Restoring community spirit
The Walgett community and local police took to the cricket field before Christmas to honour the late Snr Cst Ian Dennis, an Aboriginal officer who’s remembered by townspeople as being community minded, dedicated to his family and a fine police officer.

As the temperature soared, players from both sides demonstrated both their skills and strong community spirit. It was a close-fought battle reminiscent of an Ashes Test, ending in a draw.

Castlereagh ACLO Graham Ruttley said the annual match is all about building better relationships between police and the community. It is also a key initiative in addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system.

Christmas cheer at KidzWish
Almost 4300 sick, disabled and disadvantaged children, and their siblings and carers from throughout the Illawarra were delighted by the police presence at the 11th KidzWish Christmas Party last year.

Many posed for photos with Wollongong’s highway patrol vehicle and police horses, and enjoyed having their fingerprints taken by VIPs. They also received showbags filled with stickers, balloons, Constable Charlie colouring books and police tattoos.

Our indigenous graduates
Two emotional ceremonies were held for IPROWD graduates before Christmas.

In Dubbo, 14 indigenous students graduated (pictured above) while 11 students graduated in Campbelltown.

One graduate is a single mum of four who initially set her sights on becoming an ACLO and now firmly believes she has the capacity to join the uniform ranks. Another is a young dad who travelled from Forbes to Dubbo each week to secure a future for his family.

Another graduate, who works in the juvenile justice system, lost more than 60kg over two years to pass the fitness test. Then there’s the well-travelled surfer with a troubled past who decided to aim for his childhood dream. Another decided to follow her dream after witnessing distressing outcomes for young Aboriginal people while living in Dareton.

Police Recruitment Branch is currently working through applications from 27 IPROWD graduates, nine of whom commenced this month.
Emergency response tested
Police Transport Command hosted a joint emergency management exercise recently, with representatives from Transport for NSW, Sydney Trains, NSW Trains and officers from Sydney City LAC. The exercise focused on a gas attack at Central during the morning peak and explored the role of each organisation.
North Central Commander, A/Supt Denby Eardley said follow-up training will continue. "The exercise provided a valuable opportunity to test the coordination of the frontline service providers at Central," he said.

White Ribbon in the Gong
Taking a stand against violence towards women, Wollongong LAC Commander Supt Kyle Stewart led 30 police and 300 supporters on a 2.5km walk along the picturesque South Beach on White Ribbon Day. The group was greeted by an RAF flyover, with a white ribbon proudly displayed on the tail of the aircraft.
Wollongong LAC organised several other activities during the ‘16 Days of Activism’. Snr Cst Josie Kolts and her DV team ran a fundraising barbecue at the local Bunnings Warehouse, while DV officers, Snr Cst Alice Purdie, Snr Cst Michael Grubnic and Snr Cst Tony Marr led 54 motorcyclists on a 100km ride from Towradgi to Greenwall Point.

Fight alcohol related crime
More than 180 officers – including members of Queensland Police and the Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing – attended the three-day State Licensing Conference in Bathurst late last year.
Discussions focused on recent trends and changes in the licensing field, including firearm prohibition orders, restricted premises relevant to outlaw motorcycle gangs, covert evidence gathering techniques, and security and tattoo parlour licensing.
Assistant Commissioner Alan Clarke and Assistant Commissioner Geoff McKechnie highlighted the importance of the role performed by licensing officers, as well as the importance of high visibility enforcement, investigation and prosecution.

Call for papers
The Australasian Council of Women & Policing (ACWAP) is calling for papers for the ninth Australasian Women & Policing Conference to be held at Luna Park from 31 August to 3 September 2015.
The conference coincides with our 100 years of women in policing celebrations and will have the theme, Making History: Shaping the Future. It offers an opportunity to explore how far policing has come in responding to women.
For more information search the internet for 'ACWAP 2015'.
A more fitting memorial
Inspectors from The Hume LAC have restored the long neglected grave of an officer who died on duty more than 100 years ago.

Cst William Thom died in 1890 after being thrown from his horse as he travelled from Taralga to Goulburn. After years of decay and vandalism, his grave near Goulburn Gaol was in disrepair and almost unrecognisable when it was located by retired Sgt Ken Topham.

The Hume Commander, Supt Zoran Dzevlan said the command was proud to be part of the restoration. “We saw it as our responsibility to repair Cst Thom’s final resting place and will continue to maintain the grave to pay tribute to Cst Thom.”

Former commander of The Hume LAC and current Southern Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner Gary Worboys said, “The grave looks now as good as it ever has and is a fitting tribute to an officer who lost his life while performing his duties.”

Leadership opportunities
Opportunities are being created for leaders within the organisation to network with each other and mix with outstanding contemporary role models.

Commander of Management & Leadership Development (M&LD), Supt Mark Wright said his unit organises a number of events each year for substantive commissioned officers and administrative officers at Grade 9/10 and above.

Before Christmas, Player Development Coordinator for the Greater Western Sydney Giants AFL club and former Australian Test cricketer Simon Katich (pictured below) was keynote speaker at the Leadership Breakfast in Richmond. This event was oversubscribed in the first seven days.

It followed the M&LD breakfast in April with around-the-world yachtswomen Adrienne Cahalan, and a dinner in June with South Sydney Rabbitohs NRL coach Michael Maguire.

To find out what leadership events are being planned for this year by contacting M&LD on email: MALD.

Spreading Christmas cheer
The NSWPF’s 2014 Christmas video message has gone viral, attracting about 250,000 views, 18,000 likes and 2000 comments. This is the most engagement that a NSWPF video has ever received, almost doubling our next most popular video.

The video, filmed over 10 days, features various commands wishing the public a safe and merry Christmas. The soundtrack was performed by the talented Police Band. The Multimedia Unit produces at least one video a week throughout the year on topics ranging from appeals and arrests to profiles for awards.
Send your SITREP column contributions to #monthly. They need to be no longer than two paragraphs and photos are encouraged.

JT gets his sea legs
Navy reservist and NSWPF Corporate Communications Manager, John Thompson has completed at-sea training to become a serving member of the Australian Defence Force.

Lieutenant Thompson excelled in training aboard HMAS Arunta, winning the Naval Officers Club Prize for distinguished results, self-discipline, resolution and his good influence among his peers.

Lt Thompson performed duties all over the ship, from cleaning the heads to helping in the galley. He also took part in a “battle” that pitted HMAS Arunta and HMAS Newcastle against HMAS Sirius and New Zealand frigate HMNZ Te Kaha, both of which were out manoeuvred and outnumbered at the end.

Duty officers get together
Northern Region’s substantive duty officers and their commanders gathered at Tweed Heads late last year for the region’s inaugural duty officers’ forum, which included a formal dinner.

Assistant Commissioner Jeff Loy said that until now there has not been a regular forum to engage with our operational leaders in the field.

“Everyone examined what their role is organisationally and how it fits with my expectations of operational command in the field,” he explained.

Guests included Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas, Assistant Commissioners Alan Clarke and Geoffrey McKechnie, and Qld’s Assistant Commissioner Stephen Hollands and Ch Supt Des Lacey.

Police Legacy Bike Ride 2015
The three day, 300km Bike Ride for NSW Police Legacy will set out from the Police Memorial in the Domain on 1 May, stop overnight in Mittagong and Goulburn before reaching its destination at the Police Memorial in Canberra.

Some funds will go to the Morgan Hill Educational Scholarship, named after Cst Morgan Hill, who lost his battle with depression in 2009.

For entry forms and more information, email Snr Cst Craig Tonks (tonk3cra).