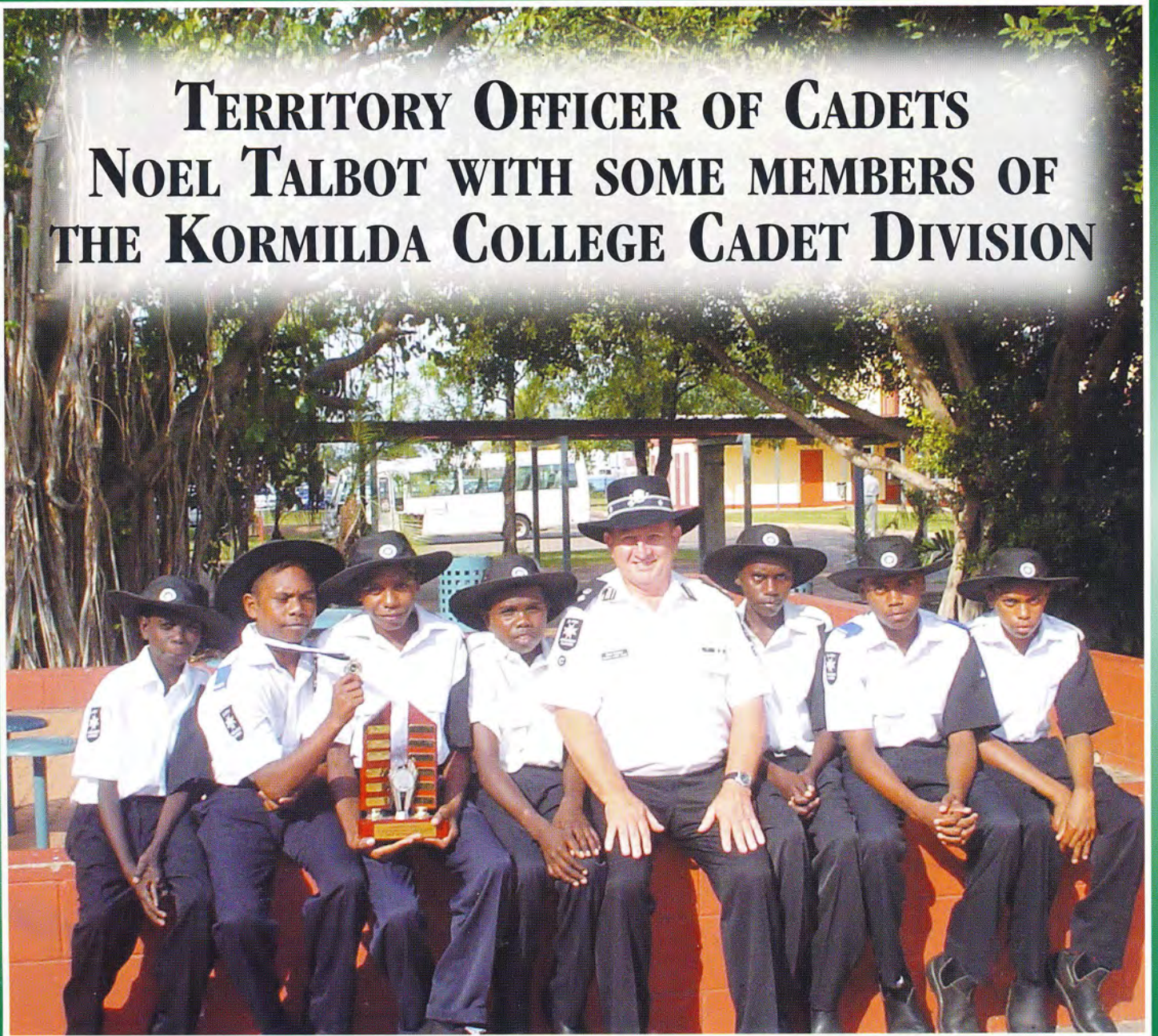




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Front cover:

Territory Officer of Cadets, Noel Talbot with some members of the Kormilda College Cadet Division.

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Chief Executive Officer's REPORT

What a hectic past few months!

Just a short article this edition, as I'm sure everyone is aware of the time constraints and pressures that have been placed on us, as we attempt to resolve funding issues for this year and beyond. I would also like to thank – once again – all staff, who have displayed incredible patience and loyalty during this period of review.

I would also like to record my personal thanks to Health Minister, Peter Toyne MLA, the CEO of the Health Department, Robert Griew and Acute Services' Robyn Cahill

who, together with your Chairman, Michael Mooney, President, Alan Bromwich and Ross Coburn and I thrashed out an agreement which will see the financial future for St John look markedly brighter.

Discussions over our funding have been protracted, but it was all made worthwhile on Friday, 6 May 2005, when agreement was finally reached. Much work needs to be done now on ensuring that future years are made as equally secure.

The recent ICMAX exercise I think typifies the camaraderie and team spirit that is embodied in the St John organisation and my congratulations to all staff and Operations Branch Members who assisted with that exercise.



Training Branch too deserves special accolades for their recent Audit and I am eagerly looking forward to receiving the formal report. It is a great credit to Brendan, Annetta, Admin staff and all Training Officers.

It's no good, I have to say it! - I have almost given up on the Magpies' chances in 2005.

Cheers

David Baker, OAM OSTJ JP
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Training Framework Update

Three years ago, I first started writing about the 12 AQTF Standards for Registered Training Organisations and how those standards are applied throughout the Training Department of St John Ambulance (NT).

Counting down the Standards from 12 to 1, I find myself now writing about **Standard 6 – Access and Equity and Client Service**. This Standard, ensures that the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) is able to apply access and equity principles and provide timely and appropriate information, advice and support services which assist clients to identify and achieve their desired outcomes.

6.1 The RTO's policies and procedures must incorporate access and equity principles.

Information in relation to Access and Equity can be located in the Training Department's General Policy and Procedure folder. The authorised/master copy is held on file with the Manager, Education & Training Services with copies disseminated to other St John Ambulance (NT) Centres throughout the Territory. Ideally, this approach ensures that all staff and clients at these centres or within those regions have access to copies immediately or as required.

6.2 (a) The RTO must set out its access and equity policies in a code of practice or similar document.

Copies of the Access and Equity Code of Practice can be located in:

- ① all St John Ambulance (NT) Training Halls (on display);
- ② within the Staff Induction Program;
- ③ within the General Information

Booklet provided to Student Paramedics undertaking training within the Paramedic Training College; and

- ④ within training resource packages utilised by First Aid Trainers delivering on-site courses.

Please note: The Access and Equity Code of Practice has been included at the end of this report.

6.2 (b) The RTO must ensure that copies of any instruments developed under Standard 6.1 are provided and adhered to by staff.

As stated in 6.1 'above', staff have access to the Training Department General Policy and Procedure folder. On commencement of employment, staff are taken through an Induction Program and are required to eventually 'sign off' as having read and accepted, the General Policies and Procedures including the Access and Equity Code of Practice.

6.3 The RTO must disseminate clear information to each client, prior to enrolment, about each of the following.

- I. **Client selection, enrolment and induction/orientation procedures**
- II. **Course information, including content and vocational outcomes**
- III. **Fees and charges, including refund policy and exemptions (where applicable)**
- IV. **Provision for language,**

literacy and numeracy assessment

- V. **Client support, including any external support the RTO has arranged for clients**
- VI. **Flexible learning and assessment procedures**
- VII. **Welfare and guidance services**
- VIII. **Appeals, complaints and grievance procedures**
- IX. **Disciplinary procedures**
- X. **Staff responsibilities for access and equity; and**
- XI. **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) arrangements.**

Clients are provided with the 'Above List I – XI' in specific Course Information Sheets which 'may' be provided as additional information when enquiring into courses and 'are' provided to those booking into courses through St John Ambulance (NT). By providing the client with the Course Information sheet, it allows them to familiarise themselves with a range of policies which can be made available on request to Training Administration/Support personnel in all NT regions. It is also pleasing to report that not only are, St John (NT) staff aware of the information contained within the Training Department General Policy and Procedure Folder but they are also aware of information which can be released to clients upon request. This information is also transparent with verbal advice provided by Training Administration/Support when questions are raised by a client. This area is and continues to be monitored during each regional visit by the Internal Audit Team.



Training Framework Update *(Continued)*

So in addressing **Standard 6**, I am confident that the policies and procedures currently in place definitely help to support new and existing staff in the area of Access, Equity and Client Service. I am also confident that all Training Department Staff are able to provide documentary support and/or verbal advice where necessary in relation to this standard.

ANNETTA ALBANESE

EDUCATION & TRAINING RESOURCE
OFFICER

CODE OF PRACTICE ACCESS AND EQUITY

We are committed to the following principles:

- Everybody has the right to participate in training programs free from discrimination, vilification or harassment.
- Everybody has the right to access training programs which are delivered in a manner encouraging participation and achievement.
- Everybody has the right to participate in training programs which are considerate of cultural sensitivities and practices.
- Wherever possible training courses will be tailored to encourage the active participation of those with disabilities.
- Participants in training courses:
 - will be treated with respect, dignity and courtesy;
 - have a right to hold different perspectives and opinions; and
 - are equally responsible for ensuring an environment which is free from discrimination.

Ref: AQTF/P&P/Access_Equity Code of Practice [vc001 2004]



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Manager, Education & Training Services

REPORT

AQF Guidelines for the Vocational Graduate Certificate and Vocational Graduate Diploma (2005).

Vocational Graduate Certificate

1. PURPOSE

To assist employers, employees, professional associations, unions, Training Package and course developers, accrediting bodies, registered training organisations and the wider public, including students, parents, and education and training bodies, to understand factors determining the level of the qualification. Also, to assist developers of Training Packages and courses of training to assign appropriate AQF qualifications within a Training Package, or to a course to be submitted for accreditation.

2. CONTEXT

The Vocational Graduate Certificate qualification is authorised in the Vocational Education and Training sector. The Vocational Graduate Certificate qualification takes into account developments under the National Training Framework - the introduction of Training Packages and the implementation of the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF). Training Packages use competency standards to describe the skills and knowledge needed to perform effectively in the workplace. These competency standards are packaged into units of competency. Units of competency are components of AQF qualifications. It is a requirement of the AQTF that competency standards from relevant Training Packages be used where they exist.

Qualifications developed outside Training Packages must not duplicate

qualifications contained in Training Packages. Registered Training Organisations and/or State/Territory Course Accrediting Bodies will need to be satisfied that any qualification proposed outside a Training Package cannot be achieved by the customisation and flexibility offered within a Training Package or by the issuance of a Training Package qualification together with one or more Statements of Attainment.

The National Training Quality Council, the body responsible for the endorsement of Training Packages, also has responsibility for the endorsement of national competency standards that are not part of Training Packages. These Guidelines apply equally to qualifications based on these competency standards.

In the Vocational Education and Training sector there are a number of useful reference documents which are listed in Appendix 1 (AQF Implementation Handbook Third Edition).

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

3.1 Authority

In the Vocational Education and Training sector, qualifications are based on nationally endorsed competency standards where they exist or on competency standards and vocational knowledge developed by relevant industry, enterprise, training, community or professional groups. The qualifications certify achievement of learning outcomes



generally identified as sets of competencies for levels of workplace performance reflected in the characteristics and distinguishing features of each qualification.

The focus in the Vocational Education and Training sector is on the capacity to assess directly the performance criteria in the competencies specified within the Training Package or accredited course. Authorisation of alignment of competency standards to AQF qualifications occurs as follows:

- National Industry Skills Councils, through the process of developing Training Packages, determine the relevant qualification for each set of national competency standards in their respective Training Packages. Through this process a Vocational Graduate Certificate may be added to an existing Training Package or included in a new Training Package. This determination is subject to endorsement by the National Training Quality Council of the Australian National Training Authority. State/Territory Course Accrediting Bodies, or Registered Training Organisations with delegated authority to self-manage accreditation, through the course accreditation process determine the relevant qualifications for any combined sets of national competency standards for which there is a training need, derived either from more than one Training Package and/or other endorsed sets of competency standards. The title of the new qualification must be

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

clearly distinct from those in the related Training Packages.

- Where there is no relevant Training Package, State/Territory Course Accrediting Bodies, through the course accreditation process, determine the relevant qualification for other sets of competency standards and vocational knowledge developed by relevant industry, enterprise, training, community or professional bodies to meet an identified training need.

3.2 Characteristics

Characteristics of competencies or learning outcomes at this level include:

- the self-directed development and achievement of broad and / or specialised areas of knowledge and skills building on prior knowledge and skills.
- substantial breadth, depth and complexity involving the initiation, analysis, design, planning, execution and evaluation of technical and/or management functions in highly varied and/or highly specialised contexts.
- applications involve making significant, high level, independent judgments in major, broad or specialised planning, design, operational, technical and/or management functions in highly

varied and/or highly specialised contexts. It may include responsibility and broad ranging accountability for the structure, management and output of the work of others and/or functions.

The degree of emphasis on breadth as against depth of knowledge and skills may vary between qualifications granted at this level.

3.3 Distinguishing Features

Where additional information is required to assist in determining the qualification level, the following chart could be used to help determine the most compatible match.

Advanced Diploma	Vocational Graduate Certificate	Vocational Graduate Diploma
Do the Competencies or Learning Outcomes enable an individual with this qualification to:	Do the Competencies or Learning Outcomes enable an individual with this qualification to:	Do the Competencies or Learning Outcomes enable an individual with this qualification to:
demonstrate understanding of specialised knowledge with depth in some areas	demonstrate the self-directed development and achievement of broad and/or specialised areas of knowledge and skills building on prior knowledge and skills	demonstrate the self-directed development and achievement of broad and/or highly specialised areas of knowledge and skills building on prior knowledge and skills
analyse, diagnose, design and execute judgments across a broad range of technical or management functions	initiate, analyse, design, plan, execute and evaluate major, broad or specialised technical and/or management functions in highly varied and/or highly specialised contexts	initiate, analyse, design, plan, execute and evaluate major functions either broad and/or highly specialised within highly varied and/or highly specialised contexts
generate ideas through the analysis of information and concepts at an abstract level	generate and evaluate ideas through the analysis of information and concepts at an abstract level	generate and evaluate complex ideas through the analysis of information and concepts at an abstract level
demonstrate a command of wide-ranging, highly specialised technical, creative or conceptual skills	demonstrate a command of wide-ranging, highly specialised technical, creative or conceptual skills in complex contexts	demonstrate an expert command of wide-ranging, highly specialised, technical, creative or conceptual skills in complex and/or highly specialised or varied contexts
demonstrate accountability for personal outputs within broad parameters	demonstrate responsibility and broad ranging accountability for personal outputs	demonstrate full responsibility and accountability for personal outputs
demonstrate accountability for personal and group outcomes within broad parameters	demonstrate responsibility and broad ranging accountability for the structure, management and output of the work of others and/or functions	demonstrate full responsibility and accountability for all aspects of work of others and functions including planning, budgeting and strategy

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

In order to assist determining the relevant qualifications, the most compatible set of features should be selected. Not all features will necessarily apply.

4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSESSMENT

Assessment is the responsibility of Registered Training Organisations. These bodies must comply with the Standards set in the AQTF Standards for Registered Training Organisations.

5. PATHWAYS TO THE QUALIFICATION

5.1 Candidates may enter the qualification through a number of entry points demonstrating potential to undertake study at graduate level, including from:

- a relevant Advanced Diploma or Diploma, or a relevant Certificate IV or Certificate III together with significant relevant vocational practice;
- relevant extensive vocational practice, without formal qualifications;
- a Bachelor Degree
- other higher education qualification, often with relevant vocational practice.

Where a Vocational Graduate Certificate is in a directly related field, or is nested with a Vocational Graduate Diploma the Vocational Graduate Certificate would normally provide up to 50% credit towards the Vocational Graduate Diploma.

5.2 Access to the qualification in the Vocational Education and Training sector could be through:

- a training program meeting the requirements of an endorsed Training Package or a training program meeting the requirements of an accredited course(s) delivered by a Registered Training Organisation; or

- where it is necessary to meet specific vocational requirements, a training program meeting the requirements of an accredited course(s) delivered by a Registered Training Organisation drawing on units of competence from more than one endorsed Training Package and/or other competency based programs accredited by States and Territories; or
- a combination of a training program meeting the requirements of an endorsed Training Package or a training program meeting the requirements of an accredited course delivered by a Registered Training Organisation, plus recognition of prior learning and/or credit transfer and/or experience; or
- the recognition of prior learning that provides evidence of the achievement of the competencies or learning outcomes for the qualification.

5.3 Time taken to gain the qualification will vary according to the pathway taken (see 5.4 below) and factors related to the particular industry or work area.

Nominal duration statements may appear in training programs that may be part of the non-endorsed Learning Strategies component of a Training Package. Nominal duration statements are also to be included in accreditation submissions for planning purposes but will not be used to determine the level of a qualification.

Although the duration of programs may vary, the volume of learning in the Vocational Graduate Certificate should be comparable to that of the higher education Graduate Certificate; that is typically requiring six months full-time or the equivalent part-time.

5.4 Examples of possible pathways include:

- Work-based training and assessment
- Institution-based education and training and assessment
- Part institution-based education and training and assessment / part work-based training and assessment
- Recognition of prior learning
- Recognition of prior learning combined with further training as required
- Accumulation of a variety of short courses / training programs. These examples suggest only some of a wide range of possible pathways. They are not intended to be prescriptive, nor are they limited to this particular qualification level.

6. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE THE QUALIFICATION

Each State/Territory has legislative responsibility for authorising the issuance of the qualification. This responsibility is carried out by Registered Training Organisations or in some instances by a body authorised under statute. The AQTF provides nationally agreed Standards for Registered Training Organisations to issue qualifications.

7. CERTIFICATION ISSUED

A qualification is: formal certification, issued by a relevant approved body, in recognition that a person has achieved learning outcomes or competencies relevant to identified individual, professional, industry or community needs.

Individuals issued with the qualification, Vocational Graduate Certificate, will also receive documentation that identifies the units of competency that have been achieved.

Individuals who complete only some of the requirements for the qualification will receive a Statement of Attainment. The Statement of

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

Attainment will include, either on the Statement itself or as an attachment, the whole units of competency that have been achieved.

The issuing body will be responsible for providing and maintaining records in relation to the above. See the AQTF including Standards for Registered Training Organisations, Standard 4: Effective administrative and records management procedures.

VOCATIONAL GRADUATE DIPLOMA

The Guideline for the Vocational Graduate Diploma follows the Guideline for the Vocational Graduate Certificate, but with the following characteristics and pathways:

CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristics of competencies or learning outcomes at this level include:

- the self-directed development and achievement of broad and / or specialised areas of knowledge and skills building on prior knowledge and skills
- substantial breadth, depth and complexity involving the initiation, analysis, design, planning, execution and evaluation of major functions, both broad and/or highly specialised, in highly varied and/or highly specialised contexts
- further specialisation within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge
- applications involve making the high level, fully independent, complex judgments in broad and/or highly specialised planning, design, operational, technical and/or management functions in highly varied and/or highly specialised contexts. It may involve full responsibility and accountability for all aspects of work of others and functions including planning, budgeting and strategy.

The degree of emphasis on breadth as against depth of knowledge and skills may vary between qualifications granted at this level.

Pathways to the Qualification

Candidates may enter the qualification through a number of entry points demonstrating potential to undertake study at graduate level, including from:

- a relevant Vocational Graduate Certificate, Advanced Diploma or Diploma, or a relevant Certificate IV or Certificate III together with significant relevant vocational practice;
- relevant extensive vocational practice, without formal qualifications, usually following completion of a Vocational Graduate Certificate;
- a Bachelor degree
- other higher education qualification, often with relevant vocational practice.

The completion of a Vocational Graduate Certificate from a directly related field, for example from the same Training Package, or in a nested program with a Vocational Graduate Diploma would normally provide up to 50% credit towards the completion of the Vocational Graduate Diploma.

Main Features of the Vocational Graduate Certificate and Vocational Graduate Diploma. Where do the Vocational Graduate Certificate and Vocational Graduate Diploma 'sit' in the AQF?

- positioned at the same level as the higher education Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma;
- two new graduate vocational education and training qualifications which extend beyond the six levels already accommodated through Certificates I-IV and the Diploma and Advanced Diploma;

- the Vocational Graduate Certificate and the Vocational Graduate Diploma require a similar volume of learning to the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma: that is, typically six months full-time or the equivalent part-time for the Vocational Graduate Certificate and twelve months full-time or the equivalent part-time for the Vocational Graduate Diploma;
- entry points include, but are not limited to, an Advanced Diploma, a Diploma, Certificate IV or Certificate III with relevant industry experience; extensive relevant industry experience demonstrating potential to undertake study at graduate level; a Bachelor Degree, or an Associate Degree with relevant industry experience;

What are the distinctive outcomes of the Vocational Graduate Certificate and Vocational Graduate Diploma?

- high level employment-related skills and knowledge which in most cases are specified in sets of competency standards developed by relevant industry, enterprise, community or professional bodies to meet an identified training need at professional levels;
- a focus on competency in a workplace environment.

What do they add to the AQF?

- expanded learning pathways;
- outcomes oriented to the specialised needs of industry and enterprise at graduate level;
- transparency of sectoral choice between qualifications at the same level in the AQF.

How are they different from other graduate qualifications?

- more focused on industry outcomes, with less emphasis on an academic discipline than the

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

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma;

- offers a short-cycle VET-sector graduate pathway alternative to the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma;
- offers a VET-sector pathway from the Bachelor Degree for specialist industry or enterprise competencies;
- may draw on competencies from a specific nationally endorsed Training Package, from a number of Training Packages, or may sit outside Training Packages.

How do they articulate with other qualifications in the AQF?

- may be articulated within a coherent suite of VET-sector qualifications;
- the Vocational Graduate Certificate may articulate with full credit with the Vocational Graduate Diploma in the same field;
- may give access to, or articulate with credit towards, a related coursework Masters degree program, by arrangement between the awarding bodies (including the self-accrediting institutions, or other higher education providers and RTOs). These arrangements may be supplemented by agreements at

the national or state and territory level.

Who may undertake a Vocational Graduate Certificate or Vocational Graduate Diploma?

- People who want to develop new skills, for example suitably experienced mature aged workers, with or without existing qualifications, who want to acquire new skills to support them to stay in the workforce and contribute to the economy;
- People who want to upgrade or extend existing skills, for example suitably experienced trades people with an Advanced Diploma, Diploma or higher level Certificate who want access to a streamlined way to enhance their skills;
- People who want to complement existing skills, for example higher education graduates who want access to short, specific programs in niche areas to enhance their employment-related skills and their value to employers.

Who may offer a Vocational Graduate Certificate or Vocational Graduate Diploma?

- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) which, as well as TAFEs and private VET providers, may

include universities and other approved higher education institutions which become RTOs for the purpose of offering these qualifications.

Can the holder of a Vocational Graduate Certificate or Vocational Graduate Diploma be 'deemed' to have a Bachelor Degree?

This question sometimes arises when a job specifies a qualification 'equivalent to or above the level of Bachelor Degree'. Like the higher education Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma, the Vocational Graduate Certificate and Vocational Graduate Diploma are graduate qualifications above the Bachelor Degree in the AQF. However, it is important to note that, in both sectors, these qualifications have a more selective purpose than the Bachelor degree and so do not have the comprehensive coverage of the academic discipline base characteristic of the Bachelor Degree.

Extracted and reproduced from the Australian Qualifications Framework, website may be accessed through www.anta.gov.au

Brendan Quirke

MANAGER, EDUCATION & TRAINING SERVICES.

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School Divisions Coordinator

My name is Kelly Raven and I have been appointed as the School Divisions Coordinator. This is a new position set up primarily to target schools with boarding students. The boarders have difficulty getting to the Cadet Divisions of an evening. So we decided to bring the divisions to them. This however does not exclude any student who is interested in joining.

My first job was to consolidate the work already started at Kormilda College Cadet Division by Vicki Macmillan and her long list of volunteers. Any Division needs stability and due to travel/work commitments Vicki felt the Kormilda cadets were losing out. They needed the week to week commitment and leadership usually provided by Divisional Officers and a Superintendent. Kormilda still needs these positions to be filled but as a temporary fix, Kormilda has been linked to Humpty Doo Cadet Division with Vicki as the Officer-In-Charge.

Establishing a contact at the school and getting St John information to them was the first step. It started off slowly with only 3 Cadets from the previous year attending the first week. After getting some flyers onto the noticeboards and into the dorm rooms, the numbers slowly grew to 16. It has been a huge learning curve for me. I realized very quickly I had to change my expectations, teaching styles and the language I used (majority of cadets are ESL).

The Kormilda training programme needed modifications very early on. With a bit of juggling I was able to

switch Term 1 with Term 2 and was successfully able to eliminate the need for a second instructor (from Training Branch). Putting together workbooks and other resources has dominated most of my time in the beginning weeks.

With Kormilda finally settling into a routine I have now turned my attention to other schools.

Discussions with St John's College have begun with positive feedback already. Marrara Christian School will soon follow in the coming weeks. Finding School/Parent help will be the biggest hurdle. If all runs to plan I hope to have these Divisions operational by Term 3.

I am enjoying the interaction with the students immensely and can't wait for the challenges that I am sure will confront me in the future.

Kelly Raven

SCHOOL DIVISION COORDINATOR

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Kormilda College Cadet Division

Kormilda College Cadet Division has been going through some changes this year. They have now come under the umbrella of the School Divisions Coordinator (me). First Term found the cadets completing the Family Care badge. This is a compulsory badge which must be earned if a cadet wants to gain the Grand Prior's Award (they must have 12 out of 35 Proficiency badges). This Term we have divided into two groups; Probationary Cadets studying Preliminary First Aid and the Senior Cadets completing their Skills Maintenance Program. Cadet Corporal Julie Murray will teach the new cadets as she has attained a certificate in 'Train Small Groups' which is part of Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment. This accreditation was achieved in her spare time over the Christmas Holidays and is already being put to good use!

Cadet Sergeant Amali Lane was nominated and chosen as this year's Peter Falkland Award winner.

The attributes for which she was chosen were; initiative, being well presented and having a good local knowledge of the area. Her official duties involve being the aide-de-camp (personal assistant) to the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner on formal occasions (within St John and outside), and accompanying them to Divisional Inspections.

Our first public duty this year was to provide first aid at the Sports Day held at the school. The school had organized various sports activities and they were scattered all around the school. This year we were given a room in which we could set up a First Aid station (Air-conditioned!!!). Vicki Macmillan went on many patrols dragging the cadets behind her. Most treatment was done out on patrol. We were happy to see less people suffering from the heat and lack of fluid intake than last year.

Our next duty saw Vicki and I taking 6 cadets to Tiwi Island for

the Bathurst Grand Final at the end of March. It was my first time and definitely will not be my last. It was hot but unforgettable.

May Day long weekend saw the cadets joining others from the Humpty Doo Division and venturing to the Litchfield Education Campground in the National Park. All who participated in the camp have earned themselves a Camping badge. From all reports the cadets had a great time; the adults who accompanied the cadets are still recovering!

The Divisional Inspection is soon upon us (26th May) with practice in drill already started. The Territory Officer of Cadets, Mr Noel Talbot, will be our special guest. See you again, in the next Outback Edition.

Kelly Raven

SCHOOL DIVISION COORDINATOR

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Kormilda College Cadet Division: Annual Inspection

Kormilda College Cadet Division held their Annual Divisional Inspection on Thursday 26th May.

It was the usual runaround, trying to get the afternoon tea ready. Food needed to be purchased, diced, sliced and presented. The boys needed help in getting organized. Just imagine trying to help 7 teenage boys in a room the size of a bathroom; boots, belts, socks etc scattered everywhere (thanks, Sir Nick). Nick Stassi and Patrick Heenan stood them straight and made sure that they all were wearing the uniform correctly.

Julie Murray was in charge of forming up the parade. Thanks Emily for helping out. Amali Laine, as the Peter Falkland award winner was the Commissioner's offsider

We used Kormilda's dining room again, this venue is excellent for a parade.

This year's award recipients are:

Cadet of the Year –

Amali Laine

Cadet Recognition Award –

Julie Murray

Most Promising Cadet –

Nick Stassi

Most Improved Cadet –

Sally-Anne Orchard and
Jessica Ralph

It was good to see the many St John members attending this inspection. Again we would like to thank Brendan Quirke and his staff for their ongoing support of this Division. They

have enabled it to keep functioning and developing.

This Division continues to be a challenge, but when you see the Cadets all on parade looking so proud and good it makes the challenges worth while.



Amali Laine

Amali is a member of the Kormilda College Cadet Division. This year she is the Peter Falkland Award recipient

Amali joined the Kormilda College Division in 2001, at this time; the Division was working hard to keep functioning. People like Amali, with her commitment and resolve, are valuable members of a Division and this has certainly proved to be true. She has attended NCO courses and camps and has now attained the rank of Sergeant. She has

completed an Advanced Resuscitation course and hopes to receive her Grand Priors Award this year. Amali is also an invaluable member of the St John Youth Council.

NCOs in a Division like Kormilda College have to take on extra roles as unlike other Divisions, there is no Superintendent or Officers. So these members must assume the many and varied duties, become role models and face the trials and tribulations that occur in the day to

day running of any Division.

Amali was this year's Director of the Kormilda College's annual play. In her spare time (when's that!!) she attends public duties.



Klayton Robb Profile

Hi all,

Well it's my turn to fill a gap in this rag.

Ok some of you know me and some don't. So here's my yarn!

A born and bred Darwinian. I spent most of my life in the thriving community of Berry Springs. After school I did an apprenticeship as a Diesel mechanic. Upon completion of my trade I diversified in my occupations and life experiences. I now have many qualifications and stories to tell. Occupations have included a short stint in the Navy, Crane and Truck driving, time as a Security Guard and now my current employment as a First Aid Instructor.

I have now planted my roots in Palmerston and am kept company by my wife to be Kirsten (Awaiting Marriage in mid 2006) and her 2 children Jelise (13) and Callan (11). This lovely lady swept me of my feet when I Instructed a Senior First Aid course in Katherine 12 months ago. We connected at once and

managed to maintain a long distance relationship for 6 months until Christmas, where Kirsten got a transfer with her work up to Darwin as a school councillor. Soon after our merging the next surprise happened. 14th February (Valentines Day)?????, yes Kirsten told me she was pregnant. "Well what a present for Valentines Day." The Bubs is due in October and we couldn't be happier.

Asides from my current employment being a rewarding challenge and life in it self a plus, I have maintained a long and positive involvement in the many and various Dog clubs in and around Darwin. All of this is again a voluntary duty to the general public. Of the many roles I have kept till recently had included President or other committee positions of several Clubs. I also have been an Obedience Instructor and Retrieving Instructor. This year I am taking a little bit of a back seat due to my new interest (family) taking up some of my time. I have also taken on some private study to

hopefully achieve my accreditation as a National Dog Obedience Judge.

Four legs and First aid!! (First Aid for your Dog)

This was an idea given to me a little while ago. The idea is to teach handlers and dog owners alike some basic First Aid for their Pooch. I am still currently preparing/ developing an Information session. The session will be both theory and practically orientated. This will be delivered at 1 or 2 of the local dog clubs. The information will include resuscitation (Mouth to Nose) of your four legged friend and what to do for them when they are injured eg. Run over by a car etc. Other pieces of information I intend to educate people on are: Cane Toad poisoning, Snake Bite management and knowing the general health and well being of your Hound.

Klayton Robb

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Tiwi Grand Final 2005

This year 6 Cadets from Kormilda College attended the Tiwi Island Grand Final to render First Aid to the multitudes of people supporting their teams. When we arrived on the Island we had the usual transport problems getting to the event, but eventually caught a bus. We did notice the lack of shade and a few trees knocked down as Cyclone Ingrid had visited the weekend before. We set up camp and got ourselves sorted. Patrick and Nicky have family on the Island so they were feeling very important in their uniforms as they caught up with different people. Joshua and Abraham were from Yarralin near Timber Creek so were a bit shy, and took a while to move around the Community. Julie and Amali have been to the game in previous years so knew the routine. We were ready to treat thousands.

There was heaps of planned entertainment happening; dancing, singing, an art show, other AFL games and an Auskick session for the younger kids. The boys couldn't help themselves and had a couple of kicks with family members.

We only treated 4 people for minor things like blisters, but next year it may be a bit busier as we had a talk with the nurse from the health clinic and she was interested in what we can do, and promised to send some business our way.

It was a long hot day, the game was interesting and the team the boys told us to go for lost so that was sad. Our flight back was much better than the previous years and only Kelly nearly got sick. For some of us the day started at 0730 and ended 12 hours later. Because of lack of trees and foliage, even though we were under cover the ones of us with pale skin got a bit burnt.

Another good day was had by all and we look forward to next year.

Vicki Macmillan

OIC,
KORMILDA COLLEGE



Shave for a Cure — Katherine 05

Every Year St John Staff in Katherine give up their hair for a good cause. In past years it has been for Shave for a Cure. This year a young local girl was diagnosed with a type of leukemia, and the ambos decided to join in a fundraising effort for her.

Baby Jayla was only 4 months old when she was diagnosed with Haemophocytic Lymphohistiocytosis and is currently undergoing treatment in Perth. We wanted to assist in raising money to support her and her family while this treatment was taking place.

Jayla's Aunty Toni was the local contact for the fundraising efforts and she had organized a volleyball night and she was going to get her head shaved. Not only did we see the chance for us to undertake our traditional Head Shave for a good cause, but it was also presented an opportunity for us to take on our volleyball arch nemesis – the fires!

So we set about sending some collection jars around Katherine and also asked for donations from Darwin St John members as well. I promised I would go completely bald if the ambos fundraising efforts could reach at least \$500. Needless to say, we reached that amount and I am now dazzling most of Katherine with the reflection from my bald scalp. Martin Scaife, Trevor Keatch, Geoff Lohmeyer, and Neil Robinson all took part in the cause and had their heads shaved. Another Volunteer Tim Laurie was under strict instructions from his new fiancée not to get his head shaved, so he set the trend in the hair colouring stakes. Needless to say this prompted a flurry of youngsters to bombard me with requests to get their hair coloured. So it became a night of bald heads and multi coloured hair.

In total the night plus ongoing fundraising efforts, the last total of money raised had passed \$4000 with about \$1500 being made on the night. So it has been a rather successful fundraising effort.

I would like to thank each of our colleagues in Darwin and Katherine who donated money to our cause. It was a successful outcome but could not have been achieved without the help and support of our colleagues.

Thanks to Mark Ferguson in Darwin for passing the hat around up there.

Matt Pearce

KATHERINE





A non-typical Weekend On-call in Tennant Creek

Friday night's workload began at 2230 hours with a mini riot at the Blain Street Flats with approximately 200-250 people involved not including 6 police units and 3 night patrol units.

For our first case, Marcel and I were called out to an unconscious man (called in by night patrol, unknown further information apart from that he was breathing).

On arrival, the male patient was laying face down on the ground with many police officers and night patrol surrounding. The patient was conscious, definitely breathing as he was shouting obscenities and that someone had jumped on his head.

After taking full spinal precautions and taking him off to Tennant Creek Hospital, we were no sooner dispatched back to the same address, this time to a female patient with a Haematoma to the head post assault with a broom stick (as one does with the weapon of choice it seems these days). Then off to the Hospital we trundle again.

No sooner am I half way through writing down personal particulars and we are called back to the same block of units. We are informed by Comms that if we don't take a certain route into the complex, the Police cannot guarantee our safety! We were despatched to a male patient with a fractured jaw. Upon arrival the patient was laying lateral on the ground with a puddle of blood under his mouth and surrounding his head. I had never seen so many people standing around looking at the man, it was like a display at the local show.

There was also fighting off to the right of us, far enough away for us to be reasonably safe.

We bundle this guy up and take him off to hospital, en-route he starts to vomit so we get out the Y suction catheter and begin to suction the airway, the unit just gets warmed up and low and behold, it stops suctioning. So I turn it on and off a few times to get the desired effect.

Vehicle back together now and off to the sobering up shelter for a male patient with a laceration to his head post fall – brought in by police. Apparently fell over his own feet and the police found him!

So after this case is completed it's 0310 hours and we head home to our awaiting beds.

Three hours later we are called out for a maternity case (G4 P3) at 0630 hours (having labour pains since 0300 hours that morning). I don't know why we drove her to the hospital as the flies at Kargaru camp were so bad that they could have flown us all to the hospital. We clear at 0800 and head home for maybe some more shut-eye. Hmmmmm. Well that wasn't to happen for me. No sooner was I drifting off to sleep, the power turns off. (The unit that I rent through St John has power tokens like the pre-paid phone cards). I get my gear back on and go down to the only place open in Tennant Creek at 0830 in the morning an buy some more power so I can at

least attempt to sleep in the 30 degree heat at 0830 in the morning. Back home I go and figure out where the tokens go and how to make the power work again.

Back in bed again, drifting off to sleep, the (bloody) phone rings again. This time for a 16 year old boy with S.O.B. Oh and by the way at the same time we are dispatched to a truck rollover 86 km south of Tennant Creek. The driver and co-driver were both at the hospital already and we were sent down for standby for the Fires as there was 4 tonnes of Liquid Chlorine on one of the trailers.

Back to the 16 year old boy, who I begin to question for a history and the like; he has anti-biotics in his pocket from seeing the Dr at Tennant Creek Hospital the day before (only 1 taken). I am unable to obtain any other history from the patient and I also ask his mother what health problems he has. She answers "he ran out of fluid tablets last week, but didn't know what they were for". Upon examination, the patient looks really sick, sclera yellowing, eyes sunken, moist and green productive cough which he says he's had since the day before, hot to touch and air entry that sounds very congested in the upper lobes and lower lobes also have decreased air entry. His feet and ankles look rather swollen. I later find out after the next case that this young lad has CCF and a history of Rheumatic Heart Disease. How's that for a sad history of no health problems!

We clear from that case reasonably quickly as we have to head south to standby at a truck rollover at the

A non-typical Weekend On-call in Tennant Creek *(Continued)*



Epennara /Kurundi turnoff. As you may be able to see by the photos that there's not even scrap metal left to salvage of the Prime mover and nothing worthwhile from the 1st trailer (originally refrigerated with milk, cement powder, 4 tonne of lettuce and meat.

As the story goes, the truck driver had a white cruiser 4WD coming towards him in his lane with lights on high-beam and took evasive action; the 3rd trailer went down into the culvert on the shoulder of the road and brought the other trailers with it including the prime mover causing it to roll. It slid quite about 100m plus before coming to rest on its side and blocking the road. Who really knows what happened to the said 4WD???

So we arrive in Tennant Creek at 1500hours with an empty tummy and a storm chasing us all the way home.

While at the hospital visiting one of our colleagues, there's a phone call in ED from Brisbane Air Traffic Control saying they have an aircraft landing in 2 mins with a MED 1 patient on-board with a Dr and Nurse and need an ambulance. Little did we know that the standby crew (while Marcel and I are out of



town) took our maternity patient out to the airport for evacuation to Alice Springs as she wasn't progressing with her labour.

We all high-tail it out to the airport to see what all the fuss is. It was the RFDS plane with the maternity patient on-board, she had decided that now was the best time to deliver. She found out the hard way that it was a girl. She never did want to go to Alice Springs in the first place apparently.

We take both patients back to the Hospital and are advised that the patient we took in earlier (the 16 year old with S.O.B.) is to be evacuated to Alice Springs for treatment, so off out to the airport we go with him and Auntie. We watch this storm come in (the one that followed us back from the truck accident). We hurry up with patient handover and watch the

quickest takeoff I think in RFDS history. Quite surprisingly the phones didn't go out during the storm.

Well that's about it until about 0100hours Sunday morning to the airport from MVB, for a female patient from Elliott with a snake bite. We head out there and wait. The patient, on the stretcher, is carefully wheeled out when the small door (at the

end of the aircraft to allow the stretcher to be removed) comes crashing down on my head; enhancing the headache I already have. I was even able to not drop the patient which I'm surprised Jarrod didn't with the amount of laughing coming from him and the nurse.

That, quite luckily was our last job for the weekend, bringing to an end of one of the busiest weekends for me; since I've worked in Tennant Creek.

Looking forward to many more of them (but no the riot)

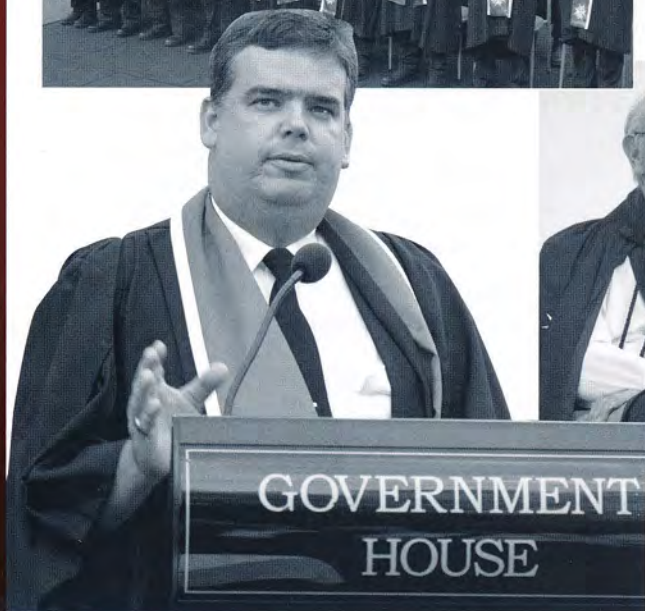
Take care and keep up the good work guys and gals.

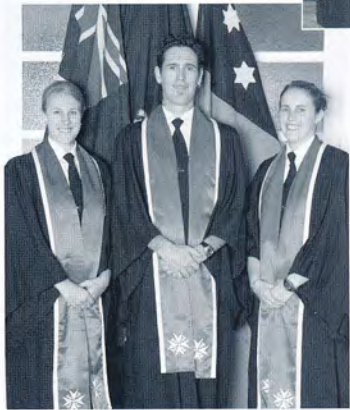
Bridget Oudeman

Temporarily in Tennant Creek



Graduation





Anzac Day March in Humpty Doo

On this day, 20 members of Humpty Doo Cadet Division and 2 members of the Adult Division lined up to represent St John in the Anzac Day March in Humpty Doo. All members of both Divisions looked very impressive in their uniforms (a couple of the new Cadets have yet to get black socks) but they looked beautiful in their uniforms for the first time.

We formed up and reformed and then we were reformed again. The Navy was the first to march off, then the Guides, Scouts and the public. We were the last to leave the start area. We only have a short march which is good as at Humpty

Doo we are not the best marchers. The ceremony was nice and three cadets, Anthony, Kiran and Rhiannon laid the wreath for St John.

We didn't have any casualties this year so it was good to be able to enjoy the service.

I am always very proud of the Cadets at events such as this as they are an excellent representation of youth and St John.

Vicki Macmillan

DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT
HUMPTY DOO CADET DIVISION



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Sigh. Those were the days....

So bizarre! There I am one minute, a fresh-faced trainee out to save the world; dropping phones down toilets, "chasing after" patients who clearly wanted no part of me (I wasn't chasing them but I was certainly over-keen to render them some assistance. Walking at a brisk pace perhaps), positively wetting myself with the excitement of Code 1's. The next I'm one of them paramedic things and get voted "Ambo Of The Year". Did I miss something somewhere along the way? Was this supposed to happen? Or more importantly, was it ever likely to happen? If you'd asked me when I first started, I most certainly would have laughed at both prospects. And yet here I am. How does it feel? To be a para it feels great, although I do catch myself doing a double-take when I catch sight of my diamonds. It's like I have a strange bug on my shoulder, I almost go to swat it away. To be Ambo of the year? It's, um, nice. I suppose, although I still have no idea of the selection criteria. It could be for "ability to make stupid whooping noises" for all I know. It certainly has its perks; some of the dudes in Alice insist on doing the "we worship you" arm gesture whenever I walk in the room. It's about time somebody started doing that! Tania Craig has started saying that she thinks I'm quite sexy, but I suspect she always did. She keeps touching my backside, saying I have "dust on there". I'm still making coffees for people though - where's the respect? I should be specifying my coffee requirements by now.

Anyway, enough about that. Let's talk about graduation. What a

fantastic night that was, I don't really know how it could have been better. Well, actually I could but helicopters are expensive, and I would have demanded my own personal one. Ambo Of The Year, and all that. The whole experience was just wonderful; it was great to see everyone again, great to wear the weird gown-and-sash combo, great to get the dinky little piece of paper (and it was indeed just that), great to hang at Parliament House (man), great to put the liver through its' paces. Incidentally, my mother probably had a better time than anyone - she's still raving about it. How funny it is to watch your mum zig-zag her way up the street on the way home! She was like a pinball, in a very un-level machine at that. She was not a well woman the next day suffice to say.

Thanks go to Lisa Trevaskis for organising the after-grad dinner, quite an awesome setting there out back of Parliament House. Thanks to all concerned who organised the graduation. To think I almost didn't go! By the way, who owns that Government House place? Do they want to sell it? On a more serious note, though, I would like to thank all of my fellow students who I've studied with, done courses with and worked with. A great bunch of people, hopefully not too many will "trickle" interstate and stick around for a while, long enough for me to work with at some stage.

I remember thinking when I finished my Clinical Two that "well, this is it - no more to do" and actually being a bit sad at that, as it's been quite the ride to this point. I never want to do another assignment in my life ever again - ever ever ever -

but the rest I'll miss. No more living in very basic conditions at the service house, no more snoring room-mates (Adrian Mercer, you owe me about 176 hours of sleep), no more walks past the "free beach" with Neil Robinson (not once was anything remotely attractive spotted, it was akin to strolling past the RSPCA; some sorry specimens), no more exams. Actually, I don't miss that last bit either.

Also, to mark the most auspicious occasion of not being a student anymore, I have penned the following ode to student hood. I myself have sworn an oath since day one that I shall never treat any students travelling with me the way I myself (and others) was treated when I was at their level - so the following shall hopefully be a handy reference point when I decide to flex my paramedic muscles upon thy lowly students.

Tony Wood



Photo: Steven Votie

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Michelle Wilson

Nickname/s: Mich (not bitch)
Hometown: Alice Springs
Favourite Foods: Thai, Chocolate, food in general
Favourite Drinks: Beer, Bourbon & Dry & cocktails
Favourite Spread on Toast: Vegemite
Favourite Movies: Top Gun, Gone with the Wind
How do you have your tea / coffee?: Coffee, white & one, Tea, billy boiled.
Favourite colour: Purple
Hobbies / interests: Reading, meeting people
Do you sleep naked?: Yes & No
Favourite muppet?: Kermit
Why I want to become an Ambo?: To help people
My impressions of Darwin: Hot, sticky, humid and green.

Ian McKie

Nickname/s: Macca
Hometown: Alice Springs
Favourite Foods: Anything Spicy
Favourite Drinks: Brandy
Favourite Spread on Toast: Marmalade
Favourite Movies: Lord of the Rings
How do you have your tea / coffee?: White

Favourite colour: Blue
Hobbies / interests: St John Cadets, calligraphy, gardening
Do you sleep naked?: Depends
Favourite Muppet?:
Why I want to be an Ambo?:
My impressions of Darwin: It's a long way from Alice Springs.

Matt Schepisi

Nickname/s: Pepsi, Skeppa
Hometown: Myrtleford, Vic
Favourite Foods: Spag bol (italiano made)
Favourite Drinks: Caramel milkshake / Southern comfort
Favourite Spread on Toast: Vegemite
Favourite Movies: The Blues Brothers, ET
How do you have your tea / coffee?: White with two sugars
Favourite colour: Blue
Hobbies / interests: Fishing, Cooking, DVD Piracy, Cross - dressing
Do you sleep naked?: Not unless I have a garden hose (just kidding)
Favourite Muppet?: Cookie Monster (Is he a muppet?)
Why I want to become an Ambo?: The Fire service won't accept pyromaniacs
My impressions of Darwin: A bit like a doughnut - hot and sticky

The Class of Clinical 1, 2005 *(Continued)*

Dan Falzon

Nickname/s: Dan
Hometown: Mt Martha – Mornington Peninsula
Favourite Foods: Fruit
Favourite Drinks: Rain Water
Favourite Spread on Toast: Women
Favourite Movies: Clinical one birth video
How do you have your tea / coffee?: With a smile
Favourite colour: Rainbow
Hobbies / interests: Saving Planets
Do you sleep naked?: Always
Favourite muppet?: Don't call politicians that!
Why I want to become an Ambo?: To make the world a better place.
My impressions of Darwin: Awesome.

Amaya Alcibar

Nickname/s:
Hometown: A Town Like Alice
Favourite Foods: Icecream of any sort
Favourite Drinks: Ginger, carrot, apple & orange juice.
Favourite Spread on Toast: Peanut butter with sliced banana
Favourite Movies: Baraka
How do you have your tea / coffee?: Perk if possible, white with one
Favourite colour: Blood Red
Hobbies / interests: Bushwalking
Do you sleep naked?: Not when Mum is visiting
Favourite muppet?: Gonzo
Why I want to become an Ambo?:
My impressions of Darwin: Green.

Sally Abbott

Nickname/s: Sal
Hometown: Wickham WA
Favourite Foods: Rocky Road
Favourite Drinks: Jameson & Dry
Favourite Spread on Toast:
Favourite Movies: Wazza does Bagot Community
How do you have your tea / coffee?: in a cup
Favourite colour: Blue
Hobbies / interests: Scuba diving
Do you sleep naked?:

Favourite muppet?: Don't like muppets!
Why I want to become an Ambo?: Not sure why.
My impressions of Darwin:

Kenton Winsley

Nickname/s: Kenton
Hometown: Belyuen Community
Favourite Foods: Smokes
Favourite Drinks: Coke
Favourite Spread on Toast:
Favourite Movies:
How do you have your tea / coffee?: With water (hot)
Favourite colour: Blue
Hobbies / interests:
Do you sleep naked?:
Favourite muppet?:
Why I want to become an Ambo?: Not sure why.
My impressions of Darwin: Not good

Fiona Sylva

Nickname/s: Fe
Hometown: A little village, coastal NSW
Favourite Foods: Toni Pepporoni, Tim-tam icecream
Favourite Drinks: Mudslides
Favourite Spread on Toast: Honey, butter & cinnamon
Favourite Movies: The Wedding Singer
How do you have your tea / coffee?: Lots of sugar, lots of milk.
Favourite colour: Purple
Hobbies / interests: Out & about with my dog, the gym, outdoor stuff, travelling.
Do you sleep naked?: When in the right company.
Favourite muppet?: Kermie – its not easy being green!
Why I want to become an Ambo?: Coz I wanna be like Kate & Mack on All Saints (just kidding!)
My impressions of Darwin: I Love it.

The Class of Clinical 1, 2005 *(Continued)*

Tom Falzon

Nickname/s:	The Bread Bun
Hometown:	Mount Martha, Vic
Favourite Foods:	The edible type
Favourite Drinks:	Water
Favourite Spread on Toast:	Spanish netball team!
Favourite Movies:	Mad Max meets politics
How do you have your tea / coffee?:	Minus the Tea & Coffee.
Favourite colour:	The rainbow on entonox
Hobbies / interests:	Celebrating and changing the underlying structure of society.
Do you sleep naked?:	I am naked
Favourite muppet?:	Kermit's finger
Why I want to become an Ambo?:	Skills for life. Exposure to the full range of viruses and bacterias
My impressions of Darwin:	A combination of Rome meets South Africa meets Amsterdam with the 'buffet' restaurants that the obese fantasize about and the reduced female ratio that the male inclined either fall ill or change sexual preferences over. Darwin is wonderful!

Peter Jones

Nickname/s:	Jonesy
Hometown:	Sea Lake – NW Vic
Favourite Foods:	Steak, eggs & chips
Favourite Drinks:	Beer
Favourite Spread on Toast:	Jam
Favourite Movies:	Forest Gump
How do you have your tea / coffee?:	Like my women, white with two.
Favourite colour:	None
Hobbies / interests:	Motorbike riding, most outdoor activities
Do you sleep naked?:	Sometimes
Favourite muppet?:	The Drummer
Why I want to become an Ambo?:	To help people in times of need
My impressions of Darwin:	Friendly, big country town.

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Adult Competitions

Saturday 23rd April dawned bright and sunny. It was the day that whilst we were dreading, we were pleased it was finally here. We had been training since February for this day. We hadn't put as many hours in as we would have wished, but we had done our best. One member of the team had to pull out sick half way through the training so we had to look around for another to take her place; this is where Dave stepped in. He had never done comps. before so was very brave in making the move at such short notice. Marion, who had pulled out, turned into our Manager and what a fine manager she made too. Lyn and I had competed before so we knew we must have been crazy to want to do it again.

We all arrived at Knuckey Lagoon, looking spick and span ready to go. The nerves were waking up and the butterflies had spread their wings and were flapping. It was good to catch up with the other teams particularly the mad group from Alice Springs. At 0800 the doors closed, one team and an individual hadn't appeared, but they arrived soon after. We were now all

together, trying to keep each other going.

The first team (Cadets and Cadet Leaders) went out; we were not running far behind time so that was good. After they went out it was our turn to get even more nervous, the palms started to sweat and the shakes started, the butterflies turned into Eagles.

Then it was our turn, down the steps we went thinking "someone remind us again why are we doing this".

We were met at the bottom of the steps by Dean and a Cadet who then explained things to us (now I don't remember what it was, but I'm sure it was important at the time). You walk past all these people and onto the scene.

Once on scene, you get very involved in what is going on. Trying to work out what is wrong with everyone is the first job. Sometimes this can be a bit difficult and you spent the whole scene wondering what was wrong with them. You get down to the treatment and get very focused on what you are

doing, you have to remember to communicate with each other, make the phone call and look for the oxygen that you know must be there somewhere. Before you know it the whistle blows and it is over.

All that work, stress and nerves, it's finally over!

After you come off scene it's, "I did this wrong, I did that wrong. If only.... Why didn't we..." Then you come to the conclusion that you did the best you could. Breathing, pulse and the nervous system return to normal.

You sort of watch the following teams, but don't really want to and then it's time to announce the results. This is another nervous time. To get second place was awesome. We were very happy with our place and what we did.

The best of luck to the Alice Springs team bound for Melbourne.

We'll be back next year to do it all again.

Vicki Macmillan





Tennant Creek Cadet Division

Cadet members from Tennant Creek spent a weekend of training to finalise their Preliminary First Aid and Family Care.



Back Row, L to R - Jacinta [Cpl], Lisa [Sgt], Emma, Stacey, Breanna

Front Row, L to R - Alannab, Nicole, Katerina, Mary Ann and Travis (taking a more relaxed approach).

Adult members in attendance [who refused to be photographed due to bad hair days or something] were D.O. Lynda McMeekin from TCK, D.O. Barbara McKIE from Alice Springs and D.S. Ian McKIE from Alice Springs.



Probationary Cadet Emma going through the routine of controlling a severe bleed on Jacinta. Emma only joined the TCK Cadets about four months ago and is really enjoying the challenges St John Cadets has to offer.



All this training takes a lot of energy, so during a quick morning tea break the crew get stuck into the milksbakes and a pile of other goodies supplied by Barkley OIC Scott Loechel. [Thanks Scotty].

Everyone successfully completed the training weekend and hopefully had a lot of fun doing so. There's also hope that TCK will have some members in District Comps this year - no pressure guys!

Thanks to all in TCK who made Barbara and I feel so welcome, and Thanks and Congratulations go to the Cadets for their fantastic effort and for making it a fun weekend. - Regards Ian McKIE Div' Supt' Cadets - Alice Springs.



Thy Student's Ten Commandments

1. *Thou shalt make coffee.*
2. *It shall be "brewed" if the requesting officer commands it.*
3. *Thou shalt never critique a Senior Officers' driving prowess, no matter how horrible it may be. Thou must be content to be tossed around with patient in rear of vehicle.*
4. *Thou shalt, however, be open to said same officer freely critiquing thy own driving skills.*
5. *In the case of Commandment 4, thou shalt learn to treat thy patients one-handed.*
6. *Thou shalt learn to nod thy head knowingly when other officers recount a case using advanced terminology, even though thou hast no idea what "vaso-vagal" means.*
7. *Thou shalt "learn thy own way" of writing case cards, as long as it is just how thy Senior Officer likes it. Multiple rewrites of case cards must be endured.*
8. *Thou shalt term thy patients' Radius and Ulna as their "tib and fib" at least once. This will usually be done in the presence of a doctor.*
9. *Thou shalt realize that "recapping" is quite OK, so long as nobody notices.*
10. *Thou shalt learn the hard way to supply all patients with even the slightest nausea with an emesis bag.*
11. *Thou shalt always relinquish thy remote control to a Senior Officer.*
12. *Thou shalt go shopping for as long as the Senior Officer so desires. Thou shalt not complain about the same shops being frequented. Over and over and over.*

Camping with Humpty Doo Cadets

Saturday of the Mayday weekend saw 31 Cadets and 6 adults head off towards Litchfield National Park. It was our Annual Divisional Camp. Six of the 31 Cadets were from Kormilda, they have joined with Humpty Doo for this camp for the past couple of years. We left the Bush Shop on the Arnhem Highway at 0840, ten minutes late. It took two buses and trailers to get us and all our gear on the road. The bus I was driving seemed to be the noisy one, we had the radio going and a big sing-a-long happening. We arrived at the gates of the Environmental Park, and had to wait a little while for the Ranger to let us in. Once in it was unpacking, sorting out the food and gear, getting the rules understood and setting up the tents. Lunch and then off to the rock holes for a swim. This year was better than previous years as the other people sharing the area with us kept their clothes on, the Cadets did not get an Anatomy lesson. We are an instant crowd but as we spread ourselves during the swim it was not so bad. After everyone had had enough we headed back to camp. We have been developing a game kit over the past couple of years, so that all came out. Our most popular games this year were cricket, Pictionary, Uno and kicking the ball. The Cadets kept themselves amused and the dinner group got the Lasagna and chips ready. We only had one birthday this year, Mitchell turned 15, so we did the cake and candles thing.

On Sunday we went to Walkers Creek, this was a first for us as we usually go to Wangi Falls but that

was still closed. I took 9 girls off for a 4k hike to find a plunge pool. It was a good walk and we found a good swimming hole.



The group we left behind had a couple of problems with leeches, so by the time we returned to the main group they were bored waiting for us. Back to camp for lunch then onto the Rock Holes and Florence Falls. In the late afternoon we headed back to camp and a BBQ for dinner. We have skits on our last night and everyone gets involved. It's a fun night and we have a good laugh. Dave Mac was sung to by Ross and Tim (You've lost that lovin' feeling), the boys from Kormilda did some dances for us, we had some girls do a song, a magical act and another group that had us up doing aerobics.

Monday morning we had to pack up the camp and clean the area. This was done in record time so some Cadets went for a last swim and the others played games and prepared lunch. Lunch is usually a combination of all the left overs, this can make for a very interesting meal.

After lunch a last clean-up then we loaded the buses and headed for home. My bus had a huge singing session and I'm sure nobody went to sleep as there was too much noise.

We arrived back at the Bush Shop a bit earlier than expected, offloaded the Cadets, then to Kormilda, to drop them off, then home.

I think all had a good time I know I did. But it was nice when Dave and I got home and had all the cleaning and unpacking done, to have a QUIET soak in the spa.

Vicki Macmillan

Divisional Inspection at Humpty Doo

On Tuesday 24th May, Humpty Doo Cadets had their Divisional Inspection. This year we held it at the Village Green in Humpty Doo. It was a nice venue and worked well for the Inspection. All Cadets looked beautiful and smart, dressed up in their uniforms. Emily Macmillan took the parade this year and did a fine job. She had studied the drill manual to make sure it was correct.

Thanks to Noel Talbot and Frank Haydock for taking the parade at such short notice. It was great to have them there as it helps make the night special for the Cadets and Officers who have put so much time and effort into the success of the Division. Young John Blackburn from England also attended; when I introduced him to the Cadets, they thought he was to be their next Superintendent! It is always great to have so many parents and



relatives attending, it helps to make it a special night.

Lyn Jacobsen and Rebecca Dexta received their 3 year bar.

Our new Cadets, Jamie, Danielle, Melanie, Rhiannon, Stella, Anthony and Jonathon were welcomed into the Division.

Receiving awards this year were

Cadet of the Year –
Kristie Leafé

Most Promising Cadet –
Stacey Cannons

Most Helpful Cadet –
Shaun Washington

Officers Encouragement Awards went to:

Jamila Harris-Evans
Patrick Maloney
Stella Hubel
Alix Willan

It is always a proud time for me at these Inspections when I can give recognition to Cadets who have given that extra time and effort to the Division. Watching these young people grow and develop and turn into the caring, responsible people

they are today makes working with youth a very rewarding experience.

As my time as Superintendent is nearly over I would like to thank Lyn, Ross, Nola and Marion for their commitment, Lee for being there in the early years to help stabilize the Division. Without their continued support we would not be where we are now. Thanks to Gwyn, Noel and Sue Cooper for guiding me, listening to me and supporting some of my way out ideas, you have helped me heaps.

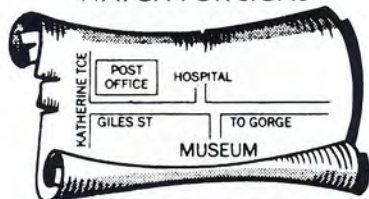
I would also like to especially thank my daughter Emily for always being there, she has been my sounding board, advisor and support. She has encouraged me and kept me at it when things were hard, and there have been a few difficult times. But I have loved the experience and would not have missed it for the world. Thanks Em.

Vicki Macmillan
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A chance to respond

As I write this article for Outback I am able to reflect on almost 12 months of working with the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF). I'm not sure anyone was prepared for the complexities of this framework and it has certainly been a significant learning curve for all involved (Outback Ambulance, December 2002). This was my opening sentence in the Outback article of December 2002.

Since that time the ongoing compliance with the Standards contained in the AQTF Standards for Registered Training Organisations has always been foremost in our minds across the range of our training services. From my perspective there have been many significant benefits coming from our commitment to AQTF, possibly the greatest of these being our transparency. It is most pleasing to report that we have received some extremely positive feedback following our recent AQTF External Audit for AQTF compliance which was conducted late April 2005, by John Bishop of Bishops and Associates (WA) and Howard Lai (DEET-NT). The audit

was exhausting and all inclusive and we were able to provide sufficient evidence across all standards to ensure a successful outcome. The auditors did pick us up in some small areas which require a little fine tuning but otherwise St John (NT) committed itself well.

I welcome Steve Reubenson to the Training Department in the role of Paramedic Education Officer. Steve comes to us from South Africa and England via Alice Springs and has an extensive work history in the Ambulance industry. A more detailed introduction to Steve has been published in the latest edition of our internal magazine, 'our plaNeT'

The demand for First Aid training continues at a pace not previously experienced. I will take this opportunity to recognise the continued high standard of course



delivery by our Instructors. This standard, coupled with the focused and quality customer service provided by our administration staff goes a long way to ensuring St John (NT) will continue to be the first aid training provider of choice for many Territorians.

I would like to congratulate all of those Paramedic Officers who earlier this year graduated with their Diploma or Advanced Diploma. There is no doubt this is a significant achievement and one each of you can feel justifiably proud of. I would also like to recognise the support St John (NT) receives from the Administrator and Deputy Prior, the Administrator, Mr. Ted Eagan AM and The St John (NT) Patron, Ms Nerys Evans at our graduation ceremonies. Their involvement certainly adds to the significance of the occasion.

As part of my contribution to this edition of Outback, I have included an article downloaded from the Australian National Training Authority website which discusses the possible introduction of Graduate certificates and Graduate Diplomas in the VET sector. I'm sure some readers will find this particularly interesting.

Brendan Quirke

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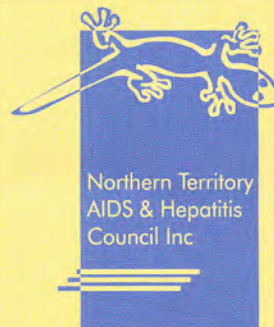
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