of opportunities for youths in any community!



Cortney gets tips on reigning in hooligans

"It was great to see how many officers they had in the section and how they covered the hot spot areas."
Senior Constable Cortney McCartney

In January, Senior Constable Cortney McCartney spent two weeks picking up tips and patrolling Perth City with the WA Mounted Police Section.

Cortney joined the WA 'Mounties' to undertake training, covering civil disorder at the WA Police Academy and general in-house training with horses and members.

"Police are regularly confronted with disturbances in Northbridge, which is very similar to the Darwin CBD on a Friday or Saturday night," said Senior Constable McCartney.

The NT Police Officer was able to work in the Northbridge district over several peak periods including Skyworks on Australia Day. These periods provided Cortney with the opportunity to get out and about, working on the horses with large volume crowds in the different situations.

"I also got to be part of a mounted search for a missing person. The troops I worked with were awesome and treated me like one of their own.

"It was great to see how many officers they had in the section and how they covered the hot spot areas."

Even though the NT Mounted Unit (MPU) is the oldest in the world; even beating the Canadian Mounties, Cortney learnt some valuable skills that will be introduced in the NT.

The experience was definitely valuable for Cortney, who is looking towards developing stronger ties in the future - "I look forward to building on our working relationship with the WA Mounted Police Section, who knows maybe we will even be able to get some joint border patrols done."





Contact

Katherine/Northern/Darwin Chaplain

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Southern Command Chaplain

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The Wright Stuff

This Queen's Birthday, our very own Chaplain, Major Peter Wright received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

In the Australian honours system appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and service.

Our chaplain is undoubtedly deserving of such recognition and commendation.

Over the past 11 years, Major Wright has provided pastoral support services to the NTPFES.

Prior to his commencement, he was working with the Salvation Army's Outback Flying Service. Better known as the 'Flying Padre', he carried the Christian message to remote communities and isolated people on stations across the Kimberley and the Northern Territory. He was often called on to conduct funerals, memorial services, wedding ceremonies and child dedications.

Major Wright has served with the Salvation Army for the past 32 years.

We congratulate Major Wright and thank him for his continued support to all our staff within the organisation. His humility and generosity of spirit are true examples for every one of us.

What is the role of a Chaplain?

Chaplains providing pastoral support attend to the spiritual issues that arise in the context of illness, suffering, life and death. Pastoral support seeks to identify the person's spiritual resources and needs as they manage such experiences.

Pastoral support is often provided in a one-to-one relationship, completely centred on the person, and makes no assumptions about personal convictions or life orientation.

Ceremonial Services

Chaplains also contribute to a variety of ceremonial functions important to the NTPFES, including Graduation Ceremonies, and Police Remembrance Day. Chaplains may officiate at funerals or other events of significance for members of NTPFES.

Community Outreach

Chaplains extend their pastoral support services to members of the public who have experienced personal tragedy. This is often a result of emergency services personnel attending the critical incident in the first instance. This support can greatly reduce the demands on operational members who are dealing with intensely stressful situations on occasions.

Tribute to 'DDDD' Foley

On Thursday 10 February, every Police dog handler's nightmare unfortunately came true for the Darwin DOU, with the sudden death of Drug Detector Dog Foley.

For his handler, Senior Constable Riva Zio, the news of the unfortunate and unexpected death of his drug detector dog was something that no amount of training or experience could prepare you for.

The attachment to working dogs is very different from that of domesticated dogs. Working dogs are your partner for the duration of their life, and unfortunately, Foley's life was cut way too short. He was only four years old.

A gift to the NT Police from Customs, Foley joined the DOU in 2009 as a young playful pup. Riva and Foley were instantly partnered and trained together in the Drug Dog Detector Program, which was the start of Foley's career. Foley was not the ideal black Labrador; a keg on legs.

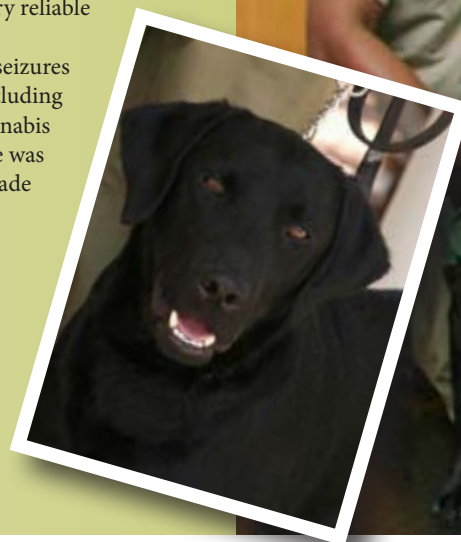
He displayed certain characteristics that drove all members of the DOU mad, but his work ethic was fantastic.

Under Riva's guidance, Foley was an enthusiastic, hard working and very reliable team member of the DOU.

Foley made approximately 150 seizures during his time with the DOU, including some great concealments with cannabis and crystal methamphetamine. He was a pleasure to handle and always made his handler look good.

Unfortunately, his post mortem and toxicology reports came back inconclusive, which provides no real closure for the DOU, and more importantly his handler.

He is now in doggie heaven.
RIP old mate.



National Police Service Medal (PNSM)

On Monday 19 September at a ceremony held in Canberra, two Northern Territory Police Officers were the inaugural recipients of the new nationally recognised award, the National Police Service Medal (NPSM).

The NPSM is a special service award within the Australian honours system, providing recognition for the contribution and significant commitment of Police Officers who have given ethical and diligent service in an Australian Police Service.

Detective Senior Constable Julie Spurling from the Intelligence Division in Alice Springs and Senior Constable Keith Currie from Katherine Police Station were awarded the medal by the Federal Attorney General, the Honourable Robert McClelland. Each police jurisdiction nominated a male and female Police Officer to attend the ceremony and 16 Police Officers from across the nation received the award.

Deputy Commissioner Maines said "I congratulate both officers and thank them for their dedicated contribution and commitment to the community through their service in the Northern Territory Police Force".

What is the NPSM? The National Police Service Medal recognises the special status that sworn police officers have in their role protecting the community. It represents a police officer's past and future commitment to give ethical and diligent service.

A minimum of 15 years ethical and diligent service is required to qualify for the National Police Service Medal. A police officer must have been serving on or after 30 October 2008 in order to qualify for the National Police Service Medal.

It is estimated that up to 24,000 members and former members of Australian police services may have already qualified for the NPSM. This number of recommendations presents significant resourcing and sequencing problems for your services and for the Honours Secretariat. The Prime Minister and Cabinet hosted a meeting on 23 February 2011, attended by representatives of the Honours Secretariat, the AFP Recognition and Ceremonial Team and the Police Federation of Australia, to discuss this issue. Subject to the final agreement of Police Commissioners, it was agreed that schedules of recommendations for the NPSM would be prioritised into groups as follows:

1. First medals to the longest serving member in each jurisdiction; and awards for death or injury in service are accorded perpetual first priority.
2. 30 years + service.
3. 25-30 years service.
4. 20-24 years service.
5. 15-19 years service.

(Members who have retired since 30 October 2008 are included in these categories, i.e. no distinction in priority between serving and retired members).

Ballad of the Three Colours

By Alison Heath

Welcome to the Territory!
Come on in and pull up a pew,
Let me tell you about the place,
And your new home, over a brew.

From the picturesque red desert sands,
That can get cold on a winters night,
Up to the torrential lush tropics,
Where the fishin' is pretty alright!

The locals are a friendly bunch,
As soon you'll get to know,
They'll show you some spectacular places,
That even the tourists don't get to go!

Our family is based far and wide,
Across this wild expansive land,
But you'll never be out there on your own,
We'll be there to lend a hand.

From Lajamanu to Pirlangimpi,
to Harts Range and Humpty Doo,
From Maningrida to Avon Downs,
And good old Yuendumu.

We get our share of accidents,
And bushfires on the Barkly Plain,
Earthquakes in Tennant Creek,
Cyclones and flooding rain.

The job won't always be easy,
Sometimes it can get a bit raw,
But we won't be far behind you,
In that, you can be assured.

But I tell ya mate it's all worth it,
When you can call home and say,
"You know that job was really difficult,
But I made a difference today."

"A woman came and thanked me,
For saving her son's life,
And a bogged Jackaroo was grateful,
For pulling him out of strife."

We never know when we'll be needed,
But we're ready day or night,
To grab our kit and uniform,
And together face the fight.

Yep, the Territory is a beautiful place,
Keeping people safe, is what we do,
To serve and protect our community,
Is what's in store for you...

We're a Tri-service here in the NT,
And we're stoked you've joined the crew!
Welcome to the family,
Of Khaki, Orange and Navy Blue.



Junior Police Rangers

By S/Aux. Kim Silvestri - JPR



Group 26 JPR Tanika Dennis signing the Creed. Terry Baldwin looking on.



Group 23 Graduation Parade



Group 23 Graduation Parade



Bo Gaynor, Terry Baldwin and last year's recipient of the award Nerida Liddle Group 22

It was out with the old and in with the new on Tuesday 8 February, when 15 boys and 15 girls were inducted into the Junior Police Rangers; the 26th group since 1985.

This year was an exceptionally hard year for the selectors, having over 80 applicants for Group 26. With over 25 schools visited in September 2010, applications came in hard and fast from almost every school in Darwin.

All applicants were invited to an interview, which was undertaken by members of Group 24, who would be their seniors.

All participants were involved in a physical assessment in which they needed to swim the 4 survival strokes, run in the

shuttle run and pump out as many push ups and sit ups as possible. As assessors, we don't look for the most athletic or fittest, we focus heavily on commitment and how hard the participant applies him or herself to the interview and activities.

We have some very outstanding young people joining us this year and everyone is excited about our new group. We welcome them into the JPR family, and look forward to making new discoveries, learning life skills and building unique friendships together over the next three years.



1/C Constable Neil Joyce with Group 26

Graduation of Group 23

By OIC / JPR's Neil Joyce

15 members of Group 23 graduated on Thursday 25 November 2010 in front of family and friends.

Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne and Superintendent Roger Jeffrey were there to give a speech and inspect Group 23.

During their three years in the Junior Police Ranger scheme, Group 23 participated in a variety of activities including navigation, SAR, community service, Cert II sailing, horse riding and care, survival training and camp, public speaking, camping and cooking just to name a few.

During Group 23's senior year, they are able to attend the junior group's camps. It is on these camps that the seniors act as leaders / mentors and are given the responsibility of the junior groups in training and duties on camp. Group 23 excelled in their role as seniors and did themselves and the Junior Police Rangers proud.

Bo Gaynor was awarded the Terry Baldwin Junior Police Rangers Leadership Award for Group 23 / 2010. This award is based on weekly and camp attendance, results from the 20m shuttle run, Bronze medallion (timed swim), and attitude, navigation and other recorded tests throughout the three year program. As apart of Bo's responsibilities, he gave a speech to Group 26 on their induction night detailing his time as a JPR, what he gained as a person, and the sort of person it has made him today. The way Bo represented himself and his speech on the induction night is a credit to the program and what our youth in Darwin are capable of.

July 2010 also saw the arrival of Senior Auxiliary Kim Silvestri from Katherine to JPR's. Kim's first camp was Group 23's senior camp which involved eight days of bush camping and hiking in Litchfield, Katherine and Kakadu.

Kim has already been a great acquisition to the JPR's, is loved by the kids and promises to be here for several years to come.

Beanies for Road Safety

Mungkarta School,
McLaren Creek community.



Constable Nick Waite from Ali Curung Police was on a visit to deliver beanies to the school kids as part of the road safety education program.

Ali Curung police regularly visit outlying communities like McLaren Creek, which is about 80 kilometres south of Tennant Creek.



Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program

An initiative under the Australian Government's
National Binge Drinking Strategy

An X-Box was the best incentive to get more young people's views during the 2011 Show Circuits.

The NT Early Intervention Pilot Program (NTEIPP) want to know what young people and community think a *positive relationship between young people and the police* looks like. The NTEIPP Community Survey is drawn from the *Alcohol Policing Strategy 2010-2012* "Alcohol and Youth". NTEIPP uses this survey to involve young people's opinions in program delivery aimed at reducing alcohol harms.

The prizes attracted great participation and two of the X-Box 360 Kinect winners Leon Grahl and Bailey Holmes, were excited to receive their prizes - as were their brothers! Nearly 900 surveys have been collected so far, and over forty percent have been from young people under the age of 17 years.

Leon was "shocked" when he won the X-Box and Bailey said it was "...the first time I have won something in my whole entire life." Bailey's mind was on safe driving, suggesting that the Police could be involved in driving instruction. Leon thinks that it is good that police are working to stop young

people drinking alcohol.

NTEIPP is funded until December 2012 and aims to reduce under-age binge drinking by increasing diversionary and health options.

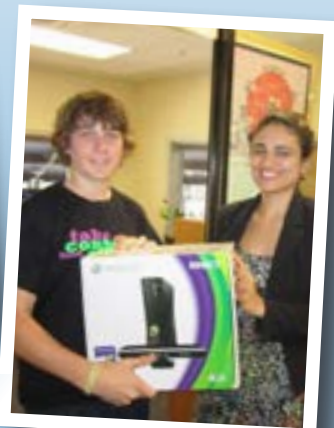
Front-line Police and other services can engage young people early using the NTEIPP Wrist Band featuring the youth-led message *Take Control, Limit the Alcohol* and a freecall **1800 131 350** to the NT Alcohol and Drug Information Service (NT ADIS) hotline.

NT ADIS are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide health assessments, information, counselling and referrals, as well as professional advice to those who need it; including young people, friends, family, youth workers and police!

The NTEIPP Wrist Bands are provided to Police and community services participants of the 3-hour NTEIPP Kit workshop. And best of all, they glow in the dark!!

For more information contact the team
NTEIPP.Police@pfes.nt.gov.au

X-Box winner Bailey Holmes receives his prize, wearing the NTEIPP Wrist Band



Leon Grahl shares his excitement over winning an Xbox!

Our Heroic Firies

Thursday 20th January was another black day in the Northern Territory, following a house fire in Leanyer, claiming the life of Frank Scannella and injuring his wife, Jenny Scannella.

In spite of this tragedy, our Fire and Rescue Service who attended the incident are a credit to our organisation. Fire Fighter Craig Green and Senior Fire Fighter Rob Crowell entered through the bedroom window, at great risk to themselves to rescue the people inside.

Watch Commander Nick Bell said this particular job was incredibly stressful as Fire fighters were under the impression that up to five people were trapped in the house.

"This incident was one of the most difficult in my career as we were led to believe that five people, including children were trapped.

"I am in awe, both personally and professionally of the entire NTFRS team on the ground for their response to this incident. The heat was so great that no-one could enter the structure without proper Personal Protective Clothing (PPE), and a Breathing Apparatus (B/A) and even then would have been very dangerous to enter.

"It is a testament to FF Green and SFF Crowell who entered the house and all the support crews that anyone was found let alone rescued. I am very proud to be part of such a great team," Nick said.

Police have fully investigated this incident. Two interstate fire scene experts made a determination that the cause of the fire was not believed to be suspicious.

Retirement of Bruce Jones

Bruce Jones came to the Territory in 1963 to shoot buffalos commercially. Towards the end of that year he became a driller's offsider at the Rum Jungle Uranium Mine, and lived in Batchelor at the single men's quarters. A talented sportsman, Bruce represented the NT in hockey for several years at the North Queensland championships. He played darts, cricket and lawn bowls, as well as being an active cricket club man.

Bruce was also a particularly proficient bull rider; riding competitively in the Darwin, Katherine and Mt. Isa rodeos. In 1966, he was crowned Territory Champion Cowboy at Katherine Rodeo.

In 1971 when the Rum Jungle mine closed, the mine ambulance was given to the town of Batchelor. Bruce became an inaugural volunteer with the newly formed Batchelor Adelaide River District Ambulance Service (BARDAS). About ten years ago, Bruce was made a Serving Member of the Order of St. John. He had previously received a Priory Vote of Thanks for his volunteer work with St. John Ambulance. In 2009, Bruce was made an Officer in the Order of St. John.

In 2007, he received his 30 year service medal from Fire and Emergency Services. During these 30 years, Bruce had attended numerous motor vehicle accidents, both grass and house fires, as well as search and rescue work.

That year he also stood down as Deputy Fire Captain, a position which he had held for many years, and remained a volunteer with Fire & Emergency Response Group (FERG) until his resignation on the 23 January, 2011.

Bruce travelled to Victoria as a FERG volunteer and did a stint fighting the raging bushfires in the Gippsland region in 2005.

Bruce has also been a Justice of the Peace for a number of years, as well as an elected member of the Coomalie Community Government Council since its formation in 1991.

In 1999, Bruce was awarded the Australia Day Citizen Award for the Coomalie Community

Bruce has also been a volunteer with the local Coomalie Tourism association; advising tourists where to go and how to get there, in Litchfield National Park and Coomalie community.

At 69 years young, this community leader is greatly revered and appreciated.

On behalf of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, we raise our glass to Bruce Jones, and wish him all the best for the future.

Below: Bruce and Ros Jones



Opening of the Hermannsburg Volunteer Unit – NTES

By Selwyn Kloeden

Approximately 50 dignitaries and locals attended the official opening of the Hermannsburg Volunteer Unit, at NTES Headquarters on Saturday 23 October, 2010.

Those present included several traditional owners, MLA for MacDonnell; Alison Anderson, NT Police Southern Regional Commander; Anne-Marie Murphy, FaHCSIA representative; Jill Mills, Byran McKain; former Ntaria General Business Manager, Norforce Centre Squadron representatives and regional NTES staff.

The previous NTES unit officer Selwyn Kloeden, spoke about the development and funding sources for this important community and regional facility. The Federal Attorney-General's Department Emergency Management Australia (EMA), now known as the Australian Emergency Management Institute, provided three grants for a vehicle, equipment and building of the headquarters.

Due to changes in the previous local Ntaria Council's plans, the Federal Government through FaHCSIA, provided funding for the project's completion.

Hermannsburg and neighbouring communities can now be assured of resources and trained personnel to respond in times of crisis. Volunteer member and local pastor, Peter Pfitzner, blessed the building and all who had worked and visited the facility.

Bryan McKain, former Ntaria/Hermannsburg GBM, spent many hours sourcing funding. He spoke of how the project would aid the development of a Remote Service Delivery Community, promoting a stronger and safer community.

The Director of NT Emergency Services, Mr Peter Davies, congratulated those involved and officially declared the building open.

The second event was the launch of the Indigenous Training Project, material inspired by the HVU and produced by Mr Mark Wilson. The project was made possible through a grant provided by EMA. This visually based multimedia material

specifically targets those with low English literacy and numeracy skills, and is designed to supplement training manuals, which can be overwhelming due to specific terminology.

Mr. Davies said, "These materials are even more important than the opening of the Headquarters". Information about the program can be obtained from producer Mark Wilson at matilda2u@gmail.com or 0428 478 143.

The HVU responds over an area of about 16,000 sq Km west of Alice Springs. Due to road conditions and lack of communications, it can take up to three hours to reach an incident (road crash, land search, flood rescues). There are currently nine members who train fortnightly. Max Baliva is the Aboriginal Unit Officer.



Top to bottom:
Mark Wilson, Hermannsburg Volunteer Unit.
Peter Davies, Director NTES
and Selwyn Kloeden, Acting Emergency Response Officer Watarrka.

Presentation of cheque to Murphys Creek

By Garry Casey

The Howard Springs Volunteer Fire Brigade (HSVFB) made a donation of \$1,000 to the Murphys Creek Rural Fire Brigade (RFB), which was virtually wiped out from the January 2011 floods that hit the Lockyer Valley in Queensland.



Murphys Creek is off the Warrego Highway, situated between Helidon and Toowoomba. The RFB had their shed badly damaged, lost their two fire trucks, and all of their equipment.

The trucks have since been replaced and the RFB are currently operating out of temporary premises; namely properties belonging to the Chairman and Secretary, just out of Murphys Creek. The vehicles are housed under temporary shade structures, and the temporary office/training room is situated under the residence.

On Saturday 7 May, my wife Michelle and I travelled to Murphys Creek whilst on holidays.

We presented a cheque of \$1,000, a presentation frame and a Care Bear to Brigade Chairman, Reg Wood.

The RFB were very grateful to receive the cheque and other gifts. The money will go towards the rebuilding of the shed, and replacing lost equipment from the January flood. The repairs to the building commenced on 17 May, to be finished by the end of June.

We also met with Andy Rodgers; a long time ex-resident of Batchelor and ex-member of Bush Fires NT, David Brettell; First Officer and Matt Raphael; Third Officer.

Many thanks to Matt for helping us co-ordinate the trip and the presentation.

The signs of devastation in the area are still prominent, but the spirit of the RFB members is strong and resilient. The Brigade has promised to keep us up to date on progress and I look forward to another visit next time I am in Queensland.

2011 Territory Show Circuit

This year the Royal Show proved a winner for the Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services.



A month of shows from the Alice to the Top End entertained thousands of Territorians with the extremely popular NTPFES display.

Local members and volunteers entertained children and informed people, with demonstrations and educational material designed to put everyday issues confronting the Tri-service into the limelight. Everything from remote rescue, traffic, alcohol and even smoke detectors were highlighted by volunteers and members whose efforts were greatly appreciated.

Alice Springs boasted a superb Tri-service team and was presented with an honourable mention for the 'Best Government Stand' display.

Hundreds turned up for an action packed weekend of show fun and games.

Neighbourhood Watch were there with information and giveaways.

NT Emergency Service Volunteers were harnessing children up using the Arachnipod to "fish" for desert critters in the hope of winning the daily prize. Kids (young and old) had their photo taken in the fire truck and Police provided the kids with a laugh and giveaways for playing the Tri-service 'Ropes and Ladders' game.

It seemed as if the whole of Tennant Creek turned up to the show for a great weekend. The public had a chance to 'save the rats' from water with the NTES Volunteers. The road crash rescue demonstration by the Fire and Rescue Service and St Johns Ambulance attracted a crowd, as members displayed their skills in a mock life situation that nobody wants to see on our roads. Police entertained visitors at the stand, handing out balloons and co-hosted the Tri-service Ropes and Ladders game, which was met with great enthusiasm by all families.

In Katherine the Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services display won first prize for the 'Best Government Stand'; a huge reward for the efforts of our Katherine volleys and members. Well done and thank you to the Katherine team for making this possible!

This was also a fantastic achievement for the Tri-service and a tribute to the months of hard work by the staff who organised and operated the site.

The show circuit wrapped up with the 60th Anniversary Royal Darwin Show on Thursday 21 to Saturday 23 July, and the Top End turned it on for the record crowds who attended.

The NTPFES display was a popular place to be. The Bearcat drew lots of interest and a lucky group of kids scored a ride for the Grand Parade.

Neighbourhood Watch had a table full of educational goodies, and the fries had their badge-making machine.

Fire fighter Max even made an appearance, with fries taking photos of families in 'Jock' - the little but mighty fire truck.

NTES were highly visible with show bags to give away and over 30 volunteers looked after the Lost Kids Stand.

NT Early intervention Pilot Program gave the public valued information on binge drinking and also a chance to win an Xbox Connect.

Police had a strong operational presence throughout the show grounds.

What a fantastic show month for the Territory. Thank you to all members, volunteers and the communities for your support!



Off the Hook – Angling for the Future

On Saturday 28 May, approximately 380 children from across 9 remote communities took to the creeks, rivers, billabongs and blue water in the hope of landing the 'catch of the day', in the fourth Northern Territory Police 'Off the Hook' fishing competition.

The communities of Bulman, Galiwinku, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Minjilang, Minyerri, Peppimenarti, Pirlangimpi, Ramalinging, Gapuwiyak and Warruwi all participated.

Heralded as the most successful Off the Hook campaign so far, participants consisted of over 380 indigenous youth, 25 police (including members of the Child Abuse Taskforce) and representatives from a range of local community services.

Off the Hook is a Northern Territory Police driven community engagement initiative aimed at encouraging dialogue between youth and police in remote Indigenous communities. The event was piloted in December 2009 as part of Taskforce Themis, with the participation of 5 Northern Territory communities and 60 youth.

AFP officers seconded to Northern Territory Police as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) have also been involved with this initiative since its inception.

"Building trust is a crucial component of any remote policing strategy, and initiatives like Off the Hook provide an opportunity for the police and the community to engage in a positive way through a shared interest.

"Over the course of this initiative we've had both traditional owners and indigenous youth express their confidence in the police, and in this initiative, as a way of strengthening relations between police and remote indigenous communities," said Superintendent Andy Warton.

Since the first Off the Hook competition was held back in 2009, over 1000 children have participated in

the event. The theory of adopting a 'Sponsor Cop' in order to compete, and linking school attendance to prize eligibility, has strengthened community ties, and in particular, relationships between police and youth.

As a new initiative within Off the Hook, workbooks were given to all youth who participated. The purpose of the work book is to provide participants with an opportunity to write or draw a short story about their experience at Off the Hook. Prizes were awarded to the winning story from each remote community.

The back of the workbook was also used to promote awareness of other initiatives or services within the NT Police. This year aimed to raise awareness of the Child Abuse Taskforce, whose key message is "Every kid deserves a happy childhood".

The competition has received generous sponsorship from several Northern Territory businesses, who kindly donated a range of prizes such as fishing rods, handlines, tackle and stickers. This is in addition to the support of many community stores.

Off the Hook is a favourite with local kids and a great day was enjoyed by all.





In the Spotlight Emma springs into Alice

Constable Emma Wetherall joined the NT Police Force in June 2008, graduating in January 2009 and has spent two years in Alice Springs and surrounding areas. Here's a Spotlight on Emma in the Centre.

Have you always wanted to be a Police Officer?

Growing up I wanted to be a ballerina or Indiana Jones but I became fascinated by the policeman that lived down the road and the stories he used to tell. I also became addicted to Blue Heelers and saying I wanted to be Maggie Doyle when I grew up was an understatement.

I called up the Queensland Police as soon as I had graduated high school and they told me to gain some life experience through travelling and study, so that's what I did.

Why did you decide on the NT Police Force and Alice Springs?

Whilst back packing throughout Australia, I loved the outback and the NT way of life, so applying for the NT Police Force fulfilled two passions. I wanted a challenge and now know to 'be careful what you wish for' because I've definitely got one.

In Alice Springs the police team is the best part of the job. With only a small number of police, everybody knows each other through two degrees of separation. I like that the community helps each other out – there's always a hat being passed around to raise money for someone or something.

The NT attitude suits me to a (capital) T. The areas and places we get to patrol and work are amazing! I get to work out of Yulara and conduct patrols around Uluru! People all around the world spend thousands of dollars just to travel to my back yard.

What is a day to day routine for your job?

There isn't one! I could be executing warrants and searching for crucial evidence or simply be having a relaxing shift on prisoner guard (private joke to my fellow Alice Springs Officers).

I start the shift with a coffee; for my benefit as well as everyone else in Alice, and then kit up with all the equipment that I need for my shift. I receive a handover of important information from other shifts and then my partner and I jump in the police van and away we go, with what ever police communications has waiting for us. No day is ever the same as the last.

What's the best part about policing in Alice Springs?

The friends I have made here are a big part of why I enjoy the NT and being an NT Police Officer. I would be lying if I said that the money and extra benefits did not sweeten the deal also.

Sport is definitely a must in Alice Springs and a great way to meet people.

What sports do you play – any amusing stories to share?

In Alice there is no sport that you can't just join in on, irrespective of your talents, or lack thereof! I've played beach volleyball and yes, I realise there's no beach here but a lot of imported sand and a great imagination make it fun.

When I played soccer I managed to fracture my face. My sympathetic team mates posted pictures of the battle injury on Facebook before I even reached the hospital - just to give you an idea of the friends I've made in Alice.

What is the most common initiation process for an Alice Springs Police Officer?

Well I wouldn't call it an initiation but if you can name me a police officer who hasn't been bogged in the Todd River, I will tell you that they are lying!

It's part of the orientation process!

So yes, I have been bogged in the Todd River and it was at night time and a huge number of local Alice Springians popped out of the wood work to assist us. Just picture a large group of Warlpiri men lifting the end of a police van up to help us get out. I've only lived it down by the fact that plenty of others have done the same.

What else would you like to do as an NT Police Officer?

You can never say your job's complete as a police officer. I would like to get out and see a bit more of the Territory and other bush stations in the outskirts of the Alice.

I have missed the beach but I am still enjoying the best parts of Alice and tackling the challenging parts.

I do enjoy the excitement and camaraderie of the general duties first response section. It continues to challenge me, not only on a day-to-day basis, but a job-to-job basis.

A new challenge might be in order though in the next few years, by way of the investigations unit. The best thing about Alice Springs is that the opportunities in the job are vast and limitless, as long as you are willing to put in the hard yards.

"When I played soccer I managed to fracture my face. My sympathetic team mates posted pictures of the battle injury on Facebook before I even reached the hospital - just to give you an idea of the friends I've made in Alice."





