

# CITATION

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE MUSEUM AND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED



MAY 2025



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# Northern Territory Police History Museum

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**Museum visits are by APPOINTMENT ONLY**

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## Cover Photos

[The 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade passing over the steep sandhills at Esdud | Australian War Memorial](#), accessed 4 May 2025

Trooper James Harcourt Kelly, [Ke - World War I Pictorial Honour Roll of South Australians](#), accessed 4 May 2025

[Members of the 1st and 4th Australian Light Horse | Australian War Memorial](#), accessed 4 May 2025

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**Warning:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should exercise caution as the Citation Newsletter may contain images of and articles about deceased people. Language used in some articles is that of the day the article was written and may not be considered appropriate today.

**Patron's Message:**  
**A Message from Acting Commissioner Martin Dole:**  
**Honour in Service, Respect in Conditions**

As Acting Commissioner of the Northern Territory Police Force, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant and, at times, difficult chapter we currently find ourselves navigating. The departure of former Commissioner Michael Murphy has understandably cast a long shadow, both inside the organisation and across the broader community.

It has tested the resilience of many, and yet what I continue to see — from Darwin to the most remote outposts — is unwavering professionalism from our members.

Despite the noise, the work has not stopped. Officers continue to serve their communities, lead with purpose, and uphold the legacy of the NT Police Force in a way that deserves quiet admiration.

This period of transition coincides with our ongoing Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) negotiations — a process that always generates robust debate and reflection. Policing has never been easy, and it has never been ordinary.

Whether we look back 100 years or reflect on today, those who wear this uniform do so under pressure, in often unforgiving environments, and with a level of public expectation and scrutiny few other professions face.

The early days of policing in the Territory were shaped by isolation, danger, and resourcefulness. Officers rode on horseback into the unknown, relied on instinct, and operated without backup or modern systems.

They did the job because it mattered.

Today, we have advanced technology, stronger networks, and more support structures — but the core challenges remain remarkably similar.

What also remains is the importance of ensuring that police, no matter the era, are afforded the best possible working conditions. Respect for the role of police is shown not only in words but in the frameworks and support we offer — pay, safety, time with family, and access to help when needed. That principle is timeless.

This Force has endured and evolved because it has always been made up of men and women who step forward when others step back. They deserve our admiration — and they deserve conditions that reflect the reality of the job.

As we continue forward, it is worth remembering: the uniform may change, the tools may improve, but the calling — and the need to support those who answer it — remains the same..

Martin Dole APM



## Chairman's Message – Dr Gary Manison APM

This edition of *Citation* covers a range of stories about those that served, and it is important to remember that great service has also been provided by staff that were not sworn members. One story concerns the work that Beris Chandler undertook, and what work she did in respect to stolen vehicles. She made an outstanding contribution to the detection of offences and the arrest and conviction of the offenders. Her work exemplifies how effective unsworn members can be in the fight against crime.

Another story relates to our members who served in the First World War and recognises the contribution they made, of which two paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. The profile of Mounted Constable James Harcourt Kelly is interesting as he served for 34 years in the Northern Territory apart from his World War One service with the AIF. His contribution should be celebrated and remembered as an example of 'Service.'

We are also working with our IT consultant to have more *Citation* articles, particularly lengthy ones, made accessible on our website. This improved access to longer articles should be completed by mid-year.

Finally, let me thank all those who have contributed to this edition of *Citation* and thank the NT Police Association for their support with the financial contribution they provide and have provided since 2007.

**Dr Gary F Manison APM**

**President**

## Editor's Message – Pat King

Greetings,

This week is **Volunteers Week**, and we take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the dedicated team who work tirelessly behind the scenes for the Police Museum. These volunteers come from across Australia and contribute enormously through the wonders of modern technology.

The learning curve continues, and we've now realised that articles submitted for inclusion in the printed edition of *Citation* must be limited in length. Many of the stories submitted are excellent and well worth sharing, so they will soon be available on the Museum website.

We encourage you to send in your **short stories, photos, trivia, cartoons, and quotes** so we can share them. There are so many funny and interesting stories that, if needed, can be shared anonymously.

Sadly, we recently lost **Julie McDonald, Val Watters**—who gave many years of service to the Museum—and **Dave Picker**. Julie was the beloved partner of John Wolthers. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families.

Every time we lose someone, we often lose a wealth of knowledge, personal and family history, and valuable workplace stories. If you are interested in training to **record oral histories**, please let me know so we can arrange it. I'm also looking for someone to help **edit completed recordings**.

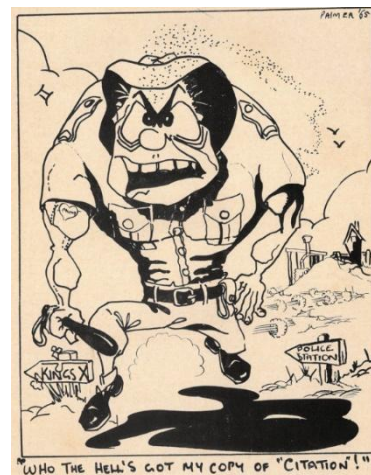
It's an exciting time to be part of the **Museum Committee** as we explore more ways to share the rich history of the NT Police with serving officers and the public. New members are always welcome! Volunteers can assist with long-term or short-term projects—or simply help out as needed. There are many ways to get involved.

### Position Vacant – Assistant Treasurer

We are looking for someone to work alongside John Wolthers. MYOB knowledge is helpful, but training can be provided. Please email your **expression of interest** if you're interested.

Pat King

**Editor**



## Not All Champions Wear Uniforms - The DRUM 5



One of the longest serving public servants with NTPFES and a well-known figure in the Tri-Service – Beres Chandler, has retired.

Beres was first appointed to the Northern Territory Police Force on a limited tenure on 20 November 1978 as an Administrative Officer (AO) with the introduction of Traffic Infringement Fines. Her office was in the old Vogliotti Building on the corner of Mitchell and Knuckey Streets. With no computers all data was manually entered.

Enjoying her new employment, an opportunity became available six months later in the traffic section to do Stolen Motor Vehicle data entry. Sgt Kevin Smith provided this opportunity, which she gratefully accepted. All recording of Stolen Motor Vehicles was done in a “Big Black Book” which was required to be typed. Having no typing skills at the time, Beres took herself off to night classes where this skill was quickly obtained.

From this time on (1979) Beres remained in a Stolen Motor Vehicles role until her retirement this year - a total of 29 years’ service. The role has never changed in respect of her day-to-day

duties, although constant changes within the organisation and through technology saw Beres move around quite frequently.

Beres moved consistently during her earlier SMV role, initially working within the old Mitchell Street Police Station working in the administrative department, and soon thereafter operated within the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence Section before moving into Communications in 1983.

Communications was SMV’s first “office”, with an office being made from an old disused storeroom. Analysing SMVs also became more advanced with the implementation of a computer system and an SMV screen being developed. This was an advancement from a strip index utilised to record SMVs which was indexed using the last digit of the registration number.

Even at this early stage of Beres’s career, she was becoming the Northern Territory Police guru in respect of Stolen Motor Vehicles. John Horswell, who was then in Forensics, gave her some books on stolen vehicles which she savoured and treated as bibles. Like most small specialist units at the time, Beres then moved her SMV role out to the Peter McAulay Centre (formally the Berrimah Police Complex) in 1985. Continuing her gypsy role, she was positioned within the Information Bureau under Denzel McManus until a separate Stolen Motor Vehicle Unit was created several years later.

The initial SMV Unit or Squad as it was known was formed with Beres and two police officers, Constables Nola Dickinson and Peter Pitereno. As with all units, police members come and go and these members were followed by Neil Berry, in 1988, who became ‘Guru Number 2’ and Tony Fuller in 1989. Other members to follow included Dean Barrett and David Pryce, with many others having relieving periods within the unit over its life. The SMV Squad later amalgamated with the Traffic Section, with the SMV Squad at one end of the office and Traffic at the other end. Beres was the only female in the office work area and affectionately became known as “Mum” to all who worked within the unit. Peter (Boots) Guinane was the OIC at the time with Keith Van Rangelroy as the commissioned officer or ‘Big Boss Man’ as he was referred to.

During this time David Proctor and David Gilmour were known as the Evel Knievels - many a story could be told about them, but Beres is sworn to secrecy. This period was the heyday of the SMV Squad and the most enjoyable time for Beres. In the mid-1990s the SMV Squad and Traffic Section were disbanded in a restructure of the organisation. This restructure saw Beres, affectionately known as “the SMV Unit”, as she was one person, amalgamated within the Criminal



Investigation Branch (CIB). Beres moved around various units within the CIB, which included the Special Operations Section, before moving to the Operational Intelligence Section in June 2007.

Beres's last day was on Friday January 2008 and her effective retirement from the Northern Territory Police being on 4 July 2008. Beres retires as an Administrative A03 with over 29 years loyal service to the Northern Territory Police.

During her service she represented the Northern Territory Police and attended Sydney in 1999 and 2000, with the introduction of the National Vehicles of Interest being implemented Australian wide. Her work also took her outdoors with the SMV Squad members taking her out in their vehicles to show her the dumping grounds, for stripped or burnt-out vehicles.

Beres has had a close working relationship with S/Const Kym Chilton in Forensic, where she has observed damaged vehicles, repaired and re birthed vehicles. Beres was like a "fox terrier" when it came to investigating and analysing vehicle theft and relished any opportunity to get out of the office and look at "crime scenes" or seized vehicles. She enjoyed a healthy liaison with Pickles Auctions, Darwin City Council, Motor Vehicle Registry Vehicle Inspectors, DPI, interstate police, and interstate Motor Vehicle Inspectors.

Beres will be missed by the organisation and our external partners for her loyalty, her dedication to Stolen Motor Vehicles and for being "Mum" to many of the young policemen and women she took under her wing in dealing with stolen and recovered motor vehicles.

**2025. Beres lives in Tiwi and enjoying retirement**

## **TASK FORCE CIRCA 1985**



**Back Row:** Jeff Preston, David Cammis, Gary Kearney, Glen McPhee, Ian Lee, Wayne Harris, Robert Kirby, Geoff Farncomb, Colin Hardman.

**Middle Row:** Paul Pederson, Gary Turnbull, Mark Kelly, Tony Dyer, Dean Moloney, Vic Thorne, Robby Williams,

**Front Row:** Denis Fields, Roger Neuman, Graham Waight, Chris Milner, Iain Morrison, Mick Reid, Dave Crompton.

## Have you thought about writing the story of your time in the NT Police?

- This is a list of questions and prompts that may be useful when writing about your time as a police officer. They are suggestions only.
- What is your full name (and maiden name).
- What is your date and place of birth? (Why were you living where you lived during your childhood)
- What are the names of your parents including your mother's maiden name.
- Write a brief outline of your history prior to joining the Northern Territory Police? (Education, previous employment, further study)
- When did you join the Northern Territory Police, tell us about your interview and why you decided to join?
- Did you have a role model who influenced this decision?
- Travelling to the NT to join the Police? (Car, fly, bus, train)
- Recollections of your arrival in Darwin & your observations? (Buildings, culture, memorable events, suburbs, parks, pubs)
- Accommodation during training? (Barracks, classrooms, training grounds, meals, social activities)
- Actual training itself – who conducted it & who was on the course? (Subjects, length of training, equipment, vehicles, communications, court)
- First experiences on the street. (Memorable people, violence, typical jobs, stations, other front-line services, colourful locals)
- First experiences of Darwin – social life etc (sports, national parks, or swimming holes)
- Where did you serve? (Go through the following questions for each new station)
- First observations at your new location? (Station, communications, distance to nearest station, community life, friends in the community, travel)



- Recollections of who you worked with? (Other officers, medical staff, mission folk, essential services)
- Did you work with any trackers?
- Accommodation (Describe accommodation, security, cooling and heating, cooking facilities, furniture, inside / outside toilet, fly screens etc)
- Transportation / stock work – did you have experience before you joined? (Animals in your care, camels, horses, cows, chickens etc)
- Holidays? Where did you go for holidays, how long did it take to get there?
- Association with the community that you worked in – any involvement?
- How did you get and keep stores? (Frequency, storage, ordering, transportation of, local stores, bush tucker)
- Radio communications? (VJY, bush scheds, police)
- Were there any disasters while there? (Cyclones, floods, fires, extended isolation, how were they managed both at Police level and family)
- Health / welfare of your family? (Sickness, accidents)

- Married / children? (Spouse, how many children and ages, did the spouse work in the community, locals employed as help around the home or station, did the family cope with isolation)
- Education? (How did children receive their education, what happened when they finished school, boarding school,
- Further training – if any (updating skills, firearms etc, other equipment)
- Court attendances – travel to and from (Was court held in the community or the city, memorable court cases, magistrates worked with, how was court recording done)
- Movement of prisoners? How? (Where to, how, memorable transfers)



- Deaths in the area? (Morgue, funerals, family / community reactions, payback)
- Promotions / exams (how were these undertaken when at bush stations)
- Did you work in a specialist area such as TRG, Detective, Forensic, Missing Persons? (Use above questions as memory joggers)
- Did you work at stations in larger towns such as Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek)
- Personal achievements
- Memorable stories
- Did you keep a personal diary – take any photographs/slides and what happened to them? Would you be prepared to share them with the NT Police History Museum? (Copied and originals returned to you)
- Resignation / retirement, when and why. Did you continue working?
- Any regrets about leaving?
- Notable cases that you were personally involve in? (Visits by Royalty or Government officials, UN Dignitaries)
- Did you serve overseas whilst a NT Police Officer? (UN or secondment etc, Bali Bombing, earthquakes, tsunami)
- Were you seconded to another Police Force during your time with NTPOL?
- Did you serve with a defence force prior to police service? How do you think this affected your work and the way you did it.
- Do, or did you have a spiritual / religious belief. Describe it. How did that impact your service?
- Have you received any awards, commendations etc because of your service?
- How would you sum up your time in the Police and how did it affect you and your family.



**Not everyone was born to cook.**

**I personally was born to hold conversations with someone who's cooking.**

**Know your strengths.**

## NT Police who Served in World War I

### Introduction

Long before the bombs fell on Darwin in 1942, before the horrors of World War Two seared themselves into the collective memory of the Northern Territory, a quieter but equally courageous chapter of service unfolded. It is a chapter often overlooked—overshadowed by more recent conflicts and louder acts of wartime heroism. This is the story of those Northern Territory Police officers who, years earlier, traded their uniforms for khaki and enlisted to serve in the trenches of the First World War.

In 1914, as war gripped the world, the Territory's police force was small—just twenty-two officers scattered across an unforgiving and remote land. And yet, from these ranks emerged eleven men who would go on to serve in the Australian Imperial Force. Some were wounded, some endured unimaginable hardship, and two—**Richard Hanson** and **Horace Higgs**—never came home. Their sacrifice, like their service, is part of both the ANZAC legend and the enduring legacy of the Northern Territory Police Force.

Unlike the detailed records of WWII, little has been written about these men—about their transition from enforcing the law in one of Australia's harshest regions to fighting a distant and brutal war.

It honours those who served not only their community, but their country—those who stood as officers of the law before becoming soldiers of the Empire. Their stories span service under two governments, in a Territory still undergoing administrative transition from South Australia to the Commonwealth. Some served briefly; others gave everything. All deserve to be remembered. In further editions we will share their stories **James Harcourt Kelly, Richard Hansen, Horace Higgs, Frederick Taylor, Richard Hansen, James Kelly, William Gordon.**

### KELLY, James Harcourt



**James Harcourt Kelly** was born on 3 November 1867 at One Tree Hill, South Australia. He joined the South Australian Police on 1 May 1891 and transferred to the Northern Territory Police on 1 March 1894. After briefly resigning on 31 March 1896, he returned to duty on 1 May 1897.

Kelly served at various posts including Camooweal (1899–1903), Borroloola (1903–1904), Palmerston (1904–1906), and Pine Creek (from November 1906). On 4 October 1904, he was appointed Clerk of the Palmerston Local Court. He returned to South Australia in January 1911, but by December 1914, he was back in the NT, appointed Keeper of H.M. Gaol at Borroloola.

At age 49, Kelly enlisted in the AIF on 22 December 1916, listing his occupation as “Mounted Police Constable.” He became Private No. 3348 in the 28th Reinforcements of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Regiment. He sailed from Melbourne on 22 June 1917 and arrived in Egypt in August. In January 1918, he joined the 3rd Regiment, First Australian Light Horse Brigade, then fighting the retreating Turkish Army in the Sinai and Palestine campaign.

In February 1918, Kelly saw action near Kh el Auja, close to Jericho. This marked a stark contrast to his NT patrols with only a tracker or two. On 3 March 1918, he sustained a chest injury and was hospitalized, returning to duty on 6 July in the harsh conditions of the Jordan Valley. Despite widespread illness and extreme heat, he served until the end of the campaign, which saw Turkish and German forces retreat into Syria and seek an armistice.

Kelly returned to Australia aboard *HMAT Port Sydney* in March 1919 and was discharged shortly after. He later rejoined the NT Police and served until his medical retirement on 27 November 1927. On 1 July 1921, he was promoted to Sergeant at Borroloola.

Though it's unclear if he had children, his enlistment form indicated none under 16. He is honored by Kelly Place in Rapid Creek, named after his long and dedicated service across the Territory, including NT

## 50 YEARS ABSENCE

### *N.T. Police Pioneer's Daughter visits the Territory*

The daughter of one of the Northern Territory's early pioneer Policemen, Trooper James Harcourt Kelly, visited the Territory in May for the first time after leaving 50 years ago.

She is Mrs Linda Egan, aged 68, formerly Miss Linda Kelly of the Borroloola Police Station.

Mrs Egan returned to the Territory on a visit which she said was "just to see what the place looks like and to see if I could meet any old school friends".

Mrs Egan lives now on the sunny Gold Coast of Queensland in retirement after her husband died less than two years ago.

During her life in early days of the Territory, she was a real "Police" family girl.

Mrs Egan was born at Burrundie in a house owned by Copley Playford. At the time her father was Trooper Kelly, stationed at Burrundie. As she grew older her father was transferred around the Top End – and Mrs Egan went along with her mother and older brother to the various Police Outposts.

In his time, Trooper Kelly was stationed at Burrundie, Brock's Creek, Pine Creek, Darwin and Borroloola.

In Darwin, Mrs Egan recalled living for two or three years in the Police house in Smith Street – recently demolished. When she visited Darwin this year, she said she could see only a few buildings that stood when she left the Territory for the south in 1914.

This is what she remembers of her father in his role as one of the handful of Mounted Troopers keeping the law in the lonely north.

"He was a quiet man really. He was devoted to the Aboriginals he worked with and gave them every possible assistance.

"Before the war when an Aboriginal protectorate was introduced, my father helped a lot. The protectorate was disbanded in 1914.

"At Pine Creek he was made a Police Sergeant and when he left, the natives living there gave him a corroboree which lasted for three nights, to show how much they like him.

"He loved the bush."

Mrs Egan said while he was stationed at Borroloola, he was once sent to Camooweal, Queensland, for a period.

"I don't know why, but I think they were short of Police there", she added. Like many of the Police in the early days, Trooper Kelly loved adventure.

Mrs Egan said he wanted to fight in the Boer War, but when family commitments stopped him, he found his outlet in the Mounted Troopers.

Kelly Place in Rapid Creek, one of Darwin's outer suburbs is named after Trooper Kelly.

Mrs Egan said she had heard that a channel which is to be dug for a harbour near Borroloola next year will be named "Kelly Channel", (The naming of this channel has now been officially announced – Ed.)

Although only a child of about ten years at the time, Mrs Egan said she recalled when her father went on a pack horse Patrol into the unknown region now called Arnhem Land. Trooper Kelly and another Police man named Jack Skinner set off after some native murderers.



*Mrs. Linda Egan, daughter of the late Sgt. J. H. Kelly.*

“We had a horrible shock when rumours came back that they had been murdered by the blacks”, Mrs Egan said, but three months later they rose in safe and sound”.

She said on another occasion her father wandered around for three days without water in the Daly River district, after being heavily thrown from his horse, which immediately bolted away.

Sergeant Kelly retired from the N.T. Police at the age of 60 and he died when he was 77 years.

When I told Mrs Egan that there was no longer a Police Station at Borroloola, she was surprised.

But what was once a lonely outpost for the solitary law enforcer could become a major Police centre in the next ten years, as mineral deposits in the area are exploited.

**Editor's Note:**

It is coincidental that, after a lapse of many years, a Police Station is to be opened at Borroloola this year – a mobile unit, consisting of two 40' x 10' caravans and such other outbuildings as may be necessary. It is coincidental, too, that we have another woman's angle on Borroloola and the Territory in this issue – Joyce Johnson's – so perhaps this will urge others to let us have their interesting stories.

Mrs Egans – a lively, interesting person indeed – had furnished a few more particulars of her father's career. At one stage he was requested by the Government to make an approximate survey of the country between Borroloola township and the mouth of the MacArthur River. He was congratulated by the authorities for the excellent chart he produced.

In the old days at Pine Creek opium was smoked by the Chinese miners and sold to the natives. The countering of these activities was fraught with difficulty and no little danger and entailed repeated night patrols on foot around the old Chinatown area and mining camps.

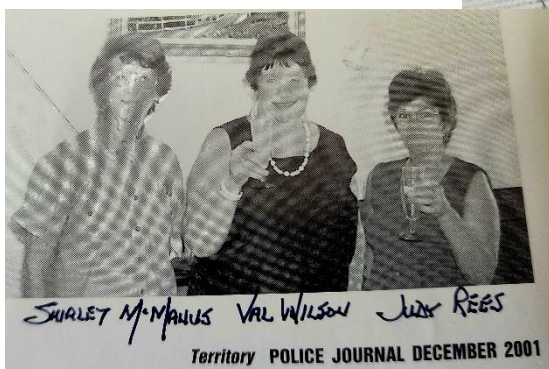
Court cases were often heard on the verandah at the end of the Police Station residence and Mrs Egan recalls an occasion when she and her brother peeped through the only window just as a severed black head was being withdrawn from a sugar bag to serve as Exhibit “A”. The cells were near the house and on some night's it was little short of bedlam for the Kelly family, what with rowdy drunks and brawlers and excitable, jabbering Chinese. On one occasion it got so alarmingly boisterous that Mrs Kelly, her husband being away on another call out, poked a gun barrel through the cell grating in the cause of peace. Silence ensued for the rest of *that* night, anyhow.

James Harcourt Kelly interrupted his Police Service for a turn overseas with the First A.I.F., but returned to the Territory and continued serving until his retirement through ill-health in 1928, after 31 years' Police service in the Northern Territory.

(Citation – December 1966 – Page 6 and 7)

**Pictures from Territory**

**Police Journal 2001**



## Camels Trains.

### *Tales of the Trooper. Stories from the Wild Colonial Days. Jean Schmaal Part 2 P45*

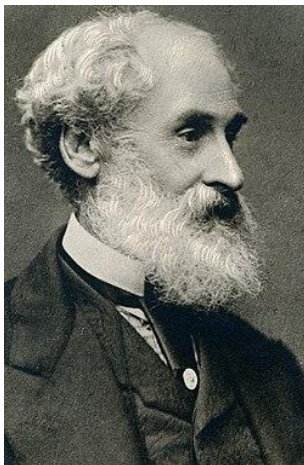
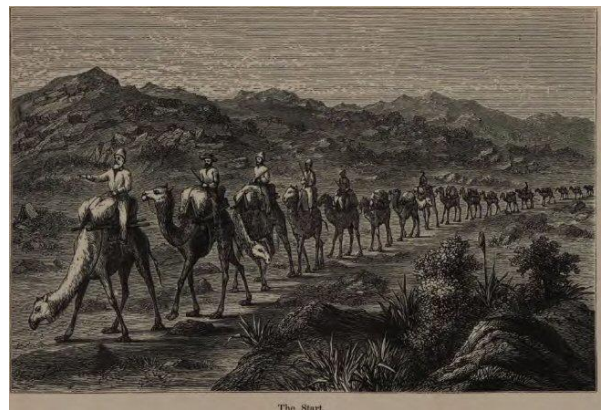
“In 1866 Sir Thomas Elder imported a herd of 121 camels from Karachi, then in India. Of these 109n landed safely at Port Augusta, then the most northern port of the colony, on 8 January from the Blackwall, where they were most successfully employed in the transit of googs to various stations in the interior.

Other shipments followed, and the ungainly but useful beast made trade and transit possible in regions over an immense area of Central Australia where it was previously impossible. Sit Thomas thus initiated facilities for both traction and travel, for there were camel trains as well as pack and riding camels, to which the West Australian Goldfields owe perhaps as much as the sheep and cattle stations of the continent.

Before long it was clear that the work of exploration was also greatly facilitated by the use of camels. Country where horses could not live, and sandy wastes where both man and beast would perish of thirst could be successfully by a beast of burden that carried a private water tank in his interior economy. They were known to travel 25 miles per day for nine successive days, under a hot sun and heavily laden with no drink of water and no other feed scanty bushes.

The first great work of the camels was in the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line from Adelaide to Port Darwin in 1872m when 100 of the carried wire, insulators etc.

The following year Major Warburton (Commissioner of Police for South Australia from 1853 – 1867) led an exploration into the arid north, and the slow pacing bullock and the limited staying power of the packhorses were superseded by the patient and enduring camel. A herd of 17 camels was placed at the disposal of the government by Sir Thomas Elder. The project was to transverse the continent from Alice Springs, 1100 north of Adelaide, to a station in Western Australia. Lack of water almost beat the party.”



[Peter Egerton-Warburton - Wikipedia](#) ‘The expedition arrived in Alice Springs in early 1873 before heading westward on 15 April 1873. They endured long periods of extreme heat with little water and survived only by killing the camels for their meat. After finally crossing the [Great Sandy Desert](#), they arrived at the [Oakover River](#), 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) north of Perth with Warburton strapped to one of the two remaining camels and near death themselves.’

To discover more about the explorers in this area at that time read:

[Journey Across the Western Interior of Australia](#)

**JOURNEY ACROSS THE WESTERN INTERIOR OF AUSTRALIA.**

**BY COLONEL PETER EGERTON WARBURTON, C.M.G.**

*“Adversity reveals genius,  
Prosperity conceals it.” Horace*

## Ride-On Mowers and Police Memoirs: Retirement, McAdie-Style

Mark McAdie traded the pressures of police command for the rolling hills of Wingham, five ride-on mowers, and the lifelong task of preserving NT Police history. He's the author of the Force's official pictorial history and still finds time to post daily in honour of those who served. He joined the NT Police at age 18 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1975. After 35 years of service he retired on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010, having reached the rank of Assistant Commissioner.



### Memorable Moments

In a long career there are a lot of memorable moments but mine were:

Being the youngest member of the Police Force on joining

Being the youngest member to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant, Senior Sergeant, Superintendent and Commander at the time of promotion (I am not sure whether any of those records still stand).

Being the youngest Officer in Charge of the Police Station whilst relieving at Batchelor at aged 19 (a record I think I may still hold).

Being the first responder to the Inland Motel incident, involving Douglas Crabbe driving deliberately into the bar at the Inland Motel, Ayers Rock.

Leading the NT Government's management of refugees from East Timor that arose out of the pre handover troubles in East Timor at the end of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. Being able to run an operation entirely free from budgetary restraint is an opportunity offered to very few people.

Being local Controller for the emergency response to Australia's most powerful earthquakes in Tennant Creek.

Being responsible for the emergency management of Y2K for the NT.

Coming up with the concept of Auxiliary Police Officer's whilst a member of the Executive of the NT Police Association and then conducting a review of the program on behalf of the Commissioner of Police.

Being one of small group who specified the design of the present Darwin Police Station, and then having Executive responsibility for its execution.



Having three aboriginal members of the NT Police who were killed in the course of their duty recognised by both the NT Police and on the National Police Memorial, notwithstanding the fact that their death had been ignored for more than a century.

***McAdie showing depth of earthquake crack Tennant Creek  
1988.webp***

### Life after Policing.

When I retired, I remained in the NT from 2010 to 2020, living on acreage at Virginia. Anyone who has owned Darwin Rural acreage can tell you that maintaining a five acre black can, if you want it to be, a full-time job in itself. Much of my time in the early years of retirement was consumed in catching up on the maintenance of our property at Virginia.

At the time of my retirement, I was also President of the NT Police Museum and Historical Society, a role I had performed since 2005. I retained that role and retirement allowed me to spend more time in the management of the Museum and Historical Society, including curation and general historical research. From about 2015 onwards the Museum and Historical Society partnered with the

Commissioner of Police to plan and implement a program of activities and events relating to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NT Police Force. The NTPMHS Inc. was contracted by the Commissioner to:

- plan events and activities
- design, develop and conduct a Historical Display of the History of the NT Police
- write and publish a Pictorial History of the NT Police.

As it came to pass many of the events and activities were curtailed by the coming of Covid 19 in early 2020, but our two main achievements, the display and book were completed and put in place. (Copies of the book are still available I understand).

I was pleased to be the author of record for “*A Pictorial History of the Northern Territory Police Force 1870 to 2020*”, my first published book. The research of that book formed the basis for the design of the Historical Display which took the form of the timeline of the NT Police from 1870 to 2020.

Writing the pictorial history and curating the 150-year timeline of the NT Police wasn’t just a retirement project — it was the culmination of a lifetime in uniform, and a promise to those who served before us.

I also set up and managed a Facebook page for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. That page is now the main Facebook page for the NT Police Museum and Historical Society, which I manage on behalf of the society. The Facebook page and associated Group page presently have 1700 odd followers, hardly a large number for a Facebook page, but a substantial number of our Society.

I have several objectives for the Facebook page:

- To post on the page every day.
- To remember on the anniversary of their death every member of the Police Force who died or was killed in the course of their duty and to remember every member who dies whilst serving in the NT Police.
- To remember those members who went to war during the course of their time with the NT Police, especially those who were killed or injured.
- To post a celebration of every recruit course of the NT Police on the day of commencement (It is complete for Constable Recruit Courses and next year will include all Cadet Courses, but Auxiliary and ACPO Courses are proving a more difficult nut to crack.
- To post a short history of every Police Station in the NT (I am about halfway through that very long list).

All of these are either completed and are now repeated yearly or are in the process of being researched and put in place.

The other historical tasks I am presently trying to complete are, in a broad order:

- Maintaining a Remembrance Book for the NT Police.
- A complete compendium of the NT Police Recruit Courses (Constable, ACPO, Auxiliary and Cadet).
- A book outlining the history of every NT Police Station.
- A book of the general History of the NT Police.

I also did about half a million kilometres in international travel, mainly to Europe, Scandinavia and the US, before Covid. I did a number of trips through Australia driving for a while subsidised those trips by relocation driving for Britz.

We moved, during Covid, to NSW to be closer to Hazel’s family.

I am also the proud owner of a partially forested 1.5 hectare block and house site near Wingham NSW. The block has no flat parts that are not covered by buildings. I therefore am the proud owner of 5 ride on



mowers (I swear there is a good reason for all of them) and a wide variety of powered and non-powered garden equipment which allows me to maintain a block that is on an average 20% slope (the virtue of which is the magnificent view of the Manning River Valley.

My other principal interest lies in electrification as a result of which I have a very electrified and automated home, a very large Solar PV array, two house batteries and three EVs.

All in all, even though my life is less stressed with relatively few deadlines, I am still very busy pursuing my interest in the history of the NT Police. I am more than happy to catch up with anyone who would like to drop in.

Photo Credit: Mark McAdie's own work: [The history of the Darwin Police Stations as told by Mark McAdie. AU-0800](#)



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## JOIN OR VOLUNTEER

### JOIN THE NT POLICE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Any membership based organisation is only as good as its members. If you know someone who would like to join the Society or volunteer please ask them to contact us at [citation.newsletter@proton.me](mailto:citation.newsletter@proton.me)

You can also find out more by going to the website where membership applications can be downloaded.

<https://www.ntpmhs.com.au/all-products>

The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.

**Sir Robert Peel**

## Old Officer Story

Finding Events you were not looking for in Historical Research – Mark McAdie

Recently whilst consulting old issue of the Drum (Issue 10 of 1983 pp44-34) about another subject, I found the following passage, authored by noted NT Police Officer, the former Senior Inspector William “Bill McKinnon:

*“I was introduced to our single constable's barracks. In 1916 a stone building was erected in the centre of town, consisting of a large cell for Europeans (with heavy iron rings set into the floor to handcuff or chain them down), a huge cell with an exercise yard for Aborigines and another room about 8 feet by 12 feet jutted out from the side of the building, for use as a Police Station. It had two windows and one door. In 1927 some new buildings having been erected on another site, including a Police Station, the old room was condemned by the Government Medical Officer as unfit for use owing to its lack of facilities, its heat in summer and coldness in winter, and its close proximity to the noises, mainly corroborating by native prisoners in the exercise by day and in the cell by night.*

*The new Police Station was in a house-like building with a passage down the centre leading to a courtroom at the back, the Police Station at front on one side of the passage and the Deputy Administrator's office on the other side. A small room at the back was the office of the Government Medical Officer, who was also Deputy Chief Protector of Aborigines. The old, condemned Police Station was then set aside as the Constables' Barracks. On my arrival, it was occupied by Constables HAMILTON, McCOLL and myself.”*

Sometime previously, I had completed what I thought was a definitive history of the Alice Springs Police Station, this passage from McKinnon's recollections was talking about two police stations which had not appeared in that “definitive” history.

Some frenzied (well, urgent) research followed. In historical research, just like criminal investigation, it is best practice to ensure that you have multiple sources, and preferentially documented information.



A memo, found in a National Archive file (NAA Item Number 80576, titled “Local Court Alice Springs” dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 1931, states:

*“The Deputy Administrator at Stuart (Alice Springs) has now advised that since 1927, the Council Chamber in the Town of Stuart has been used as a court room. Prior to that date it is reported that all Courts sat in the office attached to the Police Station in the Town of Stuart.”*

This is contemporaneous with the McKinnon account and tells us two things – that the Police Station had been moved from the Police Residence at some time (1916 according to McKinnon's account) and then (along with the court) it was moved into the building now known as the “Old Courthouse” at the corner of Hartley Street and Parsons Street in 1927.

This photo (taken in the late 1930s, clearly shows some sort of lean to attached to the Stuart Gaol Building, as described by McKinnon – this was therefore the police station between 1916 and 1927. This makes some sense as the preceding police station had been in the residence which was quite small and would not have accommodated four police officers and the family of the Officer in Charge.



The description he gives of the “New Police Station” fits well with the history of, and the layout of the building that is now known as the “Old Courthouse”. Once the police moved out to new premises in Parsons Street in 1940, this building gradually became the courthouse only, with other Government Agencies moving out over a span of years. In the attached photo, taken in the 1940s, the courthouse is the building closest to the camera.

## BOOK REVIEW

The true story of one of Australia's top cops for readers of I CATCH KILLERS and THE GOOD COP

Nick Kaldas is a cop's cop. From investigating war criminals to taking down global drug operations, Kaldas has seen the worst humanity can offer. But he's also seen which human qualities can lead to greatness.

This is the compelling true story of an immigrant boy from Egypt who rose from beat cop to become one of the most senior police officers in Australia. During his time in the NSW police force, he was one of Australia's first Arab undercover cops, headed up both the Homicide and Gang Squad units, reformed the Counter Terrorism team and then became the Deputy Police Commissioner.

He has also faced down some of the toughest, most brutal criminal organisations in the world. In the Middle East, he was hand-picked by the United Nations to investigate the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri; investigate the illegal use of chemical weapons in Syria; and was the Director of Internal Oversight Services at UNRWA, the UN agency tasked with assisting Palestine refugees.

Having negotiated hostage situations, gained the trust of the Syrian secret police and chaired the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, Kaldas has learned a thing or two about resilience, courage and fortitude. In *Behind the Badge*, he describes the most challenging cases that have shaped him and reveals what it takes to stand up for what's right in the face of insurmountable opposition.

### About the Author

Nick Kaldas was born in Egypt in 1958 and moved with his family to Australia in 1969. He served in the NSW Police for 35 years, the last ten as the Deputy Commissioner. His career was mainly in major and organised crime investigations and counter terrorism. As head of the Homicide Squad, he led the investigation into the murder of John Newman MP and oversaw many other investigations, including the murders committed by Sef Gonzales.

Nick also held a number of significant international roles, including Deputy Chief Police Adviser with the Coalition Forces in Iraq in 2004, overseeing the rebuilding of the Iraqi police and security forces; Chief of investigations in the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon in 2009-10, investigating the assassination of former prime minister Rafic Hariri and a number of other assassinations; and Chief of Investigations of the UN/OPCW investigation into the use of chemical weapons in 2016.

He recently served as Chair and Commissioner for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

### Industry Reviews

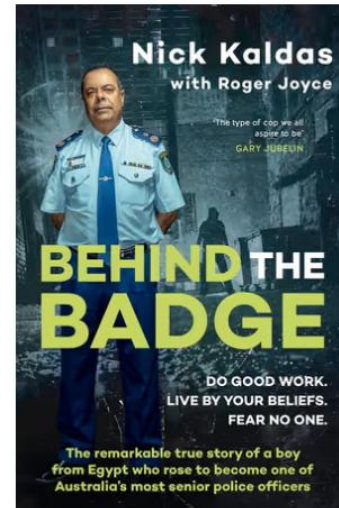
'The type of cop we all aspire to be.' - GARY JUBELIN

'A glimpse of the personal cost of pursuing what is right.' - MICK KEELTY, former Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police

'Kaldas's motto "I regret nothing" summarises this exciting new book.' - LOUIS FREEH, former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

'Challenge, intrigue, high achievement, danger, pride, dogged determination and self-belief - it's all here and more.' - SIR PAUL STEPHENSON QPM, former Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police Service

[Behind the Badge by Nick Kaldas | The remarkable & compelling true story of a boy from Egypt who became one of Australia's most senior police, for readers of THE GOOD COP & I CATCH KILLERS | 9780733342127 | Booktopia](#)



## Died in the Line of Duty - Tracker Mungo

Date of Death – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1890 – age unknown

No biographical details of this member are known.

On 1st November 1890, Trooper Ernest Smith and his tracker, known only as Mungo, from Anthony's Lagoon were escorting John Drysdale, alias Monaghan, and his de facto wife, Lily, from Anthony's Lagoon to Borroloola.

Early one morning, Tracker Mungo left Smith guarding Drysdale alone, whilst he, the tracker, went to bring in the horses. When breaking the overnight camp, Smith unlocked Drysdale's handcuffs so that the prisoner could roll his swag.

Drysdale waited until Smith's back was turned and attacked him rendering him unconscious.

Tracker Mungo apparently tried to help Smith, whereupon Drysdale shot and killed the tracker, about 150 metres from the camp. Drysdale then made his escape on a police horse, never to be seen again by police. Lily's fate is unknown.

Drysdale alias Monaghan was never apprehended for the murder.

## Station Story - ANTHONY'S LAGOON

The NT Police Station at Anthony's Lagoon was opened in October 1889 as a Police Camp. Permanent buildings were erected in 1913. It was closed in 1979.



### The First Anthony's Lagoon Police Station

Anthony Lagoon Police Station [Anthony Lagoon • Photograph • State Library of South Australia](#)

*"During 1889, Police Stations were opened at Happy Creek (Camooweal), Roper River, Powell's Creek, and Anthony's Lagoon."*

In November 1890 - John Drysdale, alias Monaghan, who was in custody for horse-stealing, and under escort from Anthony's Lagoon to Borroloola, assaulted the constable, whom he rendered unconscious, then tied him; and when the native tracker returned with the police horses, Drysdale shot him (the tracker), and escaped on a police horse. The offender has not been arrested.<sup>2</sup>

*"Anthony Lagoon Police Station was situated near a splendid sheet of water in good seasons. It proved not to be a permanent water hole in drought conditions. Then the water in the lagoon gave out the police had to shift to Top Springs in the McArthur district a distance of 80 miles away."<sup>3</sup>*

The Government Resident Reported in his 1901 report:

*"This work is urgent, for in a very dry season the police have to be removed from Anthony's Lagoon. In a period of three years the police had to remove twice on account of water; and in the year 1906 the ballot box for the elections could not be sent to the declared polliny5iilace, as the water in the lagoon disappeared."<sup>4</sup>*

1. Report of the Administrator of the NT for the Year 1912, Government Printer of Victoria, P102
2. Report of the Administrator of the NT for the Year 1912, Government Printer of Victoria, P102
3. McLaren, W.J., The Northern Territory and its Police Forces, unpublished manuscript, p399

4. McLaren, W.J., The Northern Territory and its Police Forces, unpublished manuscript, p399

### **The Second Anthony's Lagoon Police Station**

A new police station was built in 1913:

*"A two roomed angle Iron building has been forwarded to Anthony Lagoon, and is now in the course of erection at that place"*<sup>1</sup>

*"The isolation of the inland districts gradually being overcome by the installation of wireless at the inland centres. Borroloola and Anthony's Lagoon are now connected by wireless and operated by the constables in charge. I intend applying at a later date for the installation of a wireless set at Timber Creek, which is an important station, at present isolated."*<sup>2</sup>

### **The Third (and Final) Anthony's Lagoon Police Station**

Another new police station was built in 1934:

From a report of the Administrator by Superintendent Stretton on his inspection of a number of Police Station while on tour in September/October 1934.

"A new angle iron building is in the course of erection at this station with the necessary outhouses."<sup>3</sup>

This led to a report by the Administrator to the Minister:

*"The Superintendent then proceeded to the Barkly Tablelands where he inspected Anthony's Lagoon Police Station on 29th September 1934 where Constable Deviney was in Charge. Here a new angle-iron building was in the course of erection. The Superintendent here met Mr Smith, the engineer, and was able to discuss with him, on the spot, certain improvements that were necessary, such as lattice for the verandah, fencing the buildings etc. He also discussed with Mr Smith the question of providing a windmill and necessary piping to pump water from the lagoon as the bore which had been sunk some years ago, produced water which was unfit for human consumption. The wireless set which had been installed at the station in the financial year 1931-1932 was working satisfactorily."*<sup>4</sup>

The Anthony Lagoon Police Station was closed in 1979, and its district was divided between Avon Downs, Elliott and Tennant Creek.

1. Report of the Administrator of the NT for the Year 1913, Government Printer of Victoria, P71
2. Report of the Administrator of the NT for the Year 1930/1931, p33
3. NAA: A1, 1934/9872 "Inspection of Police Station"
4. McLaren, W.J., The Northern Territory and its Police Forces, unpublished manuscript, p859

## **STATION NOTES - HARTS RANGE**

Harts Range Police Station is situated 135 miles northeast of Alice Springs on the Plenty River Road. A new Police Station was taken over in January, 1963 to take the place of a wood and iron construction that had been used as the Police Station for some twenty years.

The Harts Range district is about 20,000 square miles in area and is made up mainly of cattle stations. At one time the area was a thriving mining district. Mica was mined extensively. This activity ceased about 6 years ago due to low prices obtained for the mica.

Over the last few years the district has suffered from drought and lack of grass is widespread. One station, Utopia, produces very good quality lucerne hay by the sole use of irrigation and it appears to be a paying enterprise.

Ray Miller – married, with two children – is Officer in Charge, and has been at Harts Range for just over three years.

## **PIONEERING AT ANTHONYS LAGOON – *By Peter Ralph***

It's quite an experience for the man just about to go to the "bush" station, especially when he begins to hear the tales of his more experienced mates, but nothing shakes his confidence quite so much as the endless contradictions his mates' tales bring about. One, old, experienced policeman will tell of the terrible complications of paperwork, while the other tells of easy paperwork but shocking trouble with bogged vehicles and hours of waiting or walking.

It is hard to generalise about such stations, but I think that the majority provide difficulties other than expected. Before the "innocent" begins his journey out to the bush, he grows more reticent, fearing to ask further advice and receiving further complications. His eventual arrival at the outpost and settling in of his own effects, goes quite easily but then begins the wary checking and re-checking of the accountable or non-accountable.

After several signatures and days of being advised what to watch out for, what to make sure of and what to remember or forget, he is suddenly very much ALONE. Now for those returns before that date and those returns to that person at that office, while the other copy goes to that other office, or does it? But then he realises that it's not too hard at all. He had learnt the many things he needs to know, either consciously or sub-consciously, while he was still in town and the rest is either commonsense or a little checking through the "bible" of memorandums, or double checking through the previous station files. He can handle the office side of things.....BUT.....does he know enough to handle the other side of things...?

The marginal heading of "Office Duties" covers most of the records for his headquarters, and provided he remembers that sixty percent of his station and area are controlled by his bearing, appearance and actions as seen by his public, he can handle the job of policing his district. It's the heading "station duties" that he didn't know about!! They often cover his spare working hours, his spare time and even some of his spare sleeping hours.

The man on the "bush" station must be the doctor for his trackers and families, dealing out the psychological pills of aspirin for the imaginary, but determining and acting on the factual. He must be the general consultant for the many domestic troubles poured into his ear, but must remain aloof from taking sides. He must be expert at repairing roofs and guttering, laying new or repairing old septic conditions, fixing that leaking toilet pipe and if he has no replacement parts, then making them out of discarded rubbish. When the water pipes burst or corrode, then go bush and find some discarded pipes or something. Natives always carry water pipes around with them in the bush, so find some, somewhere. When the side of a building starts to sag, then jack it up and repair the rotten or broken parts with timber or something. One of the golden rules to remember, is never throw anything away as it'll always be useful later on. When the chooks start dying, then since you're the only expert, make them better. When the drains aren't working properly, well, who'll know more about fixing them than you. Never worry about things you don't know because if you don't know about lighting plants, you soon will. If you haven't repaired your own radio yet, you'll soon find out that they come apart easily enough. Sometimes, although not very often, after you've put the things back together again, the odd parts you left out seem to make it work quite well - or was that bang and flash unusual? Oh, before you have a rest, did you fix that leaking water tank and finish wiring up that flickering light in the kitchen? Did you know that the pump on the windmill seems to have stopped? Is the tyre okay after the puncture repair? The native shower seems to have blocked up and while your fixing it, what about cleaning all the soot out of this chimney? I do wish you'd do something about making those windows close properly.

Of course, you don't officially do all of these things, but sometimes it's difficult and uneconomic for the expert "townies" to get out to the bush. More often than not, the replacements you've ordered, come just after you've spent hours of hard work repairing the thing.

Although the duties seem various, nothing is more pleasing, than to stand back and look at the expert repair you've just made, especially if it defies all the laws of gravity and other physics...but don't let these matters deter you from the outpost station, for there is nothing better than to arrive back in town, and join the select band of "bushies" who all have ten fingers on each hand, and four hands at that!!

As a footnote, I would just like to say, that the next time you are sleeping warm and snug in that town house, and the wind starts to blow and whine, just think of the jobs that the bush man will find the following morning to add to his knowledge and experience, and if in your travels you find a shop selling do-it-yourself-station-kits, then please let us know.

(Citation – December 1964 – Page 40)

## Died Whilst Serving the Community - James Marshall Miller

### Police Constable Third Class

Date of Birth – 28<sup>th</sup> November 1849 in South Australia

Date of Death – 10<sup>th</sup> December 1880 - aged 31 years

Constable Third Class James Marshall Miller joined the South Australian Police on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1872 as a Third-Class Trooper and transferred to the Northern Territory on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1873. He returned to South Australia on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1877, returning to the Territory on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 1880 as a Police Constable First Class.

Constable Third Class Miller served at Palmerston during his tours of the Territory.

Constable Third Class Miller was enroute to take up a posting at Pine Creek when he died of sunstroke near Adelaide River on 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1880.

Miller Court in Palmerston is named in honour of James Miller and his brother Charles.

In the attached photo (a reconstruction of the “capture of Ah Kim” by Paul Foelsche) James Miller is on the left with a rifle. This is the only known photo of James Miller. The other man is Charles Miller, his brother and another constable in the NT Police. The photo was taken in May 1875.



### BRIAN BATES COP RETIREMENT TRIVIA

Did you realise that 760 members of our police force were born after the Commissioner of Police joined the police force in 1957. That is 77%.

There are 541 people still in the job out of 982 who joined after the commissioner joined us in September 1994. And there are seven auxiliaries still in the job today who joined on the same day as the Commissioner.

Sean Parnell (Dated 2001)



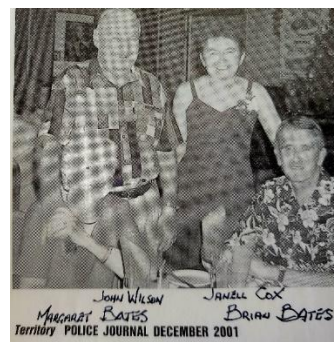
NORTHERN TERRITORY  
**Police Legacy**  
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*Back: Owen Blackwell, S/C Ian Williams, S/C Chris Bentham, ACPO Trish Groth, S/Sgt Steve Bradley  
 Middle: S/C Ben Williams, Linda Williams, Julie Murdy, Const Matt Finney, Margaret Bates,  
 Commissioner Bates, Commanderb Max Pope, s/avx Glenn Upton.  
 Front: Sgt Mick Read, Const Dan Kowalewycz, S/C Scott Burness*

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Family Drug Support	1300 368 186
NAPCAN Child Abuse Protection	1800 700 250
Sexual Assault Referral Centre	08 8922 6472
Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline	1800 737 732
Relationships Australia	1300 364 277
Life Line	13 11 14
NT Mental Health (on call team)	1800 682 288
Kids Helpline (under 18)	1800 551 800
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Headspace (ages 12-25)	1800 659 388
Mensline Australia	1300 789 978
SIDS & KIDS Bereavement Support	1300 308 307
Standby Suicide	1300 727247
Bereavement Support	0418 575 680
Health Direct	1800 022 222

TOP END HEALTH SERVICE  
Mental Health Access Team



**NT Mental Health Line**  
**1800 682 288**

**Free and confidential 24-hour hotline**  
For emergency help for a person experiencing a mental health crisis or who needs mental health advice or support.



www.health.nt.gov.au

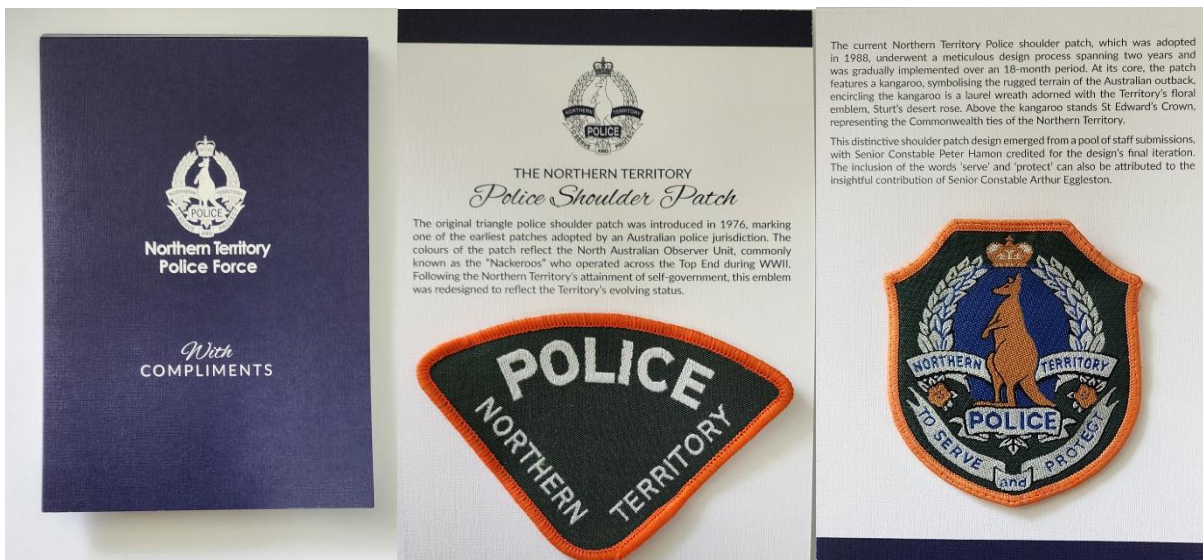
### PREPARE, Stay Suicide Aware

- Talking about suicide
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Talking about feeling trapped or having unbearable pain
- Agitation, anxiety and/or irritability
- Trouble sleeping
- Changes in appearance
- Taking more time off work than usual
- A recent stressful event or loss
- Social withdrawal/feeling alienated
- Appearing preoccupied with an internal thought or problem

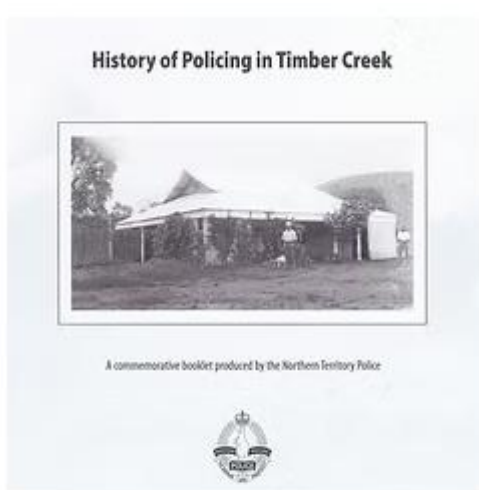
# MERCHANDISE

If you are interested in the history of policing in the Northern Territory, the NT Police Museum and Historical Society has two publications and a coin you can purchase. These items make great gifts!

To purchase yours go onto the website store at:  
<https://www.ntpmhs.com.au/all-products>

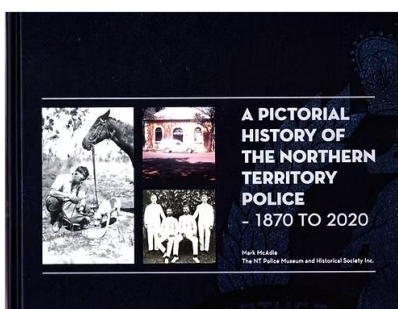


## A Pictorial History of the Northern Territory Police -1870-2021



**History of Policing in  
Timber Creek**

**\$15.00**



SKU: 150<sup>th</sup> Book

Price: \$80.00



**150 Years of Policing Coin**

SKU: 150th Coin

Price: \$30.00

## POLICE ODE

As surely as the sun sets the dawn will see it arise

For service above self demands its own prize.

You have fought the good fight;

life's race has been run

And peace your reward for eternity begun.

And we that are left shall never forget

Rest in peace friend and colleague

For the sun has now set.

We will remember.

We will remember.

Hasten the dawn.

TRG Abt 1985



Police Auxiliary Squad 1-1983



