

THE DRUM

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2010



THIS ISSUE:

- The Force
- Welcome to Our Stand
- Seven New Recruits for the Dog Operations Unit
- Tour of Duty

Commissioner and CEO's Christmas Message



It has been almost a year since I commenced my appointment as Commissioner and CEO of Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

The December edition of the Drum highlights our achievements and events over the past few months both as a Tri-service and on an individual level.

With 'The Force' filming our every move, I was impressed with the immediate professional response our members provided at the Detention Centre breakout on September 1 under a national spotlight. Further, the work with Police throughout the Territory is continuing to proudly showcase our standards to the Nation.

Our seven new recruits born into the job at the Dog Operations Unit have been a refreshing addition to the Unit and a highlight of the year, keeping the Dog Operations Unit busy as they grow into their enormous paws.

It is great to see a broad range of Community Engagement initiatives across the Territory, from boxing at Numbulwar, Ramingining footy trip to Darwin, 'Off the Hook' fishing competition across the Top End waterways, the great work of the CAT team spreading the message in community, youth engagement and migrant meetings, NTES First Aid in the outback, and the spectacular Marathon Project. All of these events enhance policing through stronger relationships with the community.

This year has been a busy period for Fire and Rescue personnel with a number of significant incidents including the TIO Bombing, the series of Leanyer fires and the Howard Springs bush fires not to mention being the first on scene at the all too many tragic incidents such as road fatalities. We can only hope for less trauma on our roads this Christmas period not only for the families of those killed, but for our responders who attend such horrific scenes.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Northern Territory Emergency Service for all their hard work over the last few months preparing our community for any threat of a cyclone. The Bureau of Meteorology have announced we can expect a season of significant cyclone activity and the community must be as prepared as possible. The continuous efforts of NTES staff to inform the community how to prepare for a cyclone and how to get through a cyclone may well prove invaluable this wet season - but hopefully we won't see a cyclone at Christmas!

Before you become too engrossed in the stories within, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your tireless efforts throughout the year and trust you and your families have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a Happy 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

Cover Photo's courtesy of Steve Trowbridge and Ben Tessler from The Force.

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THE FORCE

BEHIND THE LINE

The Seven Network series "The Force" spent the good part of two months travelling around the Territory with Filming Supervisor Garry Casey, ensuring the life of a Northern Territory Police Officer is showcased for the series.

Numerous opportunities presented themselves offering The Force great opportunities to juxtapose regional and remote life in the Territory.

Filming Supervisor Garry Casey said the range of issues and situations filmed for the Territory will be of interest to the National audience.

"The Force had their first day of filming at the Darwin Cup Races followed on by the Beer Can Regatta.

"They then ventured out to the Coomalie region where in just one hour from the capital city the landscape turns from regional to rural in no time embracing our bush copper approach to communicating with members of the public," he said.

Of note, the Immigration facility protest was a scenario that The Force just happened to be in town to grab. Water Police have apprehended persons breaking the law on our waters, Community Officers have pulled hazardous vehicles off the road and the Commanders Tactical Team apprehended car thieves.

"It's all been pretty exciting. In a perfect world there would be no incidents, but The Force have been lucky to have been around to gauge a wide range of incidents and interview a number of our officers from a variety of divisions across our organisation.

The Force were impressed with the way the NT Police go about their business especially in communicating with the public and our capacity to effectively police large crowds with few numbers.

"I believe our officers have been displayed in a very positive light and we certainly have shown that our relationships with the community members and approach to dealing with problematic people is unlike any other police force in Australia," Garry said.

The first NT episode of The Force screened on Wednesday 29 September, on Police Remembrance Day.

Northern Territory Episodes will continue to feature in the 2011 series and the Commissioner has approved a further 12 month extension to the contract.

Photo's courtesy of Steve Trowbridge and Ben Tessler from The Force.



Firing the Commissioner

It's not everyday that someone can say they fired the Commissioner, but the lucky graduates of Squad 1/2010 along with Trainers for the Fire and Rescue Service did just that.



The Commissioner, John McRoberts became very hot under the collar when Fire and Rescue made him a participant in Compartmental Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT).

The fires put the Commissioner in the container and then set it alight. Within minutes it had reached in excess of 500 degrees centigrade.

After being set on fire, the Commissioner ventured to the Darwin Fire Station to witness the explosion of a mock office that only required 30 – 40 litres of water to extinguish.

Other activities included a boom lift, crawling through a cage in full equipment, working the fire hose and cutting up a car.

District Officer, Mark Spain said this was a great opportunity to show the Commissioner some of the activities that Fire and Rescue participate in and explain the processes.

"What better way to showcase what we do than to get the Commissioner in

there experiencing it and being an active participant.

"Our trainers were able to talk through each of the processes and have some one on one time with the Commissioner and the day also provided extra training for our recruits," he said.

In spite of being set alight the Commissioner thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"One of the joys of my dual role as Commissioner of Police and CEO of the NTFRS and NTES is that unlike my counterparts in other jurisdictions I get to work with the best of three significant agencies. They, on the other hand, get to do things like set me on fire!

"It was certainly an interesting day and of great value for me to participate first hand in the activities of the Fire and Rescue team. Thanks for the experience. I can't wait to see what NTES might have planned," Commissioner McRoberts said.

"One of the joys of my dual role as Commissioner of Police and CEO of the NTFRS and NTES is that unlike my counterparts in other jurisdictions I get to work with the best of three significant agencies. They, on the other hand, get to do things like set me on fire!"

Commissioner
John McRoberts



Recruits all the Rave at the Administrators Fun Day

What better opportunity to promote our Police Recruits and get them in the public domain than participate in the Administrators Kids Fun Day at Government House on Saturday 14 August.

Top to bottom

Four recruits posing are Sarah Hutchinson, Taryn Shultz, Amelia Scott, Janice Kershaw.

Officers having a good time, Alicia Bailey, Taryn Shultz, Trent Walton.

Officer Fredy Pedrotti playing oversized soccer.

Fifteen recruits from Squad 107 donated their time and took three police sedans offering special need children free rides, which they just loved.

The Kids Fun Day was initiated by the Administrator, Ted Egan, back in 2005 and Tom Pauling AO QC has carried it on.

Acting Senior Sergeant Peter Anderson said he's been involved since inception and has enjoyed getting the recruits to participate.

"The first year I drove a sedan around for a few hours straight with the kids and then involved the recruits.

"This event gives recruits a chance to give back to the community and an opportunity for community engagement which is a big part of an NT Police Officers role," Acting Senior Sergeant Anderson said.

This year Squad 107 assisted to set up the event, drive kids around town in police vehicles, played with kids in the sand pit and assisting kids get on and off Harley Motorbikes.

"The kids all had such a great time and I'm sure the members of Squad 107 that attended found

the event worthwhile and were glad to have participated," Acting Senior Sergeant Anderson said.

Acting Commander, James O'Brien thanked the members from Squad 107 that attended for their professionalism and positive attitudes.

"This type of event places the NTPFES brand in the eye of the community and it cannot be stressed enough how this type of community engagement and involvement assists in raising community perceptions of Police in a positive light.

"I commend all of you who were involved in this event - you have done the NTPFES very proud and you should all be very proud of your individual achievements - well done."

The day was a huge success and staff and recruits were thanked during a small lunch held by the Administrator after the event.

Thank you to the Squad 107 members that attended - Robyn Schmidt, Rebecca Hockey, Amelia Scott, Taryn Schultz, David O'Keeffe, Ian Davies, Trent Walton, Alicia Bailey, Matthew Carpenter, Lance O'Connor, Freddy Pedrotti, Sarah Hutchinson, Janice Kershaw, Shaun Hill and Alana Henderson.



Exercise Professional of the Year!

Congratulations to Catie Kirke, Physical Health and Fitness Development Officer at the NTPFES Training College.

Catie has recently been awarded "Exercise Professional of the Year" 2010 by the Australian Health and Fitness Industry for demonstrating quality service, innovation, community connection and commitment to industry standards.

Catie commenced her position in December 2006 and since this time has continually developed new initiatives and concepts in order to promote health and fitness organisation-wide. She manages her work with the highest of professional standards, is strategic, thinks outside the square and does not accept mediocrity nor complacency.

We are proud to call her one of our own and congratulate her on her success.

Well done Miss Catie!



By Renae McGarvie
NTPFES College

Digital Radio Project

NTPFES has successfully completed its multi million dollar project with Motorola Solutions to upgrade to its new P25 digital radio communications network. Many years in the planning and at a cost of \$13M, the upgrade is the largest ICT project embarked upon by NTPFES and will enhance existing radio coverage across Darwin, Katherine & Alice Springs.

Detailed planning for the project commenced in 2006 and included an independent review by external consultants Gibson Quai-AAS. In 2008 the NT Government allocated close to \$13M for the 3 year program of works which has included infrastructure upgrades in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

The project involved complex negotiations with Motorola Solutions to implement a fully IP based digital radio network linking Darwin-Katherine-Alice Springs, including a trade-in on the old NTPFES digital radios and equipment.

NTPFES is the first jurisdiction to move to a fully encrypted IP based digital radio network and leads other jurisdictions across Australia in implementing digital radio communications of this type.

While there are many benefits associated with the new digital radio network, the most evident is the increased radio coverage and the capacity to grow the network to meet the growing organisational demands of NTPFES.

Key milestones achieved by the project include:

- Increase radio coverage across Darwin, Katherine & Alice Springs
- Katherine Station is now fully digital
- New consoles in JESCC
- New radios in vehicles & new portables across NTPFES
- NTES now fully digital
- Greater interoperability and radio communications across Tri-service.

The new digital network is data capable and provides a foundation on which NTPFES can introduce Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) functionality for vehicle and portable radios, including the use of mobile applications in the near future.

The ICT Branch will manage and coordinate the maintenance of the new radio network with the assistance of Motorola Solutions.

Any enquires regarding the new network should be directed to Mr. Tony Chivell - Manager of Communication & Electronic Services Section.



Top to bottom
Katherine goes live.
Changing Fleet radios.

“Having Fun” with the Masters Games 2010

By Keith Lewis, NTES

With the Masters Games Campaign over for another two years, the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit can yet again deservedly put their feet up and relax.

Over the week of competition a total of 170 hours were amassed by members, equating to just over 12 hours per volunteer member who assisted.

As well as volunteering, three members competed in the Games. Unit Officer Michelle Thomas won a bronze medal in the Five Kilometre Walk, Deputy Unit Officer Ian Smith won a gold medal in the Masters Mile and two silver medals in the 5 Kilometre and 10 Kilometre Cross Country Runs and last but not least, Training Officer Bob Whitehead won a silver medal in the Volleyball.

The volunteers assisted throughout the Games week with marshalling competitors, roadblock duties and safety duties for the cycling and road/cross country events. Michelle even had to assist with the transportation of a competitor with a dislocated shoulder in the Five Kilometre Cross Country Run.

The NT Emergency Service was also responsible for communications to assist the Transportation Hub in a radio network for buses picking up competitors.

In all a busy week, but I'm sure that in 2012 the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit will once again put their hand up and do it all over again.



Alice Springs Volunteer Unit with their Medals.

Numbulwar Boxing Club

Under the guidance of Constable Ben Hosking of Numbulwar Police Station, a very enthusiastic group of children are now keen participants in the elite Numbulwar Boxing Club.



Photos Constable Ben Hosking and keen boxing protégés in Numbulwar.

The 'Club' meets every Monday and Friday behind the Police Station.

Participants go through about 20 minutes of warm up exercises before commencing any sparring.

Only those that have arrived on time and have warmed up correctly are permitted to participate. Latecomers are not permitted to show up and expect to join in once the sparring begins – they have to commit from the outset. The activities are carefully controlled and monitored with strict discipline enforced as a condition of participation.

Bouts are run for 30 seconds for the younger children, 1 minute bouts for the mid-range age and 2 minutes for the bigger participants. Sessions run for about an hour and a half, with plenty of time for police to discuss nutrition and fitness with the eager participants, who regularly ask for boxing again tomorrow, instead of having to wait until Monday/Friday for the next round!

Of note since running this boxing club the incidents involving the roof of the Police Station being rocked have ceased.



Junior Police Rangers

Our names are Casey Gray and Madeleine Thomas. We are part of Junior Police Rangers, in Group 23. We currently hold the position of Seniors of Group 24 and 25.

This year we have taken part in many different activities, such as; Royal Life Saving activities, sailing, horse riding, search and rescue, drug and alcohol education, navigational tasks, variety camps and many more. Every one of these activities has been extremely enjoyable. We get the opportunity to do things that many people will never get to do in their lifetime.

Being part of Junior Police Rangers is something special. Over the course of three years, we have met people we hope to remain close with for the rest of our lives. We act and treat each other like a family. There are always arguments, but these arguments are always followed by resolutions that bring us closer together as a group. We all have love-hate relationships and somehow we feel that can never be changed.

Being a senior this year has taught us so much. We've learnt how to be real leaders and get pushed to the test while under the guidance of our leaders, Neil Joyce and Kim Silvestri.

We've come across problems, that as a group, we've managed to overcome. All of this has been achieved by the skills that this awesome program, Junior Police Rangers, has given us.

By Casey Gray and Madeleine Thomas



Photos Junior Police Rangers embrace leadership training.



Welcome to our Stand!

By Megan Warry, NTES

"Fairy Floss! Show bags and rides galore, but you haven't experienced it all at the Alice Springs Show, if you don't get to the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services tent" This was the radio ad that kicked off this year's 2010 Tri-service Show Circuit.

Alice Springs boasted a superb Tri-service team with NTES Volunteers harnessing children up using the Arachnipod and "fishing" for desert critters in the hope of winning the daily prize of \$100 to spend at Toyworld. Furies held a couple of cards up their sleeve with kids exploring the Alice Springs Rural Volunteer Fire Brigade Truck and 'Little Jock' making a guest appearance later in the day. Police also entertained visitors to the stand handing out balloons, introducing the new road safety talking posters and hosting the infamous Tri-service Ropes and Ladders game which was met with great enthusiasm by all families.

Onto Tennant Creek the following week and an unexpected bout of rain flooded the Tri-service tent almost causing the Tri to forgo the show altogether. However, thanks to the fast thinking of Swifty and his team at the Tennant Creek Fire Station, our Tri-service merchandise was saved from a watery end whilst the Tennant Creek Show Society coordinated four truck loads of sand into the grounds in an effort to save the show. Fortunately the day of the Royal Tennant Creek Show was sunny and bright providing the Tri-service with the opportunity to showcase our stand in style. NTES Volunteers provided chainsaw demonstrations, whilst the local kids lined up for rides on 'Little Jock'. The day culminated with PFES being awarded "Best Government Stand".

Seven days later and the Royal Katherine Show commenced with plenty of families coming through. The Police showcased a beautiful, retired black Labrador, who patiently accepted prodding from the passing children; the tent was full of red, orange and purple balloons and we almost convinced a fire fighter that they had to physically demonstrate "Stop, Drop, Cover and Roll" to the kids when they were playing Ropes and Ladders.

It was the afternoon of the first day that saw the competitive spirit of the Tri-service kick in with the annual Emergency Services Tyre Changing Challenge. NTES, Fire & Rescue and Ambulance services were amongst the emergency services that participated with Fire & Rescue declared the final winner. Winning for two years in a row, it might be time for NTES and Police to start practicing for 2011!

Speaking of second achievements, it was with great pleasure that NTES Area Manager Katherine, Dave Anderson accepted, on behalf of the Tri-service,

the Katherine and District Show Society 2010 "Best Exhibit by a Government Department". Well done and thank you to the Katherine team for making this possible!

Darwin was the final destination for the 2010 Show Circuit with a three day, 12 hour schedule and a continual flow of tired parents and excited children. NTES were constantly in the public eye with over 30 volunteers looking after the Lost Kids Stand. Police also had a strong operational presence throughout the show grounds.

The Tri-service tent was in full swing for this final show. There was Neighbourhood Watch with a table full of educational goodies, Fire & Rescue with their badge-making machine, red hat give-aways and a real fire truck for the kids to explore.

NTES gave out educational show bags, recruited potential Volunteers and their Volunteers demonstrated Urban Search and Rescue techniques. Police were happy to showcase their blue traffic sedan and opened up the mobile speed unit, but it was the opportunity to sit on the Police motorbikes with lights and sirens running that had the children (big and small alike) lining up. Victims of Crime and the Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Project also contributed to the Tri-service activities.

But it was the Saturday of the show when all the hard work of the Tri-service finally came to light. It was with great pleasure that PFES received our third and final award for this Show Circuit Season - the Royal Darwin Show 2010 Bell Memorial Trophy for "Most Outstanding Stall at Show". This was a fantastic achievement for the Tri-service and a tribute to the months of hard work by the staff who organised the stand in terms of concept and design as well as the enthusiastic staff that operated the tent and pulled it all together on the day.

It appears we have set the benchmark for the PFES stand, now to aim for four awards in 2011!

Top to bottom - left to right

World Swimming Record Holder Tahnee Afuhaamango with Senior Constable First Class Mark Casey.

The "Alley Clan" Enjoying a Ride on Little Jock.

Station Officer Darrin Weetra, Public Education Officer Megan Warry and Constable Colin Masters proudly showcasing the Royal Darwin Show 2010 Bell Memorial Trophy for "Most Outstanding Stall at Show".

Pretending to be a Fire Fighter.

"Fishing" at the Alice Springs Show.

Joshua Learning to Drive a Fire Engine at the Katherine Show.



Police Rugby

On the 17th 18th and 19th of August this year, Darwin hosted the Australian Police Rugby League Championships at Richardson Park.

Northern Territory Police members took part in the championships to make up the Combined Affiliated States side and play against NSW and Qld Police teams.

The affiliated side came third in the competition with two NT Police members, Josh McDonald and Christopher Yow selected to play for the Australian Police Rugby League team. The Australian team will travel around the Pacific Region in the coming months to play other Police jurisdictions.

The three day competition brought members from NSW, QLD, WA, SA, Vic and ACT to the Top End all with their sights set on winning the shield.

In the end, the NSW team proved dominant winning two out of three games, scoring the shield for the first time in three years.

The competition is planned to be hosted in Brisbane next year, with a Curtin Raiser being held before the

first State of Origin clash. NT Police will again take part in the Combined Affiliated States.

If you are interested in taking part in the competition next year please contact Jason Hastie of the Territory Response Group, Joe Carbone of Drug Enforcement Section or David Chalker at Alice Springs Station.

Jason Hastie from the Territory Response Group said having all the members from not only around the Territory but the nation in Darwin was a great networking opportunity.

"I hope we can continue to contribute to the affiliated team as the competition continues and represent the Northern Territory Police Force" he said.

"The NSW and QLD sides consisted of first grade players from the Eastern Coast and it took a lot of courage from our boys to run on against those players with little preparation. I have a huge amount of respect for the players from the NT who participated in the event".

"Thanks to all those people who helped our boys out" he said.



Farewell to Chrissy

It was with regret that on 1 July, NTES Palmerston Volunteers Unit bid their farewells to a long standing Volunteer and Deputy Unit Leader - Christine Castine.

Chrissy had been with PVU for almost nine years and holds a long list of achievements including a Certificate II in Public Safety (SES Rescue) and the NTES Volunteer Service Medal.

Throughout her years with NTES, Chrissy has continually provided a prompt and ready response upon a moments notice when called to attend various emergency situations. Some instances include the derailment of the Ghan at Ban Ban Springs and recovery operations after Cyclones Ingrid and Monica.

Chrissy will be missed by all the NTES team and we wish her well with her future endeavours.

Garry Casey, Unit Officer presenting a volunteer-organised farewell plaque to Chrissy.



Denis Maher Retires

'A Class' Firefighter Denis Maher, 'Meno' to his mates, is hanging up his hat after 37 years of what he describes as the best job in the world.

In January 1973, Denis joined the Fire and Rescue Service, or better known back then as the NT Fire Brigade, in Katherine as an Auxiliary firefighter.

Denis decided this was the job for him in March 1974 and did the recruit course in June that year. Katherine had only four full time firefighters at the time. Not long after his training, Cyclone Tracey hit Darwin on Christmas Day. Denis and two other members arrived on Boxing Day and stayed for a week to help out and clean up.

Alice Springs became home in 1977 for Denis and his family. A place they liked that much that they decided to stay permanently.

Denis said one of the scariest jobs he attended was the one at his own house.

"It was 6:30 am and a call came over the radio for a structure fire. It was my house and I was the driver.

"I got there pretty quick. My house is on Bradshaw Drive and the station was on Bath Street back then. I could see the smoke from Billygoat Hill.

"I didn't know if my family were in there. We came to a screaming halt out the front, I was relieved to see my family sitting out the front on the fence - I trained them well.

"As for the other firefighters, I nearly had to pry them out of their seats as I think the ride was a bit scary for them," he said.

Denis describes his job as the best in the country and he has enjoyed every moment.

"My advice to all you up and coming fires is to look after this job. It's the best job you will ever have and it will look after you. Don't let anything get you down, tomorrow's another day," He said.

We thank Firefighter Maher for his contribution and commitment to the NTFRS and the community and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Further details on a farewell function are still to come.



"My advice to all you up and coming fires is to look after this job. It's the best job you will ever have and it will look after you. Don't let anything get you down, tomorrow's another day."

Denis Maher

Detention Centre Break Out

A combined operation involving officers from NT Police, the Australian Federal Police and the Department of Immigration and Citizens successfully ended a peaceful protest by a group of Afghan detainees at Darwin's Northern Immigration Detention Centre in Coonawarra on Wednesday 1 September.

The protest began at 6.30 am after a group of approximately 88 detainees escaped from the centre and sat down on the side of the Stuart Highway, refusing to return to the facility.

Acting Commander Mark Christopher said our members provided an immediate professional response to the incident.

"Our members not only provided ongoing support throughout the day but they carefully managed the situation which included negotiation, cordon and containment operations, tactical response, traffic management and general operation coordination" he said.

After many hours of negotiation, Territory and Federal Police surrounded the group just before 2:00 pm with interpreters telling the group that they would be moving in to take them into custody.

"Ultimately, the protest came to a peaceful end after almost 8 hours when the asylum seekers were detained and moved to the Darwin Watch House" A/Commander Christopher said.

On Thursday 2 September, an impressive display of coordination by the Traffic Enforcement Unit saw a large convoy of police vehicles transport the protesters from the watch house to a chartered aircraft at

the RAAF Base Darwin. They were then transported to the Curtin Detention Facility in Western Australia.

The incident had the Tri-service in the spotlight and attracted national and international media attention. A/Commander Mark Christopher said all members involved can be extremely proud of their efforts.

"It was a great display of interagency teamwork and collaboration, especially given the hot and humid working conditions endured throughout the day. It was a job well done by all involved," he said.

"Our members not only provided ongoing support throughout the day but they carefully managed the situation which included negotiation, cordon and containment operations, tactical response, traffic management and general operation coordination"

A/Commander
Mark Christopher



Helicopter Pilot Ken Watts

After more than 30 years and thousands of hours flying time, helicopter pilot Ken Watts will no longer be the “go-to” man when police are looking for help in an emergency.

Ken has been a familiar face around the Alice Springs Police Station for many years now and has always been the first port of call in a search or rescue which required air support. In August this year he was presented with a letter of thanks by Commissioner John McRoberts for his many years of invaluable service and to mark his retirement.

Ken's first job for police in Alice Springs was in 1977.

“Not long before that, I'd bought my first helicopter – a Bell 47 – and was working at Yamba station mustering when I got the

“I remember one job where we were looking for a jail escapee in the 1990s. We snuck up on him when we found him hiding at the back of 8HA.

“There were no radios in those days and the potential for armed conflict was very real. We didn't know if he was armed or not. After that, I put in a radio that could talk to police radios.”

Ken has always been well-respected in the industry. He was, in fact, the first Australian pilot to use a helicopter for cattle mustering.

“I was working in the VRD for Hooker Pastoral Company P/L in the early 70s when

“There comes a time when you're either in or you're out, so I made the decision to stop chartering the helicopters. But, I have to say one of the best things over the years with working with the police was the mateship. I've known most police in the Territory since they were... Constables, and I've always found them a very professional lot. It was always great, working as part of the team. I have to say, I've already started missing it.”

Senior Sergeant David Chalker has worked closely with Ken for a number of years and says he will be sorely missed. “My role as a Search and Rescue Mission

“There comes a time when you're either in or you're out, so I made the decision to stop chartering the helicopters. But, I have to say one of the best things over the years with working with the police was the mateship. I've known most police in the Territory since they were baggy-arsed Constables, and I've always found them a very professional lot. It was always great, working as part of the team. I have to say, I've already started missing it.” Ken Watts

call that a bunch of school kids on a hike up Jay Creek to old Hamilton Downs had gone missing. They'd been missing overnight and a search had been mounted. I picked up a police officer at Fish Hole Yard and we began the search, but I had a gut feeling they'd gone the wrong way and gone up the valley. Sure enough we found them and the police officer walked them out to safety.”

Over the next 33 years Ken was involved in hundreds of jobs from searching for missing tourists to rescuing people who had fallen off cliffs.

“We also chased a few bad guys over the years,” Ken said.

the boss asked me what I thought about mustering cattle using helicopters. I was keen, so he bought a helicopter and I did mustering for him for the next three years. Then when the beef industry fell over and there was no mustering work, I came to Alice Springs. “

“I bought my first helicopter – a Bell 47 – for \$35,000 in 1977, and I still have it. Over the years I ended up with three helicopters but the Bell 47 was the one I used most until I got the Kawasaki in the early 90s.”

Although Ken describes himself as a “reasonably healthy old coot”, he says at 64 after flying for 47 years it's time to quit.

Co-ordinator (SARMC) has been made a lot easier with Ken Watts involved as the helicopter pilot. Ken is always aware of his role and responsibilities and listens to direction. He has also been able to provide valuable input drawing on his local knowledge and experience and he'll certainly be missed.”

Right Ken Watts and Commissioner McRoberts.

Far right Ken Watts and Sen Sgt David Chalker.



Water Police Section

The Northern Territory Water Police Section (formerly the Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section) was established in July 1980 following the then Chief Minister's direction for the Minister of Police to assume all fisheries protection and enforcement functions relating to the Fisheries Act.

At the time of establishment, the section was tasked primarily with marine search and rescue and marine and fisheries compliance and enforcement duties. Over time, the roles and functions of the WPS has grown significantly.

Members of the Water Police perform a range of duties in the marine, coastal, riverine and flood prone environments of the Northern Territory including, search and rescues, fisheries education, compliance and enforcement, safety education, counter disaster operations, warship protection and specialist dive operations.

The unit has a number of vessels including a 14.7 metre steber patrol vessel, a number of 4.8 metre dinghies, a small and a large RHIB and a number of smaller dinghies for inshore freshwater operations.

Recreational boat ownership and use has almost doubled in the NT in the past 10 years. There are currently 214 commercial licensed fishing boats in the NT and 124 guided fishing tour operators. The Water Police Sections conduct vessel safety compliance checks across these commercial, tour and recreational sectors.

The section is dedicated to ongoing skills maintenance and development of members including training in search and rescue operations, the Sea / Marine Ranger training, education, inter agency and jurisdictional training and support for members to attend nationally accredited training interstate.

The Section was recently awarded a Commissioners Unit Commendation for the rescue of a number of persons determined to have been in grave and imminent danger in the Roper / McArthur district in the wake of tropical cyclone 'Paul' in Easter of this year.



Water Police and CareFlight Search and Rescue Training

NT Water Police and crews from CareFlight conducted joint surface to air search and rescue (SAR) training in Darwin Harbour last month as part of ongoing multi-agency training for SAR response in NT waters.

“As a result of a number of SAR operations in the past twelve months, we have been steadily developing and improving our multi-agency response in the marine environment.”

Senior Sergeant Stephen Martin

CareFlight Helicopter Crews met Water Police in the harbour and conducted a number of moving and stationery stores and life raft drops to the police vessel ‘Darwin River’.

Senior Sergeant Stephen Martin from the Water Police Section said this kind of training was invaluable.

“As a result of a number of SAR operations in the past twelve months, we have been steadily developing and improving our multi-agency response in the marine environment”. “Our procedures need constant practice and refinement across all agencies with changes in staff, equipment, techniques and technological advancement”.

“We are very pleased to see the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Surf Life Saving NT and CareFlight stepping up their coordination, training and capacity. They are great people with a lot of skill who are in the same business we are; saving lives.”

CareFlight Aircrewman Steve Martz said it all went very well – although very challenging to a small vessel like the PV ‘Darwin River’.

“I genuinely hope this leads to regular exercises involving both our organisations

Thus when the “real” event comes along we can all work seamlessly towards saving lives”.

NT Water Police are involved in a range of training activities, courses and exercises each year involving search and rescue, police divers, counter-disaster, security operations, small craft handling, marine qualifications and sea ranger training in addition to NT Police OSTT re-qualification requirements.



2010 NTES Unit Officer's Annual Conference

During the second week of September, Darwin hosted this year's annual Northern Territory Emergency Service Unit Officer's Conference. Based at the Peter McAulay Centre, our Unit Officer's came together to discuss NTES, their units, current issues and of course – our volunteers!



This year's conference took on a unique Darwin 'twist' with our Unit Officer's sharing their welcome BBQ next to a tank of baby crocodiles.

A formal dinner with the Commissioner was held on the Saturday night and for those delegates who had a little more time up their sleeve, a tour of Litchfield Park was run post-conference.

With an agenda of about 15 items, discussions included first aid, hydration, recruitment ideas and light-weight uniforms during community events.

Now that Darwin and Alice Springs have been hosts for the past two conferences, there are rumours that the conference may head rural for 2011. Watch this space!

Unit Officer's and NTES Staff from around the Territory

Youth Engagement

The Youth Engagement Officers were kept busy through out the month of August with events at Charles Darwin University and Holzerland Park in Malak.

On Tuesday 10th August, Senior Constable Daniel Bull, Youth Engagement Officer at Casuarina Station, attended the Adult Migrant English Program at Charles Darwin University.

Many of the students do not have a great command of the English language however this was no barrier for Senior Constable Bull who provided straightforward information on how the role of police in Australia is different to many other countries where the students have lived. The students were informed about the accountability and the role of NT Police in 'Keeping People Safe.'

Students eagerly asked various questions about policing in Australia and the Northern Territory, and seemed particularly interested in traffic regulations. They were informed of several traffic penalties which people can be charged with, including fines for not wearing seat belts.

The event at Charles Darwin University was coordinated by the Adult Migrant English Program, the Youth Engagement Officer and the Officer In Charge at Casuarina Police Station, Senior Sergeant Shaun Furniss.

Another successful event was held on Saturday 28th August at Holzerland Park in Malak.

Members from the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit and the Child Abuse Taskforce attended the Northern Suburbs park to meet with members of the public from new and emerging communities.

Australia's law and legal system can be challenging for this section of the community, therefore this event proved to be popular.

The group benefited from an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of domestic and family violence issues and the role of police in child protection.

The group were grateful for the opportunity to speak with police officers who answered their many questions about common concerns within the wider community. Many of the questions were concerned with parental control and supervision of children as they grow into adolescents.



Gunbalanya Host to Our 2010 Top Cop

Serious assaults, house fires, car crashes and chasing crocs through a remote Territory town are just some of the reasons why Constable Ben Higgins has been named our 2010 'Top Cop'.

"Courtesy, kindness, understanding, compassion, courage and devotion to duty are qualities that the community expects of police officers and these qualities were certainly reflected in the nominations."

Jim McNally

Earlier this year Ben received the Rotary Clubs 'Police Officer of the Year' Award and couldn't believe it.

"It was a bit of a shock but definitely an honour to receive the award," he said.

A Territory local from Daly River, Ben first donned the khaki as a Junior Police Ranger before graduating as a Constable five years ago.

He's served in Tennant Creek and Darwin and has been stationed in Gunbalanya, Oenpelli Police Station for the past four years.

Through his career Ben has helped find the offenders who assaulted a 60 year old immigrant from India last year, stormed into a house to save two infants from a fire and helped capture a 3m crocodile roaming the streets of Gunbalanya.

The 20th winner of this prestigious award, Ben was presented with the award by His Honour, The Administrator Tom Pauling AO QC, at a special function

attended by Deputy Police Commissioner Shayne Maines, President of the Rotary Club of Darwin Jim McNally, senior police officers and Rotary Club of Darwin members and partners.

Rotary Club of Darwin President Jim McNally said he was impressed by the community response to this year's award.

"Over 50 nominations were submitted by people from a number of areas throughout the Territory and the nominees were from a range of ranks and postings.

"Courtesy, kindness, understanding, compassion, courage and devotion to duty are qualities that the community expects of police officers and these qualities were certainly reflected in the nominations.

"However there can only be one Award recipient for the year and I congratulate Constable Higgins on his success."

Mr McNally concluded.



2010 Rotary Police Officer of the Year award winner Constable First Class Ben Higgins with his wife Penny Luke and children Ayden and Ethan Higgins.

Photo: REGI VARGHESE (NT News).

Seven New Recruits for the Dog Operations Unit

Northern Territory Police history was made after the first ever litter of puppies was born to serving police members.

The tumbling, playful and destructive pups, who appear to be all paws, may be cute and fluffy but they are well on their way to becoming Northern Territory's top crime fighters.

The 'A' Litter of German Shepherd puppies includes five boys and two girls, born to police dogs Bella and Stinger, on Tuesday 10 August. The boys – named Arko, Axel, Ajax, Ace, Arno – will be trained as General Purpose Police Dogs. The girls – Akira and Akia – are potential future breeders for the NT Police breeding program.

The first of seven puppies was born in the back of the police car en route to the Peter McAulay Centre. The further six puppies were born once Bella arrived at the Dog Operations Unit, where the office romance between Bella and Stinger kicked off.

Bella's handler, Senior Constable First Class David Young spent the better part of the day assisting Bella deliver the puppies after a marathon birthing session lasting almost 12 hours.

"I knew Bella was close to delivering the puppies, but I did not expect that the first one would be born in the car on the way to work.

"She did an excellent job, and all the puppies were strong and healthy," S/Constable Young said.

The puppies had a busy first eight weeks with numerous visits to the vet, show and tell at schools, visiting different sections at PMC, completing obstacle courses, exploring buildings and upholding media commitments.

"By eight weeks old, the pups started to show good characteristics for police dogs. They have very good temperaments and are mischievous, confident and very inquisitive." He said.

By nine weeks, the pups had quickly developed into their own unique characters and were finally named with the help of the NT News 'name the police puppy' competition. Hundreds of entries from around Australia were received with the winning name 'Arko' chosen by Annette Kuster of Darwin.

During the age of eight to sixteen weeks, the puppies started the first phase of their socialisation development. The puppies were separated from each other and partnered off with their handler or police foster family. Training consisted of exposing the pups to different environments such as smells, places, surfaces, people and heights.

At about 16 months the pups will commence a 14 week basic training program. This will encompass basic obedience (sit, down, come, heel at normal pace and running pace, stand, stay and crawl), tracking (urban and industrial), obstacle training (jumping through windows, over fences, crawling through tunnels, walking planks etc), handler protection, recall (stopping the attack), leave (leaving the offender), guard (guard a criminal whilst being searched), building searches, search and rescue and recovery of stolen property.

There are currently 11 operational dogs in total for the whole NT:

- Darwin - three general purpose dogs and four drug detector dogs
- Katherine - two drug detector dogs
- Alice Springs - two drug detector dogs

Of the seven puppies – two boys will be gifted to the WA Police and QLD Police, three boys will stay in the NT Police with their handlers Senior Constable First Class David Young, Senior Constable Richard O'Brien and Senior Constable Rolf Zio. The two females will be raised in the Territory with the possibility of being used in the breeding program.





Photo: NT News



Photo: NT News



IPDD Apprentice Road Trip

In early October the NTPFES apprentices and supervisors from across the Agency packed their gear and headed out to Base Camp Wallaroo for three days of activities.

The apprentices and mentors began the three day adventure by dividing into teams to conquer the low rope challenges and TEAM B ended up on dish duty for the night.

Activities including ropes, plank balancing, balance beams, rope swings, spider web obstacles were all tackled as part of the Leadership Development and each apprentice and mentor stepped up to the challenge by working together to think outside the square to complete the difficult obstacles.

"It was a great opportunity for the apprentices and mentors to get to know each other and form a trusting relationship to be reflected in the workplace. By the end of the trip we couldn't get these quiet reserved ladies to shut up! It was great." Cianne Coleman

"On the first day our apprentices were quite reserved but by the end of it they were taking the lead on activities and working together to complete tasks.

"It was a great opportunity for the apprentices and mentors to get to know each other and form a trusting relationship to be reflected in the workplace. By the end of the trip we couldn't get these quiet reserved ladies to shut up! It was great," said IPDDs Cianne Coleman, Indigenous Liaison Officer – Youth Initiatives.

In spite of some girls being terrified of heights, all of the team participated in rock climbing and high rope activities on day two of the camp. This once again proved the

determination each of the participants have to push themselves that little bit further to reach a goal, by providing Encouragement, Leadership, Trust, Teamwork and Self Belief.

The final day finished on the last activity - the 160 metre FLYING FOX. This consisted of climbing a challenging rock face, scaling a 10 metre wide wire bridge and finishing off by leaping off the rock face about 45m above ground level. With the skills the team had developed over the three days mentally and physically this task once again proved

how determined the NTPFES School Based Apprentices are. The energy created personally and as a group was immense.

Apprentice Krishna Ketchell started with IPDD three months ago and said that there's no way she ever thought she'd be able to accomplish the tasks set out for her at Camp Wallaroo.

"When I first agreed to go on this trip I thought it would be something different and a bit of fun but then I was really scared when I was told what we'd be doing.

"I wanted a nice bushwalk and some laughs but then Sgt De Santis had me walking a tight rope, climbing ladders, swinging in the air – if humans were meant

to do that stuff we'd be born in trees.

"For those of you that know Sgt De Santis I'm sure you can appreciate that this is not a woman you say no to, so off I went – I'm just glad they didn't throw wrestling crocodiles into the training. (Maybe it's because we ran out of time).

"In the end though I am so glad that I did it all. I really feel as though I've accomplished something I never thought I could do and it's certainly given me more drive to complete my Apprenticeship," Krishna said.

Whilst on camp the apprentices discussed career choices for the future and came up with their own Vision and Mission Statement to be used for their SBA program.

The skills they learnt over the three days places the apprentices in good stead to succeed. We wish them all the best for the completion of their apprenticeship and for their future careers.

Today's Learners,
Tomorrow's Leaders



Ben Schmidt Tour of Duty

It has been nine years since 343 New York City Firefighters and 68 Emergency Service Personnel died tragically in what is now known as 9/11. Local Fire and all round good bloke Ben Schmidt joined ranks with 35 other Aussie Firefighters and over 300 NYFD members to participate in the 6762 km run across America to honor those who lost their lives. Ben wrote this letter home just prior to completing the monumental run....

Hey guys,

thought I'd drop you a quick g'day before the event and hopefully before you guys have your 9/11 drinks. We're currently in Philly before heading into New York. Our group has the midnight until 6 am shift on Sept 11 but we'll be joined by most of the other guys and a heap of NY furies who want to run in with us.

I think I mentioned last time that I have been blown away by the brotherhood that exists between firefighters across the world. We ran this morning from 4am until midday and had a constant convoy of vehicles following us. The sirens they have have that unique sound like a WW1 bomb raid. It's almost eerie and at the same time comforting running in the middle of the night surrounded by these trucks when they sound their sirens. Kind of like old dinosaurs talking to each other (I told you this was getting emotional).

The reception that we are getting in NY appears to be nothing short of amazing. The entire NYFD pipe and drum band is marching us across the bridge with an escort of trucks, police, The Patriot Guard motorbike club and the Fallen Fire fighters motor bike club. John Howard and Hugh Jackman are both confirmed and whilst a few months ago that sounded really cool, now, just walking the bridge arm in arm with our American brothers is way more appealing.

On my RV is a 26 year old FF from NY - James Dowdell. He lost his father in 9/11. His dad was a Lt in Rescue 4. The rescue teams are the crazy firemen who go in when the other guys don't. The last time anyone saw his dad alive was when he had his company of 8 lined up against a wall across the road from the WTC buildings. He looked every one of his men in the eye and gave them a hug. You can't tell me that they didn't know what was happening. They all then ran into the buildings and all of them died. They never found him, or any of his belongings. James dug for 9 months after school, adopted by rescue 2. I can't quote James but he was totally taken aback with the support you guys have given me to come on this journey. He gave me a hug (in a blokey kind of way) when I told him that you were covering my shifties. This is what this trip is about for us. Remembering men and women who gave everything to save others. The families left behind. And never forgetting that sacrifice.

Please have a beer for me at your ceremony. I'll have one for you at mine, and if it's alright with you I'll give James and any NY FF I meet a hug from you all and let them know that we in the NT will never forget

Ben Schmidt



Darwin Firefighter Ben Schmidt and his 'Brothers' show respect for those who fell on 9/11.

Black Dog Ride

By Karen Sherlock

I first found out about the Black Dog Ride late last year when I stumbled upon the website by accident. The inaugural Black Dog Ride occurred in 2009 by Steve Andrews, a guy from Perth whose mother committed suicide after years battling depression. Not long after, Steve's best friends' wife also committed suicide as a result of severe depression. Steve had, like many people, no real understanding about depression until he lost those close to him. After learning more about it, he was so moved that he decided to do whatever he could to help other sufferers. The only thing he thought he could do was ride his motorbike around Australia to raise awareness and funds for the Black Dog Institute, Australia's primary not-for-profit research and education centre for depression. During his inaugural ride Steve raised around \$25,000. When word and interest spread, plans were made for a group ride to the Red Centre in September 2010 with riders from all over Australia welcome. When I read this, I was hooked.

I'd had my motorbike learners for a long while but only got my licence in March this year. My partner, James, and I had often spoken about wanting to do a big ride somewhere and this just gave us an excuse. And, being a psychologist it was a cause I strongly believed in. So we signed up.

We finally set off on Wednesday 8th September leaving ourselves 3 days to get to Alice Springs from Darwin. This was my longest ride so far. I was riding my Yamaha XT 250 - for those who don't understand "bike speak"... it's a trail bike... a little one... James was riding his Kawasaki KLR650 and was very, very patient riding at a much slower pace to keep up with me ringing my little XT's neck all the way there and back.

For the first day we thought we'd head for Mataranka and see how our backsides were holding up... if they were ok, we'd head for Daly Waters Pub and a well earned beer. We stopped in Katherine for lunch and dropped into the Police Station to take up a collection. We raised almost \$180 in those few minutes from the members there, not counting those who had already donated online - thanks Katherine Station!!

About half way to Mataranka I noticed that we'd picked up another bike behind us. Stopping to get petrol (which became a very regular thing for me - I now know every roadhouse on the way!!) the 3rd rider also stopped and got yakking to James while I was fuelling up. Next thing I know, there's a piece of paper with my name on it thrust into my face and James saying "this is Vadym and he's looking for you!" Totally puzzled, I asked... It turned out that Vadym (who was riding around Australia from Perth) dropped into NT Motorcycle Centre before leaving

Darwin and asked if they knew anyone doing the Black Dog Ride so he could join them and they gave him my name. He found me already!! Anyway, we all headed off for Daly Waters and arrived about 5.30pm. We set up camp with a number of other bikes and headed down for that beer and a great feed of barra!! We met several other riders here. Kerri (also a new rider on a Moto Guzzi) and Dave (Ducati) from Katherine, Beryl (Can-Am Spyder) and hubby... Daryl, I think (Triumph Rocket) from Tweed Heads, Vadym (Suzuki V-Strom) and a couple of ring-ins travelling around. We had a great night getting to know everyone and their stories while quenching that thirst.

Up early the next day, we all set off at different times... I could understand them getting a head start as no-one wanted to be beaten by a girl on a trail bike!! James and I stopped for breakfast at the Hi-Way Inn just a few kms down the road and got talking to a fella from NTES Katherine who also loved bikes. Funny who you meet along the way! We finally got under way and after a close call with an enormous Wedge Tailed Eagle we made it to Tennant Creek around 3.30pm. Just in time to catch a few of the TC members for a quick collection - we raised another \$150!!

After settling into our VOQ (thanks Craig!) we headed off to our BBQ fundraiser at the TC Lions Club where we met Kerri and Dave again, some members from Tennant Creek Police Station and the local Lions Club members. Lions Clubs all over Australia were involved in the inaugural Black Dog Ride and they were very supportive again for this years ride. We raised another \$440 that night! Great effort.

Setting off for Alice Springs on Friday morning it was a bit windy leaving Tennant Creek (even more so on the return trip) and by the time we got to Barrow Creek the temperature was dropping fast and the storms were gathering. We put another layer of clothes on, fuelled up and set off again. By the time we got to Ti Tree, I was shivering and had to put another layer on and my wet weather gear. We were able to dodge the storms... other than a few drops here and there... and we made it to Alice about 3pm. I was pretty happy to get there as I felt "I'd made it" despite knowing that the ultimate goal was Glen Helen Resort the next day. I was totally exhausted when we arrived and was happy to grab a bite to eat, watch the footy and crash early.

The next day was a stunning Central Australian sunny day and riding to the meeting place of Lasseters Casino we witnessed, for the first time, the Todd River flowing which was a fantastic sight. All the riders gathered for the official launch (67 bikes in all - some were already at Glen Helen) where Steve Andrews (the organiser)

and Angry Anderson (the Black Dog Ride Ambassador) joined us for another Lions Club sausage sizzle!! Then we jumped on the bikes and headed, as one huge group, out to the final destination of Glen Helen Resort for the finale. We stopped at a lookout on the way to allow the media vehicles to pass us so they could film us coming in to the Resort and the views were just spectacular. It was also pretty awesome to see so many bikes in one place and you could feel the excitement brewing... we were almost there!

About half an hour later the roar of the bikes entered Glen Helen Resort - my XT roared as much as it could after 1700kms at full throttle!! I have to say it was a buzz to finally make it to the end of the road, numb backside and all. It was here the comments started coming thick and fast...

"you rode THAT from Darwin!!!!!!?"

I was very proud to say "yep I did!!" And later during the nights entertainment and festivities, I was presented the "Little Ripper Award" for having the smallest bike. And I smiled... a lot...!!! And then I realised... I had to ride it back!!!

During the weekend, a number of riders openly shared their personal stories of depression, at times bringing them to tears, but always admitting they were greatly inspired by actually doing the ride and from other riders' stories. This was why we came.

As for our fundraising efforts, James and I (The River Riders team) blitzed our initial target of \$1000 and even after revising it to \$1500 we ended up raising over \$2200!! I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us by way of donations, best wishes, etc.

We are very grateful. The total raised on this years Black Dog Ride was \$80,000! A fantastic effort!

If you are interested in learning more about the Black Dog Ride, or joining in next years ride, please visit www.blackdogride.com.au It would be nice to have a few more NT riders. You can also visit www.blackdoginstitute.org.au to find out more about depression and the work the Institute does.

All in all it was an awesome trip with great memories and even better friendships formed and we all agreed we'd be back next year for another go. See you then... on a bigger bike!!

*"You rode THAT from Darwin!!!!!!?"
I was very proud to say "yep I did!!"
And later during the nights entertainment and festivities, I was presented the "Little Ripper Award" for having the smallest bike. And I smiled... a lot...!!! And then I realised.... I had to ride it back!!!!"*

Karen Sherlock



Top to Bottom
Me riding - self explanatory.
Self explanatory.
Devils Marbles.
Me and Steve Andrews.

The Peer Support Program

As part of the Police, Fire & Emergency Service's commitment to the wellbeing of its staff, the Peer Support Program has been re-established. Late last year, Sgt Andrew Littman was appointed as the Peer Support Co-ordinator, a position attached to Employee Support Services.



In May 2010, the Employee Support Service team delivered the new and improved Peer Support Course in Darwin. Two days training was completed by 19 PFES employees & volunteers and a further 19 staff completed the subsequent courses run in Katherine and Alice Springs.

The aim of the Peer Support Program is to develop member's skills in identifying the signs and symptoms of distress and maladaptive coping, approaching and being available for peers in distress and assisting peers with solution focused support. The program recognises that workplace peers are uniquely situated to notice changes in their workmates behaviour or wellbeing and offer timely support.

This may be in the form of practical assistance, providing organisational information or it may simply be offering

a listening ear and understanding while someone works through their situation.

Peer Supporters are not trained counsellors, thus they are not trained or expected to manage critical situations or mental health concerns. They are however aware of options available for additional support and can assist with referrals to professional help.

It is envisaged the Peer Support Program will continue to evolve in 2011 with plans to develop;

- a remote services support package for members and their families stationed in bush communities,
- a court support program for staff who are the subject of court cases, whether as victims, witnesses or defendants and
- further training courses for staff looking at taking on the role of a Peer Supporter.

For more information about the Peer Support Program or to find out who the Peer Supporters are in your area, access the Employee Support Services Web link at http://norlaw/services/hrm_branch/diy_hr_ess.html or contact the Peer Support Co-ordinator on 8995 5422.

Sgt Andrew Littman, S/C 1/C Michael Court, S/C 1/C Daniela Mattiuzzo, Sgt George Watkinson, NTFRS Volunteer Wayne Stubbs, Sgt Matthew Allen, Administration Assistant Danielle Wrigglesworth, Constable Kristian Jockers and Superintendent Brent Warren.

Ramingining Play Footy in Defence Force Cup

Twenty-nine young men from Ramingining were recently given the opportunity to experience life outside of their community.

Ramingining Police in cooperation with the East Arnhem Shire organised and coordinated a team of young men from the community to compete in the Defence Jobs Cup Australian Rules Competition in Darwin.

The competition, an annual event run by AFL Northern Territory, took place during early October at Marrara's TIO Stadium.

The trip was only made possible through a generous donation of \$6,000 from the East Arnhem Shire, via the efforts of Youth Officer, Ashleigh Meyerson. This money paid for the player's meals, accommodation and representative jumpers, shorts and socks.

The AFL competition is far reaching with community teams coming from as far away as Alice Springs to compete. The Ramingining team were competitive throughout their six games,

picking up one win along the way.

Ramingining Police and the East Arnhem Shire organised the trip for the team to compete in the AFL carnival, but also to expose the young men to life outside of Ramingining.

The team visited the Council of Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services (CAAPS) to learn and discuss issues relating to alcohol and drugs in their community.

Attending the Northern Territory Police College, the group were joined by 11 existing ACPO recruits who were happy to discuss the role of Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPOs). The recruits shared their own personal journeys to becoming an ACPO. This meeting generated a lot of interest amongst the men and several men have since visited the Ramingining Police Station to collect ACPO application forms.

Brevet Sergeant Jack Harrington of the Ramingining Police Themis Station, who accompanied the team to Darwin, said community engagement projects such as this one are vital to build positive relationships between community members and the Police.

"This type of community engagement is recognised as one of the more effective policing practices in remote indigenous communities in terms of crime prevention.

"Since the inception of Task Force Themis in 2007 a range of community engagement strategies, many using sport as the common interest, have been successfully implemented.

"Ramingining Police will continue to look for ways to enhance their standing in the community through meaningful community engagement," he said.



Small Craft Handler

During the period 3 - 5 September 2010, NTES conducted a Small Craft Handler (SCH) Course in Maningrida. Regional Manager North, Gary (Jesse) James led the course which consisted of five Volunteers and one NTES staff member.

The Small Craft Handler Course was split, with in-class theory conducted Friday night and all of Saturday. Sunday morning was utilised for the practical assessment with students in an NTES vessel on the water. All students successfully passed the required theory and practical assessments with certificates soon to be issued.

The SCH Course is the minimum requirement for all NTES Volunteers and staff wishing to go onto the more advanced Flood Boat Operator and Marine Coxswain Certificate training. There are two more courses scheduled to be run in the Northern Region and Southern Region during mid November.

Right

Ian McRae demonstrating how to light a flare. Volunteers – Ian McRae and Ben Cameron with Regional Manager North, Gary (Jesse) James.



Bec - Young Business Woman of the Year Finalist

While you may know her as the recruitment chick with an impressive collection of high heels, Recruitment and PR Manager, Rebecca Forrest also sports an array of 'hats' taking on numerous volunteer activities across the Territory. Hence the reason why she was one of twelve finalists for the 2010 Telstra Business Woman of the Year Awards in two categories – 'Community and Government' and 'Young Business Woman of the Year'.

As well as the projects undertaken here at PFES, you may not know that Bec also selflessly volunteers her free time to run the 'Total Recreation Dancing With the Celebrities Ball' and a number of other community initiatives.

Speaking of other initiatives, the day Bec was called in before the Telstra award judges, she was donning somewhat thought provoking attire to say the least which prompted some explaining.

"I'd been performing in a 'Chicago' Cabaret show and media took so long to film us that I went racing down the Mall and into my first Business interview in fish nets, mini skirt, suspenders and wig.

"The judges were really good about it and saw the fun side. Hey, I was still shortlisted!" Bec said.

Rebecca Forrest joined the Tri-service in 2008 as the Marketing Consultant for the International Association of Women Police Conference held in Darwin.

Following the success of the conference and the working relationships developed between the agency generally and more specifically, the Media and Corporate Communications team, Rebecca Forrest continued employment with PFES heading up Recruitment Marketing (and everything else which in some way fell into the PR category).

Much of the Tri-service has benefited from Bec's enthusiastic, positive approach (which is an understatement) and assistance with various, and completely diverse projects from one day to the next. There is no task too small, and no timeframe too tight!

Well Done Bec - a well deserved finalist (from 400 nominations to 1 of 12 finalists) in the 'Young Business Woman's Award' and 'Community and Government Award'.



Clockwise from top

Donning many hats. Bec receiving award from White Pages Rep Glenn Tozer. Bec with Natalie Bell at the Awards.

Australian Ju Jitsu Association (AJJA) National Seminar

By James Gray-Spence
(AVSGT – CitySafe Darwin)

"Ju Jitsu": the art of manipulating the opponent's force against themselves rather than confronting it with one's own force.

"The practical application of Ju Jitsu in policing is the ability to apply control restraint techniques for ... the safety of others."



Over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of October, 2010, I travelled to Sydney, NSW, to attend the AJJA national seminar at the Olympic Judo Centre in Homebush Bay. I went with the Tohkon Ryu Ju Jitsu ("Fighting Soul School") club from Palmerston. If you have never heard of the term Ju Jitsu, then you may be more familiar with the name of Judo. This Olympic sport is the points scoring derivation of the traditional martial art (somewhat scorned in the traditional "Ryu's" or schools – I noted someone wrote "NO JUDO" on the whiteboard of the seminar training facility).

The practical application of Ju Jitsu in policing is the ability to apply control restraint techniques on subjects for their

Look familiar? "Ushiro ude garami"
- rear arm entanglement

own safety and the safety of others.

Control restraint (CR) techniques are an attractive tool for peace officers as they offer a way to gain subject control without inflicting permanent injury. I rely on defensive tactics (DT's) at my work location of CitySafe as they offer me a way to control aggressive patrons, substance abusing persons, and people engaged in violent disorder; all with with minimum force and I need to use CR every shift!

Working in pubs and clubs has taught me the value of "playing the crowd". When a subject is throwing punches at a peace officer and the officer is able to restrain the subject without returning apparent "aggressive" striking techniques it garners support in patrons and gives the appearance of professionalism. The comments quickly turn from "I know police brutality when I see it" to "I wouldn't do your job for quids".



"Citizen: I asked you to desist in your quarrelsome behaviour"



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Angling for the Future

The Territory coastline and northern waterways were once again dotted with orange t-shirts as community kids grabbed their handlines, rods and spears and raced for the third 'Off the Hook' Fishing Competition kick off across the Top End at the end of October.

Warruwi, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Minjilang, Ramingining, Yarralin and Pigeon Hole all participated in October, with varying degrees of success. Galiwinku, Gawa Homeland and Numbulwar rounded off the competition, postponing their involvement until November for cultural reasons. Regardless of the number of fish caught, all communities enjoyed a great day.

In Warruwi, over 40 children participated in the event, with an array of fish caught over the day. Shire and School employees assisted and the day concluded with a barbeque and prize presentation back at the station.

Yarralin was smashed with over 10 inches of rain on the day, but that didn't dampen the spirits of some very enthusiastic anglers.

Minjilang participated for the first time. Driven by Constable Fonzie Shields, over 30 kids registered and some impressive fish were caught on the day.

Piloted by Superintendent Andy Warton in 2009, this is the third time the competition has been run across the Top End, and Superintendent Warton hopes to expand the competition interstate next year, encouraging multi jurisdictional participation across the north of Australia.

"Off the Hook is a Northern Territory Police driven community engagement initiative aimed at encouraging dialogue between youth and police in remote Indigenous communities. The event was piloted in December 2009

as part of Taskforce Themis with the participation of 5 Northern Territory communities and 60 youth.

"The initiative has clearly been accepted by several remote Indigenous communities with the current event involving over 400 Indigenous youth across ten remote communities. While the initiative was piloted at police stations involved in the Northern Territory Emergency Response, it has now been expanded to police stations in Indigenous communities right across the Northern Territory.

"The vision for 2010 is to expand Off the Hook to involve police and Indigenous communities across Northern Australia from Western Australia across to Queensland. Feedback from members of the communities strongly suggests that the interaction between police and youth is having a positive impact," said Superintendent Warton.

Eleven Communities in total took up the challenge to participate through the support of nine police stations. Overall, it is anticipated that close to 400 children had the opportunity to sign up with their 'Sponsor Cop' and have a crack at landing the biggest fish of the day.

OIC of Galiwinku Police Station, Brevet Sergeant Josef Hart summed up the essence of the day, "The kids had a ball, mate. That's all that matters," he said.



Ramingining

By Brevet Sergeant Jack Harrington

It was another day in paradise at Ramingining, the jewel of Arnhem Land. Community spirit was the winner on the day. This is another way of saying "there were no fish caught".

Seventy children spent the morning fishing at Gatji Billabong. We were overwhelmed by the attendance. I had forgotten how impatient kids are when they're fishing. Thankfully we had the help of four recruits from the Police College - Dave O'Keefe, Ben Cavanagh, Ashleigh Bellenger and Alana Henderson - who flew out specifically for the task. As far as I know this is the first time the College has allowed recruits to come out to a community prior to graduating.

The kids kept them busy untangling lines and rebaiting hooks. However the main task or the recruits was to keep the kids behind the "Croc Safety Line" and bravely retrieve any snagged tackle as required.

The hungry hoards were kept fed through the kind donations of the Ramingining Alpa Store. Over 100 snags were cooked up on the Ramingining Shire mobile BBQ Trailer. At least 200 icy poles were consumed as well as 100 bottles of water.

Presentations were held at the Off the Hook Disco. The major drawcard was the donation of 200 BMX bikes by Finbuilt Constructions. As an incentive to attend school, each participant in the comp must complete 80% attendance at school to go in the running to win a bike! A sensational initiative. Thanks to Rob Berry from Finbuilt who generously donated \$2000 to pay for the bikes. Thanks also to Themis for paying the freight and to Murray and boys at Airwing for flying them out.

Hopefully this Off the Hook concept will continue to grow as the kids get used to the idea. If that happens, we'll need 20 recruits from the college out there next time.



Fishing Competition – Peppimenarti Community

By Brevet Sergeant Suzanne Hollingsworth and Senior Constable Glen Brazendale

Peppi turned it on for the Off the Hook fishing competition. Fish were caught, children and parents had fun and community relationships were further enhanced. It doesn't get much better than that!

After a short journey and some minor 'mud' impediments, 14 children, 7 adults and Peppi Police arrived safely at our fishing destination, the Moyle River, an idyllic vista of water and pandanus palms.

It was clear from the outset that the children had a firm grasp on how to bait their own hooks and cast their lines. We dosed up the children with copious amounts of red cordial and waited with 'baited breath', pardon the pun, to be awed by a multitude of fish.

A 60cm Barra was finally landed by Sarah Parsons and her mother, Theresa Lemmon. Shortly after, an enormous Barramundi (85cm) succumbed to the hook of Tristan Lukovik and his mother, Nunuk Wilson's line.

The children were obviously accustomed to seeing a fish of this size, however Glen was not! Jealousy got the better of most of the participants, resulting in more lines back into the Moyle in a serious attempt to catch more fish.

The final fish of the day, an ugly toothy fish (30cm), better known as a Long Tom or Garfish was landed by a very impressed Regina Wilson (Jnr).

Some of the children captured the sentiment of the day on digital cameras provided by Police.

After a swim at Tom Turner Crossing on the way home, a hearty barby at the rec club and the winners presentation, we soon realised that sooner, rather than later, the red cordial was going to kick in, we said our goodbyes and promptly returned to the station and collapsed from exhaustion. Nonetheless we were all very satisfied with the success of the competition!



First Aid to the Outback

Located in the vast spread of outback Central Desert Shire, miles from any major service centre, is the small settlement of Lajamanu. Within this community of around 900 people are a small, but enthusiastic group of NTES Volunteers who train under the guidance of their Unit Officer, Steve Balmer. A testament to the cohesion of the NT's Tri-service, this NTES group enjoy a great working relationship with the two local Police who guide, encourage and utilise the skills of the volunteers on a regular basis.

This Volunteer Unit covers a large area of the Territory, sometimes as far as 300 kilometres, and are primary responders in road crash rescue as well as land search and flood assistance. To maintain and improve their skills, the Volunteer Unit undertake regular training with the weekend of 23 – 25 July 2010 seeing six members participate in an NTES First Aid (Medic) training course conducted by Dave Anderson, Area Manager Katherine.

Members were diligent in their attendance and training and were able to complete all necessary tasks required in the two and half days provided. As a result these six volunteers were deemed competent in First Aid (Medic).

Lajamanu and the greater Central Desert Shire can be assured that in addition to their existing Police & Health providers, they now have a further six trained NTES Volunteers that are able to render medical assistance in response to emergency situations. Well done NTES Veggies!



Map courtesy of Google Maps

NTES New Uniforms

Three NT Emergency Service representatives attended a presentation at the Darwin Australia Post in late October to receive a donation from the local Post Office.



Australia Post successfully raised \$2,000 to assist NTES volunteers in acquiring a much needed light uniform for personnel working in the harsh Territory conditions.

The demand for a light uniform has come about as NTES volunteers have increased their participation in community events across the NT such as the Beer Can Regatta, Shannon's Motor Extravaganza, Fred's Pass Show and the Lost Children's stand at the Royal Darwin Show.

Often volunteers are not performing operational duties in these community events and are wearing long

sleeve and long pant outfits in the Territory's direct sun.

NTES Director Peter Davies along with Garry Casey from the Palmerston Volunteer Unit and Mark Fishlock a Darwin Volunteer attended the presentation on 21 October to officially accept the donation on behalf of NT Emergency Service.

Peter Davies the Director of NT Emergency Services was extremely appreciative of the donation.

"This is a tremendous effort which will be greatly appreciated by NT Emergency Service volunteers. Australia Post should be extremely proud of their staff," he said.

Running to New York

In 2009 Former World Champion marathon runner and Australian of the Year, Robert de Castella commenced developing Australia's first ever Indigenous distance running and Marathon Project. Juan Darwin from Maningrida, Charlie Maher and Caleb Hart, both from Alice Springs, and Joseph Davies from Kununurra, have been in training, under the guidance of mentors, across the Top End and Central Australia. These four young men have recently embarked on the trip of a lifetime to participate in the New York Marathon, a 42.195 kilometre run, along with about 40,000 other participants, through the streets of New York.

'The Marathon Project' aspires to positively influence remote communities through physical activity, improving general health, providing employment opportunities and inspiring children and youth to believe in themselves.

The aim of the project for 2010 was to identify a group of Indigenous youth and train and prepare them to run in and complete the New York Marathon held on 7 November 2010.

When the Project commenced in November 2009, the Northern Territory Police (and AFP members seconded to Taskforce Themis) were asked to assist in locating suitable Indigenous candidates. This occurred, and as a strategy for community engagement, the Northern Territory Police took on a more active role with remotely deployed police officers acting as mentors to some of the runners.

Superintendent Andy Warton mentored Juan Darwin throughout the project.

"The Northern Territory Police have provided a support and mentorship role to all four Indigenous athletes involved in Rob de Castella's Indigenous Marathon Project over the past year. For the police, this has been an opportunity to further engage with Indigenous communities in a positive way.

"The commitment shown by these young men, and the challenge they encountered in New York is a credit to them. Their communities, police mentors, and their country supported them to the finish line and beyond," Superintendent Warton said.

Rob de Castella applauded police involvement in the Marathon Project.

"Without the support of the Northern Territory Police this wonderful initiative would simply not be happening. They (the NT Police) have enabled us to

keep in touch with our runners throughout the NT and have been invaluable in assisting with travel in and out of the communities, helping organise training runs and events, and also being such positive role models to these young men, their families and their communities. I'm really looking forward to expanding the program into more towns and communities next year to promote healthy lifestyles and find a future distance running champion", de Castella said.

Of note, Charlie, Joseph, Juan and Caleb, along with Superintendent Andy Warton all successfully completed the Marathon.

Right Juan Darwin farewells family along side, Andy Warton and Rob de Castella

Below After the Marathon: An exhausted Superintendent Andy Warton, Josef Davies, Caleb Hart, Juan Darwin and Charlie Maher pose with their medals alongside running legend Rob de Castella.

"The commitment shown by these young men, and the challenge they encountered in New York is a credit to them."
Superintendent Andy Warton



National Police Remembrance Day 2010

Services were held across the Northern Territory and Australia on September 29 to commemorate National Police Remembrance Day.

Thousands of Territorians gathered at services in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Katherine to show their support for Northern Territory Police Officers.

Police Commissioner John McRoberts said it is positive to see so many members of the public join police for Remembrance Day Services.

"National Police Remembrance Day is recognised throughout Australasia. The services are held to honour police officers who have died while serving the community, either on or off duty and the attendance across the Northern Territory shows the community supports our officers," said Mr McRoberts.

Sadly, the NT Police family lost two of its members this year. Sergeant Brett Meredith on 2 January 2010 and Senior Constable Peter Wiesenekker on 31 July 2010. Both men were fine officers who were well respected within the NT Police Force. Officers across the Territory wore ribbons and remembered the two NT Officers they called friend and colleague.

All proceeds from Remembrance Day went to Police Legacy which supports families of police officers who have died.



The CATs of Santa Teresa

The Child Abuse Taskforce Southern Region packed up from Alice Springs and headed for Santa Teresa to conduct an education field trip with youth in the region.

By Nukee Kunoth

The trips have become a regular feature on the CAT calendar and this trip involved four sessions talking to years 4 – 8 and Senior boys and girls.

The CATs members included the OIC of the unit Detective Sergeant Carmen Butcher, Detective Constable Megan McKay, Detective Senior Constable Tristan Waddell, Senior Constable Amanda Hardy, Constable Alex Noonan, AFP Federal Agent Shelley Hoey, NT Families and Children Joanna Duncan and myself, Administration Officer Nukee Kunoth.

Each CAT member sat at each table with approximately four students and interacted with them and ran activities including drawing the outline of their hand and writing on each finger a person they would turn to if they were feeling hurt or sad.

The students were receptive to the CAT team and openly discussed their feelings with one scenario shocking one of our team members.

The children were so well behaved and in awe of our members. I felt very proud to be a part of the events unfolding and marvelled at how the children hung on the members every word... listened and took part in the relevant activities.

Detective Constable McKay was sitting talking with some students and asked one

little girl if there was anything that makes, or has made her feel sad. She replied that she felt sad when she was attempting to remove a knife from her Mother's leg and the handle snapped off... that made her feel sad.

This was a shocking revelation which in turn shocked the member who commented the child should have had counselling over the incident at the time. It is just amazing to think children are living and dealing with these circumstances... pulling a knife out of a Mother's leg should never occur in a child's life.

Another situation occurred when McKay was talking with a different student and asked was there any time when she felt sad and her response was when her Mother and Father fight. She went on to say the Police come and take her Father away and then the Judge bangs down his thing... impersonating an up and down movement (meaning gavel). It appeared to McKay that the child had a fairly clear understanding of the process of obtaining a DV Order. Amazing for one so young.

Excellent rapport was quickly established between the members and the children. It was a pleasure to see this unfold and quite often they were even physical with members like leaning into their sides and

holding their arms for example.

This became more evident at the barbecue and blue light disco which followed that evening with some children even yelling out member's names and bounding up to them.

CATs took give-aways for the children including frisbees, bracelets and plastic drink bottles.

Constable James Nolan was a good enough sport to accept the role of dressing up as the Safety House amusing the children as they lined up for something to eat.

Carmen, Jo and I cooked up sausages, onions and hamburgers for the children's meal before they enjoyed the Blue Light Disco.

From my point of view the day was not only informative for the community, but the CAT unit as a whole worked as a well organised and efficient team. There were no misunderstandings as to how the day was to be run and everyone worked as a team.

As Detective Sergeant Butcher said, even if they get through to one child, the entire day is worth it. From what I saw, I think they got through to all of them.



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Below left CATs, Southern Team with children in class at Santa Teresa.

Below Nukee Kunoth and Jo Duncan made sure everyone was well-fed during the CATs visit to Santa Teresa. IMA the Safety House (alias Constable James Nolan) was a great hit with kids at Santa Teresa.



Vale -

Peter Wiesenekker

This year has been a blow to the Northern Territory Police Force. If the loss of Sergeant Brett Meredith in January wasn't bad enough, on the 31 July 2010 Senior Constable Peter Wiesenekker was fatally injured in a climbing accident in Bolivia.

"Peter was extremely intelligent with honours degrees in Physics and Mathematics and he loved the outdoors."

"Fishing, hunting and exploring were definitely keen past times of his and I feel privileged to have known him and been true friends with him."

Constable Daniel Kowalewycz

He was on Long Service Leave from NT Police and was due to return to duties at Jabiru on 23 August.

Senior Constable Wiesenekker joined the NT Police Force on 3 July 1995 and served at Palmerston, Casuarina, Daly River, Nhulunbuy, Wadeye, Maningrida, Oenpelli, Ngukurr, Yarralin and Jabiru.

On 3 July 2005, he was promoted to Senior Constable. He was posted to Jabiru on 18 April 2006.

While at Jabiru, Peter acted as the Officer in Charge of the Oenpelli Police Station on numerous occasions before applying for a temporary position within Task Force Themis as the Officer in Charge of Yarralin Police Station. He served at Yarralin as OIC from August to November 2008.

Close friend and colleague, Senior Constable Daniel Kowalewycz remembers Peter fondly as an intelligent and active friend.

"Peter was extremely intelligent with honours degrees in Physics and Mathematics and he loved the outdoors."

"Fishing, hunting and exploring were definitely keen past times of his and I feel privileged to have known him and been true friends with him," Dan said.

Born in 1960, Peter was originally from Queensland and is survived by two daughters.

Commissioner of Police John McRoberts said Senior Constable Wiesenekker's untimely loss has been acutely felt throughout the NT Police and the wider NT community.

"Our deepest condolences go out to the Wiesenekker family, especially his daughters Emma and Laura," he said.

"Peter was a fine officer working in the rural areas of the Northern Territory and he will be sadly missed," he said.



In the Spotlight Jarred Ilett

When Jarred Ilett joined the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service in 2007, he found it difficult to get into the rhythm of shift work, but just three years down the track and Jarred has found the perfect balance between work and life.

When Jarred isn't fighting fires, he is kept busy as the captain of the Northern Territory Thunder Football Club, directing his own local sports magazine, and most importantly spending time with his young family.

Jarred, tell us a bit about yourself...

I was born in Darwin and have grown up through out the Territory because my father is a Police Officer. I have been with my beautiful partner Barbara for 15 years and we have two wonderful children together – Jayden who is nine, and Kayla who is almost one.

At what age did you realise you wanted to be a Fire Fighter?

It wasn't until I moved back to Darwin at the age of 24 after spending sometime in Adelaide and Canberra playing footy that I realised the NTFRS was such an exciting prospect. A good mate, Sam Jenner, had just joined and ran me through the highs and lows of the job and how team camaraderie played a huge role. All aspects of the job fit my take on life and I wanted in.

How long have been involved with the NTFRS?

I was a part of the NTFRS Recruit Squad 1/2007, arguably the best squad to push through the ranks. I was extremely privileged to gain selection at age 25.

Where have you worked within NTFRS?

I have worked at various stations including Darwin, Marrara, Palmerston and Humpty Doo.

What has been the biggest challenge for you since being part of the NTFRS?

Initially adjusting to shift work was a challenge, which took my family and I three months to get used to. But it is always those calls to fatal car crashes that pose the biggest challenge. Unfortunately it becomes a frequent reality in the life of a Fire Fighter, Police Officer, Emergency Service Officer and St John Ambulance Officer.

What has been the most rewarding part of being a Fire?

I enjoy responding to incidents and playing my role within the team. There are certain aspects you cannot control when you arrive at an incident but it is always a good feeling when you can help people and get a good result as a team.

Outside of NTFRS, you are the Captain of NT Thunder? How long have been part of the NT Thunder?

I have been the Captain of the Northern Territory Thunder Football Club since its inception in 2009. The program is intense and challenging and I would like to thank the NTFRS and its members for their support while we try to establish Territory Thunder as a successful club. This year we made the finals, which is a good sign for the future.

How long have you played AFL?

I have played since I was 11, so 17 years now.

What do you enjoy most about playing footy?

Winning!! Footy gives every player the opportunity to influence the game and when you have a group of players willing to train hard and work together the sacrifices are worth the results.

You are also the director of a Territory sports magazine – why did you get involved in the publication?

The magazine was inspired by the many young Territorians working hard to achieve their goals in sports. I thought it would be a good idea to showcase their journey, efforts and achievements in a local magazine dedicated to local people. I have grown up in the Territory and played every sport I could possibly get my hands on – basketball, rugby league, rugby union, cricket, BMX, squash, swimming and baseball – which gave me a good background to launch the Territory's only sports magazine.

It doesn't seem that you would have a great deal of free time on your hands – but when you do, what do you enjoy doing?

Spending time with my family and going fishing and camping.

You have achieved a lot in your life so far, but what do you feel is your biggest achievement?

It would have to be having my kids. Barbara and I have two amazing kids that are already showing signs that they will achieve far greater things than we ever did.





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