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is the official journal of

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Front cover: His Honour the Administrator Mr Tom Pauling AO QC
 presenting Steve Peers with his 30 Year Certificate.



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Chief Executive Officer's REPORT



What a year it has been – time passing so quickly and it only seemed like yesterday that I was appointed to the position of CEO.

The CATS won the 2009 AFL flag – what more can I say.

The year has been hectic and has seen many changes within the Organisation that would not be that visible to the general public. We have formed a Strategic Management Group with a focus of our management moving from operational to strategic. It has taken a bit to get the focus right but the team is coming together very well now and making decisions that will have long term impacts on how a number one Ambulance Service is structured and delivered.

The appointment of a Director of Ambulance Operations to cover the whole of the Territory has been a popular decision and Michael McKay in that role has seen the connection between the Ambulance Service and the Department of Health and Families (DHF) grow significantly. Input into Health Department proposals, that affect St John, prior to implementation has been a great advantage and the knowledge that Michael, and the Regional Managers have, are certainly big positives to these discussions.

We have appointed a HR Manager (Tamara Thompson) to deal with the requests and workload associated with employing 200 staff and by establishing good work practice guidelines and relevant policies and procedures the Organisation is better geared to face the HR challenges that may arise. There has been a lot of work in this area meeting changes in legislative requirements that are to be implemented from 2010.

The Ambulance Service has again seen significant workload growth with a 7% increase in transports this year and a total increase over the 2 years since the last agreement was entered into of 12.5%. After some lengthy, but fruitful, discussions with DHF we were able to implement a second crew (10 staff) for the Palmerston Region. This additional crewing allowed us the opportunity to trial a permanent roster to that region and change from a 10/14 roster to a 12/12 roster. At this stage all has settled well and this may be a model that can work towards assisting staff to better manage workload.

The Ambulance Service Contract is in the final year of a three (3) year tenure and much work is going into establishing the future design and resourcing requirements of what this service will look like in the future. With the identified growth being discussed by Government and the prospects of future major projects for various regions across the Territory, the Ambulance Service will have to grow considerably to meet this demand. The strategic management team has been working very hard on linking appropriate business plans and risk assessments to the directions identified in the St John Ambulance NT Strategic Plan. Negotiations are already in place with DHF and these will continue to ensure a suitable outcome is achieved for all Territorians.

The St John Organisation is more than just about an Ambulance Service and it is important to note the Volunteer arm of St John which has some 480 members (Adult and Cadet) who did over 60,000 hours of Public/ Ambulance Duties and training hours. This is a remarkable achievement by so few and is the reason we continue to strive to be the best in our field. The Training and Sales Departments continue to be great achievers and the Contracts Department goes from strength to strength, albeit hard work, with many new requests for our services in a market that has become very competitive. We are working very hard to establish the "one stop shop" approach to our customers and as we continue our excellent level of service these areas of the Organisation will grow even further. We run our commercial activities for one reason only – TO RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS.

I would like to close by saying a huge thank you to all the staff who have been again this year exceptional and have given 100%. To everyone, I say have a great Xmas and even better 2010 as we yet again commit to continuous improvement in all that we do.

Ross Coburn
CEO

Education & Training Report

As 2009 rapidly draws to a close, it gives me some time to reflect on our Departmental activities over the past year. There is little doubt that the year has presented us with a number of challenges as we strive to continue to meet customer requests through the delivery of relevant and acceptable learning programs delivered by our committed and supportive Trainers/Assessors. Feedback coming in to Training continues to indicate all facets of Training (delivery and Administration), continue to meet most – if not all – user expectations and for this, our Trainers and Educators are to be congratulated.

First Aid Training

In these times of financial uncertainty, it is pleasing to see that St John-NT has managed to 'hold its own' in respect to the participation rates, a task made even more challenging as many of our key customer groups (most notably the mining and construction industry) have needed to re-think how and where they are able to allocated funds. What has been most noticeable this year is the increase in the amount of remote area training requests we are receiving, many of which are funded by the Department of Education and Training (DET) and others which are being covered by other groups. The 'self-funding' approach is most obvious in traditionally 'remote' locations such as Goulburn Island and Borroloola, to name but two. Alice Springs has also been busy with Training at Kings Ca

yon and out around the Tanami. For this I would particularly like to thank Owen Torres for his preparedness to cover a lot of the way courses in the Region.

Great feedback continues to be received for our primary first aid course (Apply First Aid), which many readers will recall used to be titled Senior First Aid until the release of the Health Training Package (HLT07). The delivery of the HLT07 unit in place of Senior First Aid required some amendments, specifically top our assessment tools, as the unit is now more than ever before 'targeted' at the workplace. I believe our first aid training cohort (full-time, part-time and associates), have made a wonderful adjustment to how they deliver and assess this course to ensure our continued compliance with the Australian Quality Training Framework.

Training Administration staff continue to comply with regulatory reporting standards and while I sincerely acknowledge their work in this area it would be remiss of me not to thank a key software consultant, Gabrielle Driver, who has spent time working with Training Admin staff to ensure their working knowledge of the VETtrak reporting system. This is a vital system as the appropriate reporting through this system is paramount for St John-NT to ensure we receive all funding allocated by DET for first aid training.

Paramedic Training College

Paramedic Training does not simply happen. In fact, it takes a lot of effort by a number of people to ensure the programs we deliver to (or coordinate for), our Paramedics cover both the requirements of the Diploma as identified in HLT07, as well as the contextualisation needs identified by the Ambulance Service. It is those contextualised

(employability skill) needs that form the lynchpin of NT Paramedic training and will eventually result in the awarding of an approved Authority to Practice. This is also the reason why many of the units PTC deliver may be seen as having two (2) achievement standards, one (1) for the HLT purpose and one (1) for contextualisation standards.

On the radar for high level discussions as we move into 2010 are topics such as, Paramedic Degree level qualifications, a St John-NT approved Paramedic progression pathway, Workplace Assessors, Paramedic re-accreditation/re-certification, Paramedic Professional Development, the Graduate Paramedic and Clinical Nurse Conversion programs, and the structure of PTC.

These alone are not insignificant subjects and there will no doubt be a number of others added to the list as time progresses. There seems to be a lot of discussion generated around some (if not all), of these points. There are certainly a range of options circulating throughout Paramedic ranks about what should be done about them and now seems to be an ideal time to make some moves in this regard. It is suffice to suggest the need to recertify at Authority to Practice levels will be a primary aim/focus across 2010 to ensure all of our Paramedic staff are able to be considered as 'clinically competent' in their job roles from both practical theoretical perspectives.

Quality Indicator Reporting

Another area Training is working hard to facilitate is that of Quality Indicator reporting. The Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF 2007) Quality Indicators now form part of the AQTF 2007 Essential Standards for Registration for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). Under the AQTF 2007, RTOs are required to collect and use data on the following three Quality Indicators endorsed by the National Quality Council (NQC):

1: Learner Engagement – This indicator focuses on the extent to which learners are engaging in activities likely to promote high-quality skill outcomes and includes learner perceptions of the quality of their competency development and the support they receive or have received from the RTOs. This indicator is measured by an RTO conducting a survey by using either a 'census' or 'sample' approach.

- Census Approach – This method is often used by organisations to gather a more complete picture of learners' perceptions of the quality of training provision and to provide learners with an opportunity to provide feedback on their training and education.

When utilising this method, RTOs should try to obtain feedback from at least 50% of their target population. Standard research methodology recommends that the RTO follows the two step approach towards achieving this goal:

- 1) Distribution of the survey to the target population as determined, and
- 2) at least one follow up to non-respondents.

In this survey method, the target population for St John (NT) would be every participant involved in our training. We would need to achieve a 50% response from the target group to satisfy the requirements of the AQTF 2007.

- **Sample Approach** – In many situations it is not practical or necessary to collect data from all learners as identified in the 'Census' approach. Collecting data from a 'sample' of learners can yield as much information as a census of all learners provided that the sample is of sufficient size and is representative of the target population. If a sample approach is taken, RTOs such as St John (NT) need to determine which groups, if any, divide their learner population into representative groups. Such groups should be selected to ensure it is representative of the target population. The survey should be provided to an appropriate number of learners in each of the identified groups. This can be achieved by collecting data from all learners within each group (essentially conducting a census of each group) or by collecting data from a sample of learners within each group.

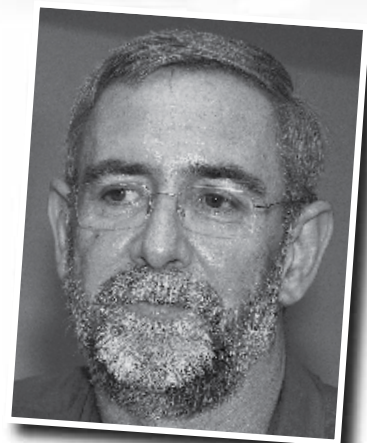
- 1) If data is to be collected from all learners in a group then feedback should be obtained from at least 50% of the group's population;
- 2) If the sample approach is used, it is generally accepted that responses from a minimum of 50 learners is required in order to draw inferences about all learners in a specified group;
- 3) Data should be collected from all learners when the potential sample size is less than 50.

It is important to ensure that sampled individuals are representative of the group to which they belong. To achieve this, sampled learners should be selected randomly from the list of all learners in the group. It is not possible for the AQTF to offer a single, prescriptive approach given the variations in RTOs. The important point is that each RTO plans an approach that is likely to be of most benefit to their organisation.

- 2: **Employer Satisfaction** – This indicator focuses on employer evaluation of learner competency development and relevance of learner competencies for work and further training, as well as employer evaluation of the overall quality of the training and assessment. This indicator is measured by the RTO using

a survey approach once again, either by 'census' or 'sample' approach.

- 3: **Competency Completion** – This indicator shows the number of enrolments and qualifications completed and units of competency awarded in the previous calendar year by each RTO.



To support the implementation of the Quality Indicators a number of documents have been prepared to assist RTOs (see <http://www.acer.edu.au/aqtf/>.) This new system must be implemented during 2009. For this year RTO's such as St John (NT), were required to report on the number of enrolments and completion rates for the 2008 Calendar Year. The first report was due 30 June 2009 addressed the Competency Completion Indicator. In 2010 and years to follow, all quality indicators must be reported on at the end of the financial year i.e. 30 June for the previous calendar year's statistics.

Survey Tools

St John (NT) intends to implement the Learner Feedback and Employer Satisfaction Surveys to 'sample' audiences – those booking into 'private group' training.

The standard feedback forms used in the NT (and nationally by St John) are substantially different to the Quality Indicator reporting requirements. It is therefore intended that St John (NT) continue to utilise our 'standard' approach for all 'public' courses as they tend to capture specific information considered far more relevant to our RTO's scope of registration and less time consuming to complete for participants.

The Learner and Employer surveys, developed under the AQTF 2007 consist of:

- 35+ questions for the Learner Survey and
- 32+ questions for the Employer Satisfaction Survey.

and were developed based on the literacy level of a 15/16 year old.

As there are vast differences in the language, literacy and numeracy levels within the NT, it has been our decision to issue the surveys to 'sample' groups of participants as it was felt this would ensure a higher percentage of feedback results being returned and submitted for reporting purposes. Due to this, it was felt that a 'census' approach against all Learners would not be a viable option as there was likely to be a large number of participants and employers who would not complete and return the survey due to various levels of literacy.

Brendan Quirke

Contracts Department

St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc has many functioning departments. Most residents of the Northern Territory are aware we are contracted by the Northern Territory Govt to supply the Ambulance Service across the Northern Territory, St John Ambulance training department delivering First Aid courses to the public and also our in-house Paramedic Training College.

Also well known and greatly appreciated within our community is our long standing Volunteer Department, training and supplying volunteer First Aid and Ambulance trained staff to public events. Our sales department has also made an impact with their commitment to supplying industry and the public with first aid and medical supplies..

One area that is not well known is the Contracts Department of St John Ambulance NT. Our department operates independently of the Ambulance Operations section of St John Ambulance NT however we also supply fully trained and skilled Paramedics. The profits generated by this department help to maintain the funding required for our Volunteer Department. These funds are used for training, equipment, uniforms and ongoing costs associated with the functionality of this vital area of St John Ambulance to help support our community.

As St John Ambulance is a not for profit organization we require fund raising to help support our role in the community. The development of the Contracts Department helped to address many issues faced by St John Ambulance as an organization including funding and staff retention.

The role of a front line operational Paramedic can be quite challenging and demanding. The constant work load and shift work can and does take its toll. Over a period of many years some Officers feel they require a "break" from the front line emergency role. Many of these well trained and highly skilled Officers resigned and moved interstate to gain employment in other fields taking with them many years of knowledge and experience.

The development of the Contracts Department gave these Officers an opportunity to maintain their employment

and skills while allowing them the "break" from full time operational commitments. They are able to broaden their knowledge and skill base, maintain contact with their peers and continue to work "operationally on road" with less frequency.

Contract Department currently has 11 full time staff and 15 part time staff. We supply staff to both on shore sites and off shore vessels world wide. Our clients range from mine sites to seismic vessels and recently a public access walk in Urgent Care Service.

Contracts Department has also been fortunate to be given the opportunity to work along side Department of Health and Families in establishing the Palmerston Urgent Care After Hours Service. The opening of this facility occurred on the 15th December 2008 and since then we have attended in excess of 8500 clients.

This service is designed as a general public walk in Urgent Care facility located in the health precinct at Palmerston. The service is operational from 1800 hrs till 0800 hrs seven days per week every day of the year. The service provides a Doctor for the duration of the night shift, a full time Paramedic / Nurse, a part time Paramedic /Nurse, fulltime Security Officer and a part time receptionist.

The range of presentations to this facility is very broad, from clients requesting prescription refills through to acutely ill presentations and even child birth. The scope of work encountered at the facility has been very challenging for all the staff however they also state it has been extremely rewarding. The closer linking of the services of Doctor, Nurse and Paramedic has been a great success and all involved at the facility state they have learned a great deal from the other professional staff.

The linking of these services allows us to provide

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a broader spectrum of care to a larger population and therefore reduce the strain on the emergency departments and other allied services.

St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc is committed to supplying the highest level of care to all people in our local, national and international community. We are committed to supporting our staff and affording them greater opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge to allow them the ability to provide the best possible care. We are also committed to assisting industry in providing the best care possible to their personnel. Our staff can also assist with the design and stocking of equipment and consumables for your on site medical room, first aid centres, site vehicles and first aid kits.

St John Ambulance workshop is the only locally accredited "Ferno Washington" service centre. They are also able to assist you with design modifications for your site vehicle and complete all the required fit-outs for a site Ambulance to suit your site and industries requirements.

The workshop is also a registered MVR vehicle registration agent.

Contracts Department within St John NT is a fast growing department. We are able to offer staff a variety of challenges and improve skill set that has never before been attempted. If you are a Paramedic or Registered Nurse looking for a change of direction please contact us. We can offer the security of a well regarded and respected organization, one which is willing and able to address some of the issues and challenges facing the Health Industry.

Tracy Watts



Minemakers – Barkly Highway

Securing the future of St John Ambulance volunteers

The St John Ambulance (NT) Endowment Trust was formed in 1987 to support and assist the St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc Charitable and Ambulance arms of the organisation.

Over time the purpose of the trust has developed into providing support to the hard working St John NT Volunteers by providing financial support for equipment, uniforms, buildings and other requirements that allow the Volunteers to deliver a top quality level of first aid support to the Community.

Incorporated and governed under a Trust Deed, the St John Ambulance (NT) Endowment Trust is exempt from Income Tax and is also a Gift Deductible Recipient (GDR) meaning all donations received achieve full tax deductibility for the Donor. The fund raising and promotion of the Trust and its purpose commenced in 1987 under the Chairmanship of Mr James Husband Bell and initially raised an amount of approximately \$540,000 over the following five (5) years. These initial funds were built on by the receipt of further donations and astute investment returns and as at the end of June 2008 the trust held in excess of \$1.1m in cash reserves.

Growth and expansion of the Endowment Trust

The Endowment Trust plays a pivotal role in the provision of funds to allow St John Ambulance NT Volunteer members, to provide safe, skilled and professional First Aid assistance. There are currently over 500 members who provide thousands of hours annually for community events throughout the Territory, some of which cannot operate without a St John presence.

To enable this most valued volunteer resource to grow and meet the ever increasing demands of the community, St John Ambulance NT is currently planning a strategic approach to expanding and raising the public profile of

the Endowment Trust, through a range of events and community engagement initiatives.

'Building' on our Volunteer capability

With the growth in demand for our Volunteer services has come the requirement for "more room" to house the growing Volunteer team and a major focus is also on providing these physical assets (buildings). Some six years ago, St John Ambulance NT were able to build a home for the Volunteers in Palmerston which is already identified as being too small. We need a Volunteer home in Humpty Doo as currently our members meet at premises belonging to other emergency service. The Volunteer areas at both the Casuarina and Alice Springs Centres have been out grown by the expansion of the Ambulance Service requirements in both of these Regions.

In Alice Springs St John Ambulance NT are looking to purchase the block behind our current Centre (currently owned by the Masonic Lodge) and at Casuarina the old workshop is planned for a total rebuild to allow a dedicated venue for the Volunteers. All this costs money and a significant focus of any future fund raising should be to concentrate on these priorities in the immediate future and then in the medium to longer term the development of a building on the Alice Springs land and a refurbishment of the Parap Centre would become the priority.

All this work is estimated at around \$5m which over time, taking into account our current reserves, will require significant additional fundraising.

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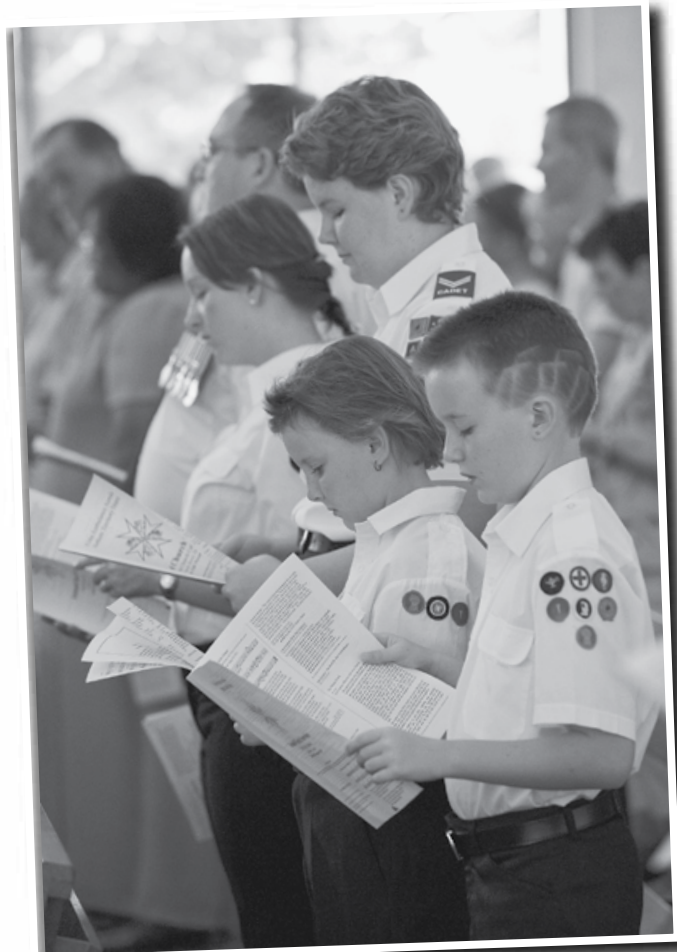
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Funding has already been provided to assist and support the following projects:

- Building of the Palmerston Volunteer Ambulance centre.
- Purchase of a 'golf' buggy equipped with stretcher, to assist at sporting public duties.
- Cadet Band Division – purchasing and maintenance of musical instruments, tuition for members and ongoing assistance with projects.
- Training aids for members including (but not limited to) human body charts, books, defibrillators and torso mannequins.
- IT equipment to allow members to be up to date with the latest events and training requirements.
- Purchase of two decommissioned Ambulance vehicles for use by the Volunteers at public duty events and assistance with the cost of equipping the vehicle ready for duty.

- Partial funding for a volunteer vehicle in Nhulunbuy – joint venture with Tour De Arnhemland.
- Printing of various posters associated with the child protection policies which have been established.
- Funding for one member to take part in the team building voyage on the Leeuwin vessel from Darwin to the Kimberly Coast.
- Costs associated with advertising, recruitment and retention of members across the Territory, which includes posters, signage, sandwich boards and a portable 6ft display board for use at public events.
- Scholarships for Nursing students – currently funding two scholarships.
- Financial support for the Bern Kilgariff trainer Award, bi-annually.
- Volunteer cadet camps – transport, accommodation and associated costs to ensure members from all around the Territory are able to attend these events.



Cadets at the Annual Church service



Volunteers at the Annual Church service



Palmerston Mayor Robert Macleod with Palmerston winning members and their trophies

Vale Richard Morris – AM

1935–2009 (Chairman 1977–2000)

Richard will be remembered for his valued contributions to St John for over a quarter of a century.

The year marked the sad passing of well-known long-term Territorian Mr Richard Morris after a long battle with cancer. Anyone who had dealings with St John in the early days and up until 2000 would have known of him.

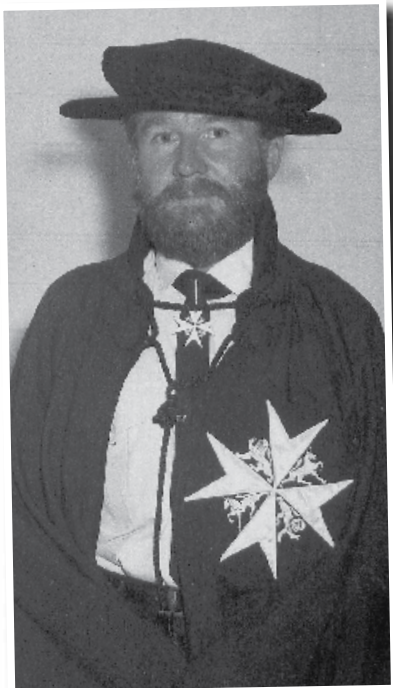
Richard came to Darwin initially in 1966, briefly moved to Tasmania and then returned in 1970 where he and wife Gael remained until Richard's retirement in 1997, which saw their relocation to Bairnsdale in Victoria.

Richard made an impact at whatever area he chose to set his mind to. He was involved in many well-known businesses in Darwin over the years and his business acumen ensured he was part of many a successful venture.

Not long after his arrival in Darwin in 1971, he became part of accounting firm KPMG, where both he and the firm prospered until his retirement in 1997.

In addition to his role with KPMG, Richard also served on many boards and societies, including being managing partner of KPMG, Chairman of TIO and Perkins Shipping, director of Territory Building Society, but most notably for St John Ambulance, Richard was Chairman of our Board.

Richard's enthusiastic establishment of the Ambulance service in 1977 as our first Chairman was pioneering and over a 24-year period until 2000, was a driving force behind numerous successful ventures and ideas.



He saw the Ambulance service grow into the basis of what we now see as the Ambulance service today. Richard upon his retirement as Chairman, passed the helm over to current Chairman Michael Mooney, in a healthy position, which has been built upon to this day.

Richard was renowned for his sense of humour and

this endeared him to all who worked alongside him.

It is impossible to mention all of the significant things Richard achieved during his time as Chairman, except to say that his foresight, planning and implementation of a large number of projects set a solid foundation for the Ambulance Service we are proud to be a part of today.



Richard and his lovely wife Gael

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Vale Rosemary Bromwich

OUR HEARTS, go out to Alan Bromwich of Darwin, a foundation member of our management committee, whose wife Rosemary died earlier this month after a long, brave struggle with cancer.

Rosemary was an enterprising, venturesome lady with many interests. When I first met her 10 years ago, she had just returned from a marathon swim along the mighty (and crocodile-infested) Katherine Gorge south of Darwin. She was then in her early 70s. She kindly entertained Margaret (my wife) and me when we were in town researching The Zambuks (Ops. Branch centenary history), for which Alan, a former NT St John Commissioner and the current St John Council President, was my chief guide and mentor.

Despite the torrential and deafening tropical downpour that happened to be going on during our visit, Rosemary showed us around her prize outdoor orchid garden. Even though visibility was down to about 5 metres because of the rain, it was obvious that as well as being Darwin's most intrepid marathon swimmer, Rosemary was probably Australia's outdoor orchid-growing champion. Rosemary was a great friend of St John, supporting Alan in his many and varied St John tasks over more than 30 years. Originally from England, Rosemary added value to any organisation, institution or cause with which she was associated. She is greatly mourned in her wide circle of St John friends. Through Pro Utilitate we express to Alan our appreciation of the way she added value to St John via her long marriage to him.

Some time ago, Rosemary and her orchids were the subject of a feature story in the ABC television program, 'Gardening Australia'. You can look it up for yourselves on the 'Gardening Australia' section of the ABC website www.abc.net.au; however, for those of you who lack internet access, here (below) is what she said on the program. The website also includes this picture (above right) of Rosemary among her orchids.

I'm Rosemary Bromwich and I love gardening, but most of my garden is orchids – they are easy to grow and flower all year.

I come from London. I did my nursing training in London and then we came out to Darwin in 1958. I think it was in 1972 that I started. We started the Orchid Society of Northern Territory in 1973. Unfortunately the cyclone came just after that and blew us all away, but we got started again.

Favourite orchids include a Dendrobium called 'Spellbound' which grows vigorously and flowers nearly all year, but like other Dendrobiums it has a habit of climbing out of its pot. Leave them in the pot, they're quite happy growing on the outside, they feel as if they're on a tree, which is what Dendrobium means.

Another white Dendrobium needs repotting but it's best to put it into another pot without disturbing it. If you pulled it out of the pot it would stop growing, the flowers

would drop, and it might not re-flower again for two years. But this plant will now continue to grow and the roots will grow into the charcoal in the outside pot. Hang it in a shade house and it will be happy because it likes air round it.



My husband says growing orchids is not a hobby, it's a disease. I kept going overseas and buying more orchids and the collection got bigger and bigger and bigger. When I retired from nursing I found I had hundreds of orchids in flower.

Tropical orchids like moist conditions. They don't like it much below 16–17 degrees Celsius and with the usually moist conditions in Darwin they multiply every wet season so the collection is increasing the whole time.

A large Oncidium also needs repotting. It's best to firstly cut a chunk off the orchid and repot in coconut husks. Water first so they are damp and make a hole to fit the plant.

I have been an international orchid judge. It took quite a few years to train for judging and learn about orchids—how they grow and whether the species are improved with crossing. You also get to know many, many people.

A Dendrobium keiki (a plantlet produced as an offshoot from a plant) grows on the end of a cane. Cut the cane in half and attach it to a tree. Try using pantyhose to attach it, because it is springy and won't rot and lasts a long time. Tie it on so it doesn't move in the wind and the roots usually take to the tree in a week or two.

To grow orchids of any number try joining an orchid society. You will get to see their collections, see how they're grown, and be able to buy orchids at very reasonable prices including bare rooted orchids to attach to trees.

I like getting up in the morning and walking around the garden to see the orchids, to see if something's in flower. That's part of my life. I couldn't live without orchids because I love to grow and see them flower, so I have to have somewhere where I can grow orchids.

Article Courtesy of Ian Howie-Willis, he has reproduced an article which was printed in her memory in the June edition of the St John Historical newsletter Pro Utilitate Hominum. This obituary originally appeared in the quarterly newsletter of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of Australia, Pro Utilitate no. 2009–2 (May 2009).

NT Paramedic – Celebrates 20 years of service

Congratulations to Mr Jim Leigh on 20 years with St John Ambulance NT!

October this year marked Jim's 20th year of continual service with St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory and all staff, volunteers and friends of St John Ambulance NT joined in a morning tea to congratulate Jim on this outstanding achievement.

Jim began his career with St John Ambulance NT in Darwin, in October 1989, after serving as an Army Medic with Norforce, and continued to serve as a reserve member in the Army Reserve throughout his initial years with St John.

Jim later moved to the St John Ambulance Station in Katherine in November 1989, before transferring back to Darwin in December 1990 and later graduating with his Associate Diploma in Applied Science and Emergency Care in 1993. Jim then went on to achieve his Advanced Diploma in Paramedical Science Ambulance of May 2005, to qualify him for his current role as an Intensive Care Paramedic.

"Jim has brought an expanse of knowledge and experience to his position and to St John Ambulance NT as a whole. His wealth of expertise in the field of disaster and emergency response has been a credit to his career and to the capability of St John Ambulance NT over the years" said Ross Coburn, Chief Executive Officer, St John Ambulance NT. "Jim is well known for being extremely versatile and willing to assist in any area by his fellow team members and is a credit to the organisation."

Among his notable achievements, Jim has been involved in the coordination and delivery of Rescue and Disaster courses throughout the Territory and has been

instrumental in providing assistance to many scenario based training exercises over the years since 1997. In 2000, Jim was nominated for AO of the year and was the winner of the inaugural award. Over the years, Jim has been willing to assist in many varied areas of the organisation, stepping into relief roles including Service Duty Officer in the Darwin Region on a number of occasions.

Jim assisted on various Contract mine sites as a paramedic, such as McArthur River Mine and Granites Gold Mine, he is also currently a work place assessor which assists the new students coming through the ranks to learn the necessary skills to sign off their log books and improve their skills and understanding.

Of particular significance, Jim is a nominated member of the international USAR Team (Urban Search and Rescue Team) as an NT Paramedic. Jim's extensive expertise in providing and coordinating emergency response contributes vital experience and knowledge to emergency and disaster events world wide and throughout Australia. In this vital role, Jim will be travelling to Singapore in January 2010 to further his skills and knowledge in this area, along with other nominated police, fire and paramedical service members of the international USAR team.

St John would like to take this opportunity to again thank Jim for his valued contribution over the past 20 years and we hope you will be with us for many more to come.



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First Aid for Learner Drivers

75 people were killed on Territory roads in 2008 as a result of 67 fatal crashes, of which 51 were male and 24 female. This devastating toll represents a further 18 road deaths when compared to the road toll of 2007.

Whilst significant community and political debate has been entered into about the cause of the increased road toll of 2008, we at St John Ambulance NT Inc believe we can make a significant difference by saving lives before an ambulance arrives and raising the awareness of the importance of first aid for all road users.

St John Ambulance attend all road trauma incidents across the Territory and witness the fatalities and serious injuries occurring on our roads. We provided care to over 1195 road accident victims in 2008, over 990 of these victims were transported to hospital.

Currently, 15-20% of Territorians on the road have completed First Aid training and St John Ambulance NT aims to grow this to 30-40% over the next 5 years. First aid has always been a vital part of an effective emergency response and St John Ambulance is proud to have trained and certified 9,925 Territorians in 2008, in the delivery of first aid. However, as the provider of the Northern Territory St John Ambulance Service, we are concerned by the number of emergency calls received to attend road accidents, by people without the appropriate skills and confidence to assist the accident victim effectively.

One of the most common causes of death for victims of a road crash is anoxia – a lack of oxygen supply – caused by a blocked airway. On average, it takes less than four minutes for a blocked airway to be fatal. Even in areas with highly structured emergency care, the norm for ambulance response to a road crash is ten minutes. Many people will die if nothing is done to correct the slow response to anoxia.

The application of first aid techniques, in particular the proper positioning of the victim prior to the arrival of the emergency response teams, can mean the difference between life and death in a road crash. Fatalities and serious injuries can be reduced when road accidents occur. Research shows that between 5% – 15% of road accident deaths can be prevented by administering basic first aid to the casualty at the scene of the accident before the arrival of ambulance services.

Anyone can provide assistance at a road crash, but the better skilled in First Aid the rescuer is, the more effective and beneficial the support offered will be. People may happen across a road accident because they are in one of the vehicles involved or are in a passing vehicle. The quality of this assistance is strongly dependent on the individuals having received adequate training in first aid.

Saving Lives on Territory Roads into the future

In 2010, St John Ambulance is committed to working towards achieving our most visionary goal yet.



it takes only 4 minutes
for a road accident victim with no serious
injuries to die from a blocked airway
it can take up to 10 minutes for an ambulance to
arrive at the scene of an accident

"First Aid - It Saves Lives on the Road", Global Road Safety Partnership 2003

Through the introduction of a series of campaign initiatives, training programs and innovative application of online technology, St John Ambulance NT are working towards ensuring that future applicants for driving licences in the Northern Territory are better prepared and confident in the event of an accident, and the measures that they can take to assist road accident victims; including emergency action such as evacuation of passengers and basic administration of first aid.

This success or this project and positive impact across the Territory will be underpinned by the support of its partners and supporters. St John Ambulance seeks to develop strong partnerships with organisations who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of all Territorians and reducing the road toll.

It is our long term vision to see all learner drivers in the Northern Territory trained in First Aid as part of getting their drivers license.

Farewell to Noel & Liz Talbot

St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory is saying goodbye to Noel and Liz Talbot who are leaving Alice Springs to live in Kadina, South Australia.

Noel has worked for St John for the past fifteen years as the Sales Consultant and he is well known throughout Central Australia in communities, small towns and the cattle stations. He always knew where to go for fresh scones and morning tea.

Both Noel and Liz made such an incredible impact on St John in the Northern Territory and contributed countless hours volunteering their time for their community. Over the years, both have taken annual leave to give many of their holidays to assist the volunteers with Cadet camps and competitions, assistance which has allowed many of these events to take place. Both Noel and Liz have helped to shape the Cadet careers of many young hopefuls, by offering friendship and assistance where needed.

Friday 30 October was Noel's last day with St John and as it was Children's Week both Noel and Liz ran the sausage sizzle for all the children, an annual activity for the past eleven years that St John has been involved with and both Noel and Liz have been major contributors to.

Staff, family and friends attended a wonderful dinner at the Elkira Motel and presented them with a digital photo frame. St John Chairman, Mike Mooney and CEO, Ross Coburn travelled to Alice Springs to attend a special dinner to thank both Noel and Liz for their valuable contributions to both the Ambulance Service and the Volunteers.

Noel was employed by the South Australian Railways for 37 years from 1958 to 1995. After living in Peterborough for 9 years he moved to Alice Springs for a promotion with the railways. After 8 years he left the railways and was employed by St John. He first joined St John Ambulance in 1980 in South Australia as a private member. After transferring to Alice Springs in 1991 he was promoted to Divisional Superintendent of the Alice Springs Adult Division. He held several leadership roles and was Territory Officer Cadets for eight years.

I asked Noel what he liked most about St John:

"I enjoy every aspect of St John – the friendship and fellowship with members of St John and being in a position to help my community. My work with cadets gave me a great sense of satisfaction and pride."

I then asked him about his most memorable St John moment:

"In the course of my work and travelling many thousands of kilometres each year throughout the Territory I often came upon situations that called on my first aid skills. A vivid memory is coming across an accident in a remote area of the Territory where a car had rolled with the two occupants trapped inside. With the assistance of a remote



area nurse we worked on them for four hours until the Royal Flying Doctor arrived."

Although they will be leaving the NT they will be re-joining St John in South Australia once they have settled into their new home.

Thank you Noel and Liz for your unwavering support over the years and we hope to see you back in the NT in the near future. Enjoy your retirement.



Thank you St John volunteers

Our 467 St John Ambulance volunteers have contributed 65,104 hours of service in the 2008/2009 year.

Members, in addition to providing first aid to the community, contributed in many different ways including administration, logistics, training, youth development, management, leadership and emergency call out assistance. Volunteers are part of a large social network, enjoy friendship and support each other in times of personal crisis.

I would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication over the past twelve months and I would like to give a special thanks to the families of all our members for their support.

Merry Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous New Year to you all and I look forward to working with you all again in 2010.

Regards

Steve Peers OAM KStJ
Commissioner



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1/4 PAGE

St John Ambulance NT Commissioner — Celebrates 30 years

2009 marked a milestone year for long term St John employee and Volunteer Steve Peers. March this year marked Steve's 30th year of continual service with St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory and his 32nd year as an active Volunteer.

"Steve has brought an expanse of knowledge and leadership to his current role of Commissioner for St John Ambulance NT and has successfully lead our many Volunteers across the Territory since his appointment to this role in 2008" said Mr Mike Mooney, Chairman of Council for St John Ambulance NT.

Among his notable achievements, Steve has been responsible for establishing ambulance services in Tennant Creek and the Barkly region; he established the Royal Flying Doctor Service Communications and linkages between remote ambulance services, clinics and communities; and has provided admirable leadership in the development of St John Ambulance Volunteer Services Territory wide.

Steve's extensive knowledge and 'hands-on' experience

has made a vital contribution to disaster planning and readiness of ambulance services in the Northern Territory as a result of coordinating of medical counter disaster plans and management of ambulance responses to the Alice Springs floods of 1983 and 1988.

Steve first joined the Alice Springs branch of St John Ambulance NT as a Volunteer Ambulance Officer in 1977. Two years later his professional appointment as a full time Ambulance Officer launched is career with the ambulance service, where he has since worked tirelessly to achieve significant growth for the organisation across the Northern Territory.

Adding to a lifetime of outstanding community contribution in the Northern Territory, Steve has maintained active involvement as a member of the



Benny Butler – Sword Bearer



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Australian College of Ambulance Professionals, Alice Springs Rotary Club, Alice Springs Road Safety Board and Alice Springs Emergency Services.

This significant milestone in Steve's career was officially acknowledged on Thursday 28 May 2009 when he was invested as a Knight into the Order of St John, at Government House, hosted by His Honour The Administrator Mr Tom Pauling AO QC KStJ and Mrs Tessa Pauling, the Deputy Prior of the Order of St John in the Northern Territory.

An investiture of a Knight into the Order is an honour granted and awarded by Her Majesty The Queen in recognition of outstanding contributions to the work of the Order of St John". Mr Mooney also said "I have known Steve for many years and have the highest regard for his voluntary service and commitment not only to St John but to the wider Northern Territory community. This is indeed a high honour but one which is thoroughly deserved".

The 2009 Graduation Ceremony also included the following Admissions and Promotions within the Order of St John:

Promotion to Officer within the Order:

Craig Garraway, Pat Murray, Bruce Jones, Lenaire Keatch

Admission as Member of the Order:

Bishop Greg Thompson, Annetta Albanese, Glen Auricht, Wayne Bevan, Justin Hankinson, Makaylia Bretag

Priory Vote of Thanks:

Frank Dunstan, Combined Lions Club, Rotary Club Darwin Sunrise

In addition 17 members were recognised for their lengthy service with the organisation:

5 Years

Heather Cornford, Stuart Davis, Jane Malley, Lynda McMeekin, Bridget Oudeman, Warren Purse, Natasha Schuman, Owen Torres

10 Years

Wayne Bevan, Marcel Clarke, Debbie Downs, Trevor Keatch, Chris Kupke, Patrick Murray, Stuart Whyte

15 Years

Ross Coburn

30 Years

Steve Peers

In conjunction with the Investiture Ceremony, this year St John was also proud to present the following Paramedics with their Advanced Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance) and the Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance).

Advanced Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance)

Nick Bigwood, Mark Ferguson, Coralie Holland, Katharine Taylor

Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance)

Kay Blakeman, Matthew Cowie, Sue Gibson, Beverley Hellyer, Michelle Houchell, Ian Keam, Andrew Langston, Rebecca Lynd, Nathan Oswin, Ron Owen, Christiana Pownall, Julie-Anne Stewart, Rachael Walker.

Congratulations to all those who were recipients of awards and medals at this year's ceremony.



Reece and Makaylia Ravlich



Benny Butler

Nhulunbuy Division – Ivan Danks Day

What great community support we are getting here in Nhulunbuy. We have just had the Ivan Danks Day. This is similar to the Beer Can Regatta in Darwin.

A little history is that some time ago a guy named Ivan Danks built a boat out of what he could find and sailed from Nhulunbuy.

At 10am on Sunday 16th August about 6 teams started building their boat out of ply wood. When they finished they were then placed on the beach to be raced at 4:30pm. While they were building their boats, games, relays and other boat races were played out on the beach.

St John Ambulance Nhulunbuy placed a display and did a raffle. Fundraising from the day was being donated to St John Ambulance Volunteers by the Yacht Club. Throughout the day the community made donations and supported the volunteer divisions both adults and cadets. To help with the day we had Mark Ferguson

Superintendent of Adult division, Mandy Paradise
Superintendent of the cadet division, Rob Spivey
Adult division and Kylie Newport sergeant for the adult division, we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

With donations from all the community shops we were able to do a big raffle. Mandy and Rob from Arnhemland Craft and Picture Framing, donated a local aboriginal painting that they framed and it was auctioned on the day.

A huge thank you for the hard efforts of our volunteers, Yacht Club (Tom), Mandy and Rob and all the other business that helped out on the day. Over \$2000 was raised.



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Gove Peninsula Festival

On Saturday 1st August 2009 saw the Gove Peninsula Festival.

At 0730 Mandy Paradise, Phil Sampson and Mark Ferguson started setting up for a long day, we also had numerous cadets help throughout the day. We only had 2 and ½ hours to set up and place the art work on the top half of the Ambulance that the students at the Nhulunbuy Preschool done. The Festival Theme was the Festival by the sea.

The Festival started at 10am with a parade down the main street. The Ambulance was decorated by the Nhulunbuy Pre-School and as you can see it was painted with water paints on bottom half of the outside and on the top half you can see the art work that we stuck on the top half.

From 10am to 5pm we were stationed at the stall. We had information on one table all about St John Ambulance, on the middle table we had fundraising for the Adult and Cadet divisions and on the last table we had first aid kits, we also had Car 86 and our volunteer car 111 on display. We placed our 2 manikins (Annie) on display. One on a stretcher of car 86 and the other in a KED in the drivers side of car 111.

We ran out of show bags which was a great hit. We also had a lot of people interested on what we do as many people did not know we sell First aid kit and have a volunteer division. We announced a competition, which was name the Ambulance, Which the local MLA Lynne Walker sponsored and gave a \$50.00 voucher to spend locally. Mandy's niece came and gave us a hand with our fundraising, without Lindsay we would not have raised the amount we did, so thank you Lindsay. After 5pm we had a band until midnight.



Ambulance decorated by children at Nhulunbuy preschool



St John float entry



The St John Stand at the festival

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Reunion Lunch

Sixty former and current members attended the 2009 Member Reunion Lunch at the Casuarina Club in August. It was terrific to see so many "old" faces reliving past memories, looking over old photos trying to remember

names and telling some tall tales. A big thank you to Pat King and Arthur Simmons for all their hard work and many hours of scanning photos.

NT Members assist with Victorian bushfires

St John NT sent five members (Stuart Anderson, Brian Ch'ng, Justin Hankinson, Darrin Whatley, Rob Rudland) to Melbourne to assist St John Victoria with the ongoing effort with providing first aid services in the fire affected areas. Their primary role was to assist in the Communications and Control Centre.



St John NT Members L-R Robert Rudland, Darrin Whatley and Justin Hankinson

Darwin City Council Grant

St John Volunteers received a \$2,000 grant from the Darwin City Council's Community Grants Program. Commissioner, Steve Peers attended a function at the Council's office to receive the cheque from Lord Mayor, Graeme Sawyer. The grant will be used to purchase safety vests and a training manikin for the Darwin Adult Division.



The new shed

A large shed has been built next to the service house in Rowling Street. It will be used to store all the volunteer equipment for public duties and equipment for the Darwin Cadets, Cadet Band, Darwin Adult Division and the Volunteer Office. There is also room to store larger items for other divisions and will be used to store the buggy.



2009 Cadet First Aid Competition and the inaugural Drill Competition

Congratulations to all the competitors and thank you to competition manager, Paul Berry and his team of helpers. An inaugural Drill Competition was held and was a huge success. Congratulations to all involved.

Team

1st Alice Springs 2 – Kristy Janssen, Jaime Janssen, Ben Janssen

Individual

1st – Sarah McLaughlin – Band

Cadet Leader

1st – Amy McKay – Band

Drill

1st – Combined team
(Darwin and Band)

2nd – Palmerston

3rd – Alice Springs

4th – Alice Springs



Combined drill team members

Cellarbrations Sports Charity Lunch



We would like to give our sincere thanks to David Bruhn, Promotions Manager / Group Co-Ordinator Independent Brands Australia – NT and Amy Picone, Business Development Manager, Australian Liquor Marketers for choosing St John Ambulance Volunteers as the recipients of money raised at the Sports Charity Lunch. Special guests at the lunch were former test cricketer, Darren Lehmann and AFL high flyer, Russell Robertson. The lunch and auction of sporting memorabilia raised \$23,177 for the volunteers.



Darren Lehmann with Kelly Raven, Steve Pees and David Buhn at the lunch

Adult First Aid Competitions

Bunnings Palmerston was the venue for this year's Adult First Aid Competition and I'm sure that the competitors must have thought that we were going to have a scene with a chainsaw or perhaps a drill that had gone wrong. Instead it was a first aid post that a number of Bunnings patrons visited with various injuries and ailments – lacerations, burns, heart problems, headaches and one that had an accident with a forklift. Thank you to the Competition Manager, Angie Butler for a great competition.

Congratulations to the winners Palmerston Team Christine Turner, Marion McLauchlan and Shaun Washington and to Kate Anning on winning the Individual section.



Paramedic of the Year Awards 2009

Paramedics are often the front line of human tragedies, saving lives, tending to the injured and comforting the distressed. Reader's Digest for the sixth year in a row have announced that Paramedics had been voted the most trusted profession in Australia, something which would come as no surprise to those who have experienced their work first hand.

Their work often goes unrecognised by many in the community — but not by all.

Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise initiated the Paramedic of the Year awards in 2000 to acknowledge the chosen vocation of paramedics through the dedication and service they provide in communities through-out the Northern Territory, with the awards now in their 10th year, Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise president Wendy Mackay said: "As with my predecessors, it is my honour as president of the Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise to be involved with this year's award."

"The role that paramedics play in our community is a vital, but often overlooked one. Their devotion to a role that puts them at the front line of incidents, that the majority of us would hope to avoid in our lifetimes, is admirable. "However, it is, for the most part, a role that goes unnoticed or at the least, unrecognised. Through these annual awards we are able, in some small part, to lift the profile of these amazing people and to highlight the truly wonderful part they play in our community."

The award ceremony was held at Parliament House on Friday September 11, hosted by the Health Minister Mr Kon Vatskalis.

St John and Rotary also gratefully acknowledge the sponsors for this year's awards:

NT Government, JRTelecommunications, Fire Protection Professionals, Darwin Airport Resort, Territory Surgical Supplies, Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union, Country Classics, and Zip Print.

This year saw an impressive 17 nominations for Paramedics across the NT, with the winner being chosen from a very competitive group.

Congratulations to Susan Gibson from Alice Springs, who was overwhelmed when she heard her name called out at the Awards ceremony. "I WAS immobile." That was how Sue described the moment she was announced winner. Ms Gibson said she was humbled by the award and the \$1000 university scholarship cheque (donated by LHMU) that came along with it. "At first I couldn't even move," she said at hearing Health Minister Kon Vatskalis call her name ' ' I was absolutely wrapped but at the same time it's pretty hard to feel deserving of something like this when everyone does a good job. I really look up to my peers. "Ms Gibson said it really sunk in when award organisers Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise and St John Ambulance NT sent her the nomination letter to read.

Written by three nurses from the Alice Springs Hospital emergency department, the nomination was filled with accolades and examples of Sue's excellent conduct and ability to assure people in even the most stressful situations. "Sue is well respected among her peers, and



Winner Sue Gibson with partner Kurt Tomlinson

always manages to maintain a positive and upbeat outlook on life and her work, which at times can be harrowing and distressing,' 'the letter read. "Sue goes beyond the call of duty in regards to holistic care she provides to her patients and their families. "She really cares about her patients. "Sue can often be seen playing drawing games with children that have been in emotional distress, but with her use of distraction, she has them giggling and playing. "Originally from Victoria, Sue moved to Alice Springs 15 years ago, and through her former work as a tour guide developed a deep love of the region, its people and culture.

Sue took courses on local indigenous languages and refined those skills working within communities. That knowledge has been a great asset in her role as a paramedic, which she began in 2006. In June of this year, Sue became a qualified paramedic and has been a stand-out performer. Her professionalism, rapport and compassion towards her patients exemplifies the paramedic's ethos.

Congratulations to Sue and all of the other nominees on a job well done and keep up the good work.



Nominees pictured with SJA Chairman Michael Mooney, Health Minister Kon Vatskalis and Rotary Chair Wendy Mackay

Mr Michael McKay MStJ

Director of Operations Ambulance & Territory Superintendent of Volunteers.

Michael joined St John Ambulance as a volunteer in 1984. As a member of the Alice Springs Adult Division, he was active at public duties and on the ambulances as a third person/observer.

His enthusiasm for the role saw him leave his retail management career with Coles-Myer and commence employment as a Trainee Ambulance Officer in Alice Springs in 1988. His commitment to both the paid service and the volunteers has never wavered and in 2005 Michael decided to take a more active role in the volunteers. He was promoted to a Territory Officer position in 2006 and commenced the Territory Superintendent position in June 2008.

The Territory Superintendent oversees the efficient administration of the Operations Branch as required by National Regulation and provides day to day management of Operations Branch members and resources in the Territory. The Territory Superintendent directs the development of Territory policies and regulations to assist administration with consideration to any relevant legislation.

The Territory Superintendent has overall control of Operations Branch finances and ensures all transactions are recorded correctly through the use of audits. They work closely with National Headquarters staff and other State / Territory Superintendents to develop national Operations Branch policies and resources.

Michael went on to qualify as an Ambulance Officer in Alice Springs and continued his training to become an Intensive Care Paramedic. During this time, Michael had the opportunity to work in Ambulance stations including, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Darwin. In 1999, Michael moved to Darwin to take on the role of Deputy Operations Manager and in 2003 he stepped up to Ambulance Operations Manager at the Casuarina Centre.

During this time, he was instrumental in shaping the direction of the Ambulance Service and worked closely with the St John CEO and Board, Paramedic Training College, Medical Officers, Territory Government, interstate ambulance services and other stakeholders to ensure the service, including staff and equipment remains at the forefront of the field. In 2005, Michael received a Police Commissioner's Letter of Recognition for his role in the rescue of two men from the Finness River and was instrumental in coordinating the transport of casualties from the Indonesian Terrorist Attacks.

Michael's experience and training, in clinical matters, disaster preparedness and management has prepared him well for his new position as Director of Operations – Ambulance which he began in mid 2009. This position is a strategic one which has Michael overseeing the ambulance service across the entire Northern Territory. He is an

active member of a number of relevant committees including JAMSOC, Clinical Advisory Board, among many others, which allows St John NT, to remain

relevant, represented and be an integral part of the changing medical environment which affects the NT ambulance service and ultimately our Paramedics on the road and the community.

In his spare time Michael enjoys spending time with his family. He enjoys jet skiing in Darwin Harbour with his wife and two teenage children as well as tackling home improvement projects on the house. His other past times include walking, reading and working on the computer.

Michael is a well respected and highly regarded member of the St John Ambulance team. His dedication and professionalism to the ambulance profession and the ethos of St John Ambulance is unparalleled. We are privileged to work with him.



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2009 Volunteer Recognition & Awards Weekend

This year the Commissioner decided it was time to change the usual format for the Annual Parade and have a weekend of activities rewarding and recognising the achievements of volunteers.

The weekend began with a cocktail style Volunteer Presentation Awards on Friday night followed by a Superintendents and Territory Officers all day meeting and a member dinner on Saturday then a Church Service at the Anglican Cathedral on Sunday morning.

All the winners and nominees of the awards are to be congratulated for their outstanding contribution over the past twelve months. Unfortunately three members who were to receive Service Medals and Bars were not able to be present at the Awards Ceremony. Makaylia Ravlich and Marcel Clark medal have both been awarded a 12 year Service Medal and the longest serving member in the Northern Territory, Phil Langdon has been awarded a 6th Bar for 42 years of service, an extraordinary effort.

Service Bars were awarded to:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 22 yr bar | Dawn Bat |
| 32 yr bar | Steve Peers |
| 42 yr Bar | Phil Langdon |

Other recipients of awards and promotions were:

- Nerissa Brumby – promotion to Divisional Officer of the Darwin Cadet Division.
- Geraldine Turner (Palmerston Cadets) 1000 Hour Badge
- Kelly Raven – Priory Vote of Thanks
- Arnah Holland (Marrara Cadet Division)-Commissioner's Commendation



Julie Murray 2010 Peter Falkland Youth Leader Award



Benny Butler – Adult Volunteer of the Year

Commissioners Awards

Nominees for the Adult Volunteer of the Year Award

Barbara Klessa – Humpty Doo Division
Joylene Kain – Alice Springs Cadet Division
Benny Butler – Palmerston Adult Division
Simon French – Alice Springs Adult Division
Julie Nicklin – Nhulunbuy Adult Division

Benny Butler from the Palmerston Adult Division is the 2009 Adult Volunteer of the Year Award.

Nominees for the Cadet Volunteer of the Year Award

Arnah Holland – Marrara Cadets
Michelle Watson – Darwin Cadets
Melissa Kain – Alice Springs Cadets
Leanne Eltagonde – Palmerston Cadets

Leanne Eltagonde from the Palmerston Cadet Division is the 2009 Cadet Volunteer of the Year Award

Winners of the 2009 Division of the Year

Palmerston Adult Division
Palmerston Cadet Division

Julie Murray from the Palmerston Cadet Division was chosen as the 2010 Peter Falkland Youth Leader Award

Presentation of certificates were awarded to Carpet Choice, JR Communications and the Telstra Shop Palmerston in appreciation of their support for the Volunteers Recognition Weekend Activities.

A Thank You Plaque was Australian Liquor Marketers in appreciation of the \$23,000 donation which was raised at the Sports Charity Lunch.



Colour Party flag handover at the Church Service



Geraldine Turner receiving her 1000 hour certificate



Volunteer Co-ordinator Gwyn Balch with volunteer members at the Award Ceremony



Leanne Eltagonde – Cadet Volunteer of the Year”.

The Annie-Marie Muscat Compassion Award

This year the Commissioner decided it was time to change the usual format for the Annual Parade and have a weekend of activities rewarding and recognising the achievements of volunteers.

For those who have been involved with St John for the past few years, all of you would have met a wonderful lady by the name of Anne-Marie Muscat.

The Award was suggested by the family of the late Anne-Marie Muscat who had been a St John Ambulance employee for 11 years, prior to her passing in 2008. During this time Anne-Marie held a number of positions within St John Ambulance NT and was respected and admired by all who were fortunate to have made her acquaintance.

Anne-Marie was a gentle, kind, caring, considerate and compassionate person, with a warm and friendly nature, who always had time to lend an ear to anyone in need. During her time as a Paramedic and indeed in all roles she undertook, her bedside manner was second to none and Anne-Marie had the ability to put anyone at ease, with reassuring conversation. The purpose of the award is to honour her memory and to acknowledge the extraordinary impact she had on all who knew her.

Anne-Marie's family approached the St John Ambulance NT earlier this year and asked if they could arrange something as a memorial to her, hence the establishment of the Anne-Marie Muscat Compassion Award.

The Anne-Marie Muscat Compassion Award recognises the recipients' valuable contribution to the ethos of St John Ambulance and their dedication to assisting the broader community and will be presented annually at the St John AGM held in November each year.

St John Ambulance NT will present \$500 to the Charity of the winner's choice and Anne-Marie's family will present a perpetual trophy and smaller trophy for the winner to keep.

Submissions for the award were welcomed from all staff and volunteers, with nominations to consider the following points:

- The recipient has displayed compassion towards their peers, members of the public, other co-workers or members of affiliated health services.
- The nominee has committed a selfless act to help someone in need.
- The nominee has shown kindness and consideration to those less fortunate than themselves.
- Psychological support/mentoring of co-workers/patients, showing commitment to the progression of health services above and beyond what is expected.

For the inaugural award there were 15 nominations



Winner Debbie Downs with Jaymee Da Rocha, Stacey Muscat and Laurie Muscat – Anne-Marie's family

received from St John staff across the Territory. From those nominations, 6 were received for the one person, which made the choice for the winner this year an easy one.

Debbie Downs was presented with the Anne-Marie Muscat Compassion Award at the 2009 AGM by members of Anne-Marie's family and was visibly moved by the honour of receiving the recognition of her peers and fellow colleagues through this award.

Although, this was no surprise to the staff of St John Ambulance NT, who have experienced Debbie's compassion and willingness to support fellow colleagues through all manner of events and challenges, both professional and personal.

Nominations for Debbie, went into great detail regarding the important role she plays in ensuring the continued welfare of St John staff and their families and the "calming and compassionate presence" she has when dealing with all manner of tasks. In particular, staff commented on the way she "always has a smile and happily greets you, always positive and friendly, making time to listen to what you have to say and understand." Others also said "Debbie always finds time in her day to assist with queries on all and any subject. If she doesn't have an answer for you, she will make it her mission to find one" and "If there is a surprise birthday, morning tea, baby shower or farewell, chances are Deb will be the driving force behind it".

The Anne-Marie Muscat Compassion Award recognises the efforts that Debbie commits to not only her administrative role, but her behind the scenes organisational skills "ensuring memorable moments for others".

It has truly been a fitting tribute to Anne-Marie's family members to present this award to Debbie Downs. Like Anne-Marie, Debbie is highly respected and admired by her co-workers and is gentle, kind, considerate and passionate.

Congratulations Debbie from all at St John Ambulance NT!

2009 NT Cadet Camp Alice Springs

The NT Cadet Camp 2009, held in Alice Springs in conjunction with the NT Cadet First Aid and inaugural Drill Competitions was a great success with attendance of 50 cadet and adult members from Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Humpty Doo, Palmerston, Darwin, Band and Marrara Cadet divisions.

Although the camp began 12 months ago at the 2008 Cadet Camp in Batchelor when Geoff Kain announced his commitment to hold the next camp in Alice Springs, the real fun began when Kelly Raven, Michael Hatfield and Amy McKay left Palmerston Centre with 27 people in 2 buses at 0500 on Friday 25 September bound for an overnight stop in Tennant Creek.

Sam and Darren did a great job looking after us in Tennant Creek. They organised for us to stay in the Norforce building which offered heaps of room for the cadets to get rid of their pent up energy. They put on a yummy BBQ and ensured we had everything we needed for an early start the next morning.

We left about 0900 with 33 people and a plan to stop at Devils Marbles (a great photo opportunity) and Wycliffe Well (to look for aliens and have morning tea).

We arrived in Alice Springs about 1430 with a banner welcoming us to the Isle of St John. This was to be the start of a fun, action packed week of activities, competitions, making new friends and catching up on some sleeping on the bus on the long trip home to Darwin.

A huge thank you to Geoff and Joylene Kain, Ron Owen, Kate Anning, Paul Berry and all the other helper for such an enjoyable camp. See you all again next year for the camp in the Top End.



Members at Devil's Marbles enroute to Alice Springs



Attendees at the Isle of St John



Geoff Kain having PFD issues



Jaime and Kristy Janssen



The shade shelter had a lean and so did the Cadets!



Canoeing at Ellery Big Hole

Cross Cultural Issues – An important issue within our care

I always enjoy reading our Outback Ambulance mag and have indeed made many contributions over the years. Being an ex-Ambo I read with interest another interesting article by Trevor Keatch from our Katherine Centre in our last edition.

When I first joined our professional staff back in 1978 in Darwin, I came to the Territory from South Australia as a young guy full of enthusiasm to “make a difference”. That soon changed, and as Trevor says in his article – it was actually within six weeks.

I was totally unprepared and had neither the conception nor understanding of Indigenous culture. I am honest when I say I became disillusioned and I also became simply tired of drunks wasting “our” time as Ambulance professionals. How wrong I was to assume these cases were the “norm”.

Most certainly, I was often assaulted, verbally abused and at times, even feared for my own safety. Later in my career, I was actually shot at, chased with knife-wielding weirdo’s and one night quite severely “bashed” within the patient cabin of an ambulance. One wonders why we want to be Paramedics/Ambulance Officers – let alone nurses.

It wasn’t until I became a nurse and started working and teaching “out bush” that I began to realise that there is sometimes a true difference between the urban and remote. Not always though!

This picture shows (permission granted) some Indigenous kids learning CPR skills in one of the remotest locations I have ever worked. I had been conducting a St John Ambulance (NT) First Aid course earlier; and took the opportunity to help the local school.

That evening after I departed, unfortunately saw a very senior/respected Indigenous Elder suffer a sudden cardiac arrest and the Community rallied and opened the unattended Clinic for the lone defibrillator. There was no Doctor, Nurse or Paramedic present in their Community as they were so remote from any sort of professional medical or nursing assistance. They were only physically visited for twice-weekly clinics by clinical/medical staff.

They were able to apply their St John Ambulance (NT) training and the defibrillator “shocked” the patient – whilst others were calling the RFDS. Unfortunately, it was a sad outcome and the patient did not survive. They did not have the ability to do the “drug-drill” or administer further aid that might a Doctor, Nurse or Paramedic instigate and assist with if they had been in attendance.

It is important perhaps as pre-hospital care professionals and volunteers to remind ourselves that “yes” we too know emergency management skills – but be less inclined to judge that “others” can also benefit from our



knowledge, our experience and our ability to teach these skills where they are most needed. This is particularly so in remote areas.

St John Ambulance Australia nationally teaches these skills and indeed, we can save lives in remote areas where there is no Ambulance Service available. Cultural awareness is essential and is a learned experience both through formal tuition and experience.

Alan Caust OSTJ
Instructor – First Aid



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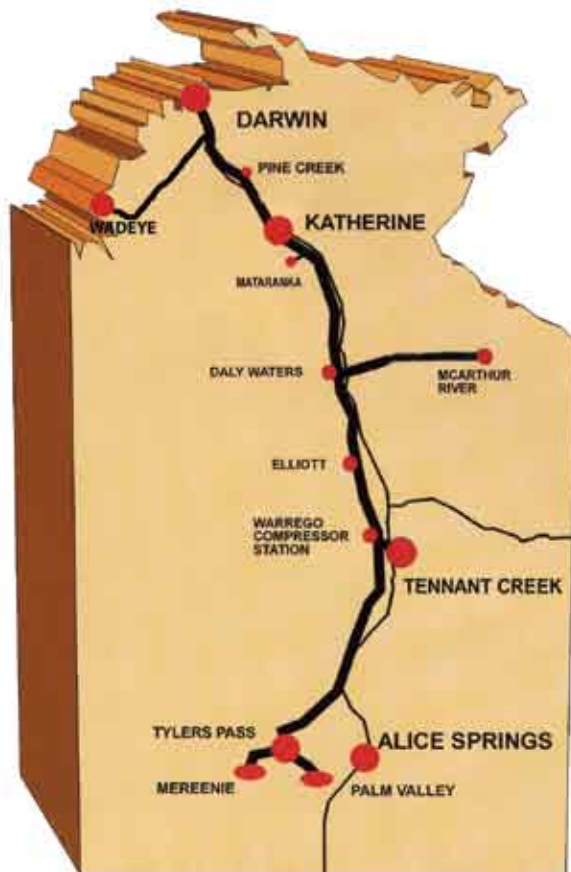


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