Plate tracker for Centre police cars

AN automated number plate recognition system aims to stop drug and alcohol smugglers getting to remote communities.

The system, already in use in other parts of the country, will be installed in police vehicles around the Centre this week.

It captures an image of a vehicle's number plate and notifies investigators if an alert has been placed on a police list of vehicles of interest.

Regional operations assistant commissioner Grahame Kelly said: “The technology will help police track vehicles involved in suspected or known criminal activities, detect unregistered or stolen vehicles or unwanted targets associated with cars and help reduce drug and alcohol running in remote areas.

“The Federal Government has funded police vehicles in Alice Springs and Katherine, while the NT government has funded Darwin’s system.”

Steve Menzies

ONE of Alice Springs’ league of sporting champions is marking back home and is interested in seeing all the displays and information at the inaugural Centralian Advocate Sports History Expo at the Trainer Avenue basketball stadium tomorrow.

Nev Connor, who was one of the 11 people inducted in the Desert Sports Foundation Federation of Champions last year, has made the trip from his home in Henley-on-Todd.

He said: “It is a great idea what Murray Stewart is trying to do with this Sports Expo.

“Sport has been tremendous in Alice Springs over the years and it brings people together.

“The idea to hold this event and bring out this history is important, providing it is done right.

“There will be plenty of good stories among all the people and sport holding stalls at the Expo.

“It is absolutely important that we save our sporting history and the Expo is supported.

“I have not seen anything like this done before.”

In 2004, Boonkoff made his way to Far North Queensland where he spent the last six seasons of his career with the Cairns Taipans.

Boodnikoff was hampered by numerous injuries throughout his career and they finally caught up with him. He retired at the end of the 2009/2010 NBL season, playing 253 games and averaging 9.5 points, 3.6 rebounds and 1.2 assists a game.

Boodnikoff will have a display at tomorrow’s Centralian Advocate Sports History Expo. He said: “It will be great to get all of my stuff out and go back and reminisce.”

He will also be one of the guest speakers at the Centralian Sports Foundation Federation of Champions induction evening tomorrow night at the Gillon Club from 7pm.

Basketball king’s Alice memories

Dale Fletcher

BASKETBALL was clearly the only option for Gary Boonkoff growing up in Alice Springs.

Spending most of his childhood with a basketball in his hand at the Trainer Park Stadium, hoops and Boonkoff seemed a great fit.

At 15, Boonkoff was already over six feet tall.

Boonkoff said: “My dad (Roger Boonkoff) had keys to the stadium and I could go in there whenever I wanted to. “Being a basketball player has really got a great fit.

“Stadium, hoops and Boodnikoff seemed a great fit.

I纬the 1940s.

Gilbert who won the 1989 Magarey Medal in Adelaide, they are sons of Alice Spring’s sport legends. Boodnikoff was hampered by numerous injuries throughout his career and they finally caught up with him. He retired at the end of the 2009/2010 NBL season, playing 253 games and averaging 9.5 points, 3.6 rebounds and 1.2 assists a game.

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