

MARCH 2011



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE NEWS

The Independent Voice of Police in the Northern Territory



TREASURER & FIELD OFFICER VISIT MARANBOY POLICE STATION
And inside...Are you income-protected?...Brett Meredith Remembered.



Holden Colorado offers are tough to beat.

Hurry and get factory bonuses and hard tonneau offers across the Colorado range.



New Colorado LX-R 4x4 Crew Cab

- Alloy wheels# •Bluetooth® •'Snap fit' soft tonneau
- 3.0L Turbo Diesel engine •3 tonne towing capacity
- 4x4 shift-on-the-fly •Dual airbags •ABS

From only
\$35,490¹
Driveaway, no more to pay*



Colorado LT-R 4x4 Crew Cab

- 3.0L Turbo Diesel engine •3 tonne towing capacity
- 16" alloy wheels •Sports bar •Side steps •Soft tonneau •Rear park assist

From only
\$38,990²
Driveaway, no more to pay*

Kerry Holden 21-25 Stuart Highway, The Gardens, NT. Ph: (08) 8980 8080

 Check out the GM Partner Program at gmpartnerprogram.com.au

Holden. **Go better.** 

Things you need to know: 1. Max sale price for 2010-plated Colorado LX-R 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup Turbo Diesel manual. 2. Max. sale price for Colorado LT-R 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup Turbo Diesel manual. >Applies to vehicles built prior to 01/10/10. Offers available on new models delivered before 28/02/11, unless extended, or while stocks last at participating Holden Dealers. Holden reserves the right to change or extend these offers. Not available with other offers. Private or ABN buyers only. *Recommended driveaway price includes 12 months private registration, 12 months compulsory third party insurance, dealer delivery and stamp duty. #Steel spare wheel. Bluetooth® is a registered trademark and logo of Bluetooth® SIG, Inc. Check holden.com.au to determine your phone's compatibility. ΔDriveaway price includes Holden Endorsed Triple M General Purpose (base) Aluminium Tray (or equivalent) valued at approx. \$1,500 including GST (as shown). Prestige paint extra unless specified. HRE077o_FP1_A

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Vince Kelly

Phone: (08) 8981 8840

Fax: (08) 8981 6219

Web: www.ntpa.com.au

ADVERTISER ALERT

Boo Design is appointed by the Northern Territory Police Association as the authorised publisher of *Northern Territory Police News*. For enquiries regarding advertising in this magazine, please contact the publishers:

PUBLISHER: PRINTERS POST PTY LTD

Trading as **BOODESIGN**

Postal: PO Box 19, Narrabeen, NSW 2101

Phone: (02) 8004 8911

Fax: (02) 8004 8611

Email: ntpa@boodesign.com.au

ACN: 102 590 634

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS must be supplied on computer disk with hard copy (or by email to admin@ntpa.com.au) addressed to The Editor, Northern Territory Police News, GPO Box 2350, Darwin Northern Territory 0801.

Northern Territory Police News is published by the Northern Territory Police Association Inc., 5 Foelsche Street, Darwin NT 0801. Contents are subject to copyright. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher is prohibited. Organisations which represent sworn police officers' industrial interests, however, may reproduce any part of the content of *Northern Territory Police News* without written permission of the publisher. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor. The publisher accepts no responsibility for statements made by advertisers.

DISCLAIMER Boo Design ("Publisher") advises that the contents of this publication are at the sole discretion of the Northern Territory Police Association, and the publication is offered for information purposes only. The publication has been formulated in good faith and the Publisher believes its contents to be accurate. However, the contents do not amount to a recommendation (either expressly or by implication) and should not be relied upon in lieu of specific professional advice. The Northern Territory Police Association make no representation, nor give any warranty or guarantee concerning the information provided. The Publisher disclaims all responsibility for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any reader relying upon the information contained in the publication whether that loss or damage is caused by any fault or negligence on the part of the Publisher, its directors and employees.

COPYRIGHT All advertisements appearing in this publication are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced except with the consent of the owner of the copyright.

ADVERTISING Advertisements in this journal are solicited from organisations and businesses on the understanding that no special considerations other than those normally accepted in respect of commercial dealings, will be given to any advertiser.



CONTENTS: MARCH 2011

- 03** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 04** INDUSTRIAL/LEGAL – ARE YOU INCOME PROTECTED?
- 06** FIELD OFFICER'S REPORT
- 09** CAN WE LEARN FROM THE NZ EXPERIENCE?
- 10** BRETT MEREDITH REMEMBERED
- 12** RETIREMENTS
- 13** BROWNIE DOOLAN – THE END OF AN ERA
- 14** POLICE HISTORY – THE TERRITORY'S FINEST DURING WWII
- 17** WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TENNANT CREEK
- 18** THE CRISIS IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
- 20** THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE MEDAL
- 21** POLICE CREDIT NEWS
- 22** POLICE HEALTH
- 23** CORRESPONDENCE TO THE ASSOCIATION
- 24** WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND AUSTRALIA
- 30** PRIZES TO WIN – ENTER OUR COMPETITIONS
- 32** CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE
- 33** AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL ADVISERS
- 36** RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

REGIONAL DELEGATES

ACPO REGION

Chairman Denise Goddard
Vice Chairman Michelle Gargan
Secretary Vacant
Ordinary Member 1 Frank Curtis
Ordinary Member 2 Vacant

ALICE SPRINGS

Chairman Alex Brennan
Vice Chairman Michael Sharkey
Secretary Mark Ashton
Ordinary Member 1 Daniel Roberts
Ordinary Member 2 Paul Milne

BARKLY REGION

Chairman Fred Nilsson
Vice Chairman Darren Gillis
Secretary Henrick Nilsson
Ordinary Member 1 Cameron Higgins
Ordinary Member 2 Ben Powell

CASUARINA

Chairman Wayne Newell
Vice Chairman Len Turner
Secretary Alan Hodge
Ordinary Member 1 Leif Hovland
Ordinary Member 2 Domenic Crea

CONTRACT OFFICERS REGION

Chairman Max Pope
Vice Chairman Kate Vanderlaan
Secretary Mark Payne
Ordinary Member 1 Vacant
Ordinary Member 2 Vacant

GOVE

Chairman Dan Kowalewyc
Vice Chairman Matt Cram
Secretary Nick Allen
Ordinary Member 1 Matt McDonald
Ordinary Member 2 Dev Kanyilmaz

JABIRU REGION

Chairman David Brauns
Vice Chairman Hans Nowak
Secretary Paulo Fernandes
Ordinary Member 1 Brad McCartney
Ordinary Member 2 Roger Ilett

SUPERINTENDENT'S REGION

Chairman David Proctor
Vice Chairman Jamie Chalker
Secretary Vacant
Ordinary Member 1 Helen Braam
Ordinary Member 2 Tony Fuller

AIRPORT UNIFORM POLICING

Chairman Allan Teague
Vice Chairman Nathan Chalmers
Secretary Mick Valladares
Ordinary Member 1 Adrian Keogh
Ordinary Member 2 Bryan Atkinson

AUXILIARY REGION

Chairman Grayson McKinlay
Vice Chairman Ferdinand Cheam
Secretary Kris Sharkey
Ordinary Member 1 Arthur Gane
Ordinary Member 2 Leanne Atherton

BERRIMAH

Chairman Mick Ward
Vice Chairman Jon Pini
Secretary John Gregory
Ordinary Member 1 Robert Kent
Ordinary Member 2 Vacant

CENTRAL REGION

Chairman Tony Henrys
Vice Chairman Paul Lawson
Secretary Suzanne Hollingsworth
Ordinary Member 1 Ron Millar
Ordinary Member 2 Tom Newton

DARWIN

Chairman Mark Bland
Vice Chairman Graeme Wheeler
Secretary Michael Hebb
Ordinary Member 1 Steve Downie
Ordinary Member 2 Rob ToneGuzzo

GROOTE EYLANDT REGION

Chairman Kim Chambers
Vice Chairman Ben Phillipson
Secretary Aaron Cook
Ordinary Member 1 Lee Morgan
Ordinary Member 2 Shane Arnison

PALMERSTON REGION

Chairman Bruce Payne
Vice Chairman Brendan Hogan
Secretary Sean Byrnes
Ordinary Member 1 Angelo De Nale
Ordinary Member 2 Mark Grieves

TERRITORY SUPPORT REGION

Chairman Neil Mellon
Vice Chairman Steve Dalrymple
Secretary Richard O'Brien
Ordinary Member 1 Jason Conroy
Ordinary Member 2 Vacant



EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



PRESIDENT
VINCE KELLY
NTPA OFFICE



SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
TIM LLOYD
FIREARMS EXAMINATION
FORENSIC SCIENCE BRANCH



VICE PRESIDENT
DAVID CHALKER
OIC ALICE SPRINGS
POLICE STATION



TREASURER
MICHAEL ORDELMAN
POLICE SELECTIONS SECTION



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
CHRIS WILSON
OIC DRIVER TRAINING UNIT



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
COL GOODSSELL
TERRITORY INTELLIGENCE
DIVISION PMC



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
KYLIE PROCTOR
ARNHEM AND WESTERN
DIVISION KATHERINE



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
BILL MORGAN
FIELD INTELLIGENCE
OFFICER DARWIN



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
ROSANNA DE SANTIS
INDIGENOUS POLICING
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
DAVE CUBIS
MARINE & FISHERIES



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
LISA BAYLISS
OIS CRIME & SUPPORT



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
SEAN PARNELL
PROSECUTIONS DIVISION

EXECUTIVE SUB COMMITTEE & PANELS

2010 / 2011

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Office Bearers
Col Goodsell Shaun Gill

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE

Vince Kelly Tim Lloyd
David Chalker Col Goodsell
Chris Wilson Hege Burns

LEGAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

David Chalker (chair)
Dave Cubis Kylie Proctor
Hege Ronning-Burns Shaun Gill

WELFARE COMMITTEE

Vince Kelly Michael Ordelman
Dave Cubis Kylie Proctor
Rosanna De Santis

SELECTION REVIEW PANEL

David Chalker Chris Wilson
Col Goodsell Kylie Proctor
Hege Ronning-Burns

PROMOTIONS APPEALS BOARD

David Sgt Gowan Carter (retired)
Senior Sergeant Louise Jorgensen
Senior Sergeant Megan Rowe
Sergeant Tony Henrys
Sergeant Clint Sims

INABILITY/DISCIPLINARY APPEALS BOARD

Sgt Gowan Carter (retired)
Senior Sergeant Louise Jorgensen
Senior Sergeant Megan Rowe
Sergeant Tony Henrys
Sergeant Clint Sims

NTPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAINING AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Vince Kelly Rosanna De Santis
Lisa Bayliss Chris Wilson



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
HEGE RONNING-BURNS
COUNTER TERRORISM SECURITY
COORDINATION DIVISION



EXECUTIVE MEMBER
SHAUN GILL
OIC YULARA

NTPA STAFF MEMBERS



ROB PERRY
INDUSTRIAL
LEGAL OFFICER



OWEN BLACKWELL
INDUSTRIAL AND FIELD
SERVICES OFFICE



JULIE COLBERT
OFFICE MANAGER



“ Many of these officers are behaving in accordance with their oath of office by putting public safety ahead of their own welfare and that of their families. Why? – Because it is the right thing to do. ”

AT THE TIME OF writing, much of central, south west, and south east Queensland is under water. So is a fair bit of northern NSW and a chunk of WA – the bit that is not burning anyway. It is encouraging to see that the people in these communities are doing what they can to survive and recover with the support of the broader Australian community.

The news footage is stark, but at the forefront are a myriad of emergency service personnel, including hundreds of police officers. Many of these officers are behaving in accordance with their oath of office by putting public safety ahead of their own welfare and that of their families. Why? – Because it is the right thing to do.

The current emergency serves to highlight sacrifices made every day by hundreds of police officers across the country, including our Territory. Locally during this “festive” season our members dealt with the carnage of a fatal accident near Elliot in which two children were killed, two homicides in the Top End and a further homicide at Nhulunbuy. These are just the headline jobs which ignore the work done daily by you – dealing with drunks, street crime, and family violence to mention but a few.

Again this emergency has reminded me of the unique nature of the police family I have been contacted by local and interstate police both wanting to help our fellow officers who may have been personally affected by the various disasters.

Locally the police family gathered on January 2, 2011 at the Bill Condon Club, Katherine to remember the first anniversary of the death of Sergeant Brett Meredith (see story on page 10). It is significant that we gathered to remember Brett at the Bill Condon Club – Bill was killed on duty on 9 June 1952.

It is all of these things which make the job unique.

As I indicated in my December article, 2011 will be a busy year. By publication our Association will have commenced negotiations for a new Consent Agreement. These negotiations have been preceded

by some robust discussion in finalising a new determination. It was of concern to our Association that we again met resistance in a number of areas and we can only hope a more pragmatic approach is taken in our current negotiations.

Our Association is well prepared. We commenced our research of your industrial needs and desires more than a year ago. As in any negotiations we will not achieve everything on our industrial wish list, however we do hope to ensure that the final agreement delivers improvements to your conditions of service and allows the Commissioner of Police to continue to recruit and retain quality professional police officers. This must be the underlying objective of the government and the Commissioner for Public Employment who, despite our ongoing objection and concern, is leading negotiations on behalf of government.

By publication of this edition the Australian Electoral Commission will have called for nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, and five Executive members of the NTPA. The President's position is a four year term. I intend to stand again for the position. I have had the privilege of being in this role since 2001 and in full time capacity since 2003.

My view (some would say biased) is that our Association has come a long way since 2001. There have been quantum improvements in members' terms and conditions and a strong financial basis has been established. This has been achieved partly through stable leadership and the successive efforts of your Executive. Like any elected group we have had our ups and downs, got some things right and some things wrong, but, our focus remains on looking after members and their families. I remain committed to working on behalf of members in this role if I am re-elected.

Finally I am thankful that other than the daily physical and mental bumps and bruises that come with operational policing – a contact sport – that we made it through the “festive” season relatively unscathed – fingers crossed for the rest of the year. ★

Are you income-protected?

IT HAS BEEN RECOGNISED for many years that policing as an occupation creates significant risks to the health and well-being of those who serve and protect.

It is with this in mind that organisations such as this Association and its counterparts in jurisdictions throughout the western world have strived to achieve generous standards of employment – including remuneration and terms and conditions of service – to reflect the risks, obligations and responsibilities that sworn police officers are dutybound to uphold.

Members of the Northern Territory Police Force enjoy a reasonable level of financial security – but what happens if you are unable to carry out your duties in the medium to long term due to circumstances beyond your control?

In circumstances where you are seriously injured (or in the most tragic circumstances, killed), or suffer a long-term illness that is work-related, you will be entitled to workers' compensation benefits. But would those benefits be sufficient to keep you and your family financially secure in the long term, particularly given that your compensation payments reduce to 75 per cent of your salary after the first six months from the date of the injury/illness¹?

A 25 per cent reduction in your take-home pay each fortnight is a significant reduction in your family's income and capacity to maintain a comfortable standard of living.

Members may also be of the belief that they are immune from the financial effects of succumbing to a long term debilitating non-work related injury or illness because of our sick leave provisions.

The fact is that serious and medium to long term injuries and illnesses, irrespective of whether they are work related or not, may impact heavily on your future career in the Force and ultimately you and your family's financial security.

Our current sick leave provisions do not mean that a member who can no longer carry out duties because of the effects of an injury or illness may remain on sick leave for the duration of his or her working life.

The Commissioner, being charged with the general control and management of the Police Force² has an obligation to ensure its efficiency and functioning through a properly resourced workforce.

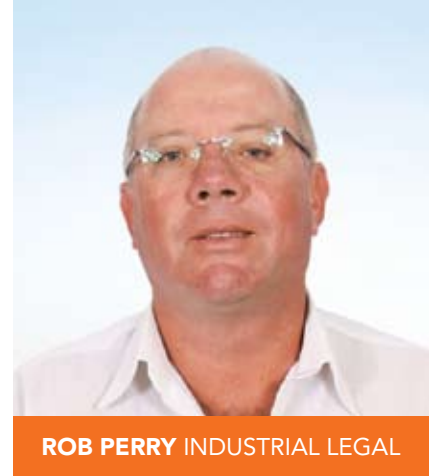
Notwithstanding any other arrangement or benevolent intention of the Commissioner, he is statutorily dutybound to consider whether a member who is utilising sick leave or has been absent from work on workers' compensation over an extended period of time will in the future be "fit to discharge, suited to perform or capable of efficiently performing, the duties the member is employed to perform"³, either through total and permanent medical incapacity or some other reason that prevents the member from carrying out duties efficiently, satisfactorily or at all⁴.

The circumstances in which Part V of the PAA may come into play are varied and it is not intended to explore such situations in this article. Suffice to say that all members face a degree of risk in confronting a situation at some stage in their career of being separated from the Police Force and facing the prospect of reduced financial independence and security. Whilst the policing profession may increase the risk of such situations arising in some instances, through the inherent risks of police work, other risks of ill-health and injury outside the work environment are also issues that all workers face and should consider.

This Association does not endorse the services of any particular insurance broker or financial adviser, however if members do want to seek professional advice and discuss their options on how to insure against these risks and secure their future financial security, organisations that can assist do advertise in this magazine and members may seek to utilise the services of those or other similar organisations.

In any event, all members are encouraged to talk over the issues of trauma insurance and income protection through private insurance policies with their families, bearing in mind the facts that workers' compensation is not necessarily the answer to long term financial security in the face of work related

“ Our current sick leave provisions do not mean that a member who can no longer carry out their duties because of the effects of an injury or illness may remain on sick leave for the duration of his or her working life. ”



ROB PERRY INDUSTRIAL LEGAL

injury and illness and unlimited sick leave provisions contained in the Police Arbitral Tribunal, as amended from time to time in current Consent Agreements definitely will not provide such security.

Inquiries that I have made with industry representatives suggest that income protection insurance for police officers can be difficult (although not necessarily impossible) to source outside of group superannuation schemes, whereas trauma cover is less problematic. Again, members are encouraged to discuss their options with their personal financial adviser.

Your Association continues to argue for better superannuation provisions for our members and this aspect is one of many important reasons for

superannuation reform in the Police Force.

And finally, advice that I have sourced has confirmed that premiums paid for this kind of insurance are tax deductible, making it an even better reason for all members to consider this important aspect of their financial strategy moving forward. ★

¹Noting that for the purpose of calculation of workers' compensation benefits, "salary" will include the Housing Allowance (and the value of free housing if you are forced out of Police housing due to forced retirement – discussed later in this article – and consolidated allowance but not many other allowances)

²Section 14(1) of the Police Administration Act

³Part V Police Administration Act – Inability of member to discharge duties

⁴For a general interpretation of the various applications of Part V of the PAA, see generally the ex tempore decision of Mildren J in Commissioner of Police v Farquhar & Ors [2010] NTSC 61

WOLF EYES TACTICAL TORCHES

Digital Police Torch Monstrous 1,000 Lumens



Includes free holster for Police Officers

\$210

- Great throw and flood
- High, medium, low beam and strobe
- Only 15cm in length
- Battery and charger included
- 5 year body warranty, 1 year electrics warranty

Ph: 1300 911 007

wolfeyes.com.au

BY THE TIME THIS magazine goes to print negotiations will have started for the next Consent Agreement. Having spent a considerable time last year travelling round the NT as well as taking directions from the last two annual conferences, your Association is clear about what members expectations are. Hopefully we will be able to achieve them all.

From discussions with the police hierarchy and also after attending Police Federation of Australia industrial meetings it is clear the negotiations will be robust. We are well prepared and seek to have a clear position by the end of April.

The website will be updated with information about negotiations, and we will continue to advise members via Newsletter broadcasts. If you have queries, or the rumour mill is churning out matters that concern you, please contact us either by email, phone or through the website - www.ntpa.com.au.

We have managed to achieve good results with the determination rewrite, combining all agreements from 2000 to 2008. There will now be a single, more user friendly document for members to access.

Remote Trips

At the start of December last year Vince Kelly, Michael Ordelman and I drove to Tennant Creek for their

Christmas party. We spent a night in Katherine where the uniforms were a hot topic.

We stopped for a very enjoyable night in Elliott where Abubakr (call me Buk) Mohamed Ali pulled out his hookah which has apparently been a hit at social gatherings in Tennant Creek.

Danny Sandy, the ACPO at Elliott is a third generation police officer with both his father and grandfather serving and Vince was able to reminisce about working with both men whilst serving at Ali Curung.

We then drove to Avon Downs and had another enjoyable night with the members there. I had another look at the OIC residence and was pleased that we had been successful in convincing the tribunal that it needed replacing.

After our night at Avon Downs we drove into Tennant Creek for their Christmas party. We got into town fairly early so we drove down to Ali Curung and called in on the members there for a chat. Then back to Tennant Creek where we caught up with southern region Welfare Office Ian Kesby and then headed to the party.

The Christmas party was a great night with a 'B' theme. As Michael, Vince and I are all follicly challenged we went as we were. Some of the members

Nhulunbuy Christmas Party
at the Gove Wharf



went all out with their costumes and there was a great festive spirit throughout the night.

The following weekend Vince Kelly, Vice President David Chalker and I flew to Gove for Ian Williams' retirement after 30 years' service which was combined with their Christmas party. (See story on page 12)

On arrival we enjoyed a round of golf with members then a pleasant lunch at the golf club.

The Christmas party kicked off with a bus tour of Gove on the Variety Bus with some nibbles and games at Wirrawuy. Then we were dropped off at the Arnhem Club for meals and presentations. After 30 years' service Ian is taking a well-deserved retirement and moving to WA. All the best to you and Terri, mate.

The following Friday Michael Ordelman and I flew to Alyangula. We participated in an OHS regional meeting then a brief NTPA regional meeting followed by the Alyangula Christmas party.

Another great night with face painting for the kids, Santa and then the vote count of the 'Downlow' for the member with the most stuff ups throughout the year. As Matt Allen reached into the box to grab the first vote, he instead came across a little present put in the box by Killer - a two foot long children's python.

When we were able to get Matt off the ceiling, the snake was taken out of the box and after a bit of

petting by the kids, secreted in Killer's shirt and the vote proceeded. It was a close call with Kath Crawley, Shane Arnison and Mal Marshall all polling well. The final vote saw Shane Arnison win the award for 2010.

On January 2 Vince Kelly and I travelled to Katherine for the memorial for Brett Meredith. It was great to see the number of members who made the effort to travel down from Darwin. There was a short service by Chaplain Peter Wright then members spent the evening reminiscing and telling war stories.

After the Christmas break I travelled to Harts Range for a final inspection of the second members house after the upgrade and also to view the site for the new residence being built. Members there are happy with the work done.

I also travelled to Alice Springs for Jenny Hamilton's committal which saw her discharged after a day and a half of evidence. It is very disappointing to see the DPP continuing to prosecute matters that obviously lack any chance of success against our members.

On January 27 I travelled to Katherine for a roster meeting. The meeting was well attended and I am hopeful that issues raised at the meeting have been



OWEN BLACKWELL INDUSTRIAL AND FIELD SERVICES OFFICER



Vince Kelly, Michael Ordelman, OIC Elliot Michael Kent, Danny Sandy and Abubakr (Buk) Mohamed Ali



1

1. Owen, Michael Ordelman, Vince Kelly, OIC Avon Downs Cameron Higgins, Fiona Higgins and Lawrence Devanney.
2. Face painting at Grootte Christmas Party.
3. Maranboy Police Station.
4. Michael Ordelman, Owen Blackwell, OIC Maranboy Tom Chalk and Garrin Metcalfe.



2



3



4

resolved. A new 5 watch roster was made available to the members to comment on, with a possible implementation date in mid-march.

Housing

The upgrade program is continuing and as I have said I travelled to Harts Range to view the work there. With the changes in government departments there were three new faces at the inspection and I was able to point out issues that I had raised previously which they again undertook to manage.

Timber Creek members have been relocated so the demolition, then building of new properties can go ahead and there has been movement at Kulgera, measuring the site for the new house.

I continue to do inspections in and around Darwin with the housing staff and the housing in Darwin is still of good quality. There have been some issues in other areas which have been resolved.

I have raised this previously, but again members accessing supplied housing need to be aware of the importance of Property Inspection Reports (PIR). These are required to be completed and handed back to the Police Housing Section within seven days of moving into a new property.

These reports may seem trivial when you move into a property, but will be vital when you move out and a property inspection is conducted. Any damage to the property identified during the final inspection will be yours to fix if it has not been identified in the initial PIR.

Members need to make sure that this form is completed thoroughly and submitted back to the Police Housing Section.

Members also need to be aware that we will be entering into negotiations with the government specifically around the Housing Consent Agreement either later this year or early in 2012. We will keep members informed and once a position is reached, any decision will go to ballot.

Website

The development of our new website (www.ntpa.com.au) is in its final phase. I continue to have positive feedback from members who assure me the new site is much easier to navigate.

We have recently run an online forum about the uniform trial which has had good responses. All have been forwarded to the uniform committee.

There was also an excellent response to our online iPad competition. Congratulations to Julie McNally on her win. Members have another chance this month – go to page 30 for your chance to enter and win

Executive Elections

Nominations have been called for Executive elections. I encourage all members to participate and consider carefully any vote should we go to ballot. Members on the Executive directly negotiate on your behalf, so who is on the Executive impacts all members of the NTPA. ★



GREG O'CONNOR NZ PRESIDENT

Can we learn from the New Zealand experience?

Recent media commentary in the NT has focused on the way in which an investigation was conducted, in particular the use of authorised powers to check a journalists mobile phone records following a “suspected leak” from a sworn member. There is another aspect to the debate which the media understandably have not considered. It is appropriate in a Rugby World Cup year that we provide an opinion from across the ditch. President of the New Zealand Association, Greg O'Connor, wrote this to his members.

Julius Caesar once said “I love treason but I hate a traitor”. There have been many variations since, applied to different historical settings.

The modern equivalent, and relevant to police, is the media’s view of people who leak information to them.

They love the information but have nothing but contempt for those who betray their employer, work colleagues, family or even mates by supplying that information.

I was reminded of that when I read that someone had rung a TV station and told them about Graham Henry (NZ Rugby Union coach) being one of several speeding drivers stopped in Auckland and not ticketed, the reason for which turned out to be perfectly explicable. (A subsequent Herald editorial outlined the need for the public to be able to know with certainty that anyone purporting to be a police officer has the full powers and capability of a police officer; a very pertinent point given to creation of the Authorised Officer role).

It is clear the leak was not from the officer involved, who was doing his job. It was in all likelihood someone who became aware through being present at a debriefing or overheard an in-house conversation about the same.

Whoever it was, it was simply unprofessional, and treacherous.

Whether the motivation was to have a go at Henry, or the officer involved, or even the hierarchy, the net result was yet another opportunity for our detractors to have a go at police.

Perversely we did deserve criticism, but not for having someone unqualified to issue tickets operating speed equipment; we deserved to be criticised for leaking the information in the first place.

Unsurprisingly, the media didn’t think so!

It doesn’t matter whether we are talking about

“...information we receive as part of our job, especially that obtained using our coercive powers, should be kept to ourselves until someone, usually the courts, decide otherwise.”

prominent people or even criminals, information we receive as part of our job, especially that obtained using our coercive powers, should be kept to ourselves until someone, usually the courts, decide otherwise.

We get frustrated enough at the information we are forced to disclose to lawyers, especially around witness details. The last thing we need to do is be providing more, to anyone.

I personally think that the rules around who we can check on the NIA database in order to keep ourselves safe as police officers are too restricted, decreed by those who don’t understand the vulnerability of being a police officer exposed to inappropriate contacts. Police, especially in smaller communities, are very visible and quickly end up on the front pages if involved in conflict of any type.

It behoves us to be absolutely discreet and professional then with any information we do come by in order to ensure are trusted to access what we need to reduce our vulnerability.

And of course, understanding that however effusive grateful reporters are when receiving information, they hold Caesar’s contempt for the source. ★

Photo: NZ Police Association News
Vol 43 No11 Decemebr 2010

Brett Meredith is remembered



Brett Meredith

Twelve months have passed since Brett Meredith lost his life in Katherine. He is not forgotten by colleagues, friends and family. Constable Jamie Cobern spoke from the heart at a service to mark the anniversary of Brett's passing.

I WAS ASKED TO write a few words in memory of the late Sgt Brett MEREDITH and what it was like to know and work with him I was honoured and a little apprehensive as Brett was a well liked and well know member and friend to many of us in the Northern Territory Police force.

I thought about what I could say that had not been said before and that would come somewhere close to capturing the memory of Brett. After a while I came to the conclusion that sharing the story of when I first met Sgt Meredith would be the best way to share a snapshot of the man as I knew him.

The story starts at recruit training; Brett's TEP squad was running at the same time that I started my

constable training program. The day that sticks in my mind the most was during defensive tactics and in particular the cell extraction portion of our training.

I recall the ten members of my squad preparing for the day with blokes kitting up in the red man suit and with energy in the air as we were all keen and excited to dig in for a hard physical day.

As we were getting ready Brett's TEP squad was in another room also preparing for the same training. Most of my squad mates had not had a lot to do with them before, but we had seen them around campus and they all seemed keen to share their knowledge and help out where they could.

During the morning we were approached by one of our instructors who gave us a little "gee up" by saying that these interstaters thought they were a fair bit better than us and didn't see why they should be "retraining" in pointless activities.

Looking back it was quiet obviously words of encouragement aimed at getting us fired up to compete with the other squad who were "only here to take jobs from NT members".

It had its desired effect with all cell extractions being executed with a fair amount of venom.

I noticed that there was one bloke from the other squad watching us pretty closely. He was in the background all morning with a huge cheeky grin on his face and bouncing around like an excited puppy. Of course this was Brett.

Training that day went throughout the morning and the early part of the afternoon, with both squads taking it in turns in the padded cell for their respective extraction. It was during the afternoon that the "real" Brett started to shine through. He was no longer in the background, he was now standing right beside us as we entered the cell straining to see inside and barking instructions like he was the half back in the grand final.

It wasn't long into the afternoon before he couldn't help himself any more and Brett started joining into the cell extractions with both squads. I didn't count how many he was involved in that day but I watched him take part in at least four in a row swapping ffrom



Chaplain Peter Wright with Abbey Meredith



Constable Jamie Cobern remembers his mate

our squad back to his own for the next one.

Every time there he was organising his troops and yapping away with words of encouragement, that grin never left his face. He was obviously enjoying himself and loved being part of the team.

That's how I remember Brett, first in, last out.

Sgt Brett Meredith will always be remembered for his leadership, his courage and his commitment to the job, but I and many others will always remember him as a great cop and an even greater mate.

Rest in Peace Brett. ★



Men of League – Brett Meredith

Brett Meredith was an active member of his local community, including being a part of the Men of League.

The Men of League was formed in 2002 after League legend Ron Coote found Doug Ritchie, a Rugby League great of an earlier era, dying alone in a NSW country hospital.

The Charter of Men of League is to assist players, coaches, referees, officials and administrators from all levels of the game who have fallen on hard times – and their families.

Men of League is administered at the grass-roots level by local committees. The Northern Territory local committee was formed in October 2010.

In 2010 Men of League, in conjunction with their sponsors (Coles/K.Mart) decided to recognise those members who could not be with us at Christmas by allocating a voucher to their eligible children. Unfortunately, Brett was one of those members and vouchers were given to Sam, Jordy and Abbey as well as Brad and Lily.

Here are Sam, Jordy and Abbey after the shopping spree.

RETIREMENTS



Vince Kelly and Ian Williams

After 30 years Senior Constable Ian Williams has taken long service leave leading up to his retirement from the NT Police Force. Ian joined in May 1981 and served in Darwin, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs before seeing out his final years in Nhulunbuy.

Ian spent most of his career as a School Based Constable and in his last posting at Nhulunbuy he looked after numerous community schools in the East Arnhem area as well as the schools in the Nhulunbuy township.

Ian was considered an asset to the Nhulunbuy police station and there was comment made by a member at Ian's farewell how easier it was to police the youth in the town due to the work that Ian did in the schools and the different views toward police. Ian also assisted the members during school holidays and was often seen on a police bike down on the beach tipping out grog and moving on problem drinkers before they got out of hand.

Ian is retiring to Perth. We wish Ian and Terri all the best.

Senior ACPO Gary Donga Mununggurritj has retired after 16 years' service with the Northern Territory Police Force. Donga spent all of his service in the Nhulunbuy district working from Yirrkala Community and the Nhulunbuy Police Station.

Donga represented the NT Police at the Adelaide Police Tattoo in 2003 with his didgeridoo. He has retired to the Yirrkala community with his wife and children.



Malcolm McCallum with Donga and his wife, Natita



Eric Cleak and Vince Kelly

Eric Cleak is calling it a day after almost 30 years. He and his wife are relocating to a small acreage in the historic coastal community of Agnes Water/1770, Queensland.

There will be plenty to keep him occupied and probably a local issue or two to take on.

Brownie Doolan - the end of an era

BY SEAN PARNELL

ABORIGINAL POLICE TRACKERS PLAYED a pivotal role in the Northern Territory Police force from its inception until trackers were abolished in the early 1990s by Efficiency Review Committee cuts in the Budget.

Many of the early police patrols would not have succeeded without their help and many wrongdoers would not have been brought to justice without their invaluable local knowledge. Unfortunately many of their names have been lost with the passing of time.

Two of the better known trackers for the centre passed away at Finke, recently Brownie Doolan and Darryl Allen were well known in their day by both the Kulgera and Finke Police.

Darryl Allen only served for a couple of years and little is known of his time in the Police Force, but Brownie Doolan served several policemen at both Finke and Kulgera.

No one knows how old he actually was although Eileen Kennedy says that Brownie appeared to be hundred years old when she arrived at Finke in 1967 with her husband, legendary policeman Laurie Kennedy.

Brownie's file from police archives indicates that he was originally thought to be born in 1926 which nobody could believe, so when he was forced to retire at the age of 55 a diligent search of the records of the old native affairs branch revealed that he had actually been born in 1918, which made him 92 when he passed away.

When I spoke to Eileen Kennedy recently and told her of the passing of Brownie she was kind enough to send these few brief reminiscences of Brownie Doolan when they were at Finke...

"Brownie, resplendent in his winter brown and khaki summer uniform was an icon not only at the police station but in the town. He was loved and respected by all.

"I'm sure Laurie kept him busy doing the chores that police trackers did in those days and was very appreciative of Brownie's expertise, particularly as Finke was a one man station.



"The image generally associated with a police tracker is of an Aboriginal man able to trek, through often inaccessible terrain, picking up tracks which a white policeman or others are rarely able to see. Brownie certainly did fit into this category. A tracker was not only an integral part of a policeman's life but of the family belonging to that particular man stationed in a remote area. During our time in Finke, as the wife of the policeman, he was always there when needed by me and my children. Living in an isolated community this was always comforting knowledge.

- "Some of the memories I have of this time are
- Brownie lighting the copper for my washing, using kerosene to ignite the wood and leaving the tin half full and my eighteen month old baby drinking it.
 - Frantic call to the Flying Doctor.
 - Brownie knowing what to do when the generator plant died. Ditto the kerosene fridge and the septic pit.
 - Brownie tracking my two little girls around the town ensuring they didn't go near the train track.
 - Brownie waking me up one night to inform that my three year old had left the house and was wandering up the street.
 - Brownie rushing into the Finke Ball to let Laurie know that the man he'd locked up had escaped by means of opening up the roof with a can opener.
 - Brownie not being able to kill children's pet calf as 'I bin feeding him Boss so now he's my pet'
 - Brownie collecting his and family's nightly meal, which I always cooked, only to see him tip it over Biddy's head as they continued a previous fight.
 - Brownie leaving the sanctuary of the police station to move into a three bedroom house which I had coveted.
 - Brownie sitting in the red dirt, with my girls, whittling wood and telling them stories.
 - Brownie chasing the town kids away from the mulberry tree but only after they had eaten what he thought was enough.

Brownie Doolan was not only our Tracker but also a friend. His passing is a loss to all who knew him and we as a family will always remember him very fondly". ☆

Vital role for Territory's finest during WWII

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE played a sometimes unsung but pivotal role for our Territory during the Second World War.

There were three main battlefields in which the Territory's finest excelled. Firstly there were those who were left behind when the war came to the Territory on February 19, 1942. Secondly there were those who were able to enlist and serve overseas when the war broke out and finally there were the famous men who served with the Nakeroots around the Northern Territory coastline during the war.

When Darwin was bombed for the first time on the 19th of February 1942 there were only a handful of Territory coppers in Darwin. Afterwards they all left but one - Constable Lionel McFarland. The rest of the Territory Police Force was ordered out of Darwin and the town came under Military Law. The new temporary Police Headquarters was established in Alice Springs, 1500 kilometres south.

Unfortunately the war also interrupted the fledgling Northern Territory Police Association, formed in 1939. It was temporarily suspended from 1942 to 1946 to enable the Territory administration to focus solely on the war. The first raid on Darwin on the February 19, 1942 killed at least 243 people. Many more were missing or fled south. Territory policeman. Constable Eric McNab was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for bravery for his actions on that fateful day. Japanese bombing obliterated the Police barracks and almost buried Constable McNab in the rubble. Notwithstanding this he raced to the scene of the Post Office which had received a direct hit from a Japanese bomb and assisted in attempts to rescue and recover. He worked around the clock for the next few days.

His bravery medal was in recognition of this work.

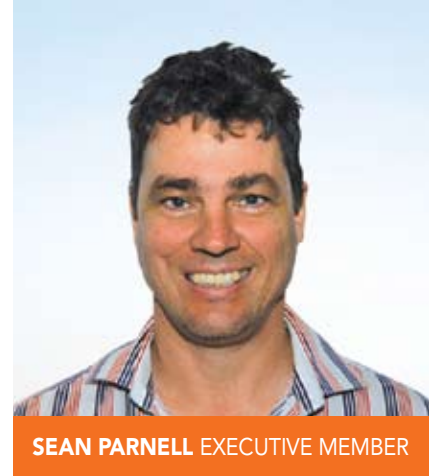
Many Territory Police sought to enlist when the war broke out, but like the first world war the Territory authorities were reluctant to allow men to enlist as



The bombed out police barracks in Darwin

POLICE BARRACKS FEB 19th 1942 61

“ Some were imprisoned by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore including Bert Mettam and Tiny Deans and had to endure the indescribable hardships of Japanese captivity until the end of the war ”



they feared being unable to replace them with suitable recruits owing to the war. There were some that did manage to enlist, and those that did serve did so with distinction. Altogether only 15 men were allowed to enlist in the armed services from the Police Force during the war, some of them having to resign to do so. Still not bad for a Police Force with an established strength of 45 men. (Women were not allowed to join until 1961.)

Some were imprisoned by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore, including Bert Mettam and Tiny Deans, and had to endure the indescribable hardships of Japanese captivity until the end of the war. Others like Bob Darken served with distinction at the battle of El Alamein.

Finally there were the men who were seconded to the newly established North Australian Observer unit (NAOU), the bush commandos of the Australian Army, affectionately known as the Nakaroots. These men

were sent out bush around the wild NT coastline and were the eyes and ears of the Defence of the North.

NT Policemen were chosen because of their bush skills in the tropics and they worked side by side with regular army soldiers from southern climes. It must be said though that their work would have been almost impossible without the help of countless and unknown Aboriginal men who guided them through uncharted areas of the northern coastline during Australia's time of peril.

It is now almost 70 years since the war came to the Northern Territory but successive generations of Territorians have done much to preserve the rich history of those who served Australia and her Northern Territory during those hard years.

Members of the Northern Territory Police Force, the Territory's finest, are among them and we should remember them when we honour those who served the Territory in her hour of need. ★



Mounted Patrolmen of the Nakaroots, the forerunner of Norforce crossing a river in the North.



TO ALL THE SPONSORS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE NEWS

To all who sponsor and advertise with our journal, your support ensures our survival and promotes your business to the volunteers and readers.

We Thank You.



Australian Government

Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

**Alcohol and Prohibited
material bans are now in
place on ALRA land and
other prescribed areas in
the Northern Territory.**

**For further information go to:
www.fahcsia.gov.au**

Improving the lives of Australians

Have you ever served at Tennant Creek? You can be immortalised in the bar top at the Tennant Creek Police Social Club.

So far there have been nearly 50 responses from past and serving members who want to be part of the new Bar Top Project.

The Bar Top in the Club is to be replaced. Small brass plaques bearing members' details will be placed under a clear covering so visitors and members will see the history of the members who have served here. New plaques can be added as more members join the station. The bar top will be a great talking point in this fantastic club.

If you haven't sent your details yet to Pauline Williams at Tennant Creek get to it and be a part of the history of your service in Tennant Creek.

Details required are:

- Name
- Rank of service when in Tennant
- Member number
- Dates of service - and if you came back for seconds - please add them too

The cost is **\$30** and can be banked directly into the Tennant Creek Police Social Club Inc account.

Westpac Bank Tennant Creek

BSB: 035 307

Account number: 890466

Last year we embarked on a revamp and major tidy up of the club inside and out. With the influx of new members and their families, our playground had a major refit with Astroturf being laid in the playground and a new sandpit and playground equipment being installed.

The gardens also had new reticulation with new native plants and garden beds completed.

We are looking good here in Tennant Creek so drop in if you are coming through.

What's happening at Tennant Creek

THE ANNUAL SOCIAL CLUB affair at the end of 2010 was a night to remember with a 'B' theme. An amazing collection of 'B's arrived including NTPA Executive members Vince Kelly, Owen Blackwell, Michael Ordelman and Ian Kesby. The smiles never left their faces all night. Anyone who thought the social life was quiet in Tennant were mistaken that night .

The club was looking good and beautifully decorated by a team of great volunteers. With a marquee in the yard, a myriad of twinkling lights and the garden awash with candles, Father Christmas had no problem finding his destination for the night.

Santa was a great hit (a very brave Fred Nilsson) and some of the members got quite excited at receiving their secret Santa gift. They jumped all over Santa with great enthusiasm, but he did survive so Christmas was not cancelled due to injury!

The members made a great effort to theme up with Bindi Irwin, Bin Laden, Blushing Bridesmaid, Batsmen, B1 and B2, Bronco rider, Bob the Builder, Butchers , a Bumble Bee - the list goes on.

During the night there were lucky prize draws and door prizes. The food was expertly cooked on the spit under the watchful eye of the Butcher Ken Williams, ably assisted by a team of great ladies who made the salads. Thanks Ainslie Duncan, Los Warfield, Trish Coleman, Tara Gray. Tara valiantly ran the bar most of the night - a great effort because there were some might thirsty people there.

One of the most entertaining parts of the night was when the Karaoke machine cranked up. It was kindly donated to the club on the night with DJ Steve Goddard. At times he had trouble staying in his chair without falling off laughing so much. There were some we wished had never found the microphone! Gillis and Elliott were undoubtedly the talent winners on the night.

So another year has been expertly celebrated by the crew at Tennant and life is certainly not dull in this part of the territory. Thanks to everyone who made the night such a success. ☆



Pauline Williams with Santa



Masterchef Ken Williams



Denise Goddard with Santa

The crisis in indigenous communities

Vince Kelly spoke at the ACTU's recent Indigenous Conference. This is an edited version of his address.



Vince Kelly prepares to address the ACTU

DURING MY SERVICE IN the police force and the police union, I have been a firsthand witness to the deep malaise that has undermined Aboriginal society and the apparent inability of government, or the broader Australian community, to effectively deal with that malaise.

It is clear to me that the vast majority of Aboriginal people clearly want what so many of us take for granted – a safe home and community, access to health care and education, and a future for themselves and their children.

There were, and are, real problems in Aboriginal society in Australia – there is no sugar coating that fact. However, I believe such problems exist in any society

which suffers from grinding poverty, lack of prospects, lack of housing, lack of health care, lack of education, lack of meaningful work – lack of hope.

Despite some concerns about the federal intervention in the Northern Territory, I believe our members welcomed the apparent recognition by the then federal government, and the subsequent Labor government, that real resources are required on the ground over a sustained period to allow indigenous Australians to achieve what all other Australians want – indigenous people in remote communities living in safety.

There are aspects of the NT intervention which have caused me disquiet at a personal and professional level. At a personal level the public comment surrounding the intervention to a degree, characterised all Aboriginal men as paedophiles or habitual drunks who assault women and children.

The reality is that not all Aboriginal men are like that. If that were the case my wife's brothers and our nephews would fall into that category and that is not the case.

Aboriginal society, like most, contains elements who do conduct themselves in this way and it may be that this has been exacerbated by the living conditions in Aboriginal Australia.

There are aspects which should be viewed in a positive light.

The most positive aspect of the intervention is the government and public focus on the problems that afflict remote Aboriginal Australia and an apparent commitment to a long term fix through the application of substantial resources. This response should, of course, be national – not simply focused on the Northern Territory.

This problem has developed over three decades – it will, in my view, take that long to reverse.

As I have suggested the resolution of these problems is inherently complex and long term.

The initial part of the intervention in the NT was very much focused on policing and community safety.

“ Police clearly have an important role, but we do not have the capacity to deal with the underlying issues of poverty, lack of housing, health care, education and employment and, most of all, lack of hope. ”

This focus was a vindication of the policy position adopted by the Police Federation of Australia and the Northern Territory Police Association some years before the intervention commenced in 2007. It can be summed up by saying that all communities need a permanent police presence that is part of the community.

Take, for example, the entrenched level of violence against women and children in many indigenous communities. Many indigenous communities experience levels of domestic violence, child abuse and murder that would not be tolerated in other communities.

In the wider community there is no doubt that domestic violence only became unacceptable after it was outlawed, and serious offenders were arrested and placed before courts and often gaoled.

- we changed what was viewed as just and acceptable,
- we policed the issue, and
- the courts played their part.

Domestic violence has not been eliminated; however, generally violence of this nature is no longer accepted.

The shift in attitude toward drink driving is a similar example of social change forced through education, legislation and enforcement.

In NT indigenous communities since the end of 2007

- police numbers on the ground in the NT have risen from 38 to 62 at June 2010.
- there is now a police presence in 18 communities that previously had no police presence.
- five additional permanent police stations have been, or are being, built.
- police are working to build trust and relationships with local communities.
- night patrols have increased from 18 to 80, involving 354 local indigenous people making their communities safer.

Clearly this focus of resources should result in a change in attitudes toward family violence and neglect in all its forms in these remote communities.

There is of course an argument/criticism that police with limited experience in working in remote Aboriginal

Australia are focusing on minor “traffic offences”.

Clearly the rationale for placing police into these communities was not to conduct increased traffic enforcement, however, this is a by-product of a permanent police presence, and a community cannot pick and choose which laws will or will not be enforced.

Further the NT road toll and incidence of drink driving would suggest that the characterisation of traffic offences as minor is incorrect – it remains a serious social problem that elsewhere in Australia has been corrected by education, legislation and enforcement.

Clearly cultural sensitivity and understanding by police in all our duties coupled with a commonsense exercise of the discretion of our office will make the task much easier.

An increase in the number of Aboriginal people involved in policing at an operational level will also improve our efforts in this area. To that end our Association is currently working on a project to identify ways to make this happen.

Police clearly have an important role, but we do not have the capacity to deal with the underlying issues of poverty, lack of housing, health care, education and employment and, most of all, lack of hope.

I believe one of the saddest things about public commentary on Aboriginal Australia is the failure to talk about the good things that are going on. The Clontarf football program and an employment program run by former AFL footballer, Dean Rioli, are examples of good news in Aboriginal Australia.

There are a number of commercial and government ventures which are promoting employment in Aboriginal Australia.

There are countless stories from our members across the country of programs that are being put in place by police officers and others from after-school bicycle repair programs to “no school, no pool”.

Police are living and working in these communities to not just improve community safety but to try and improve peoples’ lives. ★



The National Police Service Medal

AFTER MORE THAN FIVE years of lobbying by the Police Federation of Australia, on 2 March the Australian Government announced that the Queen signed Letters Patent instituting the National Police Service Medal (NPSM).

The new medal will be awarded to all sworn members of Australia's police forces who is, or was, a member on or after 30 October 2008; and in the opinion of that person's Commissioner, gave ethical and diligent service; and has given full-time or part-time service as a member of one or more Australian police forces for a period of at least 15 years or periods totalling at least 15 years.

A Commissioner may waive the minimum duration of service necessary to qualify for the NPSM if a member was unable to continue serving because of death, injury or disability which occurred as a result of their police service. But the other conditions must still be met - service must have been "ethical and diligent", and must include at least one day on or after 30 October 2008.

The NPSM recognises the unique contribution given to the community by sworn members of Australia's police forces. Long and diligent service has been recognised since 1975 by the National Medal. The National Medal and clasps will continue to be awarded to recognise eligible long and diligent service.

The PFA made submissions to both the 2006 and 2008 Australasian Police Commissioners' Conferences proposing the new medal. All commissioners supported our submissions.

After having also received support from the current government in the lead up to the 2007 election, we prepared a submission to the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd which he endorsed. He then approached the Queen to have the new award established. The concept received in-principle support from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 30 October 2008.

It was agreed that the new award be the National Police Service Medal and would be awarded in addition to the National Medal to Australian police.

This approval was received and formally announced by the Government on 19 May 2010.

The PFA thanks the Minister for Home Affairs, Brendan O'Connor and the former Special Minister of State and Cabinet Secretary, Senator Joe Ludwig and their respective staff for their support through the red tape and protocols. All police officers are indebted to their efforts and persistence.

Inspector Rick Steinborn of the New South Wales Police Force and the AFP's Federal Agent James Cheshire designed the medal and ribbon respectively.

The NPSM will be finished in cupro-nickel. The St Edward's Crown, representing the Sovereign is located on the suspender bar. The front (obverse) of the medal features the Federation Star located inside an unbroken circular chequered band, known as 'Sillitoe Tartan'. The unbroken band surrounds the star, signifying the unity and cooperation between each of the individual state, federal and territory police forces who together protect the entire Commonwealth.

The back (reverse) of the medal has two sprays of golden wattle, the national floral symbol, located immediately below a raised horizontal panel on which the recipient's details can be engraved. The words 'FOR SERVICE AS AN AUSTRALIAN POLICE OFFICER' appear in capital letters around the inside of the outer rim.

The ribbon design has a central panel of three stripes of dark blue, gold and dark blue. The central panel is flanked by white panels, each bisected by a thin red stripe. The thin red stripes represent the ever-present hazards experienced in service as an Australian police officer.

Both Inspector Steinborn and Federal Agent Cheshire should be congratulated for their efforts.

The new medal demonstrates community support for the work done by the 55,000 police members who place their own safety at risk to protect the quality of life, security and freedom of all Australians.

For further details on the NPSM go to the PFA web site www.pfa.org.au ★

Finding the best Home Loan for you

Whether you're in the market for your first home, a new home or are considering refinancing, you can find the best loan for you by researching, making a list of important features and asking plenty of questions.

Fixed loans

Like the sound of budgeting with some certainty over rates and repayments?

Opt to fix your interest rate and repayments between 2 and 5 years and your rate won't change when the official rates do.

There are usually penalties for ending the loan before the term ends and features such as mortgage offset, redraw and extra payments are restricted or not available.

Variable loans

If you'd like the possibility of the interest rate dropping, as well as your repayments - consider a Variable Loan.

You can choose to make extra repayments and pay off the loan faster. You will also be able to redraw extra repayments if needed and access an offset account.

Keep in mind that some basic variable loans may have better rates but less flexibility and features.

Line of credit

For flexibility, a Line of Credit loan will allow you to draw from a fixed amount at any time to pay for whatever you want: your home, shares, renovations, even a holiday.

You'll only pay interest on the funds you use and you can access the funds like a normal savings account or credit card via ATMs and EFTPOS.

However, you need to have some discipline to ensure you pay off the principal as well as the interest.

Split loans

For the best of both worlds, you can split your loan into a fixed portion, a variable portion and even have a small line of credit portion.

With split loans you can access variable loan features like offset, redraw and extra payments but have a little bit more certainty around your long-term budget.

Most lenders will let you set the portions to how it suits you and interest rates and repayments can still go up or down, depending on market rates.

Talk to Police Credit Union – the force in home loans

As a Platinum Advantage member you could save \$1,000's on a Home Loan thanks to a lower interest rate and no monthly fees.*

We are offering Home loans with no application fee – so you can save up to \$620.

Introducing your very own Private Banker

Private Banking is available exclusively to our Platinum Advantage members and gives you direct access to Adrian Ploksts, who has over 10 years experience across all aspects of banking services.

If you need any help or advice on reaching your goals and dreams, call **Adrian** today on **0412 289 267** and he'll arrange everything for you.

For more information on Platinum Advantage, visit **platinum-advantage.com.au**.

Please consider if the product is right for you. Terms, conditions, fees, charges and lending criteria apply. Full details available on application. AFSL/ACL 238991. *Savings based on a comparison between the big 4 banks' standard variable home loan rates and Police Credit Union advantage home loan rate.



Heart Attacks NOT JUST FOR MEN

If you're a woman, you may not believe you're as vulnerable to a heart attack as men – but you are.

Heart disease is the number one killer of both women and men. Most women are shocked to find out that heart disease and stroke beat breast cancer by five to one.

Heart attack warning signs aren't always what you think. Symptoms vary and they may not always be severe. Women rarely have the same dramatic symptoms that men have when experiencing a heart attack. The sudden stabbing pain in the chest, the cold sweat, grabbing the chest & dropping to the floor that we see in the movies, are common but not always the case.

Both men & women should learn the heart attack warning signs. These are:

- Pain, squeezing, tightness, pressure or discomfort in the centre of the chest
- Pain or discomfort in other areas of the upper body, including the arms, back, neck, jaw, or stomach that lasts several minutes
- Feeling sick to your stomach, nausea
- Feeling light-headed or short of breath
- Breaking out in a cold sweat
- Suddenly feeling weak or very fatigued
- Feeling of heartburn or indigestion with or without nausea and vomiting
- Sudden dizziness or brief loss of consciousness, usually lasting longer than two minutes
- General malaise (vague feeling of illness)

None of these symptoms assures that a heart attack is in progress, but the more symptoms you have, the more likely it is a heart attack.

Women often experience new or different physical symptoms for as long as a month or more before experiencing heart attacks.

Symptoms More Likely in Women

- Indigestion or gas-like pain
- Dizziness, nausea or vomiting
- Unexplained weakness, fatigue
- Discomfort/pain between shoulder blades
- Recurring chest discomfort
- Sense of impending doom

Women tend to put the symptoms down as a strained muscle, a hernia, menopausal symptoms, or indigestion - or they may have no idea what the problem is.

If you get help during the first signs of a heart attack, your chances of recovery and survival are greatly improved as artery opening treatments work best when given in the first hour.

Yet many people hesitate to get help when they first experience symptoms. They're afraid of the embarrassment of going to the emergency room and finding that nothing is wrong.

If you think you may be having a heart attack, call Triple Zero (000) - the operator will work out if you need an ambulance. Never try to drive yourself to a hospital as you may endanger yourself or others if you do have a heart attack on the way.

Factors that increase the risk of a heart attack include; Pre existing coronary heart disease or a family history of heart disease and diabetics. Your risk additionally rises if you are a male over 45 or female over 55, as well as lifestyle influences of smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, being overweight and physical inactivity.

This is why it is important to look after your heart health and take healthy actions for preventative measures.

These include regular exercise, healthy eating and having regular checkups with your doctor if you fall in the category of having a higher risk to heart disease.

If you're having a heart attack, you might feel:



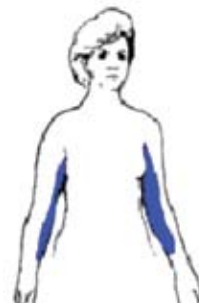
Crushing pain in your chest that may spread to your left shoulder



Chest pain that may spread to your neck, jaws, and/or down your back



Deep, dull pain/tight, heavy, or squeezing sensation beneath your breastbone



The pain may be just in your arms



It may be in your jaw or it may be in your back

Do you have an opinion on any of the stories you read in the NT Police News? Do you have an article you'd like to submit? Or would you like to write to us? Send your letters or articles to admin@ntpa.com.au or The Editor, NTPA Police News, PO Box 2350, Darwin NT 0801.

Retirement

After almost 30 years as a member of the NT Police Force and a financial member of the NT Police Association, I submit this letter advising of my retirement, effective from close of business Friday 31 December 2010.

Over the years, as you Vince and past Presidents know, I have engaged members from all ranks in 'spirited dialogue' without fear or favour when advocating for the membership. Whilst I may have ruffled some feathers along the way (on both sides of the debate), I make no apologies for wearing my heart on my sleeve when the interests and well-being of a colleague is at stake. I have been involved in some memorable events whilst contributing to the aims and objectives of the NT Police Association, with outcomes of which I am proud and which will forever contribute to the recorded history of the NT Police Association and the NT Police Force.

I have advocated for colleagues, friends and others in some way or other for 35 years and have many fond memories upon which to reflect. From my student union days, through the challenges of being a District Representative in the WA Teachers Union in the late 70s, then followed by my skirmishes and battles as a member of the NT Police Association in various capacities, I can sincerely say that I am appreciative of the opportunities and have enjoyed the challenges and experiences. In retrospect, I can see that some matters I became involved with may have been dealt with differently, but it matters not the cards one is dealt but how we play the game. I have very few regrets.

Having achieved most of our goals, my wife and I are relocating to a small acreage in the historic coastal community of Agnes Water/1770, Queensland. There will be plenty to keep me occupied and no doubt some local issue or other will take my interest after I turn the page to the next chapter of my life.

May I continue to receive the NT Police News so that I can follow the commentary on Territory policing issues and future developments in Australian policing.

Thank you for the consideration.

Fare-thee-well comrades and thanks for the memories.

Eric Cleak

Sergeant 1209. Squad 35/81

After almost 13 years in the NT Police I am resigning and moving into another phase of my life in Tasmania with my wife, Carolynne. I wish to thank the NT Police

and the Association for its support and guidance during my time in the service.

Kind regards

Senior Constable John McMillan

Resignation

Please could you note my resignation from NT Police and the NT Police Association as of November 26, 2010. Thankfully I have not needed to call upon your services but understand how important your services are in this highly accountable profession.

My time in the NT has been a great experience for me and my family and I am leaving with some great memories (and sad ones too). The NT Police members are a great crew who deserve support for the hard job that they do.

Many thanks

Constable Mike Cotton

Darwin Airport

WWII history

My mother Madge Thomas has been receiving your Police Association of NT, Police News. Unfortunately she is not in good health these days, however I would like to continue to receive the Police News. Some of the old stories have names I have heard mum speak of, that she knew as a young girl.

You have been very kind to support her. Unfortunately her memory has all but gone so all her memories are lost.

She has told us of the time during the war when the post office was blown up and that her father, Alfred Stretton, took cover in the drain in front of the post office.

A lucky call! Also a good story was when he and another member went around Darwin, and then went directly to Alice Springs. Travelling south, the other member or Alf had to be with the vehicle at all times. There were convoys of troops heading north, and there were long queues for fuel. They would pull up and get immediate service, and special treatment, as well as some comments from the troops. The reason for their trip was because they had been to all the financial and legal institutions in Darwin and taken all the legal documents, titles, etc and maybe some money out of Darwin before the expected Japanese arrival. Their cargo was very important and done without many knowing.

Kind Regards

George Thomas

Current issues for Police around the country



The new South Australian uniform

Police Association of South Australia NEW UNIFORM TRIALS FOR SA POLICE

South Australia Police has responded to Police Association calls for a new police uniform, revealing an updated design in October last year. The current uniform was introduced three decades ago, with minor additions and changes throughout the 1980s and '90s.

The association has long called for an updated uniform, and made a comprehensive submission early last year after SAPOL announced there would be a review. The submission made a series of recommendations focussing on enhancing the safety, practicality and comfort of the uniform.

While the submission recommended the introduction of both a new general-duties and a ceremonial uniform, only the general-duties uniform is being updated at this stage. The country version is again khaki, while the metropolitan uniform has undergone more drastic changes, from pale blue to a very dark blue.

The materials used are more breathable and have fire-resistant properties. Other features include a shirt and blouse designed to be worn open-necked with no tie, an optional t-shirt that can be worn underneath, a lightweight unisex hat, a soft-shell jacket to replace the jumper, and a redesigned leather jacket with a removable liner.

Patrol officers from Elizabeth LSA (suburban) and Far North LSA (country) trialed the uniforms for six weeks, and all LSAs had the new uniform demonstrated to them, with members encouraged to provide feedback. The trials concluded in early December and the Police Association is awaiting the results from SAPOL.

Association president Mark Carroll said the Police Association was pleased with the advancements made with the uniform, particularly its improved safety properties and comfort, but that several recommendations made by the association were not incorporated in the design.



Brisbane CBD under water

“The association would have liked to see some other issues addressed, such as load-bearing vests, wet-weather clothing, improved footwear and kit bags,” Mr Carroll said.

Police Association of Tasmania

EB2010

The EB negotiations concluded in November 2010 and were endorsed by the PAT Executive on 29/11/10. At the time of writing this (early January) a ballot of the membership is currently underway and is being conducted by the Electoral Commission. The negotiated package includes a 3% per annum pay increase over 3 years commencing on 1/12/10 and each year thereafter on 1/12. There are a considerable number of other negotiated outcomes in the package.

NEW UNIFORMS

The preferred supplier of the new shirts, trousers, secondary uniform, Hi Vis jacket and police cap were unable to provide a production sample for endorsement in the time frame set for this to occur. This has unfortunately delayed the proposed roll out of the new uniform by Christmas 2010.

Police Association of Queensland QUEENSLAND FLOOD CRISIS

The floods and their associated damage are the headlines from Queensland. Queensland Police Officers are running on adrenaline in helping out the numerous communities from Central, Western and South-East Queensland. At the time of writing this the flood water has not receded yet the numbers of our members affected are over 80 and growing.

So typical of police, many officers are continuing to serve the public despite their own losses which include some that have lost every possession and have been advised by their insurance company that they will not be covered for flood losses.

Many thanks to the officers from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have arrived to assist in patrols to curb looting. One Queensland Water Police officer even rescued one looter who had jumped into the swollen Brisbane River at night. The officer dived in and was snagged under water twice before being pulled out. They later found the looter and resuscitated him. He's now before the courts and I think our officer is a hero.

If you're able to assist our members financially a special fund has been set up at:

Account name: QPUE FLOOD RELIEF FUND

BSB: 704052

Account number: 1041056

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

We are now in arbitration before the Full Bench of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission but there has been no movement on the government's offer of 2.5 per cent per annum for three years. Hopefully we'll have some good news for our interstate colleagues soon.

Police Association of New South Wales LAW ENFORCEMENT ON NSW'S ELECTION AGENDA

When the people of NSW face the polls on 26 March, the Police Association of NSW (PANSW) wants law and order to be front and centre on their minds.

Last December the Association released the document, "Modern Policing for a Safer NSW", which challenges the major political parties to make significant commitments to law enforcement, including recruiting an extra 1,500 police over the next eight years.

PANSW President Scott Weber said, 'All parties need to make law and order a top priority and get serious about a properly funded and resourced police force.'

He said projected population growth and the increasing complexity of police work are causing a heavy strain on front line officers.

"New types of crime such as identity theft and cyber-stalking are draining resources from traditional types of policing.

"At the same time, the weekly carnage of alcohol-fuelled violence on our streets is putting more pressure on front line police.

"It's time to move away from the boom-bust approach to police strength numbers with extra officers coming on stream in time with the electoral cycle," Mr Weber said.

Already NSW ranks poorly in comparison with other states and territories due to having fewer police officers per head of population, except for Victoria. However, the new Victorian Government has promised to recruit 1,700 additional police which will relegate NSW to the bottom of the league table.

The state of NSW is short of 400 cops, despite government claims to the contrary. Recently the PANSW revealed that the government has been counting part-time officers and officers seconded

to the AFP at Sydney Airport in order to inflate official statistics.

Compiled with input from serving NSW police officers, "Modern Policing for a Safer NSW" raises a number of other important issues. Its detailed recommendations call for increased funding for the Police Budget, fair and reasonable salaries and conditions for NSW Police officers, strong action on the epidemic of alcohol-fuelled violence and the replacement of outdated bullet-resistant vests.

It now remains to be seen what commitments the major political parties will make in response to those issues.

In the coming months PANSW branch officials will lobby local Members and other candidates and present them with a copy of the submission.

Mr Weber said, "There are plenty of new candidates in this race, and it's vital that we talk to as many of them as we can before election day."

The Police Association of Victoria EBA 2011

The Police Association officially commenced its EBA 2011 negotiations with the Victoria Police Force late last year. At the initial meeting discussions were preliminary in nature with both parties taking the opportunity to further explain and clarify their respective position to the other party.

The Police Association, which had lodged its Log of Claims on behalf of our members to the Victoria Police Force late last year, took the opportunity at this meeting to answer questions from the Force about the claim.

Not unexpectedly, the Victoria Police Force has advised that it is still awaiting further advice from the new government about the makeup of its claim. Consequently, it is still yet to submit its claim to The Police Association.

Notwithstanding this development, The Police Association will continue to do everything possible to ensure that the progress of negotiations is not unduly delayed.

COMPENSATION FOLLOWING G20 RIOTS – FINALLY

In November 2006 Kim Dixon faced an angry mob in the Melbourne CBD during G20. After a five year



Protesters at G20 in Melbourne – Photo: Herald Sun

battle, Kim has finally been financially compensated for the injury that ended her police career and diminished her quality of life.

The demonstrators were determined to break through the police lines so they could get to the Hyatt Hotel where the G20 participants were staying. They were going to do anything to achieve their aim and that included throwing the barricades at the police. One of these barricades hit Kim on the elbow.

Kim had torn and delaminated the tendons of her elbow. This is extremely painful and difficult to repair. The pain radiates down her arm and into her hand. Pain killers and anti-inflammatory drugs only provide temporary relief. The specialists won't operate because any surgery could leave Kim without 20 per cent use of the joint.

Kim's compensation settlement is governed by a confidentiality agreement.

Western Australia Police Union LAST DRINKS IN WA

The WA Police Union is looking closely at spearheading a campaign in WA similar to NSW's successful Last Drinks campaign which was launched in March last year.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a major problem in entertainment precincts around Perth despite some nightclubs being forced to change their

closing times from 6am to 5am.

"The change in closing time has not made any significant difference to alcohol related violence in these areas and it continues to be a dangerous situation for both the public and police officers," WA Police Union President Russell Armstrong said.

"We support NSW's Last Drinks initiative and we can see the benefit of forming a coalition of concerned emergency service workers to call for tough restrictions on alcohol trading."

"It's likely we will introduce a similar campaign in the near future."

WA POLICE LABELLED WORST IN THE COUNTRY

Over the last four months WA Police has copped a lot of criticism from John Quigley MLA, former Police Union lawyer turned politician. The negative comments relate to several incidents under investigation by the CCC.

On Tuesday November 30, Mr Quigley, who is the Shadow Attorney General, made the following media statement in relation to police which, went to air on the Channel 10 news:

"Police discipline is in a state of total collapse. The Western Australia Police Force now has the reputation of being the worst police force in Australia."

The statement has naturally caused a high degree ▶

Burdened by older kids?

At least at Police Health we can make their health insurance easy.

We can cover your kids under your membership until they're 25 years old, whether they're living at home or away from home, working or unemployed. Platinum Plus is a combination of our top hospital cover and highest quality extras cover plus Police Health's additional age extension, all for just \$108.70* per fortnight. It's a package you'll find hard to beat.

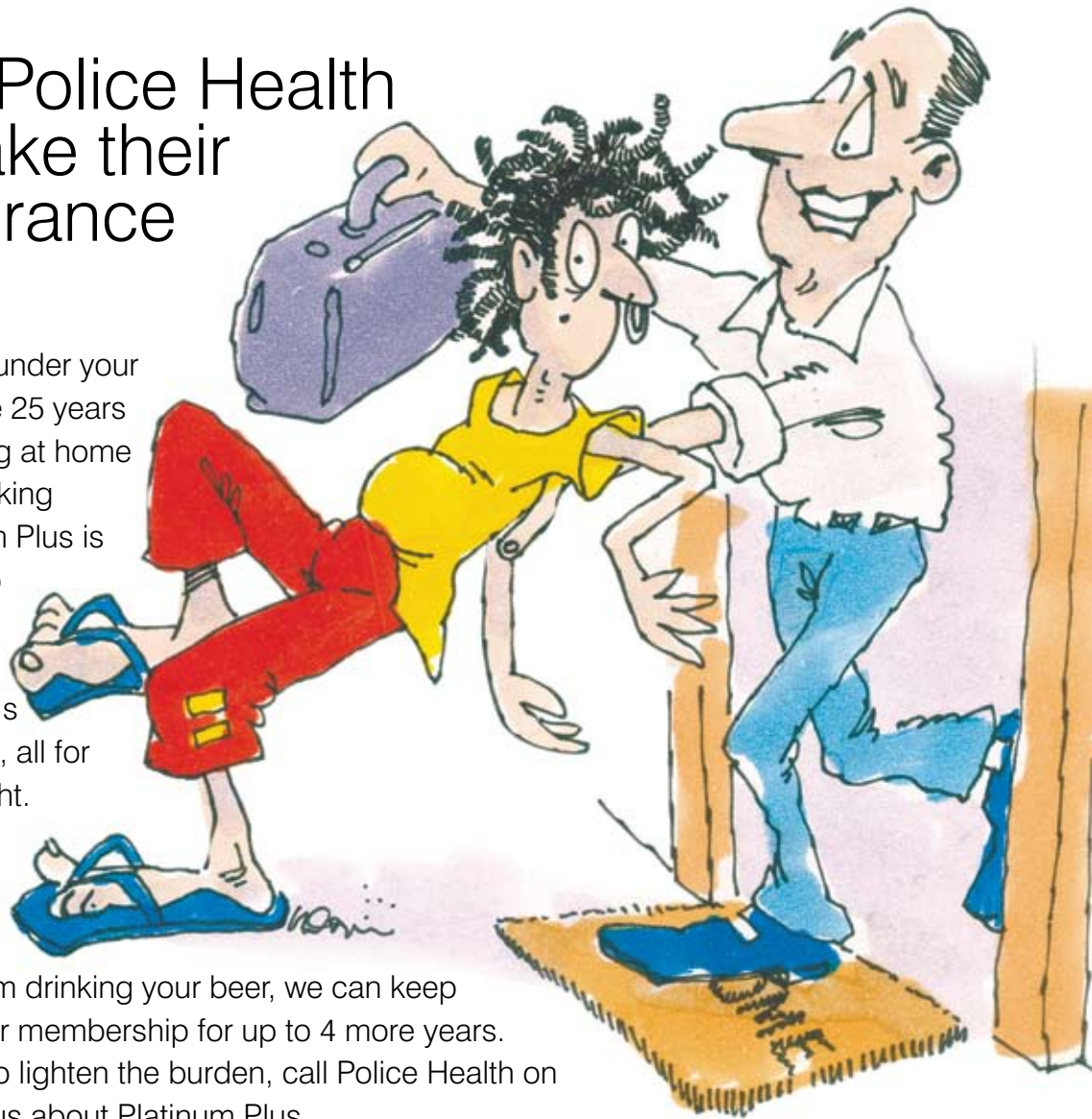
While we can't turn their stereo down or stop them drinking your beer, we can keep them covered under your membership for up to 4 more years. So take a positive step to lighten the burden, call Police Health on **1800 603 603** and ask us about Platinum Plus.

www.policehealth.com.au

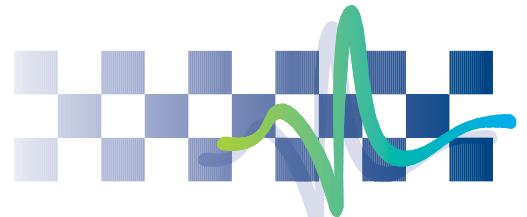
Police Health family cover includes child dependents until 21 years of age, or under Platinum Plus until 25 years of age. In all cases full time students are covered until they turn 25. Cover excludes dependent children who are married or in a defacto relationship.

* 30% Government rebate claimed and lifetime health cover at base direct debit rate as at 01/02/2011

Insurance provided by Police Health Limited ABN 86 135 221 519



Police Health



YOUR HEALTH FUND

of consternation among police and does not seem to be based on any empirical evidence. It has also raised concerns about the Labor Party's support for policing in WA.

The WA Police Union has sent letters to Opposition Leader Eric Ripper and two former and current MPs who have held the position of Shadow Police Minister, asking whether they endorsed Mr Quigley's comments.

The responses all carried a similar view that they believed WA police officers were doing a great job, but the "ill disciplined and indefensible actions of a few have undermined very high levels of public support".

Opposition Leader Eric Ripper said he shared Mr Quigley's concern that the widely reported action of a few officers have contributed to damaging the police force's reputation in the eyes of the public.

"I think Mr Quigley's apparent anti-police campaign is disgraceful and has made it extremely difficult for the majority of officers who put their lives on the line every day," President Russell Armstrong said.

INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENT

The WA Police Union has held a series of meetings with representatives from both WA Police and the Department of Commerce and discussed the Union's claim for a 15 per cent pay rise over two years, a 38 hour week and other improvements in conditions.

The representatives are currently calculating the cost of the requested pay rise and further discussions will take place shortly.

"With our resource rich state on the cusp of another mining boom we are hopeful that the State Government will be in a position to pass on some of this wealth to our police officers and award them the full pay increase," Russell Armstrong said.

Police Federation of Australia

2011 – BUSY YEAR ON THE NATIONAL POLICING CALENDAR

The PFA's Executive was scheduled to meet in Canberra on February 9, 10, 11 and 12, coinciding with the first sitting week of the Federal Parliament. The Executive, whilst dealing with its key ongoing issues was to spend considerable time on a strategic planning session. At the same time we are scheduling

a range of meetings with key political figures to set our agenda for the rest of the year.

The strategic planning session will specifically look at issues such as –

- members' understanding & member & branch expectations of the PFA, including our communications strategy, branding and our relationship with other national policing bodies.
- the potential political landscape from 2011 – 2016, including not only our interactions with the Federal Parliament, but also the State and Territory Parliaments.
- a review of our key priority issues identified in our pre 2010 federal election document "Creating a Safer Australia" with a view to identifying those priorities from 2011 – 2016.
- our preparedness for the next federal election
- a range of issues referred to the Executive from the PFA's 2010 Federal Council Meeting including –
 - Liquor licensing
 - Assaults on police
 - High risk driving
 - OH&S and vicarious liability provisions in jurisdictions
 - 700MHz Digital Dividend
 - Tasers
- our joint research project with Sydney University, "Police at Work".
- the most appropriate PFA structure for the future including a review of Federal Council, the Executive and Sub-Committee operations, our rules, staffing and our ongoing finances.

These discussions are vitally important when one considers some of issues on the Federal Government's agenda for the early part of 2011 including –

- an expected Cabinet decision on the 700MHz Digital Dividend;
- the proposed Tax Summit and what impact that might have on policing
- responses to various Superannuation reviews that could impact on police.

It's therefore imperative that the PFA, as the voice representing 55,000 sworn police officers across the country, at the national level, is well prepared to represent their views to a Federal Government. ★

ANOTHER CHANCE TO WIN!!



Update your member details and **WIN AN APPLE iPad**



To ensure we can provide the best service to our members the NTPA needs to have your up-to-date contact details. Update your member details **NOW** and include your mobile phone number and you will go in to the draw for an Apple iPad. **The competition closes on, Friday, April 8.**

All you have to do is go online and update your member details – www.ntpa.com.au. Don't forget to include your mobile phone number to be eligible for the draw, just like Auxiliary Julie McNally did in January.

The winner will be advised via SMS on the mobile phone number entered.



DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR MOBILE NUMBER

Executive and NTPA staff are excluded from this competition. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

CAPTION COMPETITION

"Of course I'm a donkey. If I was an ass I'd be in blue!"

Congratulations to Jon Mitson (pictured opposite page) who won the stylish NTPA jacket for his contribution to our December caption competition.

RUNNER UP

"Hi, I hear you blokes are recruiting from WA. Can I fill out an application"
- anon





Winners are grinners

Congratulations!

President Vince Kelly presents Julie McNally with her Apple iPad and Jon Mitson collects his prize as winner of the December caption competition.



Find the ball and win!

A round of golf can be a challenging way to spend an afternoon or a way to ruin a perfectly good walk. Whatever your view is, you can win a NTPA jacket valued at \$50.00 by finding the golf ball in this photo.

Nhulunbuy police members were playing a round at the Nhulunbuy Golf Club when this photo was snapped. If you can find the ball you can win.

Mark the spot where you think the ball is and send it to 'Find the Ball Competition' NTPA, GPO Box 2350 Dawrin, 0801. The competition closes on Friday, April 8. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



Name _____ Phone _____



PETER WRIGHT SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Hope

THE DICTIONARY TELLS ME that the word hope means: *Expectation of something desired. Confidence in a future event. To look forward with desire and confidence. To trust in the truth of a matter.*

Without hope we are all doomed. From the beginning of time people have survived when hope is alive and well.

We hope tomorrow will be better than today. We hope our football team will improve to make the finals. We hope the weather will be fine for our holidays. We hope that our newborn baby is going to be healthy and strong.

When hope is lost we tend to give up, sink into depression and generally feel pretty awful.

To hope is to say yes to life.

In reality life is made up of highs and lows with a lot of stuff in-between; this should help to make us stronger and wiser people.

I heard of a pilot who had the task of flying a light aircraft from the USA to Australia. This occurred before the common use of the GPS. The navigation aids on the aircraft had malfunctioned, placing the aircraft a long way south of the island he was going to refuel at. By the time he realised the error his fuel was exhausted, and the inevitable happened, he had to land on the sea after making a May Day call. The only trouble was their aircraft do not float very well and it eventually sank leaving the pilot with a life jacket and for some reason a thin metal rod.

As time passed sharks noticed an object in the water, became interested in the pilot and commenced circling him. After some time the sharks started coming closer, to inspect the pilot. As time passed they got closer only to be smacked over the nose with the metal rod. The approach of the sharks became more frequent as they possibly got hungrier. If I remember correctly it was something like 24 hours before the pilot was eventually rescued. It would be an understatement to say he was relieved at being hauled onboard the rescue ship.

The pilot said he never gave up hope of being rescued.

Not many of us have such an incident to contend with, but we do have situations that test us. It is hope that gets us through.

The Christian faith is based on hope in a caring and loving God who has promised to be with us always. He did not say; I'll keep you from all the nasties of life, but He has said; I'll help you through them, I'll be with you in them. The pilot quite probably asked for God's help (I would expect he had prayed like never before). Then he could have sat back and got munched by the sharks, but no, he did his bit in keeping them at bay with his trusty metal rod. God calls us to hope in Him, but we must do our part.

Whatever your situation - hope in God, and do your part.

Hope you have a great year. ☆



Financial advice

There's more to shares than price...

Many investors equate success with a rise in the price of their shares. While capital appreciation is important, it's not the only reason for owning shares. Often underestimated, dividend income is a highly significant source of return. And for investors in Australian shares, this is especially true now.

John Owen, Research Analyst at MLC talks to adviser Andrew Carra about the benefits of investing for income.

Recent history

The table below shows that in the last six decades dividends have accounted for a significant component of Australian share returns.

For example in the 1970s, 85% of return was due to dividends. While this percentage dropped in the last decade, dividend income still accounted for just over half of the return from Australian shares. The lowest contribution from dividends occurred in the 1980s but was still significant at 28%.

	All Ordinaries Total Return	All Ordinaries Total Capital Return	Contribution of Dividends to Total Return
1950's	+15.3%	+8.1%	47%
1960's	+14.0%	+7.7%	45%
1970's	+8.6%	+1.2%	85%
1980's	+17.7%	+12.7%	28%
1990's	+10.6%	+6.2%	41%
2000's	+7.9%	+3.4%	57%

Sourced from Maple-Brown Abbott

Given that dividends can be such an important contributor to the return from Australian shares, investors may need to think differently about their reasons for investing in shares.

In advising clients it's useful to ascertain what's more important to them and their situation – a higher share price or a higher dividend?

A rising share price will improve their absolute wealth but it's the dividend income that funds lifestyle, especially for retirees. So instead of worrying about whether the share price is rising or falling, an alternative way to look at shares is their income potential.

Cash register

Focusing on dividends rather than the day to day rise and fall of the share market proved a good strategy during the GFC.

Woolworths is a good example. Calendar year 2008 covered the worst of the GFC and Woolworths' share price fell by 21.5%. However, the 92c per share dividend Woolworths paid to its shareholders in 2008 was 24% higher than the amount it paid in the previous year.

For Woolworths' shareholders, 2008 proved a great year from an income growth perspective. As for the falling share price, it represented a great opportunity to buy more shares. Those who did enjoyed a 13% increase in Woolworths' 2009 dividend and another 10.6% increase in 2010.

Anyone who bought shares when the company was first listed in July 1993 has received \$7.60 per share in dividends since then.

MLC IncomeBuilder

The MLC IncomeBuilder Fund is designed for investors seeking access to dividend growth potential from the Australian sharemarket.

Established in 1995, IncomeBuilder is unique in that its primary objective is to provide a growing income stream to its investors, and do so in a tax effective manner.

The fund invests for the long term in companies on a sustainable dividend growth trajectory or who have the capacity to grow dividends in the future.

Increasing dividends

As an income focused fund, MLC IncomeBuilder is ideally placed to capture any post-GFC dividend recovery.

Many Australian companies cut their dividends to preserve capital during the GFC but in the recent profit reporting period some have chosen to increase their dividends. The table below shows the latest half year dividend declared by the ten largest MLC IncomeBuilder shares (by % holdings). Seven are higher than the previous years.

	Latest ½ year dividend declared (cents)	change on last year's corresponding div.
ANZ Banking Group	52	+13%
Westpac Banking Corporation	65	+16%
National Australia Bank	74	+1%
Commonwealth Bank	170	+48%
Telstra Corporation	14	nil
Wesfarmers	70	+17%
Fosters Group	12	nil
Brambles	12.5	nil
Woolworths	62	+11%
Coca-Cola Amatil	20.5	+11%

Source: Iress, MLC Investment Management

Forget the index

Adviser Andrew Carra is a strong advocate for MLC IncomeBuilder, but says its strengths and benefits needs to be carefully explained to clients.

"Many investors would consider the fund's +1.9% per annum return (after management fees and tax) for the

two years to 30 June 2010 the best of a bad bunch," he says.

"However, its performance ranking (8th out of 92 Australian share funds in the Mercer survey) isn't to be sneezed at!"

"As far as I can tell MLC IncomeBuilder is the only portfolio in the country with the primary objective to grow underlying income, not just outperform an index," Andrew says.

"What this illustrates is that a fund which some may think has a boring and old-fashioned approach to investing – investing in stocks that have the ability to grow earnings and dividends – proved one of the best performing funds during the worst bear market our country has seen."

In practice

Andrew says he uses MLC IncomeBuilder for high income earning clients borrowing for long term wealth creation.

"With low portfolio turnover and holdings in companies that deliver not only growing dividend

Plan now!

IN TODAY'S UNCERTAIN TIMES YOU NEED A PLAN

Australian Financial Advisers offer complete financial planning services including:

- **Investment** • **Insurance** • **Superannuation**
- **Free Home Loan advice** • **Retirement planning**



Whether you're considering an investment property, share portfolio or superannuation strategy, AFA can provide a solution to create and protect your wealth now and in the future

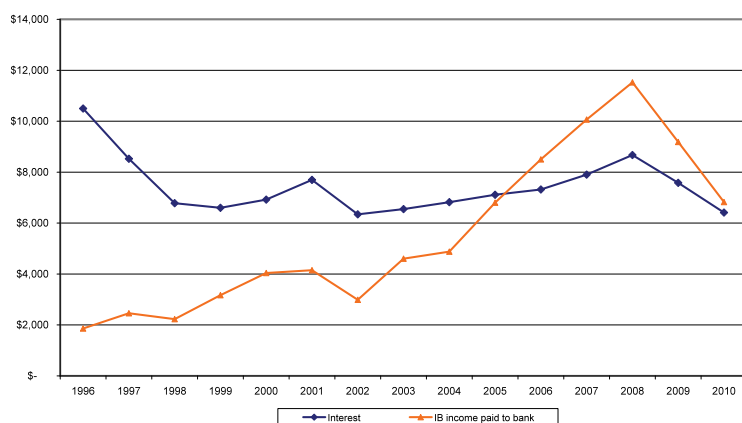
Call AFA today on **89 234 100**
or visit www.afawebsite.com.au



PDA Financial Planning Pty Ltd T/A Australian Financial Advisers, Paul Betti, Dwayne Hameister, Angelo Maglieri, Noel Land, Authorised Representatives of GWM Adviser Services Ltd ABN 96 002 071 749 trading as MLC Financial Planning is an Australian Financial Services Licensee and has its registered office at 105-153 Miller Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060. A member of the National Group of Companies.

more than just money

Loan interest versus income on \$100,000 geared investment since inception to May 2010



streams but often fully franked income, MLC IncomeBuilder delivers true after tax returns," he says.

"And from a financial planning perspective, this portfolio suits many client situations. Its use can be broken into three phases."

Phase one: Negative gearing

Andrew often advises clients to use the equity in their home to fund a long-term investment in MLC IncomeBuilder.

The **chart above** shows how this can work, using actual returns generated from the portfolio since inception.

This scenario illustrates the cost of funding a loan of \$100,000 based on the average variable home loan rate (from Reserve Bank data). The chart assumes distributions have been paid to the client. After 10 years the portfolio was able to service the interest expense on the loan.

Despite the GFC, borrowing to invest for the long term still makes sense. Changes to the business cycle which led to falling company dividends correlated with a drop in interest rates, buffering the investors' cashflow during the economic downturn.

The **chart to the right** looks at the same period. However, in this example, the income has been reinvested back into the portfolio, thus allowing the income stream to grow faster and reach the point where the portfolio is funding itself sooner.

Phase two: Positively geared.

"Once the portfolio has grown to the point where it can service itself, there isn't a great deal for the investor to do but sit back and marvel at the power of compounding," Andrew says.

During this phase the investor can use the cashflow previously directed to funding the investment loan for other investments, like additional super contributions, property investment or to fund lifestyle expenses.

"I'm yet to meet an investor who isn't attracted to the idea of a self-supporting portfolio requiring little to no effort," Andrew says.

Such a portfolio can only be achieved if the primary objective is to grow the underlying income, rather than focus purely on share price movement.

Phase three: Sell down

For investors who exhaust their super in retirement, the ability to tap into another wave of capital is essential.

By selling units in the MLC IncomeBuilder portfolio investors benefit from the Highest Cost First Out tax treatment, thus allowing them to further delay the impact of CGT. While CGT hasn't been an issue for many investors over the past few years, it will be significant in the decades to come.

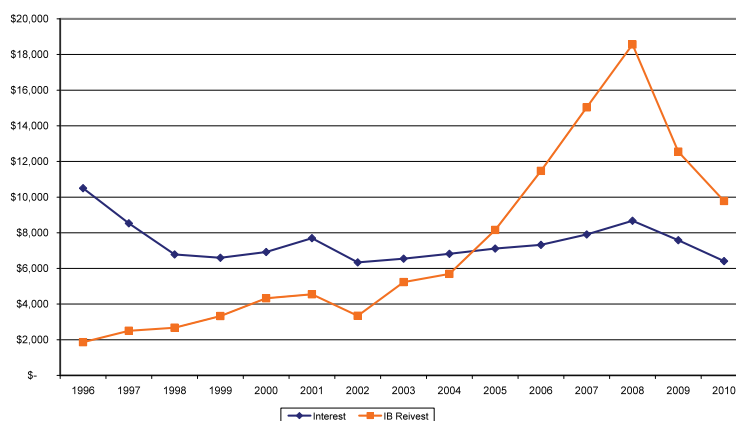
Final phase

"In the difficult environment we've been in, it's easy to lose sight of where you want to be," Andrew says.

"With the media typically painting an apocalyptic type of crash and scary outlook, many investors think more about where their portfolio will be in three weeks rather than three decades from now."

"In a world of increasing financial complexity, the basic fundamental of investing in companies with the ability to grow their profits and dividends has, and always will, stand the test of time."

Loan interest versus income on \$100,000 geared investment since inception to May 2010



The advice contained herein does not take into account any person's particular objectives, needs, or financial situation. Before making a decision regarding the acquisition or disposal of a Financial Product, persons should assess whether the advice is appropriate to their objectives, needs, or financial situation. Before acquiring a financial product a person should obtain a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) relating to that product and consider the contents of the PDS before making a decision about whether to acquire the product.

PDA Financial Planning Pty Ltd trading as Australian Financial Advisers is an Authorised Representative of GWM Adviser Services Limited trading as MLC Financial Planning, an Australian Financial Services Licensee (AFSL No.: 230692), Registered Office at 105-153 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2060.

Resignations

Benjamin Davis	Auxiliary	26-Oct-10
William David	Senior ACPO	16-Nov-10
Paul Tudor-Stack	Sergeant	29-Nov-10
Jack Harrington	Senior Constable	15-Nov-10
Michael Cotton	Constable First Class	26-Nov-10
Mark Pocock	ACPO	12-Nov-10
Rebecca Fisher	Auxiliary	24-Nov-10
Rowena Lenehan	Auxiliary	24-Nov-10
Dianne Maree	Auxiliary	14-Nov-10
Helen Brown	Senior Auxiliary	16-Dec-10
Kellie Curran	Auxiliary	3-Dec-10
Margaret McArdle	Senior Auxiliary	17-Nov-10
Karena Bourlioufas	Constable First Class	5-Dec-10
Margaret Rosta	Auxiliary	29-Dec-10
Victoria Westling	Constable First Class	7-Jan-11
Robert Wicks	Constable	17-Jan-11
Samson Ngalmi	ACPO First Class	29-Dec-10

Retirements

James Lindsay	Sergeant	17-Nov-10
Peter Polychrone	Senior Constable	24-Nov-10
Eric Cleak	Sergeant	31-Dec-10
William Hawker	Auxiliary	6-Jan-11



NTPA GIFT SHOP

- Men's and Women's Polo Shirts and Chambray Shirts
- NTPA Windshield Jackets with removable sleeves
- NTPA and NTPF caps
- Stubby coolers, coffee and travel mugs, ties, pens, keyrings, compendiums, cooler bags, novel bottle openers, plaques and more!

Check our website

www.ntpa.com.au

or come into our store at

5 Foelsche Street, Darwin.



Changed your address?

Please let the NTPA know if you change address or contact details.

Email: admin@ntpa.com.au

or telephone

8981 8840

Thank You



The Airfare Experts. Every destination. Every airline.

FLIGHT CENTRE®
Unbeatable

LOWEST AIRFARE GUARANTEE
We will beat any airfare quote or you fly free.*

International Flights

Bali Return

from **\$252***

Bangkok

Economy return from
\$627*

London

\$1612*

Los Angeles

\$1311*

Manila

\$298*

Phuket

\$580*

Singapore

\$360*

Domestic Flights

Melbourne One Way

from **\$149***

Brisbane

one way from
\$179*

Perth

\$249*

Sydney

\$179*

Bali Holidays

Kuta 4 nights

from **\$105***

INCLUDES Accom at the Dewi Sri Hotel and breakfast daily. **ADD** Waterbom Park Pass from \$27*.



Bali 6 nights 4 1/2-star

INCLUDES 4 nights accom in Tuban at the Holiday Inn Baruna Bali, 2 nights accom in Ubud at the Alila Ubud, breakfast daily & return transfers. **ADD** Casa Luna Cooking Class from \$70*. from **\$655***

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

INCLUDES STAY 4 & PAY 3, breakfast daily & return transfers. **ADD** Add Island ATV Adventure from \$26*. from **\$149***



For more information on these and other great deals visit flightcentre.com.au



Visit us in store.

We have over 600 stores across Australia.



1300 881 866

*Applies to genuine quotes from airlines and Australian registered businesses and websites for travel that originates/departs from Australia. Quote must be in writing and must be presented to us prior to booking. Fare must be available and able to be booked by the general public when you bring it to us. Fares available due to membership of a group or corporate entity or subscription to a closed group are excluded. Must be for same dates and flight class. We will beat price by \$1.00. For full terms and conditions see flightcentre.com.au. *Travel restrictions and conditions apply. Please ask us for further details. Prices and taxes are correct as at 22 Feb 11 and are subject to change without notice. Prices quoted are on sale until 31 Mar 11 unless otherwise stated or sold out prior. Prices are per person and are subject to availability. Accommodation (if included) is based on twin share. Seasonal surcharges and blackout dates may apply depending on date of travel. Prices shown are fully inclusive of taxes, levies, government charges and other applicable fees. Flights not included unless otherwise stated. Where flight is included, additional taxes specific to your flight routing may apply and/or may not include checked luggage (which can incur additional charges). Payments made by credit card will incur a surcharge. Prices shown are for payments made by cash in store. Advertised price includes any bonus nights. Minimum/maximum stay restrictions may apply. FROM DARWIN. Flight Centre Limited (ABN 25 003 377 188) trading as Flight Centre. Licence No. NT008. SAMC46671

As a Police Officer in the NT you could save \$1,000s on your home loan



		Annual Percentage Rate	Comparison Rate	25 Year Interest	YOU could SAVE
Police Credit Union	Special Variable	7.04%	7.11%	\$171,215	
ANZ	Variable Rate	7.80%	7.90%	\$194,342	\$23,126
Bank SA	Standard Variable	7.80%	7.96%	\$196,126	\$24,910
Bendigo Bank	Variable Rate	7.80%	7.94%	\$195,531	\$24,315
CBA	Standard Variable	7.84%	7.94%	\$195,531	\$24,315
NAB	Standard Variable	7.67%	7.80%	\$191,377	\$20,161
Westpac	Rocket Repay Loan	7.86%	7.99%	\$197,019	\$25,803

Call 1300 131 844 or logon to platinum-advantage.com.au

Terms, conditions, fees, charges and lending criteria apply. Full details available on application. Rates current as at 17 February 2011, sourced from anz.com.au, banksa.com.au, bendigobank.com.au, commbank.com.au, nab.com.au, westpac.com and are subject to change. Comparison rates and interest calculations based on a secured \$150,000 loan over 25 years. WARNING: This comparison rate is true only for the examples given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees, or other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate. Comparison rate schedule and full details of the terms & conditions are available on request. AFSL/ACL 238991.

