

New bikes for ACT patrols

ISLAND AFP COMMANDER SEES CHALLENGE

Cyprus role 'scope for goodwill'



The AFP is to get 33 of the latest model BMW 1000 cc motor-cycles for use in Canberra to replace part of its current fleet of Kawasakis.

A demonstration-model BMW, obtained for the AFP by the Department of Administrative Services, and fully-equipped for police purposes with special horns, lights and pannier bags, has been under evaluation for some weeks.

The bike has been driven extensively around Canberra roads and the general reaction from experienced traffic branch motor-cyclists has been particularly favourable. The new BMWs will begin road patrol work shortly.

The same bike also is being evaluated by the NSW Police who are at present the only police to use BMWs.

Acting Senior Sergeant Steve Kirby

• Acting Senior Sergeant Kirby astride the replacement BMW, while First Constable Garth Edwards wears the new, luminous, all-weather overalls.

by (Traffic Branch), said the BMW had a reputation for both safety and power. It was capable of speeds above 200 kph.

Tenders for a replacement for the Kawasakis were called some time ago by the Department of Administrative Services. Most of the Kawasakis are several years old.

The remainder of the Kawasaki fleet will be replaced by another 14 BMWs next year.

In addition to the new motor-cycles, ACT traffic police have been issued with new, all-weather bright orange overalls which are particularly visible at night.

Australians have a very high standing on Cyprus and because of this has played a significant part in bringing continuing peace and harmony to the divided island, according to Chief Superintendent Alan Morley, former Commander Southern Region.

Chief Superintendent Morley left in mid-August to take up command of Australia's 21st police contingent on the Mediterranean island. The remainder of the contingent left Australia in June.

Chief Superintendent Morley's appointment to the command brings virtually to an end his more than 30 years of service with the AFP and its predecessors in the Commonwealth policing field. He will retire when his Cyprus posting ends next year.

As Commander of the 20-man Australian Civil Police contingent with the UN forces, he sees his role as a serious effort with opportunities to bring continuing peace and harmony to the divided island, as well as goodwill to Australia.

Australia's police presence over some 20 years has been significant in keeping the peace following the violence and terrorism between political factions and ethnic groups which erupted in the 1950s — and which has been simmering, occasionally flaring, ever since.

"The Australian's high standing on Cyprus is supported by the fact that both Greeks and Turks, on opposite sides there, have blood ties with Australia through migration of relatives," he said.

"A more important reason is the effort Australians have put into the non-policing public relations roles, for example in lending a helping hand in the form of swimming lessons to local children.

"It's because of this PR role that we take the selection of AFP people to go there very seriously," he said.



• Chief Superintendent Alan Morley

"We have to see that the people who do go have the capacity to maintain the great goodwill already built up for us."

His headquarters are in the UN-protected zone at Nicosia Airport. Before taking up duties, he spent 10 days being briefed by his predecessor, Chief Superintendent Don Morrison.

Chief Superintendent Morrison, also was in charge of Southern Region before his Cyprus appointment. But there is a stronger personal link between the two men.

Both began their police career on exactly the same day, in different forces in Britain.

Mr Morrison joined the force in Scotland — at Strathclyde — on 25 May 1948, the same day Mr Morley joined the North Riding Police in Yorkshire.

"We never met in those days — but the coincidence continued when we came to Australia, at different times, to join the same police organisation here," Mr Morley said.

Although the Cyprus appointment is a new function for him, Mr Morley draws parallels with two terms on the Indian Ocean island territory of Christmas Island, on secondment from the then fledgling Commonwealth Police.

"They were experiences I thoroughly enjoyed, and where I again was able to help an island community," he said.

Girls see how Asians work

Eight AFP policewomen have returned to Canberra from an eight-day holiday in Singapore singing the praises of the Singapore Police.

A 'fabulous eight days' was how they described their holiday.

And it all began with a chance remark from City Police Station Policewoman Robyn Southern.

Robyn had planned a holiday on her own while her husband was away on a shooting trip. She asked one of her workmates whether she was interested in going too.

Word quickly spread and very soon the eight-member party was formed.

Others to join Robyn were Jenny Fieldsend, Vennessa Stott, Tracy Smith, Sharan Slater, Kathy Mowle, Chanel Searle and Shirley Wilson.

Robyn, originally from Coffs Harbour and an AFP member for four years, said the group had stayed at the Sheraton International Hotel, just across the road from Tanglin Road Police Station, Singapore's Police Headquarters.

"We were given a guided tour and saw various aspects of police

operational work from the system of checks of drug offenders to routine mobile patrol work with four to a car," said Robyn.

"One of the things that impressed us most, however, was the police welfare facilities. We were taken to the Singapore Police Recreation Club, which is a converted colonial mansion. The facilities were incredible.

"The entertainment areas, restaurants and general facilities have to be seen to be believed.

"All meals are subsidised, and recreational facilities include a large swimming pool, tennis courts, billiards, snooker and smaller pool rooms, and a huge outdoor entertainment area."

Robyn said shops and general store facilities had been built next to the main mansion and they contained a vast range of goods.

"Everything you could want to furnish a home was supplied — at cost plus five per cent," Robyn said.

"We spent up big. Not just there, but generally.



• Relaxing in a Singapore hotel room are, from left: Sharan Slater, Chanel Searle, Tracy Smith, Kathy Mowle, Shirley Wilson, Jenny Fieldsend, Vennessa Stott and Robyn Southern.

"What would you expect when eight women are turned loose in Singapore where the shops stay

open until 10 pm.

"Thank God for credit cards," she added.