



Commissioner's message

In 2005, several themes underpinning the diversity of the Police, Fire and Emergency Services came to the fore and had a significant impact on our collective work effort. I am referring to events involving natural disasters, terrorism, substance abuse and personal violence.

From the outset, the Tri-Service offered support to the recovery effort following the tragic Asian Tsunami and it was not long before a handful of members were on the ground in Thailand assisting with disaster victim identification. Closer to home, many Tri-Service members responded around the clock to the threat posed by tropical cyclone Ingrid – a severe cyclone which varied in intensity between category three and category five.

Further reminders of the havoc wrought by natural disasters came to us through the devastation of cyclone Katrina in New Orleans and the earthquake in Pakistan. Although not involved in these global incidents, we were able to take stock of our planning, preparation, response and recovery mechanisms in light of the approaching cyclone season.

Nowadays, the spectre of terrorism is ever present and a great deal of work was undertaken throughout the calendar year to better ready ourselves should such an act occur on Australian soil. One important event on the counter terrorism agenda was our involvement in the running of a major exercise code-named 'Outer Edge', with up to 800 participants.

In reflecting on the Bali bombings in October, the Royal Darwin Hospital must be recognised for its outstanding response to those who were seriously injured, however, everyone should be very pleased with the quietly efficient manner in which the Tri-Service prepared itself to coordinate action on the ground in Darwin.

2005 was also a year in which the police force strengthened its response to illicit drugs, alcohol related crime and personal violence, especially through the Remote Community Drug Desk initiative and the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy. Both strategies are producing outstanding results and reinforce our vision of a safer community.

Support for our strong commitment to drug law enforcement was also evident in two recent Australian research studies showing linkages between illicit drugs and crime and mental illness. Illicit drugs are clearly linked to criminality and mental illness, with huge social and financial costs to the community; so we must continue to do all we can to fight the menace of illicit drugs.

Two important strategies were launched by the Fire & Rescue Service in 2005: a Fire Reduction Strategy and a Community Safety Strategy. Both highlight the critical nature of fire reduction strategies and key result areas. And both demonstrate the important and broad ranging role of fire fighters, from education and prevention, through to community engagement and response to incidents.

In closing, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the work of all Tri-Service personnel and wish you and your families a safe and prosperous Christmas.

Paul White APM

Commissioner of Police and
CEO Fire and Emergency Services

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FRONT COVER:

'Star' by Aboriginal Community Police Officer Brendan Monck. In Koongurrukun culture, Kimugutji is the bright star. It is a representation of intelligence and aspiration of hopes and dreams.

BACK COVER:

NT Police Mounted Patrol's Sen Const Angela Stringer and Const 1/C Samantha Charlton near Parliament House

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PPV Beagle Gulf hits the water

The biggest boat in NT Police's fleet has hit the water.

The 14-metre PPV *Beagle Gulf*, at a cost of \$440 000, has been refurbished to suit the needs of the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section (MFES).

Purchased as part of the Building Our Police Force plan, the boat is an important ingredient to enhance the ability of Police to respond to incidents along the NT coastline.

The vessel has a fuel capacity to cover 530 nautical miles and will be used for fisheries enforcement, search and rescue missions and general marine safety.

The *Beagle Gulf* will operate up to 30 miles offshore and

will be based in Darwin with the ability to travel to coastal regions.

In 2004-05, MFES participated in 60 search and rescue incidents, performed 1670 checks of recreational fishers, 283 checks of commercial fishers, 513 boat safety checks and 87 patrols of boat ramps.

Commissioner Paul White said "Territorians have a love of the water but like our roads, there is always the potential for disaster so we must be in a position to respond to emergencies."

"Police are responsible for enforcing the *Fisheries Act* so our commitment to ensure all fishermen, both

commercial and recreational, are meeting fisheries requirements continues. Access to remote areas to conduct fisheries enforcement will be greatly enhanced with the introduction of the PPV *Beagle Gulf*."

By the end of 2007, the NT Police Fire and Emergency Services will have at least eight vessels over 7.3m in length stationed at key points around the NT.





Billy the kids' choice for NAIDOC award

ACPO William (Billy) David is up in the air with his Palmerston NAIDOC Award 2005 as recognition of his work with local young people in the area.

The NAIDOC Committee has acknowledged Billy David's 'outstanding contribution to the community' through the local Indigenous people.

Billy (pictured left) has been an Aboriginal Community Police Officer for four years and is especially passionate when he talks about helping steer youngsters away from harmful substances and anti-social behaviour.

"I wasn't an angel myself when growing up and I tell them where I went wrong and there are many better ways that the boys and girls today can use their skills, particularly in sport," he said.

ACPO David said sport teaches youngsters the importance of working as a team and Indigenous role models play a vital part also in encouraging children to set life goals and to try to achieve their highest ambitions.

"I persuade the boys to play rugby and I make it clear they must be disciplined on and off the field. If they misbehave off the field then they can't play the game correctly, because teamwork means others are relying on them to perform properly."

"Peer pressure and bullying can impact on whether boys and girls go to school and I'm working to fix that and the choices they make and direction they take are often determined by the standards set by parents," he said.

ACPO David said it's his responsibility to talk with local children; gain their respect and confidence; identify their strengths and weaknesses and channel their energy into programs that are creative and useful.

"I recall being on a bus talking with Indigenous children and a girl was telling me that she was shy and afraid to speak up and through my encouragement, she gradually gained in confidence and today that same young woman now holds down a really

good job," he said with pride.

NAIDOC panel member Ms Tania Blackmore said Billy David had been nominated by the young people of Palmerston for his outstanding service to the community and their comments inspired the commendation.

"He is the best cop in the NT we know and he treats us normal," and "he tries to understand the youth and is a good role model to us," and "he tries to keep us kids off the street and out of trouble," the children said.

Noel Gokel heads off on Churchill Fellowship

Sgt Noel Gokel will soon be jetting to the United Kingdom to study 'Policing in Culturally Diverse Communities' after being awarded a Churchill Fellowship earlier this year.

A Churchill Fellowship is the award of an opportunity, through provision of financial support, to enable Australian citizens from all walks of life to travel overseas to undertake an analysis, study or investigation of a project or issue that cannot be readily undertaken in Australia.

As the Officer in Charge of the Police Ethnic Advisory Group, Sgt Gokel will be looking at programs and initiatives that improve policing in culturally diverse communities, including strategies to increase recruitment from diverse communities in order to add value to police and community interaction.

Noel will spend eight weeks visiting police throughout the United Kingdom, liaising with police officers from Cultural Diversity Units in Kent, South Yorkshire, Essex and London Metropolitan. Upon his return, Sgt Gokel will present his findings and recommendations to both the Churchill Trust and NT Police.

DVI experts receive letters of recognition

NT Police Commissioner Paul White recently presented letters of recognition to several NT police officers, who travelled overseas in support of Australia's response to the Boxing Day tsunami disaster in South-East Asia.

Seven NT Police officers and a forensic biologist performed Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) duties in the Information Management Centre in Phuket, Thailand through coordination by Australian Federal Police.

The secondment of the officers recognised the Northern Territory's expertise in the international DVI procedures, which requires formal identification of the deceased using accepted standards such as verification through DNA,

fingerprints and dental records.

Commissioner White said Territorians could be proud of the response by the Northern Territory Police Force to the disaster.

"The identification process is a difficult and demanding exercise which can only be successful if properly carried out by highly trained officers," Commissioner White said.

"This work is not pleasant but at the same time, there are rewards for our officers in assisting relatives and friends in the grieving process. The call for help to the NT Police Force recognises their high level of training and expertise."

"I praise the work of the NT Police –

and other police officers from other jurisdictions – who have worked on this operation."

NTPFES members who travelled overseas were:

- Sergeant Antony Deutrom
- Brevet Sergeant Anne Lade
- Senior Constable Jo Warden
- Senior Constable Kerry Harris
- Senior Constable Pauline Setter
- Constable John Bowen
- Forensic biologist Justin Howes
- Sergeant John Moloney (former NT police officer)

Senior Constable Setter and Constable Bowen were the last rotation of NT police officers to visit Thailand. They returned in mid June.

Sgt Deutrom said while the experience was personally challenging, it was also rewarding to be part of the international response to one of the largest ever disasters in our region.

"The tsunami resulted in phenomenal physical and emotional devastation. Out of the distress and despair, the survivors and families of the victims can find some comfort in the fact that DVI personnel worked tirelessly to correctly identify their loved ones in the months that followed," he said.



ABOVE L to R: Constable Pauline Setter, Commissioner Paul White, Forensic Biologist Justin Howes, Constable John Bowen, Senior Constable Kerry Harris, Senior Constable Jo Warden and Sergeant Antony Deutrom

Senior Constable Jeffrey Hicks has retired after 31 years of distinguished service.

During his career, Jeffrey served in General Duties, Rural Relieving, Communications, Information Bureau, Support Services and the Property Office.

A recipient of the 30 Year Northern Territory Police Service Medal and the Bar to the National Medal, Jeffrey (right) is pictured here with Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne.



Balancing cultures all part of the job for Lorraine

The second woman ever to become an Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) recently received a bravery award from the Australasian Council of Women and Policing (ACWAP) at its Darwin conference.

Timber Creek ACPO Lorraine Jones was awarded the honour for the role she plays in the community, continually balancing the traditional culture and law of Aboriginal people with the legal requirements of her position.

Lorraine was nominated for the award by Superintendent Helen Braam who was impressed with the successful relationships Lorraine has forged as a traditional woman in a non-traditional role.

"She has shown great courage, commitment and determination to improve the lives of those she has been involved with, often in stressful and violent situations" the Superintendent said.

Lorraine is often faced with dealing with disturbances that involve her large extended family, who often feel her loyalties should lie with them as family and not with enforcing the 'white man's law'.

A dramatic example of this very issue was reported upon in *The Weekend Australian* in November 2000.

Lorraine in her capacity of then president of the Ngaliwurru-Wuli Community Council, chaired a tribunal which sought to deal with ongoing anti-social issues within the community caused by alcohol misuse.

Lorraine's role required that she determine punishments for alleged offenders which may have involved banning them from the town's local hotel (part-owned by the council), or sentencing them to periods of only light beer consumption.

This non-traditional and innovative method of community policing brought Lorraine into direct conflict with her family members particularly when they were the alleged offenders.

"Her moral bravery and determination in the face of incredible family and often community pressure is admirable and deserving of accolades" said Superintendent Braam.

The Sergeant at Timber Creek at the time, David Hutchinson, said of Lorraine: "She shows an exceptional amount of moral courage while maintaining and enforcing the law, while balancing family commitments."

Lorraine is highly regarded amongst her peers and her community which she serves unselfishly and with great pride. She has overcome incredible adversity to provide inspiration and pave the way for all women.



ABOVE L to R: Sen Const Jenny Roe, ACPO Lorraine Jones and Sen Const Rosanna Breed

Media intrigue with croc attacks

The two tragic fatal crocodile attacks – one at Groote Eylandt and one on the Coburg Peninsula in September created huge media interest locally, nationally and internationally.

The media unit received calls from British press, John Laws program and a range of other media outlets in relation to the two attacks.

Officers involved with the investigations had significant demands placed upon them for media interviews.

Interestingly, the number of visits to the web site for September jumped to 5085, compared to 2451 for August, demonstrating the significant interest in the attacks.



NPY's work receives recognition

At the recent Australasian Council of Women and Policing's (ACWAP) Excellence in Policing Awards held in Darwin, a Central Australian community organisation received a commendation for their work.

In the category 'Excellence in policing for women initiative', the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council were highly commended for their work in improving the policing of crimes against women.

The community council was described by the ACWAP judges as "a group of strong women, who have exhibited their hope and determination by their continued efforts to highlight their communities' issues, to lobby governments and to provide outstanding services to the people of their Lands."

The NPY Women's Council brings together women in the region to exchange knowledge about traditional culture, perform ceremonial dances and discuss the issues affecting their way of life. The most urgent of these issues include domestic violence, substance abuse, youth suicide and childcare.

Among the services provided is a highly successful domestic violence



ABOVE L to R: Margaret Smith, Dr Jenny Fleming and Jane Lloyd

service which complements the work of law enforcement. This service acknowledges the difficulties many women in their communities have in reporting this violence to the police and takes the stance that domestic violence will not be tolerated among their people.

It has also established a petrol sniffing support project, in response to this serious issue in many indigenous communities throughout Australia, coordinating

a series of forums for the exchange of views and ideas on the subject.

The council employs 30 people and delivers services to more than 6000 men, women and children.

The relationships it has forged through its involvement in consultative committees and forums has provided a voice for women that allows them to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.



ABOVE: Commissioner Paul White with flag bearers at the ACWAP Conference

Agencies repond to Bali bombings

By Andrew Cummins

NT Police, as the agency in overall command of Northern Territory counter disaster planning and response, were quick to act following the Bali bombings.

Commissioner Paul White said the response by all agencies was exceptional.

"Senior police were advised of the Bali bombings on Saturday night and immediately established the Emergency Operations Centre at Berrimah to coordinate the emergency response under the Region One Counter Disaster Plan that covers Darwin," he said.

"Our aims were to ensure the Northern Territory was on standby to assist in any treatment of casualties and monitor the security environment in the NT in the wake of the bombings."

Commissioner White, who acts as Territory controller for major counter disasters, briefed government officials and notified members of the Counter Disaster Council on the night of the bombings. He also spoke with AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty to offer

NT Police support for any Australian response.

An NT police team, including AFP detectives, was assembled to meet the first scheduled flight back from Bali following the bombings – this ensured that anyone with information about the bomb blasts was spoken with. As further flights arrived in Darwin, detectives greeted passengers in the attempt to gain as much information as possible.

The Council Disaster Committee, chaired by Acting Commander, Greater Darwin Region Peter Gordon, sat three times during the incident. Members of that committee include key government and non-government agencies covering areas such as medical (including Royal Darwin Hospital), welfare, transport and Australian Defence Force.

"This is the operational arm of the NT counter disaster response," Commissioner White said.

"In this forum, we can ensure that the key group leaders have appropriate arrangements in place."

Regular police patrols attended the airport and hospital to ensure smooth transport of patients. The Emergency Operations Centre at PMC Berrimah remained open until late Tuesday night.

Commissioner White praised all police, and other non-police personnel for the response.

Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham and representatives of the Department of Chief Minister participated in a teleconference of the National Counter Terrorism Committee following the bombing.

Brad interprets for Bali victims

Constable Bradley Mead became an invaluable asset in the wake of the Bali bombings on 3 October, leaving his regular Target Team duties at Palmerston LPO to act as an interpreter for two Japanese nationals who were victims of the bombings for several days.

Communications were unable to contact the listed local Japanese interpreter and Superintendent Greg Dowd, who was managing the Emergency Operations Centre at the time, suggested one of his Palmerston members, Brad Mead, as a viable option.

Brad became an integral part of the communication process, developing a rapport with a victim whose wife was killed. He was able to gain a great deal of information from the Japanese national regarding the bombings, and Australian Federal Police continued to use his skills the following day.

While Brad has no qualifications as an interpreter, he has a Japanese wife and lived in Japan for eight years, some of which was spent teaching English.



NT Police in Alice Springs provided escort for a state funeral recently. **PICTURED ABOVE L to R:** (on bikes) Sen Const Steve Wedding, Const Shane Humphreys, Sgt Russell Ruehland and Sen Sgt Bruce Porter (lead sedan)

Little fire truck has no big ambitions

The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service welcomes the newest edition to its fleet

By Sharon Hutton

Jock the fire truck is a miniature version of a full scale fire service vehicle designed with children and little hands in mind.

Fully road registered, the vehicle has working red/blue emergency warning lights, a three-tone siren, locker lights, flashing headlights and is equipped with a ladder, 12 metres of hose, hose reel, water pump, 40 litre water tank, five lockers housing a variety of child sized equipment including a trauma teddy, full first aid kit, fire helmet, stand pipe, spade, axe and pick (sharp tools all permanently secured to vehicle), portable hazard lights, torch, spare hose, fire extinguisher and radio.

The cabin of the vehicle carries a CD player, two-way radio and dash panel with coloured switches coordinated to flashing roof lights (red, blue, amber), a pressure switch which, when pressed, enables conversation with another person or Jock.

The mini fire truck, the brain child of Public Education Officer Glenda Ramage, is designed to aid the NTFRS in teaching young children about fire and fire safety and to enhance the current School Based Education Program.

The driving forces behind the development and construction of the fire truck were Station Commander Jock McLeod and Mr Bloo Campbell, Fleet Manager of the NTPFES Mechanical Workshop.

The marvellous work of Aaron Scott, whose forte is structural welding, can be seen in the body work of the vehicle and George Theodorou, Workshop Foreman, and a number of other staff members from the workshop have all made their mark in one way or another. Auto electricians Ellis Stroud and Carlos Aberasturi, also joined the team and donated their skills and many hours of their own time to the project.

The construction of the vehicle began in earnest in January 2005, and for many Tuesday nights through to the end of the July, the lights burned late in the workshop as construction of the body took place.

It is built on an electric golf buggy with construction material and fittings donated by many organisations, including a \$5000 donation from Isuzu-General Motors Australia Limited.

At the launch of the vehicle in August, Director of Fire and Rescue Services Bruce Mouatt thanked the many people who contributed with donated materials, equipment and time, who helped fit it, fabricate it, wire it and paint it.



Firefighter Jarrod Berrington takes Jock for a test drive

Remote community policing has its rewards

Of all the bush stations in the Territory, Hermannsburg (N'taria) has the most colourful history

By Theresa Kuilboer

The birthplace of famous Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira, Hermannsburg attracts thousands of tourists each year.

The community is 125 kilometres from Alice Springs and has a population of around 600 people, most of whom belong to the Western Arrente language group.

Hermannsburg was developed in the late 19th century as a Lutheran Mission, and many of the historic buildings have been preserved to this day.

Hermannsburg is also renowned for its indigenous art industry. Many of Albert's Namatjira's descendants continue to paint in the tradition of the "Hermannsburg school" and their skills are recognised world-wide.

About 20 kilometres from Hermannsburg is the world famous Palm Valley which is an idyllic retreat in the Central Australian desert that attract tourists from around the world. Kings Canyon (Watarrka) is about two hours drive away and is another popular tourist area.

The Hermannsburg community itself has a primary school, two stores, a community council and a church. There is also a health clinic with five permanent nurses and a visiting doctor. Medical students also regularly rotate through the clinic as they gain valuable experience in indigenous health.

The police station is staffed by one Sergeant (OIC) and two Constables as well as an Aboriginal Community Police Officer.

The police compound offers secure housing for police in the form of two four-bedroom houses and one two-bedroom house.

Members stationed at Hermannsburg gain valuable experience in policing indigenous

communities. The Ntaria police district covers about 7000 square kilometres of land, most of which takes the form of pastoral leases or national parks. Policing this area offers the diversity of working with tourists, pastoralists, workers at the Mereenie gas and oil fields, and, of course, Aboriginal people.

The station is one of the busiest remote stations in Central Australia and members make regular patrols to Areyonga, Wallace Rockhole, Glen Helen and Kings Canyon.

Hermannsburg is a dry community and police work constantly to keep liquor out and avoid alcohol-fuelled domestic violence.

To combat the problem, Police have a close relationship with elders in the community and regularly attend council meetings to ensure a strong partnership with community leaders.

Attending motor vehicle accidents is also a large part of the work of Hermannsburg members. This is partly because of the remoteness of the area and the large number of tourists travelling in the region on unfamiliar terrain.

Over the last few years police have also made a valuable contribution to the quality of life of young people in the community.

Police have been strong supporters of the OzKick program that was designed to foster Australian Rules Football in Indigenous communities. Now, during the off-season, police are actively involved in fostering cricket in the community. The cricket program is sponsored by Milo and provides equipment to indigenous communities.

Constable Reece Baldwin has been stationed in Hermannsburg for about five months. During this time he has become actively involved in



promoting sport for juveniles and is currently helping the sport and recreation officer deliver the cricket program.

"Every Tuesday after work we get together with the kids in the community and show them how to play cricket. There are usually between 15 to 35 who show up and their ages range from about six years-old to 13-years-old."

While cricket is not as popular as football (Hermannsburg is deemed the home of Aboriginal community football) cricket still attracts good support from the community.

"There just isn't anything much for the kids to do, so any time we offer them any sort of sport they jump at the chance," Reece said.

Reece said he had always wanted to work 'out bush', and considered Hermannsburg a challenging career move.

"Everything I'd heard about Hermannsburg from the other members was all positive stuff, so I asked for the posting. I've found there is a great range of things to do, from patrols to Kings Canyon and Palm Valley to rescuing lost tourists and stopping domestics, it's all been a great experience. And of course we're living in some of the most picturesque country in Australia.

"I'd recommend anyone to come out to Hermannsburg. It's not only great experience from a policing perspective, but I've found it a great cultural experience as well."

Borderline fundraising at Avon Downs

By Theresa Kuilboer

Avon Downs' Sergeant Bob Materna may have a patrol area equal to about half the size of Victoria, but that doesn't stop him finding time to raise money for charity.

Bob and his wife Beryl have raised more than \$13 000 for charity over the four years they have been stationed at Avon Downs with most of the money going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The funds are the proceeds of the

annual Avon Downs Cricket match, State of Origin nights and monies raised through Beryl's Driver Reviver stand. The Driver Reviver stand runs from a disused tracker's house at Avon Downs, and is the only one to run year round.

Donations from travellers who use the stand are contributed to RFDS every year.

The Avon Downs cricket match held each March has become legendary on both sides of the border and

attracts people from stations around the Avon Downs area as well as from Queensland.

This year the event raised \$3500, of which \$3000 was given to the RFDS and \$500 donated to sponsor bullrides at the Camooweal and Brunette Downs rodeos.

The Maternas are very big on getting involved with their community, no matter where they are stationed. Beryl is also a volunteer with the Northern Territory Emergency Service and through that work has come to truly value the work of the RFDS.

As Beryl puts it: "We might be just a small community at Avon Downs but it's amazing how much you can raise for charity if you put your mind to it. And we like to think that our efforts go some way to continuing to support the much-needed services of the RFDS. The way we see it, they support us and we support them."

L to R: Constable Trevor Howie (left), driver reviver and NT Emergency Service volunteer Beryl Materna and Sergeant Bob Materna present RFDS auxiliary member Joy Larchin with \$3500 raised from the Avon Downs cricket day and driver reviver stand.



Goldfingers...

Superintendent Colin Smith (right) and Sergeant Richard Martin were invited to Warrego Mine, 50 km west of Tennant Creek by Giant's Reef Foreman, Brynn Delfos, to watch a gold pour (below).



Lee's engaging career

The daughter of a fisherman; the first married mother to become an NT Police Officer; a secondment to East Timor in 2000; recipient of the Australian Police Medal in 2005 ... just some of the defining factors of Sgt Lee Gage as **Sandra Mitchell** found out

Lee Gage has been with NT Police for 27 years and joined in the first year that women were employed with equal opportunity to male officers.

After graduating from her 12 week recruit course, Lee spent only a couple of weeks on the road in general duties before moving into CIB.

In that area, she was not groundbreaking in relation to women in policing, as prior to the equal opportunity intakes, women had been used solely in roles dealing with women and children, much of which fell under the umbrella of major crime.

"I had no problems whatsoever going into CIB and subsequently remaining there. They were already indoctrinated in to having women work with them and I was extremely happy with the reception I got from CIB," Lee said on the eve of her departure for long service leave.

Almost half her career was spent working in crime – an area in which she made a name for herself for her thorough investigations and high rate of apprehensions and prosecutions in particular in relation to investigations relating to sexual and physical abuse.

"There really have been too many rewarding investigations to name them all, I really can't pinpoint any particular case to highlight," Lee said.

It was during her time working in the area of sexual assaults that Lee started researching how to deal with the victims of such cases.

"I realised very early in the piece that there was limited training available to assist me in dealing with these people. It wasn't scoffed at, but it appeared it wasn't a necessity, at that time, to train police women in how to deal with the victims of sexual assault. As a result I requested permission to commence lectures at the police college in an attempt to enlighten other colleagues of my experiences and of how to deal with women and child victims."

The department was extremely receptive and as a result she began delivering 40 minute lectures, then 80 minute lectures ... and then half-day instruction....

Lee recalls one specific case in which a young boy was killed that changed the face of legislation in the Territory in relation to mandatory reporting conditions for child abuse.

In 1981, a young boy was reported as abducted from Kurringal Flats, but when Lee and others started interviewing the parents, "it just didn't gel".

"In the end, the de facto 'coughed' that he had been responsible for the child's death. The unfortunate part about the incident was that it appeared authorities had previously been aware of the abuse of this child and in deferring action, the child died before positive intervention occurred."

"He had apparently presented at the hospital during the week and it was found that he had healed fractures which were suspect. While action was being considered for follow up, an incident occurred on the Saturday afternoon that resulted in the child being fatally abused. In continuing with the false report of child abduction the parents had taken the child to a nearby airstrip where he was left discarded until located the following night.

Lee said that the case changed the face of legislation in the Northern Territory about mandatory reporting conditions of child abuse.

"When I first joined, there were limited agencies to assist in the support

network required when investigating child and serious assault matters – we didn't have the support agencies and services we have now and as a result our role as an investigator encompassed that as counsellor, support officer etc...it was pretty much full on".

While working in CIB, Lee was the recipient of a National Police Research Award and chose to study child abuse and video technology in the court room environment in NSW, Victoria and the ACT.

"When I came back I felt I had an obligation to the department to do something with the award, so I chose to leave CIB and requested a transfer to the police college to put into place some of the things I had learned."

During her two years as an instructor, she developed a two week Sexual Assault Investigators Course which



ABOVE: Lee as a fresh-faced recruit in 1978



ABOVE: Lee's ready to put her feet up

included writing the first manual on the subject, to assist other colleagues in investigating physical and sexual abuse matters.

An interesting event in her career was being part of the response group to attend the Pine Gap demonstrations in 1983.

"There were 10 or 12 women sent to Pine Gap with members from, what was then called Task Force. The women were instructed to wear dresses and that long trousers were not a consideration. The strategy was that in placing the police women in the front line, would depict a 'soft, feminine' approach to the protestors rather than a male dominated response. I have to say to some degree it worked."

Lee also played a minor part in the Chamberlain case after the disappearance of Azaria at Ayers Rock.

"I travelled to Sydney and Mt Isa with the investigating officers involved in that case. It was just interesting to be a part of it, but my role was very minor," she said.

Lee has worked in many areas throughout her career, but her time in general duties was cut short after she suffered a serious assault in Tennant Creek in 1994. She was assaulted only a matter of months after taking up her position in the town and, while she talks about not being seriously injured, the effect of having to crawl under a car to escape her attackers and deal with the aftermath of the prosecution in relation to the matter weighed heavily on Lee.

"There have been other members assaulted in that town, but I suppose it seemed a bit more serious because I was a female. The person involved was prosecuted and it's too small a town to be assaulted and then prosecute someone without retribution or intimidation, so the department transferred me back to Darwin" Lee said.

After that, Lee spent a short time at the college before moving to the position of officer in charge of the Information Bureau.

From there, in 1997 Lee moved to the Professional

Responsibility Command as an investigator and has spent the remainder of her career in that position.

In 2000, Lee put her hand up to be part of United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) with the Federal Police in East Timor and spent three months on secondment exhuming bodies, establishing identities and trying to apprehend perpetrators.

She described her time in East Timor as an exceptional experience.

"It was pretty daunting digging up a designated grave and being able to see by the state of the corpse that the person had been buried alive," she said.

Whilst working on eight murder enquiries, during her three month secondment, which she described as being long and protracted investigations, she states she also managed to solve and arrest an offender in relation to a murder committed whilst she was working in the town of Liquica.

"In that case the autopsy on the victim was conducted with the aid of a hacksaw – that was an experience. Whilst I was the photographer during the course of the autopsy my colleagues had to physically assist the doctor when using the hacksaw. At the time we were in a room with no air-conditioning, with the windows open ... it was pretty daunting."

Her career has been capped by being awarded the Australian Police Medal earlier this year, which, in Lee's words, "blew me away".

"It never occurred to me that that would happen. It was very flattering. What floored me most was the knowledge that someone had to nominate you. I was therefore flattered that someone out there thought I was worthy of nomination. My family got a big kick out of it, as I did - it was the icing on the cake," she said.

Lee was farewelled on 16 September, taking long service leave until her retirement date on 17 March next year.

With a three-year-old granddaughter, another grandchild on the way and the potential to help her partner, Neil McNab with his earthmoving business, Lee may struggle to find time for her next project – a book on her life experiences.

"I joined the Northern Territory Police Force at the age of 26 with a five-year-old in tow. I had a nursing background and a life, at that stage, already full of extreme experiences which included losing everything during cyclone Tracy and being evacuated out of Darwin - but that's life," she said.

There is still much more to the Lee Gage story – too much to be able to fit in a Drum article - but I suppose there's also a need to leave some stories untold for her book.

Pat heads for the coast

By Katie Woolf

After 15 years as the Northern Territory's Emergency Services educator, Patrick Horner has retired, taking with him knowledge and experience which will be sorely missed.

Arriving in Darwin in 1973, Pat began working with the government in the Department of Construction at two and a half mile depot after cyclone Tracy. After stints with the Property Branch and Water Resources, he became an educator for the Road Safety Council and from there he went from Road Rules to Emergency Services.

Quickly becoming well known in the Northern Territory as the face of Emergency Services, Pat was the only person to educate for the whole of the Northern Territory up until a year ago and says "if you had have told me after cyclone Tracy I was going to educate for Emergency Services I would not have believed you."

Living in Tiwi at the time Tracy hit, Pat says having first hand experience of going through such a destructive cyclone has made him feel and believe what he preaches.

"That was a category four cyclone; I don't want to go through a category five. I have been to the museum at Bullocky Point but I won't go through the cyclone Tracy tunnel where they have volume because that sound just brings back memories."

Since beginning with NTES in 1990 Pat has seen a long list of natural disasters both threaten and hit the Territory but says the year which stands out the most was 1998, the year Katherine flooded and cyclone Thelma threatened Darwin.

"The cyclone that stands out was Thelma which was a category five. Fortunately it didn't hit Darwin, but all staff become operational in a situation like that and I did something like 48 radio and television interviews over two days from all over the country".



ABOVE: Pat Horner (right) with the Met Bureau's Ross Evans

Pat has a long history with cyclones in the Northern Territory and if asked to recollect the year and name of cyclone he responds like a human history book.

"When you think of the natural disasters we have had such as the flooding in Alice Springs and earthquakes in Tennant Creek, let alone the whole coast line being affected by cyclones and flooding, I have had to be kept abreast of all sorts of disasters."

Of course many of Pat's historical accounts include Emergency Service volunteers who he regards as "a breed of their own."

"I don't know where they get the dedication from, they are unbelievable and they do it all for the community. If we didn't have volunteers of any sort, especially in Emergency Services, the government would not have the man-power in some of these situations."

"When Ingrid was coming we were all battenning down, but after the event, well you imagine if the Emergency Services weren't around. They went out there in adverse conditions and they were just unbelievable."

While Pat had hoped retirement would mean the end of his long association with cyclones and natural disasters, his relocation to cyclone prone North Queensland could mean he has not seen the last of those gusty winds and heavy rains.

"I have already contacted the Bureau of Meteorology to get history on cyclones in Cardwell, and thankfully most go to Cairns."

While Pat says he will miss all the wonderful work colleagues he has had over the years, he will not miss the stress which has accompanied the job.

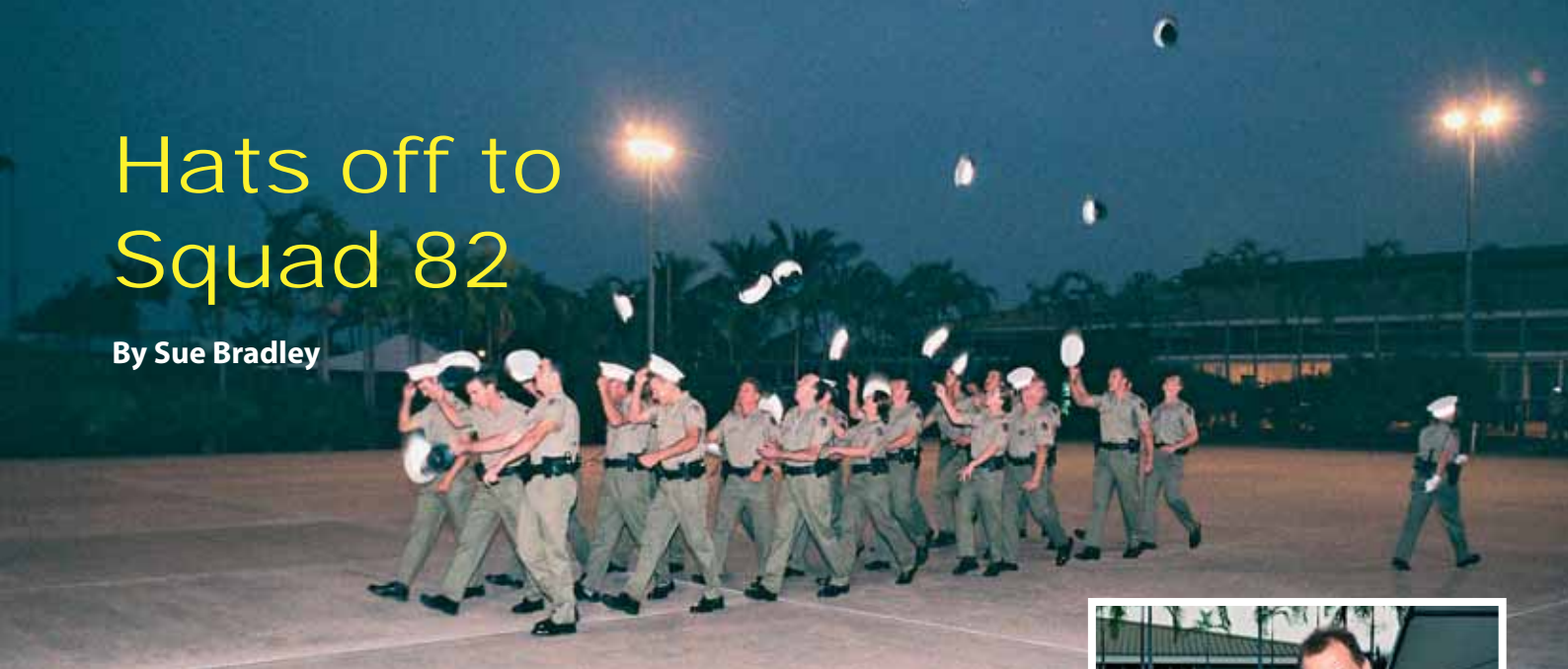
"I am looking forward to diving on the reef and fishing. I will miss my colleagues, I have some great working colleagues, but I am looking forward to retirement".



NTES Assistant Director Mike Bowman presents Pat with his farewell gifts

Hats off to Squad 82

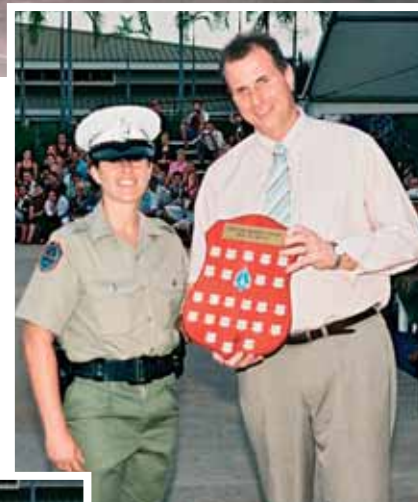
By Sue Bradley



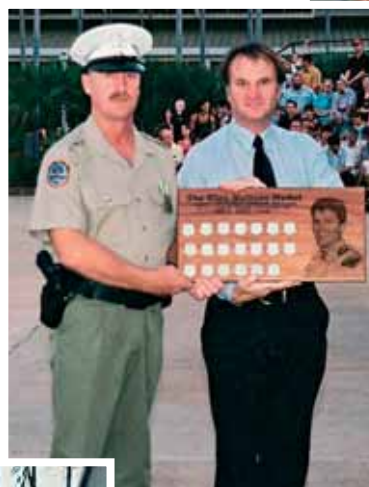
Twenty-four recruits from Squad 82 graduated on Thursday 6 October at the Police Training College Parade Ground, Peter McAulay Centre.

The ceremony marked the end of a six month induction training course at the Police, Fire and Emergency Services College for the graduates who will assume duties as constables across the NT.

Julie Frost, 34, formerly of South Australia, was presented with the Rod Evans Memorial Trophy for the highest academic achievement by NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services Minister, the Honourable Paul Henderson.



Commissioner Paul White presented Luke Shilton, 26, formerly from Queensland, with the Commissioner's Trophy as the best overall course performer in academic, practical and physical training.



Luke was also presented with the Physical Training Trophy for outstanding physical training ability by Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham.

The Glen Huitson Medal for the most consistent application in all areas of the training course was presented by Mr Andy Smith of the NT Police Association to Malcolm Stewart, 45, also formerly from Queensland.



Their backgrounds ranged from labourers, removalists, students, hospitality, lawyer, and ex-Australian Federal Police.

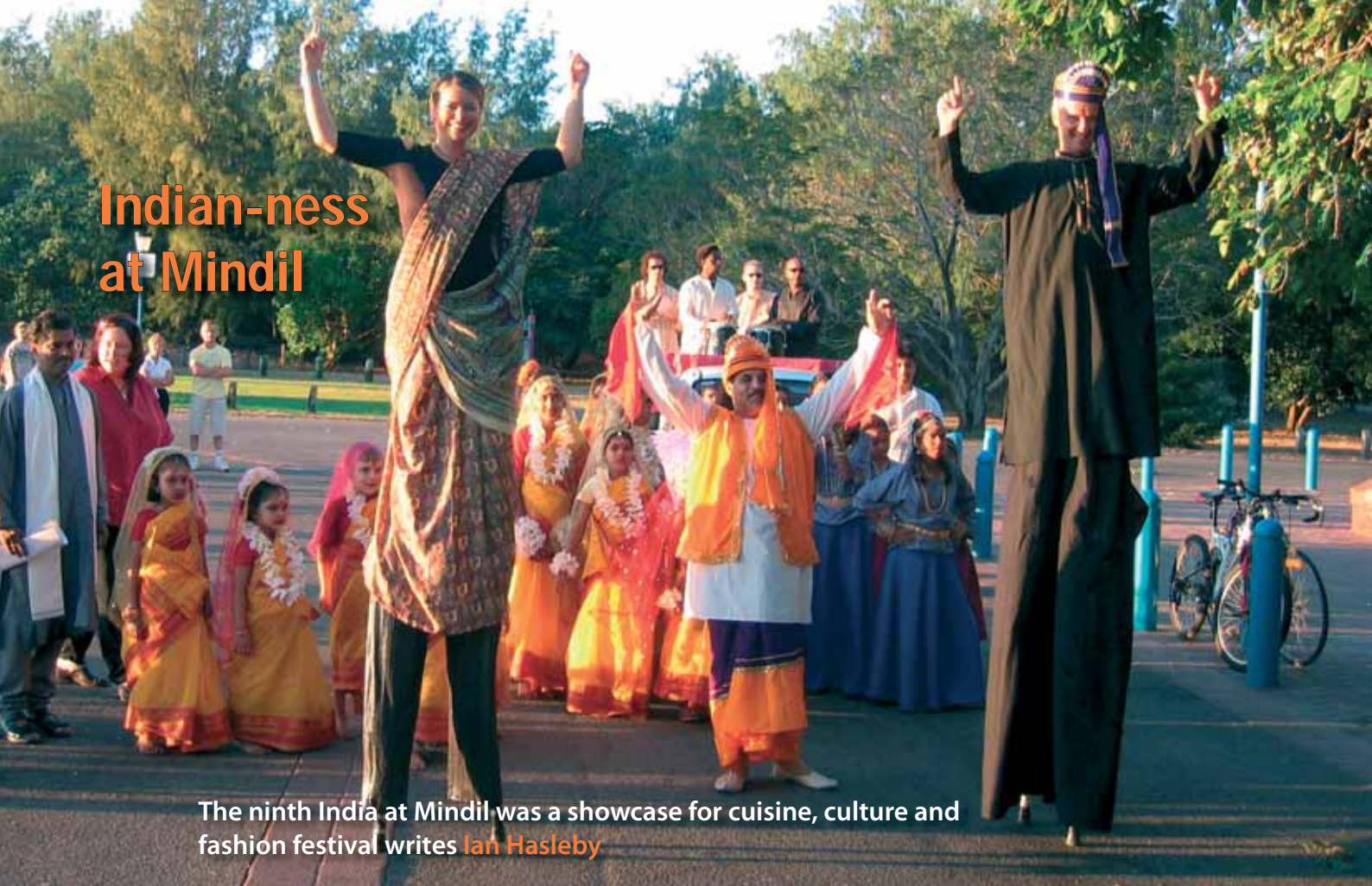
Fifteen of the recruits are now stationed in Darwin; five at Alice Springs; two at Tennant Creek; and two at Katherine.

TOP: Const Julie Frost and Hon Paul Henderson

MIDDLE: Const Malcolm Stewart (left) and Mr Andy Smith

RIGHT: Const Luke Shilton and Commissioner Paul White

Indian-ness at Mindil



The ninth India at Mindil was a showcase for cuisine, culture and fashion festival writes **Ian Hasleby**

An invitation from an expert to make the flattest and softest chapatis appealed to a long line of novices who formed a line into the 'knowledge pavilion'.

The Indian Cultural Society was showcasing its Indian-ness in the Territory, with 'hands-on' cooking, demonstrating the art of elegant sari wearing, playing the melodic sitar, discovering body flexibility and fitness with yoga and the poise of classical dancing in a blend of colour, sound and flavour.

A parade of traditional costumed and finely decorated children,



ABOVE L to R: Sen Const Geoff Pickering, Mrs Preeti Patel, Dr Sadhana Mahajani and Sgt Jeff Mosel

characters on stilts and a music accompaniment, weaved, waved and charmed its way past the stalls to the main stage, heralding the start of the evening program in a unique kaleidoscope of performances and activities.

The community-based crime prevention program Neighbourhood Watch was represented at the popular Indian festival and their display was conveniently sandwiched between the Asian and Aussie cuisines.

NHW Chairman Ken Mildred, Executive Officer Sergeant Jeff Mosel and Crime Prevention Unit Senior Constable Geoff Pickering were busy handing out printed material, signing memberships and discussing personal and household security.

Sgt Mosel said India at Mindil was an excellent event at which to promote the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch and an opportunity to make

personal contact and establish significant new community relations.

"It's important we extend our message to all groups - that protecting property, personal safety and reducing burglaries is everyone's responsibility and meeting and greeting people in such a vibrant community is another way of spreading the word," he said.

Top-billing on the stage was the classical dance spectacular with artistes from the Kalamandalam Academy in India, a mélange of Bollywood and modern concepts by the Pooja Gupta dance troupe of Sydney, local young dancers performing elaborate choreographed routines and a grand fashion parade of traditional garments and jewellery.

The Indian Cultural Society festival started from modest beginnings to become one of the Northern Territory's biggest annual multicultural events and NT Police are happy to support such a vibrant and friendly community event.

Yiasou! – Police go Greek at Glenti

More than 35 000 visitors enjoyed wonderful Greek hospitality, food, entertainment and culture at the annual Glenti Festival on Darwin Esplanade over the long weekend in June

By Ian Hasleby

It was the 17th annual Darwin festival, organised by the Greek Orthodox Community and supported by many associated clubs with something for everyone over the two days of non-stop music, dance, art and eating.

The on-stage jovial hosts were Evan Papandonakis and Jim Hatzivalsamis who shared the microphone duties and their quick wit and encouragement of the contestants in the plate smashing and olive spitting events and explaining the traditional Greek dances and fashion parades.

Bridging the generation gap was easy with apperances by popular cartoon characters 'The Rugrats' in their larger-than-life costumes as "Tommy, Chuckie and Angelica", enthraling and mesmerising the hundreds of children at their every twist and frolic.

The police presence at Glenti was high profile and incident-free according to Darwin based Constables Sarah Kings and Hunter McGee who were impressed by the Greek entertainment and traditional cuisine especially the grilled calamari (squid) and loukoumathes (honey puffs).

Constables Kings and McGee especially admired the passionate Greek customs and their great sense of community pride and they were pleased to be on duty during a wonderful, family-friendly occasion.

Being at the Glenti also demonstrated the firm commitment from NT Police to professional policing in the culturally diverse Territory and the partnership enjoyed by Police Ethnic Services and the Greek community.



ABOVE L to R: Const Hunter McGee, Glenti MC Evan Papandonakis, Const Sarah Kings and MC Jim Hatzivalsamis

Bonne chance (good luck) Monsieur Sebastien

Darwin is a climatic and cultural world away from the city of Pessac, Bordeaux, the home of French exchange student Sebastien Giraud, who is determined to use the skills he gained in the Top End to fulfil his ambition.

Sebastien's goal is to become a fire officer and at the end of the 10 week assignment to the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, the Bordeaux Science University student still has the goal firmly in view.

At Darwin Fire Station, Sebastien learned important fire fighting techniques and theory to complete his assignment on "the development of a fire safety education program for Indigenous communities".

The project has focused mainly on Indigenous children and his strategy will be assessed by the board at the University.

The NT Fire and Rescue Service have been hosting placements from the BSC for about six years and the professional placement program for Sebastien is a requirement of his Health, Safety and Environment course.

At 19, it wasn't all fire fighting practice and study; Sebastien enjoyed the typical Territory leisure activities from his Nightcliff home



ABOVE: Sebastien (right) enjoys an Aussie morning tea

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Training in Alice Springs

Southern Region finally has its own dedicated training facility

By Theresa Kuilboer

After years of being housed in an annexe of the Alice Springs Police Station and having to borrow training rooms as required, the Training Unit now has its own dedicated facility with two training coordinators and a purpose-built room in the main Alice Springs Police Station.

Following a major reshuffle earlier this year which saw the registry offices vacated and staff moved to Belvedere House, plans were put in place to refurbish the area to provide a dedicated training room.

With seven years experience with TRG (now TRS), and five of those as a trainer, Sergeant Henry Sattler was appointed to the position of unit head, supported by long-time training coordinator Brevet Sergeant Wayne "Tex" Meecham.

In the past few weeks, the area has been converted into a facility catering for up to 12 people at a time, complete with 10 new computers, whiteboards and a ceiling-mounted light-pro.

And the room has been designed

to be used as a fully functional EOC should the need arise.

The first of an ongoing series of developmental training courses took place in Alice Springs recently. Small Station Operations provided junior members with a week-long training program covering an overview of life on a bush police station.

Sgt Sattler said many more members in regional areas would now be able to take advantage of courses which were previously only delivered in Darwin.

"Another advantage is that we are now able to deliver a whole range of developmental courses in conjunction with the College," Sgt Sattler said.

"The obvious benefit is an economic one, with members no longer being required to travel to Darwin to attend. In fact it can now work the other way. For instance, in this present course on small station operations, we have three members from Alice Springs, one from Avon Downs and the rest from the Top

End. The facility also provides an opportunity for some members to provide training and gain further experience in the delivery of programs."

The Training Unit in Alice Springs will coordinate its program for the coming year to complement training courses being delivered at the PFES College.

"The establishment of a fully functional training unit in Alice Springs also means we are much better equipped to ensure all members can be assessed in a timely fashion for their OSTT (Operational Safety and Tactics Training)," Sgt Sattler said.

BELOW: Sgt Henry Sattler and B/Sgt Wayne "Tex" Meecham check out the newly arrived computers



The first training session in the newly refurbished training room at Alice Springs Police Station

Welcome addition to Blue Light NT

By Sue Bradley

Blue Light NT became the proud 'owners' of a brand new Jeep Cherokee recently when the vehicle was officially handed over to Commissioner Paul White by Frost Ford Manager, Mr Darryl Frost.

Following negotiations with Daimler Chrysler Australia, Blue Light NT were given the go ahead recently for the loan vehicle which is for six months or 10 000 kilometres, whichever comes first.

"The acquisition of the vehicle will now enable Blue Light personnel to tow their trailer of Blue Light Disco equipment in style in and around the Darwin area as well as travelling to remote communities providing entertainment for young Territorians in an environment free of alcohol, drugs and violence fully supervised by police personnel," said Commissioner White.

The Blue Light started in the NT in 1981 at the old Police and Citizens Club in Smith Street. Some years later Casuarina High School became a regular venue before Blue Light went into recession in early 1987.

"In 1989 we started off providing discos outside the Greater Darwin area by staging one at Daly River Community - this was the beginning of our bush discos, which have proved very successful.

"Since that time we have continually expanded the number of communities where we have been invited to run discos - 23 separate

locations. It is worth noting that we have never solicited a community to hold a Blue Light Disco, they approach us on almost every occasion," he said.

Like many non-profit self funded organisations, Blue Light struggles in the financial department, so in 2003 NT Police appointed a coordinator for the NT Blue Light based in Darwin, and after a slow start staged 10 discos in 10 weeks including trips to Milingimbi and Ramingining by charter plane.

In 2004, the Darwin Blue Light branch staged 55 events with 12 365 young people attending and so far this year has held 59 events with 12 635 attending, with another 21 discos to be staged before the end of the year.

Blue Light has branches in Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Alyangula, Jabiru, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Kintore and Ali Curung and through successful grant applications all those branches now have new equipment and are ready to rock and roll.



RIGHT: Commissioner Paul White receives the keys from Dave Russell, General Manager of Frost Ford Motor Group

Bonne chance Monsieur Sebastien (continued from page 17)

base, like fishing and swimming, nightclubbing, partying and practising his French conversation skills with female European backpackers.

"I didn't speak English here, I learnt a new language, it was Australian," he said, referring to the typical turn-of-phase and slang that are the distinctive Aussie way with words.

The fire education project he undertook was inspired by the unique challenges of fire and safety strategies within the Indigenous culture and devising effective visual, DVD and comic strip communications methods.

Sebastien was assisted in his research with visits to the remote Indigenous School at Mutitjulu and the School of the Air in Katherine. He was able to experience first-hand the different methods for education delivery in remote regions of the Territory and gain an understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture.

Sebastien spent classroom time with the children and discussed the different French customs and traditions and also developed an awareness of the challenges that were faced by teachers in isolated areas.

The year that was...

January

- ◆ New Year's Eve – JESCC copes well with an unprecedented 400 calls and police dogs Scent and Monty go public
- ◆ Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) experts assist in Thailand following the SE Asian Tsunami
- ◆ Bike patrols of Darwin CBD commence
- ◆ Det Sgt Lee Gage and Sen Const Andrew Holt receive the Australian Police Medal for their distinguished service to the NT Police Force

February

- ◆ Humpty Doo Police and Fire complex opens for business
- ◆ DES closes down an illicit drug lab in a Palmerston home believed to have produced more than \$1 million worth of speed

March

- ◆ PFES members respond to calls for help following cyclone Ingrid devastation of Tiwi Islands and Cobourg Peninsula
- ◆ Firefighter Phil Karlhuber departs for Anchorage, Alaska on a 12 month exchange
- ◆ Superintendent Russ Mirasty of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police visits the NT on a four week exchange
- ◆ The Crime Prevention and Reduction Unit host the Easter Safety Big Breakfast at the showgrounds, reminding Territorians about boat and road safety and home security preparations
- ◆ A rogue buffalo terrorises the township of Nhulunbuy
- ◆ Police Recruit Squad 80 graduates
- ◆ ACPO Bernie Devine receives the Administrator's Medal
- ◆ The Casuarina Tactical Team conducts Operation Wolf Eel targeting property crime in Darwin's northern suburbs

April

- ◆ Fire and Rescue Service launches the 'Don't be an April Fool' campaign reminding everyone to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms by 1 April each year
- ◆ Four members of the Timor Leste (formerly East Timor) Police Academy complete a 'train-the-trainer' course at the NTPFES College
- ◆ Anchorage fire fighter Rod Harris joins NT Fire and Rescue for 12 months on an exchange
- ◆ ICMEC counter terrorism exercise 'Outer Edge' engages emergency response teams across the Top End

- ◆ Sgt Glenn McPhee, the Territory Response Section and the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section receive Commissioner's Commendations for their role in the Finniss River rescue of two men in December 2003
- ◆ The Northern Territory Fire Alarm System Transmission (NTFAST) technology that was developed locally is selected as a dual finalist in the 2005 Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) iAwards
- ◆ Operation Soarer targets anti-social behaviour in the greater Darwin area

May

- ◆ The job of identifying bodies in Thailand continues following the Boxing Day Tsunami, with another two NT DVI officers leaving to assist
- ◆ A man is killed in Nhulunbuy by a rogue buffalo, sparking an intensive exercise by Police and Parks and Wildlife to rid the area of problem animals
- ◆ TRS and General Duty Officers block roads into and out of Yarrowonga following reports of the armed abduction of two people
- ◆ A deliberately-lit grass fire burns out over 400 hectares and damages stacks of construction materials in an industrial yard at Pinelands

June

- ◆ The Drug Enforcement Section conducts a number of large drug raids, severely hampering the local trade in illicit drugs
- ◆ Forensics match DNA to a Fannie Bay safe-break in 2002
- ◆ NTES volunteers and Firies are tested by a simulated building collapse exercise at Palmerston
- ◆ The Australian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau meets in Darwin
- ◆ Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly (Australian Police Medal), Corporate Services Executive Director Audrey Ko (Public Service Medal) and Emergency Services volunteer Scott Morris (Emergency Services Medal) are recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours

July

- ◆ Sgt Noel Gokel is awarded a Churchill Fellowship
- ◆ 18 officers attend a Stolen Motor Vehicle Investigators Course
- ◆ Reported crime in the Northern Territory continues to trend downwards
- ◆ Territorians are urged to be vigilant but not panic following terrorist bombings in London

continued on page 25



Beware of men in white suits...

Participants of the Illicit Drug Laboratory Course check out a clan lab set-up. The course was held from 12 to 16 September.

Women's Advisory Committee

The implementation of a business plan and the introduction of an ELG delegate are just two ways the Women's Advisory Committee (WAC) has promoted the role, recognition and development of women in the NTPFES in recent months.

The members have seen the WAC evolve into a dynamic and proactive forum that has seen the introduction of new guidelines and the relating of the committee's work to the agency's business plans and reporting guidelines.

To this end, areas of Police must now report on issues relating to gender at Operational Performance Reviews and while capturing information on these categories can be difficult, the practice is evolving and evaluation becoming more refined.

The WAC now has a delegate in attendance at Executive Leadership Group (ELG) meetings to provide quality input as an active participant in the ELG's policy forum. The nominated delegate – at this point in time Snr Sgt Debra Smith – has the opportunity to specifically add a perspective from women to the decision making process.

Fire and Rescue Service and Emergency Services are under-represented on WAC at the moment and participation from women, or those interested in furthering the goals of the committee from these areas is sought.

Members are working on a number of major initiatives at the moment, including preparations to celebrate 45 years of women in policing in the Northern Territory next year. Volunteers who would like to be involved in planning these celebrations are asked to contact the WAC via email (see the Intranet pages), or any of its members.

The committee is also developing a proposal for an annual award for areas or individuals who have supported the recognition and development of women within the Tri-service.

WAC members are also working towards the development of a WAC display, with support from the Department of the Chief Minister as an adjunct to efforts to recruit new police officers and in particular female officers.

Several members are also involved in the coordination of a display being curated by the NT Police Museum and Historical Society, highlighting the contribution of women to NT Police and the Territory.

WAC facts:

- The Women's Advisory Committee is an open forum for anyone within NTPFES – man or woman – who wishes to be involved and have a say in issues relevant to women within the agency.
- Anyone anywhere in the agency can participate in the meetings through teleconferencing if they can't make it in person.
- Meetings are held once a month and are aimed at not being a "talk fest", but rather promoting decisions and actions or outcomes on issues of importance under WAC's vision and mission.

If you'd like further information on WAC, or would like to become involved, visit the intranet site or talk to someone who's already involved for more information.

Hogs, Harleys and the Rock

By Theresa Kuilboer

More than 1600 Harley Davidson motorcycles converged on Uluru in September for the 15th annual international Harley Owners Group rally.

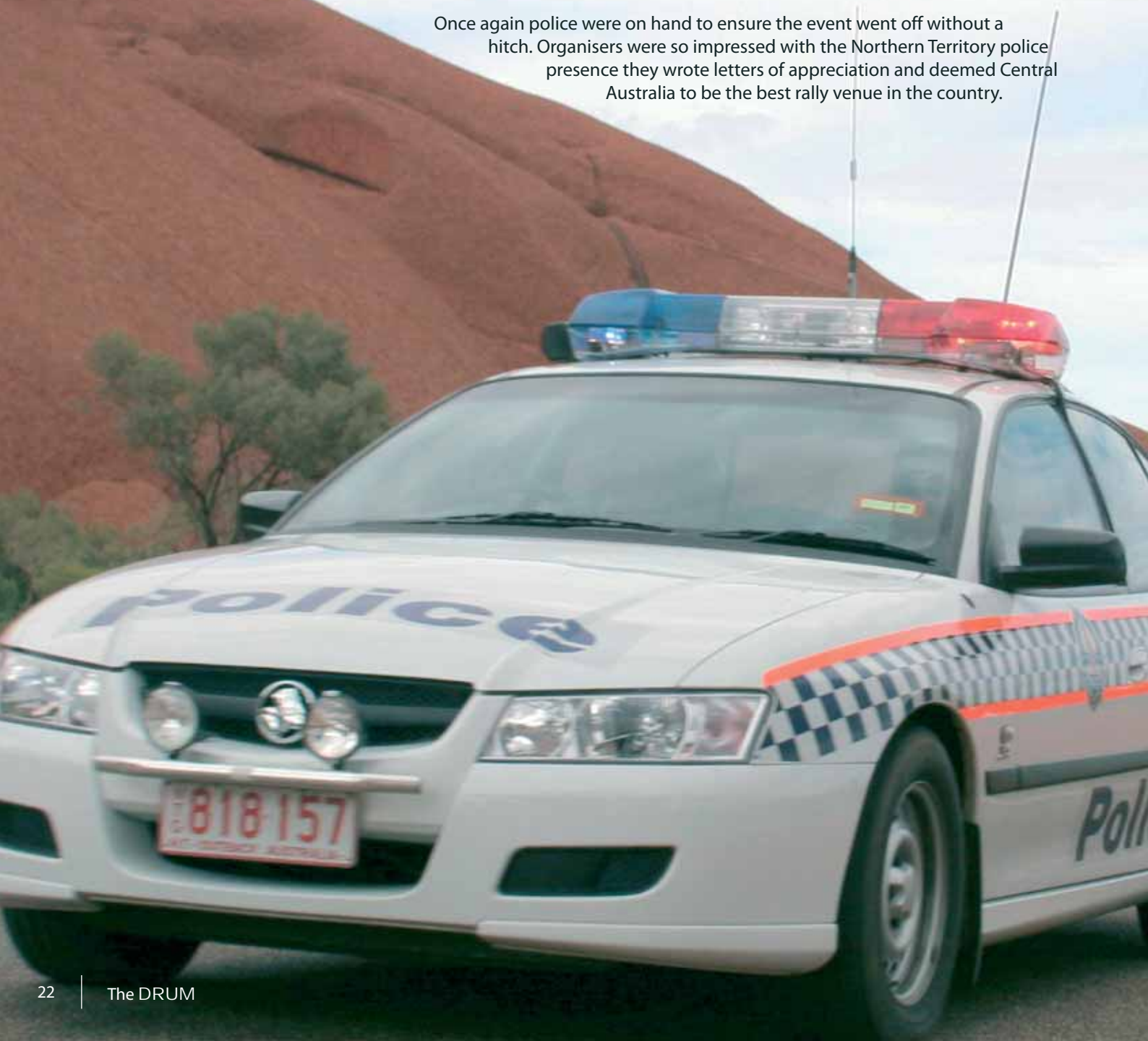
Riders came from around Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the US to take part and one of the highlights of the event was a successful world record attempt to see if they could completely encircle the famous 'Rock' with Harleys.

Police received advance notice about the rally and were on hand to ensure everything ran smoothly. The three police officers stationed at Yulara were supported by nine members of the tactical unit and one general duties member from Alice Springs.

Apart from traffic duties, motorcycle and licence inspections, police took the opportunity to turn the event into a highly successful PR exercise.

After meeting at the rock for a few days the riders then headed to Alice Springs where residents turned up in their thousands to ogle the hundreds of superbly turned out machines at an exhibition on Anzac Oval.

Once again police were on hand to ensure the event went off without a hitch. Organisers were so impressed with the Northern Territory police presence they wrote letters of appreciation and deemed Central Australia to be the best rally venue in the country.





Yulara and Alice Springs Police members who kept an eye on the Hog Rally. Photos courtesy *Heavy Duty Magazine*.



The work of members of the NTPFES is often stressful and difficult, which comes as no surprise to those at the coal face of delivering the services. In previous months, members have been recognised and praised by members of the public and the Commissioner for their work and efforts.

Thanks and praise

1 June - Praise for staff in Firearms Policy and Records Unit, in particular Sgt Gary Casey and Ms Margaret Schaefer, for their assistance in gaining international firearm permits for overseas clay target shooters competing in the Arafura Games. Recognition also to Ms Minnie Edwards for her efforts in regard to a separate matter earlier in the year.

"I would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation of the friendly and cooperative assistance provided by all officers involved. They definitely went 'the extra mile' particularly in respect to overseas countries lodging applications at the last minute. Ms Minnie Edwards of the same unit also went out of her way to help us with another matter earlier in the year, and I would like to express my appreciation for her efforts"

29 June - Appreciation to staff at Yulara for being responsive, compassionate and dedicated in their care and commitment to members of the Mutitjula and Parks' community, namely Acting Sergeant Michael Deutrom and Senior Constable Tony Schmidt for their help.

"I witnessed a terrible incident of a young petrol sniffer trying to harm himself, whereby I called the police to help. Any worries that I may have possessed about the police response were totally alleviated when Tony Schmidt took the call. He and Michael Deutrom were at Mutitjula within 30 minutes and handled the situation marvellously. They are compassionate, take the perspective of people management, rather than just straight policing, and were responsive to my needs to help the mother through information relay.

I congratulate your staff on their longevity in a remote community that has some of the toughest social problems."

1 July - A letter of sincere appreciation from the family of a man who passed away on 29 June at his Darwin residence.

"Our grief and sorrow has been made easier by the contributions, sincerity and professionalism of John Bowen from the Coroner's Office, attending police personnel and members of the paramedic team from Casuarina."

7 July - A letter of thanks and good-luck from Commissioner of Police, Mr Paul White, to Mr Jeffery Hicks who is retiring after 31 years of distinguished service.

"Your commitment and dedication to policing throughout the Northern Territory is well recognised. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services for your outstanding service as a police officer. I wish you all the best for the future, and hope your well deserved retirement is enjoyable."

20 July - Praise for Brevet Sergeant Leonora Giles and Constable Anne Simmons from Mataranka, and Brevet Sergeant Peter Lindfield and Constable Dean McKie from Ngukurr, in responding to a serious incident that occurred at Hodgson Downs.

"On behalf of the council and the community at Hodgson Downs I would like to thank you for your prompt assistance in this apprehension. We believe this situation could very easily have ended in tragedy had it not been for police efforts."

1 August - Praise for the outstanding service and commitment of Acting Detective Sergeant Alan Hodge in the investigation of fraudulent transactions at a Darwin business.

"His efforts in tracking and the subsequent charging of the person involved are commendable. As a representative of this company I feel he has gone above and beyond his duty as a police officer. The time and hours that have been put in for this result has been unmeasurable, as there were other companys involved, not only ours, and he handled all inquiries in a very helpful way and nothing was too much trouble."

5 August - Praise for acting Sergeant George Hatzismalis and the Officer in Charge of the Palmerston Police Station in handling a non-urgent incident reported by residents of Timson Court, Gray.

"Though our reason to seek some help from the Palmerston Police was not a major problem, the sergeant we spoke to was very helpful, he took his time, was courteous and very diplomatic. We just wanted to let you know what a good man we have at Palmerston looking after us."

28 August - Praise for the introduction of the safe party scheme and officers who were on duty in the Wanguri area on the evening of Saturday 6 August.

"On the night of the party, we know there was at least two occasions when officers checked on the progress of the party. During one of the checks, they came to the door and asked how the party was going and whether we had any problems. They were well received which suggests that the school based constable scheme is working very well. It was very reassuring to know that such a close eye was being kept on the neighbourhood and that help was at hand if we had experienced any problems"

30 August - A letter from a woman who commended the efforts of police at Maranboy Police Station, who are responsible for the Barunga Community, namely Constable Jeremy Brunton and Angelo Denale.

"This year I was assaulted by a young man. I reported the matter to Maranboy Police Station, and am writing to say that I am impressed by the manner in which it was handled. The whole matter was dealt with quickly, sensibly and efficiently- and with consideration. I felt well looked after at a time I needed to feel safe again. I would also like to say that Sergeant Angelo Denale has the respect of the Aboriginal community members in both Barunga and Wuglarr communities."

6 September - Thanks to the Northern Territory Police Force in particular Senior Constable Garry Johnston for their continued assistance and support with an annual event held by Field and Game Australia inc. in conjunction with Darwin Clay Target Club.

"Senior Constable Garry Johnston attended on the day to assist with questions and information pertaining to the Firearms Act. He was very professional and extremely helpful in answering questions."

26 October- Thanks and praise from acting Commissioner Bruce Wernham to Senior Constable Alan Davis, Senior Constable John Walker, Constable Ashley Dudson and Constable Ben Rossiter for their actions regarding an incident which occurred on the 15 October 2003.

"Your attendance of this incident, your actions and those of your colleagues are to be commended and highlight your professionalism and dedication to duty."

17 October - Praise for Royal Darwin Hospital based Constable Kaye Pemberton during the recent Bali bombings evacuation.

"The effort made by Ms Pemberton in providing reliable and up to date information on the status of bombing victims was very much appreciated. In fact, having a single point of contact on call during the evacuation period and the immediate aftermath at the hospital enabled an efficient smooth flow of information".

9 September - The Commissioner of Police and A/Deputy Commissioner

have recognised the efforts of Media Unit Manager, Ms Sandra Mitchell and Trainee Constables Edgar Hayden, Malcolm Stewart, John Thomas, Dion Bowden, Jamie Lauder, Timothy Baird and the NTPFES College for their assistance to Australasian Council of Women and Policing Conference held in Darwin in August.

"I wish to acknowledge a number of Commands and individuals for their support of the Northern Territory Police contribution to the recent successful conference. A decision was made to offer airport greetings to the many national and international

police delegates to the conference. This was achieved through the provision of buses, the stores van and the efforts of a number of trainee Constables who volunteered their time."

4 September - A Jingili woman took time to ring to congratulate all members involved with the Traffic Accident on Trower Road on Sunday 4 August. She states that it looked like a very difficult situation but the police on the scene handled the traffic extremely well.

The year that was (cont'd from page 20)

- ◆ The fourth local Crime Practitioners Forum attracts interest from around Australia
- ◆ Police officers and a forensic biologist are presented with letters of recognition by the Commissioner for their DVI duties in Thailand following the tsunami
- ◆ Constable Anthony Clarke heads to the Solomon Islands as part of the Northern Territory's contribution to the multi-jurisdictional International Deployment Group

August

- ◆ Police Recruit Squad 81 graduates
- ◆ 10 new fire fighters start recruit training
- ◆ Forensics match DNA to a series of 2001 unlawful entries
- ◆ Darwin hosts the Australasian Council of Women and Policing conference

September

- ◆ The fallout of hurricane Katrina in New Orleans highlights the value of well-coordinated plans that cater for all of the community in the event of an emergency
- ◆ National Police Remembrance

Day is commemorated with a parade in Darwin and services throughout the NT

October

- ◆ The Emergency Operations Centre at Berrimah is set up in conjunction with the Australian Federal Police to coordinate a Darwin response to the Bali bombing
- ◆ Police conduct a three-day road safety blitz across the Territory in Operation Tarrar
- ◆ Blue Light NT is gifted with a brand new Jeep Cherokee loan vehicle for six months
- ◆ Police Recruit Squad 82 graduates
- ◆ NT Police host the 9th Chemical Diversion Congress in Darwin
- ◆ Operation Sharp Edge is launched targeting the use and possession of edged and improvised weapons across the NT
- ◆ Marine and Fisheries launch their new vessel the 14 metre PPV *Beagle*

November

- ◆ NTES participates in National SES Week activities

Pistons are in it to win it

The Life. Be in it Australian Central Credit Union Netball Challenge was held during September and October at the Darwin Netball Association courts at Parap.

The PFES Pistons, in their first season together, didn't make the finals play-off but almost managed to defeat one of the two undefeated teams.

Obstacles including shiftwork and injuries were overcome throughout the competition and great fun was had by all.

Team members included Katie Hatzismalis, Debbie Smith, Tanya Mace, Penny Arrowsmith, Kate Eadie, Nick Kronk, Mark Bland, Mark Nancarrow and Kelvin Laute. The team was also supported by Ben Williams, George Hatzismalis, Sarah Laute, Keesha Jones and Vinnie Read. A special appearance was also made by Katherine-based member Lauren Hill.

The Pistons' next big challenge will be the World Police and Fire Games to be held in Adelaide in March 2007. Staff members of the Tri-service are eligible to enter the games and further information can be found at www.2007wpfg.com or by contacting Kate Eadie via e-mail kate.eadie@pfes.nt.gov.au.

Richard Bryson's marathon win

Alice Springs Superintendent Richard Bryson achieved a personal best time to clinch the Alice Springs Marathon men's title in August, finishing the 40 km race in just three hours, 10 mins and 35 seconds.

He said it took all his strength and stamina to keep up with Austrian Ambros Muehlbacher, who set the fast pace soon after the runners left Araluen.

"It started off at a fantastic pace", said Supt Bryson. "The Austrian fella went out like a greyhound."

He and veteran runner Adrian Wellington worked together until the 20 km mark as the race stayed at a cracking pace.

"Up the hill towards Flynn's Grave, that's make it or break it time in the race", he said. "I could see them in the distance. I passed the Austrian at the 32 km mark and Adrian at the 34 km mark. I managed to dig deep and push."

Muehlbacher finished the race in 3:16:10. Chris Horwood came in third on 3:17:30. Wellington hit the wall but still managed to finish fifth.



Supt Bryson credited his coach Eli Melky for the training the pair did leading up to the race.

Masters of their game

Two serving police officers recently represented the Northern Territory at the 2005 Masters Australian Rules Football Carnival in Adelaide.

Watch Commander Chris Lyndon (team captain), Barney Noonan of the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section (vice-captain) and recently retired Col Hardman were part of the NT team who played the home side of South Australia then Victoria Metropolitan and Tasmania Metropolitan sides over six days.

Rumour has it they didn't win a game, but looked good trying.



Members entering their twilight years interested in representing the NT and the Tri-service in the Aussie rules masters football arena or just keep fit should contact Barney or Chris on 8922 0813 to find out more.

Building bridges through footy

The Northern Territory Police and Citizens Youth Club (PCYC), in partnership with the Australian Football League Northern Territory (AFLNT), are introducing a Mobile Activity Centre (MAC) project to the Katherine region.

The project is designed to provide young Indigenous people residing at remote communities with opportunities to participate in structured sporting and recreational activities whilst building bridges between police officers and Aboriginal youth.

The initiative builds on the established working relationship that already exists between the AFLNT and the NT Police through the highly successful AFL KickStart program.

"AFL KickStart is all about providing opportunities for young Indigenous Territorians in remote areas to participate in structured programs such as Auskick, gain valuable leadership skills through coaching and umpiring and most importantly develop life-skills through quality inter-action with partners such as the Police", said AFLNT Participation Manager Joel Kelly.

"The MAC project is another example of the NT Government working with a peak sporting body to arrive at practical solutions to widespread social problems."

Former Richmond rookie list player Constable Travis Edwards, who also played reserves for Carlton and Collingwood, is based at the tiny Police post of Maranboy, 70kms south-east of Katherine.

Constable Edwards, who is actively involved in running

AFL KickStart is all about providing opportunities for young Indigenous Territorians in remote areas

AFL Auskick in the area, understands the importance of sport and in particular AFL to young Indigenous people and is keen to see the MAC project take off.

"Sport allows young people to interact in a social and safe environment. Interacting with police, especially in remote communities, should be a positive experience and the MAC project allows that objective to happen," Constable Edwards said.

Pioneer of the concept in the Northern Territory, Assistant Commissioner (Operations Command) Mark Payne is genuinely enthused about the pilot program and the future opportunities it offers.

"Police officers across the Northern Territory engage young people through a number of diversionary programs. The MAC is another opportunity to bring police, young people and the community together through sport and social interaction with the aim of providing sound role models for leadership," Assistant Commissioner Mark Payne said.

The MAC will hit the road over the next few months to service AFL KickStart communities in the Katherine region including Lajamanu, Maranboy, Beswick, Ngukurr and Mataranka to name a few.

The AFL KickStart program is proudly supported by the Australian Football League and major partner Qantas with local support in the Northern Territory provided through community partners Thiess, Telstra Countrywide, the PCYC and the NT Government and Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA).



Standing L to R: Brenton Toy, Fred Murphy and Jason McCartney

Kneeling L to R: Const Serge Bauma, Owen Henry, ACPO Robbie Joran, ACPO Graham Turner, Austin Wonaeamirri, Const Travis Edwards, Const John Toohey, B/Sgt Lenora Giles