

# THE DRUM

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2008



## Policing New Territory IAWP Conference in Darwin

### This issue

Living Remote – members, volunteers and their families share their stories.

'Smart Sparx' an award winner.

Haasts Bluff Station Opening – an end and a bright beginning



# Commissioner's Christmas Message

Looking back over 2008 in our December edition of *The Drum*, it is clear that the hard work and high achievements of the Tri-Service is not only appreciated by the community we serve, it is recognised both nationally and internationally. The resounding success of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual International Association of Women in Policing Conference showcased our people and the Northern Territory to the world. Delegates received first class training from speakers from across the world and enjoyed a meaningful and cultural Darwin experience including a workshop at the Tiwi Islands.

The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, 'Smart Sparx' program was recently announced a winner of an Australian Safer Communities Awards for 2008, a first claiming the Northern Territory Safer Communities Award in October. While warm congratulations are due to our Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services Chief Finance Officer, Rose Hallett who won the Public Sector, Financial Manager of the Year Award in the National 2008 CFO Awards. The award recognises her continued superior financial management of our \$250 million annual budget.

I was pleased to join the Darwin Rotary Club in announcing Constable First Class Michael Deutrom as the winner of the 2008 Rotary Police Officer of the Year. The award was highly contested and Michael a worthy recipient who joins a list of exceptional police officers recognised over the years. Three exceptional recipients, David Quan, Ben Schmidt and Volunteer Captain John Robertson, received 2008 Pride of Australia Medals for work they do away from their stations.

These state, national and international accolades capture just some of the fine work underway by Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Service personnel carrying out their challenging work every day.

The overwhelming enthusiasm from the community at the recent Station opening at Haasts Bluff demonstrated without question that our members on the ground are working hard to make their presence in remote communities positive. The event celebrated the end of an intense working relationship between the Northern Territory Police and the Australian Defence Force contingent Joint Task Force 641.

For the first half of this special edition we are fortunate to see some snapshots into the lifestyle both in and out of hours for sworn members, volunteers and their families right across the Territory; particularly those leading extra-ordinary lives in rural and remote areas. From bushwalking and camping with the Watarrka Northern Territory Emergency Services Volunteer Unit, to fishing on Croker Island and Nhulunbuy and playing table tennis with the Timber Creek Fire and Emergency Response Group, members and volunteers find ways to enjoy life living in remote beautiful parts of the Territory, which so many people never get the opportunity to experience.

A very warm thank you to all Tri-Service personnel, civilian support staff and volunteers for their enormous contributions throughout this year. I wish you and your families a festive and revitalising Christmas and New Year.

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

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#### Front Cover

Royal Canadian Mounted Police march into Darwin for the IAWP conference.

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# Broad Horizons by Dave Anderson

Watarrka NTES Volunteer Unit is a small but vibrant group of people made up of local residents from the Voyages Kings Canyon Resort, NT Parks and Wildlife and Kings Creek Station.

Most work rostered shifts, but on their time off, apart from training for NTES, they use the wide open spaces of Central Australia to broaden their horizons and interests.

Many go four wheel driving along the paths that the early explorers and stockmen travelled, or walk the many

spectacular Parks and Reserves pathways.

Geoff Mulholland is an avid hiker and photographer who spends many hours exploring and recording the flora & fauna of Central Australia.

For anyone contemplating a change of scenery, as Geoff's photos show, the beautiful and varied scenery of Watarrka National Park the George Gill Ranges and Central Australia cannot be beaten.

Evan Sanders works as the Maintenance & Environment and lands Manager for Voyages and combines his love of the outback, four wheel driving

and astronomy to teach any young person a bit more about "his back yard."

Members are always encouraged to join Evan on one of his adventures and learn from his vast experience of off road driving, flora and fauna, our wondrous night sky or just to enjoy his yarns and camp fire cooking.

Any Emergency Service members, career or volunteers are always welcome to make themselves known to us locals when in "The Centre."



# Looking back with a laugh at life out bush

After three years in General Duties, Senior Sergeant Kylie Anderson was looking for a new challenge. Here she shares her experiences of living and working remote . . .

A friend had recently transferred to a bush station and encouraged me to apply too.

I worked as a Constable at Papunya for two and a half years from December 2003 and the Officer in Charge at Adelaide River for a year from June 2006. During that time I also relieved at Kintore, Hermannsburg and Yuendumu.

I really enjoyed policing in a small community. Due to the isolation and lack of back-up you have to rely on your own abilities to get the job done. There are also some amazing professional opportunities available.

While I was at Papunya I had the opportunity to act in the position of OIC of three different stations as a five year Constable. I undertook prosecution duties in the regular circuit court and was required to provide an initial response to Major Crimes such as sexual assaults and arsons until investigators were able to attend. These were all things that I don't believe I would have experienced if I had stayed in an urban area.

It was also a benefit knowing the entire community in which you live and work as

you really can make a difference by putting in some extra effort. You get to know all the good residents and all the bad ones which made getting the job done a whole lot easier.

The phone calls after hours can be a bit tedious after a while. I remember a period where I had worked over 24 hours straight, had got home and just got to sleep when the phone rang again and the job required a 140km round trip to sort out a domestic. But it made days off in town a whole lot more enjoyable.

There is some amazing country around Papunya and Kintore so out of hours we spent a lot of time exploring the district.

Through talking to previous members and locals we found some great spots including a swimming hole in the middle of the desert.

The Boss had a motorbike and quad bike so we would often jump on those and explore various spots surrounding the community.

We also had some fun times on duty too. We would often meet up with our

neighbours at Yuendumu and do a combined RBT before breaking for dinner with a roadside barbecue. I have made some lasting friendships out bush.

A highlight that I looked forward to every year was the Boxing Day trek to Tilmouth Well Roadhouse (a roadhouse approximately 150kms from Papunya and 100kms from Yuendumu on the Tanami Highway) for the Ti Tree versus the rest of the world cricket match. With the blessing of the Divisional Officer members would travel in from all the surrounding Stations, along with some of the local cattle station staff, for a cricket match on the back lawns of the roadhouse. There was plenty of fudging the figures with scores but everyone had a laugh and it was well-deserved chance to let our hair down for a day and night.

I don't hesitate in recommending a bush posting to anyone considering applying.

The work is extremely rewarding and the opportunities that bush policing present will hold you in good stead for the rest of your career.



Previous page bottom left, the landscape around Papunya.

This page above, Weir about 5km from Papunya, a swimming hole on the outskirts of Kiwirrkurra WA, a western style meal break and an aerial picture of the Papunya Police Station.



Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie found these old photographs to demonstrate the types of out of hour's activities of members and friends while stationed at the Ayers Rock (not Yulara, repeat not Yulara) Police Station in the early 1980s.

Cricket was always popular. This was the annual Royal Flying Doctor fund-raising cricket game held at Curtin Springs Station that always drew a big crowd. All four members from the Police Station played or umpired that day and if I remember right the two members from Kulgera came across as well. A pretty fair crowd turned up to watch the game, some from Ayers Rock but some from hundreds of kilometres away.

It was an annual tradition in that part of the NT. A barbie generally followed with such delicacies as roast camel, locally grown beef and thirst quenching beverages (you try playing cricket at well above 45 degrees without raising a considerable thirst).

We decided to throw a 'Box' Party at the station. None of us knew what a 'box' party was, but that made it more fun because there were a number of interpretations of what it meant. These are some of the winning costumes (no explanation needed for one of them and I forget what the explanation was for the other). We had someone else arrive wearing one of those polystyrene broccoli boxes that had been done up as a garden bed, complete with live plants and faux brickwork – some hat! Considerable imagination shown by some and great fun had by all.



The fact was that in those days we had less access to things like telephones, television and transportation but we were always able to find a way to amuse ourselves. One of the lesser known facts I treasure is that I was the founding president of the Ayers Rock Game Fishing Association – a genuine club intended to further the interests of game fishing in the Ayers Rock area. We had many meetings and raised a lot of money for some good causes including the Ash Wednesday Fires of 1983 for which we raised the then princely sum of \$4,500.

# Shark Attack!

There's nothing shy about Constable Brendan Sheppard and Senior Constable Wade Marshall who have both been in the force for 10 years and spend much of their spare time fishing on the rocks in Nhulunbuy.

The two Constables have been stationed in several locations around the Top End with Brendan having spent time at the Darwin Station and Wade in Alice Springs and Papunya.

These two spend so much of their spare time fishing together that they've actually renamed it "catching", due to the unique way in which they acquire their fish, with Wade's background in sales being evident as he persuades them into the esky.

I spoke to Wade and this was his recount of a fishing adventure they had earlier this year.

"Brendan and I had just knocked off work for the day and headed down to Yilpra to fish on the rocks.

"Before too long Brendan had hooked a decent size Barra and was attempting to reel it in when we realised a shark was hot on its tail.

"The fish snapped the line whilst trying to avoid the shark and went whistling around the rock Brendan was perched on. Full of courage and quick thinking, he jumped into the chest deep water and trapped the fish against the rock with the back of his legs. He reached down and quickly grabbed hold of it when the shark swam over and latched onto his hand.

"Knowing full well that he was going to win the battle, he maintained his grip (and composure) and was able to pry the fish out of the shark's mouth before we pulled it out onto dry land.

"Brendan stopped for a moment to survey his injured hand and recovered soon after to savour the delights of his feat."

Top Right is Brendan's boat named "Hen House" on a family day out on the water. Top left, Brendan Sheppard remembers the one that got away.

Subsequent photos Brendan shows off a few of his catches and pictured holding the Mackerel is Brendan and Wade Marshall.



# Studying law out bush

All those police partners resisting going to a bush station should be inspired by Denise Johnsson's story.

Denise is currently studying her Bachelor of Laws while living at Hermannsburg where her husband Gert is the Officer in Charge.

As a 52-year-old grandmother of seven who is like most of us – “one of these days” she was going to do something that she'd long been interested in – in her case, studying law. Then, when Gert retired from

NT Police in 2002 the couple moved to Queensland.

Denise said it was during this time she decided to pursue her long-held dream, and with Gert's complete support and encouragement, in early 2004 she applied to James Cook University and was accepted. She also applied and was accepted at Charles Darwin University, which was just as well because after just one semester studying full-time on campus, her husband decided he wanted to go back to policing in the Territory.

Denise finished her first semester in Townsville while Gert rejoined the force and then moved to Darwin where she began studying at Charles Darwin University. Her studies continued until Gert was transferred to Hermannsburg in February 2006.

“One of the best things with studying out bush is the lack of distractions,” Denise said.

“You don't even have the distractions of the phone, because the Police phone is shared with the residence so you don't have to answer it.

“I'm the sort of person who needs discipline.

I need a separate office where I know I can work without worrying about the everyday distractions. In Hermannsburg no-one

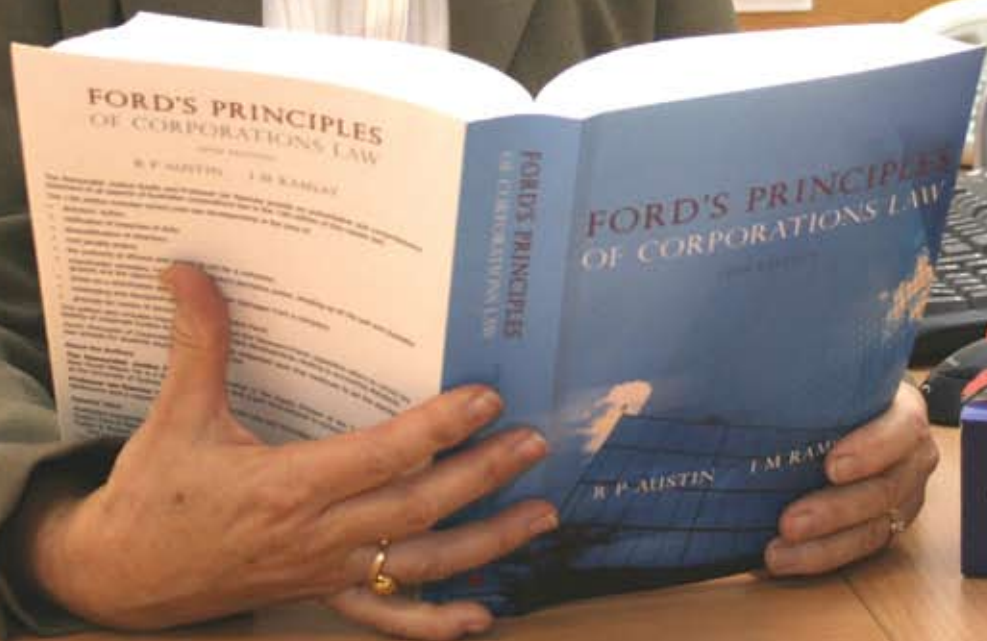
rings you up and asks you to go to coffee or out shopping so I find I can get a lot of work done. But with my laptop I can do all my studies on-line.”

Denise said that the remoteness of a bush community gave her the motivation to study and NT Police had also been extremely encouraging.

“For instance when I had to go to Darwin for intensive courses over the Christmas holidays, I was able to stay at the Police barracks. Gert was very helpful when you have to go for a few weeks at a time.”

Denise said she would like to go into the prosecuting field when she finishes her degree in a couple of years. Her husband will continue to support her but he has even higher ambitions for her.

“Gert always says he'd like me to be a QC so he can drive a Jag and I can keep him in the style to which he'd like to become accustomed.”



# Warruwi police test out their green thumbs

Warruwi police aren't afraid of literally getting their hands dirty when it comes to working on projects around the community.

In August they helped the community and council members clear and prepare an area behind the council office and clinic for the new Warruwi Community Farm Project. Once up and running it will provide quality organic produce for the local community and employment opportunities. The Warruwi School intends to teach classes at the farm each week so students can learn to grow vegetables and fruit, cook healthy treats and care for animals and nature.

Officer in Charge, Linda Purcell said

they recently received approval for funding for a local Youth Centre. Police and Elders have been mentoring local youth to take charge and manage the centre and run the Disco. It will provide a basketball court, pool table, hockey table, surround sound TV, disco equipment and Nintendo games to keep the kids entertained.

"The last disco held in September at the school raised over \$450 which was not bad for a nights work and the proceeds went back into the community.

"As part of this project we are working in partnership with the Principal and teachers to encourage students to play AFL and Touch Football," said Acting Sergeant Linda Purcell.

Police members also assisted the Warruwi School in the implementation of the "Tidy Towns Project" which started on Monday 25 August.

"We spent several hours with the Principal, teachers and approximately 40 students picking up rubbish in the town centre. At the end of it we were bushed."

Police have started a boat safety program at school which focuses on boat and water safety with the help of great activity books provided by the NT Water Safety Branch.

In early September everyone took part in the National Giant Walk at 1:30 pm which aimed to beat the Canadian World Record for the most number of people involved in a walk at the same time.



Previous page, some views around Warruwi, Senior Constable Pete Minto with some children and two men who helped clear the area for the farm. This page, School children read to Linda Purcell at the station, painting the Warruwi Community Farm sign and some arts and crafts that are on display at the Centre.



While in Literacy and Numeracy week Acting Sergeant Linda Purcell had the pleasure of listening to the school children read.

A class visited the Art Centre, Police Station and Community Council to read to adults and showed some excellent reading skills.

Members publish a newsletter every fortnight about events and achievements around the Island. They have a dedicated space for police matters called "Police

Round Up" to talk about possible breaches of the law in the community. Some of the messages include information about when and how to register vehicles and obtain licenses, crocodile watch, alcohol and drug running, animal cruelty, vandalism and property crime.

"The Newsletter has been a good tool to get to know everybody in the community, share photos and inform everyone about current community projects and stories of interest," she said.

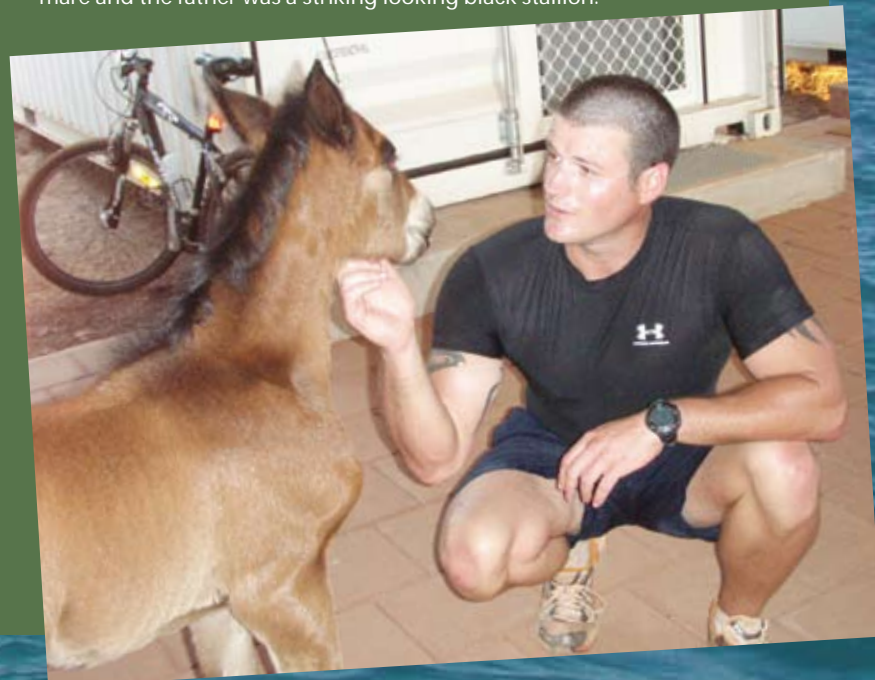
# Horsing around

by Acting Sergeant Linda Purcell

Senior Constable Pete Minto and I were going for a walk after work when we saw some local children with this two day old absolutely gorgeous foal they had taken off his mother. I took him back to the police station where I was at a loss where to put him because although the station is surrounded by high cyclone fencing, I was apprehensive to leave him in the yard due to the dogs hanging around outside the police station. When we were sure he was safe I then spent the next three hours looking in the bush to find his mother and father.

After I found them Pete and I walked him from the Police Station into the bush about 2 kilometres away to where they were grazing. By this time the pony had bonded to me and wouldn't leave my side and as soon as mum and dad saw him they came for him and they were so big and so angry. I ran down the road to try to get the Pony to stay with his parents but he followed me and then the parents chased both of us. I was apprehensive that I would get a kick in the head from the mare so I went round and round a tree with the Pony following me and the parents following him. Gee it must have looked hysterical and poor Pete just looked on helplessly. Finally the pony stopped and his mother came over to him and he started feeding and a short while later they all took off into the bush.

Warruwi has hundreds of wild horses roaming the island and it just happened that I had seen this particular pony near town grazing with his parents the day before and noticed his mother because she was a big grey mare and the father was a striking looking black stallion.



# Ladies Day

## Bringing women together

An informal chat between two police women has resulted in a whole new social network for the many women associated with NT Police in the Southern Region.

Senior Constable Naomi Beale and Senior Constable Kiim Parnell both remarked on a noticeable lack of opportunities for police wives, partners and female staff to get to know one another.

Having both felt the isolation of bush policing and being posted to new and unfamiliar surroundings, the women resolved to do something about the situation.

"When I first got to Alice Springs I didn't know a lot of police wives or partners and the only contact I really had was with women using the same crèche as me," Naomi said.

"Kiim noticed the same thing because when her husband Sean was posted back to Alice Springs they went to the Police Club one night because they remembered it as being a real family-orientated place, but there was hardly anyone there. And that

made her think that something needed to be done.

"In my case I was coming from the perspective of a working mum who didn't have a lot of contact with the other wives, whereas Kiim was coming from the perspective of a stay-at-home mother who didn't have contact with a lot of other women in the Police.

"You see, when you first come here it can be very isolating, especially if you don't know anyone to begin with. So we came up with the idea of a ladies day as a way for women to network with other wives and girlfriends and female staff associated with police so they would get to know one another.

"Alice Springs is only small and as Kiim said, it's nice to stand in line at the supermarket and be able to put a name to the face of the lady next to me."

Both Naomi and Kiim were delighted with the roll-up of more than 50 women who turned up to the first event at the Alice Springs Police Club on August 17.

Guests were encouraged to mingle and introduce themselves and plans were made to hold similar functions on a regular basis.

"It was good networking, everyone brought a plate and the bar was open. It was just a good informal way for everyone to get together. And we'd sincerely like to thank all those who assisted with getting it off the ground."

To continue the social networking on in style, the ladies held a Body Shop Party and wine tasting at the Police Club in September.



Far Left, (Left to right) **Glennys Green and Lauren Hill, Sheree Hansen and daughter Aida, 18 months.** Top Right, (Left to right) **Sharyn Hofer, Denise Johnsson, Leigh Slater with baby James, Emma Hohn and Kiim Parnell with three-year-old Ciaralii.** Above, (Left to right) **Maree Martin, Rachel Lovett and 18month old son Taylor, Naomi Brennan and Mel Bevan.** Left, (Left to right) **Davina Gleeson, Donnette Spencer, Nicole Dash, Kirsty Ray.** Bottom Right (Left to right) **Kris Sharkey and Mandy Ayliffe.**



# The FERGs

Timber Creek Fire and  
Emergency Response Group

By Steven Hennessy

When asked to pen a few words about my involvement with our local Timber Creek Fire and Emergency Response Group (FERG), I wondered about how to begin. My journey to the Top End, and then on to a FERG Unit Captain was somewhat unconventional.

**A** resident of Adelaide, my first visit to Timber Creek was in mid 2001. An old friend had become manager of the Health Clinic and I began visiting every dry season until 2005, to escape the southern winter.

Life down south was a bit of a struggle. It's no secret to anyone who knows me up here that I had battled with alcohol and drug abuse, with all the trimmings . . . loss of family and my home. I also had a bad MVA in 1995, which almost did me in and at last I got off the grog. However, as a result of the crash I was out of work permanently, or so I thought.

Coincidentally during one of my visits to Timber Creek in 2005, someone offered me a house to 'sit' for a few months and I jumped at the chance. I began part time work for the first time in ten years as the school bus driver and in mid 2005, I joined the FERG unit. Things were somewhat run down, and the public attitude to the unit was unenthusiastic. Apart from a couple of little scrub fires, not much happened. Then, in mid November that

year literally a couple of days before I was to return to Adelaide, we had a nasty MVA outside town – a rollover. A real mess, fuel everywhere, and the driver trapped. In hindsight I realise I did almost everything wrong, except get the guy out. One does what is necessary.

The following day our then OIC (Je Meng) approached me and suggested I stay. My part of the bargain was to take over the unit and do something with it which seemed a fair swap. This is merely a record of how I did things. Unconventional, maybe. Successful? I leave that verdict to posterity!

What I set out to do, and continue to do two and a half years on is make the Timber Creek FERG the social focal point of the area.

I raised a little money by doing sausage sizzles at local footy games and was then able to return to those who had rejected my earlier approaches to join and offer them something extra . . . a social club, of sorts.

In this little town 300 km west of

Katherine, people want to go somewhere apart from the pub. Over time we have accumulated a new pool table, darts, table tennis, a stereo and our own limited liquor licence.

Our new station shed and fire truck has given us added impetus. Such things get noticed. Potential recruits now come to us! In a population of 40 odd souls, our FERG Christmas party last year drew almost 100 guests. Last June we also had the inaugural 'battle for FERGIE', a fun loving cricket competition against PFES from Katherine, Yarralin and Kalkaringi. Our latest event was catering for the Variety club "Bash" in late August, when we wined and dined our guests, and even put on a disco. From being called "The Carrots" to a community mainstay in a year or so, is not bad I reckon.

I must stress here that in no way is our operational integrity diminished by the social aspect. In fact, the opposite is true. As I live literally metres from the police station, our response time is minutes, if not seconds. While we don't have the dramas with the Volunteer Fire Brigades in Darwin's rural area endure, we make up for it with Road Accident Rescue and river searches. We've even had a bridge threaten to collapse 110 km west of us!

I would like to express my great respect and gratitude to our local police from Je Meng, Macca McLean and Chantal Fischer, through to our current officers Tyron Bellman, Paul Lawson and ACPO Jonas Johnson and relieving officers such as Adrian Marshall. All have been great to work with, except for Paul Lawson, who is my arch-foe at table tennis. Thanks also to Tony Parko and Chris and the boys at the Katherine Fire Station. Their visits are a highlight.

So, that's us mob out here in Timber Creek. From a rat-infested run-down 30 year old shed, a truck almost as old, with an almost non-existent public profile, and no funds of our own, to something we are all quite proud of, and we have some even bigger plans for the future.

My personal greetings and admiration to all the other FERG volleys out there. Come out for the cricket battle for FERGIE next year. I hope you have gained as much from your involvement as I have. Long may you prosper!

Left to right, **Tyron Bellman Officer in Charge Timber Creek Police, Paul Lawson, ACPO Jonas Johnson, three members of the Variety bash mob, Steve Hennessy and Stewy Wilson.**



# Crikey!

## Life on Croker Island



Life for police at Minjilang seems full to the brim – if they are lucky.

The beautiful Croker Island is where the Arafura Sea meets the Timor Sea, east of the Coburg Peninsula. It is about an hour's flight by light aircraft from Darwin and the population is around 300.

In and out of hours police are active around the community, whether it's outdoors catching crocodiles and the occasional shark, or watching the football on the big screen with the rest of the fanatics.

Federal Officers Tina Westra, Glen Brazendale and David Catcher and the Northern Territory Officer in Charge Ian Young, understandably feel quite lucky to be living and working on the Island.

As part of their pro-active approach to crime prevention and education, members visit the Mamaruni School daily to get involved with the classes and meet with community members who work at the school.

In July Acting Sergeant Ian Young submitted about 70 colourful painted rooster's entries from the school children to a competition at the Katherine Show.

Three children won certificates for their entries and Sergeant Young presented the certificates during a general school assembly. All participants were presented a Katherine Show ribbon for their contributions.

One of the projects police and the Government Business Manager acquired funding for is to support the local basketball team and Senior Constable Dave Catcher spends many hours after work coaching the team members.

Police bought a projector and film screen with other funding and as well as watching the footy, they put it to good use for movie nights and exercise classes for the ladies.

The community has voiced overwhelming support for the positive and interactive approach of the police in community during community meetings that have taken place at the school, the health clinic and the council offices.

In between all their hard work, members have found time for a spot of fishing, but beware of hungry crocs that like to follow the trail of fish.



Above, aerial view of Croker Island and the Minjilang Community, some footy fans get ready to watch the game. Left, the colourful roosters made by the school children that were submitted at the Katherine Show and centre, Ian Young's Easter Monday catch of the day.



# Police Razorbacks Rugby Team

This recently formed rugby team were honoured to have their last match at Rugby Park Marrara refereed by ex-Wallaby player Owen Finnegan, who was in the Territory conducting coaching clinics with the Jabiru Bush Rats.

On his return to Darwin from Daly River three months ago, Senior Constable Ian Kennon formed the team to encourage members to join, in particular those who haven't played before, in a social atmosphere.

**Steve Payne and Macalstairs McLean tackling John Aland.**

The team plays monthly at Rugby Park Marrara against other local teams, including the Stray Cats (pictured in the action shot). They hope to expand this in the near future to include the military and ultimately trips away from Darwin.

Senior Constable Kennon said, "These games are a great way to involve the whole family with a barbeque held at the end of each match."

"It's a very family orientated occasion where players' partners and children are

more than welcome to come along and support the team, and enjoy a day out in a relaxing and social atmosphere."

The team is extremely grateful for the generous sponsorship of ARB Darwin, Lion Nathan Distributors and Australian Financial Advisors.



# Rugby League World Cup



From this trial team made up of members from NT, SA, WA, VIC & TAS, Alex who is sitting in the second row behind the coach, was the only one selected.

One of our very own NT members, Alex McDonald, was selected to represent Australia in the inaugural Police Rugby League World Cup that was held on the Sunshine Coast in November.

The selection trials were held in Sydney in August with members from across the continent as well as members from the Australian Federal Police participating.

Senior Constable McDonald, stationed at Tennant Creek, has played a myriad of sports throughout his life including rugby, cricket, bocce and has also competed in surf boat rowing competitions.

Alex, was the only Territorian selected, along with 21 others from Queensland and New South Wales to represent their country.

The 22 Australian representatives will be playing against teams from New Zealand, Great Britain, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Constable McDonald said he was extremely excited to take part in the event.

"I am proud to not only be selected, but to also have the chance to represent Police and my country" he said.

# Policing New



With an additional 500 Police, Darwin was the safest place to be in September. More than 500 delegates travelled to Darwin to be a part of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual International Association of Women Police Training Conference held at the new Darwin Convention Centre from the 6–11 September.

Attributing representation from 34 countries across the world the Conference offered networking and training opportunities relating to investigation, leadership, cultural understanding and Indigenous Policing that will improve the face of policing on a global scale.

Commissioner Paul White said the conference presented a fantastic opportunity for delegates to communicate and share their

knowledge and the Northern Territory Police have achieved their goal in providing a world class conference.

“The feedback we have received confirms that delegates have learnt a great deal and appreciated the high level of training programs on offer and are immensely pleased with their Northern Territory experience.

“I believe the Northern Territory Police has achieved its goal in raising the benchmark for future IAWP conferences across the world,” Commissioner White said.

The ‘Parade of Nations’ depicted the true Australian nature as locals cheered from pubs and bikini clad girls clapped our delegates on from the balconies of backpacker establishments.

Our delegates in thick woollen coats and mounty uniforms were in

high spirits as they remained cheerful and enjoyed the festivities provided at Liberty Square.

Other festivities included the Officer of the Year Awards, Seattle’s Pyjama Party and the Gala Dinner Masquerade Ball held at Skycity Darwin on Wednesday 10 September.

With reworks, Master of Ceremonies Award Winning Author Mr Phillip Gwynne, music from Phil Emmanuel, fun and friends the Gala Dinner was a great way to wind up the conference.

The conference, ‘Policing New Territory’, has put Australia and the Northern Territory on the world policing stage. It has also provided a once-in-a-lifetime chance for NTPFES and interstate staff to hear from internationally-renowned speakers

on a range of issues faced by police and administrators every day of their careers.

Delegates who had the opportunity to attend this conference have stated they gained many benefits and a much broader perspective and knowledge on policing issues, as well as meeting some amazing people.

“Staff attending this conference have learnt a great deal, but have also realised the wealth of knowledge and range of skills they possess through their training and experience in the Northern Territory,” Commissioner White said.

Thank you for those who attended the conference and well done to the Darwin team for putting together what will undoubtedly be remembered as a world class conference.



# Territory



Previous page, **A group shot of all the conference participants.** This page, **marching through Darwin City, Opening Ceremony at Parliament House and Sergeant Isobel Harrison from Charing Cross Police Station London Metropolitan Police with Sergeant Melinda Edwards.**





This page, touring the Territory, swapping hats, members of the Committee have fun at the gala dinner, mingling at the opening, Sergeant Gary Casey in an impromptu fashion parade and President Amy Ramsay awards Michelle Lish with the IAWP President's Award.

# praise and testimonials

16 September 2008

"...I cannot say enough about the beautiful weather, along with excellent hospitality, the fine facilities and the generosity we experienced from both your officers and the people of Darwin! The conference itself will rank as one of the best ever hosted by the IAWP! The training program was most informative and the side trip to the Tiwi islands was a wonderful adventure that our members are still talking about!"

Sincerely

**Amy Ramsay, PhD**  
**President**

30 September 2008

"...Thank you for your hospitality... and [congratulations to] you and your staff on an absolutely first class conference – I am sure it will be talked about for years to come. It really did showcase women, policing and Darwin (particularly Northern Territory Police) in an exemplary fashion.

Please pass on my thanks and best wishes to all concerned – you have some really talented staff. Everybody made us so welcome – and the quality of the conference they put together was amazing."

Best Wishes

**Chief Constable Julie Spence**  
**Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

3 October 2008

"The conference was a great success from a number of different perspectives. I certainly heard a multitude of positive comments about the program itself, the calibre of the speakers, the social program, the availability of transport, and the friendliness and support offered by your personnel. The opening march was certainly a highlight for me and we all very much enjoyed the Masquerade Ball and the spectacular fireworks.

On a more serious note, the Falconio presentation was extremely informative and very well delivered and facilitated.

...Congratulations on a wonderful event. You certainly did Australia proud!"

**Barbara Etter EPM**  
**Assistant Commissioner, Corruption Prevention and Investigation**  
**Western Australia Police**

25 September 2008

"It was a pleasure to have been able to attend the opening and some of the sessions of the conference and I was very impressed with the professional management of the proceedings and the quality of the content of the sessions. Not only did the conference make a very valuable contribution to the issue of promoting women in policing, it also highlighted the capacity of the Northern Territory Police, to host an international event such as this. I am very confident that those attending will be highly complimentary of the conference"

Yours Sincerely,

**Malcolm A Hyde, Commissioner of Police**  
**South Australia**

30 September 2008

"...From my perspective it was extremely well planned, organised and facilitated throughout. The same sentiments have been echoed by the New Zealand Police women in attendance... Throughout the conference I heard nothing but warm and spontaneous accolades for the organisation and your staff"

Kind Regards

**Rob Pope**  
**Deputy Commissioner: Operations**  
**New Zealand Police**

"The program was well thought out and included a wonderful variety of presentations."

**Michelle Lomas-Travers – Australian Federal Police**

"How can we ever top this!" **New Foundland 2012 IAWP Committee following the Gala Dinner**

"The sessions were very informative. I was impressed with the Case Studies, the emotional intelligence presentation and the quality of the leadership presentations." **Bernadine Chapman—Canadian Mounted Police**

"Congratulations on a terrific job. It was such a great conference. The speakers were fantastic, in fact we are hoping to get a couple of them here. The venue was perfect and the entertainment first class, not to mention the weather. Well done!"

**Tonya Carew—Queensland Police**

"I think a great job was done by the coordinators. Comments suggested a resounding "impressed" by the Gala night. The fireworks were a huge hit. Thank you for making the conference an enjoyable event." **Shahina Ahmed—Cambridge Constabulary England**

"I would like to thank the team for providing such a wonderful, rich experience. There were very few hiccups for such a large event and I think you all deserve accolades of praise." **Ruth Lund—University of South Pacific**

"The presentations were very interesting and worthwhile." **Joy Murphy—Vitoria Police**

"The selection of presentations was good. The Falconio murder, Gangland Wars and Snowtown murder showcased Australian policing and were extremely interesting—particularly judging from the positive comments from overseas delegates."

**Mark Keen—Victoria Police**

# My Tiwi Experience

By Constable Marge Hudson

Constable Marge Hudson, a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Manitoba submitted the following extraordinary story about her personal experience at the IAWP Conference. She joined the RCMP on 29 May 1979 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. During her service, she has worked on the front line in 15 Aboriginal communities and numerous non native communities. She was the first Aboriginal female member in Manitoba for her first five years in the job up until she recruited two more Aboriginal female members. She has a 26 year old son, Will Hudson.

**M**y belief is everything happens for a reason and this experience, no doubt was meant to be. On September 8th, I checked in with the workers at the conference in hoping to get on a trip to Tiwi Islands as my room mate thought it would be interesting to me because I'm Aboriginal, First Nation. Knowing that everything was booked prior to weeks of my arrival, I chanced it and asked. To my surprise and for whatever reason I was able to go the following day.

As I began my journey on the Arafura Pearl Darwin boat, I met some wonderful people. One of the persons I met was Dr. Elizabeth Blaney and we had a very interesting conversation. I learned that she is married to a retired Royal Canadian Police officer, who was also Aboriginal and that she had sweet grass with her that he had picked in the East provinces of Canada. She asked if I could do something with it as she knew I was Aboriginal as well. I told her I would think of something.

As we enjoyed the two hour picturesque boat ride to the Tiwi Island, I mingled and met almost everyone on the boat by the time we arrived at our destination. I met a number of fellow police officers from Ottawa and around Canada and I felt like I had known them forever.

Upon arrival we were shuttled to the different highlights of Tiwi. The most intriguing part was when we were introduced to the strong women of Tiwi Island. As the women danced and sang for us, a police officer that I had met on the boat advised me that they wanted me to dance with them and so we danced together.

I had brought with me a little scarlet pouch with a metal RCMP crest on it which is used to place tobacco. In my culture a gift of tobacco is sometimes offered in recognition of the wisdom the elder will share. Offering tobacco to an elder establishes a relationship between you and the elder. Tobacco is one of the

four sacred plants. The other three are sweet grass, sage and cedar.

As each culture has its own tradition, I knew it would be respectful to ask if they would accept the offer of tobacco. I asked Sergeant Rosanna Breed of the NT Police to ask the Elder on my behalf. To my surprise their Elders were women, unlike our culture where Elders are usually men. I asked Sergeant Breed to do this for me because she seemed to be a very well respected individual in the eyes of the locals. After the elder accepted the offer what followed was an experience I will never forget.

I danced with the people of the island, praying and being part of their culture. When the dancing and celebrating was done the women then asked me to sit with them and they told me they would like to sing a song for me called "The Healing Song". They placed their hands on my head, singing and praying at the same time.

This moment was so powerful and emotional that I started to cry. As I sat on the ground with the ladies I thought "how do they know about me, how do they know what happened in my life?" It was as if they could read me and feel my soul. It was at this moment that I realised that I was definitely meant to be there at this point in my life.

As I was getting ready to leave the strong ladies from the Island kissed me and whispered in my ear that they will continue to pray for me. This experience was very emotional and spiritual and one that I will never forget. As I sit here right now writing this I get that same feeling. That is how emotional this experience is to me.

The Commissioner Paul White of the Northern Territory Police attended one of the presentations and I took the opportunity to offer him the sweet grass that Dr. Blaney had given me earlier. I explained that this was an act of respect towards him, as we do in our culture. People smudge the four sacred plants

using a shell to cleanse the mind, body and soul and to help people get rid of negative energy.

Near the end of the day as Dr. Blaney and I walked along the beach I was looking for a seashell to do a smudge with. I thought there would be a better chance of finding one close to the water there than back home in Manitoba Canada. Time was running out and just when I thought I would not get the chance to find a shell, I literally stumbled across one. This again proved to me that this whole day was absolutely in the stars for me.

As we travelled back to Darwin, the people on the boat commented about their special experiences that day.

I have to say that each day in Australia was indeed very special. Darwin, Australia and Tiwi Island is a far away place but distance is a key part of its allure. Australia's unique history, wildlife and landscapes combined with a multicultural society, lie in the middle of the ocean to flourish on its own, are among the things that make it so special!

The people from Darwin and Tiwi Island treated me like I belonged there. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from Darwin and the Island for making this very special for me, "you made it special". Thank you and God Bless.

Left to right, **Marge Hudson, Cassie Munkara and Sergeant Rosanna Breed.**



# First Response Patrol

If you have seen any brightly dressed people around town, chances are they are one of the eight newly established members of the First Response Patrol.

The First Response Patrol was introduced on 16 June as a first level problem resolution to aid several organisations including Police, by quelling anti-social behaviour in the Darwin and Palmerston areas before it escalates, needing Police assistance.

The group of eight community engagement officers is made up of both men and women of all ages and from various backgrounds. They have been trained specifically to deal with anti-social behaviour and have a report-in line dedicated to the cause.

Members work from 7:00am to 3:00pm seven days a week liaising with and educating clients whilst restoring calm to our suburbs.

The members also spend their time gathering intelligence to support Police operations and directing people to such services as return to country, sobering up shelters, accommodation and rehabilitation programs.

First Response Patrol members work closely with Night Patrol reinforcing cultural protocols and generally tackling anti-social behaviour. The team have referred over 100 people through to the return to country program since its inception earlier this year and continue their great work on a daily basis.



From the left, **Commander Dowd, Jason De Santis, Krystie McQuade, Caleb Johnston, Rosemary Graham, Stephen Banderson, Michelle Woodward, Senior constable first class Stephen Wicks, Bertie Ashley and Darren Roe.**

# Official Blessing of the Alice Springs Flood Boat

By Rob Romaldi



Two young members of the public in boat, enjoyed the open day almost as much as the volunteers. From left NTES Volunteer Deputy Unit Officer John Evans, Unit Officer Phil Walker, Marine Officer Bob Whitehead, Timothy Fitzpatrick, Marilyn Allan front right with "Shadow" the unit's trained search and rescue dog, and Michelle Thomas.

The Alice Springs NT Emergency Services Volunteer Unit's Open Day held on Saturday 19 July, marked the official naming and blessing of the NTES flood boat.

NT Police, Fire and Emergency Service Chaplain Denis Von Blackensee, blessed the vessel and dubbed her the "MV Alice".

Nine-year-old Liam Miller attended the ceremony, the lucky winner of the name-the-boat competition at the Alice Springs Show this year.

The competition held at the NTES stand, invited children 12 years and under to enter a name for their chance to receive an additional \$100 gift voucher prize from Toyworld.

The annual Open Day was held at the Volunteer Unit headquarters in Wilkinson Street, Alice Springs. Throughout the event volunteers showcased their resources and provided displays for visitors.

Unit Officer, Phil Walker, said the open day was also part of the unit's on-going recruitment drive.

"You can never have enough volunteers during the course of an emergency or disaster," he said.

The unit meets every Tuesday evening at NTES headquarters and anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can come along at 7.15pm.

# Police Day of Remembrance



Police Remembrance Day is a very special day for police and their families and was made even more special this year by the strong support from the public and other members of the Tri-service who attended the official proceedings across the Territory.

Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham said that National Police Remembrance Day is recognised throughout Australasia.

“The processions and marches are to honour police officers who have died while serving the community, either on or off duty,” he said.

A large crowd gathered to view the colourful parade in Darwin, from Knuckey Street to St Mary’s Cathedral in Smith Street.

Mr Wernham and officials greeted the participants on the steps of the Cathedral.

In keeping with tradition, the Katherine community gathered at the grave of Constable Bill Condon who was shot on duty in the main street of Katherine in 1952 and the Tennant Creek memorial service was held at Christ the King Catholic Church.

More than 200 people also gathered at the Christian Community Centre in Alice Springs on the day.



Commissioner Paul White joined Deputy Administrator Pat Miller and Commander Bert Hofer in the laying of wreaths to commemorate those police officers who had died in the past 12 months.

For the first time, members of the Mounted Unit took part in the service as the horses formed a guard of honour for the Colour Party outside the church.

Piper Neil Ross piped the Colour Party into the church and bugler Constable First Class Greg Oberg performed the Requiescant.

The service was led by Police Chaplain Denis Von Blankensee and members of both the NT Police, Australian Federal Police and the NT Fire and Rescue Service and NTES attended along with members of the public.

Members and the public were encouraged to wear the Remembrance Day ribbon to show their support for all the officers who have died while serving.

All proceeds go to Police Legacy who supports families and relatives who have lost loved ones.

The names of 731 police officers are displayed on the National Police Memorial that honours all Australian police killed on duty since 1803.

Remembrance Day is commemorated on 29 September each year, the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel and Patron Saint of Police.



# Smart Sparx wins Safer Communities Award



Above **Glenda Ramage** hand delivering the **Smart Sparx kit**, Below, children from **Wagaman Primary School** perform at the **Smart Sparx launch at Parliament House**. Assistant Director **Alan Stephens** and **Glenda Ramage** accept the award in **Canberra**.



Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, 'Smart Sparx' program has won a prestigious National Safer Communities Award at a special ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra.

The Australian Attorney-General Robert McClelland, presented the Australian Safer Communities Awards 2008, which are sponsored by Emergency Management Australia, Federal Attorney Generals Department in conjunction with stakeholders from Australian States and Territories.

They recognise best practice and innovation in emergency management by organisations and individuals that help build safer communities across Australia. 'Smart Sparx' also claimed the Northern Territory Safer Communities Award earlier this year which was presented by the Chief Minister, Paul Henderson.

Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service was one of 89 organisations across Australia who put forward projects in the state and then national competition and just 16 of them received national awards.

'Smart Sparx' was launched in April this year and is an interactive and innovative fire safety and awareness raising program designed to reach Indigenous children in remote areas.

It is specifically designed to focus on camp fire safety and fire lighting in bush

areas, presenting a culturally appropriate and significant training program for young children in these areas.

NT Fire and Rescue Service Assistant Director, Alan Stephens, said this program was essential to assist in reducing the number of children hospitalised with burns each year as a result of a lack of education and understanding in fire safety.

"This program is very visual, it is interactive and maintains the attention of a young audience and the animated messages can be understood in different languages.

"It contains training material for class room education including the 'Smart Sparx' CD to make fire safety education enjoyable yet most importantly, memorable.

"Significant effort went into the design, testing and implementation of this program and this award is not only recognition of a great product, but of a real commitment from Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service to make our community safer.

"We weren't expecting to win and to get this recognition is extremely exciting and we are honoured," Mr Stephens said.



# An end and a new beginning

## Haasts Blu Police Station

In the scorching sun on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October at Haasts Blu Community, men, women, children, police and Defence personnel gathered together to celebrate the new upgraded Police Station.

Young men sat in the dirt and painted the school children with yellow and ochre paint and a man with a white beard jokingly told the women to hurry up over the microphone while they were painted in the traditional way at a nearby house.

The dancing and singing began kicking up the dust and the men and women encouraged the children through the steps.

Acting Sergeant Tyson Morris and Australian Federal Police Officer Senior Constable Deon Wilson pushed open the gates and the women and children danced inside during the ceremony.

The event officially opened the station and recognised the handover between the Australian Defence Force contingent, Joint Task Force 641 (JTF641) and their involvement in the project back to the NT Police.

JTF641 coordinated the transportation of the station infrastructure and materials for the 18 remote Police Stations across the Territory since they became involved in the project mid last year.

About 20 Defence personnel and police from Alice Springs, Papunya, Hermannsburg and Taskforce remote Headquarters came to the Haasts Blu Police Station to celebrate the joint triumph of basically rolling out a new station every month since July last year.



Over recent months Taskforce remote with the assistance of JTF641 have upgraded the police stations at Haasts Blu, Imanpa, Willowra, Nyirripi, Arlparra and provided more accommodation at Santa Teresa.

Police in these communities were operating with limited communications

and facilities but now have comfortable demountable accommodation, office, kitchen and laundry facilities as well as custodial facilities and satellite communications.

Construction began at Willowra in the second week of June and the national remote Station upgrade was completed at Santa Teresa earlier this month.

The new Haasts Blu Police station came online in August and Acting Sergeant Tyson Morris said he is really happy with how the new station and provisions for police have been set up.

"I have been here for eight months and have really enjoyed living and working with the people here and now we have the new police station and excellent communication systems, our jobs have become much easier.

"I am looking forward to having extra time to focus on engaging with the community and ensuring it is a safe and good place to live for everyone. I will have my work cut out for me learning to play AFL by the next season," he said.

The previous member from Victoria

This Page, **Commander of JTF641 Lieutenant Colonel Mick Rozzoli and Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly, local women dancing.**





This page, **Indigenous artist Linda Ngitjangka Naparulla with her painting and Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly, (left to right) Warrant Officer Steven Cheisa, Lieutenant Colonel Mick Rozzoli, Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly, Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Barnett and Lieutenant Colonel Lee Martin, some of the boys painted and dancing across the road and performing the road safety song.**

Photos courtesy of Shannon Joyce.

Senior Constable Shane Weeks was the coach of the local football team while rugby-lovers Acting Sergeant Morris and Senior Constable Deon Wilson have found other ways to build lasting relationships with community members.

Police and a local Youth Worker recently sought funding for, set up and opened a Youth Centre which they supervise three nights a week.

They refurbished a pool table and have video games and other activities that teenagers to 25 year olds can use for \$1.

Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly said that the day was a great success and the overwhelming support from the

community showed how important these sorts of refreshing and interconnected approaches to remote policing are.

He officially marked the proceedings by presenting certificates and medals to Lieutenant Colonel Mick Rozzoli, Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Barnett, Lieutenant Colonel Lee Martin and Warrant Officer Steven Cheisa from the ADF.

Some little tackers wearing painted cardboard cars walked around the stage while their classmates sang a road safety song in the national item on the day and a famous local indigenous artist Linda Ngitjangka Naparulla presented the Haasts

Blu Police Station with a colourful and intricate painting.

“Police in remote areas have a rewarding but often tough job. They are far away from friends and family and are continuously having to think on their feet and respond to situations without the types of support you get in regional and major centres.

“I am proud of how far Taskforce Nemesis has come since July last year and in particular of the dedicated officers stationed in these communities, like in Haasts Blu, for their hard work and enthusiasm to making their continued presence a positive one,” said Assistant Commissioner Kelly.

# NTFRS – Pride of Australia

Greg Nettleton, Director of NTFRS congratulates the three Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) personnel who were honoured at the 2008 Pride of Australia Medal NT ceremony for work they do away from their fire stations.

“Of the ten award recipients, three were members of the NTFRS. This is a very proud achievement for the agency, and the individuals themselves.

“The very nature of fire and rescue work is selfless and community driven and this directly reflects the kind of people who take up the challenging roles.

“Congratulations to the three winners, David Quan, Ben Schmidt and Volunteer Captain John Robertson on this achievement and national honour. It is well deserved and I speak on behalf of NTFRS in saying how proud we are of you,” Greg Nettleton said.

**The Young Aussie award** went to Fire fighter David Quan (pictured) of the Alice Springs Fire Station for his work with Camp Quality and his countless fund raising activities.

**The Community Spirit Award** went to Fire fighter Ben Schmidt currently serving at the Marrara Fire Station for his work as President of the Umpires Association, Founding President of the NT Make A Wish Foundation and a Board member of the Australian Council of Health, Physical Education and Recreation's NT Branch.

**The True Blue Award** went to Volunteer Captain John Robertson of the Pine Creek Fire and Emergency Response Group for his tireless work in the community. He has been a past member of the Pine Creek Council and helped set up the Pine Creek Turf Club. Robbo is one of those people who is always around to help out when help is needed, whether it is helping a mate or a stranger it doesn't matter.



## New Tankers

Senior Station Officer Jock McLeod (pictured) has been accused at times of trying to turn fire trucks into hot rods.

Indeed, the Fire and Rescue Service's four newest tankers, designed by Jock and Director of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Greg Nettleton, can be described as very nicely “all rounders”.

The trucks were purchased over the past two years to increase the capabilities of Fire and Emergency Response Groups situated strategically along the Stuart and Victoria Highways and to replace some trucks that were almost 30 years old.

They carry a full set of rescue equipment including Jaws, 1400 litres of water and live crew in an air-conditioned twin cab. They are also automatic, easy to use and compact with a useful purpose for every space.

The first two trucks went to Elliot and Timber Creek and the response from local volunteers has been very positive.

Their design has also impressed interstate fire services keen to learn and share ideas from the NT models.

The two latest tankers that were driven up from Victoria to join the NTFRS capability are destined for Pine Creek and Bachelor.

The Bachelor and Pine Creek FERG members can expect the new additions to arrive before Christmas.





# November

**M**ovember is back with a vengeance and police across the Territory have joined the good cause to raise awareness about men's health, in particular prostate cancer and depression in men.

The Movember event is run by the Movember Foundation; a national not for profit organisation which raises funds for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and beyond blue, the national depression initiative.

Since it began four years ago, Movember has raised a whopping 30 million dollars and continues to focus on changing men's attitudes towards their health.

The men in 'Moja Crime' have got a team together to grow their hairy best and all money raised will go to the national foundation.

"This year is our first official year in the campaign. We thought it was a worthy cause to get behind and a fun thing for everyone to do," said Superintendent of Major Crime Jo Foley.

"The 'mo sistas' of Major Crime are involved in fundraising as well so the men can really focus on the task at hand," she said.

"There's clearly a lot of talent in the section – no growing that is. It's going to be a tough call in the end."

Alice Springs police are also growing the Mo to help a good cause. Sergeant Peter Dash has been the main drive to encourage a spirit of community service and compassion among the General Duties and plain clothed sections of police in Alice Springs.

His patrol group (pictured) even has the girls taking part! To add to the fun there is a competition between uniformed and non-uniformed members. Some of the senior management are getting into the spirit of the event; however one senior member came into work half-way through Movember minus his moustache. Apparently his wife said the Mo had to Go! To make up for it he will be making a generous donation.

It is a pity that Movember only began four years ago. The Northern Territory Police could have raised a fortune for a really good cause with these mo's back in the 80's. The prize collection would obviously have gone to Superintendent Peter Gordon in the front row.

**Those with killer mo's still serving with the NT Police include Superintendent Peter Gordon in the front row left hand side. Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly is standing directly behind Peter. Behind him is Senior Sergeant Colin Goodsell and in the middle of the back row is Commander Bert Hofer.**



# Police Officer of the Year 2008



Northern Territory Police, in conjunction with the Darwin Rotary Club, recently announced Constable First Class Michael Deutrom from Darwin as the winner of the 2008 Rotary Police Officer of the Year.

Police Commissioner Paul White said that the prestigious award was highly contested and Michael was chosen from a selection of highly commendable members.

"I congratulate Michael on this significant achievement that recognises his outstanding career with NT Police. As always, the NT Police is honoured to be a part of the prestigious Rotary Police Officer of the Year award."

Since joining the Northern Territory Police Force in October 1998 Michael has served in Alice Springs, Katherine, Yulara and Darwin – virtually all in the General Duties area.

Currently in the Commander's Tactical Team at the Darwin Police Station dealing with property crime, Michael worked at the Mutitjulu Community with Taskforce Gemini from July last year to February this year.

From July to December 2006 Michael worked in Dili, East Timor, on secondment to the Australian Federal Police.

Michael was born in New Guinea where his father was a Magistrate and he has a brother who is also a member of NT Police.

Constable Deutrom was humbled when he received a nomination for Rotary and Community Police Officer of the Year, and was surprised when he was selected.

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

"I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Darwin for the honour and am really proud to be receiving the award in front of my family and dignitaries," said Constable First Class Deutrom.

# Chief Finance Officer Wins National Award

Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services Chief Finance Officer, Rose Hallett has picked up the Public Sector, Financial Manager of the Year Award in the National 2008 CFO Awards. The awards are hosted by the CFO Financial Review magazine and took place in Sydney on 10 October 2008.

We understand this is the first time a Northern Territory CFO has won the prestigious award in the eight years the award has been running.

Ms Hallett has held the position of CFO for almost five years and manages the tri-service annual budget of almost \$250 Million.

The agency faces competing demands and priorities and the last minute manoeuvring of resources to meet emergency requirements.

Following the release of the \$75 million 'Building our Police Force Plan,' Ms Hallett was actively involved in the administration and management of a number of major

objectives including 200 more police on the beat by the end of 2006, recruit and train 120 constables per year, improved living and working conditions to keep police in the Territory and increasing police patrols.

Acting Commissioner Bruce Wernham said Ms Hallett should be commended for the challenging role she faces daily.

"The nature of our agency is crime prevention, policing, emergency planning and response. Managing the distribution of finances to meet the rapidly changing demands of this agency and its shifting priorities is no mean feat.

"Rose delivers this service for us and maintains a calm and collected focus even in an emergency. She is very good at identifying the best solution and ensuring it occurs.

"This award is well deserved and well timed as the compilation of financial statements for the annual report has just been completed." Acting Commissioner Wernham said.



# In the spotlight



Hey all I'm Jo Killmister, better known 'round these parts as "Killa"...

Now I know what you're thinking, how did she get that nickname? Don't worry I didn't get it for all the wrong reasons. I grew up in Melbourne, loving all things outdoors. I followed the Hawthorn Football Club passionately from a very early age and loved being active, sometimes too active. I am currently a primary school teacher. I am not quite sure how I chose that career but one thing is for sure, since I was offered a position at Tennant Creek Primary (didn't even know it existed on a map) I have never looked back. I enjoyed Tennant Creek and all it offered but after three years I moved to a far more remote Aboriginal Community called Maningrida.

I have been living, working and breathing Maningrida ever since. Somehow 10 years have passed and the small town I first came to is now a bustling expanse of development and opportunities. How many people get to live on a beach, fish, hunt, quad bike ride, teach gorgeous outwardly going children, run the discos till we drop, watch the local footy and join the mayhem that is Maningrida?

About seven years ago I was introduced to this mad bunch of blokes that seem to like dressing up in orange, training hard in the sun, tinkering with machines and equipment and performing rescues. I am pretty sure back then these blokes asked me to join the NTES Maningrida Emergency Response Group (MERG) unit because they were lacking a welfare officer to make the lunches and supply the beer after a training or emergency. Sorry fella's that was never going to be me, so after a fair bit of watching and learning and a lot of listening to them yabber on I became a full member of the MERG Unit.

The MERG Unit is responsible for the Maningrida District which spans approximately 21,500 square kilometres and includes the major communities of Milingimbi and Ramingining. We currently have 15 members and three juniors on the books (Balanda and Indigenous). We train fortnightly, complete

maintenance once a week and meet monthly for our meetings. We fundraise and provide essential emergency response to various situations. We have a wonderful working relationship with the Maningrida Police which has helped foster a confident and cohesive team.

Being a member of the MERG Unit has enabled all of us to develop skills we would not have ordinarily had in our own careers. I have completed training in Road Accident Rescue, Storm Damage, General Rescue, Land Search and Rescue, First Aid, Leadership, Small Boat Handlers and Communications. Over the years we have seen a lot of action and been involved in responses to road accident rescues, land searches, boat rescues, missing persons, illegal fishing, house and land fires and the mother of all cyclones.

I became the Unit Officer about two and a half years ago and have since learnt a lot of new and exciting skills. We have a great team out here who are all committed to learning, training and doing their job as a volunteer when it comes down to the crunch. Some may remember Cyclone Monica and the hell path it decided to take through the NT in 2006. It was because of the Maningrida Police, MERG Unit, Power and Water and the hard working nature and spirit of every person living in Maningrida at the time that we got our town back on its feet. The best feeling in the world is to come through something like that together and it really bonded a lot of the community.

I have really enjoyed teaching in Maningrida. It is wonderful to watch the kids grow and learn at school and how they turn out. I have made some strong friendships with the local people in and outside of work. I have shared some tough times, learnt and

watched cultural proceedings and some of the weirdest and funniest experiences I have had have been with them. Whilst teaching is a full time job and work with the MERG Unit can often be time consuming I enjoy the challenge of the juggling act. I relish being really busy and hate to sit down for long, life is too short. My motto is definitely "I'll sleep when I'm dead."

Last year Maningrida celebrated its 50 years as a community and the MERG Unit, Maningrida Police and Power and Water's legendary Vern Peck put on a fireworks display. During the night of festivities some fireworks exploded out the side of a box and flew towards the volunteers who were standing guard. We backed away from the impending fireworks spitting out at head height towards us and then fell down an embankment onto concrete, trees and rocks at the barge landing. Feeling sore and sorry for ourselves we laughed it off later as we all celebrated yet another Vern fireworks extravaganza.

It was this MERG job and Vern's box of crazy fireworks that saved my life. A week later I went to the clinic with excruciating back pain and was medivaced to Darwin with the clinic thinking that I must have hurt my kidney in the fall. After three days in

hospital and several scans and tests it was revealed I had kidney cancer and had had it for about 10 years. I was flown to Melbourne and after my kidney and tumour were removed started the long road to recovery. I am still fighting the battle which is being managed well by Doctors in Maningrida and Darwin. Although it is hard at times because I have less energy and it is confronting, frightening and a definite life changer, it has given me a new lease on life. Having to deal with the big C taught me to live for today not tomorrow and opened up a whole new way of looking at things.

I still am actively involved with the MERG Unit and enjoying teaching although sometimes it is hard to balance it all, but MERG's has been a constant and an active way to stay focused on the positive and I am glad for that. We even turned it into a positive and had a cancer awareness week at the school teaching the children and adults how to look after themselves. We had colour and shave day and managed to raise \$5000. If it wasn't for my friends, family and the people in Maningrida I don't think I would be coping with it all. Thanks to all for your thoughts, well wishes and top tips on how to beat this one.



Standing left to right, OIC Maningrida Police Tony Martin, Paul Blackburn, Ben Pascoe, Joelene Mackeown, Roger Slinger, Louise Blackadder, Kevin Smith, Chris Blackem-Davidson, Seth Duggell, Vern Peck, Tony Mogan and Chris Castine. Sitting left to right, Olga Wrzesinska, Tim Bickmore, Dani Blackburn (child Cooper Blackburn), Shannon Alexander, John Willis, Belinda Fischorn, Jo Killmister (child Dylan Blackburn), Mason Scholes, Heather Milton and Adam Turnball.

# Young Men's Program

When Aboriginal Community Police Officer Frank Curtis reflected on the number of young Aboriginal boys getting into trouble and being placed into Youth Diversion Programs he came up with an idea to help them.

As a respected member of the local indigenous community, Frank was sure he could help get these young people back on the straight and narrow if given the chance.

He proposed taking them out bush and talking to them about their problems and getting them reunited with their culture.

"I wanted to work with them young fellas to build their self esteem and confidence," Frank said.

"When you get them out bush you can talk to them about what they're doing and how their victims are affected by their behaviour.

"Eventually I hope some of them will end up being leaders themselves and they can help some of the other young fellas."

In the initial stages the Young Men's Program was designed as a service provider program for boys going through Youth Diversion, however, Frank has plans to expand this.

"I hope that up the track we can include other young fellas – and not just Aboriginal boys."

Eventually Frank hopes to work with schools to identify young people who are at risk and include them in the program.

"We want to develop leadership and respect in these kids, and promote positive behaviour."

At present the program includes young boys up to 16 years-of-age being taken out bush with Frank and other traditional elders for day trips, but these will eventually be extended to overnight camps as well.

Plans are also in the pipeline for other organisations to provide activities for the young men to teach them team work and increase their self esteem.

"Eventually I would like to see some of these young kids developing into good positive role models and maybe even taking over the running of the program."



Pictured above, **Aboriginal Community Police Officer Frank Curtis and some of the boys in the program.**

# Biggest Morning Tea

Hosted by Strategic Planning Command –  
29 May 2008

Over 60 staff from the NTPFES attended the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea hosted by Strategic Planning Command (SPC) in the OPR Room at NAB House on 29 May 2008.

Event Co-ordinator, Ms Helen Marris from SPC found that everyone had a great time catching up for a good cause over a cuppa. Some staff toiled away in the kitchen to create tasty tempting delights for all to enjoy. This is the fourth year that SPC have hosted a Biggest Morning Tea and this year was the most successful to date.

Fundraising activities included \$2 entry to the event, raffle, 100 Club, the sale of official biggest morning teacups plus donations. One of the main highlights of the event was the auction conducted by Mr Foster Stavridis from SPC. The auction saw some serious bidding and the raffle tickets just sold themselves. A marvellous \$1150 was raised!

The event was a success with NTPFES acknowledged as a High Achiever at a reception held at Government House in July. His Honour, Mr Tom Pauling QC Administrator of the Northern Territory presented Ms Marris with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Cancer Council Northern Territory in recognition of the support and generosity of the NTPFES.

Over \$152 000 was raised from Australia's Biggest Morning Tea events across the Northern Territory which will see the funds stay in the Territory and go towards the Cancer Council assisting those that have been touched by cancer.

SPC would like to sincerely thank everyone who assisted in helping, attending and supporting the Biggest Morning Tea. In particular Salvatores, Mardy's Café, Bakers Delight and the Canteen at the Peter McAulay Centre and staff who donated morning tea.

A very special thank you to the local businesses that generously supported the event by donating prizes for the raffle and auction.

SPC look forward to Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in 2009. See you there!



# Vale – Joy Laraine Kuhl, Rest In Peace

Born 6 October  
1942 and  
passed away 15  
November 2008.

Joy Kuhl was a Forensic Biologist at the Forensic Science Branch in Darwin from 1984 until her retirement in 2003. Joy was a talented, knowledgeable, intelligent and professional forensic scientist who was passionate about her work and whose aim (and achievement) was to provide investigating officers with high quality and impartial forensic results. There were no short cuts with Joy and she said it the way it was and said it often.

Amid her peers and throughout Australia, Joy was recognised as a pathfinder and pioneer in DNA testing. Among many achievements throughout her career, Joy compiled a significant Aboriginal DNA database. The database is highly regarded by all jurisdictions throughout Australia and has underpinned a range of research as well as providing the scientific basis for making statistical statements regarding the DNA of aboriginal persons. A lot of her work was at the cutting edge of forensic science.

Joy played such a pivotal role

in the "Chamberlain" case. Joy gave strong and unwavering evidence under cross examination conducted in a manner that has seldom been seen in criminal trials.

Many investigators worked closely with Joy throughout her career and found her to be reliable, impartial and knowledgeable. Joy was a witness who could be trusted to undertake her role as an expert in a professional and yet unfussed manner.

Many members had the opportunity to witness the professionalism, skill and determination of Joy Kuhl in her work as a Forensic Biologist with the Forensic Science Branch. She was supportive of her peers and colleagues; unstinting with explanations and clarifications where they were needed.

Fewer members would have been aware of the invaluable contributions Joy made to Forensic Science in general, Forensic Biology in particular and to the establishment of a nationally recognised, world class, Forensic Science facility in the Northern Territory.

Clearly, Joy's contributions went far beyond her day to day role of Forensic Biologist. She contributed to both her



chosen profession and to her chosen organisation, the NT Police, well beyond what could be expected of her as an employee.

Her leadership at the NT is a leader in the utilisation of DNA to solve crime is due, in no small way, to the contributions that Joy made to this particular branch of her science and to the manner in which it is dealt with in the NT.

She was sorely missed on her retirement and will now be even more sorely missed. Joy Kuhl, 1942 to 2008. Rest in Peace.

## A Cool Fire Story

by Thomas Lawler

Next time you lie in bed during the build up and decide it's getting too hot and reach for the air conditioner control to turn up the best invention ever made – spare a thought for those who don't have that option at hand.

One night last month, Palmerston Station was asked to attend a medical assist in a one bedroom housing commission unit as the St John crew would be delayed.

We arrived to find Paul Heskins, an invalid pensioner lying on the floor next to his bed. He had suffered a blackout but had regained consciousness by the time we arrived. We assisted in getting him back to bed and administered some first aid. During this time we noticed his unit was extremely hot and marvelled at how hot it must get during the day.

When we departed his unit to return to the Station, the four of us in the Pump were astounded by how hot the unit was and decided to see if there was any way in which we could help out.

The following day we approached the Palmerston Mayor's office and met Joe Fernandez at Palmerston Oasis Betta Electrical. Joe assisted straight away, giving us a fantastic split air con deal that was a reflection of his compassion and generosity.

When I arrived back to Palmerston Station I made some more calls regarding finances to complete the purchase. Word soon got around the Station and within a matter of minutes the boys on shift were throwing money at me and all the finances taken care of. Bingo!!

We then had to find someone who would not charge a king's ransom to install the split system. I gave SFF Bernie Wellsford a call who happens to know a thing or two about air con installations as

well as being a Firefighter. He said he was busy for two months but like a true champion said he would install it straight away.

The following day the Mayor's office rang back and said Mayor Robert McLeod would love to contribute to the cause but as we already had raised the money they wished us all the best and thanked us for what we were doing.

A few days later Bernie installed the air con with the best assistant he's ever had, even if I did break his drill bit! Now Paul has the option of cooling his unit if conditions get a bit uncomfortable.

I would like to give Joe Fernandez of Betta Electrical, Oasis Shopping Centre a big plug. Without Joe's generosity the task would have been significantly more difficult. A big thank you to Big Bernie Wellsford for his great effort and the Palmerston Boys who all dug into their own pockets without hesitation.



# 20 years in the Fraud Unit

On Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2008, colleagues and friends gathered to celebrate Detective Peter Polychrone's 20 years of service in the Fraud Unit. Peter first took up a position in the Fraud Unit for a 6 month stint on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1988, after recently transferring to Darwin from Katherine CIB where he had served several years.

He was presented with a trophy by Detective Sergeant Sue Carter who spoke about Peter's professionalism, dedication, and his intrinsic ability to come up with a suitable anecdote for any occasion. Due to Peter's wealth of experience in

investigations he is often approached for advice and it is widely known that this rarely comes without an entertaining tale reminiscent of the Greek classics.

Detective Polychrone has provided excellent service to the Northern Territory Police over the past two decades, becoming known and respected within the community for the fraud investigations he has ably conducted over that time.

**Detective Sergeant Sue Carter,  
Peter Polychrone,  
Detective Sergeant Scott Manley.**



# Graduation Squad 94/2008

The Commissioner of Police, Paul White welcomed 26 new officers into the Northern Territory Police Force in a graduation ceremony held on Thursday 7 August.

While a majority of the new officers were from Darwin, some came from as far away as Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Dubbo, Borroloola and Alice Springs.

The members have since commenced duties as Probationary Constables at their respective stations at Casuarina (4), Darwin (2), Palmerston (1), Katherine (8), Tennant Creek (4) and Alice Springs (7) following their graduation.

Mr White has congratulated the new members for their perseverance throughout their police training and their commitment to becoming fully sworn constables.

"It is wonderful to welcome a new group of passionate and diligent members to our

police force. I am sure they will find that their hard work over their training period has been more than worth it.

"Working in the Northern Territory Police Force is a challenging and rewarding career and I look forward to watching them progress as they carry out their duties in the future," he said.

The Rod Evans Memorial Trophy for the highest academic achievement in Squad 94 was awarded to Bradley Wootton.

Pavel Machalek received the Commissioner's Trophy as the best overall course performer in academic, practical and physical training.

The Physical Training Trophy for outstanding physical training ability was awarded to Andrew Dudley and Kristian Jockers was presented with the Glen Huitson Trophy for the most consistent application in all areas of the training course.



# thanks and praise

Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2008  
1:39 PM

To: pfes.media@nt.gov.au

Subject: Feedback from PFES

Internet site  
name: lyne lawler

comments: to whom may concern  
to give my thanks to my  
heroes....

Dear Bec and Craig, (from  
Imanpa)

It is real life that things  
can happen that have not been  
planned.

I still think about what  
happened to us and that we  
were very lucky. Though we  
had a car accident and my  
husband was injured, we had a  
great response from everyone  
- tow truck driver, bush  
nurse Carmel, fire fight, Royal  
flying Doctor Service, St John  
Ambulance, Alice Springs  
Hospital and you guys of  
course. You are legends and  
provided so much help - you  
helped save my husband's life  
and took great care of my kids  
and helped them confront the  
accident. As a mum and wife I  
owe so much to you. We came to  
Alice Springs to see outback  
Australia and to have great  
memories of Uluru, but now we  
have more to take home - the  
memories of the incident. I  
think that we'll all remember  
our holiday now.

Yours sincerely and thanks  
again, you really made a  
difference.

Lyne Lawler.

-----  
Hey,  
Thanks a lot for all you did  
for my family and me. Not only  
did you help us so much I also  
got to ride in a police car. My  
dad's still recovering from the  
accident and he's had a couple  
of operations. My mum brother  
and I are fine and we are also  
recovering from the accident.  
I've had a swim in the pool it  
was really cold, but before  
that we went to Uluru. It was  
really cool and bigger than I  
thought. Well hopefully soon  
we can get back home so I can  
see my dog and hopefully my dad  
will get better soon. Anyway  
thanks again, Cynthia.  
HTTP\_REFERER: http://www.  
pfes.nt.gov.au/index.  
cfm?fuseaction=feedback

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

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to **Superintendent Jo Foley, Commander Jeanette Kerr, Superintendent Helen Braam, Sergeant Melinda Edwards, Rose Halett, Senior Sergeant Kerry Legg, Senior Sergeant Pauline Polychrone, Senior Auxiliary Pauline Williams, Senior Auxiliary Ken Williams, Sandra Mitchell and Laura Dewson** for their role as part of the Conference Organising Committee for the International Association of Women in Police (IAWP) 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference that was successfully held in Darwin in September.

In addition **Sergeant Rosanna Breed, Rebecca Forrest, Katie Fowden, Jayne Fairington, Senior Constable Donna Cayley, Stacey Mousley, Treasure and Adam Gordon, Police Recruit Squad 97 and Aboriginal Community Police Officer Squad 15** all received the Commissioners Letter of Recognition for their invaluable assistance to the IAWP Conference.

A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to **Superintendent Anne-Marie Murphy** for her dedicated, professional and exemplary service to the Office of the Commissioner in her role as the Commissioner's Sta Officer since 12 December 2002.

**Commander's Tactical Team Darwin and Scene of Crime Officers Darwin** also received Certificates of appreciation for their proactive efforts in Operations targeting property crime since March 2008. SOCO members were praised for their work examining 1198 scenes of property crimes between March and August that found forensic evidence at 451 of them.

**Detective Senior Constable Tim Lee** received a letter of recognition for his excellent investigation and interview skills in a horrific case that saw an offender found guilty of sexual intercourse without consent and murder in the Alice Springs Supreme Court in July 2008.

**Senior Constable Trevor Howie** was praised for his work in Tennant Creek on a sexual assault/serious harm investigation that went to trial in June and resulted in three guilty verdicts. He was described as "highly organised, efficient, always pleasant and hard working" by the Assistant Director of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

**Senior ACPO Joe Russell and Probationary ACPO Tania Hogan** were praised for attempting to save the life of a man who had been stabbed on 29 May at the water tower in Palmerston. Upon arrival they immediately commenced CPR until the ambulance arrived demonstrating "a high degree of initiative, judgement and common sense... [their] consideration towards the person demonstrated a level of sensitivity and compassion that is to be commended." Unfortunately despite their admirable action the man failed to respond to subsequent medical treatment and died later the same day. **Superintendent Tony Fuller, Detective Senior Sergeant Debra Smith, Detective Sergeant Hege Burns, Detective Sergeant Leigh Cahill, Detective Senior Constable Gordan**

**McDonagh, Senior Constable Jon Mitson, Senior Constable Phil Dueld and Keith Hutton** from the Northern Territory Emergency Service were recognised for their work that contributed to the success of the National Counter Terrorism Committee sponsored Tactical Resolution Exercise - TACRES OCHRE BARU from 19 to 23 May 2008 hosted by the Northern Territory Police.

**Constable Keith Bridgeman** received formal recognition for the quality of his investigation into the death of a man at Ntaria in 2007. Before he prepared for the Coronial investigation (his first), was noted by the Coroner to be of a particularly high standard.

**Detective First Class Constable Brendan Lindner and Detective Sergeant Leith Phillips** were recognised for providing investigative assistance to the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) during covert operational activity based in Alice Springs.

A Commissioners Commendation was awarded to **Senior Sergeant Garry Smith** for his brave attempts to enter a burning house at great personal risk to retrieve the occupant on 10 March 2007.

**Acting Sergeant Roland Kubank** received a Commissioners Commendation for his actions of disregarding his own personal safety while on duty in Tennant Creek to prevent further injury to a woman who was being assaulted on 20 October 2007.

**Superintendent Tony Fuller** received a Commissioners Commendation for his work with Government agencies and Traditional Owners to have Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island declared restricted areas.

A Commissioners Commendation was awarded to **Acting Sergeant Martin Bound and Senior Constable Mathew Young** who while of duty at the Minyerri Community courageously assisted a woman whose mentally unstable son was aggressive and trying to stab her.

In September the Commissioner received a letter from Steve Moore Operations/Business Development Manager for Australian Retail Consultants praising the fine work of **Acting Sergeant Linda Purcell and Constable Peter Minto** stationed at Warruwi. Officers were called to investigate possible fraudulent activity at the local store and were so thorough, that even after it became apparent no police action was necessary, they worked with all parties involved to identify and resolve the problem.

M.G. Krause, ADC, Brigadier and Commander 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Australian Army wrote to the Commissioner to pass on his thanks for the support and care provided by **Sergeant Craig Bailey, Constable Leigh Yates and Constable Alex McDonald** to one of his Privates after a fatal car accident at Ali Curung in October. "Their actions at very short notice and during a very trying time were of the highest standard and were a credit to their training and professionalism."

