Police seize MDMA

T H R E Y O U N G M E N have been arrested after allegedly being caught in possession of MDMA.

Police said that a vehicle with two men aged 18 and one aged 25 was pulled over early on Friday morning.

During the search of their vehicle that followed, police officers located twice the commercial threshold – 5g – of MDMA. The drugs were estimated to have a street value of $250.

MDMA is the main ingredient of the street drug ecstasy.

In 2009, Alice Springs Police found 1046 ecstasy tablets worth $52,500 and 1.67kg of cannabis worth about $41,775 at an Araluen home.

Cup ball to entertain

D O N T F O R G E T the Lasseters Cup Ball at the Alice Springs Convention Centre this Saturday night.

Former Home and Away actor Tim Campbell will keep you entertained with his band's renditions of Johnny O'Keefe classics.

Comic, magician and illusionist Raymond will also make an appearance as well as circus performers and cabaret dancers.

There will also be an auction and raffle.

Prizes include Gold Class Ghan tickets with a three-course dinner and premium wines and beer. Tickets are $175.

For more information, call 8950 2020 or email info@aspcc.com.au.

Plaza in Hilton hands

D O U B L E T R E E by Hilton will take over Alice Springs' Crowne Plaza from tomorrow.

Hilton Worldwide's vice-president of operations in Australasia, Ashley Spencer, said that the company was "delighted" to introduce the DoubleTree brand to the region.

"We have been looking to enter in to the Northern Territory for some time and are committed to making these properties the leading full-service hotels in the market," he said.

The Crowne Plaza is one of four hotels to be rebranded in the Northern Territory, including DoubleTree by Hilton Darwin and DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs.

Lockie Lake

R E C E N T L Y recruited NT Thunder player Lockie Lake, 21, has been playing football since he was 14 and was shocked when he was offered a contract with NT Thunder. "I wasn't expecting to get a given contract but I obviously played an all right game," he said.

"At Barkly Work Camp we get, for example, seven days on, seven off, so I'll be able to work the hard yards and get a full week off to train or go away for the week."

Darren Whitaker


Before entering the army, Darren, 47, gained a degree in criminal justice. He found himself working in the military police and corrections. "I got a lot of background in prison correction," he said. "I worked in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba in 2003."

When asked if he saw a lot, he simply said "uh-huh."

Maliha Nakaora

D A U G H T E R of an Alice Springs Correctional Centre Prison Guard. Originally from Fiji, Maliha, 23, has been living in Alice Springs for the past six years. She says she decided to become a prison officer like her father, because he is her role model.

"I see the career path he has gone down, the positives he has come out with, the flexibility of the job, and it's a secure job," she said. She called it a bonus getting to work with her father.

The latest group of Territory prison guards graduated in Alice Springs on Friday

Picture: CHLOE GERAGHTY

Corey Sinclair

A N NT Thunder player, a former US soldier and the daughter of a prison guard are among the latest 22 prison guard graduates.

Head trainer Frank Tunney said it was a very good, well-balanced group who graduated.

"It was a real mixture of ages and we have five women among the 22," Mr Tunney said.

"They've been a really good group, easy to work with and very harmonious. They all got on and supported each other well."

Twenty graduates will work at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre, and two – including new NT Thunder player Lockie Lake – will travel to Tennant Creek to work at the Barkly Work Camp.

Mr Lake was working in sport and recreation in Tennant Creek when the chief of the Barkly Work Camp told him about working as a prison guard.

"I was looking for a stable career, I was working in sport and rec going out to the communities," he said.

"Danny Mazer, who was my coach at the time, spoke to me about it and said there were a lot of career opportunities to go through here, not just working in the prison and sitting in the same place all the time."

"So I thought I'd have a crack and go for it."

Maliha Nakaora is following in her father's footsteps but originally she wanted to join the army. "I didn't quite make it there cause I've got a lot of family in Alice Springs now, too much to leave home," she said.

Former soldier Darren Whitaker came to Alice Springs because his wife works at Pine Gap, and he decided to apply to Alice Springs Correctional Centre. He said he would have something special to offer once he started.

"I'll have to find my way first. Once they'll get to see my face, they'll know what I'm about, standards and stuff like that," he said. "I think I'll be great."

Correctional Services Minister John Elferink attended the graduation.

He said prison officers in Alice Springs faced a demanding and challenging job but they had the capability to make a difference to offenders within the criminal justice system.

"The graduating officers are at the front line of engaging with offenders and have the ability to change an offender's behaviour to become productive members of the community," he said.

"Graduates from today's ceremony will now complete a final nine-month job placement at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre."

"If the graduates successfully complete the next phase of training, they will be awarded a Certificate III in Correctional Practice Custodial and he offered permanent positions as prison officers in the Northern Territory."

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