Alice Springs Cadets show their feelings at being awarded
2014 Cadet Division of the Year

Congratulations and Well Done!
Alice Springs Juniors with the local NTFRS fireies

And now for the official photo of the Alice Springs Cadet Division with their award ...

... joined by Commissioner Steve Peers and Deputy Territory Superintendent Paul Berry
For our last meeting of 2014, on 10 December, Casuarina Adult Division went on a field trip in our ambulance and the Vollie Bus. Members practiced taking obs inside a mobile vehicle and also experienced what it is like to lie on a stretcher with the vehicle in motion. This is good practice for real life scenarios and members agreed it is a very different experience from taking obs in a comfortable classroom environment.

It wasn't all work however as we made our way to the Fannie Bay Cool Spot Cafe where we chatted and ate delicious cakes and ice cream. From there we proceeded to Berrimah to the Peter McAulay Centre for an impromptu tour of Communications, courtesy of the lovely Sherryn who gave us a guided tour. This really was a highlight for members who had never been there before.

We are all looking forward to 2015 and seeing our new Division grow in numbers and strength. We would like to take this opportunity to thank St John management, volunteers and staff for their support to our Division and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

How they really felt at the Fire Station
At the Church Service - photos by Anah Holland

At Palmerston - photos by Gwyn Ball

Robyn Tait & Benny Butler

Al & Rosie Ballinger
Patient Transport Officer
Alice Springs and Darwin

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 currently seeking a Patient Transport Officer based at Alice Springs and Darwin.

Becoming a Patient Transport Officer will provide a rewarding and fulfilling career that allows you to deliver a valuable service to many people within the local community.

This role requires compassion and a sense of community spirit while responding to non-urgent trauma calls and patient care, including transport to and from healthcare facilities, clinics and private residences.

General Requirements

To succeed in the role of Patient Transport Officer, you must have a strong desire to help others in need, possess excellent customer service and interpersonal skills, and have the ability to remain calm in varied and challenging situations. You must be willing to work a 4 days on 4 days off roster.

To be successful in applying for the position of Patient Transport applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- Successful completion of Provide Advance First Aid Certificate
- Have a manual drivers licence
- Ability to travel throughout the Northern Territory when needed
- Ability to complete communications training
- Good communication skills
- Ability to pass a fitness test (FCE)
- Hold a Working with children’s card
- Obtain Criminal History check
- Complete a psychometric test
- Ability to continue supporting the volunteers by attending regular public events and training nights
- Include two referees

Employment conditions include:

- 9 weeks annual leave
- 15 days personal/carer’s leave per annum – accumulative
- Salary packaging benefits up to $9,050 per annum plus meal entertainment card benefits up to $10,000 per annum
- Remote area housing benefits for Alice Springs
- 9.25% Superannuation and unique Retention Incentives
- Other benefits such as discounted gym membership, vehicle servicing, DEFCOM cards & driver licence allowance

To obtain a position description please email jobs@stjohnnt.asn.au or call 08 8922 6238.

Applications close Wednesday 24 December at 4.30pm.
St John Fellowship in The Northern Territory

Pro Utilitate no. 2014-4 November–December 2014

LESLEY KING DStJ is hard at work establishing a ‘Fellowship’ of the Order of St John in the Northern Territory.

Such Fellowships are a feature of St John life elsewhere, but until now not in the Northern Territory. In England there’s a very well established and highly successful Fellowship which is almost as venerable as the Order itself.

In times past various Australian States have also had their own St John Fellowships, one of which, the St John Fellowship of Western Australia, is still active. (It’s also a corporate member of the Historical Society.)

The purpose of such Fellowships is, broadly, to assist and support present and retired St John members who are ill, disabled or otherwise experiencing crises in their lives.

The social welfare orientation of the NT Fellowship is evident in its ‘Mission Statement’, which also suggests something of the diversity of its undertakings. The Mission Statement reads thus:

- to induce a culture of respect, appreciation and companionship toward fellow St. John members both active and retired
- to provide assistance where family or other agencies are unable to do so if we become aware of a concern affecting the well-being of a colleague
- to encourage participation in St. John events, record the service memories of members, and maintain contact where possible
- to support members and their families in times of bereavement and extended illness.

Congratulations, Lesley, on your initiative. We your fellow Historical Society members think a NT St John Fellowship is a great forward step. We also think that ‘every State should have one’!

Further information about the Fellowship may be obtained from Lesley direct. Her email address is: lesleyking37@hotmail.com.

Paraprosdokians

David Heard has been very busy surfing the Internet in recent months. Among much else, he has discovered ‘paraprosdokians’. And what, we hear you ask, are ‘paraprosdokians’?

It seems that they’re figures of speech in which the last part of a phrase or sentence is surprising or unexpected in relation to the first part of the phrase/sentence.

By way of explanation, David proffers the following 20 examples:

1. Where there’s a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it’s still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we’d both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right — only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is productive research.
9. I didn’t say it was your fault. I said I was blaming you.

11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

13. I used to be indecisive. Now I’m not so sure.

14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

15. Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

16. You’re never too old to learn something stupid.

17. I’m supposed to respect my elders, but it’s getting harder for me to find them now.

18. I’m not old - I just need some ‘WD40’ to get moving.

19. You haven’t had enough coffee until you can thread a sewing machine while it’s running.

20. Enjoy Life - It has an Expiry Date!

**Bits & Pieces**

*Vollie News* will run a Cyclone Tracy 40th anniversary special edition next week and we need your stories.

- Stories from people who were vollies during the blow are especially wanted, but you don’t need to have been a member of St John at the time to contribute.
- You may have been in Darwin during the cyclone, or have helped the evacuees down the Track or interstate.
- You may even have a friend or family member’s story to tell.

Please send contributions for this feature to:

vollienews@yahoo.com.au

**Deadline for contributions is 4.00 pm Wednesday 17th December**

Gotcha …


A new doco on Cyclone Tracy, "Blown Away", will be broadcast on ABC1-TV at 8:30pm, Tues 23rd Dec.

NT News Cyclone Tracy feature:


Original newsreel of the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy

www.youtube.com/watch?v=B89wBGydSvs

A story of looting:


Cyclone Tracy then and now images:


When the neighbours drop in …

https://www.youtube.com/v/1eXS0o6r-Wk%26rel=0%26hl=en_US%26feature=player_embedded%26version=3
For sale - only $30

Contact the Volunteer Office
volunteeroffice@stjohnnt.asn.au
or visit
https://sites.google.com/site/awkwardhours
awkwardjobs/

The proceeds for the sale of all these items go towards funding our volunteers

Both books are limited editions and won’t be reprinted – when they’re gone, that’s it!

These are affordable gifts for that special person in your life, for the relles, your friends – and for yourself

For sale - only $10

Contact the Volunteer Office
This is the book that inspired Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs
Has a lot of Personal Contributions and photos
Case Report
Unique Case of Aerial Sleigh-Borne Present-Deliverer’s Syndrome
Source: North Pole Journal of Medicine, vol 1 no.1, December 1997
Author: Dr. Iman Elf, M.D.

On January 2, 1997, Mr. C, an obese, white Caucasian male, who appeared approximately 65 years old, but who could not accurately state his age, presented to my family practice office with complaints of generalized aches and pains, sore red eyes, depression, and general malaise. The patient’s face was erythematous, and he was in mild respiratory distress, although his demeanor was jolly. He attributed these symptoms to being “not as young as I used to be, HO! HO! HO!” but thought he should have them checked out. The patient’s occupation is delivering presents once a year, on December 25th, to many people worldwide. He flies in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer, and gains access to homes via chimneys. He has performed this work for as long as he can remember. Upon examination and ascertaining Mr. C’s medical history, I have discovered what I believe to be a unique and heretofore undescribed medical syndrome related to this man’s occupation and lifestyle, named Aerial Sleigh-Borne Present-Deliverer’s Syndrome, or ASBPDS for short.

Medical History: Mr. C. admits to drinking only once a year, and only when someone puts rum in the eggnog left for him to consume during his working hours. However, I believe his bulbous nose and erythematous face may indicate long-term ethanol abuse. He has smoked pipe tobacco for many years, although workplace regulations at the North Pole have forced him to cut back to one or two pipes per day for the last 5 years. He has had no major illnesses or surgeries in the past. He has no known allergies. Travel history is extensive, as he visits nearly every location in the world annually. He has had all his immunizations, including all available vaccines for tropical diseases. He does little exercise and eats large meals with high sugar and cholesterol levels, and a high percentage of calories derived from fat (he subsists all year on food he collects on Dec. 25, which consists mainly of eggnog, cola drinks, and cookies).

Family history was unavailable, as the patient could not name any relatives.

Physical Examination and Review of Systems, With Social/Occupational Correlates: The patient wears corrective lenses, and has 20/80 vision. His conjunctiva were hyperalgesic and erythematous, and Fluorescein staining revealed numerous randomly occurring corneal abrasions. This appears to be caused by dust, debris, and other particles which strike his eyes at high velocity during his flights. He has headaches nearly every day, usually starting halfway through the day, and worsened by stress. He had extensive ecchymoses, abrasions, lacerations, and first-degree burns on his head, arms, legs, and back, which I believe to be caused mainly by trauma experienced during repeated chimney descents and falls from his sleigh. Collisions with birds during his flight, gunshot wounds (while flying over the Los Angeles area) and bites consistent with reindeer teeth may also have contributed to these wounds. Patches of leukoderma and anaesthesia on his nose, cheeks, penis, and distal digits are consistent with frostbite caused by periods of hypothermia during high-altitude flights. He had a blood pressure of 150/95, a heart rate of 90 beats/minute, and a respiratory rate of 40. He has had shortness of breath for several years, which worsens during exertion. He has no evidence of acute cardiac or pulmonary failure, but it was my opinion that he is quite unfit due to his mainly sedentary lifestyle and poor eating habits which, along with his stress, smoking, and male gender, place him at high risk for coronary heart disease, myocardial infarction, emphysema and other problems. Blood tests subsequently revealed higher-than-normal CO
levels, which I attribute to smoke inhalation during chimney descent into non-extinguished fireplaces. He has experienced chronic back pain for several years. A neurological examination was consistent with a mild herniation of his L4-L5 or L5-S1 disk, which probably resulted from carrying a heavy sack of toys, enduring bumpy sleigh rides, and his jarring feet-first falls to the bottom of chimneys. Mr. C. had a swollen left scrotum, which, upon biopsy, was diagnosed as scrotal cancer, the likely aetiology being the soot from chimneys.

**Psychiatric Examination and Social/Occupational Correlates:** Mr. C’s depression has been chronic for several years. I do not believe it to be organic in nature – rather, he has a number of unresolved issues in his personal and professional life which cause him distress. He exhibits long-term amnesia, and cannot recall any events more than 5 years ago. This may be due to a repressed psychological trauma he experienced, head trauma, or, more likely, the mythical nature of his existence. Although the patient has a jolly demeanour, he expresses profound unhappiness. He reports anger at not receiving royalties for the widespread commercial use of his likeness and name. The patient feels annoyed and worried when he is told many people do not believe he exists, and I feel this may develop into a serious identity crisis if not dealt with. He reports great stress over having to choose which gifts to give to children, and a feeling of guilt and inadequacy over the decisions he makes as to which children are "naughty" and "nice". Because he experiences total darkness lasting many months during winter at the North Pole, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) may be a contributor to his depression.

**Treatment and Counselling:** All Mr. C’s wounds were cleaned and dressed, and he was prescribed an antibiotic ointment for his eyes. A referral to a physiotherapist was made to ameliorate his disc problem. On February 9, a bilateral orchiectomy was performed, and no further cancer has been detected as of this writing. He was counselled to wash soot from his body regularly, to avoid lit-fire chimney descents where practicable, and to consider switching to a closed, heated, pressurized sleigh. He refused suggestions to add a helmet and protective accessories to his uniform. He was put on a high-fibre, low cholesterol diet, and advised to reduce his smoking and drinking. He has shown success with these lifestyle changes so far, although it remains to be seen whether he will be able to resist the treats left out for him next Christmas. He visits a psychiatrist weekly, and reports doing "Not too bad, HO! HO! HO!"

**Conclusions:** Physicians, when presented with aerial sleigh-borne present-deliverers exhibiting more than a few of these symptoms, should seriously consider ASBPDS as their differential diagnosis. I encourage other physicians with access to patients working in allied professions (e.g. Nightly Teeth-Purchasers or Annual Candied Egg Providers) to investigate whether analogous anatomical/physiological/psychological syndromes exist. The happiness of children everywhere depend on effective management of these syndromes.

http://www.humormatters.com/holidays/Christmas/santasmed.htm
ACCIDENT ON RAILWAY

HARRY MATTHEWS' LEG BROKEN

On Saturday last a motor section party set out from Darwin for Pine Creek, in response to an urgent call for a doctor and nurse for Mrs. Round, wife of the Pine Creek schoolmaster. The party, which left Darwin at about 2.30 p.m., comprised Matron Stone, Dr. C. C. Fenton, Mr. H. Matthews and Mr. A. Con, the two latter being employees of the Railway Department. After "crossing" the train at Adelaide River the section quad made good time to Burrundie, where it left the rails and travelled in a half-circle for about 50 feet. When it came to a stop Dr. Fenton and Mr. Con were still on the machine and Mr. Matthews and Matron Stone on the ground. On examination it was found that Mr. Matthews had sustained a compound fracture of the left leg and Matron Stone was suffering from slight concussion and shock. The Doctor and the driver of the machine got off with a shaking and minor injuries.

Dr. Fenton immediately got to work and set Mr. Matthews' leg as well as he could, and made the patient as comfortable as possible. Matron Stone was also given attention and, not feeling well enough to continue the journey, decided to remain at Burrundie as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hardy. After doing all possible for the patient, Dr. Fenton left Burrundie for Pine Creek, on the motor quad used by the Burrundie gang, and reached the latter place at about 12.40 a.m. when he learned that need for a doctor had passed as Mrs. Round was then over her trouble, having been attended by Mrs. Turner, of Pine Creek, who is a trained nurse.

The cause of the accident is attributed to a piece of stick about twelve feet long lying alongside the rails, which it is thought was tipped up by the front wheels of the section car and thrown under the rear wheels, causing the machine to leave the rails. The quad suffered a good deal of damage, both axles being bent and other damage occasioned.

Mr. Matthews was brought to Darwin on the passenger train and after being x-rayed the damaged limb was plated and set by Drs Kirkland and Fenton. Matron Stone is still resting at Burrundie.
FIRST-AIDERS IN TIME FOR BREAK

Nineteen recruits sat for examinations in first aid yesterday but the names of successful candidates will not be released until marks have been confirmed in Adelaide. The examinations followed two weekends of lectures and practical first aid by St John Ambulance Brigade officers.

Divisional officer of training and recruiting, Mr Ray Edwards, said the pass mark would be very high. This was especially satisfying to him because the course was usually spread over 14 weeks.

The recruiting drive had boosted membership and the brigade would “see through Christmas and the New Year.” However, recruiting would start again early next year to keep up brigade strength.

“Those who have gained provisional passes will be issued with uniforms tomorrow night and attend Wednesday night’s parade.” Mr Edwards said.

“They will also be rostered immediately for ambulance duty.”

Wednesday night’s parade will be the last for the year. The first parade for 1970 will be on Wednesday January 14.

Centralian Advocate, 13 December 1985
St John (Qld) is delighted to play host to the 2015 Convention.

The 2015 Convention will be the premier opportunity for St John members to celebrate YOUR service, share YOUR experience and expertise, as well as develop YOUR knowledge and skills.

Whether YOU are performing first aid at an Event Health Service, lending social support to the isolated and vulnerable, nurturing our history and heritage or a staff member with St John, YOU are making a significant difference to the lives of others.

The theme ‘the difference is YOU’ will focus on how YOU make a difference to the organisation and the wider community. This year’s conference will inspire pride in yourself, in the charity YOU work for, and in the humanitarian outcomes delivered to those in need.
Web sites/pages of interest

St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc.
http://www.stjohnnt.org.au/

National Members’ website
http://members.stjohn.org.au/
user name: onestjohn
password: member

The Order of St John
http://www.orderofstjohn.org/

St John Ambulance Australia
Cadets
http://cadets.stjohn.org.au/

SJAA-NT History Group
https://www.facebook.com/groups/151724685024440/

St John Ambulance Australia
https://www.facebook.com/stjohnambulanceaus

SJA Australia (unofficial)
https://www.facebook.com/groups/sjaaus/

St John Vollies
Add “Jonny St John” as a friend to join this NT group

Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs
A History of St John Ambulance in the NT
1915 - 2013
by Frank Dunstan
https://sites.google.com/site/awkwardhoursawkwardjobs/
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Awkward-Hours-Awkward-Jobs/616409081725827
Information on the book, where to buy, and download an order form.
Copies for sale in Volunteer Office and with the author.

Back issues of Vollie News
http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/handle/10070/179615

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