

JUNE 2011



# NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE NEWS

The Independent Voice of Police in the Northern Territory



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INSIDE • Consent Agreement explained • Gavin Spencer remembered  
• The end of the Khaki era – the history of our uniform



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VINCE KELLY PRESIDENT

“ Our challenge will be to ensure that government at all levels do not start looking for a cheap option, that is, outsourcing or dumbing down the service that is and should be provided by sworn police officers. ”

**OUR ASSOCIATION HAS RECEIVED** some positive feedback to my opinion piece in the March 2011 edition of the NT Police News in relation to the crisis in indigenous communities. I attempted to highlight in the article that Police, (meaning Northern Territory Police Officers), are living and working in remote communities to improve community safety and people's lives.

It was for this reasons that I, along with many of you who contacted me, was very disappointed with the tone of an ABC television report on 12 April 2011 in relation to the continuing, and almost complete, withdrawal of Australian Federal Police from remote NT communities. It must have been a slow news day as this withdrawal has been ongoing for a considerable period of time.

**The news story was at best patronising and at worst insulting to all NT police officers.**

It was implied throughout the news story that the AFP members could now leave the NT having improved the skills of NT Police Officers to a level where we could now be relied upon to Police remote communities without their guidance or assistance.

With the greatest of respect to our colleagues in the AFP, such an insinuation is simply nonsense. Of course I suspect that it was the journalist who placed this spin on the story not AFP Superintendent Andrew Warton who was quoted in the story.

I also suspect that, on balance, the AFP would acknowledge that the organisation and individual AFP officers learnt a lot more about remote policing during their deployment then vice versa.

The fact of the matter is that NT Police have been living and working in remote communities for decades. The crisis in Aboriginal communities is multifaceted.

In Policing terms it was a crisis of resources. Our Police Force simply did not have the capacity to suddenly deploy members to a further 18 remote NT communities over a sustained period. Lack of capacity

is not a lack of skills and, as I have already said, such an insinuation to the contrary is simply nonsense.

Of course the real issue which the journalist failed to focus on is where to from here for Policing in these remote communities? The fact of the matter is that Federal funding of the NT Police to continue to work in these communities is not guaranteed beyond June 2012.

At some point there will be a real examination of the financial capacity of the Federal and NT government to continue to provide resources at the current levels. One only has to consider the cost of the new Police Station built at Yaralin Community to grasp that neither government may be willing to expend such resources in a further 10 or 15 communities.

There will be a further resources crunch at some point. Our challenge will be to ensure that government at all levels do not start looking for a cheap option, that is, outsourcing or dumbing down the service that is and should be provided by sworn police officers.

There also needs to be an acceptance by police management that we are more than “just a business”. Not all things that police do in remote communities can be measured as outputs and that some things which may not be seen as “core business” provide connections with people.

We should also not forget that one of our greatest assets in bush policing, which is more than remote communities, has been the support of people in the pastoral and mining industries. Again many of the services provided by remote police to people in these industries may not seem as “core business” to some, however, they remain an important aspect of bush policing.

I remain optimistic that the positive focus of the intervention on our capacity to Police in the bush will remain and ensure we can use our organisational and individual skills to improve community safety and keep people safe. ☆

# The 2011 Consent Agreement

*A man walks into a bar with a frog on his head. The barman asks "What's that there for?" and the frog responds "well, it started off as a wart and just kept growing".*

**AN OLD JOKE**, I know, but it demonstrates something that is fundamental in negotiation principles – don't assume the apparently obvious is the basis for negotiations.

The negotiating committee of the NTPA, including President Vince Kelly, Field Officer Owen Blackwell, Vice President David Chalker, Col Goodsel and Hege Burns from the Executive and myself, has negotiated a new Consent Agreement (CA) with representatives of the Commissioner of Police (COP) and the Commissioner for Public Employment (CPE). You will be aware of the results and will have voted on them.

These negotiations were tough and hard fought. From the outset, the CPE representatives took the position that you – the sworn members of the Northern Territory Police Force – should be seen as part of the broader "public service" and recompensed similarly. It was against this mindset that we fought to gain fair improvements to your terms and conditions in recognition of the special role you play in maintaining the good order of our communities.

We commenced the enterprise bargaining period on 1 February 2011 where we presented a comprehensive document setting out a number of heads of claim that we sought to be included in the new CA. We deliberately pressed a tight timeline for negotiations to ensure the new CA was not delayed by inactivity from the other side – something that we experienced with the OCPA representatives in the 2008 CA negotiations.

The "log of claims" that we presented to the COP & CPE was the result of input from members at two previous annual conferences, branch meetings around the Territory, delegate workshops and research into the terms and conditions of other policing jurisdictions

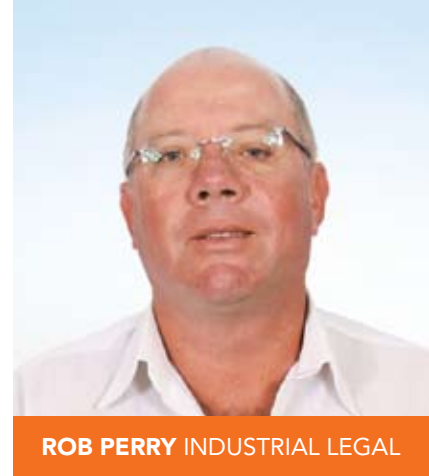
which were agreed to over the life of our 2008 CA.

It is true that in all enterprise bargaining negotiations, the starting point tends to be the percentage increase in terms of basic salary. That's the easy bit. What this Association is also extremely conscious of are the difficult working conditions that the majority of our members work under – day in/day out. These conditions are inherent to the kind of job that police officers undertake when they take their oath of office. They cannot be changed in an industrial sense. To attempt to do so would be like completely removing the risk of falling off a roof for a roof tiler. However, just like the roof tiler being able to demand proper safety equipment to minimise the risk of injury, we seek to ensure our members' terms and conditions of employment minimise the risk of physical injury and promote a feeling of worth and value in all of you for the very difficult job that you do.

It is the "value adding" areas that we fought for on your behalf that are, in my view, the most significant achievements of the 2011 CA. This does not suggest that we did not strive to achieve the best outcome in terms of the bottom line salary increase. However, in real terms, and given the current financial climate in the Northern Territory, a revised salary spine, and 3 per cent salary increase for each of the three years of this agreement, resulting in an average 10 per cent plus increase in salary over the life of the Agreement, was the best salary increase that was realistically achievable whilst still being able to argue for improvements in other areas of the terms and conditions that you can access.

Improvements to maternity leave provisions, recognition that detectives are expected to be available for duty after hours and undertake often very involved investigations through the implementation of a new detectives' allowance, the introduction of an extended leave program, an increase in the on-call allowance and further improvements to remote policing incentives are just some of the improved conditions that recognise the worth and value of you all.

“ ...we fought to gain fair improvements to your terms and conditions in recognition of the special role you play in maintaining the good order of our communities. ”



Of course, there were some things that we were simply unable to get agreement on, such as improved superannuation, an increase to the remote electricity subsidy given recent large increases in electricity costs and the recognition of Bachelor, Adelaide River and Jabiru as “remote” locations (Jabiru in particular, given the fact the Arnhem Highway is invariably cut at one point or another in the wet season and access is only available via Pine Creek). These things remain on our radar and will continue to be argued for.

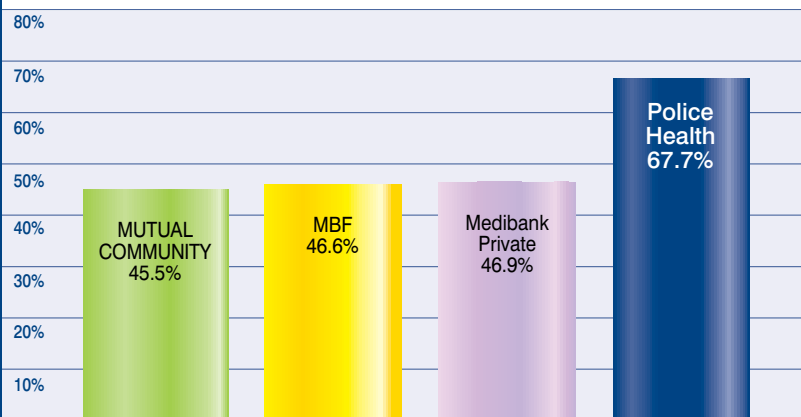
Whilst the “bottom line” salary increase will always hold the spotlight in terms of whether negotiations

over a new Agreement have been successful, it is not the whole story. By taking a step back and taking in the whole picture that this Agreement makes, you will, I believe, see real improvements to your terms and conditions of employment and recognition that police are not just another arm of the “public service” but hold a special and unique position that deserves proper recognition and recompense.

Your Association has always appreciated this and we continue to hammer the message home to Government and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment in particular. ★

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**THE BALLOT FOR THE** 2011 CA will have been completed by the time this article goes to press. I am hopeful that the return, whichever way it goes, is a high one.

We have expressed our views that if 75 per cent of members can vote on what colour uniform we wear, then surely that number can vote on such an issue as what your pay and conditions look like.

## Remote Trips

In March of this year I travelled to Yuendumu with Rosanna DeSantis for the 20 year memorial of the death of Police Aide Gavin Spencer. Gavin perished walking to find water for family members after their vehicle broke down whilst travelling between Nyirripi and Kintore. (See story on page 12)

On 7 April I flew to Yarralin with the Deputy Commissioner. The new station there is very impressive; however I am still mystified at the policing resources poured into a very small community given the extent of problems and resource issues in already established NT stations.

We then flew to Timber Creek where we enjoyed lunch with the members and families there. During conversation Dean McKie was happy to impart his knowledge of marriage within the police force to those present. It was carefully pointed out to him that of

those present his Commander, a Superintendent and I were all married to police officers. Dean was fairly quiet for the remainder of our visit.

I was able to view the new houses nearing completion. Hopefully these properties will fare better than the ones they replace. We will know in 12 short months if the bases are stable or shifting.

From Timber Creek we flew to Wadeye and overnighted at the station. We enjoyed a BBQ with the members there and I hope Josh Cunningham's new







**OWEN BLACKWELL** INDUSTRIAL AND FIELD SERVICES OFFICER

BBQ will serve better than his old one. The next day we stopped in at Peppimenarti and enjoyed morning tea with the members there - I think this is the first THEMIS station I have visited where cut flowers were present on the table next to the scones and jam...

On the 21 April I drove down to Jabiru for the night. The next day marked 10 years since the drowning death of Jason Lindsay at Coopers Creek in western Arnhem land and whilst I was unable to get to Oenpelli where he had been serving, I did enjoy the hospitality of the Jabiru members in the Jason Lindsay Bar.

I spent some time talking to the members there of the ongoing EB negotiations specifically about Jabiru, Adelaide River and Batchelor being moved into Category A remote. In our view the argument is justified but unfortunately as part of negotiations the department and also the OCPE negotiators were not of a mind to concede.

As part of the 2011 CA offer, Vince Kelly, other executive members and I travelled to all major centres throughout the NT. Whilst the trip was focused on the offer; we were also able to discuss other issues

of concern to members.

After the session in Tennant Creek we enjoyed another BBQ at the Police Club. The roster in Tennant Creek was raised with us and I have been discussing with members there other options. Travel Allowance paid to members on transfer, specifically their families, was raised with us whilst at Gove and Groote and we are in discussions with the department about this.

### Housing

Two new houses have now been completed at Timber Creek and tenders have been called for a new house at Kulgera. Still on the list for new houses are Ti Tree, Harts Range and Avon Downs.

I will be travelling to Lajamanu, Kalkaringi, Pirlangimpi and Maningrida to view the completed housing upgrades at those stations.

As part of Vince Kelly's and my travels recently we have kept members informed that later this year the NTPA will be forming a working group with the Commissioner of Police to ensure that housing conditions are maintained for members.



Wadeye Members



Yarralin houses



Peppimentari THEMIS Station



Peppimentari members

### Website

The new website has been well used by members throughout the EB period with all information being accessible online. Members will be aware of the SMS capability now and we will use this ability to keep members informed of important issues as they arise.

I would encourage members to look over the website. There are features there for upcoming events, which can be loaded if members wish. Also, as part of our development, we will soon have some sponsor links on the site allowing members to access deals with these companies. Our designer, BOO design, has been working on presenting a user friendly site so feedback is important.

### Executive Elections

Congratulations to Steve Martin, Chris Wilson, Shaun Gill, Sean Parnell and Hege Ronning Burns on their election to the Executive. Also congratulations to Vince Kelly and David Chalker who were returned to their positions of President and Vice President unopposed. The return on the ballot of just over 50 per cent was somewhat disappointing considering over 75 per cent of members voted on what colour uniform to wear, yet selecting who will drive negotiations on wages and conditions lacked the same response. It will be interesting to see the return for the 2011 CA ballot. Following the election Rosanna De Santis took 12 months leave without pay so resigned her position on the Executive. Crispin Gargan has been now been appointed to the Executive to fill that vacancy. ★

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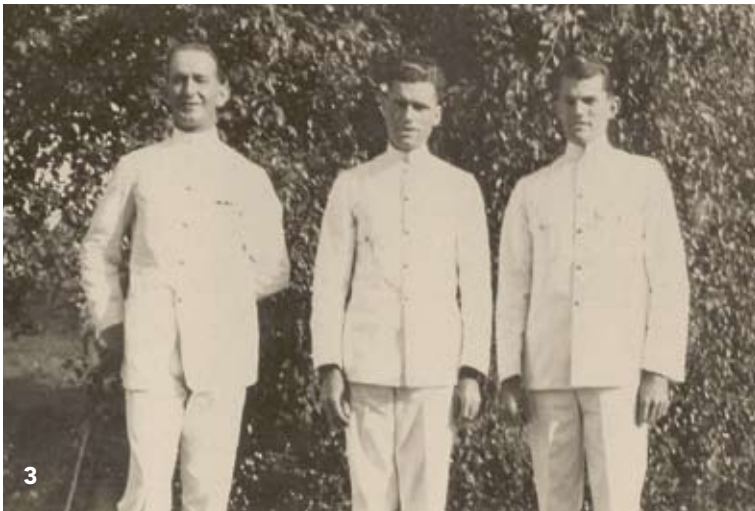
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# What's in a Uniform anyhow?



**TERRITORY POLICE HAVE A** somewhat unusual and interesting history of their uniform.

Being the Northern Territory part of the South Australian Police, the very first uniforms from 1870 onwards were the same as those worn in the colder climes of South Australia - heavy set blue serge and heavy leather boots. It was, of course, unnaturally warm to wear, particularly for the tropical north and was eventually replaced with summer weight uniforms. Early police even took to wearing white summer uniforms complete with pith helmets. Eventually the uniform evolved into khaki pants with long sleeve shirts and, judging by the photos unnaturally short ties. They could have been mistaken for diggers returned from the Great War.

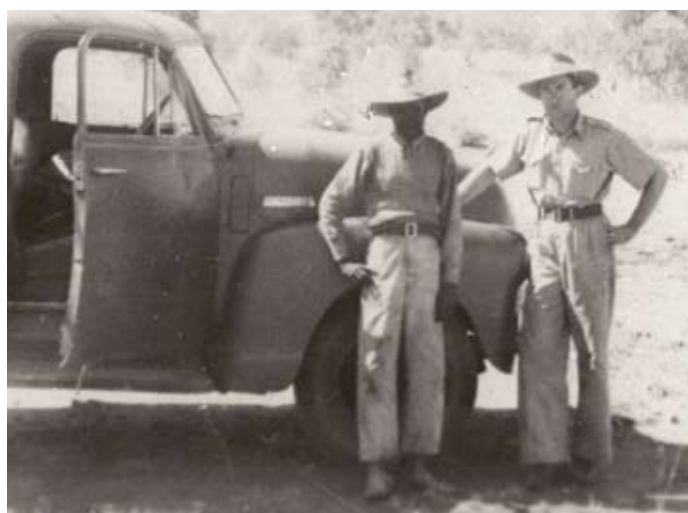
The Khaki uniform was finally gazetted in 1930 after control of the police force has passed from the state of South Australia to the Commonwealth Government.

As Sidney Downer noted in his famous book "Patrol Indefinite";

"... One change for the better took place in January 1930, when the Force moved into its present khaki uniform. The original uniform, worn by Foelsche and his men, was the blue and silver outfit of the South Australian Mounted Police, very dashing indeed, but for the tropics, hopelessly unserviceable. The 1930 proclamation stated that the force's uniform was to be khaki drill in the heat of the north, khaki baratheia in the chill of the centre. The hat was specified as "a sombrero type with the brim approximately 3-4 inches wide." Tan boots and a khaki tie were also mandatory. Utility had won a victory over the elegance of the outfit worn by Inspector Foelsche and his men..."

Over the intervening years the pictorial history of the Force shows that the shade of khaki morphed, gradually getting darker and darker and changed with the various different suppliers. It was even for a good deal of time made of the same material that clothed the regular Defence Forces, right up until the 1990s.

It wasn't until February 1978 that female police



Previous page 1. Former Senior Constables Ruth Whitford and Sandy Hardy, in the current uniform and holding the old blue NT Police flag. 2. Territory Police in the 1930s with trademark long tie. 3. NT Mounted Police officers in tropical dress uniform Darwin 1920s. 4. Senior Constable Peter Leacy 5. NT Policewoman in uniform replete with Police issue handbag circa 1980s. 6. New uniform. This page. Left. Womens bike uniform. Above. NT Mounted Policeman with tracker and Chevy mount circa 1930s. Right. Then Senior Constable Lyn Balchin with Constable Andrew Heath.



SEAN PARNELL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

“ Perhaps it may mean we will become a state and have the same state rights as other Australians too, or this could be asking too much. ”

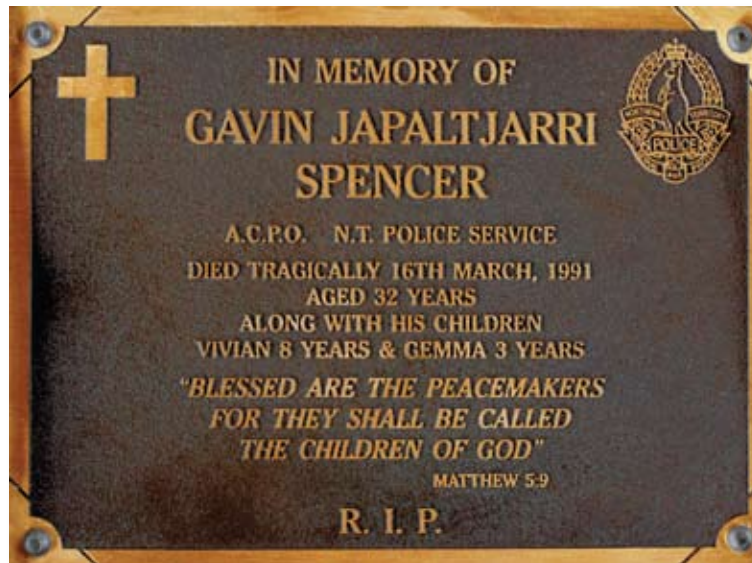
officers were allowed to wear uniform. They were specifically equipped with regulation style dress and matching handbag. Up until recently the female members dress was really a beige/creamy colour, not khaki at all. No matter what the colour change though it appears that women's dresses and skirts are out and won't be included in the new style uniform no matter what the colour.

More recently it appears that the uniform has evolved once again. The Territory's finest recently voted to have the thin khaki line become the thin blue line like the rest of Australia. Perhaps it may mean we will become a state and have the same state rights as other Australians too, or this could be asking too much.

There were many who decried the passing of an era and the introduction of a new order of things with the imminent arrival of the blue uniform. Sad as it is though, it would appear it is but another chapter of the evolving history of our proud police force. Who knows what other changes are in store for the future?

In the end it what's in the uniform that matters, not the shade of colour of the uniform. It's the men and women that day are out there providing selfless service to others - that's all that really matters. ☆





## The tragic death of Aboriginal Police Aide Gavin Japaltjarri Spencer



Phillip Alice and Andrew Spencer

**TWO DECADES HAVE PASSED** since the tragic death of Aboriginal Police Aide Gavin Japaltjarri Spencer in the searing heat of the Gibson Desert. Gavin, a respected member of the NT Police Force was remembered at a memorial service held in Yuendumu recently. Friends and family joined together to remember the man who tried desperately to save the lives of his companions on a simple journey that ended with four deaths and, remarkably, the birth of a baby.

On Wednesday, March 13 1991 Gavin Spencer and a group of 11 family and friends were travelling from Alice Springs to an outstation just over the WA border. They should have arrived at their destination the next day.

Gavin and five others arrived safely at Nyirripi and were joined by another six people – Gavin's wife Caroline and five children, including the couple's three daughters.

A minor mechanical problem resulted in a tragedy with the deaths of Gavin, his two young daughters, Vivian and Gemma, and another little girl, Bronwyn. They perished in the harsh Gibson Desert where temperatures soared into the mid to high 40s during the day.

Gavin was a Warlpiri man from Yuendumu. He had maintained a strong bond with his culture and



Andrew Spencer meets the kids



The Spencer family

bush skills while working for the NT Police Force. He knew how to survive in the desolation of the outback but even with this knowledge the harsh environment claimed its victims.

The group was on the last leg of their journey when the radiator of their Land Cruiser was holed. Gavin tried to get the vehicle to their destination but was forced to turn back towards Nyirripi. The police investigation revealed that when the car could go no further the remaining water in the radiator was put into a jerry can and shared out among the adults and children. Gavin did not take any of the water. The group then started walking back towards Nyirripi.

Nanu Gibson Nungala and Cartai Nabaltjari, who was pregnant, remained near the Emu bore. It was here that Cartai gave birth to her baby boy. The mother and child are still well and reside in W.A.

Some members of the group continued walking. Others rested. While the drama was unfolding in the desert a car drove out looking for the group but didn't travel far enough along the road. It wasn't until the Saturday morning, two days after the group should have arrived at its destination, that Gavin's wife, Caroline and their two-year-old son Berenton walked in to Nyirripi and the alarm was raised. As preparations were made to begin a major search Doris Nabaltjari and her six-month-old child arrived in the community, but before she could tell them anything she lapsed into unconsciousness.

Three kilometres from the Emu Bore police found the body of Gavin Spencer. The rescuers followed tracks and found little four-year-old Gemma Spencer and 10-year-old Bronwyn Gibson. Nine-year-old Vivian Spencer was the last to be found. Remarkably the other eight people, including toddlers and a new born babe, survived the ordeal. The group had tried to walk more than 40 kilometres in extreme heat.

Gavin was an expert tracker. At the time of Gavin's death Senior Sergeant Mick Vanheythuysen was quoted in the newspaper as saying, "He was one of the NT Police Force's best trackers and his skills as a police aide were invaluable.

"I have been with him and seen him track criminals for kilometres through town, across bitumen roads and lawns, to eventually knock on the door to nab our man."

The Coroner, in his finding, wrote, "Gavin Spencer was a highly regarded member of the community, both by Aboriginal people and the police force for whom he worked. He was an experienced tracker and bushman familiar with the area through which he travelled on this tragic journey. That he should perish in this manner highlights the dangers of travel in desolate areas."

Gavin's and the other deaths was a tragedy of massive proportions.

Today Gavin Spencer is remembered with the Gavin Spencer Memorial Trophy, awarded to the most outstanding graduate on each Aboriginal Community Police Officer squad. ☆

# Operation 'BEDE'

## NT police deployment to Christchurch New Zealand

**AT LUNCHTIME ON** Tuesday, 22 February 2011, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck the city of Christchurch, New Zealand.

The earthquake caused widespread damage, especially in the central city and eastern suburbs, with damage exacerbated by buildings and other infrastructure already being weakened by the 4 September earthquake and its aftershocks. Significant liquefaction affected the eastern suburbs, producing around 200,000 tonnes of silt. The earthquake was reported to be felt across the South Island and the lower and central North Island.

The earthquake killed 181 people and between 1500 and 2000 people were treated for injuries. In excess of 800 commercial buildings in the CBD and 10,000 residential premises in the surrounding suburbs have been identified as being unsafe and are to be demolished. Christchurch remains a seriously disaster affected area.

The Northern Territory Police deployed seven personnel to Christchurch as the NT commitment to a broader Australian Law Enforcement (ALE) contingent of 148 police officers from all jurisdictions, in response to the request for policing support by the New Zealand Government.

The deployment was unprecedented in the history of both nations, as it was the first time every Australian policing jurisdiction had deployed for operational service in a foreign country and in the uniform of their home state or territory.

The following members comprised the NT Police contingent:

- Senior Sergeant Stephen MARTIN
- Sergeant Derek MAURICE
- Senior Constable Christopher KILIAN
- Senior Constable Robin KIDNEY
- Senior Constable Nathan MAMO
- Constable First Class Phillip LUM; and
- Constable Simone ANDERSON

On arrival, all contingents were given a

comprehensive background brief and legislation training prior to being sworn in as Special Constable of the New Zealand Police Force.

The NT Police contingent, along with the contingent from Victoria Police, Tasmania Police and Queensland Police was then bussed to a motel north of the CBD after a very long day. What occurred next caught everyone off guard. The pub next to the motel was full of patrons who burst into spontaneous applause and members were given a standing ovation.

The warmth and respect shown by locals to all Police and emergency services workers in Christchurch was remarkable and engagement came very easily. We were made very welcome by the NZ Police Force and the locals. It was a very humbling tour.

The combined contingents were tasked with the following roles and duties as part of the general community policing services required:

- Community reassurance patrols of earthquake affected suburbs, shopping centres, licenced premises and other high use public places
- Low risk searches of rubble in affected suburbs that were not searched by USAR teams
- Vehicle recovery duties from the 'Red Zone' (cordoned CBD), and
- General duties and traffic patrols throughout the greater Christchurch area.

Being the only jurisdiction wearing a khaki uniform, we 'stuck out' in the sea of blue wherever we went. This was a good icebreaker and we revelled in 'celebrating the difference'. Luckily, we were able to obtain a supply of winter-weight green jackets from stores in Alice Springs before we departed, so we were also the jurisdiction 'most rugged up' which caused much mirth with our peers and the locals alike. Coming to NZ straight out of a record wet season meant the thin blood didn't cope too well at times.

Nowhere was safe. In addition to the risks of further seismic activity and the danger of building / structure collapse and falling objects, the danger of gastro-





Police from across Australia deployed to Christchurch



Our NT contingent with now retired Commissioner Broad



Julia Gillard meets NT Police in New Zealand

## NT Police Association digs deep for NZ 'family' across the Tasman

Northern Territory Police Association members have dug deep for their Canterbury colleagues and their families who were affected by the devastating earthquake of 22 February – donating in excess of \$13,000 to the NZ Police Association's Charitable Trust recently.

Police Federation of Australia and Northern Territory Police Association President Vince Kelly personally delivered the cheque to NZ Police Association President Greg O'Connor recently.

Funds from the trust will soon be distributed to police officers and their families who were caught up in the disaster.

Mr O'Connor said the generous donation from Australia's smallest Police Association had left him pleasantly surprised.

Mr O'Connor feels the donation may have had its genesis from the Northern Territory police officers' strong memories of the devastation that came with Cyclone Tracy, which hit Darwin at Christmas in 1974.

"I think once they saw the footage from the 22 February earthquake, they drew parallels between that and what they experienced during Cyclone Tracy."

Vince Kelly and Greg O'Connor



intestinal disease was ever present due to damaged water and sewerage infrastructure. All water had to be boiled for three minutes prior to consumption. Bottled water was a must, even for brushing your teeth.

Patrols of the cordoned-off CBD, known as the 'Red Zone' really bought home the scale and magnitude of the disaster and it was an eerie feeling walking down damaged streets which were still open for business but completely devoid of people. Images such as the table outside the al fresco coffee shop with two plates of half eaten sandwiches and half drunk cups of coffee, a handbag sitting beside the overturned chair, all covered with a fine layer of dust, were burned into the memory.

Highlights included tours of schools and charitable organisations, working alongside our peers from the other Australian jurisdictions, meeting the Australian Governor General, Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition and the Maori farewell at the end of the tour. All contingent members were honoured with a 'Punami' (Maori green stone) and sent off with the traditional 'Haka' ringing in our ears.

The greatest highlight however was serving the people of New Zealand. The people of Christchurch and the Canterbury region displayed tremendous courage in the face of the disaster and a determination to rebuild their lives and their shattered city.

To say the tour was inspirational would be an understatement.

'Kia Kaha' (Stay Strong). ★

## Three Generations of Service



*It is not often in these parts that you get three generations of one family working in the same profession, each one following in the dusty boot steps of the one before. But that is exactly what is happening in the Sandy family, here in the Barkly region. What's more, the youngest family member is also making noise about joining up. But let's back up for a moment and start from the beginning.*

### **John Sandy 08-08-1932**

**THIS UNIQUE TRILOGY BEGINS** with John Sandy, who joined the Northern Territory Police as a 'tracker'. Perhaps indicative of the times, there is almost no record of John's service, no dates or locations where he worked. Most of what this writer has been able to find out is through John's grandson, Daniel Sandy, who currently serves at Elliott Police Station. To Daniel's amazement, after his own research into his grandfather's police service, he came up nearly empty

handed. Except for family testimony and that of some long-serving officers who knew his grandfather, there is only an empty and silent record. Surely this state of affairs requires some acknowledgement and remedy, in the interests of both personal legacy and regional history.

What Daniel does have are his own recollections, which are those of a small boy, the memories and images that have stayed with him throughout his life. He remembers seeing his grandfather in uniform when the family resided in a house at Daly Waters police station. There, John Sandy did maintenance and assisted police members in their duties.

However, his great skill was as a tracker and he was often in pursuit of one fugitive or another. He had that singular knowledge of the land, and how the slightest trace or mark in the sand tells a story. For trackers the vastness and mystery of the outback is condensed and clarified, by the skilled eye that perceives the landscape in ways that elude the untrained observer.

Tracking is a talent handed down through the generations, and developed through experience. There are no manuals.

Daniel Sandy can only admire his grandfather's achievements during a different era, and imagine the obstacles he must have faced. And yet Daniel's personal recollections remain closer to home. For instance, Daniel remembers going for ice cream on hot days, in the way only a territory kid can fathom: riding a push bike from Daly Waters to the Hi-Way Inn, whilst his grand dad followed in the car, to ensure a safe journey for his grandson. Ice cream in hand, Daniel would head back home, elated. After all, it must have been pretty darn good ice cream for him to peddle all that way! It's these small stories that stick the most.

### Danny John Sandy 17-03-1955

**THERE IS A LITTLE MORE** information regarding Danny John Sandy, Daniel's father, thanks to the memories of people like Mick Adams. Danny worked as a bus driver for a Catholic school, in Alice Springs, before he joined the police. He graduated from Squad

37 and served as a 'Police Aid' for approximately 15 years, during the 1970s and 1980s. During that time, he worked at Santa Theresa, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Ali Carung and Darwin. A quintessential N.T. officer, he got around!

Danny was one of the first Police Aids to complete the transition course to constable in 1982, however he decided to remain an aid, preferring that mode of service in the police force and in his community.

Daniel Sandy remembers his father as a strict and somewhat silent presence in the family. His dad didn't talk about the job, or drink alcohol, in front of his children. It was a strong and supportive home life, with plenty of rules - Daniel and his siblings knew they had to be home "before the sun hit the deck." However, these are childhood memories, and those who knew and worked with Danny Sandy have further tales to tell.

Mick Adams remembers Danny having a great sense of humour and a love of the guitar. Danny was extremely loyal, affable and hardworking and he knew his community well. One thing Mick particularly recalls about Danny's work ethic and philosophy was that he wouldn't easily provide information to new



constables – not until they learned to ask the right questions. And having no interest was met with an equal measure of disclosure: none. It is remarkable that even today, some constables so under-utilise the wealth of information an ACPO could provide them when investigating a job. The more things change...

## Daniel Francis Sandy

**DANIEL SANDY IS AN ACPO 1st Class**, currently gazetted at Elliott Police Station. He says there was no particular pressure put on him to join, however perhaps it was in his DNA all along. As a four-year old boy, his nick-name was ‘Nee-noor’ – as in the sound children make to mimic a police siren. Daniel played at being a police van, running around the yard at home, a childhood antic he has yet to live down!

Before joining the police at 28, Daniel worked as an environmental health officer, an occupation he now sees as having been invaluable as ‘life experience’, preparing him not only with valuable skills, but also a better understanding of the world and a wider perspective upon the sorts of situations officers face each day.

Daniel didn't tell his mother he had applied until after he was already accepted. He knew she would worry. His mother understood the dangers and the sorts of challenges and situations that police officers face on the job. It is from this concern of hers that Daniel realizes his Dad must have confided in her, if not in front of his children. And, this brings our trilogy full circle, to Daniel's own son.

## Corey Sandy

**COREY SANDY IS 13 years old** and just about as big as his dad. He has expressed interest in the police service, and yet Daniel encourages him to explore other options before joining up. Daniel and Corey's mum, Annette, will support him in any decision he finally makes, but it's that life experience that can make all the difference to an eventual career.

Regardless of Corey's choices for his future, the Sandy family is well and truly part of the history of the Northern Territory police force. And yet the record is incomplete, in the sense that so little official information exists as an adequate chronicle. When it comes to the stories, and the memory of those who served in times past, it shouldn't be left solely in the hands of finite oral histories, or our own imaginations. History, and therefore cultural legacy, is being lost. The repositories of information are passing away from us.

As for our colleague Daniel Sandy, after some hesitance in being the focus of inquiry and attention, he is now keen to find out more about his family's history with the Northern Territory Police. In the writing of this article, this should only be a first effort in retrieving our incredibly unique, and uniquely Australian, history.

Meanwhile, Daniel Sandy would greatly appreciate any additional information, any stories and particularly any photographs of his father and grandfather. He can be contacted at [Daniel.Sandy@nt.gov.au](mailto:Daniel.Sandy@nt.gov.au)



John Sandy 1992



## John Sandy remembered

I worked with John at Avon Downs Police Station. John was already working there as the tracker when I arrived in January 1991.

John and I used to talk about his history quite a lot. He told me that he was born near Newcastle Waters and that when he was seven years old his father put him on a full sized horse and took him droving from Beetaloo Station to the railhead at Oodnadatta. He said they were away from home for 18 months.

John worked as a drover for many years. At the end of the drive they would get a pay cheque which they had to take to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs / Native Affairs office where they would be given some clothes, new trousers, hat, boots, shirts, belt, tobacco etc and the rest of their pay cheque was retained by the government. John said they were told that the money was being used by the government to help build the Aboriginal missions in the NT and that it was like a tax that they had to pay to help build the missions and look after Aboriginal people.

John said, "We were slaves" and he was right.

After that he joined the police force as a tracker, John worked at Daly Waters, Ali Curung and Avon Downs.

At Avon John worked hard keeping the station looking good and helping out when we had to look for missing people or stock. I would take John with me when investigating cattle killings and John would point out how many people had been at the killing, whether they were men, women, children and if they knew how to butcher a beast properly or not. John had a very keen eye for detail, a sharp mind and a good memory.

John taught me how to cut up a killer as the station at Avon Downs would donate one to the police station every so often when we needed beef. He would take great offence if we bought meat from the butchers. He would let me have a go, giving instructions on what to do. He was a patient man and a good teacher.

When we butchered a killer at the station yard John would always take the head of the beast as well as his meat ration. He claimed the head was the best part and had good meat in the cheeks and then of course there were the eyes - a true delicacy! John would cook the head up in a pit barbeque for his little family down by the creek in the evenings. He was very much family orientated.

At some time after I arrived John took a second wife. She and John would go for long walks out the back of the police station along the James River, which was very beautiful with lots of bird life and water lilies growing in it.

Once, John asked Neil Galloway to buy him a cut throat razor because he preferred to use it rather than the more modern safety razors. There is a funny story associated with this razor. John used to take his annual holidays and go to Elliott to visit his family and take part in the business ceremonies and cultural activities of the community. The year he bought his razor he was in Elliott for business ceremonies and no one had a sharp knife to perform the necessary ceremony. John suddenly had an idea and looked through his bag and produced his cut throat razor, which served very well for the business once they re-captured the young boys!

When John retired we had a big barbeque for him at the Avon Downs Station homestead with the ringers and station people. We gave John a plaque and a leather tobacco pouch with his name worked into the leather. ☆

## Amee takes on Kokoda for Police Legacy



Amee on the trek and doing a river crossing

**WALKING KOKODA IS NOT** for the fainthearted. Amee Meredith took on the track in April to aid NSW Police Legacy with the spirit of her husband, Brett by her side.

“I jumped at the chance. Brett had always wanted to do the trek. It was raising money for Police Legacy and my children are now legatees. It was important for me to be a part of this event.”

Amee convinced Senior Constable Pauline Setter to join her on the 12-day trip to Kokoda. Also on the trip was Constable Ben Crews from the NSW Police. Ben’s brother Bill was killed on duty last year. Amee and Ben formed a close bond during the walk.

“Ben and I had the loss of a loved one in common. He was very supportive during the walk,” says Amee.

Amee admits that no training can prepare you for Kokoda and there were times when she didn’t think she could finish the arduous trip. When things got her down it was Brett who helped Amee.

“The walk was tough – physically and mentally. It is really more a mental challenge than anything. There were points along the trek where I just wanted to give up, but I drew on Brett’s strength. It got me through.

“Brett was definitely with me on the trek. I felt him everywhere I went. Everyone was amazing. They supported me through the whole trip. I have formed such a strong connection with them all.”

Accommodation for the eight-day 96 kilometre trek was tents, often pitched in the pouring rain. The daily ration packs consisted of cereal, two-minute noodles, some milk powder, tinned tuna and a muesli bar. River crossing were often waist-deep and fast flowing. There were no showers and no toilets.

“We did it in style. We were constantly reminded that our Australian soldiers did not have the luxury of tents and dry clothing.”

During the walk the group that included police, ambos and fire fighters police, friends, family and



Raising of the flag at the Anzac Day service



With Ben Crews



Amee meets the locals



Ambos on the jungle trek

three legatees, stopped at Isurava – the site of a famous WWII battle. Here four stones mark the spot where Australians were ambushed. The stones bear the words that drove the brave soldiers to fight on when the odds were against them – Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Sacrifice. Many were critically wounded but despite their injuries they would crawl up the track carrying their mates who had died.

“Ben Crews, his father, Kel and I were given the honour of raising the Australian flag. It was an emotional experience and one that I will never forget.”

“We should never forget the sacrifices the members of the Australian Forces have made for this great nation, sacrifices that sometimes ended in death, to give us the freedoms and liberties we, as Australians, enjoy today,” said Commander Mark Carrick from NSW.

“It is the honour and privilege of all police officers to go out each day and uphold the rights and freedoms given to us by the generations of sacrifices by our

Armed Forces. We must protect this freedom and Liberty, for anything less would be shameful.”

ANZAC Day was celebrated at the Bowana War Cemetery in Port Moresby. Amee says she will never forget this place. There are hundreds of headstones with no names on them. The ages started at just 19 and so many of these brave men lied about their age so they could fight.

“When I reached the top of the trek I realised the most important thing. I was OK. I didn’t break. The trek didn’t break me. It made me stronger. I knew at that point I would be OK and the children would be OK because I was strong enough to move forward. I said goodbye to Brett, which I hadn’t been able to do since he died.” ☆

The Kokoda Walk raised \$20,000 for NSW Police Legacy. Amee hopes to encourage Territory Police to do their own fundraising for NT Police Legacy.

## Detective Senior Constable Peter 'Poly' Polychrone calls it a day



**24 NOVEMBER 2010 SAW** the retirement of long-serving member Peter Polychrone, affectionately referred to as Poly.

Poly joined the NT Police in February 1983 after he and Marty McCallum (who has also recently finished up) had a short but successful interview in Sydney (apparently something to do with the heat, lack of air-conditioning and proximity to licensed premises). They joined Squad 38 which also included the second wave of NT Police Cadets to graduate to recruit training.

After graduation Poly was posted to Katherine and initially worked general duties there, as well as relieving on a number of bush stations. In 1985 he got the opportunity to start in Katherine CIB. Here Poly was involved in investigating an array of serious offences - some horrendous, some hilarious - and the arrest of many persons including a Victorian underworld offender, hiding out in the Katherine area, who was wanted for Conspiracy to Murder in NSW of NSW Drug Squad Officer, Michael Drury.

'Poly' has formidable story telling ability and his time in Katherine gave an endless supply of amazing tales with which he could regale younger members over the years. Murders, offences against children, armed robberies, drug crops, cattle duffing, bridge-jumpers, bags of money left behind in toilets, persons surviving with large boning knives sticking out the

side of their nose with the point touching the back of their skull, viewing a body in a hut that had been protected as a crime scene only to find that the local police had moved the body to the hut to get it out of the heat - the tales were many and entertaining.

In late 1988 Poly transferred to CIB Darwin and was told by Graeme Charlwood that he was to go and do six months in the then Fraud Squad. This seemed a bit harsh, however not being in a position to argue he turned up to work at the Fraud Squad the following day. Amazingly Poly found that he was actually good at fraud investigation and, even more amazingly, that he liked it!

Poly ended up staying for 22 years in the Fraud Squad, which over time gradually morphed into the Fraud Unit and then the Major Fraud Unit. Poly became renowned as one of the Territory's most accomplished fraud investigators and successfully conducted some of the most interesting fraud investigations in the NT during that time. One of Poly's best skills was that he could relate well to people and had a great way of talking to them, whoever they were - complainants and offenders alike. He was liked and respected by everyone that he had dealings with, including Magistrates, lawyers and the general business community.

Over the years Poly advised and helped numerous members with their investigations. The price was usually being regaled with one of Poly's myriad of great stories, most of which contained an important life or policing lesson in them somewhere, but all immensely entertaining.

The degree of appreciation felt for Poly by the members was shown by the pouring in of contributions from all stations across the NT towards his farewell gift which was presented to him at the Major Crime Christmas dinner in November 2010.

For those of us who got to work with Poly over his 28 years in the job, it was an absolute pleasure. The Department has lost a great attribute. ★





**AFTER COMPLETING 27 YEARS** in the NT Police, I commence leave pending retirement at COB 18 March 2011. Initially, I will head for the Sunshine Coast, but will maintain several connections with the NT and the NT Police at least until the completion of my leave in June 2013.

My time in the NT Police has been made considerably better by the hard working staff at the NTPA. I have always maintained a great interest in your combined efforts and, although not always agreeing with every outcome, am a staunch supporter of the reason why an Association such as ours exists. As I indicated to the NTPA reps and yourself at my presentation in March, I perceive that your efforts now are more important than they ever were.

In parting I hope you will indulge me a short Association related story:

The Secretary of the NTPA when I joined the Association in February 1984 was Graham (animal) Burgoyne who, as you would expect by his position and nickname, was well known to senior management. He left a short time after I joined, which was an excellent move for me, as being his namesake, it gave me a much better chance for advancement! Several members, Lofty Moffatt among them, continued to call me Graham for many years after he left and I didn't have the heart to correct anyone until recently.

I was at the Alice Springs Airport on 13 February 2011 where ex member Gerry D'Andrea works for Qantas - for the first time in 27 years he called me Rob instead of Graham - I thought it an appropriate bookend to my time in the NTPA.

Cheers and continue the good work.

Rob Burgoyne, Superintendent 1325. ☆

## High Praise for our boss

Since she joined in 1986 Megan Rowe's big-hearted dedication to her chosen profession has seen her go from strength to strength in her policing career. Megan came to Tennant Creek in August 2006 as a senior sergeant and OIC of the station. Her quiet, firm demeanour and subtle humour won the respect of the members serving at the station, and so it was when the position of Superintendent Barkly Region came up in July 2009, Megan's promotion to the position was enthusiastically endorsed by her troops.

Megan has had responsibility for the largest police operational region within the Northern Territory and the logistics of the then nine Police Stations in total (now six stations), including Themis stations, has not been without its challenges.

With a quite dry humour and quick wit, she was popular at the police club, but was never allowed to stay and play for long as her Mum would soon be on the phone, regaling the on duty members with "Megan is supposed to be home by now and it's nine o'clock, what's she doing?" We understood perfectly where she got her quiet authority from and quipped, "Wow imagine if her Mum was Superintendent, really see some stats then".

Her dedication to the care of her aging Mum while doing the excellent job she has done as Superintendent Tennant Creek & Barkly Division is testimony to her compassion and patience, qualities that will be sorely missed by her troops now that she has moved onto the greener country of the Top-end in her new position at EPSC.

Members of the Tennant Creek & Barkly Division all wish Megan good luck and great success in her new role and it has been a pleasure to work with Megan over the years. ☆





# WALL TO WALL

## RIDE FOR REMEMBRANCE

### September 10, 2011

All police, friends and family are encouraged to participate in this years Ride For Remembrance from the Police Memorial, The Esplanade Darwin to the National Police Memorial in Canberra.

For more information and registration details visit.

[www.walltowallride.com](http://www.walltowallride.com)



# Ride for Remembrance takes to the highways

**POLICE FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA** will ride to Canberra in September for the second annual Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance and Territory police will take part. The ride honours the 750 Australian police who have lost their lives in the line of duty and promotes motorcycle road safety.

The Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance will take place in Canberra on Saturday, September 17. Riders from around the country will converge on the national capital and ride to the National Police Memorial for a service to remember our colleagues who are no longer with us. Proceeds from the ride will go to Police Legacies around Australia.

The Northern Territory ride will leave from the Police Memorial on Darwin's Esplanade on September 10. Association President Vince Kelly isn't a rider, but he encourages all members who can to consider this very important event.

Commissioner John McRoberts is taking part in the ride. He rode from Sydney to Canberra with Commissioners from NSW, Tasmania and the AFP in last year's inaugural Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance. He was so impressed he promised to ride all the way from Darwin this year - and he is being true to his word.

There were around 800 riders in last year's inaugural Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance in Canberra. This year that number is expected to increase to more than 1000.

"The ride is a tangible way of helping police families across Australia, telling them that they are not forgotten and will always be a part of the police family," says Victorian Police Association President and organiser of the inaugural ride, Brian Rix.

To promote the Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance, Brian Rix will ride a motorcycle around Australia in July, delivering hand crafted wooden batons to the Commissioners in each state and territory. These batons will be delivered to the National Police Memorial on September 17 by each state's ride.

Brian expects to arrive in Darwin on Thursday, July 14. Members and friends who would like to ride into town with Brian or lead him out of town when he heads to Perth, on July 16, should contact the NTPA. Owen Blackwell will be organising the Territory's Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance and assisting Brian Rix on the baton ride.

There were 748 names on the Memorial. Sadly another was added on National Police Remembrance Day last year with the death of Constable Bill Crews in Sydney. Another will be added this year with the death of Queensland's Sergeant Dan Stiller. ★

Riders must register for the ride. Registration fees will be donated to Police Legacy. Full details of the ride and registration forms can be found at [www.walltowallride.com](http://www.walltowallride.com). Register now and take part in the most significant ride on the 2011 calendar.

Last year's ride through Canberra  
Right. Brian Rix at last year's Canberra service



SOCIAL



# Golf Club News

**AN ELITE TEAM OF MID** to high handicap golfers representing the Northern Territory Police Golf Club (NTPGC) descended on Victoria's famously difficult sand belt region during March for the annual Australian Police Golf Championships. As it was Australia's premier golfing destination, strict selection criteria initially applied, which ultimately resulted in anybody with the inner strength to face ridicule from their peers for shooting extremely high scores. Representatives were made up of current and retired police officers as well as club patrons from Darwin, Alice Springs and Groote Eylandt. It was the largest contingent of current serving NT police members in recent history.

Competition stroke rounds were played at Kingston Heath, Huntingdale and Keysborough Golf Clubs. A 4-ball stableford team event was played on the final day at the 2010 Australian Masters venue, Victoria Golf Club. Kingston Heath is rated Australia's best golf course and all courses were in outstanding condition.

The Victorians were triumphant on their home soil and won the overall team event. Shane O'Brien and Alex Brennan hit the least amount of shots in the NT team whilst Brett Kane won the net prize money. Tracey Guerin got her money's worth and won the NT NAGA jacket. Mal Marshall again featured by hitting the most provisional balls for the competition. The highlight of the tour was John Ginnane's 27 on a par 4 at Huntingdale. About 25 of these shots were contained within 3 of the 188 treacherous bunkers which line the course.

Players are now in preparation for March 2012 when the championships move to Perth, where we will approach Joondalup, Wanneroo and The Vines. The NTPGC run weekly nine hole afternoon competitions in Alice Springs (Mondays), Darwin (Tuesdays) and Groote Eylandt (Fridays). New players and members are welcome. ★

## Golf Club history

In 1968 Terry O'Brien, Frank Cronshaw, John Ascoli and Tony Godwin ventured down to Sydney as our first 'rep team', but we didn't have a club. In order that we could formally participate in the Australian Police Golf Championships as an entity, a few stalwarts formed the Northern Territory Police Golf Club Inc.

Since that time, the NTPGC has not missed sending a team to the Championships. Our representation has grown considerably since that era to a team numbering some 25 who travelled to Melbourne in 2011.

The Tournament rotates through the various states and territories annually and the format is a four-ball 'warm-up' on the first day and three 18 hole stroke rounds to complete the week. Wednesday is traditionally set aside as a lay-day and that club arranges an array of 'convivial' activities.

The host state generally provides the best courses available to them so we have played most of the top courses in the country.

In 1998 our club hosted the National Championships at the Darwin Golf Club, at the time, the premier course in the Territory. It provided an excellent test of golf for the visiting 'guns' from 'down south'. We had about 150 starters and all states and territories were represented.

Our welcoming show was hosted by the then Chief Minister, at Parliament House. Wednesday's 'convivial' day was at Berry Springs and the presentation dinner was held under the stars, on the lawns of the MGM Casino, our major sponsor.

The event was a resounding success, due to the invaluable input of our tireless toilers and the support of the many valuable sponsors, and is still to this day spoken of as one of the most enjoyable tournaments ever run. We were on the rota and in turn the NT again hosted the event, in Alice Springs. With typical Centralian hospitality and the spectacular MacDonnell Ranges setting of the Alice Springs Golf Club, the Alice team produced a most successful tournament.

Anyone interested in playing or becoming involved with the NTPGC should contact Jamie Chalker in Darwin where regular competition takes place each Tuesday afternoon and in Alice Springs through, Mal Guerin.

## Current issues for Police around the country

### Police Association of South Australia

#### **OVERWHELMING YES VOTE FOR EB OFFER**

Police Association of South Australia members have overwhelmingly supported the enterprise bargaining offer received from government, with 99 per cent of those who returned their ballots voting “yes”.

The yes vote for this sixth enterprise agreement is the highest percentage since the Police Association began enterprise bargaining 15 years ago.

The offer was unanimously commended to the membership by association delegates at a special meeting convened in March. Association officials then toured police stations around the state to speak on the offer.

The membership demonstrated great patience and support during what was a difficult and protracted negotiation process. Their massive endorsement of the offer shows the appreciation police in this state have for the commitment the government has made to policing, through this offer, amended legislation and greater police numbers.

The ballot result was finalized on Friday May 4, the same day that two SA members were fired on, with one officer severely wounded by a shotgun injury to his face. He sustained a broken jaw and had to undergo extensive surgery while in an induced coma.

The horrific incident reinforces the danger and unpredictability of the police occupation. It could happen on any street in Australia.

It is reprehensible that other state governments are offering their police the standard 2.5 per cent pay rise at a time when we are seeing growing violence in the community and trying to recruit greater numbers to policing.

### Police Association of Tasmania

#### **EB2010 – NOT ALL SMOOTH SAILING...**

The new consolidated Police Award 1 of 2011 was implemented and effective from 3 March 2011. While the hearing in the Industrial Commission was a relatively quick and painless process and all was presented by agreement, the reality is the Police Association is already faced with the first dispute arising from the outcomes of EB2010. It didn't take long and the looming dispute will have to be resolved in the Industrial Commission.

#### **NEW UNIFORMS – BASEBALL CAPS**

The baseball caps have been issued and were approved for wear from the 19th April 2011. Generally speaking they have been well received. A couple of issues have arisen and are to be addressed. The “one size fits all” apparently doesn't! Some women are finding the caps too small and this is quite evident when you see a female with the cap hanging baggy over her ears – not really a smart look! And some men are finding them too small. It has been reported and sized caps may well be the go. The Velcro straps aren't the best either as they tend to take out a dozen hairs or so when the cap is taken off the head, especially from women wearing their hair up as is required. Still, tweaking of the new uniform items should not be unexpected and as problems arise they are reported and acted on.

### Police Association of New South Wales

#### **NSW POLICE BEGIN PAY ROUND**

On 30 June the present Award for NSW police officers will expire. The Police Association of NSW began negotiations into the next pay round last December. Unfortunately the NSW Government refused to change its 2.5 per cent wages policy – a policy that is unacceptable – and negotiations stalled.

There has since been a change in government and the new Police Minister, Mike Gallacher, is

a former NSW police officer. The Association is keen to commence negotiations with the Coalition Government as a negotiated outcome will always be the preferred option.

The Association's claim, unanimously endorsed by its Executive committee, seeks a five per cent pay rise per year for all members. A number of additional issues have been included in the claim such as overlapping pay structures for Sergeants and Senior Sergeants; faster incremental progression for Constables and increased salaries and allowances for specialists.

Whilst the Association is prepared to negotiate with the government, it has also lodged a claim in the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) with dates set for hearings in August, September and October.

Running a case in the IRC requires that evidence be submitted and witnesses called just like in a criminal matter, and the Association is currently asking members to assist in providing evidence, should this become an eventuality.

## THIGH HOLSTERS

The ongoing campaign to introduce thigh holsters received a boost from successful trials conducted by General Duties and Highway Patrol officers in 2010. Trial participants reported that the thigh holster dramatically reduced back pain and discomfort and improved seating posture in police vehicles.

During the trial constructive criticism was received regarding the standard tactical thigh holster. As a result a modified thigh holster was designed by members from the NSW Police Force's Operational Skills Command and provided to a manufacturer.

Fifty holsters were manufactured according to the modified design and delivered to existing trial participants, seeking a comparison of the standard tactical holster to the new modified version. The results of this latest trial were presented to the Commissioner's Executive Team and an announcement is pending.



Scott Webber and Police Minister Mike Gallacher  
– photo Glenn Miller. Below: thigh holster



## Western Australia Police Union BAN ON POLICE PURSUITS

The WA Police Union Board of Directors voted unanimously to ban all police pursuits after inaccurate information from the Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system was used against a number of officers.

“The Union believed the ban was necessary because officers were being subjected to internal disciplinary action despite the data from the AVL system not being a certified measuring device and the existence of contradictory evidence from officers and independent witnesses,” WA Police Union President Russell Armstrong said.

“The AVL system has shown to be grossly inaccurate on a number of occasions and this is a major concern for the WA Police Union Board of Directors,” Mr Armstrong said.

Two days after the ban was implemented it was suspended following a number of undertakings by the Commissioner of Police Karl O’Callaghan.

“Commissioner O’Callaghan has given an undertaking to carry out an independent review of the AVL to determine its reliability as a speed detection device, and until that review is completed, WA Police will not take disciplinary action against any officer using uncorroborated AVL data,” Mr Armstrong said.

The Commissioner has also agreed to review existing Managerial Action Plans (MAPs) issued on the strength of AVL evidence.

The suspension of the ban on police pursuits will be reviewed in the coming weeks, following the evaluation of the progress made by WAPOL in relation to the AVL system and the MAPs that have been issued relying solely on AVL data.

## POLICE HORSE BURIED IN LANDFILL

The WA Police Union is disgusted by a decision to bury a police horse killed in the line of duty at a landfill site because the department said it was too expensive to cremate him.

Hercules, a Clydesdale horse which served with the Police Mounted Squad for six years, was electrocuted while working at a district fair.

“We believe this was a disrespectful way of laying to rest a dedicated member of WA Police,”

Mr Armstrong said.

“The WA Police Union offered to pay the approximately \$2000 for the cremation of Hercules when it was brought to our attention he was going to be buried at a landfill site because it was too expensive and not within the Mounted Section’s budget to have him cremated.

“The Mounted Section declined our offer because the decision had already been made to bury Hercules and we were told it was too late and unnecessary.”

The Union is now seeking an assurance from WA Police that this will not be allowed to happen again, and that provision can be made in the budget to cover the expense of the cremation or proper burial of any police animal killed in the line of duty.

## The Police Association of Victoria

More than 2000 members of The Police Association sent a clear message to the Baillieu Government when they voted unanimously to endorse planned industrial action at a special general meeting held last month in support of the EB 2011 campaign.

The offer made by the government was a paltry 2.5 per cent – less than Victoria’s current inflation rate, which is expected to be at 3.3 per cent next year.

“The time to talk is over. The time for action is here,” said Secretary Greg Davies. The message to government was clear. “If you want a fight we will give you a fight. It won’t be one we started and it won’t be one we wanted...but it will be one we will finish. Send the message that you are sick to death of politicians destroying the police force of this state and treating its members with contempt.”

The industrial action strategy includes members who are not actively engaged in response duties to attend at locations where fixed speed and red light cameras or mobile speed camera cars are in place and activate flashing lights on their vehicles for periods of up to 15 minutes at a time; a ban on the use of email and a ban on the preparation and provision of statistical information to the Victoria Police Force, Force management or the Government, including completion of time attrition sheets.

Under Fair Work Australia the proposed action has been put to the members in a secret ballot. If endorsed in the secret ballot, industrial action will begin in June.



## Queensland Police Union

Queensland is still before the Full Bench of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission hearing evidence between parties for an increase that is greater than the 2.5 per cent per annum for three years Queensland Government has offered its police officers.

The Full Bench spent a week inspecting stations from Cairns and Mt Isa to Brisbane's Fortitude Valley and the Gold Coast to get a feel of the work being encountered by officers on a day-to-day basis. Whilst we believe that Queensland officers are deserving of a fair pay rise we wait to see what political will shall prevail with the impending election in the next 12 months.

Queensland officers are also currently giving evidence in the Judicial Inquiry into this year's floods that devastated most of Queensland. Whilst it may not be headlines the recovery and allocation of funds from the Premier's Appeal does not seem to be benefiting those who need it the most.

Queensland is still mindful of the assistance given by other jurisdictions during this disaster.

## Police Federation of Australia

### **POLICE CALL FOR STAND ALONE OVERSEAS WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME**

In 2004 when the Military Rehabilitation Compensation Act (MRCA) came into being the Veteran's Entitlements Act was 'full stopped'. This put police in a difficult position as the MRCA had no provision for police. Since that time we have been lobbying consecutive governments to develop a stand-alone piece of legislation to accommodate police officers working in dangerous missions overseas. As a result, NSW Police refused to provide police for further deployments.

In 2009 the government commissioned a review of military compensation arrangements. One of the key elements of the Terms of Reference (ToR) that affected Police were –

- Consider the suitability of access to military compensation schemes for members of the Australian Federal Police who have been deployed overseas



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Spectacles - frames	\$100.00	?
Progressive lenses	\$258.20*	?

\*Subject to annual maximums and Rollover Benefit

Health insurance provided by Police Health Limited ABN 86 135 221 519.

## R.M. Williams now open at Casuarina Square



**R.M.WILLIAMS HAS OPENED** its second retail store in Darwin. Located on level one of the Northern Territory's largest shopping centre, Casuarina Square, the new store offers the Darwin community convenient access to quality, authentic and durable Australian style.

Mitchell Foster, R.M. Williams General Manager of Retail, said that the opening of the Casuarina store was indicative of the Darwin community's strong interest in the R.M. Williams brand.

"We have always enjoyed a great level of support from the people of Darwin since our Smith St Mall store opened in 2006. We are thrilled to offer you even more with the opening of our second Darwin store at Casuarina Square."

- Consider whether the current arrangement to develop an 'enhanced' scheme under the SRCA remains appropriate.
- Consider whether it is appropriate for members of the Australian Federal Police who have been deployed on high-risk overseas operations to have access to the MRCA.
- Consider whether it is appropriate to develop a standalone compensation scheme for members of the Australian Federal Police who have been deployed on high-risk overseas operations.

The PFA made a submission to that review, appeared and gave evidence. We argued for the third dot point in that section of the ToR. We were aware that Defence did not want us as part of the MRCA and we have argued since the beginning of this debate that the Safety Rehabilitation Act (SRCA) was developed for domestic public service, not dangerous overseas missions and therefore police should not be part of that legislation.

During the review process we also asked the then Minister for Veteran's Affairs to expedite the section of the review that related to police. That wasn't done. However in April 2010 the Minister for Home Affairs, through his personal intervention in this matter, made a commitment in writing to the PFA that an interim

agreement had been reached to provide officers working overseas access to enhanced benefits. The correspondence said –

*“The scheme will afford each member a percentage increase in any payment made under the SRCA and will allow members to access compensation similar to that which would be received under the MRCA for similar risk. I am advised that this percentage will be in the order of 45 – 50%”.*

The Review has now been completed and its report has been released.

The only relevant recommendation for police was – *That the Committee recommends that Australian Federal Police Members not be given access to the MRCA.*

A pretty weak outcome considering we've had to wait almost two years for the result. Why the Committee couldn't have been bold enough to recommend the third dot point in their ToR a stand-alone piece of legislation, is beyond our understanding?

We have subsequently met with the Minister for Home Affairs and are now in the process of setting up a meeting with him and the Minister for Veteran's Affairs to finalise this issue once and for all in favour of police. We will keep you advised. ★

Darwin is the Northern Territory's regional centre and thus supports a vast and eclectic mix of people. The new Casuarina store will offer a comprehensive product mix – from the newly launched Stockyard range to finely hand crafted leather footwear – “there's something for everyone in store,” Mr Foster said.

Currently in store customers can browse the R.M.Williams Autumn/Winter 2011 range of footwear, clothing and accessories for men, women and children, as well as a selection of classic R.M.Williams pieces and world renowned R.M.Williams premium, handcrafted leather boots.

The highly anticipated new Stockyard range, available at the Casuarina Square store, has been designed specifically for men and women working the land and is well suited to the wider Northern Territory community with its practical and durable design and lower price point.

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Buy a pair of handcrafted R.M.Williams Boots and on presentation of your NT Police ID receive **15% off\***

\*NT Police personnel discount not valid with any other offer. Only valid at R.M.Williams Casuarina and Darwin stores. Not valid on Lay-bys. Only valid on full priced Boots. Original ID must be presented in person. Offer valid until 31st August 2011.

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PETER WRIGHT SENIOR CHAPLAIN

## What is a Chaplain?

**DURING THE TIME** I have had the privilege to serve as the PFES Chaplain I have come across people who have no idea what a Chaplain is. Some have a slight idea, with the comment that you are a sort of “religious bloke or blokes”. Then there are those who know exactly what a Chaplain is.

Chaplains do a variety of things. Yes we are “religious”, doing weddings, christenings and the occasional funeral, and other religious services and much more.

The Chaplain is interested in the general wellbeing of those they endeavour to serve. They are a “friend when you do not have a friend”, as one of my colleague Chaplains once said, giving pastoral care/counselling and spiritual support to all regardless of race, sex, creed or religion.

Most Chaplains are ordained clergy. There are a number who are not clergy, but rather lay church workers who are Chaplains under their particular faith group. Chaplaincy came about through the Christian faith. Today, however there are Chaplains from Christian and non Christian faith groups serving people across a wide range of industry, and in many countries throughout the world.

In the Military setting the Chaplain is often referred to as “loitering with intent”. This is very true of the Police Chaplain. We do a lot of loitering and as it is illegal to “loiter”, we “loiter with intent” to remain within the law, hopefully. This loitering takes us to many offices, out into the field and remote stations, not because there is necessarily an issue with a member,

but rather to be there for the member to chat or seek counselling, or to just give some encouragement.

Then there are the times when the Chaplain may be asked the big questions about life and death, or the question about God and what that all means. From time to time the Chaplain may be called out to a critical incident to give support to members, members of the public involved, or those passing by who may have witnessed an incident. The Chaplain is also available to members', families for a variety of reasons.

So where did this Chaplain thing come from?

Way back in ancient history according to the Life of St Martin of Tours by Sulpitius Severus, while still a Roman soldier, Martin encountered a shivering beggar on a cold winter night and gave him half of his cloak. Shortly after that Jesus appeared to Martin with half of his cloak and said “Martin ... clothed me with this robe,” reminding him of words written in St. Matthew 25:40 - “The King will reply,” ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Later Martin completely committed his life as a Christian and devoted his life to the church. His cloak came to symbolize care and compassion for those in need. The strength and conviction of his compassion was so great that the kings carried the cloak into battle, accompanied by priests who tended to the king’s religious needs. These priests came to be known as the “keepers of the cloak” or cappellanus - and today are known as chaplains.

The Chaplain comes with no set agenda, but simply to serve those who would wish it. ★

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

**Researchers** attached to the Pennsylvania State University are examining how officers cope with work-related stress and need police officer volunteers (all ranks and assignments) to complete a survey.

As former police officers themselves Dr. Michael Arter and Dr Kim Menard, who are conducting the study, know how stressful police work can be. Unfortunately there is little research on how operational police combat stress. Their target is to

find out what coping mechanisms work best so that they can inform policy makers and police alike.

The survey is approved by the Pennsylvania State University Institutional Review Board and is anonymous. It will only take about 20 – 30 minutes to complete. Participation is completely voluntary.

**The survey is online and can be completed by going to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/polcestudy](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/polcestudy)**



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### Bali 6 nights 4 1/2-star

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### Kuta 4 nights

**INCLUDES** Accom at the Bounty Hotel & breakfast daily. **BONUS** Nightclub entry & Welcome drink. **ADD** Kintamani Monkey Forest Tour from \$68\*. from **\$195\***

### Kuta 4 nights

**INCLUDES** Accom at the Kuta Beach Club Hotel & Spa with breakfast daily & late check-out. **ADD** Ubud Artistry Tour from \$39\*. from **\$169\***

### Kuta 4 nights 4-star

**INCLUDES** Accom at the Mercure Kuta Bali & breakfast daily. **BONUS** Welcome drink 10-minute massage. **ADD** Ubud Artistry Tour from \$45\*. from **\$245\***

### Kuta 4 nights 4-star

**INCLUDES** Accom at the Hard Rock Hotel & breakfast daily. **BONUS** Welcome drink & Shopping vouchers. **ADD** Horse Riding Tour from \$61\*. from **\$359\***

### Legian 4 nights

**INCLUDES** Accom at the Jayakarta Hotel Bali & breakfast daily. **ADD** River Kayaking Tour from \$64\*. from **\$189\***

### Legian 4 nights 4-star

**INCLUDES** Accom at O-C-E-N by Outrigger & breakfast daily. **BONUS** Welcome drink on arrival. **ADD** Tanah Lot Sunset & Cocktail Tour from \$62\*. from **\$369\***

### Legian 4 nights 5-star

**INCLUDES** Accom at the Padma Resort Bali & breakfast daily. **ADD** Uluwatu Tour & Sundown Kecak from \$45\*. from **\$435\***

## International Holidays

### Hong Kong 4 nights 4-star

from **\$169\***

**INCLUDES** STAY 4 & PAY 3 at the Harbour Plaza North Point.



### Cook Islands 5 nights 4-star

**INCLUDES** STAY 5 & PAY 4 at the Edgewater Resort & Spa with breakfast daily & return transfers. **ADD** Reef Sub Tour from \$57\*. from **\$395\***

### Fiji 8 nights

**INCLUDES** Return transfers. **ADD** Upper Navua Tour from \$261\*. from **\$215\***

### Hawaii 4 nights

**ADD** Manoa Waterfall Adventure from \$54\*. from **\$179\***

### Ho Chi Minh City 4 nights

**INCLUDES** Breakfast daily. **ADD** Cu Chi Tunnel By Road Tour from \$55\*. from **\$139\***

### Langkawi 5 nights

**INCLUDES** STAY 5 & PAY 4 with return transfers. **ADD** Cable Car & Underwater Tour from \$62\*. from **\$285\***

### London 3 nights

**INCLUDES** Breakfast daily & return transfers. **ADD** Explore London Walking Pass from \$22\*. from **\$339\***

### Los Angeles 5 nights

**INCLUDES** STAY 5 & PAY 4. **ADD** Return transfers from \$40\*. from **\$315\***

### Penang 5 nights 4-star

**INCLUDES** STAY 5 & PAY 4 at the Bayview Beach Resort, breakfast daily & return transfers. **ADD** Sunset Tour with Dinner from \$63\*. from **\$249\***

### Philippines 4 nights

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## Congratulations!

Sergeant Michael Ordelman presents Karren Brown with the iPad. Karren won the iPad after including her mobile phone number when she updated her details with the NTPA. Congratulations Karren.



## Find the ball comp!

We had one winner – Congratulations to Colin Jenkinson who was nearest the pin. He wins a NTPA Jacket.



## Where's Vince?

Over recent months the NTPA has received some tongue-in-cheek emails about the number of times President Vince Kelly's photograph appears in the *NT Police News*. Here is another photo of Vince, but **which of these bald heads is his?** Identify Vince and his two companions and you can **win a NTPA jacket valued at \$50.00**. Here are a couple of hints. One of the men also regularly appears in the *NT Police News* and one is a Police Federation of Australia office bearer.

Send your answer to 'Where's Vince?' NTPA, GPO Box 2350, Darwin, 0801.

The competition closes on Friday, July 15. Executive and NTPA staff are excluded from this competition.

The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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more than just money



# Guide to protecting your income – your most important asset

**Most of us are aware of the need to prepare for our long-term financial security and this is evidenced by the increased interest in superannuation and other long-term investments.**

**However, preparing a long-term financial plan is also about protecting you from unforeseen risks that could occur throughout life's journey. We tend to take for granted that we will be able to work and earn an income. But if your income suddenly stops, as a result of injury or illness, it can have devastating results on your financial plan and harm you and your family's future financial security.**

When asked what our greatest (physical) asset is, many people state their house and see the importance of insuring it and its contents. Yet many of us overlook our income. You might be surprised how much you may earn in your lifetime and therefore how important it is to protect your income. For example, if you are 35 and earn \$850 per week, you could earn more than \$2.9m\* before you turn 65. No matter how large or small your pay is, generally it supports your family, your bills, your loan repayments and your lifestyle.

*\* assumes a 5% pa. salary increase*

## How does the strategy work?

Income protection insurance can be a flexible and tax-effective way to protect the asset that creates wealth for you and your family – you! If you suffer from an illness or injury and are unable to work, income protection insurance can pay a monthly benefit; typically of up to 75% of your pre-tax income to replace your lost earnings. While the insurance benefit can be measured against your pre-tax earnings, benefits paid are tax assessable as income. You can insure for a range of benefit payment periods with maximum cover generally up to age 65, as well as a range of features, options and

benefits, giving you the choice to select the income protection insurance that is most suitable to you. Most income protection policies offer a range of waiting periods (the length of time you have to wait before your insurance benefit starts accruing) and benefit periods (the maximum length of time you will receive the benefit). As a general rule, the shorter the waiting period and longer the benefit period, the more the insurance will cost. If cost is a consideration, it is generally better to trade off a longer waiting period rather than shortening the benefit period.

## The Benefits

- Income protection insurance generally provides up to 75% of income in the event of disability.
- Income protection insurance premiums are generally tax deductible (but remember that the benefits paid are assessable as income).

## Tips and Traps

While most policies are indexed in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) automatically at each renewal, this facility generally stops during a period of claim. You should consider policies which allow your benefit to keep pace with inflation, particularly if a long-term claim eventuates.

Check that you can insure for more than just your base salary. For employees, packaged items such as motor vehicles, school fees and superannuation contributions can be included as well as commissions, fees, regular bonuses, regular overtime and other fringe benefits.

These days, most policies offer what is known as agreed value benefits, which guarantee the monthly benefit you apply for, ensuring that if your income reduces in the future your benefit payment in the event of disablement is assured. There are also products that provide an indemnity style benefit, which base the monthly benefit generally on the income earned in the twelve months prior to claim and are usually more economical.



## Resignations

Wade Hawkins	Constable First Class	21-Jan-11
Daniel Oswald	Constable First Class	4-Feb-11
Craig Rowell	Constable	15-Feb-11
Marcia Campbell	Auxiliary	27-Jan-11
Susan Wieland	Constable First Class	21-Feb-11
Denise Goddard	ACPO to Constable	16-Feb-11
Carolynne McMillan	Auxiliary	18-Feb-11
Reece Baldwin	Senior Constable First Class	25-Feb-11
Julian Laycock	Constable First Class	11-Mar-11
Darren Ferguson	Constable First Class	14-Mar-11
Leigh Guelfi	Constable First Class	13-Mar-11
Neil Joyce	Constable First Class	11-Mar-11
Tracey Keown	Constable First Class	16-Mar-11
Lori McIntyre	Constable First Class	5-Feb-11
John McMillan	Senior Constable	25-Feb-11
Timothy Perry	Sergeant	20-Mar-11
Tony Watson	Senior Constable	23-Mar-11
Bradley Carroll	Constable First Class	21-Mar-11
Cheryl McKenzie	Constable First Class	13-Mar-11
Troy McCandless	Constable	8-Mar-11
Claire Neyland	Constable	20-Feb-11
Kattalin Hoffman-Beitia	Auxiliary	6-Apr-11
Sally Slack-Smith	Auxiliary	22-Mar-11
Kirsten Maccarthy	Senior Constable First Class	28-Feb-11
Eliza Pedley	Trainee Constable	15-Apr-11
Bradley Bendeich	Auxiliary	26-Apr-11

## Retirements

John Walker	Senior Constable	4-Feb-11
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