



OUTBACK *Ambulance*

VOLUME 14 No. 1 • DECEMBER 2003
• PRINT POST APPROVED -
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KATHERINE STAFF

Official Journal of
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How could I ever forget you?

As we grow older, we all forget things from time to time. But if memory loss is interfering with the daily life of you or someone you care for, see your doctor, because symptoms of Alzheimer's disease may be treated. Here is a checklist you might like to discuss:

- ☐ Problems remembering recent conversations
- ☐ Repeating the same question over and over, frequently forgetting appointments or losing things
- ☐ Difficulty performing familiar tasks such as dressing or cooking
- ☐ Problems remembering simple words or using the wrong words instead
- ☐ Getting lost in familiar places or not knowing the day or the year
- ☐ Having difficulty managing financial affairs, such as balancing a chequebook
- ☐ Rapid changes in mood for no apparent reason
- ☐ Marked changes in personality, increased suspiciousness
- ☐ A decrease in usual interests, initiatives, or no motivation for daily activities

Early detection of Alzheimer's disease is crucial in its overall management

If you recognise any of these signs or symptoms, check with your doctor. Early detection of Alzheimer's disease means that you can plan with a positive outlook for the future.

Is Alzheimer's disease treatable?

At this time, the exact causes of Alzheimer's disease are unclear and there are no known methods of either preventing or curing the condition. However, there are treatments available that may improve some of the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Your doctor will be able to tell you whether these treatments are suitable for you.



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is the official journal of

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Front cover:

The Katherine Staff

Chief Executive Officer's REPORT

I'm writing this during another Regional Management Team Meeting, a forum that has started to produce some excellent results since it's inception, with Ross Coburn, Brendan Quirke and myself all having an opportunity for formal input. I encourage all staff to access this forum for any ideas or suggestions you may have.

Having just returned from two trips to Hobart I'm starting to feel like an honorary Tasmanian, because I return in mid November for the national bowls titles. Having only been there once before, I know Hobart quite well now and can even find my way around.

Former Territorian and Council Member Michael Barrett is now the Chairman of St John in Tasmania and he and his crew did a fantastic job in June with the National Conference and First Aid Competitions. With very efficient administrative support from wife Ann the whole Conference, Seminars and Comps ran exceedingly smoothly and I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to our Tasmanian colleagues.

The Convention of Ambulance Authorities also met in Hobart in September and timed their meeting to link in with the ACAP Conference, something we will be doing again in September 2004, in Alice Springs. As usual we had a very full agenda, but the most outstanding feature for us all I think were the dual issues of continued growth in demand for Ambulance Services and the establishment of a sustainable funding model, as all jurisdictions face the challenge of escalating funding to meet the continuing growth in demand. I am

sure this will be a key issue for us over the next few months, as we have already (once again) begun the strenuous task of negotiating for additional money to ensure we retain the "equitable base" funding, identified in the DHACS commissioned Franther Report.

All eyes turn to Alice Springs next year of course, with the St John National Conference scheduled for 16 to 20 June, the Convention/ACAP in September. Both events will be held at the new Convention Centre and I am confident all the planning that has (already) gone into the Conferences will pay dividends.

On the home front, Parap centre went 24/7 with effect from 28 September and, while this date of operation was well ahead of the scheduled date of 1 July 2004, demand in the CBD had reached a point where our inner city response times suffered some slippage. This is a key performance indicator for us in our reporting to Government and the issue had to be addressed before we reached a point where we were continually failing to meet prescribed standards.

Thank you to all those people who were extremely gracious in their congratulations on the recent OAM awards. As I indicated at the time, while we were named as recipients, I join Kevin and Trevor in



accepting the award on behalf of all those dedicated paid and volunteer members of the St John family that assisted - post Bali. Thank You.

Thank you also to the countless people that enquired after the health and well-being of Ross and I after our MVA, 50km south of Katherine early in November. It was extremely moving to think so many people cared. A special thanks to Police, Fire and Katherine Hospital staff - all of whom were fantastic. Oh and - sorry about the car Steve.

Can I take this opportunity to wish all staff, family and friends of the greatest workforce (paid and volunteer) in Australia a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

And finally, it just has to be done - the football! Nope it's no good - I just can't bring myself to write about it! Cheers.

David Baker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Corporate Services Manager's REPORT

My how quickly the year is passing, the Auditors are knocking on the door, annual insurance review is complete and another budget has been organized and implemented.

Last article we spoke on the growth of our contracts area of the Organisation and it is pleasing to report that the Wickham Point LNG Darwin Project has commenced with our Paramedics on-site from 27 October. This project is going to be very exciting for the whole of the Territory and over the term of the contract we envisage that some 6 – 10 St John staff will work on the site.

Recently both David and I visited the other Centres throughout the Territory – except Nhulunbuy but hope to get there before Xmas – and it was a great opportunity to meet, chat and discover first hand what happens on the ground. With everyone on their best behavior all Centres looked great and the vehicles spotless. It is amazing what happens, with notice, the big boss (CEO) is on the way. With new staff in various locations it was good to get their opinions on how everything is structured and their thoughts on the new recruitment policies we have adopted. Tony Woods' article in this

edition is certainly worth a read.

My expertise were not wasted either whilst on the trip with Marcel (Tennant Creek) calling on me to assist her balance her husbands business accounts which she had been working on for 4 days trying to find 30cents. Easily fixed and calling on all my accounting experience it was written off to Bank Charges – job complete in 2 minutes – not worth looking any further – Marcel not happy.

David and I moved on up to Katherine in Steve's vehicle but didn't quite make it suffering from the conditions and having a car verses tree. All safe, car not so well but that is why we have insurance, and I believe they still make them. The staff were great and many thanks go out to all.

By the time you read this all the Ambulance Officers will be wearing the new green uniforms, which have received varying comments from other Emergency Services personnel, but more importantly acceptance



from staff. This change has been a long time coming and now reflects the Service on an international basis and still allows St John to recognise our hard working volunteers in the traditional black and white uniform.

With Christmas upon us I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our hardworking staff for their efforts and support during 2003 and to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Xmas and New Year. May 2004 be even better.

Congratulations to Sue & Lee Shelton on the birth of Jake.

Ross Coburn
MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES



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Manager, Education & Training Services

REPORT

The Training Department annually invites feedback from key first aid training customer groups in an effort to ensure the training and assessment services we are offering continue to be relevant, valid and reliable to their needs. Formally seeking this feedback is a requirement under the Australian Quality Training Framework Standards for Registered Training Organisations but more than that, it provides us with a valuable insight into how those making use of our services view us.

Due to the geographical diversity of our customers we seek written feedback through the completion of a Survey Form. The information we receive is then consolidated and reported to the Department of Employment, Education and Training – Employment and Training Division as part of our annual reporting requirement. The information will also be disseminated to Departmental Staff and the Executive Training Committee. While it is too early to report on the feedback at the time or writing this report, those I have seen so far continue to provide positive comments across the entire gambit of our services, administration, training, assessment and most importantly, transparency.

AQTF has elevated the importance of transparency 100 fold. It is important that anyone considering participating in a training program is fully advised, up front, of everything the course will entail, including assessment outcome expectations. This need for transparency has had a flow-on effect internally with far more open and inclusive communications channels.

The Vocational Education & Training (VET) Sector continues to consult and plan for a more effective training system. While AQTF is so obviously

an important part of this planning there are many other issues currently under discussion. To highlight some of these issues and to give readers of Outback the opportunity to develop a wider understanding of the areas St John (NT), as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) is involved with, I have included edited notes from the outcomes of 26 Regional VET Forums held across Australia in March 2003. It will be noted that while 6 'themes' are identified I have elected to focus on one which is a cornerstone of AQTF and an area St John (NT) is committed to, viz: guaranteeing Quality Products and Services.

Summary report from 26 regional forums on the national strategy for VET 2004-2010 March 2003, Prepared by The Phillips Group Pty Ltd 549 Queen Street Brisbane Qld 4000

Executive summary

Introduction:

This report presents a summary of issues raised at 26 regional forums conducted Australia-wide to provide feedback into the development of the next national strategy for vocational education and training (VET) for 2004-2010. Held in February 2003, the forums were conducted by the Australian National Training Authority



(ANTA) and were hosted in partnership at each location with the State and Territory training authority. Regional forums provided an opportunity to seek widespread industry, community and VET stakeholder input into the needs and issues to be addressed in the next national strategy.

Overview of the forum process:

Consultations at the forums were based on the discussion starter and its six themes.

- Theme 1 - Building Skills for Australian Industry
- Theme 2 - Supporting Communities
- Theme 3 - Enabling Individuals to Learn Throughout Life
- Theme 4 - Renewing and Sharing Indigenous Learning Culture
- Theme 5 - Guaranteeing Quality Products and Services
- Theme 6 - Investing in Australia's Skills

Each forum ran for two hours and followed a consistent format of introductions and welcome by the state or territory and ANTA hosts, an overview of the national strategy development process to date, an overview of six themes, discussions in breakout groups, reporting back key issues and an overall summary to conclude. To best address the issues, participants worked in small breakout groups and considered an individual theme for 45 minutes. The key issues discussed were then reported back to the larger forum group. Forum participants were also encouraged to provide written submissions to ANTA by mid March.



Manager, Education & Training Services Report *(Continued)*

Reaction to the forum process:

The overall reaction to the forum process was very positive. Participants in many centres acknowledged the importance of conducting forums in their regional centre, believing it provided an opportunity for much wider input than would normally be the case if consultations were limited by geographic or participant coverage. The forum process was adjusted after the initial forums to streamline the process. Overall, 89.2% of forum participants agreed they were able to have their say and 78.8% believed the regional forum they attended covered the important issues for the next national strategy for VET. About two thirds of participants (62.4%) agreed discussions at the forum they attended identified important issues from their region. Agreement on this issue was significantly higher outside capital cities. Most participants (84.2%) agreed the discussion starter covered the important issues for the next national strategy for VET and 75.2% agreed the forum processes and arrangements worked well.

Key issues raised:

Participants focused on the future to identify ways of improving and building on the current system to meet VET needs in 2004-2010. The role of industry training advisory bodies (ITABs) was a discussion point at nearly all forums. While some supported the ITAB structure, others believed that more effective strategies were required for industry input into VET. This includes state, national and local levels of interaction. Employability skills and generic skills for the current and future workforce are important. VET in Australia needs to develop globally competitive skills with relevance to the knowledge economy. Funding needs to respond to specific industry needs and provide the flexibility to meet changing circumstances and requirements.

Theme 5 - Guaranteeing Quality Products and Services

Priorities from guaranteeing quality products and services now and in the future include:

- 1 Measuring the quality of outcomes rather than focusing on the process.
- 2 Greater consistency in the quality of training delivered.
- 3 Providing better access to quality resources for training packages.
- 4 Supporting effective and responsive private and public sector RTO networks.
- 5 More needs to be done to share resources and funding in the future. Professional development is a vital strategy for delivering quality outcomes.
- 6 The barriers of distance create problems for training access in regional or remote Australia.
- 7 Innovative solutions are needed to ensure quality training is available in these regional areas.

Key Points

Guaranteeing quality products and services is regarded as critical to delivering high quality, relevant training outcomes:

Key priorities in this area include:

- Developing stronger industry and community links;
 - o Improved marketing of VET as a viable, valuable option:
- Ongoing dialogue with industry on training needs
 - o While some supported the ITAB system, others wanted to see different strategies used at local, regional, state and national levels.
- Monitoring changing needs:
 - o In the future, industry may want skill sets as an outcome as well as qualifications.
 - o Better links between school, VET and industry.

Key National Strategies

A number of system issues were also identified:

- Assessment of quality needs to focus on outcomes;
- Providing training choices in regional areas without duplication of training effort;
- Deliver quality and consistency of quality;
- National quality standards are required;
- Establish quality benchmarks to guide performance and improvement;
- Developing the capabilities of those who deliver and support training through professional development was identified as a major priority in regional forums. Recommended strategies include:
 - High quality professional development to guarantee quality VET outcomes -
 - Professional development for VET stakeholders and employers -
 - Increased accessibility of training resources -
 - Professional development on the VET system, training packages as well as learning and training skills.
- The requirement to meet local and special needs also emerged as a priority area for discussion and action;
- Specialist staff are needed to support equity groups;
- Better linkages between school, VET and employment;
- Recognising training excellence in industry and in communities;
- Funding strategies include:
 - Rewards or incentives to encourage reward quality outcomes -
 - Funding models which respond to quality requirements -
 - Funding models accommodating increasing collaboration across the VET sector -

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Corporate 2003

Manager, Education & Training Services Report *(Continued)*

- Responding to current and future needs.

Report Ends.

It is certainly a dynamic sector to be involved with, one which frequently challenges the traditional way we view our training and assessment responsibilities as an RTO. It is important we remember the number of course participants we enroll annually into both public education (first aid) training and Ambulance Paramedic education and training (almost 9,000 in 2003/04). As an RTO we (St John) must remain client focused to ensure the services we are providing are 'what the client wants'. We achieve this both by encouraging individual client feedback at the end of various programs and, as mentioned at the start of this report, by way of our

Course Monitoring Activities.

It seems that almost daily there are new challenges to ensure our commitment to quality service provision remains uppermost in our planning. While admitting to a certain degree of frustration with what occasionally appears to be a never ending stream of improvement opportunities, I can see that we have progressed as a training organisation to a point now where I believe we will stand up to scrutiny from internal or external review at anytime. This is primarily due to the support this Department has received from the Chairman & Councilors of St John (NT), the Chief Executive Officer David Baker and Manager, Corporate Services Ross Coburn. We have also been fortunate to have the continued support and ongoing commitment of our Chair of Training, Dr. Jan Schmitzer.

In conclusion I must acknowledge the contribution of all Training Department staff – current and past – no matter what your role is/was .. administration, teaching (full-time, part-time, associate, seconded) or support. Each of you have made St John training the respected and nationally recognised training organisation it is today and our challenge, together, is to continuously improve on the standards we have established to ensure the services we offer continue to meet the expectations of those who choose St John (NT) for their training needs.

I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a safe, successful 2004.

Brendan Quirke

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Training Framework Update

This year, like previous years, has been extremely busy. The Internal Audit Team is currently preparing for the AQTF Internal Audit to be conducted over the November – December period. Audits will be undertaken in all regions, a report generated and submitted to the Registration Authority.

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In the last issue of Outback I spoke about AQTF Standard 11 – the use of National and State/Territory Logos and Standard 12 – Ethical Marketing and Advertising.

Counting down the Standards from 12 to 1, this issue will be based around Standard 9 – Learning and Assessment Strategies and also Standard 10 – the issuing of AQTF qualifications and Statements of Attainment. Under each of the Standards identified below, is a basic description of how we approach them to ensure compliance with AQTF.

Standard 9 requires that the RTO identifies, negotiates, plans and implements appropriate learning and assessment strategies to meet the needs of each of its clients.

Private Courses

- Learning and Assessment strategies are negotiated through consultation with organisation/industry groups prior to course delivery. We aim to ensure we

deliver courses at consistently high standards, tailor courses to suit customer needs and take into account the following:

- o course delivery times;
- o language;
- o literacy;
- o numeracy;
- o physical impairment;
- o special learning & assessment requirements; and
- o work environments

Once all of this information is received, the trainer(s) are able to plan and implement the necessary requirements into their course delivery.

The trainer(s) course delivery is monitored through feedback forms issued to participants at the completion of the course. Comments are summarised and discussed at relevant training committees.

Annual Course Monitoring takes place and involves large organisations/industry groups

- On an annual basis, we facilitate a course monitoring activity for each accredited course/Training Package appearing on the Scope of Registration.



- Clients are contacted and invited to submit feedback regarding training and assessment improvement opportunities.
- The information/feedback received from these organisations/industry groups is used to review the relevancy of our courses and to ensure we continue to offer valid, reliable and flexible training and assessment services.

All feedback received is collated, summarised, documented and then submitted to the Registration Authority as part of annual reporting requirement for AQTF. A separate report is given to all St John (NT) regions and organisation/industry groups who participated in the process. Advice pertaining to improvement opportunities is then given to these groups and reports are discussed and tabled at all St John (NT) training committee meetings.

Public Courses

As most of our courses are designed based around participants attending a public course, our delivery and assessment takes a generic rather than customised approach. Feedback from participants is encouraged, documented and discussed at the Public Education Committee.

- Any improvement opportunities that are identified are recorded and reported to the Executive

Training Committee which is responsible for monitoring learning and assessment strategies.

- The Public Education Committee is responsible for planning approaches to ensure the learning and assessment strategies are designed, trialed, reviewed for improvement and refined yet again all before final approval is given to validate such strategies.
- All validation evidence is signed and kept on file.

All new learning and assessment strategies are recorded on course registration applications which are submitted to the registering authority.

Ambulance Paramedic Training

This year has been exciting and quite positive with the implementation of new assessments (many of which are performed on-the-job).

Monitoring of assessments is an ongoing process within the Ambulance Officer Training College (AOTC) with feedback being reported to the Ambulance Paramedic Training Committee.

Monitoring of courses for 2003 has indicated that out-sourced units of competence (eg.EAS) have been well received.

The last monitoring activity in relation to Ambulance Paramedic Training will be conducted in December. Key stakeholders have been invited to give constructive feedback to ensure AOTC continue

to deliver and assess at a standard which addresses their needs but at the same time comply with the AQTF.

Standard 10 involves the RTO issuing AQF Qualifications and Statements of Attainment that meet the requirements of the AQF Implementation Handbook and the endorsed Training Packages and accredited courses within the scope of its registration.

Due to the short duration of first aid courses participants who are deemed competent in all requirements necessary for a particular course appearing on our Scope of Registration will be issued with a Statement of Attainment.

This differs however for 'Ambulance Studies' as these programs are generally longer in duration and are delivered out of the Health Training Package (comprising of many units) where competencies are achieved both on and off the job. Students who enroll and complete all the necessary requirements will in this situation receive a qualification such as a Diploma or an Advanced Diploma.

When audited externally against Standard 10, St John (NT) must be able to prove that compliance is maintained by having systems in place such as policies and procedures for the issuing, recording and reporting of student outcomes where either a Statement of Attainment or a Qualification has been issued. Part of this process includes ensuring the correct information and use of logos are displayed appropriately and in accordance with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Implementation Handbook.

These two standards are very complex. The amount of time taken to coordinate all activities and projects within the Training Department is astronomical to say the least.

As always I would like to thank everyone who in many cases volunteer their valuable time to be present at the Public Education, Ambulance Paramedic and Executive Training Committees and to all of the participants/ organisations/industry groups who give us their wonderful feedback.

Last of all a big 'thanks' to all of the administration/support staff and to all of the trainers who make AQTF work.

Thanks again everyone!

ANNETTA ALBANESE

EDUCATION & TRAINING RESOURCE OFFICER

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Children's Essay Competition

The Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise and the Hon Chris Burns MLA recently sponsored an essay competition for Primary School children, to raise their awareness of St John Ambulance and the Paramedics that work for St John in the Territory.

I would like to congratulate all of the children on their excellent work, especially the winner Maree Grogan from St Francis of Assisi School at Humpty Doo. The following are some extracts from the children's essays:

Nightcliff Primary School

"I wouldn't like to live in a community without the St John Ambulance because a lot of people would be in danger of hurting themselves and/or others because there is no-one to take care of them when they get hurt" – Sarah

"In the Northern Territory and Western Australia, St John Ambulance Officers have another important job to do. They are responsible for running the public Ambulance Service which means they take people to hospital. Even though they are not trained doctors or nurses, they need a lot of medical training because people who need an ambulance are often badly injured or very sick or even having a baby. Their job is to keep people alive until they reach the hospital" – Eleanor

"St John Ambulance Officers are always at very big events to make sure people are safe and deal with accidents. They have a code of conduct that means you know they will treat you with respect, fairness and honesty" – Lachlan

"St John people are important to the community. They have fun while serving the community" – Nathan

St Mary's Primary School

"Paramedics go through a lot of sick sights what we would normally throw up in, but they get used to it" – Celeste

"When they have the sirens on that means to 'GET OUT OF THE WAY'" – Laura

"The Ambulance Officers are a helpful company that covers the whole world. They all do the same thing helping people in need and help people with mental illness, broken arms or legs, cracked heads or sores" – Peter

"And to conclude, it's very hard to become an Ambulance Officer because of training, cleaning up and obeying the law while saving peoples lives" – Matthew

"St John Ambulance Officers help us in an emergency and they are always there when we need them. St John Ambulance Officers are a great helping hand and are friendly, caring, nice people and not just in an emergency" – Kristina

"Our community benefits from the loyal and efficient service that the St John Ambulance Officers provide us with. They do a super job" – Anthony

St Francis of Assisi School, Humpty Doo

"St John Ambulance is very valuable to us in the NT because it is our only Ambulance Service and has been and will always be for us and should be valued. They may not save all sick and injured people's lives, but they do save the majority. It is their duty to do the best they can. St John Ambulance tries to help us every day" – Maree

"St John Ambulance Service is a must. We need them and they are a very big help to everyone. They are great people and give up their time for people in need" – Haylee

Durack Primary School

"St John Ambulance Officers are very special people. They help people in need and provide safe transport for older people." – Josinta

"One time I was at the show and split my knuckle to the bone. I was scared and worried I fell onto the ground and I saw two people coming toward me with black pants and white shirts and a bag. I screamed. They put some water on my knuckle and cleaned it out, then they put some red liquid on it. It stung like hell. I was a big sook" – Nathan

"St John Ambulance teaches people first aid so that people can use first aid when their friend or family member is accidentally injured. People can use first aid to help others until the Ambulance arrives." – Frederick

"The importance of St John Ambulance Officers in the community is to give medical assistance to injured people and they give first aid to sick people and they help distressed people. Thank you St John men and women for looking after friends and family and old people and people with a disability" – Nryssa

Graduation Day

September 11, 2003.

ALICE SPRINGS

It was a very warm blustery day that greeted us for the Graduation Day held at the local council chambers.

We were honored to have many dignitaries present for this memorable day. Our Mayor Fran Kilgariff, who left her sick bed to attend, we extend our sincere thanks. Other noted dignitaries included Dr Jan Schmitzer, Mr Bernie Kilgariff, Mr Alan Bromwich, Our very smartly attired senior management personnel, and of course our new Paramedic's and their families.

Our very capable Training Manager Mr Brendan Quirke who is never at a loss for words was our Master of Ceremonies, and completed his task keeping the proceedings on track, thank you to Brendan.

Dr Jan Schmitzer gave an excellent speech encouraging all Paramedics to extend their knowledge in the pursuit of excellence. Thank you, Jan.

Our Mayor, Fran Kilgariff presented the following happy and proud Paramedics with their Diploma in Paramedical Science (Ambulance) : Simon Cooper, Tania Craig, Nicolle Marchant, Peter Wilson, Andrew Naden and Katharine Taylor. Congratulations to you all.

Noel Talbot accepted his five year service award, well done and congratulations to Noel.

Our very boisterous group of some 52 persons, attended an excellent dinner later that evening at the Firkin and Hound, our English pub

in the middle of the outback, and the excellence of the day carried far into the night, making it a proud and happy day for all those attending.

Regards,

Sandra Schmidt,
Alice Springs.



Mayor Kilgariff with (l to r) Dr. Jan Schmitzer, Noel Talbot and graduating students.



Mayor Kilgariff with Council and management.



The proud graduates.



Graduates awaiting their awards.

Characters from Katherine

Job Number One

Mark Ferguson and I were called out to one of our very well known local residents, who I must say was very thoughtful towards the crew this morning, as the previous evening she'd had the misfortune of picking up a cane toad and had forgotten to wash her hands afterwards. She stated to the crew that she could not breath all night which meant that she could not sleep either. When asked why she had decided to call us at 6am she stated that she did not want to get the crew out of bed too early. (Very thoughtful don't you think?)

Job Number Two

Mark and I were responding to a '000'chest pain call outside the BP service station in town. When we arrived the gentleman that had called 000 walked over to us and asked to have his blood pressure taken! When asked if he had chest pain, he replied "I don't have chest pain I just wanted my blood pressure taken!" Needless to say our friend was given lots of reassurance and some tactful advice and sent on his way.

Job Number Three

At about 1700 hrs Mark and I were called to one of the local institutions charged with helping those less fortunate in our community, for an uncontrolled hemorrhage from the finger. The patient had been treated by staff and then put in the shower, when the patient was checked on there was apparently "blood everywhere." So the Ambulance was called. As we arrived on scene we were met by one of the staff who sheepishly told us "sorry, but we bandaged the wrong finger."

Yes, we do get seriously injured patients in Katherine. (Including our two big bosses!) On Friday night at 1916 hrs Mark and I were sent to rendezvous with one of the local stations, for a 22 year old male patient that had been closing a heavy solid metal gate, when a big heifer kicked the gate which swung back and hit the patient in the head. The patient had a large hematoma to the forehead, uncontrolled hemorrhage from the nose and severe cervical pain.

When we finally got to our patient 200km later, we were pleasantly

surprised to see that the hemorrhage had stopped and the hematoma had gone down and the patient had been stabilised very well. They had taken a house door off its hinges and to fit it in the back of the 80 series Landcruiser wagon they had cut 200ml off the bottom of the door, grabbed someone's camp mattress, laid the mattress, on the door, laid the patient on top, cut some other unlucky persons mattress into a u-shape as a C collar and tied the patients forehead to the door with a strip of bed sheet. As the patient was cold, six people lost their doonas for the night.

Even though they had laid the rear seats forward the patient was still at a 30 degree angle on the door, so four people kneeled in the back of the vehicle to keep the patient stable. I just hope that if I ever get injured in the bush I have mates like that to help me.

Hope you enjoy these, I did.

By Wayne Goodrem

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Bali Remembered

It's hard to believe a year has passed since the Bali tragedy on October 12, 2002. Sunday October 12, 2003 marked the event with memorial services held Australia wide allowing survivors, families and personnel involved in the aftermath to reflect, pay their respects and move forward. The road will be long and hard for many and the people of Australia applaud the courage and resolve of those affected so deeply as they continue their journey of healing.

Attending the memorial service at the Uniting Church Smith St Darwin, I was again reminded of the organisations and individuals required to mount such an impressive response. I recalled the planning involved and reflected on the pivotal role played by St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. The teamwork demonstrated by all members of our organisation, regardless of rank or position, demonstrates the caliber of the Territory team.

On October 17, 2003 the government gazette announced a number of Territorians had been honored with the Order of Australia



Members receiving their Awards - November 2003

Medal for their contribution to the Bali response, including three members of St John Ambulance. Mr. David Baker, CEO; Mr. Kevin Blake, OIC Katherine and Mr. Trevor Sellick, Operations Manager Northern received awards at an investiture ceremony at the Royal Darwin Hospital October 29, 2003. We each acknowledge the outstanding contribution of all St John Ambulance members involved both directly and indirectly and accepted the awards on behalf of the team.

In the words of the late Fred Hollows, "I believe a basic attribute of mankind, is that we care for each other". It is a great honor to be a part of an organisation that is dedicated to the outworking of its motto that has stood the test of time: "Pro Utilitate Hominum . . . for the service of mankind".

Trevor Sellick
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Tales from the Dark Side....

In St John folklore there are two words that can conjure an image of hell on earth, dark and desperate - the domain of the lost. The kind of place to which you are sent when you have done something bad. Really bad. Those two words - "Tennant" and "Creek" - when married together, represent something which we would all run screaming from. Arms flailing, spittle flying, wailing like a banshee. Destination? Anywhere but there. The kind of place where, when travelling from North to South, you just stop to fuel up and keep on going - "quick, back in the car before it knows we're here!"

And here I am.

I was on the rescue course in July when the news rumbled down the ranks - the great beast Tennant demanded sacrifice. Two of them in fact - and us lucky trainees were, of course, the most likely fodder to be offered. It was like an episode of Survivor - who will get the chop this evening? An air of terror descended over us fledglings. Legs began wobbling curiously, excursions to the facilities became more frequent. Eyes glazed over, blabbering incomprehensible rubbish at our own shadows. Coupled with that was the further announcement that another sacrifice was needed in November - the beast was indeed hungry - so even if you managed to dodge the draft this time, there was always the next time. Mel Carter, who had already done her time in purgatory, was barely able to conceal her amusement.

It was in this air of linen-soiling that both myself and Sophie (the two of us from Alice) decided that we would offer ourselves to the jaws of certain doom, thereby sparing our compadres the agony.

Because we are so selfless.
Because we care.

Or perhaps it was because we simply wanted to get it over and done with (it's like Queensland - once you've been you never have to go back again) and it would score us a move to a centre of our choice (apparently) come the end of it. I really can't remember. I'm fairly sure it was the selfless version.

So, come August 11 there was I, my two dogs and my cat, all positively hitting turbo in my dilapidated car at 105kph (top speed) Northward to sunny TFC. My cat tried to commit suicide out the window and I almost considered stopping and imbibing him with beer to get him to calm down. But that's another story. I have now been residing in Tennant for a grand total of 3 months. Now here comes the fun part - where I risk scorn and aspersions cast on my intellectual capacity (which kind of happens anyway) - when I say that it's really not that bad. I would extend myself as far to say that I actually enjoy it here. Thank god I'm not on some stage at the

moment, for rotten fruit would surely come raining down.

The town itself was quite a surprise in itself - there is not much that you don't have here - those things being a cinema (which for me is excruciating), Austar (and let's face it - who really cares), and broadband internet (great, now I can be deluged with spam and popups at twice the speed). Oh, and the fruit and veg has a shelf life of approximately 2 hours. But they do have a great pub. A great pub. The same cannot be said for the adjoining nightclub, of which I have spent one drunken night in and that will do me just nicely thank you. They have a recreation tank, which at the moment you can cross from one side to the other without getting anything wet from the knees up. The dogs love it though. Everything is reasonably priced (except the aforementioned fruit and veg). There is also sport, of course - if you're into running around chasing inflated things. Which I'm not. They have quite a good gym and of course a town pool. It's quite gratifying when you can say "I did 40 laps of the pool today", not mentioning that it's only a half-size pool.

The best thing though is the people. Everyone is quite friendly and helpful, which is great when you lock yourself out of your own house the day you move in. And lock yourself out of your own car. People wave to you for no reason at all, which can be disturbing sometimes. I actually get along with my neighbours, which hardly ever happens. It's that kind of place.

On the work front, yes it is true that Tennant is (dare I say it) quiet - but I must say that I have been

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ACCIDENT / INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Name: TOM WOOD Department: _____
Date: 25/8/03 Time: 1810 Location: TENWANT CREEK

This form is to be completed by all employees involved in an accident / incident which may or may not involve loss of time and / or medical treatment during working hours, or travelling to / from work.

Details of Accident / Incident:

THERE'S NO EASY OR NON-EMBARASSING WAY TO DESCRIBE THIS. I WAS ON CALL ON THE WEEKEND OF 22/8 TO 25/8 AND HAD THE TENWANT CREEK "CALL 2" PHONE ON MY PERSON. I WAS RECLINING RATHER COMFORTABLY WHEN THE DESIRE FOR A DECENT BOWEL MOTION CAME OVER ME. UPON ENTERING MY COMMUNE I REQUESTED TO UNHOLSTER THE CALL 2 PHONE FROM MY JEANS, AND UPON DROPPING SAID GADGET THE CALL 2 PHONE UNHOOKED FROM THE BELT AND PROCEEDED TO TUMBLE FORTH INTO THE BOWL. IT MADE QUITE AN AUDIBLE SPLASH I MUST SAY. I WAS MOMENTARILY CONFUSED, THINKING I'D INADVERTENTLY COMMENCED MY MOTION BEFORE COMFORTABLY SEATED. WHEN THE FULL REALIZATION AND HORROR OF WHAT HAD JUST TRANSPIRED WASHED OVER ME. MUCH SCRABBLING THEN ENSUED AND I MUST HAVE LOOKED QUITE A SIGHT RETRIEVING THE NOW-AQUATIC CALL 2 PHONE. AMAZINGLY, ONCE THE PHONE WAS BACK ON DRY LAND, IT STILL WORKED! THE PROGNOSIS, HOWEVER, WAS POOR AND THE POOR BEAST GRADUALLY DETERIORATED AND LOST ALL FUNCTION. AS YOU WOULD. THE CALL 2 PHONE WAS EXCHANGED FOR THE CALL 3 PHONE WHILE I DREAMT UP ALL MANNER OF FAIRY TALES TO EXCUSE CALL 2'S DEMISE. I'M NOT MUCH OF A LIAR THOUGH.

* I MUST STRESS - THE TOILET WAS UN-SOILED

Signature of Employee

THANK GOD THERE WERE NONE
Signature of Witness

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Giants Reef looks forward to continuing a strong association with St John, Tennant Creek for many years to come.

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Tales from the Dark Side..... (Continued)



Staff from Tennant Creek - (l-r) Marcel Clark, Scott Loechel, David Baker (CEO), Ross Coburn (Manager Corporate Services), Lisa Trevaskis and Tony Wood.

quite surprised and happy with the quality and variety of work. Being a newbie I am of course not that experienced in what exactly "quality" of work is, but I have attended cases here and seen things here that I did not see in my 8 months on road in Alice. Which is all very exciting when you're green. The ambulance centre itself is quite well equipped and would probably surprise more than a few with how shabby it isn't. There is always something to do, and there is plenty of opportunity for study (being a nerd is such a challenge). How fun it is to strap yourself into a KED! And then pretend there's a fire! Thrill to the joy of injecting your umpteenth orange! Spend all night shocking the expression off an ALS mannequin and then pressing the "print report" button on the monitor - it's still printing 30 minutes later! Won't be doing that again! Intubate said ALS mannequin just for fun,

even though it's way beyond your skill level. Then strap an injecting arm onto the very same mannequin and cannulate it many times - again, skill levels. Why? Just because you can!

Possibly the greatest aspect of work in Tennant is that you learn to stand on your own two feet. You have to entertain the possibility of doing a "track job" with someone who has no more experience than you do and there is no backup. It is just you, your partner, your patient - and hopefully your wits. This has happened to me already - with positive results thank god - and probably the most remarkable thing that happens is that your confidence climbs a couple of floors.

Tennant has also been the scene of my first incident report. Which thankfully did not involve wrapping a vehicle around a tree, but rather the quick immersion of one of the

call phones in my toilet. Just a quick dunk, which saw the quickest reflex grab in written history. If it had survived this incident I had planned on calling it "Titanic". And just the other day, yet another coup de'tat which involved putting two stroke fuel in the centre's non-two-stroke mower. I then proceeded to comment to my OIC how it had no grunt and it would probably be quicker to run around the grass with a pair of scissors. I had my sexuality questioned by an elderly gent, which I thought was rather ungrateful seeing as I had just helped him and his wife out of paying an interstate ambulance bill. I have been offered \$10,000 for my dogs, which is about \$9999 more than they are worth.

All in all, I have been in Tennant 3 months now and it does not feel like it. My experiences so far both on and off the job have been many and varied - at times amusing, at times downright bizarre. But rarely dull. The call weekends can be a mite uninteresting if it's quiet, but that's where a thumping games console connected to your TV comes in handy. It is often said of small towns that it is what you make it, and I believe Tennant to be a case in point. Do I believe it was worthwhile taking the plunge and coming here? Most definitely. Do I think I'll learn something from Tennant? I already have, even if it's only how to break into your own house (which is basically sheer force applied to a window, with lots of expletives). And most importantly, the big question I have asked myself a few times;

"Once my 12 months is up, would I consider staying on?"

Ummmmmm.....



World Congress on Emergency and Disaster Medicine

From the 6th-10th of May, St John Ambulance and ACAP, kindly sponsored Scott Loechel and I to attend the World Congress on Emergency and Disaster Medicine (WCEDEM). A host of people from around the world met at Melbourne's Sofitel Hotel to attend the conference which was facilitated by the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine.

Several key organisations were heavily involved which included the World Health Organisation, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, Australian Disaster Medicine Group, Convention of Ambulance Authorities, Macfarlane Burnet Institute, Centre for International Health, Monash University Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies, Aus Aide and Medecins sans Frontieres. Key speakers delivered extraordinary accounts of their experience and research, which captivated audiences and provided the catalyst for many lengthy and insightful discussions that would ensue (for many... over wine until the early hours of the morning!).

The first two days of the conference were dedicated to specific workshops. Some would last several hours whilst others required the whole day. The topics of these workshops included (but were not limited to):

- Health Disaster Management: Guidelines for Evaluation and Research in the Utstein Style
- Rapid Initial Assessment in Public Health Emergencies
- Planning the Recovery Phase Following Public Health Emergencies
- A Possible Cochrane

Collaboration Network in Pre-hospital Care

- Community Based Early Defibrillation Programs

The Cochrane Collaboration.

On Tuesday, I attended a day-long session on the establishment of a Pre-hospital care field with in the Cochrane Collaboration. The Cochrane Collaboration was established in 1983, so named after an epidemiologist Archie Cochrane. Cochrane was an advocate for making publicly available reliable, up-to-date reviews of research evidence. The Cochrane Collaboration states:

If this is not done, important effects of health care (good and bad) will not be identified promptly, and people using the health services will be ill served as a result. In addition, without systematic, up-to-date reviews of previous research, plans for new research will not be well informed. As a result, researchers and funding bodies will miss promising leads, and embark on studies asking questions that have already been answered.

(The Cochrane Collaboration, n.d: 2)

The focus of the Cochrane Collaboration is to review all available randomised controlled trials (RCTs) relevant to specific topics within health care. There are approximately 42 review groups that: "...generate reliable, up-to-date evidence relevant to the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of particular health problems or groups of problems" (The Cochrane Collaboration, n.d: 3).

Within the Cochrane Collaboration there are certain groupings known as 'fields' that focus on specific areas of health care as opposed to

isolated health problems. Areas such as anaesthetics, public health and cardiology etc are represented within the fields

The Collaboration (n.d: 4) states:

People working in fields hand search specialist journals, help to ensure that priorities and perspectives in their field of interest are reflected in the work of collaborative review groups, compile specialist databases of reviews, co-ordinate activities with relevant agencies outside the collaboration, and comment on systematic reviews relating to their particular area.

At present 21 of the 42 Cochrane review groups relate to pre-hospital care, however, there is no formal representation that is primarily pre-hospital care focused. Hence, moves were made to develop a field specific to this area within the Cochrane Collaboration.

The group consisted of approximately twenty people, mainly academics and medical specialists. I died of fright and embarrassment as the facilitator suggested we go around the room to introduce ourselves and indicate our reason for attending. So I sat there and sweated as each person told the room of their high status jobs director of this, senior physician here; senior lecturer there; member of Iadididida etc., oh boy...just a slight inferiority complex... if I could of politely run out of the room - I would of done: "Arrgh, Hi! I'm Kate, a paramedic from the Northern Territory and I'm interested in research!". Drrrrr! I pleaded for Scottie to beam me up... but he didn't.

All that anxiety soon dissipated as I began to learn of all the

World Congress on Emergency and Disaster Medicine... (Continued)

complexities involved in the Cochrane Collaboration and the stringent and rigorous aspects of research and the various aspects of setting up a field within the collaboration. The result of this meeting was the precursory formation of a steering committee. The rationale, aims and scope of the field were agreed upon. The registration process has only just begun – so it will be some time before the field is established. I was admittedly remiss that the lack of "roadie" presence in the room and it occurred to me that much of the direction of ambulance seems so often to lay in the hands of academics and specialists (not so ambulance orientated) as opposed to the ground working ambo! Is it that ambos are not interested? Or is it because of discrepancies in information sharing? I know not the answer.

On Thursday, the conference was officially opened. During the opening, I admit I felt slightly chuffed when the Federal Health Minister made mention of Darwin's great ability to cope with the influx of the critically ill during the Bali Bombing. As her speech continued on for quite some time (as politician's speeches seem to!!!) I was amused when she added the importance in today's age of "the good ole' washing of hands". I snuck a little giggle seeing as she was talking to physicians, specialists

and other esteemed health professionals from around the world who I imagine are quite adept at washing their hands!

The next three days were long. I say this because the bombardment of information being imparted felt endless. Topics were generally 1-2 hours long and the bulk of material presented included mainly research. The importance research plays in developing fields of practice became increasingly apparent.

Topics presented included, but were not limited to the following:

- Epidemiology of Disasters and Complex Humanitarian Emergencies
- Disaster Evaluation Methods
- Prehospital and Emergency Medicine – Trauma Systems
- A Research Agenda in Disaster Medicine: What is Required for Effective Global Collaboration?
- Disaster Planning
- Children in Disasters
- Ethical Issues in Disasters and Emergencies
- Health Consequences of the Iraq Conflict
- Prehospital and Emergency Medicine: Coronary Care, Improving the Chain of Survival.

There were also many task force meetings that delegates were invited to attend. Information was exchanged and groups formed to discuss issues and lobby ideas.

These included the likes of:

- Disaster Planning
- Co-ordination and Control
- NBC Hazards
- Medical Response to Terrorism, etc.

One of the main highlights of the conference was the amazing amount of information that was so readily available. I felt privileged and excited listening to the experiences and research of such a diverse group of people who all shared common interests. I found that the conference encouraged ideas of change and improvement in the area of disaster and emergency medicine much of which was focused in the area of Prehospital care. Again, the importance research plays in developing best practice was reinforced. I would particularly like to thank St John Ambulance and ACAP for the opportunity to attend such an exciting and informative conference.

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Children's Week - October '03

The sixth annual Children's Week held in October was another success for 2003. Once again the crew of St John Ambulance Alice Springs joined Universal Children's Day festivities. In Alice Springs the ambulance crew have been actively involved with Children's Week since 1998 and have been supportive in organising the sausage sizzle for the Children's Week Committee. Children's Week is a time to promote community awareness, promote children's talents, skills and abilities. The day also provided the opportunity for the Ambulance crew to show off their new uniforms to the community. I felt that the timing was quite positive for the new uniforms as it is a day that families and children relate the sausage sizzle with St John Ambulance and Universal Children's Day.

This year brought along new challenges for the crew and admin staff. Certain people were nominated to be entertainers for the morning as it was seen to be good public relations for their study or if you leave St John ambulance as an employee, this is your consequence (we will come back to that later). The morning started at 7am, the weather was hot and windy and I just knew the day was going to be disgusting. Then came the headache, the tents for the day were stuck in Tea tree, what a day this was going to be. Correctional Services were quick to organise more shade at the last minute and the old stress levels were starting to decrease slowly. The target for this year's sausages was 70kg for nearly 1000 hungry children. The budding chefs for this year were Kyron Wright, Steve Peers and Noel Talbot, they were organised and fighting fit to complete their mission, however Kyron was quite sad that his usual companion Craig Garraway deserted him as he wanted to try a new profession in



learning how to serve the sausages on the bread. This seemed to be a challenging task for him however he had Liz Talbot there to provide support and to make sure he did the job right. Then onto the crew volunteers whom had the task of keeping their minds on the job with the production line of handing out the food to the children. Believe me when it comes to food the children don't wait for anyone, they want it now in any which way and form. Lesson number one, stand your ground and then give them what they want. Everyone at the sausage sizzle did a fantastic job and thank you once again for supporting the event.

Now back to public relations for the day. This year I needed someone for Hector the Road Safety Cat and Ima the Safety House. The first volunteer needed quite some persuasion however with a little encouragement from his peers Chris Parrott became the new victim for Hector. Chris was unsure and hesitant to start with however with some help from his superior he was quick to see the benefits of the public relations side of the day and how it could benefit him. The second volunteer on the other hand didn't need any persuasion at all, she was keen and ready for the challenge to be Ima the Safety House.

We literally had to peel the suit of her as she was having so much fun dancing around the place. A big thank you to Lisa Harsfield who has sadly now left the St John Ambulance administration staff and to Chris for being great entertainers for the day. Chris, I promise that the next time that you volunteer (c'mon I know you had fun) that the children will be a lot kinder and will leave your tail alone.

Universal Children's Day was also held in Tennant Creek and the Ambulance crew were involved in the festivities. A thank you for their support and assistance and hope their community support is carried on for next year.

On behalf of the Children's Week Committee I would like to thank the crew of St John Ambulance Alice Springs for their continued support for Children's Week, as it is an event run by volunteers and relies heavily on community organizations like yourselves for man power and donations to be able to run successfully.

Until next time, remember to keep your humour, sanity and enthusiasm. We are always looking for entertainers.

Sharolyn Talbot

COMMITTEE MEMBER
NT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CHILDREN'S
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Rescue Course 2003

Specialist Scene Management & Patient Extrication



Heavy duty fun..

In June, 16 Student Paramedics came together to do another component of our Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance). It was the Rescue course! Most of us didn't know each other as we came from every station around the N.T. and were going to be spending the next 2 weeks together.

Paramedics who have now graduated all agree that the rescue course is the best out of all of them, and by the end of our 2 weeks, we had to agree.

Having instructors like Greg Coates and Jim Leigh, also helped the enjoyment of the course with their expert knowledge in this field.

There was a lot to be learnt over the next two weeks, rope tying and lashing, electrical safety, disaster concepts, dangerous goods and HAZCHEM, fire safety, moving through rough terrain, search techniques, rescue from heights and depths, working in confined spaces, and triage just to name a few.



Students and instructors after the course.

The Rescue Course wouldn't have been complete without the abseiling and repelling with the Territory Response Group off East Point cliffs, or patient extrication using the jaws of life to cut up cars with the Army Furies, or maybe even getting to use the BA (breathing apparatus) equipment through smoke filled rooms with the Federal Furies. But it was all part of the course and someone had to do it!

This course is all about team work and the ability to work with others in a decision making process and at times under pressure. It combines theory with the practical

and also scenarios to give us the education we need in this occupation.

Not only do we work with other Paramedics, but we also work with the Police, and Fire Fighters at accident scenes and sites. This course gives both the knowledge and understanding of each of these rolls at a job.

Most of us spent our spare time practising our knots, learning the different ropes and their safe working load, practising different

lifts with each other (sometimes quite intimate positions!), and trying to remember all the roles and responsibilities at a disaster site- from the Ambulance Transport Officer, to the Ambulance Commander!

From a group of 16 people who barely knew each other, Team Work was the key to our success, and of course the willingness from all of us to have heaps of fun.

All of us will remember our rescue course and the great fun we had on it, and with the friendships we made through it, "Take One For the Team!"

Hazards of the Job

0915 hrs Saturday morning, the call phone rings and I am dispatched to a chest pain at Hidden Valley camp, another routine job I thought. Due to the code one and the fact we were only there half an hour ago the crew meet inside the camp at the house. The crew arrive within 1 minute of each other and proceed to treat the patient, an elderly male with chest pain. Shortly into the treatment it is decided that the patient should attend Alice Springs Hospital and the patients agrees.

In the background we hear the sound of breaking glass, I look around and see a male removing his star picket from the rear window of car 14, the station wagon which I haven't driven to the job. As I inform my partner of this event it becomes very obvious of the male's intention to inflict similar actions upon us with the picket, this is also relayed to my partner. The decision to remove ourselves from the area is quickly agreed upon and commenced. As we run to the rear of the yard our attacker is in fast pursuit still carrying his picket, my partner and I split up and I can hear him trying to radio to comms. I decide that a vehicle would be an asset to our escape, doubling back around the yard and heading for the car I notice that our attacker is not only still carrying his picket but is also gaining ground considerably on me. I get to the car and look across at him now less than 10 meters away and realise that this is not going to be the clean getaway that I had hoped for. As I climb into the driver's seat I am faced with the question of his next actions, will he attack the front of the car? Or perhaps try and open the doors? As I reach for the ignition I look up and it all becomes very clear as he raises the picket above his head in a spear like stance. This was not one of the options that I had thought of but now had to deal with. I watch as the picket is rammed down towards my chest through the windscreen. I turn to my right so as to avoid the picket and grab hold of it with my left hand so as to prevent a second attempt. I reach for the ignition with my right



and start the car. I can feel the attacker trying to pull the star picket out as he tells me he is going to kill me. I place the car in reverse and drive away with the star picket still in the windscreen to collect my partner. We contact communications with a sitrep and rendezvous with the police at the entrance of the camp, follow

them back to the scene and continue treatment of our patient. Police apprehend the offender shortly after.

We found out a couple of days later that the offender had been fighting with his wife, and upon becoming physical with her he was accosted by her two brothers. He had then left and tried to vandalise their car where her two brothers again accosted him. He'd then left the area and noticed us as we treated our patient and decided to vent his anger onto us.

Thinking back and discussing the incident with my partner we ask ourselves many questions such as - should we have tried to disarm him? This thought crossed our mind at the commencement of the incident; problems with this include how will the other people in the camp react? If the answer to this is badly then we are now confronted with multiple attackers. What happens if a bystander trying to help us gets hurt? Do we have a responsibility to others regarding their safety as well as ours? What if we are unsuccessful with our attempt to disarm him? If we become injured we are then prone for further harm as we are now incapacitated and cannot flee. Should we have left the car and kept running? Our attacker was gaining



Hazards of the Job

considerable ground on us and it was only a matter of time before he caught up with us. At what point do you delay your retreat to contact comms? Andrew had tried to contact comms as he was running but was unsuccessful. The earlier comms are contacted the sooner police will arrive; however you don't want this process to impede on your escape. In our case we were lucky, as one of the houses in the camp had called the police prior to our successful radio call to comms.

During our work we are often forced to place ourselves into situations and areas that are not

always nice, warm and cuddly and it is easy to fall into the trap of complacency. One of your best defences in a volatile situation is preparedness; if you can predict the possible outcome/reaction of a situation then you can have a certain level of readiness. Napoleon is famous for the saying "fore-warned is to be fore-armed". We need to not only predict a possible situation but also how we will react to it. Panic is what will cause a situation to go bad really fast so take a couple of seconds to think and rationalise, it will be necessary to re-assess continually during the situation in case it is not going exactly as

predicted. We need to be aware of our surroundings as we enter an area or room. Who is there, there state of mind, where are the exits should you need to retreat quickly, parking the vehicle so as to maximise your escape time. If it is not you treating the patient then keep a continual lookout for possible warning signs, it is your responsibility to watch your partners back, remember you want them to watch yours when it's your job. Don't fall into the trap of "it won't happen to me" because it just might.

Gary Carter
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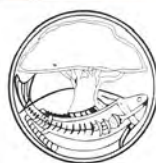
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Palmerston

REPORT



Well here we are almost at the end of another year, and what a busy year it's been. Undoubtedly the biggest event for 2003 has been the Grand opening of the new Palmerston Adult Division on the 23rd January.

Commissioner Andrew Hodges and Territory Superintendent Sue Cooper were both in attendance with the newly appointed Divisional Superintendent Allan Hough all of whom gave their obligatory speeches before nibbles and a few drinks.

The new building is situated at Cook Street Farrah, in Palmerson, opposite the new Palmerston Medical Precinct and Ambulance Station. We have a large room for training and function purposes, we also have a large kitchen and office facilities with all the appliances and equipment one could ever hope for. We also have plenty of off street parking and gardens. A fantastic building for conducting training courses in a professional environment. A big thank you to St John for providing such modern facilities with no expense being spared.

Achievements

We have achieved quite a bit for the year considering we have also had to start a new Division from scratch. It was very humbling to have won the Commissioners Award for the Adult Division of the Year, which is certainly no easy feat whilst putting all the other infrastructure in place which is required for a new Division. Well done every one.

Territory Officer Mrs. Dawn Batt (Palmerston Division) won The Commissioner's Award for Volunteer of the year. We would all like to congratulate Dawn on this achievement, and thank her for her on going support to us all. Dawn has worked tirelessly behind the scenes in putting The Palmerson Division on the map.

Ancillary Training

We have begun to secure involvement with other Emergency Services in the Darwin region both



Professional and Volunteer in a few areas.

Firstly the annual Volunteer Emergency Services Games was held at the Fred's Pass Show in May, with an excellent turnout from members of St John and Northern Territory Emergency Services. The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service unfortunately were able to supply only one member (come on guys and gals get a team together for next year). The games basically involves representatives from all the Volunteer Emergency Services coming together for a weekend of events to display to the public our skills and how we utilise them in different situations. It is also an opportunity to mix with the other services in the spirit of co-operation and good will whilst sharing each other's skills and operational capabilities. A good time was had by all and we look forward to further improving our performances against the other services next year.

We have recently secured a site for competitors to camp out next year with BBQ's, basketball courts, tennis courts and much more. We will also have a presentation night with a band and dance hall prior to the Game's commencing so we hope to see members from all over the Territory attend next May, everyone will be advised shortly on dates, transport and any other issues which will be relevant.

Palmerston Report... *continued*

A big thank you to Mr. Steve Muir from N.T. Emergency Services and Superintendent Allan Hough for their ongoing efforts in organising this event which just keeps getting bigger each year.

On the 29th of July we conducted a Joint Exercise with the N.T. Police and N.T. Emergency Services at the Elizabeth River Bridge near Palmerston. Exercise Festina Lente (more haste less speed) allowed us to see how each agency works independent of each other and how they work co-operatively as a team in an emergency situation.

Thank goodness we didn't see any Darwin Lizards (Croc's), though



I am told Allan Hough did fall into the river whilst reconnoitering the site, hence his new nickname "SPLASH". Unfortunately this was right where a local resident received a love bite from a croc a few weeks earlier (a croc came several meter's out of the water on to the bank and tried to pull a lady into the river). Apparently Allan now walks on water.

One young fellow was taken away by Police for being a nuisance (it's okay, it was all part of the exercise).

After many problems with N.T. Emergency Services attempting to set up a communications network without an aerial (they thought they left it at home), it was pointed out by our very own Warren Purse that the very aerial they required was sitting no more than 5 feet away in the back of their truck, maybe they need some more lighting.

Our Cadets did us proud with some excellent Casualty Simulation executed on our patients

Our volunteers did a great job and we learned a lot from the exercise, especially working in multi service environments and we look forward to joint exercises in the future.

Thanks to Steve Muir (NTES), Sergeant Gary Casey (NT Police) and Superintendent Allan Hough (St John) for organising that one and also to Regional Operations Manager Trevor Sellick and Deputy Operations Manager Micheal McKay for their support with vehicles and equipment.

Weekly Training

We have covered some interesting topics over the last year. We visited JESCC (Joint Emergency Services Communications Center) where we got to see what goes on behind the scenes of St John from EMD Sue Murphy. I think we all gained an appreciation of just how hard they really do work in Comm's.

Another trip to the Royal Darwin Hospital's Hyperbaric Chamber helped us to see further facilities that Darwin Hospital has to offer our community.

The Chemical Agents Munitions instructor from Darwin Prison introduced Volunteers to the realities of different gases that we may come across. Very interesting lecture. Though the practical exercise with CS/OC Spray (Tear Gas/Capsicum Spray) left onlookers standing 8 meter's away coughing, crying and spluttering. Allan volunteered to be sprayed all over with little effect (obviously used to being gassed at his place of work, funnily enough as a Prison Officer). Good fun for every one.

Every thing is currently going well with the Division except for a very annoying computer problem at present and a lack of numbers. We would also like to hear from any one interested in presenting information on any issues relevant to St John volunteers.

We look forward to Christmas and New Year. Palmerson Divison would like to take the opportunity to wish every one a safe, quiet and joyful time.

Catherine Farey

Duke of Edinburgh

On the 29th July 9 members of Humpty Doo Cadet Division gained their Bronze Award. (The first award for the Duke of Edinburgh). This award was presented to them at a ceremony at Parliament House by Paul Henderson MLA.

They were Lauren Jacobsen, Kathryn Ainsworth, Emily Macmillan, Khalia Hutchins, Megan Zabell, Melissa Miller and Kiran Klessa. Ross Jacobsen is an Officer with the Division and John Payne a Cadet Leader. They also formed part of this group.

They have been working towards this for about 8 months. We joined

with the Dukes Mob at the end of last year. 11 members, joined up but only 9 worked on the qualification. We found that most of the work that is done with St John counts towards the Award with only a small part needed from outside.

The physical aspect the members needed to do ranged from horse

riding, walking, hockey, boxing, basket ball, to soccer.

The skill part included senior first aid, advanced resus, driving, and learning to play a musical instrument.

Community service was doing the many and varied public duties that they do Residential included both the Divisional Camp and the Territory Camp.

All 9 members are now working towards their Silver Award with some new Cadets showing an interest in beginning their Bronze award.



Duke of Edinburgh Awards – Yeab, we've done it!



Duke of Edinburgh Awards – Getting ready for the presentation

Kormilda Sports Day – Sorting the gear, learning the kits



Kormilda Sports Day – This is how you put on a glove.



Kormilda Sports Day – The group

Palmerston Markets

Humpty Doo cadets have been working at the Palmerston Markets each Friday night for the last few months. They have, as well as providing a first aid service been doing face painting and selling raffle tickets. We have been joined on many occasions by Cadets from Kormilda College who are becoming quite competent at face painting. These nights have been invaluable for some of the Kormilda members as they don't have the opportunity to attend many duties. They have also had to chance to mix with other St John members.

Our on going fundraising has been to help off set the cost of our 5 Cadets travelling to Tasmania in

January for the National Camp and Competitions.

Kormilda College Sports Day

The 28th August saw the biggest duty of the year for Kormilda College Cadets. The Kormilda Sports day. Last year we treated about 45 casualties so this year we were ready. The Cadets checked the kits and made sure that everything was packed in the right places and that they knew where everything was, than out we went and showed the school we were there. We set the first aid station up in the same place so that everyone knew where we

were. The cadets divided up into groups, each with a sergeant. Cadets kept changing out of uniform to compete than back into uniform to do first aid. There were a few cadets so we set up a first aid station in the middle of the field and one on the side. This year it was quite as the school had a rule that if you were on the track you had to have shoes on so we didn't get and feet injuries. We had quite a few sprains and strains and some heat related problems. So even though we didn't treat many people we had fun practicing things and trying to drum up casualties. It was a good day and I think everyone treated at least one person.



Palmerston Markets – Would you let this group look after you?



Palmerston Markets – Face Painting.



Palmerston Markets – The girls have a go.



Palmerston Markets – The boys Santa came and gave them lollipops.



Palmerston Markets – Face Painting.

Alice Springs - Adult Division

REPORT

What? It's November already? Seems the year has just begun. Oh Well! Better to be busy than bored I guess.

This year has been a constant whirlwind of activities and the Public Duties never seem to stop coming. We average three to five every weekend.... Not easy for a small division. No wonder I'm going grey.

Like most volunteer organisations, we are a victim of the times. People are busier than ever and finding that little bit of extra time for volunteer activities is becoming increasingly difficult, but we manage to struggle on.

2003 has seen a number of members come and go. Of

particular note was our Divisional Sergeant, Meacham King, who has been transferred by his employer to Darwin. We didn't lose just one member though; Meacham's partner Lorraine, also a member, moved with him. Our thanks also go to Monique Iliffe who has stood down from her position of Administration Corporal.

Congratulations to Gary Carter who has been promoted in Meacham's place; and to Bridget Oudeman and Geoff Kain, both have been promoted to Corporal.

The Alice Springs Adult Division has recently conducted its annual inspection and a number of our members have been recognised for their contributions. In addition to the promotions already mentioned,

the other recipients were: Craig Garraway who received his 12 Year Medal, Paul Maybank - 9 Year Bar, Glen Auricht - 6 Year Bar and Geoff Kain - 3 Year Bar. Special mention must be made of Glen Auricht who also received a Priory Vote of Thanks for his excellent efforts with the division over the past six years.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish members of all branches of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory, a "Very Merry Christmas" and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well in 2004.

"Henry" Lawson

DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT



Territory staff - Steve Peers, Pat McQuillen, Sue Cooper, Noel Talbot & Paul Berry - Oct '03.



Territory staff with Aileen and Bern Kilgariff



Craig Garraway receiving 12 year Service Medal



Amy Polkingborne – Alice Springs Cadet of the Year and Cadet Leader



Amy Polkingborne receiving trophy for Cadet of the Year and Cadet Leader's epaulettes



Glen Auricht receiving his Priory Vote of Thanks



Geoff Kain receiving Corporal rank



Alice Springs Cadet Division – Oct 2003



Noel Talbot receiving bar for 22 years service



Pat McQuillen receiving bar for 27 years service



Alice Springs Adult Division – Oct 2003



Cadet District Competition

Katherine, June 2003



Mrs Barbara McKie kept a tight hold on the money bags.



Adjudicators Sue Cooper, Lee Payne and Cherie Castle



Look at our socks say Chloe Cheslett, Sara Rilstone, Jess Lowe, Amy Polkingborne and Jacinta Harwood



The Southern Region had so much fun at the Katherine Camp that they went on to Darwin

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Alice Springs 2003



Rebecca McKie and Cadet Ben Berry



Cadets Caitlin Iggledon and Heather Keyes



Cadet Superintendent Ian McKie watches as Rebecca McKie attends to one of the many knee injuries treated on the day.



Boat races Alice Springs style.

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Alice Springs Juniors

The St John Juniors began in Alice Springs over 3 years ago as an answer to a big demand from older cadets as well as parents. Divisional Officer Skye Bowey was the first to be in charge of the juniors then Kate Anning took over and at the moment Rebecca McKie looks after them.

We have 20 juniors on our books right now and most of them have brothers or sisters in the Cadet Division. Most of the Juniors look forward to becoming Cadets so that they can join in on Public Duties and go on camps.

To learn First Aid is the aim of the Juniors and they are always the first to volunteer to act as patients

for the Cadet scenarios.

The Juniors work very hard to earn badges and so far they have done courses in many Interest Subjects such as Cookery and Nutrition, Fire Safety, Handicrafts and Child Care.

Rebecca McKie
ALICE SPRINGS



Rebecca McKie and the Juniors who completed the Cooking and Nutrition badge.



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Happy Birthday Darwin Adult Division



Emily Macmillan assists Mrs Anictonatis cutting the birthday cake

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DARWIN ADULT DIVISION

Special celebrations were held this year to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Darwin Adult Division.

The Darwin City Council acknowledged the contribution of St John volunteers by inviting members to march through the streets of Darwin then presented Commissioner Andrew Hodges a Certificate of Appreciation. Adult and cadets marched from the Civic Centre through the city streets then down the mall finishing in Civic Park for morning tea. Members of the general public applauded as the uniformed members proudly marched through Darwin.

Thank you to Dawn Bat, Linda Fazldeen and the Darwin City Council for arranging this special occasion.



Members getting ready for the march ahead



The Darwin City Brass Band lead the members



Members marching through the city streets



Cadets enjoy a break after the march



Lord Mayor Peter Adamson happy to have a photo with the members from Humpty Doo Cadet Division



David Baker, Dawn Bat and Michael Mooney enjoy the morning tea after the march



Lord Mayor Peter Adamson presents Commissioner Andrew Hodges with the Certificate of Appreciation

Annual Parade

This year's Annual Parade also celebrated the 50th Birthday of Darwin Adult Division. The parade, held at Marrara Indoor Stadium was well attended with over one hundred members parading before family, friends and special guests.

Presentations of awards and service medals were made by Commissioner Andrew Hodges and Administrator Mr John Anictomatis before Mrs Anictomatis cut the celebration birthday cake. A special Jubilee Certificate was presented to the current Darwin Adult Divisional Superintendent, Mr Patrick Murray.

This year's recipients were:

Presentation of Warrant of Appointments

Romaine Oorloff -
Divisional Superintendent
Darwin Cadet Division
Ian Castle -
Divisional Superintendent
Batchelor Division

Presentation of Commissioner's Awards

The Commissioner's Awards are presented to the most outstanding division, both adult and cadet, and to an adult and cadet individual who have made a significant contribution to St John in the past year.

Division of the Year

Adult Division of the Year -
Palmerston Adult Division

Cadet Division of the Year
Humpty Doo Cadet Division

Volunteer of the Year

Adult Member of the Year -
Mrs Dawn Bat

Cadet Member of the Year -
Miss Amy Polkinghorne
Alice Springs Cadet Division.

Ambulance Union Award -

John Payne -
Humpty Doo Cadet Division

Grand Prior's Badge - The Grand Prior's Award is a very special award acknowledging the completion of twelve different proficiency subjects over a three year period. These subjects are in addition to the cadet's first aid training. Badges were presented to Emily Macmillan and John Payne from the Humpty Doo Cadet Division.

Volunteer Service Medals

12 yr Medal
Romaine Oorloff,
Craig Garraway

17 yr service bar
Andrew Hodges,
Craig Humfrey

22 yr service bar,
Noel Talbot

27 yr service bar,
Brian Carnegie-Smith
Patricia McQuillen



Romaine Oorloff receives her 12 year medal



Divisional Superintendent Batchelor Division Ian Castle receives his Warrant of Appointment

Annual Parade... *continued*



Adrian Rossiter
receives the
Award for
Palmerston Adult
Division



Vicki Macmillan
receives the Award
for the Cadet Division



John Payne receiving the Grand Prior's Badge



Emily Macmillan receiving the Grand Prior's Badge



John Payne receiving the Ambulance Shield Award



Dawn Bat receiving the Adult
Member of the Year Award



Craig Humfrey receiving
his 17 Year Service Bar



Andrew Hodges receiving his 17 Year Service Bar



Pat Murray receives the
Jubilee Certificate

Annual Parade... *continued*

ANNUAL FAREWELL

The end of the year again see us saying farewell to a couple of volunteers that are much loved and will be missed by all.

Tanya Griffiths (Territory Officer) and her family will be moving to Queensland at the end of this year saying goodbye to her St John family.

Matthew Connolly (Darwin Cadet Division) has been accepted into the defence force and has started training to be an Army Medic. Susan Rosenzweig (Kormilda College and Palmerston Cadets) is also heading south looking forward to a new and exciting future.

BIRTHDAY DINNER

To end the birthday celebrations a Reunion Dinner was held at The

Hub in Palmerston with many former members joining current members for a very special night of reminiscing and story telling. It was a great night and hopefully there will more reunion dinners in the near future.

WHAT IS THE NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH COUNCIL?

The aim of the Northern Territory Youth Council (NTYC) is to discuss and act upon youth issues within St John. Some topics, which have arisen this year, are hats, recognition badges, epaulettes etc. These issues come from youth within the various divisions around the Northern Territory and are passed onto the NTYC representatives. These reps then meet on the first Tuesday of every

month to discuss issues their cadets have raised.

This is why it is vital for the council to have two representatives from every division. At present less than half the divisions are represented. The divisions which are represented include Palmerston Cadet, Humpty Doo cadet, Kormilda College, Darwin Cadet, Darwin Adult, Band and Alice Springs cadet.

To visit our website for present issues or to bring up a new issue please visit our website at www.stjohnnt.com.au/ntyc or for further information about the Youth Council please email the NT Coordinator, Scott Loechel scott.loechel@stjohnnt.asn.au.

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the caring individuals
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who improve the
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QUALITY IN EVERYTHING WE DO

Staff Profiles

Gwyn Balch

Growing up in Darwin was great. We enjoyed long lazy days sunning ourselves at Fannie Bay beach playing with friends in the safety of a small town. Those were the days before sun cancer, traffic lights and the Sailing Club.

Being the only daughter, no extended family members (aunties, grandmas etc) and having three brothers meant being an expert at playing football, marbles and building dams in the storm drains. In the early days of Darwin making friends was difficult as most families left Darwin after the mandatory two year stint so it meant

spending time together as a family.

My parents emigrated to Australia from England after the war and arrived in Darwin in 1949. They have seen amazing changes over the years and tell lots of stories about the great time they had despite difficult living conditions. I am fortunate to still have my entire family living in Darwin.

Working life for me has been varied from airlines and hotels to Government Departments and detention centres. I spent



Sue, Deb, Gwyn with Michael

seven years in child care administration

before coming to St John five years ago.

My interests are theatre, movies, travel, reading and spending time with my family & friends. I have been married over thirty years and am the proud mum of three adult sons.

Darwin is still a great place to live but I swear it's getting hotter every year.

Sue Shelton

Hi I'm Sue Shelton and I was born in July 1969 on the same day as man landed on the moon. My family and I lived close to Brighton beach where I spent summer months swimming and windsurfing. I attended Brighton Primary and Brighton High School where I made lasting friendships. After completion of High School I attended Business College where I was successfully chosen for my first permanent position as an Office Junior for a

Spectacle Frame Manufacturer.

At 20 years of age my future husband Lee and I built our first home together in Adelaide. After 2 years we rented the house and came to Darwin to secure our future (that was 11 years ago!). The lifestyle, climate and opportunity lured Lee and I to settle in Darwin and sell our house in Adelaide. I was employed by a chemical company for 6 years in the accounts section before joining St John, where I have

enjoyed 7½ years service in Administration.

Lee and I love travelling and our favorite places to visit have been Tahiti, New Zealand and Bali. We put travelling on hold to concentrate on a family and our dreams have come true on the 31/10/03 with a beautiful baby boy "Jake". Our life now revolves around Jake and we wouldn't have it any other way, we plan on extending our family in the future.

Debbie Downs

My name is Debbie Downs, I was born in Edinburgh Scotland in 1975 to a Scottish Mother and Kiwi Father (great combination). I have two older sisters and a younger brother, spread all around the world. I was fortunate to spend my childhood growing up in the rural heart of Northumberland in and around the small towns of Wooler, Alnwick and Berwick-on-Tweed. My schooling was spread between these three towns and in 1993 I completed my 'A' level studies from Duchess County High School in Alnwick.

This was a big year for me and my family as at the completion of the Northern summer we emigrated to Dunedin in New Zealand to start a new life. I was enrolled in Otago University and was to undertake a degree course in Geological studies, but at the last minute decided that it was not for me and enrolled in a Tourism and Hospitality course

at Otago Polytechnic instead. During and after the course I worked at a local hotel called Wain's Boutique Hotel where I worked from the ground up, first of all cleaning rooms, waitressing and finally ended up as one of the head receptionists. My time at the hotel was fairly short lived as I found a new career direction in Travel. My work experience at Tech, allowed me to get a foot in the door at one of the local Travel Agents - Winston Darling United Travel. Then came the biggest opportunity of my life. Myself, along with three others had the daunting task of establishing the South Island branch of Hamilton based Kiwi International Airlines. This was really exciting and initially we did everything manually, it was a huge success until Air New Zealand undercut the fares and put us out of business. This was the foundation for my office experience.

In June 1996, I moved to Perth WA, with my Kiwi boyfriend. I worked for a car importing / transporting company for 18 months and came to Darwin in February of 1998 with a girlfriend for a holiday. A week after arriving I landed a job with local freight company Toll Transport, worked there for 6 months before they merged with NQX freight company and continued to work there until November 1998. It was here that I met my now husband, Jamie and to my father's horror an AUSSIE!

I started at St John Ambulance in December 1998, as a Receptionist, then moved into an Admin position and finally graduated to position of Executive Secretary, which I have held for the last four years, a job which I love. I have one son, two and a half called Nathan, and at this stage, a brother or sister hopefully will arrive in the next couple of years.

Congratulations

To Barbara Brown and Kay Gargett both from our Darwin Office who correctly matched all parents with their children.

An executive decision was made and both ladies were awarded a \$100 voucher for the restaurant of their choice.

Thank you to all readers who participated in our competition.

Better luck next time!

The babies and parents matched as shown right.

Parent Photo Number	Baby Photo Letter
<u>1</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>C</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>B</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>E</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>F</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>A</u>

*Sponsored in support of
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for the vital role St John play
in the Territory*

**ORANGE CREEK
STATION**

via Alice Springs 0870

Phone: 8956 0924

Fax: 8956 0928



PARENT 1



BABY D



PARENT 2



BABY C



PARENT 3



BABY B



PARENT 4



BABY E



PARENT 5



BABY F



PARENT 6



BABY A



Family Dispute Resolution Service

- ▶ Adolescent Mediation & Family Counselling
- ▶ Relationship Counselling
- ▶ Family Relationships Skills Training
- ▶ Family Mediation

8985 0040

FREECALL 1800 898 500

5 Namarluk Drive Ludmilla

A division of Anglicare NT

ANGLICARE
NT

Resolve Family Dispute Resolution Service

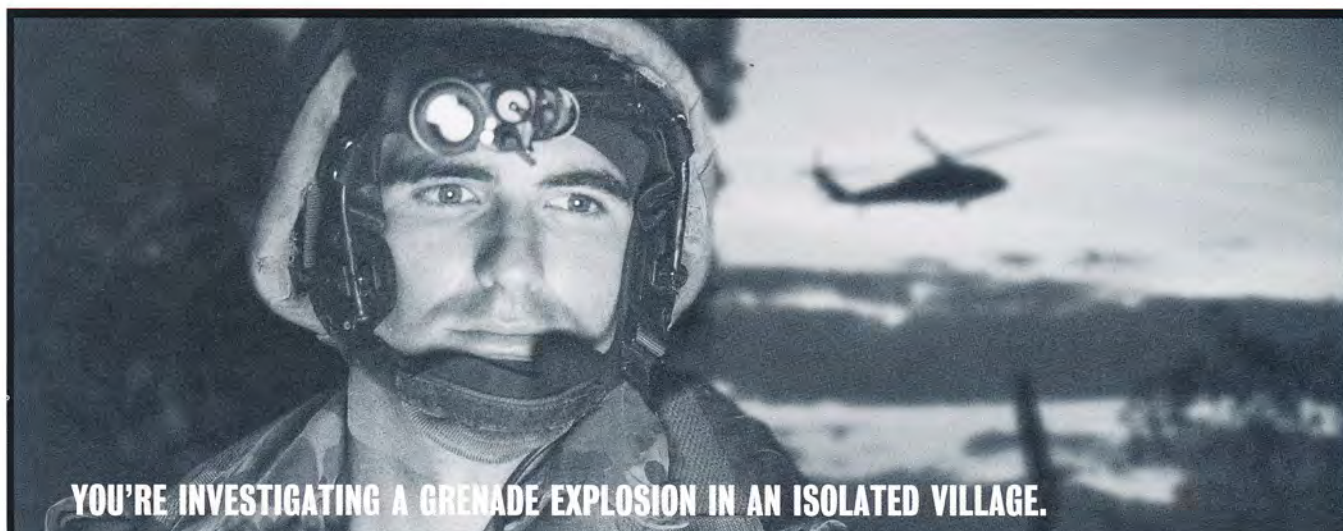
Resolve is a part of Anglicare NT. It offers a range of family services, including family mediation for separating couples, relationship counselling to resolve family disputes and difficulties, and training for parents requesting assistance with their parenting. Mediation has a sliding scale for fees, counselling a very small fee and the parenting training is free.

FREECALL 1800 898 500

Anglicare NT

Anglicare NT provides care, counselling and support to individuals and families in need throughout the Northern Territory. Through our 35 programs we give people the skills and support to build a better future for themselves and their families.

Our services include giving practical guidance to those with financial hardship or gambling problems, supporting young people facing abuse and homelessness, enriching the lives of the elderly and people with disabilities and guiding families to resolve conflict and overcome parenting issues. Anglicare NT has a strong commitment to quality service provision, accountability and local community involvement.
Phone 8985 0000



YOU'RE INVESTIGATING A GRENADE EXPLOSION IN AN ISOLATED VILLAGE.

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ARMED HOSTILES IN THE AREA.

FIRE FROM EXPLOSION TAKING HOLD. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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For more information call 8941 3300 or 13 19 01.



ARMY OFFICER HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

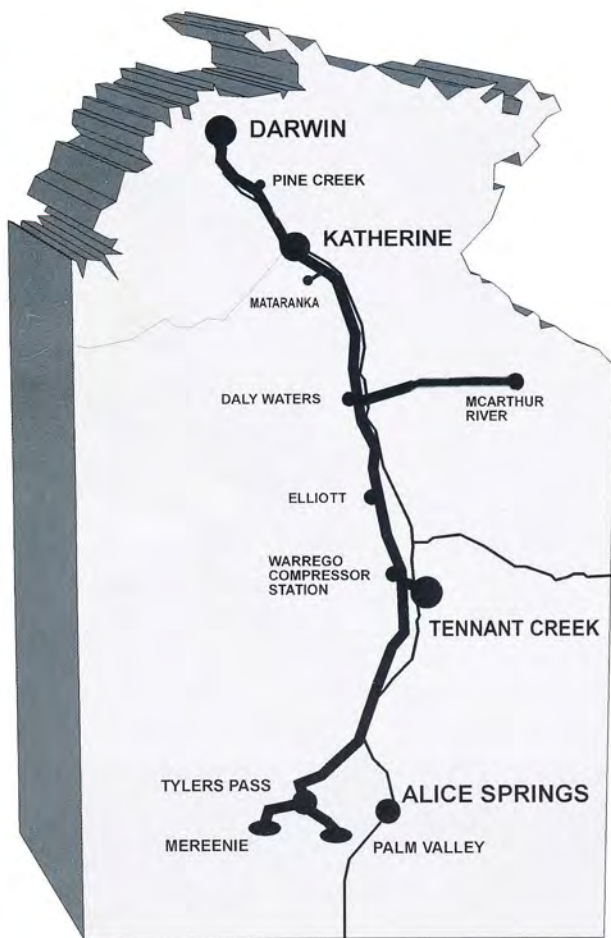
Call 13 19 01 or visit www.defencejobs.gov.au

hmsC010770

PROTECT THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

The Natural Gas Pipeline transports gas from the Amadeus Basin in Central Australia to Darwin for the purpose of providing energy 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 severe penalties.



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.

DIAL 1100 BEFORE YOU DIG

or contact:

NT GAS PTY LIMITED

PRIOR TO CARRYING OUT ANY WORK NEAR THE GAS PIPELINE

24 HOUR CONTACT - Phone: 1800 019 112