



OUTBACK *Ambulance*

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features regulars

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Front cover:

Southern Regional Manager, Steve Peers and wife Ros at the National Medal Presentation made by HHA Ted Egan AO and his Nerys Evans in Alice Springs.

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Chief Executive Officer's REPORT

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all at St John!

Just a short article this edition, as I'm sure everyone is aware of the timing issues between the preparation of this copy and the actual print date. Suffice to say, I believe that more will be known on the future of St John when you read it, than is the case as I write this.

Could I thank the vast majority of staff for their loyalty, positive attitude, co-operation and support, during what has certainly been a tough time for everyone. I think in all the scramble for some people's personal agendas, sight has been lost of the fact that we are pulling in

the same direction – for the best service in Australia. Some have chosen different paths to try and get there, but history alone will show our individual and collective wisdom.

So, simply put, thank you and please enjoy a Merry Christmas and I hope it's a joyful and prosperous New Year for all. Thanks guys (and girls).

Cheers

DAVID BAKER, OAM OSTJ JP
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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The year that was....

Looking back over the last twelve months for St John, it has been yet another busy and eventful year.

The year started with the uncertainty in the future of St John in the Territory after some lengthy and often frustrating negotiations with the Government and appears destined to end on the same note.

The year also started with the welcoming of six new trainee ambulance officers and two trainee communications officers, who endured many hours of hard study to enable them to deal with the many different scenarios to face them on the road and in communications. All of them thankfully passed with flying colours and are now members of the St John family.

It was a mixed year for the Ambulance officers, the highs of the major events, the biggest being their involvement in the joint emergency services major disaster scenario the ICMEC exercise, which simulated a major disaster and gauged the response of all emergency personnel, indicating the strengths and weaknesses of each organization. Thankfully St John Ambulance rated very well and all staff involved did the organization proud with their efforts.

More exciting major events occurred with the Finke and the V8 Super cars, both of which are much anticipated events and a highlight for all of the rev heads, of which St John seem to have no shortage.

Another bit of exciting news, paramedic Nicolle Marchant from Alice Springs gave birth to a

beautiful baby boy in June. Congratulations to both her and Nathan. Alex is the first St John baby this year, considering last year we were struggling to keep up with them popping out all the time! Kirsty Warren who left us last year also had a beautiful baby girl. Both families are doing well. The next new addition will be baby Shelton from Admin in Darwin, followed early next year by Treena in Darwin Stores and finally (for now) Sylvia in Training—good luck to you all.

Some of the low points of the year have been the sad farewell of friends as some of the Ambulance Officers moved interstate to pursue bigger things, some of whom had been a part of St John in the Territory for many years. You are sadly missed and we wish you all the very best in your new adventures.

The Operations Branch has also had an eventful twelve months with the farewell of Commissioner Andrew Hodges, who has been replaced by Peter Poole, and the new appointment of Superintendent Steve Peers from Alice Springs, who also had his own high this year of being awarded an Order of Australia Medal, congratulations Steve and Peter. Humpty Doo division said farewell to Superintendent Vicki Macmillan after many dedicated years of support.

Contracts were a major player for some of the paramedics this year with many attending mine sites and offshore vessels for the first time. A



Steve & Ros Peers

chance to experience something a bit different from the normal daily challenges. Congratulations to Jodie Dixon on her appointment to PGS offshore contract work.



Alice Springs Show volunteers

There have been many other events throughout the year, including the show circuit in July and internal Paramedic training courses. Some of the stories have been included in this edition, so enjoy the read and have a Safe and Merry Christmas and a great 2006!

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Training Framework Update

Welcome back to another edition of Outback Ambulance. My aim in this edition is to enlighten all of you about how St John Ambulance (NT) complies with the Australian Quality Training Framework specifically - Standard 5 - Recognition of qualifications issued by other Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

It is within this Standard whereby the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) must have strategies in place to be able to research and where needed map Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) qualifications and Statements of Attainments which are issued by other RTO's.

Identified below are 3 areas in which we must comply.

5.1 The RTO's policies and procedures must include a requirement that the RTO recognises the AQF qualifications and Statements of Attainment issued by any other RTO.

Within the Training Department General Policy and Procedure folder is a policy titled Mutual Recognition. This policy identifies St John (NT)'s recognition obligations afforded to clients who have previously been issued with Qualifications and/or Statements of Attainment by another RTO.

Where clients have not previously trained with St John (NT), a client history does not exist on our Student Database, hence the reason documentary evidence is required to support their claim of recognition. Evidence of a client's Qualification or Statement of Attainment must be submitted to Training Administration/Support Staff and passed to the Manager, Education & Training Services or approved

personnel for assessment.

Where a qualification and/or Statement of Attainment issued by another RTO has been previously assessed by the Manager, Education & Training Services (or approved personnel), outcomes of the assessment can be located on an internal document titled Mutual Recognition of Courses List, held by Training Administration/Support Staff.

Where the evidence provided has not previously been assessed, a search of the National Training Information System (NTIS) is paramount. By searching the NTIS, this helps to provide an RTO such as St John (NT) with National Codes; Training Packages and performance criteria information for elements contained within Training Package Qualifications.

Where a Nationally Accredited Course is owned by a private provider such as the Training Department of St John Ambulance (NT), contact information for other RTO's is available for those searching the system.

5.2 The RTO must include its obligation to recognise the AQF qualifications and statements of attainment issued by other RTO's, in information to client.

First Aid Training: The following information appears in all brochures which are readily available to



clients/customers.

"St John Ambulance (NT) recognise people may acquire valuable skills and knowledge from a variety of experiences such as formal training or informal (life experience) learning. In many cases the skills and knowledge acquired may be able to be recognised as fully or partially meeting the outcomes of a course someone is considering completing. If you believe you have acquired the skills and knowledge contained within the course you are thinking of completing, you may consider applying for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Your application will be considered by a trained RPL Assessor and you will be invited to participate in the process.

If you feel you may be eligible to receive full or partial RPL or you would simply like some more information, please contact the Training Department on 89226221 or 89226228."

All clients/customers enrolled into first aid courses are provided with Course Information Sheets identifying a list of policies and procedures available to them, upon request to Training Administration/Support Staff. Identified within the list of policies and procedures, are ones specific to recognition of prior learning arrangements; and mutual recognition of courses.

Ambulance Paramedic Training: Ambulance Service Staff enrolled into courses delivered by the Paramedic Training College (PTC) are



Training Framework Update *(Continued)*

provided with a General Information Booklet (GIB) which outlines the following in relation to this area:

"Student paramedic officers may make application for RPL/RCC at any time during their training. Such applications can be discussed with the Paramedic Education Officer and formally requested (in writing) to the Manager, Education and Training Services should the officer wish to proceed. The Manager, Education and Training Services will ensure the applicant receives the Elements and Performance criteria to enable them to formulate their application. The assessment will be coordinated by the Manager, Education and Training Services and one other person nominated as an 'industry expert'.

- Applications for RPL must, wherever possible, include documentation in support.
- The RPL assessment will be appropriate to the needs of the individual, it must be fair and flexible to account for individual

circumstances.

- Any assessment strategy must allow for literacy or numeracy difficulties or physical disabilities.
- Records must be maintained of all RPL assessments conducted, regardless of the outcomes.
- Records will be maintained of all courses delivered by other registered training organisations or training providers which are granted recognition through the RPL process.
- Applications should be received in sufficient time to allow the assessment to take place so as not to cause disadvantage to the student paramedic should the application not be fully successful."

5.3 The RTO must provide information to staff on the obligation to recognise the AQF qualifications and Statements of Attainment awarded by other RTO's.

As stated in 5.1 (above) Training Administration/Support Staff are provided with information on courses which have been assessed by the Manager, Education & Training Services. The Mutual Recognition of Courses List, identifies those courses which have been approved and/or not approved as meeting the competencies for a particular course in which a person is applying for recognition. This list is constantly being updated and released to staff (as appropriate).

**Well this brings us to the end of yet another AQTF Standard. In the next edition, I will highlight Standard 4 - Effective administration and records management procedures.

In the mean time and until the next edition of Outback, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

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"On the 30th June, 2005, I was required to attend government house as a recipient of a Darwin North Rotary Club's "Shine On" award. I was nominated by Gwyn Balch, on behalf of the Commissioner, Peter Poole. These awards are an Australia wide concept initiated in 1992. Rotarians saw that some of us, with equal determination and commitment alike Paralympians, shine in our communities, with our community spirit and selflessness.

To say I was a little embarrassed was an understatement, although I have been diagnosed with MS



(Multiple Sclerosis) for 18 years, I have never had any intention of letting it take over and definitely never saw myself as selfless. I was asked to fill the void as the secretary/ treasurer for the

Palmerston Cadet Division about 6 years ago, and to be more than fair, I accepted for my own feeling of doing something useful it became a passion that I encompassed with both hands. I have since worked my way to the dizzy heights helping Gwyn in the Volunteer Office but maintain my commitment with the Palmerston cadet division where I have been a fixture for the last 6 years

Gwyn deserves some recognition amongst all of this as she has answered all the silly questions I must of asked in my early days and contrary to the saying" that you can never teach an old dog new tricks" has always amazed me by being able to teach me things in regards to the complex Procedures involved with running a volunteer office.

ROSIE BALLINGER

VOLUNTEER OFFICE ASSISTANT

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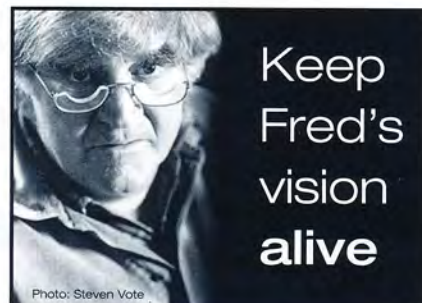


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New Ambo - Nhulunbuy

Wayne Bevan replaces the familiar face of Martin Scaife as Officer-in-charge at St John Ambulance.



Wayne has traveled the world for the past two and a half years as a Contract Paramedic on seismic survey ships in Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia and Australia. After a five weeks on and five

weeks off routine, he has settled on Nhulunbuy for his future.

An Ambulance officer / Paramedic for the past 10 years, Wayne has had seven years experience in the Northern Territory at Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. He joins Ray

Roles as the "career paramedics" with Ruth Haig as the part time casualty care officer.

They are supported by nine volunteers, two of whom reside at Yirrkala but camp at the St John's premises at Gove District Hospital when on duty.

The Centre is open from 9am until 1pm week days and Wayne and Ray work on a 48 hour roster with volunteers on call for 12 hour shifts.

Wayne said they average approximately four calls per day and do not replace the health professionals. "We work hand-in-hand with the hospital" he said.

Other duties include on-going training of volunteers in areas of ambulance training, scenarios and the usual mountains of paperwork..

St John also conduct First Aid courses six times per year and due to heavy bookings, Wayne sees this as one area which can be expanded.

Extract taken from Arafura Times, Wednesday 31st August 2005, courtesy of Maureen Neil.

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Contiki Rescue 2005

DAY 1

After a fantastic 24 hr journey through the outback of Australia, swaging under the stars at Daly Waters followed by an invigorating swim at Mataranka we arrived in the Top End a day before the St John Rescue course for 2005 would commence. We wasted no time and bee-lined for the ocean and a close drinking hole to catch up with all the superstars from class. The relationships we have formed with the clinical 1 team of 2005 has been nothing short of sensational. It is always a pleasure to meet people who put people and friendships before the job. As we all know jobs come and go but friendships are forever. We call this team 'the united stations'.

First day of rescue we were introduced to our instructors Dave Macmillan and Greg Coates— oh and of course the delightfull 'captain highlighter' Mr Stephen Reubenson. These men would be guiding us through the rescue components of the course. Day 1 set the foundation for managing and understanding the scene of an emergency, focusing on the relay of appropriate communications from the scene and the establishment of the plan to best cater for the casualties and of course our own safety. We all act differently in these situations but I guess you follow Mick McKay's advise 'be like a duck, all smooth on the surface while your legs are paddling like mad below'. This job after all, comes down to your Jedi mind training. It's all in your head, just be cool and stay focused.

That evening the team got together and submitted their notes on how their training over the last 6 months



was going. Reports were certainly varied, some positive for the organisation and some highlighted obvious areas of concerns.

Overall be positive – it takes less energy to smile than frown!!!

DAY 2

We were back in the classroom learning great life skills. We learnt 14 different knots in preparation for our abseiling adventures and for a variety of scenarios where ropes and tapes will get us out of the 'humpty doo'!

DAY 3

How anyone can start the day without a jog on these lovely Darwin beaches is beyond us. The pursuit of great health provides for the best feelings and experiences in the world. After a quick dip in the ocean both Tom and I race over the Rapid Creek bridge and get ready for a day of rescue scenarios with Greg, Dave, Reuby and Liah from the Casuarina pool. As surf life savers in our past, it was great to revisit these techniques for patient

management – with ropes and floatation devises for basic and spinal rescue. The team had a great day at the pool as we always appreciate enthusiastic instructors. Our afternoon was spent with Mick Mackay on terrorism. This word is now used for any fear producing event that has occurred from a sketchy or un-known source. As a member of the ambulance service we are required to understand the nature of these acts, the possible ingredients involved such as mechanical weaponry, biological, radiological or the most potent one psychological. We were required to know the variety of suits at our disposal, their strengths and weaknesses, how to suit up and decontamination processes. The probabilities of such a variety of situations occurring is staggering, however, the collective agencies involved in the emergency service operation utilises a standard plan of action which is implemented for all situations when a disaster has occurred.

Contiki Rescue 2005 *(Continued)*



Tomorrow we jump from water to fire with the Firies out at the airport.

DAY 4

- Swim run at the beach – you beauty.
- Love bus out to airport fire department.
- Briefing on what makes fire tick and untick.
- Information like this needs to be available for the whole community, the team were impressed with their great sense of humour.

We learnt that fire extinguishers are all unique to their use and their appearance, their contents are a need to know for all, yet many people know little about them. We were given a tour around their great station and some of us jumped in their well decked out gym in envy. Our team scenario in the morning involved our 'ambo rescue team' going into an environment consisting of a burning mock up plane. Our role was to remove casualties. This rescue could only take place, when the Firies dowsed the region and gave it the all clear.

Lunch time was a fire of a different kind as our team set up a BBQ in appreciation before getting on with some more scenarios in a mock up burning house. This scenario involved wearing breathing apparatus. Great day and many thanks to the airport Firies. That night, the team joined up for a food crawl at the wonderful Mindle Beach Markets.

DAY 5

Love bus to NT Fire and Rescue. Morning of theory on Emergency Management and our collective roles during a major incident.

We had a quick tour around the 5 star hotel – sorry fire station and were reminded of the 1 million dollar tool kit (fire trucks) and its capabilities which were also at our disposal. It was great to see a team happy and very supportive of our needs. Good on ya fellas.

Our afternoon was spent hanging off a cherry picker connected to a stokes litter. We were also introduced to the jaws of life, super cutters and glass shatterers. These tools treated two cars like sardine cans and again reminded us of what equipment is available if we need it. Another great day.

DAY 8

Day with the police task force.

Went over weapons and tools available to the police. We were introduced to their protective gear





Contiki Rescue 2005 *(Continued)*

and what is expected of them in a variety of conflict situations.

Some of us received an electric shock via their tazer guns which was a buzz. This followed by being on the receiving end of some capsicum spray, was interesting to say the least.

Our afternoon was spent climbing and abseiling down a climbing wall at their base which was great fun. I think we will be taking this activity up when we get home to the Alice. Yeah baby!!

DAY 9

Today we spent another day abseiling with the Tasky's. This time down a picturesque cliff edge in Nightcliff. Oh the difficult life we lead. This is definitely 'Contiki Rescue'. Our abseiling involved utilising a stokes lifter to rescue a patient at the bottom of the cliff. This was a fantastic lesson in teamwork, knots and shackles. Big thanks to the police task force for their assistance over the past day and a half.

Our afternoon was spent on Occupational Health and Hazard with Dave and the methods of triage with Craig Garraway. There is enormous depth of knowledge within St John, we all feel very fortunate to be around people who are happy to pass on their great experiences. Thanks team, our group really appreciates your time and effort.

As the sun went down we were kayaking on Casuarina beach. Hard life, ay!

DAY 10

Day with Northern Territory Emergency Services (NTES).

Search and Rescue in confined places.



The group broke up into two teams and were tested on our skills in patient extrication by securing our patients to a canvas lifter and negotiating a course of obstacles. Another scenario involved locating our patients and removing them from a confined region within a mass of concrete rubble. This was a great lesson on team efficiency and coordination. We became familiar with a variety of stretches and stretcher transport techniques over uneven and dangerous ground.

Our afternoon was spent back at NT Fire and Rescue Headquarters understanding a variety of search and rescue techniques through bush land. Great information from great people.

DAY 11

Trip out to Adelaide River. 3 teams were requested to establish an emergency response to a major accident involving a 42 seater bus and fuel truck on bridge. We were required to implement a forward control centre, casualty collecting and treatment post, along with ambulance loading and marshalling

areas. All these allocated areas must be safe from the incident site. This project was a fantastic assignment that gave all involved a great insight into emergency management.

After lunch with the Contiki Rescue crew, we headed back to clean the Love Bus and put together a work place safety assessment of the Casuarina Headquarters. Notes were taken and handed to the appropriate authorities.

DAY 12

Exam and end of class boat trip. The rescue information and techniques learnt from this course will surely stay with us for life. Thank You to all our instructors for all your superstar efforts. Keep up the great work and may the force be with you.

TOM & DAN FALZON

ALICE SPRINGS

Farewell to Friends



Annette Ingham & Carmen Waqanaceva

CARMEN WAQANACEVA

We wish Carmen best wishes, as she has been with NT for over 10 years, working at track stations and in Darwin. She will be very missed by her friends and colleagues in St John, she is a fantastic Paramedic, and QAS have certainly gained a brilliant staff member. Best Wishes Carmie for your career and family.

MATT DAVIS

Between NSW and NT Matt had over 26 years experience as an Ambo, and has decided to change career paths, and is now working for General Practice and Primary Health Care NT, where Matt



Ben Falzon & Nick Bigwood

Recruits and locates Dr's for remote GP work. He certainly isn't missing the nightshift, but we are now missing a very experienced Paramedic on road, and wish him well for the future in his new career.

BEN FALZON

Ben worked in both Alice Springs and Darwin, and was a great Paramedic to work with in both areas. The lure of Melbourne has taken him back there, and we wish him well for the work that he does down there, and his future work as a Paramedic. He will be missed by his good mates up here.

TRACEY ZIMMERMANN



Tracey Zimmermann & Peter Schultz

Tracey also worked in Alice Springs and Darwin, and did Contract Mines work whilst employed with St John. Tracey has still chased the heat and is working in Cairns for QAS. Best wishes for the future as a Paramedic with QAS Tracey.

SOPHIE PLOWMAN

Sophie started in Alice Springs, and finished in Darwin, with a bit of Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy in the middle. Sophie has headed back to her home of VIC, and we wish her well for her future as a Paramedic down there. She will be missed by the good NT friends she has made during her time with St John.

KYLIE MORRIS

Kylie is both an On Road Paramedic and an active volunteer with St John, and has headed down south to NSW to focus on her Horse interests and work. Kylie has worked with St John in Tennant Creek, Darwin, Mines work both MRM and Granites, and Bechtel contract work. We wish her the best of luck for her future down south.



L-R: Matt Davis, Antoni Kwiatkowski, Peter Schultz & Warren Purse

The Expedition to the Deep South

On a dark early Friday morning, late in September, many, many people gathered at the Palmerston Vollie centre to farewell 37 of their group who, were about to embark on a epic journey.

This journey was going to take them to the deep south of the Territory, where they would participate in games and adventures, some that would require great skills to make it to the end. They all had volunteered for this mission, 6 members of the group taking on the role of leaders.

Much preparation had been completed before the beginning of the adventure. One transport vehicle was already available but because of the number of interested people wanting to participate in this adventure another needed to be produced. This was granted on request from Kormilda College. Curtains were made and printed at a special meeting. Obtaining permission forms, money and numbers is a big job: this was done by a person small in stature but one who must be obeyed and for fear of our lives; Is! Then there was the job of getting two more of the leaders licensed to drive the transport vehicles, after many e-mails and 2 days work on their behalf, this was achieved. Luggage transit vehicles were needed to carry the great amounts of equipment that this group felt they needed to have, this proved a very great challenge, but 2 trailers were organized just before departure. Enough food and fluids had to be taken on board to ensure all would be fed and watered for the trip.

So now we were all gathered ready to load and depart.



Em & Michael got their "LR" licence for the trip

At 0615 the first bus pulled out and headed off down the road, the second followed closely behind. The journey was only a couple of km's old when the first bus lost sight of the second bus, so this became the first stop as we waited for everyone to get together again. The second bus, driven by our Great Leader who is also the Chairman of the Road Safety Council took the lead. This proved to be a wise move as about 20 km's further on The Great One started to loose the belongings of the team. One of the first items to fall from the trailer was the Great One's very ancient brief case, and then there were suitcases, competition kits, pillows and sleeping bags. The bus behind called many times on the radio to the lead bus to stop! But it just sailed on. It became the job of the bus behind to keep stopping and collect the team's belongings that were being spread around the country. The Great One's bus did

eventually come to halt, and all belongings were soon restored to the luggage transit vehicle, this was locked and roped up so that it wouldn't happen again.

At the next stop (this was meant to be the first stop) The Great One jumped ship to wait for more congenial transport. We were now down to 5 leaders. It was at this stop we refueled the vehicles, ready for the next part of the trip. The Great One's bus then became controlled by the Young Ones.

A change of drivers and we were away.

It was another 280 km's further along that the next incident occurred. When looking in the rear-view mirror it was noticed that the Young Ones bus was being pulled over by another vehicle. The drivers heard comments such as it was the Police. It was a quick u-turn by the first bus to go back and see what was happening.



The bus travellers

What did we find?

The Luggage transit Vehicle that used to have two wheels only had one and a bit wheels. The rest of the wheel covered, approx the last 60 km's. As luck would have it our



The Expedition to the Deep South *(Continued)*

rescuer was a mechanic who was carrying a ute full of tools. He had the hub (that's all that was left) off and the tyre wire cut away in no time. The new wheel was put on; we thanked our Good Samaritan and got underway for another 1 km. We were then at Hi-way Inn where we were having a lunch break. Just who was the driver for this incredible feat of managing to grind a wheel and rim to the hub??????? I can't tell you, but she was the smallest driver of the team.

We arrived at our Southern Night stop (Tennant Creek) just on dark, not a bad feat 1000km's in 13 hours. A new tyre was produced by the tyre people, to replace the hub and as everyone in the team knew what they had to, do a meal was soon cooked. The Luggage Transit vehicles and buses were cleaned and emptied, separate rooms for the male and female members of the team sorted and beds made ready for the night. It was a chance to unwind and relax.

Next morning saw a not so early start, everyone was up and fed, the vehicles were loaded and we were just about ready to go when the smallest member remembered she wasn't yet dressed! As this member had the biggest suitcase (we could have saved a seat on the bus as she could have traveled in her case, I think she used it for a bed) it had been packed at the bottom of all the other gear, she completed the journey to the Deep South in her PJ's.

We collected another 2 members of the team from Tennant, our number was now 38, and continued the journey.

Never a group to miss a photo opportunity, we stopped at the Devil's Marbles to get group shots,

have a play and explore. On the road again but only a short way to Wycliffe Well to check in with the Aliens, top up the tanks and keep traveling.

Lunch was at the elite spot of Ti Tree, the flies had well and truly found us by now, and water was getting low.

There is always a good spot to hang things on if you look and a good one was found by the second eldest leader of the team, she hung her bag that contained all her worldly goods (the important ones anyway) on this excellent hanger. It was so good that she felt it was safe to leave her bag there when we departed from this unique spot.

Only 200km's and the first part of the journey would be over. It was at the end of this part of the trip that



The competitors that travelled in the two buses

the above leader discovered that she no longer had her important worldly goods. Many messages were sent up and down the country to try and retrieve these goods. All was well as the goods (nothing was missing) were given into the care of the owner of the Ti Tree establishment. There are some honest people in this world.

A busy week was had by all, but that is another story.

The return journey lacked some of the excitement of the outward trip, as a member from another Northern vehicle, also visiting the Deep south had taken on the task of ensuring all vehicles were roadworthy for the next part of the adventure.

One of the buses had to do the last 300km's into Tennant without air-conditioning. This can be a pretty hot trip for 22 people in a bus. This group was not looking forward to the next days travel and was trying to swap with members on the other bus, but there were no takers. Again the same person from the other Northern Vehicle came to our rescue and fixed the air-conditioning. So sanity could be maintained by all members.

As the accommodation for the night was again the Tennant, at the St John centre, everyone knew what was needed. The eldest two members were sent on a forage mission to obtain enough hot chips to feed the group. It was a hard task to find a place that would/could cook \$30.00 worth of chips. A place was found in the centre of town, they did a great job and I'm sure they added extra after hearing of our journey. (I think they took pity on us)

In the morning a tyre on the other Luggage Transit Vehicle was found to have a defect so it was changed in the very early morning light (a torch) and the journey to the homelands was underway by 0605.

The troops traveled well and arrival at the destination was 1815. All younger members were returned to the care of loving parents. Older members returned to their place of residence, had some much needed contraband liquid refreshment, fell into the nearest bed and slept. The adventure was over.



Contiki Rescue - another version!

In August Dave and Greg ran a Rescue Course. Looking in from the side lines it looks like they should pay to teach as it appears they have too much fun instructing it. I don't know how many students they had but the ones we saw around the place had a constant smile on their faces (except for the last day).

They seemed to be heading off all over the place to different and exciting things, burning buildings, scaling rock faces, swimming on cold days (hot cement is a good thing), getting gassed and electrocuted, climbing ropes, setting up triage, it just went on and on.

Then they partied at night.

I know there was a hick-up in the planning as they lost a lecturer due to some sort of union thing the day before the start of the course, but Greg and Dave were up to the challenge of saving the course.

I think they would have been lynched if they cancelled it. The heroes!!!!!!

The use of the 'special rescue' bus (where secret rescue business was only talked about in whispers and if you saw the secret rescue handshake you would have to be put to death) seemed to make it a bit easier to take everyone to their fun and games. I know it got a bit grotty, but it was made beautiful on the last day. Hearsay said that it allowed Dave and Greg to keep better control of getting everyone around, maintained camaraderie with the students as they could psych themselves before an activity and then debrief after.

On the search and rescue day they found a golf ball but couldn't find a person, don't know what the pass mark is for that section of the course. A certain member of the Ambulance Training dept. fell asleep

every time he sat on the bus and there could be many photos brought to light at a later date in times of need. The same person got left behind one day when he was late (it was set up so that the students would realise that time is important).

From the goss., it would appear that now it is over, the students even though they hoped to fail (so they have to do it again) have all passed.

I know that plans have been discussed and some have even been put into place (Greg and Dave are not yet very good at keep the secret rescue business stuff secret) for things for next year's course.

This has been written by a Rescue Spy who has been paid to infiltrate the system.

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Relief at Tanami

When 3 Paramedic relief positions became available to work at the Tanami mines, there were 3 girls eager to see what the mine work was all about, Jill, Sophie and myself.

The Tanami Desert is located 400kms directly west of Tennant creek, and approx 100-200kms east of the WA border.

Granites (what it is known as), has approx 500 people at any one time (approx 30-40 women), and we are all after the same goal, to produce GOLD!

Newmont is the company that has the lease to mine, and then there are many other contractors to Newmont to help mine gold. St John being one of them as a provider of Paramedics to the site.

The average temp is around 41-42degrees, and now that we are coming into the summer months it will get over 50!

If you're still not getting a picture of the place, think Red Dirt, a bit of green scrub, some wildlife, and plenty of dirty, hard working people, and that's about it!

For the wildlife part, think Dingo's, Dingo's and more Dingo's! They are everywhere, and of course there are very strict rules about feeding and encouraging them to interact with us.

We are obviously on Aboriginal land, and part of the lease agreement with the Traditional Owners is leaving the land as it was before (that's why mines backfill etc.). Once the mining stops here (they say there is another 10-15years left of mining here), the land is given back, if the wildlife depend on us while we are here, imagine what will happen when we



Sophie & Lisa at the clinic

go? So the Environment Department is very strict with animals, recycling (all our recycles are sent to Alice Springs), the plants; nothing can be cut down or new plants introduced, and conserving energy and water.

Our water is pumped out the ground, treated and used. Put it this way when you get out the shower and your skin smells like you have just had a swim in a public pool and you are a little itchy during the day, you know the water

is VERY treated! Though it isn't that bad to drink.

Supplies come in on Wednesday and Saturday's by road train that has come from Alice Springs; it's always nice to get fresh fruit!

At any one time outside there will be 20-30 fly's buzzing around your face and sticking on your back, it's disgusting! Especially when they go up your nose and in your ears! Needless to say, flynets are a very popular accessory!

There is also a lot of reptile wildlife, lizards etc, and now coming into the hotter months there will be a lot more snakes around.

No Roos, but alot of the long termers say they see herds of wild camels every now and then!

The sunsets are amazing, the sky lights up all different colours, of reds, pinks and oranges. While I was there I got to experience a sand storm, and that was weird! Red dust and dirt flying around everywhere. You could hardly see in front of you. It calmed and then a massive rain storm came, it was amazing, such extreme elements. I guess after all, we were in the desert!

The mine site itself has 2 areas to it.



Lisa holding \$320,000 worth of gold!!!

Relief at Tanami *(Continued)*

The main camp - where everyone sleeps in your own donga, bar/pub (\$2 all beers!), kitchen/dinning room (food is great!), gym (very well equipped), Outside pool, Tennis Courts, and of course the Mill where the rock is crushed etc, to get the gold out! The gold is also poured etc down this end.

The other end, which is about 100kms south east is where the rock is actually mined out the ground, this is known as the Pit end.

Think of the pit as a hole in the ground 6 times the MCG, and it will give you a rough size! It is also 1 km deep. At the bottom of the hole is an entrance that then leads you underground. Once underground it declines, and as you go down there are levels channeling off at which drilling had gone that way, and that's thanks to the Geo's saying; mine there, there's gold!

If you are a claustrophobic person, you will not like it at all, and once below sea level your ears will go nuts, mine did! Its extremely humid underground, unlike above that is very dry.

The guys work around the clock, doing 12hour shifts, 6-6, 6-6, obviously a day and a night shift. They work very hard, I certainly wouldn't even survive a day doing their job!

The mine itself produces approx \$5million worth of gold a week, the latest record was \$7.6million in a week!

About 80% of their gold is pre-sold, and the other 20% is pretty much sold when it touches down in Perth.

When you see the photo attached, you will be thinking why doesn't it look like the gold bullion in the movie "The Italian job"?! The one im holding has just been poured, weighs 19.7kgs, and is worth

\$320,000! My arms were shaking when I was holding it!

St John's contract out here is to provide Paramedics to the site, and that's where we come into it.

At each end there is a clinic, it is staffed by Paramedics and Nurses. There are 2 sometimes 3 medical staff here at any one time. Of a day you work in the clinic and of a night you are On Call, whichever end you are staying at.

The clinics here are very well set up and modern, most of the work here is coughs, colds, and sore holes! Dust in eyes, toothaches, headaches (normally from not drinking enough water!), and general sickness. We also do the drug testing and are about to start to do the breathalyser's, security having been doing the breath tests in the past. The work at the clinic's is very different and interesting, to working in Pre-Hospital Care, at times it can be quite challenging, certainly being outside of our comfort zones- the back of an Ambulance! So we did find it interesting to do different types of clinic work.

If anything major was to happen, eg landslide etc. The mine has its own Mines rescue team, we would also be apart of this if needed, and certainly to treat the patient when they came out.

OH&S is obviously HUGE out here, and that matches the amount of paperwork too! 4 days of induction certainly took its toll, but the company certainly do take care of their workers and staff, and staff moral is very high amongst everyone.

Our relief position's were interesting, and certainly gave us a great insight into the workings of a mine, and the experience of clinic work.



Sophie - underground

School Divisions Coordinator

Since the last edition of the Outback it has been an extremely busy couple of months. Marrara Christian School Division commenced operations on the 9th of August with twenty one indigenous girls attending the first week.

I was nervous, anxious, surprised and experiencing at least another hundred different emotions. This was the first Division I had started from scratch (Kormilda had already been established for three years).

The numbers grew to over thirty the second week. I was beginning to think it would never stop. Week three saw a drop to twenty two. I was relieved - I can cope with that. I casually made a comment to one of the tutors helping me about the difference in the numbers from week to week and she informed me the school has most of their camps at this time of the year. That was the reason for the huge fluctuations in attendees. With thirty four on the roll and between twenty two to twenty seven girls coming each week I am looking forward to Term 4 with bated breath. With only a couple more topics to cover in their first Aid training, they soon will be lining up for uniforms. I hope to have them forming up at the Annual Parade in November.

Kormilda also had some surprises for me Term 3. At the first divisional meeting for the term I had 10 indigenous girls waiting for me at the door. Due to the photo of the boys (who are now famous) on the cover of last Outback, the school had put my original flyers on the notice boards in the girls' dorms. The program needed to be changed again. We started Preliminary First Aid for the second



time, with the boys joining in to help consolidate their skills.

The October school holidays saw Vicki and I borrowing a bus from Kormilda College (thanks again Kormilda) and with the St John bus, took down 38 eager cadets and adults to Alice Springs for the Territory Camp. It was a long, hot, exhausting, but enjoyable trip. We stopped and had a photo shoot at Devil's Marbles on the way down. Overnight stops at Tennant Creek ambulance centre on the trip down and back again saw a very crowded centre and very accommodating Paramedics. More information on this epic journey down south can be read about in the article titled the Expedition to the Deep South.

Term 4 at Kormilda will see the kids being assessed and presented with First Aid certificates and the completion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander badge.

St Johns College has expressed interest in having a cadet program as part of the curriculum during school hours. Details are yet to be finalized but the hope is to get started first thing next year.

The past year has seen some big changes in my professional life and I wouldn't have it any other way (huge thanks to Vicki). I would like to thank the Training Department for welcoming me into their inner sanctum. It took them a while but they have nearly stopped whinging about it!! If you need to know how to laminate a mobile phone come to Training.

See you next year.

KELLY RAVEN

Exercise Outer Edge

On the 26 – 29 April the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) sponsored Investigation and Consequence Management Exercise (ICMEX), who conducted an exercise in Darwin NT called Outer Edge. This was focused on a Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) scenario. The aim of this exercise was to test and develop the national capability to investigate and manage the consequences of threats and acts of terrorism.

This exercise was large scale which involved a multi agency response from both the Northern Territory and Federal Government.

There were a number of activities and incidents being undertaken by other agencies where an Ambulance was placed on "stand by" for members of these agencies before the general scenario of the exercise had taken place.



On Wednesday 27 April at 4.00pm there were 'explosions' at the Darwin showground's where the Outback Expo was being held, attended by 3000 people. This resulted in the death of 25 people within the pavilion building and injured / contaminated up to 300

people with a chemical agent called Lewsite which is a blistering agent.

At 4.03pm a suicide bomber detonated a bomb outside the pavilion building amongst the fleeing crowd killing himself and a further 4 people.

Initial response from St John Ambulance was one ambulance and the service duty officer to the scene. On route to the scene we



were advised of a second explosion and a further 30 casualties which resulted in another two crews being dispatched to the scene. With the possibility of mass casualties procedures were implemented to arrange further resources.

During the night there were logistics personnel, mechanics, volunteers and crews from Darwin, Batchelor and Katherine regions with a total of 7 Ambulance's and 63 personnel. As the number of casualties increased, further resources were utilized such as the defense medical bus and two police mini buses.

With the scenario unfolding, our personnel were involved as Health

monitors for St John staff and other agencies using the CRB suits, Triage of casualties in the warm zone and the cold zone, treatment and transport of the injured to hospital. This was a great opportunity for all personnel to learn and practice new skills in a new environment that we have not had to deal with before, as well as practice and evaluate our existing skills.

By the conclusion of the night we had treated and transported 300 patients and highlighted areas that need some improving and some additional resources that would assist us to perform our duties to their full potential in such a situation.



One must remember, that this sort of exercise is not to fault an organization, but to aid learning and improve from any short comings that are highlighted, so if in the unfortunate circumstance that we have a real incident we are all better prepared.

I would like to point out through the feedback that was received, the outstanding job St John Ambulance performed under these circumstances, made them the shining light of the scenarios.

Fun was had by all who attended, even though it was hard work at times, many feel the same way as me, **BRING ON THE NEXT ONE, WE CANT WAIT!!!**

Finke Desert Race

The Finke Desert Race has been around for over 30 years originating as a club event, which starts every year at a very early 5am in extremely cold conditions. Over the years the event has grown in popularity at a rapid rate, to the current state where it now forms part of the Australian Off Road Championship. Due to the rapid expansion of the event and up to 500 competitors now taking part, it has become a professional off road race acknowledged world wide and attracting some legends of car and bike racing from around the world.

Finke Community is 229km from Alice Springs and drivers/riders navigate the old railway line to Finke on Sunday and return the following day. Starting positions are determined by a prologue event that occurs at the start/finish line on the Saturday.

The event is now run by a group of volunteers who are supported by a part-time administration officer and support from The Major Events department of the NT Government. The major sponsor of the event is Tattersall's. In the Northern Territory, the St John Ambulance support of this event is large and forms the largest public duty of the year being larger than our response to the V8 Super Car event held in July.

This year we had Territory wide support, with volunteers from Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs Divisions along with numerous paid Paramedics who donated their time to support this event. For an event like this to happen takes many long hours of organisation taking some weeks prior to and after the event to complete, due to the large numbers of volunteers and vehicles



required and the location of the event itself. This year two vehicles were required from Darwin, one from Katherine and one from Tennant Creek.

Communications (based at start/finish line)

Again, Colleen Grave was in charge of our communications at race control for the 3 days of the event. This role is pivotal in the smooth running of the ambulance resources and co-ordination of people and vehicles from this point again made for a smooth event.

Paramedics at this location for the 3 days were Lenaire Keatch (Katherine Division) and Bridget Oudeman (Alice Springs Division) who had a somewhat busy time during the prologue on Saturday and at the finish of the race on Monday.

Craig Garraway (chopper)
Sandra Schmidt (chopper)
Chris Kupke (Chopper)

Choppers this year were staffed by the above officers. The choppers were used for 3 purposes. Chopper one with officer Schmidt on board was tasked with keeping pace with the fast vehicles and bikes at the

front of the field. The purpose of this was to have a rapid response to any incidents that may occur at the front of the field.

Chopper 2 with Craig Garraway on board was in place to follow up the field and to account for all riders at the end of the day. Further to this he was tasked with co-ordinating air and ambulance responses in conjunction with the Communications officer.

Chopper 3 with Chris Kupke was tasked with evacuating all patients injured along the track. The large helicopter had a stretcher on it allowing for better treatment than the smaller ones.

Deep Well - 61kms from Alice Springs

Trevor Keatch (Katherine Division) and Noel Talbot (Alice Springs Division) spent two days looking after this location. Thankfully, Deep Well is reasonably quiet as most competitors are still fresh and alert on the way down to Finke and happy to have made it that far on the way back and are travelling in finish mode by the time they get to this location.

Finke Desert Race *(Continued)*

Both helicopters make this location a break point in the hope that Noel has breakfast waiting! Again thanks Noel and Trevor from myself, Sandra Schmidt and the pilots.

Rodinga - 92kms from Alice Springs

Dave MacMillan (Darwin Division)
Lyn Jacobson (Humpty Doo)
Byron May (Humpty Doo)
Bev Hillier (Humpty Doo)
Matthew Meir

To all the guys who gave up their time to travel to Alice Springs from Darwin and be part of the event, we thank you, as you spent 3 days travelling prior to and after the event.

This location was again busy with several injuries and all patients were well looked after. Thankfully Matthew survived a scary moment, after narrowly escaping being hit by an out of control buggy rolling through the bush. Matthew who was using a jerry can as a seat, now has a very small squashed jerry can. Lucky you went for a walk when you did Matthew! This story will be one told for many years to come.

Bundooma - 136kms from Alice Springs

Henry Lawson (Alice Springs Division)
Chris Kupke (Chopper)

Henry again had Bundooma running perfectly. Henry has been looking after this location for some years with his partner Jenny. Henry has located some beautiful areas to look at while times are quiet. Again this year Henry had some trouble getting in and out of these areas and needed some help from Chris Kupke to remove himself from the sand that had somehow trapped

him!!!! I'm thinking that Henry must have missed the 4x4 component of the Driving course with St John and the Army, or is just having some really bad luck. Another course is coming up in February 2006 if you are interested Henry?



Mt Squires - 180kms from Alice Springs

Ron Owen (Palmerston Division)
Narelle Orford (Palmerston Division)
Graham Irwin (Palmerston Division)

These guys had a rough start to the weekend, firstly wrecking Darwin's trailer en-route to Mt Squires. After some running repairs and the use of the workshop ute we were able to get these guys in place late on Saturday night. Sunday night proved to be a busy and long night for these guys who had to come down to Finke to transfer a patient with #clavicle. Sorry about the half way meet guys, we just became overwhelmed with patients at the Finke end, at least you got to see the night life in Finke and the hospitality available.

Finke 229kms - half way

Andrew Naden
Gary Carter
Toni-Maree Elferink
Kate Anning
Sally Luchich
Cheryl Paul

This location is the hub of the race on the first day. The co-ordination of this location is important and complex and I would like to thank

Andrew Naden who for as long as I can remember has organised this location with the assistance of Gary Carter and others. Most patients are treated at this location and in some cases flown by RFDS back to Alice Springs. This year transports occurred at 3am and I thank all officers who assisted in treating patients during the day/evening and late (or early) into the next morning. I'm sure that no patient would have left without saying they had been well looked after, way beyond what would be expected.

Patient's treated

95 patients treated	
Dislocated shoulders	5
Fractured Femur	1
Fractured Tibia/Fibia	2
Fractured radius/ulnar	4
Fractured wrist	4
Fractured ankle	2
Fractured ribs	3
Fractured clavicle	4

4 patients evacuated out of Finke by RFDS 3am

Finally I would like to thank all officers and volunteers who travelled so far to be part of the event, braving the many obstacles and cold weather the make the event yet another success. To all officers who assisted me with organising prior to, and after the event, thank you. Without you guys this event would not be able to occur.

Kevin Blake will be in charge of this event next year. Anyone wanting to be involved should contact Kevin in Alice and keep him abreast of your plans. I look forward to catching up with everyone next year as a spectator.

CRAIG GARRAWAY



Operation Rainbow

Harvey Norman had given funds to St John to conduct CPR courses in schools around Darwin. The school selects the students and we do the course. On Monday 29th August I had to deliver a course to 15 girls from Palmerston High School. The school decided they were going to make a full day of different things, starting with breakfast at the Casino. My course was being held in the International room at the casino.

I arrived with my manikins and set up the room, then waited for the girls to arrive, they were a little late (breakfast must have been good). We got straight into the course starting with Recovery Position; they were all full of breakfast and didn't really like lying on the floor. Most of the girls got into the practical side of the course and really worked hard at it. There were a number of "I can't do it" when it came to the resuscitation, getting them to think about their boyfriends helped with the mouth seal. I think they got a lot out of it, and feel that they could do it if needed. They asked heaps of questions at the end about all sorts of things, bleeding, AED's, All Saints, ER, flat lines and burns.

All together a worthwhile exercise.

VICKI MACMILLAN



Sky Markus



Kelsey May



Teneale Liddy



Kassandra Popovich with Lauren Murfet



Lauren Murfet, Kassandra Popovich and Miranda Thompson



The Palmerston High School group

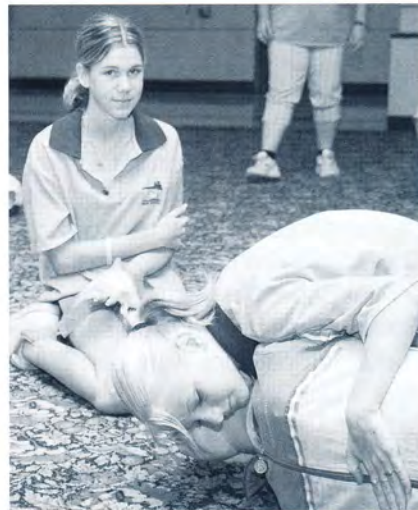
Operation Rainbow *(Continued)*



Teacher, Tessa McCredie



Kassandra Popovich and Miranda Thompson



Kelsey May and Sky Markus



Stevie Box

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Cadet First Aid Competitions

On Sunday 2nd October 2005, 9 Cadets from Alice Springs, 5 from Band, 5 from Humpty Doo, 5 from Darwin and 2 from Palmerston Cadet Divisions competed in the annual Cadet First Aid Competitions held in Alice Springs. These competitions were part of the annual Cadet camp.

The lead up to the competitions is a long and committed one. Most of the Cadets began training months before the event, it is hard to train by trying to anticipate what you will have to when you arrive on scene. Invariably the training you have done did not quite cover what was going to happen during the 15 minutes of fame.

The planning for the comps was a rocky road because little planning was done leading up to the event and then at the last minute a new team took over. This was lead by Barb McKie. There was a fair bit of stress, but the end result was very good. Each scene ran well and was a true assessment of the Cadet's skills.

I was in isolation in the morning, before the first group went out and most of the Cadets seemed pretty relaxed (outwardly at least).

The day ran as most competition days do with tears of relief when it



was over. Everyone got over it very quickly. It was good to see that most Cadets supported each other no matter where they came from.

The people who acted as casualties did a marvelous job, and managed to keep up with their acting skills until the end. The adjudicators and set coordinators maintained their professional approach and all was well done in their area, Gwyn and Paul who had the task of counting and recounting the points we did not envy you your task.

Altogether a well run competition, thank you to all who had part in it.

There has to be winners and those who don't quite make it. Every one who takes on the challenge of competing in competitions needs to realize that they are all winners.

The winners for the day were

Cadet Leader:

Emily Macmillan,
Humpty Doo Cadet Division

Individual:

Alix Hasslett,
Darwin Cadet Division

Team:

Kristie Leafe, Team Leader
Stella Hubel
Stacey Lee Cannons

These girls are from Humpty Doo Cadet Division

These girls will now have to keep up the training so that they can represent the NT in Sydney in 2006.

Good luck

VICKI MACMILLAN

The Band Division

On Monday 31 October 2005, the Cadet Band Division held its annual Family and Awards Night. The intent of the awards night was to not only recognize the exceptional Cadets and Juniors within the Division, but also to showcase the Band's music, look back on the year's activities and bring families and friends of the Division together.

The night was to begin at 7:15 PM with Parade in the breezeway of Casuarina Centre. By 7 PM all the chairs placed outside were filled and Cadets were forced to find more chairs for the growing number of families and friends. Parade began promptly at 7:15PM with a special welcome for Mr Peter Poole, Mr Steve Peers and Mr Frank Haydock.

As well as the annual awards, a large number of Proficiency and Interest badges were received and 3 Cadets, Claire Chandler, Maree Nayda and Joel Pearson, were recognized for 100 hours of public service. Once all the awards and badges were presented, everyone retreated to the air-conditioned comfort of Training Hall 3.

Cadet of the Year - Claire Chandler

Junior of the Year - Grace Lum

Musician of the Year - Amy McKay



Duet - Amy McKay (flute) and Claire Chandler (clarinet)

The Band practices for one hour every week before the two hour divisional night. It is split into the Junior Band who learn music by playing the recorder and the Senior Band who play instruments varying from drums to flute. The Family and Awards Night was the perfect time to present the talents of the musicians. The presentation began with all musicians playing Friday Calipso, a happy and energetic number. The Junior and Senior Bands followed with group pieces and then duo and trio pieces. Claire Chandler and Amy McKay played a lovely duet to Botony Bay. Jennifer Whalan (Affiliate) played a hauntingly beautiful solo.

The Band's performance was followed by a power point

presentation compiled by Sergeants Brooke Chin and Amy McKay and choreographed to Hero by Mariah Carey. It was titled "A Year in the Life of the Cadet Band Division" and showcased the activities and exploits of the Cadet Band. It began with photos from Clean Up Australia Day followed by Junior Camp, the carwash fundraiser, visit to Parliament House, competition training and weekly divisional nights.

It was wonderful to relive the experiences had by the Cadet Band this year at the annual Family and Awards Night. Those parents and friends in attendance were impressed with the range of activities the Cadet Band Division participated in, the extra dedication shown by the band members and the obvious friendships and community spirit within the Division. The year has not finished for Cadet Band. All members are looking forward to continuing their learning and community activities well into December and beyond.

KIMBERLEE MCKAY
Divisional Superintendent
Cadet Band



Claire Chandler, Grace Lum and Amy McKay



The Band



Klayton Robb & Kirsten Camilleri wish everyone & their family
a safe & Festive Christmas.

During our Christmas break we are intending to marry on
Christmas Eve, this completing the family for Kirsten's 2 children
(Jelise & Callan) & our new addition Makylie



Merry Christmas



Kirsten & Klayton
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in a private ceremony

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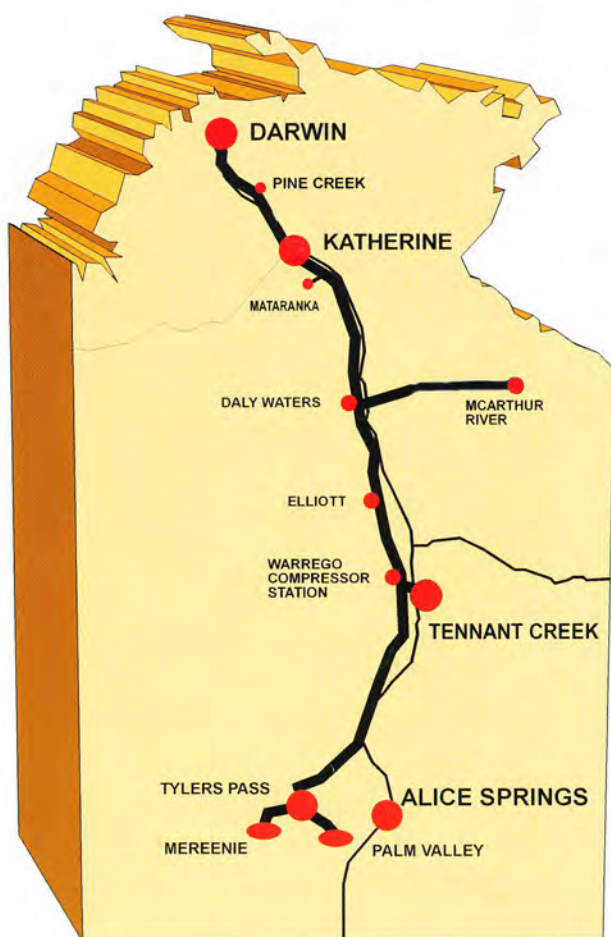
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