



OUTBACK *Ambulance*

VOLUME 12 No. 1 • DECEMBER 2001
• PRINT POST APPROVED -
565001\00404

 St. JOHN AMBULANCE 

**Celebrating
40 Years
of
continuous
service**

40 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

Official Journal of
St JOHN AMBULANCE Australia
(Northern Territory) Inc

When did you last have a Pap smear?

A Pap smear every two years can help prevent up to 90% of cervical cancer. Talk to your GP or Health Centre.

For more information
phone 13 15 56 or visit our website at
<http://cervicalscreen.health.gov.au/>

CERVICAL CANCER

**DON'T MAKE EXCUSES,
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.**



A joint Commonwealth &
State/Territory Health initiative





is the official journal of

St John Ambulance Australia
Northern Territory Inc.,
50 Dripstone Road
Casuarina NT 0810

PO Box 40221, Casuarina NT 0811
Telephone: (08) 8922 6200
Facsimile: (08) 8922 6266

Produced by:

St John Ambulance Australia
Northern Territory
50 Dripstone Road
Casuarina NT 0810

CENTRES

Darwin

50 Dripstone Road, Casuarina NT 0810
Telephone: (08) 8922 6200

Katherine

Kintore Street, Katherine
PO Box 744, Katherine, NT 0851
Telephone: (08) 8972 1100

Tennant Creek

Windley Street, Tennant Creek
PO Box 570, Tennant Creek NT 0861
Telephone: (08) 8962 1144

Alice Springs

Telegraph Terrace, Alice Springs
PO Box 2609, Alice Springs NT 0871
Telephone: (08) 8952 5733

Publishing and Advertising:



Walsh Media Services Pty Ltd
3rd Floor, 18-20 Grenfell Street,
Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: (08) 8221 5600
Facsimile: (08) 8221 5601
Email: walshmedia@adelaide.on.net

Copyright: All rights reserved,
reproduction in whole or part without
written permission prohibited.

Views expressed in this publication
should not be construed as being those
of St John Ambulance Australia
Northern Territory Inc., or its centres.
The publisher reserves the right to
refuse any article or advertisement.

contents

VOL. 11 NO. 2, DECEMBER 2001

features regulars

General Manager's Report	2
Business Manager's Report	5
Training Manager's Report	7

40th Birthday Celebrations	10
MALTA – Where the Past has a Presence	12
Volunteer Awards Ball	17
Celebrating 40 years of Ambulance Education and creating an evidence based vision the Future	18
Do you know these people?	20
Variety Bash 2001	23
GOODBYE to the Munro's	24
Ten St John Vollies – a poem	25
Our High Seas Adventure	26
Humpty Doo Competition	27
Letters & Certificates of Appreciation	29
Beware the Sleeping Giant	30
Staff Profile - David Baker	31
Staff Profile - From the Workshop	32
Staff Profile - Steve Peers	33
From a New Vollies Point of View	33
Staff Profile - Wendy Jackson	34
Staff Profile - Matt Davis	35
Staff Profile - Daniel Maher	35
Australian Defence Force Offers	36

ADVERTISER ALERT:

Walsh Media is appointed by St John Ambulance (Northern Territory) as the authorised publisher of Outback Ambulance. There are individuals operating who claim to be representatives of official publications who are sending bogus advertising invoices or proofs to advertisers of Outback Ambulance. We recommend you request a letter of appointment from the organisation they claim to represent. Should you be approached to place advertising, or should you receive an invoice for payment of advertising, ensure you verify the company's bona fides. In particular, any invoice or communication should carry an address, not just a PO Box, plus the name of the organisation on whose behalf the publication is published. Also the company should be easily contactable and able to provide proof of publication.

General Manager's REPORT

Although it's that time of the year right now when most people would rather be somewhere else, it wasn't that long ago that we basked in perfect weather and it won't be much longer before that glorious rain starts bucketing down....so hang in there!

Although I probably say it every Xmas edition of Outback Ambulance, it is true, we have had yet another exceedingly busy year, on all fronts. I would like to express my sincere thanks to staff and members of St John for a sterling contribution to the smooth running of the organisation.

Financially, we have implemented all of the Frantner Report recommendations now and are seeing the benefit of their advice. We have essentially split the organisation – financially – so that we can report independently to Government and St John nationally on those areas of St John that are of interest to those parties. While we still obviously compile consolidated returns for our Annual Report etc, it is important to Territory Health Services and to St John nationally just how we are situated – financially. We are again in negotiations with THS over our funding and future contractual arrangements and their support for our submissions is appreciated.

Our development plans for Palmerston appear on track (although we did experience a slight hiccup) and I am getting quite excited about the prospect of another St John premise appearing on the Palmerston landscape. It is hoped this permanent home for our Volunteer members and Training staff will solve a long-standing dilemma. I have publicly expressed my appreciation through the Chairman's Report in this year's

Annual report. We are also hopeful of co-locating with other community groups, such as the Scouts, so that we maximise the use of the new building. Major improvements have also been carried out in Alice Springs, at Parap and also at Casuarina HQ, as these buildings (like us) have aged.

I would also like to extend my appreciation and best wishes to two recently retired Councillors – Mrs Joan Johnston, former Patron and Council member who has re-located to Perth and also to Dr Keith Solomon, former Chair of the Training Branch. Dr Solomon served Council for 16 years and Mrs Johnston for 5 years and both had an enormous impact on St John. I wish them both well in their “retirement” and, in doing that, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to their replacement Councillors.

Jan Schmitzer, Head of the School of Health Studies at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and Fran Erlich, Lord Mayor of Alice Springs have both agreed to join Council this year. A belated welcome also – through this magazine – to Bob Collins, who joined Council late last year – Welcome aboard!

Training staff have – in addition to delivering a record year of programs – been extremely busy with re-accreditation and preparation for audit. While Training is a busy area at the best of times, it has been quite frantic of late and I suspect

that will be the case for some months yet.

Another area of intense activity has been our Workshops. Not only do the new Mercedes fit outs take considerable time, patience and care, but a number of ambulance builds have also been completed. Thanks to Mark, Earle, Rory and Kyron for their efforts this year.

The 40th Birthday Celebration in Alice Springs, held in conjunction with the Annual Parade and Inspection was a marvellous event, enjoyed by all that attended. It was a nice mix of business (with Council and Management meetings), ceremony (the Parade with His Honour the Administrator Mr John Anicetomatis and Mrs Jeanette Anicetomatis and a number of other dignitaries attending) and pleasure (the B-B-Q and informal gathering on Saturday). Congratulations should be extended to the huge organising committee, but particularly, Steve, Noel, Pat, Alan, Gwyn and all local members for a marvellous weekend.

I am hopeful the new look Ambulance Service uniforms will be introduced very shortly, to follow on from the new wet weather gear. It has been a continual source of frustration for Paramedics to be regarded as First Aiders and equally for First Aiders to be expected to deliver Paramedic services, so I believe all arms of St John will welcome the change. Volunteers will retain the traditional and immediately recognisable black and





General Manager's Report *(Continued)*

white uniform and Ambulance Officers/Paramedics employed by the Service (whether casual or permanent) will wear the new look Service uniform.

In October this year, I attended the annual Convention of Ambulance Authorities meeting in Queensland. It was certainly a milestone meeting in my opinion and I believe there will be some exciting developments as the group moves toward formalising its status as the peak industry body. If anyone would like a detailed brief of CAA activities or discuss the various issues raised, I would be happy to oblige.

I know other reports in this magazine contain highlights that I could comment on as well, but I would like to conclude by wishing Councillors, Staff, Members, all family, friends and business associates of St John a very Merry Xmas and a bright and prosperous New Year!

David Baker

Chief Executive Officer



Bernie and Aileen Kilgariff being presented with farewell gifts at the 40th Celebrations in Alice Springs by Mr Michael Mooney



Australian Retirement Fund

One of Australia's largest superannuation funds

- * All profits returned to members
- * Over \$3.5 billion in assets
- * Low fees
- * Strong returns - average crediting rate of 11.7% pa for members of the Balanced Investment Plan for the 5 financial years to 30 June 2001

To find out more, call
Katarina Bonney
Manager - Superannuation Services
Phone (08) 8936 1359

Web address: www.arf.com.au

Australian Retirement Fund Pty Ltd ACN 006 466 619 Licensed Dealer in Securities



CRS Australia

Northern Territory's Leading Rehabilitation Provider

Our Services

- ✓ return to work assistance after work based injury
- ✓ professional assessments
- ✓ Employee Assistance Programs
- ✓ Manual Handling training
- ✓ Workplace ergonomic advice
- ✓ Stress management programs
- ✓ OHS advice / training

Where to find CRS Australia

Darwin	08 8920 8000
Katherine	08 8973 0300
Alice Springs	08 8953 0973
Nhulunby	08 8987 1310
Tennant Creek	08 8962 1510
Kununurra	08 9168 1019
Mount Isa	07 4743 8277

For more information on how **CRS Australia** can assist you please contact our nearest Office.



**ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA**

VISITOR CENTRE ALICE SPRINGS



- Visit a working Base in operation since 1939, and learn more about this unique service.
- View an informative video and observe the coordination of "real time" medical evacuations
- Enjoy our interactive museum
- Purchase quality souvenirs from our souvenir shop
- Refresh & relax in our cafe housed in one of the town's finest heritage buildings.

Truly a visit not to be missed

Stuart Terrace, Alice Springs Phone (08) 8952 1129
Open Monday to Saturday 9am - 4pm • Sunday 1pm - 4pm
Closed some public holidays • Small admission fee applies

TERRITORY INSURANCE OFFICE THE LEADING LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSURER

TIO's philosophy is ... TEAMWORK

Being No.1 takes the combined efforts of our underwriters, claims professionals and risk management consultants working together to produce the right outcome for our customers.

We specialise in:

- ☐ Local Government Insurance
- ☐ Business Insurance
- ☐ Workers Compensation Insurance
- ☐ Personal Insurance

Our Philosophy works.



We Know Our Territory

66 Smith Street, Darwin N.T. 0800
GPO Box 770, Darwin N.T. 0801
Telephone: (08) 8946 2222
Facsimile: (08) 8941 0038

Or visit our Website at www.tiofi.com.au



Business Manager's REPORT

What interesting times we live in – a change of Government locally and a somewhat quieter economy – have all brought the best out of people to perform at the top level. With heavy demands on the Ambulance personnel we have still been able to provide a very professional service to the public of the Northern Territory. Finances have been restrained but it is pleasing to see a genuine belief from the Ambulance Liaison Committee members of the requirements of the St John Ambulance Service to continue to provide an appropriate service for all Territorians.

Our training area has had a great six (6) months with all staff very busy at a variety of locations both within the city boundaries and remote

Communities. The introduction of Cherie into Alice Springs to assist Henry is beginning to pay dividends with more courses becoming available. Staff have been very stable in this area recently but for the introduction of Vicki McMillan who has already participated in the remote area training. (I wonder why she wanted to go Capuwiyak).

Sales have been good despite difficult times and it never ceases to amaze me the distance Noel will travel to ensure no one in a remote location is without a first aid kit. That van of his has finally got used to him talking to it but doesn't like it when he swears at it when the air conditioning packs it in. The subscription scheme is holding its own and now that the cost of Ambulance transport has

increased to \$550 (Code 1) it is important that people are covered for this cost. The Private Health Funds have this cover and it is pleasing to see so many people covered for Ambulance transports under the respective Health Fund schemes.

As the year draws to a close I would like to welcome some new staff – Treena & Nadine – and to say farewell to Liz from front reception – a short but memorable stay. I thank everyone for their support through another very busy year and take this opportunity to wish all a very safe and happy Xmas 2001.

Ross Coburn

Business Manager



Commonwealth Carelink Centre

Your Link to Living Independently



Commonwealth Carelink Centres can help put older Australians in touch with a wide range of community, residential and other aged care services. Anyone can visit a Commonwealth Carelink Centre or receive the information they need by calling:

FREECALL™ 1800 052 222*

www.commCarelink.health.gov.au

TTY and modem callers may call through the ACE-NRS by dialling 1800 555 677 (then asking for 1800 052 222)

**Calls from mobile phones are charged at applicable rates.*

TOTAL CLIENT FOCUS, DELIVERING TOTAL LEGAL SOLUTIONS

LEGAL PROBLEMS...

The Ward Keller Commitment

We aim to **understand** your requirements

We give you practical **advice** in plain English

We keep you **informed** at all times

We provide **up-front** costs so you can budget

Phone: (08) 8981 2971
Fax: (08) 8981 1253
Ward Keller Lawyers
GPO Box 330,
Darwin NT 0800
wardkeller@wardkeller.com.au

PROBLEM SOLVED!

Ward Keller
LAWYERS

- Looking for a promotion?
- Need a new career direction?
- Aiming for ADFA?
- A new posting in the wind?
- Need to complete year 12?

Why not..

SET YOUR SIGHTS HIGHER
SET YOUR SIGHTS HIGHER
SET YOUR SIGHTS HIGHER



- We can provide distance education to suit your needs!

- Maths, English, Physics, Indonesian, Information Processing, Business.....
- Over 90 courses!
- Help with course selection
- Individual programs

- We can provide courses wherever you are!

- In East Timor
- Away on exercises
- In full time work

Enrol with the
Northern Territory Open Education Centre

Ring today to discuss your needs:

Bronwyn on 8922 2234 or Michael on 8922 2282

Fax 08 8922 2258 Email: ntoec@ntoec.nt.edu.au

The extra mile is never crowded.

We're proud to support the caring individuals at St John Ambulance who improve the lives of those they care for every day.

www.ey.com/au

ERNST & YOUNG

FROM THOUGHT TO FINISH.™

© 2000 Ernst & Young

Liability limited by the Accountants Scheme, approved under the Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW).

COSMETIC ENHANCEMENT

is now available to everyone

- Leg vein removal
- Restylane - Lips, fine lines, wrinkles
- Chemical Peels
- Frown Line Treatment
- Laser treatment for broken capillaries on face and sun spots

All treatments carried out by our experienced medical practitioners

COSMETIC & MEDICAL ASSOCIATES
(Vein Clinics of Australia)

Suite 9, Tiwi Medical Centre
 Rocklands Drive, TIWI

Call for more information or an appointment

Phone: 8927 9188

Sat phones from Optus MobileSat

\$199*

from

(\$218.90) / mth on the Optus Easy Plan



Total package monthly fee includes

A new NEC S2 with Plannar or Mast antenna
 Monthly Access Fee (normally \$45)
 Insurance**
 Up to \$75 of free calls per month*

NEC
 Optus MobileSat

To find out more call:

ITS
 ☎ 08 8980 8980
 36 Gardens Hill
 Crescent, Darwin

XLCom
 ☎ 08 8955 5455
 1 Hele Crescent,
 Alice Springs

*Minimum total cost over 24 month connection is \$7866 (\$8652.60), inclusive of \$2990 (\$3289) upfront equipment cost and \$100 (\$110) connection fee. If connection is not maintained for 24 continuous months, a cancellation fee equal to the monthly access fee multiplied by the number of months remaining applies. **Insurance covers replacement cost of phone (up to \$7000 freight inclusive) and up to \$550 of unauthorised calls made in 12 hours prior to notification to Optus. #Unused included calls expire each month. Excludes some call types. Prices in brackets are GST inclusive.



Training Manager's REPORT

2001 has been a most successful year for the Training Department in both First Aid and Ambulance Training. All full-time teaching staff have upgraded their teaching qualifications to the Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training, our level of course activity has equalled and in some cases exceeded the previous year and we have been able to review a number of programs ensuring the most up-to-date information possible is available to all course participants. I would like to start this report by expressing my thanks to everyone in the Training Department and the many others who in one way or another help us out throughout each year. Thank you one and all.

Dr Keith Solomon. After holding the position of Chairman of Training for St John Ambulance (NT) since 1986, Dr Solomon has left the Territory for Buderim, Queensland. During his time as Chairman of Training Dr. Solomon was involved in many developments within the Training Department both as a key adviser in the areas of course and curriculum development as well as during our accreditation in the early 1990's as a Registered Private Provider of Post Secondary Education and Training. Dr. Solomon also contributed significantly to ensuring the training activities of St John Ambulance (NT) were always at the front of St John Ambulance national training initiatives through his involvement on the National Training Standing Committee. In more recent times Dr Solomon was the presenter and course facilitator for the Principles of Management unit within Ambulance Officer Training. On behalf of the Training Department I wish Dr Solomon well and warmly acknowledge his significant contribution to the Training Department over many years.

Ms Jan Schmitzer. Taking over from Dr Solomon as Chair of Training for St

John Ambulance (NT) is Jan Schmitzer. Jan is a long resident of the Territory and her involvement with St John (NT) goes back to the late 80's and early 90's as we prepared for Private Provider status and the initial accreditation of a range of programs. Jan will be known to many St John members for her involvement with the old Patient Care component of Clinical Studies 2.

Jan is currently Head of the School of Health Studies at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and has held this position for three years. Prior to commencing at Batchelor as a Senior Lecturer for curriculum development she was the Professional Officer for the Royal College of Nursing-Australia for three years. Jan worked at the Northern Territory University for 10 years in the School of Health Science with four of those years as Associate Dean. She has lived in the Northern Territory for thirty years and is a registered nurse having worked in Sydney for a short time with Paramedics based in the Northern suburbs. Jan gained clinical experiences in Intensive Care and Surgical nursing, has worked in London and the Bahamas and as a

remote area nurse before coming to Darwin. During the 1980's she was an educator at Royal Darwin Hospital and became Principal Lecturer for the School of Nursing at Royal Darwin Hospital after sometime as a Nursing Administrator. As Chair of Training for St John Ambulance (NT), Jan brings with her these qualifications;

Registered Nurse and Midwife.

Family Planning Certificate.

Critical Care Certificate.

Associate Diploma in Nurse Education

(University of Newcastle).

Diploma of Teaching

(Darwin Institute of Technology).

Batchelor of Education

(Northern Territory University).

Master of Education

(Northern Territory University).

Submitted PhD to University of Newcastle.

First Aid Training.

As has already been mentioned, Training Department activity took an upward turn over this reporting year.

The year 1999/'00 saw a slight decrease in course activity which was primarily due to additional competition in the NT's first aid training market. I am pleased to be able to write that for the 2000/'01 year we have been able to turn that decrease around to a point where we have experienced our most successful year to date. Overall, first aid training activity has increased by 8.2% over the previous year and in excess of 7,900 Territorians undertook some form of First Aid Training within St John Ambulance (NT) during the year.

A number of the programs identified in the Enrolment Comparison table such as Caring for Kids and Occupational First Aid are considered 'niche' programs and it is reasonable to expect significant peaks and troughs in enrolment numbers from year to year.

Norsign

N.T.
PTY LTD

THE SIGN & SCREEN PRINTING SPECIALISTS

MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS OF TRAFFIC SAFETY
SIGNS, TRAFFIC CONTROL PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT



- SCREEN PRINTING
- VEHICLE MARKING
- COMPUTER GRAPHICS
- MAGNETIC SIGNS
- AIRPORT EQUIPMENT
- GUIDE POSTS
- TRANSPORT SIGNAGE
- BARRIER MESH
- BUMPER STICKERS



8947 0733

FAX 8947 0713

P.O. Box 39944 WINNELLIE NT 0821
141 Coonawarra Road WINNELLIE

Design Department: norgraf@bigpond.com

Office: norsign@bigpond.com

Elders at work for you



Elders is part of a national network that this year will do:

- Help serve up 15 million kilos of meat in 20 countries
 - Sell over 17 million head of livestock
- Supply \$675 million of merchandise solutions
- Find buyers for over 2 billion of real estate
 - Lend \$650 million to Primary Producers
- Supply \$5 billion of Insurance protection
- Give hundreds of rural Australians a career
- Get Australian wool into Denimwool jeans
 - Sell over 1 million bales of wool



Alice Springs Ph: 8952 1655 Katherine Ph: 8972 2500

Jock McPherson	0419 669 274	Jason Michelmore	0419 035 059
Herbie Neville	0409 696 354	Mike Garland	0417 807 485
Peter Hore	0407 181 685	Chris Muldoon	0409 500 459
		Matt Pitzen	0418 838 463

JAYROW

Helicopters Pty Ltd

CHARTER – AERIAL WORK



- MINERAL EXPLORATION • OIL EXPLORATION
- AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
- AERIAL AMBULANCE BY APPOINTMENT
- TOURIST FLIGHTS • AERIAL CRANE OPERATIONS
- LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

**Operating GPS-Equipped Turbine Helicopters
Australia Wide Complete Overhaul Facilities
for Rotary Wing Aircraft**

7 DAYS A WEEK

DARWIN AIRPORT OFFICE (All Hours): 8945 0944
Fax: 8945 1578
JABIRU AIRPORT 8979 2504

THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, INDUSTRY & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TERRITORY BUSINESS CENTRES FIRST CONTACT FOR BUSINESS

Territory Business Centres Helping business do business

Whatever your business, and wherever you are based in the Northern Territory, we can help you.

Territory Business Centres provide a high standard of service and are the initial contact and referral point for starting business, licence information, business planning assistance, eBusiness uptake and links to assistance programs.

Territory Business Centres can help you keep in touch with current business developments, bring you up to date about the latest assistance available and help you with any business related issues.

Tel: 8924 4280
Fax: 8924 4290
Ground Floor
Development House
76 The Esplanade

Tel: 8973 8180
Fax: 8973 8188
1 Randazzo Building
18 Katherine Terrace

Tel: 8962 4439
Fax: 8962 4413
Shop 2, Barkly House
Cnr Davidson & Paterson Streets

Tel: 8951 8524
Fax: 8951 8533
Peter Sitzler Building
67 North Stuart Highway



Northern Territory Government

TOLL FREE: 1800 193 111
or visit our website: www.tbc.nt.gov.au

Training Manager's Report *(Continued)*

Senior First Aid continues to attract the greatest numbers of participants out of all the courses offered by the Training Department.

Participation in the one day Senior First Aid (Refresher) course continues

administration and statistical reporting to the NT Employment and Training Authority.

Due to the unit structure of the program, there will need to be some considerations made by all key

structures, it has no place in the new qualifications set.

I would anticipate a meeting of key stakeholders to be convened in early 2002.

Staff. It has been a good year for the Training Department and this is in no small way due to the commitment, standards and quality of the Training and Administration staff. A review of our Course Survey responses clearly indicate significant levels of customer satisfaction with not only the structure and content of our programs but also with the standards of instruction.

I would also like to (belatedly) welcome two new members to Training and farewell one other. Welcome to Cherie Castle as a Training Officer in Alice Springs. The position Cherie holds became available due to the increase in course demand in Alice Springs, a tribute to the hard work over a long period of time by 'Henry Lawson' in that region.

We also welcome Vicki Macmillan to the Training Staff in Darwin. Vicki was a Part-Time Instructor who has come into Full-Time staff replacing Debbie Vandenhurk who is moving to Newcastle with her family toward the end of this year. Thanks for all your great work Debbie and good luck in the future.

My thanks to everyone in Training for your contributions throughout the year.

and finally. I extend warmest Seasons Greetings to everyone at St John and especially all those people associated with the Training Department. Thank you for your invaluable support during the year.

Brendan Quirke

Manager, Education and Training Services

Enrolment Comparisons by Course. Public Education

	1999/'00	2000/'01	+/-	%age
Senior First Aid	4712	4848	+	3.9%
Senior First Aid (Refresher)	668	773	+	13.6%
Senior First Aid (Extended)	205	190	-	7.3%
Occupational First Aid	50	81	+	38.3%
Remote Area First Aid	41	38	-	7.4%
Advanced First Aid	55	75	+	26.7%
Advanced Resuscitation	312	289	-	7.4%
Accident Action	346	466	+	21.5%
Caring for Kids	140	70	-	50%
CPR	384	572	+	32.9%
Other	310	513	+	39.6%
Totals	7264	7902	+	8.2%

to grow. While the current year shows an increase of 13.6% over 1999/'00, a trend analysis over the past 2 years shows an increase in excess of 34%.

Ambulance Training. At the time of writing this article we are still waiting for confirmation from the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) that the National Ambulance Officer Competency Standards have been endorsed as part of the Health Training Package. In anticipation that the standards as presented to ANTA will be endorsed without alteration we have undertaken a mapping exercise of the current program against the new standards. I would like to thank Mark Marriott for his detailed work in undertaking this exercise which has shown that aside from a small number of specific areas we will be required to include into our courses, there is likely to be only minimal change to what we currently do as far as course delivery and content is concerned.

By far the most significant changes will come in the area of course

Ambulance Officer Training stakeholders in relation to the current grading/training structure for Student Ambulance Officers. The present system of grading movements, specifically the extended Ambulance Transport Hours component, does not reflect the intentions of a Competency Based Training System. This system says that once a person is assessed as competent to a certain level in a certain skill set (or similar), there is no benefit to be gained from requiring the person to complete additional hours simply for the sake of completing them where they (the hours) have no identifiable or justifiable training (as opposed to professional development) purpose.

There is no place in Vocational Education and Training for additional, superfluous hours to be added. In fact, such a requirement is viewed as placing unnecessary restrictions on a person. While the hours component of the current Grading/Training structure is an Industrial Award requirement and may have been an appropriate inclusion for past training

The 40th Birthday Celebrations

The 40th Birthday Celebrations / Annual Parade and St John Week celebrations were held in Alice Springs in October, 2001. For all staff, volunteers, families, friends and members of the Alice Springs community it was a week of meetings, celebrations and lots of fun.

Thanks go to the organising committee that so worked for many months.

Steve Peers
Committee Chairman
Craig Garraway
Transport
Noel Talbot
Tours & event co-ordinator
Gwyn Balch
Administration
Pat McQuillen
History
Colleen Grave
Decorations
Henry Lawson
Parade Orders /
Colour Party
Scott Loechel
AYC / Programme /
Computer Work
Paul Berry
Cadet Programme
Alan Caust
Master of Ceremonies

Members travelled to Alice Springs from all centres throughout the Territory to attend the various meeting and functions that were held during the week of celebrations.



*Enjoying the Mess Dinner –
Craig Garraway, Kevin Blake, Trevor Sellick and Mick McKay*

It was also an opportunity for the various sections of the Ambulance Service to conduct meetings - Ambulance Operations Managers Meetings, St John Council Meeting and Operations Branch Meetings were held.

A number of displays and open days were also held:
Westpac Bank Display
Todd Mall Display
Fire Station Open Day
Emergency Services Open Day
Road Safety Display
Open Day – Ambulance Centre

The Annual Parade was held on Saturday 7th October, 2001 with over seventy volunteers presented to the Administrator, Mr John Anictomatis. Parents, friends and members of the Alice Springs community witnessed the parade and the presentation of awards.

The Commissioner and the Administrator presented medals and awards to volunteers with over three years of service. Mr Mike Mooney and Mr David Baker then presented ambulance service awards. A special presentation was made to Bern Kilgariff for his contribution to

St John. The Mayor of Alice Springs, Mrs Fran Erlich presented Operations Manager, Mr Steve Peers with a certificate of thanks in recognition of the contribution of St John in Central Australia.



*Also at the Mess Dinner – Aileen & Bernie Kilgariff,
Liz & Noel Talbot and Ros & Steve Peers*

Mr Mike Mooney presented Miss Pat McQuillen with flowers to acknowledge her dedication in preserving the history of St John in Central Australia. The history display that Pat arranged included photos, uniforms and other memorabilia depicting the history of St John.



*Part of the organising team for the 40th Birthday Celebrations – Pat McQuillen, Steve Peers,
Alan Caust & Noel Talbot*

Recipients of the Commissioner's Awards and service medals this year were:

Adult Division –
Katherine Adult Division
Cadet Division –
Cadet Band Division
Adult Volunteer –
Mrs Vicki Macmillan



Black & White uniformed members at the Mess Dinner

Cadet Volunteer –

Kylie Munro

Northern Territory Medals

3yr – Kate Anning (cadet leader)

3yr – Kylie Munro (cadet leader)

3yr – Peter Williams (cadet leader)

3yr – Paul Berry

3yr. – Neil Dunkley

3yr – Richard Hutchins

3yr – Andrew Naden

6 yr – Chris Kupke

9yr – Craig Garraway

National recognition medals

12 yr medal –

Kevin Blake

1st Bar – (17yrs)

Ed Sinclair,

Sue Cooper,

Lenaire Keatch,

Alan Caust

2nd Bar – (22yrs)

Lesley King,

Peter Poole

Ambulance Service Awards

Sonya Hayward

Mark Cullenane

Sandy Limon

Craig Garraway

Andrew Naden

Shaun Daniels

Michelle Gough

Gwynn Balch



Bern Kilgariff & Pat McQuillen enjoying the night



"We're only good mates" Steve Peers & Craig Garraway at the family barbecue held at the Red Centre Resort



Kylie Munro and His Honour, the Administrator, Mr John Anictonatis



Commissioner Andrew Hodges and Cadet Peter Williams escort the Administrator & Deputy Prior, Mr John Anictonatis to the Annual Parade



The Administrator & Deputy Prior, Mr John Anictonatis talks to no of the cadets while inspecting the parade



Mrs Anictonatis cuts the 40th Birthday Cake



Recipients of the Commissioner's Awards– Kevin Blake, Kylie Munro, Frank Haydock and Vicki Macmillan with their awards with Territory Officer, Cadets Mr Noel Talbot



A special presentation was made to Mr Ray Rowe, President of the Apex Club of Alice Springs. The Apex Club kindly donated a heartstart machine to the Alice Springs Volunteers.

Malta —

Where the Past has a Presence.

The great siege of Malta in 1565 turned the spotlight onto the Knights of St. John for all time. Having read and taught the history many times I had long ago decided that I wanted to see where this battle against all odds took place. It is a journey I will always remember not only for its privileged glimpse of the past, but also as an experience in humility when confronted with the enduring achievements of the Knights in Malta.

We landed in Malta at 1am. First impressions of the island reflect the visions of Malta portrayed in WW2



films – sparse vegetation, rocky landscape, stone walled fields, very old houses, and grey dusty roads mostly deserted at that late hour.

Our experience with the Maltese people proved to be more endearing. They are unassuming, genuine, friendly, calm, and hardworking, and I doubt we ever had an anxious moment in Malta. There is also strength of character and a sense of community about them which shows in their readiness to help others, and is probably a reflection of their strong religious ties. Second only to the church is their great esteem and respect for the Knights of St. John and the British Navy. Sites commemorating the roles of these 2 'saviours' of Malta are well publicised and preserved, and it is not difficult for anyone interested to find them as just about everyone in Malta speaks English.

The city of Valletta – named after the Grand Master la Vallette who was commander during the siege and who planned and built the city after that historic victory – is a stronghold in its own right. Built on a small peninsular, it is completely surrounded by stone walls of amazing proportions and fortified by a rebuilt fort St. Elmo on its seaward point and 2 cavaliers – St. James and St. John Cavalier(s) – one on each side of its landward approach. The Knights also dug a huge trench 300mt. wide across the landward approach which joined the

harbours on either side of the city, creating a very impressive moat. This effectively turned Valletta into an island accessible only by a draw bridge – making it almost impregnable to attack. The moat was deep enough and wide enough for their ships to be hidden there as a 'surprise' for any

enemy who dared sail into either harbour – ie. Marsamuscetto to the west and Grand Harbour to the east. There were also further lines of defence beyond the moat so that any landward attack faced 2 major battles just to get to the primary defences. La Vallette wasn't a man to mess with.

Over time, and particularly since WW2, much of the outer defences and the drawbridge have gone of course, but the trench that was once the moat is still obvious. There is a roadway and parking area running through it now, and so one still has to cross a bridge to enter the city. That bridge is on the site of the Knight's drawbridge. The original gate was bombed during the war and has been replaced, but with the Cavaliers on either side it is not hard to imagine how it must have looked.

As you enter Valletta there is a Bazaar-like atmosphere – street stalls,

cafes, lots of activity - and to the right are the ruins of the old opera house which shared the same direct hit that took out the walls. It has been deliberately left as it was after they removed the debris. To the right of this again you will find several of the Knight's buildings – St. James Cavalier, and its Bastion and Counter-guard, their first Church, an Auberge, and a little further on the bastion and counter-guard of St. Peter & St. Paul.

If you choose to turn to the left of the entrance, about 100 yds along you will come to St. John Cavalier, which now houses the Embassy of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. This Cavalier was cut out of solid rock and faced with stone inside and out which gives the impression of a building. Even the bombs of WW2 couldn't crack it. Its secret escape tunnels and passages are still operational and safe.

Two hundred men manned the cavalier on a 7 day roster. They slept on bunks tiered along the walls of the main hall in several levels up to 40 feet off the ground, accessed by ladders. There were also 6 horses in the cavalier at all times to haul the heavy equipment up to the cannon through wide ramped tunnels deep within the fort. Additionally, both cavaliers were joined by underground tunnels for effective troop movement. And should the enemy infiltrate the secret entrance tunnel it only needed one man to defend the fort, because the opening into the fort was just big enough for men to pass through one at a time – on their knees! A little to the west of the Cavalier is the bastion and counter guard of St. Michel (a mirror image of the St. Paul/

St. Peter bastions supporting St. James Cavalier.)

The streets of Valletta run in a grid pattern, making it easy to navigate. They are generally narrow and some are actually stepped due to the nature of the landfall towards the harbour. The main street is Republic Street and



is directly ahead of you as you enter the gate, and if you walk the length of this street you will find yourself in front of Fort St. Elmo, which is now a Police Academy. Public are only admitted on alternate Sundays so we did not get to see inside but the star shape is instantly recognisable from the seaward approach and is the lowest point on the peninsular.

The site of the once magnificent hospital – now the Mediterranean Conference Centre – is just around the corner from St. Elmo and faces eastwards to the Grand Harbour. There is only a small section of it open to the public but it is enough to evoke wonder at the scope of it. There are scenarios to show how treatments were done at the time, and information points which describe various functions but the main “ward” – which is now a banquet hall – is huge even by today's standards, and their medical knowledge must have been state of the art in its time. I was absolutely amazed.

There are some small parks in the centre of the city and around the St. John co-Cathedral. (It is called a co-cathedral because it shares the status of the cathedral in Mdina, which was once the capital of Malta but is now virtually a ‘ghost city’) You

can even walk around the city walls as the guards would have done in their time, and experience the wonderful views it commands of the harbours and the town. Overall, it is still very much the city of the Knights, and their presence is almost tangible when you look at the magnificent buildings and orderliness they established here.

The Grand Harbour is certainly that – very grand indeed. Protected by its narrow entrance and easily defended, it offers safe anchorage and good access to shore facilities, and it is amazingly clean given the traffic it endures.

Fort St. Angelo's bastions on Birgu still dominate the eastern side of the harbour. This little fort actually held out to the last during the siege, and even sustained the defence of Fort St. Michael on neighbouring Senglea by creating a bridge of small boats across which reinforcements could be sent. Not many of the old buildings are accessible today, but I was able to stand on the bastion that blasted the Turks as they attacked St. Elmo and take photos of the gunner's view across the harbour. It was gunfire from this cavalier that killed Dragut, the Turkish pirate who was the ‘brains’ behind the Moslem

commanders.

St. Angelo has a different atmosphere to Valletta, subjective though it may be – like hallowed ground. The battlements lie empty and silent now, with a pervading sense of honour and quiet dignity to remind us of the battle that bought it a place in history. It was a very moving experience to walk its walls and passageways, reflecting on the story of those intrepid men and their deeds. World history would no doubt have taken a different turn if the Turks had won the day. It would probably have meant the end of Christianity – God forbid! And perhaps he did.

Outside Valletta and the Harbour, the fortifications of Malta continued all around its coast. The Knights built watch towers at line-of-sight intervals which were able to give early warning of approaching vessels and alert the garrison. Additionally, there was a garrison at Medina, which was mostly cavalry, and continual ‘scouting’ units mobile around the island. They received total loyalty and commitment from the Maltese, and there was also a very effective spy network operating not just in Malta, but throughout the Mediterranean. Complacency was not an option for the Knights.

The whole visit was a remarkable experience. It brought into focus times both tragically sad and enviably glorious. I know of none today who demonstrate that level of commitment to a cause, even without the pervading adversity of the Saracen. In Malta the courage, discipline and endurance of the Knights is personified for those of us who have studied their history. Their accomplishments are all around you – the story of the siege is featured in every tourist program; the history of the island records with proud recognition the role of the Knights of St. John in its development; Valletta, with its churches, hospital, auberges, Palace of the Grand Master – is infinite testimony to their enterprise

TUITION DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Previously under ATAS (Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme), Indigenous Students were only able to receive assistance on an "after school hours".

2001 has seen the introduction of Tuition During School Hours under the ATAS Program. As the name suggests, Tuition During School Hours provides supplementary tutorial assistance to Indigenous Primary School Students, during the normal school day.

To date 97 schools in the Northern Territory both Urban and Remote have commenced Tuition During Normal School Hours.

Many more schools have registered their interest in the program and are likely to lodge an application with us next year.

2002 Applications for Tuition During School hours are currently being printed and a copy will be sent to all schools as they become available.

Should you require further information about tuition During School Hours, please contact your Education Officer within our department.

Please note: We have had a departmental name change and we are no longer known as Department of Education Training and Youth Affairs, (DETYA), our new Departmental name is Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).



GUIDE DOGS ASSOCIATION
OF SA AND NT INC

The Gift of Independence

Our Guide Dogs are bred and trained to ensure the safety and independence of their owner. We provide free training—we don't believe that anyone should be denied the opportunity of independence.

Not all of our clients want to become Guide Dog users, we also teach other techniques for getting around safely and independently including the Long Cane and the use of residual vision.

Our services include training for people whose vision loss has been caused by a stroke, head injury, tumor or as a result of surgery.

For further information

please call our offices at the numbers below

Sth. Aust 08 8203 8333 N.T. 08 8981 5488

**KATHERINE FUNERAL
SERVICES**

**PROUDLY AUSTRALIAN &
FAMILY OWNED**
Est. 1977

Funerals - Cremations

**Katherine - Pine Creek - Mataranka
Tennant Creek - Remote Communities**

Local and Interstate Transfers

Pre-Paid - Pre-Arranged Funerals

Monuments - Bronze Plaques

Di & Michael Wyatt

8972 1186 All Hours

Fax 8972 1631

9 Donegan Crescent, Katherine NT

SPINA BIFIDA GENERAL FACTS

WHAT IT IS

Spina Bifida is derived from the Latin word's 'spina' meaning spine and 'bifida' meaning split or divided. In spina bifida, some of the vertebrae in the spine are not completely formed but are split or divided and the defective spinal cord and its covering usually protrude through the opening.

HOW DOES IT OCCUR?

The cause of spina bifida is unknown, although genetic and environmental factors have been implicated as possible causes. The malformation of the spine occurs within the first few weeks of pregnancy and in Australia the incidence of spina bifida is 2 in 1000. Research has shown that the chance of having a baby with spina bifida is considerably reduced when the intake of Folate (.5mg daily) is increased before pregnancy and for the first three months of pregnancy.

EFFECTS OF SPINA BIFIDA

- * Paralysis and loss of sensation (can cause problems with pressure sores)
- * Lack of bladder and bowel control (Incontinence and problems with urinary tract infection)
- * Hydrocephalus (impacts on cognitive function and can cause problems if the shunt becomes blocked)
- * Latex allergy

If you would like to find out more about Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, please contact the Spina Bifida Association of S.A.

P.O. Box 272 Torrensville S.A. 5031

Fax: (08) 8443 5100

Phone: (08) 8443 5200 Toll free 1800 803 059

Email us info@spinabifida.asn.au or visit our web site www.spinabifida.asn.au

Donations to assist the ongoing work of the Spina Bifida Association will be greatly appreciated

MALTA — Where the Past has a Presence. *(Continued)*



and capabilities; the magnificent defences have survived five hundred years and are still in use; coastal watch towers stand unperturbed by time; and its fortresses, resplendent even in their antiquity, still command the awe of the visitor. They were indeed a formidable presence, and it seems to me that having achieved so much, the greatest sadness of all was how it ended. But honourable men they were, and with honour they are

remembered.

The island today still struggles with its lack of natural resources. The only real commodity is the stone with which they build. Much of their water is supplied by desalination, and drinking water is mostly bottled. There is not very much land which will sustain market gardens, but the fishing is good and the meal I enjoyed most was seafood at a local café. Apart from its people and its

'strategic' position in the Mediterranean, Malta may not seem to have a lot going for it, but from the growing incidence of tour companies I guess there's going to be changes.

The WW2 veterans frequently go back, and it seems St. John is about to repay the Maltese for their past loyalty and provide them with a focus for tourists. I hope it doesn't take away too much of its character. I cannot forget the jarring intrusion of the few multi-storied modern hotels on the otherwise unspoiled native coastline while sailing around the shores towards the Grand Harbour. It seemed almost blasphemous. But whatever else changes, the presence of the Knights will always be part of Malta.

Submitted by Mrs Lesley King

The biggest Newsagency in the NT is

TIM'S NEWS

situated at Casuarina Square, Darwin.

Our staff are the friendliest and most efficient people in the Territory too.

Now, wherever you are, if you have a telephone, e-mail or fax and a credit card, you can order papers, magazines, stationery and lucky Tattsletto tickets.

We organise and manage group Lotto syndicates.

Telephone:- (08) 8927 1732

Fax:- (08) 8927 1907

e-mail:- timsnews@sabresystems.com.au



CHELSEA'S DISABILITY & FAMILY CARE

Approved Respite Provider for NT Carers and Territory Health Services

Selected Professional Carers
All Disabilities, Post Op & Aged Care
Full-Time, Part-Time & Casual

8948 2888

Email: max_chelseas@octa4.net.au

Fax/Ans: **8948 1818**

Mobile: **0418 898 870**

"Make your Will achieve..."



...help
Australians
in need"

"I have included the Salvos in my Will to help Australians battling against poverty, homelessness and hunger"

Evonne Goolagong Cawley

If you would like some free advice, in the strictest confidence, about making or adding to your existing Will, please telephone The Salvation Army.

call 13 32 30 www.salvationarmy.org.au



Sponsored in support of the vital role played by the St John Outback Ambulance Service to the Outback communities from

Dr Denis Chew

GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Endeavour Medical Centre
Endeavour Square Chesterfield Circuit
Nhulunbuy

8987 3044

Fax: 8987 2941

Email: drdchew@octa4.net.au

BAXTERS MOTORCYCLE ENGINEERING

QUAD
BIKES

BME
Since 1983

ATV's

Clive & Glen Baxter

Tel (08) 8984 4794 Fax (08) 8947 2072

email: baxters@downunder.net.au

2 Frank Court, BERRIMAH • PO Box 127, BERRIMAH NT 0828

POLARIS
The Way Out.

ARCTIC CAT

BOMBARDIER

Cadillac Transport Repairs Pty Ltd

Also Incorporating
Cadillac Grit Blasting & Protective Coatings

MOBILE AND ON SITE WORK
GEARED FOR ALL SIZE JOBS

(08) 8971 2440

Mobile 0412 588 266

- All Mechanical Repairs • Welding and Fabrication
- Registration Inspections

Lot 3264 Emungalan Road, KATHERINE, NT

17 MILE SERVICE CENTRE

at Virginia Road, Howard Springs

have on offer
**a unique range of
preloved prestige
vehicles**



ROLLS ROYCE - BENTLEY

WIDE RANGE OF PARTS AVAILABLE

Proudly supporting St John in the Territory

Inquiries to Keith - 8983 1511

Coastline

VEHICLE TRANSPORT

ALL VEHICLES INSURED

REGULAR SERVICES FROM
DARWIN TO EAST COAST
OF AUSTRALIA AND RETURN

DARWIN

8981 0887

Fax: (07) 3375 4528

Established 1968



ARNALL (NT) REMOVALS & STORAGE

For a trouble free move ...

↳ LOCAL ↳ COUNTRY ↳ INTERSTATE



- ↳ Family Business
- ↳ 32 Years Experience
- ↳ Locally Owned and Operated
- ↳ Insurance Services Arranged
- ↳ Approved Government Contractor

Fax: 8947 4811
Mobile: 0407 716 136

8947 4800

22 Pruett Road, Berrimah, NT - PO Box 38065, Winnellie, NT 0821

Sponsored in support of St John Ambulance from

KATHERINE TAXIS

8972 1999



8972 1777

4 NEAL PLACE, KATHERINE

SALES, SERVICE, HIRE & TRAINING

Rescue Equipment, Confined Space
Entry Systems. H₂S Response,
Breathing Apparatus, Gas Detection,
Height Safety & Fire Fighting

Air & Gas Systems Pty Ltd

The Breathing Equipment Specialists

24 HOUR PHONE 8947 3855

Fax: 8947 4567 P.O. Box 438 Berrimah NT 0828

Email: air&gas@octa4.net.au

108 Pruett Road, (Cnr Pruett & Berrimah Roads), BERRIMAH
www.Airandgassystems.com.au

ANTENNA MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION

- Communications Rigging
- Installations
- Maintenance

Bill McDonald

Phone: 0411 228 438

Fax: (08) 8948 0319

Box 42633 Casuarina NT 0811

Email: antmaint@bigpond.com



Volunteer Awards Ball

The Annual Volunteering NT Awards Ball night was held in late October at the MGM Grand and celebrated the contributions of volunteers in the Northern Territory. This year was a special event to celebrate the International Year of the Volunteers. Fourteen members representing St John joined over 200 other people at the ball and all enjoyed a memorable night.

St John was well represented in the awards with seven of our volunteers being nominated for the Emergency, Safety and Crime Prevention section. They were

Peter Poole	Glen Denmeade
Di Munro	Pat McQuillen
Kylie Munro	Noel Talbot
Vicki Macmillan	

Whilst not winning the category, we were delighted when Glen Denmeade became a finalist in the Emergency Section. Congratulations to Glen and all our volunteers who were nominated. Your nominations are a testament to the outstanding contribution you make to St John.



Michael Holmes asked Chief Minister Ms Clare Martin to dance



Rod & Cathy Hocking and Keith & Rosemarie Robinson at the Ball



Glen Denmeade after receiving his Certificate for being a finalist in the Emergency Section



Jacklyn Braund and Deputy Prior, His Honour the Administrator Mr John Anicetomatis dancing at the Ball



Peter and Adina Poole



Noel Talbot, Glen Denmeade, Vicki Macmillan and Steve Peers enjoying the Volunteers Award Ball

Celebrating 40 years of Ambulance Education and Creating an Evidence Based Vision for the Future

This was the title of the National Paramedic Conference that was presented by the Australian College of Ambulance Professionals (ACAP - Victoria Division) and the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies Monash University between the 25-27 October 2001.

The conference was held at Colonial Stadium, Melbourne, and we were fortunate enough to attend as ACAP - Northern Territory representatives. The initial

Hand Position for External Cardiac Compressions";

b. "Developing a Pre-hospital Care System in a War Zone - Timor";

c. "The Evaluation of 12 lead ECG and Troponin T Cardiac Marker ASSAY in the Pre-hospital Management of Acute Coronary Syndromes by MICA Paramedics within the Metropolitan Ambulance Service";

d. "Independent Paramedic Practitioners - A New Level of Decision Making".



Andrew Wheeler with Dawn Edmonds, MACAP Director for WA Ambulance Service

worry of not being able to find the stadium was quickly laid to rest due to its enormous size, and even Helen had no trouble spotting it. Visions of kicking a footy around on the turf during the conference did not come to fruition, it was a "NO-GO" zone.

Free paper presentations were held on the morning of the first day. These consisted of research papers by Metro and Rural MICA Paramedics / Ambulance Paramedics, interstate Paramedics and allied health professionals. Interesting subjects included:

a. "An examination of the Use of the Caliper Method in Determining

On completion of the presentations we were amazed by the level of professionalism and knowledge displayed by our interstate colleagues, and the extent to which other services are engaging in research/ evidence based practice.

The ACAP AGM was also held on the first day of the conference, and was chaired by the ACAP president Mr Allan Marr. Mr Marr requested a minute's silence in remembrance of the lives lost as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Mr Marr spoke about the transitional changes that have occurred over the past 12 months as ACAP moves towards a corporate governance both at national and branch levels. He also commented on the expansion of ACAP membership, promoting a policy of inclusiveness in recognising other contributors to pre-hospital health care across Australia. ACAP NT will be looking to support this policy and increase our Territory membership. Further information regarding the ACAP AGM can be found in the minutes and the annual ACAP should be available at each station for your perusal.

An over-riding theme of the conference was the celebration of forty years of ambulance training in Australia and an evidence based vision for the future. Thus there were several presentations outlining Ambulance Paramedic Education throughout Australia, Degree based training and the National Ambulance Training Package. All of the presentations relating to education and training were very informative and gave us



Andrew Wheeler chats with Lucinda Burgess, Paramedic in the Victorian Ambulance Service

Celebrating 40 years of Ambulance Education and Creating an Evidence Based Vision for the Future *(Continued)*



The three stooges that attended the ACAP Conference, Matthew Eastham, Andrew Wheeler & Helen Conneely-Woergoetter

a greater understanding into the training of our colleagues, and future trends. Of interest to many was the combined Nursing/ Paramedic Degree Course soon to be offered by Charles Sturt University that will broaden employment prospects of students upon completion, attract more students to nursing and meet future needs for specialist providers of in/out of hospital care.

A welcome reception was held on the first evening of the conference, and gave us a chance to liaise with personnel from other services, as well as having a good look around at the Trade Expo displays. The South Australian and New South Wales style Mercedes Sprinter were on display, and both received a lot of attention and drooling over by us – amazing!

Over the next two days there were many lectures on a variety of subjects relating to Education, Integrated EMS Systems, Emerging EMS Partnerships in Australia, Ambulance-based Research and Updating Ambulance Paramedic Clinical Practice Guidelines: Resuscitation and End of Life. Of great interest was the Call to Needle Times for Thrombolysis after Myocardial

Infarction: An Australian Benchmark and the Minimally Invasive Direct cardiac Massage (MID-CM) Device. We were lucky enough to have a play with the MID-CM, which when used can increase cardiac output in arrest by 65%, and the regaining of peripheral pulses. Defibrillation is also conducted through the MID-CM directly onto the ventricles of the heart.

Intranasal administration of drugs such as naloxone and fentanyl are advances currently underway, and administration of drugs via this route provides added benefits for patients and Ambulance personnel. Asystole Cardiac Arrest is also a subject under review, including protocols based on clinical evidence. Should Asystole Cardiac Arrest patients be transported?

Overall the National Paramedic Conference was a rewarding experience that provided us with many opportunities to increase our knowledge of pre-hospital care throughout the country. So much was covered during the three days that it is impossible to summarise it in its entirety with this limited space. The professionalism displayed by our interstate colleagues was outstanding and they should be commended. Research and evidence based practice is certainly the way of the future, and ACAP encourages all of its members to participate in research projects for the development of our profession and individual services.

ACAP continues to gain excellence in practice and acknowledges that it is necessary

to pursue high levels of learning and education. With regard to this, ACAP NT will be holding educational lectures, information evenings and functions over the next year. Many thanks to the people who helped organise the recent information evening in Darwin, including Helen's wonderful Husband Ian (whose cooking is just "moorish"), Peter Barlow (who spent hours cleaning the BBQ), Brian, Sue, Kylie and Andrew.

An information evening further detailing the conference will be held in Alice Springs on the 23 November.

*Matthew Eastham
Helen Conneely-Woergoetterwyn*



The interior design of a Victorian Ambulance



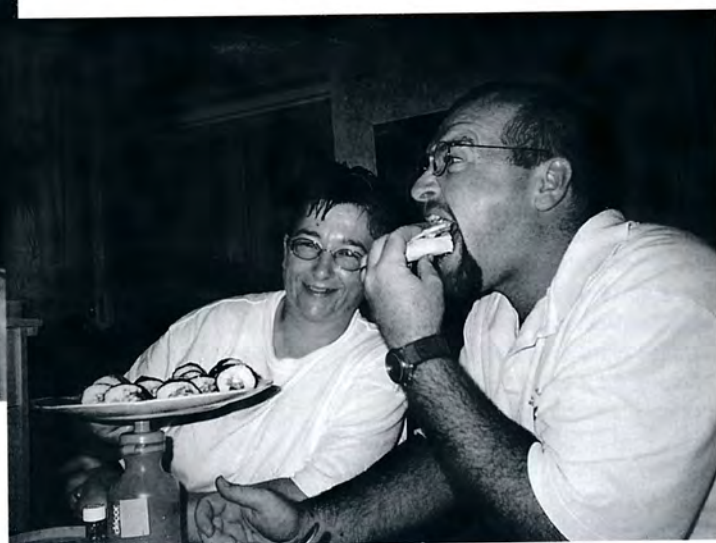
*Leaane Kelly – As a patient
"How safe would you feel?"*



*Henry & Dorothy – Dorothy my darling, I have been at
Yuendumu Training for too long – you look good!!!*



*Paul – Training in the
Simpson Desert is
beyond my job
description*



Helen & Scott – I tell you what - this bloke can eat!



Jan and Emily – Jan dreaming she was 40 years younger and just as beautiful!!



Jan and Danny – "Jan, I think I'm driving"



Greg – the new air conditioner did wonders but I'm still having a bad hair day!!



Danny – A couple of drinks and he thinks he's spiderman



Ben Minchin at the AGM

Ben – Purple! – what does this mean





ESTABLISHED 1980

EARL JAMES & ASSOCIATES

SURVEY & PLANNING CONSULTANTS
LICENSED SURVEYORS



- Unit Titles
- G.P.S. Surveys
- Photogrammetric Mapping
- Subdivision Design & Control
- Mining & Engineering Surveys
- Land Information Management

8981 2494

Fax: 8981 5205

Email: darwin@eja.com.au

1ST FLOOR, MALLAM CHAMBERS, 26 MITCHELL STREET DARWIN

AREA CONTRACTING

TREE LOPPING • FELLING
REMOVAL • LANDSCAPING
BULK WOOD CHIP • IRRIGATION

Telephone: 8983 1261

Facsimile: 8983 1911

Mobile: 0411 692 155 All Hours

PROMPT SERVICE



FREE QUOTES

NEATA GLASS & ALUMINIUM

Ph: 8952 5588

12 Elder Street
ALICE SPRINGS

GLASS

SHOPFRONTS

SLIDING DOORS

FRENCH DOORS

SHOWER SCREENS

TABLE TOPS

DISPLAY CASES

ALUMINIUM

WINDOW REPAIRS

SLIDING WINDOWS

LOUVRE WINDOWS

MIRRORS

SECURITY SCREENS

EXHIBIT SYSTEMS

Sponsored in support of the
NT Outback Ambulance Service from

Katherine Plastering & Tiling

Phone 8972 2258

Mobile 0408 892 269

P.O. Box 326, KATHERINE NT 0851

TROPICAL WATER SOLUTIONS

WATER QUALITY CONSULTANTS

Specialising in
Chemistry, Biology
Applied Science

Ph: 8947 3676

www.tropicalwater.com.au

PO Box 3511, Darwin NT 0801



A-Z Manufacturing, Maintenance, Engineering & Blasting

- Road Tippers • Centre Tipper
- Inter-Modal Bulk Material Containers
- General Purpose Equipment • Maintenance and Rebuilds
- Abrasive Blasting and Painting

Ph: 8932 2638

Fax: 8932 2723

Email: info@azmeh.com.au

Lot 1802 Hardy Road, Berrimah
PO Box 2025 Palmerston NT 0831

LITCHFIELD REALTY

- Sales and Property Management
- House and Land sales specialists
- Project Marketing and Rental Investment properties
- Rural sales specialists with land areas from 5 acres to 500,000 acres
- Industrial and Commercial land sales in the new wharf area

When Buying or Selling Real Estate call...

LITCHFIELD REALTY

Phone: 8988 2343

Fax: 8988 4282

**We specialise in all aspects of
road construction, earth moving,
excavating and maintenance**

DANNY ORR



EARTHMOVING

Remote Area Specialists

Ph/Fax: 8953 2032 Mobile: 0407 569 756

7 Madigan Street, Alice Springs

Variety Bash

2001

The 2001 Variety Bash commenced this year at Tennant Creek and travelled to the Gold Coast, the trip wound down through some of the prettiest Qld countryside that I have had the pleasure to travel through.

The 'Bashers' make a point of visiting the smaller outback towns and calling into schools or joining into other community functions that were already happening.

This year the 'Bash' was in time for the Mt Isa Rodeo, Mt Isa Mardi Gras and then onto the opening of a

skate park in Julie Creek. The dirt road between Julia Creek and Kynuna saw us have our only mechanical problem, a flat tyre. On our arrival at Kynuna we were entertained at the Blue Heeler Hotel by some local renditions of some Australian bush ballads followed by fine Queensland food.

The dinner at Longreach was held in the Stockman's Hall of Fame Museum, the dress for the evening was period costume to represent the day as at the turn of the Century.

On arrival at the Gold Coast we found we were part of a total of 3500 'Bashers' from all over Australia who had made the trip to celebrate their own state's fundraising efforts. That night the celebrations moved to Movie World where I know a great time was had by all.

The NT Bashers this year raised in excess of \$250,000 for children with special needs in the Northern Territory.

Andrew and I both enjoyed the experience of being able to attend and represent our organisation in such fine company.

Steve Peers

The NT Bash is 10 years old
- and we're planning a party

"Great Crossing
to the
Gold
Coast"

Starring
Australia's
Greatest
Fundraisers

World Premier Event

Pick up your script, join the cast & crew,
and head for the Warner Bros, Movie World
on Queensland's Gold Coast

Darwin

Tennant
Creek

Camooeal

Mt Isa

Kynuna

Longreach

Springstore

Cracow

Murgon

Crow's Nest

Eagle Heights

Gold Coast

Goodbye to the Munro's



The Munro family is leaving the Territory in December returning to Victoria. We know they will hate the weather, miss their friends and forget what mould smells like but I know that they will still be a part of the St John family. In fact, they have already made contacts in Victoria and are looking forward to joining a division in the area they will be living.

They have contributed so much to St John in the Territory. Di as Territory Officer Training, Kylie as Cadet Leader in the Band Division and Neil as an affiliate member always the willing worker at first aid competitions.

Neil, Di and Kylie- Good luck and best wishes for the future. We will miss you.

Sponsored in appreciation of the dedicated work of the St John Outback Ambulance Service from the Management and Staff of

Mark Webster & Associates Pty Ltd

- Domestic Insurance
- Household • Motor Vehicle • Travel Insurance
- All types of Business Insurance
- Superannuation • Life Insurance
- Workers Compensation • Income Protection

Ph: 8952 9388

Fax: 8953 0358

17-19 Hartley Street, Alice Springs

Centre Accounting Services

Accounting & Bookkeeping Services
Specialising in

Servicing Aboriginal Organisations
and Communities



Phone: (08) 8952 7600

Fax: (08) 8952 2647

Shop 4, Head Street Shopping Centre
P.O. Box 2211 Alice Springs



Enrol in an Adult Night Class

**Computing Skills
Languages
Practical Skills
Academic**

There's something for everyone!
Phone 89 201 200



BATCHELOR INSTITUTE
OF INDIGENOUS TERTIARY EDUCATION

Are you interested in Apprenticeships

Through our Quality Endorsement (QETO), Bachelor Institute's TRAINING BUSINESS can assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with off-the-job training in traditional and emerging trades such as:

- Carpentry • Motor Mechanics • Plumbing • Computer Technologies
- Tourism and • Hospitality

TRAINING BUSINESS also offers short courses, traineeships & apprenticeships in:

- Car & truck driver training • construction skills • work ready skills
- women & development • community maintenance • counselling
- homemaker training • screen printing • fibreglassing
- train-the-trainer • consultancies and many more

**For more information telephone
1800 249 778**

Ten St. John Vollies

Ten St. John Vollies getting along just fine
 One disagreed with another, then there were nine.
 Nine ambitious Vollies offered to work late
 One forget their promise, then there were eight.
 Eight St. John Vollies, with new ideas all made in heaven
 One lost enthusiasm and then there were seven
 Seven loyal Vollies got into a fix.
 They quarrelled over duties, then there were six.
 Six St John Vollies remained with spirit and drive.
 One moved away, then there were five.
 Five steadfast Vollies wished there were more.
 One became disillusioned, then there were four.
 Four cheerful Vollies who never disagree.
 Till one complained-too many duties, then there were three
 Three eager Vollies left, what could they do?
 One got discouraged, then there were two.
 Two lonesome Vollies, our rhythm nearly done.
 One joined a sports team, now there's only one.
 One faithful Vollie was feeling rather blue,
 Inspired a friendly neighbour and then there were two
 Two earnest Vollies each enrolled one more.
 Doubling their number, then there were four.
 Four determined Vollies just couldn't wait.
 Till each enrolled other, then there were eight.
 Eight excited Vollies signed up sixteen more.
 In another six verses there'll be a thousand and twenty four.

Adapted from a verse of unknown origin

By Dawn Bat



Advantages of being a member of The Casuarina Club

- Quality meals with regular Bistro Specials
- FREE meal to use on your birthday
- Indoor & outdoor children's play area
- Drive through Bottle Shop - Open 7 days a week with Monthly Specials
- Club Prices over the bar with Monthly Bar promotions
- Happy Hour daily • 45 Pokies
- FREE entry to most Live entertainment & Club Theme Nights
- Regular members functions & outings
- FREE Membership to Caswine Club and Tastings
- 5-15% Members Discount from business & entertainment venues
- Two function rooms - seats from 50 to 150 people with all facilities available

CASUARINA ALL SPORTS CLUB - 269 TROWER ROAD CASUARINA

Ph: 8927 9155 Fax: 8945 1939

www.casclub.com.au

Proudly supporting the
 St John Ambulance Officers

DARWIN AMUSEMENTS PTY LTD

Est 1959

PROFIT SHARING - SALES SERVICE

CD JUKEBOXES • PINBALLS • VIDEOS
 POOL TABLES • RECLOTHS • KIDDIE RIDES

Ph: 8985 1185

13 Tang Street, Coconut Grove

LITCHFIELD PUB



BUDGET ACCOMMODATION & VAN SITES

- Sky Channel
- Keno
- Poker Machines
- Bistro

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

OPEN 7 DAYS

"Home of the Litchfield Bull Arena"

8988 6044

Fax 8988 6163

Darwin River Road, Darwin River

Captain's Seafood Takeaway

Darwin's Takeaway Seafood Specialists

Open 7 Days 10.30am - 9.00pm

COOKED FRESH AS YOU ORDER!

Phone Orders Welcome

8981 9001

11 Fannie Bay Place, Fannie Bay (Next to Pizza Hut)

"You won't seafood better"

Our high seas adventure

Back in the late 1700's when Captain Cook took the Endeavour out on his voyages of discovery around Australia (or 'Terra Australis Incognita' as it was known then), he probably would have welcomed the presence of St John Ambulance on board.



Although our presence would have added to the crowding on board, our skills would have been beneficial during his last and ill-fated voyage to Hawaii, where he met a gruesome and sticky end. However, that was not to be, and Nhulunbuy St John had to content itself with a visit aboard

the replica when it arrived at Gove harbour some 230 years later.

The atmosphere was far more congenial than Cook encountered in Hawaii, and St John volunteers were hard pressed to find much more to do than have a guided

tour of the vessel and spend a more or less pleasant day in the sunshine at the wharf. Even the box jellyfish (who had been troublesome the weekend before) managed to refrain from causing work, content to bob around in the ocean several metres below. Rene and Carmen had a go at the wheel, but alas were unable to sail away as the vessel remained securely moored at the wharf. Howard checked out the cannon, but to his dismay there was nothing to use to fire at the pirates (who didn't appear anyway). Martin was content to gaze wistfully out to ocean at the mackerel that were out there, mocking him while he was on duty....

After a hard day's djama, the vessel sailed away and Nhulunbuy volunteers returned to their usual fare, including air medical transfers and a street brawl that rivalled the Mike Tyson vs Evander Holyfield world title bout, bringing to a close our episode of adventure on the high seas (almost).

regards

Howard Smith



MENZIES SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH

Northern Territory Australia

Taking It To The Bush ...

Health research and education programs to benefit **everyone**

Research :

Ear, Heart & Kidney Disease
Nutrition & Diabetes
Malaria; Tuberculosis
Scabies; Social Sciences

Education :

BSc(Hons) Placements
Public Health Coursework
Postgraduate Degrees by
Research and Thesis

Enquiries :

The Business Manager
PO Box 41096
CASUARINA NT 0811
Ph : 08.8922 8196
Fax : 08.8927 5187
<http://www.menzies.edu.au>

Humpty Doo Competition

Leading the way again, Humpty Doo Cadet Division decided to hold an Intra-division First Aid Competition testing the skills of the adult Humpty Doo members against the cadets within the division. The competition came about as a result of the cadets issuing a challenge to the adults after the Territory competitions in June.

The Challenge was accepted and the fight began. . Two Cadets of the Division, Alice Hageman and Ross Jacobsen, indicated they would like to take part in the organising of the event. They worked closely with the Divisional

Officers were getting worried as it was thought by all that the Cadets would win. The timing for the competition was excellent, Territory Officer Cadets, Noel Talbot and Steve Peers had travelled from Alice Springs and had a



Secretary, Lee Payne in getting it together.

The comp grew with the addition of a team from the newly formed Humpty Doo Adult Division. The organisers put in many long hours to make sure it ran well and everything was done "by the book". The Adjudicators and Marshals from the Darwin Adult Division donated their time to come out and make it official. What started as a bit of a fun thing grew to be very serious. The

chance to see the competition.

The competition was held in the Taminmin High School Gym. The night started early for the organisers as they worked at getting everything ready for about a 1830 start. The teams were put into isolation and the night began.

The Teams were:
Darwin Adult Members - Kylie Morris, Frank Dunston and Bernie Edwards.

Humpty Doo Cadets - Kathryn Ainsworth, Byron May and Justin Murphy.

Humpty Doo Officers - Elaine Drahm, Nola Hutchins and Vicki Macmillan.

From a competitors point of view "we walked into bedlam". The scene was a classroom with no teacher presence and the kids had all been smoking "parsley". All the delightful children were 'high'. There were 3 obvious casualties', a fractured Femur, a pencil going through a girl's abdomen and the other casualty had gone through a window, she had a cut to her forehead and spinal injuries. Then there were many unco-operative bystanders that just caused havoc. A couple of the kids got into a fight near the kid with the fractured Femur, one fell down and fractured his lower arm. Casualty number 4!! He then proceeded to have a fit, another fit followed and he stopped breathing, than his heart stopped as well!!!! The casualties, bystanders, assistants and general runners were all Cadets from the Division. Apart from many forms of stress from the First Aiders trying to cope with the situation it was a fantastic night.

The winners were:

- | | |
|-----|----------------|
| 1st | Cadet Officers |
| 2nd | Cadets |
| 3rd | Adults |

Thank you to all the patients, timekeepers, adjudicators and helpers and a big congratulations to the organisers.

*Vicki Macmillan
Divisional Superintendent
Humpty Doo Cadet Division*

Sponsored in support of the N.T. St John Ambulance
Journal 'Outback Ambulance' by

Lynne Williams
Racehorse Trainer

Phone: 8981 1423
Mobile: 0418 817 642

3 Grant Street, LUDMILLA 0820



Sponsored in support of the
NT St John Ambulance Journal
OUTBACK AMBULANCE

by
ALWYN TRENGROVE

Racehorse Trainer
TALLY HO LODGE

Parap

Phone
(08) 8981 9530



CANINE DESIGN & FELINE FASHION



-  CLIPPING
-  BATHING
-  HANDSTRIPPING
-  SHOW GROOMING
-  HOUSE & PET SITTING

AVAILABLE ON ALL BREEDS

By Appointment

Donna T. Bailey
8952 9915



LAUCKE MILLS

Alice Springs

Phone (08) 8952 8611
Fax (08) 8953 2909

Manufacturers of a complete range of...
Quality Stock & Poultry Feed,
Bread Flour and Pre-mixes.

74 Elder Street, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870



MILINGIMBI COMMUNITY INC

Milingimbi Community via Darwin NT 0822
Ph: 08 8987 9905 Fax: 08 8987 9916
Email: milcom@bigpond.com

We support St John Ambulance in the NT

Any enquiries about our art and crafts
please contact us immediately.

Our community is looking at entrepreneurial
interests to improve the long term lifestyles and
workscape for community members.

*Supporting St John Ambulance
and the important work they do in the
Northern Territory*

Maningrida Council Inc

Phone: 08 8979 5988
Fax: 08 8979 5994
Maningrida NT 0822

*Proud to support
the vital role of
St John Ambulance in
the Northern Territory
from*

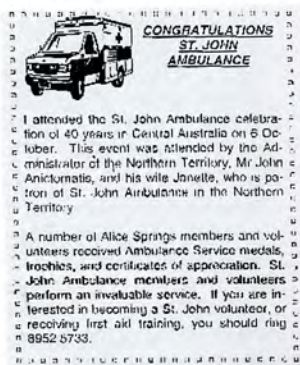
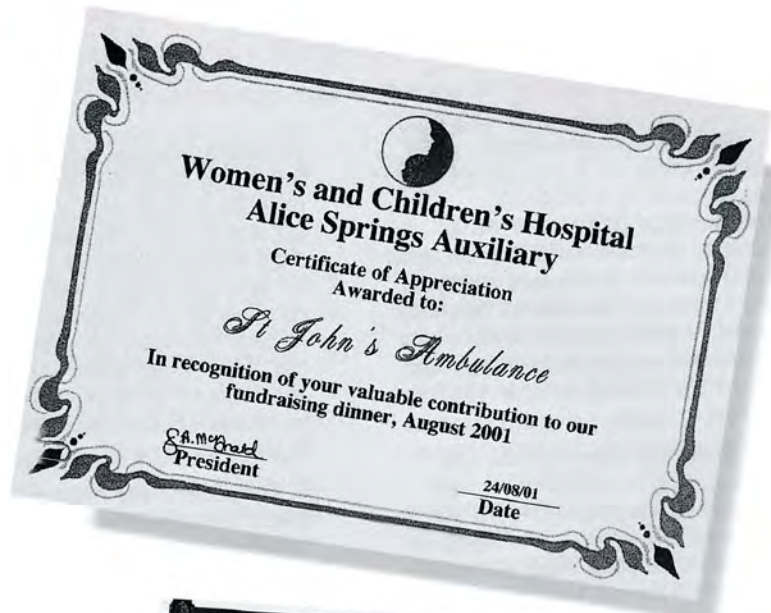
WUGULARR
C.G.C.

Supporting St John Ambulance
For the vital work they do in the
Northern Territory



Ali Curung Council Assn Inc
Ph: 08 8964 1955 **Fax: 08 8964 1975**
PMB Ali Curung, via Alice Springs NT 0872

Letters of Appreciation



Beware the Sleeping Giant

I am writing this case study in the hope that those of you who read it will be able to relate to the story and in the future proceed with a little more caution than you may have been, when dealing with patients that are intoxicated and a little uncooperative.

Despatched by ambulance communications to a male patient, who has jumped from a bridge unit. Despatched at 2230hrs, on case at 2234hrs, on scene at 2237hrs. On arrival at the scene the police were already in attendance. As I approached the patient, one of the police officers stated that the patient had not jumped from the bridge and that he was just here having a few drinks.

A bystander stated that she was walking along the bridge on her way home when she peered over the side of the bridge and saw the patient lying on his back in the grass below the bridge. She did not know at the time whether the patient was alive or not, she just ran and called the ambulance.

A primary survey of the patient was conducted. The patient was fully conscious, alert and oriented and again stated to me that he had not jumped from the bridge had that he was at the pub earlier tonight drinking with friends before walking down to the river bank to continue drinking. The patient also stated on three (3) occasions, that he was very drunk and had been smoking gunja (marijuana). The grass surrounding the patient had been there for some time. There were also empty cans of a spirit mixer lying near the patient and a pool of vomit (nil haematemesis).

The patient indicated he had nil pain or injuries of any kind, the Patient

presented quite cool to touch, was pale and slightly moist. B/P 70/40, pulse 52 r, resps 28 n, pupils were equal at 3mm but slow to react. The patient had a slight redness or abrasion to left side of his face and a small amount of blood on his upper lip. The patient was asked had he been fighting tonight which he replied "no". He was also asked who he was and where he was from, at which point he became uncooperative and reluctant to give ambulance officers his details.

The decision was made to transport patient to hospital for supervision and observation. The patient was then asked could he stand up to assist ambulance officers to the back of the ambulance, the patient replied he could not as he was too drunk. My partner removed the stretcher from the ambulance and placed it next to the patient. As we sat the patient upright to be lifted onto the stretcher he indicated he had pain in the lower lumbar region, on his right side. I conducted a further examination. There was nil bruising, swelling or deformity to be found. On palpation the patient indicated nil increase of pain and that the pain was now going away. My partner and I, with the assistance of the police, then lifted the patient onto the stretcher without incident.

Depart scene at 2249hrs, en-route to the hospital a secondary survey was conducted, the patient was still reluctant to give ambulance officers his full details.

The patient had a full range of movement in all limbs, his pelvis was sprung with nil pain indicated by patient. Abdominal region clear, with nil pain on palpation and nil rigidity. Thoracic region clear with good equal air entry all lobes and nil pain on inhalation. Loss of consciousness could not be confirmed.

Arrived at the hospital at 2255hrs, and the patient was handed over to nurses at accident and emergency. The following morning the patient was transferred to the airport by ambulance for a flight to a larger health care facility that could better manage the patients' injuries.

During the night the patients' condition started to deteriorate and as the patient was treated a-symptomatically they discovered the extent of his injuries and finally the patient stated he had jumped from the bridge a distance of 15 metres. It was found by the hospital on a complete work up of x-rays that the patient had three fractured vertebrae, fractured tibia and fibia and an open book fracture of his pelvis.

I was amazed when the doctor informed me of the extent of the patients' injuries and we were all stunned that a patient with such injuries could present with little or no pain or discomfort and few signs of internal injury. This case made me reconsider how I look at the scene of arrival and the people interacting in that scene. I learnt much from this job and I hope you do too.

Jason Potts

Ambulance Officer

Centre Funeral Services

Est 1975

Dignified, Personalised Service

MEMBER



- Interstate & Overseas Repatriations • Floral Tributes
- Headstones & Plaques • Pre-Arranged Funeral Plan

Serving

Alice Springs & Tennant Creek

Ph: 8952 2953 (All Hours)

Mobile: 0418 897 230 Fax: 8952 4518
12 Kidman Street, (PO Box 1943) ALICE SPRINGS

Proud to support the
St John Ambulance Officers

ENWARE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

EMERGENCY SHOWERS

EYE WASH &

DANGEROUS GOODS

STORAGE CABINETS

8947 2101

Lot 1879, Pruen Road, Berrimah

Staff Profile



David Baker

Employee Relations, with the newly formed "Super Department" of Health and Community Services (plus other things) and loved my time in this position. I suspect one of the great attractions of this job – like so many others – was the people with whom I worked. Arthur Boland in particular stands out as quite a mentor of mine in that era and I owe a lot to Arthur.

It was around this time that our son Sean was born (1984) and we lived in the old Railway reserve area in Parap. A move to Alawa did take place in about 1991, because of the demands of a large family (at that stage the kids were 14, 12 and 6) and I have to admit it was a great period in our lives, in terms of family life.

In 1988 I was invited to lunch by Peter Butler (former General Manager of St John and another friend and mentor). I later discovered that our chat over lunch was in fact a job interview! Having been a career Public Servant for nearly 20 years, I was somewhat daunted by the prospect of actually severing my connections with that sector, but after a number of coffees (OK, beers) and chats with

my family, I decided to take on the newly created position of Human Resource Manager.

I guess it would be easy now to say the rest really is history, but let me share some basic philosophies with you. I believe all people deserve to be treated fairly. I believe staff should have easy access to and the capacity to influence decision-makers. I believe work should be an enjoyable place to be – not a punishment. I believe Volunteers should be managed by Volunteers (with some special considerations of course, given our complexity) and I believe that the men, women and children of St John – in all its various forms – should be incredibly proud of what they do and how they do it.

I have met some of the most wonderful people in the world, during my short journey through life and I look forward to meeting many more. My family has supported me all the way in life's decisions – both work and otherwise – and of all the people to thank for enabling me to be here, they deserve the bulk of that credit. To everyone else I have met along the way..... G'day ! ...Oh...and thanks a lot!!!

David Baker

Now where was I? Oh yes, we had just returned to Darwin in 1980 and basically had to pick up the pieces, as I had simply quit my job in SA. Fortunately for me I was interviewed by Marlene Powell and Brian Cook for a position as Personnel Manager with the Department of the Chief Minister. I was successful and remain friends with both Marlene and Cooky for giving me that break. From that job I went back into the specialist area of Industrial Relations for a while, but found the direct adversarial nature of the position and the demands of Tribunal advocacy not really to my liking.

I applied for and successfully secured the position of Director of

Sponsored in appreciation of
the dedicated work of the
St John Outback Ambulance Service
for the people in the Northern Territory community
by



Staff Profile



Well, this is a first.

The workshop putting pen to paper, or in this day and age fingers to the keyboard.

Hopefully this article will enlighten everyone as to where the fleet is heading with a few facts and figures to back up decisions made.

As we are now all well aware, the Mercedes Benz Sprinter is fast becoming the vehicle of choice for Ambulance services throughout Australia.

The reasons for this are not only economically based, which is unusual in itself, because we all know that accountants only look at the bottom line. But fortunately this vehicle is extremely adaptable to wide variety of different applications. From hospital transfers, to first response vehicles,

they are used throughout the metropolitan area of Sydney and other states.

In the Territory, as usual we are using these vehicles to fulfil an even greater role such as long distance, multi-carry patient transport. The internal design of this vehicle has evolved from the Vehicle Design Sub-Committee which first sat some 2 years ago.

This Committee is composed of Ambulance Officers, workshop staff and management from most areas. All regions have had an opportunity for input to developing the internal design of these vehicles. This opportunity still exists and anyone can put a submission to the committee for consideration.

One of the great aspects of this vehicle is that it can be modified to adapt to changes in technology

From the Workshop

and work practices as the organisation continues to develop.

The beauty of this is that it can be done quickly, efficiently and with minimal expense.

This is not to say that other vehicles in the fleet do not have their area of capability. I think the "Troopie" has shown it's worth many times in it's toughness and it's reliability to handle the tough outback terrain of everyday NT work.

The Fuel Stats...

GMC – litres per hundred kilometres	(17-19)
Ford 250 – lt/100kms	(15-17)
Troopie – lt/100kms	(14)
Mercedes – lt/100kms	(12.5-13.5)

The discrepancy in these figures can be directly related to male and female drivers.

You tell me!!!

The Service Stats...

GMC –	every 5000kms
Ford F250 –	every 5000kms
Troopie –	every 5000kms
Mercedes Benz 312 –	every 15000kms
Mercedes Benz 316 –	every 22500kms

Although these are manufacturers' recommendations for vehicle service intervals, the workshop services the Mercedes at approximately half the recommended manufacturers' specifications. This still places the Mercedes as the most cost effective in the fleet.

Due to the fact that the Darwin Ambulance workshop is the only workshop in Australia that fits it's own Ambulances, we are fast being recognised as a source of information and innovation to other states.

Mark O'Shaunessy

EAGLES FOR PREMIERS 2002!!!

Established 1975

TJ Signs

PROFESSIONAL SIGNS
FOR PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE

ALICE SPRINGS

GENERAL SIGNWRITING
DESIGN & ART • SCREENPRINTING
ILLUMINATED & NEON SIGNAGE
COMPUTER CUT LETTERING & GRAPHICS
BANNERS • POSTERS
DISPLAYS • SAFETY SIGNS
TIMBER, BRASS, ALUMINIUM,
ACRYLIC & STYRENE
CUSTOM LETTERING • DIRECTORY SYSTEMS

2 SMITH STREET, ALICE SPRINGS
P.O. BOX 1730

8952 5075

FAX 8953 0619

Staff Profile



Steve Peers

I was born in Mansfield Victoria in the late 1940s, my schooling was completed in Benalla at the end of 1962.

On leaving the country life and moving to Melbourne in 1962 I heard the calling of my country and joined the R.A.A.F. serving at centres in Wagga, Richmond, [Sydney] and Footscray [Melbourne]. My wife met a wonderful man in 1966 and married

him, later that year we transferred to Darwin until the end of 1969, I was transferred to HQ Support Command Melbourne until the end 1970 for discharge. The southern climate didn't suit us so we return to Darwin to set up home and raise our 3 children. Just prior to Cyclone Tracy's visit in 1974 I accepted a job with the NT Housing Commission.

My volunteer life commenced in 1977 when I joined the Darwin Division, later transferring to the Casuarina Division. In those days, we operated out of temporary demountables until the new and now existing HQ was built.

After leaving the NT Housing Commission in 1979 I joined the ambulance service as a full time paid officer. After six months in the position

I transferred from Darwin to Tennant Creek to assist in the establishment of the full time service.

We were stationed in Tennant Creek for 3 years before I was transferred to Alice Springs as Deputy Regional Ambulance Officer. In 1984 it was back to Darwin again during which time I completed my Advance Life Support training. My (hopefully) last transfer was in 1988 when I accepted my current appointment in Alice Springs as Operations Manager.

Since I joined the Ambulance Service in 1979 I have seen many changes and I have seen the circle come around a couple times however if I had my time over I would still join the same service again.

Steve Peers.

From a New Volleys Point of View.

Last week Henry asked our division of we were willing to submit an article to your magazine.

As a new volunteer with St. John Ambulance in Alice Springs, I thought I would do as any Aussie would do and "give it a go" with a new volleys perspective on the Alice Springs Adult Division. A.S.A.D.

The first training night I attended here in Alice Springs, was the 31st July this year. After being greeted by a few of the members of the division, I was asked by Glen Auricht if I had ever done drill before? I returned a blank look on my face, replied, "what kind of drill do you mean? Fire drill, electric drill?" or was there some other type of drill that I hadn't heard of before. Much to my amazement, it was army style drill (that just about had me rolling around on the floor in fits of laughter imagining myself marching as my uncle Max; a Staff Sergeant in the Army 20 years ago; screamed orders at the parade....AAATTENNN CHAAAA.

Never in my right mind had I ever thought I would partake in a drill, and grasp it quickly enough for the 40th Birthday celebrations of St. John in Alice Springs on 6th October. This continued on consecutive Wednesday evenings until the big event (that went off without a hitch. WELL DONE EVERYONE INVOLVED.)

Since joining, I have met, trained and worked with some very interesting and friendly people. Henry Lawson and Glen Auricht are very encouraging and full of knowledge. Sammy, Paul, Rebecca, Tony, Tammy (since left), Neil, Des & Monique to name but a few (and besides I'm still trying to remember all their names, sorry guys and gals) and a lot of the road crews as well.

I am very grateful to A.S.A.D. for accepting me into their group with open arms.

During our training nights, we've partaken in casualty scenarios and discussed interesting topics such as the

basic A & P of the Heart, Choking and Burns.

I relocated to the Territory from Queensland in May this year, for work and have 3 1/2 years experience with the Qld. Ambulance Service. (Please don't hold that against me.) As an Honorary Ambulance Officer, I went out on the road with crews as a 3rd and sometimes 2nd officer, attending 'jobs' and enriching my knowledge of the human body and the amazing things it can (or can't) tolerate.

I'm happy that I have joined the A.S.A.D. so that I, someday, may pass on my knowledge to new and upcoming members and continue to use my skills at the public duties in which I have attended and will continue to attend, and through everyday life (if needed).

Once again I thank A.S.A.D. for their acceptance into their group and look forward to continue working with them.

Keep up the great work guys and gals.

Bridget Oudeman.



Staff Profile

Wendy Jackson

Wendy Jackson – Administration Assistant – Katherine Centre

Married with two sons aged 11 and 15.

I first started work for St John Ambulance in Katherine in 1981. At that time there was only two paid officers and at least a dozen very active volunteers. Soon after I was employed, three more paid officers were recruited to make a total of five officers at the Katherine Centre, which is still the case today.

Over the years I have seen a lot of changes within St. John and many staff have passed through the Katherine Centre. The stalwarts here are Bob Fabian and myself, having both started in 1981.

We have moved from our original centre on Victoria Highway to where the Centre is now situated in Kintore Street. We have had a flood, rebuilt and restocked.

Katherine is a friendly centre and we all get on pretty well, it's rare that we have any major dramas personnel wise. If you visit Katherine Centre, remember, you have to bring a cake for morning tea.

My job involves many things – taking calls from Comms and despatching crews, case card entry into the computer, organising first aid courses, subscriptions, kit sales and restocking. One thing I have learned over the years is that Ambulance Officers cannot spell if their case cards are anything to go by.

In my spare time (joke, what spare time?) – I don't have any spare time. The number plate on my car reads 'Showfa' (as in chauffeur) because that is all I seem to do, chauffeur my kids around to their various sporting and social activities. They are both heavily involved in BMX racing and Speedway. Both of these sports take up a lot of time in preparation, training and racing. A fair amount of our time is spent travelling, our poor car has clocked up nearly 50,000 kms in two years chasing BMX all across the Territory. Both boys started racing Junior Sedans at the Speedway this year so that has meant more travelling up and down from Darwin. I think I could drive the 300km from Katherine to Darwin with my eyes closed, I've done that many times. We regularly drive to Darwin, race,

stop at McDonald's then come home all within a few hours. The speedway cars take up a huge amount of time because of the maintenance they need, usually it's only fiddley things like a bit of panel beating and painting after each meeting except when the walls jump out in front of the car and totals it. My youngest Son did this when his car and another car got hooked together and they both spun head on into the wall – result, one completely wrecked car, and one chipped concrete wall. I wasn't there that night to see him do this as I was in Darwin with my eldest son who was in theatre at RDH, having broken his leg set. That wasn't a good weekend, a case of it never rains, it just pours!!

Luckily the whole family are big motorsport fans (we haven't missed the V8 Supercars or a Victor Bray spectacular yet) and are very much dyed in the wool Ford supporters.

Roll on the 2002 V8 Supercars and another Ford win.

Seasons Greetings to all St John Members and Staff from

ALLAN KING & SONS CONSTRUCTION PTY LTD

(A Proven Contractor to NT Government Departments)

• Earthworks • Drainage • Road Sealing

• Servicing the needs of Govt Depts, Councils & Aboriginal Communities.

PO Box 568, Katherine 0851

Phone: (08) 8971 0070

Fax: (08) 8971 2299

Mobile: 0417 876 920



Staff Profiles



Matt Davis

I have lived in Sydney for most of my life after moving across the Tasman with my family in 1973. My short and abruptly terminated stint as a trainee nurse positioned me perfectly for employment with the Ambulance Service of NSW in 1980. The beard had to come off and the ponytail couldn't stay either, but I knew that the time had come for me to leave behind childish ways and start thinking seriously about a proper job.

I commenced my service from The Rocks ambulance centre in inner Sydney as the proud co-pilot of a 1972 Ford F100 ambulance, a vehicle long past its use by date and a museum piece by today's standards.

Like most of my peers I worked in the inner city until a position at a preferred centre in the outer suburbs became available. I ended up at Manly on the northern beaches, where we sometimes even managed a quick swim in our lunch break, before finally transferring to St Ives to work on the rescue truck. Seven years on rescue was a pleasant but sometimes challenging change from the clinic work so often encountered in the general ambulances. Rescue work was mostly quiet with the occasional call to a vehicle rescue or an injured bushwalker. Our specialty however was rescuing cats; well someone has to do it! Using the latest in feline extrication devices we managed to save many a moggy from the wuthering heights of power poles and gum trees, without so much as a meow for our selfless efforts.

In 1997 I felt the urge to go north for the summer, wrong season I know but my wife and two kids came anyway with all that we could

fit into a trailer to check the place out, and decided we didn't want to go back. In December 1997 I was employed with St John in Darwin as a qualified Ambulance Officer, after due recognition of my experience and impoverished financial state.

The last three years has seen some pain, but my family and I now feel quite established in the Territory and have grown to appreciate the opportunities up here that aren't possible down south. We like the outdoors, the fishing and the unique lifestyle of the top end.

I have managed to get to Para 1, only took me 20 years, and am quite happy to stay there for the time being. My brain has been otherwise consumed with doing the Bachelor of Health Studies at NTU, which will hopefully position me for Mr. Bakers job when he retires, but then again I might go fishing. Did I tell you I like fishing?

Matt Davis



Daniel Maher

Hi, my name is Daniel Maher, I was born in Darwin NT, in April 1967. I lived in Darwin until Cyclone Tracy blew my family and I down to Perth WA. I have 7 members in my family, 5 brothers and 1 sister, myself being the second eldest. We lived in Perth for 3 years before mum put us in the car to start the long journey back up north to Darwin. On the way we stopped at a little town called Broome. This was where my mum was born. Broome was built around the Pearling industry in the 1800s, pearling is still the major

industry along with tourism. We moved to a community called One Arm Point. While living there I was able to learn more about my culture and be initiated into my Lore. My brothers and I were sent away to a boarding school to complete high school, in Harvey, a town south of Perth. Here we learnt all about the animals and farming. Waking up at 4:30am to milk the cows in the freezing cold was an experience, especially following them down the hill, half asleep and sliding in the S*%#@ they left behind.

Ten years later, I finally made my way back to Darwin to live and work in the mining town of Jabiru. This is where my party days started, my son was born, and my party days ended. Many years later I moved back to Perth, to kick-start my party days, met my future wife, and my party days ended once again. We lived in Broome for a few years before finally moving to Darwin.

I am currently the community liaison officer/training officer /cultural awareness officer. I have been working with St John Ambulance now for over 3 years. In my current role I travel extensively throughout communities within the NT and occasionally do trips over to WA to deliver courses.

My interests are Aussie Rules Football and the greatest team in the competition is non other than the Mighty West Coast Eagles!! My other interests are fishing, football, martial arts and football. When I win the Lotto I would like to travel around Australia and buy lifetime membership with the West Coast Eagles.

Daniel Maher

GO THE EAGLES!

PREMIERS IN 2002!!!!

ADVERTORIAL

Australian Defence Force offers great range of employment options

Navy, Army or Air Force. They may not be the first organisations you think of when considering your education or employment options. But they should be, especially when you realise all they have to offer. If you're looking for job security and a real challenge, you will find it in today's Australian Defence Force (ADF).

In the ADF you can study for a university degree or undertake technical and trade training, or receive a scholarship or undergraduate sponsorship. You may work full or part time. You can also develop leadership and management skills - qualities valued in today's workforce.

If you are interested in General Entry, there is a range of jobs to choose from including technical (trade) and non-technical positions. The types of jobs include avionics technician, cook, driver, clearance diver, rifleman and many others. Or, if you see your future in a leadership or management role then Officer Entry could be the challenge you are looking for.

The Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in Canberra offers Officer Entry and it is the ideal environment for academic and military education at the highest level. Other Officer entry options are available, for example Army offers places at the Royal Military College Duntroon for non-graduates. Navy and Air Force also offers similar opportunities through their officer training schools.

Alternatively, many opportunities exist for those who already have tertiary qualifications or you may be eligible for a generous scholarship if you have completed a part of your degree at any university.

Other Officer Entry options are available through the Royal Military College (Duntroon); Direct Entry for those who already have tertiary qualifications; or you may be eligible for a generous scholarship if you have completed one year of a degree course.

No matter job in the Navy, Army or Air Force you choose, you can take advantage of the superb facilities and training the Defence Force has to offer. You can expect a substantial salary package including free medical and dental care, subsidised accommodation and superannuation.

If you are interested in part time work, the Reserves could be just what you are looking for. You will have the opportunity to choose from an enormous range of challenging jobs; your choice depends on your interest, skills and the type of units located where you live. As a Reservist you receive tax free pay and this and won't affect any other benefits you may be receiving.

No matter which path you choose, the skills you develop in the Defence Force will be with you for life.

For more information about a career in the Defence Force, call 131901 or visit the web site at www.defencejobs.gov.au



ADVANCED AIR
Air Conditioning
Installations
Sales &
Service

**FAST SERVICE GUARANTEED
SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATIONS**

8932 3240

Fax: 8931 3339

PO Box 846, Parap Private Boxes 0804

*Proud to support the
St John Ambulance Officers*

**CENTREVILLE
ACCOMMODATION**

Ph: 8952 2169

113 Todd Street, Alice Springs 0870

ALICE DOMESTICS

PO Box 8457 Alice Springs NT 0871
Fax 8953 0664

- * Domestic, Commercial & Office Cleaning
- * Vacate Cleaning
- * Floors Stripped & Resealed
- * Carpet Cleaning
- * Call for a Free Quote



MOIRA 0417 872 370



WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?

If you're looking for education and training to set you up for life, then look no further than today's Navy, Army or Air Force. Whether it's a university degree, trade training or a wide range of other employment opportunities, we have it all. If you're interested in a university degree, the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) offers degrees in Arts, Science, Technology and Engineering. Once you graduate you take on one of a number of leadership positions, such as ship's Navigator, Army Aviator or Air Traffic Controller. Already have graduate qualifications? That's a plus. You may be eligible for direct entry at the officer level for a professional job such as a doctor or an engineer. Or, if you're still studying, undergraduate scholarships are also available to those currently studying a relevant university course. Or perhaps you'd like to learn a technical job or a trade? The Navy, Army and Air Force have some of the best technical training and apprenticeships available, with expert tutors and world class facilities and equipment. You can choose from a whole range of specialist trades in fields such as mechanics, electronics, aviation and computers. You need no trade experience to apply and you'll be paid while you learn, often at a rate much higher than equivalent civilian positions. And if you already have trade qualifications, the Defence Force may recognise them for entry into your chosen career. There are also hundreds of full time and part time vacancies in logistics, managerial, administration, communications, technical and maintenance roles. Most require no previous experience to apply - we'll train you from scratch and you'll be given benefits such as great pay, free healthcare and subsidised food and accommodation. Your qualifications will be recognised Australia-wide and your skills highly sought-after.

So if you want to learn more call **13 19 01** or visit

defencejobs.gov.au



PROTECT THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

The Natural Gas Pipeline transports gas from the Amadeus Basin in Central Australia to provide fuel for most of the Territory's power stations.

Damage to the buried pipeline could not only interrupt the Territory's vital energy supply, but could cause severe injury. Under the Energy Pipelines Act unauthorised activity on the pipeline easement could incur penalties of up to \$10,000 or 5 years imprisonment.



For your own safety do . . .

- contact NT Gas when planning work on or near the pipeline;
- get approval from NT Gas before working near the pipeline;
- notify NT Gas if you see others working near the pipeline;
- ask NT Gas for any information or assistance regarding the pipeline;
- inform NT Gas of any damages, or erosion, which you may observe.

And do not . . .

- cross the pipeline with heavy loads;
- blast within 50 metres of the pipeline;
- excavate, dig holes or erect fences;
- sink wells or bore holes;
- erect structures on the easement.

Contact:

NT GAS PTY LIMITED

PRIOR TO CARRYING OUT ANY WORK NEAR THE GAS PIPELINE

24 HOUR CONTACT - Phone: 1800 019 112