Greatest reward has been helping shape young lives

Well-deserved Nod ‘humbling’ Defence trio’s praise for cops for Mr Probus service lauded

By TAMARA HOWIE

Satisfied is how Darwin City alderman Robert Elix feels when he looks back on his lifetime of service and leadership. Mr Elix received the AM Queen’s Birthday Honours medal for his significant service in leadership roles to local government, the Darwin community and to sporting and racing organisations.

He said the award was “surprising”.

“At the same time very honoured. You don’t do it for this sort of thing,” Mr Elix said.

“It’s never been a consideration, it just came out of the blue.”

Mr Elix has worked on the Darwin City Council for 31 years. Recently, Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim awarded Mr Elix for his many years of service to the council.

“It’s the thought behind it, to be recognised by your peers,” he said.

Mr Elix was heavily involved in setting up the first carnival for the Darwin Turf Club and the AFL club, where he coached, umpired, administered and chaired the club.

He said working with players and leading them into their future was satisfying.

“When you’re dealing with young people and you can see them maturing into people who contribute in later years – that is really satisfying to see them make a success of their lives,” Mr Elix said.

Travel and grandkids are now top priority for Mr Elix.

“Travel and grandkids are now top priority for Mr Elix. Satisfaction and to grow, and to be humbled by the award.”

Darwin alderman Robert Elix was honoured for his years of service to local government, the community, and sporting and racing organisations.

THE Northern Territory Police have demonstrated the calibre of their members with two recipients of Queen’s Birthday Honours.

Senior Constable Jennifer Roe has been awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) for her service with the Northern Territory Police Force and her ongoing commitment to NT youth.

Ms Roe joined as a Police Cadet in 1993 and dedicated the majority of her career to helping the youth in the Territory. She has been involved with the School Based Policing program, Police Citizens Youth Club/Junior Police Rangers and youth crime units.

Her passions and involvement in community activities have also been recognised. Ms Roe has regularly run the boundary and acted as a referee for Australian football and touch football for over 25 years. Throughout her career Sen-Constable Roe has also served with the Domestic Violence Unit and assisted with the training of indigenous recruits and Aboriginal community police officers.

Acting Commander Sean Parnell received an Order of Australia Medal for his extensive charity work outside of his role in the police force.

Mr Parnell has worked as a volunteer for a number of church organisations and on several councils and boards, including his current position as president of St Vincent de Paul Society in Darwin since 2011 and chair of the Northern Territory Catholic Education Council from 2007-2013.

Mr Parnell also acted as vice-president of Northern Territory Police Museum and Historical Society for 10 years.

Eean Thorne, known around Darwin as Mr Probus, has been recognised with the Order of Australia Medal (OAM), General Division, for his extensive work with the Rotary Club and Probus Club.

Mr Thorne, 74, said he was humbled by the award.

“You do things in life for self satisfaction and to grow, and to receive the recognition is very, very humbling,” he said.

While I have been recognised there are many people that have helped me in these endeavours and to them I say thank you.”

He assisted with the formation of the Rotary Club of Toowoomba East in 1975-1976 and worked with the charity organisation for several years, becoming president in 1977.

Following his involvement with the Rotary Club, Mr Thorne went on to form the third Probus club in Australia in Toowoomba. The Probus club provides a social network for retired and semi-retired members of the community.

“Rotary over the years has done an enormous amount of work with youth, and up until Probus there was nothing for the elderly,” Mr Thorne said.

“It has become the most successful service activity that Rotary has ever done.”

Mr Thorn retired in Darwin in 2000 and in 2004 became involved with the Probus Club of Darwin.

THREE NT-based Defence personnel have been awarded Queen’s Birthday honours. They are:

Major Ian Matthew Lakey – Order of Australia Medal (OAM) – For meritorious service as Regimental Sergeant Major of Force Support Unit – One on Operation Slipper; Regimental Sergeant Major of 1st Combat Service Support Battalion; and Regimental Sergeant Major of Force Support Unit – Seven on Operation SLIPPER.


Pastor’s sterling work

TERRITORY resident Pastor Roger Stanley Millist received an Order of Australia Medal for his work in Papua New Guinea and service to international relations through aviation and church roles.

In his career, Mr Millist has served as a Minister for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church since F09 around Australia including Katherine and Nhulunbuy. During his time in Katherine he was the building co-ordinator for the SDA community centre in 2002.

He also has been chief executive officer and pilot with the Adventist Aviation Services in PNG.