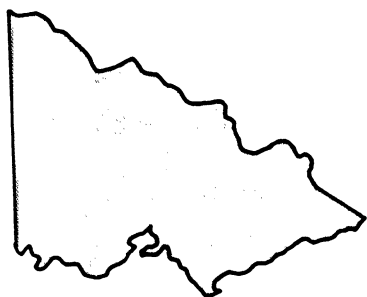


News From The Branches



Victoria

The Victorian Branch reports that on Saturday, 4th March, they conducted a most successful full day seminar at La Trobe University, based on the continuing theme of "Juvenile Justice" and that about 60 members and guests heard a programme of exceptional interest presented by the four principal speakers.

The topics were as follows and the paper provided by each speaker will be incorporated in the published total work on the year's theme, expected to be available during July, 1978.

Mr. Dennis Challenger — Melbourne University — "*The Young Offender in Victoria*";

Dr. John Seymour — Australian Institute of Criminology — "*Juvenile Aid Panels*";

Dr. Richard Griffin — Wellington House Youth Centre — "*Raising Healthy Citizens — A Developmental Perspective*"; and

Senior Sergeant William Horman — Victoria Police — "*Juvenile Aid — Police/School Liaison*".

Mr. Challenger provided the seminar with a profile of Melbourne's Juvenile offenders, drawing upon his detailed research and statistics set forth in his published works on young offenders. He suggested that the overwhelming majority of law abiding adults had offended as children or adolescents in ways that could have brought involvement with Police but that various factors played an influential role in the detection and/or disposal of such offences. The locality of resident, school attended, attitude of child and/or parents when behaviour brought to attention.

Mr. Challenger was disposed to recommend the acceptance of a new norm in Juvenile offences whereby emphasis by Police and other corrective agencies could be centred on repeated or persistent offenders, permitting less formal and natural parental and social censure to influence acceptable behaviour in those "normal" kids in a spot of trouble.

Dr. Seymour, a lawyer and senior member of the Australian Institute of Criminology, flew down from Canberra to present a superb paper on the methods employed in New Zealand, South Australia and Scotland in disposing of young persons referred by Police to Juvenile Aid Panels or Children's Boards.

Simply expressed a Juvenile Aid Panel is a hearing by which admitted offenders who might otherwise be placed before the Children's Court, may be administratively rather than judicially dealt with. The Panel has no sentencing or coercive power, but may divert appropriate cases from the formal Children's Court and provide a semi formal tribunal from which authoritative but non-enforceable referrals to helping agencies may be issued.

Discussion on the values of voluntary type treatment as opposed to the enforceable and authoritative penalty structure of a formal Court was a feature of many questions directed to Dr. Seymour.

Following a pleasant luncheon in the Union Hall Restaurant, the seminar resumed with an address by Psychiatrist Dr. Richard Griffith of Wellington House Youth Centre in which we were all impressed by the insight into the problems of youth which his programme discloses. His personal charm, as well as his professional counselling skills, would no doubt ensure a high rate of delinquency avoidance by those young people having the benefit of his guidance.

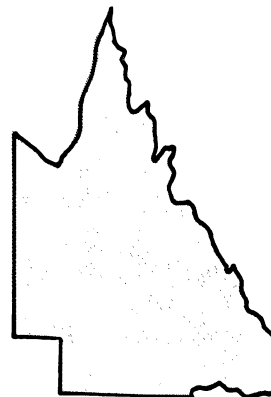
Dr. Griffith espouses the essential personal need in people to have feelings of self esteem, and clearly illustrated that in the absence of feelings of self worth, alcohol, drug abuse, criminality may well compensate to the detriment of the family and community. All are welcome to the Wellington Centre, but there is no compulsion or Court direction.

The final address was given by lawyer and Police Officer William Horman. Mr. Horman, a Churchill Fellowship winner, spoke of his study tour of Britain, U.S.A. and New Zealand, during which he paid special attention to young offenders, Aid Panels, Police/School Liaison and law related education programmes for schools.

The utilisation of specialist branch police officers as Youth Officers was explained and it was noted that in California Police personnel are employed in an educative and contact role in many schools.

The current Victoria Police Juvenile Warning System was explained by Superintendent Ball and Senr. Sergeant Horman and the high ratio of success by non-reoffending youth was discussed.

The Victorian Branch A.C.P.C. Honorary Secretary, Ms. Cheryl McKinna, summed up the proceedings and the Branch Chairman, Geoff Cuddihy formally closed the seminar by way of brief address expressing his appreciation to all those concerned with this successful seminar.



Queensland

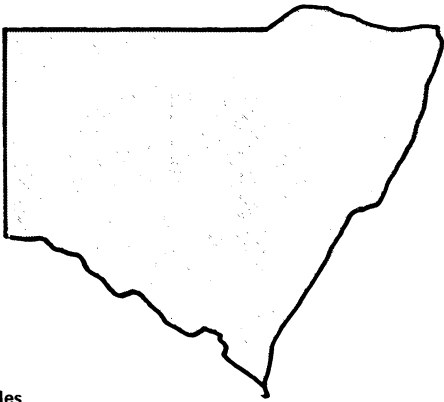
Queensland State Branch representative on the National Executive, Mr. Jack Stoll, and reporting for his Branch on this occasion, advised that they continue to try and respond to the various issues of interest to the public in the field of crime, its nature, cause, punishment and cure. Frequently and regularly the Branch screens films at the Commonwealth Government Centre on any of the many subjects which can be construed as relevant. Heretofore, invitations have been issued generally to any and all who felt the film to be of interest. It has been found that the films (screened during week days) have not drawn the crowds we had hoped. Our approach now will be to aim at involving groups of students through direct contact with schools and, in fact, their teachers. It is our hope that audiences can be constituted by heterogeneous groups of students drawn from, for example, technical colleges, the police academy, State and public schools. It is our thought too to have an expert member of the Branch at each screening for discussion with the students.

We are continually faced with the thought that the earlier respect for the law can be taught or reinforced — and that this respect is a realistic expectation — the more we can contribute to less conflict in the future. It is a fact that our way of life is becoming more permissive. We encourage students to express themselves more in the classroom. Human relations cover a wider spectrum of activity and are more the subject of frank discussion. This is all good because it provides growth of ideas, and perhaps even fewer neuroses. However, we still need someone to blow the whistle on us from time to time; and we need to ensure that we can respect the Whistle Blower. Bluntly, we need to respect authority, and authority needs to conduct itself in a way to command respect. The new improved format for our film programmes hopefully assists in this direction.

May 17: Another worthwhile Seminar to be held at the Commonwealth Government Centre — *Juvenile Crime and Restitution*. It is expected that the speakers, soon to be confirmed, will be looking at the subject from the standpoint of the welfare of the child, the welfare of the community and what it all means anyway. The three formal papers are intended to spark interested debate in audience-participation syndicates.

A final comment: The Queensland Branch will continue to be an informed and informing force in the community. However, we have had to relinquish the most valued interest, inspiration and hard work of our Foundation Honorary Secretary, Mr. Val Barlow, due to his ill health. Thanks largely to him, our Branch was able to get off the ground and make the initial impact it did.

With the resignation of Val Barlow his place has been taken by incoming Hon. Secretary Detective Senior Sergeant R. J. Redmond, Public Relations Branch, Police Headquarters, G.P.O. Box 1440, Brisbane, 4001. Ron Redmond really needs no formal introduction for he is well known not only throughout Queensland but also elsewhere throughout Australia.



New South Wales

At the time of preparing editorial for this issue of our journal we have not received N.S.W. Branch Report for inclusion herein. In fact, it is now over eight months since the Secretariat has received any form of communication from the N.S.W. Branch Hon. Secretary. We have, however, noted with great joy that long time National Honorary Treasurer and Associate Member of the Council, as well as Associate Member of the N.S.W. Branch, Mr. Kevin W. Michaelis, was recently awarded Member, General Division of the Order of Australia — A.M., in the Australia Day Honour's List for services to Welfare. Congratulations Kevin. This is an honour well deserved.

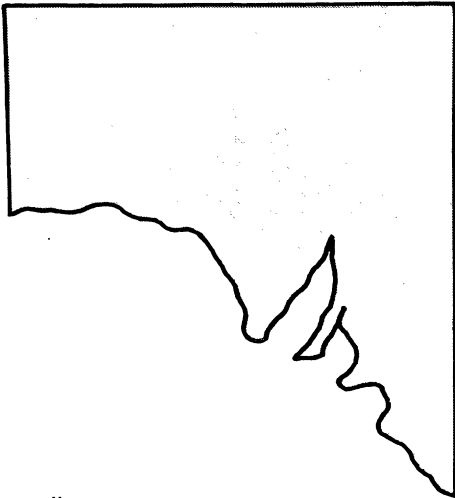


Western Australia

The Western Australian Branch of the Council report that they will be conducting a seminar on *"The Role of the Media in Crime Prevention"* in Perth on the evening of the 27th April, 1978. Commencing time will be 4.30 p.m. — terminating at 6.30 p.m. Venue will be the community Development Centre, Selby Street, Shenton Park.

Guest speakers at the seminar will be Ms. Marian Baker, Director, Out of School Child Care Association; Mr. Peter Ewing, Associate Editor, *"West Australia"*; Mr. Eric Hunter, Executive Producer, *"T.D.T."*, A.B.C.; and Mr. Norm Williams, Co-ordinator, Communi-Care.

The W.A. Branch anticipate conducting five seminars in the coming year and it is hoped that details of same will be available for publication in our next Journal.



South Australia

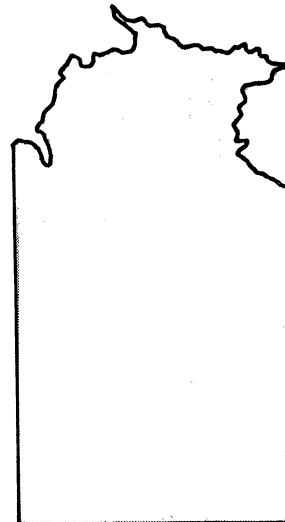
Mr. R. M. Durant (Assistant Director, Department of Correctional Services, S.A.), Chairman of the South Australian Branch reports that his Branch has been concerned to increase membership, and to this end have held two seminars.

In conjunction with the Adult Education Department at the Adelaide University, a seminar was held on the 21st November, 1977 at the University, entitled *"The Administration of Criminal Justice in South Australia"*.

Some 100 people attended to hear the Chief Secretary, the Honourable Don Simmons outline the Government's policy and future initiatives, the Honourable J. Burdett, M.L.C. shadow Attorney General, outline the views of the opposition, and Mr. C. K. Stewart, S.S.M. give a stimulating paper on shortcomings in the present system, particularly the inappropriate usage of alternative penalties.

The second seminar was organised entirely by the Branch and held at the Teachers Institute. The title was *"The Relationship between Schools, Education and Crime"*. Attendance of seventy interested people heard the three speakers, Superintendent W. B. Budd, Police Department, Mr. J. Giles, Deputy Director of Education and Mrs. J. Fitzpatrick, past President of Parents and Citizens Association each detail their views. A good debate followed the three papers, and statements by Mrs. Fitzpatrick were picked up by the national newspaper and local media, resulting in a debate on local A.B.C. T.V. the following night, between Mr. Giles and Mrs. Fitzpatrick.

This seminar provoked interest in the Branch by the Kiwanis who currently are running a Crime Prevention programme. The South Australian Branch hope to work in conjunction with them in the next few months to provide venues for more debate through public seminars.



Northern Territory

Regrettably, at the time we go to press we have not received any news or information from the Northern Territory Branch of the Council for inclusion in this issue; however, our President, who is also Chairman of the Northern Territory Branch of the Australian Crime Prevention Council, has recently forwarded the Secretariat an article under the title of *"Petrol Sniffing: Papunya . . . A Community Service"*. The article was originally published in the *"About People"* and which is a local publication of the Darwin Y.M.C.A.

His Honour advised that the Y.M.C.A. in the Northern Territory runs a large Outreach Programme and that they do have recreation officers at many Aboriginal settlements. David Dalton-Morgan* is one of such officers and his article under referenced heading shows how an Aboriginal community of desert people could get together and tackle the problem as *their* problem.

Mr. Justice Muirhead points out that David Dalton-Morgan takes no credit himself (for success achieved and maintained in this matter) and that he neither leads nor asserts. He merely lays seeds of suggestion as to possible course of action. His Honour has also emphasised that this article is not only relevant to Aboriginal people and that the philosophy of *community involvement* in crime prevention is a message for all of us.

The Secretariat thanks Mr. Justice Muirhead for bringing this article to our notice and we also express appreciation to the Darwin Y.M.C.A. and Mr. David Dalton-Morgan for permitting us to reprint the paper.