

THE

[www.pfes.nt.gov.au](http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au)

# DRUM

The official publication of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services



**World Police Fire Games**

**Tracks are for Trains**

**Cyanide Spill**

**JUNE 2007**



## Commissioner's message

All members of the police force take a special interest in the on-going development of the police force because it adds to our capacity to prevent and reduce crime. Development of our capacity means of course, the development of our people and the development of sound crime strategies. I would therefore like to use this edition of The Drum to mention a few recent outcomes in the development of our capacity as a police force.

### In this issue

- 4 Sulphuric Acid Incident
- 8 Retirements
- 14 World Police & Fire Games
- 19 Tracks are for trains
- 23 Opening of Warakurna
- 26 Cyanide Spill

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

#### Editor

Sandra Mitchell

#### Stories and photos

Sue Bradley, Sarah Combe, Hayley Dwyer, Sharon Hutton, Theresa Kuilboer, Sandra Mitchell

#### Design and artwork

Brenda Lafferty

#### Next deadline

August 2007

Copyright: contents of the Drum must not be copied without the Editor's permission.

#### FRONT COVER:

The Pilatus taxi in Maningrida

#### CENTREFOLD:

2007 World Police & Fire Games

#### BACK COVER:

Public Safety Expo promotion

☎ (08) 8922 3535

✉ pfes.media@pfes.nt.gov.au

✉ PO Box 39764,

Winnellie NT 0821

🌐 www.pfes.nt.gov.au

Policing in Alice Springs and Southern Region has received a much needed boost to community policing through the introduction of dedicated traffic patrols (as has the Greater Darwin Region) and the introduction of drug dogs. Both initiatives have added a new dimension to the region through stronger traffic enforcement and stronger illicit drug enforcement. And both have witnessed considerable success since their introduction in December 2006, with the drug dogs adding to the capacity of the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk to intercept illicit drug trafficking in Central Australia. The Northern Territory Police Force has taken the lead role in combating drug trafficking in the region and the outcomes to date are a tribute to all members involved.

Community policing in Central Australia has also gained from the opening of the Mutijulu police post and the Warakurna police station, which is located just across the border in Western Australia. One additional Constable was added to Yulara police to directly support and assist the two ACPO's at Mutijulu, and so far the results are encouraging with a number of community concerns already addressed. I was privileged to attend the official opening of the Warakurna police station in late March and to meet NT police officer, Senior Constable Owen Auricht and his family. Warakurna is the second multi-jurisdiction police facility following the opening of Kintore three years ago and will assist in providing policing services to the NT community of Docker River.

Building the capacity of the police force has also occurred in the important area of human resources, with the Executive Leadership Group signing off on three dedicated police positions to deal with the new selection policy including the filling of vacancies, the coordination of remote location postings and career development. The remote localities review undertaken by Ms Gail Humble was an important contributor to the Executive's policy decision and I look forward to implementation of the review.

Supervision and leadership development is another area of high importance to the police force, so I am pleased to say that considerable effort is going into the planning of a workshop for front line supervisors. Known as the Practical Operational Supervisors' Training (POST) Program, it will commence in the second half of 2007 and be delivered in workshop format by our own experienced practitioners. The emphasis will be on a 'refresh' of knowledge and skills, so I urge everyone to get on board this important program.

Lastly, I would like to commend the efforts of staff at the Tri-Service College for the implementation of the Indigenous Policing Development Division. Headed by a Superintendent, the division has developed and implemented a raft of programs to increase the quality of training and the level of indigenous representation in the police force. Along with all members of the Executive, I look forward to the increasing representation of indigenous police officers in the Northern Territory Police Force in the years to come.

#### PAUL WHITE, APM

Commissioner of Police and  
CEO of Fire and Emergency Services

# Commendation for Brave Conduct

by Sarah Combe

Senior Constables Charles Ortlipp and Gary Wenck are recent recipients of the Commendation for Brave Conduct, which acknowledges an act of bravery worthy of national recognition.

It is the fourth highest national bravery decoration, celebrating those persons in the community who selflessly put themselves in hazardous situations to protect the lives and property of others.

They received the award for their role in the rescue of two men on the evening of 31 December 2004 from Buffalo Creek.

They battled three metre swells with winds up to 35 knots in the rain and dark to save the men whose dinghy was swamped and capsized forcing them to swim to shore and wait in mangroves until they were found.

Senior Constable Gary Wenck said that the conditions were frightening, and forced the team to moor the boat

on a sandbar and attempt to empty it of water three times before they finally located the missing men.

'We had a job to do and we just did it – it's quite simple,' Gary Wenck said. Senior Constable Charles Ortlipp agrees. "The last thing you think about is the danger. You don't muck around when it involves people's lives," he said.

Charles Ortlipp said that he is pleased that this rescue and others similar, prompted improvements to police assets to greater support members of Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Section who regularly put themselves in danger to achieve rescues.

The two were announced as recipients on 12 March and received the honour at an investiture on 4 May at Government house.

"I am really pleased and proud to receive the award, but I am a bit embarrassed about all the attention" Senior Constable Ortlipp said.



From the left: Charles Ortlipp, Samantha McNeill, Gary Wenck, David Cubis, Brian Harrison and Eric Edgecombe.



Above: S/C Charles Ortlipp receives his award from the Administrator, Ted Egan



Above: S/C Gary Wenck receives his reward



# Sulphuric Acid Incident – Pine Creek

by Sue Bradley

In March this year a trailer attached to a road train rolled over near Pine Creek which instigated a multi-agency response.

The road train, consisting of a prime mover and three trailers, was travelling south on the Stuart Highway destined for the Ranger Mine. All three trailers were loaded with sulphuric acid with the last trailer containing 12 000 litres and weighing 26 tonne.

At the McDonald airstrip turnoff, the third trailer left the roadway on a slight bend and slid on the gravel verge. As the driver attempted to correct the trailer it rolled onto its side across the northbound lane.

The agencies responding to the incident included Police from Pine Creek and Adelaide River; Fire and Emergency Response Group volunteers from Pine Creek; Fire and Rescue Service, St John Ambulance, Work Safe and Department of Planning and Infrastructure personnel from Katherine.

The Fire and Emergency Response Group (FERG) volunteers were called from their usual occupations at 3 pm and stayed at the scene until 1.30 am the next morning.

They provided traffic control for many hours until Department of Planning and Infrastructure personnel arrived and took over.

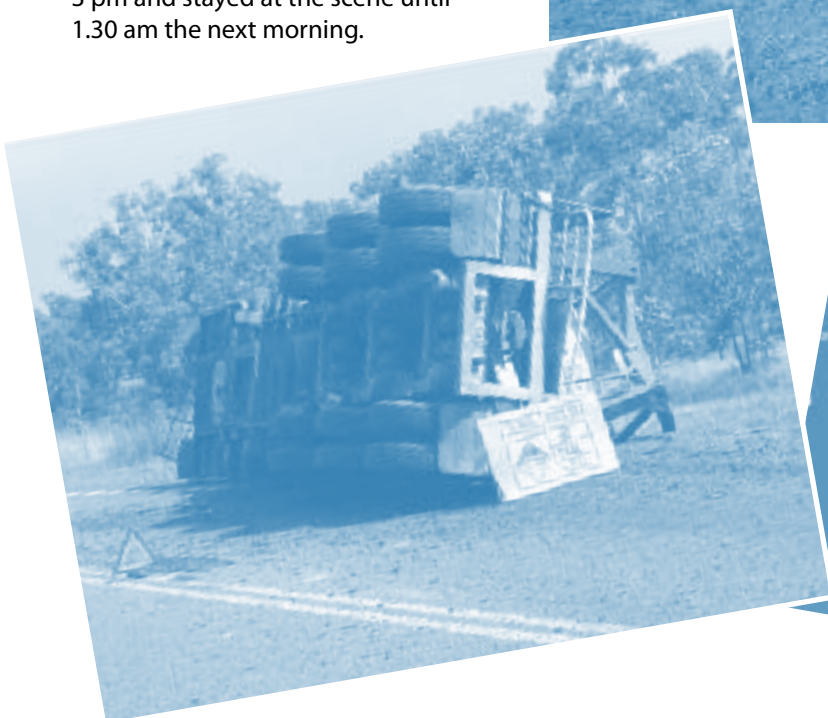
"Their assistance was invaluable and ensured that traffic ran smoothly around the site with minimal disruption to motorists," said Senior Constable Alan Green, Officer in Charge of Pine Creek Police Station.

Fire and Rescue Service members from Katherine, kitted up in their fully encapsulated suits, provided vital support during the recovery process.

"These suits are not cool to wear and the guys were dripping wet with perspiration by the end of the night," he said.

Due to the nature of the incident, St John Ambulance personnel remained at the scene on standby.

"The co-operation between all agencies ensured a quick, safe and successful resolution to the incident."





**Squad 89**

## Double Graduation see story on page 27

**Squad 13**



# Peer Support Program

By Joe Linco

**T**he Peer Support Program is a network of trained tri-service staff (including volunteers) who are available to provide support to colleagues who are affected by any stressful personal or work related situation.

Trained Peer Supporters will be able to provide support to colleagues, either on a one-to-one basis, or in small groups. Support may simply be listening to the other person or linking them to others for practical assistance, whilst making sure any immediate needs are met, where possible.

Peer Supporters will be assisted by staff of the Welfare Section, who will coordinate the Peer Support Program.

As the name suggests, Peer Supporters are required to provide 'support' only and may be a point

of contact for members of the tri-service who require some assistance.

The NTPFES Welfare Section will be delivering one Peer Supporter' Training Course in the Northern region and one in the Southern region in 2007. Members of all ranks through out the tri-service including public servants and volunteers are encouraged to apply to undertake the training to become a Peer Supporter.

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Supporter, and have:

- Good rapport with workmates and colleagues
- Good listening skills
- Sensitivity to the problems of others
- Good problem-solving skills
- Willingness to learn

You are encouraged to apply to attend the training. Training will be conducted over a one-week period (dates to be confirmed) and will cover topics including:

- Communication Techniques
- Confidentiality and Ethics
- Indicators and management of stress
- Assessment and referral
- Grief and Loss
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Self Care as a Peer Support Officer

Applications to attend the training are open now. To obtain an application form, or for more information contact the Peer Support Coordinator Joe Linco 8999 4152 (Northern and Central Regions) or Ian Kesby 8951 5017 (Southern Region).

# Jock Mcleod - 40 years of service - NTFRS

By Sarah Combe



Jock Mcleod is the first fire fighter in history to celebrate 40 years of service in the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and he says that in 40 years he could probably count on one hand the amount of days he went home without having a good day.

Not bad for a boy who grew up in rural Victoria without ever really having aspirations to be a fire fighter and who was mostly interested in running around with his mates and playing sports.

At 15 Jock began an apprenticeship in engineering and a short time later he came to Darwin for the first time on a holiday and fell in love with the place.

Six months later he moved from Victoria to Darwin and never looked back, joining a number of sporting groups and working as a diesel fitter at the Two and a Half Mile Workshops.

He applied to join the Fire Service after seeing the job advertised in the newspaper but before he got the offer he was already six months into working at the railways in the locomotive shed, fixing the big diesel trains.

"One day a letter came home to say I had an interview to be a fire fighter with the Commonwealth Government .... So I weighed it all

up –and thought I'd really like to see how I go."

The outcome of the round of interviews was relayed to Jock in typical Darwin fashion one day when he was playing basketball at the courts near the Daly Street Fire Station.

When the Chief at the time, George Robbins, saw Jock he said 'you're one of those blokes that did the interview aren't you? Well you're in; you will get a letter shortly.'

Jock swore his allegiance on the following Monday, 20 March 1967 and began the two weeks of intensive training to prepare him for his long and rewarding career. He started out at the Daly Street Fire Station, and has since served at

Nightcliff, Winnellie and Katherine and is now Station Commander of Technical Services at the Darwin Fire Station.

Serving in Katherine holds particularly fond memories for Jock who moved there with his family in 1978 and lived there for six years.

"What stands out for me about Katherine is the camaraderie between the people that worked there and the interaction between the Firies and the town's people. You were really looked up to as someone special in the town. We absolutely joined in everything that the town did; we were in the Lions Clubs, participated in community events and it was a really good place to live."

However, he says his career highlight, and there are a few to choose from, was Cyclone Tracy.

"It was a real eye opener in my career, the way we all had to bond together and react instantly. We hadn't really been trained for a lot of the work we needed to do after Tracey, but we all just formed our groups and did it.

"It's one of the times when I think the fire service really stepped up in my infancy stages in the job and I always look back on it now, even though it was a horrible time, with





## Jock Mcleod - 40 years of service - NTFRS - continued



memories of the way we reacted to the situation as a group, I look back to it with a lot of pride."

In 2000, Jock received the Australian Fire Service Medal, recognising his distinguished service in the Northern Territory Fire Service.

In his career Jock has been to some big fires, such as the fire at the Commonwealth Bank when the roof came down on the members, and conditions were pretty frightening.

He has attended some horrendous scrub fires around Darwin and Katherine, numerous building and house fires and really bad motor vehicle accidents and what has kept him interested in the job for so many years is the camaraderie between the people he worked with.

"I really enjoy the focus on doing what you have got to do, the sense of achievement when you do it well, the pride in that achievement and being able to help people."

"I think I have had some of my best laughs around the dinner table at the fire service, because there are blokes there that can run the country better than the politicians, we've got some of the best lawyers here you've ever seen, some of the greatest mechanical feats have been done over our tables - it's just been a really great journey all the way through."

## Profile: John Ginnane

By Hayley Dwyer



**S**ergeant John Ginnane, Officer-In-Charge at Tennant Creek Station decided to fast track his career through the Transitional Entry Program (TEP), getting to his current position in just five months.

Hailing from Warracknabeal, a place the size of Tennant Creek about two hours' south of Mildura, John heard about the better pay and conditions with the NT Police Force along with the very real opportunities for career advancement combined with a better lifestyle. He moved to the Territory along with his wife Neilia and two-year-old son James to complete the TEP course.

"It does take effort, but it can happen. I joined the TEP on 6 February last year and within five months I advanced to my current rank," said Sergeant Ginnane.

"The TEP course is very intensive – it's equal to anything up to and including a detective's course in Victoria in terms of commitment required.

"The difficulty is disregarding all the policy and procedures you've learnt from your previous jurisdiction.

It's starting again from scratch by learning Territory law since you're expected to be able to apply it from day one.

John has not experienced too many of the more common challenges that can come with moving to a regional centre like Tennant Creek.

"Moving to a regional area like Tennant Creek can be challenging, particularly for partners and their careers. My wife was fortunate enough to find a professional job within one week.

"My advice to others would be to give your career move a lot of thought and make sure that the whole family is committed to the move. The Territory can be a long way from existing support structures like extended family – but for us it's working out just fine.

"The nature of the work is vastly different to inner-Melbourne, but overall the experience I gain here Tennant Creek will outstrip anything anywhere else."



# George Owen Retirement

by Sue Bradley

Commander George Owen retired recently after a career spanning 32 years in the NT Police Force.

George joined in 1975 and worked his way through the ranks to finish as head of the Crime and Specialist Support Command.

During his career George has worked in General Duties, the Police College, Drug Enforcement Section, Professional Responsibility (now Ethical and Professional Standards Command, CIB (now Major & Organised Crime), Road Safety and the Commissioner's Office.

He was involved in a number of major investigations and operations including Forward Commander in the successful capture of Australia's most notorious armed robbers, Brenden Abbott and Brendan Berichon.

"Our initial information related to Berichon and that's who we were looking for – we have surveillance on the Top End Hotel and I'm pretty sure it was Lenny Turner who spotted this bloke at the room in question but he did not look like Berichon," said Commander Owen.

"After much discussion we decided that it was Brenden Abbott and I gave approval for the TRG to make the arrest

and knew that given Abbott's propensity to use firearms, the TRG would not muck about.

"I remember saying to my OIC CIB - in a couple of minutes we will be either heroes having locked up Brenden Abbott or we will be placating a very frightened tourist – fortunately it was Abbott," he said.

Some of the other highlights include being part of a team that solved several high profile murder investigations – Peter Falconio, Thai prostitutes Phuang Sri Kroksamrang and Somjai Insamnan and Marshall Haritos.

George's other achievements include:

- Implementation of Folder View to manage major operations in PROMIS
- Development of the Major Crime Plan

*(continued on page 20)*



# Peter Paolucci Retirement

by Sarah Combe

The charming Peter Paolucci has retired this year after 33 years of service in the Northern Territory Police Force. A career that all began when Peter was working as a Customs Officer in Melbourne and saw an advert on a notice board "A Career with a difference? Join the NT Police" and as he says 'boy were they right'.

He joined in the June of 1974; stepping off the plane from wintry Melbourne dressed in 16 inch Prince of Wales woollen checked flares and a red body shirt (no, no platform shoes). The heat and humidity hit him like a sledge hammer and his initial reaction was his only moment of doubt "what the heck have I come too?"

His squad (No. 17) consisted of 13 men, who trained in a demountable building in Mitchell Street. It was part of a government hostel that fed and housed all the single public servants and police had an arrangement with the canteen there to supply the recruits with meals at their own expense

"Quite a few of the blokes would not pay their board and tried to get a meal without paying but there was a Chinese manager (a fearsome and scary lady) that would sweep out of the clouds and catch the free loaders before their forks came within cooee of their mouths with her food. I always paid on time because meal time for me was

nothing short of a religious experience and I did not want anything interrupting a good old Italian boy from his supper (boy did I miss my good ol Ma's cooking)."

After training Peter began working in Darwin General Duties but was transferred to Alice Springs three days before Cyclone Tracy struck. A police contingent was based in Kulgera for several weeks and tasked to assist people driving down South from Darwin.

"The South road at that time was still dirt after Kulgera and I pitied the poor people who had to negotiate that road after the trauma of having experienced "Tracy".

*(continued on pg. 20)*





# Retirement – John Greenhill

by Sue Bradley

John Greenhill retired recently after serving with the Northern Territory Police Force for over 30 years.

"When I first commenced in January 1976, it was to find that camel patrols had only just ceased but horse patrols were still continuing in some areas – probably more to do with the lack of roads than anything else."

"I think from memory there were some 280 police officers in the NT at the time. It was a big family in as much as most people knew exactly who was who and what was happening.

"The bush telegraph worked extremely well and the bush coppers knew more about what was happening than those who were close to the events in Darwin," said John.

Most remote stations were one man stations with Wave Hill having the biggest patrol district for one officer in the southern hemisphere – about 52,000 square miles.

Bush coppers were very self reliant due to very little hope of getting things done, especially during the wet season when the communities were cut off without access even by air.

"Vehicles were usually the trusty Landrover for the bush or the Holden paddy wagon in town.

John served under five Police Commissioners and says he enjoyed his time with the department.

"I have watched the department get dragged kicking and screaming from the old times to the new, with computers being introduced and vehicles becoming air-conditioned as standard.

"Communications went from a radio that might work if the atmospherics were right to satellite phones and other types of electronic goodies," he said.

"Things that we used to dream about having eventually became standard equipment.

"To those that have no idea of what it was like – I guess the closest simile would be a poor ten-year-old child being allowed to go and play with every toy in the toy world and then keep them all.

"When I first came to the department the annual budget was less than \$3 million to run the Department including all building repairs etc – I believe the current budget way exceeds that amount."

John has spoken to people from all over Australia who have visited the NT and the most common statement about the police has nearly always been that we have one of the best forces in Australia in terms of fairness and honesty.

"I think the service needs to retain that edge over other states – it speaks volumes of the men and women of this Department every day," he said.

"I would like to thank all those people who have given me support over the years with a special thanks to both Audrey Ko and Rose Hallett.

"They went out of their way to help and guide not only myself but others as well.

"Finally, I would like to thank my wife and daughter for their support also – without which I would have probably gone stark raving mad a long time ago."

---

# Retirement – Mick Read

by Sarah Combe

Mick Read dedicated more than 23 years to the Northern Territory Police Force and he says looking back, it's hard to pick any place or section that he enjoyed more than another.

"I had a great time, made firm friends and have great memories of everywhere I have served."

In fact his friends were part of the reason he joined the force back in July 1979, leaving his work at the Soudan Station on the Barkly Tableland where he was running the stock camp.

Tony O'Brien who was stationed at Avon Downs insisted Mick fill out the application on New Year's Eve and he received plenty of coaching from his mates and Tennant Creek members in the lead up to his interview. In the

interview Sergeant Dave Barrett was so interested on how Mick quelled trouble in the stock camp that Chief Inspector Jack Illet had to bring a stop to the questioning.

Mick started his training in Darwin in Squad 31 and when he graduated he commenced General Duties in Darwin under the watchful eyes of Senior Sergeant Geoff Shervill and Sergeant Tom Usher.

"Both of these blokes were instrumental in shaping my police career and I remember them both with great fondness and respect."

Mick moved from General Duties to the Combined Drug Enforcement Unit and was later promoted to the Task Force .

(continued on page 25)

# Compartment Fire Behaviour Training

by Sarah Combe

The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service has recently developed capabilities for Compartment Fire Behaviour Training at the Training College in the Peter McAulay Centre.

This technique incorporates innovative thinking in how Fire Services should approach fires and has proven to be both efficient and to conserve water. The techniques also assist with Fire Scene investigations by reducing damage from excessive heat smoke and water from fire fighting activities. Inside a converted shipping

The training involves using a number of techniques to enter and control the conditions, like cooling hot gasses that build inside the room with water before



They undertook teaching Fire and Rescue Service trainers at the college how to become instructors in this technique in a one week program between 21 and 25 May.



container a fire is allowed to develop. During this time members are able to enter the compartment and observe fire behaviour and learn to read how a fire develops in different conditions.

concentrating efforts on the flames.

Wayne Green from the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia, John McDonough from

the New South Wales Fire Brigade and Darren Chapman from the South Australian Country Fire Service are leaders in this field in their respective states and have recently shared their knowledge with members in Darwin.

District Officer and Manager Education and Training Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service Tom Konieczny, said this was an exciting time for the NTFRS.

"Having this level of collaboration and expertise between the four Fire Services has firmly placed the NTFRS and the members who are undertaking this instructor training at the forefront of the technology," he said.

The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service plans to incorporate this training into their mainstream program as the next stage of this operational up skilling.



## Scout Scarf Presentation

Around the world in April, members of Scouts presented special centenary scarves to mark the 100th international birthday of the movement. Among those to receive a special scarf, complete with woggle was Commissioner Paul White. Commissioner White received his scarf from NT Scout Chief Commissioner, Christine Doidge – who is also a long-standing NTPFES member. Chris presented the scarf to the Commissioner, who wore it for the day to mark the anniversary.

# Tennant Creek – Investiture

By Hayley Dwyer

As part of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) continued commitment to formally honouring members' achievements an investiture ceremony was held in Tennant Creek on 18 April.

The Commissioner Paul White and Mrs Cynthia White travelled to Tennant Creek for the occasion which officially recognises the significant contributions of NTPFES members in the region.

"This is a proud day for Tennant Creek and a proud day for the Tri-Service," said Commissioner White.

"The Tri-Service performs a range of functions across the community, whether it is responding to a missing person report, a disturbance, a fire or the recent cyanide spill – Tri-Service members are always there ready to assist without hesitation.

"The recent cyanide spill was an excellent example of our ability to combine our efforts to show leadership and professionalism in the face of a dangerous situation.

The Commissioner stated that the work of the Tri-Service does not go unnoticed by the community, nor by the agency.

"I share the community's deep respect for the Tri-Service personnel. Our work makes for a stable and civil society and the community couldn't survive without us.

"This investiture is a celebration of your efforts and I thank each of you for your continued dedication," he said.

Aboriginal Community Police Officer, **Noel Dixon** travelled from Borroloola to receive his National Police Medal. Noel commenced with the NT Police Force in May 1989 as a Police Aide and transitioned to Aboriginal Community Police Officer for the Borroloola Community. Since serving in Borroloola, Noel has worked under Mark Kelly, Rex Price, Mark Butler, Keith Currie, Dave Proctor, Spence Compton, Don Garner and Bruce Payne. Noel was promoted to Senior ACPO in 1996 and is the last serving member of his squad.

Six Emergency Service Volunteers received their Volunteer Service Medal. **Adrian Calyun-Sice** joined the NT Emergency Service in 2000 after serving with the State Emergency Services in South Australia. He has served as an Administration Officer and Communications Officer and being a teacher by profession, is currently assisting with training, where his special skills are used in map and navigation exercises.

Emergency Services Unit Officer **Karl-**

**Heinz Herzog** joined the Tennant Creek Volunteer Unit in 1996 and served as assistant Training Officer, Equipment Officer and then Unit Officer until leaving in 1999 when he became a permanent officer with NT Emergency Service. Karl left the Emergency Service to return to Tennant Creek, rejoining the Volunteer Unit in 2004, where he served as the Rescue and Training Officer.

**Derek McPadden** joined the Tennant Creek Volunteer Unit in 1996. Being a teacher by profession he became the Volunteer Unit's Training Officer until 1999. He then took on the role of the Unit Officer, a position he held until 2005. Derek is qualified in several skills pertaining to Emergency Service Volunteers including Landsearch, Floodboat, Air Observation/Dropmaster and Storm Damage and has been involved in numerous operational callouts within the Barkly Region.

Deputy Unit Officer **Philip Merry** joined the Tennant Creek Volunteer Unit in 1996. Philip is qualified in Landsearch, Air Observation and Floodboat and has been active with all Operational Callouts within the Barkly Region. Philip also assists with the Unit's training and is the supervisor of the Unit's mapping and navigational resources and takes great pride in the Headquarters building maintenance and performs a lot of hours behind the scenes.

**Robin Pearce** joined the NT Emergency Service 1996 and has always been a very active member, supporting all aspects of the Unit's roles and responsibilities. Robin is qualified in various functions including General Rescue, Landsearch, Floodboat and Air Observation/Dropmaster and has been involved with many Operational activities within the Barkly Region. Robin's son Andrew accepted the award on his behalf.

**Paul Quinlan** joined the Tennant Creek Volunteer Unit in 1996 as the Equipment Officer. Community-minded Paul is very proactive at promoting the Volunteers within the town and assists with formal training and exercises to educate the new members. Paul is qualified in various aspects of the Unit's roles including Storm Damage, Air Observation/Dropmaster and Landsearch and has been involved with many Operational callouts within the Barkly Region.

Two NT Police members received their Service Medals. **Sheree Hansen** received her 10 Year Bar. Sheree joined the NT Police Force in 1995 after working in both real estate and legal firms doing secretarial duties. Sheree commenced work at the Peter McAulay Centre, Berrimah front counter and then moved to Darwin city front counter when the new station opened. In June 2006 Sheree moved to Tennant Creek

where her duties consist of both front counter and communications.

**Megan Hood Rowe** received her 20 Year Bar. Acting Superintendent Rowe Tennant Creek and Barkley Operational Service Division is Darwin born and was a building supply sales representative on the Gold Coast before joining the NT Police in June of 1986. She has served in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. She was seconded to the Falconio investigation for the entirety of the investigation, committal and trial and was awarded the Female Investigator of the Year by the Australasian Council of Women and Policing in October of 2006. Senior Sergeant Rowe is a qualified fire Investigator and the first Northern Territory Police Officer to be Gazetted as such. She has a Bachelors Degree in Social Science – Justice Studies from Charles Sturt University.

The NT Fire and Rescue Service Medal was presented to Station Officer Leigh Swift and Senior Firefighter Paul Florance.

**Station Officer Swift** commenced his career with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service in Darwin in 1986. At the completion of his recruit training Leigh was posted to operational duties in the Darwin region. He transferred to Alice Springs in 1987. In 2001 Leigh was promoted to the Rank of SFF and in December 2004 he was promoted to the rank of Station Officer. Station Officer Swift was appointed to the OIC position in Tennant Creek in December 2004.

**Senior Firefighter Paul Florance** joined the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service in 1981. At the completion of his recruit training he was posted to operational duties in Darwin. In 1985 Paul gained promotion to the rank of Senior Firefighter and in May 1991 gained promotion to Station Officer. In 2001 Paul resigned to take up duties with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service until September 2005 when he rejoined the NTFRS to take up duties at the Tennant Creek Fire Station as the Senior Fire Fighter Qualified. Paul has served in Darwin Nhulunbuy, Jabiru and the Public Education section in Community Safety.

The final award presented was the Trophy for the Police Auxiliary of the Year for 2006 to Senior Police Auxiliary John Gregory.

**Senior Police Auxiliary Gregory** was successfully nominated for his work ethic and professionalism. The nomination spoke of John being highly valued particularly for his contribution to the Tennant Creek investigation unit in the role as an intelligence officer.



# Digital Radios for Alice Springs

by Sarah Combe



The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) recently introduced digitally encrypted radios to improve radio communication capabilities for fire fighters in Alice Springs and Darwin in a \$600,000 upgrade.

This new technology has replaced the old Standard Analogue Systems, providing

NTFRS fire fighters with access to the Police, Fire and Emergency Services' digital network. Moving to the digital network enables secure communications between police and fire services when operating in a multi-agency environment. It also overcomes severe congestion problems with the older network which was clearly demonstrated during an ICMEX conducted in Darwin in 2005. The digital network is also used by other NT government agencies, including the Ambulance Service and some Commonwealth agencies.

Alice Springs Senior Station Officer John Kleeman says that the initiative has enhanced the reliability, safety and security of fire service radio communications considerably.

"Unlike the old models the new radios are intrinsically safe and can be used in flammable or explosive environments without causing a spark or ignition; they can also operate in what were previously black spots," he said.

Alice Springs fire fighters have operated the new radios since February while Darwin Fire Fighters moved to the new system in March.

The changeover to the digital network has also allowed the Darwin based Joint Emergency Services Communications Centre (JESCC) to now communicate directly with Alice Springs. All 000 fire calls for Alice are now handled from the JESCC which has greatly improved the level of service.

Divisional Commander David Pettit praised the Technical Service technicians who have offered continued support and help with the integration of the new system.

"The tech services section has put in a tremendous effort to ensure the changeover process is as easy as possible, I think I speak for all fire fighters when I say we really appreciate the work that they do," he said.



---

## International Urban Search and Rescue Advisory Group Conference – NT Delegate

by Sarah Combe

Senior Fire Fighter (SFF) David Lines was one of three fire fighters, selected from across Australia to attend the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group Conference in New Delhi, India.

David, who attended the international conference with a member from New South Wales and Queensland, said that the three day international conference was invaluable.

The conference focussed on rescue capabilities in collapsed buildings and countries from all over the world shared and developed their methods used in these situations and other kinds of major disasters.

David Lines said that this kind of knowledge is already prompting changes in other states in Australia and the Northern Territory is following with a focus on training and procuring the best equipment available.

He is the first person from the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team to participate in this annual event.

"I was really impressed by how strong the USAR community is around the world. There is a real sense of unity, not only from rescue teams nationally but also internationally. It is good to see how much support there is for all involved in this type of rescue," David said.

David was also one of the three Northern Territory delegates selected to participate in the 28th International Urban Search and Rescue course held in Singapore between 29 January and 9 February this year.

The three NT members joined others from Western Australia, Indonesia, Taiwan, India, Bhutan, Macau and Singapore for two weeks of intensive training which included many realistic rescue scenarios.

# Public safety XPO

**21 JULY 2007**

**T**he Public Safety Expo is now only weeks away and as the preparations ramp up, so does the excitement. With new and upgraded equipment to display, two new Police recruit squads as well as a squad of Fire recruits, the day promises to be a true showcase of the best the tri-service has to offer.

Under the theme of 'Together Protecting Our Community' Police, Fire and Emergency Services will host the free family fun day highlighting not only our capabilities for protecting the community but also that of the many government and service organisations that support us in this role every day.

Policing across the Territory will be represented in the vast variety of displays ranging from interactive activities to multi-media presentations and static materials. The event provides not only the promotional opportunity to highlight the depth and variety of services we provide,



but also a very positive encounter with our youth. Activities on the day incorporate all age groups, with the Territory Response Section abseiling wall proving the biggest hit at the last event. Additions to this year's Expo include a line search, 'report a crime' setup and a flying fox. Jock the miniature fire truck will be around and kids will have the chance to have their photo taken free in a real fire truck or participating in the TRS activities.

Showbags will be given out to the first 5000 people through the gate and Mix 104.9 will broadcast live from the site from 9am to noon.

Bring your family along for a great time and the chance to see what you do, as well as the opportunity to win one of many prizes. See you there!

---

## Gert Johnsson – Australian Police Medal Investiture By Hayley Dwyer

**S**ergeant Gert Johnsson received his Australian Police Medal for distinguished service at a ceremony led by the Administrator of the Northern Territory Ted Egan AO on 15 April.

Sergeant Johnsson has served with distinction since joining the Northern Territory Police Force in 1975.



**From left:** Gert Johnsson, Virginia Mitchell, remote areas nurse who received an OAM, Ted Egan and Nerys Evans

He retired in 2002, but re-enlisted in 2004 and took up the challenge as an instructor at the NTPFES training college.

In October 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and posted to Hermannsburg as the Officer-in-Charge of the Ntaria Police Station.



**Above:** Gert is congratulated by Ted Egan AO, The Administrator of the Northern Territory





## **2007 World Police & Fire Games**

ADELAIDE • AUSTRALIA

16 - 25 March 2007

**A**thletes from the Northern Territory Police and Fire and Rescue Service proudly represented the Territory and Australia at the recent World Police Fire Games which were held in Adelaide between 16 and 25 March.

They made up a small but strong component of the 2500 athletes in the Australian Team, which was understandably the largest team competing in the games.

The WPGF games has become even bigger than the Commonwealth Games with 8000 members and athletes from around the world gathering in Adelaide to compete in 79 different sports.

NT members competed in a range of sports from dragon boats to cycling, triathlon, weightlifting, touch rugby, basketball, tennis, lawn bowls, triathlon and others.

The NTFRS formed a touch rugby team called "The Crocs" consisting of 14 players, with one member from Yulara and one from Alice Springs and a manager/strapper.

The competition was broken into two pools and worked in a round-robin format over three days. There was also one day of medal games and most of the competition consisted of teams from throughout Australia, NZ and Sri Lanka. "The Crocs finished in 8th place overall and were not disgraced...perhaps gold medallists socially.

"All in all a fantastic time was had - true friendships and networks were made and the spirit of competition brought all who attended close together," said Station Officer Colin Snowden.

Police Auxiliaries Gabby Wolfe and Sarah Hegarty pulled together a barbarian squad to enter the 3x3 Basketball Competition. Their resourcefulness resulted in a team called the "North Coast Pistons," made up of members from all corners of the world.

They joined two fire fighters from Barnaby Fire Dept, Vancouver Canada, a Customs Enforcement Officer from the UK, a Police Officer from Montreal, Québec and another Police Officer representing South Australia Police. Although the competition was fierce the team pulled through to win a bronze medal.







Retired Station Officer Ken Couzens represented well in most road cycling events including criteriums, road racing and sprints and was placed well in several of his events.

Station Commander Chris Manual, Acting Station Officer Peter Svava, fire fighter Stephen Denton, Detective Constable Jess Malloy and Detective Senior Constable Karl Day formed a triathlon team for the games.

The course included a 1500 metre swim in chilly 21 degree water, a 42 km bike ride in windy conditions and a further 10 km run. It was the first time Chris, Karl and Jess raced over that distance and everyone posted good times.

"Team spirit was alive and well with each member cheering the next one home," said Acting Station Officer Peter Svava.

Fire fighter Stephen Denton also competed in cycling time trials the following Tuesday and made some good times.

The Adelaide games were the first to include Dragon Boat Racing as an official event. The races were held on the Torrens Lake in Elder Park and the course for all events was 250 metres.

The NT Dragon boat team "NT Copz" brought home two bronze medals at the games in the mixed open 10s and the mixed open 20s.

NT Copz Captain, Commander Greg Dowd said that the team did exceptionally well to pick up two bronze medals at the Games, considering that a number of their paddlers had to compete in multiple race categories.

"In some instances this meant that some of our competitors had to compete in a semi final, then a grand final followed by another grand final which were all back-to-back events. That takes some real commitment and intestinal fortitude," he said.

Meanwhile ACPO Bernie Devine won gold in Bench Press for his division, Grand Masters B 67.5 kg, after only two months of training.

On the one hand there were no other competitors in his division however he pressed a whopping 115 kg which was a games record; 32.5 kg more than the previous record holder in his division.

His two months of training began after a 10 year break from weightlifting training. However prior to the break he trained in the sport for 18 years. "I really enjoyed getting back into the sport and will continue training with the hope of competing in the next World Police Fire Games," he said.



The Lawn Bowls duo, Constable Mark Malogorski and Constable Hans Kupper, won silver in the open mens division.

It was a remarkable effort for the pair, considering Mark had only started playing the game in January.

"We really surprised ourselves" Constable Mark Malogorski said.

They played five games against teams from South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria before coming up against Malaysia in the Finals.

The Men's Fours team included Superintendent Colin Smith, Detective Sergeant Chris Board, Constable Andrew Dunne and Senior Police Auxiliary Bill Hawker who reached the quarter final but were beaten by South Africa Police.

The 2007 World Police & Fire Games finished up with Australia in first place winning 309 Gold medals, 283 Silver and 251 Bronze, making a total of 843 medals.



# Graduation – Squad 88

**N**orthern Territory Police's newest officers graduated from their training at a ceremony at Marrara recently. Twenty-six members from Squad 88 graduated in front of Acting Commissioner, Bruce Wernham and Minister for Police Chris Burns.

The 22 men and four women come from a range of backgrounds, with 15 members recruited from the Northern Territory. The remainder are from South Australia (2), Queensland (4), Victoria (2), New South Wales (2) and the ACT (1).

Their backgrounds include careers with the Defence Forces, personal training, accounting, landscaping and green-keeping, construction and mining and carpentry.

They have already received their first postings to Alice Springs (8), Darwin (6), Katherine (3), Casuarina (5), Palmerston (3) and Tennant Creek (1).

Acting Commissioner of Police, Bruce Wernham, said the value government and the community ultimately attached to NT Police related to its people and the service they provided.

"It's about the best people going to where they're needed across the Territory and providing the best service possible to Territorians," he said.

He wished the new police officers success in their careers with NT Police.



## TEP Squad 90 – graduation ceremony

**T**wenty new members from interstate graduated recently from their Transitional Entry Program to join the Northern Territory Police Force

The members of Squad 90, who came from every state except Tasmania, have now completed the eight week, self based learning program which focussed on local legislative, policy and procedural requirements.

As part of their training members of Squad 90 were assessed on their demonstrated leadership skills and also on their practical qualifications such as firearms, driver training and defensive tactics.

The Squad 90 members are to head out to pre-determined postings across the Territory; 10 graduating members will commence in Darwin, two in Katherine, one in Tennant Creek and seven in Alice Springs.

"The Northern Territory Police Force is pleased to welcome these experienced new members to the Territory."

"I am confident their experience will be an asset to our police force and that our unique policing experiences will broaden their careers in return," said Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham.



**Above:** Deputy Commissioner Bruce Wernham presenting Dux of the Squad, Senior Constable Jarrod Mathison



# Counter Terrorism Drill Style Exercise – Bomb Scene Examination

By Stefan Herold

**A**s part of the refocused National Counter Terrorism Committee (NCTC) exercise regime, a counter terrorism drill-style exercise was conducted 11 April 2007 at the Hidden Valley Explosives Range to test the Forensic Services and NT Fire & Rescue Service's bomb scene examination capability.

The Exercise Controller was S/Constable Gino Rob, Forensic Services.

The exercise was staged in two phases over an eight hour period:

- Phase one involved the controlled detonation (by TRS Bomb Technicians) of a small quantity of explosives under the driver's seat of a small sedan with the body of a victim (pig cadaver) placed on the seat; which subsequently required Forensic and NTFRS Bomb Scene Examiners to process the scene (Major Crime and CIS also participated in the exercise); and
- Phase two involved the subsequent examination of the evidence back at the Forensic Science Centre laboratory.

The aim of the exercise was to test the response capabilities of the bomb scene examination team to effectively process the crime scene and conduct subsequent analytical examination of the evidence to identify the function and components of the IED detonated.

This was successfully achieved taking into account the limited time span for the conduct of the exercise, the

BSE team managed to process the scene and after examination were able to identify the activation method, power source and the approximate power of the device.

The Australian Government has committed funding for all jurisdictions to undertake a number of discussion and drill-style exercises each year; a drill-style exercise being a small-scale single jurisdictional exercise that is a repetitive and methodical approach to reinforce specific skills, procedures and arrangements to respond to a terrorist incident.

A total of 21 drill style exercises (across a number of agencies and locations) have been approved by the NT Counter Terrorism Exercise Steering Committee for the 2006/07 period, the Committee is responsible for input to and endorsement of the Northern Territory program of counter terrorism exercises, and for oversight of the conduct of all exercises undertaken within the NT which have a counter terrorism theme or focus.



## Graduation – Auxiliary Squad 28

By Sue Bradley



Auxiliary Squad 28 of 2007 graduated recently at a ceremony held in the Commissioner's Dining Room, Peter McAulay Centre.

The eight graduates come from a diverse range of backgrounds including legal assistant, home maintenance business, health and fitness industry, dairy farming business, automotive industry and real estate.

Graduates are: Nadine Caulfield, Rebecca Fisher, Stephen Hosking, Nathan Hession, Rowena Lenehan, Julia McLean, Nicole Driscoll and Nicolle Bedwell.



# USAR Exercise - Yarrawonga

by Sarah Combe

Qualified members from USAR, volunteer and career members from NTES and NTFRS and volunteer ambulance officers participated in a six hour training exercise in March.

In the scenario an apartment was collapsed as a result of a vehicle accident and an unknown number of victims were trapped inside the rubble.

Team members worked for over six hours utilising various search and rescue skills and equipment to locate, access and extricate four victims to safety.

It was a particularly useful test of new equipment from both agencies including new hydraulic equipment, rescue related cameras and sound equipment. It also tested skills that are not often utilised in general incidents.

Training Officer Mark Cunningham was impressed with the way team members approached the exercise in the hot and humid weather conditions.

"The participants approached the task with good humour and gusto with some useful comments coming out of the day."



## SAID by Detective Senior Constable Beau McNeill, Officer in Charge SAID

The Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk commenced operation in January 2006, targeting the supply and use of illicit and licit substances in remote communities in the tri state regions of the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

Working under Operation Midrealm, there are two permanent members of the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk based in Alice Springs. A Detective from Kalgoorlie in Western Australia is attached to the operation, as is a Police Officer based in Marla, South Australia. As a result information and intelligence is shared on a regular basis regarding drug, alcohol and petrol trafficking in the cross border region.

The SAID utilises an intelligence led, informant driven approach to combating the problems in this area. A specific focus has been on maintaining relationships with service providers and community members in these remote areas.

"Due to the large geographical area, we can't be everywhere all the time. We rely on informants and community contacts to provide timely information and intelligence, which can be passed on to local members for action." – Detective Senior Constable Beau McNeill, Officer in Charge SAID.

Officers from all three states regularly conduct joint operations targeting offending in the cross border region. A recent operation was conducted in the Warburton and Wingelina communities of Western Australia, utilising members of the SAID, Northern Territory Dog Operations Unit, Kalgoorlie Detectives, and officers from Warburton Police Station.

The operation proved highly successful, with seven men and one woman arrested from the Wingelina Community for various offences contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Act, Firearms Act and Weapons Act (WA).

As a result of intelligence obtained during the course of this operation, South Australian Police were later able to apprehend a target in Mintabie in possession of about 2.5kgs of cannabis.

"It is clear that criminals don't recognise state and territory boundaries, and neither should Police. Operation Midrealm is having a significant effect on offending in this region, primarily due to the information and intelligence sharing between jurisdictions."



# Tracks are for trains by Theresa Kuilboer



**T**he Alice Springs Counter Disaster Planning Committee facilitated a major counter-disaster field exercise in May which aimed to test a multi-agency response to a train crash.

The exercise was one of the biggest ever held in Central Australia and involved almost 80 participants. They included members of NT Police, NT Fire and Rescue Service, NT Emergency Service, St John Ambulance, as well as representatives from a range of other government agencies, private enterprise and stakeholders in the railway including Freightlink.

The scenario, was developed by NTES Education and Development Officer Rob Romaldi on behalf of the Alice Springs Counter Disaster Planning Committee, NT Fire and Rescue Service and the NT Rail Safety Committee.

The field exercise was designed to practice and assess emergency response and co-ordination procedures in the event of a collision between a freight train and a Coaster bus at the

Hugh River railway crossing on the Hugh River Stock Route approximately 130 kilometres south of Alice Springs.

For the sake of practicality, the exercise was, in fact, held a few kilometres south of Alice Springs near the Finke Desert Race staging area.

NTES Manager Southern Region, Iain Burns, said the exercise was one of the most comprehensive undertaken in Central Australia, and had proved extremely valuable.

"From the feedback we have received so far it has certainly been valuable in allowing all stakeholders to examine their operational plans and make adjustments where required," Mr Burns said.

"More importantly it has brought all the stakeholders together, including the rail consortium agencies, and has resulted in a much better understanding of the role of each organisation in the event of such an incident occurring."

"While the exercise itself only took half a day, the planning for it began 12 months before," Mr Burns said.

"A considerable amount of time was put into planning and writing the exercise to ensure the maxim benefit to all agencies involved and the success of the exercise itself.

"Although several people were involved in the planning, I would like to personally thank Rob Romaldi, NTES Education and Development officer,

Southern, for his many hours of hard work and commitment towards the planning, writing and conduct of the exercise.

Mr Burns said the exercise had thrown up a lot of challenges, but had been invaluable in identifying problems with interagency interaction.

"Since the exercise many of the participating organisations have been able to identify gaps in their own Emergency Response Plans and have been able to put measures in place to address these."

Mr Burns said thanks should also be extended to St John Ambulance members and volunteers for their efforts in providing a sense of realism with the "injuries" to "patients".

"Thanks should also go to the volunteers from the Ghan Preservation Society and Russ Driver Transport whose participation was integral to the success of the exercise."



## 4th Australasian Drug Strategy Conference (contributed)

**A** distinguished lineup of national and international speakers will converge on the Gold Coast in October as the Queensland Police Service plays host to the 4th Australasian Drug Strategy Conference.

Among them will be Mick Keelty, Australian Federal Police Commissioner and Deputy Chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs, who along with Professor Ann Roche, Director of the National Centre for Education and Training on Addictions (NCETA) at Flinders University, will open the three day conference with a scene-setting presentation on who's using what, when, where and why.

The conference, from October 23-25, presents an opportunity for Northern Territory Police members

to attend an information sharing forum aimed at reducing the negative effects of licit and illicit substance use.

Each day of the conference will explore a particular theme. The focus of Day One – what do we know and what do we need to know; Day Two – education, legislation and enforcement; and Day Three – global challenges.

Other presenters confirmed for the three day conference at Jupiters Casino, Gold Coast, include Professor Steve Allsop of the National Drug Research Institute, Professor Tim Stockwell of the Centre for Addictions Research, Victoria University, British Columbia and Special Agent Scott Masimoto of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Day Two of the conference will also feature the Police Commissioners' Panel which will examine issues, solutions and best practice within the law enforcement arena.

A welcome cocktail reception and a dinner featuring General Peter Cosgrove as guest speaker with entertainment from the Queensland Police Service's renowned Band of Blue and award winning Pipes & Drums, will also be held. Those unable to attend all three days of the conference may attend on a daily basis.

Take advantage of the early bird registration offer available until August 22.

Visit [www.police.qld.gov.au/ADSC2007](http://www.police.qld.gov.au/ADSC2007) for further information or to register online.

## George Owen - continued *(from page 8)*

- Task Force Ranger – drove down breaks in the Greater Darwin Area by 50%
- Implementation and increased resourcing of the Criminal Property Forfeiture Unit – to date \$10 million restrained and \$2 million forfeited
- Remote Community Drug Strategy – a strategic approach to tackling illicit drug abuse in remote communities
- Violent Crime Reduction Strategy – a strategic approach to identifying and driving down violence crime, in particular domestic violence related assaults
- Property Crime Reduction Strategy – a strategic approach to driving down property crime, in particular unlawful entries
- Child Abuse Taskforce – a joint agency approach to investigating child abuse in remote communities
- The design and implementation of the Telephone Intercept Unit
- Joint agency operations, particularly with the Australian Crime Commission, targeting organised crime in the Northern Territory
- Assisted with the development of the new Intelligence Division

"My career had a mixture of highs and lows but I tend to remember the achievements and put the lows in the background where they belong," said Commander Owen.

"I must say that without the support of my family I would not have achieved half of what I set out to do.

"It's been a challenging career but also an extremely rewarding one with lots of camaraderie and friendships made.

"I have been very proud to have been a member of the NT Police Force and enjoyed each role I have undertaken – from Constable to Commander."

The Northern Territory should be proud of its police force. We certainly fight well above our weight. We have the ability to make progressive change much quicker than other larger forces. I stress that each member of this organisation is part of the crew - it does not matter what role you play or at what level if you are not loyal and do not contribute, the performance of the Northern Territory Police and ultimately the community will suffer.

"I wish each of you the best in the future, may all of your investigations be successful and all your offenders confess and your court cases be pleas of guilty."

George and wife Maz will settle in Queensland where they will be closer to family and allow George to enjoy his beloved sailing.

---

## Peter Paolucci - continued *(from page 8)*

After two years in the job he was transferred to CIB as a plain clothes constable. "I thought I had made it as a 'cop'. I still had my wardrobe of flares and body shirts and one day I was giving evidence before the legendary bush Magistrate "Scrubby" Hall. As I gave my introduction 'Peter Paolucci, plain clothes constable etc, etc' it is reputed that Scrubby made the comment 'sotto voce' "There's nothing plain about those clothes."

When it was later decided that Ayers Rock needed a police station, Const Frank Morris was chosen as the OIC and Peter as his off-sider. The policing service had previously been provided by Kulgera Police in the guise of Dave Moore, and at that time it was said that he had the largest patrol area of any solitary policeman in the Western World.

"We took off early on that fateful morning. I was driving the Station Sergeant's old Holden Ute and Frank was driving a Toyota 4x4 towing an Aluminum T&W caravan that had been converted to a male and female cell block. I had grown up in Carlton (little Italy), Victoria and my only bush experiences had been to have family barbecues in the Dandenong Ranges just outside of Melbourne and here I was driving into the Great Australian Outback. I felt like a really reluctant John Stuart as I followed Frank's dust trail to our new home."

The new Ayers Rock Police Station was set up in the accommodation area of the old Ayers Rock Hotel that had been closed. One room was set up as the station and both members had an old motel room for accommodation.

During their first patrol around the Rock they came upon an old car with ten youths packed inside, which turned out to be stolen. The youths were arrested for unlawful use of the car and had to spend the night in the caravan cell block. However before they could be put in the cell it had to be emptied of all the supplies that were packed inside for the station.

"You could not literally swing a cat in the cell as it was that small and when all ten were placed in side they looked like sardines in a can. The next day we traveled back to the Alice to deliver our prisoners for court. We had a puncture along the way and the prisoners gladly pitched in to change the tyre so that they could stretch their legs."

After 12 months and having climbed the Rock about 10 times for something to do, Peter was transferred back to Alice. A few weeks after the transfer they received a call in Alice from Frank Morris to report that a dingo had taken a baby from a camp site tent and the Azaria Chamberlain saga was born.

After four years of service he passed his Sergeants exams and was sent relieving to Tennant Creek as an Acting

***(continued on pg 21)***



## Peter Paolucci - continued

(from page 20)

Sergeant where he worked with longtime friends Gary Manison, Terry Walshe and Gert Johnsson. He was later promoted to Sergeant Third Class, and had two children, Jessica (27 years) and Daniel (25 years).

After six years of working in the Centre, Peter was transferred to Darwin Traffic Section where he spent three years. He then moved to Jabiru General Duties.

"In that time Crocodile Dundee 2 was being filmed in Kakadu Park and I remember the director yelling 'Cut' to the filming as I and my star struck partner had wandered too close to the filming of the scene as we rubber necked at the film site."

He has since worked as a Detective in Darwin CIB with his good friend Detective Sergeant Matt Sodoli, in Communications and Palmerton General Duties when he was diagnosed with cancer, and spent 12 months fighting the disease before he was given the all clear to return to work.

After returning he worked in Prosecutions and CIS before moving to the Professional Responsibility Division (now Ethical and Professional Standards Command) where he was later promoted to Senior Sergeant and remained until his retirement.

"It has been a great 33 years of fun, adventure, laughs and some sad moments. I remember having a conversation with a Catholic priest about life and he commented 'You police live seven times the life of an ordinary person' Boy was he right!

"Sue and I are going to ease into retirement and let things slowly happen. I am proud to have been part of such a great organization and know that it will go from strength to strength and serve the Community of the Northern Territory to the best of its ability."

## VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY

Two and a half years has passed since the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy was implemented by the Northern Territory Police Force.

Over this time we have seen the membership embrace the strategy concept and implement changes which have resulted in a significant reduction to the level of serious violent crime occurring in the Territory.

National and international research continues to indicate that there is a distinct correlation between domestic and personal violence and other serious crimes such as homicide, sexual assault and child abuse.

In line with intelligence led policing practices, the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy aims to utilise specific strategies to target recidivist offenders and victims, to monitor police response, provide feedback to the workforce and to work with other government and non-government agencies to provide excellent services to victims of domestic violence.

After the introduction of the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy in 2004 there was a noticeable increase in the number of domestic violence related assaults recorded, the number of domestic violence restraining orders initiated by police

and the number of breaches of restraining orders being prosecuted.

The concerted efforts of members to maintain a consistent approach to this type of violence is having a positive result evidenced by the number of orders sought and the number of breaches prosecuted.

The response by the Northern Territory Police to domestic and personal violence since the induction of the strategy has reinforced the link between domestic and personal violence and serious crimes. This strengthens the philosophy that a consistent police response to domestic and personal violence is an effective means of reducing the negative outcomes which often result from such violence.

Between 2000 and 2005 the Territory recorded an average of 22 homicide related deaths per calendar year. In 2005, 44 per cent of homicide related deaths were linked to domestic and personal violence.

At the end of 2006 the Territory recorded its lowest number of homicide related deaths since 2000, with only 17 deaths of this kind occurring and 24 per cent of them being linked to domestic and personal violence.

## Police Museum Volunteers

The NT Police Museum and Historical Society is collecting material involving NT Police history and require volunteer assistants for research and projects for one morning; say 9am to 12 midday one day per week. They provide the tea/coffee, the venue and some resources for the research.

This is for the Citation Magazine and to build up the history base. It may mean a little time at Archives doing some of the research.

Anyone interested can contact Barry Frew on telephone 8922 3374 or at House 3 behind the HQ Building at PMC on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9am and 12 midday

# CAT Profile

by Sandra Mitchell

In November last year, the first collocation between Police and Family and Community Services Child Protection Workers to battle child maltreatment and abuse became a reality in the Northern Territory.

The Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT) was announced by Commissioner White in June to provide a more responsive and effective approach to serious reports of child sexual abuse, maltreatment and serious reports of physical and emotional neglect of children in the Northern Territory.

The initiative came about following discussions and negotiations between NT Police and the Department of Health and Community Services.

Negotiations for the CAT's establishment were ongoing when media coverage outlined suggestions of endemic child abuse in Central Australia last year. Members of Police and FACS adopted a joint approach to a

thorough investigation of the claims, but uncovered no evidence of abuse as alleged in the media.

Since its formation, the police members of the CAT have investigated a range of matters right across the Territory, including several smaller communities.

They have either conducted or coordinated investigations in 16 remote communities, which have resulted in 15 arrests or summonses involving child-related sex offences.

While the CAT originally incorporated NT Police and FACS staff, it has been expanded to include two Australian Federal Police investigators and associated physical resources.

In addition, a Strategic Management Group has been formed to oversee the development and operation of the CAT. It consists of representation from the Department of Health and Community Services, Department of Employment, Education and Training, Territory Housing and NT Police.

Assistant Commissioner of Crime Command, Mark McAdie, said the project was working well, but the taskforce's formation was an unfortunate indication of the levels of abuse of children in the community.

"The ideal situation would be one where child abuse was a rare occurrence, but unfortunately, that is not the reality of the situation," Mr McAdie said.

"This approach is showing benefits in providing a seamless approach to such abuse, but the ideal is to create a situation where such investigations aren't necessary as the offences don't occur."

"NT Police have allocated a team of five specialist investigators to the Child Abuse Taskforce, comprising of a Sergeant and four investigators. The AFP has also contributed two investigators on a secondment basis as special constables with the Child Abuse Taskforce. The NT Police will continue to support the initiative to battle such abuse."

---

## Indigenous Policing Development Division- Australian School-based Apprenticeship Program

In 2006 six students from Marrara Christian College participated in work experience with the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) and of the six students, three students have expressed a keen interest in Policing as a career.

The NTPFES has developed and is in the process of implementing a pilot project under the Australian School-based Apprenticeship Program. The aim is to employ remote Indigenous students boarding at the various Colleges in Darwin, to undertake training in Certificate II Public Safety Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO). A pilot project

commenced on 12 March 2007 in line with ACPO Squad 13 and will run for a period of 24 months. The pilot is focusing on the three Indigenous students from Marrara Christian College who participated in work experience in 2006.

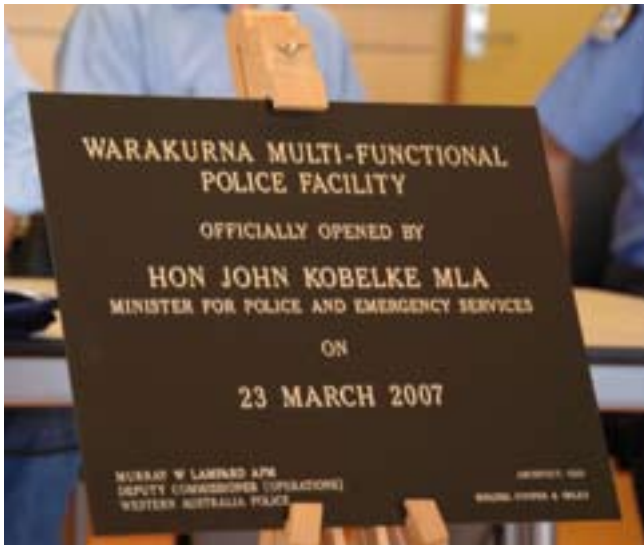
The students attended training with Squad 13 for the whole of the first week of the course and then they will continue to attend one day a week for the remainder of the program. During school holidays students will gain on the job training at a Police Station in their community. For the communities that do not have a Police Station, alternative arrangement will be

made for the student/s to attend training at an alternative Police Station.

NTPFES, Indigenous Policing Development Division will administer and coordinate the management of the apprentices in collaboration with workplace supervisors, Group Training NT, House Parents and the College VET Coordinators. Workplace supervisors will be responsible for their day to day supervision and work programs.

# Opening of Warakurna Police station

By Theresa Kuilboer



Australia's second multi-jurisdictional police station opened on 22 March.

Western Australia's community of Warakurna is approximately 100 kilometres from the Northern Territory border. As a multi-jurisdictional police facility it will be staffed by both WA and NT Police as part of the cross-border strategy.

The strategy has already led to the establishment of a multi-jurisdictional police station at Kintore, which was opened in 2004 and staffed with three NT Police officers and one from Western Australia.

Commissioner Paul White said Northern Territory Police had been working closely with Western Australian Police to establish the Warakurna facility.

"The Kintore multi-jurisdictional Police Station has proved a great success since it was established in 2004, and I'm sure Warakurna will follow this lead," Commissioner White said.

"Policing in such remote regions has its own unique difficulties, and it was to help overcome these problems that the concept of multi-jurisdictional police stations was first discussed. The communities of Kintore and Warakurna were both many hours away from the nearest police station, and also close to the border. Offenders crossing over into another jurisdiction before police arrived was a constant problem.

"This new facility will give us the capacity to respond to law enforcement issues in surrounding areas, including Docker River, much more efficiently.

"Warakurna will have two WA Police officers and a NT Police officer – Senior Constable Owen Auricht. He and his family have recently moved to the community and are looking forward to the challenges and the opportunities the move will bring.

"I am sure the facility at Warakurna will provide another means to make the community safer and offer police from both jurisdictions a unique and positive experience."

The \$3.67 million facility was officially opened by Western Australian Police Minister John Kobelke.



Above: Commander Mark Coffey took time out at the opening for a chat



(From left ) Sergeant Tracey Keown, Senior Sergeant Keith Davies, NT Police Commissioner Paul White, WA Deputy Police Commissioner Murray Lampard and Senior Constable First Class Owen Auricht pictured at the official opening of the Warakurna Multi-jurisdictional Police Station earlier this year.



# Solomon Islands

**NT Police members Senior Constables Michelle Meurant and Steve Hazell are currently on a 60-week secondment to the International Deployment Group in the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).**

***They were in the Solomon Islands when an earthquake measuring around 8 on the richter scale at the epicentre struck in April. Michelle reported it lasted about 2.5 minutes and in Honiara they were placed on alert to evacuate, however both were well.***

Due to my vast experience in Major Crime (I think about a total of two months in 1999) instead of starting in General Duties, I was asked to relieve as CID Advisor for GProv. I was told it was an easy job with good hours and I would get a 100 Series Landcruiser to myself – you beauty!

GProv turns out to be all stations on Guadalcanal Island outside Honiara (six stations in total – three of which are only accessible by helicopter) and I am doing the job of two people who have both been on leave. In this role I am advisor not only to the SIPF CID investigators, but also to their Inspector

– equivalent to our Superintendent, (so Supt Gwynne, if you are wanting any advice you know who to call). I have been very busy with stolen Army guns, armed robberies and escaped murderers...not quite what I was promised!

CID investigations are very basic here as there is limited Forensic capability, with tools such as DNA technology being several years, if not decades away. ROI's are still hand written in Pijin and then have to be translated to English for court. GProv HQ does not have any telephones and relies on the use of radios to communicate with its

stations and one of my stations just on the outskirts of Honiara does not even have electricity, hence the police are only rostered on day shifts. Despite these handicaps, files – or as they are called here – dockets, still get investigated and offenders successfully prosecuted.

I will be giving up this job shortly to work in the Joint Intelligence Group (JIG). I do not have an advisor role here, but will be instead working as an intelligence analyst for the AFP alongside other agencies. I am really looking forward to this opportunity to expand my experience as an analyst.

## By Michelle Meurant

All is going well over here. I have a new job now, as the Operations Manager of Guadalcanal Province (all of Guadalcanal except for Honiara city area). I advise an Inspector at Guadalcanal Province Headquarters. We are responsible for four stations on the Weathercoast and three stations located outside the Honiara Area. We cover 90 per cent of the island.

It is interesting work. I have regular meetings with the Assistant Commissioner of Operations – Solomon Islands and stakeholders such as Goldridge Mine and Palm Oil Plantation Management.

## By Steve Hazell



Picture shows Senior Constables Steve Hazell (third from left at back) and Michelle Meurant (fourth from left) before deployment with the IDG.

## The Flip Side

Sgt Ian Vaevaso, of the Royal Solomon Islands Police recently arrived in Darwin for a two-month visit.

Sgt Vaevaso, a member of the RSIP Professional Standards, was selected through AusAID's Australian Scholarships scheme to take part in the visit.

He will travel to a range of locations throughout the Territory during his visit to look at policing practises and in particular, juvenile diversion.

Watch the next Drum for his impressions of the Territory.



Picture shows Supt John Emery, Sgt Vaevaso and Commissioner Paul White soon after his arrival.

# Oenpelli

***In the four days proceeding 2 March 2007, more than 800 mm of rain fell on the community of Oenpelli, leaving 50 homes and other buildings flooded by water which was in many cases waist deep. This flooding caused extensive damage and left in excess of 400 people homeless.***

Oenpelli Police led the response with Probationary Constable Edgar Hayden in the community and OIV Sgt. Gary Smallridge in Darwin for the first phases.

The team reacted swiftly, quickly organising emergency accommodation to help out

those who had in many cases lost everything.

This initial response quickly developed into a large scale recovery operation as houses were cleaned, dried, repaired and inspected. The Welfare Group sourced hundreds of replacement fridges, stoves, beds and mattresses.

As Oenpelli was cut off by flood waters, the Northern Territory Emergency Service was called on to help with the logistics of moving the stores. This was achieved by using contracted local operators, and all up in excess of 15 flights by Dash 8 aircraft were organised to ferry the goods to the flood affected residents.



---

## Mick Read - continued (from page 9)

"I got trained to run around the swamps by Graham Waite who knew I hated leaches and knew where there were lots. My running improved out of sight."

Mick then spent time in CIB and Palmerston Station before getting promoted to Task Force again. After about 12 months he was sent to Alice Springs as a Watch Commander.

"My first night it was raining and freezing cold, when an old Aboriginal man got his legs cut off by a train and myself and pilot Roger Ruddock, who was unable to fly for a while, went to the scene. After a few minutes it became apparent to us both that neither of us had a clue what to do. We were both happy when a van arrived with competent constables."

Mick left the force in 1989, went

into the hotel at Elliot and worked at Dunmarra with Steve Liebelt, where he married his first wife before returning to Darwin. In 1992 he started as an Inspector of Licenced Premises with the Liquor Commission before rejoining the job in 1994.

"My punishment for leaving was an immediate start in Tennant Creek. Things were a little primitive housing wise in Tennant at the time but there was a good crew and the social life was great," he said.

Mick then moved to Katherine with his family, was promoted to Sergeant again, and found there was always plenty to do and great people to work with.

He was later transferred to Nhulunbuy, where he had always wanted to serve and thoroughly enjoyed, making lasting friendships

with colleagues and would-be fishermen.

He then returned to Darwin as a Watch Commander and also spent some time as the OIC of Casuarina before leaving the force in April this year for the last time.

"What really sticks in my mind are the hard times. Whenever I needed support, advice or just someone to speak to, there was always someone willing to step up. Thank you one and all."

Mick is now living with his partner, Sharon, in Adelaide and is working for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the Adelaide Passport Office.

"I found public transport, people and big buildings a bit daunting for a while but I'm slowly settling into life in a big city."





## Cyanide Spill 7 February 2007

From 7 February, Police Fire and Emergency Service crews worked for almost 11 days straight to clean up after two trailers containing cyanide pellets rolled onto their sides when the driver lost control of his road train on the Stuart Highway.

The driver was unable to correct back onto the road after the last two trailers were caught on dirt and dropped into a water causeway coming to rest near a water hole.

Each trailer contained 20 tonnes of cyanide packed in bags and the impact caused some of the bags to disperse the product around the area.

Police Fire and Emergency Service members attended from Tennant Creek and Elliott in conjunction with volunteers from Bushfires NT and assisted in the clean up.

They were stranded 140 kilometers north of Tennant Creek and forced to overcome some trying conditions.

"When we were leaving town, I don't think anyone had any idea about the ordeal that we were embarking on," said Station Officer Leigh Swift from the Tennant Creek Fire Station.

Heat and exhaustion impacted on emergency crews as well as interruptions to the clean up effort caused by the intermittent openings of the Stuart Highway to allow traffic to pass over the ten days.

A treatment and monitoring area was erected close to the scene from 8 February to monitor the emergency crews involved and over 10 Ambulance Officer staffed the station over those days.

During the response four people required further medical treatment at the Tennant Creek Hospital, two people suffered heat exhaustion, two people were unable to enter the scene due to high blood pressure and two people suffered from suspected cyanide exposure.

Emergency personnel were required to rest and drink fluid after being observed as unfit to enter the scene on 28 separate occasions. This often delayed the operational crews from entering the scene and in some cases for an extended period of time.



Coming out of the scene



Some of the people involved



Monitoring area



Treatment Area



# Thanks and praise

A significant presentation from the Assistant Commissioner Operations, Grahame Kelly, took place in Alice Springs during May.

Mr Kelly presented certificates of appreciation to Adam Wylie and Curtis Marriott, who were both employed by Imparja Television on 4 August last year and sent to cover the Garma festival near Nhulunbuy.

On their first night, while returning to their accommodation, the crew came upon a serious motor vehicle crash consisting of a head on collision between two four wheel drive vehicles on a dirt road

approximately 30 km from the township of Nhulunbuy. There were six persons involved in the crash, two of whom, including a young baby, tragically suffered fatal injuries

Mr Kelly awarded certificates to both the men for their actions on the night and the assistance they provided in the aftermath of the crash.

Two other employees at the time – Cara Davis and Paul Smith– were also awarded certificates, but were not able to be present as they have left Alice Springs.



Picture shows Assistant Commissioner Grahame Kelly with Curtis Marriott (centre) and Adam Wylie (right) in the Imparja studio in Alice Springs.

## Double Graduation - Photos on page 5

by Sue Bradley

Twenty-four recruits from Squad 89 of 2006 and 13 Aboriginal Community Police Officers from Squad 13 of 2007 graduated recently in a ceremony held at the Police Training College Parade Ground, Peter McAulay Centre.

This ceremony marked the end of a 26 week induction training course at the Police, Fire and Emergency Services College for Squad 89 and a 12 week course for Squad 13. The graduates will take up duties across the NT.

The 26 men and 11 women from both squads come from a range of backgrounds, with 25 recruited from the Northern Territory. The remainder are from New South Wales (1), Queensland (5), South Australia (3) and Victoria (3).

Ages of the graduates range from 20 to 45 and they were enlisted from a variety of vocations including; helicopter engineer, tour guide, lifeguard, flight attendant, structural landscaper, fishing guide, hospitality, health worker, carpenter, night patrol and shop keeper.

### Award winners

The Rod Evans Memorial Trophy for the highest academic achievement

in Squad 89 was jointly awarded to Gary Houseman, 40, and Benjamin Streeter, 22.

Christopher Yow, 28, received the Commissioner's Trophy as the best overall course performer in academic, practical and physical training.

The Physical Training Trophy for outstanding physical training ability was awarded to Benjamin Streeter, 22.

Dawn Gaze, 34, was presented with the Glen Huitson Trophy for the most consistent application in all areas of the training course.

The Gavin Spencer Memorial Trophy was presented to Kathleen Lane, 28, for the most improved ACPO during training.

Rocky Kennedy, 25, and Manuel Niki, 34, were jointly awarded the Commissioner's Trophy for overall performance in all areas of the Aboriginal Community Police Officer Training Course in academic, practical and physical training.

The Northern Territory Police Association Most Dedicated Trophy was presented to Noleen Szeremenda, 44, for the most consistent application in all areas of training throughout the

Aboriginal Community Police Officer Training Course.

The Administrator's medal for the Aboriginal Community Police Officer of the Year was also presented during the ceremony to Denise Goddard, 41. This award is in recognition for consistent hard work in the community and making life safer and easier for everyone.

Police Commissioner Paul White said, "The squads represented the standards expected of all police officers and ACPOs including honesty, integrity and dedication to serving the community."

"It's particularly pleasing to see that 25 of the 37 members of both squads are Northern Territory residents making the change to a career with the NT Police.

"Congratulations to all graduates for choosing to serve and protect Territorians and I wish them all the best with the challenges ahead."

Graduates of Squad 89 were posted as follows: Alice Springs (14), Katherine (4), Tennant Creek (3) and one each to Alyangula, Casuarina and Nhulunbuy. Squad 13 were posted to Katherine (4), Maranboy (2), Nhulunbuy (2) and one each to Alyangula, Nguiu, Santa Teresa, Tennant Creek and Timber Creek.

21 JULY 2007

