



Platypus

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CIVIC DUTY 'FALLING BEHIND IN RUSH FOR LIBERTY'

"I've seen policing change so much — and it's getting harder, not easier," said Chief Superintendent Don Morrison, whose 36 years of law enforcement experience and service closed officially on December 11.

"Recent changes to the law, and even more so the foreshadowed amendments now in the pipeline, all tend to make it easier for the criminal," he added.

"The trend towards civil liberties has come without any counterbalancing requirement for individuals, for society as a whole, to perform their civic duty."

Don Morrison, a softly-spoken Scot, said that policing had provided him with a wonderful, if at times difficult and stressful career.

It all began, in Glasgow, in 1948 when he joined the then Glasgow Police Force.

The Morrisons moved to Australia in 1955 and Don obtained a position with the Commonwealth Investigation Service before joining the Commonwealth Police in April, 1966 and continuing through with the AFP until he retired at his 60th birthday.

In that time he has had four stints in Queensland, three of them as OIC, and other stints in Port Augusta, Southern Region (OIC for eight years) and more recently as the Officer-in-Charge of the AFP's Cyprus contingent.

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• Chief Superintendent Don Morrison

Science aid 'vital to crime fight success'

Law enforcement agencies worldwide had become progressively more dependent on both advanced technology and the police and civilian specialists involved in its use, Assistant Commissioner John Reilly told the recent Police Experts and Technicians' Conference in Canberra.

He said Police forces had to have such expertise to fully exploit modern technology.

It was the first time that the AFP had hosted the five-day conference, which was attended by representatives of all Australian police forces.

Speaking at the close of the conference, Mr. Reilly, then Assistant Commissioner (Personnel and Services), said it was obvious from the papers presented, and the level of co-operation, that police were well aware of the challenges in the scientific and technical areas.

"The fight against ever increasing organised criminal activities can only succeed when investigation and preventive policing units are supported to the optimum level by the areas represented by you," he said. "Fingerprints, communications, ADP, electronic aids, ballistics, document examination and photography are all fruitful sources of assistance."

"Those in the fingerprint area have seen the results that can be obtained when highly trained professional scientists become involved in what is probably the best known and longest established area of police work."

Assistant Commissioner Reilly said it was good to hear delegates urging that these scientists be permitted to work in the field, side-by-side with the police fingerprint expert, to further the experiences gained by police working and training in the ANU Chemistry Department.

"Such exchange of expertise must occur in the other scientific areas so that the academic staff did not carry out work in an 'ivory tower' atmosphere. Each party must see and experience the problems in the field and in the laboratory."

The conference was divided into three segments — radio and communications, fingerprints and recording, and scientific.

Chairman of the Radio, Electronics Section, Chief Inspector Peter Brittliff, said topics discussed ranged from the best type of earphone

AFP hosts its first conference of experts



• Assistant Commissioner John Reilly officially opens the conference. At left is Chief Superintendent Don Bruce.

for use inside a police motorcyclist's helmet to the uses of the domestic satellite for police communications purposes.

"Perhaps the topic that attracted the most animated debate was the relative (or lack of it) security of police radio systems — in this case primarily car radios and two-way portable handsets."

"Most police forces are now moving towards the introduction of digitally secure radio systems as well as looking at analogue (computer) security."

Chief Inspector Brittliff said it was relatively easy for people to obtain

equipment that could monitor police radio frequencies.

"In the United States, for instance, people advertise their services as being able to break police codes."

Police must not only keep up with, but, wherever possible, stay ahead of modern technology.

Chief Inspector Brittliff, referring to the new command and control centre for the ACT Region, said it was top state-of-the-art technology.

"There are only a few other systems like it anywhere in the world," he said.

The new control centre would be installed, if not finished, at the AFP Regional Headquarters by June this year.

"It takes the ACT radio control system well past the year 2000," he said. "And it has been designed so that if need be it could be transferred to any new AFP headquarters building."

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• One of the German Shepherds in action helping subdue an "offender".

Too old for Rugby, so he got his BA

"I was getting too old for first grade football (league) and didn't want to waste my time staring at the gogglebox so I decided to try to get my HSC. That's how it all began," said Acting Chief Superintendent Bill Beale.

Seven years later — and a perfect Christmas present — Bill received his BA (Administration) from the Chairman of the Canberra College of Advanced Education Council, Dr D. F. Waterhouse.

"It's been a long, hard road," Bill said.

Asked "What was next — a Masters?" Bill added: "Give us a break. Seven years off then I'll think about post-graduate study — or something different."

Superintendent Beale, Acting head of CID in the Investigations Department, said the CCAE Administration degree course consisted of 24 units.

His particular combination to back his Admin major were sub-majors in computing and law.

"With the AFP's help, I did the last few units, in the last semester, on full time study leave," he said.

"I was delayed in completing the degree earlier because throughout most of 1980 I was overseas in Paris helping to design and implement a security system for the Australian Embassy.

"While it may have delayed me, however, it was an experience I wouldn't have missed."

And the old chestnut of tertiary qualifications for police officers?

The question obviously struck a sympathetic cord with Superintendent Beale.

"I believe they can help immeasurably," he said. "I'm all in

favour of the AFP investigating and implementing a properly run study leave scheme that will encourage young police officers to try for tertiary qualifications.

"Study, backed with on-the-ground practical experience only enhances one's abilities and horizons," he said.

"It's always been my view that while we should give graduates the chance to become police officers, we should also give police officers the chance to become graduates."



• Acting Chief Superintendent Bill Beale receives his BA from Dr Waterhouse.

CIVIC DUTY

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"My wife, Betty, and I found Cyprus a marvellous experience," Don said.

Other career highlights include events preceding, during and following the infamous Whisky-a-Go-Go fire in Brisbane, and his long stint as regional commander Southern Region from 1973 to June 1983.

"But the Morrison clan hasn't finished with the AFP," Don joked. His son, John, is now a Detective Sergeant in Southern Region.

In retirement, Don expects to find plenty to do, "like improving my golf and fishing skills".

ACT dogs squad takes over its first 2 GP GSs

ACT Region recently acquired its first general purpose German Shepherds, both trained at the RAAF's police dog handlers' course at Toowoomba, Queensland.

The dogs' skills and abilities have already been demonstrated to senior Canberra-based AFP officers.

The Chief of Air Force Police, Wing Commander Brian Perry, who attended the demonstration, said that at the request of the AFP, specific training peculiar to police requirements had been included in the three-month course for the dogs and their handlers, Paul Fyfe and Ernie Roughley.

"For example, training in tracking was included — a skill we don't bother with in the RAAF," Wing Commander Perry said.

"These dogs are already capable of tracking over rough terrain for about two kilometres. With additional training, the distance will increase immeasurably."

OIC of the AFP's ACT Dog Branch, Senior Constable Garry Baker, said that both dogs were to undergo training to make them capable of working as sniffer dogs for hashish and marijuana, but not for heroin.

"They will be excellent for search work in buildings, rescues and crowd control at demonstrations," he said.

But he emphasised that the initial three-month training course was only basic training.

"We will be doing a great deal more work with the dogs in the months ahead," he said.

What this achieves was clear after one of the RAAF's top Canberra-based handlers, Corporal Dave Tomkins, and his dog went through their paces. Only seeing would convince that such a level of understanding and obedience was possible.

"Remember, my dog is an attack dog and you're seeing attack dog routines," Corporal Tomkins said.

He was asked what would happen if he wanted to call off an attack after realising that someone inside premises wasn't in fact a prowler.

"The dog can be called off," he said. He proceeded to show how it was done.

Senior Constable Baker explained that one of the most difficult tricks to teach a dog was to refuse food until given the command to eat.

"I mention it because we're trying to achieve just that. Many valuable dogs have been destroyed by people throwing poisoned baits over the fence to them."

Senior Constable Baker said the ACT Region already had its own bomb and explosives search dog Mischa.

Out ranked

It will not have escaped the notice of many police officers that, when a criminal such as the Yorkshire Ripper is eventually captured it is their senior officers who bask in the spotlight, but when things go disastrously wrong, it is the humble constable who stands alone in the dock. — Dr. P.A. Waddington writing in the London Daily Telegraph.

Overseas police officers on visit

Two Papua New Guinea Police Officers recently spent five days in Melbourne on training attachment gaining experience in methods and practices used by the CIB in Southern Region.

The two officers, Detective Senior Sergeant Andop Waring and Sergeant Ila Togina, of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, were on a training course at the AFP College, Barton.

Detective Senior Sergeant Waring is stationed at Mount Hagan, in the Highlands and Sergeant Togina is attached to the CIB at Arawa, in the North Solomon Islands.

Both officers were very impressed by the wide variety and extremely complex inquiries undertaken by the CIB in Melbourne. They took part in arrest, search, interview and court procedures and visited the Drug Unit, Sales Tax, Currency, Major Crime, Melbourne Airport and medifraud operations.



• Detective Senior Sergeant Waring, Detective Sergeant Bruce Keenan of Melbourne, and Sergeant Ila Togina.

PERU

A delegation of 16 Peruvian Police Officers recently visited Australia to study police operations in this country.

During their week-long tour they spent two days in Canberra visiting

AFP facilities and meeting senior AFP officers.

The group, comprising 15 Colonels, was led by General Jorge Larrauri, Director of Institute of Specialist Studies at the Peruvian Civil Guard Police.