On Duty with Alice Springs

Since July our Alice Springs Division has attended almost 40 public duties, mainly motor sports, but also some crazy ones like the Henley on Todd boat races on sand, the Camel Cup races, Harts Range rodeo and horse races, Drag racing and Go-karts NT titles, the 12 hour buggies and bikes desert race, and some quieter ones like the Alice Springs Markets.

Moto-X bike racing is a regular event, and every 2 weeks a crew is needed for an 8-hour duty day. Last weekend was pretty busy at Moto-X with 5 patients treated, and 2 ending up in hospital for concussion. The others being treated for minor bruising; isn’t ice great stuff.

The rider in the picture had a freak accident where 2 bikes had crashed together and this rider’s hand went through the spokes of the other bike wheel, causing a deep laceration requiring 5 stitches. Pam Baker is the treating officer and did a great job.

A few weeks ago Commissioner Steve Peers and I were invited to a civic reception, together with about a 100 other local dignitaries and characters, in order to meet the Governor General Mrs Quentin Bryce (also the head of St John in Australia). She is an awe-inspiring lady and all class, and a real pleasure for us to have had a chat with her. I think I got tongue-tied. The mayor introduced me as a “salt of the earth” volunteer. Fish and chips anyone? – I’ll bring the salt.

Glen Auricht
Alice Springs Adult Division

"You will learn more about the people you work with in three minutes by asking them what they do for nothing, than by working with them for three years in the same team"

Patrick Dixon - Building a Better Business, 2005, p 3
New Marketing & PR Officer

Recently St John made an important appointment for the role of Marketing PR and I am happy to further introduce Hannah Brodie-Hall to the position.

It has been a whirlwind first three weeks for Hannah which culminated last week in a gathering of the collective contributors to our Marketing and PR requirements. This was most useful and clearly identified particular roles for all and helped establish the future direction of the Organisation in this untapped, important area of our business. This is all about building further on the positive profile of you, the workers and volunteers, and the good name of St John NT.

I will leave it to Hannah to provide further insight into what she is looking to provide as a backbone to build the profile of us all as we move into the times ahead. This is a joint project for the whole of St John NT and I look forward to you all meeting with Hannah and to you filling her with stories, both good and bad, that she can work on to help us achieve our goals.

Thank you all for your efforts and in advance for your support of the important new role enthusiastically occupied by Hannah.

Ross Coburn
Chief Executive Officer

Training

Apply Advanced First Aid

**When:** Thursday Nights 12, 19 and 26 Sept

**Where:** Palmerston Volunteer Centre

**Time:** 1800 to 2200

**Saturday - 5 Oct**

**Where:** Parap Training Centre

**Time:** 0830 to 1700

**Thursday Night - 03 Oct**

**Where:** Palmerston Volunteer Centre

**Time:** 1800 to 2200

Prerequisites – **Current** Apply First Aid or Senior First Aid certificate.

This is an ideal opportunity for those members who have completed the FIRST AIDER and have commenced their FIRST RESPONDER workbooks.

Nominations and TA17 must go through your Superintendent and are due by 5th September 2013.

ALL ENQUIRIES TO:

Volunteer Office
Ph 89226234
volunteer@stjohnnt.asn.au

Vollie News on the internet

Did you know that back issues of Vollie News are available on the internet? Neither did I until I googled Vollie News out of curiosity. We are legally required to send copies to the Northern Territory Library and they post Vollie News on:

http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/handle/10070/179615

Have A Great Week

www.Daveswordsofwisdom.com
It isn’t really practical to hold Clean Up Australia Day during the wet season in the Top End of the Territory, so for all those who really care about our environment, The Great Northern Clean Up will be held in conjunction with Clean Up the World Weekend on Friday 20 to Sunday 22 September.

If you don’t have a public duty or ambulance shift, why not get a few friends together to help clean up your local area. Make sure that you cover up or use sunscreen, wear a broad brimmed hat, leather gloves and sturdy shoes or boots. Hydrate before you start and carry a good supply of drinking water.

My clean up area is the road verge along Old Bynoe Road, Berry Springs between Santo and Hopewell Roads. Working the other way, I collected six bags of rubbish in half that distance a couple of weeks ago.

My clean up days will be the Saturday and Sunday, starting at 0730 when it’s cool and finishing around 1030 or so when it starts to get too hot for an old bloke to continue.

I have registered my area with Clean Up Australia: http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/feralfrank and would love some helpers to make it a single day event.

Go to the website at http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/ for full details and to register your cleanup site …

… and last, and most certainly not least, please take photos of your activities for Vollie News. We want to let the world know the great things you do for the community, on top of your first aid and ambulance duties.

This is an interesting short video of St John Ambulance on parade in the UK in 1928: http://www.britishpathe.com/video/st-johns-ambulance-brigade-1/query/St+John+Ambulance

Join the St John Ambulance-Northern Territory - History discussion group on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/151724685024440/

For those with a wider interest in the History of St John Ambulance, try this UK Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/190225071152059/
This week in history: 12 – 18 September

Northern Territory News, Thu 13 September 1962

PARACHUTE SQUAD FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE

Two men and a nursing sister are training to form a parachute squad for the Saint John’s Ambulance Brigade in Darwin.

The men are both police officers and the Sister works at the Darwin Hospital.

A spokesman for the brigade said yesterday the squad was being formed for use in bush emergencies where it might not be possible to reach an injured person quickly other than by dropping in a trained man or sister.

Full details of the squad would be released when training had advanced further.

At the Council of the St John Auxiliary annual general meeting this week these and other plans were discussed.

And the new executive was elected. They are: President, Mr Alan James; vice-Presidents, Messrs. J. Williams and R. Wood; secretary, Mr J. Montgomery; treasurer, Mr T. Abbott; organisers, Messrs. Abbott and J. Hopkins; organising secretary, Mr V. Millbank.

Councillors are: The Misses M. Dukes and S. Montgomery, Mrs P. James, Messrs. S. Wakeford, J. Gault, Martin Smith, T. Dunne, Alan Miller, D. Gee and the Mayor (Mr. Cooper).

The meeting was told that during the year an ambulance worth £1000 had been purchased, £1100 had been spent on medical equipment, a permanent stall erected at the showgrounds and there was £1000 in hand for the building fund.

Centralian Advocate, Thu 12 September 1963

FIRST-AID GROUP IS NOW ST. JOHN AMBULANCE

The Tennant Creek First-Aid Group has been wound up and has become the Tennant Creek section of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Changeover took place at a meeting held in the home of Mrs. Fullwood.

In the course of the group’s general business, the balance sheet was presented and other matters associated with the wind-up discussed, after which the president, Mr. Joe Zigenbine, declared that the group no longer existed, as such, and that the gathering had become the first official meeting of the Tennant Creek section of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

IN UNIFORM

Many members were in uniform and a congratulatory speech was made by Officer Peter Hansen, who had been instrumental in forming the first-aid group two years ago.

Officer-bearers elected were: Officer-in-charge, Mr. J. Zigenbine; sergeant, Mr. W. Fullwood; secretary, Mr. R. Young; treasurer, Sister H. Tuxworth.

DRIVE FOR FUNDS

The meeting discussed plans for a vigorous drive for funds, the acquisition of an ambulance vehicle and the establishment of a central headquarters.

It was agreed that headquarters, with men in rostered attendance and a telephone, were necessary in view of the many accidents occurring on local roads.

Before the changeover Mr. Zigenbine presented first-aid certificates to 16 successful candidates.

Unfortunately, no date for this meeting was given. Misspelled names have been corrected. – ed.

Katherine Advertiser, 13-19 September 1979

FORMATION OF A DIVISION IN KATHERINE

A cordial invitation is extended to members of the public with a current First Aid Certificate and former members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade to assist in establishing a Division of the Brigade in Katherine.

Meetings will commence Thursday 20 September, 1979 at 7.00 p.m.

Further enquiries Mr Morrison, Darwin 279111.

Centralian Advocate, 16 September 1965

St. John Ambulance Association

Alice Springs Division

First-Aid and Re-Examination Course will commence at Civil Defence Headquarters, Stott Terrace (next to Scout Hall, Billy Goat Hill) on Thursday, 23rd September, 1965, at 8 p.m.

Eight (8) weekly sessions.

Candidates for examination MUST attend at least six (6) instruction sessions.

Fee £1/5/- (including book) payable on first night.

All Members of Public and Organizations Welcome

Enrolments—please to Mrs. G. Hansen, 6 McKinley Street, Alice Springs or phone 21-086, before 21st September, 1965.
First Aid Medallions in the UK – Alan Sharkey

https://www.facebook.com/groups/190225071152059/

In the early days first aid competence was demonstrated by a medallion, usually attached to a watch chain or worn as a brooch. The original certificates were valid only for one year, then 'refreshed', but the third exam was regarded as a qualification for life and possession of the medallion meant no more exams. Later (from 1905), a requirement for regular re-assessment was evidenced by the addition of a year marked 'label' to the medallion. Medallions were numbered and the labels also with the same number.

Front and back of the medallion that was presented to Caroline Willis in 1884, number 1,679 of more than a million awarded. The first medallion of the Association was presented on 14 June 1881 at the Woolwich Centre where the first course of instruction had taken place in 1877. The medallion was presented to Isabella Duncan, wife of Francis Duncan, one of the great triumvirate that led the Association through its formative years. Two days later the second medallion was presented at the Sevenoaks Centre to Maria Furley, wife of John Furley, another of the triumvirate. Some references say the first was 1879 but that was when the medallion was approved. The first one presented was Isabella Duncan’s.

Medallions 1-499514 were issued from 1881 to 1940. In 1940 a new series was started with a prefix 'A' that ran from A1 to A340904 in 1961. I am looking for any higher numbered examples in either series. From 1961 to 1963 the medallions were dated but not numbered. The 'labels' were always given the same number as the medallion to which they belonged (often sold mismatched!). I can match any medallion to the year of issue with absolute certainty! Let me know if you have one you would like dated! I think the change to the 'A' prefix might have been as a result of moving out of London in the war and the loss of records, or just a decision to start numbering again...

When asked about medallions in Australia, SJAA historian Dr Ian Howie-Willis replied:

“St John Ambulance Association (i.e. Training Branch) medallions were awarded up until the early-mid 1980s. A candidate was awarded one by successfully completing three training courses, two first aid and one home nursing, over three successive years. People tended to collect so many that they used to string them together to form a chain. I've seen pictures of some old veteran St Johnnies wearing such long chains of medallions around their necks that they look like Lord Mayors of Melbourne.

“There were also ‘Labels’ and ‘Pendants’ which were awarded for longer brackets of end-on courses; and people added these to the chains as well.”

…

Medallions in the Northern Territory – Frank Dunstan

My research has found records of medallions issued in the NT when we still came under South Australia, but the practice apparently ceased when a St John Ambulance Association (now Training Branch) was formed in the Territory in January 1977.
Emergency Medical Dispatcher

Full-time rostered position, 2 day shifts, 2 night shifts, 4 day off roster

St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. is the Territory ambulance service, a major provider of first aid training services, and the home of a large first aid volunteer network. We are seeking an Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) to work out of the JESCC centre in Berrimah.

We want to hear from you if:

- You are an exceptional communicator with high level interpersonal and organisational abilities.
- You can type (ideally at 40wpm with 95% accuracy) and have excellent computer skills.
- You can read maps and listen to and convey clear and authoritative direction in a calm manner.

It will be an advantage if you are a current member of the Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatchers and/or possess formal qualifications in ambulance communications from a recognised accredited training provider. Previous experience in logistic co-ordination would also be beneficial. However we will provide full training to the successful candidate.

A very competitive salary and employee benefits apply with the reward of working for a charitable organisation.

Applicants must address the selection criteria listed in the position description available from jobs@stjohnnt.asn.au.

Applications close on Friday 27th September 2013 at 4.30 pm.

NT Medallions

This bronze medallion, No 3546 (1969) is brooch mounted, but a search of our archives failed to find the recipient.

This medallion, No 300975 was issued to Doreen Kerr, who transferred to Darwin in the early 1970s after distinguished service in WA. It’s not recorded where this was issued, WA or NT.
Rural Ramblings – Frank Dunstan

Last week was one of those weeks that I’m glad I no longer chase bushfires to squirt water at them. Hot, dry, windy conditions meant that any fires would be nigh on impossible to control until the winds died away. I know that my smoke alarm works because it started beeping around 2.45 pm on Friday. The air was filled with smoke and I was directly downwind of a large ugly brown plume of smoke.

This is me in the days when I used to chase bushfires, and that’s a very hot gamba grass fire

A quick reconnaissance outside determined that it had to be on the other side of Hopewell Road, 2 km to the east. Ash was falling from the sky, but thankfully with no burning embers. I could hear choppers and water bombing aircraft, and they are standard practice for fire ban days in populated areas.

As a quick insurance, I turned on the bore and roof sprinklers. I have an excellent bore with plenty of ground water, even after our very poor wet season, and there is the biggest mob of sprinklers on the roof and around the donga. They fairly saturate the area, making my home safe from bushfires. Should the bore fail for some reason I can switch over to tank supply and hand spray via a good pressure pump.

Fortunately for me, the wind reversed with the incoming sea breeze, blowing the smoke and fire away to the south east.

On fire ban days and others that are dry and windy, I turn on the bore and roof sprinklers before going into town or elsewhere. When I get back home the place is saturated, but the trees love it and it’s cheap insurance.

Having a bush block covered with trees means a lot of leaf fall during the dry season. Even many trees, especially my banyan, that are regularly watered shed their leaves. It’s in their program and it’s what they do. However, the watering means that they sprout new leaves almost immediately, unlike their cousins in the dry bush. Windy days are worse in that they accelerate leaf fall. All this means a lot of work and it’s a constant job to keep firebreaks and the area around the donga clear for fire protection.

It keeps an old bloke fit though, especially climbing onto the roof to sweep at intervals during the dry season. When I get too old for that I’ll just hose the roof clear of leaves from the ladder.

A trip down the road on Saturday morning on my way to vote showed that the fire burnt up to Hopewell Road through the bottom of a large orchard. I’ve fought fires in that orchard myself, and you would think that they would learn by past experience and clean it up to make it fire safe. I wonder how many trees they lost this time?

These are all stock photos from days gone by and aren’t from the recent fire
Help Wanted

2013 NORTHERN TERRITORY CADET COMPETITIONS

WHEN: Sunday 29th September, 2013
TIME: 8am to 1pm
WHERE: Kormilda College
PEOPLE REQUIRED
FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:
ADJUDICATORS
TIME KEEPERS
STEWARDS
GENERAL HELPERS
CAS SIM DECORATORS
PATIENTS

ANY ASSISTANCE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

Contact Hailee at the Volunteer Office on 89226205
or email hailee.skinner@stjohnnt.asn.au
YOU'RE INVITED

1ST PRIZE - THE CHAMPIONS TROPHY

MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
2013 TENPIN BOWLING CHALLENGE

YEP! WooHoo, it’s that time of the year again
Get your team together and ready to have lots of fun and
laughter and join Katherine Adult Division for the
bowling highlight of the year.

RSVP by Friday 1st November 2013

St John Tarn Rudder

The challenge is on. All divisions needed. More People = More fun
Challenge open to all skill levels.
Score is as pin falls to make it fun for all, including bumpers as an option.

1 Game with Supper provided.
Purchase own drinks on the night.

PLANET TENPIN
Nightcliff, Darwin
69 Progress Rd
7.00pm – 9.00pm

Tarn Rudder
0400 112 500 or
e-mail volunteeroffice @
stjohnnt.asn.au
## Coming events for 2013

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<td><strong>September</strong></td>
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<td>Thu 12 – Sun 15</td>
<td>Australian Superbike Championships</td>
<td>Hidden Valley Race Track, Berrimah</td>
<td>Fast bikes at Hidden Valley Racetrack and International Super Motocross at Darwin Speedway being held simultaneously over the weekend. Lunch supplied</td>
<td>Volunteer: Roving Patrols with use of SJA buggy/1st Aid vehicle where appropriate (TBC) Ambulance: 3 x Ambulance Crews and Coordinator supporting Race Safe</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asbk.com.au/">www.asbk.com.au/</a></td>
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<td>Wed 18</td>
<td>Quiz Night</td>
<td>Palmerston Volunteer Centre</td>
<td>RSVP <a href="mailto:angie.butler@stjohnnt.asn.au">angie.butler@stjohnnt.asn.au</a> by Monday 16 September</td>
<td>Division v Division</td>
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<td>Mon 4</td>
<td>Ten Pin Bowling Challenge</td>
<td>Planet Tenpin 69 Progress Road Nightcliff</td>
<td>RSVP: Tarn Rudder 0400 112 500, or <a href="mailto:volunteeroffice@stjohnnt.asn.au">volunteeroffice@stjohnnt.asn.au</a> by Friday 1 November</td>
<td>1 game plus supper provided Purchase own drinks</td>
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<td>Sunday 1</td>
<td>Carols by Candlelight</td>
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AWKWARD HOURS, AWKWARD JOBS
A History of St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory
by Frank Dunstan

This publication was launched at the Official Opening Ceremony of the National Member Convention in Darwin, May 2013, by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour the Honourable Sally Thomas AM DStJ.

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