

Even before the footy season gets fully underway, there is already a 'Grand Champion' for 1987 - and you work for it.

The department, on it's very first attempt, has floated away with the much-covetted Grand Champion award for the 1987 Canberra Festival Twilight Procession.

A committee meeting on 18 December last year could not foresee that their deliberations were to be the beginning of the end of domination by the N.C.D.C. Thirteen people began the arduous and at times, hair-wrenching task of entering a float in the 1987 Canberra Week procession.

Many hours of plumbing, painting, carpentry, metal work, polishing, signwriting, mechanics, horticulture, blood, sweat and tears were put in before the float was positioned in the marshalling area, on that bright and fateful day, in all its colour and glory.

Eleven departmental volunteers with six officers from Tech. Services Branch, Fyshwick and four Rangers from Parks and Recreation waited nervously, but with pride, for our public debut.

The friendliness of the volunteers could be seen when some gave a friendly and fruity (a few raspberries and two fingers vertical) welcome to the much-vaunted N.C.D.C. entry as it passed by.

Although some areas of the media in Canberra try their hardest to knock our department, the smiles, waves, words of congratulations and feelings of friendliness given by the public to the volunteers gave the impression that we, as a department, are doing a difficult and thankless job well and that they are, in the main, behind us.

In ~~three~~ <sup>two</sup> months time, you the staff, will be asked to submit ideas and themes for our 1988 entry. We have given ourselves a hard act to follow but with your assistance we can once again look forward to benignly thanking the N.C.D.C. for their words of salutation.

The accompanying list of Departmental officers who participated in the construction or volunteered their time in the staffing of the float shows the diversity of branches who helped "bring home the trophy."

*Allan [Signature]*  
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