Adina and I (Peter Poole) recently travelled from Perth to Sydney on the Indian Pacific train. The trip was eventful in that an elderly gentleman with a history of diabetes took a turn for the worse on the second day and had to be evacuated by the RFDS to Adelaide.

In the twenty four hours leading up to the incident the man and his partner appeared to be deteriorating in condition. The train crew were paying much attention to them and assisting them to move around the train. A bit later you could tell something was happening as a few of the crew were walking very purposely backwards and forwards through the train and conversing in hushed tones. At lunch I said to the young lady serving us “If the old man has a medical problem I might be able to help” She advised, “Yes he has a problem but we have a doctor looking after him. Thank you!”

We stopped at Cook on the Nullarbor Plain early in the afternoon to refuel the locomotive and top up the water tanks.

The train manager announced over the P/A system that one of the passengers was ill and they had called the flying doctor, a delay of an hour or two was anticipated. The RFDS arrived after four hours and amazingly taxied from the runway down a main road with taxiway markings, passed the apron, then along the gravel roads to park near the train. The patient was stretchered direct from the train to the plane. The plane, a single engine turbo prop Pilatus (?), had BHP Billiton sponsor markings on it. Thank God for sponsors with lots of money to give.

The doctor was a retired Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, another passenger was a retired NSW ambulance employee, his offer of services was declined as well. (Speaking of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists the star of *Midwives*, Miranda Hart was on the train from Adelaide to Sydney; maybe she helped!)

The train left Cook three hours late, Adelaide four plus hours late and arrived in Sydney nine hours late. Once you lose your place in the train movement schedule you are history. Apart from that we had a most enjoyable trip.
Ochre Card Renewal

St John NT requires all volunteers to maintain a valid Working With Children Clearance (Ochre Card), as per the organisation’s Working With Children Check Policy.

Ochre Cards were first issued in late 2010, they have 2 years validity and the first cards are now due to be renewed.

Ochre Card holders will receive a reminder letter 2 months from date of expiry. This letter contains a renewal reference code unique to each cardholder.

Online renewals can be processed at https://forms.pfes.nt.gov.au/safent/. You will need your renewal reference code in order to process your renewal online.

If you don’t wish to do it online you can go down to the following locations and renewal your card in person.

SAFE NT Darwin
Ground Floor
77 Smith Street, Darwin
Toll Free: 1800 723 368

Territory Business Centre, Katherine
Shop 1, Randazzo Building
18 Katherine Terrace, Katherine
Phone: +61 8 8973 8180
Fax: +61 8 8973 8188

Territory Business Centre Alice Springs
Peter Sitzler Building
67 North Stuart Highway, Alice Springs
Phone: +61 8 8951 8511
Fax: +61 8 8951 8533

Territory Business Centre, Tennant Creek
Shop 2, Barkly House
Cnr Davidson and Paterson Streets, Tennant Creek
Phone: +61 8 8962 4411
Fax: +61 8 8962 4413

*** If your address details have changed and you have not notified SAFE NT, you will not receive a renewal notice and will have to renew your Ochre Card in person.

To update your details with SAFE NT, please follow this link:

The volunteer office records all volunteer Ochre Card expiry dates and will be working with Superintendent to ensure all volunteer Ochre Cards are valid. Please provide a copy of your new Ochre Card to your Superintendent so your records can be updated.

Further information is available online at http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au/

Fuel Card Pin Reminder

There are two different pins for the fuel cards

• If the registration of the vehicle has ANY letters in it, the pin will be 1234 (e.g., CA-36-OM pin would be: 1234)

• If the Registration is all NUMBERS then the pin will be the last four digits (e.g., 955-648 pin would be: 5648)

Memories of an old ambo – Alan Caust OSTJ JP

It was 1979 and Casuarina HQ was well and truly opened. I was running late as usual being now 21 and Rod Bramley blew my sox off as I ran over a sprinkler at the rear of our new HQ. I was late for the 1000hrs shift by ...well, to my reckoning - about 12 minutes! HQ back then is not the building we now have - if so - I would have parked in a jolly training hall!

"Where's your cap?" he shouted. Um, dumb-dumb hadn't worn it for weeks - it had sat in the rear of my Ford XP Falcon - and basically melted. "Do you know how much they cost?" Um - nope. "$17 each!" In an emergency we often used our caps to collect vomit in a hurry. I lost so many at accident scenes - leaving mine on top of cars, tossing them aside in a hurry - they were really a nuisance. Sure, they looked nice on parade and special occasions but totally impractical in a work environment. I envy our professional crews who wear base-ball caps these days!

Our Comm's officer shouted out from the sliding glass window where it was located right near the stairs to the volunteer sleep-on room. "Hey guys - we have an emergency call!". Rod disappeared into his office which was located at the front of the building. Malcolm Babb and I hit the Ambulance. I remember we were in a Holden one-tonner - probably car 10 or her sister vehicle car 11. The radio crackled. It was a drug overdose of some sort and the location was sketchy. Darwin was still recovering from the Cyclone and we got lost. - Darwin was still full of smashed down buildings - and we were to find a school! We found it. It was abandoned. It was like a war zone. We scrambled over rubble and debris. We found two patients that had overdosed with heroin - something I was to find common and we started resus and needed a driver. That was when the fun started! HQ at Casuarina dispatched a secretary in a clinic vehicle to back us up. She was in a station wagon vehicle and we heard the sirens approaching - she got lost too! She was shaking like a leaf on her arrival.

We crunched through debris - we were out of our depth. We found two unconscious heroin overdoses - something I was to come familiar in Darwin at that time. She was dead and gone - but the guy although unconscious - was still breathing. No portables in those days - I had to scramble through rubble to reach the ambulance and even being a young guy - called for backup asap. These were our early experiences as professionals. There are many people way ahead of my own time.

Norma Bell National Youth Leader Award

It is with great pleasure that the Australian Youth Council launch the St John Norma Bell National Youth Leader Award. This is an award to recognise the contributions of young members of St John Ambulance Australia. The award intends to reward young members for their activities as leaders, promote their contributions on a national stage, and provide further professional development pathways.

There are two prize winners for this award which include a trip to the St John Member Convention in Darwin as well as the opportunity to spend time with the Chancellor and a cash prize! For more information on this award go to the following website:

http://you351.wix.com/thenormabell
See flyer on page 10

Community Education Officers Kelly and Kathy were very excited to be accepting their first ever monetary donation last Friday morning. Kelly and Kathy were part of Gray Primary School’s elective program last year. They conducted first aid sessions for fourteen 8 to 12 year old students throughout Term 4. Students were taught the DRSABCD Action Plan, how to manage a bleed, the different slings that can be used for suspected fractures, and they took part in a project where they learned all about the body’s systems and created a life size cut-out complete with pasted on organs and then a discussion on each of their functions.

The School’s representative at the assembly gave a wonderful introduction and explanation of St John Ambulance. She did a fantastic job explaining the organization and what the volunteers bring to the community. Thank you Gray Primary School! It is this type of support that allows St John NT to continue to provide services like the Community Education program.

Kathy Allen
# Coming events for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 3</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
<td>Your local area</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cleanup.org.au/">www.cleanup.org.au/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 17 (TBC)</td>
<td>Tiwi Football Grand Final</td>
<td>Bathurst Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 31</td>
<td>Daly Waters Rodeo</td>
<td>Daly Waters</td>
<td><a href="http://www.prorodeo.asn.au/calendar.htm">www.prorodeo.asn.au/calendar.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 3</td>
<td>Charity Golf Fundraiser</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6</td>
<td>Alice Springs Cup</td>
<td>Alice Springs Turf Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.alicespringsturfclub.org.au/">www.alicespringsturfclub.org.au/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 11</td>
<td>Mother of Pearl Darwin Rodeo</td>
<td>Robbie Robbins Reserve</td>
<td><a href="http://www.prorodeo.asn.au/calendar.htm">www.prorodeo.asn.au/calendar.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 25 – Sat 26</td>
<td>Pro Bull Riders Touring Pro Series</td>
<td>Robbie Robbins Reserve</td>
<td><a href="http://www.enjoy-darwin.com/pbr-australia-">www.enjoy-darwin.com/pbr-australia-</a></td>
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<td>darwin-touring-pro-series.html</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31</td>
<td>Awkward Hours, Awkward Jobs – Book Launch</td>
<td>Government House Darwin</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stjohnnt.org.au/">www.stjohnnt.org.au/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31 – Sun 2 June</td>
<td>National Member Convention</td>
<td>Holiday Inn and other venues, Darwin</td>
<td><a href="http://wired.ivvy.com/event/STJOHN/">http://wired.ivvy.com/event/STJOHN/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31 – Sun 2 June</td>
<td>Merrepen Arts Festival</td>
<td>Daly River</td>
<td><a href="http://www.merrepenfestival.com.au/">www.merrepenfestival.com.au/</a></td>
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<td><strong>June</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 8 – Sun 9</td>
<td>Adelaide River Show</td>
<td>Adelaide River</td>
<td><a href="http://www.enjoy-darwin.com/adelaide-river-show.html">www.enjoy-darwin.com/adelaide-river-show.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 8 – Sun 9</td>
<td>Greek Glenti</td>
<td>The Esplanade, Darwin</td>
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<td>Thu 20 – Sun 23</td>
<td>Brunette Downs Races</td>
<td>Brunette Downs Station</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>Monday 1</td>
<td>Territory Day</td>
<td>Your local area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 7</td>
<td>Beercan Regatta</td>
<td>Mindil Beach, Darwin</td>
<td><a href="http://www.beercanregatta.org.au/">www.beercanregatta.org.au/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 6 – Sun 7</td>
<td>2013 Australian Karting Championship</td>
<td>Hidden Valley, Berrimah</td>
<td><a href="http://www.karting.net.au/the-aka-calendar/northern-territory">www.karting.net.au/the-aka-calendar/northern-territory</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12</td>
<td>Tennant &amp; District Show</td>
<td>Tennant Creek</td>
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<td>Fri 19 – Sat 20</td>
<td>Katherine Show</td>
<td>Katherine</td>
<td><a href="http://katherineshow.org.au/">http://katherineshow.org.au/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 5</td>
<td>Darwin Cup</td>
<td>Fannie Bay Racecourse</td>
<td><a href="http://www.darwinturfclub.org.au/">www.darwinturfclub.org.au/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 17</td>
<td>Henley on Todd Regatta</td>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td><a href="http://www.henleyontodd.com.au/">www.henleyontodd.com.au/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 1</td>
<td>Carols by Candlelight</td>
<td>Darwin Amphitheatre</td>
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St John NT will be hosting the National Member Convention in Darwin in May 2013.
We would like to invite you to view the web site dedicated to the Convention at the link below and hope that as many staff and volunteers as possible are able to attend.
http://wired.ivvy.com/event/STJOHN/
March

2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>World</td>
<td>Glaucoma Week</td>
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| 21 | International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | 23 | World Meteorological Day |

- Epilepsy Purple Day: [www.epilepsyaustralia.net/Purple_Day/Purple_Day.aspx](http://www.epilepsyaustralia.net/Purple_Day/Purple_Day.aspx)
- World Glaucoma Week: [www.glaucoma.org.au/](http://www.glaucoma.org.au/)
- World Meteorological Day: [www.wmo.int/worldmetday/](http://www.wmo.int/worldmetday/)
- World TB Day: [www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/](http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/)

**Division Anniversaries**

- **Alice Springs Cadet Division**: Registration signed in the NT on 29 March 1978 – Sanctioned on 26 July 1978
- **Humpty Doo Cadet Division**: Formed on 2 March 1998; Registration signed in NT on 14 March 1998 – Sanctioned on 10 May 1998
- **Nhulunbuy Adult Division**: Formed on 4 March 1981; Registration sanctioned on 8 November 1981
Training

Apply Advanced First Aid Challenge
When: 14th, 21st and 28th March, 2013
Where: Palmerston Centre
Time: Thursday 1830 - 2130
Pre-requisites – A challenge for this will also be held on the 14th. Current Apply First Aid or Senior First Aid certificate.
This is for those that have a current AAFA expiring this year.
Don’t forget to take along your Reaccreditation 2013 workbook.
All Nominations must go through your Superintendent.
ALL ENQUIRIES TO:
Volunteer Office Ph 89226234
volunteer@stjohnnt.asn.au

Apply First Aid Challenge
When: 14th March, 2013
Where: Palmerston Centre
Time: Thursday 1730 -1830 and 2130 -2230
Pre-requisites – An expiring Apply First Aid or Senior First Aid certificate.
This is for those that also have a current AAFA expiring this year.
Don’t forget to take along your Reaccreditation 2013 workbook.
All Nominations must go through your Superintendent.
ALL ENQUIRIES TO:
Volunteer Office Ph 89226234
volunteer@stjohnnt.asn.au

Assessor Workshop – Alice Springs
When: Sunday 3rd March, 2013
Where: Alice Springs Training Centre
Time: 0930 to 1700
All Operations Branch Assessors in the Tennant Creek and Alice Springs region are required to attend
Morning, Afternoon teas and Lunch provided
RSVP Due by Monday 25th February, 2013
Topics covered: ARC Changes, Assessors List (Requirements of an assessor), First Aider, First Responder Accreditation (Booklet handouts for FA and FR) & FR Reaccreditation Programs
Questions etc, working through the 2013 FRR booklet
For further information contact...
8922 6205 or email volunteer@stjohnnt.asn.au

Apply Advanced First Aid Challenge
When: Saturday 23rd March, 2013
Where: Parap Centre
Time: Saturday 0800 - 1700
Pre-requisites – Current Apply First Aid or Senior First Aid certificate.
This is for those that have a current AAFA expiring this year. Don’t forget to take along your Reaccreditation 2013 workbook.
Morning and afternoon teas on Sat
All Nominations must go through your Superintendent.
ALL ENQUIRIES TO:
Volunteer Office Ph 89226234
volunteer@stjohnnt.asn.au
Most of you will be aware by now that St John Ambulance NT, will be hosting the National Member Convention here in Darwin in 2013, at the Holiday Inn, Esplanade 31 May to 2 June.

We urge anyone wishing to attend to register as early as possible to avoid disappointment, May is the peak tourist season in the Top End and flights and accommodation are at a premium.

Registrations
For those who have not yet registered, please visit our Convention website at the above link, or via the QR reader and you can either complete your registration online, or print off a hard copy and send it back to us.

Transport
We will be offering a transport service for the duration of the Member Convention. We will endeavor to meet you on arrival into Darwin International Airport and assist you with your travel needs for the duration of the Member Convention.

Convention Co-ordinator
We have engaged a Convention Co-ordinator, Vicky Spence. Vicky will be managing all registrations and accommodation bookings. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your booking, please contact her on Vicky@vseventmanagement.com.au or via our convention email, darwinconference@stjohnnt.asn.au

Events at the Member Convention
In addition to the meetings and exciting speakers which we have planned, there are a number of social events which will be held, some of which will be outdoors. Please note the dress code for each event, which is highlighted in the Frequently Asked Questions, which can be found on the website.

Partner Program
For those not involved in meetings, we will be hosting a partner program on both Thursday 30th and Friday 31st May. Partners and members are welcome to participate in a trip to the Territory Wildlife Park and also a Darwin city tour, taking in the key tourist attractions and concluding with lunch at the Museum. Please refer to the Partner Program information on the web site for full details.

Gala Dinner
The Dinner on Saturday night will be held at the spectacular Crocodylus Park, where guests will dine surrounded by the sounds of nature. The theme for the evening is ‘Animal Magic’ and we encourage all guests to get into the spirit of the evening and wear something which is animal themed, such as a mask, scarf, or piece of animal print clothing. Prizes will be awarded on the night for the snappiest dresser! This will be an outdoor event.

Church Service
Will be held on Sunday morning from 9am to 10am at Christ Church Cathedral located in Smith Street, a 10 minute walk from the Convention Venue. The service will be followed by a morning tea held at the Supreme Court, a venue not normally open to the public.

Merchandise
We have a range of merchandise available for purchase as a memento of the Convention. Information on what is available along with an order form will be available on the web site in coming weeks. All goods can be purchased from the Registration desk.
We are excited to announce as part of the
St John National Member Convention the.....

ANIMAL MAGIC GALA DINNER

taking place at
Crocodylus Wildlife Park, Darwin
on Saturday 1st June 2013
7pm til 12pm

Experience this unique outdoor setting dining under the stars, feasting on sumptuous gourmet fare,
while listening to the magical sounds of lions roaring and monkeys chatting.
This will be a night to remember.

Animal themed
Live Band performing
Option for short lagoon tour to view the crocodiles by spotlight
Opportunity to handle a snake and baby crocodile
Win a stunning piece of Paspaley Pearls jewellery as part of the Lucky door prize

$150 per person

DRESS CODE
Formal with Animal themed adornment (e.g. mask, headwear, scarf, tie). Let your imagination go wild. Prizes to be awarded to the snappiest dresser.

DINNER
3 course dinner package including premium beers, house red and white wines, champagne, soft drinks and orange juice.

TRANSPORT
Transport will be provided from your accommodation to the dinner. Buses will return you to your accommodation at the end of the evening.

Reserve your ticket now!
Go to http://wired.ivvy.com/event/stjohn and complete the online registration form.
Partner Program

We invite you to bring your family and friends to experience and share with you all that the Top End has to offer. Our Partner Program has been tailored to let your partner enjoy the company of others as we visit unique Territory attractions. Get the most out of your trip to the Territory by letting us organise your partner’s day!

MAY 30  Territory Wildlife Park Visit  www.territorywildlifepark.com.au

Get up close with native wildlife in their natural habitat as you walk through tree-top aviaries, stroll around a natural lagoon and see amazing aquatic life in the walk-through aquarium. Put on your walking shoes to make your way around the comprehensive walking tracks or jump aboard the shuttle train which runs continuously during the day.

Pick up: From your accommodation at approx 9:00am. Return at approx. 3pm.

Price: $55.00 (includes park entrance fee, morning tea, lunch and transport)

MAY 31  City Tour and Museum Visit

Sit back and enjoy the ride as we take you on a sightseeing tour taking in Darwin’s historical sites and other major attractions, including an exclusive tour of the Paspaley Pearl building and visit to the showroom (not normally open to the general public). The tour will also visit Stokes Hill Wharf, East Point Reserve, the Botanical Gardens and a final stop at the Museum and Art Gallery where you can hop off and wander the Museum at your leisure. Lunch is available at the Cornucopia Museum Café at your own expense.

Pick up: From your accommodation at approx 10am. Return after lunch.

Price: Free

Please register your interest in any of the Partner Program activities by emailing us at darwinconference@stjohnnt.asn.au or on the Convention Registration form which can be found online at www.wired/ivvy.com/event/stjohn

In your delegate bag you will find information on other activities and points of interest for you to explore at your leisure.
The Norma Bell National Youth Leader Award

ARE YOU A LEADER? 
DO YOU WANT TO BE RECOGNISED?
DO YOU KNOW A LEADER?
DO THEY DESERVE TO BE RECOGNISED?

The Norma Bell National Youth Leader Award intends to reward young members for their activities as leaders, promote their contributions on a national stage and provide further professional development pathways.

This award is funded by the generous bequest of Norma Bell, friend and supporter of youth development within St John Ambulance Australia.

For more information on this award and an application pack go to:

http://you351.wix.com/thenormabell

Contact youth@stjohn.org.au for more information

Australian Youth Council
St John