



the CITATION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Eileen, Gordon : NT royalty

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Written by Peter Forrest.

For most of her life Eileen Stott, who died in Darwin last Saturday (26th June) didn't have the benefit of the comfort and conveniences we take for granted today.

Yet there can have been few people who were so grateful for life itself, and the simple joys that it had brought her.



*Gordon & Eileen Stott
on their wedding day,
on August 28, 1940.*

A year or so ago, I went to talk with her at the Salvation Army Nursing Home, where she had been a resident for 10 years.

Over that decade she had suffered amputations of extremities which her circulation could no longer service.

Her mobility was limited, and you could be forgiven for speculating her quality of life was not good.

She wouldn't have a bit of that.

"My dear, they look after me so well in here, there is so much love and care that I just look forward to every day."

"I have had such a wonderful life and I have so many happy memories. I just look back and wonder what I have done to deserve such good fortune," she said.

Eileen's life of good fortune started in 1912, when she was born in Pine Creek, the fourth daughter of pioneers Timothy and Catherine O'Shea.

Thus she was born into an illustrious family, which did as much as any other to promote the social and commercial advancement of the Territory.

Demand

Tim O'Shea was 22 years old when he came to Australia from Ireland.

He quickly judged that his best chance for a better life was to be found on the edge of the Outback, where his limitless capacity to work hard would be in most demand.

After seven years in north Queensland, he had done well enough to go back to Ireland to marry his patient fiancée Catherine O'Keeffe.

He brought his bride and other family members back to the north Queensland tin fields.

After two years, Tim brought Catherine and their first two daughters (Kathleen and Johanna) across to Pine Creek, where new gold discoveries promised much.

Five more daughters (May, Eileen, Noreen, and Sheila, and another who died soon after birth), were born in Pine Creek.



Growing upNoreen, Sheila & Eileen O'Shea

In 1918 the O'Sheas moved to Emungalen, the temporary railhead settlement on the north bank of the Katherine River.

Catherine O'Shea ran a boarding house in



Emungalen, while Tim and his mate Bill Lucy operated a blacksmith's shop.

In 1926 the family moved across the new railway bridge to the infant town of Katherine and opened O'Shea's Railway Hotel, where Kirby's Hotel now stands. Soon after the move to Katherine, Eileen O'Shea met Gordon Stott a young man who was following in the footsteps of his father Robert Stott, who had joined the Territory police force in 1883.

Gordon Stott was born in 1905, and his childhood was spent at Borroloola and then Alice Springs. After a time at boarding school in Adelaide, Gordon worked in the Outback in South Australia and for the railways before he joined the NT Mounted Police in 1924.

Over the next 16 years Gordon served at Outback stations including Rankine River, Borroloola, Roper River, Timber Creek, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs. He undertook at least one long camel patrol, to the Tanami.

When he met Eileen O'Shea in 1928 he had immediately decided that she was the woman with whom he wanted to share his life.

However, Eileen was less emphatic, and it was to be 12 years before she said 'yes' to Gordon.



Gordon Stott in 1934

At last, on August 28 1940, the couple were united by Father Connors, in Katherine.

Eileen moved to Timber Creek, where Gordon had charge of a vast police district which required long patrols taking him away from the station for many weeks at a time.

Eileen never complained and didn't realise at first she was being very carefully watched over by local Aborigines while Gordon was away.

The separation brought about by the compulsory evacuation in 1942 was harder for Eileen to bear.

She came back to Katherine in 1943, and got a lift with Peter Everley to Timber Creek. She bluffed her way through a roadblock at Manbulloo by saying that she was leaving the N.T. going south via the Kimberleys.

Lonely soldiers manning isolated North Australia Observer Unit posts (the 'Nackeroos') warmly remembered her hospitality at Timber Creek.

Eileen herself loved a get-together, and she liked nothing better than cooking for and entertaining a gathering of local people.



Eileen Stott

She made many friends, black and white, although the nearest white woman was hundreds of kilometres away.

Charlie and Hessie Schultz, and Reg and Enid Durack, became special friends from the Timber Creek days, Eileen Fitzer was another lifelong friend.

The Stotts had no children but Eileen lavished her maternal love on Aboriginal children who were left with her. In 1948 the Stotts moved to Newcastle Waters.

There, as everywhere else they were stationed, Eileen created her trademark garden of creepers, shrubs and flower gardens around the police station.

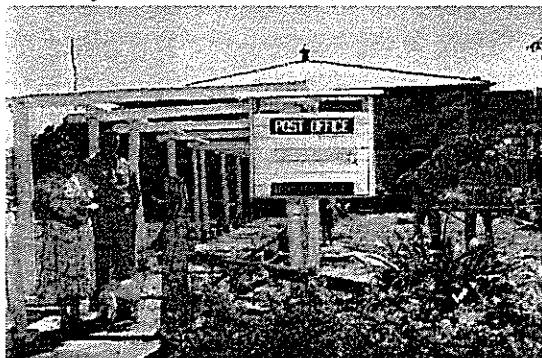
Her gardens were her way of showing her fierce pride in the N.T. Police force, an organisation to which she was devotedly loyal even though Gordon was sometimes treated less than generously by superior officers.

He spurned promotion because it would have meant leaving his beloved bush stations and probably because it would have meant working under irksome supervision.

In 1959 Gordon and Eileen moved to Daly River, Gordon's last position before his sudden death in 1965.



Daly River Police Station, October 1961



*Eileen Gordon Kathleen Trackers
Frag & Tommy*

Eileen was devastated, and reproached herself for the years she had postponed their marriage.

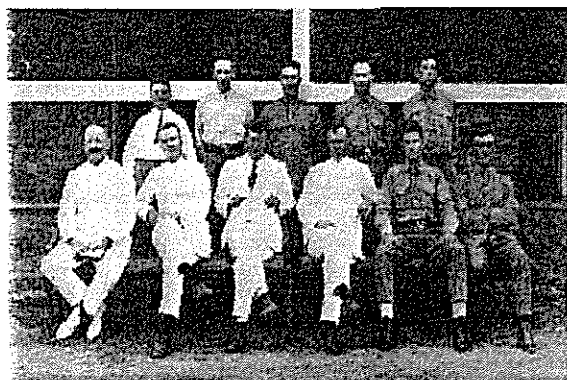


Gordan, Eileen & Margaret in 1961..... Gordan died in 1965

Support

Eileen came to Darwin and lived in Larrakeyah before she was obliged to seek nursing home care. There she enjoyed the support of her extended family, a host of friends and the Retired Police Officer's Association.

To the end, no matter what card fate dealt to Eileen, she would pick it up, smile and give thanks she was in the game.



*Back row: I W. Nicholls, Vic Hall, Tom K Hemming
R. Bridgeland
Front row: Bob Hood, Alf Stretten, Major Dudley,
Jack Lovegrove, Gordon Stott, Jack Sargeant*

OLD ALICE SPRINGS WATCHHOUSE

(Report by Gavin Gleeson, Media Officer.)

On October 1965 the office of Northern Territory Police Commissioner Clive William Graham sent a submission to the Territory's Assistant Administrator concerning the need for increased cell accommodation in Alice Springs referring to the matter as 'most urgent'.

The submission outlined that the then watchhouse of seven cells, five of which were for males, had accommodated an average of 21 prisoners on Friday nights over February and March of 1965.

A peak of 48 prisoners was reached around this time that prompted the following observation in the submission:

"...the majority of prisoners have to sleep on the concrete floor, that is, if they can find room on the floor at peak periods. This entails considerable hardship, particularly during winter months, irrespective of the number of blankets which may be issued to a prisoner".

A further comment made was :

"I consider it impossible to delay the construction of additional cells for a period of at least four years".

A working plan for the Alice Springs Police Watchhouse was adopted in late August 1966.

The architectural firms Associate Consultants P/ Ltd and Middleton and Talbot Architects and Town Planners, Darwin worked in conjunction on the design. The project architect was Mr.C.S.Wakefield.

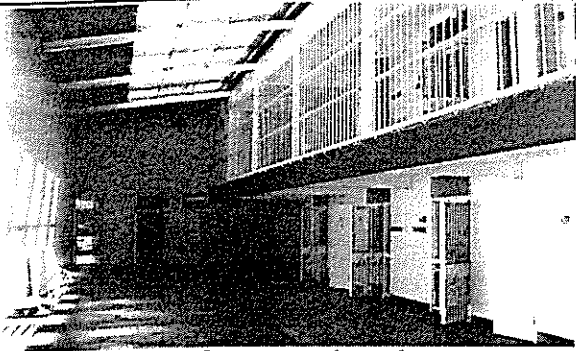
Architects Northern Territory branch of the Commonwealth Department of Works supervised construction.

The watchhouse would be of reinforced concrete with a steel framed roof built in two stages. An early estimate for the first stage was \$50,000 and the total estimated cost was put at \$90,000.

On 25th November 1966 the acceptance of contract went to Orlit Pty Ltd in Kilburn, South Australia.

The first stage of the building was completed on 14th April 1967 for the grand total of \$66,890.

This stage of construction included the male section; a total of 12 individual cells on two storeys, a tank room, exercise yard, showers and a 'check point' reception area.



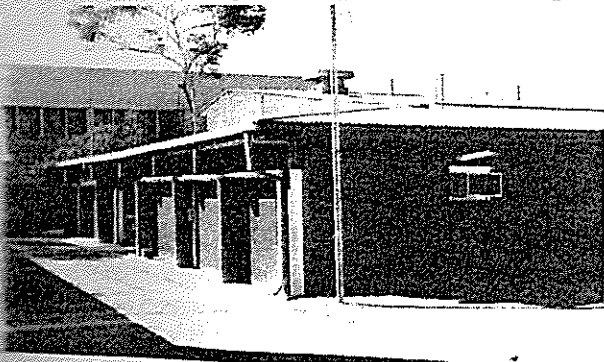
The second stage of construction, the current female section, was planned in 1968 and completed in 1969. This extension increased the watchhouse capacity to five individual cells and another tank room.

The cells had iron bar doors, concrete slabs on which to place mattresses for sleeping, a stainless steel toilet bowl and sink and louvred windows covered by a mesh grill.

Between the cells was located a small cupboard which contained the toilet plumbing and louvre controls. In the early 1990s closed circuit cameras were placed in these cupboards to monitor the cells as a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

During a recent coronial inquest in the death of a man in the cells in 1997 the watchhouse was described as :

"..built in the 1950s (sic) and reflects its age. An inspection of the cells during the inquest revealed them to be dark, dingy, decrepit, smelly and Spartan



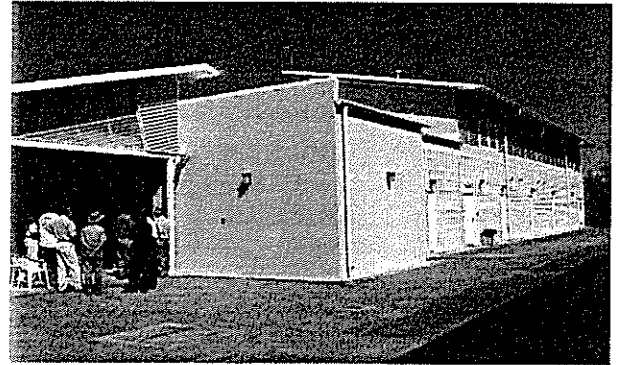
It was described as the :
'bustiest watchhouse in Australia.'

However, the watchhouse set a trend for its time with the introduction of basins in the cells instead of the use of water buckets. Police who had experience in watchhouse routine initiated the change.

An official memo written during design submissions states:

"Medical officers pointed out the necessity for hand basins to be provided to maintain hygiene...As the water buckets in police cells have always been a cause of dissatisfaction with drunks knocking over buckets and depriving other prisoners of water and violent prisoners throwing the water over attending constables. "

The watchhouse ceased operation on Sunday, 21st March 1999.



NEW ALICE SPRINGS POLICE WATCHHOUSE

In April last year, the Northern Territory Cabinet approved \$2.2 million funding for the new Alice Springs Police Watchhouse to be situated behind the Alice Springs Police Station on the old fire station site.

Design of the facility involved extensive community consultation down to the interior colour scheme that was adopted after discussion with local Aboriginal organisations. Music is also supplied to the cells.

The concept of the building was based on a custody facility in Doomadgee, Queensland and has been designed in accordance with recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Department of Transport and Works architects and engineers studied custody data from previous years to design the watchhouse for maximum flexibility and peak demand.

The watchhouse is made up of eight individual cells and three protective custody tanks for men and two individual female cells and protective custody tanks for women.

Apart from the further four holding cells there are interview rooms, finger printing, processing and staff areas and storage.



A feature of the watchhouse is the drive-through 'sally porte' entrance flanked by roller-doors for greater security.

The new cells are sealed by 12 millimetre bullet-proof attack glass which cannot be cut but must be moulded to size.

Below eye-level perforated metal sheets make up the front of the cell, these allow air circulation.

The Cell Guard communication system has been adopted for the new watchhouse.

Cell Guard is a 'hi-tech' system that interfaces close circuit television monitoring with intercom controls both in the cells and outside the building.

Letter to the Editor : From Bob Darken

Sgt. Macpherson.

Thank you for the latest copy of Citation which contained a very good historical letter from Peter Riley who on many previous occasions has passed on much history of the Northern Territory Police Force in the old days. For me personally I always look forward with pleasure to Peter's letters in the Citation, as no doubt do the present Police Officers and ex Police Officers. Lets hope Peter keeps up with these contributions.

To those who don't know Peter; he joined the Force in January 1935 and served with distinction all over the Territory, for a very long period. I remember taking over from Peter at Tennant Creek in 1944 when he transferred to Wave Hill.

Of those 'old time Police' Peter is the most senior living member, with Bernie Rockford, Sid Bowie, Joe Mutch, Dave Mofflin and myself remaining on deck.

Peter also mentioned that there are still some Police graves that need attending to. I believe this may be the case in Alice Springs - if so I would gladly assist in locating and restoring them.

Some time ago Sgt. Macpherson and myself located and fixed up with a cement slab and identifying plaque Tom White's grave. Perhaps M/C Dowdy at Aritunga could be seen to in an appropriate way. These men served the Territory very well in hard times risking their lives on many occasions.

POLICEMAN'S WIFE SALUTES BUSH LIFE.

(Courtesy NT News, Tuesday January 13, 1998 article by Peter Forrest)

They say that a policeman's lot is not a happy one. If that is true, then spare a thought for the lot of policemen's wives at remote Territory stations in days gone by.

One such wife was English born Joan Deans, who came to Australia in 1945. After nursing in Victoria for a while, she came to Alice Springs.

Joan said : "I came up by the Ghan in November 1946. Murray Neck met me and took me to the hospital, where I started work as one of the first civilian sisters after the war."

"I thought Alice Springs was beautiful."

Escorted.

"Not long after arriving there I met my husband to be. Tiny (Frank) Deans. He had escorted a prisoner to the hospital. Tiny asked me to a dance, and we were married six weeks later."

"It seemed we were just made for each other, and we were both old enough to know our own minds. Tiny was nearly 40."

"He had joined the NT police force in 1933."

"Tiny was not long home from three years in captivity after the fall of Singapore. He was on the Burma Railway, and his health never recovered."

"We were married at the Bungalow. Bert Mettam, who, like Tiny got a transfer to Hatches Creek, which was a married man's posting. Tiny had served there before the war, when it was just a police camp. The day after the wedding, we set out for Hatches Creek."

"The police station at Hatches Creek was made from rammed earth. The Chinese who had been there during the war had puddled the mud for the building. It had a 10 ft verandah all round. There was a big Coolgardie meat safe, a kerosene fridge, and kerosene lights."

"There were about 30 miners at Hatches Creek, all scratching for wolfram. They lived in tents and bough sheds and all sorts of improvised camps."

"There were one or two families, I think there were three white women on the field altogether."

"It was expected that I would do nursing duties at



the police station, even though I was not paid for this. We had a Flying Doctor radio and first aid kit. I had some penicillin, which was very fortunate as I used it to save at least one life."

"My nursing experience was very useful because I would be asked to treat medical problems."

"Mostly it was chest infections in cold weather, and the miners all seemed to have chest problems from the dust in the mines." "There were also injuries from accidents."

"Some cases had to be evacuated and we had to do the best we could until the plane came."



*Joan at Hatches Creek in 1947...
'it was expected I would do nursing duties'.*

"There were quite a few dental problems, but not many of the miners actually had their own teeth."

"They all thought it was best to get your teeth taken out before going into isolated places where bad teeth were likely to cause problems."

"I saw plenty of cases of Barcoo Rot because of dietary deficiencies. Sores would break out and not heal, and gums would swell up."

"We had a store of staples at the police station - flour, sugar, tea and tobacco. From this store rations would be issued to about 15 aged and infirm Aborigines every Thursday."

"Tiny used to add to the rations by giving them half a killer. There was always a niggle from the Administration about this - "Why do they need meat?" - the people in Darwin would query."

"By then there weren't any Aborigines living by themselves in the bush. Most were living on the stations."

"They were healthy and active, and fiercely proud of the station they belonged to. The stations looked after them, and they kept up their ceremonies."

"Tiny used to go out on horse patrols, and he would be away a fortnight or so. He would take one

tracker and leave one at home with me. They were always very loyal and protective."

Amazing

"We met some amazing people in the Centre. George Hayes had Neutral Junction station. He was a grand old timer, and he had worked on the Overland Telegraph, in the early days. He got his start when he branded Telegraph cattle - he said that he would brand one for the Telegraph, one for himself, and that way he built up a herd."

"Simon Reiff was at Hatches Creek. He was a Russian, and he had been in White Russian navy."

"He had no English when he arrived as a refugee. He was a fine upstanding man, who looked very like Stalin."

"My children Bruce and Harry were born while we were at Hatches Creek."

Tiny Deans with young son Bruce



"After three years we were transferred to Harts Range. Jimmy was born later, in Sydney while we were on leave."

"In 1951 Tiny was thrown from a horse at Harts Range, and he seriously injured his back. Eventually he was invalided out of the force."

"Tiny was sorry to leave the police community he had been part of for so long."

"There had been only 37 other men in the force when he joined. We had some fine friends - people like Bert Mettam, Peter Riley, Tony Kelly, Ted Morey, Jack Mahoney, Jim Mannion, Reg Mc Caffrey, Tas Fitzer, Jack Kennett and Lou Hook."

"We went to Adelaide, and with the help of Skipper Partridge we found a house at Aldgate, in the Hills. That was a wonderful break because housing was so scarce then".

Families

"I never came back to the Territory until recently, but I kept in touch, and I am delighted that my three boys and their families all live in the Territory today."



*Boorooloola Police Station Museum Constructed 1886
A National Trust (NT) historic property.*

POLICE MUSEUM, BOOROLOOLA

Garth Macpherson

On Friday evening, 19th August 1999 I attended the opening of the Police Museum at the old Borrooloola Police Station, built in 1886 which is now a National Trust historic property. The opening was an event that was very well prepared and presented. Those responsible have done a very good job under difficult circumstances for much of the time but managed to achieve a very presentable and informative venue for locals and visitors alike. A large source of information was provided by Peter Dunham, The NT Retired Police Association, NT Archives and Bill Wilson. Eddie and Janet Webber, ably assisted by volunteers managed to put it all together.

Unfortunately, many of the records of members who served in Borrooloola appear to be lacking in accuracy. A possible reason for this is they may have been destroyed during the bombing of Darwin or Cyclone Tracy. A current list of members who served up to 1948 when the station was closed is below.. Please feel free to check it for accuracy and if necessary, forward the corrected information to: Janet Webber PMB 133 Katherine, NT. 0851 Any information will be gratefully accepted.

Commander Bob Fields of NT Police Southern Region officially opened the museum. He was pleased to assist as he had served at Borrooloola as a Constable from August 1973 to February 1974.



Senior Sergeant Allen Mitchell & Commandeer Bob Fields.

A WORKING LIST
OF SERVING POLICE FORCE MEMBERS
SINCE 1886 IN BOOROLOOLA

STARTED	DEPARTED	RANK	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
4th Oct. 1886	Dec 1888	M/C	Donegan	Michael
4th Oct 1886	Oct 1887	M/C	Curtis	William
Nov 1886	Dec 1886	M/C	Power	Cornelius
16th May 1888	April 1891	M/C	Smith	Edward Patrick Evison
Oct 1887	April 1888	M/C	Biddel	Walter Henry
19th Aug 1888	Sept 1888	M/C	Wheatly	Joseph William
6th Oct 1890	May 1895	M/C	Power	Cornelius
		M/C	Burt	Francis George
	?	N/C	?	Toby
	?	N/C	?	Jemmy
7th Aug 1897	Aug 1901	M/C	Power	Cornelius
5th Mar 1902	Nov 1903	M/C	Power	Cornelius
20th Dec 1900	May 1901	M/C	Giles	Percival/Aldridge(Robert
	1918?	N/C	?	Harry
	1918	N/C	Gordon	Fred
	1902?	M/C	Gilies	Phillip Henry
12th Dec 1901	Aug 1902	M/C	Stott	Robert Charles (Bob)
6th Aug 1901	Dec 1928	M/C	Langdon	W
17th Sept 1902	Feb 1904	M/C	Kelly	James Harcourt
4th Nov 1903	Aug 1906	M/C	Gilies	Phillip Henry
12th Dec 1903	1912	M/C	Gilies	
24th Mar 1904	July 1911	M/C	Stott	Robert Charles (Bob)



VALE

GLEN HUITSON

20.11.61 - 03.08.99



Glen Huitson outside the Timber Creek Police Station - 1997



Squad photo 1987



Glen Huitson worked closely with the Aboriginal community

Glen Huitson was the first Northern Territory police officer to die on duty from gunshot wounds in 47 years. The previous victim was Bill Condon in Katherine on 9th June 1952.

Glen was born in Western Australia and raised in regional areas including Greenbushes, Geraldton and Bussleton. Prior to joining the Northern Territory Police in 1987, he was employed by Wesfarmers in Albany. His preferred sport was football as a player, coach and umpire.

Following graduation, he was posted to Alice Springs where he served until 1991. He was then transferred to Daly River where he met and married Lisa, a schoolteacher. They returned to Alice Springs in 1993 for a period of 3 years before being transferred to Kalkaringi (Wave Hill) in 1996 when he was appointed officer-in-charge of Adelaide River in early 1999.

At about 10:30 pm of Monday 2nd August, 1999 an unidentified male fired several shots at a house where a man, woman and young girl were sleeping. The shots alerted Dave Hobden a friend of the family living nearby and he drove his truck over to investigate, only to have his windscreen shot out and received cuts to his face from flying glass including the loss of his right eye. The offender then tried to drive Dave Hobden's truck away when the first man, Brian Williams ran out with a baseball bat and struck the offender with it. The offender fired another shot that hit Williams in the hand, blowing a finger off.

Police attended but were unable to locate the offender. Occupants of the house were evacuated and the two injured men taken to Royal Darwin Hospital for treatment. The identity of the gunman was not known and neither was it known if he was still in the vicinity. The tactical Response Group was called on duty and around 2 am, a roadblock was set up on the Stuart Highway at old Bynoe and Livingston Roads.

At about 10:35 am on Tuesday 3rd August, the roadblock was manned by Brevet Sergeant Glen Huitson and Constable 1/c James O'Brien, both of the Adelaide River Police Station. They were talking to a 22 year-old civilian, Jon Anthonysz who had pulled up at the roadblock to ask directions. Without warning, shots were fired from the bushes about 50 metres away, through the doors of a police Land Cruiser. Jon Anthonysz was wounded in the buttocks and Sergeant Huitson received a bullet wound to the side, the bullet entering through a joint in his bullet proof vest. Constable O'Brien returned fire with his shotgun and then used his handgun, fatally wounding the gunman.

Ambulance officers rushed both victims to Royal Darwin Hospital but despite all best efforts, Sgt. Huitson died an hour later, leaving his wife Lisa and two small children, Joseph aged 3 and Ruby (6 months). His funeral was held on Saturday 7th August at St. Mary's Cathedral in Darwin and attracted over 2,000 people wanting to pay tribute to a fine police officer. His body was cremated and as was his wish, part of his ashes were scattered along the Daly River and the remainder was taken to Bussleton, Western Australia.



Glen or "Huey" was a dedicated and popular police officer. His favourite place was anywhere in the bush but in particular had a great liking for the Daly River area. He had a great repour with white and aboriginal alike and that was evident at his funeral where a tribe from Daly River sang a song and others travelled from Central Australia to attend.

During his second tour of Alice Springs, he was attending to a complaint involving a group of aboriginals when one of them got behind him and tipped a billy of boiling water over his back. He was on sick leave for several months but was glad to get back to work when the doctor allowed it. Shortly afterwards, he was transferred to Kalkaringi.

Not long after arriving at Adelaide River, he apprehended an armed man who was affected by drugs and attempting to hijack a bus conveying German tourists through Litchfield Park. The man had rammed the bus with his own vehicle then jumped on the bullbar and left no doubt in the bus drivers mind that he was prepared to use the .22 rifle if he got the chance. Glen arrived at the scene and single handedly engaged the armed man in conversation, kept traffic moving and also managed to advise the police communications section of what was occurring. After about 15 minutes, other police arrived and Glen was able to convince the man to put his rifle down and walk away from it. He then overpowered the offender and effected the arrest. The Northern Territory Police Commissioner Mr. Brian Bates summed the situation up perfectly when he said "This was an outstanding example of personal courage and professional conduct. He managed to defuse a volatile situation and protect members of the public by exercising a high degree of tact and personal discipline and by deliberately placing the safety of the public above his personal safety."

The man was later convicted and required to serve 2 years and 6 months in goal.

For the above incident, "Huey" was due to receive a Valour Award, only the third to be presented to a Northern Territory Police Officer. His widow Lisa received the award.

Over 280 colleagues and friends in Alice Springs attended a Memorial Service on 13th August to remember their fallen comrade conducted by Police Chaplain Rob Kirwood at the John Flynn Memorial Church. It was a chance for those unable to make the trip to Darwin to say goodbye to a fine colleague and example to youth and all citizens. He was a true professional in everything he did and described by Assistant Commissioner Bruce Wernham as "A remarkable officer who had shown professionalism, compassion, sincerity and empathy. His was an old head on young shoulders and always interested in the bigger picture."

Those of us who knew Glen Huitson could only agree. He possessed all of those rare qualities and will surely be remembered as such.

The Gunman was later identified as Rodney William Ansell aged 44 years. He was a well-known Top End identity who was a very good bushman and would wander through the bush bare footed. He was considered by many to be the inspiration for the Crocodile Dundee film starring Paul Hogan. Ansell managed several cattle stations in the Top End and had a very good affinity with local aboriginal groups. He eventually took possession of his own property in the Mary River area of the Northern Territory but according to friends may have been involved in the supply of drugs. It may have been that the supposed involvement was a factor in him losing his station "Melaleuka" which was eventually reclaimed by the Northern Territory Government. Ansell is said to have become very bitter and his wife left him, which didn't help his situation.

We may never know why he decided to shoot it out with police on that day. Was it a classic example of "Suicide by cop?" His writings predicted his own death to a certain extent and he was concerned that the bush was changing and he wouldn't have anywhere to live.

Whatever the reason, he possessed the ability to walk away from the roadblock unseen if he wanted to and his cowardly attack cost the life of a very fine young police officer.

By Garth Macpherson.