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A History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory from 1928 to 2002

By Dr Bill Wilson
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Front cover:
The Cover of a History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory from 1928 to 2002 by Dr Bill Wilson.
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Chief Executive Officer's Report

I have just returned from a brief holiday at Moama/Echuca on the River Murray playing lawn bowls and let me tell you – it was cold! Now we have our own cold season to contend with – that time of the year when the mercury sometimes plummets down to 15 – but someone has to do it.

Apart from simply loving this time of year in the Top End, it is also a very busy time for staff and members. But I am confident staff and volunteers alike will once again respond to whatever situation confronts you and for that – I thank you.

The 2003 Investiture and Graduation ceremony will shortly be upon us and my sincere thanks go not only to His Honour the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Mr John Anctomatis AO and Mrs Jeanette Anctomatis, for the use of their magnificent house, but also to Brendan Quirke, Ross Coburn, the army of willing Office staff and, most importantly, the organizer - Debbie Downs.

The second half of most years bring with it the AGM, the Annual Priory Conference and another round of Convention of Ambulance Authorities and Convention sub-committee meetings. I raise these because the Territory is already in the planning stage for arranging to host some major events in 2003 and 2004.

The Convention’s Business Group will meet in Darwin in August this year, then in 2004 the Northern Territory will host the Annual Priory Conference and the Australian National First Aid Championships (together with a plethora of social and sub-committee meetings) in June, in Alice Springs, then late in 2004 I anticipate the NT will host a combined ACAP/Convention of Ambulance Authorities’ function, with Convention’s Annual meeting and a major ACAP Conference. There will be few idle hands over the coming months I assure you.

I hope all staff and other interested readers enjoy the extra photographs in this edition and of special interest are pictures from the fantastic Public Duty event at the Bathurst Island Grand Final, undertaken predominantly by our Kormilda Division – Well Done!

We were also very thrilled and proud to recently receive a Chancellor’s Commendation (which takes pride of place at the Casuarina Reception area), in recognition of the contribution by staff and volunteers in the Bal bombing aftermath.

Some 1300 Patient Satisfaction Surveys were recently distributed to a wide range of Ambulance Service users and the results – which have just started to flow back in – are by and large an absolute pleasure to read. I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only the patients that took the time to complete the survey, but also to all staff for a job well done.

Talking of a job well done - our thoughts at present are with Andrew Wheeler who is making a speedy and hopefully total recovery in Western Australia. I was amazed at the support from his workmates, colleagues, the Union, friends, business houses and the community generally. From staff who completed the “Backyard Blitz”, to those who donated money, Sick Leave and even Recreation Leave to support Andrew I am sure I echo Andrew’s gratitude.

When you think about the support he has received from his mates hard enough, it fair dinkum puts a lump in your throat and I have to say I am so very proud of the family here in the Territory we call St John.

Finally – to the football and while we started out like a steam train, we seemed to run out of coal for a while. I’m confident Mick Malthouse can re-stoke the boilers and we’ll come home with a barn-storming run to the flag.

David Baker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OUTBACK AMBULANCE JULY - 2003 3
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“This award firmly links to my Government’s focus on education and training. It recognises the importance of higher education and learning in enhancing employment and general life outcomes for women.”

Chief Minister and Minister for Women’s Policy
Clare Martin

The Hon Clare Martin MLA is delighted to announce and congratulate the recipients of the 2003 Chief Minister’s Study Award for Women.

Vocational Study Program: Yvonne Odegaard, Darwin
Tertiary Study Program: Frances Turner, Alice Springs

Applications for the 2004 Chief Minister’s Study Award for Women will be called in August 2003.

For information please contact:
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GPO Box 4396 DARWIN NT 0801
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Corporate Services Manager’s Report

My bow 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.

St John NT, like all other Ambulance Services in the Country, are experiencing significant growth in usage (6%) and the demands for extensions to the services we already provide are occurring. To meet the increased demand it appears a distinct possibility that the full 24 hour service at Parap will occur earlier than planned and should be in place before Christmas. This will make a huge difference to Ambulance availability for the Northern region and in particular Darwin city with a flow on into Palmerston.

The current increase in the level of in the “contracts” area to the extent that a more pro-active, co-ordinated approach will apply. History reveals that St John NT have been able to provide a quality, sought after level of Paramedical Services to the mining and exploration industries here in the NT, interstate and internationally. In 1994 St John NT started at the Granites Gold Mine in Central Australia which has grown to 2 staff currently working at both their sites (Granites and Ground Rush). What has been proven is that the mining industry struggles to maintain appropriately qualified staff in remote areas for this work (similar problems occur with remote and ever increasing costs of staff.

St John NT have also maintained a very professional, long standing arrangement with PGS Exploration an International Oil and Gas exploration Company, Norwegian owned and operating out of Singapore. Again we have been doing this work since 1994 and currently service 2 vessels one off India and the other off Malaysia. The vessel pictured is typical of the current ones being serviced and have between 40 and 55 staff on-board at any one time. Because of the isolation the patient care is more long term and clinical in nature and provides all our staff with challenges not that frequently experienced whilst working on the road in the NT as an Ambulance Officer.

St John NT currently have a contract with MIM at McArthur River and provide relief work for ADRAIL up and down the track at various sites. It is planned to increase our activity in this area. If you know of someone requiring the expert services we provide please get them to contact me.

I hope we all continue to enjoy turning up for work and before we know it Xmas is upon us.

Ross Coburn
MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES
Manager, Education & Training Services

REPORT

Congratulations to Sue Eastcott, the successful applicant for the position of Ambulance Education Officer. Sue fills the position vacated by Lindsay King. Lindsay has, after 27 years with St John in the NT, relocated to Latrobe Valley in Victoria to take up a Communications Officer position with Rural Ambulance, Victoria. During his time in the NT, Lindsay progressed through Ambulance Officer qualifications to Paramedic levels. He spent some time in Communications as well as operational positions which included 'On-Road-Supervisor' and 'Clinical Instructor' before moving across to Ambulance Training. I am sure Lindsay would agree that the last two years of his tenure were the most challenging yet faced by the Ambulance Officers Training College.

It was during this time the new Ambulance Paramedic qualifications contained within the Health Training Package were validated and released. The new qualifications required a significant reappraisal of the structure, delivery and assessment of Ambulance Paramedic Training and this was all occurring as education and training programs continued to be delivered to new and returning Student Paramedics. I found Lindsay to be valuable 'reality check' when planning the new approach to training. He constantly looked at the implications behind proposed approaches and then worked through them with the aim of ensuring the necessary outcomes were achieved. I would like to thank Lindsay for his contribution to the AOTC specifically and to St John in the NT generally and I wish him and his family all the very best in Victoria.

PARAMEDIC TRAINING
One of the truly positive benefits emanating from the new Training Framework has been the development of much closer ties between the AOTC and Ambulance Operations. This has been necessitated by the need to enhance approaches to 'on-the-job' assessments in the areas of clinical skills and supporting, underpinning knowledge. Clinical Log Books now identify not only individual skill standards but also the bringing together of a range of skills by way of Performance Appraisals. The purpose of the Performance Appraisal is to ensure Trainee/Student Paramedics are able to apply a range of skills and knowledge in a 'whole of case' environment. The Performance Appraisals will be facilitated by Operations Managers or their nominated delegates.

There have been a range of innovative assessment approaches developed to cover a number of units which, until now, have tended to be subsumed into other units of study. These approaches include journals, assignments, portfolios and case studies. Some work is now able to be completed at sometime through the course of a Student Paramedic's study, other units require completion before progression to the next 'residential' school (e.g., the 'rescue' cluster or the 'clinical 2' cluster). The Log Books and other assessment tools provide vital evidence of unit completion. I would encourage all Trainee/Student Paramedics to take the completion of the Clinical Log Books very seriously.

In an effort to minimize the sizeable amount of handouts issued during training courses, AOTC have identified and extensively advertised a number of 'prescribed texts' for various units. The prescribed texts contain vital information which will be necessary to prepare for knowledge based assessments throughout the units of the Diploma and Advanced Diploma programs. Any Trainee/Student Paramedic who is not familiar with the prescribed texts are welcome to contact Sue at the AOTC for further advice and guidance.

While this article for Outback is being written prior to the 2003 Graduation ceremony, I offer my congratulations to all those Paramedics receiving recognition for their successfully completed studies. I encourage each of you to continue to strive to improve your skills and knowledge and to share what you have learned with the Trainee and Student Paramedics coming through the training programs.

INTENSIVE CARE PARAMEDIC STUDIES
The ICP program is now well entrenched in the Advanced Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance) qualification. This year, access to the Advanced Diploma is by way of application to and nomination by Operations Managers. For those who may be unsure of the application process it is included here:

1. The submission of a written application for a position in the Advanced Diploma.
   a. This 1,500 – 2,000 word application will be submitted for the
Participation in the submitted application;
ii. clinical questions from current, authorized Patient Management Procedures and Drug Protocols and may include therapeutic effects;
iii. underpinning knowledge of disease processes; and
iv. underpinning knowledge of anatomy and physiology.

The final decision to accept or reject an application for sponsored admission into the Advanced Diploma program will be made by the Operations Managers who will then immediately advise the Ambulance Officers Training College of the successful nominee's names.

To assist the Operations Manager in the decision making process where they – the Operations Manager(s) – are not part of the panel interview, the officer delegated to represent them will provide advice in relation to the applicant's performance at interview.

- Successful applicants will be notified in writing by the Operations Manager(s)
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing by the Operations Manager(s) with such notification explaining the reasons for the decision:
  o Successful applicants may appeal the decision of the Operations Manager(s) to exclude them from sponsored participation in the program;
  o the appeal must be lodged in writing and received by the Operations Manager(s) within ten (10) days of the original notification;
  o the Operations Manager(s) will consider and respond to the appellant within ten (10) days of receiving the appeal;
  o if after considering the appeal the Operations Manager(s) uphold the original decision the appellant has the right to refer the appeal directly to the Chief Executive Officer,
  o the Chief Executive Officer's decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

While this process may seem complex and time consuming to some, the nature of the program and the outcomes it aims to achieve are significant and the effort involved will ensure St John (NT) continues to offer the highest possible standards of pre-hospital emergency care by Ambulance Paramedics with a genuine commitment to quality service provision.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION**

New Instructor: The Training Department welcomes Ian McKay to our Alice Springs region. Ian has taken up the second full-time Training Officer position in Alice Springs. The appointment of a second full-time trainer in Alice Springs has been necessitated due mainly to the uniting efforts of Henry Lawson in promoting First Aid training in that region as well as the support received from Noel Talbot and a number of other local staff.

Training Stats: In 2002 St John (NT) delivered Senior First Aid training to 6542 Territorians representing a 6.3% increase over the previous year. The number of people completing the SFA program in 2002 represents 3.3% of the NT population (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics). The next highest St John jurisdiction by percentage is Western Australia with 1.8%, followed by Tasmania with 1.5%. This is a fantastic result for the NT and I thank all trainers and administration staff for their support and continued commitment.

Course Accreditation: A number of our First Aid courses are in the process of being prepared for submission to the Registration Approval Panel (RAP) of the Department of Employment, Education & Training – Education and Training Division, for re-accreditation. The process for reaccreditation this time around has been made a little more challenging than on previous occasions due to the introduction of four (4) National First Aid
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Tribute to Northern Territory Women

"The Tribute has been created to recognise and honour the contribution of Territory women."

Individuals, community groups and organisations are invited to nominate a Territory woman, past or present, who has made or is making a difference to our economic, social or cultural life.

For information or a nomination form contact:
Office of Women's Policy
Phone: (08) 8999 6884
Fax: (08) 8999 7523
Email: owp@nt.gov.au
Website: www.oawp.nt.gov.au

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Dr. Helen Phillipps Cottages (DHPC) is a well established program that has been operating for many years and is well known in the rural areas of the Northern Territory and the Kimberley region of Western Australia. It is funded by Territory Health Services and operated by the YWCA of Darwin, DHPC provides safe, clean affordable accommodation in three houses in Tiwi (close to Royal Darwin Hospital) providing short and medium term accommodation for people from remote and rural areas, interstate and overseas. People using the facility have come to Darwin for medical/hospital treatment or have family members in hospital.

The project has eight bedrooms available to accommodate guests. These bedrooms can cater for a variety of guest configurations including single travellers; couples and family groupings. The houses and gardens provide children with plenty of room to move. All houses have full security screening, are fully furnished and equipped with all appliances, linen and kitchenware. The bedrooms are all air-conditioned. Guests have communal facilities and will need to be able to look after themselves and keep the premises tidy.

The accommodation is very reasonably priced, with rates starting at $33.00 per night for a single room, $50.00 for a double room. Special rates for children are available. (All prices are inclusive of GST). Guests who are eligible for Patient Travel subsidy from Territory Health Services can arrange to have their accommodation costs paid directly by PATS.

Please contact Coordinator Janie Mathers on (08) 8945 6344 or email dhpc@ywcaofdarwin.org.au for further information or booking.
Manager, Education & Training Services Report (Continued)

Competency Guideline Units. While these units sit reasonably comfortably within the main suite of courses we currently offer they are not a complete ‘match’. It has therefore been necessary to analyse the units carefully, identify those areas we include in our training which are not covered by the Guideline Units and develop specific units to cover the omissions. Once this is completed the programs will be submitted to RAP for approval.

First Aid Assessments: The approaches to assessment taken in First Aid training are constantly being reviewed for relevancy when considered against the desired outcomes of the programs they apply. In many cases we have reduced the number of questions asked in assessment ‘papers’ by removing those relating to practical skills which are able to be demonstrated during course delivery. In other cases alternative questioning techniques to the traditional ‘multi-choice’ approach have been incorporated. All of the areas aimed at ensuring assessments remain relevant to course participants and we will continue to monitor our approaches to ensure this is the case.

2002 INTERNAL AQTF AUDIT

St John received a positive report following the presentation of our 2002 audit to the Training Authority. As a result of the audit conducted against the Australian Quality Training Framework for Registered Training Organisations a number of opportunities for improvement were identified throughout the NT. While the matters observed are not AQTF compliance gaps they have presented us with the opportunity to further enhance the services we offer, particularly to our First Aid course customers.

A series number of ‘action memos’ have been developed and widely circulated following the audit. Not all memos were applicable to all regions however it was decided to include them in a single document. All recipients of the ‘action memo’s are encouraged to read through them and plan whatever action may be identified as necessary in your particular area.

In general the AQTF audits showed a terrific improvement in the information available to customers as well as improvements in communications between the regions. I would like to thank everybody who in some way assisted the Education and Training Resource Officer and I during the audit process.

NATIONAL TRAINING INITIATIVES

The Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) has been seeking the views of key stakeholders and organisations on the proposed establishment of a new qualification: the Associate Degree. The Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) has developed a draft guideline on the Associate Degree describing the proposed new qualification, for discussion purposes. This will form the basis of the Associate Degree’s anticipated inclusion in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The AQF specifies guidelines for all the main post-compulsory qualifications issued in Australia.

The draft guideline indicates that the Associate Degree is to be a new qualification accredited through higher education guidelines. RTOs will be able to deliver Associate Degrees if they gain registration and accreditation through higher education processes.

The Associate Degree is likely to parallel the Advanced Diploma. The addition of the Associate Degree would enable higher education qualifications to commence at a pre-degree level, and progress through to postgraduate qualifications. The VET qualification pathway will remain with Certificate I to Certificate IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma.

The creation of a higher education accredited Associate Degree with a vocational flavour paralleling the VET Diploma and Advanced Diploma may impact on the take up of VET qualifications, and on pathways between VET and higher education. As a consequence the ANTA National Training Quality Council is currently investigating ways to include the Associate Degree in training packages. The AQF Advisory Board (AQFAB) has invited feedback from ANTA on the draft guideline for the introduction of the Associate Degree.
Harold's wonder class  
(wondering if he will survive)

Day 1 starts; a large feeling of nervousness is upon the class, but this is soon to disappear. We're informed that we are the guinea pigs for the new structure of Clinical Studies One, but as time progresses it was to be seen that our class was to contain a variety of animals such as snakes, rats and possums.

Quickly we are to initiate several rituals such as the morning reading of "your day by the stars with Danny Maher", and the Wednesday and Friday night study period (the subject of which was questionable) over at the service house, this place is soon to obtain itself a reputation as a wild and woolly place due to it's lodging of some shady personalities.

By the middle of week 2 it has become clear of Sue's (Eastcott) obsession with Harold (the skeleton) as they regularly hold hands, caress hair and even the odd butt fondle, this is to be the beginning of a steamy love affair. Harold is to play a major role within class activities, at one point he is even substituted for Jo Schmolzer when she has to go home after lunch feeling unwell; however he requires some cosmetics to simulate the appearance, this is over come by the addition of 2 balloons and a hat. The resemblance is so real that it is to fool the lecturers for a reasonable period of time; at least until it is questioned by Lindsay (King) as to the reason for Jo's unusual silence within the class.

During the course we are privy to such events as Ron's (Owen) birthday kiss by Jo that would make the boldest of personalitites blush, as well as the occasional imitation performed by Danny. It is quickly discovered that the location of a particular seat is to affect the attitude of any that may sit there, even the quiet Makaylia (Bretag) is to become sister Hyde when seated there and on the attendance of Sarah... (Gotch) well the less said the better. As time advances and the stress levels go through the roof some very interesting acronyms are also created.

On the final Friday there is the traditional celebration dinner where we are to wonder if Sarah is to be successful in picking a fight with the next table, however we all feel quite secure in the thought that if this to be the case then she is probably able to deal with all 10 of them on her own as this is what makes a true comms operator.

After the completion of Clinical Studies One we are to lose some personalities and gain a few new ones for the driving course, personalities such as Python Pete.... (Williams) aka the Alice Springs Anaconda. This guy is a legendary driver, just ask the Alice Springs police dept. he is to make such bets with Craig as "I'll show you how to drive a skid car, I'll bet you $20 that I don't lose it". Thanks for the drinks Pete. This however was not the limits of Pete's talents, for his willingness to challenge anyone on anything, "I can out drink, out fight and pick up more chicks than anyone here", none of these abilities were sighted though, however there was one instance where he was home from a big night on the town, hardly able to walk, alone and all before midnight!

Another highlight of the driving course comes from our fearless leader Craig Garraway when he generously offers to assist Jo in testing out her own vehicle (Nissan Extrail), Craig is to go along in a real 4WD in case the Nissan is to become bogged. Well there is certainly a vehicle that is to become bogged but it is not the Nissan, for this car is to lead the way through the slippery mud where the troopy can not follow and Craig's winching techniques are put to the test.

All in all a great time was had by all and some good friendships were created.

Participants were:

Clinical 1:  
Gary Carter  
Sarah Gotch  
Kelly Green  
Alice Hageman  
Danny Maher  
Makaylia Bretag  
Russell Marlborough  
Ron Owen  
Jo Schmolzer

Defensive Driving:  
Gary Carter  
Kelly Green  
Alice Hageman  
Jodie Ranford  
Jo Schmolzer  
Peter Williams
Training Framework Update

Well it is that time of year again where as Education & Training Resource Officer, I have been asked to contribute to this magazine and provide an insight for you all - on the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF).

Currently we are working towards course accreditation for first aid courses appearing on our Scope of Registration, preparing regions for 2003 audit visits, providing evidence to external auditors, maintaining compliance by monitoring or introducing new policy/procedures and providing a professional development opportunity for all instructors accredited through St John Ambulance (NT).

The past few months have been extremely exciting for us too! In December 2002 the Internal Audit team comprising of the Manager, Education & Training Services and myself, travelled to all regions within the NT to carry out the Annual Internal Audit. After documenting a report on each region for its contribution toward the compliance of AQTF, a summary report detailing our findings was submitted to the External Auditors through the Department, Employment, Education & Training.

Since submitting that report we have again travelled to those regions for the Round 1 Audit Review. The aim of the Round 1 visits was to provide Training and Training Support Staff with feedback following the December 2002 Audits. The visits also aimed to monitor changes which had been implemented following the 2002 Audit and also to review ongoing customer service standards. In particular during these visits we focussed on course enrolment issues and ongoing matters of Occupational Health and Safety.

It was during the Round 1 visit to Nhulunbuy we were informed by the Chief Executive Officer, David Baker, that our results from the External Auditors had been received and they would arrive in Brisbane where we were attending a St John Ambulance National Workshop. The feedback we received was very positive with all of compliance requirements contained within the 12 AQTF Standards successfully met.

For many St John Ambulance (NT) staff, the AQTF has introduced change particularly highlighted by improved standards of service delivery. It is for this reason that I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Executive Officer and the Manager, Corporate Services for their continued support and to all other members of St John Ambulance (NT) who in some way, have contributed to the success of the Training Department since the inception of the Australian Quality Training Framework. In summary it appears the standard of services (administration, training and assessment) have continued to improve. The challenge we now face is to maintain compliance with the standards across all of the Training Department’s activities and this will require the ongoing support and commitment of all.

In the following editions of this magazine I will continue to emphasise each of the 12 Standards that appear within the Australian Quality Training Framework for Registered Training Organisations. My aim of identifying these standards is to impress on all of you the systematic approach and high quality service that we as an organisation continue to work towards.

Thanks again everyone for your contribution.

ANNETTA ALBANESE
Education & Training Resource Officer
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Completed works were the supply of pile casings for the Inner City Bypass & Gateway deviation in Brisbane (Qld) (2001/2002) as well as the M5 Cooks River Bridge Deviation Sydney (NSW) (1999/2001).

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History of the Alice Springs Division and the Darwin Connection

The history of the Alice Springs Division is currently being compiled. The last 42 years have been very eventful in the life of first aid in The Centre.

The first effort at forming a division began in 1954 with between 2 and 8 men on the books. As is usual in most of our present day divisions, all the work fell to just two men. These two men, the Superintendent Alf McRae and the second-in-command Bruce McKane struggled on until 1956 when the group was disbanded.

Bruce McKane was a member of the Darwin Division before he came to Alice Springs in 1954 and it was the Darwin Division that put the advertisement in the Centralian Advocate in November 1952 giving the contact name of Mr. R.F. Chamberlain and the Darwin phone number of 191.

Surgeon Lt. O'Donoghue and Mr. N. Bradbury from St. John in Darwin visited Alice Springs from 17 to the 22 of November in 1953 to conduct a series of lectures in First Aid. They also visited Tennant Creek during that trip from the 23 to the 28 of November.

Mr. Bradbury and Mr. McKenzie-Clayton gave most of the lectures in the public school and Dr. Welton set the examination papers and Dr. Moody conducted the theory tests.

It took two months for results of those first aid exams to come back to Alice Springs. After that the group did sterling work at functions around the town.

In May 1954, the Commissioner for South Australia and the Northern Territory, Dr. F. K. Mugford, visited Alice Springs for three days on his way South after visiting Darwin, and announced that a division of St. John Ambulance was being formed in Alice Springs. He was quoted as saying that in only two years of active full scale work a division had been built up in Darwin. He paid high tribute to Mr. Norm Bradbury, Superintendent of the Darwin Division, and Mrs. Bradbury, who looked after the women's section.

In 1954 following the crowning of Queen Elizabeth the Second, being crowned a queen was all the go. The Northern Territory Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade organised an N.T. Queen competition. It opened with a big fanfare but little interest was shown here in Alice Springs.

Mr. Bradbury was quoted in the Centralian Advocate as saying that at the end of the last first aid class in October 1955, nine had passed the examinations but none were prepared to give any time to what we had been trying to teach them. Mr. Bradbury said that all monies raised by St. John in the Northern Territory were retained in the Territory for local use.

Mr. Bradbury, who had been in the Northern Territory for over eight years, was transferred to Perth and made this announcement as he passed through Alice Springs.

The next attempt at forming a division in the Centre was much more successful and since 1961 the Alice Springs Divisions have gone from strength to strength.

Pat McQuillen
Territory Officer
Alice Springs Division Historian

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OUTBACK ambulance JULY - 2003
Yesterday's First Aid

While on a trip back to the UK, I attended a car boot sale and on one of the stalls spotted an old first aid book. It was dated 1915 and was well thumbed. As I browsed through the book, I realised some of the techniques indicated were quite barbaric and, if practiced today, would probably have the First Aider in the dock of a coronial inquest! The book was being offered for only 15 cents so I purchased it. Some sections in the book are sexually discriminating, especially the hysteria section. The anatomy and physiology section is quite intense and would probably confuse the First Aider of today. Here are a few sections of the book I found interesting. I will let you draw your own conclusion of their effectiveness on preventing the condition from worsening and promoting recovery.

Hysterical Fits
These occur more often in females than males and are ushered in with crying, sobbing, or laughing without any cause; followed by jerky movements of the limbs (not truly convulsions). At the same time the breathing is quickened, the eyelids are closed, and in severe attacks, the patient falls down apparently, but not actually unconscious, taking care never to hurt herself.

Treatment. - The best treatment for hysteria is to exclude all fussy friends and let the patient alone. The patient will come to herself when she realises that her condition is not exciting sympathy or alarm.

Convulsions in Infants
These are usually caused by teething, constipation, indigestion, worms etc, but they may be due to fever or brain disease.

Treatment. The course to adopt is to relieve as quickly as possible the cerebral circulation, therefore place the child at once in a bath as warm as can be borne comfortably from ten to twenty minutes, or put the feet into hot water with mustard in it; at the same time apply cold sponges to the head and quickly change them, and send for medical assistance.

Artificial Respiration - The Laborde Method
This method can be used where there is injury to both arms and the ribs; especially useful in cases of asphyxia in children caused by irrespirable gases, and in cases of shock by electricity.

Mode of procedure. Place patient in the supine position; clear the mouth, depress the chin, now take hold of the tip of the tongue between the folds of a handkerchief to prevent it slipping, jerk it forward and then allow it to go back, still holding the tip; repeat these to-and-fro movements alternately at the rate of fifteen to the minute. Continue artificial respiration for at least one hour or until natural respirations are resumed. While one person is carrying out artificial respiration, others may busy themselves by applying hot flannels to the body and limbs, and hot water bottles to the feet. When the patient is able to swallow, give him small sips of wine or warm brandy and water, or hot tea and coffee.

Apoplexy is caused by the bursting of a diseased blood-vessel into the substance of or upon the surface of the brain causing compression of that organ. It usually occurs in elderly persons, and in cold weather.

Treatment. The object of treatment is to get the circulation quiet and the heart’s action free from embarrassment; therefore loosen all tight clothing about the neck and chest; put the patient to
bed with his head raised, and apply cold to; apply hot-water bottles to his feet and mustard poultices to the calves of his legs.

How to act if a patient is found in a state of unconsciousness.
Test for insensibility. To determine whether a patient is insensible, raise the eyelid and touch the white of the eye. Blinking which cannot be avoided if the person is conscious does not occur. Before help can be rendered, the first thing to do is to try and arrive at the cause which has produced the state of unconsciousness, and in order to do this, a systemic examination of the patient and his surroundings must be made. Therefore proceed as follows:

(i) Notice the position of the body and its surroundings.
(ii) Notice whether the body is lying still or there are convulsive movements, and also if the convulsive movements are general or only confined to one side of the body.
(iii) If possible obtain information as to the cause.
(iv) Lay the patient on the back, inclining the head to one side (to prevent the tongue from falling back or vomit matter going down the trachea). If the face is flushed, slightly raise the head; if the face is pale keep the head flat, place the arms by the sides, and extend the legs, and loosen all tight clothing about the neck and chest.
(v) Examine the head to ascertain whether there is a depressed wound (which would suggest compression), or a mere bruising (which would suggest stunning).
(vi) Examine the eyes to see if they are sensitive to light and touch, if there is any squinting and the state of the pupils. (a) If sensitive to touch, no brain injuries are present. (b) If the pupils are unequally contracted, there is brain trouble. (c) If the pupils are pin points, there is opium poisoning.

(vii) Examine the face: (a) If it is drawn to one side this will indicate apoplexy or compression of the brain. (b) If it is bloated and flushed, this will suggest excessive use of alcohol.
(viii) Smell the breath. The colour of opium or alcohol may be detected.
(ix) Examine the mouth and tongue; froth in the mouth and a bite on the tongue will indicate fits, particularly epileptic.
(x) Notice the breathing. (a) If it is slow, it indicates great weakness, as in shock (b). If it is snoring (stertorous), it indicates brain trouble.
(xi) Examine the pulse. (a) If it is slow, there is brain trouble. (b) If it is rapid, there is sunstroke or fever. (c) If it is quick and thready, there is great weakness - such as shock.
(xii) Feel the surface of the body, (a) If the skin is abnormally cold there is either freezing, intoxication, collapse, or fainting. (b) If the skin is hot, there is sunstroke or high fever.
(xiii) Examine the ribs, collarbone, pelvis and limbs for fractures.
(xiv) Examine the limbs allowing them to fall; if they do so lifelessly it suggests paralysis.
(xv) If convulsive movements are present, the patient is subject to fits of some kind (either epileptic, hysterical, or uraemic in an adult, or convulsions of infants).
(xvi) Examine the neck for evidence of strangulation or hanging.
(xvii) Avoid crowding round the patient, and admit free access of fresh air.
(xviii) Administer no food or stimulants unless under medical directions.

I hope you enjoyed these old techniques; these sections were out of the 7th edition. I dread to imagine what techniques were offered in earlier editions, Its also interesting to note that there are no references throughout the entire book to chest pain or cardiac conditions.

Mark Marriott
ICP Darwin
Benefits of a St. John Ambulance Certificate

In November 2000 my wife and I decided to sell our home and tour Australia with our caravan. We have mainly been in the Eastern States until March when we left Sydney to travel to Adelaide and then up the Centre.

On 29th April 2003 we left Ayres Rock Caravan Park and headed to Alice Springs. We had stopped at the turn off to Kings Canyon for morning tea and then proceeded towards Eridunda. We were about 10 kilometers past Mount Ebenezer Homestead when I noticed two motorbikes behind us and I mentioned to my wife that when we had a clear stretch of road I would signal them to pass.

Just then we came over a rise and we saw something on the road, which turned out to be a large lump of firewood. I took evasive action and we missed it but the motorbike behind just clipped it with his trailer and his mate hit it. He then came off his bike, like a rag doll, landing and skidding on the road surface.

We immediately stopped and I called for assistance on the UHF whilst grabbing our First Aid kit. My wife and the wife of the family, who had been following, slowed the traffic while I ascertained the riders' (John) condition, who had luckily not lost consciousness. I began treating the severe lacerations on the back of both hands. With the help of his mate (Harry) we removed his helmet and sat him up, all the while making sure that he was OK. Just then a Remote Area Nurse was passing and checked John for any neck damage or broken bones etc. none were apparent.

We then managed to place John on a chair, in the shade, and he then started to complain of sore ribs and right arm above the elbow and we placed his arm in a sling.

Whilst chatting to keep both John and Harry calm we discovered that John had a pacemaker and a metal kneecap. They were both members of the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club and came from Moe Victoria (I think).

Harry was in his early 60's but it turned out that John was actually 76 years old.

As the Remote Area nurse had contacted the Police and Ambulance via his satellite phone, and John was in a reasonably comfortable situation we left, and arrived in Alice Springs late in the afternoon. As we arrived a Police Constable from Kulgera contacted us and advised that John was OK and in Alice Springs Hospital with a broken collarbone.

We were contacted 2 to 3 days later by Harry who told us John was on his way back to Victoria, by plane, and reasonably good but worried what his wife would say.

This incident was caused by the practice of some tour operators who collect firewood and tie it on top of their trailers without adequate, secure means. We feel that this practice should be stamped out as this accident could have been a lot more serious. We are also amazed by the number of fellow travellers who cannot believe that we stopped. This may be because they have not attended a First Aid course, or have no knowledge of basic First Aid.

The main thing I am thankful for, is that the training I received from St. John Ambulance made me calm and calculating in this crisis. I was, until, assistance arrived able to assist this person in a safe way for all of us concerned. I sincerely hope that more people will partake of this worthwhile course.

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Ambulance Officer of the Year - 2003

The Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise again sponsored the 2003 Ambulance Officer of the Year Award, hosted by the Hon Minister for Health, Jane Aagaard, MLA. I would like to extend my congratulations to nominees Virginia Dowson, Lezlie Saunders, Pat Murray, Annette Ingham and Daryl Shaw and also especially to the joint winners, EMDs Karen Joyner and Sue Murphy.

This is a keenly sought after award and coming hot on the heels of the recent Readers Digest survey result – which found the Ambulance Officer profession to be the most trusted profession in Australia – it is fitting tribute to the men and women who dedicate themselves to the care of the sick and injured in our community.

Congratulations Karen and Sue

David Baker
CEO

Joint winners, (left) Susan Murphy and Karen Joyner with Minister for Health, Hon Jane Aagaard MLA

Joint winners, (left) Karen Joyner and Susan Murphy

Nominee - Karen Joyner EMD

Nominee - Lezlie Saunders ECP

Nominee - Daryl Shaw - Paramedic

Nominee - Sue Murphy - EMD

Nominee - Annette Ingham - Paramedic

Nominee - Patrick Murray - Transport Officer

Guests at the Presentation
Greg and Linda get Married!

On the 24th May 2003 the wedding of Greg Coates and Linda Murie (both St John Training Instructors) finally took place. Who would have thought that they would really do it! The wedding and reception was conducted at their home. Linda wore her dream dress and it was so Linda. The wedding was very much Linda and Greg style, non traditional and casual. Greg was in shorts, a flowery shirt and thongs minutes after the service! They were piped into the service by Linda's brothers who played the bagpipes and her mum made the cake and it had the Tigers jersey printed on the top, Greg was excited by that as you can imagine. They had party games that involved bananas and tic tacks, another one with toothpicks and lifesavers, glasses of champagne and balloons. The wedding was good fun and I'm sure the bride and groom had a good time.

Congratulations to you both from all of your friends at St John Ambulance, we wish you both a very long and happy future together.

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wishes to thank the Tennant Creek St John Ambulance Staff for their dedicated service to the people of the Barkly.

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A weekend in the Garden
Backyard Blitz - St John Style

The weekend has past and now it is time to reflect. A colleague in crisis and his mates give him a helping hand. This is that story, an amazing display of camaraderie and mateship; good old Aussie values that are alive and strong in our community.

In early April Paramedic Andrew Wheeler suffered a serious, debilitating illness necessitating hospitalisation in Perth. Recovery from this illness is likely to be long and difficult.

Andrew has been employed by St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc for the past nine years. He is a dedicated employee and valued colleague and consistently promotes excellence among his peers through the Australian College of Ambulance Professionals.

News of Andrew's illness shocked all at St John. The reality that his situation could happen to any one of us hit home and now was the time to think of something practical to help Andrew during his recovery. We needed a plan!

Prior to Andrew leaving Darwin he had organised a couple of friends to look after his house and garden. Andrew's house was new when he bought it and he had been beavering away creating a garden. Establishing gardens in the Darwin area is a very slow process as the weather is just a little too hot to be out side for long. The fact that Andrew is not the world's most dedicated gardener was highlighted over a beer and our practical way of helping Andrew was born. His backyard might need some work.

Andrew's backyard is a large area of grass surrounded on three sides by palm trees following the fence line. In the middle of the back fence is a large rosewood tree weeping down and touching the ground. The property backs onto a nature reserve and there is a firebreak cut on the fence line. This makes access via the back gate easy. There is a wide verandah running the full length of the house overlooking the back yard. The verandah area, which is used for storage, is dirt. The front yard is developed but needs a tidy up. The driveway is formed out of loose stone.

Ambos are very resourceful people and amongst the group you can generally find an expert on just about anything or they know somebody who knows someone who is an expert. Partners and neighbours also have qualities and expertise that can be tapped when undertaking such a project. What started as an idea over a beer had now progressed into a fully-fedged staff initiative with a finance manager and a work foreman.

St John management were very supportive and encouraged staff to approach various businesses seeking support for the project. The generosity of the St John family across the NT plus support from business and other associations led to a kitty of funds as well as the supply of materials and equipment for what was now known as the St John "Backyard Blitz".

A meeting was held in Andrew's backyard where a myriad of ideas were bandied about. Measuring tapes were out and a layout of what we could achieve was devised. The plan was as follows.

- Clear away garden rubbish.
- Prune existing trees/shrubs, plant new palms in front yard, pot up new pot plants for back verandah.
- New sleeper borders for garden beds, top-dress and mulch.
- Pave the entire length of the verandah and concrete the edges.
- Pave under the rosewood (severely pruned) and build a bench seat under the tree. New border around paved area and move driveway stones to surround paved area.
- Create a water feature in the back corner, run cable to work pump. Build low seat at front of water feature and plant palms behind feature.
- Underground watering system in both back and front yard with all associated fittings and timers.
- Top dress, fertilise and seed lawn area of front and back yard.
- Creates concrete slab for garden a shed in back corner of yard. Build the shed.
A weekend in the Garden... (Continued)

- Replace stone driveway with a concrete driveway.

  The data was selected, the May Day long weekend. Plenty of time to achieve our goal, after all they rebuild backyards every week on TV in an hour!!

  Prior to the long weekend some preparatory work was commenced. The front yard was trimmed and a couple of new palms planted. The driveway stones were removed and some of the stones were placed in the front garden beds, a very effective look. The remainder of the stones were moved under the rosewood tree. Work began on pruning in the back yard and the rosewood tree now has a new lease on life. The difference following a prune was remarkable. Irrigation was placed in the front yard and the sprinklers popped up on queue.

  The neighbours were now starting to wonder what all these strange people were doing in Andrew's yard. Once they realised what was happening, they joined in and gave a hand. Andrew has some very talented and committed neighbours and their assistance was greatly appreciated.

  Others behind the scenes were raising the kitty and this task was a really easy one. Everybody that was approached was more than willing to help in either cash or kind. In fact many people hunted us down with offers of assistance, an amazing response and all very much appreciated.

  As the big day approached, plans were made to ensure that all the workers were re-hydrated. This was a very important consideration given that the temperature in Darwin at this time of year is about 35 degrees during the day with strong winds. While there was plenty of bottled beverage available, keeping it cool was a small problem. Sorry Andrew, we had to prioritise your fridge to keep the b...ops refreshments cold. Another problem, not enough room. Luckily our local pollie lent us his campaign trailer. What a nice set up, eskies and B-B-Q on wheels!

  The day arrived, an early start about 0700ish. People with garden implements arrived, sand arrived, topsoil arrived, a ditch witch arrived and a whacker packer arrived. An industrial waste skip, pavers and the sleepers had been delivered previously.

  The work began with a flurry. The pavers were positioned next to the verandah and the sand was barrowed from the front yard around to the back. Others were pruning and clearing the garden beds ready to position the new borders. The pruning was so intense that even trees marked for relocation got a face-lift!

  The ditch witch was pressed into service and made quick work of creating the ditches for the irrigation and the garden bed borders. The chain on the ditch witch lasted until the last few feet before it broke. Not bad as it seemed like kilometres of trench was dug.

  Our expert pavers got started on the task of creating a symmetrical, repetitive design using different coloured pavers. A simple task you may think. Think again. During a drink break it was noticed by the fairer gender that the pattern was anything but symmetrical. "No" said the boys, "impossible"! All the experts had now gathered around the questionable design and, you guessed it, several pavers had to be pulled up and relocated.

  Those with any idea of installing an irrigation system were hard at it with metres of piping and bits of sprinkler nicely arranged on the ground. Wonder why they looked unhappy when their bits were moved to make way for sand and topsoil? It was all good fun, at the end of the day the water came out of the ground in the right spot!

  Many, many trips were made by the army of wheelbarrow drivers moving sand and topsoil around the yard. At one point there was a loud explosion that stopped all work. Yes, you guessed it, a blow out on barrow 2. Major disaster. Barrow 1 had a blow out earlier and now another barrow gone! The tube was beyond repair and it was off to our trusty hardware store...
A weekend in the Garden... (Continued)

The B-B-Q was flashed up and the UlBACKAmbulance was entertaining the afternoon’s entertainment. One of the working people found, the ambulance parked in pride of place was a bit of a give away. Yes, even the duty crew was out potting up new plants.

Water girls were keeping the workers hydrated and fed. Trays of scones with jam and cream appeared. The street was full of cars the traditional afternoon batch of quality bangers was cooked. The start time for the next day was unintentionally staggered. Sore muscles, stiff joints and acute sunburn took their toll. Although our numbers were slightly down the enthusiasm was still there albeit a little slower today.

The major task today was the water feature. An electrician arrived early and we were underway. The length of conduit was measured but was a little bit short. Over the fence leaning against the shed was just enough conduit to finish the job. The problem was the four rather large dogs in the yard.

The only casualty during the blitz was a dent to pride. Poor fellow looked most embarrassed when he went belly up while trying to pull out a tree root! Big strapping Army lad too, a little entertainment for the girls!!

The plan is on track as most of the tasks have been completed. All that is left is the shed and the driveway. The completion of these tasks is dependent on council approval for the shed and the availability of concrete. This work will hopefully be completed prior to Andrew’s return.

What started out as a small idea escalated into a major undertaking but, as we sit on the newly paved verandah overlooking our handy work, it was definitely worth it. We have managed to create an aesthetically pleasing low maintenance garden that Andrew can enjoy while he recuperates. This project wasn’t charity, it was colleagues, neighbours and friends giving a mate, who is having a bit of bad luck, a hand. After all when the fertiliser kicks in and everything starts to grow Andrew will be getting plenty of exercise keeping his new jungle under control. Enjoy!!

We would like to sincerely thank everybody who participated in this project as well as those who have contributed in other ways. Your support for Andrew’s “blitz” was absolutely outstanding and has rekindled that Aussie spirit.

Beer o’clock eventually arrived and we could all sit down and inspect our handy work over a quiet refreshment. The B-B-Q was flushed up and a fine batch of quality bangers was cooked. Just what the doctor ordered, bangers and beer.

Being big brave amboss, it was decided to tap on the neighbour’s front door (gutsy move for a Sunday morning) and ask him if he could spare a little conduit. As it turned out this neighbour works in the water feature supply and installation industry. Needless to say there is now a breathtaking water feature in Andrew’s back yard. Our thanks to the neighbour who went to his shop, supplied all the bits than helped us install the water feature.

Other work today involved finishing off tasks that the 50% man started yesterday as well as top dressing the lawn, mulching the garden beds and sanding the paving. The final touches were added to the paved area under the rosewood tree. This area has been improved beyond our expectations and really complements the water feature. Another hard day completed with bangers and beer.

The only casualty during the blitz was a dent to pride. Poor fellow looked most embarrassed when he went belly
A weekend in the Garden... (Continued)

Royal Darwin Hospital A&E Staff
Naval Association of Australia (NT)
Andrews neighbours
St John Ambulance NT – Management & staff
And just a brief overview of materials used:
Pavers – 48 square mtrs
20 x 3 mtrs sleepers
12 mtr clean up skip
6 metres coarse sand
6 mtrs top soil
100 mtrs irrigation piping
20 pop up sprinklers
3 mtrs concrete
Pond base & “waterfall” feature
Pond pump & transformer
Potted plants & palms
Lawn seed
Fertiliser
Garden shed

Royal Darwin Hospital A&E
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The weekend was a huge success and all the cadets not only thoroughly enjoyed the weekend but also learned some valuable leadership skills. A big thank you to Vicki Macmillan who volunteered to be the St John adult for the weekend. Also, thank you to Chris Doidge, Chief Commission of Scouts NT for all her time and effort in making the weekend possible.

Thanks to the following cadets:
John Payne, Emily Macmillan, Kathryn Anworth, Melissa Miller, Megan Zabel, Lauren Jacobsen, Michael Andersson, Jessica Sinclair, Cassandra Hockey, Rachael Francis, Emily Forster, Deborah Valadares, Lily Patsias, Luisa Morie.

A group of 14 cadets attended a Scout Leadership Course at Nungalinya College. The Cadets from Humpty Doo, Palmerston, Kormilda and Darwin Divisions joined 3 Sea Scouts and 1 Scout for the weekend course. The cadets were divided into four groups with a new leader being chosen for each different activity.

Some of the topics covered included: Leadership, Team Building, Self Management, Decision Making, Motivation, Planning and Organisation, Communication Skills, Decision Making, Problem Solving, Planning and Organisation, Motivation

On Saturday night a formal dinner was held with all participants dressed in uniform. The Deputy Police Commissioner was the special guest for the evening.
May Day Camp for Humpty Doo Cadets

Over the May Day weekend, 30 Cadets from Humpty Doo went on a camp to Litchfield Environmental Park. This is a special camping ground set aside for groups like us. We have the whole campgrounds to ourselves.

Anyway, 8 adults took 30 cadets away. We left the Bush shop Saturday morning at 8:30am in two 22-seater buses with trailers. We are lucky as we have 3 people able to drive the buses. We arrived at the park at about 10 am, unpacked the buses and heard about the camp rules there was not very many as we were there for fun. While the Cadets set up their tents the adults cooked lunch. They did not have any big pots so had to get inventive with the cooking. After lunch, we went to Bluey Rock holes and then to Florence Falls. We went back to our camp where we also had a small creek, good for swimming in. There were also yabbies in the creek so we caught a couple and put them to sleep. Then we let them go. Mrs. Mac told us about the Camp Concert set for Sunday night, so this generated a bit of planning. After tea we had free time, the adults had water pistols so the night turned a bit crazy as they ran around wetting everyone. The adults got as well as the kids because then the cadets were cut to pay them back! After every one was good and wet, we lit the campfire, toasted marshmallows, and played some games. Mrs. Mac had us all in bed by 11pm. It was ok for us to talk, so long as she could not hear us, and we had to promised not to be ugly next morning.

Sunday Morning we were all up by 7am. Breakfast was a big meal, bacon, eggs, cereal, toast and pancakes. We were ready to go to Wangi Falls at 9am. On the bus the sight Mrs, Mac and Mrs. Payne, singing and dancing sitting down traumatised the Cadets. The Cadets asked the bus driver Mr. Mac, to stop so that these two could be kicked off, as it was all too much. He did not, as he realized that he would be on his own with all the kids and he is not that brave. When we got there, Mrs. Mac made us stay in one area. While a couple of the adults disappeared. What the kids did not know was that the adults were setting up a camp situation at the bottom of the water falls walk. Mrs. Mac asked tourists to act as casualties. They were only too happy to do it. There was an Australian couple, a German Couple, a little girl and a couple of adults from our camp. They set up three scenes, one for the Cadet Leader, who had two casualties, one with heat exhaustion and a sprained ankle, the other had a cut on his forehead and his ankle was broken and it was caught in between rocks. The individual scene, which was me, also had two casualties, one had been cut on the eye with a spear grass and he had a broken wrist, the other one had a severe cut on his hand and an gina. The team scene had a child with asthma, one person with uncontrolled bleeding, another one with snakesbite, and a person who was unconscious, he had a hidden bleed on his back. The Cadets found out about the scenes as they thought they were heading on a hike around the falls. We had many spectators as the other tourist were warned about the action and invited to watch. The German couple enjoyed it and got many photos, they thought it funny that they had come all the way to Australia to get ehurt.

After it was all over, it was discovered that the morning tea and most of the lunch was not packed. Therefore, the Cadets who forgot to pack it had to go back to the camp to collect it. The rest went swimming. When everyone got back, we had morning tea and lunch together. Then some of the kids and adults went for the hike. The others laid around and talked. When all got back together we went for another swim. We packed up and headed up to the canteen where we had ice cream and Mrs. Mac told us about another surprise, she had a game where we had to go into groups and using what

we had on us see which group could get the longest line. The winning team got a soft drink. On the bus back to camp, the kids would not let Mrs. Mac or Mrs. Payne sing. Back at camp, the final touches were put together for every ones concert item, kids played in the creek and cooked a birthday cake.

That night the adults set up their table with a cloth, candles, wine glasses, and serviettes, they were having a formal dinner. With non-alcoholic wine, they did all the toasts and acted very serious, for a little while.

When dinner was over, we set up for the concert. It was very good except for the adults. The blokes were the Humpty Doodle Chicks and they were really, really ugly. The Ladies were Maria from West Side Story, doing I Feel Pretty. They were not!!! We had a fashion parade, some psycho first aider’s, a TV show including getaway, the Vegemite song, another one with Steve Irwin and Big Kay, a solo singer, the boys did the dueling banjoes. There were many interval breaks. It was an excellent concert. We than had a birthday cake for Maryanne who was turning 11.

Next morning Khalia and I were rudely woken up by two people pulling the tent poles out of our tent, so, when one was having a shower, I got a bucket of water and it went all in his tent and the other one was covered in another bucket of water. They soon learned: do not mess with me in the morning!

Then there was another big breakfast and packing up. When all was done, about 22 Cadets went back to the rock hole for a last swim, Than it was lunch cleanup and head for home.

We arrive back at the Bush Shop at about 3 pm. I did hear later that a few cadets were asleep by 6pm, so I think it must have been a good camp. And everyone is looking forward to next years camp.

Emily Macmillan
Sergeant.
Humpty Doo Cadet Division.
BAND DIVISION
The Cadet Band Division played Christmas Carols for the Salvation Army Home then was treated to fish and chips at Nightcliff Beach.

CADET OF THE YEAR
The Peter Falkland Award Winner for 2003 is Emily Macmillan from the Humpty Doo Cadet Division.

BATHURST ISLAND GRAND FINAL
Football Grand Final time is always exciting but in Bathurst Island the whole community stops work to watch the match. This year a St John contingent flew over to provide first aid coverage and join in with the celebrations. Chairman, Mr Michael Mooney joined members from the Humpty Doo and Kormilda Divisions for the day. Members were- Vicki Macmillan, Byron May, Susan Rosenzweig, Anton Plummer, Emily Macmillan, Caitlan Morrison and Amali Laine.
Operations Branch Report... continued

ANZAC DAY

Once again, St John members attended Anzac Day dawn services and parades throughout the Territory. In Darwin, Territory Superintendent, Sue Cooper, joined the Cadet of the Year, Emily Macmillan and Cadet Nerissa Brumby at the dawn service held at the Cenotaph. Whilst in Alice Springs Territory Officers Noel Talbot and Steve Peers attended the dawn service on Anzac Hill then joined a large St John contingent which marched in the annual parade. All the services were also backed up by public duty officers and ambulance crews. The Anzac spirit in Australia grows stronger each year and it’s encouraging to see that St John members willingly participate in these important ceremonies.

THANK YOU DONNA

St John is blessed with having some very special people who volunteer their time and effort for many years. One of these is Donna Stone. The Batchelor division threw a party to thank Donna for the years of hard work she has contributed to their division. Donna, who once lived and worked in Batchelor, has moved into Darwin so found it increasingly difficult to travel to Batchelor for divisional training nights. Donna was showered with flowers and gifts from her many St John friends.

Memories of Donna Stone were celebrated during the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Darwin.

The Humpty Doo Volunteer Ambulance was standing by... just in case.

The ambulance provided a welcomed bit of shade after the service.

Territory Superintendent, Sue Cooper, Cadet of the Year, Emily Macmillan and Cadet Nerissa Brumby at the dawn service in Darwin.

Donna with her gift.

Donna being presented with her presents.

The Alice Springs Adult & Cadets joined the annual march through the city streets.
Operations Branch Report... continued

A VERY OLD "CHOOK"
A member of our extended St John "family" recently celebrated her 30th birthday in true style with a fancy dress party. Sharolyn Talbot, affectionately known as "Chook", partied hard all night with her friends & family. There were lots of strange looking people (we believe they were in fancy dress but we're not really sure) so thought we would share some snapshots with you.

CELEBRATING IN STYLE
For the end of year youth group formal, it had been decided that we would have a masquerade ball. But a group of my friends and I decided that the normal flash cars and motorbikes, weren't good enough. So we arrived in an ambulance instead. With the Superintendent of the Cadet Division, Ian McKe (my dad) driving, we well and truly arrived in style. The five of us, Penny and her date Chris, Kirsten, and myself and my date John, will never forget how much fun it was to arrive to our formal in an ambulance. Thank you to all who made it possible.

Rebecca Mckie
Alice Springs Adult Division

DARWIN CADET DIVISION
The Dry Season in the Top End means it's camping time and most cadet divisions jump at the chance to pack up and head for the bush. The Darwin Cadet Division travelled to Gunlom Falls in Kakadu National Park for a weekend of fun, flies and fishing. A total of twenty six cadets and four adults enjoyed their May Day weekend in the fresh air and sunshine.

Enjoying the cool waters at the falls

Cadets Lorena and Natasha having fun at the camp

Weary campers stop for a break
NATIONAL CADET CAMP - BRISBANE

The Northern Territory was well represented at the National Cadet Camp & Competition held in Brisbane in January 2003. A large contingent of five adults and fourteen cadets attended the week long camp. Our competitors for the National First Aid Competition were: Team - Alexi Milne, Nicholas McKenna, Jonathan Haslett, Individual - Fletcher Jackson and Cadet Leader Philip Jackson.

Linda Haslett, Daryl Macpherson, Trevor Keatch, Noel Talbot, Liz Talbot, Alexi Milne, Maddie Haslett, Philip Jackson Nicholas McKenna Jonathan Haslett, Fletcher Jackson, Gary Jackson, Yasmin Foti, Kelly Robinson, Peter Williams, Elly Farkas, Ben Farkas, Kate Anning, Julie-Anne O'Bryan.
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OUCH!!
Do you think anyone will notice?
Some of the hard working staff from the Darwin region.
Humpty Doo Divisional Inspection

On the 26th May 2003 the Division welcomed 28 new Cadets that were enrolled and presented with their Epaulettes there were also other awards that were presented by Mr Hodges (Commissioner)

Cadet of the Year - Emily Macmillan
Most Helpful Cadet - Elizabeth Payne
Most Improved Cadet - Kiran Kiesaa
Cadet Leader - John Payne

Epaulettes presented - John Payne

3 yr Service Badges were presented to
- Ross Jacobson
- John Payne

Foundation Members were presented with their awards:
- Kathryn Ainsworth
- John Payne
- Ross Jacobson
- Tim Blott

On this important night, which coincided with our 5th Birthday we were pleased that Dawn Bat and Brian Madden were able to attend as they were our foundation supervisors of the Humpty Doo Division. They joined in with celebrations and they were asked to blow the candles out on our Birthday Cake and to open our party after all the awards were presented.

It was also excellent to see Mr Hodges (Commissioner) and Sue Cooper (Territory Superintendent) at our Divisional night as it is always great to catch up with them.

It was also great to see the support of the parents in attending and bringing a plate in which helped make night a great success.

Thank you to all the adult members, Officers and Sergeants of the Division for helping in organising this wonderful night.

Written by Nola Hutchins
Photos by Daniel Macmillan
Cancer Council Shave for a Cure Day
St John Ambulance – Katherine supports the Cancer Council Shave for a Cure day.

Kim Western – coloured now shaved
Trevor Keatch – serious business
Wayne Goodbren – pretty in pink!

Kim Western – very patriotic!

St John crew Katherine (left – right) Kevin Blake, Mark Ferguson, Trevor Keatch, Wayne Goodbren, & Nogger Roberts
Front row: Fr Wendy Jackson holding Jasper Bod, & Kim Western

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3. After Care:
After Care is a follow-up program for clients, following treatment, which includes counselling, advocacy, financial advice and assistance in finding accommodation.

4. Aboriginal Alcoholism Awareness:
AAA is culturally appropriate, friendly, sharing, anonymous fellowship. This is a spiritual program, fostering self-healing and responsibility for self.

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St John Ambulance – Katherine supports the Cancer Council Shave for a Cure day.
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Competition

The competition is open to anyone who reads the Outback magazine.

We have included photographs below of some of our staff members and photos of their children.

See if you can match the babies with their parents. The prize will be for the first correct entry drawn after the closing date of 01 August 2003. The winner will receive dinner for two at a restaurant of their choice to the value of $100, anywhere in Australia.

Prize will be valid for one month from close of competition.

Competition entries should be forwarded to:
St John Baby Competition,
PO Box 40221,
CASUARINA NT 0811.

Entries to be received no later than COB Friday 01 August 2003.

Please include a phone number or contact address when submitting your entry.

Winner will be notified by phone, results will be published in the Christmas Edition of Outback Ambulance.

Please place a letter in the box below beside the parent photo number, for the baby photo you think matches. ie 1 A.

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- explaining the laws and standards with practical guidance material
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**Contact information >**

For all general inquiries, accident notification and complaints telephone the Response Group **toll free 1800 019 115**

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