NORTHERN TERRITORY
POLICE NEWS
The Independent Voice of Police in the Northern Territory

APRIL 2007

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These are the questions I constantly get asked when I travel around the Territory. Community members at all levels simply ask: “Where are the cops?” Members who were around prior to the government committing to the O’Sullivan Review in 2002 will recall these questions were a constant refrain.

The Commissioner at the graduation of Recruit Squad 87 in February this year claimed that O’Sullivan was about more than uniform areas. While this is true to a degree, there can be no argument that the major driver, and subsequent focus, for O’Sullivan was insufficient staffing in general duties uniform areas – those members in the vans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These members are in my view entitled to feel let down by the O’Sullivan process as are members in the operational crime units.

The Commissioner stated at that same graduation ceremony that police management would make reasonable proposals for increased resources, (including, presumably staff) at the appropriate times. Our collective experience of 60 plus years since the formation of our Association suggests this just does not occur.

Our most recent experience in 2002 prior to the O’Sullivan Review, was the previous Minister and current Commissioner constantly minimising the staffing shortages that existed.

The recent rhetoric of the Minister is all too familiar. Despite claims to the contrary, there is an underlying staffing problem in the NT Police Force. Further, the government has failed to put adequate effort into addressing the Police Forces ongoing resource needs. The government and Commissioner have failed to develop an acceptable resource allocation model as recommended by O’Sullivan.

Our Association has constantly acknowledged the funding increases that have occurred since August 2003. However, our acknowledgement of the governments positive actions and budgetary allocations does not absolve them of the responsibility of ensuring the force is resourced into the future or giving you and all Territorians an accurate assessment of the current state of police resources.

At the same graduation ceremony, the Commissioner stated that the graduation of Squad 87 represented the Police Force and government achieving a target of 200 extra officers.

I was surprised and disappointed that the Commissioner used the occasion of the recruit graduation to repeat what I, and many of you, consider to be the political position of the current government. In my view, the Commissioner had strayed into the realm of politics and I made that point in a subsequent media interview.

I have previously publicly indicated that our Association was happy to wait for the Annual Report for the 2006/2007 financial year to assess the actual staffing outcomes. However, the government, Minister and Commissioner continue to make statements about police numbers in numerous public forums.

If you have time during your busy working days I suggest you dust off the O’Sullivan Report and check some facts. At page 55 of that report Mr O’Sullivan sets out the establishment of the Police Force for 2002/2003 at 789 Constables and above, 122 Police Auxiliaries and 49 Aboriginal Police Officers.

At page 209 of the report Recommendation 101

President’s Message

“Where have they all gone?” “Why are we still short staffed?” “Why can’t we fill our rosters?” “Why are our rosters constantly changing?” “Why can’t we get relief out bush?” “Why are they hassling me about OT?” “Why can’t the Minister and Commissioner be upfront about the staffing problems?”

Vince Kelly, President NTPA
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states “The establishment of the Northern Territory Police Force be increased by 148 Police Constables and above, 28 Aboriginal Community Police Officers, two Police Auxiliaries, 35 Professional Technical and 51 Administration Support Positions”. It is a reasonable assumption that this recommendation was linked to the table at Page 55 of the same report.

O’Sullivan recommended a three year implementation time frame, however, this was immediately extended to four years by the Government.

In order to meet this revised timetable, the establishment for Constables and above will have to be 937 by the end of this financial year. My understanding is that as at December 2006 this figure was 885 – an increase of 96. Even if we add the 22 members who graduated in February this year that is still only an increase of 118. On these figures a further 30 Constables or above are required by the end of June 2007.

These figures ignore the new commitment of 38 NT Police to the airports. In order to fill these positions and meet the O’Sullivan target, the actual increase in Constables or above should be 186. This makes the reality of the current staffing levels even more stark – not to mention the impact of changes in funding arrangements to the Juvenile Diversion Unit and other new initiatives such as the drug dogs.

Members will have noticed the change in government rhetoric of an extra 200 officers on the beat by the end of 2006, to 200 extra officers by the end of the financial year.

To a simple Senior Sergeant with some criminal investigation experience, the numbers don’t add up. I have outlined movement in the numbers of Constables and above. In relation to Police Auxiliaries, my understanding is that as at December 2006 there were 141 Police Auxiliaries, an increase of 19 positions. Clearly, this is a larger increase than recommended by O’Sullivan.

In relation to Aboriginal Community Police Officers, the number of positions has increased to 78 – an increase of 29 positions. Again, this includes a number of new ACPO positions created to accommodate a government policy decision in relation to Mission Australia’s funding to deal with itinerants. These are new positions not considered by Mr O’Sullivan.

These figures indicate an overall increase, including the recent 22 graduates, of 166.

I have no doubt that figures will be produced pointing out why I am wrong, however, my information comes from publicly available information such as the Annual reports presented to parliament and the O’Sullivan report.

Of course, all this discussion is somewhat academic and pales into insignificance when the separation rate since 1st July 2003 is considered. Our information is that over 300 members have left the police force up to the end of January 2007. No political spin can disguise the significant challenge this presents to the Government and Commissioner.

You and the community are entitled to be sceptical about the claims made in relation to Police numbers. I have outlined my arithmetic in simple terms. I simply can not find the information to support the public position adopted by the Minister or Commissioner.

As your elected representative, I am entitled and will continue to challenge the Minister and Commissioner when these claims are made in any forum – after all, that’s politics.
Industrial News

Given that we are now 12 months out from commencing negotiations with the Government in relation to the 2008 Consent Agreement, we have started preparatory work in the office to ensure we are well prepared when negotiations commence. Over the next few months we will start visiting Darwin stations on a monthly basis. Vince and Gowan recently started making regional visits and will continue to do so over the year.

We hope to get as much feedback as possible from members as to your views on the current Consent Agreement. I urge you to contact our office if you think there is a clause in the Consent Agreement that could be drafted better in order to make it easier and clearer to understand, or if you think a condition should be incorporated in the next Agreement. We are in the process of preparing a survey and will distribute it to all members in the next month or so. It is your agreement – start thinking about what we can claim for in order to make policing terms and conditions of employment better in the NT. Do this by either phoning me, sending me an email or drop in to the office for a chat.

The housing dispute

On 5 February 2007 we attended the Police Arbitral Tribunal for a report-back in relation to the housing dispute. All the submissions and transcript of the report-back are available on our website: www.ntpa.com.au

As members would recall, on 31 August 2006, the Tribunal published its decision in relation to this dispute. On 24 January 2007, the Tribunal directed the parties to file written submissions outlining the current position and actions taken since the decision was published. We provided the following submission.

It is important to remember that the Housing Consent Agreement was certified in the Tribunal on 27 March 2005, almost two years ago. It is also important to remember that more than 150 police officers and their families, as well as single members, still do not enjoy the benefits of the Housing Consent Agreement which was overwhelmingly supported at ballot.

To reiterate, our Association’s desired outcome in these proceedings are as follows.

First, that the Tribunal find that the Commissioner of Police has breached clause 24.1.3 of the Consent Agreement and that the members currently living in the houses that do not meet the GEH standard, where available, be immediately offered alternate accommodation pursuant to clause 26.1 of the Consent Agreement. This objective as it relates to clause 26.1 is in the process of being satisfied with respect to housing in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine. However, it remains unresolved in all remote localities and all single accommodation. It also remains to be determined whether the Commissioner of Police has breached clause 24.1.3.

Second, that these sub-standard houses that do not meet the GEH standard, where alternate accommodation is available, be removed from the Commissioner of Police housing “stock” to ensure members are no longer living in sub-standard housing. This objective has been satisfied.

Third, that the Tribunal direct the Commissioner of Police immediately provide a program for all sub-standard housing, where there is no alternate housing available, to be upgraded within the next financial year, that is, 2006-2007. This objective is unresolved.

Thus what remains in dispute are those matters referred to in points 1 and 3 above.

Tribunal’s Decision of 31 August 2006

The Tribunal at paragraph 50 of the decision stated:
“We propose that the parties immediately do what they had undertaken to do in March 2005 and that is to prepare a realistic timetable for the upgrade program”. [emphasis in decision]

And at paragraph 51 stated:
“The matter will be listed for a comprehensive report back in 6 months. In the event that little or no progress has occurred in that time the tribunal will subject to hearing from the parties, make a determination as to the NTPA’s claims that the COP has breached the terms of the agreement.”

And further at paragraph 52:
“In the meantime, as far as is possible, no police officer should be placed into housing which does not meet the GEH standard other than by agreement with the NTPA and the individual police officer”.

Association’s Submissions

I will deal firstly with paragraph 52 of the decision. To the best of our knowledge, the Department has commenced the process of complying with the determination in this paragraph. That is, where a private rental housing market exists, members are starting to be placed in head-leased housing.

In relation to paragraph 51 of the decision, Attachment A hereto is a timeline outlining what actions have been undertaken by the parties subsequent to the publication of the Tribunal’s decision on 31 August 2006. The timeline reveals that preliminary steps have occurred in relation to progressing the matters in dispute. While the steps indicate that some progress has occurred, our Association
submits that the level of progress is properly characterised as only slightly more then “little progress” in the words of paragraph 51 of the decision.

The Minister, the Acting Commissioner for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment and the Commissioner of Police appear to be reluctant or incapable of committing an appropriate amount of resources to the housing upgrade program unless specifically directed to by the Tribunal.

Our Association has reached this view because:

1. To date no agreed upgrade timetable exists. On 30 January 2007, the Department informally provided our Association with their housing upgrade program. At 2.36pm on 31 January 2007, the Commissioner of Police wrote to our Association with a final version of their housing upgrade program. Our Association does not agree to the timetable provided by the Department for a number of reasons.

   First, the Department’s housing upgrade program fails to provide for the upgrading of housing in a reasonable time. For example, the document provides for the upgrade program to be completed at the end of the 2009/2010 financial year. That is, almost 3.5 years from now, which is almost 5.5 years since the Housing Consent Agreement was certified.

   This is inconsistent with our Association’s initial view that the housing upgrade program should be completed by December 2008. This is almost 4 years since the certification of the Housing Consent Agreement.

   Second, the Department’s housing upgrade program fails to acknowledge that the housing upgrade timetable has to be determined by agreement between the parties. Our Association believes it was not the intent of paragraph 50 of the decision that the government or the Department “determine” a timetable at the exclusion of our Association.

   Third, the Department has failed to provide any information in relation to the underlying costings of the housing upgrade program. It appears that the funding of the proposed program is based solely on the sale of police occupied government housing in Darwin, Katherine, and Alice Springs. This is apparently one of the main determinates in the timing of the Department’s housing upgrade program.

   Our Association does not accept that a large portion of our members should be denied their entitlements until the conclusion of the 2009/2010 financial year on the basis of the government’s unwillingness to provide adequate funding for the program. Our Association does not consider this to be a reasonable time.

   Finally, the Department’s housing upgrade program fails to make any reference to upgrading single officers’ quarters. This in effect means that at least 73 single members living in barracks style accommodation have no certainty in relation to when they will receive their entitlements in accordance with the Housing Consent Agreement.

2. The failure of the Commissioner of Police to undertake comprehensive scoping works means that even the proposed timetable supplied to our Association is still based on, at best, “educated” guess work.

3. Scoping works carried out by Territory Housing apparently only commenced on 9 January 2007. This delay was due to the Commissioner of Police and other government representatives insisting that scoping works would be better completed by a “consultant” external to the Government and then accepting (some time between 21 December 2006 and 9 January 2007) that the scoping works could be carried out by Territory Housing.

4. The Commissioner of Police’s has not shown any evidence of his commitment to develop medium and long term housing alternatives for single officers’ quarters.

5. The maintenance program will now be “facilitated via the existing whole of Government general repairs and maintenance programs and processes”. This is not a viable solution because priority for police housing maintenance in order to comply with the Housing Consent Agreement can not be guaranteed.

6. The installation of refrigerated air-conditioning in houses continues to be a problem and no timetable to install refrigerated air-conditioners exists.

I will now deal with issues arising from paragraph 50 of the decision. First, there appears to be an inconsistent view between the parties in relation to the actual interpretation of this paragraph. That is, exactly what was the Tribunal’s intent behind this paragraph?

Our Association has interpreted paragraph 50 of the decision in accordance with its plain meaning. That is, that the parties were to meet shortly after the decision was handed down and thereafter until an agreed upgrade timetable between the parties was finalised. Further, it is our Association’s view that this agreed timetable would be relayed to the Tribunal during the report-back.

The Department has interpreted this paragraph differently. The Department is of the view that they have unlimited time to prepare their upgrade timetable, which will be impacted by the following factors: “consultant report; sale program; Government procurement process; and availability of skilled labour”. That is, it appears the Department do not appear to sense the urgency of paragraph 50 of the decision.

The matter has been subject to much time consuming and fruitless discussion between the parties. Accordingly, our Association requests that the Tribunal clarify its intent with respect to its meaning of paragraph 50 of the decision.

A further matter relating to paragraph 50 of the decision requires some clarification. Our Association maintains that this dispute originally centred around 2 houses in Darwin and 2 houses in Alice Springs. By the time the matter proceeded to hearing, it involved and was understood by the parties to involve, the general application of the Consent Agreement, to all housing stock. To our Association, this is apparent from the terms of paragraph 23 of the decision.
However, it is our understanding that the Commissioner of Police perseveres in the view that the dispute still only involves the houses originally referred to in the outline of submissions.

Again, the matter has been subject to much time consuming and fruitless discussion between the parties. Our Association requests that the Tribunal clarify the scope of this dispute.

**Conclusion**

Subject to any views expressed by the Tribunal with respect to paragraphs 23 and 50 of the decision as discussed above, our Association would see the necessary next steps in this dispute, both to give effect to the Tribunal’s decision, and to resolve the dispute overall, as being:

1. The matter to be listed for another report-back in Darwin in 12 weeks (on or around 27 April 2007).
2. The Tribunal specify the date by which the housing upgrade program has to be completed. Our initial position was that a reasonable completion date is 31 December 2008. However, if the Department provided detailed information in relation to funding allocations for the housing upgrade program and made a commitment in relation to upgrading of single officers’ accommodation, then a compromise position of completion date for the housing upgrade program of 31 July 2009 would, in our view, be reasonable.
3. The Tribunal directs the Commissioner of Police, in consultation and agreement with our Association, to prepare a completed housing upgrade timetable specifying a commencement date and an end date of either 31 December 2008 or 31 July 2009, subject to 2 above. The timetable be completed and provided to the Tribunal at the next scheduled report-back.
4. The Tribunal directs the Commissioner of Police that all refrigerated air-conditioning, including single officers’ quarters, be upgraded or installed by 29 June 2007.
5. The Tribunal directs the Commissioner of Police to develop, in consultation and agreement with our Association, medium and long term housing alternatives for single officers’ quarters.

The Tribunal will issue a statement shortly in relation to how this matter will be progressed and a report-back will be scheduled for the first week of April 2007. As I noted above, all the submissions and transcript of the report-back to the Tribunal are available on our web site: www.ntpa.com.au. We will continue to keep members informed.

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**Police@Work – NTPA Research Project**

Your Association has agreed to participate in an extensive workplace research project being undertaken by the Sydney University’s Workplace Research Centre. The Police Federation of Australia, the New South Wales Police Association, the Victorian Police Association, and the Australian Federal Police Association are also participating in the research project.

The research is part of a larger study, Australia@Work, which will track 8,000 Australian Workers over the next five years to examine how WorkChoices will impact on the working lives of Australians. Your Association believes this is a valuable opportunity to learn more about the working conditions of all police members now and into the near future.

Due to the participation of a number of Police Associations and Unions, the Workplace Research Centre is conducting a special study of police, Police@Work, off the back of the larger national study.

This means 200 police members from our Association will be randomly selected to participate in the study. The study will involve a telephone interview which will run for approximately 20–25 minutes. If you have been selected you will receive an email in the near future. This email will give you an opportunity to withdraw from the study if you do not wish to participate.

However, we believe this is a very important opportunity to understand how the changing industrial relations environment is impacting on police and we would be grateful if you would support this project by participating in the survey.

This project will have long-term benefits for all members individually and collectively. The study will help us understand the issues that are affecting our members and inform future policy directions. We look forward to sharing the findings with you in the coming years.

Members will be provided further details as the project starts and develops over the coming months.
Our Association last circulated a newsletter on 8 February 2006 in which we outlined the progress of negotiations in relation to the government’s proposed response to the Police Arbitral Tribunal’s housing dispute (TC 3 of 2006) decision on 31 August 2006.

At that time there were a number of areas which remained in dispute, including:-

- An agreed timetable for the remaining required upgrades.
- The upgrading of single officers’ quarters with at least 73 single members living in barrack style accommodation who have no certainty in relation to when they will receive their entitlements in accordance with the Housing Consent Agreement.
- The installation of refrigerated air-conditioning in houses.

Following further negotiations, the executive determined to accept a proposed three year upgrade program commencing in 2007/2008 financial year on the basis that:-

- The Commissioner clearly articulate how the Department will meet their current and future housing obligations to Aboriginal Community Police Officers in remote areas and provide a list of the current housing situation for all ACPO’s.
- The proposed program for the PMC barracks is compressed into a two year program (instead of three years) and an undertaking that the air conditioning be installed by 30 September 2007.
- In relation to the Alice Springs Barracks, the Department provide a preliminary proposal to the NTPA, including costings for the replacement of the Barracks, by 30 June 2007.
- In relation to the Alice Springs Barracks, the Department provide the NT Government a final costed and government approved proposal by 30 December 2007.
- The Alice Springs Barracks are replaced by 30 June 2010.
- Report back to the Tribunal occur on a quarterly basis.
- The dispute remains “active” until the conclusion of the upgrade program in June 2010.
- All completed housing upgrade work are subject to a joint inspection and approval by the Commissioner’s representatives and our Association.

When determining this issue the executive gave consideration to the following factors:

- The current delays in housing upgrades have come about because of mismanagement of the housing upgrade program and the lack of financial commitment to the program since March 2005. (This issue has been pursued relentlessly through the Tribunal process).
- Our primary objective is to deliver a real outcome for those members who do not currently access their entitlements in accordance with the Housing Agreement.
- The delays in the program to date has meant that the Commissioner is unable to finalise the upgrade program in the time frames proposed by our Association in September 2006 and the three year proposal was the only viable option.

Following further negotiations, correspondence was received from the Commissioner of Police that satisfactorily addressed the majority of the issues outlined above.

In particular, the Commissioner of Police has undertaken to:-

- Upgrade the 45 SOQ’s located at the PMC, with the NT Government approving an increase to the Northern Territory Police minor new works program commencing in 2006/07 to undertake upgrade works including the installation split system air-conditioning (x1 bedroom, x1 living area), security screens, carports, and verandahs.
- To ensure tenders for the air conditioning be among the first to be let, enabling early completion of this aspect of the upgrade of the PMC accommodation.
- To resolve the issue of barracks accommodation in Alice Springs during the life of the upgrade program.
- A conference was held by the Police Arbitral Tribunal on 3 April 2007. During this conference, all the above commitments were confirmed by the Commissioner’s representatives.

The Tribunal will continue to monitor this dispute and the upgrade program with regular report backs. The first will be scheduled in approximately three months time.

The draft program for the upgrade of remaining housing in areas outside of Darwin, Katherine, and Alice Springs is available for perusal on our web site at www.ntpa.com.au

The Commissioner has indicated that priorities within the program can be amended if required.

We thank all members who have and are continuing to reside in sub standard housing for your patience and we will continue to work towards a satisfactory resolution of all housing issues for all eligible members.

Vince Kelly, President

**Squad 45/87 celebrates 20 years service**

Members from Squad 45/87 who celebrated 20 years service on 12 January: Craig Chenhall, Kath Brett, Vince Kelly and Owen Blackwell. Other members from our squad still left are: Ivan Marinov – Prosecutions, Steve Pfister – Alyangula, Murray Taylor – Alice Springs, Chris Castle – Darwin Station, Steve Constable – Alice Springs, Neale Carlon – Coroners Constable, Dave Proctor – Major Crime
Decades on, nothing changes

By Gowan Carter

The December issue of the NT Police News of 1984 contained stories about many issues that were affecting the members of that era, current day members would perhaps not be too surprised to read that housing, staffing levels, unapplied for transfers and the provision of welfare services to the members, were all hot issues.

That these are still are issues that concern the membership of the NTPA is perhaps proof of the saying attributed to George Bernard Shaw, “Hegel was right when he said that what we learn from history, is that man can never learn anything from history”.

Notwithstanding that we at the NTPA believe that the current furore over the recent comments of Nanette Rogers and the subsequent politicization of what she was highlighting by the Federal Minister Mal Brough was worth a look back through our magazines to see what the situation was like circa 1984.

The following article was written by an Alice Springs based journalist Erwin Chlanda and was based on interviews with then Police prosecutor Ian McKinlay and members of the Aboriginal community at Papunya, notably Alison Anderson, now a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Ian when recently contacted said that he was commenting on the situation as he then saw it, in particular the attitude that he saw displayed by a number of the Judges of the then Supreme Court and was quick to comment that he could not make those same statements today, he says that whilst he still lives and works in the NT he has been removed from the cut and thrust for so long that he wouldn’t want the reprinting to be taken as a criticism of the current judiciary.

With that caveat in mind, we ask you to read on …

What does a life mean ...

“The Supreme Court is putting no more value on the life of an Aborigine than on the life of a campdog.”

His indictment comes from Ian McKinlay, 35. During the three years he was in charge of Papunya police station, hundreds of women, children and old people begged him for protection through “white law”.

He has seen them fleeing into the bush when the drunks spread terror in the settlement raping girls, stealing food, robbing old people of their pensions, bashing children.

Now a police prosecutor in Alice Springs Court, Sgt McKinlay says he has seen killers, rapists and grog-runners caught, tried and then released on bonds or given token sentences by the Supreme Court.

Time and again he has seen, offenders, who have done massive harm, get minimal punishment from a court swayed by considerations of alcoholism, poor social circumstances and the likelihood of tribal payback.

Sgt McKinlay says the people in the bush are powerless while esoteric arguments, often fuelled by political or philosophical attitudes, go on in the ivory tower of the Supreme Court.

The Territory has a homicide rate about 10 times greater than the rest of the Nation but he says the white law, to which the Aboriginal communities are looking for protection, “is on the point of collapse”.

Sgt McKinlay says the judges are out of touch with the demands of the communities.

He is now speaking up for the communities, because, apparently no-one else will.

(For the record. Sgt McKinlay is speaking on behalf of the NT Police Association.) He sometimes couches his arguments in tough language:“Certain trendy and post-airconditioning revolutionaries are using their positions in Aboriginal support areas to apply their own ideas and philosophies.

Aborigines sometimes become the powerless pawns in that game. Sgt McKinlay says he has observed the decay of the white law from the perspective of the settlement people during his three years at Papunya.

The people were gradually losing trust in the white legal system’s ability to protect them.

Alcohol plays a big part in almost all major crimes involving Aborigines.
While booze is the major cause of the carnage, it is also the offender’s best defence in the court.

An Aboriginal drunken killing is rarely treated as murder – a charge carrying a mandatory life sentence.

Because of grog the charge is usually reduced to manslaughter.

Then, booze becomes a savior again: the court in its sentencing, regards intoxication as a mitigating factor.

It’s a different story with whites: Douglas John Edwin Crabbe, who killed five people by crashing his truck into the Inland Motel bar at Ayers Rock, was charged with murder.

He got five times life.

This was despite evidence given to the court that he had been drinking heavily before the murders.

The new criminal code proposed initially that “voluntary intoxication” should not be used as a mitigating factor.

That proposal was thrown out after a campaign spearheaded by Aboriginal Legal Aid lawyers in Alice Springs and after a threatened intervention by the Federal Attorney-General.

I spoke to Michael Nelson Jagamara and Allison Anderson Nambajinba at Papunya.

Mr Nelson is the newly-elected president of the settlement council; Mrs Anderson is vice-president for the fifth time in succession, the “women’s president” and the council’s administration officer.

Also present during the interview were Frank Miller Jagamara, the treasurer, as well as two other community leaders. The councillors gave no hint of a desire that Aborigines should be treated differently to whites when booze is involved.

On the contrary, there was a strong suggestion that the distinction the court is making between white and black offenders under the influence of alcohol is tainted by racism and an insult to the Aborigines.

Mrs Anderson said: “What happens is European people drink alcohol and commit murder and they get life for it.

“Aborigines drink and commit murder but they get away with it because Aborigines apparently don’t know what they are doing when they are under the influence of alcohol.

“I don’t think Aborigines should be let of with smaller sentences.”

Sgt McKinlay said: “I feel it is an affront to the Aborigines when the judges do not credit them with the dignity of responsibility. The judges are in fact saying there is a class of people which are not accountable for their actions.”

Mr Nelson said “we are saying it – I am saying it now – we want Aborigines to get the same punishment as the white people are getting”.

A Supreme Court judge, releasing on a suspended sentence a man who had beaten his wife to death in the Todd, made this comment: “I have considered the other aspects – what the community might demand in a case like this – and I think that a properly informed member of the community, that is, not simply some person who might talk about sentencing in the most draconian fashion around the dinner table that one frequently hears but an enlightened member of a community, would not demand that this man suffer any actual punishment beyond what he has already received in his subjective experiences as a result of what he has done.”

It appears that enlightenment – as defined by the judge – seems in short supply on the communities.

Where black offenders are concerned draconian measures discussed around the dinner table may not be so relevant but what is said around the campfires on the settlements certainly is. The overwhelming message is, stiffer penalties are needed.

When Sgt McKinlay arrived in Papunya in June, 1979, the settlement had been wracked by violence: 14 people had been killed in car crashes or homicides – all connected with alcohol in some way – during the two preceding years.

“Alcohol – related violence was out of hand,” Sgt McKinlay says.

The community decided to go “dry” and the tiny, tow-man police force (later three) was expected by the community to enforce the new regulation.

“They expected the police to do it, not some local or tribal authority. I think that is significant,” Sgt McKinlay said.

“There was a lot of confrontation. We were attacked with knives, screwdrivers and had a rifle pointed at us.

“We had a lot of bark knocked off us. We worked day and night on roadblocks.”

Liquor was hidden inside car doors, bottles were strapped underneath cars, stashed inside seats.

Sometimes a decoy car not carrying alcohol would be send ahead.

It would not stop at the roadblock and while we chased the decoy, the real grog-runner coming behind got through.

“We beat that by having two police cars.”

Sgt McKinlay and his offsider confiscated many hundreds of litres of grog.

The full bottles were used as targets for shots organised by the police – or given over to the Liquor Commission.

Dozens of cars were confiscated.

The initiative paid off. The level of violence dropped dramatically – there was not a single alcohol-related death in Papunya police district during the three years following the rigid enforcement of the grog ban.

Most importantly, confiscation of the cars acted as de-facto penalty and grog-runners were deterred.

“I see this as an indication that meaningful penalties deter Aboriginal offenders, even when they are drunk,” Sgt McKinlay points out.

The Papunya leaders are adamant about what they want. Mr Nelson, asked what sort of jail sentence a murderer or rapist should receive, said: “Say about 20 years. If they give them something like four years they come out and murder another person.”

Mrs Anderson said: “If they know they can get away with it the first time, they’ll come and do it the second time.

“You know with this rape and murder that’s going on I all Aboriginal communities, it’s mostly woman who are getting murdered and raped.

“I have spoken to a lot of women in this community and their feeling is that people like that should be put away and not let back into the community to do it to someone else.”

I put the same questions informally to the old men in the camps: Should people committing major crimes spend a long time or short time in jail?

“A little bit long time,” said one man. “We’ve got to make it hard for them.”

The most vexed question in Aboriginal criminality is tribal punishment – payback. Under white perceptions of justice it constitutes a second
form of trial and punishment; the accused are facing “double jeopardy”. Tribal punishment has been used successfully by defence counsel in reducing penalties or avoiding them altogether.

The old men I talked to said tribal justice – such as a sparing in the leg – must go hand-in-hand with “white” justice. Payback is necessary to satisfy the traditional demands of family pride; it sometimes settles a score and is an important formality. But no-one I spoke to at Papunya suggested payback should replace white justice.

Mrs Anderson made the point forcefully: “What we mostly want is just the European law to deal with punishments, not saying you can go home today because your tribe is going to punish you.”

“Tribal law doesn’t happen any more in our case, you know.”

Mr Nelson said tribal punishment was largely a thing of the past.

“They only give them light punishment now, they only spear them through the leg.

“It is too weak now.”

Mrs Anderson: “That’s right. We want the courts to try and help us because our system, our Aboriginal law, is not strong enough. Long time ago, in the olden days, they used to punish people severely, you know, like kill them.

“But now it’s only just a light spear an inch and a half down their leg, and that’s all, I mean you don’t call that punishment would have no effect whatsoever. It will mean the prisoner spends a period of time in jail with people who do not speak her own language.

There are certain cases that are clearly traditional, usually involving old men from a very tribal background.

On one occasion a spearing administered by a jealous husband went awfully wrong when the victim bled to death.

The offender was given severe payback and the court took that into account in its sentencing – as, or course, it is entitled to.

Sgt McKinlay says: “These genuine cases are used to create precedents that should not apply as liberally as they do.”

He says the Crown – with manpower numbers and resources usually far interior to those of the defence – is rarely able to check defence submissions on payback.

For example, in the absence of argument to the contrary, the court will accept what the defence says about tribal punishment. Yet is may well be that the community does not intend to punish the offender; their position in the community is strong enough to avoid tribal punishment; that the victim’s family is too weak to enforce significant payback.

Most importantly, there are usually no Crown submissions to the court on whether tribal payback, even if it occurs, would be seen by the community as a fair and adequate punishment.

And, Sgt McKinlay claims, no-one checks up if tribal payback has been carried out as part of the sentence.

Also, there are defence arguments about the seriousness of a crime – especially rapes, according to Sgt McKinlay.

“I often hear it said that rape is not seen as being serious.

“Instead of asking anthropologists, I suggest the courts should sometimes ask the victim.”

THE OUTCOME OF SUPREME COURT CASES – EXCERPT

In the Supreme Court…

CROWN: It was quite clear that all the people in the settlement had been drinking and drinking to excess.

Your Honor, she got back, and later that night she went to go to bed and found her husband…lying on a mattress with the (now) dead woman…(they) were lying under the same blanket, apparently asleep, and it is relevant to say that both people were under the influence of liquor.

Now on seeing this, the prisoner…immediately lost her temper.

Unfortunately there was a piece of mulga stick, about a metre in length, lying on the ground nearby.

She picked up that piece of stick and started to beat both (her husband) and the (now) dead woman.

DEFENCE: I would submit in these sorts of situations the principle of deterrent should not apply, and as a principle of punishment would have no effect whatsoever.

As Your Honor, no doubt already appreciates, drink is an enormous problem with some Aboriginal communities and what flows from the drink is all too often this sort of thing.

That is quite apart from any other questions of infidelity.

The only other principles of sentencing which Your Honor may feel is relevant is the principle of retribution.

In my submission, retribution in these sorts of circumstances has no effect because she is an elderly woman.

In my submission, a further sentence of imprisonment will really

have no beneficial effect. It will mean the prisoner spends a period of time in jail with people who do not speak her own language.

It will not bring home a lesson, in my submission, to Aborigines in the way of general deterrence.

JUDGE: She had been drinking and was probably drunk. It is not unnatural to expect, in those circumstances, that she lost her temper; and she picked up, apparently, the first thing which presented itself to her – a piece of stick which was on the ground – and started to beat both her husband and the deceased with the stick.

There are many other mitigating factors in this case. I do not propose to go into them because it is not a case which in my view could possibly call for a custodial sentence.

She acted under what I would regard as extreme provocation in the circumstances and her violent reaction and her loss of self-control were probably aggravated by the fact that she had consumed a lot of alcohol.

She has already served two months in jail and in all of the circumstances I do not propose to require her to serve any more time in jail.

I order that, without passing sentence upon her, she be released upon her, giving security by recognisance herself in the sum of $20 that she will be of good behaviour for a period of one year from today.
Eulogy Helen Ramsay

Helen was a Police Auxiliary from 4 April 2005 until her death 5th December 2006.

E ver since the day Helen and I met I knew that we were going to be best friends. I soon found out that her friendship would show itself in many ways not only to me but to many others.

Helen, you see, did her good deeds by stealth, she never advertised the fact that she helped so many people in so many different ways. She never talked about the numerous acts of kindness. Yet I believe that everyone here today has been at the receiving end of that kindness, she might have been a colleague of yours a member of your club or within your circle of friends. She may have helped you in the office, stayed behind to help you catch up on that extra work, willingly participated in club activities or she might have said a quiet word of appreciation that meant a lot to you.

Today many people mourn her. Her family will, of course, miss her most of all. I hope though that they will take comfort in the fact that so many others will miss her too for many different reasons. Her family members knew she was well respected but it is gratifying to see how many others will genuinely miss her.

I will miss her as a fountain of general knowledge. If I ever needed to know anything there was always a good chance that Helen would know the answer. If she did not she'd make sure she found the answer for you. I will miss her on walks because Helen was a great walker and her knowledge of the area made such travels a pleasure. I will miss her most of all as a friend because good friends like Helen don’t happen often in a lifetime. Somebody as attuned to nature as she was knew that there was always another Spring around the corner.

Every time I look at the ripples on the lake I will think of Helen and the memories will bring sadness, then like that Spring, they will bring new gladness.

I miss you Helen.

What the caterpillar perceives is the end,
To the Butterfly is just the beginning

Police Auxiliary Lyn McGrath

Helen Linda Flora Ramsay

HELEN was born to a very large family, both her parents had lost their first partner to the war and so had previous children. They then went on to have another three girls and one boy. Helen was the oldest. Helen soon left home at the age of seventeen to join the Army, she was one of the first Female Regiment to go across to Ireland. Helen was proud to be one of the Honor Guard for the Queen’s visit to view the new barracks for the female regiment.

Helen liked Ireland and returned for a second visit, anyone who knows what Ireland was like back then would understand why her mother wanted to tie her to her bed. Helen enjoyed Ireland and her new family, nicknamed Pebbled with her many Bambam’s. She would often be known to go out partying on the town going into the bars, drinking to the point that she couldn’t remember getting home or how she got dressed and onto Parade the next day. Helen also had the ability to talk anyone into submission, as Royal Marines were known to come home with Helen and have each finger and toe nails painted a different colour!

On the second visit, Helen lost her mother to a heart attack, this devastated her. On her return to Ireland Helen met Elaine Maldemiss a long and loyal friend, and godmother to her daughter May. Helen also met her future husband Colin Ramsay. Their first date was a winner, he had a Guinness and Helen in retaliation had cheese and onion chips with blue veined cheese!

Helen soon became a Jill-of-all-trades, working as a curtain maker, secretary, lunch lady, scout leader, childcare, teacher’s aid, teacher, farmer, cat breeder and Police Auxiliary Officer.

Helen also traveled all over the world with family and friends, she enjoyed visiting new places and was open to seeing anywhere. She was capable of speaking to people even though she didn’t know their language.

She also visited East Germany when the Wall was still up and walked across many checkpoints based near and on the Wall. At the time, the warnings were to never open your doors in Eastern Germany, to anyone, even the police. She traveled with a friend from America who wished to visit friends who were in Eastern Germany, so Helen got to plan a trip into Eastern Germany. You have to give times for when you would be anywhere, salute everyone who salutes you, be patient and never lose your cool.

On a train in China she sat having a digestive biscuit, being polite she offered them to the people across the seat from her. Once they knew that it was safe to eat, they in return offered the inside of their toilet roll to her, as it is considered a luxury to have a toilet roll.

Even after Colin left the Army he continued to travel and Helen went with him visiting, yet more places all over the world. Anywhere Helen went she never lacked for friends, she was like a guiding light making people happy and helping others as she could.

In 1995 Helen developed thyroid cancer and had all of her thyroid removed. Helen spent a few years in Australia, breeding Dexter Cattle and running a farm with Colin. Soon the travel bug hit and Helen went to Darwin, craving the heat and sun.

And from there she met many friends, and had a second family with the Darwin Police Force. As well as breeding Maine Coon, the biggest domesticated breed of cat.

She also got a grandson, Nicholas, who she loved and spoiled rotten, teaching him to blow raspberries and stick out his tongue.

I wish to send my thanks to all of the Darwin Police Force for all their kind wishes and thoughts; I know that no matter what I type there will never be a book long enough to tell you my mother’s life. But she always enjoyed life and never regretted anything, so enjoy yourselves and remember she’ll be watching and smiling over us all.

May Ramsay
(Daughter of Helen)
The nurse’s massive rejection of the offer was even more encouraging given this cynical political ploy by the government’s representative. It is our understanding that the paltry offer of 6 per cent over two years was made on the basis of the government’s wages policy. Information supplied by the nurses union suggests that the government position of three per cent per annum is a fixed government position that is “not negotiable”.

This view would be supported by other recent public sector wage outcomes. For example, Dental Officers negotiated by the Community and Public Sector Union, saw salary increases of three per cent per annum over a three-year period with an additional one per cent per annum paid subject to the active implementation of the Dental Health Services Relative Value Unit Data System.

The Darwin Port Corporation Agreement provides salary increases of three per cent per annum with an additional one per cent per annum paid as a result of restructuring to roster and overtime arrangements.

Our current 2005 Consent Agreement does not expire until 29 June 2008. Under that Consent Agreement, negotiations are not required to commence until 1 February 2008 and are due to be concluded by 30 April 2008.

The Acting Commissioner for Public Employment, Mr Ken Simpson, supplied a copy of the government’s wages policy to our association on 31 August 2006.

The policy and principles outlined in that document are of real cause for concern to all members.

Principle 1 states:
“Government supports a one system/common approach to bargaining covering the core conditions/bargaining agenda and outcomes, including wages, will generally apply across all areas of the public sector.”

Our Association rejects this principle in relation to its applicability to sworn Police Officers. Police officers are not and can not be compared with public sector employees. Apart from the obvious differences, police officers are employed pursuant to the Police Administration Act (PAA) not the Public Sector Employment Management Act (PSEMA). Our Association enters into consent agreements with the Minister for Public Employment.

Our members are in a unique industrial position. They hold the statutory office of Constable; and there still exists considerable debate in relation to their status as employees. This question is yet to be definitively resolved by any legal system within Australia, including the High Court.

Our members are required, due to the Oath of Office, to place themselves in harm’s way as part of their daily working lives. Police Officers are also subject to intrusion into their lives and high levels of accountability, whether on or off-duty, arising from the PAA, the Ombudsman Act, the NT Police Code of Conduct and other related Commissioner’s General Orders and instructions.

This combination of facts makes Police Officers uniquely different from general public sector employees. This factual situation has resulted in our Association and successive Northern Territory Governments since 1974 ensuring that any industrial consent agreement was specific to Police Officers and acknowledged the unique nature of our profession.

Principle 3 states:
“Increases to salary are to be of a magnitude that results in the NT being a competitive employer; amongst the best paid.”

Our Association supports this principle, however, government must be aware that increasing demands in local, national, and international policing and law enforcement have intrinsically changed the market place into perhaps the most competitive that has ever existed in this country.

This situation is exacerbated by the recent announcements of massive increases in recruitment by the Australian Defence Force and the Federal Police. Simply being “amongst the best paid” will not be enough and government must act, amongst other things, in relation to the development of a competitive superannuation structure for Northern Territory Police Officers.

Principle 4 states:
“Other than in exceptional circumstances, increases that are above forward estimates for salaries are to be funded by offsets achieved through improvements in productivity, structural organisational change and workplace reform.”

This principle appears to place a caveat on Principle 3. It is unclear on what basis forward estimates for salaries are to be made and who will make those judgements. The attempt to link wage movement to “productivity” improvements in the Policing profession is intrinsically...
flawed due to both the wage market being demand driven as outlined and the underlying difficulty in measuring the "productivity" of a police officer.

The stated position that productivity can be determined by use of three sub-principles including "a regime where one party cannot expect something of the other for nothing (there must be a quid pro quo)", is an extraordinary position to adopt prior to the commencement of any negotiations and is rejected by our Association.

The Macquarie Dictionary defines the word "negotiation" as meaning: "to arrange for or bring about by discussion and settlement of terms". If this definition is accepted, clearly Principle 4 precludes such discussion and settlement prior to "negotiations" being commenced.

The above observations were formally communicated to Minister Henderson in September 2006. At that time our Association also sought undertakings from the Minister that the outcome of implementing the decisions of the Police Arbitral Tribunal in the housing dispute matter (TC3 of 2006) would not affect our 2008 Consent Agreement negotiations.

The Minister responded in October 2006. The response was less than encouraging and is indicative of an inflexible approach by government to wage negotiations that we will confront in negotiations next year. The government's intransigence in relation to the nurse's dispute confirms this view.

Many members have already expressed real concern that if the government maintains the current approach the increasing departures of experienced police will become a daily not a weekly event.

The executive and staff have begun planning for the 2008 Consent Agreement. Our first planning day will be held on the 9th March 2007 at which time the executive will consider amongst other things our financial commitment to this campaign. We are finalising a survey for all members which will be circulated in the near future. This year's annual conference will also focus on the 2008 Consent Agreement.

Irrespective of the outcome of these deliberations, the next agreement will be conducted in a different and tough political environment. The government, like its interstate counterparts, holds a significant parliamentary majority. The next Territory election is not due until 2010 and in recent months the government's hyperbole and spin in relation to police numbers suggest they are losing touch with operational police members. The dispute with the nurses in effect shows the government is willing to rely on their majority to attempt to force unpalatable wage outcomes on all public sector employees.

Our members will do everything in our power to avoid a confrontation with government during the 2008 Consent Agreement negotiations; however, government must revisit the current wages policy. Just like the falling barometer sets the preconditions for a tropical cyclone, this wages policy sets the preconditions for an industrial storm.

The government, irrespective of their majority, needs the support of our members to deal with both.
Enterprise bargaining in the NTPS has produced significant benefits for employees and agencies alike through increases in salary and terms and conditions of employment and service delivery improvements. The Policy will ensure that such mutual benefits continue into the future.

It is most important that you know that this Policy is not related in any way to the Federal Government’s ‘WorkChoices’ legislation.

The NTG opposes ‘WorkChoices’ and is committed to limiting its impact on workers in the Northern Territory to the extent it is legally able. To this end the NTG:

1. has joined in the High Court proceedings against ‘WorkChoices’ initiated by the states;
2. established the Northern Territory Workplace Advocate, an information, consultation and advisory service designed to assist Territory workers, employers and their representatives in relation to work-related matters, and to promote fair and productive workplace practices in the Territory; and
3. is committed to preserving as far as possible NTPS conditions affected by ‘WorkChoices’.

Why have a Policy?

The Policy is designed to:

1. keep NT salaries and conditions competitive in the market;
2. deliver productivity improvements and workplace reform;
3. foster forward planning by agencies;
4. wherever possible deliver consistent outcomes across occupations to achieve fairness and equity;
5. support collective bargaining; and
6. keep costs within Government parameters.

The Policy

This section sets out the policy principles and what they mean to employees.

1. The NT Government supports a one system/common approach to bargaining covering the ‘core’ conditions/bargaining agenda and outcomes, including wages, will generally apply across all areas of the public sector.

This Principle ensures the development and maintenance of a standardised set of common and core conditions, such as annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and remote entitlements. This will mean that employees moving between agencies and/or job classifications will continue to receive the same or similar terms and conditions of employment. It should be noted however, that where special cases exist variations can occur through negotiation.

This Principle also supports a common wages outcome to achieve fairness and equity; though this is subject to the consideration of the five factors outlined in Principle 2.

2. The quantum of salary increases is to be based on the consideration of five factors:
   a. productivity improvements- market forces
   b. CPI
   c. Government’s fiscal position
   d. Government policy as determined from time to time.

Along with Principle 3, the size of any salary increase that is offered will depend on:

a. the productivity gains that Government will achieve through the agreement (see below for more information on ‘productivity’);
b. the strength of any public sector or private sector market forces affecting the NT’s ability to attract and retain employees in a particular occupation or classification stream;
c. a comparison of past, present and predicted Consumer Price Index (CPI) rates with past, present and forecast wage movements;
d. Government’s overall budget position; and

e. other relevant Government policies.

The size of any increase will be a balance of these factors, some of which may at times be competing.

3. Increases to salary are to be of a magnitude that results in the NT being a competitive employer; ‘amongst the best paid’.

The NTG recognises that for the NT to be able to attract
and retain high skilled and high performing employees, a competitive employment 'package' is necessary. Competition is measured against other relevant private and public sector jobs. It should also be noted that the employment 'package' is not limited to salary but includes other factors such as the level of leave provisions, the full range of entitlements and allowances, study and personal development opportunities, promotional opportunities and access to work life balance initiatives etc.

4. Other than in exceptional circumstances, increases that are above forward estimates for salaries are to be funded by offsets achieved through improvements in productivity, structural organisational change and workplace reform.

The following principles will be used in determining productivity gains:

i. a regime where one party cannot expect something of the other for nothing (there must be a quid pro quo);

ii. an opportunity for reform (for later even if not now); and

iii. gains may be demonstrated either quantitatively or qualitatively with a timeframe.

The Policy encourages employees, unions and agencies to look at ways to improve efficiency and productivity. While identifying and quantifying productivity improvement is a challenge, in today's work environment it cannot be ignored. It is the implementation of these improvements that will result in the achievement of higher salary increases than might normally be achieved.


5. Principal responsibility for negotiations lies with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment. There is shared responsibility with the Northern Territory Treasury and other relevant Agencies.

The Commissioner for Public Employment, in consultation with NT Treasury and relevant Agencies, will assume responsibility for the development and negotiation of all Agreements covering employees of the Northern Territory Government. In the majority of cases this represents the continuation of current practice, but will also result in the Commissioner for Public Employment taking a lead role in negotiations for Police and employees of the Power and Water Corporation.

This approach suits our relatively small size and should assist in achieving fair and equitable salaries and conditions for all employees within budget parameters.

6. Wherever possible, agreements are to be collective agreements with the relevant union(s).

Collective agreements made with relevant union(s) have served the NTPS well and, despite the introduction of the Federal Government's ‘WorkChoices’ legislation, will continue to be the preferred form of workplace agreement.

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**On track ...**

*By Peter C Wright, Senior Chaplain*

For six years in the mid 1990’s I had the privilege to be a “Flying Padre”. I piloted myself around the top half of the NT and Kimberley area of WA for 6 years. I visited many cattle stations and small communities in a pastoral/counselling role. There was little navigation aides and land marks were scarce. In bad weather it was best to fly around cloud which meant going off track. The fun was then to get back on track again.

On one trip the winds were quite strong. I miscalculated the winds and found myself off track and in an unknown place. My time estimate was saying you should be there by now, but there was no homestead, no runway, and no roads. I did a 180 degree turn and went back towards my departure point. Once I had a known fix I was able to resume my correct track, and I even found the Station I was going too.

The instruments in an aircraft are important as they take us to our destination when correctly used. Sometimes my head would say the instruments are wrong and I was tempted to change the heading. Rarely are instruments wrong, so I need to trust them. With the advent of the GPS (ground positioning system) flying became a lot easier and more relaxed. But care still needed to be taken and the instruments trusted.

I remember flying to a cattle station on one occasion. The area was heavily timbered and I knew I was almost there. I had my eyes fixed on what I thought was the station buildings. The GPS indicated I had passed over my destination. I had passed that off as incorrect. As I approached the buildings I realised I had arrived at the next Station which was only a few miles further on. I had not believed my instruments.

I’m glad I did not have a passenger as I would have been quite embarrassed apart from being very annoyed with myself.

As a pilot I must trust my instruments.

I also helped me to realise that as a Christian I must learn to trust God in how he directs my life. At times I think He has it all wrong, but my history shows God never gets it wrong. Learning to trust God can be hard at times. For me God’s way is always the best way.
Recruit Squad 87 Graduation

Twenty-two recruits from Squad 87 of 2006 graduated in February in a ceremony at the Marrara Basketball Stadium.

The ceremony marked the end of a 31-week induction training course at the Police, Fire and Emergency Services College for the graduates, who will assume duties as Constables across the NT.

Ages of the graduates ranged from 21 to 44 and they enlisted from a variety of vocations including; architecture, IT, life guard, mechanic, retail, landscape gardening and education.

The graduates will be posted as follows:
• Alice Springs −10  • Tennant Creek − 3  • Darwin − 5  • Katherine − 4
An oldie but still a goodie

By Gowan Carter

At one time if you were in the cops it would have almost been obligatory for you to have read Joseph Wambaugh’s book The Choirboys. The book recounts the exploits of a group of Nightwatch officers in the Los Angeles Police Department Wilshire Division.

Set in the mid 1970s, when Wambaugh was a Detective Sergeant in the LAPD, or he had just finished with them. So it is full of cop talk and terminology that was extant at the time in the US. Some of it of course was used by Australian cops including some here in the NT. The book really was popular, not just among police either. One Christmas I gave a copy to my brother who read it in one go and was chortling through it’s many pages. Because on the face of it, it is a really funny read mixed with pathos as it drills down into the lives of this bunch of cops, their responses and attitudes to the public, the courts and their bosses. At the same time it goes into areas that are still really only whispered about in policing, sexism, racism, mental health issues, alcohol and drug abuse, the courts, the hierarchy and their treatment of members.

In fact there are parallels that I think just jump out and grab you and I can recall at the time with all the cultural differences that exist between Australians and the Good Ol’ US of A, that many coppers would say, “Geez, if you changed around the language a bit, it could be here that this book was written about”

I don’t know that I would go that far, but as I say, plenty of parallels even at a thirty year remove.

Wambaugh makes it obvious where his sympathies lie in the telling of this wonderful story. Again it really does come and smack you between the eyes albeit it drips with stark humour and some really excellent descriptions of the police officers, so much so that you will find yourself saying, or at least we did back in the 70’s, “That’s is exactly what so and so is like” or “Christ I thought he was describing what happens in the kangaroo court” which was then in existence for the hearing of disciplinary matters both there and here.

Over the years I must have read it fifteen or so times in the same manner that I have watched and read the entire scripts for Fawlty Towers so many times that I think I know all the dialogue.

It is only my opinion but in the same way that Fawlty Towers is generally regarded as a classic English comedy, that has subtle twists not always seen in the first look this book superficially is just hilariously funny but also gets down into the gutter in a manner that gives the reader a raw and perhaps as honest a view of policing as has ever been written.

It was a iconic tale and as I previously mentioned for a time some of the idioms used in the book came into use here, including the title of the book, Choirpractice became a regular feature after nightsihits but to my knowledge whilst some of them certainly got a little boisterous and maybe even some got a little frisky none of them ever got to the tragic end as that in the book.

Some of the other terms were picked up into local police vernacular for a number of years, I guess the most oft used being that of scrote to describe low lifes. I am not sure of whether it is still in wide use and if it is it probably shouldn’t be in this much more politically correct world. Some of the terms that never got much, if any usage but which I thought were highly descriptive were of those in charge, pussies, eunuch’s and my favourite, geldings. Whilst they were offensive and didn’t of course apply to many in some instances they were highly relevant and just so evocative.

This was so popular that when the movie based on the book came out the local gendarmerie of Darwin had a special screening at the old Darwin Cinema, by all accounts the film was a terrible disappointment.

I am not extolling this book as a defacto code of conduct, because it is certainly not that but it is a ripping yarn and perhaps is best summed up by the review written some twenty seven years ago for another issue of our police news which stated succinctly through one of his tragic figures in the book who looked at the public thus “policeman see the worst of people and people at their worst”

And given the events of recent days in Victoria, the 1980 review also explores the aspect of the family which not only bolsters individual self esteem but help also to combat levels of anger, hostility and abuse from outside.

In short it is a classic tale. I am sure that it is still available through your local book agent even if on a back order basis. I made inquiries at the Police College Library and unfortunately they haven’t got it, they are looking at doing so. The good news is that they have three other titles by this excellent author, The Onion Field, The Blooding and The Fire Lover.
Police Federation of Australia objects to search warrant powers for unsworn Australian Crime Commission staff

By Mark Burgess

In a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Inquiry into the Crimes Legislation Amendment (National Investigative Powers and Witness Protection) Bill 2006, the PFA raised serious concerns about a proposal to extend search warrant powers to non sworn members of the Australian Crime Commission.

IN Section 3C of the Commonwealth Crimes Act 1914 an —

executing officer in relation to a warrant, means:
  a) the constable named in the warrant by the issuing officer as being responsible for executing the warrant; or
  b) if that constable does not intend to be present at the execution of the warrant — another constable whose name has been written in the warrant by the constable so named; or
  c) another constable whose name has been written in the warrant by the constable last named in the warrant

Section 22 (1) of the Australian Crime Commission Act 2002 stipulates that an eligible person may apply to an issuing officer for the issue of a warrant, and an eligible person is defined as a member of the staff of the ACC who is also a member of the Australian Federal Police or the Police Force of a State.

However in respect to this Bill’s proposed amendment to the ACC Act an —

executing officer, in relation to a warrant issued under section 22 means:
  a) (a) the person named in the warrant by the issuing officer under paragraph 22(5)(e) as being responsible for executing the warrant; or
  b) (b) another person whose name has been inserted in the warrant by, or on behalf of, the person mentioned in paragraph (a)

The Explanatory Memorandum (EM) to the Bill outlined that whilst the person first named in the warrant must be a police officer, the Bill proposes to authorize the person named in the warrant to sign the warrant over to another person. The key concern raised in this context is that the EM stated that this person may or may not be a police officer due to the ACC consisting of a number of contract or in-house investigators. It then further explains that the executing officer (who may not be a police officer) may be called on to exercise powers normally given to police officers, and there will often be the need to carry a firearm. One way for the ACC attempt to get around this issue is to have persons who may be required to carry out this function sworn in as “special members” of the AFP.

Special members of the AFP are defined under Section 40E of the Australian Federal Police Act 1979 –

Special members
  1) The Commissioner may, on such terms and conditions as he or she determines in writing, appoint a person as a special member of the Australian Federal Police to assist in the performance of its functions.
  2) A person appointed under subsection (1) has, during the continuance of his or her appointment:
     3) (a) any powers and duties that are expressly conferred or imposed on special members under a provision of this act or of any other Act; and
     4) (b) such of the powers and duties conferred or imposed on members as are specified in his or her instrument of appointment.

In our submission to the Inquiry the PFA raised the concern that contract investigators may be brought into the ACC for specific investigations, be sworn in as a Special Member of the AFP and therefore be eligible to execute search warrants, use reasonable force and carry a firearm. We strongly argued that the community needs to be confident that such investigators, who are likely not to be members of the AFP or a state police force, have the requisite skills and experience to be given such authority.

There is nothing in the current legislation, the Bill or the EM that would give comfort on this issue.
We clearly stated our view that the only persons’ who should be responsible for executing a search warrant, be legislatively entitled to use reasonable force in the execution of that warrant and to carry a firearm in such circumstances should be fully sworn police officers from the Australian Federal Police or the Police Force of a State or Northern Territory.

Our position was supported in the Law Council of Australia submission to the Inquiry which stated –

“The Law Council strongly objects to granting of powers which are ordinarily reserved for police officers to civilian members of the ACC. The Law Council believes that if, as a result of staffing issues at the ACC, there are insufficient police personnel available to facilitate the proper functioning of the ACC, this matter should be addressed as a staffing problem and not by granting police powers to members of staff who are not police officers”.

The issue of granting police type powers to other Government agencies, either Commonwealth or State, is an area the PFA and its Branches is monitoring closely. Only just prior to Christmas 2006 a Bill proposing to give greater powers to Centerlink personnel was withdrawn by the Federal Government after opposition from the PFA and other parties and at the state level we are constantly confronted with agencies looking to expand powers for their staff.

Given the potential for abuse, police face numerous external and internal controls. Courts through the exclusionary rule attempt to control police behaviour by excluding illegally gathered evidence. Courts may also issue injunctions against particular police actions and may offer citizens compensation for violations. Prosecutors may refuse to accept cases police present and may prosecute police for criminal violations. Legislative bodies through the passage of laws, control over appropriations, the ratification of appointments, and holding oversight hearings may also exercise some control as well as executive branch authorities, such as police oversight bodies, commissions of inquiry, auditors and ombudsmen. Internally, control of police is sought through selection, training, defined procedures, policy guidelines, and supervision.

The use of police discretion often also comes under close scrutiny. Police are invariably called upon to account for their actions, particularly when the outcome of their discretion is questioned and entities such as Commissions of Inquiry, the Ombudsman, the Coroner, the Director of Public Prosecutions and Police Internal Affairs are mandated to test the discretion of an officer when complaints regarding the officer’s conduct are raised.

For all of the above reasons, police exercise of their powers is a unique expression of the authority of the State and is appropriately placed in the context of an officer who is professional, highly trained, accountable (to the public, the state and the courts) and subject to the oath of office.

There are very significant public interest concerns about any suggestion that even minor police powers should be given to anyone who is not subject to the constraints and accountabilities that are imposed on sworn police officers both by statute and through the oath of office.

As policing moves into an in depth debate about professionalisation we must be vigilant in protecting our professional domain. The gradual creep of other government agencies and private security into the traditional areas of policing will only weaken our professional standing and the confidence of the community.

Interesting in that this is the 2nd attempt in a couple of months of government agencies trying to get police powers & suspect it will only increase.

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**Children’s Ward at Alice Springs**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraiser for the Childrens Ward at Alice Springs Hospital. We achieved our target of $1000 through the number lottery. The money raised will help purchase a new apnea machine (cost $1500). A cheque will be presented at 10am on Wednesday 31 January at the Childrens Ward.

A special mention to the walkers and supporters who were involved in the success of 20km walk of the Larapinta Trail.

• Jodie Kennedy
• Jason Conroy
• Paul Milne
• Glenn Leafe
• Leith Phillips and daughter Brylei

• Beau McNeill
• Sachin Sharma
• Mark and Cate Coffey
• Deanna Collins
• Tim Lee
• Brendon Lindner
• Clinton Sims
• Michael Ordelman

Congratulations to the winners of the number lottery:

• Mark Lyons – Charbray meat voucher for $50
• Annie Curtis – Dymocks book and voucher
• Dr Vijay (Paeds) – Breakfast for two at Voyages Alice Springs
• Lori McIntyre – an electronic game and some drinks.

Michael Murphy

NT POLICE NEWS – April 2007 21
Plan Now!

Secure your dream Lifestyle

The AFA Lifestyle Advice Journey™ is about to begin and this is your invitation to our workshops.

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WHERE:
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- Explanation of the Australian Taxation System

Plan Now!

more than just money
Property overload?

By Angelo Maglieri

The housing boom has boosted property portfolios for both home owners and investors. While this is good news, it has resulted in financial portfolios becoming lopsided.

If another prolonged period of little to no growth were to occur as happened in Darwin in the 10 years prior to 2003 many would find that the majority of their portfolio would under-perform.

Having too many eggs in one basket is never a good idea, that’s where Australian Financial Advisers steps in.

Their cashflow management program is unique and designed to unlock the equity in the property you already own.

They create a diversified, fully managed, and implemented portfolio with effective asset weighting to both property and the other major growth asset – shares.

The program also has tax advantages – essentially taking money that would otherwise be lost to the tax man and diverting it towards funding investments to create wealth for you and your family.

In much the same manner as investors buy property and use the rent to assist them in paying the mortgage, the same can be done with shares.

By using the dividends from the investment to assist in funding the program, very powerful portfolios with the potential for strong capital growth can be established at a relatively low net outlay.

In time the growing dividend income from the investment will eventually result in a cost neutral (no outlay) position.

As the portfolio grows in value, it can be drawn on to supplement income in retirement or as needed, providing significant flexibility when compared to property investments.

AFA’s ‘principles of wealth creation’ workshops cover all of the concepts within our cashflow management program, as well as a broad range of issues that clients need to be aware of and understand.

The workshops equip people with enough knowledge to make an informed decision, rather than one based on emotion, ignorance or a lack of alternatives.

Workshops are run on regular basis.

Call Tamra on 89 234 100 for upcoming dates or to discuss your situation with an adviser.

The advice contained herein does not take into account any persons particular objectives, needs or financial situation. Before making a decision regarding the acquisition or disposal of a Financial Product persons should assess whether the advice is appropriate to their objectives, needs or financial situation. Persons may wish to make this assessment themselves or seek the help of an adviser. No responsibility is taken for persons acting on the information provided. Persons doing so, do so at their own risk. Before acquiring a financial product a person should obtain a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) relating to that product and consider the contents of the PDS before making a decision about whether to acquire the product. GWM Adviser Services Limited ABN 96 002 071 749 trading as MLC Financial Planning, registered office 105 - 153 Miller Street North Sydney NSW 2060, is an Australian Financial Services Licencee and member of the National Group of companies. From time to time MLC Financial Planning, members of the National group of companies, associated employees or agents may have an interest in or receive pecuniary and non pecuniary benefits from the financial products and services mentioned herein.
The Treasurer’s announcement on 5 September 2006 confirmed that the Government will be proceeding with the proposals to simplify and streamline superannuation as announced in the May 2006 Federal Budget.

What will happen from 1 July 2007 if I don’t supply my TFN

Under the new laws planned to come into effect on 1 July 2007, your employer’s compulsory payments (also know as concessional contributions) or salary sacrifice contributions will be taxed at the highest marginal tax rate plus Medicare levy (46.5 per cent) where a TFN has not been supplied to your super fund. Previously, people were not disadvantaged when contributing if they had not supplied their fund with their TFN.

For accounts that already exist on 30 June 2007 and a TFN has not been quoted, tax will be applied at the normal rate of 15 per cent instead of the highest marginal rate if your employer’s compulsory payments to that account do not exceed $1,000 in any one year. For accounts opened on or after 1 July 2007 contributions will be taxed at 46.5 per cent, regardless of the contribution, if a TFN has not been quoted.

To minimise the impact of these rules, the Government has announced the following:

• Funds will not be required to apply the higher tax where a TFN has not been quoted until 30 June each year. So for the 2007/2008 financial year people will have up to 30 June 2008 to quote their TFN.
• The additional tax will be refunded back to the fund where a valid TFN is provided within the period a fund can amend its own assessment (this is generally 4 years).

What do I need to do?

To avoid paying tax on contributions at the top marginal rate after 1 July 2007, you will need to provide your super fund with your TFN. If you haven’t already. You can find out if you have provided your TFN by checking your member statement or by calling your super fund. Also, to submit your TFN, check your Fund’s website – you’ll likely find a TFN form there.

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Simon has not provided his TFN to his super fund. On 1 July 2007 the budget proposals come into effect and Simon is forced to pay the “no TFN tax” from his contributions. On 30 June 2008 Simon still has not provided his TFN. This means Simon’s super fund is forced to tax his employer’s contributions at the top rate and Simon misses out on $1,275.75 a year, which could make a real difference to his lifestyle in retirement.
The healthy dimension of the National Police Memorial

The Chairperson of Police Health draws an important connection between the National Police Memorial, the police culture and Police Health.

It was a very great pleasure for Police Health to attend the inaugural launch of the National Police Memorial in Canberra, on 29 September 2006, culminating 20 years of collaborative effort amongst the many agencies which support the police family.

The memorial is a magnificent, well-located structure which can only be truly appreciated by visiting it. It was movingly inaugurated by about 3500 family and friends of police, during a one-and-a-half-hour ceremony, which was most befitting to the honour of the protectors of the liberty and freedom we enjoy within civil society.

Without detracting from the formal events on 29 September, the deeper and personal meaning of the memorial became evident when I returned to it the following Saturday morning. The memorial was teaming with family and friends who, with quiet and reverent dignity, were laying their own wreaths. The base of the memorial was lined with an overwhelming array of coloured wreaths. People, couples, stood silently in front of the memorial, touching and holding the names on brass plates. When it was time to depart the memories of this moment, they brushed the arms of those standing next to them or looked knowingly into their eyes, and turned and retreated. For some the retreat was momentary, as they paused and lingered in the vicinity of their loved one’s nameplate.

One couldn’t help but pause and consider what was occurring here.

From Police Health’s perspective, we along with you and many others, made a contribution to the memorial because of our commitment to ‘the police family’. We wanted to support what was in the common good, as families do, and to reciprocate the active support of the Police Federation, Police Unions and Police Services, as we have become the national police health insurer.

But something more profound was evident Saturday morning. It was clear that, despite the passage of time for those touching the nameplates and laying their wreaths, there was an enduring need for more than simply the physical healing.

The enduring legacy of the National Police Memorial will be its ongoing contribution to the broad needs of our healing and health – physical, emotional, spiritual. This is something that we didn’t fully appreciate at Police Health when we decided to support the memorial, but given that it reflects our own commitment to the health of the police family, we are especially pleased by the memorial’s establishment.

We congratulate all of those involved in its establishment, design and building.

Visit it – don’t miss a wonderful experience when you visit Canberra.
Offbeat ... Offbeat

Off-duty officers praised – Katherine

TWO male off-duty police officers dining out last night in Katherine showed their dedication to duty by pursuing an offender resulting in the arrest of an 18-year-old man.

At about 7.45 pm the man entered the car park of the Katherine Motel where he allegedly interfered with a Mitsubishi Triton utility by stealing a pick from the open rear tray.

He then entered the motel reception area, allegedly still in possession of the pick, where a 52-year-old female employee was working in one of the offices. The woman ran out of the office and the offender allegedly stole her purse from one of the desks.

The man then allegedly proceeded to walk into the woman’s residence which is adjoined to the reception area but left the area through a side door ending up in a blocked walkway, before climbing onto the roof of the motel.

He was pursued by the two off-duty officers, who had been dining in the motel restaurant, and apprehended on Chambers Drive a short time later.

Police arrested the man and conveyed him to the Katherine Police Station where he is expected to be charged later today.

Officer in Charge of Katherine Police Station, A/Senior Sergeant Willem Westra van Holthe, has praised the efforts of the two officers concerned.

“These officers showed great dedication to duty and making the decision to chase the offender whilst off-duty was a gutsy call and highly commendable,” he said.

Free legal advice (believe it or not) that even members need to know

A CORPORATE attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company.

1. The next time you order cheques have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your chequebook, they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.

2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put “PHOTO ID REQUIRED”.

3. When you are writing cheques to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the “For” line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won’t have access to it.

4. Put your work phone number on your cheques instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. ever have your Centrelink number printed on your cheques, ou can add it if it is necessary, but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

5. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each licence, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Carry a photocopy of your passport when travelling either here or abroad. We’ve all heard horror stories about fraud that’s committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards.

Unfortunately I, an attorney, have first-hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month.

Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly mobile phone package, applied for a Visa credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Dell computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information on-line, and more.

But here’s some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know who to call. Keep those where you can find them.

2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

3. But here’s what is perhaps most important of all: (I never even thought to do this) Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number.

I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorise new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves’ purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend someone handed it in.

It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact when your wallet etc, has been stolen:

1. Visa Card Australia 1800 621 199
2. Visa Card International 1800 450 346
3. Lost Travellers’ Cheques 1800 127 477
4. MasterCard Australia (02) 9466 3700
5. MasterCard International 1800 120 113

ANZ FREECALL 1800 033 844
BankWest 131 718
Citibank 132 484
Tamworth Coles/Myer Source 2340 1300 360 397
Commonwealth 132 221
CUSCAL- MyCard 1300 135 538
GE Capital 1300 369 904
Members Equity 1300 654 998
National 132 265
St George 1800 028 208
Sydney Virgin 2000 1800 080 000
Westpac 1800 230 144
Woolworths Ezy Banking 137 288
Bankcard Australia (02) 9281 6633
Medicare 132 011
Centrelink Fraud 137 230
Seniors Card 1300 364 758
Passport 131 232
We pass along jokes on the Internet; we pass along just about everything, but if you are willing to pass this information along, it could really help someone.

Naming rights
A HEAVILY pregnant Irish lady was in a terrible car accident.
Unfortunately her husband died and she went into a deep coma. After being in the coma for nearly four months, she wakes up and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby.
The doctor replies, “Missus, you had twins … a boy and a girl. The babies are fine now, however, they were poorly at birth and were christened immediately – your brother came in and named them.”
The woman thinks to herself, “Oh suffering Jesus no, not me brother, he’s fecking clueless!” Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, “Well, what’s my daughter’s name?”
“Denise,” says the doctor.
The new mother is somewhat relieved “Wow, that’s a beautiful name, I guess I was wrong about my brother … I like Denise.” Then she asks, “What’s the boy’s name?”
The Doctor replies … “Denephew.”

Letters ... Letters

Hi, for years I have received your association paper because of my friend Max Hill whom I met during his visit to the LAPD. I have since retired and have moved from my old address.
Since I am now retired and know the cost of things, I would like you to take me off your mailing list.
You have a very fine and professional newspaper, thank you.
Mark J. Savalla (Retired Lt. LAPD)

10 January 2007
Dear Sir
Re: Change of Address
Many thanks for the latest edition of the NT Police News. I really enjoy catching up with the latest in policing in the Territory. I see a Traffic Unit is back on the cards. The old faces in that photo of 1981 bring back a lot of happy memories. It was taken in the upstairs muster room at the Winnellie Traffic Section, then a very flash new building.
We prided ourselves on being the first there at anything. If it was on, we were in it, and if it had wheels all the better. The Sunday afternoon dust-up at Lim’s Hotel springs to mind.
I can remember Vern Guy taking Ford’s head trouble-shooter for Australia for a spin in one of the pursuit cars in the late 70’s and handing him the gear stick – literally – out of the top of the gear box while doing mach 2 in reverse, and telling his terrified passenger: “See – they do bloody come out”.
It doesn’t top Terry Ey slipping up to an accident scene in Trower Road on his bike and stepping off while it was still going. Terry made the bike look like a tonka toy. While it ever so slowly waddled up the road a bit and fell over, Terry was already presenting himself in the upright police concerned look, notebook in hand and open with pen in the other, asking police type questions of the dazed and amazed victims.
It was a great unit driven by some of the best in the business, Roger Brabin, Bulldog, and Graeme Reeves to name a few. Panda was part of our mob but that really is another story …
But I digress ... I’ve retired, done the caravan thing, and settled in Yeppoon, Central Queensland. I’m currently filling in for a while with Marine Parks, chasing evil doers in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks.
May I ask that you update the address you have for me to.
Kind regards
Peter Tyson Doneley (Ex 799)
Banrock wetland plan saves Murray River water

THE start-up of a new water management strategy for South Australia’s Banrock Station will save Murray River water and improve the long-term health of Banrock’s internationally renowned wetland.

Benefits of the plan – which commenced today – were announced by Murray River Minister Karlene Maywald and Banrock Station Manager, Tony Sharley.

It will save about 1.15 gigalitres of river water – or 1,150 Olympic-sized swimming pools – over two years.

The wetlands will be completely dried every two years, which will reduce evaporation from the Banrock Station wetland while benefiting the unique eco-system.

Minister Maywald said allowing the wetland to dry out reflected the way water naturally flowed to the region years before locks were built across the Murray River.

“After the Murray-Darling Basin’s driest year on record, these water savings will contribute toward keeping as much water as possible in the main river channel, which will ultimately be helpful to communities and towns that depend on the Murray River,” she said.

“The South Australian Government applauds Banrock Station’s continued commitment to enhancing its environment and this plan will be a major boost to the health of its wetland.”

The Banrock Station wetlands are expected to be dry for six months – from March to August 2007 – after which they will be replenished with water allocated under its wetland water licence.

Mr Sharley said: “This is a strong commitment to the Banrock Station wetland complex and a great result for the Murray River, which will receive an extra 575 megalitres of water a year.”

“While we have become used to seeing the wetlands being constantly full of water, this situation is not, in fact, what nature intended. Allowing them to dry out every two years is a natural phenomenon that will have fantastic benefits for the plants and animals in our wetland,” Mr Sharley said.

“We have partially dried out the wetlands many times in the past with positive results for plant and wildlife and these environmental benefits will be boosted by this new water management strategy.”

“Direct benefits to the wetlands include the eradication of the destructive European Carp, encouragement of native species of fish, birds and frogs, improved water quality and reinvigorated plant life as nutrients are returned to the soil.”

The Banrock Station water management strategy is supported by key environmental and water management agencies, including Wetland Care Australia, Landcare Australiá and the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

The seasonal drying of eco-systems to copy natural water cycles that once occurred at the Banrock Station wetlands is also encouraged by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, a world authority on wetland management.

(Amsar is the world’s peak wetlands conservation organisation. In 2002, Banrock Station was awarded the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award – the most prestigious international honour of its type – for its commitment to wetland restoration.)

Mr Sharley said the opportunity to implement the new water management strategy was timely and had arisen through the relocation, with assistance from the South Australian Government, of the irrigation pumps that provide water for the Banrock Station vineyards.

“Banrock Station and the South Australian Government signed an historic agreement in 2005 to jointly fund the relocation of Banrock’s irrigation pumps from the wetland to the Murray River,” he said.

“In return for its funding contribution, the State Government will benefit from the estimated 1150 million litres of water that will be saved every two years through Banrock Station introducing the natural drying cycle into the wetland.

“The State Government can reallocate the saved water to other environmental and irrigation priorities, whilst Banrock Station will continue to enhance its award winning wetlands for wildlife and ecotourism.”

Mr Sharley said birds, turtles, frogs, water rats and other wetland wildlife were expected to migrate to nearby water systems and return to the Banrock Station wetlands when they refilled, as they would have done a century ago.

“Aquatic plant life is expected to flourish under the new regime due to nutrient release and improved light penetration when the wetland re-fills,” he said.

“For the 100,000-plus visitors who flock to the Banrock Station complex each year, they will see a different, equally interesting, side of our wetlands with self guided walks and interpretive information to reveal new plant and wildlife features of the dry areas.”

Banrock Station will monitor closely the drawdown
in water levels in its lagoon and develop some exciting ecotourism opportunities including walks on the dry lagoon bed.

The relocation of its pumps and the complete drying of the wetland in Summer and Autumn will enable Banrock Station to attain maximum water use efficiency across its 250 hectare vineyard and its 1000 ha wetland.

One-glass Hardy bottle

HAVING a glass of wine has been revolutionised like you have never seen before – by an Australian company.

Hardy Wine Company – Australia’s largest wine producer – today unveiled the “Shuttle”, an innovative, all-in-one, bottle-glass package that has the potential to redefine the way people around the world drink their wine.

It is the first wine bottle-glass combination to be introduced anywhere in the world.

Developed originally for the Australian season of one of the world’s most popular circuses, Cirque de Soleil, the concept has proven so popular with show-goers, Hardy Wine Company has decided to launch the revolutionary bottle nationally.

“Hardy Wine Company has carved an international reputation as a leader in innovation and development – and the ‘Shuttle’ is another example of that excellence,” Hardy Wine Company Global Marketing Manager, Ms Miriam Leenders, said.

“We have been extremely satisfied by the ‘Shuttle’s’ instant appeal and popularity from those people who have had an opportunity to use them,” she said.

“We believe the new technology has the potential to redefine how people drink their wines the world over – particularly at sporting and other outdoor events, concerts and performances, where glassware is not permitted for safety reasons.

“Another benefit is the peace of mind from a consumer safety point of view, because the consumer opens their own bottle – each time, every time if they desire.”

The “Shuttle” features a 187ml (single serve) acrylic wine bottle securely sealed by its own acrylic wine glass. The tamper-proof bottle is opened by a simple twist top action, which also releases the glass in which the wine is poured.

Hardy Wine Company has launched the “Shuttle” under the Hardys brand in two styles – shiraz and chardonnay.

The ground-breaking concept is being introduced state-by-state as part of the national tour of the latest Cirque du Soleil production – Varekai.

“Shuttles are easy to store and will keep for 12 months – which is almost double the shelf-life of current PET small format bottles,” Ms Leenders said.

Ms Leenders said in addition to being available at all Australian performances of Cirque du Soleil’s Varekai production, the Hardys “Shuttle” will be stocked in limited quantities in some states through selected on-trade and retail outlets for a recommended retail price of $4.95 per unit.

Last Tour ... Last Tour

14th December 2006

Dear Vince,

MY resignation from the Northern Territory Police Force became effective at the close of business on Friday the 1st December 2006, after thirty one years and eight months in the job.

I also, sadly tender my resignation as a member of the Northern Territory Police Association.

I joined the Northern Territory Police Force in April 1975. Squad 21 of 30 members, with 29 actually completing the course. I am the second last member to resign/retire, with squad mate Gowan Carter being left “to turn the lights off”.

While I look forward to my retirement, I look back fondly at my life, the friends I made and the experiences I had while serving in the N.T. Police, especially the early years. I shan’t however, miss the 24 hour call outs, rolling around in the dirt with suspects and unjustified criticism from defense lawyers, amongst other things.

I have, I believe, a lot of outdoor activities to catch up with. I shall be pursuing these with vigour.

I would like to extend my thanks to the hard working Association President’s and Committee members both present and past who fought hard for the conditions and pay increases that made my life in the NT Police Force a comfortable one. I also enjoyed the support of the Association in a number of matters over the years, which I am very appreciative of.

I take this opportunity to wish all, an enjoyable and stress free Christmas and a safe New Year.

Sincerely,

Chris Bentham
(formerly Brevet Sergeant, Registered no. 789)

From: Hibben, Simon
To: NT Police Association
Subject: Notice of Resignation

Vince and all at the association,

I am writing this email to inform you of my resignation from the NT Police as of 10 January 2007. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone there for their assistance in my very brief time in the job (3 years) and wish everyone well. The ocean has called me back and I have decided to go back to the Navy and see more of the world (probably just the Persian Gulf). I have enjoyed my time at Cas, Alyangula and back at Cas. Also my relieving time at Ngukurr and Numbulwar.

Thanks again.

Leading Seaman Combat Systems Operator
Simon Hibben
HMAS Adelaide Warships Mail Section
HMAS Stirling, Rockingham WA.
(After the 12th Feb)
## Transfers & Promotions

### Name | From | To
--- | --- | ---
Kerr DS | Sergeant | Senior Constable
Ronning-Burns H | Senior Constable | Sergeant
Godden RC | Senior Constable 1/C | Constable 1/C
Craven AJ | Constable 1/C | Senior Constable 1/C
DeNale AG | Constable 1/C | Senior Constable
Dudson AJ | Constable 1/C | Senior Constable
Young DA | Constable 1/C | Senior Constable
Godden RC | Senior Constable 1/C | Constable 1/C
Bradshaw KR | Constable 1/C | Senior Constable
Breen PA | Constable 1/C | Senior Constable
Young IS | Constable | Senior Constable
Langdon CP | Constable | Senior Constable
Bravos PS | Sergeant | Senior Constable
Chalker JA | Sergeant | Senior Constable
O’Brien JT | Sergeant | Senior Constable
Hamilton JA | Senior Constable | Senior Constable
Seeds SR | Auxiliary 1/C | Senior Constable
Ronning-Burns H | Senior Constable | Auxiliary 1/C
Skinner NC | Constable | Auxiliary 1/C
Millar L | Auxiliary 1/C | Constable
Shervill B | Constable | Auxiliary 1/C
Brand CP | Senior Constable | Constable
Naider SM | Senior Constable | Constable
Shumacher MP | Constable | Senior Constable
Marcion M | Auxiliary 1/C | Constable
Johnson SB | Senior Constable | Constable
Falconer S | Constable | Constable
Howie TD | Constable | Constable
Mamo NJ | Constable | Constable
Renata KJ | Auxiliary | Auxiliary
Freshwater K | Auxiliary | Auxiliary
Naider SM | Senior Constable | Senior Constable

### Transfers

| Name | From | To |
--- | --- | ---
Bryson R | AS Ops Service Division | Staff Officer Dep Comm's |
Braam HL | Ethical & Professional SC | Counter Terrorism Div |
Gotch SL | Territory Support Division | Counter Terrorism Div |
Molloy BP | Traffic Unit | Traffic Unit |
Smith DK | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit |
Hulm WJ | Borroloola | Borroloola |
Firth JA | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Higgins CJ | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Dalgliesh LR | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Firth JS | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Hales PW | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
McIntryre CA | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Crichton MA | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Meurant ML | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
O’Dwyer KL | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Matthews TB | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Ascoli GL | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Baxter SA | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Budge MW | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Day JM | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Drury CR | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Paragreen KA | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Phylfand LR | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Stowers PL | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Carter DJ | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Singh RT | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Adams LB | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Ramzan HC | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Souey KM | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Martin RL | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Nash MS | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Seeds SR | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Barry AP | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Casey MR | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Dalglish LR | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Mader JK | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Horwood D | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Simpson TW | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Campbell RM | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Norris TW | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Johnson SB | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Clarke AP | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Laycock J | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Marr NR | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
O’Berg GM | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
O’Flaherty NJ | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Paragreen KA | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Simms TG | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Simon TJ | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Gotch SL | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Braam HL | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Bryson R | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Carlon L | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Evans KJ | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Farmer CR | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Godwin LA | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |
Gwynne CM | Traffic Unit Alice Springs | Traffic Unit Alice Springs |

### Transfers & Promotions

| Name | From | To |
--- | --- | ---
Nalder SM | Senior Constable | Sergeant
Freshwater K | Senior Constable | Senior Constable
Naider SM | Senior Constable | Senior Constable

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30 NT POLICE NEWS – April 2007
Harris W Territory Support Division
Jones DJD Strategic Services Division
Kerr J Developmental Studies Division
Parnell SC Relief Sup's Comm’s
Pryce DA Regional Investigations Division
Stevens MA Drug Enforcement Section
Taylor MS Alice Springs
Nicholson GJ Tennant Creek
Brand CP Katherine
Allen NJ Tennant Creek
Cayley D Tennant Creek
Fraser TJ Katherine
Gillis C Tennant Creek
Linney MAJ Katherine
Payne B Special Operations Section
Shumacher MP General Duties GDRC
Baldwin AJ Alice Springs
Barram AJ Alice Springs
Barton VJ Alice Springs
Goddard VH Drug Enforcement Section
Linco JD Junior Police Ranger Support Unit
McGarvie RM General Duties GDRC
Peters JS Territory Response Section
Kelly GD Assistant Comm Crime & SS
Macleod MAC Assistant Comm HR Service
Payne ML Assistant Comm Ops Service
Gibson B Territory Response Section
Blackburn PG Tennant Creek
Bowen JW General Duties GDRC
Mead BA Maningrida
Deutrom MS Sexual Crime Unit
Hand CP General Duties GDRC
McNeil BW D&P Violence Protection Unit
Meurant ML Regional Intelligence Unit
Nicoll CJ Alice Springs
Plumeier B Regional Investigations Section
Rimmer SM Katherine
Sharma S Regional Intelligence Unit
Williams BJ Trainee PFES College
Berry MS Trainee PFES College
Brooker CP Trainee PFES College

Brown CD Trainee PFES College
Brown PP Trainee PFES College
Byrne N Trainee PFES College
Chalk TP Trainee PFES College
Clark SR Trainee PFES College
Cushway CM Trainee PFES College
Haseman AJ Trainee PFES College
Higgins BJ Trainee PFES College
Huddle GJ Trainee PFES College
Irwin M Trainee PFES College
Lovett J Trainee PFES College
Machacek JI Trainee PFES College
McMahon BW Trainee PFES College
Raeburn CM Trainee PFES College
Richardson Trainee PFES College
Sayers LJ Trainee PFES College
Unwin MJ Trainee PFES College
Vick TA Trainee PFES College
Ward T Trainee PFES College
Watson M Trainee PFES College
Wieland SD Trainee PFES College
Wyatt RA Trainee PFES College

Alice Springs wPolice Station
Katherine
Tennant Creek
General Duties GDRC
General Duties GDRC
Tennant Creek
Alice Springs
Alice Springs
General Duties GDRC
General Duties GDRC
General Duties GDRC
General Duties GDRC
General Duties GDRC
General Duties GDRC
General Duties GDRC
Alice Springs
Alice Springs

Ruehlend RJ Sergeant
Bentham CS Brevet Sergeant
Materna RB Brevet Sergeant
Farrow RP Senior Constable

Tasman C ACPO
Grant MS Sergeant
Rowland NF Police Auxiliary
Plumb MJ Police Auxiliary
Parslow DG Constable
Veach PA Senior Constable
Dixon JB Constable
Hibben SW Constable
Perkins PW Dismissed
Mally LP Constable 1/C
Magnier M Constable
Lee DJ Senior Constable
Kluskus SA Constable
Brown DS Auxiliary
Tindall MR Constable
Bradbury PJ Senior Constable

Brown DE Proctor DE
Young IO Biorci IO
Monckton SA Whiting SA
Latemore KJ Liebelt KJ

The winner of December 06 “Who is This” was John Greig, now of Lyndhurst NSW
The answer: Wayne von Hoff

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