



Vollie News

125 years of service
St John
1883 - 2008

Weekly Newsletter

Tuesday 24 June 2008

This week:

- [Training](#)
- [Correction](#)
- [Rural ramblings](#)
- [Dates of significance](#)

Contacts:

Gwyn Balch 8922 6205

Volunteer Coordinator

gwyn.balch@stjohnnt.asn.au

Frank Dunstan 0429886751

Vollie News editor

frank.dunstan@bigpond.com

Links:

St John Ambulance Australia

Members' website

www.stjohn.org.au/

Login: *onestjohn*

Password: *member*

St John Ambulance Australia (NT)

www.stjohnnt.com.au/

Training

An Advanced Resuscitation Course will be held at Palmerston Volunteer Centre on the 10th July at 1800 – 2200.

TA17's to be sent through Divisional Superintendents to the Volunteer Office by the 7th July.

Correction – Rosie Ballinger

In last week's newsletter it was reported that the farewell morning tea for **Jan Knight** (Rowell) would be on Thursday 4th July. The correct date is Thursday 3rd July.

Rural ramblings – Frank Dunstan

The dry season is well and truly here with strong gusty winds and fire bans in the Top End. It is also the time when mango trees start to flower and the native *Grevillea pteradifolia* fill the air with their rich nectar perfume, especially when the winds have stopped for the day.

Ylang-ylang trees are also in bloom, but their heavenly scent is overwhelmed by the Grevillea. One day I will stop talking and actually plant a couple outside my bedroom, their perfume being more pronounced at night.

Dry windy conditions mean more watering to maintain the green belt around the donga and an increased power bill, but this is compensated by the wallabies and wallaroos that come in to graze on the green grasses and drink from the many water points in the yard.

Jungle fowl continue building their mound ever larger. I just hope their chicks have a better survival rate than the Burdekin ducklings. There's a battered old possum comes out most evenings to feed on the bird seed put out for the jungle fowl. I feel for the old fellow and try to remember to put out extra for him.

Life's great in the bush.

Dates of significance

Sun 22nd – Sat 28th June is Drug Action Week

www.drugactionweek.org.au/

Thu 26th June is International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

www.un.org/depts/dhl/drug/index.html

In 1987 the United Nations decided to celebrate this day as a sign of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. The day is used to raise public awareness about fighting drug abuse and promoting preventative measures worldwide.

Thu 26th June is International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

www.un.org/events/torture/

www.hrea.org/feature-events/torture-victims-day.php

This day was officially proclaimed by the United Nations in 1997. Torture and other degrading forms of punishment are among the most abhorrent violations of human rights and dignity. This day emphasises the importance of speaking out against torture, remembering those who suffer from torture, paying tribute to those who combat it and helping victims to overcome physical and psychological pain.

Fri 27th June is Red Nose Day

www.rednoseday.com.au/

Supports fund raising for the SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) Foundation.

Mon 23rd – Fri 27th June is Burns Awareness Week

www.nt.gov.au/health/news/2008/news_23_06_burning_to_tell_their_stories.shtml

media release

Burning to tell their story

Monday, 23 June 2008

Imagine molten metal pouring into your hands and causing third degree burns.

Severe burn victims know the feeling all too well and **Burns Awareness Week** from June 23 to 27 is a time to teach Territorians about burns prevention and treatment.

Burns are extremely painful wounds and can leave permanent scarring, but steps can be taken to avoid burns through general safety awareness.

Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) has seen a 50% increase in burn injuries since 2005 with 167 patients being treated last year alone.

The message for Burns Awareness Week 2008 is '*Hot water burns like fire*'.

RDH Burns Nurse **Alison Mustapha** says young children, in particular, are at a risk of burns from water.

"Parents should keep a close eye on their children. Hot oil and water are major causes of a lot of burns.

"A severe burn can happen in seconds and do enough damage to need skin grafts," says Ms Mustapha.

And men are twenty times more likely than females to be admitted to hospital with flame burns – usually as a result of using flammable liquids to burn off rubbish and palm fronds, light the barbecue or campfires.

“Another very common burn is from sparklers which burn at 1000 degrees Celsius. Some adults hold several in their hand and light them together. The result is a flow of molten magnesium into their hands causing serious wounds,” says Ms Mustapha.

The warning is even more timely with Territory Day approaching.

Nurse Alison Mustapha says correct first aid will reduce the severity of a burn injury.

- REMOVE the victim from the heat source and remove clothing to help the heat escape.
- LEAVE any clothing that is stuck to the skin.
- COOL the burn area immediately with running water for 20 minutes. NEVER use ice, oil, butter or ointment on a burn.
- COVER the burn with clean plastic food wrap.
- SEEK medical attention at the hospital’s emergency department. If necessary call 000 for an ambulance.

Volunteers and members of the NT Fire Service will be manning information stalls at Casuarina Square on Tuesday, Palmerston Shopping Centre on Wednesday and Thursday and Coolalinga Shopping Centre on Friday.

Another stall will be set up at Gove Shopping Centre from Monday June 23 to Friday June 27.

Media Contact: Cameron Jackson, DHCS Media Liaison Officer 0401 116 144