



FOREWORD

*By His Honour
Judge R.W. Grubb,
National President*

I am confident all who attended the 12th Biennial Conference of this Council, held at St. John's College, University of Brisbane from the 5th to the 9th September, 1983 will agree with me that it was an outstandingly successful event.

The venue was delightful. The programme was of the greatest variety and interest. The organisation by the Queensland Branch was excellent. All of us who were there congratulated and thanked the Branch President, the Honourable Mr. Mark Hoare, C.M.G., and, in particular, the Conference Convenor, Mr. W. G. Lane and the indefatigable Conference Co-ordinator, Mr. J. J. Hopgood for all they did, both before and during the Conference, to make it so memorable. I am sure those three would deem it churlish of me if I did not again record our grateful thanks to Miss Dianne Kirkman and to Mrs. Finn, both of whom not only gave up so much of their own time, but worked so hard during the Conference, to ensure it all unfolded so smoothly. Again I say, the warmest and sincerest "thank you" to those I have named, as well as to the many others of the Branch and the Council who worked so hard. Our thanks, too, to all the speakers and other participants at this fine Conference.

I again publicly express the Council's grateful thanks to the Honourable the Premier of Queensland, Mr. J. Bjelke-Petersen, M.L.A., and to his Government, for their generous grant of \$5,000 towards the cost of the Conference and for their generous hospitality while we were there. The success of the Conference was, in large measure, due to the generous support given in so many ways to the Queensland Branch by Mr. T. M. Lewis, Commissioner of Police, and by Mr. R. J. Redmond, Assistant Commissioner of Police.

All of those to whom I have just expressed our thanks know and I know, but you may not know, how very much the success of the Conference was due to the tremendous assistance, rendered in his own time and at his own cost, by our hard-working Executive Director, Mr. John Purcell, particularly in the important stages of organising and dragging sometimes reluctant speakers for the Conference. As always, John, we are in your debt. Thank you.

The greatest strength of this Council is the way it brings together, both at the Branch level and at its Biennial Conferences, such a wide variety and mix of people — all concerned with one or another of the multifarious aspects of Crime Prevention. We number among our membership, in all States and in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory parliamentarians, police, correctional service officers, social workers both voluntary and professional, academics, lawyers, magistrates, judges, businessmen and women, parole officers, probation officers, security officers, people concerned with Victimology, as well as hundreds of concerned men and women. This variety is unique. It is also our strength.

The 13th Biennial Conference will be held in Melbourne. I note that the always enthusiastic and active Victorian Branch is already working hard planning this Conference. In accord with our agreed policy, the Biennial General Meeting which followed the close of the Queensland Conference, determined that the theme for the 13th Biennial Conference should be — "ATTITUDES TO CRIME: THE CHALLENGE OF THE EIGHTIES". To my mind, that theme opens up a wide range of topics. "The Community's Attitude to Crime?" — "The Media's Attitude to Crime!" — "The Victims of Crime" — "Crime and Punishment". These are but four which came to mind as I write this Foreword.

I charge all Branches, at once to adopt a particular aspect of that 1985 Conference theme. Work on it and develop it. And please, please, do come to Melbourne to the 13th Biennial Conference in September, or thereabouts, in 1985, prepared to report to, to challenge, to excite, to inform, even to outrage that Conference with Branch Reports relevant to that theme.

It should be evident to all who have any interest in, or concern for the future of this Council, that that, almost entirely, rests upon the enthusiasm and the initiatives and the work of the Branches. It is a matter of the gravest concern to me that so few Branches evince any concern to demonstrate that they are other than moribund. Let there be no mistake. Unless this Australian Crime Prevention Council demonstrates, in the immediate future, that it is an active body, with positive achievements, not only will the Council fade into oblivion, but it will deserve so to do.

I am aware that one or two Branches are both positive and active. But why, oh why, will they not report, regularly and in detail, what they are achieving, to the Secretariat? What a disappointing charade the Session at the Brisbane Conference, devoted to receiving Reports from the Branches as to their work on the aspects of the theme, "The Alienated Generation?" turned out to be. Only Victoria and Queensland had anything relevant to report! Again, I say, let there be no mistake. We have, very clearly, been placed upon notice by the Australian Government, upon whose bounty we depend for our existence. We have, in effect, been told — "Shew your worth — or die!" That is our immediate challenge. It is up to you. What are you going to do about it?

A final word. You may know, but if you do not I believe you should, that owing to the acute shortage of funds, we have not employed any clerical or secretarial assistance to aid John Purcell in the Secretariat since November last year. He is working entirely on his own so please give him your understanding and spare a thought for the extra burden he has to bear.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Melbourne at the 13TH NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE in about September, 1985. That will be my last as your President.