Hi All,
Things are starting to warm up duty wise and we have hit the ground running.

Greg and Lyn along with 2 Humpty Doo Senior cadets looked after the Motocross last Sunday. Byron and Christine Turner did the Drags while John and Sue-Ellen did the rugby. Lee and Felicity did Australian Idol with a rotation of Band Cadets.

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**Humpty Doo Division**

During a quiet time, which was most of the day, Humpty Doo Cadet Corporal James Skinner shows Cadet Stephen Payne the scoop stretcher while Humpty Doo DO Lyn Jacobsen supervises.

That scoop was then used twice in the last 3 races at Gunn Pt Rd Motocross Track on Sunday.

Photo taken by Humpty Doo DS Greg Payne.
Hailee Skinner and Henri did the Concert on Sunday. Lee did the Horsies at Berrimah the previous Saturday. Kay and Robyn did an emergency services course in vehicle extraction from MVAs.

Plenty of duties coming up with more Motocross and Polocrosse, Palmlesstonnes, Noonamah Horse and Pony Club, Litchfield Rugby League, Pet Expo.

Anzac Day and the Divisional Inspection are looming so an enthusiastic attendance at next training night is asked for. A big thank you to all who put their bodies on the line with duties and training.

See you at training.. - Team Humpty Doo..

Regards
Greg Payne DS

Cadet Band

This enthusiastic group of Band Cadets have started their Fire Safety Proficiency Course at Casuarina Centre with Frank Dunstan as last night’s facilitator.

There are eight topics in the course, which may include visits to the local fire station. Frank was able to bring his fire unit in to show the class, but the early start to the Dry – and bushfire season – means that this is unlikely to be repeated.

Finke Desert Race

The Finke Desert Race is on again this year to be held on June 9, 10 & 11. As was the case in previous years volunteers are being sought to assist with this event at a number of locations in varying roles.

Attending members will be required to attend a briefing session at 7pm on Friday June 8 at the Alice Springs Centre. Can I ask that interested members advise me (with preferred location) as soon as possible. It should be noted that this is an unpaid duty, however a meal allowance will be paid to those who will be camping in the field.
All persons will be required to be self sufficient with camping equipment throughout the weekend. If previous years are anything to go by this event will be very rewarding to all those involved, so why not come along and join in the fun.

Members from outside Alice Springs

Members and staff from other locations will be required to be in Alice as of Friday June 8 to attend the Briefing and may return home as of Tuesday June 12. Please ensure that you have permission from your departmental manager or Divisional Superintendent prior to registering your interest.

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Dates of significance

Sunday 22nd April is Earth Day

On 22 April the Southern Hemisphere will experience its autumnal equinox - a time when day and night are of equal length. This marks an occasion for us to increase our appreciation the Earth’s environment and its future. All around the world on Earth Day 2007 communities and corporate organisations will celebrate this special day in enviro-friendly ways.

Wednesday 18th April is International Guide Dog Day

The first Guide Dog organisation in Australia started in Perth in 1951 following the arrival of guide dog Dreen from the UK in August 1950. By 1957 there were Guide Dog Associations in each state. It costs about $60 000 to breed and train a dog for four months and another $6000 to train the dog and person together for one month. A further $6000 is spent on follow-up training for the person and dog during its working life.

Sunday 22nd - Saturday 28th April is Osteopathy Awareness Week
Australian Osteopathic Association, 1800 467 836
www.osteopathic.com.au

Osteopathy is a rapidly growing profession in Australia. Although numbers of practitioners are still relatively low at present, the fact that there are now three training courses for osteopaths in Australia means that the number of practitioners will double in only a few years. As the public becomes more aware of the profession and what it can offer, the demand for Osteopathic services is expected to increase correspondingly. As a result, Osteopathy offers the prospect of a successful and satisfying career for students interested in studying in the health care field.

Monday 23rd April is World Book and Copyright Day
This day designated by UNESCO in 1995, originates from the practice started some 80 years ago where roses and books were given as gifts to loved ones on St George’s Day. This Day seeks to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright. This day is also a symbolic date for world literature as it is believed that Cervantes, Shakespeare and Garcilaso Inca de la Vega died on this day in 1616.

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**Members Website**

St John Ambulance Australia  
Username: onestjohn  
Password: member  

This is where you can download the latest Medical Advisory Bulletins, Operations Branch First Aid Procedures, First Aid Kit lists, Policies, Regulations and many more.

**Rural ramblings**

Got called out to an MVA on Darwin River Road last week and it was very interesting working alongside NTFRS. It was a single vehicle crash with one person trapped by the foot in the back seat and the driver still sitting inside, seemingly uninjured, but too stunned to get out. The passenger’s side had connected with a tree and the subsequent impact caused the entrapment. The vehicle was on its side when we arrived. Using hydraulic spreaders and jaws the Rescue crew managed to free the hapless casualties into the care of two waiting ambulances and Paramedic Virginia Dowson in a clinic car. The NTFRS crew were very efficient and it was an education to see them at work.

The excellent relationship built up between NTFRS and Bushfires NT on the Victorian fire grounds should mean more call outs to work together in future.

I have had the privilege to be asked to help out with the Cadet Band Division’s Fire Safety Proficiency course. Hopefully the coming bushfires will stay away from Monday nights until the course is completed.

Our Fire Brigade, Darwin River, is to start mosaic burning of Crown lands this year, instead of the broad scale burning that has been done in the past. Research has shown that annual burning actually spreads long grasses, increasing rather than reducing fuel loads. It is hoped the revised burning practices will reverse this problem.

Unfortunately, a lot of wildfires are started by careless people and arsonists and our hazard reduction burns in the past have been carried out for asset protection in response to this threat. I guess only time will tell whether or not our revised burning program will be able to be continued.

Take care,  
Frank Dunstan