

Award of the Administrator's Medal for the
2008 Aboriginal Community Police Officer of the Year
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC
Administrator of the Northern Territory
Borroloola Police Station, 18 August 2009

Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to be here today to make a special award.

Each year, The Administrator of the Northern Territory awards up to sixteen Administrator's Medals. These recognise achievements in the fields of music, education and training, health and volunteering – and also the outstanding work of one of the Northern Territory's Aboriginal Community Police Officers. In 2007, it was Senior ACPO Lisa Burkenhagan and it is good to see Lisa with us here today.

Seven nominations were received and they had to fulfil strict criteria including demonstrating strong community leadership and being looked upon as a community role model. The panel, consisting of Commander Kate Vanderlaan, Superintendent Ian Lea and Superintendent Tony Fuller, selected the most meritorious officer to receive the award and the recipient of the Administrator's Medal for Aboriginal Community Police Officer of the Year 2008 is Senior ACPO Noel Dixon of Borroloola.

The nominations for Noel continually highlighted the following traits: that he is reliable, listens and has a good sense of humour. That Noel is a real gentleman who is approachable, compassionate, dedicated, fair, honest and committed. He is a strong role model, mediator and active community member. He has shown continuous strength and dedication and is held in high regard by the entire community.

Ten years' ago, Noel was awarded a Commissioner's Commendation in recognition of exceptional bravery in extremely perilous circumstances when, late at night, he waded waist deep for some sixty metres in the flooded McArthur River to rescue someone. His bravery prevented a possible tragic outcome.

This year, 2009, is a special year for Noel as it is twenty years since he first joined the Northern Territory Police Force as a Police Aide. And here I would like to thank his wife Jeanette and daughters Noelene, Virginia and Amelia and all his extended family for their support.

Noel has served at Borroloola for the entire period and is one of the Territory's longest serving Aboriginal Community Police Officers. In addition to his police service, Noel is also an Elder, local school council member, Northern Land Council board member and a committee member for the Borroloola Rodeo.

It is with very great pleasure that I award the Administrator's Medal to Noel Dixon.