

Major role changes for Force in West

There have been big changes for the AFP in Western Australia, Superintendent Frank Pimm has found since returning to the big State as Regional Commander in July last year.

"Perth once appeared to be a sleepy place, but this is not so now," he said.

Anyone going West these days can expect to be worked hard.

Growing numbers of investigations, particularly more complex ones, have led to the new look, he says.

Perth has recently seen its first major tax fraud case which has international involvement. A special task group is expected to be working on it for another two years.

Medicare, taxation, bottom of the harbour . . . the list goes on.

In the past 18 years the region's force has grown from about 30 to 105.

"This will grow even more in the next few months; we expect 14 more soon," he said. "To do all the things which need to be done we could use another 30 people straight away."

"But the staff we have are doing a really good job. Flexibility is the key word in Western Region."

Superintendent Pimm believes that the whole concept of Federal policing has changed.

"The emphasis has switched from minor to major crime, with many international type investigations," he said. This is new to Australian crime, and is partly as a result of Royal Commission findings and recommendations.

"There have been big changes, particularly in the past four or five years."

"This has emphasised the need for sophisticated training of our people. We need more better-



qualified people in our ranks.

"However, the standard of recruits joining us is better than it was say 15 years ago."

Superintendent Pimm is in a good position to judge. During his 19 years with the Commonwealth Police, then the Federal Police, he has had considerable involvement with training. He was a First Class Sergeant at the Australian Police

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College, responsible for Recruit, Detective and Supervision training. He returned there six years ago as a Senior Inspector, Assistant Chief Instructor, three months later being promoted to Chief Inspector, Chief Instructor responsible for all A.P.C. courses.

Recruits bring in new skills

Recent recruitment policies aimed at boosting expertise in the Australian Federal Police are already beginning to achieve results.

Three graduates in economics, microbiology and pharmacology are among latest recruits to the force in Victoria.

They are Constable Neil Wray-McCann, 26, Constable Konstantinos Gryllakis, 21, and Constable Kairen McAllen, 24, all of Victoria.

They have taken up duties following courses at the AFP Academy in Canberra, rounded off with two weeks of local familiarisation in the Melbourne training centre.

Neil Wray-McCann, of Leon-gatha, in Victoria's Gippsland, is a Bachelor of Economics from Melbourne's Monash University. After leaving school in 1974, he tried a variety of jobs to get work experience, including a period on an assembly line at GMH in Melbourne, and as a rouseabout in shearing sheds in Victoria and New Zealand.

He started his university studies in 1977.

Neil had no thoughts of joining the police until he saw the AFP's press advertising calling for applications from graduates and said "this is for me".

He is at present with the CIB's fraud section and sees his qualifications as being appropriate in the investigation of corporate crime. However, he adds he would enjoy taking on any role.

Kairen McAllen, a graduate Bachelor of Science in Pharmacology, is also from Monash Universi-

ty. While doing research work for her honours degree she became interested in investigative work, an interest which led her into her new career with the AFP.

Her first assignment is with the drug unit, a role in which she can apply her knowledge and skills almost immediately.

Kon Gryllakis was born in the Greek island of Crete and migrated to Melbourne with his family at the age of 7. Kon, also now with the BIC, is a Bachelor of Science from Monash University but his particular field is microbiology.

Kon said he did not want to face the prospect of routine laboratory work, seeing a career in the AFP as being more active and interesting.

His favourite past-time interest is in the martial arts and he holds a Brown Belt.



• From left, Constables Kon Gryllakis, Kairen McAllen and Neil Wray-McCann admire a Kent (UK) Constabulary helmet, part of a collection of police memorabilia in the office of the Welfare Officer in Southern Region.

Inquiries Prosecutor praises AFP help

The Commissioner, Major-General R.A. Grey, has received a letter of appreciation from the Special Prosecutor, Mr Robert F. Redlich, for assistance in his work from AFP members.

Mr Redlich, who was based in Melbourne, completed his duties as Special Prosecutor and Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions on 5 June.

The Office of the Special Prosecutor was established several years ago as a result of matters arising out of the Stewart and Costigan Royal Commissions. Members of the AFP have been assisting in a number of inquiries in the special crimes area, covering Northern, Eastern and Southern Regions.

The functions of the Special Prosecutor have now been taken over by the new Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Ian Temby, QC. Some of the investigations are still proceeding.

Mr Redlich writes:

My dear Commissioner,

On the 5th June next, my duties as Special Prosecutor and Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions terminate and my functions assumed by the new Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Ian Temby, Q.C.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your unqualified commitment to supporting the Special Prosecutor's initiative. Without your support and that of your officers, my office would not have been able to operate successfully. I would be grateful if you conveyed my thanks to your officers who have unhesitatingly provided assistance as and when required. I know that the Director of Public Prosecutions would be grateful for your continued support and assistance.

Money blow-out

A member of the AFP, finding hundreds of cashed cheques blowing around a Canberra paddock recently, was shocked to see one of them was his own, drawn on a Canberra building society.

Not that the cheques could be cashed, of course, but his indignant inquiries brought forth the classic: "They've fallen off the back of one of our trucks."

13 celebrate 25 years

It was an emotional, back-slapping get-together for three AFP officers and 10 of their Victoria Police mates recently.

They were celebrating 25 years of active police service.

For each of them that service began in a Victoria Police recruit class. Initially, the class numbered 21. Today, for a variety of reasons, only the 13 remain.

The three officers now in the AFP based in Canberra are Geoff Fry, Mick Richards and Ray Brown.

Still in the Victoria Police are Steve Paffett, Adrian Donehue, Gerry Tracey, Paul Ross, Graham Bell, Bill Gibbons, Henry Huggins, Geoff Kronk, Jim Kane and Brian Jemison.

Members of the group think their get-together could be a first.

"Certainly, it says a lot for esprit-de-corps among police that one class from 25 years ago could see 10 of its members travel 700 kms for a re-union," said Geoff Fry.

Wives also made the trip and during the weekend the visitors saw such tourist sites as Blundell's Cottage, Parliament House, the National Gallery, High Court, War Memorial and the Water Police Headquarters.