

Editors Viewpoint

"Calling all contributors for PLATYPUS". This old recording is becoming somewhat scratched but, unfortunately, very few people have heeded our earlier pleas. Needless to say, however, I would like to thank the people who HAVE contributed and hope they will continue to do so.

This is our fourth edition of PLATYPUS and most reports concerning the previous editions have been favourable. But far too often I receive complaints: "... it's too A.C.T. and General Duties oriented ..." or "... there's not enough Divisional news."



There are several explanations for this, the main one being the lack of support from members in most of the Divisions. We can only include in the Journal what we receive!!

I have reached a stage literally having to "beg, borrow or steal" items for our Journal. Many are promised, but few arrive.

May I impress on you that PLATYPUS can meet the need to communicate to all members of the A.F.P. to tell you what your colleagues in all Divisions are doing. But, without your help how are we to communicate?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Madame Editor,

I thought Platypus readers might be interested in a recent exchange of views about AFP in the columns of an Adelaide newspaper. I understand the matter was not publicised elsewhere.

In the Adelaide NEWS of 27 June 1980 there was an article under the heading: "Expert warns of 300pc rape increase". It said a Mr Bruce Swanton of the Institute of Criminology predicted the increase, along with large scale increases in public violence and embezzlement by the year 1990.

The third paragraph of this breathless report read: "And he attacked Federal Police for 'white-anting' State police forces, duplicating their investigations and, on occasions, obstructing them..."

The next time AFP got a mention was at the end of the story when Mr Swanton was quoted as saying there were forces within AFP "seriously devoted to depriving State police forces of their criminal investigation role".

Fortunately this humbug did not get reported more widely. Also, the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr McLeay, was quick to come to the defence of the AFP.

On 1 July 1980 the same newspaper headed Mr McLeay's reply: "Attack on police grossly wrong". The Minister put the record straight, describing Mr Swanton's remarks as "deplorable and grossly inaccurate".

Mr McLeay explained the AFP role and anyone reading the item would have been able to judge for themselves as to the veracity of Mr Swanton's ill-informed remarks.

The Minister's defence was welcome and timely and I am sure it would have undone a great deal of damage.

But the sad thing is that when people described as "experts" are quoted in newspapers, there will always be someone who will believe them, no matter how nonsensical their remarks may be to those who know the truth.

Chief Superintendent A. Morley
O.I.C., Central Division.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a collector of law enforcement and fire department shoulder patches and insignias.

I would be very pleased and grateful to receive any from your department to proudly display along with the other distinguished departments in my collection.

Please reply as I would like to hear from your department.

Thank you for your assistance and for doing an excellent job.

Sincerely,

R.H. Schaller,
202 Betty Rd.,
Pensacola,
Florida, U.S.A.

Dear Constable Rogers,

You recently requested our Mr Holmwood to determine the authenticity of a report on the condition of a troop horse, transferred from Glenreagh to Fernmount police station during 1935. **(Remember our windy horse in the last issue? —Editor).**

This type of administrative records has mostly been destroyed since that time but it can definitely be stated that a Constable L.F. Freebody was stationed at Glenreagh from 1 September 1925 until October 1935 and that Constable 1st Class Ede. W. White was attached to Fernmount police station from 14 February 1927 until August 1934.

I hope this information is of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

F.H. TRAVIS,
Inspector,
Public Relations Branch
N.S.W. Police Department.