

OTHER PASSIONS...

Take a walk on the Ward side

Alice Springs-based magistrate Michael Ward takes things in his stride. And with a career spanning two territories and a state, it's just as well.

Mr Ward has links with the NT dating back to 1969 when he was a lawyer in Darwin. The following year he was appointed stipendiary magistrate. Cyclone Tracy in 1974 swept away most, including Mr Ward's home but he did return again in 1980 to practise as a barrister.

Between 1983 and 1985 he was counsel assisting the then Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Sir William Kearney. After that, Mr Ward worked as a magistrate in the ACT for 13 years, then resigned and moved to Adelaide to practise as a barrister in criminal and civil law.

In October 2000 he made it back to the Territory, this time to again serve as a magistrate in Alice Springs, where he remains today.

Varied though his career has been, Mr Ward also gathered up two passions along the way – walking and cooking.

"I've walked from the top of Kosciuszko through to Canberra, that's about 240 kilometres," he says. "I've done that in several goes though.

"Kosciuszko to Canberra is one of the best walks I've ever done, without a doubt. It's beautiful country – snow at the beginning in the high country and greenery and running rivers everywhere else. It's terrific."

The enthusiastic walker has also "trailed" from Alice Springs to Standley Chasm, about 50 kilometres in trekking, and his most threatening encounter was coming foot-to-face with a deadly Brown Snake.

"I've got the world back jump record," he says laughing.

"He didn't bite me but he certainly flattened the head and went to strike. I was too quick though. It (the encounter) certainly made me a bit nervous about walking for a while."

His Worship is often seen stepping out around the Red Centre, he's legendary for walking to and from work most days.

"Morning is the best time. It can get a bit hot during the day," he says.

"I prefer cooler weather to walk in – it's too hot and uncomfortable during the Summer."

When he's not walking to relax, Mr Ward heads to the kitchen and cooks up a storm of mainly Indian food.

"I can't always get the food I like so I cook it myself – I've got a big selection of Indian cook books," he enthuses.

"The ingredients are not always easy to get (in Alice Springs) but there's an Indian grocery shop in Adelaide and when I go down there to visit I always buy the stuff that I'm likely to need for the next six months."

favorite dish

His Worship's favourite dish is Butter Chicken (Murgh Makani) and he admits he's not really into the "really hot Indian food". He's also well versed in cooking Thai and Indonesian dishes but it's the Indian cuisine in which he specialises.

"I did an Indian banquet before Christmas and fed about 20 people – there wasn't any left," he says. "It went down really well."

Mr Ward says he'll continue to wash it all down with a good bottle of red and walk off the calories he gains through his cooking passion.

"I might even look at opening an Indian restaurant when I retire," he says smiling. ①



Above: Alice Springs based magistrate Michael Ward...keen walker, keen cook.

INVESTIGATIONS PROCESS SERVING REPOSSESSIONS FIELD CALLS

Marine/Rail & Rural
Enquiries

Warrants/Court Orders

Local Missing Persons

Debt Collection

**Outback**
BUSINESS SERVICES

Level 24, Santos House
91 King William St, ADELAIDE SA
5000
PO Box 591,
PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

Tel: (08) 8641 2111
Fax: (08) 86412100
Mobile: 0418 838 807
outbackbusiness@ozemail.net.au
www.outbackbusiness.com.au

Member of Institute of Mercantile
Agents Ltd

bal010602