

KEN SANDOE . . .

The voice of experience

by P.S. Constable Dani Rogers

"It's like the old saying. . . 'behind every successful man there's an even more successful woman'. . . I am conscious of the fact that a successful Police force must have a strong, efficient public service support staff behind it."

These are the words of Ken Sandoe, Director, Finance, Material and General Services for the Australian Federal Police. Ken has 45 years of service in the Commonwealth Public Service to back up his statement.

including a period of service in the Northern Territory with the Department of Works. More travel was to follow as Ken took up duties in Canberra with the Department of the Interior (now known as the Department of Capital Territory).

In 1977 he was promoted to the position of Executive Officer A.C.T. Police, a position he held until the recent formation of the Australian Federal Police.

In his present position Ken Sandoe is responsible for a large number of

example, he was honoured with Life Membership by the Association of Apex clubs for meritorious community service. Also, he was selected to undertake a seven-week fact-finding and goodwill tour of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, West Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka on behalf of Apex.

It may also be of interest to note that Ken was the Secretary of the Co-Ordinating Committee which, in 1977, effected the restoration of the merry-go-round in Canberra's Pet-



Ken (centre), AFP Executive Officer, John Ireland (l) and Assistant Commissioner (Operations) Mr Allan Watt

He was born in the Sydney suburb of Rockdale nearly 60 years ago. Being a quiet, reserved person Ken is reluctant to talk about himself or his early life. But, he recalled with pride his first job.

"It was difficult to find a job in those days," he said. "Australia was just coming out of the Depression and everyone was looking for work. I was one of the lucky ones. In 1935 I was appointed to the Commonwealth Public Service as a telegraph messenger at the Sydney G.P.O."

The war interrupted his career, but on discharge from the Army in May 1946 Ken resumed duties with the Postmaster General's Department in Sydney. From there Ken gained wide and varied experience

public service support staff. "I've lost track of the actual number of public service support members around the Divisions," he said, "but in round figures it's close to 400."

Ken sees the role of public service members with the A.F.P. as a 'sustaining' role; that is, one that "strengthens and supports a Police Force that is young, but has the potential to be great."

He added: "I honestly believe that each one of us should make a concentrated and dedicated endeavour to help make the A.F.P. the best police force in the world."

Ken does not take concentration and dedication lightly in any field in which he participates. Through his interest and dedication to Apex, for

rie Plaza, now a landmark in the Territory.

Apart from his work, Ken leads a quiet life. "I'm an avid follower of Rugby League," he said, "especially St. George. I was born in the St. George District practically within cooe of the football field. But, apart from that my wife, Joyce, and I spend our time enjoying our five grandchildren."

Ken Sandoe has an interesting and profound philosophical view towards the Australian Federal Police: "I see the A.F.P. as a young Force with great potential," he says.

And he sums up: "Coming together is a beginning; staying together is progress; but, working together is success. This is the A.F.P."