

**THE**

# **DRUM**

**THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE**

**APRIL 2010**



## **THIS ISSUE**

- NT Police Air Section
- Welcome Commissioner and CEO John McRoberts
- Operation Unite
- TIO Explosion - A United Response

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

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### Front Cover

Five Task Force Themis Stations at Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Numbulwar, Waruwi and Minjilang will each receive one of the new Aqualine 550 boats in early 2010.

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# Commissioner and CEO's Welcome Message



Since starting with the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services on December 29th, I have been impressed time and time again by the people that make our Tri-service an organisation to be proud of.

To say it has been a rollercoaster of emotions and experiences since I began is an understatement. From my New Years Eve patrol along Mitchell Street, to my remote station visits, and tours through Fire Stations, my first few months in the job have certainly been an eye opener.

As this edition of the Drum demonstrates, 2010 has so far been a busy year for many members of the Tri-service.

I would like to commend the individual members of the Police, Fire and Emergency Services who have been recognised for outstanding achievements both personally and professionally.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work being done in our remote stations. The proactive community engagement programs that Task Force Themis members have been initiating and driving, such as 'Off the Hook' and the 'Running to America' program are making a real difference to effective community policing.

On a sadder note, I would like to pay tribute to Brett Meredith, who was tragically taken from us in January this year. My thoughts are with his family and the members who knew and worked with Brett; he is sadly missed.

Lastly, I would like to commend the united response of our members in dealing with the explosion at the TIO office in the city. Our members were on the scene within minutes ensuring the area was made safe and that preliminary first aid was administered to any injured persons. I have received a lot of positive feedback from the public about the professionalism and compassion of our members in dealing with this shocking incident.



# Five New Boats for Remote Communities

Five Task Force Themis stations at Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Numbulwar, Waruwi and Minjilang will each receive one of the new Aqualine 550 boats in early 2010.

The boats will be used for regular coastal patrols to enforce the *Fisheries Act* and to perform search and rescues.

The boats will enable members to work with Aboriginal Rangers in patrolling inland rivers as well as ocean waters. These patrols will include ensuring that recreational fishermen are not fishing beyond the closure lines or, in sacred sites.

They will also be used to facilitate everyday operations such as transporting members from Ramingining to the overnight facility on Milingimbi.

Members being deployed to remote stations will all receive a two day intensive boat handling course which will ensure that members are proficient in operation, handling and maintenance of the boat.

The boats have been provided to assist with policing operations under the Commonwealth funded Task Force Themis, the Northern Territory Police response to the Federal Intervention.





# Got Air?

## NT POLICE AIR SECTION

### History

NT Police Air Wing was established in 1979 and at the time, operated two Piper Navaho aircraft, one in Alice Springs and one in Darwin. In 1999 a new Pilatus PC-12 aircraft was purchased for the Darwin operation to replace the Navaho and in 2004 a second PC-12 aircraft was purchased for the Alice Springs operation.

Originally Air Wing pilots were Police sworn members however, this was phased out early this decade and now all pilots are Police Public Servants.

### Current Operations

The NT Police Air Section (formerly Air Wing) is part of the Territory Support Division and exists to provide air transport for members of the NT Police while carrying out their duties. Air transport is heavily relied upon due to the requirement to travel vast distances, often in minimal time, and seasonal flooding which can make travel by road impossible.

Typical routine tasks include:

- Transport of Major Crime, Child Abuse Taskforce, Drug Enforcement Section and Dog Operations Unit to remote communities.
- Flying Senior Officers to outlying stations for inspections and meetings.
- Surveillance flights in support of Marine Fisheries Enforcement Section and other sections.
- Transport of the multitude of Police support services to remote stations.
- General support of Taskforce Themis.
- Air Section also maintains a degree of readiness and availability for non routine tasks which includes:
- Transport of the Tactical Response Section and additional Police resources to remote communities in response to crime.
- Transport of prisoners and victims of crime from remote stations.
- Movement of NTPFES personnel to assist as required during natural disasters such as cyclones, bushfires and floods.
- Search and Rescue operations as tasked by NT Police and AMSA (Australian Maritime Safety Authority).

The NT Police Air Section operations cover the entire Northern Territory and occasionally interstate. In 2009, Air Section flew 1941.3 hours, carried 3500 passengers and 27,112 kg of baggage and freight.

### Aircraft

Air Section operates three Pilatus PC-12 Turbo Prop aircraft, two aircraft are owned by NT Police and the third is leased from a private owner and funded through Taskforce Themis. The PC-12 is a Swiss built proven performer widely used by law enforcement, aero medical and other urgent response agencies world wide. It is an ideal aircraft for NT Police operations in the Top End, very capable for use on unprepared short remote airstrips yet fast enough to deploy Police resources to Alice Springs in three hours flight time. The aircraft is pressurised so it can climb above much of the wet season weather providing a comfortable flight for passengers. With a standard fuel load the PC-12 can carry six members and 200 kg of equipment to most destinations across the NT. Passenger seats can easily be removed to increase freight carrying capacity.

The aircraft funded through Taskforce Themis will shortly be replaced by a brand new PC-12NG (Next Generation) aircraft. The NG has an improved level of performance and will be an excellent addition to the fleet. Conversion training is required for the pilots to upgrade to the NG as the aircraft is very advanced and different to fly. At the controls there is a totally new avionics and instrumentation system which will take some getting used to. A number of systems and redundancy improvements have been incorporated into the new model making this a safer more reliable aircraft. The Air Section will soon be operating the oldest PC-12 flying worldwide (VH-YDO) as well as one of the very newest.

Next Generation aircraft advancements:

- Improved climb performance and increased cruise speed by approximately 15 knots for the same fuel burn compared to existing PC-12 aircraft.
- Increased payload by approximately 200 kg.
- Improved manual handling (hopefully even better landings).
- New aircraft reliability.

- State of the art avionics systems.
- Nine passenger seat configuration adds passenger carrying capacity and versatility for passenger / freight loads.

### Air Section Members

The Air Section consists of six pilots and one Operations Manager and is currently at full pilot strength. Four pilots including the Chief Pilot are based in Darwin and two pilots are based in Alice Springs. One pilot and the Operations Manager are funded through Task force Themis.

<i>Chief Pilot</i>	– Philip Agg
<i>Pilots</i>	– Mal Walshe
	– Graeme Hall
	– Trevor Woods
	– Tony Willis
	– Rod Tomic
<i>Operations Manager</i>	– Murray Cuthbertson

Below One of the original Piper Navaho aircraft which was used when Police Air Wing commenced operations in 1979. New controls for the Pilatus NG.

Right top L-R pilots: Chief Pilot Philip Agg, Senior Pilot Graeme Hall, Senior Pilot Trevor Woods, Senior Pilot Malcolm Walshe, Operations Manager Murray Cuthbertson, Senior Pilot Rod Tomi from Alice Springs. (absent from photo Senior Pilot Tony Willis). Right bottom NT Police Air Section fleet.









# Operation Unite

On Thursday 19 November 2009, Police Commissioners across Australia gathered in Perth to announce their united stance against alcohol fuelled violence.



While alcohol fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour is a shared problem both nationally and internationally, the Northern Territory statistics are a stand out – and not in a good way.

During 2008/09, NT Police responded to 1061 disturbances at licensed premises, 347 of these in the Darwin City entertainment precinct and 55,773 people were taken into protective custody.

The weekend of action commenced Friday evening, 11 December, coincidentally timed with the launch of the NT Government/TIO Christmas Express Shuttle and what appeared to be the official start of the monsoon.

This day also marked the Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly's introduction to Twitter. From start to finish and throughout the evening, AC Kelly posted Territory wide 'Tweets', spelling mistakes and all. One 'tweet' was 're-tweeted' by a twitter/ntpolice local follower to her own 1500 followers, demonstrating how this social network operates at its best.

For those not familiar with Twitter, AC Kelly's tweets looked something like this:

- OpUnite Alice Springs – shared accommodation with a difference 42 drunks in protective custody.
- OpUnite deteriorating in Darwin - Police having to request security to remove intoxicated people from licensed premises.

With a combined effort of Police, Police dogs and horses, the Operation saw 25 arrests, 14 summonses, 184 patrols of licensed premises and 122 litres of alcohol tipped out.

One reveller enjoying a sleep over a railing opposite Discovery nightclub was woken with a difference. With his arms and upper body slumped over the rail, about 3 inches of flesh was exposed at the top of his trousers where his t-shirt had pulled up.

A Police horse 'tip-toed' (for want of a better horsey expression) over to the man, quietly and gently lowering its wet nose to give this 3 inches of flesh a little nudge or two. Stirring peacefully and pleasantly, he woke and turned to be confronted with what would most likely be the last thing he imagined or hoped to be woken by – a horses head.

This wasn't the only time our Mounted Police turned heads throughout the Operation. On a number of occasions, they were seen cantering up and down Mitchell Street, supporting general duties and leading the successful management of anti-social behaviour. As they approached one offender at speed, he stopped in his tracks, stared in disbelief and said, "I've never seen anything like that before".

Operation Unite proved an awareness raising success Australasia wide with reforms to the existing *NT Liquor Act* currently underway.





# Alice Springs Triathlon

Alice Springs Police managed to field five teams in the Ultimate Ride Teams Challenge Mini Triathlon held the first weekend of March.

From left to right top to bottom  
Winners - *Team Thunder*  
with (left to right) Constable  
Ron Guascoine, Caleb  
Hart and Detective Senior  
Constable Janelle Snigg.

Constable Ben Streeter  
(centre) completed all  
three legs himself and  
came a creditable 8<sup>th</sup> place.

But he wasn't alone –his  
management team (left)  
Senior Sergeant David  
Chalker and (right) Senior  
Constable Naomi Beale  
were there to spur him on.

Detective Senior Constable  
Deanne Ward wasn't even  
breathless at the end of  
her run despite have done  
a quick "warm-up" 10km  
run before the event.

Alice Springs *Top Brass*  
were also there to join  
in the fun. (Left to right)  
Commander Anne-Marie  
Murphy, Superintendent  
Michael White and  
Superintendent Sean Parnell).

Superintendent Michael  
White streaks home  
for *Top Brass*.

Not only did they have the most  
competitors, but they took out the top  
placing when *Team Thunder* roared across  
the line in 12 minutes and 41 seconds.

*Team Thunder* was made up of Detective  
Senior Constable Janelle Snigg (swim  
leg), Constable Ron Guascoine (cycling)  
and Indigenous runner Caleb Hart who is  
being sponsored to run in the New York  
Marathon later this year, as a part of the  
Running to America project.

Alice Springs and Southern Regional  
Commander Anne-Marie Murphy also  
took part, leading her team *Top Brass* to  
a very creditable 15 minutes 28 seconds  
performance. With Anne-Marie doing  
the swim leg, she was ably supported by  
Superintendent Michael White (cycling)  
and Superintendent Sean Parnell (running).

One of the more ambitious teams was  
*Streets Ahead* with Constable Ben Streeter  
backing himself in all three legs to come in  
with a time of 13.52.

*Big Harts*, consisting of Senior Constable  
Ivan Petrovic (cycling) and civilians  
Kris Ross (running) and Taylor Chalker  
(swimming) came in a very respectable 9<sup>th</sup>  
place, especially given that Senior Sergeant  
David Chalker forced his daughter Taylor  
out of her sick bed to do the swim leg for  
him.

Then there was the valiant effort of  
*Charlie's Angels* consisting of Constable  
Belinda Sanderson (swimming), Police  
Auxiliary Di Willis (cycling) and Detective  
Senior Constable Deanne Ward (running).  
Coming in at a time of 19.22 was still  
nothing to scoff at, given that Deanne  
decided to do a quick 10 kilometre  
warm-up run just prior to competing.





# International Volunteer Day BBQ

To celebrate International Volunteer Day, Emergency Service and Fire and Rescue Volunteers set up in the Smith Street Mall to let the Territory community know what they do.

A free sausage sizzle was whipped up by our expert volunteer chefs, as they spoke to members of the public, answering questions about volunteering, what they do and the vital role they play in the Northern Territory.

Kerrie McMahon from NTES attended the event and spoke to the media about the importance of volunteers.

"Our volunteers are invaluable to the operations of NTES and NTFRS."

"We appreciate all of their efforts and these types of events are great opportunities for us to promote our volunteers and engage with the community," she said.

Janelle Stewart and her partner Andre Hartley helped out on the day and are regular volunteers with the NTFRS. They decided to join because they had some spare time and wanted to do something to help the community.

"We volunteer first and foremost to give back to the community. We enjoy the teamwork and camaraderie and as a bonus we are continually gaining skills and knowledge from ongoing training through NTFRS."

"My idea of a volunteer is someone who is willing to uphold the standards and professionalism required whilst serving and protecting without the want or need for monetary gain," Janelle said.

International Volunteer Day is an initiative established by the United Nations in order to acknowledge and show appreciation for those people who dedicate their much needed time and skills to needy organisations across the world.

Janelle believes that the reward from volunteering comes from the people you help.

"The look of appreciation on someone's face when you've been able to contain a fire and prevent loss or damage to one's property is thanks enough," she said.

A special thanks goes to all Emergency Service and Fire and Rescue volunteers. You are invaluable to the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.



Top to bottom Volunteers from the NTFRS Janelle Stewart, Kevin Hubble and Andrew Harley in front of their grass fire unit. Volunteers Maree Hasewski and Chris Fishlock manned the BBQ. Volunteers from NTES Peta Barb, Maree Hasewski, Chris Fishlock, and Wayne Thomas as well as a few friendly members of the public take on the NTFRS in a game of tug-of-war.





# NT Police Monument

WE'RE ALMOST THERE... BUT WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP

Background Sample sketches of the stage 2 concept designs.

Thanks to support from the NT Government, Retired Police Association, Northern Territory Police Association and you – our valued members, we are two thirds of the way to building our police monument.

But we still need your help. If we, our members and staff, don't take part in remembering the unique and important historical role of the NT Police Force then who will?

The Steering Committee have set up a trust fund for any donations, which is tax deductible, and a Monument Foundation with exclusive benefits for your membership.

Our aim in setting up this foundation is to raise funds that will build a Monument in the prime location of Liberty Square and maintain it for future generations.

We hope to have this Monument built by September this year.

To be a part of this monumental initiative contact Rebecca Forrest today on (08) 8901 0256 or email [rebecca.forrest@nt.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.forrest@nt.gov.au) for more information on how you can be involved.

\$300,000



STAGE TWO: CONCEPT PROPOSAL  
NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE  
COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK COMMISSION

## Farewell Chris Forrester

Top PFES Tech chases love



Chris Forrester, the affable radio tech from PFES Communication and Electronic Services (CES), is saying farewell after 12 years with NTPFES.

Love has finally caught up with Chris and he has been drawn to Sydney to take up a new life with his girlfriend.

Chris, a former communications specialist with the Royal Australian Navy joined PFES after being contacted by Tony Chivell, also a former sub-mariner and now Manager of CES.

With a love for fishing and the bush, Chris headed to the Territory to become part of a small but dynamic team of radio technicians at PFES.

Much of his time has been spent at remote Police and Fire stations installing, maintaining or repairing technical components that ensure vital communications are operational for front line staff.

Chris has been involved in all the big communication projects for PFES including the Territory's own specialist fire alarm monitoring system – NTFEST, the introduction of JESCC and most recently the new digital radio upgrade amongst a whole range of other things.

All in PFES wish Chris the very best for his future and we are sure the doors will always remain open should he possibly choose to return one day.

Left Chris Forrester.



# TO DRESS OR NOT TO DRESS

Up until 1987, women of the Northern Territory Police Force were conducting patrols, chasing offenders and jumping fences, all in their police issue uniform dress.

The female uniform was introduced in 1978 and included a dress, nylon stockings, court shoes, a handbag and a hat. However unpopular the dress was, it represented a significant milestone for women in police; 1978 was also the first year that women became operational within general duties.

The dress only lasted as a uniform option for women for less than 10 years, however according to most female officers it was never really a favourable, or practical, option.

One female officer joked that they should have manufactured the bullet proof vests from the same material as the pantyhose provided with the dress back in 1978 ... "the pantyhose were so thick there was no way a bullet was getting through them," she said.

The uniform changed from the dress, to a skirt and then to culottes before women donned the same NT Police Force khaki uniform as their male counterparts in 1987.

Sergeant Debbie Horrocks said that the dress was a nightmare. "I remember one job where I was instructed to recover a stolen bar fridge at the bottom of the Lameroo cliffs on the Esplanade, in the rain.

"I'd left my handbag with a colleague, duly abseiled down the cliff, tied a rope around the fridge and then had to abseil back up the cliff face - whilst desperately trying to keep my dress down and maintain dignity - much to the amusement of my male colleagues. By the time I got back to the top of the cliffs I was covered in mud and had torn my stockings from the ankle to the thigh.

"To add insult to injury - the boys thought it would be funny to joke that I was in trouble with the Commissioner and he wanted to see me straight away. So, off I marched to see him, dreading the reception I thought I would receive.

"When I was paraded before the Commissioner - Bill McLaren, my sergeant at the time used me a tangible example as to why court shoes were impractical - never mind dress or the stockings. I was unamused, but the good that came of it was that it did put an end to the ridiculous heeled court shoes and we were allowed to wear lace up shoes. The dress unfortunately remained as did the stockings and handbag." *Debbie Horrocks, Sergeant, Tennant Creek Police Station*

"When Kate Vanderlaan came riding up from NSW on her motorbike we were all gob smacked - it wasn't something we did in those days. On one occasion I chased a guy down the street and tripped up for the world to see. I did get the guy though - that's what matters." *Lorraine Carlon, Superintendent, Territory Intelligence Division*

"The dress restricted your ability to move your arms which isn't the best trait for a police officer" *Anne-Marie Murphy, Commander, Alice Springs and Southern Regional Command*

"The first uniform was the dress. Anne-Marie is right about the restricted movement and they were just so useless for working on the streets. After that we got culottes and skirts. Skirts were impractical, especially when you got into a scuffle/fight and you ended up on the ground wrestling or trying to handcuff people (same issue was with the dress).

Lets just say you needed good clean underwear on. The culottes were far more practical and saved your modesty, then we went into the trousers which aren't the most flattering uniform for women but definitely more practical." *Wendy Schultz, Detective Sergeant, OIC Asset Forfeiture Unit*

"I still wear a skirt when I am in uniform. I have served in both Alice Springs and Yulara prior to coming to Darwin. I used to wear the dresses prior to the skirts.

I loved the skirts/dresses and didn't find them at all a problem. There is a fine art to being in a brawl or wrestling with people or scrambling over fences and not flashing everyone." *Kath Brett, Senior Constable, Territory Intelligence Division*

"For one of our jobs we went to a premises in Leanyer and had to scale an eight foot high fence. I got one leg over and jumped but left my entire dress hooked on the top of the fence!!!! Didn't catch the intruder just to add insult to injury. My male colleagues thought it was a great laugh.

"Another time I was doing radar duties at 7am in the morning on the Stuart Highway, wondering why motorists were waving and honking until a colleague on his way to work pulled over and told me he could see straight through my dress and liked my red knickers!!!"

Gotta love women policing in the "old days" *Daniela Mattiuzzo, Senior Constable First Class, Katherine Police Station*

Below 1978 was the introduction of the Police dress and also the first year that women became operational within general duties.

Right top to bottom - left to right Debbie Horrocks swearing in 1978 - 1979.

Wendy Shultz.

Kate Vanderlaan.

Lyn Balchin.

Sgt Jacquie Meggit and

First Class Constable

Daniela Mattiuzzo.







*"For one of our jobs we went to a premises in Leanyer and had to scale an eight foot high fence. I got one leg over and jumped but left my entire dress hooked on the top of the fence!!! Didn't catch the intruder just to add insult to injury. My male colleagues thought it was a great laugh."*





# Clandestine Laboratory Located in Darwin

The Commander's Tactical Team (CTT) is a taskforce which operates to reduce and prevent unlawful entries and property crime. CTT specialise in running targeted operations in response to spikes of crime and offending.

Operation Bart is a recent CTT operation which was set up to target and investigate the links between high end property crime and drug and organised crime networks, with a specific focus on amphetamine type substance trade.

In the latter stages of the investigation, Operation Bart became a joint Taskforce with Special Operations Section, Drug Enforcement Section and Territory Intelligence Division.

Acting on information received as a part of the operation, Police located a clandestine laboratory in the process of manufacturing crystal methamphetamine which had been set up within a room of a Darwin city hotel, in February 2010.

Police seized the laboratory equipment, a quantity of chemicals typically used in the manufacturing process, a trafficable quantity of methamphetamine, a trafficable quantity of heroin and a quantity of cash.

Police charged three persons aged 40, 27 and 24 years old in relation to this incident. The two aged 40 and 27 years old are Melbourne residents and believed to be a part of an interstate organised crime entity. All three persons were charged with manufacturing and supplying a trafficable quantity of crystal methamphetamine (ice) and with the possession of a trafficable quantity of heroin.

In the same weekend, Police also arrested another 44 year old Darwin man who was apprehended leaving the hotel. The man was found to be in possession of 2 grams of crystal methamphetamine and was charged with possession of a trafficable quantity. He was also found in possession of an SAS knife and a hunting knife and was charged with possessing and carrying a controlled weapon.

All four people were charged and remanded in custody.

As a result of related investigation, a 25 year old Darwin man was also charged for drug related offences when a search of his hotel room has located a large quantity of powder and capsules, as well as \$5000.00 cash.

He was charged with the possession of commercial quantity of a schedule 2 substance and bailed to appear at a later date.

Detective Superintendent Peter Bravos said that the manufacture and use of illicit drugs poses significant risks in terms of the health and safety of members of the public and those involved in the illicit activities.

"The Northern Territory Police are committed to identifying, locating and prosecuting those involved in the manufacture and distribution of illicit drugs" Said Supt Bravos.

Overall, Operation Bart was deemed a success and the operation was finalised in February 2010. In the last week alone of the operation, The Operation Bart members made 14 apprehensions.

A large quantity of cash, drugs and several knives were located in the clan lab which had been set up in the Darwin hotel.





# Managing Invasive Grasses in the Wet Season

Gamba and Mission grasses are fast becoming the public face of weeds in the rural area. These invasive colonisers can quickly take over a given environment, displacing native species and altering conditions to suit their own growth needs.

Left to right Mission Grass ready to flower. This weed grows up to 2 meters high. The Mission grass dies off quickly after being sprayed.

During the wet season when growth is at its peak, these grasses can quickly outgrow the capabilities of the average home mowing systems. Even tractors can face problems dealing with their bulk of growth, and it can take heavy-duty machinery to deal with established infestations.

The easiest way to manage weeds is to prevent their establishment in the first place. Familiarise yourself with the weeds most likely to cause problems to both the environment and health. Several weeds are known to cause allergies and toxic poisoning. Detailed information on specific weeds is available at the Weed Management Branch website ([www.nt.gov.au/weeds](http://www.nt.gov.au/weeds)).

If your weeds seem too much to handle, don't give up – the price of Glyphosate has

reduced again, and is highly effective for treating invasive grasses. If you are opposed to herbicide use and have a substantial grass infestation, you have a lot of hard work ahead of you. However, digging out each individual clump is possible, especially at this time of the wet season. Take care to remove the entire root base, to ensure the plants don't regrow. Be aware that weeds may not, by law, be transported off your property, so create a mulch pile for weed disposal and monitor it regularly for regrowth.

Mission Grass is just coming into flower, and Gamba Grass will follow soon after. Treat the grasses before they set seed to prevent your problem advancing another year. Maintain a control and monitoring program for at least three years after initial

treatment and remain vigilant to detect new weed invasions on your property.

Gamba Grass and Mission Grass can pose an extreme fire danger during the dry season. Once established, these weeds set about modifying the environment to suit their growing needs. Where native grasses produce an available fuel loading of 6-8 tonnes per hectare, Gamba can reach 32 tonnes per hectare which means that fires burn hotter. The resulting fires destroy surrounding native foliage, however within a week the burnt clumps of the gamba plant are sprouting again.

If you need further advice or help with managing these grasses please contact the Hazard Reduction Officer (NTFRS) on ph. 8988 0298.





# Blue Light Disco's Still a Hit

They were a rave in the 60's and nothing has changed – the Blue Light Disco is still a much anticipated event on the calendar of all Tweenies and Teens.

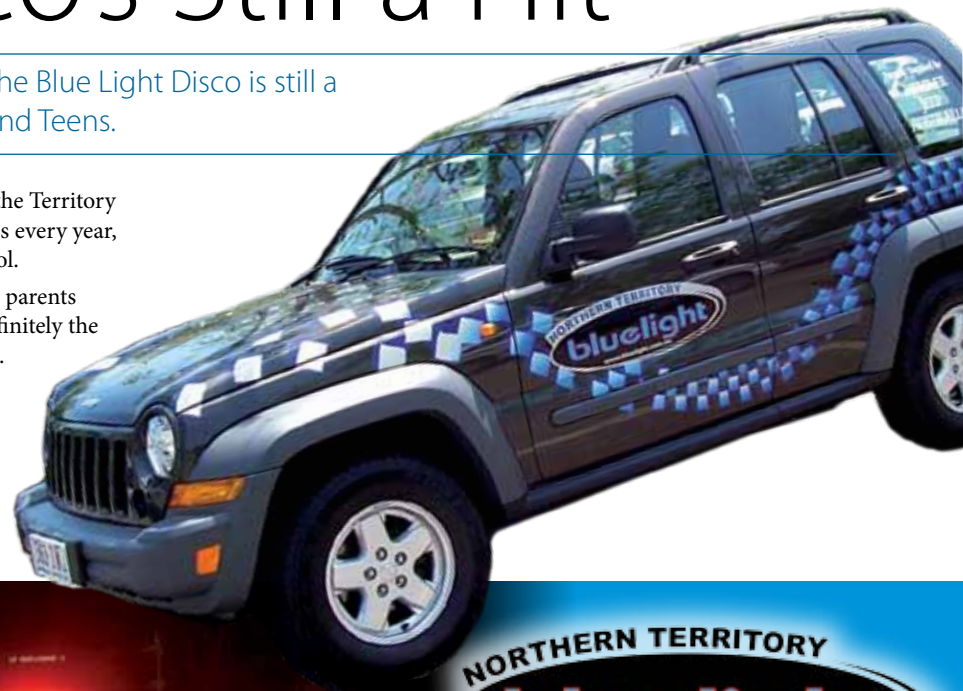
Each year Constable First Class Ward Tucker and his Disco team take to the road and get grooving with our Territory youngsters.

"Last year we attended over 170 events and plan for 240 in 2010. In Alice Springs alone we hope to run 70 events this year.

"Blue Light Disco's are a great way to involve the kids and provide a safe, fun and healthy activity for them but it's also beneficial as it shows that Police are here to help and they can trust us," he said.

Thousands of kids across the Territory take part in Blue Light Discos every year, from transition to high school.

"It's always great when the parents get involved. The kids are definitely the superior dancers," Ward said.



Top to bottom - left to right  
Blue light disco vehicle  
The remote Blue  
light discos are  
especially popular.



# New Junior Police Rangers sworn in

After visiting 35 year six classes across Darwin, Palmerston and rural areas, First Class Constable Neil Joyce was delighted to welcome 15 boys and 15 girls to make up Squad 25 of the Junior Police Ranger Program.

These youth filled in an application form and attended an interview and fitness assessment to earn their place and commence the three year program.

"These youth will get involved in camping, rock climbing, search and rescue, public speaking and survival camp initiatives that enhance their skill base and hold them in good stead during their adult life," First Class Constable Joyce said.

Commencing in 1984 the Junior Police Rangers program provides young people with access to skills and activities with Police, which are not normally taught within the school curriculum. The program builds self esteem and leadership qualities and promotes positive relationships between the Northern Territory Police, young Territorians and the community.



left to right Group 25 in uniforms.  
Nerida Liddle, inaugural recipient  
of the Terry Baldwin Junior Police  
Rangers Leadership Award and Mr  
Terry Baldwin OAM – responsible for  
helping to start the JPR Program.





# Fire Recruits donate more than their time

Recruits from the latest NT Fire and Rescue Service squad took one for the team, signing up to give blood, in a bid to raise much needed awareness for the Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

On 23 February, 11 fire recruits squeezed into the Blood Service's Casuarina Branch and gave blood as a group. The donation was set up to encourage fellow Territorians to attend the Blood Service and donate.

District Officer Mark Spain says the NTFRS wanted to use this opportunity in conjunction with Australian Red Cross to remind the public how vital this service is to the community.

"One blood donation can save up to three lives and can be used to treat a wide range of people, including cancer and leukaemia patients, burns victims and people with blood disorders. One in three Territorians will need blood or blood products in their life time, yet only one in 30 people donate," said Mark.

"The Blood Service relies on the generosity of voluntary blood donors, so it is great to see groups like NTFRS come in to donate to save lives," said Catherine McAlpine from the Blood Service.

The Blood Service is always looking for more donors to combat the increasing demand for blood. To find out if you're eligible to donate or any other enquiries call 13 14 95 or visit [donateblood.com.au](http://donateblood.com.au)

Recruits RFF Paul Tilbrook, RFF Jay Hanton, RFF Matthew Jenkins, RFF Michael Hamilton, RFF Michael Fletcher & RFF Xavier Gosling.

# The Game of the Lion

On Tuesday the 23rd of February the Alice Springs Fire Station was blessed by a Chinese Lion.

The Lion performed 'The Game of the Lion' blessing to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck and prosperity to the Fire Station and its members.

As part of the blessing, the Lion ate the hong baos (Red Packet) wrapped in lettuce which was offered to the Lion. The Lion spat out the lettuce and took the offering. It is believed that the offering given to the dragon is returned 10-fold in good luck.

The Lion had flown down from Darwin with the Chung Wah Society's Lion Dance troupe and was blessing houses and businesses as part of Chinese New Year celebrations for 2010. The Chung Wah Society Lion Dance troupe returned to Darwin to do more blessings. Over 350 blessings are performed in Darwin and Alice Springs during the 15 day Chinese New Year period.

2010 is the year of the White Metal Tiger and New Years celebrations were from the 14th of February until the 28th of February.





# KATHERINE ACPOs

By Sarel Wallace  
and Trudy Tilley



A day in the life of a Katherine Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) is far from ordinary. There's always something different to do and see as Katherine OSD covers a very large area. The year is always full of events and activities and happenings all over Katherine, and as ACPOs we are sent to different remote communities to help out during their busy times.

At the moment there are five ACPOs posted at Katherine and we work in all different areas such as the Watch House, Patrol Groups, DVPU or the Court Cells. We also attend fortnightly meetings with various Town Councils and organisations to address any issues arising in the community. Our School Based Constable is also in regular contact with us to attend Blue Light Discos and other youth activities happening in local schools.

We travel to many different communities throughout the region, assisting with special events and festivals. During the May Day long weekend, Lajamanu holds a Sports Carnival which is usually attended by two of our ACPOs. We have also travelled to Maranboy Police Station to help out during the Barunga Festival. Other stations that came to help were Oenpelli, Bulman, and Elliot. Maranboy is only about 80kms from Katherine, so the first time we thought we'd "style-up" and take a caravan and become the envy of everyone. While we were there we conducted road blocks and patrolled throughout the community.

We have also travelled even further east, about 800kms along the Central Arnhem Hwy to Nhulunbuy for the Garma Festival. For that trip we took two vehicles from Katherine and along the way we picked up another ACPO from Maranboy and two AFP members from Bulman. Our camp on the first night was at the Goyder River; we didn't see any crocs but the dingos serenaded us at night.

On these trips across the country we are able to meet many different people and make many new friends within the Police force and outside of it. It is all a great opportunity to see our beautiful country.

We also get to attend different activities and town events in Katherine. Sometimes we are tasked to a specific patrol group where a whole shift (or two) is dedicated to attending that event and liaising with organisers and the local people.

Some of us are also actively involved with Katherine High School students and their activities. ACPO Tilley and myself have happily attended girls footy trips and motivational camps. We believe this will help to build the relationship between Police and the youth around town.

Just recently myself and ACPO 1C Trudy Tilley travelled to Darwin with 23 Katherine High School girls (junior and senior) to

help out with their Stronger, Smarter Sisters camp which aims to support and encourage young girls.

Along with all the great events we get to participate in we also have good training opportunities available to us. We have all been taser trained (what a fun experience that was) and some of us are trained in Laser, Flood Boat Rescue and Search and Rescue and we are looking forward to many more training opportunities and job experiences. Without the support of our senior members, Commander and Superintendent we would not be able to participate in a majority of these opportunities. We are very grateful and have had a lot of fun whilst learning a lot. Stay tuned for details on the upcoming Binjari festival and our trip to Melbourne with the Stronger, Smarter Sisters.





# Welcome Commissioner and CEO John McRoberts

John McRoberts has wasted no time getting out and about in his first few months as the new Commissioner and CEO of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Mr McRoberts has been busy learning the ins and outs of how the Tri service currently operates and getting to know its members. He has spent time on patrol with Police along Mitchell Street, visiting remote stations, attending a house fire on New Years Eve with the Fire Service and is one of the next willing candidates for an upcoming NTES volunteer training exercise.







# Vale - Sergeant Brett Meredith

31 January 1970  
to 2 January 2010

Member of the Northern Territory Police Force from 28 January 2008 to 2 January 2010. Husband of Brevet Sergeant Amee Meredith and father to their three children Samuel (5), Jordy (4) and Abbey (2). Father also to Brad (9) and Lily (7).

*"It is with great sadness that Police, Fire and Emergency Services, alongside family, friends and the community, said farewell to Sergeant Brett Meredith at a police funeral service in Darwin on Friday 8 January. The tragic, premature death of our colleague has brought the service together, to grieve together, and support one another through this difficult time."*

*"What has been noticeably heartfelt throughout the agency is the kind support from the community as a whole."*

*"I convey the heartfelt condolences and sympathy of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services to Brett's children, Brett's wife Amee and both their families. We offer our full support to them now and in the years to come."* Commissioner of Police,  
Mr John McRoberts

*"All of his family were with him at 5pm. My head was on his chest when they switched off the machine. Brett passed away at 5:08pm. I don't remember how long I stayed there until my dad and brother came to get me. We took coloured hand prints for the children so they would have something of him to always remember him by."*

*"After the machines were removed, I climbed into his bed, put his arm around me and the blanket over us and fell asleep. It was the first time that I slept and it was a really beautiful moment."*

*"Brett was my husband, the father of my children and my best friend. The love that we shared can never be replaced and I will forever miss him."*

*"I just wanted to say, 'I love you BJ... I always have, I always will.'" Amme Meredith*





*"The magnitude of our loss is reflected in the number of people that attended his funeral, the thousands of tributes that have been posted in various media and in the deep sense of shock and sadness we are all feeling.*

*"There is no possibility that my words, or our thoughts, will idealise Brett in death beyond what he was in life. Brett's gift to the Northern Territory Police will be evident for decades to come as the younger officers he has mentored will become respected and fine as he was and they, in turn, will pass on this gift.*

*"We will embrace Brett's memory by committing to reduce violence in our communities and we will continue to serve and protect the community to the high standards that Brett as a role model set for us."*  
Commander Jeanette Kerr

*"To Brett the formula of policing was simple. Put your uniform on, wear it with pride hit the streets running and go out there and lock up as many crooks as possible. Never give them a chance, never back away and always look out for your mates. This was Brett's formula that led to his success.*

*"Brett, because of your sudden, unexpected and unwanted departure from this world, the way we do our business as Police Officers will be changed forever. You've made a difference in this world and will continue to do so for years to come.*

*"Brett James Meredith... A Husband, Father, Son, Brother, Friend and outstanding police officer.*

*"A loving family man and a sports tragic.*

*"A man who loved and adored his wife and kids, a man who put his family first." A / Senior Sergeant Rod Godden, brother-in-law to Brett.*

Katherine Police have renamed Brett's favourite police vehicle, Katherine 697, after him.

*"Brett James Meredith... A Husband, Father, Son, Brother, Friend and outstanding police officer."*





# NT FIRE BRIGADE **AIRBORNE** DIVISION

The Northern Territory Fire Brigade (NTFB) Airborne Division began with a discussion in 1978 between Chief Fire Officer Peter Holtham and Sub-Station Officer Dennis Baker, a former British Army (42nd Commando Regiment) member.

It had been recognised that an emergency incident such as a plane crash or a motor vehicle accident in a remote location could occur where there would be difficulties in attending the incident in a relatively short timeframe. Access difficulties due to wet season constraints were also recognized as posing a problem for undertaking rescue.

Holtham and Baker agreed that a special rescue squad should be trained extensively in rescue techniques, first aid, map reading and survival techniques.

This squad would be made available to fly to the incident location and parachute in to the site to begin a primary rescue function, taking place while the other emergency responders were still mobilising to the scene. The aerial team would be backed up by a ground support team who would be trained in off-road driving and would be utilised to extricate the parachutists from trees, if they landed in an area of heavy vegetation and inadvertently got 'hung up'.

Each member of the jump team would be required to carry the usual fireman's equipment, plus jacks, axes, crowbars, survival knife, first aid kit, and a survival kit of food and water that would sustain the team for a period of twenty four to thirty six hours. By this time it was expected that the ground support team would have arrived at the scene.

After approval for the forming of the NTFB Airborne Division was granted by the Department of Transport and Works, training of the special rescue squad commenced in earnest in early November 1978. By the end of the year four members of the squad, CFO Peter Holtham, Dennis Baker, Dennis King and Stephen Lawrence, had completed their course of study with the Darwin Parachute Club and had undertaken their six qualifying parachute jumps. Also in training at that time were Colin Dash, Rodney Harper, Ken (Rocky) Couzens and Murray Riley. The ground crew, consisting of David Bargery and Don Payne, had also undergone training for their specific support role.

At a special ceremony at the Daly Street Headquarters of the NTFB, the four qualifying parachutists received their 'wings', being ex RAF wings with the crown cut off, procured by Holtham from England. Officiating at the presentation was MLA Roger Steele, Minister for Transport and Works.

Unfortunately, the NTFB Airborne Division was only in operation for just over one year and was discontinued in 1979 following the release of the Williamson Report. Search and rescue operations were subsequently taken over by NT Police Airwing in 1979.

*Source: Unpublished research notes of the History of the Fire Service in the Northern Territory of Australia compiled by Lou Cowan – Oct 2009.*

Top to bottom Geoff Stait, Colin Dash, Peter Holtham and Steve Lawrence, Geoff Practicing before the jump.





# SAID Katherine – One Year On

February 2010, represented one year since the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID) commenced operations in Katherine.

The FaHCSIA funded initiative works to gather intelligence on suppliers and criminal networks and works closely with the Dog Operations Unit (DOU) to investigate substance abuse, including illicit drugs, kava, alcohol and volatile substances in remote communities in the Katherine & Northern region area of the Northern Territory, as well as cross border operations with Western Australia Police in Kununurra.

Seizures since the SAID begun operations in Katherine in 2009 include:

- 1 tonne of kava - an estimated value of around \$1,000,000
- 23.7 kilograms of cannabis – an estimated value of at least \$1,185,000
- 22 grams of methamphetamines
- 2146 litres of alcohol
- 10 vehicles
- \$64,285 cash

The two units are very proactive and have conducted numerous operations throughout the Territory, particularly targeting kava and cannabis distribution groups throughout the region.

As well as conducting covert operations, SAID are effective in maintaining a highly visible presence throughout the region by executing search warrants and setting up regular roadblocks on both major roads and remote access roads.

SAID has conducted several highly successful operations over the last twelve months, including Operation Haricot.

Operation Haricot was mounted following advice regarding a funeral to be held at Ramingining where it was known that a large number of people would be coming into the community.

The operation involved 100 vehicles being searched, two arrests, eleven summons, 84 grams of cannabis and over 100 litres of alcohol being seized.

Commander Jeanette Kerr highlighted that what was particularly concerning about these drug and alcohol traffickers was how they exploit remote community residents with exorbitant price mark ups.

"People are paying as much as \$400 for 1125ml bottle of Jim Beam and, as much as \$100 for bag of cannabis this size of a ten cent coin.

Commander Kerr reinforced that that the SAID and the DOU play a major role in reducing substance abuse and trafficking of drugs into remote communities.

"Katherine SAID are warning anyone involved in drug or alcohol trafficking anywhere in this region, it is highly likely that you will be apprehended" she said.



Below left to right  
Kava Seizure in  
Pine Creek.  
Superintendent  
Brent Warren  
with a large  
kava seizure  
in Katherine.

*"People are paying as much as \$400 for 1125ml bottle of Jim Beam and, as much as \$100 for bag of cannabis this size of a ten cent coin."*





# Running to America

By Sarel Wallace  
and Trudy Tilley

Twelve indigenous youth aged between 18 – 25 years old have been pre-selected to take part in an ambitious project 'Running to America' – which will send six Indigenous youth to participate in the 2010 New York Marathon.

The Australian Institute of Sport, in conjunction with former World Champion marathon runner and Australian of the Year Robert de Castella are partnering to create an ambitious new program to unearth Indigenous distance running potential from Aboriginal Australians in the Northern Territory. The athletes will have access to facilities and staff from the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Indigenous unit of the Australian Sports Commission. Robert de Castella's not for profit organisation 'Smart Start' is managing and administering the marathon project.

Participants that are selected for the program will be flown to Canberra for an intensive training program at the AIS, and will be coached and mentored to train for the NY Marathon.

Project organisers have sought assistance from NT Police in sourcing local talent from remote communities and have asked that where possible, Police assist with mentoring and encouragement of local youth throughout their development program.

Superintendent Andrew Warton is one of the NT Police members who will be mentoring some of the youth through their journey and, will be running the marathon himself in New York.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these youth. The project will provide an opportunity for six indigenous runners to enter the 2010 New York Marathon and in the process, gain valuable leadership, life and sporting skills to take back to their communities.

"The current police role will be to provide mentorship to the young athletes when they are back home at their communities, by way of support and encouragement throughout their training program.

"Community engagement plays a vital part in effective policing in remote communities and this project is just one of the many community programs which Police are involved in and committed to. I know that some of our local members are even training with the youth, to ensure they stay on track for the chance to be selected to run the New York Marathon" said Supt Andrew Warton.

Although the mentoring and success of the participants is the responsibility of the Smart Start organisation, upon participants returning to their local communities, there is a unique opportunity for local NT Police members to assist in the supervision and mentoring of the participant.

This is a great opportunity for NT Police members to actively participate in helping a young Indigenous athlete pursue a goal, whilst also developing their own community engagement and mentoring skills.

To create awareness for the project, which will help ensure its success, a documentary will be created following six Indigenous youths as they train for the New York Marathon being held in October 2010. The documentary has support and will receive funding from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Screen Australia.



Far left The runners spent time training in Darwin along Mindil Beach.

Left top to bottom Four of the twelve participants participated in the Australia Day Fun Run at Mindil Beach. L-R (Back Row) Reuben Brown, 18 yrs old, from Minjilang, Supt Andy Warton, (Front row) Daniel Garrulpa, 22 years old, from Ramingining, Juan Darwin, 22yrs old, from Maningrida, Joseph Davies, 18 years old, from Kununurra, and SmartStart Project Manager John Bell.

Commissioner John McRoberts congratulates Reuben Brown at the Fun Run.

NT Police and AFP members showed their support and encouragement for the runners at the Fun Run.



# Policing not Ellen's only talent

Senior Constable Ellen Pocock has two passions – one is policing and the other is writing.

Senior Constable Ellen Pocock, the proud recipient of the 2009 Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers award.

Having entered the Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers Award, Ellen has made it as a finalist and won on both occasions in 2007 and late last year.

"My first story was a tribute to my late mother about some of the stories she used to tell," said Ellen.

"I just enjoyed writing and came across the competition and was interested in having my mother's story published.

"I was overwhelmed when the piece I wrote won, I never expected that," Ellen said.

Ellen entered again in 2009 and wrote about an experience when she was a junior Constable working in Alice Springs.

"The experience was so powerful I just had to get it down on paper. I won again!

"I have always loved reading and writing but only ever done it for personal entertainment. It was an honour to receive this award as I was very nervous sending it out for the scrutiny of others," she said.



## Bringing 40 years of Christmas Spirit

Sunday the 13th December 2009 saw almost 500 Aged Pensioners from across the Territory kick back and enjoy the 40th Fire Service Aged Pensioners Christmas Party.



Organiser Wayne "Tex" Tourell said this day is particularly special for the Fire Service as it is such a memorable event for the Aged Pensioners and for the Fire Service family.

"This event was started in 1970 by Darwin Station Commander Brian Chong Wui to give something back to the community and it was attended by 20 – 30 Aged Pensioners.

"Today, around 500 Aged Pensioners attend and every member of the Fire Rescue Service is involved in fundraising, food preparations, prize donations, coordinating bus routes, serving on the day and making sure it's the best day of the year for our guests.

"A number of retired Fire Fighters come back to help out with this event, all recruits and Fire and Rescue Service members help to raise the \$30,000 needed to run this event and our volunteers from come on board to assist with fundraising and coordination on the day – it is a real Fire family event," Tex said.

The 40th year celebration saw Administrator of the NT, Mr Tom Pauling serve drinks and food, a performance from the 'Groovy Grannies' got everyone's toe tapping and Santa made a special appearance and provided a grocery parcel and \$10 to every attendee.

Thanks to everyone involved in the organising and to Darwin Bus Service for providing free drivers and buses to make sure guests can arrive and get home safely.

Well done to the Fire and Rescue Service for running, yet again, such a successful and worthwhile event.







Off the Hook is a Police driven community engagement initiative for youth and Police stationed at Task Force Themis communities to be a part of a Territory wide fishing competition. The ultimate vision is to extend the initiative to all indigenous communities with access to fishing, throughout the NT.

The underlying philosophy behind Off the Hook, is to capitalise on 'talking time' and use it to develop strong, trusting relationships between Police and youth sharing the common interest of fishing.

Community engagement is recognised as the most effective policing practice in remote Indigenous communities in terms of crime prevention. Since the inception of Taskforce Themis in 2007 a range of community engagement strategies have been successfully implemented, with many of these initiatives involving sport as the linking common interest.

Recreational angling is one of the fastest growing sports in Australia and provides participants with the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and appreciate and learn about the marine environment. It also provides participants with the opportunity to share angling skills and use the time to talk openly and casually away from the pressures of daily life.

The pilot 'Off the Hook' competition was held on 5 December 2009 and was open to all youth in the community under 25 years old. Each competitor was required to register with a local 'SponsorCop', who was responsible for keeping participants updated on event times, dates, rules and locations. Each competitor received an official 'Off the Hook' t-shirt to wear on the day, as well as a gift bag and certificate of participation.

Around 90 kids participated in the first Off the Hook fishing competition, held on Saturday 5 December 2009. Police at Bulman, Peppimenarti, Ramingining, Waruwi (Gouldburn Island) and Gunbulunya (Oenpelli) and local youth in each of the communities spent the day fishing at their secret spots, all vying for the acclaim to 'hook a big one!'

Despite the fish playing hard to get, a few tempestuous crocodiles and contending with some king tides, the resounding feed back from the day was that everyone had a really fun time. Bulman and Waruwi proved to be keen fishing communities, each having around 30 participants.

The local stores, teachers, parents, elders and Government Business Managers really got behind the initiative to ensure that the day was a success. Each community finished up the day with a community BBQ for kids, parents and volunteers, with meat, bread and drinks generously donated from their local stores. Waruwi youth were even lucky enough to each receive a hand reel from their school Principle as an early Christmas present.

Based on the success of the pilot Off the Hook competition, it is envisaged that the next competition will be held in April 2010.

Left top to bottom Scot Lami Lami won the 'biggest catch of the day' category with this 62cm rock cod. The Off the Hook Competition was enjoyed by around 30 youth from Bulman. Below Supt Andy Warton and Constable Dan Seden picked up a few fishing tips from the youth at Waruwi.



#### WINNERS

Category	Name	Community
Biggest Fish	Scott Lami Lami 62cm Rock Cod	Waruwi
First Fish of the Competition	Rianna Djourlum First fish at 10am	Waruwi
Traditional catch of the day	Darlene Bradshaw Fresh Water Turtle	Bulman
Most unique catch	Alvin Gaykamangu 61cm shark	Ramingining
Smallest fish caught	Mosses Galaminda 11cm Rock Cod.	Waruwi





# Alice Springs

## School holiday Program

Right Firefighter Max (alias Senior firefighter Damon Mulready) was a hit with children as he wandered around the Yeperenye Shopping Centre during the school holiday program.

Far right top to bottom

There were surprisingly plenty of volunteers when the call went out for police officers to help with the ice skating program when it began in Alice Springs just before Christmas. (Left to right) Constable David Witham, Constable Josh Robinson and Constable Shannon Walters were even prepared to don their Santa hats to add to the atmosphere.

Constable Brodie Anderson lends a hand to those youngsters who were trying out the ice for the first time during the Blue Light on Ice holiday session.

Constable David Witham keeps an eye on the beginner skaters during the school holiday program, Blue Light on Ice.

Firefighter David Quan was on hand to assist the Alice Springs Fire and Rescue station's mascot, Firefighter Max, during the Christmas holiday program at the Yeperenye Centre.

Alice Springs police were the driving force behind the most comprehensive school holiday activities program ever offered to the youth of the town.

Youth Services Co-ordinator Superintendent Michael White said the extent of the activities over the six week Christmas school holiday period involved activities as diverse as street soccer and ice skating.

Members of the Crime Prevention Unit, together with the Youth Services Co-ordinator conducted numerous free activities for young people from December 17 until the end of the school holidays. Other agencies also came on board to bring the total number of activities to almost 100 sessions.

"A calendar of events was scheduled in conjunction with various other youth-focussed agencies in town, to ensure there was

no opportunity for kids to be bored over the holiday period," Supt White said.

"Police conducted basketball and barbecue sessions, supersports sessions which included rock climbing and Blue Lights including one at the Ice Skating rink.

"It was very pleasing to see the response from the young people, with 2661 attending the police activities alone. Many more attended activities facilitated by Tangentyere Council, Congress, BushMOB, Incite Youth Arts, RedHOT Arts and the Alice Springs Town Council."

Supt White said the highlight of the program was the free ice skating sessions which saw 250 young people attend per session.

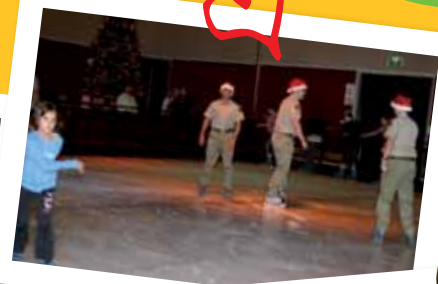
"The opening of the rink was really great and we enlisted the help of several police officers who were already adept at ice skating. Each Monday kids were able to attend free ice skating sessions which normally would have cost them \$15 for two hours."

Another highly popular event was the basketball and barbecue evenings facilitated by police.

"This program enabled young people to take part in a healthy sport activity and was so popular we had 120 people attending one game alone. The program averaged 100 young people each week and was a great opportunity for the youth of the town to mingle with police in an informal atmosphere."

Supt White said the program would continue to be held during school holiday periods throughout the year.

"This was a collaborative effort between police and a number of youth-focussed organisations, and it was very pleasing to see such successful results."





# Daniela Mattiuzzo wins Tribute to NT Women Award

Senior Constable First Class, Daniela Mattiuzzo was acknowledged with a Tribute to Northern Territory Women Award as part of the 2010 International Women's Day celebrations.

Hosted by the Honourable Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Women's Policy a function was held in Daniela's honour at the Darwin Convention Centre on Monday 8 March.

The Tribute to NT Women Award, which started in the Territory in 2002, can be won posthumously. Last year Senior Sergeant Rosanna Breed was an award recipient, making her and Daniela two of the youngest women to receive this award.

Acknowledged for being an encouraging and well respected mentor within the Katherine community, Daniela graduated from the NT Police Force Recruit Course in 1985 at the age of 17 as the youngest police officer to ever graduate as a Constable.

That statement may not seem so incredible until you consider the fact that Dani could carry a gun but couldn't enter a licensed venue. She moved to Katherine in 1988 where she has lived ever since.

Dani says she is honoured to receive this award as a representative of the Northern Territory Police Force but certainly didn't expect it.

"I feel very humbled to receive this award as I believe what I do for the Katherine community is just part of what I do – what I enjoy doing.

"I am lucky to have the kind of job where I can honestly say that I love it. I work with such great people in Katherine, fellow officers, school teachers, the students at the school and community members, this award is for all of them," she said.

Dani's true passion is working with kids and she is in the 9th year as the School Based Police Officer for Katherine Schools.

Dani has been running the Katherine Blue Light Disco Association for the past 18 years. She still loves it and never passes up the opportunity to do the Nutbush with the kids!

In 2007, Dani was off duty when she intervened a domestic in the medium strip of the Katherine CBD outside Woolworths. The offender had already stabbed his wife 5 times and he stabbed her two more times while Dani tried to intervene.

The offender attacked Constable Mattiuzzo and tried to stab her but Dani overpowered him and arrested him prior to the cavalry arriving with lights and sirens. Tragically the woman died from her injuries but Dani prevented further incident and incapacitated the offender.



In 2008 she was awarded an Australian Bravery Medal by the Governor General and later that year an Australian Police Medal presented to her by the Governor General.

Dani continually strives to improve the quality of life for her Katherine residents. She has been a committed advocate of leading by example and being a part of making Katherine a safer, friendlier community for decades.

She is most deserving of the Tribute to NT Women Award for 2010. Well done Daniela.

*"I am lucky to have the kind of job where I can honestly say that I love it. I work with such great people in Katherine, fellow officers, school teachers, the students at the school and community members, this award is for all of them."*





# NTFAST

*"Fire alarm monitoring into the new millennium"*



## A Decade on

NTFAST is a real-time mission critical application developed specifically by the NTFRS and serves to ensure protected buildings are monitored on a 24 hour a day basis. It provides significant enhancement to firefighter safety through detailed knowledge on each site monitored and provides ease of reporting into the Fire Service Reporting System (AIRS).

By using remote radio telemetry as a medium, NTFAST does not succumb to the extreme weather, especially lightning strikes that played havoc with the copper hard-wired systems. The system has improved industry servicing of vital fire protection in buildings by ensuring that required standards are met and maintained through enhanced data logging and reporting process.

System availability and reliability has been increased and costs have been significantly reduced to clients by eliminating the previous third party involvement with the removal of reliance on hard wired systems between the building being monitored and the relevant fire station required to respond.

Government's commitment to community safety programs and well being of Territorians continues to be exceeded and maintained as a focal point through the auspices of NTFAST as a life safety medium.

There is no doubt that the NTFRS has moved fire alarm monitoring and emergency response systems into the 21st Century by utilising radio telemetry and data acquisition systems as an operating platform for the first time in Australia and quite possibly the whole of the southern hemisphere.

The Northern Territory Fire Alarm System Transmission (NTFAST) celebrated 10 years of operation in November 2009.

NTFAST won the IBM Enabling Technology Award in the 2004 Northern Territory Information and Communications Awards and was a finalist in the prestigious 2005 Australian Information Industry Association (iAwards) in two categories. It also won the EMA Regional Safer Communities Awards in 2005 for best practice and innovation.

NTFAST has 233 alarms of actual fires in buildings allowing early response and saving billions of dollars across the Northern Territory.

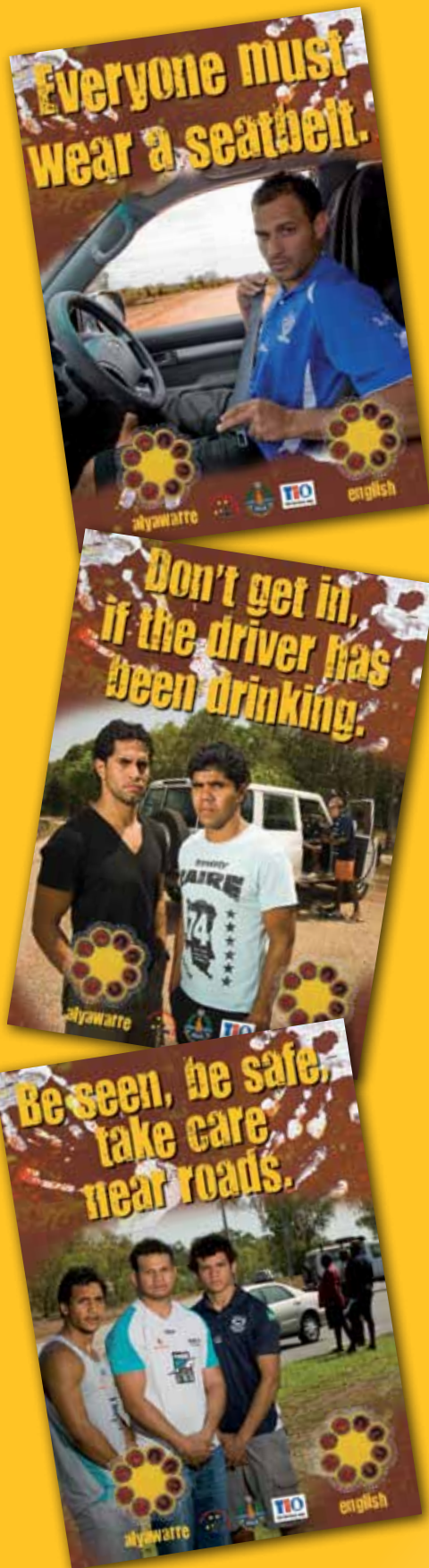
For more information see our website [www.fire.nt.gov.au](http://www.fire.nt.gov.au)

The NT Fast System has won numerous awards in its 10 years of operation.



# 'Talking Posters' Launch - Tackling Indigenous Road Deaths

NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services are dedicated to Stopping Territory Aboriginal Road Sadness (STARS) and with the assistance of TIO, launched 'Talking Posters' to tackle road safety in remote communities.



Far left top to bottom Mr Matthew Campbell (North Melbourne Football Club) speaks about the need to wear seatbelts.

Mr Alwyn Davey (Essendon Football Club) his brother Mr Aaron Davey (Melbourne Football Club) Mr Russel Davey (Palmerston Magpies Football Club – the driver in the car), speak about the loss of their father in a car crash.

Mr Marlon Motlop and Mr Daniel Motlop (Port Adelaide Football Club) and Mr Steven Motlop (Geelong Football Club) speak about the loss of their grandfather who was killed as a pedestrian.

Left Senior ACPO Lorraine Jones and Senior ACPO Shaun Hill demonstrate how the posters work.

In late 2008 the Indigenous Policing Development Division (IPDD) within NT Police, developed the STARS project to highlight and address the issue of road safety throughout the indigenous population of the Northern Territory.

Between the years of 2004 and 2009, 297 people have died on Territory roads. Indigenous people make up only 32 percent of the NT population; however with 50 percent of the road toll, they are over-represented in road fatalities.

During that time, 147 Indigenous Territorians died, compared to 150 Non Indigenous road deaths.

Of those, 93 of the Indigenous deaths were alcohol related, compared to 61 Non Indigenous deaths.

When it came to deaths caused by speed, 33 Indigenous people were killed, compared to 36 Non Indigenous.

Pedestrians killed during that time frame were 53 compared to 13.

In light of these facts and as part of the STARS project, IPDD members received funding from TIO to create posters, targeting these behaviours in remote communities.

The posters depict visual and audio road safety messages, displaying AFLNT and AFL players and have been recorded in 25 Indigenous languages.

They are intended to educate people in relation to drink driving, wearing seatbelts

and generally taking care whilst near roads and will be gradually introduced to 52 communities throughout the Territory within the coming months.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Rob Kendrick said that this was a very timely project.

"It is a sad fact that Indigenous people are so grossly over-represented within the Territory's road roll and it's great to see different agencies coming together to target this problem" he said.

Richard Harding, TIO Chief Executive said "The Indigenous population over represented in road deaths and trauma in the Northern Territory and most of these deaths and serious injuries are preventable. TIO in partnership with NT Police has taken a leading role in communicating road safety awareness more effectively with people in rural and remote indigenous communities through the innovative use of talking posters.

"This is the first time a road safety program has attempted to communicate to such a wide audience in their own language with 52 rural and remote communities receiving talking posters to promote safety messages around seatbelts, drink driving and pedestrian safety in 25 different indigenous languages" he said.

The first of the posters began arriving in communities on 26 February.



# Alyangula – Station Profile

The town of Alyangula is situated on Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria about 40 kilometres from the Australian mainland. Groote Eylandt is part of the East Arnhem Shire and has an area of 2,260 km<sup>2</sup> which is wholly owned by the Anindilyakwa Aboriginal people. A total of about 2400 people live on the island.

Right top to bottom - left to right  
Back Row - ACPO Betty  
Herbert, Const Martin  
Metcalfe, SC 1st Class

Kim Chambers,  
Sgt Shane Arnison,  
Senior Sgt Lee  
Morgan, SC 1st Class  
Malcolm Marshall,  
SC Tyron Bellman,  
SC Kath Crawley.

SC Sean Stanley (now  
at Casuarina) and SC  
1st Class Mal Marshall  
going for a fishing trip  
at the North East corner  
of the Island; referred  
to as North East.

Constable Martin  
Metcalfe with a  
nice big Barra.

Camping trip at  
Rats Cove.

SC Evan Kelly (now  
DES) doing some blue  
water Tuna Fishing.

The patrol area of Alyangula Police Station covers the town of Alyangula and the communities of Umbakumba, Angurugu, Milyakburra also providing assistance to Aboriginal Community Police Officers based at Numbulwar.

A permanent police presence was established on Groote Eylandt when the town of Alyangula was set up in 1968. The town was set up to service the manganese mine located on the island; ore is shipped from the wharf at Alyangula where most people live.

Members and their families live in Alyangula which is well serviced with a population of about 1200 people. Facilities including a bank, post office, shopping centre and a medical centre are offered in the township. Some recreation activities Alyangula has to offer include a golf course, squash courts, football oval, tennis courts, dive club, and swimming pool. There are two licensed premises at Alyangula, both have a restaurant and movies are screened at an outdoor cinema on weekends.

The Police Station is staffed with one Senior Sergeant, two Sergeants, nine Constables, one Aboriginal Community Police Officer, an AO3 and a physical hand; it is a unique opportunity for members to experience remote policing with similar facilities as larger centres.

Groote Eylandt is well known for fishing, camping and boating however, recreation permits are required for camping.

Senior sergeant Lee Morgan, OIC of Alyangula Police Station is enjoying his remote policing experience.

"My family and I love it here. I have three young children and they all enjoy the unique island lifestyle. It is like growing up in the 80's, my kids can walk or ride their bikes to school without me having to worry about them getting run over or going missing. The island is a very family friendly place."

"After being here for almost two years I brought a boat which has given me the opportunity to really enjoy the outdoor lifestyle. My only regret is not buying it sooner. The environs of Groote Eylandt are exclusive and you have to see the scenery to believe what an incredible place it really is."

"While it is a really enjoyable life style the work can be challenging and is very unique."





# Celebrating 40 years WITH THE NT PUBLIC SERVICE

Neville Haskins



Neville commenced with the Forrestry Division of the Conservation Commission on the 22/03/1965 and was stationed on Melville Island. He then became a Park Ranger where he worked at Yarrowonga Zoo, Fogg Dam and Litchfield National Park. His employment as a park ranger saw him travel around various locations within the top end. He took on the role of crocodile management with Parks and Wildlife in 1996 and as part of his role he was required to trap and remove crocodiles from popular areas. After 4 years Neville then transferred to NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services to the role of Occupational Health and Safety Officer where he is currently working.

Ian McLeod



Acting Senior Station Officer Ian McLeod commenced his recruit training on the 14 August 1967. At the completion of his recruit training he was posted to the Darwin Emergency Response area, where he was promoted to Station Officer in September 1982. Ian has served in a number of positions throughout his career, most notably as the Station Commander at Casuarina Fire Station and the Acting Senior Station Officer Community Safety. Ian is currently the Operations Support Officer stationed at the Darwin Fire Station.

John (Jock) McLeod



Senior Station Officer (PIO) John (Jock) McLeod is the longest serving member of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service. Jock joined the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service on the 20 March 1967 and after completing his recruit training, he was posted to the Operations Division in Darwin. He served at Daly Street, Nightcliff, Winnellie and Casuarina. Jock was promoted to Senior Fire fighter in 1976 and he was posted to Katherine in 1978. In September 1982 he was promoted to Station Officer. During his Katherine stint he was promoted to Senior Station Officer/Officer in Charge in 1984. He transferred back to Darwin in 1985 where he worked in the Training Division from 1985 to 1987. He then transferred back to Operations where he took up the position of Watch Commander on B Watch. In 1993 he took up the position of Operations Administration and Officer in Charge Palmerston. Since 1996, Jock has served as the Officer in Charge of the Technical Service Section in Darwin and in 2000 he was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal.

Gavin Docherty



Senior Station Officer Gavin Docherty commenced with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service in July 1967. At the completion of his recruit training Gavin was posted to operational duties in the Darwin region. He was promoted to the rank of Station Officer in September 1982. In 1992, he was transferred to the Station Commander position at the Tennant Creek Fire Station where he remained for the next five years. Gavin then returned to Darwin to the Fire Safety Section of the Community Safety Division. He was promoted to the rank of Senior Station Officer in June 2005 and is currently the Senior Station Officer Community Safety in Darwin.

Ken Bonson



Senior Fire fighter Ken Bonson began his career with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service in January 1969. At the completion of his recruit training he was posted to a shift position in the Darwin region. Senior Fire fighter Bonson was promoted to the rank of Senior Fire fighter in November 1975. He is currently working on C Watch and is attached to the Darwin Fire Station.



# A United Response

On Wednesday 3 February a 45-year old man entered the TIO premise on Cavanagh Street pushing a shopping trolley containing jerry cans of fuel and fire crackers, he lit the contents of the trolley causing an explosion and a rapid fire. The explosion resulted in 19 people being admitted to Royal Darwin Hospital with injuries ranging from severe burns to smoke inhalation.

Within minutes of the explosion occurring, Police were immediately on the scene directing traffic and coordinating the willing public with tasks including holding victims oxygen canisters, monitoring oxygen gauges and fetching frozen peas to soothe burns. St John Ambulance officers attended the scene shortly after the incident to convey the injured to the hospital.

The Fire and Rescue service were on the scene shortly after and claim the built-in fire systems at the TIO premise are also silent hero's as they prevented loss of life and major property loss. The automated fire alarm system at TIO, monitored by the Fire Service, gave early warning within seconds

to enable a rapid response and the sprinkler system was immediately activated, tackling the blaze until Darwin Fire Station Crews arrived on scene.

NT Police charged the 45-year-old man in relation to the fire at TIO with:

- 9 counts of attempt murder
- Unlawfully set fire to building
- Intend serious harm by causing explosion
- Recklessly endangering life

Commissioner and CEO John McRoberts commended the actions of individual service areas within the Tri-service and the public, in managing the incident.

"The way Emergency crews took control of the incident and the way the public

responded in supporting these crews is at least one part of this shocking incident that we can all find some pride in.

"Fire and Rescue were automatically notified as the alarm system was activated. The sprinkler system was on when they arrived so after dealing with what was left of the flames, they were providing first aid with St John Ambulance.

"The alert was also sent through the executive floor of NAB Police Head Quarters resulting in all available Police attending, assisting with scene management including taking witness statements before people left the area," said Mr McRoberts.



Right top to bottom – left to right  
Commander Coleen Gwynne, Major Crime, at one of the many press conferences which attracted local, national and international media. Cmdr Gwynne assured the public that the TIO incident was a solitary incident by a disgruntled customer, not a terrorist attack on Darwin.

The inside of the TIO office suffered extensive damage from the exploding fuel and fireworks.

CCTV image - Darwin City  
CCTV camera locations.



# First Response Patrol Responding Well

by Senior Constable Gerd Mold

An initiative that started in June 2008, The First Response Patrol (FRP) is a daytime patrol that helps tackle anti-social behaviour in hotspots across Darwin and Palmerston.

The First Response Patrol runs 6 days a week from 6am to 2pm and to date FRP has;

- created 13500 PROMIS patrols and interventions
- engaged 46,500 persons (includes repeats)
- referred 3900 persons to other Government and Non Government services such as return to country, sobering up shelters, rehabilitation programs and short term accommodation.
- referred 1300 persons back to their communities.

As part of the FRP there is an anti social behaviour hotline number - 1800 272 111. The hotline goes directly to FRP mobile units during work hours and to the JESSC after hours. It enables the public to call and notify us of issues before they become a matter for police. It also brings to light some hot spots that may not be known. So far the line has taken 5800 calls.

FRP operates out of the Darwin Central

Office tower and is supervised by a Senior Constable. They assist in locating persons needed by police for court or as witnesses. Any Darwin or Palmerston member who is looking for someone should forward the information to FRP. They are in effect extra eyes on the street for the NT Police.

FRP works closely with other agencies and Centrelink Officers often ride along with members to catch people from the communities who have fallen off the radar in relation to welfare payments.

Accommodation is our biggest issue. Darwin is a big magnet for persons displaced for various reasons from their communities and, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine would suffer from similar issues. The issues in Darwin are complex and FRP is just one program to address these issues but it's a good program that is working well.

In late February a Palmerston community meeting praised the FRP for their work in the community promptly responding to local issues.

Well done and keep up the good work.



First Response Patrol team members (l-r) - Jack Roe, Karen Sawyer, Michael Long and Michelle Woodward.



First Response Patrol vehicles.

# Kate recognised for outstanding contribution

Kate Vanderlaan was announced the Patricia Brennan Awardee as part of International Women's Day on 8 March 2010.



The award recognises significant contribution to women in the Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

Police Commissioner John McRoberts said that the prestigious award was highly contested and Kate was chosen from a selection of highly commendable

representatives across the Police, Fire and Emergency Services Departments, including volunteers.

"I congratulate Kate on this significant achievement that recognises her outstanding contribution to women within our Tri-service. As always, the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Service is pleased to recognise contributions that support and encourage women within our organisation."

Since joining the Northern Territory Police Force in 1979, Commander Vanderlaan was the first Policewoman motorcyclist in Australia and has served in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. She also served at the College, in the crime area of Alice Springs, as the Commissioner's Staff Officer and is currently the Commander of

the Ethical and Professional Standards Unit.

Commander Vanderlaan was humbled when she received a nomination and was very pleased to be selected for this award.

"There is so much good work being done for women within the Tri service, it's humbling to be acknowledged for my efforts.

"I would like to thank the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services for the honour and am really proud to be receiving the award on behalf of all of the great women I have worked with across my career as a Northern Territory Police Officer," said Commander Vanderlaan.

Previous winners of the Award include Commander Anne Marie Murphy and Superintendent Helen Braam.



# MT GILLEN RESCUE

By Raechel Molloy, Operations Support Officer, NTES Southern Region

On Sunday 7th February, NTES Alice Springs Volunteers were called upon to assist St John Ambulance Paramedics with a medivac operation.



A 60yr old female had sustained a suspected fractured ankle and she, along with her friend, could not make it back down the walking track at Mt Gillen without medical assistance.

She was approximately 200 metres from the top of the mountain.

10 Volunteers from the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit were called in to attempt a stretcher rescue down the mountain. However, a situation report from St John's and the Volunteer Unit officer soon recognised the danger in trying to manoeuvre a stretcher patient on such a steep and rocky path.

It was clear the only way off the mountain was via helicopter. A machine was finally secured from Glenn Helen to perform the evacuation. Whilst the chopper was enroute, St John Paramedics and the NTES Volunteers found a suitable landing zone and proceeded to move the casualty to that location.

Both services ensured the casualty was kept comfortable and, upon arrival of the helicopter, worked together to load her for transportation to an ambulance on standby at the Larapinta School carpark. From there, she and her friend were conveyed to Alice Springs Hospital where they received medical treatment.

Everyone did an excellent job especially in the hot and humid temperatures. To some on the day, I am sure that mountain seemed twice as large and twice as high!

NTES Volunteers were later applauded via a letter from the Commission of Police and CEO of Fire and Emergency Service, Mr John McRoberts AMP.

#### Volunteers in attendance

Phil Walker - ASVU Unit Officer, Tim Fitzpatrick, Michelle Thomas, Bob Whitehead, Ian Smith, Geoff Weir, Alan Leahy, Shaun Wilkens, Sarah Shepardson, Sandra Johnson.





# In the spotlight Dave Lines

Late last year, Leading Fire fighter David Lines received the Chief Ministers Public Sector Award.

The first of these Awards, David was acknowledged for his commitment to the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, in particular his involvement with the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Training.

When presented with the Award, David could only acknowledge his team. "I have been acknowledged for my work as a team so it's only right that I accept this award on behalf of the great team at NTFRS.

"Without them, I wouldn't be here and without them we wouldn't be able to achieve such great outcomes," he said.

## **Tell us a bit about yourself Dave?**

I am 41. Born in Alice Springs. I am married with three children aged ten, seven and four this year. I did 8 years in the army before joining the fire service.

## **Why did you decide to join NTFRS?**

My father was a fire for 41 years and I knew how good the lifestyle was. I was looking for something outside of the army and decided it was fire or nothing.

## **Where have you worked within NTFRS?**

I operate in Darwin but have been to the track stations and Alice Springs in my role as an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) trainer.

## **Best thing about the job?**

The lifestyle and the camaraderie. Everyday is different and my co-workers are like family to me.

## **Biggest challenges?**

Nowadays it's staying fit and strong enough to remain effective operationally. When I first joined the biggest challenge was to get into the rhythm of shift work and also when you get out of recruits you find that there is a lot more to learn if you want to be a fire. How things are done on shift has its own culture and attitude and can change depending on who you're working with. Team work is essential in this job.

Also knowing that eventually there will come a time when the job we go to may involve loss of life or horrible injuries is a mental and emotional challenge that we're all faced with.

## **Most memorable moment?**

Marching out on graduation. I was one of 8 recruits to join the NTFRS in '98.

Responding to the Katherine Floods in 1999 was a great test and required all hands on deck. Heading off to India as an Australian representative was an honour. I am lucky to say that in my career there have been many memorable moments.

## **Scariest moment?**

There have been a few close calls with motorists when we have been responding to a call. That tends to get the heart racing.

## **A memory you'll never forget?**

Sadly, it is cradling the head of a four year old girl who had been thrown from a car that rolled on its side. She was inconsolable and unfortunately the ambulances were not available for about half an hour as they were all at other jobs. The good news is that the girl ended up OK.

## **Funniest thing?**

Having to cut a 19mm ring spanner from a part of the male anatomy. I'll let your mind come up with the visions of that one.

## **What do you do outside of work hours?**

Spend time with my family. I also instruct Australian Air Force Cadets, a youth organisation that gives kids an idea of the defence force through the RAAF. It's good fun.

## **What overseas trips have you done?**

I went to Singapore for an international USAR course. India in 2007 to represent Australia at the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group annual conference. Both a great experience.

## **What have been the most noticeable changes in the community since you've been with NTFRS?**

Its getting bigger ... fast. The number of call outs is increasing and with more traffic on the road sometimes getting to the incident can take longer. We have also been given the responsibility of callout to rail accidents since 2004 as well as the industrial side of the city growing adding to the overall scope of possible accidents, spills, collapses etc. We have been very lucky as there have been some near misses that could have been a lot worse. Tower crane falling onto a building with no injuries being an example of an incident where it is a miracle no-one was hurt, or worse - killed.

## **Proudest achievement?**

Being a part of developing USAR in the Tri Service. It's still ongoing but definitely a step in the right direction.

## **Could you ever work 9-5 again?**

I'd rather not but as I get older I am expecting that it will be inevitable.

## **What's next for Dave?**

The same thing for as long as I can. There's still a lot to do and I do enjoy what I do.



## 2009 Chief Minister's Public Sector Medal recipient - David Lines

As part of the Northern Territory Government's commitment to excellence in the public sector, the Chief Minister's Public Sector Medal is a prestigious medal designed to recognise an employee's outstanding and meritorious public service. Up to ten medals will be awarded each year by the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.

## **What is the Medal awarded for?**

Outstanding and meritorious service is the definitive criteria for the Medal. Outstanding and meritorious service includes service above and beyond the normal requirements of the position, a special achievement or success in the performance of duty in difficult or unusual circumstances, or sustained high level performance by an individual with a focus on outcomes and recognisable benefits to clients, to Territorians and to the workplace. The length of an officer's service in the Northern Territory Public Sector is not sufficient basis for nomination.

From the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, nominated Leading Fire Fighter (LFF) Mr David Lines was awarded the 2009 Chief Minister's Public Sector Medal for his outstanding and meritorious service in the development and implementation of the Northern Territory's Urban Search and Rescue capability.

LFF Lines joined the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service in 1998 and has been an exemplary firefighter from the beginning.

Mr Lines' main achievement has been his invaluable support of the Urban Search and Rescue training. This program is an Australian Government funded initiative where all fire services across Australia were required to develop a response capability as a result of global disasters.

Mr Lines designed and supervised the training facility and played a significant role in determining the equipment. He is also a member of the National Urban Search and Rescue working group representing the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, and has also travelled to India to represent Australia and the Northern Territory at the International Urban Search and Rescue forum.

He has been a leader in preparing and training fire fighters, paramedics, doctors and emergency service volunteers in Urban Search and Rescue skills and techniques and is one of only three qualified Advanced Vertical Rescue Instructors in the Territory.

If the Territory is ever faced with a major disaster, Leading Fire Fighter Lines will be integral to the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue's response and recovery.



Above Dave proudly receives the Chief Minister's Public Sector Award. Left 'Adversity' in Singapore with Dave in charge of a multinational team the team tasked with rescue and tunnelling for about 30 hours. Far Left David in charge of his team in Singapore for exercise 'Adversity'.



# thanks and praise

The Commissioner and CEO officially recognised the following extraordinary people for their hard work and dedication over recent months.

## A Commissioner's Letter of Recognition was awarded to:

**Senior Auxiliary Ken Williams** on being selected as the 2010 Auxiliary of the year.

**Senior Auxiliary Bridie Holmes** for her contribution and commitment towards the enhancement of the Auxiliary Training Package.

**Mr Tommy Nichols and Mr Robbie Risk** in recognition of the exemplary service demonstrated in assisting members of the Territory Response Section during the search for 11 year old, Briony Goodsell.

**Senior Sergeant Gavin Kennedy, Andrew Demetriou, Morgan Dowell-Wise, Conor McCue, Samuel Jessep, Tre Calma, Daniel Gibson, Tiernan Anderson, David Paull, Shaun Wilson, Matthew Hibble** for their courageous efforts and quick thinking in responding to a report of a drowning involving a 13 year old boy that occurred at Rapid Creek.

A Commissioner's Unit Commendation was awarded to the **Territory Response Section** in recognition of conspicuous performance during the search for, and recovery of 11 year old crocodile attack victim Briony Goodsell.

A Commissioner's Commendation was awarded to **Constable Duy Bui** for his commendable actions and personal courage which no doubt prevented a man from serious injury or death.

The Northern Territory Office of the Coroner expressed their thanks to the **NT Police Force** for their excellent, thorough and detailed work in relation the SEIV 36 inquest.

The Northern Territory Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions extended their thanks to **Senior Constable Deanne Ward** for her professionalism and assistance with a recent trial.

## Letters of Appreciation were received for:

**Dr Mark Leedham and the Northern Territory Police Disaster Victim Identification Team** for their professionalism and tireless work in assisting with disaster victim identification in the aftermath of the Black Saturday Bush Fires.

**Acting Superintendent John Ginnane and the Casuarina Operational Service Division** for their professional actions and response to the multi-phase operation which aimed at targeting offenders and stopping the sale of dangerous drugs in Nightcliff.

**Brevet Sergeant Ray Musgrave and Senior Constable Paul Harvey** for their professionalism in response to dealing with the recent flooding of the Sandover River and the subsequent drowning deaths of two residents.

**Constables Keenan Quinsee and Adam Threlfo** for their professionalism and understanding when responding to a domestic dispute.

**Acting Sergeant Sean Stanley, Constables David Garland and Dennis Hogan and the staff at the Casuarina Police Station** for their professional and friendly assistance when attending a 'Safe Party'.

**Sergeant Rob de Vos and Constable Ray Stedman** for their prompt response to a young man who had been injured in Maningrida.

**Senior Constable First Class Rian McGill and other members of the NT Police** who attended a house fire on Bagot Road, for their assistance and understanding following the incident.

**Sergeant Warren Jackson and Senior Constable Steve Dalrymple** of the Territory Response Section for their participation and assistance during an Emergency Coordination Exercise.



