PATRON'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Retired Police Association and families a happy, safe & prosperous Christmas – New Year,

I always enjoy meeting with retired members of the police force mainly through the RPANT and the Police Museum and Historical Society, and listening to their stories of ‘days gone by’. Whenever I travel throughout the Territory and on visits to bush communities, I often wonder how life must have been for police officers and their families in the ‘good old days’.

Policing is a great tradition with a great history and I appreciate the work undertaken by the RPANT to maintain the police network and provide that vital link to the police force of today and indeed tomorrow. It’s a terrific club to belong to and one that contributes to the unique and professional nature of policing.

I trust that Christmas is a time when retired members can reflect on their life in policing and share this important time with their families in a way that was often not possible when duty called on them to serve and protect the community of the Northern Territory.

Paul C White APM
Patron

Australia Day Sunset Cruise

All Aboard

We were not able to have a Christmas Cruise this year due to the fact that Seacat Charters do not run Harbour Cruises any more. We were unable to get a charter with the Spirit if Darwin.

The Committee therefore decided to hold the Cruise on Australia Day. We have booked the cruise and will ‘cast off’ at about 5.30pm on

Wednesday 26th January 2005. Please book early to ensure you get a berth. Cost will be $10.00 per head. This is an Adults only cruise.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During the past 4 months your committee has performed extremely well in carrying out their tasks and putting up with a ‘Handicapped’ President.

Graham Rees has excelled himself as a very competent Secretary. He has put in many hours keeping things “Shipshape”.

John Woodcock as our V/President/Public Officer has been kept busy ensuring constitutional changes, as required under the Government’s new initiatives are being adopted into our constitution upgrade.

John R. Williams is making sure our funds remain in a healthy state.

Pauline Smith as well as looking after Welfare matters continues to organise our provisions for functions and our meetings. (Lovely girl)

Denzil McManus is always ready to give a helping hand at any time. He helps out at our ticket selling at the Shopping Centre.

Lindsay McDowell is also a ready to help out with ticket selling. He and Pauline Smith with Margaret MacCarthy comprise the Social Sub-Committee.

Margaret MacCarthy has come onto the Secretariat Sub-Committee as the Minutes Secretary.

Well there I’ve survived another year. My best wishes and thoughts are with you and your loved ones during this time of year. I hope all goes well for you during 2005.

Ho Ho Ho and a Very Merry Christmas.

John ‘Pastry’ Wilson
President
SECRETARY’S NOTES

Here’s another Newsletter on its way. Got the articles coming in now and the committee members are all pitching in and making it an easier task.

We had the pleasure of Commissioner White’s attendance at our Committee Meeting on 8 September 2004 and an interesting meeting it was.

Mr White thanked the committee members for their commitment and dedication to the Association.

He then addressed the meeting regarding the accommodation of the Police Museum. The Museum is to be eventually moved to the Chan Building (Block 8). RPANT is to remain where they are for the time being, but due to Departmental requirements we may soon have to re-locate.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year for you and yours

WELFARE NEWS

An email from Keith Van Ranglerooy advised that he took Bluey Harvey to the Nambour RSL for lunch in September.

Keith advised that Bluey enjoyed himself and they had a good laugh talking about ‘Old Times’ and members (no names mentioned).

Keith will make this an irregular outing when time permits.

Our thanks to Keith, for his kind actions.

Pauline Smith called in and saw Bluey whilst she was on holidays. She said that Bluey recognised her and that they had a good ‘Chinwag’.

Also received email from David Betts, President of the Qld North Coast Retired Police Association, regarding his visit to see Bluey.

A DOG’S SAD TALE

‘Old Timer’

In the mid 1960s part of Police duties was to respond to requests to destroy dogs if the owners requested it. The usual procedure was to take the dog away to the Rubbish Dump and shoot it. The matter was duly written up in the Complaints and Enquiry Journal.

Also fashionable amongst a considerable number of members at Darwin was to own Bull Terriers. Considerable discussions relating to particular dogs was often heard at lunch breaks, The proud owners extolled the virtues of their dogs, and it seemed a healthy pastime.

Darwin at the time was a sleepy village and the only Newsagency was Cashmans in Smith Street. It was commonplace for Darwinite’s to drive into town on a Saturday morning to get the Northern Territory News and other magazines before the store closed at lunchtime.

On one such Saturday the Station Sergeant drove into town on this errand. He duly called in to Bennett Street Police Station, perused the Complaints and Enquiry Journal, and tied up his Bull Terrier to the Radio aerial at the rear of the Station. Before wandering off into Smith Street.

At about the same time the Reserve Officer received a call for Police to call around and destroy an injured dog. He duly called up the only mobile to pass on the task. The Member advised Base that he would have to return to the Station and draw a Revolver and bullets. The members arrived at Bennett Street Police Station and drove up the side lane and parked. Not long after that, they departed to carry out the duty.

The Station Sergeant returned from his shopping and went to pick up his dog, only to find that the dog and the lead had disappeared. He and the Reserve Officer searched locally for the dog without success. The unhappy and irritated Station Sergeant reluctantly left to go home and asked the Reserve Officer to call him if the dog turned up.

Not long after that the Complainant telephoned
the Police Station and asked if Police were going to come and destroy his dog as they said they would. Said Reserve Officer called up the Mobile and was told “We have already shot the dog. We picked it up from the back of the Police Station a while ago”.

It took hours before the three members summoned up the courage to tell the Station Sergeant of the unfortunate turn of bad luck. I’m not sure of the final outcome but I’m glad I didn’t have to tell the cranky Station Sergeant.

NEW SCOTLAND YARD

Did you know…?

1. The lifts in New Scotland Yard travel a combined distance of 86 miles per day, or 27,000 miles a year. In the years they have been in use they have travelled more than three round trips to the moon.
2. The revolving sign at the front of the building makes 4,114 revolutions a day.
3. All signs in the building are in a typeface designed specially for the Yard – the Ed Wright Alphabet.
4. The building consumes enough electricity to power 100,000 average homes.
5. Some believe the Yard is haunted. The story is that the Basement North Plant Room is on the site of an old graveyard. Several staff claim to have seen a ghost there and no one will go in alone at night.
6. The whole of the site has sunk nine inches since 1967, but the building is not at risk.
7. The building has approximately 4,500 phones.
8. A team of ten electricians works almost constantly, carrying out minor repairs and modifications to rooms.
9. The Press Bureau receives in the vicinity of 320,000 phone calls from the Press each year and deals with upwards of 20,000 incidents.
10. It takes the cleaners 101,000 working hours per year to keep the building clean.
11. About 7,000 people pass the yard every day.

Courtesy of the NSW R.P.A. Gazette

VALE

Arnold George WILSON
08/01/1935 – 21/09/2004
Constable Reg. No.
Joined NT Police 8 January 1961
Resigned 1962
Survived by his wife Eleanor, daughter Debbie and sons Stephen and Peter

May he rest in peace

VALE

Allan Frederick METCALFE (Fangs)
19/07/1931 – 30/09/2004
Chief Superintendent Reg. No. 14
Joined NT Police 20 July 1952
Retired 1986
Survived by his wife Joyce And Family

May he rest in peace

VALE

John Barrie Tiernan MBE
04/09/1921 – 22/10/2004
Sergeant 2/c Reg. No 12
Joined NT Police 23 May 1949
Retired 27 August 1975
Sadly missed by relatives and friends

May he rest in peace

LETTERS

Received the following letter from Ed Ferrier of Alice Springs.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Allan Metcalfe, a friend and colleague of mine in the Force long ago.
As a young Constable Allan was a steady reliable lad and his swift rise through the ranks was no surprise to me.

Years after I had left the job and joined the Commonwealth Pacific Service I was appointed District Officer (Town Manager) at Tennant Creek, where Allan was Senior Sergeant OIC Police. In those days, outside of Darwin there were no Town Councils. As a Justice of the Peace I used to sit on the Lower Court bench, which I continued to do over a period of 29 years. (Two JP’s equalled 1 Magistrate).

A low life type at Tennant Creek used to bash his wife. Neighbours would call Police but by the time they arrived it was all over and as all Police learn early in their careers, battered wives usually refuse to testify against their husbands.

One evening however, Allan was doing some paperwork in the station when neighbours rang to say the women’s screams were more desperate than usual. The evening shift boys had taken the truck down town so Allan jumped into his own car and sped to the house in time to see the assault in progress, thus enabling him to effect an arrest. The basher decided to give Allan taste of the same medicine he had been administering to his wife, but this decision proved ill considered. When he appeared before the Court next morning, looking decidedly care worm, he answered that he had been arrested by two policemen, not one!

Some years later in Alice Springs Allan happened to be passing by when there was a serious industrial accident. A large machine had been digging a deep trench for the laying of sewerage pipes. The earth was very dry and crumbly and part of the trench collapsed, burying a workman. Coming from a timber getting family Allan was no stranger to hard work and he grabbed a shovel and jumped into the trench, at real danger to himself as the trench showed signs of further caving in. However, Allan’s efforts helped to uncover the injured man before he had suffocated. Modestly, Allan thought it was no big deal.

Towards the end of his career Allan rose to senior ranks and was engaged in administrative work at Headquarters in Darwin.

He was not old enough to have served in World War II but I am sure he would have joined up and been a good solider.

Vale Allan Metcalfe – good bloke and good cop.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Ferrier
Alice Springs

The following was received from Perry Morey and the Morey family on behalf of Mrs Kathleen Morey on the event of her 90th birthday.

On behalf of our dear mother, Kathleen Morey, my sister, wife and I sincerely thank the president, your good self and committee for the beautiful and generous flowers sent on the occasion of Kath’s 90th birthday.

It was indeed a special day with family mustering up from southern & eastern states and also from NY & Texas.

Kath was quite aware of what was going on and even though her memory is failing she was attentive and spent a very happy day. Although she may not recall much, we will remember her happiness and charm.

Kind Regards
Perry M

The following Thank You note was attached to the letter.

To
The President and Committee of
The
Retired Police Association, NT

For the generous flowers sent to Kath Morey on the occasion of Her 90th Birthday
These were much appreciated and she “adored them”

Sincerely
Morey Family

Kathleen Morey is one of a large family, was born in 1914 at Southport Queensland and grew up in Camooweal, attending Camooweal State School.

In 1932 at 20 years of age Kathleen married Mounted Constable Ted Morey, with Lake Nash Police Station NT being the first married home. The marriage produced 3 children.
In her marriage and beyond Kathleen has lived in such places as Rockhampton, Beswick cattle station, Coolibah Station, Adelaide, Katherine, Newcastle Waters, Wildman River and now Alice Springs.

**WOTSANAME**

This happened several years ago
I remember it very well
We were looking for a Secretary
A sort who knew how to spell.

Applications came in thick and fast
From Joy and Anne and Sal
One of them stood out in front
A lass known as Wotsaname

We knew that we were looking for
A good sort who could spell
So we settled for this sheila
Known to us as Wotsaname

The President elect was Pastry
Known to others as JDL
Any odd jobs he had to do
He left them to Wotsaname

The Vice Pres, he’s a poor old coot
Who often claimed he knew her well
Not in a biblical sense, mind you
A real good sort Wotsaname.

The Treasurer, a garrulous bloke
At bookkeeping was said to excel
But when the Auditor wanted a look
He referred them to Wotsaname.

The committee, all keen as mustard
With debate on which to dwell
Were always given short shrift by
That Secretary Wotsaname.

As a group we worked together
And got along quite well
That’s very much to the credit of
The lass known as Wotsaname.

But know the time has come to pass
And we have said farewell
To the sheila we had come to love
That good sort our own Wotsaname.

DeeMac

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER LOTTERY**

Our Christmas Hamper Lottery is going along quite well. We are selling tickets every Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning at the Palmerston Shopping Centre as well as having books out and about within the community.

This year’s prizes are:

1st Prize – Christmas Hamper valued at $900 + $1200 cash
2nd Prize - $200 cash
**Ticket Seller’s Prize - $100 cash**

If you haven’t got your tickets yet give us a call at the office or see us out at the Palmerston Shopping Centre.

The draw will take place at 11am on Saturday 18 December at the Palmerston Shopping Centre.

Please support our major fundraising project for this year and buy a couple of tickets.

**FAREWELL TO JANELL**

A farewell function was held on Saturday 3rd April to farewell our long serving secretary and her family. Approximately 65 persons were in attendance. Janell was presented with a ‘Letter of Commendation’ from our Patron, Commissioner of Police Mr Paul White AM.

A farewell gift from the Police Museum and Historical Society and an Honorary Life Membership.

Janell received her ‘Life Membership’ to the Association for her dedication and years of hard work on behalf of the Association. Janell is our First ‘Life Member’

A photo of the awards made to Janell.
MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum is at present preparing for their exhibition to mark the 30th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy. The committee members, in particular those members who served here during the cyclone, have given invaluable assistance in the preparations.

The exhibition, which focuses on police involvement during the cyclone, will be held throughout January in the Great Hall at Parliament House.

It will reflect on the difficult job facing police, for they had responsibilities not only to their families but to the rest of the Darwin community, placing an added burden on them during those difficult times.

ARE YOU INTERESTED

DynCorp Australia has asked us if we could advise our members of the following employment opportunities.

In support of Australian programs throughout the region. DynCorp Australia, an operating arm of DynCorp International I.I.C., is seeking individuals with appropriate experience and expertise to participate in a joint effort to restore law and order and address issues of serious crime in the Oceania region.

Interested applicants must be active duty, retired, or recently separated sworn police officers. Australian citizenship is required.

Qualifications

- Australian citizenship
- Applicant must have experience as a sworn civilian law enforcement officer.
- Experience in general policing duties, investigations (financial, general criminal, drugs), and tactical response.
- Unblemished background and ability to pass a rigorous background investigation.
- Good health with no major chronic illness.
- Experience with semi-automatic handguns.

Interested applicants should visit the DynCorp Australia website at: www.dyncorpaustralia.com.au and completed the online application documentation.

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON

A group of 20 attended at the Melbourne Cup Luncheon at House No.3. All agreed that it was an interesting day. Denzil McManus, Keith & Pam Colebrook and Rob Gordon cleaned up the Sweeps. Allan Mugge won the Quiz prize. Pauline Smith organised a good spread for lunch.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Our thanks to Keith Colebrook for his expertise in repairing our membership database. We were having problems with the ‘old’ program and Keith came to the rescue and revitalised it. Thanks Keith your time and effort is very much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Our new style membership cards are in the process of being designed/printed. We will have more news on that in the near future. I am sure members will like the end product.

INTERNET BANKING

Are you interested in paying your membership fees through internet banking. If so send me an email and I will advise you of our particulars.

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Once again our numbers were down on the March but a good roll up for the Church Service and luncheon.

This year Shirley Mackintosh was our representative for laying the wreath. We did not have a member doing a Reading this year.

Doyle’s Family Restaurant provided an excellent meal once again and the company was most pleasant.

His Honour The Administrator, Mr Ted Egan AO, and Members of the Legislative Assembly Mr Paul Henderson, MLA – Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Mr Gerry Wood MLA were also in attendance. As was our Patron - Commissioner Paul White APM.