

THE

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# DRUM



**AUGUST 2004**



# Commissioner's statement for The Drum

This month, the Tri-Service will celebrate the Public Safety Expo, which is a valuable opportunity for the organisation to demonstrate what we are all about.

Under the theme, *"Together Protecting Our Community"*, the organisation will demonstrate our partnerships with the community to make the Territory a safer place to live.

I encourage all staff to attend the Expo and bring their families and friends. A number of activities are organised to reflect the diversity of this great organisation.

August also marks 12 months on from the timely assessment of the Northern Territory Police Force from former Queensland Police Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan. The *Building Our Police Force* program is progressing well, with additional funding improving our organisation and delivering a valuable service to Territorians.

In the same vein, the METIS review has also seen a new direction for the NT Fire and Rescue Service and I am pleased about the exciting future as these recommendations also take effect.

Finally, several police, fire and emergency service personnel have received honours in the past three months, and I congratulate them on their significant achievement. These honours recognise the valuable contribution that our members give to the community – both on and off duty.



**Paul White**  
Commissioner  
CEO Fire and Emergency Services

## Quality effort

Camp Quality was the winner when 25 members of Recruit Squad 77, course co-ordinator Sgt Dave Bishop, Brevet Sgt Gavin Kennedy and Commander Mark Coffey took part in the annual Darwin City to Surf run in June.

The squad wore singlets identifying them as police and entered two teams in the 12km main event and two teams in the 4km run.

The squad won the team event in both runs despite recruit Paul Milne stopping during the 12km race to help a fallen competitor from another team.

The team voted to donate its winning prizes to Camp Quality and is pictured presenting the money and gift certificates to Heather Helms.



*The Drum* is the official magazine of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services. **Copyright:** contents of the Drum must not be copied without the Editor's permission.

Stories and photos by Sue Bradley, Peter Cain, Chris Cooper, Andrew Cummins, Theresa Kuilboer, Gino Robb and Todd Sinclair. Front cover: Police Boat *Aspley* on the Darwin Harbour. Back cover: ACPOs Bernie Devine and Shaun Lew Fatt at the Mindil Beach Markets. Design and artwork by Kris Lee. Next deadline: 30 October 2004.

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# High tech recruits for Police and Fire

**Two new 7.4-metre boats, the *Aspley* (pictured right) and *Robinson*, have become the latest recruits to join the Northern Territory Police Force.**

As part of the *Building Our Police Force* plan, NT Police Commissioner Paul White handed over the boats' keys to the Officers-in-Charge of the remote communities, Pirlingimpi (Garden Point) and Borroloola.

"The purchase of these boats is part of the \$1 million, four-year coastal vessel program that will see fast response boats stationed at key points around the Northern Territory coast," Commissioner White said.

'At the end of the program, boats will also be stationed at Gove, Port Keats and Ngukurr, with resources also based at the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section in Darwin.'



The boats will provide police officers with the ability to attend to any incidents off the Northern Territory coast quickly and effectively such as responding to the activation of Emergency Response Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs).

Local companies Oceanmaster Marine NT and Territory Marine have built the boats - costing more than \$130 000 each - with their construction overseen by Mr Steven Blair. Each boat is powered by a 140 horsepower, four stroke Johnson motor.

The *Aspley* will be the first police boat ever stationed at Pirlingimpi, and is named after the Aspley Straight - the stretch of water between Melville and Bathurst Islands.

The *Robinson* will replace *Borroloola* / at Borroloola, and is named after the Robinson River.

Police boats are not the only new piece of equipment that has joined the ranks of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.



Fire Service recruits now have a dedicated pumper to train with after Fire and Emergency Services Minister Paul Henderson handed over the keys to the new appliance last month.

The \$300,000 medium range pumper is part of the Government's major appliance replacement program.

The pumper will also be used for training operational fire fighters in new techniques and in fighting fires in Darwin and Palmerston as required.

The pumper is built on an Isuzu cab chassis and is able to carry 2000 litres of water and 200 litres of foam compound.

# Chris flies high at championships

**NT Police officers tend to come from a wide variety of backgrounds and among those with one of the more interesting pre-police careers is Alice Springs-based Constable Chris Brand.**

Chris, 30, recently competed in the Australian National Rotor Craft Championships held at Bond Springs Station north of Alice.

He took out two gold medals, two silver and a bronze, flying his single-seat mustering gyrocopter.

Chris has been flying since he was 15 years old, when he won a scholarship with a crop-dusting company in South Australia.

After flying crop-dusters for a time he gained his commercial pilot's licence and has since worked in areas such as search and rescue, fire bombing, agriculture work, mustering, commercial charter and regular public transport operations.



Chris Brand's gyrocopter before take off

He has also flown gliders, paragliders and hang gliders. In 2001 he left commercial aviation to pursue a career in the NT Police Force but has maintained his commercial fixed wing licence ever since.

In 2003 he broadened his aviation experience by attaining his gyrocopter licence.

"A gyrocopter is a cross between a

fixed wing aircraft and a helicopter," Chris said.

"I find this type of flying very challenging and enjoy the fact I can hover over an area and take photos. I also enjoy the fact you don't need an airstrip to operate from."

Chris's machine is powered by a Subaru engine and can fly at speeds of between 15 and 150 kph and at an altitude of up to 9000 feet.

In April this year Chris was among 24 pilots to compete in the national championships.

He competed in five events and took out medals in each one. He won a gold medal for navigation

and observation, another gold in the speed estimation event, a silver in carrier deck landing, another silver in the forced landing event and a bronze in the estimated take-off distance event.

"The navigation and speed estimation competition involved flying to specified coordinates and making observations," Chris said.

"Pilots are also required to inform officials of estimated fuel burn and time to fly the route.

I estimated it would take me 21 minutes to complete the course and that my machine would burn nine litres of fuel. I ended up taking 21.5 minutes and burned 10 litres of fuel."



Constable Chris Brand with his awards

Overall, Chris came second in the Australian championships and said he was looking forward to competing in the titles again in Cooma, NSW in 2005.

The South Australian Police Service (SAPOL) is hosting the International Policing Conference 04 (IPC04) in Adelaide from 1-3 November 2004.

The conference, entitled Safety and Security in a Hi-Tech World, aims to attract between 600-800 delegates worldwide from police services, the military, corrections, the IT industry, law and policy makers.

The conference is the first of its kind in Australasia and includes a number of national and international guest speakers.

For information, contact Tom Rieniets on 08 8463 7663, mobile 0402 323 634 or e-mail [thomas.rieniets@police.sa.gov.au](mailto:thomas.rieniets@police.sa.gov.au).



# Public safety XPO



**Thousands of people are expected to attend the Peter McAulay Centre on Sunday 22 August for a special day that will showcase the work of all sections that make up the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.**

The Public Safety Expo will be a community event focussing on the strength, diversity and preparedness of the Tri-Services.

The event will be a showcase of the assortment of tasks carried out by Tri-Services members every day and the skills they possess to meet these demands, Commissioner Paul White said.

"The Expo will play a vital role in the long-term recruitment strategy of all emergency services," Commissioner White said.

"By demonstrating the diverse roles within the Tri-Services, we hope to highlight the multitude of career opportunities available within these areas.

"It is also an excellent way to show members of the public that the Tri-Services are ready to cope with any situation that may occur."

A similar event in June 2001 was a combined venture by NT Safe, Police and the Police Ethnic Advisory

Group, setting the scene for the new, improved expo.

More than 11 000 people attended and the one-day event was declared a huge success. By moving this year's event to late August, the expo will be competing with fewer other dry-season activities and it is expected even more people will attend.

There will be activities and demonstrations all day to keep the crowds entertained.

The Territory Response Section will be on hand with a few surprises and as the Mounted Police demonstrate their control of a rowdy group. Our newest recruits will display their athleticism on the obstacle course and our rescue teams will join forces to save a motorist from a burning vehicle.

With a blue light disco for the kids, as well as pony rides and a jumping castle, it promises to be a day of family fun.

Wherever possible local non-profit community groups are providing catering, cleaning, car parking and rubbish removal services. This means, that, with the exception of a few commercial caterers, money spent on the day is returned to where it is most needed in the community.

A variety of not-for-profit organisations relating to public safety and our theme of 'Together Protecting Our Community' will also display at the Expo.

## The team behind the Expo

Event Manager:	Sharon Hutton, phone 8922 3545 or 0401 116 652
Expo Project Team:	Superintendent John Emeny (NT Police and Chairman)
	Senior Sergeant Dean Moloney (NT Police)
	Peter Cain (Acting Media Manager)
	Patrick Horner (NTES)
	Mark Cunningham (NTES)
	David Pettit (NTFRS)
	Malcolm Hayes (NTFRS)



# Taskforce Mosquito

***Mosquitos are irritating creatures that sting when you least expect it.***

And that's how criminals in the Darwin region felt when they became the targets of a special established Taskforce aimed at anti-social behaviour in or near public entertainment areas, group-related violence and associated property and drug-related crime.

*Taskforce Mosquito* was an idea generated through police management to use intelligence led policing to catch criminals and drive down crime.

Intelligence-led policing has become a catch phrase in law enforcement. It refers to the analysis of available information through internal and external contacts. From the examination of this "intelligence", identified targets or strategies to reduce crime are planned and finally, those plans are implemented after approval for those in charge.

The Taskforce, involving just nine police officers, delivered amazing results during its existence including:

- ➔ a 29% reduction in unlawful entries into homes
- ➔ a 47% reduction in unlawful entries into businesses
- ➔ a 23% reduction in offences involving motor vehicles
- ➔ a 32% reduction in criminal damage.

Among the impressive statistics gained by the Taskforce were more than 450 prosecutions, \$440 000 worth of stolen property being returned and offenders being charged with theft to the value of \$630 000.

"Credit must go to the members that served in the Taskforce," head Mosquito, Sgt Tim Moseley said.

"Criminals don't work 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday so these officers

worked long and unusual hours. And they never let anything go, constantly chasing leads and using the informant network to crack down on crime."

One trait developed by Mosquito was targeting recidivists, with police statistics showing a small percentage of all criminals commit the majority of crime.

"These repeat offenders became known to Mosquito members but we came to be known to them as well," Sgt Moseley said.

"Seeing Mosquito members would serve two purposes – either remove the person's thought of offending or take the offender out of their comfort zone so if they did break the law, they would make a mistake, and we would be able to catch them out."

Sgt Moseley recalls one of the great successes of Mosquito occurred when members were recalled to work to investigate damage to windows in Darwin's CBD caused by slingshot-equipped criminals.

"Mosquito was assigned the task, and members assembled at Casuarina at 5.30pm. We used all the facts to identify about 15 suspects and then hit the road."

"By 9.30pm, we arrested two people in a car that were on their way to dispose of the items used to break the windows such as slingshots."

"Of all my time in policing, that has to be one of the most satisfying moments because we were given a very difficult task and our members were able to deliver within four hours."

Commissioner Paul White said he was extremely pleased by Mosquito members, recently recognising the achievements of each member with a commemoration plaque.

"The results attained by Mosquito demonstrated the value of intelligence led policing. Their success has delivered the concept of the tactical team, which has been set up in Darwin, Palmerston and Casuarina."

Taskforce Members were: Sergeant Timothy Moseley, Senior Constable Rodney Godden, Senior Constable Robert Dyball, Constable Brent Warren, Constable Tanya Thurlow, Constable Jamie Cairncross; Constable Dominic Hodgson; Constable Elisha Dicker; Constable David Young; Constable Peter Henwood; Constable Cameron Turnbull; Auxiliary Emma Suradi.

**ANOTHER** recent success was Operation Midji held during the June/July school holidays which saw offences for unlawful entries, criminal damage, shop stealing and interfering with motor vehicles significantly drop compared to the same period last year.

During the operation, police from the Casuarina Tactical Team increased their patrols of shopping areas in Casuarina, Dripstone Cliffs, Nightcliff Foreshore, Karama Shopping Centre, parks and laneways and the suburbs.

Police data from the operation, compared to last year, showed:

- ➔ reports of unlawful entries dropped by 55 per cent (39 in 04, 94 in 03)
- ➔ 14 less offences for criminal damage (40 in 04, 54 in 03)
- ➔ nine less offences for shop stealing (24 in 04, 33 in 03)
- ➔ 34 less offences for interfering with a motor vehicle (54 in 04, 88 in 03)
- ➔ 18 arrests
- ➔ 215 checks on people's bail conditions with 15 found in breach of their conditions
- ➔ 32 traffic infringement notices issued.



# Remote Communities Drug Strategy

**A crackdown on illicit drugs in remote communities has become a major focus of the Northern Territory Police with the release of the Remote Communities Drug Strategy.**

A proliferation of drugs, particularly cannabis, into the Territory's remotest areas has seen police take a fresh approach to combat the flow of illegal substances into indigenous communities.

Commander George Owen, of the Major Crime Division, said the need to focus on remote communities was identified at a recent planning forum examining methods to further reduce crime across the Northern Territory.

"The trade of drugs in remote communities is a growing problem and the impact of drug abuse has serious implications on a community," Commander Owen, the architect of the strategy, said.

"Money that goes to buy drugs is money taken away from the community and its members."

So how prevalent is the problem? Senior Sergeant Tony Fuller, from Groote Eylandt, recently addressed an international drug conference in Alice Springs about the impact of drugs in his district.

"Substance misuse in this district has and continues to be the primary catalyst for the majority of crime in the district," Snr Sgt Tony Fuller said.

"Anecdotal evidence from past and present members has suggested that cannabis use has risen significantly in the past 10 years. Current members' observations and information received from victims

and offenders would indicate that the majority of houses in the indigenous communities is affected by cannabis misuse. The majority of houses would have some indication of use by discarded deal bags and or evidence of bucket bongs."

Armed with these facts, the *Remote Communities Drug Strategy* is an important tool in preventing the flow of drugs into communities, and in turn, improving living conditions in these areas.

Key to the strategy is the formation of a remote communities drugs desk, headed by Detective Sergeant Andy Smith from the Drug Enforcement Section.

The desk is specifically tasked to look at drugs in remote communities by collating intelligence on principal offenders, coordinating operations and chairing a regular Tactical Coordination Group meeting for the exchange of information with the Officers in Charge of remote community stations.

The desk is supplemented by the work of intelligence analyst Constable Eric Edgecombe, who will record results and interpret data for a more streamlined and effective approach by police.

Information coming from this desk will see Operational and Crime Command staff work together to target the traffickers and users of illicit drugs and exchange information that could assist in arrests and seizures.

"Police have never neglected the flow of drugs in the Territory's communities and remote members

***"The strategy will help police to develop informants, plan their operations, execute search warrants (with or without Crime Command support), and incorporate tools such as asset forfeiture as part of the process."***

*Commander George Owen*

have done a great job in making many significant arrests," Commander Owen said.

"However, this policy allows us to be more strategic and specifically target those offenders responsible for trafficking in illicit drugs. Initial work by a remote station OIC and the Remote Community Drug Desk members has identified one suspect who is notionally unemployed but has moved \$100 000 in cash in the last 12 months and is purchasing three houses."

The strategy will be implemented in three parts.

**Phase One** will concentrate on gathering intelligence about the movements of illicit drugs in remote communities. It will also include an education campaign for police members unfamiliar with drug operations.

"We want members in remote areas to embrace this strategy and be part of the operation," Commander Owen said.

"The strategy will help police to develop informants, plan their operations, execute search warrants (with or without Crime Command support), and incorporate tools such as asset forfeiture as part of the process."

"We will provide remote community members with training in areas such as developing informants, warrant execution, correct handling of

*(continued on p10)*



## Call Centre goes live

A new police hotline received a baptism of fire when it was introduced in the Territory on June 30.

The following night was Territory Day – cracker night – traditionally one of the busier nights of the year for police, fire and emergency services call takers.

NT Police Commissioner Paul White said the new Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre (JESCC), a direct outcome of Building Our Police Force plan, has greatly streamlined the process of crime and incident reporting and the better provision of first level contact for victims of crime.

"The introduction of the Call Centre has enabled the reporting of crime to be more convenient for the public," Commissioner White said.

"Established processes have reduced the referral to local police stations for crime report taking, making the process more effective for the public and more efficient for police."

The project will be implemented in two phases to ensure a smooth uptake of new business practices.

Currently, the JESCC is answering 95 per cent of "000" emergency calls within 10 seconds – significantly higher than national standards.

The first phase of the Call Centre project became operational on 30 June, with an increase in services to the public.

To staff the new call centre, 15 JESCC Police Auxiliaries began training in April and completed their Police College induction training before undergoing specialised computer and 'customer service' training.

Two supervisory Sergeant positions were also created.

Information, Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure was also upgraded including:

- replacement and upgrade of the Automated phone system
- upgrade of the Police digital radio system to incorporate separate radio sectors for Palmerston and rural areas
- additional Computer Aided Dispatch workstations for the Call Centre area of JESCC; and
- the implementation of the 131 444 number across the NT, in line with the national standardised number for 'non-urgent' police contact. People reporting non emergency crime will be able to use this number from 30 June as it is phased in throughout the Territory.

"By November this year, the call centre should have a full complement of staff in line with the O'Sullivan recommendations, being 14 staff positions and four supervisory Sergeants," Commissioner White said.

"This will be the completion of the second phase of the Call Centre project to address the needs of victims of crime and reduce data input by operational officers, enabling them to be more readily available for response work and pro-active patrols."





# Bike patrols hailed a success

***When the Northern Territory Police began, the horse was the chosen mode of transport.***

More than 130 years on, a new “horse” is winning the war against crime in the suburbs.

The bicycle has become an integral cog of police operations to reduce anti-social behaviour in Darwin suburbs. And bike patrols have been hailed a great success by NT Police.

Constable Luke Phyland, with Aboriginal Community Policing Officer Phil Perkins, are currently on the beat in Palmerston. Their bikes, 24 speed Mongoose mountain bikes are as crucial as their accoutrement belt or radio.

Bike patrols are also being used effectively in Casuarina and Alice Springs.

“The public support for the concept has been tremendous,” Constable Phyland said.

“We have had many people, such as shopkeepers, come up to us and say they appreciate seeing police on bicycles because it reinforces our presence in the community.”

Superintendent Greg Dowd, of Palmerston and Rural Operational Service Division, said crime and other anti-social behaviour had decreased since the patrols came into effect.

“Bike patrols were introduced in Palmerston in November 2003. They are one of several long-term patrolling strategies being used at this station that are having positive impacts on crime and anti-social behaviour,” Supt Dowd said.

“The members get off the bikes and ride on buses to ensure there are no problems with the public transport system. They walk through the shopping centres and assist on managing some of the issues there and they can move through the parks and lanes in the suburbs quite quickly and quietly when they need to.”

“We have found that the community is very supportive of the initiative and that they find police are more visible and approachable within the community.”

The Shop Distributive & Allied Employees’ Association, who protect the interests of workers in the retail sector, strongly endorsed the work of bike patrols and believe it has reduced crime and increase the safety for retail workers.

“Our members welcome the presence of the bike patrol members. They believe their presence significantly reduces the anti-social behaviour around the retail areas,” said senior union representative Varenia Mohan-Ram.

Riding up to 20km per day, the Palmerston bike patrol cover the streets and business district but will also head bush to monitor people who flout the law away from the public’s eye.

“We have the ability to go where itinerants gather to drink,” Constable Phyland said.

“We also target the (Palmerston) bus exchange especially when school has finished for the day to ensure everyone is behaving themselves.”

“We often lock up the bikes at the exchange, and ride the buses as well. The bus drivers appreciate the support we give them.”

“We regularly walk the bikes through the shopping centre to increase the profile of police in the community.”

The bike patrols work either day or evening shifts. Bike patrol members perform their duties for 10-15 weeks before the role is rotated to other officers.

The bike patrol has the advantage to access areas where patrol cars can’t. While foot patrols remain effective, police on bikes can attend a scene or incident much more quickly.

Police wear cargo shorts and caps as opposed to the normal uniform.



# A man for all emergencies

**Northern Territory Emergency Service Manager for Southern Region, Iain Burns, recently graduated at a ceremony at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, NSW.**

Iain has become the first NTES staff member to undertake the Bachelor of Social Science (Emergency Management) degree course, which aims to develop a practical, as well as theoretical base for those people who have responsibilities in the field of Emergency Management.

“The primary focus of the degree are the principles and practices associated with prevention, preparedness, response and recovery aspects of emergency situations,” Iain said.

“It has taken me five years to complete the studies through distance education, and at times trying to juggle study, assignments and exams with work and family

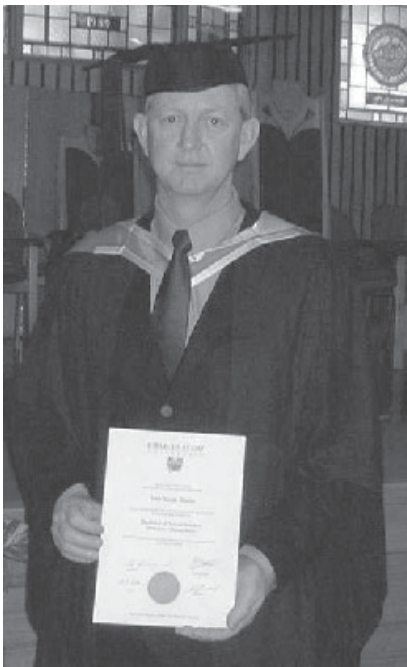
commitments was difficult and frustrating.

“Nonetheless, it is very rewarding in the end.”

The 24-unit course included units in emergency management (PRRR), psychology, psychotraumatology, sociology, business law, human resource management, community analysis and organisational management.

Iain completed the degree course 12 months ago, but it was not until May this year he formally graduated. He undertook the course with the financial assistance provided through the PFES Study Assistance Scheme.

“I feel the degree will not only benefit myself as far as future advancement prospects are concerned within the field of emergency management, but it will also benefit the organisation,” Iain



said.

“I can also highly recommend this course to anyone contemplating a long-term career in the field of emergency management.”

## Remote Community Drug Strategy (cont'd from page 7)

exhibits and maintaining a strong intelligence network. At the conclusion of the training we will provide these members with a kit that will provide a ready reference for this specialised area of police work.”

**Phase Two** will concentrate on specific operations in remote areas to target drug traffickers and users. Both operational police and Crime Command detectives will be involved.

The **final stage** will review the success of the strategy and suggest any improvements for future operations.

Already, there has been a strong signal from the courts of their support to prevent the trade of drugs in communities. In sentencing a man

for planning to sell more than 350 grams of cannabis to a remote community, Chief Magistrate Hugh Bradley said:

“The courts have said they will make it tough for people who trade in drugs to communities.”

“They must send a strong message to those who would contemplate engaging in this contemptible trade.”

Commander Owen said the strategy has a multi-jurisdiction element to it as well.

“We have spoken to police in South Australia and Western Australia about the strategy and the need to work together in the exchange of intelligence. For example, offenders

in Adelaide operate from the Pitlands in South Australia through to the southern part of the Northern Territory.”

Police in remote areas have warmly welcomed the strategy. Eight bush stations including Ntaria, Papunya, Yuendumu, Maningrida and Groote Eylandt were involved in the strategy’s development.

The recent announcement by the Government to fund a drug dog squad by the end of the year will further strengthen measures to detect the movement of illicit drugs.

More information on the strategy is available from Detective Sergeant Andy Smith. The remote communities drug desk can be contacted on (08) 8922 3224.



## Cultural connections awarded

***In February of this year, Senior Constable Peter Garard received a national award recognising his efforts in working with various ethnic groups throughout Darwin.***

Peter was presented with the Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau (APMAB) award by Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham.

The APMAB award is for excellence in the advancement of partnerships between police and multicultural communities,

"Peter's efforts has bought credit to himself and the NT Police and this award is a worthy recognition of his achievements in cross-cultural policing," Mr Wernham said.

In 2002, Peter, a School Based Constable, assisted in the establishment and running of the Youth Affirmative Action Group, which was created under the auspices of the Ethnic Services Section.

He attended group meetings on Saturday afternoons and assisted in lecturing the group on aspects of personal development, leadership, social justice and law issues.

Peter has also significantly contributed to a better relationship between police and ethnic youth, while also continuing to offer support and guidance to the Police Ethnic Services Section.



*S/C Peter Garard and Deputy Commissioner Bruce*

Additionally, he supervised youth camps and sporting events in his own time and assisted at 'Tent City' during the East Timor crisis, further strengthening ties with communities.

Peter, currently based at Nightcliff High School, has been a member of the NT Police Force since 1989. He has worked in General Duties, CIB and with the Crime Prevention Unit.

## Distance doesn't deter Brad

***Constable Brad Woosnam has been awarded the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment Remote Workforce Development Scholarship for government employees in remote NT communities.***

The scholarship entitles Brad to participate in professional development including research, distance education, courses, training or workshops with funding made available for travel, accommodation, text books etc. The total value of the scholarship is \$5000.

Brad has taken the distance education option to study for a Batchelor of Social Science, majoring in Psychology through University of New England, Armidale, NSW.

Conducted on a part-time basis the course would normally take seven years to complete,

however, Brad said he wanted to complete the course earlier if possible.

"What this scholarship has done for me is paid for all my travel and accommodation costs, even paid for a hire car from Sydney to Armidale for residential school," Brad said.

"Without this funding I would have found it too costly to undertake this degree at the University of New England, which was the only university to offer the course externally at the time.

"I would then have had to wait until the degree was offered externally through the Charles Darwin University."

Brad started his career with the NT Police in 2002 after a career as a self-employed refrigeration mechanic. He was 37 years old at the time and said he'd just had enough of the industry and was

looking for a challenge and career change.

"It had always been a dream of mine to become a police officer but it just never happened. All my friends were doing apprenticeships so when I was offered one, I just took it. But luckily, after all those years it still wasn't too late to join at 37, and I haven't looked back."

Brad, 39, has been stationed at Yuendumu community (290km north-west of Alice Springs) since July last year. Wife Kim, 33, is a nurse and works at the Yuendumu Community Health Clinic. The Woosnams were due to have their first baby at the end of July.

"I'm hoping this degree will advance my career in the police force and give my family and I a better future," Brad said. "Without the scholarship program the opportunity to study would still have been a long way off."

# Rocky named Territorian of the Year

Darwin resident and Fire Station Officer Ken “Rocky” Couzens was named Territorian of the Year at the Territory Day celebrations at Parliament House on 1 July.

The Leader of Government Business, Paul Henderson, presented Mr Couzens with his award on behalf of Chief Minister Clare Martin.

“Rocky is well known to Territorians for his tireless involvement in fundraising for many charities, associations, funds and appeals across the Territory,” Mr Henderson said.

“One of his key commitments is to the legendary annual NT Fire and Rescue Seniors’ Christmas Party, of which he is a founder and remains a dedicated organiser.

“An outstanding athlete, Rocky is also regularly called on to inspire other Territorians with motivational speeches at functions and before sporting finals.

“A dedicated NT Fire and Rescue fire fighter, Rocky truly deserves to be Territorian of the Year and I congratulate him on this honour.”

Perhaps it was fitting that Rocky received his award on Territory Day – as one of the handful of licensed fireworks handlers in the Territory, his skills are always in high demand on 1 July every year.



*Station Officer Rocky Couzens receives his award from the Hon Paul Henderson MLA*

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## APM a career highlight for Gary

When Commander Gary Manison was growing up in Victoria, his imagination was fired by his father’s stories of serving in the Northern Territory during World War 2. “There was a bit of adventure attached to the place,” Cdr Manison said.

Cdr Manison was to have plenty of adventures in his own after he joined Northern Territory Police in October, 1976 and that career of service saw him receive the Australian Police Medal in this year’s Queen’s Birthday honours list.

Now Commander Southern Region, Cdr Manison has served at Darwin, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Groote Eylandt and Alice Springs and has served two stints with the Australian Bureau of Intelligence in Canberra, most recently as deputy director.

Operationally, Cdr Manison headed the counter disaster operations for

the Victoria River floods in 2001 and Operation Zeal, the multi-agency response to the 2002 demonstrations at Pine Gap. He also commanded the operation that culminated in the capture of “Postcard Bandit” Brendan Abbott in 1998.

But for all those professional achievements, receiving the APM is something Cdr Manison cherishes. “This award represents a high point in my career,” Cdr Manison said.

Meanwhile, Emergency Services Medal winner Steve Twentyman dedicated receiving his award in the honours list to the hundreds of volunteers he has trained since joining NTES in 1981. “Every operation that volunteers become involved with is special - I admire their commitment,” Mr Twentyman said.

Mr Twentyman joined NTES as a storeman but was later trained in operations and has been heavily involved in training for several years.

The other NTPFES member to be named in the honours list was Superintendent Michael Van Heythuysen, who received the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the ethnic communities of the Northern Territory.

Supt Van Huythuysen recently retired after a 25-year career with NT Police.

Snr Sgt Greg Lade, who was named in the Australia Day honours list, received his Australian Police Medal from Administrator Ted Egan at Government House in May.



# New tricks for snappy pics!

***A new photo processor in the NT Police's forensic department is making light work of the heavy demand for its services.***

The Fuji Frontier 340 is a state-of-the-art photo processor. It is capable of producing a print from a negative within 90 seconds while a hardcopy of a digital image can also be produced quickly.

With the introduction of digital cameras, the Forensic Science Section urgently required the capability of processing the increasing number of digital images submitted to the Photography Section while maintaining the ability to process the thousands of images stored on traditional film. The newly acquired equipment easily accommodates both tasks.

Laboratory manager Chris Cooper (pictured right) said the machine, which cost \$210 000, has made the reproduction of images easier.

"We are now working off the final product rather than the negative, which gives us greater flexibility to produce a crisp and clearer image,"



she said. "It now takes about 90 seconds to produce a print from scanning the negative, compared to about four minutes with the old machine."

Victorian and South Australian Police currently use the same technology with the WA Police Force considering purchasing the Fuji film processor.

The forensic's photo laboratory services all divisions within the NT

Police such as the Drug Enforcement Section and Road Safety. It also prints all films from the Territory's police stations.

In addition, the laboratory services the Department of Public Prosecutions, the United Nations (Timor), the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Customs Service and NT Prisons.

The laboratory produces more than 50 000 images each year.

## Peter helps grant Marc's wish



*A happy young Marc Hutton shakes the hand of Brevet Sergeant Peter Anderson after he was handed airline tickets recently for his mum, dad and sister Amanda to go to visit Adelaide.*

*It's all thanks to his Darwin grandma, Helen Pocock, and the Make a Wish Foundation.*

*Two months ago, his grandma wrote a letter to the foundation telling them how much 10-year-old Marc wanted to see his Little Nan.*

*The foundation came to the rescue and NT Brevet Sergeant Peter Anderson had the pleasure of presenting the tickets to the family as well as giving Marc a ride in a police car.*

# Information Technology Upgrade Project

***The Tri-Service has undergone major but welcomed change since the publication of the O'Sullivan and Metis reports.***

And this change for the better continues with the implementation of the *Information Technology Upgrade Project*.

With recognition that the NTPFES could improve its information technology equipment, the Tri-Service's Information Communication Technology (ICT) branch has commenced the process to place our organisation at the forefront of the technology highway.

This process include upgrades to the systems, visual representation and the implementation of BRIO.

Employees would be already aware that numerous "behind the scene" upgrades have been undertaken to benefit the end user. It is recognised that that some staff will experience some frustrations with inconvenience caused by these improvements but the changes will be an increase in security, functionality and reliability.

The information technology upgrade project is going to bring some exciting changes to NTPFES. It is an undertaking to upgrade all computers in NTPFES to the newest technology platform.

As part of this project, staff will see the following changes to their desktop computer and the systems they use on a daily base, such as:

- an upgrade to Microsoft Office 2003 (Word, Excel and Powerpoint).
- an upgrade to Microsoft Outlook 2003 (email).
- an upgrade all desktop computers to Windows XP.
- a consolidation of Access databases to provide a centralised approach to support and management.

The Police Real-time On-line Management Information System (PROMIS) will also be improved, and users will notice changes including the way PROMIS looks. Upgrades will include:

- PROMIS Stolen Property;
- Tasking in PROMIS;
- Stolen Motor vehicles;
- Linking has been simplified and is easier to use;
- Security has been enhanced through improvements in audit ability and accountability.

A new version of Microsoft Office 2003 (Word, Excel and Powerpoint) will replace the current version, which is Microsoft Office 97. The upgrade of the Microsoft Office product will improve staff's capabilities by providing increased features like:

- a new dynamic "look and feel" of Powerpoint, equipped with extra features;
- the ability to compare documents side by side in Word and Excel;
- new methods to track changes made to any document;
- statistical functions in Excel;
- document recovery;

- copying and pasting between documents;
- ability for multiple users to work on same document at the same time.

To prepare for this upgrade, computers that operate without Windows XP, and are operating on Windows NT, are now planned for replacement. This will begin in July and is expected to be finished by September 30 this year, and is expected to see about 500 computers replaced. Computers that already have Windows XP will remain unaffected.

Criteria for an upgrade is quite straight forward, and people in the Tri-Service do not need to do anything themselves. A detailed schedule will be provided through the Intranet. Criteria for an upgrade are:

- If your computer is older than three years, it will be replaced.
- If your computer is less than 3 years old and does not have Windows XP installed, it will get a memory upgrade & Windows XP installed.

The standard for the replacement computers is Windows XP with a 15" flat LCD monitor.

Following the upgrade of the computers, and Microsoft Office, the email system will also be revamped. Users will have the benefit of numerous new functions and it will be different to use. Enhancements include:

- Mailbox cleanup and archiving;
- Calendars;
- Prioritisation of emails;
- Message notification;
- Sharing of email and calendars;
- Document searches; and,
- A new Outlook Web Access interface.

As part of the upgrade, a review of databases used by the Tri-Service staff will be undertaken. In recent years, the number of databases has grown to almost 4000, and this has become unmanageable from many points of view. With the introduction of Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation, there is a need to rationalise databases spread across the organisation. All databases will be developed and maintained by the ICT branch, which will result in a balanced and prioritised system that meets FOI requirements.

To ensure that staff are equipped to handle this IT upgrade, staff will be consulted with the requirements for training and adaptation for the change in the applications. The new IT system will be trialed at Palmerston Police Station.

From this, a training program will be developed to:

- Have on-line training as well as class room training if required;
- Input from business units, by way of consultation, to achieve an improved technology environment;
- A roadshow of NTPFES sites by ICT staff to further inform staff, explain the changes and answer any questions.

Although major upgrades have already occurred, we will now integrate all our servers with Windows 2003 Server that allows for increased security and simplifies the management of our large fleet of servers.



# McPhee named Police Officer of the Year

**Sergeant Glenn McPhee from Darwin is the 2003 Rotary Police Officer of the Year.**

Police Commissioner Paul White said Sgt McPhee was selected from a strong field of contenders for the prestigious annual award, which is a joint venture

between Northern Territory Police and the Darwin Rotary Club.

"Glenn's nomination and subsequent selection as the Rotary Police Officer of the year is a fitting tribute to his career with NT Police," Commissioner White said.

Glenn (pictured below centre) joined the Northern Territory Police Force in September 1984 and will celebrate his 20th anniversary this September.

After his training, Glenn spent six months at Nhulunbuy and then a short stint in Communications before commencing in the Territory Response Section where he still serves.

He has worked extensively in CIB, Drug Enforcement Unit, Marine and Fisheries and relieving at numerous bush stations. He also spent six months as the District Commander of Bobonaro Timor as part of the United Nations peacekeeping effort in East Timor.

Glenn has many skills in the field of Search and Rescue and has participated in several high profile searches.

"Some of my more memorable experiences include the search for Clinton Liebelt, the recovery of Sergeant Jason Lindsay's body who drowned at Oenpelli and the rescue of Shaun Blowers and Ashley McGough from the floodwaters of the Finniss River," Sgt McPhee said.

He is currently leading the Underwater Recovery Team in the search for remains on the *Booya*, which sank during Cyclone Tracy.

Glenn has also provided dignitary protection for many notable persons including the Queen and former United States President, Bill Clinton.

He has served with Norforce and as a diver with the Royal Australian Navy Reserve for the past 15 years. Glenn is also a qualified rugby referee and a Wallaby fanatic.

Glenn was surprised to be nominated for the Rotary and Community Police Officer of the Year. He thanked the Rotary Club of Darwin for the honour and the people who nominated him.

"With all the good work being done by police officers out there every day, it's humbling to get the award," he said.



## Nights to remember...

**Two special events later this year will be special occasions for present and past members of Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.**

The social committee of the Royal Darwin Emergency Department is organising the inaugural black tie OOO Ball at Darwin's Holiday Inn on the Esplanade on Friday 5 November.

The committee is expecting about 300 people to celebrate the hard, amazing work that NTPFES, St John Ambulance and Health Department staff achieve on a daily basis.

For details, contact Rebecca Edwards at Royal Darwin Hospital on 8922 8408.

On Christmas Eve, hundreds of former NTPFES staff, Defence Forces members and members of the public are expected to attend a special dinner to mark the 30th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy.

The dinner will be held at the Darwin Turf Club and organisers have been inundated with inquiries from locals and people who came to Darwin to help the massive clean-up and rebuilding efforts.

Several displays, including one from the NTPFES Historical Society, will be set up at the dinner and then be on public display at Parliament House during January.

For information, contact Robyn Smith at [robyn.smith@nt.gov.au](mailto:robyn.smith@nt.gov.au) or Peter Cain at [peter.cain@nt.gov.au](mailto:peter.cain@nt.gov.au).





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